

Smoker who lost both legs sues tobacco manufacturer

Canadian Press
VANCOUVER

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Mr. Perron, 35, of Vancouver, is a victim of Buerger's disease, an arterial ailment that cuts off the

SMOKER - Page A2

Smoker sues for damages.

© From Page One

circulation to the limbs and often results in amputation. The rare disease, dubbed "smoker's leg" by doctors, generally affects men between the ages of 20 and 40 and is aggravated by smoking.

"This is a very painful disease," said Mr. Perron, who is seeking unspecified damages. "I don't want anybody to go through what I went through."

David Swenor, lawyer for the Non-Smokers Rights Association, said Mr. Perron's suit would be based on the argument that tobacco warnings issued by Canadian manufacturers are inadequate.

"There's a strong onus on the companies to warn consumers

about the potential hazards of smoking," Mr. Swenor said. "Clearly, manufacturers are not living up to that onus."

Mr. Perron, whose legs both were amputated below the knee, said tobacco manufacturers should be held accountable.

In an interview from Toronto, Jeff Labow, vice-president of corporate affairs for R.J.R.-MacDonald, said the manufacturer will use all of its resources to defend the lawsuit.

"The decision to smoke is a matter of individual choice and personal responsibility," Mr. Labow said. "Is it fair for someone who chooses to smoke and becomes ill, to put the responsibility on someone else?"

R.J.R.-MacDonald is the Canadian subsidiary of R.J.R. Nabisco Inc. of Atlanta.

NATIONAL

A4 THE GLOBE AND MAIL, TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1988

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Mr. Perron, whose legs both were amputated below the knee, said tobacco manufacturers should be held accountable.

"I want to make a point here. When you see kids of 12 or 13 years old smoking, you want to make sure the same thing doesn't happen to them."

Mr. Perron, a single father who is currently unemployed, refused to say how he is financing his lawsuit but said he wanted to see the case go to trial and did not want to settle out of court.

His lawyer, Russell Stanton, said the case would probably not go to trial for at least a year. He said he

had been holding back the action until the U.S. court ruling in New Jersey had been rendered.

In an interview from Toronto, Jeff Labow, vice-president of corporate affairs for RJR-MacDonald, said the manufacturer will use all of its resources to defend the lawsuit.

"The decision to smoke is a matter of individual choice and personal responsibility," Mr. Labow said. "It is fair for someone who chooses to smoke and becomes ill, to put the responsibility on someone else."

RJR-MacDonald is the Canadian subsidiary of RJR Nabesco Inc. of Atlanta.

Mr. Perron said he was told to stop smoking after he lost one of his legs in 1988, but did not quit until after he lost his other leg in 1989, 17 years after he started smoking.

"I couldn't stop," he said. "I didn't believe I had the disease and I didn't understand the disease until after I lost my second leg."

Ex-smoker first Canadian to sue a tobacco firm



ROGER PERRON: Single parent seeks damages against cigarette maker.

By Tim Harper
Toronto Star

VANCOUVER — A former pack-a-day smoker who says his habit cost him his legs has become the first Canadian to sue a tobacco manufacturer for damage from his addiction.

Roger Perron, a 35-year-old single parent of a 7-year-old boy, yesterday filed suit in British Columbia Supreme Court, seeking unspecified damages against the giant RJR MacDonald Inc. cigarette manufacturer.

Perron lost both his legs to Buerger's Disease, a rare condition that doctors say is found almost exclusively in smokers.

Perron's addiction to cigarettes was so severe he continued smoking even after the amputation of his left leg in 1980, he said in the statement of claim.

It was only after the loss of his other leg in 1983 that an acupunc-

turist finally stopped a habit that had seen the former heavy equipment operator smoke 20 to 25 cigarettes daily since age 13.

"I tried to (quit) many times. I just couldn't stop," Perron said.

The first Canadian lawsuit came one week after a jury in Newark, N.J., found that the cigarette manufacturer Liggett Group Inc. was partially responsible for the death of Rose Cipollone, who died of lung cancer. Her family was awarded \$496,000.

