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Education top priority for immigrant parents

by PHOEBE YU

For a lot of immigrants, education remains an important aspect of life in Canada. Indeed, the 2001 survey on immigrants by Statistics Canada showed that about 67% of the target population planned to further their education.

“Immigrants, by and large, do better [in education] on average than people who were born in Canada. But it varies enormously depending on the group we’re talking about,” says Neil Guppy, head of the Sociology Department at UBC.

Guppy proposes that one possible factor for determining the educational success of children of immigrants is the socio-economic status of the families. He explains that one of the ways sociologists understand social mobility is by looking at the parents’ background – how much do origins influence the destination. He suggests that it may have something to do with entitlement.

“People that come from middle and upper class backgrounds feel that education is an entitlement,” says Guppy, “...people that come from less prosperous backgrounds don’t see education so much as an entitlement.”

However, Leo Chow, owner of Brickhouse Pub, doesn’t fit into the pattern of graduating from post-secondary school and getting a corporate job, despite having the right equation for this particular path.

Chow arrived in Vancouver with his family during the seventies when he was fourteen years old. His father went to the Bei-

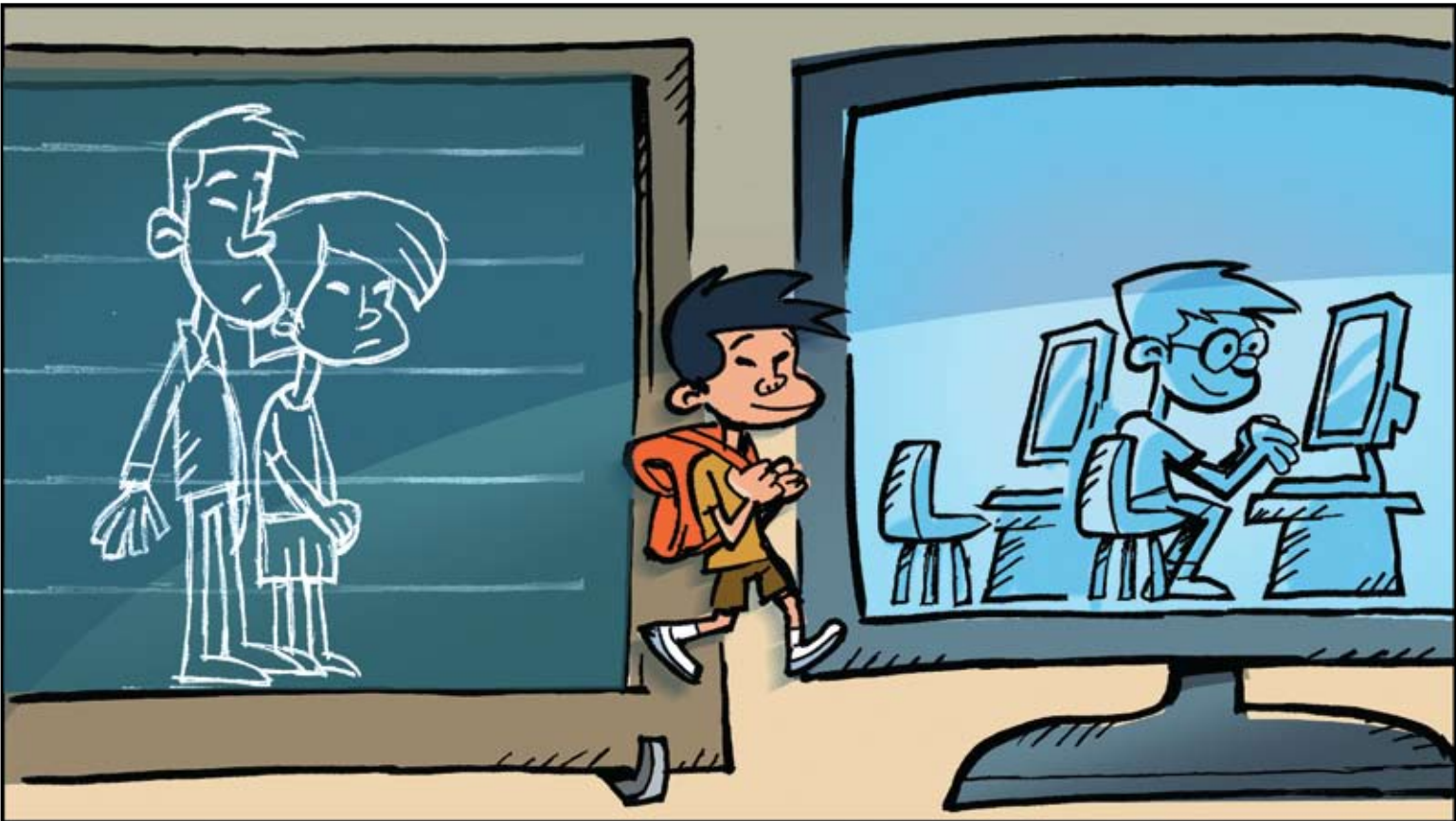


Illustration by Afshin Sabouki

jing Air Force Academy and they were in good economic standing.

