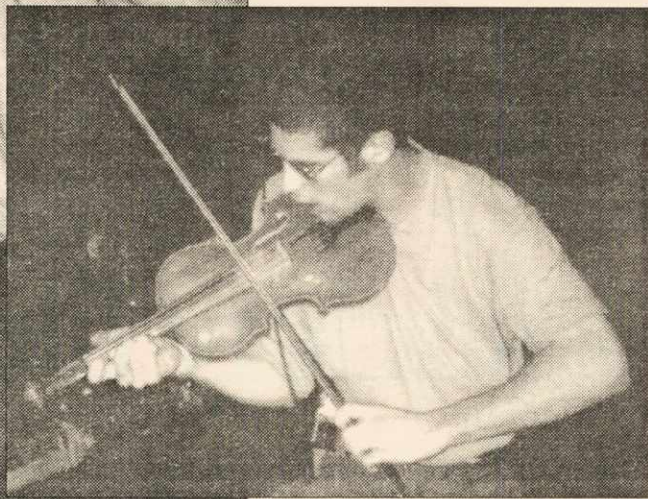


# MacIsaac brings ceilidh to campus



*Last Friday night I talked with Creignish fiddler Ashley MacIsaac after his fabulous performance in the McInnes Room promoting the release of his new album hi™ how are you today? I finally managed to sit down and chat with my cousin after three weeks of trying to reach him on tour.*

BY JENNIFER MACISAAC



PHOTOS BY DANIELLE BOUDREAU



**Ashley:** The reviews have been good, but I have no idea how people are really reacting, because the thing is that it's something completely different. I don't think anyone knows how to really judge it.

**Gaz:** How do you like the CD?  
**Ashley:** I like it, I think it's great. There's already things that I would change about it, but as a record I think it's cool.

**Gaz:** Are there already things you're thinking of doing for your next album?

**Ashley:** Well, the next one won't be anything like this one, I don't think. With this one I got to meet different bands over the last two years. For example, I got to record with Jale and Quartetto Gelatto, so it was all things that just happened. The very first idea I had was to do a dance album, which would be like...fiddle techno. That didn't come out on this album but that will be the next one. For this one, I took fiddle tunes and we worked down from them and made groups of music around them. The next album will be like pop songs that I've written that will have fiddle tunes in them. I want it to be more or less a disco album.

**Gaz:** Now that you're almost finished your tour, are you going to take a break?

**Ashley:** I'm going home after the 5th, then after a few days I'm going to Mexico for three days to shoot a video. The only reason we're going to Mexico is because someone came up with this idea and I said, "That's completely stupid, why are we going to Mexico, it has no relevance to us." But then; it's going to be WARM.

**Gaz:** What video will you be shooting?

**Ashley:** It's going to be for a song called Sleepy Maggie, the one with Mary Jane Lamond. After that, I'll have three or four days to finish recording a traditional album that will be coming out in between hi™ how are you today? and the dance one. Then I'll have six or seven days off for Christmas and then I'll be on the road again from January until March.

**Gaz:** What do you think of some of the critics saying that you've deviated from the traditional Scottish music with this album?

**Ashley:** The obvious thing is that when I'm on stage doing a gig, that's what it is. I'm not saying this is a gig in West Mabou [Cape Breton]; this is stuff like that, I just play harder with the band than I would on stage solo. People were scared that if I did something different, then that would influence other people to do it differently too. Now there are more people in the rest of Canada into the whole idea of it [playing the fiddle] then there was ever before.

## THEATRE

# Pielmeyer's Agnes questions God

BY AUBREY FRICKER

*Agnes Of God*, an independent student production, will be performed at the Dalhousie Arts Centre for a four day run in of January. The play is based on the story of a young nun, Agnes, and the strangling of her baby on the night of the child's birth. The question of the young nun's guilt or innocence in the death of her child drives the plot as a psychiatrist tries to determine whether the childlike Agnes is legally sane.

An outstanding example of modern tragedy, *Agnes of God* is rich with characterisation. The three women — Agnes (Karen Coughlin), Mother Superior (Candace Croft), and the psychiatrist (Amy Jones) — grapple with the central issues of religion, faith versus atheism, and scientific scepticism, underpinned by strong statements on womanhood. Abuse and trauma, in the home and in Catholic institutions, are all part of the characters' backgrounds.

The tragedy of Agnes is defined by the resolve of the psychiatrist to find the truth and to act in the interests of the young nun whom she sees as a victim. This ultimately leads to catastrophe for Agnes. The Mother Superior has personal reasons for her protective, maternal interest, and battles with the psychiatrist to preserve Agnes' faith and innocence. Agnes may not be so innocent and, indeed, each of the three is forced to examine darker actions in their past.

The author of *Agnes of God*, John Pielmeyer, was concerned with questions regarding his Catholic heritage when in 1978 he saw a scandal sheet headline reading "Nun Kills Baby." Pielmeyer seized upon this as a dramatic platform for his internal conflicts and wrote the script for *Agnes...* in four weeks. It was first performed in March 1980, and the movie version with Jane Fonda as the psychiatrist was shot in Montréal in 1984.

The Dalhousie Theatre Department must put its limited resources behind the four official productions each year. It takes a paternal interest in independent productions such as this one. The independent production of *Agnes of God* is a chance for the theatre society to show its muscle. All of the cast and most of the crew are from the first and second year of the theatre program.

*Agnes Of God* will be running



As a matter of habit: Karen Coughlin and Candace Croft

at 8 p.m. from Thursday, January 4 to Saturday, January 6, with a 2 p.m. matinée on Sunday, January 7. It will be performed in the David Mack Murray Theatre (Studio 1). Tickets are \$4 and may be obtained at the door. For more information call 494-2233.

## THE TEPID TEN

CKDU 97.5 FM

TC	LC	WO	CC	ARTIST	TITLE	LABEL
1	3	4	◆	Bob Wiseman	Accidentally Acquired Beliefs	WEA
2	5	4		The Cardigans	Life	Polygram
3	7	4	◆	No Means No	The Worldhood of the World	Alt.Tentacles
4	1	5		Various Artists	The Rebirth of the Cool Phive	4th & Broadway
5	35	3		Tricky	Overcome/Blacksteel	Island
6	24	2		Ken Nordine	Colours	Ashphodel
7	2	3	◆	Len	Superstar	Funtrip
8	14	4		Techno-Animal	Re-Entry	Virgin
9	11	6		Stereolab	Refri Ectoplasm	Drag City
10	4	6	◆	Ichor	Self-Titled	Meterbank

\*: Local Artist  
CC: Canadian Artist

TC: This Chart  
LC: Last Chart

RE: Re-Entry  
NE: New Entry