

# Pinpoint

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A quarterly supplement to Humber Et Cetera



## Trends 97

Scarring

Road Lugging

Kick Boxing

Gambling

CyberPorn

Fetish Dressing

Internet Cafes

Plus Much More

# Cigars

the new indulgence

## From the Editor

# Women hit the turf

As another winter looms upon us it's almost time to put away those tired golf clubs. Have someone hide them if you have to, but make sure they're out of sight. It's time to unveil the downhill skis and that ever popular snow board. And just what exactly do all three of these sports have in common? Well according to the trends experts of Canada's leading talk show host, Dini Petty, corporate women are quickly becoming the leading experts both on the hill and on the fairway.

Before you fall off your seat, let's take a look at how this happened. We all know the "grand old game" of golf has long since belonged to the old boys club. If you talk to Phil Cate of Filo Entertainment, one of Toronto's leading corporate event organizers, you won't be surprised to discover that the majority of the company's corporate events are centered around corporate golf tournaments. Events such as the Bell Canada Open at Glen Abbey Golf and Country Club and Scotia bank's annual T-off bonanza, are flags along the fairway to corporate success in the late 90s.

Which leads us to the women. Gone are the days where most clubs restrict the number of female golfers in the locker rooms or reserve the ideal T-off times for their male members. As women play an increasingly intrinsic part of big business, they are also developing pro swings on the course.

And retail golf suppliers are grinning from ear to ear with the news. If you flip to the new products

section of Golf for Women, you'll get the low-down on great gear and other gadgets for the up and coming female golfer. Are you in the market for sterling silver golf clubs or a new bag? How about some 18 karat golf ball studs to accent your fairway attire? And then there's the Lady Classic golf glove. The open end finger tips leave room for fingernails to peek out and the slit in the index finger lets your extra large diamond ring shine through on the fairway.

But let's not be too quick to assume that women's interest is purely superficial. If you speak to the store manager at Nevada Bob's Golf and Racquet, one of Canada's largest national golf supply distributors, he'll tell you that "men are much more image conscious on the golf course than women. They are much more likely to spend double the amount on name brand clubs and clothing. They take golfing as seriously as they take their toy cars."

Of course women corporate golfers are not only limited to our metro area fairways. If you're looking for a change of scenery or a little off-season swinging, you can visit golf retreats along Florida's Gold Coast, Scottsdale Arizona and the famous fairways of Australia just to mention a few of the best.

Michelle Lambert, a rising accounts executive at Padulo, one of Toronto's hottest advertising agencies, has been an avid golfer ever since she landed her

first corporate job. Among other things, she adds that it's a great resume booster. "Women golfers are very serious. You don't show up at the company golf tournament unless you can play. It's a mix of serious business with serious golf."

Hot off the best seller list in the United States is a book called I Know Absolutely Nothing About Golf, by Steve Eubanks and Whitney Crouse. It's the story of a businesswoman who has 30 days to learn golf in preparation for a corporate event. The book guides the beginning golfer through the game, its history, terminology, equipment, rules, etiquette, where to go for classes and where to play.

So if you had your heart set on joining the ranks of the corporate women, don't miss out on the golfer's bandwagon. The sign up list for winter lessons at Nevada Bob's is well on its way and over one-third of this year's participants are businesswomen.

If the trends experts are right, it looks like you can forget about that roof-top lunch at the Plaza patio. Corporate women are dialing around to find out if you have the time to play a quick round of nine.

*Jenna Johnston*

Jenna Johnston  
Editor



## Cover



### On the cover

Our model indulges in a cigar, the new white collar vice. So relax, inhale if you want, and enjoy our exploration of this and other trends for 1997.

- Joseph Di Fonzo  
Art Director

Photo styled by Holly Crawford.

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# Scarring Out an Identity

by Michela Pasquali

Doing something different means more than just going out and getting a tattoo or pierced navel

## What's next?

**W**hen Mickey Schmidt had his lips sewn shut for the first time, it was part of a performance art piece. The next three times, he did it to himself, drawing a needle and thread through his upper and lower lip eight times each. Just to experience what it felt like.

"It was incredibly moving. It was an incredible experience," he says. "Your body is being traumatized and it wants to stop. There's reflexive actions that go along with that. You cause yourself pain, your hand physically stops and you have to psychologically convince your hand to continue doing what it's doing. It's not the easiest thing in the world to do."

Schmidt, a body artist at New Tribe on Queen St. says extreme forms of body modification that revive ancient, primitive rituals like the one he experienced and other forms such as branding and cutting-scarification are becoming more popular these days.

Schmidt does about two brandings or cutting-scarifications a month and says

**"People who are marking their bodies in this way are setting themselves apart and in particular the painfulness is not coincidental"**

most clients are attracted to both the experience and the beauty of the finished product.

"A lot of people are doing it partially for the memory, for the memory of going through the experience, what it meant for them, what it brought out for them, but also there is the physical, visual scar tissue that represents that act."

Branding involves striking the skin with small pieces of red hot metal. Artists use different grades and thicknesses of metal, temperatures, angles and striking techniques to brand what is usually a simple, multi-strike geometric shape or pattern.

Cutting-scarification is more painful, but can create more intricate patterns.

The skin is scarred by making incisions over a stenciled pattern with a surgeon's scalpel or by pinching the skin and then cutting it off to a specific design.

Both procedures require the use of proper, sterilized tools and some irrita-

**"Lots of people will do it as a rite of passage, even for themselves, even outside a cultural base"**

tion of the skin with oil or vinegar to promote scar tissue. Each process takes about a month to heal.

Mark Kingwell, associate professor of philosophy at the University of Toronto says some people engage in these primitive forms of body art as a way of setting themselves apart from mainstream society.

"When you get your first suit, it's sort of our equivalent of being initiated in mainstream terms, but people who are marking their bodies in this way are setting themselves apart, and in particular, the painfulness is not coincidental."

Kingwell says the pain is an important aspect of these art forms which have been practiced for thousands of years in central African, New Zealand and South Pacific island cultures.

"It can't be too easy and it can't be something that you just put on and take off like a shirt," he says. "There's an extremity about it which is what I think attracts many people."

Cheeba, 33, a soft-spoken Toronto piercer was hesitant about being identified because she didn't want to be labeled as strange or sado-masochistic. "I don't like pain," she says, and that the

pain is not what attracted her to branding.

Cheeba says the sensation of having the symbol of Venus branded to her left calf was important, but that the experience was most significant for its "mystical, almost magical" quality.

"I didn't go into this just knowing that I wanted to end up with a scar. I knew that that would just be one aspect of it," she says. "I went into the whole thing knowing that it was going to take me on a journey, knowing that it was going to facilitate my spiritual growth."

The branding, she says, was "life changing".

"This experience for me was wonderfully empowering and it reunited me with my goddess aspect. I had a very powerful vision after the actual branding that was just the most amazing thing I've ever experienced in my life."

NEW TRIBE'S Schmidt says the types of people getting scarred or branded vary, but the procedures are most popular among people in their mid twenties. He says the reasons for getting the work done also differ for each person, but that

many are attempting to physically mark an important turning point, most often the ending or beginning of a relationship.

"Lots of people will do it as a rite of passage, even for themselves, outside a cultural base. I have gone through something major in my life. This is my representation of that."

Blair, a piercer and brander at Tatarama in Etobicoke branded his forearms recently, adding a new design to the tattoos he had done years ago. He also

has several visible piercings and has been known to swallow swords.

He says the brandings and scarrings he has done for select clients are not often something people decide to do on a whim.

"People don't usually come in for branding and say 'oh yeah, that looks pretty cool, I want one of those'. That never happens."

