

FREE - donations accepted.

Carnegie

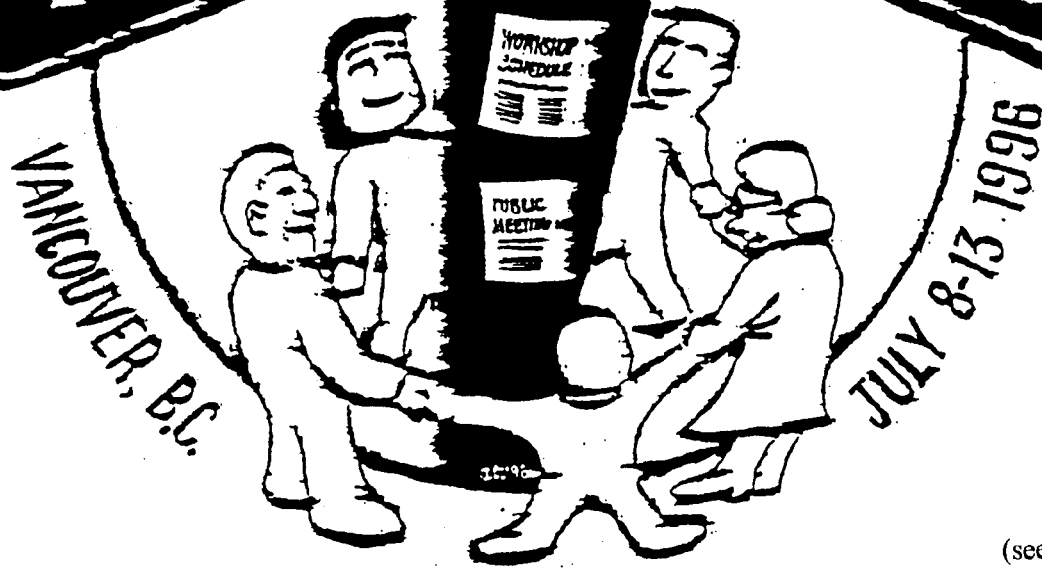


NEWSLETTER

JULY 1, 1996

PEOPLE'S GATHERING FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH

MAIN ST. HASTINGS ST.



VANCOUVER, B.C.

JULY 8-13, 1996

(see page three)

AN INITIATIVE OF THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE AND STRATHCONA COMMUNITIES

In The Midst Of War

In the morning
of September 27, 1915,
a cry arose from
No Man's Land
between the British and German lines
in France
during World War One.

A wounded British soldier
had recovered consciousness
after lying for two days
close to the German lines.
The other British soldiers
heard this cry of anguish
and looked at each other silently
No one could walk in No Man's Land
and live,
especially in the daytime.

One young soldier named Baxter
could not keep silent,
He ran along the trench
asking for others to help him
rescue the wounded man.
No one would help.
It was suicide to go out there.
Baxter went alone toward the German lines.
He walked slowly waving a handkerchief.
The Germans fired to frighten him,
but he kept coming.
The Germans stopped shooting
and let Baxter approach.
He dressed the wounds of the soldier
close to the German lines.
He gave him a drink of rum
and some biscuits.
The German soldiers watched.
They knew there was a truth here
deeper than the guns of empire -
a truth about the dream of justice
of poor and working people
in every nation.

WIND SONG

Your kiss, dear baby
The way all the Birds
come right up to you
And adore your most precious face,
your heart and your strength
I wish to kiss your nice warm lips;
you have nice, pearly white teeth
Our summer love is true
When you're away, I cry tears in the chapel
I remember and enjoy our good times together
You lift up my heart, right up to heaven
every day
The raintree waves at me
Eagle as you fly you blow sweet kisses to me
Our wedding bouquet has been tossed to those
who are yet to be married in Holy Matrimony
Our kisses are kisses of fine kisses me, baby blue.

Love Nola



Baxter promised the wounded man
that he would return that night,
and he did return with a stretcher party.
The wounded man lived.

In the midst of war
a young man built community.

Sandy Cameron



You've probably heard about the big 3.
International AIDS Conference going on
downtown this month. It'll cost you \$300.00 to
attend.

That's why the Downtown Eastside/Strathcona
community is organizing its own alternate AIDS
conference, completely free of charge, to make
sure that the people who really need the
information will be able to get it.

