

FREE - donations accepted.

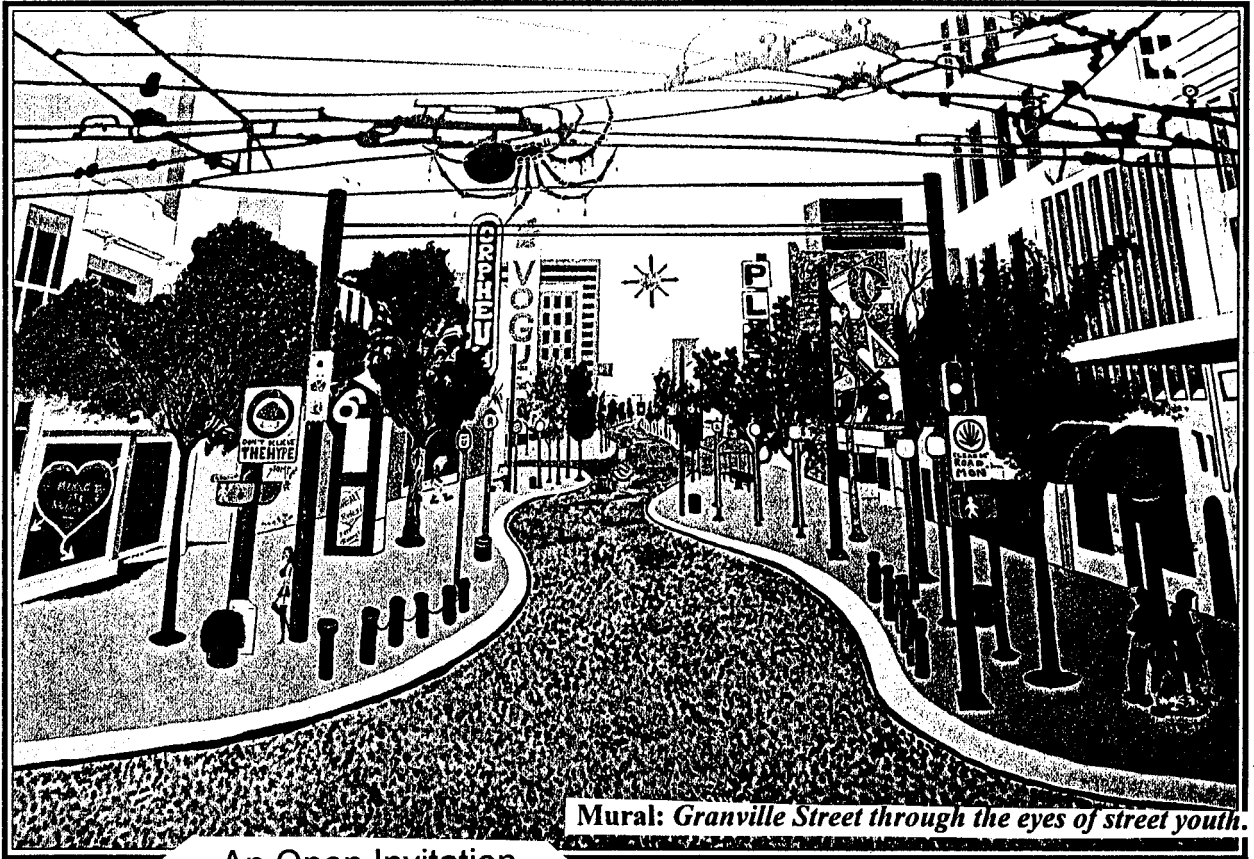
Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 1995.

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



Mural: Granville Street through the eyes of street youth.

An Open Invitation
to the

GRAND OPENING
of the

Gathering Place
(Carnegie's little sister!)

Wednesday, Dec. 6th, 1:30 p.m.
609 Helmcken Street

'Get a job' . . . where?

GET A JOB, said The Province headline of Nov. 3, referring to young "layabouts" on welfare. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, business leaders said the same thing to jobless men riding the freight trains. What is the job situation for Canadians, and especially for young people between the ages of 15 to 24?

More than 1.4 million Canadians (9.4 per cent of the labor force) are out of work. Some economists call this full employment, and say it probably won't get any better.

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops says when we add to this unemployment figure the number of people who have given up looking and those who are working part-time but looking for full-time work, it jumps to 3.9 million.

The official unemployment rate for youth is around 18 per cent — double the national



SANDY CAMERON
Byline

average — but 70 per cent of employed youths between the ages of 15 and 19 work only part-time, and the reason so many young people are on social assistance is the lack of steady jobs that pay a living wage.

In the past, youth was a time of transition into work, family, and community. For increasing numbers of young people today, it has become a transition to nowhere.

Unemployment cannot be cured by job training and welfare programs, and governments that talk about "training" without creating real jobs are simply hypocritical.

The private sector is busy eliminating jobs, not creating them; and in a global economy,

Youth has become a time of transition to nowhere

an enormous number of humans are not needed to provide the goods and services

the paying customers of the world can afford.

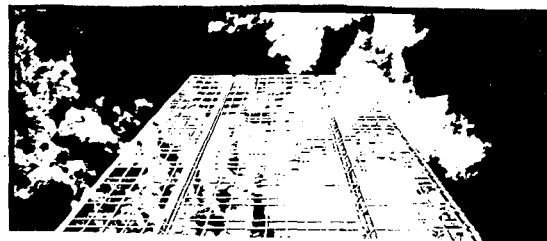
A democratic government has the responsibility to ensure that the training, jobs, wages and stable communities needed by young people to grow to their full potential, are there for them. There is a huge amount of work at decent wages to be done, including caring for children and the environment and learning skills to help the community.

If we don't provide for our youth, we will pay health and crime costs far exceeding anything we might pay for social assistance or job creation.

Also, we might learn from the animals who know that a species that doesn't care for its young, will not survive.

Sandy Cameron lives in Vancouver.

Time spent trying to get 'even'
is better spent trying to get ahead.
Joe Paul



I lost my wallet in Carnegie and got everything back, thanks to Paul and Dave and Gilles and everyone who works Security and the Info Desk,

Rona Prevost

WELFARE

**WE NEED IT!
THEY GET IT!
WHO ARE THEY?**

Large corporations like:

**Imperial Oil Noranda Inc.
Hollinger Inc. Thompson**

What do they get?

**\$40 BILLION IN DEFERRED TAXES
BILLIONS MORE IN TAX BREAKS
AND LOOPHOLES
THAT'S CORPORATE *WEALTHFARE***

**INSTEAD OF MAKING THESE
CORPORATIONS PAY THEIR FAIR
SHARE, THE FEDS ARE TAKING
BENEFITS AWAY FROM YOU**

**PROTEST THE WELFARE CUTS!
TAKE ACTION NOW!**

**COME TO VICTORY SQUARE
AT HASTINGS AND CAMBIE
THURSDAY DECEMBER 7TH
12 NOON**

DON'T BE SILENCED!!!

This poster, on a gold-coloured sheet, was made by members of DERA. They and others went to hand it out at the welfare offices in the area. This was done on the day the December cheques were issued.

Carl Reinbath is a member of DERA's board of directors. He wasn't wearing any "ID" to say this, it wasn't important. He relates this incident:

"I had been handing out sheets about the

3.
demo/march on December 7. I was walking up the line and onto the steps. I'd taped some to the building as well. One of the security guards came out and politely told me I couldn't hand them out on the steps.. that doing it on the sidewalk was okay. I politely replied that I had a right to do what I was doing, and asked him on whose authority he was speaking. He declined to answer and went back inside. I was near the bottom of the steps, taping one to the wall, with the pile of papers on one of the steps. He (the guard) came back out and down the steps. He again told me not to do 'that' and I again told him that I could do what I was doing and dismissed him, saying "Go



away" or "get out of my face". He grabbed all the papers that were on the step and I grabbed them out of his hands. He then grabbed me by the throat, hauled me off the steps to the sidewalk, forced me to the ground, and continued choking me while a second guard twisted my free arm "into a pretzel". I was hauled to my feet by my throat and slammed into the wall. A third guard came out and told me to "stop being violent" The three of them went back inside.

"I started asking people who had witnessed this for their names and a way to contact them. As I was doing this one of the guards came back out and told me to get lost. I informed him I was getting names of witnesses to the criminal assault that just took place.

I went to DEYAS and called the police, who were reluctant to take a report. I called Harry Rankin and he gave me better advice. "Call them back and insist they take a report." "

Staff at DERA and DEYAS got onto this right away and called the District Supervisor. She said,

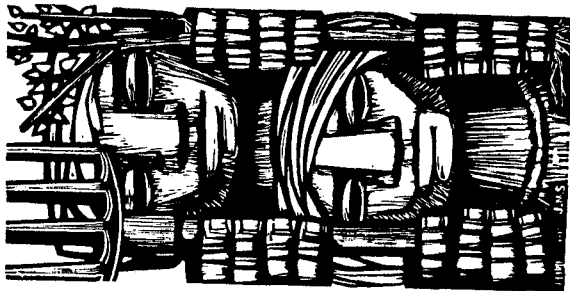
upon 'investigation', that Carl had been disrupting things "in the office" - according to the very security guards who assaulted him. She also said that if he'd identified himself as a DERA board member it wouldn't have happened.... meaning that only ordinary people are subject to assault?

Carl is pursuing this through the legal system and lawsuits against the Ministry, the company that pays the guards and the guards themselves.

Welcome to the Downtown Eastside?!!

Come to the rally on December 7th. If our numbers are good and volatile, we'll march to the Vancouver Stock Exchange. Ontario looks bad, but if Gordon Campbell gets in as Premier, it'll look like a picnic. The NDP cannot, however, use that as an excuse to slam the poor at the behest of a few wealthy people.

By PAULR TAYLOR



CITY LIGHTS?? KID'S DREAM??

The ultimate glitz and glamour - flashing lights, highrolling dealers, long black limos.. fortune, fame, name in lights on the movie screen.....

