

# Entertainment



Thea Mercouffer and Rob Fox star in "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" from March 14th through the 19th in the Behrend Studio Theatre.

## Cowboy Junkies

by A. Thomas Mamaux  
Collegian Staff Writer

★★★

The Cowboy Junkies (the name is a catch phrase) troupe down from Canada and into America. They are already making a big impact on the small club circuit. This quartet (three are siblings) are lead by chanteuse Margo Timmins. Her voice is sultry and soulful. They bring on a new kind of overly soothing, eerie sound. It is hard to believe that country music has crept all the way into Canada but it has a profound influence on the Junkies. They go as far as to cover Hank Williams and Patsy Cline. Their debut album is "The Trinity Session," entitled such because all of the songs were recorded live at the church of the Holy Trinity in Toronto. The Junkies sat around one microphone and played for sixteen hours straight and came up with twelve songs. However, it does not seem like twelve songs; it is more like one song that keeps unfolding and opening. The album grows fuller with each song. There are no choppy jumps from ballad to rock, just a smooth transgression. "Mining for Gold" starts the journey with melancholy; Margo Timmins croons about love breaking her heart. She sings like a wet dream diva. Her voice is the mainstay of the Junkies. Credit also must go to her brothers, Michael (guitar), Peter (drums), and

longtime friend, Alan Anton (bass).

They support Margo throughout. Support also comes from the extra musicians that played on the "Trinity Session." Jeff Bird played the mandolin and harmonica. Kim Deschamps played the pedal steel guitar, dobro, and bottleneck slide guitar. Steve Shearer was the master of the harmonica on all but three songs. These three musicians help stabilize and give authenticity to the Cowboy Junkies.

The boys were also the ones who aspired to a career in music and went to New York to play and learn until they returned home to Canada. The Junkies are young but, as young as they are, they play with a soulfulness that outdates them. "Blue Moon" might be recognized by some because it was in the movie "Grease," however, the Junkies should give it a new name because their version is so different. They steal "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" from Hank Williams and "Walking After Midnight" from Patsy Cline. They also borrow the melody of "Sweet Jane" from Lou Reed but change around some of the lyrics.

The Cowboy Junkies are an extremely mellow group and are best played when you plan to give someone bedroom eyes. They are slow and soulful and I'm glad they crossed the border and invaded America.

## Lou Reed

by A. Thomas Mamaux  
Collegian Staff Writer

★★★

Sit down and listen to Lou Reed's newest album "New York." It is his latest attempt at making music. He hasn't scored a hit since "Walk on the Wild Side." That's all right because he doesn't want a top 10 single.

"New York" is a good, comprehensive thematic album and Reed hasn't turned one out like this in quite a while. "New York" is his pessimistic trip through one of the largest, dirtiest, most congested cities of the world. Reed travels through the dirty, desolate side of the city. He shows a fascination for crack, violence, and people at the edge of despair. He sings convincingly of these places and experiences because Reed is a former heroin addict. The album is a brutally honest view of New York from Reed's all seeing eyes.

You could also say "New York" was recorded honestly. Reed's voice is not masked at all. Plus Reed plays a straight guitar on all the songs and plays it better than ever.

"Romeo Had Juliette" is the first story of his 14 chapter book. Right away you realize that Reed has not lost his ability to write great, intriguing lyrics.

Constantly throughout the album he comes up with lyrics that are both honest and fascinating. Whether its about prostitutes, kids, crack dealers, the news, or violence, Reed has the ability to catch and record ideas, facts that others fail to see.

"Dirty Blvd." is one of the catchiest tunes on the album. It is not an aim at the top 40 but just an upbeat song that comes close to mainstream. "Sick of You" is one of the amusing songs. It is full of sarcastic truth of America. "Sick of You" points a finger at NASA, Oliver North, the Ayatollah, Tehran, Morton Downey, the President, and other past historical and tabloidal personalities.

For some reason Reed has always downplayed his ability to play guitar but on "New York" he exposed a true talent to play; not a screaming guitar but one that talks with reason. It can be heard on "Hold On", "Good Evening, Mr. Waldheim" and "Beginning of A Great Adventure."

Reed's "New York" is a good book worthy of attention. Definitely not mainstream, but available to all people who can think. It is also not the velvet underground. All it is is Reed's simple, honest view of New York and it's going ons.

The famous movie trivia questions are back!!! The same guidelines apply to these questions as those of last semester. For those of you that may have forgotten, here they are:

We will print a movie related trivia question in each Entertainment section of the Collegian. Simply write down the answer, your name, and phone number on a piece of paper and drop it in the box in the Collegian office. Every week, five lucky names will be picked to win two free tickets to the Millcreek Mall Cinemas.

THIS WEEKS QUESTION:

Who was the first non-human to win an Oscar?

The Collegian office is located in the hallway by the backroom. GOOD LUCK!!!

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