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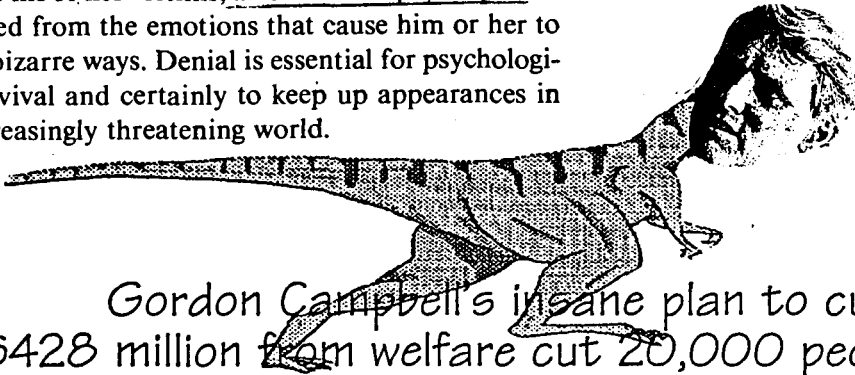
# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER



MAY 15, 1996.

An individual who has been emotionally damaged early on can, depending on the level of trauma, become an emotional psychopath. Just like the psychopathic killer who has no sense of guilt or compassion for his or her victims, an emotional psychopath is detached from the emotions that cause him or her to act in bizarre ways. Denial is essential for psychological survival and certainly to keep up appearances in an increasingly threatening world.



Gordon Campbell's insane plan to cut \$428 million from welfare cut 20,000 people off welfare and reduce the single welfare rate to \$470 equals homelessness, hunger and a booming underground economy! He'll make welfare recipients criminals. They'll have to defraud welfare and work under the table just to survive!

*Stop him before he pulls a Harris!*

**We've got to save him from himself!**

### **An informed decision...**

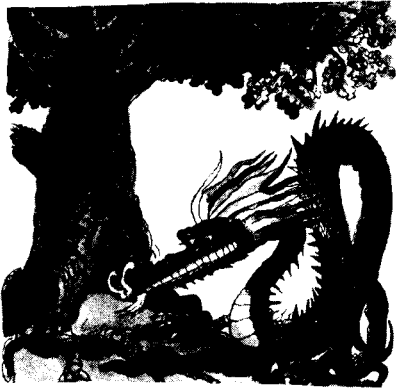
...what a luxury! To be truly informed about what casting your vote will mean, about what a particular party or candidate will actually do. One thing is for sure: British Columbia is at a turning

point, and for all of you who saw the last Star Trek movie (*The Undiscovered Country*) and heard Mr. Spock say that "History is replete with turning points." let's also admit that there is no clear cut decision UNLESS you look past the media hype.

The NDP is getting hard knocks from thousands

of poor people on welfare and those working for minimum wage. The changes to GAIN regulations have been miserly and lauded in the press as "Saving Millions". The logic and humanity of these changes escapes many of us.

The Liberals, or more correctly "Gordon Campbell and BC's Liberals", are trying to bullshit their way to becoming a government by



exaggerating the NDP's 'damaging' effects on big business and saturating the media with ads to blame the NDP. It really doesn't matter for what.

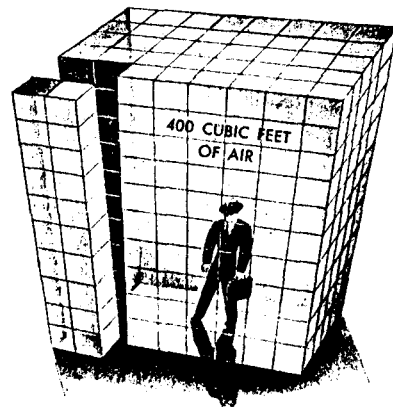
I'm not going to go on and on with what are, by definition, personal opinions about Campbell. I think he's a sleazy operator for sale to the highest bidder and is riding on a national campaign to slam the poor and social programs (Globe & Mail, MacLean's, BCTV and others.)

Campbell says he's going to cut \$3 billion from government spending. This is the same rhetoric that the Feds use to reduce the deficit - caused by tax breaks and loopholes for rich people and interest payments on the resulting debt. The promise is to keep health and education untouched so social assistance will be creamed. Campbell is on record saying that "People are coming here from all over Canada for our high welfare rates and a vacation." He wants to cut cheques further, to \$470 a month, and have everyone sign contracts that will force them, no matter what, to be cut off after a time period, like 2 years, has passed. He is using this theme of blaming the poor, used by BCTV and others for months, to make any cuts to social programs sound justified. He wants to give enormous tax breaks to corporations and the

wealthy in the old Sacred style, where 'something' will eventually trickle down to the poor and hungry at the bottom.

Campbell is 100% behind full-scale development of the Lower Mainland, with virtually nothing in the way of affordable housing or social programs. He thinks Harris in Ontario, who has created a nightmare of poverty and homelessness with cuts to everything from children's homes to seniors programs and all socially responsible stuff in between, hasn't gone far enough. He will make Ontario look like a picnic.

The biggest threat now is apathy, where the idea of casting a meaningful vote just isn't worth thinking about. Reconsider. If the "Gordon Campbell and BC's Liberals" party forms a government, the



Downtown Eastside will be a model for most of BC in terms of 95% of us being poor.

The next threat is not enough information for people who don't think their vote will help or hurt. The other night a herd of Liberals, with signs for the local candidate - an Anne Baer who tried to get nominated in 2 other ridings but was rejected - was "campaigning" by moving from corner to corner at Main & Hastings. It was pretty pathetic. They figure that spending millions on TV and getting "Gord" on the front covers of as many papers as the corporations can print is the best way to make the moniker "Liberal" rise up off the ballot. They wouldn't go into any hotels or do a door-to-door thing and talk to people. We're dangerous here, didn't you know? It was a lilly-white gaggle, not a pair of jeans or sneakers

among them, and I'm sure their cars were left somewhere 'safe'

It's a con. It's the same as so many meetings to make people unsure of where the 'process' went wrong, and then slamming us with plans and programs designed to destroy the very things we fight for. Campbell will make Klein look like a friend of the poor and Harris like Noam Chomsky. He has recycled the socreds and the people not bigotted or prejudiced enough (or just not stupid enough to announce it) to be Reformers, into a catch-all party whose only interest is to join the international trend to right-wing, punishing forms of government while profitting obscenely.

In my opinion the NDP have done more positive things for BC than the socreds or "Gordon Campbell and BC's Liberals" can stand.

Think about it

**Vote!**

By PAULR TAYLOR



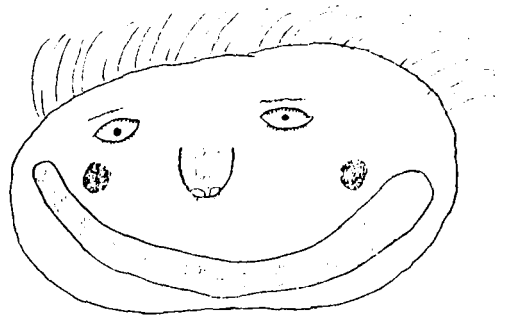
## Provincial Election, 1996 Jenny Wai Ching Kwan

In case you were not aware, Carnegie Centre is located in the Vancouver-Mount Pleasant Provincial riding.

ADVANCE POLLS for Mount Pleasant will be held May 22, 23, 24 and 25 at the following locations:

1. First United Church, 320 East Hastings St. (at Gore Ave) and
2. Returning Office, Suite 303 - 464 West 13th Ave., Vancouver

3.



Polls will be open from NOON until 9pm. If you are not registered to vote, don't worry, you can register and vote at the Advance polls or on Election Day itself.

To be eligible to vote you must be:

- \* 18 years of age or older
- \* a Canadian citizen
- \* a reside of B.C. for the past 6 months

### ACCEPTABLE IDENTIFICATION

Non-registered voters - 2 pieces of ID with name and current address. This includes Hydro bills, rent receipts or similar pieces of identification which state your name and current address. Something 2-3 months old will be accepted as reasonably current, but the more recent a statement you can provide the better. You do not need photo ID, but you will have to produce your signature at the poll.

Registered voters - Voter ID card or 1 other piece of identification with name, signature, photo and current address.

Translation will be available at the poll, but if you run into any difficulty please phone 872-5281 (Jenny Kwan's Campaign Headquarters) for assistance.

Election day is May 28th, so if you don't vote in the Advance Poll, please remember to VOTE on the 28th.

Watch for details on voting locations and times, and mark your ballot for KWAN.



## In The Dumpster

Greetings fellow binners & binnerettes. Lots of competition out there these days. I know one dude who found a bag full of pennies in Kits. It must have weighed at least 15 lbs.

Welcome to Paradise Discount, previously the Buymore discount store, to the DE. Todd Ryan is the manager. Also to Noble Books, who has rare and new rags, mags & comic books. Morris is located at 12 Powell Street.

Now for the Ken Report:

The lane clean-up is going swell. I've seen the work being done. There will be a surprise event on the 18th of May - Victoria Day. Also, as of Saturday the 18th, the Bottle Depot will be open every Saturday until 2 p.m.

United We Can will be holding their Summer Olympics.. there will be something happening all summer. Zippedi-do-da!!!

That's all for now. May the bins be with you.