He says branding is more popular



Branding (left) and cutting-scarification (above) are almost as mainstream as body piercing in places like California and England. Toronto's a little behind the times, but there are at least three tattoo shops in Metro that can accommodate your every scarring need.

Scar and brand by Daemon Rowanchilde at Urban Primitive.

than scarrification because it is less painful and looks less extreme

"THE actual branding part I don't find that painful for most people. It's more a couple of days later, it gets really sore and achy and then they're tired of it."

"Scarring is a little bit different because it's done with a scalpel, so there's blood involved in the whole thing and I think that freaks people out a bit."

Both scarrings and brandings start at about \$80 for a small design and go up in price, depending on the amount of time the artist takes to complete it.

**"Scarring is a little bit different because it's done with a scalpel, so there's blood involved in the whole thing and I think that freaks people out a bit"**

Schmidt predicts branding and scarrification will become more and more popular and will eventually become as mainstream as tattooing and piercing are today.

And those who look to set themselves apart from the mainstream will just have to find something else.

"There are actually jokes going on in the industry right now about how cutting off your pinkie, actually doing amputations, is going to become 'in'."



Mark Kingwell, U of T professor and author of *Dreams of Millenium: Report from a Culture on the Brink*

# LUGERS CAN BE WINNERS

## Shredding the black top in California - Is Ontario next?

It may be dangerous, it may be scary but it could also be fun to hurl yourself down a hill at over 40 kilometres an hour. And, if 12-year-olds on skateboards can do it, then any 20-year-old who likes a good adrenaline rush and doesn't mind a few broken bones can road-luge too.

In fact, you barely have to leave your neighborhood to find a hill to match your wits against.

"There are a lot of suitable hills all around Montreal and in northern Ontario (that would be appropriate for street-luging). It's not finding a location that's difficult. It's finding a person who has that kind of suicidal tendency," said Clement Duriez, a proprietor of Go-Kart Mont. St. Hilaire, near Montreal.

And, he should know. A "go-kart", after all, is just a luge with an engine and steering wheel.

Bob Pereyra, who is the founder and current president of the Road Racers Association for International Luge (RAIL) in California, is just the adventurous person Duriez is referring to. He has been a road-luge pilot for over a decade and has made the sport known world-wide. He's even applied to have road-luge featured in the Olympics Games in 2000.

RAIL currently has more than 100 members including racing and non-racing memberships. Wrapped in leather suits and their full-face helmets strapped tight, they use narrow eight foot aluminum beams for cruising down mountain roads at freeway speeds averaging 105-118 k.m./hr. "Our only means of braking are our shoes (high tops)," Pereyra told Pinpoint.

Beyond their focus on braking, pilots need good concentration to avoid getting smeared by passing traffic or being discovered by police. Road-luge racers should be aware that there are municipal bylaws against playing or taking part in any game or sport on a roadway. Fines in Toronto run at \$90, said a Metro police spokesman.

Pilots lessen their legal worries when they participate in organized competitions such as at ESPN's X Games. Thirty-two racers from the United States, Austria, Germany, and Brazil came to participate in the international land-luge event this past summer.

"Without ESPN we might have had to wait five - seven more years before we would have received that kind of attention," said Pereyra, who placed first in the 1995 dual luge event in spite of an injured ankle.

"The Extreme Games showed me what exposure can do for a sport and for me personally," said U.S. road-luge pilot Shawn Goulart in a RAIL news letter.

ESPN isn't the only way street-luge pilots are getting publicity. Although sponsorship is a delicate issue - as companies are often hesitant to support

emerging sports - Vans Inc. in California, and other manufacturers, have already attached their label to the sport. And, road-luge has also received attention from USA Today, the L.A. Times, Sports Illustrated (centre fold) and from a Dew & Diet Mountain Dew (Route 66) commercial.

There are about 200 pro and amateur racers world-wide. Most pilots are in their 30s and have raced cars, motorcycles, skateboards, snowboards or mountain bikes before. The sport

includes both genders with professions ranging from real-estate developer to horse dentist to pot farmer.

Goulart said street-luge was likely founded in the Philippines (in the late '50s). Pereyra disagrees and told Pinpoint that road-luge derived from skateboarding and originated in California (in the late '60s). "I ran out of gas and used my skateboard to travel down hill," said Pereyra, explaining his first attempt at road-luge.

However, road-luge pilots aren't as concerned with the origin as they are with what direction the sport is headed.

Although road-luge has been tagged with becoming the new "Soap Box Derby" by the year 2000, a spokesman for Toronto's skateboarding stores say it's too underground for their involvement yet.

"I really haven't heard of it being that popular," said Kyle Robertson, a salesman at Full Tilt, a skateboarding shop, in Toronto. "But if it became a little bit more popular, skateboarding shops would probably get into it first."

ROB BAILLIE, owner of Rampage Skate Park in Toronto, says he hasn't seen any interest in it either. But if road-luge rails were sold in Canadian stores (rather than being hand-made) and if there was a legal course to try it in Ontario, "I'd probably try it because it looks like a lot of fun."

Safety is one of the most significant concerns when it comes to road-luge. "This thing is going to grow as long as it is organized and safe," said Everett Rosecrans, a Vans promotion consultant in charge of road-luge, who noted that organizations need to be formed in places such as Toronto to prevent accidents. "Why not give them (lugers) some guidance so that they don't kill themselves because this sport is not going to go away."

Until safe courses are created, Rail boss Pereyra will continue riding the mountain roads of California and Canadian kids will continue riding their skateboards on their backs down neighborhood hills.

"As you fly on your rail at free way speeds it feels like nothing else. There just are no comparisons," said Pereyra. ☉

by Leeanne Lavis



### Interested in road-luging?

Want to create an organization in your area? Call or write to one of the sanctioning bodies of the sport, such as Extreme Downhill International at (714) 401-1576 or RAIL at (818) 368-6826.

# Getting A Leg Up

## Women Earn Respect In The Ring

Story and Photos by Mike Trus

**T**he fighters enter the ring, hearts pumping; adrenaline coursing through veins, taught muscles quivering in anticipation of the battle to come. Sweat runs down their faces, stinging narrowed eyes.

Massaging his fighter's squared shoulders, corner-man Mic, offers some last words of encouragement.

"She's all yours, Chantal. Take her down."

The bell tolls.

The crowd roars.

The fight is on.

You'd figure her for a real pug, but Chantal Nadon looks as if she'd be more at home executing slick jazz-ballet moves than roundhouse kicks to the jaw.

As well as fighting professionally, Nadon teaches martial arts at the Elite Karate Centre in North Bay, Ontario. She says in the past 10-years, female membership in her classes "has increased from about two per cent to over 70 per cent.

"All kinds of women come to my classes, now," Nadon says. "I started 10 or 11 years ago for the fitness and the discipline. Most of the women in my classes come for the self-defence reasons or just to relieve stress — that's a big one. Punching the heck out of the heavy bag is a great stress reliever. The women who come to my Saturday classes love it."

Still thought of by many as one of man's last great blood-sports, Nadon is only one of a growing number of women taking up the sport.

**A**rcheologist Arienda Coran of Woodbridge Ontario is a Twin Dragon's kickboxing student. She agrees with Nadon that women are signing up because of the self-defence aspect of the sport. But the 24-year-old says she began kickboxing two-years ago for different reason.

"I like the challenge," Coran explains, striking a heavy gym bag with a flurry of solid punches. "I like seeing myself getting better. Every class I can kick higher, work out longer ... The punching is kind of hard — and so are the push ups. I think push ups are hard for all women.

