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Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



JUNE 1, 1994.

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

THE "RIGHT-OF-WAY-TODAY"

What is the silent busy computer of City Hall bureaucracy up to now? „All those City Planing reports & recommendations crossing all those teflon desks...all those phone calls in the middle of the night...what is City Hall planning & plotting & politicking to do to us now? The gears grind slowly & inevitably forward:

"Policy Report: Director of Planning supports item, No. 4 P&E Committee agenda, Marchio; 1994:

Former CPR right-of-way in Gastown

Recommendation

"That the Director of Planning in consultation with the Directors of Finance & Housing & Properties & the General Manager of Parks & Recreation provide a detailed report back on the options for achieving the open space goal

Proposed Linkage



on a site-by-site basis for the entire right-of-way including both design & acquisition options."

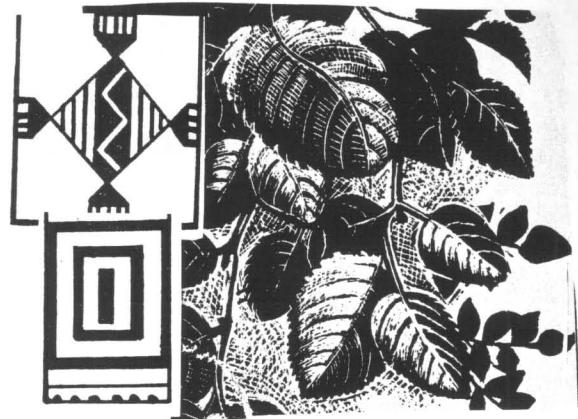
.....apparently, they are moving to own & develop the old tram line slash that cuts diagonally across Carrall Street from Columbia to Pender, & to turn it into a public walkway with a series of mini-parks linked together that they refer to in further reports as a "greenway" & a "unique pedestrian linkage" which is said to be between "two important destinations: The Stadium ALRT station & historic Gastown & possibly to Portside Park, depending on the future of a connection at Columbia Street (fig.2)"

Now we must translate some of this secretive, rhetorical language into EastVanspeak: "Portside Park" means Crab Park, "Pioneer Place" means Pigeon Park, & Stadium ALRT station means a seething mass of migrating sports fans.

Are we down to "Grade Level" yet? "Grade Level" is what these City Hall mandarins call the pavement you walk around on, buddy - even if you were born here & lived here all your life you've got to put up with this kind of government - these kinds of words & actions from your Clockwork Orange controllers.

But you say maybe it's a wonderful idea to create pedestrian greenways in the city, & maybe there's no class-biased power plot behind it?

Well, think of all those sports fans & tourists congregating around the condom & its soon-to-be-built companion, the Hockey stadium & sports complex: Condom II. Visualize them mingling with cruise ship tourists & well-heeled owners of high-rise apartments & penthouse suites in Li-Ka-Shing's golden empire on False Creek. Imagine them



discovering a convenient walkway directly through the Downtown Eastside-Gastown area that takes them, as if by magic, right to the government casino & world class convention centre complex fronting on Crab Park.

Maybe this little dance is being done just because they like trees & parks & happy kids playing in the sunshine...? Give me a break. Is anybody still so politically naive that they'd believe for a minute that this is anything other than class take-over? Isn't it the hi-tech financial empire they are servicing at City Hall instead of the real needs of local area population in Vancouver?

.....of course we all know what they mean when they say "...and possibly to Portside Park, depending on the future of a connection at Columbia Street." That "connection" was the wheelchair-accessible overpass, shot down recently by the Mayor's one vote, at the insistence of Gastown businessmen. The overpass they owed the Downtown Eastside & are legally required to provide according to federal laws of access to public facilities... So the plot thickens, Apparently the mayor & his cronies are just buying time until they can get the access they want. Isn't this class warfare? But we can call it representative government & stick our heads in the

economically secure sand, like ostriches with short political life-spans, We can go back to our busted couches & watch TV for the rest of our lives & let those sharks feed & forget about it.

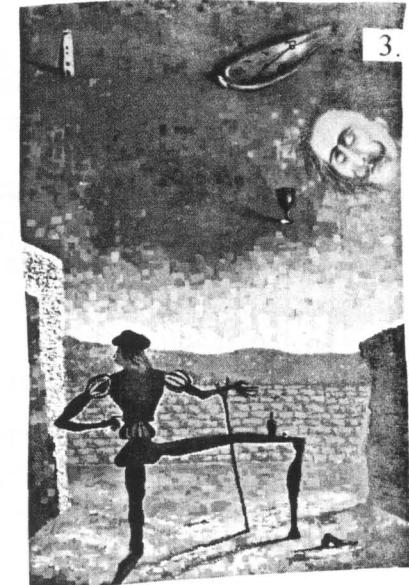
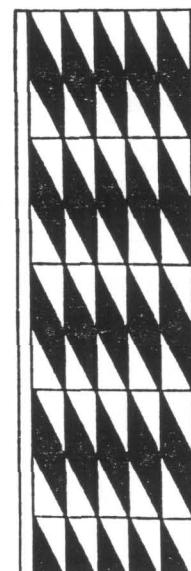
But before we do, let's just take a peek at the top line of Page 7 of support item number 4: It says -"Social Implications:

There are no social implications to this policy."

Well, what'd ya know? It's all so innocent, so harmless & nice this policy - it has no social implications whatever, I have it on the authority of no lesser nabob than the Director of City Planning himself, whoever he is, that this business-like flourish has no social impact whatsoever on our urban landscape. Am I to believe such ignorance, such incompetence & professional blindness on the part of an expert who draws well over a hundred thou a year for his advice?

They must think I'm too stupid to see what's going on. They must think they can get away with anything, these slick fast-talking manipulators we call politicians. These aren't politicians & consultants - these are opportunists who've long forgotten they ever had a mandate to aid the local population in designing a city according to its needs. There are more important economic players moving into the area, dividing up the turf & passing around the spin-offs & perks & marking themselves down as socially conscious responsible citizens acting on behalf of constituents...that's what our kids will read in the history books of the future - that these Porkside Park promoters & casino crazed nerds can pass themselves off as responsible individuals. This is the final nail in our political coffin.

But let's get our bruised & battered noses back to the old grindstone, so to speak, &



examine these official reports & policy statements further. It's clear that, whereas the Downtown Eastside couldn't get an at-grade crossing of the CPR tracks into Crab Park, even after it begged & pleaded & worked for years with City Hall to achieve it, the Gastown businessmen, condo owners, sports fans & tourists will eventually have multiple at-grade crossings handed to them on a silver platter when the time is right according to their economic clock.

Did you ever wonder why City Hall has 4 big clocks on top of it? It's not just so its citizens can read the time of day, it's to establish the time is money myth firmly in the minds of all participants. We are a gameboard culture & the dealers are opening a corridor to Crab Park, adding it to their personal list of acquisitions & historical accomplishmentsand we get a "Go Directly To Jail" card.

& finally, let us take note of the source or motivating influence that set these publicly-owned bureaucratic wheels in motion. Let's go directly to the City Planning recommendation & find out in their own

\$ CASINO CONVENTION CENTRE

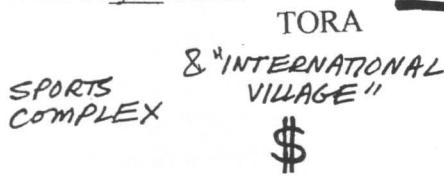
words what sparked off this "development":

"This report has been prompted by an inquiry by Mr. Brad Holme, Pacific City Land Corporation, in association with his architect, Mr. Gerry Kennedy, to develop the vacant site at the southeast corner of Carrall & Cordova Streets"

GASTOWN

Is it possible that the head of the Pacific City Land Corporation knows nothing about the social implications of his actions? - of course he doesn't. The Director of Planning himself says there aren't any.

What do you think?



THIS SPUDS FOR YOU

When two of us Ceeds along with our baggage (six, fifty-pound sacks of illegal seed potatoes) were preparing to board the train in 100 Mile House, there was some concern we wouldn't make it. We observed what appeared to be a crash meting, being held in the Station Master's office, consisting of the Conductor, assistant Conductor, the Station Master and his assistant. One of them was overheard asking, "What are they, potatoes?"

The three hundred pounds of potatoes were of three varieties: the Netted Gems, the Green Mountain, and the infamous Cariboo...all of them illegal.

At last they decided to let the potatoes on board and we were off to Carnegie. In North Vancouver we were met by a potato man with a hand cart and a pick-up truck. A quick trip was made to the Downtown Eastside and the potatoes were put safely in storage at Carnegie's

The next evening and following day the potatoes were prepared for the Spud-Fest. Us farmers and some volunteers from Carnegie made potatoe bread, scalloped potatoes, potatoe chips, baked potatoes, and potatoe salad. That was the menu for the Spud-Fest. It was lots of fun working in the kitchen; we met some good people and got a better understanding of how the kitchen works.

More volunteers helped set up the chairs and tables, and the video screen and sound for our Ceeds farm video. It was a nice event and the food was so well appreciated. We were hapaply to be sharing our potatoes with our friends at Carnegie. We hope that the Spud-Fest can become an annual celebration.

"Hyperbole and colourful, perhaps even disrespectful, language may be the necessary touchstone to fire the interest and imagination of the public to the need for reform."

—Ontario Court of Appeal judgement in Regina v. Kopyto, 1987

WHITE ROCK HIKING TRIP

On Friday 05/20/94 a group of us from Carnegie Community Centre went to White Rock for a hiking/sightseeing trip. Our chauffeur (Marina) and Tour Guide (Bob) kept us well informed and entertained, as did the whole group. Our group was as diverse as they come. We had a "foreigner" (actually no one is a foreigner from Carnegie), a "Rock N'Roller", a "Sleeper", a "SeenItAll", a "Romeo", a "Straggler", and the rest of us were "Jokers". Every crowd needs a "Joker".

