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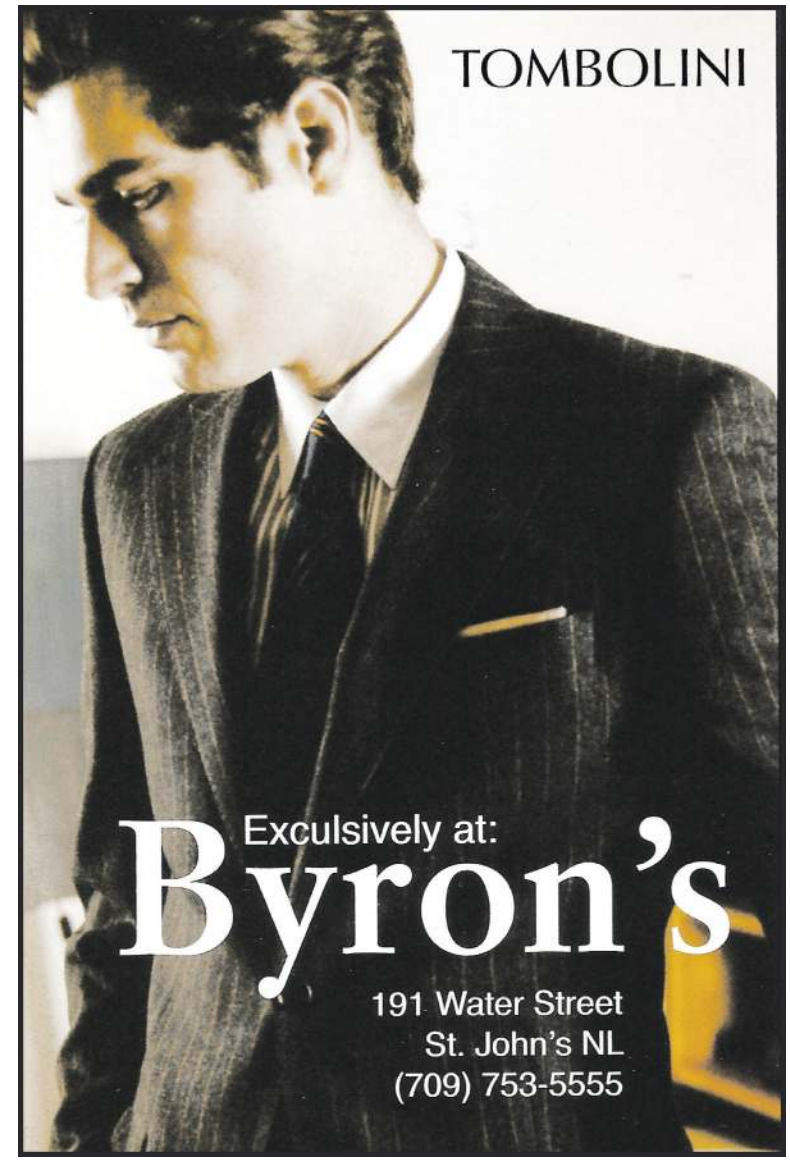
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twistedsistersboutik.blogspot.com



Photo by Jared Reid (www.jreidstudios.com)

thescope

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COVER ART



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INBOX

STAMPED OUT

E-mail inbox@thescope.ca. Web comments, e-mails, and snail-mail may be edited for space and clarity. Read many more comments online at thescope.ca.

Two hot topics on the website this week—a review of Tim Hortons which referred to Newfoundlanders as "ignorant, lazy, and lack[ing] in honesty," and another about sidewalk snowclearing...

RE: Tim Hortons review?

Imagine if we were to follow your example and with every negative or challenging experience we had we sulked like spoiled children and degraded an entire culture of people because of our own personal deficiencies.

Thankfully, we do not need to rely on individuals such as yourself to promote our province and our people, our culture speaks for itself and others are well aware of what a wonderful little island we have. May your new year bring better times ahead. ***—posted by Tiffany at thescope.ca/scoff/tim-hortons***

RE: Tim Hortons review?

Hey Jeff, would you like to go FocOffee? ***—posted by Cavendish Boyle at thescope.ca/scoff/tim-hortons***

RE: Clearing the sidewalks

Walking around this city in winter is like navigating some type of cruel obstacle course. ...As a pedestrian In St. John's I feel unimportant and unsafe. ***—posted by SlushPuppy at tinyurl.com/sidewalkclearing***

RE: Clearing the sidewalks

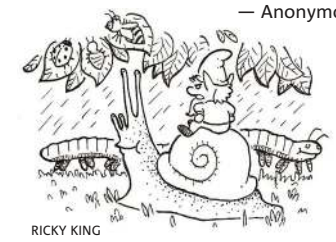
Sheilagh O'Leary hit the nail on the head. There's only so much that can be done without city equipment, but it would be a big help if more people could be bothered to clear a few feet of sidewalk when they're out shoveling their front steps. ***—posted by Rich at tinyurl.com/sidewalkclearing***

RANT FARM

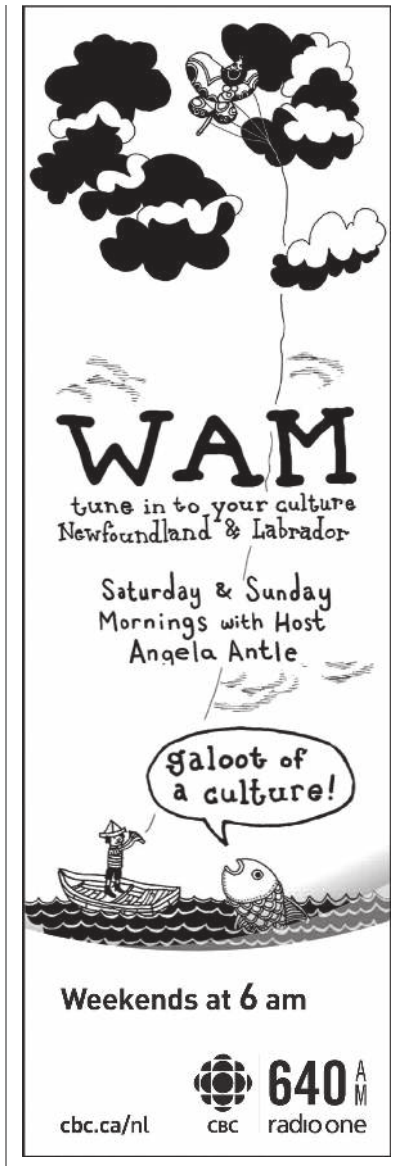
Got an opinion? Need to vent? We want to hear from you. Submit your anonymous accusation or confession at *thescope.ca/rant*. Submissions may be edited for length, grammar, spelling, legal, or obscenity reasons. One submission will be printed each fortnight, but more submissions to Rant Farm can be found at *thescope.ca/rant*.

No, no, that's really okay. You can trot across the road at the top of Long's Hill whenever you want. It doesn't matter how long I've been waiting at the top of the hill, or that it's a pretty short green light when it does come—as soon as the light turns green for ME, that's a good time for YOU to cross in front of me. I really don't mind waiting for the next one. Sharing the road with inconsiderate pedestrians is the price I pay for driving a car.

— Anonymous



RICKY KING





ReRun' SEE THE BOTTOM LINE FOR A COLLECTION OF ALL THE CAT' COMICS WHICH APPEARED IN THE PAPER THIS YEAR

INFORMATION SESSIONS



HOLLAND COLLEGE | THE CULINARY INSTITUTE OF CANADA
Prince Edward Island

Holland College invites you to meet with a representative from The Culinary Institute of Canada

Jacqueline Smith, St. John's, NL
Culinary Arts student

Ted Grant, Chef Instructor

Should you have questions regarding other College programs, please drop in as a representative would be pleased to have the opportunity to speak with you.

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GANDER
Tuesday, Jan 12
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Gander, NL

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STOREFRONT

SYDNEY BLACKMORE PICKS SOME LOCAL GIFT IDEAS

Warning! Cold, dark days punctuated with icy wipe outs and static electricity shocks lie ahead. Here's a collection of some local finds that'll pick up anyone's winter day.

CONSUMABLES

Eat, drink...

Linda Westcott of **Candy Box Creations** uses dark, white and milk chocolate to make personalized sports and novelty gifts. "A lot of my ideas come from the people who order," says Westcott. Chocolate pianos, golf balls, and sewing kits with edible buttons and spools of thread make a sweet gift for a friend with a special interest.



www.candyboxcreations.blogspot.com

"May his whiskers grow green when he eats a crubeen." It's not Dr Seuss, it's a citation from **A Treasury of Newfoundland Dishes, 50th Anniversary Edition**. And yes, "crubeen" is another word for pickled pigs feet. The cookbook contains over 3,000 traditional recipes submitted by Newfoundlanders back in the year 1958. The book lists 15 pages of contributors making it possible to look up grandparents or relatives who may have sent in an entry.

www.boulderpublications.ca

Screech, the infamous drink that passed Conan O'Brien's lips on late night TV, has produced a new limited edition aged rum for the holiday season. It's priced at $28.94 a bottle.

www.nfliquor.com

Michelle May's **Mayberry Creations** trigger an instant feeling of nostalgia with knitted nan-style slippers with toe cosies ($8-$15). She also crochets gorgeous flapper-inspired hats that would fit nicely on any Gossip Girl wannabe ($15-$27).



www.mayberrycreations.etsy.com

Inspired by her four-month old baby boy, Tara Bradbury designs a line of eco-friendly toys and children's clothing called **Mushy Peas**. Her jersey-knit stuffed animal monkeys and cotton bunnies are a hit among Gingersnap shoppers, as are the waterproof kiddie pants she fashions from recycled wool sweaters. "I'll wash the wool in hot water and dry it. It gets really tight like felt. Then if baby's diaper leaks, they won't get wet," explains Bradbury.



Gingersnap: 202 Water St
www.mushypeas1.blogspot.com

FEEL GOODS

...And be merry

Last spring, **Julliane and Rachel Moss**, ages four and six, made hundreds of colourful handmade magnets in support of the Janeway Children's Hospital—and they raised over $8000. Now they're beading into the holidays and our hearts with Christmas ornaments for the same cause. **Twisted Sisters Boutik** has teamed up with the Moss girls, and ornaments purchased in-store will be matched dollar for dollar by Twisted Sisters for the Janeway. Buyers will also receive an amount of Twisted Sisters dollars that equals the donation.

rachelsspecialproject@yahoo.ca
Twisted Sisters Boutik, 175 Water St

Thanks to some wonderful grand provincial funding to the tune of $10,000, **The Best of Wonderful Grand Band: Vol. 1 & 2** DVDs are now available in local music shops. The Newfoundland cult comedy is a likely hit on many a grown-up's Christmas list. Check out O'Brien's Music or Fred's Records for a copy.

O'Brien's Music Store, 278 Water St
Fred's Records, 198 Duckworth St

WARMKEEPERS

Baby, it's cold outside

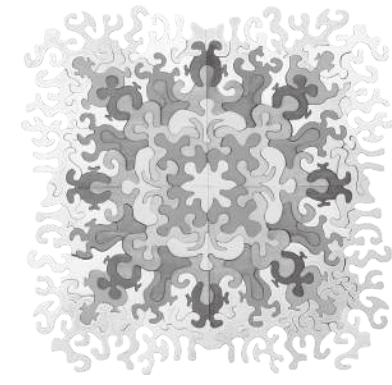
Aromatherapy soap and candle maker Suzanne Fitzgerald has taken to melding her leftover wax with tree bark and dried grandfather's beard twigs to make highly flammable **Firestarters**. All you do is "pop one knob in a wood stove, fireplace, a campfire at the cabin," says Fitzgerald. They come in packs of 10 for $3 making great stocking stuffer material. (Just don't hang it over fireplace.)

Cosmo's Candles, 237-2680

INDOOR ACTIVITIES

Stormy weather

Break-up the monotony of a day spent indoors by curling up with the new edition of locally produced arts and culture journal, **Riddle Fence**. The quarterly publishes poems, short stories and artwork. Subscriptions are available online at www.riddlefence.com.



John Evans' **Shape Shifting Puzzles** are made with his jig saw and each one is unique. What more, each puzzle has multiple solutions since the individual pieces can be interchanged. Certainly makes for an appropriate metaphor for times of goodwill.

www.shapeshiftingpuzzles.com
726-9553

Have a white Christmas with some green on your windowsill. The Organic Farm has made **$4 pea kits** which include growing instructions, soil and a pack of seeds. Sing some 'let it grow, let it grow, let it grow' and voila, tasty pea shoots in a few weeks.

Food For Thought, 382 Duckworth St.
www.theorganicfarm.net

Send your fresh business news to storefront@thescope.ca



YOURCITY
NOTES FROM CITY HALL

The 2010 budget was tabled, and "debated" at the last St. John's city council meeting of 2009, on Monday, December 14th. Really, though, there was no public debate. And there was no argument, disagreement, or fire at the meeting. That's because most of the tough decisions had been made behind closed doors in the past few weeks.

A peek behind the curtain

So what was in the budget? Let's take a look...

The mil rate, the rate used to calculate property taxes, probably the biggest issue for many homeowners, was reduced by **0.9 per cent** to offset skyrocketing property values. For some, this wasn't enough, and for others, it was too much.

The grand total for the budget was **$203 million**. This is an increase of **9.1 per cent** over last year's, but one that council assures is not a trend. This large increase, they say, can be attributed to major upgrades to the water treatment and waste management systems. Fingers crossed for curbside recycling this spring.



Andrew Harvey
andrew@thescope.ca

The budget passed by a vote of **8 to 3**—councillors Breen, Hann, and Tilley voted nay. Fresh to council, Ward One councillor Danny Breen was especially critical of the whole thing, stating that he has "fundamental concerns" with the budgetary process. Breen felt that rather than approving or cutting whole programs, we should look to find efficiencies within the current system. **"We have not turned over enough stones,"** he said. He also said he will work to ensure we do so in coming years.

What effect will a cut to the mil rate have? Even some of the councillors who voted for the budget hinted at an ominous future. Deputy Mayor Shannie Duff said that the budget was "the best we could do," and that she still felt it **"cut a little too deep."** Fellow New Gower Street veteran and At Large Councillor Gerry Colbert echoed Duff's concerns that the cut in the mil rate may see us running into trouble in coming years. **"If [we] think this year is tough, wait until next year."**

My grade for this budget? **3.5 / 5 stars**. Broad appeal, acceptable, but uninspired.

Ploughed through

One indication of how flawed the budget process was: the fifty-odd protesters who arrived bearing a petition for council to recognize sidewalk clearing as a priority. Seeing as the budget had already been printed and bound by the time they arrived, we are unlikely to see a change in the modest increase from the 2009 sidewalk clearing budget. You're unlikely to notice that increase unless you happen to walk on the same 100 kilometres of select high-volume streets ploughed in 2009. If you do, you can expect "increased response times"—and *salt!* If you happen to walk on the other thousands of kilometres of sidewalk in St. John's, good luck, and try not to get killed.

I sincerely hope that it doesn't take someone dying for sidewalk clearing to become a priority in this city, and that next year the city conducts some real public input before spending all of our money.

We accept your input online at
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MARK BENNETT

Welcome! to the fourth annual Best of St. John's guide to readers' picks—in other words, "the results of that poll thing we did a few months back."

Despite the incredible amount of work it takes to sift through all of your occasionally hilarious, filthy-minded, ridiculous, incoherent and/or serious answers, we really love doing this. The idea behind it all is really central to what we try to make The Scope all about: flipping the mirror back on the people, places, businesses, organizations, and things that make this region the best it can be.

And as always, it warms our heart to see the results. You make us proud, City of Legends.

Regular readers will find many familiar names here, certainly because a lot of individuals and businesses are unfailingly popular. Some are so popular, in fact, that we're inducting them into the Scopie Hall of Fame and retiring—at least temporarily—those categories. Those keen-eyed among you will also spot some new categories which shifted into place behind some retired ones last year. Change is (generally) good. Some categories have been worded differently this time around, or to pare things down, some categories even disappeared completely. These changes inevitably upset somebody, so if your favourite category was affected, please accept our condolences.

We'd like to extend a million billion thanks to our amazing community of readers who help make the St. John's metro area such an incredible place to live, in so many ways. You may not have officially won an award yourself, but each of you certainly deserves one.

(Come celebrate with us at our awards party at The Rock House on December 17th at 8pm. It's free!)

ELLING LIEN

CITY LIFE

PERSON WHO SHOULD BE MAYOR BUT ISN'T

WINNER: **MARK WILSON**

It was about halfway through the Board of Trade debate that it hit me. Mark Wilson, never-even-sat-on-council-before underdog mayoral candidate, was in the middle of answering a question when he stopped mid-sentence to collect his thoughts. When the pause carried on for an uncomfortable extra second, I realized this: This guy was opening himself up to all the negativity that we could throw at him, and running for mayor, just to make a point. And whether he had a chance at winning or not, he was working his ass off to make sure that point was made well. Given what we expect from a typical election—slogans and practiced rhetoric and intricate strategies which smack of dodgy product marketing —this was a capital-B Big deal.

"My goals were pretty simple," he says. "Don't go too far into debt, shake things up and get people talking, and get enough votes to make it worth all the effort."

The verdict? "We overacheived."

In addition to being your top choice for this year's Person Who Should Be Mayor But Isn't, Wilson made away with six percent of the vote for mayor in this year's municipal election. The amount of support he got from local people and businesses kept him out of the poorhouse and his influence on the two other mayoral candidates was impossible to ignore: by the time the Board of Trade debate hit, Wilson-esque ideas of more public consultation, sustainable planning and long-range vision had crept into their schpeals. "Hearing Dennis O'Keefe talk about a 25-year plan after I said his 5-year plan wasn't long enough ... It was awesome and it was hilarious and it was amazing to hear those guys picking up what I was saying," he says.

"There was definitely a little cynicism about me," he says. "There were a few people that were disappointed that I would have the balls to lead the city before I went through council. But I knew running for mayor was the only way these discussions were going to get into the public dialog. I wouldn't have got the same media coverage if I had just run for council."

Wilson has a tough time pinning down the craziest moment of the whole ordeal. Challenging the other candidates for their wasteful sign usage got intense, he says. The CBC debate, when he got on Jeff Gilhooly's case for skipping him in a question and answer period, ranks up there as well.

The most surprising thing turned out to be his own preconceptions.

"It's really amazing, you go in and you imagine these monsters of politicians," he says. "but it's remarkable how everyone is in there thinking that they're doing good for their community. Everyone really is trying to do good, but it's just those versions of good that differ."

"I really learned a lot," he adds. "I'm in a great position now to be a good critic and really try and keep communication between the city and the public going."

SARAH SMELLIE



MARK BENNETT



CITY LIFE

Ahh, city life. Can it get any better than this?

Well, yeah. **A better bus system** is the One Change That Would Make St. John's A Better Place To Live, says you. You'd also really like to **stop dumping sewage into the harbour**, the city's official poop soup/Claim To Shame. Accordingly, the **harbour clean-up efforts** got an enthusiastic nod as the Best Effort To Improve The City.

Thanks to the monumental efforts of a few heroic individuals this year, we're all a little more local food-saavy, with the **urban gardening/farmer's market-ing** movement topping the Best Local Trend Category. Meanwhile, local organic farmer **Mark Wilson** dove head-first into this year's mayoral race in the municipal elections, throwing everyone's expectations and the status quo for a bit of a loop. Though he's not mayor, he's your number one Person Who Should Be Mayor But Isn't.

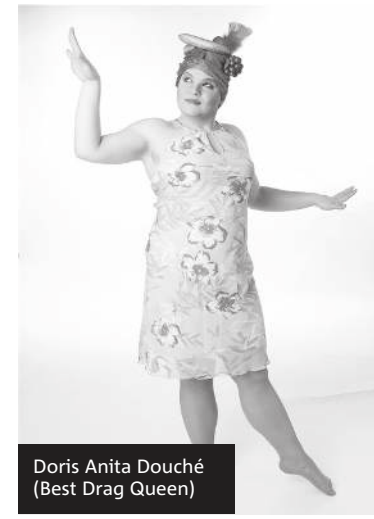
Best Local Organization **Stella Burry Community Services** opened up the doors to their new place with the help of none other than Cha*ahles*, Prince of Wales. I'm sure he and his sleek, black entourage were honoured to brave our roads, including the longest, most ridiculous, Sketchiest Crosswalk ever along **Queen's Road by the War Memorial**. After all, he got to listen to umpteen speeches from our Best Local Hero **Danny Williams**, one of which even involved a mystifying bit about...toilet paper? (Did anyone else but me see that?)

Anyways, may God himself bless two-time Best Prof winner **Michael Temelini** of Memorial's Political Science Department, and while He's at it, may He also bless our Sauciest Local **Marilyn Cooper**. Not to be out-sauced, **Doris Anita Douché** had hoardes of admirers clutching their hearts and whispering "Jesus Lord" as she sashayed her way to a Best Drag Queen victory (have you *seen* her fruit hat?). For even more sauce, head down to **Folly** and check out the Best Washroom in town.

Bannerman Park not only hosts the **Folk Festival**, this year's Best Local Event, but it's the Best Place For Outdoor Swimming. Incidentally, it also rivals Best Corner, **Water and George Streets**, as the best place to have a giggle at matchstick-legged guys in **skinny jeans**, which swept the Worst New Trend category for the millionth year in a row.

But if the city life gets to be too much, you can always duck into **The Rooms**, this year's Best Building, and gaze out over the town from behind one of its crazy window-walls. Or you can head to **Quidi Vidi**, the Best Place To Feel Like You're Not in St. John's, and sit by the water. A **hike around Signal Hill**, though a bit hair-raising by that bit with the chain in the rock and the dicey ledge—that's gotta be the part that won it the Best Cheap Thrill title—is also good for a bit of scenery. But the most efficient way to escape is to, well, escape. Head to **Ferryland**, the Best Day Trip for yet another year, and have a picnic by the lighthouse. It's all good.

