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SEPT 15/2000 • THE MOST IMPORTANT THING YOU CAN READ • IT'S A FREE BIRD, BABY

Another One of Big John's Records

Most of Barrie's hip people are familiar with Big John Ritson. From a business standpoint alone, his eponymously named record store towers above the competition in terms of price, variety and availability. Behind the colourful exterior is a man who is very well read; a responsible member of our community, and an ardent philanthropist. He has invested a great deal of work publishing his book, *Thoughts of a Frustrated Idealist*, and all of the profits go to the *Easter Seals Society*. A person of his caliber should be celebrated, and I will now change the font to Old English, as Ritson's entire book is printed in that very unorthodox font.

Sid Crowe: How long did it take to put the book in your hands after you gave your finished work to your typist, Lorri Champagne?

Big John Ritson: I'm guessing it took the best part of a year. We did it incrementally...I'd give her two or three sections, she'd work on them, and in the meantime I would be touching up some new sections. Lorri's a busy person...this isn't what she does full time. We didn't rush it, I didn't put any pressure on her, nor did she put any on me. So I'm guessing about a year in total.

C: Who are some authors whose work you'd like to take with you

if you were on a deserted island?

R: Good question. I understand when we read we need to be entertained, but I think we shouldn't read just to serve a paltry convenience. We should read as a noble intellectual exercise in an attempt to grow, and to blossom and to flower and to bloom, y'know? I don't like reading trash. I would rather wash my laundry than read the *National Enquirer* anyday. I'd rather make my bed, I'd rather tie my shoelace (a list of some of his favourites appears on page four).

C: How do you feel about politics?

R: I'm not fond of the system. It's stated quite succinctly in the book that I don't have any faith in our current political leaders or the current system to address my needs or the needs of my fellow man...therefore, why should I vote? I mean, that's why they're there, to supposedly address our needs. I think Henry David Thoreau said that government is an expedient by which people would fain (willingly) leave one another alone. Therefore the more expedient the government is, the more that the governed are left alone. So I'd like whoever's in power to just not bother me and I won't bother them.

(Continued on page 4)

👉 SID'S KNOWN BY THOUSANDS—PG.4!



THE FOUNDATION
ROCKS!

THE TERRY FOX RUN HAPPENS ON SEPT 17



He's the hero a superhero looks up to. I'm sure all you nice people will support Terry's run!

Holy Toledo, remind me not to level any criticism at the *Star Wars* series ever again! Man, you folks are computer literate and opinionated to say the least! In response to your heated emails, please let me remind you all that I never said that *The Phantom Menace* was a bad film, I only said that it wasn't what it *should* have been. I still like it fer cryin' out loud. Now for some more science fiction...

In other "news," the *National Post* put a ridiculous story on the cover of its Sep 9 issue about itself and some unimportant celebrities actually buying property on the moon. Apparently some California flake has been doing this for the past twenty years, and the recent opening of his Canadian office (unlike the *Post*, I shan't mention the name of this kook's business) prompted the paper to buy a piece of the moon, and to put the story on the front page. As usual with damn near anything that sees print these days, we are informed of the celebrities that are involved. The blasphemous notion that we should think of Tom Hanks when we look upon the heavens makes me wanna puke. The story continued on page 11 right next to an ad for an airline whose graphic design included a billboard in the clouds upon which was featured the Earth and the

