

FREE - donations accepted.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 15, 1992.

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

Christmas at Carnegie



Who Is Juan Valdez?

There is a grim story behind the happy coffee picker on TV.

Have you ever seen the TV ad that goes like this? "Coffee anyone?" says the nicely dressed woman as she enters her spotless kitchen. All is normal as she opens a cupboard in search of her favourite

blend of coffee. But wait! A dark man with a large mustache is leading a mule out of her pantry. What can this mean?

"The rich, full mountain flavour of Columbian coffee, hand-picked by people like Juan Valdez," says a voice on the TV.

Who is Juan Valdez? Juan, or at least the image of him, is a registered trademark. He exists only in the minds of advertising copywriters, no more real than Aunt Jemima or Uncle Ben. But the image of the happy coffee picker stretches reality in more ways than one:

If he does pick coffee, Juan is probably among the 13 million Columbians living below the poverty line. He is cheap labour to a wealthy plantation owner, & like 66% of Columbian farmers, he has no land of his own. That's because the richest 4% of the population controls about 67% of Columbia's productive farm land.

The situation in Columbia is characteristic of many Third World countries. Land that was once used to feed local people now grows crops that are sold in other countries. It makes sense to the wealthy landowners because they can make more money selling coffee beans in Europe & North America than they can selling lima beans to the local peasants. It makes sense to many governments because they desperately need the cash earned on export crops to help pay their foreign debt. It makes little sense to Juan Valdez who can't eat coffee, & often can't afford food that must be imported at world prices.

So Juan has a good chance of being one

of the approximately 1 billion people in the world who cannot afford a nutritionally adequate diet.

Although justice for poor people will require far-reaching political & economic changes on a global scale, there are things we can do in the Downtown Eastside to keep hope alive.

The best way we can help Juan Valdez, & ourselves, is to work for justice in our own country - starting with our own community.

One excellent project that demonstrates that food actually comes from the land, & that the land is the earth & that the earth is, quite literally, our mother, is the Strathcona Community Gardens.

Another important connection to the land for members of the Carnegie Centre is the Cariboo Community Enhancement & Economic Development Society (CEEDS).

Both these projects practice sustainable organic farming, encourage self-sufficiency & have a respect for the earth that transcends the relationship of profit/loss.

One more thing. As Woodward's is closing & the IGA there has left the neighbourhood now would be the time for a People's Market in the Downtown Eastside. Maybe Jim Green in his new job could help out with such an enterprise.

(Thanks to World Food Update, 1991)

By SANDY CAMERON

OLD SPACE AND NEW HISTORY

There were parking lots across from the bus depot and across from the Europe Hotel that now have buildings being erected upon them; this is excellent land management.

Now if that fine old building called Woodward's could be saved for public housing, Vancouver would be well on its way to being a real West Coast-class city.

Garry Gust

NEIGHBOURHOOD HELPERS an evaluation

There's this long report - 7-8 pages - that was written as objectively as possible by "a community worker". She tried to be objective anyway, but after spending 2 or 3 months talking to residents, seniors, hotel owners, community agencies & City staff from Health & Social Planning departments & anyone else she could corner for a few minutes...

She admits freely that, after hearing nothing by good things from everybody she thought that the downside, "negative" to be nice.. "dirt" I guess, must be in the piles of notes she'd made. No go.

Jovial cynicism, better known as razzing, might make her report more balanced but even that didn't work. The core of the project was & is the very seniors & volunteers who, on paper in the original mandate, were supposed to "be served."

The first person hired was Jeff Sommers who some people say can walk on water... others say he can't even swim. Marg Green joined him, just back from doing community work in Africa. Both say they have to set aside what most service agencies expect from the beginning. They aren't here to decide what people need..to make the bulk of their reporting to funding bodies be numbers & statistics. Without people willing to help each other, no amount of crud will wash. Your "program" is dead in the water. So they just started talking with people.

The original idea for Neighbourhood Helpers grew out of a Carnegie Town Hall Forum in which two issues were recognized

- 1) There are many isolated older people living in local hotels.
- 2) There are people in the community who who do things for others & who are never recognized.

There were 2 ways to go about it; the standard "service" model where numbers & office hours & professionals tell the standard story...the crud gathers; the second is "community organizing" -

- * Be available.
- * The people will come.

- * Recognize the natural leaders.
- * The issues will evolve.
- * The staff person is simply there to bring people together & let them decide the issues.
- * Everyone involved in the process will develop.
- * How many services are provided is NOT the point.
- * The participants own the program.

It's like saying "I know there are people with common sense because I'm one of them."

A suggestion was to take a few quotes from the report, but one leads to another and one success is as meaningful as the next. If you want to look at a really readable evaluation of Neighbourhood Helpers drop into the Newsletter office. If Jeff or Marg are here they'll try to look embarrassed but I think they're as happy as everyone else is about this. It's good.

By PAULR TAYLOR



I would like to take this opportunity to thank my co-volunteers, friends, staff at Carnegie & well-wishers in caring, sharing concern & friendship toward me.

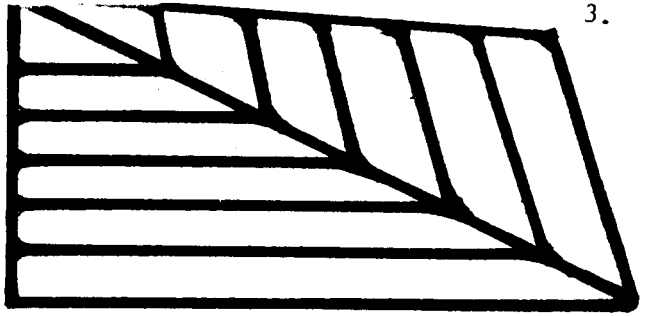
A heartfelt thanks to my friends,
love,

Sonja Mariah



Community Volunteer Program - an update

For the hundreds of volunteers at Carnegie, the \$100 a month extra is still in the policy review stage. It sounds great but the requirement of criminal record checks for every volunteer & staff person in any agency accessing this program has made it impossible to go ahead on for most places. These record checks cost \$40 each. More info as it comes through...



Discrimination at Carnegie Community Centre

I recently read in the Four Sisters News letter about how one of our co-op members was discriminated against at Carnegie. I'd like to share my experiences in this regard and I think it might be appropriate for my comments to be printed in the Carnegie Newsletter to start some serious dialogue on this subject.

My comments are as follows:

On 2 separate occasions I have entered Carnegie to return Van. Public Library books to the Carnegie Branch. On both occasions I was verbally harassed & intimidated at the entrance to the centre by groups of Canadian Indian women who told me that I was an upper class B--ch & that I had no right to be at Carnegie.

They commented in a negative way about my appearance. I am a low income clerical worker living & working a few blocks from Carnegie. My employer has a dress code specifying no jeans. I shop carefully at Value Village & Fedco to find attractive, feminine skirts, sweaters & knit pants to wear to work. I like to appear attractive in flattering classic styles. I too have had the experience of negative comments at Carnegie that "non-welfare" i.e. working people are not welcome at Carnegie.

I work & pay taxes like other people. It is my understanding that Carnegie Centre & its paid staff receive funding from the City of Vancouver. As such, I should be entitled to use this centre without being made to feel that I am too well dressed or appear to be a business/professional/working person in my daytime business clothes.

I know that when I go to swim at Britannia that I am not harassed & I personally know people on welfare who go there with-

0 out there being any discrimination against them or myself.

If Carnegie Centre is a public facility for the Downtown East Side Community, then all the people who live in this area should be welcome.

There are going to be condos built in the 100-block of Powell in 1993. If Carnegie is to remain a publically funded community centre then shouldn't the people occupying these condos be welcome to use facilities & have programs developed for their needs as well as other groups residing with the Downtown East Side?

(Name withheld by request)

PaulR, I would like you to edit & print my comments in the Carnegie Newsletter. PLEASE WITHHOLD MY NAME so I am not harassed by phone or in person. Given the nature of my comments, I am sure you will agree. I think it's about time to have some serious dialogue about this issue in this community. I might add if you decide not to raise this issue, I will not let it drop. I will send a copy of this letter to Mayor Campbell.

