

Pray for John, Yoko and Sean

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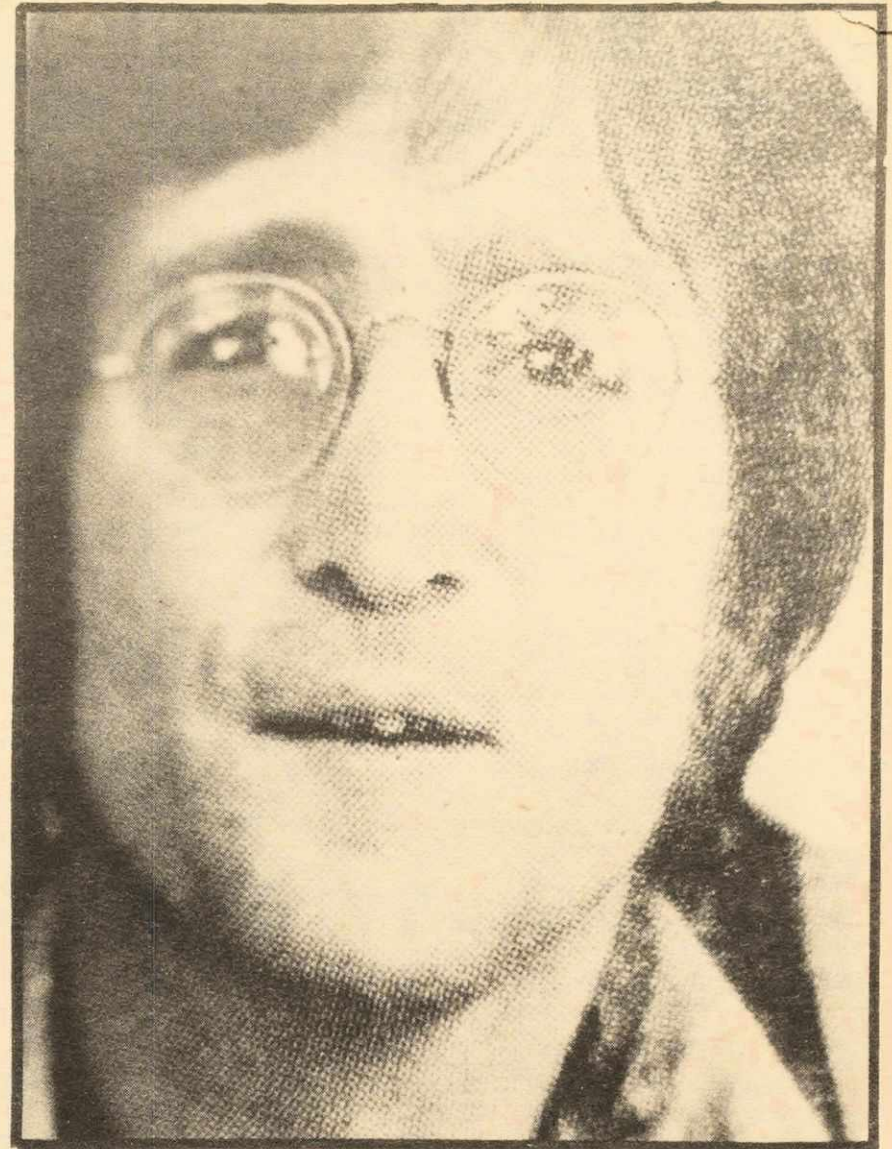
The murder of John Lennon is a tragic event that has shocked the world. John and his future contributions will truly be missed. There will be times when the world will remember his music and his fight for peace in the world.

The next few weeks we will see roaring records, radio shows and television specials that will honour this great musician. There will also be the fans who will crowd the streets and pray for John's soul.

This is what his wife Yoko is going to do. The world should pray for his soul, but there are two others that we should also pray for — his wife Yoko Ono and his son Sean. They are probably going to be forgotten in this tragedy, especially Sean.

So as we all pray for John Lennon's soul together, let us also pray for his wife and child. Let us pray that Yoko is strong enough to carry on for Sean's sake. Let us pray that Sean may one day understand all this. Finally, let us pray that Yoko and Sean will carry John in their hearts and help all the people who were close to John through this tragedy. Pray...

Chris Young



John Lennon and Yoko Ono — Double Fantasy

by Chris Hartt + Young

Equal Partnership — The story of John and Yoko. Each sings seven songs on this, the best Lennon effort since "Imagine." It is a record of their love — for each other and for their son, Sean.

Yoko stands on her own; she wrote her half of the album and sings it with little help from her friend. John harmonizes with her on only two tunes, both on the second side. Yoko's best side is definitely the first.

The new wave style of her music suits the vocals which aren't quite as melodic as her husband's. The overt sexuality of "Kiss, Kiss, Kiss" with its

orgasmic ending cum Donna Summer's "Love to Love You Baby" expresses the "Love" emphasis of the whole album. She sings about her love for John and Sean, but never about Sean alone: it's always John who is the object of her affection — Sean is loved as a manifestation of her love for J.L.

Yoko on the second side changes her style; she goes mellow on us. It's no where as good as the first side; it desperately needs vocals of merit. The music isn't bad, she just cannot sing. She avoids the 'keening' of the early Ono but lets out a few yelps. John's second side is better.

Lennon makes the album, his career has turned. It's just like starting over for the ex-Beatle. This is the name of his first song, the first single on the disk. "Staring Over," a quality produced rock and roll hit, has exceptional vocals, dynamic guitar work and precise percussion rounding off his great lyrics. Jack Douglas does a fantastic job of masterminding the production of this album. He proves his statements about the state of the producer's art.

Buy it!! If you can find it in the stores after the tragedy. This is a beautiful album by a well respected artist and his beloved spouse.

A tribute to John Lennon

by Glenn Walton

I heard the news today, oh boy... Once again a handgun murder has galvanized the media into making the kind of tribute usually reserved for heads of state. It is perhaps difficult for some to understand the impact of John Lennon's death on many of us. In a season that has seen 10,000 casualties in a southern Italian earthquake, the amount of coverage (the first half of the National news for instance) devoted to the slaying of a former Beatle may seem excessive. We have had, after all, other pop star deaths, notably that of Elvis, which have spawned vulgar cults. Why the fuss over Lennon?

The emotion felt at John Lennon's death is very real. The Beatles were not just another show-biz phenomenon fueled by hype and the luck of being in the right time at the right place. They were an enduring and ever-developing musical influence, and we must not forget that our music, of all the arts, is the most immediate. The Beatles were superb musicians, but they also represented a generation's social conscience, awakened to the horror of foreign war and the crass materialism of western society. The Beatles breakup seemed at the time slightly unreal, not possible, and was denied. The four musicians became the subject of endless reunion scenarios, and it is an irony of their situation that the group that preached peace has now finally been buried by a bullet.

Lennon himself was an enigma, touched by the muse: he was musician, poet, author, artist, activist, rebel, kook, with an unflinching sense of humour ("Our separation has been a failure" he said about his reunion with Yoko Ono) and a commitment to nothing less than world peace. It was 'a dream some of us had' goes Joni Mitchell's memorable lyric, and Lennon was one of its spiritual leaders. It dreamers die, dreams linger on, and Lennon's is more relevant than ever.