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Cover Photo

Photographer Greg Griffith captures Stephanie Sloan having some good clean Spring fun.

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THE WHISTLER ANSWER IS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER BY HIGH COUNTRY COMMUNICATION INC., A WHISTLER OWNED AND OPERATED COMPANY. THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF THE WHISTLER ANSWER ARE COPYRIGHTED AND MAY NOT BE REPRODUCED, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE PUBLISHER.

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This Thing Has a Life All It's Own

By Charlie Doyle

The question most asked was "Why bring back the *Answer*?" Why re-introduce a monthly magazine into a publishing fray that includes two legitimate weeklies and a host of interlopers? Why get re-involved with an industry that is rarely profitable, consumes an enormous amount of time and routinely contributes to all manner of break downs? (nervous, financial, auto, family) The question wasn't as simple as Colebrook needing a job—it required some serious thought.

Personally, things were cruising along quite comfortably. As anyone with two pre-schoolers can attest, the home front was anything but boring. Although Mieke gave me that raised eye-

brow look that said "Are you sure you want to do this?" there was no voiced objection. The sign and design business was rewarding and seemed under control. There was even time left over for a bit of skiing. In retrospect, it sounds like fertile ground for a mid-life crisis.

In the ten years since we last published many people have aggravated for the *Answer's* return. In response, I would usually mumble some inanity to get myself off the immediate hook, but they persisted. I could ignore otherwise intelligent people waxing poetic, but when they offered financial support, I had no choice but to review my thinking.

The plan was hatched over a couple of Sharpes at Dusty's. Colebrook and I arriving independently with de-alcoholized

Publisher's Preamble

beverages was, we thought, an auspicious beginning. From there the pieces seemed to just fall into place. Former *Answer*ites Jim Monahan and Ian Verchere were in touch; Nigel and Karen Protter of D Lux Media seemed ready to drag us, kicking and screaming, into the computer age; while Grant Lamont's knack for making lists and other obfuscation made him a shoo-in for Mike Leierer's old job. Harley Paul said he'd do his best to keep the libel suits at bay. Shutterbugs old and new were brought on board. April 1, 1992 was to be the fifteenth anniversary of our original unveiling. This thing had a life all its own! We were off to the races.

The folks mentioned above are only a fraction of those who pitch in each month to make the *Answer* a real reflection of this valley. This first issue leans, by necessity, on the contributors we are familiar with, but more will get involved. We will regularly feature local sports, feature stories, satire, political comment, adventure, photos, entertainment and anything remotely relevant to Whistler and environs. If you've got something you want to see in print give us a call. We'd like to hear from you.



SEPPHO AND A COUPLE OF ASSOCIATES CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT HE IS OFFICIALLY THE FIRST SUBSCRIBER TO THE ANSWER. SEPPHO PAID FOR HIS SUBSCRIPTION ON JANUARY 12TH WHEN HE FIRST HEARD THAT WE WERE DOING THE ANSWER AGAIN.

Letters

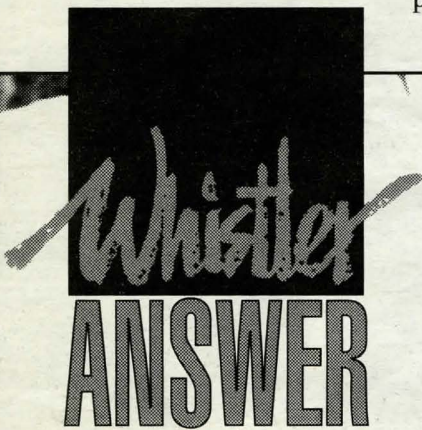
T-Shirt Al Makes Sound Investment

Hi folks,

Please, please, please accept my application for a subscription to the new *Whistler Answer*. I was the first subscriber to the original *Answer*, on April 1, 1977. Seppo beat me to the punch to be the first subscriber this time, but I'd be honored to be the second, so I can read about what's really happening at Whistler.

I'm looking forward to the first edition of the *Whistler Answer*...uh...um...ah...uh, what was the *Question*?

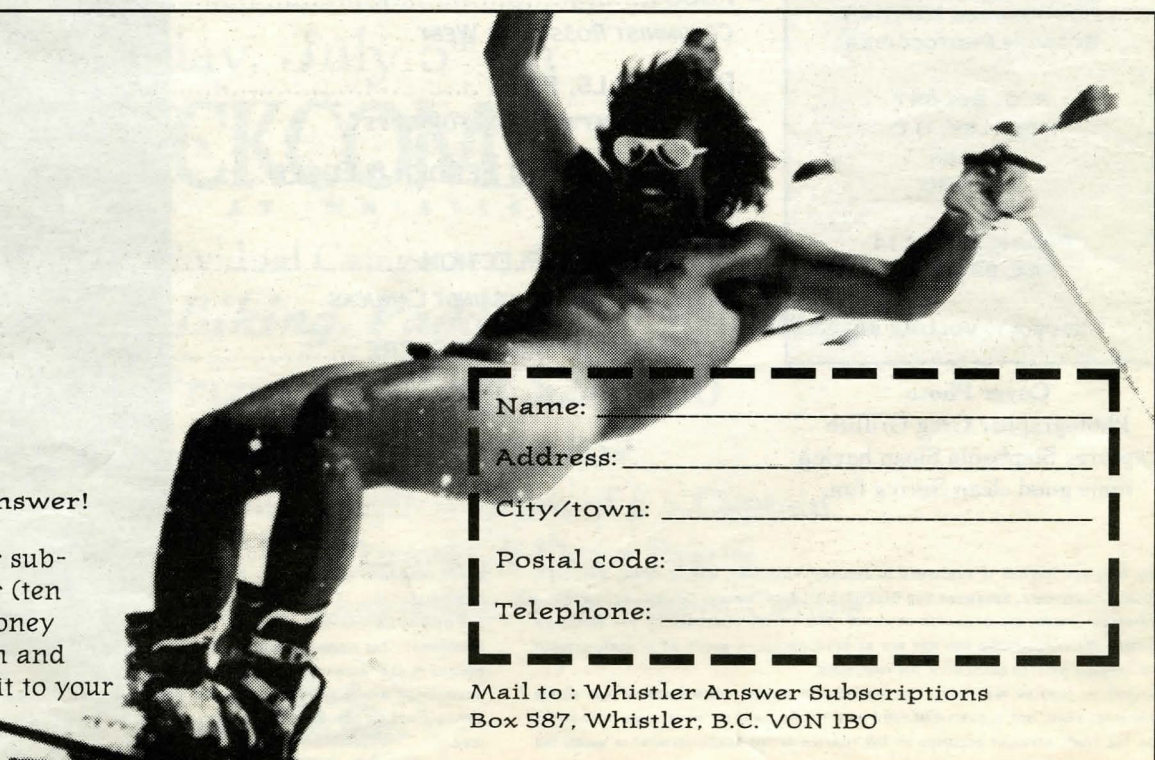
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Whistler Landmark To Be Destroyed By B.C. Rail Without Explanation

Tokum Corners

B.C. Rail is ordering the demolition of one of Whistler's most historic heritage buildings, but they refuse to say why.

"No reason given," says current resident Drew Tait of B.C. Rail's intransigent display of repressive hegemony.

Tokum Corner, by the tracks at the south end of Alta Lake, was built in the Thirties, but became prominent in the early Seventies. "It was one of the focal points in the valley for all the young and rotting minds," says Tait. The three bedroom house has a funky look to it, and is an interesting blend of the past and present. Tokum has wood heat and an outhouse, yet also boasts cablevision and an elaborate stereo system. Stationed out front is the "Motor Moose," a large ungodly metal sculpture that Tait says is a "Martian Communicator."

Tokum was host to many parties, including The Billy McKay Memorial Watersports Day and the autumn beer making contest held under the auspices of the Royal Canadian Zymological Society. Tokum also acted as headquarters of the R & D Department (run and duck) of WASA (Westside Aeronautical and Space Administration.)

Tokum has such historical significance that a run on Whistler Mountain was named in its honour, thanks to Bruce Prentice and Rod MacLeod.

B.C. Rail leases the land but doesn't own the building. They have ordered Tait and company to remove the building by the end of May. Their suggestion is that it be

"Anyone wanting to destroy Tokum Corners should check in for a complete neurological overhaul."

burned down as a practice exercise for the Whistler Fire Department. When asked if he will comply, Tait says, "maybe, maybe not."

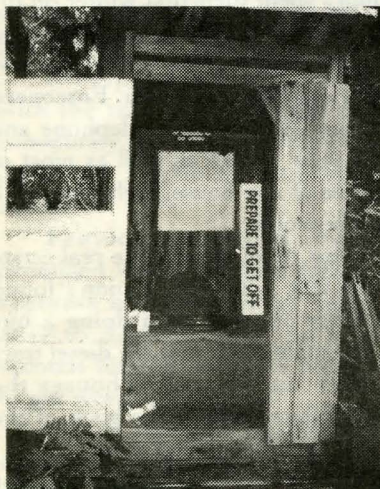
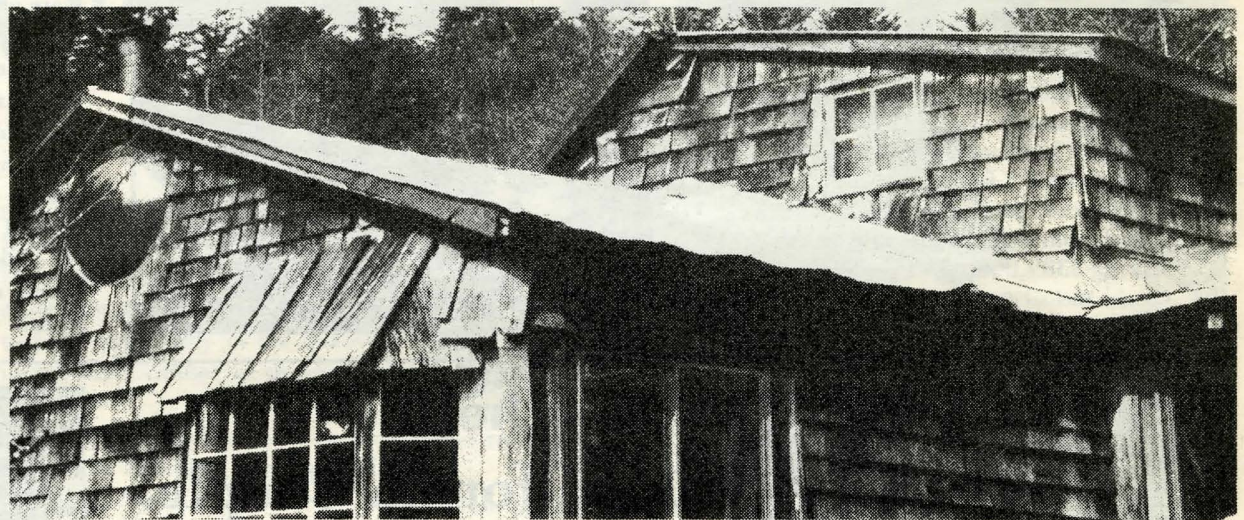
The current residents, Tait, Lou Ann Snyder, Al Shelley and Bobbie Johnson are going to "celebrate" Tokum's demise by hosting one last blowout on the May 24th weekend. Tait is coy when asked what will transpire that weekend, but notes that revelers should expect a few "surprises." —B.C.



BOBBIE JOHNSON AND DREW TAIT ENJOY ONE OF THE FEW SPRING DAYS LEFT FOR TOKUM. PHOTOS BY ELWYN ROWLANDS



LOOKING AT TOKUM MEMORABILIA ARE SOME FORMER RESIDENTS AND ASSOCIATES, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT, BRUCE PRENTICE, JONI, JOYCE HETHERINGTON, CHRIS SPEEDIE, JOHN HETHERINGTON, MAX AND KELLY MAXWELL.



ONE OF THE FEW FUNCTIONING OUTHOUSES IN WHISTLER WILL BE HISTORY AT THE END OF MAY. THE ANSWER BELIEVES THAT THIS PROUD ARTIFACT FROM OUR PAST SHOULD BE ON PROMINENT DISPLAY AT THE WHISTLER MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES.

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Phrank Gossip

Baby Jake brings the Gold back to Whistler

Olympic gold medalist Kerrin Lee-Gartner (right) may have won the Silver at the World Cup Super G at Panorama last month, but Whistler's Jake Rowlands, (1 year, 5 months), brought back the gold from that Super G to Whistler.

It seems that Southside Jake, born in Squamish, became quite attached to France's



ELWYN ROWLANDS PHOTOS

Carole Merle at the Panorama Race. (They were often seen arm in arm.)

Merle, the winner of the Super G, has quite an attachment for younger men, and was so smitten by Jake's charms that she gave him the gold medal from the race. Jake, seen here wearing his new medal, says that he will always cherish it and that it fits neatly into the back of his dump truck.

Jake's parents, Elwyn Rowlands and Kim Wolfe, really know how to pick winning baby-sitters.



Southern California Couple Keep On Truckin'

If you saw Michael and Patrice Quinn's rig coming down the road you might ask "what the hell is that?"

Guesses have ranged from a helicopter hauling rig to an automobile racing team to someone who does special effects for the movies. In reality, it is the Quinn's on permanent vacation, which they call their QUINNtessential odyssey through North America.

They are doing it in an elaborate 65 foot long rig that is one of the more unique recreational vehicles on the road. The Quinn's pull their top of the line 1990 Newmar Londaire trailer (with a slide out) behind a 1973 rebuilt and reconditioned 1973 International Transtar 4200 diesel tractor, capable of pulling 80,000 pounds.

Michael Quinn is a retired policeman from Southern California, who along with his wife Patrice, an administrative assistant in the law



PATRICE AND MICHAEL QUINN DIDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ROAD HOGS ON THEIR JOURNEY TO WHISTLER.

department of a real estate company, got tired of the urban blight in the Los Angeles area and decided to see North America, with particular emphasis on the ski areas.

The Quinn's spent their first winter on the road at Lake Tahoe. On the recommendation of friends they then set out for Whistler, arriving in the early autumn of last year. Enscoced at the KOA, the Quinn's have telephone and cablevision in their trailer, as well as most of the conveniences of any house, including a full bathroom and bedroom.

The total cost of all this mobile real estate is around \$100,000, which the Quinn's found was considerably cheaper than doing a bus conversion. The main feature of the diesel tractor is that when on the road it houses the Quinn's Jeep. When parked, the back of the truck turns into a workshop and gym.

Although they only planned to stay for this winter, Whistler has gotten to them, and the Quinn's now plan to stay for the summer and perhaps another winter.

When and if the Quinn's decide to leave Whistler, you can bet that they'll be Truckin'.

-B.C.



A Faceoff With Mayor Nebbeling Over the Ice Rink

If building goes according to schedule, Whistler will have a new ice rink by next Christmas, over ten years after the ice rink was supposed to open in the Conference Centre. The need for such a facility is profound, and anyone who would argue that fact is *non compos mentis*.

There are certain questions that have arisen, however, as to the location, timing and cost of the current plan. Whistler Mayor Ted Nebbeling discusses the evolution of the Meadow Park Recreational Complex with *Answer* editor Bob Colebrook.

Now that the ice rink is a *fait accompli*, how do you rate it as an accomplishment for this council?

It's right at the top, along with the transit system and the community facilities we are building at the Myrtle Philip School site.

Previous councils have promised ice arenas and transit systems but have never been able to deliver. How do you account for this council's ability to put words into action?

One of the main reasons, for me at least, and a good number of council members share that philosophy as well, is that we ran on the slogan that we have developed a great resort, now it is time to build a good community. I felt

that the people who live and work here and choose Whistler to be their permanent residence were really not given an infrastructure to be a community of the quality of the same caliber as the resort quality.

Why is the ice rink to be located at Meadow Park instead of Village North?

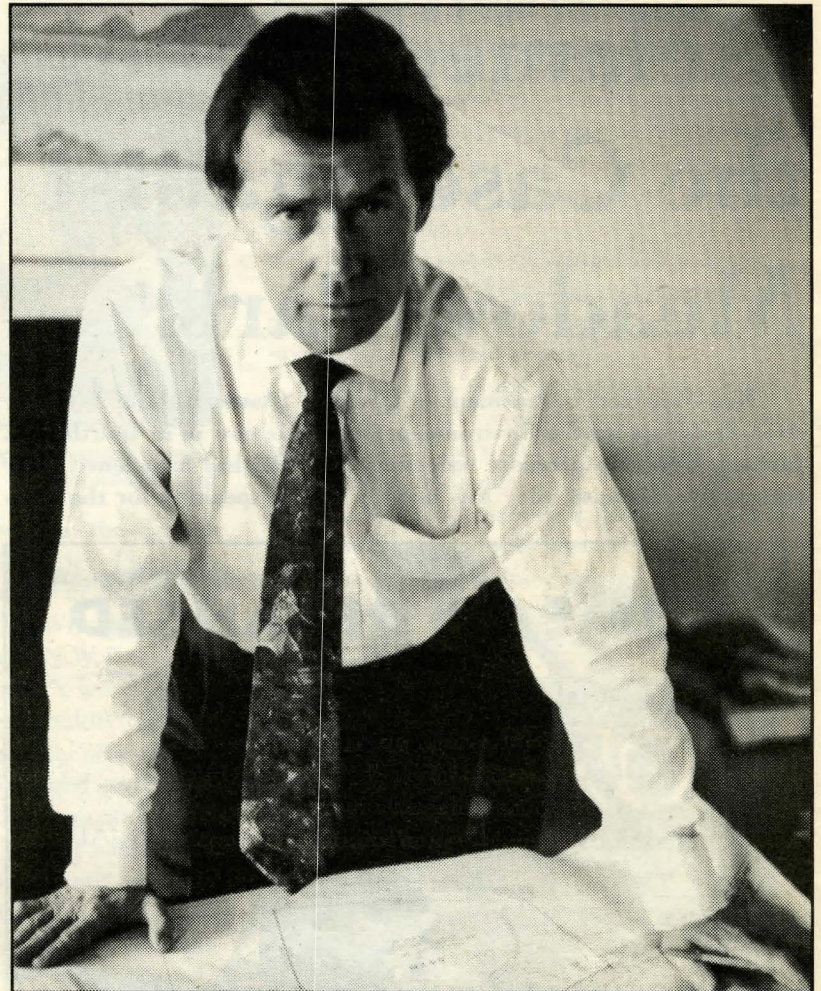
The Meadow Park site is zoned for this, that is number one. Number two why I find it attractive is there are already community amenities such as baseball fields, tennis courts, play area for kids, so by adding the ice arena, the pool, the gym, we're really creating a recreation area that is just five minutes away from the village. If the tourist wants to use it, hop on the bus and you're there in five minutes max. But the priority use, in my mind, is the community.

Isn't the fact that the rink is at Meadow Park diminish its usefulness to the resort?

That's total nonsense and I'll tell you why. We already have calls from out of town organizations to use the facility. Old timers hockey and some NHL clubs have already inquired about using the facility.

What is the difference in price between the Village North and the Meadow Park sites?

The price of the full ice arena complex we looked at with the previous council was 17.5 to 20



MAYOR TED NEBBLING

JOHN DOUGALL PHOTO

million dollars. That was the last scheme that went to the public. Failed. This particular project is in the order of 8.5 million including the swimming pool and the amenities that go with it.

Considering that Whistler is a world class resort, why aren't we getting a first class ice arena?

The one in Village North was a Cadillac, unfortunately we only had money for a Toyota.

Why couldn't the less

expensive Meadow Park rink have been built in Village North?