We went to the pier in Whjite Rock and watched a young fellow catch some crabs, and viewed the big white rock (hence the name) on the beach. After having a lunch of sandwiches, juice, fresh fruit and cookies, we started on our hike. We followed the railway tracks ad went along the beach, to an old Indian Burial Ground (don't ask me the

name..Bob knows).

From there we hiked through a Native Reserve The hike was approximately 2-3 miles (of course I exaggerated)!

Before heading back we were treated to some ice cream and coffee. Funny, for a place that boasts of celebrities, we never even got a glimpse of one (except for Jerry, our self-confessed Celebrity!).

On the way back we stopped at Crescent Beach, viewed a 100 year-old farmhouse in mint condition, made a quick stop n'view of an old plane museum, then headed home.

All in all, we had a very relaxing time. It's good for the soul to get away from the Downtown Core, even if it's just for one day. Thank you, Marina and Bob; we must do another trip soon! Thanks.

By ANDY NIEMAN



Our next 2 exhilarating walking tours are:

Fri. June 10 - Steveston, Richmond
Meet at info desk at 9:45

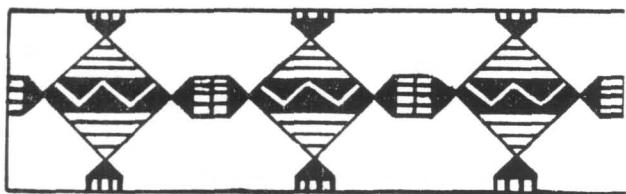
Sat. June 25 - Port Moody
Meet at info desk at 9:45

Come and join our informative and fun walks through the many hidden and undiscovered pockets of our city.

Picnic lunch provided.
Good walking shoes and legs a MUST!

Sign up with Marina, 3rd floor.





History Is What We Remember - part 2 ***The Land On Which Vancouver Stands***

Before Europeans arrived on the west coast of what is now British Columbia, the land was occupied by First Nations peoples who had lived here for thousands of years. Every fishing spot, gathering lace for a variety of foods, and hunting territory was owned by one family group or another. The land was rich in names.

The Squamish nation had many villages on the Squamish River and in Howe Sound. It also had villages in what is now Burrard Inlet, an area it shared with the Musqueam nation.

The Musqueam nation had villages on the land that is now Vancouver including the present site of the Musqueam community where people have lived for more than three thousand years.

First Nations villages existed at Spanish Banks, Jericho Beach, in False Creek, in the place where lumberman's arch now stands in Stanley Park, in Burrard Inlet, and along the shores of Indian Arm;

Around the mouth of the Fraser River., and along its shores as far as Yale, existed many villages belonging to the Tsawwassen people, the Musqueam, the Kwantlan, the Coquitlam, the Katzie, the Matsqui, the Sumass, and many other peoples ,who make up the Stalo nation - stalo meaning river.

The First Nations peoples in the lower mainland of BC had one of the most ideal

climates in North America, and the sea and land, far from being "empty", were surging with life. Five kinds of salmon as well as halibut, smelt, herring, dog fish, cod and sea perch lived in the sea and rivers.

The people had access to hundreds of miles of shoreline, to mud beaches, sand beaches, rock beaches, boulder beaches and all the marine life they contained, such as clams, oysters, mussels, sea urchins and crabs.

Seals, porpoises, and sea lions were some of the mammals available to the people. Elk, deer and bears were plentiful, and flights of waterfowl so huge they would darken the sky could be found on the mud flats and marshy areas.

Plants and berries grew abundantly in the lower mainland - oregon grapes, huckleberries, whortleberries, cranberries, strawberries, salal berries, salmon berries, thimble berries, wild onion, camas, devil's club, nettles, skink cabbage, lupine...

The mighty forests of fir and cedar grew luxuriously. Right where the downtown section of Vancouver is now could be found one thousand year-old Douglas Fir trees three hundred to three hundred and fifty feet tall.

So rich were the coast people in resources, they could afford to take part of the winter off for cultural and spiritual celebrations. Our present technological society, in which many of those who have jobs are expected to work at low wages for fifty weeks a year is poor in comparison.

No one knows the size of the First Nations population in British Columbia before the coming of the Europeans. One difficulty in estimating this precontact population is due to the speed at which a disease like smallpox can spread. Richard Inglis, curator of ethnology at the Royal British Columbia

Museum, estimates that more than 4450,000 First Nations people on the west coast of British Columbia died from small pox and other introduced diseases in the 19th century alone - from 1800 to 1900 A.D.

One thing is for sure. The west coast of what is now British Columbia was a land rich in people and resources when Spanish explorers visited it in 1774.

By SANDY CAMERON
to be continued



DRUM SONG

my friend
just got out of detox today
looking for a fix
first in drum sticks;
then his lady love
she called him away
to play a paradiddle
her way....
down, down, down, down,
he shoulda seen the junkie dyin'
out on Hastings Street;
drum tattoo, skin tattoo,
the rhythm of the beat
takes him on her sings
a siren song she sings
and he soars up
lookin' for those white skies

libra

Main & Hastings Housing & Employment Project

7.

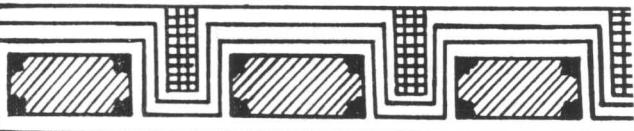
On May 16 the steering committee met to consider the feasibility study prepared by Enriquez Partners. Technical details, including the budget, disbursements, and soil reclamation were discussed. Vickey Morris noted that of the funds currently allotted to the project, \$2 1/2 million are earmarked for construction while \$1/2 million are directed towards the payment of fees, salaries and project development costs.. Preliminary studies indicate a soil contamination problem may exist at the site necessitating the removal and secure disposal of all excavated materials

Two architects, Andrew Dewberry and Graeme Bristol, attended the meeting to comment on the Enriquez proposals and respond to questions. They noted that all the proposed uses of the site would require additional funding. They further indicated that, if the building were to receive a "heritage" designation, that additional housing spaces could be built within the existing zoning constraints.

Discussion continues regarding the possible inclusion of the 380 Main St. site into the overall plan. The Vancouver Police currently use the building for storage and weapons training. Clarification of their intentions is expected by the end of May.

The steering committee is currently considering the best management and administrative model to operate the housing aspect of the project and options include establishing a housing society, a non-profit society or handing over operating responsibilities to an existing community agency or service.

By MARK HIERLIHY





THE LEARNING CONFERENCE

Carnegie Learners are planning a Learning Conference ‘Open House’. The date has been changed to Thursday, June 16, from 9am-4pm

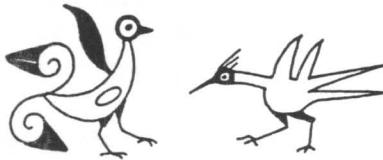
After the opening ceremonies there will be a variety of cultural displays, performances discussions and food.

All of the activities will take place on the third floor and the main floor. The theatre will be used as an International Food Fair. Our Learners will offer foods which will tease palates with cultural flavours,

The third floor will have displays of cultural arts, a variety of costumes and the graceful health giving exercises contained in two types of self defense. There will also be stamps from every corner of the globe and photos of our Learners' families as well as stories of our Learners experiences.

Amnesty international will be represented by one of Carnegie's tutors who is a member of Amnesty international.

To all Carnegie Learners, please attend the planning meetings if you wish to get involved., In this way Learners advance their education while meeting with others and arranging the Conference.



LEGAL ADVICE AVAILABLE
THIS SUMMER

Once again this summer, UBC law students are offering free legal advice to those who cannot afford a lawyer. The program will hold twenty neighbourhood clinics throughout the Lower Mainland - May 16 to August 19.

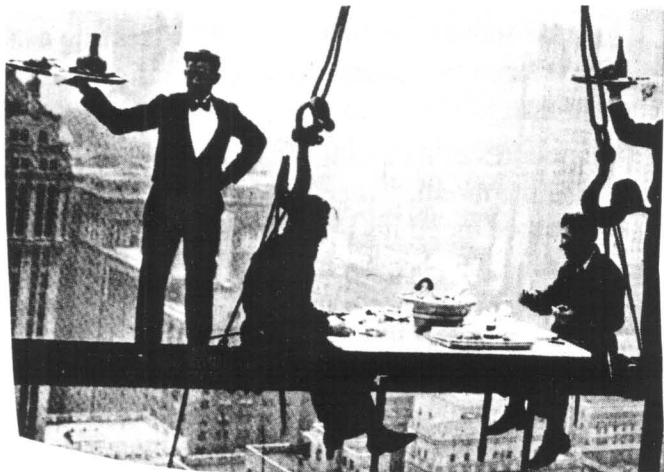
on the 3rd floor near the elevator. This service is provided by the students with the Law Students' Legal Advice Program (LSLAP) with the help of the program's supervising lawyer, Brian Higgins.

Advice is offered on a variety of subjects including small claims actions, landlord-tenant disputes, welfare, UIC claims and appeals, WCB, wills, employer-employee relations and criminal matters. LSLAP also offers a Do-Your-Own-Divorce program which provides low-cost divorces for those seeking uncontested divorces.

The program also has specialized clinics for First Nations [persons, women, seniors, Persons with AIDS, and Cantonese speaking persons.

LSLAP has been working in the community for twenty-five years and is today BC's second largest legal aid organization.

