

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER Sept. 15, 86

"Centre not going belly-up"

"Carnegie is not going to go belly-up. It will be around a lot longer than some of us."

That was Max Beck, Vancouver's director of social planning at an informal meeting at the Centre last Tuesday.

"I think you are in a cash squeeze. You have trouble paying your bills. But I don't think you are in a major problem.. you're not bankrupt," he said.

He said, though, that the Association has to start earning more money through fundraising efforts -- and that meanwhile the City will supply accountancy help to sort out the tangle of bank accounts, debts and missing funds which has been taking up so much Board and volunteer time.

"If I were you I would focus on the Woodworking and kitchen accounts" Beck said. He described the Association's banking and financial procedures as

"incredibly complicated. (At an earlier Board meeting it was said that there are at least 15 separate bank accounts.)

Beck's message was basically an upbeat one. "You're not bankrupt" he repeated. "You can settle up your accounts. There would be some real argument between the right hand and the left hand, but you've got to get in the bank. You'd have the Seniors hopping mad, and maybe the federal government, but you wouldn't be the first organisation to rob Peter to pay Paul."

He said the seven to ten hundred thousand dollars a year the City pays to help run Carnegie "is not going to disappear." He added that the Association in the past had raised only \$12-15,000 a year -- now, he said, it raised \$200,000. "You're doing quite well" he said.

But both his figures, and his philosophy of advising

EDITORIAL

Our little paper made some news the past week. A page one story in the East Ender, Cable Television and CTV.. a topnotch freelance writer. That's nice. But it's your paper, and what makes us really feel good is the number of Carnegie members, and people from the community who are coming down to our office in the basement to work with us, to submit

articles and ideas and artwork. The response, after three issues, is tremendous. Special thanks to the First United Church, a vitally important, generous part of this community, who kindly made a donation to the Newsletter.

To everybody..have a great week.

A.M.

MEMBERS

I was on the Board of Directors, along with our founding director Jim McDowell, 1980-83 and I saw Carnegie Centre through its infancy, and through the growing pains. And despite opposition it continued to grow, and never did I see any board member walk out of the meeting as has happened here recently.

We, the members of Carnegie Centre are looking for stability from the members of the Board, and walking out of a meeting is not showing stability.

Joseph Boucher

The following is the letter of resignation submitted to the CCCAB by Katherine Galan. She has been a longtime worker for Carnegie and she wanted the membership to have the full text of her resignation. We print it as she gave it to us.

I, Katherine Galan, have now given you my Last Will and Testament.

I no longer will be affiliated with this Board in any way. I resign.

I was elected in good graces and all my strength has been totally wasted. My work, my brain, they are all taxed to hell.

Politics and personality

have no room in our Board, or this Association. Strictly business, which is never properly produced or put out to the people, who are held in real heavy black blinders. This Association has so much to accomplish and time is now running out.

I cannot serve this community under this shameful scam and still smile.

I say to all members in our community stand up, be accounted for and to.

My gracious thanks goes out to all who shared to elect me, but I'm sorry I can not give you back your faith in me. I have bowed out.

Katherine Galan

Welfare hike

A four and a half percent increase has been announced in welfare rates for the handicapped and shelter allowances for all other welfare recipients.

Social services Minister Claude Richmond said the increases were possible because the number of people on welfare in the province has declined.

But Anti-Poverty organisations say the increases are tokenism designed as an election vote getter,

The increases will cost the Ministry about \$11million.

Coffee goes up by a nickel

Thirty-five cent coffee came to Carnegie last week -- causing more waves than the proverbial storm in a teacup.

Cowboy Bob Ellis told Board members who passed the price increase.. "Every time you raise prices here you're robbing the poor."

And several members of the Board itself were opposed. Tora told the Sept. 4 meeting: "The Association has \$200,000 annually to work with. You have to look at this coffee price increase in

contrast to that. We have a lot of poor people - I'm poor myself. These are our members. Come on...! we should be selling it for twenty cents."

