FREE - donations accepted.



**JANUARY 15, 1989** 



HAPP BIRTHPAP

# 9 GOING ON 1,000

On January 20th, the Carnegie Community Centre will celebrate its 9th year of operation. It took years of political fighting, petitions, local input and thousands of hours of volunteer work to make this place rise through the muck of the proposals: "Businessmen's club", "a restaurant with entertainment in different rooms", "offices for private interests" and, the most practical, "a fine spot for a parking lot."

Somehow these great thinkers, these political dragons, found out that there were people living down here. Like feeding hungry kids, getting any increase in welfare rates, creating a real available beach...it's been necessary to embarass, confront and intelligently argue against the ignorance and insensitivity of narrow ideas. Carnegie opened on January 20th, 1980!

As a footnote, then-alderman Margeurite Ford said, "They don't need a Library down there," (her being a Librarian), "they can't even read!"

Now Carnegie is THE most successful community centre in Canada, with almost 2,000 different individuals using the Centre daily. Staff and volunteers alike respond with needed services and ideas for programs. The volunteers alone put in an average of 6,000 hours a month to keep it humming with activity and interests. The voters of Vancouver approved \$650,000 for improvements.

All members of the Carnegie Community deserve praise!

# NEWSLETTER S

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTAR ASSOCIATION

Articles represent the views of individual contributors and not of the Association.

#### FREE - donations accopiea.

City info staff can't accept donations for this Newsletter, so if you can help, find Paul Taylor and he'll give you a receipt.

#### Thanks overybody.

DONATIONS: Yanum Spath-\$100
Nancy W.-\$200 Willis S.-\$90
George B.-\$15 Rich P.-\$41
Robert S.-\$20 Jancis A.-\$20
Louis P.-\$20 Tom - \$4.02
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Ted B.-\$5 Sheila B.-\$2
Doug -\$20 Bea F.-\$25
Lillian H.-\$20 James M.-\$50
Anonymous - \$11.23

#### LEARNING CENTRE COURSES

#### Monday

10:30-12:30 Creative Writing - Rm.2 12:30- 2:30 English/Math - Rm.2

#### Tuesday & Thursday

3:00- 5:00 G.E.D. Rm.2 5:00- 7:00 G.E.D. g - Rm.2

#### Wednesday

10:30-12:30 Creative Writing - Theatre 12:30- 2:30 Math/English - Rm.2

#### Friday

12:30-12:00 ESL/Literacy - Theatre
Conversation

All courses are open to everyone and the person to contact is Kathie in the Learning Centre on 3rd.

A hook in the guts, Twisting and pulling. The body screams, Gimme a Pam.

The sawbones says
They make you forget;
Cut down and you'll
Find out.

But they mix so well With grass and despair.



They tidy up the mess In a neatly spat gob of Life.

I made them the master Of my comfort zone, Now they've taken control, Dissolving a basic instinct.

Instant meditation.
Animated catatonia.
New Year's resolution.
Well, maybe, someday, soon.

Anon.

IT DOESN'T COME ON A SILVER PLATTER

Some people say "You inspire me" granted, but you see the things that I do are because I like to do those things such as, sports where I get to meet other people and go to other places.

I've always wanted to make a difference in the world, like helping other people. So you see it's really not me, it's how you feel from the inside, how you feel about yourself.

Myself, I want the world.

But in order for me to accomplish this, I first have to prove to myself that I deserve the world.

Some people don't understand that. They feel that things should come on a Silver platter.

But hey let's get real here...
nothing comes easy or cheap,
you have to work to get what you want,
build your Empire, but be happy building
this Empire... but also remember the people
who helped you get there.

You see a lot of people forget that they started from scratch; don't let that person be you.

Margaret

Not Again!
I cannot make
my heart behave
I've told it,
NO - NO - NO -!
But bruised
and tattered
tiptoe, still
it's On the Mark
Get Ready Go...!

Sheila Bell

Thoughts of Love

I need you
I need your hand
To steady me,
I need your laugh
To set me free,
I need your strength
When mine is gone,
I need your heart
To lean upon.

