

FREE - donations accepted.

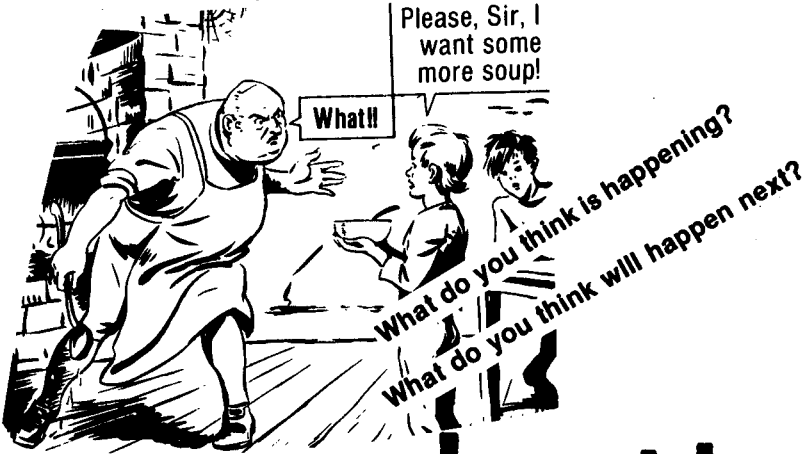
Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 15, 1995.



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



Welfare changes brought in and planned by the NDP government in 1995

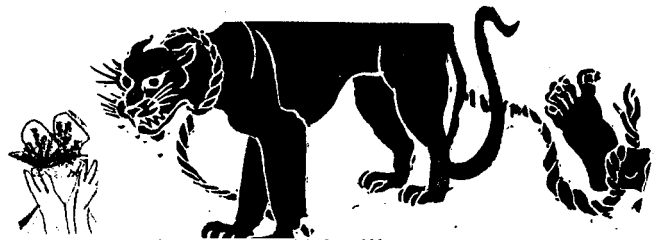
Changes announced in the last 6 months

Crisis grants: Effective August 4th it will be much harder for people on welfare to get emergency items of need from the Ministry. The new policy requires people to check out community resources (charity) before getting any money from the Ministry. It also lists 36 things that can't be paid for with crisis grants, including telephone hook-up charges, counselling, work tools.

Hardship grants: These grants were for people who don't qualify for regular welfare. People waiting for UI or refugees are two examples of people who can sometimes get hardship. After Oct.30th, people who refuse work or quit or are fired will not be able to get hardship unless it is beyond their control. If they are locked out or on strike, they will have to go to their union for funds first. People who get hardship "may" have to pay it back.

Asset levels: Before Oct.30th single people could have up to \$2500 in the bank and still apply for welfare. Childless couples could have \$5000. This has been reduced to \$500 and \$1000 respectively.

Health changes: A new diet allowance schedule creates several categories of health problems with different levels of diet allowance allowed. Many people who were receiving \$20 a month will now



get only \$10. A handful will get more.

Appeal system changes: New appeal system rules go into effect Dec. 1st. They will make it harder for people on welfare to get the money they need to survive. Changes include reducing the time for an appeal from 30 to 7 days, setting up an Appeal Review Board to review tribunal decisions, paying people to be appeal tribunal members, and requiring that some tribunal chairs be selected from a Ministry-approved list.

3-month residency requirement: Newcomers to the province, including people from other provinces and refugees, will have to wait 3 months before they can collect welfare. This goes into effect Dec. 1st. There are some exceptions. This rule violates the Canada Assistance Plan, the Canada Health and Social Transfer (scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 1996), possibly the mobility rights section of the Charter of Rights, and NDP policy passed at convention in April.

Canada Pension Plan: New welfare policy requires people between the ages of 60 and 64 to apply for their Canada Pension Plan. The amount they get from CPP is then deducted from welfare and the amount of CPP they are entitled to when they reach the age of 65 is reduced by 30%. Applying for the early CPP used to be an option for people on welfare in this age group.

Changes proposed in leaked documents

The leaked documents summarised here are BC Benefits: Renewing Our Social Safety Net, Draft #6 (Oct., 1995) and Roll Up Of Policy Decisions (Oct. 19, 1995)

The following changes are proposed:

- Reducing benefits for so-called "employable" people by \$46 a month
- Reducing dental benefits for employable adults



people to keep an extra \$200, plus 25 per cent and medical benefits for a year

3.

Workfare

This sentence in the leaked document makes it appear that the government is also considering workfare for young people: "Until new legislation is proclaimed the basic income support entitlements of this group will be protected in the GAIN Act." If new legislation ends the "entitlement", then people can be refused welfare if they don't do what the government tells them to, or for other reasons, like "the budget is used up."

Cheap labour strategy

These proposals are an extension of the OECD*/Axworthy strategy of changing social programs to promote cheap labour. They say that it is preferable for governments to increase



"employability" of people, rather than to create jobs. The flaw in this strategy is that jobs don't exist, so the programs force fierce competition in the labour market and "wage moderation" (working poverty) which is the OECD's stated goal. Unfortunately, wage moderation expands the ranks of the poor to include more working people. These measures in the NDP proposals contribute to the cheap labour strategy:

- Forcing people to train and search more fiercely for jobs in a time of high unemployment (the official BC unemployment rate just went up to 9% for October (unofficial, real unemployment is therefore over 20%)). This puts more people in the workforce even



- Ending the flat rate earning exemption of \$100 for single people and \$200 for families and replacing it with a straight 25 per cent exemption that only lasts one year. The result is that a single parent who may be earning \$200 to legally supplement her welfare cheque would now have to earn \$800 to keep the same \$200.. This means she would have to start competing for the same jobs as single people on welfare are going to be forced to compete for - just to keep the \$200 extra she is getting now.
- Miscellaneous measures to keep people off welfare (I don't know what these are but they plan to save \$66 million by doing it.)

The government is also considering

- A child credit of \$103 for the working poor. I suspect this would be the total of existing federal benefits plus a provincial supplement so that people wouldn't actually see an increase of \$103 and people on welfare might not see any increase, but it's not clear in the documents.
- More training for people after they have been on welfare over 7 months
- A scheme to pay employers up to \$8000 a year to hire about 1750 people on welfare for minimum wage
- Drug rehab programs worth \$5 million
- Giving \$150 a month to single parents on welfare who go off welfare by getting a job. Depending on the wage of the job, this could be less than the existing program which allows

though jobs don't exist for the people who are there now, and contributes to wage depression.

- The "workplace-based training" will pay employers up to \$8000 a year to basically buy a job for certain people on welfare. Why would an employer hire a regular employee when he could get \$8000 to hire someone on this program? How many would be laid off so that people could be hired under this program?
- The \$46 cut to so-called "employables" will make them more desperate to take any job at any low wage and with poor working conditions.
- The child bonus will make it more likely that more parents will enter the low wage workforce even when there are not enough jobs for the people there already. So will giving \$150 a month to people who get off welfare.
- Ending the flat rate earning exemption will force single parents to work much longer hours in order to retain the same \$200 a month they

Analysis

1. The vast amount of rhetoric about training in the documents masks these facts:

- Jobs still aren't there for people to take
- No more training than is available now will be there until 7 months on welfare, then for 2 months meeting to set up a plan, while employers can get up to \$8000 for hiring someone on welfare. Only 1750 positions are open. Lay-offs and cost to tax-payers of up to \$14 million.
- The \$46 cut to so-called employable people will make it harder for people to go off welfare in the first 7 months as they will have less money for good nutrition, bus fare, decent clothes, resumes, stamps, a phone, phone hook-up charges, etc. Also dental care for people over 19 is being reduced. It's hard for people to make a good impression at an interview if their teeth are full of visible decay.

2. The proposal would take about \$179 million from mostly the poorest on welfare (single "employables") and give \$166 million to the poor

are allowed to keep now. Again, this will force people into the workforce that doesn't have enough jobs for the people there now.

