

FREE - donations accepted.

Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 15, 1994.

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



*C'mon,
let's
party!*

Every once in a while, we get to pat ourselves on the back.

The defeat of the Seaport Centre casino is one of those occasions.

When a lot of people were saying the casino was a done deal, that the fix was in between Georgetti and Harcourt, the people of the Downtown Eastside dug in and said No Way!

I don't think it's overstating it to say that our grassroots resistance to this neighbourhood-busting nightmare ignited a citywide movement of opposition. Lots of people came to be against the casino, but we should be proud of our accomplishment - we were first.

There are many serious problems still facing our community, but we would have no community at all if Las Vegas North came to our shores.

The developers tried to bribe us with promises of goodies, but the individuals and groups of the community formed a united front to insist we wouldn't sell out our neighbourhood, or bargain over its destruction.

Unity of the groups was a key ingredient, and so was the individual initiative of so many residents who took on this issue virtually like a crusade.

So many individuals, but let me name one - not to single anyone out for special recognition, but as an example of how even one person can make a big difference.

Verna Beaudin worked day and night against the casino. She was the one with the clipboard and the petition.



Anyone who set foot on the second floor of Carnegie in the past six months, who attended a function in the building, who even had the temerity to walk down Hastings Street, was likely to be approached by this dynamo and asked to sign the petition.

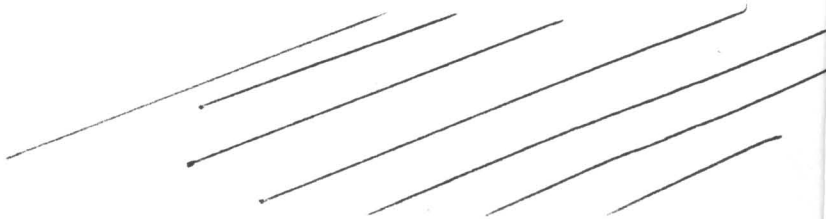
Verna brought a depth of personal experience to the problems that gambling can cause. That's the kind of life experience that makes the Downtown Eastside such a unique area.

As a result, she was part of a citywide effort that gathered more than 10,000 signatures against the casino to be delivered to the city and province governments.

Thanks should also go to the groups from outside that gave financial support. The first one was the Dendorf-Morris Foundation, with a start-up grant for the campaign, followed by assistance from the Bronfman Family Foundation, the Vancouver Foundation, the Jack Bell Fund, the Hawthorne Foundation, Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, the Unitarian Church of Vancouver and St. James Social Services.

I think some recognition should also go to the NDP. They stood up to some very big pressure from organised labour. That took guts. They listened to the community, and they acted on our behalf.

I'm not saying everything is rosy. The government is going to legalise electronic slot machines (Video Lottery Terminals or VLTs)





ADULT EDUCATION FALL COURSE SELECTION

SELF-IMPROVEMENT:

- Creative suffering
- Overcoming Peace of Mind
- You and Your Birthmark
- The Primal Shrug
- Ego Gratification through Violence
- Molding your child's behaviour - through guilt and Fear
- Whine Your Way to Alienation
- How to overcome self-doubt through pretence.

BUSINESS AND CAREER:

- Mortgage Reduction Through Arson
- Looter's Guide to Canada's Cities
- Tax Shelters for the Indigent
- Package and Selling Your Child
- Money Can Make You Rich

HEALTH:

- Creative Tooth Decay
- Exorcism and Acne
- The Joys of Hypochondria
- Suicide and Your Health
- Skate Yourself to Regularity
- Tap Dance your way to social ridicule

An Aboriginal person came to the Newsletter office to state his disgust over the article called "The Sioux Opposed Casinos" in the last issue.

He said the author knew nothing of real Sioux, that they didn't even want that name since it was given to them by whites, that the way it's written shows the author is worse than ignorant - he's making it up as he goes and using the name and spirituality of a Native People to make some obscure connection between the author's own opposition to something (casinos?) & Aboriginal values.

The person's parting comment was "One more wannabe out in the boonies."

in bars. These are very addictive, especially for young people, and could bring a host of new problems.

Since we already have 80 percent of the alcohol seating capacity in the city, we have to make sure that these VLTs don't get dumped in large numbers in our midst.

As well, we still have to deal with the question of what gets built on the waterfront. Port of Vancouver will be back with another mega development proposal for a cruise ship dock and a convention centre - you can bet on it.

We have started a process of developing an alternate community plan for the waterfront, with workshops in hotels and other locations. If you want to take part, just contact John Shayler at Carnegie (689-0397).

Yes, we have our work cut out for us. But hey, meantime, let's party!

We owe ourselves a celebration for all the good work done against the casino.

The wing-ding will be held:

Tuesday, October 25


(day before chequeday)

From 2-4pm, second floor of Carnegie.

Entertainment and refreshments available.

Like every Carnegie event, it's open to the public. But we want to put out a special invitation to everyone who helped turn the nightmare into a mirage. Come and share the glow.

By MUGGS SIGURGEIRSON



the Nazis forced gays to wear; lesbians had to wear black triangles. They are now a symbol of our liberation fight.)

So come out
Come out
Come out
Where ever
You are!

and bring your art, music and poetry to the next Drop-in (1st & 3rd Thursdays, 3-5pm)

CARNEGIE CELEBRATES OCTOBER 11

National Coming Out Day - The day started with the first national march on Washington D.C. Every year people are asked to come out; if you are already out, come out to someone new.

The only safety is when we are all out and there is no closet they can drive us into.

Since I have been coming to the GL (Gay & Lesbian) Drop-in here at the Carnegie I have met many people and have found this meeting to be empowering. It feels great to be amongst people who understand and support.

This year, the Carnegie Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Drop-in celebrated by offering coffee, tea, juice and pink triangle pieces of cake to everyone. (The pink triangle was what

LEISURE ACCESS FOR ALL

At their next meeting on November 14th, the Presidents of the Community Center Associations of Vancouver will consider a motion to

ISSUE A LEISURE ACCESS CARD TO ALL PERSONS ON INCOME ASSISTANCE PERMITTING THEM FREE USAGE OF ALL FACILITIES AND SERVICES OFFERED BY THE PARK BOARD.

To win leisure access for all, we need your involvement and support. Please call Michelle at 879-1209 to join End Legislated Poverty's delegation, or if your group will write a supporting letter.

Dear Paul,

We're enclosing a cheque to help with newsletter expenses. It is a real pleasure to us to receive it (the newsletter) so faithfully. We feel it keeps us in touch with the energy and vitality of the Cente.

Thank you.

Sonya & Doug Sommers



VANCOUVER EAST AREA PLANNING Community Skills Centres

This is a new idea. A person assigned to get input came to Carnegie and handed out a kind of thumbnail sketch.

It seems to be a place that will 1) co-ordinate information on all skills training programs and be a link for agencies and their services; 2) be accessible with info for consumers; 3) have an outlook of community economic development; and 4) get real input from people on training activities.

The sketch was honest enough to state some concerns already voiced.

- ⇒ What about access for people who don't fit into the categories for CSC activities?
- ⇒ Will community agencies have to compete with the centre for the training dollars they get right now?
- ⇒ Is there going to be more fragmentation with the creation of "another" agency?
- ⇒ Will this place have technology that is user-friendly?