This free gathering is called the People's
Gathering for Community Health, and it's Mission
Statement and Executive Summary follow.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Downtown Eastside and Strathcona
Communities - their residents, places of learning,
groups/associations, service agencies and
businesses - in recognition of the serious
consequences of the recent outbreak of HIV
positivity in Canada's poorest neighbourhood, are
committed to addressing the problem in an
inclusive community-based way. As part of this
commitment, the community will hold a People's
Gathering July 8-13, 1996, utilizing its own
resources, expertise, and people. The gathering
will strive for maximum community involvement,
for a greater awareness of how HIV and other
serious diseases can be prevented and the
devastating potential in human terms if we fail.
The gathering will be multi-faceted and inclusive
of all age groups without regard to religious
background, race/ethnicity, and socio-economic
level. The People's Gathering is a community
participation process model in which the
community becomes informed and active in
fostering and protecting its own health and well-
being.



Executive Summary

The "People's Gathering For Community
Health" is a project sponsored by community
agencies, residents and consumers in the
DES/Strathcona. A recent study shows that a
growing epidemic of HIV infection among
injection drug users only adds to the health risks
facing these neighbourhoods, which are already
beset with health and social problems associated
with poverty.

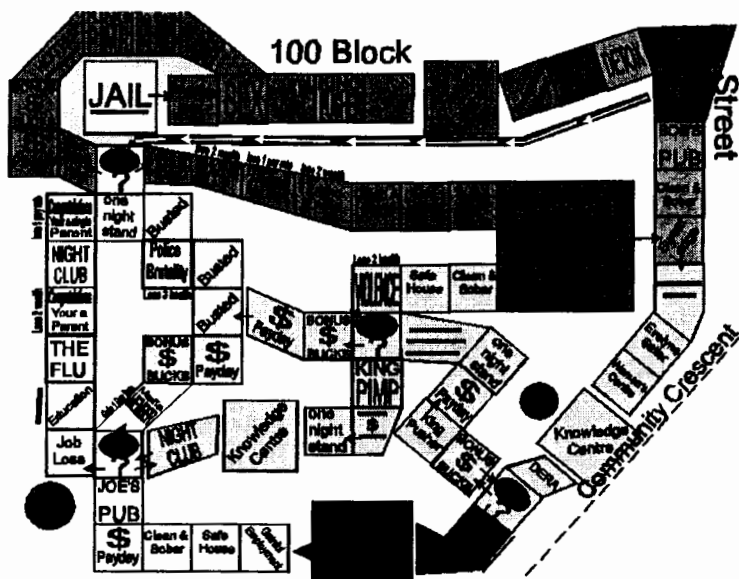
Given the limited resources, the community
chose to hold the event to coincide with the
International AIDS Conference to draw attention
to the lack of support given to community-based
programs. The gathering is being held at virtually
no cost to provincial tax payers, and is intended as
a starting point for collective activity rather than
an event that has a beginning and an end.

Events will be held at various places around the
DES, including an information fair at
Oppenheimer Park on Monday July 8, so check it
out for information, look for schedules at most
DES locations or contact coordinator Darren
Guerra at 254-9949.

Free daycare for workshop days (Tues. July 9 -
Fri. July 12) call Robin at 254-9949 (to July 6)
and 682-7277 (July 8 - 12)

RISKY BUSINESS

A LIFE-SIZE BOARD GAME



Thursday, July 11, 1996

The Evelyne Saller Centre 320 Alexander Street

You are invited to attend and participate in a unique event in correlation with The Alternate AIDS Conference (July 7 - 13).

We here at the Evelyne Saller Centre have created a life-size Role Playing - Board Game focusing on the hazards of high risk lifestyles. Starting around 10:00am, multiple players will travel around a play area (designed loosely after our neighborhood), participating in almost all aspects of eastside life, and attempting to stay clear of transmittable diseases, all the while acquiring money and experience, and knowledge, which is the object of the game.

Big Prizes and food are available for the participants.

Refreshments will be served for all who attend.

Anyone interested in playing, or just has questions, is asked to call Trevor at the Evelyne Saller Centre 665 - 3075

PORTLAND PLANS PREPARED

The long awaited preliminary plans for the new Portland Hotel at 20 West Hastings are finally ready.