The first reason is that if you build in Village North, where we have very strict guidelines in regard to development, type of material to be used, design guidelines, if we as a municipality built in the same area we cannot say that because it's the municipality's project we're not going to stick to these guidelines that we impose

CONTINUED PAGE 33

Congratulations

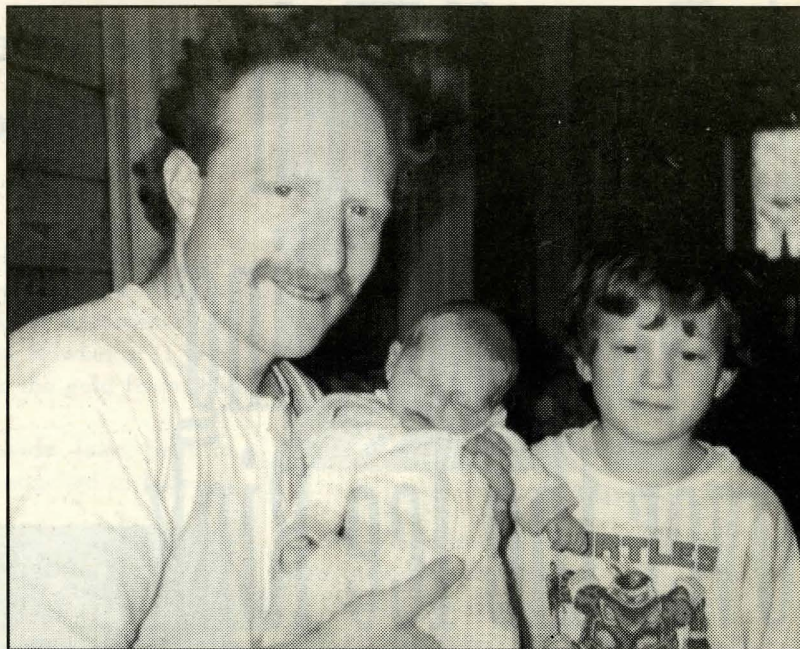
to the Whistler Answer on your
"re-emergence"

Very best wishes from all of us at
Whistler Mountain.

 **Whistler Mountain**
What skiing ought to be.

Melamed Makes the Case Against Meadow Park

Ken Melamed is President of AWARE (Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment), which is now in its fourth year. Initially begun to promote recycling, AWARE has broadened their perspective, because, they say, nobody else is speaking for the envi-



AWARE PRESIDENT KEN MELAMED AND HIS TWO SONS, "TWO OF THE MAIN REASONS I'M INVOLVED WITH ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES."

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ronment. Melamed talks here with *Answer* editor Bob Colebrook about AWARE's opposition to the Meadow Park Recreational Complex.

How environmentally conscious do you think the valley is? The curious thing is that there is a lot of environmental sympa-

thy, but it seems that people's lifestyles are tied to being non-environmentalists. They do have a consciousness about the environment and yet when it comes to speaking out people are afraid to speak out against development, and that's because most of their incomes are tied to development and the success of the resort. It seems to be some contradiction in their lives to speak out about environmental concerns that could potentially impede development or growth.

AWARE is opposed to the Meadow Park site for the rink, but not opposed to a rink *per se*, correct?

It is the same thing that went on with the Green Lakes Golf Course—people perceived us as being anti-golf, because anybody who would stand in the way of something that was so good for the resort had to be against it. We have gone out of our way to keep our focus very narrow, we don't talk about development, we talk about environmental issues. It really has nothing to do with the rink, it could've been the Catholic Church. It doesn't matter what it is if it negatively affects the environment of Whistler, we feel it's our role in the community to speak out and try and protect these things because nobody else is.

In the larger scheme of

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CONTINUED PAGE 29

Whistler Artist Prepares to Migrate North

Local artist Lea-Ann Dorval is busy, these days, putting the finishing touches on her latest works, produced over the winter at her condo/studio at Whistler Alpine Village.

Strong landscape and plant images leap off the thick rag paper in a variety of media. Collage, watercolour, oil pastels, ink and chalk build upon each other to produce a texture that begs to be touched." I'm a bit of a frustrated sculptor," she admits.

Her portfolio displays the strength of Canada's north and she comes by this influence honestly. Dorval was born and lived her early years within earshot of the Alaska Highway near Dawson Creek, spent three years in the high Arctic and currently works her summers cooking for smoke-jumpers near Whitehorse. "I don't get a chance to paint much, up north, because of the workload," laments Dorval, but the photos and sketches she returns with provide a strong environment for her creativity.

Dorval graduated from Okanagan College with a degree in fine arts and has taught numerous popular evening courses in painting, drawing and sculpture at Myrtle Philip School



"I'M A BIT OF A FRUSTATED SCULPTOR." SAYS WHISTLER ARTIST LEA-ANN DORVAL CHARLIE DOYLE PHOTO

She is currently showing work at the Gauda Gallery at the Chateau Whistler. Her new show will appear this summer at the Yukon Gallery, The Raven's Nest in Whitehorse and at a special showing in Inuvik, N.W.T.

As if preparing a summer's worth of art shows isn't enough, Dorval couldn't resist a colourful diversion. Fate recently offered up a couple of dozen brightly dyed authentic Panama hats. They currently dominate her living space (no room in the studio) while being reshaped and expertly adorned into exclusive head wear. With no particular plan for this fast growing garden of millinery Dorval made light of her business sense but her commitment to her art and quality results are right on track.

—C.D.

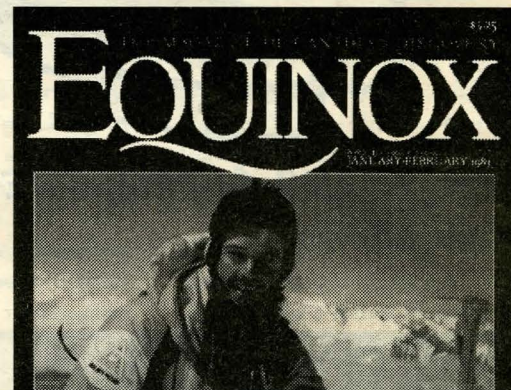
Morrow to Hold Mountain Photography Workshop

Canada's most famed mountaineer, Pat Morrow, will be hosting a unique photography workshop on April 5 - 8 on Blackcomb: Mile High Adventure: Photography and Ski Mountaineering.

Morrow, just back from Mount Everest and Mt. Vinson in Antarctica, will instruct students in the challenges and opportunities involved in mountain photography.

Morrow is a world renowned adventurer, photographer and mountaineer. He was the first person to have climbed the highest peak on all seven continents.

The workshop is open to photographers of all levels but you should be a strong intermediate to expert skier. Alpine touring, telemark or adapted downhill equipment, as well as skins and avalanche transceivers are required.



DESTINATION: EVERYWHERE

Quebecois Mountain Bikers Take on the World

Steve Bellemare and Pierre Bouchard went for a mountain bike ride one day and never came back. The pair, from Quebec City, set out on May 14, 1990 and haven't stopped pedaling for 25,000 kilometers on their Tour de World.

So far the pair has ventured as far south as Cabo San Lucas, Mexico and as far north as Prince Rupert. After a stopover in Whistler

they are heading for the Yukon and then another crossing of Canada via a different route. Then they'll set out for Europe.

The pair are presenting a slide show of a portion of their journey at the Boot Pub on Sunday, April 12 at 6:00 p.m. The night will document the "Continental Divide's Stair" as they ride from Arizona to Washington.

Says Bellemare: "If we had to justify our undertaking we could say that we are two fish constantly pedaling after the same bait: novelty."

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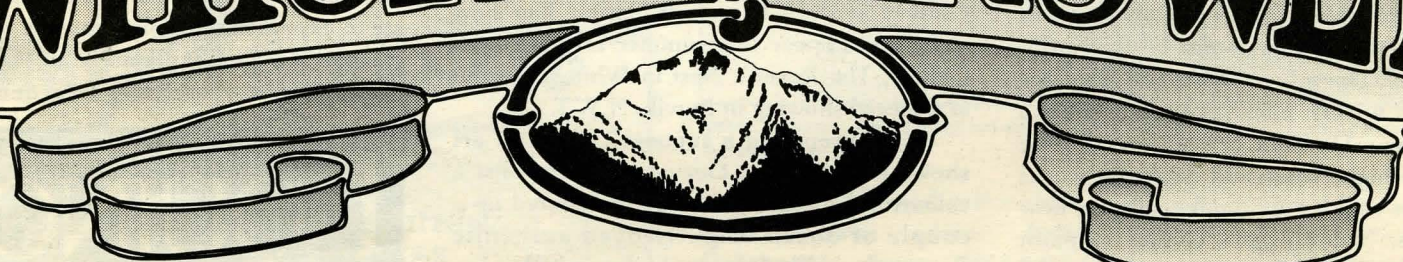
There are exactly two groups of people in the world: those who remember the *Whistler Answer* and those poor stiffies who don't. This article, however, is directed at both groups, so you can't escape.

If you were loomin' in the vicinity of Whistler between 1977 and 1982 and haven't yet succumbed to Alzheimer's disease, you will remember the Answer as an offbeat, sometimes bizarre counterculture rag that published on full moons, vernal equinoxes and other crucial dates. If so, this story will accompany you on a gentle stagger down memory lane.

If, however, you were in grade school, another province or a federal institution during those years, you can gain some historical perspective from this story. There will be a short oral quiz at the end.

THE

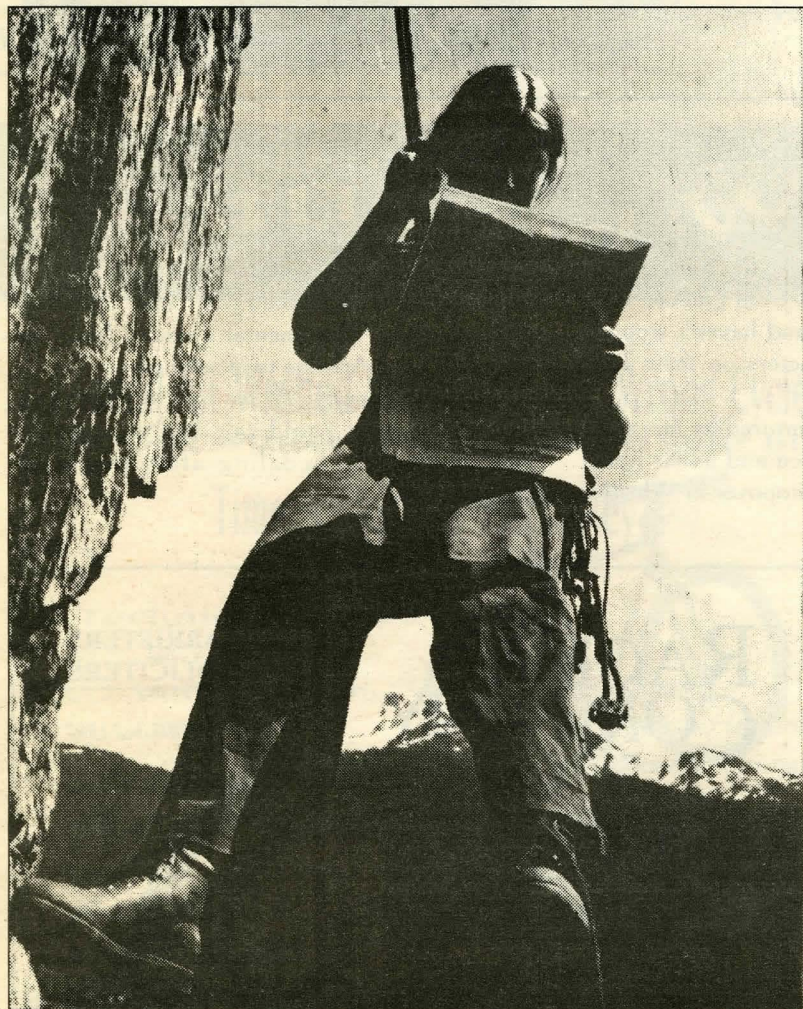
WHISTLER ANSWER



TEN YEARS AFTER, THE CORPSE IS EXHUMED

BY BOB COLEBROOK

STORY



THE ANSWER WAS READ IN SOME UNUSUAL PLACES. HERE JANE HAMILTON PAUSES FOR A QUICK READ WHILE RAPPELLING DOWN A LOCAL FACE, CIRCA 1978. — TIM SMITH PHOTO

The *Whistler Answer* came into being almost by accident. There was no grand design. It emerged as a result of unforeseen and uncontrollable circumstances.

1977 was a bad snow year. Winter came cold and clear, but not the snow. Skiing was nonexistent. There is only one smart thing to do under the circumstances: leave. Many locals headed for Hawaii and other sunny climes.

The remaining locals soon began receiving a flood of postcards and letters from the lucky travellers. All this correspondence demanded an answer.

Sitting out the winter in an abandoned trapper's cabin at Function Junction was a young guitar pickin' lion named Charlie Doyle. He and his coterie of cronies, Robin Blechman, Tim Smith, Michael Leierier and Chico realized that they had many letters to write to the departed sun worshippers. The notion of one giant form letter, with contributions from

everyone, seemed like a novel idea and, erroneously, a time saving device. As the messages and stories grew it became evident that it would cost considerable cash to produce it. Consequently, advertising was solicited to defray the costs. Finally, on April 1, 1977 the *Whistler Answer* rock and rolled off the press and, surprise, it was a newspaper.

"It was originally just a one shot deal," says founder and publisher Doyle. "But it seemed to answer a void on valley coffee tables."

The first *Answer* was published on April Fool's Day, and fifteen years later, its rebirth takes place on April Fool's Day. Coincidence? Hardly. (Phone up Robert Stack, I think we have an unsolved mystery.)

It was not your average newspaper, in form, style or content. Typesetting equipment was right out of the question, as Doyle's cabin had no electricity. So, Frank Zappa being the Mother of Invention, Ms. Blechman, with a steady hand and a smattering of calligraphy experience, wrote the entire paper out by hand, eyes squinting by the light of a kerosene lamp.

There was no model for the *Answer*: The production facilities, such as they were, were decidedly low-tech. The publication seems to have been part *Rolling Stone*, part *National Lampoon*, part high school year-book and part *Georgia Straight* (before it turned into the yuppie movie hype sheet that it is now). But after all trivial comparisons have been disposed of, it was certainly unique, and the Prince of Darkness informs me that the Answer was studied, if not adored, at the Carleton University School of Journalism.

The only thing predictable about the editorial content of the *Answer*

*...it's not
even four
o'clock and
you've already
drank three
typewriter
ribbons*

was its unpredictability. The scope of the editorial could range from gardening tips to home remedies, from reviews of the Whistler telephone directory to really bad poetry, from satirical detective stories to backcountry adventures. Irreverence was crucial; insanity and inanity often merged.

Was it a hippie, subversive rag? Well, it was the Seventies in Whistler, and the Seventies in Whistler never really existed. The Sixties ran smack dab into the Eighties. The squatters' shacks came down and up went the town centre in all its magnificent glory.

The times were a changin', kerosene lamps giving way to track lighting, air tights being replaced with central heat, long scraggly hair being replaced by those repulsive little pony tails.

Recalls John Hetherington, Whistler alderman from 1976-79, "Yeah, it's so different now I think of Whistler as two distinct places geographically. The changes are so dramatic that it may as well be two different places."

After a brief stint at Bob Eakins cabin in Alta Vista, in which we drove him nuts, the office moved to a small A-frame with the luxury of indoor plumbing, except on the days when it was converted into a makeshift darkroom. These new digs were centrally located just off the highway in Alta Vista, and it seems few people could drive by the place without stopping to socialize. Apart from being Doyle's residence and the Answer office, the A-frame served variously as a drop-in centre, crash pad, musical

workshop and rehearsal studio, after hours singles bar, sign shop and detox centre. It was a crowded house, and many came and went.

When the RCMP opened up their brand spanking new detachment and jail house in Whistler they viewed the constant comings and goings with great alarm. They immediately assumed that some form of illegal substance was being sold from the premises.

They were wrong, of course. But that didn't stop them from getting a search warrant and giving the place a once over. They found

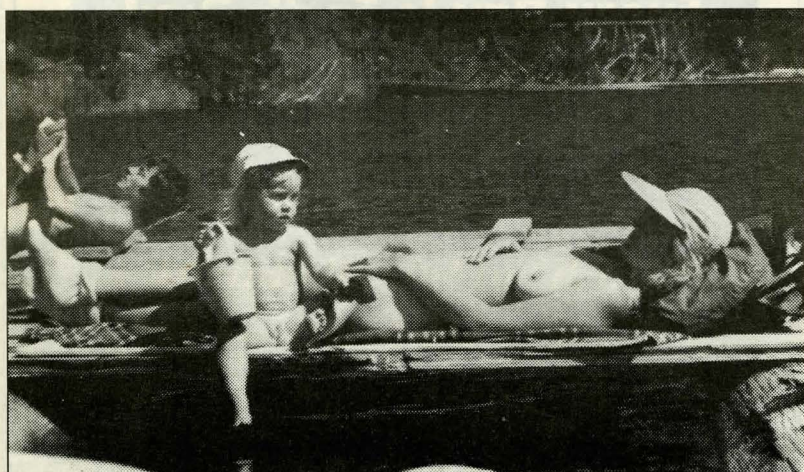
nothing in the house after a three hour search, not even a seed or a roach (the butt end of a marijuana cigarette). They did, however, find four tiny three inch plants growing in the garden that they assumed were cannabis plants. Charges resulted, but were

soon thrown out by crown counsel.

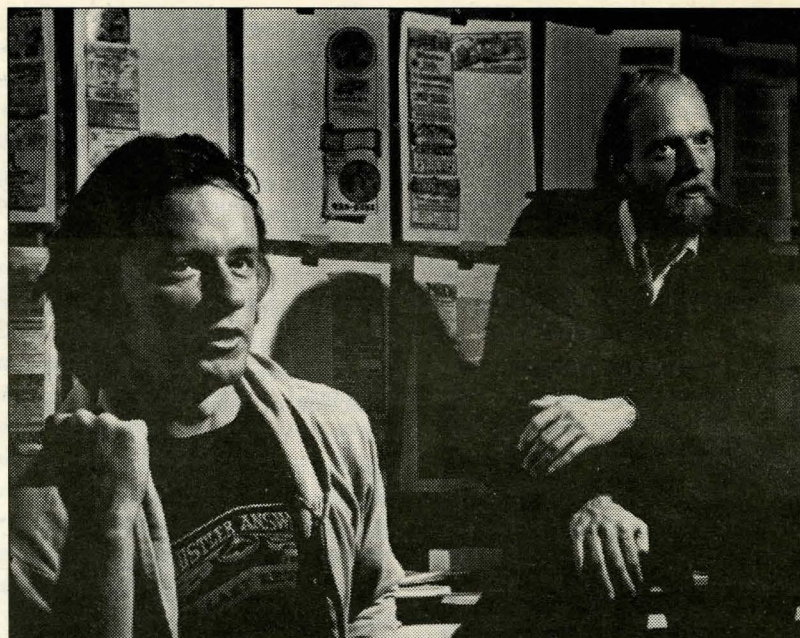
Needless to say, a nice mocking parody of the RCMP was published in the next issue, accompanied by a photo of a marijuana plant that just happened to be growing on the lawn in front of the RCMP station.

Several days after the RCMP slam dunk rave up I was pulled over by the Staff Sergeant. He wanted to have a little talk with the author of the offending article. He asked that I "not write any more negative things about the force." It seems morale was low at the detachment as a result of the spoof. I replied, "how do you think our morale was when you guys were poking through our office?"

Another minor controversy was the "Ted Nebbeling Affair."



THE BATTLE TO RETAIN THE PRISTINE NATURE OF LOST LAKE WAS ONE OF THE POLITICAL ISSUES THE ANSWER TOOK HEAD ON, CIRCA 1980.



ANSWER FOUNDER CHARLIE DOYLE, ON LEFT, AND "GROUND CONTROL" MICHAEL LEIÉRIER DISPLAY AN UNUSUAL DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS AT AN EDITORIAL MEETING, CIRCA 1979.

"But we were only doing our jobs," he said, "and besides, we had a tip."

"Well, I was just doing my job," I retorted.

We both departed nervously. He anticipated more mocking of the RCMP and I fully expected to be charged for the Kennedy assassination (both of them).

About the only illegal activity the Answer undertook was to operate for its entire first incarnation

without a business license. The Muni kept trying to suggest, cajole and threaten Doyle into taking out a business license, but his reply was always, "but it's just a hobby."

And it really was a hobby. It was really only the last two issues that made enough money to pay anybody a negligible salary.

