

# Cohn Calendar

**Andre Gagnon**  
Friday and Saturday, March 16 & 17, 8 pm  
\$12 & \$15

Andre Gagnon is a consummate artist, pianist, soloist, instrumentalist and above all an excellent woman performing for people of all ages and of all persuasions—classical, pop fans alike, all of whom find something warm and dazzling in his music.

**The Chieftains**  
Wednesday, March 21, 8 pm  
Regular: \$14/\$12, Students/Sr. Citizens: \$12/\$10

For almost two decades The Chieftains have dipped into the wealth of traditional Irish music that has accumulated over the centuries making the music their own with a style that is as exhilarating as it is definitive. Although their early following was a purely folk audience, the astonishing range and variation of their music very quickly captured a much broader section of the public, resulting in their present world fame.

**Stan Getz**  
Saturday, March 24, 8 pm  
Regular \$12/\$11, Students/Sr. Citizens \$11/\$10

The name Stan Getz has been synonymous with great jazz for many years. Getz continues to introduce new ideas and interpret them with his personal style and distinctive sound. His ability to discern and nurture talent and bring new material to the forefront has hardly been paralleled by anyone in today's music world.

**Coming**  
ROYAL WINNIPEG  
BALLET  
April 4-7

RITA MacNEIL  
March 29

**SUNDAY MOVIE SERIES**  
All screenings 8 p.m.  
\$4

**MARCH 18**  
Return of  
Martin Guerre

**MARCH 25**  
Sailor Who Fell  
From Grace  
With The Sea

**APRIL 1**  
Querelle

**APRIL 8**  
Sophie's Choice

Box Office-424-2298  
Visa Purchases-424-3820  
Visa phone orders — 50¢ service charge per ticket to maximum \$5

# Messages? Not from Lebowitz

by Charlene Sadler

Meet Fran Lebowitz, taxi driver, cleaning lady, chauffeur, belt peddler and also best selling author of the two novels **Metropolitan Life** and **Social Studies**.

Ms. Lebowitz, who didn't finish high school, said she finds it ironic that she ended up being a writer—a career that is basically homework. And "I've made the harrowing discovery that you can't write a book the night before it's due," said Ms. Lebowitz.

Ms. Lebowitz admits that she finds writing difficult, listing it right alongside coal mining.

However, if she finds writing difficult, it is not translated to us upon reading her novels. They are entertaining and easy reading, punctuated with a sarcastic and cynical humour about society's idiosyncracies and habits. She celebrates the mundane humour of normal everyday life.

Ms. Lebowitz said she is not trying to do an exposé in her writing. And even if she did, it wouldn't matter. "Nobody recognizes themselves," said Ms. Lebowitz. "I will be talking to someone and she'll say, 'Oh, I know a person just like that.'"

There are no moral messages

in her novels, either, said Ms. Lebowitz. "I write what I think is funny." But she doesn't write simply to make her readers laugh. That's what she thinks TV comedy is, and she feels most TV comedy is bad because the comedian is writing for a particular audience. "Bad writing is bad writing, but bad comedy is pathetic," said Ms. Lebowitz.

There is little that Ms. Lebowitz will not write about, but she does exclude from her satire specific individuals, politicians and politics. "Politicians are dull, so I don't write about them," said Ms. Lebowitz.

When asked about the nuclear arms race, Ms. L. stated, "There are worse ways to die. As a

matter of fact, if there was a nuclear war, I'd rather be killed than survive. Can you imagine being left with a bunch of people who hoarded tractor parts and freeze-dried beef stroganoff?"

Even if there are no messages in Ms. Lebowitz's novels, there is always the possibility of gaining a tid-bit of knowledge in reading them. As *Cosmopolitan* puts it, "Should you make it through this book (*Social Studies*) without laughing, go out and have your vital signs checked. A deep coma is nothing to trifle with."

From her lecture on March 8, it was obvious that the vital signs of those who attended were well above normal.

## Fran Lebowitz at Dal

by Julia Schneider

At the podium, Fran Lebowitz aired her views between puffs of smoke, and prepared to answer questions from the audience "in an entertaining fashion."

In Halifax to participate in Dalhousie's International Women's Day celebrations, the author of *Metropolitan Life* and other works of social comment delighted audiences with those views.

Whatever you may think of her comments—and she's strongly outspoken for smoking and against pets—you've got to admit that Lebowitz does get her point across in a highly entertaining way.

Among the observations and suggestions that shocked and tickled listeners at her reading were the following:

—that pets named after artists act on the rebellious spirit of their namesakes and run away from home

—that educational TV is a contradiction in terms . . . "it's TV's duty to be mediocre" according to Fran

—that Family Feud and People's Court are the high points of TV's programming day

—that her first career choice was Pope, an aim she reluctantly put aside when it became apparent she wasn't up for the job

—that anyone who wants to write for a living should take up some other career to be able to afford it

—that the thing she likes best about Canada is its exchange rate —that she seems, rather prematurely, to have reached that age when, in Gore Vidal's words, "litigation replaces sex"

—that anyone who wants to sue someone should forget it . . . or spend \$250 in New York for a final solution rather than \$250 an hour for a lawyer to do nothing

—that, now she's on his show once a month, she "loves" David Letterman

—that being a princess has its advantages but that there aren't many openings

—that she won't get married until she finds the right man—one who is rich enough . . . and dead

—that airlines should forget about food and serve passengers something they really like . . . potato chips

Lebowitz's humour has as its focus all the problems we all face "just be leaving home." The combination of her caustic and acute comments and impeccable delivery helped her audience laugh at them all . . . if only for a couple of hours.



**THE CHIEFTAINS**  
by Charles Davidson

The increasing amounts of green in greeting-card shop windows indicates that St. Patrick's day will soon be here. But even more important than an excuse for green cards and even green beer, this week offers a great reason to invite Ireland's most famous exponents of traditional music, *The Chieftains*, to the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. And so, on Wednesday, March 21, at 8:00 p.m., *The Chieftains* will be playing here in Halifax.

*The Chieftains* have been at

the forefront of the traditional music revival from the time of their foundation nearly two decades ago. But with the soundtracks of two feature films (*Barry Lyndon* and *The Grey Fox*) to their credit, and an appearance on "Saturday Night Live" that was seen by 50 million viewers, it is clear that *The Chieftains'* appeal is not just to folk enthusiasts. The driving rhythms of the dance music and their brilliant arrangements of the old airs, along with their improvisational abilities, make an evening with *The Chieftains* an exciting one for any music lover.

Wilderness/Parkland/Farmland/Village/Town/City  
Conservation/Recreation/Resources/Community/Energy  
Social, Economic and Physical Alternatives  
Development

Planning  
for change  
in harmony with nature

### Environmental Planning

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5163 Duke Street  
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3J6  
Telephone (902) 422 7381



For information contact: The Head, Environmental Planning Department

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