

Number 193

March 2007

Myths From The Home Front

According to **Statistics Canada's 2004 General Social Survey** ... rates of spousal violence by a current or previous partner in the 5 year period were 7% for women and 6% for men. [Although officially, men don't suffer. **StatsCan** notes that] a larger proportion of female victims of spousal violence reported the incidents to the police relative to male victims (37% versus 17%). ... The numbers of male victims of spousal violence who used a helping agency were too small to produce statistically reliable estimates. ... In addition, in a larger proportion of instances of wife assault police made an arrest or laid a charge than in the case of husband assault (41% versus 21%). ... The rate of spousal violence among those who are gay or lesbian was twice the rate of reported violence experienced by those who are heterosexual (15% versus 7%). ... Aboriginal people were three times more likely to be victims of spousal violence than were those who were non-Aboriginal (21% versus 7%). [In 1999, 25% of aboriginal women and 13% of men reported spousal abuse; 5 years later, 24% of aboriginal women reported spousal abuse while aboriginal men were on the receiving end of a growing share of the violence, at 18%. Moreover] aboriginal victims of spousal violence experience more serious forms of violence at the hands of their intimate partners than do non-Aboriginal spousal violence victims ... (41% versus 27%). ... This analysis does not include the Northwest Territories, the Yukon or Nunavut where high concentrations of Aboriginal people live." (**Statistics Canada, Family Violence in Canada: A Statistical Profile, 2005**)

Multiculturalism: Ode To Joylessness

A new "study, based on an analysis of 2002 **Statistics Canada** data [more than 40,000 responded to the **Ethnic Diversity Survey**] suggests that multiculturalism, Canada's official policy on interethnic relations since 1971, is not working as well for newer immigrants or for their children, who hail largely from China, South Asia and the Caribbean, conclude co-authors **Jeffrey Reitz**, a **University of Toronto** sociologist, and **Rupa Banerjee**, a doctoral candidate. ... The sense of exclusion among visible-minority newcomers is not based on the fact that they earn less than their White counterparts [even as Canada is reshaped to accommodate the ubiquitous podiatrist turned cabbie. The problem is something more nebulous.] The researchers found integration is impeded by the perception of discrimination, and vulnerability -- defined as feeling uncomfortable in social situations due to racial background and a fear of suffering a racial attack. ... The study found that 35 per cent of recent immigrants of Chinese origin reported experiences of perceived discrimination, 28 per cent of South Asians, and 44 per cent of Blacks, compared with 19 per cent of Whites. The gap didn't narrow, but widened, with the next generation, with 42 per cent of all visible minority second-generation immigrants reporting discrimination, compared with 10.9 per cent of their White counterparts. ... As for the children of visible-minority immigrants, 44 per cent of them felt a sense of belonging, compared with about 60 per cent of their parents." (**Globe and Mail**, January 12, 2007) So, immigrant parents made an informed decision to become visible minorities and their kids didn't. And this is our fault how? The study confirms everything that's wrong with our *defining national trait*. Whatever the original intent, multicult degenerates into the usual threnody about failing newer immigrants. Whether multiculturalism serves Canadians well is not sufficiently interesting to explore, but note the relatively high incidence of Whites who report they have been objects of discrimination (where non-Whites represent just 13% of the

population). Multiculturalism was imposed on us and most would concede that Canadians have shown exemplary forbearance in the face of ever-escalating demands from people who are uniquely ill-equipped to shape national policy: That is, the complaints are (or ought to be) suspect for the very reason that they spring from self-segregated enclaves taking pains to distance themselves from the greater community. To then moan about *feeling uncomfortable in social situations due to racial background* discounts the very real consequences of such ethnic cocooning. In reality, it doesn't much matter how far Canadians are willing to go in their concessions. The irresistible conclusion is that what rankles here is simply being a minority, but not in ethnic enclaves (defined as 30% of the population from a single ethnic minority group) which have gone from 6 in 1981 to 254 in 2001.

