

WHISTLER ANSWER



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ENERGY

AVALANCHE

ROBSON
by
Chrzanowski

FEBRUARY '81

MAILED TO EVERYONE IN SEA TO SKY COUNTRY



BRITISH COLUMBIA
WHISTLER MOUNTAIN

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Libby in fine form
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EDITORIAL PAGE

Is everyone set to vote on Saturday, February 21 to determine whether or not we shall have the privilege to shop on Sundays? I think it's a joke as well as a waste of money to submit that question to the rigmarole of referendum.

Isn't this the burg that recently approved Sunday swilling in the Pubs and Lounges? I find it ironic to think one could purchase a "double dirty mother" and not a light bulb, quart of milk or tube of ski wax.

I find it hard to imagine Banff, Aspen, or Kitzbuhel legislating against Sunday shopping. It is one of the busiest days of the week to a resort area and it'd be "down-right inhospitable" to have half the place closed down.

Now I can hear some employees moaning about wanting Sunday off too but why. The lift lines are longer on Sunday, tips are good on Sundays. I mean, you might as well be working as standing in a line somewhere.

It comes down to the point of who should determine what your day of rest is?

Sunday is essentially a religious holiday. As long as people who recognize Sunday as their day of rest are permitted freedom of choice the rest should in turn be permitted to earn their livelihood or enjoy their holiday as they see fit.

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It's good to see the Squamish and Whistler Chamber's of Commerce working together in the promotion of this area. Sea to Sky Country has been adopted as the official designation of the area.

The name had it's humble beginnings as doodlings by yours truly on a place mat at Sympatico's in Kitsalano. It was an answer to a little publicized contest sponsored by the joint Chamber's of Whistler, Squamish and Pemberton. The honours were shared by Granville, a Squamish artist who designed the logo and a six year old girl from Calgary (who supposedly had help from her mom!)

There is also talk of a coffee table type book to be released early this summer featuring the colour work of local photographers entitled, you guessed it, Sea to Sky Country.

And it's about time! Howe Sound, Shannon Falls, The Chief, the Diamond Head area, the Squamish river, The Tantalus Range, Whistler and the Pemberton Valley are unsurpassed in beauty.

If we can just convince Victoria to give us a relatively safe highway through all this beauty we'll be laughing.

*

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Whistler Village is finally breathing on it's own and actually feels somewhat like a Town Centre. I'd hate to think I arrived at this conclusion entirely because I can now buy a beer in the afternoon. But along with a grocery store it could be considered a step in a civilized direction.

There are however, a few elements very conspicuous in their absence. First and possibly foremost could be public washrooms. There are some hidden away in the temporary mountain trailers but you wouldn't want to be in a hurry to getting to them.

There are some in commercial establishments, however some of the more delicate among us hesitate to ask a maitre de if we can use his can.

Next is pay phones. There's one in the Hearthstone that doesn't seem to ever work and one in the Tri Service Building which is hardly central. So don't forget your shopping list at home.

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YMIR MOUNTAIN Telemark Cup



March 21 is the date of the first annual Ymir Mountain Telemark Cup. Ymir is situated adjacent to Whitewater Ski Area near Nelson BC, one of the few areas in the province with lots of snow.

Labatts is co-sponsoring the event which will be run in the dual head to head GS format.

There will be lots of prizes and lots of fun so if your looking for some snow and some good friendly competition phone 825-9968 for information and keep in touch with next month's Answer for more details.

GRIPES GREETINGS

E assorted trivia

Northrop Frye
English Dept.
University of Toronto

Dear Jim Monahan:

I have just finished reading your "Christmas Turkey" and it sure is one.

I did, however, like the image you created with "a light white snowfall. I remember the white snowfalls of my youth, and I like them considerably more than the green, red, yellow and polka-dotted snowfalls we tend to get these days. And "began from the streetlamps" is priceless as I have never thought to have snow emminate from anything other than clouds.

I can't wait to see what you'll give us for Easter. How about "The Easter Egg" and the yolk will be on you.

Yours in literature

Northrop Frye

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HACKS,
CROCKS, AND STIFFS LOCAL 69

Bob Colebrook, President
January 27, 1981

James Monahan,
Regional President

My dear Mr. James Monahan Esq:

As eastern region president I alert you to the enclosed cartoon, which I believe is relevant to our mutual situation vis-s-vis Charles Doyle.

I trust that in your next round of union/management negotiations you will include this in your arsenal of weaponry to deal with the evil controllors of the means of production.

I will not rest easy until our great talents are appreciated, both artistically and financially!

Yours in brotherhood,

R. E. "throw off your chains"
Colebrook, Jr.

Shoe



News Flash!

Speedie and Toulouse, Internationally Renowned Trainers of the Canadian Ski Team, have survived one more of Podborski's victory parties and are continuing to wow the Europeans with their West Coast dance steps.

Speedie

The Answer would like to extend a great big thanx to Larry Gunn, ambulance man and highway man (I don't think that sounds right) for the last minute loan of his darkroom equipment for this issue!



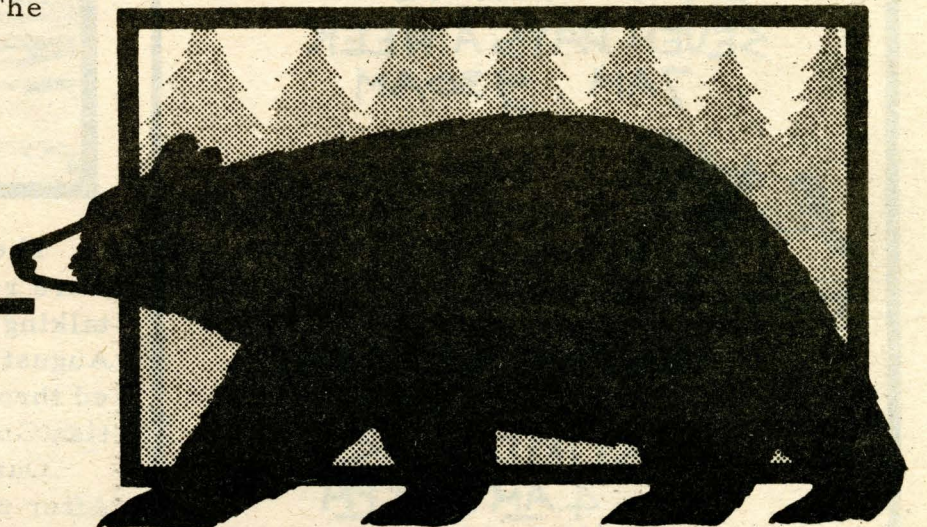
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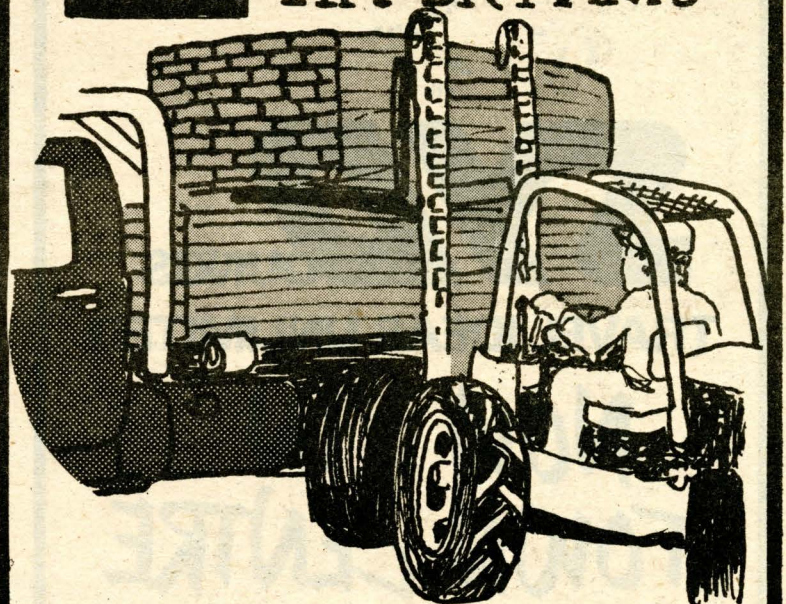
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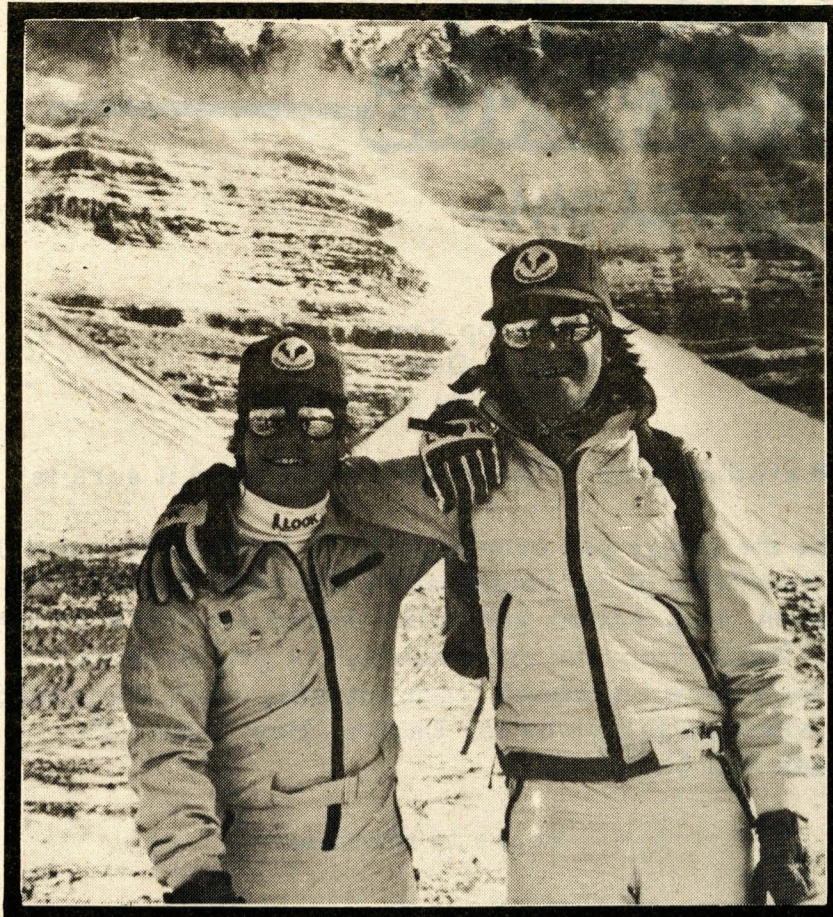
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JACQUES THIBAUT AND MYSELF IN FRONT OF THE EMPEROR FACE OUR CHOSEN DESCENT.

