

FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER

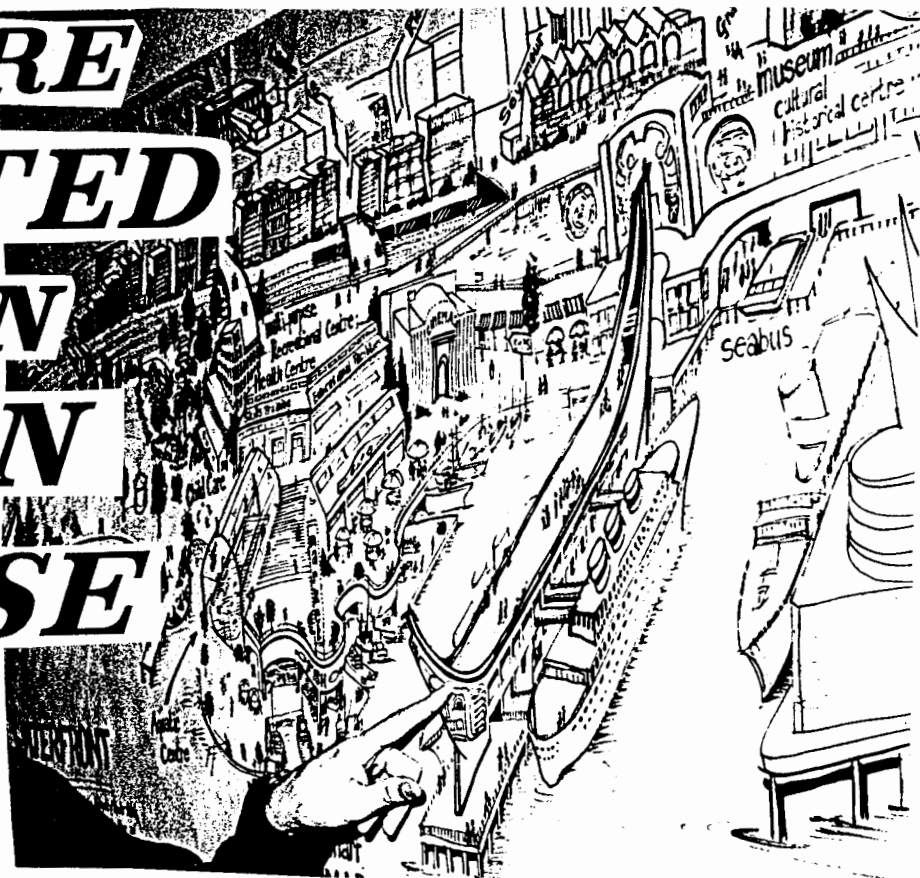


FEBRUARY 15, 1995.

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

***YOU ARE  
INVITED  
TO AN  
OPEN  
HOUSE***

SEE ARTICLE  
INSIDE

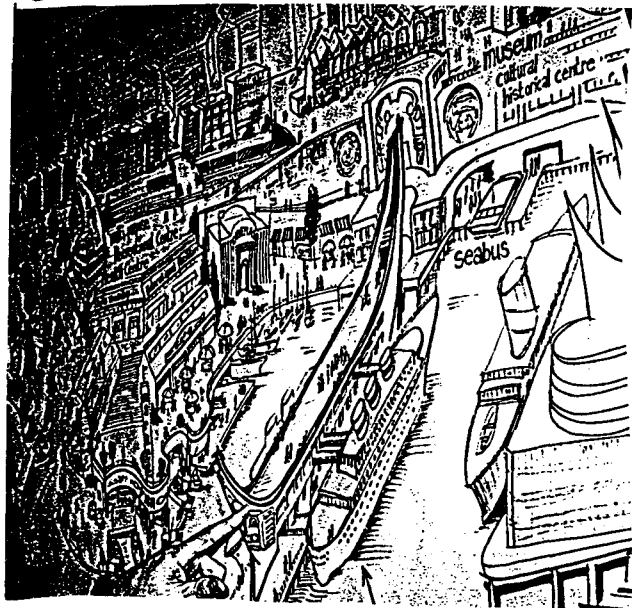


**Monday, February 27, 1995**  
**Carnegie Art Gallery - 3rd floor**

**2-6 pm**

**Refreshments**

## OPEN HOUSE: FEBRUARY 27, 1995.



**PICTURE THIS:** a pedestrian overpass at Columbia Street designed in the shape of a Chinese dragon, linking the community with

- \* an extended CAB Park with protected marsh, tidal pools and more beach access
- \* community facilities which include a childcare centre, a swimming pool, ice rink, gym and more
- \* a public market with many small shops, some of which are cooperatively owned and run
- \* artists' spaces and places for public art (carvings, sculptures, etc.)
- \* an educational with skills training centre
- \* a First Nations Historical and Cultural Centre
- \* Vancouver History Complex with a library, archives, gallery, classrooms and theatres
- \* a Maritime Museum
- \* a cruise ship dock with a traditional Native long boat design

Are these concepts of professional architects and planners? NO WAY! They are just some of the creative ideas that people in the Downtown Eastside have had for transforming the central waterfront (from CRAB Park to the Seabus) into a public place for kids, families, friends and visitors.

On Monday, February 27, from 2-6pm, a number of large drawings will be displayed for the first time in the Carnegie Centre Gallery (3d floor) showing community alternatives for our waterfront. These colourful visuals are a definite contrast to the corporate mega-project mentality. They are also a product of neighbourhood workshops in hotels, community centres and other locations, where residents came up with ideas on what they wanted to see and what they think would work next to CRAB Park. An artist has turned these ideas into visions.

Now the Carnegie Community Action Project is inviting you to come in and have a look; to comment on what has been done and to share your ideas on what else is possible. With so many mega-projects putting so much pressure on the neighbourhood, it is important that we get together and talk about alternatives. So, hope to see you on February 27th for some viewing, a little chatting and a few refreshments.

By JOHN SHAYLER

## A Tale of Two Buildings

A neighbourhood's greatest resource is its human population. It's the people who live there and struggle and carry on their lives and relate to each other who make it a community.

But the bricks and mortar count, too. People need safe and affordable places to live and public spaces in which to build their sense of community.

That's why what is happening to the buildings in the Downtown Eastside has to be of so much concern to the people who live here.

This is a tale of two buildings, and how their fate affects us all.

The two buildings are Woodward's, and 8 East Cordova.

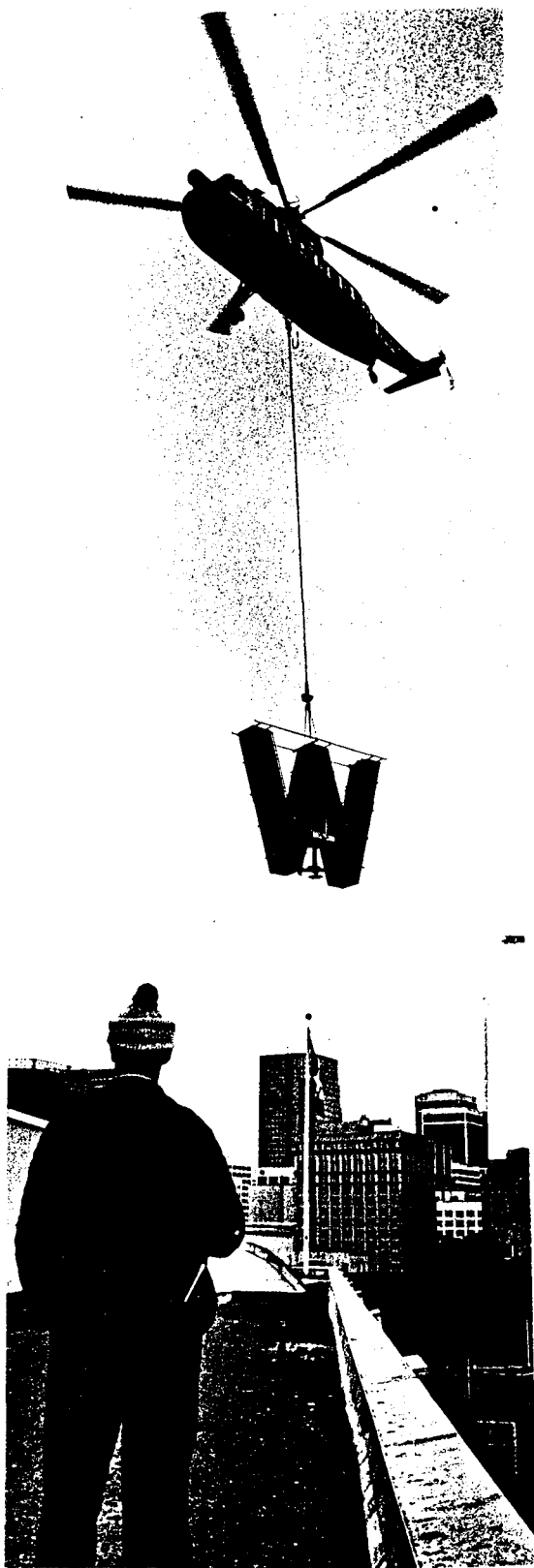
Everyone knows Woodward's, and the sad state it has fallen into. The block on which it languishes is a dead zone in the heart of our neighbourhood.

People are afraid to walk by; most of the stores are boarded up, the owners and speculators sitting on their property, waiting for the market to pick up so they can start making big money.

For years, the community has hoped to get hold of the Woodward's building and turn it into affordable housing and a centre for public services, an anchor for the community, connecting Victory Square to Hastings and Main, with 2,000 low-income people living in hotels around it and in desperate need of improved housing.

Developers see how strategic it is, too, but they have a different vision.

Fama Holdings Ltd. of West Vancouver is planning to tear this heart out, to replace it



with a glitzy condo project to be populated by 350 yuppies imported into the neighbourhood. Fama has \$20 million and an option to buy the building by March.

The developer's vision is to turn Abbott street into an upscale corridor connecting the rich condos of Concord Pacific (see the buildings under construction on Pender) to the funky condos of Gastown. The people who live on Abbott now in places like the Abbott Mansions face eviction as property values go up and the owners decide its time to cash in on the yuppie invasion.

That kind of displacement has already happened everywhere in North America where an inner city neighbourhood has been subjected to the process called revitalisation or gentrification. The older, poorer people lose their homes and find themselves on the street.

That's where 8 East Cordova comes in. Like Woodward's, it's not even built yet, but it's causing shock waves in the community.

