The main beneficiaries of the hiatus were T-M's owners, who watched their property's selling price rise by 55% in a period of nine months, from $98 million to $134 million, between the two bids. The CRTC decision is shocking to critics of media ownership concentration, who thought that they had successfully opposed Power's bid only to have the CRTC approve a much more onerous form of concentration.

Historically, the Channel 10 deal in Montreal, is the proviso that launched the TVA spin-off. Launched by J.A. DeSeve, Channel 10 was Quebec's first French-language private independent TV station. The acquisition led to the creation of DeSeve's empire after his death, not particularly interested in the station. In recent years, it has been plagued by its role as a resource- consumes show that is typicallyCaical, humourous, and non-partisan, but not quite what the Broadcasting Act has in mind when it speaks of preserving the country's cultural identity. The DeSeve heirs have for some time been quite ready to take their leave of the TV business and move on to other ventures, such as philanthropy and corporate consulting, but they were hesitant in buying the French's will, a speculation that Tele-Metropole could potentially be sold to Quebecers interests.

Tele-Metropole's Channel 10 is not only Quebec's most lucrative private station, but also a flagship and principal channel of its major private network, TVA (the Quebec equivalent of CTV). The region has rate of almost $150 million in 1986, close to $150,000 in 1986. The station supplied about 30% of the programming seen on French-language private television in Quebec. There are many people of capital in Quebec that would easily buy up such a property. On that basis alone, Power comfortably fulfilled its promise in the bag, and offered a mere $1 million in a new year for programming, and guarantees that Tele-Metropole's new operations would be insulated from those of Power's other media interests. The CRTC judged the proposal inadequate and told Tele-Metropole to come back with another buyer.

Videotron learned from the Power experience, and reduced the CRTC with a more substantial plan that pushed all the right nationalist buttons. It promised a range of new programming initiatives worth $30 million over five years. As the company has not been active previously in traditional information (te, news) marketing, the proposed transaction did not raise the same degree of public concern. The Federation Professionnelle des Journalistes du Quebec, for example, which had vocally opposed the Power Corp. project, was unimpressed by Videotron. The CRTC award to Videotron is, however, far more innocuous in its implications for democratic communications.

Videotron is another example of a little company that grew, founded by a cable company engineer, André Chagnon, who put together enough capital to buy out his employer in 1981. Through a series of acquisitions and innovative use of research and technology, Videotron then rode the expansion of cable subscription and new pay services of the early 1980s. In 1986, it reported revenue of $330 million, and earnings were up 56% in the fiscal year of the current year.

Videotron is literally a household name in Quebec. The company controls around 70% of the Quebec cable market, with 100,000 subscribers in 1,500 municipalities and four Quebec City, and the eastern half of Montreal Island. On the other hand, Rogers Cablesystems is bigger, but Rogers is relatively less monopolistic in its interests are diffused from coast to coast, fee-for-service interest of around 30% of the total Canadian market. Rogers has no interests in Quebec, but Videotron owns one of the cable companies (QCM), which adds another 120,000 subscribers to its clientele.

This is only part of the story. As new media possibilities and technology habits progress, expansion. Videotron has been building its initial foundation to become a producer and distributor of diverse media services. In the Montreal area, it currently operates 11 local broadcast stations, and a large cable system (Videotron tele-marketing), which will enable users among other things, to buy a range of goods and services from their homes. In November 1986, Videotron concluded an agreement with the Sprints new home service to provide its subscribers with a new computer service. Videotron's weekly specials on one of its two prime-time channels. Within a few days, an offer appeared in the bag. At the same time, non-broadcast TV advertising will be more important source of revenue for the company than cable subscriptions.

In addition to cable distribution and tele-marketing services, Videotron also operates a production facility, a subsidiary that sells and services converters, and a research and development company. By acquiring the Tele-Metropole, a 1s, along with Channel 10, a station in Chateauvert, a major advertising company, another production house, a post-production and sub-titling company, TV's interest in TVA and a smaller regional network, as well as the DeSeve group's oil and gas interests.

In major scheme, however, is to expand into overseas markets, particularly in France, and to do this it had to have Tele-Metropole.

In 1983 Videotron entered into an agreement to supply technical expertise to La Compagnie franaise des Eaux, a private French company involved in
"Il y a du danger à s'imiter soi-même." Pierre Reverdy

Angie has lived on the street for ten years. During that time, money has been continually deposited to her bank account from her husband's pension and from her own. (Her former boss registered her for early retirement). She has enough money to buy a small house. But how to go back to "normal"? Fictions of happiness and satisfaction. How to go back to following the rules, having a telephone, having to put up in one spot? To get mail. To lose carefully-honed city-jungle instincts. How to go back to cooking, owning a bodega, washing everyday, smiling at strangers, staying out of garbage cans. And why go back? She has not touched any of her money for ten years. She doesn't know how to approach it.

Angie stays out of the shelters as much as possible, even in winter. There is too much hate. "I get enough of that outside. The other women look at us as if they want to kill you. And the staff are terrible. They are so demented self-righteous. You have to feel so grateful to them. If you don't act grateful they put you down. Who needs it?"

There are many different kinds of isolation. One can live in the arctic, or one can live in a cardboard box in the heart of a busy city. These women live in both, but not of the city; they are floating down the middle of water-alleyways, dangerously for a while, and always in unfriendly territory.

Ida and Angie have learned to be resourceful. They can live on "nothing." Working people hurry by. Afraid of the rats and the stench, they avert our gaze. We say no every time we turn our eyes away, projecting the violence of our negation into suspicious plumed street faces. Yet these faces are profound. A thousand unanswered questions throb in the forefront. Street women address these questions by living a radical present, not beholden to any past, not looking for any sympathy, and yet dependent on every future.

Everyday reactions to male and female vagrants are qualitatively different. Homeless females are constructed disinfectively as unfortunates, wastes, desperately hoping to be saved. One of the assumptions arising from this stereotypical construction is that these waiting orphans will feel forever indebted to their rescuers.

Loretta Curns was born in St. Joseph's Hospital on 28 July 1952. At a tender age she left Toronto and travelled the world for 17 years. Loretta now lives at 176 She-Eplgnade in downtown Toronto. In the future she plans to move northward and live at no fixed address.