"I used to hardly be able to do 10, but now I can do 20 or more," she says, punctuating her words with a quick series of thundering kicks which sends the heavy bag swinging.

"I like the kicking part of the exercise best," she says, smiling. "It really is great for relieving stress."

Asked how she got into the sport, Coran says "a friend of mine used to come to the club. I came once and loved it." She says she would eventually like to go pro like Nadon, but admits it's still



Arienda Coran landing a solid straight-punch.

difficult for most women to get the respect Nadon has won in the ring.

"It's still a male-dominated sport, mostly," Coran concedes. "The guys don't take us seriously."

Asked if she sees any advantage in being a woman kickboxer, Coran says "there is none. It's hard to prove yourself," she explains. "There's a lot of, you know, machismo. The guys laugh at you and stuff. It's discouraging."

Unlike Nadon, who says she has no problems finding full-contact sparring partners, male or female, Coran says, for her, it's difficult to find appropriate or adequate opponents against whom she can hone her fighting edge.

Coran stands just over 165 cm tall, but she only weighs 46 kilograms.

"Most of the women (at Twins)

haven't been in it as long as I have, or they're not interested in full-contact sparring," Coran says. "I get help in class, though. Mic's always encouraging me to fight in amateur competitions, but I haven't... yet."

**A**ccording to Nadon, however, the main advantage she has in kickboxing circuit is the novelty of being a woman.

"On most (fight) cards, there's only one female bout out of 10 fights," she explains. "That's good for me, in terms of the publicity I get." But on the flip side of that coin, Nadon echoes Coran's complaint, saying while all the promoters want females in their line-up, "women are not taken as seriously as the men.



Coran shows her style with a roundhouse kick to the head.

"I train just as hard and I train the same way as men do. I'm just as technical as any man out there, but unless people actually see me fight, they don't see that."

Along with his twin brother Martin, "Mic" McNamara has taught kickboxing at their Toronto-based Twin Dragon club for almost 25-years now.

"We founded kickboxing in this country," he says, proudly, sitting behind his desk in an office covered in photographs of the twins posing with actors like Jean Claude Van Dam, Elliot Gould, Andrea Martin, Rich Little and others. He says he and his brother "were the first two kickboxers anyone saw in the ring here... They'd never seen anything like it."

Mic and Martin McNamara also fought for kickboxing's survival in the province's political arena, bringing about the downfall of a four-and-a-half-year-long, province-wide moratorium in the '80s. The brothers are currently producing a documentary-style movie about it, which will be finished next March.

McNamara says Nadon — who is a blackbelt — really is Canada's reigning kickboxing queen.

"She's undefeated," he says. But her record speaks for itself: five wins, one draw, zero losses." Nadon's four-year professional career now spans six fights in Toronto and Detroit. She is scheduled to fight again in New Hampshire this January.

"I'm really looking forward to it," says Nadon of the upcoming fight. "My last bout was a draw. My opponent was tough, but I still should have won. I will win the next one."

Asked why he thinks the sport has seen such a phenomenal growth in interest amongst women, McNamara says "they've done so many health courses, so many aerobics, that women, I think, more so than men, are always looking for a new angle or twist to keep that body in great shape. So, in that way, it's a fad, I think.

"But, its the violence and crime, too. Women want to learn how to protect themselves. We teach that here. We don't teach all the fancy Bruce Lee stuff. We're realists. Because of lack of bone structure and upper body strength, we teach them mostly to kick a potential attacker in the groin or knee, poke them in the eyes and run — stuff they can use on the street." ⊕

**How to get your Kicks**

Twin Dragon Kung-Fu  
Kick-boxing Clubs:

1089 St Clair W • 416 678-8394

3102 Danforth Ave.  
416 691-8600

Or Call  
Michael McNamara at  
416 229-1280

# Cigars

*the new white collar vice*

*story by Christine Siemiernik • photo by Holly Crawford*

**T**he Friday night crowd slowly rolls into the Big Smoke, a room for cigar smokers connected to a popular downtown restaurant. The room is dark with dried corn husks hanging from the ceiling and mahogany and leather everywhere. If you've got money to burn, this is the place to be.

The crowd consists of suits - professional looking men aged 25 to 40. They greet each other with hearty handshakes as they walk to the cigar display. They choose from dozens of exotic cigars from Cuba, Honduras, Nicaragua, the Philippines and the Dominican Republic. They order their martinis shaken not stirred.

In a recent article published in *Smoke* magazine, actor Kurt Russell explains the act of smoking a stogie. "You don't smoke it, you sort of make love to it."

Elaine, a casually but stylishly dressed twenty-something, seated at a table beside the glass-encased cigars is doing just that.

The petite, dark-haired woman said smoking cigars gives her "a homey feeling. When I was young, my Dad used to smoke them and I would taste them. It's like a warm feeling - the taste, the smell."

T.J., a tall, stinky cigar smoker in his thirties, sums up stogie smoking as "a white collar vice". He and wife Karen have been lighting up for about a year. The two snuggle on the black leather couch, eating the olives out of their martinis and obeying the Kurt Russell mantra.

"My boss [got me into smoking cigars]. I've got a pretty good professional job and I just got into it. It's another vice, it's fun," explains T.J. as he butts the ashes off the tip of his cigar.

Richard Cutaia opened the Big Smoke, an extension built off of Montana restaurant at Richmond and John St., earlier this fall. Cutaia travelled throughout the United States in search of the newest money-making trend and cigars are it.

"I was afraid to make it a boys' club. I really didn't want it to be a boys' club," he insists.

So far, his gender-equity plan has worked. He and promotions manager Jacquie Ryan estimate that close to one half of their clientele are women aged 25 to 40. "The women are really enjoying it," he claims.

The bar houses more than 100 people willing to drop up to \$39 for a single Cuban Montecristo Tubo cigar. Some are even shelling out up to \$550 for a box of these cancer causing goodies.



After spending several hours in the bar, observers find it's very much a club where appearance is everything.

People stroll through the bar, puffing on cigars, trying to look important.

**J**ack, a young, yuppie salesman, traded in his usual Colts for his first "big one." He describes smoking cigars as a social status symbol. "I feel cool [smoking a cigar]. It's an alternative to cigarettes."

But its an alternative that may have more than a dollars and cents price,

according to health experts.

"A lot of chemicals in cigars, when burned, are more dangerous than in cigarettes," warns Krista Saleh, tobacco prevention coordinator at the Lung Association in Toronto. There is a higher chance of contracting certain types of cancer - mouth, larynx - and a decreased chance of lung cancer because generally, cigar smokers don't smoke as frequently, she said.

"I kind of laugh when people say they don't inhale. They're smoking a cloud of second hand smoke." ☐

## FRONT ROW CENTRE

Cyber concerts hit the net

BY JOHN WILLIAMS

**Y**our friend Jimbo glances over at you to show you the pair of front row seats he won to the Pearl Jam show tonight at the Gardens. No, he isn't taking you. He's taking his acne-riddled brother.

While railing in feelings of anger and self-pity at his relentless attempts at crushing your musical soul, you feel a sense of solace in your trusty computer. Yes, throw the popcorn in the microwave and go get yourself a drink - you're watching this one in the cozy confines of your own room, on your personal computer. Tell Jimbo to take a hike. Really.

Well, it could happen.

Peter Howell, rock critic for the Toronto Star, thinks it could as well - big time.

"If technology catches up with all the hype, you may actually have 'cyber-con-

certs' where U2 or another artist will be playing live, and you will pay to sit in a booth and get virtual sound and 3-D imagery somewhere else in the world."