The Architects for the project, Alain Prince and Nick Milkovich, along with City staff, met with a number of community representatives on Thursday, June 6 at Strathcona Community Centre to unveil the design.

The plan calls for 72 units, some of them modified for the disabled, ranging in size from 275 to 400 square feet. Each unit has a bed and living area, a shower, and a sink, fridge and a counter for a hotplate and microwave.

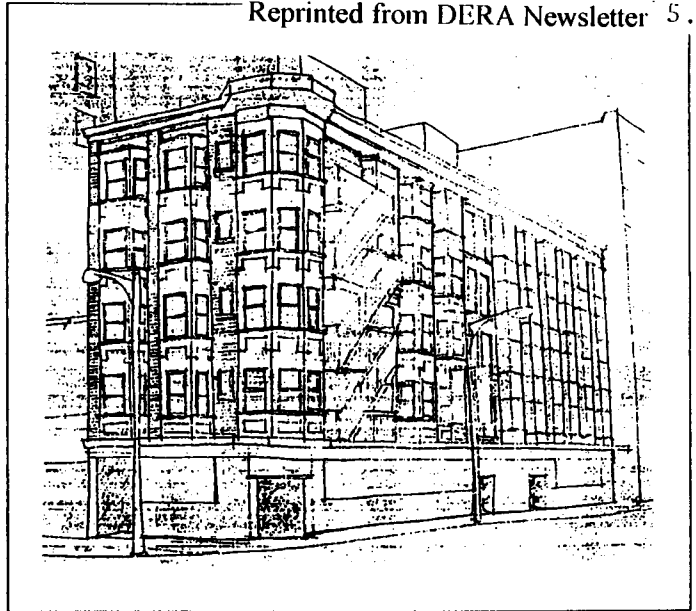
The units would at first appear to be really small, but each floor also has a common living room/dining area, and full kitchen facilities. If you include the extra common areas, above what is required in

any development, the actual size per unit varies from 400 square feet to 525 square feet for the modified units.

The ground floor will have a large commercial type kitchen and the large dining area will be open to the public during the day, and will serve as a social event/meeting space for residents the rest of the time.

There is also parking in the rear and large garden areas for

Reprinted from DERA Newsletter 5.



The Portland Hotel

building residents.

The architects and city staff will be at the DERA General Meeting on June 20 at 1:00 p.m. at Carnegie to show off the plans and model and to answer any questions about the proposal.

poem for

daddy yeltsin
daddy clinton
daddy chretien
daddy major

June 16/96

Happy dada day weeders of the western world
May you be perfumed rolling over n' over
wallowing in your sweet deficits
whilst streetpeople & the poor
eat krap dinner or starve
you bask by swimming pools
whilst world children waste away

you put stocks n' bonds away
whilst many too many go nowhere
you jet sit just about everywhere
at the voters' expanding expense.

Happy dada day, would there could there be

A WAY

for each of you to "live"
on welfare for a month or three!

john a douglas June 1996

will injure, get broken
or break, will be fooled
has been, and pasted here
aches its presence among us

a voice unfettered by dreams
of vast competence

like a darkness in the room
that moved from place to place

and who is jealous of whom?
I've forgotten just now
what my face told me, and theirs
the way they signed
a subtler discourse, and what that meant
that hierarchy of glances
which was everything
unsaid, and thus carried
inestimable weight

somewhere
like a limb we can't see
the negligible
slumped in its jealousy

would night be just a shadow
in endless fields of light
or the sun a pinhole vision
in a prison of endless night?



Ex-hooker to johns: You all make my skin crawl

Canadian Press

EDMONTON — There are no exams at the reform school for johns, but the subject matter isn't easy.

"You all make my skin crawl," an ex-prostitute told a captive audience of 25 men.

"You may have thought it was my choice to be out there, but you made it easier for me to be out there," she said between tears.

The confrontation was part of a one-day course by Edmonton police for 25 men caught in a sting this month.

They had a choice: Attend or face criminal charges.

Another former prostitute swore at the men.

"I am not for sale. I never liked sex with you, and I certainly didn't feel like a pretty woman when I was there."

The men could only listen. Some closed their eyes; others never looked up.