For information regarding other clinic times and locations, call **822-5791**.



IT'S ANNUAL MEETING TIME AGAIN

Has it been a whole year already?

Every month the Carnegie Community Centre Association meets to conduct its business. But once a year it holds a special meeting - the annual general meeting - to review the year's activities and to chart the course for the next year.

This year the annual general meeting will be held Sunday June 12, starting at pm in the theatre.

At the meeting members will receive full reports on what the Association has been doing, and we can discuss where we want to go next. As well, a new Board will be elected.

So what kind of a year has it been? As usual it has been a very busy one. The Association is a voice for the Carnegie community and there is no end of issues to speak up on.

One of our most satisfying achievements was defeating the budget cutbacks that City Council was going to impose on Carnegie that would have made it hard to staff the building safely and efficiently at all hours. Just like in days of old, we stormed up to City Hall, set up coffee and cookies in one of the committee rooms, made impassioned but

reasonable speeches to Council and turned them around - one of the few groups to be successful.

We are also proud of maintaining Oppenheimer Park as a more friendly environment. Special recognition should go to our Oppenheimer volunteer of the year, Wilfredo Jimenez.

In the past year, our community has faced two grave threats from the outside - the scourge of street drugs that has taken so many lives - including that of our beloved Janice Saul - and the insidious tide of mega-development that is sweeping across the neighbourhood.

The Association has been active against the plan to turn our community into Las Vegas North with a giant gambling palace on the waterfront, and homelessness and increased crime in the streets. Recently we hired John Shayler, a well-known and respected figure in the Downtown Eastside, to help coordinate our efforts.

On the drug issue, the Association has hosted workshops and meetings and worked with other community groups toward the goal of decriminalizing drugs, to reduce the crime and danger (to users) in the drug scene.

We have also grappled with the ginseng brandy problem, and several of our Board members have been involved in the Alcohol and Drug focus groups.

Inside Carnegie, the Association has been active in so many areas - here are a few:

- * helping pay for volunteer out-trips and free chili dinners in 5-week months;

- * buying new equipment, like that big TV screen/video projector in the Theatre;

- * leasing a van for the summer, so members can enjoy some fresh air outside the neighbourhood;

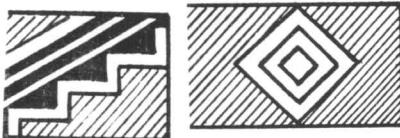
* publishing the best-read Newsletter in the Downtown Eastside (Hey! why stop there? - the best-read anywhere!) and the most useful guide, Help in the Downtown Eastside, in English, French and Spanish;

* co-sponsoring all the special events in Carnegie, like Christmas, New Year's and the anniversary celebration and other special activities, like the 'Dusk-to-Dawn' photo show on the 3rd floor.

All of these activities take money. We couldn't do it without the dedicated bunch of volunteers who participate in our fund-raising bingo's and, yes, casinos (But these are smaller scale charity casinos, not mega-scale, for-profit casinos.)

In fact, as everyone knows, volunteers are the backbone of Carnegie, the hundreds of dedicated individuals who make the building really run as the most extraordinary community centre in Canada. (Again, , why stop there? - in the world!)

In the coming year we have to finish the process of renovations in the building. The big project will be on the third floor, to give Vancouver's most successful Learning Centre some breathing room ;..



Frances Street...

Sister Frances Redmond was Vancouver's first public health nurse. In 1888, she and an Anglican priest built the city's first general hospital, St. Luke's, on Cordova Street. Here she directed BC's original training school for nurses, and lived in an old , English-style building that still stands today at 309 East

At the annual meeting, we will be electing a new 15-member board. As a democratic organization the board's role is to implement the policies of its members. Board members attend the monthly meetings and one or two committee meetings in between.

Anyone who has been a member for 60 days (since before April 14) can run for the Board. Anyone who has been a member for 14 days, since before May 30, can vote.

Of course, one of the biggest losses we suffered this year was when Diane MacKenzie left Carnegie to become the director of the new Gathering Place on Granville Street. Good news for Granville but we are going to miss her high spirits and her low humour.

Fortunately we have Donald MacPherson to Take her place. But I don't want to embarrass him by stating all his virtues. Anyone who has met him knows the kilted wonder I'm talking about.

See you at the AGM!

By MUGGS SIGURGIERSON
CCCA President.

Cordova.

Wounded in the Boer War, Sister Frances became one of the few women to receive the Victoria Cross. In 1929 she was named Citizen of the Year in Vancouver, and Frances Street was named after her.

- from Vancouver - A Visual History
by Bruce Macdonald

Banks are an archetype. The word comes from the Italian banco and banco means bench. Sixteenth century bankers conducted their business on benches outside in the streets or Florence, Italy

Until the advent of the 20th century, the tallest buildings seen from the furthest distance of any city were religious or church structures. In this age, though, it is interestingly enough the bank skyscrapers Much taller than any Parliament building Legislative house, Police Station, Law Court even than any school.... Sort of shows what side the bread is really buttered on. To many, banks and churches are house of worship.

What do banks and religion have in common? They both want to make the greatest profit!

I attended a one-act play at the Bank of Montreal building on Friday afternoon, the 2nd of May; a play by Jim Green called "full community meeting".

In the drama, the main character, Jim Green (who took the opportunity to celebrate his birthday as well as set up a 15-minute photo opportunity with well-known Vancouver photographer Robert Blake) led the minor characters in a recital of "our trip to 2nd Reading at the BC Legislature" (what, no slide show?).

Each of 4 or 5 chosen people from the "audience" were asked by Green if they wanted to say anything about the trip, and each of course responded on cue.

One announced that "this (community) bank is my dream", expressing, I can only imagine, the reputedly universal desire of people in this area to run a bank. Another proclaimed, with

A user-friendly financial institution run by members of this community for members of this community is an excellent idea and is encouraged., However, I don't see how this is possible Another idea met with much skepticism.

Wouldn't this new Community Financial Institution (CFI) be different from the other major banks in name only?

How this community of notoriously hedonistic welfare denizens could, let alone would, gather enough initial starting capital required (except through the auspices of the VLC or some other major financial entity, therefore forfeiting a lot of autonomy) is totally elusive.,

Good Luck!

Dean Ko

deep insight, that debates in the legislature were messy & ridiculous sometimes.

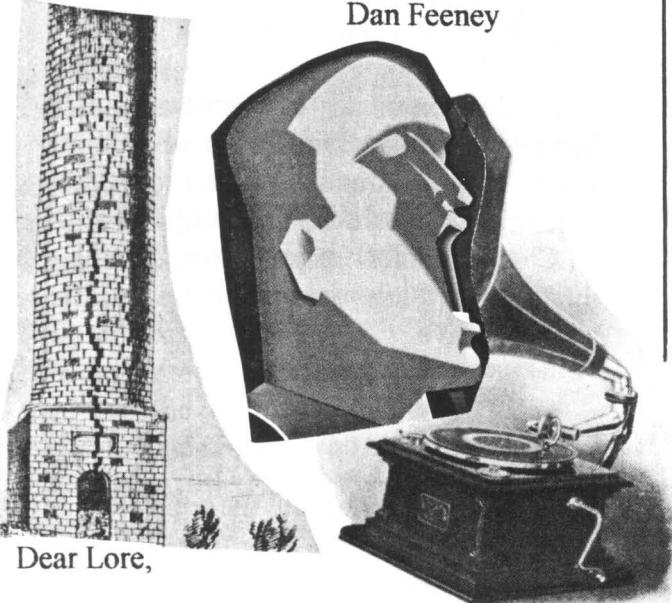
Taking lessons from PSI (People Searching Inside, a cult-like self-discovery group from the 70's accused of creating schizophrenics out of normal people) VIP Green himself seemed absolutely in control of the drama, pointing out that if anyone had any concerns about the bank whatsoever, whether they were concerns about the process or about the nature of the planned bank or whatever, those disbelievers were one of "them", presumably the enemy who will use any method, any argument, to fight & discredit this venture.

Just when I started to doubt that this was a play, just when the attendees & Green himself seemed to be taking themselves too seriously, everyone was conducted to the counter to pose for a kitsch series of photos , with and without birthday cake, to promote this initiative. Even I, who was not one of the

cast, was urged 3 or 4 times to get in the picture, though I did not & do not promote the initiative, which, I guess, is the play itself.

A disappointed drama, really, & the title, "full community meeting", subtitled "our community bank", seems to refer to some other event elsewhere.

Dan Feeney



Dear Lore,

It's amazing what can be done with words. I must be dense; I put together what "filled" the first 2 pages of the last Newsletter with the idea of being fair. I hadn't read any of what you lump this with - Campbell or the media or whoever - but the request was simple: detail what makes this so different and so good.

For months, every so often, there is word of a "community" bank. It's supposed to be great: an appointed board of directors, with 3 out of 11 people to be either appointed or elected from here (wherever 'here' is); an advisory body with no vote; ...to shorten all this, there's a lot of idealistic hope of how this facility will change the way financial institutions treat low income people.

We will have dignity and respect.

My question was and remains - how will

Dear Editor

These are strange times in the Downtown vn
e
s Eastside. The first two pages of the May Carnegie Newsletter were filled with editorials and a "report" from a DERA employee, all making arguments against the community bank. Stranger yet, these arguments and comments are the same ones that Gordon Campbell of the Liberal Party (remember him, folks? He was our former NPA Mayor and had no use for us then -probably doesn't now) the chartered banks and the main-stream, right-wing media are making. Yes indeed, strange bedfellows... Gordon Campbell, chartered banks, BCTV, the Province, the Vancouver Sun and the editor of the Carnegie Newsletter. How times do change!