The idea originated like most spur of the moment decisions. We were relaxing at our Whistler condominium, with Jacques and myself talking skiing and searching for an autumn adventure. It was mid August and summer skiing had been excellent. We had skied and climbed throughout the summer months doing many extreme routes in British Columbia's Coastal Range.

Our goal for the upcoming fall was to ski something "awesome". After reviewing several peaks in the Coastal Range, the Rockies and even as far north as the St. Elias in the Yukon, our thoughts all began to focus on one particular peak. Mt. Robson, "the monarch of the Rockies" had become the target for planning a major first descent.

At first our idea was seemingly innocent. Jacques Thibault prepared a portfolio on the mountain (highest in the Canadian Rockies at 12,972 ft.). We prepared for a simple climbing approach from Berg Lake, following the Berg Glacier up the north-east ridge and staging the descent on Robson's Empire face, a 7,000 ft. vertical run ranging in steepness from 45 to 65 degrees.

We set the date for October 23. At this time the moon was expected to be full and with it, going by history and good luck we hoped for perfectly clear skies for the day of the descent.

Then we met our neighbour; Chuck Hammond, mastermouth extraordinaire. After hearing our plans he shook his head and stated. "If you are going to risk your life skiing a mountain you might as well go for the gusto, make some cash and make use of the ski world to publicize the affair, let me promote it."

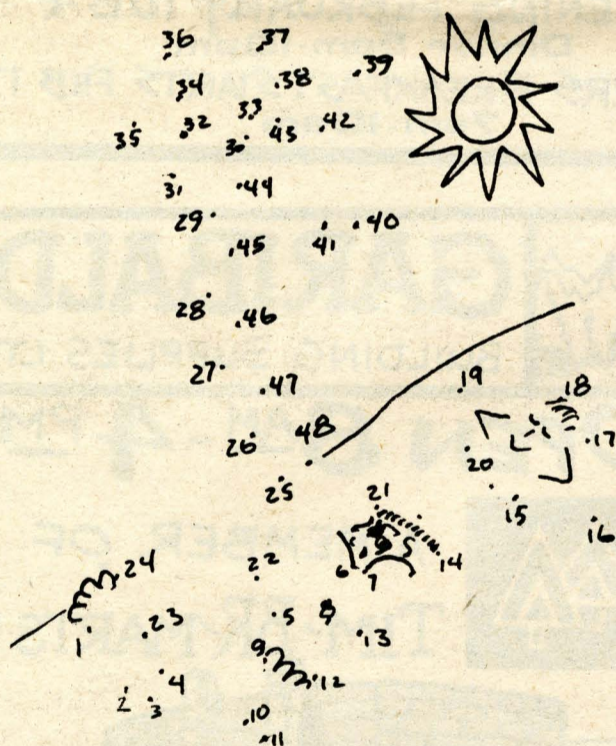
And so he did. Within a month Chuckie baby, a 300 pound colossus claiming upbringing from Jackson Hole to Aspen did his job well.

He did it all in the good old American way, over the phone, Chuck was unreal on the phone. Within minutes he was down to first names with high ranking executives, the Minister of Parks, editors, producers and other influential big brass. Within that month he also had us outfitted to the gills with top of the line ski equipment, clothing and apparel.

Next, headquarters was moved to Valemount B.C. and the Sarak Motor Inn. From there, by helicopter a basecamp was established on Robson itself at an altitude of 7,500 ft. We spent 3 weeks here alternatively, climbing and skiing the lower face of the mighty Emperor route.

At the same time we were training extensively for the descent by heli-skiing in the Cariboo range. A week before the descent date the tension began to mount. The press was arriving from all over. 48 reporters in all were organized by Chuck Hammond into four helicopters to be hovering around the mountain on the day of the descent. Chuckie even staged a press conference to cover all the buzz. The press was going wild. There was CBC French, CBC English. Valemount became the center of attention nationwide for at least a week. Even Ted Reynolds was there providing Howard Cosell type, on the spot interviews.

We spent a budget of 41,000 or shall I say, Chuck Hammond did. Mainly on helicopter time, hotels and the phone bills. The big bird ABC's, "That's Incredible" with a TV gobbling audience of 60 million



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viewers was, according to Chuckie baby, supposed to pick up the tab.

Well, October 23 rolled around, with it a perfectly clear morning. The four CMH mountain guides landed on the summit of Robson early. They roped off a 100ft squared section for the helicopters to land in. This was a cage designed to keep the reporters from straggling out of bounds and falling off a serac while trying to take that Pulitzer prize winning shot.

Shortly before our take off to the summit I managed to buy 300 feet of polypropeline rope, just in case we might need it to repel down over the massive ice seracs ringing the summit. Jacques reassured me that no ropes were necessary. After all he did claim to be a "Mountain Guide", working for Hans Gmoser and climbing Robson 25 times in the past. He really believed there was a way through those seracs so how could I argue against such an expert.

My heart was pounding in the helicopter. Wow, I thought, what if I miss a turn, a lost edge, a stumble, a fall. I did not want to even consider the consequences. I was scared shitless. Arriving on top we were stunned by the mountain. There was no way for Jacques to descend through those ice hunks, they were humongus. I took out our measly 300 feet of rope and anchored one end to the mountain. Jacques with his skis on began heroically repelling down an icy corridor between the seracs. Fifty... a hundred... three hundred feet of rope gone and I feel a severe jerk on the rope in my belay position. He had run out of rope. Slowly I started winding the rope back up as Jacques, kicking off his skis began his climb to the top and back to safety. Another 300 feet of rope and we could have probably skied that monolith right then and there.



SKIERS DWARFED BY SUMMIT SERACS. HELICOPTER IS ON RIGHT HAND SIDE TOP THIRD OF PHOTO.

The press went wild again. Back in the hotel we planned another attack, this time climbing the empire ridge to a point below the ice formations using regular climbing gear, such as crampons and ice picks. That night we flew to our basecamp to spend a night up high for a predawn start to the climb. We began climbing the next day at 5 a. m. We reached a high point of 9500 feet by noon. By then the weather deteriorated severally. The winds were howling and climbing became an extreme chore. While huddling on a ledge we heard the whirl of a helicopter. A 212 Jet Ranger appeared around a band of rocks. It hovered around a nearby ledge. A CMH guide jumped out and ran towards us.

