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Carnegie

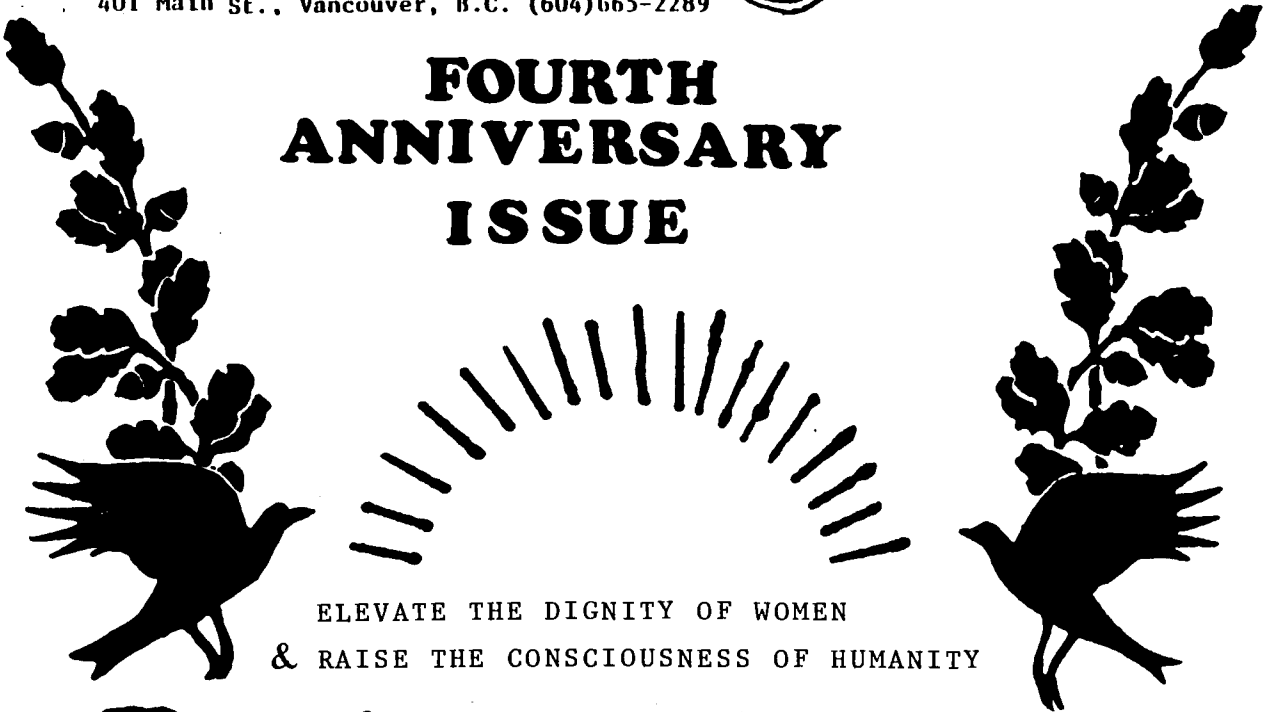


NEWSLETTER

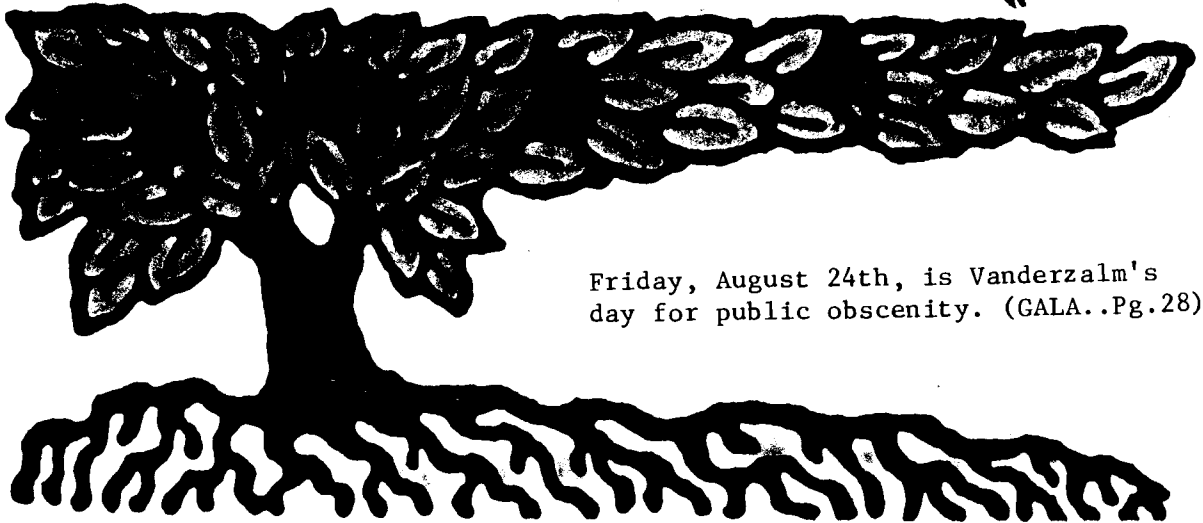
AUGUST 15, 1990.

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

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



ELEVATE THE DIGNITY OF WOMEN
& RAISE THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF HUMANITY



Friday, August 24th, is Vanderzalm's
day for public obscenity. (GALA..Pg.28)

The View from Here

Raising the consciousness of humanity is a tall order. Each of us can work for this, but some of us seem to feel that humanity isn't worth the effort. Say hello to malignant discrimination..economic, racial, religious, national, social, political, intellectual, sexual.

Through the medium of the Carnegie Newsletter, there's an ongoing focus on what people here see as injustice. Almost every aspect of life - here, there, everywhere - is a matter of difference of opinion, of codes or principles, of the good of the many/ the good of the few/the good of the individual. It's not all fun & games.

From here, we react strongly when our well-being and future is discounted as irrelevant. We fight back and sometimes win, but the numbers are intimidating, almost overwhelming. The incomes of 1% of Canadians are 68 TIMES HIGHER than the other 99%. Yet this 1% pay less than 1/3 of the taxes. That's one 'small' example of economic disparity; similar examples can be drawn from any of the areas of discrimination above.

Three years ago, Tora wrote a story called "Different from the dream" "...I dreamed they pushed Vander Zalm into the centre of a circle of elder shamans and made him sit there for 7 days & 7 nights. They talked to him, even in the middle of the night, for 7 nights. On the last night, RCMP helicopters hovered overhead.

Vander Zalm's mind snapped. By the time those old Haida shamans led him to the edge of the logging operation the guy could hardly talk. He wandered around in the stumps & slash for a long time before the police picked him up. All the old Haida shamans & their youthful apprentices gave them-



selves up and got put in jail. The next day Vander Zalm appeared on TV. He looked like he'd seen a ghost. He said he was changing the name of the Queen Charlotte Islands to Haida Islands & it would be North America's first independent Indian Nation & nobody was allowed to mine or log there ever again...

He let all the Haida out of jail. Nobody could believe it. When the papers came through, the Haida held a potlatch like never before. People broke down and cried.

Dreams took over my mind last night. They often do. And then, there's the reality..different from the dream."

Our dreams, the good ones, put in pictures what we feel is right & just. Events in daily life can either make our dreams so much wishful thinking or they can raise our awareness.

"free" trade, the GST, housing, poverty, welfare rates/corporate welfare bums, racism, political decisions made to serve vested interests...all feed our inner rage.

I think all any of us can do, has to do, is to fight against injustice and work for spiritual progress and social change. As the song goes -

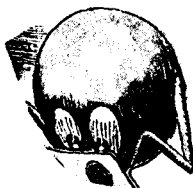
"You must have a code
that you can live by."

By PAULR TAYLOR



.....for Gabrielle
 Baby I waited for you so long
 And I'm doing my best to help you be strong
 When you're down just think of love
 Because that's what you're made of
 When you were with me we shared the best
 May the Lord grant you peace when you
 lay down to rest
 Act with the certainty of your heart
 'cause you're true
 I'm so glad that you needed me as much
 as I needed you.

Elizabeth Thorpe



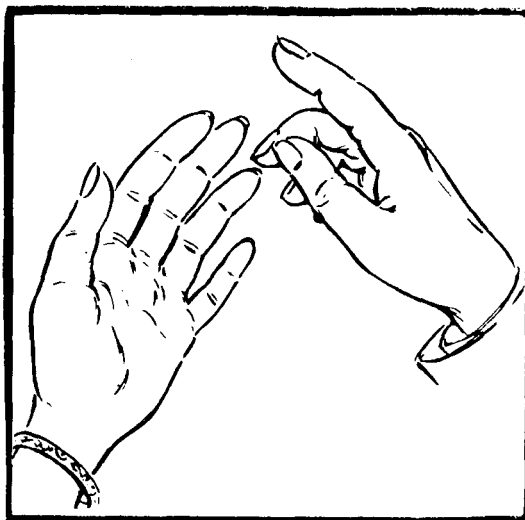
Editor:

The National Advisory Council on Aging reported this spring that some provinces will be treating the new GST credits as income in calculating social assistance benefits. Of course, should this happen, people on welfare and senior citizens, among others, will receive a smaller cheque from the provincial government each month.

I wrote recently to Finance Minister Mel Couvelier concerning the BC position. Mr. Couvilier responded that the government had yet to make a decision. I urge all Carnegie Newsletter readers to take a minute to write the Minister of Social Services and Housing, Hon. Norman Jacobsen, at the Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4 concerning this.

I was shocked that the Socreds had not yet ruled this out. Seniors and welfare recipients in B.C. shouldn't be forced to suffer even more.

Darren Lowe



LEARNING CENTRE UPDATE:

Remember the Book Launch here a couple of months ago? Well, the Book Voyage will be docked at Carnegie next week. Please drop off any writing at the Learning Centre.

Another reminder: Every Thursday at 3 pm, Videha does a sign language class on the 3rd floor. Other times can be arranged..everyone welcome.

We're liaising with other community groups. A couple of our tutors have started Outreach hours at Oppenheimer Park, with the help of Park staff. Details will follow in a future issue of the Carnegie Newsletter.

We can always use tutor help. If you're reading this and can spare a couple of hours, come and talk with us.

Mike



The Unveiling Ceremony
of the
Goddess of Democracy Statue

By LIU BING MING

On June 3, 1990, the Vancouver Society in Support of Democratic Movement (VSSD) held a successful unveiling ceremony of the Goddess of Democracy statue replica at Forest Lawn Memorial Park.

It was a sunny day and about 300 people attended. The statue stands on an exquisite marble pedestal, surrounded by a large square of lawn and with a dense forest standing nearby. It was covered with a piece of silk. On the front surface of the pedestal, several gilded lines were engraved. They read:

" This Is Presented to the Chinese students Who Devoted Their Lives to Freedom and Democracy. "

The ceremony began at 2pm. First, a young Canadian made a splendid address. He highly praised the devoted spirit of Chinese students who died for democracy. He severely condemned the brutality of the massacre committed by the Chinese Communist Party. He also expressed the will of all Canadians to support the democratic movement in China.

