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# CALGARY Street TALK

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JUNE 2008 VOL. 12 NO. 6

A SPARE CHANGE NEWSPAPER



Photo by Glenn Peace

Plenty to smile about at the

## STAMPEDERS

Kickoff Breakfast

## Vendor Code of Conduct

Calgary Street Talk vendors are proud of their newspaper and the people who sell it. They each sign a Code of Conduct that stresses the importance of a high standard in customer service because they realize that the conduct of one affects all the others. On occasion, certain persons obtain copies of *Calgary Street Talk* and sell them without authorization; this can be accompanied by undesirable behaviour. The authorized vendors and the publishers are anxious to eliminate such incidents.

If you witness or experience any unacceptable behaviour, please report it directly to the offices of *Calgary Street Talk* at 221-8780.

## Vendors Needed

*Calgary Street Talk* has openings for new vendors. If you are looking for a way to earn money while learning new skills, this is the job for you. We require our vendors to be genuinely interested in working and trying to improve their circumstances. We currently have a number of excellent locations available.

For more information, please contact *Calgary Street Talk* at 221-8780.

## Top Sellers

May's top sales leader was #7 **Andie Wolf Leg**, and in second place #397 **Lois Olsen**, followed by #68 **Rob Champion**.

## Vendor Incentive Program

#4 **Mike Abhar** Mike is always thinking of others and spoils the staff at CUPS. Thank you Mike.

We are dependent on supporters to donate to our Vendor Incentive Program. We like to award at least one \$25 food gift certificate to deserving vendors each month to recognize initiative, improved sales or to acknowledge participating in the *Calgary Street Talk* program.

For information about the Vendor Incentive Program please call 221-8674.

### VENDOR BIRTHDAYS IN JUNE 2008

#2 **Bob Bland**

Hope you have a wonderful birthday Bob.

## Thank Goodness It's Friday!

A number of readers expressed concern that they were unable to contact one of our vendors, Shane Friday. We are happy to report Shane e-mailed us to say he is well and now living in the Okanogan region. CUPS and *Street Talk* wish him well in his new home. ■



### Homeless Kittens

Street Talk is fostering a mother and six kittens and we would like to see them safe, loved, and happy. If you can adopt a kitten call Gaylein at 221-8780. ■



## Summer = Barbecue

Each year we like to treat our vendors by taking them out of downtown to have a barbecue. If you think you would be able to help with a cash donation so we can rent a bus and buy food, please contact Gail at 221-8673. ■

# Street Talk Distribution

Here is a list of authorized active *Street Talk* vendors, each of whom works his or her own hours.

The best time to find one is during the morning, lunch and afternoon rush.

**Vendor #1: "Saint"- Pete**  
17th Avenue & 7th Street SW

**#2: Bob Bland**  
6th Avenue & 2nd Street SW

**#4: Mike Abhar**  
4th Avenue & 1st Street SW (A.M.)  
Eau Claire Market (lunch & early P.M.)  
6th Avenue & 4th Street SW (late P.M.)

**#7: Andie**  
23 Ave. & 4 St. SW

**#19: Norm "The Mayor" Mansell**  
City Hall, 8th Ave. & Macleod Trail SE

**#68: Rob Champion**  
Plaza Theatre, Kensington

**#187: Bruce S.**  
8 St. & 9 Ave. underpass AM  
4 St. & 9 Ave. underpass PM

**#217: Carolyn Miller**

**#242: Eugene M.**  
The Bay at 8th Ave. & 1st St. SW

**#251: Ed Gorman**  
18th Ave. & 4th St. SW

**#253: Darrell S.**

**#273: Ray R.**  
Safeway at 410 - 10th Street NW

**#381: Wade A.**  
9th Avenue & 1st Street SW

**#383: Gordon E.**  
12th Ave. & 14th St. SW

**#397: Lois O.**  
6th Ave. & 4th Street SW

**#442: Steve Gale**  
Banker's Hall

**#509: Barbara Randle**  
Kensington Safeway

**#515 - John Beck**

**#519 - Ed Legault**

**#520 - Shane Taylor**

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A SPARE CHANGE NEWSPAPER

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**COMMUNITY CUPS HEALTH CENTRE**  
Calgary Street Talk is published monthly by Calgary Urban Project Society (CUPS) 128 - 7 Ave. S.E., Calgary, AB T2G 0H5 Telephone: 221-8674 or 221-8780 Fax: 221-8791 E-mail: [streettalk@cupshealthcentre.com](mailto:streettalk@cupshealthcentre.com)

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Calgary Street Talk welcomes your comments, questions, suggestions and article ideas. Please write or telephone. Letters to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must be signed, must include phone number, and may be edited for length.

## Wait a second...

### CORRECTION:

On page 5 of the May Special Edition of Street Talk we incorrectly reported how long it takes for a family to be housed through the Rapid Exit program. It only takes an expeditious 17 days (approximately) for a family to be housed, rather than the cumbersome 70 days previously reported. We apologize for any misunderstandings this may have caused. ■

## How Lowe Can You Go?



photo by Ken Price

Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe visited Calgary this month to learn about the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and share Victoria's strategies for dealing with poverty.

## Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe visits CUPS

By Ken Price

Victoria Mayor Alan Lowe visited CUPS Community Health Centre this month.

He was in Calgary for three days learning about the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and also sharing programs used in Victoria to deal with poverty. The goal was to see how the two cities could learn from each other.

"Calgary and Victoria are similar," Lowe said. "Occupancy rates are low, unemployment rates are low, housing costs are high, and they're two cities that people want to live in."

At CUPS Community Health Centre he learned about the Rapid Exit program, toured CUPS' facilities, and took time out to chat with StreetTalk.

"I think all urban cities are experiencing the same issues and that's why I think it's very important cities like Victoria, Vancouver, Calgary, Ottawa, and Montreal start getting together," he said. "We need to get together to lobby the federal government to tell them they have to continue the funding for housing programs."

He commented on the Rapid Exit program, saying there were not any surprises, "but there was some good information. It was good to hear the successes from your Rapid Exit program," he said.

The Rapid Exit program is based on the Housing First model from the United States. A principle tenet of the program is that homeless families are more responsive to social services after they are in a home, and then

drastically less likely to repeat the cycle of homelessness. As the name indicates, a goal of the Rapid Exit program is to house families as fast as possible. Since the program was implemented last October, more than 50 families have been housed, including more than 80 children.

He said he appreciated the "focus on the families and how to deal with the families and the children - they're really the invisible homeless individuals that may be on the streets or in the church basements. To assist them in getting their feet back on the ground, it really says a lot about society. When you're young and trying to deal with poverty and you see people trying to help them it goes a long way in allowing the children to understand there are people that care."

The City of Victoria is installing similar programs. They have a Commission to End Homelessness, which oversees a task force on breaking the cycle to end homelessness and street teams that work in the community dealing with homelessness at a face-to-face level.

They are currently in the process of hiring an executive director, project manager, as well as an administrative assistant.

Homelessness in both Calgary and Victoria is made out of similar problems, he said. There are people who are raised in poverty, those with drug addictions, people with mental illness, and others who have fallen on hard times.

Since November, 176 people in Victoria have been housed. ■

If you think poverty is just something that affects those who are poor then you might want to consider how much better your community could be if more people had access to services and the money needed to fully participate. Having enough food on the table and a shelter to live in is certainly the primary concern for those experiencing poverty. Great energy is expended by the people affected and those that help them in making sure those basic necessities are met, but it's not the only problem of poverty.

Equally important to the basics of life is the diversity, the opportunity, and also the economic and social growth that is lost to a community when poverty is allowed to spread. Consider how dynamic your community could be if more people had the ability to make more of a contribution and an interest in the benefits of working within their community to make it positive for all. If you need any proof as to how damaging poverty is to communities in general, then consider the following statistics:

- In 2004, 127,000 Calgarians (127,000) were living in poverty. A number that has almost certainly risen by 2008.
- Those who live in poverty have a life expectancy that is significantly lower than that of the general population. Their health is worse and therefore their impact on Canada's health care system is disproportionately high.
- Some cultural groups are more often affected by poverty than others. Aboriginal children, children who are visible minorities, people with disabilities and immigrant families are two to three times more likely than the general population to experience poverty.
- Poverty also remains persistent over time. In 2004, 26,361 Alberta families with at least one full-time earner had been living in low-income households for three years or more.

No group is more negatively affected by poverty than children and youth across all cultures in Calgary. Fitting in during junior high and high school is hard enough for anyone. But, when you can't bring a lunch to school or when you've been wearing the same three shirts for months on end because you can't afford those little extras, the microscope zooms in even more among your discriminating peers. Often, it means constant harassment, social isolation and a continual fear of ridicule and violence. A little too much pressure for a 12 year old living in poverty, don't you think?