"Chuck Hammond aborted the mission, we are supposed to take you back, climbing could become fatal if continued," he said. *cont. pg 8*

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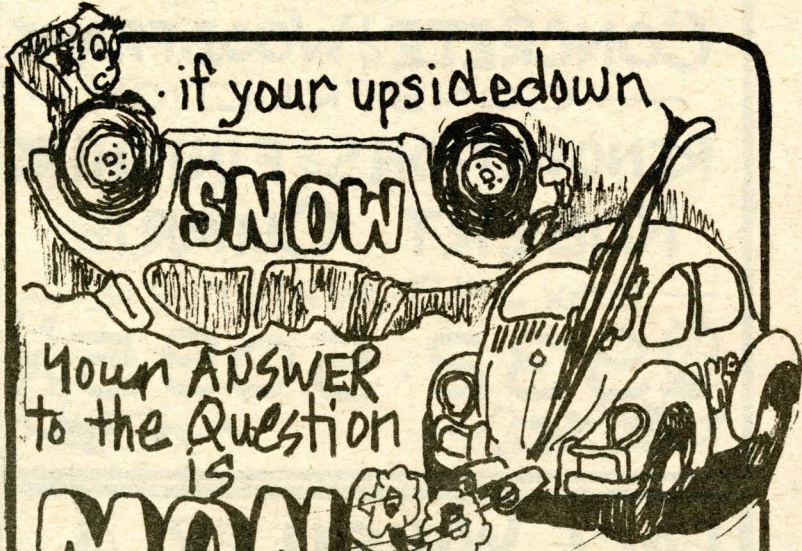
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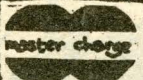
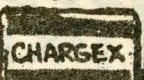


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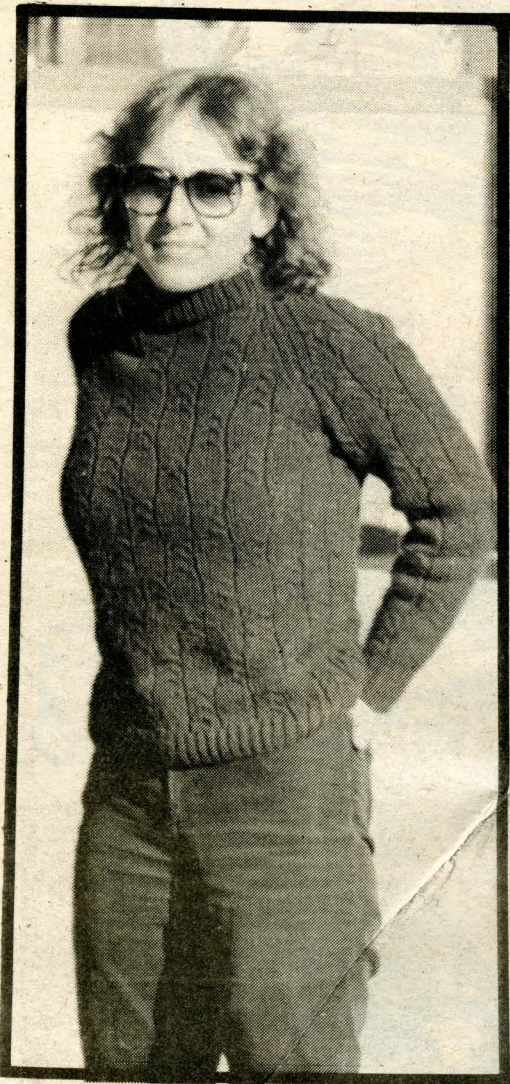
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Resorts are noted for their beautiful people, among other things. Whistler is no exception. Here is presented a small example of the local ladies in pictures.



Murielle Leblanc graces Bennies Bar and Grill with kitchen expertise. She cooks a pretty mean burger too.



If you think you've been here too long, you're just a light weight, Andreas been here all her life.

Min relaxes after a night making snow.



Maybe that ride won't be so painfull after all.



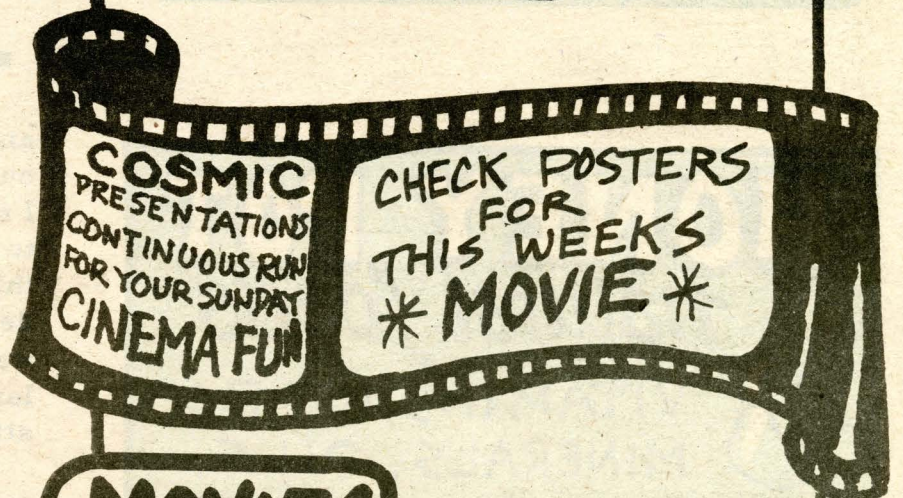
Our cover girl models the latest in skateboard atire.



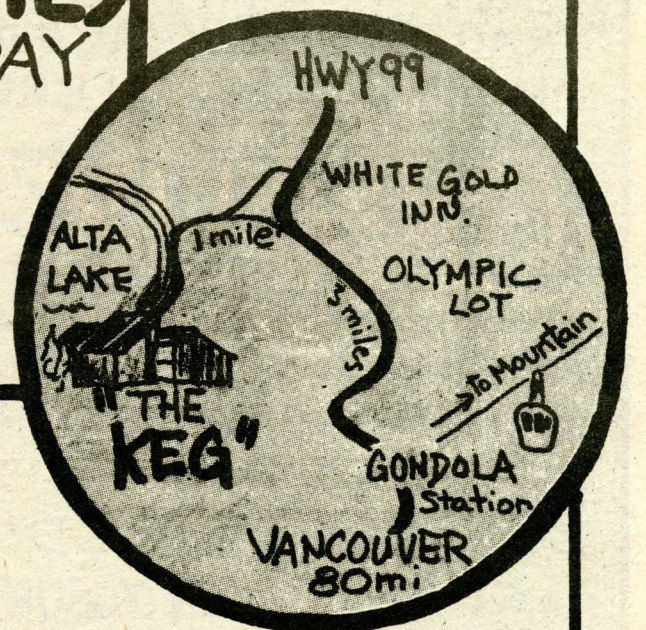
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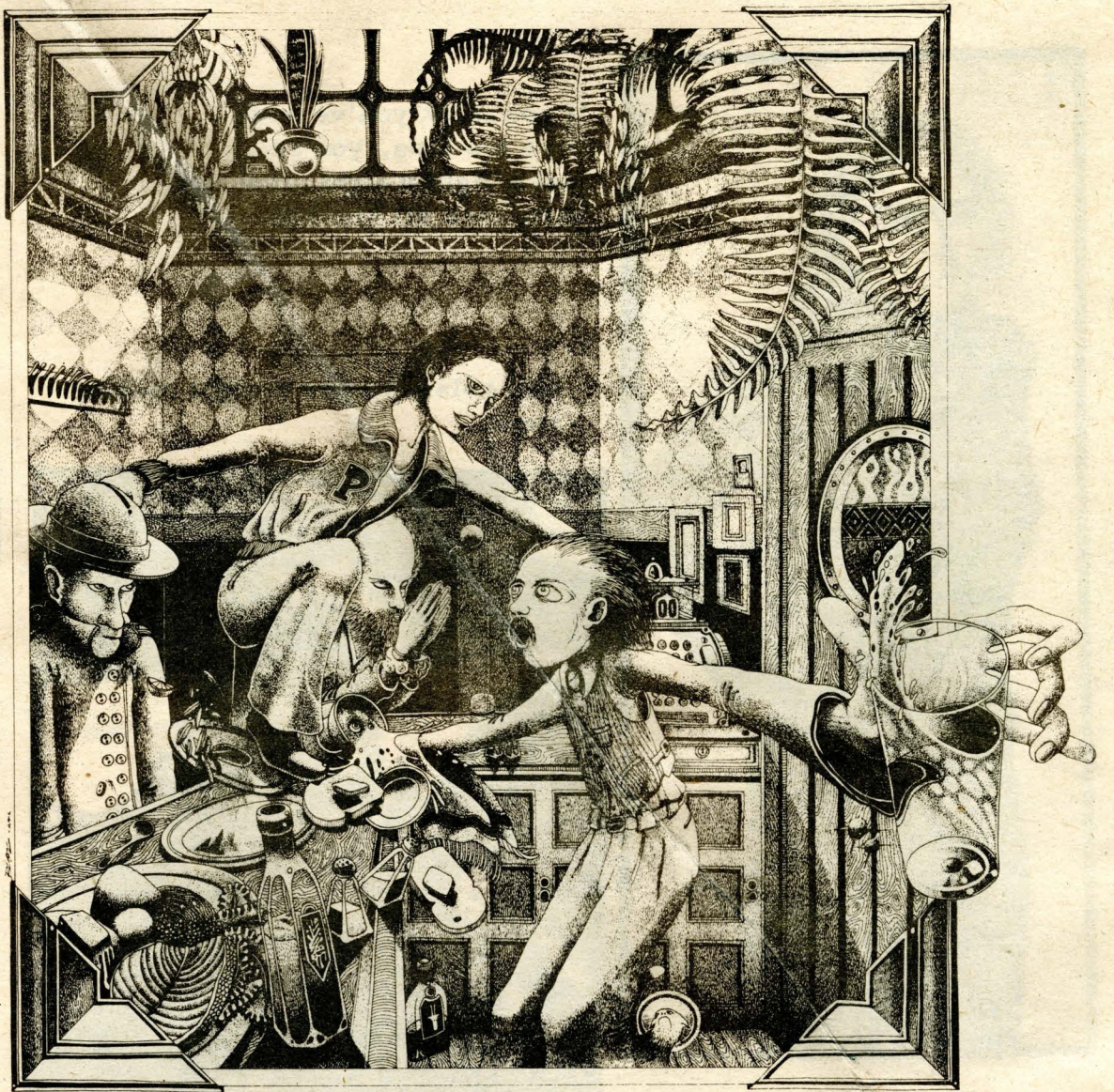
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One of a series by West Coast artist Christoffer Blades.