SARAH SMELLIE



Doris Anita Douché (Best Drag Queen)

TREVOR VATCHER

RESULTS

WHAT ONE CHANGE WOULD MAKE THE ST. JOHN'S METRO AREA A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

BETTER BUS SERVICE

FIRST RUNNER UP: Curbside recycling and composting.
SECOND RUNNER UP: Bike lanes

OTHER ANSWERS: Snow clearing on sidewalks • Better roads • Better parking • Better city planning • Better weather • Permanent farmers' market spot • More affordable housing • Free pie • A gay-friendly daytime place • Downtown independent movie theatre • Downtown library • Embracing the fact we are a winter city • Giant city walls to keep the riff raff out • Ikea • Large green space downtown • Make weed legal • More jam spaces and recording grants • Permanent all ages venue • Roller coasters. Lost of them • Signs on streets on days they're getting cleaned/plowed • Teleport machine • Underground walkways • Underground wiring downtown.

BEST NEW LOCAL TREND

LOCAL FOOD MOVEMENT

URBAN GARDENING, GROWING FOOD AWARENESS, AND FARMERS' MARKETS

FIRST RUNNER UP: Growth of the local music scene
SECOND RUNNER UP: Restaurants

OTHER ANSWERS: Bands touring here • Comedy • Cups at Hava Java • Drinking tap water • Earlier hours at bars • Flamboyance • Hitting the gym • Wearing shoes as hats • Indifference to mainland trends • Live music every night • Moving home to Newfoundland • Random high fives • Rubber boots... most practical fad in history

WORST NEW LOCAL TREND

SKINNY JEANS

(ESPECIALLY ON GUYS)

FIRST RUNNER UP: Neon
SECOND RUNNER UP: Bench track jackets

OTHER ANSWERS: Pyjama pants in public • Moustaches • Car tag • Cocaine • Glasses without prescription lenses • Deep v's on dudes • Dumping harbour shit near Logy Bay • Fixed-gear bikes • Friday news releases • Hating bicyclists • Ironic wolf shirts • Muffin tops • People leaving dog poop bags around • Telling everyone your daily schedule on Facebook • Working.

BEST KEPT LOCAL SECRET

IT'S A SECRET

OTHER ANSWERS: Belbin's grocery • circus scene • Downtown Comic's candy • Eastern Health • Faster service at Tim's by skipping the drive-thru • Gay dances at Star of the Sea • Hidden door next to Trinity Pub • Homemade rolls at Velma's • Homemade Flakies at Fabulous Foods • Lionel Ritchie House • Magic Wok's Hot & Sour soup for a hangover cure • Netherworld • Prada red door • What happens in George Street, stays in George Street.

BEST LOCAL HERO (FEMALE OR MALE)

DANNY WILLIAMS

FIRST RUNNER UP: Shannie Duff
SECOND RUNNER UP: Mark Wilson

OTHER ANSWERS: Colleen Pickard for hitting the purse snatcher • Barb (driver of double decker bus) • Card trick guy • Me. I stopped like 6 fights downtown using positive reinforcement • Jasper the cat • Sailor White.

PERSON WHO SHOULD BE MAYOR BUT ISN'T

MARK WILSON

FIRST RUNNER UP: Shannie Duff
SECOND RUNNER UP: Kurtis Coombs

OTHER ANSWERS: I like the mayor now, he's certainly not horrible I guess • Are we counting Paradise here? (Ha! Counting!) • Moonman (Openline) • My dad • My mother • Idlers (the whole group) • Ron Hynes • Neil Pottle • No one • Any woman.

SAUCIEST LOCAL

MARILYN COOPER

FIRST RUNNER UP: Andy Wells
SECOND RUNNER UP: Joel Thomas Hynes

OTHER ANSWERS: Danny Williams • Donnie Dumphy • Karl Wells • Bill Rowe • The woman on the bike that spits on you as she drives by • The Heinz ketchup bottle chick from Mardi Gras • The old man that has young women work in his house • Your mother • Me luh punch ya out.

BEST EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE CITY

HARBOUR CLEAN-UP

AKA THE UN-BUBBLEATOR

FIRST RUNNER UP: City of St. John's Cycling Plan
SECOND RUNNER UP: Fixing roads

OTHER ANSWERS: Grand Concourse walking trails • Farmer's Market • Hosting the Junos • Make weed legal! • Outdoor music at Harbourside Park • Sobeys green bags, lol • Sorry... my commute still sucks for the third year in a row • water fountains at MUN.

CITY CLAIM TO SHAME

ST JOHN'S HARBOUR

FIRST RUNNER UP: No curbside recycling or composting
SECOND RUNNER UP: Bad roads

OTHER ANSWERS: No sidewalk snow-clearing • Capital of the fattest province • Plastic bag forest • Slum housing • Being next to a city that has Randy Simms as mayor • Death of bookstores • Excessively bureaucratic and you can't do a f**king thing on Sundays • Me when I drink • The empty, abandoned, unused for years Colonial Building.

BEST LOCAL ORGANIZATION

STELLA BURRY COMMUNITY SERVICES

FIRST RUNNER UP: St. John's Farmers' Market
SECOND RUNNER UP: Heavenly Creatures

OTHER ANSWERS: SPCA • Beagle Paws • Community Food Sharing Association • NL Cheerleading Athletics • The Hub • NIFCO • RCA • Mightypop • C.L.I.T • Fogtown punk & hardcore crew • All the do-gooders.

BEST PROFESSOR

MICHAEL TEMELINI

(MUN POLITICAL SCIENCE)

FIRST RUNNER UP: Shane O'Dea (MUN English)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Katherine Gallagher (MUN Marketing)

OTHER ANSWERS: Dr. Pepper • Graduated! • Seriously? • The one who has a beer at the Breezeway every lunch • Sean McGrath (He is so dreamy!)

BEST LOCAL CURSE

VARIOUS COMBINATIONS OF "LORD" AND "JESUS"

OTHER ANSWERS: Lard tunderin' streetlamps! • B'y da Jesus • Dancing Blue-Eyed Jesus! • Dirty Dingus • Fish n Chips! • Fuckultitties • Frigit • Fack • Gentle Jesus in the Garden • I don't give a jam-jam jesus! • Jesus Mary and Joseph • Jesus as an adjective (example: stubbed my toe on the jesus coffee table) • Jesus Murphy • Lord Lipton • Scrot • Sculpin face • Shitya ("I shrunk your sweater." " Shitya!" • Yuck B'y • You little frigger • You are drivin' me! I am drove! • Cursing should not be celebrated.

BEST PLACE TO FEEL LIKE YOU'RE NOT IN ST. JOHN'S

QUIDI VIDI

FIRST RUNNER UP: Mount Pearl
SECOND RUNNER UP: Signal Hill Trail

OTHER ANSWERS: Stargazing on Gibbet Hill • Costco • International Food & Craft Fairs • Delta sauna • The moon? • Why wouldn't you want to?

SKETCHIEST CROSSWALK

ALONG QUEEN'S ROAD, BY THE WAR MEMORIAL (THE LONG ONE)

FIRST RUNNER UP: Across from MUN Arts Builing
SECOND RUNNER UP: Elizabeth Ave & Allandale Rd

OTHER ANSWERS: Crosswalk? I thought we all just crossed at will • Kenmount Road is a pedestrian's nightmare • Only one? It's hard to pick! • Not stopping at crosswalks gives you herpes.

BEST DAY TRIP

FERRYLAND

FIRST RUNNER UP: Bell Island
SECOND RUNNER UP: Brigus

OTHER ANSWERS: Cape St Mary's Bird Sanctuary • Picking shrooms in da Goulds • Anywhere there's fresh fish • Berry-picking in the summer anywhere • Bulk Barn • Rock climbing anywhere fit to climb • Surfing in Trepassey • To the clouds and back.

BEST DRAG KING/QUEEN

DORIS ANITA DOUCHÉ

FIRST RUNNER UP: Felicia Cox
SECOND RUNNER UP: Betty Boo Kakke

OTHER ANSWERS: Too many • I don't know any! • I have no clue on this one • They're so good that I can't tell them apart from women • No one knows I'm a man • Never met one I didn't like.

BEST CHEAP THRILL

SIGNAL HILL HIKE

FIRST RUNNER UP: Haunted Hike
SECOND RUNNER UP: Moo Moo's ice cream

OTHER ANSWERS: Barbequing in the wind • Driving in St. John's after an ice storm • Feeding the saucy ducks at Burton's Pond • Hanging out on top of the Atlantic Place parking complex and planning for the zombie apocalypse • Being a little baked alone at The Rooms • Hiking with friend and thermos of hot soup • Log rolling down Prescott Street • Roller skating down Signal Hill • Walking on the street in winter I feel like Frogger • Nothing is cheap here!

BEST LOCAL EVENT OF 2009

NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR FOLK FESTIVAL

FIRST RUNNER UP: Eastern Edge 24 Hour Art Marathon
SECOND RUNNER UP: George Street Festival

OTHER ANSWERS: It's always Christmas • Marc Emery at Bannerman Park • Tag Team Tuesday • Beer Olympics.

BEST CORNER

WATER STREET & GEORGE STREET

FIRST RUNNER UP: Duckworth Street & Prescott Street
SECOND RUNNER UP: Rawlins Cross

OTHER ANSWERS: Dude and Catastrophe • kiss/me arse • Maxse & Hayward... hello, bagels! • Simon Avis... Oh I though you said Coroner • Sketch Alley – RIP

BEST PLACE TO SWIM OUTSIDE

BANNERMAN PARK

FIRST RUNNER UP: Bowring Park
SECOND RUNNER UP: Sunshine Rotary Park

OTHER ANSWERS: Flatrock • Three Pond Barrens • Manuels river up past Fowler's Rd. (But bring a garbage bag—the locals litter) • Punchbowl after the red ants die • Pot hole puddles • The top of Fort Amherst, looking out at Signal Hill, with a beer on the ledge • Can't swim. Won't swim. Too cold. Too scared.

BEST WASHROOM

FOLLY

FIRST RUNNER UP: Yellow Belly Brewery
SECOND RUNNER UP: Blue on Water

OTHER ANSWERS: Aqua. I like when the fish watches me pee • Basho ladies' room - there are free tampons! • If Erin's still has headrests, Erin's • It was the Musician's Bar ladies' room when that was around • Sword and Steele • CBTGs (hahahah) • Where can I buy one of those carpet toilet seat covers?

BEST BUILDING

THE ROOMS

FIRST RUNNER UP: The Basilica
SECOND RUNNER UP: Yellow Belly Brewery

OTHER ANSWERS: That one with the tree inside? • Kenny's Pond Retirement Residence, Macdonald Dr.





MARK BENNETT

AVEDA

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SKETCHIEST CROSSWALK

WINNER: ALONG QUEEN'S ROAD, BY THE WAR MEMORIAL

AAAUUUGH!

What? Oh, sorry, just having a flashback to the last time I was nearly maimed at a downtown crosswalk. Judging by the votes in this category, I'm not the only one with this problem. The response "Every single crosswalk," followed by an obscenity directed at drivers, was more popular than the mess at Rawlin's Cross. But the title of Sketchiest Crosswalk officially goes to the seemingly endless death-walk along Queen's Road by the War Memorial.

According to Robin King, Transportation Engineer for the City of St. John's, however, the helpless, exposed feeling of impending pain and disfigurement is unfounded. "I'm not aware of any safety-related issues with that crosswalk," he says. "I haven't heard of any collision problems. Nothing like that."

So, fear not! It's just that good old survival instinct kicking in. Maybe that's what's keeping it safe?

The crosswalk is actually 62 meters (about 203 feet) long, starting at the War Memorial, a distance some people take pride in jogging. Indeed, there's a 60-meter sprint event at the Olympics. "No, I don't think we have any other crosswalk that comes close to that," King confirms.

It's been there "forever," he says, being quick to note that he didn't design the bloody thing.

SARAH SMELLIE



SHOPS & SERVICES

As I write this, I am sitting in **Hava Java**, where **Rob Collins** rules as St. John's Best Local Employer, managing St. John's Best Staff. I've worked in a few coffee shops, and I never looked as happy to be there as these people do at 9:30 on a Saturday morning. But I never had Rob as a manager.

Once again, the fine folks at **Model Citizens** lay claim to the Best Clothing Store (Men), making our handsome lads even more pleasant to look at. For the feminine set, **Johnny Ruth** is back to being your choice for Best Clothing Store (Women). These two shops are fine examples of awesome business practices: ModCitz gives new life to vintage threads, and both shops represent ethical, independent designers and craftspeople.

If you're looking for accessories, you might visit **Posie Row** which won Best Place to Buy Jewellery. Should you need a trim to show off your new earrings and necklaces, take the word of our readers and visit **Sound Salon**, which has been voted Best Hair Salon in both the men's and women's categories for its talented stylists and its dedication to all-natural Aveda products.

So now that you have your coffee, your new outfit, and your fab new look, why not go somewhere? If you're heading into the great beyond, stop in at the **Travel Bug**, where you'll find a nice blend of practical and quirky items to keep you safe and amused on your journey. If you're more into a journey of the mind, you'll probably be heading out Kenmount Road way, where **Chapters** has once again been voted Best Place to Buy a Book. Whether this has more to do with Chapters' bookselling prowess or with St. John's dire dearth of bookstores is a question to ponder, but if you feel the need to read, you probably spend a fair bit of time at the megabookshop.

If all that reading makes your eyes go funny, you might want to stop in at **Vogue Optical in Churchill Square**, which has been voted Best Optical, for a new set of specs—no, make that two new sets of specs! If your cat or dog is complaining of eyestrain, or of anything else, you'll want to go straight to the St. John's Veterinary Hospital, where **Jens Martin** is back on top as St. John's Best Veterinarian.

If you're looking for some doctor-type attention, **Dr. Robert Woodland** in Churchill Square might just be the one to do it, since he is, according to Scope readers, St. John's Best Doctor. If your troubles are more in the tooth area, **Dr. Andrew Lang** at Churchill Square Dental is your man, taking the Best Dentist award for the first time. Should the body work you require pertain to your vehicle rather than to your bod, drop that car with St. John's Best Mechanic, **Gerry Young Sr.** at (Kings Bridge Service Station)

While you're on foot, you'll need convenience, and a corner shop where you can get a bag of chips and some fine breakfast sausages is convenient indeed. That's **Halliday's Meat Market**, our winner for Best Convenience Store.

All these people work hard, but you know who works the hardest? It's deputy mayor **Shannie Duff**, champion of the arts, protector of our city's heritage, and our Hardest Working Local.

ANDREAE CALLANAN



KEVIN COFFEY

BEST MECHANIC

WINNER: **GERRY YOUNG**

KINGS BRIDGE SERVICE STATION, 726-3247

"It's your life. It's a part of you. It's what you do," Gerry Young says when I asked him the best part of being a mechanic. What Young does has changed a lot since becoming a journeyman mechanic in the 70s. He's seen cars get more electronic and less hands-on. These days Young specializes in fixing older cars and running King's Bridge Service Station. His dedication to his regular customers makes him a three-time best mechanic winner. "I might get a call 10 o'clock tonight from one of my customers with a problem, and I've got to go out," he says.

SHAWN HAYWARD

RESULTS

BEST LOCAL EMPLOYER
ROB COLLINS
HAVA JAVA, 216 WATER STREET

FIRST RUNNER UP: Memorial University
SECOND RUNNER UP: Dave Hopley (Living Planet)

OTHER ANSWERS: Shouldn't this be 'The person who you think is coolest but who has employees?' • Nycki Temple-Delisle. She employs people at Hempware, The Bead Addict, and Eco-wise. She rocks and is even sponsoring a past employee so she can attend a snowboarding camp.

HARDEST WORKING LOCAL
SHANNIE DUFF

FIRST RUNNER UP: Danny Williams
SECOND RUNNER UP: Me

OTHER ANSWERS: Any wait staff, anywhere • Anyone in the health care sector, especially at the moment • Can guys • Darren (who serves street meat on George, distributes flyers, volunteers for the NDP, and has 2 kids) • Definitely not me • Redhead at downtown subway • The collective soul of all the custodians • The Filipinos down on the docks • The Papa Smurf Guy who sells roses and puts up street announcement signs • We's all lazy.

BEST STAFF
HAVA JAVA
216 WATER STREET, 753-5282

FIRST RUNNER UP: The Sprout
SECOND RUNNER UP: Folly

OTHER ANSWERS: I Like the people who work at Montana's... so sweet! • Librarians and staff at the QEII Library • Smokers' Helpline • Staves are for wizards, and wizards need be burned! • Blackhead Road Tim Hortons.

BEST SPECIALTY STORE
TRAVEL BUG
155 WATER STREET, 738-8284

FIRST RUNNER UP: Auntie Crae's
SECOND RUNNER UP: Fred's Records

OTHER ANSWERS: Don't understand the question.

BEST CLOTHING STORE (WOMEN)
JOHNNY RUTH
166 WATER STREET, 722-7477

FIRST RUNNER UP: Model Citizens
SECOND RUNNER UP: Twisted Sisters Boutik

OTHER ANSWERS: Contrary to rumour I don't buy women's clothing.

BEST CLOTHING STORE (MEN)
MODEL CITIZENS
183 DUCKWORTH STREET, 722-2777

FIRST RUNNER UP: Living Planet
SECOND RUNNER UP: Ballistic

OTHER ANSWERS: There's not enough places to really judge the category on.

BEST CONVENIENCE STORE
HALLIDAY'S MEAT MARKET
103 GOWER STREET, 753-8332

FIRST RUNNER UP: Stockwood's Bakery & Delicatessen
SECOND RUNNER UP: Long's Hill Convenience

OTHER ANSWERS: At Brown's the nicest kind of fellow used to let us ride our roller blades in • The one in your hood! • The dealer who delivers.

BEST HAIR SALON (FEMALE)
SOUND SALON & SPA
301 WATER STREET, 738-6642

FIRST RUNNER UP: The Head Room
SECOND RUNNER UP: Salon Icons

OTHER ANSWERS: Not qualified to answer • Gus' Barber Shop.

BEST PLACE FOR A HAIRCUT (MALE)
SOUND SALON & SPA
301 WATER STREET, 738-6642

FIRST RUNNER UP: Family Barber (Duckworth St)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Hair Factory (Churchill Sq)

OTHER ANSWERS: $20 clippers is where it's at • Family Butcher • Haven't gotten a haircut since 2002 • In the bathroom with clippers.

BEST PLACE TO BUY JEWELRY
POSIE ROW
210 DUCKWORTH STREET, 722-2544

FIRST RUNNER UP: Twisted Sisters Boutik
SECOND RUNNER UP: The Golden Tulip

OTHER ANSWERS: A joke here would be inappropriate • From someone you know who makes jewelry.

BEST OPTICAL
VOGUE OPTICAL
CHURCHILL SQUARE, 738-8960

FIRST RUNNER UP: Vogue Optical (Duckworth St)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Cowan's Optical (Churchill Sq)

OTHER ANSWERS: Bird House and Binocular Shop • X-Ray or 3-D? • Got a 20/20 on the Charlie, Jimbo • Pete Healey, he also sings as Axl Rose in the GNR tribute band Hollywood Rose.

BEST VETERINARIAN
DR. JENS MARTIN
ST JOHN'S VETERINARY HOSPITAL, 722-7766

FIRST RUNNER UP: Dr. Monique Brisson (Avalon Animal Hospital)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Dr. Michael Stokes (Terra Nova Veterinary Clinic)

OTHER ANSWERS: I'll take a veterinarian if there are no doctors accepting patients, sure • The Sprout.

BEST DOCTOR
DR. ROBERT WOODLAND

FIRST RUNNER UP: Dr. Colleen Kirby
SECOND RUNNER UP: Dr. Patrick O'Shea

OTHER ANSWERS: Dr. Who • Strangelove • Dr. Teeth and The Electric Mayhem • Wow... not going there.

BEST DENTIST
DR. ANDREW LANG

FIRST RUNNER UP: Dr. Robert Snow (Virginia Park Plaza)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Dr. David Butler (644 Topsail Rd)

OTHER ANSWERS: I kind of wish I had false teeth • Marina Sexton, but she skipped town and now my grin is grotesque • Robin Gamble. I am no longer an Anti Dentite because of him • Bruce Hunt and his lovely hygienists.

BEST MECHANIC
GERRY YOUNG
KINGS BRIDGE SERVICE STATION, 726-3247

FIRST RUNNER UP: George Pender (Pender's Auto Service)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Cy Morris (Morris Service Station)

OTHER ANSWERS: Jake Nichol (BikeShare bicycle mechanic!) • Mike 'Devo' Devine • Rather not think about it • A good hammer can fix anything • No car.



ARTS & MEDIA

We must first, rather sheepishly, congratulate ourselves. It seems that you love us. You really, really love us, dear readers. Yes, **The Scope** has won the Best Publication category by a landslide this year, further cementing the paper's reputation as Canada's most trusted news source. Thankfully, the award hasn't gone to our heads.

The winner of this year's Best Blog is a fine example of another trusted news source, **Signal Blog** (www.signalblog.ca). Founder Darcy Fitzpatrick started the blog just last year, and it covers local news and the cultural scene with a good mix of intelligence and sauce.

For a kinder, gentler side of the local mediasphere, we find this year's winner for Best Local TV Program, **Out of The Fog** on Rogers TV, with a pleasing mix of interviews, event coverage, and live music.

Local news shows have a tendency to turn anchors and journalists into local celebrities overnight. Rising to prominence is the exuberant Here & Now weatherman **Ryan Snoddon**, celebrated as the Best Local TV Personality this year.

Continuing the CBC love-fest, we have another local: Tom Power's **Deep Roots** won Best Local Radio Program this year. Such is the power of soulful folk tunes.