Technology is slowly but surely changing the face of the music industry, and forcing people within it to restructure and rethink their game plan.

Since the rise of the Internet, pop music has been inevitably incorporated within it, with fans of certain artists creating their own websites that reach homes all over the world. This gives other computer-savvy fans the kind of direct access to information on their favorite group or artist that they would never find elsewhere.

Like every action, this potential progress is likely to produce its own

reaction.

The record retail business will inevitably be hard-hit by the changing times, says Alan Cross, DJ for radio station CFNY and author of "The History of Alternative Music".

"You're going to have to watch for the effect the Internet will have on the distribution of music. People will have the ability to download musical material right into their homes from a simple (web) site, without having to go to the record store. (That) Doesn't look good for the record retail business."

**C**ross goes so far as to warn that these pressures will result in a kind of guerrilla warfare, with the industry taking the role of the state and

the users behaving like jungle fighters. That means a more aggressive response by the industry to protect its product. Examples of warlike tactics can already be seen: the industry recently moved to put a tax on blank tapes to cut down on what it claims is an epidemic of home taping.

But as the record industry struggles to transform itself within the computer world, music fans will continue to revel in the glory of the new technology.

Noam Rosen, one of a legion of Toronto Internet addicts and music lovers says: "It's thrilling to think that we will be able to watch and listen to live concerts on our own computers." But, he adds, "It will never be able to duplicate the great feeling you get from the experience of a live show."

But until Jimbo coughs up the tickets, it'll do in a pinch. ☐

# RILACIE

# YOUR

# BETS

## Legalized gambling comes to Ontario

by Holly Crawford

**T**he road slowly winds its way along the shore of Lake Couchiching. It passes a few small, aging homes and the local boat launch. At each turn along the way a sign reads "This way to Casino Rama." Suddenly, there it is; it's neon lights rising out of the darkness and reflecting on the quiet lake.

Casino Rama was built following a 1990 Ontario government decision to build a casino on First Nations land. About an hour from Toronto, the site on the Rama Reserve, just outside of Orillia, was chosen in December of 1995, and Canada's largest casino opened for business less than a year later.

With 1500 slot machines, roulette, blackjack, big six and a high stakes area for the big spenders, gamblers are coming in droves to try their luck, according to Doug Brenner, public relations manager at the casino. "About 80 percent come from the Greater Toronto area. Most come for day visits and then go home," he said.

About 13,000 people come through the doors each day, and the casino estimates a profit of about \$1-million a day.

The lights of the casino can be seen across the lake, in the town of Orillia. The building of the casino brought about \$100 million in to the area and created about 2600 permanent jobs.

"We're the largest employer in cen-

**"You can't tell a compulsive gambler, but it's every bit as bad. The added benefit is you can get the high and nobody will know."**

tral Ontario," Brenner said.

While the casino is helping many, Stan Ash at the Canadian Foundation on Compulsive Gambling says it's far too soon to know the real effects of the casino.

"There is usually a study after the first fiscal year, it's too soon to know. They've only been open a few months."

Ash said the numbers are really mushrooming in terms of people coming for help with gambling problems, but there are limited treatment facilities outside of Toronto.

"The problem is there is such a proliferation of all forms of gambling. The government has felt a fiscal need to explore all kinds of gambling and make them legal.

"The Niagara Falls casino will be open for business in the next few months. I know that Casino Rama has done better than they expected. VLT

(video lottery terminals) legislation is almost passed, that will put 20,000 slot machines around the province."

A survey conducted in 1993 at Brandon University in Manitoba showed that almost 10 percent of VLT users were problem gamblers. While gambling seemed evenly spread among men and women, the study reported that women experienced a greater change in their behavior and found gambling more exciting than their male counterparts.

One man who had realized gambling was becoming a problem and has since sworn-off gambling, said it's very easy to spend your money at the casino. He did not wish to be named in this article.

"Money is available so readily at the casino, they have cash machines, cash advances on your credit card, you can even buy chips with your credit card," he said.

"It's really easy to get behind, to lose money and then try to win it back. It's easy to throw away money trying to win back what you've already lost," he added.

Ash also says gambling is becoming more prevalent among women and teens.

"I've noticed a lot more women and teens going in to Gambler's Anonymous, it's very troubling. A lot of women in their thirties and early forties, it's a phenomenon of being

bored or depressed. Their marriage isn't what they hoped and the children are off at school. The spouse does his thing and she does hers.

"Gambling at the casino is exciting. It's attracting younger and younger people, I see younger people all the time."

"And from studies we conducted in 1993 and 1995, of teens and adults, I really believe that this is just the tip of the iceberg."

Ash says he is convinced being hooked on gambling is worse than an addiction to drugs or alcohol because people can't see the addiction.

"You can't tell a compulsive gambler ... you can get the high and nobody will know." ☐

**Where to blow your  
dough in Ontario ...**

Casino Rama  
Orillia Ontario  
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[www.ontario.ca/gambling](http://www.ontario.ca/gambling)

**"It's really easy to get behind, to lose money and then try to win it back. It's easy to throw away money trying to win back what you've already lost."**

# FLOPPY DISKS AND HARD DRIVES: TECHNO SEX AND CD PORN ON THE NET

by Matthew Guerin

A decade ago, David Burton and people like him who wanted to get off with a sex movie would run to their local Adults-Only video store and grab a copy of "Debbie Does Dallas" or "Powertool." All they needed was a functioning VCR, a good remote control and, of course, a red-lining libido.

But today, the computer screen and the mouse are the new weapons of choice for the horny.

In the 90s, the pornographic tradition continues, but it's evolved with technology. Cybersex, with the advent of the Internet and CD-ROMs, has helped porn peddlers become more inventive and daring than ever before.

If the stacked shelves in adult video stores are any indication, the preferred clientele of pornography is still men, gay or straight, says Nick Nybida, manager of Mississauga's Annaconda, a CD-ROM porn distributor. With Cybersex, that male-oriented trend is continuing, but more and more women are coming online, says Nybida.

New interactive CD-ROMs, pornographic or not, started up three to four years ago, says Nybida. "We've only been in business for about a year."

CD-ROMS "are still not as big as videos obviously," says Nybida. But that could change as more and more people purchase computers. "It's pretty hard not to get a computer that has a CD-ROM [unit]. If you've got the CD-ROM, a video sound technology and a large bit of [Random Access Memory], you can do it."

And, what do these porno CD-ROMs offer that typical videos do not?

"It's a take-off of Dungeons and Dragons," explains Nybida. "For some of them, you can design your own movie." Players in the isolation of their own homes can play with the images to meet their satisfaction. "Some CD-ROMs have at least 500 picture stills on them. Interactive games are not really the high-end sellers. A lot of stills are selling and a lot of movies on CD-ROMs are selling well," says Nybida.

David Burton, 24, a biology student at the University

of Toronto who rents and buys this new form of Cyberporn, which includes the gay porn classic "Flashpoint" on CD-ROM, says he goes for live video CD-ROMs. And he loves them, but only in moderation.

**"THIRTY YEARS FROM NOW ... PEOPLE WILL USE [THIS TYPE OF TECHNOLOGY] TO HAVE SEXUAL EXPERIENCES WITH OTHER PEOPLE... UNDREAMED OF BY PRE-CYBERNETIC VOLUPTUARIES."**

"It's not just pictures. You can stop them and play back the parts you like the most." And unlike video tapes, CD-ROMs won't get worn down and won't get stuck in your VCR.

"They take the best parts of each movie and put them on the CD-ROM. You don't sit through all of the mundane parts [present in many adult porn movies.] You can go straight to the action," says Burton, looking down at his Nike's with a slight smile.