You can see the development permit sign in the parking lot at the corner of Carrall and Cordova. The City and the Gastown business establishment look on this project as a pioneering venture to start rebuilding the

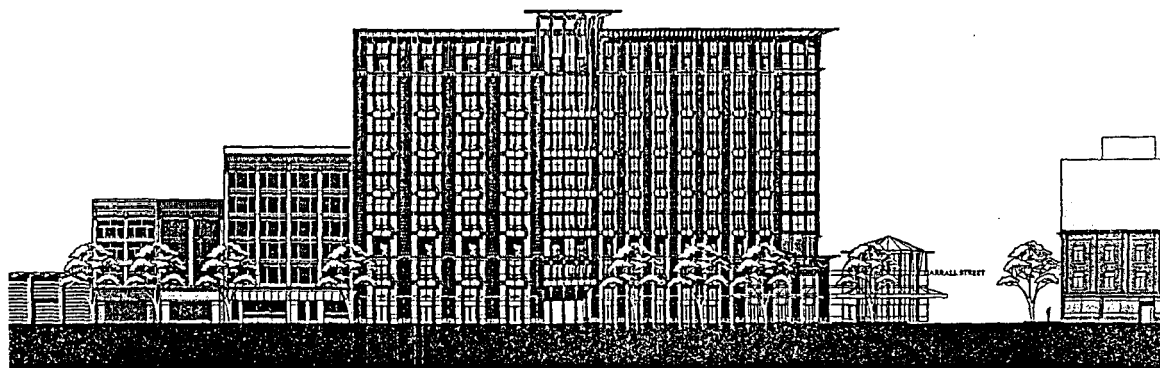
neighbourhood in a new, glitzier image.

Again, like Woodward's, where are the low income people to go who will inevitably be displaced? It's not the developer's business. He's just doing his own thing.

More such projects will follow. In fact, if you add up all the condo projects built, being built or under consideration (take a look at Alexander Street, opposite the Europe Hotel and the Four Sisters), it's something like 900 units. That's all in one year - more than the total number of social housing units built in the Downtown Eastside since Expo.

We've already lost 2,000 units of affordable housing since Expo due to demolitions and things like fires, and here's another chilling statistic:

During the 1980's, we were averaging about 180 units of new social housing in the Downtown Eastside each year, places like the Four Sisters, Tellier and Pendera (DERA Housing Society) and Jenny Pentland Place (First United Church Housing Society). In the nineties that figure has dropped to 88 units per year - half the rate, just when it was needed even more, mainly because Mulroney (and now Chretien) have taken Ottawa out of



Architects' Plan, 8 East Cordova

## "LOFTS on CARRALL"

PACIFIC CITY LAND CORP

PROJECT NUMBER 94003

CORDOVA STREET  
RUNNING ELEVATION  
SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"



Kaslan  
Kennedy  
Architecture  
Interior Design  
and Planning

AUGUST 1994

DP-20

the housing business.

If you want to know how bad it has gotten, just look at this year's round of social housing projects announced in January by the provincial government. There were co-op units for False Creek and for Arbutus, of all places, but nothing for the Downtown Eastside. Not for the bank building at Main and Hastings, not for the Bridge project for battered women, not for the Portland Hotel.

It's not good enough to say that condo projects should go ahead because the developer has figured out a way to make money out of them. Or that no one is being directly displaced by them. Or that they will be fun and groovy for the new urban swingers who will move into them.

We have to insist that projects show what tangible benefits they will bring to the community, the existing low-income community, the community that has fought to create a decent, stable neighbourhood.

That means every unit of affordable housing lost - directly or indirectly - must be replaced on a one-for-one basis, either by the developers or through social housing.

The alternative - people in the streets, our neighbourhood snatched away from us - is unthinkable.

By Ben E. Noir

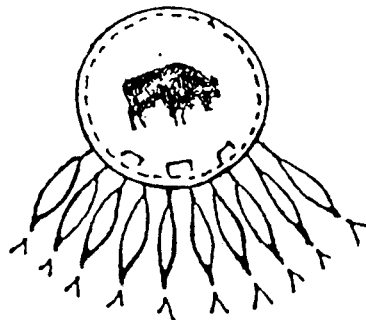
P.S.: The project at 8 East Cordova goes before city council's planning and environment committee on Thursday, February 16 at 3 pm, and before the development permit board on Monday, Feb. 27, at 3 pm. Anyone who wants to be heard on this issue should call the city clerk's office at 873-7276.

A relevant quote on the housing crisis -

5.

**"It's recognised by just about everyone in the Downtown Eastside that we have a housing crisis in this neighbourhood that's been going on for years -- and we need thousands more units of social housing in order to stabilise our neighbourhood."**

**Jim Green  
Carnegie Crescent, Oct.'85**



**FERRON  
IN CONCERT**  
JERMAN ROTHSTEIN THEA.  
EWISH COMMUNITY. CFT  
GENERAL ADMISSION  
PRICE (BST INCL) 18.15  
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TTC CHG 1.65  
SRV CHG 1.45  
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## **GAY and LESBIAN Drop-in**

**1st & 3rd Thursday of each month**

**3 - 5 p.m.**

**Pottery Room  
Carnegie Community Centre  
401 Main Street**

**Thursday, Feb. 16, we will show a video -  
"A Different Kind of Love"**

## Coming of Age

The world changed  
over tea and crumpets  
at an odd moment  
during the small hours  
of the morning

Sifting and shifting  
through time  
and other such curios  
on the banks  
of a blood red sea  
a collector's orgasm  
of antique thoughts  
and grand chivalry

The beat began to pulse  
through body and mind  
a million hearts in synch  
and no conflict  
except within the soul  
where could be heard  
the resonance of abuse  
Alas, alas a lone child weeps  
silent tears of age  
in memory  
of Old Mother Hubbard  
and the rhymes of youth  
as adolescence tackles  
the tattered remains of innocence

Miss Muffet became a whore  
the spider's now her pimp  
Jack Sprat, who ate no fat  
Shot his wife, the fucking blimp



Simple Simon and the pieman  
had the love affair from hell  
Whips and chains and razor blades  
S&M in a pastry shell  
Jack B. Nimble's time  
eventually came to pass  
When he tried to jump the candlestick  
and got it rammed right up his ass  
Little Jack Horner said "Fuck the corner"  
and blew his parents away  
He then fucked Bo Peep, murdered her sheep  
and we all dined on mutton that day

Mother Goose got old and loose  
and tried to run for congress  
But then her name went down in flames  
as a part of some preacher's love nest

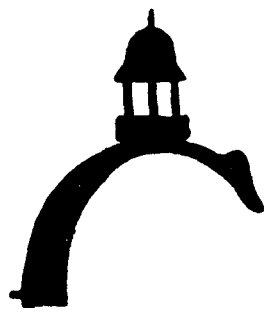
And in the midst of confusion  
no more tears were shed  
no more time to cry  
no less pain to feel  
as the senses are numbed  
And in the midst of confusion  
conformity set in  
habits developed  
marriage and divorce  
And children  
and alimony  
and child support  
And in the midst of confusion  
you came of age

CAIN

(from *The Slice*, Vol.6, No.3)



*"Now's the time to evict the  
cockroaches"*



The ten residents of the Downtown Eastside who had been hired on the People's Aid Program held their first public meeting to form a citizens' group on April 18, 1973.

In the words of Bruce Eriksen, "...about forty Skid Road residents held their first meeting... They were fed up with their daily diet and nightly diet of muggings, hold-ups and killings. The residents circulated a petition seeking stricter enforcement of the City's lodging house bylaws and provincial liquor laws as they applied to beer parlours and night clubs in the area." (Get Rid Of Poverty Profiteers, by Bruce Eriksen, 1978).

This was the beginning of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA), although the organisation was not registered as a non-profit society until August 29, 1973.

What these citizens insisted on receiving from City Hall was respect. As Harry O'Laskey said at the meeting, "Too many people think of the Skid Road area as being full of drunken bums and dope addicts. It isn't. Most of us are honest, and just looking for the right thing to do." Then he added, along with Bob Neumann, that one of the area's biggest needs was a recreation and social centre with facilities for all ages.

The forty residents who gathered together on April 18th were determined to act collectively as a citizens' organisation, "to bring about the changes necessary for improving the life of our community... and to expose and publicise the inadequacies we discover in the laws...that...are provided for us...to fight the indifference and the corruption we experience or become aware of..." (Get Rid Of Poverty Profiteers, Eriksen, 1978).

A letter from Bruce Eriksen and Calvin Sandborn of DERA, dated April 25, 1973, to Mayor Art Phillips and other dignitaries, sounded like a battle cry. When people who have been rendered silent begin to find their voice, it is apt to be shrill at first. Strong language, and strong action, are sometimes the only ways to be heard and seen when you've never been listened to before.

The letter said in part, "The people of Vancouver have heard enough talk from wealthy politicians and jingoistic bureaucrats about decent housing. Now's the time to evict the cockroaches and rats, to turn on the water at hotels where they turn it off at night, to restrain the landlords who give only 5 days notice of rental increases, to turn on the furnaces and light up the dark hallways. The new City Administration claims to be for people. We'll see."

Those who preyed on poor people with exploitive housing or corrupt beer parlours did not appreciate the actions of DERA or its moral crusader president, Bruce Eriksen. By the end of November, 1973, four beer parlours had been closed, two others were on probation, a dance hall license had been cancelled, and the hours of two cafes had been restricted.

It was about that time that the Vancouver Police informed Eriksen that someone had put out a \$500 contract on his life. They advised him to leave town, and Eriksen, taking the threat seriously, went to Victoria for a few days. Then he returned to Vancouver, and announced to the media that he would continue his work despite the threat. He said that if he were killed, he hoped that his death would help the people of the Downtown

Eastside build a better community.

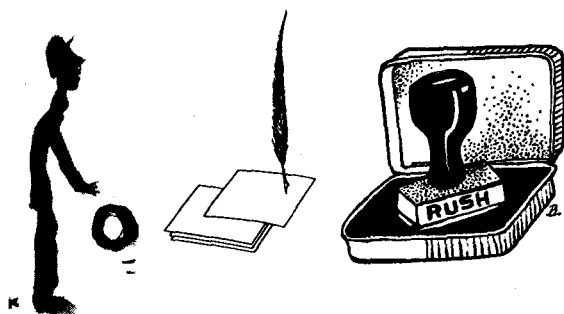
Eriksen was not playing the role of martyr in this incident. He simply knew himself well enough to know what he was prepared to die for. It was Gandhi who said that we can only be true to ourselves, and others, when we are able to commit ourselves, on selected occasions, to the death.

By SANDY CAMERON  
(to be continued)

## Housing Crisis

Old man  
alone  
in a basement room.  
You've outlived your time, you say.  
You hope that maybe sleep will come  
to soothe your loneliness.