Although he attended university for three years, Chow chalks up not completing his studies to youth rebellion.

“I think when you’re at that age, 18-19 years old...you think you can do it without the guidance and advice of other people,” says Chow. “School wasn’t difficult for me. I think maybe deep inside I was looking for other challenges,” he recalls.

But Chow maintains that education was important for his parents. Like Evelyn Chua, a

first-generation immigrant with three children, where education remains a significant part of their life.

“It’s not because of career,” says Chua. “Education also helps [you] to be a better person. Through education, the character is formed and you’re taught the right behaviour.”

Still, there is much difficulty in explaining why different ethnic groups perform differently, and to what extent parents influence the future of their children.

Guppy says that there is some

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Verbatim

Starving for a little human warmth

by RANA NIKKHOLGH

Immigration comes from the Latin word migratio, which means the passage from one place to the other.

It was at the dawn of the new century that I decided to leave for Vancouver, with the intent of improving my English. And, contrary to all my expectations, my life in beautiful British Columbia is still going strong today.

I remember my first days. What struck me most was the size of the bottles of Coca-Cola in the gigantic Coquitlam supermarkets. Was this the North American dream, this abundance, those sizes, the extremes? Hmm, personally I prefer to think that it’s about the open space, air, ocean, and the beauty of nature which wraps up the city with presence and power.

In France, Paris is queen. She is beautiful, the darling of tourists, and she imposes herself with her status.

Paris, City of Lights, where prestige is law. To such a degree that I could no longer breathe there. Too busy, too crowded, too full of complaints, too beautiful and pretentious. Yet, I love her. How does one not fall in love with her history, her elegance, her museums, her cathedrals, her coffee-shop terraces, her gastronomy, and her wild nights. I get the impression that Paris contains all of France. She is no longer a city; she is a universe within herself.

When one lands in a country so different from one’s country of origin, it often happens that one feels very small, a little lost, therefore one has to take one’s courage in both hands and

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My Turn

Stephen Harper's dream summer

Barely a few days into her new role as interim-leader of the federal NDP party, and as leader of the official opposition, Nycole Turmel finds herself at the centre of a controversy that is pulling the political class straight out of its summer torpor. It's almost as if someone had waited for this propitious moment to leak the news to the media. And, without a doubt, that's exactly what happened.

This surely wasn't what Jack Layton had in mind when he recommended Ms. Turmel to his party members as interim leader. The ensuing storm isn't auspicious for the party – especially not when it comes to the Western Provinces' ridings.

Phone lines haven't stopped ringing, irate, if not outright enraged callers were venting their indignation at the news of Ms. Turmel's affiliation with two separatist parties. For many people in English Canada this is enough to permanently disqualify anyone from any federal responsibilities.

Sure enough, the NDP could have done without this unpleasant incident. But they could have avoided it with a few basic verifications. And what is astonishing is that it seems the NDP had been well aware of Ms. Turmel's affiliation with the Bloc Quebecois. And more: it was well known among the political class that when she was president of the Public Service Alliance of Canada she had endorsed a number of the Bloc's candidates.

In fact, the former Liberal MP she defeated this past election, had himself raised the issue during the campaign. But no matter, Jack Layton has decided who should replace him while he recovers.



▲ Nycole Turmel, NDP interim leader.

Yet, do the current revelations regarding Ms. Turmel warrant the vitriolic reactions of these past few days? BC's NDP leader, Adrian Dix, was correct when he recently declared that not all Quebecois voting for the Bloc were in fact separatists.

I realize that for many people such a declaration might appear to be the apex of contradiction but anyone who has lived in Quebec can tell you that it's in fact a common occurrence.

The mere fact that she was once a member of the Bloc Quebecois shouldn't prevent her from being a member of a federal party. Other federal parties, dealing with Quebec's political scene are also confronted with this reality. In fact the whole political scene in Quebec, as it plays out, can seem incongruous to many outsiders.

Unlike most Canadian provinces, Quebec has no federal political parties working in the province. This goes for all federal parties except the Green Party. So, the NDP, over the years, has certainly benefited from the votes of people adhering, provincially, to a separatist party. The contrary would surprise me greatly.

However, Ms. Turmel's situation is different. She has become the interim leader of a federal political party that is also Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition. One must at least be intellectually honest with oneself. One cannot

be federalist and have a soft spot for separatists.

And so, understandably, Ms. Turmel has come up with some lengthy explanation as to her loyalty to federalism and specifying that her former political ties are a thing of the past.

The Bloc Quebecois, who was sorely defeated by the NDP, must be grinning, at least a bit. Yet it is Stephen Harper who must be pinching himself over and over again just to make sure he's not dreaming. He is a Prime Minister who has, on the benches in front of him, interim opposition leaders, and an official opposition steeped in controversy.

The fall session in Ottawa will, undoubtedly, be mighty interesting. Meanwhile, Stephen Harper can enjoy a dreamy summer. ✂

Translation Monique Kroeger

►“Verbatim” from page 1

learn everything again, like a newborn.

