

RANDOM NOTES

BY CHRISTOPHER CONNELLY

Yolko fights back

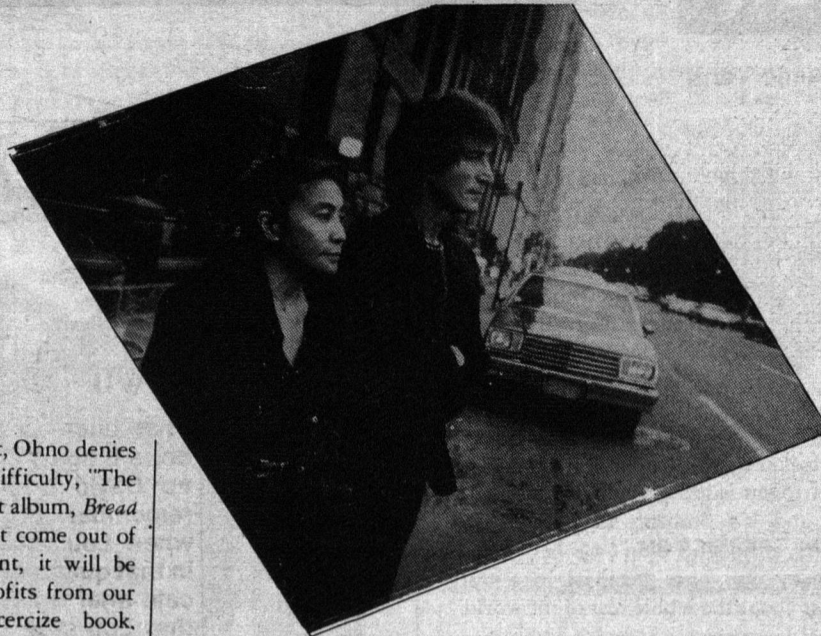
"All John's songs are inspired, if not actually written, by me," says Yolko Ohno of her late husband John Lemon. Ohno says she is tired of jokes like "What's yellow and lives off dead Beatles?"

Although many of Lemon's most famous songs were written before he met his future wife in 1966, Ohno says, "Our spirits were in communion long before he was a member of the Beatles. He often told me (over bread baking) that as a young man in 1954 he had a mystical experience while eating sushi. He believed that this was a manifestation of my overwhelming power over him." Using the sushi incident as evidence, Ohno

has filed a \$75 million suit against Paul McCartney and Lemon/McCartney songs Ltd: "I know John would want me to carry this out to the end."

It is rumoured around Polybore records that Ohno is desperate for funding for her next six John Lemon/Yolko Ohno albums. Apparently due to a financial dispute over Ohno's latest album, *Milk Me Honey*, Polybore has refused to fund any more of her projects. Unconfirmed reports say Ohno tried to list the purchase of a dairy farm and five hundred Jersey milk cows as production expenses for the record.

For her part, Ohno denies she is in financial difficulty, "The funding for our next album, *Bread and Butter*, will not come out of any court settlement, it will be financed by the profits from our new aerobic dancercise book, *Twist and Shout*."



MICHAEL AND WILLIE

Fresh from his "Thriller" duets with Paul McCartney, Michael Jackson is now in the studio with country superstar Willie Nelson. Recording is apparently going very well and a collaboration album called "Beat It on Down the Road" should be released sometime this year.

CBS Records is extremely tight-lipped about the project but some of the titles to be included on the album are "Billy-Sue Jean," "Mamma Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to be Breakdancers" and "Chiller," the story of a beer cooler in the Ozarks possessed by the devil.

Eddie Van Wailen who played guitar on "Thriller" will also be featured on "Beat It on Down the Road" along with fellow axe-master Chet Atkins.

"It should be interesting," said one industry observer.

Fried Bacon

Kevin Bacon, star of the movie *Footlose* was pronounced dead yesterday from electrocution. It seems that while listening to his favourite 60 watt Portablasterwalkman, Kevin stepped in a puddle of gasoline. Said one onlooker: "The last dance steps he did were even better than when Michael Jackson caught fire!"

Critic Toted

The music world is still in a state of shock following Toto's catastrophic L.A. press conference April 1.

The news conference had been called by the band to announce the release of their latest album, *The Tedium is the Message*. About 20 minutes into the questions and answers *Rotting Stone* editor Charles Parry brought up Toto's statements at the 1981 Grammy awards, where they had said that if all the nasty critics who slagged their music could actually play it, they might listen to their comments.

Parry cited statistical proof that while 87% of the critics who panned Toto could not play their music, 92% of those who praised them also could not play the music.

"Does this invalidate their tributes?" he asked playfully.

Furthermore, Parry continued, isn't it true that any person of average good taste is qualified to judge music, and if they weren't, music would simply be a matter of musicians playing for other musicians, since the general public would be unable to appreciate good music or gag at bad stuff?

"Finally, isn't it a fact that any

person of average good taste who listens to Toto can hear after 15 seconds that while the band is technically very accomplished, they are as devoid of artistic spirit as so many auto mechanics, tax attorneys or bank tellers?" asked Parry.

To everyone's surprise the band took the criticisms calmly, and even agreed, stating that after this last album they were returning to their natural vocation of studio musicians, backing up artists who actually had some gifts of expression.

Parry, in fact, was so surprised he fainted. No sooner had he slumped under the table, however, than the band yelled "April Fools", jumped over the press table, and bludgeoned Parry mercilessly with objects at hand, including shards of one of their platinum records.

Parry was later pronounced dead at Los Angeles County Hospital.

Questioned about the murder Toto members stated that it was just "constructive criticism."

Said Toto founder Marty Paich: "We want to construct a world where there are no bright assholes like Parry around."