

THE DIALOGUE STARTS HERE

We believe arts coverage is more than reviewing the latest Iron Maiden LP

AT A RECENT TASK FORCE hearing on broadcasting policy, one radio journalist leaned over to another. "What do you think?" he asked of the proceedings. The other sat back in his chair, planting an arrogant smile on his face. It was clear he had it worked out.

"Ah, they're just all looking out for their own interest group," he said.

Very perceptive. At a public hearing into an integral arena of mass communications and culture he had worked out that people were representing a variety of groups. It was clear he had been to a public hearing before.

As limited as the depth of his analysis may have been, at least he was there.

Of the two city dailies, *The Daily News* was completely absent and the *Chronicle-Herald* chose merely to cover the preamble of the task force members — the same preamble no doubt repeated in cities across the country.

The policies being examined by this task force have a massive impact on the way Canadians and their culture are reflected to each other. Yet this city's media treated the August 26 Halifax meeting as peripheral.

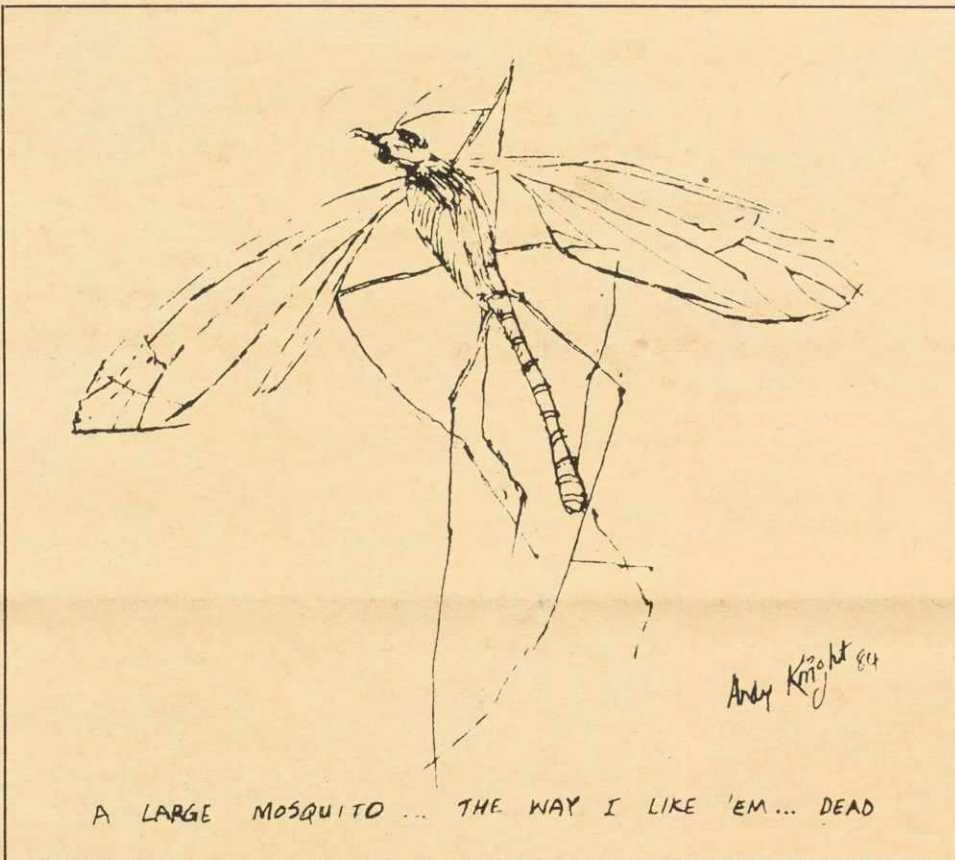
Last May top media representatives took the defensive when they were told by the Canadian Conference of the Arts that their coverage of arts and culture was woefully inadequate and not matching public interest.

CCA president Curtis Barlow said then that Canadian newspapers devote more space to sports than arts.

And what arts coverage there is frequently amounts to little more than American wire copy and local press releases.

As the federal government grasps with the formulation of a new arts and culture policy, the dialogue on the state of our collective culture(s) becomes so much more critical.

Arts Magazine hopes that in our own small way we can enhance that dialogue. Throughout the fall we will be covering the



A LARGE MOSQUITO ... THE WAY I LIKE 'EM ... DEAD

ongoing debate over Canada's cultural agencies and so much more.

Arts Magazine was created as a response to what we saw as a lack of critical analysis in the field of arts and culture. Sick of seeing trite reviews of pop records and Super SUBs dominate the pages of *The Gazette* arts section, we threw caution to the wind and started from scratch to create the kind of arts publication that we felt would be of real value to our readers.

Some of the stories we covered in our two trial editions this spring included: Artists Under Fire—a look at the impact of the federal funding cuts to arts and culture; An interview with singer-satirist and Dalhousie alumnus Nancy White; Christian Heavy Metal Rock and Roll—Christians pick up the devil's beat to sell Christ; Murder In The Living Room—a look at violence in children's television programming; and Silent No Longer—a chronicle of how Canadian libel law stifled one Nova Scotia writer.

As a publication intended to start a dialogue on the arts, we'd like to hear from you. Tell us what you think about *Arts Magazine*. Take issue with our analysis. Tell us what you'd like to see. We'd like to start publishing your letters on a regular basis.

If you're a little more ambitious, why not work for *Arts Magazine*. A peek at our masthead will quickly reveal that we are desperately in need of more creative people to give us a hand. No previous experience is necessary—just a keen desire to muck in on something worth-while. The *Arts Magazine* will be meeting regularly in the offices of *The Gazette*, third floor, Dalhousie SUB.

Also in December's *Arts Magazine* we will be featuring the second annual *Gazette Arts & Expression Supplement*—a collection of short stories, poetry, photos and drawings submitted from our readership community. Submissions for the supplement will be taken throughout the fall.

We believe that arts coverage is more than reviewing the latest Iron Maiden LP. We hope you do too.

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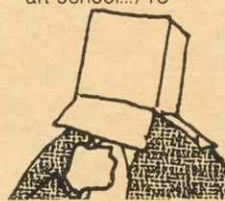
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