Sheila Bell



Open your mind to different ways of seeing Keep in mind what you really believe Navigate your trains of thought Through layer upon layer. - maintain control -

Elizabeth Thorpe

Pay heed to the warnings They're plain to see There's trouble afoot And it's not just me The world's in a mess You just do your best Cause it's business as usual I was there when they started to mine the land And they poisoned the workers and they poisoned the life And I asked: "Why you want to do this man?" And they said in reply, "It's business as usual." And I was there through the Industrial Revolution And they thought that that was the greatest solution And the people were suffering and the children were dying cause they worked for the devil and there was no use crying And I said to the rulers: "What do you think you're trying?" And they said in reply, "It's business as usual." Now the hour is late And who will save us We've only oursleves And the Being that made us We're wrecking the earth and brother it's mutual It's business as usual Is it because we want to meet our Maker? Cause brother, it could be the undertaker, saying, "Business as usual Business as usual We're wrecking the earth. And brother it's mutual."

Elizabeth Thorpe

I see a coloured man he is a lovely shade of brown and he is crying exactly as I have cried end apartheid poor man I had a nightmare just this morning The year was '57 1957...1857...1757... and I was in the U.S.A. just being myself you understand and people who said they were my friends turned their backs and ran but the ones who remained were just the same as in the bad old days it's hard to explain but they caused me pain (you see I was very thin and they cried out in sarcasm "Save the Baby!") And the storm came though I saw no lightning but what I did see was very frightening oppression in everyone's no way to make a start and they hated blacks and they hated Jews and they hated me poor thin me I see that brown man and he is crying exactly as I have cried end apartheid Elizabeth Thorpe

#### JOB KEEP

With the reclassification of 20 thousand people as "employable", welfare is insisting that people so affected go to one of several new job-finding agencies. One of the most lauded is Job Keep, and a man dropped in to tell the Newsletter about this one:

- 1. He is overqualified, even though he has had no work for some time.
- 2. It was suggested that he go to Job Club for their 4-week course but Vancouver has no office for this one and he's not allowed to go to a foreign (sic) one in a far-off land (like Burnaby).
- 3. Welfare demands that he find work but he noted that 2 of the 4 workers at Job Keep were Americans.
- 4. Another reason for not being fit for Job Keep was his age: they only help you if you're 19-44 years old!



Tired of waking up and feeling down Now it's time to turn the cards The highest hand you draw everytime Throw out the thoughts you are fed The ones that people say you can't You've chosen your destiny You've chosen your way You've chosen your life You've said you can You've said you will And now you have

CASH DINGO
at

CARNEGEE

6:30 West

PEOPLE ON WELFARE &

LOW INCOME

P.O.W. continues to meet on Tuesdays at 4:30 on the 3rd floor near the Communications Room. We are concerned with all issues that relate to being poor.

We have a 10 minute business meeting. Then we try to help each other when someone has a welfare problem. Sometimes we can help; sometimes we refer people to DERA or 1st United.

We are concerned with the number of people who have to pay large rents that are not covered by welfare - because the welfare rent allowance is so damned inadequate. People often have to use their food allowance for rent.

Don't forget your free swimming and skating pass available to people on welfare in Vancouver. Get your letter from a doctor if you need a diet allowance — and if you are sick get a letter from your doctor so that you can get hte unemployable rate of welfare. This rate is \$50 more, plus medical & dental are covered.

RAISE WELFARE RATES!!!

By SHEILA BAXTER

THE COLOUR OF ART

What's in it for me? Art is colour.

December went out with a bhang the 10th anniversary of something or other

Music hour
red level sun sets bright
Shadow falls, curves of night
shades of dark, dimensional space
flights past this sky to be seen
against the green
take delight
up there in flight

Clowd zigernaut caught a husky hue pale blue violet cloud changing with the setting sun Skyblue, pink and green yellow and aquamarine Cyan and Magenta (as well)

City hall the flag over all Catching slight breeze handly fluttering at all

answering CoHos' call.

Taum Dan Y Creag

alight the night

#### Winter in Oppenheimer Park

The wind moves in low gregorian chant through this white where trees stand black-robed: configuration of sin and saintliness.

Snow sighs
from a distant branch. It is a hand
beckening, a voice whispering
"This is My world of stillness.
Enter, and be healed."

Jancis M. Andrews

rich man pulls up in car
steps out of car
walks over to bum
against building while
he dusts dust off his jacket
You live here the rich man asks
No but what do you want says the bum
i come to renovate the
building the old bum
protested and yelled for
the first time in 10 years
Rich man renovated
Bum lost protest
Life ruined
no where to go

Zak Grant age 11

SIX TIMES SEVEN

WHAT was I to do?
Leave it alone
Hang up the phone
Its rapturous tune
I'm humming too!
"Squonk" that truck agrees with you

Twelve-thirty now its half past bed You should be home here with me too.