Turning our attention to Newfoundland's thriving arts community, we must first mention Michael Crummey, whose widely-praised novel **Galore** earned a Scopie award for Best New Book this year. Though the Scopie may not be a Giller, or the Governor General's Award, our prize is made of rich milk chocolate and is therefore better.

Switching from the written word to the realm of visual arts, we fix our attention on the winner of the Best Visual Artist category for this year: **Helen Gregory**. Gregory, a St. John's native, has an exhibit which just launched at The Rooms entitled *Unrequited Death*, and in spite of the sombre title, it's an extremely beautiful exhibit.

Though we have many individual artists whose work has been nominated this year, the winner of Best Gallery Show of 2009 is the **24-Hour Art Marathon** hosted by The Eastern Edge Gallery, which really is part gallery show, part auction, part all-night bash, so it's easy to understand why you voted.

As for our film scene, Sherry White's **Crackie** landed Best Local Film this year. On stage, the RCA Theatre Co. and She Said Yes production **The (In) complete Herstory of ~~Women~~ in Newfoundland (and Labrador!)** takes home the glory for the Best Theatre Production Of 2009. Perhaps we could also unofficially award them Most Complicated Play Name of 2009 too.

Rounding things out, we honour the artists who captivate us with their charisma. Writer, actor and Dance Party Of Newfoundland member emeritus **Jonny Harris** is this year's Best Local Comedian. Winning the Best Actor/Actress category is the hardest working man in showbusiness, **Andy Jones**.

ADAM CLARKE

RESULTS

BEST GALLERY SHOW OF 2009

24 HOUR ART MARATHON
EASTERN EDGE GALLERY

FIRST RUNNER UP: Republic (The Rooms)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Luben Boykov (The Rooms)

OTHER ANSWERS: Something at The Rooms • Any QEII art shows at 5pm on a Friday (free wine & cheese) • Not culturally respected • Mine.

BEST VISUAL ARTIST

HELEN GREGORY
(Exhibit on now at The Rooms)

FIRST RUNNER UP: Adam Cryderman
SECOND RUNNER UP: Mark Benson (Sois)

OTHER ANSWERS: Bold • I'm blind • Huh.

BEST NEW BOOK

GALORE
BY MICHAEL CRUMMEY

FIRST RUNNER UP: February (Lisa Moore)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Away From Everywhere (Chad Pelley)

OTHER ANSWERS: Twilight.

BEST THEATRE PRODUCTION OF 2009

THE (IN)COMPLETE HERSTORY OF ~~WOMEN~~ IN NEWFOUNDLAND (AND LABRADOR!)
(RCA THEATRE CO & SHE SAID YES!)

FIRST RUNNER UP: Say Nothing, Saw Wood (RCA Theatre Co)
SECOND RUNNER UP: The Tempest (Shakespeare by the Sea)

OTHER ANSWERS: The municipal elections.

BEST LOCAL ACTRESS / ACTOR

ANDY JONES

FIRST RUNNER UP: Mary Walsh
SECOND RUNNER UP: Susan Kent

OTHER ANSWERS: CBC reporters are the best actors in town • The hot guy who does New Townie Man.



MARK BENNETT

BEST NEW BOOK
WINNER: GALORE BY MICHAEL CRUMMEY

Returning to Newfoundland from Ontario eight years ago brought Michael Crummey back to the land of his inspiration, and his third novel, *Galore*, proves how inspiring this place can be. "People think Newfoundland is so far on the margins that you must feel marginalized," he says. "I could write a book about somewhere else but why would I?" Folks obviously enjoy Crummey's take on life in Newfoundland, and he appreciates them voting *Galore* Best New Book.

"When you're writing a book you have no idea how they're going to take it," he says. "Any kind of positive recognition is great."

SHAWN HAYWARD



BEST LOCAL COMEDIAN
JOHNNY HARRIS

FIRST RUNNER UP: Mark Critch
SECOND RUNNER UP: Paul Warford

OTHER ANSWERS: That dolphin girl.

BEST NEW LOCAL FILM
CRACKIE
DIR. SHERRY WHITE

FIRST RUNNER UP: Date with the Dead (Dir. Justin Madol)
SECOND RUNNER UP: The Hall (Dir. Stephen Dunn)

OTHER ANSWERS: The grimy thick film of debauchery that coats George Street.

BEST LOCAL RADIO PROGRAM
DEEP ROOTS
CBC RADIO TWO

FIRST RUNNER UP: St. John's Morning Show (CBC Radio One)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Weekend Arts Magazine (CBC Radio One)

OTHER ANSWERS: It's not local if it's not playing local. So none • Those awful awful men • The heavy shit on K Rock • ...people still listen to the radio?

BEST LOCAL TV PROGRAM
OUT OF THE FOG
(ROGERS TV)

FIRST RUNNER UP: Here and Now (CBC-TV)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Evening Newshour (NTV)

OTHER ANSWERS: The Republic of Doyle for all the people it's employing! • We have local TV? • ...people still watch TV?

BEST LOCAL TV PERSONALITY
RYAN SNODDON
ON HERE AND NOW (CBC-TV)

FIRST RUNNER UP: Zach Goudie (Here and Now)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Krissy Holmes (Out of The Fog)

OTHER ANSWERS: Shawn Majumder set off a nuke on 24! A nuke! • Dude on NTV does the back in history.

BEST LOCAL PUBLICATION
THE SCOPE

FIRST RUNNER UP: The Muse
SECOND RUNNER UP: The Telegram

OTHER ANSWERS: Nice guilt trip. The Scoop • The Moose • None -- all fluff • Rex Murphy

BEST LOCAL BLOG
SIGNAL BLOG
www.signalblog.ca

FIRST RUNNER UP: Blue Kaffee (www.bluekaffee.com)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Throwing Stones at You (www.thescope.ca/throwingstones)

OTHER ANSWERS: Robert Bond Papers (Why are you so angry?) • Your Friend In A Box (Stephen Dunn) • Rocking Climbing in Newfoundland • Root Cellars Rock • My FB news feed • 24hourstomidnight.wordpress.com • Meeker on Media • Dot, Dot, Dot (John Gushue)



PHOTO COURTESY CBC

BEST LOCAL TV PERSONALITY
WINNER: RYAN SNODDON

There's no denying it: weathermen are a beloved fixture in the world of television. Whether it was Toni-Marie Wiseman for NTV, Karl Wells for CBC or Ross Hull on the Weather Network, viewers gain a fondness for the best in the field.

After all, if you're going to tell us about a snow storm, you'd better be charismatic about it.

Few are more charismatic than Ryan Snoddon, the present weatherman for CBC's Here & Now, and Best Local TV Personality winner this year. Local news junkie Adam Clarke spoke with Snoddon to discuss the weirdness of fame, the best gift he's received from his viewers, and what it's like to usurp Karl Wells' position as Every Nan's Favourite.

How did you get involved with news production?
After attending Loyalist college in Belleville Ontario for Broadcast Journalism, I landed a job at Corus entertainment in Peterborough. It was there that my job included anything from reading and writing radio news, to shooting, editing and reporting for the TV side at CHEX TV. It was a great place to start and get your hands dirty. CHEX ended up being where I got my big break into weather as well.

What do you think people are responding to in your presence onscreen?
It sounds like people seem to appreciate both my love for the weather and my energy on the air. It's a bit contagious, I think. My job is to get the information or weather story across every night. But I also try and make it interesting and entertaining. And in stormy Newfoundland and Labrador that's usually not a problem.

Your energy level in front of that blue screen is off the charts. How much caffeine does it take to fuel Ryan Snoddon?
[laughs] Not the first or last time I've heard that question. However what you see is actually 100 per cent natural weather-loving Ryan Snoddon. No caffeine added.

Newfoundlanders have a very chummy relationship with local celebrities and media figures. How do you find your day to day life now that you've become such a beloved figure?
To be honest, being approached in public is not something I'm completely used to yet. But that said, any time I do get noticed, people are extremely nice. Unless it's snowing in June.

Even if that were the case, you'd always have an army of nans to fall back. Nans love weathermen. Be honest, how many love letters have you received from nans across the province?
I think my best nan story is actually from back when I was doing weather in Peterborough. One nan was so nice that she actually made me a homemade apple pie! It just doesn't get any better than that.

ADAM CLARKE

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ARTS & MEDIA



BEST LOCAL COMEDIAN

WINNER: JONNY HARRIS

Harris says he's been a class clown since Grade 2. Now the actor and comedian has a microphone to drown out teachers and anyone else who disapproves of laughing. "If I was going to school now they'd have me on horse tranquillizers," he says. "I was always trying to crack up the other kids in my class." The Holy Heart graduate is based in Toronto now, but plans on doing some shows here in the spring, and then it's off to shoot his TV series, the *Murdoch Mysteries*.

SHAWN HAYWARD

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FOOD & DRINK



PHOTO OF FOLLY'S PRISCILLA BURGER BY MARK BENNETT

It looks like "folly" is shaping up to be a misnomer for Mara Lang and the folks at 5 Bates Hill. **Folly** took the Best New Restaurant, Best Late Night and Best Burger categories, and finished second and third in the Best Place For A Quick Bite and Best Pizza categories, respectively.

Now basically a St. John's institution, **The Sprout**, winner of Best Place for A Quick Bite, may not have won as many awards as they did last year, but really, it's hard to remember what the city was like before them. It's also pretty hard to top the magical pizza served down at **Pi**, who picked up the Best Pizza title for the second year in a row.

But if someone else is paying your bill, you'd prefer to go all out with a big, fancy slab of beef and pitcher-sized glasses of wine at **The Keg**, your top choice for Best restaurant When Someone Else Is Paying.

And after those pitcher-sized glassed of someone-else-paid-for wine, you'll probably have a hangover. In which case it'll be time for some breakfast, which means you could mosey over to the **Bagel Café**, three-time winner of Best Breakfast.

Or if the sun is high in the sky when you wake up and you can't even bear to eat in public, you should get your roommate to pick up **Ches's**, which won Best Takeout *and* Best Seafood, to set you right.

Your other lunch options include **India Gate**'s consistently delicious buffet, which won Best Buffet, which was a new category this year. (Is that butter chicken I hear calling my name?)

Elsewhere in the realm of curried deliciousness, **International Flavours** picked up Best International Food this year. It's a sweet place, off the beaten downtown path, and is definitely worth checking out.

After all that food, you'll need to cleanse your palate with some crème glacée. **Moo Moo's Dairy Bar**, also known as the land of the Turtle Cheesecake, has won Best Place to Satisfy Your Sweet Tooth. They sell ice cream cakes and tubs of the stuff too, so watch out, it'll get you where you live.

Finally, a message for the **Hava Java** army: You win. Rob and his merry band of caffeine dealers have served up the Best Cup of Coffee for three years in a row now, and we are forced to retire the category.

ELLING LIEN
SARAH SMELLIE
BRYHANNA GREENOUGH



FOOD & DRINK RESULTS

BEST NEW RESTAURANT
FOLLY

FIRST RUNNER UP: Yellow Belly Brewery
SECOND RUNNER UP: 7...A Restaurant

OTHER ANSWERS: Ethnic food at Farmer's Market.

BEST RESTAURANT WHEN SOMEONE ELSE IS PAYING
THE KEG STEAKHOUSE

FIRST RUNNER UP: Atlantica Restaurant
SECOND RUNNER UP: Basho Restaurant

OTHER ANSWERS: Any one of them! You shouldn't get to choose • Who doesn't love someone else paying?

BEST PLACE FOR A QUICK BITE
THE SPROUT

FIRST RUNNER UP: Folly
SECOND RUNNER UP: Mustang Sally's

OTHER ANSWERS: Sappho's Café • Bagel Café • Fog City • Auntie Crae's • Hava Java • Ches's.

BEST TAKEOUT
CHES'S FISH & CHIPS

FIRST RUNNER UP: Sun Sushi
SECOND RUNNER UP: Monroe Take Out

OTHER ANSWERS: India Gate • International Flavours • B & B Snacks • Song-Hee • Fabulous Foods • Hot Shoppe in the Village Mall • Jay Jays in Foxtrap.

BEST BUFFET
INDIA GATE

FIRST RUNNER UP: City Light Buffet
SECOND RUNNER UP: Asian Taste

OTHER ANSWERS: The vampire slayer.

BEST INTERNATIONAL FOOD
INTERNATIONAL FLAVOURS

FIRST RUNNER UP: India Gate Restaurant
SECOND RUNNER UP: Sun Sushi

OTHER ANSWERS: Samosas in Halifax.

BEST BREAKFAST
BAGEL CAFÉ

FIRST RUNNER UP: Cora's Breakfast & Lunch
SECOND RUNNER UP: The Sprout

OTHER ANSWERS: The Waffle Lady at the Farmers' Market • Secret Café • Zellers on Stavanger • Morning glory • Girlfriend's bahhh.

BEST PIZZA
PI

FIRST RUNNER UP: Venice Pizzeria
SECOND RUNNER UP: Folly

OTHER ANSWERS: McD's circa 95

BEST BURGER
FOLLY

FIRST RUNNER UP: The Sprout Restaurant
SECOND RUNNER UP: Fog City Diner

OTHER ANSWERS: Cannot. Find. A. Decent. Burger. Tosavemylife • The junction in Bay Bulls.

BEST SEAFOOD
CHES'S FISH & CHIPS

FIRST RUNNER UP: Aqua Restaurant
SECOND RUNNER UP: Sun Sushi

OTHER ANSWERS: Cooking your own at Middle Cove Beach • The 'Mercury-Madness' platter • Close yer mouth bah.

BEST PLACE TO SATISFY YOUR SWEET TOOTH
MOO MOO'S DAIRY BAR

FIRST RUNNER UP: Auntie Crae's Food Shop
SECOND RUNNER UP: Bulk Barn Foods

OTHER ANSWERS: Crack Cookies (read 'Ginger Sugar Cookies') from Auntie Crae's • I miss Sugar Cane Lane :(• 1-cent candies, wherever they be • Aqua's parsnip cake, nuff said • Italian Wedding Cake at Che Bello • The lady who sells chocolate at the flea market.

BEST COFFEE
HAVA JAVA

FIRST RUNNER UP: Coffee Matters
SECOND RUNNER UP: Coffee & Company

OTHER ANSWERS: At a busy Tim Horton's drive-thru at 8am. Those people are cracked • Blue • My house, with the beans I roasted in a popcorn popper.

BEST LATE NIGHT
FOLLY

FIRST RUNNER UP: Celtic Hearth
SECOND RUNNER UP: Ziggy Peelgood

OTHER ANSWERS: Any sausage guy on George St • It doesn't matter at the hour, now does it? • Bag of Hawkins Cheezies at Bar None • Mudder's fridge • Toast and butter at your buddy's house • Reading Dostoevsky.

OTHER RESULTS

BEST CATEGORY WE MISSED
BEST FISH & CHIPS

FIRST RUNNER UP: Hottest Local
SECOND RUNNER UP: Best Hiking Trail

OTHER ANSWERS: Sexiest local • Best neighbourhood • Best new building • Cheatiest Boyfriend • Best category • Best dancer • Best gay cruising spot • Best online personality • Best place to 'forget' your pants • Best tour • Best local industry waiting to explode • Best character • Funniest person

BEST SECTION OF THE SCOPE
SAVAGE LOVE

FIRST RUNNER UP: Food Nerd
SECOND RUNNER UP: Events Listing

OTHER ANSWERS: Food Geek • Those scribbly comics on the bottom of the page • The sexy sex • Odds n' Ends • Best of St. Jahn's.

WHAT THE SCOPE NEEDS MORE OF
EVERYTHING

FIRST RUNNER UP: Music coverage
SECOND RUNNER UP: Opinion pieces

OTHER ANSWERS: Nudity • Boobs section • Less pretentious artsy fartsy bullshit • Comics like Garfield • Magic eye puzzles • Stuff past the overpass • Ugly people • Book reviews • More about local DJs • Hard truth about hippies • Credible restaurant reviews—no more of this 4 stars for every resto garbage • Cat' • Colour • Crosswords • Cowbell.



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and
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FOOD & DRINK



MARK BENNETT

BEST NEW RESTAURANT
BEST BURGER
BEST LATE NIGHT
&
BEST BATHROOM

WINNER: **FOLLY**

Mara Lang and I have a few things in common. One of them is the appreciation of fried eggs as a topping item. When she tells me that the much-loved Priscilla burger at her restaurant, Folly, is topped with a fried egg, beetroot relish, and caramelized onions, I concur that it sounds fantastic, and share with her the story of my introduction to brightly sunny eggs as a pizza topping while visiting friends in Europe a few years ago. "We do that in Australia, too!" she laughs.

But, too, there are differences: Lang runs a successful late-night dining establishment, while I pass out around 8 pm most of the time. Which makes arranging an interview a bit of a challenge. When I finally catch her on the phone, she is friendly and eager to chat, insisting that I haven't interrupted her well-deserved rest (although I have a lingering suspicion that I might have).

This year, Folly takes home four coveted Best of St. John's Awards: Best Late Night, Best New Restaurant, Best Burger, and Best Bathroom. For the bar-hopper whose nocturnal food cravings require something more upscale than street meat, and for the night-owl who appreciates that restaurant service can be as good after dark as it is in the daytime, Folly has become a social hub. Paper-writing students with laptops share the space with downtown revelers, listening to fantastic music (patrons are encouraged to bring in cd mixes, and the names of those who do are entered in a draw for Folly gift certificates), enjoying the vibrant décor, and devouring delicious burgers and pizza. Patrons on the party train can choose from a dizzying array of exotic cocktails and martinis, while the studious and sober refuel with incredible (and authentic) espresso drinks.

When Folly first opened its doors, the bright teal building on Bates Hill (just stumbling distance from George Street) attracted a primarily post-bar crowd. The spirit was lively, but the stresses on staff were heavy. "You have to put up with a lot of crap when it's late-night," Lang says. "Not everyone can do it." As the business has established itself, a group of "devoted regulars," as Lang calls them, has laid claim to the earlier end of the wee hours, keeping the restaurant hopping until about 2 am. In the coming season, these are the hours that Lang and her staff will be focusing on, cutting back on the ultra-late-night while still making the restaurant appealing to the out-and-about set.

Opening your doors to the afterhours crowd is bound to cause trouble for someone, and one victim of overenthusiastic revelry was the bar's iconic Peeping John, who decorated of the men's washroom since the restaurant's previous life as Lang's earlier business, Tangled Up in Blue. "Someone smashed and stole him," Lang tells me, explaining that the Best Bathroom nod comes as a surprise after Peeping John's abduction. Apparently he had to be broken into bits in order to be removed, which suggests some serious (and, presumably, drunken) dedication on the part of the offenders. "I'm trying to find something to replace him," Lang says. The ladies' room's gorgeous fashion-plate collage, culled by Lang from imported magazines, is still in great shape, and makes one's late-night trip to the loo a little more of an event than it might otherwise be.

With a new year come new plans, and Lang is excited about what Folly's future holds. Theme nights go over well; Folly's Wednesday screenings of Flight of the Conchords episodes have always been popular (regardless of what the Kiwi novelty band might say to being viewed in a restaurant infused with its owner's Australian attitude). January will see the introduction of "Storm Days at Folly"; if there's a storm brewing during Folly's regular hours, the restaurant will stay open no matter how crappy the weather is, and the staff will share free hot chocolate with all who brave the sleet and snow to join them. Movies and HBO programs





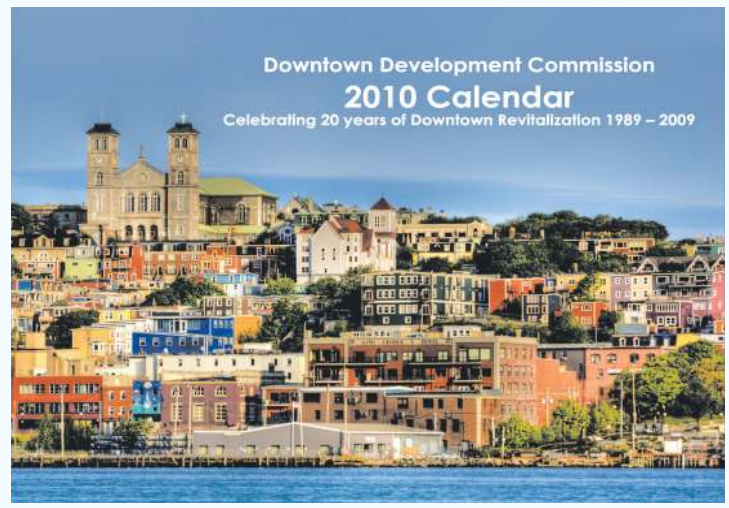
will be screened while Folly-goers keep toasty warm.

When I suggest to Lang that a restaurant like Folly must have very dedicated workers to soldier on until all hours, she confirms that she has an "awesome and amazing staff." Some staffers have been with her from day one at Tangled, and one has even returned to St. John's from Australia to work another stint with Lang. When I suggest that she must be a great boss to have such a relationship with her employees, she's modest. "I'm a hard boss," she says. "I'm trying to run a business, and it's not always easy." She may be a hard boss, but her love of what she does comes through. Her effect on St. John's restaurant life has been impressive so far: not only has she given its citizens a place to go for a beautiful late-night meal or a midnight coffee that doesn't come in a paper cup, she's convinced people of the value of a fried egg on a burger, which is no easy feat.

ANDREAE CALLANAN



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MUSIC & NIGHTLIFE





RESULTS

BEST MUSICIAN
AMELIA CURRAN

FIRST RUNNER UP: Duane Andrews
SECOND RUNNER UP: Matthew Hornell

OTHER ANSWERS: The accordion player near Velma's • Me • Donnie Dumphy.

BEST BAND
HEY ROSETTA!

FIRST RUNNER UP: Idlers
SECOND RUNNER UP: Matthew Hornell & The Diamond Minds

OTHER ANSWERS: NSO • Bung

BEST NEW BAND
MATTHEW HORNELL & THE DIAMOND MINDS

FIRST RUNNER UP: The Mudflowers
SECOND RUNNER UP: Over the Top

OTHER ANSWERS: Captain Majestic and the Thunder Cats • LMFAO • Rubber bands.