For many youth, being unable to access services and participate in activities with their peers is unfortunately defining their experience and therefore their culture in poverty. These youth often develop feelings of inadequacy, low self-esteem, stress, anger, loneliness and depression. Research has found that these issues can develop into larger problems during what are called the "Critical Hours" when youth in poverty are



# From Where I Stand

By JON BATEMAN  
For Calgary Street Talk

home alone or with the friends while their parents are working.

"Critical Hours" refers to the time children and youth are not in school. This includes early mornings, weekends, holidays and after-school hours. What children and youth do in these out-of-school hours has a critical impact on their successful development: academically, social emotionally and physically. Research has found significant links between what children and youth are doing during these hours and high-risk behaviors including alcohol, tobacco and drug use, low academic achievement, early sexual activity and involvement in crime.

A simple sign indicating this trend can be found by simply examining the expenditures of Calgarian households on the use of recreational facilities. Only 58 per cent of all households in Calgary indicated that they had put any money toward the use of the city's recreational facilities in 2002 which was a decrease of 10 per cent from 2001. Less time out at recreational facilities and events means more time home alone or hanging out with their buddies at a time when boredom, angst and curiosity can lead to the greater exploration of higher risk activities.

Collected statistics show that youth are most likely to begin experimenting with alcohol, tobacco and other drugs between the ages of 12 and 15 years old, usually between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on school days. Additionally, the incidents of youth crime are known to double between the ages of 12 and 13 years old. In 2005 alone, there were 1,980 criminal code offences committed by youth between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in Calgary. Of course, not all crimes are reported and not all culprits are identified, so this number is likely much higher.

The problem of poverty is complex, cyclical and can grow into a cultural norm if people continue to accept it as simply a normal part of life. It harms and stunts the development of both people and communities leaving some with the belief that nothing can be done about it and that dependence on social programs, no matter how meager they are is their only option. Poverty can also foster adversarial relationships in communities between the haves and have-nots and can lead to the creation of ghettos if city planning is not done well. Crime and vandalism rates also are likely to increase as people get more desperate to fulfill their basic needs or express their frustrations which can only hurt the safety and functionality of a community.

The power to change poverty in our communities lies with a combination of concentrated support from government to increase minimum wages, benefits, access to child-

■ see... FROM WHERE on page 15



# The Song of the Street

BY MARINA GIACOMINI

*Although we are sorry to see her go, we are excited to announce Marina Giacomini has accepted a position as Vice President of Re-Housing with the Calgary Homeless Foundation. We wish her great success in her future endeavors.*

For privacy reasons, I'll call her Jenny. Jenny is a woman who visits me from time to time at CUPS. I'm not sure how old she is but I'd guess mid-30s. Jenny's been coming to CUPS for a long time. As a single woman she's mostly comfortable upstairs in the building where families and other women are. A lot of the CUPS folks stop by my office to visit, but Jenny is particularly shy. I probably wouldn't have met her except that one day a colleague brought her by for an introduction. You see, Jenny and I both share a love for music and I often keep a guitar in my office.

That first day, Jenny quietly plucked at the guitar. For encouragement I played and sang to her. Then she decided to sing for me. Sitting back and closing my eyes I listened. Her playing put mine to shame and her memory for words was impressive; however, what really got to me were her voice and the story beyond the song. Husky, richly toned, fraught with emotion and nervousness, the song – Blood & Fire by the Indigo Girls – and Jenny's singing, told a tale of deep pain, and how hard it can

be to go on. I could have listened all day. I didn't though. Jenny only made it about a quarter of the way through the song before she started weeping and couldn't continue. I stayed silent and still. Jenny sat in my office for another hour or so, not speaking, just holding the guitar, hugging it really.

A few weeks later Jenny stopped by again. She looked tired and had some bruises on her face. As she sat and strummed, she told me that she had been beat up and raped in an alley a few nights before. She hadn't gone to the police for help. She'd been high on crack at the time. She spends most of her nights sleeping outside if the weather isn't too bad. If she has to, she'll find a shelter to take her in. This doesn't always work out though; she's been barred from time to time for drinking or being disrespectful to the shelter staff and volunteers. Sometimes she goes to jail.

Jenny is very spiritual. She has a great knowledge about her traditional Native teachings and culture. She is a social activist, writing poetry and songs about the decomposition of her community and the brokenness of a life on the street. She is a girl-woman, with all the romantic notions and hopes for love and "forever after" with someone.

The last time she came to visit, Jenny didn't look so good. She was tired and spacey and seemed a little put off when I pointed this out. She read me her poems that day. The ones she'd been able to keep with her in her backpack all this time – others she'd lost. They disturbed the little world of comfort I've created around myself in the safety of my office, even at CUPS in the midst of so many people suffering. They broke my heart. They made me feel guilty.

Someone told me once that guilt occurs when your beliefs and your actions are out of alignment. The remedy for guilt is to change either the belief, or the behavior. What do I really believe about people who are homeless and addicted, and sometimes aggressive or frightening? What am I doing to make a difference? Am I doing anything? Is it enough?

Jenny told me she wants a place of her own. I told her I have a dream in mind for her. It involves a little apartment or basement suite - something cozy and decorated with her art work and poetry. A guitar sits in the corner. She is in charge of who is allowed in and who she keeps out. She keeps out the people that would hurt her or draw her back into things that are not good for her. She liked my dream.

An ancient Chinese proverb states, "Intention without action is a dream, action without intention is a nightmare". I know that I need support to make my dream for Jenny, and all the "Jennies," a reality. I know that I need help to end the nightmare of the streets for my friends and neighbors. I think that you might agree and maybe working together we will become the harmony that inspires a new song. ■



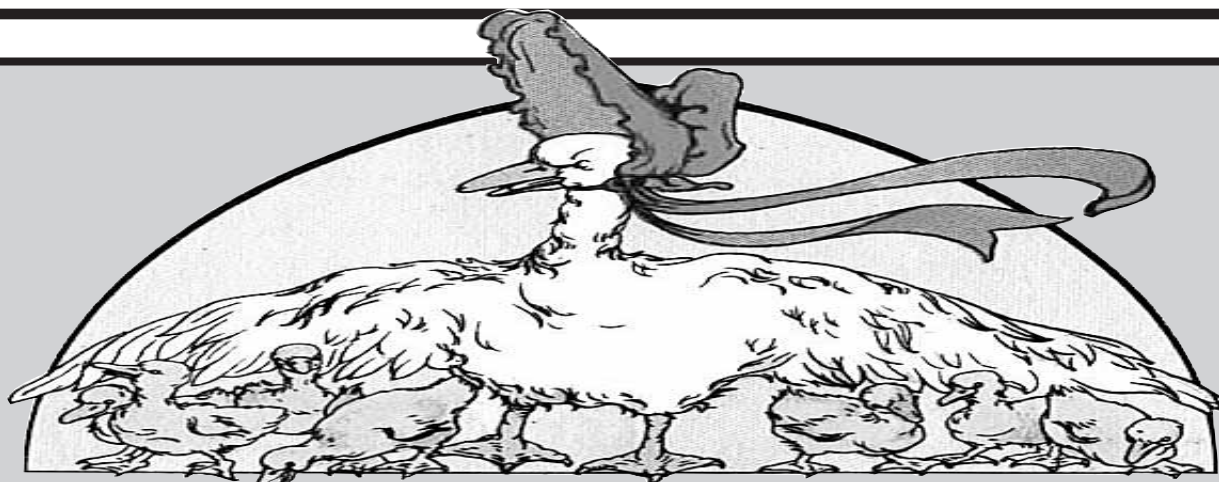
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## Family Resource Centre

*Providing counseling and support services for families*

**Collective Kitchen** - Tuesdays: An affordable way for parents to provide healthy meals for their children. We plan one week and cook the next. The cost is minimal and families can take home several complete meals.

**Moss Bags** - Thursdays: Moss bags have been traditionally used by Aboriginal families to swaddle their babies with. A moss bag provides a new babies with a sense of security.

**Mother Goose** - Friday mornings: Parents and children come together each week to learn songs and rhymes. Mother Goose helps with relationship building and learning.

**Circle of Security** - Friday afternoons: This attachment-based parenting program helps parents build strong relationships with their children less than six years old. This program uses video to illustrate for parents just how they can strengthen their relationship with their child. We are currently recruiting for our June group.



# LAYING THE GROUNDWORK?

## *The Klein-Dinning cuts 15 years later*

By Timothy Wild

It is a sad anniversary. This month marks the 15th anniversary of Ralph Klein's election as Premier, although Klein's ascendancy can be traced back some months earlier. I remember it was early on a Sunday morning in December, and I was on my way out to run a few errands when I noticed the newspaper buried in the snow. I brushed the paper off, and was struck by the headline announcing Ralph Klein had defeated Edmonton hometown favourite Nancy Betkowski in the race for the leadership of the provincial Conservative Party.