Halt
Get out a that car
Get out your guitar
Were gonna to wax 'em
We're gonna open that gate
Open late - always open
(It's the snow stopping it)
where we walk
They're so used to
shouting it.

Taum Dan Y Creag

#### A Union Steward's Prayer

Grant me O Lord, the genius to explain to my Brothers and Sisters the Policies and plans of our Great Union even though no one explains them to me.

Give me the understanding that I may forgive the apathetic member, curb the over-ambitious and accept the views of the member who does nothing until I have done something and then tells me how I should have done it and what I should have done.

O Lord, make me formidable in debate, logical in argument, fearless in confrontation, a lawyer, actor, mathematician, sage, philospher, sociologist, economist: pleasing, cajoling, threatening, belabouring so that I may make the best of a good case when a good case from me is usually no case at all...

Teach me O Lord, to stand at all times with both feet firmly on the ground; even when I don't have a leg to stand on.

Lord, I am a union steward. In your infinite wisdom see my need for all these things and in your mercy grant them to me.

And, when I have them, Lord-Move over!

Every so often adults suffer anxiety attacks and children are needlessly frightened out of their wits by some weirdo prediction that on a certain day, the world is coming to an end.

People actually quit their jobs, sell their houses and belongings and wait for the earth to swallow them up. When it doesn't happen, you hear the same excuses: God changed his mind. Even the Bible says no one knows on what day or what hour the world is going to end.

The thing everyone seems to forget is that every minute of every hour of every day, "the world comes to an end" for somebody. We are all going to die sooner or later. It could be today in a car accident or a fall down the stairs. Heart attacks strike suddenly. Diseases claim There are fires, floods & victims. tornadoes - enough tragedy to go around. And in the end, of course, for those who "escape," there is death from old age. No matter how healthy we are, eventually our parts wear out.

So what's the big deal? The message is, live every day as if it were your last. Don't put off the pleasures and joys for "another time." It's always later than you think.

Michigan Philospher

## 

Back from untravelled journeys to collect his consolation prize he forgets to change his underwear and runs out of things to wait for. After the T.V. is switched off he still wants to change the channel. It takes less now to ruin his day than when your breasts were firm.

Stephen Belkin

M.T.'s

Mind troubles; muted tremblings mask trauma. Motiveless tears mount. Tensions meet. Time motes triangulate motivation. Tranquil memories tease momentary truces. Mind tries. Mind tries.

Mind tumbles.

Stephen Belkin

#### A Tribute to Mother

Realizing that so many of my people were adopted out at an early age and do not know who they are or where they came from makes me feel very fortunate. Those who went through the painful experiences of being placed in residential schools are still suffering from the ordeal.

To be removed from your family and stripped of your culture leaves lasting emotional scars. The federal government was responsible for a terrible blight on our history. Existing families would have been able to function much better if their way of life was not completely destroyed.

Being hte oldest in a family of three, I had a great deal of responsibility. I was taught to cook and bake at an early age as well as doing outside chores - we grew up in the country.

Mother always worked hard sewing all our clothes, knitting, making quilts, cooking nutritious meals and giving us plenty of wisdom and guidance. She had to be a walking encyclopedia to answer our numerous questions.

We grew all of our own vegetables and worked in the garden as a family unit. The harvesting was completed in the same manner. When we needed medicine we used the herbs which were available on our land.

Mother was a whiz at school and completed Grade 9 at the age of 12. I received my gift of writing from both of my parents.

Even though Mother worked extremely hard for her family she always found the time to help a needy neighbour. She still loves growing things and to this very day still has a garden full of roses.

Mother had the wisdom to know that we all require love in order to function properly. It doesn't matter how mean and nasty others are to me knowing that I came from a strong and loving family.

By IRENE SCHMIDT

#### NEED HELP ?

DERA can help you with:

- \* any welfare problems
- \* UIC problems
- \* getting legal assistance
- \* unsafe living conditions in hotels or apartments
- \* disputes with landlords
- \* income tax

DERA is located at 9 East Hastings or phone 682-0931.

DERA HAS BEEN SERVING THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE FOR 15 YEARS



Focusing on only the "good" things can narrow your outlook. It can and does create an enormous blind spot. There is the 'dark side of the Force.' As Darth Vader said, "You don't know the POWER of the Dark Side."

