

Questions plague books plot

By Angie Roles
Contributing Reporter

Losing a child is the worst nightmare a parent can face. A parent's reaction to this trauma may have serious repercussions for the rest of the family. In *The Deep End of the Ocean* a mother's extreme, indeed unbelievable, breakdown after the disappearance of her son destroys herself and her family in the process.

Before this tragedy the Cappadoras are the average family: working mother and father with three active kids — two boys and a baby girl. While things are sometimes rough in the Cappadora household, life moves smoothly along until the day of Beth's fifteenth high school reunion.

Planning to take the three children to the reunion, Beth and husband Pat are packing for the trip. Immediately, Mitchard leaves a bad impression of Beth, photographer and mother of three.

Once at the crowded hotel, site of the reunion, Beth leaves the children just momentarily and when she returns her younger son, three-year-old Ben, is gone.

Seven-year-old Vince, in charge of watching Ben, doesn't know where his younger brother has wandered to. From that point on, the story loses substance.

Beth Cappadora, grieving mother, is a very unlikable character. With the disappearance of her "favorite" child Beth falls into complete self-absorption and her "poor-me" attitude becomes ever more pronounced. Beth stops working, doesn't take care of herself or her children and gives no thought to anything unless it involves Ben. Ten years go by and Beth is still stuck in this debilitating depression.

Meanwhile, the rest of her once-happy family is also falling apart. Vince must deal with his feelings of guilt and jealousy alone, since his parents are absorbed in their own grief. He becomes a juvenile delinquent, using acts of rebellion and violence as cries for help. Finally, Pat notices that his remaining son is having some problems and sends him to a psychologist but does not try to improve his own relationship with Vince.

Pat, father of Ben and husband of Beth, has his own way of dealing with the loss of his son. He opens a restaurant and spends nearly every waking hour there while also trying to care for the children since his wife is not paying attention to them. Pat and Beth begin to grow apart, he is trying to run the family by himself while Beth wallows in her misery.

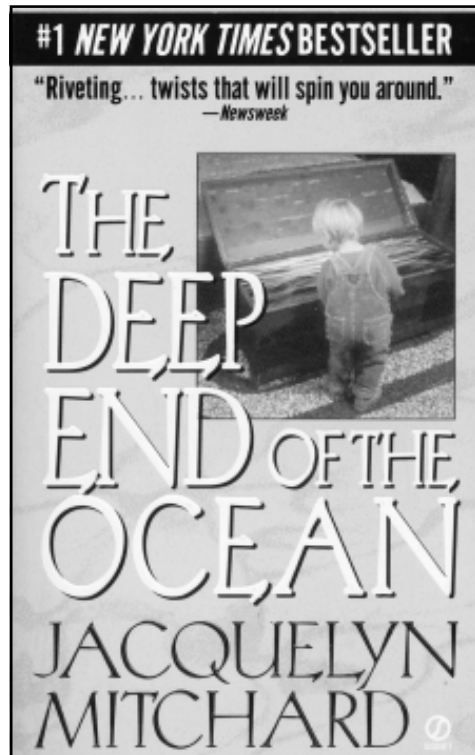
The last family member is Kerry, who was only a baby at the time of Ben's abduction. Although any negative effects are not apparent during the story, Kerry grows up without her mother's loving attention. Her father also does not have much to offer since he is away most of the time. Kerry is left with a babysitter for the large part of her youth.

While I do think this was a good read and is worth buying, I also believe Mitchard could have done a better job. The end of the book leaves some questions unanswered.

The story is well crafted with plenty of unexpected developments that keep you turning page after page. My problem with the novel is the characters.

Though no child can ever replace another, the loss of one should not deprive the other children of the mothering they need. Mitchard wants the reader to sympathize with Beth's troubles, but it is extremely hard to feel anything for her when her inability to cope is the cause of so much pain for her family.

Similarly, the crisis should not deprive



the remaining children of their father's attention. Since Beth was so insufficient a mother, it would have been necessary for Pat to have a more active role than is portrayed in the book. Yet Mitchard leaves him engrossed in his work leaving little time for his children.

Vince was fairly well developed and believable, under the circumstances into which his character is forced. A child needing so much and getting so little may very well go to extremes to get his parent's attention. Unfortunately for Vince, even that fails to alert his parents to his distress.

While I do think it could have been better I also think *The Deep End of the Ocean* is a very good book. It is easy to read and quite engrossing. Even while disgusted with Beth, I still felt compelled to read on.