I was surprised because Klein had some ups and downs during his tenure as a minister in former premier Don Getty's government, and his experiences at the Legislature certainly didn't seem to reflect the successes he had enjoyed at the municipal level in Calgary. But I was also shocked due to the fact that Betkowski seemed to represent the red-dish Tory wing of the party, and was the clear favourite of many younger and urban Tories – a group that still maintained a considerable presence in the more centrist party of the early 1990s. Overall, Klein's win marked a sea-change in the assumptions and ideology of the Conservative Party in Alberta, and reflected the replacement of the almost Keynesian, community-minded, and somewhat interventionist foundations of both the Lougheed and Getty administrations with a more neoliberal political and economic agenda.

Ralph Klein continued to operate under Getty's mandate until the spring of 1993, when he called for a provincial general election on June 15. This election resulted in policy and program changes that caused untold misery and social deprivation for countless of our fellow citizens. It is fifteen years since that election. However, the course set upon by Klein and former Provincial

Treasurer Jim Dinning (among others), created an ideologically based and cruel erosion of social policies, supports and rights of citizenship that is still having an impact today. Indeed, much of the social dislocation, poverty, and marginalization that we see in Alberta in 2008 is due to the social and economic policies of the Klein-Dinning regime.

Certainly, by Alberta's standards, the Conservative victory wasn't that large. The New Democrats who had been the Official Opposition since 1986 were completely annihilated. However, the Liberals under Laurence Decore made substantial gains and increased their seats from 8 to 32. Nevertheless, the Conservative government saw the victo-

provinces. Furthermore, the administration undertook these changes at a break-neck speed, and announced the intention to eliminate the debt by 2010.

The common theme was that the people who were targeted by the provincial government were those considered to be "unproductive" in the limited economic sense and, by extension, surplus to the needs of our market-obsessed society. Groups selected for this economic retrenchment included children in kindergarten and people on social assistance. Between 1993 and 1996, the budget for education was cut by 12.4%, and social services' budget was reduced by 18.3%.

In response, a number of groups, indi-

As a member of the Common Front, I also think that there was a state of shell shock and many Albertans were simply surprised by the speed, scope and extent of the Klein-Dinning model of economic reorganization.

The welfare state was significantly weakened during this process. I remember how difficult it was for people to get on Assisted Income for the Severely Handicapped. People with significant limitations to ongoing employment were denied access to the program. Others were also denied basic social assistance. Some were sent out of the province – others were left to the vagaries of familial help, to the supports of the various charities and social agencies or literally to the streets. Furthermore, despite the fact that provincial legislation stated that people should be provided with food, shelter and other basic necessities of life, we experienced the utterly ludicrous spectacle of Supports For Independence workers actually suggesting people go to the food bank as opposed to being covered by provincial support programs. This should be a constant reminder that just because social policy exists, we shouldn't assume that it is adequate!

Additionally, the multifaceted exploitation of people attempting to complete rent reports in order to satisfy the residency requirement necessary for acceptance to social assistance, aka "welfare," still leaves a bitter taste in my mouth. I will never forget one woman's story. I will never forget her tears. And I find it really hard to forget or forgive our political masters for the indignities she and countless others suffered, all in the name of a specious ideological exercise.

We are still suffering the results of that election fifteen years on. And many of the social problems that we are experiencing today – such as child poverty, homelessness and the marginalization of mentally ill people – can all be traced to the impacts of the ideological decisions of the Klein-Dinning regime. ■

***"I remember how difficult it was for people to get on Assisted Income for the Severely Handicapped. People with significant limitations to ongoing employment were denied access to the program. Others were also denied basic social assistance."***

ry as an opportunity to impose neoliberal political and economic policies, and responded with alacrity. Basically, Klein and his team decided to address the provincial debt and deficit with the implementation of a series of heavy-handed financial cuts, as opposed to the more moderate, sensible and humane course of cuts and tax increases followed by the other (much worse off)

viduals and agencies came together to create a province-wide organization called "The Common Front" which, in turn, developed a program called "Defend the Rose." The aim of this movement was to develop a broad based coalition to look, collectively, at how government cuts affected the lives of ordinary Albertans. Ultimately, the Common Front fell victim to internal dissention.

# A tale of TWO Hermans

By Herman Pontes

For a considerable portion of my life, I thought the only people named 'Herman' were my dad and I. About the time I entered school, though, I learned about Herman Harrison. It is hard to express what this discovery meant to me at the time. In a family where English was not the first language, in a neighbourhood where we had darker skin and hair than most people we met at the supermarket or at school, it came as a surprise, and then a comforting source of pride, to know that there was someone else who had that name. When he was interviewed on the radio, he spoke English without an accent. He was big and strong, and appeared on TV almost every week, more often than not succeeding in what he did. When I had bought enough stale gum to acquire his football card, my surprise and pleasure grew, as I saw that his hair and skin were dark too. Our TV, after all, was only black and white.

My love for the Stampeders followed the arc of Herm Harrison's career. The Stampeders of the late 60s were a wrecking machine - tough defence, and a menacing aerial attack. Many of those passes were caught by the tight end with the giant hands. Though I understood that 'Ham Hands' was in reference to their

size, not their lack of grace, I always felt the moniker was unjust. It is unfortunate, perhaps, that a receiver's hands are one part of his body that often doesn't require much in the way of equipment. What would the Nike ad machine have done with his ham-handed branding, for instance?

Infelicitous sobriquets notwithstanding, Harrison went on to become a three-time CFL all-star and eventual Canadian Football Hall-of-Famer (inducted 1993). He still holds the CFL record for receptions in consecutive games—a streak he extended to 60. The Stamps of the 60s, however, remained an uncrowned dynasty: they were the winningest team in the West, with 93 victories, and yet managed to end the decade without winning the Grey Cup.

Grey Cup losses in '68 and '70 were hard to take, but the drought finally ended in November 1971, on a soggy field in Vancouver. The defensive struggle didn't highlight Herm's receiving skills much, but it is a team sport, after all. My family was ecstatic with the result as we watched from our living room.

Following Harrison's retirement in 1972, the Stampeders fell on hard times, and though I continued to follow them through several unsuccessful seasons, I

■ see... TWO HERMANS on page 15



photo by Glenn Peace

A couple of hams - our own Herman Pontes (left) meets his childhood idol, Stampeders legend Herman 'Ham Hands' Harrison.

## Pulling teeth from the heart



photo by Ken Price

Dr. Kuen Chow (left) first cut his teeth on volunteering at CUPS in 1995. He now organizes other volunteer dentists after taking up administrative duties in 2003.

## Dr. Kuen Chow recognized for outstanding contribution

By Ken Price

At this year's Calgary Stampeders Kickoff Breakfast, CUPS presented its Wings to a Dream award to Dr. Kuen Chow.

Each year the Wings to a Dream award is given to recognize outstanding service to CUPS Community Health Centre.

"I don't know why I've always loved extracting teeth," quipped Dr. Chow to laughter from the guests at the Kickoff Breakfast. He knows very well the brutal effect a toothache can have. He told a stunned audience about the day he almost extracted one of his own teeth. Luckily a colleague came to his aid.

"Tooth pain when you are down and out has got to be one of the worst things," he went on to say. "If we can ease

a person's suffering that is a real gift we can provide for others that can change their lives."

The relief is so great, he said, clients are often asking how they can repay him.

"We just ask people who use our service to pay it forward."

Dr. Chow first started volunteering for CUPS in 1995. In 2003, he took up administrative duties that include organizing other volunteer dentists.

Funding from the Calgary District Dental Society is integral to the program, he said. They are currently implementing a restorative program. The restoration clinic runs on Fridays. The extraction clinic runs on Saturdays.

He mentioned all the dentists that volunteer do so for no other reward than a "thank you." ■



CUPS Executive Director Carlene Donnelly presents the Wings to a Dream award to Dr. Kuen Chow. Funding from the Calgary District Dental Society is integral to the program, he said. They are currently implementing a restorative program on Saturdays.

photo by Glenn Peace

STAMPEDER QUARTERBACK 'SMILIN' HANK' HENRY BURRIS SIGNS FOR A FAN.

Apache 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CUPS | STAMPEDERS  
**KICKOFF**  
BREAKFAST

sta

By Ken Price

Everyone around CUPS is breathing a sigh of relief now that another Calgary Stampeder is under our belts. It was the 16th of its kind and is a big deal around these parts.

Every year the Calgary Stampede, with the aid of the Apache Corporation, invites a new face for a breakfast, with the proceeds benefiting CUPS.

The breakfast was hosted on May 23rd by CTV's Tara Robinson, who, it should be noted, is from Saskatchewan. Before long it became apparent she still held a certain amount of pride in her province. She took it upon themselves to jibe her for the rest of the breakfast until she converted to a fan. They almost succeeded with Robinson admitting she would from now on be a fan of the Saskatchewan Roughriders were in town.

She wasn't the only new face though. This year's breakfast had a special guest, the former "dream coach" John Hufnagel.