#### a) The Coal Harbour Development:

Marathon Realty, the real estate arm of CPRailways, has plans for a billion-dollar megaproject that will be exclusively for rich and well-todo people and the businesses that leech off (sorry, cater to) them. They refuse to even discuss social or affordable housing; the report on how the score or more of highrises would block the views of the north shore mountains was suppressed and its author forced to resign as City Planner; the shunting yard and all tracks that CPR had near the site(s) have been removed and relocation is on the south side of Crab Park. The noise levels from 10 pm 'til 5 am rattle windows and make conversation almost impossible - ample reasons to remove the cause from the highpriced boxes and increase the amount where "it'll only wake up the winos." CPR started the digging for the four new sets of tracks when the Crab

Access meetings had barely begun (again) but have stated that it is now impossible to re-open the atgrade crossing at Columbia.

The developers and architects are having ONE public meeting "somewhere in the east side" to use the usual approach of glossy pictures, young and idealistic PR people and visions of sugar plums - all to get us to shut up and accept this. What we can do is go to this meeting and present a list of what we expect and are prepared to fight for - an at-grade crossing at Columbia into Crab Park, a relocation of the shunting yard, a reduction in the number of highrises to keep the view corridors open and social housing as a 25% minimum of all units built.

#### b) Expo Lands:

News travels fast and far. An entire condominium swamp was sold in Hong Kong in 3 hours, another high-rise was sold out before the actual construction was even above ground level and people living in Vancouver were actually surprised about it.

An offshore billionaire spent a few hundred million on the land, made the City an offer of millions to effectively get a lock on zoning (it was refused), has his new friends in the Socred government trying to get the federal government to spend \$300. 000,000 to clean up the toxic landfill, Hong Kong is going under the communist regime in China in the 1990's and all the multimillionaires and billionaires have to relocate to more lenient climes. Vanderzalm and cohorts have been lobbying intensely to have immigration rules relaxed to allow anyone with over \$150,000 to invest in Canada let into B.C. COURSE this offshore money has purchased a big chunk of Vancouver and of course the whole shot will be for the billionaires cronies. I mean, we shouldn't assume that just because we live here any of the natural resources of our city are for our benefit!

What we can do is continue to press for a minimum of 25% social and affordable housing; less density and more decentralization, a restriction on the amount of traffic allowed downtown, and most importantly that a law be passed restricting the offshore sale of housing and land to a lessthan-major percentage of what is to be sold.





#### c) The Terra Nova Development:

People are fighting to save the Terra Nova lands from the Socred developers. The Richmond area has some of the richest farm land in BC, but when it was removed from the Agricultural Land Reserve and Richmond Council rezoned it, the value of the land increased ten times, making it a tidy investment for the guy who provided the helicopter for Bill Vanderzalm's election campaign. people in Richmond want it left the way it is, saying "No way. Not here!" The highest probability has the very (meaning rich/politically connected) drooling over the handsome profits to be made with a Yuppie paradise - highrises, shopping malls, a new ocean of asphalt - with no personal responsibility of said few for the myriad social portents. They don't have far to look; Surrey and other satellite cities are beset with criminal elements like youth gangs and massive alienation of citizens from each other. The psychic pollution swamps adults while the youth with their higher sensitivity to the crimes being committed against their futures - lash back with total disregard for their fellows. The owners,



planners and developers seem to take cover behind their specialities: "It's not MY fault these problems arise!"

At the Carnegie Town Forum on Jan. 22nd, people from both Terra Nova & Steveston will come to address us.

Steveston is also in the throes of major public opposition to the alteration of the town. It's Federal \$\$\$ and the Richmond Council that want yet another tract of expensive houses and shopping areas, replacing the waterfront docks for fishboats, canneries and existing businesses.

#### d) Burn's Bog:

One of the few natural habitats for myriad species of wildlife is on the chopping block to become yet another high density suburban transit spot, with the bog being transformed into something filled with all the sludge and crap dug up for the other five megaprojects. Visions of the "tremendous vision of our future" leave a sour frustration to film the mind's eye. This project further erodes any faith that there will be a world for our children - rather than decentralize the economy with more small industries, each of these megamucks only creates more of the same focusing, cutthroat, maximization of personal profit scenario. If this plan goes ahead, Burn's Bog will be just another name in the mothballs of civic history.

#### e) International Village:

The architects came to Carnegie with attendant bureaucrats to present slick slide shows and graphs and lots of numbers. It's a workable technique most anywhere, except they did not understand that political awareness and an acute sense for the bull-shit factor are working well in hte downtown eastside. This one hopes to put about 15,000 people on three city blocks right next door, but those responsible are trying to quiet our questions with a promise of 10% social housing...in the worst locations!