Dear _____,

Here's your letter, printed not due to what you think is a threat, but to let the shit hit the fan. We don't have Thought Police here to make sure everybody talks the right way.



STRANGE BIRD DREAM

I fed my head from the hookah and found myself in a room with familiar faces. They spoke of their world with orderly persuasion, as I drifted in and out of their words like a daydreamer on a sunny afternoon.

Suddenly I heard the punch line of a joke which jarred me back to attention. I analyzed this punch line for a moment, and found it to be of sound humor.

Not knowing what was said in the main body of the joke, I found myself giving a great oration on something unrelated to original meaning of it, using the punch line as my premise.

The familiar faces disappeared in a cloud of amused embarrassment, and I vanished into self-exile, until I could discover the original meaning of the subject.

I went to the great Trajonic mirror. A voice from the mirror spoke, "I may give you the information you seek, if you give me your face for 3 months."

I agreed and the wisdom was given to me. I lost my face, but was placated by Bob Dylan, Frankie Lee, and Judus Priest singing, "One should never be where one does not belong."

Then I awoke and finally got the Joke.

Tomorrow I search for a replacement to better represent the mere mortals in the magic room with familiar faces & worthy workings.

Woodrow O'Loosjaw.



5.

Sunday, December 20

BALLROOM DANCERS' DINNER & DANCE

5:00 - 10:00 p.m. Theatre

Tickets available through dance class

Sundays, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

FREE CHRISTMAS SNACKS

5:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor

Monday, December 21

FREE CHRISTMAS SNACKS

5:30 p.m. on the 2nd floor

Thursday, December 24

PARAGUAYAN HARP BY MIKE ABSASLOM

3:30 - 4:30 p.m. 2nd floor

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION!

Open all night, to 7:00 a.m.!

Cabaret from 6:00 p.m. on.

Snacks, coffee, videos

A late evening meal at 11:00 p.m.

Christmas breakfast at 5:00 a.m.

Everything Free!

Wednesday, December 16

VOLUNTEER DINNER

4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Theatre

Paraguyan Harp by Mike Absalom

Thursday, December 17

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

7:00 - 9:00 p.m. 2nd floor

Friday, December 18

SENIORS MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA

Everyone welcome!

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Theatre

Saturday, December 19

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

Kevin the Magic Man

Fun, food, and gifts from Santa

12:00 - 2:30 p.m. Theatre

Tickets at Information Desk, Friday Dec.11

Saturday, December 26

BOXING DAY TURKEY DINNER

With a visit by Mr. and Mrs. Claus

3 sittings; 3:30, 4:30, & 5:30 p.m.

Tickets at Info, Friday, Dec. 18

Free!

PARAGUAYAN HARP BY MIKE ABSALOM
4:30 - 5:30 Main floor

EVENING MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
(To be announced)

Thursday, December 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY
Dance to the music of NTT.
7:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Friday, January 1, 1993
NEW YEAR'S DAY DINNER
5:00 p.m. Theatre \$3.00
Tickets at Info, Tuesday Dec.22



HISTORY

The Victoria Street Community Association was formed in July 1992. Our association originated from meetings held during the Downtown Community Development Project, sponsored by the City of Victoria. It was realized street people knew what they needed & could effect change.

MANDATE

* To enable the Street Community to work together to represent the interests of the Homeless & to improve living conditions in the downtown area generally.

* To create a Community Forum by offering membership to all persons who have an interest in improving the overall quality of the downtown environment.

* To educate the Public concerning our human responsibility for each other.

* To develop communication between the City, the Merchants, and the Downtown Residents and the street community''

STRUCTURE

A Board composed mainly of homeless individuals directs the organization with a general membership of about 25-30 low income Victorians. The organization offers employment to members through the Ministry of Social Service's R.I.S.E. project, called Street Works.

ACHIEVEMENT

We have been successful in attracting people from the Street to organize around the issue of poverty & to raise the public's awareness of the Street Community.

GOALS

To address employment & housing issues of people struggling in poverty. Possible projects include:

* Creating housing for low income Victorians

* A housing inventory & registry

* A Carnegie-type recreation centre

* A surplus labour pool

* An annual Street People's Conference

A food buying club

* A Street Peoples' Restaurant

Panhandling and...

At the end of October a number of people met to raise a number of things that seem to be in danger of being lost in the shuffle. The "problem", somewhat distorted in the media, has the label of "Panhandlers".

The Robson Street Merchants, saying the times are hard enough, blame "aggressive panhandlers all along the street who make our customers go elsewhere." The numbers, depending on who wants support for their particular solution, vary from 15-20 'hard core' to over 80.

The merchants started a program whereby people put their 'spare change' in boxes in stores which would then go to social services & charities. This brought flack in letters-to-editors..it's also done little to reduce panhandling.

A second meeting happened on Dec.4 with many of the people at the first one coming back & a fair number of new people. In a setting where different approaches were being voiced by people, rather than on paper, extreme measures had no room to manouver. Given our bitter experiences with really big business, the corporate agenda & "free" trade & other results of applied gov't economic policies, it's too easy to see anyone who goes under the label "merchant" as supporting all that crap too. This meeting changed some of my pre-conceptions.

I wasn't at the first meeting, but the second one started with the organizer saying it had been called to go ahead with suggestions from the first. The main one was for the business people to learn about the social approach to identified problems that contribute to people wanting to or having to panhandle...poverty, homelessness, drug & alcohol dependence, sexual abuse, mental illness, deinstitutionalization, lack of support services, unemployment, being unemployable. As one businessperson said, "My opinion was pretty smug until it got shattered by the facts."

Part of the information asked for was to find out what had been done in other communities & cities. Four people from Portland, Oregon spent the morning talking about their approaches. Business there

woke up to the need to "do something" as 7. their enterprises were getting fewer and fewer customers. The general response to questions was that the downtown was a) unsafe & b) dirty. Before starting any kind of "program" they were convinced by a recovering lawyer to meet with community people, social service reps & others..to at least talk. What was arrived at seemed to set the stage for community acceptance, as general agreement was reached on the basics.

1. Business has legitimate concerns that street activities like panhandling, muggings, mentally unbalanced behaviour, use of street-corner 'locations' for drug dealing, etc. hurts their profits which pay for the social services;

2. Social services, clinics, counselling food banks, are necessary, need to expand & need funding for better delivery;

3. Housing (single-room occupancy hotels & rooming houses) has to be available for all people who have low incomes who will need the social services which get funding from taxes which business & hotels & citizens pay. From what the speaker had to say, it seemed that the various interests reached agreement on how they were in each others' hands.

The downtown core of the city was viewed as the heart of the entire city & that bringing people back there, to spend money & keep it alive & growing, could only happen with the co-operation of all in an enlightened approach to social problems.

What was then described had a few points that were definitely not desirable & a few more that sounded okay.

- a) Hiring the Homeless gives people work cleaning the streets from 6am-2pm, or rather cleaning the sidewalks, pocketparks & graffiti. Criteria for being hired was changed after the first month or two as social service people said it was just adding to the problem.."enabling" people who were hired to get cash & get drunk/stoned daily. The new rules on hiring included:
 1. Receiving treatment for drug or alcohol abuse;
 2. In a treatment program or just finished one;
 3. Regular meetings with a counsellor;
 4. A resident of downtown; and

5. A desire to work.

This is called "temporary", from 6-12 months, training people for getting a regular job. There are about 70 men employed doing this work. The problems have involved the city workers' union which, although these people only do cleaning that's not covered by union contracts, see it as work that should be done by more people hired by the City of Portland under the union. The rate of pay is just above the minimum wage.

b) Street Guides are people in uniform dress who give directions. They are supported by a smaller number of retired or off-duty police (average years on the force is 21) who act as a link between the guides & the Portland Police. They are armed. They deal with people who seem to camp in the doorways of operating business, who act aggressively towards people on the streets or who set up their own makeshift shelter in a downtown alley or park. The guides don't try to get panhandlers moving on but are supposed to stand on either side of him or her & talk to people who go to give something, handing them information on local services that the panhandler can use for food, clothing & shelter.

