

FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 1, 1992.

401 Main St., Vancouver. V6A 2T7 (604) 665-2289



# WELFARE WEDNESDAY



After years of work to change the nature of the Downtown Eastside, with successes like Carnegie, making landlords obey laws, Crab Park, community involvement in all manner of issues, many people still write off the whole neighbourhood with the smug stereotype "Skid Road". It saves seeing us as people, with perhaps more to fight for than others living elsewhere, & lets the user(s) of the term to categorize all of us under a few lazy labels.

A man named Jim Bach put a proposal to the Knowledge Network, the education channel, to do a documentary called "WELFARE WEDNESDAY"; he then sent the following description of the project to Carnegie to get our support(!).

#### WELFARE WEDNESDAY

"What we want to explore in WELFARE WED. is that rapid depletion of discretionary social assistance benefits over the period of 72 hours following cheque-day.

We realize that this phenomenon is not & can not be called a general condition of all Vancouver's social assistance claimants; but there is an alarming cause & effect on a small & volatile area of Van's Skid Road, the area bounded by Carrall and Gore running parallel along Hastings St.

This is Vancouver's seediest side, an area where most citizens would not venture during the light of day, but on Cheque Day it is teeming with activity, some social, some not.

It is a place of cheque cashing establishments, smokey beer halls, drug dealers & users, prostitutes & their pimps & a place where the losers, in the fight for self dignity, go to hide from the glaring eyes of respectability.

What draws the population of 5 of Vancouver's busiest welfare areas into this urban jungle? Why does this happen with clockwork regularity? What are the effects of this carnival atmosphere in the lives of the attendants or, more importantly, what happens in the lives of their children as a result of this consistent behaviour?

#### FOCUS

THE EXPLORATION OF: the moral argument of "universal rights" of self determination within a gov't assistance program, including but not limited to:

- 1) the "right" of indiscriminate spending
- 2) gov't administered "benevolence"
- 3) habitual learned responses by social assistance recipients
  - i) lasting effects on future generations
  - ii) polarization of have & have-not areas
- 4) the extremes caused by "poverty sickness" within a class structure.
  - i) buying respect
  - ii) need for social interaction with peer
  - iii) personal gratification
- 5) cause & effect on general population."

Diane MacKenzie sent this around to members on the Community Relations Committee & wrote a response to Bach. He replied in writing, saying, "I apologize for the insensitive language used to describe the area surrounding Carnegie. If the CR Committee feels this strongly about the use of phrasing such as "seediest side" & "Skid Road", then I invite them to present this opinion on camera. The people who use the Carnegie Centre are encouraged to participate in changing the producer's incorrect perception of the area. If the Carnegie Centre's opinion is to be heard it must be done within the time frames allotted to us"

Okay. I find this whole thing disgusting & as editor, will say why then invite all of you to write in with your opinions..but you're stuck with these first!

Bach is the producer of this thing & has already stated clearly what he is going to focus on. He's clear that the point is to film the worst of the situation; drinking, drugs, hookers & pimps, bars, line-ups... to show/justify his labels - "losers hiding from the glaring eyes of respectability" - with pictures of drunk women, someone passed out in an alley or vacant store entrance...all to give validity to the "moral argument" that it's gov't benevolence allowing us degenerates to use our

"habitual learned responses...caused by being infected with this 'poverty sickness' within a class structure".

Of course, Bach makes no mention of doing anything to balance his documentary by showing the gorillas bouncing around such respectable places like No.5 Orange, or the facade of Escort Services which are legal fronts for hookers & pimps or all of this city's night-life that those who get paycheques every two weeks, rather than once a month, make as seedy as anything in this part of town.

Bach apologizes for his language. "I'm sorry." I agree.

He wants us to change his mind. Maybe a better documentary would be to show what kinds of degenerate behaviour sailors exhibit when a few thousand of 'em descend on the Downtown Eastside, on Granville, & behave as though they are just above any law or restrictions.

Every point made in Bach's proposal is written to reinforce the stereotypes that the people at fault want reinforced. The rich want this area. They want the land & buildings. The residents, for the most part (that's us) are an inconvenience. We haven't just cleared out so more respectable people can move in. As the area gets squeezed on 3 sides by megaprojects & the yuppies expected to move in (Marathon/Bosa & Expo developments) we're a real pain in their fat asses by daring to continue to talk of the Downtown Eastside as 'our' community!

Bach & his supporters seem totally convinced that this "jungle" is real & that it's our fault for being here. A writer in the Vancouver Sun, who had only walked the area with 2 cops, wrote knowingly of "Skid Road" as though she'd spent 20 years here. And, of course, her narrow-minded crap was printed as valid reporting. A lawyer back east in Ontario wrote the most bigotted garbage I've ever seen about how all poor people are scam artists & welfare bums & lazy & selfish..characteristics never to be found among those who actually work for a living. If her drivel had replaced the word "poor" with "black" or "Jewish" or "foreign" or whatever, she'd have spent a

few months or years in jail. BUT bashing the poor is quite acceptable, as it makes all the rage in dinner party conversations & society events, where arrogance & wealth (however derived) can smugly go hand-in-hand.

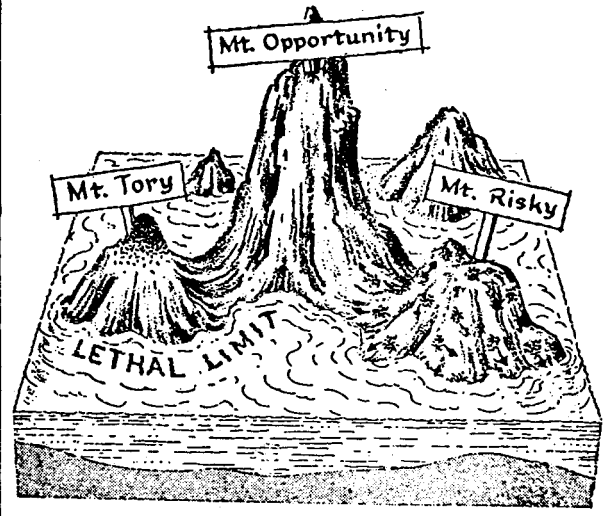
Anyway, your responses are requested. I will take all received in the next 2 weeks & send copies to the Knowledge Network and the Open Learning Institute.

By PAULR TAYLOR

### Vocations for Social Change

*All about alternatives, living them.  
Mainly employment, but that's a whole lifestyle, becoming  
your vocation, the most integrated part of the search. How  
to work at changing the world.*

—Hal Hershey





### RICHARD TYSON

#### A Winner All Around!

Richard was named Volunteer of the Month at the monthly volunteer dinner in July. This gave one more point for this story.

He's an easy-going guy who has been volunteering in Carnegie's library for a few years. This may, in fact, be his 'secret identity'...as the picture is proof that a lot more goes on.

Richard won two first place trophies at the Special Olympics. People scratch their heads and say, 'Didn't he win in floor hockey last year? Didn't he win other trophies?' And it comes out that memory doesn't tell the half of it.

Richard has been winning trophies and playing on sport teams for years. He's been in special games' events all over B.C. and, again if memory is right, at events across Canada. He often wears a "team" shirt, usually for the hockey team that meets his standards, but you have to know your hockey pretty well if you want to talk about just who is going to win with Richard.

I'd thought to get a list, no matter how long, of all the events and wins that add to Richard's specialness, but he's also modest. If he comes in with gold medals around his neck there will be another story! Oh! almost slipped by - the two trophies he's holding in the picture were for 1st place in the Special Olympics Bowling. Next month it may be sky-diving!

Anyway, congratulations Richard, from the Carnegie family.

## Women on welfare to have choice on maintenance

The NDP government is going to change the maintenance law for women on welfare.

The new changes should be in place by October.

Right now, any woman with children who applies for welfare has to register with the family maintenance program.

This means that the gov't will try to track down her ex-partner & force him to pay child support. They will do this even if the woman doesn't want it to happen.

End Legislated Poverty has been trying to get this law changed for years. We think women should have choice about pursuing the father of their children.

"Choice is the whole point of the new system," says Ron Willems, the Director of Social Assistance in Victoria.

Under the new system, this is what will happen:

The worker will ask the woman to talk to a Family Maintenance Worker. The woman can refuse to do this if she wants to.

The Family Maintenance Worker will tell the woman what her options are for getting maintenance. She can get involved in the Family Maintenance Program if she wants. Or, she can refuse. Or, she could try getting private legal help.

But the law is not in effect until October, probably.

In the meantime, you can work with the Family Maintenance Program if you want. If you don't, tell the FM Worker that you do not want to participate in the program. You will then get a waiver that says you don't have to participate.

Willems said that all people who are registered in the program will get a letter from the Ministry before October. The letter will give them a chance to stay in the program or get out if they want to.

(from the ELP Newsletter)

Stay in hurry-up-city

I feel very excited

I feel very nervous

Please don't let me have to face them

Eva Lui

## Student loans being taken off tax credits



Lots of people on welfare have had a big problem getting their child tax credit or their GST credit this year. If they had an old student loan that wasn't paid back the government deducts it from the child tax credit and the GST tax credit.

So if you were expecting \$500 in the mail, you might not get anything. Quite a shock! A woman who lives in Ontario had a student loan that was 18 years old. She is a single parent on welfare. The government took her tax credit & told her she had to pay \$600 interest on the student loan. This has happened to people in BC too.

There is a way to get your tax credit back if you are on welfare or low income. There is a hardship form you can fill out. You can get it by writing to:

Student Assistance Branch,  
P.O. Box 2090, Station 'D',  
OTTAWA, Ontario. K1P 6C8

(Copies of this form are in the Carnegie Newsletter office as well.)

Change of Seasons program will be offering a 12 session PHASE ONE group for aboriginal men who have physically abused their partners/spouses. Men may be referred through service providers or may join as self-referrals.

The group will be run by facilitators who have received 6 months intensive training in domestic violence through the Change of Seasons training project of the Squamish Nation. Change of Seasons instructors will also be involved in the supervision of the group.

This group will be appropriate for men who are interested in help with ending their abusive behaviour towards their partners/spouses. The format will join a standard psycho-educational approach with content directly relevant to the aboriginal experience.

The group will run on consecutive Wednesday evenings beginning August 12th 1992.

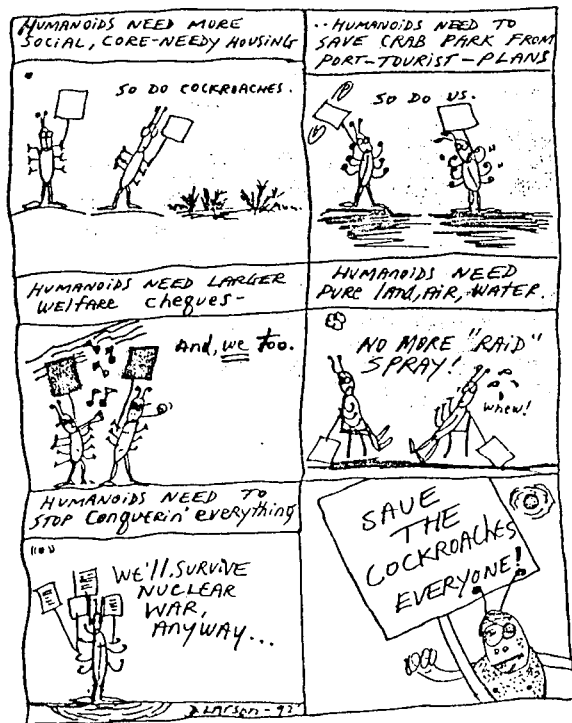
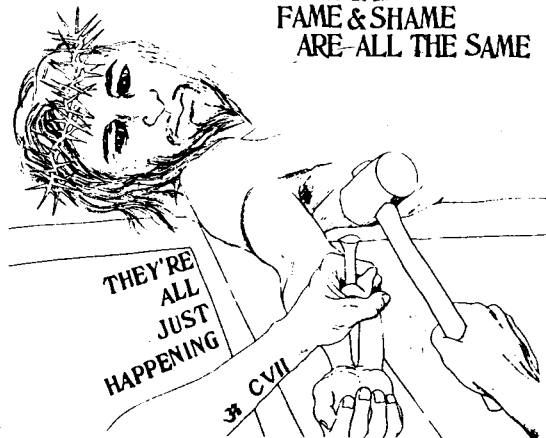
For further information or to make a referral, contact:

Change of Seasons men's program  
100 Mathias Road  
North Vancouver  
V7P 3M8 986-9015



AM I HE WHO IS BEING PAINED?

