

Reviewing some of the memorable events of 2003

compiled by Carole Morris

JANUARY:

Pete Townshend is charged with downloading child pornography - four months later the charges were dropped. Townshend claimed he was doing research for a book.

In Canada, it becomes required to register firearms.

Ottawa Senators hockey club file for bankruptcy protection.

BC Premier Gordon Campbell arrested in Hawaii for drunk driving.

FEBRUARY:

Space shuttle Columbia disintegrates while re-entering Earth's atmosphere. The entire crew was killed.

Inderjit Singh Reyat is sentenced to five years in prison for the 1985 Air India bombing, which had killed 329 people.

Ice jam causes major flooding in Badger, Newfoundland - residents evacuated from homes.

Millions of people protest impending war in Iraq with peace rallies and marches.

During a Great White concert in a nightclub in West Warwick, Rhode Island, pyrotechnics causes club to burst into flames. More than 90 people were killed.

Sea King crashes on the deck of a Canadian destroyer ship headed for the Arabian Sea.

MARCH:

After nine months of searching, 14 year-old Elizabeth Smart was found. She had been abducted from her bedroom window by Emanuel, aka David Brian Mitchell, and his wife, Wanda Eileen Barzee.

Bush gives a 48-hour ultimatum to Saddam Hussein, telling him to leave Iraq or face war. Hussein braces himself for war.

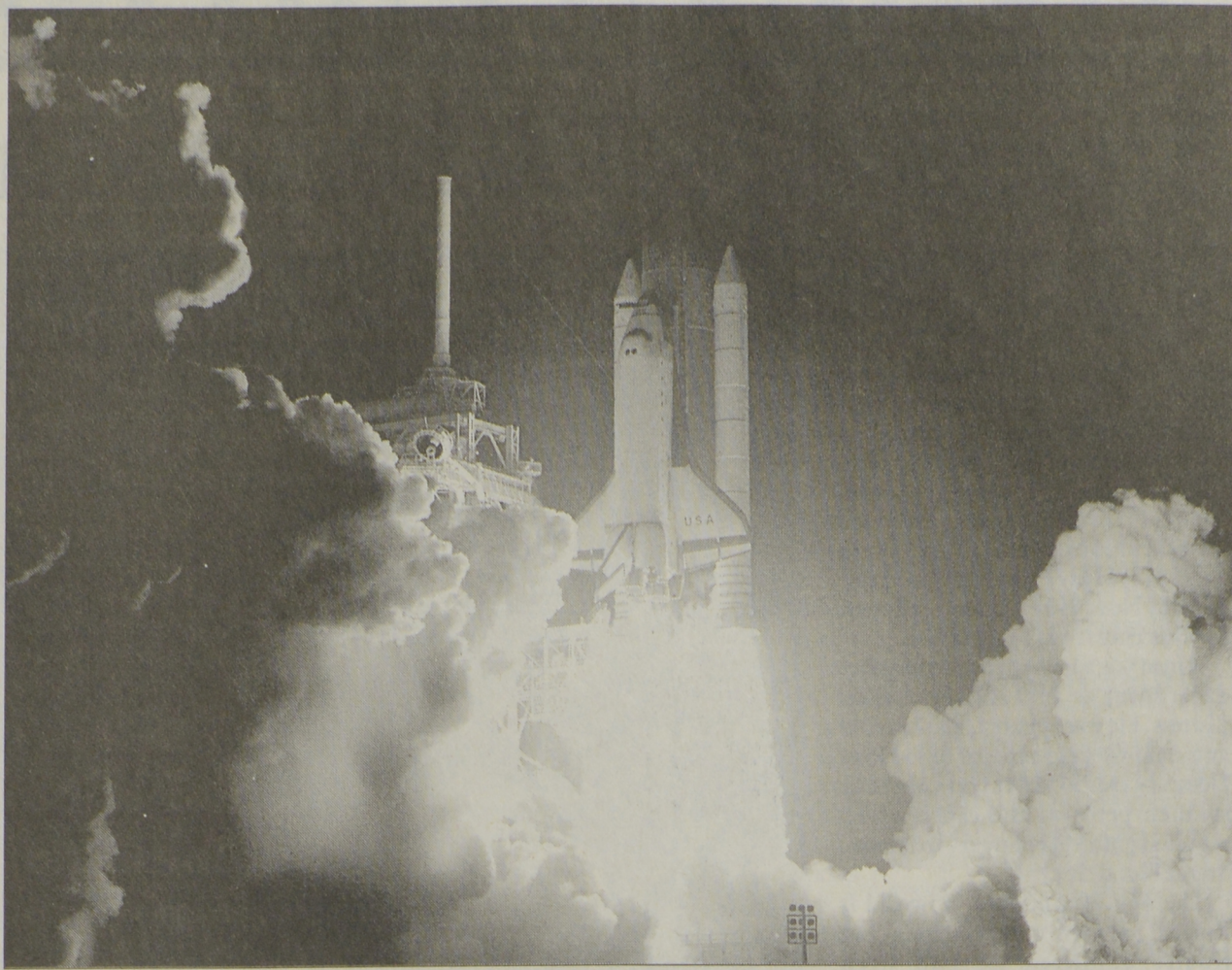
Jean Chretien decided Canada would not join in the war on Iraq without UN support.