But the next day, a federal appeals court in Cincinnati, Ohio, dismissed a lawsuit from a man who had lost his left leg to pulmonary disease. The court cited a 1966 U.S. Congress decision that compelled cigarette manufacturers to warn customers of the dangers of smoking.

Jeffrey Labow, a spokesman for RJR MacDonald Inc., a

wholly owned Canadian subsidiary of the London-based RJR Tobacco International Inc., said the company will defend itself "vigorously, with all the resources at our command.

"The fundamental question is, is it fair for someone who freely chooses to smoke and then becomes ill to try to put responsibility for his voluntary choice on to someone else."

David Swenor of the Toronto-based Non-Smokers' Rights Association, said the labelling argument used by U.S. manufacturers will have no bearing in a Canadian court.

He said the U.S. industry has argued that the warning on cigarette packages is the one dictated by legislation passed by Congress.

"In Canada, the warnings you see on cigarette packages are put there voluntarily," he said.

TORONTO SUN - June 21, 1988

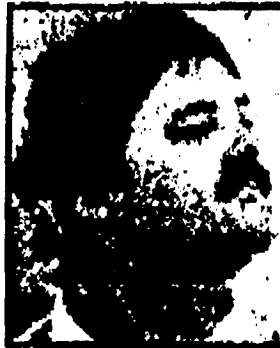
BUTT-MAKER SUED**Smoking
cited in
leg loss**

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ROGER PERRON
Double amputation

Association, said Perron's suit would be based on the argument that tobacco warnings issued by Canadian manufacturers are inadequate.

"There's a strong onus on the companies to warn consumers about the potential hazards of smoking," Sweanor told the news conference. "Clearly, manufacturers are not living up to that onus."

In an interview from Toronto, Jeff Labow, vice-president of corporate affairs for R.J.R. MacDonald, said: "The decision to smoke is a matter of individual choice and personal responsibility. Is it fair for someone who chooses to smoke and becomes ill, to put the responsibility on someone else?"

Perron, 35, of Vancouver is a victim of Buerger's disease, an arterial ailment that cuts off the circulation to the limbs and often results in amputation. The disease, dubbed "smoker's leg" by doctors, generally affects men between the ages of 20 and 40, and is aggravated by smoking.

"This is a very painful disease," said Perron, who is seeking unspecified damages. "I don't want anybody to go through what I went through."

David Sweanor, lawyer for the Non-Smokers' Rights

Former smoker can't afford lawsuit

VANCOUVER (CP) — Roger Perron, who is suing a Canadian tobacco manufacturer after losing both legs as the result of a smoking-related disease, says the suit may be delayed because he cannot pay his legal bills.

The suit against RJR-MacDonald Inc. marks the first time in Canada that a tobacco company has been sued for damages related to diseases suffered by smokers, said Perron's lawyer, Russell Stanton.

Perron said he "won't let the ac-

tion die, but it may take years now, because I can only pay so much each month."

He added that he is not eligible for legal aid and he has not negotiated a contingency fee deal with his lawyer.

The suit was filed last month in British Columbia Supreme Court.

Perron, 35, a former heavy equipment operator, suffers from Berger's disease, also known as smoker's leg. The ailment narrows the arteries in the leg, often result-

ing in amputation.

"I'm getting a lot of support from a lot of people, but none of it financial," Perron said.

"I'm not the only one with Berger's disease or cancer, and if we do set a precedent with this case, it will help thousands of others."

Perron says he smoked for 15 years before he was struck with the disease.

After his left leg was amputated in 1980, Perron continued to smoke until his right leg was amputated three years later.



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Time to blow the smoke away

By JOANNE BLAIN

IT MIGHT be the harking back to your constant companion. It could be the realization that the amount of money you spent on cigarettes last year would have paid for a trip to Hawaii.

Whatever your reason for deciding to quit smoking, you now know your first hurdle — how will you do it?

Your choices include everything from space-age laser therapy to personal counselling, and range in cost from less than \$10 to more than \$300.