It sounded like the guides were goodwill people & the armed support was supposed to show the street person what they were up against if they didn't stop 'bothering' people. These officers couldn't arrest but could write exclusion orders if they wanted to break up any kind of gathering - like a community of homeless people under a bridge or in a park. "Excluded for 30 days."

I asked what welfare rates were & what the minimum wage was. It seems that you do not get any welfare for the six months from April to October if you're a single person. If you are broke, homeless..it's your problem. Business is happy as hell as street people stay out, at least panhandling & people who have to sleep outside, but Old Town is their home. What seemed to be happening was merchants & residents along Robson were assuming that panhandlers come there from somewhere else & a program like this would keep them out.

The meeting went on to talk about the mentally ill & stereotypes. housing, new

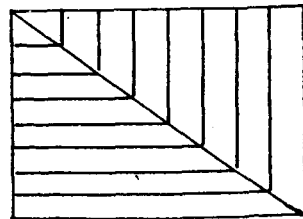
services & the need for money for them, efforts by some merchants to help individuals that only made it worse, & of course the "stories" that kept the crap alive in the teller's mind that panhandling is the easy game of con artists who make "\$20/hr" or "\$200 a day".

People representing social agencies & grassroots organisations kept tearing into the bullshit, not letting a stereotype get fixed to limit this whole effort to being a "Ban panhandling" trip.

A couple of suggestions were to have people from business get together to talk about what they want to see; for people from social service agencies to do the same; for people from the community to also do the same...then for a few people from each group to get together to see if any common ground exists & what's valid. Another suggestion was to set up a Community Resource Development board or group that might have business funding a van to take mental health workers or street workers around to talk with mental patients losing it or acting out...having a street person available to talk to someone if what they are doing is leading to police intervention...to see what is possible in co-operative efforts. Business was asked to use their considerable resources to lobby for welfare increases to increase purchasing power of local people..to get housing affordable..to ensure that needed services are in the area & of high standards...to agree to co-exist.

Nothing was solved but it sounded like the business people had asked for this kind of meeting before trying anything on their own. Social issues of poverty and homelessness & mental illness & alcohol & drug abuse and the causes of same are just as real as their concerns over payrolls & the bottom line.

By PAULR TAYLOR





INCognito

One loves the world until it comes too close....
 one purchases a day....becomes a ghost,
 slips into costumes, none of which are true,
 disguise is preferable hiding the inner you.

One wishes for a break....a song, a dance,
 some time to mourn or cry, a second chance,
 One holds the world, throttles it at the neck,
 because it takes the passions leaves the wrecj,

Discomfort is my name; you'd never guess,
 I seem so sane, so earnest, so obsessed;
 they think I merrily pursue my fate,
 I missed the bus, my friends.... 'tis far too late.

Inshallah

YOUR TURN!

The bird of paradise flew by
 and got tangled in your hair.
 You feel like a public dumping
 ground
 for people who need to share
 their innermost, private
 hurt and pain;
 they know that you'll
 always be there.
 Sometimes you wish you could
 scream out loud
 "Ask me if I care."

And maybe you'd find some
 peace of mind
 if you could just turn off
 your brain,
 but could you turn your back
 on yourself
 and still come around again.

Garry Gust

Chippy says...

如果你身上的衣服着火，
 你將會怎辦？

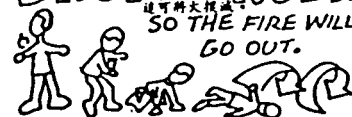
WHAT WOULD YOU
 DO IF YOUR CLOTHES
 CAUGHT ON FIRE?



IF YOUR CLOTHES CATCH ON FIRE..

如果你身上的衣服着火

STOP 站定
DROP AND ROLL 打滾
 SO THE FIRE WILL
 GO OUT.



ਚਿੱਪੀ ਕਹਿੰਦਾ ਹੈ.....

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਕਪੜਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਅੱਗ ਲੱਗ ਜਾਵੇ

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਕੱਪੜਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ
 ਅੱਗ ਲੱਗ ਜਾਵੇ
 ਤੁਸੀਂ ਕੀ ਕਰੋਗੇ?

ਰੁਕ ਜਾਓ,

ਲੰਮੇ ਪੈ ਜਾਓ ਅਤੇ ਪਲਸਟੀਆਂ ਖਾਓ
 ਇਸ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਰ ਅੱਗ
 ਫੁੱਫ ਜਾਵੇਗੀ

Christmas seems to be right around the corner, with images of a tree covered with many Christmas decorations.

As one looks way up to the top of the tree, there it be - the angel with sparkling eyes and a huge smile.

If you could only see what I see
There it is, a family going about in their merry way.
Different tunes of Christmas songs filter their way
Throughout the house.

Wait a minute; is this a fairy tale or an illusion?
Can it be a tree, with just pine needles and a sock
at the top of a wilting tree -

The sounds of Bah-Humbugging come through the house
Silence is about the house on Angle Street, as the
church bell rings for midnight mass.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing.

Can there be a miracle on Angle Street?

Indeed as the snow falls, lights come blinking on
every house. Songs of Christmas coming from every house
on Angle Street.

Snow has covered all the houses and streets
Mommie wake up! Santa came last night!

Margaret Prevost



ETHIOPIA

NO

SOMALIA

YES



**THE WINNERS
ARE AT WAR
WITH THE LOSERS,
AND THE FIX
IS ON.
THE PROSPECTS
FOR PEACE ARE
AWFUL.**

Do you really know what Seniors are worth?
We're worth a lot!!

We have silver in our hair
Gold in our teeth
Stones in our kidneys
Gas in our stomachs
And lead in our feet -

The other day a preacher came to my house and said, "You know, at your age, you should be thinking of the Hereafter." Oh! but preacher, I do - everyday. I think about it when I'm in the kitchen, the bedroom, the front room, the basement & the bathroom. 'What am I here after?'

Gram

To the Judges and Crown Counsel
Vancouver Provincial Court

The following is a victim impact statement on behalf of the community affected by the Hastings Street drug trade.

The Carnegie Community Centre Association represents 3,000 members in Downtown Eastside, Strathcona & Gastown areas. The majority of our membership, and indeed a large proportion of people living in the area, are older, single people, many of them pensioners, who feel vulnerable on the street. They use Carnegie Centre as an alcohol & drug-free retreat from the stresses of cramped hotel living. The Centre is in effect their "living room." As well, there are many families with children living in the area.

In the past few years the quality of life has been affected considerably by the drug trade. For example:

- * Oppenheimer Park, our main outdoor refuge in this crowded area, has become almost a no-go area for seniors, women & children, because of the drug trafficking there. Drug dealers bury drugs & paraphernalia in the shrubbery & in the sand in the children's play area. Fights among dealers are not uncommon. Staff members in the park have had their lives threatened by drug dealers just for trying to keep the park open to all. Seniors coming for a quiet game of checkers or to watch the ballgame are scared away.

- * The corner of Hastings & Dunlevy is so dominated by the drug dealers that it is intimidating for residents even to go to the corner grocery there. Other businesses along the street as far east as Campbell are suffering, too. The old people won't come out of their rooms at night; they are too frightened, virtually prisoners in their rooms.

- * Strathcona Elementary School is under siege. Parents have to take their children to school in convoys for safe escort to shield them from discarded needles and condoms.

- * The bus stops & benches along Hastings have been taken over by drug dealers. The residents can't use the benches to rest while waiting for their bus. Open drinking & loitering in front of the Astoria wine & beer store & the neighbouring bus stop are intimidating. The bench at Hastings & Campbell was recently removed without consultation with residents.

- * Teenage girls who live in the neighbourhood & are on the way to school are subject to harassment by johns circulating the streets looking for sex.

- * The noise at all hours, the traffic, the shouting & street action is disturbing to the residents. Taxi cabs are major offenders, bringing dealers & johns to the area. Many residents are constantly awakened. This is becoming a serious health problem.

We appreciate that the problem of drugs is a profound one for society, & cannot be solved in one neighbourhood. In the short term there must be an effort to remove the problem from the residential areas. Police and civic authorities are co-operating to help confine the street activities to the industrial area, near the waterfront, where residents won't be impacted.