Hufnagel told a story about how he first learned about CUPS. He had a dentist appointment and mentioned he would be involved in a benefit for CUPS, the dentist told him a



HALL OF FAMER SUGARFOOT ANDERSON SHOWS UP IN STYLE EVERY YEAR.



FOR 16 YEARS THE KICKOFF BREAKFAST HAS RAISED A TOTAL OF \$600,000 FOR CUPS.



HAVING A BALL - TANYA JARVIS AND STAMPEDER JEFF PILON.

Photos by Glenn Peace

# OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FACES AT THE Stampede Kickoff Breakfast

Stampede Kickoff Breakfast is successfully  
invite members of Calgary's business community

ould be mentioned, has recently arrived  
unt of 'Rider Pride.' Stampede  
ed into a full-fledged Stampede  
cheer for the Stampede, unless

the Stampede newly-acquired

st appointment. When Hufnagel  
about CUPS volunteer dentists. It  
apparently made an impression  
on him. The day before the  
Kickoff Breakfast, Hufnagel visited  
CUPS Community Health Centre to  
see it with his own eyes.

"Everything he told me was true,"  
Hufnagel told the audience. "I was  
overwhelmed at how the organization  
could reach out to so many people."

The event was special for another rea-  
son, as former offensive lineman Jay  
McNeil passed the torch as the Calgary  
Stampede representative to CUPS on to  
Jeff Pilon.

"It means a lot to me to be involved with  
CUPS," said McNeil. He said people have asked  
why the Stampede work toward supporting the  
community with charity events. "We rely on the  
community to support us, but it goes beyond  
that. You see the impact it has on the community  
and you want to do more."

The most arresting moment of the morning was  
when Tanya Jarvis came to the stage to tell her story.  
After all the joking and laughter, the room fell com-  
pletely silent. Jarvis told her story of being abandoned  
by her parents. She moved on to another home where  
she was abused by her caregivers, and after that she  
entered abusive relationships. Her life spun out of control  
and she became a drug addict. She described the process of  
seeking help from CUPS after waking up in a hospital one  
day.

"There I was - pregnant, beat up, and a drug addict," she  
said. "I needed to find someone, somewhere, someplace  
who was willing to care for a recovering addict and new  
mom."

She told how CUPS provided the support she need to  
quit her drug habit. One of the strongest ways was by  
giving her a sense of self-worth.

Now she would like to return to school and try again  
to become a nurse.

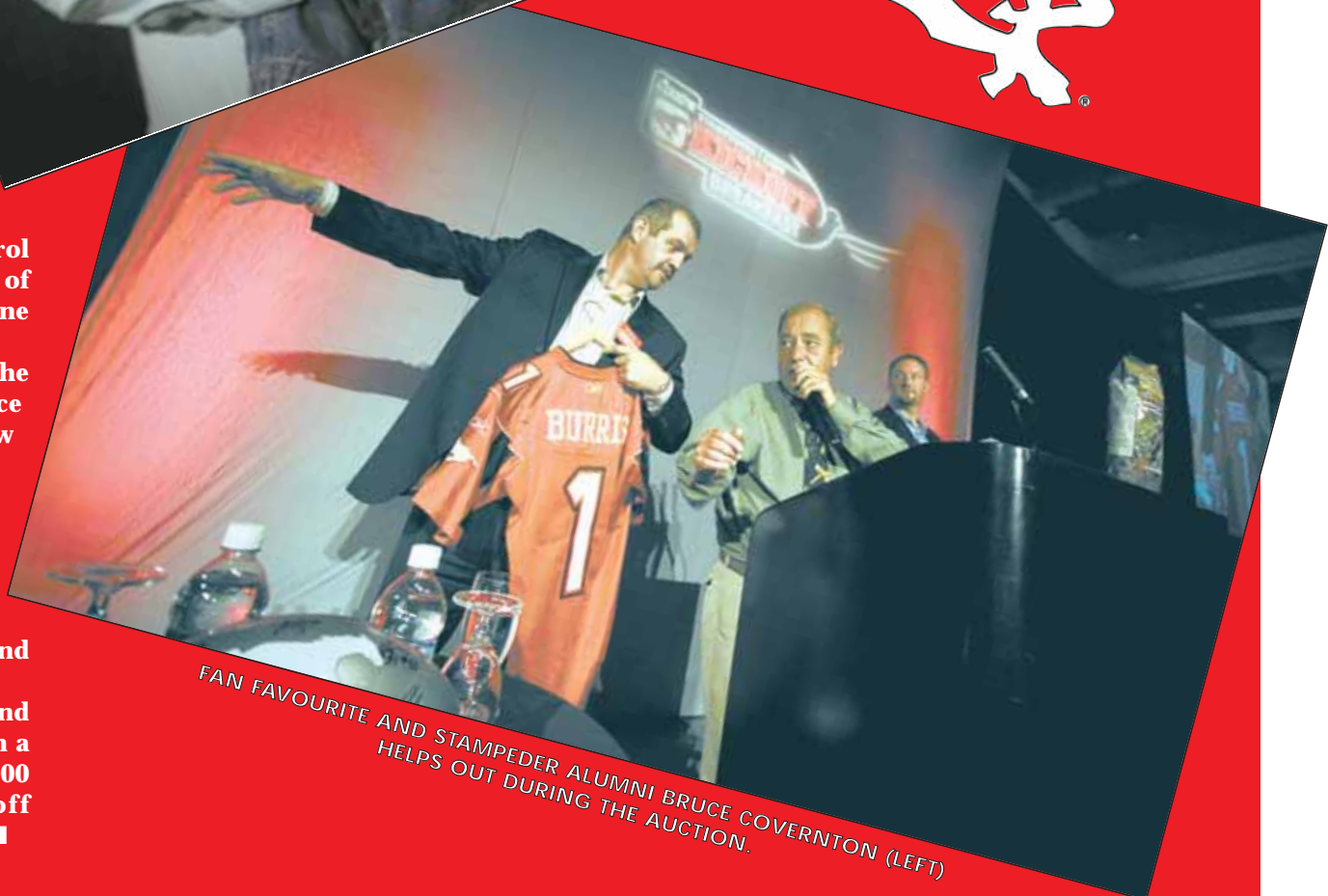
"I feel a need to give back what was given to me - a second  
chance."

The Kickoff Breakfast ended with Stampede alumni and  
fan faves Jamie Crysedale and Bruce Covernton assisting in a  
live auction which contributed to the approximate \$75,000  
raised that morning. Since its inception, the Kickoff  
Breakfast has raised approximately \$600,000 for CUPS. ■

TANYA JARVIS AND HER SON CADEN.



STILL CHEERING FOR THE ROUGHRIDERS A LITTLE BIT  
- THE KICKOFF BREAKFAST WAS HOSTED BY CTV  
ANCHOR AND NEW STAMPEDE FAN TARA ROBINSON.



FAN FAVOURITE AND STAMPEDER ALUMNI BRUCE COVERNTON (LEFT)  
HELPS OUT DURING THE AUCTION.

# SPEAK OUT – before it's too late

By Carol Goar

*This article originally appeared in the Toronto Star*

History is replete with examples of societies in which a privileged minority amassed a vastly disproportionate share of the wealth. But it offers little guidance about how to reverse the trend.

The reason: it has almost never been done.

The problem is not a dearth of tools. There is progressive taxation, universal education and a wide array of social programs.

The missing ingredient is invariably political will. Governments are loath to offend the rich and powerful. Voters become apathetic. Dissenting voices – the church, social activists, young people – are dismissed.

What it usually takes to rebalance a top-heavy society is a devastating war, a deep depression or a collapse from within.

That was the case in 17th century Spain. Its galleons plundered the world for 50 years. Its commercial elite grew fabulously rich. But the rest of the population fell into poverty, disease and decline. Eventually the Habsburg Empire disintegrated.

Next came Holland. In the 18th century, its merchant-traders achieved global pre-eminence. But in the countryside, farms and towns languished, once-spotless streets became filthy and epidemics set in. The golden era gave way to a long decline.

Then it was England's turn. In the 19th century, its industrial might was unparalleled and its upper crust lived in exuberant splendour. But working families



struggled to buy food and stay out of debtor's prison. Two world wars put an end to the British Empire.

The United States flirted with disaster twice, once as the 20th century approached (the Gilded Age) and again 30 years later (the Roaring Twenties). The first time, trust-busting president Theodore Roosevelt pulled his country back from the brink. The second time, it

took the Great Depression followed by World War II to get America back on track.

This is a daunting backdrop, as evidence mounts that Canada is bifurcating into a nation of winners and losers. The latest census, released last week, showed that the richest fifth of working Canadians are 16.4 per cent better off than they were in 1980. The poorest fifth are 20 per cent worse off. And the 60 per cent in the middle have failed to make any headway.

Yet there is no sign of alarm in the corridors of power, no acknowledgement of the need to stem the polarization.

