

De Licit #37

STALLED TRANSIT TALKS COULD MEAN TROUBLE FOR COMMUTERS, A3

THE VANCOUVER SUN

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NEWS
IN CONTEXT
SEASON OF GROWTH GETS LONGER AS EARTH WARMS

Bank predicts B.C.'s economy will slowly recover this year

Star of Shakespeare in Love filming here

While the economy shrank by 0.5 per cent last year, it will show about 0.5 per cent growth this year, the Bank of Montreal forecasts.

WILLIAM STEVENS
NEW YORK TIMES

NEW YORK — Separate studies using different methods in the last three years have found that as the Earth's atmosphere warms, spring is arriving earlier and autumn is coming later in the Northern Hemisphere.

Much of the evidence had been indirect but now a direct examination of the annual behaviour of plants across Europe appears to confirm the earlier findings.

The new evidence comes from a network of 77 research sites, called the International Phenological Gardens. Spread across the length and breadth of Europe, from northern Scandinavia to Greece and from Spain and Ireland to Poland and Bulgaria, the gardens contain genetically identical clones of various species of trees and shrubs.

Each spring from 1999 to 1995, observers at the sites recorded the dates when buds first appeared, leaves unfolded and plants flowered. Each fall, the observers noted the dates when leaves turned colour and fell from trees.

Analyzing the resulting mass of data, two researchers at the University of Munich in Germany have found that over the three decades, the advent of spring advanced an average of six days, while autumn was delayed an average of about five days.

This 11-day lengthening of the growing season was caused by warmer temperatures, concluded the researchers, Dr. Annette Menzel, a specialist in the study of forests, and Dr. Peter Fabian, who specializes in climate, meteorology and forests. Their report appears in the current issue of *Nature*.

Since the late 19th century, the average surface temperature of the Earth has risen by about one degree Fahrenheit or a little more, with northern latitudes warming more than the global average. Most climate experts believe that emissions of heat-trapping waste industrial gases like carbon dioxide, a product of the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil, are responsible for at least some of this warming.

SEE CLIMATE, A4

Police push the hunt for home invaders

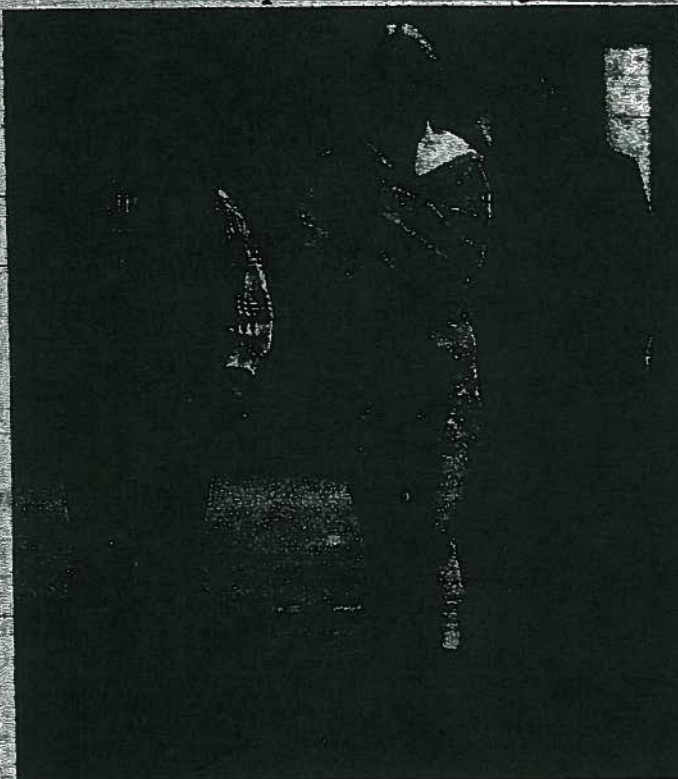
LINDSAY KING
VANCOUVER SUN

It's been almost a month since the last home invasion targeting elderly victims in Vancouver, but at the police station on Main Street, investigators show no signs of relaxing.

Anything, the opposite is true as Chief Constable Bruce Chisholm continues to make money and personnel available for a problem that has afflicted the city's most vulnerable citizens.

Police believe the same two or three people are responsible for 31 invasions of elderly people's homes since 1994, including 13 since last November. One of those home invasions in 1996 ended in a fatality when a couch was placed over 75-year-old Frances Joan Hunter and she suffocated.

SEE INVESTIG, A1



Special to The Vancouver Sun

STAR GAZING Gwyneth Paltrow (centre) walks down a Vancouver alleyway on Monday while working on *Duets*, the film she is shooting here with her father, director Bruce Paltrow. The younger Paltrow, who was also spotted dining recently with Vancouver singer Sarah McLachlan, has also starred in a string of successful movies such as *Sliding Doors* and won an Oscar nomination for her performance in *Shakespeare in Love*.