For a kid living in a small home town, feeling sad and alone, not fitting in anywhere - school is becoming a bore, parents laying down rules... "This is not for me," the boy or girl utters to friends. "I don't have to put up with this. I'm out of here, I can't take it anymore, I have to be free from any rules, I want to be my own boss. I'm going to the Big City and make a name for myself. I'm telling you this so I won't have to face my family. They won't understand. You don't have to worry about me - I'll call you when I get a place and my phone hooked up."

Reality sets in when they get to the city. No one

will rent to a child and no one will give them a job because they don't have an education.

To find Love in this big 'institute' is to know it from the heart. To survive the streets means learning the hard way what's good and what's not.

To have a dream is to have a home and a family; to build a dream is to have a plan and put it into action. The kids of the street have dreams, but they get blocked by confusion. What is the right thing to do? In some cases it was never explained or discussed, only drilled into their heads by parents who were only there part-time or were married to their jobs, not their spouse/family.

Don't get me wrong - I'm not blaming parents for their kids' mistakes. I am, however, suggesting that communication always has to be open among everyone concerned.

I'm asking you to take time to talk to kids who ask "Can you spare a quarter or a dollar?" If you have an extra pair of gloves or something in your closet or room that has been gathering dust, pass it on to someone else, to someone who can use it.

You may not approve of what they are doing but right now this is what they want and where they want to be. They have choices, just like you and me. Can't you find it in your heart to allow them to find themselves?

To find the ultimate dream. *P.M.P.*



Many of our Wymin suffer from Child Abuse

I find it appalling that in today's world many of our First Nations people are still being betrayed. Respect, if any, is given only when they leave.

Before death, justice was not done - "...it was just another drunk Indian who exhibited NO self-control, who had NO face, and who is no longer part of 'society'."

Our city papers print stories on the negative aspects of our Wymin who die violent deaths - pointing to prostitution and drug & alcohol addiction, and living in the "skids"...meaning the Downtown Eastside. Prostitution is everywhere and a 24-hour-a-day job.

In 1993 a coalition of service agencies was formed to address the issue of violence against street-involved Wymin. This included DEYAS, YWCA Crabtree Corner, Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, WISH (First United Church), Vancouver Native Health, Ray-Cam Community Centre and the Police/Native Liaison Storefront.

There are approximately 500 Wymin who are working in the sex trade today. 88% of these working Wymin are living in the Downtown Eastside/Strathcona area; 47% live in local hotels and 18% are homeless. Everyday these Wymin face the unknown - they put up with a lot of violent johns who have no respect for our working wymin of the streets.

- Violence is considered to be an expected outcome of the sex trade.
- Everyday the wymin face emotional, physical, sexual and systemic abuse.
- 99% of the wymin interviewed had been victims of violence
- 73% cited the sexual abuse they had experienced as a child.
- "My stepfather raped me. Every time he did he gave me a cigarette burn. He told me that it was to remind me of my first love."

Demographics

- age range of working wymin is 16-55
- (not interviewed but known is children under 16)
- average age was 26
- 70% are aboriginal
- 27% are Caucasian



Facts

- 71% of working wymin were mothers
- 16% currently lived with their children
- less than half knew the whereabouts of their kids

Information from the report

Sex Trade: providing sex or sexual gratification in exchange for money or something of value

Street-involved wymin are community members, mothers and victims of abuse

"Almost all the female members of my family worked the streets or are still working"

"My mother was a junkie and a prostitute. She put me on the street when I was 12 so I could help her pay the rent."

Runaway phenomenon: a hypothesis asserting that, for one reason or another, sex trade workers tend to leave or run away from home at a relatively early age. Once on their own, these youth must survive with no money, little education or job skills and no shelter. Many see the sex trade as a viable economic alternative.

Yes, it is their choice to be on the streets, but all most of them want is for someone to care. The point I'm trying to get across is that our sisters and brothers working the streets are just as human as you and I. Some have family who have discarded them like everyday garbage. That doesn't give you or I the right to treat them like animals.

It takes one minute to say hello, and a split second to die alone. Our sisters MUST NOT be forgotten. If you have a loved one who has died a violent death, contact Margaret, Alicia or Lorelei at Carnegie so her name can be added to our list and honoured in our Memorial March on Valentine's Day.

If . . .



There are arguments from the working people
About to handle the poor.
There are companies making billions and don't share.
Poverty is a state of mind, so I've heard them say,
Why don't they ask us - we live it every day.



If we wipe out the greed and hate, then poverty could not exist
There would be no need for violence..how can the world resist?
So wake up everybody. You know it's not our fault.
Society has made us what we are;
They need to fix it now, before it all falls apart.

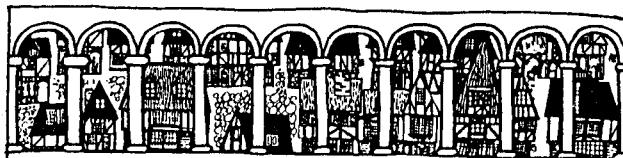


Willow Silver Wolf

HAVE ANY COATS, RAINCOATS
OR BLANKETS LYING AROUND?

How about donating them to
Oppenheimer Park so we can give
them to those who really feel the wet,
cold climate. There are many park
patrons who are feeling the welfare
crunch and would very much
appreciate something to keep them
warm & dry. Please help us to help
others. Questions or info call the Park

665-2210



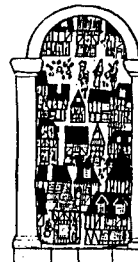
THE NATIVITY

A CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

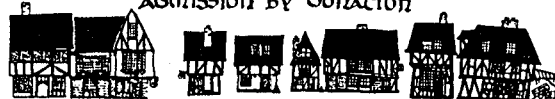
THE GOSPEL STORY OF THE INCARNATION
IN DRAMA & MUSIC



Friday Dec. 1
Saturday Dec. 2
Sunday Dec. 3
at 7.30 p.m.



S. JAMES ANGELICAN CHURCH
CORDOVA & GORE STS. VANCOUVER
TEL. 685-2532
Admission by Donation



Xmas at Borgo Pass

the skies parted to reveal purple prose
and a wide open cumulus orgasm
as one fat olde santa
trudged up the hill
full of alcoholic
ill will

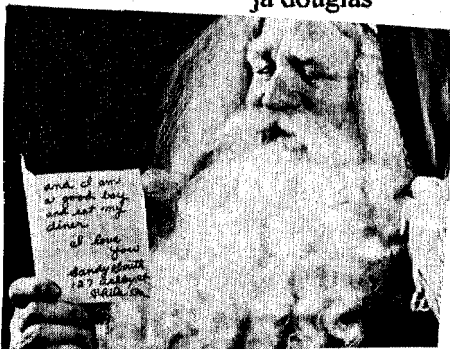
his one mission to bribe new generations
of materialistic human kiddies
but he was deaf..out of shape
did not hear or see
did not even fear
the turquoise bat

at his rear end vat
and before he could
move or jump or
yule tide stamp
sharp whiter-than-white teeth
sank into his cheery loins

and sank into his yuppie throat
and sank into his creditcard moat
and blood and santa gore did inundate
that once sedate mountain side
in non commie non capitalist
non randian eastern europe

and one lost but found lisette
sitting in a shopping mall did
once read an earlier draft of this
and she did laugh heartily and
that sad first Xmas without her
(1st in 6 yules) did become almost ok

ja douglas



THE CARNEGIE LEARNING CENTRE/ CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION



invites you to join us for the opening
of the Carnegie Learning Centre

401 Main Street/Third Floor



Thursday December 14
2:00-5:00pm



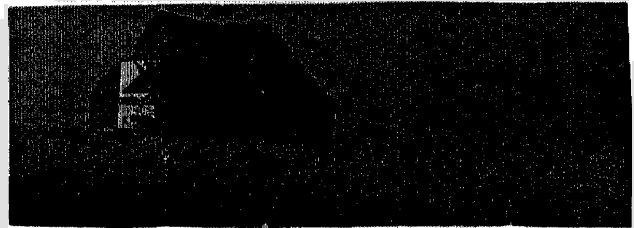
It's an Opening
a Christmas Party
a Video Showing
Speaking in Chalks
and a Reading



all at once!

Bring your voices and instruments and be ready for fun.
There will be music, food, a video, card making and letter writing.

For more information call 665-3013.



The Fall

When I was a child, the world was still so green
Plant life all around us - nature could be seen.
Extinction belonged to only a selected few,
When we did stop caring, First Nations always knew.
They tried to tell us to respect the Earth, to treat her well,
And now the times are changing - White Society has gone to hell.
We were all once tribal, so listen up you know-it-alls:
Get back in touch with Mother Earth, before you take the fall.

Willow Silver Wolf

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR Woodrow O'Loosjaw

Leith Harris' article "A Downtown Eastside Experience" in the last issue was a Good Read.

Many of us were curious to see what the American war ship looked like up close, but like Ms. Harris, we can't hack line ups.

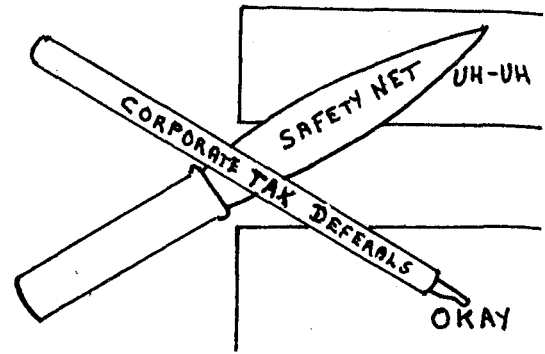
The article gave us a sense of what the basic experience would have been like if we had ventured out to that "...huge gray monstrosity plunked in the middle of the inlet."

She describes the ships narrow, steep stairways, the "ugly little airplanes and cannon-like objects," and being lifted to the next level on a huge open-air platform with no safety rails.

In short, the article quenched a curiosity and replaced it with a close-up imagery, and made us grateful that we weren't one of the "...hundreds of bored-looking people lined up to go back."

Please, if anyone out there knows Leith Harris, beg her to write more articles for the Newsletter!

