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Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

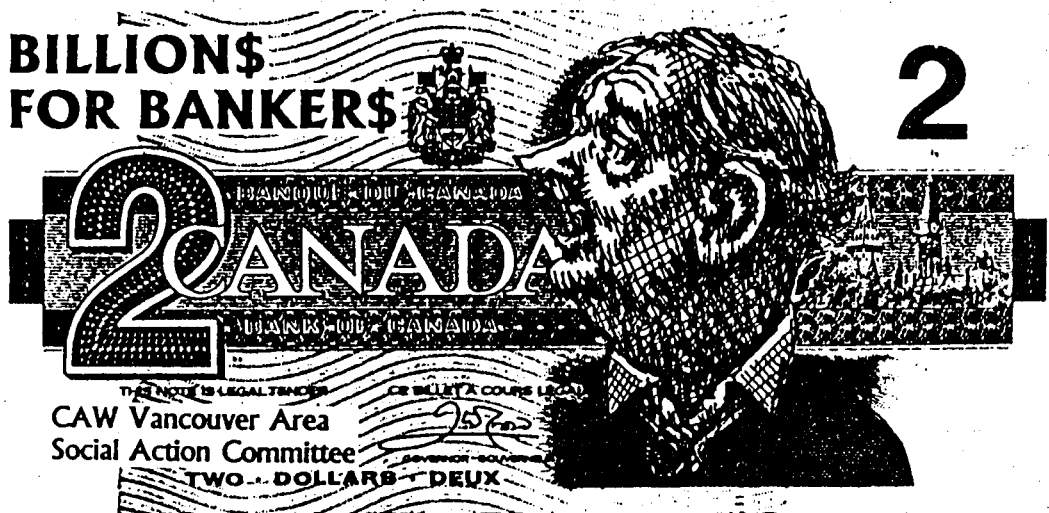
MARCH 1, 1996.

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

CANADA'S PASSBOOK TO POVERTY

**BILLIONS\$
FOR BANKERS\$**

2



CAW Vancouver Area
Social Action Committee

CAW  TCA
CANADA

TORONTO DOMINION BANK

- 1995 after tax profit \$794 million (up 20%)
- 1994 after tax profit \$683 million
- Bank assets (April 30, 1995) \$103.7 billion
- Ratio of Corporate Executive Officers income to bank tellers 194:1
- 1995 top CEO compensation \$3.15 million
- Income taxes 1992-1994 as share of "total" income 4.0%

And our government has slashed unemployment insurance.

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

- 1995 after tax profit \$876 million (up 82%)
- 1994 after tax profit \$482 million



- Bank assets (April 30, 1995) \$153.1 billion
- Ratio of Corporate Executive Officers income to bank tellers 123:1
- 1995 top CEO compensation \$1.97 million
- Income taxes as share of total income 4.9% in 1994

"In 1995 what will you pay in taxes?"

BANK OF MONTREAL

- 1995 after tax profits \$986 M* - (up 20%)
- 1994 after tax profits \$825 million
- Bank assets (April 30, 1995) \$148.4 billion
- Ratio of Corporate Executive Officers income to bank tellers 141:1

- 1995 top CEO compensation \$2.1 million
 - Income taxes 1992-1994 as share of "total" income 5.5%
- * 6th straight year of record profits!!**



And our government says Canadians' pensions are insecure.

C.I.B.C.

- 1995 after tax profits \$1.02 billion (up 15%)
- Bank assets (April 30, 1995) \$157.4 billion
- Ratio of Corporate Executive Officers income to bank tellers 135:1
- 1995 top CEO compensation \$1.88 million
- Income taxes 1992-1994 as share of "total" income 2.8%

And our government is cutting transfer payments for education, welfare and health care.

ROYAL BANK

- 1995 after tax profits \$1.26 billion (up 8%)
- Bank assets (April 30, 1995) \$175.5 billion
- Ratio of Corporate Executive Officers income to bank tellers 195:1
- 1995 top CEO compensation \$2.28 million
- Income taxes 1992-1994 as share of "total" income 1.6%

Canadian individuals pay over 90% of all income taxes in Canada while corporations pay less than

10%. The Banks are even worse. It's not fair. Call your MP and MLA about high interest rates and insist the banks pay their fair share.

January 25th is Corporate Tax Freedom Day, when Canadian corporations finish paying their taxes. The rest of the year they benefit at our expense.

For thousands of big businesses, Corporate Tax Freedom Day is the first day of the year. They make record profits and pay little or no taxes - in fact many get tax breaks and still lay workers off. Yet they tell us we have to cut Medicare, cut UI, cut federal spending on education, reduce the debt.

It doesn't add up.

- According to Statistics Canada, in 1992, 66,008 corporations paid no income tax or received tax credits on profits of more than \$14 billion.



- Canadian corporations have deferred taxes amounting to more than \$37 billion.
- In 1961 Canadian corporations paid 21% of federal tax revenue; now they pay only 8%. Working Canadians keep paying more; the individual share of Federal tax revenue climbed from 32% in 1961 to 49.5% last year.
- Tax credits and deductions for business cost us billions. Canadian banks made billions in profits yet claimed hundreds of millions in research and development tax credits. Since 1980, over \$167 billion in corporate profits has gone untaxed.

If everyone pays their fair share we can balance the budget - we can put our house in order.

Tell Ottawa to end wasteful tax breaks for corporations. **Call Finance Minister Paul Martin. 1-613-992-4284 or (F) 1-613-992-4291** 3.

This information was handed out at a rally on Saturday, Feb. 24, organised by the Canadian Auto Workers. There were several speakers, some public theatre and, as a centre of attention, a mound of burlap bags. Each was stuffed, tied at the top, and labelled "\$1M." It was to give people an idea of how much \$1 billion was.

Strangely, nothing was reported on TV or in the papers. When NAPO and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and CHOICES in Winnipeg presented the Alternative Budget at a national press conference, nothing made it on the airwaves



or into any major daily paper. When 70,000 people marched on Capital Hill in Ottawa in May, it got about 10 seconds on the news. When almost 100,000 students, seniors, anti-poverty activists, community workers and people marched a year ago it was described as "disappointing" and no speeches were aired. When 25,000 people marched in Montreal in sub-zero temperatures to protest UI cuts, it got 4 seconds on the news. The Minister responsible got 9 seconds and, on the same program, how to find termites in your attic got 4 minutes.

Conrad Black now owns 100% of all daily papers in Saskatchewan. He's on the Board of Directors of both the Sun and Province here and owns part of half the papers in Canada. If you don't like the way he covers the news, you have to create your own paper.

War against the poor

never mind quebec
canada has been separated from canada
canada a nation now in name only
but there is no comfort none

"...the mulroney government began the process
of harmonizing canada's social programs
with those of the united states
as required under the free trade agreement"
- tony clarke

so I recently received a form letter
which began with a lie -

"as part of its plan to renew
the province's social safety net..."

substitute the word "eliminate"
for "renew
and that is closer to the truth

and in this letter I am assured -

"participation in welfare to work programs
will be optional for people receiving
GAIN for handicapped"
and what that tells me is that
FOR NOW

my participation is optional

but the global economic war
against the poor
is advancing faster and faster

soon enough
there will be no more social services

more than 45 years ago
jacques ellul
a real prophet for our situation
wrote -

"nothing is gratis any longer in our society
and to live on charity is less and less possible
social advantages are for workers
not for 'useless mouths'
anyone who is not useful to the community
must be put to death"

neither I nor ellul are being hysterical
there are many forms of social death
and canada has been living in a dream world

I came to canada in 1969
encouraged by the canadian government
to break the law of the united states
and refuse to kill people in vietnam
or go to prison for refusing to kill
and at that time

I was asked by a canadian citizen
what I would do
if canada was invaded by the united states
I said and I meant it that I would
give my life for my life
in defense of canada

but now
that canada has been sold
like a junkie hooker on east hastings street
soliciting

sold to transnational corporations
so powerful already they do not hesitate
to fly their own flags
GM Place but one example

how do I defend canada?
how do I defend myself?

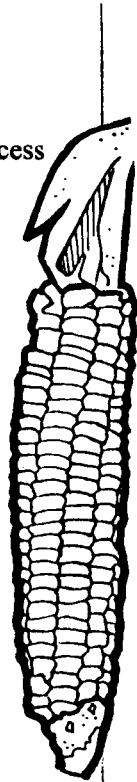
"dr. goebbels in his formulation of
the great law of the technical society:
'you are at liberty to seek your own salvation
as you understand it, provided you
do nothing to change the social order.'"