Dave McConnell: "When coffee was 25 cents it seems to me we made more money than when it went up to thirty cents. Now we want to raise it again -- and we'll probably lose money on this one too."

Barb Gudmundson: "The building here is for people who are poor. It is not fair

Put heart into your life

Most people think there is only one source of intelligence in the human body - the brain ... and most of our education, science, business and social conditioning re-enforces this idea in the twentieth century.

However, throughout history other sources of intelligence have been identified by philosophers, artists, poets, musicians etc..

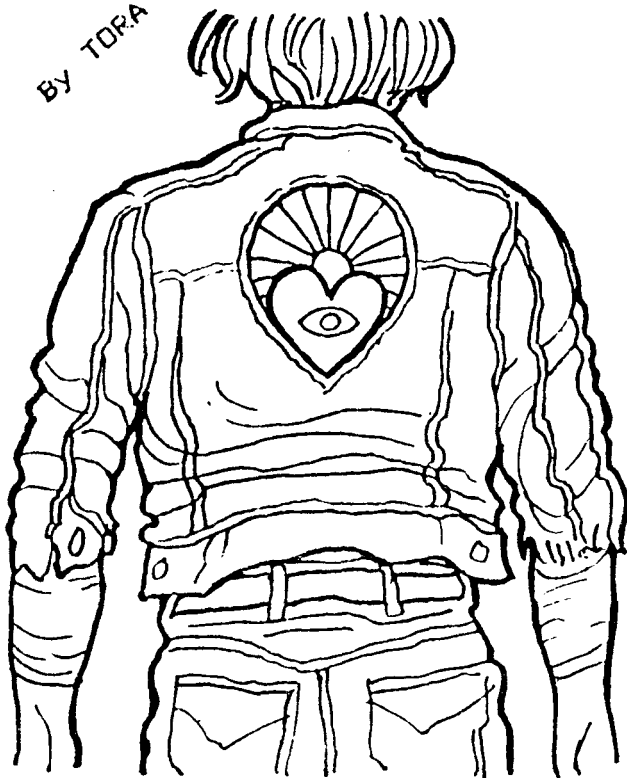
The heart is one of these sources, and another source of intelligence is the gut.

Gut level intelligence.. (survival instincts) and heart level intelligence, (compassion, forgiveness, love etc) are two very important factors in a whole human being, that have been generally disregarded by our fast-paced materialistic culture.

If the sources of our intelligence are located in the brain, heart and gut level of our bodies - we must ask ourselves, and decide which of these three will lead the way or provide the co-ordinating, harmonising factor.

Intellect (Brain), wisdom, (heart) and instinct (gut) are all necessary, but if the brain is guided by the gut without the heart - we have acquisitive greed and a lust for personal power.

BY TORA



If the heart is guided by the brain without the gut - we have cold, impersonal detachment. But if the gut

instincts and intellectual powers of the brain are guided and harmonised by the heart - we have a compassionate, humanistic orientation in which instinct and intelligence co-operate.

This is what is known as "a path with a heart" - and without it, we are heartless, as the saying goes.

Three Snakes fight is on

By TOM LEWIS

Death by snake bite? .. No, not an ordinary snake but an imported cooking wine called Three Snakes, the contents of which addle the brain and cause more damage than an ordinary wine.

This wine, sold over the counter is used as a substitute drink by local alcoholics, and the empty bottles may be seen beside most of the bodies lying around Carnegie Centre and the Downtown Eastside.

This Centre was responsible for the closing of the liquor store and the cutting down of Lysol sales to better the neighbourhood.

I do not wish to pass moral judgement on anyone in this matter -- but in an impoverished and dispossessed neighbourhood our humanity is perhaps our one saving grace and to ignore this Three Snakes situation is to sell that humanity too cheaply.



A petition should be circulating in Carnegie right now urging government action on this problem -- and we should all consider signing it.

The Carnegie presentation was short and sweet at a special City Council meeting on the Capital Plan.

Board member Dennis McGowan took only a couple of minutes to press our case and introduce the busload of Carnegie supporters who packed council chambers -- after Acting Mayor George Puil pointed out that the over half a million dollars

want has already been recommended for approval. Now it is up to the voters to decide whether we get the

money so urgently required for renovations to the Centre.

