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Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



JUNE 1, 1996.

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

“The voters of Vancouver could live with 20 to 25,000 homeless people and not even notice it.”

Larry Beasley
Associate Director,
City of Vancouver Planning Dept.





Does it piss you off? Does it make you mad or just sad? Larry Beasley was at a meeting in the Newsletter Office of Carnegie, he and a handful of senior City Planners. Beasley made his statement to Bud Osborn, and according to Bud, it was quite matter-of-fact. The homeless are just an annoyance to the well-to-do, and the singular concern of City planners is "units" - livability is someone else's problem...

The planners had come to a meeting requested by them in response to a letter sent by Muggs Sigurgeirson, the President of the Carnegie Association, in which she formally announced our withdrawal from ongoing "consultations" with said planners.

We had been used and abused again and again; every time we'd agree to talk with planners, something directly opposite to what had been discussed was already in the chute, going before some permit board or council, just weeks or days from approval. Something that these people have known about for months...

The Victory Square Neighbourhood is a classic example. Protests got the monumental change of the name DOWNTOWN Eastside being added somewhere. And we were supposed to "live happily ever after" We're supposed to accept the next 2500 condos here, and keep our fingers crossed that "something" will be accepted by the NPA Council to "discourage" owners of the cockroach SRO's in the area from evicting everybody in favour of higher-paying customers..after the standard cosmetic makeover to the premises, of course.

Weeks after this meeting the same Planning Department had an 'event' in Carnegie's Theatre

with every plan they could round up on display. Locals from anywhere were then to walk and gawk and ask the experts present questions rising out of the graphics on display. Unbeknownst to most was a conversation overheard earlier in the day, in the lunchroom at City Hall, where these same 'experts' were about to embark for the DE:

"I have to go to Carnegie this afternoon!" said one. Groans from others. "We'll probably get AIDS." "It's so sleazy down there." The person hearing this was so upset she called Carnegie just to talk to someone sane. This is the inside of Vancouver's Planning Department, and the staff of Beasley et al.

The bottom line is the inevitable homelessness for thousands of people, who will then be treated as a blight on these new yuppie pioneers' "neighbourhood". Every plan trundled out doesn't seem to recognise the consequences of gentrification - high rents, demolition of existing housing and homelessness for the people unfortunate to be living in the wrong place... or rather space, since the current places are history as soon as the permits/approvals/dollars change hands.

The Community Action Project blew Bad Holme out of the water recently. This one-on-one stuff is happening. Read on!

By PAULR TAYLOR

Bad news for Bad, good news for us

The plan to build those shockingly-tiny living units on Hastings Street in the old White Lunch building opposite Woodward's has been killed - thanks to a spirited campaign by a united community.

Residents and community groups that packed a meeting of the city's development permit board on May 21 made such a strong presentation that one board member finally said:

"You know, I came here prepared to approve this plan, but after listening to the community, I've changed my mind."

Of course, that's the way democracy is supposed to work. But when it actually does, it's a



really refreshing change from the lack of respect the community usually receives at City Hall.

The plan was to build 55 SRO (Single Room Occupancy) units, each one a mere 10x12 feet. That's smaller than a modern jail cell, or for that matter, the monkey cage at the Stanley Park Zoo.

Not only that, but the SROs would have been built at the back of the site, like servants' quarters, while a 15-storey-high tower of fancy condos would have gone at the front.

No wonder the developer, Brad Holme, is getting to be known as Bad Homes. To add insult to injury, he would have expected the taxpayers - through welfare shelter allowances - to pay for his mortgage over the next 20 years.

Credit for killing the plan must go especially to the the long-time hotel residents who gave the board the benefit of their experience living in cramped rooms. Residents like Sonny Kenick of the Dodson, who asked the board to think about where they would stow their toiletries or even their broom, or how they would make a sandwich or invite in a friend.

Residents also brought a life-size floor plan of a micro-suite and actually got the permit board members to leave their seats to come inspect it.

The groups that took part included Downtown Eastside Seniors Society, DERA, Teants Rights Action Coalition and the Carnegie Community Action Project.

There was a lot at stake at the meeting because if the plan had gone through it would have set a precedent for more micro suites throughout the neighborhood. Shame on the city planning

department for encouraging Bad to bring the proposal forward.

Overall, it's been a couple of bad hair *weeks* for Bad, the well-coifed dude of developers. Not only did he lose his chance to make a killing on the micro-units, he has run into static down at the Loft Store, his condo marketing operation in the Maple Tree Square section of the Downtown Eastside.

The Loft Store had to close (the notice said "due to congestion") two days in a row on a busy weekend after community picketers showed up with leaflets documenting some of Bad's less savory methods. Many prospective buyers turned away after reading the leaflets or talking to the picketers.

Bad keeps dropping the price on his condos on Cordova Street. That's the kind of move you make when you're having trouble selling your product.

Now that the micro plan is dead, the real work has to start - a community discussion on just what constitutes livability in a suite. How big should they be, what sort of amenities?

To start it off, Carnegie and DERA are co-sponsoring a forum on housing to hear what the community has to say.

The forum will be held Monday, June 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. at Carnegie.

Bring your ideas, your experiences and your suggestions. After all, we're going to have to live with whatever is decided for many years to come.

By Frank Salwerowicz

SENIORS RECOGNITION WEEK

June 3 - 7

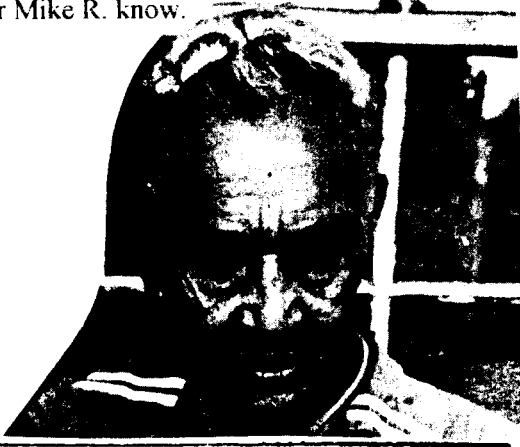
June 3: Strawberry Tea at 411 Dunsmuir; 1-4pm
* Two van trips are full, but Heritage and walking tours can be registered for on Monday at the Tea.

June 6: Seniors Strut! Start from the Chinese Cultura Centre, 50 E. Pender, at 11am

June 7: Afternoon Picnic (weather permitting), Hastings Community Centre, 1-3pm
Dance at Carnegie at 7:00 p.m.

All of these events are Free.

* The trip to Arasheena was cancelled (weather) and is rescheduled for June 20th. Be here at 8:45 - people holding tickets can go. No new tickets will be issued, except stand-by. If you can't make it, let Alicia or Mike R. know.



Dear Paul,

This letter is to thank you for putting this edition of *Le Petit Bottin* in circulation. It goes without saying that this publication - whatever the language - is very important to our neighbourhood.

I also take this opportunity to mention that our secretary-treasurer, Marie Dussault, is our translator for *Le Petite Bottin* and she is the one who puts it all together so beautifully.

Again Paul, many thanks from all of us at La Boussole.

Yours truly,

Mario Marceau, coordinator.

Tidal Waters Sport Fishing

A Man's got to believe in somethin'
I believe I'll go fishing... (Thoreau)

The Arbutus are in bloom again
Right up to the mountain top
And all I can really think of
is getting a vanilla-cherry pop.

What are the seals thinking
as they watch the fishing lines sinking

Little Red Snappers and small Rock Bass
You can almost hear the laughter

The lines were tangled
I reeled in
"I'm still here," the bait said

I cast again, a bite! Get the net!!!

A scorpion fish, very red it is...

"Do I get to go back?"

"Ah yes," I said, "but wait for the picture

The minnow looked red - its body was achen

"Can I come back as a human?"

Solemnly I assure its last wish is granted

He looked down, "What's in there?" then split.

Well God's not dead, "There is Love..." I said

Bound 'fer Glory anyhow

I thought I saw a zillion lights and Light

It was 'cos sun reflected off loose fish scales...

It's dark, the deep

"...we teach 'em to speak..."

So long, 'til next week.