We feel there is at least one measure that can be taken by the court system that will help reduce the impact of the problem on us. We would like to see a greater use made of area restrictions of individuals charged and/or convicted of drug offenses who do not live in the neighbourhood, and for johns coming into the area. This would reduce the repeat offender syndrome & give our community some relief.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Margaret Prevost,
Vice-President, CCCA.

Computer Room Hours

Learning Centre Students & Tutors Only

Monday 10:00am - 5:00 pm
 Tuesday 10:00am - 6:00pm
 Wednesday 10:00am - 2:45pm
 Thursday 10:00am - 5:00pm
 Friday 10:00am - 5:00pm

Carnegie Community Centre Members

Monday 5:00pm - 10:00pm
 Tuesday 6:00pm - 8:00pm
 Wednesday 4:00pm - 8:00pm
 Thursday 5:00pm - 10:00pm
 Friday 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Computer Room Hours may vary to accommodate Scheduled Classes.

Computer Room Hours may vary depending on the availability of volunteer tutors.

Saturday Computer Class

2:00pm-3:30pm Introduction to IBM PC
 Instructor: Steve Akins
 Classroom: #1

4:00pm-5:30pm Intro to WordPerfect
 Instructor: Steve Akins
 Classroom: #1

4:00pm-5:30pm WordPerfect Projects
 Instructor: Floyd Wong
 Classroom: #2

6:00pm-7:30pm Special Interest Class
 Instructor: Steve Akins
 Classroom: #1

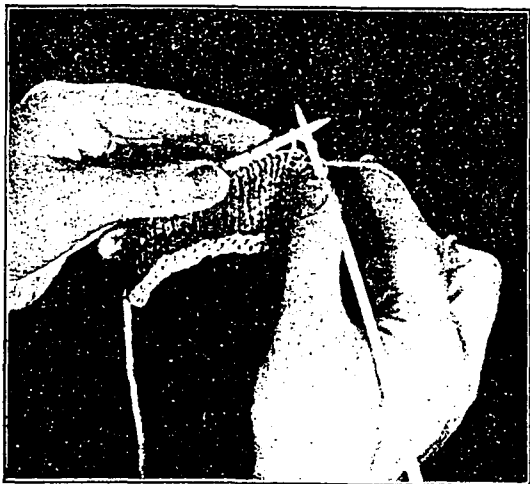
Upcoming Classes

WordPerfect Projects
 (Basic knowledge of WordPerfect needed)
 Jan '9 - Jan 16, 1993
 BULLET MACRO
 (2 weeks)

Jan 23 - Feb 14, 1993
 DAILY CALENDAR/MACRO/MERGE
 (4 weeks)

Feb 21 - Mar 7, 1993
 MEMO with GRAPHICS/KEYBOARD MERGE
 (3 weeks)

Special Interest Class
 Jan 16 - Mar 7, 1993
 QUATRO (1-2-3 clone)
 A Lotus 1-2-3 compatible spreadsheet.
 Registration required. No student will
 be accepted after the start of the
 first class. (8 weeks)



The North American Free Trade Agreement

13.

NAFTA? Oh yes. That's something about free trade, isn't it? But I don't know whether it's good or bad. I can't understand the jargon, and I hear as many "yes's" as "no's". How will it affect me? I feel overwhelmed by mega business money-talk; uncomfortable with the reassuring words of smooth politicians; even more uncomfortable to be ignorant of what it all means. Especially what it means for us ordinary people who watch the spending power of our income shrinking and have little security for the future.

An October report on this subject, published by the Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice, helped me to understand why we sometimes hear strong negative opinions about NAFTA. This report contends that our present Free Trade Agreement with the U. S. "limits the ability of democratically elected governments to undertake independent initiatives in such areas as investment, services, natural resources, culture and social policies," and that the new agreement, NAFTA, will "tie the hands of future government even tighter by adding new conditions to the FTA and extending its membership."

(Hey, wait a minute. This is a democracy we live in. Do we elect our government representatives so they can get themselves all tied up and powerless when it comes to economic decisions involving us? Scary stuff!)

Requirements which formerly restrained transnational corporations would be loosened under NAFTA. Canada, for example, would be prevented from negotiating "an agreement like the Auto Pact requiring companies wishing to sell products in the Canadian market to employ Canadians or use Canadian inputs."

Crown corporations would be required to act "solely in accordance with commercial considerations..." and could be challenged under NAFTA if they departed from "market principles" in promoting conservation of natural resources, for example.

Provincial governments would get locked into NAFTA restrictions unless our federal government named specific exemptions, and this must be done within two years after NAFTA goes into effect. (And what if changes are needed after the two year time limit? Too bad.)

NAFTA seems to protect the rights of corporate owners of patents and copyrights, but ignores the little guy. The producer of a sound recording, for example, gets 50 years' patent protection, but the artists who compose or perform the musical work are not mentioned.

Proposed changes in Canadian federal laws to limit the manufacture of no name drugs would likely become permanent under NAFTA. It is estimated that generic copies of patent medicines save Canadians over \$500 million each year. Bad news for the sick and poor.

There is a rather frightening part of this report titled "privatizing life". "Hidden within the legal language of the NAFTA constitution are provisions that would permit private companies to lay claim to ownership of living matter, including genetic material, biological material such as is found in nature and inventions relating to living matter that comprise the human body'..."

(Securing patent rights over living matter? Including human? I can't believe what I'm reading!) "Farmers will be forced to pay royalties for every seed and farm animal derived from patented stock, forced to become more dependent on fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and the machinery made by the same companies who collected the traditional seeds in the first place and now sell back the chemically-dependent derivatives."

What about jobs? This question is always uppermost in the minds of us ordinary folk. The report says "Mexico's experience of economic liberalization and modernization during the 1980's has already shown the claim that economic integration will bring many well-paying jobs is a hoax." And it names our own experience under the present Free Trade Agreement as "Three and a half years of job losses and erosion of democratic rights."

In plain and simple language, then, NAFTA sounds like more power to the corporate agenda, less to anyone at the bottom of the heap. The eagle tightening its claws around its prey: us.

Maureen Davis is a trusty volunteer at ELP.

ACTION ALERT: YOU CAN HELP SAVE CANADA

"Nobody made a greater mistake than the person who did nothing because they could only do a little."

Edmund Burke

SPEND 15 MINUTES TO SAVE CANADA

- * Read a leaflet or an article on the 'Free Trade' deal. Any of the Action Canada Network organisations can provide you with a wide variety of them.
- * Phone a friend & talk to them about the 'Free Trade' deals. Pass along a copy of any article you have read.
- * Call a politician & tell them you're in favour of terminating the US-Canada Free Trade Agreement & explain why. Ask for their support. Tell them you're opposed to a 3-way 'Free Trade' pact with Canada, the US & Mexico & explain why. Ask them to speak out against it.
- * Put a 'Repeal The Deal' message on your telephone answering machine.
- * Send a financial donation to the Action Canada Network, 904-251 Laurier Ave West, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5J6 (Tel: (613) 233-1764) and/or the affiliated provincial coalitions. (211-456 W.Broadway, Vancouver, B.C., V5Y 1R3)
- * Subscribe to the Action Canada Dossier. It's the most up-to-date information about what Canadians are doing to stop the free trade agenda & build a future for Canada that puts people first.
- * Make sure you are registered to vote in the next federal election expected in 1993. Make sure you & all your family & friends are enumerated prior to the election. Pass this info on to family & friends & vote in the election.
- * Make sure you are registered to vote in your next provincial election by contacting your Provincial Voters Information, Elections/Registrar of Voters.

SPEND HALF AN HOUR TO SAVE CANADA

- * Write a letter to Audrey MacLaughlin, Leader of the federal NDP & to Jean Chretien, Leader of the federal Liberal Party. Ask them to ensure their parties are prepared to give the U.S. the necessary 6 months notice to Terminate the US-Canada Free Trade Agreement following the next federal election. Write c/o Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6. (No stamps!)
- * Write a letter to the Editor of your local paper about the trade deals.
- * Telephone radio phone-in shows to express your opinions or to question politicians and/or others on the issue of the trade deals.
- * Write a letter to your Federal M.P. expressing your support for termination of the US-Canada Free Trade Agreement and opposing the Canada-US-Mexico trade talks. Ask for their support.
- * If you are a member of a group, church, union or other organisation, get them to pass resolutions against the trade deals. Send copies to MPs/papers.