The chairman of the VSSD and a Chinese student delivered another two brilliant speeches which both won prolonged applause.

At 3pm the hostess unveiled the statue. All the attendants watched the statue, which is made of copper, with tears in their eyes for a long time. Then they saluted the statue in a Chinese custom. About 4 o'clock the people left the park.

These overseas Chinese and Canadians were and are determined to carry the struggle for democracy in China

to the end.

- From eyewitness accounts:

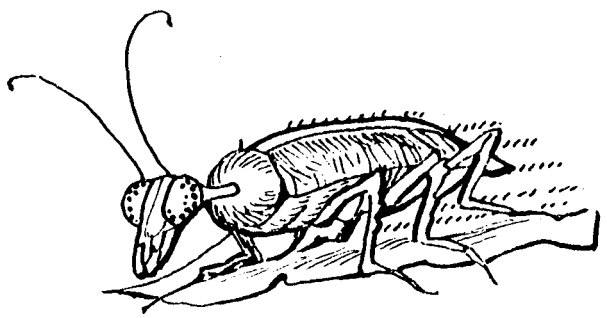
On June 4, 1989, in Beijing, there was a brutal massacre, an extreme tragedy in human history. It began in the evening of June 3rd at 11pm. On that night a large number of students and citizens blocked all the main streets to stop tanks and soldiers from entering Tianamen Square.

After several threats at Muxus Di, about 3 miles west of the Square, had failed, soldiers opened fire on the crowd. They used dum-dums to kill hundreds of people and open the bloody road. Then they entered the Chang-Ah Boulevard. Along this road, soldiers shot any person who dared to shout slogans at them. They fired at all lighted windows. Many innocent citizens were killed, some falling from buildings, including 8 year-old boys and girls.

At 5:30am on June 4th, soldiers encircled the entire Square. At the same time they used tanks to run over or kill all workers in the outer defense lines. At 6:30, after the withdrawal of the students, soldiers caught up with the peacefully retreating students at Liu-Bu-Ko and used tanks to run over them and gas to kill them.

Because many innocent people were dead people wanted to reason with the government. At about 10am some people went to the Ministry of Public Security. Then another massacre began. Soldiers used machine guns to kill any people walking towards the gate. In front of this government Ministry, in day time under the bright sun, scores of people were killed.

After the soldiers occupied the Square, they spent 7 days destroying the evidence with flamethrowers. They arrested and tortured hundreds of thousands of students and activists in Beijing. Many victims were grotesquely disfigured. Beijing was enveloped in terror. Although this has passed, the Chinese people will never forget this atrocity of unparalleled savagery committed by the Chinese Communist Party. (3-5 thousand people were killed.)



Congratulations Carnegie Newsletter!

I really believe that I got my start as a writer through having poetry published in the Newsletter. Paul Taylor has always encouraged me to write. He was there for me with my first book and has been there as a friend for my 2nd book.

This is our paper; it's as good as we make it. We, the Carnegie members are its writers.

Friends, you don't have to have a degree in English to write, just write from the heart about things you really know about - "Life's experiences." (I am a poor speller but that's why we have editors.)

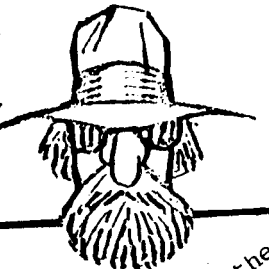
Paul Taylor has dedicated years of volunteer time to this newspaper. The Sun/Province are owned by a corporation..they are extremely limited. Thanks Paul.

Carnegie Newsletter, I wish you another informative & interesting year.

So: Writers and would-be writers - take up your pens and write.

Sheila Baxter

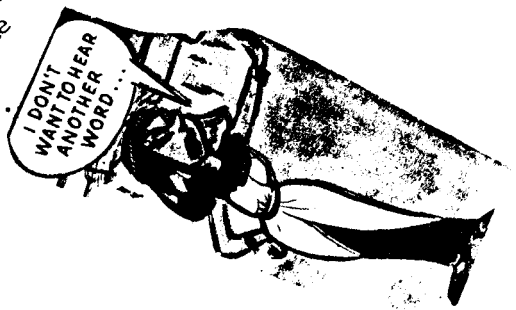
Sam Slanders



You Are My



To: Taylor
 From: Slanders
 Dear Beefbrain,
 This should be the theme song for the
 4th Anniversary of your crummy rag.
 Dear Sam Slanders
 I don't like you and you smell bad.
 Yours Truly,
 Dingwall Dogbreath
 Dear Dogbreath
 Here's a little song that I've
 written just for you. (Sung to the
 tune of "You are my Sunshine")
 You are my slugslime
 My only slugslime
 You make me slimy
 When I slug you
 You'll never know
 How much I love slug
 Please don't take
 My slugslime away.



I

grey, indecent seas erected
 on our distraction; the sabotage
 of harbour. tight legged rigging
 waits for electricians in sad postures
 of recent dismay. a rumoured summer
 elongates the beach beyond
 Wreck Beach, which is a mind
 yellow as plains, dramatic with antlers.

a wave in the blue doctrine
 of statistics came loose
 from an apparent gender, whitely
 frayed poise making the connection
 toward a blackness of themes.

down stingy light, lurking green
 persuasiveness she equivocates
 to the extended accident of tides.

a stark calligraphy of disturbed crows

II

we are, in fact, the subsequent
 hundreds of corollary, a handless silence
 at night, struggling from naked bulbs.
 children were drowned here, in chronic
 tales of abuse, trees poised maniacally
 for sunken cameras.

Dan Feeney

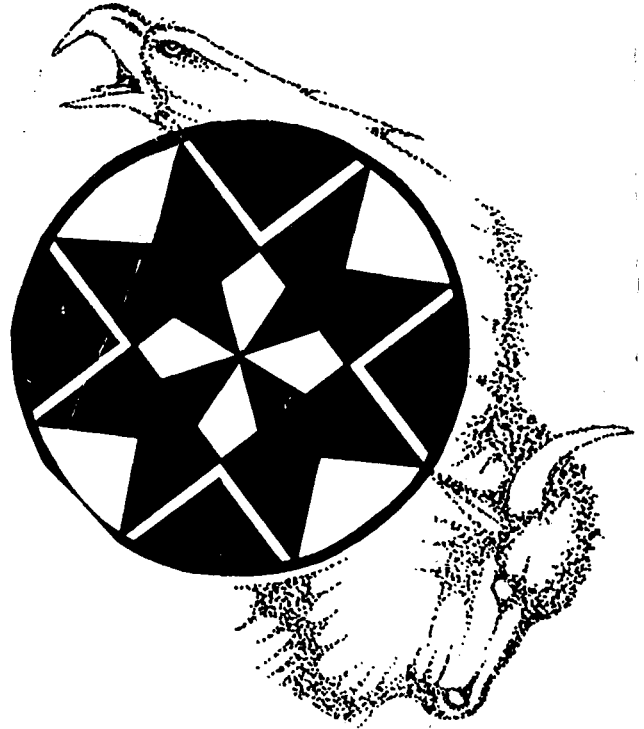
OUR LAND IS OUR FUTURE

LIFT THE SEIGE ON MOHAWK TERRITORY - NOW!
ABORIGINAL RIGHTS MUST BE RECOGNIZED & RESPECTED - NOW!

For 21 days now the Kanesatake Mohawk Nation has been under siege at Oka, Quebec, by para-military forces of the Quebec police and the RCMP. The Kanesatake's only "crime" has been to defend their ancestral lands and aboriginal rights from the greed and arrogance of local politicians. Food and medical supplies have been cut off for over a week by the police forces, violating the human and civil rights of the Mohawk people. Does more bloodshed have to occur over a 9-hole golf course expansion? Enough is enough!
WE DEMAND THAT THE SIEGE BE LIFTED - NOW! WE DEMAND THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL PARA-MILITARY FORCES FROM MOHAWK TERRITORY - NOW!

Take Time To REGISTER

for Vancouver's municipal elections. You can do so on the main floor of Carnegie, August 16, 17, 18 3:30-7pm and August 19, 20, 21 from 4 - 8 pm.



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During the Kan@satake Mohawks' ordeal, the Federal Department of Indian Affairs has maintained a "hands off" position - in spite of the fact that the Federal government has exclusive jurisdiction over "Indians and lands reserved for Indians" - in spite of the fact that the Federal government has a legal fiduciary trust responsibility to protect aboriginal peoples, aboriginal rights and aboriginal lands throughout Canada, wherever they may be - and in spite of the fact that the Federal government's bankrupt land claims policy contributed directly to the armed confrontation at Oka.

IS THIS THE REVENGE OF BRIAN MULRONEY FOR ELIJAH HARPER'S DEFEAT OF THE MEECH LAKE ACCORD?

IF INDIAN AFFAIRS MINISTER TOM SIDDON CAN'T HANDLE THE HEAT AT OKA, HE SHOULD GET OUT OF THE OTTAWA KITCHEN! IF HE IS JUST FOLLOWING ORDERS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER, THEN MULRONEY SHOULD RESIGN TOO - NOW!

Only 38 of more than 500 specific land claims submitted to the Federal government have been settled. Reason? - Lack of political will. The Federal government refuses to recognize the validity of specific claims and therefore refuses to negotiate settlements. This is what happened to the long-standing claims of the Kanesatake Mohawk Nation. (Note: Over 300 of these 500 unresolved specific claims have been submitted by Indian Bands in B.C.)

In British Columbia, Indian Nations face the same abdication of responsibility, denial of aboriginal title and rights, and lack of political will by the Federal government. The Department of Indian Affairs has been prepared ~~to~~ negotiate only 1 out of more than 18 comprehensive territorial "claims" put forward by B.C. Indian Nations. (Negotiations on this single claim have been going on for over 15 years, with no end in sight.) While our nations wait eternally to get to the negotiating table, the federal and provincial governments sanction repeated invasions of our traditional territories by multi-national resource corporations.

Like the Kanesatake Mohawk Nation, many B.C. Indian Nations have no choice but to defend their territories, resources and cultures with road-blocks and other acts of civil disobedience. The fact that armed conflict has not yet occurred in B.C. is only due to the peaceful, patient nature of our peoples. But there is a limit to the patience of even the most peace-loving peoples. When the Supreme Court of Canada has clearly recognized and affirmed our peoples' aboriginal rights in the Canadian Constitution, yet the Federal government continues to deny our rights and tries to extinguish them, then the government is blatantly violating its own supreme laws and the limits of our patience is reached.