How do transportation and the roads work? How do you bank? Where does one live or shop? If one is adventurous, one marvels at all these changes. But if one is less curious, one wishes to leave again quickly and go back to one's country - back to old habits- to be in one's cocoon.

Personally, I take great pleasure in hugging the entire world in my little arms. Deep down, are we not all citizens of the same planet, anyway? So why not broaden one's horizons and one's perception? But, then again, change is also a vector of culture shock.

The hardest part for me was the indefinable feeling of solitude. Coming from a sociable and cultural city, I found myself in an aloof and sports-oriented city. At first, this wasn't so evident. I preferred cigarettes to yoga, gourmet meals to fast food.

Another hard part for me was when I felt like a beggar, starving for a little human warmth.

Spencie's View

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▲ Coca-Cola, the darling of North America

There was too much isolation. Too much separation from other people. Too much was incomprehensible. I felt misunderstood, angry, mad, alone and at times as if I was at the other end of the world.

But then one day I saw the light. I understood that I had gone from one extreme to another, in order to find the centre. It is true that Anglo-Saxon culture can seem more distant than the “Latin” culture which is more emotional and dramatic.

Between hot and cold, I have become lukewarm. At that moment I realized that even in

France, I was alone, that ones social life is only in fact masked by solitude.

“Why does one feel alone even in one's own country?” I've thought. Perhaps it's because one just needs to find oneself again. Our home is oneself, afterall.

Travelling is not enough, though. Sometimes it's necessary to stay several years in one place, so as to learn how to live differently, how to go outside of one's habits and how to broaden one's perception.

Canada and its gigantic bottles of Coca-Cola, are thus for me symbols of the expansion of my own mind, open spaces, of my reconnection with nature, and ultimately with myself. I can breathe.

What a change from the precious little streets of Paris.

Paris, I love you. Paris, I miss you. But I have the feeling of belonging to the whole earth, and this helps me to learn more about myself, to find myself, to grow, to find my freedom. ✂

Translation Nigel Barbour

►“Education” from page 1

evidence to suggest that parental support for education is important, and that Asian kids have traditionally adhered to the expectations derived by looking at their parents' background.

However, he also recognizes that this has been changing recently. Guppy points to recent economic difficulties as one of the reasons why many immigrant groups are struggling a bit more. For Chow, everything was set for him to do well.

“The opportunity was there and I wasn't handicapped with the language barrier,” says Chow.

He recalls how certain life events changed his perspectives and priorities in life. The first was immigrating. The other was in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, when he travelled to San Francisco and witnessed first-



▲ Leo Chow feeling free from formal education in 2009 on a beach in Maui.

hand the civil unrest happening at the time.

“Your parents can only do so much for you,” says Chow. “At the very end, you still have to make a decision [of] how you're going to walk and what shoes you're going to wear.”

Evelyn Chua agrees. She thinks that parental influence and advice is not as important as her children's personal decisions.

When talking about her daughter who is pursuing a master's degree in engineering, Chua asserts, “I think her personal interest matters more...if we keep pushing, it will go nowhere and the child will not feel happy.”

Regarding the future of education in Canada, both Chow and Chua agree that the Canadian system is too lax, while education in Asia is too strict. Both believe that the middle path is best – a system that is not too strict, but still encourages hard work and discipline.

For Guppy, he hopes to have a multicultural education system that continues to be tolerant. An education system that continues to have more people of different ethnic backgrounds included and that continues to receive the funding that it needs.

“A challenge to multicultural education is a challenge to education itself,” says Guppy. ✂

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Photos courtesy of onopko, Flickr, and the Thai Dance Company



Thai Dance Company Presents

WannaKhadee, Stories from Siam

by RIC MOORE

If you're not familiar with a certain cultural song, you'll often times listen and find that you can't interpret the words. If it's a dance routine that has many unique movements and is perhaps quite intricate, you're probably unable to comprehend what they're trying to convey to the audience. Their costumes may be very beautiful but you might not know what the historical theme is or what the various parts of the costumes represent. But you won't have these issues to deal with when you watch the Thai Dance Company perform on August 27. They're ripe and ready to guide you

through some of Thailand's history dancing and music through a narrator who will explain the classical tales while the show shines.

Director of the Richmond-based Thai Dance Company. "Some of them are current as they were created by the talent of my creative dancers."

Megara Solloway is trained in this traditional dance which she learned in her home country of Thailand, later traveling throughout Indonesia, Dubai,

“The stories and dances are passed down through the ages. Some of them are current as they were created by the talent of my creative dancers.

Megara Solloway, Artistic Director, Thai Dance Company

The Company offers a mixture of Thai dances and literature that depicts characters from selected Thai classical tales. "The stories and dances are passed down through the ages," says Megara Solloway, Artistic

Some of the oldest dances go back 2,500 years and the literature is approximately 200 years old. The Thai monarchy historically played a major role in the development of the dance to make it evolve into an art form.

India and Jamaica. She finally settled in Vancouver in 1999 and founded the Thai Dance Company in 2008.