* (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is the multi-nation group that pushes for "Free" trade, deregulation, stripping government of interventionist powers, privatisation, NAFTA, GATT, and elite capitalism, praising "market forces" as the only worthy governing power)

Measures like these are all part of the OECD strategy for "wage moderation".

By JEAN SWANSON,

(Jean is part-time staff at End Legislated Poverty and the President of the National Anti-Poverty Organisation (NAPO))



(children on welfare and working poor families).

The government would make a profit of \$13 million from the poorest. Government would save money by keeping people in need off welfare (\$66 million), keeping people from other provinces off welfare for their first 3 months here (\$24M), reducing dental benefits for adults on income assistance (\$3M), ending the flat rate exemptions of \$100 and \$200 and replacing this with a straight 25% (\$23M) and reducing the rate for people with substance disabilities (\$5M).

Benefits which could be 'new' benefits include: a new credit for the working poor (budgetted to cost \$57M, but in another place in the document the gov't says it's worth \$229M. What's going on? The difference means that all federal child benefits are included and the province is just going to supplement existing credits up to \$103/month), administration (\$15M), training (\$60M) and drug rehab (\$5M).

Taking from the poorest to fund the poor is obscene when there are so many tax loopholes for the rich and corporations.

The Teeny Tiny Library - Renovations to Your Reading Room

You've already seen it and you couldn't believe your eyes - is this Hallowe'en or what? Yeah, the library has undergone an incredible shrinking process during the last couple of weeks and now is only one third the size of its former self. Hey, let's hope this all stops now, before the place magically vanishes.

This is a no joke situation - the depths of winter, welfare cuts and there's only 15 seats in the library!!! It couldn't be at a worse time, but just think about it, when the library grows back to its former size then there will be more seats, brighter lighting, some new chairs and a better office, among other things.



To Have Been Wronged and To Have Wronged

Many emotionally disturbed and mentally ill people have been through the entire mental health system. This involves having seen psychiatrists, taking anti-psychotic and anti-depressant drugs, shock treatment, being forcibly strapped into restraints spread-eagled and forcibly given pills, injections and elixirs... in some cases causing severe adverse effects. Some of these people end up in the Downtown Eastside, which is inundated with religion.

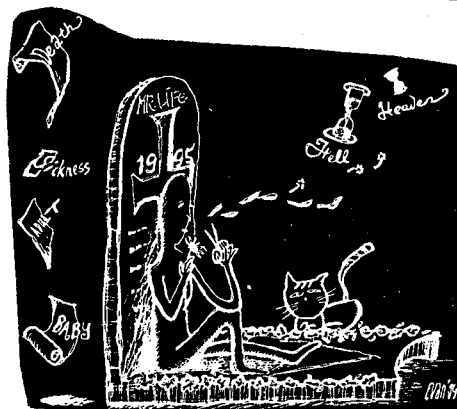
Drug addicts, pushers, pimps, prostitutes, jails, prisons. A merry-go-round. The revolving door syndrome for many. Has the system succeeded in its efforts to give the people back their sense of

We don't like this scene any better than you do, so we are trying to keep focused on the end result. We need your patience for the next while until Xmas and then things should improve.

Anyway, we're happy to see all of you again and keep smilin'. There's still a few westerns, mysteries and thrillers, the daily newspapers, some magazines, the 1st Nations section and Chinese to keep you happy and don't forget the new central library at 350 W. Georgia. There's lots of seating there. You can also reserve system books using our on-line catalogue and change the pick-up point to Central or Mount Pleasant.

Thanks in advance for your patience.

Eleanor



self-worth, confidence, esteem, acceptance, a way out of their nightmarish lives? Obviously not. What, then, is the solution?

We all have that thread of knowing the difference between right and wrong. To have been wronged and to have wronged and to live through it is to cope with it and be on a continuous search for cleansing, absolution and help from sincere, caring, gentle people who will listen and have the ability to cultivate a trusting relationship over time. We can work through it and survive, treasuring those moments of honesty and joy within ourselves. We each have our own trajectory and the courage to persevere.

By ANITA STEVENS

Musical nationalist chairpeoples I

Brave Cree of Quebec vote de vote to stay Canard
 "napoleon" bouchard he want de breakaway
 even on one political leg
 he shoot he score
 on fed goalie
 Chretien.

The puck of plenty
 she is embedded in PM's
 crooked crooked mouth
 but he slumps over de
 liberal poll
 line.

All the while western canard
 smugly, tanned, disapproves
 and the rest of
 the wide wide world
 laughs.

ja douglas (25/10/95)

What is Age?

Person born X.
 Person died Y.

How to accurate measure
 the height of their sky
 or light in their horizon.

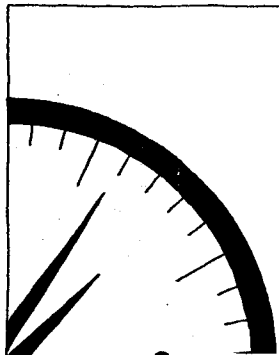
May be the true age of each
 is the height breadth reach
 of fiery horizon or questing sky?

For what quality did each try?
 For which golden goals?
 For when times of ecstasy?

Somehow calibrate, at sunset,
 persons sky horizon of goals
 then, given this unique weather report

whether reached is no matter.
 The key to this pulsing calendar
 of unique gauge, is in the try.

John Alan Douglas



intersuction

Fat social workers wallow in business lunches free
 they be mostly from the north shore
 don't know poverty
 haven't lived it

Fat-headed lit critics peer from ivory towers tall
 steeped in their own foul condescension
 don't know real poetry past formal
 haven't lived it

Pork barrel politicians of every party
 marshmellow in own greed and lies
 choose to poor-bash gets votes,
 don't know life haven't lived it

To those on street alley bus nowhere us
 keep plugging on - at least we be real

ja douglas
 heart failure, they said

clues insufficient
 tired body agile mind
 in so nimble frame

the double bind
 is, as always,
 the miscellaneous evidence

what may kill a holmes
 what may kill a great actor
 why should either die

best of all is
 that either in
 glory lived

clues insufficient
 memories of sleuthing grand
 far beyond mere escapism

beyond so-called 'pulp'
 beyond so-called 'genres'
 beyond such ivory tower labels

he and companion watson
 gave us times so grand so
 fulfilled so very rich

yet clues insufficient...



"The thing is," he said between gulps of coffee, "who has the time or inclination to think of their own thoughts..." and I thought to myself 'okay, but where is this statement going?'..but he left it there. But who does have the time (I thought) to think of personal relationships while the forty-odd wars are constantly going on... or to think of a personal goal or aspiration while starvation and the realities off it are told to us - or to think of a personal ambition while the nationalist-separatist conflict is knocking at the door. Who has time to think of their own depths or their own tragedies or their own needs or desires - but a person needs to take t he time, don't they?

Dave McConnell



Afternoon Rain TS

heaven mailed us a song of tears today
 it loosed the discarded sorrow of souls gone before
 as drops of pain from crowded clouds
 we stood watching while
 it spattered a staccato pattern upon window panes
 and slipped as heavy dew down tinny drains
 we listened to that stormy melody
 as Earth delivered a chorus of moist breath

Windy Haven



Even though we are experiencing many obstacles such as cutbacks, many positive things continue to exist. The Harvest Moon Poetry Night took place in the Carnegie Theatre on November 1st. This was in recognition of the Squamish Nation for letting us use their lands, and in memory of Tom Lewis.

It was a great evening to socialize after our extremely busy days. Bud did an excellent job as Master of Ceremonies and Cuba's first poem about literary critics was hilarious. I thoroughly enjoyed all of the poems; it would be wonderful to publish a book of them.

Six of us went to the Ovaltine Cafe afterwards and agreed unanimously that the next poetry evening can't be soon enough!

