

# UVIC COMMUNICATIONS

## MEDIA MONITORING

Monday, December 18, 2006

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# **Gordon Smith, global studies, public administration, political science**

## **Victoria centre boycotts Holocaust-denier team**

### **Times Colonist; The Associated Press**

Sunday, December 17, 2006

A Victoria research institute will suspend contacts with a leading Iranian think-tank that helped organize last week's conference in Tehran of Holocaust deniers, a Paris-based researcher said yesterday.

The Centre for International Studies is one of nearly 40 North America and European institutes that have agreed to suspend ongoing programs with the Iranian Institute for Political and International Studies, or IPIS, according to a statement issued by Francois Heisbourg, who organized the boycott.

They have also refused participation in IPIS meetings or invite IPIS staff to their own forums and to decline travel to Iran sponsored by the Iranian institute.

**Gordon Smith of the Centre for International Studies** in Victoria is listed as one of the experts who signed the boycott statement. The Victoria institute is the only one in Canada to join the protest.

Smith, former Canadian ambassador to the European Union, specializes in foreign and defence policies and is an adjunct professor at the **University of Victoria**.

According to **UVic's** website, the global institute's mission is to "advance understanding and action on major global issues by civil society, the private sector, governments, and international institutions."

The Dec. 11-12 conference in Tehran drew Holocaust deniers from around the world to debate whether the Second World War genocide of Jews took place. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, a keynote speaker, said that Israel will one day be "wiped out" and "humanity will achieve freedom."

The conference drew denunciations from around the world.

Researchers, led by Heisbourg, decided to issue their own form of protest by boycotting the Iranian institute that organized the conference.

"It's the equivalent for us of breaking off diplomatic relations between embassies," Heisbourg said in a telephone interview.

Heisbourg, chairman of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London and president of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, said the IPIS is a touchstone in Iran for foreign researchers.

The statement describes the IPIS as a "mainstream Iranian interface" with foreign think-tanks.

"Through its complicity with the deniers of the absolute evil that was the Holocaust, IPIS has now forfeited its status as an acceptable partner," according to the statement.

IPIS had the leading role in organizing the Tehran conference, calling for papers, sending invitations, arranging logistics, Heisbourg said. "They convened the meeting and ran the meeting," he said.

## **Andrew Weaver, earth & ocean science**

### **How we got blasted: Record-ripping winds took rare path**

#### **Times Colonist**

Judith Lavoie

Saturday, December 16, 2006

Wind gusts at Race Rocks, off the Island's southwest tip, reached a record 158 kilometres an hour as the third intense wind storm in a week plowed a trail of destruction through southern Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland.

Yesterday morning's storm knocked out power to thousands of residents, toppled trees, and damaged buildings and cars.

More residents were forced from their homes because they didn't have power, and ended up moving into hotels or into the homes of friends and relatives.

Around the capital region, areas that suffered the most damage had winds that gusted to between 70 and 90 km/h.

In the last three storms, including yesterday's, the wind has gathered over the North Pacific, whooshed across the ocean, gathered speed in the funnel of Juan de Fuca Strait and then whacked Vancouver Island with its full force, said Chris Emond, Environment Canada meteorologist.

"There are tremendous wind speeds and three in one week is unusual." The wind is coming straight across the cold North Pacific and hitting land, rather than taking the more common route of dipping south and picking up tropical moisture, Emond said.

Anne McCarthy, weather services specialist with Environment Canada, said the storms are cutting a swath straight across Vancouver Island instead of the more usual pattern of tracking to the north coast around Prince Rupert and the Queen Charlottes.

"What has been interesting about this week are three in a row -- the bang, bang, bang syndrome -- and two of those windstorms have involved taking the centre of the storm across Vancouver Island itself," she said.

Forecasters have not yet had time to closely review statistics -- although figures kept since 1995 at Race Rocks do not show anything as strong as the 126 km/h winds and 158 km/h gusts of yesterday.

No records were set at Victoria International Airport where, this week, gusts have been between 78 and 99 km/h. In 1967 and 1972, gusts of 109 km/h were recorded.

With the weather gods hitting Vancouver Island with floods, snow and gales, even weather forecasters are starting to get tired, McCarthy said.

"And they love bad weather." **University of Victoria climatologist Andrew Weaver** said conclusions cannot be drawn from the unusual weather.

"Everyone wants to pin every weather event on global warming or El Nino and you can't do that," he said.

Climate is broader than singular weather events, Weaver said.