"I was totally doing it as a labour of love," recalls Blechman (now Preboy). "I didn't ski, I'm Jewish and I didn't fit the regular



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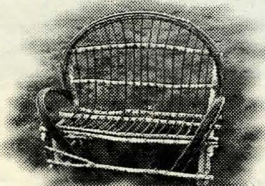
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Whistler mode so it was an opportunity to use some of my creative juices, having fun with my friends...stopping and singing songs or going and making love. I was part of this creative group having fun, I'll never forget it, it was a definite high point in my life."

Payment for work done came in other forms than money. Of course there was the personal satisfaction of a job well done, and we got a roof over our heads if we needed it and there was always the *Whistler Answer* Free Lunch, under the guise of a business meeting. Yes, we'd have lunch to be sure, but then the cocktails would fly, beers would be inhaled, shooters shot and last calls given. It was always a proud moment for me when Doyle would call for the bill after hours of debauchery, bring out the Answer cheque book and manipulate his Pilot Fineliner over the appropriate lines.

Another routine in lieu of payment was the Typewriter Ribbon Gambit. Fellow writer Jim "Mogul" Monahan and I would approach Doyle, saying that we had a great idea for a story but we needed money to buy a typewriter ribbon so we could get it down



THE AUTHOR ENSURES THAT FELLOW WRITER MOGUL MONAHAN HAS HIS HEAD SCREWED ON RIGHT, CIRCA 1977.

before the inspiration vanished. Doyle would ask us how much a ribbon would cost and it was always the exact same price as a case of beer. Needless to say which item we always bought. One day we employed the gambit with a little too much ferocity.

"Charlie, we just found out that Mick Jagger and Margaret Trudeau are holed up in the Cheakamus with a couple of

midget wrestlers, a Catholic priest and a gallon of peanut butter. We've just been granted an exclusive interview but we need a new typewriter ribbon."

Doyle blew our scam wide open, responding, "you guys are going at it pretty hard today, it's not even four o'clock and you've already drank three typewriter ribbons."

There were real political

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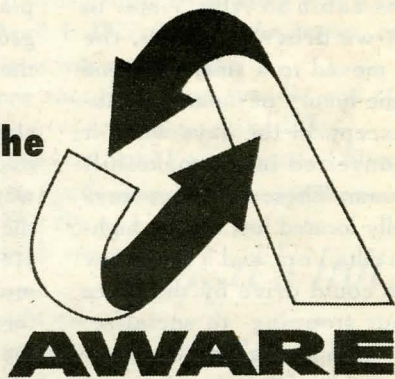
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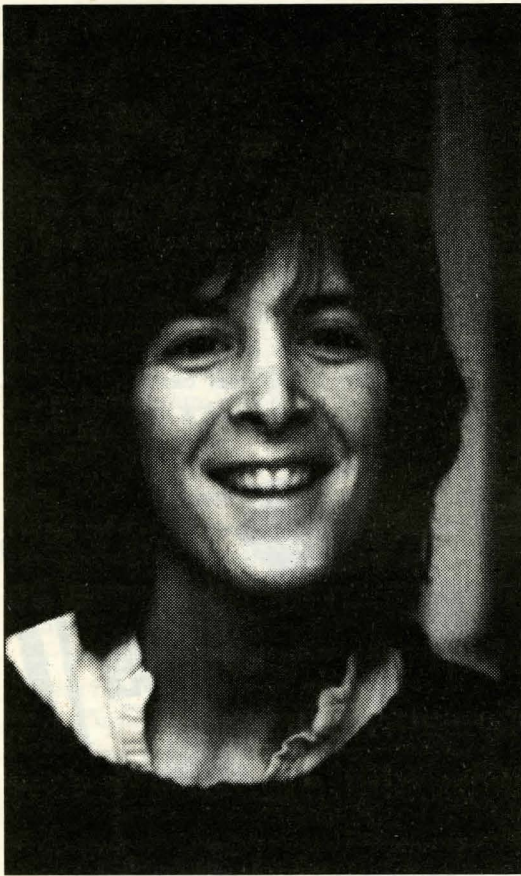
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ROBIN BLECHMAN, THE GOLDEN THROATED THRUSH, WAS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE FIRST ANSWER "TEAM," AND HER CONTRIBUTIONS WERE MANY, VARIED AND BEYOND DESCRIPTION, CIRCA 1981.

issues, however, that the *Answer* dealt with. The primary issue at the time was the development of Lost Lake. That imbroglia featured the

Answer in one corner and Al Raine in the other. The squatter issue was another bone of contention in the town centre skeleton. As ex-squatters, the *Answer* staff were severely dismayed when the eviction notes were given to their friends, and the paper became a rallying point for letters and for petitions against the atrocity.

Another minor controversy was the "Ted Nebbeling Affair." Our current mayor was the owner of the Gourmet Deli, and he objected strongly to some quotes attributed to Doyle that appeared in MacLean's magazine. Something to the effect that "a hangover was a legitimate excuse not to go to work in Whistler." Nebbeling informed Doyle that he would not advertise with the *Answer* until Doyle had a retraction printed in *MacLean's*. It will be a frosty friday in Hades before any such retraction is given.

(The mayor hasn't exactly embraced the return of the *Answer*. In fact he has made a twenty dollar bet with our lawyer, Harley Paul, that the *Answer* won't survive for one year.)

There is no definitive explanation why the *Answer* went into a protracted ten year hibernation. It was certainly not a business decision. Nothing ever was.

"Everybody drifted away or grew up," says Doyle, "and I got a mortgage."

Local bus driver and media analyst Ed Gordon recalls: "It seems like the deadlines were too frequent. It seemed to me that nobody wanted to do it as a full time job, more just for fun."

The crew of the *Answer*, like a rock band that just disintegrates instead of exploding, moved on. Blechman to Toronto, Chico to Vancouver, Monahan to Banff, Leirier to the restaurant industry and then to Puyallap, Washington and myself, I got run out of town on a rail to God knows where. The *Answer*, like a Neil Young song, started out slow and then just sort of fizzled out altogether.

But it didn't ever really die, it just went into a coma. During the ten year hiatus there was much talk about resurrecting the cadaver. Combine one part nostalgia and one part beer, mix and then talk, talk, talk.

Finally we got tired of talking and decided to act. The impetus to resuscitate the *Answer* wasn't, we are sorry to report, a harmonic convergence or a thunderclap followed by instructions from a supernatural agency. We just felt the time was right, and ripe.

Now, of course we're a little older and perhaps we have gotten a little wiser, although the jury seems to be hung on that proposition. We've picked up a few new people along the way, but we're essentially the same old *Answer*. Our production qualities are significantly improved and we feel that the new magazine type format is more contemporary. As to our basic journalistic philosophy, it hasn't changed: fuck 'em if they can't take a joke.

Our holidays are over, but it feels good. As Yogi Berra once mumbled, "it's *deja vu* all over again."

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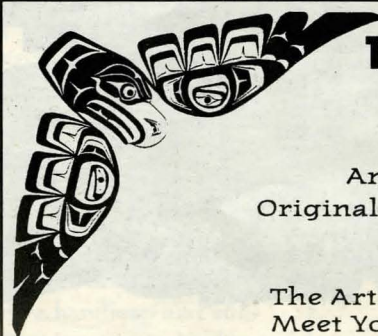
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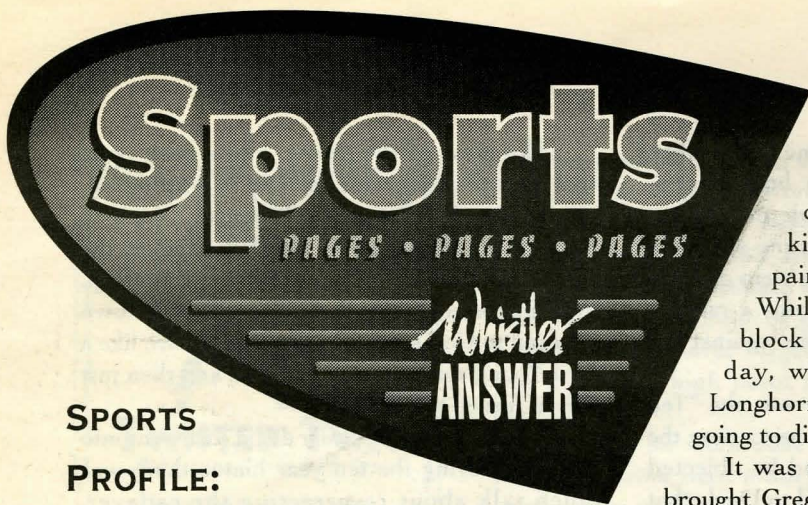
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SPORTS

PROFILE:

Greg Lee

BY JIM MONAHAN

If you had a set of those Dick Tracy X-Ray glasses and checked out Greg Lee's knees, you'd likely think you were looking at a pair of elaborate plumbing fixtures from Le Chamois.

After nineteen knee operations, and three more to his ankles, Lee has spent more time in the operating room than Dr. Kildare, Hawkeye and Hot Lips Houlihan.

"Roger Moxley calls me the amazing knees-Lee," he chuckles from across the kitchen table in Alta Vista. "The pain comes, more so, after skiing. While you're skiing you can sort of block it out, but at the end of the day, while walking from say the Longhorn to Tapley's, it feels like I'm going to die."

It was tennis, surprisingly, that first brought Greg Lee to Whistler. While competing at the Canadian Junior Tennis Championships in Vancouver in August of 1966, a day's outing turned into a grueling five hour bus ride. The road being solid gravel from Squamish, nobody but nobody had any idea where they were going.

He'd already begun race training at tiny Don Valley, near Toronto. A hill with a rope tow that would nearly tear your arms off, and with an imposing vertical drop of some 72 feet.

"That ski area has put more guys on the National Ski Team than anywhere else in Canada," he notes proudly. No argument there, as the name Steve Podborski comes to mind. It was also the home track of the aforementioned Moxley, who is now a wealthy lumber baron in Chaplinville, B.C.

"Then during spring breaks my brother Damian, who was on the National Team, and I would jump in a car and drive forty-eight hours to Whistler, ski four days, then drive forty-eight hours back home."

A self confessed discipline problem got him kicked off the National Development

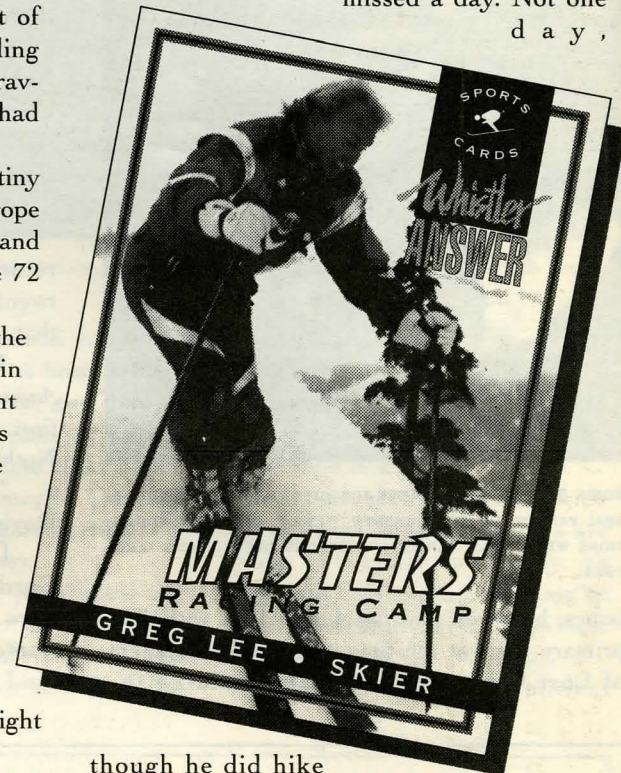
(Espoir) team at eighteen years old.

One of Tony Sailer's coaches at Whistler Mountain's summer camp broke a leg. It was Whistler. It was summer. He was coaching ski racing.

Greg Lee was hooked.

Quotes From the Coach

On Summer Camps: "Toni Sailer was just unbelievable. The guy had won three World Cup and three Olympic gold medals. In nineteen years of summer camps he never missed a day. Not one day."



though he did hike down early from the T-bars on one occasion. Austria was playing Italy in World Cup soccer.

Masters Camps: "Dave Murray and I were involved with the first one held locally, a downhill camp for experts only in the spring of 1983. There were only about thirty people and four coaches. It rained for three days straight. Still, it was a great success, some local guys, Harley Paul and Kenny Beatty. After that I'd always come back to try and help out Murr. He was one of my good friends, so you do that."

On Teaching Skiing: "Good athletes of course don't always make good coaches. The fact that you might have been a good skier helps, but you're much better off with good people skills. I look to people like Greg Athens, Doug Perry or Terry Spence, who can really be entertaining. Not that the skiing or coaching is any better at a Masters camp but you can really gain a lot from a positive learning environment."

Ski Racing's Biggest Change: "The rapid gate was brought in to make life easier for gate keepers but it has changed just about every-

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thing we do. It's changed the way we ski, the way we turn, because you can ski a much straighter line with rapid gates. Ski manufacturers are making the tails of slalom skis stiffer now, so that you can sit back and jam the turns. And look at the equipment, face masks, helmets, shin pads, hand protectors, chest protectors."

Current Turns: "Lots of corporate programs, I helped Gary Athens with his first camp at Big White in December. I'm also involved in the Canadian Alpine Ski Team's patron program, which is a fund raiser that will give patrons access to the athletes and accreditation at World Cup events. It was a pretty hard sell until Lee-Gartner won the gold at the Olympics, but now it's beginning to pick up. I'm also a fan of John Ritchie, the new CEO of Alpine Skiing in Canada. Ritchie is an excellent choice, both in dealing with the Europeans and in getting the athletes to help us in some of these fund raisers."

Future turns: "I'd like to be the Director of Skiing at an area, again soon. I tried that a couple of years ago but it might have been a bit too soon, the first time around. I'd also like to make it to the Canadian Skiing Hall of Fame someday. Not so much on skiing ability, but hopefully from the career, the coaching and as



**SPORTS
CARDS**

Whistler
ANSWER

Name:	Paul Greory Lee
Born:	6/5/52
Place:	Halifax, N.S.
Height:	5' 11"
Weight:	200 lbs.
Occupation:	Professional Skier
Skis:	Kastle 205 Slalom
Sponsors:	Kastle Skis, Look Bindings, Nordica Boots, Descente Ski Wear

Greg learned to ski race at Don Valley in Ontario with a vertical drop of 72 feet. He first visited Whistler in the summer of 1966.

someone who has put something back into the sport."

On Jack Rabbit Johansen skiing past age 100: "Ha! I'll be happy to still be skiing when I'm fifty, but I'll be skiing long after I'm not walking. I can promise you that."

Sporting News...

By Jim Monahan
Answer Sports Columnist

International hockey at Whistler? No problem, consider these three stars...

1.) **Andy Flynn** from Melbourne, Australia, who played with the Aussie National team at the 1986 World Championships in Italy. Flynn has fit in nicely on right wing this season with Garfinkles and says that minor hockey down under is excellent, but loses a step as players get older and run out of teams and leagues. "We just don't get the competition and guys go on to other sports," he notes...

2.) **Chuck Kingzett** from Holey Shirts, who played a year in Grefath, Germany after Junior stops with the Nanaimo Clippers and Victoria Cougars. "The Europeans played hack and slash, no checking, while us



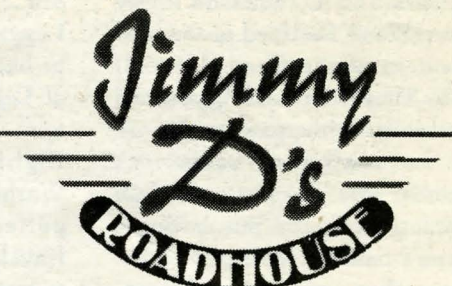
JUNE BRANDON

Canucks were into charge and tumble hockey," recalls the high scoring centreman, whose career was cut short by a series of injuries. "That was the difference. They were always looking for the immaculate goal, the perfect pass. They'd never shoot from just inside the blueline or from a difficult angle, so I notched a few goals that way. It was great fun and I got to see a lot of Europe." Ask him about Go Nuts Go, Go Nuts Go!...

3.) **Joe Simons**, the current GM at the Nancy Greene Lodge, played fourteen seasons with the Dutch National team. After playing minor hockey in the Edmonton/Hinton area of Alberta, Simons' family moved back to Holland, although he returned to Canada to play a year of junior hockey with the London Nationals (a legendary coach there in **Turk Broda**, and a future NHLer in linemate **Gary Unger**). In the mid-Sixties Simons distinguished himself by becoming the first Dutch player to score a goal on Soviet netminder **Vladislav Tretiak**. His biggest athletic challenge these days is keeping up with his daughter Jennifer, who is the hottest young golfer in Whistler. "Yeah, she takes my money every time out now," he admits, with a touch more pride than disappointment...

Par Fives...

Jennifer Simons is listed as a twelve handicap and consistently shoots in the low eighties. At 14 years old, Simon was tenth in the last summers 18 and under Provincial Junior Open. This year she'll attend about thirty




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tournaments, look out **Lisa Walters** and **Dawn Coe**... See where **Steve Radford** is the new president of the Garibaldi Golf Club. They'll be holding a social April 23rd with membership on an 'as available' basis... A reminder that you can save close to ninety bucks by purchasing a season's pass before April 15th... A long shot rumour has the sea-

son's opening date set for May 8th... Defending champs **Steve Legge** and **Karen Blaylock** will be back, though there is some talk of Legge taking a shot at the pro tour... Also, April 14th to 16th the Eighth Annual 'Whistler to Washington' trip will send forty golfers to Harbor Points and Kayak Point. A nice touch there, as from a thousand to fifteen hun-

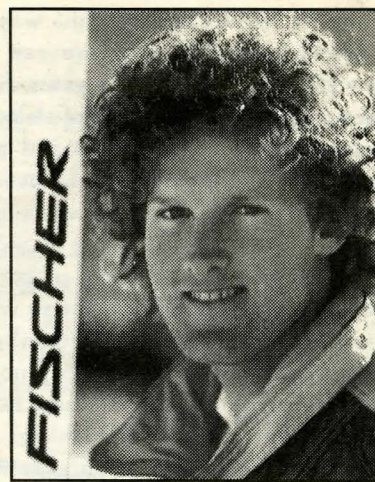
dred dollars is donated to the **Peter Xhignesse Memorial Fund**. That going to a Pemberton High School student who combines the best of scholastic and athletic abilities...

Tennis Anyone...

To bubble or not to bubble seems to be the annual spring question at the Delta Mountain Inn. Confesses Pro **June Brandon**: "It might not come down until mid-June. Remember last year it rained so much. We'll keep it up as long as possible so that people can continue to play." Yeah, but June, that won't happen this year, will it?...Huh?... Don't forget the popular summer tennis programs at the Chateau and an old favorite, the Whistler Valley Tennis Club. With close to 300 members the WVTC will cost you \$125 before the first day of May, \$140 thereafter. The contact persons are **Esther Thiessen** and **Gaylen Christian**...

Pop Flies...

Hope the ladies fastball Whistler K's and Hoz's Durangos can get things ironed, er straightened out to form a league... Here there may be an over forty team entered in the men's league. Where have you gone **Paul Liakakos**, **Dave Paterson** and **Bob Dawson**?... The Longhorn Pub will host seven or eight weekend tournaments this summer. New manager **Dave Roberts** (no relation to the Chateau Dave Roberts) will need some strong local input... **Dave Asher** will be getting the eye chart out for a slo-pitch umpire's clinic May 2. With thirty-three teams in three divi-



ROB BOYD

sions, and over 650 players to look after, Asher deserves a medal for his efforts and serious consideration for Sportsman of the Year...

On the Road Again...

If you're looking for **Rob Boyd** this month, the address will be somewhere south of Santiago, Chile. With an audio cassette under his arm (he's learning Spanish), he's off for some reriouss R and R. He'll be back in Whistler during May for a couple of weeks of spring skiing but for now: "Just biking, getting myself in shape, vacationing," he says. "The region south of Santiago has lakes, little day tours, summer trails anad thermal bolts." Huh? The knee is coming along and the Doc says the biking will help, along with the aerobics. By the way, he's doing some work locally with Santini Designs in the Village Stroll. His official title: "Marketing & Shredding"... Go get 'em Rob...