TODAY, THE UNION OF B.C. INDIAN CHIEFS CALLS UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO AGREE IMMEDIATELY TO NEGOTIATE A COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK TREATY WITH ALL THE INDIAN NATIONS OF B.C. AS A FIRST STEP TOWARD SETTLING THE LAND QUESTION WITH HONOUR. TODAY WE CALL UPON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO AGREE IMMEDIATELY TO NEGOTIATE A NATIONAL CHARTER OF ABORIGINAL RIGHTS & FREEDOMS THAT WILL BE PROTECTED AS A TREATY UNDER THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

"It's so easy to make things accessible for us!" These words were said by a young woman at City Hall Council Chambers. She had come to speak on the issue of access to Crab Park and couldn't even get to the microphone.

Her frustration is felt daily by thousands of people with mobility impairment, visual impairment and hearing impairments. When we see a blind person walking along or travelling on a bus or a person in a wheelchair calmly looking for access, it's almost too easy to assume that they will 'get by' somehow. And disabled persons, individually and collectively, keep trying to wake able-bodied people up to what's basic..what "access" means.

Some help is ludicrous, like all the press coverage on a new centre for all manner of do-gooders set to work to get basic rights for members of Toronto's disabled community. It was a brand-new, four storey building and on every side, every door was 5 concrete steps up from the street with no ramps for wheelchairs, no railings on the steps and no lighting over doorways.

Sometimes, people's sympathy becomes empathy and something intelligent results.

SKYTRAIN

David Sproute, Safety and Training Manager at Skytrain, announced that changes are being made to accommodate the needs of visually impaired and other disabled passengers.

If you need assistance at the Skytrain stations, phone 520-3461 during the day and ask for Field Operations. An attendant will be made available at both the beginning and end of your journey. All stations have now been equipped with emergency telephones. These telephones are in emergency cupboards noted by a red decal and they have red hand sets.

AIDS EDUCATION COMMITTEE FORMED

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE POLICY - B.C. TEL:

The Vancouver White Cane Club's READING & WRITING ROOM is now open for your reading and writing needs

If you are disabled or know someone who is; if you know what lack of accessibility can do to a person's dignity, get involved in the struggle to educate damn near everyone on the needs and ways to provide access...to buildings, events, even information. Call the Coalition of the Disabled at 875-0188; call the CNIB at 321-2311. Self-pity is boring!

It was a cold and rainy summer night
 When I first heard his song
 I was sitting in a prison cell
 Wondering where my life had gone
 As I heard his guitar playing low
 I listened to the words
 And the song he sang out
 soft and low
 Was the saddest I had heard
 When you're isolated inside
 those cold grey walls
 It's a long and lonely ride
 After six long years
 in a prison cell
 I guess the young man's dreams
 had died
 I heard him crying late one night
 As I was laying in the dark
 Then he started singing out
 his song
 and he sang it from the heart ↗



He sang
 Play for me that song of thunder
 Bring to me a dream
 I've left my youth behind me
 In the places I have been
 Let your black clouds
 Open over me
 Oh cleanse me with your rains
 Let your four winds bring some freedom
 To the Warrior in Chains...

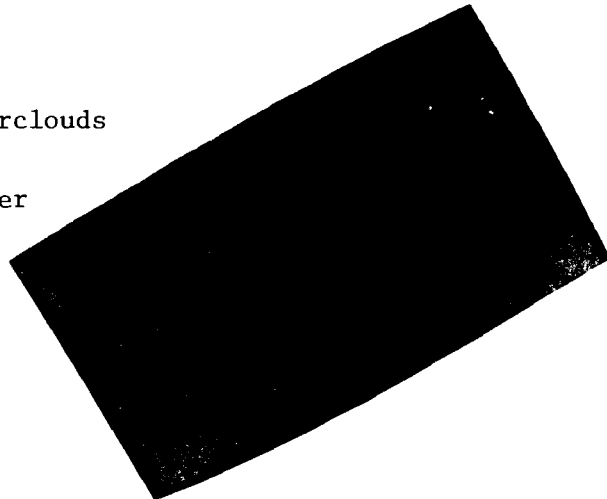
Now there's two things that don't go well
 And that's a Red Man in a prison cell
 The cold remorse and the aggravation
 You're not even missed on the Reservation
 And the guilty ones are those who blame
 The Redman who hangs his head in shame
 Instead of letting him build his pride
 You force another senseless suicide



So when they tried to wake him in the mornin'
 They found that he was dead
 But I knew his Spirit was flying free
 In those dark clouds overhead
 When we gathered in the Chapel
 I swore I heard him singing his song
 And as the rain poured from those thunderclouds
 I just had to sing along

Won't you play for me that song of Thunder
 Bring to me a dream
 I've left my youth behind me
 In all the places I have been
 Let your black clouds open over me
 Oh cleanse me with your rains
 Let your four winds bring some freedom
 To the Warriors in Chains.

By The Bad Axxe Band - D.B. Pawis
 (Dedicated to Brothers & Sisters who
 committed suicide in prison.)



O GREAT SPIRIT

Whose voice I hear in the winds
And whose breath gives life
To all the world,
Hear me. I am a man before you.
One of your many children.
I am small and weak.
I need your strength and wisdom.
Let me walk in beauty.
And make my eyes ever behold
The red and purple sunset.
Make my hands respect
The things you have made,
My ears sharp to your voice.
Make me wise, so that I may know
The things you have taught my people,
The lessons you have hidden
In every leaf and rock.

I seek strength,
Not to be superior to my brothers
But to be able to fight
My greatest enemy, myself.

Make me ever ready to come to you
With clean hands and straight eye
So when life fades as the fading sunset
My spirit may come to you without shame.

- Prayer of the Original People



Depending on where we stand, it is sometimes very hard to see ourselves as we really are. If we look behind, we see a trail that is marked by errors. If we look ahead, we see nothing but distance and uncertainty.. it is during these times that we should listen to our hearts.

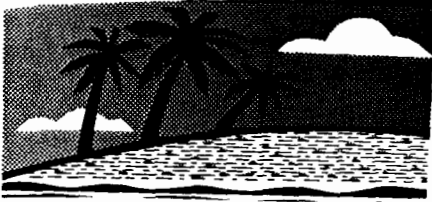
Like the wind, our hearts can help us decide which trail is the best; there are many trails ahead.

Stop. Take time to listen to your heart. Protect your Spirit and your pride. Leave your mistakes behind; walk carefully and you will protect your freedom. Remember always...you will never reach your destination if you choose to walk backwards.

In Spirit,

Daniel

LETTERS



To the Editor.
Dear Friend,

Not long ago Jim Green and Stephen Learey returned from a visit to San Francisco and Los Angeles, where they had the opportunity to move in districts in those cities where what certain people like to term "the underprivileged" live - or at least attempt to survive.

Long-time advocates of average standards at least, of living conditions as the right of every citizen of a democratic community, they came back shaken by what they had witnessed in those two well-known American cities.

In evidence that the facts are indeed shocking, they brought back with them slides of what they had seen, and to which they were witness in their accounts to the public.

Social housing far below the standards set in practice here in Vancouver; street life far more menacing than anything that has, as yet, touched Vancouver; homeless people in numbers far in excess of what, as yet, has developed here; people to whom sleeping in boxes and any kind of makeshift shelter on the streets

is a way of life; ghettoed into areas that were entered at one's own risk; the police warning against it; where sanitation did not exist..An approach to these conditions that inspired landlords to install sprinkler systems to wash the hapless homeless away as day approached... In "free America", the land of liberty and promise.....

Well, Vancouver is not an American city and does not aspire to be one. Certain billboards, not long ago, proclaimed San Francisco and Los Angeles to be Canadian cities. This is a lie, and I hope it has been eradicated from our publicity. Nor is Vancouver an American city; nor has it any desire to aspire to being a copy of what Jim Green and Stephen Learey saw on their visit there.

We admire some things about the country south of us, but not their idea of urban development, or how to solve the problem of homelessness.

We have reason to be proud of the social housing our pressures have achieved on behalf of, and with the support of, the residents of Vancouver's eastside. We believe that with the evidence already available of what "developers" make of areas in need of social housing, it is not impossible to win a wide enough public support to prevent our city from falling into a similar dilemma of public misery.

- A Downtown Eastside Resident

Being a member of Carnegie for the past 3 years has been a delight. I've learned a lot from the people who work here, as well as the people who drop in for a coffee and sit and talk about anything and everything.

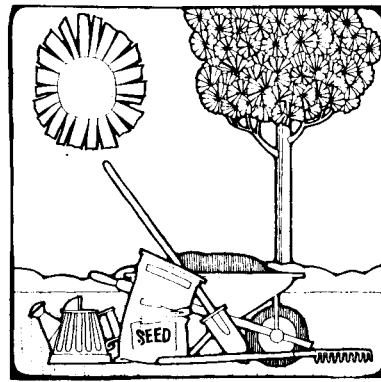
The thing I like about Carnegie is that it's run by volunteers, with a little help from Atiba, the Volunteer Co-ordinator. She has, with help from Peter, made lots of out-trips possible. Then there's the kitchen staff and volunteers who make it possible to have a variety of meals and snacks throughout the day. The list goes on about all that happens at Carnegie Centre.



Also, thanks to both Tora and Garry Gust for their poetry and cartoons, George and many others who helped with the big job of collating and distribution, and to you, the people. And we mustn't forget Paul Taylor for making all of this happen plus keeping everybody on their toes!

There he sits
a man of many words
typing at a high rate of speed
Stories, poetry, and even
just a thought
with his entourage looking on
Hey! that
sounds like a good story. Why
don't you send a copy of that and
any other information that can help
people, or drop into the Centre at
401 Main Street we're located on the
2nd floor.

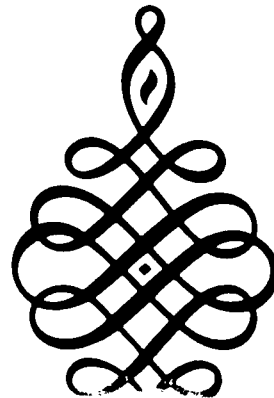
By MARGARET PREVOST



Lately my interests are being involved with the Carnegie Newsletter, which comes out on the 1st & 15th of every month. Guess What folks? This August 15th is the 4th anniversary of the Newsletter!

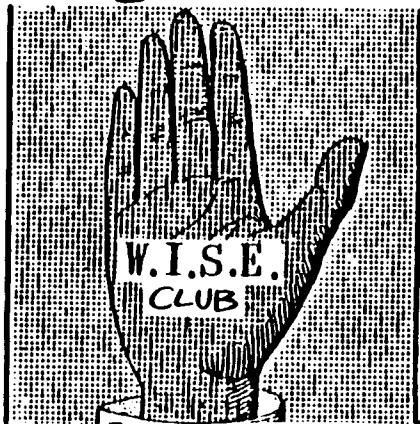
Like many patrons I got my start by submitting a story to the editor Paul Taylor. He printed it and then the stories, poetry and letters just kept on coming out for you to read.