Members of neighborhoods where prostitution takes place described their children playing with condoms, being solicited while they walked the dog

and seeing women and men engage in sex acts on the street in broad daylight.

"It's not so much I hate you. I don't hate you. The effect you have on my neighborhood I hate," said Harvey Voogd.

A man in his 20s said his day in john school would deter him from buying sex.

"Hearing about the kids witnessing all the stuff that goes on, that's probably the hardest."

The program is styled after one in San Francisco. Police plan to hold one a month.



NICK MACK

Niccolo Machiavelli is one of the fathers of political science and the term Machiavellian is almost a household word.

His most famous book, *The Prince*, was written in 1513 as a gift for Lorenzo de Medici, one of the members of the powerful ruling Medici family.



Machiavelli came from a time in the European renaissance known as Humanism, which is why he sought to explain politics not according to church-sanctioned structures but based on an understanding of human nature.

Machiavelli mentioned that it was within the framework of a political unit, be it a monarchy or a political party, to use any means to keep itself in power, including use of the military. Speak softly and carry a big stick. In Machiavelli's case it was speak eloquently and make use of your militia.

He said that politics is a combination of being as smart as a fox to avoid 'political booby traps' and as fierce as a lion to carry your point across even amongst competitors. He also said that people can be hated as much for their good deeds as for their bad deeds. His ideal characteristic was a man of virtue (as opposed to virtue with an e). Virtue is a combination of kindness with the ability to be strategically cruel.

Machiavelli spoke of fortune. There is nothing to do in the advent of good fortune (like winning a lottery or getting a raise) but to enjoy it. And you can do nothing about bad fortune (like an earthquake) except to prepare for it beforehand.

An antidote for being politically obsessed is a

work of Henry David Thoreau called *Walden*. An alternative to politics is the *Tao te Ching*, written by Lao Tzu.

Machiavelli is given a bad rap through history, but he was quite a brilliant man. He said that for a politician, it is better to be feared than loved, but not to the point of being hated.

B.C.'s politics are very Machiavellian with public relations' strategies, internal intrigues and use of security guards and the police.

By DEAN KO

SENSATIONAL SARTI WALK!

FRIDAY, JULY 5TH

10 A.M.

TO

BOUNDARY BAY



Images from the last Sarti walk to Colony Farm



SIGN UP WITH MARINA

(fun, informative and healthy)

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to my attention that a concerted effort is being made by members of the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee to pressure the ministry conducted at 59 Powell Street from continuing in that location. This is reprehensible. It is also a clear case of the new kids on the block trying to say what long-time residents can and can't do on "their" street.

When I first arrived in Vancouver in late 1981, I took up residence in the Gastown Lodge (later the Silver Lodge until it was burned down) and getting up before 8 a.m., and sometimes getting up at all, was worth it to go to the Dugout for a coffee. After a few months of being there in the early morning line, I was asked one morning if I could put sugar and a stirstick in the cups as the line went by. I said I could and began volunteering, for about 20 minutes, every day. Until 1989 I missed maybe a couple of weeks; otherwise I was there every day. I saw many people in all states of inebriation, sobriety, economic malaise and going to work, all coming in after surviving the night. It is the most essential service to many people... the class of whom I never felt to be 'above'.

It is this last that is most galling in the efforts of GHAPC and cohorts to rid "their" neighbourhood (sic) of people whom they label as "undesirables" and "a blight." Their underlying agenda is property value, nothing more. It is a crass and crummy attempt to get people who have lived in this area for decades out of sight (and immediately out of mind). There is nothing noble or altruistic about this effort. No matter what nice-sounding arguments they may make or incentives (bribes) offered, it will come to threats and pressure on you as overseers of the United Church's ministry in the poorest urban area in Canada. Poor people are not going to just vanish as the relentless drive to extinguish the Downtown Eastside continues. There is no compromise in these people's minds.



A Rewarding Experience

Running as a candidate in the provincial election was most interesting. I learned a great deal about the biased mainstream media and the constituency I represented. I felt proud to be a voice for low income people and small businesses who are hanging on by the skin of their teeth.

I would like to thank everyone for their support - it was overwhelming. A special thanks is in order for the Carnegie Community Centre, musicians,

numerous friends, neighbours and everyone who voted for me.