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Stephanie Sloan

COVER STORY

World Champion Freestyler Is Turning Out Some Expert Woman Skiers

By Bob Colebrook

Skiing is a male dominated sport—there are many more males skiing than females. But Stephanie Sloan is changing that through her "Women Only" programs on Whistler Mountain.

The three and four day programs offer mogul, race and powder clinics, as well as stretching classes and video analysis. The "Women Only" program is designed to concentrate on improving skiing skills, and Sloan notes: "There are no make-up clinics."

Sloan, who was a three time world champion freestyle skier during her career, from 1976-1981, has been running her "Women Only" programs since 1983. They attract women of all ages and skill level, and she notes that her last program has a seventy-seven year old woman in it, "And she was in one of the top groups."

The programs are extremely successful, one this year had fifty-six women enrolled with eight female instructors. There are now waiting lists for many programs.

As women raise their socio-economic status, they become more predominant on the slopes.

Explains Sloan: "There are more male skiers than female skiers. And now that women are more fitness oriented, and they've gotten better jobs and they're not all stuck at home with kids, a lot of them are professionals that take this program. They have a little more money and a little more time and so the female ski market is growing, and this helps it out and makes them ski better."

Now that her winter programs are

almost over, Sloan is focusing her attention on the Atomic Dave Murray Summer Ski Camp on Blackcomb, of which she is director. The camp has been running for twenty-six years, initially as the Toni Sailer Summer Ski Camp until taken over by her late husband, Dave Murray, in 1983. These camps feature much more than just skiing, with activities such as windsurfing, tennis, mountain biking, rollerblading and social events.

Sloan's staff of coaches includes World Cup freestyle champions Greg Athens and John Eaves; former Canadian Alpine Ski Team members Mike Carney, Gary Athens, Diana McNab and Karen Stemmler; former French Ski Team member Jacques Morel; the ever popular Greg Lee; freestyle innovator Wayne Wong; Glen Wurtele, former Canadian National Ski Team head coach; and Gord Brown, former Canadian Ski Team Coach and the current director of the Canadian Ski Coaches Federation.

The junior camps run from June 19 - July 17, and the adult camp is from July

18 - 25. Sloan describes them as "action packed."

One new feature this year is that for the final junior week parents will be encouraged to attend for a family camp. "All the boomers are having kids," notes Sloan, "and I felt there was a need for

parents to go skiing, windsurfing and biking with their kids."

Sloan's credentials to lead the women, men and kids of the Nineties into skiing nirvana are impeccable. Born in Toronto, Sloan came to Whistler after high school, in 1970. She had ski raced since grade five but she came here just

to ski. She used to ski on 210 cm Allais Major's, and could sometimes be heard yelling "short skis suck" from the chair lift.

Sloan migrated to Europe, mainly Chamonix, in 1975. It was there that she was introduced to freestyle skiing. She liked it and thought she could make some money at it. She decided to attend a freestyle camp in Lapland to learn how, and soon she had sponsorship from a

Swedish company. Sloan recalls that she taught herself how to do flips on a ski ramp on the Baltic Sea. Shortly thereafter she was at the top of her sport.

Along the way Sloan has demonstrated her skiing prowess in movies, TV specials and commercials. She has also taught swimming to native children in the Queen Charlottes, been a deckhand on a commercial salmon trawler and exercised race horses in Geneva. Her pastimes include cross-country skiing, highwind windsurfing, tennis, cycling, horseback riding, running, sailing, scuba diving, trampoline, canoeing, hiking and photography. She's busier than a one-legged man in a Georgia ass kicking contest.

After retirement, in the fall of 1982, Sloan was working for Ebba Lepp, catering on location for the movie *First Blood*. It was around this time when she hooked up with Crazy Canuck Dave Murray. Fortunately, Sloan was asked by a movie production company to follow the Men's World Cup circuit that year. After Murray burned down the slopes in the day, their relationship would burn up the nights. Sloan recalls that it was "very romantic."

Back in Whistler and married, Murray and Sloan were the perfect couple. Both had their own programs and worked together on the summer ski camps.

Tragedy struck, however, when Murray was diagnosed with cancer. He fought a long and valiant struggle against the disease, but eventually lost on October 23, 1990.

Recalls Sloan of that very difficult time: "He was always positive. He didn't want to talk about it with people—he was always up. He taught me a lot for sure."

It would be no exaggeration to say that Dave Murray was the most liked person in Whistler. It is not hyperbole when Sloan remembers him as "an all round nice guy...great athlete...really friendly and outgoing. It seems every person he touched he gave something to, he left a real impression. He was very positive."

Indeed, this description could just as easily fit Sloan.

Sloan is upbeat about her life here in Whistler. "I've got a great life here, I just want to keep it rolling, keep healthy and bring up my little girl."

"I basically want to stay in one place and not travel anymore. I was so glad I was able to travel through Europe when freestyle skiing. But now I've managed to establish myself here and run a business, which is a challenge."

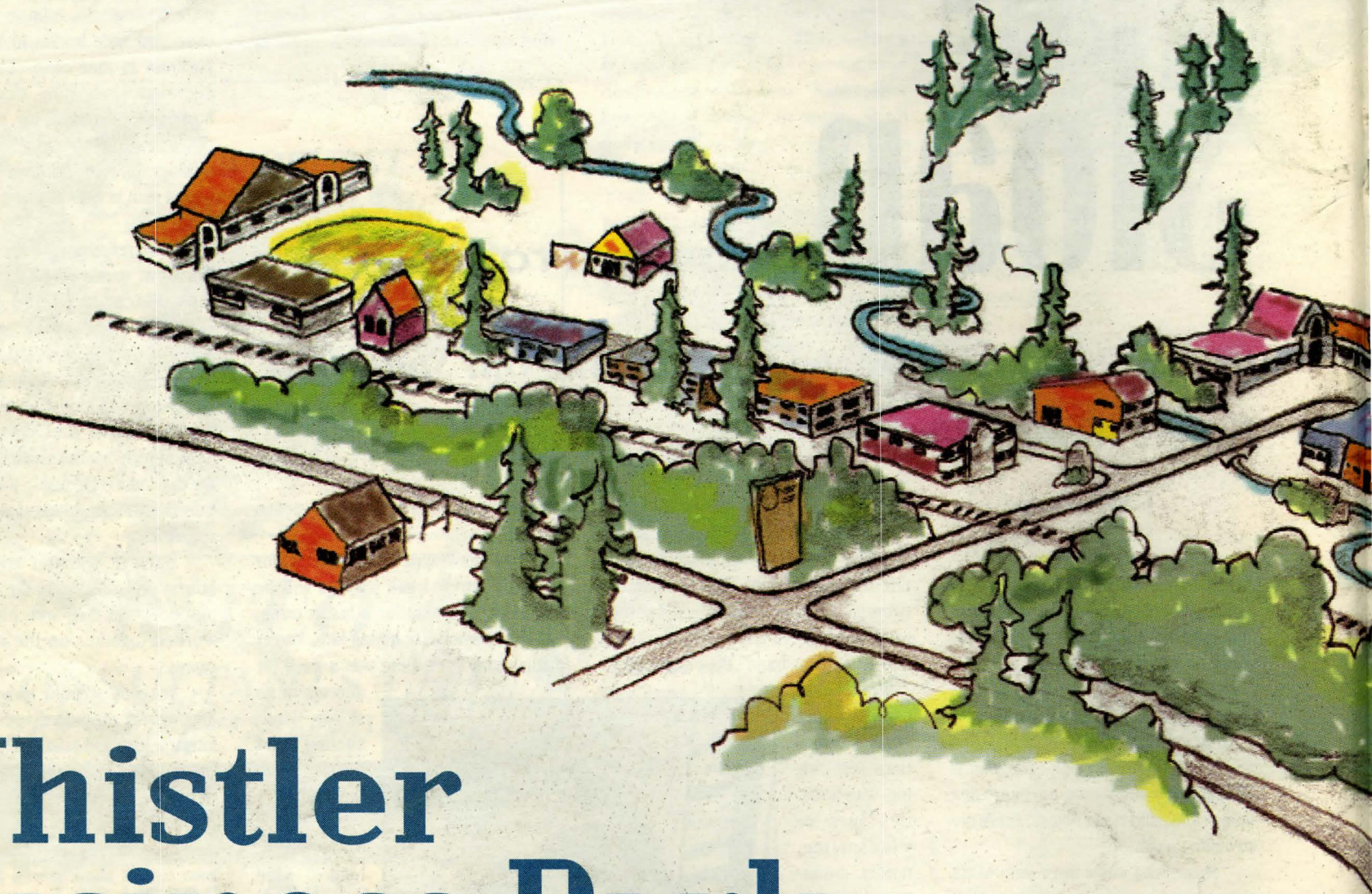
If longtime Whistler skiers notice a marked improvement in the technique of women on the slopes, you can bet that Stephanie Sloan had something to do with it.



LONGTIME WHISTLERITE STEPHANIE SLOAN IS A LOCAL SUCCESS STORY WITH HER "WOMAN ONLY" SKI PROGRAMS AND AS DIRECTOR OF THE ATOMIC DAVE MURRAY SUMMER SKI CAMP.

— PAUL MORRISON PHOTO

Function



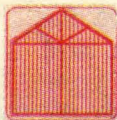
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Doc Fingers

Piano Man Has Nice Touch

Doc Fingers can play and sing the blues. He can play boogie-woogie, ragtime, dirty blues, talking blues, Chicago blues, Delta blues, rhythm and blues, and two or three kinds that haven't yet been invented.

Of course he can also play rock and pop standards, show tunes, country, swing and old classics. However, when asked about his repertoire, Fingers says he plays "A little bit of everything and a whole lot of nothing."

Until April 18th he will be found massaging the keyboard in the Mallard Bar at the Chateau Whistler.

The Chateau is a long distance in time from when Doc first came to Whistler and gigged with Blue Williams, Betty Chaba and

Gary Koliger at the now demolished Cheakamus bar. They would often play from three in the afternoon until two o'clock closing.

Fingers has a long association with Whistler, and plays here for a month or two every winter. "I'm not here for career reasons," says the affable pianomeister. "I'm here to ski." Fingers also leaves his regular gig at Zydeco's in downtown Toronto to play and ski at Zermatt every year.

The good doctor has played at Whistler so often he has to be considered for "honorary local" status. Fingers takes the development of Whistler in stride, and is happy that there now seems to be a friendly attitude towards tourists.

"I've always maintained that the Whistler attitude sucked. I've always gone out of my way to show people around and help them out. I'm not saying I started it, but a lot of people have realized that you have to treat the tourists right. I think Blackcomb changed all that. Locals and



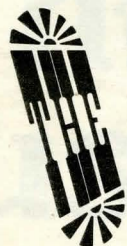
DOC FINGERS GAVE A FEW GOLD MEDAL WINNING PERFORMANCES LAST MONTH AT THE NANCY GREENE LOUNGE. ELWYN ROWLANDS PHOTO

tourists come to see me, it's all the same, people are people."

The classically trained Fingers turned pro in 1971. Along the way he has lived in Vancouver, Toronto and New York State. He joined Ronnie Hawkins band the Hawks in 1973, and has been a charter member of Vancouver's Blues A Team, along with Jack and Tom Lavin, Jim Byrnes *et al.*

But traveling around to world class ski areas and playing solo is not the lifestyle one might imagine. "It seems good on the outside but it can be lonely, I prefer to play with other musicians," he says.

Doc Fingers has a nice touch on the piano keyboard but, maybe more importantly, he has a nice touch with people. His tip jar is rarely empty. —B.C.



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3 · 4 · 5
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6 · 7 · 8
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HOT BAND, DON'T MISS

9 · 10 · 11 · 12
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13 · 14 · 15
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9:20 P.M. · BLACKCOMB STAFF

Take Route 99 For Some Original Mountain Rock

By Bob Colebrook

Whistler's Route 99 sounds like no other rock band. If you're playing cover tunes, that can be a big problem. But Route 99 plays their own songs, so uniqueness becomes a huge asset.

When asked why the band has chosen to go almost strictly with original music, as opposed to covering audience favourites, as do most new bands, singer Peter Vogler says playfully: "It's partly because we're no good at other people's music. I would be writing songs anyway, and since we have them we might as well play them."

As Whistler's only functioning and gigging rock band, Route 99 are the only proponents of the Alta Lake Sound, a second generation offshoot of the once popular Skunk Cabbage genre of mountain music.

Route 99 come by their mountain credentials honestly. The songwriters in the band, Peter and Stephen Vogler, moved to Whistler in their youth, and both attended Pemberton High School. Stephen, the younger, had the distinction of being one of six students who graduated from Myrtle Philip Elementary the year it opened.

The Answer caught Route 99 live last month at Citta's, on Saint Patrick's Day. The crowd was young and sophisticated—a blend of Route 99 diehards and the everchanging bar cruisers who's goal it is to visit every bar in the village in one night.

Their sound is hard to define, but it is accessible. The crowd squeezed into the upstairs section taps their toes and shakes their heads in unison. A lone Japanese man carves out a section of floor space and dances frantically to crowd approval and whistling.

On stage, the Vogler's share the vocals and alternate on lead guitar. For many tunes Stephen brings out his mandolin, and that adds a folky feel to the arrangements, giving the songs some architectural bulk.

Many of their songs have substance, and while their execu-



ROUTE 99 IS, FROM LEFT, CAM SALAY, STEPHEN VOGLER, PETER VOGLER AND TODD VAGUE.

ELWYN ROWLANDS PHOTO

tion is often rough, that is to be expected from a band that doesn't play as often as they would if they were based in Vancouver. They are equally adept at displaying different influences in their songs, be it reggae, country rock or blues. Vocally, Highway 99 is raw, and could stand the addition of some harmony vocals to smooth over some rough patches, although after all, it is rock and roll, which has never been known for its Carusos.

Peter is the playful Vogler, smiling, dancing and laughing in response to audience reaction. His Canada Goose Shuffle bears some resemblance to Chuck Berry's Duck Walk. Stephen is the introverted one, coming across on stage as the sombre and earnest undergrad.

The rhythm is handled ably by Cam Salay on bass and Todd Vague on drums, the Coastal Range's answer to Sly and Robbie. Drumster Vague performs a humorous drum solo, the only way to really make one sound interesting, and Salay counterpoints the Vogler's picking



BUFFALO BILLS

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- April 5 - 8 The Hopping Penguins
- April 9 - 11 Roots Round-Up
- April 12 - No Fun
- April 13 - 15 Dutch Mason
- April 16 - 18 - Just-If-I
- April 19 - Bootsauce
- April 20 - 22 - Major Handy & Wolf Couchons
- April 23- 25 - R & B Allstars

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with some tendon thwapping bass lines.

The Vogler's honed their skills at local jam nights before forming Route 99 a year and a half ago. They took the act to Vancouver, busking on Granville Island and Robson Street.

"We met some strange people," says Peter. "And we'd take all our loonies and coins and spend it at La Bodegas."

A busking trip through Washington and Oregon soon followed, making enough to pay for gas and beer, the two essential

fuels for an act on the road.

Back in Whistler they found that busking is prohibited by one of the many municipal bylaws. To work around that they played on the patio at Citta's, which was exempt.

A gig at the Border Cantina followed, and during a washout in the road She Stole My Beer couldn't make it up from Vancouver for their gig at the Boot Pub and Route 99 got the nod to substitute. Regular gigs at Citta's followed, and they're scheduled to play at the *Answer*

Launch Party on April 13.

Route 99 was recently a six-piece band, with a female vocalist and an accordin player. The female vocalist was Peter's girlfriend as well, but one day she ran off with the accordin player, making the band a quartet. Which only goes to prove you don't have to be Fleetwood Mac to live the rock and roll experience.

Route 99 is now intent on doing some demo tapes for the record companies, and is scheduled to do a showcase at Jake O'Grady's in Vancouver. They also plan to hook into the Railway Club, 86 Street, Town Pump circuit.

"We're learning real fast," says Peter. "In just over a year we went from complete hackers to being able to hold an audience in a bar."

For Route 99 to further their musical careers they will have to negotiate a long and winding road with many hazards. But they seem in no hurry, and Peter calls it a "life project rather than a career."

"It's nice being able to survive at things you like doing," he adds.

Paparazzi



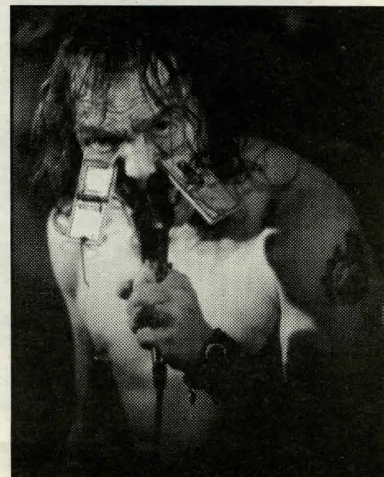
TERRENCE SIMIEN BROUGHT HIS ASS-KICKING ZYDECO TO BILL'S LAST MONTH.

ELWYN ROWLANDS PHOTO



THE SUNDAY ALTERNATIVE MUSIC NIGHTS AT BUFFALO BILLS CAN GET TOTALLY OUT OF HAND. HERE ARE TWO MUTANT MEMBERS OF HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA'S HAUNTED GARAGE, A B-MOVIE THRASH BAND, WHOSE PENCHANT FOR PUTTING MOUSETRAPS ON THE EYELIDS ADDS IMMEASURABLY TO THEIR MUSICAL PROWESS.

JOHN DOUGALL PHOTOS



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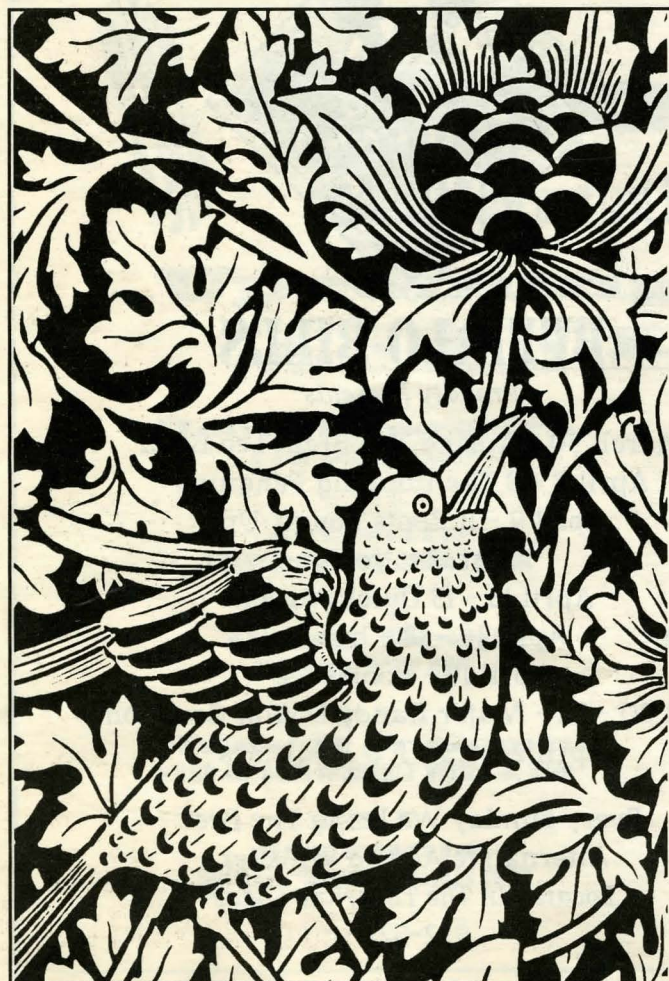
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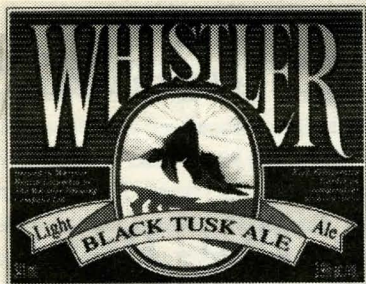
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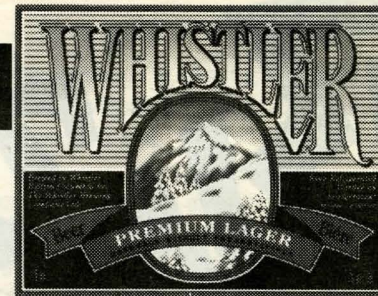
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Xenophile



Special Events

Himalayan Passage Slide show by Pat and Baiba Morrow April 5

A slide presentation describing their seven month circumnavigation of the Himalaya through Tibet, Nepal, India, China and Pakistan. 7:30 p.m. at the Delta Mountain Inn. Tickets: \$8.00, available from the Whistler Activity Centre, the Escape Route or the Whistler Centre for Business and the Arts. For more info call 932-8310.