And then, as if that wasn't enough the whole damned sky fell.

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• FROM PAGE FIVE •

As the helicopter hovered next to the ledge we took of our packs and skis and threw them into the hovering chopper. Then we dove in ourselves. Attempt number two had been scratched, While in Jasper I met two experienced climbers in their late forties. The pair agreed to land on top with us for a third attempt. We brought sufficient rope this time and had two experienced mountaineers by our side. To our despair we tried for hours to land a Jet Ranger on top. The weather was clear but the winds horrendous. Not even Gary Foreman could land his machine in that hurricane force wind of 60 m. p. h. The third attempt was therefore given up.

We decided for one more try. We started the next morning with the two mountaineers, climbing the face itself. Again weather prevailed and our final attempt was foiled by an incoming storm and avalanches pouring off the face over us in severe sluff.

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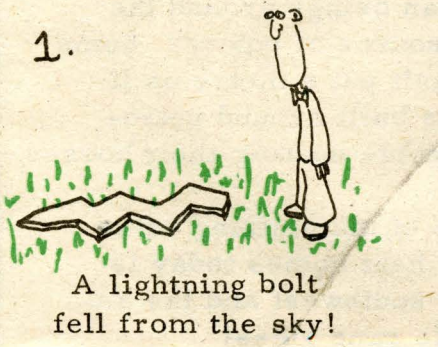
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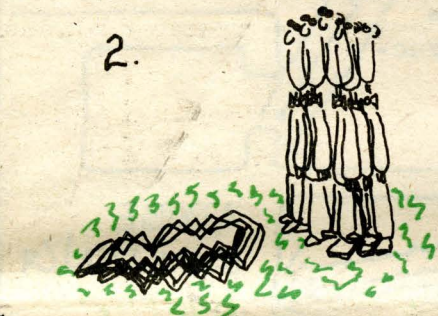
Doc Fingers was holding down the holding lounge at the Creek House. Assisting most ably was Jim Rothermel on sax, flute and harp. Jim hails from San Francisco and has played with the likes of Jesse Colin-young while Doc has probably played with pretty near everyone alive. They were joned on Friday by an unknown student of the early Bob Dylan school of harmonica.

Joe Conroy took a sabbatical from recording to do a week at the Highland Lodge. Joe and Doc have just finished working on the sound track of Terry Jacks new movie to be released on American TV this summer.



1.

A lightning bolt fell from the sky!



2.

Then, a voice as big as a God thundered!



My disappointment was tremendous but what could I do. I had failed before and it sure beats dying. The news media was even more disappointed. "What no freak show?" I could see it on Ted Reynolds face.

The moral of this story is and will always be the same. Robson can be skied on the Empire face, the North face or the Cane face. It will take more preparation and more climbing skills not just a publicity stunt as planned by Hammond. Jacques Thibault unfortunately is not a mountain guide and had never climbed the mountain yet made us believe that he had through very thorough research of the mountain in books, photographs etc. He wanted to ski it so bad he made us believe in an easier option than ropes. Unfortunately Robson won, for now that is. As to Chuck Hammond he has since disappeared with a very large bill chasing him. *A*

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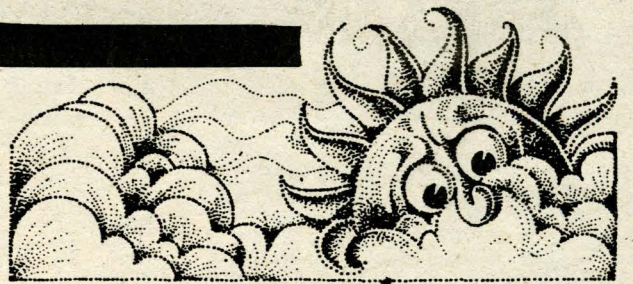
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THE BLACKCOMB

WHISTLER VILLAGE



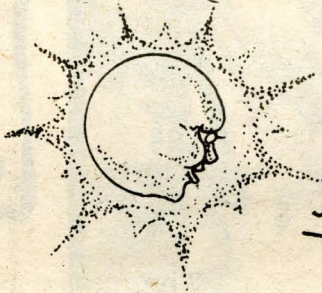
A SHORT INTRODUCTION

Today we are constantly being reminded of the growing cost of energy. Whether it be your hydro bill or at the gas pumps it is becoming frighteningly obvious that if the spiral continues (and why shouldn't it?) we are going to be in a serious supply/demand situation.

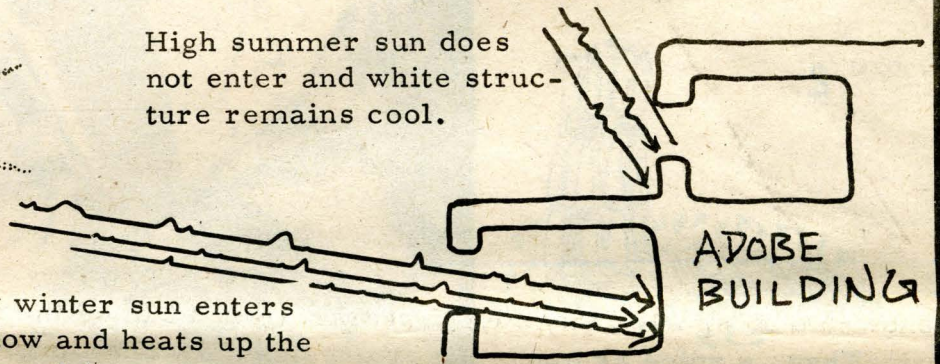
Since the industrial revolution the world's energy needs have been almost exclusively supplied by hydrocarbons; oil, gas, coal, etc. This supply will eventually dry up and will increase drastically in price until it does.