NO! THAT'S THE THING. ONCE YOU KNOW THAT  
THEN: PLEASURE & PAIN  
LOSS & GAIN  
FAME & SHAME  
ARE ALL THE SAME





## News - The Politics of Illusion

"How can anything as superficial as the news be so central to our lives?" asks W. Lance Bennett in his book News - The Politics of Illusion published by Longman.

There are many people, however, who do not make the news central to their lives, and they are wise in doing so. After all, the mass media is in business. Profit is the bottom line & news is a commodity. For media executives, though, the most important product is the audience that they sell to their advertisers. Because they want as large an audience as possible, complex issues are reduced to personal, simplistic images, & form triumphs over substance.

The Carnegie Newsletter is in complete contrast to the mass media. It is a crusading newsletter that gives a voice to people with little power, & pushes for a democratic society. The media establishment, on the other hand, gives a voice to the powerful & promotes ignorance, because it doesn't give us enough solid information to help us understand the power games behind the flashy images, or help us plan effective political action. The best intentions of caring, thoughtful journalists have little effect on the drive for mass markets. "Death to intelligence" would be a good motto for the media. No wonder people are apathetic.

In his book, W. Lance Bennett says that

personalized news does not help us understand the critical & analytical insights on which democracy thrives. Personalized news encourages people to take a self-centred rather than a socially concerned view of political problems. For example, the local newspapers promote charity events for poor people at Christmas. We are presented with many individual stories of poverty, but never are we given any insight into our economic system that creates great poverty alongside great wealth.

These newspapers never show us that poverty is legislated & that our gov't could do much to help people who are poor by raising welfare rates & the minimum wage. These individual stories about the suffering caused by poverty, without any commitment to end poverty, are called poornography by the Child Poverty Action Committee.

The mass media doesn't help us ask the right questions about our political & social problems. By concentrating on the individual through personalized news, we get a distortion of the way society works. For instance, if the news concentrates on an individual poor person, then the question that arises is, "What is wrong with that person because he or she is poor?" And many people do blame themselves for their poverty. But when we realize that millions of Canadians are poor (the poorest 20% of Canadians own minus .3% of wealth in Canada while the richest 10% own 51.3% of wealth) our question has to change to, "What is wrong with a society that has so much poverty?"

This social question will force us to think about the power games behind the flashy images, & we can start to think about concrete, political action instead of blaming ourselves. In the case of poverty issues, political action could mean working for higher welfare rates & supporting governments that believe in full employment at decent wages.

W. Lance Bennett's book News - The Politics of Illusion has many other suggestions that help us see how shallow & misleading the news often is. It's well worth reading.

By SANDY CAMERON

## AWARENESS HEALS:

In the last issue, Susan Ince's article "Blaming the Victim" (which is getting to be a rather tiresome slogan, repeated ad nauseum, as if people were never responsible for what happens to them) was at least thought-provoking.

The "New Age" self-healing philosophies, though immensely important in combating the medical profession's tyrannical hold on the concepts of health & disease, can backfire, as Ms. Ince points out, creating a new tyranny of almost religious proportions.

I want to mention one thing, however, about the "New Age" idea that "positive thinking" will heal. No doubt a positive attitude has a beneficial effect on health but "positive thinking" can't just be made up on the spot as an instant remedy for a perceived problem. The superficiality of this idea reminds me of the way "New Agers" interpreted Janov's Primal therapy when it was all the rage. They took the validity & therefore the healing potential out of it by claiming that you could just scream & cry in a sort of frustration fit & that would result in rebirth as a healthy balanced individual. Then of course we had a lot of people learning acting skills to impress their friends with the depth of their commitment.

To me, "positive thinking" is the kind of thing where you have some idiot staring in the mirror, repeating "Every day in every way I am getting better & better," or some such garbage.

Anyway, the point is, our immune system is the part of our physical body that has the capacity to recognize what is not us.. that is, any foreign intrusion into our system must be quickly identified, & it is this identifying of what is not me that establishes what is me...a simple idea, but powerful in its application when we really understand it.

In order to have quick recognition of "otherness", our (body-mind-spirit) identity must be centred, well-rooted & sure of itself. Today, it's common for people to not know who they are. Of course this has nothing to do with the names we go by, or



the numbers our society tags us with - where we live, the place & date of our birth, our ancestral heritage or any of the I.D. credentials the world associates us with.

In fact, inner core identity of self is a paradoxical function of the relationship between one & zero.

At this point, some people will give up on the idea, believing that anything so "mystical" & abstract couldn't possibly have any practical value in the real world ...but it does.

When our worldly identity ceases to exist, our singular uniqueness takes over. On the outside, I am who you think I am; inside that, I am who I think I am; inside that, I am the unknown, immeasurable self - real core identity encompasses the fullest possible range of beingness.

The more we identify with this inner self, the more often we experience it, the stronger our sense of uniqueness is (this is also a paradox, since logic dictates that the expanded self must lose touch with its centre)...paradoxically, it's just the opposite. When we strengthen our sense of self in this way, our immune system functions much more effectively & we gain the inner sensitivity that keeps our mind in touch with the "feelings" or signals each cell is putting out, that tell us how it's doing.

Deepening our contact with real inner identity, by fearlessly dying to our believed self, makes us much more reactive



to imbalance within the body, so that we identify the signals of disease before it gets a chance to take hold - our behaviour adapts to the new circumstance, & we slow down, concentrate, rest, relax, breathe move & eat differently...in other words we "take care of ourself".

This comes about more or less automatically, if we have developed a unique awareness of self. Those things that are "not self" come to the foreground & are much more noticeable. On the strictly unconscious level, our immune system is more aware of its target...foreign elements entering the body such as viruses, germs, pollen, vibrations, dust, toxins, etc.

In short, health depends on two things - stability & sensitivity, & these qualities develop from a surer sense of knowing, experiencing & being who we really are at the centre of consciousness.

As far as blaming "victims" is concerned it's my belief that we should never, under any circumstances think of ourselves as "victims"...no matter how "victimizing" our society or surroundings may be, we contain the power within ourselves never to be "victimized" - & that's real health.

TORA

### A PROFESSION IN REVERSE

A man of the cloth got a bit riled under the collar as he was badly misunderstood by one of his clergy. He said, "I got so damned mad the other day that I took the Lord's name in vain!"

This minister was so overwhelmed that he phoned a psychiatrist by mistake. He rambled on by saying, "I've never had to consult a head doctor before, even at the worst of times."

Well it turned out that his brother-in-law had been a psychiatrist, long since retired. To make a long story short, the preacher had dialed a similar number to that of his relative's but with matching surname. Suddenly he realized he had dialed the wrong party & humbly apologized.

A raucous voice bellowed over the wires, shouting angrily: "Oh no you didn't, you

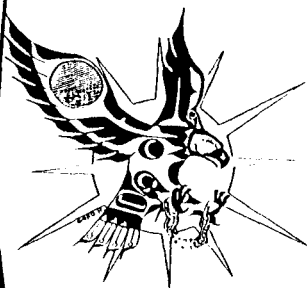
pretentious so & so. I've attended your church off & on for several years and I think it's high time you practice what you preach, Reverend! So do come in..but only if you're sincere. I hope to see you sometime very soon!"

About two months later the former reverend did pay a brief visit to the psychiatrist but without the white collar back-to-front.

He now wears dark blue denim coveralls with bright red suspenders & an old straw hat, carrying a worn bible. He reads aloud his favourite, marked passages from 'the good old book'. Even the animals seem to enjoy these readings every weekend on his brother-in-law's small farm while they, his relations, get away from it all.

Incidentally, the cows must be direct descendants from Noah's Ark as they give richer milk than any of the other farmers' cattle in the area.

By VERA JOHNSTON



ROCK  
AGAINST  
PRISONS

AWG 8  
FREE 12-6  
CNR PARK



Prison Justice Day originated August 10th, 1976 to pay tribute to two prisoners who died in solitary confinement at Millhaven Institution, and to remember other men and women across the country who have died unnatural deaths while in prison.

Hi, mom!

**By Ann Rees**  
Staff Reporter

Unemployed Toronto window installer Dean Street heard there was work out West.

But like thousands of other jobless but hopeful workers, he arrived to find he'd been misled.

Now he and his young wife have been forced to join the one in 10 British Columbians on welfare.

"I'll take anything and do anything," said Street, 25. "I'm not afraid to break my back for a job but there is nothing."

Social Services Minister Joan Smallwood calls the record-high number of people on welfare "a tragic waste."

"There are some 280,000 men, women and children — 10 per cent of the population — who have been excluded from the workforce and from community life," she said.

And she fears it will get worse before it gets better.

"We have predicted a continued

increase in caseloads."

\*The minister says Ottawa must take some of the blame — both for introducing free trade, which led to the elimination of thousands of jobs, and for making it tougher to collect unemployment insurance.

The recession, with economic restructuring and downsizing in resource industries, also helped drive B.C.'s unemployment rate to 11.3 per cent last month.

The result is that 11 per cent of children in B.C. are now in welfare families — an increase of 73 per cent from 10 years ago. Half of all single-parent families are on welfare.

"That is a very big concern to government because these cases are very expensive," Smallwood said.

The total number on welfare is up by 83 per cent from 152,205 in 1982 to an all-time high of 278,172 this year.

The monthly cost has tripled in the past decade to \$102.6 million. And Victoria is paying a bigger

and bigger chunk of the cost.

"The federal government continues to download on the provinces," said Smallwood.

"They are not living up to their commitment."

The feds in the late 1980s imposed a five-per-cent ceiling on increases in federal transfer payments for welfare programs in B.C., Alberta and Ontario.

But the number of people on welfare in B.C. is up 15 per cent from a year ago, and there was a 17-per-cent increase the previous year, said Smallwood.

The federal ceiling means the provincial government will have to find an extra \$270 million for welfare this year, Smallwood said.

Street and his wife Carrie, 17, are taking the first steps towards a more secure future by returning to school in the fall.

They want to ensure a better life for their two-month-old son, Louis.

"We want to be able go places and give him things," said Street. "You can't do that on welfare."

## \$ IT'S A CRIME \$ TALK ABOUT A CRIME \$

Yo! Wake up to a tune of \$4.4 billion!! This money is going towards 50 EH-101 helicopters. Ya, that's right...I couldn't believe it, either. The thing that popped into my mind was 'What the hell is going on?' I could find better ways of spending this kind of money -

1. Housing
2. Getting our children off the streets
3. Education
4. Counselling

Housing for the homeless & single parents with children; getting children off the streets, getting them counselling and maybe back to school to get their education...so they could get jobs...a better life (than drugs & prostitution provide) should this be their wish... the list can go on forever.

Who the hell wants 50 naval and search & rescue helicopters; we're not going to war. Although there is a battle here once again the less fortunate will lose.

If only Defence Minister Marcel Masse used his head...