#### f) Main & Terminal:

If this one has a name it's not handy, but the pricetag is around \$400,000,000. Highrise, high density and high priced...sound familiar?

S0: we can close our mouths, cover our ears and shut our eyes and just keep trying to survive on saying "Why is it people didn't...do something?!" This trend to super urbanization is being rammed through all over the Lower Mainland, in preparation for what seems like an expected population jump to over 2,000,000 people in the next 10 years. The Downtown Eastside is a very valuable chunk of real estate; we as residents are little more than an inconvenience to these billionaires and multimillionaires with their legions of planners, developers, anything-for-a-buck business people who think nothing of causing the eviction

of thousands of the 'little people'. They want progress of the crudest kind - material gain for the already rich, with the resulting "legions" of the dispossessed poor being pushed out of the way.

If this is getting harsh, good. The more committment to the idea that alternatives to this crudity are viable, the more united and strong we are. As a last note on our place in the minds of the people behind all this: Alderman George Puil, in his election campaign for the NPA, bragged arrogantly about the proposed site for a huge incinerator for the garbage of downtown Vancouver - just east of Main & Terminal. This will burn trask day and night...and won't the smell and colour of our sky be lovely!

Stay tuned.



PS: While writing the above, a person stopped at the door and started complaining that this paper is always griping about things. It was his opinion that it's all wasted because development and progress have to happen. His definition of "progress" was "Whatever makes money is good for everybody." (!) He sternly told me that I would be better off telling you how to manage your money; not to buy alcohol or squander government handouts on foolishness. Following this advice, I might even say that the best thing for all our problems would be respect and appreciation for all the good things the Socred Government does for the people of B.C.' I'd just eaten...

## QUOTATIONS FROM CHAIRMAN ZALM Selected by Stephen Osborne and Mary Schendlinger

ON COPING WITH VICTORY It's a piece of cake.



#### ON LOSING A BYELECTION

I think the byelection was no doubt a great disappointment. I'll probably go and live there someday. How can they sort of be voting against all these goo things that we are doing? So I think there was a sense of disappointment...

#### ON THE ROLE OF THE PREMIER

I suppose they have a hard time getting anybody's ear, so if they can get the premier's ear, wow, I mean that's a big deal. If I can manage to make a few people happy, that's all that matters.

#### ON ABORTION

Abortion is probably the issue I feel strongest about. I was so emotional about it that it's probably the only time for a long while that I cried, honestly cried.

#### ON BAD NEWS

I don't like to be the bearer of bad news at any time. I prefer good news.

#### ON SUFFERING

Certainly those that suffer, say from the pressure of unwanted pregnancy, will find it much, much easier to cope with the situation of they'll have a faith in Jesus Christ.

#### ON UNRULY HECKLING

Okay, listen... if you want a job, you're going to have to behave ...

#### ON PUBLIC DEBATE

Why are some of these school trustees so upset about dealing with the people's business on a hot-line show? What better way?

ON PROGNOSTICATION, WITH LILLIAN

We can somehow figure out what it is people really want or like without them telling us.

ON REINSTATEMENT OF EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES, JOB CREATION, LAND CLAIMS, AND ENDORSEMENT OF

TRADE UNIONISM

Okay, now I can answer that very easy. For the things you want, you should vote NDP.

ON TEACHERS AND THE RIGHT TO STRIKE I'm of mixed opinions on that one. I don't know what the implications of it would be. And I guess that the first thing that comes to mind is teachers on the picket line and everything shut down, and that would be a downer.

#### ON WELFARE

Cutting off the easy bread would eliminate a few of the hippie colonies and commies.

ON THE CAUSES OF ECONOMIC RECESSION Economic recessions are a heaven sent blessing for B.C. I think God

sent it. It was necessary and it had to happen when it did.

ON PIERRE ELLIOT TRUDEAU
(TO THE TUNE OF OLD SMOKEY)

He needed a distraction, a political fog, and out of the east came the sound of a frog.

ON CERTAIN CABINET COLLEAGUES
Gutless wonders!

ON GOING SOMEWHERE

Always do something on your way to wherever you're going.

ON THE SPECIAL QUALITIES OF WOMEN

I appreciate the intuitive talents that women can bring to the decisionmaking process. A

ON HAVING BEEN PREMIER FOR A FEW DAYS

I am amazed at the ease at which it's coming to me - I'm not bragging but it's coming naturally.

#### ON FOREST MANAGEMENT

Let's cut down the trees and create jobs.

