

# Knorbert and the Kneecaps

## Adventures in Knee Happiness

by Jim Gold

The Kneecaps gave outstanding concerts in every city. Eastern European countries swelled with pride when they appeared in Budapest, Prague, and even Vienna. State treasuries burgeoned as well. The American concert tour was a smash hit. In short, the Kneecaps had it made.

How had this happened? How had these small body parts built themselves up? How had knees reached beyond mind and heart?

It all started when Knorbert Kneecap left his house early one morning to go to his job as an obscure clam stripper in a local fish market. The job didn't pay much, but it was a living, and, as his wife declared, "A job is a job."

"Yes, a job is a job."

"A job is a job is a job," he added inventively.

Such communication went on for years in that clam-dominated household.

Then one day everything changed.

Over the years, Knorbert's knees had begun to hurt. Arthritis, perhaps, or even osteoporosis of the tibia. The stiffness and pain increased until, one morning, Knorbert couldn't get out of bed.

This was too much for his wife. "Knorbert," she said, "your pains are becoming my pains. It's time you went to a doctor. I know a bone specialist, a graduate of Knie University in the Knetherlands, and whose radical work in knee surgery has won him honors in the medical insurance race. He'll cure your knees."

Knorbert consulted the doctor. "I'm putting you on a music diet," the doctor said, handing Knorbert some tapes. "Play these four times a day. Take them with plenty of fluid. Music cures everything. You'll be fine in three days."

"Thank you," Knorbert said as he hobbled out of the office.

Sure enough, after three days of playing the tapes, Knorbert's knees got better. So did his mental state. He began to sing and dance every morning, and his clam shelling improved. I'll bet other people would benefit from this cure, he thought. That's when he formed a singing group from among his co-workers at the fish market. At first they called themselves The Torn Cartilage; then they changed their name to The Kneecaps. The Kneecaps' unique style and sound captured the nation and shot their songs to the top on all music charts. They created the Knee market and made the selling of Knees the megamillion-dollar business it is today.

The Kneecaps first hit tune, "Kneecaps For My Honey," made \$20 million. It was followed

by "Knees for Jesus," "Oh Darling, I Knees You," "Megaknees Dioxide on my Mind," and the blockbuster monster "High Knees."

Last year the Kneecaps finally disbanded after a long and successful career. Knorbert returned to the fish market, but as the owner. He has since purchased several hundred fish markets throughout the United States and is now reputed to be one of the richest men in America.

Recently, he spoke before the world body of the United Kneetions and proposed the creation of World Knees for Peace.

After that speech, he went home for a good night's sleep. But in two hours he awoke. His elbows hurt.

—from *Handfuls of Air*

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