The Capital Plan determine the way in which city funds will be allocated for 1987-90. It goes to the voters in November.

At the same meeting, in a separate presentation, Don Larson of CRAB told Aldermen the Downtown Eastside has paid a heavy price for Expo. He claimed five deaths and 800 evictions are directly attributable to the Fair.

Coffee cont..

"make them pay when we could find another way.."

Sam Snobelman: "This is bad business, Other people, The Dugout, The 44, are selling for a quarter."

Even proponents of the increase admitted the critics may be right - but insisted it was the only way to start to whittle away at the debt.

Tony Seaver said: "We could be facing bankruptcy. I regret prices have to go up, but at this point I see no quick way to make up our losses. It has to fall on the membership. It's not fair."

~~_____~~
Belly-up" cont..

The Board not to concentrate so much effort in tracking down missing money from the past, were challenged.

"These figures are crazy" Tony Seaver said,

"That's B.S. I did the books" Katherine Galan added. "How did they (Thorne, Fiddell, the accountants) come up with these figures?" And Wally Bardysh told Beck: "What's the point of generating money if it is going to slip through our hands? I disagree with you on that. With the City this (the missing money) might be a drop in the bucket -- with us having a lot of money. We have to get to the bottom of it and plug the holes."

It's probably bad business. But we have no choice."

He disputed Tora's \$200,000 figure, saying that was in a year when there were major federal grants, and in any event was cash flow -- not at any time was a sum of that magnitude actually available.

He also urged Beck to insist that City staff working at the Centre remain neutral when dealing with Board and Centre affairs.

Treasurer John Olldym agreed there are a whole series of questions to be answered. He credited Peter Imm, who has been volunteering to help sort out the books, with doing an immense job, but said there is only so much volunteer labour can do.

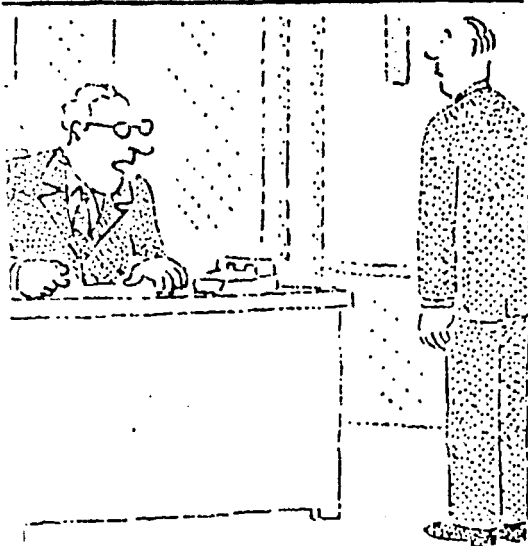
"Carnegie has become a laughing stock" he claimed. "There is an immense amount of distrust. You don't know who's who at the zoo. We have to end the divisiveness, bring the community together again. We need to start bringing in the whole of the Downtown Eastside. Whole pockets of the community don't come here.."

Beck repeated: "We'll gladly get you some financial assistance" And he also said he was working towards getting more staff for the building. "By and large you have a pretty good staff" he said.

Power monsters unhappy folk

By SHEILA BAXTER

Do you have a power monster in your Association? Power monsters can come in the form of Bank Managers, Executive Directors, Counter Clerks, Staff/Board members, community members, Elevator operators and welfare workers. They can be men or women, big or small, any age or any race.



Relax Bisler, you have nothing to fear but fear itself. And me of course.

Power monsters are unhappy people who have limited power in their own lives. A bank manager (male or female) could have a nagging spouse so he or she becomes a power monster at the Bank's Board of

Directors meeting, instead of dealing with his own powerlessness at home.

The elevator operator is underpaid and hates his or her job so he becomes a power monster at local community centre board meetings.

How do you identify a power monster? By the following..

- * Doesn't listen to anyone's opinion but their own.