It wasn't always so.  
You travelled in our country coast to coast.  
You built the bridges crossing mighty rivers,  
and logged the valleys of Vancouver Island.  
You sweated as a miner,  
and like a meteor you came to town  
shaken by the bleakness  
of the northern camps.



You found an old-time residence  
near Main and Hastings,  
and lived with friends  
until that cunning pack of money makers  
destroyed your home,  
not caring where you went.  
A few just died,  
and solved the housing problem in that way.  
Some left town.  
You wandered to a basement room  
alone.

I greet you, friend,  
and wait to hear the stories you have lived.  
Tell me our heritage  
that is not found in school books.  
Tell me of those who really built this nation.

Sandy Cameron





## FIRST NATIONS WOMEN

### *Choices for Staying Healthy in 1995*



Did you know there is a simple test that has saved many women's lives?

Women who are busy looking after their family and friends sometimes forget about looking after themselves. Many First Nations women say this is why they often put off taking care of themselves. One of the ways that women can take care of their health is to have a Pap test every year. The British Columbia Cancer Agency is working to find ways to help make it easier for First Nations women to get a Pap test done.

The Pap test is a way of checking for early changes in the cells of the cervix, which is the lower part of the uterus or womb. If changed cells are found, they can be treated long before they have a chance to turn into cancer.

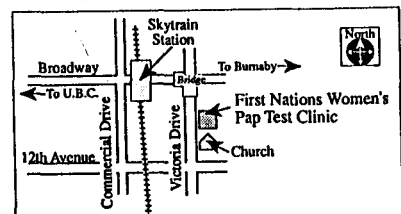
Once a woman starts having regular sexual intercourse, she can help look after her own health by having a yearly Pap test; even after she has stopped having her periods or having children.

To have a Pap test a woman has an internal exam. The person doing the test looks at the cervix and then gently wipes a few cells from it. This only takes a few minutes. The cells that have been gathered are put on a glass

slide and then sent to a laboratory to be checked. It takes a few weeks to get the Pap test results back.

Some women don't know about the Pap test or put off having one because they feel shy or don't know how important it is. If you or someone else you care about hasn't been for a Pap smear in the last year or two, now is a good time to go.

**There is a Pap test clinic just for First Nations women at 2160 Victoria Drive, near the Broadway Skytrain station. It is a free drop-in or by appointment clinic on the second Thursday of every month from 6pm -9pm. Call 254-9949 for information**



**Sponsored by:**

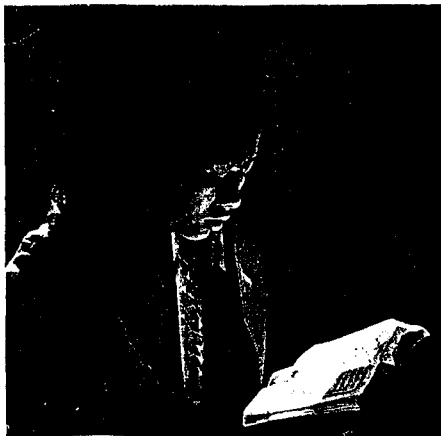
- the Vancouver Health Department;
- Women's Health Centre;
- B.C. Cancer Agency, Division of Epidemiology with Project funding from the B.C. Health Research Foundation; and,
- the Vancouver Native Health Society.

Rhea Joseph  
Project Coordinator

## MY SON

When first I learnt  
 You were to be  
 I gladly carried you  
 Beneath my heart  
 Your heart and my heart  
 beat as one  
 The whole nine months  
 You came to be  
 The pain that I endured  
 Overshadowed the happiness  
 I felt when first I  
 laid my eyes on you  
 I knew within my soul  
 That you would be a boy  
 An infant you became  
 then a towheaded little elf  
 Adolescence made you  
 Ready to be  
 The Man that you are NOW  
 Someone grown from within  
 The best that I KNEW How.

Eva Wincikaby



There's nothing in the Qu'ran – or in Islam – to support female genital mutilation.



## POETS TO THE INTERIOR

Music stand for the score  
 on Indian land  
 the sacred herb  
 the band, played 5 or 6 tunes  
 and in walked our man  
 with matters at hand  
 Give Sheila an amplifier  
 "You're crazy"  
 "No, lazy  
 ... and today is hazy"  
 Sunrise, where's the rest?  
 Way down deep inside I'm shallow  
 Time  
 to drive. I had the keys once before  
 fly on little redwing  
 caw on little blackbird,  
 big raven, little crow -  
 every little thing you're working on  
 I don't deserve this  
 backstrokes in a stink pot  
 hot water  
 "That would be 35  
 Years I am?  
 cents for the coffee?  
 bucks for you

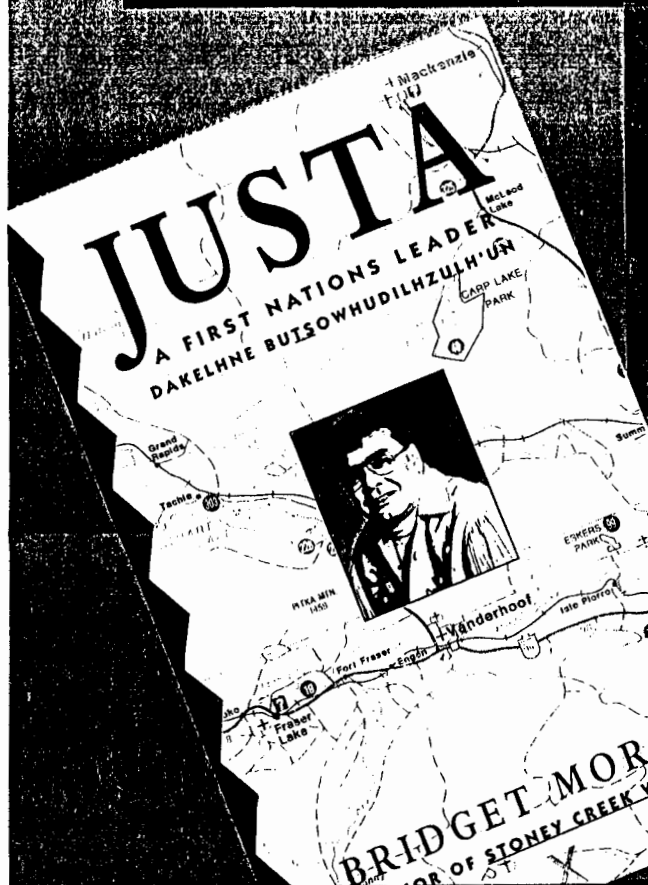
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I am 110  
 Abolish library fines forever  
 dumb dippy sticky things to do  
 in a Public House  
 Public place a stage act  
 Poetry Theatre for the well read  
 Poets to the Interior

Taum

The Vancouver Public Library Presents an Author Reading by...

# Bridget Moran



## MEET THE AUTHOR!

Tuesday  
February 21  
at 7:00 p.m.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY  
(held in the  
Learning Centre)  
401 Main St.

**BRIDGET MORAN** will talk about her new book, **JUSTA: A First Nations Leader**, which is the intimate portrait of the passionate and courageous life of Justa Monk. Raised amid a large, loving family on the Portage reservation in Central B.C., he eventually went to work in the sawmills, where he enjoyed a carefree life until, during an alcoholic blackout, he stabbed and killed his brother. A long and dark period of self-hatred ensued, but in time he was able to turn his life around, and ultimately he was elected as tribal chief, leading his people in their struggles for equality and the promise of a better future.

Bridget Moran is the author of three previous books: **Stoney Creek Woman**, **Judgement at Stoney Creek**, and **A Little Rebellion**. A retired social worker, she lives in Prince George, B.C.

We gratefully acknowledge the financial assistance of The Canada Council in presenting this program.

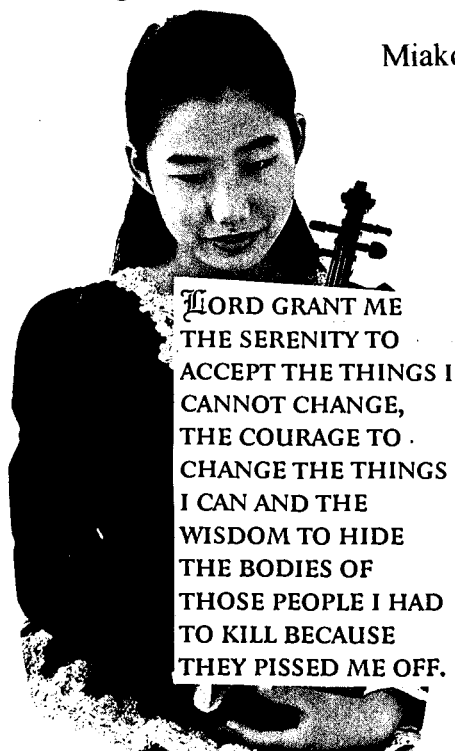
## Good Looking

I've got the only looker ever seen with  
Eyes so brown where grass grows to watch  
You could eyeball hills along the lake  
I'll give you sights untold in each sunset  
An Indian summer to gaze like you touch  
That's how peaceful will this vision make

How nice to holed the water in a trance  
A sidelook so shy here to swim along  
Sounds so good my willpower floats  
Across the lake waits a journey end

Overlooking the waves rushing after me  
My blood feels so pure like water blue  
I calmly skim by open mouth for shore  
The scene took away my breath forever see  
Watch from my brown eyes in joy so slow  
Gives one a good looking idea that's for sure

Miako



## MY LIFE

I'm down here again  
For reasons I don't know  
I cause my family pain  
for this drug called **BLOW**

Seems nothing else matters  
When I'm doing cocaine  
For my life is in shatters  
And I'm going insane

I'm down here on Hastings  
With a very good friend  
Our lives are just wastings  
Will this ever end?

But I've got to quit  
For this life is too fast  
I'm getting off this shit!  
And putting my faults in the past.

Maura Gowans

## ANOMIE OF VIRTUAL REALITY

The hundreds of people who live in the Four Sisters & the Alexander apartments live, virtually, across the street from a magnificent park along the moody waters of an Inlet.

Between their homes and the park is a high, wire mesh fence; a barrier that deters them from using the facility that many of them had a hand in bringing into being.

Now if they really feel a need to take some tranquillity in the park across the street, they can always walk up to the Main Street Overpass and hike up its hill of a sidewalk and walk down into the park.

After sitting on a log for awhile, they can make the same hike back home up the Overpass, being careful to avoid the condo owners' hounds who have been chauffeured over to run free and take a dump.

Most of us in the area are "able-bodied" and it won't exactly kill us to climb the Overpass, but we know damned well that when some kind rebel used to periodically cut a walkway thru the fence, the park was used by much more people, and thus, it had a more secure atmosphere.

