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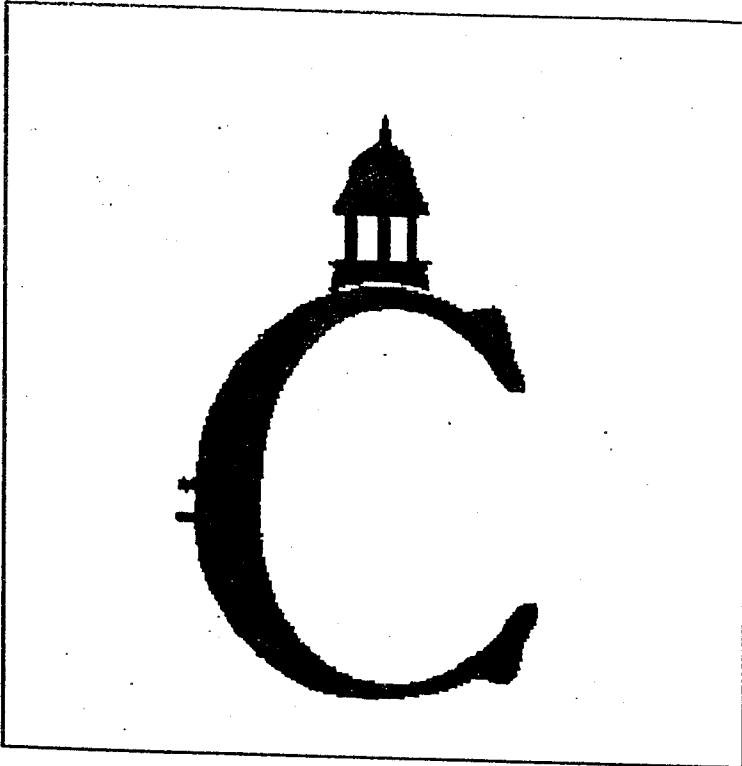
Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 1, 1993.

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



LUCKY

13TH

ANNIVERSARY



The paintings that are on display upstairs, the poems & other writings I've done, are all things that were opposed by society. The gov't bureaucrats, teachers, businessmen - all the authority figures of this society that I've had contact with during my life wanted to stop my own creative self-expression from happening - they

wanted me to get a job instead.

If I had used my skills to write advertising copy & design junk mail they would have considered me a responsible & respectable member of society & paid me lots of money for doing it.

If the gov't & business community had

had its way, those paintings & poems never would have existed. In other words they tried to suppress them. They wanted me on-side in a business suit.

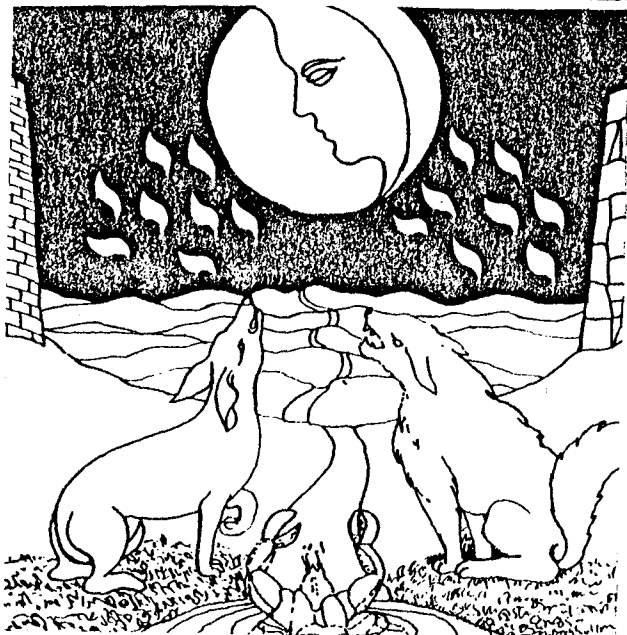
The gov't bureaucrats have been very intimidating to me. I had to fight them all the way, just to maintain my own creativity & identity. They took big chunks out of me along the way - at times I was pressured economically into joining their disgusting & dangerous activities...contributing to the destruction of the minds & souls of other people - the harnessing of their energies for short-term profit.

Get a job! They said - become successful They said - you too can join the ranks of rich, well fed, emotionally secure Canadians - you can be a patriot & wave our flag ..they said to me.

Instead I became a bum - a mental patient, a criminal. I exhibited regressive social tendencies & lived on welfare for over 20 years - & i'm still on it. If they put me in a concentration camp, starved & tortured me, I still would never get a job. ...I had to sacrifice money, love, luxury & respectability in order to paint those paintings & write that poetry.

This is the kind of society we live in - I know it well - it's my enemy.

TORA



To Tom Siddon,
Minister of Indian Affairs

I was just reading your 12/16/92 letter to my imprisoned braincelled Richard R. Horsefall, who is in lockdown for turning my thoughts into a blackout as Reality One ..he needs \$10 million for this open letter to the public. I'm the Real Two. It's a good thing I replayed a memory dream and caught him in the thoughtful act of this cover letter that I am taking over in answer to you.

Don't ask him to vote for you as he's in shock treatment now. Thanks to his sidekick Reality Three, the hereditary chief Benjouanne Adrienne Pasqua. Who is resolute in my writing our Red Warrior 2000 framing this New Native Constitution perplexing all subjects covering what the imagination presents the viewpoints spoken by all in Accord with my personal open letter that brings Realization Four out for there know how! Me I need \$20 million to continue the fight for the Son of the Great Spirit Benjouanne in order to release Richard to the public at large to speak at hand about the vote & unresolved Meechlake Accord.

As you know you can't run a canoe without a paddle as the case for one seemed to have echoed! To shorthand the issue of self-government at the on-coming election. We both know the non-treaty people have the inherent power to form their own Tribal Supreme Courts to settle land claims & general public issues, as treaty people are jurisdictioned in federal courts.

Both have the unity to open a Supreme Tribal Court of Canada door with that federal court and so on down the line. Self-government is entitled to partake in usage to percentage of all federally operated transports, etc. for production of their marketable exports. These usury concepts from the outward Benjouanne systems from the wholesale expenses of this manuscript working capital also include some several million dollars. This will be the Clearing House for all of us .

By MIAKO STEPHEN LIKAKUR

Poverty



REPLACEMENT:

The way they run the world
If you don't fit in
You can be replaced

If your heart won't beat
It can be replaced
With the heart of a baboon
Or a freeway victim.

Your houses can be
Replaced with high rises
Your corner stores
With shopping malls

Love can be replaced
With pornography & masturbation
Natural childbirth
With test-tube babies.

Nuclear missiles can be
Replaced with chemical lasers
Money replaced with credit cards
Communication replaced
With an answering service.

Steak can be replaced with hamburger
Bargains replaced with luxury items
Local residents with tourists
History with trivia.

Your face can be replaced
With plastic surgery
Your sex replaced
With hormone shots.
Don't worry, the way they
run the world
If you don't fit in
You can be replaced.

TORA

Poverty is the dream of a life sentence.
Poverty is the smell of a man's crotch
'cause he blames you, 'cause he has been
wearing his pants three weeks, you have been
wearing yours a week and five days
and he wants what you got, and is larger.
Poverty is a cig butt stuck in your chest
through your shirt on another man's turf
at 1:00 o'clock in the morning, and he is smiling into
your face, while backing himself
off, for arms length sake, from your peaceful self.
Poverty is a blanket pulled over a woman's body,
her fingers spread out clutching palms
against gravel.

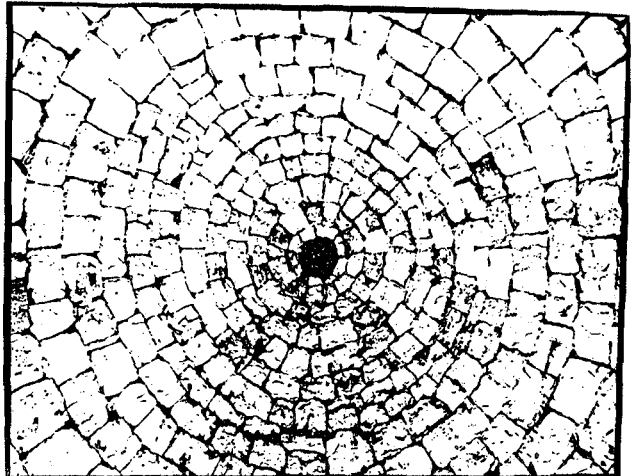
Poverty is a dumb look rich in itself.
Poverty is envy green crushed grass,
pitiful, near a tree, with branches
an eloquence that came off, and wasn't there to
begin with, last night.

Poverty is the panicked sound of black boots,
on the convict side of heel, walking down
any Americanadian street, paranoid after being
paroled, though only for the first two weeks
of a year supervision

Poverty is a leaf grim withered wind through an
autumn shade swaying in contrast to headlights
during a slight storm.

Poverty is an "I swear!" word, never again repeated
until repeated again, the next second with
several twitch gestures of insanity hyping
itself.

Jerry Miley



LIBBY DAVIES
AT CARNEGIE!

"Thirteen years ago Tora could not have stood up here & bared his experience & his wisdom, because this building was just an empty, dusty shell. It really didn't mean anything. For those of us who lived & worked in the neighbourhood in the early 70's we used to walk by this building everyday, know that it had once been originally the old Vancouver Public Library, then the Vancouver Museum..& we used to joke that maybe there was some money left over on the 3rd floor in caskets.

"What I'd like to talk about today is how the transformation of this building came about. True to the Downtown Eastside it was not like the story of any other community centre in Vancouver. The people in this neighbourhood had to fight tooth & nail to get this building open.