By Mr. McBinner

PS: *Happy Day all you Muddrs*

## PLAN TO ATTEND:

# ALL CANDIDATES FORUM! Van.-Mt. Pleasant

(Downtown Eastside's Riding)

**WHERE:** Ray-Cam Comm. Centre Gym

**WHEN:** Wednesday, May 22nd

**TIME:** 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

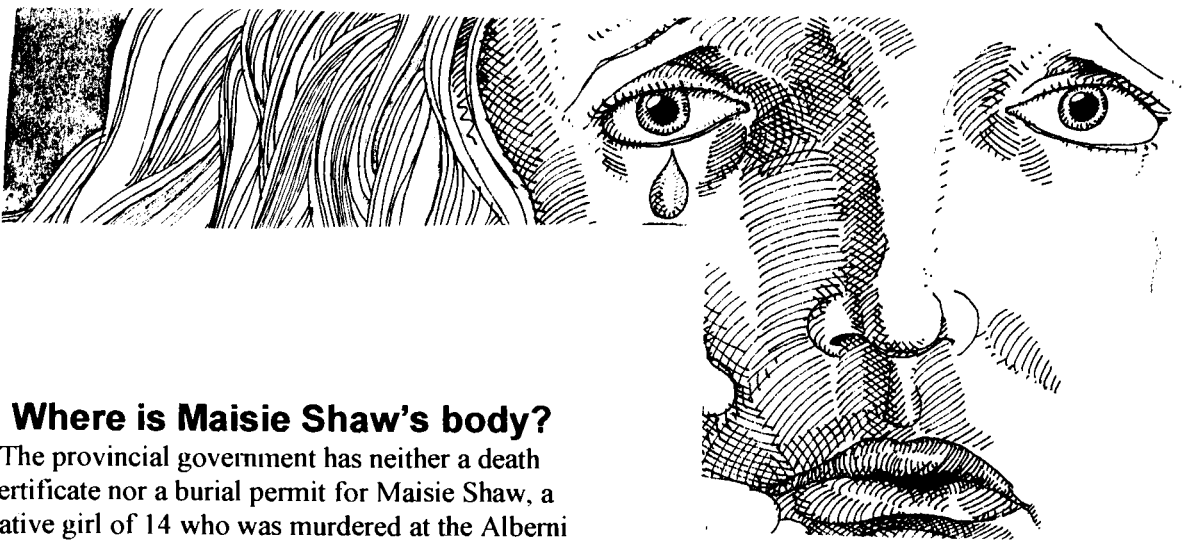
**ISSUES:** Housing, Welfare, Public Safety, Alcohol & Drug Programming, etc.

Sponsored By: Downtown Eastside Service Agencies



Many people worry a lot today about tomorrow because they didn't worry a little yesterday about today.

Joe Paul



## Where is Maisie Shaw's body?

The provincial government has neither a death certificate nor a burial permit for Maisie Shaw, a native girl of 14 who was murdered at the Alberni Residential School in December, 1946, by United Church official A.E. Caldwell, according to an eye-witness, Harriett Nahanee.

Harriett and others gathered outside the Annual Meeting of B.C. Conference of the United Church of Canada on May 4 to demand to know what happened to Maisie and others like her, whose fate has been covered up by the church.

The United Church has been so unwilling to see justice done and negotiate with native survivors of their schools that fifteen Port Alberni men have had to recently launch a class-action lawsuit against the church to gain compensation for their mistreatment.

Meanwhile, a United church minister who helped to uncover the murder of Maisie Shaw and other abuses has been struggling to survive after being wrongfully dismissed from his church in Port Alberni, denied work in the wider church, having the appeal of this firing dismissed, and losing custody of his children in a divorce action in which United Church officials actively cooperated.

The minister, Kevin McNamee-Annett, has "been put through hell by the church because he was getting too close to the truth about the extent of the murder and abuse in the Alberni Residential School," said Jack McDonald of the Port Alberni Metis Association.

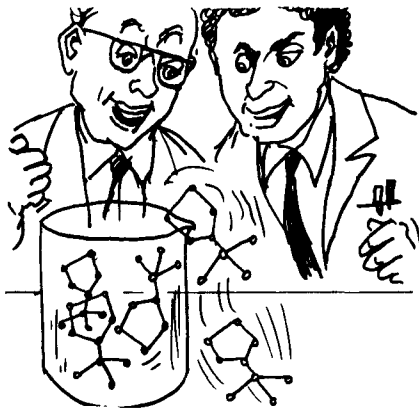
"What better proof of the corruption in this

church than their helping Kevin's ex-wife in her divorce action against him? No other employer could ever get away with supplying confidential documents on an employee to his wife for her divorce, like the United Church has done. The whole thing stinks, and we don't think it's accidental that it happened just as Kevin was going public with what he knew about the residential school atrocities" said McDonald. Kevin joined Harriett and others in the protest outside the United Church gathering at Qualicum Beach Civic Centre.

Besides encouraging all survivors of abuse in the United Church to take legal action of their own, McNamee-Annett and others called for the formation of a "Religious Workers' Union" of all employees of the United Church. Such a Union "can prevent the flagrant abuse of power and labour law that the church is so guilty of, and provide protection to church employees so that what I went through doesn't occur again" said McNamee-Annett.

"We have to do justice in our own backyard first, and uncover the full story of what went on in the residential schools" he said. "There are a lot of skeletons in the church closet, literally.

For more information, you can contact Harriett Nahanee at 985-5817, Jack McDonald at 723-2892 (Port Alberni), or Kevin McNamee-Annett at 224-3102.



## On Religion...

...one of the forbidden subjects... why religion? why now? Well, maybe I'm absolutely fed up with it - being preached at, talked at but not listened to... as in "Take your religion, your proselytizing, your dogma, your superstitions, your witnessing, your incoherent babbling, your black candle magic and shove em!"

Is it a good thing when even the stairwells of one's hotel are graffiti-splattered with "Almighty"

this and "Matthew 256212-5-2-HIKE!" as in 'take a hike, you pinhead'; take up a hobby..go dumpster-diving for chrissakes!

How many 'Christians' are like the character who came up to me a few weeks ago when I was out playing my guitar, who cynically kept asking me to write songs for Jesus and everytime he said the word 'Jesus' his lips curled into a semi-sneer that spoke volumes about his actual thoughts?

I've got a short, heretical sentence for you types: "Wake up and smell the incense!" Or will you continue on as that street character did, mouthing what he'd planned or been told to say and not ever taking a moment to listen to my responses?

He never heard me but kept right on talking, oblivious to the fact that conversation is at least a two-way thing. He/you already have all the answers right at your fingertips so why listen!? New world, new world (dis)order, new millennium, answers, everything... all planned out. Only problem - how to get everyone thinking the same way?

I don't believe in the devil, but if there was one, he'd probably look and sound just like you: two-faced, arrogant, and so self-important he couldn't be bothered actually listening to what someone addressed directly is attempting to reply.

Religion? That's between you and whatever you perceive the divinity of this universe to be. I know



of no religion that says, "Go forth and make non-believers' lives miserable until they kow-tow!"

Here's what I believe: God's the sentient reality of the universe that acts like an evolutionary template. The devil is merely symbolism - there is no devil and no hell. Whatever you do will be returned on you threefold. People possess souls and are more than the varied and odd shapes life beats us into. Life's meaning is to experience existence in the ways we are experiencing it.

"Oh my god Martha the guy's spouting heresy! Quick go call our psychiatrist and see if we can get him committed and stop him spreading his lies!!" Well, right George.

If there is a hell, it ain't the pagans who're goin' there.

**The Heretic**

(a.k.a. M. Oakley)



## A Model for the Rest of Canada

Wednesday May 8 celebrated the Grand Opening of the Safe Ride Program. Safe Ride is the red van we see around the DE. It's main purpose is to take people who are intoxicated to detox. Not only does this van relieve the police from picking up drunk persons, it also tries to help the person into treatment. The Program is funded by Central City Mission and the Vancouver Foundation; the Vancouver Health Board also helps people help themselves via AA and other counselling.

As of this writing the Vancouver Recovery Club (722 Richards, 688-5291) is 10 years old. Happy Birthday! It is so gratifying that, with so much negativity in the DE, something good has come out of it. Among speakers were Mayor P.O. Phillips and Louanne Anderson from BC Health and Seniors Area Manager.

The reason I'm doing this article is that in the 60's and early 70's, if you were arrested for being

Thanks Dude Carl for your info about Safe Ride. Now if we could only help the hard-core addicts in the DE... I know I'm hard them and don't show them hardly any pity but, through the many moons I have been allowed to live, I have seen and heard of so many deaths due to drugs that my heart is hard. When young people play with this evil I hurt so bad I can't explain it.

What we need is EDUCATION - a Scared Straight Program might help. All I know is that jails don't help. This wimpy government is passing the buck - this is everybody's problem!

Please believe me, I've seen and heard it all. We need a treatment centre, with secure funding, out in the valley away from the temptations of the city. Thank you God that I've never touched a needle.

Maybe I went too hard on Grasstown in my last

drunk, you did at least 4 hours in a cement room 1. no bed, no blanket and a smelly urinal. No toilet. If you were drunk too many times (like I was) you went to ARU Court..a kangaroo court from which, if you lost, you went to Alouette Rehabilitation Unit in Haney. See 64A of the Criminal Code of Canada: this was not a sentence It was a committal and you did 1 month to 1 year for being an alkey.

I went through that door for the 3rd time when I was 21 years old, the same year they lowered the drinking age to 19. We did an average of 3-4 months of brainwashing until they shoved us back into the welfare system again.

This present program is much more cost efficient, but also makes more sense. For more info contact Constable Sean Trowski at 606-2685.

By CARL MacDONALD

PS: Jenny Kwan was present. I sat beside her and gave her a Carnegie Newsletter.



item, maybe I didn't. Where are the merchants, Social Planning or the Grasstown Business Improvement Society at 3-4 a.m. when people are screaming & partying on Water & Alexander Sts. and outside the Twilight Zone and Grasstown Pizza? Where are the police? I know where I am: trying to sleep so I can bin the next day. All you people do is poor-bash the homeless and people you don't even know. If Hitler were alive today he would be so proud of you he'd cry tears of joy.

Think of others. Someday you might be on the other side of the counter.

Trashhopper

HAVE YOUR CHILDREN BEEN  
"APPREHENDED" BY M.S.S?

If so, you may want to find a safe place for you to share with other persons, men or women, who have or are living a similar experience.

An independant peer group is now meeting on MONDAYS in order to give or recieve support around these issues.

Possible avenues: networking, support, information on the rights of families and children, etc.

Things are changing, come find out.  
Empowerment belongs and begins at home.

THE TIME: MONDAYS, 10AM

THE PLACE: 208 - 321 PRINCESS AVE.  
(corner CORDOVA), VAN.  
press # 2 - # 0 - # 8.

If any question please call Pat Bidau  
253-2198, or Myles MACKINTOSH 254-9636.

IN DEDICATION TO OUR CHILDREN!

**Rally with Irene Schmidt**  
**Wednesday, May 23 at 2:00pm**  
**Joy McPhail's office at**  
**Nanaimo & Hastings**

The Ministry of Social Services is taking infants and babies from their mothers and preventing the children from breast feeding. The MSS is starving babies.