"But, the fact we got three blasts in a row is pretty annoying and unusual." The forecast gives opportunities for more misery. Snow flurries and rain showers are expected for today. By this evening it should be cloudy with a low of zero and a 60 per cent chance of showers.

# **Michael J. Prince, human & social development**

## **Fulfilling a promise**

A new cancer strategy: New Canada-wide partnership holds great promise for prevention and cures

## **Special to Times Colonist**

Opinion editorial by Michael J. Prince

Monday, December 18, 2006

Amidst the final leg of the Liberal leadership race and the "nation within a nation" debate in Parliament, many Canadians likely missed an important announcement on health-care policy.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced on Nov. 24 the formation of a not-for-profit corporation, the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, to implement the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control (CSCC).

The chairman of the new body is Jeffrey Lozon, president of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and the vice-chairman is to be Simon Sutcliffe, president of the B.C. Cancer Agency.

This announcement was the culmination of extensive work since the late 1990s by literally several hundred associations, professional bodies, research centres, families and cancer survivor groups.

For Canadians, the goals of the CSCC are compelling: To reduce the number of new cases of cancer, to enhance the quality of life of those with cancer, and to lessen the likelihood of people dying from cancer. The incidence of cancer is undeniable -- one in four Canadians will die from the disease.

And the potential for advances are substantial. An estimated 50 per cent of cancers are believed to be preventable by detection, reductions in tobacco consumption, increased active living, and improved healthy eating.

The new cancer strategy resonates with people and reflects that state of knowledge and interventions. A disease-specific approach makes considerable political sense to Canadians as voters and politicians, empirical sense to researchers familiar with disease-based knowledge, and practical sense to Canadians as potential or actual patients, given the general problems everyone has with assessing the health care system as a whole.

The CSCC's priority areas cover the full spectrum of cancer control -- primary prevention, screening and early detection, surveillance, diagnostic and treatment

standards, clinical practice guidelines, health human resources, research and rebalancing the focus of health toward patient-centred care.

Until now, Canada has lacked a national framework on cancer control with co-operative action between governments and among sectors; that is a comprehensive set of actions across the spectrum of cancer control, funded with sustainable public investments. With this announcement, Canada is on the road to joining dozens of other countries with such strategies.

The non-profit corporation being established to oversee implementing the cancer strategy will operate at arms length from the federal government, although it will report each year to the health minister on its activities and results. It is a structure for bringing together key participants in the cancer community to act as a single window on information for providers and patients, and serve as a channel for change in cancer control measures.

The board of directors, as the governing body for the non-profit corporation, will comprise 15 members drawn from cancer stakeholder organizations, provincial cancer agencies, patient family and survivor groups, at least one aboriginal organization and representatives from the federal government. Provinces support the initiative and, in recognition of their primary and longstanding roles in cancer services, research and policy, they have one-third of the seats at the board table.

With this composition, the board is intended to be expertise and stakeholder-driven rather than controlled by the federal government or by the provinces. The aim is to forge stronger partnerships and collaborative networks in order to foster better knowledge transfer and application in prevention, detection, and the other priority areas.

The board of directors will also receive research funds, by way of an agreement with Health Canada, which they are responsible for allocating to a possible mix of federal, provincial or voluntary sector organizations. To do this, the board will obviously have to make some hard decisions as to research priorities.

Much work remains to be done, of course. For example, intergovernmental dialogue continues on reaching agreement on a national cancer surveillance information system, including standards or protocols on data collection, data sharing, analysis and storage.

The new corporation will seek to complement and perhaps co-ordinate provincial activities in cancer surveillance. The CSCC will also complement the work of the pan-Canadian health human resources strategy, and other initiatives such as the integrated healthy living and chronic disease strategy and the strategy on palliative and end-of-life care.

Along with modernizing this vital part of our health-care systems, the CSCC has potential for improving the conduct of intergovernmental relations today in Canada. The knowledge and research developed and shared through the CSCC will enable provinces



and territories to learn from each other more quickly and better manage their cancer care challenges.

The promise of the CSCC is profound. It is nothing less than preventing cancer, curing cancer, and increasing the survival rates and quality of life for those who develop cancer, by converting the cumulative knowledge and population-based evidence gained through research, surveillance and evaluation into priority actions that matter the most to the health and well-being of Canadians.

- **Michael J. Prince is the Lansdowne Professor of Social Policy at the University of Victoria.** Prince has written about the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control for the National Cancer Institute of Canada as well as published academic articles on cancer policy.

