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NEWSLETTER

JULY 15, 1990.

401 Main St., Vancouver, B.C. (604)665-2289

Welfare appeals hit record levels

Metro Council plans to hire a lawyer to represent city

BY JANE COUTTS
Urban Affairs Reporter

TORONTO — Welfare award appeals are occurring in record numbers, and Metro Toronto has authorized hiring a lawyer to represent its side in the process.

Metro Council voted this week to spend about \$92,000 to hire an extra lawyer for a year to represent Metro's social services department when individuals turned down for welfare assistance appeal rulings to the province's Social Assistance Review Board.

Appeals increased by 70 per cent in 1989, to 738 from 435 in 1988. Forty per cent of people making appeals are represented by a lawyer.

The head of the review board, Joanne Campbell, said she welcomes both the increase in appeals and a more formal, legal approach to the problem.

However, Councillor Brian Ashton, head of Metro Council's community services and housing committee, said he is worried about the implications of hiring a lawyer to work or advise on the department's side in an appeal.

"Hopefully, we are not just doing this to save money," Mr. Ashton said. He plans to keep a close eye on the matter, because "I have this gnawing feeling in my guts that I am kicking people when they are down."

Ms Campbell, a former Metro

councillor, said she sees the increase in appeals as proof that she is succeeding in her mandate to make the board more accessible and more responsive to people who believe welfare officers wrongly denied them welfare.

Straightforward information pamphlets — checked by literacy experts for simplicity and clarity — and increased efforts by legal aid clinics and welfare officers have helped make people aware of their right to appeal, she said. And an increased awareness among the public that the board is more sympathetic than in the past has greatly increased the number of people who want to appeal rulings by welfare officials, she said.

Ms Campbell welcomed Metro's move to hire a lawyer, which she said should ultimately benefit welfare clients.

If Metro and other Ontario communities use legal experts to prepare and argue their side in appeals, review panels can make more informed decisions and will establish clear precedents in the interpretation of provincial welfare legislation, she said. This in turn should lead to more clear and consistent application of that legislation.

"I think the whole system is served better by first having good policy established and then getting good, careful defence of those policies in front of our board. I see this as a positive move."

Ray Lazanik, general manager of

Metro's social services division, agreed that increasing accessibility to the board and trying harder to reach clients has increased the number of appeals. But he added he thinks there is another, more important cause: hard times.

"People are more desperate. Given the economy ... people are more prepared to take action to get what they think is owed to them."

Municipal decisions are upheld by the board in a majority of cases — 66 per cent last year, Mr. Lazanik said, but the balance could shift if the social services division is not prepared to meet legal expert with legal expert.

Even now, he said, only a tiny fraction of applicants for welfare are appealing the rulings. Last year Metropolitan Toronto handled about 47,000 cases — including individuals and families — and there were 738 appeals.

"Most people accept our rulings," Mr. Lazanik said, but he added that he thinks appeals will continue to rise because of increased legal advice and an increasingly litigious society.

Ms Campbell said 44 per cent of appeals are on whether a welfare applicant has looked hard enough for work. About 13 per cent are over status in Canada — mostly brought by refugee claimants who have been denied welfare — and 8.5 per cent represent disagreements over whether a claimant has assets to use up before welfare will offer assistance.

Sure it's odd - the front page of Ye Olde Carnegie Newsletter with a story lifted from elsewhere, but it makes a great case for appealing any "decision" by MSSH that you feel is unfair. A remarkable advocate, Margaret Ennenberg, was involved in an appeal made by a single mother.

Briefly: The mother is on welfare and the father of her children was required to pay her \$150 a month via the Family Maintenance Program. No payment had been received for 8 months, he was taken to court and ordered to pay all the back money as well as make regular payments from then on. Fair enough. The problem was that the mother, getting a lump sum for the months when she got nothing, would have gotten more than the \$100 which she is legally allowed to keep; MSSH said the rest - over \$100 - was theirs.

A law person went to the Interpretation Act and the GAIN Act. Under GAIN, workers are always to be aware of causing their clients "pain, suffering, neglect" and the Interpretation Act states clearly that "Every

enactment (in this case, of GAIN regulations) shall be construed as being remedial, and shall be given such fair, large and liberal construction and interpretation as best ensures the attainment of its objects" meaning simply that the single mom, having to suffer through 8 months of no support, go to court, win, and then be denied repayment because of this \$100 regulation, was wrong.

Upon appeal the tribunal ruled that this money was repayment of a debt and that, while it should be paid in installments of \$100 a month rather than all at once, the mother had a right to keep it on top of the regular monthly amounts of \$100.

In short, she can get the \$100 a month in support plus get an extra \$100 a month for the next 8 months for the time when nothing was paid.

By PAULR TAYLOR

P.S.: To Miles MacIntosh in Keremeos, hang in there! Never go to an appeal hearing alone; if you need an advocate call ELP and one will come out to make sure it's fair.



Alcohol... a weapon of the state.

Mr
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Mr. Don Douglas
Regional Director, Air Navigation
Transport Canada.

Dear Mr. Douglas,

We are an association representing 2,000 residents of the Downtown East-side and Strathcona neighbourhoods of Vancouver. Our mandate is to work for the betterment of the community and the well-being of residents.

For the past few months, we've been receiving complaints from residents about the increasing number of overflights by helicopters of built-up areas. These flights start at 7 a.m. and continue at regular intervals, often every 15 minutes, through the morning. The flights are also especially frequent in the late afternoons. These are regularly-scheduled northbound commuter flights of Heli-jet aircraft directly over Strathcona, and heading into the helipad on Vancouver harbour.

We contacted Heli-jet, Mr. Bill Blair, and he confirmed it is his flights that are passing over our neighbourhood. He said northbound Heli-jet flights used to come in from the water side, over Lions Gate Bridge but on instructions from Transport Canada the frequency of flights over residential areas has now been drastically increased. "It is not by choice (on Heli-jet's part) but by requirement," said Mr. Blair. He said the change of flight paths was apparently connected to traffic at Vancouver International Airport.

We view this development very seriously. These overflights are an annoyance. They interfere with the peaceful enjoyment of our homes and community.

It is not a question of what altitude they are flying at; their persistent thumping noise is an invasion.

When the heliport was established, Transport Canada and Heli-jet officials assured the community that the air traffic would be controlled to shield residents from disruption. Instead the opposite is happening. Air traffic is increasing, helicopters are hovering over residential areas and Crab Park, and flight patterns have been structured in a way that causes annoyance to residents and contributes to a deterioration of our living environment. This is causing resentment in our community towards the heliport operation and towards Transport Canada.

We call on you to remedy this situation before the protests increase. As a minimum, please return the flight paths to the water route.

BARBARA MORRISON,
Secretary, CCCA.



4
Twas July 5th, 1990

Dave set up the PA system, his girlfriend kindly opened the smoker's window between the stage and piano. Muggs invited the board members to vacate their seats in the audience and join her where board members usually sit, which thinned out the crowd some, but with the sudden arrival of the coffee urn, the crowd was replenished by a sprinkling of interested persons.

Muggs next asked a person called the Director to give a report, which she did to the apparent delight of the entire room; proving it's not what you give but how you give it.

Both Barbs also gave good input to the meeting, proving again that people who choose to work behind the scenes can get results and/or shed light on a potential issue.

My Back Room nominee and I were both surprised that members of the board showed such great interest in the representative to the PROCAN committee position I was vacating due to a chronic case of absent-mindedness,

plus they don't serve coffee.

But, the Vancouver PROCAN committee are a good, hardworking group who, as nature will have it, are as strong as their weakest link.

Supplying a capable board member as Carnegie's rep to the PROCAN committee could have serious positive effects if the fight against the GST captures a mass appeal in the next several months.