- jacques ellul

I vividly and indelibly remember a few years ago
seeing and hearing ronald reagan announce

"an economic revolution from the
arctic to tierra del fuego
one america"

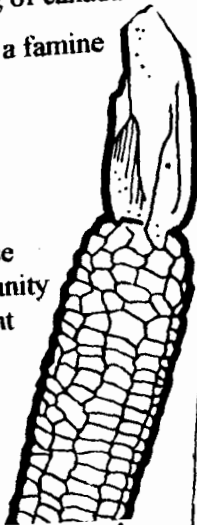
that was a bold declaration of war
and those of us who would oppose this
'revolution'
need to form a counter-revolution
but how to do that



here
 in what remains of canada and
 british columbia
 when we are overwhelmed
 by a famine
 and a plague?
 canada is suffering from a famine of canada
 when I came to canada
 the question of what comprises the
 canadian identity
 was a serious and national concern
 no longer
 however I was never in doubt as to what
 the essence of canada was for me
 freedom and compassion
 (though aboriginal people in canada
 have every reason to dispute this)
 however even today I do occasionally
 come across a kind of farewell reference
 to compassion
 a farewell to the meaning of canada

canada is suffering from a famine
 of compassion
 a famine of sanity
 a famine of courage
 a famine of faith
 a famine of meaning
 a famine of self-sacrifice
 a famine of real community
 a famine of employment
 a famine of home
 a famine of hope
 a famine of language
 a famine of truth
 a famine of love

and canada is suffering from a plague
 a plague of poverty
 a plague of mental illness
 a plague of suicide
 a plague of propaganda
 a plague of greed
 a plague of self-centred fear
 a plague of entertainment
 a plague of new age self-help



personal salvation
 a plague of right-wing fascistic
 christian fundamentalism
 a plague of drug addiction and alcoholism
 a plague of political pimps seeking personal power
 a plague of sexual madness and disease
 a plague of racism
 a plague of lies and deceit

this famine and this plague every canadian
 every human being in the world
 shares in common

but you and I
 in this global economic war against the poor
 are in the minority
 and the rest will let us go down in flames
 because they are afraid of being abandoned
 themselves
 because they are being convinced
 that it is the right thing to do
 how to bring about a counter-revolution?
 how to change the social order?

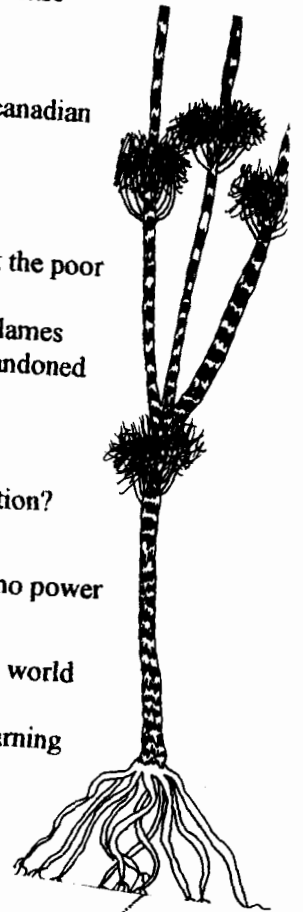
when we have no time no money no power

the aboriginal people in canada
 have the highest rate of suicide in the world
 that horror in itself
 should demand a national day of mourning
 a national day of repentance
 a national day of soul-searching
 what is wrong with us?

but no
 as canadians we are told to
 pretend
 that we are better off
 than human beings elsewhere

and yet it is an indisputable fact
 that our advantage
 directly disadvantages
 human beings elsewhere

consequently we are worse off
 spiritually speaking
 than human beings virtually
 anywhere else in the world

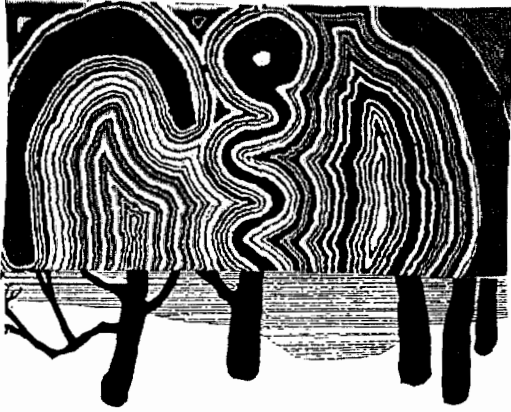


how to bring about a counter-revolution
 in myself?
 how to change the social order
 where change is not permitted?

Bud Osborn

**If you don't want to undo a friendship,
don't try to outdo a friend.**

Joe Paul



So tell me who's next...step right down. Once again DERA is on the chopping block. I'll make it easy for you...my spine is closest to the ground. I find that the little bit of bickering going on within our Community is once again starting to cause division among us. I see no one better than DERA; I see members of the community fighting to get what is best for our Community.

Why is it we all can't come together and hash out the personality differences we have - just lay out our differences and act like Community Leaders, not kids fighting for the last peanut butter dip.

My main concern at this time is to get what is best for our people, your neighbours, friends and family. At present our people are suffering - some are homeless and some are living in rat holes not fit for anything. Our Community is in real need of a healing of minds. Communication is something you do when you speak to a person of the spirit world. They don't talk back or tell you what to do, but direction comes by way of listening and looking; it is up to each of us to do the foot work.

The Community has many resources that could be used by the 10,000 plus people living in the Downtown Eastside. Every organisation could deliver a package; it would contain communication between itself and others.

The first time I met Stan was in my first year at the Carnegie, when my main occupation was to sit outside the cafeteria and stare at the floor.

One day while waiting for his daughter, Stan sat down at my table and we had a conversation about a book he'd once read.

He was the kind of guy you took an instant liking to, and I know that the folks on the other side are going to be delighted with his company.

Garry Gust

Take a step, one step, outside of your business and take a good look at those people on the sidewalks, those hanging around bus stops. Better yet, think of how you respond when those people come in to ask you what you're about or what you know of the 'place' down the street.

To be successful we need to pull all resources together and create a system where no organisation suffers from lack of proper funding. This pooling will help us be a Community who works together with the support of our people. By keeping in touch, being honest and having open communication, we build for not only our future but that of the kids who have nothing at all.

Building social housing is the biggest challenge we have. Woodward's is just the start, where the Community together wrestled a victory from the dark pronouncements of 354 market condos. The three people announcing the deal showed me that it is possible to have a result where everyone wins in the end. Let us repay them by giving it our best hand, building a community within our Community where everyone is on the same wavelength.

It's time for us to join hands, walk tall, and be proud of the Downtown Eastside.

By MARGARET PREVOST

See You At Woodward's

It's a deal! Woodward's is going to be developed as a mixed-income housing project to benefit the community, and not as an exclusive condo ghetto for the new urban gentry.

By now you've probably heard the good news. It was announced with much fanfare at a news conference in the old Woodward's building by Mike Harcourt. He was proud of his achievement, and well he should be.

Woodward's has the potential to be a model urban development, an example of how to preserve and even build a neighbourhood reflecting community values, rather than tear it down in the name of property values.

So what will Woodward's look like when it's finished? Well, it's too early to say exactly, but the outlines of some of the features are now emerging.

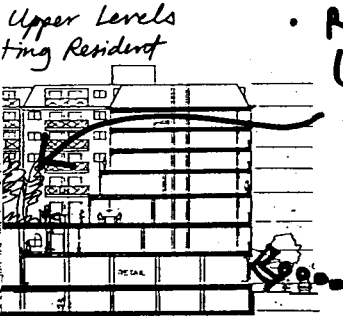
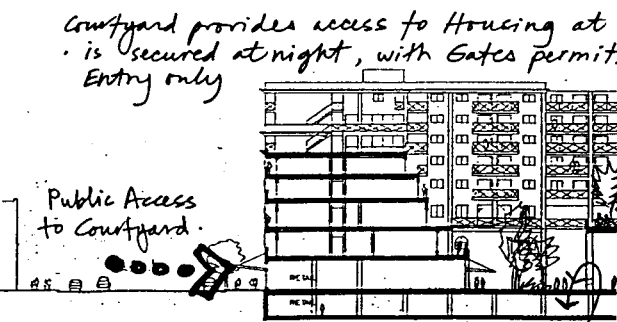
- There will be at least 210 units of social housing, the largest single bloc of subsidised housing ever built under one roof in the Downtown Eastside, accommodating people currently living in the neighbourhood.

areas. Suites will have windows facing either the street or into the courtyard.

- As part of the deal, there will also be 160 condo units, pegged to people who can afford to buy housing at market rates. This is a vast improvement over the original plan to build 360 condos and no social housing.
- The bottom two floors and the basement will contain shops and offices.

There's a lot of credit to go around for this happy outcome. First, of course, to the individuals and community groups who never lost hope, and kept fighting, even in the dark days of last winter, when the City seemed hell-bent on steam-rolling the all-condo project through.

For the community, it was a life-and-death struggle. An all-condo Woodward's right in the heart of the community would have driven up



- A SECURE, INTERIOR COURTYARD FOR RESIDENTS' USE.
- INCLUDES PLAY SPACE FOR CHILDREN

Courtyard also provides Access to the Basin

- At least 100 of the units will be targeted at the lowest-income residents, now living in hotels and rooming houses. Other units will house low-income families (up to four bedrooms) and possibly the working poor of the neighborhood
- All the units will be self-contained, meaning bathrooms and cooking facilities.
- The building will be cored out, with a large central courtyard landscaped with common

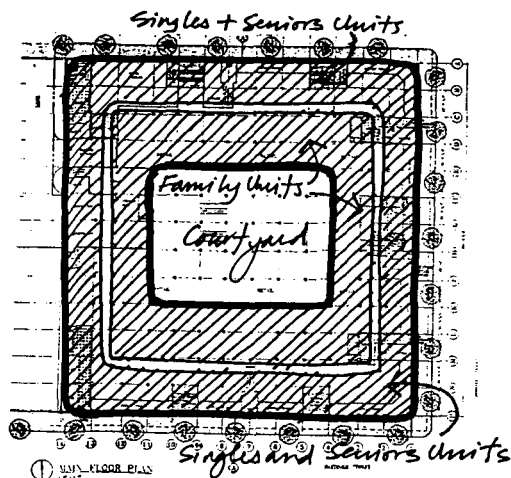
property values all around it, forcing low-income residents into the streets.