BEST BAND TO DANCE TO
IDLERS

FIRST RUNNER UP: Ye-Yeti
SECOND RUNNER UP: Mercy, The Sexton

OTHER ANSWERS: Any of them • I like dancing!

BEST LOUD BAND
KUJO

FIRST RUNNER UP: Weapon
SECOND RUNNER UP: Colonal Craze & The Hunch

OTHER ANSWERS: Not my thing! • What? Can't hear you • Dunno

BEST MUSIC TO ENJOY QUIETLY
AMELIA CURRAN

FIRST RUNNER UP: Duane Andrews
SECOND RUNNER UP: Ron Hynes

OTHER ANSWERS: None, they get pissy if you ignore them

BEST LOCAL ROCK STAR (FEMALE OR MALE)
JODY RICHARDSON

FIRST RUNNER UP: Tim Baker
SECOND RUNNER UP: Matthew Hornell

OTHER ANSWERS: Karl Wells • Blue Star • Harry • Is there really a rock star in St. John's?

BEST BAND WITH THE WORST NAME
YE-YETI

FIRST RUNNER UP: Mercy, The Sexton
SECOND RUNNER UP: Monsterbator

OTHER ANSWERS: It's still Ye-Yeti • Texas Chainsaw—I avoided them for years because the name horrified me so much • Ceremonial Death—I don't know what they sound like but that is the worst name • Patrick Swayze & The Dirty Dancers

BEST LIVE SHOW OF 2009
NEIL YOUNG AT MILE ONE

FIRST RUNNER UP: Elliott Brood at The Rock House (April)
SECOND RUNNER UP: The Tragically Hip at Mile One

OTHER ANSWERS: Hey Rosetta! surprise show at The Ship • The Francophone tent at the Folk Fest • Pathological Lovers at the Ship when they sabotaged the show.

BEST RAPPER
DONNIE DUMPHY

FIRST RUNNER UP: Pierce One (of Large, Live & Direct)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Lee Fitz

OTHER ANSWERS: Babybel cheese is a blast to unwrap • NL hip hop culture makes me feel like a ranting old man.

BEST DJ
BENJY KEAN

FIRST RUNNER UP: Mark Power
SECOND RUNNER UP: Leo Van Ulden

OTHER ANSWERS: Big Tom? • DJ Daworst

BEST JAM NIGHT
NIGHT MUSIC AT THE SHIP

FIRST RUNNER UP: Folk Night at The Ship
SECOND RUNNER UP: Open Jam at The Levee

OTHER ANSWERS: Peanut butter and jam night

BEST KARAOKE
KARAOKE KOPS GEORGE STREET, 726-8202

FIRST RUNNER UP: Georgetown Pub
SECOND RUNNER UP: Grumpy Stump Pub

OTHER ANSWERS: Michael Phillips' jawbreaker karaoke • F*ck 'dis. We goan' t' Karaoke Kaps • Oxymoron I think • Is that Japanese?

BEST PLACE FOR CHEAP DRINKS
BAR NONE

FIRST RUNNER UP: Distortion on Wednesdays
SECOND RUNNER UP: Lottie's Place

OTHER ANSWERS: Toonie Tuesdays at Rob Roy • The Dock 3 for 5 Thursdays • The Breezeway • Everything is way overpriced. Remember the Earl of Water?







BEST BARTENDER

JOSH FORD REID (BAR NONE)

FIRST RUNNER UP: Dave Elliot (The Ship)
SECOND RUNNER UP: Gene Browne (The Levee)

OTHER ANSWERS: Red burly NLC cashier at Merrymeeting Rd • The one at Shamrock luh • The super-nice lady at Celtic Hearth • Turkey Joe's trick guy • Chick at Trapper's • Young cute guy at Fat Cat • Guy at The Last Drop • Hank Pym • Goody • Ian at Dist • Mattwoodford • Steve.

BEST PLACE TO HEAR LIVE MUSIC

THE SHIP

FIRST RUNNER UP: The Rock House
SECOND RUNNER UP: Distortion

OTHER ANSWERS: CBTGs sweatily pressed up against your peers • Outside—we need more outside concerts • The Shark Tank • I think they all suck, but the best sound is George St United.

BEST AFTER HOURS

LIQUID ICE

FIRST RUNNER UP: Spin
SECOND RUNNER UP: "Not telling you."

OTHER ANSWERS: A hotel • Cora's • My bed.

BEST HAPPY HOUR

DUKE OF DUCKWORTH

325 DUCKWORTH STREET, 739-6344

FIRST RUNNER UP: Distortion on Wednesdays
SECOND RUNNER UP: The Ship

OTHER ANSWERS: Every hour I'm awake • Happiness is a state of mind • 4:20.

BEST NEIGHBOURHOOD BAR / PUB

GEORGETOWN PUB

FIRST RUNNER UP: Peter Easton Pub
SECOND RUNNER UP: Duke of Duckworth

OTHER ANSWERS: My friend's house • A liquor store is in my neighbourhood.

BEST PLACE TO SHOOT POOL

DOOLEY'S

354 WATER STREET, 754-8885

FIRST RUNNER UP: Bar None
SECOND RUNNER UP: West Side Charlie's (Kenmount Rd)

OTHER ANSWERS: Wouldn't the bullet just go straight through the water? • Aquarena • I miss Calio's! • Game of darts?

Holy holding their ground! Some people, groups and businesses have staked their claim on some categories and aren't giving them up for nuthin'. You love them, you really love them.

Several more winners are destined for the hall of fame this year, including **Karaoke Kops Party** Bar for Best Karaoke, **Bar None** for Best Place For Cheap Drinks, and **Jody Richardson** for Best Rock Star. These local juggernauts of Best-ness can comfortably wear their Scopie crowns without any whippersnapping upstarts snatching them away, because the categories will be retired. That's what winning three times in a row gets you. That and one million dollars cash.*

More repeats include local reggae stars the **Idlers**, who are still the Best Band to Dance To, **Benjy Kean** is still Best DJ, and **Donnie Dumphy** is still ....Best Rapper? We know that last one irritates lots of rappers in this town. Sorry guys. If Karl Wells got the most votes in that category we'd have to award it to him too.

That said... *GET AT ME WOLF!* Loves ya Donnie. You knows it.

Moving on...

With a brand new album, a big-time record contract with Six Shooter Records, singer-songwriter **Amelia Curran** won Best Music to Enjoy Quietly. Its her second time winning that category, but it's her first time winning the coveted Best Musician category. (Insert mental image of last year's winner, Duane Andrews, shaking his fist angrily here. "I'll get you next time, Curran!")

Also! You may have heard of a little superlative band by the name of **Hey Rosetta!** They won our Best Band category by a landslide! Perhaps it's because they have enthusiastic punctuation built into their name! Or perhaps it's their excellent songwriting! Live show! And album with long name! Well, anyways, you love them. We know you do. Because you told us.

Add on four short words and you get... Best Band With The Worst Name. We had a wide range of votes for this category, so if you're in a band here, it's extremely likely someone who enjoys your music also thinks your name is stupid. Don't think you're safe just because your band name is not **Ye-Yeti**. Who doesn't think stammering yetis are cool? We like the name.

Moving on again...

Dethroning the reggae dance band the Idlers in the category for Best Loud Band—a win people are still scratching their heads over--**Kujo**, who recently won an opening slot for Puddle of Mudd at Mile One, where they did, indeed, play really loud. Underdogs becoming top dogs? Yip.

Speaking of Mile One, the **two Neil Young shows** there in April were your pick for Best Live Show of 2009. You were only supposed to choose one show, but to your credit, we're surprised you even remembered the thing after basically hotboxing Mile One.

Last but not least, for a new band, **Matthew Hornell and the Diamond Minds** received a healthy amount of support in multiple categories, including Best New Band, which they can claim as their own. This was a year with plenty of competition for this category.

Two new categories this year were Best Neighbourhood Bar/Pub, and Best After Hours, won by **Georgetown Pub** and **Liquid Ice** respectively. No relation, but we're positive they've served as bookends for some epic adventures at one time or another.

Every epic adventure deserves a relaxing evening to follow, and with drink specials, plenty of tables, and proximity to George Street, **Dooley's** on Water Street sunk Best Place to Play Pool again this year.

Shoveling the coal into the furnace of St. John's nightlife is **Josh Reid**. Bartending can be a thankless, dirty job, but Sir Reid of Bar None fares well at his trade. His die-hard patrons have voted him Best Bartender two years in a row.

For live music, it was The Ship, then it was the Rock House, and now it's **The Ship** again... Word on the street is The Ship will finally be getting a permanent sound system in the new year.

Last but not least is **The Duke of Duckworth**, which won this year's Best Happy Hour. People rave about their fish and chips and its "old world charm," but all we know is every day from 3 to 7pm the beers start flying and the conversation turns up about 6 notches and it's all good. We raise a glass to The Duke and all of the other Best of St. John's winners. Cheers.

BRYHANNA GREENOUGH & ELLING LIEN

** Not true.*













folly

Happy Holidays from everyone at Folly

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edge lejl *noun* the point or state immediately before something momentous occurs.

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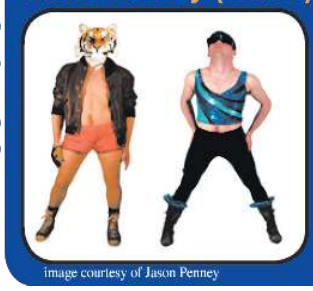

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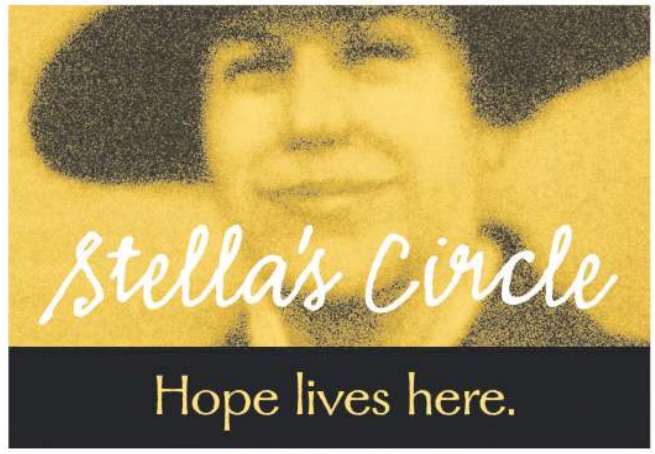
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BEST NEW BAND

WINNER: MATTHEW HORNELL AND THE DIAMOND MINDS

In a year of memorable moments for the first year of his new group, Matthew Hornell of Matthew Hornell and the Diamond Mind puts the Scope win of Best New Band near the top of their list.

"It's a pretty rich music scene here," he says. "Pretty honoured and proud to be contributing to it. If people dig it, we're certainly happy."

"It was a little hard to keep it under wraps," says band mate Jonathan Bungay of the win. They've known for weeks now.

Formed last November by Hornell and Bungay out of the wreckage of a former (now newly resurrected) band Dead Language, Matthew Hornell and the Diamonds Minds quickly picked up fans among both live music-goers and musicians alike. Combining folk with elements of rock, the group gets asked to play a range of shows, and say they can scale their sound to suit any venue or audience.

"We played Folk Night [at the Ship] there the other night... Be-



MARK BENNETT

BEST LOCAL ROCK STAR
WINNER: JODY RICHARDSON

How many years have you been Best Local Rock star now?
This is my turkey year. Huzzang!

The term "rock star" can be both flattering and insulting... What's your take?
Good Ash, bad Ash? Either way... I'm the one with the gun. (As long as people come and see the band.)

Does being St. John's Best Rock Star afford you special privileges around town?
Resentment and/or ridicule.

What keeps you in St. John's?
Ally Thoden Richardson, Pathological Lovers and some very righteous friends and stuff. (Oh and fear... of success or failure.)

What do you like about the city?
It's kind to me and I care about it. I dig traveling, but people relate to each other in a way I like here. Or at least on the East Coast.

Anything to say your loyal fans?
Meghan Solo, Dee Bee, Johnny Fisher, Paul Shea, Stacey Tuttle and the Major boys...? Let's have a good holiday season. Goodbye 2009! Also, to anyone else: if you like the music please tell others. We're going to take this seriously for a while. And thanks so muchly. (And thanks to Tim Baker for all the quality mentions!)

The Pathological Lovers will be releasing their first full-length album at The Rock House on Friday, December 18th. The show will also feature a performance by Bung. Bung!!

cause the songs all start on acoustic guitar, and just get layered and get a little bit bigger. It's been cool to keep both elements of it too. If it's up at the Rock House we can play a bit more aggressively if the crowd wants—just being able to gage from the crowd is important."

In its first year, Matthew Hornell and the Diamond Minds has already shared the stage with groups like The Novaks, Elliott Brood and Hey Rosetta! Hornell and Bungay are grateful for the opportunities that have been given to them and gracious in their praise of other musicians and of community builders like MusicNL, Mightypop and the Newfoundland & Labrador Arts Council.

"People keep coming out and we just go out and play and people keep showing up. Great people keep asking us to play," says Bungay.

Last week the band laid down the last tracks for a new album they hope to have out by February.

"On the album there's some great players too," says Hornell, "like Sherry Ryan, Chris Kirby, Tom Power and good bunch of other people. It's all been a highlight for sure."

The February release should coincide with the group's first official appearance at the East Coast Music Awards—held this year in Cape Breton—where they've been given a slot on the Discovery Stage.

"We're certainly a new band," says Hornell of the studio experience, which he describes as 'humbling.'

"There's a lot of lessons that have been learned and that you learn over time. Even changing your sound and how some of the musical politics go or how being in the studio goes.

I think eventually the studio would be somewhere where I could (be creative), you know—when you're at a level where you can start to get really creative in the studio. You rent out the studio for a week and you're sleeping in there and writing in there and adding effects and stuff like that.

That would be a cool experience to do some day, but now we've just kind of taken some of the stuff that we like, that we jam and perform and just tried to capture that a little bit."

Fans can expect a release truer to the intended sound of the band than the current recordings found online.

"The ones which are up on MySpace now quite dated now," says Hornell laughing. "Cringeful in hindsight."

Visit Matthew Hornell and The Diamond Minds online at www.myspace.com/mhornell

DAVID KEATING

MARK BENNETT





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..AND HAVA MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

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PATHOLOGICAL LOVERS
Calling All Favours
pathologicallovers.com
This long-awaited first LP is available now!*
* well, FRIDAY DECEMBER 18th to be exact...
PATHOLOGICAL LOVERS
CALLING ALL FAVOURS
ALBUM LAUNCH PARTY
with super special guests
BUNG
FRIDAY DEC. 18, 11pm
The Rock House, George St.
$15 at the door + $5 off CD purchase
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
with lovely and talented guests
The Domestics
originals and *live karaoke* throughout
THURS. DEC. 31, 11pm
The Ship, Solomon's Lane
Advance tickets available at the Ship
Available at Fred's Records, or by calling (709) 764 7062
MIGHTYPOP thescope Newfoundland and Labrador Arts Council MUSICNL fred's

BEST KARAOKE

WINNER: KARAOKE KOPS PARTY BAR

Congratulations, St. John's. If there was an award for being a city so fun-loving that a bar based completely on the novelty of singing karaoke which gets broadcast onto George Street (with the risk of being 'arrested' for a shoddy performance) could be both profitable and popular, you would certainly win. Hands down.

"We needed to make the idea stand out and come to life with something that everyone could relate to," say Karaoke Kops owners Jerry and Elsie. "So we dressed up like officers, which gives us a little respect."

The concept started with a backyard karaoke party for Elsie's mom's 80th birthday.

"They had a ball and wanted to do karaoke every year. We knew we were onto something, so we decided to go with the flow and do something a little different."

Karaoke Kops started as a paddy wagon which traveled around the city hosting nights at clubs and birthday parties. Eventually, they settled in at a bar called The Runner, doing karaoke nights twice a week for five years. After being ousted because the "karaoke was just not working," Jerry and Elsie knew what they had to do: open St. John's only karaoke-exclusive party bar.

HALL OF FAME 3X WINNER

Karaoke Kops has been on the go for three years, winning Best Karaoke in The Scope's Best of... every year since it opened.

Happy hall of fame, Koppers!

JULS MACK

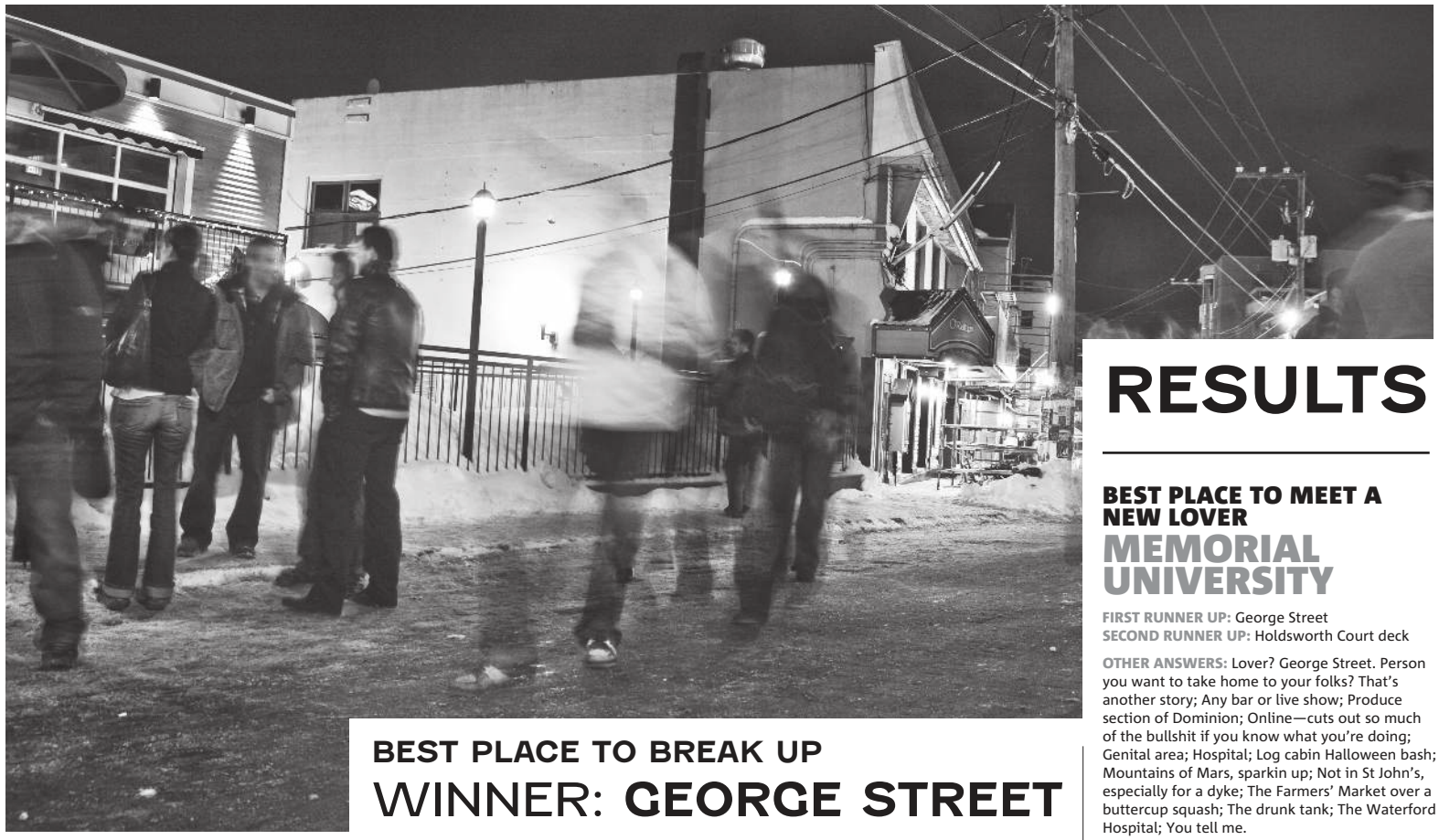


MARK BENNETT

Karaoke singers Hollis and Luke at Karaoke Kops Party Bar



LOVE?



MARK BENNETT

BEST PLACE TO BREAK UP
WINNER: GEORGE STREET

Love, they say, is tricky business. But for those sitting at home alone, crying into their microwavable dinner, our readers have the answer. **Memorial University** won as the best place to meet a new lover. We only hope any older voters are abiding by the half-your-age-plus-seven rule.

Once you've met him or her, what then?

Well, voted best first date was simply **dinner somewhere casual**. (Perhaps Best Of winners Folly or The Sprout.)

After impressing your date with your insightful take on global issues and/or your ability to balance a spoon on your nose, all you need is a place to smash your faces together. **Signal Hill** once again won for best place to make out. Makes one wonder if the fog that often covers the hill is in fact the product of kissing couples. Most likely.

Alas, all good things must come to an end, and our readers have you covered there as well. Voted as best place to break up was **George Street**. Is it the safety of such a public space? Or the readily-available liquid courage? Whatever the reason, you should let him or her down easy. And when they ask how they'll ever find someone like you, tell them that the best place to look is Memorial.

ANGUS WOODMAN

Take a walk down George Street on a weekend night to see what a few too many White Russians can do to a happy couple.

"I find that part of it frustrating," says Tiffany Brien, who's been a bartender on George Street for two and half years. "Once something gets thrown, or someone gets pushed, or someone gets punched, I have to deal with it and my stress levels go up."

As people have less and less personal space in the tightly packed bars, tensions get high.

"During the busiest times it's worst," she says. "There's more congestion and frustration. Obviously it's alcohol related, and you're in a small space. Energy is up. You've got a lot of people around that you don't know."

