

Multiple orgasmic cheesecakes at LaCave

by Chris Lambie

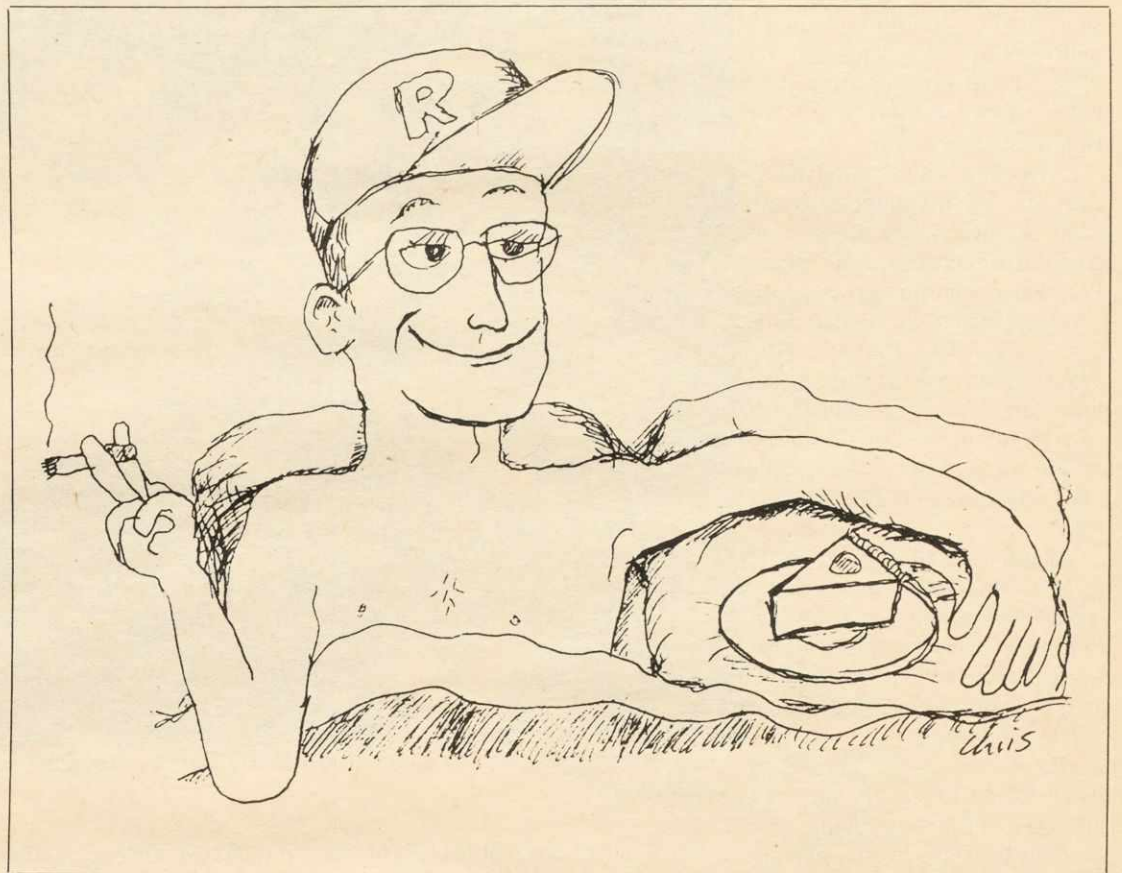
IT'S MIDNIGHT in recession central and you're looking for respite from the CNN news scene as reviewed by American military officials. Maybe you've heard that James Earl Jones voice-over of authority one too many times and the tension headache is miles beyond anything a tylenol could ever cure? Perhaps it's Halifax's canned bevy of discount booze-marts that are getting you and your cash-stop account down?

Solution - walk down Blowers Street and take a right when you hit the wall of sensuous olfactory delight emanating from a chink in Halifax's thin veneer of bitter British respectability. Translated - La Cave is a delicious adventure of taste and tone that will mellow the hardest of critics to the consistency of molten wax.

Their grotto motif is enhanced by traditional french cliches like candles in wine bottles and crowded cafe tables. On the other hand, it's smokey aura of walled-off secrecy lends a sense of privacy which is difficult to find in this here town.

