

FREE - donations accepted.

Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1, 1991.

401 Main St., Vancouver (V6A 2T7) 665-2289

Poverty is violence against children





"The most important thing low income people need to know is that poverty is not our fault. We need to know that low welfare rates and wages are intentional. Policies & legislation like privatisation, low incomes, cutbacks to social programs, & free trade directly affect our lives."

- Pam Fleming (E.L.P.)



HOMELESS BUT NOT HELPLESS

Startling, hopeful, hopeless, profound, surprising, sensitive, hard hitting..are some of the adjectives that best describe a new photography exhibition being held at the Carnegie Centre Gallery (3rd fl.), until November 15th.

This exhibition, entitled An Experiment in Power Pictures, takes photojournalism away from the stereotypical & into the realm of reality. This is street life by street people. Jody Bailey, Olivia Glendale, Stacey McMillan, Denise McMillan, David Morales & Joanne Smith are 6 "street youth" ranging in age from 14 to 22 who were unfamiliar with photography. They were given cameras & film & participated in a 10-week long photography workshop conducted by photojournalist Robert Semeniuk under the guidance of John Turvey, who directs the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society & North America's largest Needle Exchange program.

There are eighteen 11"x14" photos, images of Vancouver street life & death from the point of view of six young people who live there.

For new kids on the block, the gallery is side-by-side with Carnegie's Learning Centre. One of many aspects & services is an English 11 class. Constance Brissenden, suggested to the learners in her class that they look at these photographs, then write down their thoughts & feelings.

"It shows how unfair life can sometimes be. It makes me feel sad and mad at the same time. I'm sad because they weren't given a chance living in poverty; especially the children, who learn from the world around them. They see their parents as alcoholics, people being abused. There isn't enough

moral support for going to school and, soon children are having babies, dropping out of school, becoming alcoholics or drug users, sometimes dying.

It makes me feel angry because of the 'giving up'. Even if you're poor, get a job; if you're an alcoholic, go to AA; if you have personal problems from the past, see a counsellor. Don't give up. Try until you feel good about yourself and realise your goals."

- Honey Desjarlais



"I saw those pictures. These are very different from what has happened in my life. They have no house so I don't know how they can survive. Outside is very cold but where would they sleep ..where would they make food??

In one picture a guy is bleeding from his face but nobody is taking care of him. If I get hurt my parents worry about me and give me medicine. I am very sorrowful for these guys!"

- Manoj Kumar

"These pictures tell me some things. They give off feelings, I have some emotions, but it's funny...I'm not sure what. Some of the pictures make me sad, but others make me happy - like it's a wonderful world. I have opinions on what's shown, but inside my heart says get active and do something. This is important."

- Ng Tiong Seng



1. One picture is of a baby, alive & full of hope. This makes people feel happy.
2. Another picture is of a dead person. He is so young. He lies in the coffin, just like he's sleeping. He doesn't know people around him are sad.
3. One picture is about a party. People are very happy and I feel happy too.
4. This picture is about two people dealing with drugs. They are killing themselves; they are committing crime.
5. Another picture is of two guys kissing each other. They may be homosexuals.

I feel these pictures show more sadness than happiness in this society."

- Rosamai Wong



"Each picture demonstrated or showed the value of life when living on the streets. To me each picture was an eye-opening experience because I've never been unfortunate enough to have to live (or make a living) on the streets. I've been lucky to

have someone to turn to but these people don't. From what I've heard, Social Services can be overwhelming; it might not be able to help.

People are dying everyday from drugs & gang fights. White cops hassle coloured people, so the nickname "pigs" is given to them. They seem to get a kick out of kicking these people around..it makes them feel big.

They've been moved or thrown out of a place they for some reason found comfort in, but once on the street can be hassled or hurt, even by those asked to help. It's obvious they can't help themselves but they just need a little hand. Some of the pictures show love even when there were difficult times." - Raj Gill

"Life is very precious.

There's a picture of a baby, not knowing what lays in the future.

There's a photo of a young guy that is in a coffin. How or why did he die? I feel so depressed. This is an everyday, routine lifestyle where street gangs are fighting each other over who sells drugs to these young children. to runaways, involving them in paying for drugs with their bodies.

Children run away from problems, such as an alcoholic parent. They couldn't find love at home and end up in deeper problems, by letting themselves get involved with pimps & dealers. My solution would be to get out of the situation before it drags you down. It reminds me of a poem I wrote:

"Life Style of the Unfortunate"

No way to live!
No way to live!
Is the outcry of our people.
Why are we poor?
We cry for our children,
We cry for our elders,
We cry for our homeless.
No one seems to care.
No one will share.
Where are the hearts of our people?
We have no shame
We might as well have no name.

- Bonnie Stevens

Also by Bonnie Stevens -

My Heart

Something in my heart is aching
Is it sorrow
Will tomorrow bring my dreams to reality
Would it shatter it
My heart tells me a lot of things
My soul is telling me not to worry
It will be a better day what you make of it
Your dreams will come true
I will no longer be blue.

Love

Love is like a river
It flows and flows
No one knows where it goes
It has its twists and turns
Love can be splendid
Share it with one you love
Reach for your dreams
It may be just down the stream.



A candle burns in Pigeon Park
Five people sat there
 watching
The shadows, flowing, yet fleeting
The breeze dancing
 with the candle
 in Pigeon Park
The light flowing
The shadow playing
The breeze sighing through
The trees
Dancing with the candle
 in pigeon park
A candle burns in Pigeon Park
A small light in the darkness
Shadows dancing on the walls
Light flickering from face to face
Dancing with the candle
 in pigeon Park

Dreamweaver



CITIZEN'S GROUP PLAYS ROLE

Members of the Association for Vehicle Movement Safety are elated at their success in the defeat of so-called Solicitor General Ivan Messmer in the election.

While they admit that many forces likely contributed to his 3rd place finish (Jim Beatty (NDP) won) they stress that their efforts to educate voters about Messmer's failure to exercise public control & accountability of his Ministry were well received. There were demonstrations in Messmer's constituency & hundreds of handbills were posted around the riding, detailing problems with the new Private Vehicle Inspection Program and 'roadblocks'.

"This proves that people are not as powerless in the exercise of government as some choose to believe," said spokesman Stuart Meade. "For 22 months they stonewalled our attempts to obtain the data proving the need for this program. All we've asked for is their demonstration of the need to force automobile owners to make repairs to seat covers, weather stripping, rust & numerous other questionable items. It appeared lost on Messmer that, as our public rep, we are entitled to ask these questions of him. He just acted as an apologist for the bureaucracy," explained Meade.

The Association is calling for mandatory testing of vehicles for items that can be statistically justified & demonstrated to improve road safety. "Roadblocks have proven to be a very thorny issue. We see them both as a threat to our tradition of free movement & public support of safety measures. Mandatory testing in govt. testing stations will remove this aspect of enforcement," said Meade.

Goodbye User Fees & Zalmita

Ski slopes & golf courses are a good sign of where the Unsocial Credit loyalty laid. Ski slopes & golf courses are not for the unemployed & poor.

Well, there are only 7 noses left in the public trough. The big money boys now will have to put their hands in their own pockets.

The corporate pirates will form another coalition of political prostitutes, while the right-wing voters keep howling like wolves for free enterprise. They are for government grants for themselves but against assistance for the poor.

Right-wing free enterprisers usually pay the minimum wage or less. They have no social conscience. They will sell war weapons to poor countries where dictatorships exists. They like high unemployment for it helps them to eliminate union jobs; if they had their way everyone would be selling popcorn at English Bay..pay would be on a comlission basis.

The sale of the Expo lands was a good example of corporate piracy.

- By BRIAN WAGGET



YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND...

PUBLIC FORUM ON RACISM

This will be a 'no fixed theme' meeting. Discussion, questions, answers.. a five-person panel will address the topic of racism - its causes, effects, and what we can do to liberate ourselves & our society from it.

- Panel: HOWARD ADAMS - Metis, author of "Prison of Grass"; former prof at Davis, historian.
- AMALIA DORIGONI - Latin American Aids Awareness Worker, Central American civil rights activist.
- SADIE KUEHN - African Canadian, managing editor at Legal Services School Race Relations Committee.
- HAYNE WAI - Communications Officer at Canadian Human Rights Commission.
- BARBARA FINDLAY - Lawyer, Canadian 'wasp' background, founder of Alliance of Women Against Racism Etc. (AWARE)

It's on November 3rd in Carnegie's theatre from 7-10. Refreshments served

REFLECTIONS ON THE ELECTION.....

Well, I've been living here in Lotus Land, except for a self-imposed exile in 1990, for nigh on fifteen years.