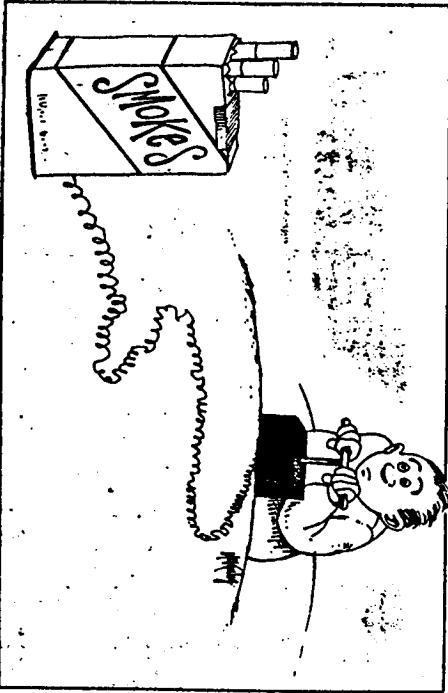
And even if your best friend sweats one method out him to break his addiction to the demon weed, there is no guarantee the same system will work for you.

"There is no one way to quit," says Shirley Thompson, smoking and health consultant for the B.C. Lung Association. "The individual will have to find what's best for him."

That sentiment is echoed by Dr. Thomas Kothe of Minnesota's Minneapolis, co-author of a recent book, "Smoking cessation programs," published by U.S. task force. "There is no single intervention method clearly more effective for all people than the other methods," Kothe says in his book.

The study does conclude that "some hot" methods of quitting smoking are more effective than counselling by doctors or other experts in combination with long-term support.

The Urban rate of any method is directly related to the length of time the smoker underwent counselling, Kothe says. "Without repeated and prolonged contact — in person, by telephone or by letter — the best techniques can fail."



Some different ways quitters can do it

The B.C. Lung Association has put together a list of stop-smoking programs it considers *reputable and established, creditable free from the usual marketing gimmicks and gimmicks available in the Lower Mainland.*

ACTIVATING: Treatments range from putting a staple in the smoker's ear, which he can manipulate when he has the urge to smoke, to inserting a low-voltage electrical current through needles into the skin of the wrist or neck for up to an hour at a time. The cost can range from \$60 to \$80 a session, with some to five sessions recommended. Qualified to do this is a physician.

HYPNOSIS: A course of treatment can range from two to six office sessions, usually followed by self-hypnosis or relaxation exercises. Sessions can be done individually or in small groups. Fees range from about \$40 to \$60 a session, with many hypnositic charging the package price. Again, the qualifications of people conducting the sessions vary. If performed by a medical doctor, sessions may be covered by MSP if the individual has a medical problem directly related to smoking.

GROUP PROGRAMS: A wide range of courses are available, from community centre and YMCA programs to those offered by private companies. Some include diet, exercise and stress management counselling and teach relaxation techniques or self-hypnosis. There is a wide variation in the length of programs — from one five-hour session to 10 weeks of 1½-hour sessions — and in cost — from \$25 to \$300. At least one program offers a money-back guarantee if you're still smoking at the end of the program. Not covered by MSP unless led by a medical doctor and a related medical problem exists.

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELLING: Medical doctors, psychologists and lay practitioners offer one-on-one sessions tailored to the individual smoker's needs. Techniques, the number of sessions and fees vary according to the practitioner and the client's needs. Not covered by MSP unless performed by a medical doctor and a related medical problem exists.

SELF-HELP PROGRAMS: These range from a \$7 low-to-quit manual produced by the B.C. Lung Association to books, videos and kits available at bookstores, libraries and video outlets. Costs vary, but this is probably the cheapest way to quit smoking. However, it may require the highest degree of self-motivation.

OTHER METHODS: One of the newest and more controversial techniques is *soft laser therapy*, in which a laser beam is focused on acupuncture points to curtail the desire to stop smoking. One session is recommended for most smokers, at a cost of about \$50.

