

J.W.J.



John W. Johnson

## R.E.M. is modern music beyond legendary Beatles

time, many of the younger intelligentsia. Why, I wondered?

Described by an early reviewer as "rock's most thoughtful boy scouts", this garage band from Athens, Georgia recorded its first album in 1982, a five-song effort entitled "Chronicle Town"...[and that reviewer might want to change his view slightly, given lead singer and primary songwriter Michael Stipe's now publicized bisexuality].

Even in that first album effort, and most certainly since then, one chord, one strain of consistency runs throughout the group's music: dichotomy...more about that later.

We take billions of pictures and record millions of video hours. We—at least in the world of Christendom—seek heaven. We are scientifically seeking super conductivity, hoping to all but eliminate friction. We even build our homes (as opposed to our houses) on earthquake faults in an empty defiance of a known impermanence.

Why? Vaingloriously, the eternal quest of humanity is for solutions toward permanence: indeed permanence itself. Therein lies the appeal of R.E.M.'s music...not that it provides solutions toward permanence; rather it opines dichotomies and, therefore speaks to and sustains the hope/mythology that permanence is possible, even desirable. In other words, if there are always (and usually

opposite options, then permanence only awaits some magic or magician of technology or theology to cause the square of polarization created by dichotomy to become a circle of permanence; ...witness the song "Shiny Happy People". Putting it another way, R.E.M. speculates about something new under the sun, while declaring there isn't;...witness the song "Man on The Moon."

There isn't. One need only listen to "Nightswimming", or, more to the point, "Losing my Religion", to see the more obvious examples of dichotomies, i.e...."That's me in the corner, that's me in the spotlight,"... "Now I've said too much. I haven't said enough,"... "I think I thought I saw you try."

It's true that some of the Beatle's popularity was also caused by dichotomies, most notably the song "Glass Onion", and virutally all of the Fab Four's most revered album, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart's Club Band".

It's also true that this half completed decade reminds those who grew up in the 60's, of the 60's by making it clear that music can, once again, lead the way...here and around the world.

It led the way for us in the 60's; and later with Harry Chapin and John Lennon and still later with the Human Rights World Tour; and recently with Billy Joel in Moscow; and earlier, Abba and reggae's Bob Marley.

Lead on R.E.M. Lead on.



By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is featuring in the display case a collection of whales borrowed from Melissa Sorber, who is in 7th grade at Lake-Lehman School. She is 13 years old and has been collecting whales for the past five years. She originally got interested in the 'Adopt A Whale' program and adopted her whale, Olympia, for three years.

Melissa sent money to protect the whales and the organization sends information about the whale. She sent bubble gum wrappers in one time and adopted another whale - 'Big Fin'. While she was on whale watches, she saw the whale, "Tracks".

She now receives whales as gifts for birthdays, Christmas and when on trips. Her room at home is actually a 'whale room'; in that she has whales on her bedspread, curtains, rug, sun catchers on windows and also a whale telephone.

There are small pewter whales in the display, a large whale made from a kit of wood pieces; a music box featuring whales that plays 'Love Makes the World Go Round'; while the whales move around. There is a 25¢ stamp made into a puzzle with a whale on it; and a cookie cutter for whale cookies. There are whales made from plastic, cloth and all sorts of different materials.

## 'Pod' of whales visits library

Many of the whales were purchased in Plymouth, MA as was the large stained glass whale. There is a coffee cup with a whale from Knoebels Grove and books about the Gentle Giants and Whales and Dolphins. The models of whales include a beluga, humpback, sperm, bowhead, blue and gray whales. The display makes an interesting study into the lives of whales. They will be at the library until November 22nd.

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is selling the 'Dine-A-Mate' book '96' at the front desk in the library. The project is sponsored by the Friends of the Library members. The book includes your membership card, which should be carried at all times as it may be required along with coupons to receive discounts. As a member, you can save hundreds, even thousands of dollars simply by taking advantage of all the benefits the book entitles you to. Special discounts are included on fine dining, family and casual dining, fast food and carry out, recreation, services, travel and more!

There are many fine restaurants with special discounts; special discounts also on family and casual and fast food restaurants; included are special deals on adventure parks, movie theatres, baseball games, zoos, golf courses, car washes, fitness clubs, bowling lanes, automobile deals, eye glass centers; and special values at hotels and travel accommodations.

The 'Dine-A-Mate' book sells for \$25.00 and it also makes a nice gift for someone for a special occasion.

New books at the library: "Amnesia Moon" by Jonathan

Lethem is the Wizard of Oz remade as road noir. Since the war and the bombs, Hatfork, Wyoming, is a sick town, full of mutants and sexual deviants. Chaos lives in the projection booth in the abandoned Multiplex, trying to blot out his present, unable to remember his past. Then, Kellogg, the local tyrant, reveals that the bombs never fell. The truth is a little more complicated.

