

C-FAR NEWSLETTER

CITIZENS FOR FOREIGN AID REFORM INC.

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Liberalistan

"When a team of 89 reporters from 45 newspapers blitzed government offices across the country recently asking about such nuts-and-bolts matters as class sizes, police suspensions and restaurant inspections, many were turned away empty-handed. None of your business, they were told." (**Globe and Mail**, October 8, 2005)

Good-bye Grewal World

According to his riding association, Newton-North Delta MP **Gurmant Grewal** is ready to get back into the political saddle. It's been stress leave for Mr. Grewal ever since well, let's see, there were the allegations that he was taking um, deposits, from constituents for temporary visas, tapes of **Ujjal Dosanjh** and **Tim Murphy** dangling certain incentives if he and the missus were to endorse the **Liberals**, an unwelcome re-airing of allegations that Mr. Grewal entered Canada in the first place by means of a fraudulent immigrant investor scheme, and, shortly after the **Air India** "result," there were the really quite dismal optics as Mr. Grewal raced around Vancouver airport, importuning alarmed passengers to carry a package for him to Ottawa. Now the object of numerous investigations, Mr. Grewal's string of misadventures "had listeners clogging phone lines at Punjabi radio talk shows ... with callers saying Grewal's political career is finished. ... **Harjinder Thind**, host of an open-line talk show at **Sher-e-Punjab**, said ... 'We had almost two hours of callers ... every caller, one after another, is upset.' Thind said 99 per cent of callers were against Grewal. Callers were also critical of **Dosanjh** for appearing in the taped conversations to be making a deal with Grewal to join the Liberal party before the crucial vote on the budget, Thind said. But Grewal is getting the most criticism, he said. 'It's such a big thing that nobody's talking about ... anything else.'" (**Canadian Press**, June 8, 2005) But less than two weeks later, it was back to same-old, same-old with Canadians cast as racist baddies: "A B.C. broadcaster said yesterday he believes Canadians are displaying a racial bias by reacting so strongly to a controversy involving prominent Indo-Canadian politicians. ... 'Isn't it a bit unfair? Is it because **Ujjal Dosanjh** and **Gurmant Grewal** are people of colour? Is it some kind of racism?'] **Radio India** open-line host **Gurpreet Singh** wrote in an e-mail to the **Vancouver Sun** [hastily adding that] his position *isn't* influenced by his station manager's close friendship with and strong support for Mr. Grewal." (**National Post**, June 21, 2005) [*People of colour? That must be it. How could we not have noticed?* Meanwhile, prime minister **Paul Martin**, **Mr. Democratic Renewal** himself, huffs that Grewal is "no longer welcome in the party. ... Mr. Martin told **CKNW** radio Mr. Grewal could buy a membership in the Liberal Party if he wanted to, but would be *prevented* from standing as a candidate. 'Well, someone can buy a membership, but if your question is do we want him as a candidate, the answer is unequivocally no.'" (**Globe and Mail**, June 21, 2005) Sorry for noticing, but we've already established what your party is, it only remains to settle on a price. So what if he bought 500 memberships? What about 1,500?

And Then There Were None

None of our little chants or traditions, that is. "The **First Nations Summit** has asked the British Columbia government to stop teaching children the nursery rhyme **Ten Little Indians** and to conduct a review of the public school curriculum for racist or stereotypical material ... after a native student showed her aunt home work assignment that contained the poem. ... At first glance, [**Grand Chief**

Edward] John said, the nursery rhyme might seem humorous, but native people see nothing to laugh about. 'Part of the concern we have is when you look at that nursery rhyme, you can chuckle about it, sure, but half the kids in it are dying for some reason.' ... The nursery rhyme starts off: 'Ten little injuns standin' in a line/One toddled home and then there were nine.' Then it systematically eliminates them all: No. 8 goes to sleep and doesn't wake up; No. 7 breaks his neck; No. 6 'kicked the bucket and then there were five.' ... The girl who complained, Chief John said, encountered the poem in a Grade 9 homework assignment. But the poem is also included in recommended learning resources for Grade 5 pupils studying Japanese. ... The nursery rhyme comes with the following notation: 'Caution ... depicts a stereotypical view of First Nations people.'" (**Globe and Mail**, October 22, 2005) While it is disturbing to think that Grade 9 students are actually studying nursery rhymes, those grievance and entitlement instincts are operating at post-graduate levels.