**Come, join us to show the province that McPhail and the MSS are trying to kill our families.**

**Demand an end to the destruction.**

For info call 254-1389



**AN ADDRESS TO THE PROFESSIONALS**  
**IN THE MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

Psychiatrists, mental health residential services, nurses, orderlies, social workers,, psychologists: think of yourselves as politicians and those sensitive, vulnerable, impressionable souls who come to you with their concerns, as political dissidents.

What is your objective? I shall tell you. Your mission is to empower the people to help them utilize their maximum potential.

In Russia, political dissidents rebelling and sickened by injustice are sent to Siberia and mental institutions, not unlike what is happening here in the Western Hemisphere. It is analogous to trying to change a product already molded.

Chipping away disempowers and changes the original masterpiece. Try converting a swan into a duckling - you'll kill it. Is that what you want, to destroy unique individuals? Is it an unpardonable sin to stand forth from the human herd and strive towards individualism? Is it?

Will restraints, injections, shock treatment, threats, violence, quiet rooms, enforced ostracism and isolation change the very essence, the very heart of an individual?

Think, reconsider, and exercise compassion and kindness. In doing so you will reap the rewards of helping one more human being towards happiness and fulfillment.

By ANITA STEVENS



Dear Carnegie Newsletter,  
1996.

April 30,

The Annual General Meeting of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association was held on February 9, 1996. It was held at PENDERA, a building owned and managed by DERA. Almost one-half of the 100 people in attendance represented seniors living in PENDERA. About 20 DERA staff attended of whom 9 voted as residents including all 3 managers.

There were two extraordinary resolutions for consideration by DERA members. One was the inclusion of 'qualified' non-residents over 45 as members of DERA from the current age of 55 years. The other item to be changed was a reduction of the DERA boundaries which would disqualify 4 candidates to the board and ~10 attending members from voting. An inclusion clause, to allow current DERA members affected by a boundary change to vote at the AGM was dated back to 1982 instead of the logical February 1996. The voting for these amendments to the constitution was postponed for 90 days.

The rules of the election, which are not spelled out in the DERA constitution, were that one had to vote for 12 board candidates and only 12. Any number of X's above or below would mean a spoiled ballot: 29 or 38% of the 76 ballots cast were spoiled.

Four board candidates (3 who gained seats on the board), had sent letters of acceptance. The letters were not read out or seen.

Pre-made ballots not seen by board members, had the names of re-running board and 2 newly

nominated candidates in bold type. Other newly nominated candidates were listed after in ball-point pen.

It was not a secret ballot but rather the tenants were being openly instructed on how to vote.

The same new board candidates that are also 'radical' neighbourhood volunteers on single employable GAIN and would be excluded by the proposed DERA boundaries were kept from board positions by as little as 1 or 2 votes.

The agenda allowed voting to take place before hearing the reports from DERA's 7 funded programs and Norm Jang the auditor. The Auditor's Report was not discussed until after the voting when Mr. Jang asked Barb Daniel, DERA's executive director to explain why he could not sign the financial report. This backward procedure of vote-first-then-review (not done in 94 or 95) creates pressure for the 7 returning and 5 new board members to begin their tenure with unaudited financial statements that have the potential to threaten future DERA funding.

I have done time on the DERA board for 2 years and was vice president last year. I have endured a whisper campaign stemming from DERA management and am alarmed by DERA's lack of accountability to the ~7000 GAIN recipients in our neighbourhood who recently experienced a \$46 cut in their support moneys. I have given time to organizing around the urgent health issues of the downtown eastside and feel that citizen involvement in solving our problems will lead to unity and a better life for us all in the downtown eastside.

In sisterhood,

Ann Livingston

### Gentle Readers,

Why is this thing here? Is it a letter of resignation or just more DERA-bashing? DERA has been called everything from insidious to communist to "a bunch of nazi storm troopers" and still is one of the best organisations in the country.

This thing is here to let you see what kind of picture can be painted by forgetting certain facts, and what kind of hidden agenda some people have

The tone is to make every point sound unjust:

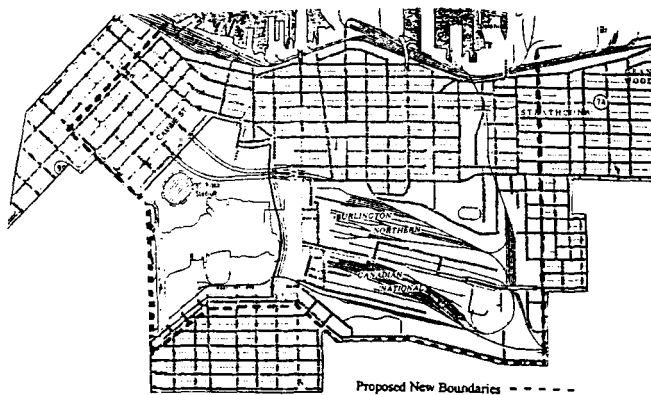
- DERA having its AGM in a DERA building with senior residents attending
- DERA staff being present at a DERA meeting

- DERA staff who live in the Downtown Eastside voting as DERA members
- wanting to change the age from 55 to 45; 'qualified' meaning recommended by two DERA members; senior in the DE is 45 years everywhere else
- changing boundaries to reflect reality and not stretched just to include the residences of individuals who were on the board 20 years ago

DERA can help you

*Dera*

- \* any wel
- \* UIC pro
- \* getting



- something about an inclusion clause made to sound sleazy anyway
- election rules like most charity/non-profit groups have, with no plumping of the vote allowed so a block of imported 'radicals' can't undermine democracy or distort the will of members
- accusing DERA staff of being liars and cheats when referring to letters not seen (by who?)
- pre-made ballots could not be a time-saver
- there were ballots but it was not a secret!
- the new 'candidates on white horses' all lost and am I pissed off because my/our agenda to shred DERA from the inside is in tatters...
- voting before sitting through any number of reports is standard practice. It takes time to count ballots and the idea of making all reports mandatory first to get most members to leave in frustration and ensure a sufficiently reduced number of voters when it does come time to vote and get more of your new 'candidates on white horses' (sorry, the 'radical' element but saved by calling them all employable GAIN recipients...?) elected?
- make it sound serious by talking about a threat to funding when the only reason the financial statements weren't signed was due to the non-receipt of a statement from one of the

- projects... and funding only got worth talking about when the agenda to make DERA a "volunteer-run" organisation fell flat as the new centre for the non-funded 'radicals'?
- vice president because the title 'secretary' was a misnomer
- the only whispering was by the author when demands for time/equipment/unrestricted access to computers/phones/office space/staff time ETC. for personal, unknown work were refused
- a tactic of Trotsky-ite and related people is to come across as quite involved, get elected to local organisations' boards, and so confuse and strangle their work that everything grinds to a halt unless and until what you want done is done, regardless if doing it means the death of the organisation
- DERA is now responsible for the \$46 cut and, according to this champion of the poor and health issues, must be held "accountable"
- ...and a mom-n-apple-pie ending of "citizen involvement..unity..a better life..." and even 'sisterhood' to cover all the bases.

The meeting necessitated by accepting the complete audit and voting on the extraordinary resolutions was held on Friday, May 10. The two resolutions were passed unanimously, Mr. Jang had his audit accepted in 2 minutes, and the whole

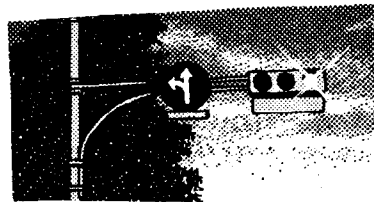
meeting was over in 40 minutes. Neither Ms. Livingston nor any of her 'radicals' attended.

A similar scenario played itself out at Carnegie's AGM last year, with some Learning Centre staff and "oppressed volunteers" getting more than 20 ESL students to attend and vote for a slate - all to get rid of some board members who were openly critical of the Learning Centre's misdirection away from literacy and use by local residents to being just another adult learning centre for

Vancouver at large. It was undemocratic and highly manipulative on the part of the few people who misinformed these people. The destructive influence of one new board member in particular was felt throughout the year, until he was finally barred from any volunteer activity for an almost successful attempt to shut down the computer room permanently.

Carnegie, like DERA, has come too far through too much shit to be waylaid by this crap.

PaulR Taylor,  
Treasurer, DERA.



### Something out of Nothing *The Misperception and Misinterpretation of Random Data*

In 1677, Baruch Spinoza wrote the famous words "Nature abhors a vacuum," to describe a host of physical phenomena. Three hundred years later it seems that his statement applies as well to human nature, for it, too, abhors a vacuum

We are predisposed to see order, pattern and meaning in the world. We find randomness, chaos and meaninglessness profoundly unsatisfying. Human nature abhors a lack of predictability and absence of meaning. As a consequence, we tend to "see" order where there is none, and we spot meaningful patterns where only the vagaries of chance are operating.

People look at the irregularities of heavenly bodies and see a face on the surface of the moon or a series of canals on Mars. Parents listen to their teenager's music backwards and claim to hear Satanic messages in the chaotic waves of noise that are produced. While praying for his critically ill son, a man looks at the wood grain on the hospital door and claims to see the face of Jesus;

hundreds now visit the clinic each year and confirm the miraculous likeness. Gamblers claim that they experience certain streaks and alter their bets accordingly.

For example:

- 1) Kennedy elected 1960  
Lincoln elected 1860
- 2) Both were assassinated on Friday
- 3) Kennedy's successor  
Lyndon Johnson born 1908  
Lincoln's successor  
Andrew Johnson born 1808
- 4) Lincoln's assassin Booth born 1839  
Kennedy's assassin Oswald born 1939  
- both were assassinated before they could be tried for the crime
- 5) Lincoln's secretary was named Kennedy.  
Kennedy's secretary was named Lincoln  
Nature, like human nature, does not "abhor" a vacuum in the traditional meaning of "to loathe" Neither has any rooting interest. Often we impose order even when there is no motive to do so. We do not "want" to see a man in the moon.. we do not profit from the illusion. We just see it.

By DEAN KO

## *A Woman Gave Birth to Man*

In some places she is weighed in dinars.  
In others she is sold at the bazaar.

At times she is forced to dance naked  
for the pleasures of lustful men.

She is made a thing devoid of honour  
a thing shared among the honourable.

Man is permitted every tyranny  
while a woman if she sheds a tear  
commits a crime.

Man has many nuptial beds to lie on  
while a woman has but the funeral pyre  
to lie on.