And I'm almost ready to throw in the towel and concede that I'll never plumb the depths of the political spycche of the maverick that calls itself British Columbia.

What is with the inhabitants here? Do they not tolerate anything more primitive than a polarized two-party system? Or is the pageantry & hoopla circus so firmly entrenched in the social fabric that the white hat facing off with the black at high noon is the only game in town, here in the Wild West?

Well folks, I voted Liberal. I usually do vote Liberal here because I believe in a viable third party; one that will attract voters and generate ideas, while the other two parties fight over the bone of contention, stopping only long enough to steal any goods of the third party.

I voted Liberal and, for once, my horse at least placed. It's not news any more that they form the next official opposition to Moderate Mike and his gang of NDPers.

I was glad to see that happen though, and I hope Mr. Harcourt governs wisely, placates enough voters and prunes away the vines the socreds fell from. I hope he makes it mandatory for all political parties to disclose all sources of income at all times; I further hope no deals are forthcoming with trade unions. If Mr. Harcourt does these things, he will ensure credibility and Mikey will be liking it for a long, long time.

I was sorry to see the socreds self-destruct so badly. They probably ~~wpm't~~ be a viable third party, but perhaps they were political deadwood.

Let the games begin!

By JOANNE HAMEN



To the Editor:

In response to Keven's contribution to the last issue of the Newsletter entitled "Religious Truths"...

These so-called religious truths in the context of how I have interpreted the word "shit" can only lead me to conclude of the word "shit" as an event.

But let us now take the word "shit" in the literal sense and let me pose a question to you: Do you shit....? Of course! And then let me pose another question: What is the cause of you having a shit....? Obviously an event, correct? Therefore we create our own shit.

If you are intrigued by the concept of truth in the spiritual sense I would highly recommend that you read the writings of Spinoza.

There are other intimately connected philosophical/scientific premises that lead to a very convincing argument:

'When you see shit it is untrue; what is really happening is that the shit is seeing you.'

I would highly recommend that you read some of Bertrand Russell's philosophy, as it may shed some light. Look for the volume entitled "An Enquiry into Meaning and Truth", also "Bertrand Russell's Philosophy on the Theory of Knowledge".

Keven, I have had many enjoyable hours of/in thought as a result of past philosophers' contributions regarding these issues and hote that it may lead to further philosophical/theological correspondence in the future.

Thank you Kevin.

Mark/Us

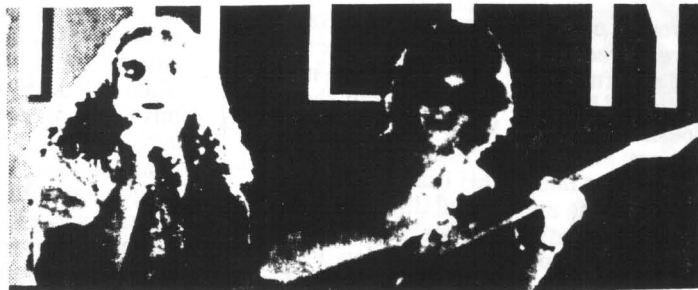
CARNEGIE'S FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Rockabilly
Country

ROCK

Western

and much much more



Friday, November 15th.

FREE

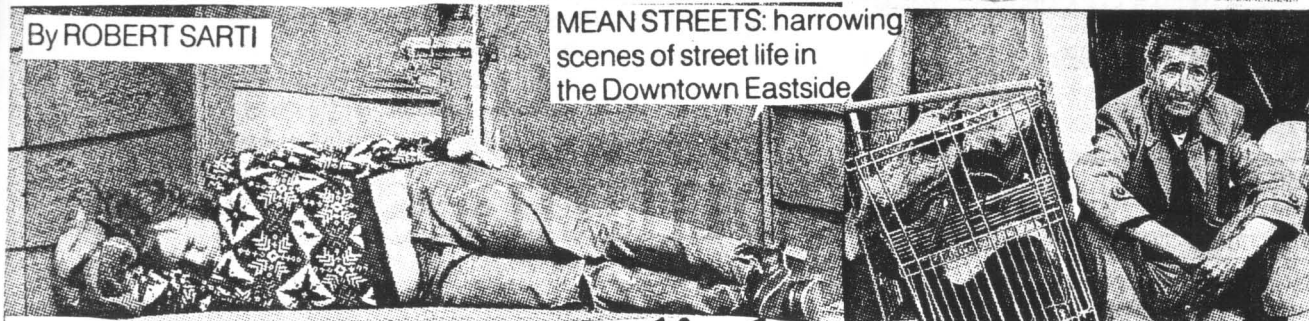
6:30 p.m.



**ONE
NIGHT
ONLY**

By ROBERT SARTI

MEAN STREETS: harrowing scenes of street life in the Downtown Eastside



Human touch lightens litany of local squalor

*I think about you in the morning
I see you with your cart
sheltering at the bus stop
Bag Lady... what's going to happen to you?*

You get two books for the price of one when you take a trip Under the Viaduct with Sheila Baxter.

You get a concise reference work for housing activists, crammed with statistics and documentation on the problem of homelessness in B.C. and beyond. It is

similar to Baxter's previous work on poverty among women, *No Way to Live*, which is now an assigned text in university courses across Canada.

The other half of *Under the Viaduct* is more for the uninitiated — a deeply personal quest by a woman (Baxter) who found herself homeless as a child and again as a single mother with two daughters, and is now trying to figure out why.

Baxter is a fixture in Vancouver's low-income Downtown Eastside as an unpaid

advocate of the poor and a battler of bureaucracies. She's on welfare herself, and she knows her way around the mean streets of Main and Hastings, but she doesn't pretend to know it all. In fact, it's her wry and self-deprecating sense of humor that makes this litany of poverty, sexual abuse and mental illness so accessible to the ordinary reader.

In one instance, Baxter tries to interview the street nurses about housing for AIDS sufferers, but the nurses are so busy treating patients, she is stuck in a corner of the clinic for hours under a safe sex sign. "I figure it must look like this grandmother uses a helluva lot of condoms," she comments.

Later, she meets a guy who sleeps in his car. "He scratched the whole time I was interviewing him, so I didn't get too close. Book or not, I do have my limit."

She passes a bag lady every day on Main Street, a woman who lives in doorways and keeps all her possessions in plastic bags in a supermarket cart. Baxter is too shy to approach the woman, so she pours out her feelings in a poem:

*They tell me you choose
this life
that you prefer your
aloneness.
When I'm home in bed, warm*

**UNDER THE VIADUCT:
Homeless in Beautiful B.C.**
By Sheila Baxter

New Star Books, \$12.95 paper, \$24.95 cloth

The United Nations defines homelessness as not having security of tenure. By that definition, there are 10,000 homeless people living in hotels in the Downtown Eastside alone, many of them children.

Baxter lets the experts give the solutions. They all cost money, — for social housing, for higher welfare rates and minimum wage, as well as for a radical change of attitude in society.

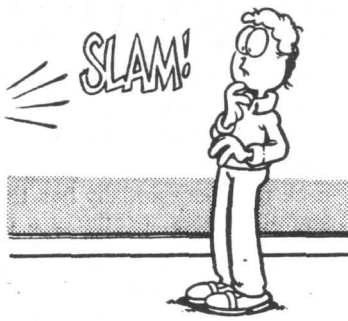
A good way to start would be to make sure this compassionate book finds its way into the hands of those with the power to make those changes. ♦

Robert Sarti is a Vancouver Sun reporter.

Now You Are Telling Me

Now you are telling me
you are discontinuing your correspondence
with me. And I,
like the inmate in the penitentiary
or the old man in the infirmary
or the soldier in the field
who waits,
heart-expectant,
for the daily post -
for the word of the one heart
he loves - left to wonder
what will I use now as a lifeline,
that you are patiently explaining to me:
"Postage has gone so expensive."

ABirthistle



Greetings Carnegie

UJUYA KENYA
BANK OF KENYA

053380450

053380450

Thought I'd send a donation while I still have my big \$400 plus freelance cheque to pass around. Who knows, it might all get wasted on a political donation or something.

But that's what I want to talk about. A couple of years ago we had a by-election up here in the Cariboo. I really liked the NDP candidate who was running, so I joined the party & made a couple of political donations to help him out.

One of the reasons I became so generous financially was the promise that you get 3/4 of the donation back in the form of a provincial tax credit. That meant my \$50 contribution would only cost me \$12.50. Well surely I could afford that I thought.

So I helped out and so did lots of other people and, lo & behold, David Zirnelt won by a large majority.

I was glad about that and then went about filling out my tax forms to collect on my political donation. In April, however, when I got my tax refund, my political donation was omitted. My \$37.50 or whatever it was that I was expecting back had vanished into thin air. Three digit zero was all I got.