As it now stands, there's a feeling of being trapped in the park, knowing that if there's any trouble the Overpass stands between you and safety.

The easement of the area residents' access to the park has been robbed away from them by that spirit-killing chain wall.

Why is the fence there?

The only legitimate reason for its existence is to prevent the odd drunk or junkie from passing out on the train tracks at night.

Without the fence, during daylight 13. hours, the tracks are as safe to cross as they had been for the many decades before the park ~~was~~ created.

Bearing the last two sentences in mind, a PROPOSAL must be made to the City and the owners of the fence, that would create an Access Gate thru the fence, either across from the Alexander apts or between the Alexander Seafood Cafe and Columbia Street;

The 10 foot long Gate will be on hinges. A list of volunteers from the area will be selected to be responsible for unlocking the Gate after sunrise, and then locking it up just before sun-down.

If this proposal did not happen to receive a cooperative response from the offenders, there would remain two alternatives:

1. pay for, and install the Gate ourselves
2. pay for a lawyer to take the offenders to court.

Remember, gates are intended to keep people out. This is our neighborhood and that park is intended for much more than just being looked at, thru another suppressive corporate fence.

Garry Gust



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# ALL REAL NEWS

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According to the forgotten Pop guru, Marshal McLuhan, people don't just read newspapers, they take a bath in them... a long hot soak in a media tub every morning. Actually, considering the industrialised nature of our media landscape, we might be more like walking barefoot on a bed of hot coals. A friend described my writing style as "rambling sadism" & how true it is.. or maybe 'rambling paranoia'; in any case we all witnessed a bird landing on the Pope's head last week &, out of context, Chretien (French for "Christian") said: "Everybody want to go to heaven... but nobody want to die." Speaking of strange out-of-context quotes, how about Lloyd Axworthy's "We believe that it is possible to walk & chew gum at the same time"... an obscure analogy, somehow related to the debt crisis.

Clinton wants to tax Canadians entering the States; \$3 for a car & \$1.50 for pedestrians. Then, of course, we could tax them back from our side & this would escalate to the point where nobody could afford to cross the border & we'd all just stay where are, which would be nice for a change.

It's National Eating Disorder Week, in case you didn't notice. 10% of Canadian women & men have Bulimia-Anorexia symptoms & the explanation they say is that they've been brainwashed by the media blitz to hate their bodys because they aren't perfect! What's going on here anyway?

A snowstorm on the east coast is being called "the Siberian Express" & a 2 second TV flash of an Ottawa woman appears & she says "We should make Canadian cars that

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start in Canadian winters." Of course we haven't had any winters here on the west coast since I was a kid. I remember skating on Lost Lagoon & you probably remember it too.

Student fees are going to double but only 10% complained & the same 200 gun owners staged anti-gun-law rallys all across Canada while the middle class & rich are trying to have a tax revolt. All somewhat confusing but perfectly consistent with our media bath/bed of hot coals analogy.

At the BC Home Show they showed an electric toilet that won't flush until you put the seat down, obviously invented by a woman. Also at the Home Show last week, "Shabby Chic" - that's right, worn cushions are back in style, and Downtown Eastside furniture is fashionable again. We "get the most for the least" & don't even have to call long distance to do it.

Since hockey's back on, a lot of people have sports for brains. It's "Game ON" in Canada, the land of cheese with mice for tourists & everybody gets pecked to death by ducks. An "expert" retailer on the 6 o'clock news in-



forms us that people choose bright colours when they feel financially secure & Herb Doman says in court that he didn't tip Bennett (R.J.) in his stock promotion, even though the phonecall is on record & the investigating lawyer called him a liar under oath. Can you believe Herb was asked to be Governor General twice by former BC Governments? It makes sense to me, just the News is "making your world make sense."

Mac-Blo pickets were incarcerated last week but they're probably out by now, & BC's Assistant Deputy Forest Minister has identified a new ecological threat. She says we're having a "Cutting Permit drought." Because of this drought the cutting permits aren't falling fast enough on BC's forests, causing the sawmills to dry up. In space the shuttle is trying to get together with the space station, but frozen nitrogen tetroxide (rocket fuel) is leaking from the shuttle & chunks of it are spinning through space threatening to damage the Russian technology. The shuttle captain said he'd reach out & shake hands with the Russian captain on his next pass & then "together we will lead the world into the next millennium."

Back on the ground Russians are illegally detaining & mistreating large numbers of military age Chechens, in camps built for that purpose outside Grozny. There are reports of beatings, threats of execution, & suffocation

during transport.

In Vancouver, Asian kids are threatening to kill other Asian kids' parents & burn down their houses if they don't fork over \$12,000.

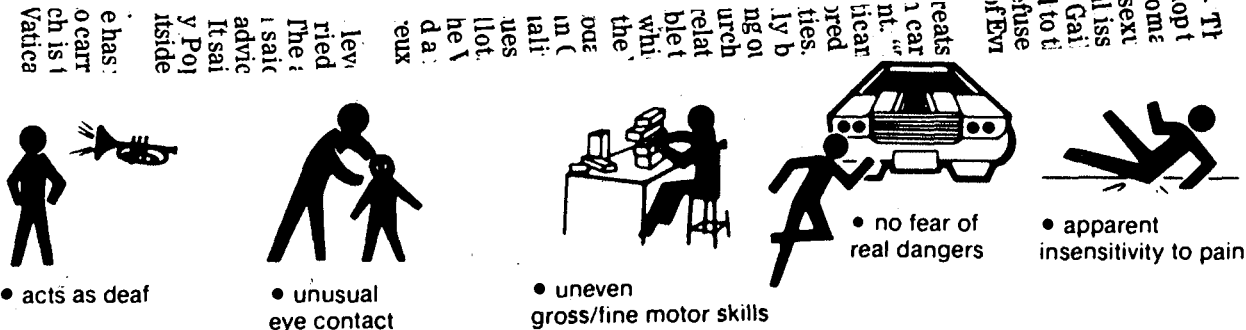
In Pakistan, the Shiite Muslims are machine-gunning the Sunni Muslims in drive-by shootings & the President of Canadian Tire was shot twice in the back by his wife.

There's floods in Europe, storms on the east coast & the earthquake in Japan & yesterday

was Valentine's Day, so you can order your "Heart Smart Choices Guide" right out of the newspaper, where it says they "can show you how to Make Heart Month Last a Lifetime."

...actually they want your money, if you have any, & if you don't have any remember about 150,000 Chechens are living in ruined cellars with no water, lights, heat or food at this very moment.

Meanwhile, Canada's debt is what? 600 billion? & they just keep adding zeroes & nobody's got the jam to pull the plug on the debt clock, but they're dog sledding for cancer research - "Mushing for Miracles" it's called, & in Washington they have a Christian weight-loss program where you can "Pray Away Pounds." In Vancouver, City Hall is going ahead with corporate sponsorship, so we'll have lots more General Motors theatres. "Sex With Sue" is a new X-rated radio show for teenagers where she attempts to answer questions like "What can I do when I want to



it all the time?" & "Should I let my girlfriend hang me from the ceiling?"

Diana is suing the London tabloids for taking pictures of her exercising on a machine, & the Fraser Valley Library Board changed the rules recently making free publications conform to "community standards" - in other words they got rid of the gay-lesbian newspaper, but not quite, because someone pointed out this violates the "Charter of Rights & Freedoms" they have posted on their wall... Now, they suggest "placing it up high so children can't see it" ...the newspaper, that is, not the Charter.

TORA



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**A popular argument against socialism is that if you were to divide up the money equally among everyone on Monday, by the time Wednesday rolls around, the money would be back to where it originally was.**

**George Orwell**  
(author of "1984")

**A popular argument against capitalism is that the benefits accrue to an increasingly smaller number of individuals whose greed knows no conscience, passing the buck being apropos only of non-valuable intangibles like responsibility, accountability and honesty.**

PRT

It is our contention that you have lost your vision in a rat's maze of bureau's, categories, pigeonholes, departments, by-laws, corporations (numbered or otherwise) and tax dodges to the point where a coherent rational overview of the action necessary to come to grips with our problems is seriously impaired.

You may have noticed that I haven't even mentioned politics - who's left versus right, bogus competitiveness and two dimensional worldview - it's in danger of foundering.

It has occurred to many of us that divide and conquer bears a striking resemblance to separate and confuse. At that point Babylon becomes real. The loudest opinion takes the day but opinions are like assholes - everyone has one;; ah for the fresh breath of consensus

to kill Louis Farrakhan is a "violent racist" who we





• stand-offish manner



• inappropriate laughing or giggling



• crying tantrums  
extreme distress for no discernible reason

## DRIFTS

say there is this person at the edge  
of a snowy field, arms outstretched  
falling. at a kitchen table, someone leans  
forward to the window, straining  
to recall a similar occasion

there is a dying elm in midafternoon light  
50 yards from the road. you see it  
you'd like to be near it, to touch it  
but the drifts are so deep  
it would take forever to get there

slowly, breathing monoxide, a car  
passes behind you. "how far  
would I get," you think  
"beneath that cold, white blanket?"

in bed, later, you dream  
a friendly woodcutter serves hot chocolate  
friendly, but you can't seem to turn  
your wet nose, your glittering teeth  
away from him

say there is this person at the edge  
of a snowy field, arms outstretched  
calling you by name, your sister!  
straining hopelessly your cold, dark limbs  
you are rooted to the spot, frozen

there is deep snow in every direction  
and 50 yards of forever  
between you and anything, I tell you  
and always, at the edge of the drifts  
there is a car, somewhere, slowing down  
breathing monoxide

I saw for you some apples that were left in  
the dirt, where the old prison once stood.  
They had rolled down a small slope and were  
resting against a section of rusted metal pipe.

Like an apple you carry through your world  
until, sometimes, you are alone (so we  
imagine), your laughter is unmuffled and  
bright as the eyes of a child. Even the ocean's  
cold mouth, opening like grey eternity, wide  
and blank, or sleep's black ink blot spreading,  
might not silence your person-sized joy.

And partaking of all accord or discord,  
which fashions us apart or together, you wear  
your apples and musicks and contingencies,  
your markets and herbs and necessities in  
unconstructed willingness to be swayed,  
emotionally and physically, through this  
conjuring, slightly. But something holds fast,  
some antecedent content, some rooted,  
anchored passion, some unnamed confidence.  
Of which we are probably jealous. Of which  
we do not often partake.

If there is anything you do not see, it is how  
a life might come unmoored in darkness, and  
the sun find it adrift, beyond all fathoming.

Two songs, then; one the song of apples, the  
other of sirens. Perhaps the same tune, after  
all, but sung so differently.