"It was originally built in 1902 with a \$5,000 grant from the Carnegie Foundation, one of the big steel magnates south of the border. When we began the campaign to re-open the building, we were propelled into action because we found out that there were plans afoot at City Hall to demolish it. We were scandalised because we knew that this neighbourhood had no community centre, the only neighbourhood in Vancouver that had none.

"Those of us who were at DERA started a campaign to save this building. And I think it's important to remember the people who were there to help because I can tell you that just as sometimes today it's a fight at City Hall, it was a tough fight back then because they really didn't give a damn about this neighbourhood. It was a write-off. People like Mike Harcourt, Darlene Mazari, Harry Rankin...it was only those 3 people on City Council who had any inkling of what it was we were trying to do, putting together a community centre & a community space & a community spirit.

"What really clinched the deal after months & years of trying to convince City Hall to put up the money to renovate the building for a local community centre was

to hold a meeting in the building. The Civic Buildings people came down & literally dusted it off a bit, put up temporary lights, & we had a meeting in the room right over here (pointing to the mainfloor lounge), a committee meeting from City Hall.

And it was getting those politicians in this building, in our neighbourhood, that finally made the difference. They could begin to see the vision & the dream that we had always had in this neighbourhood to make this building mean something to people who desperately needed it - a living room in the Downtown Eastside.

"So that's what clinched it & from that meeting we received a grant of \$650,000, which was the original amount of money it took to begin this centre. People came.. who weren't necessarily from the Downtown Eastside but who wanted to join in the struggle of saving this building. So it's a real privilege & honour & I think with pride to be here 13 years later & to sort of now go through the 2nd revitalisation & renovation of the Carnegie Centre.

"I remember the first opening in 1980, my son Lief was walking around in diapers; even at that time still the politicians didn't want to let it go. They didn't think the people in this neighbourhood had the political smarts or the common sense to run their own centre.& they wanted us only to have an advisory committee, where it would be run by staff & bureaucrats & the patrons & the residents would have nothing to do with running the building. We fought that all the way too, & said that the people in the Downtown Eastside were as good as anybody else - in fact better - and that their experience allows them to develop a centre like this, to know what the priorities are, to know what the programs are, to help plan a renovation & so on. The Community Centre Association was born.

"What I'd like to say in closing, on this 13th Anniversary, is that the Carnegie Centre has really come to embody a symbol of what people can do when they get together. It has become a symbol politically of what people can do to change forces around them against what sometimes seems to be insurmountable odds - to fight the status quo, to fight the establishment, to make a difference, to make a change. That's what

this building was about 13 years ago & that's what this building is about today.

"Many of the people who were around then, like Jean Swanson & Bruce Erickson, in our own way we still continue the struggle. We may not be here at Carnegie but we know other people are here who are carrying on that struggle for community, just as Tora was outlining in his beautiful poetry. That spirit does live in this building.

"So to everybody, Happy Birthday to Carnegie, & I know that this building will continue to have a rich history because of the people who move through here - the thousands of people - who make this building such a unique light in our city."

Mike Harcourt spoke next & one point he made was that, if the new President of the United States wants to know how to rebuild the inner core of so many cities, he should come right here to the Downtown Eastside and see what a real community is. He also referred to the anger the people of Los Angeles showed with their recent riots - people he described as having no hope & no future - and that the people of LA should come up here to the D.E. to see what people, what volunteers, can do. He admitted there is still a lot of work to do, but echoed Libby's recognition of our spirit. He also promised that he, as Premier, would be directly involved in securing the necessary funds to complete the renovation with the needed work on the 3rd floor.

Diane wound up the meeting & the speeches by announcing that the Centre was open to explore.. & that free food & drink was to be had throughout the building. Let's Party!

A brief history of how Carnegie came to be:

- Original Vancouver Free Library & Reading Room had outgrown its two rooms at the YMCA at 169 Hastings Street.
- Andrew Carnegie gave \$50,000 to the city to build it.
- The foundations & base course are of granite from Indian Arm & the remainder of the building is of sandstone from Gabriola Island.

- The staircase, built at Albion Ironworks in Victoria, contain 9888 pounds of steel.
- 1902 cornerstone laid.
- During the 1930's a group of underpaid workers barricaded themselves into the library until Mayor McGeer agreed to give them money for food & lodging.
- In 1958 the Vancouver Museum took over the building.
- In 1967 the Museum moved to a new site and the building was boarded up.
- While boarded up the building was declared a Heritage site in 1972 & protected from demolition.
- In the seventies DERA campaigned to have it turned into a community centre.
- In 1978 council approved funds to renovate the building to become a community centre.
- The Carnegie Community Centre opened on January 20, 1980.
- The overwhelming success of the centre lead to another renovation in 1985 when city funds were put aside. Over the next several years planning & fundraising were carried out & the present renovations were undertaken. 1500-2000 people a day come into the centre.

(Funding for these renovations was provided by the City of Vancouver, the Provincial Gov't through lottery funds, the Vancouver Foundation (\$100,000 specifically for the kitchen), and the Seniors Lottery Association of BC, which gave money for furnishings for Seniors' Lounge.

Dear Muggs,

As we discussed by phone, I received a Safeway Gift Certificate for \$50. from the P.N.E. as a Christmas gift which goes to P.N.E. Directors.

Knowing that this would be well used by the Carnegie food service, I am donating this certificate to your Board for this purpose. I know how important this service is to people in the area.

Best wishes for the New Year and congratulations on thirteen years of outstanding service to the community.

Yours truly,
Patricia Wilson
(Councillor)

1 pot meals

2-4 carrots chopped, 2 potatoes, cup peas
1 onion chopped, ½lb hamburger, salt&ppr,
lots of garlic (hot sauce/soysauce)
Brown hamburger, strain & add vegetables
& seasoning with 6 cups of water. Cook on
low or medium heat til done. It can be
thickened with cornstarch or a few spoon-
fuls of flour.

It can be done without hamburger, using
beans instead. Either way it'll keep for
a few days in the fridge or give a bowl
to a friend.

Hash

3 lbs mashed potatoes // Cook corned beef
1 cup fried onions // with unions, add
tin of corned beef // to mashed potat-
oes & mix it up.

If you need to feed your friends, add
more potatoes.

Sheila Baxter

Crossing the Street

Bonnie lived;
Bonnie Ran
Bonnie Won

One / won / One / WON

Waiting, waning
reaching for the sky

Kissed nobody good bye

Cryd for some time.
Wanting, feeling hoping
if only there was a way

Coming from the dragon

No! No, Big Surprise!

Seeing through my eyes

take my time to fill in you
Knowing what a dream may do.

Seeing through my eyes
Bonnie cryd Bonnie cryd.

- DEAD -

Kumaran Reddy

changing

Wento the exchange
for the last time
never to return
permanently
i don't need this anymore
cast out the spirit of the Living
Dead

B human B happy B free B positive

Dreams

Woke up this morning
Cool wind in my face
Wiped the sleep upon my eyes
dreaming of last night
Slow hand down
misty morning mind
Where do you get your
information
way down upon the line
What's yours is mine

dreaming of last night
Slow hand down
misty morning mind
way down on the line
what's yours is mine

Kumaran Reddy

Rocking

How many people do you
know that went wrong!

How many people do you
know that went wrong.

listen to the end of my song

I got home really late
last night

I don't know if I slept
Even then..If I slept at all

How many people do you
know that went wrong

How many people do you
know that went wrong.

listen to the end of my song.

Kumaran Reddy



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A lot of people were nervous; a lot had the last AGM to think about, the growing pains that DERA has been going through & the matter of serious financial difficulties in both DERA here & DERA on Granville.

The City of Vancouver, funding 3 jobs (the community organizer, the senior's organizer & the relocater) and the Law Foundation, funding 3 jobs (welfare & UI advocacy, tenants' rights & income tax work), were both waiting for audited financial statements for 1991-92 before approving the '92-'93 grants.

The community, both as individuals & at community meetings, wanted to be more directly involved..to have DERA renew its commitment to community issues. And more...

About 140 people turned out at Pendera to participate. There was a Board report given by Bea Fernyhough, Vice-President. Bea has been involved in people's struggles for over 70 years! Norm Jang then presented the long-awaited financial statements with care & objective expertise that has won tremendous respect for years in our neighbourhood. The vast majority of rumours & 3rd or 4th-hand information that have been distorting facts monthmonths were suddenly dispelled as he did a page-by-page review of all aspects. Some questions that came after were still spurred by rumour but facts at hand answered them.

The election process began with 17 people being nominated for 11 positions. Four declined, leaving 13. Barry Morris made a motion to just acclaim all 13 as directors & it passed handily. The new Board promises to be really dynamic, as every person has been involved in community work for years.

In alphabetical order:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| - ROZ BRECKNER | - ALICIA MERCURIO |
| - ANNE CHAPMAN | - JOHN NORTON |
| - PETER GREENWELL | - MARGARET PREVOST |
| - TERRY HANLEY | - TERRY SINCLAIR |
| - KATHIE LEROUX | - PAUL TAYLOR |
| - IAN MACRAE | - ALFREDO VALIENTE |
| PRT | - JIMMY WU |

(Both Carnegie & DERA are members of the Tenants' Rights Action Coalition (TRAC). The following letter was written by Bea Fernyhough & is re-printed with her kind permission.)

The Law Foundation of B.C.

Re: TRAC's application for funding:

DERA is more than happy to be able to give full support to TRAC's application for funding. The record of TRAV as an able, effective & always responsive advocate of tenants' rights is too well known for us to need to elaborate on it here. Its services to needy & harassed tenants have been & remain outstanding.

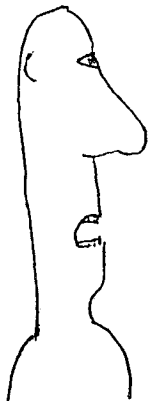
In the course of its work, legal counselling is frequently necessary, & therefore funding for its work is seen to be inevitably essential and greatly appreciated, from the legal aspect.