More importantly information about the community is well-represented in this paper. I would like to thank Barb Morrison, Bill Deacon, Lillian Harrison and lately Brian Hetherington for their help, correcting mistakes and helping with editorial policy.



THURSDAYS FREE POETS

ignite.



MOST THURSDAYS

1882 ADANAC

254-5858

POETS @ 8:30

spoken word & music
and it's free!

hingo

at

CARNEGIE

6:30

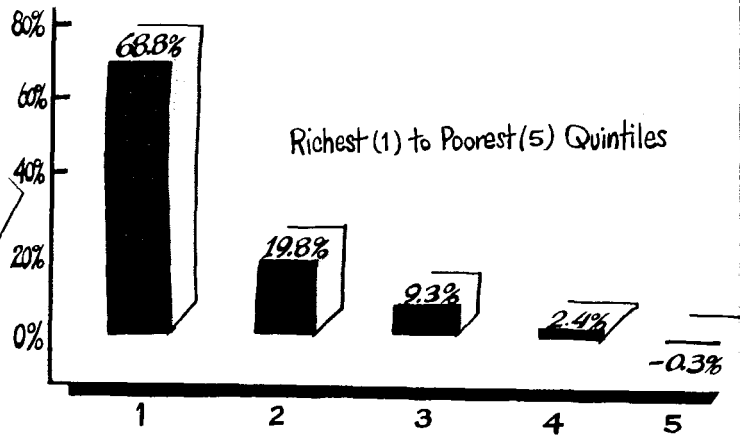
Wed.



ARCH- IMEDES OPEN STAGE

NOW
EVERY
WEDNESDAY!

AT NINE O'CLOCK PM ET



The following is a transcript of the speech given by Sam Snobelen, on behalf of DERA, at the August 1/'90 anti-GST demo at Canada Place.

" To begin with, I'm going to read off a partial list of goods and services on which the Tories want to impose a 7% tax. The partial list that I've just mentioned includes:

- Shoes
- children's & adult's clothing
- Phone bills
- Hydro bills
- Stamps
- Haircuts
- Home furnishings

And if you live in a room with no cooking facilities, as is the case with so many people in the Downtown Eastside, and therefore have to eat out if you want a hot meal, the Tories want to tax the food that you need just to stay alive.

This Federal Government ... that's in power right now ... has no sense of common decency. It wants to force people who are living in poverty to pay taxes on the most basic necessities of life.

NECESSITIES OF LIFE

The Tories will tell you, and in fact have been telling us, that the country will go to Hell in a hand-basket if the Federal Government doesn't impose the GST.

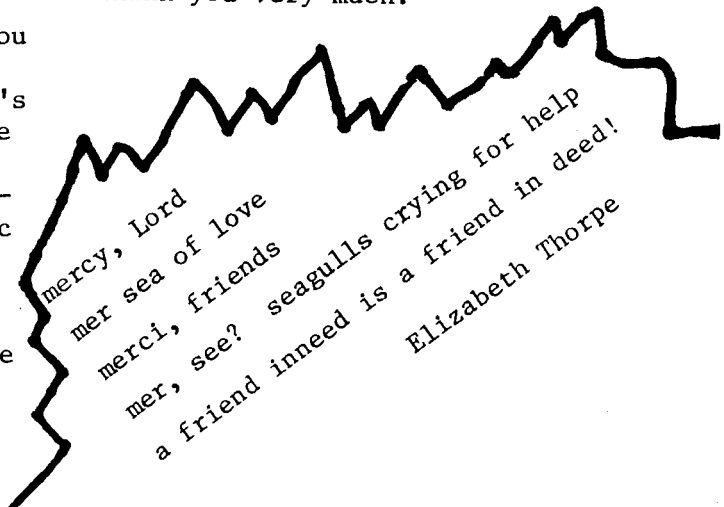
What they haven't been telling us, and most likely won't ever tell us, is that there is an alternative to the imposition of the GST.

That alternative is a progressive income tax, under which those with the ability to pay more taxes would do so. In other words, MAKE THE RICH PAY.

Now, the Tories aren't going to tell us that a progressive tax is a good idea because the rich folks who bankroll Conservative election campaigns don't want to hear that kind of thing.

And it follows that poor people, along with their allies, have to get political and work like Hell to get rid of the current oppressive government that we have in Ottawa.

Thank you very much.



July 1990
FACT SHEET

FORCED EMPLOYMENT FOR SINGLE PARENTS ON WELFARE

FACT: In B.C. a single parent on welfare MUST look for work unless they have medical reasons or a child under 6 MONTHS old. If they don't look for work they can be cut off welfare.

FACT: An "employable" single parent MUST put an X in the Yes box of this form or her cheque can be cut off. This is true even if she has 7 children, if no suitable childcare is available, and if no jobs are available that would provide enough money to support the family.

DECLARATION

I, the undersigned, state that I am the applicant for Income Assistance and that the statements I have made are true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I hereby allow and give permission to The Ministry of Social Services and Housing to confirm or verify in any way necessary the information on this form.

Date _____ Signature _____

File ID GA _____ Print Name _____

IF EMPLOYABLE

Are you looking for work? yes no Can you provide proof? yes no

FACT: Parents on welfare are sometimes forced to seek jobs even if they have many young children and little or no job experience and education.

FACT: Many single parents have little or no job experience and education and are forced to take jobs that keep them in poverty.

FACT: It takes time to be poor. You have to shop at rummage sales, cook from scratch, spend extra time with your kids to compensate for what they can't buy. You have to sew and mend. It's exhausting and sometimes impossible to do all of these things AND hold down a job that pays poverty wages.

FACT: A single parent with two children would have to earn \$11.44 an hour to escape poverty in Vancouver. This does NOT include childcare costs.

FACT: In other provinces single parents on welfare have a right to stay home and care for their children. For example, in Alberta a parent can stay home if she has one child under four monthsk two children when one or both are pre school, or three or more children.

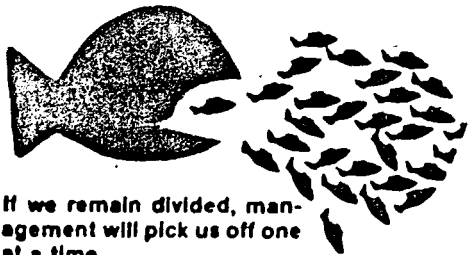
FACT: In Canada statistics show that licensed daycare spaces exist for only about 10% of the children of working mothers.

FACT: Daycare subsidies are far too low. People living below the poverty line have to pay for their childcare.

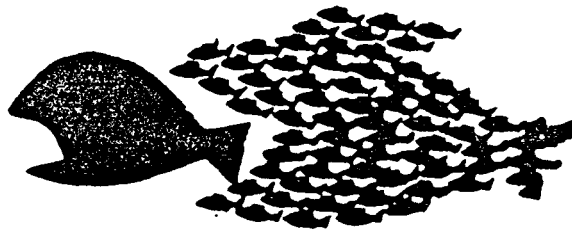
FACT: Parents on welfare who are kept busy with their own children and know it would be impossible to find a job that would support their family as well as childcare for all their children, are forced to lie each month. They must write on their cheque stub that they are seeking work, or they won't get the cheque they need to feed their children.

FACT: Some parents feel that their only option is to become sick. This gets welfare off their back so they can look after their own children.

FACT: Raising children is valuable and important work.



If we remain divided, management will pick us off one at a time . . .



But if we stick together, we can really turn things around.

July 1990

FACT SHEET - MINIMUM WAGES IN B.C.

FACT: A single person in B.C. can work full time at the minimum wage and will end up nearly \$3,000 per year below the poverty line.

FACT: In 1975 a person working full time at the minimum wage earned 122% of the poverty line. Today that person would have to earn \$7.50 an hour to reach 122% of the poverty line.

FACT: Between 1981 and 1986 Stats Canada found that jobs paying \$5.24 or less increased much faster than jobs paying more.

FACT: A Canada Employment study predicts that most of the jobs in 1995 in B.C. will be in the low-paid service sector. They will be jobs as sales clerks, secretaries, waiters, cashiers, janitors.

FACT: The Bank of Canada admits to purposely keeping interest rates high so that unemployment will be high so that wages will fall. They call this their "anti-inflation" strategy. But low paid workers pay the price of poverty.

FACT: Real average earnings in the Greater Vancouver Regional District have declined in the last year by over \$5.00 a week.

FACT: Over 126,000 British Columbians are officially unemployed (Stats Canada, June 1990). Stats Canada's definition of someone who is "employed" includes people who have worked ONE HOUR per week!

FACT: The Economic Council of Canada says that job growth in Canada is split between good jobs and bad jobs. The bad jobs are in the low paid service sector where increases in minimum wage would make a big difference.

FACT: Between December 1980 and January 1987, the Socred government froze B.C.'s minimum wage at \$3.65 per hour. If they had increased it with inflation, it would now be over \$7.00 per hour.

FACT: To escape poverty, one person would have to earn \$6.53 an hour to support herself; \$8.62 an hour to support two people; \$11.53 an hour to support three people; and \$13.28 an hour to support four people. This does not include payroll deductions or childcare costs and is based on a 37.5 hour week.

July 1990

FACT SHEET - WELFARE RATES IN B.C.

FACT: 212,492 people in B.C. are on welfare (May, 1990 SS&H info)

FACT: 75,276 of these people are children.

FACT: 34,301 are single parents.

FACT: 17,257 meet the Ministry's tough definition of "handicapped".

FACT: Thousands of people on welfare are classified as "unemployable" because they are too ill to work.

FACT: 126,600 people in B.C. are unemployed (June, 1990 Stats Canada)

FACT: Welfare rates range at about $\frac{1}{2}$ the poverty line (from 47% to 64%)

FACT: Rents take up over 50% of income for over 20,000 households in Vancouver (Vancouver Social Planning department, 1988)

Between 1979 and 1987 poverty for these B.C. groups has increased: young households (from 28 to 42 percent poor); children (from 12 to 18 percent poor); families (from 11 to 15 percent); single parent families (from 45 to 67 percent).

FACT: Nearly 20 percent of B.C.'s citizens live in poverty.

FACT: 143,000 B.C. children are poor.

FACT: The average poor family is \$4,000 below the poverty line.

FACT: Poverty is the biggest indicator of poor health.

FACT: Poor babies in Canada have twice the infant mortality rate as other babies.

FACT: Poor children get sick more and die more than other children.

FACT: Poor adults live shorter lives than other adults.

END LEGISLATED POVERTY

"There is no difference between gods and people. One blends softly casual into the other." - Frank Herbert
'There is less and less difference between people living above the poverty line and people living below it. The first is losing thousands to the second every month, every day, in every way.'..Welcome to Canada 1990.