"Keeping Canadians Safe"

That's the motto of **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada**, the agency devoted to framing responses to various disaster scenarios. Which is what makes the following so unsettling: "From 1999 to 2003, **Project Early Intervention (PEI)** focused on high-risk children and youth aged 6-12 years living in a high-needs social housing neighbourhood in Ottawa, Ontario [with priority] given to youth with a sibling or parent involved in the criminal justice system, living in homes characterized by domestic violence, or engaging in behaviour likely to result in charges under the **Young Offenders Act**. ... The community targeted was unique in that a large proportion of its population was made up of recent Arabic and Somalian immigrants. ... The **PEI** project was originally managed by the **Ottawa Police Youth Centre** and, later, the **Boys and Girls Club of Ottawa**. By offering a life skills development programme, homework club, sports and recreation opportunities and ongoing support, **PEI** sought to increase participants' resiliency to risk factors related to criminal behaviour. [A diversion programme, in other words. The qualities the project team found most useful for injecting a little stability into the lives of 'at-risk' kids read startlingly like traditional 1950's-style parenting skills: Including unhip concepts like] ... strictly enforced rules of conduct ... strong and stable ... presence ... well-monitored ... strong communications. [As for outcomes, well, our Emergency Preparedness agency just doesn't know unless we send more money.] **PEI** was a promising crime prevention through social development initiative for the youth who participated in the programme. However, further evaluations of this type of initiative will have to be undertaken in other areas across Canada before deriving any firm conclusions about its general effectiveness. It is also important to conduct more longitudinal studies about this type of initiative in order to acquire knowledge related to crime trends." (**Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada**, October 24, 2005)

Trying To "Find Ourselves" After All These Years

A **Sun Media/Leger Marketing** poll of 3,092 adults between December 27 and Jan 5 reveals just how dysfunctional our social petrie dish has become: "A stunning 85% believe it's important -- if not essential -- that minorities adapt to the lifestyle habits of the city where they live [and] 37% think wearing a veil poses a problem. ... Albertans and Prairie dwellers are far less concerned about women wearing a veil than those in Ontario. [If Canadians were indeed 'natural born racists,' those results would have been reversed, with Albertans -- largely unfamiliar with veil-wearing neighbours -- least accommodating of the practice. In reality, it is multicultural Ontario that has misgivings about the *nikab*.] 'We've become victimized by our own policy of multiculturalism,' said **Anna Makolkin**, a professor