Murder Mystery April 11

Musical Evening, Whistler Conference Centre, Singing, Dance, Prizes, Laughs. With National Ballet of Canada star Karen Kain, and Ross Petty, Ruth Nichol, Bill Good, Carole Taylor, Phil Reimer, Joy Metcalf, Hugh Pickett, Mark Driesschen, Bobby Lenarduzzi, Nancy Greene-Raine, Denis Simpson plus more. Tickets \$50. Fund-raiser for the Whistler Summer Theater. Tickets at the Whistler Activity and Information Centre and Creations & Delights.

Sun Awareness Day April 18

With the ozone depleting rapidly, a little education is in order. Volunteers are needed to assist with Sun Awareness Day planned for Saturday, April 18. Sponsored by the Canadian Cancer Society and the Whistler Diagnostic and Treatment Centre. Contact Janet Hamer at 932-4911.

Heritage Dinner May 1

A fund-raiser for the Whistler Museum, Wainrights will host a dinner on Friday, May 1. \$40 per person, with \$20 tax deductible to the museum. Dinner at 7:00, cocktails at 6:00. Tickets available at Armchair Books, the Chamber of Commerce or any museum board member.

Community Groups

Whistler Slo-Pitch

Captain's meeting, April 12, 7:00 at Tapley's. Entrance fees are due at this time, \$635 (\$385 plus 10 tickets at \$25) Windup party tickets may be returned for a refund. Make your cheques payable to: The Whistler Slo-Pitch League. Include on back the team name, captain's name and phone number. (Be sure to get a receipt.) New teams are welcome after 8:30 p.m. If space is available a lottery will be held to determine who enters the league.

Whistler Public Library

Literature for the literate is available at our favourite hangout. Hours are Monday to Wednesday 2:30 - 8 p.m., Thursday 2:30 - 6 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; Saturday 12 - 4 p.m. The library now has videos. The library is situated behind the firehall,

4375 Blackcomb Way. For more information call 932-5564.

Environment—Recycling

The Association of Whistler Area Residents for the Environment (AWARE) seeks members and volunteers. Phone 932-4457 or write Box 3500 - 35, Whistler, VON 1B0. Wildlife Habitat Committee meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at 6298 Lorimer Road. Information Committee meet every second Monday at 7:30 p.m. at 8285 Alpine Way. Solid Waste Management Committee. For more information call 932-9626.

Shop Easy Receipts

If you save your Shop Easy receipts and give them to your favourite non-profit organization Shop Easy will donate \$20 for every \$5,000 worth of receipts.

Women of Whistler

A weekly support group to promote communication, friendship and community spirit for women in Whistler. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Lake Placid Lodge.

Jazz Dance

New students welcome. \$25 a month, classes through May. For more information call Karen at 938-1288.

Rotary Club

The Delta Mountain Inn hosts meetings every Friday at noon.

Lions Club

The Whistler Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Whistler Mtn. Ski Club Cabin.



HIJINKS RULE AT THE MOUTON CADET SPRING FESTIVAL, APRIL 11 & 12 ON WHISTLER.

Employment Centre

Current job offerings listed, with free service to employers to have openings posted. Located behind Whistler Chamber of Commerce. Call 932-6251. Open Monday to Friday 9-5 p.m.

Whistler Windbreakers Running Club

Please call Larin at 938-3350 for further information.

Public Speaking!

Do these two words make you Scared and Uneasy? Would you rather ski the peak on a toboggan? Toastmaster's in Whistler will assist you in becoming an effective public speaker to large and small groups. Meetings are held every other Wednesday at the Delta Mountain Inn, 7-9 pm sharp! Contact Cole Shuker at 932-5145 for further details.

Adult Indoor Soccer

Organized by the Whistler Soccer Society. Members

meet every Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in Myrtle Philip School. \$3 drop-in fee. Proper attire and gym shoes required. For further information call 932-3753.

Whistler Museum & Archives

Hours: Saturday, 10 - 3. Sunday, 10 - 3. Free admission. For more information call 932-2019 or 932-5047.

Live Music

Buffalo Bills Proudly Presents

March 30 - April 4: **The Brent Lee Band**. April 5 - 8: **The Hopping Penguins**. April 9 - 11: **Roots Round-Up**. April 12 - **No Fun**. April 13 - 15: **Dutch Mason**. April 16 - 18: **Just-H-I**. April 19 - **Bootsauce**. April 20 - 22: **Major Handy & Wolf Couchons**. April 23 - 25: **R & B Allstars**.

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Ski Boot Pub

April 1 & 2 - **Root of Beggars**, 3/4 of Roots Roundup; April 3, 4, 5 - **Activate**, Alberta's hottest reggae band; April 6, 7, 8 - **Doug Deep**, Hot Band, Don't Miss; April 9, 10, 11, 12 - **Russell Jackson & the Jac Band**, formerly with B.B. King; April 13, 14, 15 - **Asexuals** - original "Rockin' Canadian Tour"; April 16, 17, 18, 19 - **Atlantis Bus**, one of Vancouver's top original bands; April 20, 21, 22, 23 - **Incognito**, Rockin' Blues; April 24, 25 - **Bob's Your Uncle**, Come Early; April 26, 27 - **Zen Bungalow**, A Must See; April 28, 29, 30 - **Jerry Jerry & the Sons of Rhythm Orchestra**, Just off "Bootsauce" Tour

leading duo piano team," Anagnoson and Kinton combine flawless musicianship with spontaneity and humour.

Sponsored by the Nancy Greene Lodge the performance starts at 8:00 p.m. at the Whistler Conference Centre. Tickets are \$10.70 and are available from the Whistler Activity Centre or the Whistler Centre for Business and the Arts (in the Conference Centre). For more info, call 932-8310.

Whistler Answer Launch Party April 13

Come join the festivities as we celebrate the rebirth of the Answer. Tickets \$5. Music by **Route 99** and the **Skunk Cabbage Revue**. 9:00 - ? at Whistler Mountain Ski Club.

Mountain Events

Whistler Mountain
What skiing ought to be.

- April 1 - Dave Murray Xerox Masters Camp
- April 2 - 4 - Xerox Masters National Championships
- April 3 - noram Super G - men
- April 4 - NORAM Super G - women
- April 4 - Family Challenge Race and Barbecue
- April 5 - NORAM Slalom - men and women
- April 5 - Diet Coke STAR Series National Pacesetter Program
- April 7 - Spring FIS Super G
- April 11 & 12 - Mouton Cadet Spring Festival
- April 12 - Spring FIS Slalom
- April 18 - Chix on Stix & Boys on Boards
- April 19 - Extraordinary Easter Egg Extravaganza
- April 20 - Last day of operation, Whistler Creek Lifts
- April 25 & 26 - Westbeach Canada Snowboard Classic
- April 26 - Last day of operation

BLACKCOMB
AT WHISTLER

- April 1 - Kokanee Spring Series (Race 4 - Final)
- April 14 - Ronald McDonald Children's Charity Ski Challenge
- April 17 - 20 - Saudan Couloir Race Extreme

For a listing on this page please send information to Whistler Answer, Box 587, Whistler, B.C. VON 1B0 or FAX 932-1176.

Buzz... So I'm riding the Peak Chair thinking my own thoughts as I usually do, I've always got a head full

of them, specially when I'm high, and I can't really talk to the guy next to me because he's obviously straight off the plane from Toronto. I can tell because he's wearing three thousand dollars worth of equipment and he's

craning his neck around to gawk at the valley five thousand feet below us.

I know what he's thinking—if I jump right now I won't stop falling until I end up in the valley. Or one of the lakes. For some the thought becomes a compulsion and it drives them nuts trying to stop themselves from taking the leap. Compulsion or not, everybody thinks it the first time they ride this chair. I look at this guy next to me and figure he's the kind of guy who, having restrained himself from jumping, is probably using the view to his advantage, sussing out the possibilities for future valley development, for his next condo project or golf course.

First time I rode this chair, I wondered—if I spit would it bubble out into a thin parachute of saliva, bigger and bigger until it drizzled over the entire valley? But I've ridden this chair hundred of times now, and I prefer to look upward and into the dark blue of the high alpine sky. Sometimes it seems that the chair won't deposit me at the top at all but will just keep pulling me up until I disappear as a tiny speck in the heavens, like a star. The ancients wanted nothing more than that. To be immortalized in the heavens. What will I be immortalized for? Being able to ski all day, drink twelve beers, make love to a woman and then do it all over the next day? They don't generally name stars after twenty-four year old ski bums nicknamed Buzz.

The guy next to me, Ben, looks like the kind of guy who would be aiming to have an entire constellation named after him. I know his name is Ben because his dual mountain pass is flapping around his neck. And his skis are engraved with his name. I half expect to see his business phone number there just like on a business card. I'm thinking, hey, that's the kind of dumb idea that would make some enterprising young man his first million dollars, when I suddenly see the inevitable reeling into us as the inevitable will do. I say hey, watch out, and I kind of tap him on the shoulder because he doesn't seem to be the kind of guy who would just heed your call like that. They are all power trippers, right?

The tap on the shoulder works but not quite in time because the chair lifts us up over the mid-unload and—stops. But not before Ben has one ski twisted off and dumped in the safety net. He hasn't twisted or broken anything, except that maybe his pride is bent a bit out of shape, and the liftie retrieves the ski and rolls his eyes at me when he returns it to Ben. The chair starts again and I think, oh boy, here it comes, he's going to be pissed off because the pride thing is big when you're wearing thousand dollar ski suits.

There's a silence as we move over that strange bicycle-wheeled bomb tram, and then he says, "You a local?" I'm a bit taken aback because he's not complaining to me about lousy lifties. I'm also thinking, hey, who the hell else but a local wears fifteen year old ski pants, wears a rasta cap, and has the sun and snow and wind weathered into his face beyond his years. Who, for that matter, smokes ganja anymore except locals? But I don't say any of that. I just answer his question.

"Yes."

"I used to live here, too. Years ago," he says and looks at me for the first time. He's tanned in a tidy sort of way and his hair is thinning. "Back in the Seventies, boy was that a time...things have changed though, there was no town centre back then." I know that he expects me to be amazed and say something like, wow!

Gee whiz! Really! How many times have I heard someone who used to live here, come back on vacation and say it was great back then, it's so different now. Call me paranoid, but they always seem to imply that "different" means "not as good." If it's not as good, why did you come back? I may not have been around then, but I am around now and I know these mountains like the back of my hand. But I don't say any of this. I just watch a skier do a lousy job on Whistler Bowl.

"I took a year off to really live, but I had to go back and do a reality check," he says, and I'm thinking if you were really living here, what were you doing in "reali-

ty"—dying? Apparently for Ben reality was starting an ad agency, a house in the suburbs, a wife and a kid or two. It sounds cliché, doesn't it, but I'm afraid that's what he said on the last few hundred vertical feet of that chair ride. Suddenly we popped over the ridge and there it was: Black Tusk, the Cheakamus, the whole world spread below us there. What a view! I take a look at Ben to see his expression and he is pleased. Not surprised as I expected, but pleased: Maybe he's seen the view before. Had he climbed up here in the days when he was still one of the "living?"

That was about as much as I cared to contemplate Ben. I push off towards Whistler Bowl. It's a late spring day and the snow in the shadows is hard, frozen, rutted. A lot of clattering to get over to the ridge and towards the cirque where I want to be. A couple of times I get hit in the head by the ice cubes that are bouncing and rolling around me. It's intense and I love it! Steep, rutted, rock hard and I'm doing a dance with the mountain and she's spilling her cocktail on me, the ice cubes going down my shirt—but I don't care, we're both giggling so hard. It's like that, and the light is blue at this time of day in the shadows. Not a reflection of the blue in the sky, but something deep and yawning. I'm skiing on or into something very old and wise.

All of a sudden everything changes. Over a hump and the snow becomes soft, I'm sinking in to my knees, and it's light! A little miracle my mountain has performed here. That's what I like about the mountain, how changeable she is. You can know the contours and the nooks and the crannies, the little secret spots and recesses and yet she is never, ever, the same twice. It's why I don't get bored of being on the mountain, it's like making love to her, there's a movement and a feel, it's familiar and different at the same time, every time.

I stop only once for a breather on my way down, there's hardly anyone around, and I like the feel of the sun on my face for a minute or so, then I'm off again and down into a glade at the top of McConkey's Creek.

It's quiet and the snow is soft. I know that further down it's going to be rotten spring snow, but I don't care. It's too nice in here, the sun cutting its way through the evergreens, whisky jacks alerting one another about the unexpected human company. A squirrel chirps a squirrel chirp. I didn't know they were up

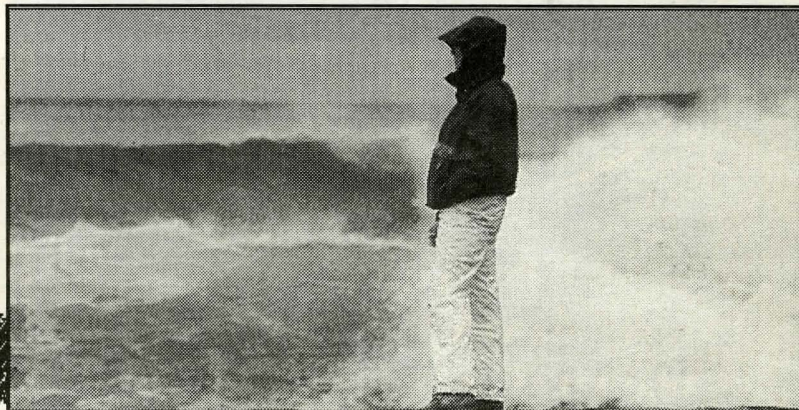
already and awake and ready for an industrious summer. I'm standing there happily when the gentle noises of a moment before erupt into a hysterical clatter and swoosh, a spray of snow, and someone else has invaded my glen. It's Ben.

I discreetly put my bag away.

"Don't worry about that, man," he says. "I used to smoke up too..." So I do the reasonable thing under the circumstances, I roll up a reefer. It's partly a social thing now and partly a challenge to see how he'll react. He takes it and we listen to the spring. Between tokes, he tells me that he's thinking of being a local again. The job, the house, the wife, the kids they all got to be too much. The wife is an ex-wife now, and the house is hers too. I'm thinking: if that was a priority list—job, house, wife, kids—no wonder it's all crumbled. I know the story—you lose the third priority first, the second one second and the first and fourth on your list you lose last. I don't say that though, and I'm wondering if I'm just being a little too touchy about it because I'm under the influence.

Under the influence. It must be Ben's influence for me to describe ganja that way because it's not something that puts you under, it wakes you up to the beauty in the world. Of course the powers that be would love you to think that beauty is not part of the "real" world, it makes it harder to fit people into the corporate ladder. Caffeine, nicotine, alcohol—now there are drugs worthy of success. Make you zippy and willful during the day, and then alcohol to numb you out of the knowledge that your life is being sold out from under you day by day by day, Monday to Friday, with a weekend left over for remorse or a mad escape from the life you've been sold into making for yourself. I know. My dad's favourite drugs were coffee, cigarettes and alcohol. He made his first million by the time he was thirty-three and he made my mom a widow by thirty-five when I was twelve. He was a success. Thanks dad, but twelve year olds don't need a million dollars, they need fathers...

We finish the reefer and Ben says, "You know I like this here." Then, as if making a corporate decision, he adds: "I think I will move back, be a local, ski lots, live the easy life." I don't say anything, just slide my skis back and forth, then push off. The snow is still light and easy to turn in, and the sun sends shafts of light through the evergreens. The air is cool in the shade. I brush past branches, diddling in and out of the creek bed, the water still frozen underneath. Lower down I know the snow will get heavy and the creek will be running, we'll have to jump from snow patch to snow patch and eventually climb out of the ravine through dense forest. I don't know if Ben knows what lies ahead. I don't tell him. He'll have to find his own way out of the wilderness.



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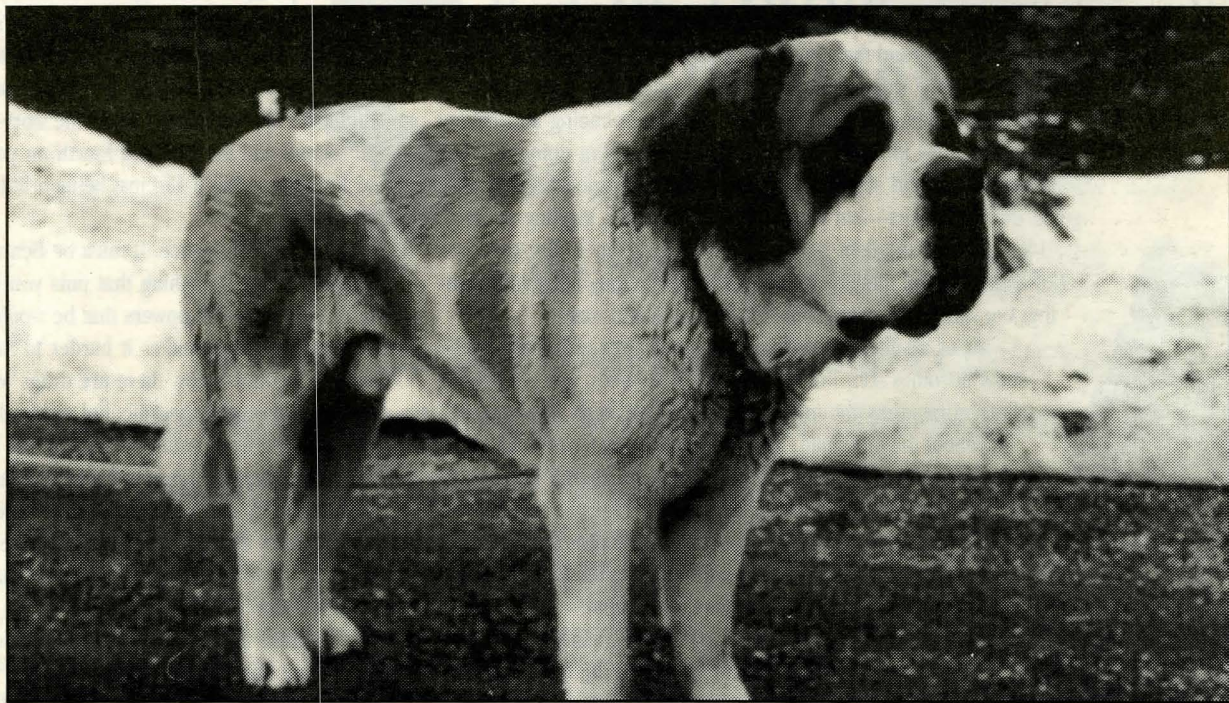
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Answer Dog 'O the Month

Schuyler (pronounced Skyler) is a four year old pure bred Saint Bernard, a breed that is well suited to mountain life. Saint Bernard's are large hairy animals that consume a considerable amount of food. They are friendly, cuddly and adorable, but a major drawback is their tendency to drool all over your new shirt. Legend has it that Saint Bernard's were bred to save lost travelers in the Alps, and the stereotypical Bernard is always thought to have a brandy flask around his neck. This practice has been prohibited in B.C. by the Liquor Control Branch. Schuyler lodges with Les and Linda



BOB COLEBROOK PHOTO

Clare in White Gold. His favourite things are playing, bones and people. Schuyler's pet peeve is to be tied up.

If you know a dog who might be eligible for a **Dog 'O the Month** nomination, please submit a photo and brief resume to the *Answer*. Please, absolutely no cats!

