

# Fear and loathing on boob tube

by Scott Gordon

I hate the CBC. The heartless scum took the Muppets off the air at 9:30 a.m. weekday mornings, and I refuse to watch David Hartman do whatever he is supposed to do. Canada AM is not much better.

Trotting out to the paper box to do daily battle with that refugee from a refuse pile, I get a paper. During "Everyday Workout" (9:30, CFRN), I look through the Want-ads. Who would want them, I don't know. Second pot of coffee and a pistachio danish. Exercise

with the TV, you say? I did already. I went to get the paper.

Finally, something interesting on the Box; Donahue (10:00, ITV and Channel 7). Will he be discussing the medical consequences of guacamole, or will it be the immense psychological horrors of underwired bras? I can hardly wait, so I don't. I spend an hour switching between Donahue and Sesame Street. After all, I am a university student and the summer months are no excuse for not keeping up with my

education.

11:00 a.m. Will it be Linda Mansbridge's inane topics and severe lack of personality, or will it be Timmy the Tiger and the Butterfly Net, followed by the riveting Calling All Safety Scouts? Decisions, decisions. I finally settle for Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous and New Love American Style. I also read the want-ads again, then the sports section. The editorials. Real Estate. Etcetera. Etcetera.

The Flintstones (12 noon, CFRN), Who could miss the antics of Fred and Barney? These two are the role models for our time. What deep inner meaning. What superb acting. At 12:30 I get to play one of my favourite games: how fast can I change the channel from the inane Guess What to something better? I flip through the channels and find almost nothing worth the attention of even a dead worm. I almost settle for Astroboy, but wind up watching part of Kimba the White Lion. Then I discover Justin Wilson's Louisiana Cookin'. All right! I may never make anything that he does, but he is just hilarious. His accent is wild. I guarrantee!

1:00 p.m. Lifetime (CFRN) is so bad I find myself yearning for the good old days of Merv Griffin. The only other things of note are the soap operas, but I just can't seem to give a damn whether Biff is the father of Muffy's baby or if Basil is going to level Santa Blando to make way for the world's largest massage parlor in a camper. Sometimes PBS has some interesting things, but I realize that I had better get out there into the real world before I start to care about what detergent I use or whether my toilet paper has two or three plies.

1:36 p.m. or so. The joys of Hire-A-Student. There is nothing that I enjoy more

than reading the same jobs again and again in the midst of some of the most depressing surroundings known to man. Compared to this place, the lecture hall where I wrote my Competence Test was absolutely uplifting and beautiful, and when I wrote that Thing, I was hungover like a politician. I passed the first time, if anyone cares. For some strange, twisted, sadistic reason, I once again find myself wondering if I should apply for the Submarine Captain's job at West Edmonton Empire, but \$3.85 an hour doesn't really appeal to me. I can make more at Dairy Queen, if only they would give me a job.

Roughly 2:30. Where to go, what to do. If I got back home, there's nothing on the Box except soaps, so I do what any sensible person would; I go to the bar. In my case, the bar is Teddy's. Most of the time they have MuchMusic on and I entertain myself by sucking back a few draughts and making rude comments about the 'VJ's'. Drug crazed dolphins could do a better job than those bozos. I shouldn't use the word bozo, because some of my friends are bozos, but I'm sure you get my drift.

3:55 p.m. I run home to catch the Flintstones, again (4:00 p.m., Ch. 7) and begin to think about dinner. Kraft Dinner or home-made pizza? Decisions, decisions, again. During Lassie (4:30 p.m., PBS, Ch. 13) I decide on Kraft Dinner. Yum. Really, I love Kraft Dinner, but I hate the commercials. 5:00 p.m. rolls around and once again I have to decide what to do. Will it be Video Hits (CBC, Ch. 4), WKRP in Cincinnati (ITV, Ch. 8), or Sesame Street, again (PBS)? I opt for WKRP, since I've only seen it three times, and I just cannot stand the song 'I Wanna Be A Cowboy'. Besides, I had already seen the same Sesame Street earlier in the day.



The Album Playlist is based on Airplay — a combination of programmer preference and listeners' requests. Tune in every Sunday at 12:00 for the Alternative Countdown — the favorite albums, EP's singles and tapes.

