

## Razor's Edge makes TV look

By MATT WILSON

One might expect religious content in the story of a mystic. Mysticism is a quest for the experience of God in one form or another. *The Razor's Edge* is the story of a man who gives up the materialistic existence of an upper-class American stockbroker in order to find the secrets of life. The film is devoid of religious content, due to the invincible ignorance of its makers.

Larry Darrell, the mystic, is played by Bill Murray. Larry decides that the rich kid life in Christian, well-scrubbed, white-collar America is not conducive to the discovery of eternal verities. He opts for unwashed life in the filthy slums of Europe, supported by blue-collar labour. He wasn't bookish before, so he reads lots of books. He spurns middle-class values.

That makes him a Hippie, not a mystic, so the filmmakers have to do some location shooting in the

mysterious East. Darrell, working in a coal mine in the twenties, not only can buy himself a library, he can save up \$3,000 and book passage to India. Once there he travels northward and upward to the mountain temple of a Tibetan priest. Since the filmmakers know nothing about mysticism, there is a moment of suspense while the viewers ponder how this meeting of minds can be brought off.

In order to avoid the embarrassment of dialogue, the priest sends Larry off to a hermit's hut on a snow-covered and wind-raked mountain top. The hut is not walled. The mystic builds a fire on the snow-covered floor of the hut to keep warm. Since he is well above the tree-line, one assumes his firewood was provided by angelic sources. Then, the fire burns out and the mystic lights up his backpack full of books. He smiles ecstatically as the books burn away, then hikes down the mountain and tells the priest that he must leave—anyone can be a holy man on a

mountain top. The priest smiles benignly, and that's about as informative as the film ever gets.

*The Razor's Edge* is a badly made film. It is far too long. There is no unity of plot, nor of theme. The filmmakers never clearly decide whether Bill Murray is supposed to play a serious role or a comic role. His resources as an actor are quite limited. He has one of the most unexpressive faces in show business, and a voice which is flat. He plays the serious scenes dead-pan and the humorous scenes dead-pan. This is the kind of film that makes television look good.

*The Razor's Edge* is playing at Penhorn Five. □

*The*  
**BINNACLE**

with  
comfortable, casual  
quality  
clothing...

Royal Robins.  
Boston Traders.  
Henry Grethel.  
Canterbury.  
Far West.  
Patagonia.

5240 Blowers St.  
423-6464

### Featuring Halifax's Indoor Courtyard

A fine restaurant specializing in eggs, pasta, steaks and seafood. Homemade bread and desserts prepared daily.

Weekend Brunch includes fresh orange juice, eggs benedict, sirloin steak and eggs, and smoked salmon.

Now open for breakfast  
Monday - Friday.  
Mon.-Fri.—7:30 a.m.-1:00 a.m.  
Sat.-Sun.—11:00 a.m.-1:00 a.m.

1685 ARGYLE ST.

(Located in the Carleton Hotel, the oldest stone building in Halifax, 1760)



## TV

# CBC's 25 year success

By JEAN LeBLANC

In November, 1960 a live half-hour science program appeared on Canadian television. Now in its twenty-fifth season, *The Nature of Things* is still being shown. No longer live and now an hour long, *The Nature of Things* has been growing stronger and stronger since its conception and is now averaging 1.3 million viewers every week.

In addition to this, *The Nature of Things* is shown in over 80 other countries and its episodes have become top international sellers. Since 1978 more than two thousand sales have been made. This combination of sales and large audiences have made *The Nature of Things* one of the few CBC programs that deliver a profit. To reward this achievement the CBC's Vice-President of English Network Television, Denis Harvey, has announced that *The Nature of Things* will be expanded to a full 26-week schedule for the 1985-86 season. As well, the Science Unit has been called upon to create an

eight-part program called *A Planet for the Taking* to be released in 1985.

After all these years on television some people have begun to question how long new ideas can continue to appear on the show. James Murray, the executive producer who has been with the show since its conception, has said that new ideas for the show are constantly flowing in from both the viewers and producers. The challenge for programs such as *The Nature of Things* is to develop the resources of time, money and skills that make this form of program a success. It is interesting to note that one season of *The Nature of Things* costs less than one episode of *Dallas*. It is difficult to imagine how many programs of the quality of *The Nature of Things* could be developed if the network took the money spent on programs such as *Dallas* and spent their money on more worthwhile programming. Hopefully the networks will see from the success of *The Nature of Things* that it is not only the soaps or high adventure shows that can be commercially viable. □

## Going Your Way!

### TRAVEL CUTS

## Ski Weeks



#### INCLUSIONS

- return bus transportation
- transfers where necessary
- 5 nights accommodation
- 5 days ski-lifts
- breakfast in Amqui
- all taxes and service charges

DEC. 26 - JAN. 1

AMQUI  
QUEBEC

from \$270<sup>00</sup> quad per person  
• using hotel near hillside.

FEB. 23 - MAR. 2

KILLINGTON  
VERMONT

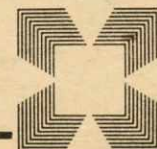
from \$399<sup>00</sup> triple per person  
• using hillside condominiums

FEB. 24 - MAR. 2

MT. STE. ANNE  
QUEBEC CITY

from \$259<sup>00</sup> quad per person  
• using central CLARENDON HOTEL

424-2054



TRAVEL CUTS  
SUB

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY