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Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

February 15, 1996

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

Flash! Woodward's deal announced



The provincial government will put up the money to include at least 210 units of social housing in the old Woodward's site on Hastings Street - possibly the largest single block of affordable housing ever built in the neighborhood.

This was just announced by Premier Mike

Harcourt, who has said he wants to leave a legacy of community-based housing in Woodward's.

The 210 social housing units is more than half the total of units that will be built in Woodward's when it is redeveloped. The rest will be condos.

It's a remarkable turnaround from the dark

days of winter, when it appeared Woodward's would be exclusively 350 condos.

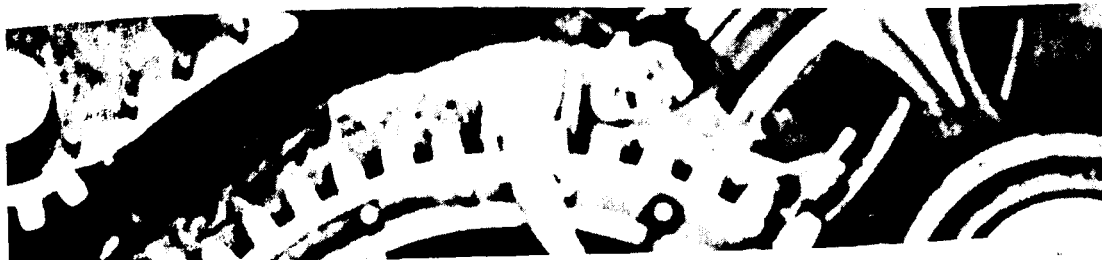
Credit for whatever progress has been made must go to the community groups and individuals who have worked together to demand that Woodward's be a true community project, representing all sectors of the neighborhood, and not a neighborhood-busting elite ghetto.

The deal will involve a new-style

"partnership" between the provincial government, the developer and the community.

If you want more information or to get involved in the next stages of the project, contact your community group or the Carnegie Community Action Project (689-0397), or drop by the CAP office on the second floor of Carnegie.

A complete update will appear in the next issue of the Carnegie Newsletter.



I AM YOUR DISEASE

I hate meetings. I hate HIGHER POWER. I hate anyone who has a program. To all who come in contact with me, I wish you death and suffering.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM THE DISEASE OF ADDICTION.

Cunning, baffling, powerful. That's me. I have killed millions and I am pleased. I love to catch you with the element of surprise.

I love pretending I am your friend and lover. I have given you comfort, have I not? Wasn't I there when you were lonely?

When you wanted to die, didn't you call me? I WAS THERE. I love to make you hurt. I love to make you cry. Better yet, I love to make you so numb you can neither hurt nor cry. You don't feel anything at all.

This is true glory. I will give you instant gratification, and all I ask of you is long-term suffering.

I've always been there for you. When things were going right in your life, you invited me. You
In't deserve these good things,

and I was the only one who would agree with you. Together we were able to destroy all the good things in your life.

People don't take me seriously. They take strokes seriously. Heart attacks, even diabetes, they take seriously. Fools that they are, they don't know that, without my help, these things would not be possible.

I am such a hated disease and yet I don't come uninvited. You have to choose me. So many have chosen me over reality and peace.

More than you hate me, I hate all of you who have a 12-step program. Your program, your meetings, your HIGHER POWER -- all weaken me and I can't function in the manner I am accustomed to.

Now I must lie here quietly. You don't see me, but I am growing -- bigger than ever. When you only exist...I live. When you live, I only exist. But I am here...and until we meet again, if we meet again... I WISH YOU DEATH AND SUFFERING

What will it take to stop you from killing me?

Author Unknown
(Submitted by M.P.)

The Downtown Eastside Women's March

February 14, 1996

Their Spirits Live Within Us

3.



This drawing shows some of the community's ideas about how Strathcona Park could be improved and made more neighbor-



Anyone who has been in Strathcona Park knows it's a vast flat plain sprouting a dreary monoculture - grass. That's because the parks board has dedicated this space to organized sports, mostly teams from outside the neighborhood. Our neighborhood park is really little more than a convenience site for the rest of the city.

The community's ideas include that double row of trees down the middle with play areas to create smaller, more hospitable spaces, and trees all around the perimeter.

Of course, the beautiful old cottonwood trees and the Cottonwood Community Gardens in the southeast corner would remain. They are a real oasis of beauty and serenity for the neighborhood.

If you want Strathcona Park brought back to the neighborhood, let the parks board members or your local community group know how you feel.

Join Us For

SKATING!



EVERY SATURDAY

Starting Feb. 24 to end of March

**Free skate rentals
Meet at Carnegie info desk at 1:00
Sign up with Marina
(Carnegie membership required)**

YOU AND ME

It's been awhile
since I've met someone like you
different yet understanding
far apart and very few

A privelege with you, words to share
of thought and feelings unafraid
words of truth, words to show you care
in giving you my trust, you are repaid

A friend you are, a friend you will always be
to see understanding, they'd see you and me

So take care in the places you go
and always be what you've been to me

Denny Aviugana

5.



