

Enter-the-Discs-of-Torial

By Ryan O Connor

The folks at CBC say that Spring is here, but I'm not going to believe them until I see the flowers peeking out from beneath the snow. That's not what I'm here to talk about, though. I'm here to talk about my favourite CDs of the last twelve months.

Moves and Birdapres
Alleged Legends

Some of the best hip-hop I've ever heard is coming out from this Canadian label. Moves (Len, Hip Club Groove), the transplanted Nova Scotian, supplies this album with his typical variety of fresh beats. He also mans the wheels of steel. The MC for this album is Vancouver's Birdapres. Having never heard his rhymes before, I was struck by his Halifax-like style: kind of a cross between Buck 65 and Kunga 219.

Different, but in the best possible way. Whether it's dealing with com-mies in China or what Birdapres did in a particular day, this CD is grade A material.

The Popes
Holloway Boulevard

Their first full-length CD proves that the Popes are indeed the heir apparent to the Pogues' legacy of Celtic punk music. While the group does succeed in emerging from the shadows as Shane MacGowan's back-up band, they do manage to keep his spirit in the project. While Paul McGuinness's gruff vocals are duly enjoyed, the Pope's real value lies in their infectious energy and spirited approach towards the music making process. MacGowan's appearance on lead vocals in Chino's Place is a welcome addition.

54°40
Casual Viewin

When it comes to rock in Canada, you don't get anything more seminal than 54°40. Well, you might, but it's hard to. Anyhow, these veterans sound anything but wary after twenty-plus years in the music business, and this, their ninth album, sounds surprisingly youthful. How have they remained relevant after all of these years? Attribute it to their new approach of mixing the album with samples in a hip-hop fashion, a luxury afforded to the group since they now own the studio that they record in. Regardless, the radio friendly tunes on this album show that 54°40 have what it takes to stay relevant for years to come.

The Rude Mechanicals
Neutrinos

When the Island's favourite band dropped their second CD, I was curious to see whether or not they managed to pack their energy and enthusiasm into the recording. After all, it's hard to walk away from a performance by the Rudes without feeling energized. Well, I'm happy to report that they managed to wallop it into a nice little package, convenient for you to take home. Pick the CD up and find out why their brand of rock is gaining recognition from folks across the country. You may have heard "Orange Flowers" on the radio, but believe me, there's plenty more where that came from. Two tunes in particular that will smack you in the face and make you say "rawk and roll!" are "Physics" and "For the Sake of the Art," the latter of which was recently named to appear on the *IndieBlast 2001* compilation. Cowabunga!



CHOICE CUTS!

READ IT!

If you think that *The Cadre* is bad, then we highly recommend that you pick up the latest copy of *The Surveyor*, which is currently littering the UPEI campus. Yes, they cover every miniscule thing that happens at Holland College, but the writing is terrible. We make mistakes too, but they go beyond the mere typo.

ATTEND IT!

If you're not attending the FTAA protests, go to the Barn's **Year-End Pub** on April 21. It features Fly Jimmy Swift and Chris Colepaugh and the Cosmic Crew, both of whom were also featured at *The Cadre's* Alter-Cases.

WATCH IT!

Sharon Maguire's film adaptation of Helen Fielding's novel, *Bridget Jones's Diary* is a delightful watch from beginning to end. It stars Renée Zellweger as a plump, British, thirtysomething trying to turn her life around and find a man who will love her for who she is.

BROWSE IT!

In honour of exams, we thought we would give you a helpful website. **Spark Notes** (www.sparknotes.com) are kind of like Coles notes except they're Spark Notes. You get the idea.

HEAR IT!

"I have been campaigning to get [Gordon] Downie elected as Poet Laureate for Canada and although awhile back he said he isn't a poet, he says he is a lyricist, he recently released a book and CD of poetry both titled *Coke Machine Glow*.... This is an album for peaceful, introspective moments of solitude or when the mood is intimate and Megadeth won't do." -*The Surveyor*

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