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current

May 28th - June 11th Volume 12, Issue 10

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EDITORIAL

THE OPPOSITION

BY KEVIN WOOLRIDGE



SOUNDS

INSPIRE, INFLUENCE OR IMITATE?

THREE BANDS BLURRING THE LINES

BY JONNY HODDER

You've heard the conversation. Two people talking about a new band who sound similar to another you already know and love. After hearing the new song a couple of times, they both realize that the connection is more than coincidence. As the debate progresses, a few questions come up: Is this new band a product of the popularity of the band you love? Are they ripping off this popular sound because theirs lacks creativity or they crave money and fame? Are they taking the sound they heard and pushing it in new, exciting directions?

These conversations exist because music lovers are not content with enjoying music of the moment. Instead, they want to know where that music came from. Whether it's The Beatles taking a page from Little Richard when they yell "Whoa" in their breakout hit *I Saw Her Standing There*; or maybe noticing that Modest Mouse frontman Issac Brock's lyrics have the same conversational arrangement as The Pixies' Frank Black. In either case, something familiar catches your ear, but can't quite be placed.

This week, here's three albums that walk the artistic tightrope between imitating a band's sound, being influenced by a specific band or genre, and finding inspiration in a musical catalogue.

The Pack A.D. - We Kill Computers (2010)



Hailing from the untamed forests of British Columbia, Becky Black and Maya Miller comprise the grungy two-piece known as The Pack A.D. A by-product of their work with producer

Jesse Gander (Japandroids, Bison, B.C.), *We Kill Computers* combines The Pack A.D.'s social and environmental commentary with a rough, ragged, rock n' roll sound that combines the feminine grunge of Sleater Kinney with the early garage-rock sounds of The White Stripes. In fact, on tracks such as *Everyone Looks like Everyone*, *Big Anvil* and *K Stomp*, Miller's percussion and Black's riffs appear to match up with the early work of Jack and Meg White almost note-for-note. At the same time, the diversity of *B.C. Is on Fire* and *Cobra Matte* show that The Pack A.D. is more than just a garage-grunge rip-off.

Airbourne - No Guts. No Glory. (2010)



Everything about Australian rockers Airbourne screams hard-rock/heavy metal tribute. From their album's cover featuring a bikini-clad groupie littered with dollar bills, a triumphant Joel O'Keefe proudly holding

an electric guitar over his head, and a transport truck

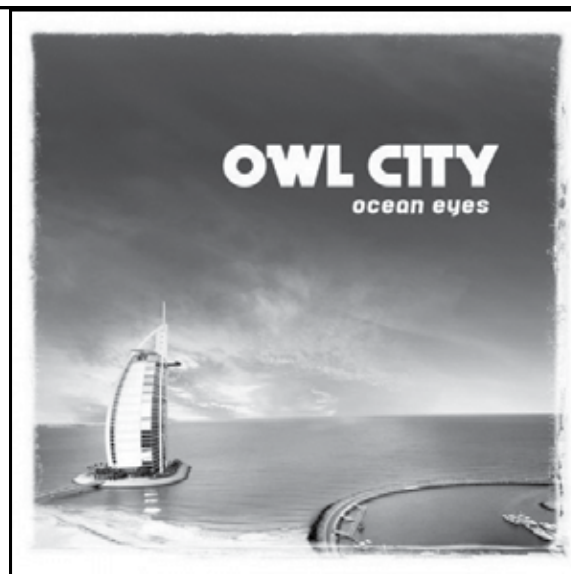
with Motorhead's Lemmy Killmeister at the wheel, just looking at the case of *No Guts. No Glory*. tells you that you're in for a wild sonic ride. However, image can only get you so far.

Fortunately for Airbourne, once you get past the case, you quickly learn one inalienable truth: Airbourne are here to rock. *No Guts. No Glory*, the follow-up to 2007's *Runnin' Wild*, is equal parts AC/DC tribute and late-70s, early-80s rock revival. From the opening notes of *Born to Kill* that pull you from a barren desert to a city of rock, to the lawless rampage of *Back on the Bottle*, *No Guts. No Glory*. is a labour of love dedicated to AC/DC, Judas Priest, Motorhead and the many other godfathers of hard rock that inspired O'Keefe and co. to pick up a guitar and rock out like there was no tomorrow.

Owl City - Ocean Eyes (2009)

If, while listening to *Ocean Eyes*, you get the distinct feeling that you've heard Owl City before, there's a simple explanation: you were probably listening to The Postal Service. While equating Owl City to the 2003 collaboration of Death Cab for Cutie's Ben Gibbard and Jimmy Tamborello of Dntel, might seem overstated and reductionist, few can argue that similarities exist.

Minnesota native Adam Young has been producing music under the name Owl City since 2007. His



debut full-length, *Ocean Eyes*, is nothing less than an electro-pop tutorial. Young fuses key elements of disco, indie and bubble-gum pop together in an appealing, inoffensive and catchy package that begs you to keep listening.

Comparisons between Owl City and The Postal Service are unavoidable. Everything from the electronic beats to Young's high-pitched voice and kitschy-yet-heartfelt lyrics hearken back to 2003's *Give Up*. There are, however, flashes of originality on *Ocean Eyes*, most notably the acoustic gem *The Bird and the Worm* and piano driven *Dental Care*.

That said, until Young balances his own creativity with the heavy-handed influence of The Postal Service, people familiar with The Postal Service's work will be more inclined to view Owl City as little more than a B-Side imitator.



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Deadline for nominations is June 30, 2010.

More information and nomination forms available at www.mun.ca/marcomm/community_service_award.php



5 FAVES

DALE JARVIS

HAUNTED HIKE HOST
BY ALISON MURRAY



Living in St. John's means being surrounded by the city's abundant history and heritage. For the historical events that have shaped the city's development, the population, as a cultural group, relies on the storytellers in the community who guard and share the tales from

long ago; some empowering with others taking on more eerie tones.

One such person is Dale Jarvis. Storyteller, author, and NLAC Art Award nominee, Jarvis tells stories of days gone by in old St. John's. And, on summer nights he can be found telling stories of a more ghostly nature. *Current* spoke with Dale Jarvis about the re-opening of the Haunted Hike and asked what his five favourite haunted locations or stories were that can be found in St. John's. Starting off, Jarvis begins with Tommy Connor's gate. "A story which has been circulating Signal Hill for at least sixty years."

The gate "was located across from where the Battery Hotel now stands. People would see the ghost of a man standing by the gate, missing his head, but holding his hat in his hand."

Secondly, Dale Jarvis notes "There seems to be a problem with basements on Livingstone Street." He continues, "at least two are haunted, one by a ghostly dog, and one by a terrifying floating head."

Continuing with what was once Victoria Station Inn, Jarvis says, "if one had to pick one building in Newfoundland that has generated the largest number of ghost stories, the dubious honour would probably go to the old double house on the corner of Duckworth Street and Cathedral Street in downtown St. John's. It generates more ghost stories than any other building in St. John's, including a phantom gentleman smoking a pipe, moving objects, eerie cold spots, strange noises, broken dishes, and the like."

Next, storyteller Dale Jarvis notes, "in 2000 during July a number of buildings were demolished to make way for The Rooms. One of these was a structure known as the Inspector General's House," where

workers, "would often hear the sound of footsteps coming up the basement stairs. At other times, strange banging noises were heard emanating from the kitchen." As well, one of the ghosts seen "was the figure of an older man, about 5'10" tall with white, curly, bushy hair, sideburns and a handlebar moustache, wearing a dark coat with tails, a charcoal grey waist coat or vest and trousers that matched."

Lastly, "at the end of 1854 Sir Charles Henry Darling was sent to Newfoundland as Governor." When he left Government House for Jamaica in 1857, left behind was "the mahogany-framed gong which had been presented to Darling all those years before. At the very instant of Darling's death - January 25, 1870, in Gloucestershire, England - a strange thing happened in St. John's. The brass gong, allegedly, rang out, untouched by human hands."