Nicotine: A nicotine resin chewing gum available only with a doctor's prescription, can be used on its own or in combination with counselling. The cost is about \$35 for 105 two-milligram pieces or about \$60 for 100 four-milligram pieces. The cost used to be covered by Pharmacia and some private prescription drug plans, but no longer is.

In the country at 31.9 per cent, says Thompson. That means "we're down to the hard-core smokers," she says.

Those rates include many who have tried and failed to kick the habit. But such people shouldn't assume any future attempt to stop smoking is doomed to failure, says Bass.

Before deciding what smoking cessation program to try, smokers should ask themselves a number of questions, says Thompson. First of all, they should decide whether they are really ready to quit.

Next, they should consider whether they would feel most comfortable with group programs, one-on-one treatment or a self-guided system.

For many smokers, the prospect of moving from one home to another can be daunting. For others, the transition is a smooth one.

Max Cohen is selling his Chevrolet.

For most smokers, says Thompson, program that include a behavior modification component tend to be the most successful. Dr. Frederic Bass, former chairman of the B.C. Medical Association's tobacco and illness committee, agrees it's important for people to change their habits in order to successfully quit smoking. "Smoking is such a ingrained behavior," says Bass, who offers a one-on-one quit-smoking program at the University of B.C. as a average smoker puffing on a cigarette 300 times a day, he says. "There are few things anyone does 300 times a day."

The latest survey by Health and Welfare Canada reveals B.C. has the lowest percentage of smokers

Finally, smokers should look at any past attempts they have made to quit smoking and try to understand why they failed, says Thompson.

Be wary of any programs that boast a high success rate, Bass says. Such figures often don't hold account the number of people who dropped out of the program, he says.

Anyone who claims a long-term success rate of more than 50 per cent, I don't believe," says Bass.

And whatever method you choose, don't expect it to succeed unless you invest some effort, says Thompson. A quit-smoking program is a tool, she says. "It's not going to do it for you."

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Max Cohen is selling his Chevrolet.

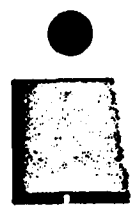
Rockport WALKING SHOES

Making moving smoother for seniors

For many seniors, the prospect of moving from one home to another can be daunting. For others, the transition is a smooth one. Max Cohen is selling his Chevrolet.

are considering, approach it with...
seniors in Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax.
The program has found what kinds of services are most acceptable to older persons. These can be provided by...
We'd like to read and in the...
of members, developers and others.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 22 1988



Tobacco warning lacking punch

Amputees call them stump socks. These big, stretchy booties are the color of Band-Aids and Roger Perron was rolling them on to what's left of his legs.

You read about Perron in yesterday's paper. Probably saw him on TV when he put on his plastic legs and stood up.

He was wobbly, off balance for a moment, as if he was stepping out on stilts.

Perron, a dark, burly guy with a cookie-duster moustache, was telling us about his lawsuit against RJR-Macdonald Inc., the makers of Export cigarettes.

His allegation is that 17 years' smoking Exports caused the Buerger's disease which led to the amputation of his legs.

Most of us did a double-take

when Perron recalled that losing his left leg in 1980 wasn't enough to get him off cigarettes.

Even after they cut off his right leg in 1983, Perron needed help from acupuncture therapy before he kicked the habit.

But it's not really all that surprising. In my own small circle of friends, I know half a dozen men who can't quit after doctors warned they had life-threatening diseases caused by or aggravated by smoking.

One of them with mouth cancer spent months with his jaw wired shut while the skin and jawbone grafts were healing. He smoked through the mouth opening he used to take liquid food through a straw.

As if we needed it, the recent explanation from the U.S. Surgeon-General, Dr. Everett Koop, is that tobacco is as addictive as heroin.

More surprising than Perron's prolonged smoking is what Dr. Fred Bass has to say about Buerger's disease, first diagnosed in 1908.

Doctors have known since the 1950s that Buerger's disease is caused by smoking — only smokers get it, says Dr. Bass, who is chairman of the B.C. Medical Association's tobacco and illness committee.

