

FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 15, 1996

401 Main Street, Vancouver. V6A 2T7 4) 665-2289

SO NICE TO  
COME HOME TO  
(SEE PAGE 2)

COATING REPAIRS TO BE COMPLETED

- PRE-FINISHED METAL SCREEN PANELS
- PRE-FINISHED ALUMINUM CURTAIN WALL
- PAINTED STEEL FRAMING
- COATING WORK TO BE COMPLETED WITH PRE-FINISHED ALUMINUM PANELS
- COATING WORK TO BE COMPLETED AND RE-PAINTED BY CONTRACTOR
- NEW PRE-FINISHED ALUMINUM PANELS
- ENCLOSURE BALCONY WITH PRE-FINISHED ALUMINUM SLIDING GLASS DOOR
- NEW STAIRING WITH METAL RAIL



CORDOVA ST.



**CARNEGIE 16TH ANNIVERSARY BASH  
SATURDAY, JAN. 20, 1 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.**

(See Centrefold)

CLOSE, BUT

NO CIGAR YET



After nine years of hoping, planning and lobbying, the Downtown Eastside is as close as it has ever been to making a dream come true - the creation of a real community housing project on the old Woodward's site.

But there is still very far to go, and the project could be derailed by any number of potential roadblocks.

The factor that brought the prize within reach was the growing unity of residents and community groups - the agreement that Woodward's must be an INCLUSIVE project, making room for a range of income levels and interests.

It has to be inclusive if it is to really help revitalize that stretch of Hastings Street and prevent homelessness.

Things reached a low point last year when a West Vancouver developer, Fama Holdings Ltd., bought the building with the intention of converting it into 400 exclusive condo units. That would have torn the heart out of the neighborhood, forced up property values in the area and driven out low-income residents.

But the community didn't lose heart. The lobbying continued. Remember the Woodward's window paint-in?

Even groups from outside the neighborhood pitched in. Three hundred signed letters went from one church on the west side to the mayor's office calling for an inclusive project. That complemented the letter campaign by residents of the Dodson Hotel, delivered in person by one of the residents to City Hall.

Finally, the efforts are starting to pay off. First, Premier Mike Harcourt pledged the money to ensure that one-third of the units will be low-income, pegged at welfare rates.

Then, Fama president Kassem Aghtai got turned on by the idea of a mixed project.

And now Mayor Phillip Owen has thrown the support of the city behind the project (see his letter on the next page to Carnegie).

Even with the best will in the world, though, it's still an iffy proposition in a time of cutbacks - expensive (\$50-\$60 million) and very complex, mixing income groups, open space, stores and offices and residential, funding sources from government to corporate to union and non-profit.

That's why the negotiations need all the expertise that can be mustered. The residents and community groups that have been pressing for this project are putting forward Jim Green as their representative to provide input in the current talks between the province, the city and the developer.

Jim Green knows the terrain and the conditions in the community, he has been involved in more social housing projects than anybody else in the Downtown Eastside and he can tap into lots more expert help.

Anyone who is interested in helping with the process of community input, please contact the Carnegie Community Action project. (See story next page).

And if you want to hear a full explanation of the subject, check out the Woodward's Forum on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 8 p.m. in St. John's Shaughnessy Anglican Church (Mayor Owen's own congregation), Granville and 25th. Speakers will include UBC planner David Ley and Carnegie's own Bud Osborn.

Yes, there's a long way to go. Woodward's won't solve all our problems. We still need to work to house the most vulnerable, the hard-to-house and the homeless.

But it will be well worth the effort to create something on that forlorn stretch of Hastings that will be an asset to the community and an example to inner cities all over North America of how to fix up old buildings and strengthen the fabric of the community at the same time.

Jimmy Hennessey



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

PHILIP W. OWEN  
MAYOR

Dec. 20, 1995

Dear Muggs,

Thank you for your recent letter expressing support for the provincial government, the city of Vancouver and the owner of Woodward's to find a way to provide a balanced housing community at Woodward's. I think you said it well when you wrote, "We need a development that will help transform the street and bring back businesses and services, while providing safe and attractive housing for a variety of citizens." Certainly, the City shares this

aspiration for Woodward's which is such an important anchor in the Downtown Communities area. 3.

You may be aware that a meeting was held in my office last Friday with the Premier, Mr. Agtai of Fama, myself and respective staff, to explore the possibility of providing a housing mix that would address some of the community's housing needs as well as providing retail and commercial space to revitalize the area. I think we made a good beginning, and the City will continue to participate in discussions with the Province and the owner of the property.

Thank you for taking the time to write. May I take this opportunity to wish you, the Board of the Carnegie Community Centre Association and the people that you serve all best wishes for this season and the New Year.

Yours truly,

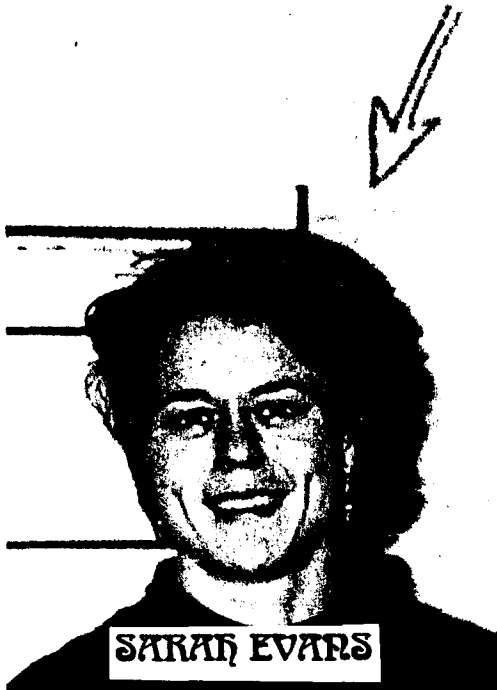
Philip

## CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

We listen to people's ideas about our neighbourhood --what it is and what you want it to be. CAP is a project where your voice is heard. If you want CAP to hold a coffee table discussion where you live, call us at 689-0397.

CAP was started last year in reaction to the proposal to build a Las Vegas style casino on the waterfront. After the community successfully defeated that threat, CAP was extended to discuss other housing and development issues in the Downtown Eastside.

Sarah is the staff member at CAP. Many people will know Sarah from her involvement in the community, at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, the Portland Hotel, the Carnegie Centre, and now the Gathering Place. Sarah coordinates CAP, together with a crew of dedicated volunteers and, most importantly, the people in the community. If you would like to volunteer for CAP, call Sarah at 689-0397.



## CARNEGIE KEEPS ME WARM

Carnegie Community Centre it's a great place, it keeps me away from any trouble. It's a place for everyone, it offers us many exciting things. Carnegie Community Centre it's for you not matter who you are, black, yellow, white or red., it's always there for you! ENJOY!