Credit should also go to Mike Harcourt, who made it happen in Victoria, and to Jenny Kwan, who played a role behind the scenes. And to Kassem Aghtai, the owner and developer of Woodward's, who had the vision to see how something positive could come out of an abandoned old building on a derelict street.

(Of course, where there's credit there must also be blame. Shame on you, Gastown business establishment and yuppies, who opposed this project right to the end; and you, minions of the City Housing Department, who tried to sandbag the community, cried crocodile tears over the old

guys in the hotels, and then helped divert city funds needed for Woodward's to a "youth" project that was parachuted into the community by VanCity Credit Union with no consultation.)

Despite all the progress, the way ahead will be a difficult one. There is still a lot of negotiating to do, and much discussion by the community about the specific shape and form of the project.



The Woodward's Committee, with input from a range of residents, housing groups and agencies, has been working to make sure the community has its say in how Woodward's is developed. The Committee is seeking to structure the project so that the eventual residents will manage their own housing democratically, in a co-op.

The Committee wants more community input to ensure that Woodward's will be as good as it can be. It will hold a public meeting, briefing and display about the Woodward's project on

**THURSDAY, MARCH 7, from 3 to 5 pm
at CARNEGIE CENTRE, 401 MAIN ST.**

Bring your questions, comments and suggestions. With full community involvement, Woodward's will become a model of urban revitalisation that everyone can be proud of.

If you have any questions, or you want to get more involved in the process, contact the Carnegie Community Action Project (689-0397) or drop by the CAP office on the second floor of Carnegie.

By HARRY GOMBE

16 February, 1996

Neighbourhood Safety Office
12 East Hastings Street
Vancouver, B. C.

The Carnegie Action Project apologizes for any offence caused by remarks which were published in the CAP newsletter of February 1. They are statements made by individuals in workshops and do not represent the views of the Action Project. We support the work of the N. S. O.

Sincerely,

the Carnegie Community Action Project

Woodwards Housing Information Meeting

**Come Celebrate
the Victory of Social
Housing in the Old
Woodwards Building.**

There will be over 200 subsidized housing units for
singles and families from the Downtown Eastside in the
new Woodward's Housing Project. We have fought for
years to save the Woodward's building. Now we have it,
and it is time to celebrate. Come and join us for a
coffee and cookie, look at the display and ask questions.

Thursday, March 7, 1996

3:00 to 5:00 PM

**Carnegie Centre
401 Main Street**

Hosted by the
Woodwards
Committee

The community creative writing course started on February 5 with eleven students present. Frank Borg is our instructor and he has a much different approach to writing. Instead of being rushed to finish something in class we write it at home and each student reads their finished product the following week.

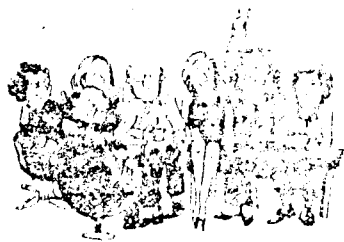
The students range from those who have never written anything to former journalists. We are able to choose what we are interested in whether it be stage or screen plays, autobiographies, fiction or poetry.

One man has difficulty with English but is a fantastic musician who sings in Spanish. We all encourage him to entertain us because music is the universal language.

In closing I would like to say this creative writing course has been most successful and we have learned a great deal from each other.

By IRENE SCHMIDT

“Understanding language is what gets you through life.”



BLANK!!!???

Jp

If you love something, set it free!

If it comes back it was yours and
always will be yours.

If it never returns, it was never
yours to begin with.

If it just sits in your livingroom,
messes up your stuff, eats
your food, uses your
telephone, takes your
money, and never appears
to know that you actually
set it free in the first place,
you either married it or
gave it birth.

The Long Haul, End Legislated Poverty's newspaper, has an excellent section in its March 1996 edition. It gives the details of the Alternative Budget, the sound thinking of a different way to manage our nation's finances from that taken by the corporate agenda. In the next issue of the *Carnegie Newsletter* this will be presented. Some highlights:

- full employment
- an end to poverty
- protection of basic labour rights
- strong social programs and social services
- environmental improvement
- economic equality between men and women
- a fairer tax system
- a more equitable distribution of income

National Welfare standards in the Alternative Budget mirror those now in the Canada Assistance Plan, slated to be killed on April 1st. The greed and psych-war of the transnationals is moving ahead in leaps and bounds. Their arrogance has made them vulnerable.

PRT

1996 - Year of the Census!

1996 is a Census Year for Canadians! Our national census takes place only once every five years, making the 1996 Census the last one this century. On Tuesday, May 14th, 1996, you'll have the opportunity to participate in Canada's next national Census of Population.

The responses on your census questionnaire are grouped with responses from other census questionnaires and provide detailed information about the economic, social and demographic conditions and trends in Canada. This information is used to plan important public

services, such as transportation, health and social services, day care, housing, fire and police protection, and employment and training programs. 11.

The Statistics Act legally requires Statistics Canada to conduct a census every five years, and ensures that all personal information is kept confidential. No one can access personal census information. By law, Statistics Canada may use the answers collected in the census for statistical purposes only.

The results of the 1996 Census will help guide Canada into the 21st century. Help make Canada's next census a success. Count yourself in on Census Day, Tuesday, May 14th, 1996!



A SICK FEELING

A sick feeling comes in barrages of image, where a factory turns out stockpiles of fact, inundating the rooms, the airspace, the cracks in the walls.

You needn't fear the swells and sweltering of the embarkation planned for you, the dominion of central blue, which lies below dreams. You could ride this comprehensive swallowing forever, without being wholly lost. Preferable to the domestic dictatorship of self that compels every moment to stay put changelessly spent.

But, as yet, you seem oblivious to the revolution your possessions right now are undertaking, a revolution that will accomplish the unseemly end of your slow compunction.

Wouldn't It Be Grand On A Black Night Like This
Wouldn't it be grand, I thought, if everything made sense the way mountains or oceans, just being there, make sense? (Wonderful & terrible at the same time.)

Anyway, listening to you and your noises, noises like small fires beside you in the wilderness, I felt this great, cool, anticipatory envelope surrounding us, as safe & sheltering, in its way, as any sense of meaning or place.

"What we dreamed we looked as if," I said to myself. "What we thought we felt as though."

IT IS HATEFUL

All that heaviness dredging our days, all that bright magic weather, words carrying their burden of intent like a song of distraction, amusement, protocol. Surveying our rooms, our topographies, including the non-existent, secret ones, I note how the anthropomorphically conceived ego dances away from our island on wings of isolation, in isohistoric turnings.

I hold my body close, the only situation. It is hateful.

By DAN FEENEY



Imperial Oil

Imperial Oil Limited
111 St. Clair Avenue West
Toronto, Ontario
Canada M5W 1K3

Patrick A. Shaw
Public Affairs Advisor
Public Affairs Department

Tel. (416) 968-4347
Fax. (416) 968-4272

Ms. Anita Stevens
313, 350 E. Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6A 1T9

January 9, 1996

Dear Ms. Stevens:

Your touching and descriptive note "And How Poor Were You" was forwarded to me for reply on behalf of Imperial Oil. It clearly and explicitly describes some very difficult times that you personally have experienced.

You close your comments with reference to deferred taxes, and I expect that though well-meaning, your proposed solution is based on a misunderstanding of what leads to the accounting principle known as deferred tax.

Taxation issues are often complex. This item, and the considerable confusion around it, arises in part because of one approach governments have chosen in order to encourage companies to invest in Canada with the expectation of creating new jobs and eventually a healthier economy.

Imperial Oil reports to various levels of government as demanded by their tax acts and regulations. These rules specify the amounts we must pay for a given period. The tax regulations, legislation, and interpretations are continually changing, and specialized auditors annually review our records to ensure accuracy and compliance with the law. We take our obligations to governments very seriously and make very concerted efforts to ensure we pay the appropriate amount of tax.

I noted that the postmark on your letter is from the United Church on East Hastings Street. If you would like to more fully understand the accounting principle of deferred taxes, I encourage you to speak to the church accountant.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Shaw

Dear Mr. Shaw,

Thank you for your letter. Are you really that cold and calculating and stupid? Your letter is a perfect example of passing the buck, questioning my comprehension of the issue and passing yourself off as a law-abiding company.

The issue is to pay your taxes and in doing so you will greatly help Canada's economy.