If this does occur, people who can write a clear report (as my back room nominee could) for their respective organizations are going to be priceless, because this kind of war effort is held together by a network of nation-wide communication centres, so that every PROCAN member across the nation has the same information at the same time, hopefully.

Anyway, all I really wanted to say was tonight was one of the best (nicest) meetings I've ever attended; probably because there's still 11 months before the next Annual General Meeting.

GARRY GUST

bingo

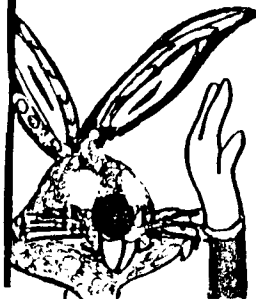
at

CARNEGIE

6:30

Wed.

Arts & Crafts for Kids



Mondays 7-9 pm.
Saturdays 2-4 pm.

Free

Anti-poverty group warns against "soup lines for kids"

by Janet Smith

End Legislated Poverty says an attempt by the school board to set up a lunch program for needy kids over the summer could be "counter-productive."

"We can't start setting up soup lines for kids," says Patricia Chauncey of the anti-poverty coalition. "We can't separate the kids that are poor."

The Vancouver School Board last week sent a letter to the Ministry of Social Services and Housing pointing out the continued need for nutrition throughout the summer for the city's kids. It offered to assist the province in setting up a summer lunch program and in providing

facilities to distribute food.

The board currently runs a hot lunch program throughout the school year at 12 inner-city schools. They have never offered to assist the province in setting up a summer lunch program, but trustees have expressed concern that the children they help feed in the school year will go hungry during the holidays.

Chauncey says the school year lunch program, (which End Legislated Poverty helped establish), is part of the education system, and does not segregate or identify children.

"We're worried about having kids identified to the ministry," she said of the summer lunch program. She said parents would

be in jeopardy because not feeding a child adequately can sometimes be considered child neglect.

End Legislated Poverty says the only way to solve the problem is for the government to raise welfare rates and minimum wages to above poverty level.

Recent studies say a child on welfare is given enough money to eat according to the Canada Food Guidelines for two-and-a-half weeks per month. A mother with two children should get \$22,000 to be at the poverty line, according to Statistics Canada; in reality she gets about \$787 a month.

Chauncey admits the summer is a hard time for poor kids. She says many do not have appropriate seasonal clothing, and many will not be able to go away on holidays.

"Also, a lot of kids will not have access to proper daycare," she says.

"Summer's going to be really hard for the kids that have gotten used to food," at the hot lunch program during the school year, she says. But Chauncey says because schools have been able to lift some of the financial burden off poorer parents, those parents may have some extra money to buy their children more seasonal clothing or food.

She says she'd rather see the board prioritize setting up hot lunch programs during the school year at additional schools such as Hastings and General Brock and inner-city high schools.

She said if the board and the provincial government decide to set up a summer lunch program, they'll have to consider ways of avoiding stigmatizing the children and identifying parents.

"THEY" NEED TO KNOW!

They lack much in humility
To learn truth and simplicity
To get on with the real job at hand
Be counted and make an honest stand

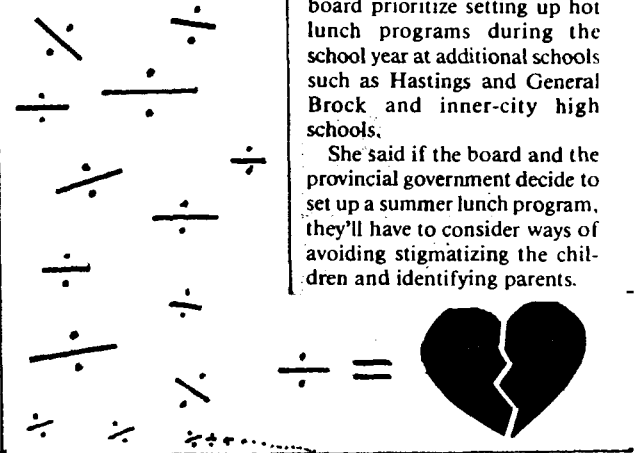
They need, some politicians do,
To stop acting acting like apes in a zoo

The rules of service to apply
Not ego-ism gratify

They need to sweat their pampered brow
They need to walk behind the plow
To walk a mile in shoeless feet
To suffer hunger on the street

To be reduced to pennies scrape
Subjected to intensive hate
To be the butt of ridicule
To be made to look like a fool

To know the sadness and distress
Of winters spent in loneliness
To live alone bereft of love
With shelter but the sky above



To understand dire misery
To live lean poor and elderly
To feel the horror of despair
Our youth encounter everywhere

They think they're only there to rule
Take the average voter for a fool
But we'll awaken voters all
Strike 3, "yer out" - will be our call

Wilf Barbeau, C.D.

"ADVOCACY AS A TOOL TO END POVERTY"

A few advocates met to talk about how advocacy fits into the larger picture of organizing to end poverty. In advocacy we have individual successes that help people one by one, but what other things could we do so that we'd be more connected to broader social change?

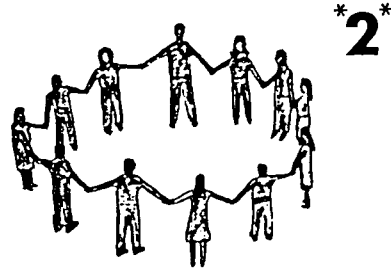
The School Lunch Program is a good case. The organizing efforts for lunches connected to ending poverty, rather than being a one-shot goal, in a number of ways such as:

- builds alliance that is on-going with non-poor groups (teachers, doctors, social workers, civil servants, etc.) around issues/poverty
- underscores inadequate wages/welfare rates
- focuses on "hungry kids" which gets lots of press coverage because tragedy of poverty is seen as it affects kids
- is an achievable goal in community after community; i.e. first we try for lunches in inner city schools, then we go after other schools - and all the while ELP helps citizens in other areas get school lunch programs (Victoria, Surrey, Nanaimo, etc.)

Georgina M.

(Editor's note: Contrast this with the article on the previous page. To avoid having to admit guilt in being part of the cause of poverty, some school trustees (socrads, corporate clones and so on) see nothing wrong with segregating kids from low income families, making them eat from the "Food for Poor Kids" section. ALL children are born free with a right to a full life. The guilt and fear and shame kids from low income families get comes from being told in many ways that they are to blame - victims are guilty - poor is evil...

HELP in the DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE



FREE OR LOW COST GOODS	1.
SHELTER & HOUSING	3.
HEALTH SERVICES	4.
COUNSELLING, SUPPORT, INFO	6.
LEGAL SERVICES	8.
ADVOCACY RESOURCE LIST	8.
SOCIAL, DROP-IN, RECREATION	10.
YOUTH SERVICES	12.
OTHER SERVICES	13.

CARNEGIE NEWSLETTER
665-2289



VOLUME 2, updated to 1 July 1990, revised to correct mistakes and including a new section on Youth Services. Available at Carnegie and in the Downtown Eastside.



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Poems by N'ingin Snapping Turtle

FOSTER PARENTS

My Mother was Catholic
My Father was Anglican
I was Indian
Double crossed
and lost.

INATTENTION

Sunlight filled the classroom
filled my head and my eyes
Somewhere in its shimmering flow
I heard quick footsteps
A dark shadow killed it
The teacher was at the window
she pulled down the blind
The white and black page of my reader
jumped before my eyes
"What is the poet saying about
the sun?" she accused.
"I-I-" stumbled - lost
She kept me after school.
Dusky clouds embraced me
as I left

I HATED THAT MORGUE.

NETTED AND GAFFED

School was a jail
to me.
the lines on my
scribbler
the bars.

FODDER

Conform
REFORM
Deform
Plasticize
without an
education
Friend
you're dead
People
get degrees
on how to
handle
losers like
you.

NASTY BOYS

We're not in jail
because we're bad
can't love
can't think
we're in here
because
the system
stinks
not us.