At noon on the endless beach, in the light of  
that great campfire, when darkness is pushed  
back far beyond the forests, the shining of our  
eyes must be incredible to each other.

By DAN FEENEY



• indicates needs  
by gesture



• resists normal  
teaching methods



• resists  
change in  
routine

Dan Feeny

To commemorate our sisters who died of Violent Deaths and Drug Overdoses in the Downtown Eastside and throughout Vancouver.

This march is a pathway to Healing the Community.

*SOME OF THE WOMEN KILLED IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE.*



Tracy Lyn Hope	Charlene Kerr	Debbie Kennedy
Gloria Duneult (Sam)	Cheryl Ann Joe	Brenda George
Dawn Ritchie	Laverna Avivgan	Debbie Neeslose
Loran Carpenter	Jennifer Pete	Verna Lyons
Sandra Flamond	Bobbie Lincoln	Donna
Sadie Chartrand	Shirley Nix	Lisa Leo
Marth Garvin	Gertrude Copegog	?? Anderson
Wendy Poole	Christine Billy	Sheila Hunt
Rose Peters	Jerry Ferguson	Ruby Williams
Barbara Larocque	Holly Cochrane	Cindy Williams
Christine (Chrissie)	Mary James	Ray Arrance
Terry Lynn	Debbie McMath	Lorna George
Vernonica Harry	Monika Lillmeier	Elsie Tomma
Patricia Andrew	Patricia Thomas	Nya Robalard
Mary Johns	Barbara Paul	Diane Lancaster
Carrie Ann Starr	Mary Johnson	Rose Merasty
Lorna Jones	Lois Mackie	Carol Davie
Lorrain Arrance	Nancy Jane Bob	Peggy Snow
Janice Saul	Margaret Vedan	Janet Basil
Leanne Scholtz	Donna Rose Kiss	Stony
Laurie Scholtz	Karen Ann Baker	Jenny Lea Waters
Darlinda Ritchey	Sharon Arrance	E. Nelson (Linda)
Julie Mai Smith	Pauline Johnson	Maxine Paull
Chantal Venne	Maria Fergeuson	Annie Cedar Jr.
Patricia Ann Wadhams (Trish)	Amanda Pauline Flett (Mandy)	
Maureen Riding-at the Door	Bernadine Standingready	
Luanne Stolarchuk (Bonnie)	Marjorie Susan Pironen + (Sally Jackson)	
Dora Joseph Patrick + (Tanya Wallace)	there are more who were unidentified according to some records.	

**February 14**

# **CANADIAN CENTRE FOR POLICE-RACE RELATIONS (C.C.P.R.R.)**

The Canadian Centre for Police-Race Relations is a national resource centre that was established to advance, and promote, mutual respect and understanding between police officers and the Visible Minority, and Aboriginal Communities that they serve.

The purpose of this community Consultation is to:

- ⇒ introduce the CCPRR to you so that you have an understanding of how we conduct business
- ⇒ solicit your input, comments and ideas regarding Police-Race relations both from a National and a local perspective
- ⇒ utilize this meeting to ensure that all of the Vancouver stakeholders (including Visible Minority/Aboriginal Communities, Police Services, Academics, and Bureaucrats) are represented and have an opportunity to directly or indirectly interact with us.

This consultation is not intended to address the political dimension of Police-Race Relations, but rather it is to focus on the practical applications of strategies, practice and theory of anti-racist policing from a Community Policing perspective.

**2:00pm - 5:00pm Aboriginal Community  
(2:00-3:00 Community Viewpoint)  
(3:30-5:00 Police & Community)  
Place: CARNEGIE CENTRE  
Date: 2 March 1995**

As a conclusion to the event, we will host refreshments in order to meet as many of you as possible. We certainly look forward to seeing you at the Consultation. Should you have any questions regarding it, please feel free to contact Barry Thomas or John Spice at 1-800-461-1123.

## LEARNING CENTRE ACTIVITY

The Learning Centre is so busy it's hard to find space to tutor a class or have small meetings. The art gallery has a display of photos and people are walking around looking at them. There are tutors with groups in there, as well as office workers compiling papers.

The group I am meeting with at a long table in the gallery is having a discussion on *Off The Wall*. We are about to publish the magazine again. This discussion concerns the front



cover. Several people from the English Can Be Fun class and the Drop-In are going to use their bodies to form the letters of OFF THE WALL, then have their pictures taken.

Original or what!

The contortions they are going through during rehearsals are something to see, and people stare. Hey, we need some backrub here

There is a small tutored class in the back room Foyer and a French class next to the elevator and someone else at a second table by the elevator filling in a form for enrollment

into the Learning Centre's Drop-In classroom. Little discussions are being held next to the typewriter, where *Off The Wall* bookkeeping is the main issue (who sent what and do they need a receipt?). In one corner of the gallery a letter is being compiled before being taken into the busy computer room to be printed.

Trevor, who is very knowledgeable in computer programming, is using the large Pagemaker computer which occupies twice the usual space in the computer room so people are lining up to get past it to use ordinary computers. He has set the English Can Be Fun, Drop-In classroom stories and articles, as well as other writings and poems into columns in the machine and will be adding photo's by Dan, Rika and others shortly.

There are several students and staff in the Drop-In, and each have their conversations over lessons. It's not visible but the flu bug has hit a lot of the regular members, staff and students.

The Carnegie Centre office is busy with a variety of things and people come and go in there. A backlog of people waiting to get into the office is at one side of the Gallery, and will soon disperse.

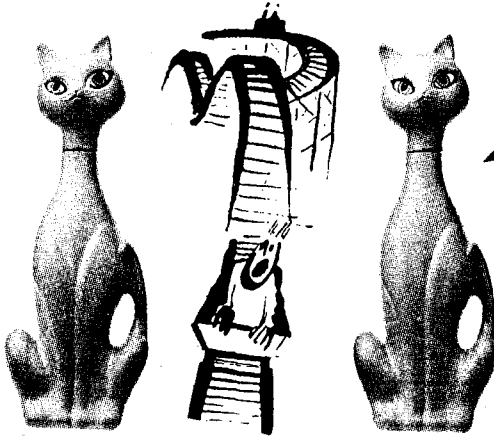
The hectic atmosphere is not always present, but when a new person appears on the scene they usually see a busy place with a lot happening.



By DORA SANDERS



## *A life in the life of..*



"Let me see some of your writings, Larry," R---asks me, as I get ready to leave after a pleasant evening of diner and coffee.

"I'm not in the mood," I reply. "Besides, a holiday is in order before any serious writing on my part is attempted."

I can easily have a 1500 page book out in a month's time. All I need is a little R&R, and some decent food. I know what I am capable of. The one thing I don't lack is trust and confidence in myself. Even though I have gone through the psychiatric windmill a number of years ago, I have certainly let go of it. (i.e. not struggling with it anymore). Although, I am still stuck on the "Skid" financially, that is.

"Why weren't you at work last Sunday?" I ask R---. "I was hoping to see you."

"I wasn't in the mood," she responds.

I just look at her with a knowing smile. She's had a rough go of it with her family and the psychiatrists, as well.

Our so-called highly educated (and paid, too!) doctors look towards medication and textbooks for answers to people's ills today, as they have done in the past. What do psychiatrists know about mood swings, anyway?

Ninety percent of people go through the post-Xmas blues. The whole economy goes flat after this festive occasion ... massive lay-offs in the workforce, slowdowns in all restaurants, depressed people, etc. Now that's mood swing on a global scale.

"Did you have a nice snooze?" S--- asks me as I come down from the second floor of the Kettle, a local mental health drop-in.

"Yeah, sure," I say to him.

'Time to get the fuck out of this place,' I think to myself, as I mosey on up Commercial Drive. I was looking for a nice spot to pan (beg) for the day. As it turned out I did make enough for a pack of ciggies. I still had to go to a soup line that night for dinner. Oh well.

People wonder why I don't have enough energy to go to work. They have never eaten where I have. They wouldn't want to. Believe me, it takes a lot of energy to stand in these soup lines, and to pan. Especially if you do not want to be doing it. Get the picture?

I run into the woman who runs the Tuesday night cabaret at the Carnegie Centre...

"Hi, Larry," she greets me cheerily. "I'll buy you a coffee at Joe's cafe."

Right on, I smile. We talk a little while. She half-heartedly scolds me for standing up for her and the other patrons last Tuesday night as a musical group tried to take over the event with their very loud music.

"You're going to have this cabaret shut down!" I yell at him.

"Yeah?" he shouts back. "Well fuck you too." I didn't move (stand down). Security was called in. R--- locks herself in the control room. Everybody left in a sour mood.

Larry Mousseau

## TENANCY ACT

ROBERT SARTI

Vancouver Sun

As of today, B.C. landlords who want a big rent increase now must prove they need the money — and in writing.

Bill 50, the Residential Tenancy Amendment Act, sets up an arbitration system to review disputed rent increases and to keep most of them in the two-per-cent range under current market conditions.

Housing Minister Joan Smallwood said Friday that landlords will be able to levy larger increases only if they can prove their costs are higher than the average.

"These changes are aimed at people who do not act responsibly or who abuse the rights of others," said Smallwood in announcing proclamation of Bill 50.

"For landlords and tenants who have always treated each other fairly, it will be business as usual."

Under the new system, annual rent increases will be based on the landlord's increase in operating costs, such as fuel and utilities; the increase in capital expenditures, like major repairs or new equipment; and a "market adjustment" to reflect vacancy and interest rates, land price changes and other conditions.

The market adjustment factor will be set every six months by cabinet order, after ministry officials report on changes in market conditions.

Speculators who buy an apartment block and try to raise the rents to cover their interest charges without making improvements will not be allowed to do so, said Smallwood.

Large but temporary increases in interest rates or other costs will be smoothed out over several years by the formula so a tenant won't be hit with a big jump in rent, she said.

Rent increases are averaging about two per cent a year now across B.C., and ministry officials expect the provincial formula will continue that trend.

## Landlords have to justify rent increases, in writing

From now on, a landlord who wants to raise the rent must submit a notice in writing to the tenant, stating the reasons why. The tenant has 30 days to object, and to pay a fee of \$35 to call in an arbitrator from the residential tenancy branch.

If discussion fails, the arbitrator will make a decision on whether the increase is justified. The decision cannot be appealed.

A similar system in Quebec has resulted in about one per cent of rent increases being rejected.

When it was introduced last spring, Bill 50 was roundly denounced by landlord groups and opposition parties as a back-door form of rent control.

Smallwood said the new system, unlike rent control, imposes no overall cap on increases.

"The system is market sensitive, and relates to the situation of each individual landlord," she said.