The new direction of modern porn seems to indicate a stronger desire for more technology, for the more sophisticated client. The Internet is filled with web sites of both naked men and women, like Amanda's Virtual Paradise, Deja Vu Virtual Gentlemen's Club and Virtual Ambiance. Companies from across the United States have web sites to sell their products or hook up potential customers, like the Electronic Entertainment Network in San Francisco.

With the Internet's increasing accessibility, many parents' and other groups are lobbying governments, both in Canada and the United States, to ban controversial sites or heavily regulate web servers.

But CD-ROM porn isn't regulated the same way, says Nybida. Adult sex films in Canada must be okayed by provincial regulatory bodies before they can be sold or rented. Decency standards vary from province to province. But only British Columbia has a regulatory body for CD-ROMs.

But there's no cause for alarm in

the rest of the country, says

Nybida.

Most distributors adhere to the same standards dictated for videos in the various provinces, he says.

If governments shut down pornographic web sites on the Internet, web crawlers searching for some sexual eye candy can turn to CD-ROMs, which are much faster to download than images on the Internet, say both Burton and Nybida.

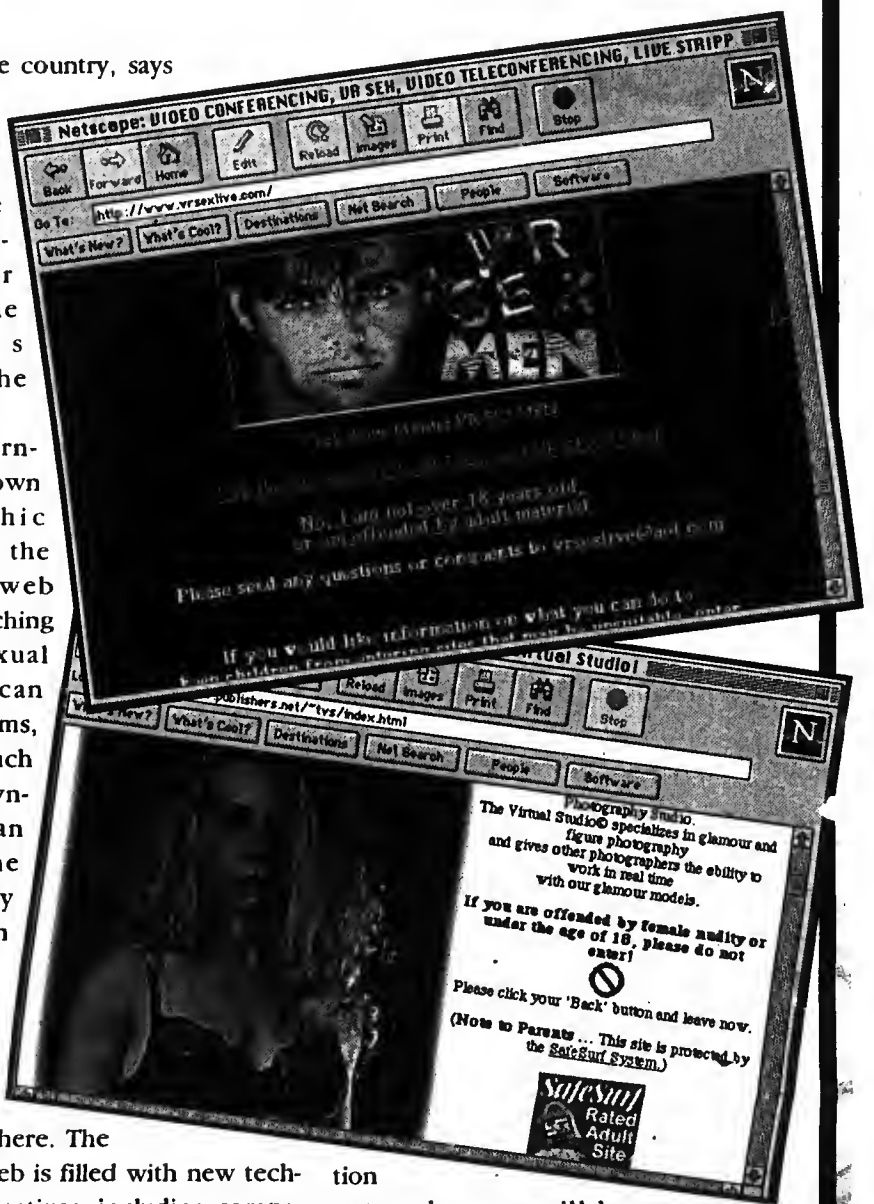
But the Cyber-sex revolution doesn't stop there. The world wide web is filled with new technological alternatives, including companies specializing in Virtual Sex.

It's here where more and more women are getting connected, eliminating male dominance, writes Prof. Mitchell Silverman of the University of South Florida in an essay posted on the Internet.

Virtual sex is a take-off of virtual reality, "the presentation of a perceptible, artificial, virtually real environment, other than the one in which its perceivers really finds themselves," writes Silverman.

In Virtual Reality, or VR, the user dons a suit and gloves marked with electronic sensors that can recreate for the individual an experience, using many senses, almost as real as anything one can imagine. "VR seems destined...to be applied to one purpose far removed from its more usual aims: sex," writes Silverman.

One day in the future people will may be able to have sex with their partner without them even being in the room. Needed only for sex will be a snug-fitting bodysuit hooked up to the phone lines and a willing partner at the other end (who also has a cyber bodysuit)." Thirty years from now ... people will use [this type of technology] to have sexual experiences with other people, at a distance, in combinations and configurations undreamed of by pre-cybernetic voluptuaries," writes Howard Rheingold in his 1991 book Virtual Reality. "Through a marriage of virtual reality technology and telecommunica-



tion networks, you will be able to reach out and touch someone — or an entire population — in ways humans have never before experienced. Or so the scenario goes."

And sexual experiences could be recorded for future reference, along with user variables — users could alter eye color, age, body shape — of their "partner." The technology, not yet perfected today, could prove very interesting for the cybersex fanatic with a lot of money and time on their hands. ☉

## Average prices for CD-ROMs

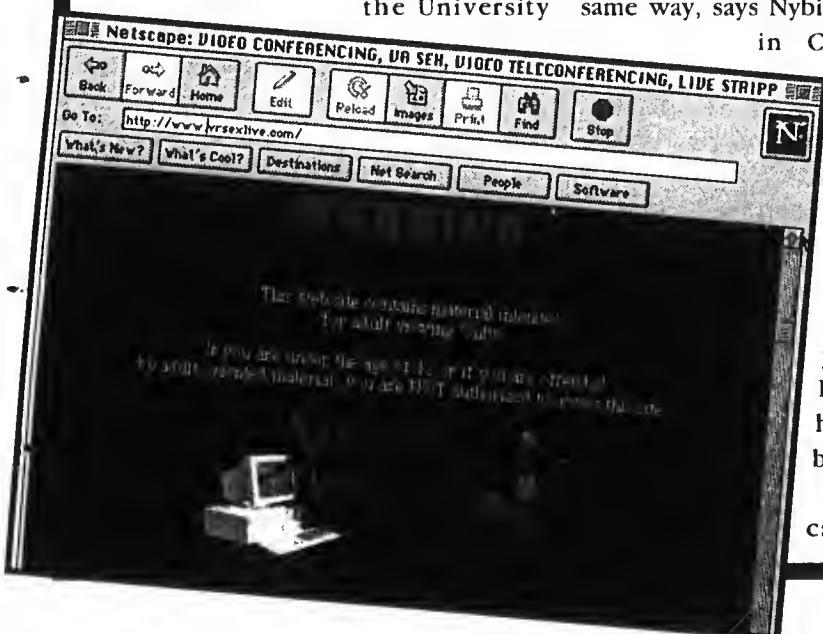
- Interactive games - \$60.00 to \$70.00 retail.
  - Stills - \$20.00 to \$30.00
  - Movies on CD-ROMs - \$39.00 to \$50.00, depending on the retailer.
- source Annaconda