That means Canadians who don't want to go where this path leads will have to force their governments to act.

The first step is to get a public debate going.

There is plenty to talk about. Why should the interests of a well-off minority trump those of everybody else? Why should middle-class voters, whose standard of living hasn't risen in 25 years, be content with the status quo? Why should Canadians support a Prime Minister who lets market forces rip?

The second step is to press for short-term, practical reforms.

An overhaul of Employment

Insurance would be a good start. The current system leaves millions of workers with no safety net. Building affordable housing would help. People who are warehoused in emergency shelters can't establish themselves as reliable employees. Removing the barriers to post-secondary education would also be a positive step. It is short-sighted to ask students to take on huge debt loads to become productive, taxpaying citizens. These three proposals would pass any non-partisan cost-benefit test.

The final and most critical step is for voters to shake off lethargy.

Unless Canadians speak out, their political leaders will keep taking their cues from the marketplace. Unless taxpayers say no, Ottawa will continue to reward financiers and speculators and mollify the rest of the population with modest tax breaks. Unless citizens elect politicians who are willing to stand up to powerful private interests, Canada will follow the same trajectory as other once-envied countries.

There is still time to avoid this fate. Nations can change course. But the evidence – past and present – suggests that most don't recognize the danger until it is too late. ■

## Rapid Exit Creates Solutions

Rapid Exit helps families exit homelessness quickly, by moving them into a more stabilized housing environment.

Housing Locators seek out landlords who are willing to participate. They also visit rental accommodations to ensure they are suitable.

The Housing Locators act as mediators between the landlord and the tenants. They also provide the family with basic needs to ensure the transition from homelessness is a smooth one.

For more information, phone 717-0922 or email [cups.housingfamilies@shaw.ca](mailto:cups.housingfamilies@shaw.ca)





BY JORDAN HAMILTON

## POVERTY... Whose Fault is it?

Statistics Canada recently released a wealth of data on the income and earnings of Calgarians. The data reveals that some people are not equitably benefiting from Calgary's current economic boom – some people are being left behind. This begets the following question, whose fault is it?

According to Statistics Canada's recent 2006 census release, earnings among senior management occupations in Calgary grew 13.5 per cent between 2000 and 2005 while cashiers saw earnings increase a measly 0.1 per cent over the five year time period. Several occupational categories experienced real wage decreases. The earnings of retail salespersons and sales clerks, for example, diminished by -4.3 per cent. Occupations in travel and accommodation, including attendants in recreation and sport, experienced earning decreases of -2.1 per cent. The earnings of primary production labourers tumbled -6.9 per cent.

Disturbingly, many of the occupations in Calgary experiencing below average earning increases, or significant earning decreases, are low-income jobs. Earnings among the occupations in the food and beverage services, for example, only increased 2.3 per cent, from \$17,522 to \$17,924. In comparison, the average earn-

ing increase in Calgary was 5.1 per cent, a rise from \$43,928 per year to \$46,189.

One of the largest earning increases was to occupations unique to forestry operations, mining, oil and gas extraction, and fishing, which experienced an 18.7 per cent increase between 2000 and 2005. Calgary is an oil and gas city. While I am pleased that employees within the oil and gas industry are profiting from their industry's success, I am stunned by the high number of occupations in Calgary that are not sharing in that success.

American President John F. Kennedy famously said, "A rising tide lifts all boats." The aphorism is associated with the idea that improvements in the economy will benefit all participants. Most people would agree that Calgary's economy boomed between the years 2000 and 2005. As a city, we experienced increases in the number of jobs and aggregate earnings. On the surface, it seems Kennedy's assertion is correct. However, delving below the surface, the data reveals that not everyone has a boat. Some people are struggling, drowning in the midst of Calgary's increasing cost of living.

Between 2000 and 2005, recent immigrants to Calgary have lost much ground

compared to their Canadian-born counterparts. Canadian born Calgarians with a university degree earn more than double the income of recent immigrants in Calgary with a university degree - \$58,134 versus \$28,026. By way of comparison, recent immigrants with a university degree living in St. John's, Newfoundland, earn more than Canadian-born degree holders residing in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Calgarians grew up under the mantra that "Hard work pays dividends." We listened to the message, and we obeyed. Unfortunately, many people are not being rewarded for their efforts. Their hard work is not paying off. Those not earning a Living Wage are often faced with the difficult challenge of having to choose between paying rent or buying food.

I am often told that we would not be in this position if the Alberta government did not take such a heavy-handed approach to eliminating the deficit and the debt, or if employers simply paid a Living Wage, or if the non-profit sector addressed the root causes rather than quick fixes. Others have said, it is your fault for turning your head and walking away apathetically when the soft-spoken homeless gentleman asked, "Can you spare a dime?" or for buying a \$1.00 cup

of coffee, knowing very well that the cashier behind the counter is earning a poverty wage. So, whose fault is it? Is it their fault, is it my fault, or it is yours?

I try to respond to statements that blame different people or sectors for poverty, and stagnating and declining low-incomes, by saying it is more accurate to recognize that we are all part of the problem and we are all part of the solution.

Our stagnating and declining low-incomes presents us an opportunity to work together for the common good, bringing together business and the non-profit sector, as well as government and the most marginalized populations, showing the world that we truly are the "Heart of the New West."

Please visit [www.census2006.ca](http://www.census2006.ca) for copies of the 2006 Census. Read the documents, and do something. If we all do something together, the overall effect will be something great. ■

*Jordan Hamilton is the Research and Policy Analyst at Vibrant Communities Calgary, a local non-profit poverty-reduction organization. For more information about Vibrant Communities Calgary please visit [www.vibrantcalgary.com](http://www.vibrantcalgary.com).*

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# Feeding the world's hungry

## ... the dollar doesn't go as far

By Gary Feuerberg  
Epoch Times  
Washington, DC Staff

*This article was originally published in the Epoch Times, May 16-22, 2008*

In recent days, soaring food prices have made providing food assistance to the world's hungry people much more difficult than it already is. A crisis is in the making: The world is consuming more now than it produces, and global grain stocks are at the lowest levels in 30 years, and food is being diverted to bio-fuels production. Aggravating the situation in some areas are intense, more frequent weather disasters – floods, droughts, and hurricanes, like the devastating cyclone in Burma (now officially Myanmar) and floods in Mozambique, according to Josette Sheeran, executive director, United Nations World Food Program.

"Today, I can buy 40 percent less food for this cup than I could last June, due to soaring prices," said Ms. Sheeran as she raised a cup that WFP uses in its school food program in Rwanda.

Ms. Sheeran was the presenter at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a Washington think tank, on May 6.

The large increases in food prices mean millions more have become food-vulnerable, and assistance organizations like the WFP find it harder to respond than a year ago, said Sheeran. Food protests due to soaring prices have occurred in a number of countries, such as Haiti, Somalia, Mexico, Mauritania, Egypt, India, Vietnam, and Malaysia. Food riots brought down the government in Haiti last April, and violence has erupted in Indonesia, Egypt, Cameroon, and in the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu, over rising food prices and food shortages.

"The price of rice was \$460 per metric ton [1.1 tons] on March 3. Five weeks later it had risen to \$780 per metric ton, and then a few weeks later, \$1000. The same soaring prices are true for other



commodities as well," said Sheeran. Maize prices in April have increased about 50 cents a day," said Sheeran.

"While we had seen the number of hungry increasing to about 4 million a year, this is rising even more with the higher food prices," said Sheeran, Mar. 6 in Brussels. "WHO [the World Health Organization] calls hunger and under-nutrition the number one threat to human health, killing more people than AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis combined," she said at the Peterson Institute.

### Mudcakes and 'black flour'

Soaring food prices threaten to undo the progress that had been made on ending hunger. Sheeran put the percent hungry at 37 percent in 1969. Last year the proportion was 17 percent. But now "100 million will be thrust into deepening hunger and poverty due to soaring food prices," said Sheeran.

The impact on the world's most vulnerable people is tragic. In Haiti, mudcakes are being sold as food. One dollar buys eight, according to the WFP. In Burundi, the price of the staple food cassava has doubled in the last year. The poorest households are eating moldy cas-

sava – "black flour" – because it is the cheapest.

Ms. Sheeran thanked U.S. President Bush for calling for an additional \$770 million in food aid and development programs. Congress is "considering helping in a major way," she said on The Lehrer News Hour, May 5.

### The WFP and the 80/80/80 solution

The U.N. World Food Program is the world's largest humanitarian agency, which each year gives food to an average of 90 million people in at least 80 of the world's poorest countries, according to the WFP's Web site. U.S. contributions account for about 40 percent of the WFP's budget.

Ms. Sheeran was appointed executive director by then-Secretary General Kofi Annan near the end of 2006. When the WFP began operation in 1962, it primarily gave food donations from commodity surpluses. In recent years, the surpluses have all but vanished and now food assistance takes the form of purchasing crops and distributing the food or, where there is plenty of food on the store shelves but acute hunger prevails among those who

cannot afford it, providing the cash or vouchers to enable purchase.