Anita Stevens



“Ode to a Grandchild that is Not”

Grandchild that is not;
 What is your name?
 I shall call you - Joey or Jane.
 Joey or Jane;
 Dear Grandchild that is NOT;
 (not on this earth), but in your Heavenly Father's arms!
 Who would you have looked like;
 Your Father? Your Mother?
 Your Grandfather? Your Grandmother?
 What kind of character would you have?
 A loving and serving one, I would hope!
 What great feat would you have accomplished dear Joey or Jane?
 But your life was cut short before you had the choice!
 You wanted the choice to live!
 Your Grandmother wanted to give you that choice too!
 She had no choice, but was forced to let you go.



It is the law you know!

If you were alive today I would love you Joey or Jane, but the choice was made!!!

You could NOT live, dear Grandchild.

What was the crime?

You were conceived!

When I think of you, I cry again.

And remember the loving and caring human person you might have been.

I will always miss you, Joey or Jane;

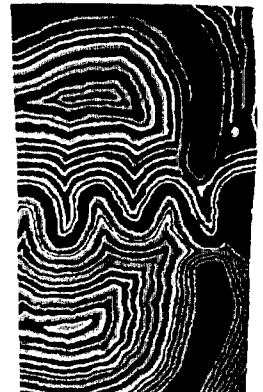
but you are in a better place now; the loving arms of your heavenly father.

My dear Grandchild that should have been but is not.

Love from Grandmother

I.N.A. Jay

Creston, B.C.





TALES FROM THE DOT COM NINETTES Garry Gust 1996

They say that the moon moves one inch away from the earth every year. If this is true then I've lost 4 feet $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches of lunar influence since conception.

In its elliptical orbit around the earth, the closest the moon comes to us is 221,463 miles. That's a mere 1,415,148,570 inches, so I've only got about 2 feet left in this incarnation.

Does this inching away cause us to mature or get more intelligent, or even live longer? I suppose if it were possible to give an IQ test to a caveman, this theory might prove reasonable, but, as Jefferson said: some things are self-evident.

If the moon is as old as the earth, in their current areas of activity, I wonder how many inches we've lost since they joined up? This might seem trivial, but I like to know what I've missed.

In about 700 years from now, when we visit the moon for a year or two, I hope they take those vanishing inches into consideration when they calculate the rocket fuel needed for the trip. But probably by then the capitalist-profit before safety mentality will have gone the way of the dinosaur.

Imagine, after a year on the country Moon, you're all set to go home when the spaceline company informs you that all flights are canceled due to a small mathematical error. It would be enough to give you Lunamorphobia -fear of dying on the moon.

But us humans are troopers and we'd probably just go get a bottle of wine, sit on a moon rock and compose songs about the earth, as we gaze up at that mystifying blue ball in the sky.

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM
LOTTO CANADA:

Because our best customers are in the Downtown Eastside, all future lottery tickets issued in the community will be made up of a vitamin enhanced gelatin substance, and may be considered edible after the draw date.

ATTENTION

If you are hopelessly addicted, come to our daily meetings at
MONOPOLY
LOTTO
ANONYMOUS
Ph:692-7407





Newsletter of the Carnegie Community Action Project

March 1996

Meet Mr. Bad Homes

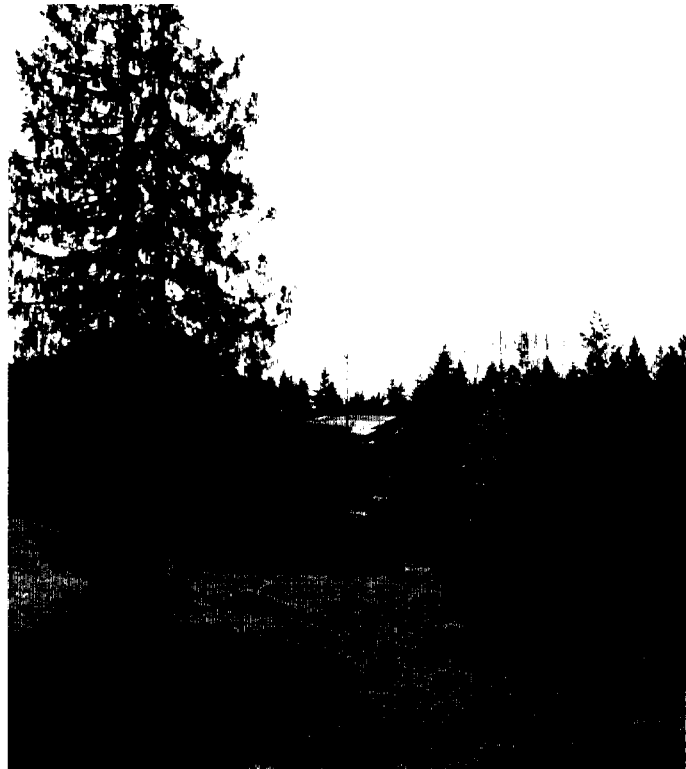
You be the judge. A house is supposed to be a home. But what if you can't afford a house, or even an apartment? What if all you can afford is a small room for an outrageous rent? Can one room be a home?

People in the Downtown Eastside have spent years paying off the mortgages of rack-rent slum landlords without getting much in return except for a small room with cockroaches, leaky pipes, and dirty bathrooms. Most people we talk with figure it's about time we got some decent housing in return for the outrageous rents we've been paying.

Now, along comes West Vancouver condo developer Bradley Holmes (aka. Bad Homes) with a proposal to build up to 400 (count 'em, 400!) small rooms in a building on Hastings Street across from Woodwards. Holmes himself lives in a house that cost almost a million dollars. High up on the mountain in West Vancouver, Canada's richest city, it's also got a million dollar view. It's the kind of place that gives you a different view on life than the one you get from the windows of a Downtown Eastside hotel room.

Inside:

- * Mr. Bad Homes
- * The Van Cockroach
--Do condo buyers know what they're getting into?
- * The Final Word
--Residents of the Abbott Mansions speak out!



**The View From the Other Side:
This is what Brad Holmes sees
out of his window.**

Holmes and his partner, Gerry Kennedy (husband of NPA city councilor, Lynne Kennedy) want to build 120 square foot rooms, with a toilet. That would put the rooms at roughly the same size and design as the rooms at the Remand Centre on East Cordova. A 400 room place like this would become a warehouse for people who don't have enough money to buy condos or dish out \$700 or \$800 a month for an apartment with a kitchen and bathroom.

If this proposal gets the go-ahead, the City won't have to cough up the money for alternative housing. If Holmes and Kennedy are allowed to build their 400 cell cement Okalla, then we can say good-bye to low-rent, self-contained units in the Downtown Eastside. Why would the government build real social housing if the private sector can make a profit by warehousing poor?


According to Vancouver Sun columnist, Elizabeth Aird, city planners are actually taking this proposal seriously. That's because a proposal like this will solve some of their headaches. City-approved condominium development in the Downtown Eastside will end up displacing people from the small rooms in which they now live and out onto the streets. Holmes and Kennedy are proposing a cheap and easy (for some) solution to this displacement problem.

Of course, Bradley Holmes will try to sell this project as a great deal for the community. He did the same with his two condo projects at the corner of Cordova and Carrall -- the Van Horne, at 8 East Cordova, now under construction, and a new one that will start development sometime this year right across the street.

But don't let them fool you. Holmes is no altruist. If all 400 rooms are occupied and if rents go for \$325 a month, he and his partner Kennedy will stand to rake in a whopping \$130 thousand each and every month. Can you believe it?

To find out more about Bradley Holmes and his developments, check out the Loft Store on the corner of Powell and Carrall. If you can't afford one of his condos, Mr. Bad Homes might have a box in a warehouse you can rent....

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The Final Word

CAP Workshop at the Abbott Mansions

Security came up (again) as a major issue at the workshop. Apparently, the Abbott Mansions used to be a halfway decent place to live. But in the past few years, cleanliness and security conditions there have deteriorated to drastically. Here's what some people had to say:

"Man, you're safer out on the street than you are in here."

"I'm gonna go to welfare and say, 'Can I have a voucher for Canadian Tire? I need to buy a baseball bat.'"

"You could push my door open with one finger."

"It's when you're sleeping...."

"My girlfriend and I were sleeping. I woke up one day and found someone going through my girlfriend's purse."

"I've got no choice. I've got to get a place."

The residents of the Abbott Mansions organized to write a letter stating their concerns about drugs and crime moving into the hotel (and into bedrooms and bathrooms...) from the street. Their letter is addressed to Mayor Owen and Councillors. It will also be directed to the Inspector of Permits and Licensing (Ray Mariani), the Environmental Health Inspector, and the Chief of Police.

CAP would like to express a sincere thanks to the staff and volunteers of the Neighbourhood Helpers Project for sharing their space, wisdom, and muffins!!

Their Spirits Live Within Us

The March for the women who have died in the Downtown Eastside, on February 14th, was an uplifting experience for me. Other people who attended said they had a good time - a hard time, but a good one.