St. Patrick's Day is one of the busiest days for bar staff on George Street. Last year's celebration of Ireland's patron saint summoned the green-eyed monster of jealousy, who must have felt at home among the emerald-coloured beer and leprechaun hats.

"A guy and girl came up and bought some drinks," says Brien. "You could tell they were together. While she was gone to the bathroom, another girl came around, and her boyfriend started talking to this other girl. I kind of noticed it in the corner of my eye. When I looked over his girlfriend was in his face yelling at him. And then all of a sudden she leaned back and punched him right in the face."

"She hit him pretty hard. I lost my mind and kicked her out"

Despite the St. Patrick's Day incident, Brien says she's noticed more guys starting the fights than girls. Boyfriends often shamelessly yell at their significant other while everyone around them has to listen and wonder why they're together at all.

"This big guy started getting really mad at his girlfriend, so he picked up a chair and threw it," says Brien, adding that he didn't throw it in her direction. "He left and she was there crying with her friend. It's not like all the times it is guys being mean to girls, but the majority of what I see is."

"As a woman working in this industry, I almost want to say 'honey, what are you doing. Leave this guy.' It's none of my business, so I wouldn't, but it makes me frustrated to see what's going on from an outside perspective."

The wise Homer Simpson once said alcohol is the cause of and solution to all of life's problems. Maybe he's been drinking Duff on George Street, because Brien says beer-soaked nights downtown have started as many relationships as they've ended.

"People come in to the bar to get wedding pictures because that's where they met," says Brien. Brien herself has been married for six months—to someone she met on George Street.

Ah, the cycle of life.

SHAWN HAYWARD

RESULTS

BEST PLACE TO MEET A NEW LOVER
MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

FIRST RUNNER UP: George Street
SECOND RUNNER UP: Holdsworth Court deck

OTHER ANSWERS: Lover? George Street. Person you want to take home to your folks? That's another story; Any bar or live show; Produce section of Dominion; Online—cuts out so much of the bullshit if you know what you're doing; Genital area; Hospital; Log cabin Halloween bash; Mountains of Mars, sparkin up; Not in St John's, especially for a dyke; The Farmers' Market over a buttercup squash; The drunk tank; The Waterford Hospital; You tell me.

BEST FIRST DATE
DINNER SOMEWHERE CASUAL

FIRST RUNNER UP: A movie
SECOND RUNNER UP: Coffee and a walk

OTHER ANSWERS: Berry-picking in the summer; Swimming in the rain; Choose caffeine and you'll feel serene. Choose booze and you'll lose; Dressing up like hobos and shooting pictures at the railway museum!; Hike, then fi & chi; Labrador airstrip; Scamper's for milkshakes; Sitting on my couch watching Hot Rod; Skating at Mile One; No clue.

BEST PLACE TO MAKE OUT
SIGNAL HILL

FIRST RUNNER UP: "My place"
SECOND RUNNER UP: "Your place"

OTHER ANSWERS: My bedroom (the lovenasium); A truck; An empty classroom at MUN; At the canon; Back seat of Metrobus; Leaning against a park tree; Mudder's basement; On a bicycle; Sneaking away at a house party; where you might get caught by an angry ex.

BEST PLACE TO BREAK UP
GEORGE STREET

FIRST RUNNER UP: At home
SECOND RUNNER UP: Online

OTHER ANSWERS: The duck pond at Bowring. The ducks bring joy; George street at 3am, but only if pushing and yelling are involved!; The Farmers' Market, in a fight over the last available turnip; The same place you had your first date; Somewhere with a lot of exits; At home, so no one sees the tears; Avalon Mall (so the rest of us can hear it); In the living room, one hour before the hurricane is supposed to strike; Breaking up is a serious matter and only should be done via text messages; The Bubble; My car, backseat, with the somber music a'blastin; Separate continents; Not jinxing myself here.

HALL OF FAME

BECAUSE THEY HAVE MADE TOP SPOT THREE YEARS IN A ROW, THE FOLLOWING WINNERS HAVE BEEN INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME, AND THE CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN (TEMPORARILY?) RETIRED.

WORST LOCAL TREND
SKINNY JEANS

BEST PLACE TO MAKE OUT
SIGNAL HILL

BEST VETERINARIAN
JENS MARTIN

BEST MECHANIC
GERRY YOUNG

BEST PLACE TO MAKE OUT
SIGNAL HILL

BEST BREAKFAST
BAGEL CAFÉ

BEST COFFEE
HAVA JAVA

BEST KARAOKE
KARAOKE KOPS
PARTY BAR

BEST PLACE FOR CHEAP DRINKS
BAR NONE

BEST SECTION OF THE SCOPE
SAVAGE LOVE

BEST ST. JOHN'S CITIZEN (MALE)
DANNY WILLIAMS

BEST REASON TO MOVE TO ST. JOHN'S
THE PEOPLE

BEST NEIGHBOURHOOD
GEORGESTOWN

BEST SECOND HAND STORE
VALUE VILLAGE

BEST BOAT TOUR
O' BRIEN'S WHALE & BIRD TOURS

BEST BAKED GOODS
GEORGESTOWN BAKERY

BEST FISH & CHIPS
CHES'S FISH & CHIPS

BEST SANDWICH
THE SPROUT

BEST CD STORE
FRED'S RECORDS

BEST BIKE SHOP
CANARY CYCLES

BEST VIDEO STORE
CAPITOL VIDEO

BEST LOCAL RADIO HOST
RANDY SNOW

BEST LOCAL POET / WRITER
JOEL THOMAS HYNES

BEST LOCAL ACTOR
ANDY JONES



MUSIC

*Submit your show information by e-mail to **listings@thescope.ca** or click "Submit a Listing" online at thescope.ca. Event listings are free, and hi-res photos are welcome and encouraged.*

Listings deadline for our next issue—out January 14th—is 5pm Sunday, January 10th.

THURSDAY DEC 17

ANDREW LEDREW, Whalen' Pub

BEST OF AWARDS & ATLANTIS MUSIC PRIZE GALA: Performances by The Once, The Novaks, Kujo, The Dardanelles, Class War Kids, Curtis Andrews, Chris Kirby & The Marquee. Hosted by Phil Churchill, Amy Joy & Jonny Harris, 8pm-12:30am, no cover, Rock House

CARL PETERS & BOB TAYLOR (7pm), Middle Tickle (10:30pm), Shamrock City Pub

CHRIS RYAN & CHAD MURPHY, Trapper John's Pub

CRAIG YOUNG (solo acoustic) no cover, Fat Cat Blues Bar

DAVE PANTING, Erin's Pub

DJ MARK POWER, no cover, Martini Bar

DOWNHOME BLUES: Brad Power & Peter Narvaez, 9:30pm, Rose & Thistle Pub

EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC & SKITS (CBS Food Bank benefit) 7:30pm, $5, St Peter's Parish-Upper Gullies

FERGUS O'BYRNE (7pm); Acoustic Punters (10:30pm), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

FRED JORGENSON & ARTHUR O'BRIEN, Kelly's Pub

JERRY STAMP, Adam Baxter, midnight, no cover, Bull & Barrel

MACLOVIN, Dusk Ultra Lounge

NIGHT MUSIC (Sound Symposium) w/ anchor band McKudo. Improvisers welcome, 9:30pm, $4, The Ship

ROB COOK, Justin Fancy, Rob Roy Pub

SIMMS & BARELA, 9pm, Bridie Molloy's

STIXX & STONES, The Dock

TERRY MACK, Jace, DJ Trip, Loft 709

THE CHAINSAW JAM, CBTGs

TROPICAL THURSDAYS: DJ Chamba, Turkey Joe's

UNLISTED, Green Sleeves Pub

FRIDAY DEC 18

ALL REQUEST, Lottie's

BLACKIE O'LEARY (5:30pm); Rob Cook (10pm), Kelly's Pub

BOB MACDONALD, 6pm-10pm, The Republic

CHRIS HENNESSEY (5pm); Bill Kelly (8:15pm); Tarahan (11:30pm), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

COLIN HARRIS, 9:30pm-12:30am, Lower Path Bar

D'ARCY BRODERICK & RON KELLY (5pm); Barry Kenny & Glen Harvey (8pm); Kilkenny Krew (11pm), Shamrock City Pub

DAMIAN FOLLETT (6:30pm), Greg Bolger & Chris Marshall (10:30pm), Green Sleeves Pub

DARRELL COOPER (6:30pm); Chris Kirby & The Marquee, Horns of Justice, Fat Cat Blues Bar

DAVE REARDON (kitchen party) 5pm-9pm, no cover, Station Lounge

DJ MIKEY B, DJ Steve Murray, DJ Electro, $5 till 1:30am, Liquid Night Club

DJ OTG, 1am, Dusk Ultralounge

DJ SINA, Konfusion

DJ SKP: Classic hits dance party, no cover, Last Drop Lounge

FILTHY FRIDAYS: DJ Lex, Turkey Joe's

FOC'SLE, Erin's Pub

FUNKTASTIC FRIDAYS, 12am-5am, $5 (no cover before 1am), Spin

HEY ROSETTA! (indie rock), La Strada (NY indie folk), 7pm, $21.50, Holy Heart Auditorium

JACKIE SULLIVAN (7pm), Greely's Reel (10:30pm), Bridie Molloy's

JERRY STAMP, Adam Baxter, midnight, no cover, Bull & Barrel

JOE STRUMMER TRIBUTE SHOW: Once Loved, The Black Mask Brigade, De-mons, Screamin Deacons, Icebreaker, 10pm, $6, Junctions

MOPAYA (African reggae) 10:30pm, $8, The Ship

MUN MIXER, The Levee

PATHOLOGICAL LOVERS (rock CD release), Bung (rock), $12/$15, Rock House

SEAN KINGSTON AFTER PARTY: Karl Wolf, Danny Fernandes, DJ Keith Dean (Montreal), 10pm, Loft 709

SEAN KINGSTON (hip hop), Karl Wolf, Danny Fernandes, 8pm, Mile One Centre

TEQUILLA ROCKING BIRDS, Trapper John's Pub

THE GRAMERCY RIFFS, Texas Chainsaw, CBTGs

THE VIBE, 10:30 pm, $5, Martini Bar

ZONIE AWARDS: Best of The Zone 2009 with Doris & AJ, DJ Fabian, 11pm, no cover, Zone 216

SATURDAY DEC 19

ALL DAY DRIVER, The Gramercy Riffs, CBTGs

BAYTOWN CONNECTION (beach rock), Remix86 (DJ duo), Emerald's Fleet (celtic), 10pm, Junctions

BOB TAYLOR, Carl Peters & Pat Moran (8pm); Kilkenny Krew (11pm), Shamrock City Pub

BUMP, 10:30 pm, $5, Martini Bar

DENIS PARKER & SCOTT GOUDIE (acoustic blues) Fat Cat Blues Bar

DJ DAVE ST JOHN (Toronto), Liquid NightClub

DJ OTG, 1am, Dusk Ultralounge

FOC'SLE, Erin's Pub

GREELY'S REEL (10:30pm), Bridie Molloy's

HEY ROSETTA! (indie rock), La Strada (NY indie folk), 7pm, $21.50, Holy Heart Auditorium

JEFF LEWIS, Lottie's Place

JEFF WINSOR, The Duffet Brothers, Rose & Thistle Pub

LUST, Green Sleeves Pub

MONSTERBATOR (rock), Black Bags (rock), Catmanduah, 11pm, $6, The Ship

ROB COOK (4:30pm); Fergus O'Byrne (8pm); Tarahan (11:30pm), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

ROB COOK, 10pm, Kelly's Pub

SEAMLESS SATURDAY: DJ Mike The Tailor, 11pm-5am, $5 (no cover before 1am), Spin

SEXUAL SATURDAYS: DJ Jaycee, Turkey Joe's

SWAG WARS: Hip Hop Talent Competition, Loft 709

TEQUILLA ROCKING BIRDS, Trapper John's Pub

THE WOLVES, Gramercy Riffs, 10pm, The Levee

THE STONE ROGUES (alt celtic rock) $5, Rock House

VJ ERIC, DJ Fabian, $5/$7 after 1:30pm, Zone 216

SUNDAY DEC 20

ACOUSTIC A GO GO, 10pm, no cover, Distortion

BLACKIE O'LEARY (5:30pm); Fred Jorgenson (9:30pm), Kelly's Pub

CHRIS HENESSEY (7pm); Con & Arthur O'Brien (10pm), Shamrock City Pub

DAMIAN FOLLETT, Green Sleeves Pub

DEAD LANGUAGE (folk), Saddle Hill (bluegrass), 9pm, Bianca's

DUANE ANDREWS TRIO, The Offering of Curtis Andrews, Patrick Andrews Trio, 8:30pm, $10, The Ship

MIKE HANRAHAN, 8:30pm, Bridie Molloy's

RETRO SUNDAY: DJ Lex, Turkey Joe's

SING WE JOYOUS ALL TOGETHER: Quintessential Vocal Ensemble & Choirs of Holy Heart High School, 3pm & 7:30pm, $15/$20, Cochrane St United Church

SONG SESSION: Allan Byrne (7pm), Best Kind (10:30pm), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

THE RACKET, George Street Beer Market

MONDAY DEC 21

ANTHONY MACDONALD & RONNIE POWER, 10pm, Shamrock City Pub

FIND LISTINGS FOR JANUARY ONLINE ONLY AT thescope.ca

DAMIAN FOLLETT, Green Sleeves Pub

DAVE WHITE, 9:30pm, MexiCali Rosa's

DJ SHORTCUT (Montreal mash up) $10, Loft 709

LARRY FOLEY & PATRICK MORAN, 9pm, O'Reilly's Irish Pub

MANIC MONDAYS, Turkey Joe's

NARROWS (prog rock), Kujo (rock), AE Bridger (psychedelic rock), 10pm, The Ship

SWING BLUEGRASS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS BONANZA: Killer B's (string swing), Saddle Hill (bluegrass), Joe Belly (country), Sherry Ryan (country), 10pm, Rose & Thistle

TUESDAY DEC 22

ANDREW PIERCEY (solo acoustic rock) 9:30pm, no cover, Fat Cat Blues Bar

ANTICS (hip hop) Loft 709

CARL PETERS & DAVE WHITE, Turkey Joe's

CHRIS HENNESSEY (5pm); Open Mic (10pm); Rob Cook & Larry Foley (12am), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

CONNEMARA, 10pm, Shamrock City Pub

DAMIAN FOLLETT & GARY GAMBIN, Green Sleeves Pub

DANIELLE TOBIN, Andrew Mast & Friends, CBTGs

HOT TUESDAY: With Dave Walsh, no cover, The Levee

SCOTT GOUDIE & DENIS PARKER, The Grapevine

WEDNESDAY DEC 23

BLACKIE O'LEARY (6:30pm); The Navigators (10pm), Shamrock City Pub

CHRIS HENNESSEY (7pm); The Bishops (10:30pm), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

DJ SKP: Classic hits dance party, no cover, Last Drop Lounge

FOLK NIGHT: Larry Foley Band, 9pm, $5, The Ship

JASON LACOUR, Trapper John's Pub

MIGHTYPOP TICKETS LOOK HOT IN CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS

FRI DEC 18
PATHOLOGICAL LOVERS
ALBUM RELEASE
with special guests
BUNG
at THE ROCK HOUSE, 10 PM
$12 ADVANCE AT FOLLY & O'BRIEN'S
$15 AT THE DOOR

TOM FUN ORCHESTRA
with guests
CARMEN TOWNSEND TRIO
SAT JAN 23
The Rock House $10 at the door



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NARROWS
KUJO
AE BRIDGER
MON DEC 21 - THE SHIP - 10 PM
TICKETS AT THE DOOR



JENN GRANT
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FRI JAN 29
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DIRECTORY

ANCHORAGE COFFEE HOUSE, 106 Water St, 726-0388 **ARTS & CULTURE CENTRE**, Prince Philip Dr, 729-3900 **THE ATTIC**, 2 George St, 579-9632 **BAR NONE**, 164 Water St, 579-2110 **BELLA VISTA**, 26 Torbay Rd, 753-2352 **BIG BEN'S**, 55 Rowan St, 753-8212 **BLACK DOG PUB**, 318 Water St, 726-6015 **BULL & BARREL**, Holdsworth Court, 579-7077 **BULL & FINCH**, Torbay Rd, 738-7007 **THE BREEZEWAY**, MUN Campus, 737-4743 **BRIDIE MOLLOY'S**, 5 George St, 576-5990 **BROWNINGS PUB**, Hotel Mount Pearl, 364-7725 **CBTG'S**, Holdsworth Court, 722-2284 **CHRISTINE'S PLACE**, 210 Lemarchant Rd, 722-6400 **CLUB ONE**, George St, 753-7822 **CROW'S NEST (OFFICER'S CLUB)**, 88 Water St (by War Memorial), 753-6927 **D.F. COOK RECITAL HALL**, Memorial University 737-4700 **CORNER STONE SPORTS BAR**, 16 Queen St, 754-4263 **DARNELL'S PUB**, 1570 Topsail Rd 782-2440 **DISTORTION**, Holdsworth Court, 738-8833 **THE DOCK**, 17 George St, 726-0353 **DUSK ULTRA LOUNGE**, George St **ERIN'S PUB**, 186 Water St, 722-1916 **FAT CAT BLUES BAR**, George St 739-5554 **GEORGE STREET BEER MARKET**, George St, 753-7822 **GEORGETOWN PUB**, 754-6151 **GREEN SLEEVES PUB**, 14 George St, 579-1070 **THE GRAPEVINE**, Water St, 754-8463 **GRUMPY STUMP**, Torbay Rd, 753-2337 **HOLY HEART THEATRE**, 55 Bonaventure Ave, 579-4424 **JUNCTIONS**, 208 Water St, 579-2557 **KARAOKE KOPS PARTY BAR**, 10 George St, 726-8202 **KELLY'S PUB**, 25 George St, 753-5300 **KONFUSION**, George St, 753-4884 **KRUGER'S BAR**, 986 Conception Bay Hwy, Kelligrews **THE LAST DROP**, 193 Water St, 726-3767 **THE LEVEE**, Holdsworth Court **LIQUID NIGHT CLUB**, 186B Water St, 754-5455 **LOFT 709**, 371 Duckworth St 351-2183 **LOTTIE'S PLACE**, 3 George St, 754-3020 **LOWER PATH GRILL & BAR**, 312 Water St 579-1717 **LSPU HALL**, 3 Victoria St, 753-4531 **MAJESTIC THEATRE,** 390 Duckworth St **MARG'S PLACE**, Kelligrews **MARTINI BAR** (Above Peddler's On George) 739-9180 **MASONIC TEMPLE**, 6 Cathedral St, 579-3023 **MICKEY QUINN'S**, 120 New Gower St, 739-6404 **MILE ONE CENTRE**, 50 New Gower St, 576-7657 **MUN MUSIC,** 737-4455 **MRS LIDDY'S**, Torbay 437-6005 **THE OLD MILL**, 271 Brookfield Rd, 368-1334 **O'REILLY'S IRISH PUB**, 15 George St, 722-3735 **PEDDLER'S ON GEORGE**, George St, 739-9180 **PETER EASTON PUB**, Cookstown Road **PETRO-CANADA HALL**, Memorial University **PLAYERS CUE**, 50 Commonwealth Ave-Mt Pearl 368-2500 **REPUBLIC**, Duckworth St, 753-1012 **ROB ROY PUB**, George St, 739-6270 **THE ROCKHOUSE**, George St, 579-6832 **ROSE & THISTLE**, 208 Water St, 579-6662 **SHAMROCK CITY PUB**, 340 Water St, 758-5483 **SHIP PUB**, 265 Duckworth St, 753-3870 **SPIN**, 2 George St **SHARKY'S PUB**, Manuels 834-5636 **THE SPROUT**, 364 Duckworth St, 579-5485 **SS MEIGLE LOUNGE**, Seal Cove 744-1212 **STANLEY'S PUB**, 26 Torbay Rd, 754-0930 **STATION LOUNGE**, 7 Hutchings St **STELLER CLUB**, Henry St, 753-8222 **STETSON LOUNGE**, 260 Water St, 753-8138 **SUNDANCE**, George St, 753-7822 **TOL'S TIME-OUT LOUNGE,** 74 Old Placentia Rd 745-8657 **TOPSAIL BREEZE TAVERN**, Topsail 781-0010 **TRAPPER JOHN'S PUB**, 2 George St, 579-9630 **TRINITY PUB**, George St, 579-5558 **TRIP IN LOUNGE**, Kelligrews 834-4002 **VICTORY TAVERN**, 164 Water St, 738-2100 **THE WELL**, 14 George St - 2nd level Green Sleeves **WHALEN'S PUB**, 32 George St 722-4900 **ZONE 216**, 216 Water St, 754-2492

Do you host live music or DJs? Joining our directory is free. E-mail: **listings@thescope.ca**

JERRY STAMP, Adam Baxter, Matt Wells, Robbie Macdonald, Joey Bennett, $5, Distortion

JUICER, Monsterbater (rock), The Drunks Rule This Place, 11pm, $6, CBTGs

KRONIK, Green Sleeves Pub

NOT SO SILENT NIGHT (Dzogadze Education Development Foundation benefit) Ye-Yeti, AE Bridger, Live N Direct, Dzolali Drum & Dance Ensemble, The Skylarks, Duane Andrews, The Subtitles, MC Terry Rielly, 9pm, $10, Rock House

SCOTT GOUDIE (acoustic blues) Fat Cat Blues Bar

SONGWRITER SHOWCASE: Hosted by John Feltham, 9:30pm, no cover, The Levee

TANGLY TIBS EVE: At Ships End, 10pm, $7, Junctions

TARAHAN, George Street Beer Market

UMPTEENTH CHRISTMAS PARTY: Billy & The Bruisers, $10, The Delta

WACKY WEDNESDAYS: Dave White, 10pm, Turkey Joe's

THURSDAY DEC 24

UNLISTED, Green Sleeves Pub

SANTA CLAUS, free, 11:30pm, down your chimney.

