

## In town

### Birth of Beatle to be celebrated

You say it's your birthday,  
It's my birthday too — yeah.

Imagine — it's Johnny's birthday and there are many many Walrus, assorted glass onions, Lucys in the Sky and Fools (from the hill) in attendance. The #9 Band cranks up a scorching version of "Come Together" as the Walrus, assorted glass onions, Lucys and Fools take to the dance floor. The light show fills the hall with fantastic colors, like a trip across the universe.

You may say it's a dream — but not on Sunday, when a large portion of Eugene's ageless Beatlemaniacs will celebrate John Lennon's 43rd birthday at 7 p.m. in the W.O.W. Hall at 8th and Lincoln Streets. Tickets are \$3 in advance, \$3.50 the day of the show. "Ob-la-di Ob-la-da, life goes on."

This is the third annual John Lennon Birthday Celebration, but the first held at W.O.W. Hall. "It'll be one hell of a party," according to a W.O.W. Hall source.

The Lennon birthday parties are the brainchild of Jessica Johnson. Johnson admits to this very day to being a Beatlemaniatic.

"The Beatles were an integral part of my youth," she says. "I was a total Beatlemaniatic. I have 30 scrapbooks of Beatle clippings at home."

But, like so many other fans of the Mop-tops, it was more than just the music. There was one Beatle that stood out.

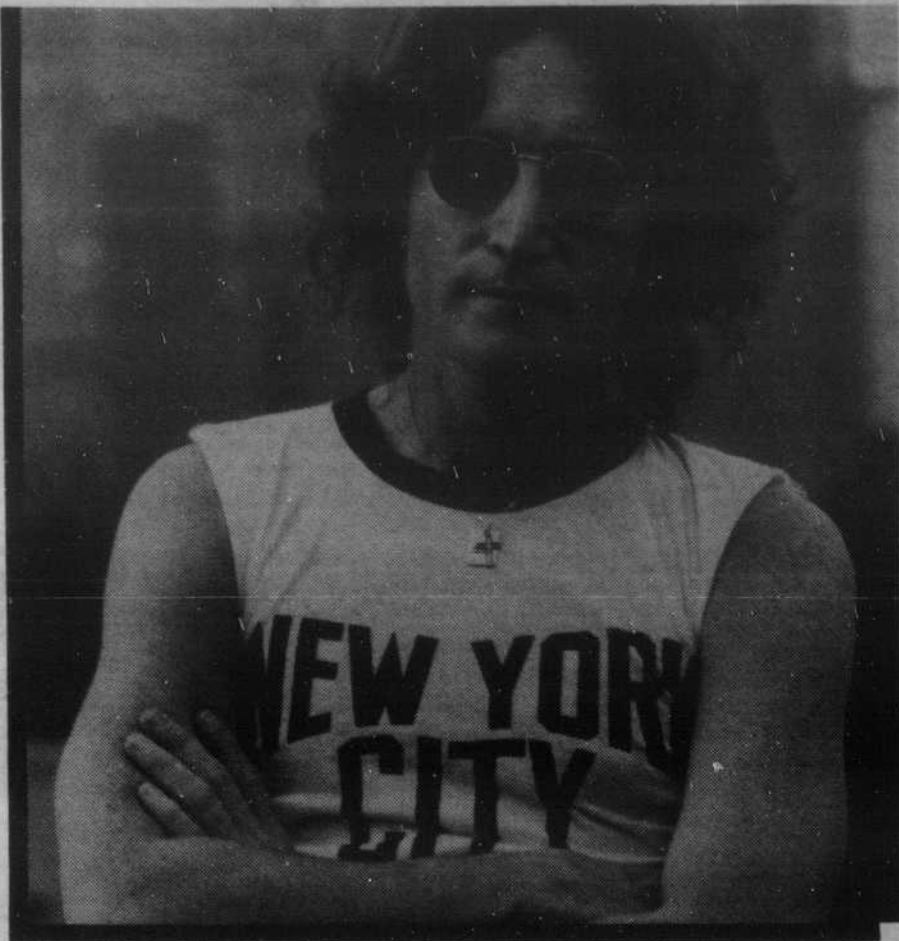
"For me the Beatles were an incredible influence on my life. John Lennon was always my favorite," Johnson says.

The great-publicity-machine endowed each Beatle with certain traits to attract fans. Paul McCartney was nice and cute. George Harrison was quiet. Ringo Starr was kindly but slow. These three, dressed in Edwardian-cut suits, were essentially harmless. But Lennon, even in a matching suit, wasn't. He was called the "intelligent Beatle" as a means to smooth down his rebellious edges.

Johnson also saw the rebel in Lennon, as well as a man of deep convictions.

"He was an honest man," she says. "He was not afraid to stand up for what he believed in. There are a lot of messages in his songs."

The shooting of John Lennon on Dec. 8, 1980, by Mark Chapman instantly shocked a nation, and perhaps the entire world. Similar to the day Pres. John Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, people can readily recall where they were when they heard Lennon was shot.