Solloway states that there are 108 basic movements which are different for women and men and that it takes approximately 3 years to perfect them. She laughed when asked if the dancers have them all down pat, and replied, "there are too many movements and therefore the shorter versions are often taught."

When it comes to the intricacies of the dance, the hands and arms in relation to the up and down motion of the rest of the body makes you wonder how they could remember that many movements.

Solloway explains that the dancers hold their bodies upright from the neck to their hips and stretch to the rhythm of the music. All this while dancing in elaborate and traditional costumes while remembering the number and type of gestures for the particular music score.

The troupe consists of 3 women and 2 men whose homeland is Thailand and they are now living in Vancouver; some of them attending university.

Each show runs for approximately 1 hour and the troupe performs 1 to 2 times per year with Solloway periodically performing solo in Toronto.

As well as performing in Canada, the Dance Company has performed in India, the Caribbean and in Thailand.

As for the popularity of this dance back in Thailand, Solloway mentions that it varies within the different regions of the country.

In regards to tourists' reactions and feedback, she acknowledges that the tourists often don't understand the stories but only appreciate the look and beauty of the dance.

"That is why we have a narrator who can educate the audience," says Solloway. ☞

For tickets you can go to the Scotiabank Dance Centre at 677 Davie Street. Tickets are \$15 at www.ticketstonight.ca or at 604-684-2787.

For more information on the Thai Dance Company, visit: www.thaidancecompany.com

'Third Culture Kids' seeking one identity

by SAMUEL CHAMBAUD

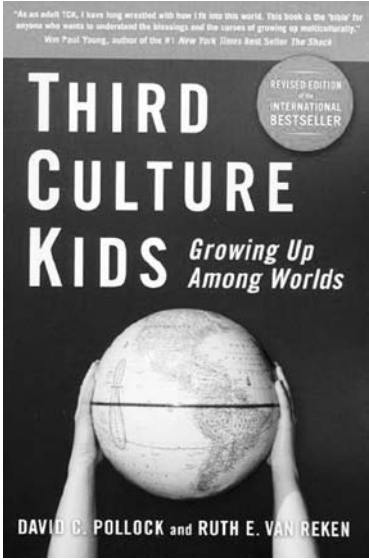
There is an argument about that despite their global background, children of expatriates struggle with their own identity, whereas children of immigrants adapt better to their host country's culture.

A notice released on the US Department of State's website puts the question and answer of the struggle of these "Third Culture Kids" out there by saying "who is the most recent immigrant to your school? You may be surprised to find that the answer may not be Roberto who immigrated from El Salvador nor Kamini from India, but rather Bobby or Katie who were born to United States citizens and recently moved back to the U.S."

American officials thus mean to provide assistance to these 'Third Culture Kids,' also known by the abbreviation TCKs. The aim of American officials is to help TCKs step through the potential loss of their identity.

For further clarification of what a exactly a TCK is, Ruth Van Reken, co-author of *Third Culture Kids: The Experience of Growing Up Among Worlds*, says they are "children who spend a significant portion of their developmental years in a culture outside their parents' passport culture(s)."

She admits nevertheless that "TCKs can feel rootless and detached. The great challenge for maturing Third Culture Kids is to forge a sense of personal and cultural identity from the various environments to which they [have] been exposed." This common ground leads them to strongly relate to each other.



Anne-Sophie Bolon from the *International Herald Tribune*, author of the article *At home abroad*, says that "between 'Third Culture Kids' there is an inexplicable link that is difficult to describe. Often I have been introduced to someone with whom I immediately bonded, only to learn later that the person had also grown up overseas."

The Internet provides a new means of staying connected. Websites such as *Denizen* or *TCK-World* specially aim at these displaced kids. Parents can share their experiences about raising a child. TCKs can muse about going through a 'quarter-life crises', traveling, books...and even bare advices on situations such as leaving your parents' home.

Carol Lin, one of the *Denizen* editors, describes her first year See "Third Culture Kids" Page 4 ➤

Photo courtesy of the Thai Dance Company



▲ Performers interpret the history, culture and tales of Thailand through song, dance and accompanying narration.



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Photo by Evan Leeson, Flickr

▲ The Burrard, Granville, and Cambie bridges from a bird's-eye view as cars, bikes and people travel to and from Downtown.

Bridges to a new life or just to work

by RIC MOORE

Bridges allow you to hopefully commute to work unscathed, go shopping, or venture on a driving holiday and just sight-see in one's own neck of the woods.

Some of the world's most majestic bridges were built for walking instead of traffic; examples include the Khaju in Iran and the Ponte Vecchio in Florence, Italy. But in Vancouver, bridges can be a tangible thing or a metaphorical link.

These metaphorical bridges allow immigrants to experience a new culture and perhaps even freedom.

To travel over our very own Golden Ears Bridge requires a toll. The same can be said for some of our new citizens traveling over their link to a new life. It too may require a toll as there is a cost to pay for settling financial matters in their former country and, of course, setting up a new home in Canada.