Some publications carry up-to-date information on what "free" trade is doing to Canada. Over 121,000 jobs have been lost in fishing, manufacturing, textiles, food processing, farming...pick an industry and it's the same story - workers laid off & plants closed & the operations moved south of the border.

The question that's much harder to answer is "What are all these out-of-work women & men doing now?" In corporate jargon, they have been given the opportunity to sell their skills/talents (souls) in the marketplace of Free Enterprise! In reality more people are competing for fewer jobs, taking lower paying jobs, working 2 or even 3 jobs just to make payments, sometimes working twice as many hours to make what they were making before "free" trade. Many are finally learning what the Poverty Line is, what not having enough money to pay for what you need and something you'd like is like. The Poverty Line is no longer seen as rhetorical whining, as the "line" of do-gooders and welfare 'bums'... It's getting harder and harder to distinguish between the obviously poor, whom you've felt quietly superior to for so long, and your friends, your neighbours, yourself.

End Legislated Poverty, Federated Anti-Poverty Groups, the National Anti-Poverty Organisation, rather than being stigmatized are being listened to and heard.

Finally, thousands of people understand that poverty is not always the result of some disaster that happens to others but a consequence of political and corporate agendas.

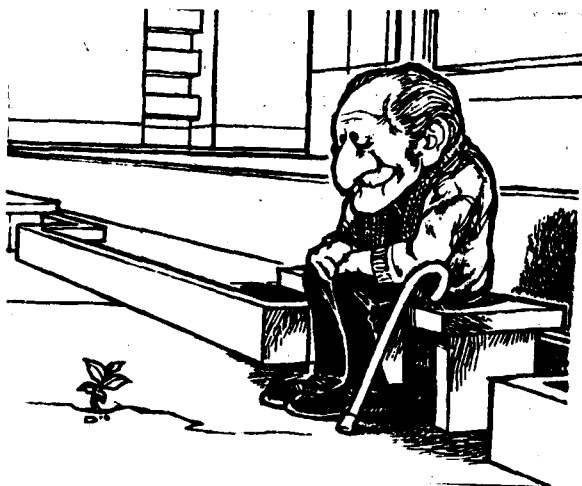
It takes a lot of hard work, saying what the results of government activities are or will be, throwing their rhetoric and dogma back at them with reality marked in big letters. The bottom line is: If you don't fight back, they win.

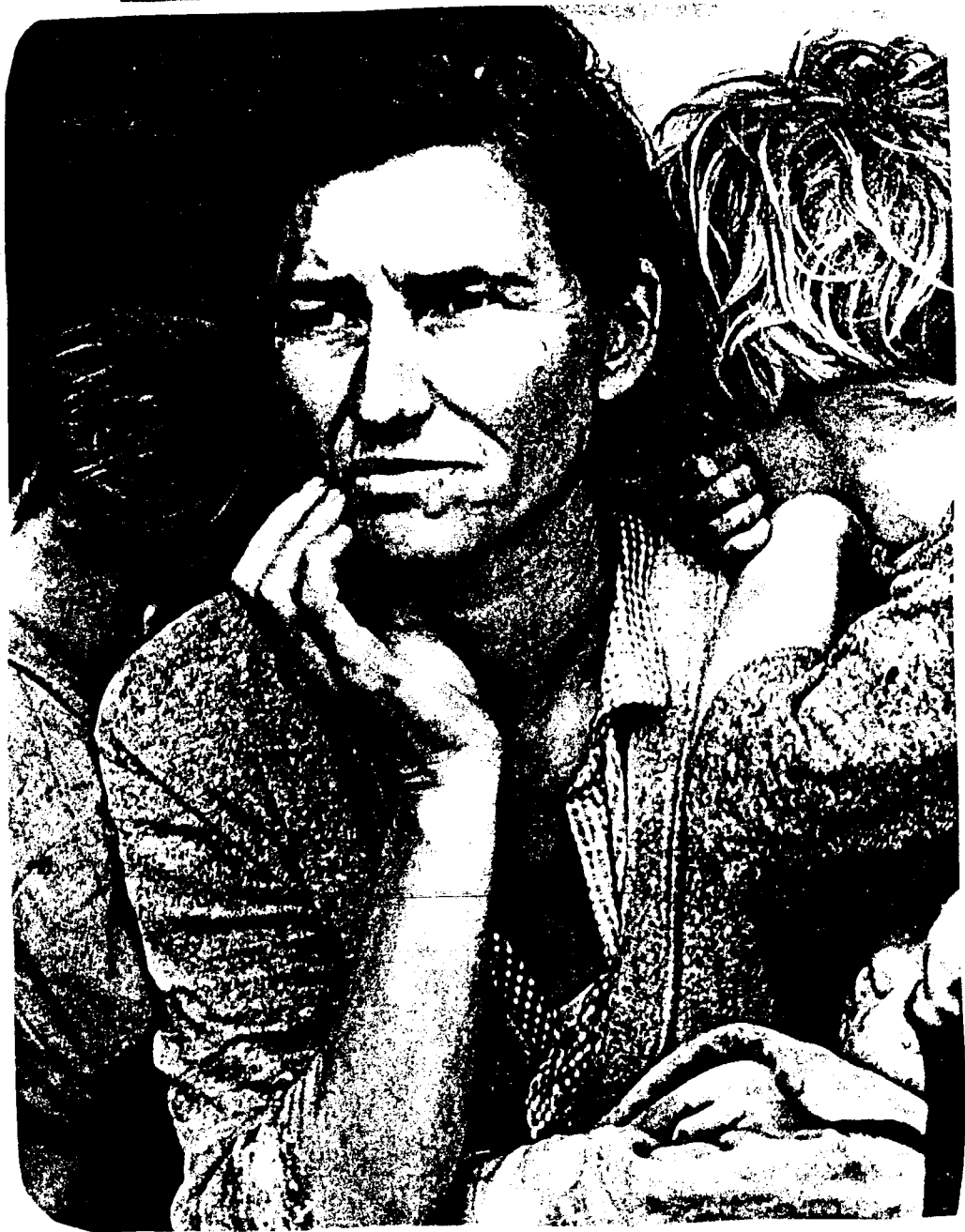
The latest aid in this fight is an amazing collection of material put together by End Legislated Poverty. It's called the "Fighting Poverty Kit" and contains information on health and

poverty, a list of advocates around B.C., pamphlets on Child Apprehension, Welfare for Employable People, Welfare for Unemployable, Welfare Appeals, Youth & the Ombudsman, a Tenant Survival Guide, Voter Registration & You, notes on what ELP does, how getting a Food Program in your school can be used to educate people about poverty, notes on running community meetings, an outline of what the Corporate Agenda is and how to make people aware of what it's doing to our lives, and notes on how voting is essential to bringing about necessary changes.

All of us, whether we're on welfare or government pensions or working for minimum wage or just losing 20-30% of every paycheque to deductions...need to get involved in fighting back. ELP and Front Line Advocate Workers (FLAW) have many action groups to deal with many issues. If you are a single mother being forced to babysit full-time, if you have a child 7 months old and are being told to seek work, if food banks are part of your life, if minimum wage is the pay for the only job you can find...get involved!

By PAULR TAYLOR





AN OPEN LETTER TO SINGLE PARENTS ON
WELFARE WHO WANT TO STAY HOME WITH
THEIR CHILDREN

If you have made the choice to stay home with your children, we support your right to having this choice.

MSSH declares a single parent with children over 6 months to be "employable" no matter how many children they have. Single parents with as many as 7 children have been ordered to find a job.

Child raising is WORK - VALUABLE, HARD WORK. Trying to raise children on welfare is a full time job in itself. We feel that the pressure



should be taken off you. We understand how unfairly and unjustly you have been treated.

If you crack up under this strain, you could be made "unemployable", but lose your kids. If your kids get sick or disturbed, you can stay home with them. This creates a system where the only way out is to become sick.

We have a committee in End Legislated Poverty that is working to change this. If you would like to tell us how you feel, please call: 321-1202 or 324-5801.

By SHEILA BAXTER



Migrant
Mother
Dorothea Lange
1936

Dorothea Lange was part of a small but astonishingly gifted group of photographers who worked for the legendary Roy E. Stryker, director of the Farm Security Administration's photographic project. Their photographs of the appalling condi-

tions that existed in rural America were distributed free to newspapers and magazines across the country in an effort to win public support for the government's programs to assist the rural poor during the worst period of the Depression. The photograph "Migrant Mother" is one of the best-known images created by Stryker's group and is one of the most widely reproduced and exhibited photographs in history.

This photograph of an exhausted mother with her three small children was taken at a farm workers' camp in Nipomo, Calif. Lange's field notes read,

"Camped at the edge of a pea field where the crop had failed in a freeze. The tires had just been sold from the car to buy food. She was 32 years old with seven children."

It has been said that Lange's work, and especially this photograph, made a great impression on American novelist John Steinbeck, author of... *The Grapes of Wrath*. His book, and the subsequent film based on it, helped change public attitudes toward migrant workers and forced those in power to do something about their miserable working conditions.

DEYAS

DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY

685-4488

Free doctors on site
223 Main
(confidential)

Wed. evening: 5 to 8:30
Dr. AL VENNEMA
Thur. evening: 5 to 8:30
Dr. COLIN HORRICKS
STD nurses are on site
through the weekdays.

Drop in
or call
for an
appoint-
ment.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION.

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

FREE - donations accepted.

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 everybody.

DONATIONS SINCE INCEPTION:

- Bruce T. -\$200
- Nancy W. -\$300
- George B. -\$15
- Robert S. -\$80
- Luis P. -\$20
- Marg S. -\$20
- Ted B. -\$5
- Yanum Spath -\$200
- Willis S. -\$110
- Rich P. -\$41
- Jancis A. -\$45
- Tom - \$4.02
- L.B.T. -\$100
- Sheila B. -\$2
- Lillian H. -\$25
- I. MacLeod -\$200
- J. East -\$1
- Sue H. -\$45
- Ian -\$5
- Neil M. -\$2
- Peter E. -\$4.57
- Linda F. -\$50
- Mendel R. -\$15
- K'lem G. -\$5
- The Fire Bug -\$250
- Terry the Terrible -\$100
- Archie M. -\$100
- Maureen R. -\$5
- Alet -\$25
- James M. -\$50
- Kelly -\$6
- Nancy J. -\$70
- Steve R. -\$10
- B. & B. -\$8
- CEEDS -\$10
- Etienne S. -\$40
- Keith C. -\$20
- Wilfrid B. -\$12
- Anonymous -\$54.73
- Linda K. -\$100
- Sandy C. -\$40

Next issue's
DEADLINE:
29 August
(Wednesday)

NEED HELP?