Judge's apology not expected to save him from job review

JANICE TIBBETT'S
SOUTHWAN NEWS/OPINION

OTTAWA — Alberta Court of Appeal Justice John McClung apologized Monday for his "overwhelming error" of lashing out at Supreme Court Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dube, but it did not stop the Canadian Judicial Council from initiating a review that could cost him his job.

McClung, in a rare, written public apology, said he regretted writing a letter to the *National Post* in which he criticized the Supreme Court and

L'Heureux-Dube for overruling one of his rulings on sexual assault.

"I allowed myself to be provoked into writing to the *National Post*," wrote McClung. "I wish to acknowledge that there was no justification for my doing so. I regret my reaction and appreciate that a circumstance could justify the media as an avenue for the expression of my disappointment."

McClung also apologized for his "fanciful claim," directed at L'Heureux-Dube, in which he said her reasons for the ruling

were "personal invective" that could account for the high rate of male suicide in her home province of Quebec.

L'Heureux-Dube's husband committed suicide in 1978.

"What compounded my indignation was the fact that Justice L'Heureux-Dube had undergone a suicide bereavement in her own family," said McClung, whose own father committed suicide.

"It was a cruel coincidence to which the ought not to have been subjected," he said.

SEE McCLUNG, A3

McCLUNG'S PUBLIC APOLOGY, A8

'Marijuana-addict' juror excused from trial

One man is excused after two members of the jury admit prior knowledge of a witness in a murder case

The man, identified only as juror 1209, said in spite of his symptoms — irritability and shakiness of his hands — he felt he could continue as a juror.

The jury began to consider its verdict last Friday concerning the fire of three accused: Steven Elylo, Serge Tumpin and Wayne Tubley.

Elylo, 24, is accused of robbery and first-degree murder in the death of Lord's Lair Arcade worker Edward Chownick, 39, who was beaten to death Dec. 5, 1994. Tumpin, 34, and Tubley, 37, are accused of robbing Chownick of about \$6,000 in coins and bills.

Juror 1209, who bore a striking resemblance to the Newman character from the television show *Schubie*, was first brought into the court Monday morning to be questioned by Justice Ely, who then asked the juror to be excused after the head juror sent a note to the judge.

The note said two jurors had admitted to having knowledge about "Fag Bob," a witness at the trial who testified he was a marijuana dealer.

One juror told the judge he had helped someone else

years ago and the person had supplied beer, pizza and marijuana. The marijuana had been obtained by "Fag Bob," recalled the balding man, who said he felt he could continue doing his duty as a juror.

The other juror, 1201, told jurors he had done a variety of drugs and that he knew of Fag Bob. He told the judge he only had peripheral knowledge of the witness and felt he could continue to perform his duty.

The judge decided not to excuse either juror. The jury then

SEE INVESTIG, A3

BRUCE CONSTANTINEAU
BUSINESS REPORTER

The British Columbia economy will slowly pull out of its recession this year, but economic growth will be marginal, according to a Bank of Montreal forecast.

The bank estimates the

provincial economy shrank by 0.5 per cent last year and predicts it will rebound slightly with positive growth of 0.5 per cent this year and 1.7 per cent in 2000.

Several other forecasters predict B.C. will remain mixed in a negative growth mode this year, but bank chief economist Tim O'Neill feels the worst may be over for the province.

"It would take another major hit of the sort we saw last year to generate a further recession in B.C. this year," O'Neill said in an interview Monday.

"Asia is showing signs of turning around and that will help the B.C. commodity sector. At least commodity prices shouldn't fall any more."

He said a continued robust U.S. economy and low Canadian dollar should stimulate provincial exports, particularly in 2000, when resource-based industries begin a gradual recovery.

O'Neill also noted B.C. produced 57,000 new jobs last year and while many were part-time and in the self-employment category, they should still provide a boost to consumer spending.

He said B.C. remains vulnerable to the "fragile" situations in Asia and commodity markets, but the forecast emphasized the burgeoning high-tech sector, which represents at least three per cent of the provincial economy, will continue to expand.

"Future growth will increasingly rest on smaller economic sectors such as high-tech industries," the bank forecast states.

In particular, the electrical and electronic products industries

SEE ECONOMY, A1

WEATHER

STILL JANUARY: Someone forgot to tell the weather gods we've moved into March. Perhaps some sun definitely some clouds, maybe some rain, and — a chance of flurries. Details, B2

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Missing Women Commission of Inquiry

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