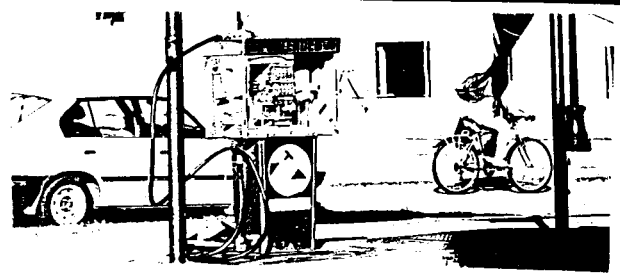
Elizabeth



On the windless night Rob stood on his 15th floor balcony launching paper airplanes across the city "to demonstrate silence," I could hear a voice like the city itself rumbling beneath us. "That's just silence playing tricks," said Rob. "The noise is yourself, alone, desiring." I disagreed.

Something shifted to my side, for we heard sirens. "You must speak louder," I said, "it's hard to hear you above all this racket."

Two days later I found one of his missiles crumpled beneath a nearby shrub like the bloom of a decapitated flower. "Not silence," it said, "but the urgent language of chaos. And we never know what..."



We live in a mixed up world of people on welfare and people working. I think we should have the government pay for support and have people work not as many hours and get paid for their time depending on their skills. So many people want work. If we have more people working shorter hours everyone should be able to work with government help.

Doris Leslie



The former roomers of our desire, the former tenants of ourselves, we are swung on the rusty chains of event, the frayed ropes of will, into the future, into the corollaries of now. Our essential alienation is that we are a process of estrangement from ourselves.

Open, ready for anything, confident of what we know and can do with our knowledge, we note the world has closed like a stone face. When we are weak and unsure, when we want to be undetected and unengaged, then the world seems composed of open space into which our bodies inflate.

Secrecy has descended like a swollen blanket, the feverish bloat of our presence to ourselves, the hotel midnight we dwell in precariously.

In utmost secrecy we arrive, dead among our relics.

Dan Feeney



*A GOOD-BYE*

*KENN MANN*

*August 8, 1956 -December 31, 1995*



DEEPA NAIK

After a 15 year battle against the Aids invasion of his body, Kenn Mann left this world on New Year's Eve. Kenn had lived, worked and contributed many volunteer hours in the Downtown Eastside.

I met Kenn at Oppenheimer Park when I first worked there as Carnegie Park staff, the summer of 1982. He was working for DERA with a mutual friend, Wendy Solloway. Wendy was playing in the all women's band at one of the then numerous community rallies. He was the guy charging around with a clipboard and fancy boots. Apparently there was several disappointed women that day saying: "What do you mean he's gay?"

A few years later, I worked with Kenn on a Community outreach program at Carnegie. We went into the local hotel dwellings to try to help elderly and disabled people get what they needed.

During the Create a Real Available Beach tent-in, Kenn often brought food for the campers and helped organize the demonstrations.

Kenn had a class four license and was always willing to drive vans for kids' outings. He spoke out against the EXPO onslaught of the Downtown Eastside.

A few years ago, he drove the Needle Exchange van until his health failed. Kenn baked the pies for the Women who Have Died in the Downtown Eastside dinner in 1994.

Throughout the years, Kenn worked for the People With Aids organization extensively. He conducted some very lively education workshops on Aids Awareness at Carnegie.

These are just a few examples of Kenn's contributions.

Ken fought against injustice with a determined fervour. He wasn't always easy to get along with. Like all of us, he had his unjust moments and he could be very vocal while in them. But his heart was huge.

I'm glad his suffering is over. His departure leaves a gap in many lives but his energy will burn on in our hearts.

Thanks for making a difference  
Kenn...Bye for now.

Leith Harris

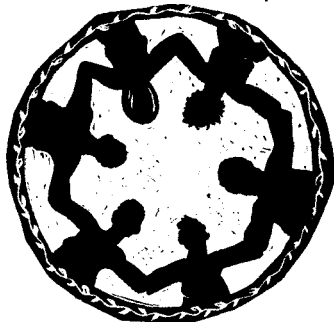
## THEIR SPIRITS LIVE WITHIN US

In the beginning, we started off with very few precious lives. The numbers are growing, that is, the numbers of women who work the streets.

Their lives at times go unnoticed by "society." Sometimes, society is the immediate family.

Our young sisters leave their homes because of one reason or another. Abuse is at the top of the list. Or they are not getting what it takes to be a family member.

They escape by coming to the Big City, only to find more abuse and/or addiction unknown to them...which becomes the ultimate escape from reality.



On Wednesday, Feb. 14, 1996, we will be holding a rally to commemorate the lives of our Street-Involved Wymin who have died violent deaths.

What more can we do to help our sisters, to make people understand that our sisters are just as human as you or I?

- \* **More arrests**
- \* **More strict penalties**
- \* **More understanding**
- \* **More-more-more just doesn't seem to cut it.**
- \* **Much less abuse and more caring from every individual**
- \* **Including all Media personnel**
- \* **Support not only for our murdered sisters, but also for the entire community.**

You are invited to join us in making this March successful and loud for everyone to see and hear. Come make your own placard, poster, banner etc. Once again, Judy Chartrand has come up with the most beautiful banners that have so much good feelings - and for sure will catch every eye looking on.

Margaret

### WYMIN'S MARCH

2nd Planning Meeting for the  
February 14th, 1996.

Will be held at the Four Sisters Co-op  
133 Powell Street  
buzz the Jim Green Room

January 18th, 1996  
3-5pm

more information call Alicia, Marina, or  
Margaret at 665-3005.

## In the Dumpster

Greetings fellow binners & binnerettes.

Another year has been bestowed upon us. I am so thankful to have had another Christmas. As usual I went to the Sally Ann for dinner, but this year there were some drunk people wanting to fight and they were swearing. Other than that it was O.K. Later I went to the Christmas dinner at Carnegie. It was meat pie surprise, which was very good. The volunteers sang carols until the harpist arrived.

Speaking of food, I would like to thank the Chinese Ballroom Dance group for the dinner they put on. I really enjoyed it even though I nearly broke a tooth on the broccoli. Later Christmas night I went to the display at Canada Place. I was so moved I donated \$10 to the CKNW orphans fund.

Then came new year's eve. I went out and made over \$20 in one place, mostly beer bottles. I found 3 bottles of beer so I went to me and Tom Lewis' favorite spot and toasted him and the new year. Get your kicks in '96.

His sister, as you will read in this issue, sent us a beautiful letter about Tom. Maybe all of us who knew and loved Tom could get a group picture taken and sent it to her. I'm sure she would like that.

I can hardly believe what I saw Sat. night. I was walking through Grasstown and when I got to Water & Abbot, two young lads about 14 yrs asked, "Hey, asshole, got any f---ng money?" I just kept walking and when I got home I heard on my scanner that 3 young guys tried to grab money from the parking attendant at the Woodward's Parkade; yes, you guessed it right, it was them. Where were their parents?