**Legalities:** Must be 18 or over to rent or buy. CD-ROMs only regulated for content in British Columbia.

## Web sites:

Prof.Silverman's essay:  
[www.sar.usf.edu/~silverma/vr\\_sex.html](http://www.sar.usf.edu/~silverma/vr_sex.html)

**Technology:** CD-Rom capabilities, Video Sound Card for movie-CD-ROMs, at least 8.0 R.A.M.





# Ooh!

## These Suburban Leather Nights

by Joseph Di Fonzo

Photographs courtesy of Northbound Leather

*Being away from the city is so calming. Once people close their doors everything becomes a mystery. What are they doing in there?*

**Y**ou have to walk along busy, noisy and crowded Yonge street to get to this place. It is not on the main strip. This store is hidden. It's off Yonge street down a back alley. As you make your way there, you feel guilty, almost sinfull. When you look in the display window you quickly look away and then hurry into the store so no one will see that you are going in.

Does the word fetish mean anything to you? How about fetish dressing?

For George Giaouris, the manager of Northbound Leather, it makes for a lucrative and always fascinating business. "My father started this business in 1976 with a store that could be compared to Danier. However, as the request for garments got more and more unusual, the demand for a store like Northbound was too great to ignore. As long as everything was legal then the customers order was met," said Giaouris.

The demand for fetish clothing is not

specific to any one group: men or women, gay or straight. Fetish dressing has gone beyond the boundaries and barriers of the downtown core.

Leather pants, dresses, underwear, bras and riding crops have hit the kinder, gentler cities of Etobicoke, Mississauga, Burlington and Thornhill. "Our clients have

changed throughout the years, the difference today is the exceptability of fetish dressing.

This makes talking about it more

acceptable, therefore making our customers more willing to talk about where they live and what they do for a living," said Giaouris. (It makes one wonder if those politicians out in Etobicoke were using taxpayers' money for more than lunch meetings in strip clubs.)

"AS DESIGNERS got inspiration from the underground club scene and street fashions, clothing became more and more sexual," says Giaouris. "Designers discovered leather and lingerie as new looks that were shocking and sexy. Once the media got hold of the visuals, the look was beamed into everyones' livingrooms. The unexceptable became exceptable."

*"If a guy's first time is in the back of a car with leather seats, the smell of leather will remind him of sex."*

THE TOP SELLERS at Northbound Leather are leather jeans. Looking and feeling sexy is the objective according to Giaouris not sadomastochistic activ-

ity. "Fetish dressing is not about hurting each other in the bedroom, it is about fighting the monotony and boredom of sex and relationships."

Giaouris, who describes himself as very much married and very much monogomous, says men and women cheat on their spouses because of the danger of getting caught. "That is the thrill and that is what they get off on. It's not about the act ... that is exciting for them. Sex will become boring with any person after a long period of time."

THERE IS A fine line between fashion and fetish. Both involve looking good and feeling great about ourselves. "Fetishesque clothing has become popular in the 90's because women want to look both pretty and sexy," said Rita DiFonzo Koroknay, assistant fashion editor of Flare magazine. "Fetish design has been elevated in this decade to incorporate both sex appeal and modernism."

Northbound's Giaouris believes that people's sexual practices are born from their early experiences with sex. "If a guy's first time is in the back of a car with leather seats, the smell of leather will remind him of sex."

The story here is that the June and Ward Cleavers of suburbia may now have a leather cat suit that June likes to slip into when Ward's been a bad boy. And so long as whatever happens, does so out of sight of the Beaver, who cares? ☺

*"Fetishesque clothing has become popular in the 90s' because women want to look both pretty and sexy. Fetish design has been elevated in this decade to incorporate both sex appeal and modernism."*

# Playing on the planet

Who will pay the price? by Kerry Bader



It's -10 C, the wind is whipping across your face and you can barely see through the falling snow. You're Parka is frozen and your dogs won't mush.

You're on vacation!

That's right. You've paid thousands of dollars to go dog sledding in Alaska so you could be closer to nature.

Sound romantic? Sound nuts? Well, get used to it because ecological vacations are getting wilder by the minute. We've trekked through the Rockies, floated down the Nile, and now we want more and we're getting it - but at what cost?

When it first began in the '80's ecological tourism was seen as a way to protect the environment.

The idea was to attract tourists to natural areas and use the revenues to fuel local economies and preserve the areas, but the plan may be backfiring. With a growth rate of 10 to 30 per cent a year the ecotourism industry is rushing to keep up with demand. We can visit Antarctica - and ride an iceberg, roam Italy - and rebuild a castle. But critics are asking: Are we really in partnership with nature?

Places that once begged tourists to visit are now begging them not to come back.

According to The World Wildlife Fund, in entire forests Nepal are axed each year to supply tourists with fuel. The result: soil erosion, devastating floods and landslides. And Ecuador's Galapagos

Islands, once a Darwinian haven, is considering closing its beaches to tourists who come in waves of thousands each year, leaving very little room for the wildlife.

"Eco-tourism is a double-edged sword because it provides alternative ways of making a living for people who would otherwise be cutting down trees and draining wetlands and so on," says Elizabeth Agnew, Toronto-based public relations representative for the World Wildlife Fund. "On the other hand, when not done properly eco-tourism does have its own effect on the environment."

And, while there are a number of travel agencies and organizations offering eco-tourism style vacations, not all of them have the environment in mind.

"To me ecological tourism is an over-hyped word. The number of companies out there who are actively engaged in reversing nature's decline is very small," says Ben Wallace, manager of World Adventures travel agency. "Most companies in the adventure travel field will take the monicker of 'eco-tourism' under their umbrella, but most of us do not help repair the environment. Admittedly we do take a low impact approach, but actually reversing things is another matter."

Currently, anyone can call any type of vacation package an eco-tour. The WWF's Agnew says that has to change.

"There have to be restrictions on when you can say eco-tourism. And there are some travel agencies that are keen to do that because

they're doing (true) eco-tourism and others are not."

She says it's vital that tourists not only work to keep from harming the natural areas that they visit, but that they also do something to support them. Often the money generated by eco-tourism falls into the hands of foreign investors leaving locals with no incentive to care for their own environment.

"Some or all of the money generated by eco-tourism has to stay in the hands of the local people or they will have no reason not to continue poaching wildlife and cutting down trees," says Agnew.

On the other hand, eco-tourism can be dangerous if it is seen only as a money maker. Sheer numbers can damage an area no matter how many precautions are taken, and a booming tourism business means that locals may become more interested in exploiting nature for fast returns.

"What you get is an increasing infrastructure where they build more hotels in and around the natural area," warns Agnew. "At some point you have to draw the line and say no more."

But who will draw that line?

Agnew says that governments have the power to, but may not choose to.

"The government can take strong measures if they're motivated to, but if they're getting their hands on the money they may not be motivated to," she says.

So it comes down to the tourists - the consumers of eco-tourism. Agnew says it's up to us to know what we're buying.

"We have to ask what do you mean by eco-tourism? What am I buying? We can't be passive shoppers anymore."

In the end eco-tourism can have a positive effect only if the environment is placed ahead of the profits and consumers take the time to make themselves aware of the issues, she said.