Nothing Exceeds Like Excess

Sit quietly children, and learn about sensitivity: "Taiwan-based **Lingyen Mountain Temple** has scrapped its plans to build one of the world's largest Buddhas in the Vancouver suburb of Richmond [the] gold-leaf Buddha, rising about 10 storeys, was designed to sit on a lotus leaf in a temple hall 14 storeys high. ... The 15-metre high roof was to be designed to reflect the social ethics of China. [As opposed to, say, Canada, or the surrounding community] A promotional pamphlet stated that the higher class of the structure, the more extensive its roof should be, and the more extensive the roof, the more grand the whole building. However, the height of the temple was four times the limit permitted on the site [and would have dwarfed its neighbours, an assortment of] more than 10 temples, mosques and churches. **Carol Day**, who organized petitions against the temple, said yesterday she was pleased that the Buddhist leaders withdrew their application for a variance in city zoning [adding] she had heard privately from members of other religious institutions who were concerned that the grandiose temple would overshadow its neighbours. They were *hesitant to speak out* publicly because they did not want their comments to be misconstrued. ... Ms. Day acknowledged that she was occasionally uncomfortable campaigning against a religious group that promotes compassion and kindness. 'They are wonderful people. I went to the temple and they were very gracious and hospitable. I could not say enough nice things about the people,' she said. 'I told them, thank you for your kindness, but it's just too big.' At the temple yesterday, the decision to abandon the plans had a mixed reception. 'It's disappointing,' **Thomas Chan**, 40, said in an interview, adding that 'bigger is better.' It would have been an interesting landmark for tourists, he said. The oversize temple would also mean more for the religion, he added. 'People are always against things here,' Mr. Chan said.'" (**Globe and Mail**, October 21, 2005) Very candid, Mr. Chan. Why doesn't the existing community feel it can be as forthright when a multi-storey tribute to electroplating threatens to overwhelm the neighbourhood?

A Plan For Canada

"Democracy and socialism have nothing in common but one word: equality. But notice the difference: while democracy seeks equality in liberty, socialism seeks equality in restraint and servitude." (**Alexis de Tocqueville**) Yes, by all means, let all be equally constrained. As the enemies of freedom are eager to point out, Canada is not like the US: we have free speech -- with limits. Reverse the statement,

"Limits on free speech exist in Canada," and it doesn't play nearly as well, does it? Our attachment to untrammelled free expression stretches well past **Magna Carta**, to antiquity: 24 centuries ago, **Diogenes** called freedom of speech "the most beautiful thing in the world." That yearning to participate in a marketplace of ideas freely exchanged, is innate to our people, and was, once, prototypically Canadian: Referring to the **Assembly of Lower Canada**, historian **Arthur Lower**, reminds us of, "the peculiar English habit of letting everyone say and print whatever he saw fit." But, as the old joke has it -- if Canadians hoped for English law and French cooking, we somehow blundered into the reverse. Lower notes that other familiar themes were evident early on: "The English appeared to have just one idea about life: -- improve on nature and put the proceeds in their pockets: this they called progress. To the French, this philosophy was distasteful and immoral. For themselves, they wished dignity, honour and security, the ability to make a great speech that would earn the applause of their fellows, the importance of being the founts of local patronage, pleasant posts under government with reasonable pay, no excessive amount of work or responsibility, the dignity and safety of an official position." (**Arthur Lower, Colony to Nation: a History of Canada, Longmans, Green & Co, 1946, p. 155**) *Plus ca change.*

Dead Bang Scandalous

"The gun controls implemented by the federal **Liberal** government in 1995 appear to have little if any effect on gun-related deaths, despite a \$1.3-billion price tag and the government's extravagant claims that the measures would produce 'a culture of safety' and dramatically reduce crime. [In fact, as **StatsCan** researcher **Kathryn Wilkins** and others have pointed out, 'handguns accounted for two-thirds of firearm homicides in 2002, up from about one-half during the 1990s,' and handguns have been subject to mandatory registration since 1934. ... 'In each year,' Ms. Wilkins writes, 'about four-fifths of all firearms-related deaths were suicides.' And while in the past decade and a half firearms suicides have been cut in half ... from 4.5 per 100,000 population in 1979 to 2.0 in 2002, 'suicide by suffocation/hanging ... rose from 3 to 5 deaths per 100,000.' ... Meaning, at best, controls merely encouraged troubled Canadians to find other methods for taking their own lives." (**National Post**, July 4, 2005)

