

# Burdon: Scared but Hopeful

By THE MISSION SINGERS

Eric Burdon deserves to be one of the superstars of the 1970's. He was a "sleeper" star of the 60's for such songs as To Love Somebody, River High Mountain Deep, and Sky Pilot. He sang those when he was with The Animals.

Now he has another group, called War, and he's starting all over again. This current song of his is on his album, The Black Man's Burdon. A little play on words there.

How many people would say that this is a happy song? In a lot of ways, your answer tells who you are.

Some might feel this is a negative song, sung by a pessimist or even a paranoid. After all, has our freedom been taken away? Is our society one big deep freeze where people need blankets of faith to keep themselves sane?

But don't answer that question too quickly. Before you do, ask yourself what you think about our armed forces spying on prominent people. Then decide how you would react to a proposed federal experiment, as described in a prominent newspaper:

"The State of Indiana plans to ask the Justice Department for \$12,000 to finance partially the hiring of a corps of neigh-

borhood police informers: individuals, in the words of the proposal, who would report to city officials possible dangerous situations as well as refute rumors in event of civil disorders."

"The informants would be called 'rumor control monitors,' but whatever their name they would amount to a neighborhood spy network."

But there is an alternative to such reaction: it's also possible to look at this song as a positive statement.

Sure, the song talks about opposition. It talks about people preparing to "steal" its spirit, it talks about the loss of freedom, it talks about opposing anyone who wants to "take away our music."

But the main point is that the singer has something to be proud of, poor as that something is. The same day that the item about the proposed neighborhood spy system appeared, the paper carried a story about an 11-year-old girl in a racially integrated neighborhood in Miami. This story brings up the positive side of the song.

A Black family had been burned out of their apartment, and the parents had died in the fire. A local policeman, a black sergeant, took the chil-

ren into his home. An 11-year-old white girl asked if she could help do something for the children, and the police sergeant accepted her help gratefully.

However, the white girl's neighbors reacted. Other white children from the neighborhood began to badger the girl; they started to shout at her, push her around, curse her and insult her.

The sergeant finally got his police commissioner to come to the neighborhood and stop the kids from causing trouble. The parents of these children took their children's side against the police, and the situation was getting pretty ugly, until one of the national news services wrote about it.

Soon, letters, telegrams and calls of sympathy, congratulations and encouragement were piling into the home of the 11-year-old heroine. After a while, even some of her neighbors had to join in the chorus of support.

It's an ugly story and a beautiful one. The same thing can be said of They Can't Take Away Our Music. The song is both frightening and encouraging. It's both saddening and joyful. The story of the Miami girl seems to have a happy ending.



## Aquinas Band Goes on Tour

The Aquinas Band will go on tour next week, by bus to Detroit and Windsor, Ont. Six con-

certs are scheduled, the first on Sunday afternoon at Catholic Central, in Detroit, and the last Tuesday evening at the University of Windsor.

The 77-piece band, directed by Alfred Fabrizio, will include nine girls from Nazareth Academy. The students will be house guests of band members at the schools they visit. Father John Whitley, CSB, will accompany the group.

Prior to leaving Rochester

the band will play two 'rehearsal' concerts — one for the student body of Nazareth tomorrow and the other for the Aquinas student body Friday.

The Concert will feature a flute trio — June Felice, Judy Genovese and Christine Rozzi; vibraphone, xylophone and marimba solos by Peter Candela. Compositions by Shostakovich, Wagner, Prokofiev, Alfred Reed and other composers will be performed.

## Nurses to See 'Hatful of Rain'

Elmira — Students in the nursing schools of St. Joseph's and Arnot-Ogden Memorial hospitals will be guests of the Elmira Little Theatre at "Hatful of Rain," a play about narcotics victims.

Curtain time for the opening tonight, Feb. 10, is 7:30. The play will be presented again Thursday, Friday and Saturday, at 8:30 p.m., under the direction of Dr. David Kaplan.

## Career Exhibit Set for Midtown

When high school students stream through Midtown Plaza during the winter recess next week, there will be something different for them. The Urban League will have its "Groove on a Career" show going.

Forty exhibits have been prepared by Rochester's major industries, retail stores and health agencies. People from various fields of work will be on hand to answer questions, and there will be special noon-time events. Booths will be manned from 9 until 5 daily, Feb. 15-19. Those involved include guidance counselors from local high schools.

## Confirmation At Good Counsel

Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey will administer the Sacrament of Confirmation at 4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, at Our Lady of Good Counsel. There are 60 candidates.

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# THE MUSIC BAG

They Can't Take Away Our Music

There's a feeling shared today by the people whose freedom has been taken away.

As in the past when times were wrong, the common folks come together in song. How will we win? With what will we fight? We hope with this song our world we will unite.

O there's one thing, I'm sure; it's so proud and it's so poor. And it comes from deep within, it's got no hair, it's got no skin. As we travel far and near, we bring the word you will hear. And the message that we bring is alive in the words we sing. And no matter how bad you feel, we've got something they can't steal!

No they can't, no they can't, no they can't take away our music. In the ghetto it gets cold but we got something to warm our soul. Like the blanket of our faith keeps us covered when we shake. Though they take my brother's life and deny his given right, Yet the message will be heard as the poets spread the word. And our spirit they can't break 'cause we got power to communicate.

No they can't, no they can't, no they can't take away our music.

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