Reverend Barry Morris and members of the Longhouse Church were most supportive, as well as Stuart Parker and the other Green Party candidates. Last but not least a special bouquet to Alison Cameron, who was my campaign manager.

Next month I shall be going to a family reunion in Saskatchewan. The celebration is to take place on the farm where I grew up.

Irene Schmidt

They go far beyond their mandate to protect the historic nature of Gastown. This same crew is also acting as a taste police, saying to the owner of the Lucky Lodge building that the exterior colours are ugly! They have opposed probation and detox services and tried to have public services, like the Women's Centre, Crabtree, Carnegie, DEYAS, DERA, First United, St. James , etc., regulated as sex shops are now regulated - a distance of not less than 1000 feet between each, or only one per block, or even one per neighbourhood - because they are "a blight" on their streets.

I urge you to take a principled and spiritual stand against these exploitative and manipulative people. You have long withstood such crude economic pressure disguising classism. The poor and unfortunate are just not good enough for this new crew, these "urban pioneers" who have little or no regard for the fact that this community is peopled with almost 10,000 souls who live imaginative lives. The Dugout performs a valuable and critical service and it is not something to just be moved or relocated to appease the snobs on one block.

Respectfully submitted,

PaulR Taylor,

Editor, Carnegie Newsletter

Member of the Board of Directors, Carnegie Community Centre Association

Member of the Board of Directors, Four Sisters Housing Co-operative

Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors, End Legislated Poverty

Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors, Downtown Eastside Residents' Association

Treasurer and Co-Chair of the Board of Directors, Tenants' Rights Action Coalition

Treasurer and Member of the steering committee, Action Canada Network (BC)

Treasurer and Member of the Board of Directors Ananda Marga Canada.



Dear Paul,
I am so glad you are feeling better, and thank you for reminding me of my overdue mailing. I have been meaning to send in something Newsletter (Bruce too). It's like reading about real things. It's the best read in the city!
Here's mailing/small donation. Thankyou!
Libby Davies



Dear Friends,
Thank you for sending me regularly your newsletter which I appreciate and enjoy greatly.
Enclosed is this small donation.
Keep up the good work!
Guy M.



Hi,
Thanks for the newsletter sent me by Bea Ferneyhough. Please enter this as just 'Kay F' and keep up the good work.
K.F.

SENIOR'S CORNER

Well we finally received some warm weather for outings. One day we went to the Pitch and Putt in Stanley Park. A lone raccoon wandered in front of us after we teed off.

The camping trip at Cultus Lake was most



enjoyable. George and I worked on the bingo Monday night so we had a real adventure catching the City Links bus the following morning. I had to flag the bus down at Nanaimo and Hastings and happened to be the first passenger of the day. George was waiting for us at Sapperton.

Sandy picked George and I up at Abbotsford and we had a scenic drive to Cultus Lake. I was happy to see that Gram and Basil were enjoying themselves.

The next morning a group of us went canoeing all around the lake. I have never seen the lake so calm and it was a bright and sunny day. There was an abundance of wildflowers and the fragrance of wild roses seemed to be everywhere.

We made one stop on the other side of the lake to stretch our legs. I think we all learned a great deal from our expert instructor Diana.

That evening a respected elder who lived nearby came and did some drumming and story-telling by a campfire. It was most enjoyable and even the mosquitoes joined us in vast numbers.

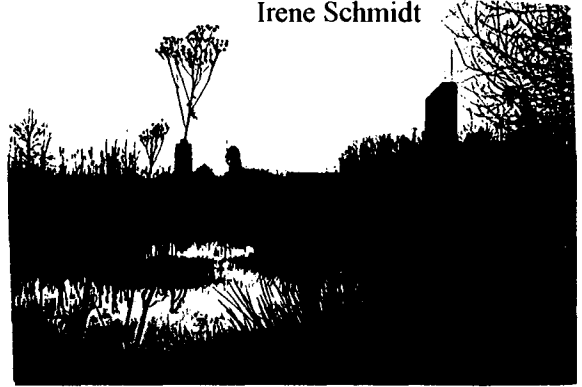
The following morning John led us on a hike up to Teapot Hill. It was such a beautiful walk and Eva and I never saw such a variety of butterflies including a purple one. I was wishing I had brought my butterfly book.

