

WHY BRIGITTE BARDOT'S HUSBAND LEFT HOME

OCTOBER, 1958

People

**STILL
15¢**

**WHAT
ALAN
FREED**

**REALLY
THINKS
ABOUT
ROCK 'N ROLL**



MAMIE
VAN DOREN

By ANITA BEHRMAN

What Alan Freed Really About ROCK

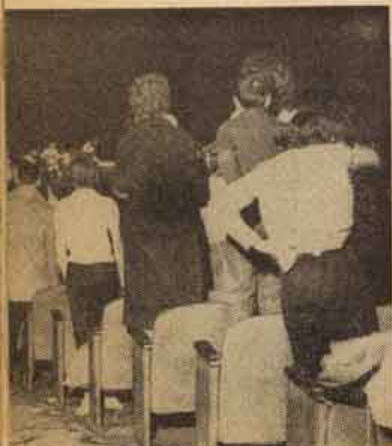
Give Teenagers a
Chance—They May
Surprise you!!!!

Is Rock 'n' Roll responsible for juvenile delinquency," I asked Alan Freed, the most controversial figure in the popular music field.

His vehement reply was a loud, clear, "No!"

He continued, "Adults have to find a scapegoat for their own shortcomings and Rock 'n' Roll seems to be it. Kids today are looking for something to dance to and have found the beat they want in Rock 'n' Roll."

We were sitting in Alan's



Alan Freed believes in his young fans, broadcasts on TV and radio.



Alan, wife Jackie, dressed for rain.

ALAN FREED ON R 'N' R

tastefully furnished Manhattan apartment with his wife Jackie and his business manager, Jack Hoek. Mrs. Freed and Alan sat on the modern sectional couch. Mr. Hoek and I were each on one of the four comfortable club chairs. On the wall facing the couch there is a large hi-fi unit and many cabinets filled with records of all kinds.

This was my first meeting with the man who has caused

such a sensation among teenagers and I found him charming, soft spoken and intelligent.

"You gave Rock 'n' Roll its name, didn't you," I asked.

"Yes, in 1951 I first called it Rock 'n' Roll. Actually, Rock 'n' Roll is rhythm and blues and was called "Race Music" because the Negroes originated the blues. Today it's not as pure, but the basis for all Rock 'n' Roll is still blues.

"What do you think of Elvis?"

Alan lit a cigarette, thought a moment and said, "He's the only white man who can really sing the blues. He's got a real feeling for it. It comes from the contact he had as a child with Negroes in Tennessee. Elvis is truly a phenomenon in the music business. He's a kid loaded with emotion and that shows when he sings. I honestly feel that Elvis' future lies in movies. He's going to be a fine actor some day. He can't miss. Not with his appearance and the depth of feeling he's able to display."

"Getting back to delinquency, do you have any ideas for its cause or any for its solution?"



Police make sure peace is kept at Freed's Paramount Show in N. Y.

"I very definitely feel that the world situation has a great deal to do with it. The youngsters today are living under the shadow of the atom bomb. This generation is wiser than my generation was. They grow up faster.

"Hollywood has been, in my opinion, no help in the problem. Pictures like "Blackboard Jungle," and "High School Confidential," have painted pictures of teenagers as monsters and beasts. This is unfair. Why should all kids

be accused when only a few of them are bad."

Alan hesitated for a moment and got up, "Just a minute," he said. "I want to show you something."

He returned with a letter in his hand. "This is from a young man who is studying to be a minister."

Alan read the letter to me. It was most complimentary, and beautifully written. The young man congratulated Alan on his good work with young people and asked Alan



Police lines put up before crowd arrives for Freed's R 'n' R show.

ALLAN FREED ON R 'N' R

to please tell his audience to look more to God and to worship in their churches or temples.

Alan does this quite often. He says, "We try to make our show a deterrent to delinquency. We entertain them and give them something to do after school."

Alan spoke with sincerity and conviction. It's apparent that this man has faith in young people, and more important, really cares what happens to them.

An angry look crossed his

face. He said, "I'd like to tell you about something that happened about a year ago.

"I was head of the Nephrosis Drive. I told my audience to go to their local headquarters and find what they could do to help.

"13,000 kids showed up at various headquarters and lots of money was collected. Not one word was printed in any newspaper.

"You don't read about the good things, only the bad."

Alan Freed was born on October 15, 1922 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. At the age of 12, he played the trom-

Freed's shows draw record crowds of kids.

bone and organized his own band. In his last few months at Ohio State, he was bitten with the radio bug and after graduation got a job paying \$17 a week on station WKST in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

"It seems you've always loved music. Do you like all kinds or just Rock 'n' Roll?" I asked.

"All kinds. In fact, my favorite classical composer is

Bach. The best composer today, in my opinion, is Jimmy Van Heusen. He wrote 'Imagination' and 'All the Way!'

"Are your audiences composed mainly of girls?"

"We have a fairly equal division. The girls come to the afternoon shows, the boys in the evenings.

"The girls like the swooner types like, Ricky Nelson, The Everly Brothers. The boys pre-



They have arrived and those police lines come in very handy.



Teenage girl gets carried away (literally & figuratively) at show.

ALLAN FREED ON 'N'R

fer the frantic singers like Jerry Lee Lewis."

The interview was coming to an end. I asked, "anything you want to add, Allan."

"Just this," he said. "Don't blame the youngsters for everything. There are good and bad in every group, every generation. I work with teenagers and I've found them, loyal, sincere and willing to help. Give the kids a chance, they deserve it. Don't prejudge them."



The boys seem to enjoy some spirit.



WE'RE AGAINST

WE'RE AGAINST seeing the wife of a U. S. Senator exhibiting herself as a bathing suit model even when she has a pleasing figure and is parading to help raise funds for the political party of her husband and herself. Above you see Mrs. Richard Neuberger, handsome wife of Oregon's junior Senator, getting ready to model a bathing suit and beach hat at a Democratic fund-raising fashion show in Washington. Such a spectacle, although well-intentioned, should be beneath the dignity of a Senator's wife.