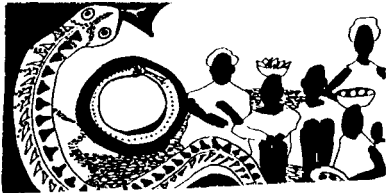
Man enjoys the birthright of every pleasure  
while life for woman is punishment.

Those lips that showered man with love  
have been made into things of trade.

The womb that formed their bodies  
that womb has been turned into a commodity.

The body from which they emerged  
that body has been degraded and abused.

man has made such rituals



and given them the status of edicts.  
To burn live women is called sacrifice.  
In exchange for honour woman receives  
a loaf of bread, and that too, was  
called an obligation.

Every shameless act in the world is  
rooted in poverty.

The path of hunger leads to a place  
where outcasts must live.

The lust of men is vented on women  
who are branded sinful.

A woman is the destiny of the world  
yet she is without good fortune.

Woman gave birth to prophets and saints  
yet she is considered

the daughter of satan.

She is that ill-fated mother  
who has to lie on the nuptial  
beds of man.

Oh yes a woman did give birth to man.



Sylvia Isaac

This poem is dedicated to the women of DES, the  
hookers, and all abused women.



## **The Universal Truth**

(for Joe Rosenblatt on Passover)

I want to walk to the edge of the universe and jump.

I want Atlas to drop that sphere and let it  
bounce so high no one will ever catch it.

I want to walk to the edge of the universe and  
jump, jack-knife like, like a downtown east-  
side wing-nut floating, sifting, sorting, drifting,  
falling into a vacuum singing a swan's song  
all the way from an Afro-American's ruby-red  
lips creating pearls of wisdom rising like yeast  
in an inferno to the oatmeal-eddies of the milkway

passing through an intergalactic time-warp.

Anita Stevens

**No Noses, Cream Pies or Mud:**

**A UBC FORUM ON THE ISSUES**

Speakers from

**The Fraser Institute  
Social Planning and Research Council**

**Wed. May 22**

**7:30-9:30**

**UBC Law School, Room 101**

There will be ample opportunity for questions and  
discussion. With party leaders and other  
candidates attacking each other, the choices facing  
us are getting lost in the fight. Call 822-1450

## Beach Rules

**Good Karma** returning glass shards to be polished naturally. Rock throwing disturbs the crab habitat.

**Throw glass** as far as you can when the water's out. Polished glass returns at high water.

**Metals & plastics** - metals corrode, both are unsafe and unhygienic; plastics are not biodegradable. Use the green barrels.

**Gather** as many as you can: plastic bottle cap liners, twist ties, rope, forks, needles, tampons. Styrofoam bowls can be used for building sand castles for the sand hoppers.

Try identifying wild plants, ferns, flowers.

**Peace, quiet and serenity.** Shhh. Tapping sounds of wood carving are okay.

Listen to the whirling birds.

**Meditate.**

**IT IS ALL LIFE, No?** Everyone no's...continued

No put downs of other's musical ability or music choice or language.

No climbing or sitting on stage.

No bags or cases allowed past here.

No preaching.

No digging.

No torn or dirty clothes. No colours. No Macs. No hardcores.

NO's in the bathroom: a) unwanted rigs b) fixing c) preparing fixes d) sex of any kind e) more than one person in here with the door closed.

No unruly behaviour. No aggressive begging. No breaking into Mercedes'...

No accident reports taken here today.

No plastics. No wood. No garbage.

No rock throwing.

No MSG. No preservatives.

No pay. No medical. No Pension Plan. No sick days. No holidays. No moving allowance. No clothing allowance.

...is there, in truth, no beauty?

Taum



## Reality Dream

Once again I burn the midnight oil  
waiting for sleep to take away reality  
- for in my dreams you live  
a world so peaceful.

Every time I enter the doorway  
the bluest of skies - the bluest of eyes  
a sunshine as bright as you smile  
This is heaven.

A flicker from the flame  
my eyes go weary  
a tingling sensation - I'm nearly there  
You're always waiting.

I write to you in my waking hours  
the need to escape  
to touch your lips  
lose myself in you.

It's time to leave this pen and paper  
You call my name  
- for you are real  
because of you - I know "Dreams come true."

Lance Sowen-Sound

## Enough to Make A Person Sick

Three angry single parents, Brenda Lee Giles, Gail Neufeld and Cara-Lee Kelly, held a protest over cuts to social programs outside the constituency office of Premier Glen Clark on May 3rd.

Brenda Lee Giles is on social assistance, and used to have a part-time job that paid her \$338 a month. Brenda kept \$200 (plus 25% of \$138) as an earning exemption, and Welfare deducted the rest. This difference was the difference between making it and going under.

When the provincial government ended the flat rate earning exemption of \$100 for single people and \$200 for families, Brenda could only keep 25% of what she earned, and after one year she would not be able to keep any of it. That meant that Brenda could only keep \$84.50 of the \$338 she earned each month. Stress over money made her ill, and she had to quit her part-time job.

"I couldn't sleep or eat properly, worrying about how I was going to pay my bills," Brenda said. "How do I tell my son he can't have the things other children have? Why is the government hurting us like this? Now I have to start using the food bank again."

"Taking money from some poor people to give to other poor people, while corporations and wealthy individuals don't pay their fair share of taxes, is ridiculous," says Gail Neufeld.

Gail has three children, aged 8, 8 and 11, and she feels it is important for her to be a full-time mother to them. She used to make \$100 a month baby-sitting, but now she can only keep 25 per cent of that amount, or \$25. "I really baby-sit for nothing," she said.

Gail went on to point out that because of changes to government policy, single women and men on welfare have lost \$46 a month, and childless couples have lost \$92 a month, even though their incomes were far below the poverty line. "The family bonus of \$103 per month per child (due in July) is pure illusion for people on welfare



because every penny will be deducted from the social assistance cheque," she said.

Brenda, Gail, and Cara-Lee Kelly all talked with great feeling about the stress of poverty. "We worry about money constantly," Brenda said. "One unexpected expense, like a sick child, can become a family crisis."

"Poverty makes people ill," Gail said, who herself had become ill through the stress of poverty.

"We become isolated in poverty," Cara-Lee said, "and we have to learn how to work together."

Learning how to work together was just what these three women were doing. They had found the courage to speak out in a society that blames poor and unemployed people for the failed economic policies of the past fifteen years. They had turned their anger at a government they felt had abandoned them into positive action.

"What should government be doing about social programs?" I asked.

"Go back to the way it used to be," they said. "We need strong social programs, decent jobs at decent wages, and fair taxation. Those deferred taxes that the corporations don't pay are enough to make a person sick."

By SANDY CAMERON



# Newsletter of the Carnegie Community Action Project

Want to get involved? Call 689-0397 or

May 1996

Come see us at the Carnegie (2nd floor)

## Who Pays the Piper Calls the Tune (Or anyway, that's the way it's supposed to work)

Why rent when you can own?

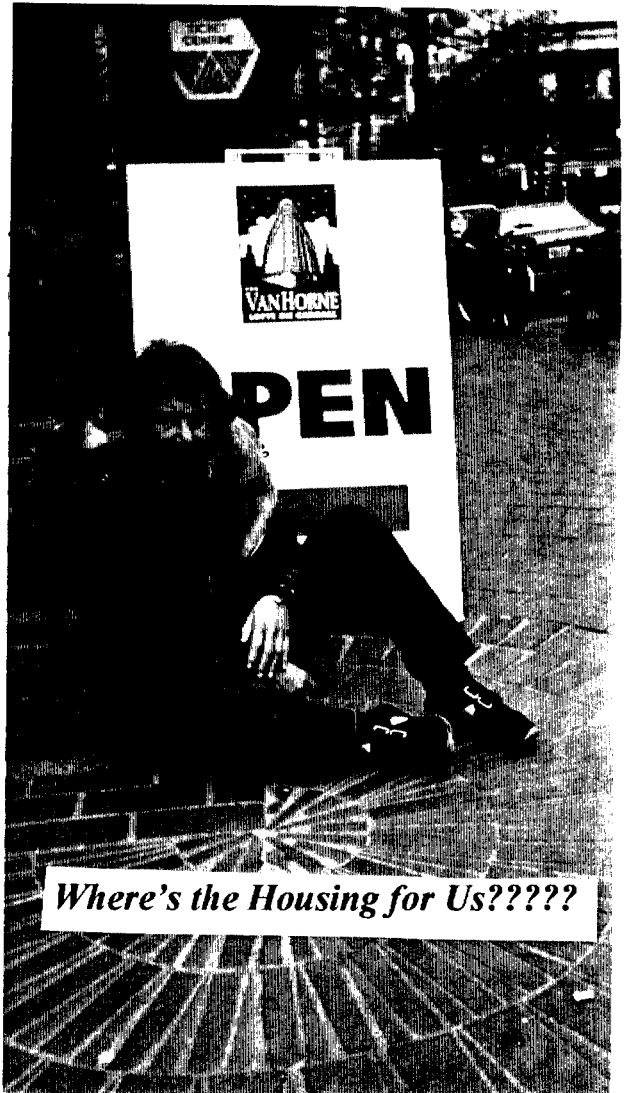
That's what real estate agents tell people who are sick and tired of pouring money into landlords' pockets and have nothing to show for it but a worn out bank account.

*Now it's time to consider whether all the money that's pouring into landlords' - make that slumlords' - pockets in the Downtown Eastside would be better spent providing decent and affordable housing for people of the neighbourhood.*

In other words, the money that is going for rent over the years could be used to pay for the construction of new social housing.

Sound fanciful? This is exactly the method private developers use to build all of their projects. They get financing from the banks to start construction, and they pay off the loan by renting or selling the units they build.

(cont. over)



*Where's the Housing for Us?????*

(cont. from p.1)

## Consider This!

Consider this: there are some 6,000 hotel rooms in the Downtown Eastside, charging at least the welfare rate of \$325 per month.

A disgraceful dump like the Balmoral, say, with nearly 100 rooms, brings in about \$400,000 each and every year for its owners.