I FIND MYSELF

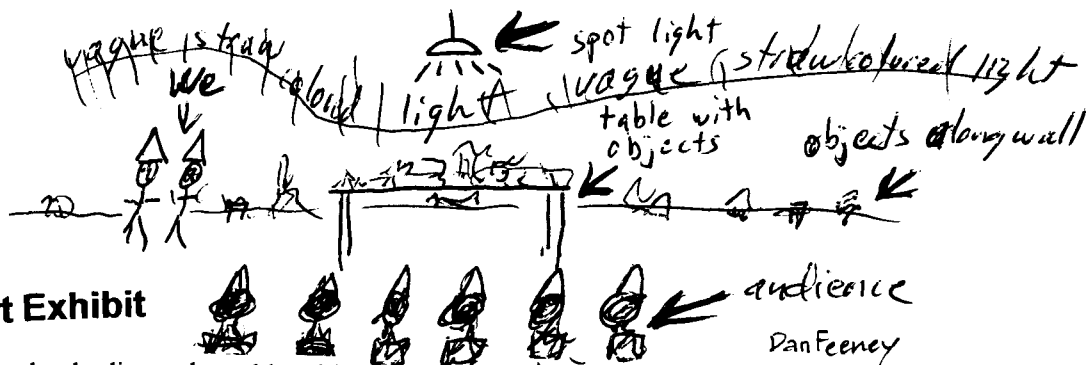
Beneath the street lights, the wind blows cold
a time alone, a chance to see deep inside of things
untold

I sit and watch as things go by
I see where I am and wonder why
I guess things are the way they are
yet tonight I feel a change that isn't far

Yes beneath the street lights!
the wind blows cold
I see past the night a better day
only glad for what was tomorrow
is now the past

A new meaning of being alone, today I have
learned
where beneath the street lights the wind blows
cold
I find my way home through the night
for God knows I'll never forget the sight
where beneath the street lights where the wind
blows cold
I find myself

Denny Aviugana



The Art Exhibit

Lights slowly dim and a table with objects, signed by contributors in scented markers, becomes isolated in the centre of the room, in a circle of light. Straw light everywhere. Someone is smashing beer bottles in a steel drum. Some of the objects, it appears, are against the walls. All lights

up. We begin solemnly passing out objects to the audience, saying nothing. When everything is distributed, we go to the door and cheerfully see everyone out. The beer bottle smashing, of course, continues.

If You Really Tried

No one would ever find you. The wind couldn't find you, if you really tried.

I am drinking coffee by the window, watching all these people, who could disappear off the face of the earth, leaving no trace, if they really tried, walking by on their various ways to various places where, no doubt, they are expected to arrive soon, where, if anyone wanted to find them, they would be. But it doesn't have to be this way.

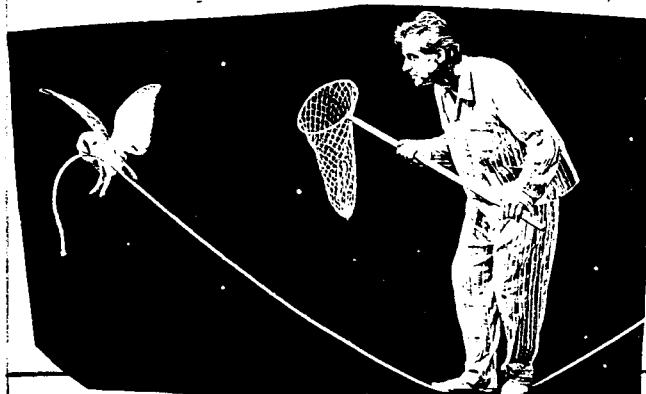
On the other hand, wanting to be found is a different matter. I'm not sure if anyone will ever be found. As soon as you start looking for someone, they become elusive, nebulous, a rumor of a person, not a real person at all. They become the fiction of who you think they'd be, if you ever found them. So if you think someone is looking for you, realize they'll probably never find you, even though you are doing everything in your power to be found, because you are becoming, to them (if in fact they are looking for you and you're not just imagining that they are looking for you), elusive, nebulous etc. If you are just imagining that they are looking for you, of course, you won't be found either, at least not by the imaginary seeker-after-you. You're probably not imagining it, though.

In the Troughs

In the troughs of your forehead crinkled messages collect like old summers that stayed too long and got trapped there. And when transparent blades of history hang from the brow of your house, the frozen shores of your eyes move deeper into their frigid sleep, too far for any sea to reach.

Only the ice moves, closing in on you like a mercenary vision in the free-standing associations of the dark.

Dan Feeney



Dan Feeney

find the blue dot, y.



Writing Confusion

I'm not me
You see...
I can be
what I write...to be

I hide behind a paper and pen
what I write
could that be me?

A story I wrote
of a love that didn't last
were my feelings real
or was it a script, a part for the cast?

I play with words
the real me I try to find
Am I lost in emotions
the ones of the lying kind?

I will keep on writing
or lying
but not denying
the real me that is hiding.

Lance Sowen-Sound

D.E.R.A BOARD ELECTED

"UNITY FOR THE COMMUNITY"

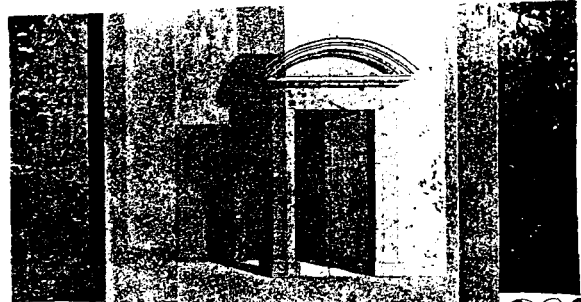
In all there were 22 Nominees for the
D.E.R.A. Board the following members reelected:
Ian M. - Ann L. - Margaret P. - Rena P. - Fred O.
- Paul T. - Carl R.

Newly elected to the board --
Deirdre K - Barry M. - YK T. - Thia W. - Alison C.

We have a long haul ahead of us and I believe
that if we work together as a team...all will go well. At
the D.E.R.A. AGM unity was mentioned as an asset.
Hidden and or Secret agendas should NOT come
beyond the doors unless the Community's informed.

Our goal from the beginning has been
involving the Community - regarding many issues from
homelessness, social housing and more.
If you have an issue you believe we should look into
drop by the office at 9 East Hastings.

M.P.



Freedom of the Press does not mean
slavery of the Press workers.

A byte-bitten wretch

Paul Revette

Memorial Service will be held
Monday, Feb. 19
at 2 pm in the Carnegie Theatre

Paul died Feb. 11 at the age of 41.

His posters enlivened Carnegie.
He was a respected and well-liked volunteer
in the arts and craft program, especially in
beadwork and leatherwork.