As one who has been on more than one occasion a delegate at TRAC-sponsored gatherings, I can further personally testify to my impression of its dedication & impressive practical capacities in its chosen field of concern.

Very sincerely yours,
Bea Fernyhough,
Vice-President, DERA.



THE QUEEN
SHOULD THROW
THE WHOLE
BROOD OUT!



OOW, THE POOR
DEARS, WHAT
WOULD BECOME
OF THEM?



BRUCE, WE WANT
YOU TO FOLLOW
LADY DI AROUND;
FEEL FREE TO
SMASH A FEW
CAMERAS AND
BREAK
SOME
HEADS.



...IT'S SUCH
A SHAME;
PRINCESS DI
IS SO PRETTY



I THINK
SHE LOOKS
LIKE WAYNE
GRETZKY.



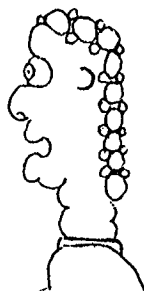
TELL ME, MY
DEAR, IF YOU
WERE PRINCESS
DIANA, WOULD
YOU STAY WITH
PRINCE CHARLES?



WELL, REGINALD,
WHO IN THEIR
RIGHT MIND
WOULD GIVE UP
THE CHANCE
TO BE QUEEN
OF ENGLAND.



I HEARD THE
YOUNGEST PRINCE IS
A MICK JAGGER
GROUPIE.



THEY SHOULD
ABOLISH THE
MONARCHY.



IT WOULD BE A
SADDER WORLD
WITHOUT KINGS
AND QUEENS.





A trip to South America via public television took viewers into the world of the Corgi people, where few white people have gone. The allowance for a camera crew with commentator into sacred lands, lives & rituals was exceptional for dire reasons.

These caretakers of the physical & spiritual world have lived high in the Sieras of Columbia over 400 years; taking refuge from European slaughter & destruction - "discovering" in the name of the church & their so-called religion.

I was very interested in their appearance, clothed in white pants & shirts with their long black hair giving them a look that supports their spiritual ways. Using a small gourd which they carry with them, their thoughts, meditations & observations are transfered to another gourd licking the one & dipping it in the other which contains ground shells. Certainly I could see their observations are not as ours; they know themselves as the big brothers, with all the whites or perhaps the "developed" nations are the little brothers with the earth being our Mother. Babies are taken or given to other people and cared for in caves or darkened houses ..all people are concerned with children helping them to see & understand the world. Trees, plants, birds, animals, rain, snow are known from a limited from the cave or house until the child is eight or so. Adult assistance is always happening during this time. One may well understand the awe & humility the Corgi have for all creation which they see for the remainder of their lives. The big brothers are aware of the cities, power plants, and greed for wealth (they were much sought after for their former use of gold by Europeans).

From their oral spiritual history, which goes back to creation of the seas & earth, they continually make efforts to harmonize in the world; a balance of those that destroy & consume the creation with those who give care to the planet & all on it.

A trip to the sea by 9 or 10 Corgi gives pause by a powerful electrical industrial installation; they go on to the sea to give small handfuls of plants...a line is formed as each one gives earth to the water, then they turn counterclockwise to unturn the thread of life which we are all connected to from creation.

Going back through the jungle, up carved stone steps & across a woven vine bridge, 'we' go into the people's big communal house to receive what we came here for - the reasons to allow little brother to enter the spiritual domain of earth-caring people.

"The earth is dying, This much we know. When it will die we do not know, you do not know..no one knows when the time will be yet we know it is coming, for the mother is dying. So we the big brothers give you the message to give to all the little brothers. Little brothers must change their ways." The cameraman & commentator walked up the mountain to be shown a sign of the end of our planet. High up & looking out one is able to see many ridges - what was normally snow-covered is dry, barren rock; plants normally green are brown & dried up with many wilted or dead. Mountain snows are the source of water for rivers & lands a great distance around...so it will be a waterless, dry season. The wet season and cycles are altered from history - it is global warming. The Corgis know, for this is where they've been for 400 years.

The deed is done; the translator, cameraman & commentator are now back at the bridge to bring the human race this message. Once across the bridge the gate is closed; no little brothers are to come back again. We have the message, the Corgi can do no more for us, the gate is closed. Much like Noah closing the ark when it began to rain. "Peace big brothers - we must do this now."

By MIKE ROHMERT



It's so much easier to trash than it is to build. We the people have become apathetic. We encourage & allow paid staff from various 'groups' to be our voice. In doing this we become powerless.

The challenge would be to organize people who are poor, tenants, etc. & empower them to speak, to act. Perhaps workshops are needed for both paid & unpaid community workers on how to organize a grassroots movement. In Quebec City they were called animatours - they knew how to empower people, how to turn them on.

In the 30's people like Willis Shaparla fought for us, for our rights.

It would be so easy to lose what we have especially with the threat of free trade.

By SHEILA BAXTER

Editor,

About this report in today's paper. The article speaks for itself. This individual has ruined many young children mentally, physically & emotionally. The biggest crime I see is that these children have been robbed of their sexuality, their trust and their right to be a child.

When this person crossed their boundaries, he violated the trust that each was given to learn - RESPECT YOUR ELDERS. This person invaded the child's innocence..he suffocated them from their livelihood.

Who he is..where he lives..should in all respects be revealed to the community. RESPECT OUR CHILDREN. Allow them to be children; this is all we've asked of them. Allow them to grow from the inside-out. Too many of our children have been lost because they never got to live from within.

Margaret Prevost

LOOK AGAIN SOON FOR THE LATEST

"OFF THE WALL" BOOK!

The book will be coming out shortly. It contains many short stories, poems, articles & pictures by Carnegie patrons & students. Most of the pieces have been entered by ESL students.

One of the writers we should mention was seriously injured when a house fell on him. He was still under the house when he came to & crawled out. It took him many months to recover & he will never be his old self. He had to learn to walk, talk, read, write & do basic math all over again. He still has problems walking. He was a world traveller & a famous cook, but all of that is behind him.

He now spends each day trying to understand basic addition & subtraction-but has no problem with his writing although he can't remember a great many things. Somehow he has almost total recall back to his University English education. That knowledge gives his stories punch & makes them well worth reading.



MY HEAD IN HARD TRAFFIC:

Counterculture's media-made. Sold to hype your image, a million girlfriends are impressed, meanwhile stagnation sets in. Nothing moves. The streets are full of jackhammer dust. Boxes are hammered together for babies who haven't been born. Hostility & suspicion keep it down to discussing the weather & how the boy's doing in school.

In spite of everything life keeps poking its freaky nose out of cracks in the system, smiling or laughing mysteriously with strange hand gestures like hitchhikers drinking coffee in the last booth, like truth & beauty travelling through, scrounging the garbage dump on the edge of town & the Servall trucks go past loaded with steel girders for the Locost Life Insurance building in Calgary.

At the roadside rest stop they nail up a giant sign in red white & black..ICE BAIT TACKLE..that's all it says, but I enjoy a cup of coffee after nothing to drink for 14 hours & tell her she has a nice place even if the world is dead already & dead again & not dead yet...she thinks I'm crazy, & keeps an eye on the till.

I found a pair of sunglasses by the side of the road & carried them around with me. Finally put them on in the blazing sun today. Never wanted to cover my face before. It seemed dishonest. Now I think I might trade them in for a better pair, even wear them on top of my head. Sheila used to wear sunglasses on top of her head when she was a kid. That was 30 years ago. Nobody wore sunglasses on top of their head then. Now the magazines are full of models with sunglasses on top of their heads looking like greyhounds in heat.

The earth turns west to east as I travel. I'm carried forward one earth circumference every 24 hours. It's like having the wind at your back. It's like coming down off the mountain, taking almost the width of a continent to do it, shivering at night in the sleeping bag, fried by the side of the road the next day.

The robot mind manifests when the machine gets in between you & them. My ride is wearing a redneck image with peaked cap, sunglasses & a loaded rifle under the dash but he's all far & jolly when you join his

language pattern. Imagination's gone on strike maybe or permanently unemployed (11. visiting its relatives, in someplace no one ever heard of. Never did build what it once had in mind. Just disappeared & left us like this, after the original plans were destroyed.

The wind must be shifting things around a bit. The sun must be seeing our years in solitary confinement. Suddenly, they all know, even the owrst of it. After the goldrush, after the pulp mill, after cutting up the mountain, carrying out the law ...they nailed him at the edge of the picnic grounds. It wasn't the superstar you might expect. It was the Nootka. First real one they ever met, I guess. Later we saw him hanging in other places. A neon totem over the Coke plant, on the door of the Dominion Hotel, tangled in a wire fence, two city fathers in sunglasses holding automatics at his head. A kind of civic crest with oak leaf clusters & crossed staves. Like a shield - like a coat of arms - like the aluminum clad knight of the rubber table, raising his glass of Goodyear. The aluminum clad knight of industrial death, something we could have hanging in the school corridor - so the kids would understand.

Impossible. No change in them, even though I kick the set a little, just to let them know the circuits are there. Now if I can just get out past the Colonel Sanders, Mister Submarine, Steakhouse, Barbeque, Speedy Muffler King, used car lot, motel & real estate offices..& if it just won't rain.

Next ride sells fiberglass insulation & drives an expensive, slightly sinister-looking luxury car. He's handing down the well-rehearsed true life adventure series. Thirty miles down the road, social systems pretend to serve human needs & everything comes to serve the machine. Less & less creative dialogue. The situation becomes enormous, & I'm going through it just to experience the obvious. To meet the guard dogs & gunmen who really run the thing.