and research fellow at the **Munk Centre for International Studies** at the **University of Toronto**. Canada has become overaccommodating to cultural groups, bending over backwards to integrate immigrant groups in the name of political correctness, Makolkin said. Cultural groups exploit Canada's policy of tolerance and acceptance, she added, expecting, even demanding that their traditions be accommodated. 'Many of them now do not feel obliged to familiarize themselves with the cultures of this country or be assimilated with a Western European country,' she said. 'Multiculturalism has become a licence not to assimilate.' ... 'If a religious practice is in conflict with our laws and standards, that should be abandoned and banned,' Makolkin said, citing polygamy and genital mutilation as examples of traditions practised among some immigrants from sub-Saharan Africa. ... Between 1981 and 2001, visible minority neighbourhoods, defined as census tracts with more than 30% of their population from a single visible minority group, increased from six to 254 in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver. [This growing separatism leads to fractured communities, fewer points of common interest, lowered participation and a sense of marginalization and isolation for immigrants and Canadians alike. Unfortunately, the multicult masters just blame Canadians. Result?] A majority of Canadians want tighter controls over the influx of immigrants and believe more must be done to better integrate the nation's newcomers ... 57% think there should be greater scrutiny before citizenship is awarded, while only 3% say the rules should loosen up. [Three per cent falls well short of persuasive: Even the perpetual 'don't know,' 'refused to answer' contingent came in at 6%. The poll also found Canadians] divided on whether racism poses a problem for them: 52% say it's significant while 47% consider it to be insignificant. ... Canada doesn't have a centralized system for collecting national police-reported statistics relating to hate-motivated crimes., but in its absence is a growing number of police forces that have established their own hate crime units in recognition of the chasm between visible minority groups and the authorities, according to a 2004 **StatsCan** report. In another 2004 pilot survey of hate crime, conducted by the **Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**, 12 Canadian police forces reported 928 hate crime incidents during 2001 and 2002. More than half of these hate crimes were racially or ethnically motivated at 57%, followed by religion at 43%. [However,] a look at statistics from the country's largest police force reveals that the number of reported hate crimes declined between 2003 and 2005 and is expected to flatten out for 2006 as well, said **Det.-Const. Jack Gurr** of the **Toronto Police Service**. ... Though there's been much discourse on racism from the host society, rarely do we address the racist attitudes that newcomers bring with them when they settle, experts point out. 'People who come to Canada come with different experiences, with different ethnic and cultural residues ... bring with them other prejudices,' said [University of Toronto professor] Makolkin, who specializes in migration and nationalism. 'Canada has become a battleground for different ethnic groups ... They should leave their differences at the door. They cannot bring them into Canada.' ... The discourse on racism often follows a one-way street, Makolkin noted. 'There's racism in the host society, but there are also profound racist attitudes in incoming societies. This is something no one wants to talk about.' [Significantly,] 66% of visible minorities feel they have been a victim of racial comments or behaviours, compared to only 30% of White people. [Uh, wait a minute. Visible minorities constitute 13% of the population (or 4-million people) and demonstrate a documented and growing tendency to withdraw into ethnic enclaves away from the larger community. Under the circumstances, what exactly, qualifies as 'racial comment or behaviour'? Noticing this voluntary apartheid? In terms of actual incidents of racial animus however, the experience of 30% of Whites represents a staggering *number* of such episodes.

Perhaps this rapid turning of the tables is multiculturalism's real achievement. Certainly it is something 'we rarely address']

Despite these alarming statistics, almost half the population -- 47% -- doesn't see racism as a problem in Canada. Only 17% say the city they live in is more racist than it was a decade ago, while 41% believe the problem has actually declined. ... Albertans are most likely to believe racism is on the rise in their home towns and cities, with a quarter saying the problem has grown in the last decade and only 29% seeing a decline. [Look at the phraseology here -- 25% think racism has worsened while only 29% think it's declined? It must be conceded that immigration to Alberta has increased astronomically over the last decade. And no laughing! The] survey also shows that while most Canadians refrain from uttering racial slurs, they often crack derogatory ethnic jokes. More than a fifth admit they've lobbed a slur, compared to 66% who claim to have done it in jest. [Still, if multiculturalism was a workable social construct, we would be able to point to historical success stories. In reality,] the 2001 census found 32.5% of the country's aboriginal population had low-income status, compared with 27.2% of all visible minority people and 12.4% of the non-aboriginal population. ... Nationally aboriginal people made up 2.7% of the Canadian population but account for 18.5% of the federal prison population, according to the **Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics**. In Manitoba, aboriginals make up 70% of the total prisoner population, according to **Statistics Canada**. In Saskatchewan, that figure is a staggering 77%. ... 'To combat racism, you have to build self-esteem in your people and ensure they feel equal in society,' said [president of the **Manitoba Metis Federation, David] Chartrand**. ... Yet, some aboriginal people believe the focus on racism would be better directed to address immediate social problems for the community. 'The issue of racism has gotten out of hand. It baffles me that we focus on that when we need to get our children to school and kids shouldn't be having kids. Those are things we should focus on rather than racism.' said **Madeline Hatch**, an aboriginal Winnipegger. Hatch said over-sensitivity can lead too many issues to be defined as racially motivated. 'A lot of times people yell out *racism* when it has nothing to do with racism,' said Hatch. [But isn't that the point? If you're a victim of 'racism,' you may be nowhere nearer solving your problems, but you're absolved of all responsibility. Which brings us to a] 2006 report from the **Canadian Labour Congress** that found unemployment rates were highest among Arab and West Asian populations in Canada at 14%, followed by Blacks at 11.5%. [And there's a reason for that according to **Ayman Al-Yassini**, executive director of the **Canadian Race Relations Foundation**.] 'Members of racialized groups are not getting jobs they're qualified to fill because of stereotyping ' [And speaking of bias] the number of mixed unions rose 35% between 1991 and 2001, paving the way for phenomenon known colloquially as 'yellow fever ' and 'jungle fever' -- a preference for partners from Asian or other ethnic groups. [In conclusion then, in spite of official multiculturalism, the poll found] an overwhelming majority of Canadians are unwilling to bend laws to make room for cultural beliefs ... 78% of people from coast-to-coast say everyone must respect Canadian laws, even if they clash with the cultural values they hold dear. ... Only 15% think Canada should adapt our legal system to make room for religious and cultural beliefs. When it comes to the law's role in curbing racism, only one-third of Canadians believe uttering a racial slur should be a crime. Another 46% believe free speech should reign. ... Half of us would be willing to sign a petition or report a racist incident, yet less than a quarter would actually put up cash for the fight to stop racism. [What is a self-respecting secretary of state for multiculturalism to make of such a lacklustre endorsement?] There is little that government can do to stop racism, said [**Jason] Kenney**, adding he is reviewing federal anti-racism