From a kitchen the size of two, maybe two and a half, phone booths, you can order great stuff like fondue, which for all its simplicity is still pretty entertaining... La Cave serves big messy Caesar salads, bagels with smoked salmon, cream cheese and harsh slices of onion, baked brie for two (designed for liberal opponents to the Bush administration) and other assorted treats guaranteed to make you very popular at close range.

The burger and beer is a carnivore's flesh-manna and probably the best deal La Cave has going. The mussels, which can be a real pain in the ass to eat, add some authentic maritime flavour to the



"Quick an RRSP Loan!"

INSTANT LOANS FOR AS LOW AS PRIME.

If you need to borrow to take full advantage of your 1990 RRSP contribution, Bank of Montreal makes it easy with instant loans. Just ask one of our RRSP Specialists for details.



Bank of Montreal

Spring Garden Road / George St.
and all Halifax branches.

otherwise euro-centric menu.

But lets face it, the only reason you ever go out to eat is just to get dessert. It's an excuse, OK? Everything else is simply peripheral in reference to life's two primal fixes: sugar and caffeine. While almost any restaurant serves good coffee, La Cave scores big on both.

They have created over a dozen different cheesecakes to lull you

into a creamy coma of satisfied existence. The best is Hungarian - a cinnamon and and raisin combination of both proportion and balance. The others, while obvious lessers on my own scale of aesthetic dessert heirarchy, come in a variety of chocolate-stuffed, fruit-filled flavours guaranteed to fit right in to somebody's groove.

At the risk of bringing a world

of abuse down on my own head, here's the suggestion: La Cave is open late, really late, thus its a great place to blow your cool after swallowing or otherwise imbibing one too many performance-enhancing treats. The staff is relaxed, the food is both substantial and cheap and the atmosphere cultivates, rather than impedes, imaginative conversation.

'Feel good' movies

by Gurn Blansten

DURING THE last ten years, the Christmas season has traditionally been the time for Hollywood to release its so-called "serious" films. These are the potential Oscar nominated films that are character-driven and usually are aimed at the adult market. They are the "feel good" movies that contain positive, life-affirming messages delivered by virtuoso performers in impressive dramatic roles. This year's entry in this category is *Awakenings*, and like its predecessors *Rainman* and *Driving Miss Daisy*, it is a film to be seen for its performances.

The cast is led by two superb American actors, both playing very different roles than they have in the past. The first is comedian Robin Williams who stars as Dr. Malcolm Sayer, a caring and devoted physician who uses a controversial drug to "awaken" a group of patients in a Bronx hospital from their coma-

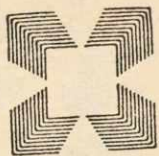
like existence. Robert De Niro stars opposite him as the primary test patient for this daring treatment. It is, however, Williams who delivers the most surprising of the two performances. He is absolutely mesmerizing as the gentle and withdrawn doctor. In complete contrast to his other manic roles, this character is achingly understated, and Williams plays him perfectly as the man who initially relates to his plants better than his patients.

De Niro, of course, is also brilliant, in his very emotional role as the patient who wakes up after thirty years to rediscover life again. His best scenes involve a friendship that begins when he meets a young woman who is in the hospital visiting her sick father. This woman is portrayed by the brilliant actress Penelope Ann Miller, whose remarkable talents have already been seen this past year in both *Kindergarten Cop* and *The Freshman*. She seems to bring out

the best in her male co-stars and considering that she has played opposite Brando and De Niro this is truly an impressive achievement. Her ability to portray empathy in her relationship with De Niro's character is startling in its honesty. She effortlessly delivers a tender and touching performance and clearly demonstrates that this young actress is about to get the stardom that she deserves.

Obviously behind these three great performances lies a great director. In this case it is the hot Penny Marshall (*Big*). With *Awakenings* she has now proven that her directorial aptitude extends into the realm of serious drama as well as light comedy. She has also demonstrated her ability to deliver a superior "feel good" movie. With this type of film, the consideration at the studios will always be towards Oscars and big box office, but the public can simply ignore the hype and enjoy some truly great American acting.

TRAVEL CUTS



SEAT SALES
FOR BREAK!

TAMPA from \$499

BOSTON from \$149

TORONTO from \$226

MONTREAL from \$209

LONDON, UK from \$499

BOOK NOW! 494-2054