If you would like to hear more about these stories, Haunted Hike will guide you around town every Sunday to Thursday starting May 30, at 9:30pm. Meeting at the stone steps of the Anglican Cathedral on Church Hill. Tickets are \$10 and available at the start of the tour. More at <http://www.hauntedhike.com>.

FILM

NICKEL 10 RETROSPECTIVE AND FESTIVAL LAUNCH

10 YEARS, 10 FILMS, 10 BUCKS
BY GARY MOORE

The 2010 Nickel Independent Film Festival will be hitting screens around St. John's June 22 - 26, but the celebrations got started at Yellow Belly Brewery, on Tuesday May 25, with something that resembled a cast party of the last 10 years, of the festival.

Every year the Nickel Independent Film Festival kicks off with a party to draw attention and generate hype for the festival, which is just under a month away. The party, this year, was in honor of celebrating the festivals 10 year anniversary.

With a selection of 10 films, from the last 10 years, the kick off was appropriately titled Nickel 10: Retrospective and Festival Launch.

Screening films from the previous nine festivals including; *Punch Up At A Wedding* by Justin Simms, from Nickel 7 and the documentary *Motions* by Sheilagh O'Leary, from the first Nickel Independent Film Festival.

After the nostalgic flashback, there was a reception giving people a chance to mingle and reflect on how far things have grown for our local film industry, and of course, what's going to take place during Nickel 10.

Over the past ten years the Nickel Independent Film Festival has helped out first time filmmakers. Special events coordinator Mary-Lynn Bernard elaborates; "The Nickel Independent Film Festival has nurtured lots of first time filmmakers who have gone on to show their work in the Toronto International

Film Festival, Cannes Film Festival as well as the Sundance Film Festival."

The Nickel Independent Film Festival has grown over the past 10 years. Things started out in 2001, when it was founded by Roger Maunder. In it's inaugural year, the festival was a screening of local filmmakers. Since that first festival the Nickel Independent Film Festival has grown with the size of the film industry and its not only helping emerging artists but now reaches across the province and presents an annual high school tour, a series of high quality workshops and several special events, throughout the year.

The launch event shed light on what can be expected in this year's festival line up including; over seventy films from Sweden, Japan, India, Spain and the United Kingdom, including twenty new homegrown productions from Newfoundland and Labrador.

The 10th Annual Nickel Independent Film Festival will be taking place June 22 - 26.

For a full schedule of events be sure to check out <http://www.nickelfestival.com> in the coming weeks.



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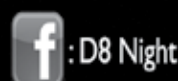
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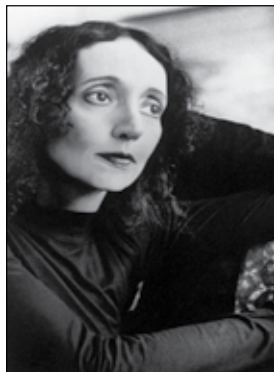
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WORD UP

SUMMER CLASSICS

SOME GOOD READS TO COMPLIMENT THE GOOD WEATHER THAT MAY BE
BY GINA GILL



Joyce Carol Oates

Summer's almost here. It's just having a bit of trouble trying to start. When the sun's hiding and scared to fight the rain, what to do? Play the Wii, work out video, bake? No. Read.

Them by Joyce Carol Oates. This novel is a realistic and exact rendition of twentieth century Middle America. With individual

views of a family revealed as they grow, face tragedy, deal with each other, true love and most importantly a struggle that never seems to end. When will it ever work out for the working class? When will the characters ever get the simple things, often taken for granted? Joyce reminds readers of a history truly forgotten and a section of the world that is in need of being remembered.

White Teeth by Zadie Smith. Amazing. Brilliant. Mind blowing. There are no words to express Smith's creativity. How can one person retain this much awesomeness? It's almost as if it should've been divided up and shared within the population.



Zadie Smith

White Teeth looks at social struggles, questions humanity's necessities, embedded ideas and relationships. Smith exposes the rawness through conversation and everyday life.



Life of Pi by Yann Martel. Everyone knows it. And if you don't, you best be going to get yourself a copy. *Life of Pi* is worth a reread. A young boy named Pi is stranded on a boat with your typical castaways: a tiger, zebra, orang-utan and hyena.

Loneliness brings a sense of connection between Pi and the animals, an illusion to Pi who is always brought back to reality when nature kicks in and the animals must continue their circle of life. A real survival story, it brings tears to your eyes,

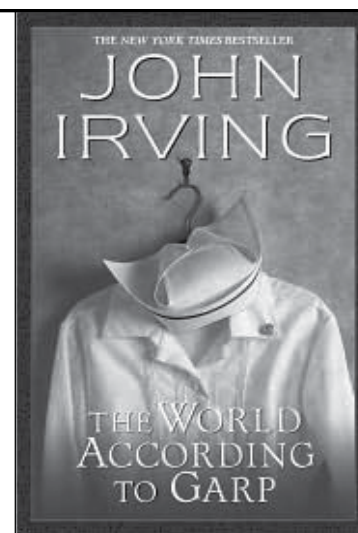
wretches your stomach, aches your heart and is loved by all.

The World According to Garp by John Irving. The story of a young man who's a born

as a result of his nurse mother taking advantage of a dying man. A rare concept when the book was first published, the idea of a woman wanting to be a single mother.

Traveling through Garp's zany life and odd situations makes for a unique novel, with an unbelievable plot. As time goes by, Garp goes to college, marries and has children - making him a very protective father. This is a beginner's novel for those looking to up the quality of their reading lists.

This summer, sit back, relax and soak up the sun. But in the chance that the sun decides to not come out tomorrow, hit up the book store for some old classics and call it a night.



WINE

WINES OF BORDEAUX, PART 2

A SPOTLIGHT THROUGH THE FRENCH WINE REGION

BY JENNIFER MURRAY

The journey continues through the French wine region starting with the Right Bank.

Right Bank

The arrival at the right bank brings to the journey to an area with more rolling hills on the way to the City of Saint Emilion, a great place to visit! The right bank is less structured than the Left Bank. But, it's home to some extraordinary wines, like - for most people - the prohibitively expensive Chateau Pétrus. The Right is divided into Bourg et Blaye in the North West and the Libournais in the South East. The big names are in the Libournais around the cities of Libourne and Saint Emilion. The appellation of Pomerol houses the famous Chateau Pétrus and Ch. Trotanoy. A bit further South East comes Saint Emilion with the appellation of the same name housing Chateau Cheval Blanc, Ch. Canon la Gaffelière, Ch. Angelus, etc.

The trip finishes through this region and there is now an idea of what is where, but it's good to know what the story is with respect to the difference in taste between the Right and Left Bank. If attending a blind tasting of Bordeaux, you might hear the wine geeks musing if this wine is a Right or Left Bank wine - how could they know unless they cheated and looked at the label?

Plums and Blackcurrants

Without getting into soil composition and all that fun stuff you can somewhat generalize that the Left

Bank is dominated by Cabernet Sauvignon and the Right Bank by Merlot. Merlot ripens a bit earlier and is therefore more suited to the cooler Right Bank and the soils there. Cabernet Sauvignon does well on the Left Bank, although the wines from both banks are mostly blends of the two with some other varieties in supporting roles. Cabernet Sauvignon is more tannic and has a firm structure with aromas of cedar and black currants. Merlot is softer, velvety, fruity and some describe it as plummy.

On both banks these main varieties are blended with Cabernet Franc and Petit Verdot for instance. There are always exceptions to make things more complicated (the famous Cheval Blanc is for instance mainly Cabernet Franc), but in general the aforementioned applies.