Also amazing is this set of StatsCanada figures for sales in Canada by 12 tobacco companies last year:



- 52.6 billion cigarettes.
- 261,613,000 cigars.
- 7,863,380 kilos of cigarette tobacco.
- 47,733 kilos of pipe tobacco.

Furthermore, StatsCanada reckons that 5,985,000 Canadians are "regular smokers."

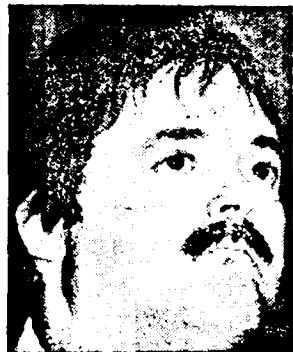
And Health and Welfare figures show there are 35,000 deaths a year in Canada from tobacco-related diseases.

Dr. Bass thinks the tobacco industry should quit waffling the way it does on cigarette packs with a low-key warning about "health dangers" from smoking. He would word it along this line:

"Use at your own risk. This product is a carcinogenic, toxic product that causes death and illness from cancer, heart disease and Buerger's disease."

I'd go one better than Dr. Bass and have them illustrate the warning with a picture of Roger Perron rolling on his stump socks.

Read Bruce McLean every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.



ROGER PERRON
suing cigarette firm



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the U.S. agreed by treaty to extradite persons who allegedly committed forgery in the demanding state. That was a reciprocal arrangement. "They did not agree to extradite persons

Lawnmower ban a non-starter
There won't be any lawnmower police in Burnaby yet. Burnaby council listened politely but did not respond favorably to a proposal that would forbid the operation of lawnmowers and other power garden tools on Sundays. John Beltz, chairman of the Society For Soundscape Awareness and Protection, said early morning peace is constantly shattered by lawnmowers. The solution according to Beltz is to provide a day of quiet. "It's a nice thought, but a little difficult," Ald. Fred Randall said. "What happens if it rains on a Saturday?"

Smoke lawsuit called warning

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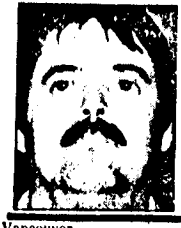
CELINE MARSHALL, STEPHANIE WESTEN model their "wearable works of art" STEVE BOSCH

Students' summer T-shirt business banned to protect retail outlets

By JEFF LEE
Two enterprising art students trying to create their own summer jobs have run into the bureaucracy at Vancouver city hall — despite their federal job funding. Celine Marshall and Stephanie Westen of Langley want to sell individually hand-painted T-shirts on street corners this summer. Their proposal was backed by the federal Challenge 88 student employment program. And initial information from city hall led them to believe their plan would work. **Competing with stores** But at the last moment, they received the grant — but it isn't delivered until the project ends in September, Marshall said. So they borrowed \$450 from each parent and called city hall. "They advised us we needed \$2-million liability insurance," said Marshall. "Then we had to bring in \$300 (for licences) and the display table to have it approved by engineering." The girls bought the T-shirts, fabric paints, brushes and insurance and headed off to city hall. "That's when we were told we couldn't get a licence because this competes with retail stores," Marshall said Monday. "We're students who want to make art careers. This is the same as telling

By JOANNE MacDONALD
Roger Perron says he launched a landmark lawsuit against tobacco giant R.J.R.-Macdonald Inc. because he wants to spare others the physical suffering he's endured due to the effects of tobacco consumption.

"I feel they (the company) should warn the public more that smoking is dangerous to anybody's health. You don't want to get cancer (and) there are other kinds of diseases that smoking aggravates or causes. It hurts," Perron, told reporters Monday at a news conference in Vancouver.



I feel they (the company) should warn the public more that smoking is dangerous to anybody's health.
— Roger Perron

The 35-year-old city man, a former heavy equipment operator who says he smoked the Export brand for 17 years, had his legs amputated after contracting Buerger's disease. The disease, which usually strikes males between age 20 to 40, narrows the arteries in the leg, restricting circulation.