Lore Krill

this happen? How is this place going to work that immediately makes it different?

The report by the DERA staff person was printed to point out that much of what has been repeated in the press & elsewhere is not accurate. Banks have not "fled the area"; it is daily business to open new accounts. My question again is "How will the community bank work that will make it so much better than what is done in other places?"

Not to drag on this self-defense, but there are (or seem to be) a number of people who firmly believe in this community bank. Not one person has taken the time to write a detailed response to the valid questions asked. There has been no rush to defend this great thing, or just to educate the few of us who can't take anything on blind faith. It's not enough to say "Come to the meetings..come to the bank.." or to say "Just wait and see" ..

PaulR Taylor

My Job In The Day Care Centre

Agazzi Day Care Centre was a large log building, where I worked part-time for a summer and a fall.

I would arrive early at 8:00 am to welcome the pre-schoolers. The children would be directed to the different areas that they were interested in. There was finger painting, paper flowers and paper kites the children could make, or there was a sand box area, kitchen and play area. The young people would be supervised by day care workers. Laughter would ring out, sometimes an argument between two boys over a truck, quickly settled. The children did many activities leaning playing together as a group or by themselves.

The inside of the wooden building was enormous, with windows near the top of the ceiling. The long hallway, when a person passed through the large wooden doors; off the hallway there was a cloakroom, filled with bright jackets, boots and coats.

In another room was the ancient bathroom, with the white tile floors small toilets and sinks for the children. The brightly lit kitchen has a large work area for preparing the foods for lunches and snacks, and a black wooden

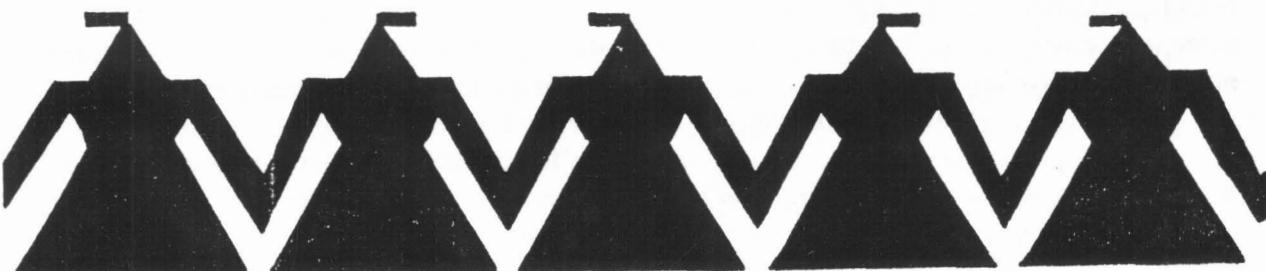
stove, an old-fashioned fridge, a sink for washing dishes, situated under the windows... There were brightly coloured leaves in glass jars, or green plants., filling up the window sills...a light wooden table and chairs...

I would help prepare lunch with a helper. First we would cut up fresh oranges, carrots and celery, chopped in small pieces, a bowl of tomato soup prepared on the stove and served in dark blue bowls, and of course milk and cookies. Later we made jam and peanut butter sandwiches..these cut in four small parts and placed on a small plate.

After lunch the children would put out their mats and a blanket and have a short nap. After, when the nap time was over and depending on the weather, we would either let them play in the grounds or, sometimes, we would all go for a walk in the area.. or have a goal like the supermarket or just the playground to play ball. If it was a rainy day, the shupervisors and preschoolers would play games or do dances as a group.

Later in the afternoon the parents would come to pick up their children. The staff would clean the centre and leave for the day. The part time job I had as a daycare worker was one or the best jobs I've had and I have fond memories of it.

By VIRGINIA E. LUNDY





I find it ironic to see many people moving to the Downtown Eastside, and wanting us to change to suit their needs.

What I am talking about are the food lineups and yes, there are many. I am sad to see that many of the people in them are elderly; I only hope that, when I get into my senior years, I won't have to stand in line for food. At this time our people have to do this, due to the low incomes that they receive. Many of them have troubles and/or problems, some being with drugs, alcohol and other addictions. Also, 3% of these people have a mental disability.

Housing for many is either the street or places like the Lookout. Our society doesn't accept mentally challenged people as independent residents -- 'they don't know how to act' or 'they only know how to act by what they learned (could get away with) in mental institutions.' The question is how do we address this situation - can we or should we? You make the call. I'm not making excuses for people in food lineups; what I'm asking is for you to give them a chance in life. Pride and dignity have already suffered; why make it worse by walking by and gawking at them or looking down on them?

One day this could be you. Many of the people in the line ups had jobs, family, housing, education and probably more. For some it is or was too much to carry. Life does not come easy for anyone.

Margaret Prevost

(For many, being poor and needing food is the result of being a victim to other's greed. It's too easy & pat to blame the victim.)

May 23/94 - another day in the life of Princess Margaret -

The day has come to an end. It was a full day of everything. Dolly accompanied me at breakfast, then we went for a walk on Hastings. During our walk we met up with John and a few friends of Dolly's. We stopped in front of the Owl Drug store and sipped on a cool can of coke, letting the sun beat down on us. Whew! It was hot!!

It's amazing to watch people going about their business, even if it's just waiting for or getting on a bus to go wherever. Then there is a gathering of boys exchanging money for drugs. Actually these are growing adults. It's sad to see this kind of activity in our community; it happens in every community, but in ours it's more visible.

After watching live TV (this is what I call it as I do my walk along Hastings) I come on home to do a bit of work on the computer. It's a calm and soothing day...no one is in a rush. It's easy to get a few faxes off and spend quality time with Bluebird. She's my baby.

At one time I almost gave her up, when I lost Bingo during a visit to the hospital last year. Bingo died due to loneliness. Let me tell you Bluebird is slowly learning to be a good friend. I tell her every day I love her and she is a pretty bird. When I work on this computer, she'd be talking away and I hear her say those exact same words "Pretty bird, I love you" - but you really have to pay attention. She's my joy; I wouldn't give her up for anything. She's here to stay.

When I get off the elevator I whistle and she'll whistle back - she knows it's me. She's the best buddy I have. So that's it!

Have A Nice Day!

Margaret Prevost

YOU ARE HERE! accept where you are and go from there
YOU GOT YOUR REASONS! it's OK to feel what you feel; try to figure out the source.
GET PERSPECTIVE! talk to friends and family, or other people you trust.
TIME PASSES! so does the hopelessness you feel when you can't see a way through.
GIVE YOURSELF A BREAK! pause and do something for you.
SAY SOMETHING NICE! pay a compliment to yourself & someone else.
THICKEN YOUR SKIN! criticism might be a helpful hint.
WORRY WELL! set aside time each day to worry and plan solutions; then be worry free.
SLOW DOWN! don't push yourself around
GET YOUR EXERCISE! just 20 min a day of singable heartbeats, 3 times a week.
LAUGH YOUR STRESS AWAY! laughter is therapy. A forced smile or laugh counts.
MUSCLE BOUND? tense and then relax your body muscle by muscle; start at your toes.
RELAX! practice meditation, rhythmic breathing, imaging, and other ways to pause.
STRESS IS AN ENERGIZER: harness the energy and focus it on a task.
TAKE CONTROL! manage your time; make goals, plans to cut through the day's chaos
STAY IN BUDGET! make a TO DO list; prioritize, avoid over-commitment.
THINK BIG! consider the long range goal and the big picture.
TAKE CHARGE! of yourself; you can't control other people's actions.
DON'T TRY TO PLEASE EVERYONE! you'll have nothing left over for yourself.
OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS! listen for the challenge in every problem.
SAY SOMETHING! listen to how you talk to yourself. Change the abuse to praise.

... About the Community Health Plan
My view

It is not always easy living in the Downtown Eastside/Strathcona and it is not always easy starting something new...but

If we want our neighbourhood to improve and be as healthy as it can be it is up to us. We have to start getting involved.

The Community Health Plan is a chance for everyone to gain a foothold in the running of our community. Does the Community Health Plan have real power? It will..but only if we, the people, take it!

The Provincial government is offering us the chance to get involved., If we lose the opportunity to wrest some measure of power from the government's decision-making process, then we have to expect the status quo

Submitted by Sharon

to continue on its downhill slide here in our neighbourhood... WE WILL HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT OURSELVES .

Join us ! The more people involved the more serious the government will take our position... They can not ignore hundreds of people as easy as 20 or 30

A buffet is provided at every meeting and child care subsidy is available - Our next meeting is Thursday, June 2, at 1 p.m. at the old Bank of Montreal building at Main & Hastings. For more information stop by between 9:30 and 5pm Mon. to Friday, or call us at 682-3088.