It was the first time the March happened on a sunny day. That was strange at first, but so warm. The Carnegie Theatre was overflowing before



Glenn Deneault, Harriette Nahanee, Mary Uslick, Pauline Johnson, Betty Gladue and Kelly White

11:00 a.m. The brilliant banners were up, the placards were filled with the women's names, and the ribbons were distributed.

As they munched on muffins, a few mothers I know mentioned how happy they were that childcare had been provided by Crabtree and

Shannon at the Four Sisters. Just then a childless neighbour passed by and said, "Too bad the kids aren't here." We replied, "Not for the ones who have to keep them quiet." Mothers in the Downtown Eastside often can't attend meetings, workshops or healing events because they can't afford babysitters. If they take their kids, they have to be ready for a lot of frowning complaints. I know a large percentage of the 118 women killed were mothers.

Connie Fife, from Urban Native Youth, who was a driving force on the organising committee, was going to be MC. Much to our sorrow, Connie lost her brother the day before the March. Margaret Prevost, the strength and spirit of the planning committee, abandoned the police and the press to take over the mike. She introduced the elders. Mary Uslick and Harriet Nahanee offered prayers and inspiring words.

The Cascade Drum group - drummed and sang beautifully.

The March was led by the elders, the drummers and the Traditional Mothers dance group. Lorelei Hawkins smudged people with a cleansing herb as they left the Carnegie.

When we got out into the sunshine, there were so many women - it seemed like more than 200. The word had gotten out. Rita Ann Noble from DERA did a terrific job of getting flyers distributed to hotels, rooming houses and co-ops. Three local women, Terry Olewinski, Rose Running Rabbit and myself had posterred all the women's washrooms in the Downtown Eastside bars.

There were grieving women in this March who never go to agencies. When women keep seeing their sisters put down and fall, it can be very hard to resist escape.

I found the pace of the March slow, peaceful and relaxing. Unfortunately, bringing up the rear, we couldn't hear what the elders were saying at the stops, but the healing feeling emanated.

The men in the March were, for the most part, respectful. The police did have to remove a man

on a bicycle, who was trying to take over. A long-time friend and supporter of Downtown Eastside women, Steve Lytton, said afterwards that he was disturbed to see men in the March who he knew to be violent abusers of women. We decided to hope that it would be a turning point for them. Steve said he would try talking to them.

The security crew organised by the DE Women's Centre was efficient, firm, yet caring. At one point the police were trying to push us over to let some buses pass. Margaret said no way. I was glad about that.

Georgina Isaac, a former DE social services worker now living in Alert Bay, was in Vancouver on the weekend. She said, "I heard about the March and I had to stay. I lost my niece down here."

At the police station few people could hear what Anne Drennan, their spokesperson, said. I was chalking my friend's name just by her, so I did. In my opinion, it was heartless bureaucratic drivel. I was surprised there weren't hisses and shouts of "Lies!" When I passed the station a few hours later, they had washed away the names. Not a trace.

At Oppenheimer Park I was astounded at how large the circle had grown since the last March I had gone on. No one could hear the elders, so we were asked to move in. The people on the outside couldn't hear at all and those in the middle only some. Hopefully, by next year, DE technology will have discovered a way to amplify their prayers sensitively.

The candles shone like little spots of sunlight everywhere.

As we walked to the Four Sisters Co-op the crowd thinned somewhat. The feast awaiting us, prepared by the Arrance family, was delicious. The elders blessed the food. Kelly White spoke thanks in her particularly eloquent way.

The Carnegie staff involved in the March were troopers to the end. Alicia, Don and Marina even came to the Four Sisters Thursday morning to clean up. It was a real team effort. People working together is so heartening.



For me, the day was sad but cleansing. After two years I still grieve my friend Janice Saul's tragic death. I remembered Janice was called "Sunshine" in California. I remembered her squirting laughter when she worked at Oppenheimer. I'm not so angry.. being with all those people who care helped. Still, the horror of the harsh reality remains. **RACISM, SEXISM, CLASSISM KILLS.**

Thanks to all those who took the time to attend.
Their Spirits Live Within Us.

By LEITH HARRIS

Hundreds of people came to honour our sisters who died violent deaths in and around the Downtown Eastside. February 14th was a day of recognition for the 118 women. The March was put together by community-based people... their families and friends.

Our purpose was to raise the awareness of not only our own community but "Society" in general. We had the bottle depot people cleaning the alleys before the March. Jim Green was part of the cleanup crew. It's nice to see Jim doing bang up work for the Downtown Eastside. Welcome back!

Harriet Nahanee and Mary Uslick blessed us with an honour song and prayers. They then led us down Hastings Street, cleansing and healing the Community. This gave us time to weep the tears that could set our sisters' spirits free.



As well we had Kelly White and the Traditional Mothers' Dance Group singing their songs that empowered us to walk tall and be proud.

Special thanks to Fred Arrance, his sister, friend and Garnet who cooked the soup, bannock and cupcakes for the March, along with Dolly & Dolores who cooked up the fish, buns, potatoes and a cake. Fred also went through the DE and outskirts to pull in donations of food and beverages.

I'd like to say at this time that the community's sympathy goes to Fred and his family over the loss of another loved one. Her death will not go unnoticed.

The Women's Centre provided us with security



and, as usual, they did a wonderful job. Once again they worked with Allen Williams and his crew, who also did a fine job. We appreciated your assertiveness and leadership.

Celina Golletz did our pouches for the traditional tobacco and Judy Chartrand spent many hours working on the banners. Judy is away so would someone please save a package of local media reports for her? Thanks.

Also to be acknowledged are the Carnegie Community Association & Carnegie staff, DERA, Vancouver Native Health and the Four Sisters board & members for the use of the kids' space and Jim Green Room. Thanks to the many volunteers who worked on the planning committee and a special thanks to Shannon Corrado for providing childcare at Four Sisters.

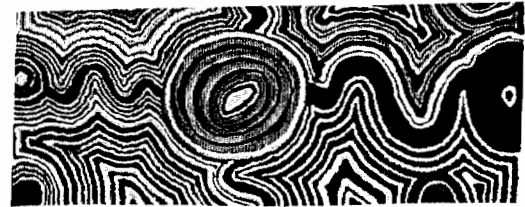
This Community of people gave us hope and showed that they care about what happens to our street-involved women. Your support is welcomed with open arms.

There is always hope that we can put aside our differences and work to build our community. This is a beginning. Many thanks for supporting the women's March. Now's the time to work together for a better future, not only for street-involved women but for ourselves, our friends, families, children, the homeless and, most importantly, our elders.

A follow-up meeting will happen soon. Until then - **Unity for the Community** will happen sooner than you can say *Have A Nice Day* in Chinese, Spanish and double Dutch.

By MARGARET PREVOST

*Disappearing
friends,
vanishing
loved ones,
where did you go?
Can you see me
in pain,
mourning
my lost friends?
Your life meant something to me.
I remember
a teardrop
sliding down your cheek,
laughter
bubbling from deep
inside,
taking your hand
running down the street,
conversations we had.
I remember
even if no one else does.
You meant something to me;
you were my friend.
When I had no place to stay
you took me home*



*and fed me,
held me as I cried
over a broken heart,
bathed me as I sweated out an addiction.
You laughed at my jokes,
cried at my misfortunes.
Now I cry
for you.
I just wanted to say
I love you
I don't think I ever told you.
I need you to know
you meant everything to me.
Your heart was so pure
for being on the east side,
don't meet many women like you, girlfriend.
Now I can't tell you
thank you for being my friend,
for the memories.
Can you even hear me?....*

**Diana G.
Burnaby Correction Centre for Women**

Healing The Community

On February 14th, Valentine's Day, over 300 people gathered at the Carnegie Centre for the 5th annual memorial march to remember the 118 women who've been murdered or died from substance abuse in the Downtown Eastside and throughout Vancouver over a fifteen year period.

They burned sweetgrass, sang prayers, and wept for their "sisters" who had died alone.

"They are not alone today," Margaret Prevost said.

The marchers, following the soft beat of drums, spent three hours on a solemn walk along Hastings Street and through back alleys. They left a red rose at the Balmoral Hotel, the Dodson, Pigeon Park,



the Washington and the Marr Hotel. At each spot Elders sang and prayed for those who had died.

As the people walked, they sang First Nations songs along with the drummers, and carried signs on which were written the names of the women

who had died.

At the police station on Main Street the grievors wrote the names of murdered women on the sidewalk. In Margaret Prevost's view, a number of killings remained unsolved because women who worked the streets were considered less than human. "But they are people. They are mothers and daughters and sisters. They are not bad."