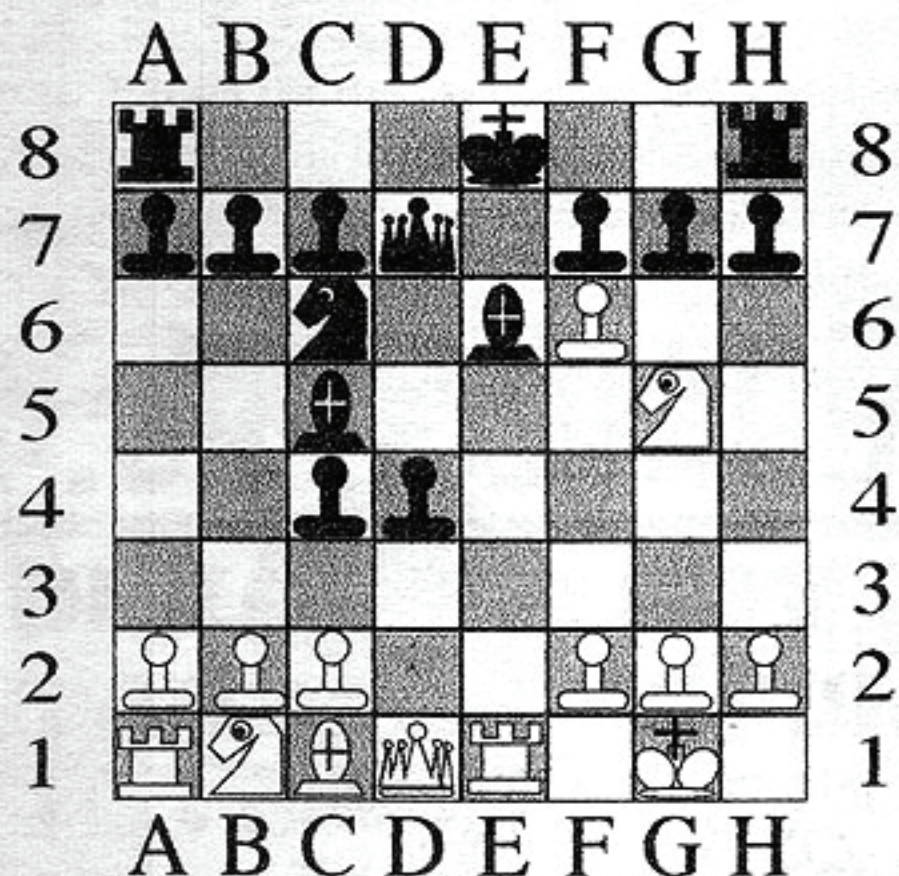
words "NOW ON SALE." A little too ironic. The only voice of reason in the story came from a Dutchman who pointed out that all such claims cannot possibly be honoured. Further stupidity was to be found on page 2, with a reflection upon the media's treatment of Pierre Trudeau during his time of illness (and it's written by one of the unrepentant bastards who personally hounded the man at his private home—how quaint!). Cub scout reporter Paul Wells takes a cue from the *National Enquirer*, citing conversations he'd had with a "friend" and a "cousin of a friend" of the family as he attempts to justify his activities. He also speculates that to folks of a Gen-X age, Trudeau is "simply there...he's just part of the landscape." I am part of that age range, but I am not stupid. Trudeau is not a part of the landscape, but he is *there*. He is a sick human being *there* in his own house. Two months ago in this publication's premier issue, I included Trudeau because I've always admired his flair and sense of humour. Paul Wells does not speak for all younger Canadians—just the stupid ones. If Pierre Trudeau is indeed as gravely ill as some speculate, then little parasites like Wells should show the man much respect, and get the hell off his front lawn as he fights to recover his health. Get well soon, Pierre.

SID CROWE

ROCKER TOMMY LEE WAS MARRIED TO WHAT ACTRESS BEFORE HE MARRIED PAM ANDERSON? THE ANSWER IS: IT DOESN'T MATTER. WHITE WINS BLACK'S C5-BISHOP IN TWO MOVES.

(White wins).

Answer: 1. Nxe6 fx6 2. Qh5+Black resigned as he cannot stop 3. Qxc5



CROWE™

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Publisher
Darren Roskam
Editor
Sid Crowe

* plus a host of others still awaiting trial

CROWE is published every second Friday, as soon as YTV's airing of *The Powerpuff Girls* is over. There's a character in the upcoming *Final Fantasy IX* game for PS that looks like a Jawa in a pimp hat; that alone will garner a deposit

from me at EB. I went online to check what song Apple uses for the Sage Green iMac; it's Kermit's *It's Not Easy Bein' Green*. Perfection. Apple rules! CHAY's *Big Band Saturday Night* kicks ass. George Jones is The Man!

Michael Moore's *Awful Truth* is starting new episodes on BRAVO!, so check 'em out—you'll be glad you did. Erin, find out from that guy you know where I can get the *South Park Movie* Karaoke CD...now! I want even more email; if

you think the little text is funny, drop me a line. CROWE is owned by the publisher, and that keeps you awake at night, doesn't it pal? Learn to love it! Woool! Ric Flair is healing, come on back to the 'ol WCW baby, Woooloooo!

Feng Shui Fails

September 5th was the first day of school, and it was also the day that the city of Barrie learned a very important lesson. After many attempts were made, officials at City Hall finally relented and agreed to speak with CROWE. At last they admitted to what most sane citizens already knew: the Feng Shui experiment has become a complete disaster.