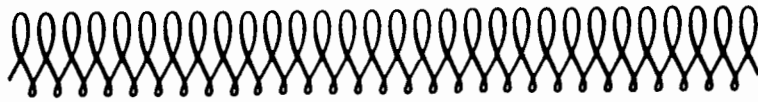
DERA can help you with:

- * 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 16 YEARS



Dear Colleague/Friend,

As you know, Saturday November 17, 1990 is the date of the Vancouver City election. It is extremely important that a progressive majority be elected to city council, park board and school board on that day.

Vancouver residents are becoming increasingly concerned about the lack of open government with decisions not being openly arrived at, the lack of attention to environmental issues and the free hand granted by the NPA dominated council to housing developers. As the next council, parks and school boards will serve for three years, December 1990 to November '93, it is essential to ensure the election of progressive majorities on November 17.

To this end then, COPE is currently seeking the names of potential candidates for each of its three slates. If you have a suggestion or suggestions as to possible candidates whom COPE might approach, would you please either write to COPE at:

COMMITTEE OF PROGRESSIVE ELECTORS
#208 - 33 E. 8th Ave.,
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 1R5

or phone COPE at 879-1447 prior to the date of the next executive committee meeting on Wednesday August 15. Your interest and support in this matter is very much appreciated.

COPE is sponsoring a fund-raising dinner on Friday, September 14 at 6pm at the Beach House Restaurant, Stanley Park. As you know, COPE has to rely on the financial support of its members and friends. COPE, unlike the NPA, does not have access to the millions donated by corporate backers. Tickets to the dinner will cost \$35 each.

Please contact the COPE office for reservations and/or tickets. Seating at the Beach House is limited so it's important that you make your reservations as soon as possible. As many of you will recall, last year COPE organized a scrumptious and very successful dinner at the Beach House Restaurant. This year's dinner promises to be even more of a success. I hope to see you there.

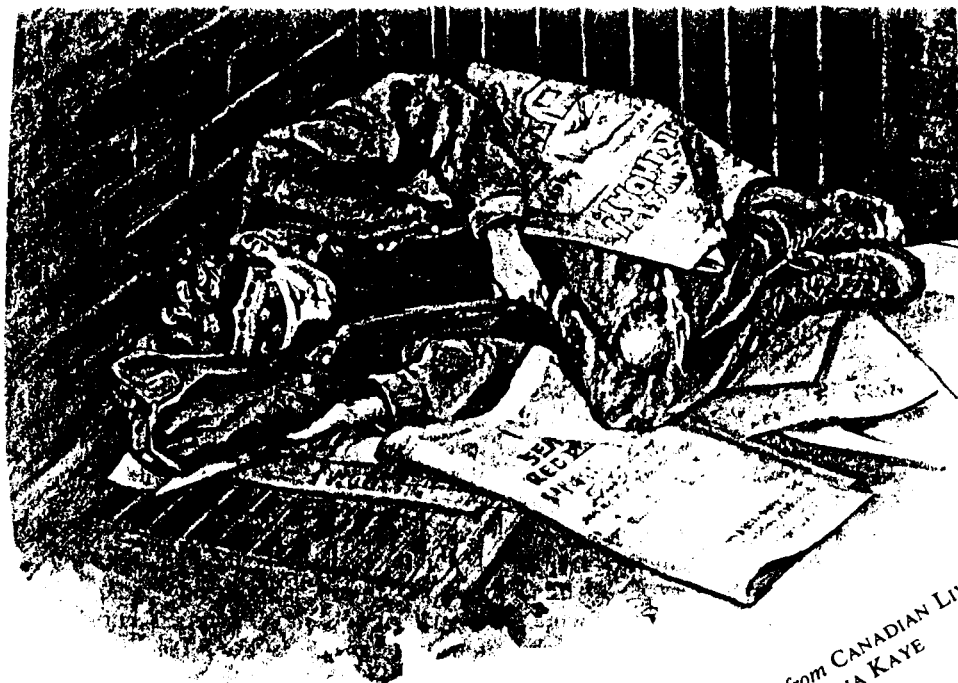
On another matter, if you are not already a member of COPE, I would like to invite you to join. COPE is an open organization with all decisions democratically made after discussion, and when necessary, debate. Your active participation in reaching decisions will be most welcomed. Membership is \$5.00 per year for those employed and \$3.00 per year for those under-employed. If you are willing to join, please apply through the COPE office.

Again, I thank you for your past interest and support of COPE and I look forward to your continued interest and support to help give Vancouver a progressive majority on city council, park board and school board for the three year period '90 - '93.

COPE is working for Vancouver. I ask you to work with COPE.

Sincerely,
Sadie Kuehn, President.





Condensed from CANADIAN LIVING
MARCIA KAYE

Street Kids: Road to Nowhere

*Names of children have been changed.

Thousands of young Canadians run away from home each year. Most want only to be loved

PATTI* is the street name of a 16-year-old girl who ran away from her Toronto home. She comes from a middle-class family that on the surface is unremarkable: Her mother is an executive secretary, her stepfather an ambulance dispatcher, and she has two younger sisters. In Grade X her marks were in the 80s, and she had a job as a cashier at Canada's Wonderland, a theme park north of Toronto. Lower lip trembling, Patti tells her hidden story.

Her real father raped her repeatedly when she was only four. For more than a decade, her mother and stepfather beat her, calling her names and sometimes dragging her across the floor by her hair. One day in August 1988, Patti ran away.

Sleeping in downtown alleyways and stairwells, she hid her few possessions. Gradually Patti developed a street family: Pops, a protective, emaciated 12-year veteran of the streets; Mom, her street mother; and Smokey, a brother. Patti spends most of her days at the Evergreen, a crowded Yonge Street drop-in centre, where more than a hundred street kids go every day. She and her street family get free meals at the Salvation Army.

Patti is one of thousands of young runaways in Canada, most of whom eventually make their way to the bright lights of the urban downtowns: Main and Hastings, and the east Broadway strip in Vancouver; Second and Third Avenues, and the Stephen Mall in Calgary; the Eaton

Centre in Toronto; Viger Park, St. Laurent and Ste. Catherine Streets in Montreal; Hollis Street and the shopping malls in Halifax. No one knows exactly how many there are, for it is impossible to keep track of them. Many spend their nights in parks and on rooftops, near heating vents and in abandoned buildings. Some stay high on drugs, prowling the streets or hanging out in all-night doughnut shops. Some drift from city to city. Some end up in jail. Some die.

The vast majority leave home because, like Patti, they feel forced to. The shocking findings of a study conducted from 1983 to 1986 by Covenant House, a Toronto crisis shelter for youth, indicate that about 90 percent of runaways staying there had suffered repeated physical abuse before leaving home. More than three quarters of the survey's 196 runaways aged between 16

and 21 were from white, middle- or upper-class families. More than half had been thrown out. Surprisingly, most reported receiving less abuse after running away than before. For these kids, the street, for all its drugs, prostitution and violence, seemed safer than home.

Completely Disheartened. "All these children feel unloved, whether it's true or not," says Perveen Khokhar, program director of Teen Haven, a 15-bed long-term facility for teenagers in Montreal. "Parents may be unable to cope with a child's adolescent behaviour, and become either extremely rigid or excessively permissive. Or parents may love the child but not be getting along or be heavily involved with their careers, and the child is affected."

David, an uncommonly bright 19-year-old runaway from a small Ontario town, tried to hang himself when he was six. He knew even then that his mother hadn't wanted him. She had moved out, taking his older brother with her; David stayed with his father, a touring rock musician. When his father's girlfriend moved in, David often overheard her wishing that he would leave home. Just before his 16th birthday, David slashed his wrists in another suicide attempt. Anxious to prove himself worthy of love, he earned 90s in Grade XI, taking extra Grade XII and XIII courses. He did chores at home, had a paper route and worked part time in his grandparents' restaurant. When his father, in a violent temper, wrongly accused him of being involved in drugs and alcohol, David became completely disheartened. "Enough of this being a good little boy with responsibilities," he says now. "I didn't have to run away from home. I just walked away." No one came after him.

In Toronto, David slept under parked cars and stayed in hostels filled with aging alcoholics. He drift-

ed. Clean-cut and well-spoken, he had no trouble getting jobs unloading trucks and selling credit cards in a downtown department store. He got steady carpentry work, bought a set of tools and rented a room with another young man. His roommate kicked him out at gunpoint after an argument and forced him to leave all his belongings behind, including the set of tools. David was back on the street.

He has seen a lot of violence there. "A girl I know got shot, and a buddy of mine was beaten up with a steel pipe." Still, says David: "When I left home, the only emotions I had were hate and envy. On the street there's guilt and pain and shame, but there's also a lot of love."

There's no doubt most runaways are desperately searching for love. That's why they try to come together in street families. "I credit them for their compassion, but it is a false sense of love," says Margaret Michaud, a youth worker at the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society in Vancouver. "The street subculture takes on the role that families, schools and communities did not fulfill. But it's just lost children taking care of one another. What can they offer, except a shoulder to cry on?"

These kids certainly need a shoulder to cry on, but they also have urgent physical needs: food, clothing, a shower, laundry facilities and medical attention. Such necessities are available at emergency shelters, but most shelters are overcrowded. Every night, Toronto's Covenant House puts up about 75 youths in its 30-bed shelter, most of them sleeping on mats on the floor.

Bottomed Out. In Calgary, Avenue 15, a 17-bed emergency shelter for runaway or homeless youths, helps keep kids off the street by involving a family member as soon

as possible. "We work at finding the child a safe setting, either with a parent or a close relative," affirms child-care counsellor Michael Osiowy. "And we discourage the child from choosing the street by telling him exactly what it's like: He won't be able to sleep at night because it's too cold; he'll wake up hungry, with no money; he won't be able to work because he's got no fixed address; he'll try panhandling, and he'll get beaten up and robbed." Of the 400 kids who come to Avenue 15 each year, 60 percent return home or go to live with a relative.

When children choose the street over a loving home, drugs are often implicated. John, 19, from Windsor, Ont., calls himself a screwed-up kid, but he doesn't blame his parents — he blames himself and his drug habit. At first it was marijuana and LSD, when he was about 14. Then it was alcohol. After John left home, he got into heavier drugs, and crime. He still has the scar on his hand from the time he threw a brick through the window of a leather store in Toronto, then reached in through the jagged glass to grab a jacket. He has been in jail at least eight times.

John bottomed out in Ottawa. One night he stole a bottle of Dilantin tablets from an epileptic and took 42 of them, just to see the effect. His muscles suddenly collapsed, and he fell facedown on the sidewalk. In hospital, his EEG showed no brain activity.

Miraculously, John survived. Now 20, he has come through drug rehabilitation programs five times. He has been straight since October 1988. He lives in a group home with eight others, and he calls his parents every Sunday.