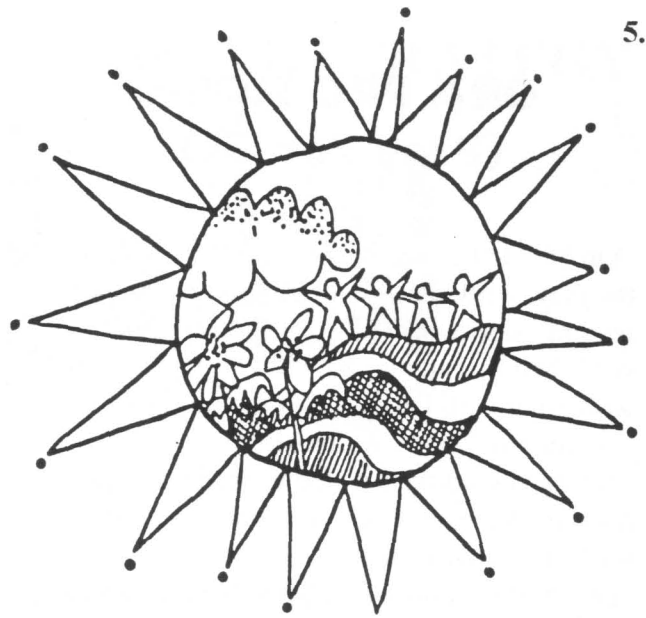
Okay.

The first official Vancouver East CSC meeting has been set for:

**Tuesday, November 1, 7-9pm
390 Main (at Hastings)**

MLAs and/or their reps, plus officials from the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour, will present the CSC idea. From this meeting a local planning team will be formed to develop a CSC proposal for Van East.

There are a bunch of organisations in favour of this, but if you want to find out more either go or call Michael Clague at 224-0604



A WOMAN LIKE YOU

There are times when a woman like you is disguised.

There are many times when a woman like you has moods that question their own celebrated relics.

A woman like you can be a natural sea on an invisible day or a violent blizzard from an irate heart.

A man like me wonders for a little while and then escapes.

Leigh Donohue

(*In this issue are several graphics and a couple of pieces taken from a new paper originating with the Victoria Street Community Association; it's named **Red Zone.**)

ORA PRO NOBIS (Pray For Us)

On September 18 about 150 people attended the play, written by Larry Loyie. This staged reading was presented as part of the Vancouver Library's Literacy Month in cooperation with South Hill United Church and Carnegie Community Centre Association.

A staged reading is a step toward a full production of a play. The actors and actresses read from their scripts.

Due to the nature of the play, Native counsellors were available at both readings. Saturday, Sept. 17, the counsellors were from Hey'way'noqu, Healing Circle for Addictions Society. On Sunday, the 19th, counselors were from Native Courtworkers Association.

Larry Loyie was born in northwestern Alberta. In his early years he lived a traditional Cree life. He attended three years of public school before being taken from his family at the age of 10 and placed in a residential school. After leaving school at 14 years of age, Larry worked in a logging camp. In his late teens, he joined the Canadian Forces, living in Europe before returning to British Columbia as a fisherman, longshoreman, logger and Native counsellor.

Larry began writing seriously in 1986 in the Carnegie Community Centre's creative writing class. He had written many short stories, both fiction and non-fiction. He is co-editor of *The Wind Cannot Read*, a collection of writings from the new learners that grew out of the 1990 Year Of Literacy Book Voyage. His second play, **Fifty Years Credit**, will explore the media's view of Native life.

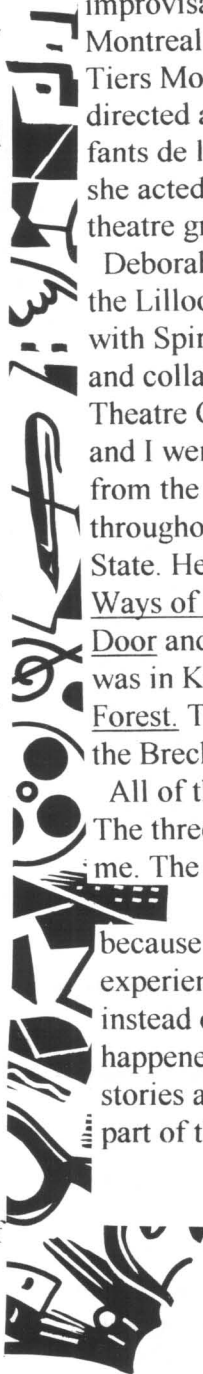
Leith Harris played the part of the brutal sister. She originates from back east. Leith did improvisation and theatre of the oppressed in Montreal with two theatre groups, Theatre du Tiers Monde and Hysterical Women. She directed a children's theatre troupe, Les Enfants de la Grange, in Quebec. In Vancouver she acted in two Fringe Festival plays and a theatre group called Off Course.

Deborah C.L. Charlie is Interior Salish from the Lillooet Nation. She has been involved with Spirit Song Theatre Camp since 1982 and collaborated in forming the Carnegie Theatre Guild in 1983. (Barb Gudmundsen and I were part of the Carnegie Theatre Guild from the beginning.) Deborah has toured throughout British Columbia and Washington State. Her productions include Teach Me The Ways of The Sacred Circle, Raven At My Door and Snap Shots. Her most recent tour was in Kitchener, Ontario with Song Of The Forest. This fall she continues her studies at the Breck Academy.

All of the acting was exceptionally good. The three mentioned here are well known to me. The play meant so much more to us

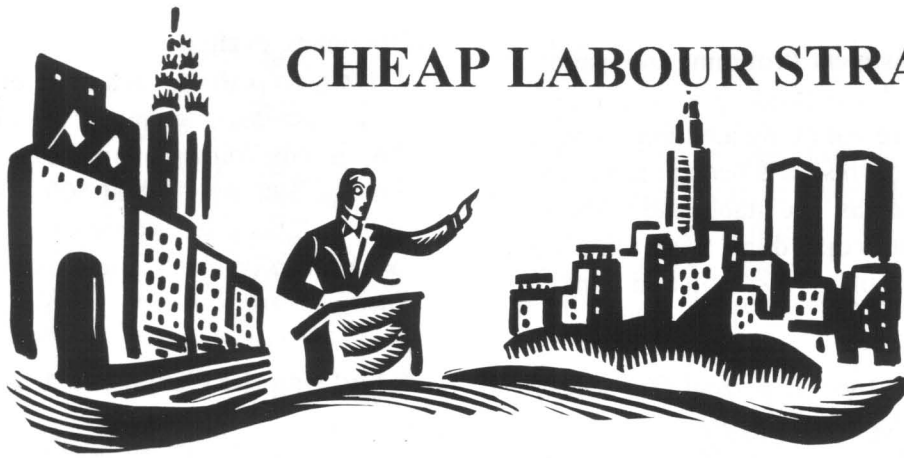
because it was written by someone who had experienced the terrible blight on our history instead of the so-called experts telling us what happened. More natives are telling their stories about the residential schools and this is part of the healing process.

By IRENE SCHMIDT



CHEAP LABOUR STRATEGY

7.



(Also Known As (aka)) **'Social Policy Review'**

Lloyd Axworthy and the Liberals officially released their "discussion paper" on Canada's social programs. Media has made it seem like a minor thing, supported across the country by those who 'pay for everything'.. taxpayers

The media, meaning newspapers & TV, have been virtually silent on the amount of protest by literally millions of people. The deep cuts to unemployment insurance are set to make the poorest workers and those who get laid off due to seasonal employment (like fishers in Newfoundland and agricultural workers across the country) and those whose jobs are just lost due to corporations moving to the States or Mexico, have no recourse but welfare or to take any work at any wage anywhere. (Full employment used to be called slavery - Jesse Jackson.)

The 'discussion paper' is a masterful piece of class warfare. Rose Brown, the provincial organiser for End Legislated Poverty, read the paper through and made a number of notes:

* What is the role of targeted programs? To make it acceptable to keep criteria of "need" tightening, leaving thousands without any safety net. Low income people don't have the

financial ability to access the "information highway".