Can you believe the media and some police still refer to our area as Skid Road? The can't even get that right. The term is skid row. This is not the skids. This area is the Downtown Eastside. I for one am proud of the changes that have been made for the better. Trashhopper is too, but ate too much Christmas dumpster food to

write for a while, but he says, "Hi."

Now let's hear from United We Can. During the Christmas Holidays U.W.C. made a whopping \$197.60 in can donations for Crabtree Corner Daycare. Far out and thanks. Also, please remember it is important to keep the building free of shopping carts as the city might come down on the depot.

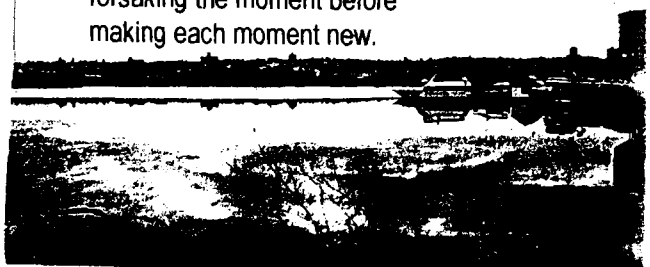
I have been informed that Jan. 9/96 is the anniversary of U.W.C. Congratulations to Ken (FEARLESS LEADER) Lyotier and volunteers and fellow dumpster divers for making it all possible. Please don't forget to sign the petition for all beverage containers at U.W.C. or Carnegie "P.S.A."

On New Year's Day I came in with my load of bottles and cans. Upon leaving I forgot my large brown duffel bag, plus a small green one. I sure would like them returned. Thank you. That's all folks. May the bins be with you.

Mr. McBinner

## Each Moment New

Low-level clouds  
 nestled between heaven and earth  
 roll out of the surrounding mist  
 like a coverlet  
 thrown back  
 to embrace the sun.  
 And so I live  
 suspended between stress and bliss  
 as the vivid sights, smells and sounds of everyday  
 move unshackled through time  
 forsaking the moment before  
 making each moment new.





## Recipe of the Month

~~SUBURBAN~~ ROLLS  
BANKER



Take several f.t little bankers.  
Roll them in dough.  
(the dough will rise in a hot economy).  
Serve warm or cold, with cocktails, etc.

Note: The filling is very rich.

An old fashioned name for this recipe  
is "P\_-s in Blankets."

## GET THE MONEY FROM THEM



It's a rat race and the slum landlords are winning. It's absolutely incredible for the Government of this Province to hike up the rent portion of the MSS allowance by \$25.00 and then have the nerve to come to individual recipients and say that they will be cut by \$46.00.

It's OK to subsidize slum landlords in the downtown eastside but not OK to help anyone who is disadvantaged and in need. It's OK to promote the so-called professional character of a slum landlord but heaven forbid helping someone who has children out of wedlock, someone who has hair that might look different than the slum landlord's, someone who's clothes may be a little worse for wear than a slum landlord's, someone who doesn't own their high-priced hotel room because our government wants to make sure that the slum landlords retain sole ownership.

Put pressure on every level of government, write to everyone you can, talk to everyone you can, support EVERY PROTEST against these cuts and demand that all the money needed come from the rent portion of any allowance.

Don't be fooled by the argument that slum landlords, and slum bankers, and slum politicians will do what they want anyway. Make them listen. Make them look into a mirror and ask themselves what they have done for their community. Don't take anymore of their bullshit...stand up and be counted - let them hear your voice. They say these people should pull up their boot straps and get with it. We say people don't even have a pair of boots to pull up.

Cut back the slum landlords GET THE MONEY FROM THEM.

## WELFARE RALLY!



We are welfare recipients organizing in Vancouver. We want better living conditions like: telephones, bus passes, decent housing, and higher rates. What we get is: cutbacks, residency requirements, a bogus appeal system, and forced training for non-existent jobs. There are over 350,000 welfare recipients in BC and in East Van alone we are 50,000 strong. If we organize ourselves we can do more than stop these cuts we can win higher welfare rates and real jobs for everyone.

**MONDAY, JANUARY 22 3:00, OPPENHIEMER  
PARK,  
FOOD, INFO, ETC.**

IF YOU WANT TO HELP CALL 685-7197  
OR DROP BY 356 POWELL all thurs at 2

Leigh Donohue



## Carnegie Art at the Pitt Gallery

Community art from projects sponsored by the Carnegie Community Centre Association will be featured in a free show at the Pitt International Gallery starting Wednesday January 24th and running to Saturday February 3rd. There will be works from the Speaking in Chalk show, photographs from the Woodward's Window project, drawings from the Central Waterfront community plan, poetry by Bud Osborn, and more.

Stop by to see art by our community, for our community.

Opening reception 8:00PM  
Wednesday January 24.

Pitt International Galleries  
317 W. Hastings  
Phone: 681-6740

Hours: Wed. - Sat. noon-5pm

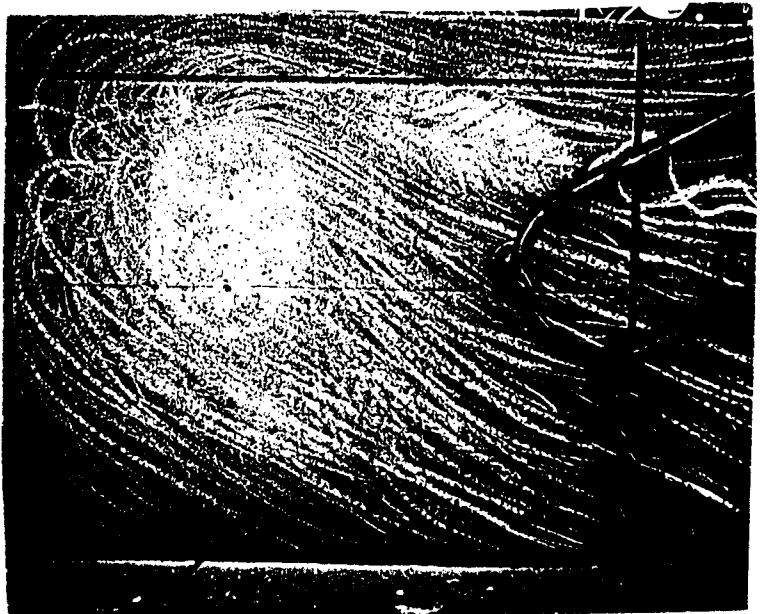


### historical site

a phone booth on ossington avenue  
where denise macintosh  
marie's friend  
was strangled by her boyfriend  
outside a crowded laundromat  
of spectators

the same phone booth  
I'd used to call marie  
when she & I  
first became  
lovers

Bud Osborn



# COMMUNITY VOICES SLOW BUT STEADY

The Carnegie Learning Centre has always played a significant role in the Downtown Eastside. Not only has it represented the educational objectives of the Vancouver School Board, it has also endeavored to remain sensitive to the contributions of its own community. This



community is anything but complacent, but it always has to struggle to maintain a strong presence in the Learning Centre.