A few rain drops splattered

the sky is weeping

Goodbye I cry feeling sadder

An eagle in a tree

then another, then three

sat there watching us fish

Then they too left - In flight as bird

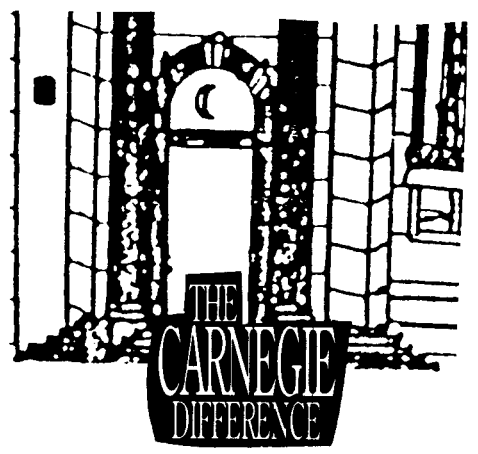
We want God, I think.....

A world of Good!

Taum



The Downtown Eastside Residents Association, DERA, had its Grand Opening of the new space on the first floor of the building at 425 Carrall St. Dignitaries from far and wide came for a good lunch, better coffee and cake that couldn't be beat! The new space is completely accessible for people with disabilities and is 3 times the size of the old flat on Hastings. Interesting times ahead!



Mission: Possible

A chance meeting with an acquaintance on the street and "...you should write something about Mission: Possible up the road. It's really decent. You should come over and talk to Liz.... er, Elizabeth Wall. She runs the place!" So I did.

It's on the 500-block of Powell (#534) It felt like old times, going to a mission when the coffee's on and there's a snack like donuts or something being handed out. While waiting for Elizabeth I checked out the room and saw Bob, the urger-to-come-and-write/talk, and a table on the side of the eating area with used clothes.

Elizabeth is a warm person with a pretty good idea of the Downtown Eastside's character. She kind of cringed when I related a story, recently published here, about one person's experience with a 'christ-er' while playing a guitar on the street. "He talked at me. He never heard a word I said. He was too busy listening to himself!" She agreed with the guitar-player's anger.

"We work with people here as individuals, as far as possible..." said Elizabeth. "We're open from 1:30-4pm Monday to Friday, and have other stuff in the evenings. Right now we have a Life Skills program on Thursdays."

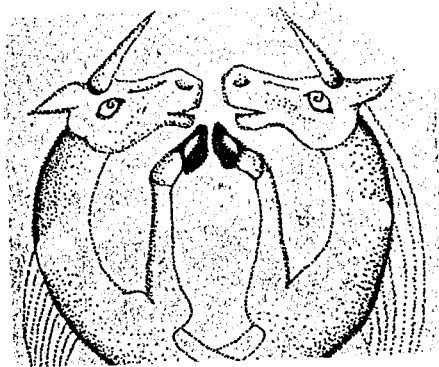
A short tour after our talk went through a clean kitchen and in the back is a shower for people wanting a safe place to wash up.

If you are in the area, check it out. The listing for 'free food' on weekdays from 1:30-4 is in the new Help in the Downtown Eastside.

PRT



READING ROOM ROUNDUP



Welcome to your renovated and pretty much re-organised library. It's been awhile since I wrote, probably just before we moved into one room in early November and our staff operated from that war zone bunker under the archway. Thank God those days are gone forever!

Anyway, we now have a few more seats, better lighting and shelving (we're still fighting big time noise from the theatre some days of the week and we hope this is remedied soon).

Our book stock is getting there, following the leanest time we've ever had when we opened last Xmas. Half of our '96 funding has now gone into trade paperbacks, genre fiction and Chinese. Our shelves are full again so come in and have a look.

The way our books are shelved has changed a lot since renos and there may be a few more surprises in '96 until we find the best places for everything. If you have problems finding what you want, just ask and if I am around I'll give you a tour.

Recently I have been applying for some extra money from VPL's Friend's Bingo nights to buy classics for the First Nation's shelves from MacLeod's Books. Will let you know how things go in future articles.

If anyone has suggestions for buying or organising just come in and see me, or try to come to the Library Committee meeting (next one is on July 8th at 3pm in the Association Office). We're always glad to hear from all of you.

Eleanor



Tam - you are remembered with love

Recently a close friend of mine, a friend of 16 years - Tam - passed away. She was a talented artist and a bright, gentle being who was a major influence on my life. I love Tam.

Yet during the last month of her life I had taken a slight offense to something she said and wrote her a mean letter. In the letter I rhetorically wrote "I hate you" and called her "one of the ugliest broads I have ever met." I have since apologized to her in writing and on the phone, but I still regret ever having sent those words to her.

But I have to know that she forgives me..because holding on to guilt is to hold on to uncertainty or even a disbelief in her forgiveness. And, ironically to have written her that letter (written before I got that shot in the head mentioned three newsletters ago) was a sign of optimism regarding her life.

I thought she had the strength to go on for years, let alone the strength to shrug off a cantankerous, rhetorical letter. If I'd have thought her death was imminent, I never would have written that; all kinds of people get into conversations, encounters, arguments and then they die.

I love you, Tam. You encouraged me to be an artist, introduced me to Zen Buddhism, and will always be remembered with great gratitude and reverence in my heart and spirit.

Dean Ko

To all agencies, staff
& consumers!

Double Trouble Toolbox

(a video for & about the dually diagnosed)

Premiere Screening!

We would be pleased if you could join us for a brief reception followed by a 50 minute screening. This educational video depicts mental health consumers resolving tough day to day situations. Produced locally and including local consumers & talent, our very own Murray unveils this training video sponsored by Lookout & funded by Central City Mission Foundation.

Monday, June 3, 1996

1965 Main Street

4pm to 6 pm

Keep Fighting, Friends



We keep fighting for a better world and sometimes we get depressed. We don't seem to be moving toward a more democratic society. In fact, our political and economic leaders preach the scrooge-had-it-right economics of the 1840's.

We still have to keep building support groups for justice, though, and here's a story that shows why our efforts are important, even when we don't think they are.

Back in the early 1950's, a group of black women in Montgomery, Alabama, fought for better conditions for black people on the city buses. They called themselves the Women's Political Council, and nobody paid much attention to them because their dream of equality on the buses didn't seem realistic.

In 1954 these Montgomery women invented a system to distribute 50,000 notices calling on people to boycott the buses. Only the time and

place had to be added. Some members of the black community told the women they were wasting their time. There was no way black people could challenge the white power structure in Montgomery, Alabama. The women, however, kept on organising because they believed what they were doing was right.

On December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks refused to stand up in a Montgomery bus when ordered to give her seat to a white person. Her action had not been planned. Rosa was returning home from her job as a seamstress, and she was tired. She did care about community issues, though, and had attended a seminar about civil rights at the Highlander Center a few weeks earlier.

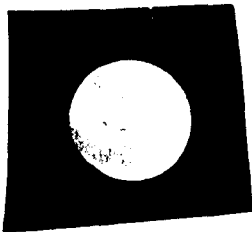
As soon as the Women's Political Council heard that Rosa Parks had been arrested, it printed tens of thousands of leaflets announcing a bus boycott. Thanks to the distribution system set up by the women, most black people in Montgomery knew about the bus boycott within hours.

It wasn't until the first day of the bus boycott was over that a 26 year-old minister named Martin Luther King got up to speak to thousands of people at a church in Montgomery.

"There comes a time when people get tired of being trampled over by the iron feet of oppression," he said, and the civil rights movement in the United States was on its way.

Keep fighting, friends, so when the tide changes we will be ready.

By SANDY CAMERON



RayCam's Job/Training Club Has Started

Join a self-paced program where you'll have the opportunity to develop skills in:

career exploration, networking, communication, assertiveness, interviews, resume writing, job search and more.

Meeting at RayCam, Tuesdays, 10-12 noon.



Child Apprehension Rally

On 23 May 1996, a number of parents and concerned people gathered outside the constituency office of Joy MacPhail, the NDP's Minister of Social Services. Parents told graphic stories of child apprehensions, and the following is from a talk given by Irene Schmidt, the Green Party's candidate in that riding:

"Now that you have listened to real life stories about how they destroyed our children in Sleepy Hollow, you might decide to do something. Every time we attempt to talk to the majority of politicians we should go armed with can openers as they have tin ears.