Give Til It Hurts, You #&% Plebs

"According to the **United Nations**, since 1970 more than 30 wars in Africa have accounted for 'more than half of all war-related deaths worldwide' and turned nearly 10-million people into refugees. [An interesting admission from the agency created to avert such outcomes]. The **World Food Programme** says twice as many children under the age of five die each year in Africa as in 1960. ... Despite more than \$500-billion in aid transfers to the continent in the past five decades, Africans are poorer on average than they were 30 years ago." (**National Post**, July 2, 2005) "By the **African Union's** own estimate, Africa loses as much as US\$148-billion a year to corruption. [Ask] **George Ayittey**, a native of Ghana and an economics professor. ... 'I mean, it is noble for the rich countries to help Africa,' he says. 'But the real question is: What are African leaders themselves doing to help their own people?' [Not much. As an example of the frustration out there] **Sir Edward Clay**, **Britain's High Commissioner** in Nairobi, attacked Kenya's leaders and their tolerance for theft, saying officials were 'behaving like gluttons' and 'vomiting on the shoes of donors' who provide foreign aid." (**National Post**, July 4, 2005) Fortunately, washed-up pop-stars have an unusually high tolerance for vomit -- their own or someone else's: It must have been annoying when the London bombings turned the spotlight away from increasingly foul-mouthed efforts to hammer all **G-8** leaders into malleable little Canadian prime ministers. When informed that the **Live 8** promoters insisted Canada make a five-fold

increase to foreign aid contributions by 2015, 59% of Canadians polled said they preferred the money be spent at home. Speaking of home, "according to the 1981 census, there were 45,215 persons of African origin in Canada ... by contrast, the 1996 census indicates a marked increase to an estimated 223,545 persons. ... Mostly people entered Canada in the 'refugee' class, followed by the 'family' class." (**The Canadian Encyclopaedia**)

Addicts First

Toronto public health might want to clarify who is the intended beneficiary of its 'harm reduction' campaign: "Residents of Cabbagetown recently discovered a pile of used needles, alcohol pads, matches and 'safe crack kit gear' scattered near a children's playground. Some of these items bore the Toronto public-health logo." (**Globe and Mail**, October 22, 2005)

Mission Of Mercy

"I didn't know that they did that to women," said corporal **Nathalie Leclerc**, a med-tech who worked more than 28 hours straight after the **DART** clinic opened. ... Genital mutilation is not common in Pakistan, but it is customary among the **Aga Khani** tribe, an offshoot of the **Shiites**. The **Aga Khanis** live in the Karachi area. ... One little girl [who] had her pinky finger cut off when her school collapsed on her head ... was brought to the hospital by her father, screaming in pain as the medical team attempted to clean her hand, from which most of the skin had peeled off. ... But even though the girl was in severe pain and required further medical help, her father would not allow her to spend the night at the Canadian clinic ... Spending the night surrounded by Western men was not an option." (**Globe and Mail**, October 24, 2005)

Beinvenue A Maquiladora

Thanks to federal laws, captive taxpayers will never know how many billions have been diverted to float Quebec-based **Bombardier**, but don't expect much in the way of gratitude: **Bombardier Inc** "will invest US\$200-million to build a manufacturing facility in Mexico and outsource about 360 aerospace jobs [to] Queretaro, a fast-growing city north of Mexico City. ... The initial 360 jobs will be wiring jobs and it's likely **Bombardier** will outsource further low-end aerospace work to Mexico in an effort to save costs, as it has begun to do elsewhere. 'We are always looking at low-cost locations such as India, China and Mexico for component work or some of the less-complex tasks we have,' said [company spokesman **John Paul Macdonald**. ... The investment by **Bombardier** has generated excitement in Mexico, where some reports say it will create 5,000 jobs. ... But that's unlikely to happen in the short term: Mexico's aerospace industry is in its infancy, with an underdeveloped civil aviation authority and little in the way of training and infrastructure." (**Financial Post**, October 22, 2005) Underdeveloped? Little in the way of training or infrastructure? Sounds like a template for the new Canada. "**Air Canada** customers trying to track lost luggage or parcels will soon have their queries routed to a call centre in Bombay, India [a] job now done by 52 customer-service agents in downtown Montreal. [An **Air Canada** spokeshingey claims that tossing Canadians out of work] ensures 'our service will be offered 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at a better cost.'" (**Vancouver Province**, November 18, 2005) Oh, goody. No free meals on domestic flights, lost luggage inquiries held by iffy speakers of Indo-english in Bombay. It just gets better and better. Not to be outdone, "**Sun Life Financial Inc** has begun outsourcing some of its Canadian insurance underwriting functions to India. ... Accountants and other highly specialized university graduates have annual salaries as low as \$12,000 in India ... underwriters in Canada earn between \$50,000 and \$100,000 a year." (**Financial Post**, November 16, 2005)