The search for a practice of Literacy in the Downtown Eastside is one that encourages respect for personal confidence, honest communication and the love of learning. It will happen...change is starting to occur.

On December 18, Muggs Sigurgeirson, Jeff Sommers and Leigh Donohue went before the Vancouver School Board to remind them of the essential role that the Learning Centre plays in the Downtown Eastside.

Our Learning Centre has never been an example of the standardized educational services that the VSB offers throughout Vancouver. We have always been a physical and emotional space that celebrates each other's voices, each other's trials and tribulations, each other's need to communicate and, put quite simply, each other's company.

Our Learning Centre values experience, and endeavors to practice sharing, not just rote memorizing or the rules of this subject or that object. We are trying to reflect a community of people, not a classroom full of empty desks standing at attention in endless rows.

To close our Centre during any period, especially the so-called holiday season, is completely unwarranted and totally unacceptable!

After a brief presentation by our representatives and an equally brief question

period, the School Board unanimously adopted a motion to support the Carnegie Association's recommendations and keep the Learning Centre open and staffed during the holiday season.

Unbeknown to us, but happily, the VSB also decided to include the Gathering Place as part of our argument, and it, too, was able to remain open for its community over the holidays.

We look forward to the VESTA (Vancouver Elementary School Teachers Association) negotiations this summer, and hope that issues like this one won't have to be revisited every year.

Leigh Donohue

Fresh breezes  
whipped our hair  
and stirred  
the long grass spears  
in soft brown motion.



Where we stood,  
the hillside sloped into the valley,  
seeming to move  
too.

We felt like passengers  
on a large, earthen orb,  
rolling into the landscape.



The river below seemed fixed  
preserved since my childhood days,  
as though a work of art,

and, we held hands,  
somehow entering the landscape of the soul.



Windy Haven/Feb21/95



SIMON FRASER  
UNIVERSITY  
AT HARBOUR CENTRE

Continuing Studies

Dear Margaret Prevost,

On behalf of my students and myself, I wish to thank you for being a guest speaker during our Women's Studies Class, "Women's Issues in the Built Environment."

It was an honor and a pleasure to have had you among us and to have had the opportunity to learn about your work with women of the

Downtown Eastside.

Your presentation was very informative, insightful and educational. You shared with us valuable social, political and economic material. You added richness and depth to our course, and we are very grateful.

Once again, thank you.

Yours sincerely,  
Dr. Hinda Hanrietta Avery.



## NEW BEGINNINGS

We can get through anything. We have had some rough times, both adapting to and fighting welfare. In four years there will be a new century and the beginning of a New Millennium. Things will change, hopefully for the better. The information age has a lot to do with unemployment. It isn't our fault that progress cuts jobs.

There are signs STOP THE CUTS TO WELFARE in many places around town, especially in the downtown area. It is hoped they will have an effect on the powers that be.

Its obvious, the only real way to handle the cuts is to march against them. Petition them, Badger the heck out of social services, show by force the need for support, and no half-ass measure of support either. We need our rent covered, our food money in full, and our hydro

money in hand. I see many homeless and more appearing on the streets every day.

It is not the fault of the poor that there is no work available. It's the downsizing of companies and closing down of businesses that makes it hard to find work. People come in from other parts of Canada to create a greater number seeking employment and homelessness.

Why blame the poor? Is social services attempting to get rid of people in need by killing them off? Why blame the low income for MICROSOFT, WORD PERFECT, and all of those computer programs that lessen the need for office staff, and other workers?

Why blame the poor for a system that should be in place, why not go after the very rich who get around the tax system.

Life isn't fair, and our welfare policy is making it even more unfair.

Dora Sanders

You are invited to  
**CARNEGIE'S BIRTHDAY  
 PARTY ON Saturday**  
**January 20.** The party  
 starts at 1:00pm  
**First Nations Drumming**  
 at 1:30pm  
**Speakers at 2:00pm**  
**Open House 1 - 6pm**  
**Dancing 7:00 - 10:30pm**  
 to the tunes of:

**COUNT ON COUNTRY!**

We are  
 celebrating  
 several things on  
 Saturday:

- \* The completion of our renovations
- \* The release of Sandy Cameron's  
 History of the Carnegie Centre
- \* The Official Opening of our new  
 Library

**CARNEGIE IS TURNING**



**"SWEET 16"**



**COME AND HELP US CELEBRATE!**

**Hey Bop-A-Lua  
 Carnegie Turns Sweet 16**

Hey! Come on down and boogie with us to celebrate Carnegie's 16th Birthday on January 20th. We've got lots to celebrate this year - 16 years and we're still goin' strong. Sandy Cameron has written a history of Carnegie that will be released that day. Our renovations will finally be complete and the gallery is full of wonderful photographs of the Speaking in Chalks project. Come one, come all, down to the corner of Main and Hastings to have a little fun and refreshment and dance the night away. The party starts around 1:00pm, First Nations Drumming at 1:30, speakers at 2:00 in the Theatre, music and entertainment throughout the day, Dance at 7:00pm with Count on Country.

Be there or BE SQUARE!!

**FIGHTING FOR COMMUNITY**

STORIES FROM THE CARNEGIE CENTRE  
 AND THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

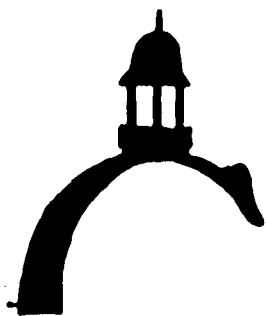
by Sandy Cameron



- \* The display of the "Speaking in Chalks" art show
- \* As well, Bud Osborn will be reading from his just released book of poetry, **Lonesome Monsters** 3 pm

# CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE

## PART 2



### The Power of Definition and the Politics of Greed and Fear

Chinatown, and Japantown that existed on Powell Street before World War Two, are brothers and sisters to the Carnegie Centre and the Downtown Eastside. All these communities know that racism, bigotry and deliberate oppression are a significant part of British Columbia's history.

There is much to remember, much to forgive, and much to guard against.

Chinatown and Japantown were, at first, the creations of European, racist dominance, as were native Indian reserves. - ghettos in the vision of white British Columbia. They also became centres of resistance to injustice, shaping their history with courage and endurance.

Almost as soon as the colony of British Columbia became a province in 1871, the provincial legislature took the vote away from First Nations people and Chinese settlers. Later the loss of the right to vote was extended to Japanese immigrants. When East Indian settlers arrived, they weren't allowed to vote either, and this restriction prevented people of color from such occupations as pharmacy, accounting, law and politics.