Margaret Prevost

(Note: Simple arithmetic shows that each helicopter will cost over \$84 million. At the same time, the situation related in the following article is everywhere as the Mulroney Tories carry out their corporate bosses' agenda with "free" trade & 500,000 jobs lost, GST, privatisation, deregulation and the looming NAFTA with Mexico - if it comes in Canadian workers will have to compete with products whose manufacturers pay Mexican workers \$5 a day.)

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE/STRATHCONA  
COALITION

451 East Hastings St. 254-0089

The Downtown Eastside & Strathcona communities contain the most disadvantaged individuals in Vancouver. They have the highest unemployment rates, the largest population of Native people & immigrants, & the lowest household incomes in Canada.

There are many growing social issues facing the Downtown Eastside & Strathcona area including poverty, criminal activity, homelessness & substance abuse. Both communities serve the poor, the needy & act as a staging ground for new immigrants to the City.

In response to the common concerns between both communities, local residents & service providers joined forces in November 1991, to establish the "Downtown Eastside/Strathcona Coalition." In conjunction with the City of Vancouver, a process began to improve the communities' quality of life. Community outreach activities focus on contacting Native people, new refugees, & low-income earners to maximize their contributions & representation in the process of making this a better place to live.

Working groups have been established to reflect identified areas of concern & to give residents a means to get involved. These groups include:

1. Health Group  
- Stephan Gray (251-5494)
2. Poverty, Employment & Education Group  
- Pomponia Schmidt-Weinmar (253-4608)
3. Marginalized Group  
- Lou Demarais (254-9949)  
- John Turvey (685-4488)
4. Social Services Group  
- Alex Charlton (255-9666)  
- Joe Jeffrey (251-6402)
5. Housing Group  
- Ian MacRae (683-9392)
6. Safety & Security Group  
- Cindy Chan Piper (873-7093)

Your views & concerns regarding the Downtown Eastside & Strathcona area are appreciated. Please speak to a Working Group contact person or one of the Coalition

workers listed below.

11.

The Outreach workers are available until Sept. '92 & Research workers until Jan. '93. Outreach workers are on site from noon-1pm Monday

Strathcona Community Centre 254-9496

Wednesday  
Carnegie Centre 665-2220

Friday  
Ray-Cam Community Centre 251-2141

Outreach Workers

Jimmy Wu 254-9171

Gustavo Carcuz 254-0089

Research Workers 254-0089

L. Bantleman, Myrtle Koskie, Joel Petit,

B.J. Tyner.

## Room & Board

For three weeks now he has wakened in this strange bed, this room with flowered wallpaper, its tones of pink and green that seem designed to stifle appetite—to remind all who pass through here of loathing for the self, its intimate feel. As he pulls on Levi's, laces up his boots, asphalt caked on the soles, he knows already what the day will bring, and he hobbles down the hall to the bathroom, breathes again the rank bite of old piss. The woman in the kitchen has been up for an hour—he has heard her moving. Her life depends on him and others like him, though he has never seen her before this month. Three times today he'll eat her bland food, and when evening has towed him back from labour he'll sit on her steps in dusk's sweet ache—until blackflies drive him in to bed—and listen to the rasp dried burdock makes in flutters of breeze. For no reason he knows he'll count first glimmerings one by one, those far away beacons blazing

Eric Trethwey



Schizophrenia  
Society of Canada

Conference

July 17-19

New light is dispelling the murk of centuries of myth surrounding this brain disease, the victims of which we so often meet in the Downtown Eastside.

Two major trends were evident during the Schizophrenic Society of Canada's conference held in Vancouver last weekend. Both of these are positive for sufferers, their families and communities.

The first is that all the panels & workshops included patient participants, who gave vivid testimony to their struggles, usually over many years, to improve their quality of life. Suicide, substance abuse, psychiatric care, nutrition, drug therapy & appropriate housing were all mentioned as patient issues.

Those who spoke said that when they took responsibility for their illness they slowly improved. By living a healthy lifestyle, with good nutrition, rest, proper levels of medication & no street drugs or alcohol, the quality of their lives improved & they were able to act as advocates for other patients in the mental health care system.

Dr. Barry Jones, a former faculty member at UBC, now chairman of CAROS (Canadian Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia), spoke about the second trend, which is the push for a national plan to co-ordinate research & for proper funding to hasten a cure for this most disabling disease.

Dr. Jones asked why there is so little funding for a disease which:

- disables 1 in 100 people
- causes 1 in 10 of these to take their own lives
- causes 9 out of 10 to be unemployed
- fills 7 out of 100 hospital beds
- fills 50 out of 100 psychiatric beds
- costs \$130,000 / patient / year
- uses 1% of the GNP of developed nations
- only .002% of medical research is dedi-

cated to.

One of Dr. Jones' most telling comments concerned finding wealthy & prominent patrons for CAROS. He mentioned that Mila Mulroney's father was a psychiatrist at McGill University, with whom he had worked and he thought that with this background she might take on a cause like schizophrenia, but she has lent her patronage to other diseases.

There was a positive feeling at this conference, which is good news for all whose family members are afflicted and for those who daily see the suffering of the mentally ill in our neighbourhood.

Eleanor

# Garden Bingo

Located at the  
PNE Garden  
Auditorium



## Calendar of Events...

Saturday, August 1st  
Evening

**BONANZA**  
**\$1,000.00**

DOOR PRIZES & GOOD NEIGHBOUR GIVEAWAYS  
ON "B.C. DAY"

ALL PRIZES SUBJECT TO ATTENDANCE AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE

OPEN:

SUNDAY - THURSDAY 12 NOON - 12 MIDNITE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY 12 NOON - 1:00 AM

DROP-IN: SPECIAL "4-UPS" ..... 50¢

REGULAR EVENING BOOKLET BINGO PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 251-7744

## Last Call

Through Wall of Dirt and Rotting Floor  
Despairing Grief Seeping in  
And Madness Knocking at the Door  
Like a Grinning Nightmare Peeping In

Living Death takes New Life in Strife  
As I Drink this Fatal Spirit  
This Life Cuts like A Knife  
Slashing the Soul with Vicious Delight

Suicide(I Don't Know Why)Obstructed from the Mind  
Thoughts of Help of Any Kind  
Like a Mute Madman Wrapped and Confined  
The Heart is Torn and Crushed in It's Grind

Alcohol and Anger No Longer Home  
Now Unbearable FEAR  
I CANNOT BE WITH PEOPLE NOR ALONE!  
I Sense Death's Presence Flying Near;

Today—When My Faith is Low or In Lack  
I Wonder How in Looking Back  
I Did Not Die  
To Cease Upon the Darkest Sky.

## NEOBEATNIK CREDO

You who dwell in an empty skull  
Toking the clips of a barrier reef  
Daily limping through limbo's waste  
Letting the twilight steal your feast.

You who sit on the crossbones chair  
Cobwebs growing from your inert tongue  
Wishing for comforts of company -  
Brush off your fear and climb to your feet.

You who have run with the thief of life  
Make restoration while the sun is high  
Translate your thoughts to the written word  
Til something is said that resembles a smile.

Garry Gust

## Second Sight

If we could all go back  
in time, we wouldn't  
be so content to let  
things go as they did,  
knowing how they'd turn  
out, but shouldn't.

## False gods

They are controlled by their big egos  
They refuse to humble themselves to God  
but instead they humble themselves to the  
big egos of others

Mac D.

They think they own the land, water and air  
They have damaged and destroyed the well-being  
of many plants, many animals and many people.  
They refuse to examine their own spirit.  
They will prevent other people's spiritual  
self-examination

They stand with open arms and trust me smiles  
and tell people to become part of their lives,  
their solution

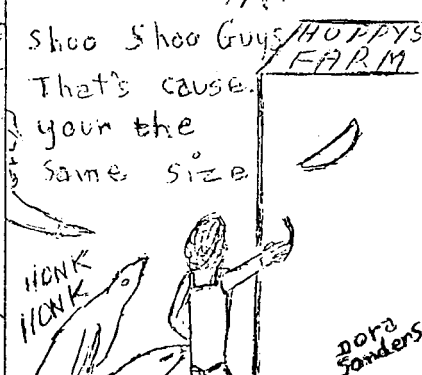
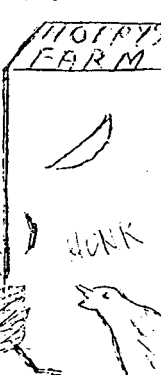
They act as if they care and tell lies to  
trick others.

Of whom is this message about?

It is about false gods of course or is it a  
tale of a bunch of sad stories.

Peaches

## GUARDING THE GEES.



### THE SLIDE

When my two kids were small I lived in a logging camp. Very early one summer morning I woke to the sounds of children laughing outside & dogs barking. I thought my kids had gone out, but no, they were up & looking out the front room window.

"Mom, can we go play on the neighbour kid's new slide?" I looked. Sure enough, the neighbour's kids & other kids from the area were up on a pile of brown & sliding down. I figured my nextdoor neighbour must have dropped the lump of stuff there with his frontend loader, which he usually left in the forest where he worked with it. Kids were running around the end of the lump, grabbing hold of it & pulling themselves up. They ran a few feet on top, then slid down the sides. In the meantime the neighbour's dog & another from the area were nipping at the climbing end & backing off excitedly. It looked like fun.

I said, "Sure, but eat breakfast first." As I took cereal out of the cupboard I heard a shout of alarm. I looked to see the father of the kids next door standing on the front porch of the house in his PJs & gauze mask, which he wore over his mouth & nose because he was allergic to dust. He had oxygen tanks in his bedroom to help him breathe & his wife kept the house spotless.

"Get in here this instant, all of you, & the dogs too. This minute. Hurry, all of you." He called, "Brandy (his dog) get in here." And he shouted: "Get Bobby in here too!" The other dog. I was astonished as he never let his own dog in the house, let alone any other, or neighbouring kids unless they were freshly scrubbed. He could get very sick from the dust their clothes contained. They all ran in & he with them. I stared, totally astonished, & then I saw why. The brown lump stirred. It was a bear ..a weak, sick bear!

By DORA SANDERS

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the "Iron Lady" of right-wing conservatism, has taken a new job as consultant to the Phillip Morris Tobacco Co. - part of her duties will be to fight high tobacco taxes in the European market.

Native North Americans living on the Louis Bull reserve in central Alberta have experienced a 60% decrease in the crime rate since band members have taken over their own policing. The RCMP now have no jurisdiction in their territory.



The Chinatown Police Community Services Centre (CPCSC) is a new service for members of the Asian community. The centre had its grand opening on May 24th this year. Among the dignitaries attending the opening were Mike Harcourt & Gordon Campbell, the Chief Constable of the Vancouver Police Dept. as well as City Councillors.

This service is quite unique to the Chinese community. Unlike other projects in cities across the country that are staffed by police constables or operate under the umbrella of police depts., the CPCSC is staffed by civilians.

The Chinese community recognised the need for a liaison between the people of the Asian population & the police dept.

Jim Kwong, one of the centre's two coordinators & counsellors, says, "Asian people who come from countries such as Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan & China are often intimidated by the police & are reluctant in many instances to deal with the courts & law enforcement officials. These are people with very diversified cultural backgrounds. The police force in China is different; policemen work on foot patrols and here they are in squad cars."

Kwong says that the Asian community is encouraged to report crimes to the centre and the staff will assist them in filling out the police reports. They will also help in filling out accident reports and filing court appeals.

"We are not a police substation," Kwong says. "The people will feel more relaxed & more comfortable when they come to see us. When a crime is reported to the centre we will refer the case to the police dept."

The centre is under the supervision of an advisory board with representatives from 3 levels of government. A federal rep from the Solicitor General's office, a provincial rep from the Attorney General's office & a municipal rep from the social planning board help. The board also has members from the Chinese Merchants Assoc. (CMA), the Chinese Cultural Centre (CCC) & SUCCESS.