Perron filed a writ Monday in B.C. Supreme Court against R.J.R.-Macdonald Inc. for an unspecified amount in damages, saying the company failed to warn people of the effect of tobacco in association with Buerger's disease and that it is unsafe and harmful to their health. Perron is seeking compensation for his loss of limbs, interference in his ability to make a living and costs. The company is a subsidiary of the U.S.-based R.J. Reynolds Industries Inc.



SWEANOR
The B.C. Supreme Court suit follows a landmark U.S. federal court ruling last week that a cigarette maker had contributed to the death of a smoker. In that case, a jury awarded \$400,000 US in damages to the husband of a woman who died of lung cancer at the age of 58. The jury found the woman was 80-per-cent responsible for her death, but it was the first case in which a tobacco company was ordered to pay money for a disease caused by cigarettes.

He told reporters he does not want to settle out of court because he wants "to make a point here." The unemployed Perron, who is on a disability pension and raising his seven-year-old son alone, said his message to others is simple: "Don't smoke." Jeff Labow, vice-president of corporate affairs for R.J.R.-Macdonald, said from Toronto the manufacturer plans to use all of its resources in its defence. "The decision to smoke is a matter of individual choice and personal responsibility," Labow said. "It is fair for someone who chooses to smoke and becomes ill to put the responsibility on someone else?" Perron's statement of claim filed in court says in 1976, at age 24, he began to suffer loss of circulation, pain and discomfort in his lower extremities that increased so much that in 1980, his left leg had to be amputated. An autopsy of the leg showed he

gent in the case of a woman who suffered a stroke after taking the company's birth control pills. The woman was awarded \$837,000 in damages after the Ontario court ruled that manufacturers of birth control pills should warn consumers of all possible side effects in taking the drugs.

BRIEFLY Trash study on recycling, SPEC says

Vancouver should stop studying the idea of recycling, and instead use surveys other municipalities have collected to put a city-wide program in place, says a spokesman for the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation. Rosalind Mellander, SPEC's executive director, says the city doesn't need "to conduct yet another study when there are already enough studies around to do the job." The city's finance committee agreed last week on a six-month, \$19,000 pilot project to collect newspapers in the areas of 49th and Main Street and the Pacific National Exhibition.

Satiacum hearing set
Native Indian activist Robert Satiacum will face a preliminary hearing Oct. 7 in Richmond provincial court on a charge of sexual assault involving a 10-year-old girl. Satiacum, 58, was granted refugee status in Canada last year after declaring he was persecuted in the U.S.

Accident charge laid
An Abbotsford man has been charged with failing to remain at the scene of an accident and criminal negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle after a 15-year-old Abbotsford girl was struck by a car early Sunday morning. Peter Lawrence Dueck, 23, of 33870 Fern Is. is to appear in Langley court Thursday. Helen Aherne was in stable condition in hospital with multiple fractures.



CELINE MARSHALL, STEPHANIE WESTEN model their "wearable works of art" STEVE BOSCH

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Two enterprising art students trying to create their own summer business have run into the bureaucracy at Vancouver city hall — despite their federal job funding. Celine Marshall and Stephanie Westen of Langley want to sell individually hand-painted T-shirts on street corners this summer. Their proposal was rejected by the federal Challenge 88 student employment program. No initial information from city hall led them to believe their plan could work.

Competing with stores

But at the last moment, they discovered city hall doesn't want them selling the 100 T-shirts — at least three hours of work each create — on the street because they would compete with existing stores.

"It's really frustrating because we believed we could do this," said Marshall, 17. "These are wearable works of art and don't compete with anything else. No one is like. We even bought the (blank) T-shirts from a retail store, so I can't see how we're competing."

Challenge 88 underwrote 1,680 of the cost of the enterprise. No bank would lend them the money needed because they

received the grant — but it isn't delivered until the project ends in September, Marshall said.