"AND THERE WILL BE JUSTICE FOR ALL"



RESULTS of a class project Opinion Survey on the Canadian Justice System
conducted in the Downtown Eastside

1. Are you satisfied with the current Young Offenders Act (0%) Yes (90%) No (10%) Undecided
2. Should Doctor assisted suicides be legalized (70%) Yes (30%) No
3. Do criminal trials favor the rights of the (50%) Accused (10%) Victim (20%) Well-balanced (20%) Undecided
4. Should judges be (60%) Elected (40%) Appointed
5. Are Canadian lawmakers (10%) In step or (90%) Out of touch with society
6. Should domestic violence be treated as serious as assaults outside the home (100%) Yes (0%) No
7. Is every individual treated equally in Canadian courts (0%) Yes (100%) No
8. Are you in favor of Capital Punishment for willful murder (30%) Yes (60%) No (10%) Undecided
9. Is today's Justice System adequate (0%) Yes (100%) No
10. Should the Canadian government examine the pre-Columbus Native Indian system of law and justice (90%) Yes (10%) No

Premier urges housing mix as priority at Woodward's

ROBERT SARTI and FRANCES BULA
Vancouver Sun

Premier Mike Harcourt wants to leave a lasting legacy in his own riding after he departs public office — and he has his sights set on the venerable Woodward's building.

Since announcing his retirement two weeks ago, Harcourt has been working actively to put together a three-way deal for Woodward's that would create a large-scale housing project accommodating a range of incomes.

A developer, Fama Holdings Ltd. of West Vancouver, has been proposing to convert the seven-storey heritage structure on Hastings Street into 350 condos. But community groups fear such a large upscale development in the heart of the Downtown Eastside would drive up property values of nearby low-rent hotels, leading to mass evictions.

"This is a priority for me to pursue in my last year as an MLA," Harcourt said in an interview.

"I am prepared to keep on this to make sure Woodward's becomes the flagship and not the death knell of the community."

Harcourt said the provincial government could fund up to one-third of the units as welfare-level rentals, but he said the project is so large that that no single level of government could finance it entirely.

He called on the city and Fama to each take one-third of the project and finance other forms of housing, such as co-ops, market rentals and assisted-home ownership.

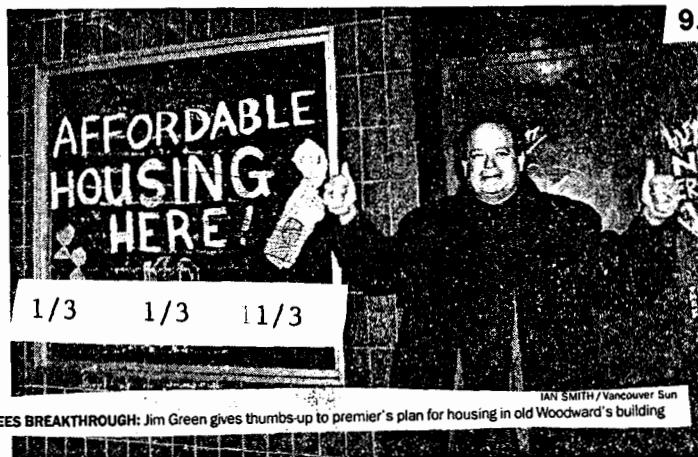
Jim Green, who works for the provincial government in organizing social housing projects, said Monday that Harcourt's offer is a major breakthrough because it's the first large-scale public money for the pot, and it will bring the other players to the table in a serious way.

Green has been trying to put together a Woodward's project for more than a decade, from his days as organizer for the Downtown Eastside Residents Association. Ironically, his architect in those days was Ron Yuen, who is working now for Fama.

Fama officials met Monday among themselves to assess the rumors that are starting to swirl about the project. After the meeting, Fama representative Chuck Brook told *The Vancouver Sun* that the company's "minds and telephone lines" are always open for offers, and he would be willing to look at any kind of mix of housing, including co-ops, rentals, homes for first-time buyers and subsidized housing.

However, he was puzzled why the premier has been talking to everyone else but Fama.

"It's interesting to be on the sidelines in this," he said. "It makes me think he [Harcourt] is trying to



SEES BREAKTHROUGH: Jim Green gives thumbs-up to premier's plan for housing in old Woodward's building

build support for it before coming to us."

The city has been anxious for some sort of development to go ahead at Woodward's because the block on which it sits has become a dead zone, with boarded-up stores and a street-level crime scene.

A development permit application by Fama for an all-condo project was approved last June by the city. Whether all condos or social housing, the project would also include at least two levels of stores and offices to make it economically viable.

Fama has held the option to purchase the building for a year, but the soft condo market and the uncertainties of the location have prevented it from going ahead.

The building is owned by Cambridge Holdings Ltd. of Ontario, which mainly has interests in shopping centres. It would take about \$60 million to complete the purchase and renovations of the project, including earthquake stabilization.

The building consists of six different, interconnected structures and was built over the course of nearly a century as the head store for the Western Canadian department store chain that finally went bust in the early 1990s.

Vancouver Mayor Philip Owen said Monday he is prepared to discuss Harcourt's initiative, but he would need more details before committing himself.

Even without being able to raise large sums of money, the city has a variety of way it could participate. These include everything from land swaps and property tax reductions to transferring the allocation of social housing to Woodward's from megaprojects like Concord Pacific and Marathon Developments.

Coun. Gordon Price, who has said in the past he would support a mixed-income project in Woodward's, said he would first want to know whether pouring a lot of resources into Woodward's would hamper the city in preserving low-rent housing in the hotels.

"But a pretty broad range of income groups [in Woodward's] sounds good," Price said. "It can happen, but let's see the details."

Vancouver Sun, Tuesday 28/11/95

Seattle's poor battle back from homeless brink

By Coleman McCarthy

A wrecking ball, dangling like a plumb bob from a 10-story crane, rests in an acre of fenced-in lot in downtown Seattle. A muddy bulldozer is nearby, parked on flattened and rubble-free dirt. The demolition is done, the recent leveling of the McKay Apartments. The 74-unit, 8-story building, boarded up for the last 3 years, once housed the low-renting poor.

All hope of return is gone. Seattle, a politically progressive city with natural beauty to match, devoted the 1980s to commercial spruceness. Sparkling buildings, as high as foothills in the Cascades, have risen in a surge of construction. The McKay Apartments were in the way of Seattle's future.

The State Convention and Trade Center, a colossus of commerce, was built on the same block and it needed the McKay's space like a fattening hog needs a bigger pen. After enough grunts from civic powers, the McKay was doomed.

The demolition last month might have been a too-familiar tale of urban displacement, but Seattle proceeded differently. In a political first, the State legislature provided \$800,000 for low-cost housing to replace the McKay.

The story within this story of seeming civic largesse is that public policy was shaped only reluctantly - the shapers forced to act by a group of citizens who

insisted that people come before property. This is the Seattle Displacement Coalition. Its Operation Homestead brought together hundreds of street scholars educated in the Saul Alinsky school of social reform that says power never yields voluntarily. For much of the past two years, they used civil disobedience, demonstrations, occupations, marches and other forms of high-quality troublemaking to win the \$800,000 for the homeless poor.

In January 1989 a dozen members of Operation Homestead were arrested for trespassing when they occupied the McKay. The same month, 400 people staged a non-violent sit-in at the convention centre, with 48 people hauled away by the police when they wouldn't leave at the 8 pm closing.

More homeless people bunked down every night in front of the convention centre. When nose-holding conventioners were forced to walk past the huddled masses, Seattle's image enhancers knew they had a problem.

"We were just broadening the debate," said Operation Homestead's Joe Martin. "Operation Homestead was being written off as professional rabble-rousers, which is the standard line. We were only making sure that, amid Seattle's largest building and development boom ever, the voices of the poor weren't drowned out."

During the months of street action, organizers from such groups as the Church Council of

Greater Seattle and the Washington State Coalition for the Homeless were successfully making the case before the legislature for a financial settlement. When the money came forth, a stuffy editorial in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer hailed the victory but without the largesse of mind to credit Operation Homestead for forcing the issue.

Other cities should be blessed to have a Joe Martin or two to goad the commercialists. According to Chester Hartman of the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, an estimated 500,000 units a year are lost to low-income people who are then at risk of becoming homeless. "The old methods of displacement involved eminent domain for urban renewal and highway programs. There was assistance in relocation of financial aid. But the new kind of displacement is done by private market activities - gentrification, condo conversion, luxury renovations. The stock of available housing is reduced but private developers have no legal requirement to provide help to the displaced."

No legal requirement existed in Seattle when the McKay was razed. Only a moral requirement, pressed on politicians and the monied by the poor themselves.

1990
Vancouver Sun

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A person is nude who is so clad
as to offend public decency or order
impeding or molesting
exposes or exhibits
obstructs or prevents
assaults or offers any violence
clergyman or minister
celebrating divine service or
performing other function
with his calling
disturbs or interrupts
at or near
loiters or prowls
throws or injects
wandering abroad or trespassing
common prostitute or night walker
profession or calling
in whole or in part
safety or health
property or comfort
directly or indirectly
human body or human remains?

Flakey or Scaley

Taum

An entente cordiale pertaining
to J. Arlington Sekwof's current copulative
Cavalier curriculum justifying
His eminent presence on this insignificant
portion of Satanic Sovereignty a.d.zip

It's spontaneous combustion - I'm a chemical liver
So raise the bridge Sudsy, or lower the river
Either way is okay I don't quake, shake or shiver!
Always impound a "dead" stake
Stockpile the zlotys don't mourn your own wake!

Forget Win, Place and Show
Go for broke for "hoard's" sake!
Right on the snozzle you live only once
Better caviar for breakfast
than Process Servers for lunch!
This is not a political promise
or a pipe dreamers hunch
Book a round the world samba
and avoid the Joe Louis punch

A Lone Ranger's lamentations
and claim agents euthanasia

Caroled Mother Hubbard
As she staggered to the cupboard
her mission to abscond with the "sauce"
I'll admit I'm a knave
but the jungle juice I crave
to alleviate living - of course.