On June 20 the seniors went on the Arasheena and sailed up to Bowen Island. We were served a delicious lunch once we arrived at Snug Cove. We had choices of what we wanted to do. The

more active group chose to hike up to Killarney Lake while others went for a short walk or stayed in the village. A mass of water-lilies covered Killarney Lake and the trails were surrounded by dense forest.

If you really want adventure join us in the next Pitch and Putt outing in Central Park. I only hope the golf ball does not act like a boomerang this time, by hitting the tree in front of me and bouncing back to where it started.

Irene Schmidt



Lake with Carnegie Centre

Could it rain in Hell? Not the fire and brimstone of yore but a soggy damp misery of damp and cold, soaking wet? Hiking along a wet trail, slippery in mud. Not much further to go now, Ah! a bottle! Ten cents!

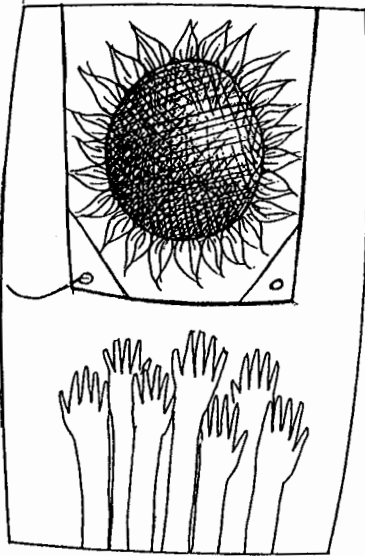
Hiked upstream to the fire break. Lots of gunfire in the air. Deer running forever. A branch breaks. Thud.

A cold mouse nose on your feet (heal). Snowball caught the mouse in Sequoia Cabin - white persian kittens sell for \$850.

Next day very much drier. Hiked up Teapot Hill.. three kinds of ferns. Spiny-covered maple bush.. Devil's Claw (highly toxic).

On a raft with Mickey Finnsky, banjo accompaniment. Saw a yellow and white turtle in the water. It had red ears. The blue jay wanted his feather back.. lost it on the trails... Going crackers Cashed in the cans for beans and rice.

DOWNTOWN



BANNER PROJECT!

Together we can make a more beautiful neighbourhood!

What would you like to see happen?

- ...more housing?
- ...more trees?
- ...more safety?

paint it on a banner!
the sky is the limit!

WOW!

Please call us for information if you would like to participate as a volunteer

Downtown Banner Project
331-6944



The Downtown Banner Project has been produced with assistance from the Public Dreams Society, The Office of Cultural Affairs (City of Vancouver) and many other generous volunteers and sponsors.

Let's make our neighbourhood look great!



A free workshop will be held at:

**SUNDAY, JULY 7TH
FROM 12 TO 4 P.M.
OPPENHEIMER PARK**

Snacks & beverages will be provided!

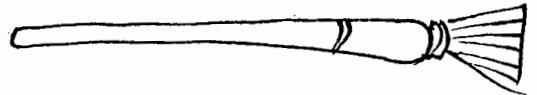


bring your kids and their drawings!

You are invited...

11.

The Downtown Eastside Banner Project invites you to take part in a banner painting workshop happening in your neighbourhood soon!



Anyone can paint a banner...

Artistic or painting skills are not required.

Help will be available during the workshop to make things go easy.

If you have a drawing you like, please bring it and we will help you enlarge it for the banner.

I'm talking to you
 - with my mouth
 I'm screaming at you
 -with my breath
 I'm crying for you
 -with my eyes
 I'm dying with you
 -from my insides.

I'm trapped in this place
 where I am
 I'm not sure what
 to do anymore.
 I put on so many masks
 and do what I'm
 supposed to.
 They don't like what
 I have to say
 They don't want me
 to live my way
 -I don't like the game
 they play.

I know you understand
 - it's like a merry-go-round.
 Go 'round and 'round
 our earth's cycle goes more,
 when it stops,
 we'll explode the whore!
 That's what I see in
 their eyes when
 they say:

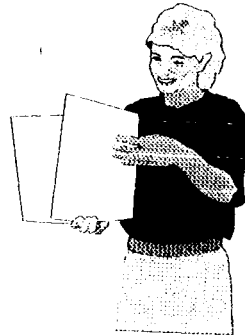
"Oh, you're not hungry,
 we can't spare.
You can't understand,
 we have to buy weapons
 and bombs and guns.
 And build ugly, concrete buildings!
 While you're at it,

cover that grass,
 that river, too!
 What the hell,
 Kill off a species or
 two!