* The language is so slick - making training sound like jobs, saying social programs must do more than share the wealth when they don't now, blaming-the-victim for policies of the elite who decide who gets what, saying the objectives of the reform is jobs but no statements of what kind of jobs or what wages people will have to work for.

* Language is insidious - 'reform will foster independence, self-confidence and initiative and help us start to tackle child poverty'... linking support for these ideals as solutions, when low income people already know that obscene corporate profits made through greed & low wages & welfare rates at 1/2 the poverty line are the problem.

What are they going to train us all for - if robots now do the work that skilled mechanics or office workers used to do, are we all going to be trained to watch machines doing our labour?"

The point is simple: the social policy review is a sham. This is when Canadians will finally see where all the bluster about "Free:" Trade and

Structural Adjustment Programs and wages of a few dollars a day is about. The corporate - owned media are not doing anything to report the opposition to this - it's been presented so long and so often as "inevitable and without alternative" that people don't think there's any choice. Think again..or just stop and think.



THE TWENTY-SECOND DAY Sept. '94

On the last day of summer the sperm and egg of SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVISM were re-conceived in the beauty of the spoken Word.

The Word was not of the rhetorical kind, but was spoken with expert knowledge, with cold steel emotion from the warmest hearts I've ever known.

The Word was directed to the City's representatives, but was ultimately gathered in by the collective psychic mind of the people in Carnegie auditorium.

The Word eased all frustration of lonely, isolated thoughts that the land in our care would be raped by misguided power brokers.

From person after person the Word was shared until there was no doubt that the Downtown Eastside "army" was prepared, once again, to take the struggle, beyond words, to its ultimate conclusion.

G.Gust

Upcoming events:

1. Help stop the attack on social programs!

- Banner-making day for rally on Oct.28 & 29th is happening from noon to 5pm on Sunday, October 16th at 509 E. Hastings.

(This is for women and children only.)

Sponsored by the Women and Social Policy Review Coalition; Info- Miche 255-5511

2. Fighting the Corporate Assault on Canada

- James Laxer will speak at the Unitarian Church at 49th & Oak on Wednesday, Oct.19 at 7:30pm. *Sponsored by the Council of Canadians*

3. Don't Ax-worthy Programs

- rally at noon at 1166 W.Pender at the Taxation Centre, on Tuesday, October 25th marking the first year of Liberal gov't. *Sponsored by CLC & BC Fed*

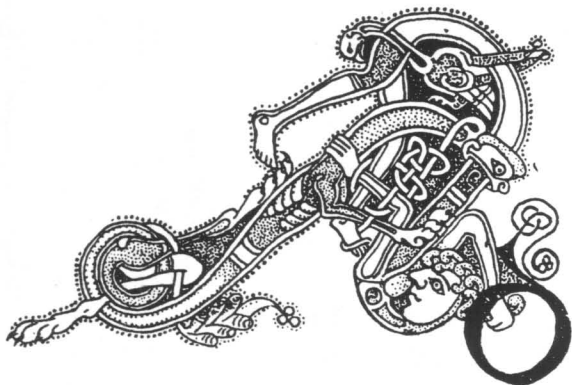
Uniting Seniors to Protect Social Programs

- a conference on November 5th, 10-3, at 411 Dunsmuir St. It costs \$5; lunch is \$3.50.

Other information and activity can be found in the **PSAC** flyer that just came in the mail; gay & lesbian communities are having a conference, an amazing book just came out called Class Warfare, by Maude Barlow, the **BC Teachers Federation** has lots on the direction Axworthy is taking education, **ELP** is working on the economics of this scam and the **BC Coalition Against Racism** is creating a network to fight the big push on by skinheads and neo-Nazis to foment hared against immigrants and 'non-aryans'

Become aware, join the struggle, act..

By PAULR TAYLOR



Police Liaison Committee Report

1) Yes yes yes! The **Balmoral Hotel bar** was closed for 2 months. They re-opened Oct.3, with 4-5 conditions between them and the police. One of these conditions involved upgrading of staff - no more over-serving.

As for the **Sunrise Hotel bar**, they are closed for one month, to re-open under the same conditions as the Balmoral.

Diamond Fast Foods

Margaret got no response from the Mayor regarding the sale of drugs there. At the present time City Hall is affected by the strike action of VMREU and D.F.F. is still under review.

Tom Howse

The person who stabbed Tom, who murdered him, is no longer in Canada. He was being deported on the day of the stabbing. However, when the trial happens, he will be brought back through extradition to face the charges.

Dear john

So far the letters have been pretty effective; there have been few repeat offenders.

Drugs

There are new parking policies for Hastings Street, to deter the all night parking of cars. These cars were open drug stores. On Saturday, many of these cars were towed away. This is part of the drug control

A letter from Carnegie's president was sent to all MLAs regarding the drug scene here.

Hastings Police Storefront

This is going to begin at 12 E.Hastings, just below Tellier Tower, and will be run by community volunteers. It will be used by the foot patrol officers and Mike Kent & those who work our area.

Things to keep an eye on -

Save-On-Meats: the dry goods area selling ginseng to street people

ANTIQUES Military: a new store at 55A Powell

Senorita's - This is a pub where people from out of the area come to party until 3am. They have no respect for our neighbourhood and regularly start yelling, screaming, fighting etc. after 1am.

There have been reports of guns & drugs being sold in the alley between Four Sisters and Columbia House. There is now a security patrol and the police are aware of it.

Upcoming meetings:

1) Short & long term conditions re: drugs. Discussion at 103 Powell, October 20 at 3:30) Next Police/Community Liaison meeting to be held at the DERA Co-op, 638 Alexander, on November 7th at 1:30.

By Margaret

The Carnegie Library - Part 5 "Hold The Fort For We Are Coming"

With the Great Depression, Vancouver became filled with unemployed men. By November, 1930, the City had over 7000 men on relief, and thousands more were coming from the prairies looking for work. Homeless men gathered in "jungles" in the False Creek Flats and near the Georgia Street Viaduct.

In the autumn of 1931, relief camps were set up in order to remove unemployed transient men from urban areas. Over time British Columbia had 237 camps with accommoda-

tion for 18,340 men. In 1933 the relief camps were taken over by the Department of National Defence, and they were militarized. The food was often bad, and men had to work like slaves (workfare) for twenty cents a day.

In the spring of 1932 a young man named Willis Shaparla, who had just turned fifteen years old, arrived in Vancouver from the prairies. He went to a relief camp near Squamish, and joined the Relief Camp Workers' Union.

Because working and living conditions in relief camps were sub-human, the Union called for a general strike in December, 1934. About 1700 men left the camps and headed for Vancouver. Their slogan was "Work and Wages".

In Vancouver the Relief Camp Workers' Union was divided into four divisions with about 350 men in each. Most of these men lived in the Downtown Eastside. As Willis Shaparla



said in his story, published in *Hastings And Main*, "We lived in this area, we ate in this area, and we fought in this area."

In April, 1935, unemployed men occupied the Hudson's Bay Store, and clashed with police who tried to remove them. Then they marched to Victory Square and sent a delegation to City Hall to ask for relief. The Mayor of Vancouver, Gerry McGeer, panicked (as those in power often do in Canada when injustice boils over), arresting ten members of the unemployed workers' delegation as they were leaving City Hall. He then hurried to Victory Square where he read the Riot Act. Willis Shaparla commented, "When hungry Canadians were asking for something to eat, McGeer read us the Riot Act."

On May 19, 1935, about 300 members of Division Three of the Relief Camp Workers' Union, of which Willis Shaparla was one of the youngest members, marched into the Carnegie Library, walked up the spiral staircase past the stained glass windows, and occupied the museum on the third floor.

Just before the occupation, a large demonstration of 1000 unemployed men marched on Woodward's as a diversion.

