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Try To Think Of It As A Door Closing

"The characteristics of immigrant [sic] is when one door opens another closes." (Former **Immigration Minister, Joe Volpe, CTV**, November 21, 2005) Couldn't have misstated it better ourselves.

Christmas Package

"More than 1,100 tsunami survivors ... were accepted into Canada as permanent residents under a fast-track program ... About 750 of those who were issued visas have now arrived." (**CTV** December 24, 2005)

Green Card v Green Eyed Monster

"A 2005 **Pew** survey of Mexicans found that 46% of the country's adults -- about 32 million people -- would move to the U.S. if they had the means and the opportunity, half of them illegally if necessary. The same survey found that 35% of Mexican college graduates would move, *even for work at a job below their qualifications*." (**Financial Post**, April 21, 2006) Nice to see departmental standards of incompetence reach right down to **Immigration Canada's** recruiting arm. For some mysterious reason, Mexico's 'brain surgeons' would rather put in a few years as an American bus boy than a Canadian anything -- despite inducements like visa free entry, full benefits and hundreds of millions of tax dollars dedicated to bringing foreigners up to speed. As noted in **Hotline #183** (April 2006), Mexico was, however, Canada's largest supplier of "refugees" last year, with just 510 proving out among more than 3,500. Over the past three years, Mexico has also supplied us with more "persecuted homosexuals" than any other country -- 602 of 2,500 such claims. As noted, Mexico has thriving homosexual communities, **Gay Pride** parades, gay weddings and organized gay tours; many of these "persecuted homosexuals" are simply **HIV-positive** individuals looking for deluxe treatment facilities. At some point, Ottawa really must ask itself how we managed to position ourselves as lodestar to **AIDS** refugees, geriatric family reunification candidates and carping foreign university graduates (if you can believe the paperwork), while American cachet remains high without bankrupting the treasury.

An Amnesty From Amnesties?

Immigration Minister Monte Solberg "said that Canada does not plan to give the 200,000 unauthorized foreigners, including up to 15,000 unauthorized construction workers in the Toronto area, legal status. The previous three Liberal immigration ministers announced plans to regularize the status of illegal immigrants. ... The **Canadian Border Services Agency** expects to remove 10,000 foreigners in 2006. Canada had *legalization* programs in 1960, 1972-73, 1986, 1989 and 1995, with most targeted on particular groups." (**Migration News**, April 2006) Note that three of the five amnesties occurred on **Conservative** watches: Under the 1960 **Adjustment Statement Policy**, the Tories promised amnesty without deportation or criminal charge to Chinese illegals willing to come forward with truthful statements about how they had entered Canada and about their actual family composition. Thousands had created "slots" by exaggerating family size at initial interviews with Canadian immigration officials. These slots were blue chip assets. In due course, the highest bidder arrived in Canada posing as the fictitious relative. Although the Adjustment statement programme endured for 30 years, Ottawa pardoned 11,569 Chinese in the first decade alone. Under the 1972-73 **Liberal** scheme, 39,000 mostly American draft dodgers were amnestied. Then, to tidy up a backlog of in-country refugee claimants, the Conservatives would "regularize" the status of 85% of the 28,000 who applied for a 1986 amnesty. In 1989, the Conservatives responded to Tiananmen by once again "relaxing" requirements for