programmes. ... Toronto **NDP MP Olivia Chow** ... said economic frustration is often the source of racist feelings. ... 'When someone feels insecure they tend to look for a scapegoat.' **Navdeep Bains**, a Sikh Toronto-area **Liberal MP**, said he was heartened by the percentage of Canadians who admitted their racism. ... Kenney said his government wants to emphasize the reasons why immigrants come to Canada. [We know why: One immigrant interviewed for the poll said the family had decided to move here -- not for free speech and democratic traditions dating back to Periclean Athens -- but because Canada was] the land of 'big beautiful houses and nice cars.' 'Multiculturalism means to accept everyone's culture and not to judge them,' said **Aniqah Rahman**, 11. 'We should join together to be a community and all be happy and learn from each other.'" (**Toronto Sun**, January 12-19, 2007) Uh-huh. As national policy however, it is a unicorn-land over simplification of the human condition, well suited to the eleven and under crowd. But the real question upon digesting the results is this: Can we really trust the pollster's questions *or* answers when survey responses are not so much conveyed as critiqued? In this poll, Leger vice-president **Dave Scholz** couldn't resist the chance to weigh in with heavily editorialized commentary like, "over a third of Canada thinks there's a problem with someone wearing a veil, which is more evidence of us having this simmering racism. Not as nice a country as we'd like to think it is." Tell us what you really think, Mr. Scholz. As **Dickens** said of **Mr. Pecksniff**, "Some people likened him to a direction-post, which is always telling the way to a place, and never goes there."

Our Dirty Little Secret

"There was a lot of talk during that last couple of federal elections about the 'hidden agenda' of the **Conservative Party**. This was most notable during the 2004 election when **Paul Martin** was always warning Canadians about those evil Conservatives: about how, once elected, they would throw women who sought abortions into jail along with all gays and lesbians. During the 2005-06 campaign, the rhetoric was toned down a bit with the warning that if the Conservatives took power we would see soldiers on the streets, with guns, in cities, in Canada. After a couple of years with Paul at the helm, Canadians realized that even a secret agenda was better than no agenda at all and elected **Stephen Harper**. ... Writing about how the Americans treated and reacted to the recent death of **Gerald Ford**, [former high profile **Liberal MP** and **Deputy Prime Minister**, **Sheila**] **Copps** bemoaned the fact that Americans are more knowledgeable about their own history than Canadians are. She ... then goes on to muse about how the lack of knowledge by Canadians of our own history might be a good thing. She writes: 'Perhaps our ignorance of history is defensible. It keeps us from exhibiting the kind of triumphant tribalism that too often defines a nation. It also keeps us from being too cocksure about our collective identity.' There can be little doubt that *this* is the **Liberal Party's** hidden agenda. They want to destroy all notions of the country as a nation state. Canada should not be thought of as a real country because it was founded by that segment of society that it is perfectly permissible to discriminate against -- **White males**. We should play down the fact that we are a country because it will inevitably lead to tribalism. [*Ironically, for people like this, real tribes inspire respectful awe.*] The Liberals are on a course to destroy whatever is left of our collective identity and culture by replacing it with multiculturalism where our culture consists of everyone else's culture (except that of Canadians). The immigrant who was landed in Canada yesterday is every bit as Canadian as those who fought for Canada during World War II when we were still a country. This is why Canada's foreign policy under Liberal governments is made not in Ottawa but in New York by the United Nations. Writer **Yann Martel** was right when he described Canada as 'the greatest hotel on earth' and he is far from alone in viewing the country in this light.