"The Education of Oscar Fairfax" is a wise and masterly novel by Louis Auchincloss which gives us a man who takes the measure of himself—and his times—with heart and insight of a new Henry Adams. Linking three generations of a Wall Street law firm, the book provides a revealing portrait of the American upper classes throughout our century; the social landscape that Auchincloss has made so distinctively his own. A fascinating story.

New large print books at the library: "After Dark" by Phillip Margolin is a gripping, legal thriller. A law clerk has been found murdered in a deserted courthouse; there are no clues.

"The Apocalypse Watch" by Robert Ludlum is a lightning-fast suspense novel. Sting is one of CIA's most brilliant operatives. But something has gone very wrong. His cover is blown.

"The Year of the Virgins" by Catherine Cookson, an exquisitely rendered novel brings the English north country into this century with a turbulent tale of family conflict and mother's love.

"Dream Man" by Linda Howard centers around the Orlando police department and Detective Dane Hollister when he meets Marlie with her clairvoyance and his desire for her.

As I was saying



Jack Hilsher

## Cyberspace: Removing the magic from communication

netic telegraph from Maine to Texas, but Maine and Texas, it may be, have nothing important to communicate."

Substitute "Internet" for "magnetic telegraph" and you have an up-to-date Thoreau. It reminds me of a friend who, when asked about his family and a favorite dog, said, "Oh we had to get rid of Rover." Asked why, he replied, "Jimmy was so busy with his new computer he didn't have time to play with the dog."

To that I submit - how sad. Time says, "We are the first nation in cyberspace. The number of people on a network doubles every year." Yet Cliff Stoll, computer expert and author, says if this is true everyone on earth will be connected by 2003 and that is absolutely impossible.

Don't get me wrong in all this. I was the guy who was never going to own a word processor, and now I wouldn't be without mine. And I probably will resist a PC for the foreseeable future but I am sick of all the hype flooding over us about how different the world is going to be "soon."

Take the touted E-mail for example. It is impersonal and slow. Not to mention boring. A handwritten note is cheaper, more reliable, faster, and can express

thoughts and emotions far better.

Take the networks. Supposedly we are to have "fast access to vast quantities of information." There will be "bookless libraries" Imagine. You are to be able to browse through the Library of Congress' 35 million records.

Yeah? Ever hear of copyrights? You are being handed a con job...libraries cannot broadcast creative works because of copyright laws. And even if they could, scanning a book to digitalize it for sending it to your computer would take hours of search time and cost hundreds of dollars per minute.

Of course you'll be told advances in technology will take care of all that. Again, yeah? The technological highway is cluttered with the dead corpses of things which were supposed to change our info storage and retrieval forever. Like the 33, 45 and 78 records, punch cards, 8-track tapes, 8mm movies, reel to reel audio tape, and scads of sizes and styles of floppy disks and on and on. (Including the famous and fantastic CD-ROM's, the latest dose of snake oil we are being fed.)

Don't say you weren't warned. Digital Utopia ain't here yet, and even when it does arrive it won't be what it's cracked up to be!

## THANKS

Editor:

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to all the neighbors, friends and especially to the staff at Tyler Memorial Hospital for their kindness and concern during our Dad's recent hospitalization. He is now home in Noxen.

Daughters of Jacob Simon  
Sandra Simon McCarron  
Michal Simon Razvillas

## Meadows seeks program volunteers, groups

The Activities Department at the Meadows Nursing Center would like to hear from service organizations; scout troops, church, school and college classes who are interested in sponsoring or planning a special event party or program, adopt a grandparent or who have to complete community service hours.

Groups and individuals are welcome on a one-time or continuing basis.

Please call the volunteer/activity department at 675-8600, extensions 138 or 139.

## Election Day Hoagie and Bake Sale

Shavertown Ladies Auxiliary will hold a Hoagie Sale and Bake Sale on Nov. 7, Election Day, at the Shavertown Fire Hall. Orders must be in by Oct. 27. Call 675-4514.

## The Back Mountain's hometown paper ...from people who live here



"To be interviewed by Grace Dove is to end up as a friend, feeling you've known her much longer than it took"

In addition, she writes extremely well, takes a good picture and can fill other newspaper slots in a pinch. Like editing, scheduling, typesetting, layout, reviewing press releases and even that pesky switchboard.

Grace lives in Franklin Township where she cares for Buddy the Beagle and Fancy the Cat. Grace has two hobbies, which seem not to belong together...one is shooting muzzle loader rifles, the other is as an accomplished beadwork artist of

Native American descent. Her work has been exhibited nationally.

If that weren't enough, Grace reads a lot and likes nature photography, when she has time. Her dad, Harry Richie, now retired, lives in Florida and naturally gets The Post every week.

She was a journalism student in high school and is a '72 Wilkes grad.

Grace is another local person who helps put out the Back Mountain's hometown paper, The Dallas Post.

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