By IRENE SCHMIDT



Kite Poem

updraft catch kite
 quick dive delight

Windy Haven

Sunset

red, orange and blue
 kite tails

drift into a setting sun
 that hangs there shimmering
 like a bleeding ball on a shelf
 at the edge of the world

Windy Haven

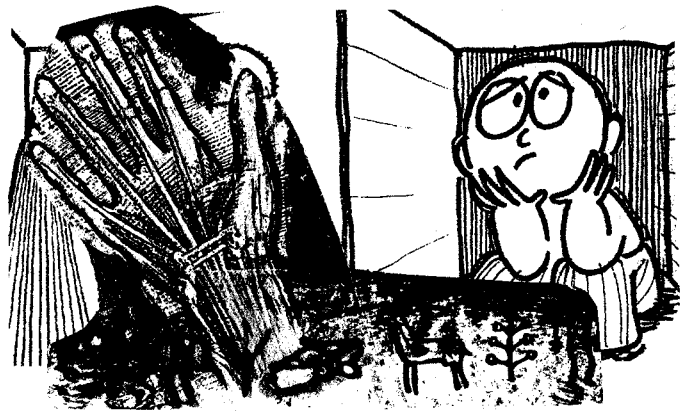
Re: **"Biting The Hand That Bites The Hand"**
by Gary Gust - Carnegie Newsletter, Nov. 1, 1995

Just a few comments about your article. First, given the immensity of the Nanaimo Commonwealth Holdings Society scandal, I respectfully submit that this was the best possible time to stage a public attack on Joy McPhail's Sacred-style Welfare bashing and Social Service cuts. The event demonstrated that people (mostly New Democrats and Socialists) are pissed off with the Government's handling of Social Services and warned that they won't keep their mouths shut in the interest of Party loyalty and an NDP re-election while the poor get fucked over.

As to the damage it may have caused the NDP, the NCHS scandal overshadowed this protest - imagine the play it would have had if it had been a slow news week.

Second, regarding the dismissal of Joan Smallwood. In your words she "turned coat on the Premier, the cabinet, and for that matter, the entire socialist movement in BC." Well, would that be the same "socialist movement" that tried to ram a casino down our throats, is now cutting welfare and looks ready to subsidize low wage jobs at McDonald's through McPhail's workfare scheme?

I hate to say it Gary, but it looks like the Right Wing (Joy McPhail, Glen Clark and company) is



now firmly in control of the NDP, a point pounded home by this so-called "commission of renewal". Downtown Eastsiders should recognize this for the cover up that it is.

To conclude, Joan Smallwood should be applauded for having the courage to stand up to the Right Wing "close ranks and pretend the scandal is merely an internal Party matter" approach taken by the Party. The NDP is going down the tubes right now because of its spineless reaction to corruption within the party. Smallwood was trying to give Harcourt a wake up call - a pretty Left Wing thing to do if you ask me. Her head rolls and the last I heard, Dave Stupich still had his party membership.

Doug Kellam



The Editor (The Province):

Many of us take great exception to the poor-bashing done by Kathy Tait on a continuous basis. The discrimination against Social Assistance recipients has increased by leaps and bounds since this irresponsible media action started.

As a fellow activist put it best when she gave the following recipe for a news Cocktail:

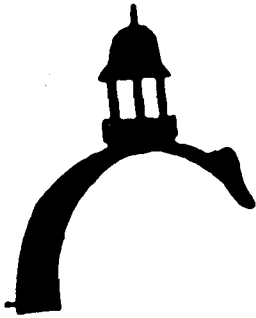
- ⇒ wash and chop a few facts
- ⇒ add equal parts of gossip and hearsay
- ⇒ mix in a handful of innuendo

- ⇒ beat until full of exaggerated froth
- ⇒ serves a gullible crowd.

We desperately need a new Human Rights Act with real teeth in it which makes it illegal for anyone to discriminate against others because of source of income.

Why do a great number of citizens refer to The Province as "the newspaper with a bad attitude?" Contrary to popular belief, some of us actually think for ourselves and are not brainwashed by everything we read or hear by the reporters.

Irene Schmidt



Carnegie Operating Hours Increased

The Carnegie Centre held its first talent show on March 28, 1980. Ernie Dawson won the first prize of \$25.00

David Jaffe wrote an article for the Downtown East (April/80) entitled "Police Support Longer Hours For Carnegie." Jaffe had interviewed Superintendent Bill Baird and Sergeant Al Cox. Both men wanted Carnegie to open its doors for longer hours, and remain open seven days a week.

"The Centre is a big improvement in the area. It has given people another place to go. We will try to help the community in any way we can," said Sergeant Cox.

On April 30, 1980, the Carnegie Advisory Committee, along with the Social Planning Department, voted to support a proposal to City Council that would see Carnegie open seven days a week, twelve hours a day, starting on September 1, 1980.

The Committee observed that Carnegie was so busy that the staff could not develop programs fast enough, despite the fact that forty volunteers were putting in hundreds of hours of work each week.

A Report of the Director of Social Planning to the Community Services Committee of City Council, May 8, 1980, noted that City Council had called for a review of the operating hours of Carnegie after three months of operation.

The Report described a significant increase in the use of the Centre. It said that from the opening day, when several thousand people attended the January 20th ceremonies, to the end of April,

Carnegie had been a beehive of activity. All doubts about the use of the building, and the use of the library had been dispelled.

"Over one thousand people a day were coming to the Centre, and that number was growing. The library was being used so extensively that the librarians could not keep up with the demand for books. Also the social area, the games room, fitness room and gymnasium were being used constantly."

"Council will be pleased to know," Maurice Egan said in the Report, "that the capital and operating funds being provided are contributing to the well-being of many downtown residents with limited income who might otherwise be on the street, in one of the area's many beer parlours, or in drab rooms."

He said that the Director of the Centre, the seven full-time staff, the eleven part-time staff, and the forty volunteers were tremendously excited by the interest shown in Carnegie. At least fifty people a day were at the door between 10 am and 12 noon before the Centre opened.

Believing that the restricted hours of operation made it difficult to meet new and increasing program demands, the Director of Social Planning, with the full support of Carnegie's Advisory Committee, proposed that the hours of operation be extended:

- from 12 noon to 10 pm, 7 days a week, as of June 1, 1980
- from 10 am to 10 pm, 7 days a week, as of September 1, 1980
- It was proposed that the Carnegie 1980 Operating Budget be increased by \$59,620 to accommodate these changes.

These recommendations were accepted by the Community Services Committee, and were approved by City Council on May 27, 1980.

By SANDY CAMERON
(to be continued)

VERY SUPERSTITIOUS...

Previously I was paranoid and thought people were constantly making fun of me. I'd pass some people, pick up a small segment of their conversation, and think they were referring to me.

It is not paranoia but superstition that's my problem. It's a form of a psychic game I used to play in high school - if something good was happening I'd wonder 'How long is this going to last?' But when the bad things happened it came all in an avalanche.

Then I thought I could control it: if I did this it was good luck; if I did that it was bad luck. This even extended to the clothes I wore, with my wardrobe consisting of 'good luck' and 'bad luck' clothes.

Later it included certain catch-phrases, some of which were invariably assigned good and bad luck designations. My friend said I was cathecting (a



Freudian term for a fixation of a sexual nature). No, it was not cathexis, it was again superstition.

A gambler, rolling for the black on a roulette wheel, would dread the occurrence of a red number. Instead of dreading red numbers, I simply dreaded certain words that people might say. Well, not anymore now!

Thus it is very important to articulate your problems cuz, if they are articulated, they are crystallized. And if they are crystallized, they are brittle. And if they are brittle then they could be SMASHED!!!

By DEAN KO

Letters



Homeless bother coffee drinkers

Dear Editor,

I was very happy to see Sal Marino's articulate and well reasoned observations regarding beggars (Letters, October 25th). He is right. One cannot even enjoy a latte in Starbucks anymore without having one's sensibilities affronted by homeless and destitute individuals grovelling for handouts. It is certainly time something was done. I personally favour the South American approach using nightly death squads. While we're at it, why not include the legions of old folks who no longer contribute to soci-

ety yet present enormous demands on health-care resources. And what about mental defectives, gimps and spastics?



