

MORE IN TOMORROW'S POST **NATIONAL POST** A BETTER READ

NO NEED FOR A NAME

Canadian jazz chanteuse Holly Cole returns with a self-titled disc after a four-year hiatus from recording.



DIARY: KEVIN NEWMAN

OUT & ABOUT

THREE TO SEE

1 *The New Adventures of Old Christine* is new again, as the sitcom that finally put the *Seinfeld* curse to rest returns with back-to-back new episodes. If you don't know when to laugh, don't worry: the laugh track will remind you. (CBS, 8 p.m., 8:30 p.m.)

2 "At least you used to be an honest crook!" Jean Smart's former first lady, Martha Logan, tells her eerily Nixon-like husband, Charles Logan (Gregory Itzin), in *24*. It's good to see everybody's favourite squabbling couple back together again. (Global, Fox, 9 p.m.)

3 Nanny Jo deals with a trio of kids who take after their outrageous mom in the season finale of *Supernanny*. Nanny Jo will be in recovery for the next six months — preferably somewhere with a little peace and quiet. (ABC, 9 p.m.)

Alex Strachan,
CanWest News Service



Global National anchor Kevin Newman — seen here in action in Fort McMurray — kept his diary for us during a week of hosting the newscast from throughout Alberta.

IN A NUTSHELL: HARUSPICY



If this newspaper sometimes leaves ink on your hands, you should feel relieved rather than miffed. After all, you could be reading a fresh sheep's liver instead — that is if you were a haruspex, someone who predicts the future by "reading" the livers of sacrificed goats and sheep. The practice originated in the Middle East and spread to the Etruscan and Roman civilizations, so it must have convinced a few very influential people (Emperor Claudius was said to be one). One assumes it died out when more effective means of divination came along — tarot cards, say, or magic eight balls.

Sean Carrie, National Post

You can't hold down this Fort



This week's diarist is Global National news anchor Kevin Newman. He kept his diary last week.

Appeal to all airlines: Please don't make it possible for the world to reach me in the air. After 25 years in journalism, I have long since passed the point where air travel is fun or glamorous. It is, however, still relatively peaceful.

On my flights to Fort McMurray, Alta., to begin a week of location shooting, I was able to read research I'd culled from the Web (Wikipedia's a reporter's ally), a chapter of my current bedside book (Viktor Frankl's *Man's Search for Meaning*) and watch an episode of my television guilty

pleasure (*BSG*, which you need to watch to know what it stands for). I hear wireless connectivity is coming to airplanes. I vote for stopping progress here and now.

But Fort McMurray's not a good place to make that argument. The year I was born it was a gathering place for hunters and salt miners. Today it's a city of 80,000 and growing at a torrid pace. You see it from the moment you step off the plane — there's one luggage carousel with more than 100 people standing around it.

A single home costs \$500,000. Burger King employees start at \$14/hour. The average income is \$120,000 and the average age is 31. Nothing about Fort McMurray stands still.

Tomorrow, our diarist experiences broadcasting's version of a perfect storm.

Kevin Newman, National Post

THE DAILY DISC

My Name is Buddy, Ry Cooder
(Nonesuch/Warner)



Ry Cooder is at his best in this song-cycle inspired by old-left politics and a musical palette that encompasses, mixes and matches strains of old-time Appalachian music, blues, country, Tex-Mex, bluegrass, gospel and even jazz. Cooder's anthropomorphic characters are a trio of fellow world travellers who overcome their differences and bond in ways previous generations of cats, mice and toads might not understand as they ride the rails and observe an American society whose ideals and realities are still far apart. Cooder's cultural and musical references freely draw on the entire 20th century while subtly offering lessons for our own times. Mike Regenstreif, CanWest News Service