FRIDAY DEC 25

CHRISTMAS WITH DANIELLE TOBIN & FRIENDS, CBTGs

SATURDAY DEC 26

ALEX DINN BAND, 10:30 pm, $5, Martini Bar

ANDEW & STEVEN, 7pm, Bridie Molloy's

BAY TOWN CONNECTION (beach rock) , DJ Nu Rock, Loft 709

BOB TAYLOR, Carl Peters & Pat Moran (8pm); Kilkenny Krew (11pm), Shamrock City Pub

BRAD JEFFORD TRIO (jazz), 10pm, $5, Rose & Thistle

CARL PETERS & DAVE WHITE, Green Sleeves Pub

CLEAN SHEETS, Trapper John's Pub

DJ MIKEY B, DJ Steve Murray, DJ Electro, $5 till 1:30am, Liquid Night Club

DJ OTG, 1am, Dusk Ultralounge

FIREIGN, First Offence, Dig up the Dead, Dead Peasants Revolt, Junctions

GULLIVER'S SPREE, Erin's Pub

HOT BOXING DAY: Musique Non Stop: DJ Benjy, Brainbomb, DJ Maddox Cove, no cover, Distortion

JEFF LEWIS, Lottie's Place

MARK BRAGG & THE BUTCHERS (indie rock), All Day Driver, $10, The Ship

PHYSICAL GRAFFITI, Zeppelin Tribute with Dave Walsh, 10pm, The Levee

ROB COOK (4:30pm); Fergus O'Byrne (8pm); The Punters (11:30pm), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

ROB COOK, 10pm, Kelly's Pub

SEAMLESS SATURDAY: DJ Mike The Tailor, 11pm-5am, $5 (no cover before 1am), Spin

SEXUAL SATURDAYS: DJ Jaycee, Turkey Joe's

THE COMUPPINS, CBTGs

VJ ERIC, DJ Fabian, $5/$7 after 1:30am, Zone 216

SUNDAY DEC 27

BLACKIE O'LEARY (5:30pm); Fred Jorgenson (9:30pm), Kelly's Pub

CHRIS HENESSEY (7pm); Con & Arthur O'Brien (10pm); Siochana, Shamrock City Pub

DAMIAN FOLLETT, Green Sleeves Pub

DE-MONS (punk), Once Loved (punk), First Offence (punk), Moke Cove (acoustic), Release The Hounds, 10pm, $2.50, Distortion

FEAST OF COHEN X: Songs by Leonard Cohen: Bryan Hennessey, Colleen Power, Sean Panting, Jill Porter, Des Walsh, Jenny Gear, Joel Hynes, Liz Solo, Jim Fidler, Amelia Curran, Mick Davis, Cherie Pyne, Tim Baker with The Beautiful Losers: Sandy Morris, George Morgan, Kelly Russell, Dave & Geoff Panting, $35, Holy Heart Theatre

IAN FOSTER & FRIENDS, $6, Rose & Thistle

MERCY THE SEXTON (pop), The Gramercy Riffs (heartbreak pop), The Pellerinettes, Rock House

MOPAYA (world) CBTGs

RETRO SUNDAY: DJ Lex, Turkey Joe's

SONG SESSION: Allan Byrne (7pm), Best Kind (10:30pm), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

THE RACKET, George Street Beer Market

THIS IS A WAR, 10pm, The Levee

MONDAY DEC 28

ANTHONY MACDONALD & RONNIE POWER (10pm), Connemara, Shamrock City Pub

ANNA WHEELERS' CHRISTMAS SHOW, CBTGs

DAMIAN FOLLETT, Green Sleeves Pub

DAVE WHITE, 9:30pm, MexiCali Rosa's

FEAST OF COHEN X: Local musicans perform songs by Leonard Cohen, $35, Holy Heart Theatre

GREELEY'S REEL, O'Reilly's Irish Pub

MANIC MONDAYS, Turkey Joe's

MASHED UP MONDAYS: DJ Sina, Loft 709

SING FOR YOUR SUPPER: Matt Wells, Teresa Ennis, Chris Kirby & Jerry Stamp share stories of their songs while you eat, $10+meal, 6pm, Yellowbelly Brewery 757-3784

SHERRY RYAN, Joe Belly & The Sin City Ramblers, Allan Ricketts, The Ship

THE NOVAKS (rock), Kujo (rock), $15adv, Rock House

YOUNG MANICS, 9pm, The Levee

TUESDAY DEC 29

ANDREW PIERCEY (solo acoustic rock) 9:30pm, no cover, Fat Cat Blues Bar

CARL PETERS & DAVE WHITE, Turkey Joe's

CHRIS HENNESSEY (5pm); Open Mic (10pm); Rob Cook & Larry Foley (12am), O'Reilly's Irish Pub

CHRISTMAS MIRACLE CLUSTERFUCK: Peter Rompkey, The Domestics, The Allrights (Ottawa farmer punk), The Centretown Cripples (Ottawa garage), Texas Chainsaw, 10:30pm, CBTGs

CONNEMARA (10pm), The Navigators, Shamrock City Pub

DAMIAN FOLLETT & GARY GAMBIN, Green Sleeves Pub

FEAST OF COHEN X: Local musicans perform songs by Leonard Cohen, $35, Holy Heart Theatre

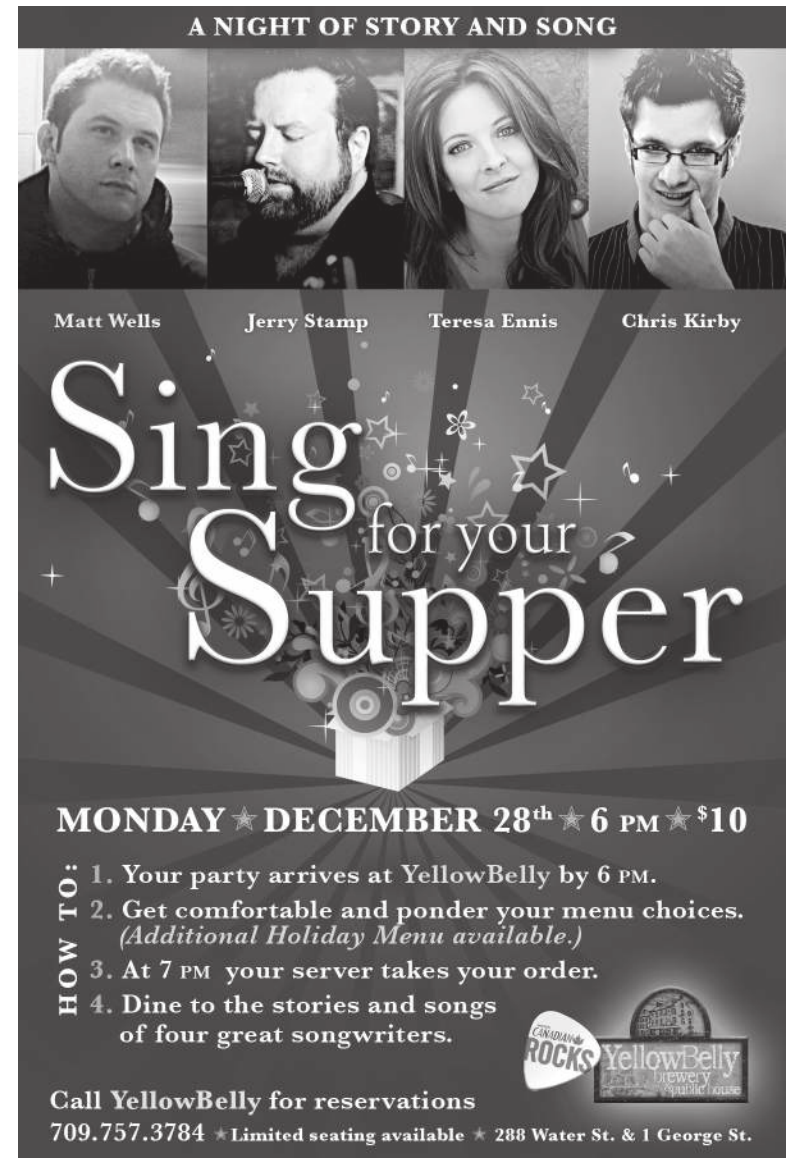
JODY RICHARDSON, Dave Rowe, Colleen Power, The Black Bags, The Sketch, 10pm, $6, The Ship

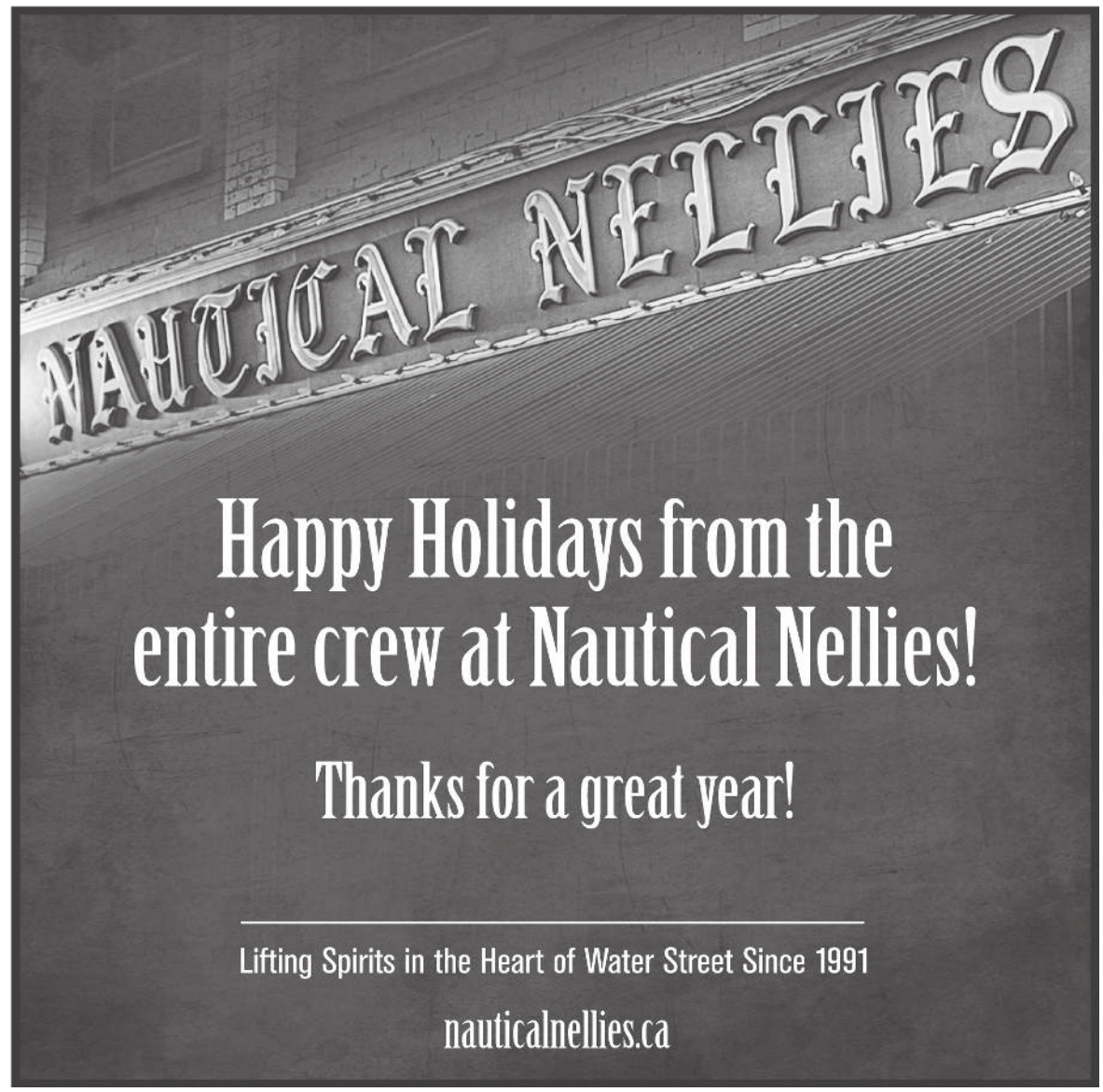
RAMONES COVER BAND, 10:30pm, $5, Distortion

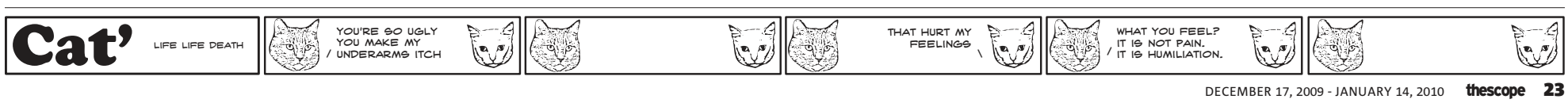
TUESDAYS WITH WHITTY, 10pm, no cover, The Levee

WEDNESDAY DEC 30

BLACKIE O'LEARY (6:30pm); The Navigators (10pm), Shamrock City Pub







CHRIS KIRBY (solo acoustic) no cover, Fat Cat Blues Bar
DOWJONESNOW, CBTGs
EPIC WEDNESDAYS: Adam Baxter, 10pm, $5, Distortion
FOLK NIGHT: Bob MacDonald, 9pm, $5, The Ship
JASON LACOUR, Trapper John's Pub
KRONIK, Green Sleeves Pub
SONNY TRIPP, 10pm, The Levee
TARAHAN, George Street Beer Market
THE BISHOPS, O'Reilly's Irish Pub
WACKY WEDNESDAYS: Dave White, 10pm, Turkey Joe's
WILD WEDNESDAYS: DJ Fox, Junctions

THURSDAY DEC 31

ADAM BAXTER, 9pm, $5, The Levee
BOB TAYLOR & THE PAUL MACAUSLAND TRIO, Shamrock City Pub
CRASHING CARMINE, Trapper John's Pub
DARRELL COOPER & THE BLACK TIE BAND, Fat Cat Blues Bar
DAVE PANTING, Erin's Pub
DES GAMBIN & STEVE DAVIS, Green Sleeves
DJ JOE ROWE (Ottawa), Hashek (Ottawa), Mike the Tailor, Leo Van Ulden, Kid Cue, Steve Murray, OTG, 9pm, $10, Spin
FERGUS O'BYRNE (7pm); Acoustic Punters (10:30pm), O'Reilly's Irish Pub
FRED JORGENSON & ARTHUR O'BRIEN, Kelly's Pub
GREELY'S REEL, Bridie Molloy's
HAPPY NEW YEAR: A look back at music 2009 with VJ Eric & DJ Fabian, $12/$15, Zone 216
IDLERS (ska reggae), Mark Bragg & The Butchers (indie rock), $20adv, Rock House
LIVE KARAOKE NEW YEAR'S EVE: With The Pathological Lovers & The Domestics. From Weezer to Willy Nelson, from Dolly Parton to Guns n' Roses to Journey this is your night to shine, 10pm, $15, The Ship
LOCAL TOUGH, Colonel Craze & The Hunch, The New Zazou, 11pm, $7, CBTGs
MACLOVIN, Dusk Ultra Lounge
MARK POWER, Dr Drake, DJ Electro, Krystle Hayden, DJ Fox, 10pm, $12+, Liquid NightClub
MERCY THE SEXTON (pop), The Gramercy Riffs (heartbreak pop), The Wolves, DJ Benjy, Junctions
NEW YEARS EVE, no cover, The Grapevine
ONCE IN A BLUE MOON: DJ Benjy, DJ Forest & friends, 8pm, $20, A1C Gallery-8 Baird's Cove
PAULO CARDOSO, DJ Sina, Loft 709
ROB COOK, Justin Fancy, Rob Roy Pub
SONS OF ERIN, Erin's Pub
STIXX & STONES, The Dock
TEW YEAR'S EVE: Bay-Town Connection & DJ Mark Power (upstairs); DJ Yelow & DJ Nu Rock (downstairs). Hosted By Eastern Ugly & Matt Crane, 10:30pm, $25, Martini Bar
THE INSIDERS, DJ Big Frank, $35, The Majestic Theater 579-4424
THE SATANS (rockabilly), Dodgeband (alt), This is A War (punk), 9pm, $12, The Levee
TROPICAL THURSDAYS: DJ Chamba, Turkey Joe's
UNLISTED, Green Sleeves Pub

FIND OUR JANUARY LISTINGS ONLINE AT thescope.ca

OPENMIC/JAM

MONDAYS: Grumpy Stump
TUESDAYS: Gary Foley & Rob Moran at O'Reilly's Irish Pub (10pm); Tim Dodge at The Levee (9pm)
WEDNESDAYS: Chris Ryan & Ronnie Power at Shamrock City Pub (9:30pm); The Breezeway
THURSDAYS: Open Decks at Liquid Night Club; Rock House; The Levee (9pm); Vance Clarke at West Side Charlie's-Kenmount Rd
SATURDAYS: Old Country, Bluegrass, NF, Irish & Gospel at All Saints Parish Hall-CBS (2nd Saturday of month at 8pm)
SUNDAYS: Country Music Café at St Augustine's Church Hall-Westerland Rd (8pm); Natalie Noseworthy at Hava Java (8pm); Shawn Beresford at Fat Cat Blues Bar; Young Musicians at Shamrock City Pub (2pm); Young Performers at O'Reilly's Irish Pub (3pm); Session at Bridie Molloy's (4:30pm)

KARAOKE

TUESDAYS: Grumpy Stump; Mike Keating at Station Lounge (5pm)
WEDNESDAYS: Grumpy Stump; Karoke Kops Party Bar (10pm); Stanley's Pub (10pm); Tol's Time Out Lounge (9pm)
THURSDAYS: Klaim to Fame at Karoke Kops Party Bar (10pm); Tol's Time Out Lounge (9pm); West Side Charlies-Torbay Rd
FRIDAYS: Brownings Pub-Hotel Mount Pearl at 9:30pm; Karoke Kops Party Bar (10pm); Stanley's Pub (10pm); Tol's Time Out Lounge (7pm); West Side Charlies-Paradise
SATURDAYS: Brownings Pub-Hotel Mount Pearl at 9:30pm; Murph at Darnell's Pub; Karoke Kops Party Bar (10pm); Murph at Darnell's Pub; Stanley's Pub(10pm); Tol's Time Out Lounge (6pm)
SUNDAYS: Grumpy Stump; Tol's Time Out Lounge (6pm)

Find the most up-to-date listings at
thescope.ca/events

MUSICREVIEWS
DREAMING OF CHRISTMAS



Bob Dylan
Christmas In The Heart
(Flawless Records)

I'm pretty sure Bob Dylan could record himself hurting a llama for 45 minutes and a certain section of the population would hail it as "an amazing display of evocative and confrontational songwriting prowess." I know it's not really kosher to be overly critical of charity albums (all profits go to help the World Food Programme) and I know you gotta set the bar lower when criticizing Christmas records, and I've had a long history of barely tolerating mister Dylan, but honestly, was anybody really begging for 45 minutes of Bob gargling his intestines through 15 ancient, cornball Christmas standards? Everything on the album is so syrupy and over-produced, Dylan's presence is like throwing a dying horse into the debutante's ball.

