

Russian immigrant loses legal battle

OTTAWA (CP) — Russian immigrant Ilya Trest lost yet another round Monday in his one-man fight to change the immigration laws.

The Supreme Court of Canada dismissed his attempt to appeal lower court rulings that no legal contract exists between immigrants and the persons who sponsor their move to this country.

Trest, a 44-year-old former labor economist now working for a Toronto auto parts firm, has had the issue before a variety of courts for almost six years. He wants the courts to say that sponsors who do not live up to their obligations can be sued.

He, his wife and her parents left the Soviet Ukraine in April, 1972, for Kirkland Lake, Ont. They were among the first families to arrive under the Canada-Russia Reunification of Families Program and the inlaws were sponsored by lumber mill operator Albert Kokotow, Trest's mother-in-law's brother.

A family dispute arose and after two months the newcomers found themselves locked out of the Kokotow home, although Kokotow found an apartment for them and continued financial assistance.

In all his court actions, Trest's main point has been much the same: Immigrants brought to Canada have no legal assurance that their sponsors or the federal government will look after them.

The Federal Court of Canada ruled it had no jurisdiction in the matter and the Federal Court of Appeal agreed. In January, 1977, the Supreme Court refused to approve Trest's application to appeal those rulings.

Meanwhile, Trest was trying to sue Kokotow on behalf of his mother-in-law. The Ontario Supreme Court and the Ontario Court of Appeal ruled there was no contract between the parties.

The Supreme Court of Canada upheld those rulings Monday by refusing Trest permission to appeal.

The new Immigration Act, which became law April 10, requires sponsors to give the federal immigration minister a written promise to provide for the immigrants for up to 10 years. If a sponsor does not honor his commitment and the newcomer falls onto the provincial welfare rolls, the minister can assign the case to the provincial government. The province would force the sponsor to either meet his obligation or pay up the cost of welfare.

Trest said in an interview the new law is not good enough. There still was no provision for an immigrant to sue his sponsor.

Sniper sparks protest

SEATTLE, Wash. (AP) — The sniper wounding of a woman at the University of Washington triggered remarks Monday about violence against women at a feminist conference over the weekend.

Emily Cannell, 24, of Tacoma, Wash., remained in serious but stable condition Monday at Harborview Medical Center. She underwent surgery Sunday to remove a bullet, which entered her back and hit her stomach and diaphragm.

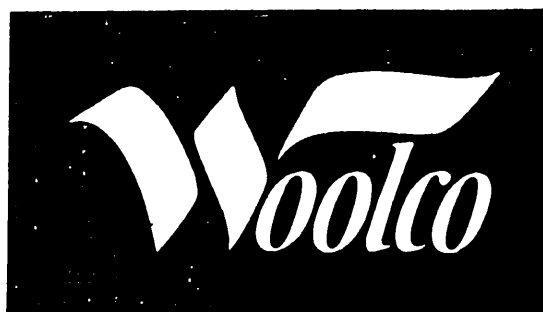
Ms. Cannell was attending the Northwest Women's Action Conference on the campus when she shot Saturday night. At least five shots were fired, but police don't know if the shooting and conference were connected.

After the attack, the workshop's theme turned to violence against women.

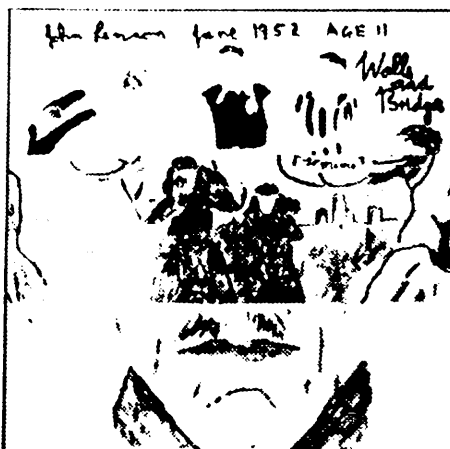
"Violence against women keeps us doing the female shuffle," said conference speaker Dr. Phyllis Chesler, a clinical psychologist and assistant professor at City University of New York. "We need our own international feminist government-in-exile with a ministry of defense to keep females safe from violence."