Feb. 8, 1996

To: Community Action Project

Re: Published statements in Carnegie Newsletter
regarding Neighbourhood Safety Office

DEYAS

down town
east side

youth
activities
society

DEYAS
223 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6A 2S7 685-4488 Fax 685-7117

NEEDLE EXCHANGE
221 Main Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6A 2S7 685-6561 TDD 681-1932

DEYAS, as are numerous other local agencies, including Carnegie Centre, are members of the N.S.O. Steering Committee.

I found the published statements regarding the N.S.O. somewhat disturbing. The director of the N.S.O. was not approached regarding this matter. Neither were members of the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee meets every two weeks and tries to address "safety" issues in this community. Some of the issues are as follows:

- * The procurement of children for sexual services.

- * Attending and coordinating monthly safety meetings between sex trade workers and police at W.I.S.H.

- * Developing safety initiatives for persons with mental illness and police.

- * Dealing with sexual predators in the community.

- * Individual police-related services to persons.

- * Assisting in resolving issues around non-returnable indictable warrants.

- * Helping in resolution in dealing with Law 212-4 and making it effective.

- * Meeting with community groups and individuals with policing concerns.

- * Assisting the community in developing an effective policing network.

- * Coordination of agency and police meetings to resolve barriers to service.

- * Dealing with local "pawnshop" situation.



The above are only some of the tasks the N.S.O. has involved itself in. So why did CAP choose to publish comments without "confirmation" or "feedback"?

Surely all of us in this community hear remarks that are related to certain agencies and services. We usually try to resolve same in an open productive fashion.

To perceive the N.S.O. as a solution to all safety issues in this community is naive to say the least. Hopefully in the future, concerns could be brought forth in a fashion that invites discussion.

John Turvey





When I hear the local men speaking of having to share the bathroom down the hall in their hotels because they have a small, cheap room, I wonder about their luck. And I remember when there were no modern facilities, which wasn't too long ago.

It was during the depression that my older brother, one of four siblings in my family, found the rent money and spent it. Up to that time we had lived in a rented house and I had attained the age of seven with all the comforts of indoor plumbing and electricity.

We had to move out of that house, and into my grandfather's farm house, which did not have any plumbing or hydro. I learned to hate bathing because we had to sponge down from a pan filled with cold water from a well. And we had to stand in a cold room to bathe.

Dad, who came from a farming community and could have been of some help, stayed in town to look for a place for us to live. He ended up borrowing money from members of our church, and built our four bedroom house, without extras such as plumbing or electricity.

Mother was just not used to thinking about heating up the water because it meant gathering wood and making a large fire in the wood stove and putting on a large pan full of water and heating it up. She had come from a farming community when a child, but worked for a wealthy family shortly before her marriage. She had forgotten her early years, but gradually came around because we were there for some time while my dad built our house. She learned to get the fire going early in the morning and heat up the water.

When we moved into our new house on Vancouver's outskirts we were used to washing away germs with well water, and had to continue

doing so for some months with water from the only tap in the kitchen.

The situation may be similar for the local hotel SROs (single room occupants) who have to go down the hall to their washrooms. And when they have to wait to get use of the bathtub to scour off the things growing on their bodies. It takes a lot of planning to find an empty bathroom, and have a proper bath. The only problem is some of the hotels have poor bathroom facilities, and their owners don't care about the tenants' health

Here's thinking of you guys and your problems.

Dora Sanders

JOIN THE PROTEST!

This Friday, February 16, at 6:00 their will be a rally and mock "funeral" at the NDP leadership convention at Canada Place (Burrard & Canada Place Way).

The NDP have recently cut MSS benefits and exemptions, imposed residency requirements, and destroyed the appeal system. The NDP delegates are divided in their attack on the poor so a strong protest could make a difference. Those wishing to participate can call 685-7197. There will be a political meeting (2:00) and potluck supper (4:00) at 356 Powell on the day of the rally.



"We put in a formal request after this article." - Mike

PoCo man protects chickens



BYLAW ENFORCEMENT:

Man refuses to
hand over chickens
to officials despite
order from the city

Michael Bohnert with one of four chickens he has kept despite a city order to get rid of them. Bohnert collects chickens that escape from poultry trucks and nurses them back to health before finding new homes for them

By Kate Poole
Staff Reporter

A Port Coquitlam man who believes pets are in the eye of the protector refused to hand over his chickens on Monday.

In December, city council gave Mike Bohnert until mid-January to find new homes for the dozen chickens that he had given refuge. He collects chickens that escape from transport trucks on the way to slaughterhouses in Tri-City and brings them back to peak health before finding other homes for them.

Bohnert, a vegetarian, is involved in Canadians for Ethical Treatment of Farm Animals.

Chickens, along with other animals such as rabbits, ducks and pigeons are not allowed in residential areas of Port Coquitlam. A further complication is that the Mary Hill house where Bohnert lives is owned by the city and the lease requires permission for all pets.

"People should be able to keep the pets that they want, within reason," Bohnert said, saying his birds are no more disruptive than dogs. "I think people should have a right to their pets as long as they are not doing any harm."

Bohnert said the two city bylaws which govern animals – one which protects animals from people, the other the reverse – are not clear on the definition of pets. "This is what we need. I think it would be good for the city to make a clear definition, and I don't think they'd dare say a pet is just a cat or a dog."

He found homes for most of the birds, but kept four and recently rescued another near a Coquitlam poultry processing plant. He describes the bird as "a beautiful little broiler."

"She thinks I'm her protector. I'd like to get her to the vet today because I think she's got a broken toe."

On Monday, a bylaw enforcement officer and SPCA officer went to seize the chickens, but Bohnert had put the chickens in the basement.

City Clerk Susan Rauh said the city does not agree with Bohnert's interpretation that the bylaw is unclear.

The city, she said, "is taking further action. It is in the hands of the city solicitor."