Yes, I feel very sorry for Mr. Marino and all those poor tourists. Perhaps while they are awaiting the final solution to this annoying problem they should sit inside at Starbucks facing the wall and read a nice book. Maybe Mein Kampf.

Ross K. Teasdale
Former Bum





carnegie community centre association

401 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6A 2T7(604) 665-2220

DECLARATION

COMMITTEE TO SAVE WOODWARDS

The Downtown Eastside area of Vancouver has long been home to a unique and diverse urban community comprising the lowest per capita income postal code in Canada. The Downtown Eastside is a multi-racial working class community with substantial numbers of senior citizens, Native people, recent immigrants from repressive countries, many mental patients and physically handicapped individuals, as well as alcoholics and drug addicts from very abusive backgrounds. The Downtown Eastside survives within a common unity of shared poverty, mutual aid, tolerance and support for human beings unwanted elsewhere, or unable to afford living anywhere else.

The community is especially threatened with destruction via upscale development of a kind which has brought homelessness, suffering and shame to cities throughout North America.

A longtime cornerstone of this neighbourhood - the Woodward's building - is being planned for exclusive upscale development. If this is permitted to happen it will be a deathly blow for the Downtown Eastside community which, according to the City's own Health Department, requires a dramatic increase in low income housing and social services.

The would-be developer of Woodward's - Fama Holdings Ltd. - has not yet purchased Woodward's, but has been given permission to put together an entirely upscale condominium development plan. Fama's final submission to city council will not take place until March 1996.

There is yet time for an alternative community-saving plan to be implemented. A plan advanced by this committee and which has some support within City Hall calls for a mix of market housing, social housing and co-operative housing; combined with a grocery store priced to the community. Additionally, Woodward's is vast enough to include educational, recreational, health, treatment, and employment dimensions with a truly community-oriented plan.

The City of Vancouver has already made an important contribution to the Downtown Eastside as evidenced by the existent social services and low-income housing. We are asking that this commitment be followed up and the Downtown Eastside strengthened, not weakened to where it will be no more than a ghetto of anonymity amidst affluent alienation.

We are raising a voice against this economic agenda of development-at-any-price because we do not want community-destroying development to have the last word on our lives. Woodward's is the immediate lightning rod of opposition and alternative, but the Downtown Eastside needs help.

THE COMMITTEE TO SAVE WOODWARD'S is advancing this declaration inviting your endorsement of an alternative plan for the development of Woodward's. Adding your name and/or your agency/organization will signal that there are many of us gravely concerned about this matter and who declare our support for a development of Woodward's we can point to with civic pride and spiritual compassion.

For more information, contact **Bud Osborn: 689-0397** and the **Carnegie Community Action Project**



The SALVATION ARMY CROSSWALK

Day Programs

Monday	1:00 - 7:00 pm
Tuesday	
Ladies Lunch	12:00 - 1:30 pm
Drop In	1:30 - 7:00 pm
Wednesday	1:00 - 7:00 pm
Thursday	1:00 - 7:00 pm
Friday	1:00 - 4:00 pm
Sat. & Sun.	CLOSED

NIGHT

7 DAYS per WEEK

Coffee House 12:15 - 1:00 am

Emergency shelter on proof of need.

140 WEST HASTINGS STREET

The kitchen will be closed for (hopefully) no more than 5 days, starting Monday, Nov. 20. The entire floor and 'sub-floor' (whatever that is) has to be re-done. Apparently it's rising like well-baked bread, or shedding its scales, or something equally weird.

Coffee, juice, cereal, maybe soup and sandwiches... but no porridge or lunches or evening meals for at least 5 days.



609 Helmcken Street
V6B 5R1
Telephone: 665-2391

open Monday to Saturday
10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

What is the Gathering Place?

It is a new community centre designed by and for the residents in Downtown South. It provides services and opportunities for people living in hostels, hotels and residences as well as those living on the street. Our mandate is to provide a safe place in the Downtown South where people can access social, recreational, educational, health and food services.

What does it cost to join?

A general membership costs \$1 and lets you take part in most centre programs. Using the weight room is an additional buck and using the pool room is an additional \$5/yr.

When is the Centre open?

Monday to Saturday, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm
(always, even on holidays)

Can I volunteer at the Gathering Place?

The centre cannot operate without volunteers. From the weight room to the kitchen, volunteers work in all parts of the building.

Volunteers get tickets redeemable in the cafeteria and are recognised at a volunteer dinner once a month. Call 665-2391 and ask for the volunteer co-ordinator.

Programs

Food: The cafeteria provides good cheap meals from 10am to 5:45pm. Some breakfast items, lunch \$2.50, dinner \$3.50, sandwiches \$.75, coffee \$.50. (Closed 2-3pm -- cleaning)

Fitness: Weight room open whenever a volunteer is on duty.

- Reiki energy focus and relaxation
- Judo for all ages with Antonio Guzman
- Aikido is hard-style self defence (younger..)
- Tai Chi for all ages; relaxation, flexibility
- Tae Kwan Do is a hard-style martial art

Hygiene: Laundry & shower facilities

Arts & Crafts: All are free but there may be some materials charge.

- Drawing class on Saturday afternoons
- Watercolour basics and up to you
- Literary performances every 2nd Saturday
- Pottery and Photography soon

the Gathering Place your new community centre

GATHERING PLACE PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE: CHECK WRITE-UPS FOR MORE INFORMATION AND SCHEDULES

Program	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aikido	6:00 - 7:30 fitness room		6:00 - 7:30 fitness room			
Dance (13-25yrs)				6:00 - 8:00 fitness room		
Drawing	1:00 - 3:00 arts & crafts rm					
Judo					4:00 - 7:00 fitness room	
Learning Centre	10:00 - 8:00 learning centre	10:00 - 8:00 learning centre	10:00 - 8:00 learning centre	10:00 - 8:00 learning centre	10:00 - 5:30 learning centre	closed
Legal Aid				5:30 - 7:30 learning Centre		
Library	closed	10:00 - 5:30 library	10:00 - 5:30 library	10:00 - 5:30 library	10:00 - 5:30 library	closed
Piano Lessons						1:00 - 4:00 theatre
Music Program		4:00 - 6:00 guitar lessons	5:30 - 7:45 theatre	12:00 - 6:00 theatre		
Qi Gong						2:00 - 3:30 fitness room
Reiki			1:00 - 6:00 fitness room			
Tae Kwan Do		2:00 - 4:00 fitness room		3:00 - 5:00 fitness room		4:00 - 6:00 fitness room
Tai Chi	5:30 - 7:30 fitness room					10:00 - 12:00 fitness room,
Theatre Workshop	5:00 - 7:00 theatre					
Vocal Dose Cafe		6:00 - 8:00 theatre				
Watercolour			1:00 - 3:00 arts & crafts rm			
Weight Training (Instructor's hours)	4:00 - 6:00 weight room	4:00 - 6:00 weight room		4:00 - 8:00 weight room	4:00 - 8:00 weight room	
Drumming						4:00 - 5:30 theatre
Literary Performance						6:30 - 8:00 theatre
Yoga				4:30 - 6:00 Fitness room		
Massage	various times	various times	various times	various time	various times	
Sat Nam Rasayan				3:00 - 4:30 fitness room		

Music & Theatre: We have instruments, instructors and volunteers to help if needed.

- **Music drop-in** is a non-threatening environment where experience isn't required

- **Verbal Dose Cafe** on Tuesday nights with music, poetry, dance, mime, juggling, etc.

- **Guitar lessons** for beginners and up

- **Theatre workshop** to learn basic techniques

- **Piano lessons** are free on a drop-in basis

Reading Room: This is great! A \$1 a year membership gives you borrowing rights for magazines, references, fiction, non-fiction, audio tapes and more.