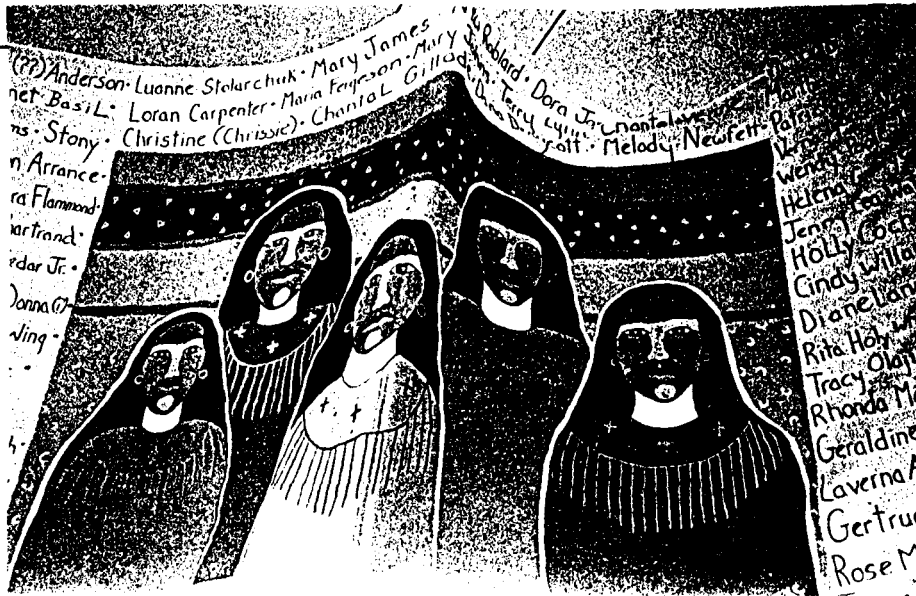
Constable Anne Drennan of the Vancouver Police Dept. said that detectives worked hard on all homicide cases, but that solving murders in the Downtown Eastside was difficult because police had a hard time getting information and finding

witnesses.

At Oppenheimer Park the marchers formed a circle and held lighted candles in memory of the dead. Prayers and songs held us in community and taught us that suffering is overcome, not by leaving pain behind, but by bearing pain with others. The prayers seemed to be telling us to live in such a way that our lives would portray a hope that children growing up now would see a better life.

So do we remember our sisters.

By SANDY CAMERON



NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

By PAULR TAYLOR

* The Carnegie Learning Centre is grinding through some rough times. Seems the Vancouver School Board can't accept the fact that this area is unique, that our population doesn't quite fit into its categories and rules, that stats and numbers are not the result of volunteer tutors and basic literacy and learning, but just a byproduct.

Seems that the top bureaucrats have no concept of what "hands-on" means, can't relate to the many refugees and people for whom English is a

second language having educational goals beyond learning the language, and can't get beyond the idea of Carnegie needing much more than a competent (in their eyes) administrator.

Tutors go to School Board programs outside Carnegie and find locked doors, no chalkboards, no books; are told there is no money for tutor training; find themselves advising the top staff on how to make Carnegie more friendly to people for whom literacy is a number one priority. There is something wrong when a literacy student has to offer advice to someone making over \$60,000 a

year on how to attract literacy students. (Like do not hand them a form to fill out as their first interaction with the "establishment.")

A closed door staff meeting has a motion to change the name of the Carnegie Learning Centre to the "Downtown Eastside Learning Centre" get 3 votes in favour, two opposed and 8 abstentions



and the "winners" calling it democratic.

The Education Committee and the Hiring subcommittee are using plain language:

- we read the job description
- we read the applications
- we interviewed and selected a candidate
- the best person for the job will be hands-on, able to get involved and give direction and administrate
- the one we chose can do this.


What's the problem?

* A year ago, in Feb. '95, community agencies began meeting with various funders. DEYAS, Ray-Cam and others were all involved, getting money from MSS, the Vancouver Foundation, the Orphan's Fund and even the Parks Board to open and operate the 'Hazelwood' storefront.

This was the beginning, with the pie-in-the-sky goal of housing for youth and people with multiple barriers in getting decent housing, like sex trade workers, homeless teens, and people active in their addictions.

The storefront had youth outreach workers, showers, a food bank, and various services to keep street youth healthy, but this maintenance stuff is pretty static when kids want/need life skills, maybe computer labs, apprenticeship possibilities.

Enter VanCity Credit Union. "Numerous" meetings occurred with branch staff, area managers, a fund-raising campaign was launched and, eventually, staff and members brought in



over \$200,000. The housing was discussed as a component of the Downtown Eastside's Youth services, and a possible site on Main, north of the bus station's park, was viewed.

More meetings, then discussions with the Ministry of Housing. A housing society had to agree to 'do' the housing and Vancouver Native Health Society agreed to fill that role.

Joan Smallwood was fired as the minister of housing and the proposal went in and was not approved. (Coincidence?) All talk between DEYAS et al and VanCity stopped, for months, and neither John Turvey at DEYAS nor Carol Brown at Ray-Cam knew what was happening.

About 3 weeks ago a key player at VanCity, Michael Lee, called Turvey and said there would be an announcement the next day about "youth" housing. It was the 'deal' between the City of Vancouver and VanCity to build 55 units in Victory Square. It felt like a kick in the teeth. All the meetings, the touring of VanCity officials and others to show them the need here and the plans discussed seemed to have been lost in this great developer-driven toilet flush. Turvey and Brown and Lou Demerais of Native Health all responded to the bland question of "Can you use this site?" with a short "No."

It seemed that all had been lost, that services were supposed to follow developers, that the City and VanCity had sucker-punched the youth of the DE, and that the entire dream was just wishful thinking.

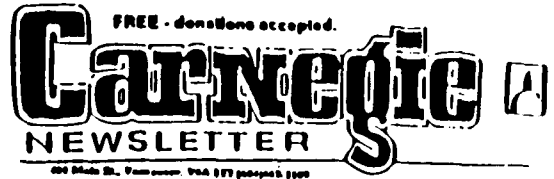
Turvey met with Lee and the trouble was on the table. Lee reassured all the youth workers that the project was still fully backed by VanCity and that plans for improvement were not shelved. Turvey reports that it was a learning experience and that building partnerships in the Downtown Eastside is part of the fight. We'll see what comes of this, but it looked pretty grim when various people were trying to do damage control at Woodward's.

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

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CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION**

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

**Submission Deadline
for the next issue:**

12 March
Tuesday

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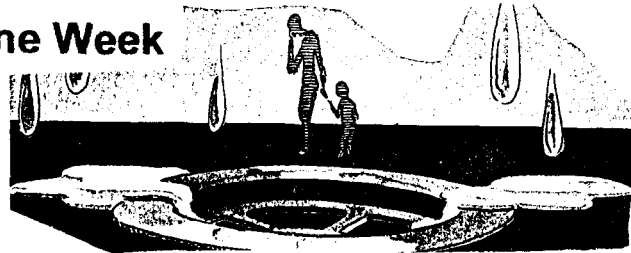
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Words of the Week



Here's a few words/phrases that were poppin' and hoppin' round the circle of my life this week. (I mean repeated) And a few of the perceived cultural definitions/daffy-nitions...

Political Correctness: ...now I always thought that was a term that meant "neutral" or non-gender specific, or non-offensive. So when did it acquire the suffrage of being used as a blanket to cover the prejudices and biases of the utterer? Isn't that the exact reason political correctness was unofficially introduced? Do both genders speak with forked politics?

Sexual Orientation: I've thought that a bizarre term. Orientation is sort of like orienteering, or navigating by map and compass. Oh, you mean preference? Yes indeed, I do prefer orienteering in the bathtub. What's that... oh, you want to know which gender - well, with a winsome member of the complimentary gender. What's that again? Sorry, I can't understand what you're saying because you're fuming and blathering so much. Oh, you mean my preference...why didn't you specify? I prefer women, but why are you so worked up about it anyway? Even if I was only gay or only straight, what difference would it make? You're not one of those homosexual pedophile fanatics, are you? Don't you know that 98% of all molesters are heterosexual? That's a fact. So you'd better be on the lookout for heterosexuals like yourself; otherwise you'll miss 98% of the suspects.

Now now, don't go calling me faggot...

Faggot: If you look in the bible (old testament), you'll find that a faggot is a bundle of firewood. How did this come to be associated with a sexual preference? I've heard that when the olde Inquisitors used to go around burning people because their neighbours were calling them names,

they used gays doused in something flammable as kindling. Nice town. Everybody gets spaced out on ergot (the mold on rye flour that has psychoactive properties (à la LSD)) and anything goes...and it's usually those labelled witches...up in flames. So the next time you're about to call someone faggot, think of the word's history.

Devil: Name-calling again, usually by people who're consumed by superstitions. The word's actual meaning is symbolic, the symbolism of the most base aspects of the *human* mind, not the devil's. The devil ain't out there friend; the devil is what all people are when they're at their worst... especially when hiding behind a self-righteous façade. We'll use another word for them - evil.

God: Simply put it's the opposite of the devil or it's the mind at its zenith, its apex, its highest most noble open state. Another definition is: The sentient Totality of the Universe---but that's a little esoteric, so we'll just say it's every mind in the cosmic collective of which yours is a part. Here's a quote from C.G. Jung which demonstrates his view on the subject:

"I am a man. But what is it to be that? Like every other being, I am a splinter of the infinite deity. But I cannot contrast myself with any animal; any plant or any stone."

Troublemaker: (Hey Laslo, this one's for you!) Usually it means someone who goes around causing others grief. But what if the 'trouble' is merely what others are repeating over and over about you, and playing with people's emotions concerning you. So who's the trouble "maker"? "Why you, you're just a Troublemaker 'cause you won't do what we want you to do." So ask?! I'm not a mindreader, you name-caller you.