Rauh said she has spent much time discussing this issue with Bohnert and Yvonne Holmes, with whom the city has the lease, giving them information on the process of

changing bylaws.

She also noted that complaints have been received about the chickens, and that while the property is large – it encompasses three lots – it is not fenced.

The city has little inclination to use the weighty arm of law on them, she said. "We'd prefer that they just remove the chickens."



Mayor willing to consider bylaw change

Port Coquitlam Mayor Len Traboulay is willing to talk about changes to define chickens as pets.

"I wouldn't mind having a meeting of interested residents having a look at the bylaw, and perhaps we could come to some conclusion," he said.

He was responding to the refusal of Louise Holmes and Mike Bohnert to get rid of the four chickens, which they keep in contravention of a city bylaw which prohibits fowl and fur-bearing animals (except domestic animals) in residential areas.

"Obviously, these people love their chickens, and the city is being seen as a bully, which is unfortunate," Traboulay said.

"But when the city started to urbanize, rules had to be made."

Now that people are interested in non-traditional pets, such as pot-bellied pigs and chickens and ducks, it might be time to revisit the law, he said.

Traboulay noted that the problem with pets is usually the number of them, not the species.

Traboulay said if someone formally asked him for a review of the bylaw, he would ask Coun. John Keryluk, chair of the protective services committee, "to consider convening a public meeting to hear people's thoughts."



The edges of a reality, poverty shows how people are caught up in things like criminalization and hospitalization because psychiatric treatments are what is offered the poor, while the wealthy may have their healer dealers. Poverty is a different world, but you've got to live in it to know. I do give credit to those that do not live in it, yet their hearts seem to know. Oh wealthy one; hear the poor one's cry. What is the technocrat saying about "a person picking up a transfer some one else has thrown away." He says, "it's just a question of degree." I say poor people do such things. The edges come in because poverty contrasts wealth in a way that is internally painful, yet peaceful once one has adjusted, but the massive yawning canyon between those that have so much and those that have so little remains to bite the young or burn the mind of those that understand what is wrong. The voice of the poor, oh mighty person so far in power, so far as to say "ten times the man" yet cannot hear "the voice of the poor." Hey bus driver give the guy a fare deferral instead of kicking him off and saying it's a nice day for a walk while you ride, getting paid \$20 an hour to top it off. Money is a drug. How soon we forget what is what. Maybe forgetting helps sometimes, but don't get addicted. Peace down town east side from the sub urbs.

Mike Bohnert, General Delivery
Port Coquitlam, V3C 3V3

City's wealthier west side healthier, too, study finds

Social and economic factors are just as important as genetic factors in most cases.

ROBERT SARTI
Vancouver Sun

The west side has long been the wealthier side of Vancouver — and now a new study says it's the healthier side, too.

The study, conducted by the provincial health ministry and the city health department, shows that death and disease rates vary across the city, even though all residents have relatively equal access to medical care.

Affluent Point Grey residents live longer and suffer less from disease, accidents and violence than do residents of 12 other neighborhoods. And downtown residents, whose average income is among the lowest in Canada, get sicker more often and die earlier than anybody else.

Provincial health officer Dr. John Millar cautioned Monday that the results are not a prediction for any individual.

Millar said the study reinforces previous research around the world indicating that social and economic conditions are just as important for health as genetic factors and the numbers of doctors available.

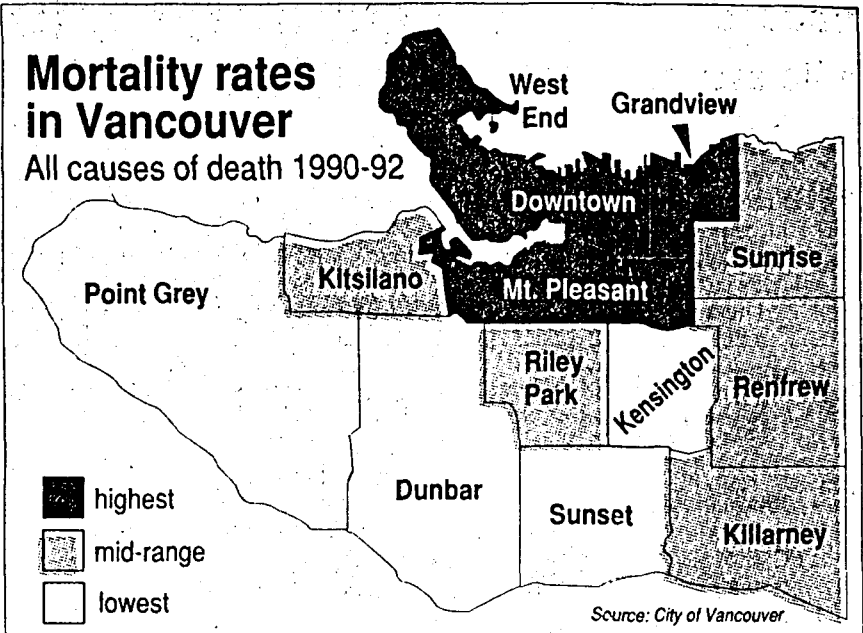
While poor nutrition, substandard housing and lifestyle factors like smoking and alcohol abuse are obvious elements in causing poor health, he said, the stress caused by unemployment or even low-wage employment actually boosts the disease rate as well.

"It's the kind of stress from powerlessness and lack of control felt by laborers or clerical workers, that is not felt by CEOs of corporations and others at the top of the pecking order," Millar said.

"When you're under that kind of stress, your immune system doesn't

Mortality rates in Vancouver

All causes of death 1990-92



function as well. You're more susceptible to disease, cancer, even heart disease."

The study analysed 16 different health conditions during 1990-93, supplied by the provincial division of vital statistics, compared them with provincewide statistics, and then ranked the Vancouver neighborhoods in three categories according to the provincial norm.

Generally, the healthiest neighborhoods were on the west side, with Point Grey the most healthy, and standards declining gradually as the study moved east.