Chinese in Canada -- about 8,000 achieved permanent residence in this way. Finally, on the strength of nothing more than an affidavit affirming identity, the Liberals would engineer landed immigrant status for thousands of what may or may not be Somalis and Afghans. In both countries, the chronic inability to form a credible government left millions without documentation. Unfortunately, there was absolutely nothing in place to prevent footloose *mujahadin* or garden variety criminals from exploiting our own lapses. The ease with which the eldest member of the July 21 terror cell bluffed his way into Britain was exposed on his capture in Italy: The head of Italy's anti-terrorism branch, **Carlo De Stefano**, said **Hamdi Adus Issac** (who invented the name **Hussein Osman** for the purpose of entering Britain as a Somali asylum seeker) "claimed he was fleeing the Somali war when he was in fact an Ethiopian who had spent five years living apparently peacefully in Italy. [Isaac] is an Ethiopian, speaking with a dialect from a region which borders Somalia. Like five of his brothers, he lived in Italy from 1991 to 1996, but decided to move to Britain. 'He falsely declared he was a Somali citizen to obtain the status of political refugee and economic assistance more easily,' he said, clearly implying that welfare was an attraction. Claiming Somali status has been a common tactic among bogus asylum seekers. No documentation is needed and without it the **Home Office** could grant citizenship based on nothing more than the say-so of the applicant. An official said that language checks have now been introduced to ascertain **Somalian** status, and that each asylum seeker is screened for personal circumstance. The **Home Office** added that it takes precautions to stop such bogus asylum claims and recently outlawed the common practice of destroying identity documents en route to Britain. 'Normally, people destroy their documents because we cannot send them back without them, should their asylum claim fail,' said a spokesman." (**The Scotsman**, August 2, 2005) To our knowledge, Canada has taken no such precautions -- not before granting a free pass to thousands -- or since.

Honk If You Hate Being Taken

Remember the gypsy invasion? It is a tribute to legal-aid funded stall tactics that the Roma (as we have been instructed to call them) have just realized a major victory: "The **Immigration and Refugee Board** showed bias when it rejected the asylum bids of two Hungarian Roma families in a 'lead case' aimed at reducing the number of positive decisions in similar cases and deterring others from launching copycat claims, the **Federal Court of Appeal** has ruled. [The thousands of claims slowed to a trickle when visas were finally imposed against Czech visitors in 1997 and Hungarians in 2001] The court found that the panel knew the government was concerned about the huge influx of Roma claimants when it ruled on a lead case in 1998 that would serve as a guideline for members to follow on similar cases. ... Nine members of the [**Smajda** and **Geza**] families alleged they had suffered mistreatment in school, and were victims of physical attacks by racist groups. The board found some of the claimants lacked credibility and exaggerated the severity of their problems, ruling 'the purpose of Canada's refugee determination process is not to right another country's historical wrongs.' After the board rejected the families, the percentage of positive rulings in the case of Roma Hungarians dropped to just 9 per cent, from a high of 71 per cent six months earlier in December, 1998. ... In fashioning the two claims as a 'lead case,' the board did so without any publicity or consultation with the immigration law bar or interested non-governmental organizations, Judge Adams noted in his ruling. The board selected a qualified lawyer to represent the claimants, with the understanding he

would receive legal-aid funding, and then hand-picked the case and organized the testimony of expert witnesses, the judge said. -- including a Hungarian official and representatives from Roma groups. As well, news of the negative decision was leaked to the Hungarian media before it was released, in a move calculated to deter Roma from leaving for Canada to claim asylum. ... The court's decision, issued last week, sets an important precedent and could pave the way for hundreds -- even thousands -- of rejected Roma claimants to ask for their cases to be reopened." (**Globe and Mail**, April 5, 2006) Sigh.