Radiohead's talent best captured live

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girlfriend to run away so that they can be together. Whatever the situation, Yorke's voice is so haunting that it is hard not to be affected by the verse in which the narrator addresses the father — "You can laugh/ a spineless laugh/ we hope your rules and wisdom choke you/ Now we are one/ in everlasting peace."

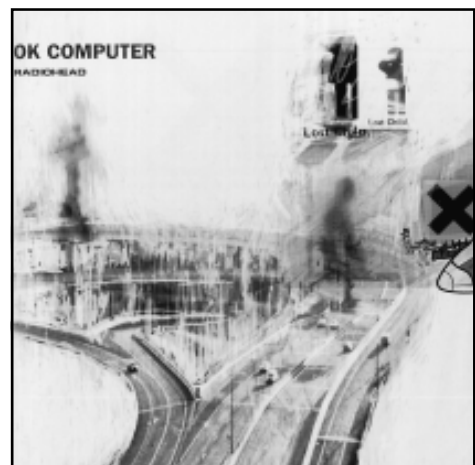
"Electioneering" is the most upbeat song on the album with a driving beat that is the closest Radiohead has ever come to a dance song.

While this is not the band's best release (their last release, *The Bends* was far superior) the album will not disappoint current Radiohead fans.

For those that are not familiar with the band, give it a listen. It is definitely worth the time and money.

Don't expect the album to produce any Top 40 singles like "Creep" off their first album—the songs are simply too obscure for mass radio play, but that shouldn't discourage, it is still a good disc.

The best way to experience Radiohead however, is live. CDs cannot capture the



Radiohead
OK Computer
Capitol Records, Inc.

talent that the band has on stage. While on the recordings some of the songs seem listless or wandering, Thom Yorke breathes life into every word when in front of an audience.

Last time they were in the States it was to open for REM's *Monster* tour, but this year they have come back to promote *OK Computer*, headlining their own tour.

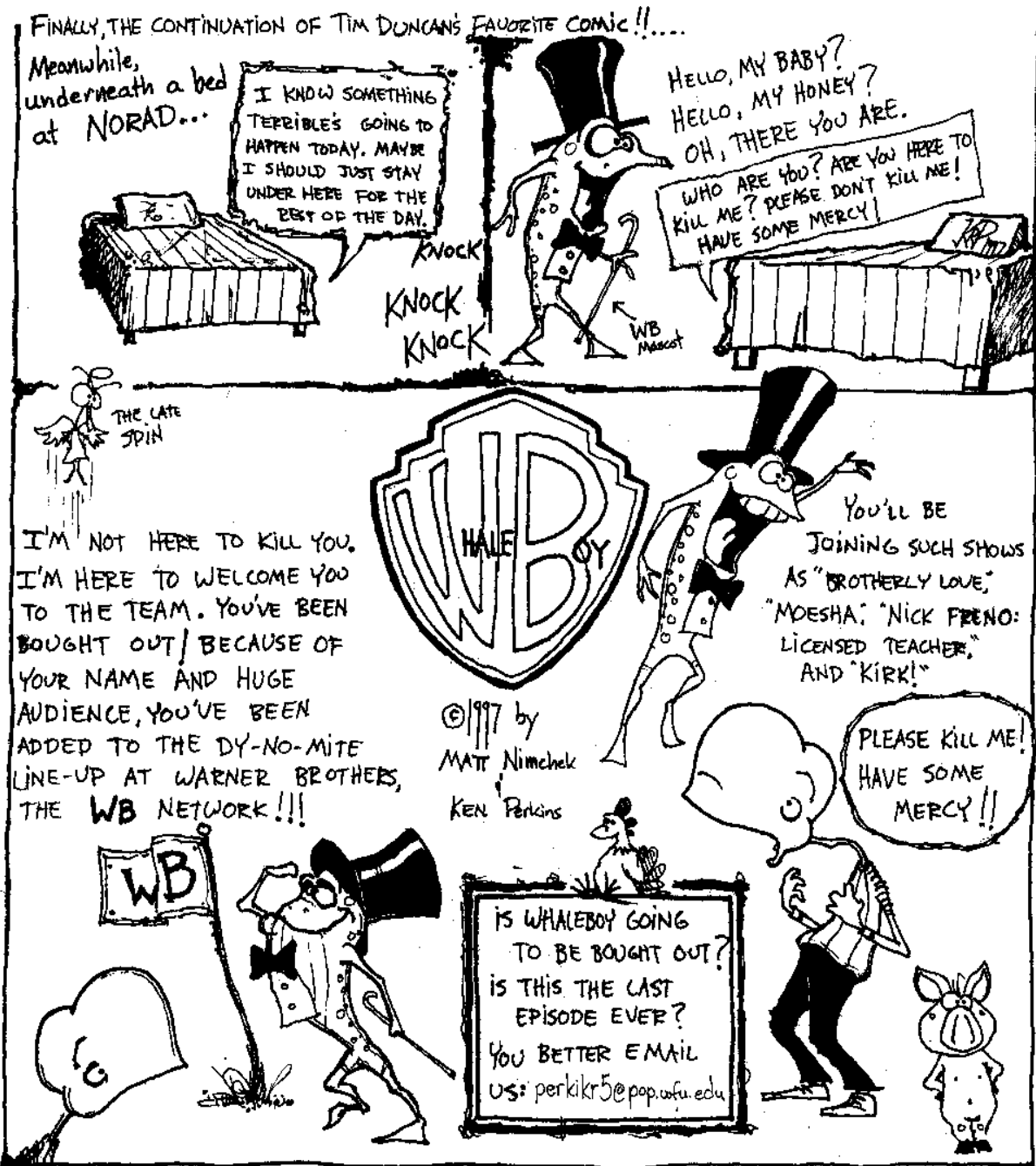
Several weeks ago while playing in New York a number of celebrities turned out including Michael Stipe, Courtney Love and many others.