The Family Court is the lowest court (in more ways than one) and should be investigated by an independent body. It presently causes the majority of problems for entire families, with some of their psychologists engaging in pure character assassination on parents. I know a great deal because I personally went through a lengthy custody battle. When my son was ten years old, he remarked, "If anyone wants to know about Family Court, just ask me. I've been through the mill!"

The Social Services system needs to be changed so you can face your accuser in court. Many times neighbours who don't like a family, or individuals having something against a single parent (or want something and were rejected) make anonymous complaints and the police take these gray accusations as gospel truth... It is then up to the single, distraught parent to prove their innocence, rather than the accusing party proving them guilty.

I was at a meeting and heard a worker from the Ministry admit that there are far more Native children apprehended. He went on to say that there are big bucks in this; also "What do you think pays our wages?"

We dedicate this rally to Donna, who jumped from the Clark Street Overpass after losing her child to the Ministry, and to Barbara, who died on the street at twelve years of age while in a foster home. The Ministry of Social Services are the worst parents of all. By supporting anyone in the mainstream parties (NDP, Liberal) we simply re-arrange the deck chairs on the Titanic.

In closing I would like to say it does not matter who gets elected - we shall be continually hounding you regarding this crisis."



What is a Grandmother?
(written by a Third Grader)

A grandmother is a lady who has no little children of her own. She likes other people's. A grandfather is a man grandmother.

Grandmothers don't have to do anything except be there. They are so old they shouldn't run or play hard. It is enough if they drive us to the market and have lots of dimes ready. When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars. They never say "Hurry up!"

Usually grandmothers are fat, but not too fat to



tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear. They can take their teeth and gums out. Grandmothers don't have to be smart, only answer questions like "Why isn't God married?" and "How come dogs chase cats?" When they read to us, they don't skip or mind if we ask for the same story over again."

Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have a television, because they are the only grown-ups who have time.

Child-care centre needs care itself

for special-needs and typical under-three-year-olds at the Princess Avenue and Cordova Street site.

The first teacher to arrive often has to sweep away debris, beer bottles and the odd drunk sleeping in the entrance.

For Cassandra, a self-assured girl who is learning to use sign language to communicate, it means attention from speech therapists and physiotherapists.

For parents, it's a place to leave their children in capable hands.

The padlocked gate to the bleak, fenced courtyard is opened in the afternoons for neighborhood youngsters to run through.

"The whole building (Princess Apartments) uses the play area," says head teacher Shannon Mawhinney.

But the wear and tear is showing. The daycare needs about \$30,000 to replace outdoor equipment.

Mawhinney ticks off her wish-list: A big wooden, two-level jungle gym — with steps, so teachers can assess toddlers' gross motor skills — a playhouse, tables.

The Vancouver-Richmond Association for Mentally Handicapped People's Independence Foundation is sponsoring a gala fundraiser for the daycare at the May 25 performance of Miss Saigon! at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Tickets, \$145 (a portion is tax-deductible), include a reception with cast members. For details call 739-8220.



Staff photo by Jon Murray

Fundraising performance of Miss Saigon! will help children at Waterside such as Cassandra.

By Holly Horwood
Staff Reporter

A child's squeal of joy filters from behind brick walls in one of Vancouver's neediest neighborhoods.

Surrounded by low-rent apartment blocks and a smelly poultry plant, Waterside child-care centre has been home away from home to children for nearly a decade.

It's no easy task to offer a sanctuary

Cassandra - Our Child

Cassandra is a special child, a gift to all of us. We are all her family.

Cassandra attends a Day Care that requires help in order to provide equipment that does more than entertain small children; it also helps them develop muscle and social skills. These skills not only benefit the children but all of us as well.

It is important that these children are able to attend Day Care. For Cassandra, it provides much more than just 'care for the day.' It provides

physical therapy to build strong muscles for walking and standing, but also speech therapy so she would be able to vocalize and communicate. Sign language is also being taught, increasing her ability to communicate with others.

The equipment needed will help many children develop and grow.

The children of the Day Care accept Cassandra as she is and aid her with social interactions. It is they who show her the respect to be all she can be. I hope, as a grandmother, that the Day Care will receive all the assistance they need.

These Day Cares are an important part of our children's development and can, as well, aid in the reconstruction of the family unit. The social skills that are learned here will be applied throughout their lives. It is a worthwhile commitment, to provide not only for the Day Care but for the children attending as well.

Lorelei Hawkins



hi there i am writing a letter about my birthday on the 28th of april at my brothers place at prince george i was there till may and i seen all the children and taking them fore walks out inthe fields then i went with my niece to watch her children at jymnastick they were jumping over bars and running and jumping over barrols and my little niece went on the saw horse and waking to the eand and flipt over, and fore my birthday i got two nice t.shirts and some pot holders so i wont burn my hands, then my other niece gave me two nice pictures if her daughter and son, and i got some nice birthday cards and some were cute and some were funny. but i had a good time with all of them and it was cold some times so that is my letter about my birthday party at my brothers.

Albert Anthony

When I was seven, my father put us on a farm.¹¹ We were there for three months. I remember how we went to a little school house down the road.

My sister and me had to cross train tracks. One day we saw a train going by so we held onto a



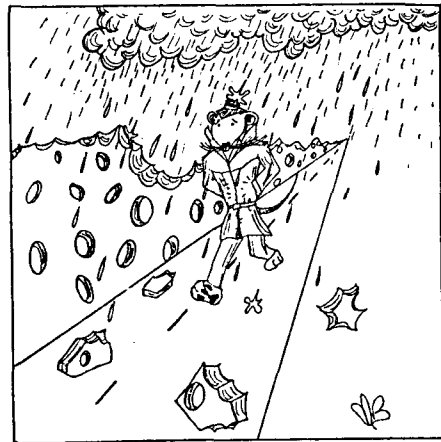
pole because someone told us the train could suck us in.

The farm had cows and corn and hay in the fields They had a creek where the cows were led every day and there were chickens and rabbits, too. We made a chicken house for the baby chicks and had ducks as well. We had a problem, though: a weasel tore the ducks apart.

By the end of the summer we had lots of rabbits and chickens. A big truck took the chickens to market and that year we had the tallest corn.

My sister and I had a great time at the farm!

By DORIS LESLIE



Boulevard of broken cheese

March for Jesus stirs debate about poor

DOUGLAS TODD

Sun Religion Reporter

When about 15,000 singing, balloon-holding Christians march through Vancouver's poorest neighborhood on Saturday to celebrate salvation through Jesus Christ, an opposing group of Christians will be handing out leaflets asking them to be more sensitive to the vulnerable and afflicted.

"The way to honor this community is not by marching through it one day a year, celebrating a triumphant Christ, but by standing with and for the community of the poor, listening to their pain," says the handout from Friends of

the Downtown Eastside, which is made up of Catholics, evangelicals and other Christians.

The handout, written in part by Dave Diewert, an instructor at Vancouver's evangelical Regent College, says Vancouver's annual March for Jesus fails to reflect Jesus' teaching that discipleship means self-sacrifice and love for others.

The march intrudes on the community, "insensitive to the nature of its pain and needs," says the leaflet. "Perhaps the march has not brought Christ here so much as met him here, in the suffering of the poor."



March for Jesus worldwide

Joe Kelder, an organizer of the March for Jesus, said it's not significant that the Christian marchers, who numbered about 15,000 last year, will sweep through parts of the Downtown Eastside and stop for prayer and preaching at Crab Park on the waterfront. It's just a convenient route, he said, which organizers worked out with city officials to avoid seriously disrupting traffic at 11 a.m. on a Saturday.

The walk takes place on the same day as hundreds of similar colorful marches in cities around the world.

Bringing Christians together from around the Lower Mainland through an annual walk does not deny that Christianity has a message for the poor, said Kelder, who is pastor at an east Vancouver Vineyard church. It is one of almost 200 congregations, mainly evangelical Protestant, that take part in the march.

"We need to celebrate both the Lordship of the risen Christ and we need to reach out to the poor. I think it's unfortunate that people frame us as triumphalists," said Kelder.

The Friends of the Downtown Eastside does not want a war with the March for Jesus, says Bud Osborn, a Catholic. Instead, it has been trying to meet with march organizers.

