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MUSIC. As I write this, multi-instrumentalist Chris Turner is prepping his many compatriots for a series of First Night parades. There's no stopping the guy; the Smiling Doggie is usually involved in 10 projects at once, but tonight's gig by the Leroy Hoke Band takes a different turn. Entitled "Cetaceans," this homage to the whale will utilize slide projectors, pre-recorded tapes, electronics, water horn and other acoustic instruments in its ensemble improvisation. Turner: "It's going to be a long piece because whales move slow." AS220 is where it happens, and you can also expect the poetry of Dieter Wieslawski and the nonsense of Meatballs/Fluxus. At 8:30 p.m. at 71 Richmond Street, Providence. Admission is $4; call 831-9327.

The Chili Brothers have been palystore with the Band's Rick Danko for a while now, but recently the hottest Chili, Tony Medeiros, has been onstage with Robbie Robertson and Garth Hudson as well. Evidently these guys like our man's low-key know-how regarding the place where blues, folk and rock 'n' roll all connect. That's long been a forte of the Brothers, and you can see if it still is by dropping into the Blue Pelican (40 West Broadway, Newport). Call 847-5675.

DISCUSSION. Getting a scene off the ground usually takes months of ironing out problems, assessing strengths, establishing connections. AS220, one of the few non-neighborhood clubs to present local hip hop artists, will be the site of a forum for Rhode Island rappers. Abdul Matin, the leader of the reggae band Massai, hosts the deal, called Unity In the Community. If exchanging ideas is what rap's all about, then this is the place to be. Get to the bottom of a few things at 7 p.m. at 71 Richmond Street, Providence. Admission is $4. Call 831-9327.