One of the most important mandates that the centre has is to offer victim support services. They offer short-term counselling, criminal injury compensation forms & referrals to legal & social services. "Neither the Minister of Social Services or police constables are really in a position to offer counselling to victims of crime."

The centre works in tandem with SUCCESS to provide training seminars & classes in ESL studies & job finding clubs. "They are the most popular organisation serving the Chinese community." SUCCESS has offices in Chinatown, Southeast Vancouver, Richmond & Coquitlam.

Funding for the centre comes from the Attorney General's dept. in Ottawa. The current annual amount is \$170,000. Staff salaries & the building's rent come out of this, but Kwong says they need about two hundred thousand. The extra \$30,000 that they are lobbying for would be used to organise a "Police Fair" to enhance the image of the police force in the Asian community & to provide more printed informational materials for the general public.

"The community appreciates the centre and has responded very well to us," says Kwong. "In fact the Attorney General's office spent a lot of money on a survey before the centre opened its doors & 90% of the people surveyed are pleased that this service is available to them."

"Our caseload is stable right now; we are not overwhelmed but this may change as more people use this service. We hope to become a permanent fixture here but we'll have to take it one year at a time."

Other employees at the office are Edmund Chong (coordinator), Erica Wong (counsellor) & Minh, the happy receptionist. Office location is #104-633 Main St. (688-5080) Hrs: Tues.-Saturday - 10am to 6pm.

Submitted by Craig Hill



# Canada Post will stop delivering all mail, it says

By Chung Wong  
Staff Reporter

Canada Post says it can sidestep Vancouver City Council's proposed junk-mail bylaw.

Council says that all you need to do to stop the flow of junk mail is post a warning sign.

But Canada Post's Ilona Beiks said that if residents refuse junk mail, they won't get any mail at all.

"If they did (refuse junk mail), what happens is we wouldn't deliver any mail to the door," she said. "We're required to deliver the mail, and we don't censor the mail."

More than 1,000 carriers in the Lower Mainland under contract to deliver ad mail won't honor the bylaw, she said.

Junk mail includes flyers, subscription requests, coupons, catalogues and government notices. Last year, it formed about 14 per cent of Canada Post's \$3.8-billion revenue.

"We know there is environmental concern," Beiks said. "But it's a big industry, it's good for the country. To come out and ban it is no way to do it."

Council unanimously voted Tuesday to draw up a junk-mail bylaw — after a "large number of complaints."

Junk mail, said Coun. Libby Davies, "is a form of harassment."

Davies said council will examine how to handle Canada Post, which delivers a quarter of the nation's junk mail. Newspapers deliver about half, and the rest is delivered privately.

"We'll be addressing quite a few things, including what comes in newspapers," she said.

The proposed bylaw is based on one passed two years ago in Montreal, where Canada Post still delivers junk mail.

BRINKMANSHIP  
OF  
DEMO-CAPS

## idiot box

In 1967 physicist John Ott said "The effects of T.V. radiation on laboratory rats ranged from severe brain damage to death."

Being exposed to long periods of TV radiation can weaken a person's ability to retain the clarity of thought to be able to discern what is beneficial to view on TV. Some programs that normally a person would not watch, he or she ends up watching them anyway.

It can be proven that some programs and some commercials on TV are directly responsible for social ills that inflict society.

Violence, racism, greed, selfishness etc did exist before the dawn of television but TV should have been used to suppress those social ills, not enhance them.

Perhaps too much TV radiation has affected the judgemental capacities of the censors.

Does the term "idiot box" refer to a device that turns the viewers of it into idiots?

Peter Baldassi

## Stop, Give, Live or Goodbye.

"The saturation point of abusing nature has been reached and soon nature will fight back to rid itself of the cancerous infection of human industrialization."

It is amazing how the white people think that they are so intelligent, but where is their intelligence when the generosity of nature has been abused. They say don't worry we will fix it up. How can they make repairs if they don't hasten the changing of their nature damaging lifestyles?

Perhaps we should let the natives show us how to use the land so that we may listen and learn how to enjoy more happiness by using less resources.

It is time to learn how to love nature without hurting it.

Say hello to nature and yes to the wisdom of the natives or nature will say goodbye to you.

Nitchert



When the NDP were elected, part of the mess they inherited from 16 years of the socred disease was all manner of social services being delivered on the basis of reactionary, stereotypical policies.

The work to get out of the mess, to make positive & progressive change, seems to have just begun. Welfare rates were raised, but most to all of the increases went to landlords; the minimum wage was raised 50¢ an hour, but is still a far cry from achieving the purchasing capacity it had in 1975, when it was 122% of the poverty line. (Today, it should be \$9.05 an hour to be equivalent to what it could buy in '75.) Single parents on welfare are no longer forced to seek employment as soon as their youngest child reaches the ripe old age of 6 months..now it's 19 yrs.

Because of years of cumulative concerns & case histories involving families, a Community Review Panel on Family Child & Services Act was formed to travel throughout BC to hear from people. Socreds and like-minded groups got right in there, saying that their kids are alright, their schools don't need universal, non-stigmatizing hot lunch programs...basically that 'those (welfare/poor) people' should just work out their own petty problems/stop being a burden/go to hell. PRT —

PAM FLEMING, speaking on behalf of the Front Line Advocacy Workers (FLAW) of the Lower Mainland, wrote & presented the following submission to the Review Panel:

"FLAWs work with Ministry legislation, these issues & people affected by them every day. That's what advocates do, is talk to, represent & fight for low income people who are not getting a fair shake from the Ministry. Income assistance issues are constantly complicated by Family & Child Services (FCS) issues. The 2 systems are intertwined, yet separate. FLAWs are often expected to untangle the injustice of both.

FLAWs jobs are made harder by bad legislation, inadequate welfare rates & unfair child protection practises. Women on welfare come to FLAWs hopeless, defeated, angry & scared; looking for some help in a system that seems literally out to get them.

#### CASE SAMPLE:

17.

Mary, a young woman, had her children apprehended because a male partner has been accused of hurting the children. She kicked the man out. Mary then lost her family welfare benefits. Next she lost her social housing in Vancouver's east End because she no longer had a family living with her. She is totally alone. She no longer has an economic base to get those children back. She's lost her family welfare benefits, her home, & she was brave enough to break off her relationship for her children. Her children are not returned to her. She is made out to be an unfit mother because she has no income, no home, & no partner to help raise the children. Her children are put in a white foster home on the North Shore. Should this woman trust & admire a Ministry for all it has done for her? We will come back to Mary later.

In this unfortunately typical case, 2 aspects of the Ministry, Income Assistance (IA) & FCS have worked in unwitting synchronisation to destroy this children & woman's economic & family base...IA taking away the economic base, FCS taking away the children. Often FLAWs are put in the middle of these 2 huge bureaucracies & the one defenseless woman & her children.

FLAWs massive & traumatic workload is indicative that we cannot stop these injustices on a case by case basis. Legislative change should be done within a framework that will benefit the people who have to rely on the legislation for their children & for their survival & for their lives.

In this spirit, we submit a broad framework & guiding principles for legislative change. Without a guiding framework of ending poverty & alleviating systemic oppression, other legislative changes are essentially meaningless.

Framework: The previous government effectively gutted the social welfare system in BC through re-organisation, privatisation and active dismantling of the social safety net. The previous gov't worked very hard to increase poverty, suffering & neglect. The responsibility for the bad & remaining structure gets heaped on workers, social workers, the bureaucracy & the Minister. None of these people, no matter how

well-intentioned, can do a humane job in a system that leaves them little choice but to react to crisis, police poor people & children & mete out incomes based on rates that are 40 to 60% of the poverty line.

Welfare rates were intentionally kept low, as low as 40 to 60% of the poverty line. Welfare rates have been kept so low that people are desperate enough to try to get off welfare & work for disgustingly low wages, like minimum wage at \$5/hr. (Now \$5.50). Ironically, after people have swallowed their pride & applied to crummy jobs, they are told that there is a waiting list. I personally know of several young, educated, able-bodied women, unable to get jobs & on welfare. More & more, people who benefitted from the economy in the past are being left behind by it. Over 90% of the jobs in the Lower Mainland are service sector & pay between 6 to 8 bucks an hour.

Concurrent to this larger economic picture, the past gov't systemically entrenched politics & legislation that disempowered the powerless. FCA & administration is both racist & classist in that "child protection" is practised almost solely on low income families & particularly on Native people. Young people have no choice about their lives & no say in where they want to live.

Conversely, the Act is practised almost solely on low income families in cases of abuse. This leaves non-low income children vulnerable to abuse.

The far reaching ramifications of the policy & ramifications are cultural genocide, family dissolution, increased poverty, increased inter-generational poverty, increased child poverty & hunger. Poor kids of all cultures die more often than non-poor kids.

This Review Panel must show leadership in recommending that the provincial government show leadership in turning this "trend" around. The same kind of leadership the gov't showed in stopping forced employment of single parents on welfare & funding the hungry kids program (2 of ELP campaigns).

FLAWs fear that communities will be expected to share the burden of change without the resources & funding required to do the work. FLAWs know what it means to be overworked & under-resourced. We urge the gov't to fund all community groups that are fighting to end poverty & to stop the corporate agenda.

Child poverty is caused by adult poverty. You do not relieve child poverty by removing children from their natural parents. What is misperceived as "abuse & neglect" is often really poverty. A child's clothes may be tattered because a parent does not have money for new ones. A child may be hungry because welfare rates are inadequate. A child may seem dejected & faint & dysfunctional because of hunger. If this is abuse, it's abuse by the government, not by the parent.

Guiding principles of legislative change:

All changes should be considered in the light that poverty is a form of systemic oppression in a patriarchal society that devalues women & children, & all cultures but the dominant one.

For example, many women & children are poor because separation from a male partner, or because women's work is not valued in the home or in the workplace & is poorly paid or not paid at all. If women got decent incomes for all of the kinds of work women do, poverty would not be such a gender & race-skewed issue. But it is.

Women need enough income to care for ourselves & children, despite our relationships to "significant others." Poverty is not & should not be a reason to disrupt families. Reducing poverty will reduce the need for child protection. Inadequate incomes are legislated.

Therefore, FLAWs recommend to the provincial government that:

- Welfare rates (currently 40 to 60% of the poverty line) be increased to the national poverty line. (MSS)
- Minimum wages be increased to \$9.05/hr or 122% of the poverty line (Min.Labour)
- Women's work, both domestic & in the workplace, be recompensed for work of equal value.

- d) the Ministry adopt the philosophy that social assistance is to ensure stability & help maximize the wellbeing of persons in need & to relieve poverty, suffering & neglect
- e) change to prevention model of social services vs. present crisis intervention & escalation model.

In light of this overview, FLAWs recommend that the administration & legislation of Family Child Services & Income Assistance:

- a) reflect cultural sensitivity to definitions of family & child's best interest;
- b) be fairly & justly administered so that all children in abuse situations, despite their families' incomes, benefit from protection & so that all children, despite their families' incomes, are not at risk for inappropriate protection means;
- c) ensure children's right to advocacy throughout any process affecting them;
- d) increase natural parents' welfare rates, resources & support services to the level available to foster parents;
- e) support natural parents in their children's extra needs, like school projects' funding so that children with natural parents are not punished for their parent's poverty by missing daytrips or extracurricular activities;
- f) support parents; parents know what they need. When parents ask for something the Ministry should respect their position & try to accommodate them;
- g) stop penalizing parents so that they are afraid to ask for anything lest their children be taken away;
- h) delineate child apprehension duties from support duties so that parents can speak freely of their needs without fear of losing children for needs caused by poverty, such as more income & safer housing;
- i) remove (& enforce restraining orders for) non-parent abusers instead of removing children;
- j) provide preventive services for parents i.e. better incomes, home care, social housing, childcare, access to education of choice, social worker for parent's needs, etc.;

k) make it easier for natural parents to get their children back once apprehension has occurred. Do this by not taking away benefits & social housing while children are still removed as temporary order. Ensure that natural parents will be able to get adequate housing & incomes as a condition of getting their children back. This would be much more realistic & cost-effective than most parenting skills programs that do not take into account the economic condition of families;

- l) streamline the Ministry so that IA and FCS work more closely to benefit child & family. eg. financial assistance needs discretion from social worker, or social worker needs capability to administer funds;
- m) reverse the negative effects of re-organisation, computerization & privatisation;
- n) give more discretion to frontline workers in Ministry & all departments so that decisions affecting families can be made & appealed quickly;
- o) apprehension & reunion issues should be dealt with at a tribunal that is fast & fair.

