

The Diary of Jennifer L.

By Joel GILLESPIE

Please, do not be deceived by the granite that I have in my possession, since I am still Jennifer from your neighbourhood. At one time, I was not as affluent as I now am, however, my fiscal status has improved tremendously. This has not inflated my ego, since notwithstanding where my impressive finances propel me, I am aware of the borough from which I developed. As I said, I am still Jennifer from your neighbourhood.

From my early, low-paying and demeaning jobs to my recent artistic successes, I remained level-headed and fiscally responsible. This is an accurate, mimetic representation of my life why would I tell you otherwise? I have hobnobbed with very important people, and these people have seen that I am what I state I am. Do not critique or chastise my way of life, as

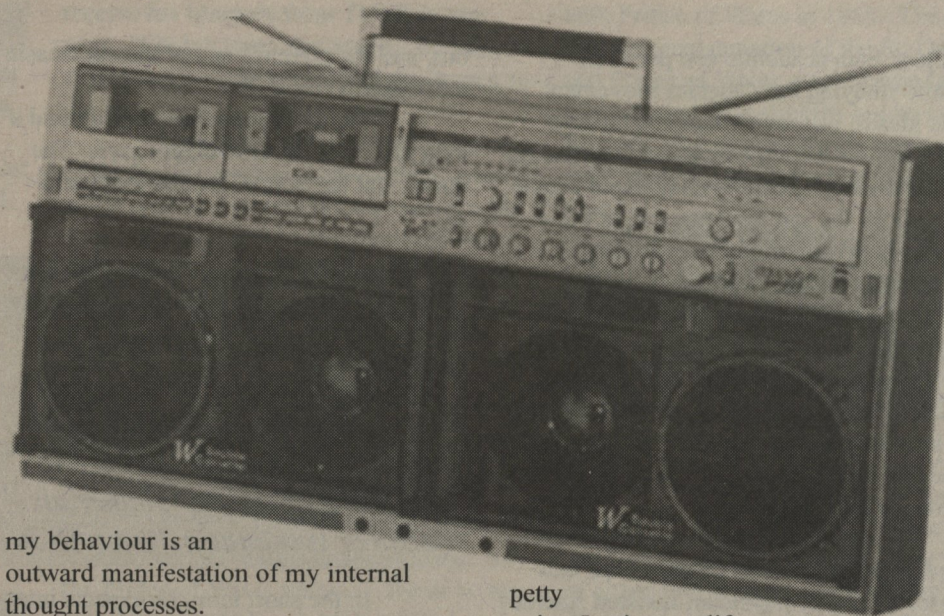
Stenson Speaks

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window. Guy Vanderhaeghe's achievement with "Last Crossing" shows that isn't so."

On the contrast between eastern and western Canadian literature, he believes that the similarities outshine the differences.

"In English Canada there's four regions of writing: BC, the Prairies, Ontario and Eastern Canada. Toronto and the west coast have similar values: they tend to prefer contemporary to historical, pop culture is the focus, the hip is more interesting. The Maritimes and the Prairies have very similar tones: they're powerfully influenced by the landscape, they're more working class and rural. I'm very comfortable here, I don't worry that they're not going to get it because I'm from the Prairies. I do sometimes feel in Ontario like I'll ever make a dent, and in some ways I don't think I care. I find Toronto very inward-looking, if you're like them they'll look at you but if you're not they won't. That's fine, I don't have to go there - I can do without them. I would love to be better known out here because it's a natural audience - David Adams Richard is loved where I come from. I don't think the Maritimes and Prairies are at odds in any way, our values are very similar. We believe in the regional, we're not always desperately trying to find the bizarre glitzy rich man story. Not only are we not writing it, but we're not reading it."



my behaviour is an outward manifestation of my internal thought processes.

Again, my sandstone should not be a source of confusion to you I continue to be Jennifer from your neighbourhood. I was once poor, but now I am wealthy; my ancestral home is still dear to me.

Due to my many wise business decisions, I have matured greatly in a short period of time. I gleefully control my investments, and rumours purporting to speak for me are treated as naught but

petty quips. I enjoy my life and my hangers-on. I worship a higher power regularly. Staying close to my roots is as essential to my life as breathing.

To reiterate: my assortment of boulders should by no means cause you any distress. I am, and will always be, Jennifer from your area, cognizant of my humble beginnings, and incredibly prosperous.

It requires an impressive amount of effort to make the kind of money that I current earn, but do not be perplexed by my material possessions. My vocation is a financial venture - And if I did not succeed, I would be forced to return to my previous life. Once one becomes accustomed to the life of the rich and famous, one knows that it is preferable to socialize with those acquaintances that one feels comfortable with and shares the same outlook on life. Remaining inconspicuous is paramount.

Again, my sandstone should not be a source of confusion to you I continue to be Jennifer from your neighbourhood. I was once poor, but now I am wealthy; my ancestral home is still dear to me.

Finally, I must remind you that you should not find difficulty accepting my assorted stones. I am, now and forever, Jennifer from your neighbourhood. My personal riches were once slim, yet now I am impossibly well-off. No matter what, I know where I came from: the Bronx.

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