The purpose of the occupation was to win one week's relief (food and shelter) for the men of the Relief Camp Workers' Union. It ended after eight hours when the City of Vancouver agreed to give the "strikers" a week's relief with no recriminations.



Why Our Eagles Soar

The night shallowed above
The sky shadowed earth,
The stars shone so bright,
The memories came and hurt.

Why the sudden pain?
Why the sudden loss?
Why the sudden rain?
Why such high cost?

When I stopped running,
When I start to walk,
Only then the pain will hit,
Only then I hold our special rock.

No time to say good-bye,
No time to say I love you,
No time to ask why
No time to fulfill a dream,
a dream to fly.

So easy to love,
So easy to forgive,
So hard to forgive above,
So hard to go on and live.

11.

Voices are speaking,
Stand tall. be strong,
My heart only weakens,
To live not facing,
Wouldn't that be wrong?

The Angels were calling,
Once again we ignore,
The messages were falling,
In pain the eagles soar.

Written with love for:
A special Mother
and
My bro Joel Peters.

Written by: Your Daughter
and

Your sis :Opal
Autumn
Marie
Peters

A Young Girl Talks of Life on Welfare

In November 1978, DERA sponsored a writing contest on the question "What is it like on welfare?" A fourteen girl, who didn't want her name released because her friends would make fun of her, won first prize.

In its press release announcing the winner in January, 1979, DERA quoted a 1978 United Way Report that said welfare rates in British Columbia were 35% to 70% too low to allow people to meet minimum basic needs.

Here is the fourteen year old girl's essay.

Living on GAIN

I am a fourteen girl living with my mother, two younger sisters and a younger brother. We live in a very crowded four-room suite with sickening conditions.

That was just a little introduction of my family and myself, and our present home condition.

You could say that I am one of those young people who believe all young people should be free to say what they feel. After all, though some people may not realize it, we have feelings too.

Living on GAIN is horrible. I didn't have a choice when I was born. Life is quite hard because we are just getting enough money to survive on. No luxuries at all. Food gets short quite often, even more now because the younger children in my family have continuously growing appetites. The rent of our four room suite is \$215 a month, which is ridiculous for what we get. We have to pay our hydro too. This is very, very high in the winter because in every room in the house there is an enormous window almost as big as the wall itself, and it is very drafty.

School is wonderful for me. I am an above average student, and have won two academic awards. I am very active in sports in school. My best is the sometimes dangerous sport, gymnastics. From that description you would think I was the happiest school girl in Vancouver. I'm not.

All my friends and their families are real estate owners; slightly rich you could say.

Anyway, just recently these friends touched me on my sore spot. They asked me if I was planning to go to university. I told them yes, and then they all fired at me that welfare doesn't pay for it, where am I going to get the money etc...I guess these friends expected that someone on welfare is supposed to be dumb, ugly and inactive.

I don't know if what they've said is true or not. I am planning to do something for this world. Just because I don't have the money, and the fact that I come from a poor background, doesn't mean that I don't have the capability. I do. I intend to prove it too. I know for a fact that I will not be on GAIN when I am older, and that I will be working in some skilled job.

I think GAIN rates should definitely be raised for those people who need it. We don't expect to get as much as homeowners etc. receive, but we do expect to live above the bare subsistence level. Also, the money we receive now is drastically inadequate!

Antigone





Workshop Report

On October 6th a workshop was held to discuss some of the issues and experiences surrounding the question "How does the word disability affect your educational goals?"

1. Self-educated (a lot of participants taught themselves about their own disabilities, once diagnosed). Once society accepts you as disabled, it stereotypes and ignores you. The sentimental attitudes of condescending institutions are patronising and seem to be based on issues of gender, class, ethnicity, wealth or poverty, and age. (Sound familiar?)

2. What does the word "disability" refer to? Are the homeless and those involved with disabling drug or alcohol problems being blamed by society for their own disabling diseases? There is no prevention for what many see as regressive and debilitating diseases

3. Why does it seem that Native disabilities are invisible to such organisations as the Vancouver School Board, or the provincial or municipal governments? Do we need to recognise the traditional healing process? Is legislated poverty acceptable for expecting

women who find themselves and their unborn at risk? Why are white and native societies so ignorant of the problems associated with both visible and invisible disabilities? Is it always going to be the job of people with disabilities to inform or educate everyone else of the issues?

4. Crab Park and access to it are examples of the disgusting insensitive attitude that people in power (municipal and federal in this case) show towards our community.

5. So-called disabled people do not want to be separated from all the members at Carnegie when there is an outing taking place. We are doing a better job here than elsewhere, but we can do a lot more. Human rights belong to everyone.

(Sources and resources included:

Robin Loxton, advocate,

BC Coalition of People with Disabilities.

Irene Schmidt, advocate

Member of Carnegie's Board of Directors.

Mental Health Empowerment Advocates

Services for Students with Disabilities from the Open Learning Agency.

People's Law School (Welfare appeals)

Legal Services Society)

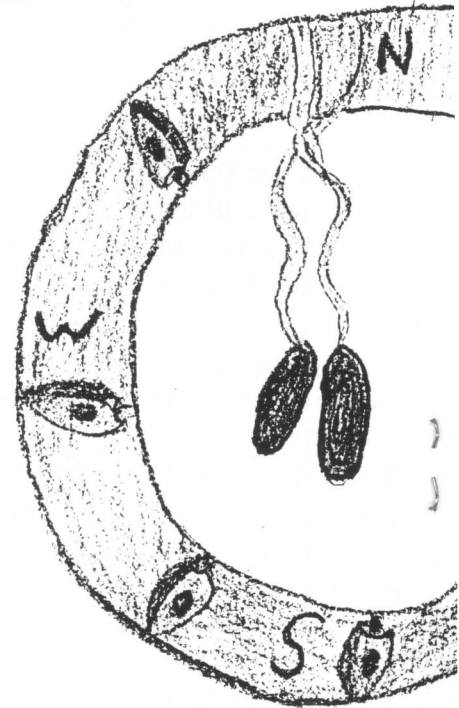


the monster appears

I'm in a pew near the front at the cathedral
mass is just getting started
and 4 people quickly fill the pew in front of me
we're all saying the prayers
and one of the men in the row ahead
is saying them louder than anyone else
he and the rest of his party are dressed
like bigshots
like real somebodies
and I guess the man figured he needed to make sure his voice
got heard by god above all the others
i think i recognize this guy's voice
i know i've heard it before
and then we get to the part of the mass
where everybody turns to the people next to them
and the people in front of and behind them
shakes their hand
and says "may the peace of jesus christ be with you"
i once heard a priest from the caribbean say
that for his native congregation
the greeting takes at least 30 minutes
everybody greets everybody in the church

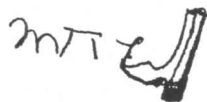
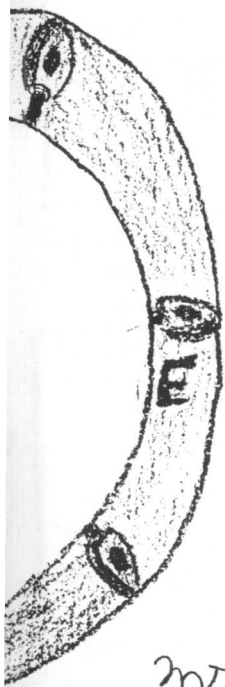
but at the cathedral
tentative hands reach beneath sour faces
and some people don't even bother
never know what the idiot next to you
might've had in his hands
but the guy whose voice i recognize
when he turns around
his face lights up like a friendly flashbulb
like automatically
with an intimate smile and a warm greeting
and i know who he is
it's joseph stalin
it's adolf hitler
no it's actually bill vanderzalm
and we make
real eye contact
and at long last and to my surprise