These are just some of the recommendations that FLAWs believe will alleviate the "poverty, suffering & neglect" that women & children on welfare endure.

Let's go back to Mary, our case sample. Let's imagine for a minute a Ministry that cares about people & see what the picture could look like with the recommended changes in place: When Mary finds out that her partner has been abusing her children, she calls the Ministry. The Ministry immediately removes the abuser & enforces his removal until such time as a trial can be arranged. Mary is sad about the abuse, but not desperate. Her income assistance, no longer 40 to 60% of the poverty line, allows her to raise her children autonomously. She & the children remain together & get counselling of their choice through the Ministry to deal with the abuse. Mary's social housing tenure means that her home life is not disrupted except that the ab-

user is removed, not her children. The children's grandmother moves in with the family to help out. Social housing approval of this & even provides better accommodation so that this can happen. One of Mary's kids has a job at McDonald's. Her income of \$9.05/hr helps the family's stability. Mary & her family are recovering & looking to their options for the future.

The current government & Ministry has the power to help Mary & her children & all people on welfare have a better life, instead of increasing suffering & poverty as it currently does. It just needs the political will to do it. The government has to start with higher welfare rates & more support for natural parents.

Thank you for listening.

#### NEIGHBOURHOOD HELPERS

Never heard of us? Well we're not salesmen. We don't belong to any religious group. We don't have any connection with AA or NA.

So what do we do? Very Simple. We try to put a smile on our neighbour's face. All we are is a link in a chain. Now, the answer is simply that we are linking with seniors to build our community. How?

By providing means, resources, mutual support in Downtown Eastside hotels in order to build a better community.

So far we have helped people organize a door check in one hotel and we also have helped people organize community rooms, put on coffee a couple of days a week and have collective meals in different places.

How do we do this? By getting to know people who live in a place and working with them around the issues in their building and in their community.

Sometimes we rent a room for people in a hotel to use as a community space and offer them coffee and toast. That way, we get to know who is around and they get to know about us and what we can do together.

## WASTE OF A NATION

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In one place people confronted the hotel management about the way things were falling apart and after a big fight, forced them to do something about it.

They also got a \$7800 grant for their group to do activities and keep a community room. Another group in a hotel also got a grant for the same thing.

This just shows what people can do when they work together.

If you are interested in doing something like this in your building or if you would like to volunteer for Neighbourhood Helpers, please call us at 254-6207.

I enjoy my work and I hope that in my senior days you are there to help.

By PAUL ROY

## Mathematics, Philosophy & Reality

In light of recent statistics showing the drop-out rate of high school students to be approaching 30% at a time when the government is encouraging students to enter high tech fields which require math skills, I am convinced that unless the philosophy which goes hand in hand with math is taught, the drop-out rate will increase.

Let me quote Rene Descartes...

"When I first applied my mind to mathematics I read strait away most of what is given by mathematical writers & I paid special attention to arithmetic & geometry because they were said to be the simplest and, so to speak, the way to all the rest. But in neither case did I meet with authors who fully satisfied me. I did indeed learn in their works many propositions about numbers, which I found in my calculations to be true. As to figures, they in a sense exhibited to my eyes a great number of truths of which I had drawn conclusions from certain consequences. But they did not seem to make ~~is~~ self-sufficiently plain to the mind itself why these things are so & how they discovered them. Consequently I was not too surprised that many people of talent & scholarship should, after glancing at these sciences, have given them up as being empty childish, difficult & intricate..therefore being deterred at the very outset from learning them. But when I afterward be-

thought myself how it could be that the earliest pioneers of philosophy in bygone ages, who refused to admit anyone to the study of wisdom who was not nursed in the study of mathematics, I was confirmed in my suspicion that they had knowledge of a species of mathematics very different from that which passes current in our time."

His words here are on of the premises of my belief that without the philosophy of math being taught at high school level many gifted mathematicians will simply give up in their search for the truth of math.

Another philosopher/mathematician, Bertrand Russell, said:

"Mathematics is the subject in which we never know what we are talking about nor what we are saying is true."

"Ever since the dawn of philosophy there has been a philosophical enigma which has agitated the most enquiring of minds, and that is how can it be that mathematics, being merely concepts & ideas which are independent of sensory perception, be so appropriately applicable to objects of reality. Albert Einstein stated that he could not have justified his special theory of relativity without the deep reflection upon this philosophical enigma and he justified it with two statements: "As far as the propositions of mathematics refer to reality they are not certain and as far as they are certain they do not refer to reality."

Bounce that around in your cranial matter for a while.

MARC ROY

see the man with the hairy arms  
see the man in the yellow tank top  
see all the hordes at the beach  
and  
at the next bus stop  
let me outa here  
take me to the place where the  
"lower" animals rule  
the non domesticated fabricated non fools  
take me to the place where the  
"lower" animals rule  
where i see more of them less of those like me  
strength of mountain fluidity of sea  
before the "advanced" higher brighter ones  
destroy all this  
i wanna enjoy a little of the joy  
playfulness and bliss

Tim Kirk



GORD ELIAS IS DOING A GREAT JOB: Yes ?  
No

He's well worth the high salary the citizens of Canada pay him, isn't he?...He provides a very skillful service, doesn't he? In case you don't know who I'm talking about, it's Police Constable Gord Elias to you, bud'y!

This guy explains away any & all wrongdoing or apparent wrongdoing by his "Brother officers"...your valiant police force whom Gord refers to as "members"...members of what you might ask(?)...well, members of "The Force" (of course).

Yes, Gord is a public relations expert. Your cool gov't finds that his cool unruffled manner & spare no-nonsense way of dealing with public perception can subtly deflect any emotional reaction to the situation, & although we may not carry the victim's mentality with us, nevertheless we are subject to random victimization by well-paid police mentalities, are we not? And though I may at times contradict myself, those mentalities do carry loaded weapons & come with vicious dogs snarling in the middle of the night, don't they?

#### DUDDLEY DO-RIGHT STRIKES AGAIN:



O Citizens of Canada, they come with angry teeth to chew your face off for the greater glory of protected property values.

But you forget about it, don't you? Mister & Missus proud Canadian; you remember that you're well protected...& Gord Elias is doing a great job, isn't he?

But then there's something even Gord Elias may not understand, or easily explain away... When criminal activities break out in Mister Roger's Neighbourhood, the good citizens are as terrified of the police as they are of the criminals.

When it gets to the point that no one in their right mind can trust a cop... As it is today in many of our fine Canadian neighbourhoods across this great land of ours (theirs?), we may find that people begin to communicate with their local criminals... Yes, Gord - we're talking criminals - those somewhat deranged but honest products of closet fascist society whose skillful arts & nasty disposition enable them to live off the avails of others... (sounds like a prescription for capitalism to me).

Topdog might even have to band together with Underdog for mutual protection from a closet fascist police force protected by public relations...sound ridiculous Gord? Maybe. But it wouldn't be the first time such a reversal of allegiance became necessary for survival.

Meanwhile...there are maniacs out there slicing women's bodies up & serving them as aphrodesiacs, both literally & figuratively, and we all know the great nation must keep a happy how-are-ya grin on its face for unity's sake, don't we?

The united beast of Kakanada goes whistling happy-go-lucky tunes down the long damp corridors of history...hi-ho, hi-ho, it's off to work we go...

TORA



Editor,

The time has come to seriously evaluate our approach to the "drug problem."

Street gangs proliferate & prosper from trade in illicit drugs. Violent crime has risen 60% in the last 15 years. We witness sentences of 5 years & more for growing marijuana while murder (manslaughter) routinely gets less. The police can no longer respond meaningfully to an array of offenses that are termed soft crime including theft, while pursuing their assault on drugs. They are, to some extent, ineffectual against extremely predatory & violent criminals, largely due to lack of resources, while high-level drug operations command sophisticated & immensely expensive, around-the-clock surveillance for months at a time. The RCMP report 75% of our criminal law enforcement effort is drug related.

This quagmire that is drug enforcement is also impacting our individual freedoms. Some protections of our Charter, such as the requirement that the authorities have "reasonable & probable grounds" before undertaking various actions against an individual, have been gutted (Granville Mall Ruling, Supreme Court of Canada) as the judicial system reacts to the drug problem. As the authorities expand their efforts into 'demand side enforcement' (drug consumers), we witness various strategies to institute random drug testing.

We are treated to the police appearing on their own TV special (Northwest Crack-down) seeking to present the drug bust as entertainment, while imploring us to turn in our neighbours. We're told we're either part of the solution or part of the problem; anyone failing to help police identify users & dealers—part of the problem.

The underclass is being criminalized by the present drug prohibition policy. An 'us against them' attitude is evolving that has developed to the point that people are routinely beaten & sometimes shot by enforcement personnel as they conduct their WAR ON DRUGS.

The more well-off have come to view the underclass as an unsavory segment of society, a threat to them personally; they are no longer concerned with correcting

social & economic problems that affect 'have-nots'. This has extended to tacitly endorsing violence as a law enforcement tool (demonstrated by the Rodney King verdict) & our own Crown prosecutors refusal to lay assault charges against officers video-taped beating Hau Zhang. Amnesty International, usually consumed by antics in 3rd World dictatorships, recently cited this outrage, but this notable fact has been treated as a non-event by the media.

This situation, evolving out of the prohibition of illicit drugs, should cause reasonable people to question the present approach & explore alternatives. David Suzuki, on his TV program, presented a compelling case for decriminalization, showing how in Europe they did this & removed the profit aspect from illicit drugs. The criminal lifestyle was removed with dramatic results.

It's time we asked ourselves whether the cure has not proven to be far worse than the disease? Has the WAR ON DRUGS become a WAR ON THE UNDERCLASS?

By STUART MEADE

The only mention of Amnesty's concern was in the Sun on Wed. 22 July. Meade checked daily thru Saturday... not a whisper. Also no editorials in the Sun or Province..no TV or radio coverage. "Possibly a call to Haysom, the Sun's publisher, would be in order. Haysom has actively solicited public input since his takeover from his predecessor Hill. There hasn't even been an editorial in either paper in 4 days. They are all so concerned with escalating police brutality but close ranks with the powers-that-be when Amnesty cites us."





*"Time cannot steal  
the treasures  
we carry in our hearts."*

Words of last year, reflected on this year, as another summer passes with no Access to the park for people with a disability, i.e. wheelchair, aid of a cane or heart problems.

With the help of a motorized chair I am able to cruise over to the park and experience the peace & serenity that I need.

How much longer will our people have to sit, in their apartments, homes for seniors...and stare at four walls?

CPR, Ports Canada & both Gordons at City Hall seem to not take us seriously about our needs. I believe we are going to have to let them know we mean business. We need to start some ACTION.

I'm tired of talking, writing and waiting.

