### New album enjoys success

# Grand Funk Survival album strange and tight

By STEVE GELLER

Grand Funk have been enjoying success for about three years now. Their impact on the music world has been strange to say the least. They have boosted a seemingly typical Mid-Western American sound into an international phenomena almost overnight.

Their latest album, Survival (Capitol Records SW-764), is almost as strange as the mysteries of the group's origin and musical impact. Technically the album is fine — even good, but the selection of material is often suspect. Country Road and

Comfort Me are prime examples of this aspect of Survival. The group comes across as being as tight as they've ever been but it is the nature of these particular works that is striking. They are just too damn typical of Grand Funk's sound and as a result they sound like too many other previously recorded pieces. Surely a group that has been around long enought to record five albums is, or should be, talented enough to progress somewhat from their earlier, more basic material. On the same side of the album, Grand Funk do a Mark Farner tune called All

You've Got is Money, which if anything, is a regression. It is musically weak, lyrically terrible, and obviously not up to their usual standards.

Grand Funk also attempt an interpretation of some borrowed material such as Dave Mason's Feelin' Alright. This comes across no worse than the countless number of other interpretations that are a dime a dozen to pick up, but definitely no better. Again with Gimme Shelter Grand Funk are musically very together but have completely lost the feelingful drive

that the Stones had intended. As a result the original mood is changed entirely and the lyrics become antagonistic to the timing.

It isn't until the ridiculous Beachboy-like studio garble subsides and Grand Funk evolves into I Want Freedom, that Survival comes into its own. This cut leads into I Can Feel Him In The Morning which is the direction Grand Funk will hopefully follow up. This piece picks up from where I'm Your Captain left off and may be close to the best thing the group has ever done.

"Take me down to the water. Let me feel it run over me." Aside from the obvious religious, baptismal overtones Grand Funk express a closer to home attitude; that is, a needed awareness of the changes in the North American society. Implied is a plea of reformation so that people will once again begin to act with an air of human warmth and openness and also be awakened to

Grand Funk will be in town on

the crisis of a disappearing nature

## Science fiction conference to be held in October

During the Thanksgiving weekend Toronto will be the scene of the world's fourth serious examination of science fiction. Secondary Universe Four, sponsored by the Science Fiction Research Association, will be held at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education on Oct. 9,10,11.

"It's an annual conference to fulfill the needs of people who are seriously interested in science fiction," said Madge Morton, the librarian at Toronto Public Libraries' Spaced Out Library who teaches a science fiction tutorial in Stong.

"It will be an opportunity for

science fiction writers and critics to get together with other s-f people and discuss mutual interests."

"Although the approach is largely academic," she said, "it will also be a lot of fun. The approach is interdisciplinary with open bull sessions following a talk or panel discussion."

As well as writers and critics there will be fantasists, futurologists, artists, scientists, serious fans and people simply interested in the genres. Also planned is an art exhibit at OISE, and a number of films and readings of works.

The Toronto-Montreal committee

of the SFRA sponsoring Secon 4 includes people from York, the University of Toronto, McGill University, Rochdale College, the Spaced Out Library and other Toronto Libraries, OISE, the Ontario Science Fiction Club, the Royal Astrononical Society and others. York participants as well as Morton include Jerry Hole who teaches a speculative fiction tutorial in Calumet and professor Arnold Rockman.

Science fiction writers attending Secon 4 will include Frederic Pohl, Joanna Russ, Alexei Panshin, William Tenn, speculative writer J. G. Ballard, Katherine MacLean, Jack Williamson, and now Toronto resident Judy Merril. Two prominent Japanese writers, Sakyo Komatsu and Tetsu Yano will also attend. Julius Kagarlitsky, a Russian science fiction critic who has written a major work on H. G. Wells may attend.

Among the Canadians attending will be Phyllis Gotlieb, John Robert Columbo, editor of the Tamarack Review; Donald Theall, chairman of the English department at McGill; and Loyola professor Robert Philmus who has written a book on early science fiction; Darko Suvin

and possibily several others who have not yet confirmed that they are coming.

The convention will be the first outside the United States, the first two were at the University of Wisconsin, and last year's was held at Queensborough College in New York.

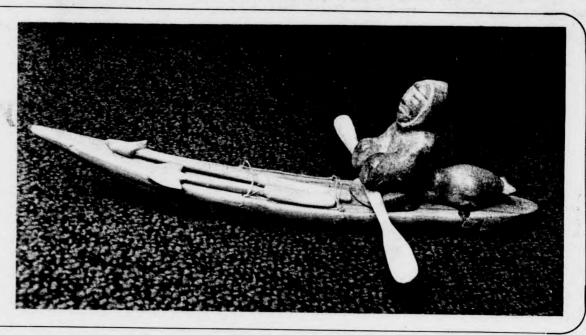
Anyone who would like to attend Secon 4 can do so by contacting the Spaced Out Library at 536-9776. For pre-registration before September 30 the fee is \$8 or \$10 at the door. Morton also said anyone who would like to make a presentation should contact her.

# Eskimo work a gallery feature

An unusually varied selection of Eskimo carvings and prints is currently on view at the York Art Gallery. Soapsfone carvings, bone carvings and prints are all well represented. The prints are particularly impressive in their use of colour and tendency toward graceful abstraction. The bone carvings show more variety in style than the soapstone work. The next two exhibitions at the York gallery will be of Ted Goodwin's paintings and prints, and El Greco.

Edouard Vuillard is not now as well known as many of his contemporaries, but the show of his paintings and lithographs at The Art

Gallery of Ontario is well worth seeing. Vuillard lived from 1868 to 1940. Most of the paintings in the exhibit are portraits or city scenes. Vuillard often painted with slightly distorted perspective, as though he were born with wide-angle eyes. His portraits show a great awareness of his subject's place in space; there are a couple of paintings centering on children which are constructed from a child's eye level. A painting titled La Vie Conjugal creates great psychological effect with the spatial and emotional gulf it portrays between the man and woman in it. Vuillard's colours are not as striking as, say, Monet's, but they are beautifully harmonized.



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