"So if it's taking people away from grazing cattle and cutting down rainforests then that's one thing. But you're always going to have to remember that we need to find a balance," she says. ☉

## Ecotourism guidelines:

### Six ways to tell if your tour is for real

- 1 Does it encourage environmentally sustainable economic growth while minimizing visitor impacts on wild lands, wildlife, native cultures and local communities?
- 2 Do the travel modes and facilities used maintain a low impact on the natural environment.?
- 3 Will there be an emphasis on learning about, rather than just visiting, the area.
- 4 How many people will be going? Sheer numbers can be damaging to wildlife.
- 5 Will the local economy benefit in some way from your trip?
- 6 Will any of the money that you spend be used to help preserve the environment that you are visiting?

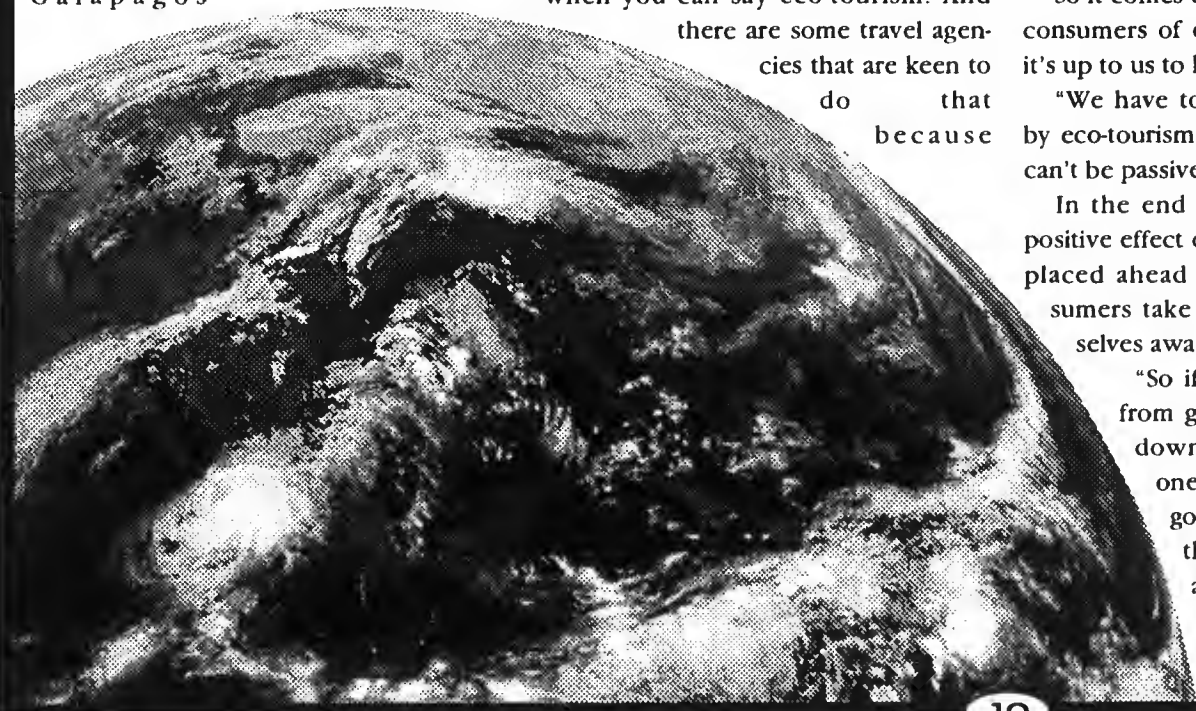
## Eco-thieves beware

From European meats to Vietnamese turtles, normally law abiding citizens are turning into international smugglers in an attempt to bring their vacations home.

According to Pearson International Airport officials, home-bound scallawags are stuffing canaries into their pockets and putting coldcuts in their purses - and that's not all!

A would-be peddler of protected turtles was caught red legged on a flight to New Zealand when flight attendants noticed a little green critter wandering down the aisles. Nineteen others were found stuffed down his pants!

While some tourists may not see the harm in bringing a strange looking plant or a few furry critters home from their holidays abroad, they risk importing new diseases and species that can wreak havoc on more native residents.



# CHAMPIONS OF CHARITY PULLING TOGETHER TO PROVIDE FOR THE NEEDY

by Alison Haines

**M**erciless seven-foot waves brutalize her tired body. Her shoulders ache from the grueling repetition of a swimmer's stroke. Exhaustion looms as 45 hellish kilometers of water stretches before her.

But determination and a good cause keeps her going. Thoughts of dying children battle with visions of defeat in Colleen Shields' mind.

"It was hell," recalls the 45-year-old travel and tourism teacher. "It was the most challenging thing I have ever done. I felt as though my body had been crushed."

Sheilds raised more than \$6,000 for the Children's Wish Foundation when she swam Georgian Bay from Tobermory to Manitoulin Island in 1991. Combined with the money she collected the previous year for swimming Lake Ontario, Sheilds' has raised more than \$14,000 for the charity.

The Children's Wish Foundation grants wishes to children who have high-risk or life threatening illnesses.

"Whatever their wish is, we try to make it come true for them," said Kathy Wisniewski, Director of The Children's Wish Foundation Ontario Chapter. "She (Sheilds) found a wonderful way to help us grant wishes to children. We thank her for her amazing fundraising work," she said.

People like Shield's are of a special breed. They make personal sacrifices for a good cause. But sometimes it's hard to separate the challenge from the cause.

The trends of fundraising have escalat-

ed to new levels as events are becoming more flamboyant, and attention-grabbing, to compete with other charities in this steadily growing industry.

"Things are done in a lot more sophisticated way than before because of fierce competition," said Stan Gibson, President of Toronto-based, Fundraiser Services Network Inc. He says, raising awareness is just as important as raising money for organizations in today's fiscally-restrained times.

As a result, he says organizations are planning events from the elegantly elaborate, to the physically demanding to gain national awareness for causes.

More than 5,000 Torontonians showed up to lend their support and energy for the United Way last month by climbing the stairs of the CN tower. Known as the Ultimira Stair Climb, the CN tower ordeal United Way puts on every year, takes the average physically-fit person about 30 minutes to complete.

"A lot of different people show up to participate in the CN tower climb," said Mary Egan, Manager of Cross Promotions and Special Events. "It gets the community together."

The United Way of Canada has been raising money for the disadvantaged since 1917. But in 1996 they are feeling the pinch. "We're competing for the dollars," said Egan. "And simply put, it's getting tougher and tougher."

The United Way is not the only charity organization feeling the financial crunch. The Easter Seal Society of Ontario says the 75-year-old charity is battling financial hardship on both ends. The disabled children and families they



Local sailing clubs raised about \$350,000 for charity last year alone

help are experiencing more money problems than in the past, and Easter Seal organizers are working harder than ever to raise support for them.

"The key is to carefully develop a strategy to make a successful, fun event," said John MacDonald director of development and communication for The Easter Seal Society. He says if a charity has a good cause and a lot of interest it will be successful.

**L**ast July, sunshine reflected off the sails and masts of more than 150 sail boats primed to race in the seventh annual Easter Seal Society regatta. Fifty other gaily decorated boats filled with easter seal children and their fami-

lies, floated on the side lines to admire the action. The event was designed to place a smile on the children's faces, said MacDonald.

Members of the Royal Canadian Yacht Club and people from the local sailing clubs compete yearly for the title. The regatta generates a large portion of awareness and funds for the charity, making about \$350,000 last year alone.

"It's a great, exciting event for the kids to watch and for the participants to compete in," said MacDonald.