From 1881 to 1884, Chinese laborers helped build the Pacific section of the Canadian Pacific Railway through the canyons of the Fraser and Thompson Rivers to the divide in the

Monashees where the last spike was driven. At least six hundred Chinese workers died building that track (Saltwater - an Illustrated History of the Chinese in Vancouver, by Paul Yee, p. 17.)

In 1885, the discriminatory head tax on Chinese immigrants was \$50. In 1900, the tax was increased to \$100. In 1903, it was raised to \$500.

In the statute of incorporation of Vancouver in 1886, no one of First Nations or Chinese background was entitled to the municipal vote. In November, 1886, local assemblies of the Knights of Labour in Vancouver organized a boycott of all businesses that employed, sold food to, or in any way patronized Chinese settlers (Vancouver's Chinatown - Racial Discourse in Canada, 1875-1980, by Kay J. Anderson, p. 65).



It wasn't until 1951 that Organized Labour in BC advocated equal treatment of Chinese workers, and set up a Joint Labour Committee to combat racial discrimination (Paul Yee, p. 115).

Also in 1886, the City of Vancouver refused to hire Chinese people on municipal contracts or city-assisted projects.

On February 24, 1887, three hundred white men beat up a camp of sleeping Chinese workers at Coal Harbor. After the riot, Chinese immigrants began to settle for protection on the swampy lands in the vicinity of Carrall and Dupont (now Pender) Streets. In those days, False Creek came right up to Dupont Street. The area became known as Chinatown by settlers of European background.

Forced into crowded, unhealthy living conditions, Chinese settlers were accused of not

wanting to assimilate with the white majority, but racism and government policy prevented them from assimilating. Also, the Chinese were accused of being dirty, an odd criticism of those who had cornered the laundry business in Vancouver.

After a meeting of the Asiatic Exclusion League on September 7, 1907, in Vancouver, a race riot broke out again, and a violent white mob rampaged through Chinatown and Japantown. Europeans were terrified of the specter of an Asian tidal wave of immigration, yet Vancouver's population was 90 per cent white, and Asians made up less than one per cent of Canada's population (Our Dead Past, Our Living Present, by Stephen Hume, Vancouver Sun, Sept. 13/95).

Even today, in 1996, less than ten per cent of BC's population is of Chinese origin, less than six per cent is of East Indian origin, and citizens of all other Asian origins comprise less than five per

cent of the population of the province (Stephen Hume, Van Sun, Sept. 13/95).

spite of the fact that in 1921, people of Chinese background made up only 4.5 per cent of the province's population.  
On Dominion Day, July 1, 1923, the federal Liberal government passed a Chinese Immigration Act that massively restricted Chinese immigration and was, in effect, an exclusion act. This day became known to Chinese Canadians as Humiliation Day.

Japanese immigration was restricted by a "Gentlemen's Agreement" with Japan, with whom the British Empire had an Anglo-Japanese Treaty.

One lone federal politician opposed the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923, and that was James S. Woodsworth, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre. He said in the House of Commons, "It seems to me that we must definitely and consciously attempt to overcome the prejudices that we have against men of other races...All students of ethnology recognize that, after all, there are many more things in common between different races than things which separate us, and the apparent divergence's are not so great as we sometimes imagine" (Kay J. Anderson, p. 139).

During the Great Depression of the 1930's that saw so many unemployed men living in "jungles" in the Downtown Eastside, one hundred and seventy-five Chinese people died of starvation in Chinatown (Kay J. Anderson, p. 143).

After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 by Japan, the federal government in Ottawa uprooted the entire population of Canadian citizens of Japanese origin, and moved innocent people to work camps with no regard for personal rights or family ties.

True, the war was going badly in Europe in 1941, and before the end of the year, nearly 2,000 Canadians were killed or captured when Japanese troops captured the British garrison of Hong Kong. Panic, and fear of a 1907-style race riot, may explain the action of the Canadian government, but they do not excuse it. Canadian

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On Dominion Day, July 1, 1923, the federal Liberal government passed a Chinese Immigration Act that massively restricted Chinese immigration and was, in effect, an exclusion act. This day became known to Chinese Canadians as Humiliation Day.  
Japanese immigration was restricted by a "Gentlemen's Agreement" with Japan, with whom the British Empire had an Anglo-Japanese Treaty.  
One lone federal politician opposed the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923, and that was James S. Woodsworth, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre. He said in the House of Commons, "It seems to me that we must definitely and consciously attempt to overcome the prejudices that we have against men of other races...All students of ethnology recognize that, after all, there are many more things in common between different races than things which separate us, and the apparent divergence's are not so great as we sometimes imagine" (Kay J. Anderson, p. 139).  
During the Great Depression of the 1930's that saw so many unemployed men living in "jungles" in the Downtown Eastside, one hundred and seventy-five Chinese people died of starvation in Chinatown (Kay J. Anderson, p. 143).  
After the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 by Japan, the federal government in Ottawa uprooted the entire population of Canadian citizens of Japanese origin, and moved innocent people to work camps with no regard for personal rights or family ties.  
True, the war was going badly in Europe in 1941, and before the end of the year, nearly 2,000 Canadians were killed or captured when Japanese troops captured the British garrison of Hong Kong. Panic, and fear of a 1907-style race riot, may explain the action of the Canadian government, but they do not excuse it. Canadian*

cent of the population of the province (Stephen Hume, Van Sun, Sept. 13/95).

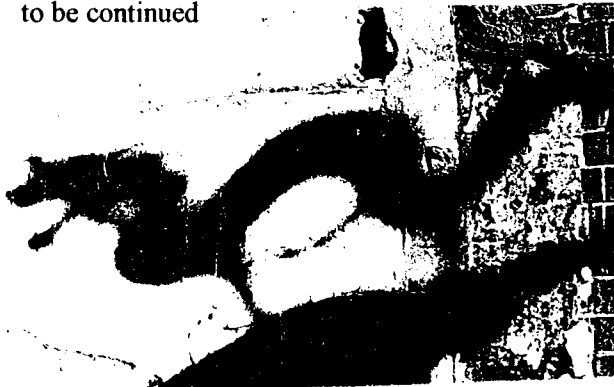
In the economically-depressed time after World War One, renewed lobbying in Victoria and Ottawa tried to stop all Chinese and Japanese immigration. Once again, hysterical visions of the yellow peril were painted by B.C. politicians in

citizens of German or Italian background were not subject to this discriminatory treatment.

At the opening of the Japanese-Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto, in 1964, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson acknowledged that the wartime government had violated the principle of human rights for which it was supposed to be fighting. Such is the terrible irony of war.

Not one Canadian of Japanese origin was found guilty of any offense against the security of Canada throughout the war.

Sandy Cameron  
to be continued



**TOM LEWIS**

Dec. 18, 1995

Dear Carnegie Staff and Patrons,

I wish to thank you all for what you did and have done for my brother. It was so good of you all to handle the funeral service so well. Tom's youngest son was there on my behalf and he told me of the music and songs, and I so much want to thank you for a great sendoff for him.