Getting back to the blind tasters musing, swirling and swishing: they're trying to determine if the wine is soft and fruity (to simplify it a bit) indicating that it might be mainly Merlot based and therefore from the Right Bank, or if it's tannic with cedar notes and black currant indicating it may be a Left Bank wine? It might be fun to test at home by buying a, not too cheap, Left Bank Bordeaux and a Right Bank Bordeaux.

Rotten Grapes anyone?

You cannot leave the regions without touching on the great sweet wines of Sauternes and Barsac. Whoever came up with the idea of harvesting rotten grapes



must have been desperate for a glass of wine, but it's unlikely anyone will ever hold it against him or her!

The climate in the Sauternes and Barsac region is conducive to fog, creating the ideal environment for the Botrytis Cinerea, the fungus causing the noble rot. It's nicer to call the rot "noble," because the infested grapes are used to make delicious wines with a great balance of acidity and sugar. Although they are sweet, they aren't cloying due to balancing acidity. These are great wines with dessert or foie gras and are usually quite costly due to the difficulty in harvesting and processing.

Hopefully you've enjoyed the trip through the Bordeaux region. The best thing to do is to replicate it in real life!

MY STYLE

FIONA NURSE

GLOBAL STYLE
BY GAIA REZORI

The Outfit

Fiona is a 21 year old student, who's contemplating a career in Interior Design. Her outfit reflects her style aesthetic and she manages to look effortlessly chic. Her black leather bomber jacket, purchased in Madrid at Zara, is a great piece to throw on. Underneath, a sheer striped blouse adds a feminine touch, with floral appliques on the shoulder. Perfect for summer, it was a great find Model Citizens, where Fiona frequently shops. Her black skinny pants, with an equestrian feel, are a staple piece, owned since High School. Gunmetal gladiator sandals add to the overall feel of the outfit. For accessories, Fiona's personalized her outfit with special pieces from around the globe. While traveling

through Greece, she picked up a pair of rose gold Ray Ban aviators, a classic staple in any wardrobe. Her silver moonstone ring is another great souvenir from her trip. Another ring purchases by her mother in Capri is made from volcanic rock, boasting a delicate floral design.

Style Basics

For Fiona, style is about not trying too hard, being creative at the same time. She says "clothing needs to be comfortable, first and foremost." Her style's a mix of classic yet trendy and she loves to mix it up with interesting textures like lace and leather. Not big on bold color, she confesses to wearing a lot of black, along with neutrals such as beige and white. Inspired

by a recent job as an Au Pair in France, Fiona loves to shop at vintage stores. "Everything's so unique and there's always a great find, for a great price." Locally, she frequents Value Village and Model Citizens to find one of a kind pieces she can have fun with. She also acknowledges Kate Moss as an inspiration, because "she always looks so put together, while at the same time maintains a simplicity that's timeless." Fashion blogs and the magazine Nylon are also inspirations.

Hidden Treasures

An item in Fiona's wardrobe with special meaning is a dress which she made for New Years Eve 2009. While she claims it was a challenge, being the first piece she ever made, the result was definitely worth it. Black with hand sewn sequins, the 3/4 sleeve mini dress is something she's very proud of. She claims it was great to have a vision and to be able to make it happen. Also, a pair of "perfect" skinny jeans are hard to come by and Fiona gets good use out of her favorite pair.

Style Advice

Comfortable and classic are two terms which suit Fiona's style philosophy perfectly. She stresses the importance of wearing clothing that makes you feel great, asserting that you can find inspiration in anything, whether it's a tv show, magazine or traveling. Style and fashion vary immensely by country and for her there's no better way to step outside the box than by observing a different culture. Finding great staple pieces is key, as you can build an outfit around the particular item. Overall, Fiona advises to stay true to who you are. "Clothing should reflect who you are as a person, not dictate it."



COVER

4TH ANNUAL COMEDY FESTIVAL

LAUGHTER GENERATED BY LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TALENT
BY DEBBY WINTERS



Snook

If laughter is the best medicine, there will be plenty of healthy people during the month of June as the 4th Annual Newfoundland Screech Comedy Festival hits the capital city.

Festival organizer Pete Soucy explains the beginnings of the festival; "It always amazed me that we didn't have a Comedy Festival here, especially

since we're known for our comedy and so many of our talented performers had done so well on the national stage. Many people talked for years about the fact that Halifax had one when, for want of a Producer, we did not. A chance conversation between Leo Furey and me on a plane started some wheels in motion. We soon joined up with Terri Andrews of Divas fame, and the Festival was born."

The festival started in 2007, which featured the entire cast of *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* plus Lorne Elliott, Erica Sigurdson, Irwin Barker and Steve Patterson. It was an instant success.

The festival features an array local, national and international comic all brought together to provide some nights of unforgettable entertainment.

When it comes to putting the festival together; "We try to balance visiting and home-grown talent, and just get the best we can find. Newfoundlanders make for a great



Johnny Harris

audience, and they aren't afraid. Comedians love coming here because the audiences are so sharp, warm and enthusiastic," Soucy said.

The festival opens on Saturday June 5 with a side-splitting performance from Louis C.K. at Holy Heart Theatre. With more than twenty years as a stand-up, Louis C.K. is one of the most honest and respected comedic voices of his generation, finding success in television and film as well as the live stage.

In June, Louis will premiere his new FX series, *Louie*, following the hit series, *Rescue Me*. Louis will executive produce, write, direct and star in the series based on his life as a stand-up comic and single father of two living in New York City.

Soucy said of Louis, "he's certainly my favourite comic at the moment – funniest man on the planet. Fans of Louis C.K. cannot believe he is coming and neither can I – he's done it all: Letterman, Conan O'Brien, Leno and he was just in a movie with Ricky Gervais called *The Invention of Lying*. This is an amazing opportunity to see a talent of this calibre in such an intimate setting. Very soon this guy will only be seen in stadiums in major cities."



Trent McClellan

There will be a great variety of local talent featured as well Soucy continued, "Shaun Majumder is back to host the Gala and star in his own shows *Shaun Majumder & Friends*. Trent McClellan from Corner Brook is back, as is John Sheehan and Jonny Harris. Paul Edwards and Berni Stapleton make their first appearances at the Festival and Bill MacIntosh from the local Yuk Yuk's Club joins us too."

Shaun Majumder, born in Burlington, is one of the better known Newfoundland comedians who's achieved international success. Majumder started his career as a host on YTV and joined *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* in 2003, hosted 15 episodes of the *Just for Laughs* TV specials and starred in the Montreal Festival. He was also a star of *Cedric the Entertainer Presents* and



Paul Edwards

appeared in an NFB documentary, *The Next Big Thing*. Majumder has also starred in the CBC comedy pilots *Hatching, Matching and Dispatching* and *Plain Brown Rapper*, as well as playing Kumar's brother in *Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle*. Shaun's role in *24* has led to a pilot for a new sit-com recently filmed in LA.

The festival has acted as a springboard for up and coming comics as well. Since 2008 one of the featured of the festival is a Stand-Up workshop, which has spawned lots of new talent, some of whom are now working professionally. Matt Estevez is on his way, as is Steve Coombs and John Sheehan who is all the rage and has been for a few years.