If their home country is under political or economic distress, their bridge may only be 'one-way.' If planning to go back periodically for visits or for business, their bridge will have two lanes. Still for others a bridge is just a bridge.

"I'm dreading the ride home... [to]...Maple Ridge," says James the garage door repair man at a strata's parkade. "I have to cross both the Iron Worker's Memorial and the Port Mann Bridge."

Often times James says he won't get home until just before 7:00 p.m. This was his last call of the day and it being 4 p.m. it seemed odd that he was slow on leaving. He explained that he

was delaying the agony, but finally relented and drove off.

A majority of people would give our local bridges a lower number on a 'majestic' scale as they often cause major headaches. An accident or construction delay can result in massive holdups in traffic flow. A good majority of commuters like James have experienced the Port Mann Bridge, the Lions Gate Bridge and the Iron Worker's Memorial Bridge during 'rush hour' while trying to slowly head to work in the morning or back home at the end of the day.

Even the location of a bridge can influence one's perception of the bridge itself. There is a waste water treatment plant under our majestic Lion's Gate Bridge; a little known fact to new comers of our city and maybe even to those

who have lived here for a long time.

While driving with the windows open, or worse, cycling over the bridge and with the wind in the right direction you can get the aroma from the plant below. If you're cycling, you might want to hold your breath and pedal faster.

And maybe there is one of our newer citizens to our country, who while trying to cross the Port Mann Bridge may say something like, "crossing this bridge is nothing compared to the troubles I had leaving my country."

Well, we'll see how long he or she repeats that mantra while driving during our infamous rush hours.

He or she might soon be chanting the same phrase that James mumbles each time he heads back home. ☞



Photo by Mandy J. Flickr

▲ The Lion's Gate Bridge in Vancouver as seen on a busy commuter day.

► "Third Culture Kids" from page 3 of studying in Vancouver as being particularly rough.

"It was exhausting, deflating and even discouraging to have to try extra hard just to feel like I fit in somewhere," says Lin. "What is this foreign concept of trying just to fit in?" She answers her own question.

"Continue discussions through social media and online TCK networks," she recommends.

Gillian Creese, director of the Centre for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of British Columbia, explains that rather than geographic mobility or identity, this is also a matter of social class mobility.

"Children from certain categories of expatriates such as temporary diplomats or CEOs tend to live within a sort of affluent bubble," says Creese. "They rarely interact with the less affluent children of the society that surrounds them." A situation that may reflect later on in their years as grown-up adults.



Photo courtesy of the University of British Columbia

▲ Gillian Creese

"Children brought at an early stage are often eager to melt into their host country's culture, especially if their parents experience downward class mobility after immigration" says Creese.

In which case this might give Roberto from El Salvador and Kamini from India an indisputable asset over Bobbie and Katie. ☞



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Capoeira

A Brazilian art form children love

by NIGEL BARBOUR

When Mestre Eclilson de Jesus arrived in Vancouver in 1990, he had very little money, and very little English. But he had an ambition: to share the art of capoeira. His first move was to found the Capoeira Aché Brasil in Vancouver, introducing this Brazilian dance to his new home.

children this healthy outlet and discipline where they can focus their energy. At the Ache Brasil Capoeira Academy, children of five years old can “play” with adults on an equal basis, in the framework of what they call their “meetings.” A group of 10 or 20 people (including an instructor, adults and children) gather in a circle with Brazilian musical instruments.

the academy for a vigorous workout. Capoeira Aché Brasil is well-known in the dance world as a dance troupe. “Some academies have more emphasis on martial arts, ours is more about acrobatics,” explains Christianne Odehnal, manager of the academy. “We have always had children in capoeira,” says Odehnal. According to her there are over thirty in the academy, and the children would always like to stay all day, long after their classes are over.

Parents are active volunteers who are close to the academy’s five teachers. There are parties, camping trips, and even baby showers. “We are trying to create a community of parents,” says Odehnal. Louise Leblanc, parent of two “very active” small boys, is one of those parents. For her children she says she didn’t want “a combative martial art...I [know] Brazilian dancing, I love the culture and the African rhythms.” Leblanc says that “the children love it, and it’s a very rich cultural experience for [them].”

With its many musical instruments including the Brazilian drum, marimbas, cymbals, birimbas and short bamboo sticks – which are also used for a kind of single-stick “combat” – this dance is a delightful eyeful and earful for children and adults alike. “Children love this art,” explains Mestre Eclilson, “when you play capoeira you are outside your daily life. You become aware of the negative and positive energy; do you trust your play partner not to hit you – or not? You learn an awareness of life, to be flexible, to love, to move towards our culture. The spiritual energy, *aché*, can be called forth by capoeira. It is a way of life.”

Two of them spring to the middle of the circle and clasp hands before the acrobatic, theoretically martial arts moves, start. It is impressive to see a five-year old aim an acrobatic foot kick at the head of a “play” partner six times his age...thirty centimetres away from any remote possibility of hitting his or her adult opponent. But the trusting relationship is there and nobody is ever hurt. The acrobatics are impressive, to the point that a number of dancers and fitness adepts come to



▲ Mestre Eclilson de Jesus performs at a Canada Day festival in Vancouver.