When his ashes arrived, I took some of them and spread them in the paddock. He built it for my mare when she was having her first foal, 17 years ago (it is still standing). I put some in the stream that runs through our property (where he used to fish).

I put some with his favorite horse Ralph (The Professor). I put some with Rock Bear, a beautiful Newfoundlander who walked many

## Fighting for Community

Stories of the history of the Downtown Eastside, the Carnegie Library, and the Carnegie Community Centre have been appearing in the Carnegie Newsletter for the past two years.

A condensed version of these stories called "Fighting for Community" is being published by the Carnegie Community Centre Association, and a number of copies will be available at Carnegie's 16th birthday celebration, January 20, 1996.

miles with Tom when he was looking for the foxes' lair, which he found. Tom also helped to nurse Rock Bear back to health some years ago.

I spread some ashes in front of the chicken coop. Tom remodeled the chicken coop, carpet on the walls and floor, the roost was like a full-length shelf for his music and guitar, and he spent many quiet times there.

So you see, Tom is free to wander wherever he pleases.

The remainder of the ashes I buried with his guitar, over at St. Mary's Cemetery in Lifford, a small Anglican country cemetery. His headstone is black, and has wild horses across the top. I shall join him there at some point.

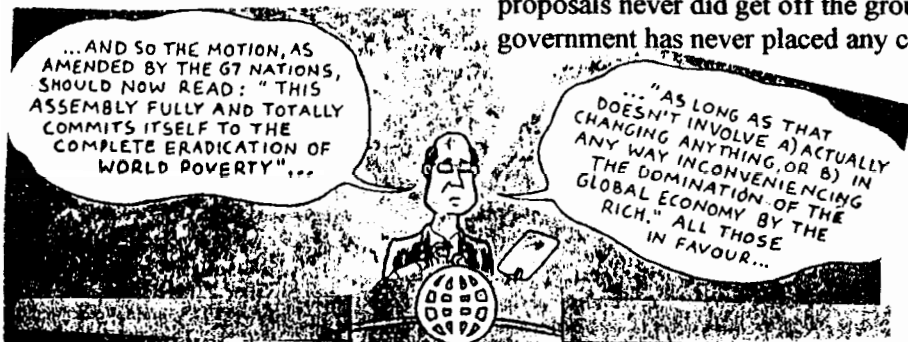
The ashes are there for his children and grandchildren, should they ever wish to discover their roots. He has three sons and seven grandchildren and one more due next Monday. His sons were adopted by his wife's husband and have another name. The youngest son was at the chapel.

If any of you would care to drop me a line, please do. I would love to know who the minister was that went to the chapel, who was a friend.

Once again, THANK YOU ONE AND ALL.

Respectfully,  
Sandy Harris (nee Lewis)  
R.R. #2, Pontypool, Ont. L0A 1K0

Finally, a common man running for the leadership of the NDP. Jack McDonald is the vice president of Low Income Folks Together L.I.F.T. the group that walked against poverty from Port Alberni to Victoria with their children last spring. They had a message to deliver to our government that the "status quo" does not work for their community, this group of people refuses to accept



any monies from the system to conduct their fight against poverty. They have become instead politically active, not as LIFT members but as citizens! They fought their way onto their local constituency association against the objections of the "comfortably numb" conservative social democrats that have become petrified similar to dinosaurs.

Then they started to submit proposals, one on Forest Homesteads, which would take back the Timber Forest Licenses from the corporate agenda and divide the into 200 acre forest home-steads for the people, non-saleable but heritable lots.

Another is a socio-economic development plan which would allow for the unemployed and

welfare "clients" to start their own small co-operatives of a minimum of five members. Our government wanted to see a "pilot project" started, but would not free any resources.

Also a community skill Centre proposal which would train the unemployed and welfare "clients" in market niche mini co-operatives that the people themselves want to create. All these proposals never did get off the ground as this government has never placed any confidence in

the people, rather they have continued to pump money into fund absorbing entities.

Included is the platform that Jack McDonald will take to the floor of the leadership convention in Feb. on the 16th-18th. His campaign team are welfare "clients" and he intends to do the job of premier on a welfare rate of a single parent with one child.

Please support Jack McDonald by calling FAX 732-9561, we need the people to participate by joining the NDP (if they aren't already members) and signing Jack's candidate nomination papers to get to the leadership convention.

## WOMB-ONE

Karl Angus



I am too busy accommodating and making myself happy

I don't have time for problems that are not mine  
If I happen to have a problem I challenge myself to be above it's having any power to impact my life in a negative way

Rivers flow through me

I am free, passionate and strong - vital  
like the never-bridled horses

U-R-2

Pat Biddau





1996, about 5.7 billion people live on earth. We are ruled by Economic Totalitarianism, which means that in order to sustain our various lifestyles, we live in a constant state of debt.

Who do we owe this debt to? A terrible god who lives in the clouds and threatens us with instant death if we don't pay? No, we owe the supposed debt to the lesser gods who are the masters of Capitalism.

Capitalism is the monster offspring of the ancient slave economies that got absorbed into the massive population increases over the centuries.

But, like slavery, the lifeblood of capitalism is cheap, expendable labour.

To feed itself, Capitalism puts a substantial part of its profits into **research and development** which creates new technologies that can replace manpower with robotics.

This further increases the monster profits at the expense of the phased out worker who joins millions of others on the downward spiral into poverty; an example of this is the Royal Bank of Canada whose profits last year were unprecedented. The Royal bank is now preparing to terminate 3000 employees.

What is the purpose of 5.7 billion people living on earth? Logically we should each be doing something that benefits ourselves and everyone else, so that each of us has an equal share of the whole.

Protection from hunger and lack of shelter and all the other unnecessary stresses that plague every country on the planet is a possibility that exists. All the possibility needs to become a reality is **organization**. \*to be con't; the keyword to think about is **telecommunications**, and who will control them.



## Oceans Rivers and Streams

Oceans, rivers, and streams, all streamingly beautifully pleasing to the human eye, behold...for within the watery streams lies the future, one by one they matriculate from a foe to a school, as they make their way for a new life, for it's the way for a new life, for it's the way, swinging and swaying in a form of synchronized evaluation rushing the river's rapids, a picturesque scene, all so seemingly beautiful for the oceans blue lie at bottom's end, bewildering it may seem a new school may form, in another world not far from ours in the world of the oceans, rivers, and streams.



## GOVERNMENT NEEDS GUTS

How do we improve Canada's economy? We know that, collectively, Imperial Oil, Noranda, Thomson Incorporated et al, owe \$40 billion in deferred taxes. We know that Canada's deficit is \$32.7 billion.

How do we collect, when there are offshore tax havens. where Revenue Canada can't get hold of tax evaders?