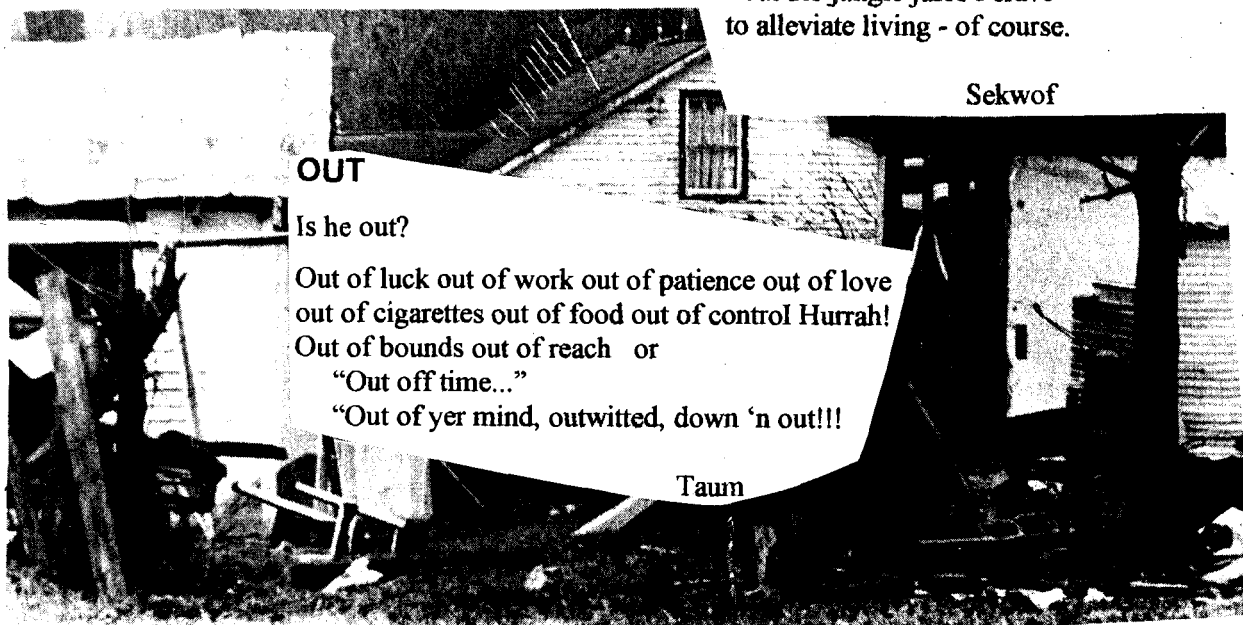
Sekwof

OUT

Is he out?

Out of luck out of work out of patience out of love
out of cigarettes out of food out of control Hurrah!
Out of bounds out of reach or
"Out off time..."
"Out of yer mind, outwitted, down 'n out!!!"

Taum



A Big Pizza Pie



My friends told me to write some more stuff so here I am. I've been in Vancouver for a long time. I've always lived here; this is where I was born. What's the difference between Toronto, Vancouver and New York is this is my home - I know lots of people and lots of people know me. My father used to work on the docks until he died, and I know Harry, Jim Green, Libby Davies and that other guy.. I always forget his name.. yeah, Bruce Eriksen. Anyway, I don't want to write - they write - I just talk. I want to talk about a friend of mine who didn't get a fair shake.

Hank, that was his name. (Well, his real name was Clarence, but he didn't like that much so he always used Hank.) We used to call him Hanky Panky on account of he was always talking real sweet to the girls in restaurants. This was long before or just at the time Carnegie started, not sure...

Anyway, Hanky Panky and I were over by the university. It got late so we decided to sleep on the beach. Now, lots of people think you don't have a place to live if you sleep out, but we'd get tired, get some sardines and buns out of the bins and have like a picnic on the beach.

I don't go over there anymore because there was a murder a couple of years ago and I don't want to hang around, if you know what I mean.

Anyway Hank and I were having our dinner, minding our own business and looking at the mountains and stuff being pretty when a bunch of teenagers came down to the beach with a few cases of beer. They didn't bother us and we didn't

bother them. All of a sudden two police officers appeared. I mean it - one moment they weren't there and then all of a sudden they were. They were asking the teenagers something and Hank says to me, "Look! One of them's a woman."

Well sure enough, one of them was a woman. I couldn't believe it (I don't know why really). Hank had this idea that he was God's gift to women and he'd be able to charm her like everyone else.

[I have to say something here about Hank. Well, he was.. he had his own way of seeing things. Now I'm not saying someone else didn't see things the same way, but it seems like most people didn't see things the same way as him. You know what I mean.]

The police came over to us and Hank jumps up and starts singing *Roll Me Over in the Clover* - he liked to sing that song a lot. I could somehow tell the police weren't very impressed so Hank pipes down and lets me answer all the boring questions ... "What's your name? Do you have any ID? What are you doing here?..." all the regular stuff.

Everything seems to be going okay when all of a sudden Hank starts humming that Italian song about the big pizza pie and throws a big smile at the lady police officer. Her face turns different colours and she starts to get really pissed at us. Then she says we have to leave the beach, just pack up our stuff and go. Before I can say anything, which I likely wouldn't have anyway, the other cop says "Okay, get going. You don't belong here."

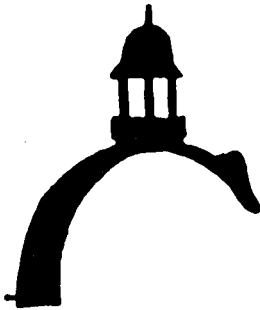
Can you imagine that? It seems that most of my life has been hearing people tell me I don't belong.

Well we packed up our stuff and start climbing back up to the road. I looked back and saw that the teenagers had started a fire on the beach. I kept thinking how nice a fire on a beach is.

Anyway here's the kicker of the story: It turns out that the next summer the very same lady police officer got caught wearing her birthday suit on the same beach. Well I tell you Hank and I had a real laugh about that one. They say what comes around goes around.. that's for sure.

By REGGIE

Part 25



The Fight's Over - The Struggle Continues

Renovating the Carnegie for use as a community centre was one of the best decisions City Council ever made. There are no official statistics on money saved but common sense and the everyday experience of Carnegie members, the Police Dept. and the Health Dept will tell us that the Carnegie has saved the City and the Province millions of dollars. The Centre has paid for itself many times over.

Money will not tell you the real worth of Carnegie, though. For that you have to go to the Carnegie poets:

I don't know how many people
come and go
or how many hours
Volunteers work to get things done,
or who's responsible for what -
because my mind
doesn't work that way.
But we all take care of business
more or less,
we all join hands
sooner or later.

Where else could lifetimes
like these get lived together?
Even when it's only
sharing tobacco and spare change
on the second floor,
reading the paper on the first floor,

playing a guitar on the third floor,
in the theatre - on the stairway,
learning to listen
to see each other,
to remember the names and faces
of real people in a real neighbourhood.

Day by day - year by year
Making it happen down here.

(From Tora's poem CARNEGIE)

A last word about DERA. A community centre at Carnegie was not the only project this citizen's organisation had going in the 1970's. Among its many activities, DERA fought for the enforcement of a sprinkler bylaw for hotels and rooming houses, the enforcement of Liquor Control Board regulations, street safety through the introduction of an anti-knife bylaw, rezoning to protect housing in the Downtown Eastside, more social housing, protection for tenants from illegal rent increases and evictions, higher welfare rates, decent jobs, decent wages, a ward system for Vancouver's municipal government, and the right of the Downtown Eastside community to be treated with respect.

At a City Council meeting on April 5, 1977, Bruce Eriksen said, "Most of us who live in the Downtown Eastside are retired workers, seamen, ex-loggers, veterans, fishermen, ironworkers and miners. Many of us are old, ill, or handicapped and cannot work full time, yet we are determined to make our community a decent place in which to live."

His message was that this old, Vancouver community had a strong identity. The neighbourhood was not expendable, and it was not skid road.

In 1983, a civic award from Mayor Harcourt declared that DERA had, in fact, helped to change the perception of part of Vancouver, formerly known as skid road, to the Downtown Eastside.

"The people who live here, they call it the Downtown Eastside," Eriksen said.

Our story is not primarily about DERA though,

and the book on that subject remains to be written. In the meantime, there is an excellent chapter on DERA called The Downtown Eastside, One Hundred Years of Struggle, in a book called Neighbourhood Organizations And The Welfare State by Hasson, Shlomo and Hay, University of Toronto Press, 1994.

The next part of our story will explore how the relationship concerning the Carnegie Community Centre Association, the Carnegie Centre, and the Social Planning Department went from chaos to harmony. People come from all over North America to study the model of trust and respect that the members of Carnegie developed through years of struggle.

By SANDY CAMERON
(to be continued)

for I Rabin

montage of old photos in history book
of churchill, chaplin einstein all
standing together at charters
remind one of
greatness

with you, mr. rabin, one needs no reminder
you fought well saved your beleaguered nation
and even better, when peace cooed, strongly
intervened with determination guts
and courage

now you exist no more, only in the hearts and souls
and minds and tears of people everywhere committed
to fighting for peace despite being called cowards
traitors and worse for honest solid beliefs
simply held in unpopularity

for to stand up in public for peace or disarmament is
to invite the wrath of the lemming majority, those
who spit on anyone veering off the sanctified forest path
of blind devotion to state church military industrial complex
for the few who stand up for peace be heroes like you

john a douglas

Piñata Making Workshops



Monday, Dec. 4
Wednesday, Dec. 6 2:30 - 5:00
Monday, Dec. 11 2nd Floor
Wednesday, Dec. 13 Non-Smoking Lounge

All materials provided - Sign up with Marina
BIENVENIDOS TODOS - ALL WELCOME!

All People -

We at Oppenheimer Park need your help to help others less fortunate. We need blankets and coats only, by donation. If you could donate just one blanket we would be able to help almost all park patrons through the coldest times, which inevitably happen when we aren't ready.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Johnson
667-0057(Pager) & 665-2210(Park)



AIDS to Spiritual Growth

Recently a friend of mine was discovered to be HIV positive. Like Edgar Allan Poe's *The Masque of Red Death*, we face a 'trendy' disease that is decimating the land.

