

the first place.

And when the ban is extended to the Lyceum—central London's biggest rock venue—then another newspaper story is bound to follow.

All this has happened in recent weeks to a relatively unknown American ten-piece group called Funkadelic who, apparently, have a rather dubious stage act involving stripping down to a jock-strap. Recent record releases by the group have left something to be desired, so it's doubtful whether they would have filled half the Albert Hall had it not been for the publicity machine.

However, an aura of mystique now surrounds the group and they will probably fill their venues on their British tour with curious people anxious to see this controversial band.

Moral of the story: Get yourself banned from the Albert Hall and you're laughing!

Last week I talked to Funkadelic's leader, George Clinton, on the transatlantic line. Anticipating a "freaky acid head"—or something like that—on the other end of the line, I jotted down a few hip phrases to make the conversation run smoothly, but I was pleasantly surprised to find myself talking to a level-headed and sensible young man.

"I think people misunderstand the appearance of the group," he said when I asked why their stage act caused such a controversy. "People misinterpret things we do and say on stage, like wearing jock-straps and using phrases like 'suck my soul.' The act is pretty wild but it's not designed to hurt anyone.

"We do a number about people praying to the dollar bill and people thought we were talking about the Lord's Prayer. People thought we were pulling the Lord's Prayer down but we weren't."

George doesn't seem unduly worried about the group's banning. It happens

Tim Kinley/Groove Maneuvers Archives



## FUNKADELIC: It's just to get people's attention

using the bad language, it's just done to get people's attention—and keep it.

"We've been fined for it in the States and two places have refused to pay us. We did the same routine twice at one place when they told us not to. It's happened to the MC5 as well.

"Overall, most people don't seem to object. When we first started this act a year and a half ago, it was much worse, but nowadays people accept it better."

"We had a hard time getting the new style over during the first year," said George. "It's only really been in the past year that things have come on. Originally we were with a small company in Detroit, and we had to do just about everything ourselves.

"Our music is very difficult to describe. Basically it's loud, loud blues type music, but we do a lot of other things. The lyrics go into a lot of things."