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FOOD

West Coast Cuisine is Eclectic and Innovative

By Ross Smith
Answer Food Columnist

Twenty-five years ago, when yours truly was an inexperienced cook's apprentice, the recognized spots in Canada for fine dining were Montreal and Quebec City. That was the hey-day of French Classical cuisine. Menus consisted of popular standards such as Pate Fois Gras, Coquilles St. Jaques, Duck a L'orange, Chateau Briande, Tournedos Rossini, Coq au Vin, Prawns Provencal and Lobster Thermidor.

Items such as Caesar Salad, Crepes Suzette and Cherries Jubilee were formally prepared in front of the customer. This cuisine was affordable only to the upper middle class or those wishing to celebrate a special occasion. Things remained like this despite the considerable social changes of the Sixties and Seventies.

Within the last decade, radical changes started to occur. A greater percentage of the public could afford to dine out. General boredom with the standard fare drove customers to be more adventurous with their taste. Different styles of ethnic restaurants became more common and more popular. People started to

be more conscious of what they were eating. The physical fitness trend of the Eighties definitely affected food styles. Words like "cholesterol," "nutrition," "protein," and "calories" started popping up in regular conversation. Even the great Canadian "beer" experts began to see the "Lite."

During all these changes, something called "West Coast Cuisine" started to emerge. In no time at all, Vancouver was becoming known as a culinary Mecca. Local young chefs took advantage of their new found freedom to create and change. Classical rules of cooking were bent to the extreme, with the results not always being positive.

Bernard Casavant, Executive Chef with the Chateau Whistler, is considered by many to be a leader in this still relatively new style. I spent some time with Chef Casavant trying to define West Coast Cuisine and his apparent success with it. He finds the creative aspect very rewarding and does not think that it is just a fad.

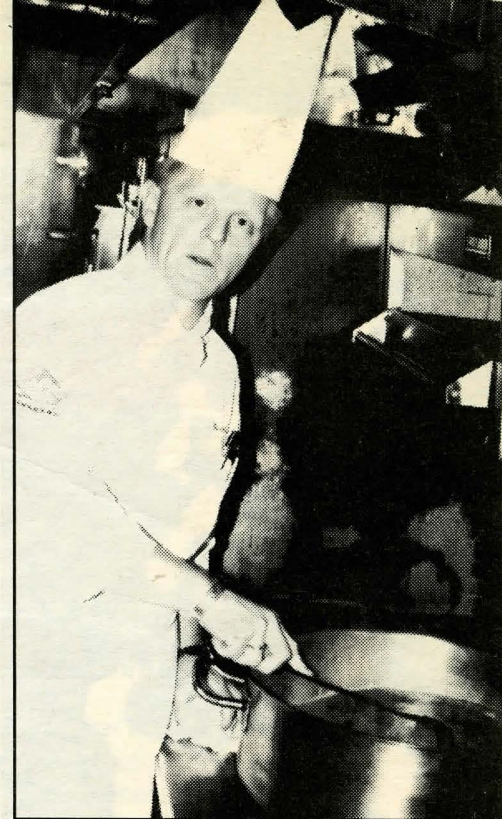
"West Cost Cuisine is the result of stretching parameters, changing rules and the fusion of various ethnic styles into something new and unique," says Casavant.

"It's a combination of taste and visuals. We use fresh locally grown herbs and 'certified organic' products when at all possible."

Following the trend of this lighter and cleaner style, we find the food to be not as "rich and saucy" as Classical French or Continental Cuisine. Natural fruit purees are used to sauce meats and seafood. Meats, game and poultry are either grilled or smoked. Vegetables and pastas, that were previously served in certain ethnic cuisine can now accent a dish of smoked breast of wild turkey with gooseberry chutney. The presentation will definitely be colourful and exciting.

So what about my favourite meatloaf luncheon at Tapley's or hot beef sandwich, or the famous "So and So's" burger at Hoz's pub? What about a wonderfully rich pepper steak or a classical French Onion pie?

Are all these gone forever? Of course not. This new style is



CHATEAU WHISTLER EXECUTIVE CHEF BERNARD CASAVANT IS AN EXPONENT OF WEST COAST CUISINE. ELWYN ROWLANDS PHOTO

being accepted because it offers an exciting change or an option. You, as a diner, will always have the choice and the chance to try something new or remain with your favourite. Remember, the restaurant industry will cater to you as the public, as the customer.

Chef Casavant has supplied this month's recipe, a classic warm weather dish prepared "West Coast Style."

CHUNKY GAZPACHO LAGER TEQUILA LACED SHRIMP

INGREDIENTS:

(YIELD 10 SERVINGS)

1 LITRE - TOMATO JUICE
1/4 LITRE - CLAMATO JUICE
1/4 LITRE - CHICKEN STOCK
1/4 LITRE - WHISTLER LAGER
1/4 PIECE - RED PEPPER (DICED)
1/4 PIECE - RED ONION (DICED)
1/4 PIECE - GREEN PEPPER (DICED)
1/4 PIECE - CUCUMBER (PEELED, SEEDED AND DICED)
1/4 PIECE - ZUCCHINI (DICED)
2 ROMA TOMATOES (DICED)
12 GRAMS - GARLIC (MINCED)
6 GRAMS - CILANTRO (CHOPPED)
TO TASTE - SALT AND PEPPER

MARINADE:

24 GRAMS - CHILEAN SHRIMP MEAT IN 2 MLS. TEQUILA AND 1 ML. LIME JUICE

METHOD:

SAUTÉ ALL VEGETABLES (EXCEPT CUCUMBER) WITH GARLIC. ADD TOMATO JUICE, CLAMATO JUICE, CHICKEN STOCK, SALT AND PEPPER AND CILANTRO. BRING TO A BOIL. REMOVE FROM HEAT AND ADD TOMATOES, BEER AND CUCUMBER. CHILL, PREFERABLY OVERNIGHT.

PRESENTATION:

SERVE CHILLED, TOPPED WITH WHIPPED CREAM, TEQUILA LACED SHRIMP AND CELERY STICK.

ENJOY,

BERNARD C. CASAVANT
EXECUTIVE CHEF
JIM ARMSTRONG
SOUS CHEF
CHATEAU WHISTLER

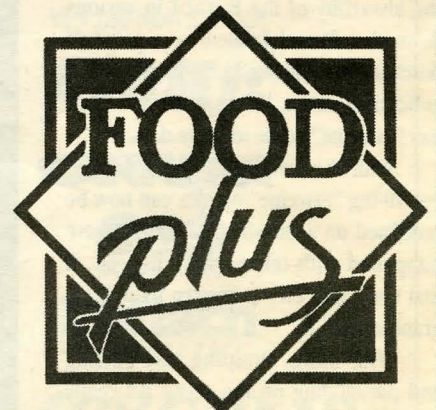
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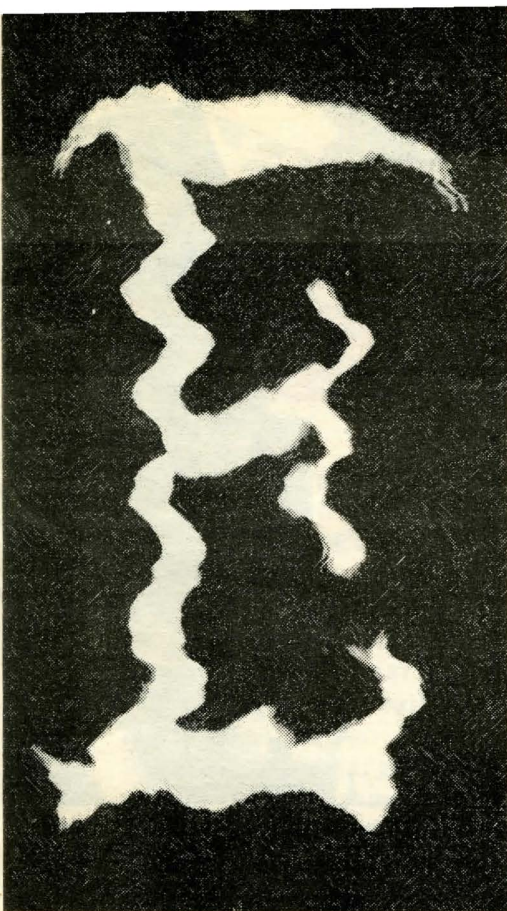
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One of Whistler's Original Extreme Skiers Explores The Meaning of Extreme

By Peter Chrzanowski

It wasn't too long ago that the word "extreme" was taboo. It was the unexpected and practiced only by true derelicts and dirtbags, who climbed and skied down obscure mountain peaks, humbug, just for fun.

But now, it's really quite amusing to note how the word "extreme" has led and dominated the ski and outdoor industry in the marketing trend department.

Does being "extreme" mean wearing North Face E wear, being part of the E Team as cloned look-a-likes, clad in yellow and black shredder wardrobe? Is "extreme" catching big enough air for the chiropractor to cash in on? What is left to be done?

The boys from RAP (Real Action Pictures) are now talking about heli-skiing in the Urals. The *nouveau* Whistler local, Stumpy (Greg Stump) has pulled handfuls of his hair out somehow trying to make the moral skiing majority grasp the absurdity of the E word in various films. Our formal E talent now gets half descent wages instead of a freebie for a good time and a helicopter ride. What has "extreme" come to these days?

With the arrival of snowboarding, everything "extreme" on skis can now be redefined on a snowboard. It could have happened with telemarking as well, if that sport had ever outgrown its humble granola attitude.

With bungee jumping, sky surfing and paragliding on the scene it's really hard to look dangerous these days. There is even one real live character who

wants to rollerblade off the Squamish Chief, then open his parachute for some oohs and aahs from the loggers below.

The man who first applied the word "extreme," Patrick Vallencant, is now dead and possibly turning in torment in his grave. He meant by "extreme" descending slopes steeper than 60 degrees, which he did at 19,000 foot elevations and continuing for 3,000 vertical feet.

Now, we have an annual "extreme" skiing competition in Valdez, Alaska. And Sylvain Saudan's mogul run on Blackcomb, dubbed "double black diamond," hosts a similar competition every April.

But who am I to play the purist. It's sort of amusing to see the E word used so effectively and ingeniously throughout the industry. After all, Warren Miller even cashed in on it with his *Extreme Winter* film release.

But are the real E days gone for good? These include the first ski descent of the West Couloir on Wedge, where we lost a good friend. It was something I still have to live with.

It certainly felt "extreme" when Beat Steiner and I toiled up the North Face of Mount Currie from the valley floor and put in the first tracks on the diagonal chute.

Memories of the big E still linger when celebrating So's birthday on the peak of Wedge, the full moon adding decor.

It's hard to keep up a deranged reputation of the high and wild. But last summer we joined some snowboarders on the first snowboard descents on

Wedge Mountain and Serratus in the Tantalus Range.

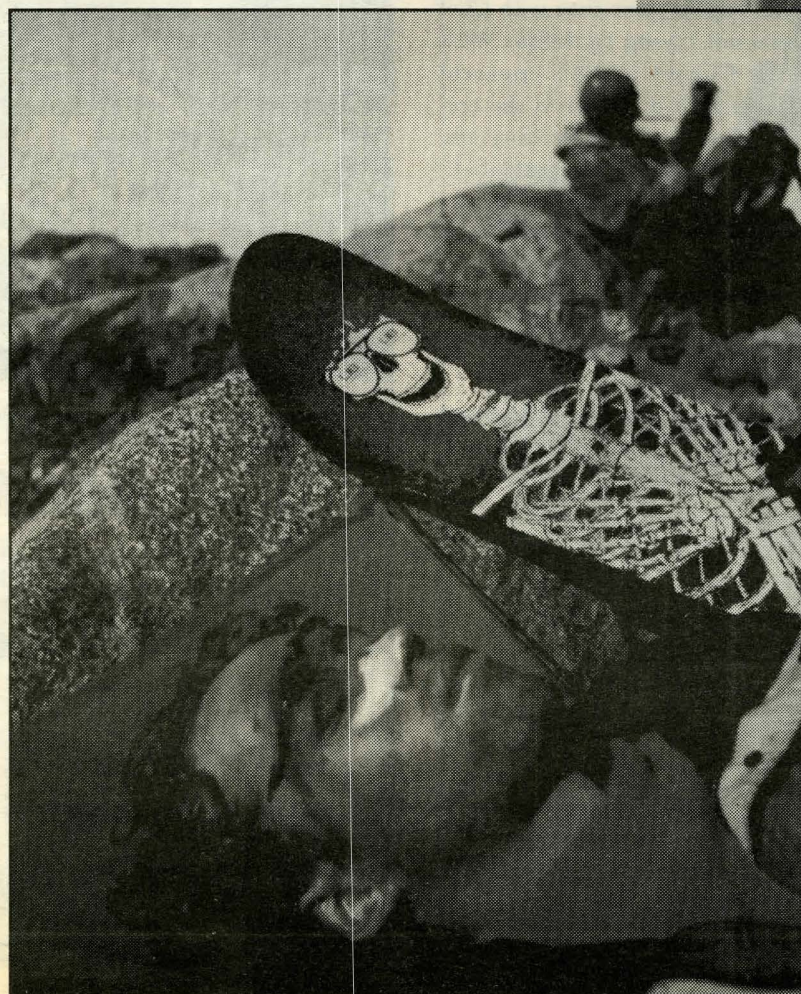
One fellow got a bit over ambitious jumping a crevasse. As he landed the jump he disappeared out of view. The poor guy had fallen in a hole. Since the glacier was riddled with crevasses, we didn't even know what slot had swallowed him. For the next twenty minutes we searched crevasse after crevasse, yelling his name. Finally we heard a moan. He had landed on a ledge about twenty feet down a bergschrung, and must've been unconscious for over twenty minutes.

Ian Hylands pulled the chap out and we called in the Search and Rescue from Squamish. Another scary part came when the ambulance workers jumped out of the helicopter and started running around between the crevasses in their black street shoes. I thought we were going to lose an ambulance worker. Now that is really "extreme!"

Then there's paragliding. As climber Mark Twight once said: "A sport that is dangerously easy..." In paragliding, if the wind is too strong you just don't attempt to fly. But wind or no wind the odds are he would chance it and fly. That's why Twight quit the sport, he knew himself and wanted to live and keep climbing.

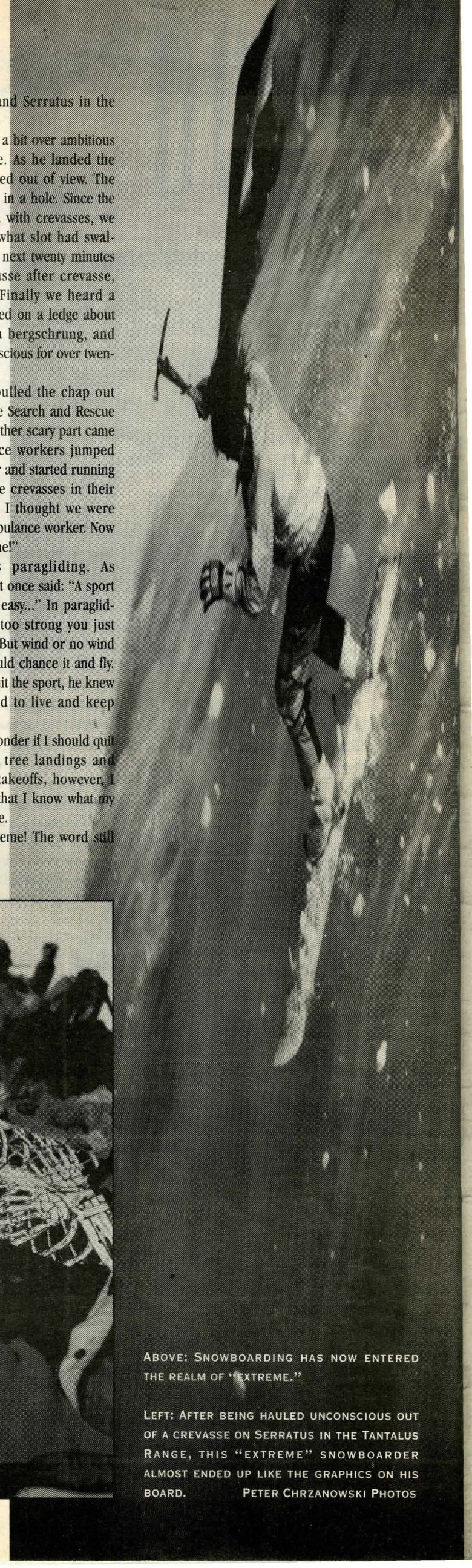
Sometimes I wonder if I should quit flying. After a few tree landings and rather precarious takeoffs, however, I keep telling myself that I know what my boundaries really are.

But, Extreeeeeme! The word still haunts me.



ABOVE: SNOWBOARDING HAS NOW ENTERED THE REALM OF "EXTREME."

LEFT: AFTER BEING HAULED UNCONSCIOUS OUT OF A CREVASSE ON SERRATUS IN THE TANTALUS RANGE, THIS "EXTREME" SNOWBOARDER ALMOST ENDED UP LIKE THE GRAPHICS ON HIS BOARD. PETER CHRZANOWSKI PHOTOS





ABOVE - ON THE LAST WEEKEND OF APRIL, 120 OF NORTH AMERICA'S TOP SNOWBOARDERS WILL CONVERGE ON WHISTLER MOUNTAIN TO COMPETE IN THE FOURTH ANNUAL WESTBEACH CANADA SNOWBOARD CLASSIC JOHN DOUGALL PHOTO

MELAMED...FROM PAGE 8

things, how important is the wetlands that will be used by the recreational complex, it is, after all, only a hectare?

It is something that people like to do is try and quantify it, I'll be the first to admit that the amount of wetland their going to destroy is very small. It comes down to the principle of it because there is so little wetland around and so much now has been consumed we feel that every little scrap is worth fighting for. A "no net loss" wetland policy is what Whistler needs and that means no more, not even one hectare. It doesn't matter how big or how small, every little chuck is important.

How much public input was considered before the decision to develop the site was given?

Zero as far as I know. The public heard through the newspaper as different locations for the rink were espoused. There was no call for a public information meeting, in fact I found out that it was council's conscious decision not to hold one.

What was their motivation for that?

To try and put it through as quickly as possible, information meetings take time and they imply that council's going to listen to what's said.

Do you detect a lot of indifference to the whole environmental question at Meadow Park?

Actually, I have not run into indifference. Everyone seems to have a strong opinion about the rink, whether it should go ahead as it is or

whether it should be in town centre. The majority of the people I speak to felt that it shouldn't be in Meadow Park but in the town centre, but I must admit I've been avoiding the hockey crowd.

Do you feel that because the rink is so needed and desired by so many that people are ready to overlook some of the environmental considerations?

It is the first time I've come across this in such a black and white light, where people are ready to stand up and say yeah, I think the environment is really important but this rink is really important to me so I'm willing to sacrifice some of my beliefs. That's for those people out there to worry about the environment but here at Whistler we need the rink so we don't have time to consider the environment. We consider that to be real unfortunate.