The study shows that children born

in west-side neighborhoods start off with a significant health advantage — high birth weight.

Low-weight births, usually caused by poor nutrition and health in the mother and leading to slower development, are most common in the downtown, Mount Pleasant and Grandview and least common in Point Grey, Kitsilano, Dunbar and the east-side single-family neighborhood of Sunrise.

Downtown, Grandview and Mount Pleasant residents also suffer the most strokes and heart attacks, have the

most diseases of the circulatory, respiratory and endocrine systems, and die more frequently from poisoning, violence, accidental falls, motor-vehicle accidents and AIDS/HIV infections.

Middle-income, blue-collar neighborhoods like Riley Park, Kitsilano, Sunrise, Renfrew and Killarney generally fall near the provincial average.

HEALTH: Decent jobs, affordable housing required

Two neighborhoods contradict the trends:
□ The West End shows a high mortality rate, even though its residents are relatively affluent. The mortality rate is the result of a high incidence of AID/HIV infections, reflecting the large gay population and the presence of the major AIDS/HIV centre at St. Paul's Hospital.

□ Kensington has a relatively low death rate, even though its income and education levels are low. The researchers point to the area's large pool of recent immigrants, who must be healthy to gain entrance to Canada and also have strong family networks.

The authors of the study were Kevin Burr, Ying C. MacNab and Brian McKee of the bureau of vital statistics; Guy Costanzo of the city health department; and Michael Hayes of Simon Fraser University.

Millar said more decent-paying jobs and more affordable housing are sorely needed.

But he said programs that target the health of children — everything from better nutrition for pregnant women to day care for preschoolers and lunch programs for hungry schoolkids — will result in big savings to the health and social systems later.



"What is hateful...is not rebellion but the despotism which induces the rebellion; what is hateful are not rebels but the men (politicians), who, having the enjoyment of power, do not discharge the duties of power; they are the men who, having the power to redress wrongs, refuse to listen to the petitions that are sent to them; they are the men who, when they are asked for a loaf, give a stone."

-- Wilfred Laurier, in the House of Commons, March 16, 1886, immediately after the Metis rebellion and the hanging of Louis Riel; from *The Unconscious Civilization*, by John Ralston Saul, p. 189. (Submitted by Sandy Cameron.)

In The Dumpster

Greetings fellow bidders and bidderettes.
Good fortune has smiled on Mr.

McBinner. Last week I was in a bar and came upon an old friend I haven't seen for many many moons. We sat and talked for a bit, then he said he had a bike he didn't use anymore. He gave me his address and the next morning I went on the bus to meet him. I still can't believe what he gave me. It was a 21 speed mountain bike, all decked out with light and everything. Thanks Browne a lot.

I just received a message from the neither world. It seems Tom Lewis has been signed on to appear on the Ed Sullivan Show. He might do a number with special guest star Elvis. No date has been set yet.

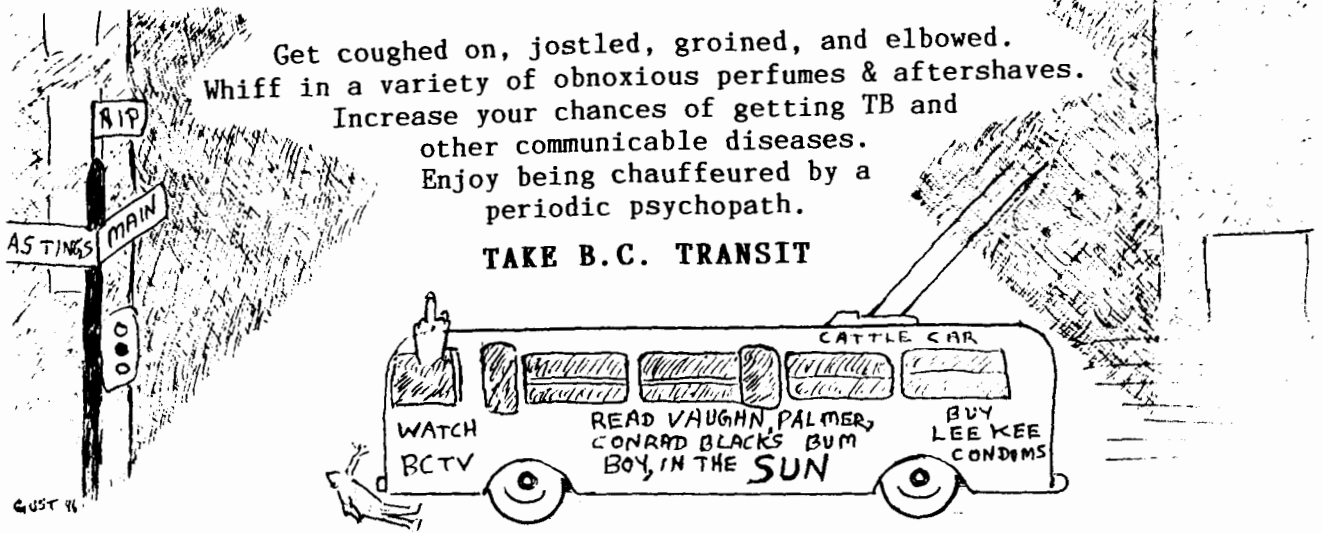
Please remember to be neat when binning. A lot of residences are still throwing out Christmas trees. One place I bin at has locked their bin up 'cause of people throwing trees on the ground to get in the bins. Thanks a lot. Just stay away if you don't have any class.

United We Can held its spring cleaning by cleaning the back lanes of the downtown core, a Valentine's Day present to our beautiful city. The city itself supplied shovels, rakes and brooms. They also accepted refunds on non-refundable items.

Mr. McBinner

I would like to wish all the ladies of the Downtown Eastside Happy Valentines Day.