Natalie Maines from the Dixie Chicks announces she's embarrassed to admit Bush is from Texas. The country group gets booed and banned from appearing at many venues.

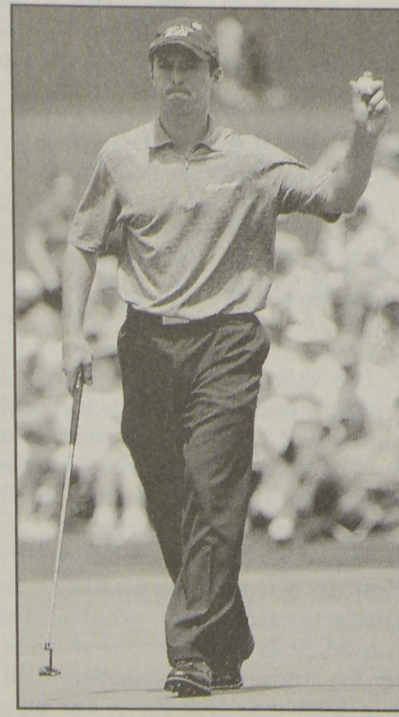
Ontario declares a health emergency concerning SARS.

APRIL:

Recording Industry Association of America sued Joe Nievelt, 20, for \$98 billion after finding a file-sharing search engine in his dorm room.



Left to right: Space shuttle Columbia taking off on doomed journey, Mike Weir becomes the first Canadian to win the Masters golf tournament, and Mad Cow disease strikes Canada in the summer and US in the winter.



Internet

Eventually settled lawsuit with RIAA for \$15,000.

US troops storm Baghdad, topple statue of Saddam Hussein. Looting of museums begins.

Mike Weir becomes the first Canadian to win the Masters golf tournament.

In an attempt to prevent the global outbreak of SARS, the World Health Organization (WHO) issues travel advisory naming Toronto as well as Beijing as places to avoid.

North Korea admits to having nuclear weapons.

MAY:

Canada beats Sweden in world hockey championship.

British adventurer Pen Hadrow, 41, becomes the first person to walk across Canada to the North Pole.

Canada's first confirmed case of Mad Cow Disease spreads fear, prompts US, Australia and Japan to ban beef imports from Canada.

UN Security Council lifts 13 years of sanctions against Iraq; US and

Britain gain control of its oil until a legitimate government is in place in the country.

JUNE:

Liberian President Charles Taylor charged with war crimes by the international court for Sierra Leone.

Martha Stewart indicted on nine criminal charges for alleged illegal stock trades.

Canadian Federal government to change the definition of marriage to include gays and lesbians.

JULY:

Odai and Quasi Hussein are killed by US troops, pictures of their dead bodies appear in newspapers and on TV shows worldwide.

Iranian conjoined twins die in Singapore after doctors attempt to separate them. They were 29 years old.

Vancouver wins right to host 2010 Winter Olympics.

WHO removes Toronto from SARS-affected area list.

Nearly a half of a million people

attend SARS benefit concert in Toronto. Featured acts included the Rolling Stones, AC/DC, The Guess Who, and Justin Timberlake.

Lance Armstrong wins Tour de France again - his fifth consecutive time.

Kobe Bryant accused of sexual assault; case causes media frenzy.

AUGUST:

Britney Spears and Madonna kiss at the Video Music Awards. Madonna kisses Christina Aguilera as well; however, it didn't cause as much of a stir in the media.

Forest fires in parts of Alberta, British Columbia and California raged on, despite efforts to control them.

Forty-four becomes the final death toll for the summertime outbreak of SARS in Canada.

French health minister resigns after heat wave in France kills 10,000.

Fifty million people left in the dark after the biggest blackout in North American history hits Ontario, New

York, Cleveland, Detroit and most of the eastern seaboard. A big baby boom is expected for 2004.

Mars passes by Earth the closest it's been in the last 60,000 years.

SEPTEMBER:

Netherlands becomes the first country to allow marijuana to be available as a prescription drug. Pharmacies allowed to sell it to chronically ill patients.

Montreal's Dorval Airport renamed Pierre Elliott Trudeau

International Airport.

Supreme Court of Canada ruled Metis are distinct aboriginal group with constitutional rights to hunt for food.

Universal, the world's largest record company, decides to cut retail price of new releases.

OCTOBER:

Arnold Schwarzenegger wins recall election, becomes Governor of California.

Canadian Maher Arar released from Syrian jail after a year in custody; investigation into why he was detained commences.

China launched its first manned spacecraft and landed it safely after orbiting Earth 14 times.

Canadian MPs approve legislation for the limited use of human embryos in medical research and banning human cloning.