# Jennifer Wise, theatre

## Getting off the mommy train

### Globe and Mail

ELIZABETH NICKSON

Nobody's Mother:  
Life Without Kids  
Edited by Lynne Van Luven,  
TouchWood Editions,

Childless women have a lot to answer for these days, chiefly the end of Western civilization. And then there are our friends in the Middle East. First thing any (entirely male) Islamist government does is shroud women in heavy fabric, take away tools of trade, books and pens, and set them to breeding more cannon fodder for the holy war. Our women -- educated, strong, independent, childless -- could be argued to be the chief sin, the greatest wrong of our civilization to those who have declared themselves our enemy.

I was 15 before I knew that such a life was even possible, and I remember discussing with my friends the case of a woman the same age as our mothers who was dating a widower in our village. This new creature had a job in Montreal, no children and, not only that, no husband. Try as we might, we could not see this life as anything but bleak. Just a few decades ago, even the most privileged young women in our culture could not envision a happy life for themselves that did not include at least three children.

That's changed. This is the demographic stat that changed the world: Never before in human history has there been such an enormous cohort of women who escaped the noose of motherhood. What have they done with that freedom? From the evidence of *Nobody's Mother*, a collection of essays by 21 childless Canadian women, they have chosen to educate themselves extensively, and travel to the farthest reaches of the planet with their husbands, or alone. They have negotiated native rights, thrown themselves into charitable pursuits and community building, owned every morning on CBC Radio, married once, several times or not at all, step-parented, foster-parented, taught, written poems, books, monographs and studies, left stifling relationships to live exactly as they please, and influenced the course of events like no other generation in human history.

*Nobody's Mother* is more than instructive, it should be essential reading for holy warriors, right-wing demographical hysterics such as Pat Buchanan, and any young girl considering what she might do with the 70 years or so that stretch in front of her. Guilt and sorrow, almost without exception, have plagued these women and shadowed at least a few years. All laboriously list the many children and adults to whom they have related in a maternal way. Some source their refusal in too much responsibility too young, through the death or fecklessness of parents.

Some are defiant. **Jennifer Wise, a theatre professor at the University of Victoria,** delivers a bracing proto-Marxist lecture, leaning on Shaw, asking who on Earth would spend their life in the nursery, fussing over babies, instead of doing "more intellectually absorbing and more socially useful things?" The honesty expressed is searing, saddening and, finally, redemptive. From these women, I suspect, we can learn just why motherhood is such a burden (yes, yes, great joy, too), how that might change and, of course, subsequently save Western civilization.

Despite their accomplishments, there is a persistent feeling here of being sidelined, left out of the great major chord story that most of us still play. Travel writer Maria Coffey writes about how she is seen by the Third World women in the farthest-flung corners through which she and her husband, Dag, paddle. They pity her and think her barren, that starkest of words.

Dianne Moir, a James Bay Cree, shows how her childlessness has allowed her social activism in aboriginal communities. And Sadhna Datta writes with tenderness about how anomalous she is in immigrant culture in Vancouver. Many worry how they will age without children to ease that passage, though most recount that they have constructed strong families that will see them through.

Hannah Main van der Kamp, a poet and writer who lives up in British Columbia's Slocan Valley, faces barren dead on. She has chosen to act as spiritual mentor for the young people who flood through her life. She is an exemplar of slowness, of the contemplative life, "an indicator that another way of life is possible. . . . Could I have escaped the frantic busyness of an urban middle-class lifestyle, if I had children?" she asks. "I think not." Her role as quirky aunt "encourages me to dwell on and heighten 'peak' experiences, both my own and others'. There is a communal amnesia in families, religious congregations, schools and work places. When something Really Big Happens, it registers as a thrill, but there is a simultaneous converse pressure to erase the big experience quickly, disavow, ignore and bury it. Get on with sameness routines."

Van der Kamp tries to amplify the powerful occurrences in the lives of her friends, and in this perhaps, we see the true contribution the childless make. Uniformity, says Van der Kamp, distrusts ecstasy and terror. The childless can take bigger risks, they can paddle into nothingness; they can mortgage their future to attempt some great task, they do not have to be hostages to fortune.

While spinster women have always been the glue in any human culture, with this book, we can start to give them their due respect. One caveat: *Nobody's Mother's* women are brilliant and privileged because of their brilliance; it would be useful to understand what the condition means to those less starry, with less fascinating work.