- * Tries to control everyone and everything that is involved in their Board or Committee.

Ways to understand power monsters and how they grow

- * Make a videotape of people role playing.

- * Everyone - board, staff, volunteers - should participate and ask themselves, "Am I in danger of becoming a power monster?"

Nobody wants to be a power monster. They usually finish up burned, lose their friends, and often they don't understand how it all happened. Be careful. It could happen to you or me.

ALL'S SECURE AT
CARNEGIE

Information



ALL SYSTEMS

Gress

Write a letter for Carnegie

By PAUL TAYLOR

The City has approved the money for expansion of Carnegie, and the reordering of inner space requirements. A new facility for sport and physical fitness has opened in the downtown eastside, and the resultant extra space at Carnegie has aided library expansion and allowed a 10-hour-a-day restaurant to open where the weight room was. Everything's coming up roses.

If what you have just read was reality instead of wishful thinking, then writing about the obvious wouldn't be necessary. At this point in time the hoped-for changes are all future events that are heavily dependant on your commitment. Master plans have been drawn showing how the city's help will be translated into changes. Each of us has a certain area that we'd like to see made better; more books, more space for games, more courses in the Learning Centre, less crowding in the lounges, and so on.

On Sept. 8 there was a meeting at City Hall (see article) that I couldn't attend. I'm in Toronto as I write this. The efforts to make the needs of Carnegie a priority with Council members can be aided if you write your Councilperson, helping

with suggestions, time, donations of labour and skill. Write a letter to the Editor of the Sun or Province. Perhaps the staff could make a list of the proposed changes and post it; people could then begin contacting local media, and politicians about their favourite area of Carnegie, and make sure that the best obtainable changes will go through. Especially put in your two cents worth for a downtown sports facility.

I'll be in Toronto until midOctober and I'll write from here.

Meanwhile "Be Practical - Expect a Miracle."

Fifty percent plan dropped

Danny Korica dug his heels in, and fought off a proposal which would have seen the Seniors and other Carnegie Committees turning fifty percent of their fundraiser profits over to the Association.

The Seniors President said: I will not slave and stand at a lousy table selling coffee and then give you fifty percent. Twenty-five percent you get from Seniors. That's it. Or we shut her down right now."

New rules for Centre smokers



Almost all of the third floor will become a No Smoking area on September 28 - and smoking will also be banned in 25% of the second floor coffee shop area. The weight room and the child-minding area will also be smoke free. The entire basement, except for the Seminar Room, will be No Smoking. Most work places could be exempt from the regulations, made necessary by by-laws. Smoking rules for the main floor have not yet been worked out.

THE NEWSLETTER
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THE CARNEGIE CENTRE

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTORS
THIS ISSUE:

ART: TORA
CENTREPIECE ART:
JOHN CRESSMAN

LAYOUT: DAVE McCONNELL
AND TOM LEWIS

Rattled by pots and pans

Debate got heated when pots and pans became an issue at a recent Association Board meeting.

The motion was that no Association equipment, food or supplies be sent from the Centre to Oppenheimer Park. It followed the takeover of the free food program by the city.

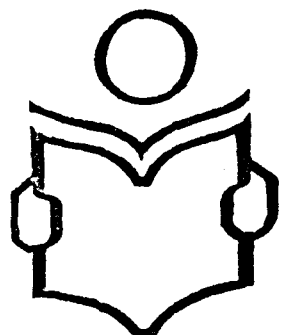
"We have a problem here" Director Nancy Jennings told the meeting. "What I'm saying as Director is that if there is a request for the equipment then the equipment will go to the park. We are here to serve the people, not personal petty politics."

Dave McConnell agreed. "I don't help relationships to do something like this. We're a community Centre, here to help the community. We can't cut our throats by doing something like this."

The motion was defeated.

A library staff member, who quit after allegedly being assaulted by a patron has been sent a letter of regret by the Carnegie Association Board.

Escape from secret shame



PROJECT LITERACY B.C.