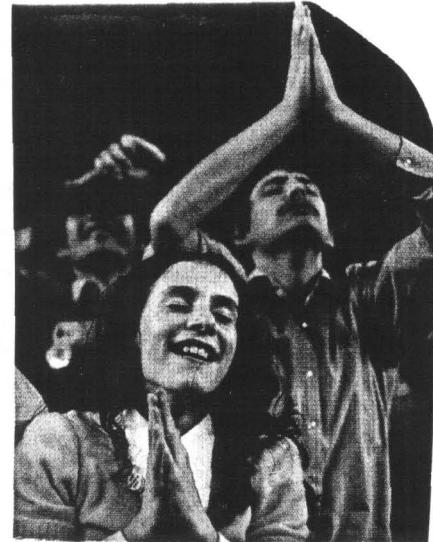
Milesova Eror
(879-4830)

hank

hank told me she was going to kick the shit out of me
if I didn't quit drinking
she was wearing her dark sunglasses
& t-shirt reading KILLER DYKE
hank's a big woman with strong arms & shoulders
& once stabbed a man 14 times
then called an ambulance & the police
& stopped the man's bleeding
she'd been a medic in the navy
but hank would've died in her cell that night
hallucinating & shaking
if it hadn't been for an old black woman
who fed her chocolate & held her close



hank's mother concealed her pregnancy
& intended to abandon the newborn baby
in a garbage dump near their home
but relatives intervened & took hank for their own
hank's new mother & father were both alcoholics
& he raped & beat hank for several years
until hank's mother began dying
then he took off
& hank dropped out of school
to nurse her mother through the long misery
of a death by cancer & cirrhosis of the liver



in court hank's own lawyer told the judge
hank was a danger to society
& she was sent to a prison for the criminally insane
where inmates were overdosed by the staff for kicks
to watch them spasming helplessly on the floor
but police raided that institution
& arrested attendants & doctors for violence & theft
& hank was transferred to a women's penitentiary
addicted to thorazine & nearly blinded by it
& given a job painting buildings
on a ladder 60 feet in the air



hank's first arrest was for drunken bicycle riding
at 9 years old
she'd gotten drunk after her only childhood friend
had drowned while fishing with his father

the man whom hank stabbed in revenge
many years later
when hank was wandering homeless in the winter
in a sweatshirt & jeans
sleeping in the snow
pissing her pants
drinking wine & hearing voices tell her what to do

hank'd been kicked out of the navy for being a lesbian
kicked out with her lover
who said she'd always be there
for hank
no matter what
but slammed the door in hank's face
as soon as they were civilians



when hank finally made parole
after 7 years
she refused it

she couldn't imagine going from someplace bad
to someplace better

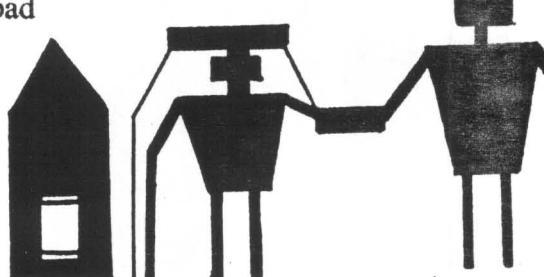
& was too hooked on their drugs to leave
but a year later hank left the prison

having withdrawn herself from the drugs
& worked painting houses & saved enough money
to send herself to school
& obtain a degree in social work

a job helping women in a battered women's shelter
& volunteer work helping drunks & addicts
get free from their hells



hank's only other friend had been her cellmate in the joint
a woman who'd poured boiling grease down her husband's throat
for running around & beating on her
but whom hank found hanging by the neck
from their cell bars one afternoon



when I last saw hank
she was standing in a river at twilight
up to her waist in violet waves
with a long fishing line cast out
(I thought)
to catch other lost souls
& bring them to shore
to help other lost souls
make it onto the shore

BUD OSBORN

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE POVERTY AND HEALTH

I was raised in a Metis culture in Regina. We were discriminated against by the prejudice in our neighbourhood. My Dad couldn't find work in the 30's and took his frustration and anger out on us, the children. He also took to drinking and so did my mother. I was raised in abject poverty.

My Dad passed away when I was 12 years old and being the oldest I went to work, so there went my education. My mother lived with a pedophile so at 14 years of age I left home and became a street child. I had lived in constant fear with my mother and father fighting all the time. My nerves were bad and

why should they bother if they can't then buy the medications? Poverty also means not enough money for food and therefore poor nutrition and less resistance to diseases. Poverty prevents people from getting adequate education and gives them low self-esteem.

The seniors in the Downtown Eastside are people like me who have lived in poverty most of their lives. They have never had the same opportunities as middle class people to live full, healthy and productive lives.

The relationship between poverty, age, health and income is nowhere clearer than in our neighbourhood - 85% of all household income comes from government transfer payments (welfare and pensions). We have the highest mortality rate in BC according to a UBC study. Chronic illnesses and injuries abound: lung diseases, depression and malnutrition. Many are related to employment in our province's resource industries such as logging and mining. Others are the result of the hard lifestyle of poverty.

One consequence of all this is that the generally agreed cut-off age for seniors is 45. People often laugh at this but it is deadly serious. When you regularly met people of 50 with bodies of 80 year-olds you begin to understand the oppression that is imposed by poverty.

My life now as a senior is a little bit better. I live in affordable housing that was built by DERA. I quit smoking after 50 years. I have a yearly bus pass so I can catch the Skytrain and go to Superstore. Items there are much cheaper than in the local grocery stores, as much as 30 cents an item. I am helping my daughter in university so am still counting my pennies. She is studying to be a social worker.

Community Clinic



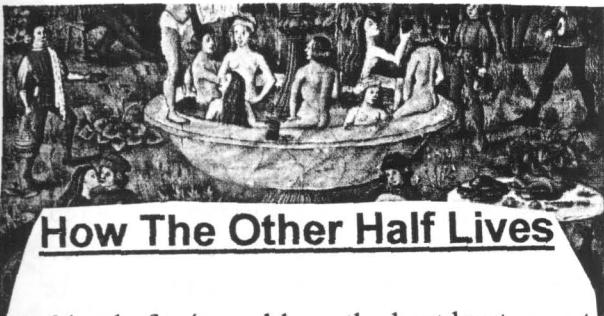
I have to take medicine for them.

I have lived in rooming houses or hotel rooms most of my life, with barely enough to live on. I know from my own life that poverty goes hand in hand with health problems. Poverty is a major cause of poor health and a huge obstacle to getting adequate health services. Poor people often don't have telephones. They don't have transportation nor the money to buy medicines. They may not be able to get to a doctor when sick or

I see poverty all around me getting worse. There are no jobs at decent wages. Our young people are in line ups for handouts for just food. They are our tomorrow. (I get so damn angry at the system we are living under. We are creating more generations of poverty/

I also think of other senior citizens who are not in social housing. They get just the basic old age pensions but live studio apartments that cost \$500-\$600 a month, leaving them with only a couple of hundred dollars to feed and clothe themselves. How can they have a nutritious diet or get out for the recreation they need for good health?

Finally, I want to say poor people just don't seem to have the same rights as other people.



A friend of mine told me the best kept secret in Vancouver. She said someone she knew rented a basement suite in Kerrisdale with three students.. The four guys [paid the landlord \$245 each to live in his basement.

The plumbing was faulty, it was substandard housing, not to mention an illegal suite. To top it off they discovered they had rats..lots of them. Since the landlord refused to do anything about it, they attempted to address the rat problem themselves. When they contacted authorities, they learned that all of Kerrisdale has an exploding population of these gourmet rats...to go with the big fences and large dogs that keep people out.

Maybe they're waiting to see whether a casino becomes reality here. If it does they

Our neighbourhood, the Downtown Eastside, is the poorest urban neighbourhood in Canada. The City will not even recognize it as a neighbourhood although about 10,000 people live here. They see it as part of the Downtown Business District and parts are getting chopped off for development. Housing units are constantly being lost; for example, residential hotels were torn down for the new Hydro building.

Now they want to build a casino on our waterfront. That could mean thousands of people out on the street as the hotels are upgraded for people with more money. During Expo, when this happened, people died...including a senior. If this goes through where will people go - especially seniors? The government funding for social housing isn't there anymore. I know from having lived on the street in hotels and in social housing that good housing is a key factor to good health., I am still poor, but my decent life has a lot to do with my having a good place to live.

By Verna Beaudin

may have to dispatch those rodents elsewhere. If not they may hire a Piper to entice them here. Meanwhile they're probably saying "Well, at least we don't have roaches."

Anyway, the question of rats is under wraps. That alone probably helped the critters establish a pawhold.

It remains to be seen whether the Kerrisdale resident rats expand their territory to include Shaughnessy. Or start a Bubonic Plague. Will the animal rights activists protect the rights of these creatures? Where are those bleeding heart liberals when you need them anyway? Oh rats!

By Joanne Hamen

GARRY COLLEY

The Advocate of Advocates

Garry Colley died May 9, 1994. My room-mate, also named Gary, got the news first. He woke me to tell me and when I came awake, I saw he'd been crying. Something is very wrong, I thought, because Garry usually gets upset when anyone cries.

"What?" I said.

"Garry died at 8:20 this morning, Lynn just phoned." Lynn is Garry's wife

"God," I said, stunned. "Oh my God.. Oh shit." Then I went about my business, not realizing the shock would last a week.

Garry had hemophilia, and as a result of a tainted blood transfusion had contracted the HIV virus. At the time I was not worried. Garry was such a good fighter I thought nothing could phase him.

Garry was the best welfare rights advocate we ever knew. He took on any case and won almost all of them.

Some years ago, Gus Long, of Federated Anti-Poverty Groups (FAPG) decided we needed to teach new people. Advocates have a high "burn-out" rate. We met with David Mossop, Director of Community Legal Assistance Society (CLAS), at his office who agreed. One thing was clear - only one person was qualified to do this: Garry Colley.

Garry agreed to our request and it all took place at the Law School on Hornby St. over a two-day period Gary Roberts volunteered to videotape the sessions... He edited one copy for Gus and made a condensed version for Bob Stall.

We arrived on the first day at 8:45 a.m. to find Garry calmly reading his newspaper.

I told him, "Garry, I hate mornings." He acknowledged that he knew this. Then I said, "When I'm as good an advocate you, can I do this with you?"

Garry said, with a wry smile, "Jonene, when you're as good as me you can damn well do it all by yourself."

The second day things went at a fast pace. Garry said, "If you think yesterday was fast, today I'm going into warp speed. Now about U.I.C...."