Special Programs: Including meditation, yoga healing; **Options** for drug and alcohol issues.

Youth Opportunities in training, resumes, volunteer work & schooling. **Parenting Peer Support** for young parents.

Workshops: On AIDS, Legal Aid, Healing Our Spirit, Prison Liaison, First Aid, etc.

Learning Centre

Community-based education; self-paced programs; open and co-operative learning environment; education planning and advising; computer use for resumes, letters.

Everyone has the right to learn; you design your own learning plan; attend when you choose; community-based learning and respect as a basis for a successful learning experience.

Literacy; math/writing; academic credit courses; Grade 12 completion; volunteer peer tutoring; workshops and focus groups; GED preparation.

Community Association Board

This is an elected advisory body to advise the Director on all matters relating to the Centre and community. It runs on a committee system with lots of room for input. The board needs your participation and welcomes your involvement.



I THOUGHT

It's difficult to know what other people are thinking. Some even say it's rude to try. There are



times, however, when all of us try to guess what others are doing and we try to discover the meaning of this, that or the other thing.

Holden, for example, had a very disorderly imagination - a kind of unlicensed parade of visions that despised any type of logic or authority. There were many occasions when the simplest of organized meanings would elude his understanding, but impulsive or spontaneous actions full of complex innuendoes and invisible dreams were unmistakably comforting and satisfactory to him. He was similar in temperament to the blind sculptor who loves feeling his way through textures and shapes but always longs to see them with his eyes.

To scrutinize things this way is not without its imagined pleasures for those of us who bow down to reason and the rational. Holden had a self-conscious desire to put his hands on something that was more than another feeling. He wanted to grab a meaning and hold onto it forever.

When the first cold snap of 1985 arrived, Holden could be found watching his mother hoarding her cloths and things into an old bridal package that had been hauled out from beneath her bed. He

watched her as she moved gallantly across the room. It was as if she were blessing one solemn possession after another.

Having discussed the details of the move a week before, neither Holden nor his mother felt the need to explain anything anymore. They kissed politely, like people who felt a social obligation to act in unison for a moment, and then they parted. Social obligations would always crawl into Holden's life. They were like incest trying to scurry under a counter or behind a wall before anyone could destroy them.

'I guess that's it,' he thought. 'She's got it all.'

On Tuesday afternoon, Holden decided to walk down to Army & Navy and buy himself a new pair of shoes. One of his mother's friends told him that if a man had a good pair of shoes, he could do anything; that the boy scouts say, "If you look after your shoes they will look after you."

Within a month everything seemed to be going fine - all the appointments had been kept, all the social obligations met and the rent paid. I last saw Holden reading a book in the Carnegie Library. He read me a quote from a book called *The Four-Gated City*, by Doris Lessing:

"You suddenly understand something you've understood all your life, but in a new way. There's a pressure on us all the time to go on to something that seems new because there are new words attached to it. But I want to take words as ordinary as bread."

"Make words as ordinary as bread.. I wish I could do that," he said. "I'm sure," he continued, "if I could really understand this completely, then I could do it." I don't think he was ever able to make words as ordinary as bread! I hope so.

Holden had a serious overdose about 2 months after I saw him. I heard through the grapevine that he went into a treatment program in Maple Ridge and then off to the Kootenays to live.

Sometimes the more you chase something the more it moves away. I guess words will only be as common as bread when we see them, feel them and even eat them everyday.

By LEIGH DONOHUE



In The Dumpster

Greetings fellow Binnners & Binnerettes.

It looks like winter is upon us. News reports say snow is on the mountain highways and flooding is expected. Still McDonald's refuses to give out free burgers and coffee. The binning game is pretty slim for me and everyone I know, but the Bottle Depot reports record numbers for October.

Tuesday night brought the Downtown Eastside another death. A man was repeatedly stabbed and beaten by three unknown men outside the Pennsylvania Hotel; just two doors away from our neighbourhood safety office. When are the police going to be able to take these assholes off the streets for good? The police lock them up and the judges let them right back out on the street again.

It might help if our gutless mayor came down here and took a look at what's happening. He doesn't even care about the curb on the northwest corner of Columbia & Cordova for the handicapped, so why should he care about the drugs and knives in the D.E.?

Like so many others my welfare cheque has been cut \$50. My VCR is broke and I might have to sell my bike just so I have something to watch, 'cause even though I have a TV, there is nothing on it I want to see F---ing hockey games!!! I was hoping to move to a new location but I guess that is out too. A Merry Christmas to you Mizz McFail... I might go to the States and sell my blood - no joke.

There is a new garbage dump in town: It's at the rear of 8 E.Cordova.

Viva Canada, eh!

Mr. McBinner

Benefits for HIV+ Persons If You Are On MSS

1) *Automatic Disability* - You will be classified for disability status from either Unemployable or Regular (Single). This is an additional \$140. Ask your FAW for a Disability Form.

2) *BC Transit Pass* - A one-year pass for \$39, allowing travel anywhere at anytime in the Lower Mainland. Ask for Disability Bus Pass Form.

3) *High Protein Supplement* - MSS (Health Ministry) food supplement, adding up to \$40 to your support portion. Your doctor or clinic must write a prescription for a high protein diet, required because of HIV+ disease.

4) *Ensure Plus or Advera* - This food supplement is for the chronic undernourishment that generally accompanies HIV+ persons. a) Another prescrip. from a doctor or clinic stating you are undernourished and need 3-4 cans of Ensure or Advera per day; b) take this to the nutritionist at St.Paul's Hospital (IDC Clinic) - she fills out a form and faxes it to MSS; c) wait about 2 weeks and the product will be delivered.

5) *BC Persons With AIDS (BCPWA) Complementary Health Fund* - Allows up to \$100 worth of vitamins or massages, acupuncture, etc.

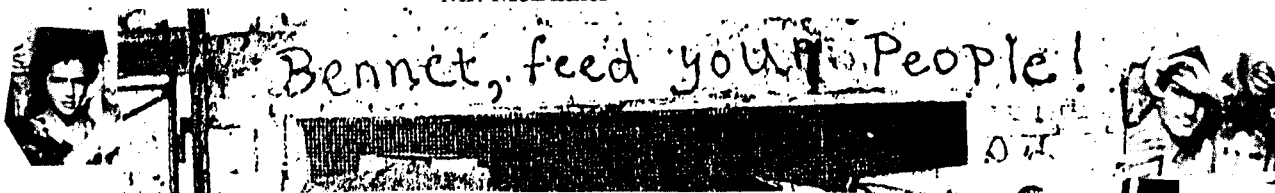
6) *Canadian Springs water cooler* - bottled water

Contacts for more information:

⇒ BCPWA Advocacy Department

⇒ AIDS Vancouver 681-2122

Roland Koch, 611-129 E.Cordova, 669-1248



(This is a letter that over 80 people have signed. Please, either come to the Newsletter Office to sign a copy, make a photocopy of this page and sign that, or even cut this out & sign it. Deliver all to the Carnegie Newsletter)

Planning Department
453 W. 12th Ave., Vancouver, BC

Attention: Ben Fong

Re: 298 Carrall Street - Development Application Number DE400467

As a Downtown Eastside resident I am writing to tell you that I don't think this condo development is a good idea. It will not benefit our neighbourhood and community in any way. In fact, it will be extremely detrimental so I am opposed to it.

We are overburdened with both condo developments and proposals in the Downtown Eastside at a time when the large majority of residents who already live here have grossly substandard accommodation. Now that the Federal government has abandoned its housing commitments, those of us who live in residential hotels will have far less opportunity to get into decent, affordable housing. Indeed, the decline in construction of social housing units in the Downtown Eastside is obvious. *No units* will come onstream this year, and only 65 units will open in 1996.

