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P · O · W · E · R

Meet the people whose calls get returned, whose bank accounts boggle the mind, and whose influence is felt all over the city

By Tyee Bridge, Matt O'Grady, and the editors

TO HAVE & HAVE NOT

ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER of Main and Hastings a dozen people mill about, including a pair of men in their twenties haggling over the contents of a shopping cart, and an older woman in a wheelchair hurtling toward the curb and some unsuspecting passersby. Two police cruisers, lodged on the sidewalk, obscure the view of a suspect having his hands secured behind his back. In the background, like a mirage in the desert, sits the Carnegie Centre—fall sunlight bouncing off its dusty pink sandstone. The former library is a 1903 landmark of early Vancouver philanthropy, a

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the Year of Giving Generously



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Larry Beasley
Special Advisor to the Crown Prince
of Abu Dhabi, Professor UBC School
of Community & Regional Planning

[★] He stepped down as the city's co-director of planning in 2006, but rather than ease into retirement Larry Beasley took his brand of city building—liveable, mixed-use, high-density neighbourhoods dubbed 'the Vancouver model'—global, becoming special advisor to the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and developing a plan that will take the emirate from its current population of 600,000 to 3.5 million by 2030. Which isn't to say he's no longer having an impact here: five senior staffers from his old planning department have moved to Abu Dhabi (reportedly earning triple their city pay), he's got two consulting companies (one with condo marketer Bob Rennie, No. 9), and he's teaching part-time at UBC's School of Community and Regional Planning—no doubt selling students on the planning philosophy that's made him an international superstar. **FIRST JOB** Flying from Las Vegas to San Diego to pick up band leader Harry James' car to drive back to him in Las Vegas. I was 17, I made \$100 and thought it was a fortune. **2007 HIGHLIGHT** Receiving, together with Ray Spaxman and Ann McAlee, the Kevin Lynch Award in American Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. **LOWLIGHT** Realizing I was truly retired from City Hall and deeply missing my friends and colleagues there—hard-working, dedicated, and very smart people. **BEST ADVICE** My grandmother told me to travel, travel, travel, and learn all about cities that way. **WHO DO YOU BOUNCE IDEAS OFF** Ray Spaxman, Bob Rennie, and Sandy Logan. **WHAT MAKES YOU LOSE SLEEP** Thinking about those people in our community who have no safe, warm place to sleep. **FAVOURITE BOOK** I should say *The Vancouver Achievement* by John Parmer, because it celebrates my beloved city, but it's really *The Border Antiquities of England and Scotland* by Sir Walter Scott (the ancient leather bindings, gorgeous engravings, and fascinat-

ing descriptions that make up these two volumes from the 1820s are irresistible). **FAVOURITE VACATION SPOT** Hotel Duc de Saxe Simon, Paris—wonderful, old, stylish, close to everything, and in the world's greatest city. **WHO SHOULD BE #1** Al Gore, if he lived here.



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Douglas Coupland
Wrote *Avatar*

[★] The progenitor of Generation X is everywhere: in movie theatres (his first film, *Everything Goes Green*, was released last spring), in bookstores (*The Game Thief*, his 12th novel, has been well-received since coming out in the fall), at the SFU gallery (with a sculptural installation made of wooden blocks and book covers), and soon on TV in an adaptation of his novel *JPod*, debuting on CBC in January (Coupland is an executive producer and writer and makes a cameo on screen). But Coupland's power goes beyond ubiquity. While his reach is global—becoming, through his Vancouver-based and -referenced work, our city's cultural ambassador to the world—his local influence is at an all-time high. Others may offer insight into our city's soul—what moves us, troubles us, debates us—but no one does so more eloquently, more succinctly or in more ways. **FIRST JOB** Busing tables at Rick's Pancake House, Park Royal, 1976. **BEST ADVICE** It has to be done, and if you don't do it, it won't get done, so do it. It's convoluted but it works. **WHO SHOULD BE #1** Whoever was number 50 last year. Think of how great that'd make them feel.



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Chris Staples & Ian Gray
Cell Phone Diviners,
Funding Partners, ReThink



[★] In late 2006 ReThink Communications, founded in 1999 by former Palmer Jarvis colleagues Tom Shapansky,



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Thomas Fung
Chairman & Founder,
Fairchild Group

[▲] He's the so-called "King of All Media" in Chinese circles—but unlike that other self-proclaimed "king," Howard Stern, Thomas Fung runs his empire on clean-burning fuel: four entirely wholesome TV stations and four equally pure radio stations—programmed in Cantonese and Mandarin, and airing in the Calgary, Vancouver, and Toronto markets. The NYU film grad has also executive-produced a feature-length film, *The Paper Moon Affair*, and dabbles in trading and retail. His marquee retailing project, the \$63-million Bing-Thom designed Aberdeen Centre, has struggled to attract shoppers since opening in 2003—but with the City of Richmond's approval this spring of an eight-storey addition (to be tied in with the Canada Line's Aberdeen station), as well as a new 150-room hotel, it's only a matter of time before Fung is King of the Asian Malls, too. **2007 HIGHLIGHT** My first vacation in 10 years, a 12-day cruise around the Black Sea. **LOWLIGHT** It cost me \$200 for 10 hours of Internet use on the cruise, and \$12 a minute for satellite phone use. **BEST ADVICE** To expand my retail business horizon in Eastern Europe or Latin America. **WHO DO YOU BOUNCE IDEAS OFF** Overseas tax auditors. **WHAT MAKES YOU LOSE SLEEP** Counting sheep—but I can't stop seeing lamb chops! **FAVOURITE BOOK** I don't find time to finish novels, but my favorite periodicals are *The Economist*, *Fortune* and *Scientific American*, *Maxim*, *PC Photo*, *National Geographic* (and of course *Vancouver* magazine). **FAVOURITE VACATION SPOT** Cuba, where you can learn from mistakes in the system and have experiences that keep your eyes open. A place you don't need to bargain because everything is already at bargain price. **WHO SHOULD BE #1** Definitely not me.