Obviously the band is well respected by other artists and hopefully will continue to gain popularity with the masses in the coming years.

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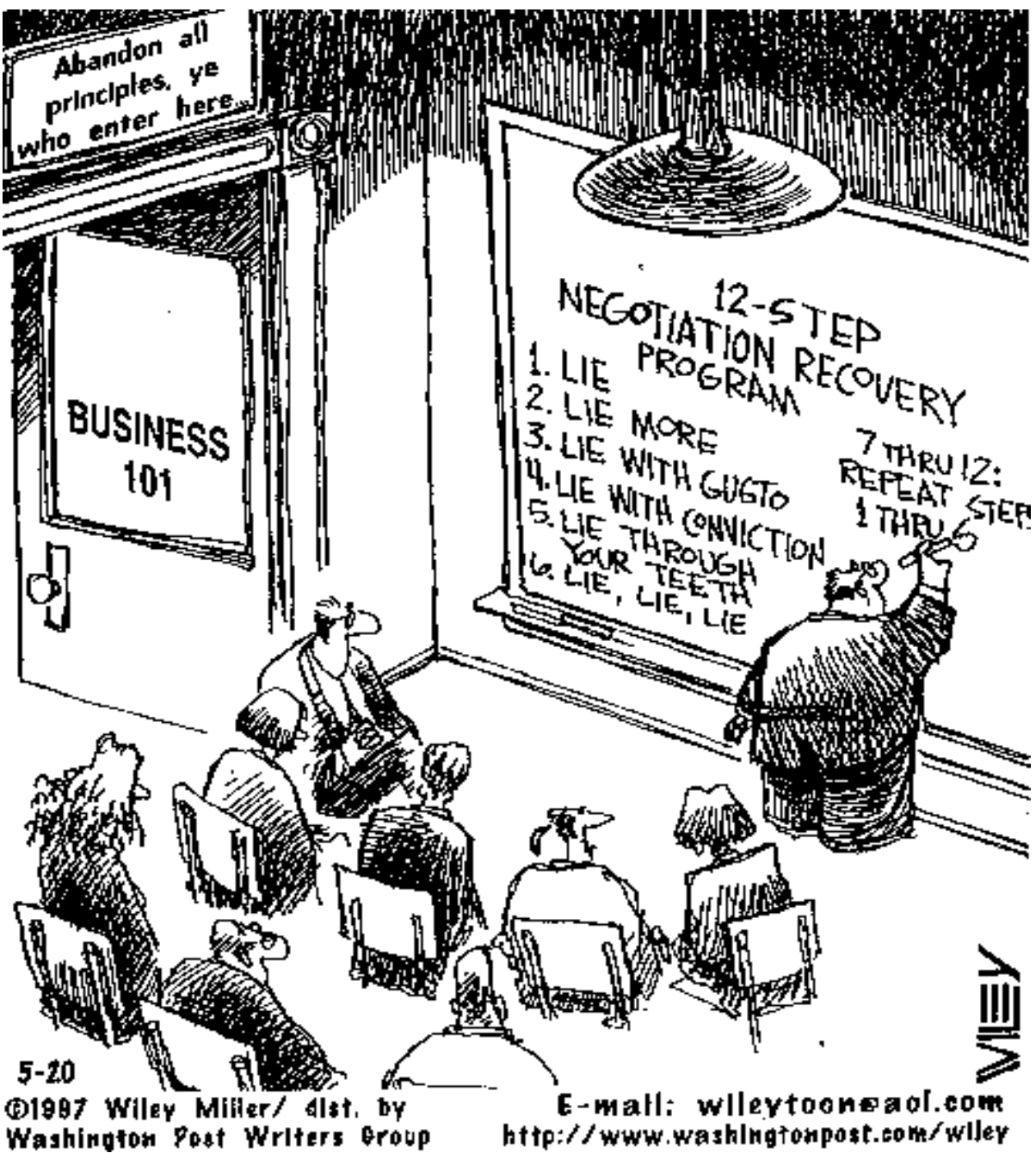
Whaleboy

