

What Is John Lennon Doing These Days?

October 9 will mark the thirty-ninth birthday of one of the most renowned and unique musicians the modern world has ever known. That musician is John Winston Ono Lennon: the ex-Beatle; the activist against the Viet-nam War; the well known artist and poet. Yes, John Lennon will be thirty nine. It would be a complete understatement to say that Lennon could retire a multimillionaire at age thirty nine. John Lennon collects enough residuals for himself and his family from the sales of Beatle albums (as much as seventeen years old and still selling strong), Beatle books, buttons, and bumper stickers and Lennon also benefits from his royalty rights on all those Beatle movies. As far as any John Lennon fan knows or as far as the press and television will let us know, John Lennon is in semi-retirement. The last John Lennon "solo" effort, musically speaking, was released way back in 1975. The album is **John Lennon - ROCK AND ROLL**. It is a collection of boogie-woogie rockers from the Nineteen-Fifties; supposedly fourteen of Lennon's favorite rock tunes from that era. So, this isn't original John Lennon material. The last LP to consist of original material is an album called *Walls and Bridges*. Released in 1974, *Walls and Bridges* was a financial success although success wasn't what

the music critics had in mind. *Walls and Bridges* took a severe thrashing from music critics, who said the album was shallow, dull and lifeless. Two singles (#9 Dream and Whatever Gets You Through The Night) were released from the album. This is practically the last we heard from John Lennon.

Here we are in the fall of 1979. Before anyone makes any rash judgements about John Lennon's sudden exile from the music business, one has to understand the strain he's going through since the summer of 1974. John Lennon, after several severe bouts with the United States Department of Justice, has been granted a permanent visa to remain in the United States with his family. Previously John had only a temporary visa which expired in 1972. Questions like "... Are the Beatles reforming?" "Will the Beatles get together for one final concert?" ... etc. etc., etc. are asked by reporters and journalists of John Lennon every day. While vacationing with his family in Japan, Lennon was quoted as saying, "We (John and Yoko) have nothing to say (regarding any future music plans, especially with the Beatles). We have basically decided without any great decision, to be with our children as much as we can or until we can take some time off to indulge ourselves in reating things out-



John Lennon — almost 39!

side the family." John Lennon is an A-1 family man. He has a wife (Yoko Ono Lennon), and two sons (Julien and Sean), plus a step daughter (Kyoko Ono). The happy Lennon family has been living in New York City for quite a few years now. They reside at the plush and elegant Dakota Hotel.

Old John Lennon had a farm, ee-i, ee-i, Oh! John Lennon recently decided to invest some of his millions in a worthwhile project for himself. He purchased a whole dairy farm complete with dairy cows and everything in upstate New York. The ex-Beatle has always loved nature and outdoor activity. He and Yoko were invited to Eric Clapton's wedding just this past May. The other three ex-Beatles and their wives were among the guests also. Lennon and his spouse decided not to attend because what he feared might happen, did. The three ex-Beatles attending were coaxed into a small fun jam for the

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UD Residents Oppose Tower Theater

Upper Darby Township residents who live near the Tower Theater, 69th and Ludlow Streets, presented a petition at a recent Township Council meeting protesting the "outrageous happenings that occur before, during and after" live concerts and rock movies at the theater.

Council President James Ward read the petition which included "parking in restricted zones on the streets, males and females exposing themselves to urinate, drinking and leaving bottles and broken glass,

females soliciting males, jumping fences of private property, firecrackers, shouting, loud car stereos, and general abuse and harassment."

According to the petition, township residents brought this problem to council earlier, but additional police protection "has either not been carried out or is not helping." Several residents suggested that the Tower be closed.

"If I could legally burn this place down, I would," said UD Mayor Sonny Kane. "Is there any way we could legally close

this place?"

"If we pass an ordinance to stop live shows, that means we have to close Summerstage and the YMCA performances," Township Solicitor Alvin Ackerman said.

Plans were made for a meeting with the Tower Theater management, Township council, the mayor, the Public safety Commission, and the fire marshall.

"We'll try to find an ordinance to close this place as a public nuisance," said the Council President.

Weekend Music

Friday, September 28 - JOE JACKSON is coming back to town and arrives at the Tower Theater tomorrow night at 8 p.m. Since his first visit in April at the Bijou Cafe, he has scored high on the American record charts with his debut album *Look Sharp*, and a single that asks the musical question, "Is She Really Going Out With Him?" Singer/songwriter Moon Martin and his band, The Ravens, will open the show.

Saturday, September 29 - BRAND X makes their mark at the Tower Theater this Saturday at 8 p.m. Spaces, featuring Dr. Gibbs on percussion, will open the show. BRAND X are acknowledged as the apotheosis of jazz-rock music making. For 1978, they won Record World Magazine's Top Jazz Group award. For 1979, BRAND X is on the road with Phil Collins, lead vocalist and drummer for GENESIS.