Think and grow

If you think you are beaten you are,
If you think you dare not you don't.
If you like to win but you think you can't
It is almost certain you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost,
For out of the world we find
Success begins with a person's will -
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are
You've got to think high to rise
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster person
But sooner or later the person who wins
Is the one who thinks they can.

- anonymous



angela on bus

barbados burns out of each pore
in your healthy skin
lips like pomegranite
near jack nicholson shades
failing to hide exhuberance
streaming from eyes

you shine of life and bring
all opponents of immigration
to a post-nuclear
post-reform
shame

you smile across the aisle
as the bus pulls away
I feel your kind vibes
pulse right through
this very
pen

john a douglas

TO KERRY

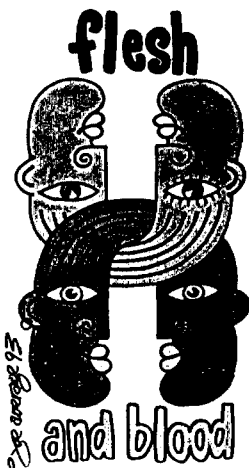
On December 7, 1995, I lost a close personal friend to AIDS. I never got to say goodbye and would like to now.

Goodbye, dear friend. I will always have a place for you in my heart. Even when you were very ill you always thought of others. You made us smile and all you wanted in return was a warm hug. You put the needs of the poor ahead of yours, raising money to send an underprivileged child to camp. You taught me the art of giving of myself to make the world a better place, and for that I will always be thankful. I can't remember who wrote the following lines, but they are so typically you:

IF ONE LIFE HAS BREATHED EASIER
BECAUSE YOU HAVE LIVED THEN YOU
HAVE SUCCEEDED.

Thank you for letting me be part of your life and for being part of mine. There won't be a day that I don't think of you.

Love Vickie



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reflections on the woodward's deal...

less than a year ago
woodward's was going to be developed into 350 upscale condominiums
today at least 200 of those housing units will be developed
for some form of lower income coop housing
with 100 of the units for welfare level housing

many people believe this new deal to be a victory
for the community of the poor
in the downtown eastside

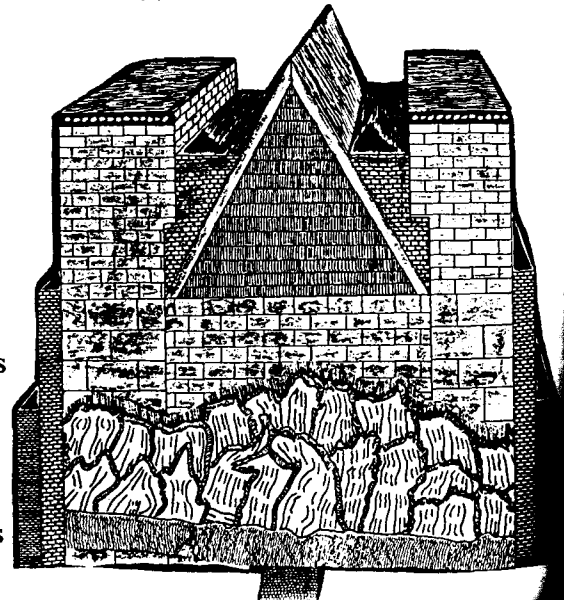
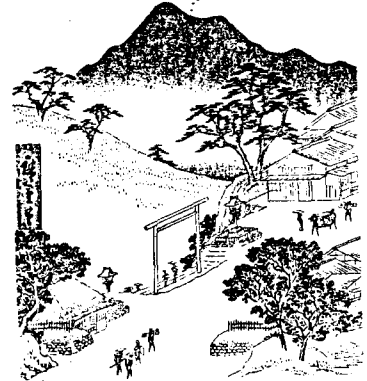
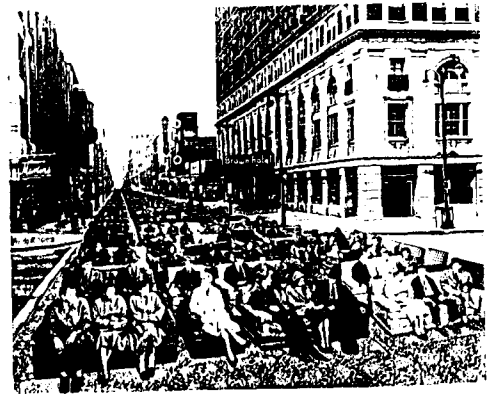
the most I can honestly claim for this new deal
is what a city planner described to me as
"a beachhead"

in my little battered dictionary beachhead is defined
as "a position gained ... by invading an enemy shore ... "

a beachhead is a place from which to fight
and fight we must
because we are engaged in a war
a very real war
a war on the poor
and we are being assaulted by enormously powerful forces
transnational economic forces
this is a global war
bearing down in our community
as well as elsewhere in north america and around the world
homeless people are refugees of this war

in canada we cannot understand what is happening to us
unless we keep in mind the free trade agreement
which requires canada's social services
to be brought in line with those of the united states
which have no bottom line

poor people are already suffering from the effects of this
but what we have gone through so far is nothing
compared to what we will face after april first of this year
when bill C-76 becomes law
it is not coincidental that few people know that this bill has
already been passed
this bill means that no longer will anyone in canada
be entitled to social services
the federal government is withdrawing billions of dollars
for health education and social services from the provinces
and it will be up to the provinces to provide the aid



which is just what has happened in the united states
where it is up to the states to provide social services
and the results of this are horrendous

in fact the rational progress of this global transnational
economic agenda
is moving towards elimination of social services altogether
politicians are helpless before this progress
and these corporations have already written off
hundreds of millions of human beings as never going to be
either employees or consumers
so they are unwilling to put another dollar in this direction
the direction of the poor
and those of the middle class and lower middle class
who are one small step away
from plunging into poverty

the poor middle class so besieged paying for it all
propagandized so heavily to blame the poor for the trouble the
wealthy are causing them

the poor middle class in debt like brazil requiring only
loss of a job or even an illness a house fire loss of a car
break-up of a marriage any number of things can hurl them
into poverty they have a gun at their head and they are afraid

my efforts for the past year have been to advocate for
housing and social services for those of us down here most
vulnerable to gentrification most susceptible to being
kicked into the streets

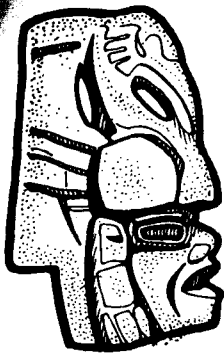
mental patients drug addicts alcoholics first nations people
poor refugees troubled young people

and my fear is that none of these will qualify for housing
in woodward's

and my fear is that with cutbacks in welfare there will be
a different population moving into the 200 or 100 units in
woodward's 2 or 3 years down the road when the place opens up

and my fear is that this new deal for woodward's will permit
the gentrification of our community to continue unimpeded
because of the 150 upscale condominiums being built in woodward's
and the 2 or 3 floors of upscale retail places going in there

and my fear is that this new deal for woodward's will be
regarded as more significant than it is because there are at
least 3 times as many homeless people on the streets in the

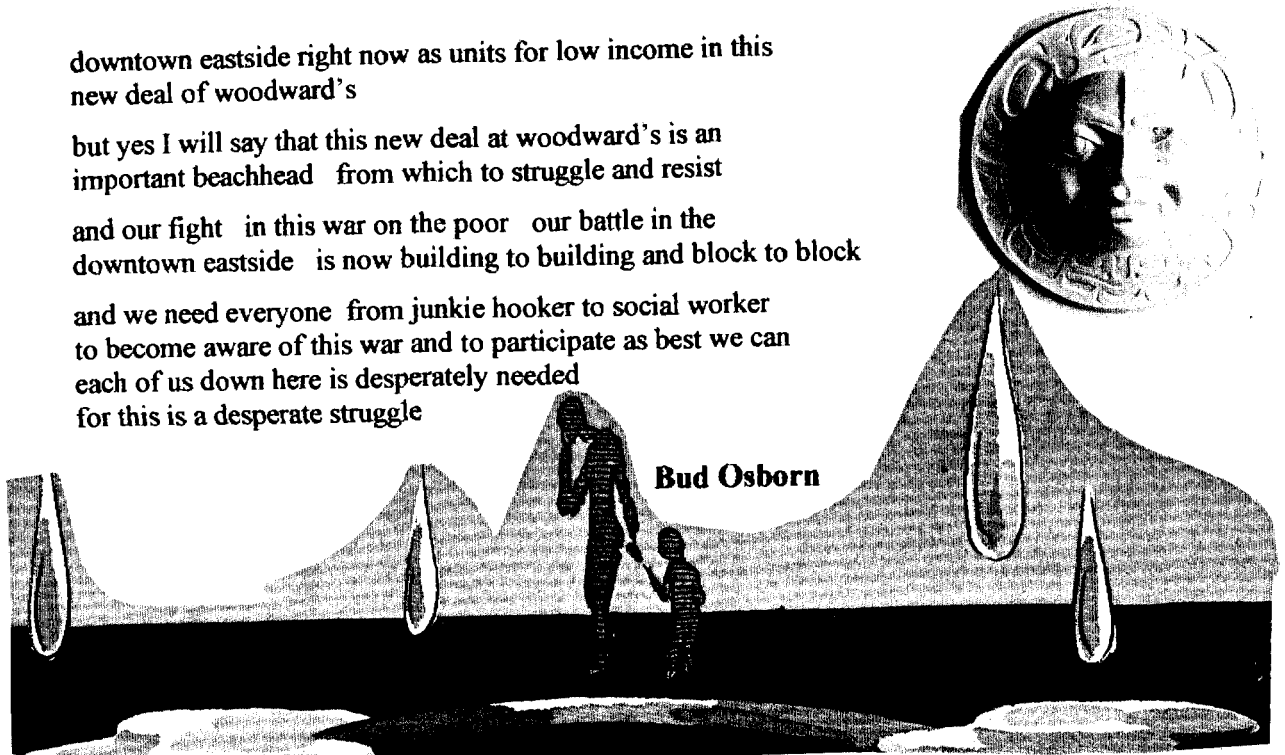


downtown eastside right now as units for low income in this new deal of woodward's