The Removal Game

If you're like us, you've probably asked yourself why so many undeported criminals get a second chance to hurt Canadians. Sometimes it's just a matter of bookkeeping: "Since 1997, the number of foreign prisoners in United Kingdom jails has increased from 4,000 to more than 10,000: one in eight." (**The Scotsman**, May 1, 2006) At the same time, the pressure was on to implement **Tony Blair's** Feb 2003 pledge to slash refugee claims in Britain. The result was positively Canadian in its dystopic genius: An informant, "a key figure in the **Home Office's Immigration and Nationality Directorate (IND)**, said that under the policy, immigration officers were told NOT to visit prisons to serve deportation papers on foreign criminals who were about to be released. The instruction reversed a long-standing policy under which immigration officials visited prisons every week to monitor the release of foreign convicts. The source said: 'There was an unwritten rule that immigration officers could not go to prisons because senior officials knew that most of the prisoners up for deportation would automatically claim asylum. This was one of several *creative* solutions thought up by senior officials to please ministers. By not addressing the issue of people coming out of prison who were likely to claim asylum, the official figures would be reduced. That was definitely the bottom line.'" (**London Times**, April 30, 2006) As a result, 1,023 foreign bandits, rapists and murderers have slipped back, unremarked, among Britain's 60,000,000 residents. Although this has developed into a scandal in the UK, Canada's disproportionately higher tally of dangerous offenders is pretty ho hum: "As many as 3,000 people ordered deported from Canada for human rights abuses, terrorism ties, war crimes, gangsterism links or criminal convictions continue to linger in the country. ... Rejected from settling permanently in Canada because of their criminal offences, shady pasts or the potential security risks they pose, the 3,000 are among 30,000 expulsions that have not been carried out by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA). 'Most people on removal orders are failed refugee claimants,' said **Cara Prest**, a spokeswoman for the agency. 'We estimate that less than 10% of those on removal orders are linked to security, human or international rights violations, serious criminality or organized criminality.' [Oh, well then.] The agency was unable to further break down the numbers or specify how long the average case has been on the books. [Now there's a surprise. Some, like **Harjit (the Hammer of Sgro) Singh's**, were comically protracted 17-year pantomime horse routines. A decade after deportation proceedings against genocidist **Leon Mugesera** began, the fellow is still awaiting a pre-removal risk assessment; he may yet stay if his hyperactive lawyer can convince **Immigration Canada** that the architect of Rwandan slaughter is 'at risk' there. Gee, what're the odds? Palestinian hijacker **Mahmoud Mohammad Issa Mohammad**, who has grown old in Canada, now argues that it would be cruel and unusual punishment to deport a 62-year-old martyr to migraines, prostatitis, diabetes and high cholesterol.] **Sergio Karas**, a Toronto immigration lawyer, called the 3,000 unexecuted warrants for rights violators, war criminals and terrorists an 'astonishing number.' He said that while everyone is entitled to due process and has a right to their day in court ... the cases of known war criminals and convicted terrorists ought to be

fast-tracked. 'They should have a system of triage,' he suggested. 'You go to a hospital, and a triage nurse determines how quickly you see a doctor. Same thing here.'" (**National Post**, April 17, 2006) But the model is hardly exact, is it? No one suffering from kidney stones limps into a hospital with the express purpose of postponing surgery for decades with the active collusion of lawyers *they* do not have to pay. In 2003, Canadians learned that Ottawa had lost track of 59 modern day war criminals. Citing privacy concerns, the immigration minister categorically refused to release any details -- not a name, not a photo. Not to the public. Not to the police. Emboldened torturers and genocidists must have bounded for Canada with a whoop and a holler because by the following year, the number of war criminals missing in Canada had nearly doubled, to 125. These weren't the aged Central Europeans Ottawa flushes out of their senior citizen lairs, but men at the height of their malign powers from the Balkans, Middle East, Near East, Far East, Africa, South and Central America.

