

# Where Can You Find Any Hope?

By THE MISSION SINGERS

This song, sung by the New Seekers, is about a lot more important things than the state of rock music.

Melanie wrote this telling song about a very prevalent attitude among young folk today. Look What They've Done captures the uncertainty and discouragement of many who have most of their living years still in front of them.

Janis Joplin just died of a suspected overdose of drugs. She could have sung this song. Once she said she felt like a beatnik because "they believe things aren't going to get better, and they say the hell with it, stay stoned and have a good time."

Another time she said, "People seem to have a high sense of drama about me. Maybe they can enjoy my music more if they think I'm destroying myself." More and more the choice seems to be between destroying oneself or being destroyed.

A couple of us were recently taking a ride with some young

kids to a country park. It was a beautiful day and the interstate highway was packed with cars taking families out for a day in the country.

One of us couldn't help thinking: "Isn't this weird! Here's a brand new road, part of a highway system that won't even be completed for five or six more years, and already it's too crowded. By the time it's finished it'll be downright useless, because there'll just be too many people using it."

"There'll be no place to go, nowhere to really live. Ten years from now we'll be ten times more miserable, yet by then I'll just be entering the 'prime' of my life. I wonder if older critics of youth can appreciate the hopelessness with which we look forward to the rest of our lives?"

Maybe that's what Look What They've Done is all about. With a whole lifetime in front of us all, what is there to look forward to?

Almost ten years ago, Bob Dylan captured the birth of a mood: "You've thrown the

worst fear that can ever be hurled, fear to bring children into this world." Today a song like Look What They've Done tells us that children who were brought into this world not long before then are beginning to recognize the results of that fear.

Religion is supposed to help us find meaning in life. For the past couple of decades, organized religion has not done this for many people. It hasn't been giving a lot of people any reason for not destroying themselves. It's failed, for the most part, to give these people any real reasons for living.

Surely there are reasons for living, even in a time like this. Surely there can be reasons for hoping. That's what religion should be talking about, for isn't religion — in its best sense — the art of living?

Perhaps it's true that we cannot live authentically in a world that has for so long disrespected life.

But on the other side, per-

haps there are more things we can learn about how to make our world more liveable. Perhaps this is where Melanie and the New Seekers and anyone else who can sing this song miss the point: they want to escape, to "find a good book to live in" where "I'd never have to come out and look at" what's been done to their world.

Yet our only real hope is to look at what a sad state our world is in and get angry — get very angry — and then see if we can do anything to change it. Carl Sandburg once said it: "You take hold of a candle by one hand or the other, by the better or worse hand, and you never know, maybe 'til long afterward which was the better hand."

No, we can't know, maybe 'til too late. But now is when we must choose. Unless we do choose, there can be no real future. Then we'll have no right to complain, "Look what they've done to my song, Ma." For we will have done most of the damage ourselves.

## Town Passes Tough Law on X-Rated Films

Cedar Grove, N.J. — (NC)— The Cedar Grove township council moved to control attendance by minors at X-rated movies by making it a punishable offense to admit them.

The ordinance makes it possible for any citizen to file a complaint against a theater admitting anyone under 17 to the showing of an X-rated film, or another film where a preview for an X-rated film is shown.

Violations would subject theater management to sentences ranging up to \$500 fine and 90 days in jail. Theater operators would be required to ask proof of age of persons they are unsure of and retain a record of each request for a minimum of 30 days.

## BALLET FOLKLORICO

Three new productions, The Aztecs, The Revolution, and Games will headline the program of the Ballet Folklórico de México in the Eastman Theatre, Wednesday, Oct. 28 at 8:15 p.m. This will be the opening attraction of the Original Artists Series.

# THE MUSIC BAG

## LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO MY SONG, MA

Look what they've done to my song, Ma,  
Look what they've done to my song.  
Well, it's the only thing what I could do half right  
and it's turning out all wrong, Ma.  
Look what they've done to my song.

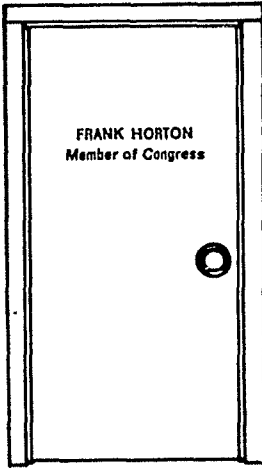
Wish I could find a good book to live in,  
Wish I could find a good book.  
Well if I could find a real good book  
I'd never have to come out and look at  
What they've done to my song.

Look what they've done to my brain, Ma,  
Look what they've done to my brain.  
Well, they picked it like a chicken bone  
and I think I'm half insane.  
Look what they've done to my brain.

Look what they've done to my song, Ma,  
Look what they've done to my song.  
Well, they tied it up in a plastic bag,  
then turned it upside down.  
Look what they've done to my song.

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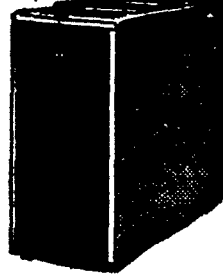
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