The Slippers are
ON the water



here he is
the dracula of the downt
the enemy of carnegie
the man vilified and curs
the man i cursed and mo
he was so close to me
i could've whacked him over the head
i said to the woman i wa
"i didn't know he was ca
if i had maybe i never v
i mean i knew joseph g
but vanderzalm!"
i thought o well
the reason i joined the catholic church i
is because it's the church
of real bad actors

e walking



the worst sinners
the lowest of the low
the criminals
the outcasts
the poor
because those are who jesus came down here
hung around with
and died for
screwed-up bastards like me

and i guess even bill vanderzalm
whom i always suspected
of being about as poor
in compassion and understanding
as anybody could be
qualifies

though when he approved cutbacks in services for welfare mothers
and told them to find jesus
i believe jesus would've told him
what he told peter

"get thee behind me, satan!"

so the monster appeared
and got down on his knees when we were all supposed to
but vanderzalm got down on his knees once
when nobody else did
and started to stand up but stopped

which left him in a half-standing half-sitting crouch
just as though he didn't know
whether to shit
or get off the pot
just like when he was premier
of the province

and so i can faithfully report
that vanderzalm is still confused
about what's going on
with the people
around him

ntown eastside

ursed for years
nocked

d with a hymnal
vas with
atholic
r would've joined up
goebbels was a catholic

h in the first place

Access to Crab Park

The Main Street Overpass

&

The Latest Joke

On October 11th, Jim Crandles (one of the Public Relations hacks for the Port of Vancouver) had a big whoop-de-do at Jenny Pentland Place, with all the glossy photos and charts and 'artist's design' for the latest joke on making Crab Park accessible.

Margaret Prevost, Vice-President of the Carnegie Association and a wheelchair warrior, attended for the sole purpose of reading the following statement:

Carnegie Community Centre Association Board of Directors' position on the proposed alterations to the Main Street overpass:

"Over the last 8 years, the community has been involved in a long and arduous struggle to address the issue of access to CRAB Park. The proposed solution as presented by the Port of Vancouver, which involves a series of "zig zags" up the east side of the Main Street overpass, was rejected by the community seven years ago. To reconsider this option now is not in the interests of providing real access to the park.

"The proposed solution is a cheap fix and a poor solution which the community will be stuck with forever. It increases the distance

that the aged and disabled members of our community must travel in order to get to the park. It does nothing to address the unacceptable height people must climb to get over the railroad tracks.

"The Carnegie Community Centre Board, at its recent meeting of October 6th, moved:

That the current proposal by the Port of Vancouver, to increase access to CRAB Park, be rejected.

Members of the Carnegie Community Centre Association are willing to go to City Council and lobby for the Columbia Street overpass, which is an acceptable solution that is a result of many years of hard work by residents, City staff and Port staff."

It was most appropriate for Ms. Prevost to make this statement in the face of the 'expert' hired by the Port to speak for wheelchair use. This person, while in a wheelchair, will of course never have to use this joke proposed for daily use by the majority of people in our neighbourhood who have been denied simple access to their park for 8 years.

The Port of Vancouver has no interest whatsoever in providing acceptable access. Their only concern is to meet the minimum requirements dictated by the Canadian Human Rights Commission in the lawsuit of Ms. Joan Meister. And let's not forget that the standing joke at City Council (Owen/Puil - no one is quite sure who the mayor is) sleazed out of the Columbia Street overpass in one of the sloppiest examples of 'spontaneous' consideration so far. City staff knew months before the decision in March that vested interests/NPA (no difference) had other plans.



By PAULR TAYLOR

During the occupation of the Carnegie Library, Willis climbed onto the roof of the building. He could see the large demonstration of unemployed men marching along Hastings Street towards him. They were marching four abreast, and were weaving from one side of the street to the other in a snake parade. At the same time they were singing the song that became the rallying cry of the Relief Camp Workers' Union during the On-To-Ottawa Trek. These are the words that Willis heard from the roof of the Carnegie Library on that glorious day:

**"We meet today in freedom's cause
and raise our voices high;
We'll join our hands in union strong
to battle or to die.
Hold the fort for we are coming,
Unionists be strong.
Side by side we battle onward,
Victory will come."**

By SANDY CAMERON



IS IT ART?

The flight of the photograph as it travels through time and space: In a flash it captures the soul of one's image, as if by magic...like a spell has been cast by Merlin the Magician. It is almost like magic to see one's image captured on a photograph.

You may die tomorrow but your image on the picture will still be there; it will not fade away with your death. It has been captured for as long as the picture will last.

Some day, off in the future, someone will pick up your picture and look at it and wonder if it just an ordinary picture or not. Will they be able to see into the soul of the picture, see the beauty within? Will they just take a quick look and throw it aside or, even worse, throw your work of art into the garbage?

Some people just don't know art from garbage! And some people think some garbage is art...

They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. For me beauty is in the living, the living things all around us. Doesn't your life come alive in the springtime when new life is born, when the trees and grass are greener, and the flowers start to bloom?

Life is a picture, painted by Mother Nature herself. It is the greatest piece of art of all.

...but who am I to say these things - I am just a student in this building, staring up at some photographs on the school house wall and thinking to myself 'Is This really Art?'

By HARVEY DUCEDRE

**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: Mon to Fri, 9am-8pm
Sat & Sun, Noon - 6pm
Needle Exchange Van - on the street every night, 6pm-2am
(except Mondays; 6pm-midnight)**

1994 DONATIONS

Paula R. -\$20	Charley B. -\$32	Bill S. -\$20
Bruce J. -\$20	Stuart M. -\$50	Sandy C. -\$20
Kettle FS -\$16	Nancy H. -\$20	Cecile C. -\$10
Bill B. -\$16	Hazel M. -\$10	Law Library -\$20
Lillian H. -\$50	Joy T. -\$10	
Etienne S. -\$40	Diane M. -\$16	
Adult LCC -\$12	Libby D. -\$20	
Carnegie LC -\$30	CEEDS -\$50	
Margi S. -\$5	Sue H. -\$35	
Anonymous -\$37	Sonya S. -\$200	

Help in the Downtown Eastside (funding)

Legal Services Society -\$930



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 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**



ANTI-SMOKING MANIA

BUTT OUT

I have never heard any smoker deny the health risks of tobacco smoking. Why is it then that a small group of anti-smokers feel that they can insult, berate, condemn and generally act like creeps towards smokers, dead or alive?

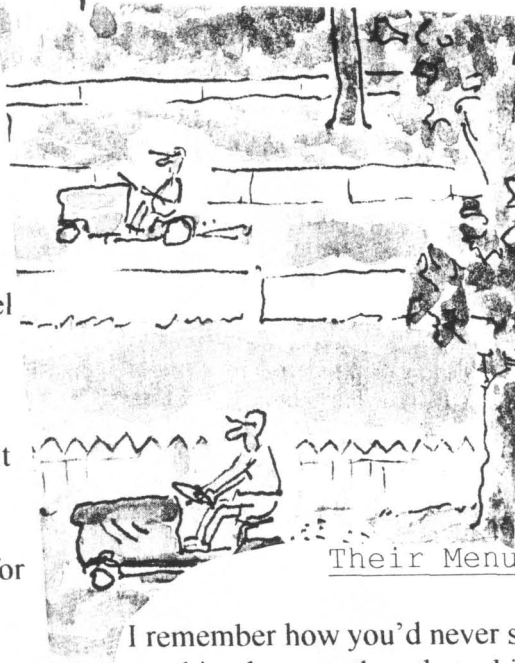
What gives one individual the right to shit on another?

It seems that, for some, self-righteous indignation is nothing but a thin disguise for belligerent and aggressive behaviour - an excuse to act like jerks.

