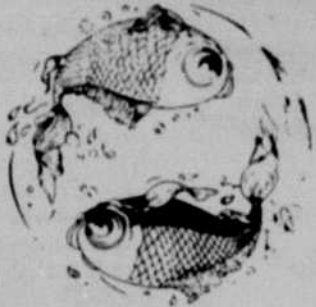


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becomes a difficult process because we'll get started on ideas — and it's real easy to get started. The hard part is finishing. It's just like anything in life," he said.

Hyman and Bazilian have been working together for several years. Their first band, Baby Grand, released two unsuccessful albums in the late 1970s. But even after working together for that long, the songwriting process doesn't become any easier, Hyman said.

"It's somewhat like jamming. But instead of jamming with instruments, you're jamming with your brains and a pencil," he said.

It is especially difficult when the pair comes to the lyrical side of things, Hyman said.

"The musical ideas come pretty quickly. But when we try to get the words down — 'What is this song about? What do we want to say? — that's tough,'" he said.

"We have some high standards and we also appreciate the best stuff that's out there. You identify with the Springsteens and the Bowies and the U2s of the world," Hyman continued.

As with most things, what goes around comes around. Something that also figures into songwriting is how a song is going to sound in performance, Hyman said.

"It's not just writing in a

vacuum and making a record. I think there is an ultimate goal and that is 'what is this song going to be like to perform?'" Hyman said. There are some songs that even in the writing stages sound like great performance songs. "Karla with a K" was one of those, he said.

"We worked on that song for well over a year. It was actually really hard to write," he said. It all began with a musical riff — no melodies or words, just a riff. "But we knew it was going to be great live and we knew it would keep people going. And that's what kept us going," he said. The band began performing the song before the album was released and it got good reactions, Hyman said. It has since remained in the band's set, Hyman added.

Hyman believes the lyrical content on the latest album is "a little deeper" than on "Nervous Night," he said. That may be true. "One Way Home" is certainly a darker, moodier record than "Nervous Night," which wasn't necessarily a mere fluffy pop record. Rolling Stone record reviewer David Fiecke called "One Way Home" a "pretty hip detour" on the road to the top in light of the fact it contains references to fanatic evangelicalism, broken relationships, war veterans, loneliness and despair when many mere pop groups are producing mental pablum.

The first single off the album, "Johnny B" was chosen in part because it is a serious song, much in the same way "All You Zombies" was chosen to be the first single off the last record, Hyman said. He believes many people have categorized the band in a strictly lighter, pop sense but hopes they will change their minds when a Hooters song causes them to stop and think about something.

"Johnny B" is a serious song. It was like, well instead of another 'feel good, let's go boogie'-type number, let's come out with something that's a little deeper, just like 'Zombies' was, just like 'Children' was," he said.

However, the deeper the lyrics, the more potential meanings there are to a song. Hyman said the band has already received mail from fans with interpretations of songs off "One Way Home." If listeners have questions about a song, the band will try to answer them — if there are simple answers, Hyman said. Often, though, there isn't a simple answer.

"That's part of the poetry of it. Not that the lyrics are poetry, but that's what poetry is about — putting into words something that's going to make people think. You're not saying 'the sky is blue.' You're going

Turn to Hooters, Page 18C








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