

Entertainment Outlook

Canada's first mainstream horror novelist

Alice Cooper, who has been called the King of horror rock, doesn't spend all his time thinking up bizarre acts for his stage performances. He has been known to pick up a book or two. Along with a growing number of others, Cooper has become enthralled with the efforts of a relatively new writer.

Michael Slade is Canada's first international mainstream horror novelist. He is already being compared - at least by his publisher, MacMillan of Canada - with American Stephen King and Britain's Clive Barker.

Slade's second novel - *Ghoul* - hits the bookshelves March 1. This three-headed, six-armed hor-



Entertainment

By BOB SPENCE
Thomson News Service

ror writer is raising as many hackles with *Ghoul* as with *Headhunter* - the first Slade novel.

Just like the characters in *Ghoul*, though, there really is no Michael Slade. Slade is the pen name of Jay Clarke, John Banks and Lee Clarke. Where do they get their ideas?

Jay Clarke and Banks are Vancouver lawyers who specialize in cases of the criminally insane. Between them, they have been involved in more than 70 murder cases.

Few could have been as bizarre as the novels they write. "Reading Michael Slade," said Cooper, "is like taking an advanced course in psycho horror. *Headhunter* stunned me. *Ghoul* convulsed me. This book is terrifying. I couldn't put it down."

It wasn't a Slade novel that shocked some VCR owners. Sony accomplished this recently with a simple announcement.

Sony, once a giant in the home video field with its Beta VCRs, rocked the video industry when it announced it will start selling VHS video cassette recorders this spring. Sony was the last major holdout against VHS, a format that now claims about 90 per cent of the video market.

Sony pledges to continue to manufacture its Beta VCRs. But Beta's days are limited - as everyone who purchased a Beta VCR must realize. Movie studios and tape manufacturers were already cutting back on Beta production for the home market.

It's Been So Long, Downchild's first album in five years, struck the right note with a number of critics. The group, led by guitarist Donnie Walsh and singer Tony Flaim, has set out on a cross-Canada promo-

tional tour.

The Tom Russell Band has released its Canadian debut album, *Road to Bayamon*. Ian Tyson feels this is the best honky-tonk band in Canada.

Russell, a landed immigrant, was Tyson's co-writer for Navajo Rug, the Canadian Country Music Association's single of the year.

Barry Manilow takes a trip down Swing Street next month for his first TV special in eight years.

The Emmy, Grammy and Tony award winner dances and sings his way down a street populated by a cast of colorful characters and noted musicians.

The music ranges from jazz to rhythm and blues to pop.

Barry Manilow: *Big Fun on Swing Street* will be shown in Canada March 7 by CTV.

Face in the Crowd

Take a close look, you may be a winner. If the face shown in the circle is yours, you're the lucky winner of a pair of Georgetown Cinemas courtesy passes. Call us at 877-2201 or 877-8822 or drop in at The Herald, 45 Guelph St., Georgetown, Ont. to claim your prize. If you're not a winner this week, keep on looking. Next week it may be your turn.



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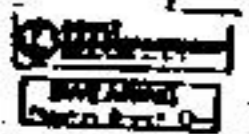
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BRIDGE

James Jacoby

Alert defense holds it to 10

It's not high drama when a careful defensive play does nothing more than prevent an overtrick, but it's still good bridge. If you want the deal to be more interesting, pretend the contract is five hearts doubled and redoubled.

West's one-spade overcall was somewhat daring, but it has become acceptable to overcall with a good four-card suit at the one-level with a hand of opening strength but without the correct shape for a takeout double. Influenced by his partner's spade raise, West led the spade ace.

It was now the responsibility of East to suggest a shift. It was obvious to West not to play a second spade, so the card contributed by East to the opening lead would show strength in one of the minor suits - a high spade would indicate good diamonds; a low card would show high-card values in clubs, the lower of the remaining suits. (Although East did not have much in either minor suit, his clubs were better than his diamonds, so he played the spade two. West dutifully switched to a low club, but there was still more to be done to prevent declarer from stealing an overtrick.

Declarer won the club ace, played A-K of diamonds and a low diamond. But West was ready - he ruffed in with the ace of hearts and cashed the king of clubs to hold South to his contract. Or, for those of you who chose to dramatize the situation, the contract of five hearts doubled and redoubled was down one.

NORTH 2-29-22

♦ K J 9 3
♥ J 10 8 3
♦ 10 8
♦ 10 6 3

WEST

♦ A Q 5 4
♥ A 9 7
♦ 13
♦ K 7 5 2

EAST

♦ 10 8 7 2
♥ 2
♦ J 9 7 6
♦ Q J 9 8

SOUTH

♦ 6
♥ K Q 6 5 4
♦ A K Q 5 2
♦ A 4

Vulnerable: Neither
Dealer: South

West	North	East	South
1♦	2♥	2♠	1♥
Pass	Pass	Pass	4♥

Opening lead: ♦ A



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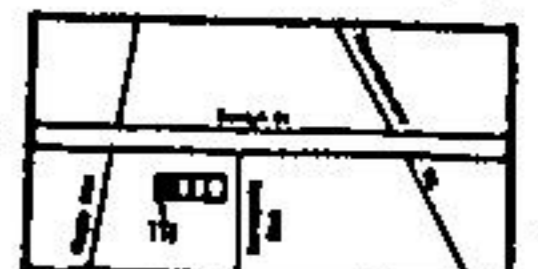
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