As we all know, the development pressure on our community is beginning to have negative effects on the housing market here, as we have recently witnessed with the conversion of the Cambie Hotel to a \$40 a night bed and breakfast. Many other hotels have also converted substantial numbers of residential rooms to overnight use or have opted for the backpackers' hostel option.

Although the hotels provide inadequate housing, they are the only affordable place to live for many, many people. Yet the City has no bylaws in place to maintain and improve the operation of the residential hotels, which are the main form of housing in our community. Considering the decline in standards which some of them have experienced of late, it is difficult to believe that the City's promises to protect housing here will have any teeth.

We believe the Downtown Eastside is headed down the road of displacement and homelessness followed by so many other North American cities, including Toronto and Montreal. The homeless shelters in our neighbourhood have been turning people away in unprecedented numbers.

In a market that is beginning to drown in a sea of unsold condos, a development like this will be bad, not only for the Downtown Eastside community, but the entire city. It will have adverse effects far beyond our community.

Sincerely,

CC: Mayor Owen and City Councillors



GORDON CAMPBELL AND THE REPEAL OF RENT PROTECTION

Will he or won't he? Only his spin doctors know for sure

What would a Gordon Campbell Liberal government do with the rent protection legislation brought in by the current NDP government? We've been trying to find the answer to that question. We've asked the Liberals directly, but so far without receiving a clear response (see below). So we've surveyed the historical record for clues. Here's what we've turned up so far...

January, 1990: Lower Mainland tenants, facing widespread rent gouging in the post-Expo rental housing crisis, demand the return of rent controls. Gordon Campbell, then Vancouver's mayor, gets on side, calling for a rent review system to protect tenants against "unconscionable" rent increases.

October, 1991: The provincial Social Credit government is defeated. The NDP sweeps to power; one of the party's campaign commitments is to bring back rent review.

June, 1994: The NDP's Housing Minister, Joan Smallwood, introduces rent protection legislation in the Provincial Legislature. Now the BC Liberal leader, Gordon Campbell, speaks against the bill, saying, "When you...impose rent limits, the fact of the matter is that that will deter investment."

January, 1995: Tenants' Rights Coalition representatives meet with Liberal leader Gordon Campbell, and ask him to outline the Liberals' policy on rent regulation. Campbell's response: the party hasn't formulated a policy yet.

March, 1995: At the Greater Vancouver Apartment Owner's Association's annual general meeting, Gordon Campbell promises to repeal the NDP's rent legislation in the first sitting of the House after a Liberal victory. The Apartment Owner's president responds by urging Association members to donate to the Liberal party. The Association's board has already set an example by lifting its own ban on political donations and giving the Liberals \$1,150.

October, 1995: The Tenants' Rights Coalition writes to Gordon Campbell, asking him to confirm whether a Liberal government would repeal **Bill 50**, that brought in rent protection. One month later, no response

What would a Gordon Campbell government do about BC's rent protection legislation?

The BC Liberal Party has undergone a wholesale transformation since Campbell took the leadership from Gordon Wilson in 1993. Not only have old Social Credit advisers and strategists come on board, but Social Credit policies have been adopted as well.

Former Liberal leader Wilson, in Legislature debate in 1994, supported the NDP's rent legislation. "Clearly, in modern-day society where a high percentage of people are subject to rents and often come from middle and low-income families, there should be... some kind of appeal or arbitration process."

Campbell's "new" Liberals, on the other hand, opposed the NDP bill. They proposed no alternatives but reliance on the marketplace to provide rental housing. This was the position adopted by the Social Credit government in 1984, when it abolished BC's previous rent regulation system. Unfortunately, the promised rental housing boom never materialised. By 1994, after 10 years of "market freedom," BC enjoyed the dubious distinction of having the most expensive and least available rental housing in Canada.

The NDP's rent legislation contains plenty of concessions to the large landlords. For instance: rent increases

between tenants are uncontrolled (in other provinces, a new tenant is entitled to pay the same rent as the last tenant). And there is a generous allowance for additional increases to cover capital expenditures. In fact, Mike Harris's new Conservative government, which is committed to abolishing Ontario's rent control system, has been considering adopting the BC rent review system.

Even a weak rent protection system seems to be too much for BC's corporate landlords to accept. The provincial Rental Housing Council and various apartment owners' associations fought bitterly against Bill 50 before it was passed.

And while TRAC hasn't been successful in pinning down the Liberals' policy on rent protection, the large landlords have no doubt that Campbell is their man. Greater Vancouver Apartment Owners' president Bob Orr says, "If we want to see significant changes to the legislation, our first task is to see that the Liberals and not the NDP get elected."

- from Tenants' Rights Action Coalition (TRAC)



Through Her Eyes

She always hears Life is cheap, so why is she paying a high price for the man who says he will love her always?

Through her eye he can do no wrong; 'Love can save them from the streets...'

She is older now, wondering where she went wrong, but the truth hurts when you know that the signs were always there.

Through her eyes, she sees what life's about; yet she's so young that she should be home in a bed of her own...

If you could see through her eyes, maybe you could understand her feelings.

Karen Jorgensen

Sometimes I Cry

When I see a child on the streets, I wonder what made her life so hard that there's no place she can call home; the man on the street sells her love for money, with promises of the good life.

I sometimes cry because I see myself in you, with all your hurts and secrets. I just want to tell you that you are not alone, and that you can get out and move on with your life.

Along with missing old friends who died or disappeared on the streets, I still cry sometimes when I think of you. You're always in my heart.

Karen Jorgensen

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday - Friday, 10a.m. - 6p.m.

NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 9a.m. - 8p.m. every day

**Needle Exchange Van - on the street every night, 6p.m.-2a.m.
(except Mondays, 6p.m.-midnight)**

1995 DONATIONS

Paula R. -\$20	Diane M. -\$25
Cecile C. -\$12	Libby D. -\$25
Wm. B. -\$25	Nancy H. -\$16
Lillian H. -\$40	Lisa E. -\$8
Sonya S. -\$200	Lorne T. -\$50
Etienne S. -\$15	Mel L. -\$20
A. Withers -\$20	Sara D. -\$16
Rositch -\$16	Colleen E. -\$16
Kettle F.S. -\$16	Vruce J. -\$30
Hazel M. -\$16	Bill S. -\$2
Joy T. -\$20	Ray -\$12
Bea F. -\$30	Diane M. -\$20
Bruce -\$4	Jerome -\$2
Francis -\$30	CEEDS -\$50
Anonymous - \$164.75	



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

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

**Submission Deadline
for the next issue:**

**28 November
Tuesday**

NEED HELP?

**The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association
can help you with:**

- ✓ any welfare problem
- ✓ information on legal rights
- ✓ disputes with landlords
- ✓ unsafe living conditions
- ✓ income tax
- ✓ UIC problems
- ✓ finding housing
- ✓ opening a bank account

**Come into the Dera office at 9 East Hastings St.
or phone us at 682-0931.**



**DERA HAS BEEN SERVING
THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
FOR 21 YEARS.**

A DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE EXPERIENCE



On this sunny Sunday afternoon I was with my 5 year-old son and two of his friends at Crab Beach. We threw rocks back into the ocean, played baseball, and they played in the playgrounds. We had a fruit and cookie picnic.

I noticed there were several sailors around. We saw people down on the dock, lining up to go on little boat rides. The kids kept saying, "I wish we could go on a boat ride." I said, "I don't want to stand in line. We'll go at Christmas." But then I broke down and said, "OK, we'll go check it out." We stood in line for about half an hour. Except for the uniformed guards who kept telling us to stay closer to the fence, no one talked to us. I saw only one other person from the Downtown Eastside who I recognized. As we got closer to the front another line formed. It was obvious that they were going to butt in and take the next boat. I heard it mumbled that it was the "commanders and chiefs" line-up. I kept wondering why all these sailors would want to go on little boat rides. It was too late to turn back because the kids would've been heart-broken.