Turning west again, away from Ottawa's rain dance, I find a long ride to Calgary with an old guy who says he's got a sure cure for dope smoking. You chain them up in public, he says, & take a big cleaver & cut them right down the middle - then, you

know what? Full Colour Videos. Show them on T.V. morning & night...I guarantee those kids aren't ever going to smoke dope again! ...what d'you thinka that?

Sounds like a sure cure alright, but who would believe the insane circus & chainsaw massacre contained in one human brain?

All this is coming to an end. Too late for a change of heart. Too late to look at life as something more than moveable pieces of real estate...the earth, the rocks, the water, the trees, roads, animals & cities - the stores & office buildings, the government.

...no one will dedicate these things to evolving consciousness. Anyone who doesn't know why they're here must not be awake to the obvious. The twentieth century slag heap is a hard place to take root.

Arriving at a point of no spiritual direction it becomes necessary to create one. Naked & uncertain newborn revolutions crawl out into the headlights of oncoming traffic. Security systems stamp your skin with the tracks. You try to find the one harmonic passing through all possible extremes, or the whine of truck engines disappearing into darkness, leaving the sound of waves rolling up on the beach north of Lake Superior.

TORA



COMING TO THE RESCUE

It's a bit rough on a gal when she rescues 3 young Vietnamese people from a gang of white toughs & gets hell from the police for doing so.

Vicki is a Lower Mainland health care worker who takes care of mentally challenged people. One evening, while driving through Vancouver, she had to brake suddenly when two young people dashed across the road just in front of her car. As she drove on she checked her rearview mirror to see where the two were going to in such a hurry that they almost got killed, then stopped her car & turned it around. There was a group of about 25 young people beating up three young persons. As she drove up to the group, most of them dispersed. Vicki is a large woman with a bad temper if necessary. She stopped in front of the 3 badly injured young people & told the remaining white kids to scatter or she would give them what for..then she told the 3 injured youth to get in her car.

As she was driving away from the scene Vicki asked the badly hurt kids what hospital they wanted to go to, although she knows where they all are. They said, The Children's Hospital. She drove there, noticing as she did that police cars were following her. They were close behind when she got to the hospital, but it was closed. That was when the police caught up to her and accused her of interfering with the law. They felt the 3 youths were part of a street gang & should be arrested...and of course if they were part of a gang & she was helping them she was a criminal too.

She had to shout to make the police aware of the emergency situation & show them the bloody mess the kids were in & their wounds. She had blood on herself & all over her car. It took awhile but the unsympathetic cops finally called an ambulance.

Vicki went through a very thorough grilling from the police, even though the kids were wounded, & was badly shaken. It will take her a long time to recover from her charitable act...and knowing that the police are still blaming victims for what happens to them. Is that a basic human trait, to blame the victim, or what?

By DORA SANDERS

Crab Park - Venetian Vancouver

People who had nuthin to do with gettin Crab Park keep comin up with "Tourist-Only Place" ideas.

The latest was the Dec.22 Vancouver Sun article by Elizabeth Aird, titled "Gifts Will Include Everything But Partridges in Those Pear Trees."

One of the so-called gifts she would give Vancouver is: "I will give us a canal that will join the eastend of False Creek to Vancouver's Burrard Inlet. It might meander through Chinatown & end at Crab Park. What a tourist attraction - there will be a promenade all along the canal, with cafes & hotels... By the way, San Antonio, Texas, already did this with its River Walk & now it's called the Venice of Texas."

This is the re-barfed, flat-brained idea of building a Carrall Street Canal. As if there aren't enuff megaprojects already pushing people out into the cold, barren streets homeless.

As if the burdened taxpayers would like to pay over \$100 million for this scheme.

She ignores the fact that Crab/Portside central waterfront park provides the only safe greenspace for 10,000 lowincome people. She ignores the fact that the Port of Vancouver Corporation has already got monster tourist plans for beside Crab Pk. They plan a convention centre, a double-berth cruiseship pier, a highrise hotel and likely office buildings/skyscrapers.

Flush the canal. We've already got World Class City, Executive City and New World Order City...like we need 'Venetian Vancouver'. Crab is the central waterfront park that low-income local people fought five years for.

Are low-income families supposed to melt out of Crab Park like rare snow?

The re-barfed Carrall Street Canal to Crab Park idea might explain why Council has been awfully swift about funding 50% of a Columbia Street pedestrian overpass.

Don Larson

AQUARIUS - THE TENTH PLANET

More than a hundred thousand years ago they came down from the sky. So well advanced was their civilization that even in comparison to 20th century man they would be like Gods.

They came for Earth's gold, to be used to improve the atmosphere of their own planet which orbited the sun once every 3,500 years.

They mined the gold of South Africa and carried on great experiments. Eventually there was a revolt among the lesser Gods, who found the mining of gold beneath the hot African soil was not to their liking.

The Gods decided to resolve the problem by combining the genes of a rather stupid creature (homoerectus) with a small part of their own genetic makeup in order to create a submental class of being bright enough only to do the menial work in the gold mines. Thus, our human species was superdeveloped.

When these Gods had a sufficient amount of the precious metal they made careful preparations for their departure.

It was decided that the humans must be destroyed because of their rapid speed of mutated intelligence. The plan was to dissolve the enormous continent of ice at the southern pole and flood the eath's dry surface to drown the overbreeding human population.

One of the Gods, however, was overwhelmed with compassion for the lowly beasts, and secretly instructed them to build a giant submersible vessel that would save a number of them from the great flood.

He warned the humans, just before his departure, that they had been given an intelligence that would have otherwise taken them millions of years to acquire naturally, and should be very selective how they used it.

He also said that the Gods would return again, probably in 7,000 years. And the Gods have been here many times since then.

Garry Gust

the Long Run Home:

Talk about writing home
Building home
The long run home...

How would you build it?
Out of what?
Curbs? Gutters?
The smell of garbage?
Locked doors? Parking lots?
Traffic in the rain?
What would you build it of?
Glass Steel Plastic?
gasoline, alcohol?
- build it on empty beer cans?
ripped T-shirts?
Twisted days & nights
on needles, welfare?
Strange synthetics, fireworks
burning out your bloodstream
brain cells going crazy
in a dream, on a dream
for a dream...shot down
shot down again?
What does it matter?
When your dream's shot down
What does it matter
& what does it turn out to be?
...home?

Not a picket fence
Not a potted plant
Just a place to sleep
With a locked door
careful, deep
Solid this time - maybe
If I can be that way
If I can stay that way
Whatever grabs me, takes me
Holds me, shakes me
Hangs me in there, up there
Draws the circle of
myself together
Whatever gives me who I am
In a place to wake up
work & dream
Where light comes in my window
On a piece of floor
Where I found these
Two old words
Left over in the bottom drawer

One word was common
& the other was unity
So I put them together to
write a poem about common unity
& it cam out community

Everybody talked about it
But nobody could believe it
...too many crazy people, man
Don't go out there, woman
It's the nightlife
Don't go anywhere
Stay at home
Sleep it off...sleep it off.

Maybe it was just a
paranoid little neighbourhood
on a paranoid little planet
with some paranoid little people
who couldn't have no
respect for each other.

Maybe it was uncommon disunity
With nothing to live for
Something at war with itself
Like they said it would be
Something at war with a world
That calls itself reality?
& every time you went to
the bathroom you carried a knife
Because the room next door
was a cage for a psychotic killer
let out on lithium
because a Japanese business college
wanted his old room at Riverview
& last week I even punched
some guy in the face
because he kept talking
all the way through open stage
& wouldn't listen to the music
or the singer or the poetry

Hey - I'm sick
I need to remember
Childhood - Children
I need to remember
Having a home in my heart
In my head - in my hands,
I need to do my home work
I need to just stand here
& write common unity
common unity
common



unity
on the back of this
old hotel a hundred times
until my eyes cross & my fingers hurt
& my mind gets melted down around me
Like community - common unity
That's what I need
That's what you need
That's what we need
We lost it -
A million corporate giants
Stomped all over history
& ripped off our community
our common unity.

Now we have to
go back down inside
with ropes & ladders & lunchbuckets
like volunteers, & get it back
It's dirty work - unpaid work
Picking up the pieces
Like a real crazy maze, man
A puzzle - where the little old lady
sleeping in front of a TV set in
the Seniors Lounge is like some
delicate old fashioned mosaic
smashed in the path of progress
like the story of your life
run over by a truck
an explosion of poetry
scattered all over the intersection
piled up in cardboard boxes
dumped out of hotel windows
Pieces of personal history
Dreams, visions, scattered in
a capitalist whirlwind
& you've got to pick them up
The pieces of your head
Your heart - you've got pick them up
Somewhere over there
A hand, an eye, an arm
Shivering in the rain, a foot
a face locked out lying in the mud
Somewhere down there
Have a heart, open the door
Get back home.

TORA



You go to any Parks Board community centre (all of 'em except Carnegie), show proof that your income is **GAIN** (the stub) & you get this Pass. With it you can swim or skate for free; it also provides up to 50% off on any fees charged for special things like fitness instruction & other classes offered throughout Vancouver.

Relating
unconditional love
friendship
trust & compassion
vs
unspoken fears, sexual jealousy
paranoid & self-centered
under the disguise of self delusion
as openness, understanding
truth & giving
None wins / both people lose
How do u wanto live
Snoopy
vvv

I have survived on these streets for 26 years. I met a guy named George at the Detox on 59 West Pender who gave me this pen at the A.A. group. He is a Mohawk Indian from down east. He went to Prince George.

Marie Rose Mercereau

When Woodward closed the bottle/can return closed with it. A lot of people make a few bucks from doing real street level 'recycling' - gathering up discarded beverage containers & putting them back in circulation.

This seemed to be a symptom of the industry; not enough attention being paid to the whole process of recycling beyond the first stage of having a few big depots.

Options seemed to be two:

- 1) Expand the blue-box program throughout the province;
- 2) Expand deposit-return systems.