Gus left. I stayed to thank Garry. When he finally finished I started to say, "Garry, on behalf of...":

Your Earth and Mine

When I was young and I used to run
Let go my Mama's hand
Enjoy the view the natural food
Of unpolluted land;



Now all has been changed, been re-arranged
And I can't understand
For want of loot why we pollute
What has come over man?



Life changes fast the earth won't last
Unless we start to care,
Let's take a stand for future clans
And strive for cleaner air;



If we each start to do our part
The task won't seem so long
AA wrapper here, a bottle there
We'll soon see it's all gone;



Life feels so new when skies are blue
When grass is fresh and green
To be aware and show we care
Is up to you, and me...



Andy Nieman

"Damn," he said.

"What?" I asked.

"The tapes. Where are the tapes?"

"Gary has the tapes," I told him.

"No, the other tapes."

"Gus," I replied.

"Gus?"

"She must have them." We began to sound like a scene from "Catch-22."

"The audio tapes," Garry howled.

"Yes, she probably took them...now Garry, thanks, eh? I owe you a cold beer. Our place." He never did get to collect on that beer.

Wendy McLelland did a wonderful story on Garry over those two days, in the *Vancouver Sun*. With the story was the best photo of Garry. So characteristic. I called it "The Hunk with the Australian cowboy hat."

Garry drove me home while Gary R. returned the video equipment FAPG had provided.

As Garry and I relaxed on a hot day after a job well-done, our cat (Leo) thought her "father", Gary R., had returned and pranced delightedly towards Garry Colley. She stopped dead, as if to say, "Oops, wrong guy."

Garry loved cats and coaxed Leo to play. Leo ignores anyone she does not know, but she must have made an exception that day.

Sometimes I needed advice on a tough welfare case. I dialed Advocacy Access one day. Garry answered. "I have a space on Tuesday at 10 a.m."

I moaned. "That morning thing again. Oh well, see you then."

The client was punctual and as Garry told her what she'd need for her appeal, I noticed that though she was paying attention she wasn't writing anything down. Garry stopped. "Write this down," he said. I said, "Do as he says - do exactly as he says. We won the

appeal, of course, and the client later wrote a beautiful note of thanks.

The other thing I noticed that day was that either my style was like his or his was like mine. He told me years before, "Jonene, do not lose your temper at them (the Ministry) or drop names. I know it's tempting but you will lose your client's case." He was right, as usual.

The BC Coalition of People with Disabilities is where Garry started up his Advocacy Access. We know it as BCCPD. They have hosted many great Christmas parties. The first one Gary and I attended was perhaps 1992 when we met Rick Watson. I had spoken with him on the phone, read his columns (excellent stories) but when face to face with a writer who actually gets paid for it, my jaw drops from sheer admiration. I met Rick often at parties and gatherings at BCCPD and liked him immensely. I was sorry to learn he too had died recently.

On one occasion at a Christmas party, after a small glass of punch, we looked around for Garry. He was, they said, delayed and would arrive at 4:00pm. Promptly at 4pm Garry arrived with cane in hand and those "coke-bottle" glasses, and I smiled and said, "Garry, you are my favourite gimp."

"This gimp is tired, Jonene."

"Well, stay for a while, anyway. Good friends, great food, Punch." He stayed.

It is sad that two such intelligent, compassionate people, Rick and Garry, died so young and in such quick succession. My best to both.

Wherever you might be, Garry, know that you had more love & respect in 47 years than most people who live to be 90. And the excruciating pain won't bother you anymore.

Mentor Workshop

On 6 May some Carnegie Seniors participated in a workshop on mentoring.

Mentoring creates special friendships. It is an extension of the curriculum for students. It will increase community contacts, involvement and relationships. Based on personal interest; Career Guidance. It is to meet challenges and not to fail. This is to help build self-esteem.

The disabled may learn to dress better. Mechanics of greater scope, a wider scope. The gifted have narrow interests.

The Three R's of Mentoring

Relationship
Reality
Responsibility



Oppenheimer Outing

Believe it or not the most beautiful sunshine saw us gathered at the Oppenheimer Park awaiting our van and Marina.

Off we went traveling east on Broadway towards Mission, through Coquitlam. Pitt Meadows Maple Ridge, Mission ...we stopped in De Roche to check our map , but we had missed our turnoff. Maybe our co-pilot didn't want to go over the bridge, but we backtracked through Mission and went over it anyway.

We arrived at Matsqui Trail Regional park. Smokers piled out fast, food appeared and

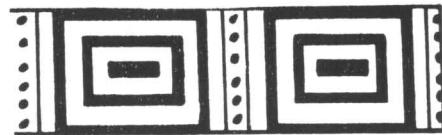
Breaks from the structures of organization, goals, values, drive change' Real learning is not knowing the answers Changing metaphors, changing doctrine Perspectives - look at it backwards

Enrich, Encourage, Enhance
Breaking down cross-cultural barriers
Symbiotic, living sharing experience

Life a lonely journey or an interconnected growth?

Who enters the mentors?
Is not the strong to the weak
Power Broad Syndrome]
Grey Flower Power.

Taum

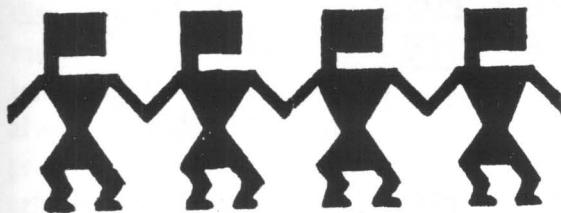


everything was hoiti toiti.

Most of the group went for a walk along the mighty Fraser..some played chess. I doodled along as usual, watched the Park Rangers working in the hot sun the butterflies, the horses , and hundreds of swallows feeding their young.,

Time marches on, waiting for no one; we had to start the journey back to civilization with the cars honking,, brakes squealing and pedestrians. Drowsy from the fresh air, a little more colour in our cheeks, we said so long until the next outing.

By MARIAH



FOOD BANK FUND-RAISER.....

Dear _____,

How would you feel if you went out shopping and came across a young child who hadn't ad a decent meal for three days?

We meet such children all the time ... in Vancouver!

In most cases, the parent or parents have been left destitute - through loss of a job or ill health - and are simply unable to provide enough food to satisfy either their children's hunger or nutritional needs.

Yes, it happens right here in Vancouver.

Most people know of the Food Bank, but think that it only operates in Vancouver's downtown east side. Not so.

This year, in Vancouver we will provide over 2,000,000 lbs. of supplemental food assistance to people. Almost one third of them are children.

Without the community Food Bank, these children and their families would not have enough to eat - and not have the proper balance in their diet to stay healthy. And proper nutrition is especially important for growing children.

Unfortunately, the problem has grown.

Even though this area has fared better economically than many regions of the country, recession has hit us too.

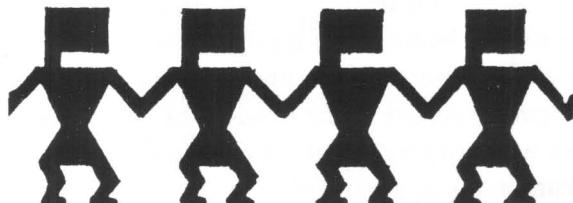
Last year in Greater Vancouver for example, the amount of food distributed grew by 17%,

and there is no sign of that need changing in the near future.

It means that, in order to satisfy the increased demands on the Food Bank. we must receive help from individuals like you.

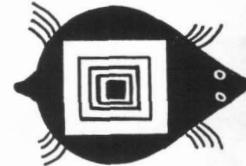
(...there was more, but this is the essence of the letter. Corporate donations are, of course , the lowest. It is just contrary to the mindset of being rich that the condition of the poor is in any way connected to the events, actions or decisions that made them rich

For the last 2 years there has been much fanfare over an event put on by wealthy people. It was called "Taste of a Nation" and involved people getting together and making a big show of putting a little money together at a banquet of many exotic dishes, and buying (most notably) a refrigerated truck to take leftovers from banquets and fancy dinners to the Food Bank. End Legislated Poverty had rallies each of the previous two years to get the media to focus attention on the causes of poverty and the 'blame-the-victim' mentality that permeates so much of what the wealthy do as they brush the crumbs off their tables - after they've gorged themselves. This is mentioned here because this year the event was held with absolutely no publicity at all, It was just commented on after it had happened; now it's a "By Invitation Only" thing - the wealthy want to pat each other on the back without having to be held accountable for the poverty that surrounds them. - Editor's note.)





SPARTA, MATRIARCHY, AND HISTORICAL DEFINITIONS



This is in response, and in addition to, Tora's piece in the last newsletter, "The Greeks Had A Word For It."

Not to nit-pick, or even to go so far as argue, but some points in Tora's piece were like a half-pint of Guinness (not as much as you'd like).

I have a suggestion for Tora, and please take it in the constructive ;light intended. The definition of matriarchy, as Tora suggests was Sparta's reality, is a matter for some debate.

As any student of his/story can tell you, history is the tale of the victor, and patriarchal pathology does not have a shining track record of treating the vanquished fairly.

I have another suggestion for any including Tora, who wish to consider a different perspective of a matriarchal society to pick up Jeanette Paris' "Pagan Grace" and "Pagan Meditations".

The Spartan societal structure, while possibly matriarchal, may have a completely different "look", than the one 4000 years of patriarchy, religions and repressive ideology has allowed to reach us over the course of his/story.

Paris gives a different perspective on the past. A refreshing perspective of a multiplicity of "paths", of pantheons of divergent belief systems and of tolerance in a more ancient than is customarily thought, Democracy; Of beauty, and art in its various disciplines beauty of high significance and order. Possibly the information Tora reports as Spartan reality is the product of too many dark ages, of repression of free thought.