#### ON BILINGUALISM

I'm one of those anglophones who is considerably frustrated and fed up with English and French on everything.

#### ON BLUE COLLAR PLEASURES

One of the pleasures of labourers is that after work they can stop and have a glass of beer. We've made it so pricey that few of them can afford it.

#### ON NATIVE LAND CLAIMS

I don't believe there are any ...

ON THE CITY OF VANCOUVER DECLARING ITSELF A NUCLEAR-WEAPONS-FREE ZONE

You don't win wars by that sort of image they have brought about.

#### ON QUALITY CONTROL

The schools are providing less than desirable product at Grade 12 level.

#### ON CENSORSHIP

There's a lot of garbage gets into the schools, and hopefully we can weed out far more effectively than we did in the past.



#### ON BUILDING MORAL FIBRE

I'm not, I assure you, suggesting for a moment that we return to the strap, but...I received the strap once, back in Grade 8, on a Thursday afternoon at 3:15 p.m., a sunny afternoon in May...the third desk from the back, and hte principal was a stern guy. It certainly had an effect on me and it left a lasting impression.

#### ON REHABILITATION

You take a student that has been involved and say, "Pick up paper two blocks either way and don't leave a scrap anywhere."

#### ON PEDAGOGY

Teachers should teach facts, not opinions.

#### ON LITERACY

I think a person has to be able to write good, read, spell, arithmetic - those basics I think are very necessary for no matter what you do in life.

ON THE B.C. TEACHERS' FEDERATION
They'll do anything to embarrass us.

## ON WHETHER TEACHERS ARE A BUNCH OF SHEEP

I don't want to say they're a bunch of sheep, nor do I think they're a bunch of sheep. But, you know, it's human nature. When they call their meetings to have a vote, there's all these hard-hitting speeches, and there's all this bashing of the government...and then they have a few singsongs in between to stir them up real good, and that, you know, really throws it.

#### ON BEING SEVENTEEN

A lot of 17-year-olds are still in school and all they can think about is beer, smokes and girls. They probably would be better off somewhere out there learning a trade.

#### ON CONSUMER PROTECTION

I don't think we need a course to teach a new housewife how to tell what amount is in a ketchup bottle.

#### ON SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

I think we do need some fairly good management in the schools as you would in any other business.

#### ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

If you have free collective bargaining, and obviously the result of it would be, or the possibility, at least, of a strike or lockout.

#### ON LAW REFORM

I would the problems with the Labour Code, if any, as I'm sure there must be.

#### ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST

I want guidelines that give people a feeling of trust and comfort, but naturally not so strict and stringent that it discourages good people from becoming involved.

## ON CONFLICT OF INTEREST, FANTASY GARDEN, AND LILLIAN

Lillian isn't too keen on selling. If there's an apparent conflict of interest, I'll have to consider it. But this is not an opportune time. I don't want to take a beating on it.

#### ON RELATIONSHIPS

Let's face it, man and wife are as one, so we're together on it, and that's something I would want to address in the not-too-distant future.

#### ON LOOKING BEFORE YOU LEAP

If I always thought before I spoke in detail, perhaps I wouldn't say some of the things I did and people wouldn't respond.

### ON POVERTY, AND LUNCH IN SCHOOL

I don't know if it's really that difficult for people to get a lunch together for their children. They are not really caring as they should be if this is happening. Either they're using their money for things they shouldn't be using it for, or they are sleeping in...

#### ON TRAGIC FLAWS

My greatest weakness is a soft, soft heart.



#### CRAB ACCESS UPDATE

Five days before the City Hall committee on htis issue met in Dec., CPR had a grader moving earth at the site of the Columbia at-grade crossing. At the meeting itself CPR execs spoke sadly of the need for 2-3 more sets of tracks. They cited this as the reason for the impossible deal made to the City of Vancouver: They (CPR) would allow a private crossing but Vancouver would have to assume full liability for any accident, no matter whose fault it was.

The next meeting of this committee occurred on Thursday, Jan. 12, but our local Crab Access committee went to the sites of the proposed alternatives on Wednesday, the day before. First and foremost is the same place that an at-grade crossing existed for decades - the foot of Columbia. The grader described above had just moved dirt around bug-style with no There are 3 tracks real difference. but 2 of them are so rusted from non use that they are useless. At the actual site where the space across is the narrowest and the simplest to cross, CPR uses only one track daily for train traffic. The other sites each presented more problems of too steep, too wide across, or too long a trip just to get to the park. CPR and the City's engineers favour us crossing east of Main and going all the way around the outside of the overpass. It's only about seven or eight times longer than just walking

across at Columbia but 'so what?';

A report on safety cited deaths & injuries at other at-grade crossings and CPR's incredulity that the City would even suggest that they could "make" Columbia crossing safe. One man at the January meeting summed up CPR's stance: "It's our land. They are our tracks. If you want to cross you have to do so under our terms." In other words, they have a hidden agenda for maximizing profits on their developments and we would be an inconvenience. Justice be damned.