Solar energy (from the sun) arrives at the earth at a rate far exceeding that of the energy consumed by human beings around the world. Why hasn't the sun been utilized as a source of power? Some would say it's because the people in control can't put a metre on it. The entire western industrial political world is built around petroleum. You can bet your ass they don't want people heating their houses by the sun! There's no money in that.

The ancients long ago discovered the value of maximizing solar heat. Much of the technique used to passively heat homes today is a direct rip-off from the Pueblo Indians of the southwest and the ancient Greeks. And they didn't even have double pane glass!



High summer sun does not enter and white structure remains cool.



ADOBE BUILDING

Low winter sun enters window and heats up the dense adobe.

Although solar experimentation is relatively young in Canada it is proven that solar application is effective in our climate. And if the cost of incorporating energy conservation is amortized against the operating costs of current practice the solar option is already cost effective.

Many people are discouraged from solar application because of a vision of strange architecture, high technology, pipes, ducts and fans. But this need not be the case. Passive solar principles such as greenhouse built on a south facing wall can be added to already completed houses while orienting the glass to the south could be incorporated in the design stages. Heating needs can be cut by 50% just by attending to insulation, storm windows and caulking.

In short, it's not so much new technology as a re-orientation of thinking. The sun is up there and it's every day is still there during light or intermittent cloud cover. It's up to us to grab it and not let it go.

Now this is just an introduction to what could save hundreds of dollars a year. In subsequent issues of the Answer and at "Hand Built Islands," an exhibition of hand made houses of B.C. in March '81, at the Brackendale Gallery more information will be available to help us hold the Sun.

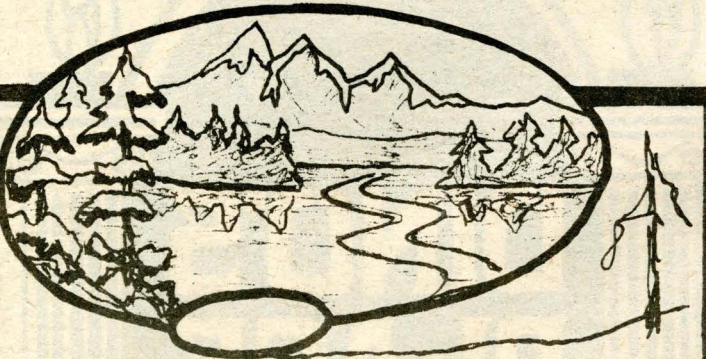
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HAND - BUILT ISLANDS

We have been asked to assemble an exhibition of the hand-made houses of B.C. It will be held in the Brackendale Gallery during March 1981.

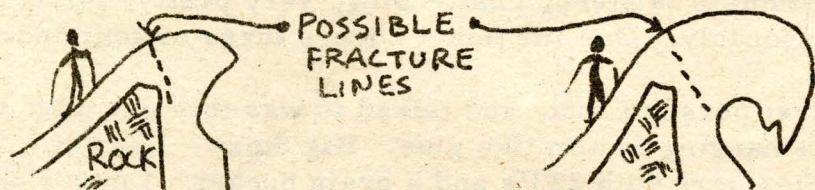
If you have photographs, drawings, paintings, poetry, parts, models of such houses and their spirit, please contact Brackendale Art Gallery.
604-898-3333

AVALANCHE

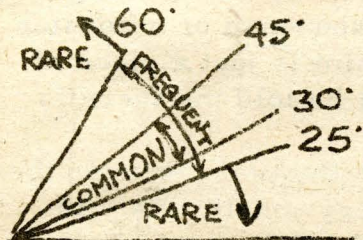
Skiers are straying from the safety of the patrolled area more now than ever before. The dry weather is forcing skiers up and away from the populous areas. The new popularity of telemark equipment and technique is increasing the range of the winter traveller. Whether your a day tripper on a jaunt to Burnt Stew Basin or on a more demanding ski trip a working knowledge of your environment can greatly lesson your chances of becoming a statistic.

Avalanches are the greatest dangers of the winter traveller and occur by the thousands every winter and spring. They cannot be predicted with certainty even by the experts, but certain guidelines or parameters will assist the alpine traveller in making an educated guess.

80% of avalanches occur during and shortly after storms. Snow-falls that start cold and dry followed by rising temperatures (common to our Coastal climate) are more likely to cause avalanches. Spring rains can loosen the snow's grip on underlying surfaces increasing avalanche danger.

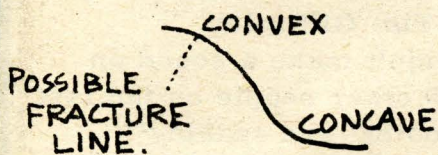


Cornices are of particular danger to mountain travellers because they overhang to the lee of a ridge or peak and can break off from natural or human disturbance. The danger from below is obvious but from above it is difficult to observe whether or not the cornice even exists and if so how far back the probable fracture line will be.



Avalanche probability is a function of slope angle. Unfortunately most avalanches occur between 45 and 30 degrees which is a slope also conducive to good skiing.

Slab avalanches are probably the most difficult to fore-see. The snow has no specific physical appearance, and can be the product of wind, snow deposition, settling or creeping. A snow profile is invaluable in forecasting the danger of slab avalanches but they are time consuming to dig and require an expertise to 'read'. The Whistler Ski Patrol has a snow study station and can offer information of this nature to backcountry skiers.



Concave slopes are less likely to slide than convex as the snow is compressed in the hollows. Convex slopes stretch the snow surface and are often the starting zone for avalanche.

Route finding is also an important safety factor. Snow on north facing slopes is more likely to slide in mid-winter, while south facing slopes are dangerous in spring and on sunny days. Leeward slopes are more dangerous than windward slopes, which generally have better compacted snow of lesser depth. This can be frustrating because the safe way is not always the easy one.

Where possible avoid the hazard! There is least danger from avalanche on ridges, more on the valley floor, and most on inclined slopes. Beware of valley floors as avalanches have been known to travel more than a mile on level ground.

Slides rarely start in dense forest or in closely spaced rock projections. Gullies are many times more dangerous than adjacent slopes as they are catch-alls for falling snow and rock.

Timing is important in a gully. What will be a fast and safe route in the cold morning can turn into a bowling alley of rocks and snow when the sun hits it.

Avalanches require a starting zone or area of weakest connection to the surrounding slope. These are sometimes obvious as in a rock band, (prone to heating up) a cornice, or convex slope. (If possible stay above these zones) Some starting zones are difficult to detect like a weak or slippery layer deep within the snow.

New Avalanches sometimes indicate dangerous conditions. Sun-balls or cartwheels on a loose slope often indicate deep instability. Sliding snow from a ski cut is cause for alarm if it involves deeper layers of snow. If long cracks appear from a ski track dangerous slab conditions are present and caution should be executed.

Lastly there is no substitute for practical experience. No mountaineer will become expert by reading this or any other book. He must know the feel of snow under his ski, ice axe, or ski pole. He must observe the snow in all it's phases and understand the gradual processes through which it must ultimately pass.

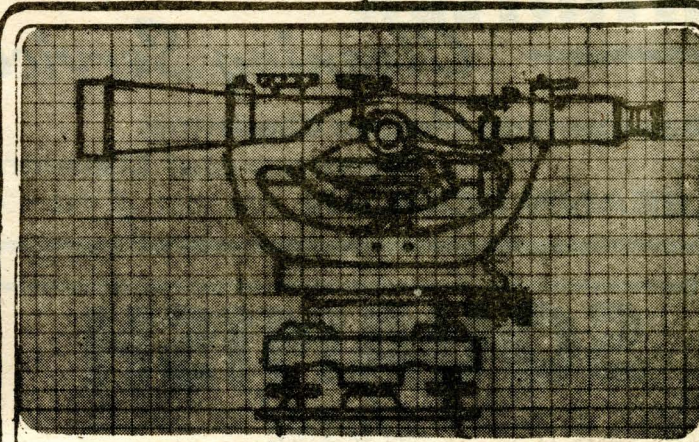
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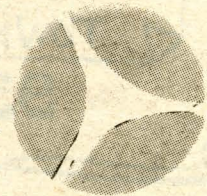


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As I See It... On the World Cup Scene.

by DAVE ROBERTS



DOWNHILL UPDATE



Dave is a Whistlerite known for his membership on the medal winning Coconut Downhill Team, his talent as a Master of Ceremonies (talent nights usually) and his gift of gab.

