

Loopy and lofty aspirations

■ **Peter Ferris**, White Rock

It is only fair to inform *WFP* readers that my agent is in intense discussions with the publisher/editor/general dogs-body of *WFP* regarding the terms of my employment and my future contract. While admitting that I owe everything I have, principally my debts, to *WFP*, which gave me my big break as a football writer, my agent is making the case that my stock has risen considerably.

My demands may seem exorbitant to some people – a four-fold increase in the annual benefit of a Benz coffee – but I can threaten to take other employment [there must be a *WFP* equivalent in Madrid, and I have enough Spanish to order two cold beers]. To be fair, the publisher/editor/general dogs-body has offered the clothes off his back, but closer inspection suggested that this was not such a good deal. While I recognize that paying for four coffees a year might just be enough to tip the *WFP* economic model into bankruptcy, I can't afford to be sentimental about these things.

Live bands at half time

In any kind of hierarchy of valuable occupations, pop singer has always rated fairly low on my list. However, as a collective, they do show a heartening awareness of a wider world, and Messrs. **Geldof** and **Bono** deserve some

respect. I am aware of some footballers who are conscious of the fact that there is a world outside their cosseted, Ferrari fuelled universe, and **Niall Quinn**, **Kanu** and **Patrick Vierra**



ENLIGHTENED: Vierra

come to mind., but no doubt, there are others who have a more elevated view of putting something back into their community than **Wayne Rooney's** support of local brothels. But as a group, footballers are pretty disappointing, and have shown no sign of engaging the global fanaticism they engender to a social purpose. They remain, therefore, in my hierarchy of value, below lawyers and footballers' wives.

The art of 'Going Down'

For a unique view of football fans, it is worth making the trip to **Presentation House** in North Vancouver to view **Julie Henry's** video art show entitled "*Going Down*," which shows two sections of opposing football fans on two aligned screens; one set of fans are obviously losing, the other fans' team is clearly winning. The variety of actions and expressions on the faces of the rival fans is absorbing.

Who said that football is not an art form? ●