The Music Has Those Positive Vibrations

By Kip Branch

In the world of high powered, high intensity, bass, drum, and guitar - driven music, Heatwave, the international band that won the coveted grammy award for their single "Boogie Nights" stands out.

On the final leg of their first American tour, the European based group appeared recently at a concert near Washington, D.C., and the heat of their music, like a hot wind in July left the audience in total disarray.

Not only did they sing and play, but the lead singers performed acrobatics on stage flipping over, jumping up and down, and twirling the mikes.

Prior to this appearance, the group had played Texas, Philadelphia, Cleveland, and Detroit among other cities.

"The best gig was in Beaumont Texas," beamed energetic leader Johnnie Wilder Jr.

The seven man entourage with the rock - funk - soul flow is made up of a very interesting crosssection of talented musicians.

There is English keyboardist Rod Temperton, Spanish bassit Mario Mantese, lead guitarist Billy Jones, a native of Dayton, Ohio; rhythm guitar and keyboard man Roy Carter also from England, Czechslovakian drummer Earnest Berger, who does much of the groups writing, and lead singers Johnnie and Keith Wilder who also hail from Dayton, Ohio.

Leader Wilder, a high school singing and dacing sensation talked about how both he and the group feel that the Heatwave musical message relates to people.

"Music brings positive vibes. The idea of the live act is to bring about joy through music," he said. PAGE 6

One of the hottest groups on the music scene today is Heatwave, and the leader Johnnie Wilder put the group together in Europe. About the music, Johnnie says: "It's directed to the man who walks the streets, to the everyday man."



Backstage shot of Heatwave in action when they played the Capital Centre Auditorium, just outside Washington, D.C.

"We don't sing about downers — we don't sing about sex, war, violence or hate — nothing negative," he

According to Wilder, the group's music "is directed to the man who walks the streets, to the everyday man. It's about people this music," he said as his fellow musicians nodded in agreement.

Drummer Berger who has written many of the "people directed" lyrics of the group's music commented.

"You know, you write what you want to write," he said thoughtfully, "but you hope to communicate, you hope that people get the message."

Asked how the group became based in Europe, leader Wilder, who formed the group while on a army tour in Germany, and who played in European clubs while in the service said, "We planned it this way. The original 'Heatwave' was all black. What it saw was a demand and an appreciation for black music in Europe



Johnnie Wilder, Jr., leader of the group, Heatwave.

Wilder had some deep feeling about Brown.

"James Brown was to me what was called rock and roll, then black music, and now disco, and funk. The disco scene in Europe is derived from black American

The cohesion of the group seems to say that they practice extensively, and Johnnie Wilder describes himself as "a perfectionist."

Bass guitarist Matio Mantese expressed his feelings.

"We do practice a lot, and we have a lot of discipline," he said with a chuckle, "but if you don't, things fall apart. But when I'm not working, I like to hang out with girls."

Mantese, who is from Switzerland went on: "I live in Switzerland and I just achieved a new thing; no recording artist from Switzerland has ever achieved a platinum album," he said

Guitarist Roy Carter who is from Britain, and who alternates on keyboards said, "I've really enjoyed coming to America.''

Heatwave's first album, "Too Hot To Handle" sold two million copies, and their recently released second album— "Central Heating" is following the same path. Ad-

ditionally, their second smash new album as a million seller.

"On this tour, leader Wilder said, "we're promoting the songs from our first album as well as introducing our new songs.'

When the group hit the stage, one thing happened—an explosion! Roars and screams came from everywhere in the arena. Cameras began flashing, and all kinds of shakers started working - tambourines, rhythm sticks, cowbells, and even ice in cups.

Pushed by the heavy electronic rhythm that characterizes their sound, lead singers, brothers Johnnie and Keith Wilder virtually turned the stage into a launching

"All You Need Is Time," their bossa nova ballad was the opening song. Next followed "Grooveline" which had the overflow crowd dancing not only on the main floor but in the stands as well.

By the time "Grooveline" was over, nobody was keeping still, and even if you wanted to move, there was very little room to do so. But when the group went into "Ain't No Half Steppin," which was followed by "Always and Forever," the high vibrations that had been built up climbed once more, and "Always," a soulful ballad put the icing on their musical cake.

Singing with all of the passion, depth, and feeling that is his trademark, Johnnie Wilder Jr. wrapped the entire audience in an emotional knot.

As the group left the stage area, and the throngs of people who were hanging from the railings for just one touch, someone shouted: "Clear out, let em' through!"

But it seemed that the cry was not needed because Heatwave, with their own unique and stylistic music has already gotten through and the only way for them is up-higher.

single, "Always and — Those Positive Vibrations Forever" is leading the rising



LAUCH HENRY HELPED FIND THE MISSING INGREDIENT TO EDUCATE MINORITY ENGINEERS. MONEY.

Lauchland Henry is a teacher. And a scientist. And an engineer. He's genuinely concerned about other people. And he has expressed some of that concern in his participation with the National Fund for Minority Engineering Students.

The fund is a non-profit organization attempting to increase the numbe of Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, Mexican-Americans and American Indians enrolled in engineering schools.

These under-represented minorities constitute a rich untapped resource for helping fill the growing need for engineers, a need that is expected to continue through the mid-1980's.

IBM's social leave program enabled Dr. Henry to take a year's

leave to assist the fund. And IBM continued to pay him his full salary.

The National Fund for Minority Engineering Students is a very worthwhile program. We think so. Lauchland Henry thinks so. But most important of all, lots of minority engineering students enrolled at colleges and universities all over IBM. the country think so.