Much of the opposition to Canada's commitment in Afghanistan is not because the purpose of the war is unjust or unnecessary or being badly executed as critics of the Iraq war focus on. The criticism results from the feeling that *there is nothing about our 'country' that is worth fighting for*. The **Taliban** are looked at not as the enemy but simply immigrants to Canada that haven't decided to come here yet. To use **Yann Martel's** analogy, sending troops to fight in Afghanistan is like putting young men and women in harm's way to defend the **Marriott**." (**Canada Free Press**, January 9, 2007)

HEALTH WATCH

Ontario Hits The Heights

Less than 100 years after Banting and Best cracked the secret of insulin, Canadian medicine is faced with an ironic challenge: The **CBC** (March 1, 2007) reports: "About 8.8 per cent of Ontarians over age 20 - about one in every 11 - had diabetes in 2005 ... The figure jumped from 5.2 per cent - about one in every 19 - in 1995, [a result of] increasing incidence among ethnic minorities and the youth, combined with decreasing mortality rates and longer lifespans." To put those numbers in context, the **Toronto Star** (March 2, 2007) notes, "the number of people with diabetes in Ontario climbed 113 per cent - from 388,000 in 1995 to 827,000 in 2005. ... About 90 per cent of that can be attributed to people with type 2 diabetes. [Type 2 is the overwhelmingly prevalent form, accounting for 90% to 95% of all cases. We are warned off making 'value judgements,' but type 2 is generally deemed a 'lifestyle' disease, wherein weight gain, poor nutrition and lack of exercise reduce the body's ability to use insulin to control levels of sugar. On the other hand, type 1 diabetes occurs where the body itself produces little or no insulin, and is normally treated through insulin injections. Diabetes has traditionally been an illness associated with ageing that mainly strikes seniors, but the research team writing in the March 3, 2007 edition of **The Lancet** noted that, in Ontario] while the percentage of the population over the age of 50 who have diabetes increased by 63 per cent between 1995 and 2005, it spiked by 94 per cent among those between 20 and 49 years. [Verging on 9 per cent] the Ontario rate already surpasses a prediction by the **World Health Organization**, which estimated that 6.4 per cent of the world's population will have diabetes by 2030. ... If one in 10 Ontarians - about 1.2 million people - develops diabetes, it could cripple the health care system." (**Toronto Star**, March 2, 2007) "The direct costs of treating diabetes and its complications can consume up to 15 per cent of health-care budgets, according to the **World Health Organization**. The higher rates are 'a nightmare' for planners, said **Dr. Edmond Ryan**, a medical professor at the **University of Alberta**. 'This is a huge cost to the health-care system in terms of need and patient demand for services,' said Ryan." (**CBC** *ibid*) So what's going on? According to **Dr. Lorraine Lipscombe**, lead author of the study, and a research fellow at the **Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Toronto**, "'Our database doesn't allow us to look at ethnicity, but we know that Ontario has seen a 50 percent increase in immigration from certain more at-risk nations like South Asian nations. ... We also know from previous work that the distribution of diabetes cases across Ontario is not uniform and that there are higher rates in areas that have more at-risk immigrant populations.' [**Dr. Stuart Weiss**, clinical assistant professor of medicine at **New York University School of Medicine**, goes for the default position and blames us.] 'This is a population that includes a lot of immigrants who are coming into a place where high calorie, simple carbohydrate diets are being provided, and much, much less physical activity than in their home countries. ... If you give someone who's used to eating very few calories and doing more exercise this type of lifestyle, they're likely to gain weight and develop diabetes.'" (**The Statesman**, March 1 2007) Well, okay, if you want to forget "the 100 million Indians who spend close to \$1 billion annually at

