

# FOLK SINGERS CAPTIVATE AUDIENCE

by Lia Ciotola, Assistant Editor

Rarely do we see a combination of the showmanship and the talent equal to that given by Miss Sue Stevens and Mr. Stanley Sheppard. The two star folk singers performed in the SUB on Feb. 23, 1968, at 8:30 P.M. From the beginning, the audience was fascinated while the two gifted performers thrilled the students and guests time and again with a varied delightful rendition of folk music.

Miss Stevens, a singing and acting personality trained in New York, began the program with a series of folk music typifying the American Heritage. The songs were diversified and cleverly arranged. For example, she contrasted the slower, solemn, and more heavy tunes with the lighter comical, and more lively verses. She avoided the monotony and dullness of rhythm which often plague folk concerts.

Miss Stevens' vivacious personality heightened her presentation still more. There can be no doubt in anyone's mind that she is a trained singer. Her articulation was outstanding and her vocal expression was beautiful.

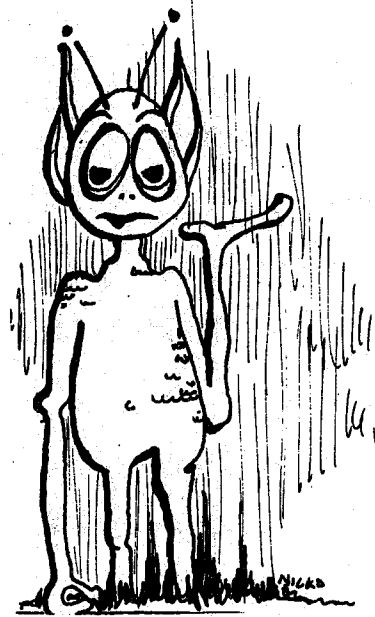
I was slightly disappointed, however, with the limited range of Miss Stevens' voice. For example, she really had to struggle to reach some of her high notes. Yet, her voice within her natural range was strong, her style was poignant, and with all her other attributes, this slight handicap in range can easily be excused. Perhaps as her career continues to bloom, this obstacle will be overcome.

When Mr. Stanley Sheppard began to sing, I had my misgivings—his first song was weak. However, these misgivings were soon dispelled, as his charming, effervescent style began to shine from the stage. As a native Jamaican, Mr. Sheppard had access to all the native tunes. While some of his selections were slightly off-color, and one definitely crude, these songs were performed in an easy and unoffensive manner, and therefore, delighted the audience. I am quite sure that even Professor Kafka would have to agree that the circular response Mr. Sheppard achieved throughout the audience by having group-sing-alongs was superb!

While the art of showmanship was paramount with Mr. Sheppard, Miss Stevens' singing was far superior. He had a high pitched melodic quality, but my guess would be that he had little professional training when compared to the professionalism in Miss Stevens' singing, which indicated, to me, many years of hard study and diligent practice.

After their individual shows, the two performers combined for an unrehearsed medley of duets and except for a few forgotten words here and there, the duo was a complete success. The audience joined in on a finale of "Amen" somewhat reluctantly, for no one was anxious to see the show come to an end. It was a night filled with pleasure and enchantment, and everyone went home fully satisfied and with warm memories of Miss Sue Stevens and Mr. Stanley Sheppard.

## MAN FROM MARS by Eric Waters



I feel out of it at times,  
you know  
They ask me where I'm from  
and what I'm doing here.  
And I say laughing,  
"Why I'm from Mars",  
And tired of late, this gravity  
Bogs me down.

The crowd, the crowd,  
the surging crowd,  
I long to flee to some  
distant shroud  
and contemplate  
their fate.

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