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FOOD / SUMMER NIGHTS AT BENITZ BI
FILM / GITMO GUANTANAMO WITH HAROLD & K
MUSIC / CUBANO SON Y CARIDAD CRUZ,

BAHOO

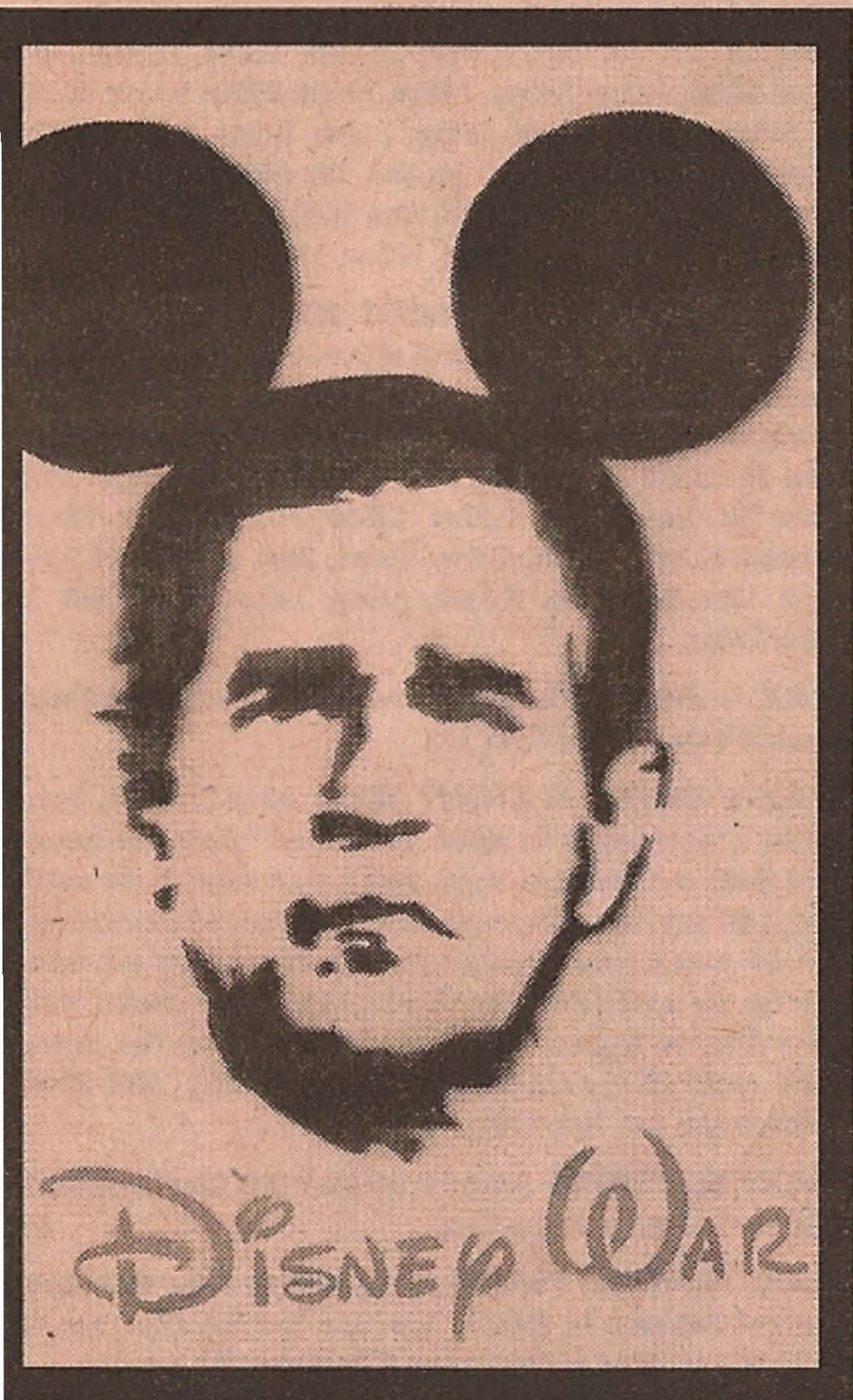
AKRAM KHAN'S LIMBO LOUNGE ★ BY TS WA



STREETWISE

ARGENTINEAN URBAN ART IN OTTAWA

visual arts BY JEAN-PHILIPPE DENEAULT



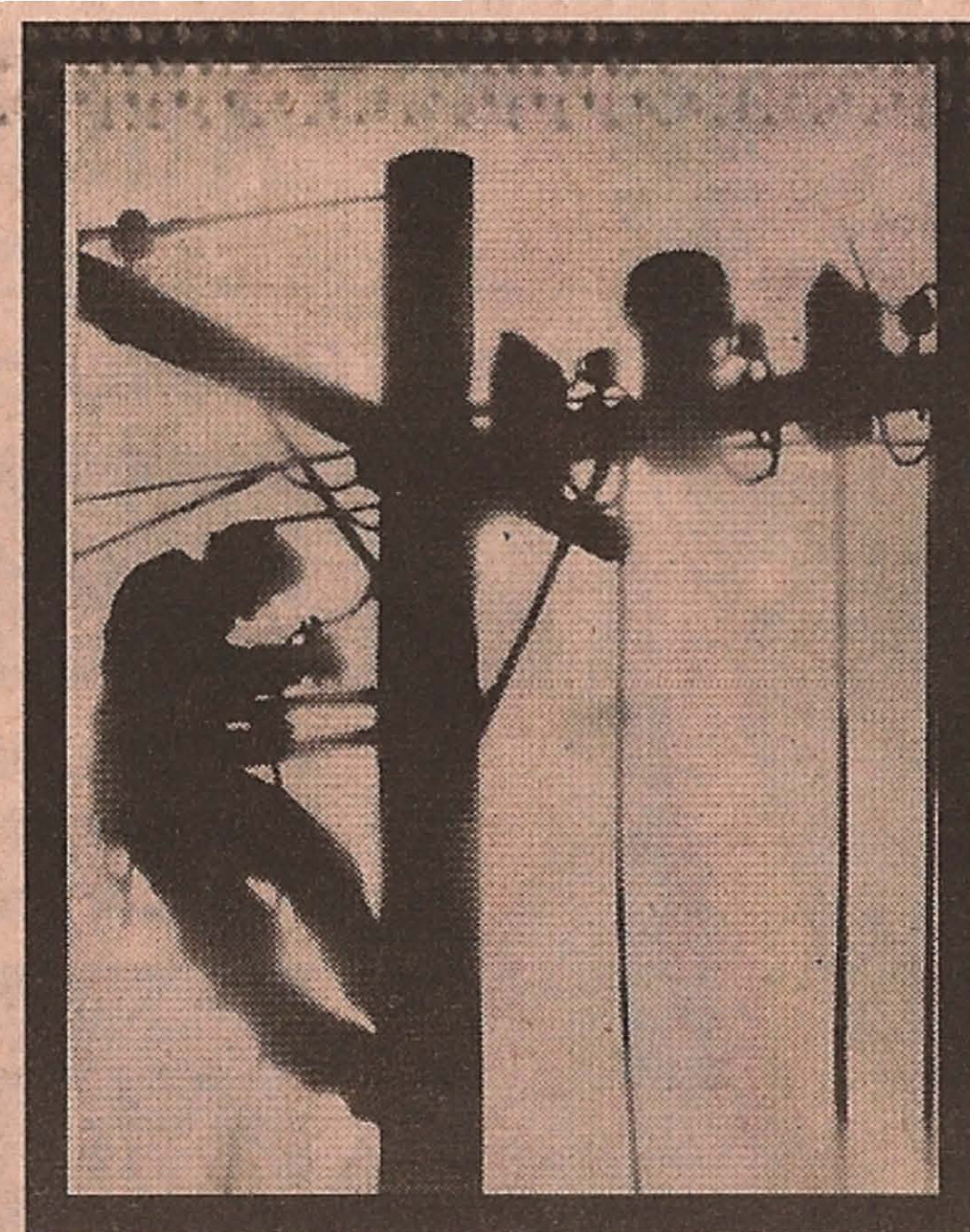
The walls of Buenos Aires host thousands of stencil artworks that bear unapologetic commentaries on today's social and political circumstances dictated by corporate America. Upon their return from a second trip to Argentina's capital, first-time curators Sheila Casey and Tom Lawson decided to share some of their discoveries with the people of Ottawa at La Petite Mort Gallery.

The works of Hollywood in Cambodia – an artist collective from Buenos Aires – are refreshing, despite the bluntness and somewhat cliché imagery they seem to offer at first glance. Anticonsumerist and antiwar messages permeate the works gathered for this exhibit, providing an accurate reflection of the militant agendas of many artists from south of the equator. With street art often being associated with the angst in impoverished neighbour-

hoods, these messages make perfect sense. For example, in one of CamBsAs's double-sided works, a businessman in a suit is shown spray-painting a heart that appears as a dollar sign. One of the most cynical compositions of this show is called *Fashion Victim*, which depicts a naked man clothed by a wooden barrel. Its artist, b.s.a.s.stencil, also designed the ironic *Disney War* piece – a portrait of George W. Bush with Mickey Mouse ears. No need to have read Paul Virilio's virtual war theory or

to be an antiglobalization expert to understand the biting wit behind this work. More subtle, and likely my favourite of the show, *Wire* consists of the shadow of an electrician working on a telephone pole. It reminded me that stencils are in fact widely used by utility companies; its subversive use – to denounce their “power,” so to speak – and, in this particular case, the allegorical reference make it one of the more noteworthy works of this show.

Want more? Find the unabridged



review of *Hollywood in Cambodia*, along with a selection of images, at www.ottawapress.ca.

HOLLYWOOD IN CAMBODIA: STENCIL ART GROUP EXHIBIT

@ La Petite Mort Gallery

306 Cumberland St.

Opening Friday, April 25, 7–10 p.m.

From April 25 to May 4