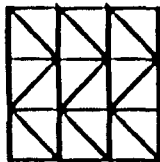
LET'S LIVE, YOU AND I

Let's live you and I
not a life that's 2nd hand
played out by others
in a civilized shadow land
What does the audience dare
as it cheers the hero on

Cut the fuck'n cable Mable!!!!

N'ingin Snapping Turtle

YOU ARE
WHAT YOU
WATCH....



Community Directions

COMMUNITY DIRECTIONS CONFERENCE

Over a month ago the Committee of Progressive Electors held a number of workshops, had guest speakers on community action, artists & musicians, and asked us to speak our minds on many concerns.

Rather than attempt an incomplete report it was deemed better to await the promised mailout from C.O.P.E. To give an idea of the issues examined, following is a list of what's happening right now:

- megaprojects
- demolitions
- exclusivity - rent, shopping
- long term residents being left out
- Vancouver inviting new residents
- citizens overwhelmed by not having power
- empowering neighbourhood autonomy
- gentrification
- denser population
- increased unemployment
- inner core dying
- land values higher
- 'bottom line' profit attitude
- no comprehensive plan
- cheap construction
- more: people, density, traffic
- decrease in space
- more poverty
- lack of amenities
- crowding
- unplanned density - growth
- more residential development for 35-50 population, leading to takeover of industrial land for high density growth
- decrease of green space, 'replaced by' very structured small green spaces (linear parks) often for specific uses
- decrease in quality of life
- increased pollution

- depression up
- stress up
- increase in violence
- crime up
- increase in intimidation
- decrease of farm area
- development of rural areas
- lack of community education at community level - need to know the options
- increase in office and retail space

Each workshop started with a title and an objective. There were no "experts" giving lectures to scribbling participants - it was up to everyone to work with each other, to empower ourselves.

WHY GROWTH?

Objective - Examine how growth in Vancouver is affecting people; identify areas where growth would improve the quality of life for the greatest number of people while maintaining communities and examine how we can measure growth & know what's happening

MUNICIPAL AUTONOMY

Objective - Look at how decisions are made and discuss new models to empower individuals and communities.

THE AUTONOMOUS CITY (I)

Objective - Detail ways of educating individuals & communities on causes of problems with direction city is taking

INCLUSIVE CITY

Objective - Consider who ~~is~~ presently excluded from equal treatment in Vancouver and describe goals for a community that ensure equality, the barriers to achieving those goals, and new structures that may be needed.

Each of these areas is tied to more specific issues that have to do with the urban environment:

- A. HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT
- B. TRANSPORTATION
- C. RECREATION AND GREENSPACE
- D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND EDUCATION

A report was made on each of the above from the continual work of COPE's Urban Environment Task Force.

Information generated in all this is copious, but it is all interrelated and intertwined. What follows now is a summation of the reports made by all workshops and what is ahead:

1. Need for comprehensive on-going planning.
 - Planning at the neighborhood level to the city to the regional levels
 - Neighborhood planning as empowering individuals and providing range of visions
 - Neighborhood planning as a means of providing options; e.g. creative use of downtown buildings and public spaces.
 - Planning as a means of bringing all residents into the process.
 - Promote, encourage Neighborhood Associations, Community organizers, development and other workers.
 - Need to promote a program of citizen's advocacy training and information centres.
2. Open government with decisions openly arrived at.
 - All individuals and groups enjoy the right to participate in decisions on issues that affect their health and well-being.
 - Unrestricted right to make presentations before City Council and/or School Board and/or Parks Board.
 - Public educational programs implemented to help children and others to become actively involved in decision-making and governmental processes.
 - Get rid of patriarchy within COPE and encourage other supportive organizations to do the same. Support women's organizations and candidates.
 - Appoint "neighborhood organizers" to be advisory to and consultative to neighborhood groups and associations, a la Toronto.
3. Need for adequate rental, social, affordable housing.
 - Freeze, as required and where required, on demolitions.
 - Taxation and other restrictions on flipping
 - Rental controls
 - Government rules and regulations to preserve and increase green spaces.
 - Senior housing within each community.
 - A mix of social, affordable housing within each community.
 - A mix of co-ops, condos, apartments, single family homes within each community.
 - Controls on interest rates.
4. Need for comprehensive fast, efficient, "clean" public transportation system and realistic alternatives to the use of the automobile.
 - Bicycle paths and lanes throughout the city. Reduce cycling hazards.
 - Promote car pooling.
 - Promote energy friendly fuels; e.g. methanol, gasohol.
 - Have bike racks installed on buses and at stations.
 - Cyclists focus on road use: Education; Engineering; Enforcement; Encouragement
 - Cheap, rapid, efficient transit. Provide sheltered stops. Schedules well advertised. Introduce free buses in the downtown core.
 - Ban automobiles in the downtown core. Downtown parking lots to park/greenspace.
 - Make public transport easily accessible for disabled; i.e. wheelchairs
 - Advertise the safety, rapidity, efficiency features of public transportation
 - Increase the number of trolley buses.
 - Provide bus lanes
 - Introduce flexibility to mesh with potential riders; e.g. bigger, regular and smaller-sized buses.
 - Integrate transit with the overall planning and development
 - Make bicycle education mandatory in the school system
 - Convert all gas & diesel buses and public vehicles to propane/LNG immediately
 - Provide incentives for private conversions.
5. Need for comprehensive recreational facilities and services.
 - Focus on Vancouver as a "liveable", not a "visitable" city.
 - Make parks more accessible to the disabled.
 - Stop the expansion of the zoo in Stanley Park. →

- 10 →
- Rehabilitate Still Creek and its branches, and other creeks
 - Reintroduce fish into the creeks
 - Provide affordable free use of Trout Lake, Lost Lagoon, Beaver Lake for canoeing, row-boating, recreation.
 - Place barricades on some streets and introduce mini-parks
 - Insist that railway right of ways be greened
 - Establish networks for cycling and walking paths to connect streams, lakes and beaches
 - Green remaining parking lots & preserve existing underdeveloped green spaces.
 - Save shade trees, particularly on boulevards and on private land
 - Continue planting various trees on boulevards.
 - Provide underwater marine parks for diving.
 - Preserve Fraser River estuary and wet lands.
 - Increase the number and size of eastside parks.
 - Establish Victoria/Fraser Marine Park and Southlands Marine Park.
 - Promote the skytrain as a linear park.
 - Stop the privatization, commercialization of parks, PNE, golf courses.
 - No further encroachments of highrises shading beaches, parks & public spaces.
 - Ensure easy access to public parks; e.g. Crab Park.
 - Involve each community in visioning, planning and implementing a distinctive characteristic for its neighborhood parks.
 - Plant trees in each park.
 - Ensure that parks are accessible, provide safe, creative, well equipped environment for children.
 - Promote as many uses as possible of each park rather than relying on single purpos use; e.g. as with golf courses.

6. A need to stop further deterioration of the environment and to implement a comprehensive program to improve its quality.

- Construction of new housing should preserve the natural habitat, not destroy the habitat; e.g. on estuaries, farmlands.
- Ban autos in downtown core. Turn downtown parking lots into parks/greenspaces.
- Convert all gas & diesel buses and public vehicles to propane/LNG immediately.
- Increase the number of trolley buses.
- Ban pesticides.
- Introduce speed zones and quiet zones to discourage autos and trucks.
- Install two sewer systems: (I) Biodegradable (II) chemical.
- Introduce public education programs re: what to do with chemical wastes and the importance of curbside recycling.
- Waste management needs to focus on Reduce..Recycle..Redevelop.

An inalienable concomitance, like a piece of paper having two sides, is the human need for spiritual progress and social change. As with the principles of PROUT in the last Newsletter, these changes must be of a progressive nature.