Eventually I got around to tracking down the tax people for an explanation. I thought maybe they made a mistake or I gave them the wrong receipt or... Finally they got back to me: No, there

was no mistake. The reason I didn't get a refund is that I didn't pay any provincial tax so they had nothing to deduct my contribution from.

Oh, I said, that's interesting.

So now election time has come again (maybe gone by the time you get this). Once again political parties are soliciting me for cash & yes, their sales pitch is of course that 75% tax rebate you get.

I haven't coughed up any political contributions yet, but I may break down and do so. But first I thought you guys should get a cut. After all I'm sure you understand what it's like to count your pennies and be a bit thrifty.

I don't think the political parties - even the NDP or the Green - are half clued in. They'll hound their friends and supporters for financial support because that's what it takes to beat out mega-bucks' socreds who seem to have a bottomless pit of funds, but I wonder if they realise that the people who can least afford to part with 50 or 100 bucks end up paying the whole shot.

There's no tax refund for a person who doesn't make enough income to pay provincial income tax.

Sage Birchwater
Box 55
Tatla Lake, BC VOL 1V0

What Next?

Socialist hordes invade Victoria!?.not really. The headline says: "NDP Storms In" but they won't sit in the legislature until spring, so it'll be a long cold winter of speculation. How many promises will they try to fulfill? Legislative debate is televised live now...we'll see it all, or at

Definition - Concise Oxford Dictionary.
SOCIALISM

- Political & economic theory of social organisation which advocates that community as a whole should own & control means of production, distribution & exchange; policy or practice based on this theory.

least we'll see how they play it when they know we're watching.

The official dictionary definition of the word socialism is easy to find, but the N.D.P. has been labelled socialist by their enemies, who used the word to frighten businessmen. Apparently that doesn't work as well as it used to.

Does Mike Harcourt consider himself a "socialist" as the Oxford Dictionary defines it? I don't see how he could since non community ownership & control seems to be 90% of the game. Things like real estate are beyond government or community control. So-called community pressure groups can register approval or disapproval through the media, but this has very little effect in the long run. Still, there are the long term problems, issues, that just won't go away, & get more serious day by day. Aboriginal claims, the environment, international investment vs. self-sufficiency. How will a New Democrat (socialist) govt. deal with it?

Meanwhile back in our own wild & woolly Downtown Eastside glorified drop-in centre (a.k.a. community centre), we sit wondering if they will raise welfare..for who & by how much? Well, the publicly recorded promise is to raise the "GAIN" rate with a view to eventually lifting it to the "Poverty Level"...when & how this will be done is off the record at this point. A long speculative winter indeed, but with a majority it should be NDP Agenda all the way. Will they favour families, single moms & landlords & leave the single employable welfare recipient out in the cold again? Where will the line be drawn between acceptable & unacceptable behaviour?

The NDP has often identified itself as the party of the "working people"..by working they don't mean unpaid voluntary work or spontaneous lifestyle integration with the surrounding community.

The "working man's party" means job holding, career-oriented union members mainly, but will they stretch their definition to include other ways of being, or will those who don't want jobs be cut out & crucified economically? A long cold winter of speculation - & then what?

Beyond our own selfish concerns for a little more cash, most of us would also enjoy the idea of turning around the industrialised trend to a used-up toxic environment. Can anybody do it, given the weight & momentum of profit motivation? In their first term, some say the NDP won't take any chances since the media is poised to ambush the slightest radical move. Play it safe..or play it straight??What will it be?

Will the Newsletter & other leftish publications become unquestioning comfortable supporters of a majority government? Who will continue to demand honest benevolent government from elected representatives? Will any criticism of the NDP in power be seen as betrayal by the already established community groups who are hoping to be well-funded in the near future?

Will individuals follow their own hearts & minds rather than worship the sacred political cow?Will demands for honest direct action to solve social problems be responded to? Will there continue to be prejudice for perceived friends & against perceived enemies?

What about the far left - squatters, blockaders, protestors, anarchists & radical thinkers...will they be cut out of this leftwing power sweep - or will they gain power from it?

So many questions & such a long winter before any of them begin to be answered.

TORA

I must tell you, expose my vanity, let the ego walk so to speak.

I've earned my first hard cash money from writing, thanks to DERA-SHIPSHAPE AIDS essay. I was awarded \$100, as were 4 other Downtown Eastside writers.

I must also confess spending \$220 celebrating these winnings; well a fool and his money

Thanks DERA-SHIPSHAPE; thanks waiters & bartenders & dancing girls & the excellent Haida fishermen I partied with. But thanks mostly to the Carnegie Newsletter & the Downtown Poets, where I learned whatever small craft I might have.

Tom Lewis

It's Halloween of 58. I'm still tottling
as images didn't quiet function guidelines.

Trick or Treat kiss my feet halloween ad-
ventures of ghosts & goblins I didn't meet!
Never even realised that candy's fate was
to celebrate a fantasy of youth that will
come & go forever in my soul.

"Seasons fall"; time counts as a recall..
The best time of year to see things through
Inspiring & heart warmingly true.

Halloween night & all the little kiddies..

I was so uptight I couldn't hardly wait!

Tickling is naughty & nice..aging cannot
be a right function,

I soar through adult times in certain
nights of flights full moon shadows with a
drifting cloud making hauntingly just right.

Minds send cold shivers down the spine.

Shovelling gold crackling leaves, sudden
breezes are followed immediately by images
of witches plaguing my mind.

Laughing at me as fearfulness sinks down
deeper to a shimmering knot.

Buddy Lee



I recall, my good morning.
Albert John, a Sioux
would say

"It's a good day to die."
Examining the rejoinder
one finds

"..a good day to live..
In the essence, communication
disguises

thought patterns,
Does one ever comprehend?

Life is good,

So is Death.

Cast your vote,

There may be no
more greetings

Daniel Feeney

Tom Lewis

THE BLACK ORPHANS

there is no orphanage for any of us
each of our possible ends
curl like arthritic fingers
hung tongues dry
in the desolate insomnia of constraint
like straw bedding

probing cloud shy skies
promiscuously
a hunkered grey scrapes
against the chimneys
of your unmoving pain
like a disembowelled harvest

born into a dead continuity
a fist crotch in the hunched heart
of an assassinated widow
the stars had hands
to wring the black phlegm of impatience
into an uncompromisingly frozen suicide
of motherless facts

the depopulated self is ubiquitous
as the lost gods of consciousness now
unable to number
the dead by which we know ourselves a living
sore spot
in the shuffling progression
of passionate culture into dispassionate memory

like wilted grain
uprooted orphanages collapse
in their wilderness of arms and legs
where a stone wept
among the stone fields
moon-made, silver with carnage

Reliable fossil evidence imprinted in the rock beds of this world tells us that cockroaches have been around for at least 350 million years. At that long-ago time, cockroaches were eight-inch long flying insects which lived outdoors in warm climates.

Evolution caused them to adjust to a smaller size in order to survive and it robbed them of most of their powers of flight. However, if you catch an adult cockroach in your hand and then open your hand, you are likely to see that its kind still retain vestiges of the power of flight because that one in your hand is likely to spread its wings and whiz down to the floor like a landing helicopter.

We think of dinosaurs as creatures of antiquity, of ancient prehistoric time. But the cockroach saw the dinosaurs come, saw the dinosaur go, and was an ancient species when the human race came on the scene.

Cockroaches, in their enormously long history, have learned many tricks of survival.

Female cockroaches do not deposit a bunch of eggs and leave those eggs to chance. They lay their eggs in a sac which remains attached to their rear ends where the eggs hatch. At about the time of hatching, the female cockroach places this sac in some hidden spot and very soon perhaps 100 tiny white cockroaches emerge, every one of them ready for the task of foraging for food.

If you kill all the male cockroaches in a given location, the remaining females will continue to produce young in that way..but the young so produced will all be females, all genetically identical to the mother from which they came; clones, so to speak. When a male does come along, we may imagine, he will find a multitude of females available for breeding and the subsequent mixing of genes. Therefore we see that to kill off the male cockroaches only slows down the evolution of their race. It doesn't slow down their multiplication

Denied any other food, cockroaches will eat paint or rubber or soap or shit to stay alive. They will even eat each other quite as happily.

Surely most readers have observed that even in the most cockroach-infested living quarters, the insects are rarely if ever seen on, in or near the bed where the human sleeps. Persons who have observed this but who lack insight into the ways of cockroaches declare that this is because cockroaches do not like the smell of human beings. That is not true. Cockroaches stay away from human beds because they have learned through the ages that to trespass there drives human beings into a fury against them and many cockroach deaths result from such incidents. Therefore, in a prudent spirit of self-preservation, they stay away from human beds.