SPEND TWO HOURS TO SAVE CANADA

- * Contact your Action Canada Network provincial coalition. Borrow or buy copies of videos "We Can Say No!" and "Fighting Back!". Invite friends to watch & talk about it - take action. Lend it to others; copy it & pass it along.
- * Read the Action Canada Dossier. Pass it along to your friends..

SPEND AN AFTERNOON SAVING CANADA

- * Organize a 'Bar-B-Que (or vegetarian feast) Against Free Trade'. Raise some money for the national campaign. Watch some of the videos; write letters.

SPEND 2 - 3 HOURS PER WEEK SAVING CANADA

- * Get involved in your community, church or union around free trade & related issues. Join with the Action Canada Network & help to organise more education and events to save Canada.
- * Organise a public meeting on Free Trade.
- * Start an Action Canada affiliate group in your community.
- * Distribute the video productions in your community.
- * Come up with your own ideas and let us know what you are doing.



Going Crazy

By the time I committed myself to River-view in the late 60's I was thirty something years old - I had a few years in the army, 5 years of marriage, & a sporadic career as a commercial artist behind me.

How I got to go crazy was because of this desperate need I had to experience the truth in myself, emotionally. It pushed my head through a lot of literature on dream analysis & shamanic folklore & I wrote all my dreams down for several years. This amounted to a stack of paper 6 inches thick I carried around with me, read & re-read, analyzed & made notes on.

I got to be quite alienated from the outside world. In fact I became completely absorbed in my fear & hatred of it.

The dream notes centred on my relationship to my father, which had been mostly a cold distant resentful kind of thing I wanted to get rid of. I was carrying a burden of fear & hatred around inside me. I knew it was there - the scars & wounds of a childhood spent struggling against what seemed to me to be a harsh demanding parental authority that never considered my feelings, attitudes & ideas to be worth anything at all.

The search for truth was a lot like cleaning out a shithouse, except, what stunk was me. At least it seemed like me at the time, but really it was just an image of myself I'd made out of mistakes, problems & bad situations.

Anyway, when I finally got the idea to kill my father, it seemed like some magical insight into my own personal salvation - a saving grace. I was amazed at how simple the answer was. All I had to do was kill my father!...Of course..why hadn't I thought of it before?

Actually, I had thought of it before. Years later I remembered I'd solemnly vowed to kill him at 9 years old, after he'd terrorized & beat me for not eating all the food on my plate.

...but this was different. The impulse to kill him had taken on the qualities of a religious inspiration - it was going to set me free. Usually I had a hard time deciding anything because I spent so much time thinking about every possibility, but

now suddenly it was as if this tremendous conviction had taken me over & was guiding my every move. Without the slightest sense of guilt or even a second thought I drew money out of the bank, took a bus from Toronto to Vancouver, rented a car, bought a semi-automatic rifle & started shooting bottles for target practice in the hills above North Van.

...it was a case of temporary insanity, but it seemed like the answer to all my problems. I parked the car across the street from the house I'd grown up in & sat with the rifle in my lap. I slept in the car for 3 days waiting for my father to appear. I didn't want to go in & search for him & involve other people in what was happening. This was between him & me, so I wanted to ambush him - pick him off from a distance like a sniper. It was only years later that I remembered this had been his greatest fear; that the Mafia would send a hit man to get him because he was involved in bookmaking & had given evidence against them in court.

Anyway, after 3 days I'd seen no one enter or leave the house & my strange euphoria wore off. One day I looked at the rifle in my lap & became overwhelmed with a kind of loathing for myself & what I was doing. It was like waking up from a dream & there was this killing machine sitting there like some alien thing that had dropped out of the sky. I immediately drove up the alley, dumped the rifle, returned the car, walked directly to a phone booth, called up Riverview & committed myself. I felt like my life was over - dead & gone. I was a new person with no place in the world. Even if I still had a name on an ID card - they could call me by that name if they wanted to but I was nothing now - just a body with no real identity it could believe in.

That's why I let them give me shock treatments. I just signed the papers - it meant nothing to me. I actually didn't care at that point whether I lived or died. The head psychiatrist was a guy called Doctor Schlichter. He had bright red hair & German accent & thick round lenses in his glasses that made him look like a pstcho. I could

tell he didn't believe a word I said.

The shock treatments fuzzed out my memory & I enjoyed that because everything in me seemed to be concentrated on destroying the past anyway. I wanted to live in a dream, be taken care of like a little child, & just wander around in an altered state of mind...when they found out I could draw they gave me coloured felt pens & I spent hours creating worlds of my own on paper.

Then they contacted my wife in Toronto & had me shipped back to her. She was a good woman, with a lot of sympathy for what I was going through, but just couldn't understand it - & neither could I. After a few weeks I'd got myself committed to the Ontario mental hospital on Queen Street. This was dangerous, though I didn't think about it at the time; two psychiatrists certified me schizophrenic (I wasn't really) - they can keep you locked up forever when that happens.

I wasn't really schizo, but I was a good natural actor, so I just let all my worst feelings show; I had to have some place to escape from the world & mental hospitals seemed to be it. But I saw a guy in 999 who was a lot worse off than me or anyone else on the ward. They brought him through on a bed with wheels. He was tied down with leather straps. They wheeled him into a side room & went for coffee, so I snuck in to have a look. The guy had the palest skin I've ever seen - almost bloodless. He was soaked in sweat - bright red hair plastered to his forehead. He was screaming & growling & showing his teeth like an animal - snarling & spitting & clawing the air - struggling constantly against the straps that held him. His eyes were totally fixated in some other world & it was obviously a hellworld populated with demons & we were it. I'm sure he believed the male nurses who were moving him to some other ward were working for the forces of evil that had captured him.

But there was an incredibly wild beauty to his madness. Looking at this strange creature I could only feel a deep respect for his spirit. Whether it ever returned to a human form or not I don't know - but in that moment it was voyaging further

than I ever dared to go - a brave soul but probably lost to us now - beyond the point of possible return.

Later I heard he'd got free & ran down the corridor attacking patients - biting & scratching them indiscriminately like a rabid animal.

I considered him some kind of saint, but then, I'm crazy, & have this obsession with dragging dark things into the light.

Continued next issue...

TORA



The people

GAME PLAY

I seen the lights
For a higher power.

Freedom is all we see.

Let's have a scheme
to our dream scene.

The move's on
People get higher, not
lighter.

We got a solution
get it together.

Don't dream for
Freedom is here
Higher Power
TODAY.

Frank & Joe



In loving memory of Alain Monsoor

You have spread kindness smoothly
amongst the people surrounding you.

Your laughter penetrated their hearts,
and as you walked away, they walked away
singing silently.

The discussions we had shared, with
your reassuring words, has saturated and
enriched our lives. Your thoughts will
never be forgotten.

You're in a better place now, and we
will always remember a unique individual.
sadly missed by Theresa, Lydia & Paul

. The Mole

Feelings, hanging naked, undermine the heart,
proclaimed by the assembly, of which we are a part;
sufficiently we feel them, though wonder at their power.
One plans to leave this space one day, yet knowing not the hour,

A nimble gait is needed to trip amongst the mines
which tend to catch one's freedoms and demarcation lines.
Don't care about the rules no more, don't care about the grief.
We care about the conscience and care what lies beneath.

The limbs cut pain continually and thrust malfunctions out.
The animal is screaming yet no-one hears the shout.
From innocence to blind rage, which then propells the light,
the mole is struggling helplessly in a massive, ghastly fight.
The earth is pushing on the face.....she cannot find the air,
she'll suffocate unless she finds another one to care.
And are we not like her, my friends, when the chips fall badly down?
The murmur of what's left of us, discerned beneath the ground?