fast-food restaurants. The fast-food market in India is growing at a robust 40 percent with pizzas taking a major slice. ... According to a **World Health Organization** report, at least 17 percent of the male and 15 percent of the female population in India is obese. India is one of the top ten obese nations with a population of more than 35 million diabetics. ... A survey by **AC Nielsen** [found that] the urban adult Indian is among the top 10 in the world in terms of frequency of fast food consumption." (**New America Ethnic Media**, February 12, 2007) And that's in addition to a traditional diet hip-deep in saturated fats, tropical oils, adulterated spices, no-nutrient rice, overcooked vegetables, cream sauces and deep fried everything. There's more. According to the **American Kidney Foundation** (January 2005), "Diabetes is the single leading cause of kidney failure in the U.S., accounting for about 44 percent of the people who start treatment for kidney failure each year, and about 38 percent of all Americans being treated for kidney failure. ... Hispanic Americans are 1.7 times more likely to have diabetes than White Americans of similar age."

CRIME WATCH

Where Cell Phones Mean More Than Lives

Spending her Christmas loot on a Boxing Day shopping spree, **Jane Glenn Creba** was the picture of a wholesome 15-year-old enjoying a seasonal rite of passage. When the honour student and top-ranked swimmer was killed in gang crossfire, most Canadians felt the time had come to get tougher - much tougher - on predatory psychopaths. Not all: **Jack Layton** would moan: "We need to get tougher - much tougher - on poverty, unemployment and social exclusion." Even as half a dozen other victims were sped from the shoot-out to emergency wards, police would arrest one **Andre Thompson** and a YO at Castle Frank subway station. Apparently, the 30 day sentence Mr. Thompson had just completed for the armed robbery of a convenience store wasn't serving as much of a deterrent. The probationer was packing a 9mm Ruger when he was picked up. Another facing manslaughter charges in the Creba case is **Vincent George Davis**, 26. "Davis has racked up 16 criminal convictions since coming to Canada from Jamaica in 1984. He was first ordered deported in 2003 by an Immigration and Refugee Board, which ruled he posed a threat to Canadian society [based on] convictions for drugs, assault, carrying a concealed weapon, uttering threats, and break and enter. He was jailed on a murder charge in 2001 for the slaying of Sandro Almeida, 28, which was later withdrawn. ... Anna Pape, of the Canada Border Services Agency, said Davis will be sent packing once he has been tried in the Creba case. 'He will be removed once his criminal proceedings and any potential sentence is complete.'" (**Toronto Sun**, February 24, 2007) Uh huh. But as is so often the case, this pending deportee managed to hang around just long enough to destroy another Canadian family. **Prime Minister Stephen Harper** talks a lot about restoring accountability in government. One way to start would be to fire those officials who failed to turf gunman Davis back to Jamaica and hold them civilly liable for the death of **Jane Creba**. Quite literally: Canada's failed immigration policies can kill you.