Local Beatlemaniacs will come together at the third annual John Lennon Birthday Celebration this Sunday at W.O.W. Hall.

Johnson was posing for a painting the evening Lennon was shot and killed. When she went home, she heard the news.

Many millions of Americans heard sports commentator Howard Cosell, during a telecast of Monday Night Football, break into the play-by-play and relay the news Lennon was dead.

"When he died the world really came together over him," Johnson says. She adds the world was "stunned" much in the same way they were stunned by Kennedy's assassination.

Johnson's impetus for organizing the Lennon birthday bash was to "celebrate John Lennon and his beliefs."

"Some people ask why not on December 9," Johnson says. "I look at it like Christmas and Easter. I'd rather celebrate a birth."

At the first Lennon birthday party 200 guests painted a scroll and sent it to Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon. She hoped for, but didn't expect a response.

"The following year, '82, in the spring, I got a Xerox copy of a letter (from Ono)," Johnson says. The letter thanked all those who had expressed their sentiments toward her and Sean. While not personal, "it was a response," says Johnson.

The Lennon birthday party this year is the biggest and no doubt the best so far. A masquerade contest, in which celebrants come disguised as any Beatle song and win a prize, might prompt some interesting interpretations of Lennon's music. There may be a few Mother Superiors in the crowd.

There's the #9 Band of which Johnson and Bill Preib of the Cashiers are members. They'll be playing Beatles songs exclusively.

"Beatle music is incredibly complicated," says Johnson. "We've been rehearsing for months."

Also playing in the live musical portion of the festivities will be the Church of the Latter-Day Lennonites Choir. To Johnson's amazement this group is planning on singing "Power to the People" and "Whatever Gets Your Through the Night" acappella.

While the bands play, a full-spectrum light show by the Original Phantasmagoria will dress the dark walls with dazzling colors fit for the Fillmore West.

Speakers will include the irrepressible (always sure to turn up) Ken Kesey reminiscing on Lennon. The Reverend Jive Guru Dave will also be a featured speaker.

Probably the *piece de resistance* of the evening will be the showing of rare Beatle videos in the W.O.W. Hall basement. Johnson says a collector has provided videos of the Beatles' first appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, Yoko Ono videos, a "Beatles Around the World" video (circa '65) and a video of Lennon's "One to One" concert in New York. Other videos will be the classic "Complete Beatles" and a number of promo-films.

The last chapter of The Beatles saga was finished the instant of Lennon's death. But he would approve if he knew that the tragedy of his death is being erased by a party celebrating his life.

Cort Fernald

## Earth River Records & Tapes

Oregon's Best Selection of  
Records and Tapes

All Major Releases and Top Hits  
ALWAYS ON SALE  
Thousands of Imports

2 Locations:

Campus  
762 E. 13th  
342-2088

Buys and Sells Used Records

Downtown Mall  
62 W. Broadway  
343-8418  
We have what you want!



UNIVERSITY SPECIAL

ALL YOU CAN EAT

# BURRITOS

## \$4.95

All the bean and cheese burritos you can eat. We fill a flour tortilla full of beans and shredded monterey jack cheese, then roll it burrito style and cover it with sauce and melted cheese. It's garnished with onion, lettuce and tomato. Served with rice, beans, chips and salsa.  
(ONE PERSON PER ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT)

610 EAST BROADWAY

ORDERS TO GO ADD 50¢

Call 686-TACO

Eugene Council for Human Rights in Latin America  
and UofO Latin American Support Committee

Presents...

# PATRICIO MANNNS

## IN CONCERT

Foremost Poet, Composer and Singer in Exile



Accompanied on Piano by Michele Bastet

10 Years of Cultural Resistance and Hope

Friday • October 7th • 8:00 pm  
Beall Hall • U of O School of Music  
18th and Alder

General Admission \$6.00 Students and Seniors \$4.50

Co-Sponsor: EMU Cultural Forum

TICKET OUTLETS: EMU Main Desk (UO), ECHRLA Office (1236 Kincaid),  
Balladeer Records (5th St. Public Market). More info. 484-5867

## CAT'S MEOW JAZZ & BLUES CORNER



JAZZ & BLUES, REGGAE  
& Gospel Records

Books, Tapes &  
Collector's Accessories

In the Fifth Pearl Building  
Fifth & Pearl • EUGENE  
686-8742

"AT LAST, A STORE  
FOR THE TRUE  
COLLECTOR."

# PENGUINS

## BOUTIQUE

"Specializing in Fun Fashion Clothing"

- St. Germain Jump Suits
- Silk Angora Sweaters
- Accessories

We also carry a complete line of  
imported dresses, skirts, and blouses.

Come in and receive 10% OFF if you  
mention this ad.

296 E. Fifth Street • Fifth Street Market  
Eugene • 503/683-2214