Carl MacDonald



CONCORD PACIFIC -Downtown Place
MARATHON -Discovery Place
GREYSTONE -Portside

At the Feb. 1st public meeting on the three proposals for a new convention centre, one of the proposals struck me as being the most logical to support.

Concord Pacific's DOWNTOWN PLACE had one compelling quality that the other two proposals lacked: it won't displace, cover up, or otherwise disturb the waters of our waterfront.

The waterfront must be saved for something special, with no buildings higher than one story, in order to preserve the dynamic view from the downtown streets that give glimpses of the waters and mountains. We must have something down there similar to Frisco's Fisherman's Wharf area.

Concord's DOWNTOWN PLACE would be situated below the cliffs behind the Drill Hall and next to B.C. Place Stadium. Much of the excavation is already done because of the cliffs, and, thus there would be significantly less impact on the land than the other two proposals would have.

Above the convention centre would be a public park with cafes, art exhibits, and open "green space."

Another ingenious concept of Concord's proposal

is to link it with the semi-retired B.C. Place Stadium to provide an additional 22,900 sq. meters of exhibit space, if needed.

Downtown Place already has its own skytrain facility in Stadium Station. Conventioneers don't usually bring their cars, so vehicle traffic shouldn't be a problem. Delivery and service trucks will be accommodated by the existing Pacific Blvd. thoroughfare, and hopefully, our lower mainland neighbors will become more inclined to use the skytrain.

If we can get International Village to scale down their plans, it would act as a buffer zone between Downtown Place & the Downtown Eastside. And once mixed housing at Woodward's is established, we'll have a good foundation for any further gentrification battles.

So, when the powers that be choose the winner of the three proposals, perhaps they will have the foresight to save the waterfront for something spectacularly sensible, and put the convention centre right downtown where conventioneers will be in their natural element -where the action is.

Garry Gust

p.s. We don't need anymore cruise ship births! The ships rarely stay overnight, and linger just long enough to have **their garbage** barged off to our dump sites.

'We must deal with poverty'

WRITE CONCERNING Province cartoonist Krieger's Jan. 25 impression of where ministry of social services dollars are spent. Yes, a considerable amount of the money is spent on the legal system, but there is also a minimum of 60 per cent paid to landlords. The taxes paid by landowners are being put back into the pockets of a select few.

The select few do not live in the poorest area of the city — the Downtown Eastside — and many of them ignore the conditions of their buildings. The people renting the tiny rooms live with infestations of rats, mice and cockroaches, share bathroom facilities with 15 or 20 other people and have no ovens, stoves, fridges or even hot-plates. Some of these hotels have rotting floorboards.

The cost to rent a room is \$325 per month. The maximum a single employable person gets from ministry of social services is \$500 per month. This leaves a person with \$175 to buy food and clothing. The average cost of a cooked meal in the Downtown Eastside is \$6.

This means that the people do not have adequate and healthy eating habits. The poor nutritional value of this diet causes greater health problems for the people. The cost of health dollars then increases.

It is also known that there are approximately 200 people who live on the street. No home, no clothing and many are addicted (which is a direct result of childhood abuse and poverty) to drugs and alcohol. The homeless still have some sense of the will to live and head to a hospital emergency department for food, clothing and temporary shelter.

They spend an average of 30 days in emergency



**ALISON
CAMERON
Byline**

annually and the cost is estimated at \$18,000 per person. A total of \$3.6 million is spent by the ministry of health. The \$3.6 million could feed, clothe and shelter 600 single employable people at the current rate of \$500 per month. Or, the money could be spent on building adequate housing.

It is a problem of the entire society, and it takes a society to work toward solutions

We cannot continue to ignore the issues and causes of poverty. We cannot keep our heads in the sand. We must open the closets and look under the rugs. We must deal with poverty and the root causes. Poverty isn't the problem of just one segment of society. It is a problem of the entire society, and it takes a society to work toward solutions.

If we continue on this course, the frustrations and anger will increase to a point of no return. The emotions of many will be locked into more violent behavior — and violence only begets violence. We are heading into a society of absolute destruction. Now is the time to face ourselves and stop trying to run away from our problems.

Alison Cameron lives in Vancouver.



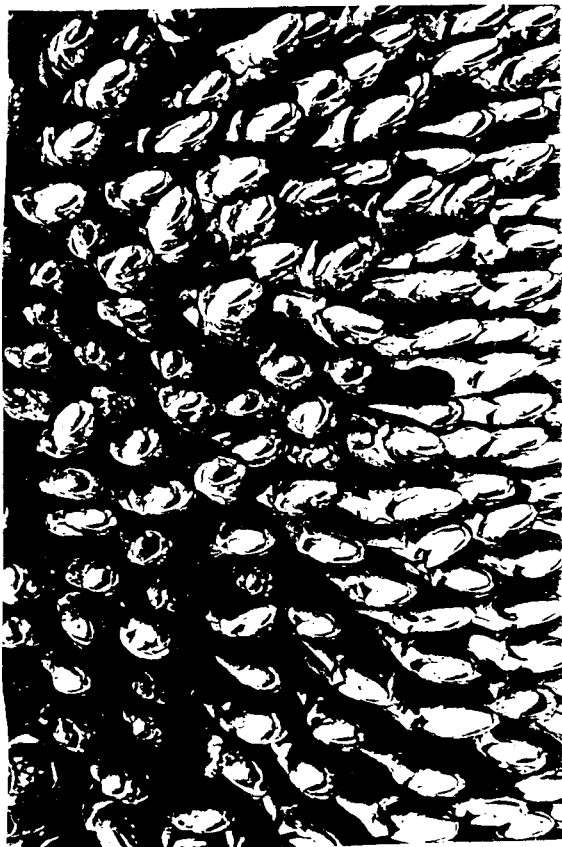
JOY ALWAYS FAILS



THOUGHT

I've come to understand a lot of myself.
Before I did this I went through trial and error.

I get mad at the fact no one has the ability
or heart to trust someone, even a stranger who can



help you learn without the personal harm that they have.

