

JIMI



HENDRIX

By THE MISSION SINGERS

"There must be some way out of here," Bob Dylan's song is a story about living; it's a surrealist picture of what happens when people take life too seriously or too much for granted.

Those two extremes are really the same thing, just like the two ends of a circle are really the same point. Usually, the person who is too serious about his life ends up treating himself too lightly.

Jimi Hendrix sang All Along the Watchtower. On Sept. 18 he ended up on the wrong end of an overdose of drugs.

When he made a hit of Watchtower a few years back, he sang the words, "Let us not talk falsely now, the hour is getting late." So let's be honest:

Jimi Hendrix did not go out in a blaze of glory. He poisoned himself. Death is never pretty, but there's something especially sickening about imagining his death: no pain, probably; no writhing and twisting; just a drugged stupor, a lifeless coma that is a prophecy of death.

That is obscene. Obscenity's goal is to bring death wherever there is life. The Bomb and pollution are obscene because they bring death to millions. Drugs are obscene because they bring death to one person at a time.

This time the one person was Jimi Hendrix. Maybe he wasn't one of the world's great men. Certainly he didn't set himself up as anybody's model. But he happened to be one of the best guitarists anywhere. And 28 years old is too young to die.

It's not the dying that's obscene. It's the dying for no reason. Some people say it's good to die for one's country. Some say it's a sign of great love to die for a friend. Jimi Hendrix was dying for a fix, and he did.

This column isn't meant to be a eulogy for a drug addict. Jimi Hendrix was a great guitar player, but he's not indispensable. If we happen to be die-hard Hendrix fans, we've still got his records. If not, we can still listen to Eric Clapton, or Stephen Stills, or even George Harrison.

Did you ever get the frustrating feeling that all this tragedy could have been avoided? Do you have the notion that if it were Sept. 17 again, you could warn a pop guitar player about what was going to happen on Sept. 18? But it's too late for Jimi Hendrix. Yesterday's gone forever. He lived with drugs; he died with drugs. One usually follows the other.

Some people will never learn. Some people see no need for any serious re-evaluation of our whole culture and society. Some people see drugs as the best way to bring about a radical change. Neither group knows what life is about. "None of them along the line knows what any of it is worth."

About a year ago, Jimi Hendrix held a press conference. He described the way he was dressed: "Yeah, today I feel like a Black African, so I've got my Afro wig and my Afro clothes. Some days I feel like an Indian, so I dress like an Indian. But those aren't the only ways I feel. I'm not finished yet, I got a lot of things I want to be."

Adults can continue to preach against drugs. Nobody knows if anyone listens to them. But whether or not we believe our elders, we better heed the story of a drug addict who also happened to be a pop hero: He thought he was using drugs, but it turned out that all the time drugs were using him. "There must be some way out of here."

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THE MUSIC BAG

'All Along the Watchtower'

"There must be some way out of here,"
Said the joker to the thief.
"There's too much confusion, I can't get no relief.
Businessmen, they drink my wine, plowmen dig my earth.
None of them along the line knows what any of it is worth."
"No reason to get excited," the thief, he kindly spoke.
"There are many here among us who feel that life is but a joke.
But you and I, we've been thru that, and this is not our fate,
So let us not talk falsely now, the hour is getting late."
All along the watchtower, princes kept their view,
While all the women came and went; barefoot servants, too.
Outside in the distance, a wildcat did growl.
Two riders were approaching, the wind began to howl.

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Mt. Morris Group Plans Program

Officers of the St. Patrick's Rosary Society of Mt. Morris are pictured planning the coming year's program. From left are Miss Gertrude Donovan, vice president; Mrs. Margaret Leavy, president; Mrs. Rosalind George, treasurer; Mrs. Jean Milillo, secretary.

Henrietta Knights Set Antiques Show

A show and sale of antiques at the county fairgrounds will be sponsored by the Henrietta Knights of Columbus Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Forty-four dealers, some of

whom have not shown their wares in this area before, will set up shop in the large exhibit hall. Refreshments will be available. The property is on Route 15A at Calkins Road, Henrietta.