*Elizabeth Nickson is a writer living on Saltspring Island.*

# University of Victoria law students

## Girls' Little League team fights for same funding as boys' teams

Beacon Hill squad's human rights complaint clears an early hurdle

### Vancouver Sun - CanWest News Service

Chantal Eustace

Monday, December 18, 2006

VICTORIA - Members of a girls' softball team, armed with bats, softballs and a human rights complaint, are fighting for the right to play ball on the same financial turf as their male counterparts.

It's a story that sounds more like the movie *League of their Own* than something related to a modern-day athletic program, says Bill Hawkins, 47, who is leading the charge on behalf of his daughter Kelsie's preteen softball team in Victoria.

"I think Little League owes these girls an apology," said Hawkins in a telephone interview with *The Vancouver Sun* on Sunday afternoon.

He said he learned that softball teams were funded differently than baseball teams -- which have predominantly male players -- after his daughter's softball team, Beacon Hill Little League, won the provincial championships last summer.

It was bittersweet, Hawkins said, since they soon learned that transportation costs to attend the national championships in Windsor, Ont. would not be covered by Little League Canada -- while the boy's provincial team did get money for travel.

"It was a bit of a shock," said Hawkins. "With the kids it's really clear to them that if they were boys, this would be paid for them."

The team members, parents and coaches were left scrambling to raise funds on short notice in order to get the girls to the nationals in August, he said.

While the community was supportive -- one individual even loaned them a private jet -- and the team won the national title, the double standard on funding was a blow.

"Ideally, sports are about self-esteem and self-confidence and all those kind of things and what an ugly message to deliver to young girls who are just starting off," he said. "It delivers such an inappropriate message to young girls."

So Hawkins decided to fight. With support from parents, team members and student lawyers at the **University of Victoria**, he filed a complaint against Little League Canada

alleging it "discriminates against girls playing softball in comparison to boys playing baseball, contrary to s. 8 of the Human Rights Code."

In response, Little League Canada applied to have the complaint dismissed, arguing that it had no "reasonable prospect of success" and that the team waited too long after the provincial championships to file it.

Joe Shea, president of Little League Canada, said in an affidavit there is a major difference between softball and baseball funding "with respect to fees charged for participation in tournaments."

He said that in male-dominated baseball, tournament fees cover travel costs. Little League Canada simply holds "these tournament and hosting fees 'in trust' for the baseball teams" and pays them out as required.

But in a Dec. 11 decision, tribunal member Lindsay M. Lester denied the application to dismiss the claim, finding that a "fuller evidentiary record" would be required to determine the "exact nature of the relevant financial arrangements" and "whether or not Little League Canada has discriminated against girls playing on softball teams."

This is not a home run, Hawkins said. Rather, it means the girls can "take the field" through a tribunal hearing. As far as his daughter Kelsie -- now a 14-year-old pitcher -- is concerned, she just wants things to be fair.

"I want the same amount of funding as the boys get," she said, taking a break from a game of catch. In the meantime, she'll keep on playing ball: "It's a great sport."

This article also appeared in the Times Colonist and the National Post.

# University of Victoria's oceans forum

## Marine health explored

### Saanich News

Dec 15 2006

The **University of Victoria** will welcome some of the world's leading ocean and atmospheric scientists to campus Feb. 20-21 to participate in a two-day forum on the current and future health of the planet's marine environment.

Experts from Canada, Chile, Germany, Scotland and the United States will discuss climate change, aquaculture, ocean acidification, marine "dead zones", offshore resource extraction and the collapse of coastal fisheries.

The forum will also look at how people who live near the sea – or depend on its resources for their livelihood – are being affected by recent changes.

The two-day event is one of an ongoing series of "Forums on Taboo Topics" coordinated by the Royal Society: The Academies (formerly known as the Royal Society of Canada) and universities across the country.

The series was established to investigate controversial national issues and explore various policy options to deal with them.

Only one of the forum's events will be open to the general public.

Dr. Daniel Pauly, the director of UBC's fisheries centre and winner of the 2005 International Cosmos Prize, will speak Feb. 21 on the topic of "mining fish from the sea." Pauly's presentation starts at 7:30 p.m. in the University Centre Farquhar Auditorium.

Tickets are free and can be obtained online at [www.auditorium.uvic.ca](http://www.auditorium.uvic.ca), or by calling 721-8480.

For more information about the forum itself, check the website at [www.uvic.ca/research/oceansforum](http://www.uvic.ca/research/oceansforum).