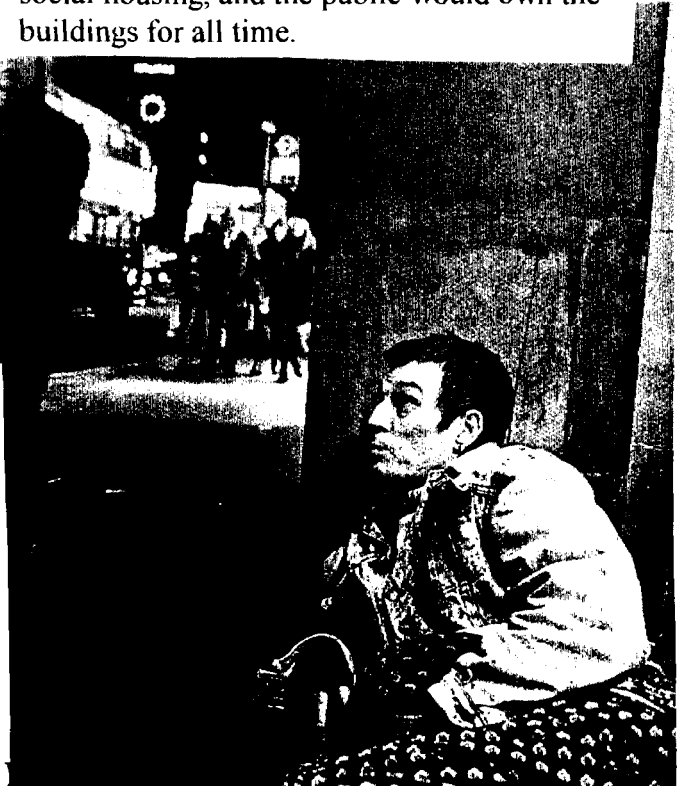
For the neighbourhood as a whole, rents paid amount to a minimum of \$2 million a month. That's \$24 million a year that landlords use to pay off their mortgages, acquire new investments, and line their bank accounts.

And that's public money, taxpayer's money. A lot of it is a direct transfer from welfare to the slumlords.

For \$24 million, you could build more than 200 units of one-bedroom or larger social housing, and the public would own the buildings for all time.

Then the rents would be paid to ourselves, the public, and could be plowed back into building more decent housing.

The money's there, and it's going to be spent on shelter allowances anyway. It would just take some creativity and political will at the city and provincial level to use it up front, to turn social capital into some permanent good, instead of paying it out in drips and drabs to landlords over the years.





## And Now A Word

## About Erad Holmes

Developer Bad Homes and the bureaucrats of the city planning department have cooked up a nifty little scheme that will make Bad even richer than he is now, while cramming a bunch of low-income people into tiny, uninhabitable rooms.

And it's all paid for by the taxpayer. How does it work?

Well, Bad want to build the equivalent of 15 stories of condos on Hastings Street across from Woodward's on the old White Lunch site. That's more density than the zoning allows, so, as compensation, Bad is also promising to build 51 units of SRO's (that's Single Room Occupancy, another term for hotel room) and to subsidize them for 20 years at the welfare allowance rate.

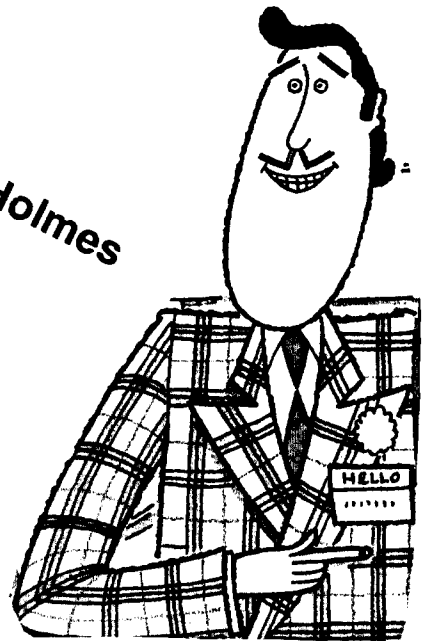
It's all part of the City's grand scheme to turn the Victory Square section of the Downtown Eastside into yuppie heaven, while promising to protect low-cost housing.

Now the SRO's being envisioned by Bad and the city planners would be 10-by-12 feet in size, smaller than anything that has ever been built before in Vancouver for permanent residency, smaller even than most modern jail cells.

But that's a different story. For now, let's stick with the money figures.

Bad and the city planners claim these tiny units would be built for "free" - meaning no taxpayer money.

But what do you call the minimum \$80,000 that will go into each of those SRO units over the next 20 years in shelter allowances? That taxpayer contribution far exceeds the estimated cost of construction and financing over that period.



*In other words, the taxpayer is footing the bill for this littler dream scheme, and Bad gets to keep the units. After 20 years, he can jack up the rents or do anything he wants with the units.*

In effect, we are paying his equity. What ordinary citizen is allowed to use welfare to pay the equity on their property? If you own a home and need welfare, you have to sell the home first.

But it doesn't end there. For Bad's benevolence to the poor of the neighbourhood, the city planners will allow him to build at least an extra floor of condos. Considering the standard 20% profit margin, that's a potential extra \$450,000 that Bad gets to take home to his lavish West Van mansion.

The planners cooked up this scheme with Bad long before ever consulting the community. And now they want it to sail through the development permit board meeting at City Hall on Thursday May 21 at 4 pm.

It's a nice deal if you can get it. But a Bad deal for the rest of us.



## Tammy's Poem

If I gave you a flower,  
would you press it in a book?

Or put it in a vase  
for everyone to look?

If I gave you a diamond,  
would you wear it on a string?

Or give it to a jeweller  
to turn into a ring?

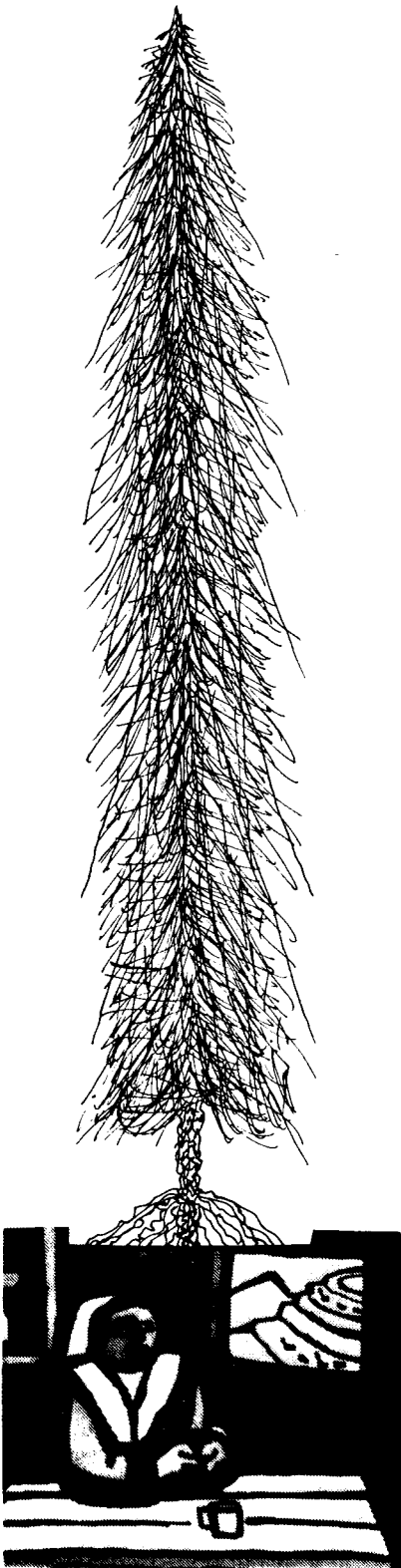
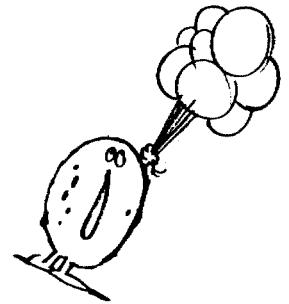
If I gave you a castle,  
would you live there all alone?

Or would your doors be open  
for those who have no home?

If I gave you my love,  
would you handle it with care?

Or would you disregard it  
and pretend it wasn't there?

- Saturday April 20, 1996





## **Slow Torture**

*for Bud*

Insignificant fury abounds these days and will forever. Like the slow torture of the hopeful tricked into another desire with no meaning. We have gone astray!

We have left for the icy seasons of decaying perceptions, profit margins have never been our forte. We've learned to oppress ourselves and remain true only to inward self-indulgence. Mechanical pathologies of slumbering sensationalism, deficits with feelings, gratified quibbling. Hard nosed all the way man hard nose all the way! But the terrible withering of sleepy consciousness leaves very little you can call unique to sharing.

Indeed, we might all be consumers who send ourselves cards of thanks. Is there room in this Eulogy for invitations to the elements of our birth? Are we doomed to the forgeries and the autobiographies of drab and musty worshipping?

Monopoly capitalism, now there's the donation we can deduct from our capricious appetites. Unconscious bondage can be a room without responsibility or a tear without a face. Maybe our visions are only going as far back as yesterday. The immaculate conceptions of stain glass windows under repair.

The illegitimate children of mothers who have refused to take their role. I for one can only hope to squeeze on this bus I've had too many days praying to nights without awakenings.

## **I Don't Claim to Know**

For those I'm not ready for  
I say stay away  
For those I am  
love me  
the way I love you.

I'm not asking for it  
to be the same.  
I'm not asking for leadership roles  
or listening skills today  
I'm not asking for too much...  
I hope.

It's a sunny day, our children will play in the park  
they will make up rhythms  
and sing a lullaby to each other.  
They can wait for us because  
they are free.  
They can ignore us because  
together  
we went skating at Reilly Park  
We were nomadic  
We travelled with changes  
we had a home to go to.  
This gentle compassion  
does cling to the essential I  
It sends the affectionate echoes  
of delicate flowers,  
ever curious,  
but still quibbling over  
whatever vexes them,  
to your home.

Poets floating quietly  
in a dream.

Where are you now?  
I'm looking!  
Has death driven the living away?  
Has it driven our namesakes underground?  
Has it driven our namesakes to war?

For those I'm not ready for  
I say stay away.