Kelder, who talked with Diewert on Wednesday for the first time, said it's impossible to cooperate with the Friends of the Downtown Eastside to develop a program for the neighborhood's poor before this year's march. But perhaps, he said, something could be done by next year's march.



community (k mju niti) n.
 1. a body of people living near one another and in social relationship; a body of people with a faith, profession or way of life in common || *the community of the Downtown Eastside*

The Downtown Eastside is a unique community of mostly poor, vulnerable, and afflicted human beings, located in a specific geographical area, who constitute a spiritual gift to the city of Vancouver. This gift is the capacity of the Downtown Eastside to demonstrate to the rest of the city the nature of real community in a time when the word community has been emptied of meaning.

Yet this community is threatened with destruction by upscale economic development. The growing pressure to construct upscale condominiums increases homelessness and intensifies the suffering of thousands who live in this community.

bearing witness

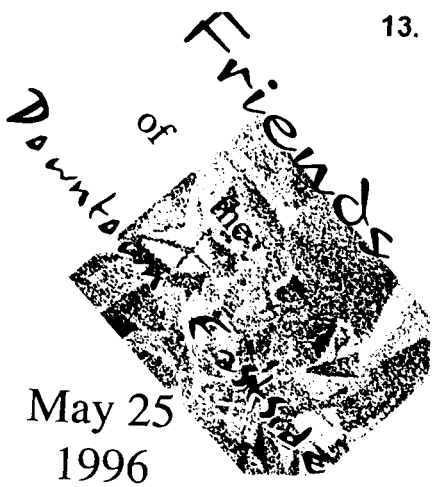
So it is to bear witness to the predicament of this community of the poor, and to support it in its struggle for survival that we have come together to form

Friends of the Downtown Eastside. Our vision is to build relationships of informed care between those who live outside the Downtown Eastside and this community of the poor, to hear their cry, to heed their pain, and to respond in active solidarity with them. We want to stand with and for this community in order to strengthen and sustain it, until its needs have been met. Our basic commitment to this area is that no present or pending development should result in homelessness for one person living in the Downtown Eastside.

CRAB PARK

The place in which this rally is held, named "Portside Park" by the city of Vancouver, is known as CRAB Park (Create a Real Available Beach) to the residents of the Downtown Eastside. In the eighties this neighborhood struggled long and hard to secure the land for use as a park for the people, rather than be used for industrial development. It is a symbolic landmark for the community of the poor and should be honored as such by those who visit.

The way to honor this community is not by marching through it one day a year celebrating a triumphant Christ, but by standing with and for the community of the poor, listening to their pain, and being thought-



May 25
1996

fully involved with them in their struggle over the long haul.

Where is the reality of the incarnation - Christ tenting among us - and the cross - Christ suffering for us - in this march through the community of the poor? The cross was the singular definition of discipleship which Jesus gave his followers, the symbol of self-sacrifice and love that is profoundly for the other. How is this kind of discipleship reflected in a march that intrudes into this community, insensitive to the nature of its pain and needs? Perhaps the march has not brought Jesus here so much as met him here, in the suffering of the poor.

We would like to invite you to participate with us as Friends of the Downtown Eastside.

support...

If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Dave or Teresa Diewert @ 253-1782.

**THE UNACCOUNTABLE POWER
OF POLLSTER\$**

A day before the leader's debate, the corporate power behind the Vancouver Sun and BCTV released an Angus Reid poll that put the Liberals ahead of the NDP.

It may very well be assumed that Reid was instructed to canvas **only** current Liberal-held ridings in order to get a desired response that could be turned into headlines, and thus influence the undecided vote.

An honest, scientific poll **must** cover a good cross-section of the population to get close to an accurate indication of attitudes.

How are we to know that the Reid organization conducted such a cross-sectional phone campaign, as opposed to stacking the deck?

Would they open their files to

public scrutiny? I doubt it.

Should they, by law, be made to open their files to public scrutiny? Of course!

In a true and equal democracy, the **validity** of any massive influential information must stand up to public inspection.



THE APPROPRIATE VAN HORNE TRIBUTE G.Gust

In 1885 C.P.R. manager William Van Horne requested that the Dominion of Canada government turn over to the C.P.R. much of the land that we know of today as Stanley Park.

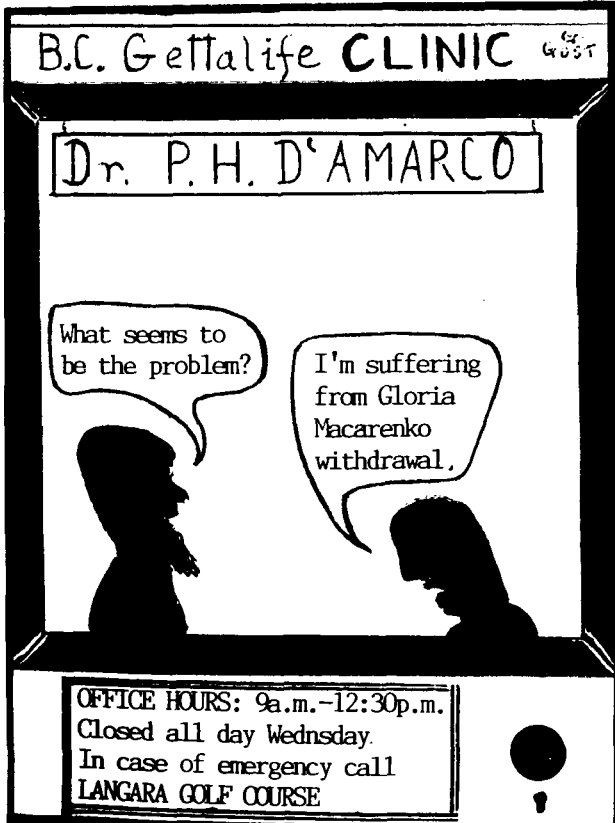
Van Horne's plan was to put in streets that would give access to factories, warehouses, and docks.

But L.A. Hamilton, a land commissioner and city alderman, fought such an insidious plan to destroy the natural beauty of the area, and persuaded city council to petition the government to transfer the land to the city.

In 1887, the land **was** transferred, to be used as a park, provided that the city keep up its maintenance.

Mr. Hamilton then took it upon himself to survey, and carve out the first paths around the park, which was later named after the governor general Lord Stanley (whose name was also given to the championship cup of what used to be the Canadian game of hockey.)

Had Van Horne gotten his way...well, I'll leave that to your imagination.