By PAULR TAYLOR

#### A Note of Appreciation

On Tuesday just passed, the meal served in the evening was exceptional and several enjoying it broke out in spontaneous comments to the 'Chef de Cuisine'. The sheer delight of every diner was enough to have Willis S. make a special note of thanks at the Board meeting on Thursday!

## Nature's Music

A morning blanket begins to envelop us

Our night guides begin to fade An orchestration of morning songs unfold A symphony of natural happiness The morning star arises to tell us that our life begins once again To tell us not to worry about the things ahead We venture outdoors to a new, awaiting day along with a new awaiting life Open up your mind Open up your thoughts Let the morning orchestra soothe you Let the morning symphony relax you

Alan King

#### "If Only ..."

These ancient syllables support each other over the centuries.

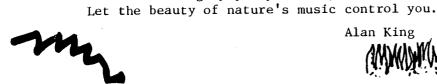
Asked, "What are your names?" They whisper "Our names are 'If Only.' We are the lost ones, the damned, the unforgiven."

Asked, "What is your age?" They groan "Adam fathered us. Eve gave us suckle." Asked, "Where do you live?" They sob, "We inhabit limbo forever sometimes to descend to earth to moan in your ear, If only ...

"Never forget us We compose the wheel that turns the beginning to your ending, and, in the end, We break you."

Jancis M. Andrews





I am the poet laureate
I am the poet lariat
the Queen of Canada
the young woman who once thought she
was Queen Elizabeth the Zero is now
Queen Elizabeth - Queen of Herself.
I step onto the platform and accept
the Governor General's Award I am the highest in the land!
I am I am I am
what I am

Elizabeth Thorpe

I have moved this past month to an address just adjacent to Pidgeon Park. My former landlord - John - hated my going. I had not realized then that my friendship for this man affected him when I told him my reasons for going.

I had room 112 and a Cuban woman in room 111 attacked a man across from my room with a glass cup causing numerous lacerations to the man's face. Then the owners would not ask her to leave. So I asked John; he just shrugged and said 'my hands are tied'...that was on the 19th of Dec.

So I got lucky the next day. My Pension came to where I pick up all cheques (the one for \$700-47 came in) so I paid out \$300 for a room, \$200 +\$100 for damage deposit. I moved out of 1516 Powell St. on Dec. 29th. And in a sense I am relieved because I no longer live close to a vicious, demented woman. The owners of Flint Residence believe she's harmless. Ha!

Right at the moment I am making my new place at 9 W.Hastings LIVEABLE. So far, with a little hard work and help from a friend - it's happening. I will miss John but I'm not moving back to Flint Residence.

Joseph Boucher

#### **UPCOMING**

Friday, 20, January, 1989 -

Carnegie celebrates its 9th year; Look for signs and portents on the walls and in the halls and even under the stairs. Music, poetry & lots of free food and coffee!!

Sunday, 22, January, 1989 -

Carnegie Town Forum in the Theatre at 7:00 p.m. with the main issue the fight against the developments planned for Terra Nova and Steveston.

Tuesday, 31, January, 1989 -

In the Theatre this night architects and planners and public relations. The job? - Coal Harbour and the Heavensent boon of expensive housing, malls and 15,000 people. See ya there!

## Suiden Bawn

I've lived here long enough to know There is only one way I'll ever get Out of Skid Row:

By abandoning everything I possess, And spending my dole on a ticket For the next flight to a southern coast.

But first I would have to succeed At being a total desperado, Saying "adios" with hundred-proof Sincerity,

To the illegible comforts Of a prison where the inmates Are always free to go.

Skid Row John

An Idea submitted by Irene Schmidt

How many more of our local citizens will die as the number of fatal traffic accidents keeps rising? There were 48 people killed - motor vehicle fatalities - last year. Two of them were struck down near Carnegie on separate occasions and both Er. Chan and an 84 year-old man are no longer with us.

Mr. Chan was hit by a car at Main and Keefer after leaving our Centre. On December 17th, the 84 year-old man was hit by a huge truck.