He is currently in Europe skiing, competing in regional races and attending as many World Cup Downhills as possible.

I arrived in Austria after an all day train ride from Amsterdam. The Rhine River Valley was breathtaking with all its castles and vineyards rising from the river straight up steep embankments... I skied on the Haknenkanm the next day.

What can't I say about Kitzbuhel? The skiing was marvellous, it hadn't stopped snowing for 9 days. The race was almost off because of the snow. We skied everywhere with nice light powder up and beyond our hips. It was the first real powder skiing of the year for me.

The mountain is steep, challenging, very pretty, fairly lengthy and priced reasonably. One lift ticket covers three or four individual mountains.

The first person I met, and talked to was this guy with Japanese journalists hanging to him like glue. Big Story? You bet! It was Ingemar Stenmark with 223's and a brain bucket. I didn't know till then what was happening. I couldn't believe it, I just couldn't. He had been practising for the downhill not the slalom. The Japanese reporter told me this was front page material back in Tokyo. "Stenmark tucking!!"

He was a well mannered person who speaks softly and his English is quite clear and understandable. He is not a showman or a boaster at all. It seems that this World Cup racing to him is just a piece of cake and he could be doing something else. But he told me there is nothing like winning over and over again.

His coach talked him in to practising for the Downhill because the number of combined skiers for the event was very small. He was practically guaranteed points just for entering the DH.

He looked scared, shaky, and very uneasy. He wasn't trying to go very fast: just to complete the course. I didn't see him in his tuck at all. What I saw: missed pre-jumps, standing up with arms back, and a very scared look on his face constantly.

But he did okay and completed the course at 34th. I skied with Chris Kent of the Canadian Team doing some free skiing before the race. Kent, from Calgary had finished very well at Val D'Isere... Also managed to chat with Dave Murray and Tim Gilhooley.

But what can I say about Podborski. He didn't make a sound on his edges as he cruised by me and about 4,000 other people on the last lip before the finish line. Everybody was 'ooooing' and aaahing! He had looked the best so far and the message was broadcast over the loudspeaker 1st platz S. Podborski: Kanada. I went wild, everyone else just cheered. But I had to wait because I knew Muller was running about 2 or 3 behind him.

Muller looked faster. I was worried. This Swiss guy poked me with his flag and said, "Ya, Ya, Ya, Muller!" His time was announced in German first and I couldn't make it out. Then it hit me: 2:04:16, not good enough. I started howling, for I knew then that the race was practically over and we had a winner. I threw snowballs at the Swiss delegation who were just pissed. We got together at the finish line afterwards and drank schnapps and toasted each other. It was great.

The biggest attraction in Austria was no surprise. You could see a cloud of people gather around this guy every step he took. I saw the boots, and skis, but couldn't make out who it was. His name was being scribbled on to everything from baseball caps to cookie tins. I laughed, it was the man, 'FRANZ KLAMMER'. He's been skiing well lately and he's got more confidence. He's on "Blizzard" this year, and I think that is why he's doing well. They are the hottest ski going right now along with "Kastle".

This season has been hard on competitors. At Kitzbuhel, five members of the top seed (15 skiers) did not enter because of injury, allowing Murray, Klammer, and Irwin into the first group.

Kitzbuhel rocks at night and especially during the World Cup. The night after the downhill it was full of racers, racer chasers, and rock'n roll. The bar I was in even had a Toad Hall poster over the bar. Lotsa North Americans with lots to celebrate.

I spent a few hours in the Hahnenkamm train station drinking with a few Austrian war veterans. They were buying because I was Canadian. They spoke very good English and drank moderately from sun up to sundown. I liked that, it made me feel at home.

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The Annual Answer Staff Meeting

A STAFF REPORT

Well your honor it happened this way... Mr. Colebrook arrived from the far east demanding to know what happened to his by lines in the January 80 issue. Without the mere notion of purchasing an advertisement, he conned Leierer into cracking for a couple of cool ones, at the base of the lift company. After being barred (his eyes spent shuffling a day coach from Toronto). Mr. Colebrook introduced the ebullient Mr Monahan... ahump ahump, pay check in hand. Soon to encounter Mr. Lopez for a group therapy session, they sat and waited.

"Maybe we should go to the Husky for an egg sandwich..."

Doyle was in the hospital having a cartilage removed from his knee (a near miss)... Verchere was upset about the censor board changing the last frame of his January Localman (a triple chair, falling into a lake, appeared as a dory). The vivacious Ms. Peckford strode about the establishment, in search of a hot spring.

(Reminds me of the time I was busted for illegal possession of alcohol in a Volkswagon van. Unable to appear in court I sent the mouth-piece...

"...and does the accused have anything to say for himself."

"Well your honour... it was a hot day and..."

The imbrogilo continued for three days. Doyle arrives from Big Van doing a cane routine. That warm hearted thrush (and co-founder of the Whistler Answer) Ms. Robin Blechman strode bravely to the podium, and with flowers in hand sung...

"Here we are out of cigarettes..."

In a vain attempt to re-establish himself, Mr. Colebrook began to hassel waiters, bouncers, maitre d's,....

"Where's Jack Bright?" he cried.

Anyway, your honor, Monahan gives Leierie his rent money to deposit at the bank in Vancouver. Leirier shows up two days later.

"Ah well, the bank closes at five, and you need a key for the night deposit and and..."

(Two nights at the fabulous Niagra Hotel, sporting a few rounds at Rohans...) "but Hoodie owes me four hundred..."

Now Dunk's on a bender... Verchere's angry about the cartoons.. Colebrook is missing his line.... Dunk is gone....

"They put a picture of a bird right in the middle of my yarn."

Poor Bennie, I mean poor Bennie, it goes like:

"Well I'll give you a check and you give me the money," Colebrook.

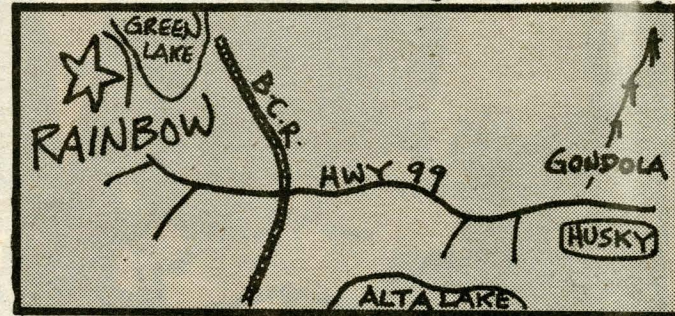
"I'm not taking your check," Leirer.

"So who's payin' for the bagels," Bennie.

Well, I dunno your honor, but it never does get said. Somewhere across this immense land shuttles a Via Rail train with Colebrook in an upper berth. (he's about to be barred from the Dome car)... Peckford is on loan to Penthouse... geeze I just can't wait till next year... Leierer is doing ground control to Major Tom... Monahan is having a pint and wondering where she went... Verchere is back at his desk... "Lou" Doyle is home shaking his head... Lopez has called from a pay phone and left the receiver hanging... it's a bit indulgent, that's true, but somewheres at thirty five thousand feet (sitting in the jet stream, in the quiet thunder) Robin Blechman is putting a book down...

"...and too much in love to say good night."