BRAD'S
INFANTILE
MORALYSIS

CARRALL
STATION

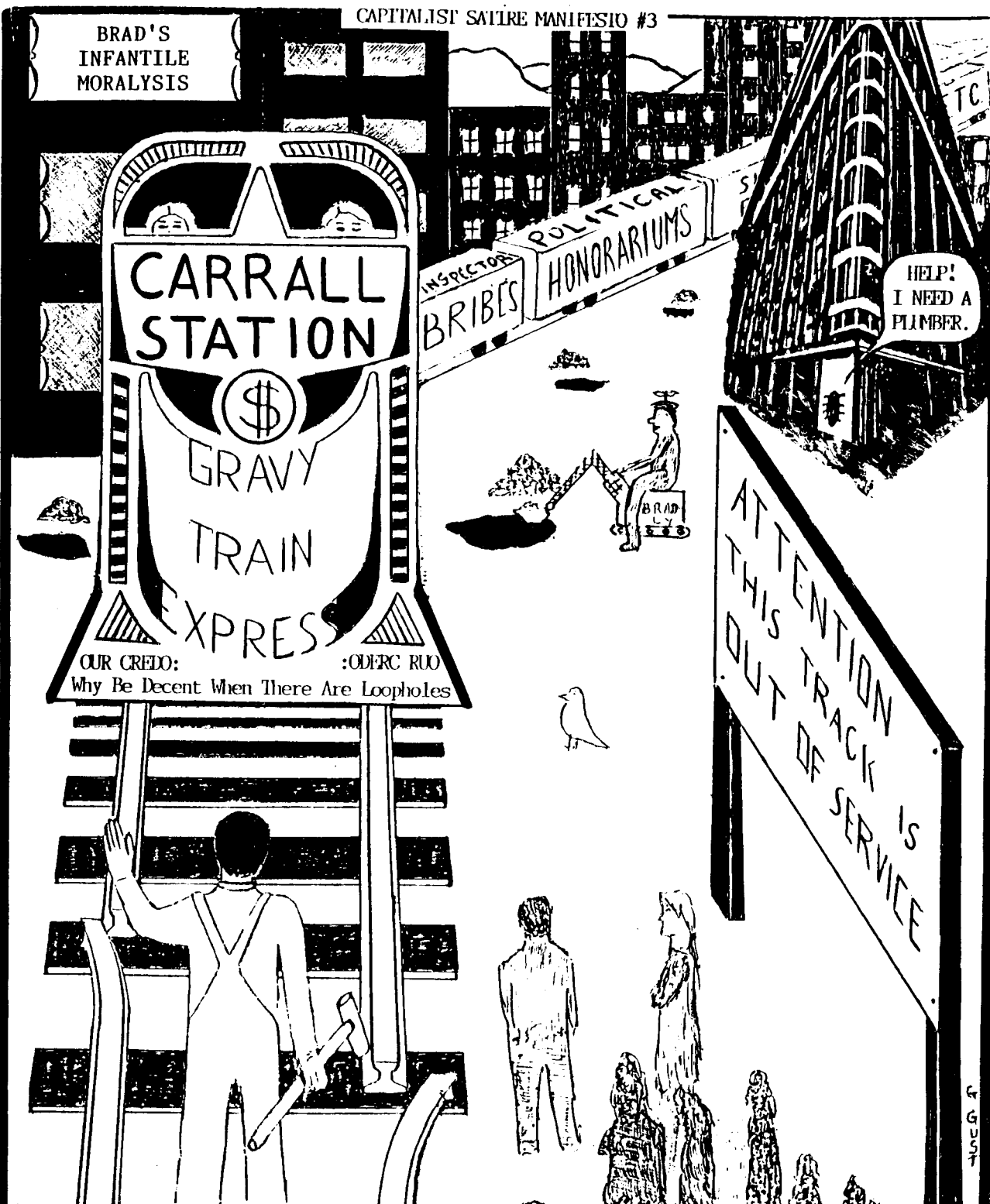
GRAVY
TRAIN
EXPRESS

OUR CREDO: :OUEFC RUO
Why Be Decent When There Are Loopholes

INSPECTOR
BRIBES
POLITICAL
HONORARIUMS

HELP!
I NEED A
PLUMBER.

ATTENTION IS
OUT OF TRACK
OF SERVICE



the truth of community



all day long
the horrible august sun
set them on fire
and machine guns
and attack dogs
and barbed-wire fences wired with electricity
where tangled boys threw themselves
to escape
from auschwitz

a prisoner fled the camp
or so the nazis said
and lined the 600 men of barrack 14 into rows

the men were forbidden to speak
or sit down
or take one step out of line
under the penalty of immediate execution

all day long
until assistant camp commandant fritsch arrived
and announced that since
the escaped prisoner had not been found
10 of the men standing there would die

and fritsch began to walk the rows
examining the prisoners
selecting which of them would be
stripped naked
locked in a cellar half-buried in the earth
and kept there
until they starved to death

one of the condemned men
a young polish soldier
francis gajownick
fell to his knees and cried out
that he had a young wife
and small children
and wanted to live

fritsch ordered the man to the starvation cell

but then
something extraordinary occurred
something unheard of in auschwitz
a man stepped forward out of the rows

and began to speak

fritsch commanded the man to get back into line
“have you gone mad?” fritsch shouted at him

but the prisoner calmly replied
that he wished to
take francis gajownick’s place

the man explained that since he himself
was old and ill
the nazis could get more work
from a younger man

and assistant camp commandant fritsch
according to witnesses
fell silent
and appeared stunned

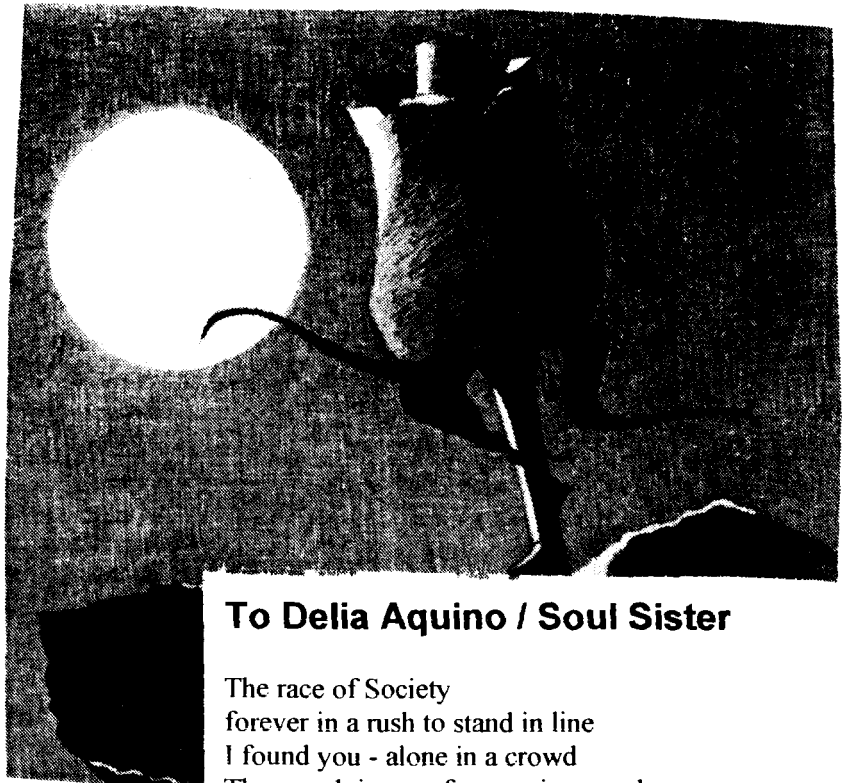
the august sun burned the air
and auschwitz fell silent

fritsch pondered
then
astonishingly
rescinded his own order
and granted the prisoner’s request

and so maximillian kolbe joined the other 9 men
stripped of their clothes
and interred into their tomb
to die by starvation

kolbe’s own hard-won community of franciscans
who had housed refugees
fed the poor
repaired the machinery of peasant farmers
and dispensed medicine to any who were in need
had been destroyed
his brothers murdered or sent into exile
and kolbe incarcerated in auschwitz





first the brain dehydrates
and hallucinates
but kolbe remained lucid
they sang canticles of love
in a death cell
in auschwitz

and on the 14th day
when nazis entered the cell
to remove the bodies
maximillian kolbe
still alive
had to be killed
with an injection of phenic acid

kolbe

kolbe
who created community even in auschwitz

kolbe
who created community while naked and starving to death

kolbe
who sang community into a situation without hope
kolbe
who demonstrated that community cannot be destroyed
though buildings are demolished
though people are scattered and lives are shattered

kolbe
who taught that community cannot be extinguished
as long as a single human being
steps forward
out of line
and speaks out
for the sake of another's life

kolbe

To Delia Aquino / Soul Sister

The race of Society
forever in a rush to stand in line
I found you - alone in a crowd
The search is over for my sister soul-mate.

Words don't describe the true you I know
Our friendship started over a coffee & cigarette
- yet not knowing each other's name
for we met when we were in different worlds.

I treasure each moment we share
even when we don't see eye to eye
Only we understand each other like no one else does
That alone tells it all.

I know the shoulders of yours are mine
to cry, laugh and hold with undying friendship
Time is short - our bond is forever
I'm proud to call you my sister
- for you are proud.

Hold your head high
the messages I send to you now
- are words of love
ii cherish every day we walk together
No more words

Love, Your Brother Lance Sowan-Sound

Bud Osborn

ONE SQUARE FOOT



I am here today to discuss the failure of the City Planning Department to understand the impact of a planning proposal that has been deceitful and purposely despises a community in crisis. FSR's for social housing are now seductive giveaways for developers with no ethics who want to eulogize themselves for spitting on the poor.

The City of Vancouver Planning Dept. has asked a developer to design low-cost housing units for everyone but themselves. I think Council and their planning department should be ashamed of their inability to discuss neighbourhood priorities with the Downtown Eastside.