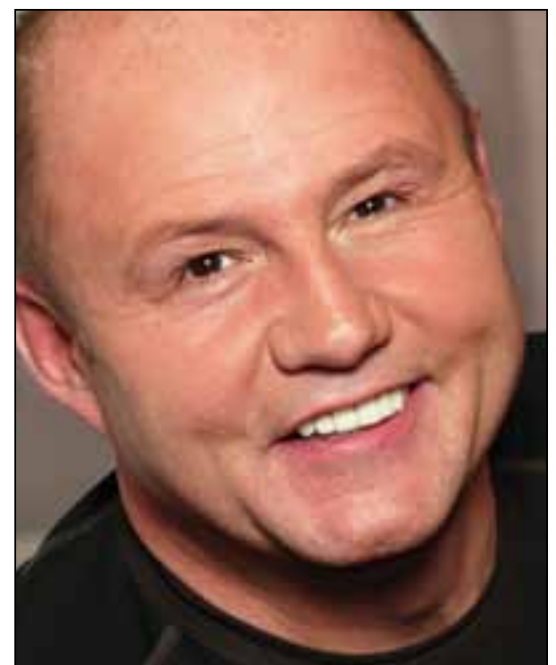
When asked if he will be performing during the festival Soucy replied, "Snook might be making a brief appearance at the Gala, and maybe even at some other events – not sure yet. I, however, will stick to the sidelines this year. Lots to do backstage."

Some other well known names coming to to the island to experience great audiences include Mike Bullard and Derek Edwards.

For the full schedule, more information or to purchase tickets you can go to <http://www.newscreechcomedyfest.com>.



John Sheehan



Mike Bullard



ADD A PERSONAL TOUCH TO YOUR WEDDING

HANDMADE INVITATIONS AND ACCESSORIES

BY DEBBY WINTERS

Spring and summer are the seasons of white taffeta dresses, wedding veils, bouquets and fruitcake covered in fondant!

If you are one of the many brides to be that are planning your very own memorable walk down the aisle, then you are probably in the throes of confused organization as you pull all the integral parts together to create that magical day.

One way to give your wedding a very personal touch is to create your own wedding invitations and wedding favours. It has become a very popular pre-planning event for the bride and her party to get together and make these all-important components.

Drawing upon books, magazines, the internet, local scrapbooking and card making stores or clubs can all work as resources and inspiration.

You can book the workshop workspace at The Paperie's for your event where you and your team will have access to their tools such as the AccuCut as well as the staff's expertise to help guide you with your creations.

Once you have an idea then you can go about gathering the necessary supplies. You will need cardstock, envelopes, adhesives and any embellishments you may wish to incorporate. You can hand stamp your invitations and accessories or you can print them from a computer.

It is advised that you always start with making one invitation first. You may find that you actually make several samples before you decide on the final design that you want to go with. Another thing to keep in mind is the size of the invitation and if you can buy ready made envelopes to fit them.

Meghan from The Paperie created the beautiful invitation set shown. They are very elegant yet clean and uncomplicated to allow for ease of production.



Wedding Invitations by Meghan from The Paperie

The invitation enclosure was created with an AccuCut template in The Paperie's workshop. The invitation measures 5" x 7" and the RSVP is a 3.5" x 5" card.

The band around the invitation imprinted with the bride and grooms name and wedding date adds a beautiful and sophisticated personal touch.



Wedding Accessories by Meghan from The Paperie

Other personal touches you may wish to make would be the menus, place cards, table numbers and favour boxes. The favour box shown is also made with an AccuCut template and compliments the flower blossoms on the invitations and other materials.

For that final personal touch you can make your wedding programs and thank you cards. The church programs are made with the same print as the invitations but mounted on brown card stock with an added ribbon. All card stock used is from Bazzill and is available at The Paperie.

If making your own invitations feels like much too daunting a task, you can also have your invitations made for you by the experts at The Paperie and you will be able to maintain creative control.

For more information visit <http://www.thepaperie.ca> or call The Paperie at 726-5323. For additional content visit <http://www.just2crafty.blogspot.com>.

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ART

EDWARD BURTYNSKY'S OIL

STIRRING NEW EMOTIONAL EXHIBITION OPENS AT THE ROOMS
BY CHARISSA REEVES

When attending an exhibit there is always the anticipation before getting to see what kind of emotional effect the pieces will have. Rarely is that feeling so strongly moving, complete with varying emotions as was the case at the opening of Edward Burtynsky's Oil at The Rooms.

A world renowned Canadian photographer, Burtynsky's exhibit chronicles not only the production and distribution of oil but also the effects it has on the world and the things many forget to see.

People have always taken from nature, Burtynsky told the attending public in the theatre at The Rooms, but what's changed is the speed and scale. "[Oil] runs like blood through our veins and it gives us energy and life like blood does and when we do see it, it's usually a problem like we're seeing in the gulf right now."



Burtynsky's photos range from shots of the oil sands in Fort McMurray Alberta, aerial views of the freeways in Los Angeles, images of the abandoned oil fields in Azerbaijan, to junk yards full of Sikorsky helicopters, bombers and fighter jets.

Burtynsky's images of tire piles, junk yards, compressed stacks of oil filters and other refuse are

not for the environmentally squeamish, or those who like to bury their heads. The incredible quantity of waste these images depicted actually makes one slightly nauseous and wanting to never drive a car again (yet we're still driving).

"Nothing goes away it just goes somewhere else, and I was interested in that somewhere else."

Perhaps some of the most heart wrenching images of the exhibit come from Bangladesh where men literally toil in mire dismantling oil tankers and salvaging the crude oil left in these now dead transportation monsters.



Bare feet and hands covered in oil, moving among steel and cutting it by hand. No cranes, no safety equipment, these men are breathing noxious fumes and exposing themselves to asbestos. "So for them it's really a vital source of both steel and oil and all of that, but us looking at it seems like a really hard price to pay to have those things."

Many of Burtynsky's photographs are forbiddingly majestic such as the now vacant oil fields in Azerbaijan. Baku, Azerbaijan was once one of the



richest oil fields on the planet and where off shore drilling was first invented.

Abandoned for over 20 years now these ghostly shots show what happens at the end of oil, Burtynsky said. Seeing everything left behind, rusting and falling into the ground was a revelation of an end of an industry, which, all oil fields will eventually go to, he explained. "As the whole planet we're working with finite things and at the rates of consumption those finite things disappear much quicker than we've ever imagined."

When asked whether he considered himself an artist with a message or an activist using art, Burtynsky said, "I don't release a picture unless it's an interesting picture so I'm always aware of the image."

He said he's always been interested in the idea of finding subject and working with them until exhausting the possibilities while making sure the form of the image and the content are equal in their weight. "If the content became too predominant then it's like photojournalism, it's a story."

If the form is too predominant then the image becomes an over simplification, just looking at the materiality of the form without any subject. "I didn't want to go to either one of those extremes so I wanted to keep everything on that kind of edge."

Oil will show at The Rooms until August 15.

CAUSES

COOKIES ARE GOOD FOR YOU!

COFFEE MATTERS PARADISE SUPPORTS ARTHRITIS SOCIETY - NL DIVISION
BY DEBBY WINTERS



Blue Bird cookie and has committed to donating a dollar from every sale to The Walk to Fight Arthritis on May 30!

Cookies and arthritis - At first glance, most people would not put those two words together. After all, cookies are one of life's greatest pleasures. Arthritis, on the other hand, is well, just a terrible disease.

Scott Hillier, the owner of Coffee Matters - Paradise is committed to making arthritis a thing of the past! He has designed a beautiful

Join The Arthritis Society and Coffee Matters - Paradise in supporting the search for the underlying causes and subsequent cures for arthritis, and promote the best possible care and treatment for people with living with the disease.

If you are one of the many Newfoundland and Labradoreans living with arthritis you know that living with a chronic disease can be a difficult experience. The local Arthritis Society is exploring the idea of establishing a support group for people who share the same problems and concerns.

They are seeking several volunteers to come together to begin the process of formalizing a support group. If you have a little time, a great attitude and want to help yourself and others please make contact. It can make life a little easier, and more enjoyable.



The goal of the Arthritis Support Group will be to provide a free educational and informative setting to assist others deal with arthritis.

The Arthritis Society - Newfoundland and Labrador Division sponsors the support group. The first meeting is planned for the first week of June. If you are interested, please contact judy@claytonhospitality.com or call 1-800-321-1433.