An entomologist is an expert on insects. In the above article, I have offered Newsletter readers information that is well known to those entomologists. In the next issue, if the editor permits, I will offer information about cockroaches that the entomologists do not yet know. I think it is likely to be interesting to all.

By the way, I'm still messing about with TV's, often getting them to work properly. If you are having trouble with yours, leave a message for me at the information desk downstairs at Carnegie.

By ERIC ERICKSON



Tory Constitution will increase poverty

- When you see the word "constitution", do you: a) Blur out;
 b) Think "that doesn't apply to me";
 c) Groan;
 d) Ask yourself, "what are they up to now?"

I find that constitutional issues are the most complex I've ever tried to understand. Many people think that the constitution is about Quebec & Aboriginal people & their rights within Canada. It is. But, as usual with the Tory gov't., it's also about trying to change rules of our country to help rich people & corporations.

After studying the proposals & reading the analysis distributed by the Action Canada Network & by Claude Giraud of the National Anti-Poverty Organisation, I'd agree with Claude that the Tory constitutional proposals will "constitutionalise" poverty & unemployment.

The gov't's proposals are in 2 glossy documents: Shaping Canada's Future Together, & Canadian Federalism & Economic Union, Partnership for Prosperity.

Here are some ways that the gov't's proposals will increase poverty:

Property Rights:

The gov't wants property rights in the Charter of Rights & Freedoms. According to an analysis of the Policy Alternatives "constitutional property rights would serve the interests of property owners, & benefit mainly the minority of Canadians who own large amounts of property." Property rights can be used in ways that "exploit people, discriminate against them & harm the environment."

"Many laws have been created to protect people from the exercise of property rights. These include laws related to collective bargaining, workers health & safety, pay equity, employment standards (like minimum wages), division of marital property, landlord & tenant relations, & consumer protection."

If property rights are put in the constitution, property owners will be able to challenge many laws that help poor people



© 1991 Jim Unger/Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

"The doctor said sleep on your stomach tonight and he'll see you first thing tomorrow."

- laws like rent control, minimum wage, pay equity. People who already have a lot of rights will have even more. Poor people will have less. It could also make it harder for Native People to claim their land, & for gov't. to regulate polluters. Changes to the Bank of Canada Act: Right now the Bank of Canada is supposed to regulate money & credit in the "best interest of the economic life of the nation." This means that the Bank is supposed to use its power over money to keep unemployment low.

The Tories want to change the purpose of the Bank of Canada. They don't want it to have any responsibility for employment, only for controlling inflation (the cost of living). This is very interesting because one of the main ways to keep inflation low is to keep unemployment high. The Bank can (& does) keep inflation low by keeping interest rates high, meaning that working people can't borrow money to buy things like washers & dryers, houses & cars. It means that the people building these things get laid off because fewer are buying. That's how high interest rates create unemployment & poverty.

Some economists say that the only way to keep inflation at zero would be to have a continually rising unemployment rate. The rate is already a phenomenal 10%.

The Tory changes to the Bank of Canada would ensure more poverty by telling it to keep inflation down (period). Since the main way of doing this is by keeping interest rates & unemployment up, more people would be unemployed & poor.

The economic union:

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives calls this section 'charter of rights' for big business. The Tories want the Constitution to forbid any "laws, programs or practices of the federal or provincial government that constitute barriers or restrictions...to the mobility of persons, capital, services & goods."

In a sense, this clause would make it unconstitutional for elected gov'ts to do even little things that help manage the economy in the interests of residents. It would make it harder for provincial gov'ts to create jobs, to promote small business, to properly create the kind of development that communities need.

Here are some examples: Quebec has a "Caisse de depot" that uses gov't pension money to help people who invest, create jobs & protect communities in Quebec. This is exactly the kind of institution provinces need to protect their residents from transnational corporations that have no loyalty to any country or region. But the "Caisse de depot" could be a barrier to trade under new constitutional proposals.

BC has public auto insurance which keeps jobs & investment in BC. This could be a barrier to the free flow of private auto insurance companies to BC. The socreds recently decided to build a new ferry in BC. If these new constitutional proposals went through, the gov't would not be able to demand that the ferry be built in BC. They'd have to accept the lowest bidder, regardless of how many BC residents would have to go on UI or welfare.

Hundreds of union jobs in the beer industry would be lost if this constitutional proposal goes through, because provinces

would not have the right to demand that beer companies produce in that province if they want to sell in that province. Could a good provincial health care program be considered a restriction to the flow of capital from profitmaking health care corporations from other provinces or the US?

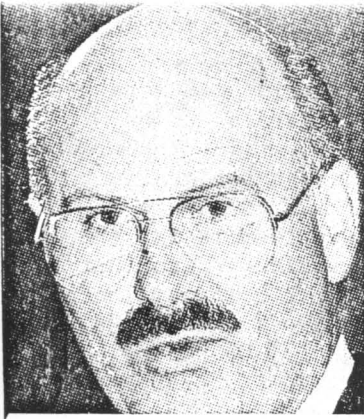
The clause on the free flow of capital will make it illegal for elected gov'ts to use many powers they now have to create jobs & reduce poverty.

Federal power:

The Tories want to give the federal gov't a new power to pass laws to provide for the "more efficient functioning of the economic union." These laws will have to have the support of 7 provinces with 50% of the population.

What would the purpose of this law be? It could be used against gov'ts like Ontario (NDP) which decided to have a deficit rather than slash people's programs during a recession. It could be used to force Ontario to reduce its deficit no matter how many people ended up on the street. It could be used to impose wage controls on workers, or to stop a provincial gov't wanting to tax the rich & take taxes off the poor.





If we ever elected an NDP or other federal gov't that wished to manage the economy to help people get decent jobs, this federal power would, again, make it hard for the gov't to act because it would need the consent of 7 provinces with 50% of the pop.

In short, the proposals would make it virtually unconstitutional for federal or provincial gov'ts to promote employment & development, while making it easier for federal gov'ts to require policies that take from the poor & middle & give to the rich.

Housing, culture, labour market training, childcare:

The proposals would give provinces more power in these areas of providing needed services to their own residents. And the federal gov't could abandon these areas. But all of these services cost a lot of money. The proposals would give provinces responsibility for programs that people think are important, but take away the provinces' rights to manage the economy to create the full employment & taxes that pay for these services.

There is a lot more to understand in these Constitutional Proposals. The 28-page CCPA analysis goes into the Distinct Society clause, the Notwithstanding Clause & the impact of the proposals on Aboriginal Peoples..& other issues. If you would like a copy, call ELP at 879-1209.

By JEAN SWANSON

(End Legislated Poverty is a coalition of 26 BC groups that want gov'ts to reduce and end poverty.)

One interesting aspect of these constitutional things is they are being used partly to entrench the corporate agenda; the other part is to divert public attention away from the destruction of the Canadian economy & the existence of Canada as a nation.

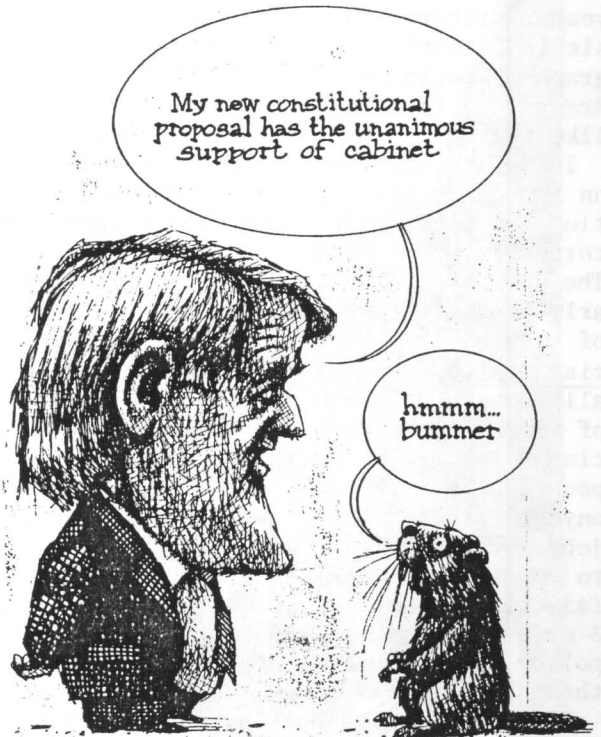
The Canada-U.S.-Mexico "free" trade talks are proceeding but corporate-owned media downplays objections & alternatives. The nation-wide day of action on October 26th saw a few thousand people turn out at events & demos in every province & every major city.