Just as we were about to go through the gate onto

the dock, one of the uniformed attendants stopped us and said: "Where's your pass? Who's sponsoring you?" The guy behind us said, "I'll sponsor them." We were helped onto a grungy 20-passenger boat. The "commanders and chiefs" got onto one of the fancy big boats. After only a few minutes the boat stopped beside a huge gray monstrosity plunked in the middle of the inlet. It was an island of metal with American flags sticking out all over. I realized it was a warship.

Many little boats were spilling people onto the deck. We were helped onto it. Our sponsor, Joe, said, "It's going to be a long wait to get back." It was still too late to turn back. We went up a very narrow, steep stairway. We went inside and passed by hundreds of bored-looking people lined up to go back. Joe disappeared. The other half of the interior was filled with ugly little airplanes and cannon-like objects. Everything was a moldy, grayish-green colour. I felt sorry for the workers.

We got on a huge open-air platform to be lifted to the next level. This level was a runway surrounded by at least 20 more ugly planes. One was very battered. It was cold and windy. I was afraid the kids would fall off the unrailed edge. The two boys suddenly started yelling up to the control tower: "What's going on up there?" They were listening to their echoes in the wind. People began to look at them disapprovingly. No one talked to us. I found this odd, because people usually do. I just wanted to go home.

We went back down to face the dreaded wait. Somehow we got mixed up in a tour going to "Main Street". We passed the grumbling line-ups and were led on to a plush boat - carpets, plants, sofas, a stereo system and even a kitchen. I felt bad about butting in, but I rationalized that they must have known what they were getting into.

I was so happy to see Crab Beach and the Four Sisters again. When we disembarked, it was getting dark. There were no more line-ups.. only the other Downtown Eastsider I had recognized stood at the gate. No one had sponsored him.

By LEITH HARRIS

I wish I was

I wish I had a memory
that wasn't something
I'd always need
Everything moves
in circles
but I can barely breath.
Isn't it important
to be successful
these days?

I wish I was the woman
that mothers
wanted.
I need a kind place
to sleep.

Portions
of my dreams
have been forgotten.
I've kept pieces
of the new ones
awake!

Dyeas says,
"I must be
the daughter
of someone
who's gone to sleep."

All I want
is a real friend

I must have
walked past
every sign
on this corner
a thousand times.
Slow...
stop...
caution...
Every interpretation
of this neighbourhood
knows my beat.

I can remember
every bruise
that has waved
a fist at me.

I just wish
I had a wish
to wish away

I can hum
to myself
whenever I want
wherever I want
Sometimes
when other women
come trespassing
on their way
to work
I have to move!

Men drive by
looking
and I'm
supposed to smile.
They want
me to pretend that
I'm a damsel in distress
and their money
is such a generous gift.

I wish I was
someone
who didn't live here
anymore.

I wish I was
someone
you could see.

I guess
I've wished
too much
I guess...

MOTHER MAY I

Thank you is so far away sometimes
It slides across your tongue
and runs away

Sometimes you sneak across a room
to share your identity
with a stranger
a voice
from the moon

Your mother is waiting.
She keeps
sheltering herself
and summons
your fantasies
to imitate her
dreams of birth.

What can you say?
The mystery surrounds us all sometimes.

All the people
you have heard about
have forgotten who they are

Your trust has misgrown and
you've made it difficult
for those who wish
to bring you love

You can consider yourself
one of the innocent
and accept your own invitations
to freedom

As for forgiveness
well

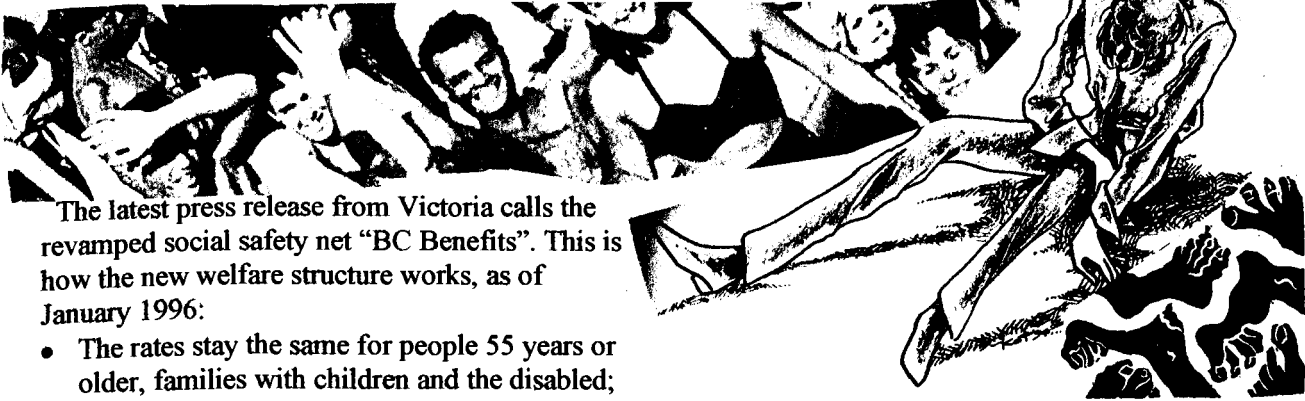
what can I say

We all have our little windows to mend
We all have our own way!!!

Leigh Donohue

Leigh Donohue

Get a job, bum-bum-bum. Get a job.



The latest press release from Victoria calls the revamped social safety net "BC Benefits". This is how the new welfare structure works, as of January 1996:

- The rates stay the same for people 55 years or older, families with children and the disabled;
- All single employable (25-54 years) people will get \$546, then in February it goes to \$500;
- Single employable (under 55) people living together go from \$903 to \$811;
- Addicts drop to \$550 from \$596.

According to Mike Harcourt's reasoning, the money from the cutbacks is going to the children of the working poor, single mothers and treatment centres for addicts.

The employable people are expected to get jobs right now. We're being given a couple of months of leeway to use the \$46 each month to get on the bus and look for work. The NDP (or the right-wing mentality) is drawing the line and we're to shape up or ship out.

In October the Ministry of Social Services hired the NDP's market-research company to do a survey of 800 people throughout the province. The results of the survey are obvious in the new "BC Benefits". The majority of the 800 think youth need to be forced into training, all addicts forced into detoxes and there's no excuse for the single, employable people. This survey is considered by the researcher's management to be "the gathering of impartial opinion with scientific results".

The 'science' of creating public opinion surveys requires the writer to read/listen to Vancouver's mainstream media. The questions are devised around what has been reported in the news. The media gets its information on what the government is doing from the public relations bureaucracy. This is manipulation: asking people what they've heard or read and confirming that it's what the

government said as reported in the media.

This manipulative game is used by every political party in the country, small or large. It means that the poor.. 'unclean'/'deranged'/'untouchable'/'lazy' ..are still fighting to educate the duped who 'answered' the questions.

Mike Harcourt says the NDP isn't following the status quo. Yet we're having our To Live rights trampled, just like the Conservatives are doing in Ontario. What are our choices - to get jobs?

The NDP preaches that the P.R.I.D.E. program is creating some of the jobs. Last August a few janitorial positions (midnight shifts only) at GM Place were offered to the poor. There were other positions but GM Place said it wanted a "Disneyland image" and that most of the poor are ugly and have bad teeth. It looks, to me, that the ugliness of the establishment continues to stare us in the face.

What do we do? It looks like we are in a good position to do something. We know who we are and how many of us there are. We're being accused of laziness and refusing to get jobs. Are we?

There are 300 volunteers in Carnegie, at least 75 at the Dugout, about 25 at Neighbourhood Helpers, and hundreds more throughout the Downtown Eastside. The organizations we volunteer/work at need us, because their funding is dependent on having volunteers.

In other words, the City wouldn't give money to Carnegie without volunteers; Neighbourhood Helpers wouldn't get money from the United Way without people willing to give their time to visit

the homebound; New Directions in Health can't be done without volunteers and the NDP wants thousands throughout the province.