FILM

THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO

STARRING MICHAEL NYQVIST, NOOMI RAPACE & SVEN-BERTIL TAUPE

BY TIM CONWAY



Runtime: 152 minutes
★ ★ ★ 1/2

Whatever delights or disappointments that marked his previous Christmas Days, Michael Blomqvist is sure to remember this one. Observing his interaction with his sister and her children, a man is revealed who's wholeheartedly embracing the spirit of the season, yet just a couple

of days before, he had been found guilty of libel in a high-profile legal case. His sentence includes a heavy fine and prison time, which he is to begin serving in six months. Although his sister, a lawyer, insists she could have successfully defended him, he tells her his life had been dragged into the gutter, and he didn't want his family to get sucked in. This response substantiates his popular reputation as one of the country's few journalists of integrity.

The conviction is enough to cement this holiday season in his memory, but festivities are interrupted by a call from another lawyer, Dirch Frode, insisting that they meet. Mr. Frode is representing a member of one of Sweden's most affluent families and has been instructed to recruit Mr. Blomqvist's assistance in a personal matter. Intrigued, Bloomqvist is off to the exclusive island residence of Henrik Vanger.

The octogenarian Mr. Vanger tells an intriguing story. More than forty years before, during a family gathering on the island, his favourite niece, Harriet, disappeared. Despite the resources at the disposal of the family, her body was never recovered. While the general consensus was that she met her accidental demise in the waters surrounding the island, Henrik's distrust of his greedy, jealous relatives, and a recurring annual event, have convinced him that she was murdered. It is this mystery that Blomqvist is entreated to solve.

Of course, a man like Mr. Vanger doesn't just pick a new investigator out of newspaper headlines. At his request, the lawyer, Mr. Frode, secured the services of Milton Security and in particular their best researcher Lisbeth Salander to conduct a thorough check of Blomqvist. In doing so, Ms. Salander becomes intrigued with her subject and continues to remotely monitor his progress while he sifts through the details surrounding Harriet's disappearance. It's only a matter of time that her curiosity gets the best of her and she becomes as involved in the case as Blomqvist.

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is based on the first of three posthumously published, best-selling novels, known as *The Millennium* series, by Steig Larsson. Both the film and the book were originally titled *Men Who Hate Women*, which more accurately reflects the details of the story, while the English language moniker seems ill-chosen, especially since the themes of sexism and misogyny in Swedish society form a significant part of the novel and the motion picture.

The first forty minutes or more of this two and a half hour movie are dedicated to establishing the main characters, yet the whole experience is engrossing to where the audience is completely impervious of the film's length. Once engaged, the suspense maintains interest in the story, assisted by well composed visuals and a cast that has you hanging onto every moment.



Noomi Rapace

Michael Nyqvist is the perfect "everyman," whose Blomqvist is less a hero than a good man. His ideals, and his ability to stick to them, are portrayed as characteristics available to everyone, rather than those of a larger than life individual. Noomi Rapace enjoys the more sensational role of Lisbeth Salander and embraces it with verve. While the Goth/punk/badass/hacker female character isn't unique, nor are many of the aspects of this film for that matter, Rapace makes it her own. She's a character designed to make you sit up and notice, but as portrayed here, Lisbeth Salander is a movie figure likely never forgotten.

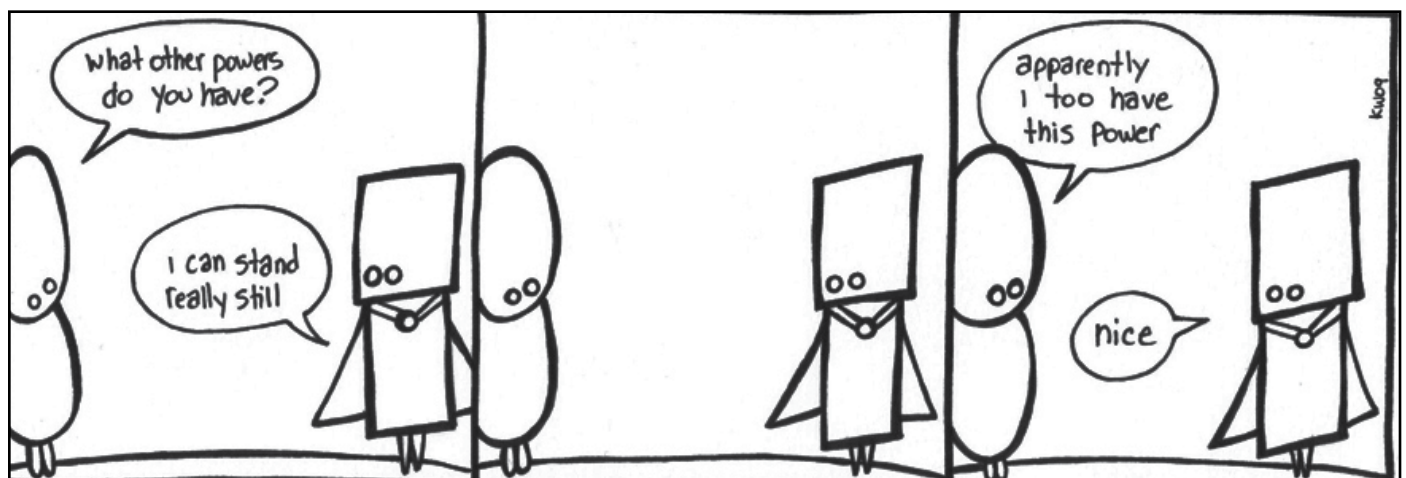
There are a few scenes of brutal violence that should be disturbing to everyone and are likely to elicit indignation in some. There also seems to be some disagreement among those who like to pigeonhole films into tidy little categories, with this one holding labels including mystery, thriller, suspense and horror. Such designations, like the title choice, are the petty details the marketing departments can obsess over. For the audience the main thing is that this is a wonderfully executed production of a compelling story, sure to have everyone counting down to the sequel later this year.



Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace) and Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist)

COMICS

the little world
by Kevin Woolidge



www.thelittleworld.net/blog

DATING

WANT 2TLK

CRASH COURSE IN TEXTING ETIQUETTE, LOVE DIVA STYLE

BY TARA LEHMAN



That's text lingo for 'Want To Talk?' Many single people embrace their textuality in every way you can imagine from breaking up, asking someone out on a date, sex-ty talk and more. Are abbreviated words and Send buttons truly how we want to talk to loved ones (or potential loved ones)?

TBH (To Be Honest), it'd be difficult to not RME (Roll My Eyes) at anyone who has broken up with someone via text or thought it was a romantic way to ask someone out on a first date. You either need to get some guts or remind yourself to slow down and dial their number. Romantic relationships are difficult enough as it is, so don't cloud the air by overusing technology. Here's a crash course on Love Diva's Text Etiquette 101:

The Quickie: Sometimes you don't have the time to talk and that's nothing to feel bad about. Use the quickie text to say yes, you're thinking about them and you'll talk to them later (TTYL). It's better than ignoring and enough to make them smile.

Safe Text: It's exciting when you meet someone new, however don't hand your number out to anybody. If it gets into the hands of the wrong person, they could bombard you with messages and that's just annoying.

Good Vibrations: Just because your phone vibrates indicating a new message, it's not appropriate to whip it out in the middle of a date. Your date should be priority number one and you aren't sending good vibrations if you pay more attention to your phone than them.

Clear Text: The worst thing about texting is not hearing the tone of voice the other person is speaking in. This can cause misinterpretation and possibly uncomfortable, or worse, hurt feelings. Be as direct as possible and



also remember that sex-ty text messages may be pushing some people's text boundaries. Start with flirty talk to check the situation out, i.e. sending the wink or kiss symbol.

