

ATTENTION**Faculty of Arts
Undergraduate and
Graduate Students**

Nominations of student candidates for the 1985-86 Faculty of Arts Representative Council will be received from September 16 to 19 (noon), and the elections will be conducted during the period September 23 to 25 (noon.)

Total number of vacancies: 36 (according to an established departmental representation formula for undergraduate and graduate (where appropriate) students), with provision for an equivalent number of alternatives.

Eligible students: Any full-time undergraduate or graduate, where appropriate, student registered in a degree program in the Faculty of Arts is eligible to stand for election from the department of his/her primary concentration. Please note that a student standing for election from a given department must have been nominated by at least two other students from the same constituency in the same department, and that students will need their ID cards in order to vote.

Term of office: October 1, 1985 to June 30, 1986.

Meetings: Council normally meets once a month throughout the academic session.

For additional information re: nomination and election procedures consult the various departmental offices in the Arts Faculty.

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My husband and I are pleased to offer this crowning delight of a Royal Boston Pizza for \$1.50 off. We will just Lady Di if you don't take advantage of this almost-too-generous offer, which I understand from my consort, is valid throughout the fair city of Edmonton and area. Now, must I command you to use the coupon?



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Present this coupon at any Edmonton and area Boston Pizza and receive \$1.50 off any Large or Extra-Large Boston Royal Pizza. This coupon valid to September 30, 1985. Coupon may not be used in conjunction with any other Boston Pizza promotion. Check The Yellow Pages For The Boston Pizza Nearest You!

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Disposing of benevolent myths**Christian amnesia**

"Crucifixes are sexy because there's a naked man on them."

— Madonna Penn

The above quote by Madonna irritates me. Not the content mind you — I'm not upset by blasphemy. In fact, my own lack of respect for organized religion has led me to utter far worse, but what irks me is that Mrs. Penn probably believes what she said. She's taking one of the most powerful symbols the world has ever seen — a symbol that Joan of Arc waged wars for and died on the stake clutching it to her breast — and reduces it to a cheap piece of Hustlerish S & M titillation.

Be it rock stars, movie writers, authors or current fiction, or even comic book publishers, most of America's creators are oblivious to Christian symbolism, or for that matter any literary tradition whatsoever. I'm not saying that people should believe in the Christian dogma, but what I am saying is that we should admit to our cultural debt to the Judeo-Christian tradition. I refuse to accept the Bible as a guide for living, but I do bow to the Bible as the single most influential work of philosophy, literature, and spiritual guidance in the whole of our western culture.

The irony of it is that while most of our creative artists are oblivious to the Bible they're still heavily indebted to it; if you don't use the Bible as a guide to your writing you're using some author or authors who did.

Returning to Mrs Penn, I find the woman so pitiful because she's spending her whole career flaunting a "bad girl" act in defiance to a moral code she doesn't fully comprehend to an audience that can't really relate.

Women have been given (and are still getting) the shaft by Christianity for centuries. Church tradition has divided women into whores and virgin/mothers. Madonna, if she had a legitimate statement to make on the subject, should be attacking this position rather reinforcing the worst of Christian misogyny as she does.

By flaunting her guilt and vamping it up, Madonna is telling her women fans "Yes, I'm sexually active, but I don't feel good about it."

Madonna recalls in a Penthouse interview that she was harassed and labelled a whore and slut while she was still a virgin — a portrait of a woman burnt by the Christian over emphasis of feminine purity. But rather than battle these antiquated mores, she embodies them. Ultimately what's wrong with it not feeling like the first time; can't it feel better the fourth or fifth time about?

Another disturbing trend to this social Christian amnesia is that the negative aspects of Christian dogma resurface in the media, unbalanced by the positive reassuring symbols.

The anti-Christ gets a whole series of "omen" films; his dad shows up in *Rosemary's Baby* and a whole carload of demonic relatives make cameos in *Poltergeist* and



Gilbert Bouchard

MEDIA WATCH**Amityville Horror.**

A good case in point is the recent movie *The Return of the Living Dead*.

The last book of the Bible, Revelations, tell us that in the final days the dead will rise at the beckoning of God and be judged, ushering in his benevolent reign. In the movie the corpses in a cemetery (called aptly enough Resurrection Cemetery) rise up en masse from their coffins, but for no purpose. They return to the land of the walking but have no rest.

They can feel the pain of their flesh rotting and, driven mad by this agony, they are propelled to hunt down and eat the brains of living humans to temporarily alleviate the pain.

In Revelations, God's fire cleanses the earth. In the movie, the U.S. military tries to destroy the corpses by dropping an atomic bomb, but the resulting fire simply spreads the chemicals which create even more zombies.

One army officer describes (in code) the birth of the zombies as "Project Easter Egg Hatching", illustrating my theme perfectly.

After all, isn't Easter resurrection the ultimate expression of the positive aspects of God's great love? Too bad that this movie degrades this symbol to the level of a bad teenage nightmare. What else does any Christian live for if not for the prospect of the afterlife on the right hand of God? In this movie the life after certainly isn't worth a life of Christian self-denial.

In our rush to collectively rise above the Christian myths, we've succeeded in only disposing of the most benevolent ones.

The sermons of two thousand years of Judeo-Christian indoctrination will not vanish only because we turn our backs to them and pretend that they aren't there anymore.

We may resent its presence, and we may not agree with its message, but Christian tradition cannot and will not be denied.



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. Jerry Jerry and the Sons of Rhythm Orchestra — Road Bore: The Band That Drank Too Much (Og, Canada)
2. Dave Holland Quintet — Seeds of Time (Ecm/Wea)
3. Colourbox — Colourbox (4ad, UK)
4. Various Artists — Harp (Redwood Records, US)
5. Various Artists — Abstract Magazine (Abstract, UK)
6. X — Ain't Love Grand (Elektra/Wea)
7. Bob Broxman — "Hello Central... Give Me Dr. Jazz" (Rounder US)
8. Bill Frisell — Rambler (Ecm/Wea)
9. Various Artists — Alternative Funk (Vox Man Records)
10. Neil Young — Old Ways (Geffen/Wea)

Singles, EP's & Tapes

1. West India Company — Ave Marie (London/Polygram)
2. Condition — Night and Day (Tape)
3. The Red Hot Chili Peppers — Hollywood (Enigma/Emi)
4. The Max'd — Surreal (Black Bear Canada)
5. Red Herring — Taste Tests (Neon Canada)
6. Idyl Tea — Awfully Nice Eyes (Tape)
7. Independents — Far Away (Tape)
8. Husker DU — Makes No Sense (SST Records)
9. Wilfred N and The Grown Men — Closer to You (Zonik Records)
10. The Randypeters — Independence Day (XXX Canada)