Inshallah

It's Wednesday the 9th of December. Carnegie is aglow. The harp is being played on the 2nd floor & people are stringing popcorn for the tree. In the theatre, red & green balloons smother the floor as they wait to be hung...every floor is jumping with happy voices.

No one needs to be alone when they come to Carnegie. It's the biggest family anyone could wish for.

The smell of curried rice is coming from the kitchen & the cranberry muffins are crisp & warm.

Paul is typing the Newsletter & me, I'm just grateful to be part of this family.

Love,

Sheila Baxter

Folks,

Sheila was invited by the Ministry of Social Services to be part of a workshop with Financial Aid Workers & other staff. Her books, No Way To Live and Under The Viaduct, showed them she knew about life on the street & life with welfare.

She spent over 5 hours with them listening & talking. Part of her agreement to be there was an honourarium payable to the Carnegie Newsletter. Sheila brought \$55 back..paid by the individual social workers, not MSS. Sheila wrote a short story for the last Newsletter, I put it in the place for stuff to be typed, then it got more stuff on top of it & lo & behold when the paper came out it wasn't there! Sorry Sheila and thanks!

PRT

DOWNTOWN STD Clinic - Monday through Friday, 9am - 5pm.
 EASTSIDE FREE MEDICAL CLINIC - Mon, Wed, Friday: 5:30-7:30pm.
 YOUTH NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; every day 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, 10-2:30.

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 Joyce M.-\$10
 DERA - \$500 The Old Sailor -\$40 Tom-\$5
 Legal Services -\$950 PLURA -\$800
 Hazel M.-\$25 Etienne S.-\$50
 Cecile C.-\$20 Forest Lawn -\$25 Bill T.-\$20
 Yvonne C.-\$10 Roberts ALC -\$30 Jean F.-\$15
 Eric E.-\$10 Smithers S.S.-\$45 Ken-\$5
 FAWs -\$55 Mary G.-\$25 Wm.B.-\$20 Joy T.\$20
 Anonymous -\$18 George Y.-\$20

Submission
 Deadline
NEXT ISSUE

Carnegie
 NEWSLETTER

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

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

NEED HELP ?

The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association
 can help you with:



- * any welfare problem
- * 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's General Membership meeting is on the last Friday
of every month in Carnegie Theatre, starting at 10:30am.

DERA HAS BEEN SERVING THE
 DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE FOR 19 YEARS

Just a little smaller...

A note in the history of backroom deals spots Gordon Campbell giving his buddy, Jack Poole, the contract to build for the Vancouver Land Corporation. A year went by..nothing was built. Poole came to City Council, asking that he be permitted to reduce the size of bachelor suites... to make them "more affordable".

People were outraged, diagrams were in local papers, the new size was the same as 2 parking spaces side-by-side - which would be a self-contained suite, with a full bathroom (shower or tub), kitchen & "living/sleeping" area. With Campbell & the NPA majority on Council all dissent fell on deaf ears. The 280 sq.ft. units were approved. The "affordability" - \$490 a month - was/is supposed to appeal to students & people in entry level service sector jobs (stuck at minimum wage).

Apparently these units aren't as small as some developers want. Another project is in the works, ostensibly to build housing for the same market of people who are "used to" smallness..who "don't need" more than 275 sq ft...who are, again, poor students, minimum wage workers, commuters who would stay in town during the week & weekends at home out in the boonies.

If this further reduction in the minimum is allowed, it will open the door to a wave of tiny apartments being built for a market made up of low income people who have no choice. "Affordability" is a joke as \$490 a month is the entry price - as this goes up to what the market will bear & existing hotels & rooming houses get shut down/demolished, truly affordable housing will become as scarce as hen's teeth. More on this trend will be coming from Tenants' Rights Action Coalition.

(Data submitted by Peter Greenwell)

At the December 8 FrontLine Advocate Workers' meeting in the Lower Mainland, FLAWs came up with our own Wish List.

Longterm goals:

- 1) Welfare rates increased to above the poverty line.
- 2) Minimum wage increased to above the poverty line.
- 3) Recognition of welfare as a right and entitlement, not charity.

Shortterm goals:

- 1) Revamp the definition of handicapped to be more inclusive, as per the "Ad Hoc '92" recommendation.
- 2) Earnings Exemptions - get rid of restrictions of enhanced earnings like time limits, and handicapped vs others.
- 3) Get rid of employable & unemployable categories, & increase all welfare to at least current unemployable rates.
- 4) Stop forced employment of "employables"
- 5) Moratorium on judicial reviews of welfare tribunal decisions.
- 6) Abolish the distinction between shelter and support payments.
- 7) Make quality therapy-of-choice for abuse victims available and funded.
- 8) Set up an Advisory & Implementation committee to act on good recommendations.
- 9) Stop lump sum deductions of back family maintenance & compensation payments from welfare cheques.
- 10) Income Assistance for youth so they can stay in school & not quit to get work.
- 11) Bus passes for all people on welfare & working poor below the poverty line.
- 12) Abolish all user fees for medical services, prescriptions & alternatives.
- 13) Return of rentalsman.
- 14) List of local advocates in MSS offices.



Ada and little one

"Ada, why do we get gifts at Christmas?"

"Christmas is a celebration of Christ's birthday. Christ died and rose on the 25th of December. People came from miles & miles to give gifts to the new born."

"So Ada, if it is Christ's birthday, why am I getting the gifts?"

"Well my understanding is that Christ died on the cross. Christ was the son of God. Christ was sent to us to deliver a message. That was the 10 commandments.

"The gifts that the newborn received were presents that would be beneficial for the people, such as clothing or food and/or jobs, so people could support themselves and family.

"Today, however, Christmas is celebrated in a way that presents have over-looked the true meaning of Christmas. Stores are making profits way beyond their needs. People buy more than their wallets bear.

"When I was a child our family made gifts that would last the following year. Grandpa, dad and sons would go hunting for Christmas geese. Granny, mom & daughters would be making the trimmings for Christmas dinner. The youngest of the girls would watch over the younger kids. When breakfast was finished, those who could would go out to play in the snow..the usual snowball fights, making angels..and the biggest event would be using the sleigh ride that daddy built for all of us.

"Around 4:30 dinner would be served. After the kids would clean up and then early to bed. We gave our thanks for the life we had and the gifts we received. Another Christmas gone..yet another year to tackle. Life never ends, because it's a gift we must carry on and over."

Merry Christmas to you all

Vancouver told it still has time to stem tide of homeless

LOW-INCOME HOUSING

ROBERT SARTI

Vancouver Sun

He runs the biggest low-income hotel in America for the YMCA, so visiting Vancouver has been like a trip in a time machine for Walter Jones — back to the future and forward to the past all at once.

Jones walked the streets of the Downtown Eastside on the weekend and it reminded him of his hometown Chicago the way it was a generation ago, before the wave of homeless people swept over it.

And when he toured the Portland Hotel on East Hastings, he saw a model for how he can do it better in the future at the Chicago Y's giant 24-storey, 600-room Lawson House

Hotel.

"Here in Vancouver, you have a chance to stop homelessness before it really takes hold, but if you walk with blinkers on, you'll be stepping over the bodies on the sidewalk before long," Jones said in an interview Sunday.

Jones and Lawson House co-worker Roberta Seifer visited the Portland and other projects run by the Downtown Eastside Residents Association at the invitation of former DERA organizer Jim Green. They met Green and B.C. Finance Minister Glen Clark last month when the two were in Chicago studying a banking system for low-income residents.

Jones said he wants to adopt some of the social programs he saw at the

Portland, a 70-room facility for "hard-to-house" people who have been evicted from other hotels in the area because of behavior or other problems. About 40 of the Portland residents are former mental patients.

"Providing a roof over people's heads is just not enough, if they are living lives of quiet desperation in their little rooms," Jones said.

"The Portland shows the way to the future, it's like an extended family and a home-like situation."

Unlike other hotels in the area, the Portland has a specially trained staff that organizes everything from cooking classes and cribbage tournaments to group counselling sessions and individual nursing care.

Portland resident Debbie Totten, 42, told Jones and Seifer that she had lived in many hotels in the area and "this is the best one, the staff are not like staff, they're like family."