Kidney Refuge

Last September, a Filipino musician named **Alfredo Mabelot** collapsed on the cruise ship **Saga Ruby**, en route to Cape Breton Island. "'I was very sick, and no one knew what was wrong,' said Mabelot. 'The ship's doctor thought I might have sea sickness.' ... Mabelot was taken to the **Cape Breton Regional Hospital** in Sydney, where he was diagnosed with end-stage kidney failure. During the next two months, the hospital was his home while he received [intensive dialysis treatment] Now he hopes a successful refugee application will allow him to continue [all that and bring the wife and two daughters over too — Mabelot admits that he could not possibly cover his crippling medical expenses in the Philippines. To free up a precious hospital bed] the **Sisters of the Congregation of Notre Dame** were asked to accommodate Mabelot while he continued treatment. ... Following surgery to implant a catheter into his abdomen, Mabelot can now perform dialysis himself at home, exchanging solution in his abdomen at four to five specific times each day, seven days a week. ... Other than the weekly phone calls courtesy of members of the community who have donated phone cards, he keeps in touch with his family through daily e-mails. [Mabelot has lived off community charity since arriving.] Refugee and immigration lawyer **Lee Cohen** of Halifax [long time readers will remember this architect of the **Rudolpho Miguel** scam] said ... what makes the Mabelot case so intriguing, from a legal perspective, is that his life is so clearly in danger if he returns to the Philippines. Refugee claims, for the most part, are based on persecution, resulting primarily from political or religious issues and speculation on the possibility of loss of life or liberty. Due to his medical condition, 'in Freddie's case, loss of life is a certainty,' said Cohen. His dialysis 'quite literally keeps him alive. If he goes back to the Philippines, he will not be able to access the very medical care he is now receiving — without it he will die. It is a virtual certainty.' ... Mabelot's final and best option would be a transplant." (**Canadian Press**, April 28, 2006) But not a transplant back to the Philippines. Is it any wonder the ship's doctor hoped it might be nothing more than a bad case of sea sickness? How we become liable for a Filipino national, employed by a British vessel is beyond understanding. Well, no more than we were obviously on the hook when the employee of a Taiwanese shipping firm, fellow Filipino **Rudolpho Miguel**, spun his unprovable and ever-changing tale of the callous disposal of Romanian stowaways on the high seas. Rudolpho and Co. cried so often on cue, they must still be damp -- despite the ministerial permit they managed to acquire in the end. Of course, there is one common denominator -- **Lee Cohen Esq.** Less than a year ago, the **Saga Ruby** underwent a £17 million refit -- too bad the line did not think to splash out a little dough below decks, in the form of medical insurance (and rigorous physical examinations for

performers and crew), before weighing anchor. The moreso given that the Saga Ruby caters exclusively to the over-50 crowd.

Marginally Younger Immigrants

By now you know the drill: To keep us in our dotage, Canada needs at least a quarter of a million Third World immigrants trooping in each year -- probably more! A noticeable failure to size the reins and pass seamlessly into Canadian civil life is presumably what drives the suggestion that Canadians shouldn't really need to ever retire. The sad, if elusive, truth is that -- are you sitting down? -- immigrants age too. And the entire demographic argument is just another dysgenic house of cards: "The average age of the visible minority population will be 35.5 by 2017, compared with 43.4 years in the rest of the population, StatsCan says. (National Post, February 21, 2006) It's hardly what we've been led to believe, but what ever is?

Hey You, Back Of The Line

Last summer, "Gerard Kennedy, the Ontario Minister of Education, and now federal Liberal Party leadership hopeful, announced that 48,000 high school students in the 2003-2004 year had dropped out of school -- a 45% increase over the year before. At higher levels of education, the story is also one of decline; with the number of doctorate degrees awarded in vitally important disciplines such as engineering steadily decreasing for the past five years." (Ottawa Sun, August 25, 2005) Just coincidentally, the never ending imbroglio about foreign credentials and Canada's artificially high expectations started just about five years ago -- when the immigration department dumped the **Designated Occupations List** in favour of admitting what it likes to call "life long learners." Under the circumstances -- hundreds of millions devoted to getting rodeo medics and cabbies into operating theatres with a scalpel in hand -- can we really blame Canadian students if they conclude that the plum jobs won't be theirs for the asking?