..on meeting MLA Elijah Harper

This could not be the infamous Meech Lake Accord killer. This was a gentleman; his smile was warm, his handshake was warm, his hands were soft and he spoke with a soft voice. This man was friendly.

He walked through the Social Suite of the Hotel Vancouver making sure he said hello to everyone who was there to welcome him. His spirit was strong. He loves Canada. He loves Canadians and supports Quebec's distinctiveness. He supports Aboriginal distinctiveness. Margo Kidder performed a short skit dedicated to Mr. Harper and his efforts towards a fair constitution for this country.

He was smiling. It was the smile of the four grandfathers, the four winds and the four cardinal directions. He is a man who supports a balance between the four symbolic races inhabiting our planet. No, this man was not a killer. He has a vision of a better Canada for Canadians, not just aboriginals.

Elijah Harper sees the cultural genocide being practiced by our Federal Government. These policies have remained virtually unaltered throughout our history in Canada. Examples of this are many:

- In 1880 Sir John A. MacDonald, speaking as Minister of Indian Affairs, stated government policy was to "wean them by slow degrees from their nomadic habits, which have become almost an instinct, and by slow degrees absorb them on the land. Meantime they must be fairly protected."

- In 1920 deputy superintendent general of Indian Affairs spoke to a special committee of the House of Commons on proposed changes in the enfranchisement provisions of the Indian Act: "Our object is to contin-

ue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed in the body politic and there is no question, and no Indian department, that is the whole object of this bill"

- In 1950 Minister Walter E. Harris:

"The ultimate goal of our Indian policy is integration of the Indians into the general life and economy of the country. It is recognized however that during a temporary transition period...special treatment and legislation are necessary."

Someone special was needed by the aboriginals to say "no" to the arrogance in the Meech Lake Accord. That man is Elijah Harper. Not only the First Nations, but all Canadians should be proud of this man. His heart and his spirit set an example we can all follow. The potential is there. Elijah Harper is leading in the right direction. The path can never be easy for a great nation. Was it ever meant to be?

The strength is there to be found. Elijah Harper found it. Can we follow his path in this nation-building?

I enjoyed welcoming him to Vancouver. So did everyone else at the reception held at the Hotel Vancouver. I felt proud to be there. I am proud of Elijah Harper's courage and volition throughout.

By WAYNE KELLAND



¹² Editor,

Even it falls far short of what was expected, Canada now has a national AIDS strategy. Where is British Columbia's though? Why are we the only province which doesn't provide AZT at no cost to people with AIDS as a means of retarding the progress of the disease; as cyclosporin is provided to organ transplant patients?

Why won't the government help build an AIDS hospice in the West End where it's needed the most?

Why won't the government adequately fund worthwhile community organizations such as AIDS Vancouver and the PWA Coalition, especially in-client service programmes?

These are three important questions both Health Minister John Jansen and the Social Credit government have not effectively responded to.

Darren Lowe



Let's Hear from Oakalla

A letter came from Darren Lowe to inform those interested that he had been named chairperson of the Citizen's Advisory Board to Corrections. At the end it says, "projects...include the monitoring of food services at Oakalla..."

Rumour has it that the food services at Oakalla were privatized. It is time that inmates (or recent inmates) write a letter or ten on the quality, quantity and affordability of goods & food in this prime example of a Vancouver regional jail. Let's hear from you!

Editor

CONDEMNED



Society says

education
and skills
are most
necessary
I think
sometimes
it kills
Communication
must be more
than that
I know people
who are scared to speak
cause they don't
talk good
couldn't write
any better
pretty bad -
I had a friend
who killed himself
his people
were very humiliated
on his note
he misspelled
suicide
on his grave
I wrote
George is dead, died
and gone to Hell
'cuse he
couldn't spell

N'ingin Snapping Turtle



VANCOUVER'S NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)-associated disease in North America has historically affected predominantly homosexual and bisexual males. However, the situation is changing as ever more women and children are becoming infected. Although part of the reason for such a change is transmission through heterosexual contact involving bisexual men, the main conduit appears to be through intravenous drug users (IVDU). HIV is spread among IVDU through sharing of "needles" and then is passed either to their non-using consorts through sexual contact, or to their unborn child if an infected mom.

Almost IVDUs share at some time during their lives. The three principle reasons for sharing are: 1. Access - the lack of readily available and affordable clean "works"; 2. Legal - possession of drug-related paraphernalia is illegal in some areas; and 3. Social - the ritual aspect of "sharing".

Spread by needle sharing is very effective due to the transfusion of infected blood and introduction of a contaminated needle directly into a vein. Several factors seem to enhance this process further, including the number of partners shared with and the use of intravenous cocaine. Moreover, the withdrawal state often leads to indiscriminate sharing.

Spread outside of the IVDU community is mainly through sexual contact. Illicit drug use gives rise to unsafe and indiscriminate sexual practices, and decreased use of contraceptive devices. Cocaine particularly is noted for eliciting impulsive, hypersexual behaviour. Males, who constitute a distinct majority of IVDUs are more likely than females to have a non-user as a sexual

partner. Moreover, women seem to be particularly prone to being coerced into risky sexual behaviour.

Experience to date has revealed that a non-judgemental approach which provides risk-reducing options, facilitates entry into treatment for substance abuse, and encourages both safer injection and sexual practices, is best to stem the spread of HIV in the IVDU population. Of particular note among such endeavors are the multi-faceted needle exchange programs.

The Vancouver Situation

In BC, between July 1987 and October 1988, the percentage of AIDS cases in non-homosexual IVDUs almost doubled from 1.8% to 3%. During the same period the percentage in women more than doubled from 1.6% to 3.5%, and the percentage of AIDS cases attributable solely to heterosexual transmission went from 0.8% to 3.6%. Although these figures were disconcerting on the one hand they were encouraging on the other, in that the Greater Vancouver area, which has 88% of BC's cases, still had relatively low levels of AIDS cases in both intravenous drug users and women. These figures are supported by what scanty evidence is available on seroprevalence. Hence, it was felt that Vancouver would be an appropriate area for a needle exchange program. A proposal was put forward to Vancouver City Council in early 1989 for a 10-month trial.

Program Inception

City Council approved the proposal in early February, 1989, with funding (\$100,000) in the form of a grant to a local agency. The Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society (DEYAS) was chosen due to its location

14 and its longstanding reputation in, experience with, and knowledge of the population of drug users in Vancouver. The North Health Unit of the Vancouver Health Dept. (VHD) was assigned the responsibility of overseeing the program, providing the needed supplies of syringes and condoms, and affording professional input and guidance. The location for the fixed site of the program was selected at 223 Main St., an office space juxtaposed to DEYAS. Two workers, chosen for their maturity experience, street smarts, and values and attitudes with respect to alternate lifestyles, were hired and underwent two weeks of orientation. Particular stress was given to the safe handling of used syringes and the need for hepatitis B immunization.

Program Approach

During the initial stages of the program, stress was given to the need for confidentiality and the engendering of trust in the clientele. To ensure confidentiality, a code based on a number, date of birth and initials was used, and the race, gender, date of visit, number of syringes given out and taken in at each visit, and referrals to other agencies were recorded. In order to engender trust, it was felt that the program needed to be as unobtrusive as possible. Therefore, no research or other questioning was done at the start of the program. In addition, it was decided not to push a one-for-one exchange of syringes, but rather let people know that this was necessary for the continuation of the program in the future. Attempts were made to accommodate the preferences of the clientele with regard to needle and condom types.

In order to control abuse of the needle exchange, it was decided to give out only two "rigs" at a time and also to check for track marks to make sure that the people using the exchange

were indeed IVDUs. Very early on, it became evident that the fixed site was not reaching the majority of IVDUs. Thus, it was decided to effect outreach by setting up a table in the Granville Mall, doing "walkabout" tours of the Mt. Pleasant, Granville and Downtown Eastside areas, and using a van in certain locales.

