

Mayor sings to beat of different drummer

By Mary Ann Lickteig
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Recording artist Bernard Sanders, holed up in White Crow Audio's studio A-2, had given the men in the control booth a sound check and was ready to roll.

"OK, Todd?" he said into the foam-topped microphone. "Todd? How we doing?"

"Clearly, they've never been to a Board of Aldermen's meeting," Sanders said.

Co-producer Todd Lockwood tended to some task out of sight. Eighteen backup singers waited on the bleachers in the other room. The lead singer sipped Diet 7-Up, checked his watch and muttered under his breath.

This is the Bernie Project.

When it's completed, thousands of feet of audio tape dubbed with the Burlington mayor's singing and speaking will be wound into cassettes — on store shelves in time for Christmas, list price: \$9.98.

The recording will have a title by then, co-producer Douglas Jaffe said. Right now, "It's just the Bernie Project."

Thursday night, it entailed multiple takes of "We Shall Overcome." The backup singers included local musicians Nancy Beaven, Rick Norcross and Joanne Cooper, among others.

After an early run, Lockwood bounded into Sanders' studio. "Bernie, you

Turn to MAYOR, 5B



ROB SWANSON, Free Press

MUSICAL MAYOR: Mayor Bernard Sanders loosens up his vocal cords at White Crow Audio studios Thursday night.