Patsy Nation

"Data from the **United Nations High Commission for Refugees** found that in 2003, Canada accepted almost half (49.1%) of all refugee claimants, compared to an average of 12.6% in 17 other comparable countries including the United States (21.8%), the United Kingdom (5.9%), France (13.3%), Germany (4.7%), Australia (9.5%) and Sweden (1.8%). In other words Canada's acceptance rate was almost four times the average in the other countries." (Toronto Sun, April 1, 2006)

Let's Revise Those Corruption Perceptions

"Citizenship and Immigration Canada investigated 106 cases of malfeasance and employee misconduct at its offices in Canada and overseas last year, most of them involving allegations of preferential treatment, unauthorized release of information and solicitation of bribes. An internal audit substantiated 15 of 54 complaints involving employees in Canada and six of 52 complaints involving immigration officers at missions overseas in the period from October of 2004 to September of 2005, according to a **CIC** report." (Globe and Mail, April 28, 2006) Funny, how you always get the impression that it is the foreign hires who are susceptible to graft and bribery. Welcome to the malodorous world of Immigration Canada, where the truth is *always* ghastlier than anything you might imagine by several magnitudes.

I'm With Stupid

Prior to 1967, about 90 per cent of immigrants to Canada came from whence they'd always come -- Europe. In a little less than 40 years, this enduring tide was reversed, with 90% of arrivals coming from Third World countries in the last decade. And more than ever are

arriving; where Canada admitted 70,000 to 80,000 immigrants annually throughout the 1970s and 80s, more than three times that many rolled in each year of the past decade. Under the 1976 **Immigration Act**, Canada abandoned 'ethnic preferences' that had preserved the nation's existing ethnic make up. But if immigration itself has become nonsense, multiculturalism is nonsense on stilts. The government adopted the **Multicultural Act** in 1988. In 1986, minorities accounted for just 6% of the population; a ratio that verges on 20% today. According to the (April 17, 2006) Toronto Star, "49 per cent of immigrant children who've been in Canada for at least five years live in poverty," usually in poor, immigrant enclaves. "In April [2004], the **United Way** of Greater Toronto published a watershed report, Poverty by Postal Code. ... It found that the number of poor Toronto neighbourhoods -- neighbourhoods with more than 26 per cent of families living below the poverty line -- had increased to 130 in 2001 from 30 just two decades ago. ... Researchers discovered that, instead of living in mixed socio-economic neighbourhoods as they did 20 years ago, most poor families are now far more concentrated in low-income neighbourhoods. Those same neighbourhoods also possess other troubling characteristics: they tend to be dominated by immigrants and visible minorities." (Toronto Star, September 28, 2004) Rather than admit that this unprecedented social petrie dish might just need some fine tuning, Ottawa is increasingly bellicose about immigration policies. Now, whether immigrants fail economically, blow innocent bystanders away in running gun battles, or take violent exception to our traditions, the official response is the immediate conjuring of alibis: they're not failing, we've gotten carried away with this whole "high standards" thing; they're not violent gangbangers, we've marginalized them; they're not imposing their standards like a conquering army, we've got to open ourselves up to enrichment. The default position is for Canadians to assume the full burden and responsibility for immigrant failings and attendant hypersensitivities. Psychologists and social workers have a word for that kind of relationship: Enabler. It is the very definition of the enabler to alibi, cover up, pick up the slack, finish the job or make excuses for the incorrigibly unproductive and/or self destructive. In families undergoing unbearable emotional trauma, one coping mechanism is to alibi for the addicted or destructive partner as the miscreant continues those behaviours. In short, Canadians have been bullied into the role of the low esteem partner in a disordered relationship. Like all dysfunctional families, Canadians do not officially admit that problems exist and they certainly don't talk about problems they cannot acknowledge. While this creates a distemper for both immigrants and Canadians, the regulatory constraints of human rights commissions and hate laws push the whole, repressive mess into the nightmare realms of **Orwell** and **Kafka**.