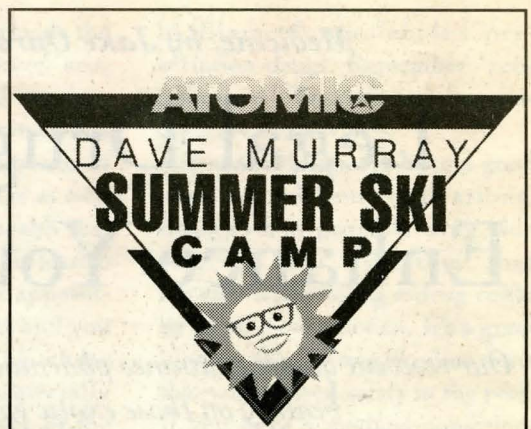
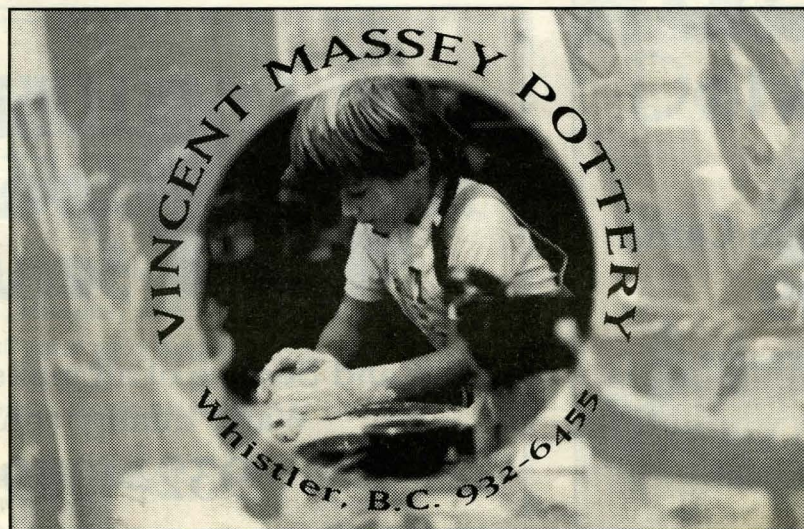
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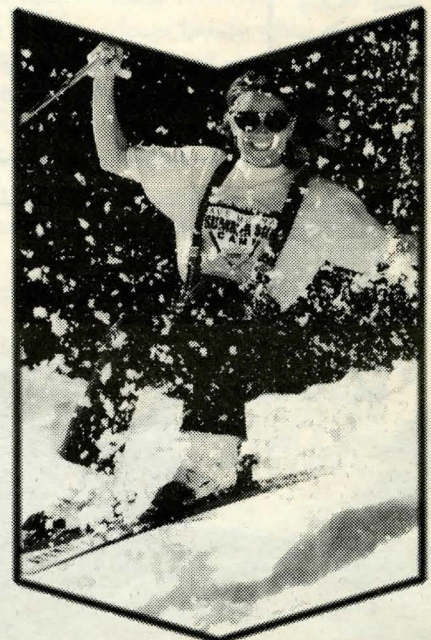
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You and your best buddy are standing alone at the top of your favourite steep, the sun is shining, there's a foot of light fluff, and the Sea

to Sky highway is closed. Hitting the road is the furthest thing from your mind. But April turns to May, the powder turns to slush, your girlfriend is the only thing doing any dumping, your landlord evicts you for that great party with the live band, you lose your job, and there's a four week gap before the UIC cheques start to roll in.

It's time to make your move while you can. No matter where you go, Hawaii, Mexico, or the developing countries, some sound preparation (an ounce of prevention?) can avoid those inevitable hassles of tropical travel.

Nothing, not even money, is more important than your health to the enjoyment of a trip. Lots can go wrong but, on the road as well as at home, it's key to have the right drugs for the right situation (I've made a living off this). So, what's essential, what's useful, and why?

A simple analgesic is good to have for those minor aches and pains such as headaches. It will also double as an antipyretic to lower fevers which tend to really wipe you out. **Acetylsalicylic acid** (ASA or Aspirin[®]) and **acetaminophen** (Tylenol[®] or Panadol[®] as it's known in many countries) are cheap over-the-counter drugs which do the job. Other analgesics which, like ASA also have anti-inflammatory uses, can be purchased over the counter (**ibuprofen**) or obtained via prescription. These are especially useful for muscle or joint aches and period cramps. Sometimes your doctor has a few samples to spare. It never hurts to ask. These agents can sometimes injure your stomach lining, so it may be necessary to curtail your alcohol intake (a distinct disad-

vantage). Stronger pain relievers are seldom necessary on a day-to-day basis.

Although most of us take our bowels for granted (excepting certain *Answer* staffers), avoiding the trots can become an obsession. For those times when it's an inconvenience to excuse yourself as you run doubled over to the nearest available stall (if you're lucky enough to find one), an anti-diarrheal agent such as **loperamide** (Imodium[®]) or **diphenoxylate** (Lomotil[®]) is indispensable. This correspondent will never again make the mistake of leaving these in his pack on top of a bus during the 8 hour ride from Casablanca to Tangier. Some doctors feel that the use of these agents can prolong diarrhea, but when the situation warrants, don't hesitate. Most diarrhea is viral in origin and will run its course without specific treatment.

The classic "traveler's diarrhea" can be caused by the enterotoxic E. Coli and this often responds to sulfa antibiotics such as **trimethoprim/ sulfamethoxazole** or **cotrimoxazole** (Septra[®], Bactrim[®]). A wide spectrum antibiotic such as the above or a cephalosporin (such as Keflex[®]) should be taken along, since it can also be used to combat common staphylococcal skin infections (boils, impetigo) or bladder infections. Always be aware of prior allergy or hypersensitivity to antibiotics. They, themselves can cause diarrhea by altering the normal bacteria in your gut. Yogurt can help this.

Some other bacterial diarrheas such as shigellosis and salmonellosis may be prolonged and require a visit to the local clinic. These respond to antibiotics, but usually run their course without

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specific treatment. Amoebic dysentery is treated by **metronidazole** (Flagyl®), but diagnosis should be confirmed first. Metronidazole is also good for treating other parasites such as the giardia that causes "beaver fever."

The best treatment for diarrhea is avoiding everything but clear fluids and gradually reintroducing solid food as the diarrhea settles. It is essential (especially in kids) to keep drinking many fluids to avoid dehydration, the major dan-

the taste and provide carbohydrate energy.

If you are troubled by allergies, don't forget the **antihistamines**. Regular cold sufferers might do well to bring along some **cold tablets**. You'd be surprised how common the common cold can be in the tropics.

Most of the tropics are plagued by malaria. The newest drug being touted for prophylaxis is **mefloquine** (Lariam®) taken once weekly. I found this drug very convenient on a recent trip

(Vancouver). They can provide the info for your specific travel area and update your official vaccination certificate. Vaccinations should be updated for peace of mind and border crossings as well as for the less tangible health reason. Try to arrange this at least 6 weeks in advance since appointments may be hard to get and you may need a series of shots (ouch!). Bookstores, especially those specializing in travel, or the libraries are valuable sources of info for the countries to be visited.

You might find it useful to peruse newspapers for updates on political situations as well.

Check your health insurance. Some readers may not even have B.C. (or other provincial) medical insurance. This is dumb. If this includes you, then I'm surprised you've read this far. Coverage for out of country health services costs a ridiculously small amount and

any travel or insurance consultant can advise you.

If you do bring prescription drug, it's very important to record their generic names, both for easy replacement and so that health professionals elsewhere can know what you've been taking. The brand names can vary greatly from place to place. Keep a record separate from your drugs, so that you can replace lost or stolen drugs (like traveler's cheques). Keep the drugs in their labeled bottles or carry documentation. People have been busted

in Blaine for unlabeled prescription drugs. Remember "zero tolerance." Fascists and bureaucrats are everywhere.

You should always have a good idea of correct indications, dosages and possible drug side effects. Any symptom that appears while taking a drug could be an adverse reaction. It's a good idea to take along medications that you've used safely in the past. If you have a medical condition, ask your doctor for a brief (legible!) handwritten note (on letterhead if possible) detailing your condition and medications. Diabetics in particular should have an adequate supply of syringes and glucose testing strips. The most important things to bring are those which are hardest to obtain abroad. Many prescription drugs in Canada can be obtained over-the-counter in other countries, but don't count on this. The label doesn't necessarily guarantee the contents in these countries. Try to keep your drugs handy when actually traveling from place to place. And remember...anyone who doesn't believe that the AIDS virus (HIV) can be heterosexually transmitted isn't a basketball fan. Use latex condoms.

Well, that's about it for this month. Stay tuned in the next issue for tips on your first aid kit. Happy trails and send me a postcard.

WHEN DOC JAKE IS NOT SKIING OR MOUNTAIN BIKING HE SPENDS HIS TIME AT ST. PAUL'S HOSPITAL WHERE HE IS A SPECIALIST IN PHARMACOLOGY AND INTERNAL MEDICINE.



ger of a diarrheal illness. Milk and milk products should be avoided until after full recovery. I don't recommend regular antibiotics as prophylaxis (prevention) of diarrhea. It's best to use common sense and not take too many chances. The best water treatment is boiling for 5 minutes (10 at altitude). Water can be treated with purifying tablets or tincture of iodine which I prefer since it doubles as a skin disinfectant. Use about 5 drops per litre and let stand for at least an hour. It tastes terrible. Juice crystals improve

to Africa. If you take **chloroquine** (also once weekly), a second drug such as **doxycycline** (Vibramycin®) may be needed in areas with chloroquine-resistant parasites. Some people recommend carrying three **Fansidar**® tablets to take if malaria is suspected and medical help is not readily available. I met some travelers who elected not to take anti-malarials. Bad gamble. The best way to prepare for a trip to the "danger zones" is to check with your doctor or the local traveler's health clinic. (Phone 736-9244 in

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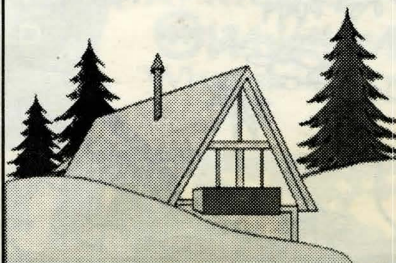
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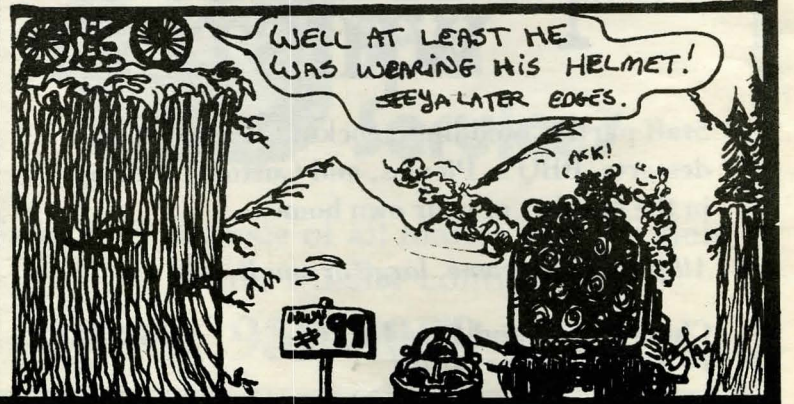
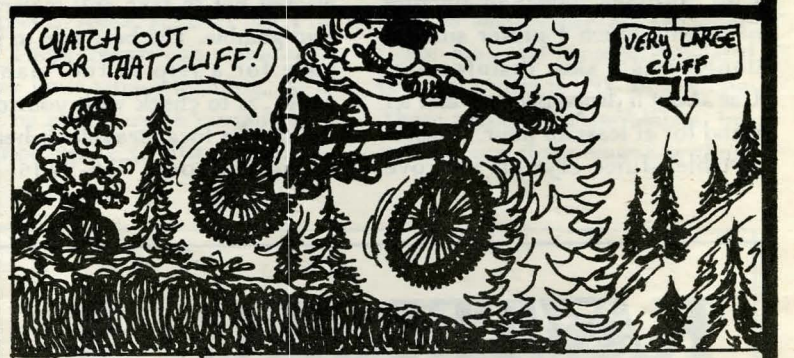
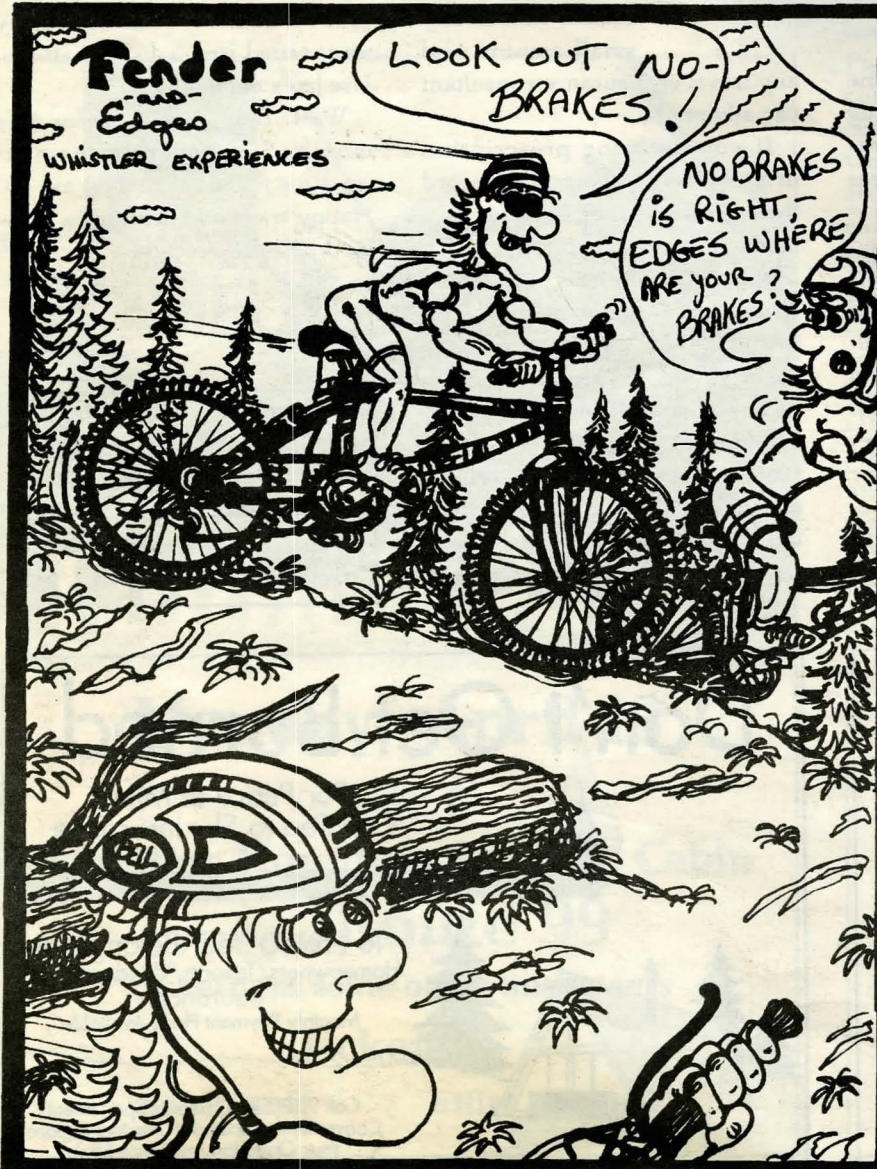
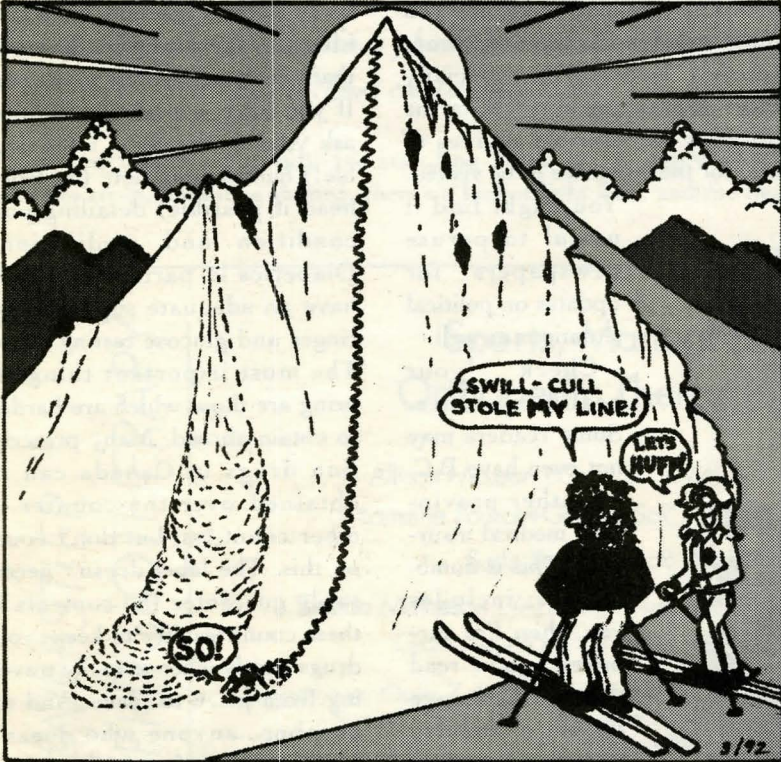
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PEAK BROS. UPDATE :

DISGUSTED WITH THE RAPID, RANDOM GROWTH IN WHISTLER, THE PEAK Bros. (FORMERLY OF ALTA LAKE B.C., NOW RESIDING IN DUFFY LAKE B.C.) HAVE COLONIZED PEAK MTN... THE LOCATION REMAINS A MYSTERY...



on every other developer. So you build a building that exceeds, specially cosmetically, the building we are building in Meadow Park. At the park we can build a functional ice arena, where in the village we'd build a functional arena with a lot of bells and whistles because it becomes a part of the resort. The minimum price for the bells and whistles element, not because I figured it out, but the planners, is 2 to 2.5 million dollars more. Just for the ice arena. Number two is that we don't have a lot of land in Village North and we'd have to go to underground parking, that makes it very expensive. That is an added cost. So as a project you'd look at, guaranteed, three million dollars difference, three million we don't have. All these elements made it for me, personally, quite easy, having the objective to build now, not talk another three years.

AWARE has opposed the Meadow Park location because of the sensitive nature of the wetlands where it is being built. What is your reaction to their position?

The environmental concerns that are suddenly there surprise me. Because the rest of Meadow Park, what is there today, is part of the same area. We had to do all the clearing and land fill for the baseball, it was never an issue. It is an area that for the longest time has been designated as a play park. Now suddenly because it is an ice arena it becomes an issue in the minds of certain people. Some of the arguments that have been made I really don't buy and the reason I don't is we hired a consultant, an environmental consultant who, by the group opposing the ice arena, has always been recognized as a first class environmental consultant, Paul Christie from Talisman. So Paul looked at it, that's his job, and he had seven items that if we implement his seven items then in his opinion the use was appropriate. So we have implemented his seven items, that's how we dealt with the environmental concerns on the site. Now that certain people don't accept the expert opinion in regard to the environmental issues, that is something I can't do anything about, because I truly believe that most of the statements are emotionally driven, not factually driven.

What about the accusation that council has been hypocritical by putting the Green Lakes Golf Course through two years of public hearings while the ice rink, because it's the municipality doing the developing, got through relatively fast.

Well again, they (AWARE) kept asking for public hearings. They know, of course, that public hearings are for rezoning, so that was not an issue. Nobody can tell me as a municipality that we have not done an enormous amount of information as regards to the facilities. We have had so many public information meetings and workshops on the public amenities that we know what the general public, the majority of people in this community, want. So the argument that Green Lake has had two years of process I think it's a little bit different. The Green Lake people could have built the golf course five years ago and there's nothing as a municipality we could have done about it. Where the public issue became prevalent was the development of residential units on that site, that's why it had to go through public hearings.

Is the moving of amenities like the recreational facility and the Myrtle Philip School out of town centre abandoning the notion of town centre as a multi-

use area, where locals and tourists can intermingle, and turning it into a mere shopping mall?

No definitely not. We still own this land. The integration of the tourists and the locals is very important and I believe it will continue. It was a choice between community amenities taking 3-5 years with nothing built or this year in Meadow Park. If the tourist wants to use it, it's only five minutes by bus, and I didn't think that's a handicap.

Certain rumours have been circulating that suggest that the original Village North land will now be sold or developed in a commercial manner. Is there any truth to this?

My personal desire is that this land will eventually accommodate a theatre type operation with a library and arts centre and the museum. So not only does it become an attraction for the visitor but certainly as a super draw for the locals as well. We're not going to sell the land, some AWARE people were making that point but we have said categorically no. That land is zoned for one thing only and that is amenities, nothing else, there is no zoning for a hotel or commercial retail.

The council was unanimous in its decision to proceed with

the ice arena. A cynical person might suggest that the rush to build this arena could very well enhance the incumbents' chances in the next election.

It's a year and eight months to the election. There's one thing I can guarantee and that is that the voters have a short memory. This thing is not driven by elections, this is driven by constant community pressure. If we can be criticized for one thing I think it is that we have pushed hard to make it happen, and that started on day number one and nobody at the time was thinking about the next election. I don't even know who is going to run in the next election. This is not the typical political handout three months prior to an election. This started on the first of January 1991.