Is there a benefit to text messaging? Absolutely! You never feel truly alone because no matter where you are, the vibration and sound of your phone as a text comes in means someone out there is thinking about you.

Tara runs D8 Night, arranging speed dating events, blind dates, online dating consultations and more. Dial 740-3733, Facebook Group: D8 Night or www.lovediva.ca

SOUNDS

DOMINIC MANCUSO

2010 JUNO AWARD WINNER: WORLD MUSIC ALBUM OF THE YEAR

BY GARY MOORE



Twenty years ago, Dominic Mancuso's dream was to play professional hockey. As he was geared up to attend university, to pursue that dream and play hockey, something tragic and life changing happened; Dominic was involved in a motorcycle accident.

Forced to a year of rehab, because someone ran a stop sign, Dominic needed to help pass his time, to keep sane. His brother, Vince Mancuso, bought him his first musical instrument, a bass.

This past April, Dominic was in St. John's for the JUNO Awards. What brought him here was his nomination for World Music Album of The Year. Being a former hockey player, Dominic was invited to participate in the JUNO Cup, an ice hockey game between musicians and former NHL players.

During that game, Dominic had 1 pass intercepted, 2 shots on goal and 2 goals scored. The next night, Dominic attended the Saturday Award Gala. To his complete surprise, his name was called; he'd won.

Not having prepared a speech, Dominic was able to come up with the following, during his off-the-cuff speech; "Pretty funny how life takes it's course. Here I am in front of you all as the 2010 JUNO winner for World Music Album of the Year." Dominic continued his speech and later said "I scored two goals in the JUNO Cup" as he lifted the JUNO in the air he proudly announced "and now I have my hat-trick!"

Dominic was able to put closure on his hockey career that never happened. That pass that was intercepted, was intercepted by former NHL player Gary Roberts, Dominic's teenage idol. *Comfortably Mine* was the album that won the JUNO for World Music Album of the Year, and was recorded because it had to be made. Like his motorcycle accident, Dominic had another sign; he nearly lost his mother. While she was on her death bed, Dominic made the promise that if she were to pull through, he would start working on a project that would pay homage to his mother and father to tell them how proud he was to be their son.

He held his end of the bargain and independently recorded, in his home studio, what is now a JUNO winning album, *Comfortably Mine*.

Since winning the JUNO, Dominic is on the Canadian music map. There's been a significant increase of traffic to his website, <http://www.dominicmancuso.com>,



invitations to play festivals and interview requests that just weren't there before. "Winning a JUNO is good for business" laughs Dominic.

"It has also been great to hear many warm felt congratulations from colleagues, peers, friends and family. Being in the industry for 20 years, many have seen all the trying times and perseverance pay off," shares Dominic.

Dominic is headed back to Newfoundland and Labrador this summer to perform during the 2010 Wreckhouse International Jazz and Blues Festival in July, and stopping for a couple of shows in PEI.

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LISTINGS

WHAT'S ON!

CHECK OUR LOCAL EVENTS CALENDAR

FRIDAY, May 28

CBTGs: Floods, AE Bridger, The Crooks
 Club One: Signal Hill
 Darnell's Pub: YYT
 Distortion: The DGB
 Erin's Pub: Andrew LeDrew & Robert Kelly
 Greensleeves: Greg Bolger
 Holy Heart: Naval Roadshow
 Liquid: Dr. Drake
 Loft 709: Chromania Continues
 O'Reilly's: Achara, Chris Hennessey, Bill Kelly
 The Fat Cat: Chris Kirby and the Marquee
 The Martini Bar: The Void
 The Rock House: Shanneyganock
 The Ship: Baytown Connection, Quiet Elephant, Adam Baxter
 Spin: Funktastic Friday w/Leo van Ulden & Kid Cue
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 Tols: Heartland Band
 Turkey Joe's: Filthy Fridays with DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Gilson Lubin (Dave Chappelle opener, Just For Laughs)

SATURDAY, May 29

CBTGs: The Hot Faucets, The Mudflowers, The Black Lungs
 Club One: Signal Hill
 Distortion: The Black Bags, Wizards of Kaos, Two Guitars Clash, The Potholez, Dave Whitty
 Greensleeves: Greg Bolger
 Konfusion: DJ Big Frank
 Loft 709: DJ Mike Balance
 Lottie's Place: Jeff Lewis
 The Fat Cat: Mick Davis and the Skinny Jims
 The Martini Bar: The Vibe
 The Rock House: Shanneyganock
 The Ship: Cody Westman w/The Pathological Lovers
 Shamrock City Pub: Kilkenny Krew
 Spin: Mike the Tailor
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: Sexual Saturdays with DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Gilson Lubin (Dave Chappelle opener, Just For Laughs)

SUNDAY, May 30

Biancas: Susan Morrissey Wyse, Maggie Meyer
 Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson
 O'Reilly's: Traditional Open Session w/ Alan Byrne
 The Levee: Laugh Hard
 Shamrock City Pub: Arthur & Con O'Brien
 Turkey Joe's: Old School Sunday Ladies Night with DJ Lex

MONDAY, May 31

Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 Grumpy Stump: Open Mic
 Loft 709: Martini Monday's w/DJ Diamond
 O'Reilly's: Larry Foley and Patrick Moran
 Shamrock City Pub: Anthony MacDonald & Ronnie Power
 Turkey Joe's: Manic Mondays: Happy Hour All Night

TUESDAY, June 1

Auntie Crae's: (Noon, free) Auntie Crae's Band
 Bella Vista: (8:30PM, \$5) Sizzlin Salsa Tuesdays
 Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Shamrock City Pub: Connemara
 Turkey Joe's: Two for Tuesdays w/Carl Peters & Dave White

WEDNESDAY, June 2

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Junctions: Wild Wednesdays w/Dr Drake, DJ Fox
 The Fat Cat: Chris Kriby (acoustic)
 The Rock House: (8:30PM, \$5) Salsa On the Rock weekly salsa dancing
 The Ship: Folk Night
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: Wacky Wednesday's w/ Dave White

THURSDAY, June 3

Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson & Arthur O'Brien
 O'Reilly's: Acoustic Punters
 Shamrock City Pub: Middle Tickle
 Turkey Joe's: Thirsty Thursdays with DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Pro/Am Comedy Slam

FRIDAY, June 4

Stanley's: Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: Filthy Fridays with DJ JayCee

SATURDAY, June 5

Loft 709: Dance League Saturday w/ DJ NuRock
 Spin: Seamless Saturday w/Mike the Tailor
 Stanley's: (10PM) Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: Sexual Saturdays with DJ JayCee

SUNDAY, June 6

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Kelly's Pub: Fred Jorgenson
 O'Reilly's: Traditional Open Session w/ Alan Byrne
 Shamrock City Pub: Arthur & Con O'Brien

Turkey Joe's: Old School Sunday Ladies Night with DJ Lex

MONDAY, June 7

Grumpy Stump: Open Mic
 Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 O'Reilly's: Larry Foley & Patrick Moran
 Shamrock City Pub: Anthony MacDonald & Ronnie Power
 Turkey Joe's: Manic Mondays - Happy Hour All Night

TUESDAY, June 8

Auntie Crae's: (Noon, free) Auntie Crae's Band
 Bella Vista: (8:30PM, \$5) Sizzlin Salsa Tuesdays
 Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Greensleeves: Damian Follett
 Shamrock City Pub: Connemara
 Turkey Joe's: Two for Tuesdays - "2 for 1" w/Carl Peters & Dave White

WEDNESDAY, June 9

Grumpy Stump: Karaoke
 Junctions: Wild Wednesdays w/Dr Drake, DJ Fox
 The Martini Bar: Acoustic Trio Wednesday with Stixx and Stones
 The Ship: Folk Night
 Shamrock City Pub: The Navigators
 Stanley's: Karaoke
 Turkey Joe's: (10PM) Wacky Wednesdays w/ Dave White

THURSDAY, June 10

Greensleeves: Unlisted
 O'Reilly's: Acoustic Punters
 Shamrock City Pub: Middle Tickle
 Turkey Joe's: Thirsty Thursdays with DJ JayCee
 Yuk Yuk's: Pro/Am Comedy Slam followed by Kevin Pollak

What To Do? (For Artists)

Short Sighted - Call for Submissions: The Rooms, 1 min. video shorts, deadline: Aug 6, 4pm
 Female accompanist/singer wanted for writing/performing project gtr.&/or piano abilities, good pitch, harmony sense a must lyric writing also an asset. Email aewpik@hotmail.com
 Anna Templeton Centre (Duckworth) contact for info re: adult and youth classes, workshops
 Clay Cafe (39 Commonwealth Ave, Mount Pearl 745-2345): open til 9PM
 Devon House Clay Studio - open studio times, contact for info
 Call For Submissions: 24 Hour Art Marathon Festival (August 13-22, 2010) Deadline: June 15. Looking for exciting, engaging contemporary artists! Email easternedgegallery@gmail.com or call 739-1882 for info.

