

Making Waves

by Dragos Ruiu

Recently, I happened to be browsing in a bookstore (noting all the books students can't afford, thanks to our friends in Ottawa) at the infamous WestEd, when I heard a shocking conversation.

Next to me stood a late-grade high school trendoid. He was bedecked in the keenest trendy garb (you know, the ten dollar sweaters with the sixty dollar pony on them) and had the latest trendy type main-squeeze on his arm, dressed in her most overpriced Benetton outfit — all to prove daddy was generous with the allowances. But it's not a sin to be stupid and pay too much for names on clothes. However, what they discussed is a different matter...

The male-trendy wished to buy a book, and the female of the species was berating him for, "wasting all that time reading books. They are so boring..." she said. Then she actually went on to say, "You can get all the same information by just watching TV." I really wanted to scream. I wanted to pummel that little twit. (Twit is not quite severe enough, so insert the expletive of your choice.)

I mean, here we have a typical example of what is supposed to be the positive aspect of our society: young people at the upper end of the socio-economic scale, supposedly well-educated, and with a supportive family. And they can come up with asinine statements like that.

Oh what a sad day it will be when the only source of information and entertainment will be the Idiot Tube. We will then have reached the pinnacle of myopic mental retardation we seem to be striving so hard for.

If we aren't careful we could end up forgetting how to read and write. It doesn't take a genius to see that the major cause for the decline we are seeing in reading and writing competence is television. Who needs to expend the thought and effort on written material when television offers it to you in a new brighter and whiter pre-digested pap version?

The ultimate luxury — now you don't even have to think. Besides, on TV all the women look like Farrah Fawcett and all the men carry big guns that don't kill anyone when they go off. Who could possibly ask for more?

Yes, who needs to read those boring



books when we have that God-send of intelligent information, TV? All you need to broaden your horizons and stimulate your intellect are shows like *Dynasty* and award winning sitcoms (drivel above and beyond the call of duty) like *Cheers*. Forget John Le Carre and Harlan Ellison because sitcoms and game shows are here to show you the true path of enlightenment!

Or how about news — forget those boring depressing news magazines. Our new improved news programs have all the packaged fluff you need to soothe your mind. Forget that journalistic integrity stuff; our carefully screened news will make sure that you don't get information that could worry your pretty little head. And that way you won't have to worry about fitting in because you can think in exactly the same way your neighbours do...

But cynical diatribe aside, it is statements like the one made by that girl and the immense popularity of shows like *Stampede Wrestling* that really make me have doubts about whether all those people out there are dealing with full decks.

Apparently they aren't because the television watching populace accepts and ENJOYS season after season of shows like the *A-Team*. The industry makes obscene amounts of money with material aimed at a grade three comprehension level.

The inescapable conclusion is that the seething television viewing masses consist

of vegetables whose IQ's look like they were measured on the Richter Scale. Maybe in a few decades our race will evolve and our television entertainment with it. After all, it isn't the medium that causes such negligible content, it's the people who make and watch the stuff. It is conceivable that intelligent entertainment can be produced and people could

actually benefit from and enjoy it.

But don't count on it. In the meantime, watch David steam-roll stupid pets, watch Ann Medina reduce complex issues to simplistic emotional arguments, and watch Bob call them on down to guess the price of concrete-flavoured pop tarts. And you better enjoy it!

Mike's music trivia quiz

by Mike Spindloe

G'day, eh, and welcome to the first installment of an exciting new concept for 1987. What we have here is your basic weekly pop quiz, featuring ten questions on the ever-popular subject of popular music, with a different theme each week to keep things interesting. And, in keeping with our abundant national spirit, the first week's topic is, like, Canadiana, eh! The weekly prize will be provided courtesy of Auracle Records, 10808-82 (Whyte) Avenue, so thanks to Hal Christianson, owner of that fine establishment, for his participation.

A word of encouragement: If you don't get all the answers, don't be discouraged. It wasn't meant to be TOO easy. If you can manage seven or eight or nine, enter anyway, you might win. Just before we get started, a few of those pesky rules and regulations which seem to be, well, a rule and regulation when it comes to this kind of thing. Rest assured, though, that the rules are so simple ("How simple are they?") that they can even be understood by Engineering students.

This contest will run each week until the second last week of classes, except for Reading Week. The deadline for submission of answers is the Friday of the same week that the questions were published in; for example, the deadline for this contest is Friday, January 30 at 5:00 p.m. Entries can be submitted to *The Gateway* offices at Room 282 SUB. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by a draw. *Gateway* staff, their immediate families and pets are not allowed to enter. The name of the weekly winner, as well as the answers to the previous week's questions will be published in the Tuesday paper one week after the questions appear. Please include name, university status

(student, staff, etc.), and telephone number on entries. So, without further ado, here are this week's brain-burners:

1. What group did Kim Mitchell leave, at the height of their popularity no less, to begin a solo career?
2. Which Canadian songwriter has penned hits for groups as diverse as The Tokens, Nazareth, and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young?
3. What TWO things do April Wine and Corey Hart have in common?
4. Bob Segarini, former journeyman rocker best known for his hit "Gotta Have Pop" and now a DJ with Q107 in Toronto, recorded an album entitled "We're No Angels" in the mid-70's with what band?
5. What was the original name of The Guess Who?
6. Which, if any, of the following bands or artists are not Canadian?
 - a) Helix
 - b) Leonard Cohen
 - c) Steppenwolf
 - d) Men Without Hats
7. Name the bizarre electric violinist who helped propel the group FM to notoriety and then left for a solo career.
8. Who is the author who inspired many of Neil Peart's lyrics for the group Rush, and what was the name of the book by that author which the story of "2112" was based upon?
9. What is the acronym for the "alternative" music awards established three years ago to compete with the Juno's, and what do the letters of the name stand for? (Hint: The name was changed after the first year. The correct answer is the current name.)
10. How many albums have been released to date by Vancouver's Doug and the Slugs?



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