Has there ever been a union contract offer by the Planning Department that began discussions from the lowest common denominator? Are we as a community to forget the priorities that constantly go unnoticed by the City? Why should we, as a community, let the Planning Department and City Council pay lip service to a process of community consultation that even they don't respect?

You want to know what square footage this community needs? Do you want to measure the worth of human beings' lives by giving them little cells as condescending as the ones they already have? What year is this? What city is this?

How do we measure?

- * Well we want one square foot for every man and woman who has been murdered in our community.
- * We want one square foot for every Native and Metis land claim!
- * We want one square foot for every man and woman living with a disability!
- * We want one square foot for every alcoholic and drug addict!
- * We want one square foot for every detox centre that has gone under or been stopped from opening.
- * We want one square foot for every child who goes hungry!
- * We want one square foot for every homeless person on our streets!
- * We want one square foot for every death that has occurred because of the bylaws that hotel owners ignore!
- * We want one square foot for every senior that has died without a family!
- * We want one square foot for every volunteer!
- * We want ONE square foot for every United Nations vote on the future of the homeless!
- * We want one square foot for every cockroach in a Single Resident Occupancy room!
- * We want one square foot for every insult this Council and its Planning Dept. has and will make about our community.
- * We want one square foot for every day our community has been cheated out of a voice!

We need one square foot for every protection we will need as developers are given the go ahead to treat this community as if it was beneath contempt and undeserving of any voice.

We implore you not to pass this proposal any further down the developmental line but instead ask the developer to negotiate in good faith with all of us. We must show some respect and talk to the community that will have to live with these insults.

By LEIGH DONOHUE

A Mother's Letter to her Son

Dear Son,

I am writing this slow because I know you can't read fast.

We don't live where we did when you left. Your Dad read in the paper that most car accidents happen within 20 miles of home, so we moved. I can't send you the address just yet, as the last family living here took the numbers with them when they left, so's they wouldn't have to change their address.

This place has a washing machine, but the first day I put four shirts in it, then pulled the chain. I haven't seen them since.

It rained here twice last week, the first time for four days and the second time for only three days.

About the coat you wanted me to send you. Aunt Sue said it would be too heavy to send in the mail, with them heavy buttons, so we cut them off and put them in the pockets.

We got a bill from the funeral home, and it said if we didn't make the last payment on Grandma's funeral, up she comes.

About your sister: she had a baby this mornin'! I still haven't found out whether it's a boy or a girl so I don't know if you're an Aunt or an Uncle.

Your Uncle John fell in the whiskey vat. Some men tried to pull him out but he fought them off and drowned. We cremated him and he burned for three days!

Three of your friends went off the bridge in their pick-up. One was driving and the other two were in the back. The driver got out. He rolled the window down and swam to safety. The other two drowned. They couldn't get the tailgate open.

Aunt Mabel is knitting you some socks. She would have sent them by now but I told her that you'd grown another foot since she last saw you so she had to knit another one.

Not much more news this time. Nothing much has happened.

Love,

Mom



Congratulations to Jenny, Uhlal and Jim, and to Mike Harcourt for making it possible. Kudos to all of you who worked your tails off, even with the cuts in mind.



In The Dumpster

Greetings fellow bidders & bidderettes.

Three Cheers for the N.D.P.!!! We did it again. Better luck next time Irene.

Lots of cans out there. I'm doing okay but still have lots of competition.

United We Can reports the lane clean-ups are doing good. Watch for many happenings and contests in the near future.

Thanks to Kim and Kaya at the Children's Festival for being such great people!

May The Bins Be With You.

By MR. McBINNER

**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)**

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

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

1996 DONATIONS

Paula R. -\$10

Wm. B. -\$20

Lillian H. -\$25

Sonya S. -\$100

Kettle F.S. -\$16

Hazel A. -\$10

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Frances -\$50

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Brigid R. \$30

Amy E. \$20

Rene F. -\$50

Anonymous \$60

**Submission Deadline
for the next issue:**

11 June

Tuesday

NEED HELP?

**The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association
can help you with:**

- * any welfare problem**
- * information on legal rights**
- * disputes with landlords**
- * unsafe living conditions**
- * income tax**
- * UIC problems**
- * finding housing**
- * opening a bank account**

**Come into the Dera office at 425 Carrall St. or
phone us at 682-0931.**

**DERA HAS BEEN SERVING
THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
FOR 23 YEARS.**



Editor

27 May

(I think you're doing an important job in informing the public and petitioning the government about poverty!)

What I see happening in this country more and more is a domination of all our ideals and institutions by the "corporate mentality."

We have large corporations who are making tremendous profits and yet they are laying off people! They call it "down-sizing"; I call it "profiteering." One aspect of "down-sizing" and other maneuvers by big corporations is that they seem to be immune to any government intervention. In case after case with large multinationals, Ottawa seems to just go along with any agenda laid out.

I heard one politician say, "Well that's the way it has to be because these companies have to be competitive in the world markets." I'm not sure what that means exactly. What it seems to suggest is that the "markets" have to cater to the needs of multinational, or rather *transnational*, corporations. At one time the companies selling goods and services had to cater and tailor their products to the market... we're being told that that doesn't work anymore.

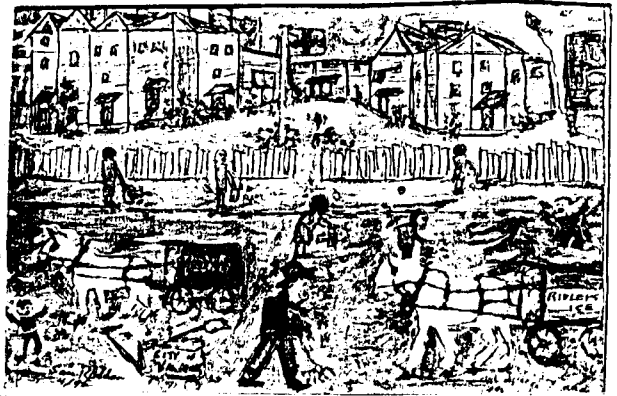
Considering the large markets in Canada, I'm sure there's enough business here to entice companies to "cater to" the needs of Canadians - more jobs at decent wages, more security in existing jobs and better pay and benefits.

In a very real way, our governments have been (or are being) replaced by the profit agendas of transnationals and this global coup is being accomplished against the expressed will of the vast majority of the world's people. Transnationals are like the new 'Atilla The Hun' - charging across continents and raping the countrysides. Our governments, so far, are just playing along to whatever tune these corporations strike up. The sinister side is evident in the violence they are doing to people, violence that makes people suffer and increases poverty. There's not only greed running rampant but an agenda to hurt and blame the people impoverished and hurt by it.

Do we really need or want this "Greedy Corporate Way" of doing things in Canada? Are we going to be satisfied being turned into serfs or even slaves in this country, where rich individuals and corporations own virtually everything? It's not right or fair; it's a kind of new fascism and classism based on greed.

We need a "Social Humane People-Oriented Way" of living in this country and in the world - a way to spread the wealth around and not just into the vaults of big business!

K.A.Hawley



Paul Taylor, Treasurer.

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for your donation request of 27 March 1996 for the Carnegie Centre [Children's Play-Area at Oppenheimer Park]. Your request was considered at our April Board Meeting and I am very pleased to advise a donation of \$350 was authorized.

Gulf and Fraser Credit Union is proud of our commitment to support the communities that we serve. We hope that this contribution helps support the Carnegie Centre.

Yours truly,
Mr. J. Loncarich, Chair,
Financial Awards Committee

To Shit-Disturb or Not

People call me a shit disturber.

I crave learning and this means I'm in new situations on a regular basis. When in a new scenario, I question everything and bring forth my opinions. This is shit disturbing, I guess, but I don't see it that way.

What I want is to be able to express and question, among many others who are doing the same. I want discussions that facilitate new ways of looking at issues and life. I want to learn. My opinions have changed often and it's wonderful, because it means I'm learning and growing.

Part of the learning process is criticism and without it ideas won't grow. Nothing in life is perfect, yet the goal is to be in or have a situation that is perfect. When people criticize my ideas, I don't jump down their throats, but compare what I presented to what they said. The ideas always have room for improvement.