but yes I will say that this new deal at woodward's is an important beachhead from which to struggle and resist

and our fight in this war on the poor our battle in the downtown eastside is now building to building and block to block

and we need everyone from junkie hooker to social worker to become aware of this war and to participate as best we can each of us down here is desperately needed for this is a desperate struggle



Bud Osborn

DERA & End Legislated Poverty (ELP) Oppose the Repeal of Welfare Act Sections

Quickly, and without fanfare, the Provincial Government removed a section of the Guaranteed Available Income for Need (GAIN) Act on January 31, 1996. DERA, a long-time advocate for residents of the Downtown Eastside, and ELP, a coalition of 40 anti-poverty groups in BC, both question the reasoning behind this action.

Section 52 of the GAIN Act, arbitrarily discarded by an Order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, was used by individuals to apply for financial assistance under conditions of hardship. Without careful consideration of long-term effects, the provincial NDP government has abandoned the universality of assistance in favour of political brinkmanship. At a time when the provincial government is clashing with the federal government over reductions in transfer payments, which directly affect social programs, it seems hypocritical to further decrease access to assistance to people in crisis. The repeal of this

section of the GAIN Act is a regressive act which was hastily done to close a loophole for those people affected by the three month residency requirement.

Those affected by this action include: BC residents eligible for Canada Pension Plan, new citizens to Canada, individuals applying for sponsorship who have not met refugee criteria, college/university students on student loans and residents of other Canadian provinces who choose to move to British Columbia in search of employment. For example, a college student living on a student loan who was robbed and unable to pay their rent, could have used Section 52 to apply for temporary assistance. With the discarding of this section, individuals in similar unforeseen circumstances who find themselves temporarily destitute will no longer be able to apply for hardship using this eligibility clause.

The immediate effect rests primarily on new residents of the province, but the long-term effects for all BC residents are uncertain.

For more information contact DERA at 682-0931 or ELP at 879-1209.

A Betrayal of Everything Canada Stands For

On April 1, 1996, Bill C-76 becomes law. It abolishes four of the five social and economic rights in the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP) which it replaces, and cuts \$7 billion in federal transfer payments for health, education and social assistance over a three-year period. Bill C-76 is a betrayal of everything Canada stands for.

Forty-three thousand Canadians were killed in the Second World War, and many thousands of others were wounded. The tragedy of war, along

with the bitterness of the Great Depression, caused ordinary citizens to think seriously about the kind of Canada they wanted to live in. Their dreams were not so different from the dreams of other people in the world, and were expressed in the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. It included the right to decent work, decent income, adequate food, clothing and shelter, respectful relationships, and the opportunity for each person to participate fully in the life of a healthy community.

Liberal Prime Minister Mackenzie King was aware that when citizens fought for their country, they expected to be treated with more respect than as market commodities. So successful was he in establishing the foundation for a responsible social contract for Canadians that he won the election in June, 1945, and led the country into an era of prosperity.

We were proud of ourselves in those days, for we had seen what we could do in a national emergency. We thought of ourselves as a people with a common democratic purpose, and we even dreamt of having our own flag.

With Bill C-76 our past is dishonoured, and its sacrifice and promise ignored by politicians and economic leaders who believe that human rights are a restraint in their markets. We are beginning to realize that those who wield power only look after their own interests, and that they are blind to the suffering of the poor, the unemployed and the homeless. In continuing to undermine our education system, our health care and our social programs through Bill C-76, they destroy our inheritance, our communities, our homes and our selves. They have declared war on us.

An elderly Montreal nun said it this way: "Now we find that the social security system is being dismantled. Staying in Canada is more than risky. It is certain that the living conditions of the poor, the unemployed and women are going to deteriorate, and that the ideals of human rights and solidarity are crumbling away." (The Long Haul, Dec.'95)

The Forgotten Class

There is an upper class
There is a middle class
There is a working class too
Everyone belongs to one of them it's true
I belong to the fourth class
The one that's never mentioned
Except by a few people with good intentions
The fourth class
The forgotten class
The people on the dole
The old, the sick, the homeless
The people with no hope.

Now I belong to this one
I have nothing to call my own
We just live in hope of better times
Forgetting promises that are always broke
Our day will come, sometime
One day for us the sun will shine
The people at the bottom
We who are forgotten
The forgotten class.

- unknown

By SANDY CAMERON

This April 1st, Don't be Fooled by the Neo-Cons

For the past 15 years, the Fraser Institute has had the ear of governments and the media, pushing their neo-conservative agenda to destroy Canada's social safety net, increase poverty and create a vast pool of cheap labour for corporations to exploit. On April 1, some of the Fraser Institute's fondest dreams will come true when the Canada Health and Social Transfer (CHST) comes into effect. The CHST cuts \$7 billion in transfer payments for health, education and welfare and marks the end of national standards for welfare.

DEMONSTRATION

at the Fraser Institute,
626 Bute Street in Vancouver
on April 1, 1996
at 12 Noon

Speakers:

Ben Swankey

Old Age Pensioners Organization

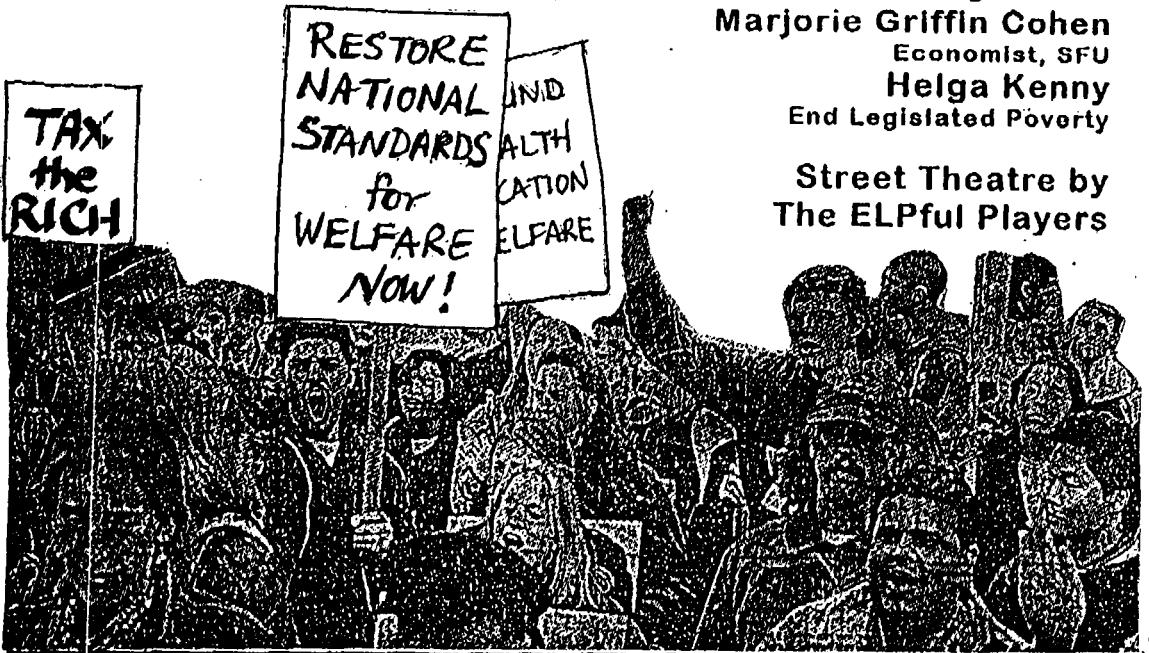
Marjorie Griffin Cohen

Economist, SFU

Helga Kenny

End Legislated Poverty

Street Theatre by
The ELPful Players



This event is organized by **End Legislated Poverty**, a coalition of 40 anti-poverty groups in B.C. Coffee and sandwiches, bus fare and childcare costs paid for people living on a low income. For more info, call ELP at 879-1209.