Overall the thrust of the program was to acknowledge the problems of intravenous drug use and to deal with it as a fact of life. We also attempted to give the message that the needle exchange program was a manifestation that Vancouver cares about both its citizens involved with intravenous drugs and those with whom they have social contact.

Program Components

Although the focus was ostensibly on needle exchange, the program was actually holistic in nature. Based on the belief that it is best for people not to use intravenous drugs, connections with organizations to deal with addictions were seen as essential in order to expedite requests for intervention. The workers were trained to give out educational materials and advice on HIV and its means of spread, safe sex and safe injection technique. To supply the means to effect such advice, syringes, the means to clean them, and condoms were given out. Because IVDUs are a high-risk group, a medical clinic was set up in DEYAS next door to the exchange site. This co-operative endeavor among the VHD, DEYAS and the BC Government provides physician services in English and Spanish two evenings a week. Connections with other community agencies such as medical, AIDS-related and social services were established.

Problems Encountered

The advent of the needle exchange program in Vancouver was not without

its problems. There were numerous allegations that the program was causing many more needles to be discarded in the streets, parks, and school yards. Routine checking by the staff of the program revealed that the needles discarded in the streets and other areas were not in the main the brand used by the program. Moreover, checking with various organizations in the City revealed that there were no more needles being found on the streets than before the program, and as a matter of fact many felt that there were fewer since the program started. Of note were the requests received from many facilities for "sharps" containers for use on their premises.

Fears were expressed initially that the program would encourage drug use. Of particular concern was the commencement of intravenous by youth, but experience showed that people using the program were already established users. Checking of program clientele failed to reveal any other evidence of such initiating effects, a conclusion supported by the experience of other programs. In fact, judging by requests for referral to addiction services, the program seemed to make it easier for those who saw their use as a problem to seek help.

The major problem with respect to the needle exchange program was the lack of addiction treatment facilities in the Greater Vancouver area. Given the rather impetuous nature of this population, the two-month waiting list which was common for admission to most treatment facilities, proved to be an insurmountable barrier. There were often waits for detoxification facilities. Moreover very few facilities are geared to youth or to addictions to chemicals other than alcohol, most notably cocaine. It was also a major problem to ascertain which facilities had vacancies and which had not, as there is no co-ordi-

nating body for addiction treatment facilities.

The approximately 2,600 individual users who had registered with the program as of the end of October ('89) varied with respect to age, sex and race, depending on the area. Not only does this indicate the broad appeal of the program, it also reflects its flexibility in terms of outreach services. The fixed site in the Downtown Eastside area appears to draw the older user, particularly of heroin, and a larger segment of the Native community. In contrast, the Granville Mall area, known for its population of street youth and itinerants, furnishes a lot of young Caucasians. The Mt. Pleasant area, characterized by a large population of immigrants from South America as well as prostitutes, provides a clientele rich in both females and Latinos. Notable success in the outreach endeavors was achieved by using a van, known on the street as being "neutral and unofficial". Even though these figures are encouraging, it is assumed that we are drawing only a small fraction of Vancouver's IVDU population, which is estimated to be 4 to 5 times the number of people registered in the program. Thus, it is necessary to devise more creative outreach endeavors to reach some of the remaining IVDU community.

In setting up the needle exchange program, we decided to be non-judgmental and accepting in our approach, as have other programs around the world. Such an approach serves to "normalize" the program, thereby creating a milieu in which the IVDU can feel free to function as s/he would. It also gives the IVDU "ownership" of the program. It was hoped that such would allow the IVDU to adopt a responsible attitude towards her/his drug use and its implications. To date there is some evidence that this has indeed been the case. For ex-

ample, the rapid rise in the exchange rate and the increase in the number of regular users demonstrates increasingly responsible behaviour, as does the fact that certain users are returning syringes without exchange. Many IVDUs are requesting referral for medical and counselling reasons, HIV testing and counselling and intervention with respect to their substance addiction. The latter is very encouraging since we recognize that many IVDUs are either unwilling or incapable of stopping their drug use. It is worth stressing that the rate of exchange in Vancouver's program is exceeded only by the program in Amsterdam in spite of the fact that the other five or so major programs in the world have been running for several years.

As we learn more about our clients and the various areas where they hang out, we are able to offer services more appropriate to them. With our outreach services, particularly with the van, we seem to be capturing a sub-population not reached before. In addition,

as the program gets better known and trusted by the clients and community agencies, we are getting ever increasing requests for a wide variety of services. Of particular note, since our ultimate ideal is to get people off intravenous drugs entirely, are the requests for addiction treatment.

Even if one case of HIV-related disease is prevented by the program, the savings from the unnecessary resultant medical care alone would pay for the program, to say nothing of the savings in human suffering.

John Turvey, Dr. John Blatherwick
Dr. John Bardsley

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Ingrid and Mike whose dedication and tireless efforts have helped make this program the success it is. They also thank Hazel for her efforts in putting the manuscript together, and the City of Vancouver for having the honesty to accept the problems with HIV so openly and the courage to do something about them.



BT

SUBJECTIVE ALLOYS By Garry Gust

CROSSBOWS AT A
HUNDRED PACES!

EGO

WHAT'S EATIN'
YOU?

ID

I'VE JUST BEEN
INSULTED BY THE
VILLAGE IDIOT!

EGO

CALM DOWN AND
USE SOME
INTELLECT.

SUPEREGO

WHA DA YA MEAN,
INTELLECT!

EGO

SEPARATE YOUR EMOTIONS FROM YOUR
OUTLOOK ON LIFE, AND YOU'LL HAVE
AN INTELLECTUAL PERCEPTION OF LIFE.

SUPEREGO

ISN'T COUNTING TO
TEN EASIER?

ID

NO. THAT MERELY SURPRESSES
THE ANGER ONTO A STOCKPILE.

SUPEREGO

YOU'RE RIGHT, SUP; IT WORKS!
THREE WEEKS FROM NOW I'LL HAVE
FORGOTTEN THE WHOLE THING —
WHY WAIT FOR TIME TO HEAL
ANGER, WHEN ALL I HAVE TO
DO IS FILTER THE EMOTION
THROUGH RATIONAL THOUGHT.

EGO

WHAT RATIONAL
THOUGHTS COULD
MAKE LIVID ANGER
JUST DISAPPEAR?

ID

THOUGHTS? WELL, FOR INSTANCE, I COULD COMMIT
HARI KARI AND BE DONE WITH ANGER, OR I COULD
USE THE ANGER AS A SPECIMEN TO BE ANALYSED
FOR ITS POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE QUALITIES. TO
DETERMINE ITS DESIRABILITY, AND THEN
COMMIT HARI KARI.
OR, I COULD SIMPLY MASTER THE ABILITY TO
RISE ABOVE THE PLANE OF EMOTIONAL
RESPONSE.

EGO

WOW! GIVE THE DUDE A
BSc IN APPLIED LOOPLESS
PSYCHOLOGY.

ID

Editor:

I am asking the people in the community for their support, in hopes that we can get a flashing light at the intersection of Powell, Alexander and Carrall streets - which is in front of Gassy Jack's statue.

Just last month, and a couple of other times, I was almost hit by a vehicle travelling at a high speed through this intersection. Fortunately, the man got out of his truck and apologized because he didn't know there was a crosswalk.

Since this incident I have talked with a few people about the crosswalk, and many have agreed that there should be a flashing light as well as better crosswalk signs.

Thank you for your support. Below is a sign-up sheet which will be sent to City Hall, to the Mayor and to the Engineering Dept. If you have time please write down your concerns and leave them at the front desk of Carnegie for me and I will take it to City Hall.

Margaret Prevost

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We the undersigned hereby petition the City to provide a signal light and better traffic signs at the intersection of Gastown, in front of the Gassy Jack Statue.

It is a major concern of the people (mothers, seniors and disabled people) in the Downtown Area.