CRIME WATCH

Promise Them Anything

Like popping a pacifier into baby's mouth, Canadians were told during the last ten minutes of the Chinese smuggling crisis that penalties for human smugglers had been strengthened to million-dollar fines and/or life in prison. Typically, when the first big test came along, Winnipeg lawyer and freelance smuggler **Ingrid (Yin-Yu) Chen** received nothing more than a half-hearted slap on the wrist -- a one-year conditional sentence, or house arrest -- for conspiring to smuggle one **Ferdinand Gutierrez** into the US. Under May 2004 sentencing conditions, Chen was subject to a 24-hour curfew, but was allowed out of the house to work. Amusingly, she had set up an immigration consultancy after the **Manitoba Law Society** suspended her licence in 1999. Nevertheless, Chen argued that her, er, sentence, was unduly "harsh and excessive," all the way to the **Supreme Court** (which refused to hear her tale of woe). But early this year, Ms. Chen was

collect unpaid debts from her clients. ... Several counts of extortion and conspiracy to commit extortion ... involve two former clients -- **Douglas Gretchen**, who once hired Chen to do immigration work for him, and **Mychael Dunn**, who once borrowed \$4,000 from her. After a falling out with Chen, Gretchen refused to pay his bill, later suing her and winning a default judgement when she failed to appear in small claims court. ... During the spring of 1999, Gretchen was paid a visit by **Patrick Armstrong**, who, the Crown says, was hired by Chen to intimidate Chen's associates into paying her back. A similar visit was paid by Armstrong to Dunn, who had already been ordered by small claims court to repay the amount he'd borrowed ... Armstrong tried to induce him to sign over ownership of a satellite receiver, satellite phone, **VCR** and stereo. ... 'Armstrong was a paid enforcer hired to scare Mr. Dunn into paying up,' [Crown attorney **Pat**] **Flynn** told court. [Chen] is also still pending trial on other charges from 2004 of providing false information on a passport application and failing to comply with the condition of a recognisance." (**Winnipeg Sun**, February 21, 2006) It's a long way from life in prison and a million dollar fine.

More Fatal Negligence

Chinese visa student "**Min Chen**, 23, pleaded guilty yesterday to second-degree murder in the kidnapping and smothering death of [9-year-old **Cecilia (Dong-Yue) Zhang**], a case that sparked sympathy and fear throughout Toronto in 2003 and 2004. ... On the night of Oct. 20, 2003, he crept ... through a kitchen window -- leaving behind finger and palm prints for investigators ... but they weren't a match to any known prints." (**Toronto Sun**, May 10, 2006)

In other words, had **Immigration Canada** implemented the most elementary of control measures -- fingerprinting students applying to study in Canada -- the case would have been solved overnight! Chen wanted the ransom money to bribe a woman to enter into an arranged marriage so that he could stay in Canada. Another lethal failure to screen newcomers!

Idi Amin Made Me Do It

"A Winnipeg banker who lived the high life after stealing more than \$3 million from one of his clients blamed his 10-year slide into larceny on his desire to give his wife a baby. **Frederick Kasule**, a former financial planner with the **Royal Bank**, funnelled the money from the account of a wealthy Winnipeg businessman and into his own beginning in 1994 [making] more than 140 withdrawals from the client's account before another employee notified bank investigators of 'irregularities' in the account in early 2004. When questioned by investigators, the Ugandan native claimed to have spent \$300,000 on fertility treatments in the U.S. [But **Crown Attorney Don**] **Melnyk** said there was no evidence Kasule spent any more than a few thousand dollars on fertility treatments. A forensic audit showed Kasule stole \$3.2 million to 'support a luxurious lifestyle mainly reserved for people of considerable wealth,' Melnyk said. ... Kasule racked up \$540,000 in credit card bills, sent more than \$400,000 to family and friends in Uganda, and spent \$78,000 on a motorcycle and SUV. [His] most lavish purchase was a \$365,000 river lot home. ... Defence lawyer **Norm Cuddy** said Kasule suffered post-traumatic stress disorder from living under the regime of former Ugandan dictator **Idi Amin**." (**Winnipeg Sun**, April 22, 2006) Thirty years ago. Perhaps his lawyer does not expect to be paid.