The WFP buys most of the food from 69 developing nations and has in the last year been increasing local and regional purchases. This helps the local economies and ensures better market access for smallholder farmers, particularly in Africa, says Sheeran. Now, 80 percent of the cash earmarked for food purchase is local. The same percentage is spent on the land transportation of the food. Finally, the WFP is hiring staff where 80 percent come from the regions being served.

### Food used for fuel means higher prices, less food

The food situation has been made worse by events that foster the shortages.

"World grain production declined for the first time in two decades," said Sheeran.

The days of the vast surpluses are gone.

Many countries place grain export restrictions, including India, China, Russia, Vietnam, and Ethiopia. Such government policies reduce supply, thereby boosting food prices.

Another source for reducing the food supply is the use of food to feed automobiles and factories instead of people. With the rapid rise in oil prices, food has become economically more valuable. The fusing of the food and fuel markets has contributed to the soaring food prices. In Africa, palm oil and cassava are diverted to biofuel production; in the U.S., corn is made into ethanol, and in Europe, wheat is the chosen commodity for the alternative fuel source.

In China, more meat is being consumed and that means more grain is being fed to livestock, again contributing to grain shortages. China was a major food exporter just a little more than a year ago, but now is as importer of food, according to Sheeran. ■

# REACHING OUT THROUGH POETRY

Poetry contributed by students of Carmen Zavery at Centennial High School

## NO MATTER WHO

Carly Zimmerman

No matter who's watching  
the moon still glows,  
the sun still burns,  
and the stars still sparkle.

No matter who's listening  
the waves still crash  
the birds still sing  
and the wind still whispers

No matter who belongs to it  
the heart still beats  
the body still sleeps  
and the soul's still there.

## THE GUIDING LIGHT

Tara Cooper

It always shines  
Even through darkness,  
You can always see it,  
For it shines,  
Forever.

It's always there  
Even when you're not looking,  
You'll always know,  
For you can feel it,  
Always

It guides you  
Even through the darkest times,  
You'll always find your way,

For it's always there,  
Every time.

It'll be beside you  
Even when you feel alone,  
You'll always be safe,  
For it'll never leave,  
Ever.

## WAX STATUES

Marie Abrosimova

Their movements were slow,  
So no one could see.  
How pain tortured them,  
And how they'd be.  
Their screams came out  
As deafening sound  
Silence.  
That's all you'll hear.  
The barrier between us  
Should never be broken,  
Forever they'd be figures; unspoken  
Admired and judged they'd be.  
Like figures of unknown destiny.

## THE SUN

Tanner Steed

The Sun  
Falls from the sky  
Stinging rain, sinking light  
Your fingers close on empty night  
Hold on. ■

## ROB'S CORNER

By ROB CHAMPION, Vendor #68

### SAY OF THE DAY:

No matter where you turn these days it is getting more expensive to travel, which means it's becoming less and less affordable for more and more people. One could always find ways to share a ride or get out there and stick out your thumb!

### SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF SUMMER:

The kick of a soccer ball. The sizzling of hamburgers on a barbecue. The roar of an engine on a motorcycle or a lawnmower. The crack of a baseball bat trying to land a home run.

### SUMMER TIP OF THE DAY:

When you're out there this summer playing baseball, football, or whatever team sport

you're participating in, remember to have fun first and play it safe. Don't try and be a hero or a wise guy (or gal).

### THREE TO FIVE WAYS TO REALLY SEE THE BEAUTY OF YOUR CITY:

Instead of driving all day spewing out toxic gases and wasting money, try transit. For about six bucks you ride all day and really take in the natural beauty of your town. Or go for a jog along the Bow River bike path. Take in a bike ride along Calgary's many pathways. Let Mother Nature pass you by instead of you passing by her at 80 clicks.

### CONTRARY TO ONE'S BELIEF:

Being a failure in school doesn't necessarily mean you'll be a failure for the rest of your life. ■



**RON MURDOCK...**  
From the politically incorrect side

I see that another bureaucracy is back at it, meddling in people's lives. This time it is the Vancouver Coast Health Authority protecting the poor from those who would help them. The dastardly act was that food was prepared in peoples homes then taken to Christ Church Cathedral where it was given out to those in need. I can almost see in the near future health officials going into kitchens of private homes to check for pet hairs and prints from dirty children hands. This could be part of the perfectionist levels that health officials want to maintain. Or maybe their brain functions are suffering from malnutrition.

Every day big box grocery chain stores, restaurants, and various other eateries, throw out several pounds of food into their dumpsters. Combine this with what is leftover at other places where people gather, it is no wonder why hungry people go there to pick around and see what they can find. Yet health officials, to my knowledge, don't seem to want to do anything about these situations. Plus there is the risk of drinking beverages that have been sitting around for God knows how long. Who can say what the health risks are in contracting any various diseases and competition from crows and other scavengers.

Maybe health officials could check to see how many people get seriously ill from potlucks, salad bars and buffet tables. You never know how many times people have sneezed right at the serving areas or utensils that have been handled by those with dirty hands. Maybe the church people could leave the sandwiches by a dumpster. The health risks would be about the same in health officials' minds. Yet they are more concerned about sandwiches being carried from Point A to Point B. Maybe they would rather risk having people eating dumpster food than fresh made sandwiches.

Some clients who come in for a sandwich, muffin, and coffee may be living in dire unsanitary conditions themselves. Who is willing to share living space with cockroaches, fleas, bedbugs among other little creatures. What constructive things are health officials doing about this? Or maybe they're passing the buck to the 2010 Olympic people.

Health inspectors would be better off looking at other areas of Vancouver life that poses health risks. Or maybe they're just in the same mindset that Calgary is in when it comes to dealing with low income people. ■

*(Murdock is a former Calgary resident and Calgary Street Talk vendor who now lives in Nelson, B.C. He can be reached at [doc.ster@hotmail.com](mailto:doc.ster@hotmail.com).)*

# Should I move back to Edmonton?

Friends and strangers approach me almost on a daily basis asking me all kinds of questions, from personal to wacky. I've gotten questions like, "Why do I keep drinking?" "Where is Inn From the Cold?" "Where is the closest water park?" Having experienced many difficult challenges in my life such as homelessness, abuse, being a single mother of three, and working at CUPS, I feel it is important to share my knowledge with others.

A young man recently asked me if I thought he should move back to Edmonton where he went to school. He originally moved to Calgary for a job and to be closer to his family. He was having a hard time finding affordable housing close to work, so he 'couch surfed' at friends' homes and ended up on his sister's couch for a few months.

I told him he should go where he is the most happy. He shouldn't feel obligated to stay in Calgary when his heart is in Edmonton. Moving away from his family does not mean he loves them any less.

Not being happy in the city you're in when you have the means to move will only make you more unhappy as time goes on. He moved back to E-town two a few weeks ago ... and loves it.

Do you have a question for me? I believe every person, big or small, young or old, sick or healthy, homeless or housed, deserves to be treated with dignity and respect at all times. I am not a social worker or psychologist, just a person who wants to give honest answers if you want them. Any question, any topic.

I will try to answer all the questions sent to me. You don't have to use your real name. All letters will become property of CUPS and may be published in part or in whole within this column. You can submit your letters by mail to Tasha's Two Cents at CUPS Community Health Centre, 128 7th Avenue SET2G 0H4 or e-mail me at tasha@hotmail.com. Or, if you like, just drop your question off here at the office. I look forward to hearing from you. ■

# REACHING OUT THROUGH POETRY

Poetry contributed by students of Carmen Zavery at Centennial High School

## MEMOIRS OF A WANDERER

Ashlyn Lefebvre

Slivers of silver lined the sky;  
My gaze slid slightly to watch the clouds  
Crawl by, using their height above us, to feign the role  
Of nature's airplanes.  
They slid in front of the sun's gaze, forcing her to  
Forfeit her watch post, and wait patiently to see the world again.  
A sorrow, unlike any other, folded over upon the street,  
Morphing it into a ribbon of darkness, folding and creasing like ribbons do.  
It was deserted. Alone.  
A street without feeling; yet still gaining the sympathy emitting from the rubber on the bottom of my ripped shoes.  
And I then wondered if I was the only one to truly  
Appreciate my surroundings when most would say I had none.  
The city seemed desolate, I could not see one man, nor one animal.  
Neither could I hear the sounds of tram-