University police Sgt. R.M. Kleiven said police don't know if the gunman was aiming specifically for Ms. Cannell. Extra security for the conference was added after the shooting, but a search for the suspect has been fruitless.

Police questioned one man after the incident but released him.



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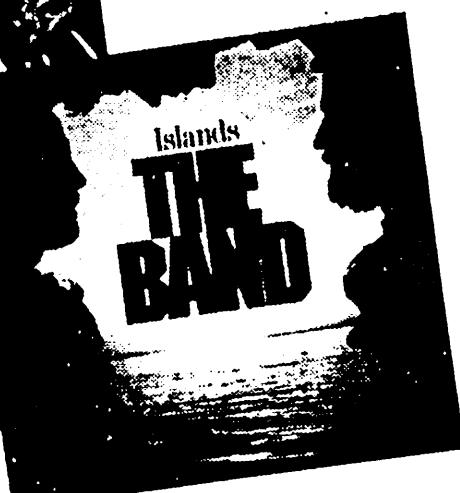
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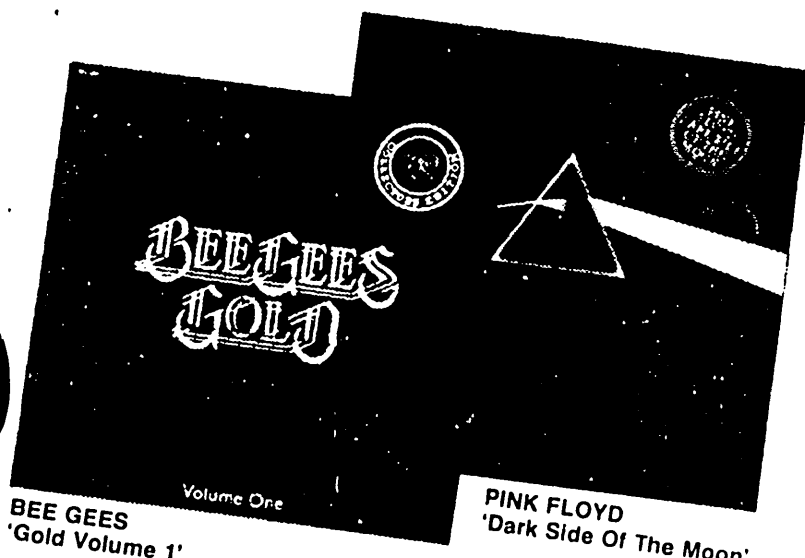


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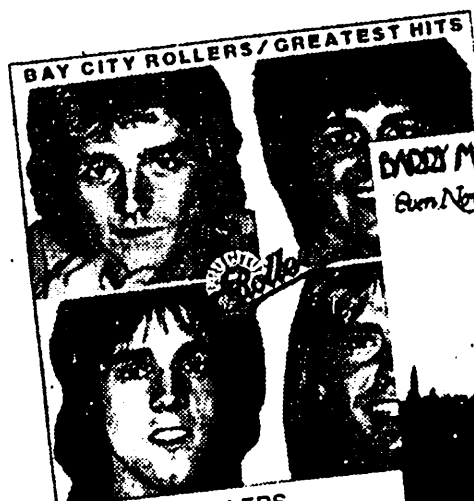
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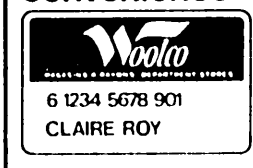


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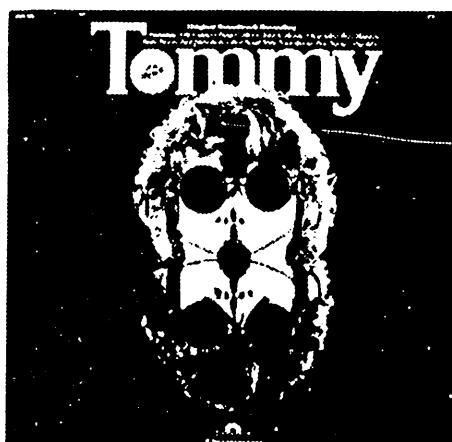


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