What I don't like is when those ideas are taken without my cooperation or used in a selfish way. I offer them from a place of sharing. Many times my ideas are seen by others as being for them only and sometimes people view them as being for me only. Few ever see the ideas as being for as many as possible. I don't come from a place of "me first".

Don't get me wrong; I have my needs. I don't share everything I have. I keep much of me hidden from the world, because it is a place full of fear, anger and hatred. I do protect myself and, until people work from a place of love, I will keep lots hidden.

It is difficult to be in this world at this time. Most people are fighting the good fight by attacking individual personalities. They know the issues but, instead of brainstorming on the issue, they concentrate on the personalities involved.

A case in point is the recent political election. The politicians, in their campaigning, started debates on the issues (education, healthcare, etc.) and by the second or third sentence they attacked the members of the other parties. The issues were left hanging and none of the voters knew what



each party's plans of action were. What we did hear was that Campbell thinks Wilson is spineless and Clark thinks Campbell is a liar.

We do the same in the Downtown Eastside. We say organizations are useless because this or that person works there (volunteers are workers, too), and we don't like the person. We start to come together on issues, but before we can do any work someone is saying they can't be involved because another person is. This narrowed focus on



personalities is keeping us in limbo.

I would like to see us concentrate on actions that solve problems in the public arena. The grudges we have with people need to be presented in private. We need to tell each other what it is that bothers us and accept that we have hurt someone at sometime. If we don't do this privately, it will inevitable come out in public and the issue will again be left by the wayside.

I'm shit disturbing again, aren't I? Oh well, it won't be the last time.

By ALISON CAMERON

WOODWARDS - VICTORY SQUARE



Congratulations on the recent triumph at City Hall! That area of town on Hastings between Abbott and Cambie could use some community-based rejuvenation, since there are many boarded-up, vacant establishments along that strip.

The most prominent edifice in this part of town is the Woodward's building. This was begun to be

built in 1903 by George H. Wenyon and other architects.

A number of years ago (from 1996) Woodward's opened a food floor because it couldn't picture people in the neighbourhood going there to buy a new suit every week, but when stores like Costco, Save On Foods and particularly the Real Canadian Superstore opened, Woodward's Food Floor just couldn't compete.

It wasn't long before the rest of the store shut down. It makes sense, architecturally, because the food floor was in the basement (i.e. the foundation) and if the foundation goes, the rest of the structure will collapse.

The Cenotaph, for which the Victory Square area is named, was formerly Court House Square. The maple trees from the court house era, planted in 1892, are still there and growing. The Cenotaph was built in 1924, designed by G.L. Thornton Sharp.

It would be nice to witness a mercantile rebirth or, for that matter, a rebirth of any kind in that presently dilapidated, lonely, yet charmingly rustic part of town.

By DEAN KO

FOUR CORNERS COMMUNITY SAVINGS

A word to the wise: The place is now open and cashing cheques. If interested, talk to someone there before the next cheque-day at the end of June!

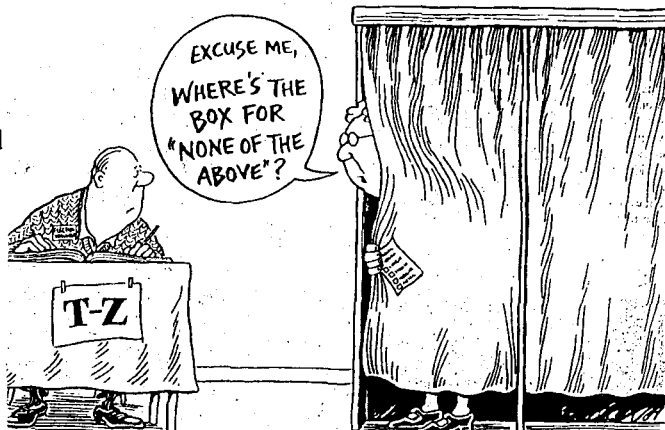
The voting that I'm supposed to do I feel is very wrong. I am giving my freedom of speech to someone else, then I am told to be quiet, be a slave, don't express an opinion.

I am quite capable of governing my actions. I don't need policing. I am at peace with myself and the world. The Spirit guides me in what is important and how to cut out the bullshit.

Government does it to the people and takes a little from everyone. Then they give a lot to a few (themselves). They get riches and power only if we are foolish enough to give it to them.

I can't afford to support that bullshit game anymore.

Dreamweaver



PUBLIC PENSIONS FORUM

SATURDAY,
JUNE 15, 1996

MARITIME LABOUR
CENTRE AUDITORIUM
1880 Triumph Street,
Vancouver

FEATURED SPEAKER:
MONICA TOWNSON

Author of

*"Our Aging Society: Preserving
Retirement Incomes into
the 21st Century"*

Sponsored or Endorsed by:
Social Planning & Research
Council of B.C. (SPARC)

Simon Fraser University
of Sociology
Vancouver

Advance Registration Required (see form on reverse)
Registration Fee: \$15 Employed, \$5 Seniors and Students
25 Places Reserved for Unemployed or Handicapped

on
(B.C.)
Canadians
Union of Retired Union Members
Canadian Auto Workers (CAW)
New Westminster & District Labour Council
End Legislated Poverty
Greater Vancouver Seniors Coalition
The Boag Foundation
Old Age Pensioners' Organization



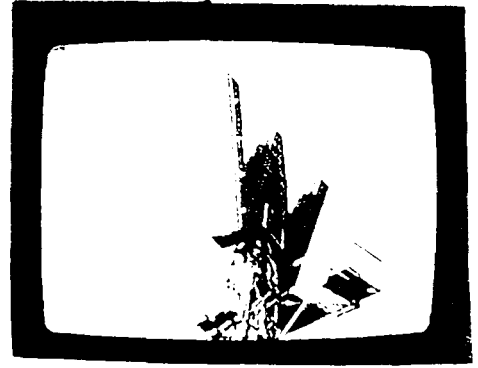
JUNE 15 FORUM AGENDA

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:30 | Participant Sign-In |
| 9:30 - 9:45 | Welcome, Opening Remarks & Conference Information |
| 9:45 - 10:30 | <i>Ilerb Grubel</i> MP, Reform Party, <i>Svend Robinson</i> MP, New Democratic Party, and <i>Ted McWhinney</i> , MP, Liberal Party, present their positions on the future of the Canada Pension Plan. |
| 10:30 - 10:45 | Coffee Break |
| 10:45 - 11:30 | Featured Speaker: <i>Monica Townson</i> addresses the main issues in the CPP reform debate. |
| 11:30 - 12:15 | Plenary: Questions to <i>Monica Townson</i> and discussion of the issues. |
| 12:15 - 1:00 | Lunch Provided |
| 1:00 - 2:00 | Round Table Discussion with facilitators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the concept of public pensions • operation of the CPP and proposals for change • strategies and actions in response to proposed legislated changes • participation in the federal-provincial review panel hearings |
| 2:00 - 2:20 | Coffee Break |
| 2:20 - 3:30 | Plenary: Round Table Discussion Reports

General discussion of issues, strategies and actions. |

Organizational Support Provided by
Trade Union Research Bureau and
Social Planning & Research Council of B.C.

Victory! Victory! Victory!



In the last few issues there have articles on the proposal of Bad Homes (sorry, that's Brad Holme, the developer responsible for the monstrosity at the corner of Carrall and Cordova) to build 100 or more condos across the street from Woodward's... and to put 50 boxes in the alley behind for us.

The word boxes is right - 120 sq. ft. and self-contained with shower, toilet, bed, chair and maybe room to turn around if you're careful. Each would be 10'x 12'.

Holme's bad plan went to the Development Permit Board, even though it had been turned down somewhere else. He had City Planners on his side, but we had us on our side. It wasn't an argument so much about size, even though this is crucial to livability, but to the concept that the poor get the dregs..are in their element in a dark alley..don't deserve anything that will lower the profit margin.

Sara and Jeff did some pretty fair organising and a bunch of other people got it together to go. Taxis left Carnegie with people from the Dodson and a few dozen formed the core of the Downtown Eastside contingent at City Hall.

There were about ten people who spoke and gave the facts on every side:

Holme said his design was livable.