Fun and competition make for successful fundraising events, according to Jason Carlin, Fundraising Co-ordinator for Canadian Spinal Cord Research. "Make it fun, and you get a crowd," he said.

Families of witches, ghouls and a fair share of other traditionally scary characters recently showed up for a Halloween car rally, complete with brightly decorated cars to search for clues and try to navigate a mystery map. Participants punched in time cards and hit the roads with a challenge in their hands. By deciphering clues and following directions, enthusiasts raced to finish with the best time and most amount of clues figured out.

"If you go with a theme and encourage people to dress up, it makes for an entertaining day," said Carlin.

Charity organizers say the success of any event depends on everyday Joe's and Josephine's, individuals like Colleen Shields, a miraculous person, who plans another trek across Georgian Bay this summer to raise more cash - this time in support of the Special Olympics. ☐

PHOTO BY: MAGGIE KNIGHT

## Beer and pretzels for 1,000, Alex!

by Lorrie Hills

**T**hey huddle around the small circular tables, a cloud of smoke billowing above their heads, oblivious to other pub patrons. From afar it appears to be a secret society meeting. Inside the circle it's like a different world.

"Category: Geographical terms.

"Question: What is the geographical term for the study of earthquakes?"

Mary Jo Morris, cigarette in her left hand and coffee within reach of her right pauses only briefly and says "sizmology," the team cheers. "My first one," Morris says, "I needed that."

Morris, a Humber College learning disabilities consultant is an alternate player on the Duke of York trivia team, part of a city-wide pub trivia league.

"I love it I really love it," she says.

Morris said the trivia league out distances Jeopardy and Trivial Pursuit both in diversity of questions and excitement. Unlike Trivial Pursuit, questions are rarely obvious.

"You know if it's an astronaut, its Neil Armstrong," she said.

She said Toronto's pub trivia questions

are high in Canadian content.

"It's not that they don't ask American questions, but because we're Canadian there's much more of a Canadian slant to it."

Every Monday night, shortly before 8pm, 11 people gather at the Duke of York in downtown Toronto. Five are Duke players, five are opposing team players, and one, seated at the end is the quizmaster.

The Captain of the Duke's team, Jim MacDonald, from Humber College Liberal Arts and Sciences department, tosses a coin. Tonight he loses and the Hargrave Titanics start the round.

**T**he pace is quick. Each player has one minute to answer and if they are successful without the help of a team mate they are awarded two points.

"If I can't get it and it gets to be 40 to 50 seconds into the minute I'll say 'team', and if the team can get it - it's (worth) one point," Morris explains.

In a bonus round, if a team cannot answer a question, it is passed to the opposition, enabling them to steal a point.

"There tends to be a lot of tension in

the bonus rounds," Morris said. "A lot of tension."

Tonight the categories include "Entertainers", "Composers" and "Firsts".

"There's always a tape round. Usually it's music of some sort - but once it was animal noises which were surprisingly difficult," she said.

Recurring categories include current events and miscellaneous, which is usually the bonus round. There is also a "stinker" round in which the questions are made up by the quizmaster. This round can be any category, any topic.

"They try to make the questions really tough. If somebody happens to have a horde of knowledge on some really bizarre topic, they might get to show it off if they're lucky," Morris said.

Captain Jim MacDonald says the level of seriousness varies from team to team.

"It's a lot of fun first of all, but my team is a very good one, so we play to win," he said. "Some teams don't win at all, so they take it as fun and nothing else, but our team is pretty good."

The team was formed by friends but has grown mostly based on word of mouth, with Players chosen on participation.

# Surfin' the Java Net

## COFFEE WITH COMPUTERS À LA CARTE

PHOTOS AND STORY BY MIKE FERRARA

**K**eyboards are rapidly clicking. Eyes glare, focused on colorful computer screens. "How about a little surf on the net with that cup of java?" Although, not a common question at a regular café, it is something you might expect to find at DOTCOM Café.

DOTCOM is one of many new internet cafés (or cyber cafés, as they are called in the cyber community) to pop up around Toronto, recently.

"DOTCOM Café marks the beginning of a new era in coffee houses and computer use," says Richard Sharp, president of DOTCOM Café. "It empowers individuals and organizations with the tools of technology to access information affordably and conveniently."

The atmosphere is ultra-modern contemporary. Basically, a cool kind of place to hang out. There are 35 computers scattered about the café where you can sit comfortably, extra chairs can be rustled up to seat up to four people at a screen, not-so-comfortably.

Many people might expect to find a younger crowd here due to the funky atmosphere and the novelty of the internet. The computer used to be a tech-toy for geeks, but it's really become quite the accessory for the social butterfly, according to DOTCOM Café's general

manager, Tom Main. "We get a very diverse crowd here, and at different times we get different people," says Main. "Between five and seven o'clock at night we get a lot of middle-aged business people and then later in the night we get students."

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### "DOTCOM CAFÉ MARKS THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA IN COFFEE HOUSES AND COMPUTER USE"

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On this night DOTCOM is noticeably geek-free. Unless, that is, you want to describe two professional models, with café au lait and computer "mice" in hand, as geeks.

**B**ut still, why come to a café to surf the net? Why not just do it at home? After all, almost everyone now has a home computer and many have internet access.

"We have a little more to offer here than what most people have access to at their homes," says Main. "For



Patrons can use the Conference Room for assignments or group projects.

instance, our computers are about four times faster (10 megabytes per second) than most home computers and we offer the very latest internet software such as Navigator 3.1 Gold and Internet Explorer 3.0. We also offer an atmosphere that's quite different than you would find at home — many people socialize and make new friends here."

Since its grand opening in May, DOTCOM has collected over 1500 members. Membership is free and all you have to do is buy one hour of

internet surf time to join. New members you get one hour of free internet access. Member fees are \$3.95 every half-hour, with non-membership fees set at \$5 a half-hour. Those looking for an E-mail account, can get one here for \$29.99 a month including one free hour per day and \$2.50 every half-hour after that.

**T**he café also offers a menu of foods, such as soups, salads and sandwiches, and you can look for lunch specials like the "Power Hour" —

ularly or for those who want to learn about it. The internet has become its own little culture and a lot of people are picking up on it. Therefore, places like this, and the popularity surrounding them, make sense."

Since the boom of the Internet World-Wide Web Communication in 1993, the trendy little software has really caught on and is still going strong.

"It's really cool," said Stephanie Chambers, in an Internet interview from Oshawa. "You can talk to people all over the world like, Japan, Italy or Australia, and you can learn a lot about other countries and cultures."

Lanai Bell, a University of Michigan student, said in an Internet interview: "The Internet has helped me through many school projects and reports. You hop on line and search for the info you need, and you can almost always find what you're looking for. Also, it helps bring people from all over the world together. You can get on a chat line and meet new people and make some new friends."

DOTCOM's Main encourages everyone, young and old, internet knowledgeable or not, to visit the café at 57 Duncan Street in Toronto.

You can also E-mail DOTCOM Café at: [info@dotcom-cafe.com](mailto:info@dotcom-cafe.com), or visit the café's web site at: <http://www.dotcom-cafe.com/>. ☐



A user surfs the net at DOTCOM Café while enjoying a cup of java.

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### "IT HELPS BRING PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TOGETHER"

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when you get surf (one hour on the net), soda and sandwich for \$10 a person.

Conspicuous by its absence from the menu is "surf and turf"

"Places like this are excellent," says Dave Carter, Marketing Manager for the Internet Customer Unit at Microsoft Canada. "It opens up a lot of opportunities for people who like to use the internet reg-