In a letter to Ken Lyotier, who names his efforts "Save Our Living Environment" (SOLE), the assistant deputy minister for environmental management states that the BC gov't has instructed him to push ahead with the 2nd option, in consultation with industry & other concerned people. Hopefully these 'others' will include community level efforts & not just what those with big vested interests desire.

But it's not all right

A child is abused
for no apparent reason
But it's not all right
Just one call is all it takes
to cause someone to investigate

An animal is abused
No matter the season
But it's not all right
Just one call is all it takes
to cause someone to investigate

A woman is abused
for no apparent reason
No matter the season
But it's not all right
Just one call,
You didn't make,
to cause someone to investigate
But now
it's too late.

Cheryl Webber Parker

Plight of street kids: no safety net to save them

LINDSAY KINES

Vancouver Sun

They sleep in stairwells or abandoned buildings, huddle on hot air vents or cram together in tiny hotel rooms.

They eat poorly, suffer colds and flu, and turn to theft, panhandling and prostitution to survive.

Some of them are fleeing sexual and physical abuse at home, some are running away from foster or group homes and some are just drawn to the freedom and bright lights of the street.

They're homeless kids and they have no place to go.

Streetworkers have no clear figures on the numbers of kids on the streets in Vancouver — although it is estimated there are between 300 and 400, aged from 12 to 19.

But a community panel commissioned by Social Services Minister Joan Smallwood to review child protection legislation in B.C. reported recently that there now are more youths on the street than ever, that they are younger than those in the past and that the situation is becoming more dangerous.

"For me personally, I was devastated by it," said Patricia Chauncey, a panel member who works for End Legislated Poverty. "I didn't realize that the problem was so large.

"They've really fallen through huge gaps in the safety net. A lot of kids aren't eligible for income assistance. They're not eligible to

(No place to go)

apply for most housing — certainly not social housing. And landlords won't rent to them."

Christopher Graham, a streetworker with Street Youth Services, said outreach nurses, mental health counsellors, social workers and streetworkers offer a wide-range of services to street kids, but housing remains one of the most neglected issues.

"There's nowhere to place kids," he said.

A lot of the youths, fresh from bad experiences in group homes or foster homes, refuse to have any contact with ministry social workers.

"They would rather just run than accept services," Graham said.

If they don't sleep in squats or stairwells, the kids end up at places like Street Kids in Distress.

SKID opened up a street-front office last year, but has broken city zoning bylaws by running a drop-in centre in a retail zone, violated building bylaws by letting children and adults sleep in the building at night and prompted an investigation by police and provincial government of financial irregularities.

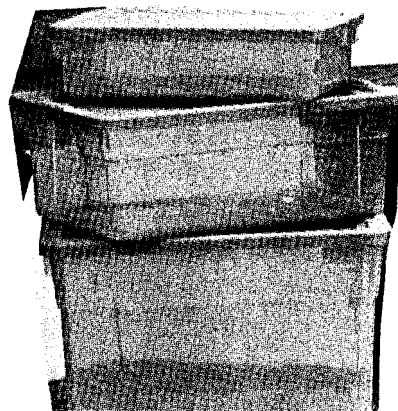
This week, the city served SKID with an eviction notice, giving it 14 days to vacate its office at 491 Pacific.

"Everything is wrong down there, I'm not going to sit here and tell you any stories," said Leeroy Campbell, the organization's public relations director.

But Campbell said that if founder Irene Tatum has made mistakes, she has succeeded in getting publicity for the plight of the homeless children.

"She has awakened us to a real need — a real need," he said.

Graham said downtown workers



have been lobbying government for the past five years to get a safe house established in Vancouver.

A safe house would offer kids a place to go where they could get clothes, food and a place to sleep for a short period of time before making decisions about their future, he said. This would give youth workers a chance to talk to the kids before they get entrenched in street life.

Smallwood was unavailable to comment on the issue Thursday, and public information officer Peggy Herring would only say: "It's something that social services and municipal affairs are working on together. It's a problem we're aware of and we're continuing to try and work out solutions involving the community."

As for the community panel, its report is now before the minister with recommendations that include the need for safe houses and crisis services for youth.

"We have to understand that the people we're allowing to live on the street are children," Chauncey said. "The situation for those children on the street is the same as it is in any Third World country.

"Right now," she said, "they're at the absolute fringes of our communities."

... by coincidence,

A person named Jay Katz sent a report to Dan Tetrault, who's on staff here. Seems that Jay had finished travelling to eight cities in the States & Canada after meeting with various people who provide non-traditional, creative ways for homeless & low-income people to develop skills & express talents. Lo & behold, Carnegie is now part of a guide that list the best such efforts in both countries!

Jay's words, while somewhat geared for "professional" ears, do convey some basic truths that any almost any homeless or low-income person would take as just common sense.

"At one time, operating stop-gap shelter & food programs, accompanied, perhaps, by job training & counseling, were considered statdard, multi-service programs.

"Many community leaders & social service staff now believe that programs designed to distribute services are not sufficient in serving the homeless population. Rather they strive for a more holistic vision of the problem. Beyond basic needs, service agencies strive to provide personal, social & creative outlets to their members. In an effort to be more comprehensive, programs such as theatre collectives, writing workshops, art classes, newsletters and performance festivals are instituted.

"In addition to fostering self-esteem & courage, these outlets often demonstrate to the larger population the abilities of "marginalized" men & women. In effect, myths about the homeless & mentally ill are countered by their skills, by the beauty & complexity of their work and intellect."

Jay put a short bit on about 3 dozen different groups in a 'guide', letting all know that you are part of an expanding network.

The "coincidence" is that Jay Katz coordinates a publication made in Pittsburg called Street Beat. Garry Gust, a DE artist & musician, brought a copy of their latest into the Newsletter office about a week ago, before this report got here, having picked it up in Spartacus Books.

Street Beat has poetry & writing by

homeless, low-income street people. In this issue of the Carnegie Newsletter, the work by Jerry Miley, Marcus Telling Eileen Winters & Cheryl Webber Parker is from Street Beat.

PRT

About Roy

So, he's gone
died 3 days short of 30 yrs,
of a head injury
travelling in Mexico
bury'd in a cave
far far away and...
we miss him

Sandy Beech

All power to
the music that
expresses the hope & desire
of people struggling
with the emotional
pit falls of Love.

B. Gee

Temporary Staff Changes at Carnegie.,

Atiba Saunders has taken a four month leave of absence from the centre. We expect her back in mid-May & wish her well on her leave.

Marty Hunter will be replacing Atiba for this period of time as Volunteer Coordinator. We welcome Marty to this position & look forward to some exciting things from her & Nat as they head toward Volunteer Recognition Week in April.

John Ferguson will be replacing Marty as the Kitchen Program Assistant so watch out for a daily 'Welsh style' menu.

There is also a rumour that Diane MacKenzie is returning to the centre on March 1st. We'll keep you posted.

Canada's War On Drugs Is A Farce

VANCOUVER — Handcuffed by laws that make convictions few and far between, which in turn result in jail sentences so short they hardly act as a deterrent, drug squad officers say it is nearly impossible to make a dent in the street trade.

"Canada's war on drugs is a farce," growls Sgt. Gary Dalton from across his desk buried back in a corner of the drug squad office on the fourth floor of Vancouver police headquarters at 312 Main Street. "It does not exist."

A bear of a man who appears to have seen — and been in — his share of scrapes in the past, Dalton openly admits that the same laws he gets paid to uphold are the ones that prove to be the biggest thorn in his side.

He has seen 16-year olds driving cars many working people can't afford and knows where the money to get these "toys" comes from. But constrictive investigation regulations, short prison terms if any and an unbearably high occurrence of dismissals of charges for any of a seemingly infinite number of technicalities frustrate Dalton and other drug cops that find themselves in the midst of a war on drugs that they see as a losing battle.

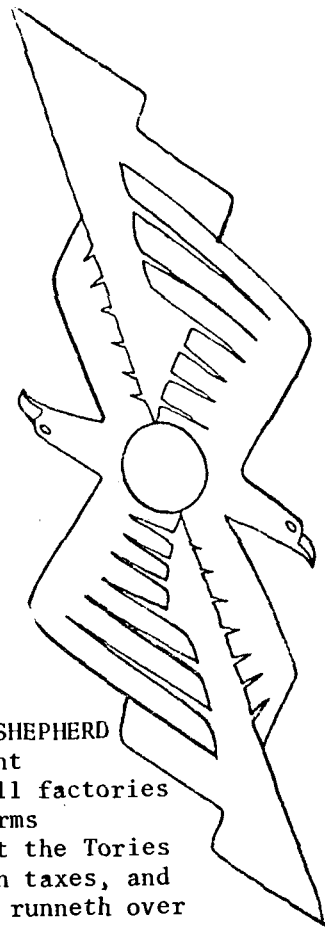
A conviction rate and average sentence is not determined specifically for heroin, but prosecutor Ian McKinnon estimated the average sentence for PPT heroin at somewhere between eight- and 12-years, down from 15- to 20-years a decade ago. He also admitted that convictions are becoming increasingly difficult to obtain.

Carr and Dalton say this trend has not escaped the wary eyes of smugglers and dealers who are willing to take the risk at the reduced odds of getting caught or doing hard time. They say the only way to curb the number of active dealers and in turn the growing number of users is to dole out longer sentences as a deterrent to drive away the "peripheral dealers," allowing police the time to concentrate on those at the top of the burgeoning heroin industry, and to

seize the personal assets of those convicted of importing and dealing.

"Everything we (drug squad) do would be worthwhile if they would get lengthy sentences," says Dalton. "And the only way to hurt importers is to go after their assets: You have to take away their toys — and by toys I mean their fancy cars, nice houses, anything they buy with the proceeds of crime. That's the only way to hurt them."