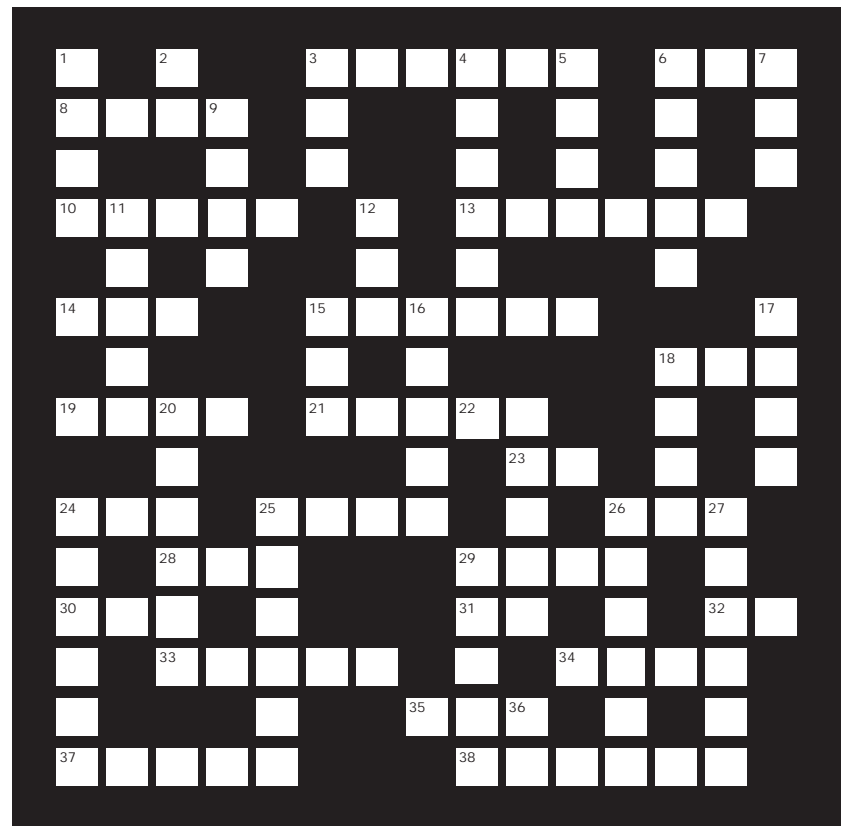
pling feet, or the low rumble of far off traffic.  
It was so quiet, I could hear the steady beating of my heart, crying out to be identified by the other hearts of the world.  
Yet it was too late. I did not possess any riches, inherited or earned.  
I hadn't a thing to prove.  
All I had learned in my lonely life was that nothing comes easy  
To those who need it.

## TRAP

Andrew Fyvie

I crept all throughout the house in my desperate search for shelter and food. It was much too cold for me outside but sometimes it almost feels as if I am not welcome. Whenever I emerge from my living space the other inhabitants of the house run away in fear. What a great treat it was today to find a fair brick of cheddar placed on wooden platform on the kitchen floor. I hastily paced towards the cheese and -SNAP- ■

## PETE'S CROSSWORD



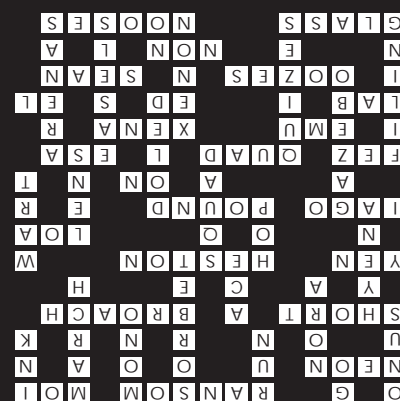
### ACROSS

- 3) kidnapper's demand
- 6) Miss Piggy's word
- 8) inert gas
- 10) not tall
- 13) ornate pin
- 14) urge
- 15) Ben Hur star
- 18) Mauna \_\_\_\_
- 19) Othello villain
- 21) poet Ezra \_\_\_\_\_
- 23) not off
- 24) Shriner's hat
- 25) campus area
- 26) NASA counterpart
- 28) flightless bird
- 29) Lucy Lawless role
- 30) sciene room
- 31) newspaper executive
- 32) loop train
- 33) seeps
- 34) a lennon
- 35) sine qua \_\_\_\_\_
- 37) pane ingredient
- 38) hangman's loops

### DOWN

- 1) heavy burden
- 2) proceed
- 3) operate
- 4) icy treat
- 5) not stero
- 6) spring month
- 7) writing fluid
- 9) director Ephron
- 11) wild dog
- 12) king beater
- 15) gym dance
- 16) The Mod \_\_\_\_\_
- 17) toad feature
- 18) camera part
- 20) free-standing patio
- 22) meted
- 24) doing one's nails
- 25) short tests
- 26) art stands
- 27) sports venues
- 29) rare gas
- 36) Bond's nemesis

### SOLUTION below



### PETE'S THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

*We can't change our memories, but we can change what they mean to us.*

# From Where I Stand

■ continued from page 4

care and working conditions. It also falls on the private sector to implement change by following through on better practices both in their hiring practices and in how they support and assist communities. Lastly, the responsibility also lies with those who are experiencing poverty to understand how to seize opportunities and make the best of them when they are available to improve their own quality of life and to participate in their community as fully-functional members. ■

Sources cited: (City of Calgary, Socio-Economic Outlook 2006-2016), (Statistics Canada, Canada Census, 2001), (Statistics Canada, Survey of Labour and Income), (Critical Hours Beyond School Initiative Environmental Scan April, 2006), (Calgary Police Services, Centralized Analysis Unit, Research and Development Section), (Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission)

# TWO Hermans

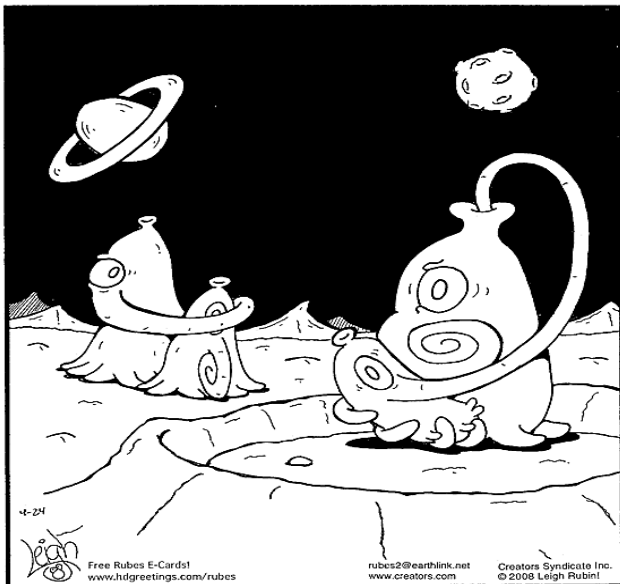
■ continued from page 7

missed that other guy named Herman out there. He didn't drop out of sight completely; he became General Manager of CKXL 1140 AM, Calgary's only rock radio station until I reached teendom. We'd hear him on the radio, plugging skiing lessons at Paskapoo, later Canada Olympic Park.

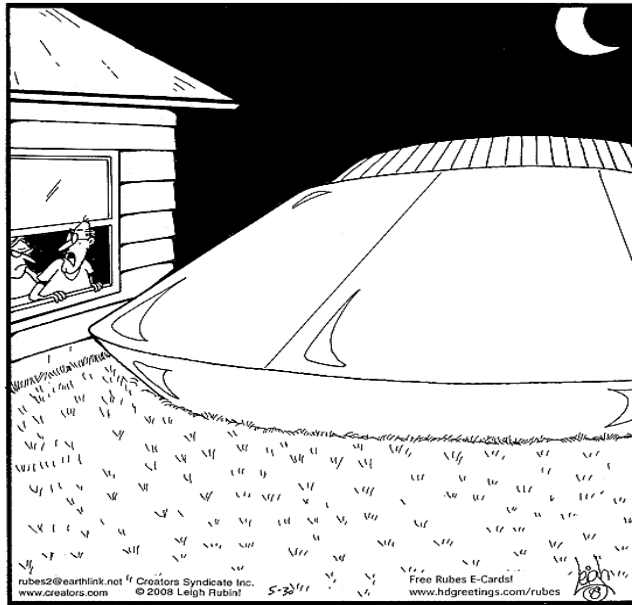
It was a pleasant surprise, though, to see him introduced among the alumni at the CUPS Stampede Kickoff Breakfast. As I shook his hand — still much larger than mine — I announced, "My name's Herman too." He chuckled in appreciation and bore my intrusion with the grace I had always imagined was his. He admired the courage of the featured speaker, Tanya Jarvis. We took some pictures of them together. WE shook hands again as he departed, and I got a look at his Grey Cup ring.