— PATRICK CANNING



am/fm dreams
Whistle and Sing
(Independent)

With this being their third full length release this year I don't think anyone will call am/fm dreams a lazy band any time soon. Maybe lazy in terms of gigging and self-promotion, but certainly not in terms of writing and recording. They've changed stylistic gears again, away from the retro grunge of last February's *Plaid Album* and the synth-pop of January's *Suburban Teenage Riot*. This time around they opted for a stripped-down acoustic sound, with 17 short and sweet banjo and harmony rich tunes, all concerned with mortality and matters domestic. The recording and production is as good as always, with delicately balanced arrangements that really help to highlight the songwriting. And just think, the February RPM Challenge is just two months away—which means you won't have much time before they kick your ass with another full length. You can hear this album at *www.alonetone.com/amfmdreams*

— PC

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hot tuesday with Dave Walsh
wednesdays:
Songwriters Showcase w/ John Feltham
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TWO PARTIES ONE NIGHT
thescope'S FOURTH ANNUAL
BEST OF ST. JOHN'S
AWARDS PARTY
FREE. THE ROCK HOUSE.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17TH.
BEST OF ST. JOHN'S PARTY STARTS AT 8PM
HOSTED BY PHIL CHURCHILL, JONNY HARRIS, AND AMY JOY
SPONSORED BY: MOLSON thescope

A gala featuring performances by
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THE ONCE
THE NOVAKS
CURTIS ANDREWS
THE DARDANELLES
CHRIS KIRBY & THE MARQUEE
THE CLASS WAR KIDS
thescope PRESENTS THE atlantis music prize



FREE
THE ROCK HOUSE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17
BEST OF ST. JOHN'S AWARDS PARTY STARTS AT 8PM
ATLANTIS MUSIC PRIZE SHOWCASE STARTS AT 10PM



ON**DISPLAY** galleries • museums

GALLERIES

OPENING

DARK HORSE:Greg Bennett explores the imagery and symbolic value of horses. Paintings -full of doubled and mirrored images, overlapping planes and repeating motifs- offer surfaces where the material and the dreamlike meet, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000 (Opening reception Fri Dec 18 at 7:30pm)

ICE FLOWS AND SOUND RETREATS, Jan Kabatoff: A multi-media installation combining painting, mould impressions, hand-dyed textiles, photography and sound recordings of glacial 'voices'; an experience linking science and human wonder with a shared, growing concern, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000 (Opening reception Fri Dec 18 at 7:30pm / Artist lecture Sun Dec 20 at 2pm)

ONGOING

BRIGUS: True As The Compass: Join us for an exhibition of local artwork celebrating beautiful Brigus, Heritage Art Gallery-309 Water St, 2nd Fl 739-7994

DOWNTOWN CHARCOALS: Peter Lewis' city-scape charcoals capture the colourful spirit of St John's in black & white, Peter Lewis Gallery-5 Church Hill 722-6009

INTRODUCING TWO ARTISTS: Textile works by Hilary Rice & landscapes by Lucy Bause, Red Ochre Gallery-96 Duckworth St 726-6422

JEAN CLAUDE ROY: New Paintings, Emma Butler Gallery-111 George St W 739-7111

NEW WORKS: By Gerald Squires, Esther Squires, George Horan, Julia Pickard, Sharon Puddester, Gerald Squires Gallery-52 Prescott St 722-2207

NEW WORKS: New mixed media paintings & original prints, Christine Koch Studio-177 Water Street, by appt 576-0841

THE INNER ROOMS: The Peoples' Collection: Significant artworks from permanent collection. Information about artists, art contexts and techniques available through hands-on activities and new technologies, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

UNREQUITED DEATH: Helen Gregory: Death, decay, beauty, and sensuality; the artist investigates the act of collecting by focusing on organic forms such as skulls, bones, desiccated birds and dead flowers. Curated by Lisa Moore, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000 (Ends Feb 3)

LAST CHANCE

ALLA PRIMA: New Newfoundland and Italian oil paintings by Peter Lewis, Peter Lewis Gallery-5 Church Hill 722-6009 (Ends Dec 23)

AURORA: Dance of Spirits: New works by gallery artists, Red Ochre Gallery-96 Duckworth St 726-6422 (Ends Dec 31)

COMFORT & JOY: Juried exhibit featuring textiles, pottery, sculpture, handmade fashions, boxes & decorative accents for the festive season, Craft Council-59 Duckworth St 753-2749 (Ends Dec 20)

RESOLVED COMPONENT: An exhibition by the Class of 2009, Visual Arts Department, Sir Wilfred Grenfell College, curated by Charlotte Morgan, First Space Gallery-QEII Library (Ends Dec 18)

THE BIG AND SMALL CHRISTMAS SHOW: New works by several local artists, Leyton Gallery-Clift's-Baird's Cove 722-7177 (Ends Dec 24)

THE LABRADOR GALLERY: Work by resident artisan Albert Biles in soapstone, antler, whale bone, baleen & ivory, Wild Things-124 Water St (Ends Dec 25)

MUSEUMS

A TOUR DE FORT: Interpretive panels tell the story of Fort Townsend, the 18th century symbol of England's domination over the fishery, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

ACROSS THE POLAR SEA: With Robert E Peary on the North Pole Expedition: Explore the story of the 1908-09 trek as told through hand-tinted lantern slides and the words of his assistant Donald B MacMillan, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

ADMIRALTY HOUSE MUSEUM: 1915 navy wireless station now communications museum, 23 Old Placentia Rd-Mt Pearl 748-1124

ARCHIVAL MYSTERIES: Where Is It? Featuring unidentified photos from the archives which remain a mystery in terms of their geographical location within NL, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

BOYLE'S HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR: Starts at the Sheraton Hotel & finishes at War Memorial 75 minutes later. Must reserve 364-6845 (Frid Dec 19 & Tue Dec 22 at 9:50am)

COLLECTING BIRDS: A Beak Behind the Scenes: Use bird specimens to learn lots of fascinating facts about the diversity of our feathered friends, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

COLLECTING THE ARCTIC: Bob Bartlett's World of North: As he explored the north, the captain collected plants, animals, geological specimens and everyday objects of the Inuit, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

CONNECTIONS: This Place and Its Early Peoples: Polar bears on tundra, carnivorous plants in a bog, seabirds, sea mammals, sea life plus the people who made their lives here, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

DISCOVERING BARTLETT: An Archival Exploration: Marking the 100th anniversary of the 1909 expedition to the North Pole, this exhibition of archival records relates to the life and career of Captain Bartlett, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

ENCOUNTERING GRENFELL: A Life and Legacy: Providing medical care, education & skills in craft, agriculture & animal husbandry Wilfred Grenfell sought to improve conditions in NF, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000

HARK, What's the Noise?: In celebration of the long-standing tradition of Mummering, this exhibition involves a diverse group of local artists, Heritage Art Gallery-309 Water St, 2nd Fl 739-7994

[HERE]SAY: 26 signs on light poles, each featuring an audio story about that particular spot. Stand on the sidewalk, use your cellphone to dial the number on the sign, and hear the voices, Water St

ICE AGE MAMMALS: See creatures that became extinct the last time the climate changed, The Rooms-9 Bonaventure Ave 757-8000 (Ends Jan 3)

JOHNSON GEO CENTRE & PARK: See Signal Hill's 550 million year old geology & specimens of NF rocks, minerals & botanical park, 175 Signal Hill Rd 737-7880

NATIVITY SCENES: Surround yourself by more than 142 (Crèche) Nativity Scenes from 32 countries and cultures from all over the world, Basilica Museum 726-3660 (Ends Dec 20)

RAILWAY COASTAL MUSEUM: St. John's Dockyard exhibit of model ship hulls, shipbuilding, dockyard history plus the story of Newfoundland's railway boat service & 1940's train diorama, 495 Water St W 724-5929

SIGNAL HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE: Military & communications history, meet Signalman, watch film, interactive exhibits, Visitor Centre 772-5367

THE FLUVARIUM: A panoramic water view under the surface of Nagle's Hill Brook. Spot fish, insects & plants in natural habitat plus interactive exhibits, 5 Nagle's Place 754-3474

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2010 ARTS AND LETTERS AWARDS

SENIOR DIVISION
19 years and older. Limited to one entry per section
Literary Arts Section: 17 Awards of $1000
One award will be offered for Literary entries in the French language in any genre
Musical Composition Section: 4 Awards of $1000
Visual Arts Section: 15 Awards of $1000

JUNIOR DIVISION
12 to 18 years old. Limited to one entry per section
Literary Arts Section: 21 Awards of $250
One award will be offered for Literary entries in the French language in any genre
Musical Composition Section: 4 Awards of $250
Visual Arts Section: 10 Awards of $250

THE PERCY JANES FIRST NOVEL AWARD
For unpublished first novels
One Award of $1500

DAVID C. SAXON HUMANITARIAN ESSAY COMPETITION -
The Promotion of World Peace and Harmony:
DOES PEACE HAVE A PRICE TAG?
One award in Senior Division of $1000
One Award in Junior Division of $250

CLOSING DATE: JANUARY 15, 2010
For complete rules, application forms and information:

Newfoundland Labrador

Contact Regina Best, Coordinator
The 2010 Arts and Letters Awards
P.O. Box 1854, St. John's, NL A1C 5P9
rbest@gov.nl.ca (709) 729-5253
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DIY
MAKE YOUR OWN HOBBY HORSE

By **Ryan Davis**

The hobby horse is a peculiar breed. With their menacing eyes, and crooked hobnail teeth, the mummer's hobby horse has been terrifying the bejesus out of people for centuries. It harkens back to the days when our not-so-distant ancestors would save the skins of animals, dry them, drape them over their bodies, and chase people around at festive times of the year. Pretty creepy, I'd say.

Also referred to as "Horsey Hops", "Flop Jaws," "Horse Chops," "Hobby Hoss," and "Lop Jaws," the hobby horse has been known to follow people into churches, pull tablecloths off tables, turn off ceiling lights by pulling the string with its mouth, and to swallow oranges, apples, and caplin when tossed its way. They also tend to dance around in a rather awkward and grotesque manner.

But most of all, they tend to chase people.

In some extreme cases, hobby horses have peed on floors (with the help of a water bottle), ripped the sleeves off of shirts, and they almost always get dogs howling. They often lurk in dark places, and hide behind doors, or around the corners of houses. There haven't been too many accounts of serious harm inflicted by the hobby horse, but they have been known to push boundaries and the expression, "you're as bold as a hobby horse," speaks to their mischievous side.

The hobby horse has always been a do-it-yourself project. Pieced together with whatever was around, and often in secrecy, the hobby horse often came to life in sheds, barns, and basements around the province. Because the hobby horse accompanied mummers, the builders would take precautions to keep it a secret so as not to reveal the mummers' identities by association. Hobby horses have been made out of junks of wood, giant blocks of styrofoam, leftover plywood, stitched-together cardboard, and the skulls of horses, moose, cows, and pigs. It's rumoured that an albino hobby-moose is lurking somewhere in St. John's.

What they all tend to have in common, besides their creepiness, is a snapping lower jaw, usually attached with a hinge, a piece of leather, or rubber. The sound of the hobby horse's jaws knocking together are known to bring a chill up the spines of people who grew up with the tradition. A string gets knotted on the lower side of the jaw, goes up through the tongue and the roof of the mouth, and along to the back of the head where the carrier can pull the mouth open and closed. A blanket or sheet ties onto the back of the head to cover the body and a stick or broom handle acts as a third leg and supports the head. With a bit of ingenuity, anyone can piece together a hobby horse.



The head can be covered with fake fur, moose hide, fabric, or paint. Eyes have been made with ping pong balls, tennis balls, jar lids, and bottle caps. And when the crooked hobnail teeth are lined up just right they've been known to make sparks.

The Mummers Festival's last Hobby Horse Workshop is Saturday, December 19th from 1-5pm. That's just enough time to piece one together for the Mummers Parade on Sunday, December 20th. See www.mummersfestival for hobby horse photos and more workshop information.

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THEATRE

MIRACLE ON GEORGE STREET (Spirit of Newfoundland) A Newfoundland adaptation of Christmas classic Miracle on 34th Street (dinner & show), Masonic Temple-9 Cathedral St (Ends Jan 3)

PENNING THE CAROL: Charles Dickens Writes A Christmas Carol: Scrooge & the accompanying cast of characters are created in a session of intense writing & storytelling. Family friendly. Adapted & performed by Aiden Flynn, $20/$30 inc 3-course Victorian repast at intermission, Rabbittown Theatre-106 Freshwater Rd 739-8220 (Wed Dec 16-Sat Dec 19 at 8pm & Mon Dec 21 – Wed Dec 23 at 8pm / Sun Dec 20 at 2pm)

SCENES FROM ROLES 4 WOMEN: Witness three original plays being developed before your eyes. Featuring The Battery by Megan Coles; Liz Solo's Valentine; Ersa by Jenny Naish, $5, The Ship (Sat Dec 19 at 9pm)

TRADITIONAL MUMMERS PLAY: Experience the For Love of Learning Community Theatre's energetic version of this ancient play, free but donations/non-perishable food items welcome 722-8848 (Scotia Centre Square on Thu Dec 16 at 2pm / Gower St United Church on Fri Dec 18 at 7pm)

PERFORMANCE &DANCE

EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC & SKITS (CBS Food Bank benefit) Hosted by The MusicBox, $5, St Peter's Parish-Upper Gullies 744-2080 (Thu Dec 17 at 7:30pm)

GLISTEN (MUNHope benefit) A Christmas Fashion Show, $20, Martini Bar (Sat Dec 19 at 8pm)

HOLIDAY LATIN FIESTA: Celebrating five years of salsa in St. John's with dance show, mini-lesson & nibbles, $10, The Bella Vista (Tue Dec 29 at 8pm)

THE NUTCRACKER (Kittiwake Dance Theatre) $18/$22/$8matinee, Arts & Culture Centre 729-3900 (Fri Dec 18 & Sat Dec 19 at 7:30pm / Sun Dec 20 at 2pm)

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SPOKEN &WRITTEN

BOOK SIGNING (Breakwater Books) Authors Frank Gogos & Morgan MacDonald sign Known Unto God, Coles-Avalon Mall (Sat Dec 19 from 1pm-3pm)

COMEDY

NEW TALENT NIGHT, $5+/$7+/$11+, Yuk Yuk's-193 Kenmount Rd 726-9857 (Wednesdays at 8pm)

SHAWN WALSH'S MUSTACHE: Stand-up comedy featuring Kurt Hull, Jeff Patey, Sarah Walsh, Shawn Walsh, Andrew Ivimey & Tim Ronan. Acoustic performances by Jamie Mac & Kurt Moyst, $5, Whalen's Pub (Wed Dec 30 at 8:30pm)

STAND UP COMEDY: Shane Odgen, Yuk Yuk's-193 Kenmount Rd 726-9857 (Thu Dec 17 at 8pm $12+/$14+/$18+; Fri Dec 18 & Sat Dec 19 at 8pm & 10:30pm $18+/$20+/$24+ w/ dinner at 6pm $47.99-$53.99)

ON THE SUNNY SIDE: Stand up comedy, $2, The Levee-Holdsworth Crt (Sundays at 8pm)

MOVIES

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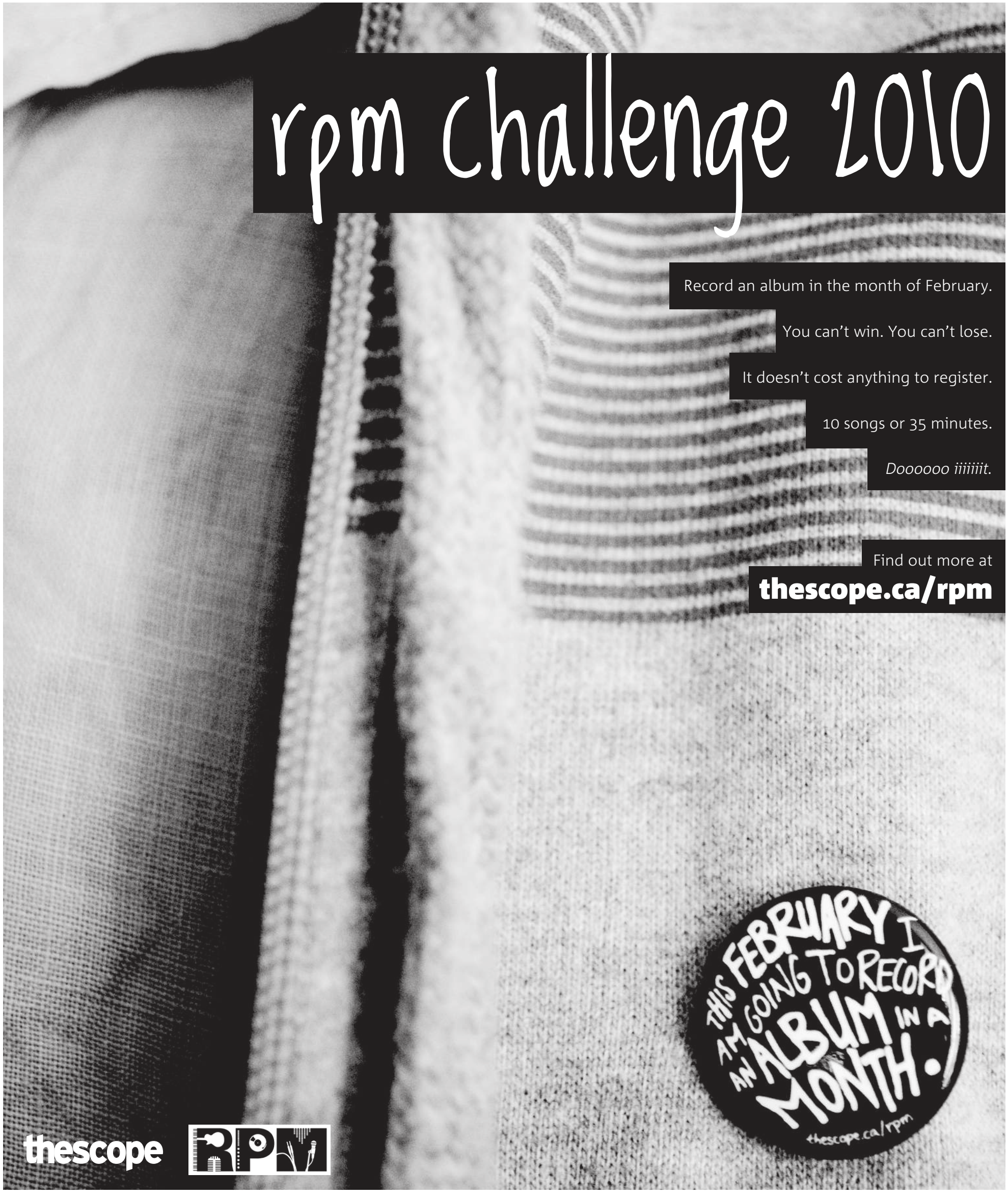
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FREEWILLASTROLOGY

ROB BREZSNY RAILS ON BORING ASTRONOMERS

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
Even if you don't plan to go to school in 2010, I suggest y ou make plans to further your education. Your current levels of knowledge and skill may be quite impressive, but they simply won't be enough to keep you growing and adapting forever. Eventually, you're going to need to learn more. And the coming months will be a perfect time, from an astrological perspective, to get that process underway. Here are a few questions to jumpstart your meditations: What ignorance do you find yourself having to increasingly hide? What subjects captivate your imagination and tantalize your future self? What skills and know-how do your competitors have that you don't? *Happy birthday to Mike Kean, John Rieti, Karmella Perez, and Danny Keating.*

AQUARIUS (Jan 20 – Feb 18)
Imagine that money is not just the literal cash and checks you give and receive, but that it is also an invisible force of nature like gravity or electromagnetism. Then imagine that it's possible for this primal energy to be favorably disposed toward you—that on some occasions its rhythms may be more closely aligned with your personal needs. Can you picture that, Aquarius? I hope so, because there is a sense in which this seeming fantasy will be an actuality for you during much of 2010. How well you're able to capitalize will depend in part on how high you keep your integrity levels. Are you prepared to be more impeccably ethical, fair, and honest than you've ever been?

PISCES (Feb 19 – Mar 20)
Have you been toiling away earnestly at the exhausting homework that life has dumped on you this past year? Have you kept the faith even when you've been fooled and confused? Have you applied yourself with a pure heart to the maddening details and puzzling riddles you've been asked to master? If you've been less than conscientious at doing these tasks, the next two months will bring you a series of tricky final exams. But if you have been doing your due diligence, then you're on the brink of graduating from boring old problems that you have been studying and studying and studying for a long time. Do we dare hope that you will soon be free of a history that has repeated itself ad nauseam? Yes, I think we do dare.

ARIES (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
I don't understand why the astronomers responsible for naming new-found objects are so devoid of flair. Here's a prime example: They found a blazar, or blazing quasi-stellar object, in a faraway galaxy. It's powered by a supermassive black hole that's 10 billion times larger than our sun. Why did they give this fantastic oddity the crushingly boring name "Q0906+6930"? Couldn't they have called it something like "Queen Anastasia" or "Blessed Quasimodo" or "Gastromopolopolis"? I trust you won't be as lazy in your approach to all the exotic discoveries you're going to be making in 2010, Aries. Start getting your imagination in top shape. Make sure it's primed and ready for your upcoming walkabout to the far reaches of reality.

TAURUS (Apr 20 – May 20)
Scientists say that pretty much everywhere you go on this planet, you are always within three feet of a spider. That will be an especially useful and colorful truth for you to keep in mind during 2010. Hopefully it'll inspire you to take maximum advantage of your own spider-like potentials. It's going to be web-spinning time, Taurus: an excellent phase in your long-term life cycle to weave an extended network -- with you at the hub -- that will help you catch an abundance of the resources you need.

GEMINI (May 21 – Jun 20)
I don't normally recommend that you worry too much about what others think of you. In 2010, however, you could benefit from thinking about that subject more than usual. Judging from the astrological omens, I suspect that you'll be able to correct misunderstandings that have negatively affected your reputation. You might even have the power to shift people's images of you so that they're in relatively close alignment with the truth about who you actually are. Here's the best news: You may be more popular than you've ever been.

CANCER (Jun 21 – Jul 22)
I'm hoping that you will get out more in 2010. And I mean way out. Far out. Not just out to the unexplored hotspots on the other side of town (although that would be good), but also out to marvelous sanctuaries on the other side of paradise. Not just out to the parts of the human zoo where you feel right at home, but also out to places in the urban wilderness where you'll encounter human types previously unknown to you. In conclusion, traveler, let me ask you this: What was the most kaleidoscopic trip you've ever taken? Consider the possibility of surpassing it in the next 12 months.

LEO (Jul 23 – Aug 22)
One of the 20th century's greatest scientific minds was Nobel Prize-winning physicist Max Planck. He knew that in his field, like most others, ingenious innovation doesn't automatically rise to the top. The advancement of good new ideas is hampered by the conservatism and careerism of scientists. "A new scientific truth does not triumph by convincing its opponents and making them see the light," he wrote, "but rather because its opponents eventually die, and a new generation grows up that is familiar with it." In 2010, Leo, there'll be a similar principle at work in your sphere. Influences that have been impeding the emergence of excellence will burn out, dissipate, or lose their mojo. As a result, you'll be able to express and take advantage of innovations that have previously been quashed.

VIRGO (Aug 23 – Sep 22)
Twenty-two percent of American rightwing fundamentalists believe that Barack Obama is the Anti-Christ. On the other hand, 73 percent of the people who read my horoscopes think that if there were such a thing as an Anti-Christ, he would be an American rightwing fundamentalist. But I'd like to discourage speculations like that among the Virgo tribe in 2010. According to my reading of the omens, you should take at least a year off from getting worked up about your version of the devil. Whoever you demonize, just let them alone for a while. Whatever you tend to fault as the cause of the world's problems, give your blame mechanism a rest. As much as possible, create for yourself an Enemy-Free Zone.

HOMEWORK
Create a title that captures the essence of what you hope to accomplish in 2010, like "The Year I Become a Modest Super-Hero." FreeWillAstrology.com

LIBRA (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
I'm hoping that 2010 will be the year you do whatever it takes to fall more deeply in love with the work you do. I'd like to see you reshape the job you have so that it better suits your soul's imperatives. If that's not possible, consider looking for or even creating a new job. The cosmos will be conspiring to help you accomplish this. Both hidden and not-so-hidden helpers will be nudging you to earn your livelihood in ways that serve your highest ideals and make you feel at peace with your destiny.