They say that HIV has a latent period with no visible symptoms but they also say that there is a strain that is undetectable, so a negative test isn't necessarily a carte blanche of guaranteed health. Besides, I've often entertained the fantasy of writing a story of someone who, elated after a negative outcome on an HIV test, runs fast across the street and gets killed by a fast-moving truck. Kinda like how General Patton dies as a result of a car accident in the United States a couple of years after surviving two World Wars. So there are no guarantees.

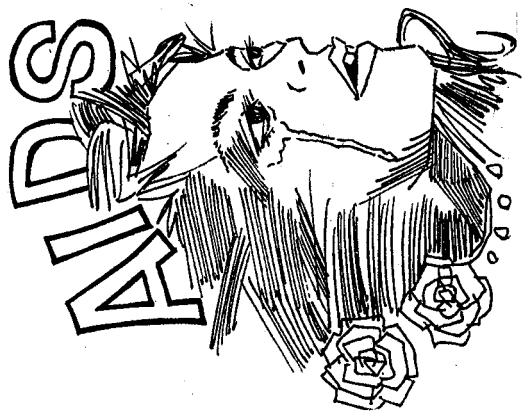
Often the cause of the disease is something we have just overlooked but was in front of our noses. Yellow fever is caused by a ridiculously small mosquito; Bubonic plague is caused by a ludicrously tiny flea that lives on rats. Funny how it will turn out that the cause and cure of AIDS is something that will be one one-thousandth of a centimetre! (Read Albert Camus *The Plague*) It doesn't mean that the cure isn't already in existence. How can it not be when energy can neither be created nor destroyed?

The way it is, a drug goes through deciding what to name it, tests on 23 species of animals, 500 humans, federal legislative review, and a marketing and pricing committee. This process could take 5 years before it's out "on the street."

Unlike tuberculosis, which is transmitted through the air, one has got to pretty well go out of their way to get AIDS. I'd be more worried about an outbreak of leprosy or eboli.

I love you. This compels me to remember my friends and myself who are still healthy and to never ever take those who are in my life for granted. This means you!

That doesn't mean that the cure isn't out there. Chinese medicine believes in the five elements being balanced. Deficiency, and invariably overabundance in one of these elements - wind, fire,



15.

metal, water, earth - results in dis-ease. That is the essence of Taoist alchemy. Traditional medicine regards diseases in a hyper-mythological way. It's as if a disease can be isolated and distinct from the rest whereas the older schools of medicine see each disease as an extension of the rest.

There are rumours afoot that people have cured themselves of AIDS. Like Louise B. Hay (she is in the New Age genre like Seth, Ramtha, JZ Knight, Jack Handey). For a society that openly accepts the existence of a man walking on water, rising from the dead, and especially performing healing miracles, it sure is looking at AIDS in a defeatist way.

It ain't over 'til it's over!

By DEAN KO

Welfare Bashing

Some people take pleasure in kicking the poor and jobless when they are down on their luck. A pair of doozies: Brian Kuran, whom I highly suspect is a racist, judging from his Province's "reports"; and Kathy Tate, his sidekick, who blames End Legislated Poverty for not eliminating the poor.

I pray to Manitou that the future does not go well for these two. Let them eat at the Harbour Light for a month. If there was an award to present to Welfare Bashers they would win hands down. It'd be called "Assholes of the Month".

A. Militant

To The United Church of Canada, BC Conference, Vancouver.

Considering that the United Church of Canada has been responsible for the abuse and mistreatment of First Nations people in the Alberni region of Vancouver Island as a result of its residential school program, and considering that your church has sold for profit native land entrusted to it by the Ahousaht band on Flores Island

and considering that your church has closed a food bank at St. Andrew's United Church in Port Alberni upon which hundreds of native and poor families were dependent,

and considering that your church has wrongfully dismissed a minister who attempted to bring First Nations people into St. Andrew's United Church, and has made First Nations people feel unwelcome there through racist remarks and actions,

and considering that your church is doing little if anything to practice solidarity or love towards the poor and oppressed at a time of growing poverty and injustice,

We, the undersigned, demand the following:

1. That the United Church re-open the Loaves and Fishes food bank at St. Andrew's United Church in Port Alberni and assist the formation of an effective community food bank in that city;
2. That the United Church re-establish the community ministry among First Nations and low-income people started by Rev. Kevin McNamee-Annett in Port Alberni, under the supervision and control of these people;
3. That the United Church secure the immediate return of Lot 363 on Flores Island to the Ahousaht people;
4. That the United Church make a full public disclosure of the extent of abuse and wrong-doing by church staff at the Alberni and Ahousaht Residential Schools, and financially compensate all victims of this abuse, according to the terms of these victims, and
5. That the United Church take an unequivocal, public stand with First Nations and low-income people by
 - a) establishing a quota system within its member congregations in areas with Native populations that will ensure that at least 20% of church board positions are occupied by First Nations people;
 - b) establishing a similar quota system in all member congregations that will ensure that at least 25% of church board positions are occupied by low-income people;
 - c) creating a "solidarity fund" of at least \$1million within the BC Conference that will directly fund ministries of and by First Nations and low-income people, on terms established and controlled by them,
 - d) actively support clergy and others in the United Church who attempt to implement these measures in the face of racism and classism within the church.

We share this petition and message with the church, wider community and media, believing that "Justice begins at home." **Justice in the valley** is a community coalition of indigenous and low-income peoples' groups based in Port Alberni, BC. Call 723-2892 (Port Alberni) or 822-0075 (Vancouver)

(Fax completed petitions to 251-6401)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>
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To all of you who have suffered abuse or injustice in the church: An invitation to share your story

Many of us who have been hurt by the church and its leaders have been forced into silence. Our voice has not been heard. Some of are trying to change this, believing that justice and truth must begin at home.

Acting with the help of Ministers' Mutual Aid of BC, a support network for clergy and others, we are compiling stories of people who have been abused or treated unfairly within the church. We hope to publish these accounts in a book that will also analyse the reasons for such abuse and discuss ways of healing and growing beyond it.

All contributions by you will be accepted in complete confidence and may be made anonymously.

It's normal to be afraid and even ashamed of going public with the details of one's own mistreatment, But unless we begin to do so, other innocent people will suffer the same abuse we have.

I hope you will take courage and help is in this truth-telling effort. Please contact me directly at the address and number below if you are interested in contributing your story, ideas, or discussing this project
May God strengthen and bless you.

(Rev) Kevin McNamee-Annett
for the "church abuse" book project

Ministers' Mutual Aid of BC, c/o 105-6040 Iona Drive, Vancouver, BC V6T 2E8 (Tel. 822-0075)

THE MARKETPLACE OF IDEAS.



In The Dumpster

Greetings fellow Binnners and Binnerettes and a huge welcome back to our far-out bro' Trash-hopper. Get enough sun?

Binning hasn't been good for me as the rain keeps me indoors a lot these days. I'll admit that it's bad here, but it could be worse.. we could be living in North Van. The rain caught dem dudes nappin'. Some people are doing good as the Bottle Depot is doing a record business.

Last issue I mentioned that a man had been murdered outside the Pennsylvania Hotel. As it turned out, me and many other Downtown Eastsiders knew him. His name was Robert Brazeau. He used to work at Buymore, just down the street from DERA. I was very moved as, one by one, his friends and loved ones came up to the pulpit and spoke of our departed friend. He was knifed by three gutless men as he entered the bar. All he said was "Excuse me, please." That was all he said.

To my dismay they've gotten away..so far. They stole the life of a good man and a good loving father of a beautiful 9 year-old girl.

Robert Brazeau, may you rest in peace and may your killers be caught. EXCUSE ME PLEASE!?!

Mr. McBinner

Editor,

Man, isn't it good to be back from vacation - for the last while in Ocean Falls up in Howe Sound or, as the locals call it, 'Shin Falls in Howie's Sound.

I learned a lot of interesting things but the most important thing was about cockroaches. It seems that they aren't roaches at all. A couple of eons ago, as the story goes, a spaceship landed in a remote part of Powell River and somehow the space aliens were seen by some pilgrims who got so scared they changed into cockroaches and moved to 'Shin Falls. Then one day a group of people came from Vancouver on a boat and started all kinds of industries, including killing trees. So the head roach, named Blackball (also known as (a.k.a.) "B B") got really ticked off and started the practice of invading human brains. Next thing you know - no more work, no more housing, no more money, no more ferries. Check it out; look under "Ferries, BlackBall."

It sure is great to be back in Van again among all the rest of the sane, successful yahoos. Take care and please remember - be alert. We need a lot of Certs.

Trashhopper

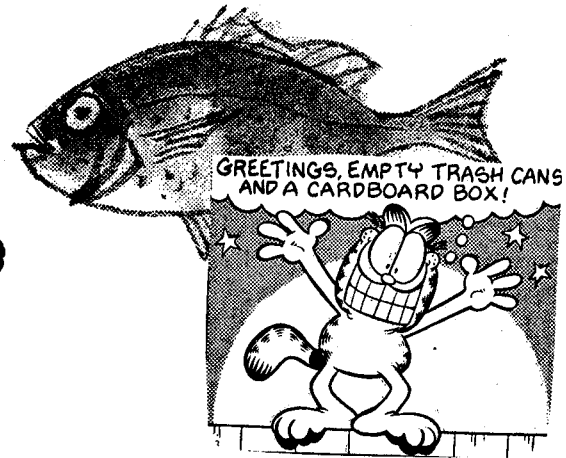
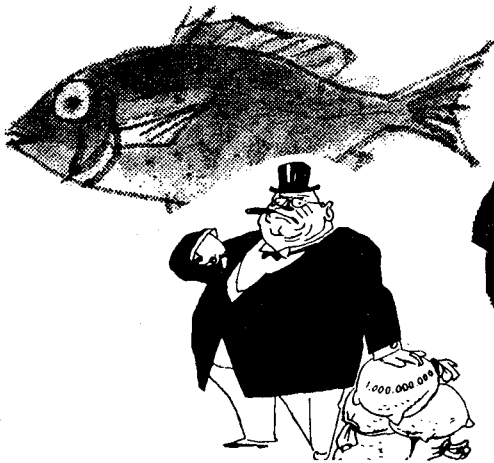


EXCUSE ME PLEASE

Excuse me please, they heard him, why? Why? pray why? did our young friend have to die? 3 gutless men sold crack on the street, Full of greed, bitter hate and deceit. They stole away from a girl of nine, Her dad of 41, so good and kind. His pain is gone but ours remains... "Excuse me please," was all in vain.