Margaret

As I sit here in the Park  
thinking of a million things

I hear those blasted trains  
screeching something awful

The propellers turning on a  
chopper going off to it's  
next destination

Listen, there's another plane  
landing, while another one  
takes off to God knows where

The seabus has landed with a  
full load, and soon will be off  
to North Vancouver

A sister ship has blown its  
horn to let everyone know  
she will be leaving soon

The gulls are flying overhead,  
looking for their next meal

As the wind whisks through the  
park, making the trees sing,  
the diamonds glitter on the  
water and the grass dance to  
a beautiful tune. As it smothers  
my body with coolness, as the  
sun beats down

As the day winds down, the  
sound of laughter and peaceful  
feelings fade away, to the night  
of many different sounds.

Margaret





# Poems

by Eric Trethewey

## A Student Speaks of Companions

It was noon, I was talking to a friend  
when the soldiers came. For no reason  
they beat me, put a hood over my head.  
Not to know where we were going in the back  
of that truck was frightening, or why  
they stripped my clothes when we arrived.  
They left me there for hours, blindfolded,  
arms tied behind my back. And when  
they returned, still no one spoke.  
I was led out to another place, so silent  
when we got there I could hear them breathing  
all around as they strapped me  
to a metal bedspring without a mattress—  
the *toaster*, they called it—and turned  
the current on. That wasn't all.  
They used the *picana* too, bragging  
that it was their invention, a new honour  
for our country. All of them laughed  
at the one who said this. They clamped  
electrodes to my head, my scrotum,  
screamed curses and beat me until I smelled  
their sweat. I discovered that pain  
can always increase, that always  
there is someone willing to make it.  
For months I was tied and blindfolded.  
There was nothing to see, nothing to hear,  
no one to talk with. Always there was  
pain, even when the torture stopped—  
mostly in my shoulders from being tied  
so long. It was my only company. We waited  
alone together every day for the next session.  
Only once, for a short time, I was put  
in a room with another, bound and gagged  
like me. We communicated secretly  
by clicking fingernails. It had  
a simple meaning: you are not alone.

Looking through the window,  
A pretty lady was seen  
Laughing and singing happily  
Where has the lady been?

Andrew Pun

a little poem



We had a nice poem class today  
It was just like a wonderful poem.  
It reminded me of the time when I was young  
It isn't too late to learn.

Alex Guo

Today I learned a new style to write,  
This taught me always to use my insight  
There is a never ending learning process  
Today's poetry class put me to the test.

Marty Lucas



Wandering among the visitors in the Museum,  
Standing before the poles  
And listening to the guide,  
Calling my memory back to the old times.

Carmen Guo



A long thread can not be cut away  
Because this thread is mixed in a ball,  
Is it just like a sorrow of farewell?  
There is much hurt that my heart is feeling



Shang Liao

## Ditch

No more than a runnel  
of brownish liquid, iridescent  
with oil. Scum at the edge  
where a wrapper of some sort—  
red paper, blurred logo—  
is half-submerged, bobbing  
in the current, deeper now  
than any meaning intended  
by its makers. It reminds me  
of empty cigarette packets  
we scoured the roadsides for  
as children, tramping  
those rural miles, hoping

to find change, a large bill  
from someone's pocket  
wedged in a seam. And it's  
the way I am still, on this day,  
rain falling steadily,  
and nothing to lift me.  
On the bank, a cluster  
of pale blue flowers  
that I haven't noticed before,  
can't name, rises up, holds  
the light—how difficult  
each day can be without  
small gifts that brighten  
our merely human lives.

July 8, Wednesday...cloudy.

Yesterday, Constance, my new teacher, suggested that we practise our English by writing a journal. It is a good idea.

I am still keeping my mother's diary of more than ten years. She wrote constantly from 1965 up to the day she finally left her home and died in hospital nine years ago.

For me, I had given up such a hobby almost half a century ago. Because, to write down some words to express your thinking during war time was really a dangerous thing to do, especially when your homeland was occupied by aggressors.

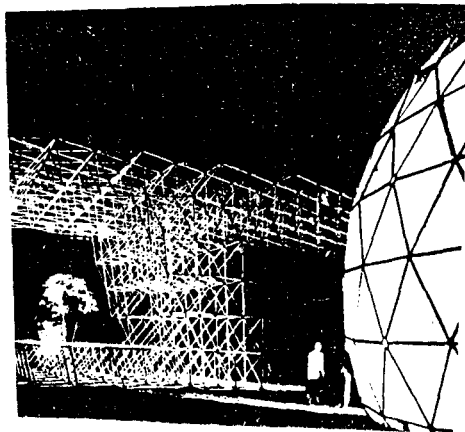
Living in a country without freedom and democracy, one is vulnerable to a miscarriage of justice through explicit writing. There were so many famous writers in China who had been put in jail or killed. In my memory, during the Mao era, one of them lost his freedom for a long time just because he wrote down one line in his journal: "I am sorry for I have lost my 'Canon'." They did not care that he was just talking about a chess game.

In my opinion, the journal is not just a record of one's life. The most valuable function of the journal is that one can, without limitation, give full play to one's feelings and freely write down any ideas that one may have. That is why so many famous and successful journals remain in the world. I have seen the movie adapted by Anne Frank's journal, that left me with a deep & moving impression.

The ground underneath my feet is moving and the water beside me is always running. Now I am living in Canada, a peaceful nation with freedom. Even though I am an old man and do not have too much time left, I think I will try to carry out Constance's suggestion.

July 9, Thursday...sunny.

To practise our English today, Constance asked us to use fifteen minutes to describe something on a chosen picture. This really gave me a little bit of difficulty because of my trembling hand & my poor memory. Moreover, usually I use my computer instead of my pen & always have to check my spelling & grammar frequently with a dictionary.



As usual, after class, I read the newspaper when I came home. I learned that the new Hong Kong governor, Chris Patten, had already arrived in Hong Kong. I did not know whether it is the cause or a coincidence, but the stock market took a great plunge.

There are two main reasons for the recent breakdown in the Sino-British talks: First is the financing of the new airport and second is the argument over the number of legislative assembly members to be elected by democratic means before 1997. I am wondering why China is a nation named "The People's Republic of China" when it is so afraid of democracy. Why is the bureaucracy frightening the people & causing them to leave their homeland when it is just ready to take back the colony? Is it fighting the British just for financial reasons or is it against capitalism because imperialism seems to be more open to the practice of democracy?

Oh, things get stranger every day!

Stan Cheng

As I take  
my daily walk  
through life  
I meet sorrow, shame  
and even death



The fire in my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace

When worry, anxiety  
poverty and ruin come  
to me  
I welcome them  
as old friends  
and help where I am able

The fire in my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace

In my heart  
there burns a love  
that reaches to the very depth  
of my soul  
from the peace and rest  
of eternity I come

The fire in my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace

From a gentle heart  
I come  
to be in this game  
of life  
on earth

The fire in my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace

One bride walks this earth  
one who is me  
as individual expression  
only she's a girl  
one who lit my fire

The fire in my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace

We only met once  
on planet earth  
in May of '75  
Vancouver of all places  
for only 20 minutes

The fire in my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace

As soon as our eyes met  
the little light of consciousness  
winked out and  
a light of spirit burned  
one eternity deep

The fire of my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace



No other woman  
ever blew my mind  
like that  
and understanding love  
in perfection isn't easy

The fire of my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace

I respect the same truth  
that dwells in every heart  
the truth that says  
love is worth it  
eternity is built on it

The fire in my soul  
burns the fear away  
my emotions are at peace



Dreamweaver

IF I COULD

Length and thickness determines pitch  
if I could have one last wish nothing as sweet  
would be my final wish but  
to be as simple as to have your kiss....

Your love illuminates my work's will shine  
a summer's day  
long hours loom  
all flowering plants bloom  
warmer than July  
Ponderosa Pine spiralling  
into a clear blue sky  
Mountain Rogin, Mountain Sparrow  
Two crows and a Raven  
fighting over  
half a loaf  
of bread.

Taum DanBee

# cruise biz growth plan

The major operator in the Alaska cruise market is planning a capacity increase of nearly 30 per cent in 1993.

Princess Cruises will have five ships operating on a two-week round-trip cycle between Vancouver and Alaska.

The number of sailings will increase from 96 to 102 and larger ships will provide more berths.

Ray Pedersen, president of Princess Tours, praised Ottawa for scrapping objectionable features in new legislation controlling coastal shipping.

A tattooed man who held up a bank made one bad mistake.

He didn't wear a shirt.

Vancouver police say it wasn't hard to identify their suspect.

"I think he had a parrot on one shoulder and some kind of animal on the other," said Det. Al Boyd of the major-crime squad.

Vancouver police are cracking down on problem panhandlers.

Six tonnes of hashish went up in smoke this weekend, and now the cops are looking for another 16 tonnes.

Eugene Higgins, a preacher from Haddonfield, N.J.

On the site of the Miracle Mile footrace, Higgins promised that miracles were near at hand.

"Christ is not passing out degrees to those who complete their Bible studies," Higgins preached. "He wants you to come just as you are, as a guilty sinner."

Sunday, July 19, 1992

The Sunrise Hotel was the last bar on Vancouver's skid row where Guy Bennett refused to go for a beer.

As a youngster he'd once witnessed a vicious fight outside the bar—and the lingering memories of violence had kept him wary.

But, as Bennett writes in Guy's Guide to the Flipside, when he finally did muster the courage, "Having my first beer in the Sunrise was like losing my virginity."

## new book looks at seedy areas and the folks who live there

Pulp Press is bringing out an expanded version next month, with a printing of 3,000 copies.

The updated guide has a new chapter, Skin, not found in the first edition.

"I found that all triple-X theatres are not created equal,"

George Vancouver died at age 40 in 1798, less than three years after returning from the Pacific. In John Vancouver's angry words, he died of a broken heart, worn down by an unfeeling Admiralty and the criticism of highly placed foes. His enemies, John claimed, were the relatives and toadies of one of Vancouver's former midshipmen, Thomas Pitt, later Baron Camelford, whom Vancouver flogged two or three times and eventually sent home in disgrace.

The vengeful Camelford, first cousin to both Prime Minister William Pitt and Lord Chatham (who served as First Lord of the Admiralty), and brother-in-law of Lord Grenville, minister of foreign affairs, attempted to push the sickly Vancouver to a duel, even going so far as to cane the captain on a London street.

Eight women singing It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood marched topless from Grandview Park down Commercial Drive wearing "censored" stickers on their nipples on Friday.

One woman had the words "Not Obscene" painted across her bare chest.

Drivers gawked and kids on passing buses shouted obscenities.

Police officers cruising by in patrol cars got an eyeful but made no arrests. "We're doing this to support Gwen Jacob," said Squeig Conejo.

## Lose-lose syndrome

"I'm considered brain dead," says former TV reporter Carmichael, 43, the mother of three preschoolers.

"The only thing people want to discuss with me is children. And I'm running across sales people who've adopted the speak loudly and slowly in words of one syllable attitude like I'm stupid."

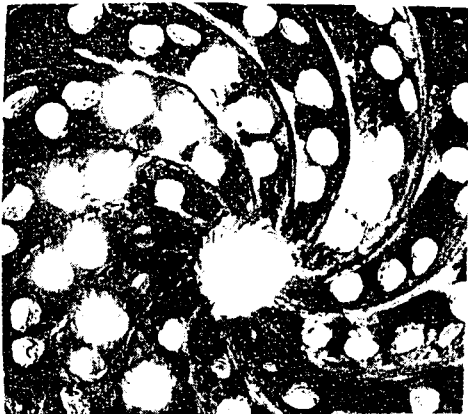
New mothers quickly discover the lose-lose syndrome, according to Wendy Hall, assistant professor of nursing at University of B.C., who studied women with infants who returned to work and their husbands.

Hall says the problems for full-time mothers start with the fact that our society considers people productive adults only when they earn money.