A bully is a bully and authority is something we are all acutely affected by. A lot of people are poor, abused, disenfranchised, alienated, manipulated, hungry...you know the list. Smokers and non-smokers alike share a frustrating heritage of anger and political disgust. I ask you then: why are we so disrespectful to each other? Has culture duped us? Have we become so disenfranchised that we embrace violence towards each other so casually? What is happening to us?

Non-smoking signs used to read "Thank you for not smoking." Now they are circles with cigarettes and stop signs.

Leigh Donohue
- a chain smoker



Their Menu

I remember how you'd never settle for anything less than that which you wanted. How even on your last breath you called out to your Gods,
and beaten, you lay gasping,
while they left you,
Only to awaken to a nightmare...
Nothing much has changed,
But, I remember.

In youth and looking for a 'grandeur life'.
Wanting much more than their offers.
Walking by, inside your day.
Wondering...?
"Where do I belong?"

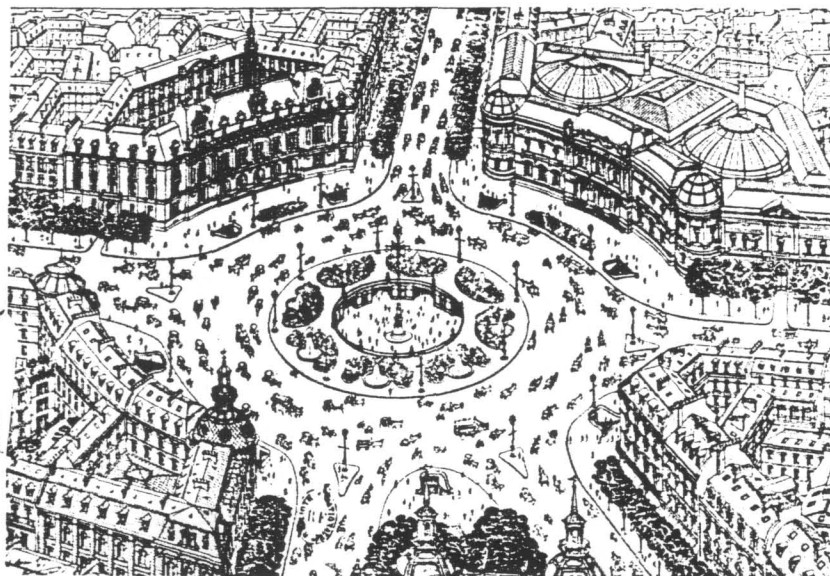
I've seen inside my dreams - your illusions.
I sat down beside you and held you with your fears.
I encouraged you to break free.
And you turned and walked a road with no intentions, and called it your life.

My friend, we really thought we changed.

Buffalo

Some accidents just

Dialectics of a Social Type: The Flâneur



Traffic circle proposed in 1906 by Eugène Hénard

It Happened This Way:

□ "The other car collided with mine without giving warning of its intention."

□ "I thought my window was down but found it was up when I put my hand through it."

□ "A pedestrian hit me and went under my car."

□ "The guy was all over the place. I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him."

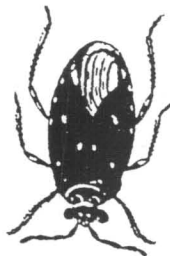
□ "I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment."

□ "The accident occurred when I was attempting to bring my car out of a skid by steering it into the other vehicle."

□ "I was driving my car out of the driveway in the usual manner, when it was struck by the other car in the same place it had been struck several times before."

□ "I was on my way to the doctor's with rear-end trouble when my universal joint gave way, causing me to have an accident."

□ "As I approached the intersection, a stop sign suddenly appeared in a place where no stop

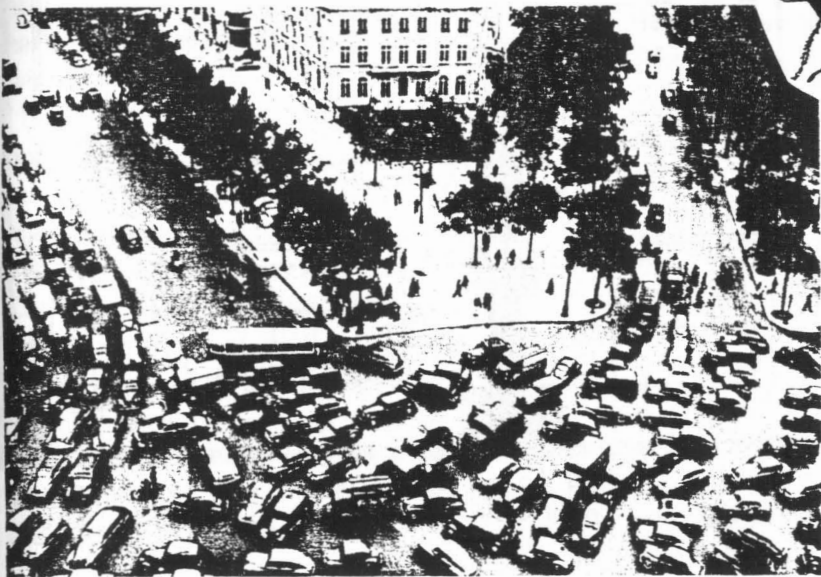


"Around 1840 it was elegant to take turtles for a walk in the arcades, (This gives a conception of the tempo of flânerie)" (V, p. 532). By Benjamin's time, taking turtles for urban strolls had become enormously dangerous for turtles, and only somewhat less so for flâneurs. The speed-up principles of mass production had spilled over into the streets, waging "war on flânerie" (V, p. 547). The "flow of humanity . . . has lost its gentleness and tranquility," *Le temps* reported in 1936: "Now it is a torrent, where you are tossed, jostled, thrown back, carried to right and left" (V, p. 547). With motor transportation still at an elementary stage of evolution, one already risked being lost in the sea.

Today it is clear to any pedestrian in Paris that within public space, automobiles are the dominant and predatory species. They penetrate the city's aura so routinely that it disintegrates faster than it can coalesce. Flâneurs, like tigers or preindustrial tribes, are cordoned off on reservations, preserved within the artificially created environments of pedestrian streets, parks, and underground passageways.

The utopian moment of flânerie was fleeting. But if the flâneur has disappeared as a specific figure, the perceptive attitude that he embodied saturates modern existence, specifically, the society of mass consumption.

waiting to happen



sign had ever appeared before. I was unable to stop in time to avoid the accident."

□ "The telephone pole was approaching fast. I was attempting to swerve out of its path when it struck my front end."

□ "To avoid hitting the bumper of the car in front, I struck the pedestrian."

□ "My car was legally parked as it backed into the other vehicle."

□ "An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my vehicle and vanished."

□ "When I saw I could not avoid a collision, I stepped on the gas and crashed into

the other car."

□ "The pedestrian had no idea which direction to go, so I ran him over."

□ "I saw the slow-moving, sad-faced old gentleman as he bounced off the hood of my car."

□ "Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have."

□ "The indirect cause of this accident was a little guy in a small car with a big mouth."



Hénard's "simple and elegant solution" in practice. Image juxtaposition by Nora Evenson

In the *flâneur*, concretely, we recognize our own consumerist mode of being-in-the-world. (The same can be argued for all of Benjamin's historical figures. In commodity society all of us are prostitutes, selling ourselves to strangers; all of us are collectors of things.)