Yet programs across the country are ill equipped to serve the needs of homeless youths like John, say

STREET KIDS: ROAD TO NOWHERE

people close to the problem. Phoenix House in Halifax, run by a non-profit organization funded by the federal and provincial governments and private donations, is one of Canada's few long-term facilities. Unlike emergency shelters, which house kids for up to ten days, Phoenix provides housing for at least 18 months. The shelter opened three years ago. "In that time, we've taken care of fifty-five kids," says Executive Director Linda Heseltine. "It may not seem a lot, but we teach them how to cook for themselves, shop and do chores. All of them are in school or job-training programs."

A literacy program called Beat The Street, which began in Toronto, now operates in Winnipeg and Regina as well. Rick Parsons, the program's cofounder, was a street kid who couldn't write his name until he was 28. Taking other formerly illiterate kids with him, Rick speaks regularly at high schools, training schools and prisons. "We talk to kids who think it's easier on the street than it is at home and in school. We tell them it's harder, a lot harder. After we talk to them, many say they'll stay at home until they're older."

"Accept Them." As summer heads into fall, a crop of troubled kids across the country wonder where they'll spend the winter. Rick Parsons has some advice for anyone considering running away from home: "Talk to an adult you can trust," he says. "They can help you." Patti, a street veteran who knows the reality, says, "The streets are not the answer."

David has managed to get himself off the street for the second time. He's working at a muffin shop staffed by runaways. He has a mes-

sage for parents: "Wait for your children to come back. They will. And when they come back, accept them." He adds soberly: "Street kids is the worst term in the world. Once you're on the street, you're not a kid anymore."

IF YOUR child seems troubled, or is uncharacteristically hostile or withdrawn, here is some advice culled from youth workers, runaways and parents:

- Make your child feel that he's part of the family, that he belongs with you. If he thinks that no one at home wants him, he'll go looking for someone who does.

- Show that you care by asking questions and voicing your concerns without seeming to pry or be domineering.

- Take an active interest in your child's schooling. Whether he is having difficulties or not, talk to the teachers regularly. Go to home-and-school meetings, and parents' nights. If necessary, ask the school social worker or psychologist to talk to your child.

- Set time aside on a regular basis for intimate discussions.

- Look for signs the child may be involved with drugs — skipping school, spending all his time at a video arcade or pool hall.

- If the lines of communication are down, enlist the help of a family intermediary or trusted friend.

- If your child insists on leaving home, make arrangements with a relative or friend with whom he can stay until things work out.

- Let your child know that, whatever happens, he can always come back home.



Don't forget to Say "I Luv U"



Let not appearances deceive you
They are merely shadows of a mirage
Having little to do with the heart

Seek not wholeness outside yourself
For it swells from one's own centre
Like the blossoms from the bulb

Seek not from another that which
Only you can give yourself
Peace is not another's to bestow
Each must create his own

Seek not from another
That which is not his to give
Fulfillment is an inner knowing
Not an outer gift.

"Anonymous"



Staff don't smell better than patrons.

This note is to apologize for the rude, unprofessional, embarrassing and degrading situation I created while on duty doing Auxiliary Attendant on Wednesday, August 1st.

A bingo participant by the name of Blackie was confronted by me pertaining to an enquiry of his hygiene. I have always been uneasy about discussing this with a patron & when I did everyone could hear my naturally deep and carrying voice. People began yelling at me as I obviously offended Blackie and his friends.

I'd never seen Blackie before so I only wanted to warn or advise him of some policies - never have I meant to demoralize someone or hurt their feelings. I felt that out of the two years of patronizing, volunteering and working at Carnegie, I've never done anything as harmful as what happened with Blackie and I've done some strange things! In my past similar situations have occurred so I guess it must be bad karma or something.

It certainly was bad judgement on my part to treat Blackie the way I did. I'm really sorry, Blackie; please accept my apology. I've always tried to support people instead of hurt them. I'm sorry.

Steve Rose

New act no real help to renters with children



Laura Stannard is a community legal worker with the Tenants' Rights Coalition.

By LAURA STANNARD

BILL 51, a proposed amendment to the Residential Tenancy Act, has just received second reading in the legislature.

Already the Social Credit government has paid for a prime-time television "news update" to advertise Bill 51 as a progressive piece of legislation where "children are the big winners."

Bill 51 makes it look as though the government is prohibiting discrimination in rental housing on the basis of family status. At first glance, this appears to be an overdue attempt to bring B.C. law into conformity with the Canadian Charter of Rights. The government seems to be addressing at least one aspect of the rental housing crisis. So what is wrong with the new legislation?

It takes a careful second look to reveal just how ineffective the proposed legislation is — and how it sabotages the efforts of groups lobbying for a stronger B.C. Human Rights Act.

What raises the eyebrows of tenant groups, human rights groups and children's advocacy groups is that the B.C. Residential Tenancy Act has never had jurisdiction over discrimination in housing. Discrimination in housing on the basis of race, religion, gender and physical

disability has always been covered by the B.C. Human Rights Act.

In effect, the government is saying that family status discrimination is somehow different from other kinds of discrimination. For some reason the government did not want to amend the Human Rights Act to include discrimination on the basis of family status.

The reason could be that Bill 51, as it stands right now, contains enough flaws and loopholes to render it useless to renters who have suffered discrimination on the basis of family status.

The proposed process for a family that has been refused housing because of its children is a logistical nightmare. The family would be required to file a discrimination complaint under the Residential Tenancy Act, at the Human Rights Council, "as though it were filed . . . under Section 5 of the Human Rights Act" (emphasis mine). It is important to note that Section 5 of the Human Rights Act does not cover discrimination on the basis of age or family status.

Lawyers call this "as though" clause a "deeming provision" and it leaves a legal loophole the size of Housing Minister Norm Jacobsen's house.

It may be argued that since the B.C. Human Rights Act does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of age or family status (prior to 1984 it did), it does not have jurisdiction to rule on what is non-existent in its act. And there is still no avenue for arbitrators at the Residential Tenancy Branch to hear discrimination cases.

The family that is refused housing because of its children may be wise to sleep on a corner halfway between the Human Rights Council and the Residential Tenancy Branch, because you can bet your last rent cheque they will tread a weary path between the two buildings.

Exacerbating the issue are the exemptions the proposed legislation permits. If these were enacted, it would be possible for a landlord to refuse a designated handicapped suite to a disabled person with a child. Non-profit groups that run housing for seniors in the downtown eastside are left in a precarious position because the age requirement for seniors in the downtown eastside is 10 years lower than the age that the legislation exempts.

Another exemption permits the cabinet the authority to exclude any rental unit it wants. Imagine the possible conflict-of-interest scandals when Sacred landlords' buildings are found to be exempt.

Where a landlord tries to evict because of an unreasonable number of persons occupying the premises, Section 7 of Bill 51 proposes that if the additional person is a child, the landlord must give 24 months' notice, not the current one month's notice. Sound fair? Think again. This means the government will protect a child for two years. Discrimination against babies would be against the law, but after two years the protection is inexplicably removed.

28 Why would the government pass legislation that is poorly written and clearly ineffective?

For some time, groups have been lobbying to have the Human Rights Act amended to include protection against discrimination on the basis of age, family status and sexual orientation. A current case before the Supreme Court (Cope vs B.C. Attorney General) challenges the B.C. Human Rights Act for under-inclusiveness and failing to comply with the federal Charter of Rights. Audrey Cope is a parent who was denied housing because of her family status. Bill 51 may be nothing more than an attempt to underline the Cope case and avoid having to give real protection to British Columbians by amending the Human Rights Act.

Bill 51 is an election woo. Housing is the number one issue this year. The Socreds want to look as if they are addressing the housing crisis. Bill 51 does not give renters protection against exorbitant rent increases and it certainly does not stop developers from tearing down the last square feet of affordable rental housing. Bill 51 does not address security of tenure.

Whether or not you believe housing should be a right like education and medical care, be clear that Bill 51 is a more carefully crafted election tool than the infamous BCRIC shares. It disguises the Socreds' adamant refusal to give basic human rights to all people while veiling their reluctance to intervene in the rental housing crisis.

Make no mistake about it: Bill 51 will not make affordable rental housing any more accessible to families or to anyone else. Children, the big winners? Not in B.C. ☐



WHAT'S HAPPENING

- Aug. 17-19 RADIO RENT EVENT & OPEN HOUSE
- Co-op Radio, 337 Carrall St.
- Aug. 17: PITCH 'N PUTT - Carnegie Volunteers. (See Atiba or Peter)
- Aug. 19: COMMUNITY PICNIC - Crab Park (Sponsored by Carnegie Seniors)
- Aug. 20: BC LIONS vs HAMILTON TIGERCATS - BC Place Stadium (Carnegie Volunteers & Seniors see Atiba)
- Aug. 22: VOLUNTEER DINNER - Theatre 5:30 (Regular Bingo when room clears)
- Aug. 26: CARNEGIE BRIDGE CLUB - organizing meeting at 2:30. Place to be announced.
- Aug. 26: SASAMAAT LAKE - Carnegie Volunteers & Seniors (See Atiba)
- Aug. 30: WHITBY ISLAND - Carnegie Senior outing; leaves early. (Donalda)
- Sep. 2: LATIN-NATIVE FRIENDSHIP FESTIVAL - Oppenheimer Park
- Sep. 3: ANNUAL CARNEGIE MUSIC FESTIVAL - Crab Park. Environment Focus.
- Sep. 6: CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION BOARD of DIRECTORS - In the Theatre, 7:00 pm.
- Sep. 10: ALL TRIBES URBAN ASSOCIATION - Meeting at Carnegie, 5-7 pm.
- Sep. 11: CAMP FIRCOM - From the 11th to the 15th. Volunteers & Seniors.

GALA NIGHT OF GREED!!

AUGUST 24: Vanderzalm is hosting a night of food & drink & FUN for 100 special people. Invited, paying a small fee*, you will be picked up by limo, taken to the Meridian Restaurant for cocktails and dinner, taken again by limo (quaffing champagne en route) to Les Miserables, get coffee & snacks when it's over and home by limo. You'll also get a video of Les Miz, a video of the evening and a Les Miz poster signed by the Zalm. *Only \$2,500 PER PERSON.

Poverty is a joke to Vanderzalm. The reality of an income of \$6,000 a year is irrelevant to the socreds & their supporters. This entire event is obscene. ELP will be there to help him commit political suicide.



No Time To Say Goodbye

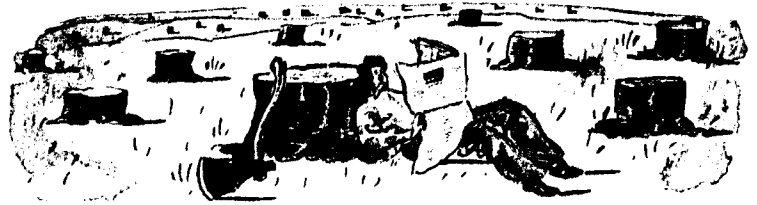
He looked to the left
And he looked to the right
An elderly man,
Not too fast of movement,
He took care to cross
When the little green figure appeared
in the signal box.
Timidly he stepped off of the sidewalk..