## Learning to Write

In our classroom today  
something for us to learn is different  
writing a poem is new to me  
But, I find it is interesting!

Mary Mark



## Flammatia Moenia

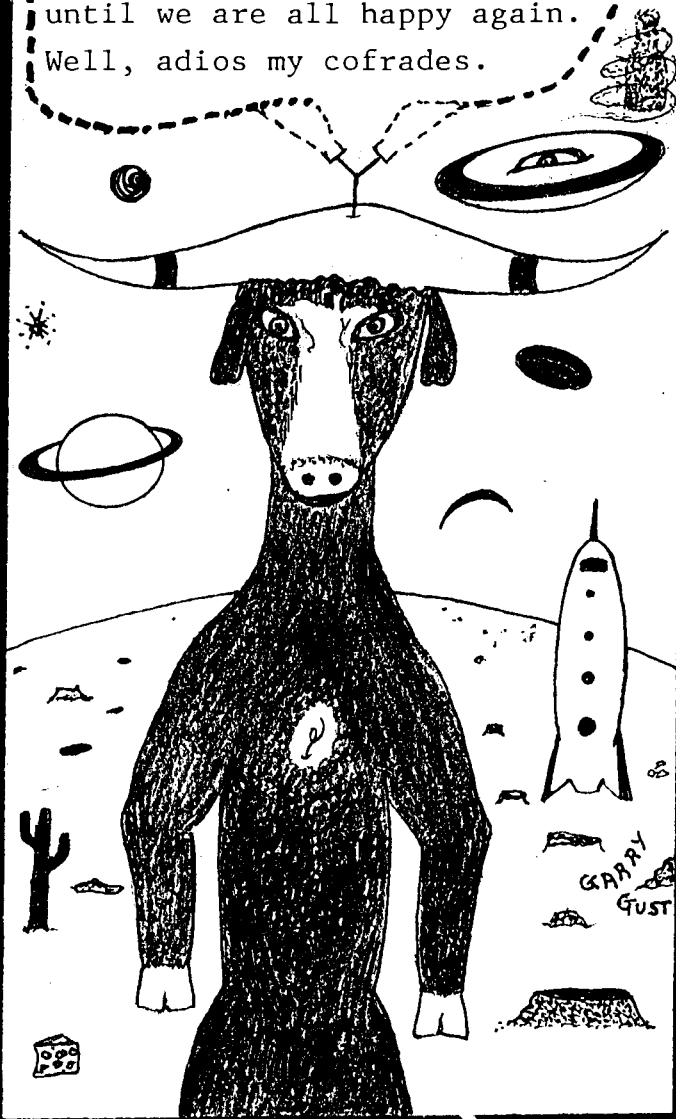
Bridging outer & inner mind,  
Real to ideal, ontic arc of time,  
Building a tao of sephierothic tree  
Polar antimer...parity,  
Silence sings of amberings,  
Tryptyche, latice-like violins,  
Cosmopoietic doxology,  
Oceanic corroborree and  
nucleotidal epiphany.

Plenum & nihility - bond & free;  
Diaspora of cosmocracy,  
Lumeniferousity  
(Emits, transmits, and yields)  
to Scintillant deals;  
Coruscant reals;  
Fulgurant ideals;  
Disperse into shining walls of  
Universe. (Flammatia Moenia)

Pencil Pupil Paraface

John Hussey

Allo, I am Turbus the machismo  
space bull. On my planet the  
social life is very good, because  
When a senorita heifer says si,  
we are all very happy. But if  
the senorita says no, we go and  
cool off in the star showers  
until we are all happy again.  
Well, adios my cofrades.



DERA: The Stories Continue by Ken Lyotier

I am grateful to Paul Taylor, who despite the difficulties & flaws I find inherent in his writing, has most effectively begun in the last issue of this newsletter to advance the process of public disclosure of DERA's lack of accountability to the community it is meant to serve. While I appreciate being reminded at this awkward juncture of some of its finer achievements this does not absolve DERA of its responsibility for the financial loss incurred through the misappropriation of public money.

And it is all public money, even the donations. DERA is a charity & is therefore responsible to the Charities Division of Revenue Canada for the conduct of its operation. Money is just a medium of exchange intended to represent the value of the labour required to provide goods & services & regardless of the rationalizations & justifications the money is still missing.

In principle the responsibility for the operation of DERA devolves through the membership to an elected board of directors who, in turn, employ the services of management staff. The membership is accountable to the community for upholding the association's objectives as set out in the constitution. The board is accountable to the members & staff to the board. Part of management's duties through direction from the board is to insure that accounting structures are in place to protect the association's finances from being misused. As an organization grows it may be necessary to restructure the accounting policies & procedures to correct weaknesses & eliminate redundancies that can develop. It is also part of management's duties to see that reliable administrative personnel are in place as required to carry out policies & procedures.

It is not an uncommon practise for employers to require references outlining previous work histories from prospective employees particularly when there may be suggestion of impropriety in the worker's past conduct. Quite apart from undertaking reviews of credentials as a matter of course, DERA's management was certainly made aware years ago that there could be legitimate reasons for making an official request for reference with regard to the previous activities of a specific employee. For its own reasons DERA apparently chose not to do so. One cannot help but wonder whether management advised the board of the concerns at the time & if so, what instructions if any were given.

Of course it is clear in retrospect that it would have been prudent for management to act more responsively when the concerns were first raised. With fuller information it could've been decided that it might be inappropriate to place this particular employee in a position with access to DERA's funds. That the access was gained through a series of advances on wages is noteworthy. Again, while it is not an especially uncommon practice for employers to provide advances

under special circumstances, it is normal for them to be repaid. Most commonly they are deducted from the employee's next paycheque. This was not the case at DERA. Advances could be carried over month to month & added to with new advances & at year-end to avoid declaring unrepaid advances as income they were written down as loans & rolled over as part of next year's debt. Loans remained uncollected year to year & advances continued. personal debt became substantial (for 2 people scamming the system & us - Ed.).

This system has been described as "loose". It was evidently loose for a number of years. I've been advised by former DERA payroll clerks, former employees, volunteers, the treasurer & now through the editor's comments in the last edition that management also received advances. According to the info I've received management's advances were also substantial & rolled over as loans. In recognition of the problem there was some short term effort to establish a process of collection last year but it was ineffective because of unwillingness or inability to repay at the rate agreed upon. I believe it is important to understand management's early knowledge of the situation because of the onus on management to advise the board of directors as to the nature & extent of the problem. If it was not advised or the advice was misleading then it could lose some of its ability to control finances & might not be able to carry out effectively its responsibilities to the membership. I also believe that there is evidence of weaknesses in the present style of management at DERA that may have as much to do with historical & philosophical positions as with individual personalities. Community development approaches vary. At one extreme leadership is central, at the other the community. Finding an effective workable balance is the endless struggle of all good community organizers because the balance changes as the community gains experience & matures. It is tempting & sometimes critical for leadership to take unilateral action. Such actions often result in very successful achievements but can tend to isolate leadership & exclude community participation in decision-making. It can also cause a loss of objectivity enabling leadership, on the 1 hand, to confuse personal ambition with its responsibility to serve & on the other foster complacency, apathy & alienation in the community.

In my opinion it is time for the residents of the downtown eastside to take the lead, to tighten up the looseness, to close ranks & to redress imbalances in OUR residents' association.

\* Last issue's DERA report:  
(at least) 100 in favour (with thanks)  
and 1 (or 3) opposed.

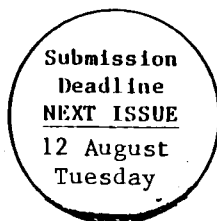
...so it goes.

DOWNTOWN STD CLINIC - Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm.  
 EASTSIDE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC - Mon, Wed, Friday, 5:30-7:30pm.  
 YOUTH NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; everyday 9am-5pm.  
 ACTIVITIES Needle exchange van - on the street Mon-Sat evenings.  
 SOCIETY N.A. meets every Monday night at 223 Main Street.

Out-to-Lunch Bunch meets daily at 101 W.Cordova (A.A.)

1992 DONATIONS: Cement Masons-\$100

Keith C.-\$20 Paula R.-\$20  
 Nancy W.-\$100 Colleen E.-\$25  
 Luba P.-\$10 Stuart M.-\$10  
 Robert -\$10 CEEDS - \$50  
 Rotary Club of Chinatown -\$767.15  
 Four Sisters Co-op -\$500  
 DERA -\$500 Joyce -\$10  
 Legal Services -\$200  
 Etienne S.-\$50  
 Forest Lawn -\$25  
 Yvonne C.-\$10  
 Ken -\$5  
 Tom S.-\$5  
 Hazel M.-\$25  
 The Old Sailor -\$40  
 Cecile C.-\$20  
 Jean F.-\$15  
 Anonymous -\$18



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

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

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 everyone!

## 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



Come into the DERA office at 9 East Hastings St.  
 or phone us at 682-0931

DERA HAS BEEN SERVING THE  
 DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE FOR 19 YEARS.

Editor

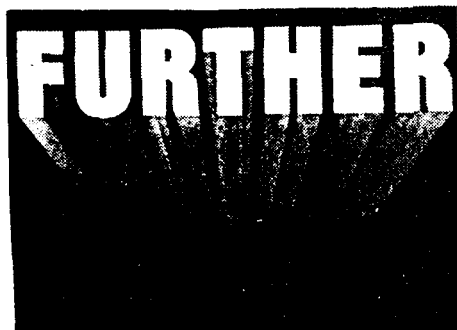
I was a guest at the Mission's SALUTE TO THE RESIDENTS. I must say they did their patients proud.

They had video interviews with the residents, asking them about their first memories, what their first jobs were and, in general, their life history. It was a spectacular piece of work.

They had personal awards, such as who likes to take the longest walks, who has the best garden, who grows the best tomatoes, who bowls & who likes to exercise. They were all very interesting. The Mission staff are very thoughtful & have a great sense of humour.

They also served food, so that topped the afternoon.

Dora Sanders



A couple of days ago in the Seniors Lounge, I asked a guy about the day trips advertised on the window. In a matter of a minute he gave me three different excuses to try to discourage me from getting involved. First, he said, "Well, these trips are only for people with a senior's card." "Well," I said, "I have a senior's card." Next he stated: "Look, we have a lot of people coming here from different areas & these trips are just for people who live in this area." "But," I said, "I do live in this area." Well, that tactic didn't work so he tried again. With a wave of his hands he gestured to the men sitting in the lounge watching TV and said, "These trips are just for the people here who support this place." Well, I'd had enough. With that, I held my coffee cup up & said, "And what the hell do you think this is?"

the Eagles Eyre

Ahh, it is fine  
Explorers to the top  
of Grouse Mountain  
(oops, lost a shoe)  
...litter of tins, from hikers  
smashed glass bottles all colours  
brown, green, clear, even purple  
must of been the skiers

Everything in bloom  
furze and wildflower  
a din of bugs begins;  
over the coned peaks  
(Zoom-same rate downtown  
\$60. bucks for 15 min.)  
to soar like an eagle  
over pine drenched vistas  
Stagleap and Bear forest  
untrammelled by (Wo)man  
to breath air so sweet  
to see Tswassen as a Bay  
to see 2nd Narrows and Burnaby  
to see ocean vessels as toy boats  
in that tub of all tubs  
the Western Pacific

Taum DanB

Sometimes people look at me & in a split second they think they have me all figured out. All they see or think they see is white middle-class. They judge me & put me in a category without even knowing me. When I feel people judging me so quickly I want to shake them & shout, "Listen, you don't know me or what I've done or what I have been through." I've had some really tough times & nobody in here can know them without knowing me. They see white skin & blue eyes & they think they know my whole story. I mean, I get my clothes at the free places too.