To Judy, Denny, Gina, Pearl, Mike, Phillip, Lilly, Buymore, The Brazeau & Augest Family

Carl MacDonald



(*Note: The following piece came November 14 on the fax. It's still worth printing - Ed.)

RALLY AGAINST PRESTON MANNING AND THE REFORM PARTY

Mobilize your workplace, campus or organization! Delegations of workers, the unemployed and students are encouraged to greet Preston Manning and his guests on Thursday, November 16, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Guests will be arriving for cocktails at 6pm; dinner is at 7pm - at \$175 a plate. Protesters will gather out in front of the hotel at the Burrard Street entrance. Speakers will include members from the labour movement, the student movement and an activist around Native issues.

As well, music will be featured from *Preston Manning and the Deformers*, a political satire by Robert Light. A marshalling team has been formed but anyone interested should arrive around 5pm. Bring banners and signs and help greet Preston and his guests before they begin strategizing on how to further divide the working class using scapegoating tactics such as racism, sexism and homophobia.

Expose and Oppose Reform Party bigots:

Only mass action, which opposes and exposes the Reform Party for the bigots they are will show the right that the left is a force to be reckoned with. The real enemy is the right wing with its

agenda of corporate greed and class exploitation. The Reform Party has helped shift the political climate farther to the right in Canada and they are continuing to make gains in attacks on working people. They are the thin edge of the wedge in leading the attacks on Natives, immigrants, gays and lesbians, the Quebecois, women and welfare recipients.

Using the rhetoric of 'democracy and equality', they prefer to see abortion re-criminalised, youth in chain gangs, immigrants from only wealthy European nations, Quebec fall off the face of the earth and Natives receiving the death penalty. In fact, Stephen Harper (of the Reform Party) had the nerve to position himself as spokesperson for Native rights during the Quebec Referendum campaign. This only one month after Preston Manning announced a policy on Native Peoples which will strip them of the few rights that they have managed to gain. The Reform Party also wants to downsize government, which means cutting social programs and job lay-offs. Women's shelters, food banks and ESL programs are things they see as coming from special interest groups. They are also doing research & development on ways to break unions, probably to 'out-do' Mike Harris's Bill C-7. This bill will overturn Bill C-40, the anti-scab legislation passed by the Ontario NDP last year.

Building the confidence of the left means breaking the confidence of the right.....

((**A Forum on Health Care was held;
the following was part of the discussion*))

Medicare & Poverty

(Paul Taylor)

I'm here on behalf of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA). I'm also on the boards of the Carnegie Community Centre Association, the Tenants' Rights Action Coalition (TRAC), the Four Sisters Housing Co-op and End Legislated Poverty.

DERA has been in existence for 22 years, originally formed to get basic rights in housing like doors that close, windows that open, toilets that work and sprinklers and basic cleanliness in hotels and rooming houses. Over the years the stereotype of 'skid road' was being changed, new housing for seniors and singles and families was built and absentee landlords were put on notice that they had to obey the law. **Carnegie** is a living room for over 2000 people a day, providing nutritious food, a library, fitness, activities for seniors and a learning centre and a lot more. **TRAC** is an excellent resource and aid for tenants and does a lot of education on the Residential Tenancy Act and rent control and maintenance and safety. **ELP** is a coalition of almost 40 anti-poverty groups and does good work in education on the true causes of poverty, exposing corporate and government injustice and empowering people. These organisations all have a common thread - members and people using the services and taking part in activities are generally low income - in plain language we're economically poor. This is not an easily identifiable group - no one wears a badge saying "I am poor" and only a small number of people can be readily identified as being poor. But let's take a silent poll - I'd like everyone here to ask themselves a question: "How close am I to poverty?" It's the question that makes medical care and Medicare so crucial and so worth fighting for.

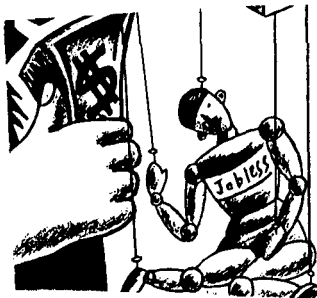
If you are poor right now - living on an income that is below the "low-income cut-off", as



it's called by *Stats Canada*, or the Poverty line, as it's called by everyone else, **Medicare** is a necessity. It is impossible to afford any kind of private health insurance, difficult to pay any user fee or dispensing fee or certainly to pay for prescription drugs. It is difficult to afford maintaining good nutrition, decent, safe housing, adequate clothing... it's almost impossible for you, if you're not well-to-do or exceptionally bright or gifted, to continue your education. Somehow, the powers that be have decided that to cover up their greed and waste and anti-social activities, they will play on our fears and ignorance and bombard us with a continuous flow of propaganda that the economic ills of Canada are our fault - or more specifically, the fault of "the poor" - of all those lazy, cheating bums on welfare *and* the unemployed *and* immigrants *and* seniors *and* the working poor *and* organized labour and ANYONE who isn't part of and promoting the corporate agenda. All our social programs, including Medicare, income assistance, pensions, UI and more, are a net - each complements the others and is crucial for all. It's only if you're well-off that they don't seem important to you, don't seem worthwhile.

Medicare is not without flaws, but it is part of, the foundation of, the best medical care system in the world and even the poorest people can receive this care. The drug corporations and medical associations want to end this, to make us

have the same two-tiered system as the States. Poor people, and again this is anyone who cannot afford to pay the whole cost of medical care, will simply have no care. In the States there are Charity hospitals, places where people who have no insurance go. They are, of course, overcrowded, understaffed, and with a minimum of adequate treatment. My younger brother was in one in Mississippi - blankets, food, and bandages were stolen for him by other patients. Another silent poll - how many people want to pay \$9 for two



aspirin, or \$4 for a Band-Aid. My brother wasn't a thief or trying to get more than others, but he was too sick to even ask.

Poverty is a reality for millions of Canadians right now, and many of them are children. Medicare is our right, just as decent jobs and housing and education are. Next year is the International Year for the Eradication of Poverty and the Liberals and their corporate bosses are laughing at us while grabbing everything they can. It's a long haul, but we'll win. Thanks.

Medicare & Labour

(From a talk given by Fred Muzzin, President, Hospital Employees Union (HEU))

The USA spends 14% of its Gross Domestic Product on health care; Canada spends 10% and Japan 8%. Canada is more efficient but waste and duplication and the increase of privatisation increase our costs. The drug multinationals and 'health services' corporations were strong supporters of both "Free" Trade and NAFTA. (The next step is hemispheric free trade - North & South America; likely to be called HAFTA.) These corporations are multi-billion dollar



businesses. When Clinton put forward his Health Care proposal, the US Medical Association, having over \$1 billion in cash assets, spent \$100 million to fight and defeat the proposal. It would have "managed" (ensured) competition and of course slightly lowered profits. What's disgusting in their whining about profits is that the 10 CEO's (Chief Executive Officers) of the ten most profitable "health services" giants and drug corporations are paid over \$100 million a YEAR in salary and stock options and other perks. The CEO of the most profitable corporation makes \$738 million a year. ("That's not thousand but million!") While these corporations and individuals make obscene profits, 37 million Americans have no health insurance at all, and a further 35 million are underinsured.

It is the vast profit potential in re-making Canada's health care system into a mirror image of the States' with "Pay up or shut up" as the underlying principle - that is the fundamental reason for the destruction of Medicare and socialised medicine.

Organised labour is seen as a major threat to continuous downsizing and dismantling of our medical system. A prime example is the recent event in Alberta when 60 laundry workers bid on a contract, submitted the lowest bid, and lost in favour of a private American company. They had already taken wage cuts, more work time and lay-offs and were about to be subjected to the lead pipe of political favouritism and under-the-table deals - they said "Enough." They went on a wildcat strike, were joined within hours by over

2300 hospital and health employees, and Ralph Klein finally blinked. His government, bent on privatisation and the destruction of the social safety net in Alberta, finally woke up to the anger they had created.

Medicare & Seniors

(From a talk given by Jack Phillips, President, Council of Senior Citizens' Organisations (COSCO))

Corporate wealth and the wealth of those who own and control big business and governments is generated by adherence to a philosophy - 'it is right that "we" not pay for someone else, that our money is ours and not to be shared or limited or restricted under some nonsense of social responsibility.'

I get a lot of people telling me not to be "political"... everything is political. When the corporate elite fight like hell to not pay taxes, to not pay their fair share, to get tax breaks and loopholes and pressure governments to pass laws allowing them to increase profits at the expense of seniors and people and cost you and me our pensions and Medicare and other programs, it is political. They are behind decisions and changes and are the other side in every issue. We elect people to political office, hoping for the best, and then always end up hoping they will "be nice."

In this latest round, everything we as seniors depend on is under attack. Medicare is what we fought like hell for and paid for over a lot of years. We have a right to decent health care and not to have to be afraid of reading the paper to see what is being cut. The provincial government in BC is getting \$340 million less this year from the federal government. Over the next decade this will gradually get to the point where the feds don't transfer a dime. They've changed the way money is shared, calling it the Canadian Health and Social Transfer. Under this scheme, money is not paid on a dollar-matching-dollar in health and income assistance. Now provinces can take money that should be spent on health (or education or welfare) and spend it on roads or salaries or government



jets This is the end of Medicare, of national standards and the five fundamental principles: *(From the Canadian Labour Congress booklet "Medicare: ...our health depends on it")*

Universality All Canadians are covered under the health care system. It doesn't matter if you make \$100,000 or \$9,000, you get the care you need.

Accessibility Everyone has equal access. No matter where you live in Canada, Medicare guarantees you will have access to care.

Comprehensiveness Our system includes more services than most private health insurance companies cover.

Portability In Canada, you take your health care with you.

Public Administration This means that because it is paid for through taxes, our system operates on a non-profit basis.

