Finally the band entered and began to play. The surging mass of humanity

in front of me began to surge all the more, hopping about and running into

one another. I was informed that "slam

dancing" is its appropriate title, but when some of the more altruistic "dan-

cers" decided to include the rest of us

in the "fun," I determined that tactical

After the first number, "F--ing Hip-

pie, Get Out of the Way," I clapped politely, wondering if I would be forever

more unable to discern an unamplified

the concert and instructed the crowd to keep behind a quite imaginary line ostensibly in front of the bandstand.

All of this, I suppose, prevented the

energy level from reaching a critical

there were clenched fists in the air and

some sense of "raw" energy, I felt that the young crowd was, at most, play-

acting at anger and social frustration.

music and dancing was what I might expect an aerobics class for hyperac-

The scene brought to my mind by the

Except under the most unusual of

circumstances, the lyrics of the "tunes"

were unrecognizable. On occasion I

took recourse to a translator and disco-

vered that some lyrics included such parental admonitions as "I don't want

you to party all night." (Though I don't

think the admonition was intended seriously, the band did stop early enough for the kiddles to get plenty of

Actually, the level of dynamics and

the sound system mutilated human sounds beyond recognition to all but

those who had memorized the lyrics

assault on the ears seems rather trite

after 30 years or so of rock. I suppose

several musical themes were discerni-

ble - well, at least one, and that

hour after it had begun. I thought it to

be a rather short time to perform given

the cost of admission, but then I've no

concept of appropriate lengths for such

vered no big lesson about America as

Will did at the Boss's concert. I didn't

I found Charles again after the concert. He tried to pull an insight or two from me, but I had none. Sadly, I disco-

The concert ended a little over an

repeated in every number.

To aver that the music was an

That is, all this prevented it if there was even the remotest chance of that happening in the first place. Although

mass and exploding.

tive teens to look like.

sleep.)

beforehand.

Actually, the crowd was quite a bit tamer than I had expected. But then there were a number of police -big police - hanging about. And Chesterfield's management periodically halted

retreat would be a prudent move.

ROGERS from Page 5



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even get a little lesson. The experience was . . . well, . . . underwhelming. Save for the interest in the concert as a rather deformed version of Jazzercise, I can discern no compelling reason for attending the concert - certainly no aesthetic reason. It struck me that many of the young

were there simply because it was expected of them, expected of a certain subculture of Lincoln youth. Not the best and the brightest, but not the worst and the dumbest either. Rather those in the middle who feel a need to differentiate themselves by playing at rebellion, alienation and anger.

Oh sure, for some youths there, the feelings were probably earnestly felt. But for most, if was an entertaining role to play, but a role without an authentic ring to it.