Most of "them" are members of a loosely-knit group of career criminals from China dubbed Big Circle. Police say they are responsible for and control up to 80 per cent of the heroin that is currently flooding the Vancouver market. The unusual amount of low-priced high-purity heroin is also resulting in an extraordinarily high number of heroin overdose deaths.



BRIAN MULRONEY IS MY SHEPHERD

I shall soon want

He leadeth me beside still factories
and abandoned farms

He restores my doubt about the Tories
He annointed my wages with taxes, and
inflation, so my expenses runneth over
my income.

Surely poverty and hard living shall
follow the Tories,
and I shall work on a rented farm,
and live in a rented house forever.

Five thousand years ago Moses said:

"Pick up your shovel, mount your ass,
and I will lead you to the Promised Land.

Five thousand years later, Trudeau said:

"Lay down your shovel and sit on your ass
light up a camel; this is the Promised Land."

This year Brian Mulroney

will take your shovel; sell your camel,
kick your ass, and tell you he gave away the
Promised Land.

I am glad I am a Canadian,

I am glad I am free

But I wish I were a dog,
and Brian was a tree.

Sincerely,

The People of Canada.

The Blizzard of '79

Listen street people, and you shall hear
the tale of a loner, plastered with beer.

Staggering down the alley, drifting with snow
because he had no place else to go.

The snow fell soft and the snow fell deep,
when into a basement he did not creep.
The snow fell deep, the snow fell fast...
no one thought the snow could last.

The snow fell down for three days and more
until it blocked out every window and door.

Of the 99 garbage bags against the wall,
the vagrant drank stale booze from them all.

The white snow fell softly down
and the squealing rats were the only sound.

He snuggled down in an old easy chair
with dreams of "the wheel, turning in the air."

When he awoke he let out a shout
The rats had surrounded him & he couldn't get out.

His beard was black stubble, & his messy wild hair,
suggested the appearance of a black grizzly bear.

No one heard his frantic cry,
in the howling wind with the snow piled high.

When along came great Tanya & her puppies three,
digging a path immediately.

Then along came this dog, Tanya by name
at ease in the sparkling tongues of snow flame.

She found Mother's wondering boy
injured and drinking liquid joy.

"Please get me out I have to have more
Take my last dollar to Sam's liquor store.

"If you could see me, the ordeal I've been through,
you'd need a drink if this happened to you."

I can't shovel all this snow,
The windchill dropped to 40 below.

And I can't dig you out all alone,
I'll call for help when I get near a phone.

The rats ate his ankles right to the bone,
The worst rat history, the city's ever known.

He lost both his legs and fingers too;
that was the best the doctors could do.
He no longer looks for the "wheel in the air."
but reaches for the wheel on his sporty wheelchair.
Losing your cool is easy to do,
and it may prove hurtful or fatal to you.
Let's remember the blizzard of '79,
and keep all your adventures & drinking in line.
Ellen Winters

The Fall

I fall from the edge of infinity
Tumbling forever
Suspicion growing deeper than this
endless fall
Time is still is slow is motion is
falling
all the same
I am tired of this juxtaposition of
space and mind
I don't want to fall any more
it is a sneaky proposition
it hurts

Marcus Telling

Don't Believe Everything You Read In The Tabloids...

(Editor's note: What follows is taken from a letter-to-the-editor from a person who has finally let something out on how politics twists things.)

"Regardless of our thoughts on the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), one country that has been very successful in balancing their budget by cutting expenditures & increasing revenues at the same time is Mexico. They cut expenditures by privatizing public sector enterprises, which in Mexico used to drain lots of subsidies from the federal budget. The privatization process, which was done through public bids, allowed the Mexican gov't to raise \$52 billion. They used this to cut the domestic debt & thus cut their debt service. To cut costs further they reduced the size of the bureaucracy dramatically by offering early retirement. They eliminated programs that were important to some special interest groups but not beneficial to the general population. They reduced tax rates but increased the tax base by replacing what they perceived as regressive taxes like sales taxes with more progressive ones like gasoline. They decreased the national sales tax from 15% to 10% while increasing the gas tax, which is progressive in Mexico because only a small part of the population owns cars. They successfully did what I believe Canada must do if we are to survive as a nation.

Former US Republican Senator Norris Cotton noted in his autobiography, & I quote: "Where does the gov't get its money? From the vacations we could never take, movies we never saw, restaurant dinners we never ate, clothes we never bought & savings we haven't got? What a scorching indictment of runaway gov't, of a runaway economy & of an unfair tax system that caters to the very rich, coddles the very poor, but is slowly but surely crushing the middle class." That in my eyes just as ably describes Canada's situation in 1993. How many politicians are willing to join me in reducing the size & cost of our federal government?"

(signed) Darren Lowe
Reform Party Nominee



Okay. Why this letter was printed is to show how selecting only bits & pieces of info can distort & confuse.

First, "regardless of our thoughts on NAFTA" is saying both the "free" trade agreement & NAFTA are separate issues. The loss of 500,000 jobs, the depression-level plant closures, bankruptcies, etc. aren't part of the picture?! If you believe that then it's really sad. Transnational corporations have been the movers & shakers in Mexico's "restructuring", just as their interests are served by these deals. Holding Mexico up as a shining example of economic enlightenment is sickening.

Lowe has selected bits of info. What he chose not to discuss or even mention is how these changes have affected the people of Mexico or what the Salinas gov't has done to get these changes in place. To begin with Salinas lost the last election. The vote was heavily in favour of the opposition forces trying to throw out the corrupt regime that has dictated in Mexico for the last 60 years. Salinas had the army & police seize huge numbers of ballot boxes all over the country, declared a need for a recount, then just announced a week later that he'd won. Many people who protested this massive fraud were then murdered. In the next year over 140 of the people who'd run against members of Salinas' junta were killed - murdered.

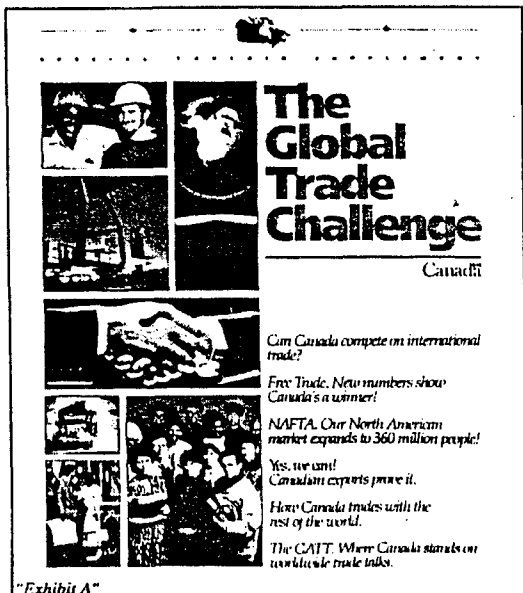
Of the 85 million people in Mexico, over 60 million are existing in abject poverty. They have nothing; real wages have fallen over 50% in the last 5 years, the only

organised labour is the government union, run by Salinas' appointees. Changes in the taxes have not affected the wealthy elite at all - they have simply cut wages to about \$5 a DAY. More & more Canadian & American jobs are vanishing as corporate owners relocate in Mexico, with its obscenely corrupt gov't, murder of independent union organisers, \$5/day wages and total lack of enforced environmental law.

Lowe then has the gall to finish with a "motherhood" quote to grab the emotions of only those who he expects to vote. The "coddling of the very poor" says a lot for the Reform Party - we, as low income people, are parasites in his eyes. He gives a good introduction to what Reform & Tory alike want: privatize, deregulate, cut & slash social programs...supporting both FTA & NAFTA in agreeing that if you can't make a buck at anything it's no good. This philosophy is economic terrorism, paving the way for North America to have a uniform standard for wages, education, health & environmental protections that are set at the lowest level possible UNLESS you happen to be part of the wealthy elite.

PAULR TAYLOR

Especially In a Tory Trade Tabloid!



The Global Trade Challenge
Canada

Can Canada compete on international trade?

Free Trade. New numbers show Canada's a winner!

NAFTA. Our North American market expands to 360 million people!

Yes, we can! Canadian exports prove it.

How Canada trades with the rest of the world.

The CAIT. Where Canada stands on worldwide trade index.

"Exhibit A"

Okay again. What follows is a shining example of how the Conservatives, led by the incomparable Brian Mulroney, do what Lowe has attempted. Last year they sent a piece of slick propaganda to over 10 million Canadians entitled "The Global Trade Challenge". Read on -

The Tories' Challenge in "The Global Trade Challenge" Was To Test The Limits of Canadians' Credulity

The Tories are still trying - against all the evidence to the contrary - to make Canadians believe that the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement has been good for them. And that the NAFTA will be even better. The centrepiece to their exercise in misinformation is "The Global Trade Challenge". It's full of statistical distortions & outright lies. Here are some of the worst:

Tory Claim No. 1 - This recession would've been even worse without the FTA. Our productivity is up. Manufacturing jobs are coming back. Economic recovery is "just around the corner."

FACT

The FTA, combined with the Tories' harsh monetary policy, has destroyed hundreds of thousands of jobs over the past 4 years, most of them in the manufacturing, construction & resource areas. A majority of the newly created jobs over that period have been minimum-wage, part-time service positions, increasing the number of part-timers to 17% of the work-force. The net loss of jobs since the free trade deal totals 222,000. The official national unemployment rate of 11.6% (in Sept. '92) would be up to 15% if the 344,000 discouraged jobless people who have stopped looking for work were included in the calculation.

Ontario alone, according to Statistics Canada, has lost an average of 500 full-time jobs & one manufacturing plant every day for the past 3 years.