Benjamin wrote: "the department store is [the *flâneur*'s] last haunt" (V, p. 562). But *flânerie* as a form of perception is preserved in the characteristic fungibility of people and things in mass society, and in the merely imaginary gratification provided by advertising, illustrated journals, fashion and sex magazines, all of which go by the *flâneur*'s principle of "look, but don't touch" (V, p. 968). Benjamin examined the early connection between the perceptive style of *flânerie* and that of journalism. If mass newspapers demanded an urban readership (and still do), more current forms of mass media loosen the *flâneur*'s essential connection to the city. It was Adorno who pointed to the station-switching behavior of the radio listener as a kind of aural *flânerie*. In our time, television provides it in optical, nonambulatory form. In the United States, particularly, the format of television news programs approaches the distracted, impressionistic, physiognomic viewing of the *flâneur*, as the sights purveyed take

GIMME MONEY PLACE ARENA

SEASON TICKETS

Gimme money,
ratnow fukkah.



CHEAP SEATS
CASH
MASTERCARD
OR
YOUR 1ST BORN.

THE DUMB
MASSES
THIS SIDE
←

GET CORPORATE BOXES OR
COURTSIDE SEATS FOR
YOUR COMPANY AND
DEDUCT HALF THE
COST VIA YOUR EXPENSE
ACCOUNT TAX SCAM.

CORPORATE
CRIMINALS
THIS SIDE
→



From the time that our ancestors walked with the aid of their knuckles, to this very moment, there has occurred a great species-evolution, with greatly disappointing social results, thanks to the capitalist system of economics.

In its short lifetime the capitalist system has closed in like a giant fist beating its own body into some weird form of submission.

It is the unregulated fist of powerful corporate organizations that have taken private control of governments & government agencies in order to dominate the social order of mankind.

One such agency that has come under the command of the corporate fist is Revenue Canada, who defer (do not collect) taxes of a sufficient amount from corporate powers, and allow corporate power flunkies to deduct 50% of their expenses off their taxes to take other corporate flunkies out for lunch or a good time at the Penthouse cabaret.

To go on berating capitalism here might be a waste of good paper, but let me ask you:

who has more value in our lives; the chairman of the Royal bank, who makes about 2 million a year, and does little more than sit on his rump reading reports a few hours a day, or, the garbage man making about \$37,000 a year, and prevents the spread of diseases?

If you are of the opinion that a doctor, hockey player, or carpenter should be doing what they are doing because they have a great desire to do these things, and not for amassing more than a fair share of the common wealth, then you are no friend of the capitalist system, and should be joining groups like END LEGISLATED POVERTY, and attending their discussion meetings.

Remember, the PHD and the grade 8 graduate must pay the same price to feed their children.

Garry Gust

An open letter to Mayor Philip Owen

Everyday I come to the Carnegie Community Centre, usually at 8:30 in the morning. Everyday the corner of Main & Hastings has at least 20 junkies standing around, openly dealing heroin - starting earlier than 8:30 to be sure but in full swing when I run that gauntlet.

It moves off the front steps when the Centre opens at 9am, but the corner is be-set with junkies and dealing and scams and pick-ups and deliveries all day everyday. The vast majority of them are not allowed into Carnegie, but that is minor. Police are never present on the corner, never seem to pay the slightest attention to this daily display.

There was a meeting in Carnegie, a DERA General membership meeting with the Police. The main topic was community policing but the theme of speakers; remarks (people who live here making comment's or asking questions) was that the police are a) useless, b) indifferent, c) corrupt, d) arrogant,

“THERE IS NOWHERE ELSE IN THIS CITY WHERE THIS KIND OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY WOULD BE TOLERATED FOR 5 MINUTES.”

All the assurances and promises that the police were 'working on it' were met with so much derision. We live here and see the constant dealing and drug use on the street in broad daylight and gangs of junkies and pimps hanging outside the pinball business or one of the hotels waiting for the deliveries to begin EVERY DAY.

Even worse is the sure knowledge that a lot of these people have warrants for their arrest outstanding anywhere from Alberta to Newfoundland. Because they're something called 'non-returnable warrants' - these blanks can hang out in perfect safety in

Vancouver.

It's not acceptable to hear how hard the police are working when this crap continues all the time. If this scene was somehow transported to any other area of the city there would be a massive police presence, continuous arrests and not a few heads broken to 'discourage' repetitive activity. Yet here it's somehow okay to just throw up hands and say "There's nothing we can do!"

This is the cause of the disgusting amounts of litter and refuse becoming as much a part of the sidewalk as people in the past few months. For the last ten years it hasn't been like this, but now it's open season for violence (assaults, muggings, concealed weapons, murder) and stealing (thefts, burglaries, robbery, strong-arming) to support habits that get a slap on the wrist if/when arrests are made.

Being cynical tells me that this letter doesn't cut that much ice; you've got yours and this isn't in your neighbourhood (or permitted in the communities of those who vote for you. That's so close to the truth it might even hurt.



Name withheld
by request.

Tips For Using Drugs Safely

You have a choice. To use drugs or not to. We are not giving anyone the go ahead to use, but if you do, try to reduce the harm that you are inflicting upon your body. Some tips -

Limit your use. Most people get into trouble with drugs because they use too often. For example, try not to use two days in a row. Or try making rules about when and where to use: Like not drinking and drugging and then driving; drinking with friends but not alone; or not using with friends who push you to use more than you want to.

Choose when to use. Try not to use drugs just to get through the day.

When using intravenous drugs, diluted drugs are easier on your body. Do small amounts first to find out how strong the drug is.

Eat well, get plenty of rest and exercise. Drugs rob your body of energy. Take time to re-charge after you use or drink.

Mixing drugs makes it harder on you. For example, if you are using "up" regularly and start using "down" to sleep, you will quickly have to start using more to get high.

Make sure you have food in your stomach when you use or drink. Also, drinking lots of water afterwards helps you have less of a hangover.

Remember - If you don't use every day, you are less likely to get hooked.

(From DEYAS Needle Exchange)



Miss Heroine

So little man, you've grown tired of Grass, LSD, Cocaine and Hash. Someone pretending to be a true friend. Said I'd introduce you to Miss Heroine. Well honey before you start fooling with me, just let me inform you of how it will be; For I will seduce you and make you my slave, I've sent men stronger than you to their graves.

You think you could never become a disgrace, but you'll only result in a poppy seed waste. You'll take me in arms, I'll enter your veins - The craving will nearly drive you insane. You'll need lots of money; As you've been told, for darling I'm much more expensive than gold. You'll swindle your mother for just a buck. You'll turn into something vile and corrupt.

You'll mug and you'll steal for my narcotic charm, feeling content when I enter your arms. The day you realize the monster you've grown, you'll solemnly promise to leave me alone. If you think you've got that mystical knack, then sweetie try getting me off your back. The vomit, the cramp, your gut in a knot, your screwed up nerves. Yeah, just one more shot.

The hot chills, the cold sweat, the withdrawal pains can only be saved by my little white grains. There's no other need and there's no need to look, for deep down inside you know you are hooked. You'll welcome me back in your arms again, and when you return as I have foretold, I know you'll give me your body & soul.