Harold Mathes kept a secret from his parents, and when he got married he kept it from his wife. He did it because he was ashamed. The secret was that he could neither read or write. Mathes, now 38, was - and still is - functionally illiterate.

In the Newsletter office last week the personable, well-spoken Mathes said the anguish he went through was indescribable. "Can you imagine...? Nobody ever knew. I carried it around with me and I couldn't admit I couldn't read or write, even to the people closest to me. It is an incredible burden."

Mathes has a problem with phonics he is now trying to overcome - but nobody told him that was what it was. He just thought it was all his fault, something to be hidden.

Now Mathes is in the forefront of a growing fight against illiteracy. He has a

girlfriend who knows of his problem and is supportive-- and he is fighting for a break for others with literacy problems. He, along with many other concerned people, will take part in the Walk for Literacy on the seawall Oct 18.

Larry Duckworth, who has an office in the basement at Carnegie is Walk Co-ordinator, pledge forms can be obtained from him or from the Information Desk. He is urging people to walk and he needs volunteers to package and distribute posters and pledge sheets in return for the usual coffee and meal tickets,

The entire proceeds of the walk will be used in the fight to end illiteracy - and to help the over quarter of a million functionally illiterate adults in B.C. Some of it will go to our Learning Centre.

WOODWORK SHOP

In Carnegie Basement

Hours: 10am to 6pm -
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
and Friday. 2pm to 10pm -
Thursday. Noon to 8pm
Sunday.

Co-ordinator Kel Baker..
665-2222

POEM BY CON LEWIS

With a swirl
the tea leaves
settle to the bottom
of your cup
reinforcing your horoscope
cast by a gypsy
just last week
as happenstance and
meaningful
as the creation of a
universe
in the patterns of the
leaves
your future loves and joys
and sorrows ;
You must believe - You must
hold your dreams,
But even as a child
I heard the final reading
As the neighbour women
gathered after sewing,
the first cup upturned
the reader said I see
into that eternal pause
the clatter
of the junkman's tired
horse and wagon
in that chill October
turning his mournful
accented voice;
Rag-A-Bone .. Rag-A-Bone ..
Rag-A-Bone .. Rag-A-Bone ..

Yes, our futures surely,
Rags and Bones .

Maintenance staff go through
two to three dozen lightbulbs
every week in the Centre.



Thanks Kath

A vote of thanks has gone from the Carnegie Centre Association Board to hard working Katherine Galan for her time as temporary clerk-bookkeeper and for her current volunteer work as part-cashier, to help defray to the Association. "She has been in there about 18 hours a day" Tony Seaver said. The vote of thanks was unanimous.

The Learning Centre's George Harrison, who we featured in the August 15 Newsletter, won second prize at the PNE for his hooked rugs. Congratulations George.

"Fight, organise," - 30's vet

Willis Shaparla is a fighter, a veteran of the Dirty Thirties, the Relief Camp Workers Union, the protest march to Ottawa in '35, the occupation of this very building in the same year ..and what he sees going on around him now is so much like the thirties it makes him mad.

"I'm a very angry person" the longtime Carnegie member told the Newsletter. "I'm goddam angry. This is a re-run of the dirty thirties. Unemployment is high - it is possible that 12 percent of Canadian youth might never work - people are making war noises, yet stock markets are at their highest point in history. Ordinary people are disheartened, disillusioned.

"The Great Depression need not have happened and the war which followed need not have happened. It's the same thing now. This rich beautiful land could be Utopian under proper leadership - but society is not working, it is fundamentally flawed."

So what was the lesson of the Thirties - what should we do today, if, as Willis claims, things are going the same way?

"The message of the thirties is..fight" he said. "It is not hopeless. The ordinary people are all-powerful. But they have got

to organise."

Why aren't people angry enough to organise already?

"There is a period of gestation" he said. "Half of the period from 1929-35 was like that. People accepting what they were told. the bullshit artists chanting that prosperity is just around the corner and people believing them. The Solidarity Movement here was one of the most hopeful things since the thirties. The real essence of what happened in the thirties, and of Solidarity, was the grass roots, the feeling that we were representing the people. It was real people power."