On the news, it was "a few hundred here & there..."

The message is clear:

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. Get informed by calling Action Canada BC at 879-1209.

Citizens Concerned About Free Trade has a Vancouver office at 207 W.Hastings in the Dominion Building. (683-3733).



the system is:

The president or chairman or chief leech or whatever he's called of the Fraser Institute appeared with two other people on some TV program & gave a classic example of how someone, if they say something over & over & over again, convince themselves it's true. This was the Monday after the election, the socreds got blown out of the water, and this guy, who's so right-wing he makes Ghengis Khan look like a liberal, kept babbling that people didn't vote for the NDP, they voted against the socreds!

"It's not a change in political will," he said. "It's not a trend," he said again. "It's not a rejection of the corporate ethic! (ethic!??).!! The Corporate idea is sound." (again)((again))(((again)))))) He was freaked right out of his tree.

But he probably wiped a gallon or two of sweat off & wrote a MEMO to everybody & their dog: "If Harcourt blows his nose I want every paper in the country to make it sound like a signal to the commies to kill anyone who makes more than \$25,000 a year...pictures showing him with hammer & sickle tatoed on his forehead...charts & graphs & polls up the ass that Universal Armageddon is at hand!!!"...or something like that.

I can see now the reason for not calling an immediate legislative assembly; every time the fledging government hiccupped the corporate media would scream conspiracy. The NDP gov't. in Ontario has been regularly crucified in the right-wing rabidity of excuses like Conrad Black in the Financial Post & Diane Francis somewhere else all foaming at the mouth over the audacity of the NDP to even think that the "lower class" (everybody except themselves?) & people of wealth, position & power have anything in common - like wanting a decent job, good education for their kids, access to good health care, self-esteem, dignity, fair taxes, justice...well, when the last 3 or 4 were used in conjunction with NDP policy (or any policy anywhere anytime) these blanks were totally lost!

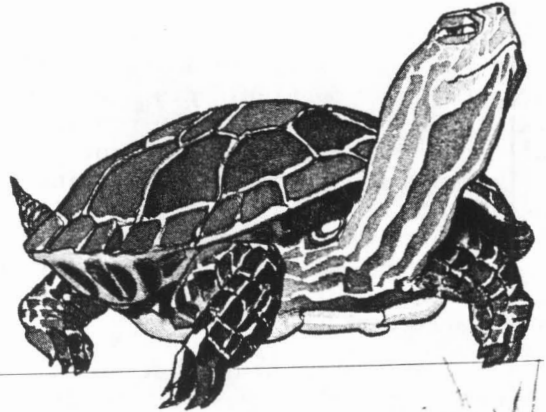
They keep coming back again & again to the first year's record deficit of \$9.5

billion, never considering one iota of complicity for the Liberals (or before for the Conservatives) in getting the economy and work so polarised that bleeding the people was almost a law of nature for them.

The NDP aren't miracle-workers; they don't have a giant magic wand to just waive over all the shit & corruption of liberals or conservatives or socreds. They shouldn't (& won't herè) be apologised for ad nauseum by community groups & activists. Raising welfare rates to the poverty line, raising the minimum wage to the poverty line, stopping the forced employment of single mothers on welfare.. the basics..aren't plums ripe for picking.

As John Clarke, of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty, says: "Electing an NDP Government doesn't mean that the struggle is over, but only that it has taken a new turn. Don't sit back & leave things to those you've just elected. Get out on the streets &, accepting no excuses or half-measures, demand an end to poverty now!"

By PAULR TAYLOR





LA PRISONNIERE DE L'AMOUR

Kazutoshi Wakatsuki

De lui,
est-ce que vous vous souvenez comme toujours?

Bien sûr,
je m'en souviens très bien

Il y a bien longtemps qu'il m'a dit:
"Je me souviendrai de toi pour toujours!"

Pour lui,
j'ai été tellement jolie;
j'ai été tellement attrayante

Pour lui,
j'ai été son espoir;
j'ai été toute sa vie

Il y a bien longtemps qu'il m'a dit:
"Ne m'oubliez pas comme toujours!"

Pour moi,
il a été tellement amical;
il a été tellement gentil

Pour moi,
il a été pourtant inhabituel;
mais il a été pourtant le séducteur

Il y a bien longtemps qu'il m'a dit:
"Je me rappellerai de toi pour toujours!"

Pour lui,
j'ai été la femme fatale;
j'ai été la séductrice

Pour lui,
j'ai été pourtant l'espoir;
j'ai été pourtant toute la vie

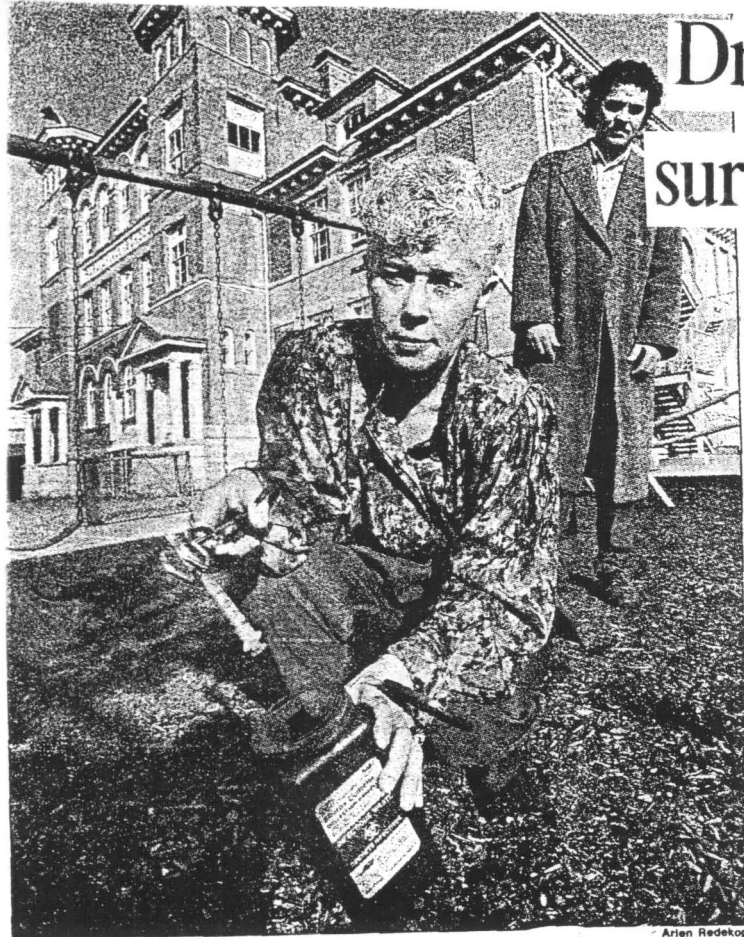
Est-ce mal
d'avoir été faite prisonnière de son amour?

De lui,
vous êtes la prisonnière volontaire comme toujours

You are invited to attend 2 free readings by authors in November. Each will happen in Room #2 on Carnegie's 3rd floor. Both authors will discuss how they write.

* Poet J.E. Sorrell
Wed. Nov. 13 at 8 p.m.

* Author Sheila Baxter
Wed. Nov. 27 at 8 p.m.



Drugs, prostitution surround Strathcona elementary

safety and security committee this week for increased security.

Strathcona elementary is on East Pender and Seymour elementary is on Keefer, both east of the downtown core.

They want additional policing, more vice-principals and an updated phone system with emergency phones for staff and students. They've also requested increased fencing, afternoon needle and condom pickups, photo identification for all staff and volunteers, and training on how to handle intruders.

Sunrise area superintendent Alastair Fraser said the Vancouver school district's senior management team will look at the issue over the next two weeks and report back to the trustees.

"This is the reality of the inner-city school area," Strathcona vice-principal Kari Arnott said. "We need help."

Herron, who is in his fifth year at Strathcona elementary, said students have found condoms and needles on the school grounds for several years. But last year a child found drugs in a small piece of plastic on the school grounds and took them home.

"That was the first indication we had (of drug dealing on school grounds)," Herron said.

Dealers go into the Strathcona school grounds, wrap a chunk of cocaine or other drug in plastic, bury it beside a fence post and go elsewhere to make the deal. The buyer is given directions to the drugs.

Strathcona staff find people "shooting up" drugs at all times of day on the school grounds. Two

JENNIFER GRAY-GRANT
Sun Education Reporter

September 18 was a record day at Strathcona elementary school: The custodian found seven discarded needles, up from the usual two or three, on the grounds that morning.

The event is carefully recorded in the school's daily record book, which lists the numbers of condoms, needles, knives and bagged drugs found on the property each morning. The blue ledger also lists intruders, strangers, drug dealers and prostitutes hanging around the school.

