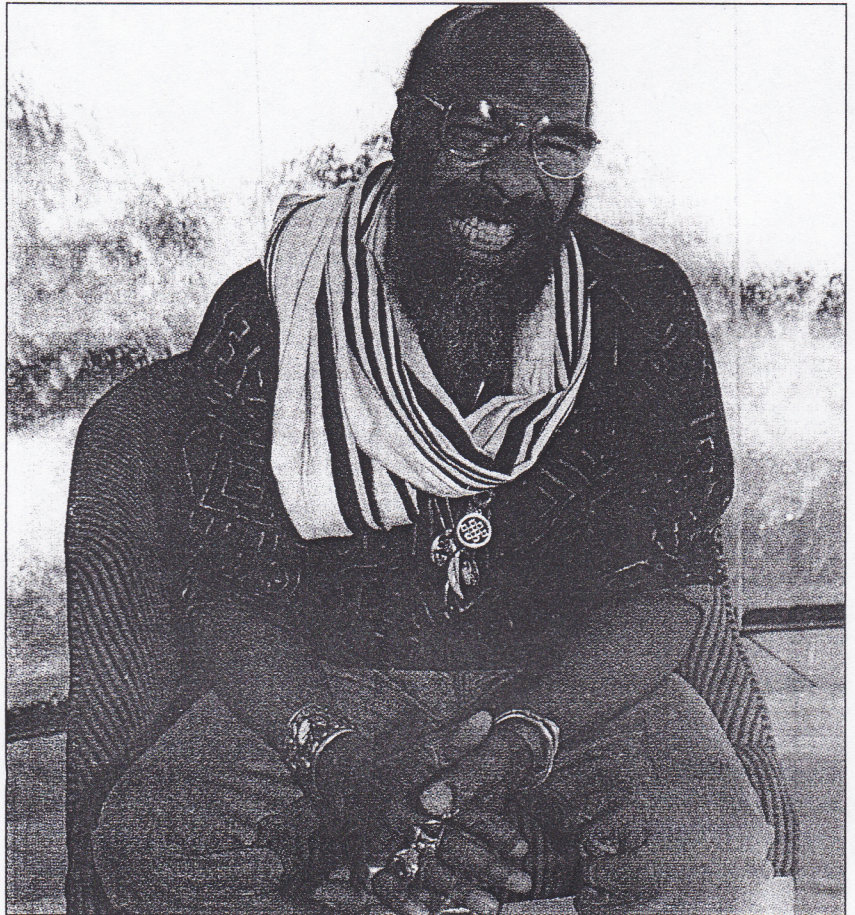


Daily News

# Tonight

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FULL TV LISTINGS:



**GUITAR MAN:** Richie Havens will be in concert this Friday at the ICC.

PICTURE: MARILYN BERNARD

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shop for the past five minutes ("who is that guy? I know I know him.") takes up the story:

"The organisers of the festival had asked the performers to come to two hotels out on the New York freeway, seven miles away from the actual field.

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"It was the time of the Vietnam War and other strong causes and a time when individuals were

*SOMETIMES I feel like a motherless child... If that phrase rings raucous, maybe slightly psychedelic bells in your head, you must be remembering Richie Havens' emotional and tearing gospel/rock delivery of 'Freedom' at the Woodstock festival and you must be, like TONIGHT reporter Sally Scott, at least...(well let's not talk about 1969 and the years inbetween)*

**R**ICHIE Havens, who hits Durban's International Conference Centre this Friday, for just one concert, was paid US\$6 000 for his performance at Woodstock. A fairly decent sum in those days (The Jimi Hendrix Experience pulled in US\$15 000) and The Who US\$6 250 for the same gig).

Havens should, in fact, have been paid a whole lot more, as his fifth placed set turned into first place and his allotted 20 minutes into three hours. And as for that Woodstock anthem, *Freedom* - well thereby hangs a tale as well

Havens, who has been turning heads at the Hilton Hotel coffee

shop for the past five minutes ("who is that guy? I know I know him.") takes up the story:

"The organisers of the festival had asked the performers to come to two hotels out on the New York freeway, seven miles away from the actual field.

"They had one back road to get to the field and by 9 o'clock in the morning it was chaos. Everyone had driven onto that back road and left their cars.

"No-one could get through. There wasn't going to be a Woodstock.

"They were in a panic for about four hours trying to figure how they were going to get these bands, like The Who, Jimi Hendrix, Crosby, Stills and Nash and so on, in.

"So they borrowed this helicopter from a farmer who had it in his back yard. The next thing you know I'm in my room at the Holiday Inn and I hear this helicopter landing in front.

"The guy says, look Richie you have the least instruments so will you go over to the field now.

"No problem.

"I was supposed to be number five on the bill, but we all just stacked everything in this very small bubble helicopter. three of us plus the pilot, two conga drums, two guitars and off we went

"As we flew over the crowd it came to me that we as a group of people had finally made it. They

couldn't hide us any more. The first day there was 512 000 people and they said in the papers 250 000, because they didn't want anyone to actually know how many of us there were.

"It was the time of the Vietnam War and other strong causes and a time when individuals were standing up to be counted. Although the official word was that everything was OK. Of course, it wasn't.

"So, anyway, I finished my set walked off and they said no-one's here can you do two more songs. So I did that and walked off again and they said nobody's here...

"Seven times I went off and on and then the sixth time I went back and they said Richie they're on their way this is the last time. So I go out on the stage and I'm sitting there and I don't know what to sing because I've sang everything. So, on the record you hear a long mmm mmm nnnn and you hear me say would you turn up the guitar mike please. And you know why, because I'm trying to think what am I going to sing.

"So the word 'Freedom' came out," says Havens roaring with laughter at the memory.

"It just came out as I looked down at the people and I thought we've finally made it - this is freedom.

**To Page Two**