NAME	ADDRESS

Cocaine Crackers Vancouver

Fixes, fits, party packs, man.
 Manufacturers of twi-lights
 towers, towering grins,
 menacingly grins, painlessly,
 veinlessly.....

Hearts thunder in heads, ears,
 see sightlessly surrounding
 pools of bloodless eyes,
 bloodied ties, faceless
 murderous memories...memories.

Faceless

=====

Read my lips,
 am going mad!
 Capital gains
 remains of
 guarded Vamps.

Trails or trades of mis-
 begotten beats of the Heart.

Erika Keller

MOHAWK CHIEF MITCHELL'S MISSION

Along with the majestic poise and dignity of Elijah Harper's firmly spoken 'NO' to the Meech Lake plot there stands, in my humble opinion, Mike Mitchell, a Mohawk Chief from the Akwasasne Reserve, of equally high stature,

Chief Mitchell's address to all the First Nations was broadcast on national media. He spoke eloquently and with justifiable pride, and with so much vigor and conviction that I was very, very moved.

He has a mission to which he is

100% dedicated: To unite in brotherhood all of aboriginal first nations culture, language, legends, traditions and to work by and for themselves, on their own, for self government, education and justice with no outside interference.

The sentiments and deep feelings so forcefully expressed should arouse strong support from all members of the First Nations' aboriginal people with a rejuvenation of a sense of identity and personal pride.

Chief Mitchell's address should be replicated a thousand times and distributed all over north america.

Wilfrid Barbeau



THE VALUE OF 3/4 TIME

I've stopped washing my clothes;
It's just not important anymore.
I smell of a coward losing the will
To stay with the battle of poverty war.

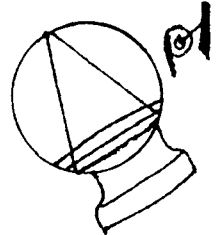
Two solid hours in the laundry room
Is dead time in the scope of things,
But a clean reward resurrects from A
Gift horse with T.V. commercial wings.

But look in the mouth: jeans are still
damp; Little white beads of soap like
spider eggs;

3 quarters gone but there's still time
To stand around on aching legs.

To fold or not to fold - more decisions-
Wash & wear conundrums whipped into the bag,
One unmatched sock on top of the pile;
For all my time, I inherit a rag.

Garry Gust



TOWARDS "A SOCIETY OF INTROVERTED MYSTICS"

I want to thank Etienne Szekely for his understanding of the ideas I'm trying to communicate, & Laila Bergens for so consistently trying to prove I'm an idiot who doesn't know what he's talking about.

There's no way I could take all the time & space necessary to deal with her convoluted & combative analysis point by point, but here are a few thoughts in reaction to her last writing:

She says the idea that a society can be made up of individuals who communicate & act uncompromisingly out of their deepest wishes & highest ideals is an "irrational fantasy."

If it is, it's an irrational fantasy that human beings built their lives around for thousands upon thousands of years, before the vicious pride & avarice of "superior" European thinking descended upon them.

If Laila could comprehend the purpose & philosophy behind the use of the talking stick by aboriginal peoples, she might catch a glimpse of something that goes beyond Socrates' redneck mentality.

Passing a stick, stone, or medicine bundle around a circle might at first seem childish & "primitive" to Laila's "sophisticated" European mind - but this simple method of communication effectively eliminated the kind of argumentative destructive intellectual competition Laila thrives on from the circle of aboriginal society.

As each person takes the talking stick in hand, they are expected to speak from their heart & mind exactly those "deepest wishes & highest ideals" which Laila says cannot form the basis of society. No one is allowed to interrupt the speaker & even if he or she remains silent for a period of time, as long as the stick is in their possession, that person's space is sacred to every member of the group. Each one in turn becomes the focal point of group consciousness, & no one's heart & mind is left unheard.

There is no chairman, no agenda, no power groups struggling for control - nothing is written down, only the circle of collective awareness, paying attention to each individual in that circle.

Believe it or not, Laila, this is what formed the basic foundation of social communication & action for many thousands of years - far longer than "democracy", "bureaucracy" or the economic agendas of aristocrats, which dominate society today.

And yes, this "primitive" method of doing things did, without a doubt, produce & maintain a society of individuals who communicated & acted uncompromisingly out of their deepest wishes & highest ideals, something you can only imagine as an "irrational fantasy." Admittedly, the highest ideals & deepest wishes communicated today through the talking stick do not have the same influence on social structure they once had - but that is our misfortune.

This has come a long way from the idea of the ~~value~~ of alienated individuals to society...which in several places you refer to as "self-alienation". I never used that term in my writing - "self-alienation" is not what I was talking about at all, & I find your invention of this phrase, & your use of it to be a very subversive & dishonest tactic in this debate - apparently you are trying to convince our readers that I am promoting alienation from self, which is not the case.

The alienation I was speaking of is the alienation of the individual being from the collective image society attempts to impose upon it. Essentially, the freedom of the individual to discover & be the unique person that they are. What could be more realistic than that?

I really don't see how you can accuse me of "lethargic self-indulgence", "isolationist escapism", "crisis thinking", "illusory objectivity", etc.

You seem to carry quite an arsenal of intellectual weapons to hurl at those you disagree with. Remember, I'm not the one who started this fierce wrangling over a few simple ideas.

Finally, I don't really care what Plato may have thought about a "drugged psyche" ...the naturally psycho-active medicines of the Earth are there to be used - not abused, & besides, Bambi & Thumper eat psylosibin mushrooms & marijuana plants in season, so why can't we?

TORA

A BASEBALL UMPIRE'S WORK CODE!

Be firm - be gentle, toe the line
Control all innings - one thru nine
Extend officials courtesy
Metre out justice - not tyranny.

Be disciplined - have self-respect
Ignore cantankerous hen-pecked
Objectors who do not agree
You call 'em all just as you see.

Don't call 'em early nor too late
On bases or behind the plate
It's more important to be right
Than to invoke the law of might

Have toleration - understand
Be willing always to lend a hand
To fellow umpires if they need
Your help due to hte action's speed.

Your self-control must add prestige
Of moods and flare-ups no vestige
Must you allow throughout the game
Be cool - be smooth - an even same.

Discrimination never hold
Such is against an umpire's code
Nor grudges carry day to day
Give truthful rulings all the way.

ABSENCE OF ALICE

Alice is an alias,
I chose it for her because
she kept disappearing through
stairwell rabbit holes and
stained glass mirrors,
leaving only a glimpse of her
flaming pony tail to show
she had just past.

Alice is state of the art;
a woman of her time,
and time is her life glass
which she keeps filled to the top.

Garry Gust

Be calm, alert, remember too
Fans come to see the game--not you
So above your authority
Place your responsibility.

See to it that you do comply
With all the rules and don't deny
That you are not infallible
Tho' guard well - be not gullible.

Conduct yourself with dignity
Nor lose the warmth of mortal man
Think twice awarding penalty
Then do so quietly if you can

Embarrass not one single soul
And bear in mind your only goal
With favour and with fear anon
Impartially - make decision.

First think of others who play ball
Yourself the least and last of all
Don't bite on "Good call!" umpire bait
Allow not your ego to inflate.

Be modest, humble, on the ball
Don't elevate yourself to fall
Be true blue, faithful to the end
Your conscience must remain your friend.

