



# ARTS & LIFE

NATIONAL POST, TUESDAY,

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**EYE SEE, EYE HEAR**  
Dr. Herzig's powerful patients have a party in his honour. *Govani, A13*



**NO YORKER**  
Cartoons that you won't see in the venerable weekly. *Avenue, Page A18*

The smart set of the sighted come out to fête Dr. Herzig

## I can see the stars



SHIVAN GOVANI  
Scene

It wasn't the who's who out last week. More like the who's-guess.

An Eye-list crowd that included a fake Conrad Black (wink, wink, actor Albert Schultz) and one honest-to-goodness astronaut (see Roberta Bondar fly).

Joining them? About 180 doc-folk, industry leaders and society freight, all of whom had come together to celebrate the 10th anniversary last Tuesday of the famous and groundbreaking Herzig Eye Institute.

You? You? And you too? That, it did seem, was the secret club vibe that prevailed at this party — a kind of Opus Dei for people who've been eye-lasered. And in all of their sights, one of the deans of Toronto's ophthalmologists, Sheldon Herzig — a man so good he taught the doctor who did laser eye surgery on Tiger Woods!

So, they came, they saw — oh, did they see. Guests were given tours of the Bloor Street facility to see what the Institute has cookin' in terms of the latest procedures, and a good many of them were overheard trading war stories about their experiences on the eye-front. Not only that, but that real feeling of awe that they experienced when they saw the world clearly for the first time without glasses. (Comparable, we imagine, to the uni-

verse that opened up to Britney Spears when she kicked that husband of hers to the curb! Love blind, yada yada)

There was, you might like to know, tequila lime chicken. There were smoked salmon perogies and spicy tuna rolls. There were even fine mini-burgers — not so mini as they once might have been to the formerly short of sight among the attendees! There was *National Post* columnist Linda Frum with her Argos-owning spousal unit Howard Sokolowski. There were the siblings Garland — Roger, the board of directors chair for the Soulpepper Theatre Company and Kevin, the Executive Director of the National Ballet. There was David Kastle, that alpha Bay Street dealmaker who once was called a "one-man Cirque du Finance."

It was all quite the peep show.

### MEANWHILE, I SEE, I HEAR ...

That rocker-turned-author Dave Bidini is tonight launching what they're calling the country's very first collection of hockey erotica. So might some of the wife-swapping studs who show up shooting and scoring in his stories be based on some all-too-real players?

You can sidle up to Bidini yourself and ask him at his book bash over at the Brass Taps Pizza Pub on College Street.

### AND ALSO ...

That Catherine O'Hara has her head screwed on right when it comes to the life-imitating-art Oscar buzz that's building for her role in the current release *For Your Consideration*. She told the *Cincinnati Enquirer* recently that, all things considered, she'd rather be a presenter than a nominee.

"You don't win or lose — and you get

the gift bag," she suggested.

For me, it brings up memories of the last time I ran into the hunky-dory Ms. O'Hara last summer, in a grocery shop in cottage-country Muskoka where the only bag she had was the kind filled with corn!

### AND, OH THIS ...

Saturday's long, long countdown at the Liberal Leadership Convention in Montreal — longer than Pam Anderson's most recent marriage, it seemed — left some on-air journos visibly whacked. At one point, after the vote was finally complete and Stéphane Dion was declared, Don Newman started to tell the country that the new leader was Stephen ... LeDrew!

In fact, the CBC politics guy was confused because he was in the process of introducing a panel that included the lawyerly LeDrew, who notably did not win his bid last month to become the mayor of Toronto!

Clearly cherry-faced, Newman apologized for the gaffe.

### SCENE, HEARD

Local chef-master Didier Leroy receiving France's prestigious Medal of the Chevalier de l'Ordre during a recent ceremony at the Toronto Consul's residence, where he was praised for, among other things, his work with tarts! ...

Crowd-satisfying skater Kurt Browning, who not long ago played the Scarecrow in a Hallowe'en on Ice special, is now skedded to swap Oz for Neverland when he takes the lead in a live production of *Peter Pan*, set for a Toronto staging next year!

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BRYAN PORTER FIELD

Dr. Sheldon Herzig and astronaut-turned-photographer Roberta Bondar.