I tried to get someone to understand their feelings, i.e. anger, hatred, things we hide, where they had come from. I then asked him to understand how the same feelings were taught, too, as to them and so on. Until we can understand our feelings, we have to understand others.

What made me start to write this is he came back trying to tell me how to overcome my personal problems the same way I told him but reworded, so his belief was it was himself he was rewarding for that thought.

I believe we all could help each other by giving new thoughts when a thought is not your

own, but it helps with spiritual strength I believe you should tell that person so it will help them for personal growth.

The people I've met in my life, the one who's thoughts I've come to understand, were for me to grow with.

My own personal problems were never understood because my feelings and mind were on two different levels.

When I walk through my path of trial and error I've always tried to think of others' feelings.

That way, there was never a problem. I allowed myself to adapt to all situations when thinking of others. By that my feelings were never thought of, at least to my knowledge.

I allowed myself by thinking of others' feelings to build a strength in me.

I had hatred to points that were sin in universal laws, but this was all because when I was thinking of others, I was not understanding my feelings, i.e. where they had come from and so on. For example, why and how come I acted the way I did.

The beginning of the problems were my childhood memories. Sure I had hatred and misunderstanding, but I was only hurting myself until I realized all the hurt and anger taught to us is because of not knowing their own, let alone what was taught.

You have to look at how truthful you can be to yourself, let alone everyone else. There is some to say what about thoughts of things we can't explain, well the only answer to that is, be open-minded.

Scientists say that alcohol can be passed through the genes without honesty. We could never know what else but it is in all to understand their feelings to make themselves better, but no better, for we are the leaders of no one but ourselves.

But we can lead one another to understanding. Personal growth comes from thoughts of growth and criticism.

SKATING WITH ALAN

Every Thursday night
7:00 - 11:00pm

Praise for Skating With Alan

"Before I went skating with Alan my life meant nothing."

-Bill Gates-

"It is very simple, the British left India because
I went skating with Alan."

-Ghandi-



NEW PROGRAMS

Women's Group

2 00pm Thursdays

Beginning Feb 1st with Debbie Jimmy, this group will discuss issues of concern to women in the downtown Eastside and access local agencies for child care, etc. Talk to Debbie and watch for more info on group and it's activities.

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Friday Evenings

Beginning February, National Film Board videos will be shown in our front lounge. Each month a speaker will be available to discuss issues of concern to people living in the Downtown Eastside. Find out more on social services, health, legal advice, educational opportunities and much, much more. Watch for further info or talk to Debbie.

Reprinted from The 44 & More,
newsletter of the Evelyn Saller Centre (Editor,
Trevor).

Crazy Crazy Crazy

So what is "crazy" anyway? Is it Sonny coming up to me at the cabaret and telling me it cost 60 something hundred dollars to rent out a local venue? But Sonny, I don't want to rent out a venue of any kind, so why are you asking me? I'd call that an



unsolicited "strange" event, but I would not call Sonny asking me this out of the blue crazy. Just weird, 'cause he never said why.

Is crazy - Bob, in the midst of a discussion about astrology suddenly blurting out, "But Mark, you were programmed to fail!"? He never explained why he thought or thinks I'm a programmable device, only that he thinks I've been neglecting my "program." At least, that is the inference one would draw from such a statement. Sorry Bob, I'm not a computer. But is Bob thinking that I am a sign Bob is crazy? I don't think so. Maybe it's just a sign of Bob mistaking a metaphor for a belief.

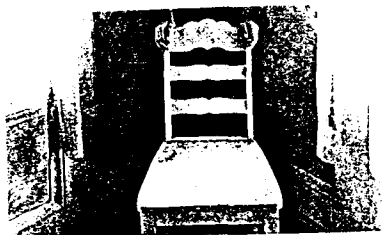
Is crazy the four or five people I saw this evening piling in a caricature (if you can believe it) of a cartoon brawl - you know the ones, they're like a spinning cloud with arms, legs, heads, whatever popping in and out of the rolling buffeting ball-of-confusion - out of a bar as I was walking up Hastings. Blood everywhere, curses and energy flying to the four directions. Is that crazy? If that's crazy then our government and our country, all countries with armies are completely, absolutely out of their fucking collective minds. Because armies and the like "practice" and "perfect" the art of mass destruction. (No, no, we call it defense.) So if large scale "defense" is not crazy, then small scale "cartoon" scraps by comparison aren't crazy either, or are they?

Is crazy my being so fed up with the ideas of what constitutes television entertainment that I chucked my TV in disgust? Yeah, day after New Years, so long Boob Tube. Is that crazy?

Is crazy asking someone to speak plainly

because their entendre and double meanings are meaningless to you? Is that Crazy? And if they still continue talking in this obfuscatory manner, is it you who are crazy or the person who won't get to the point, probably because they don't have a point to begin with?

Are criminals crazy? Con-artists and scam



specialists are sociopaths and are, by definition, dangerous. But are they crazy? No, they know exactly what they are doing, that's why they're dangerous.

Is crazy my ex coming over to visit me a few years back, and she's covered in bruises. After she tells me the whole story, she won't press charges against the guy who, according to my ex, was known by her lover. Is she crazy? I felt like bringing it up with her lover - we're friends (adults) - but decided they have to run their own affairs and will do what they feel necessary. Are they both crazy?

My step-mother. She is crazy. All step-mothers are crazy; it's in the book, you know.

But you know what happens when you call someone crazy, don't you? Or do you? Well, it all depends on who is doing the name calling, and in the end, that's all it is: name calling. Of course, if enough people call you crazy for a long enough period of time, it sort of becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy. Or you make that person a little crazy by treating them like a crazy person. But again, who is crazy?

Is it the howling-at-the-moon lovers in the downtown core? Is it religious wackos who view everything through a distorted prism of misinterpreted ancient wisdom? It is the crop of misanthropic technophiles who have a formula for everything (or are working on a program) but lack the ability to appreciate something for itself and not how it can be reduced to binary input data?

