A true testament to the 'sweet nectar of the gods'

The Big Book O' Beer
Duane Swierczynski
(Quirk Books, $27.95)

by Greg LeBlanc

Like beer? Love beer? Want to marry it, take it to a soft beach in Bermuda for a honeymoon and then grow old and grey with it, only to finally pass out in its loving arms at the end of your life? Want to find out why you should?

Well, your answer lies within the pages of one amazing text. If beer ever became a religion - and it probably should if it hasn't already - this book would be its bible. Everything that you've ever wanted to know about that 'sweet nectar of the gods' can be found in one fun, informative, and fascinating volume: *The Big Book O' Beer*.

Starting with the history of beer, followed by a pilgrimage through the world of beers and breweries, then through connoisseurship, crafts, games and science, this is the most comprehensive guide to beer that I have ever laid my hands upon.

There were many highlights for me in this beer compendium, including 'World Beer Records' – the world's largest bar is *Red's* in Edmonton, Alberta – and 'The Atlas of Beer,' which tells about unique bars, great breweries, and beer stats. Did you know that Molson is the oldest beer brewery in North America?

However, my proudest moment was when I read that the 2002 World Beer Games winner was Team Canada! If chugging was an Olympic event, I'm sure Canada would have doubled their medal count this year.

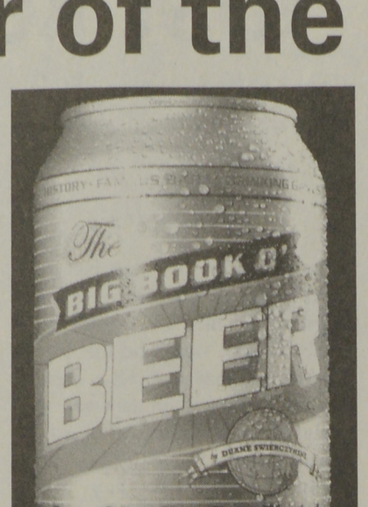
Feel that Confucius is over your head and Shakespeare is too wordy? Try learning words of wisdom from *Cheers*' Norm instead:

"What'd you like, Normie?"

"A reason to live. Give me a beer."

"What's your pleasure, Mr. Peterson?"

"Boxer shorts and loose shoes. But I'll settle for a beer."



Ah, Norm. I will truly miss your insights into the nebulous mind of Joe 'Six-Pack' America. For those of you who want to become beer snobs – cause really, don't we all want to impress our beer buddies with our connoisseurship? – *The Big Book O' Beer* talks about hundreds of kinds, covering everything from the thick cream ales of the British Isles, to the rice beers of northern Japan, to the cheapest of brews to be found in the back allies of Philadelphia. It even teaches you the proper techniques for smelling, tasting and describing your beer! We all know Alpine sucks, but now you can learn *why*.

So, for those men, women, and children out there who enjoy nothing more than a cool, stiff pull from a fresh brew on a sunny afternoon, or for those who are just starting out and can't tell the difference between a dark-malted-hops ale and apple juice, this book is for you. Now, let us all cheer for the greatest beverage on earth.

Comeback of the Week



Beenie Man
Back To Basics
(Virgin)

After being named "King of the Dancehall" following such huge successes *as Art and Life* (2000) and *Tropical Storm* (2002), Beenie Man, the 'doctor' of dancehall riddims is going *Back to Basics* and maintaining his dominance of the reggae-pop crossover.

'King of the Dancehall' and 'Dude,' the album's first two singles, have already hinted at upbeat and 'waist–wining' grooves, but all of the tracks on this disc are ones that are sure to be enjoyed by any reggae/hip-hop clubheads.

Beenie Man, being the gal-lovin' dude that he is, is sure to have your hips moving throughout the 15 tracks on this album.

This man is declaring, yet again, his love of women. For instance, in the track titled 'Love All Girls,' Beenie sings of his love for American, English, European, Caribbean, Brazilian, Asian, and Indonesian girls. (As a Canadian girl, I was quite insulted, but hey, for musical purposes, I'll let it slide.)

Also, on multiple tracks, he refers to himself as a doctor, one who knows how to please women like no other. Of course, directly related to this is track 12: 'Pussy Language.'

That's right, this is Beenie's claim to understanding the female anatomy so much so that, once again, he pleases like no other.

So what are the basics that Beenie Man has travelled back to?

I'd say a combination of the two things he does best: pleasing women and making hip-grinding dancehall reggae music.

All around, this is a CD well worth a listen or two.

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• *Nicole Gifford*

New variations on an age-old theme at BAG

Beaverbrook Art Gallery's new exhibit celebrates a renowned local talent

by Ann Lockhart

Think Alex Coville, think Andy Warhol, mate them, and you get the new exhibition at the Beaverbrook Art Gallery. *Glenn Priestley: Variations* is well worth the walk down to the Beaverbrook Art Gallery to see.