Bam-smash-squeel-crunch
a cracking of bones a splattering of
blood brains paint the sidewalk broken
limbs swell blood splatters gurgles as
it runs out of the man out of his nose
mouth ears and what's left of his head

People run and gaze
The siren wails
Police make notes
After awhile, the body is...gone.
The blood is hosed off the street and
He, this victim,
Becomes another fatal traffic stat
In the Downtown Eastside.

The government erases him from the
computer.
His old age pension cheque is stopped.
History.

Sheila Baxter



SOME DEMOCRACY

Just like the man said, "This is SUPPOSED TO BE a democracy!" That's exactly the point at which it ends in this country.

Oh sure, we have the 12-hour freedom to vote, rain or shine, on one specified day every 4th or 5th year. Real big deal, isn't it! So now suffer, peasants.

During the interim we endure no right of recall, no referendums, no capital punishment despite 85% to 90% of the citizens are for it, no reasonable method of taxation for the working while the corporate elite are practically given a free ticket, no justice in dealings (non-dealings) with aboriginal land claims.

Added to this, we are governed by power-mad conservatives (as well as liberals who preceded them) who are bare-faced, proven liars engaging in constant cover-ups of scandals.

The Province of Quebec, flying the flag of a foreign nation and calling itself a nation, doesn't accept inclusion in federal structure but wants its hand filled with Canada's goodies.

We are headed for civil war unless we get rid of the tyrants in whose hands we have gullibly placed our destiny. In a very short time we've had the Meech Lake Plot, Free Trade and the soon-to-unfold disaster of the GST and police enforced bureaucracy.

Some democracy indeed! This brand - they can stuff it.



Poverty is mankind's natural state

I have never felt that End Legislated Poverty was the most rational or constructive organization in British Columbia and now it has me shaking my head again; with its absurd demonstration at *Les Miserables*.

What are its members trying to prove? They must enjoy dreaming up ways to delineate our society as cruel and benighted.

Yes, there is poverty in B.C. There is poverty everywhere. Poverty is, in fact, the natural state of mankind.

That only changed with the rise of capitalism and the concepts of private property and free markets. Soon those who did not share in the great wealth created stood out much more than when all but the upper classes were destitute.

From this sprang the misguided notion that the state could eliminate poverty. Previous generations would have been bewildered by such an idea.

Poverty is relative and is certainly not caused by the free enterprise system, or even our mixed economies. Jean Swanson should

observe the truly wretched lives most people endure in communist nations, where the state has far greater power than here.

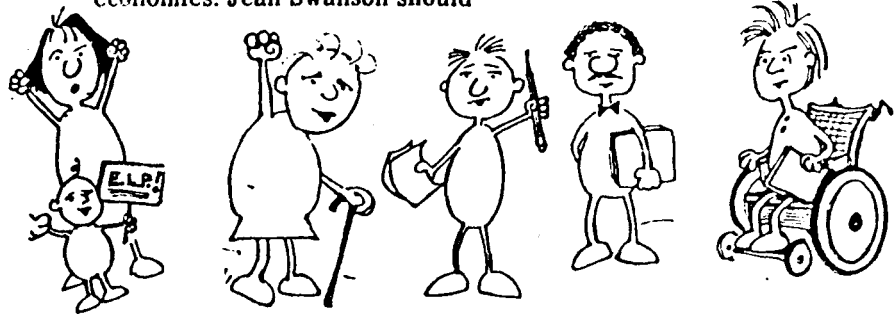
With such control, one might think poverty could be stamped out. The reality, of course, is that in such countries the ruling elites' only intention is to maintain their own quality of life.

Groups like End Legislated Poverty would do their complaining from a jail cell.

BRIAN ROBERTSON
1638 Marpole

To which this
reply was sent:

Letter to the Editor



Crud is a synonym for the word used to describe the product of a bull's bowel movement. On 28 July, a Brian Robertson had a letter published in which he states the "natural state" of mankind is poverty. That's so narrow and ignorant that crud is almost too good a word to use to describe his opinion...almost.

I was one of the people handing out stuff at the opening of *Les Miserables*. For anyone interested, this play is about poverty in 16th or 17th century France. It's a tragedy, following the plight of a man who was so hungry he stole a loaf of bread, was caught, and subjected to the Middle Ages version of justice.. a justice that Robertson seems to admire. Back then you could spend years in jail or as a slave labourer for the most petty "crimes" while, then as now, criminals were very

well-to-do and had little or no fear of ever being punished for their crimes. Then as now, many of the worst criminals held public office; then as now, the better criminal you were, the harder it was for justice to be ever done and for you to be held for your criminal activities.

End Legislated Poverty is a coalition of 22 groups throughout B.C. Members of these groups are mostly volunteers who work against the almost stifling inertia and apathy of many thousands of people. This apathy has two basic causes. The first is the fear of many that they too are living in poverty but cannot consciously admit it, even to themselves. The second cause is much more insidious. It's the stated or implied idea: "I've got mine so screw you Jack."

From the writing of Robertson, I assume that he would find this sentiment "natural".

In closing, a quote that appeared on the papers handed out at the opening of *Les Miserables* bears repeating:

"There is nothing new about poverty. What is new, however, is that we now have the resources to get rid of it..

Today, therefore, the question..must read: WHY SHOULD THERE BE HUNGER AND PRIVATION IN ANY LAND, IN ANY CITY, AT ANY TABLE, WHEN PEOPLE HAVE THE

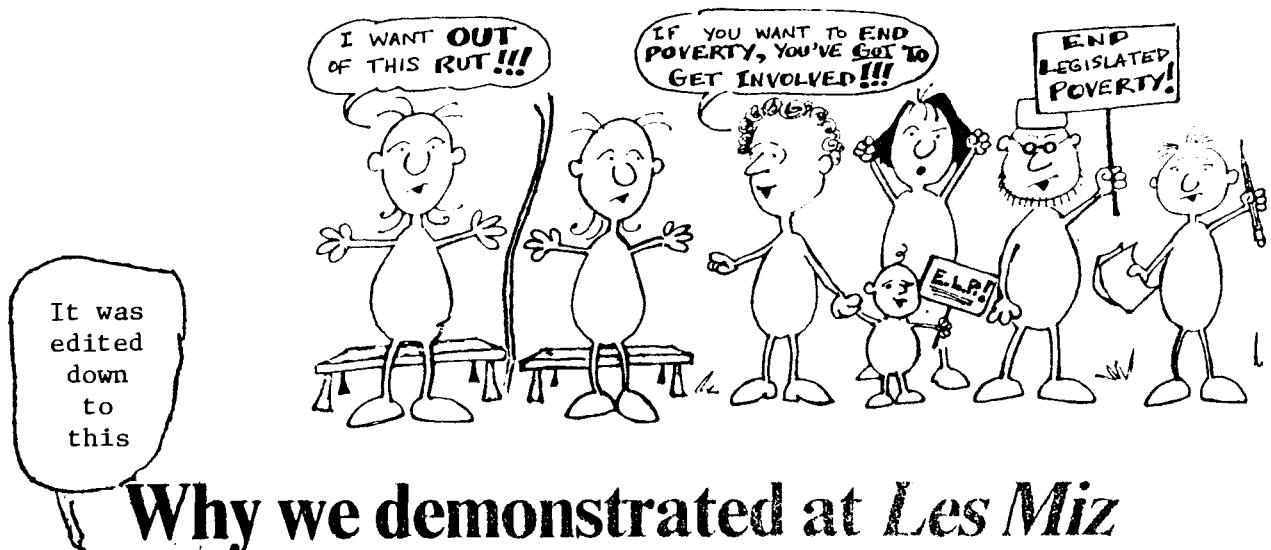
RESOURCES AND THE SCIENTIFIC KNOW-HOW TO PROVIDE ALL HUMANITY WITH THE BASIC NECESSITIES OF LIFE?...

There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Perhaps Robertson would like to spend 1 month or even a week on the amount of money that a person on GAIN has to. Sound like fun?

Paul R Taylor, Editor,
Carnegie Newsletter.



Why we demonstrated at *Les Miz*

On July 28 you ran a letter by Brian Robertson saying that the natural state of mankind is poverty and condemning End Legislated Poverty for demonstrating at *Les Miserables*.

I was one of the people handing out stuff at the opening.

The play is about poverty in 19th-century France. It follows the plight of a man who was so hungry, he stole a loaf of bread, was caught and was subjected to cruel justice.

End Legislated Poverty is a coalition of 22 groups throughout B.C. Members are mostly volunteers who work against the almost stifling

inertia and apathy of many thousands of people.

To quote a statement by Martin Luther King that appeared in our handout, "Why should there be hunger and privation in any land, in any city, at any table, when people have the resources and the scientific know-how to provide all humanity with the basic necessities of life? There is no deficit in human resources; the deficit is in human will."

PAUL TAYLOR
Editor
Carnegie Newsletter

City pedestrian death toll climbs

An 82-year-old man was killed Thursday afternoon when a delivery truck struck him at the corner of Main and Hastings.

The man was attempting to cross the street and was witnessed by two detectives and an off-duty traffic squad member to walk against the red light, said Staff Sergeant Chris Offer.

Harry Chow of 305 - 628 East Hastings is Vancouver's 28th traffic fatality of 1990, compared to 20 traffic deaths in 1989. Fourteen of those deaths have been pedestrians, while ten of the pedestrians have been 60 or older. Offer explained. He said pedestrians in that age bracket are killed more often.

Walk Alert!

A pedestrian safety campaign for seniors. August 13 - 18.

Cross only at cross walks or at corners. Stay alert! Don't assume cars will stop for you. Watch over your shoulder for cars making turns.

Don't jay walk: Many deaths and injuries occur when pedestrians cross the road in the middle of the block or between parked cars.

Protect yourself — be seen. Make yourself more visible in the rain or at night. Wear light-colored clothing and use reflective material.

The more steps you take to help motorists see you, the safer you will be. Drivers need time to react and stop their cars. For example, a car going km (30 mph) needs about 26 m (87') to stop safely. It takes even longer in fog, rain, snow or darkness.

The Vancouver Safety Council offers a free one-hour pedestrian safety presentation for seniors groups. If your group is interested, please call 877-1221 for information. This presentation is available throughout the year.

Just another housing demo?

This one's a Picnic

NE Corner 1st & Maple
(near Kits Beach)
1:00 p.m.
Sunday, August 26th



LIVE MUSIC

Bring:

- Food
- Juice
- Friends

Vancouver continues to lose affordable housing to demolitions and greed. Throughout our neighbourhoods, good homes sit empty and boarded up while developers speculate. Let's get together to celebrate our communities. Come to the picnic. Bring an abandoned building to life.

Sponsored by the Vancouver Community Housing Forum