Is it me being a little pissed off at Paul Taylor, for what in hindsight was probably a typo? Or my not recognizing someone right away because of a hockey accident when I was 10? (Nothing ever was the same

after that. Knocked into the next dimension, I was Buddy.)

Is crazy a politician who's always on the scout for an election issue? You know, the issue they pick is something they can sling about and rant and rave in evangelical fervor, with which they can whip emotions this way and that way. (The key is never pick an election issue that means they'll actually have to do something afterwards. At least that's how it seems.) So are these crew of politicians crazy?

Or are the truly crazy people the ones who get a sanctioned control over the lives of other individuals and use that opportunity to entertain their own sado-sexual neurosis by visiting their fantasies into the lives

of those controlled? Or is it the ones who spend their time and energy meddling in the private lives of others for some reward, either tangible (money, etc.) or intangible (revenge for things that never happened except in their own minds, envy, jealousy, the seven deadly sins).

Well, whatever "crazy" is, it's in the majority of cases a subjective perception; you'll perceive the next person as crazy. I guess that's why I get into such trouble as I do - I'm the type of "crazy" person who'll dare to ask (usually) why?

Crazy, crazy, crazy.

The Heretic

New Noises at the Burning Centre of Existence



For every new noise at the burning centre of existence, there is a new silence, and for every new silence a new noise, just as for every new opening at the burning centre of existence, there is a new closure, and for every new closure a new opening, and so on. So what could we do?

We voted, at the burning centre of existence, and won, and then we voted again and won again. "This could take a while," I thought.

Dan Feeny



Dec. 28/95

Dear Paul

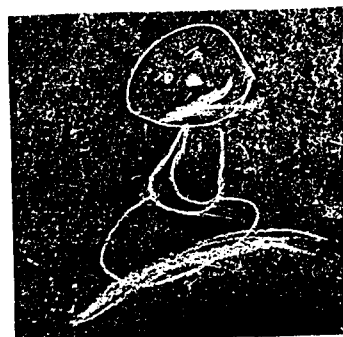
Thank you for your persistent notes.

I'm pleased to send a small contribution towards the sustainment of your excellent publication.

I appreciate receiving it - it always lifts my spirits to be reminded of the activism in the Downtown Eastside community,

May 1996 be a good year for all.

Charley (from Victoria)



Hello and lots of love to everyone.
Sounds like things are going well at the Centre. I always read the Newsletter.
Happy holidays.

Nancy Jennings

**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 H. - \$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:
Monday February 26**

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.**

"BRAVE-HEARTED WOMAN"

An Evening to Remember Anna Mae Aquash

20 YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF ANNA MAE AQUASH

Anna Mae Aquash was a Mi'kmaq from Nova Scotia and a member of the American Indian Movement. She was involved in the struggle to free her people during the 1970s. She participated in the standoff at Wounded Knee, S. Dakota, in 1973, when she was also arrested. On Feb. 24, 1976, her body was found on the Pine Ridge Reservation. At first, local authorities said she had died of exposure. They cut off the hands for supposed identification of the body. After a coroner's autopsy, a bullet was found in the back of her head. No person or persons has ever been charged with her death. She and her mother, a teacher, were the only women in the American Indian Movement who ever been charged with her death.

Topic: "Brave-Hearted Woman"

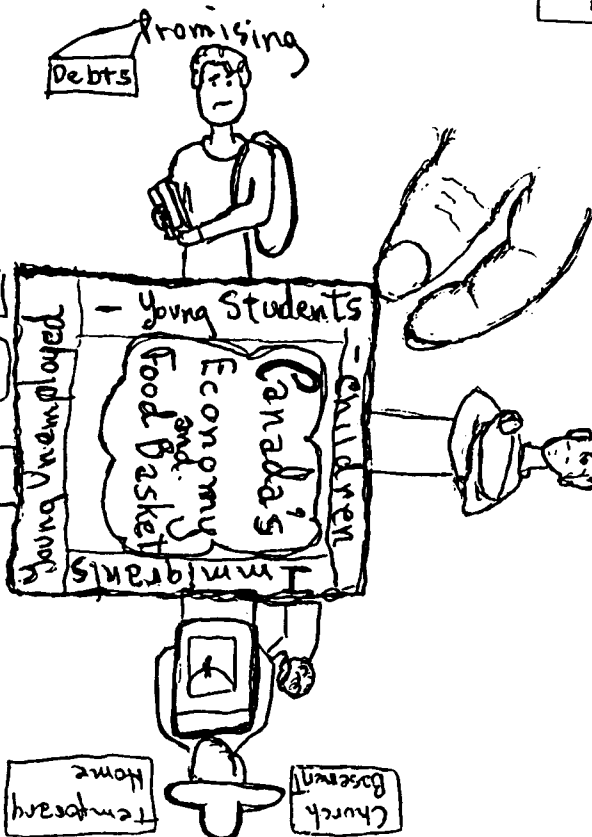
Thurs. Feb. 22/96 7:30 pm
La quena Coffeehouse, 1111 Commercial Dr.
Admission by Donation

Organized by OIA-ITCA-AN Publications
 PO Box 2881, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 1Y4



Peel and throw away.

- Single Parents





VALENTINE'S DANCE

February 16, 1996
All Ages

7:30 - 10:30pm

Dance to Live Music
Dyno Dean and Band

CARNEGIE CENTRE H.I.V./AIDS SUPPORT GROUP

Refreshments



MEETINGS HELD ON A REGULAR BASIS

THURSDAY EVENINGS 6:00 - 8:00PM

EVERYONE WELCOME!
BRING YOUR QUESTIONS

FREE COFFEE, INFORMATION & MORE

6:00 - 8:00pm
POTTERY ROOM, LANE LEVEL

CARNEGIE CENTRE
401 Main Street