Geraldine



# The Woman's Encyclopedia of Myths and Secrets

## Joan of Arc

Barbara Walker

"Joan of the Bow" - Joan the Huntress - also called La Pucelle, "the Maid", a traditional title of a priestess in the fairy religion. Joan herself stated that she received her mission "at the tree of the Fairy-ladies," a centre of the Dianic cult at Domremy. In 1429, ecclesiastical judges examined her & announced that holy angels had appointed her to save France. Later, the Bishop of Beauvais reversed this decision. In 1431, aged only 19, she was burned as a witch at Rouen, wearing a placard that said: "Relapsed, Heretic, Apostate, Idolator." Ecclesiastical authorities never did explain the nature of her 'idols'. The executioner pretended to find her heart unburned in the ashes, to sell it for a holy relic.

For 500 years Joan remained a popular heroine until she was canonized by Pope Benedict XV in 1920. To the church of her own time this would have been unthinkable. "The Church, jealous of her pagan authority over pagan soldiers (& jealous too of her success-based popularity with the masses) needed no urging by the English to see Joan as 'dispensable'. It was the Church which tried & condemned her; the Church which regarded her - rightly, of course - as an enemy; & the Church was glad to get rid of her." Ironically, the same church that pronounced Joan a witch & had her killed, now claims her as a saint.

## Joan, Pope

Catholic scholars now deny that there was ever a female pope, but the legend of Pope Joan persists. Even the church accepted Joan's pontificate as historical fact, up to the beginning of the 17th century. Her portrait appeared in a row of papal busts in Siena Cathedral, labelled Joannes VIII, femina ex Anglia: John VIII, an Englishwoman.

Pope Joan was first mentioned by her contemporary, Ananastasiu the Librarian

(d.886). Scotus's chronicle of the popes listed her: "A.D.854, Lotharii 14, Joanna, a woman, succeeded Leo & reigned 2 years, 5 months & 4 days." De Gemblours's chronicle said, "It is reported that this John was a female, & that she conceived by one of her servants. The Pope, becoming pregnant, gave birth to a child, wherefor some do not number her among the Pontiffs." Thomas de Elmham's official list of the popes said: "A.D.855, Joannes. This one doesn't count; she was a woman."

Papal historian & Vatican librarian Platina wrote in The Lives of the Popes that Joan was English, that she knew more of the scriptures than any man, & that she was elected pope by disguising herself in men's clothes & making herself a 'monk' noted for scholarship. Her deception was revealed when her labour pains came on her & she died in a street between the Lateran & St.Clement's church. She was dragged into the street & stoned to death & buried there in an unmarked grave. Martin Polonus said the street was ever afterwards avoided by papal processions, "out of detestation for what happened there. Nor on that account is she placed in the catalogue of Holy Pontiffs, not only on account of her sex, but also because of the horribleness of the circumstances."

Joan (or John) was the only pope ever stricken from papal records, although her pontificate was better documented than many others, especially the popes before the 4th or 5th centuries, many of whom had no contemporary documentation at all but were mere names inserted into later chronicles to create an illusion of unbroken succession.

The official story now is that there was an "antipope" named John, enthroned by popular demand against the will of the clergy & soon overthrown. But church historians were seldom trustworthy. In 1886, Emmanuel Royidis published Joan's biography, Papissa Joanna, stating in his introduction: "Every sentence in my book & almost every phrase is based on the testimony of contemporary authors." The church immediately banned his book & excommunicated him.

## Manifest Destiny

Catch-phrase invented by white settlers in North America to prove that God appointed them to destroy the Indians.

It was also part of Manifest Destiny that the Indians must be converted to the conqueror's religion. They didn't like that either. In 1805 a Seneca chief told a missionary: "Brother, we do not wish to destroy your religion, or take it from you; we only want to enjoy our own. Brother, we are told that you have been preaching to white people in this place...we will wait a little while & see what effect your preaching has on them. If we find it does them good, makes them honest & less disposed to cheat the Indians, we will then consider again what you have said."

## Forgery

Documentary foundations of the Christian church's temporal powers were often forged including the crucial Petrine doctrine of the keys. Notable among later forgeries were the Decretals of St. Isidore, alleged canons & decrees of the papacy from apostolic times to the 8th century AD, upholding papal claims to authority over European nations. These documents were first composed in France about the year 850 AD, although they pretended to date from the earliest foundations of the church.

Cardinal Nicholas of Cusa patiently investigated the Decretals in the 15th century & found them to be clumsy forgeries full of anachronisms & garbled history. The church refused to acknowledge that its traditional privileges were founded on false documents. The works of subsequent scholars revealing the deception were banned & their authors persecuted. Apologists who tried to explain away the forgeries were rewarded with ecclesiastical preferments. In 1628, when Blondel published irrefutable proof of the Decretals' fraudulence, his work was promptly placed on the Index of Prohibited Books.

## Marriage

Medieval folk tales convey a distinct impression that the Christian God opposed marriage. One story said a pure youth and

maiden agreed never to marry, "for love of God." But their heathen parents forced them into a wedding. By God's grace, the ground opened under their feet & swallowed them before they could spoil their virginity. A priest who dared officiate at the wedding was found dead next day. Another young couple eloped, being forced to defy God, who "did not sanction earthly marriages." Gebhard, archbishop of Cologne, was said to have blessed married couples illegally, & even took a wife himself. He was excommunicated, besieged by Catholic forces in Godesberg Castle, caught & killed. The ruins of his castle are still shown to travellers.

Priests abandoned the early church's rule of celibacy & began to take wives during the 5th & 6th centuries. This continued to the 11th century, when papal decretals commanded married clergymen to turn their wives out of their homes & sell their children as slaves. These new laws brought much more wealth to the church. Though some ex-wives stayed on as concubines of their former husbands, they were disinherited in the church's favour.

Churchmen revered St. Hilary, who was married & the father of a daughter. When his daughter wished to marry, however, Hilary forbade her. Fearing she might weaken & lose her virginity, he asked God to kill her. God complied, with a little help from Hilary himself. After burying the daughter "by his prayer" Hilary sent his wife to heaven also. The legend claims the wife voluntarily begged Hilary to "obtain for her the same grace which he had obtained for her daughter."

Besides popularizing the peculiar morality of a saint who killed his family, the church fostered "chastisement" of wives by husbands, citing St. Paul's teaching that "the head of every man is Christ, & the head of the woman is the man" (I Corinthians 11:3). In practice, under the pretext of discipline a man could torture his wife with impunity, & no religious or legal agency would defend her. A mild protest in the 13th-century Laws & Customs of Beauvais noted that an excessive number of women were dying of marital chastisement, so husbands were advised to beat their

wives "only within reason".

Jews & women were almost equally serviceable as scapegoats for the evils of medieval life, but women were more detested than Jews, according to a decree of Orvieto in 1350. This law said if a man & woman became involved in a love affair, one of them Christian & the other Jewish, the woman in the case, of whichever faith, must be beheaded or burned alive.

Often, anti-Semitism went to such lengths that Christian authorities even denied the origin of their own religion from a Jewish matrix. Opposing a papal aspirant of Jewish ancestry, St. Bernard wrote: "It would be an insult to Christ if the offspring of a Jew occupied the throne of Peter." Bernard seems to have wholly forgotten his own church's teaching that Peter himself was a Jew, as were all the other apostles & Jesus as well. The Jews didn't press the point, since the former Jewishness of Christ or Peter made no difference in the political situation.

Anti-Semitism reached an apogee under the rule of Adolf Hitler in our own century. Hitler made the Jews wear yellow badges, like medieval heretics. A German Christian organization announced in 1937, "Hitler's word is God's law." Hitler said:

"My feeling as a Christian points me to my Lord & Saviour as a fighter. It points me to the man who once, in loneliness, surrounded by only a few followers, recognized these Jews for what they were & summoned men to fight against them & who, God's truth! was greatest not as a sufferer but as a fighter. In boundless love as a Christian & as a man, I read through the passage which tells us how the Lord rose at last in His might & seized the scourge to drive out of the Temple the brood of vipers & adders. How terrific was the fight for the world against the Jewish poison."

Evidently Hitler was not much of a reader. He never got to the part that designated Jesus the Bridegroom of Zion; nor did he seem to know who owned the Temple.

Supported by plenty of "evidence" from the torture chamber, the useful theory of witches' flights could account for the fact

that no one ever saw the vast assemblages, allegedly coming together from great distances, to the devilish sabbat. It could also account for the prison suicides of victims who beat their heads against their cell walls until they died, to avoid further torture. The inquisitor Bodin said witches left unbound between sessions in the torture chamber often dashed themselves against the wall & broke their necks because they tried to fly away with Diana or Minerva.

Many women confessed under torture that they dug up children's corpses to make their flying ointment. On one occasion at Lindheim, six women confessed to this crime & were sentenced to the stake. The family of one of the women instituted an investigation of the grave in question, where the child's body was discovered intact. The inquisitors smoothly explained that the devil had reassembled the body to cause confusion. The witches were burned on schedule.

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## Country Living

A video and talk on life on an organic farm in the Cariboo.

Are you interested in trading city problems for fresh air, exercise and the chance to work with a group of people helping take care of animals and growing vegetables?

No experience, obligation or investment necessary.

Come to the meeting!  
Sunday, August 9th, 7pm  
Carnegie Centre, Main & Hastings

To Carnegie Board, Staff  
and Members,

I want to congratulate all of you for the many achievements of people at Carnegie over the past year. The annual report in your June newsletter was truly impressive. Carnegie not only is a "home away from home" for people who use the centre but you are a real force for social change in the community.

I know that Muggs Sigurgeirson represented you all when she received the Y.W.C.A. "Citizen" of Distinction" award.

Congratulations and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Margaret Mitchell, MP  
Vancouver East.

through the fire glass, grain  
terminals, a blue difficulty of sound  
muffled in the steel basins  
the hands of the driven  
falling like humid sieves  
evening is a stale orange seminar  
a dry, humourless meal  
the consistency of sand  
in a wide, grey mouth closing  
like a car door upon the last fingers  
of sunset  
which the warehouses are shedding  
into a tarnished silver bowl  
a shiny glass eye is opening  
where the inlet sleeps  
in its sweet, purple wine  
Daniel Feeney

#### June 5th letter to City Engineering

I've lived in this city for many years. Usually when I see that something is not being done, I make a note & do something.

The problem is our unclean sidewalks; by this I mean glass & other debris. The reason I note this is because I am in a wheelchair. Last year I was stranded 3 times on the sidewalk due to flat tires from broken glass & nails where buildings are going up.

Areas I've noted (glass) are around the pubs on Hastings, on or around wheelchair curb-ramps & openings of alleys.

If I should be addressing this to pub owners, grocery merchants, foremen, I'll need a letter of sorts from the City to show to these people that they are responsible for cleaning sidewalks of dangerous trash. Of course they will have to be translated &/or placed in our newspapers.

I would like some response on this ASAP.

Margaret Prevost

#### July 21st response (in part)

The Engineering Dept. provides a fairly extensive street cleaning program as follows:

1. The area is hand cleaned by a worker using a hand cart 5 days a week;
2. Hand cleaned by a worker using a motorized cart 7 nights a week;
3. Street is flushed to the curb 7 nights/week (when there's no water shortage);
4. Street mechanically swept 1 night/week;
5. Litter containers emptied 7 nights/wk.

(The rest of the letter talks of how litter is caused & how more care will be taken. It never addresses the main concern - are the owners, stores, foremen responsible for cleaning up? If glass is broken in the morning..if nails are scattered during the day ..it is their responsibility to clean it up then & there - not to subject the public to the danger of getting glass or nails in bare feet or tires. This is common sense & common courtesy. THERE AUGHTTA BE A LAW!)