"For the first time since the abolition of the rentalsman 15 years ago, tenants have the right to approach a third party to deal with exorbitant rent increases."

Smallwood also announced expansion of branch services, with new offices already open in Vancouver, Surrey and Kelowna, and offices to open this spring in Prince George, Nanaimo and Kamloops.

## Deeper cuts

By RANDY SHORE

Editor

Local anti-poverty groups want to blow the whistle on further attacks on the country's social housing programs, but they may already be too late.

A coalition of local groups including Tenants' Rights Action Coalition, the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association and End Legislated Poverty, are outraged by suggestions in a paper titled The Savings Matrix to sell projects on expensive real estate, raise rents and change the way income is calculated in setting rent subsidies.

With the federal commitment to social housing in the throes of a five-year freeze at the \$2 billion mark, the local coalition regards further erosion of that figure as a direct attack on poor tenants of social housing.

The freeze means no new social housing can be built at all, said TRAC spokesperson Linda Mix. About 7,000 new units were built in 1993 before the freeze, none since. There are waiting lists for existing units many of which are reserved for people who are very poor, elderly or disabled.

"It's very hard to get into subsidized housing," complained Mix, who is also concerned by the working papers' use of "outdated" concepts like the deserving and undeserving poor and the idea that the free market can and will provide affordable rental housing.

Today's date \_\_\_\_\_

Hon. David C. Dingwall, Minister Responsible for  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
Room 607, Confederation Building  
House of Commons  
OTTAWA, Ontario. K1A 0A6

**POSTAGE FREE**

Dear Minister Dingwall:

I am greatly concerned to learn that Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) has consulted with fewer than 20 national organisations on cost-saving plans for public and cooperative housing that would affect many thousands of low income people in Canada.

I am alarmed that CMHC proposes to finance new social housing starts with savings that come at the expense of people who can least afford it - people presently living in public and social housing. If implemented, CMHC's drastic proposals would increase poverty and homelessness across the nation.

Among the many cost-saving measures contained in working papers prepared by CMHC, of greatest concern to me are proposals to:

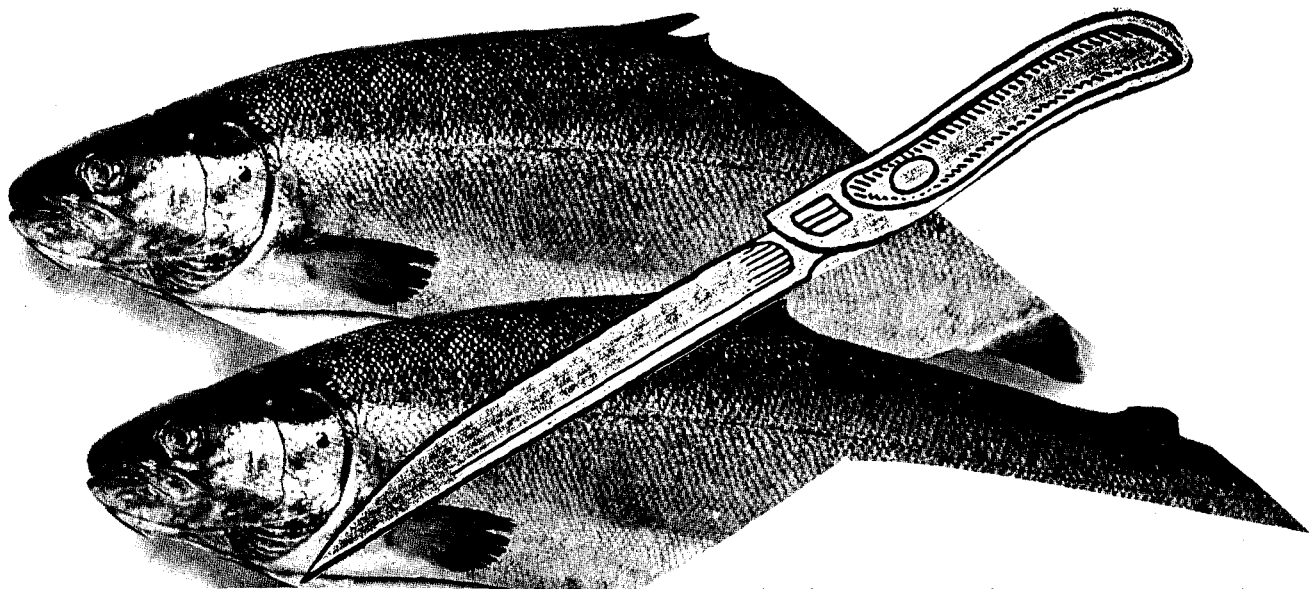
- Move away from targeting lowest income households
- Sell valuable land occupied by social housing to private developers
- Adjust social assistance rents to reflect other sources of income (child tax benefit? GST tax credit? child support payments?)
- Eliminate certain deductions from gross income (child support? daycare expenses?)
- Reduce current heating allowance
- Increase rents from 25% to 30% of income
- Charge residents for additional services (parking? cable TV?)
- Salary reductions in, and privatisation of, related housing services

I believe that Canada's credibility as a caring and compassionate nation would be at stake if the above cost-saving measures are implemented. I urge you to oppose them. Further to this, I strongly urge you to address the pressing need for affordable, secure, accessible and adequate housing for low income Canadians by increasing, rather than decreasing, public and social housing starts across the country now.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(name)  
(address,  
including  
postal code)



## Canada Assistance Plan

Many people I have talked do not understand anything about the Canada Assistance Plan.

The social rights created by the C.A.P. are:

1. The right to income when in need.
2. The right to an amount of income that takes into consideration basic requirements for food, shelter, clothing, , fuel, utilities and other basic or special needs based in the income and resources available to you.
3. The right to receive this income regardless of what province you are from.
4. The right to appeal decisions about social assistance that you disagree with and the right not to have to work or train to get social assistance.

In order to understand the Canada Assistance Plan better, we need to research the legal aspect and the constitution of this country. Abandoning national standards goes against the constitution.

The newspaper editorials show us that

whether it is Paul Martin or Lloyd Axworthy pulling the trigger, the end results are the same. In addition to denying us rights they are also giving the provinces less money and fewer standards.

At the present time there are strings attached to the transfer payments the provinces receive. When the Canada Assistance Plan is abolished the premiers do not have to spend money from transfer payments on social programs. They could use it for highways and mega-projects.

CAP has been part of the social fabric of Canada. Without it there would be even more drastic cuts to Unemployment Insurance and Social Assistance.,

Carnegie is partly funded by the Canada Assistance Plan and without it there would be fewer services and shorter hours for this community centre.

The numbers of homeless people in this country are certain to increase by leaps and bounds.

By IRENE SCHMIDT



# Looking at the Budget *Bull...*

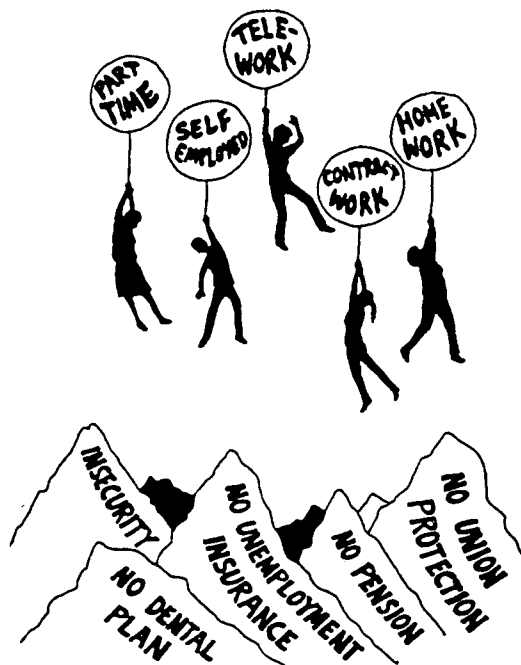
Tora has given a snapshot of the "Daily News" and it all makes sense.

Taking a snapshot of the economy is a rare feat, and most people only get the information presented on the "Daily News". The federal government and big business are still holding hands, in the relationship of idiot child and besotted parent, to get the following accepted:

- seniors' pensions reduced and the eligibility age increased to 67 (by threatening 70, then 'compromising')
- intellectual property laws to give drug companies a 20-year monopoly on medicines and increase profits by wiping out the generic drug manufacturers
- skyrocketing salaries of CEOs (Chief Executive Officers), dramatic increases in profits for multinationals and banks while jobs are lost, wages cut, massive lay-offs and over \$36 billion in deferred taxes
- "There Is No Alternative" (TINA) to cutting spending/slashing social programs/burning the social safety net - the only route possible according to the same CEOs and multinationals and banks who are benefiting from unfair taxes and carrying out the job cuts, firings, lay-offs and plant closures that have increased the need for improved social programs in the first place

Some basic facts about poverty in Canada:

- Poverty among **single-mothers** remains at an alarmingly high rate of near 60 percent;
- For all **unattached individuals**, the incidence of poverty is high - almost 34 percent of single men under age 65;
- Just over 61 percent of **unattached youth** under 25 are living in poverty;



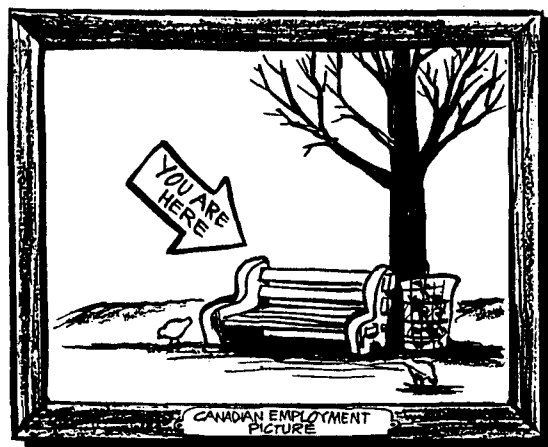
- More and more of the **young families** (where the head of the family is under 25) are living in poverty. The rate among this group is now 42 percent and has been climbing steadily;
- Because family poverty is high, many more **children** are poor. In 1993, 1.5 million kids were living below the poverty line, representing 21.3 percent of all Canadian children. Canada, the United States, and **New Zealand** (cheerfully applauded for its "economic miracle" which resulted in poverty increasing by leaps and bounds, not to mention drug abuse, teen suicide and emigration) have the highest rates of child poverty amongst all industrialised nations.
- The richest 5th of Canadians receive 46.7% of all income; the poorest 5th receive 3.3%.

These lowlights of the current situation are here just to give some context to an item on this morning's news: Paul Martin, the federal Finance Minister, had a closed meeting with the very CEOs and bank presidents referred to above. They were "asked" about increasing revenue for the government by such things as higher taxes for corporations, a wealth tax, an inheritance tax, interest on the billions in deferred taxes... They unanimously rejected all the proposals and "urged" Martin to get any money he needs by cutting social programs and civil service jobs.