By LEIGH DONOHUE

Leigh Donohue

## black on gray

for donald bond

“poor soul”  
the receptionist says  
when I ask for you

steam & clouds make shadows in this still &  
sterile room & you don't recognize an old  
friend as I call your name & your eyes begin  
closing so I shout & my voice feels evil & a  
gasp from plastic tubing startles me

swollen & scarred  
a had floats  
towards nothing

your legs useless beneath a white sheet your  
chest shrinking my fingers tremble over your  
hot pale forehead afraid of sinking them into

your brain's  
vulnerable  
lightning

saved an old man from a mugging but minutes  
later the avenging thief returned for you &  
crushed your skull with a wooden club silencing  
your wild laughter & huge indignations & now  
your eyes open & the right one moves not the one  
blinded red & raw in the car crash that years  
ago started it all downhill for an “adonis” with  
a woman you loved & a job you wanted not scar  
tissue growing over steel plates making the  
thought of a drink an endless drunk you're  
only 40 years old & your shaved head sprouts  
tiny hairs like splinters driven-in instead of  
the black blaze of curls you wore with pride

searching for life

I see

a machine

breathing you & a machine tracing heartbeat in  
measurable waves & lines & dots like your eye  
traces me traces nothing ice cubes melting  
shift where a suction tray is constructed  
causing explosion in this steam-silent room  
your blistered lips collapsed together writhe



one in a while & I hear distant intercom-  
muzak subdued laughter of nurses & suddenly  
panic wiping your sweat from my fingertips  
afraid of you whom I've embraced many times

disoriented

shadows

tear the room apart

a black glance reflects on gray television  
glass & I have hoped as all who come to see  
you say they do that one of us- the lucky  
one- will bring you back because our lives  
are torments & we want to mean something  
vital & you ridicule our fantasies more than  
any painted corpse

helpless

I want

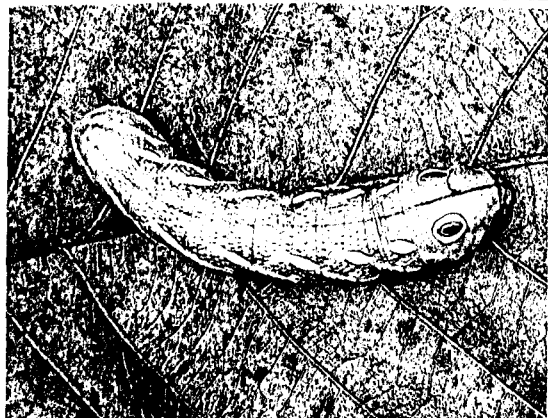
to kill you

I retch get angry & making my face a mask  
walk into the hallway where a nurse notices  
the room I leave & when our eyes lock our  
embarrassment is horrifying the sky outside's  
roaring blue wind

bright autumn sun

a falling leaf

I burst into tears



The Humber River, when I was eleven years old,  
was something to see. Everything was clean and  
beautiful and had lots of life.

Children were catching grasshoppers and butter-  
flies and putting them in jars; others were catching  
fish. My brother was catching frogs and snakes  
and bringing turtles home.

& want to say it's for you alone I feel deep  
sadness but these tears belong to me who desires  
to call 'liars' doctors who say "vegetable" &  
I want to deny that anyone who speaks as you  
have of the strong spirit love is & of a yearning  
to make well that which is ill can ever be  
degraded like this though some people claim  
you brought I on yourself & others implicate  
survivors who failed you but we only know you  
spent your last days laughing complaining &  
sharing what you had drinking cheap wine &  
sleeping in abandoned automobiles or on the  
river bank & eating from garbage cans

walking

shoeless

banned from agencies


becoming one less human to threaten anyone's  
holy resume "you're not going to fuck up my  
referrals!" a social worker explained kicking  
you out of a detox for the last time into the  
street where as you often said:

"you can't

wear out

the sidewalks"

Bud Osborn



Before you knew it, all the nature seemed to be  
gone. The Humber River was getting polluted.  
They made a highway and cut the trees, then  
blocked or changed streams with man-made struc-  
tures. Everything died except for a few milkweed.  
Monarch butterflies grow on milkweed but there  
was a fire and they burned. There was very little  
left; so much destruction that just about everything  
died.

Now you go there and find an ordinary park with  
pheasants, snakes, skunks and raccoons. You can't  
swim in the Humber River. Everything was  
destroyed. It is not a piece of Paradise anymore.

By DORIS LESLIE

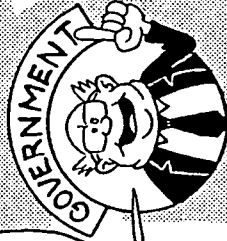
# Stop blaming the poor!

## 1 What is "poor-bashing"?

Poor-bashing happens when poor people are stereotyped as lazy, and when they are scapegoated for society's social and economic problems.

WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND CUTTING SOCIAL PROGRAMS

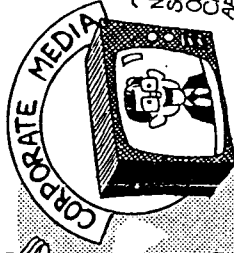
WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS ANYMORE



## 2 Who does it?

Poor-bashing starts from

people in positions of power, then everyone gets in on the act.



NEXT UP A SPECIAL REPORT ON WELFARE CHEATERS, RIGHT AFTER THESE COMMERCIALS

JOHNSON, GOOD NEWS! PROFITS ARE WAY UP! OH, AND TELL THE STOCKHOLDERS WE'RE CUTTING A THOUSAND JOBS NEXT WEEK



HEY YOU, PARASITE, GET OFF YOUR LAZY BUTT AND GET YOURSELF A JOB!!



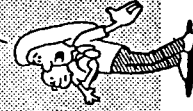
## 3 Why do they do it?

To justify cutting welfare and other social programs, and to justify the creation of "workfare", policies which they tell us will help cut the deficit and get people working again.

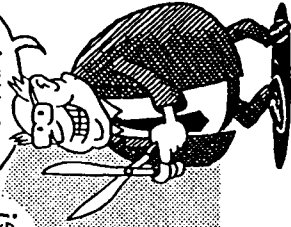
YOU'RE USING MY TAX DOLLARS TO SIT AT HOME WITH YOUR KID AND LIVE THE GOOD LIFE?



"GOOD LIFE"? BUT WE'RE STARVING!



EXCELLENT, THEY'RE CONVINCED, NOW WE CAN GO AHEAD AND CUT WELFARE!



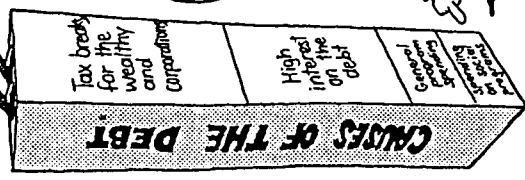


# 4 But is it really just about dealing with the deficit?

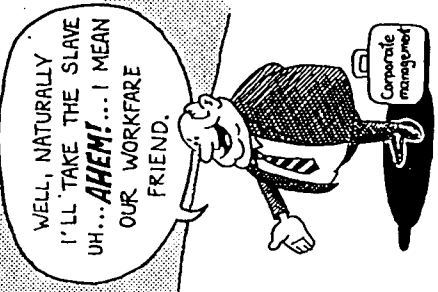
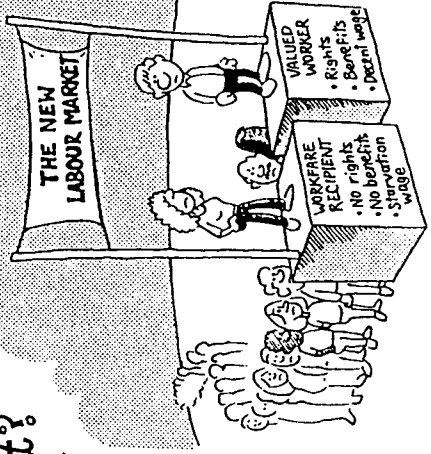
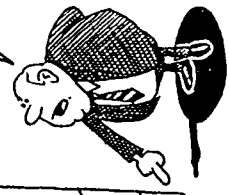
Not really. Social program spending actually accounts for very little of the deficit and debt problem, so cutting social spending will hardly have any effect.

Instead, many believe it's really about forcing people off

welfare and creating a large, low-wage labour market, right here in Canada !!



IT'S THE SOCIAL SPENDING. YOU'VE GOT TO GET **THAT** UNDER CONTROL.



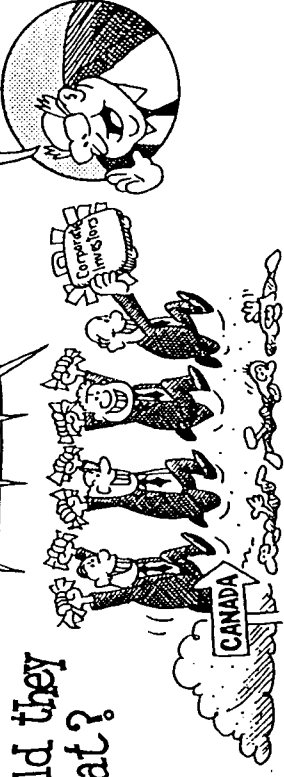
WELL, NATURALLY I'LL TAKE THE SLAVE UH... **AHEM!** ... I MEAN OUR WORKFARE FRIEND.

# 5 And why would they want to do that?

Well, to "create a positive climate for investment", of course.....

LOW WAGES!  
WEAK LABOUR LAWS!  
BIG TAX LOOP-HOLES!  
NO REGULATIONS!  
**NOW YOU'RE TALKING BUSINESS!!**

DON'T WORRY  
PEOPLE, SOME OF  
THE BENEFITS MAY  
EVENTUALLY TRICKLE  
DOOOOOO **WHY?**



# POOR-BASHING...

- It's immoral
- It hurts people
- It helps justify policies which widen the gap between rich and poor
- It must be stopped



THIS SYSTEM INFLECTS  
NOT A WAY OF LIFE BUT A SYSTEM OF DEATH



Over the last year or so BCTV has carried out a truly vicious campaign of poor-bashing. I first became alarmed by a news program piece which showed members of our city police force politely interrogating, searching and even apprehending selected residents on and around Main and Hastings. This piece coincided with upcoming salary negotiations for the police and was likely meant to show that the burden of dealing with vicious junkies and belligerent drunks deserved an increase in benefits. With more than 700 police persons in the City of Vancouver, I marvelled that this appeared to be the only evidence of their occupation worthy of public attention.

On a regular basis, Channel 8 has continued to inform the public of the shocking activities of the poorest members of the Downtown Eastside community. They showed long lines of shabbily dressed people at the local cop shop making declarations of theft concerning their welfare cheques. The intent of this feature was to convey the impression that this was a routine, monthly procedure for most of those complainants and is followed by a run to their local welfare office to collect still another welfare cheque. No mention was made that cheque replacement also meant a reduction in their future welfare payments in the amount of \$15 or \$30 per month until it was paid back. Nor that such replacement could put them in the humiliating position of being administered so that they received only a small portion of their tiny support income on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. There was also no attempt to point out that, in our community, large numbers of people receive too little money all at the same time each month and that it becomes far too easy to fall into the role of predator or prey depending on your state of desperation.