Artists are encouraged to propose a variety of contemporary art actions which could be: performances (site-specific or staged), local community collaboration (interactive works), video/sound/off-site installation, workshops (for all ages or specific).

GALLERY LISTINGS

The Craft Council Gallery (Devon House, Duckworth Street; www.craftcouncil.nl.ca)
 Leyton Gallery, Clift-Baird's Lane Call 722-7177 or www.theleytongallery.com for info.
 The Rooms: (www.therooms.ca Wednesdays 6pm-9pm are Free, 9 Bonaventure Ave. 757-8000)

SPECIAL EVENTS LISTINGS

Artistic Fraud presents: AfterImage (LSPU Hall, May 26 - 30 / June 1 - 5, 8pm. Pay what you can matinees on Sunday May 30 & June 6 at 2pm.) Tickets are \$27. For tickets call 753-4531 or online at www.rca.nf.ca For info www.artisticfraud.com.
 Hot Earth Rocks (Johnson Geo Centre, May 30, 2pm) Presented by Hot Earth Ensemble, a concert of Baroque music inspired by elements. Tickets: Home on Water or at door \$7-\$20, call 753-4603 or www.hotearthensemble.ca for info.
 The Salon w/Tina Chaulk & Jordan Young (Coffee & Co., May 30, 8pm) Hosted by Dan Rubin, music & readings. Sponsored by the Writers Alliance of Newfoundland and Labrador. Email wanl@nf.aibn.com
 Caesar (Rabbittown Theatre, May 28-30, 8pm. Pay what you can matinee May 29, 2pm) New World Theatre Production, a preview of presentations planned for Cupids 400 from June 19 - July 4. Call 739-8220 or email rabbittown@nf.aibn.com
 2nd Annual Need For Speed Networking Event (Franklin Hotel, June 3) Hosted by JCI Avalon, members and non-members welcome. Call 722-6925 or email jciavalon@gmail.com
 Cupids by Paul Butler (Cupids Community Centre, June 3, 7:30pm) Visiting Author Series, about John Guy & Cupers Cove. \$5 donation to Cupids Legacy Centre. Info at www.paulbutlernovelist.com
 10th East Coast Trail Tely Hike (Justina Centre, June 6, 8am) International Trails Day. Enjoy refreshments, music and a choice of 3 great hikes led by our volunteers. Check www.eastcoasttrail.com or call 738 4453.

NLBIA Walk for Brain Wellness (Quidi Vidi Lake, June 27, 2-5pm) Visit www.nlbia.ca for info.
 NLBIA No Limit Texas Hold 'Em Event. Call Marina White at 368-7119.
 Comic Jam (Hava Java, last Monday of every month, 7PM, free)
 St. John's Farmers' Market (Saturdays, 10AM-2PM), Lion's Club Chalet, Mayor Avenue
 Hurling Training on-going weekly. Contact Brendan Toland at: Yellowbellys_SJ_GAA_Club@yahoo.ca
 Free Internet: Love of Learning offers free internet and computer use for resilient youth between 15 & 35, noon to 6pm, weekdays, Gower Street United Church. For info, www.fortheloveoflearning.org or call Darcy at 722-8848.

For The Love of Learning (weekdays, 12pm-6pm, Free to youth 15-35): 99 Gower Street. Classes in world religion, philosophy, folklore, art, theatre, resume-building. Free lunch at 1PM (722-4846)
 Mall Walkers' Club: (Avalon Mall, Thursdays, 8:45am) (737-2333)
 The Pottle Centre: (323 Hamilton Avenue, social and recreational programs for users of mental health services) 753-2143
 Seniors Bridging Culture: (Seniors Resource Centre, Thursdays, 2pm) Tea, guest speakers, and conversation (737-2333)
 Seniors Friendship Club: (Seniors Resource Centre, Fridays, 2pm 737-2333)
 Shambhala Meditation Group: (Billy Rahal Fieldhouse, rear Elizabeth Towers) Free meditation practice. Call 576-4727 or visit http://stjohns.shambhala.org
 Traditional Latin Mass: The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form (Traditional Latin) celebrated on Sundays, 5:15PM at St. Pius X Church, Latin-English Missals & resources provided. For info or a free Visitor's Guide to the Latin Mass call Una Voce 722-4842 or email unavoce.sopc@gmail.com
 St. John's City Council Meeting: (City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, Mondays, 4:30pm) Public welcome, see agenda www.stjohns.ca, posted Friday afternoons
 Overeaters Anonymous: If your eating habits are making you unhappy and putting you at risk for serious health problems, you can do something about it. Call 738-1742 or www.oa.org
 Tango On The Edge - Argentine Tango: (Thursdays 8:30-10:30, RCA Club, 10 Bennett Ave) All welcome.



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MY MESSY BEDROOM

CRUSH CONTROL

CRUSHES SHOULDN'T LEAVE YOU CRUSHED

BY JOSEY VOGLES

"I have about 112 crushes right now," a friend going through a lively bout of singledom shared. "Let's see, there's 'laundromat girl,' 'tall, cute waitress chick,' 'neighbour babe'..." The list goes on. Who can blame him? Crushes are a wonderful sport, especially if you're single. How many times do you hear single people (myself included) who aren't in the market for a full-fledged relationship, say, "I don't mind being single, I just want to have a little crush on someone."

Nothing like a good, healthy crush to get the juices flowing after a long, hard winter. And, the fact that everyone's finally showing skin again makes it so easy, like shootin' fish in a barrel. Crushes are great because they prove you still got the capacity to feel emotion toward another human being without having to do anything about it, except grin like an idiot and make a fool of yourself as you try to come up with something clever to say when you run into them.

But that's why it's so fun. You get the adrenaline-boosting, fluttery-heart effects of a new relationship without having to worry about silly things like whether or not you'd actually get along. You can spend your time daydreaming about your crush, wondering whether there was hidden meaning in the waitress' question, "Would you like fries with that?" and imagining what the person looks like naked.

There's nothing like having a crush on someone at work to help get you up in the morning. (This is sadly one of the downsides of working at home; the most you get is a cute mailman.)

Now a crush is not to be confused with an infatuation. A crush is usually more fleeting; it may strike when the cutie handing you your latte holds your gaze one second longer than usual and it makes you giddy. An infatuation, on the other hand, usually triggers complete paralysis when faced with said cutie and finds you soon drinking 17 cups of coffee a day just so you can go to the coffee shop and enjoy another moment in his presence.

While somewhat less psychotic in nature, a crush, like an infatuation, is often more about the pursuit than the goal. Some of the best crushes involve people who are entirely unavailable and oblivious to your crush. It's wonderfully self-indulgent. That's not to say that a returned crush isn't welcome. There's nothing like having someone return your stupid grin or come up with an equally awkward response to your not-so-clever comment to make your day. Then you get to enter into full-on flirtation. And that's just too fun.