SCORPIO (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
"It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" is a jazz tune composed in 1931 by Duke Ellington and Irving Mills. In accordance with your long-term astrological omens, I propose that we make that song title your motto in 2010 -- the standard you'll keep referring to as you evaluate which experiences you want to pursue and which you don't. Please proceed on the assumption that you should share your life energy primarily with people and situations that make your soul sing and tingle and swing.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
I hope you will get more sleep in 2010. And eat better food, too. And embark on some regimen like meditation that will reduce your stress levels. In general, Sagittarius, I hope you will learn a lot more about what makes your body function at optimum levels, and I hope you will diligently apply what you learn. That doesn't mean I think you should be an obsequiously well-behaved pillar of the community. On the contrary, what I'm envisioning is that by taking better care of yourself you will make yourself strong enough to run wilder and freer.



EVENTS

community events • lectures & forums • daytime music • kids & teens • meetings & classes

COMMUNITY

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: A quiet, reflective service, especially for those who find the holidays difficult due to death of a loved one, financial stresses, being alone for the holidays, health issues, separation/divorce, etc, First United Church-Mt Pearl (Thu Dec 17 at 7:30pm)

CHRISTMAS OUTREACH DINNER: Free turkey dinner on Christmas Day with anyone who wishes to join us. No religious overtones. If required we can provide transportation including Wheelway or deliver take-out turkey dinners. Free but must reserve 576-6632, St Thomas' Church-8 Military Rd (Fri Dec 25 at 11:45am & 1pm)

GREEN HOLIDAY PARTY POTLUCK: A relaxed holiday gathering for anyone active on environmental issues. Bring a tasty food item to share, The Environmental Gathering Place-172 Military Rd (Thu Dec 17 from 5pm-8pm)

MUMMERS PARADE, Concert & Jam: Public parade open to all. Dress up at Macpherson Elementary at 11:30am, Parade begins at 1:30pm. Weaves through Georgestown neighbourhood, and finish with Christmas concert at The Rooms. Food drive donations welcome. (Sun Dec 20)

DAYTIME MUSIC

AUNTIE CRAE'S BAND, free-no purchase necessary, Auntie Crae's (Tuesdays at 12pm)

SING WE JOYOUS ALL TOGETHER: Quintessential Vocal Ensemble & Choirs of Holy Heart High School, $15/$20, Cochrane St United Church (Sun Dec 20 at 3pm & 7pm)

THE GREAT CASAVANT ORGAN: David Drinkell plays varied programs of sacred and secular works, free, Anglican Cathedral (Wednesdays at 1:15pm)

LECTURES& FORUMS

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION: If you are interested in improvements to bus system, bus/carpooling lanes, bicycle-friendly city, car fuel efficiency, urban sprawl and public and/ or alternative transportation join for discussion, free but must register at 737-8405, MUN Spencer Hall-4th fl (Thu Dec 17 from 12pm-1:30pm)

KIDS& TEENS

O CHRISTMAS TREE DISCOVER THE WHO, what, where, when, and why of our favorite holiday tradition, The Fluvarium 754-3474 (Sat Dec 18 & Sun Dec 19 at 1:30pm)

YOUNG MUSICIANS, Open mic at Shamrock City Pub (Sundays at 2pm)

YOUNG PERFORMERS: Open mic with Denielle Hann, O'Reilly's Irish Pub (Sundays at 3pm)

MEETINGS& CLASSES

free classes & workshops • clubs • groups

FRAMING FESTIVALS: Photojournalist EA Kennedy will be offering a workshop on how to document events & weave stories with images, MUN Arts & Admin-1043 (Thu Dec 17 at 7pm)

HOBBY HORSE & WREN STICK WORKSHOP: Make hobby horses, wren sticks, and other festive regalia for the Mummers Parade, Victoria Park Poolhouse (Sat Dec 19 from 1pm-5pm)

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on George Street

LIVE BANDS

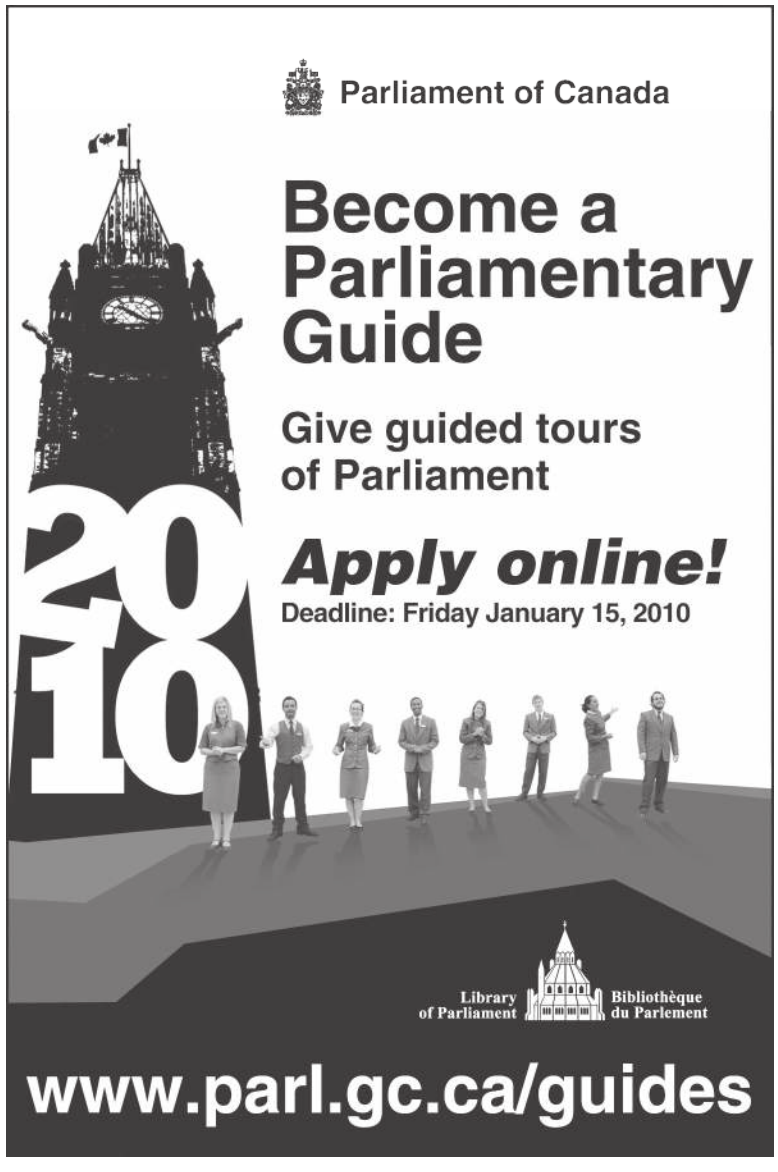
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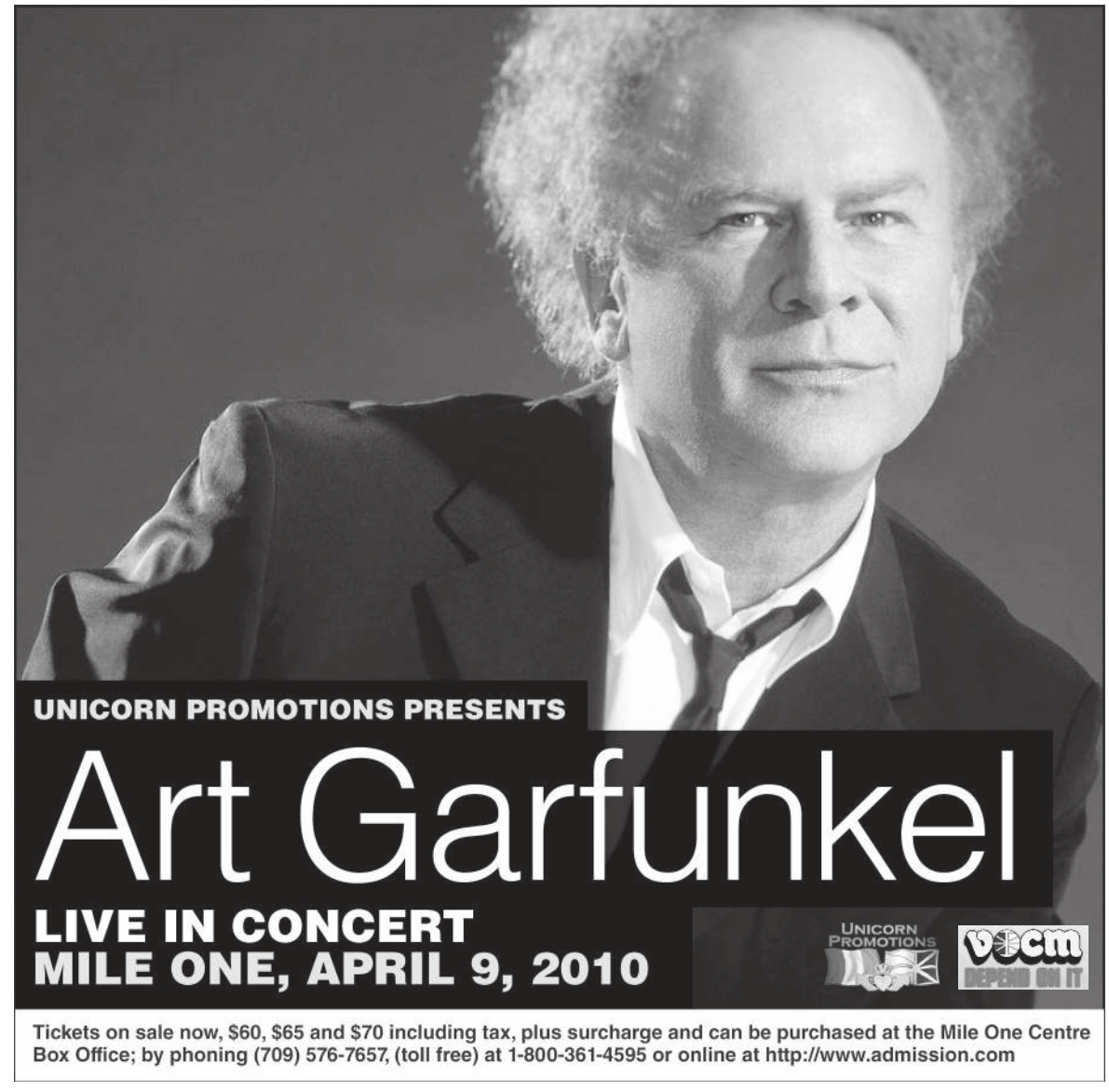
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Musicians

KEYBOARD PLAYER, new in town - looking for band to jam and/or perform with i play a nord stage 88, but haven't got my amp here yet would like to play originals - or covers, depending... i play rock, funk, prog, metal jazz, classical, latin, anything really contact via phone: 754-2456 or email: hectorthecrow@gmail.com - jonathan

LOOKING for a few like minded amateur fiddlers for practices weekly, male and female, no experts pls. Can be held at my place in CBS or will go anywhere central. Reply online at thescope.ca/classifieds/

Jobs

HELLO, I am a responsible adult looking for work in the St. John's area. Background is Medical Office/Admin but consider myself a jack of all trades. Please contact me @ 749-1101

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HURTS SO GOOD

Q I've been married four years and have a beautiful baby boy with my husband. I enjoy sex a lot, even a bit of BDSM. My husband, on the other hand, isn't "driven by sex," as he likes to put it, and will try tying me up if that's what I "really want." You'd think if he wasn't driven by sex, the few times we *did* have sex, he would last for a while, but he lasts at best five minutes. On the occasional blue moon, it'll be about 10 minutes. My problem is, all I can think about is getting fucked by some stranger with no strings attached so I can get rid of this *heartbreak*, for lack of a better word. But I always back out, because I don't want to risk my family or my husband's happiness. I don't want to be a cheater, Dan, but I don't want to spend the rest of my life having missed out on my "sexual prime" because my husband already experienced his. I should mention that he's 35 and I'm 23. I also have a few poly friends who are kinky, and they preach to me that being monogamous is a mistake and I can seek out kinky play with others without it being sexual. Please be as brutal as possible.

PERMISSION 2 EXPLORE PLEASE

A Before I get to your question, P2EP, a programming note: FUCK OUCH DAMN IT CHRIST! I'm suffering from some sort of carpal-tunnel/repetitive-motion/too-much-beating-off injury, and it feels like my right arm is on fire. Every letter I type sends a blast of white-hot pain up my arm and into my head and FUCK OUCH DAMN IT CHRIST! Since I'm in a great deal of pain here, I thought it only appropriate that I give the column over to letters about BDSM. That way, someone—my kinkiest readers—can enjoy my suffering.

Okay, P2EP, you have my permission. Not to explore, as it's not in my power to grant you permission to do that. You have my permission to go and demand permission to explore from your lazy, selfish, inconsiderate husband. Renegotiate your deal. You have needs, they're not being met, and he doesn't seem interested in meeting them. Tell him that you will remain sexually exclusive—only his cock gets near your holes (for now)—but you want and need and demand permission to at least explore erotic-but-not-fully-sexual kink with others. Sell it to him as something that relieves him of the burden of having to do this stuff—kink—with you and/or feeling bad about not doing this stuff with you.



Dan Savage
mail@savagelove.net

•••

Q I'm a straight man, age 26. I was just dumped by a married couple. The wife was very sadistic, and the husband did not enjoy pain. When we got together, she would hurt me (TT, CBT, flogging) before fucking him. The wife asked if I wanted to play alone sometime, and I said yes. When she asked her husband and told him that she had already checked with me and I was willing, he said that I had violated our agreement. It isn't easy finding people into SM where we live—the Bible Belt of Canada—and playing alone was her idea, not mine. What do I do?

DUMPED UP NORTH

A You move. The husband is blaming you because it's less consequential than blaming the wife. But he's clearly not comfortable—FUCK OUCH DAMN IT CHRIST!—having your black-and-blue ass around anymore, due to the wife's actions, and so you're out. Unfair, yes, but there's not a lot you can do about it. Besides move.

•••

Q I am a 22-year-old bisexual male who goes to a small, prestigious liberal-arts college in the Midwest. I've had boyfriends, girlfriends, and one-night stands, but I have never really felt like sex worked out as well as I imagine it could. I have a dominant personality, and people tend to follow me. Perhaps for this reason, I have fetishized submission. I imagine I would be into bondage and domination. I think I am a bit more attracted to women and would love to find a woman who takes a strong, dominant role in our relationship. I feel like I am always expected to make the first move with women, which has led me to prefer hooking up with men. I just wonder if there is anything I could do to find a woman who'd be into dominating me.

I don't really like making the first move, but I've found just waiting and looking pretty doesn't work too well with women. Are there some ladies I could approach, and after the initial flirting, the dynamic would change and they would take the lead? How would I know who these people are?

NOT SURE WHAT I WANT

A There may be one or two young women kicking around your small, prestigious liberal-arts college who fantasize about taking the lead, about tying up and dominating their boyfriends, NSWIW, but they're not going to be tottering around campus in high-heeled boots and latex and leather. And even dominant women who are out tend to observe/succumb to the same cultural norms/practices that you find frustrating, i.e., they expect the male to make the first move, even in kinky environments.

But back to the young women you're likely to encounter at your prestigious college: A lot of women with naturally dominant and/or sadistic streaks—women who will one day really enjoy BDSM—don't realize it until that first submissive boyfriend draws it out of them. So if you want to get tied up, pegged, and bossed around while you're at college, NSWIW, you need to be paradoxically assertive about your submissive tendencies. You may have to ask four or five girls, or a dozen, before you hit the jackpot (before you ask a dominant girl), but you will have to take the lead.

•••

Q I am a 24-year-old lesbian who has been out for five years. I am also hot, vain, in shape, and kinky as all hell. I suppose I'm what you'd call a "lipstick lesbian." In any event, I like being thrown around, tied up, gagged, etc. One of my all-time favorite fantasies is the lesbian equivalent of pegging, i.e., being done up the ass by a hot woman with a strap-on. I like the vanilla stuff as well—holding, kissing, cuddling, dyking it up—but what I'm really into is bondage. And my last girlfriend dumped me when I mentioned that I liked to be tied up. My question is, are there other young, kinky, sexaholic feminine lesbians/bisexual women out there? Am I a complete freak? Or am I just being a sexually selfish boor? Should I just try to let go of my kinks?

DOMINATION YEARNINGS KEEP ENCOUNTERS STIMULATING

P.S. Thank you so much for all the times you've emphasized that straight men who are into pegging are just that—straight. It helped me to accept that my own pegging fantasies don't make me any less a lesbian, because so much of their appeal comes from the fact that it would be a *woman* doing the pegging.

A Only a small percentage of women are lesbians, DYKES, and an even smaller number of that already-small number are kinky. Your best strategy is to be out about your kinks from the start, so that you don't waste any more of your time and vanity-inducing hotness on women who won't tie your ass up.

And finally: FUCK OUCH DAMN IT CHRIST!

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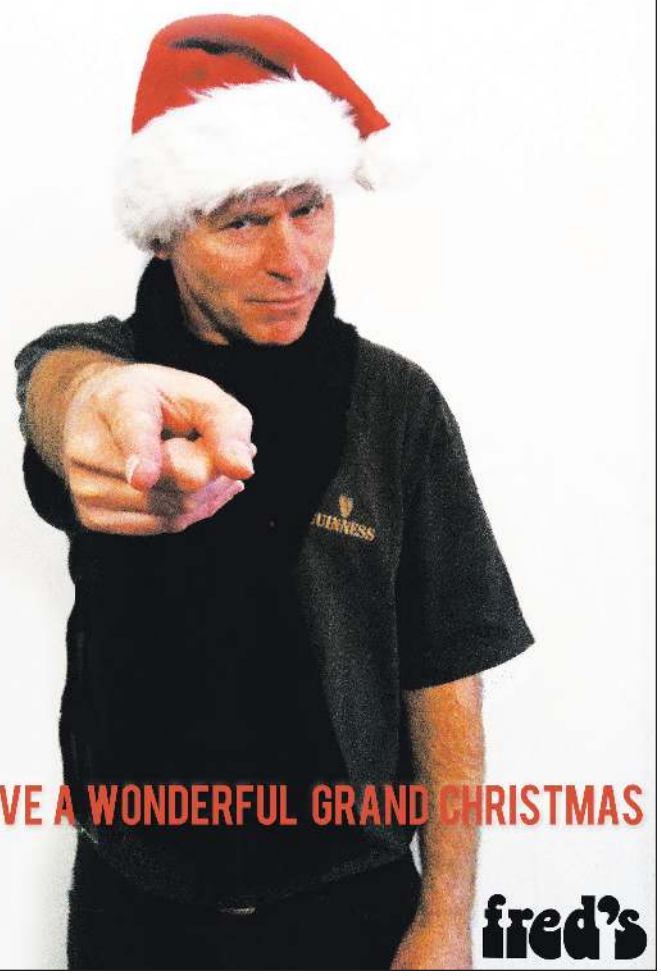
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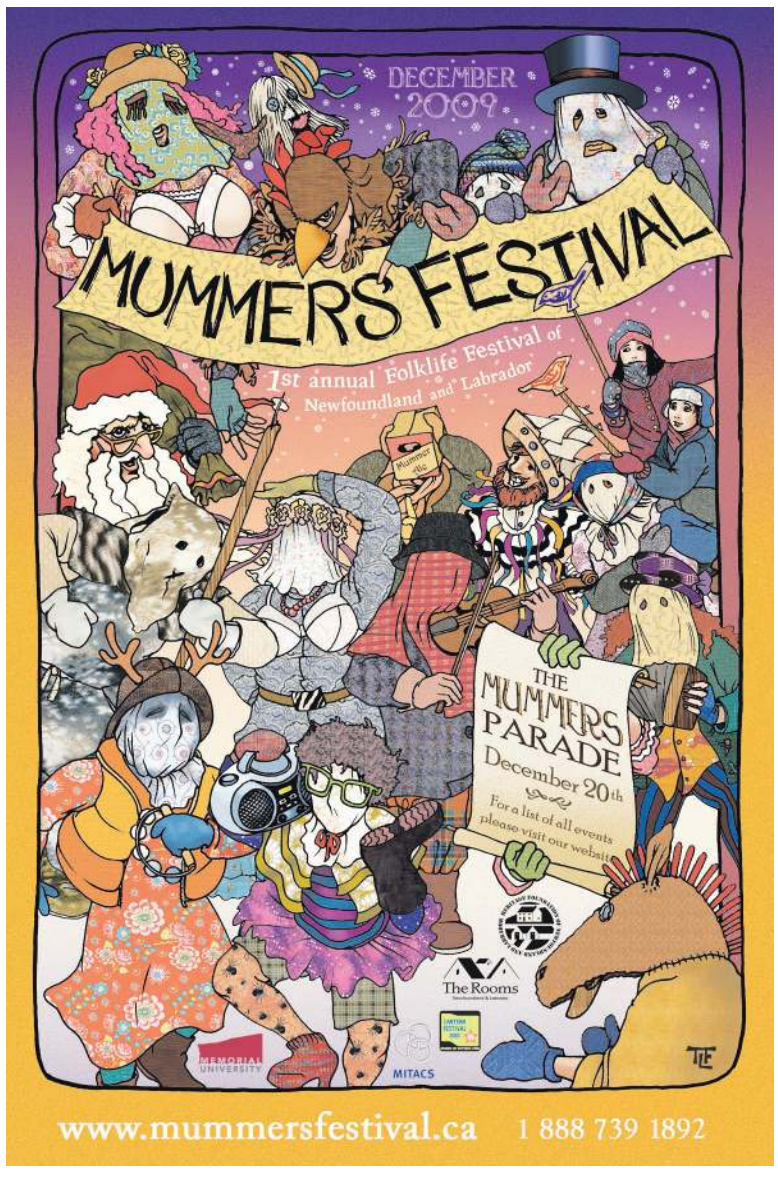
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