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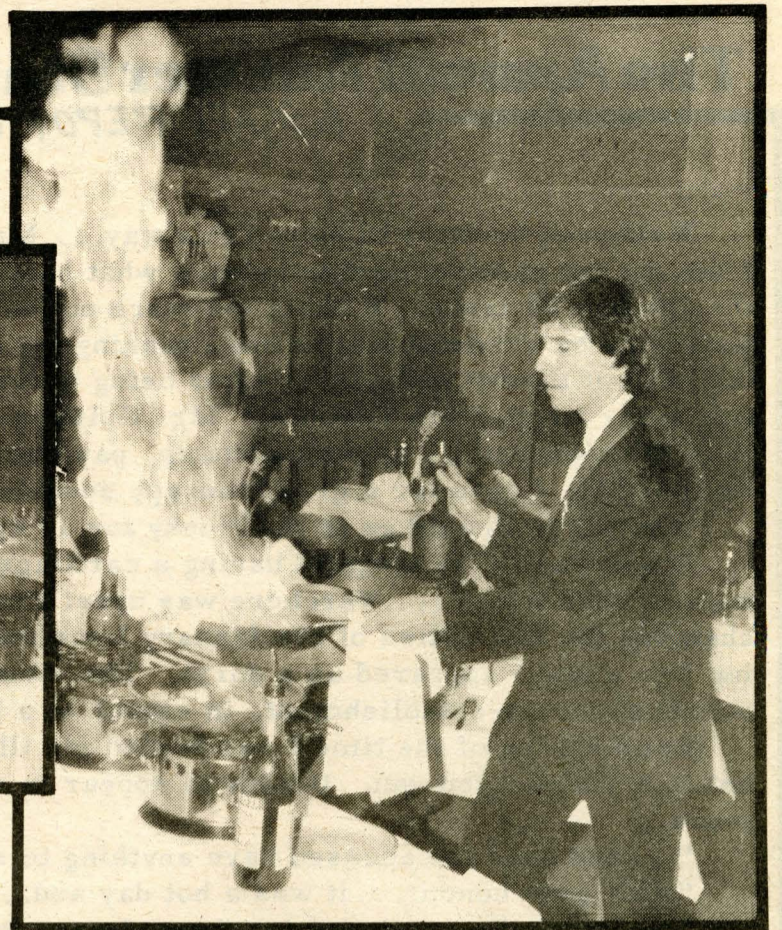
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The Cut Above

FOR THOSE SPECIAL OCCASSIONS

PAGE 14.



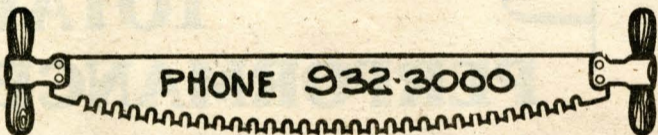
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There are countless reasons for dining out. They run the gauntlet from a lack of food in the fridge to a celebration or special occasion. The Cut Above deals with the latter and they do it with class! There are those very special times when one wants to be pampered, treated like royalty and upon entering the Cut Above it becomes obvious that this is the place.

Your hosts Arno Leblic and Hermil Rioux combine their Parisian and Acadian backgrounds with almost twenty years in the restaurant business to provide a service unfamiliar to most local diners. Hermil has even served the Queen. Together with Bernard Fournier and Luc Lesage they provide Whistler's only true French Service. Candles twinkle on crystal silver and snow white linen. The emphasis is on service and relaxation. Don't expect to be hustled through here. You are their guests for the evening and are treated as such.

Al Davis when asked if he had sampled their fare said, "I'm waiting 'till I fall in love." And that's the kind of place it is.

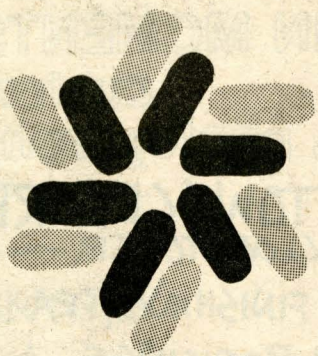
Ultimately it's the food that makes a restaurant and it's here that the Cut Above truly shines. Each course is abundant yet leaves the diner anxious for the next. The hors d'oeuvres are delicious. The escargots are served in a light pastry shell and are among the finest I've ever had. The Salade Caesar is made at the table and is superb.

However it's the entrees that place the Cut Above in a league by themselves. Several items such as the Crevettes au Pernod, and the Steak au Poivre are prepared and flamed in gleaming copper chafing dishes at the table providing not only the spectacle of an expert at work but the sounds and aromas of dinner materializing before you.

For an extra special treat ignore the menu and ask for a surprise! Let them do their thing and witness the creation of an individual and unique repas. You won't be disappointed.

The Cut Above is not opened to the public on Sundays and Mondays, but the odour of flaming filets still wafts from the cedar lined balcony. For on these days the restaurant caters their multi course specials, to small (10 to 15 persons) parties. So if a very special occasion is approaching why not enjoy the freedom and extravagance of leaving everything in the very capable hands of Arno and Hermil. Allowing two weeks for organization and preparation, phone them at 932-5494 for arrangements.

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"Food is food only if it is eaten,
So we make things that the
People we are cooking for
Can relish and enjoy."

Cucumber Raita

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 cucumber, peeled, and diced salt | 2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint |
| 6 scallions, chopped | 1 cup yogurt |
| ground black pepper | fresh mint or scallion for garnish |

Salt the diced cucumber and set aside for about 30 minutes to allow the salt to draw the juices. Rinse and drain.

Just before serving, top with fresh mint sprigs or chopped spring onion. Serves: 4-6

Sauced Sweet and Sour Carrots

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 tsp. oil | 2 tbsp. chopped sweet pickle |
| 1 tsp. tomatoe sauce | 1 tsp. vinegar |
| 1 tsp. sherry | 3 tsp brown sugar |
| 1/4 tsp. powdered ginger or | 2 tsp. cornstarch |
| 1/2 tsp. grated fresh ginger | 1/2 cup cold water |
| 1 finely sliced raw carrot | |

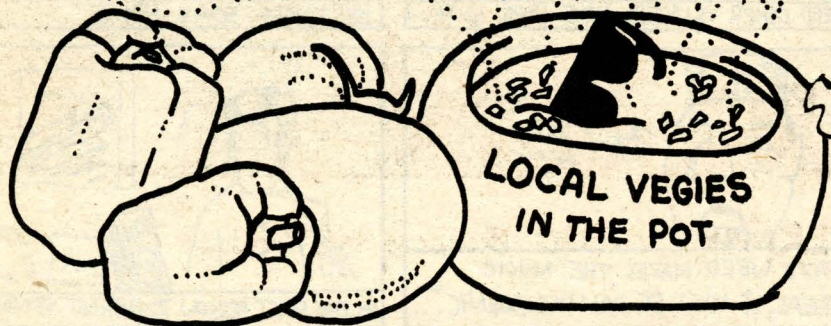
Fry pickles and ginger in oil briefly. Mix cornstarch with water & combine the remaining ingredients, except for the carrots. Add this mixture to pickles & cook, stirring until sauce thickens. Add carrots Heat to boiling and serve.

Creamy Broccoli and Zucchini

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2 cups chopped broccoli | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 2 cups chopped unpared zucchini | 1/2 teaspoon oregano |
| 1/2 cup chopped onions | 3/4 cup milk |
| 2 cloves garlic, minced | 1 1/2 cups ricotta or cottage cheese |
| 2 tablespoons butter | 8 ounces spinach noodles, cooked, drained, and buttered |
| 3 tablespoons flour | grated parmesan cheese |
| 2 tablespoons snipped parsley | |

In medium saucepan, cook broccoli and zucchini together covered, for 8 to 10 minutes; drain. In large saucepan, cook onion, parsley, and garlic in butter till onion is tender. Blend in flour, parsley, salt, and oregano. Add milk all at once. Cook and stir till thickened and bubbly. Add ricotta cheese. Cook and stir till cheese is nearly melted. Stir in vegies. Serve over hot noodles. Sprinkle with parmesan. Serves: 4 to 6

"Whatever is done will not make a cucumber more of a cucumber,
Or a radish more of a radish.
Cucumber is cucumber,
Radish is radish.
What is done may make a vegetable more suitable to a particular taste-
That's the usually way, to see what tastes we want.
Best why not ask the cucumber.
Why not ask the radish,
What is the taste it would like to express."