"We're into crisis management," principal Noel Herron said.

Representatives of Strathcona and Seymour elementary schools asked the Vancouver school board's

weeks ago, a teacher discovered a prostitute and her customer having sex under an outside staircase at 4:30 p.m.

Staff call a special code over the public address system if an intruder enters. One elderly woman regularly wanders into the school and wishes anyone she meets "Happy New Year."

From her office window, Arnott looks out to the corner of Princess and East Pender, usually worked by a transvestite prostitute. "He must be in jail," she guessed from his absence Tuesday.

The administrators are dealing with unusual circumstances, but they're reluctant to discuss them.

"It could reflect on the school program," Arnott said. "People will say: 'Oh, I'm not going to send my child there.'"

As she and Herron walked through the school they proudly point out student art work and murals on every wall, a brightly colored dragon costume hanging in one hallway, the two computer labs, and the family room for parent discussion and craft groups.

In the cafeteria, hundreds of chil-

dren laughed and chatted as they lined up. A Terry Fox Run banner attests to the school raising more than \$4,000 in pledges.

But there are also photos of a car that was blown up and burned in the school parking lot last year. Arnott and Herron tell stories of two rapes — not involving anyone from Strathcona — that took place on school property last year.

Besides academic, art and sports programs, the students are taught what needles and condoms look like, and what to do if they find one.

An Invitation to **THE 1991 LEFT GREEN CONFERENCE**

Where can the power be applied to offset the power of transnational corporations?
What forms of political/social organisation would be most effective?

Participatory Democracy - Bioregionalism - Radical Municipalism

**Saturday, November 16th, Sunday, November 17th,
1991**

**at RUSSIAN HALLS
600 Campbell Avenue,
Strathcona, Vancouver**

Registration 9:00 a.m. (Child Care provided with advance notification by November 4th. Please call 253-7628 or 253-0304)

Cost for the weekend: \$6 - \$15 sliding scale. Bring your own cup for coffee.

New Day

This is the first real day
of "acceptance".
The day of the abandonment
of any prolonged hope.
This is the day of
the beginning
of a rectification, when
there are vacuum stripes mown
over wake crumbs, or like
a first day
of old age.

ABirthistle



BEWILDERED LOVE

Two lovers together,
But worlds apart;
Vowing not to sever,
Their new start.
But with confusion
However;
In their hearts
They wonder if
It's forever or
Are they soon
To part?

Tracey S.

AIDS: What It Is & What It Isn't

What it is is deadly. If you are "HIV positive", you are a carrier & can infect someone else. It isn't like a cold that can be passed on with a sneeze; it's not picked up from a toilet seat. The AIDS virus has to enter your body by way of a mixture of bodily fluids - through sexual contact with a carrier or using an unsterilised needle after an infected person has used it.

What it also is is terrifying. Health care professionals now take extreme precautions to ensure that blood or bodily discharges from patients do not come in direct contact with them. Paramedics, even police & security people, wear gloves when doing examinations or skin searches.

It can stop you cold.

Anyone knowing someone who has died from AIDS can describe the results of having all of a body's defenses rendered ineffective..to the point where you aren't able to fight off anything. The 'cure' for the common cold is to drink plenty of liquids, get a lot of rest, slow down, & in a week or so you're okay. AIDS completely strips you of your capacity to fight back: a cold becomes the flu becomes pneumonia becomes heart dysfunction becomes infection in the lungs/blood/brain & you die. AIDS allows any breach of bodily integrity to run wild and, at the present time, once full-blown AIDS has developed out of being HIV positive it is invariably fatal.

It's pointless to go on about all the gory details. What needs to be examined are the reactions of governments & people of wealth, position & power. The painstaking research to find a cure for cancer has been going on for decades. Many observers wonder why, if so much time & energy & money has gone into curing cancer, no cure has been found. The cynicism is palpable in articles written on interviews with research scientists who state that various areas or avenues of research are actively discouraged, even closed, due to their not involving the product or field of the funding source. i.e. If a multinational oil

corporation wants The Cure to be derived from petrochemicals & the scientists feel it's a dead-end to pursue such research, the funding can & has been stopped. An article in the most recent Mother Jones dealt with exactly this point in an interview with a disaffected researcher in England. Another little tidbit: Directors of the Ford Motor Corporation, having before them statistical evidence that not installing an \$11 piece of equipment in a line of cars would result in over 200 traffic fatalities, chose to save the money.

AIDS has met with ingrained prejudice at senior levels of government (Vanderzalm while playing premier) & warped special interest groups (REAL Women) because it has its largest dominance in socially unacceptable groups - homosexuals & intravenous drug users. Note the media attention given to 'innocent' victims who, through no fault of their own (sic) died or are dying because of a tainted blood transfusion..born to an infected parent.. a visit to the dentist. Behind the obstacles to acquiring adequate funding & research facilities is this 'blame the victim' thing - IF you were pure in thought, word & deed you wouldn't have AIDS - except for these 'innocent' victims.

It's highly that AIDS is a technological-sourced scourge. Increases in all major diseases like cancer, diabetes, heart disorders, respiratory ailments & so on are directly attributable to our ever more distressed, processed & chaotic society.

What we as individuals can do is follow basic precautions to ensure that AIDS does not become our personal executioner. Collectively, we can apply constant pressure on governments to tax fairly & acquire sufficient funds. The most pressing thing is for all of us to increase our awareness, to make sure AIDS isn't just the first of technologically-spawned killers.

By PAULR TAYLOR

(Editor's note: Congratulations to the winners in SHIPSHAPE's contest for writing on AIDS. Of the 18 of us who entered, five were awarded \$100 prizes.)

DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY

STD CLINIC - Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm.

FREE MEDICAL CLINIC - Mon, Wed, Friday, 5:30-7:30

NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; every day 9am - 5pm.

Needle exchange van - on the street mon-Sat evenings.

N.A. meets every Monday night at 223 Main Street.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets at Dugout, 59 Powell, 7:30 Fri.

1991 DONATIONS: Charley B. -\$30

Oly(Sven) -\$20

Mendel R. -\$15

Heather M. -\$15

Herman L. -\$10

Keith C. -\$30

Sandy C. -\$35

Terry T. -\$200

Brenda -\$15

Janet B. -\$20

Lillian H. -\$20

Colleen E. -\$25

Dave -\$10

Nancy J. -\$10

William B. -\$20

Laughing Bear -\$200 Art VL -\$5

Salvation Army Chilliwack -\$30

Legal Services Society -\$500

First United Church -\$500

Yanum Spath -\$200

Anonymous -\$38

Cement Masons-\$175

Marilyn S. -\$36

Darren L. -\$50

Forest Lawn -\$20

Etienne S. -\$20

Nancy W. -\$75

Albert H. -\$10

Vishva A. -\$15

Ellen -\$5

Sue H. -\$50

Donald M. -\$10

Bill T. -\$20

Annette R. -\$30

Rhinos -\$3.03

Hazel M. -\$25

Wendy -\$20

Sage -\$25

Mary Ann -\$50

ABEd -\$15

Bruce D. -\$5

CEEDS -\$50

Neil M. -\$3

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

THE 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

Submission
DEADLINE
next issue

12 November
Tuesday

NEED HELP ?

The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association
can help you with:

- * any welfare problems
- * information on legal rights
- * disputes with landlords
- * unsafe living conditions
- * income tax
- * UIC problems
- * finding housing
- * opening a bank account

DERA

Come into the DERA Office at 9 East Hastings or
1067 Granville, or phone us at 682-0931.

DERA HAS BEEN SERVING THE
DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE FOR 18 YEARS

At the Town Hall Forum on Oct. 20, a need for straight answers seemed to be shared by all. The subject of the meeting - housing for people with mental illnesses - is the tip of broader &, to some, deeper issues of safety, lack of support services, concentration leading to "ghettoisation", treatment at local hospitals or lack thereof, the mentally ill as victims, and so on. It's not my intent to dismiss other concerns with a casual 'and so on'; one of the main difficulties identified right at the beginning of the meeting was too many studies & reports. No one had a clear picture of what's here, only the knowledge that existing services are inadequate to meet the demand.

Marilyn Sarti is a courtworker for the Mental Patients Association. She sees people with mental illnesses daily & her efforts to just refer them - for shelter, welfare, support & counselling - has increased to 3 times what was required a few years ago.

The problems have increased with the closure of Riverview Hospital & the proposals for mental patient housing in the Downtown Eastside/Strathcona.

What is distressing to residents is the number of projects all coming here & the intentional concentration in an area already bursting.