Sunday, September 30 - Australia's LITTLE RIVER BAND returns to Philadelphia at the Academy of Music on Sunday. Comedian/musician Bob Dubac opens the show at 8 p.m. LITTLE RIVER BAND's second North American release, *Diamantina Cocktail* (named after a potent Australian drink consisting of rum, cream, emu's egg, ice, and a gum tree leaf), earned the group its first gold disc in the U.S., its success sparked by two pop-charted hits, "Help Is On Its Way" and "Happy Anniversary."

Lynyrd Skynyrd To Return

The Lynyrd Skynyrd rock group — all but wiped out in a plane crash two years ago — will live again under a new name. Five surviving members are planning a new album and the Jacksonville Florida times-Union says they'll record it for MCA records as the Rossington-Collins Band — named for guitarists Gary Rossington and Allen Collins. Other survivors are Billy Powell on the keyboard, bass player Leon Wilkeson and drummer Artemis Pyle. Lead vocalist Ronnie Van Zant and guitarist Steve Gaines died in the 1977 crash that left many other band members permanently injured.

Book Review

RIPPING YARNS by Michael Palin and Terry Jones. Published by Pantheon (Softbound). \$5.95. 188 pp.

Michael Palin and Terry Jones are members of Monty Python's Flying Circus, the British comedy group that gained a worldwide following with their off-beat, irreverent humor. Although the Monty Python TV show has been defunct since the early seventies, Palin and Jones have been far from inactive. They've created a new satirical comedy series, *Ripping Yarns*, which has yet to be syndicated in the U.S. If the six hilarious television plays collected in this anthology are any indication of what the program is like, I certainly hope that the BBC exports it — and soon!

"Tomkinson's Schooldays," the first teleplay in this volume, concerns the adventures of a new student at Graybridge, a very weird British public school. Graybridge is literally run by the school bully, who has his own office and a number of female secretaries who can't type or take shorthand. Tomkinson, the hero, is totally fed up with the way he's being treated (for example, he's awakened every morning at three-thirty by fierce alsatian dogs and forced to play two games of football before breakfast) and decides to escape. He fails, again and again, but his attempts attract the attention of the school bully, who decides that Tomkinson would be a perfect participant in Graybridge's biggest athletic event of the year — the grueling Thirty-Mile Hop.

"Across the Andes by Frog" is the tale of the ill-fated 1927 high Altitude Amphibian Expedition, headed by the indefatigable (and somewhat batty) Captain Snetterton-frog expert and world traveler.

"Murder at Moorstones Manor" is a masterful satire on weary mysteries. A number of strange killings have occurred at an isolated Victorian house.

All of the survivors take credit for the murders and soon an argument develops over who the killer really is. The argument is decided in a gun battle in which everyone is killed; except the manor's owner, who is on the phone gossiping with a friend in the middle of the room where the shootout takes place — yet doesn't get hit.

A blurb on the back cover describes "The Testing of Eric Olthwaite" as "the heartwarming story of a boy so boring his parents run away from home." Eric is exceedingly dull; the only things he ever talks about are garden spades and rain gauges. One day, however, he's taken hostage by a bank robber who, it turns out, is just as tedious as Eric. Together they form the Eric Olthwaite Gang, and strike boredom into the hearts of the British public.

"Escape from Stalag Luft 112B" is the story of Major Phipps, a British POW being held in an infamous prisoner of war camp during World War I. Stalag Luft 112B is not quite what you'd expect it to be. The prisoners practically run the place, and have turned the stockade into a veritable country club. None of them particularly want to escape. So Phipps decides to go it alone. He begins a secret project: the construction of a glider from four thousand short cardboard tubes salvaged from toilet paper rolls.

"The Curse of the Claw" is a brilliant takeoff on supernatural thrillers that completely annihilates many old cliches that should have died long ago.

Ripping Yarns is full of the surrealistic insanity and total irreverence that made Monty Python's Flying Circus such a success. It's just the fix that all we hardcore Python fans have been looking for.

— Stephen Luttrell

PHOBIAS

See if you can match these phobias with the fear they represent. Answers on page 8.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Acrophobia | A. Night |
| 2. Agoraphobia | B. Being buried alive |
| 3. Algophobia | C. Contamination |
| 4. Astraphobia | D. Blood |
| 5. Claustrophobia | E. Death |
| 6. Eremophobia | F. Pain |
| 7. Hematophobia | G. Light |
| 8. Iatrophobia | H. Strangers |
| 9. Mysophobia | I. Fears |
| 10. Necrophobia | J. Heights |
| 11. Nyctophobia | K. Animals |
| 12. Pantophobia | L. Words |
| 13. Phonophobia | M. Thunder & Lightning |
| 14. Photophobia | N. Dead bodies |
| 15. Sitophobia | O. Open spaces |
| 16. Taphophobia | P. Closed spaces |
| 17. Thanatophobia | Q. Eating |
| 18. Verbophobia | R. Doctors |
| 19. Xenophobia | S. Speaking aloud |
| 20. Zoophobia | T. Being alone |

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