

Haines, her way

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Emily Haines, the uncommonly attractive and undoubtedly talented frontwoman of Metric, has left the flock to fly solo.

Haines' debut CD, *Knives Don't Have Your Back*, was born out of her friends' encouragement and the passing away in 2003 of her father, Paul Haines, a famed poet and jazz artist.

The result is a stripped-down, but by no means heavy-handed, emotionally bare collection of 11 "snapshots," as

Haines recently describes to *Maclean's* magazine.

"Sadness and death are kind of misunderstood in their potential for positivity," she says. "All my songs are slow and sad. I just usually take them to the band and they turn them into a celebration by speeding them up and making them louder. Recently I realized that it's also fine to leave those moments as they are. You don't have to correct them. But," she adds, "no moping is allowed."

As a beautiful and talented young woman, no moping is even needed.



— www.emilyhaines.com

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— juniorboys.net

So these are the Junior Boys

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"Who else would have thought of blending rhythmic psychedelia and glacial electronics with a late-night voice weakened by vulnerability and longing?"

While you're still digesting one reviewer's musings, here's the answer — Junior Boys.

Do not be misled by the humble name. Music big-leaguers are lining up with accolades for Jeremy Greenspan and Matt Didemus, both from Hamilton, Ont. Their first album, 2004's *Last Exit*, won pitchforkmedia.com's highest praise: "Its heights virtually eclipse all other music this year," and cheers from *Entertainment Weekly*: "Supple, stylish electro-pop so cool it makes glaciers jealous."

Now the boys offer up their sophomore effort, *So This Is Goodbye*.

"If anything, it's probably more of a Canadian record, inspired by being in the cold," Didemus tells ICON from Austin, Texas during Junior Boys' North American tour.

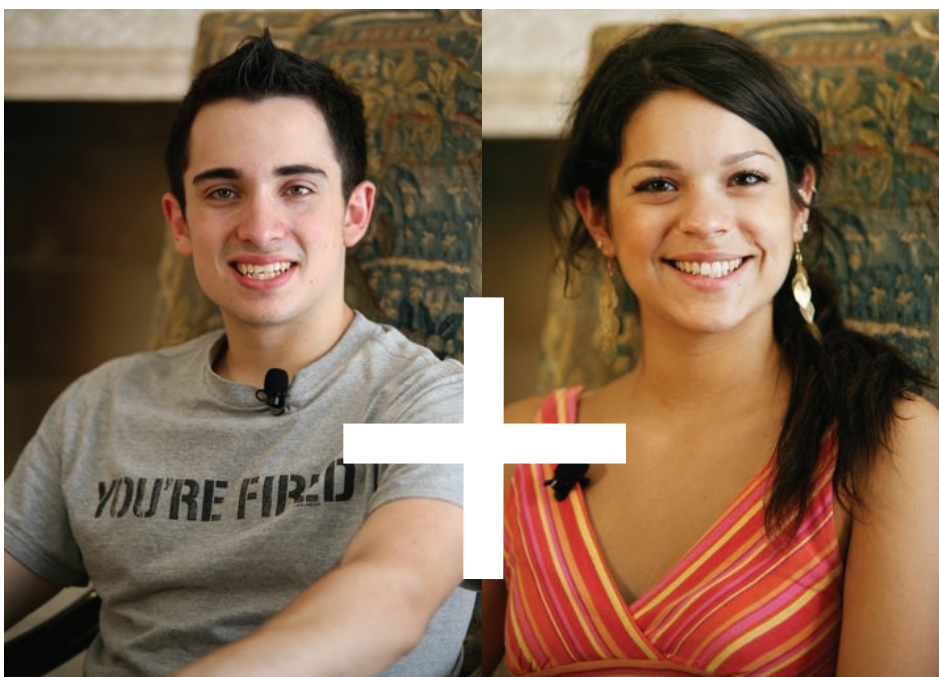
Is he talking about isolation and loneliness?

"Yeah, I think it has that feel to it."

Didemus says the disc's sparse sounds comes from their hometown.