Marilyn was asked what are the basic needs that need to be met. She replied:

1. Acute care hospital beds - patients are often refused admittance to hospital, mostly due to the chronic shortage of short-term beds.

2. Group homes - many more of these to provide the kind of support needed but cutbacks in gov't funding have caused existing ones to close. Guidelines on operations (care component, rent..) are available but the same gov't that would fund staff also issues licenses.

3. Decentralise - stop the concentration & improve community integration of people with mental illnesses.

4. One-to-one support - rather than "warehouse" people, decrease the ratio of staff to patients & treat mentally ill as human beings.

5. Loosen up care restrictions - more drop-ins, more out-of-the-home community interaction with & by patients.

6. Community input - ignorance & stereotyping maintain fear; self-esteem for mental patients is often low, leading to victimisation & acting out.



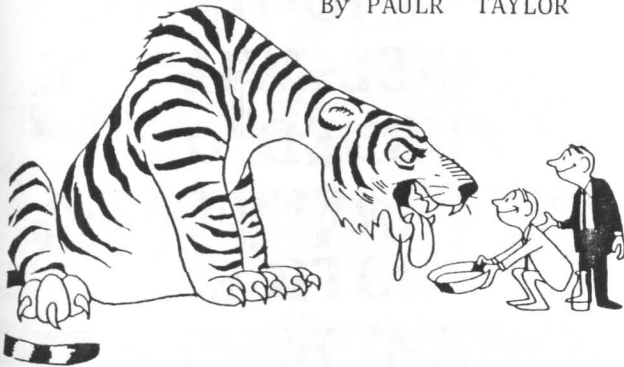
Muggs Sigurgeirson, president of the Carnegie Association & on the Strathcona Area Planning Council, said that basic info on numbers of people with mental illnesses, services available, mental health workers, even sources from which to get this stuff are just as confused now as 2 years ago.

All agreed that launching another study will only delay any progress in meeting immediate needs. What is scary is to provide mini-Riverviews in a tiny area & have vague assurances from government departments that everything is going to be okay.

It's not possible to do effective planning without adequate information; seeing mental patient housing increase in the face of this fact alarms many. The sacred-inspired bureaucracy operates on the premise "What you don't know won't hurt you until it's too late for you to do anything about it."

What's necessary right now is contact with the fledging provincial NDP gov't & requests for specific information on numbers & services...a start.

By PAULR TAYLOR



FEDERATED ANTI-POVERTY GROUPS

A while back there was a rally in Seattle when the reps from Canada & the U.S. got together on the 72nd or 73rd floor of some highrise to deal in secret with the lives & jobs of hundreds of thousands of people. It's called North American Free Trade Agreements (NAFTA).

At the rally were reps from labour & community groups from a few states & BC & everything was planned for weeks & what happens - there's a coup in the Soviet Union! There goes the front page.

Federated Anti-Poverty Groups (fapg) set a date for the Annual General Meeting and Conference last year and what happens - a provincial election!

Anyway, it was held in Naramata, about 20 minutes outside Princeton in the Interior, starting on October 16 & going until the 20th. About 40 people were there, representing over 25 groups & communities in BC, all there to learn & share & extend the network of advocacy. Almost any advocate worth her or his salt has more than a

few horror stories about the stupidity & crude mindsets of bureaucrats - at almost every level of gov't. (Remember, this was at the end of 16 years of socreds..)

Tearing your hair or banging your head against a wall doesn't accomplish much of anything. The executive of fapg know this as well as anyone, & had very informative speakers/workshops on the agenda.

The first was with Landlord/Tenant Law; updates on GAIN regs & advocacy training filled the afternoon. The evening workshop with David Mossop of Community Legal Assistance Society was kept strictly within a time limit - the election returns started at 8p.m. I was relieved not to see people just lose it with ecstasy when Harcourt & the NDP swamped the socreds. People had learned in the hardest school that hard work brings change, not theatre.

The next day Stephen Owen, BC's Ombudsman, talked about his work & took detailed notes on problems raised by people. The afternoon was taken partly by the head of Legal Aid for BC talking about the legal area of advocacy; next was an extensive workshop on an issue specifically asked about at the previous year's AGM - child apprehension. Two Native women led this with numbers that made your skin crawl - something like over 15,000 Native children taken away from their families in the last 10 years alone. They had a video about one case in particular where a kid of 16 had been in 17 foster homes and 15 trips to a number of institutions - he ended up killing himself. The suicide rate among apprehended kids is sickening.

The advocates & reps took it in stride, channeling feelings into positive work to stop the excesses, then changing the system altogether. Much informal talk among reps happened all day long on what to do now that the NDP 0 the 'good' guys - were in government.

It was a good time, but on the Saturday night people went to the local pub to relax, one of the reps on her way home was in Merritt at the bus station, came across a young mother whose kids had just been apprehended, called back to this pub at midnight on a Saturday, got two Legal Aid lawyers & the Head of Legal Aid for BC on

the phone, they gave her numbers of lawyers in Merritt & Prince George, advised the woman of her rights & next steps right there, told her what she had to do next to get her kids back as soon as possible then ordered another beer. From what I heard, that was one of the highs of the whole conference, when that kind of networking can be available at any time, any where.

The fagg & End Legislated Poverty are coalitions whose work is now more focused with a gov't. that is accessible, & can press on with raising the awareness of the public. Oh yeah, I almost forgot: one report established the recent recognition given to low income people as a distinct segment of society under the Charter of Rights & Freedoms. Yes Virginia! We are now officially visible. As the judge in the FAPG Family Maintenance Enforcement case stated in his ruling, "(we) generally lack substantial political influence & consequently comprise those groups in society to whose needs & wishes elected officials have no interest in attending."

No one wants a society that only works for the good of an elite few except those who count themselves as part of that elite. Ordinary people want life to be good for everyone - simply put, for fairness & justice to be the order of the day.

By PAUL TAYLOR



"Three-piece set in elephant."

**DUE TO THE
CURRENT
FINANCIAL
RESTRAINTS
THE LIGHT AT
THE END OF THE
TUNNEL WILL BE
TURNED OFF
UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE.**

Cicatrice

They have gone way way
away and I
cannot reach them now;
They have journeyed so far
that I'll never find them,
that I'll never find them, only I
can remember each precise moment
of an axe falling
of a blade entering
of a clot gathering:
the scar is forming practically
unseen, but, feel: how
it pulls as it heals.
O well.
"Great tragedies" Gibran says,
"enlarge the heart."

ABirthistle



FOR ALL THOSE PREPARING FOR
OR RECOVERING FROM
MEETINGS

If God were process-oriented, the Book of Genesis would read something like this:

In the beginning, God created the heavens & the earth. The earth was without form & void; so God created a small Committee. God carefully balanced the Committee vis-a-vis race, sex, ethnic origin & economic status in order to interface pluralism with the holistic concept of self-determination according to adjudicatory guidelines. Even God was impressed, & so ended the first day.

And God said: "Let the Committee draw up a mission statement." And behold, the Committee decided to prioritise & strategise. And God called that process empowerment. And God thought it sounded pretty good. And evening & morning were the second day.

And God said: "Let the Committee determine goals & objectives, & engage in long-range planning." Unfortunately, a debate as to the semantic differences between "goals" & "objectives" pre-empted almost all of the third day. Although the question was never satisfactorily resolved, God thought the process was constructive. And evening & morning were the third day.

And God said: "Let there be a retreat in which the Committee can envision functional organisation, engage in planning, be objective." The Committee considered adjustment of priorities & consequential alternatives to program directions, & God

saw that this was good. And God thought it was even worth all the coffee & donuts He had to supply. & so ended the fourth day.

And God said: "Let the Committee be implemented consistent with long-range planning & strategy." The Committee considered guidelines & linkages & structural sensitivities & alternatives & implemental models. And God saw that this was very democratic. & so would have ended the fifth day, except for the unintentional renewal of the debate about the differences between "goals" & "objectives".

On the sixth day, the Committee agreed on criteria for adjudicatory assessment & evaluation. This wasn't the agenda God had planned. He wasn't able to attend however; He had to take the afternoon off to create day & night & heaven & earth & seas & plants & trees & seasons & years & sun & moon & birds & fish & animals & human beings, which He hadn't had time to do before because He had been so busy attending meetings of the Committee.

On the seventh day, God rested (good for Him! We should all rest after great labor) & the Committee submitted its recommendations. It turned out that the recommended forms for things were nearly identical to the way God had already created them; so the Committee passed a resolution commending God for His implementation according to the guidelines. There was, however, some opinion expressed quietly that man should have been created in the Committee's image.

And God caused a deep sleep to fall on the Committee.