The solution is pretty straightforward, according to an economics professor at Simon Fraser University. Send in the goons! We need a government crackdown. When the going gets rough, the wimps get tough.

First, the government has to send the big corporations a letter to pay up. If that doesn't work, send a second letter. If that fails, then send a letter of foreclosure. We're shutting you down. That's it.

Thanks to Dr. Lindsay Meredith.

Anita Stevens, BA

by Garry Gust



A simple B.C. accountant does some work for a crime "Family" in the 1950s, and becomes a trusted employee. The Family gives the accountant money to invest in radio and TV stations, and eventually in professional sports teams.

The money comes from a highly organized system of heroin trafficking and is continuously laundered through the accountant's investments.

Forty years later, the accountant dies. The Family gets nervous, and sets about to gain legal title of the vast business interests that the accountant had fronted for.

Through a small elite of several dummy stockholder companies, the accountant's son begins to sell majority interest to "respectable" members of the Family from the United States.

With blessings from the 'right' local government leaders, the new owners begin to move in and slowly take over.

But some of the dead accountant's friends who had minority shares in one of the sports teams, begin a legal action against the accountant's son because they made no great profit from the transfer of majority stock to the Americans, and demanded to know why.

They know nothing of the Family's connection with their old trusted friend, and simply believe that his son is a crook.


As the case comes closer to trial, the friends begin to experience a series of close-call accidents that cause them to reevaluate their outlook on life.

The legal action is withdrawn, and the trifling business affairs are left in the hands of the accountants. There are

→ other simple accountants, you see. Not many, in the Family's scheme of things, but they're out there, prospering in every major city of our world. While their masters, the bankers, preach anti-deficit budgeting to the unholy.

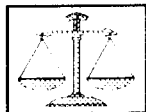
CAPITALIST - DEMOCRACY :

  
GENERAL  
MOTORS  
KILLS

SHELL  OIL  
EXECUTES

GOVERNMENTS  
SHRUG

## The NDP And The Right



I think the recent changes to social assistance are insane. Not only are social assistance recipients vilified in the media but the government now seems to want to take a shot at

them too. It's true <sup>what's</sup> being said, "all politicians are criminals."

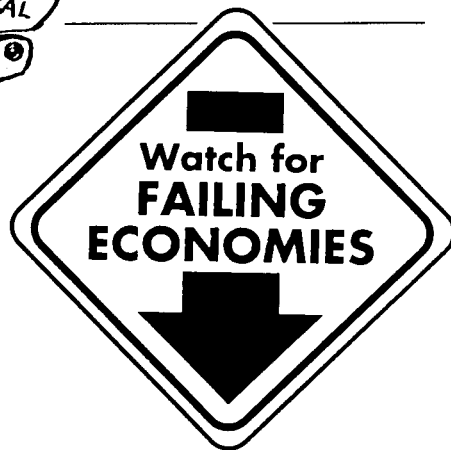
Everyone who sinks to the dire depths of having to apply for social assistance has problems. It might be mental, physical or just fate that brings them to this penurious state. It is no small secret that good medical assistance is hard to find. It is even more difficult for someone on social assistance. Doctors, psychiatrists also read newspapers and show a decided preference for right wing politics (no doubt it has something to do with the stock market and investments). They're affluent professionals and they want more affluence and they don't want to share.

This has been my experience with the medical profession. They're snobs and they don't like the poor. Now that I've denigrated the whole medical profession let me just add there are exceptions, few in number but they're there.

I would be remiss in my duties if I didn't tackle the thorny issue of the invisible psychiatrist, invisible because if you need to see one, you can't. Most psychiatrists in private practise have a long waiting list for prospective patients, a year maybe longer. There are of course psychiatrists at hospitals but they're a cold group and more often than not you won't be seeing a psychiatrist, you'll be seeing a student who wants to be a psychiatrist. Good luck. It's crazy or rather--it's a crazy situation.

I think it's really easy to hate everyone equally: social workers, politicians, doctors, psychiatrists, and all other fatuous, corrupt power mongers. They only care about money and they don't care about people.

A few weeks ago the Ministry of Social Services announced that assistance to single, employable people would be reduced by fifty dollars. Are they nuts? Did the price of food and housing suddenly go down? The government is sodomizing the poor and



expecting a thank you.

And then there's welfare to work: bend over because the government's going to give it to you again. Who dreams up this stuff? Some right wing bureaucrat in Victoria? I'm not the best person to talk about reality (some say my connection is tenuous) but these ideas are absurd.

Most People on social assistance in my neighbourhood live in coffins (or single rooms if you prefer); eat very modestly and sometimes not at all; suffer and endure the condemnation of the newspapers, television and professionals (doctors, social workers, and psychiatrists).

There's never any discussion of this: the horrors of poverty. The bleak and harsh life in a poor neighbourhood and the even harsher life of being poor and existing with those who are not poor. I noticed there was no liberal amount of quotes from Dickens by NDP politicians; no reference to the Kafkaesque qualities of their actions. What a vile contemptible lot of politicians there are in Victoria.

It was not so long ago Ms. Macphail stated at a meeting that the NDP were not like the reform party or the conservative party in Ontario. The conservatives in Ontario cut social assistance by 25% but the NDP cut the rates by only 21%. Three cheers for the NDP and their compassion. Some people have said to me they feel obliged to vote for the NDP because the opposition is worse. Well, I won't vote for that bunch of worthless cretins in the NDP because are more like conservatives than they think.

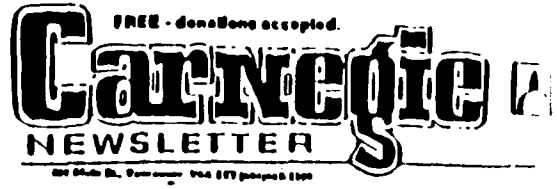
Robert A. Yacger

**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   | Bruce 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:**  
 27 January  
 Saturday

**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.**

# ONE WAY IS NOT ALWAYS THE RIGHT WAY

occipitale.

I always thought that in this country of ours, Canada, that we have more than just one way streets in it. But it's starting to look a lot like there is only one way to go, and that one way is for the rich people of Canada only. As far as the poor people of Canada are concerned they can go screw themselves, and walk, crawl or go up and down the alleyways of Canada for all they care.

Most rich people do not want anything to do with us peasants. They stomp us right into the ground every chance they get. But there is one thing that they do want out of us, and that is our taxes, and then more taxes, until the last drop of our blood or money is gone...and then they will stomp us one more time, this is to keep us in our place, and for us to remember who is the boss, or who is running this country and if you do not play by their rules you do not play at all.

So there is no use to complain about low wages or no wages, or that the price of food clothing and rent are skyrocketing, while the wages of the poor price of food clothing and rent are skyrocketing, while the wages of the poor stay the same. And after all the years of working and paying taxes, if we get sickly and our health goes from bad to worst and we are not capable to work, before our retirement is upon us, we are chastised for our failure, or they just stomp us once again, telling us that we are getting too much money on welfare. So they cut back on the little money that we do get. Is there no one else to pick on out there...but the poor.

