

# Making up for my lack of culture

BY CHRIS OULLETTE

It was a Thursday morning and I was recovering from a night of cheap yards and random heckling at the Grawood when I realized I didn't want to go to this shindig.

When I was originally given the opportunity to attend, I was convinced this *thing* — a violinist and pianist performing as part of the St. Cecilia Concert Series — was go-

ing to be the answer to the persistent lack of culture in my life.

The line-up for the evening was interesting, for sure. Jasper Woods, from Moncton, is a distinguished violinist who debuted with Symphony Nova Scotia at the ripe old age of 13. He has recently released a new album that has had wide play on CBC Radio.

His counterpart, Richard Raymond, an accomplished pianist

also from New Brunswick, has won several national and international competitions and was also nominated for an East Coast Music Award. And then there's me, armed with a friend and a large box of Junior Mints ready to experience culture.

What struck me the most about these guys was their energy — you could feel their excitement for the music in the air.

Clipped lines usually reserved for reviewing the newest of Indie Rock doesn't seem to fit a set list that comprised of Chopin, Grieg and Schubert, but nothing could have been more true: hands were pounding on the keys, bowstrings were being popped. Then I turned

around to view the rest of the audience only to be confronted by a sea of blue hair and perfect posture.

From the looks of it, my friend and I were the only ones having fun. The only time I did catch myself admiring the stained glass and not really listening was during a contemporary piece performed by Woods, but the classical pieces were excellent and complemented their talent.

The St. Cecilia Concert Series — named after the patron saint of music — is held at St. Andrew's United Church at the corner of Robie and Coburg. Its purpose is to expose different musicians from around Canada to a Nova Scotia audience.

There are concerts of one form or another almost every two weeks and the prices are reasonable thanks to sponsorships from such companies as the Royal Bank and our very own CKDU.

Due to my lack of exposure to classical music, I may not be able to tell the difference between good and bad, but I do know what I like and what I don't like. The St. Cecilia Concert Series offered me a night of entertainment that was a pleasant departure from the Split Crow/Attic combo that would have surely happened otherwise.

I enjoyed a night of culture in the presence of two very talented musicians and, best of all, my roommate taped Friends. Sweet.

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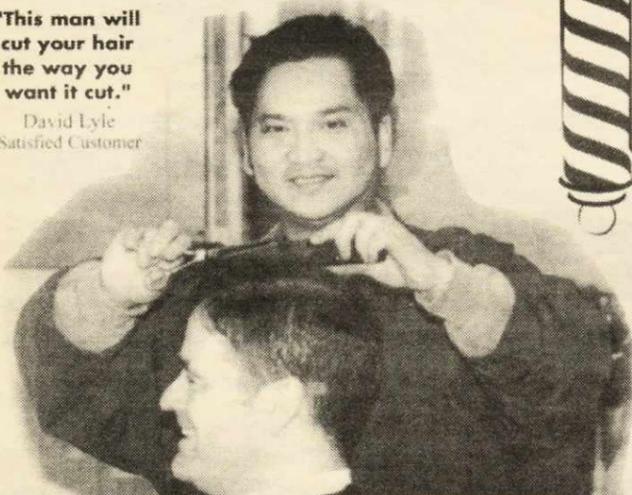
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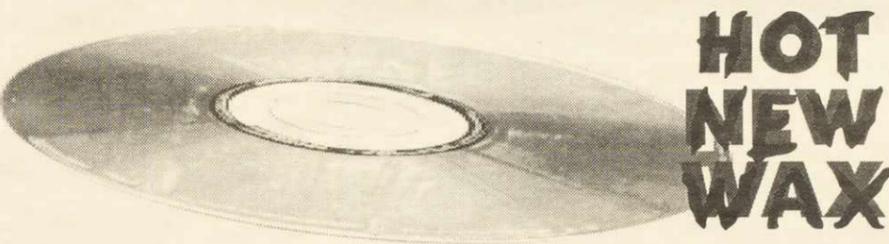
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## HOT NEW WAX

**the almighty Trigger Happy — I Hate Us**  
(Bad Taste)

Punkers the almighty Trigger Happy have produced a superficially entertaining album, but if you're any bit of a Punk fan, the frustrating similarity to Fat Mike's vocals and the gutter-esque use of power chords that is so reminiscent of old Snuff that you'll want to drink moonshine through a funnel. The album, like far too much other Punk, is not doing anything new. Interesting to listen to, but it is not enough to make me want to vandalize, and therefore is not very good music. Steal it, but don't buy it. — Pat

**Morphine — The Night**  
(Rykodisc)

There has always been something haunting about Morphine. But since Bassist/Singer Mark Sandman's onstage death on tour in Europe, they are even creepier. Their signature dark and mysterious music features a detuned 2 stringed bass, baritone and bass saxophone and jazz drums. The album, which took 2 years to complete features notable guest appearances by John Meseski (Mesdeski, Martin and Wood)

Sandman's sinister bass lines, deep vocal deliver an interesting album that deserves multiple listens. — Jay



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