What about naming this facility, how about the Ted Nebbling arena?

Bullshit. One of the things we may be able to do is make a deal with a company... name one... how about Labatt's... to throw 2 million in the kitty for the name... I'm saying maybe... this is facetious...to add on to the facility and make it better... like the curling rink. I'm not looking for the rink to be named after Ted Nebbling, but it was your idea, not mine.

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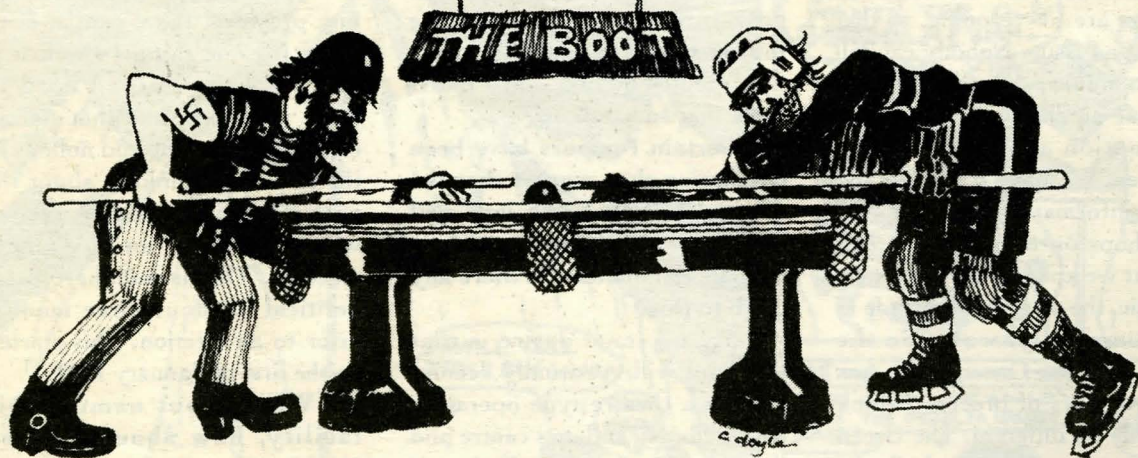
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Vancouver Canucks took on the bikers from Squamish in Seventies brawl at the Boot Pub



By Bob Colebrook

A

full scale, all out barroom brawl is a rare event. The type of donnybrook referred to is a fistic celebration where there are no spectators, only participants. To qualify for barroom brawl status a fracas has to include everyone in the bar, although it is not absolutely essential for the majority of the combatants to know how the melee started. A good barroom brawl will take on a momentum of all its own.

A barroom brawl, however, is not a random event. There are several factors involved and conditions have to be perfect. A brawl is unlikely to erupt in a bar with a high percentage of women. To their credit, women appear to be less prone to violence. Also, if there are women present men seem more interested in them than anything else.

But a room full of men is not enough in itself to precipitate a brawl. Copious amounts of liquor are an absolutely essential ingredient. Also, the planets have to be lined up in just the right position to create a nanosecond shift in the earth's electromagnetic field. This causes the molecules in the aggression centre of the male brain to start vibrating at an extreme rate, superseding the tiny portion of the brain capable of rational thought and sending adrenaline to the muscles.

The Ski Boot Hotel was lodging three members of the Tribesmen Motorcycle Club from Squamish. No one could really figure out what they were doing staying in a Whistler hotel. They were not here to ski.

Also in the valley that night were most of the members of the Vancouver Canucks Hockey Club. They had been eliminated from the playoffs in the first round by the Montreal Canadiens and were here for some spring skiing.

The Tribesmen went to the bar that evening, ostensibly to play a little eight-ball. Tension was created almost immediately when the bikers ignored the order of the games, and tried to sleaze their way onto the table. The locals were not impressed with this lack of manners, but nothing except glaring took place.

Three of the Canucks now showed up at the Boot, sitting down at a table next to the Tribesmen. Fate was working overtime that night.

The Canucks were Harold Snepsts, Ron Sedlbauer and Kenny Lockett, a backup goalie. Sedlbauer was a big winger who scored forty goals one year but often played in a fog. His nickname was "Sudsy." Lockett was a wiry but forgettable netminder who disappeared into obscurity. Snepsts, however, was the prize. He was what some people called a "goon." At that stage in his career Snepsts was one of the toughest enforcers in hockey.

There they sat: three young bikers and three young athletes. One almost expected professional boxing promoter and income tax evader Don King to pop up and start selling tickets for the "Hoot at the Boot."

The bikers started ribbing the Canucks, and it has never been established whether they knew who they were dealing with. Snepsts was finally forced into action. He got up and went over to talk to a local he had met that day on the mountain.

"These guys are starting to really piss us off," he said. "If something happens we're not going to have to fight the whole bar, are we?"

The local responded: "Hell, I think you'd be doing everyone a favour."

Returning to his seat, Snepsts began to sit down. Before he was fully seated one of the bikers reached over and poured a glass of beer over his head.

They say that the hand is quicker than the eye. The Canucks swarmed the bikers, with tables and chairs strewn in their wake. Now that the gloves were off some very quick Canuck hands applied themselves to some slow Tribesmen eyes.

At the start of the ruckus the positions were easily defined. Three against three, one table versus the other. But like chess, once the battle is engaged, an almost infinite amount of following moves present themselves. Flailing bodies quickly spread out from the vortex. As the field of battle expanded, so did the participation level. As tables would get knocked over there was little else for the people sitting at them to do but jump up and join the fray. Very quickly the entire bar was engulfed as a result of the domino effect.

It would be difficult to tell what exactly happened without the benefit of a slow motion replay, suffice to say that Don Cherry would've been frothing at the mouth.

One highlight clearly visible, and audible, was Snepsts lifting a biker about a foot off the floor with a sizzling uppercut.

What the newcomers were fighting about, however, and whom they were fighting, is still a mystery. The prevailing theory is that you attack randomly, operating on the assumption that anyone close enough to attack is just about to assault you. There is little doubt that some skirmishes were going on between combatants who were, two minutes previously, enjoying a beer together.

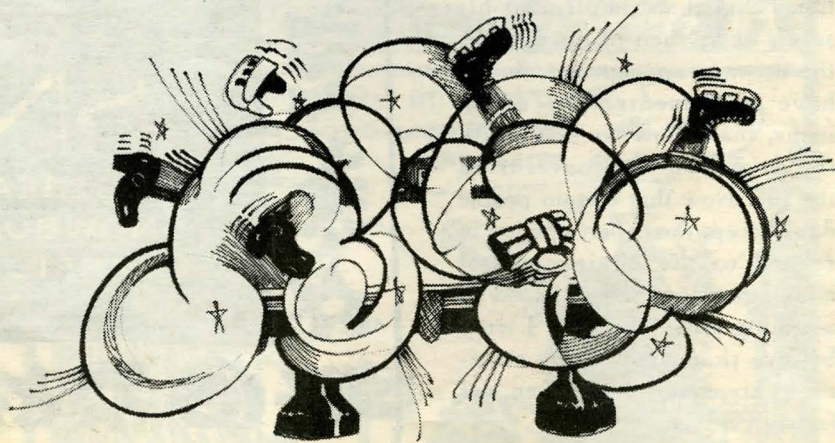
In the main event, the Canucks clearly TKO'ed the bikers. In the satellite bouts, it's any body's guess. It was all over, however, in under three minutes, when there were no tables and chairs left to tip over.

The bartender was the only spectator. He stood behind the relative safety of the bar, enjoying the break. There was no point in him phoning the police, who were forty minutes away in Squamish, which was probably just as well, their arrival might have initiated round two.

As the whooped bikers were leaving the pub the hotel manager arrived and surveyed the carnage. He quickly proclaimed the bikers *persona non grata*, not only in the pub, but in the hotel. They were immediately evicted from their rooms.

The rest of the warriors were busy putting the tables and chairs back in order. Ten minutes after the brawl, apart from the post mortems going on at every table, you never would have known anything had happened that night.

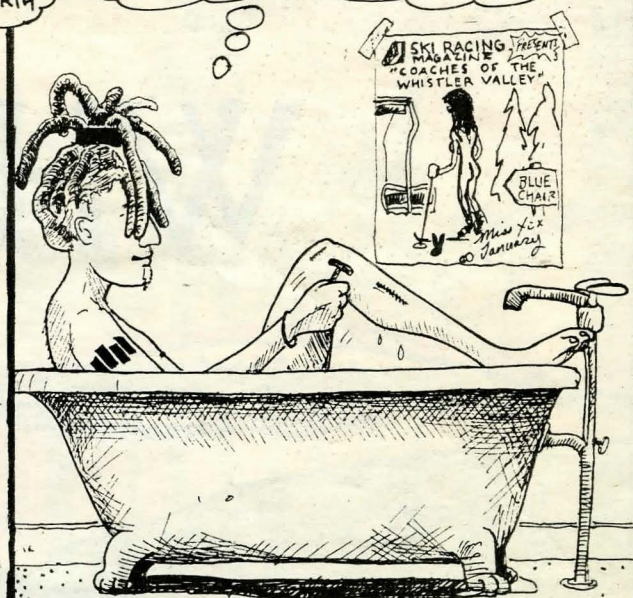
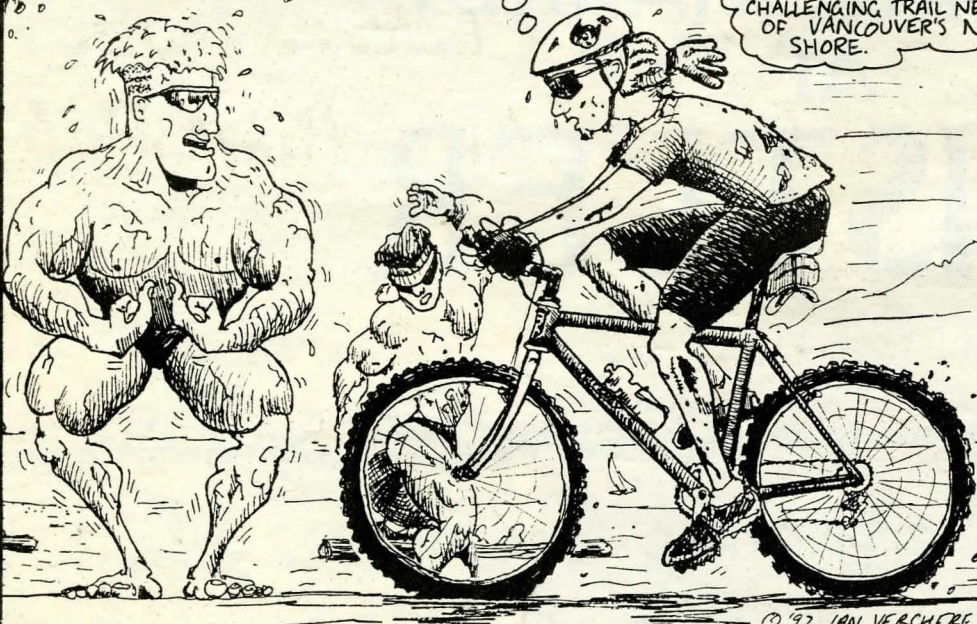
On the way out, at the end of the night, Ron Sedlbauer remarked to the bartender: "That was the weirdest thing, guys were just jumping in for practice."



LOCALMAN

LOKE - WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LEARN... YOU COULD HAVE SPENT THE DAY FLEXING IN THE HOT SUN HERE AT KITS BEACH. BUT NO, YOU HAVE TO GO OFF GALLAVANTING AROUND THE MASSIVE AND CHALLENGING TRAIL NETWORK OF VANCOUVER'S NORTH SHORE.

IT'S TIME TO BRING THE BOYS DOWN FOR A REFRESHER ON CITY LIFE. IF I CAN GO BACK TO WHISTLER AND SKI, THEY CAN COME DOWN AND RIDE...



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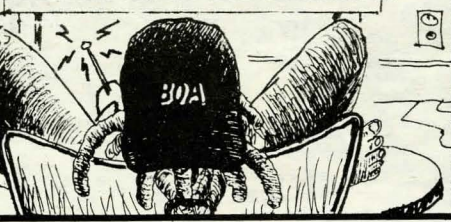
THIS COMIC IS DEDICATED TO RAY CLARKE

LOCALMAN PHONES THE RESIDENCE OF RAINBOW O'CALLAGHAN AND HERB STOCK...

IT'S TEN AFTER SEVEN, WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK WE'RE WATCHING?

WELL, WHEN I LIVED THERE WE NEVER HAD CABLE, JUST C.B.C. NORTH. ANYWAY YOU GUYS DRAG YOUR BUTTS AND BIKES DOWN HERE. THE SNOW IS PRACTICALLY GONE FROM CYPRESS, GROUSE AND SEYMOUR. IT'S HOT RIDING DOWN HERE RIGHT NOW...

OOH THE BIG CITY HERB. THINK WE CAN HANDLE IT?



THAT NIGHT...

Hl'ingan Hol Dajatta'a'
Hl'ja'-nuq Daq'oh puchpa'e



MAN! LOOK AT THIS! TRAFFIC! ONE OLD VW VAN HEADING SOUTH ON A FRIDAY AFTERNOON, AND 10,000 CHEROKEES, PATHFINDERS, AND FORERUNNERS HEADING NORTH.

I FIGURE THOSE ARE \$20,000 4 BY 4'S WITH \$300 BICYCLES ON THE ROOF, AND WERE THE EXACT OPPOSITE: \$20,000 WORTH OF BICYCLES ON A \$300 VAN...

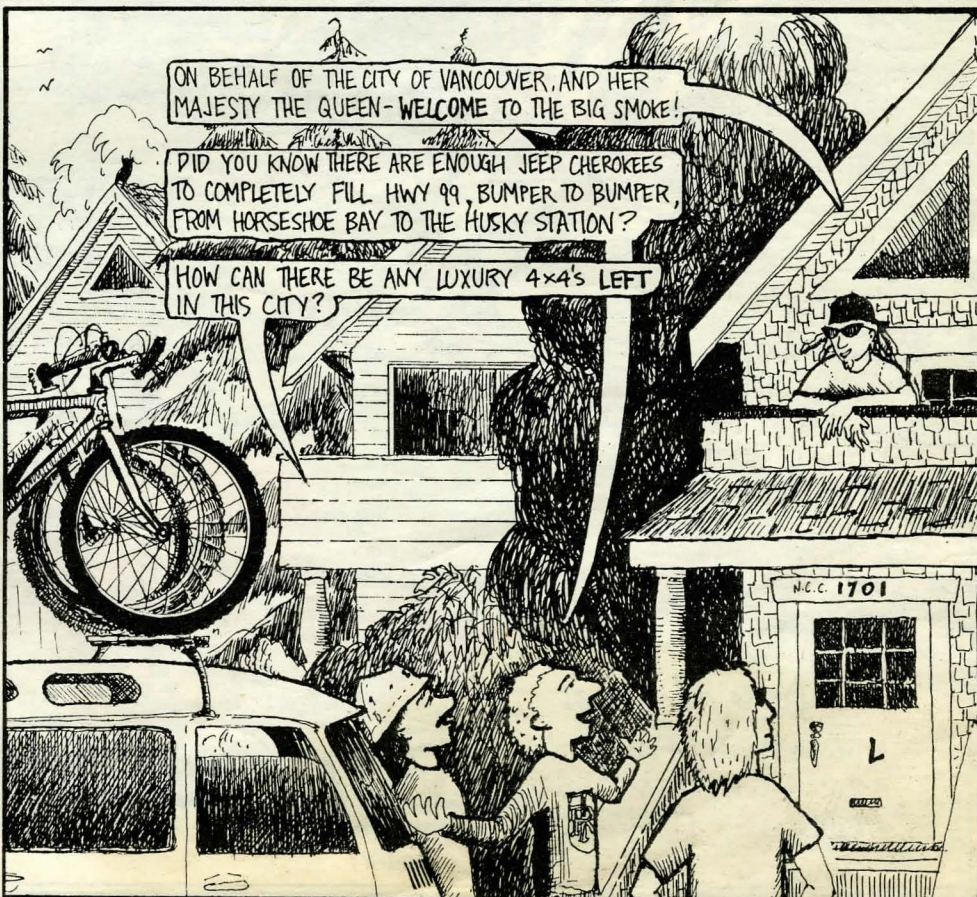
LET'S NOT ROLL THIS THING THEN, EH?



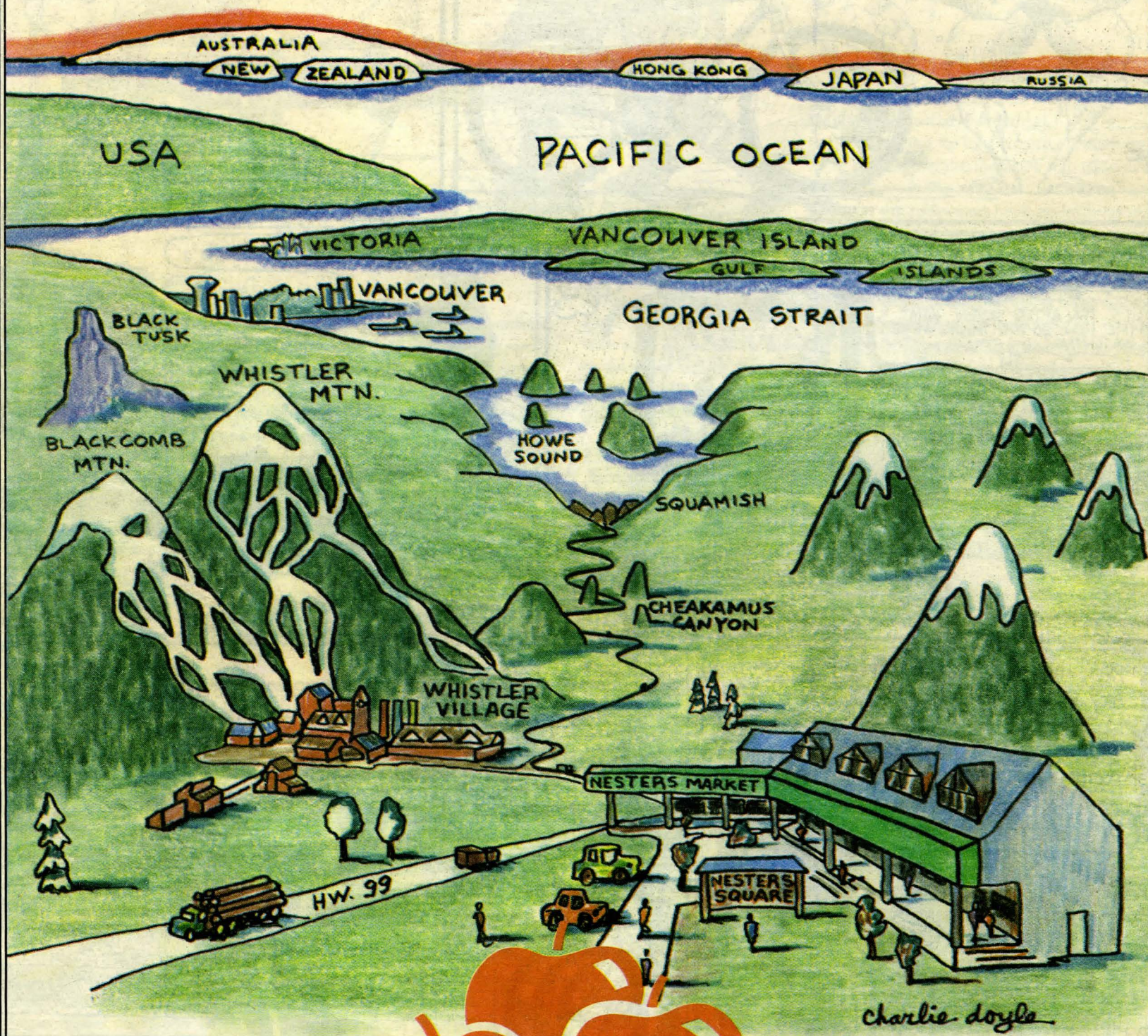
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