Seniors are watchful in BC. The NDP passed the Medicare Protection Act, while private labs and contracting out to private firms continue to undermine our single-payer system and move us toward this two-tiered thing. Medicare is the biggest issue and must be front and centre in every politician's and every person's mind.

What to do is to do everything possible. Call the Hospital Employees Union, the Health Sciences Association, the Vancouver & District Labour Council (all in the phonebook) for more information on what can be done. Call your MP and let them know that Medicare has to be preserved and made better, not destroyed.

By PAULR TAYLOR

Ten goals for improving health care

Developed by the members of the Canadian Health Coalition for improving Medicare and the health of Canadians.

1. **Create Good Health.** We must create conditions for good health. That means we need public policies that make for healthy people: full employment at decent wages, housing, a strong social safety net, education, food, peace, a clean environment, and a safe workplace. Public policies that allow the gap between the rich and poor to widen will lead to higher health costs.
2. **Preserve and strengthen the Canada Health Act**, the foundation of Medicare. The five principles of Medicare must be maintained: universal coverage, accessibility, portability between provinces and territories, comprehensive coverage, and public non-profit administration. The federal government should maintain sufficient cash transfers to the provinces to guarantee equal access to health services as a right for all Canadians. The federal government should withhold cash transfers to provinces that violate the Canada Health Act.
3. **Make the health care system democratic**, accountable and representative. Let all Canadians participate in health decision-making, not just private corporations and un-elected boards. Bring everyone - including patients, members of the public and health care workers - into the reform and evaluation of the health care system. There should be elections for hospital and health care boards. Health care workers should be fully involved in workplace decision-making, not just harnessed in "quality management" schemes to cut costs at the expense of appropriate care.
4. **Provide a continuum of care from large institutions to the home.** This means providing good quality care with appropriate treatment and supports while providing choice of location to the patient. Governments have used the rhetoric of moving to community care to downsize institutional care without actually expanding non-profit, accountable services in the community. Health care reforms should improve and increase services to seniors and the community.
5. **Protect our investment in the skills and abilities of our health care workers.** Cutting front line workers means cutting quality of care. We have built up a tremendous resource in the skills and abilities of health care workers. Negotiating employment security agreements enables displaced workers to access comparable jobs in the health care system. Allow health care workers to retain their existing rights by encouraging unionisation in emerging health care organisations. With secure employment workers can participate more freely in the restructuring of the health care system.
6. **Ensure fair wages for all health care providers.** The burden of providing health care is being shifted onto poorly paid workers in the community and unpaid family care-givers in the home, most of whom are women. Health care reform should not rob communities of "good jobs" and contribute to the

development of low-wage economy. Wage parity with existing institutional jobs recognises that fair wages and decent working conditions contributes to quality of care.

7. **Eliminate profit-making from illness.** Public administration of Medicare has saved Canadians billions of dollars. The practice of "deinsuring" health services by eliminating them from Medicare coverage, the move to user fees, the creation of profit-making clinics - all these changes create a two-tier health care system where private insurance companies profit. There is no room for profit and inequity in health care.
8. **Reduce over-prescribing and make drugs affordable.** Drug companies are adding millions to health care costs by driving up prices. We need to repeal the drug patent protection legislation which prevents competition and enact law reform that promotes lower drug prices. Controlling over-prescribing and drug costs would free up millions for health care services.
9. **Stop fee-for-service payments.** We should pay health workers on the salaried basis, not the fee-for-service system used by physicians, some health care providers, and private labs. Fee-for-service (payment for the number and type of services provided) encourages over-booking, over-prescribing, over-treating and the concentration of physicians in urban areas at the expense of rural areas.
10. **Expand methods of health care and the role of non-physician health providers.** We must develop holistic approaches to health care that expand the role of non-physician health care providers. Nurses, midwives and others can handle many procedures within the full scope of their profession including areas neglected by the medical profession, such as services for women or cultural communities. More information should be made available to the public so they can make informed decisions and are aware of choices in treatment.



Carnegie Community Centre

VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE MEETING

**December 6th, Wednesday, 2 p.m.
Non-Smoking Lounge**

Open to all Volunteers



EXCUSES

As another curtain rises
On the dream you thought was real
And the blood you bled in blindness
Hardens over what you feel.

As memory turns to legend
When losses look like gains
And the gold you never counted
Has been spent to buy your chains.

As the daydream turns to nightmare
And the right fades in wrong
When your very deepest treasure
Has been bartered for a song.

And the breeze you knew in summer
Is now winter's hurricane
And your standing at the crossroad
Where the signs all point to rain.

When you know the party's over
And the final scene's played out
When the certainties you once knew
Are drowning in your doubt.

In that moment when your armour cracks
And there is no one there to blame
Will you see your great excuses
Are excuses just the same?

Larry A. Berezensky

I'd break loose. She'd grab me again. Tear my shirt apart. Screaming at each other. I wanted to get out. Go for a walk. Cool off.

She'd grab me and wouldn't let go. I couldn't pry her fingers loose. I knew she'd once held onto a man until the bones in her hand broke.

I felt trapped. A riptide ripped through me. She was on the floor. My hands around her throat. Choking her.

"What are you trying to do?" I said. "Do you want me to kill you?"

And her brown eyes, so fierce and determined a moment before, softened. She nodded her head. "Yes."

She'd never before looked at me with such utter yielding, complete trust, and love. I removed my hands from her throat like taking them off a hot stove.

It was after that I realized either of us could easily murder the other. She'd already threatened me with a butcher knife. If we stayed together one of us would likely end up in prison.

I imagined myself in a cell, saying over and over, 'But I loved her...' I'd say to the judge, 'But I really loved her...' I'd say that to her family, my family, our friends, everyone, and only God would know I was telling the truth.

Only God and the other men and women in prison for murdering their loved ones would know. Only those, like God, whose own son had been murdered, by those he loved.

By BUD OSBORN

**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 -\$50	CEEDS -\$50
Anonymous -\$165.75	



**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:**

**12 December
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.**



QUESTION M-33 III

Garry Gust

...The alien turned and made sounds into a cylinder that coiled onto a cone suspended above my head. From it I heard a steady flow of low-pitched words, but as words in a dreamstate are always disjointed, I made no sense of the endless sentences, then.

Only now in these last hours of December 1999, in the face of this morning's terrible disaster in the mid-east, do the words come back with perfect recall. How and why, I do not know, but I impart them to you in this letter, trusting that you'll know what to do:

"...The atmosphere of this world is poisoned. The depletion of purifying oxygen from its fallen forests has gone below a sustaining balance for sound health. The brains of its major inhabitants malfunction with increasing degrees of destructive madness, and bring considerable danger to outlying regions on both levels of the sun.

"From this continent alone comes the source of such activity that overwhelms the ability of natural adaption. The

chemical changes incurred by wasteful combustion of life-sustaining materials has no sane purpose.

"The insatiable consumption of oil in this land has robbed the earth of fluid intended to ease its constant shifting and cool its subterranean shelves.

"With every year that passes, the Great Lakes keep accumulating the ingredients that will cause them soon to explode into seas of fire that will obliterate the moon for decades.

"Of all the species of this world, the human is the only one that wreaks havoc with nature's balance, and puts the others in great peril....

"We, of other worlds, will and must act before another century passes. Prepare then, for what must be done to end this product of madness."



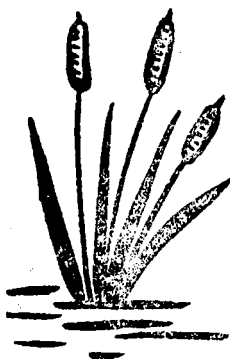
Skid Row COAL HARBOR

Standing all the time

Reality shelters
on the move.

Walls made of
love
Walls made of
wombs.

We are the
mishaps
and accidents
who accept
the temporary.



You Didn't Hurt Me

You didn't want to hurt me
There were guys who came
Before you and after you..
There's no one like you

You could see that I was hurting
And wanted to make me feel better
Before I knew it I was falling for you
You saw things in me I never wanted you to see

You didn't want to hurt me
But I ended up hurting you
I couldn't go with you but my heart did
I will forgive you for loving me
if you forgive me for saying good-bye

Karen Jorgensen

We are the state
discovered
and constantly
unseen!

We've been featured
in residential schools
and foster homes;
Such special attention!

We are
the collective
that is unable
to adopt
its own.

The "welcome"
in trust
frightens us.

We all ran away!



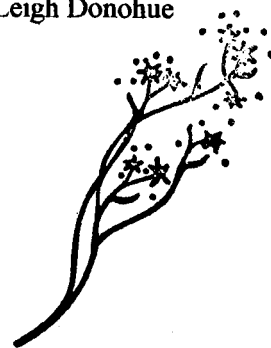
We are the living
the dead
and the yet-to-be
conceived.

We are
your addicts
your thieves
and your
friends.

We are
your births
and your
community.

Your neighbours
on the street.

Leigh Donohue



If the streets could talk
Would anyone listen?

To the cries of a child
Whose father has left
And the mother is nowhere to be found?

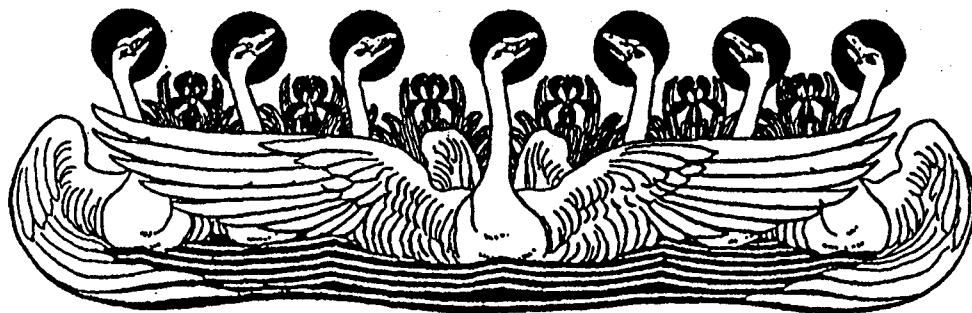
To the story of a person
Who just had their last fix?

Or how about a young child
Who has left home to try and find
A life for themselves on the streets?