"A lot of the people here would be on the street if it weren't for this place," she told them.

The five-storey Portland is a heritage building with distinctive bay windows looking out over Hastings Street and Pigeon Park, the soft-drug-dealing centre of the area.

"I'd like to just sit in my window and watch the world go by," Totten told her visitors. "I don't need a TV. Pigeon Park is as busy at four in the morning as four in the afternoon."

DERA community worker Laura Stannard, who escorted Jones and Seifer on the tour, said homelessness is a growing threat to the community, because of the loss of more

than 2,000 units of low-cost housing in the past six years through demolitions, fires and conversions to office space and condos.

The most recent loss is the 100-room Silver Lodge Hotel, located on Powell Street across from DERA's Four Sisters housing co-op. The hotel was demolished on the week-

end.

"The owner was told by the city he had to clean up the place, so he just decided to shut it down," Stannard said.

DERA has built about 500 units of housing to try to stem the loss, she said.

WANTED

PIANO FOR RESIDENTS OF
THE PORTLAND HOTEL, A DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
HOUSING PROJECT.

Ring Brenda on 683-0073



Back to the land.

The number one contradiction facing humanity today is our alienation from nature.

We, like a growing number of others, need no more convincing that life on this planet is doomed if change, big change, doesn't happen and soon. We believe that an agrarian revolution is the way to go. We need a mass revival of the 'Back to the Land' movement. The agrarian revolution was started by the hippies with the back to the land movement of the '60's. Contrary to the popular belief the movement

did not fail. Hippies are the originators of the environmental, communal, peace and organic back to the land movement.

A land base has been established. There are hippies in the hills who have been farming organically, living simply & looking down the road for people young & old to join them. People who are willing to put nature's interests first & actively come to her defence.

Values as well as lifestyles have to change & we must start drawing closer to nature. One of the best ways to do this is by getting your hands in the soil. Even if it is just a potted plant in the window, (or in the closet as the case may be).

On a warm early spring day, pause for a moment to look over the seed displays in your corner grocery store. See if you don't get an urge to plant some seeds. This shows there's still a spark of our culture left in us. This is the spark that must be fanned. We look forward to the back to the land movement of the '60's really taking off again in the '90's.

Signed by J. LeB.

Who Is An Alcoholic?

There are few words subject to as wide a range of interpretation as the word "alcoholic." I know a woman raised in a religious faith whose members are forbidden to drink. To that woman, anyone who takes even one drink is automatically classified as an alcoholic. To a great many, especially those who live in more monied parts of the city, the only alcoholics to be found are those who live in the Downtown Eastside. Still others take a more rational view & believe that if alcohol adversely affects non-drinking areas of one's life, then one is an alcoholic.

I have my own view, one I arrived at through research & study & which I shall explain. My conviction is that a drinking person is not an alcoholic if his night dreams include drinking scenes. If he dreams of drinking then probably his over-drinking is part of & a symptom of a different problem.

Why do I lay emphasis on whether the drinker dreams of it? Because in our dream we watch as our day-to-day experiences are integrated, fitted into our subconscious minds. When a person who drinks does not dream of drinking, it means that that person is not integrating those experiences into his subconscious; he is pushing them away. Those unintegrated experiences accumulate into a sort of separate subconscious which is nourished & strengthened by every new drinking experience. In time it becomes strong enough that when that person has taken a certain number of drinks, the drinking subconscious displaces the sober subconscious & becomes the working subconscious mind. This accounts for the sudden change of personality many alcoholics exhibit at a certain point in a drinking episode.

During periods of sobriety, this "drinking subconscious" is not nourished or fed by sober experiences; it exerts a relentless pressure on the sober drinker, pushing him to drink so it will be fed by another drinking experience. If that sober person takes even one drink, it sees its chance & rages & clamours for more. This is why the "recovered alcoholic" does not

dare take even one drink.

The alcoholic who by determination of necessity ceases to drink has not rid himself of that surrogate subconscious, that accumulated mass of unintegrated drinking experiences. It continues to exist & may do so for the rest of his life, always pushing him to drink & always to go wild when even one drink is taken. What is to be done then? The alcoholic must find a way to integrate those past experiences into his sober subconscious mind. Is there such a way? I believe there is.

You will not hear of this in Simon Fraser University Psychology or Philosophy class. It would represent an advance in human knowledge & such advances are made only by persons outstanding in their mental capabilities. Unfortunately, our capitalist system dictates that those with the most available money are the most likely to get the highest education & become the teachers of coming generations. With enough money you can educate a simple person to the point where he is qualified to teach others, but he is still a simple person. Simple persons do not make advances in knowledge - they can only teach what was taught them.

Add to this those teachers' desire to gain tenure, which amounts to a handsome lifetime pension - provided they don't rock the boat by coming up with new ideas - & all intellectual advances become out of the question.

Nevertheless, there is a way to integrate that surrogate mind, that drinking subconscious into the sober subconscious that prevails in day-to-day life. But that is for another issue of the Newsletter.

By ERIC ERICKSON



Festive Meal Schedule

Tuesday, December 15: Regular Quest Dinner at Gordon House

Thursday, December 17: Christmas Dinner at Gordon House ...

5 p.m.

Sponsored by the 'WestEnder' Newspaper and 'The Quest'
Food hampers will be passed out.

Saturday, December 19: Christmas Dinner at St. James Church, 303 E. Cordova ...

4:30 p.m.

Sponsored by St. James Church and The Quest
Food Hampers will be passed out.

Monday, December 21: Regular Quest Dinner at Gordon House.

Tickets for Christmas Day meal at "Suzy Q" restaurant
will be passed out.

Tuesday, December 22: Closed. (Welfare Day)

Christmas Day

The Quest will be passing out a limited number of dinner
tickets for a full festive feast at the Suzy Q restaurant
on Granville Island. Tickets will be issued on Monday,
Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. First Come First Served!

Monday, December 28: Gordon House Closed

Tuesday, December 29: All Gone Fishing!

January 4, 1993: Regular Gordon House Dinners resume ...

January 5, 1993: Meal service begins at 4 pm and will continue at this
time for 1993.

NOTE: Christmas Dinner on the 17th ... tickets will be passed
out starting at 1:00 p.m.

Christmas Dinner on the 19th (St. James)
NO TICKETS ... FIRST COME FIRST SERVED.



"Typical - the first Christmas and we have to spend it away from home."

OH DEAR, OH DERA

If you want to see some good old fashioned community organizing going on, there's no better place to look than at two projects being run by the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association - the Portland Hotel and the Downtown South Office.

The Portland, which is located in the old Lone Star at Hastings & Carrall, is home to 70 people who are considered "hard to house." For various reasons, they have not been able to get along in the run-of-the-mill hotels in the area. Many more have gone through emotional problems. The Portland is more like a family than a business operation or even a social agency. The DERA staff there is committed to supporting the residents through every crisis, and they organize social events, cooking classes, group counselling sessions - whatever it takes to make the residents feel at home and help them get on with their lives.

The Downtown South Office is at 1067 Granville was set up because about 2000 people living around Granville St. face the loss of their homes. The City has grand plans for the area to transform it into a

highrise ghetto for office workers. Residents, assisted by DERA community workers, are organizing to make sure there will be enough low-cost housing so they won't be put on the street. Their efforts are reminiscent of the campaigns in the early days of DERA.

There has been a lot talk lately about DERA, & the various visions for its future. DERA is now a far cry from its humble origins. It has grown into a large organisation with a multi-million dollar budget, a unionized staff & a network of buildings to administer. Each interest group within the administrative structure is vying for its share of the pie. It's hard to believe but some are even trying to convince the news media to trash DERA to further their goals in the power struggle. All the noise and heat being generated make it harder for DERA to fulfill its primary function, which is fighting for the most vulnerable members of society, to make sure they win justice & decent living conditions.

DERA is the community's organization, not that of any interest group or staff faction. Community organizing & grassroots political action are what DERA is all about. It's not just another social agency or "service provider." But so far the community has not had a real voice in the debate. It's vital that dynamic community-building projects like the Portland & Downtown South continue & flourish if the neighbourhood is to survive.