# No bike lanes for road to UVic

## Henderson Road project will have to bide its time

### Oak Bay News

Erin Kelley-Gedischk

Dec 15 2006

Oak Bay won't receive funds for bike lanes on Henderson Road.

The municipality expected that money from the provincial gas tax rebate would cover the cost of building the new bike lanes.

However, the cash has been tied up by the Capital Regional District.

Instead of directing the \$11.3 million rebate across a gamut of regional transportation projects or filtering all funds to BC Transit, the CRD board voted to split the rebate between the bus company and the proposed West Side Rail Trail.

The \$5.6 million earmarked for BC Transit will go toward streamlining bus service on Douglas Street. The West Side Rail Trail, which will connect the West Shore to downtown Victoria, will receive the additional \$5.6 million.

As director of BC Transit and chair of CRD parks, Oak Bay Mayor Christopher Causton was a strong proponent of the 50-50 split.

Causton explained that BC Transit needs ongoing funding and the West Side Rail Trail will be a legacy project for the whole region.

"You couldn't argue for bike lanes and say that's more important than the West Side trail because the trail is a legacy project and a specific bike and walking trail, not a bike lane," he said.

Causton noted the trail will benefit the community, economy, tourism and the environment with minimal cost.

"It is a perfect legacy, especially if we can do it before 2010," he said.

The municipality denied a request from Safer Cycling Oak Bay to build bike lanes and improve sidewalks on Henderson Road between Camosun College and the **University of Victoria** last spring, due to a lack of municipal funds.

The municipality then requested cash from a CRD initiative that aims to improve transportation throughout the region.

The grant would have covered 100 per cent of the project's cost. Causton said the municipality now has to search for new avenues of funding for the bike lanes. "We will have to find more localized funding because there won't be any regional money for the next bit," Causton said.

Oak Bay has received numerous requests over the past decade from individuals and cycling advocates to install bike lanes on Henderson Road. The route is especially popular with students commuting to the **University of Victoria**.



# Private university eyes downtown office space

## Victoria News

By Brennan Clarke

Dec 15 2006

Fledgling University Canada West has inked a lease deal that will see the privately run institution move into 30,000 feet of office space in a yet-to-be-built downtown development.

The two-year-old school, currently located in the former Blanshard elementary school, will move into Radius, a mixed-use office and residential complex planned for the city block immediately north of the historic Hudson Bay building on Douglas Street.

“In a way we’re a victim of our own success,” said UCW president David Strong.

“We looked at the funds to do some decent landscaping here, to do things with this building, maybe expand it or add another building, and the costs are so outrageous it just wasn’t feasible.”

Strong, former University of Victoria chancellor, said the new location will have about 10,000 more square feet of space than the Blanshard site and “hopefully some space to expand.”

The lease agreement, which doesn’t take effect until the spring of 2009, will allow developer Principle Holdings to tailor the space to the school’s needs, he added.

In 2004, UCW signed a 99-year lease agreement with School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria), which owns the site.

The school paid a \$1.9 million lump sum for the space, along with yearly installments totalling more than \$2.5 million over the first 10 years.

Strong said the deal required UCW to lease the site until at least January, 2008.

“We can back out at any time after that so it’s not a problem,” he said.

The school offers a range of undergraduate programs, along with a Masters of Business Administration degree. The first six MBA students graduated this fall.

Strong said the original concept of the school was to cater primarily to international students, but government officials who heard of his plans approached him about providing spaces for university qualified high school graduates unable to gain admission to publicly funded universities.

The school is aiming for a 50-50 split between foreign and domestic students by the end of its first five years. Right now about 80 per cent are domestic students.

Formerly known as The Well, Radius will include 84 residential units, 17,000 square metres of office space, 300 underground parking spaces, a pub, a fitness facility and a daycare.

The project will cover about two-thirds of the city block bordered by Blanshard, Douglas, Caledonia and Herald streets.

When the proposal came before council in July, some councillors expressed concern over a proposed 60 per cent increase in allowable density. It's one of several recent proposals that have highlighted the city's piecemeal approach to granting extra density in return for public amenities. However, none of the buildings proposed for Radius exceed the city's 43-metre height limit.

Maggie Kerr-Southin of Artemis Public Relations and Design, the company handling publicity for Radius, said the project is expected to go to public hearing early in the new year.

Construction is slated to start in the spring, providing the proposal receives council's approval, she added.