During the cold snap this past winter, the reporters scoured about for individuals articulate enough to state that they preferred to sleep outside in sub-zero temperatures. They showed the gallant, makeshift efforts of various religious and social agencies to accommodate the large numbers of homeless people at that time. Where did all those homeless people disappear to after the cold snap ended? Did no one ever wonder why we assume that it is more pleasant to huddle behind a dumpster, soaking wet after a day or night of rain, when the temperature is a balmy 3 or 4 degrees above zero? Certainly this appears not to have occurred to BCTV.

These media presentations are always accompanied by tired old footage of the stereotypical views of the drunken native lolling in a doorway or long lines of shabby-looking men outside welfare offices. At a recent interview, News Director Keith Bradbury pointed out that they were very careful to shoot from the back or at an angle that would not identify individuals. Why the cameras linger on those figures that appear stronger and healthier than others is not explained.

The five part news feature on Welfare Fraud that so outraged members of the Downtown Eastside community was apparently produced at the invitation of the concupiscent corp of the Fraser Institute. They were responsible for importing a senior welfare administrator from the United States, who presented a confusing display of pie graphs and statistics that were supposed to support her assertion that the levels of welfare fraud in the U.S. were huge. No attempt was made to analyze the jumble of figures. No effort was made to explain what the connection was between the welfare problems of a country with the worse civil



**New-Model Millionaires**  
"Money soothes the nerves."

**crisis point**

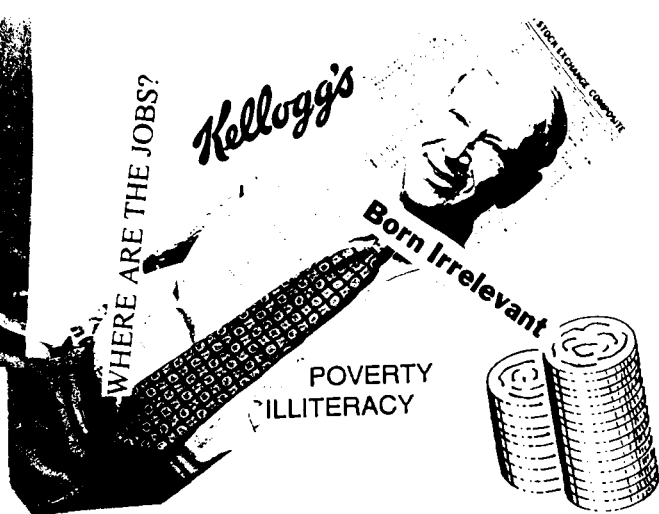
**Levi's**

**SEARS**

rights record in all the Western world and the poor in this country. A retired, 16-year veteran of the BC Fraud Squad stated that, in his opinion, the level of fraud was much higher than the Government was stating. He preened and glowered with such self-assurance during his few minutes of fame that the reporters did not have the heart to ask him for facts and figures to back up his statement. Facts were also not forthcoming when a Fraser Institute inmate made a similar claim of fraud run wild.

For good measure BCTV recently added a piece centred on the plight of one or two landlords who had apparently suffered damage to their rental units at the hands of welfare recipients. The item was basically telling the public that those who work are good tenants and those who don't are not worthy of housing. No one mentioned that more than 60% of welfare dollars go to landlords and the examples of owner neglect against powerless welfare recipients and working poor is far more in evidence than any losses they will eventually present for tax exemptions.

The intent of this unscrupulous media focus has clearly been to induce such anger at and contempt for the poor in this province that the public would ignore or even applaud the most inhumane treatment meted out to the unemployed. The public has been bombarded with anti-poor propaganda calculated to destroy compassion or concern for those less fortunate. Public contempt, fueled by misinformation and negative representations, has ensured that those shocking and punitive measures already in place and those planned for the future will not be hindered by anyone of consequence.



As more and more people join the ranks of the unemployed to accommodate and enhance the personal and corporate finances of the rich, we are faced with what economists identify as a surplus of poor. The obvious next step is to herd the surplus into forced work programs and camps. Once in place, it will become possible to manage the rest of the population more efficiently.

Anti-poverty activists are kept so busy worrying about whether our supply of band-aids will be cut off that we have lost sight of what is causing the wounds. If we are not prepared to protest vigorously against injustice regardless of which sacred cows are toppled; if we cannot join together in an atmosphere of honesty and mutual respect; if we cannot set aside petty jealousies and personality differences which dilute our individual and collective efforts, then the poor are lost and we have placed our futures in jeopardy.

The poor are not the Jews and this is not 1938, but the similarities are too great to dismiss. To paraphrase a haunting quote from that shameful period: "They came for the idle and unemployed but I was too busy and did nothing. Then they came for the children of the poor but they were not my children and I did nothing. Then they came for the sick, the elderly and the confused but I was sound in body and mind and I did nothing. Then they came for me and there was no one left who cared."

By THIA WALTER

**DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY**

**STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday - Friday, 10a.m. - 6p.m.  
NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 9a.m. - 8p.m. everyday  
Needle Exchange Van - on the street every night, 6p.m. -  
2p.m. (except Mondays, 6p.m. - midnight)**



THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

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for the next issue:**

May 29, Wednesday

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**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 23 YEARS.**





A CALL TO ALL NATIONS OF THE  
WORLD

## WORLD PEACE & PRAYER DAY

GLOBAL HEALING, JUNE 21ST, 1996



Arvol Looking Horse, Nineteenth Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe for the Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota Nation, asks that all Nations upon Mother Earth declare June 21st, 1996, World Peace and Prayer Day. According to spiritual leaders and Elders who gathered at the United Nations to present their Prophecies and again at Six Nations, Canada, the "signs" of Indigenous people's prophecies have shown themselves. The prophecies tell us it is time to begin Mending the Sacred Hoop and begin global healing by working towards World Peace and Harmony.

The birth of the White Buffalo Calf lets us know that we are at a crossroads - either return to balance or face global disaster. It is our duty to return back to the sacred places and pray for world peace. If we don't do this our children will suffer.

At Grey Horn Butte, before the White Buffalo Woman brought the Sacred Pipe to our ancestors, A seer was traveling in the Sacred Black Hills (Paha Sapa), "heart of everything that is." The Seer came upon a large tipi. When he went in the tipi, he saw the Sacred Pipe in the North and the Sacred Bundle of Bows and Arrows in the South. According to the Star Knowledge there are six stars which designated six sacred sights within the

Black Hills - these places are sacred places to pray. We are told there is a sacred place every hundred miles around Mother Earth. We ask all people to return to these places and pray from their hearts with us. The ceremony begins at 10:00 a.m. South Dakota (mountain time).

It has been decided, according to the Star Knowledge, that June 21st is the time to pray. Indigenous people of Turtle Island will begin their spiritual Journey on horseback from Wahpeton, Saskatchewan, Canada on May 3rd, 1996 to Grey Horn Butte (known as Devil's Tower) in the Black Hills of Wyoming, by June 21st, 1996. There, indigenous peoples will pray with the Sacred Bundle Keepers, to begin the restoration of peace and balance. We ask all Peoples to begin organizing their own ceremonies at their sacred sites or in the manner which they pray so that they will be praying at the same time as we are from their own spiritual center.

So far, we have spoken to leaders from around the world and each has committed to work towards supporting June 21st, 1996. We ask all people of all faiths to respond and support our efforts towards world peace and harmony - our circle of life where there is no ending and no beginning. We are fulfilling the prophecies for the seventh generation.



*May peace be with you, all my relations,  
Arvol Looking Horse,  
19th Generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe*



## Margaret's Museum

This Canadian film, *Margaret's Museum*, is about the human cost of mining coal. It is about Cape Breton miners and their families who fight for dignity, and even happiness, in an economic system that puts profit above life.

In the mines they find death rather than happiness, but in their resistance, courage and endurance they find dignity. Even though the story takes place many years ago, it speaks directly to the 1992 Westray Mine Disaster in Nova Scotia where twenty-six miners were killed in an unsafe mine.

Scots were no strangers to oppression, even as you who read this are no stranger to oppression. Are we not connected to the oppressed peoples of the world, not just through the media, but through our relatives and ancestors, through our own experiences and memories?

Yet Scots resisted oppression, even against the Romans. They fought the English, and the lost the battle. As First Nations people show us over and over again, losing the battle does not mean that



you have lost the war. The war will continue until justice is done.

Now the forests of Scotland are gone, and her children are scattered throughout the Empire as immigrants and soldiers. "Scotland Forever," they used to cry, but what good is that slogan to people who cannot live with dignity on their own land?

Scots came to Nova Scotia, and some of them worked in the coal mines. They tried to organize unions to protect themselves, and their unions were crushed by armed soldiers. They continued to fight, and eventually won the right to organize themselves.

In the film, *Margaret's Museum*, Margaret is a

young woman longing for life under the shadow of the mine. Her mother is an embittered woman who has lost a husband and son to the mine, whose father is bed-ridden with lungs choked with coal dust.

Margaret marries a miner who can speak like a poet, and who plays the bagpipes. These two love each other in a world of coal where working people are seen only as work units.

The system is stronger than they are, for coal miners and their families do not have lives so much as destinies. The husband is killed in the mine along with Margaret's sixteen year old brother, and her grandfather's polluted lungs give out at the same time.

The bodies of the husband and younger brother are taken home where they join the body of the grandfather. Margaret is alone with them, and in here grief she makes the only political statement available to her. She cuts out the lungs of her grandfather, and the lungs and tongue of her husband. Then she cuts off the fingers of her husband and the penis of her brother, and hides all these treasures. When the police arrive, they take Margaret to the hospital where she stays for two years.

The doctors said she was insane at the time, but I wonder. When Margaret was released from hospital, she picked up her hidden treasures and opened a museum. If your purpose was to describe the horror and injustice of coal mining, what better way than to display the remains of human beings who had had so much life, and were now dead.

The lungs of the old man showed the danger of coal dust - a danger that the company doctors denied. The lungs, fingers and tongue of the husband reminded Margaret of his music and poetry, and their life together that was crushed by coal. The penis of the boy, for at sixteen he was hardly a man, represented the promise, hope, and continuity of the life that he so desperately wanted to live, and was so brutally ended.