Canada's economic tailspin started well before the official start of the recession in 1990. The OECD says our economy is now operating at 9.2% below its productive capacity, compared to the US figure of 3.6% below its potential & Japan's 0.4%. Canada in fact is farther below its productive potential than the economy of any other major industrialised country. Our unemployment rate is the 3rd highest among the 24 such countries & our manufacturing job loss is 4 times higher than the loss of similar jobs in the US.

The tabloid boasts that manufacturing productivity (output per employed worker) rose in 1991, calling it "an unprecedented occurrence in a recession." But this happened because so many workers lost their jobs in 1991 that the output of the remaining workers went up! A more honest assessment of the '91 productivity gains came

from the Canadian Manufacturers Association's 1992 report. It states bluntly that "productivity gains by work force reductions is not a formula for enhancing industrial competitiveness." If it were, companies could claim infinite productivity gains the moment their last worker walks out the door. The problem is they would no longer be in business!"

Tory Claim No. 2 - Canada is winning in trade with the United States.

FACT

When the Tory tabloid says that exports to the US were up \$5 billion between '88 & '91, it fails to add that this was the smallest growth in exports to the US in any 3-year period since the '60's. It also omits another crucial figure - the \$4.94 billion increase in our imports from the US over the same period. So, when the Tories claim that each \$1 billion in exports creates 15,000 jobs, they forget to tell us that each \$1 billion in imports wipes out just as many jobs. So the imports & exports, in terms of jobs, pretty well cancelled each other out.

The Tories were also careful to confine their export figures to goods. They didn't mention the growing trade in services & it's easy to see why. Services exports to the US during 1988-91 actually dropped by \$1.5 billion, while services imports from the US soared by \$4.4 billion!

So, if we look at the entire trade record, we see that Canada's exports of goods & services to the US in 1988-91 grew by 2.8%, but our imports from the US grew by 7.5%, two-& one-half times as fast. If this is the Tories' version of a trade victory, it's hard to imagine what they would call a defeat.

It is clear from the real trade figures that our trade with the US has in fact deteriorated, inflicting a net destruction of jobs. How many jobs is a matter of dispute, but, even if we applied the Tories' own estimates of how much export is needed to maintain a certain number of jobs, we arrive at a total of 340,000 jobs less in the first 3 years under free trade than in the 3 years immediately preceding the FTA.

The undeniable fact is that, contrary to the statistical falsehoods in the Tory tabloid, Canada's trade performance with the US has seriously worsened under the FTA & this in turn has made the recession much harsher in Canada than it's been in the US & elsewhere. The tabloid claims Canada is doing quite well compared with the rest of the world, but in fact our recession is the 3rd most severe among the 24 major countries

Tory Claim No. 3 - Canada is gaining a bigger share of the American market.

FACT

The Tory tabloid asserts that "since the FTA no country has been able to take a larger share of the US market for manufactured goods than

Canada." The reality is that Japan has had the largest share both before & after the FTA. And, according to the US Commerce Dept., during '88-'91, manufactured imports from Australia, Mexico & South Africa also grew faster than imports from Canada - even though none of them has a free trade deal with the U.S.!

Tory Claim No. 4 - Investment has increased under the FTA & will increase even more under NAFTA.

FACT

The increase in investment has been by Canadian companies in the US, not vice versa. Canadian firms have been investing in the US at twice the rate that US firms have been investing in Canada under free trade. Canadian investment in the US during 1989-91 was \$8.6 billion, while US investment in Canada was \$4.9 billion.

Some 700 Canadian businesses have set up shop in Buffalo alone since the FTA came into effect according to the Wall Street Journal. Evidence shows that US direct investment is shifting away from Canada to Mexico (\$4.7 billion in '91).

There are also signs of soaring US disinvestment in Canada, particularly in our manufacturing sector, where American branch plants have been dismantled & moved out of Canada en masse. Nearly half the 397 most recent plant closures in Ontario, for example, were foreign-owned.

Tory Claim No. 5 - Canada is winning under the FTA's dispute settlement mechanism.

FACT

In 1987 Brian Mulroney said that "our biggest priority is to have an agreement that ends the threat to Canadian industry from US protectionists who harass & restrict exports through the misuse of trade laws." This objective was not achieved. Far from it. The harassments of Canadian products have gone up, not down.

The FTA disputes procedure is being used (or misused) by American producers to impede & tie up Canadian exports for as long as possible, to subject our exporters to expensive legal battles & discourage their US customers, & to create the kind of uncertainty that would influence investors against locating their production in Canada. Dozens of our major export industries - steel, pork, beer, softwood lumber, etc. - have been victimized in this way under the FTA, and there's no prospect that the harassment will lessen under NAFTA.

Who wins or loses these disputes, by the way, is often less important than the damage done by the harassment itself.

We did much better in trade disputes under the General Agreement on Tariffs & Trade, which judged them according to international trade laws. Under the FTA system, disputes are judged solely by American laws, & FTA panels can only rule on the limited question of whether Canadian imports contravene those US laws. And, to

make it worse, the US is free to change its trade laws unilaterally without Canada's okay.

Yet the Tories are able to claim, with a straight face, that Canada is benefitting from the FTA's dispute settling procedure.

Tory Claim No. 6 - We don't have to worry about low-wage competition from Mexico. Canada's exports to Mexico are growing & our future trading outlook with Mexico is bright.

FACT

The Tory tabloid grossly overstates the size & growth potential of the Mexican economy, as well as the Canada-Mexico trade situation. Mexico is not a booming economy, & it does not have 85 million consumers eager (or able) to snap up Canadian goods. Only about 10% of them, in fact, have incomes large enough to buy anything more than the bare essentials of life.

Mexico's economy is reeling from the collapse of oil prices. It has huge debts to pay off to western banks & very high levels of unemployment. Real wages fell by an incredible 60% in the 80's.

The tabloid cites our \$3 billion trade with Mexico in 1991, but carefully omits the fact that \$2.6 billion of that took the form of imports from Mexico. Canada's exports to Mexico were actually down 31.4% in 1991 from 1990.

The hard reality is that Mexico is a growing rival to Canada as an exporter to the US. At \$75 billion, Mexico is already the Americans' 3rd largest trading partner behind Canada and Japan. Exports from Canada & Mexico to the US are rapidly becoming more competitive, because over one-third of Mexico's exports are now in the same product categories as Canada's.

NAFTA, if it becomes law, will greatly enhance Mexico's attractions to corporate investors: cheap & abundant labour, lax environmental enforcement, repression of unions & proximity to US & Canadian markets. NAFTA's threat to the Canadian economy should be obvious.

Tory Claim No. 7 - Tory spending on worker training & adjustment is large & growing.

FACT

Since the Tories came to power in 1984, they have chopped funding for this purpose from general tax revenue by \$1 billion a year. They also took 8% for training out of the Unemployment Insurance fund (\$1.8 billion) & then cut back on UI eligibility & benefits. In 1988, before the Tories' UI changes, 70% of the unemployed were able to qualify for benefits. Now only 58% of our unemployed workers can qualify.

These UI changes were designed to bring our UI system closer to the system in the US, where only 38% of the jobless qualify for UI, & they get only 1/3 of their former earnings, instead of the 60% that still prevails in Canada. (This new bill in Ottawa will lower it to 50%.) The American UI system is so bad that, if Canada

were to adopt it, only 1/3 of the 1.6 million Canadians now out of work would qualify.

The Tory tabloid says the gov't will spend \$3.55 billion in '92 in training & adjustment for 630,000 workers. Even if this amount is actually spent, it will not even begin to compensate for the Tories' massive underspending for this purpose since they came to power.

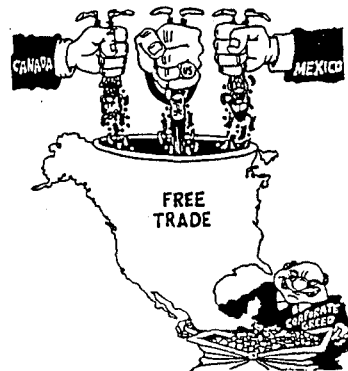
Tory Claim No. 8 - Because of our small domestic market, trade is the only way to maintain our high standard of living.

FACT

Our home market is actually the 8th largest in the world, & we achieved a high level of prosperity well before the Canada-US Free Trade Agreement was negotiated. Of course we gained immensely by trading with other countries, including the US. But it doesn't logically follow that, because we are a trading nation & need to trade, we therefore need the Tories' free trade agreements. In fact, over the hundred years in which we created one of the highest standards of living in the world, we rejected the option of free trade with the US at least 3 times. We opened up our global markets on our own, or through the GATT.

The Tories' free trade deal did give us marginally increased access to the US market by eliminating tariffs (many of which eventually would have come down under the GATT anyway), but at a horrendous cost in terms of lost jobs, lost productive capacity, lost investment, and, for many hundreds of thousands of Canadians, even lost homes, farms & businesses.

The Tory tabloid, in short, is merely the latest attempt to persuade Canadians that our only trade option is free trade. What they are really doing with the FTA, & are planning to do with NAFTA, to quote author John Ralston Saul, is to "deconstruct a full century of patient democratic work...and return (Canada) to the social order, or rather disorder, of the 18th century."



with the U.S. and Mexico

Official Canadian unemployment rate (July '92): 11 %
 Percentage of Canadians who cannot find work, have given up looking, or want full-time jobs but can find only part-time jobs: 25 %



Among US-owned companies operating in Mexico's free-trade zones, percentage that violate Mexico's environmental laws: 65 %



Maximum size of foreign investment that could escape Canadian gov't scrutiny before the FTA: \$5 million.

Maximum size in 1989 under the FTA: \$25 million.

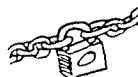
In 1992 under the FTA: \$150 million.