Paris talks at great length, and with poetic,

brilliant insight of ancient teaching methods, of schools, universities in the distance past. Of pre-Platonic ideals of men and women as "equal" in stature, yet reveling in their difference. "Viva la Difference".

A most interesting claim, and one I find slightly disturbing, is the assertion Tora makes that :women ruled ion Sparta." The inference is "being under the thumb." But from my own reading on the subject of ancient societies, modest as it has been, I've found that a tyrannical matriarchy would be an aberration, not the norm. As is the case with any rigid structure, matriarchy or patriarchy, it will eventually collapse even without direct confrontation., Witness what has happened to the Soviet Bloc.

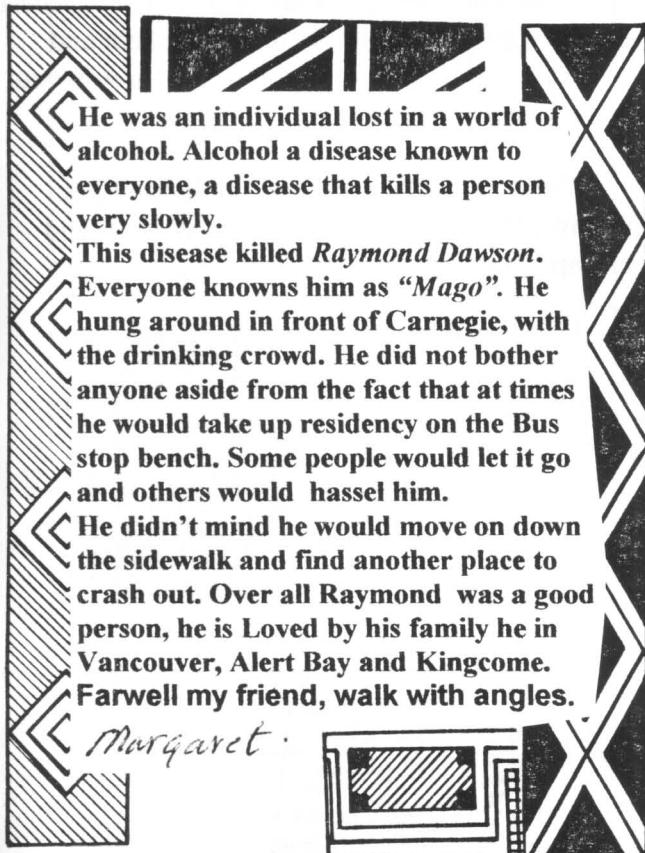
Tyranny of any sort is doomed by its nature. Matriarchal societies are, as a rule, agrarian, non-confrontational, and centred not on the family unit per se, but on the extended family, and larger circles of kinship and sharing or responsibilities. A sort of peaceful clan arrangement.

These same social structures have been noted again and again and again. Spanning all the continents of the earth , as the "norms" of all the "original" inhabitants; of non-'western' races, tribes and the like. It's almost an anthropological truth that, if left alone, the matriarchal structure is the norm while the patriarchal is the aberration. With the rigid, defined,, almost obsessive matriarchy Tora describes, it is even more of an oddity.

I don't know Tora, but I believe we've all been victimized by a historical

disinformation. The nature / state of a majority of people is peaceful coexistence if left alone by that minority of butt-heads who always seem to be poking their noses and propaganda into other people's lives...stirring up emotions while they sat astride some white (it always seems to be white, now doesn't it?) horse while preaching for us all to follow, lemming-like, to what? Glory? There is no glory in war...at least not for the ones who do the actual fighting.

But I digress - the main point I wanted to make was that, again, his/story is the propaganda of the victim and even in that respect some facts about Sparta, and other crucibles of societal change still remain., Possibly even blind patriarchal suppression has the capacity for grudging admiration that

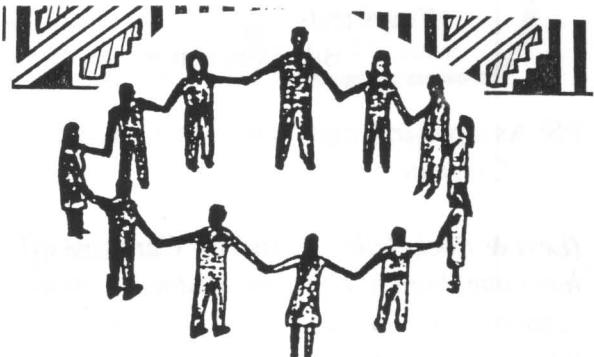


allows for a few distorted truths to span the centuries, the burning of libraries, the descent of society (almost intentionally) into darkness, where knowledge becomes the possession of the few.

Whether you call a system one thing or another..patriarchy, matriarchy, oligarchy, monarchy, and on and on and...it doesn't matter. What matters is the ability of a society to accept divergent views and, within reason, allow those views to flourish.

As many have said (and I only repeat): Tyranny and repression carry within them the seeds of their own destruction. It's not the label, but it's conduct and realization through its subjects which in the end is what matters.

By MARK OAKLEY



Human rights in BC Do poor people have any?

Saturday, June 4
1:30 to 4:30 pm

Carnegie Community Centre
Main and Hastings
Main floor theatre

Meeting sponsored by End
Legislated Poverty. Bus fare
provided. Phone Linda at 879-
1209 to reserve childcare.

Editor,

I did not attend the meeting at the Carnegie Centre on a proposed casino in the downtown waterfront area of our port and city.

But I cannot see anything wrong with the proposal for a gambling casino or with the housing development on the north shore of False Creek.

I heard of the meeting on the radio news and am sorry a director of the Carnegie Centre called a member of the BC NDP, David Levi, "a Socred".

The donor of the Carnegie Centre was probably like Rockefeller or Vanderbilt.

I appreciate the Carnegie Centre on (what it does for) a Seniors Member and on the television room, the coffee bar and the library.

Yours truly,
Bill Sawchen

PS: As a philanthropist I donate \$2 to the Carnegie Newsletter.

(Levi & Rockefeller & Andrew Carnegie all have one thing in common - the willingness to ignore the social impact of their activities when the choice is between benefits for people and profit. Socreds are the public face of the local farm team for elite capitalism - and bulldozing housing and a low-income community in favour of a lot of condos, plastic mountie shops, overnight hotels, whopping increases in drugs & prostitution & destination tourist dumping ground garbage is not part of the 'inevitability' of progress. It's what those gearing up to make obscene profits at our expense and at the expense of the future of the Downtown Eastside want us to believe. If we believe it can't be changed, they've won half the battle right there. - Ed.)



Children

Children are great for they are our legacy. We can look at our children and if we look hard we can see a little of us in each one of our children.

Even when they get mad at us, it's cute if you think about it...but at the time we're not thinking this. When we interfere we're only looking out for their best interest, but they won't like it. Did we? Funny as it seems, we are doing as our parents did.

Haven't you noticed that they come up with the darndest things to say or do at the weirdest times. We can be so darn mad at them and they can say or look at you in such a way you can't help but smile.

Yet they are like the sun, the light of your life. They can give you all the warmth and happiness anyone could ask for.

From bringing them into this world, saying their first word, first step, then to slowly letting them go, may it be going to school or moving out, we parents will always be there to nurture, comfort or to be friends; in one way, shape or form we will always be there.

For they are the light of our life.

By LORI PELLETIER



DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY

STD Clinic - Monday through Friday, 10am - 6pm
FREE MEDICAL CLINIC - Mon, Wed, Friday, 5:30-7:30pm.
NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; every day, 9am - 5pm.
Needle Exchange Van - on the street evenings, Mon-Sat.
N.A. meets every Monday night at 223 Main Street.

1994 DONATIONS

Paula R.-\$10	Bruce J.-\$10	Bill S.-\$2
Sandy C.-\$20	Charley B.-\$32	
Cecile C.-\$10	Kettle FS -\$16	
Bill B.-\$16	Hazel M.-\$10	
Lillian H.\$16	Joy T.-\$12	
Etienne S.-\$40	Diane M. \$16	
Adult LCC -\$1?	Libby D.-\$20	
Carnege ALC-\$30	CEEDS - \$50	
Anonymous -\$35	Margi S.-\$5	
	Sue H.-\$35	

Help in the Downtown Eastside (funding)



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

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

Submission
Deadline
NEXT ISSUE

Sunday
12 June

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 problem
- finding housing
- * opening a bank account

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



**DERA HAS BEEN SERVING
THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
FOR 20 YEARS.**



Editor,

Over the years I read quite a number of the newsletters you've produced and now I feel I must ask questions regarding some of your content and raise some issues I believe are important to the public (the right to respond is a crucial responsibility of and press and goes hand in hand with "freedom of the press").

It's amazing (but not surprising) that you constantly criticize business or development such as the proposed waterfront casino without regard for the unknown thousands of jobs that would be created. It is a fact that small business creates over 85% of all new jobs in BC. Union jobs are expensive (much too expensive for small business) and counter productive to a lot or growth since they (unions) constantly make more and more demands on their employers and the public, hence slowing growth and employing fewer people (mostly 'insiders' get hired and people that have been supporting their political hacks). I have worked in the hospitality industry in the past and really resent you labeling the proposed casino and hotel jobs as "McJobs"... At least their offering jobs in a good cash environment, a great start for young people. Do you really believe yourself when you state we should preserve what you call "affordable residential housing in the downtown eastside" instead? Those

cockroach infested dumps that no one should have to live in should be leveled as soon as possible! They are depressing (mostly one tiny room) that drive people to drink. The only way to get quality housing is to force the government to participate in affordable housing once those dumps are torn down (I understand you live in cushy, subsidized housing...what a privilege! Most of us have to pay our own way).