“Capoeira is [a mix of] music, acrobatics, [and] martial arts,” says Eclilson. “Later on, when you have learned it, you open yourself [up] to a different world.” This happy, musical, choreographed, acrobatic dance originated from the secret rituals of the African slaves of Brazil. But if you think this dance is mainly for adults, you’re mistaken. It’s an art form attractive to children, too. Children are regularly entranced by its rhythm, its singing, and its empowerment. Parents are delighted to give their



▲ Canada’s first gay rights march in front of Parliament on August 28, 1971.

The *We Demand* film series

40 years of gay, lesbian activism in Canada

by NALLA FAYE

From August 25–28 the Pacific Cinémathèque of Vancouver will show the *We Demand* film series which will focus on three key words from the past 40 years: history, sex, and activism.

“Just before Expo 1986, a pressure – embodied among others by the Concern Residence of the West End (CROW) – was rising to force the prostitutes to get out of the West End [and into] Yaletown or [the] Downtown East Side.”

Peter Dickinson, Curator of *We Demand*

One month after Pride week and exactly 40 years after the *We Demand* protest, this film series is a rare and rich retrospective of the vibrant movement, which was the first recorded national political action undertaken by two hundred gay liberationists and lesbian feminist activists in Ottawa on August 28, 1971.

How the idea of the *We Demand* film series was born

Peter Dickinson, curator of this project says the idea occurred to him while he and Director of the Archive of Lesbian Oral Testimony office were thinking of organizing a conference which would commemorate the 40th anniversary of the protest action in Ottawa. “That same day there were some 40 to 50 activists protesting in Vancouver on the steps of the city’s Court House, known today as the Vancouver Art Gallery,” says Dickinson. “This conference is bringing a lot of well know figures and activists [together].”

How *Hookers on Davie* describes a bygone age of sex work in Vancouver

Hookers on Davie is a very important documentary which traces the “activist prostitution” that used to occur in the West End. Specifically on Davie Street. The sex workers were well organized, with no pimps and they looked out for each other. According to Dick-

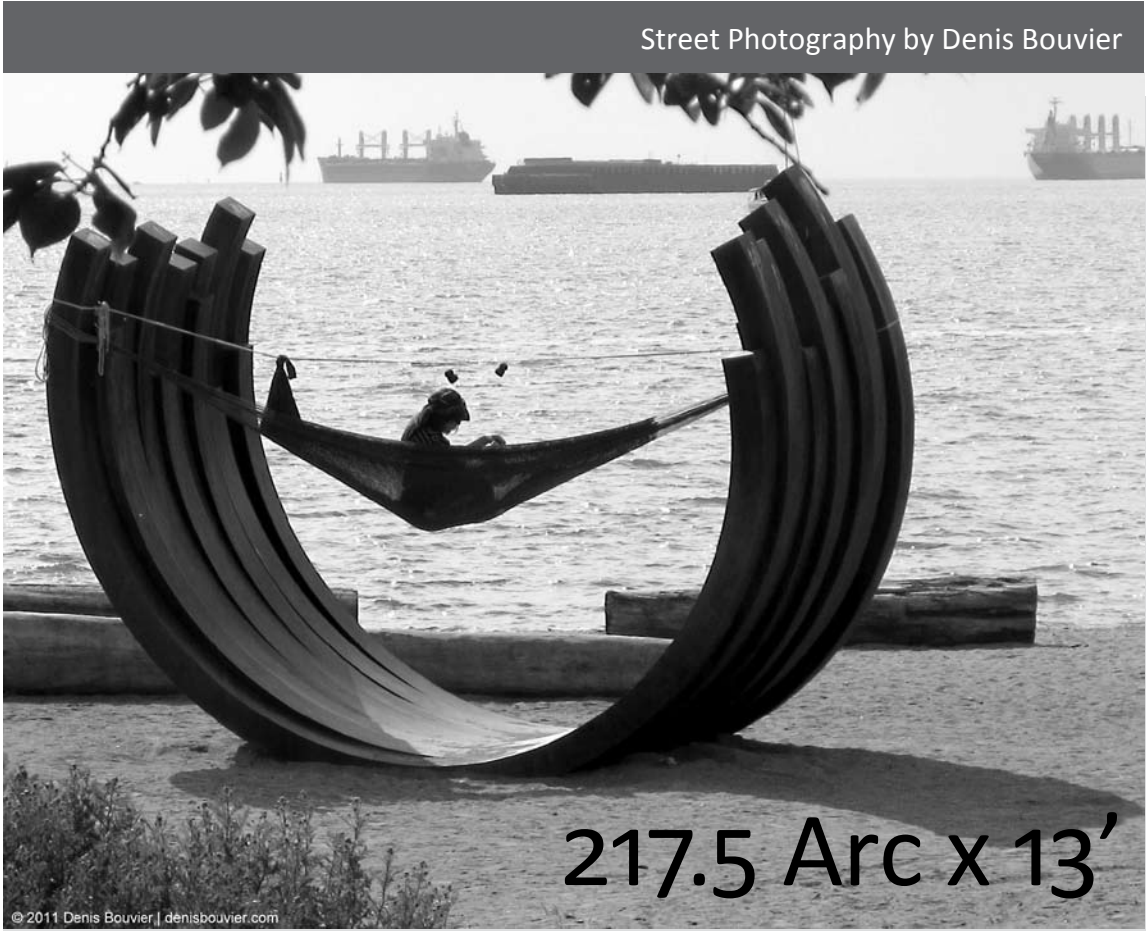
inson, Vancouver was known as the “prostitution city of Canada.” “It was very visible,” says Dickinson, “but, just before Expo 1986, a pressure – embodied among others by the Concern Residence of the West End (CROW) – was rising to force the prostitutes to