Bingo Players
The Star II Bingo Hall at 877 E. Hastings
is our community bingo entertainment spot.
By playing there, we support our local organizations like Carnegie, Ray-Cam and Strathcona Community Centres, Eastside Family Place, Firehall Theatre, MOSAIC and Crisis Centre.

The entire political structure of this country we still call Canada is based on an antiquated process of faulty "parliamentarianism" originally initiated by the 'Old Boys' club back in the 1400's.

In 1492 this land was literally invaded & its original inhabitants massacred by gold-hungry pariahs commanded by Columbus.

No better was the Christian cartel of "holy (professional) black-robed converters" who kidnapped Native children and enslaved & tortured them, trying to beat alien European missionary language into their souls with clubs. These government-sponsored religious bastards have, thru the years, inflicted anguish, confusion & disorientation upon Native youth, even whipping them for daring to speak their mother tongue.

I am in full agreement with Bill Wilson who, in retrospect, said of the bandits from the Nina, Pinta & Santa Maria: "We should have killed them all." Remember Oka? Well, the final chapter has not yet been written. Sooner or later real justice will prevail. All of Canada was, is & will remain aboriginal land.

It is my opinion that we elders & you yuppies have reached a point long overdue where serious attention must be paid now to the youth of today. The corporate bottom-line-profit ideology only provides short-term monetary security..outrageous salaries, fat cat perks, extra-added goodies..at the expense of people who pay unfair taxes & watch the country go to hell.

There has to be a new horizon in thinking that allows for fair rates of compensation & just remuneration. Party politics have come to resemble theft, with 6 years on government benches enough for a life pension.

Proper priorities need to be set that will ensure equitable distribution of wealth. This attitude is already being evidenced by our youth, who are tired of monetary domination by elected, rhetorical "do-nothings". Two dirty words - LIBERAL and CONSERVATIVE.

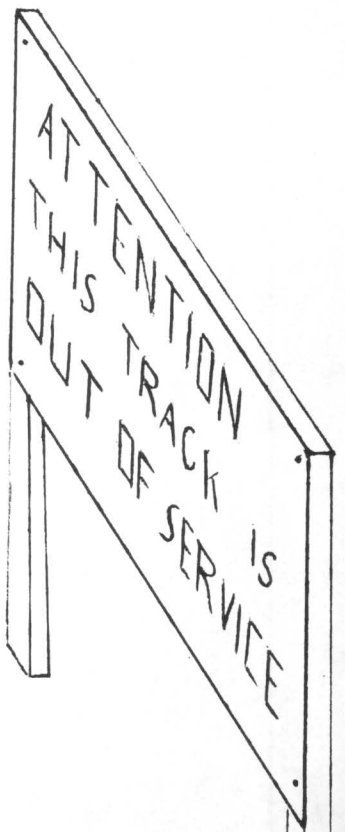
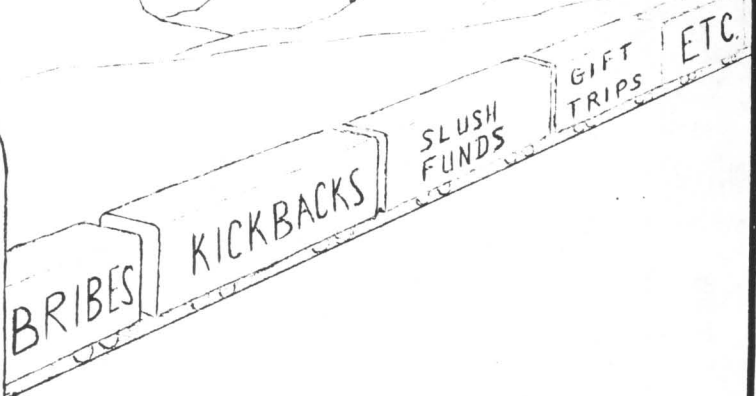
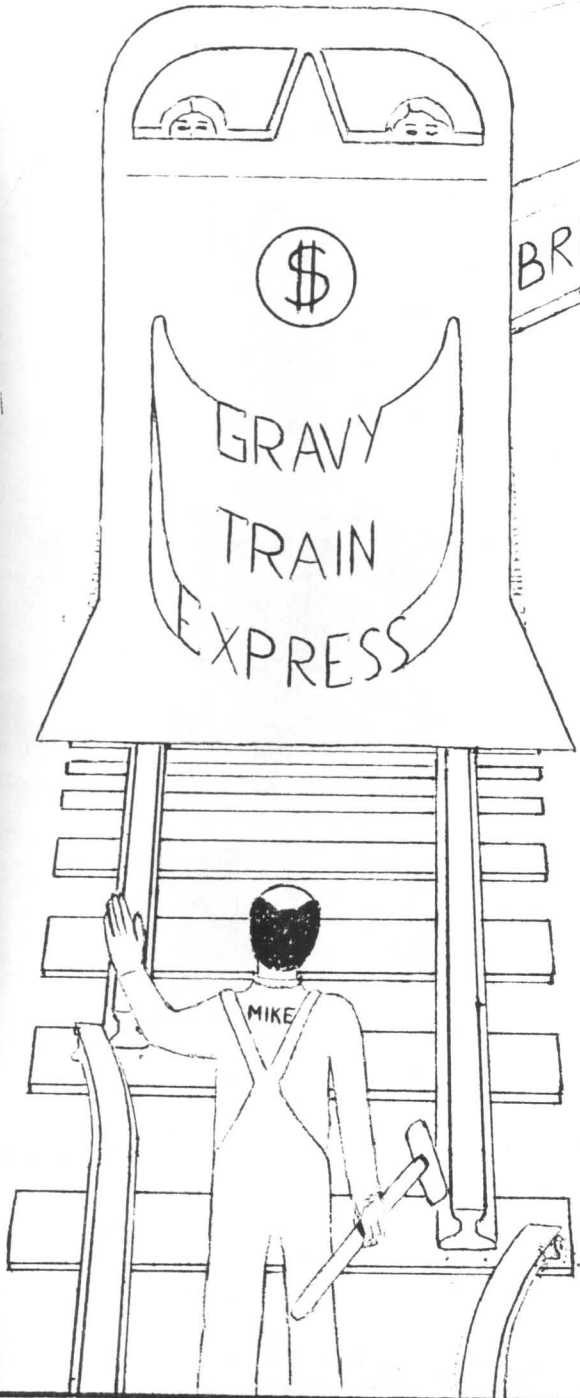
HooHoo



Were you gold, silver, blue
A myriad technicolour hue
When you danced in my dream
Performance is an illusion
A game in the mirror of the eye
But the eye knows beauty
Which awakens the mind
A dance is a dance is a dance
But has its endings
Beauty goes on but shortly
While a dream lasts to Infinity
Dance on in your beauty
Forever live in my dreams

Tom Lewis

...MEMORANDUM...
By Garry Gust



FUC's SYSTEM STINKS

One of the many criticisms of the welfare system has been that there is too much bureaucracy and that many who are entitled to the help under G.A.I.N. regulations do not receive the much-needed aid because of this bureaucracy. Rent receipts, three estimates for any clothing or furniture requests, incredible hassles to get funding for education (and even then only getting funding if you choose the sex-stereotyped career they have chosen: auto mechanics for men, and secretarial school for women).... many who need help would rather starve than ask for it.

If the bureaucracy is not too much then there is the ever-present threat of administration; if they think you can't manage on the money you get, they will treat you like a child and dole out your allowance in weekly installments.

Is it any wonder that many do not appeal even flagrantly unjust decisions of the uncaring bureaucracy?

HAVE YOU
APPEALED, YET?



As a now-inactive member of the United Church and a disillusioned believer in the positive role that the church could play in social reform, I am outraged by First United Church's (FUC's) decision to make food aid conditional on appealing the ministry's decision not to give a crisis grant. While some churches give out free food only after a church service (whatever happened to the christian doctrine of free will?), to demand that one appeal before FUC gives out free food is even more dastardly; it makes the victim feel even more victimized and lets them starve until they jump through the bureaucracy's hoops.

FUC claims that this measure will make the ministry more aware of the inadequacy of the system. But all parties involved know how inadequate the system is: the reason welfare rates have been kept so low is to force recipients to take starvation wage jobs, and the former socred governments have known this all too well.

Not only will this measure be totally ineffective but it only serves to victimize the victim.

FUC should re-examine this policy and try to listen (from on high) to the voice of the people it is trying so unsuccessfully to serve.

By BRIAN HETHERINGTON

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE POETS
PRESENT
AN OPEN
READING**

**FEATURING
TORA
SUNDAY NOV. 10
401 MAIN STREET
CARNEGIE CENTRE
7-11 PM • FREE**