At the opening reception last Saturday the Fredericton artist impressed everyone with his work before viewers even understood who he was.

His paintings and drawings showcase familiar scenes that focus on regular people, both detached from their own environment and deep in their element.

These images present what appears to be a realistic, wholesome view of our modern world - of us when no one's looking.

They are very accessible to those not familiar with art, and their haunting, simplistic quality is captivating.

The visitor's experience will be heightened by the thoughtful arrangement of paintings and drawings, additional work by Tom Smart, the guest curator, and the spacious layout of the gallery itself.

Priestley received an honours diploma from the Ontario College of Art and Design and studied anatomy at the University of Toronto.

When looking at his paintings and drawings one can deduce his interest in and knowledge of the human form immediately.

His works are full of life, uncluttered and always composed with thought-provoking care.

His work has been showcased throughout the world, including international solo exhibitions in Toronto and New York.

At the opening both Priestley and his work were praised, demonstrating Fredericton's obvious pride in the local artist.

The gallery's director, Mr. Bernard Riordon, spoke about the gallery's relationship with Priestley, starting with the first drawing that became a part of the BAG's permanent collection several years ago when he was first impressed by the unknown artist's work.

"First of all," he stated, "this artist can *draw*."

Priestley himself spoke candidly about his work, thanking the Fredericton community, the gallery staff, and Mr. Tom Smart, the guest curator, for the work they had done.

The honourable Andy Scott, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, officially opened the exhibition.

Also currently showing at the gallery is *The Changing Land: Modern British Landscape Painting, 1900-1950.*

Presenting an interesting historical look at the diverse landscape of England during the first half of the 20th century, this exhibition is worth a look as well.

A couple of paintings look strangely postmodern, attesting to the diverse range of styles used by the featured group of artists when united only by the genre of landscape and the 50-year time span.

While at the Beaverbrook, don't miss the powerful paintings and drawings of the gallery's permanent collection.

The gallery is open Monday to Friday 9 am - 6 pm, Saturday and Sunday 10am - 5pm until September 30th. Admission is 5$ for adults, 2$ for students, and pay-as-you-wish on Tuesdays.

For more information, visit the Gallery's website at:
www.beaverbrookartgallery.org.

Fail-proof recipe for a great Canadian salad

Darren 'Mista D' Dumas gets down and dishy on The Salads' love affair with Canada

by Nicole Gifford



Special to *The Brunswickan*

Everything you need to make a great salad is right here.

Canada produces the world's best Salads. How is it done?

First, combine a group of four guys: Dave Ziemba on guitar, Grant Taylor on the drums, Chuck with a bass, and Darren 'Mista D' Dumas up front spewing lyrics.

Add to each an appreciation for all kinds of music: jazz, classic rock, punk, ska, reggae, metal - you name it, they love it. Finally, add the secret ingredient: a little Canadian pride.

Toss it up, and you've got yourself The Salads!

Commonly referred to as 'the biggest independent band in Canada', The Salads have remained a modest group of guys. Born and raised in Toronto, Ontario, they haven't forgotten the place that showed them their first wave of success. In a recent interview, lead singer Darren made it clear that "this is our stomping ground … we're Canadian boys. The focus will always be on Canada."

He explained why the focus remains on Canada: "Canada is an extremely beautiful country. Going out west and driving through the mountains in B.C. is fucking breathtaking."

As for out east, "there's a vibe out there; it's just so cool. The people on the east coast are the nicest people in Canada."

Besides being a great place to live, however, the band has been inspired by growing up in Canada.

"The things we experience in life sort of come through in our music," says Darren.

After their first trip out west, where they visited Jasper, Alberta, the band's bassist Chuck even named his now one-and-a-half-year-old son Jasper. "Ultimately, Canada's our home. I mean, this will always be our favorite place to play."