I've noticed that individuals and organizations donate to your paper. Where are the donations from the self-serving unions you dearly write about?

Haven't you noticed that whenever there is a strike unions want more but give less? Look at the postal service for example, every time there is a strike and people give in to their demands the service never improves when they go back to work. Look at social services , it's no longer for the recipient most of the money allotted to MSSH goes into the pockets of the union workers, fat raises every benefit imaginable, no lay offs, and that crook Joy McPhail in a hot tub resort on Vancouver Island as people stand in humiliating welfare lineups.

How are you funded Mr. Taylor? Besides the donations are you receiving a wage for producing the newsletter? Why should tax dollars subsidize your paper while real papers make it in the free market. Your paper hasn't changed or improved since the beginning (of course it hasn't because there is no incentive to). In the real world you would have to have advertisers (I noticed one of your contributors is "Adbusters"...oh no we can't have ads can we, that might create jobs.....)

The time is coming when publicly financed ventures like yours will have to be funded by

the subscribers totally!

The days of the NDP prostituting themselves to every cause (mostly unproductive ones) will be over. They will lose so bad the next election they will never recover. The people of BC have been fooled twice by them, it won't happen a third time. Margaret Mitchell couldn't figure out why she lost... complacent special interest groups cost her.

Mr. Taylor, quit crying about big business getting brakes at least they provide something and pay their own rent. Don't be a hypocrate! get your head out of the NDP pig trough.

Yours truly,
Ron Patrick

Ron Patrick,

What a privilege! It's not often one of you crawls out from under your ^{blanket} long enough to do anything but scream about "unions" or "commies" or "business being business" or "goddamned welfare/medicare/pension/poor parasites".

1. Studies and reports from all over the world prove that wherever a for-profit casino has gone, the small businesses in the area have suffered...many just go under. The waterfront development is not a matter of multinationals plopping a complete plan down in front of anyone and saying, "Choose the colour of the walls!" (First time I ever heard of the casino referred to as a 'small business' - Dan.)

2. Unions are the result of years of struggle against the greed of corporate capitalists who equate higher profits with bliss and paying low wages amid bad (dangerous, unsafe, unhealthy) working conditions as their right. The motto of the true boss is "Take it or leave it." This is certainly the theme of the casino, the waterfront development and the

Vancouver Port Corporation and Mirage Resorts inc. It could be put, as you wail, as a great place for the young to start - but low & behold (the McJob aspect) you get minimum wage forever and a day. (At McDonald's you start at the minimum wage, with a raise in six months or a year of ONE CENT!). Another success brought about by unions is the necessity for employers to treat employees as people. This may be why you avoid any rational statements and rant about how destructive they are, demanding decent wages and good working conditions and fair hiring practices and all those other 'commie' things. As for service improving, you're just wrong. In most cases the conditions and wages causing a strike are such that workers do their best to keep services going, then have to spend 'x' number of days in job action, then



get a settlement that still leaves the owners making the highest profit they can, then the workers are expected to perform miracles in terms of customer service for the price of a coffee that their wages increased by. Your reasoning is a black hole - did you by any chance have a unionized staff in your "hospitality industry" job? Did they demand decent & fair return for their work? Did they get it? MSSH became MSS about 3 1/2 years

ago, but who's counting. What you define as 'lining pockets' or 'fat raises' is your business, but the vast majority of people working at the ministry offices are making the low end of a decent wage. Granted that the senior management in Victoria and the regional supervisors make a good buck, but you seem to imply that they should do this for the minimum wage or free? What would help is for some of the so-called (Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to offend you) appointed bureaucrats in senior positions in MSS to be shifted to waste-management/recycling or something more suitable to their talents. They knee-capped Joan Smallwood, who was arguably the best Minister ever to preside over social services.

3. Affordable residential housing - of course this is a dream ..or a nightmare. Your reasoning starts out correctly - a lot of the hotels in the area are cockroach havens, but decent housing just doesn't appear after you've bulldozed everything in sight. Forcing any government to produce housing is a good idea, but if the pressure to do so is the sight of a few thousand homeless people milling about the smoking ruins of the hotel they slept in the night before, it sure hasn't worked in several dozen cities in the States or anywhere else in the world. Come on, Patrick, don't you really just want the entire Downtown Eastside razed to the ground so your idealised developers can just start from scratch? You're right, I do live in subsidised housing. It's the result of people at DERA fighting for years to get affordable residential housing. Contrary to what you want to be patted on the back for, I and everyone else in the housing I reside in pay our own way. Those on GAIN pay according to their "maximum shelter portion" but can, as the law intended,

keep shelter money aside to pay for utilities; those working or with pension incomes pay according to 25% of their gross. If you want applause for being so tough and independent that you gladly pay 50-70% of your income for housing, I think you're sick.

4. Donations, by definition, are made without strings. Having been involved with coalitions over the past 5 years, I am constantly amazed at the feeling that unions are some kind of 'cash cow' to be milked; equally amazing is how often and how diverse union contributions are. To answer your question, one union has made donations - the Cement



Masons - after they learned about the Newsletter through a mutual friend. I don't solicit funds, mostly on the basis of knowing that hundreds of requests are put to every union monthly, but also on the basis of wanting to raise money through our own efforts. Funny that cash-strapped organisations like DERA and First Church and Four Sisters and even MSS have donated money, while your people-on-pedestals, the owners and developers, have never given one thin dime. As far as ads, there is no one whose job it is to solicit advertising and only 2 local businesses have ever wanted to. Personally, I receive no money for producing this paper. Neither do I receive any pay for being on the boards of directors of the Carnegie Community Centre Association, the Four Sisters Housing Co-operative, the

Downtown Eastside Residents' Association, End Legislated Poverty, Tenants Rights Action Coalition or the Action Canada Network (BC). I was treasurer at the first one for a year, treasurer at the second one for 4 years (still chair of finance), am the treasurer at the third one (and chair of finance), am treasurer at the fourth one (and chair of finance), have a say in the disposition of TRAC's surplus and am treasurer at the sixth one. I've never had my hand in any till, so I must be fucking nuts! Right Patrick? Adbusters is the magazine of the Media Foundation, which shows how corporate advertising manipulates the truth and reports on their products to keep people ignorant of reality. Fascinating - and YES they pay their staff!



All about my children.

I am a single mother raising 3 beautiful children on my own. I love them very much.

It is the love for my 3 children that keeps me going, or I think I would have given up a long time ago.

I have a boy who is 3 1/2 who is hard to handle. He is aggressive and very rough and does not listen to me. It's a good thing I have lots of patience.

I also have 2 girls - a 2 1/2 year-old and a 17 1/2 month old baby. My 2 1/2 year-old is very good. She listens well but is going through a stage where, if she doesn't get her own way, she hits me or throw herself on the floor. My baby girl gets mad when she doesn't get her own way and is always saying "no" to me.

I think being a parent can be frustrating but there are more good times than bad times. It

The time is coming when diseased rants like yours will be a thing of the past - when the massive quest for a sentient peace will be fulfilled. Railing about the NDP at the end of your rant was the most laughable part of the whole thing. Big business will love you, the "Man-on-the-street", who they could build a multi-million dollar political campaign around - "See what the ordinary man is saying? Help us get rid of those damn NDPers and get Bill Vanderzalm/Gordon Campbell in Victoria. (Then we'll show you what budget cutting is alllllll about!)"

One of us should crawl back under our

PaulR Taylor

is a lot when you want a clean house and are taking care of children. Good friends help.

Donna H.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ALLIANCE
will be holding
Stewardship Summer Camps
for ages 12-19
Learn how to be a good steward of the land.

July 7-14, August 4-12 and August 18-26

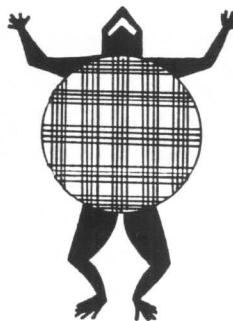
ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH ALLIANCE
P.O. Box 34097
Station 'D'
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 4M1
(737-2258.....252-9858)

propaganda

gathering before dawn
on a skid row sidewalk
waiting for vans to arrive
with drivers who'd hire us
to deliver advertising newspapers
door to door
in far distant suburbs
for a very few dollars



it was daylight
when we were dropped-off in pairs
into instant communities
where the early morning dew & mud pools
soaked our feet
& the bag we carried the papers in
became heavier & heavier
while we walked
sweat-drenched
& sun-scorched
with legs aching
'& tongues drying out
to stick extravagant lies
into someone's front door



we covered endless neighbourhoods
where successful people
came & went or worked on their lawns

at the end of the ordeal
my partner & I sat down on the curb
waiting for the van to pick us up
& he told me

Vince and Ed play pool just for fun. Vince likes to play the angles. Vince plays pool in a smooth way. When Ed has his turn his ball is left in a tough spot. Vince plays like a molasses fox.

Mr. Ed

about his wife & 3 children
cramped into
a couple of rundown & expensive rooms

he'd been an officer
in the Iranian air force
10 years for the shah
& 7 for khomeini
but had finally wearied
of all the trouble
& knew
that in north america
there was plenty to eat
nice places to live
& exceptional personal freedom
but he'd had to haul advertising
everyday
to barely feed his family



he was a small quiet & serious man
with eyes sad & distressed
but mostly confused
because of the advanced technical
skills he possessed
that nobody would employ

"I thought it was supposed to be better here"
he kept saying
softly
& shaking his head



"in iran" he said
"if we were doing this job
the people would invite us into their homes
& give us plenty of water to drink
& something to eat
but here
they don't even see you"

BUD OSBORN