A bill has been introduced by the Liberals called The Regulatory Efficiency Act. It exempts business from the law.

It allows for the "waiving" of any existing federal regulation, and its replacement with a "compliance agreement." This allows business to achieve regulatory goals "through alternatives to designed regulations." Simply put, whenever business comes up against a regulation it doesn't like, it can make up its own - it can be 'creative'...

The government rationale holds that this Act is an attack on the "undue regulatory burden" of "outmoded" regulations which, according to (scant) information, places an "unfair" burden on the business community.



Regulations could be struck down in the following areas (for example):

- food and drug laws, affecting food standards and the public's right to know what is in the food they eat and the medicinal products they use;
- the Fisheries Act, the main federal law regulating, among other things, the dumping of dangerous substances into oceans and our inland lakes and rivers;
- the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, which regulates, among other things, toxic chemicals and the introduction of new substances into the environment, such as bovine growth hormone, an inadequately studied biotechnology product designed to increase milk production when injected into cows;
- transportation safety laws; and
- federal laws governing workplace Health and Safety

The implications are that public interest advocates will potentially have to fight for environmental and other social gains all over again, on a one-by-one basis as business calls for one regulation after another to be replaced with "compliance agreements"

Areas already targetted, using the Regulatory Efficiency Act, include **biotechnology, food and therapeutic products, health, mining, automotive industry, forest products and aquaculture.**

*(What can be done?* Deluge federal MPs, including Sheila Copps as Minister of the

Environment, with demands that this Act be withdrawn immediately. Call your MP to demand the same. Write to Chretien, Treasury Board President Art Eggleton, and Minister of Industry John Manley (all at the House of Commons in Ottawa, all postage-free) and demand that, barring the Bill's withdrawal, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development hold hearings into the environmental implications of the Act, calling on those responsible for it to prove that it will not result in the above impacts.)

**Bill C-62 strikes at the very heart of Canadian Parliamentary Government.**

Funny that the Republican hacks now in Washington want precisely the same thing.



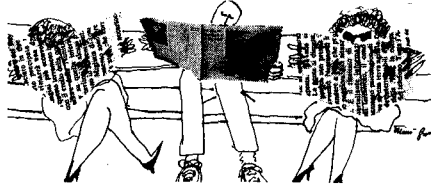
Who's competing with who?

By the way, the social security review, faced with such overwhelming rage and opposition from virtually every non-rich person in the country, is now being delivered through the back door. It remains politically impossible to get their destruction through, so it's all being left to the budget bull of Martin, parroting his masters with more and more TINA.

Now, boys and girls, does that make sense?

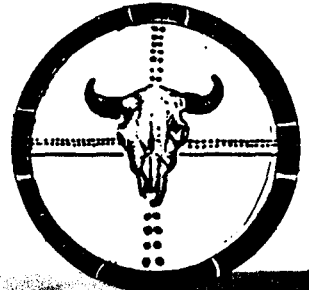
By PAULR TAYLOR

(Information in this article is from NAPO's (National Anti-Poverty Organization's) response to the federal 'discussion paper' on "Improving Social Security in Canada"; and -Canadian Environmental Law Association)



How could the International Monetary Fund force a country - like Canada - to pay its debt if that country's Government told it to go to hell? Whose army would the IMF use?

● From time to time the IMF allows its member states to draw foreign currency beyond their entitled limit of 200 per cent of that state's contribution to the Fund. If a country fails to perform its duties - including repayment of overdrawn money - the IMF may declare that it can no longer access the Fund money. The Fund does not actually 'force' repayment, but such a declaration makes it very difficult for the country to borrow from other - usually commercial - sources. Most countries need commercial loans and cannot afford loss of credibility by the IMF's rejection. This is why they are compelled not only to make repayments but to meet the IMF conditions, such as 'structural adjustment'.



Yutaka Kawasaki  
Perth, Australia

**DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY**

**STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday - Friday, 10am - 6pm.  
NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 9am - 8pm every day.  
Needle Exchange Van - on the street every night, 6pm-2am  
(except Mondays, 6pm-midnight)**

**1994 DONATIONS**

Paula R. -\$20  
Bruce J. -\$20  
Kettle FS -\$16  
Bill B. -\$16  
Lillian H. -\$50  
Etienne S. -\$40  
Adult LCC -\$12  
Carnegie LC -\$30  
Margi S. -\$5  
Anonymous -\$87.35  
Sonya S. -\$200

Charley B. -\$32 Bill S. -\$2  
Stuart M. -\$50 Sandy C. -\$20  
Nancy H. -\$20 Cecile C. -\$10  
Hazel M. -\$10 Law Library -\$20  
Joy T. -\$10 Lorne T. -\$50  
Diane M. -\$16 Mel L. -\$14  
Libby D. -\$45 Peggy G. -\$1.50  
CEEDS -\$50 A. Withers -\$20  
Sue H. -\$35

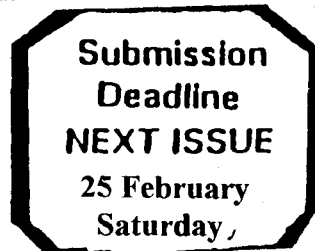
**Help in the Downtown Eastside (funding)**

Legal Services Society -\$930  
Ministry of Social Services -\$1,000



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CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

Articles represent the views of individual  
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# 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.**



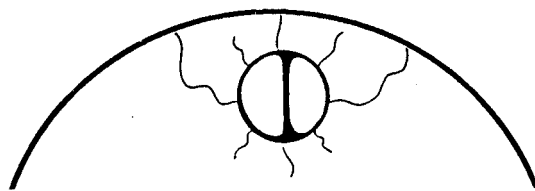
# W.A.N.D.

People with disabilities have equal rights to universally accessible services, security, self-determination, privacy and full participation in all aspects of community life enjoyed by all citizens.

Systemic barriers deny individuals with disabilities equal access to the personal, social and economic opportunities available to most people. Disabilities affect health and lifestyle. Common social attitudes, although they are changing, tend to treat individuals with disabilities with pity or resentment. They are often treated as charity cases, needing a hand-out and less capable than others.

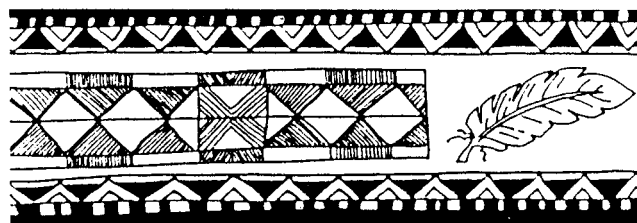
Aboriginal people with disabilities have unique needs. It is often assumed that they have never worked or paid taxes and that they've been lifelong burdens to taxpayers. In a brief presented to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples by the BC Aboriginal Network on Disability Society, the main message given was that Aboriginal people with disabilities be recognised and treated as part of society by all levels of government. Problems with housing were identified as a first priority.

We are living in difficult times. We, as Aboriginal people, have gone through some dramatic changes in the past decade. For all too many people, the prosperity of earlier decades has become little more than a memory. Those Aboriginal people who have moved to the urban areas of the province have suffered greatly as a result of the move that was supposed to improve their standard of living. There are many conditions that force these people to live in poverty. There are an



increasing number of Aboriginal people who are poor and they are getting poorer; their existence has become survival.

Aboriginal people are faced with chronic unemployment, inadequate housing and discrimination, but Aboriginal people with disabilities are among the hardest hit by poverty. A disproportionate number of individuals with disabilities live in poverty and must bear the extra costs associated with their disability.



The foregoing has provided a very brief background as to why W.A.N.D. Society was established. The founding members of the organisation were quick to recognise the needs of Aboriginal people with disabilities because they themselves are among the group so identified by today's society. It was recognised as well that there are agencies in place trying to meet the need but, as with everything else today, are understaffed, underfunded, and have suffered the cutbacks of both provincial and federal budgets.

W.A.N.D. founding members recognised the value of empowering one another, and of promoting empowerment within and outside

their organisation in relation to creating an awareness of Aboriginal people with disabilities. They see empowerment as a dynamic process, one in which individuals gain increasing control over their own lives. In order for this change to happen, it is necessary that funding agencies and community leaders give up some of their authority to front-line workers and those people receiving services.

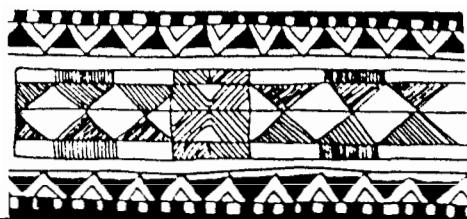
It is time to take a serious look at the current situation of these people in the downtown eastside core of Vancouver; specifically people with disabilities who are of Aboriginal descent. W.A.N.D. believes they are moving in the right direction to respond to the needs of this particular group. We are well aware of the difficulties and "problems" and would like to provide and be part of the solution.

We have identified a need for an information and drop-in centre for Aboriginal people with disabilities, a place where they will be

respected and become part of the solution to whatever "problem" they are experiencing.

There is much value in establishing such a centre. It would provide a place within the community that these citizens could identify with; it could also provide a social outlet. It could provide the environment and social structure that would encourage the building of positive attitudes, increase self confidence and self determination. As an information centre, it would provide a one-stop type of service for the consumers, rather than the run-around, being sent from one place to the next that happens now

Submitted by Fred Arrance



Painting as a Career



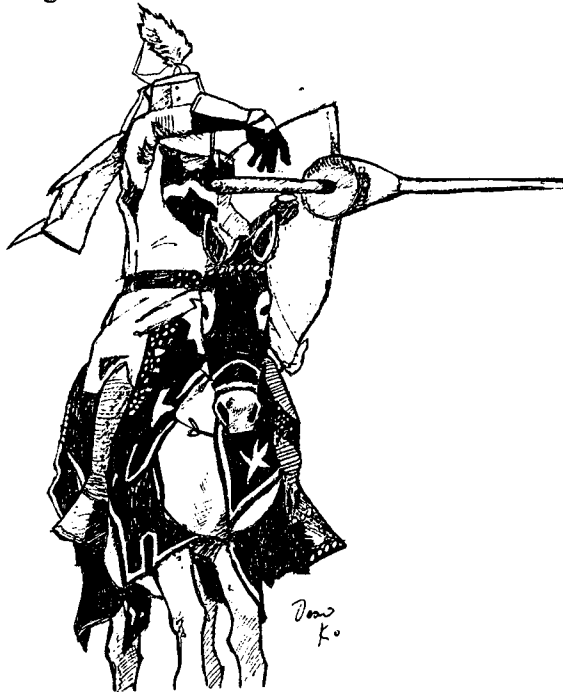
Poet's well run dry

## Zen Welfare - *A way of Life*

Have you ever had the feeling that others were criticising you not so much for who you are but rather for what you are not?