Willis says the numbers of unemployed we have now are simply not necessary. The bosses are on an offensive, he says, they have learned the tactics of decreasing wages, pushing workers as far as they can for profit. "The natural law is to make profits, and the system can go on for 1,000 years if we don't stop it."

Willis, 69, a familiar figure on the third floor where he plays chess, came west at fifteen from Saskatchewan on a train which skidded through the prairies on rails greased by grasshoppers, and covered in dust. "I got out here and found trees, greenery.

GOING DOWN THE ROAD

A lot of people around Carnegie will miss Joe Boucher when he leaves the city early in October, to look for a different sort of life. The familiar figure in the blue and white CN Rail cap is off to a farm fifteen miles outside Princeton "to get away from the hustle and bustle." Joe wrote this for the Newsletter to try to explain why he is leaving the downtown which has been his home for a long time..

"I want to travel as far as I can go,

I want to reach the joy that's in my soul.

And change the limitations that I know,

To feel my mind and spirit grow,

I want to live, "exist" to be,

And hear the truth inside of me.

Poet, peacemaker, philosopher, hard worker.. Joe has been all of these things as he helped the Centre grow - and grew with it.

"I met Jim McDowell shortly after Carnegie the first opened and then, later, became a member of the Board of Directors," he remembers,

"I wrote an article on the art of stealing human rights,

and Jim McDowell was kind enough to help me with the editing. The article is still around somewhere.

"Shortly after that I became interested in everything concerning Carnegie and its patrons, who, like me, needed a place to drop into for socialising, and I spent a lot of hours here, like many others, Well, at least it kept me off the streets. I remember Carnegie when it was a museum in the early fifties.. Carnegie was like a magnet.. it always drew me."

He was 63 on September 14. Why is he leaving now?

"I need a place where there is peace and quiet. I'm going to work on a book I have been planning for a long time, about my life. This will be a good place to do it. I won't be doing any actual farming, just looking after the place for a man who has been a friend of mine for years. I don't drink and never caused him problems. He won't be paying me anything but I will have a place and I get a handicap pension now, so that will go with me. I'd like to say I've enjoyed Carnegie, seen it grow - and I will come back from time to time.

16 Harvey bows out as president

Harvey Bowers has resigned as chairman of the Carnegie Centre Association Board.

He read his resignation out to fellow Board members at the September 7 meeting -- but said he would remain as a Board member.

"We've had our struggles along the way" he said. "I have a certain amount of opposition here and there..". The strain and workload had become too much, he said, to remain as president -- "but there are several issues which require attention. I still feel I have much service to offer."

A vote of thanks to Harvey was passed by the Board, who will appoint a new president and chairman at the October

meeting, after the selection of two members to fill other Board vacancies.

Bharbara Gudmundson resigned at the September 4 Board meeting. She said she was originally disillusioned over the suggestion that Parke Place restaurant take over the free food program in Oppenheimer Park - and that cases of parental negligence be reported to the MHR. But other issues had contributed to her resignation decision. "I believe in assisting people in need, not condemning and punishing them" she told the Board.

Pat Kendall was the new director elected to the Board at the Sept. 4 meeting.

"Fight.." from p. 14

rivers..I couldn't believe it. It is so beautiful and rich. That's why i am so goddamned mad.. the waste.." he said.

In the Carnegie Theatre Willis recently re-lived the Thirties, along with other veterans, and aided by depression songs and films, in a moving re-creation of the original On To Ottawa trek, for work and fair wages. And he was one of the leaders of the 50th anniversary trek last year.

"It's not that I'm nostalgic" he said. "I'm goddamned angry that it's happening all over again. The

single unemployed fought back in the thirties. Work and wages are as valid now as then. If you don't fight and organise in the same way.. that would be the shame."

Park changes

The Vancouver Parks Board is considering improvements to Victory Square and there will be a public meeting Sept 18 at 7.30 in the Centre. (Among the proposals..removal of chain link fencing and bollards and chains, planting of shrubs .. benches to remain as they are..)