



Matchstick art, Page 3

## HST isn't fair, Vander Zalm tells Richmond crowd

Fight HST petitioners have collected nearly half the signatures needed in local ridings

by Matthew Hoekstra

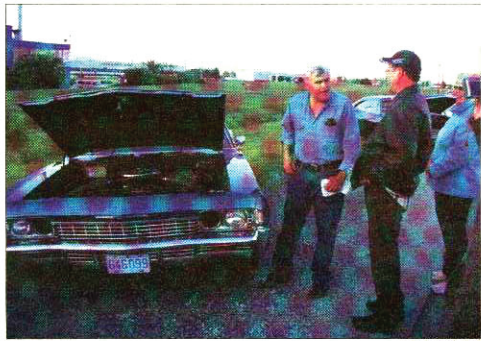
Students, seniors, working families and the poor will be hit hardest by an unfair tax to see electrically charged the border of the right HST campaign Wednesday.

"It's neither fair equal or as equal as has been suggested," said the Vander Zalm in an election-day speech at Rowan Park Polytechnic University. "We have a government that is in the pocket of big corporations."

Vander Zalm said the citizen's initiative to collect signatures from 10 per cent of registered voters in all B.C. ridings, across government, the people's dissatisfaction of implementing the harmonized sales tax—a 13 per cent tax charged on almost all goods and services.

"This (should be) about people—not about big corporations, it doesn't matter your political philosophy, you're going to be affected, and you have a right and should participate in the process."

He suggested opposition to the HST run as high as 90 per cent, Vander Zalm told the afternoon crowd of over 50. The former premier was at Richmond High Sunday delivering a similar message.



Jay Leno spent some extra time on Sea Island on Saturday talking with local car collectors.

## Jay Leno surprises local car nuts

On his way to VIP gala, late-night comedian spends time with locals

by Matthew Hoekstra

Jay Leno proved he's not a head-in-the-clouds celebrity to a group of local car enthusiasts.

Leno arrived at 7:30 p.m. Saturday night and got into a waiting BMW driven for the Brian Jesse BMW showroom in

of the Richmond Street Rodders. The club got word of Leno's arrival and decided to give him a welcome any gear-head would appreciate.

But instead of a passing wave some were expecting, Leno had his driver pull over, and emerged from the car wearing jeans and a blue shirt.

"He's a real guy," said Leno, walking up to club founder Doug Foster and offering a handshake.

Leno spent a good 15 minutes with the group, signing autographs, shaking hands, checking out cars and taking pictures.

the born-and-raised Richmonder has had since he was 15.

Leno boasts one of the world's greatest car collections, he's said to own upwards of 200 vehicles, about half are cars.

Leno recently told the New York Times he started collecting classic cars when he discovered he couldn't bring himself to sell any of his rides.

"Now I'm a collector," he said. "It wasn't intentional. In fact, I don't really go looking for cars. They find me."

Some members of the Richmond Street Rodders will be showing off their rides Saturday, May 15, at the City Drive-In.



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# Artist turns matchsticks into public art

## Lure of the big city influences Mumbai-based Hema Upadhyay

by Matthew Hoekstra  
Staff Reporter

On the third floor of Aberdeen Centre, hulking piles of matchsticks are turning into works of art.

Behind the work is Mumbai artist Hema Upadhyay, who is constructing five elaborate chandeliers entirely from unused wooden matchsticks. When complete, Loco-Foco-Motto will be on display at the mall through 2011, as part of the Vancouver Biennale public art exhibition.

"They're going to look like huge sculptures or huge installations, but for me they're these pure instigation points amongst the public," Upadhyay told The Richmond Review Friday.

The artist said viewers first react with a thought of violence upon seeing the work, given it could easily

### Lulu Series art lecture:

- Hema Upadhyay: Dream a wish, wish a dream
- Thursday, May 20, from 7 to 9:30 p.m.
- Richmond City Hall council chambers (6911 No. 3 Rd.)
- Admission is free; seating is limited. RSVP at [lulu@richmond.ca](mailto:lulu@richmond.ca)
- The talk will be preceded by a short performance by folk/rock singer-songwriter Babe Gurr

be lit aflame. The work is meant to question viewers, to awaken their consciences about violence in our lives and around the world.

"Matches here are used as a metaphor, because a matchstick can be put to a constructive or a destructive use."

Working with a team of students, the artist has glued together piles of matchsticks—the first step before the more intensive work of building lacework that will surround the structures.

Born in Baroda, India, Upadhyay completed bachelor's and master's degrees in fine arts. She tackles urban issues of migration and displacement in her art, drawing on her surroundings and history for ideas. She combines painting, sculpture, collage and photography in her works, often



Matthew Hoekstra photo

Hema Upadhyay is creating a series of chandeliers from wooden matchsticks for an exhibition now on at Aberdeen Centre.

using traditional Indian patterned surfaces.

On Thursday, Upadhyay will be at Richmond City Hall to give a free public lecture on her art and how it's influenced by the city.

She's titled her lecture from an earlier work, Dream a wish, wish a dream, a 4.5-by-six-metre microcosm

of Dharavi, the largest slum in Bombay and all of Asia. The piece, made of aluminum sheeting and car scrap, has since shaped her career as an artist and was prompted by a promotional campaign from a fairness cream in India.

The product maker enticed people to buy the cream and potentially find a gold

coin hidden inside—similarly to how millions of Indians have migrated to Mumbai with the hope of finding success.

"So I was using dream a wish, wish a dream as a metaphor for success and what we understand success as," said Upadhyay. Mall-goers are invited to

view Upadhyay's piece as it's being constructed on the third floor. The work is expected to be complete by the end of May.

Upadhyay is also one of six artists participating in the Richmond Art Gallery exhibition In Transition: New Art from India, on now until June 13.