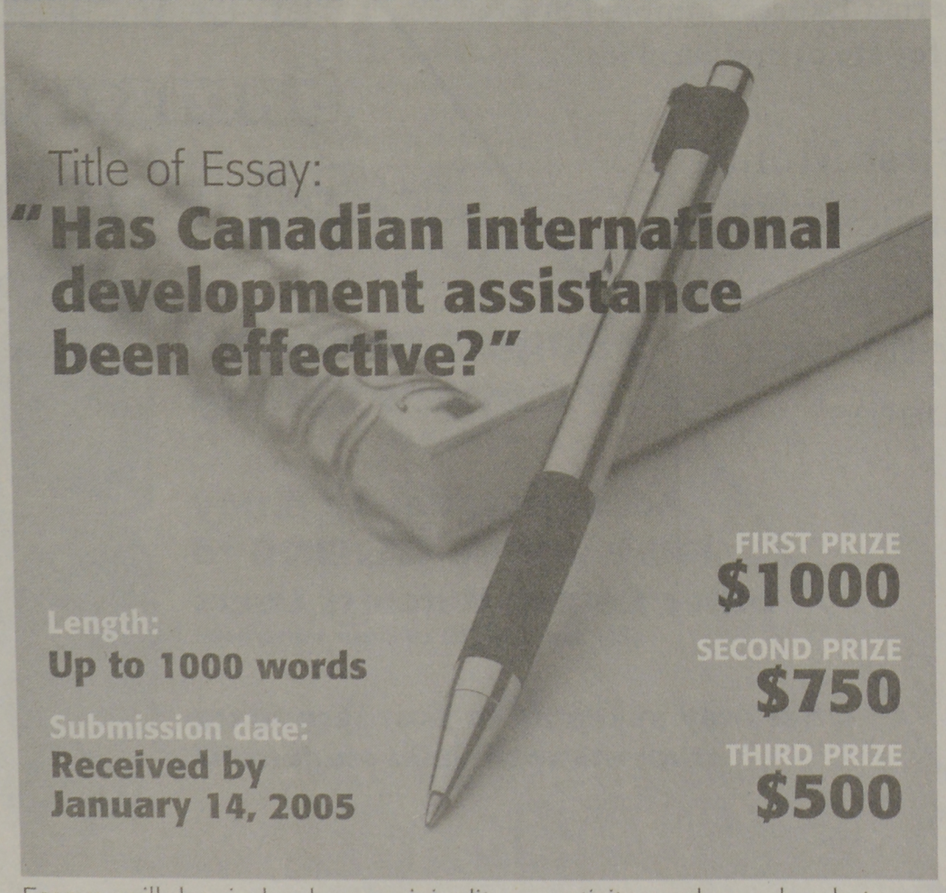
As of yet, the band has only done two shows outside Canada - one in Texas and one in L.A. However, with a DVD set to be released in early November and an album in the works for early next year, The Salads would like to spread their roots and widen their audience base. As Darren points out, "world domination is any smart band's long term goal."

With such a healthy appetite for a wonderful country, it's no wonder Canada has embraced The Salads.

The Salads will be at Sweetwater's with Project Orange tomorrow night.

Undergraduate
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'Idol' finalist comes to town

Kaleb Simmonds proves he's more than just Number 7

by Troy Neilson

While the words 'Canadian Idol' likely stir visions of short-lived fame for R&B singers, Kaleb Simmonds is a clear-cut exception.

Hailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia, Kaleb first began singing in church at the age of seven. Now a mature 21, he more than proved his amazing singing ability on Canadian Idol by finishing seventh overall. Even more impressive, Kaleb is one of Atlantic Canada's premiere beat-boxers, as he has been blessed with the astonishing ability to sing an R&B song while simultaneously making the beat with his mouth. In some cases, he even plays a harmonica.

Over the recent years, he's been nominated for a 2002 and 2003 East Coast Music Award as part of the Homiez Productions collective. Meanwhile, his talent has attracted the likes of Cirque Du Soleil and captivated hip-hop communities throughout Atlantic Canada. He's opened for big names like Redman and Rahzel, and managed to solidify his membership in the GoodNight Music collective, which consists of Canadian underground hip-hop heavyweights Skratch Bastid, The Goods (Kunga 219 & Gordski) and Tachichi.

This Saturday, Kaleb Simmonds will bring his unique mix of R&B, beat boxing and hip-hop to the Elk's Club. He'll be joined by rapper Syco, R&B singer Shane C, R&B up-and-comer Justin; ECMA-nominated rapper Bonshah; and First Words, a local group who have enjoyed national exposure on the Dig Your Roots compilation.

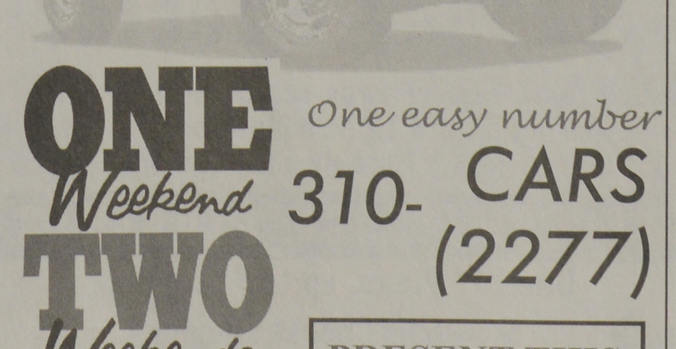
Kaleb Simmonds is much more than just a Canadian Idol R&B fad; he's a solid piece of the Canadian underground hip-hop scene. Come out to support this rising star, and I guarantee this "Skratch Bastid-approved" talent will knock your socks off.

Doors open at 10 p.m., admission is $10. The event is 19+, so bring a valid ID.



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