Amount of foreign investment going to take-overs of Canadian companies in 1990-91: 97 %

Percentage of Canadian manufacturers that see free trade with Mexico as "an opportunity": 36 %

As "a threat": 44 %

Percentage of businesses that believe it will cause plant closures: 73 %



For every 100 cars sold in Canada under the Auto Pact, number of cars that must be built here: 75

For every 100 cars sold in Canada under the FTA & NAFTA, number of cars that must be built here: 0



Amount of our trade with the US accounted for by vehicles & parts: 24.6 %

General Motors most efficient engine plant, according to G.M.: St. Catharines

Plant GM closed to centralize production south of the border: St. Catharines

Number of layoffs resulting: 2,000

Number of Canadians employed in the apparel industry: 109,000

Number of firms in the industry: 2,300

Percentage of those that are Canadian-owned: 98 %



Statement by the Canadian Apparel Manufacturers Institute on the effect of free trade with Mexico: "Some estimates place Canadian losses in some categories as high as 50% of domestic shipments" (and) "Canadian clothing manufacturers "could be erased overnight by a single stroke of the pen with NAFTA."

Statement by Brian Mulroney in October 1991:

"Canada will not subsidize repression & the stifling of democracy."



Torture methods used by Mexican officials, according to Amnesty International: - beatings, electric shocks, near asphyxiation in foul water by covering the head of the victim with a plastic bag containing ammonia or other irritants, forcing carbonated water with chili pepper into the nose, psychological means

**Number of Mexican community leaders, journalists & members of the opposition parties assassinated since 1988: Over 140.

Length of time it takes the average Mexican worker to earn the wage paid to the average Canadian worker for an hour of work: One day.

Number of small Mexican businesses that will fold because of NAFTA, according to the University of Mexico: 900,000

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
 John K.-\$50
 Pam F.-\$20
 The Kettle -\$16

Submission
 Deadline
NEXT ISSUE
 11 February
 Thursday

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

Global Competitiveness is Madness

The business elite talks of competitiveness as though it were the golden rule. In my view, the corporate czars who talk of competitive, economic wars in the global arena have lost their senses. They have become mad.

Sure, we all have a competitive streak that can find a constructive outlet in sports or small scale market activity. What is at stake, though, is the survival of our earth. Her forests are shrinking, her deserts are expanding, & her soils are eroding - all at record rates. The gap between the rich & the poor is increasing, & the important book, "Our Common Future", warns that disaster lies ahead unless the nations of the world develop a sustainable international economic system of cooperation.

Yet the business elite preaches the ideology of competitiveness. This is madness.

One thing I've learned at the Carnegie Centre is that to be human is to reach out to other people with a helping hand, not tear their throats out. We're human beings after all, and from our earliest history we have supported each other in co-operation & community in order to survive and to transcend ourselves. In our hearts we know that no person lives alone, & that the individual only has meaning in relation to others. This does not mean that conflict is absent from the Carnegie Centre, but it does mean that conflict is tempered by mutual respect & that generous sense of give & take which is the essence of co-operation.

Ironically, the competitiveness preached by the business elite leads to monopoly or control by a few. We have seen this happen in Canada, where our economy is dominated by 500 powerful corporations controlled by a junta of 1000 business executives.

On the global scene, the 600 largest transnational corporations do 80 to 90% of the industrial world's trade. They also control 80% of the world's land used for export-oriented crops, displacing millions of farmers from their land and millions of workers from domestic industry.

Of the world's largest 100 economies, 47 are now transnational corporations. We

will never have peace and justice as long as these giants, driven by competitiveness - that is, driven by the dynamic of accumulation - stalk the earth like crazed monsters.

By SANDY CAMERON

Leukemia

by Philip Kevin Paul for his
father Philip Christopher Paul ('33-1992)

It's running out of gas.

What?

The vehicle is running out of gas.

Oh Dad,
it's the medication,
it's making things unclear,
it's making you see things.

No, no,
you're not listening.
I said the vehicle is running out of gas.

Oh.
Would you like to get some gas for it?

Just let me finish:
it's O.K. for it to run out,
its brakes never worked anyway;
my hands are tired
from hanging on to the wheel.

I know, Dad.

The road was never marked very clearly,
I kept missing the turns,
now the vehicle is running out of gas.

I know, Dad.

I was afraid for the people on board;
so full of people.

It's O.K. Dad,
just rest,
we can walk from here.

Philip Kevin Paul

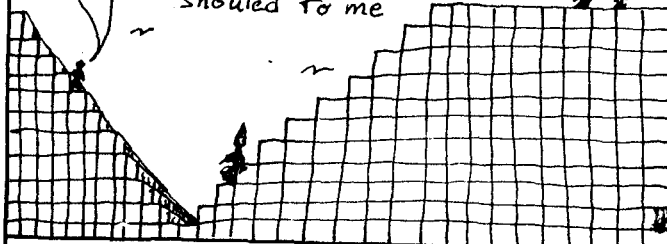
DREAMS, THOSE DOCUMENTARIES

by Dan Gumption Feeney Head

Jan 93

In the valley of empty bares, of pointless surplus,
an unpurchased sadness came over me.

they only seem empty someone
shouted to me

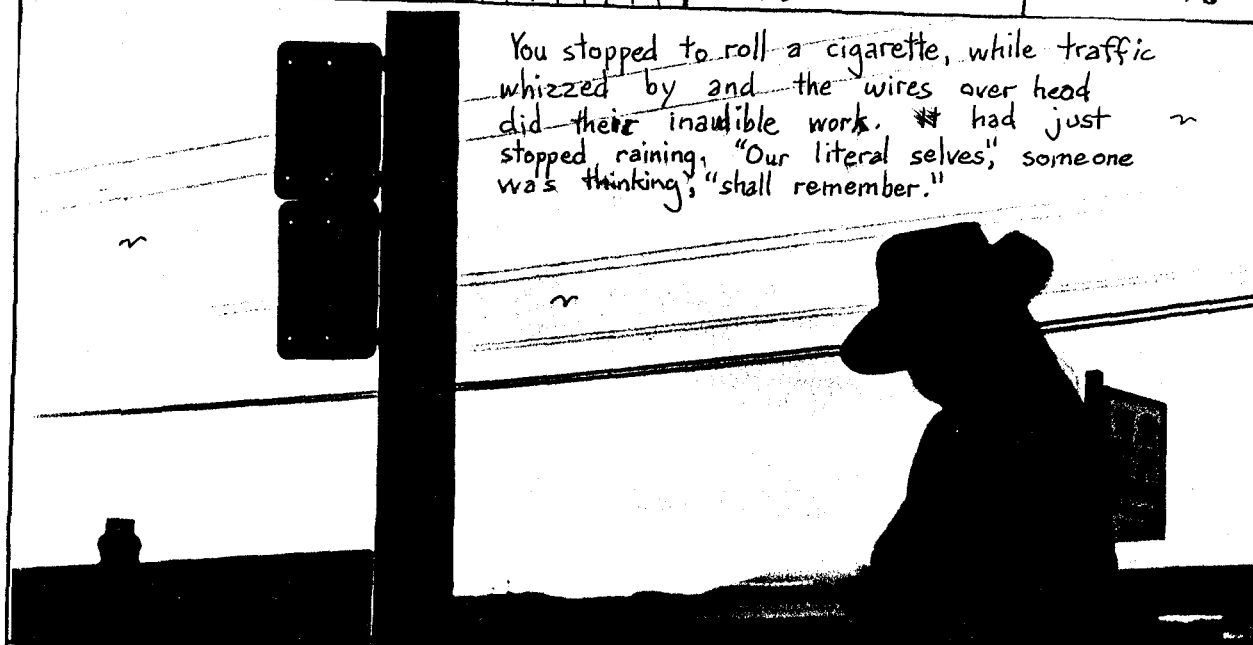


A long-haired guy stacking spent
beer cans at the park said:
"I'm dropping everything today!"
Was this referring to clumsiness or
to a new attitude?

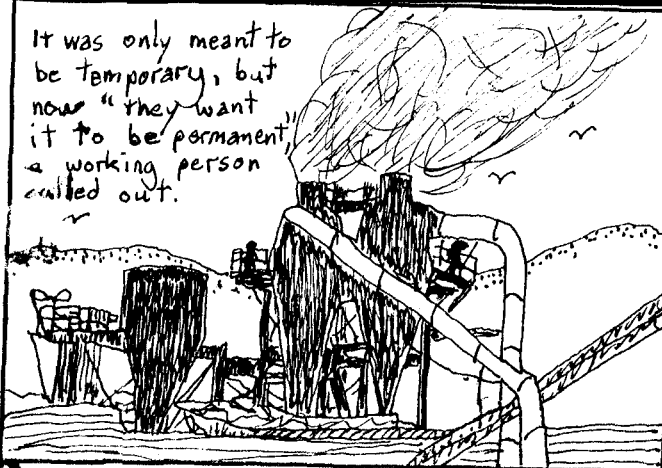


Beer Can Stacking
Competition: Speed
Finals

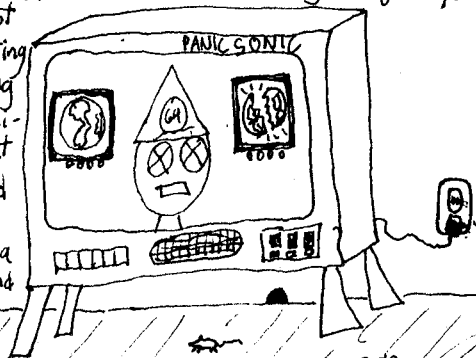
You stopped to roll a cigarette, while traffic
whizzed by and the wires over head
did their inaudible work. * had just
stopped raining. "Our literal selves," someone
was thinking, "shall remember."



It was only meant to
be temporary, but
now "they want
it to be permanent,"
a working person
cried out.



I had to describe the state of the world
perfectly, without offending anybody,
but not forgetting
anything
or simpli-
fying at
all, and
do it
without a
script and
without
notes.



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