Another player, 19-year-old **Richard "Steele"** pleaded guilty in an **Old City Hall** courtroom to conspiracy charges involving the sale of crack cocaine and at least eight handguns. ... While the charges are not directly related to Creba's murder, Steele witnessed the shootings that left her dead and six others wounded. ... About an hour before those fatal moments, Steele was involved in a scuffle outside the **Eaton Centre** at Yonge and Dundas Streets. Steele was seen by a video surveillance camera in the area being robbed at gunpoint of his cellular telephone. A short time later, shots rang out on Yonge Street, just north of Dundas. ... Steele's own lawyer said in court that his client may have been the intended target. ... Asked if Steele was one of the shooters on the fatal day, [black activist and] defence lawyer

Selwyn Pieters said no. 'He did not shot [sic] anyone that day,' Pieters said outside court. 'Police is [sic] alleging that he was shot on Boxing Day ... I'm not sure whether he was or wasn't.' [Well, that's one syntax nightmare of a version, for another, see below] In exchange for his guilty pleas for dealing guns and drugs, Steele was given a six-month sentence. [Ex political prisoner Brad Love got 18 months for just writing letters about black crime!] That time is on top of the seven months he has already served. He is expected to be eligible for parole after serving two-thirds of his sentence, or four months." (**CTV**, February 8, 2007) Outside court, Steele's mother had a message for the Creba family, "The loss of her life is our loss." With no explanation forthcoming, it's hard to see how. The cocaine Steele was stashing at his mother's home was uncovered in the course of the lengthy police investigation into the Creba killing: Steele "was listed as one of 25 suspects in a police release on the case last June. His home was subsequently raided. However, Mr. Steele's family, represented by Mr. Pieters, later filed suit against Toronto police. The suit claimed that while police did find illegal items, they found nothing related to the Creba investigation, and it charged several officers with abuse of process, false arrest and conspiracy to injure. ... Things became even more bizarre during Mr. Steele's bail review in December of last year. Police had been intercepting calls from his home as part of their investigation. One of the calls involved his mother, **Valarie Steele**, the former president of the **Jamaican Canadian Association**. The conversation, recorded in March of last year, came at a time when Ms. Steele was [an Ontario] housing tribunal adjudicator. The tribunal's job is to settle disputes between landlords and tenants, and Ms. Steele was heard tipping off a friend that she was about to hear her case. 'Don't tell anybody you know me,' Ms. Steele was heard telling her friend over the phone. 'Just play it cool, this conversation never happened.' Although unrelated to the charges against Mr. Steele or the Creba shooting investigation, the revelation stunned the courtroom at the time, and sparked calls for a review of cases Ms. Steele was involved in as an adjudicator." (**Globe and Mail**, February 8, 2007) She has been charged and fired. Meanwhile, her son (not such a product of deprivation and exclusion after all it seems) "plans to fight a subpoena forcing him to testify at the trial of eight men charged with murder or manslaughter in the **Riverdale Collegiate** student's death, said lawyer **Selwyn Pieters**. The man was an 'innocent bystander,' Pieters said, adding he can't explain how his client suffered a gunshot wound. [Wasn't that a 'police allegation' a day earlier?] Explaining the man's refusal to testify, Pieters said his client has the right not to 'give any evidence that could be twisted and turned and used against him.'" (**National Post**, February 9, 2007)

Finally, to add insult to endless injury, the creator of a short film about **Jane Creba** says he has been passed over for top honours in a film competition for the usual reasons: 22-year-old **Elias Idrissa** "was named the winner of the age 14 to 17 category. He should've been entered in the 18- to 24-year-old category. ... The Toronto resident thought he'd won the grand prize - enough money to cover film school tuition for a year [but, citing a computer glitch, film fest organizer **Craig Goodwill**] says he couldn't simply give the prize to someone at least five years older than his competitors. ... Goodwill instead sent Idrissa a **Microsoft Xbox** and offered to declare the Creba film an honorary winner. [But according to Idrissa] when he tried to sell the **Xbox** online, he says three supposed buyers came to his girlfriend's house in Ottawa and stole the \$500 gaming system. ... Idrissa's frustration prompted a flurry of e-mail exchanges with Goodwill. Idrissa told Goodwill, 'If I was a White Canadian boy everything would be different.'" (**Toronto Star**, February 6, 2007) Well, there wouldn't have been any consolation prize.