So they borrowed \$450 from each parent and called city hall. "They advised us we needed \$2-million liability insurance," said Marshall. "Then we had to bring in \$300 (for licences) and the display table to have it approved by engineering."

The girls bought the T-shirts, fabric paints, brushes and insurance and headed off to city hall.

"That's when we were told we couldn't get a licence because this competes with retail stores," Marshall said Monday. "We're students who want to make art careers. This is the same as telling painters they can buy their canvases but they can't sell their pictures because it would put retail art stores out of business."

There may be a light at the end of the tunnel, though. When told of the girls' plight, Mayor Gordon Campbell said they "should not give up too soon."

"I can't say for sure, but there may be something that can be done from the Challenge 88 angle. I have to compliment the girls on their enterprise. It's unfortunate that they didn't write first to a member of council, but perhaps something can be done," he said.

The city allows street vending of hand-crafted items such as jew-

elry, but two recent applications to sell hand-painted T-shirts were turned down because council decided they didn't fit the handicraft rule.

Others turned down

Ald. Carole Taylor, who chairs the committee overseeing permits and licences, said she sympathizes with the two students, but believes the city's policy must be enforced.

"It's unfortunate that they got caught in the middle like this. We've had two recent applications that were similar, and council turned them down, even though in one case I felt it fit the rule of handicraft," she said. "I honestly don't think it will help to play a double standard where one person can sell these items but another can't."

Taylor said city hall's door is not closed to Marshall and Westen. "There is a real need here in the city for a program supporting Challenge 88. I am not promising anything, but perhaps we should be looking at a program that allows Challenge 88 students to sell their items in a designated area during a certain time of the year."

In the meantime, Marshall said she and Westen have resorted to selling their shirts through local stores and at Simon Fraser University.

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Perron's statement of claim filed in court says in 1976, at age 24, he began to suffer loss of circulation, pain and discomfort in his lower extremities that increased so much that in 1980, his left leg had to be amputated.

An autopsy of the leg showed he suffered from Buerger's disease.

However, Perron said Monday that because of his addiction, he was unable to quit smoking and the disease progressed.

He said that in 1983, after his right leg was amputated, he quit smoking — with the help of acupuncture — and the disease has remained dormant.

David Sweanor, staff counsel for the Non-Smokers Rights Association based in Toronto, told the news conference the Perron litigation will be based on a 1985 ruling from the Ontario Court of Appeal.

In that case, Ortho Pharmaceutical (Canada) was found to be negli-

glected that manufacturers of birth control pills should warn consumers of all possible side effects in taking the drugs.

BRIEFLY

Trash study on recycling, SPEC says

Vancouver should stop studying the idea of recycling, and instead use surveys other municipalities have collected to put a city-wide program in place, says a spokesman for the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation.

Rossland Mellander, SPEC's executive director, says the city doesn't need "to conduct yet another study when there are already enough studies around to do the job."

The city's finance committee agreed last week on a six-month, \$19,000 pilot project to collect newspapers in the areas of 49th and Main Street and the Pacific National Exhibition.

Satiacum hearing set

Native Indian activist Robert Satiacum will face a preliminary hearing Oct. 7 in Richmond provincial court on a charge of sexual assault involving a 10-year-old girl. Satiacum, 58, was granted refugee status in Canada last year after declaring he was persecuted in the U.S.

Accident charge laid

An Abbotsford man has been charged with failing to remain at the scene of an accident and criminal negligence in the operation of a motor vehicle after a 15-year-old Abbotsford girl was struck by a car early Sunday morning. Peter Lawrence Dueck, 23, of 33870 Fern is to appear in Langley court Thursday. Helen Aherne was in stable condition in hospital with multiple fractures.

Put away your purses

Vancouver police advise women to leave their purses at home and carry money in their pockets now that warmer weather is here. Const. Jim Szekeres said people tend to walk after dark now, increasing the chances of a purse snatching.

Theft trial to be set

A trial date is to be set July 20 for Richard William Lynch, 38, of Maryland, charged with theft and weapons possession counts arising from a May 16 incident in a Safeway store at 370 East Broadway.



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