- 'someone' from the Dodson tore him up with a detailed explanation of what the problem of frying wieners could amount to when all you have room for is a microwave;
- 'someone' made a masking tape outline of one room on the floor and had the board members get up and look at it - from the "inside";
- 'someone' showed them anyone in a wheelchair couldn't even get in and close the door

- 'someone' said, "His [Holme's] bathroom is probably bigger than this!"

Muggs spoke, Barb Daniel from DERA spoke, Bud Osborn fired poetry at them, and I think Marg Green and Monica Hay also spoke..among the more civilised arguments presented.

The uncivilised arguments? ...well, 'someone' had the damned gall to question Bad Homes' (there I go again.. *Holme's!*) statement that "...this wouldn't cost taxpayers a cent." It breaks down ---

- at \$200 per square foot, it costs \$24,000 to build one of these units
- financing is about \$200 per unit per month, \$2400 per year or \$48,000 total over 20 years.
- operating costs (heat, cleaning, taxes, lights, management) are \$250 per month, \$3000 per year or \$60,000 total over 20 years
- total cost to build and operate over 20 years is therefore \$108,000 per unit
- but welfare will pay at least \$325 a month, \$3900 a year or \$80,000 minimum over 20 yrs.

That \$80,000 is more than enough to pay his (Holme's) mortgage. The taxpayer is buying the building for him and paying more than half of the operating costs. All he has to do is pay the rest of the operating costs..after 20 years he owns it outright.

No ordinary citizen could get a deal like that. An ordinary citizen is not allowed to use welfare to pay equity on their house; they would have to sell the home. But here is welfare, buying a building for a developer and letting him keep it.

The other side of the equation: what is Holme getting in the way of extra density?

◇ he gets to build at least one extra floor of condos, say 14 condos on it at \$125,000 apiece... that's an extra \$1.8 million in revenue... profit margin is 30 percent because it's the top floor... 30% of \$1.8million is - \$600,000. (and that's one extra floor)

The way to see it from here is 6,000 hotel units in the D.E., at \$325 (minimum) each equals \$1.95 million per month in shelter allowances. This is the kind of money that could be invested in social housing to give a long term return on 'taxpayers' bucks and long-term security of tenure for thousands of low-income residents.

Speaker after speaker roasted the Bad Homes concept and, at the end, a city staffer was asked "Why, given all the highly intelligent analysis provided by this community, is City Staff supporting this proposal?" The scapegoat, John Jessup, had to defend it for some nefarious reason tied to "units"... the same kind of reasoning that is being tie-dyed with the "Victory Square Neighbourhood" bunkum.

Poor people are not going to be stuck in alleys and in the dead ends of properties just to salve the tiny consciences of planners and developers. There is a crying need for thousands of social housing units, detox and counselling services, street workers, drug and alcohol rehab centres, childcare, and pay for the enormous work to be done here.

You need a plan.

The major victory, after the Development Permit Board voted unanimously to disallow Holme's proposal, was them telling him that HE HAS TO TALK WITH THE COMMUNITY!!! This is the first time in memory that this board, through which every development has to come, has told a

Congratulations Downtown Eastsiders!
Activists like you make all the difference in community life between passive acceptance of injustice and declining standards of living, and community self-respect and defence of rights and the securing of humane conditions of living.

Thanks.

Bea Ferneyhough [89 years young]

developer that he or she has to talk to the people who will be affected by their designs.

This means that bullshit consultations where you are just presented with blueprints and given 5 minutes to say what lines you don't like, or public meetings where there is no venue to air community concerns in a meaningful way, may be a thing of the past. (Not likely, but it's an eye opener to think that developers will have to can most of their crap.)

By PAULR TAYLOR



The next:
SENSATIONAL SARTI WALK
to
Colony Farm
in the wilds of
Coquitlam
Friday, June 14



Meet at Info at 10:00 a.m.

Sign up with Marina

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Now that June has rolled around again, it's time for that event that happens every year, the annual general meeting of the Carnegie Community Centre Association.

The AGM is the occasion for reviewing the past year's accomplishments, and setting the course for the activities for the coming 12 months. As a democratic organization that represents all the patrons of Carnegie, everything the Association does is on the public record, and must meet with approval of the members.

This year's AGM will be held on THURSDAY, JUNE 6, starting at 7 PM in the theatre.

The Board has worked very hard in the past year, dealing with challenges in the community and in the Centre. The details of these activities will be available in the reports of the various Committees at the AGM (or later to any member), so I will just touch on them now to give an idea of how many different areas we were involved in.

One of the Association's main responsibilities is to help develop and maintain programs for the Centre. In the past year, we have:

- * Raised money for programs through bingo and a casino.
- * Helped fund the Volunteer program, including out-trips and special chili dinners in five-week welfare months.
- * Co-sponsored and helped pay for special events, like the children's Christmas party, New Years and the Anniversary Celebration.
- * Donated \$3,000 for new serving equipment in the concession area.
- * Launched and/or supported a variety of programs, including arts-and-crafts, AIDS awareness, cultural-sharing, the Women's Memorial March, shows in the art gallery, memorial services and a Downtown Eastside baseball team.
- * Published those invaluable guides to news and information, the Carnegie Newsletter, and Help In The Downtown Eastside, as well as Sandy Cameron's History of the neighborhood, "Fighting for Community: Stories from the Carnegie Centre and the Downtown Eastside."



* Lobbied the parks board successfully for the new children's play area, year-round indoor programming space and kitchen improvements at Oppenheimer Park, to be completed by this summer; and bought cooking pots for the park's food program

In the realm of community affairs, Carnegie continues to play an important role in defending residents from the changes that are sweeping through our neighborhood. In the past year, we were active in the campaign to get social housing in Woodward's, and in combatting the tide of condos that is threatening our homes, and we were active in community committees dealing with substance abuse, violence, women's affairs, native culture and other issues.

Of course, none of this could have been accomplished without the dedication of so many Carnegie volunteers. They are the not-so-secret ingredient that makes Carnegie the most unique and successful community centre in the entire country.

At the AGM, elections will be held for the 15 positions on the Board. The Board meets once a month to consider and vote on the decisions facing the Association.

To be eligible to run for the Board, you must have been a member for 60 days - no later than April 6. To vote, in the election, you must have been a member by May 22.

But that's not the only place you can participate. The Association is structured into committees, which meet regularly and invite all members to take part. (Dates and times are posted throughout the building.)

These committee meetings are the real nuts-and-bolts of decision-making - the forum where policies are discussed and directions worked out. They report directly to the Board.

So, however you want to participate, you're more than welcome.

See you at the AGM!

Muggs Sigurgeirson
President

The Annual General Meeting of the Carnegie Community Centre Assn. will be held at Carnegie Community Centre, 401 Main St., Vancouver at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 1996, for the purpose of hearing reports, electing directors & all other business as may properly be brought before the meeting.

**Annual General Meeting
of the
Carnegie Community Centre Association**

**Thursday, 6 June 1996, at 7 p.m.
in the Theatre**

All Welcome

To vote, you must have been a member by May 22.

To run for the Board, you must have been a member by April 6.

Dear DERA:

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association has always struck me as being an organization with a number of people working in an office and in various social housing buildings.

I dread to think what this area of town might be like had it not been for DERA's collective efforts over the years.

As a peripheral character in the DEside, I always thought that DERA was one big happy family, but it was pointed out to me recently that this has not always been the case.

In a newsletter article before the BC election, I laid lavish praise on a candidate who had once been a DERA employee, feeling certain that my opinions were commonly shared throughout the DEside community.

I now know that this is not so, and from several reliable sources I know why this is not so. I knew nothing about the candidate until that person had been on city council for several months, and my opinions were based solely on the person's activities in that position.

If my pre-election article aroused any hurtful feelings, I sincerely apologize.

Gary Gust

One Elevated Day

Skytrain ran
that cold dan
day in February
she she she she.

Faces all opaque
sitting waiting for quake
or spare change of rainforest
to jingle tingle trickle down.

Plastic in wallets, no pets allowed
wendy trendy costly hairdos
all turquoise proud
eyes like pissholes in the snow.

Skytrain ran off rail,
not a passenger noticed,
all too busy body
counting bank balances.

john alan douglas