Earlier this summer Bayfield Street's most magnificent (and very healthy) trees were destroyed after Bell Canada complained that they interfered with the operation of some new "sensitive" equipment. Later it was learned that this new technology could simply be adjusted to compensate for the trees, but by then it was too late.

In an effort to remedy the damage to Barrie's vaunted *Golden Mile*, a committee was formed, and they decided to hire a Feng Shui consultant. Gina Ryder, a Feng Shui expert from California, never visited the area and conducted the entire project via email.

After being paid \$250,000 by the City of Barrie, Ryder suggested that the existing telephone poles should be moved 23 feet towards the road. If done properly, she said this allegedly would offer the illusion of something "kinda like trees." At a cost of \$3,000,000 the poles were moved. Unfortunately, in their haste to make the once splendid Bayfield street attractive again, City planners mounted the new poles smack into the sidewalk. After the first successful lawsuit was filed by a jogger, the City was forced to make the poles' move appear as part of a larger plan, in order to save face and avoid greater liability. Thus, the project to widen selected streets in Barrie began. It has already swallowed millions upon millions of dollars, and is merely "expected" to be completed by November 10, 2000.

"Holy crap—what a bloody nightmare this is, and all because of one stupid call from Bell," said Alan Smithee, head of the City of Barrie's Department of Vegetation Beautification. "I knew that this whole Feng Shui thing was nonsense from day one, but I don't have enough pull around here to get people to listen to me. Well, they're listening now, and all I've got to say is: 'I told ya so!'"

The project's financial outcome appears to be grim.

"If there's anything left in petty cash after this is all over, we just might sue 'ol Ma Bell—or buy a pack of smokes," added Smithee.



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HA! These things don't hurt at all!

CROWE was accepted *with permission* at the following wonderful places:

The Jazz Cafe & Lounge, Welcome Back Jack's Soda & Candy Co., The Foundation, Holmes Bookstore, 2 for 1 Subs, Short Stops, Tiff's, Graydon's, Fitzzy's, Hearty Bites, The Second Cup, The Copper Kettle, Reggies, Ruanne's, Lucky Devil, Big John's Records, Garage Paradise, Pharaoh's Pita, The Patch, Pita Pit, Philthy McNasty's, Velocity, Bayfield Convenience, Maple Convenience, The Merriman, Queen's, Pizzaville, Coffee Time, CD Matrix, The Barrie Fire Department, Splatzzz Paintball, Pogie's Pub, The Bayfield Perc, The Great Canadian Bagel, JD Billiards, Music Pro, Gamer's Lair, Mary's Coin Laundry, North County Books, Beaver Comics, Room 112, Seamus O'Brien's, Adult Movie Warehouse, Groovy Tuesday's Bistro, Lindy's and The Lockeroom in Barrie by the Bay and especially distributed quite properly and effectively within Georgian College's mighty Barrie campus.

(Continued from front cover)

C: Any parting thoughts, Big John?

R: Disobey your leaders, they're destroying the planet. Whosoever would supporteth evil or toileth with excrement shall be defiled thereby.

—Thanks to Big John Ritson

I wish I had more space. John enjoys pizza, tea, coffee, homemade beer, Thai & medium spicy Indian cuisine, lentil bread and just about anything cooked over a fire outdoors. A sampling of his favourite authors includes Henry David Thoreau, Rupert Sheldrake, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Khalil Gibran and Omar Khayyam (circa

1200s). His book is available at North County Books, Kerry's Book Store, Holmes Bookstore and Self-Help Centre, Short Stops Express, Player's Card Shop & Restaurant and his own store. Support an interesting member of the community who has worked hard on a project only to give the profits to charity. Buy his book.



Hey Advertisers—I'm well known!

On September 12, Patrick Gilbride of Shaw cable was nice enough to do a story on Barrie's burgeoning new print enterprises, and naturally I was a part of it. The story ran about 2.5 minutes every 10.5 mins 5 times per hour for 24 hours resulting in 120 appearances for a total combined time of 300 minutes divided by 60 equals a grand total of 5 hours of airtime in front of an audience of at least 60,000 people. Not too shabby, eh? Advertise in CROWE. We're small and powerful like a sports car...or Billy Barty on steroids—take your pick. Seriously though, we're drug free and would like to help you reach people.



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