All that life lost, so that those who owned much could own even more.

Sandy Cameron



## THE GARDEN OF CRUDE

Garry Gust

There's the middle-class, the wealthy-elite, and the poor.

The wealthy-elite call the poor "bums." The poor call the wealthy-elite "pigs."

The pigs & the bums call the middle-class the "dumb masses," because they can be led by the nose through the mass media of TV, radio, and newspaper.

The mass media is owned by the pigs, so it's their propaganda that gets into the middle-classes' memory banks, especially when an election is about to take place.

But one thing the mass media cannot do is erase the memory of actual events that took place in B.C. in the 1980s with Bill Bennett's Right Wing pig government's **restraint** program:

Remember?

- massive firings of civil servants, including health care workers;
- bills passed to cripple union activities;
- countless people losing their homes as their hard-earned UIC ran out.

Surely the middle-class can't forget those terrible years, especially with what is now going on in Harris' Ontario, where they are presently

experiencing the same thing we went through in the eighties.

Bill Bennett, Ralph Klein, Mike Harris, Gordon Campbell, Jack Weisgerber; no matter how you say it, the name means: representative of the wealthy-elite, the corporate agenda, and the tight capitalist control over disposable workers for investor profit margins.

So, what can cause the dumb masses, the pigs, and the bums to achieve common ground, to where each is indistinguishable from the other?

We don't know yet. But until people of unblinking conscience are in charge of governing the affairs of humankindhood, it's best we stick with the NDP in this small part of the world.

During the past several years, Jenny Kwan has stood alone against the NPA at city hall. She's faced down their rudeness, she's fought their attempts to sell out the city to their condo-maniac friends, and she was the **only one** on council with guts enough to speak out against Steve Wynn's venture to turn the waterfront into Las Vegas North. Now it's our turn to repay Jenny Wai Ching Kwan for her courageous service to our city, by electing her to the Provincial Legislature.

Don't be fooled by the thought that she'll gain an easy victory. Some voters in our district, who don't know Jenny as well as we, may very well hold her youthful beauty and outspokenness against her, and cast their ballots for the stereotypical, Johnny-Come-Lately candidate.

Let's talk it up with our friends & neighbors to make sure Jenny gets the support she deserves and is elected by a healthy number of votes.

# COPS, ROBBERS & COMMUNITY

## DERA'S NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY OFFICE

(Reprinted from the DERA Newsletter)

DERA opened the N.S.O. with Deb Mearns at the helm on September 9, 1995. She was joined on October 11 by Constable Dave Dixon of the Vancouver Police Department.

The N.S.O. is operated by DERA with funding from the Attorney General. It was set up to deal with Downtown Eastside's increasing concerns over crime in the neighbourhood and a feeling that the traditional approach to street crime wasn't working.

Residents should remember a particularly heavy DERA General Membership meeting with Police Chief Ray Canuel, where residents confronted him for stating in the press that the police had given up on the one-hundred block of East Hastings Street.

The N.S.O. is overseen by a steering committee composed of reps from various Downtown Eastside groups, including DEYAS, Carnegie and Ray-Cam Community Centres, Urban Native Youth Association, Youth Action Centre, Vancouver Native Health and First United Church. The Committee meets every two weeks. Its purpose is to trade information between agencies and residents, target community safety concerns and develop strategies to deal with them.

These community safety concerns include street-involved youth, sex trade workers, local fencing operations, drug trafficking and safety in general.

These concerns come as no surprise to long-term residents of the Downtown Eastside. There has been a noticeable increase in street drug traffic along Hastings between Main and Cambie over the past five to six years.

This comes with an associated rise in street violence, muggings and thefts like Breaking and Entering; cause for concern to many seniors, such as those living in Tellier Tower. There are also many dangerous criminals who are in the country illegally or can't be returned for trial to their province of origin.

To address these concerns, the N.S.O. has



N.S.O. Volunteer, Audra Lee Daum

adopted a number of strategies. Among them, promoting awareness at the Police Dept. and A.G.'s Office of the problems and the way in which residents would like them handled, and co-ordinating information between local groups and residents and the appropriate group or agency. As well, educating residents and teaching them how to be safe on the streets is an important part of the office's work.

This does not detract from putting a great deal of community and public pressure on the Attorney General and Police Department to come up with appropriate laws and measures against such things as pimping and procuring kids for sex and returning violent, hardened criminals on non-returnable warrants to their province of origin. As well, an immigration officer has been assigned to work directly with the police department to identify criminals for deportation.

In terms of successes, the office has been instrumental in helping identify two men suspected of murdering women in the Downtown Eastside. Information given to the N.S.O. was crucial in the busting of a major drug dealing and prostitution ring in the neighbourhood. The N.S.O. is leading the push to get street-involved kids under 16 off of

Hastings Street and back to their families, or at least hooked up with street youth workers or an appropriate service. This is being coordinated with the VPD and MSS Emergency Services.

The office has also been dealing with residents'

groups about known pedophiles in the neighbourhood and has helped bring one before the courts. As well, street-involved women are helping in a campaign to identify and document men who try to purchase sex from kids in the neighbourhood.

## Pre-registration reminder for Second Annual Senior's Week

June 3 - 7, 1996

Pre-registration is required for all bus, heritage, and walking tours, which will start and finish at 411 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver

Call 682-6680 May 22, 23, and 24, between 10am and 4pm. Limit is one bus tour and one walking tour per person.

DERA and Deb would like to thank all the residents and others who have supported this project! A particularly warm thanks goes out to all of the office's volunteers, including Princess Margaret Prevost, Audra Lee Daum and Darren Guerra.

Tuesday June 4th - Bus - Whistler Heritage - Hycroft, Brock House etc. Heritage - Harte House, Irving House etc.

Walking - GM Place

Wednesday June 5th - Bus - Harrison Hot Springs and Mission Abbey

Heritage - see Tuesday

Walking (separate tours) - Orpheum -

VPLibrary - DES/Strathcona - Can.

Handicrafts Museum

*His warm  
and  
friendly  
nature  
will never  
be  
forgotten*



**Eric Lopez**

*September 8, 1970 - April 29, 1996*

Life is not a habit,  
Life is a continuous inquiry,  
exploration. Life is a journey  
of discovery, and unless you  
have discovered the ultimate  
truth of your being, don't stop  
anywhere. There are many  
stopping places— very  
beautiful, very charming,

alluring, magical. Remember  
one thing, that unless you have  
come to realize who you are,  
there is no stop. Yes, you can  
rest a little bit on every  
stopover, but keep moving,  
keep flowing. Remain  
available to all kinds of  
experiences.

## WOODWARD'S

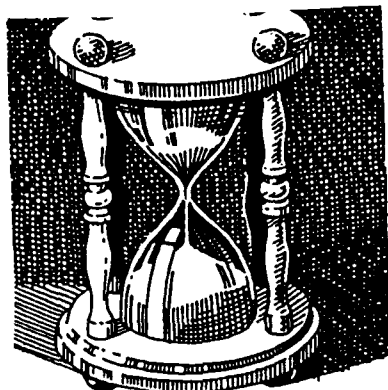
By PAUL R TAYLOR

As an update, this is like explaining to someone who doesn't know too much that I don't know too much either but will share what I do know. Woodward's has been the topic of controversy for weeks, months, even years. It's certainly not a "...and we all lived happily ever after" story, but a damned good example of what goes on under the veneer of press clippings and public announcements.

Growing out of a need to 'get together and see what could be done', people from the Downtown Eastside Seniors, Four Sisters Co-op, BladeRunners, Station Park Housing, Community Development Unit of the Ministry of Employment and Investment, Community Action Program, Carnegie Community Centre Association, Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA), Lower Mainland Network for Affordable Housing, Main & Hastings Community Development Society, Vancouver Second Mile Society, Tenants' Rights Action Coalition (TRAC), United We Can/Save Our Living Environment, Vancouver Native Housing

and Women In Search of Housing Society(WISHS) came together. It wasn't exclusive, but needed to work.

The various sub-committees grew to do specific work - **Development & Design** has to take blank space, unmovable pillars, the idea of livability and need and limited subsidy and turn it all into a reality that satisfies



## The Future

“What does the future hold for people who are being forced out of their own neighbourhood because they can't afford \$100,000 for an apartment...?”

“I want to live in low-rental.”

everyone. The smallest decisions are those that get the ‘good thinking’ seal of approval or, just as often at this stage, ‘boy this is stupid; didn't anybody think?’ Experience with lots of social housing and co-op living helps, but there is just not enough room in Woodward's to fill the increasingly desperate need.

**Employment & Training** is the next one that has worked with needs in our community. At the last Woodward's committee meeting in April, at the recommendation of this sub-committee, the following motion was adopted:

WHEREAS: The Woodward's redevelopment will generate many employment opportunities both during construction and when fully operational as a housing/retail commercial/community facility and;

WHEREAS: the resident population of Vancouver's inner city experiences a far higher unemployment rate than the average for the rest of the city, province, or country and;

WHEREAS: many long time unemployed and under-employed inner city residents need opportunities to upgrade work skills;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: the Woodward's Committee supports the principle of employing local labour whenever possible to work in all phases of the redevelopment and operation of the project and;

THAT: the development partners negotiate contractual relationships that reflect this principle and;

THAT: local training and employment development programs be encouraged to develop a skilled local labour pool to fill jobs created in the Woodward's project and;

THAT: special consideration be given in local employment development and training programs and by employers involved in the Woodward's project to the inclusion of equity target groups including: First Nations people, women, visible minorities, and people with disabilities.

**Community Commercial Space** - what needs can be met and uses made of the vast amount of space on the 3-4 levels from the basement to the 2nd floor? This area is larger than all the commercial space in Gastown and the community requirements for recreational space, childcare, health facilities, even a therapeutic pool are just some of the possibilities.

Under all of this activity are the starker realities: Woodward's does not solve the problem of development pressures and gentrification: the needs call for 5000 units of social housing, detoxes and counselling, rehabs and hundreds of competent street workers, decent jobs at decent wages, an end to legislated poverty... What Woodward's does do is put the practical and tangible work of getting decent housing and community services and progressive change in front of us. Each sub-committee is dealing with work that scratches the surface. If none of this was even attempted, there'd be 354 condos in Woodward's and virtually everyone in the Downtown Eastside would be threatened with homelessness in the very near future. It is a beginning.