"We recorded the entire record in the fall and winter on the top floor of Jeremy's two-floor apartment," he says. "We were always in there, just looking at the window, it was always snowing. It's got a Canadian feel to it."

FULL STORY: icononline.ca



— Laura Gallella photos

Rumours have been floating around *Idol* message boards that Chad Doucette and Eva Avila were a pair. Finally, Avila admitted to host Ben Mulroney that she and Doucette have been together for about three weeks.

Idol love

Can two hearts survive the rigours of intense competition? Ask the *Idol* winner and runner up

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Canadian *Idol* finalists Eva Avila and Chad Doucette are in love.

Rumours have been floating around on *Idol* message boards for a while now. And in an interview with CTV Newsnet, 19-year-old Quebecer Avila reveals that she and the 18-year-old Nova Scotian are indeed, a couple.

"We're really happy to have found each other," Avila says. "It's really an amazing thing. And now we don't mind talking about it since it's the end of the competition. We wanted to focus on the competition first."

Avila has admitted to the show's host, Ben Mulroney, that she and Doucette, who placed fourth on the show, have been together for about three weeks, but she had been interested in him well before

their hook-up.

Doucette seems a little surprised that feelings are mutual. "It was very overwhelming," he tells eTalk. "I was just so happy and so thrilled she could feel that way for me."

This isn't the first time the reality show has spawned puppy love. Last year's winner, Melissa O'Neil, and runner-up, Rex Goudie, made their relationship public six months after season three ended.



From left: Lexi, French and Nadia of Toronto's Magneta Lane

— www.paperbagrecords.com

Rock stars first, chicks second

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What do you get when you take three young, attractive women, add a guitar, bass and drums and put them onstage?

A Toronto band called Magneta Lane and a first CD at an average band members' age of 19.

As far as Canadian indie bands go, Magneta Lane has picked up considerable media acclaim for 2004's *The Constant Lover* and regular rotations of their singles' videos on MuchMusic, VH1 and MTV. With an eye-pleasing, all-female



"We have a goal and we're going to reach it."

— Lexi

line-up, it seemed inevitable that one day they'd be tagged with the "chick band" label.

"We figured it would come with the territory," Lexi, the voice of Magneta Lane, tells ICON recently. "People are going to say we're a chick band, and some people are going to go, 'Yeah, girl power!' but we're totally not about

that. At all."

Lexi, on vocals and guitar, Nadia on drums and French on bass (they prefer first names) were friends before they were band mates.

Two years later with the follow-up album *Dancing With Daggers* added to their repertoire, their website describes the latest work as "learning to understand what you need and not what you want."

Lexi says this distinction, a keystone of maturity, reflects a certain amount of growing up.

FULL STORY: icononline.ca

Been there, done that

Lindsay Lohan held a press conference this summer to herald her gift to the world — a visit to Iraq.

Canadian singer/songwriter and activist Bruce Cockburn visited Iraq without any fanfare two years ago, to witness the situation for himself.

"We were just trying to get a sense of what was happening there with the people, because stuff we were getting from news reports, to this day, couldn't be relied upon — it was just broad strokes," he says to the *Edmonton Sun*. "Any news about the Iraqi people was just in the context of an explosion, with one of them holding the body of their dead child, or whatever."

Born in Ottawa and singing his politically and socially aware way across North America in a career that nears four decades, Cockburn's latest album, *Life Short Call Now*, includes the track *This Is Baghdad*. Whereas *Tell The Universe* takes aim at United States president George W. Bush, *This Is Baghdad* looks at ordinary everyday life in the Iraqi city.

Wrapping up a tour of the American west coast, Cockburn says the reception has been warm.

"The people who come to my show aren't from the fundamental fringe of America. They're people who have been listening to my stuff for a while," he says. "I'm not getting the redneck crowd."

— Nina Dragicevic



— www.brucecockburn.com



— www.ctv.ca

Ed's down

This week, Ed Robertson of the Barenaked Ladies starts his new life as a Jack of all trades.

Robertson is the star of the new Outdoor Life Network show, "Ed's Up", premiering November 1.

What's it about? He is given a set of co-ordinates, flies to a remote location, and does a dirty Canadian job.