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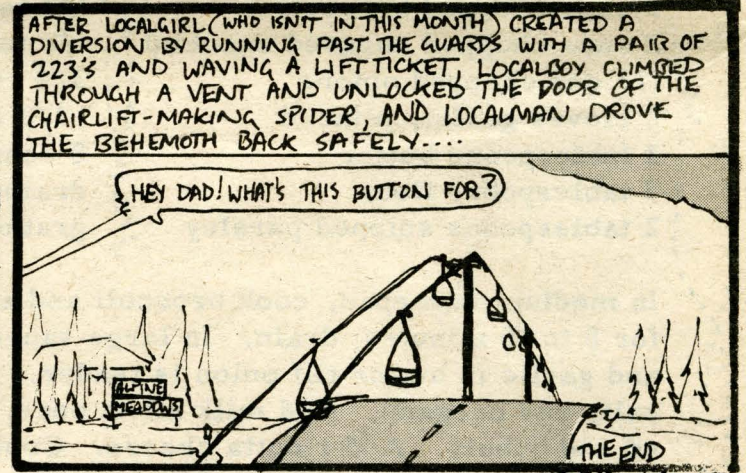
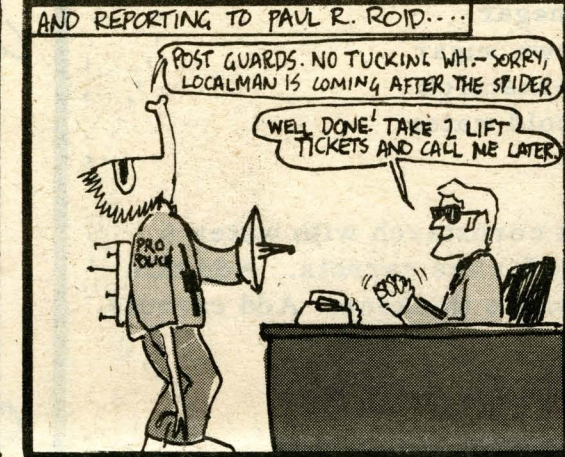
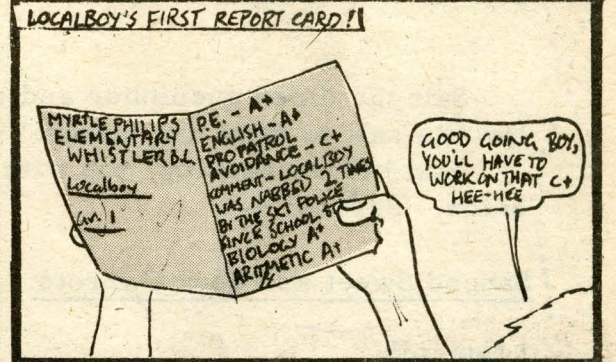
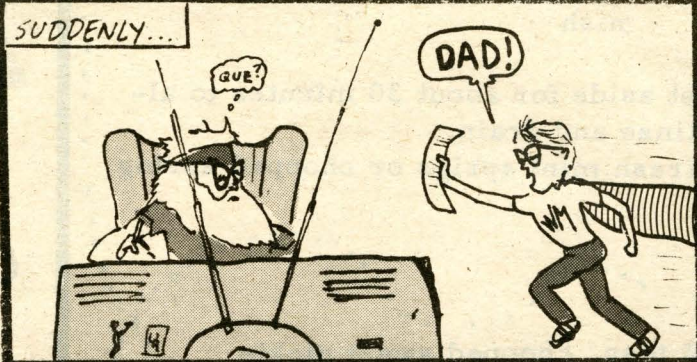
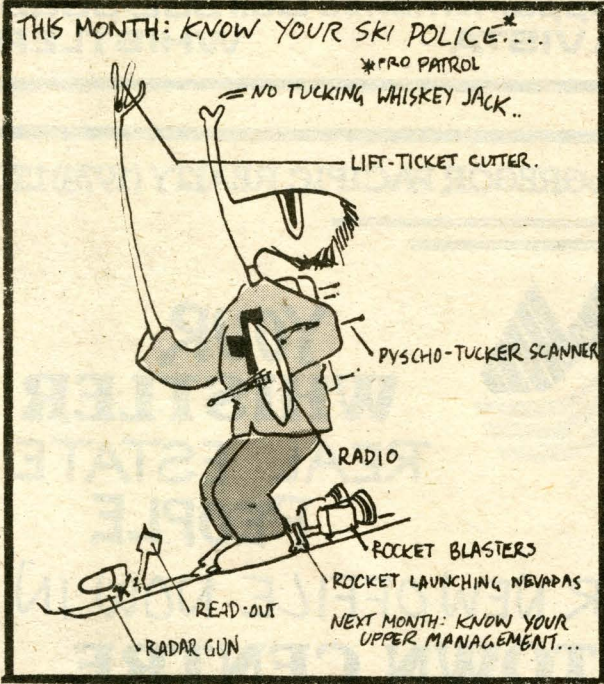
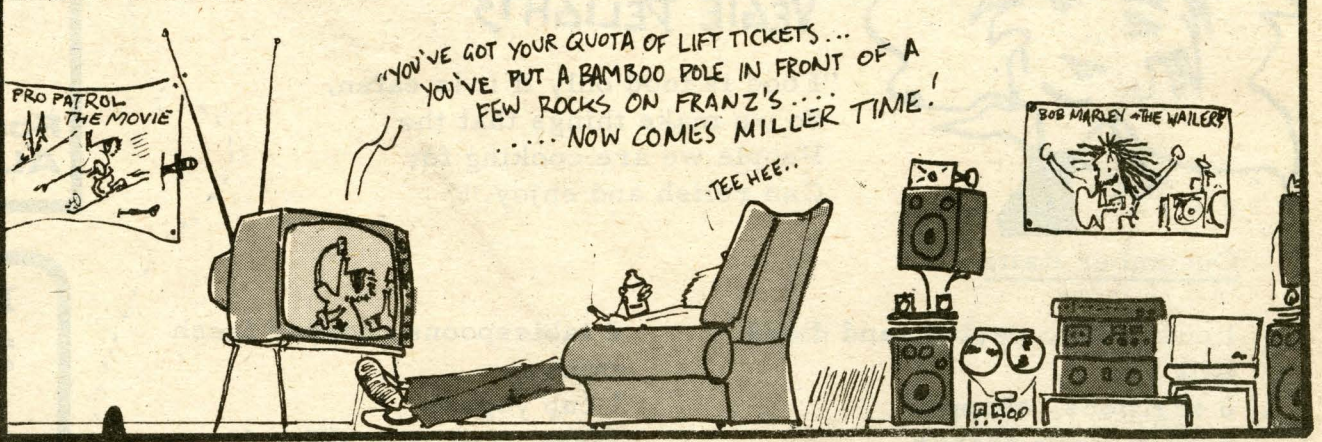
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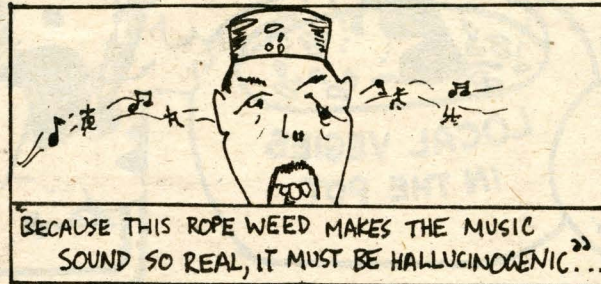
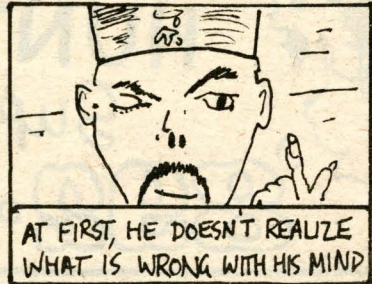
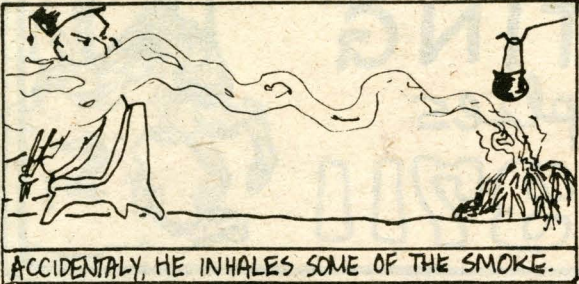
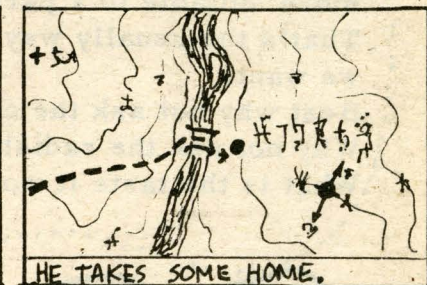
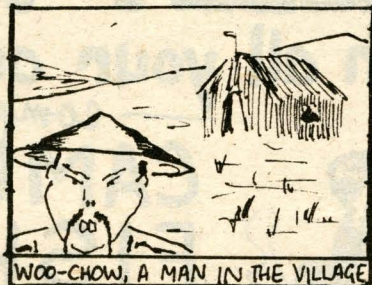
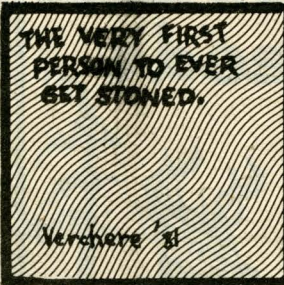
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