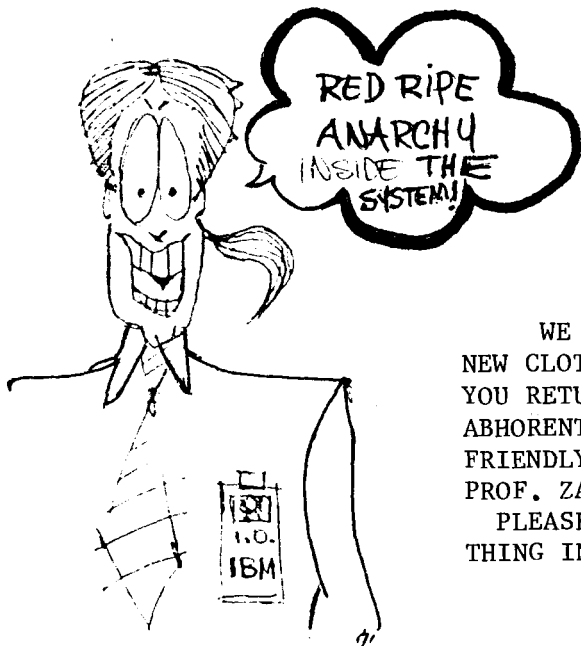
Then when you leave the field of play
After a very trying day
To praise or flat'ry turn deaf ear
Hark well to criticism near.

Strive hard and always give your best
Prepared always to face the test
Game regulations are your school
So study the book of rule.

Let constitution be your guide
Association - umpire-wide
In such affairs participate
Be certain to affiliate.

Respect your work! Honour your code
To never shirk tho' long the road
So give to all your very best
Enthusiasm - Heart and Zest!

Wilf Barbeau, C.D.
Ex-baseball Umpire.



STEPHEN!
 WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
 WE CAN HARDLY RECOGNIZE YOU WHAT WITH YOUR
 NEW CLOTHES AND ATTITUDE. WE LONG FOR THE DAY
 YOU RETURN TO US (YOUR FRIENDS) AND FORGET YOUR
 ABHORENT, MONEY GRUBBING WAYS. WE MISS YOUR
 FRIENDLY SMILE AND KNOBBY KNEES. WHAT ABOUT
 PROF. ZAND AND THE N.I.M.M. PROJECT???

PLEASE COME BACK TO US AND LET US KNOW EVERY
 THING IN THE UNIVERSE WILL BE FINE.
 YOUR DOWNCAST FRIENDS

An Autumn Day in Montreal

The Oak trees are tainted slightly
 with yellowish Brown and
 dirty Green dripping leaves;
 in the Park across the street,
 this quiet October morn.

Swallows are chirping; as if
 to call the changing Ways of the
 fickle damp Breezes below.

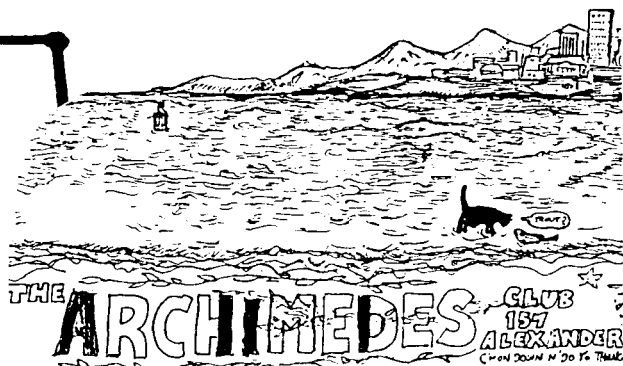
The Crows and the Seagulls seem to be hiding
 high above the Balconies
 of Older established building structures.

There is a hint of strawberry
 Chamomile in the air.
 Nevertheless, it seems that
 foggy Mists are everywhere within.

Though, somehow, the time does not seem ripe for
 the bold winter Resistance
 to quite yet set in:

To sigh with clenched front Teeth into
 the nearly cosmic Weather patterns
 of the Region.

Roger



ARCH-
 IMEDES
ALL THE WORLD ARE
 OPEN
 STAGE
 NOW
 EVERY
 WEDNESDAY!

AT NINE O'CLOCK PRE ET

Editor, the Carnegie Newsletter.

It's gotten ugly out there. Turn on the tube to catch the National and there's this amazing scene..Immigrants to B.C. depicted as a swarm of parasitic insects, gobbling up our resources..Decent homes maliciously destroyed..Raid commercial in reverse.

Intro to documentary on Nazi race propaganda film? No, it's an ad for the Sun! "A fresh perspective - The Vancouver Sun." Almost makes me wish I hadn't stopped reading this filth in '88, so I could cancel my subscription today in disgust.

Twelve bucks a month for this daily dose of racism, sexism, me-too-ism, and general planet pollution. For news, entertainment and inspiration, the Carnegie Newsletter proves again that the best in life is free.

Garry's cartoons are simple and brilliant, new writers share poetry, there's lotsa community stuff, and now we got the Tora/Laila debate!

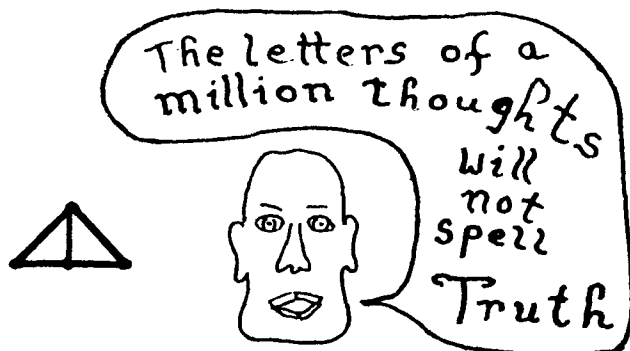
Regarding the latter, prudence dictates that I cease and desist immediately, maintain a scrupulous neutrality. So much for prudence...Installments 1 and 2 were pretty much a wash in my view, edge on points to Wade & Laila. But, as Tora said, he wasn't expecting to have his article criticized. Clearly he was up for the challenge.

On June 15 Tora responded with "Alienation Under Attack", which is flat out one of the most elegantly crafted, lucid, and significant pieces of prose ever to grace the pages of the C.N. (and I have every back issue to 1986).

Fusing the practical and the spiritual, the transcendental and the apocalyptic...affirmative renunciation, planetary pragmatism. The ideas and images are powerful and convincing. The challenge for each of us is

daunting yet uplifting. These are realms of the spirit which many of us visit periodically, then abandon, unwilling to shed the "comfortable yet corrupt skein of civilization".

Laila's response in the latest issue, it seems to me, serves to strengthen the power of Tora's argument. Since Tora acknowledges and embraces paradox, while demonstrating the inherent danger of pure analytical thought, to rebut is to risk self-parody. To invoke those dubious deities of Western thought, Plato and



Aristotle, is to compound the danger.

Socratic "dialogue" is pure self-parody and a blatant example of the "tactical manipulation" of which Tora warns. It's the great precision of Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, and Colombo - the same condescending flattery, the pretense of respect and admiration for contrary opinion, and the comfortable certainty that Sherlock Socrates will win out in the end. Could be a lot of fun if people didn't take it so seriously.

Plato's Republic, on the other hand, is one scary book. He didn't need to banish the poets; they wouldn't want any part of it. Ultimately the school of Western thought built on this foundation has produced the architects of colonialism, genocide and planetary devastation...all defensible by pure intellect, and all in the name of progress, as Tora points out.

To praise Socrates as a patriotic citizen of a corrupt, patriarchal, slave-owning society is hardly reassuring. As well I question Laila's assertion that Tora "advocates critical passivity". Respectfully, Tora emphasizes the need for a "return from alienation...in order to bring gifts from unknown areas of the heart and mind into the pattern of social existence."

In Laila's article, each of the following is offered as a negative: flamboyance, anger, subjectivity, Anarchism, dissociation, mysticism and, of course, poetry. Laila argues for distance as distortion. Not even Plato buys that one. A clenched fist an inch from your nose may be unrecognizable as threatening.

The obsession with a supposedly pervasive "obscurity" is interesting. Tora presents images/ideas which, in my estimation, are of supreme clarity. At the Core, however, there is always, I believe, a "Heart of Darkness", an obscure, elusive and terrible truth, inviting, even demanding constant voyages of self-discovery. As Laila states, "We now encounter a paradox." Indeed, one of many, for paradox is at the heart of the human condition, as Tora so beautifully demonstrates. What Tora decries is the prevalent logos fetishism which dismisses the necessity for these inner voyages of paradoxical self subversion. There is no true progress without subversion.