I could say, not all rich people are the oppressors but it's hard to say anything nice about a group of people when most of them are kicking you...while you are already down for the count.

(Just a thought) the other day I was doing one of the few free things that's left for the poor

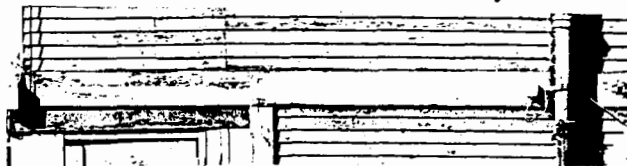


and that is going to the zoo, part of it is free. I was looking at our last polar bear and I was thinking to myself how much alike we are...we are both fed by the BC Government..we are both going nowhere

We are both having no fun in our circumstances, we are both in a cage, the bear cage is made of iron bars, while my cage is poverty.

Without money life is a bitch, in the real world. (For whomever holds the purse strings knows how to make the puppets dance). Just remember one thing, we are not puppets we are people...and if we do not have anything else we do have voting rights. It is the only sword of justice we have left to fight with, besides the mighty pen.

Harvey Ducedre



## TO MY FRIEND MIKE

The race is not always to the swift, but to those who keep running.

Joe Paul



## Headlines Theatre

On December 8, 1995 a group of dedicated volunteers put on a powerful play about Poverty and Grieving in the Downtown Eastside. We experienced four days of exercises before the actual play was performed. Most of the time was spent acting without speaking and none of us had any difficulty with this particular aspect.

Jacquie George was our instructor and she did a fantastic job, including always listening to how people were feeling. There was a counselor at each session...Noah and Eleanor Kelly took turns among others.

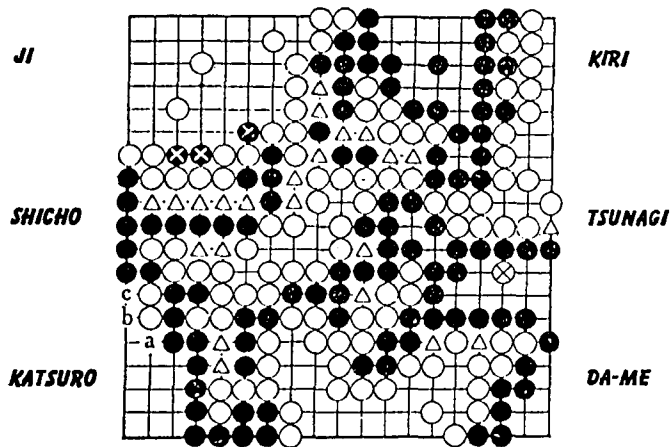
One day Lance discovered that a friend of his had passed away by checking the bulletin board. Needless to say he received a great deal of support from the entire group.

We tied the new welfare regulations in with the homeless people in our area. There is a close connection between the two and we even had someone die as a result of being homeless.

We were a close knit group and I would like to see us get together on a regular basis. We had a great deal of fun putting the play together and it was a real learning experience. Many thanks to Leigh Donohue for organizing this particular event.

Irene Schmidt

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?



## THE "GO" GAME

*THIS GAME CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE YEAR 1000 B.C. WHERE IT WAS ORIGINALLY PLAYED IN CHINA. IT LATER SPREAD TO OTHER ASIAN COUNTRIES, TO EUROPE AND THEN TO THE AMERICAS. IT HAS BECOME SO POPULAR THAT IT IS NOW AVAILABLE AT CARNEGIE CENTRE!*

## LEARN HOW TO PLAY

*"GO" LESSONS WITH INSTRUCTION  
THURSDAY NIGHTS  
FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO MARCH 7  
7:00 TO 9:00, 3RD FLOOR*

*SIGN UP WITH MARINA*

**BEWARE OF PREJUDICES** - they are like rats, and men's minds are like traps; prejudices get in easily, but it is doubtful if they ever get out.

Joe Paul

# KWAN SEEKS PREMIER'S SEAT

Vancouver councillor was recruited to run for the NDP nomination in the riding to be vacated by Mike Harcourt.

ROBERT SARTI

*Vancouver Sun*

Vancouver Coun. Jenny Kwan will seek the New Democratic Party nomination in the Vancouver-Mount Pleasant riding that Premier Mike Harcourt is vacating.

Kwan confirmed Thursday she has decided to run and said Harcourt personally recruited her to succeed him.

The Mount Pleasant riding, which includes the Downtown Eastside, Strathcona and part of Grandview-Woodlands, encompasses long-standing NDP turf.

Harcourt, who took nearly two-thirds of the total vote last time, announced in November he wouldn't run again, saying he was stepping down to rid the party of the baggage of the Nanaimo Commonwealth Holding Society scandal.

Kwan's ethnic Chinese background is another electoral asset for the 30-year-old former community advocate.

In her first electoral foray in the last civic election, she led the left-wing COPE ticket and came in 10th citywide, behind nine NPA candidates.

She beat all other candidates in the 16 polls that are located in the Mount Pleasant riding.

"I'm well known in the community, and this is where I feel most at home," she said.

"On city council, I have seen the results of Gordon Campbell's backroom deals with developers. I want to work to prevent that happening at the provincial level."

The Mount Pleasant NDP riding has not yet set a date for a nominating meeting. Riding executive member Thelma Pankiw welcomed the news of Kwan's candidacy and said she knows of no other potential candidates for the nomination.

Before being elected to council, Kwan was a legal worker for the Downtown Eastside Residents Association. She lives in the basement of her family's home in the Langara district.

"In the Chinese community, you don't move out until you get married," she said. "I'm still single."

Her Liberal opponent will be former Liberal party president Floyd Sully. When he was nominated last



month, Sully said the scandal over the NDP's links to the Nanaimo Commonwealth group's theft of charity bingo funds has weakened the party and made the riding ripe for an upset.

Sully said Thursday the NDP made a smart move in picking Kwan.

"Quite frankly, she will be an excellent candidate," he said. "I have my work cut out for me, I don't mind saying that."

Kwan said the voters in the riding are more interested in bread-and-butter issues, like jobs, welfare and safety from crime, than in scandal.

COPE president Libby Davies admitted Thursday she's not pleased about the prospect of losing her top vote-getter and only elected member of city council.

But she said she supports Kwan's move.

She said Kwan has shown courage in standing up to the insults and brush-offs of the nine NPA councillors.

"It was a lonely job," Davies said. "She was the re all by herself and she has such a feel for the community that it will help her in Victoria."

A total of 12 candidates have been nominated by the NDP so far, and 11 more nomination meetings are scheduled between now and March.

A provincial election must be held by October of this year.