Yves Of Destruction

Former **IRB** judge **Yves Bourbonnais** will not darken a courtroom door until Sept. 12th. If anyone's still counting, that's five years from the time he was charged. The delay is largely the result of Bourbonnais' ferocious efforts to unload his legal bills on the taxpayer. As if laying the groundwork for an insanity defence, he has argued that since his alleged misdeeds took place in the course of his government employment, the government should be on the hook for

his tab. He was not, mercifully, gratified in his delusions. Come September, he will answer 97 charges, including breach of trust, obstruction of justice and defrauding the government. Some of these charges are not unfamiliar to Mr. Bourbonnais -- as a lawyer with the **Quebec Justice Dept.**, (before his miraculous rehabilitary appointment to the **IRB**), he was charged, convicted, sent to prison and disbarred for a sideline selling off government antiques. His current difficulties stem from an ambitious kickback and influence peddling scheme that gave doubtful refugee claimants the opportunity to purchase favourable decisions for \$10,000 to \$15,000. In one case, "Bourbonnais ordered a five-year stay of proceeding, after a man who faced expulsion agreed to pay \$2,000 for each year that his deportation was delayed, court filings and previous hearings show." (**Globe and Mail**, February 21, 2006) An oddball assortment of 11 co-conspirators was charged in 2001 with 278 offences. On March 2, one of these, waiter **Liu Wai Keung**, was sentenced to 20 months, over his lawyer's assertions that Liu depended on the extra income to subsidize gambling and alcohol addictions: "A list of refugee claimants whose cases were scheduled to be heard by the **IRB's** appellate division was supplied to [Liu] by his boss, **Woon Lam (Bill) Wong**, owner of the [**Café Nanking**] restaurant where Liu worked and at one time president of Montreal's **Chinese Chamber of Commerce**. [Liu's role was] to remit envelopes of cash to Wong, who in turn would meet an **IRB** judge at a cafe to hand over the money. Wong pleaded guilty in 2004 to 16 charges. He was given a three-year prison term." (**Montreal Gazette**, March 3, 2006) In addition to making the initial approach to "refugee claimants, Liu and another man who has admitted involvement, **Zhang Yong An**, were responsible for delivering the cash payments to Wong. Wong, according to evidence tabled in court, was allegedly supposed to hand them over to Mr. Bourbonnais during meetings at a cafe." (**National Post**, February 21, 2006) In April, it was the turn of Bourbonnais' 73-year-old tailor, **Franco Macaluso**. He was sentenced to 22 months in jail, 2 years probation and \$1,000 fine: In his decision, the judge "wrote that Macaluso acted as a middle man between Bourbonnais, for whom he made suits, and [yet another conspirator] **Nirmal Singh**, who had been having problems with his own immigration status in Canada. ... Approximately \$23,000 exchanged hands on four occasions, but Macaluso didn't benefit financially. ... Singh, who already has been sentenced to three years, [was another roper. In his summation, the judge said] Macaluso's admiration for those in high positions was one of the reasons Macaluso ended up in trouble. ... 'He assumed that the activities were legal because it was his friend the judge who was asking him to participate.'" (**Montreal Gazette**, April 21, 2006)

HEALTH WATCH

In Ottawa's Thanatological World, AIDS Is Diversity

"**HIV**-positive refugees accepted into Canada are not a threat to public safety and are not a drain on the public health care system. **Citizenship and Immigration** says. The federal department was responding to a report this week about statistics that show the government approves refugee status to hundreds of **HIV**-positive newcomers to Canada. Recently released national statistics obtained through access to information legislation by immigration lawyer **Richard Kurland** show that between January 2002 and October 2003, about 300 **HIV**-positive refugees from around the globe were accepted into Ontario, the largest number in any Canadian province for that period. Another 150 settled in Quebec, with 35 in B.C., 20 in Alberta and a handful in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Nova Scotia. 'They are not considered to be a risk to public health because the disease is treatable and is contracted through specific behaviour like sexual contact,' said Citizenship and Immigration spokesperson **Kara Prest**." (**London Free Press**, September 3, 2005)