by Ken Perkins and Matt Nimchek



Non Sequitur

by Wiley



CALENDAR

To have your event listed, send e-mail to arts@ogb.wfu.edu, fax to 910-759-4561 or write to P.O. Box 7569.

ON CAMPUS

Exhibits

Prairie Music. Exhibit will feature prints and poems by eight artists.
When: Through Oct. 5
Where: Scales Fine Arts Center Gallery
Cost and info: Free. Ext. 5585

Lectures

Harappa Project. World-renowned archaeologists Mark Kenoyer and Richard Meadow will discuss excavations of the ancient Indus Valley civilization. The lecture is part of the celebration of Pakistan's 50th anniversary as a nation.
When: 7:30 p.m. Today
Where: Mews, Graylyn Conference Center, Reynolda Road

Cost: Free

Music

The Janus Duo. Performances by Barbara Rowan and Francis Whang will include Gershwin's "Cuban Overture" and other pieces for two pianos.
When: 8 p.m. Sept. 8
Where: Brendle Recital Hall
Cost and info: Free. Ext. 5026

Sitar and Tabla. Sitarist Brian Silver and Pakistani tabla player Tari Khan will perform as part of the celebration for Pakistan's 50th anniversary as a nation.
When: 9 p.m. Fri.
Where: Ring Theater, Scales Fine Arts Center
Cost: Free

Movies

Heathers. Winona Ryder, Shannon Doherty and Christian Slater star in this '80s cult hit about high school.
When: 8 p.m. Thurs.
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Cost: Free

Donnie Brasco. Johnny Depp stars as an undercover cop assigned to infiltrate the Mafia, but is befriended by Al Pacino, one of the mafia members he is supposed to catch.
When: 7 and 10 p.m. Fri., Sat., and Sun.
Where: Pugh Auditorium
Cost: \$2. Deacon Dollars accepted

Dare to Dream: The Making of the Film Jinnah. The BBC-produced documentary will be previewed and a discussion will be lead by Akbar S. Ahmed, the screenwriter of *Jinnah*. The documentary showing is part of the celebration for Pakistan's 50th anniversary as a nation.
When: 7 p.m. Sat.
Where: Annenberg Forum, Carswell Hall
Cost: Free

Year of Religion
Serpent Handling in Appalachia. The Rev. Carl Porter and historian David Kimbrough will speak on the subject.
When: 12 p.m. Tues.
Where: Davis Chapel
Cost: Free

Year of Religion

Opening Convocation. Rabbi Harold Kushner will give an address marking the official beginning of the Year of Religion. At 3 p.m. he will present a Service of Remembrance and Hope.
When: Thurs. Sept. 4
Where: Brendle Recital Hall
Cost: Free

Women's Work. Exhibit will feature ten female artists, showcasing the gender differences in the creation of art.
When: Through Sept. 30
Where: Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art, 750 Marguerite Drive
Cost and info: \$2 for students. 725-1904

ELSEWHERE

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Music

Foothills Music Festival. Four musicians in residence perform in the second of a three concert series. The concerts are designed to feature local folk talent.
When: 8 p.m. Sat.

Where: Reynolda House, Museum of American Art.
Cost: \$12 for students

WFUFQ. The University Faculty Quintet will perform in the Cafe.
When: 2 p.m. Sun.
Where: Borders Books, 3605 High Point Rd., Greensboro
Cost: Free

Concerts

Ziggy's. Thurs.: Blue Dogs. Fri.: Daddy Catfish. Sat.: Reggae Explosion.
Where: 433 Baity St.
Info: 748-1064

Blockbuster Pavilion. Aug. 31: 311. Sept 13: WEND End of Summer Weenie Roast. Oct. 2: Live
Where: 707 Pavilion Blvd., Charlotte
Info: 704-337-2883