Siegfried & Roy's Las Vegas act cancelled after 600 lb. tiger attacks Roy Horn.

NOVEMBER:

Gene Robinson consecrated as bishop of New Hampshire - the Anglican Communion's first openly homosexual bishop.

Paul Martin elected leader of federal Liberals at convention in Toronto.

Michael Jackson faces charges of child molestation in California.

John Allen Muhammad is sentenced to death for the Washington sniper murders.

DECEMBER:

US soldiers capture Saddam Hussein after finding him in a hole in the ground. Images of him being swabbed for DNA appear in newspapers and on TV.

US announces first ever case of Mad Cow Disease, blames Canada.

More than 30,000 feared dead in Bam, Iran after a large earthquake hit the city.

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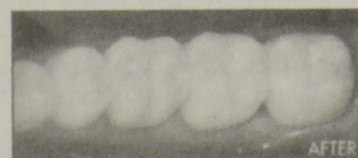
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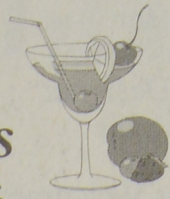
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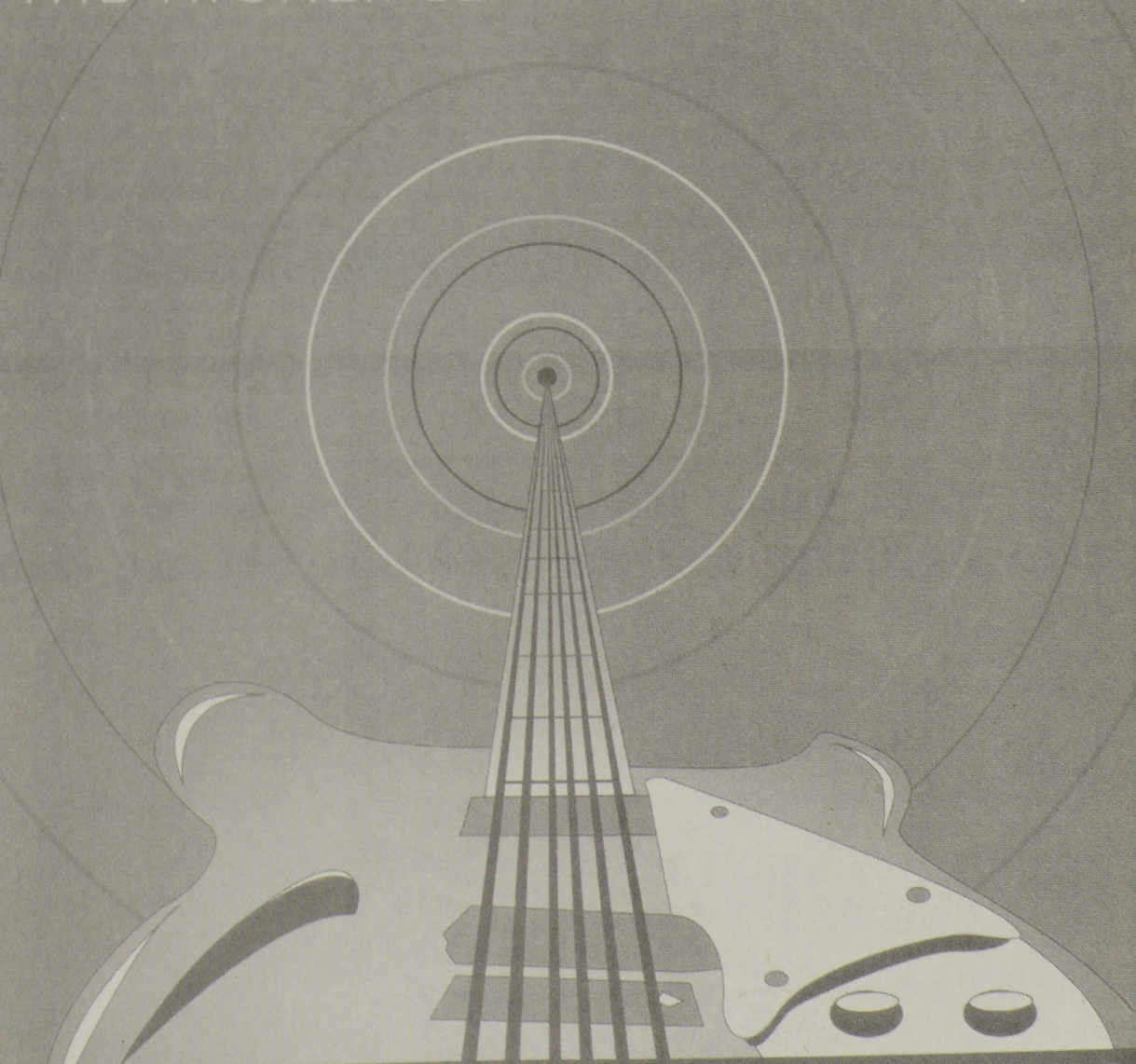
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