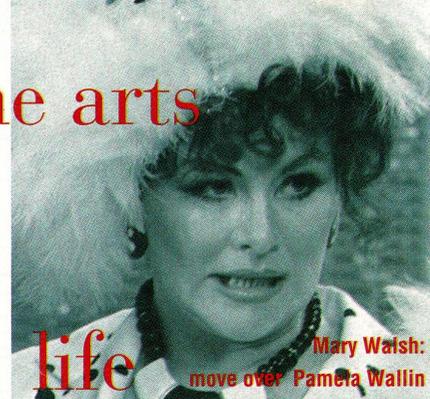


X marks the trend

How pop-culture avalanches work: publish one bestselling, epoch-defining novel (*Generation X*) and suddenly its mark is everywhere. Vancouver-native Douglas Coupland's tale of those overeducated/underemployed twentysomethings has produced spin-offs galore—stamping a great big X on all they survey. There's *Brand X*, an upstart national CBC radio program produced by and for Xers (Saturdays, 3-5 pm) and a new Ottawa alternative tabloid called *Xpress* (although managing editor Derek Raymaker, 25, says he borrowed the name from QuarkXpress, a desktop publishing program). Just completed: *X-RATED*, a CBC Gen-X telefilm starring *Degrassi Junior High* alumna Stacie Mistysyn (who played goodie-goodie Caitlin) as a conflicted neo-hippie named River. Her Xer role notwithstanding, the 22-year-old admits she's disheartened by the intentionally empty label. "It makes us sound so...X."



life

Mary Walsh:
move over Pamela Wallin

after codco

They came. They conquered. They were *Codco*. And now that their cult Canadian comedy series is dead, ex-costars Mary Walsh and Cathy Jones (with Rick Mercer) are charting new satiric waters. *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, which debuts October 4th on CBC, will feature the trio's comic take on the week's news events. Promises to be an up-to-the-second swing at the powerful and the puerile in Canada's political and cultural landscape. Guaranteed to leave no rogue unburned.

celine on me

Two may be company, but, in the power-pop duet biz, it's the company you keep that makes all the difference. Take Barbra (*Back to Broadway*) Streisand's curious choice of partners over the years: whiney Barry Gibb pleaded not-guilty, swiney Neil Diamond didn't bring her flowers, and once (in a moment of temporary romantic insanity) she even let Don Johnson warble his way on board.

While Canada's Celine Dion scored big with Peabo Bryson on *Beauty and the Beast*, for her new album (due out soon), she selected unknown Clive Griffin to join her on *When I Fall in Love* from the movie *Sleepless in Seattle*. She's in position to surpass Streisand as Duet Diva—but only if she chooses shrewdly. Here are some Dion doubles we'd like to see:

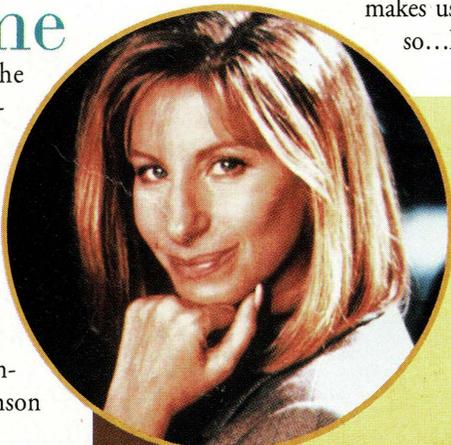
Lenny Kravitz: to elevate Dion's shaky cool-quotient

Axl Rose: to bring out her wild-child side

Eric Clapton: her passport to the "unplugged" boomer market

RuPaul: to ride that hip gender-bending wave

Aretha Franklin: the ultimate duet-survival course—if Dion can make it here, she'll make it anywhere.



Dueling Divas: can Dion learn from Streisand's mistakes?