Every once in awhile, a good mutual crush can even be the launch pad of a full-blown relationship. This brings me to what you do about crushes when you're in a relationship. Of course, you could just stop having them, but who wants to deny themselves this lovely little pleasure. Sure, when you're in the first flush of a new relationship, your paramour usually provides all necessary distraction. But, we all crave the occasional crush -- some proof we've still got it.

Even when you're in a perfectly happy relationship, a sudden crush can catch you off guard, like a dear friend

who found herself with a mad crush on a guy she met through work. She was even having wild sex dreams about him. That really messed her up. She started thinking all kinds of crazy things: Maybe she was with the wrong person; maybe she was meant to be with this guy or someone else; maybe there were problems in her marriage she wasn't seeing. Then, one day, it passed. Her crush just wasn't there anymore. It then occurred to her that she was anxious about problems at work and was on week three of no-sugar diet. Blame it on low blood sugar but she needed a distraction and a crush was the perfect thing. Luckily, she didn't say anything to her beau. Unless you plan to act on your crush, best not to tell. More often than not, they pass. Why cause unnecessary distress?

Mind you, sometimes that's just what you want a crush to do. But while it might be tempting to confess a crush to get a rise out of a partner whom you feel is taking you for granted, this too is unfair, both to your relationship and to the innocent bystander, the crushee.

Sometimes crushes get more attention than they deserve, especially if you're trying to avoid scary stuff. It's easy to invest tons of emotional energy into a crush because it's non-committal. The fact that the cute waitress is completely charmed and doesn't know what a mess you really are can be a refreshing break from a partner who knows all. It's tempting to take it more seriously than we should. It's not to take the fun out of a perfectly pleasurable pastime. Just don't crush any one out there.

\$3 BILL

COTTON CANDY

LEPORE EXPOSES HER TRUE COLOURS

BY RICHARD BURNETT

Tits, blimps, bazoombas – love a fabulous rack and, dammit, one of the finest racks of all time belongs to the absolutely mesmerizing and iconic New York City tranny Amanda Lepore. "My breasts are a full D," Amanda shared this week when asked her if they were double Ds (so much for my expert eye). And her tits are gorgeous. Just like Amanda, in an alien kind of way. And don't knock calling Amanda alien-looking. That's exactly how she describes herself too. "There is something alien about my face," says Amanda, who also regularly appears at gay events in Montreal and Toronto. "There's something spacey about me. I still emulate the [classic Hollywood] bombshells but my look is retro so that I look spacey as well as new and fresh. If I dressed like Lady Gaga, [my face] would get lost. But because I dress retro, vamp and classic, the [alien] qualities come out more."

Clearly this is a woman who knows exactly what she looks like. And she ought to, considering all the plastic surgery Amanda – born Armand Lepore some 35 years ago – has had since her sex change operation at age 15. In fact, Amanda had wanted a sex change since 11, and explains, "I always felt that I was a girl. My parents had to tell me that I wasn't."

At first, Amanda "passed" unnoticed. "It was really easy to pass when I had my sex change [because] I had a minor nose job and no breast implants," Amanda says. "But I always liked artificial girls like Marilyn Monroe. They were pretty and girly – real feminine. I wanted to be like that."

So Lepore had rhinoplasty, two eye lifts and three different breast implants. She's had her forehead lifted, hairline pulled down, brow bone reduced and her lower rib broken and pushed in. She's also had her forehead, buttocks, hips and most notably, her lips enlarged with liquid silicone.

When Amanda arrived in NYC at 18, she famously made her nightlife debut alongside then-club kids James St. James, Leigh Bowery (who was instrumental in developing Boy George) and nightclub promoter and host Michael Alig, who in 1996 was found guilty of murdering his drug dealer Andre 'Angel' Melendez. They all appeared together on The Joan Rivers Show in 1992 and Amanda, as usual, stole the show, to the delight of a beaming Joan Rivers. "That was one of my best moments when I started out!" Amanda recalls. "I was most fascinated with Leigh Bowery because he took four or five hours to get ready. In the old days it used to take me five or six, sometimes a whole day to get ready to go out. Now I can get ready in an hour."

NYC's underground club-kid scene – well-documented by a colleague, Michael Musto of the Village Voice ("It's been boring ever since!" Michael told me earlier this year) – collapsed with Alig's murder conviction. "But we had a lot of fun in the beginning," Lepore says. "Michael would have parties at his house before we went out. It was an incredible time because the economy was good and club owners were spending money. Our success came with it. But I'm not in contact with Michael anymore. Morally, it's really hard to handle what happened. When you become addicted to drugs [like Alig], crazy things happen."

Things would only get more interesting for Lepore with Alig's exit, when famed photographer Dave LaChapelle entered her life. Lepore has

become his muse, and is to LaChapelle what Elizabeth Taylor was for Andy Warhol. "We met accidentally in a club," Amanda says. "In high school he was always drawing [pictures] of a girl that looked like me, and he never found out who she was! So when he met me, it was like, 'Oh my God!' People think he was interested because I'm a transsexual. But it's because he thought I was beautiful!"

That relationship has made Amanda the advertising face for Swatch watches, MAC cosmetics, Mego Jeans and her own clothing line. She's released a couple of music albums, made cameos in *Party Monster* and *Another Gay Sequel*, models during NYC's fashion week and appeared in a titillating fashion spread in *Playboy* last summer. All that to say, but beauty really is in the eye of the beholder. Few can honestly look at Lepore and not say she's beautiful. Even feminists. "I find that young women really like me," says Amanda. "They think I'm Barbie or something. If you're a woman, a feminist and intelligent, you can see that I'm the biggest feminist ever! I'm doing what I want to do. I'm not doing this to please men, but to please me!"



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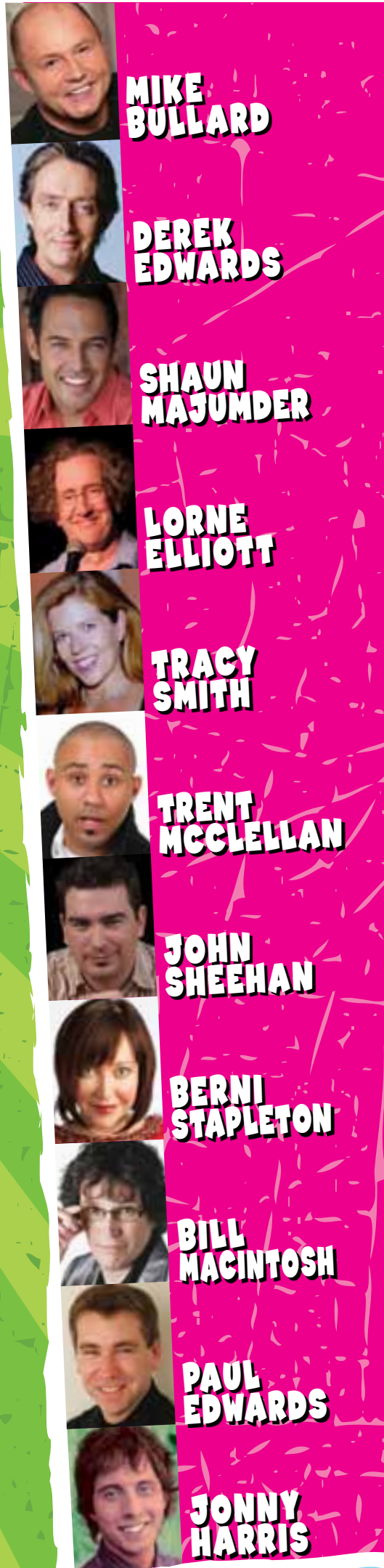
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