get out of the West End [and into] Yaletown or [the] Downtown East Side.” Dickinson says that the community became fragmented and the sex work industry was pushed underground; even more so than it was before. And the living conditions for the sex workers turned to something dangerous, as they were more vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections as serious as HIV and AIDS.

Little Sisters’s vs Big Brother: A symbolic battle for LGBTQ rights

This documentary is a kind of Court thriller, a little landmark case on the 20-year legal battle waged by the bookstore *Little Sister’s*, which is still located at 1238 Davie Street. The Bookstore was forced to prove that the imported materials (books, magazines, films) were not obscene. But the problem was that to prove this was more a question of who was selling it than the issue of content. “Those same books arrived in other bookstores without problems,” says Dickinson. “[This] proves that [*Little Sister’s*] was discriminated [against] and that customs tried to [determine] what [people] should read or not.”

The full program on The Cinémathèque website: www.cinematheque.bc.ca/we-demand-history-sex-activism-in-canada



The 217.5 Arc x 13’ sculpture was created by influential French artist Bernar Venet, one of the world’s most celebrated conceptual artists. This work is part of the Vancouver Biennial, a public art exhibition featuring sculptures, new media and performance works by both recognized and emerging international art-

ists. The venues are public parks, beaches and plazas, transforming these spaces into free open-air exhibitions. The arc’s mass is substantial (5,500 kg), yet its perfect balance evokes an impressive grace. It retains the rust-like colour of Corten steel blending beautifully in the natural setting of Sunset Beach. The arc has 13 curves

which dramatically frame the beauty of English Bay. Venet perhaps did not intend his art to have such a utilitarian purpose, but this picture captures someone who sees an obvious use that may have escaped most of us. Such is summer in Vancouver.

Don Richardson



▲ Jim Deva, Bruce Smyth, Janine Fuller, and Mark McDonald of Little Sister’s Books.

Cultural Calendar

August 9–September 6, 2011



▲ Rowers participate in the Steveston Dragon Boat Festival in Richmond.

by PHOEBE YU

Summer is still here and the festivals just keep coming. With the rain finally gone *fingers crossed*, there’s actually a chance to enjoy a lot of the free outdoor occasions.

The annual Dragon Boat Festival is not only a tradition, but it’s also a very summer-like affair. Other events you might want to check out are the Chariot Parade and Festival of India, Summer Dreams Literary Arts Festival, and the Tibet Festival, just to name a few.

Here’s more events and details. Happy sun days!

2011 New Westminster Pride
Royal City Pride Society
Aug. 11–14
Various venues
604.544.0875
www.royalcitypridesociety.com

Missed Vancouver pride week? Fear not, New Westminster will have its own celebrations in August. The festival kicks off with a meet and greet with Kate Reid. Over the weekend, there will be various events like live performances, a barbeque, dance parties, fundraisers, and more. Check their website for the full schedule, venues and event fees.

Summer Dreams Literary Arts Festival
Saturday Aug. 13, 11:45 a.m.–8 p.m.
Lumberman’s Arch, Stanley Park
Vancouver
604.788.8340
www.sites.google.com/site/summerdreamsfest/home

There will be various literary groups present to honor various forms of literary works. There will be multicultural readings in different languages, theatrical and musical performances, panel discussions, story tellers, open mics, workshops and more. Free and open to the public, but registration for workshops is required.

Burnaby Blues and Roots Festival
Saturday Aug. 13, 2 p.m.–10 p.m.
Deer Lake Park

6344 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby
604.291.6864
www.burnabybluesfestival.com

This is a perfect festival for the Blues fan. This year’s lineup includes K.D. Lang, Imelda May, John Mayall and many more. It is also a family-friendly event with lots of activities for the kids. Single tickets \$65, day of event \$70.

Chariot Parade and Festival of India
Sunday Aug. 14, 1 p.m.–dusk
2nd Beach in Stanley Park, Vancouver
604.454.9255
www.chariotfestivalofindia.com

This colourful parade will start on Beach Ave. at Howe St. at 11:30 a.m. and go along Beach Ave., finishing at 2nd Beach in Stanley Park at 1 p.m. The festival will have live theatre, music dance, mendi hand tattoos, cooking demos, a fashion show and so more. Open to the public.