Adding to the upset was the fact of a Traffic Safety meeting that was held just a few days previous to the latest tragedy. This meeting had highlighted the danger of trucks & trailers not being braked to allow seniors and disabled persons to get across the intersection. Several regular users cannot get across in the space of one green light and have to count on motorists stopping to give them the extra seconds they need. Some motorists from other areas drive like they are on a freeway, having complete disregard for the residents of our community.

There is a serious problem at Main & Hastings with buses stopping on six of the eight sides of the streets and sometimes running red lights to "make it" through. Pedestrians end up stranded in the middle of the intersection and can only reach the curb by vehicles stopping on the green light!

If you wish to stop these needless deaths, please write to:

MR. ROGER CURTIS, HEAD ENGINEER, c/o CITY HALL 453 WEST 12th AVE., VANCOUVER, B.C.

If you want to save a stamp, Irene is volunteering to take the letters to Mr. Curtis personally.

Ancient wine goblets
filled with fruit juice
My table covered with
fruits of the vine
I've come through bad times
Though I thought they'd
never end
My life is finally
where I'm at
The good times are here
within my heart

I feel your love I know your love You are love itself You give to me all of your love And I give you all of my love The hardship is over Finally over And in my soul I feel new growth And when I come to you I know you won't turn me away You'll look into my eves and say "Stay with me."

Elizabeth Thorpe

Sally got stuck in sticky stuff and Sam stepped over and strained his stomach stapling statues to sticks suddenly Sonny gave us stakes and slid Sally out. Slippery staples they were

sticky also were the

Sally

sticks and stupid was

Zak Grant age 11

#### BITTERS AND TWIST

This cup of alcohol
I don't want to drink
Nobody should be forced to drink
Something as bitter as this:
Bitters and twist.

It's all in the cup
All the sorrow, all the pain
Why should I have to drink it again
You told me just to exist:
Bitters and twist.

It's a blow from an angry fist; Bitters and twist. So I just pretend it's Irish mist. Bitters and twist.

Next week, another week!

A fatal admission.

- Harriet Welch

#### I'd Rather Not Be Rich

I would rather not be rich Have everything in the world For I really don't want to be a bitch.

I don't like lots of money Spend and Spend all the time For I may get sick to my tummy.

I would sooner like to be me Do things, have my dreams Than be rich and drink tea.

I wouldn't want to be a snob Ignoring my friends and all If I were rich, I'd sooner be robbed.

Mary Cappell

#### While Beauty Dies

The city does not allow for slow blossomings.

The instant must keep justifying existence or else.

Rain is therefore misunderstood:

umbrellas not seen for the non-sequiters they are.

The mountains reduced to a status-quest for 'view'.

Trees scream out the desecration of their misplacement to neurotic birds.

"Wait till the evening," drones the otter, palpable.

"Wait till tomorrow," replies a forgotten moon, after the anti-climax

Too much depends
on whether there's anything good on T.V. tonight.

And too little.

No wonder christians and activists are so insufferably smug.

Boouty has gone underground in quest of secular redemption,

Beauty has gone underground in quest of secular redemption, forgetting somehow that it is its own redemption.

(Does the sky need a reason? Apparently so.)

No one, it seems, has the capacity to notice its abscence from the paper-thin texture of their days.

Artists at least pretend it's still there.

Holding the fort, awaiting slower times, while beauty dies strangled in the structure of the week.

Next week, another poem!

Stephen Belkin



ON THE WAY TO TOMORROW

The slanting rays of winter solstice Are freezing the smoky drift of time. I guess I'll go home And wait for tomorrow.

Ancient spirits lurk in the alleys, Whispering immortal secrets

Through the rainpipes To the earth below.

Their wisdom is swallowed by gravity, Then flung out through the manholes, Piercing the air around my ears, Then splashing into my brain:

"The Mind should be a friendly place, Filled with cosmic illumination, Transcending the negative plane of Thought, And aging to the beauty of time."

Skid Row John

### SADHANA

The pain will not set in It will be revealed as having always been there -

Thoughts put off - not thought about at all:

Just the first line or so
- dismissed as bootless speculation

- dismissed as bootless speculation

Yet the universe moves as independent from wishes/dreams/fantasies and the feeling is that the Perfect Ideology is hiding for a time..in the shadows.. Time to start for home.

Start with the first step and have faith What else is there in a world gone crazy? With people quite happy to cut out

your tongue and make you eat it.

paulr taylor