The streets welcome everyone
To come and live.. but
Only a few escape the streets' hands

If the streets could talk
What would they say about you?

Karen Jorgensen



A Bevy of Swans

Many of England's earliest printed books dealt with the subject of hunting. It became customary to include in these volumes a listing of the proper terms designating groups of animals. The lists were called Nouns of Venery (an Old French word for the art of hunting) or Nouns of Assemblage. *The Book of St. Albans*, published in 1486, contained 164 such terms. The following selection is drawn from that and other early sources.

Antelopes: a herd.	Fishes: a shoal.	Nightingales: a watch.
Apes: a shrewdness.	Flies: a swarm.	Owls: a parliament.
Asses: a pace.	Foxes: a skulk.	Peacocks: a muster.
Badgers: a cete.	Goats: a trip.	Ponies: a string.
Bears: a sloth.	Goldfinches: a charm.	Porpoises: a school.
Bees: a swarm.	Hares: a down.	Pups: a litter.
Birds: a flock.	Hawks: a cast.	Ravens: an unkindness.
Boars: a sounder.	Horses: a harras.	Seals: a pod.
Bucks: a brace.	Hounds: a pack.	Sheep: a flock.
Cats: a clowder.	Kangeroos: a troop.	Squirrels: a dray.
Cattle: a drove.	Kittens: a kindle.	Starlings: a murmuration.
Chickens: a brood.	Larks: an exaltation.	Swallows: a flight.
Cranes: a sedge.	Leopards: a leap.	Swans: a bevy.
Crows: a murder.	Lions: a pride.	Toads: a knot.
Cubs: a litter.	Mares: a stud.	Turtles: a bale.
Deer: a herd.	Moles: a labor.	Whales: a gam.
Elks: a gang.	Monkeys: a troop.	Wolves: a route.
Ferrets: a fesnyng.	Mules: a barren.	Woodpeckers: a descent.



WORKFARE EXPERIENCED

When I was a single parent I was collecting Unemployment Insurance and was told that I had to take the next job on the board.. any job.

There was one as a receptionist in a car and furniture rental office which did a variety of other things as well. I applied for it. The UI office rep. said, "They want someone right away; If you're accepted, at \$700 a month, you have to take it even if it might not be what you want."

Seven hundred would not really cover the needs of my kids and myself. I applied, hoping I'd be turned down; I was hired and told to sign a form saying I would take \$700 a month for a year. I felt I had to.

The next day I discovered it was a dirty, mouse-infested warehouse. It had a typewriter repair shop and was full of all kinds of equipment, including old typewriters. The manager sold reconditioned typewriters, among other things.

Over time I discovered his rental cars died in the middle of highways, or just after they left the parking lot, or on the ferry. His typewriters got shipped to China, where they probably died too. There were lots of other problems.

The pay was so poor that a man who had been working there slept in the rental furniture part of the warehouse because he couldn't afford an apartment. When he was fired he was out of a bed as well. Another had been sleeping in a makeshift room in the basement. He did everything he could to keep his job, including sub as night watchman.

Later the boss was charged with not reporting rentals on the cars. He got some time in jail.

I managed, since I had to, feeling a lot like I was being taken just like people who rented cars. After a year I asked for a raise but got fired; someone else was hired for \$700 a month.

Working for welfare also puts full time employees out of work, and cuts the union down. It isn't so nice all around. You might be stuck with it. It's better than no money at all...

By DORA SANDERS



Mike Harcourt

There is no cut and dried statement that could realistically epitomize any energy. Certainly not one in 20 words or less, or even 20,000 words.

* * * *

There is an old German saying: "The best time to leave a party is when you're having the most fun." ..so as not to leave on a sour note.

Bill Bennett left when his star was still in its ascendancy. Mike Harcourt could well be going before things get worse.

There is an old expression of the 'Bambi Killer' - Bambi never hurt anyone..why pick on Bambi? Welfare recipients don't hurt anyone.

What is \$50 a month to a Hornby Street lawyer making \$500 an hour?

We are not one percent "parasites". Upwards of 10% of British Columbians are on the Golden Calf and we vote.

There is a phenomenon - the Peter Principle - in which a person will rise to the level of their incompetency (and no further). Mike Harcourt is apparently an exception to that because he was great as Mayor of Vancouver but a bit out of his league as a Premier.

Perhaps Bingo-gate or even Welfare-gate is a subterfuge. The NDP have been planning the promotion of an opponent to Gordon Campbell of the Liberal (Sacred) Party. As the song goes,

"The old grey Mayor

He ain't what he used to be..."

Interesting how 'partie' in French means 'to leave'

By DEAN KO

Feeling fine--it's a rough life
standing up for Aboriginal Rights

Made a stand-off with Federal Department of
Fisheries and Wildlife
over the disagreement on Resource
Management

About regulation of the system--territory and
trapping grounds--
my People will never give up their Traditional,
Cultural Rights

HERB "KNEECAP" NIKAL was arrested and
charged under weapons and 5 other charges
including: selling moosemeat and scaring
Federal officers. Kneecap was sentenced for
one year on August 31, 1995. Says he can do
it, no problem. He has the support of family
and friends, some as far away as Germany,
Washington and Calgary.

"Could have been a bad scene," says
Nikal, "it started in reaction to angry Aboriginal
People who were in trouble. I took the fall -
perhaps it was aspirated stress and shameless
fidelity to my traditional morals. I was proud to
fall for my Wet us'wet'en People."

Kneecap has religious belief in the
Traditional way and prays a lot. There is a
Cultural Sweatlodge there at the prison where
Elders and Traditional Singers can come to the
Sweat.

People in Vancouver don't understand
the 125-year controversy happening with the
political people (the Government) and the
Aboriginal People. Nikal says that it is a matter
that isn't going to be put aside. This
disagreement will keep arising in the political
world. The aboriginal people are not going to
take it sitting down - they are going to fight.

Just recently, in 1963, the feuding has
arisen. "The way I see it," Nikal writes in a
letter, "no period in Canadian History is more

dramatic and colourful, and few eras more
significant than that period around 1963
concluding the so-called Department of
Fisheries. In 1963, the Federal Ministry of
Forestry gave all rights to the logging company
to clear-cut our traplines.

"As Aboriginal People, we disapprove
of that kind of project. It's not the civil people
we don't trust - it's the Government. So," says
Nikal, "this controversy is probably the second
coming with the Gustafsen Lake Camp stand-
off, I just hope not.

"I know my tribe, the Wet us'wet'en
People, won't stand for this kind of
intimidation, we will fight. We are looking out
for our younger generation and future
generations. I'd like to see this controversy
resolved in black and white, rather than arms.

"So, this is why I'm incarcerated. I'm
one of the Warrior Rebels standing up for my
rights as a Traditional Cultural person,
protecting the Land and Resources.

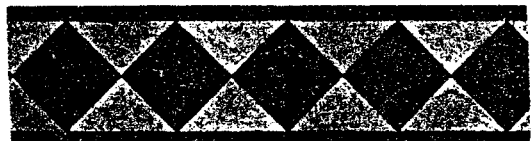
"This is my view of the picture. Being
a spiritual person, I pray for peace in the Sweat
Lodge. I hope the people of Vancouver
understand my way of life. I don't think I'll
have a problem being a civilized person after
being institutionalized.

"Like I said, I mentally prepared myself
for this sentence and I know I'll make it - some
people call it the survival of humanity. I'm a
strong person - I can handle it."

.....written with his permission from letters
and conversations with H. Kneecap Nikal,

by Windy Haven

November 7 '95, Vancouver, BC



The Wake-up Call

Last week I was told the following by individuals:
- 'HIV positive and denied welfare'; '\$46 was cut from November's cheque'; 'can't afford to eat now'; 'rents are going up'.

This is the reality of the cutbacks and the new policies set by the Ministry of Social Services. This isn't high-falootin' economics..this is reality. One man asked what was going to happen to us in the coming year. I couldn't answer him then.

Having time to consider what the reality is going to be, I can see more people getting hungrier and colder and angrier. I can see that some of us are going to have to steal to survive; some to feed their kids, others to get clothes and transportation to find a job, and some will want to try to escape with more drugs and alcohol. Few of us are going to be able to pay for our food, clothing and shelter without stealing or defrauding the government (this last is the biggest and sickest joke I've ever heard)..let alone find a job.

We are in a situation that demands we must start educating the middle class in a big way. We must show them the establishment is the creator of crime. The way corporations and governments are force-managing our lives makes some of us think and act criminal.

I know the main reason I need more money to have my TO LIVE Rights is because of my rent. It is the same for most--when we have to pay more for rent we need more money. There has been nothing done to alleviate pressure on the poor and lots done to help the rich property owner.

There are people (the middle class) in this city who pay mortgages.. who say they own a home.. but do they? Some land owner tells such people the home they want to "own" costs \$300,000. For these people to "own", they have to borrow the money and then pay it back monthly, with interest, and lots die still owing this money. The interest rates on the borrowed money can actually make the cost of the home 3 times greater than the



original price tag. It's a vicious circle created by the greedy and they call it the Great Democratic Way of Life.

It is this same greedy establishment that is putting pressure on the elected representatives to do something about the crime rate. Their chant is: "There are too many people breaking into our houses and shoplifting from our businesses and it's costing us too much. Put these criminals in jail!" So the governments play along like good puppets and jail the poor, instead of putting in rent controls or limiting interest rates. In fact, there are elected representatives buying and selling land just like the puppet masters.(Building prisons is one of the biggest growth industries in California right now and Canada will soon be running to keep up.)

How are we going to educate the middle class and get them to realize their part in this circle?

We start by first bringing lots of attention to ourselves. We make them notice us as human beings. We start on December 7th, Thursday, with the help of DERA, which is organising a rally/parade to march from Victory Square to the Vancouver Stock Exchange. The more people in this parade, the more we will be noticed.

The December 7th rally/parade takes us to the heart of our problems. We go to the place where insane human beings play the game of the establishment. This arena, called the Stock Exchange, is where the shakers closet themselves from reality and watch numbers grow or shrink. They're oblivious to the real world of human life.

I am going to be in the parade to give the middle class their wake-up call. The walk starts at noon.

By ALISON CAMERON