For those who long to recapture their youth, let me recommend this sort of encounter. When Number 76 stepped onto the field at McMahon stadium, the world was young to me, and Herm Harrison showed me some of its possibilities. ■

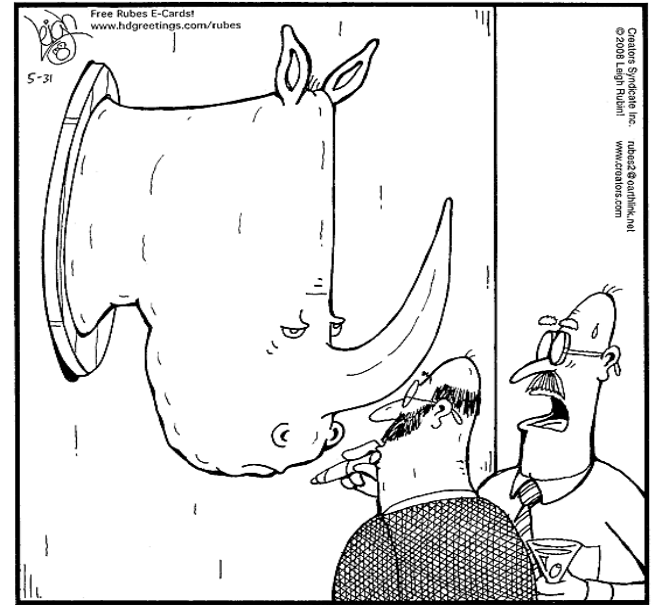
(with thanks to Rajeev Mullick and the Canadian Football Hall of Fame)



"It's the most natural thing in the world," thought Sally, and if she wanted to breast-feed her child in public, by golly, then social taboos be darned!



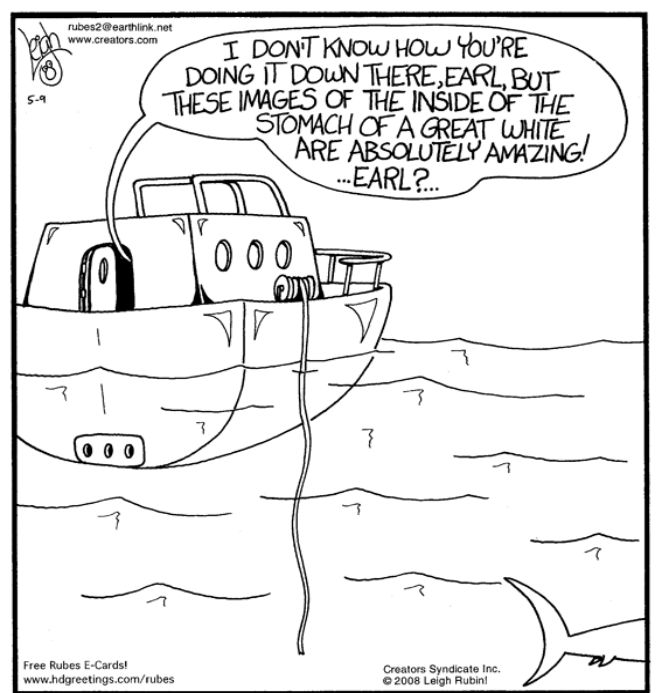
"Don't be silly, Edith, of course I'm open to acquiring advanced scientific knowledge and gaining a deeper understanding of our place in the universe from a highly evolved race of beings ... just not on my new lawn!"



"It was terrifying. There we were, practically face to face at a mere 300 yards. Why, if it hadn't been for my deadly accurate, high-powered rifle with precision scope and laser sight, I would have been a dead man."



Scary story time on corporate retreats



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# RUBES®

By Leigh Rubin



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# Art Exhibit Turns Heads at University

By Ken Price

It was six months in the making, but an exhibit featuring the art work of several CUPS clients was shown at the University of Calgary.

The event, which garnered a lot of media attention, ran for three days in the atrium of the administration building. It was an attractive exhibit with trees and vines lining the walls. At the back of

the room were statues of Socrates teaching his students. A plaque on the wall described the atrium as a place where people can get together to learn from each other.

One of the artists in particular, Phil van Bruchem, is starting to get used to these exhibits. He was also featured in an exhibit called Voices From the Street, which was shown at the Calgary Art Gallery in April. This time, he was invited to relax in the University's atrium, and work on his art and answer questions the public and media had.

"I don't care if I get to sit in here and paint for three days," he joked. As more and more television crews arrived he remarked, "It's going to be fun."

CUPS staff and volunteers have come to know several artists through an art program run by volunteer Linda Shaikh. She started a program involving drawing with music more than two years ago.

"I try to provide a space where people can get in touch with themselves," she said. "They find a peace with themselves through drawing, and listening to very soft music. Some of them wanted a little bit stronger music," she said, laughing. "They wanted Johnny Cash. Sorry, I just have classical guitar."

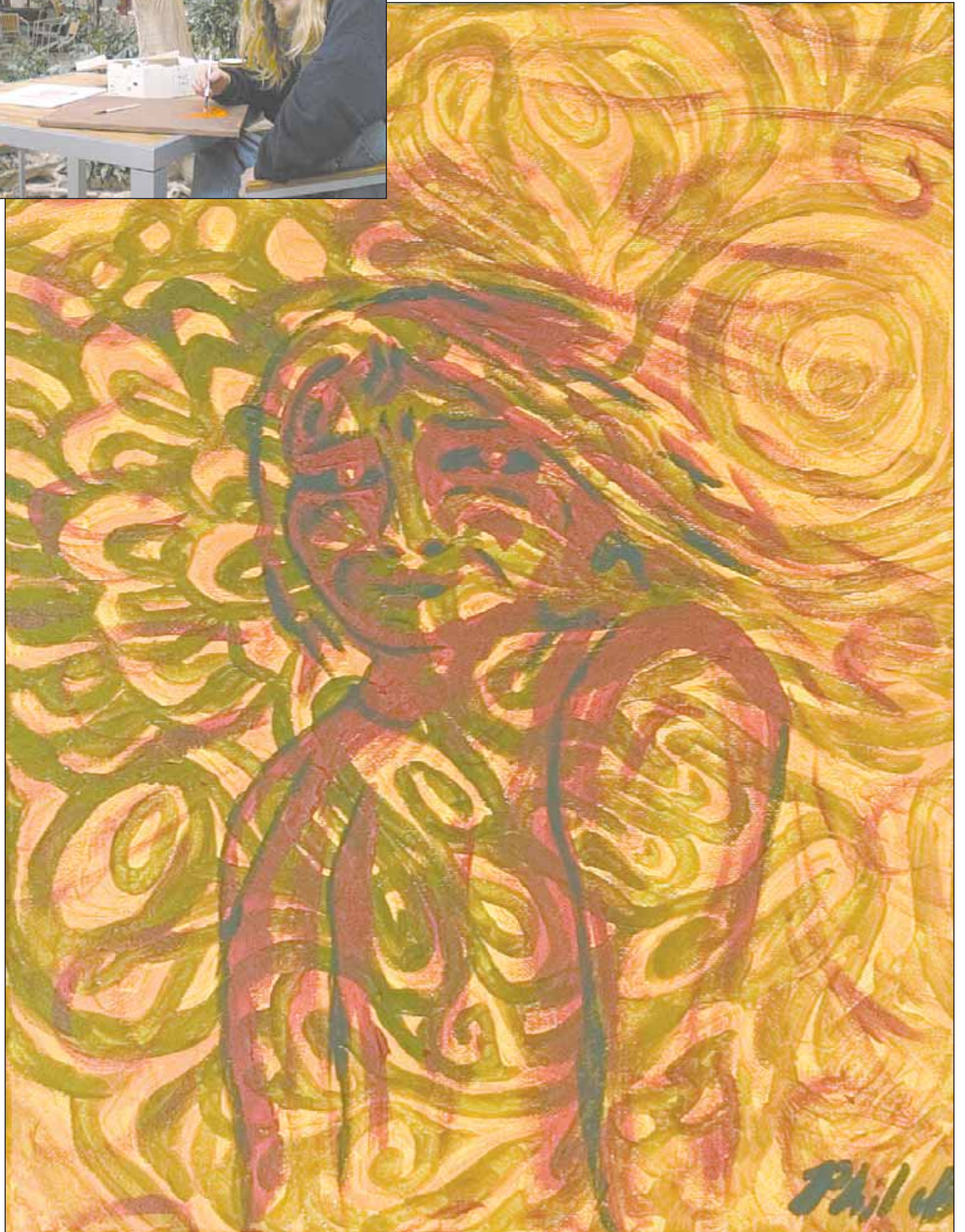
Volunteer and Special Projects Coordinator Margaret Carlson saw a need to show the artists' work. Carlson, along with Lobby Manager Kevin Brown, approached Shaikh, and together they worked for six months arranging the event.

"I think they really speak through their art. A lot of our clients have a hard time expressing themselves verbally," she said. "Maybe they'll get a bit of a name for themselves, but that's not really my biggest hope," she said. "My biggest hope is that it builds their self-esteem. That it gives them a better sense of self worth."

The exhibit was a great success, with several pieces being sold. Carlson said they plan to run more exhibits in the future. ■



Phil van Bruchem enjoyed three days of painting and greeting guests in the atrium of the administration building at the University of Calgary.



Someone's Ghost by Phil van Bruchem