▲ Mendi tattooing at Festival of India.

Arts Alive Festival
Saturday Aug. 20, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Downtown Langley
Fraser Hwy, between 204 and 206 St.
604.539.0133
www.artsalivefestival.com

Expect to see unique performance art and visual arts on display in the 18th annual arts festival. There will also be live music, children’s activities and a performance of Shakespeare’s As You Like It. Open to the public.

Steveston Dragon Boat Festival
Saturday, Aug. 20
Steveston Village
5180 Westwater Dr., Richmond
604.688.2382
www.stevestondragonboatfestival.ca

Set on the waters of the Fraser River, more than 40 teams are expected to compete in this year’s race. There will also be trained instructors on site all day long to teach dragon-boat paddling. It is also an event for the family, with children’s activities available, as well as various food vendors and entertainment. More details coming soon. Free admission.

Tibet Festival
Tsengdok Monastery Association
Saturday Aug. 27, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.
VanDusen Botanical Garden
5251 Oak St., Vancouver
604.288.8266
www.tsengdokrinpoche.com

Enjoy the first-ever Vancouver Tibet Festival. There will be performances of Tibet music and dance, Tibetan spiritual chants, and the

Tibetan Children of BC will be performing as well. There will also be door prizes, a silent auction, food and a market. Proceeds go to the Tibetan Resettlement Project and the Japanese tsunami relief. Suggested donation of \$5.

Cates Park Concert Series
Musart
Until Aug. 27
Cates Park
200 block of Dollarton Hwy, North Vancouver
604.924.6871
www.musart.ca

Every Saturday, three local bands perform on the outdoor stage. Genres range from pop to country to reggae. Sponsored by Musart, which gives local artists a chance to perform and let their music be known. There will also be a CD compilation of Cates Park artists for sale. Concerts are free.

African Market
Canadian Network
for International Surgery
Saturday Aug. 27, 12 p.m.–6 p.m.
1985 W. Broadway, Vancouver

604.739.4708
www.cnis.ca

This is not just a market where you can buy different goods like clothing, gift items, jewelry, etc. It’s educational, too. Various NGOs will also have booths set up, where you can learn about what they’re doing in Africa, as well as buy goods for their fundraising. African-themed activities are also available, like making African soccer balls, decorating an African hut and participating in the Ethiopian coffee ceremony. Free admission.

Serbian Days Festival
Sveti Sava
Sept. 2–4
St. Sava Church
505 E. 63rd Ave., Vancouver
604.728.2924
www.serbianday.com

This festival falls just in time for the labour day weekend. There will be sports tournaments, folk performances, evening entertainment with live music and lots of activities for the kids. Free admission.

Farmers Markets 2011 Summer Schedule

Trout Lake Farmers Market – Saturdays, May 14–October 22
North Parking Lot of Trout Lake Park behind 13th Avenue
between Templeton and Lakewood
Interactive Market Map:
<http://www.managemymarket.com/mapping/?marketID=314>

Kitsilano Farmers Market – Sundays, May 22–October 23
10th and Larch at the Kitsilano Community Centre
Interactive Market Map:
<http://www.managemymarket.com/mapping/?marketID=313>

Main St Station Farmers Market – Wednesdays, June 1–October 5
Station Street between Terminal and National in front of the Pacific Central Station and Thornton Park
Interactive Market Map:
<http://www.managemymarket.com/mapping/?marketID=311>

West End Farmers Market – Saturdays, June 1–October 22
1100 Block of Comox Street between Bute and Thurlow
Interactive Market Map:
<http://www.managemymarket.com/mapping/?marketID=312>

Visit the interactive market maps to see which vendors will be at your favourite market!

Contact: Roberta LaQuaglia, Operations Manager
Phone: 604 879-3276

Vancouver Farmers Markets is a non-profit community-based group that organizes four farmers markets in Vancouver each Spring to Fall, a weekly Winter Market and an annual Holiday Market.

Need the skills to find a job? We can help!

Design a fantastic resume and cover letter, fine tune your interview techniques, learn valuable skills to succeed in the Canadian workplace, gain insight into the job market, access special services for skilled workers - all at NO COST. The Progressive Intercultural Community Services (PICS) Society, Vancouver Branch, has been helping immigrants and newcomers to Canada for over 14 years!

Our Group Job Search Workshops are a flexible, 5 module rotating program, running weekly, with 16 sessions each month. This includes basic computer orientation, with instruction on using Word and Excel, and accessing the Internet. Workshops are held within a culturally diverse environment, led by qualified facilitators.

Past and current E.I. recipients are always welcome. Knowledgeable case managers are available to guide you through the process of reaching your career goals.

PICS Vancouver also offers one-on-one employment assistance, paid on-the-job work experience through our Wage Subsidy program, and a one-stop Career Centre with a broad range of job hunting resources. Funding for all programs is provided by the Ministry of Social Development, Employment and Labour Market Services Division.

Please call 604-324-7733, go to www.pics.bc.ca, or visit us at 200-8161 Main Street, Vancouver, to find out how we can best help you.