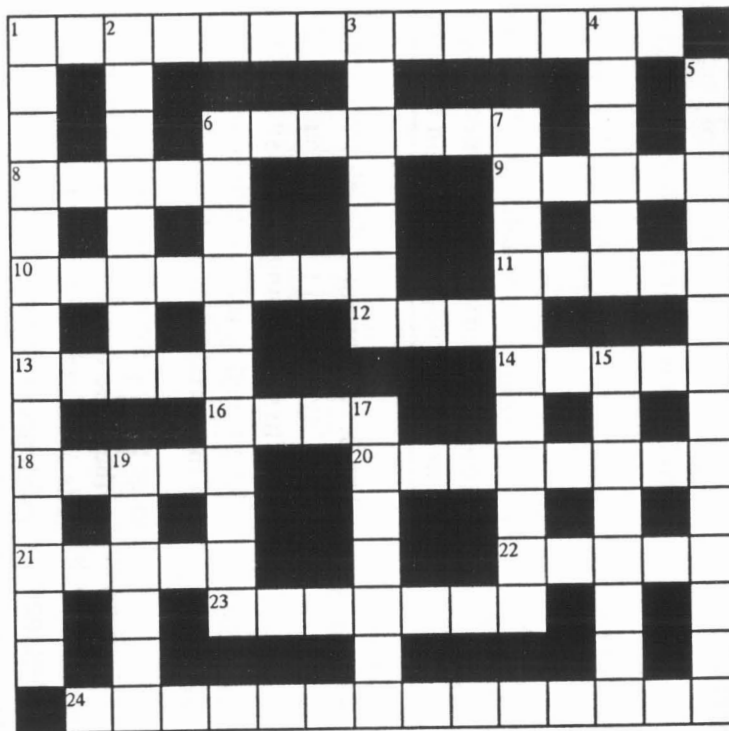
*You'll give me your morals, your conscience, your heart.
And you'll be mine
until death do us part.*

Unsigned Addict

CROSSWORD #6

ANSWERS TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

A	B	O	V	E	A	N	D	B	E	Y	O	N	D		
D		P		P			O		T			I	A		
A		E		I	L	L	E	G	A	L		M	L		
Y	A	R	N	S			H			U	M	B	E	L	
A		E		T			I	C	O	N		L		T	
T	O	T	A	L	L	E	D			C	Z	E	C	H	
T		T		E			E	A	C	H				E	
H	E	A	D								B	A	N	K	
E				S	A	R	A			U		R		I	
R	E	N	E	W				T	U	R	N	U	P	O	N
A		U		A	R	C	H			S		E		G	
C	H	A	S	M			L			C	A	G	E	S	
E		N			I	N	T	E	G	E	R		G	M	
S		C			E		T			E		I		E	
	G	E	T	S	T	H	E	L	O	W	D	O	W	N	



COPYRIGHT 1994 THE SRB SYNDICATE

ACROSS

- The Mob (9,5)
- Talk to a golf ball (7)
- Cancel (5)
- Criminal (5)
- Ducks (8)
- Type of nerve (5)
- Artic bird (4)
- Sad song (5)
- Irritable one (5)
- Renovate (4)
- Computer game company (5)
- Presidential action (4,4)
- Movie classification (5)
- Build (5)
- Closes in (7)
- Headliners (5,2,3,4)

DOWN

- Vegas machine (3-5,6)
- Grainy (8)
- Sincere (7)
- Believer (obscure) (6)
- Career killers (6,8)
- Good athlete (3-8)
- Old West storage (11)
- Space (8)
- Routed (7)
- Lawrence of _____ (6)

WHEN A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME... IT'S A "LIVE/WORK SPACE"

There is a development in the making on the BNR lands, beside the C.N. station, that has fit through a loophole in city regulations large enough to drive a back-hoe through. This development is similar, in size and scale, to the Bosa Brothers development at Main and Terminal. It will provide for 750 or more units of "housing/nonhousing" on 17 acres of land now owned by the Trillium Corporation of Bellingham.

In consultation with some willing hands a City Hall, this land, now zoned as industrial usage, can remain zoned as industrial to allow for this project.

That means no re-zoning to a CD-1 designation to allow for residential development, therefore no need for re-zoning hearings, no opportunity for local input other than a coffee-klatch style open house.

These units are technically called "live/work studios". Because of this, *the site is not designated a mega-project, does not fall under the 20% social housing designation, does not require the developer to provide any amenities.* Each unit will sell for around \$100,000 (and up) and will have a small living space with a large open space for artists to use. As purchasers are well within their rights to remodel their units in any configuration they see fit, there's no guarantee that any, some, or all will in fact be used as art studios.

When asked where these 750 artists with \$100,000 in hand would come from to fill these spaces, the developer acknowledged that this could take a while. What won't take a while is for these sites to be snatched up and

converted into standard strata-title residences after another \$25-\$50 thousand in additional renovations is added on. As each owner will in effect be a "developer", and since the developer is not the seller of housing units, nobody is responsible for amenities or for adhering to current development guidelines.

No seniors, no families, no fixed-income people, no starving artists need apply. This is neighbourhood busting on a grand scale.

The developer/not-a-developer mentioned that City Council told him that they didn't want to see housing on that site; they were determined to maintain the diminishing stock of industrial lands in the inner city. I challenge these people to come down here and tell us the same thing. We in the Downtown Eastside are systematically being "planned" out of existence. It seems there's no stone they won't turn to uncover yet another devious scheme to accomplish it.

By IAN MacRAE.





THIS TIME

Looking back on yesterday when I was young
and wild,
The times I should've stood up tall
To face the lies that I had heard,
Time slipped away with all my strength,
Left barren on the ground.

Looking down on yester-years doesn't change
a thing.
I had it all inside my palms,
Drifting by on high.
Just for a time it looked so fine,
Lost in the crowd of smiles.
Waiting for a saviour with a new direction
for today.

Time spent sailing on the sea.
Time to start anew.
Stone by stone we build again,
Freedom from the chains we wore.

The fields are turning green again,
The days begin to shine.
No better time to make your plans.
Living for the day.
This time we say,....
into the groove,
We'll change their minds.

This time is all we have.

Buffalo

The Dream

As John was staring out a window on a particularly bleak day, his gaze fell on someone new when it returned to the room., He hadn't seen her before. She was beautiful: she had long, leonine hair, a wonderful smile and an athletic body. He approached her and she uttered those four beautiful words, "May I help you?" He had never heard them spoken that way before. Was it her voice or the way she phrased it, he wondered. He didn't know but he had to get to know her better.

The next day there she was again, a vision of loveliness like Venus in a Botticelli painting. What was he to say? Have you a German dictionary? No, much too banal. It must be something witty, erudite, perhaps even--amusing. A joke perhaps, the last recourse of the socially awkward. No, it's too early for jokes and much too hard to pull off. At wit's end he finally said, "You're new here aren't you?" Scarcely had the words left his lips when he struck by how trite it had sounded. The horror. He leaves dispirited and without his umbrella.

He returns. He finds his umbrellas and decides to go to the second stage: personal documentation. He has a plan and just enough courage to pull it off (he hopes). With great fear and trepidation he approaches the lair of the lioness; perhaps she has not supped today and may eat him alive. He pauses and remembers a line from a Monty Python movie, "run away, run away." His legs don't respond..he plods on to what he knows will be his certain doom. He doesn't die but asks her name. He survives.

As he was leaving the library he thinks to himself, "That wasn't that bad; could've been worse - she could've ignored me." He knew her name now - Cassandra. He'd never heard that outside a book before. She was older than he'd thought and she didn't remember him from before but that was all right, he didn't dwell on the little things.

He had to leave town for a few days and maybe he'd drop in when he got back..but probably not. It's best to leave things as they are and not spoil the dream.

By ROBERT YAEGOR

I'm Staff..I'm staff.....honest!

Irene Digiacoimo has been working here for a few days (oops! a few years) but is usually in the admin office on the 3rd floor.

Irene regularly helps with preparing the volunteer dinner and was here on Thanksgiving Day, exercising her culinary skills in the kitchen. In comes a volunteer, who just walks around the kitchen. Irene said, "Are you working in here today?" He said, "No, in the Pool Room. I'm looking for staff." Irene said, "I'm staff." The volunteer just kept looking, Irene went to the office, opened it with a key, signed his card, relocked the office, and he still said "Who's on staff?" Irene said in an unsure voice, "I'm staff." He shook his head and carried on. Irene came back in the kitchen saying "I'm staff, I'm staff..honest!" Other volunterers wondered if she was okay.....