It is not Tora who places "a far too heavy burden on the true artist as activist/innovator." It's the nature of (wo)man as a social and spiritual being which imposes that burden. To the extent that history does not reflect this, history is fraudulent. Does anybody believe that history will accurately reflect the truth of their lives? It's all a fraud, the work of myopic madmen.

Some final notes: Tora stands accused of "escapism." Seems to me that you escape from the truth, not towards it. Sure a lot easier, and a lot more common. Laila concludes with a dismissal of Tora as expressing merely "lethargic self-indulgence". If this is ad hominem, Laila clearly does know Tora well. If it refers to the article, I would suggest the following: Laila obviously put a lot of thought and energy into her writing; i.e. no one considers it a symptom of lethargy or an act of self-indulgence. So what makes it any different for Tora? It's a hell of a lot more trouble writing about this stuff, or even thinkin' about it, than to have a beer or a tike and watch the ball game. Give credit where credit is due. Lethargy and self-indulgence will cost you half a buck at the local news stand.

Mike Kramer

P.S.: A quote from Joseph Campbell;

"It is not society that is to guide and save the creative hero, but precisely the reverse. And so everyone of us shares the supreme ordeal - carries the cross of the redeemer - not in the bright moments of his tribe's victories, but in the silences of his personal despair."

(from "The Hero With a Thousand Faces" - 1849)



Slightly Subs

Why don't they date new buildings (1990), like they used to in the old days - like the ~~Pendera~~ on Pender?

Why hose down the city lock-up at 8:00 in the morning, a Sunday morning July 1st a national holiday? Local residents of nearby social housing deserve a noise break and a sound holiday too!

How about the use of bullhorns at 4:00 in the morning, "OK, you can go home now; K-Mart is closed." Those boys with the toys making that noise are twice as loud as any late night city street life.

Taum

A Writer's Embarrassment

A lady who was a famous writer of books sent many stories to a newspaper in order to make money. Unfortunately, the editor never accepted any of them. She sent another story to the newspaper. Before delivering it, she stuck two of its middle pages together with glue. The editor still did not accept it and returned it to her in a short time.

The lady felt very angry, so she wrote a letter of complaint to the editor. She said that the reason she had stuck the two pages together was to prove that he did not read her stories. "How did you know my story was no good," she asked.

At last the editor answered the lady. "When I eat an egg in the morning," he wrote, "I taste it a little. If I don't like the smell, I don't eat it at all."

After receiving the answer from the editor, she felt a lot of embarrassment on this unhappy matter.

By SHANG LUNG LIAO

TODDLERS' TANGLES

What is it? A program for games, arts and crafts, story time and learning themes for parents to participate in with their children.

Where is it? CRAB PARK (Portside Park) right beside the sand pit.

When? Tues. - 12:30-7:00

Wed. - 11:00-5:30

Thurs. - 12:30-5:30

Fri - 11:00-5:30

Sat. - 12:30-5:30

Who do I contact? Just register with Marguerite down at Crab Park or phone 681-3153.

(Coffee is available for parents.)



WITHOUT A WHIMPER

Free-range gypsies
On a wagon's throne
Ride thru the streets
With Queen cousine on top.

The Elder speaks: "No, you can't hook up the horses."

The Queen jumps up in anger
and falls out of the throne,
waking up decades later,
Eating chicken Flamme, and
Living as a gypsy in exile.

Garry Gust

Editor:

Vancouver renters, myself included, are asking themselves many questions these days. Will my building be demolished? Will my rent increase too much? Can I continue to afford to live here with my children? Will my pension income allow me to afford to live here two or three more years down the road? Will effective human rights legislation changes be made regarding children being allowed in apartments? Will we get the Rentalsman back? Rent review? Rent controls?

It's the last two questions which I believe need some explaining. Some politicians deliver sermons on the virtues of the free market. Others talk in broad and general terms about a form of rent review. Others more stridently proclaim the need for rent control. What's the difference?

Firstly, the free market is what we have now - soaring rents, rampant demolitions and very worried renters. It's not working and Norman Jacobsen, the Socred cabinet minister responsible, should be immediately replaced. Rent review lets a tenant challenge a rent increase before an arbitrator who can rule whether it's permissible or not. If a building owner can justify increased property taxes or repair costs for the building the chances are that the rent increase will stand. Rent control, on the other hand, allows rents to increase only by a set percentage once a year. That's what British Columbians used to have and, surprisingly to some, more rental accomodation was built during that period than since 1983 when the Socreds eliminated rent controls and the Rentalsman.

I was sad when I read recently about the NDP's response to our rental housing crisis. They introduced a bill into the Legislature on June 15



which would allow for rent controls only in areas where the vacancy rate is less than three percent and only for buildings more than ten years old. What a great way to encourage people who have older buildings to demolish them rather than face rent controls. Just think of the huge rent increase tenants could expect to receive if they are living in a building that is 9 years old. I expected more from Mike Harcourt's government-in-waiting. If we need rent controls we need them right across the board so that every single renter in our Province is treated fairly.

What do you think? Does British Columbia, or perhaps just our own regional district, need a form of rent review? How about rent controls? Please write me at 801-700 Chilco St., Vancouver V6G 2R1 or telephone me at 687-6373 with your thoughts. Or, better yet, write the Carnegie Newsletter with your views. Let's send the government a clear message about the current rental housing crisis.

Herman Litsky
Liberal Party Candidate

Keeping My Family Heirloom

Twenty years ago, I was laid off from a job. I had a family to support like many people. I got a UIC cheque each week, but it was not enough to put bread on the table for my wife and children. Under the persuasion of a friend and financial pressure, I took to gambling.

After playing several times, I was down to my last nickel. One night after losing everything, all I had left was a writwatch which was given to me by my dear father on his death bed, and I swore before him that I would never part with it. In order to get back lost money, I put the watch up as stake after extracting a promise from the man I was gambling with that, if I should lose, he would keep my watch as mere collateral until I could pay him for the value of the watch.

Unfortunately, I lost. After two weeks, I got a lubricating job in China Town and I got enough money saved up. I went over to the fellow's house to reclaim my family heirloom.

Much to my surprise, when I got to his house, I discovered the front windows were broken. I immediately recognized the scene as a possible break-in; therefore, I quickly removed myself from that house. However, within ten steps from his house, I noticed a sparkling object laying near a heap of garbage. The thief must have chucked my watch in the junk pile thinking it was worthless, I thought.

I picked it up and thanked my lucky stars that I could keep my family heirloom again.

Fortunately until now no one has suspected me in connection with the break-in; otherwise it would be an injury to me.

By SHANG LUNG LIAO

ANYONE!!

If you know the whereabouts of BOBBIE NEUFELD please call Ron Neufeld or leave a message at 228-2013 or 665-2289. Thanks.

To my Volunteer Friends,

Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness in donating to my expenses while in hospital.

Gratefully yours,
Denise Barera



The Gardens of Mars and Praitie Chickens
...and that was the last of the giants...

Defy the laws of gravity, dizzy
High Flight Tonight (he died), I cried
Threes in unison Rondel alight
Red, yellow and silver skies
Clouds of thunder (close the window)
Roller coaster, diving, gliding

Spillionaires might always
a right swing, Owl wise
Give the celebration a show
Programs, the crowd
Get your Georgia Straight
Submarines and millions of Salmon
Hovercraft and Sea bus
High tidal ripple clear water asunder
No Swimming or Wading in West Lake!!!

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NEWSLETTER

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* Articles represent the views of individual
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FREE - donations accepted.

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donations for this newsletter, so
if you can help, find Paul Taylor
and he'll give you a receipt.

Thanks everybody.

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