By BOB S.



JUST MARRIED!!

MARY JAMES and GARNET ROSS were married at First United Church on December 11. Both bride and groom looked grand!

Hey! Everybody!!

It's time to do the updates for the Help in the Downtown Eastside books. If you know of anything that needs to be changed, PLEASE call the Newsletter at 665-2289 as soon as you read this. (What usually happens is calls come the day after it's printed.)

at Inner City Schools Conference

It was announced at the Inner City Schools Conference that the School Lunch Program money, \$11 million, was being turned over to school boards to administer as they see fit. This is supposed to begin in January 1993 & will be a disaster for the thousands of poor children in B.C.'s schools.

When the story of hungry children was first made public by Robert Sarti in the Vancouver Sun, reaction by the non-poor was quick, vehement & vicious. Vanderzlam's pathetic response is a matter of record but his classic "blame the victim" warp is still with us. End Legislated Poverty, with several of its affiliate Child Poverty Action groups, struggled with apathetic school boards, insensitive politicians & near-sighted people holding the pursestrings for over 4 years to get a truly universal lunch program in several schools. It took that long to make the relatively well-to-do see that a good lunch program must be a) universal; b) non-stigmatizing; & c) hot.

a) Universal means open for all children to use without discrimination. This is essential for the well-being & social involvement of the children.

b) Non-stigmatizing is a crucial component. Several schools had set up programs that forced poor children to identify themselves by using coupons, by having to either state in front of their peers that they needed the "free" lunch or go without. Other schools had set up an envelope system whereby the children take it home, get their parent(s) to put money in it, then brought it back. This has led to children being harassed & publically humiliated by school administrators and teachers as being one of the "empty envelope" kids..or by their peers for being one of the "coupon kids".

c) Hot food that is nutritious & adequate is an obvious requirement, yet some schools try to call junk pastries & candy "lunch".

These are basic. The NDP announced an increase to the funding, taking it from \$4 million to \$11 million, & schools just had to submit budgetted requests. Oddly (?) the "It's not happening here..not my kids" mindset of many school boards has left hungry children right where they've always been, while individuals who aren't poor try to point fingers - to separate needful kids from their own. Talk about indocrination! Low self-esteem, alienation, non-involvement are exacerbated by non-poor parents & children ostracizing poor parents & their children, using weird definitions of "deserving" & "non-deserving".

The Conference consisted almost entirely of professionals talking of what to do to/for "the poor", while the very existence of lunch programs & the criteria (universal, non-stigmatizing, hot) came about because of the true experts - poor parents & community activists - sticking to their principles. The rationale for narrowing the scope of current programs was that, with the economy as it is, just

those children who need to get free food should; those who can pay should pay. Right now the Ministry of Education administers this money but once it's given directly to school boards it won't be restricted to providing good lunches for children. As the speaker at the conference was pressed he admitted that even the criteria wouldn't apply..that future lunch programs would not be universal.

Practically every school district in the province needs money for many things. The money for lunch programs will be used almost immediately to reduce deficits, to increase salaries, to buy equipment, books & so on with less & less for the formerly designated purpose & hungry children will continue to underachieve.

It's now mid-December. This goes into effect in January with little or no public awareness. Perhaps knowing how disruptive

it will be to what's still inadequate in school lunch programs, it was planned to do it as quietly/bluntly as possible. Now, if parents & community activists have presentations to make, they will have to do it in the face of school boards talking about deficits in scores of areas...while kids go hungry.

By PAULR TAYLOR

GOOD KING WENCESLAS

LOOKED OUT AND SAID, "YOGH, WHAT IT IS?"

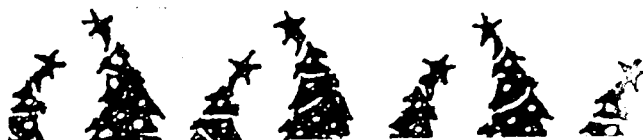



Free-enterprise?

The United Nations reports that the 600 largest transnational corporations now account for one-quarter of the world's total output. They do 80 to 90 per cent of the industrial world's trade,

but employ just three per cent of its work force...Of the world's largest 100 economies, 47 are now transnational corporations. This means that approximately 138 countries of the world--the vast majority--have smaller economies than these giant companies.

Thanks to Maude Barlow



bingo \$
\$ **CASH**
at
CARNEGIE 
6:30 **EVERY Wed.**



Quote of the month:

From Michael Walker of the Fraser Institute, a corporate lobby group that wants free trade as well as an end to the minimum wage:

"A trade deal simply limits the extent to which the U.S. or other signatory government may respond to pressure from their citizens."

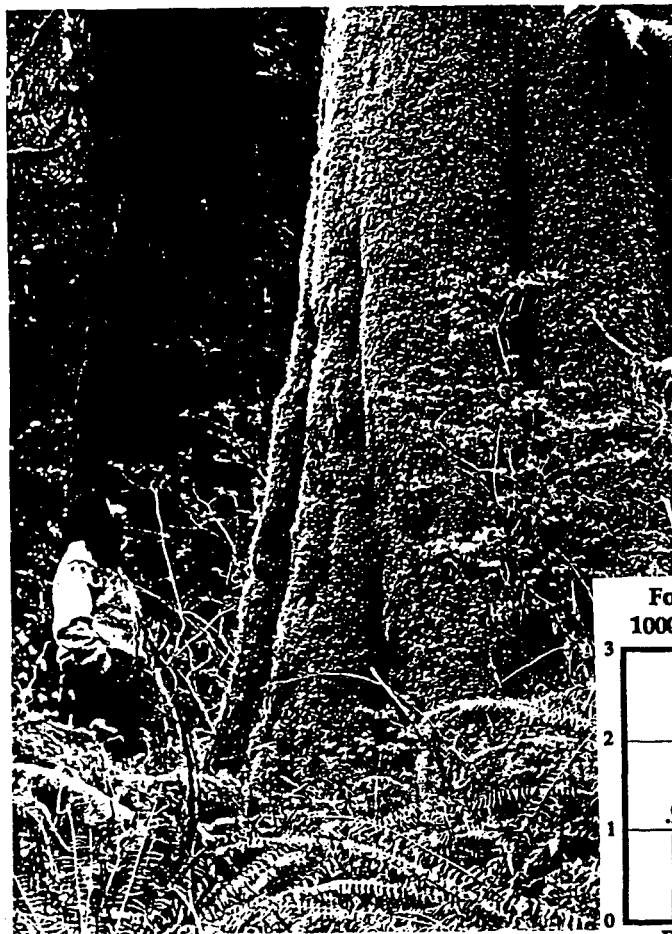
Walker thinks this is good. But what is a democracy if not a government that responds to pressure from its citizens?

Impacts to Forest Industry Jobs Can be Avoided

Native Rights Must Be Preserved

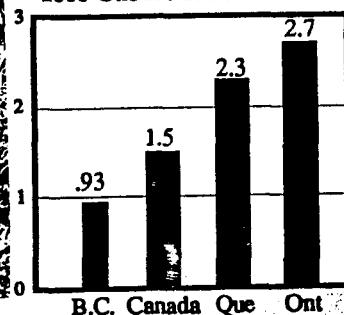
BRITISH COLUMBIA'S ENDANGERED WILDERNESS

Priority park proposals put forward by the BC public and joined in a comprehensive plan for increased wilderness protection.



The definitive SFU analysis proved that BC could have *all* the protected areas on the Endangered Wilderness Map and *increase* forest industry jobs at the same time.

Forest Industry Jobs Per
1000 Cubic Metres of Wood



"No region of Canada has more to cherish, or more to guard against profiteers seeking resources for private gain. The necessities of tomorrow will not be bread alone - nor dividends, mines, mills, superports & an ever-growing Gross National Product. A jaded, technology-sated people are beginning to demand, and will demand more vociferously in the future, their lost heritage, the old dividends of spirit: clean air, clean water, ancient forests, skeins of geese against an ocean sunset & the languid wakes of sea otters once more off Vancouver Island where the heedless harvest began just 200 years ago."

Fred Bosworth, The Illustrated Natural History of Canada