

Today I'll be reviewing R.E.M.'s best of album. First things first, did you know R.E.M. is short for 'rapid eye movement' and you get such movements when you're dreaming? I wonder how that was found out. I guess it's possible someone saw someone asleep, the asleep person was saying something nonsensical then it was assumed the person was dreaming. Then a so called 'researcher' (a weirdo) said 'he's dreaming! Now let's lift his eyelids up and stare deep into his eyes!... Wait... look at that! His eyes are going mental! Meheheheh.' (If that's not creepy to you, you're the weirdo). Then he wrote about his experiences in an essay, used an advanced version of Grammarly or whatever that took out the mentally ill writing and made it look like a legit science article, and just like that, it became well known people's eyes move during dreams. Strange.

I'm hoping R.E.M.'s eyes didn't go crazy during their performances. It wouldn't make them bad people obviously, but it can make people fear the worst. I've explained how I got annoyed with some cooks for seemingly ruining my dinner with excess salt and vinegar, how much worse would it be if my eyes were shaking as I said 'STOP!' to them? You have to think of your image. Yes, it should be what's inside that counts, but people have instincts that are hard to repress. If I were to tell you I come home from the gym with sweaty clothes, hyped up from the adrenaline and occasionally celebrate by buying an alcoholic drink you'd completely understand, but someone who didn't know me and trying to connect the dots in desperation could assume I'd taken a refreshing cold shower in my clothes and planned on getting drunk. I'm just saying people aren't always rational, especially when nervous.

It's worth noting that not only do the musicians not have shaking eyes when they're awake, (I think) R.E.M.'s music isn't particularly dreamy. Imagine if Westlife called themselves 'Parkinson's', the condition where people shake uncontrollably. If none of the members have the condition and it doesn't relate to the music in any way, you have to wonder how the name was chosen. R.E.M. aren't exactly pop music like Westlife are, but they're not a million miles away from the genre. I can see a metal band called Parkinson's, though. Similarly, there actually is a metal band called Schizophrenia, but I don't take offence to that, as metal is about often about darkness and suffering. If there was pop band called Schizophrenia I would be offended however, as it would be making light of the condition. So yeah, Westlife, never change your name to Schizophrenia or Parkinson's.

Google says R.E.M. were once known as 'Hornets Attack Victor Mature'! These guys write good music but they have some very longwinded names. Hornet Attack isn't TOO bad, but why mention the name of the victim and his level of maturity? Panic at the Disco is a reasonable name for a band, but how about this: Panic at the London Disco for Teenagers. Band name ruined. R.E.M. were also known as 'It Crawled from the South'! Again, too much information! To make another comparison, 'Journey' is a good name, 'Slowly Walked Journey from Brazil' isn't. Even the some of the band's record labels have very sus names. 'Hib-Tone'? Sounds harmless, but Google says hib is a bacterium that causes meningitis! On the plus side, it's at least mostly all about the music and their best of album simply called 'Best of' is very good. 9.5/10!