If one is aware enough, one can see the ubiquitous synchronicity that is the stuff of our daily existence.. And one can see as well that life is full of zen koans and zen mondos.

(A koan is a zen riddle in which the answer is nothing less than the realisation of Entire



Being. A mondo is a zen question and answer that is meditated upon as a guide to enlightenment.)

The media focus on recipients of GAIN in the downtown eastside is an indication of the true philosophical underpinnings of the people who are employed in mainstream (40 hrs/wk) occupations. Depictions of people in this neighbourhood are misrepresentational and underemphasize the courage of the

people who CHOOSE to live as a bohemian existentialist with poverty as a treasure. (Poverty is one thing money can't buy.)

The increasing numbers of bourgeois suburbanites down in this neighbourhood 'slumming' is indicative of the reality that more and more people are disillusioned with an insular life devoid of any dynamic street theatre in their suburban sprawl existence. (A result of poor city planning - e.g. in Surrey you may have to go 5 miles for a quart of milk!)

A life encumbered with the many tedious obligations of bills, property taxes, creditcard dunning letters and automobile expenses seems to have left many people tragically prosaic!

Welfare allows one to pursue the way of Zen Buddhist mendicancy. Buddhism talks of right occupation being one of the steps on the noble Eightfold Path. And often the best occupation is no occupation.

When one doesn't use certain muscles for awhile, they begin to atrophy; and I watch all these cars and within each one is a passenger(s) with legs getting increasingly flabby. The sit-down society's legs are no great shakes.

Too bad that most people, if given a choice between a challenging life on the rough side of town which brings a sense of 'street smarts', or the gilded pampered life of a tout, will choose the latter.

People who make over ten thousand dollars a year look down on GAIN recipients because we are visibly receiving a Provincial handout. But they are sucking the government tit even

harder. It's just that GAIN people are up front about it and they are hidden. (it's sort of like the difference between George Bush and Hitler. They were doing the same thing, it's just that Hitler was overt and Bush was covert)

Now they want to build condos, resulting in the loss of many low-income housing units?! The situational ethics of this pernicious proposal are a travesty. What a miscarriage of justice. what an abortion of justice.

20-30 years ago, the hippies promoted free love and mostly legalisation of pot when they became the establishment. But now many MPs, MLAs and Senators were hippies but pot still isn't legal.

Now the people my age, the so-called 'Generation X-ers' promote consciousness

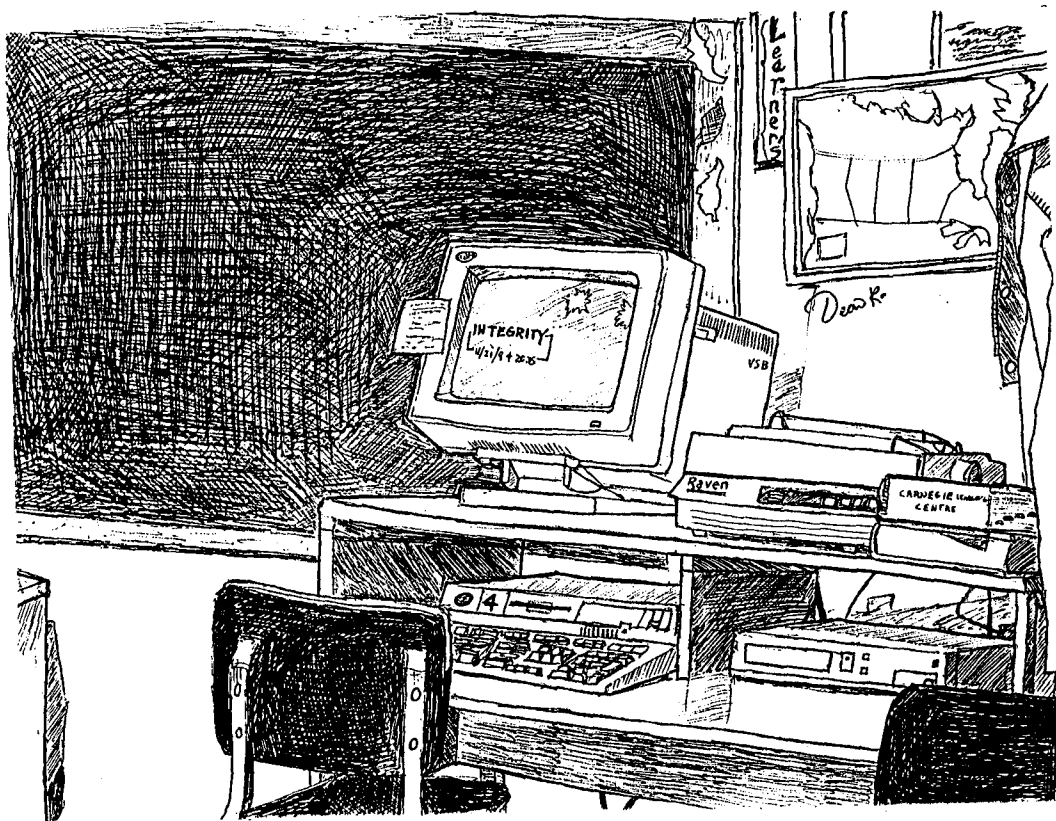
expansion, an emphasis on an artistic life, and we love pot!! But I am really skeptical that my peers, once they get into office, will legalise pot either. I have hardly any faith in people aged 20-30.

There are many people here, on welfare, who are artists, scientists, technicians, philosophers, musicians, poets, zen students, writers and existentialists. Sun and Province writers, take note!

That's all.

By DEAN KO

P.S.; Stats Can should recognise welfare as a legitimate occupation. It's the occupation-of-no-occupation, a Taoist-influenced lifestyle dedicated to the emancipation of all beings rather than to chase someone else's dollar.





## social work in harlem

harlem  
harlem

I didn't want to help you  
I wanted to be you  
I wanted to join the wine-soaked mother slumped in front of your tenement  
I wanted to smoke the marijuana growing wild in central park  
I wanted to burn-out in your streets  
like the riot fires blackening your skies  
burning down the neighbourhoods inside me  
neighbourhoods of hidden misery and bitterness

harlem

I wanted to fix with your children in burned-out tenements  
I wanted to be sucked-off by your whores  
I wanted to be everything the role I was playing opposed  
I wanted to be passed-out

left alone

with rage and fear and uselessness

harlem

I wanted a ticket to your oblivion

harlem

harlem

harlem

I returned to you  
on midnight december deep-freeze subways  
junk sick  
pacing shadows  
waiting for the connection  
blowing on my hands  
avoiding prowl cars  
buying heroin and guzzling gin with your pushers  
your friends

harlem

I am your friend  
selling junk to junk-sick junkies  
your brothers  
harlem



on your siren-overdosed streets  
hours and hours on your bleeding sidewalks  
harlem  
sick and cold and turning blue  
feeling proud of myself

help people get eye-glasses?  
get them straightened-out with welfare?  
get them false teeth?  
carfare?  
school lunch money?  
drag winos to detox?  
shit

I wanted to share bottles with the goddamned winos  
the very same day I was meeting the people and saying  
how terrible!  
must do something!

must clean up the block!  
I was craving saturation in the horrors of the block  
harlem  
I wanted to race into central park after dark  
I wanted to be eaten alive in there  
I wanted to drink skeletons out of your eyes  
harlem  
I wanted to mainline your grave-light



one summer afternoon in harlem I came upon an attack dog being trained a german shepard  
forced into a steel mesh cage the cage designed so the dog could neither stand up nor lay  
down the dog cramped wedged in there snarling at everyone walking past burning up  
and growling at everything thirsty and deprived of water hungry and made hungrier  
baking in the hot sun and at night the dog was turned loose in a tenement under renovation  
to protect building supplies the dog an evil epiphany of my soul

I never saw your beauty  
harlem  
never saw your strength  
harlem  
never saw your faith  
harlem

I saw only myself  
 I suffered only for myself  
 harlem  
 forgive me  
 harlem  
 please forgive me

east harlem,n.y.,1967 - vancouver,b.c,1995

**BUD OSBORN**



• adverse to  
cuddling



• sustained  
odd play



• difficulty in  
mixing with other children



• spins objects



• inappropriate  
attachments to  
objects

## BEING POLITICALLY CORRECT IN THE 90'S:

### A "NO-NO"

Bald  
 Shoplifter  
 Laid Off Work  
 Fat  
 Drunk  
 Body Odour  
 Fired

Corsage  
 Dirty Old Man  
 Boring  
 Herpes  
 Ugly

Termination of Employment      Outplacement

Short

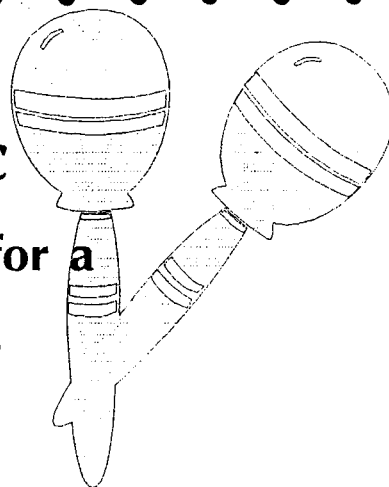
Book/Newspaper

### "TOTALLY CORRECT-A-MUNDO"

Hair Disadvantaged  
 Nontraditional Shopper  
 Indefinitely Idle  
 Size-Friendly  
 Sobriety-Deprived  
 Nondiscretionary Fragrance  
 Presented With A Career-Change Opportunity  
 Botanical Companion  
 Sexually Focused Chronologically Gifted Individual  
 Charm-Free  
 His 'n' Herpes  
 Cosmetically Different  
 Vertically Challenged  
 Processed Tree Carcass



# **G**ood music ood food for a ood cause



Join us for a unique evening of Latin American  
food, music and theatre  
with Special Guest Speakers from the  
*Centre for Popular Education and Communication in  
Nicaragua (CANTERA)*

A fundraising event to support CANTERA and their work with  
community organizing projects in Nicaragua.

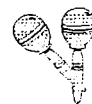


**Thursday February 23rd, 1995 6:30pm**

Collingwood United Church 3215 School Ave. (near Joyce and Kingsway)

Tickets: \$15.00 fully employed • \$12.00 unemployed • \$5.00 children under 12 • \$25.00 families  
available at Co-op Books and Café Quetzal

for more information call 879-7216



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