## TOP 10 ALBUMS

1. Bolero Lava — Move A Groove (Lava Rock - Canada)
2. Lost Durangos — Evil Town (Armadillo - Canada)
3. Hindu Love Gods — Narrator (IRS/MCA)
4. Euthanasia — Living Heck (Rubber Records - Canada)
5. Zi — Smile Down (GIAB/Pollution Control)
6. Charly and the Staves — Rotten Love (Massproduktion - Sweden)
7. Krunch — Tjafs & Dalt (Massproduktion - Sweden)
8. The Throb — Proud To Be Loud (Precision - Canada)
9. The Ugly Americans — Philadelphia Freedom (Restless/Enigma)
10. The Shout — Tribal/Dub (Lost Moment - UK)

## Singles, EP's & Tapes

1. Bobby McFerrin — Spontanius Inventions (Blue Note/Capitol)
2. The Jazz Butcher — Bloody Nonsense (Mercury/Polygram)
3. Beat Temptation — Concerned About Rock Music? (Homestead/Dutch East India)
4. The Dead Milkmen — Eat Your Paisley (Restless/Enigma)
5. The Tannahill Weavers — Land of Light (Green Linnet - US)
6. R.E.M. — Life's Rich Pageant (IRS/MCA)
7. The Smarties — Whole Buncho Weiridos (Better Youth Organization - US)
8. Ohama & Dania — Ohama Meets Dania (Midnite News - Canada)
9. Peter Mergener/Michael Welsser — Night-Light (Innovative Communications)
10. Peter Case — Peter Case (Geffen/WEA)

## You can smell this Rat

Rat In The Kitchen  
UB40  
Virgin Records

review by Blaine Ostapovich

"It has a good beat and it's easy to dance to..." would undoubtedly be the response to this album from an airhead on *American Bandstand*. Yours truly, however, found this album unimaginative, repetitious, and out and out boring.

I don't know how many times I heard "yeah" on this album, but I am beginning to wonder if perchance the boys, whenever hard-pressed for a lyric, insert "yeah".

Now all you UB40 fans, don't bomb my house or slash my car tires.

I liked *Geoffrey Morgan*, the band's previous album, and the track "Watchdogs in the Night". Others are also fine pieces of music. If you loved all their previous works, you will eat this up.

For the uninitiated, if you have heard the tune "Red, Red Wine", just change the lyrics around and say yeah 15 times and you have a UB40 song.

What drummer James Brown does is totally uncertain — maybe he plugs in the drum machine. Herb Alpert's (yes, that Herb Alpert) performance on the title track, "Rat in the Kitchen", is forgettable. Moreover, that track has to be the worst on the album.

If you get a chance to see this band live, go. They are dynamite. If you see this album in a record store, leave via the nearest exit.



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deadline for  
season tickets?"

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**Rigoletto**

By Verdi  
(In Italian with  
English Surtitles)  
October 16, 18, 20

**Così Fan Tutte**

By Mozart  
(In Italian with  
English Surtitles)  
November 27, 29,  
December 1

By Strauss  
(In German with  
English Surtitles)  
January 22, 24, 26

**Salome**

By Puccini  
(In Italian with  
English Surtitles)  
March 26, 28, 30

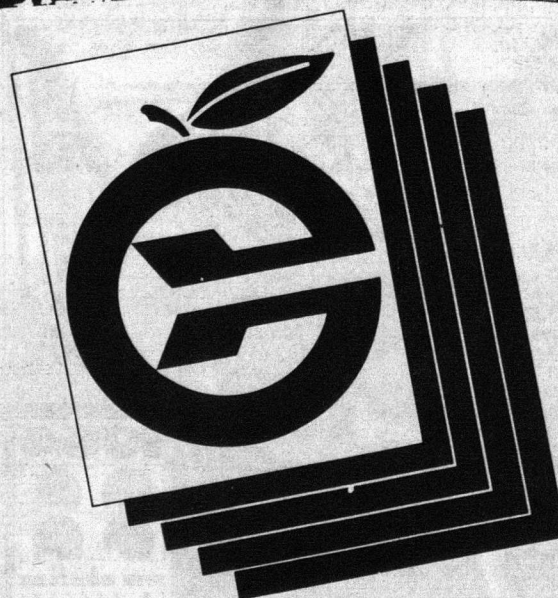
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