At the same time that the establishment wants us to give our time and knowledge, they trample our **To Live** rights, rights to adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical aid and education, by this "find any work or starve". The establishment defines the status quo - we know it and they know it. It's time we define our own status quo and tell them what we will do for what.

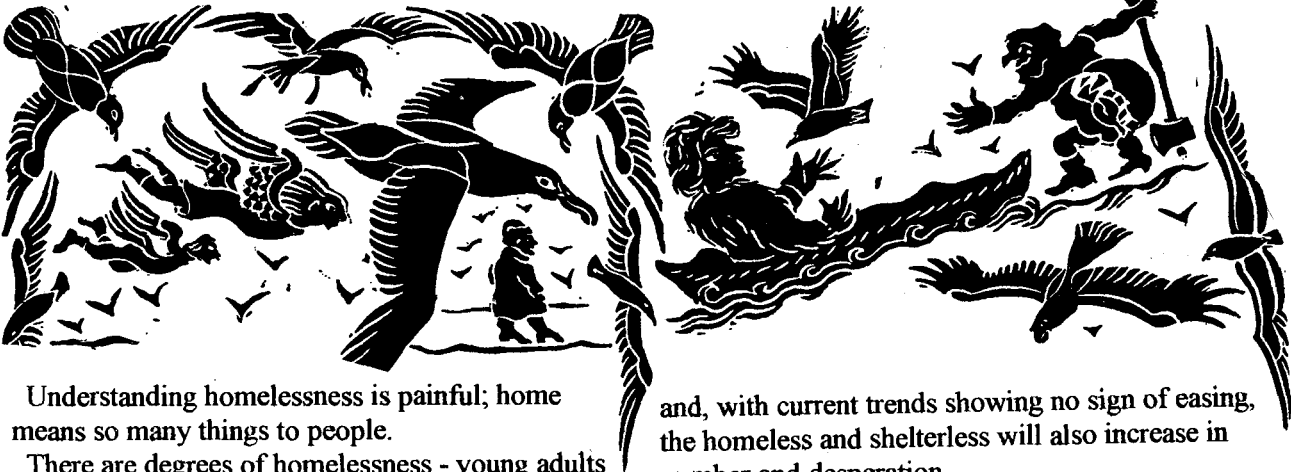
How many volunteers are there in this city? How many live with an income of less than \$10,000 a year? We need to come together and create a voice for ourselves. The NDP says it's the voice of

working people, but they ignore the work and contributions of the poorest.

The NDP wants me to get a job. Fine, I'll take a job. What I won't do is take anyone's garbage. I won't obey the whims of a boss and I need to know that I'm not manipulating people by selling them crap or telling them bullshit. I won't bow down to anyone, nor will I be bowed down to. I've proven this over and over in the last 20 years. In this time I have been hired by more than 300 people and that many have fired me.

Hey, buddy, got a job for me? Get a job, bum-bum-bum. Get a job.

By ALISON CAMERON



Understanding homelessness is painful; home means so many things to people.

There are degrees of homelessness - young adults living with their parents to a cardboard box to under bridges. The high cost of real estate is one of the main reasons people don't enjoy the stability of good housing. Working to pay for this basic necessity is likened to contemporary slavery.

I speak from paying rent for twenty years to spending the last 3 years homeless around Vancouver. It is completely possible to provide decent housing, opportunities to grow food, and a whole community... almost the opposite of paying exorbitant welfare rents to profit-oriented landlords. There is so much in Canada for everyone; why then doesn't the government direct itself to enhancing alternative sustainable development? Strength comes when people are happy in their work. Global population will continue to increase

and, with current trends showing no sign of easing, the homeless and shelterless will also increase in number and desperation.

"That's a catastrophe. It's a clear and present danger." (United Nations Centre for Human Settlement)

Bridging the canyon between the homeless and low income people and the people who have a great deal begins with each person taking responsibility. I am not asking for a handout; an opportunity for dignified shelter is enough of a start - somewhere I could make a home.

Please support alternative housing - teepees, boats, squatting, intentional communities, land sharing. Let your MP and MLA know that expensive developments aren't providing a home for you, that they may even cause you to lose what home you have. We can try, can't we?

A submission from Michael Bohnert

To my friend "Mike"

Happiness walks on busy feet.

Success is a marathon, not a sprint.

Joe Paul

Last words seldom fail in our search for the holy grail
Wit and love work together in the love for the good
It's understood an understudy works for smile
It is the last mile that is the hardest
And the first heaven that we are grateful for
It keeps our hope alive for more
Keep your secrecy to yourself
And work for love not for self
Love is best when in our hearts each beat makes a start
Life is conquered momentarily when we die terribly
How can you love if in the beginning we are afraid
Love is the antidote to your sufferance
It can be transferred by an utterance
Be all that we can be.

Elizabeth Thorpe

Tribute to veterans and Memorial Day

On Monday the 13th, the Cultural Sharing group held an event in Carnegie's Theatre to honour Native and non-native veterans, and to commemorate those who lost their lives in the wars of this century.

Lorelei co-ordinated the bestowance of felt feathers, one for each veteran who attended. Talk and memories and stories were shared among the 80 or more people, as well as sumptuous stew and rice from Carnegie's kitchen.

What's Wrong with poor-bashing?

Poor-bashing happens when individuals, politicians and the media stereotype, discriminate against or promote hatred against people who are poor. Poor-bashing is like racism or sexism, but it's directed at people who are poor.

When politicians or the media bash poor people, those who are poor feel it in their daily lives.

WE'RE ONLY HOMELESS Sarah Hughes

I wish that I could make you see
that there's another side of me.

I am often frightened, scared and sad
I'm only homeless, I'm not bad.

The world's so big and full of grief
I'm only homeless, I'm not a thief.

People often say "get a job you lazy jerk"
We're only homeless, and we like to work.

There is a big misconception, we are not dumb
We're only homeless, we are not bums.

You think we are dirty and obscene
We're only homeless, and we're clean.

I'd like to plant an education seed
We're only homeless, and we like to read.

We've seen the world, some of us like to roam
We're just good honest people without a home.

We're only homeless.

Children don't want to go to school because they are taunted. Competent adults are denied jobs because they've had to rely on welfare. Adults and children are shunned, despised, pitied, patronized, humiliated and ignored simply because they have had to get money from welfare or unemployment insurance.

In Ontario, poor-bashing has reached new highs. The Premier of the province blames poor people for their fate, and declares that anyone can escape poverty with a little hard work - this despite a provincial unemployment rate of about 10% (and that's 'official'; unofficially, the real unemployment rate is over 20%).

Who do you think knows more about coping with poverty: a single mother on welfare or a government minister and his hired political advisers?

Challenge poor-bashing, just as you'd Challenge racism or sexism. See *poornography* for what it is.



This cartoon is from **Streetview**, a Wyoming paper by and for homeless people. It's a classic, called "*Things that make you go hmmm...*"

Shades of BC and manipulation and creating stereotypes and bending people's minds to spout whatever you want. In BC it's "The latest poll shows that Liberals are favoured." Then on to general answers (but none of the questions are printed of course). It's part of a well-planned media hype that was repeated again today with another "poll" saying the same line that the last one touted - "Harcourt has the lowest rating, Harcourt is the least favoured...; Harcourt doesn't have the confidence of the people...."

The other revelations - "Liberals favoured as honest; Liberals' policies are superior; Liberals can run the economy..." ad nauseum. Lo and behold the Liberals don't have any written policies and the Red Book of Chretien gives a good idea of how solid they'll be. Honesty is a reaction to Stupich and no statement on Campbell. He's a

very sleazy operator, adept at giving public money and contracts to friends and lying through his teeth about housing, planning and money. His brother is an exec at BCTV, one rich man owns the Sun and Province, and they are all frothing at the bit to get the snake oil socreds/liberals back in. It's just starting, folks.

By PAULR TAYLOR