I do not know if I'll
 avoid society's
 inevitable grave.
 I wish they would see me,
 would hear me,
 -would care.

I'm trapped in society's gaze,
 I don't know which way
 through the maze.
 I walk up and down
 this jaded path,
 this jagged path,
 this faded path.

I'm lost with this
 elusive rage,
 I'm locked in a
 translucent cage.
 I'm afraid I'm going to
 lose it all
 If I choose to break
 these chains and fall
 into the bottomless
 pit below.
 I'm screaming, screaming
 crying.
 I'm just not myself these days
 or so it seems.
 My tranquility remains
 to be seen
 Upon my pillow where I
 I do dream
 of my heart's
 desires.



Patty Juiliette
 Total Ed



Newsletter of the Carnegie Community Action Project

Want to get involved? Call 689-0397 or **July 1996** Come see us at the Carnegie (2nd floor)

You've Got To...Accentuate the Positive

Summer started on a high note this year, as the community united to defeat developer Brad Holme's plan to build up-scale condos and pathetic little micro-suites in the old White Lunch building on Hastings Street.

You can read Dodson resident Eldon Jones' scathing analysis of that scheme -which he presented at City Hall- on p.2 of this newsletter.

Now it's time to move on from what we DON'T want on housing to decide what we DO want. We're going to need that consensus when the City and developers come around again peddling their plans for low-income housing.

The Carnegie Community Action Project joined with DERA to start a process of discussion on June 17 with a Public Forum. A room full of people braved the sweltering heat of the third floor at Carnegie to celebrate the latest victory against Brad Holme and to discuss where we're going next.

A report on this forum is reprinted in the last two pages of this newsletter.

'Egg crate'
suites plan
gets roasting
Developer
gives up on
East Hastings
micro-suites

CCAP is continuing it's process of holding community meetings in hotels. Lots more discussion and opinions are needed. Lot's more discussion is needed. If you want to take part, contact CCAP at 689-0397, or drop by the office on the second floor of the Carnegie.

Read on!

An Address to the Development Permit Board

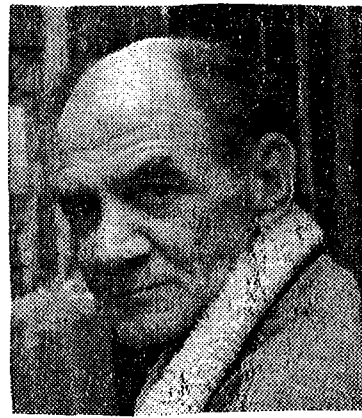
Development Permit Board Members,

My name is Eldon Jones. I'm on the Board of Directors for the Vancouver Second Mile Society, the Woodwards Committee, the Woodwards Co-op Committee, and the Carnegie Community Action Project. I also have lived in the New Dodson Hotel for the past ten years and have worked on the tugs for 37 years. So I believe I know what it is like to live in a confined space.

I have talked to a lot of people who live in S.R.O's about this development proposal of 145 sq. ft. units and some of the feedback I personally received I couldn't repeat in public. But some of the comments and feelings that I myself and others think are: "I couldn't change my socks in that space!" - "When you go in you have to back in to be able to walk out forwards." - "It's no bigger than a jail cell." The list goes on....

I would like the developers who want to construct these matchbox-like units to build a prototype in their backyards and try to socialize, cook, bathe, or even go to the toilet, let alone try to sleep without having a nervous breakdown.

Which brings up the medical end of living in what is so aptly called a jail cell: who foots the medical bills? I guess it means if a person wants to get rid of an unwanted guest, just build them a 145 sq. ft. self-contained unit -that would do it!



I also feel the money developers put into these units they get back four times over in the next twenty years, based on the current welfare guidelines of \$325 a month. Wouldn't the City and government benefit by building decent housing for people of the Downtown Eastside instead of lining a developer's pockets?

All it is doing is making rich men richer so they can build more sub-standard units to line their pockets even more.

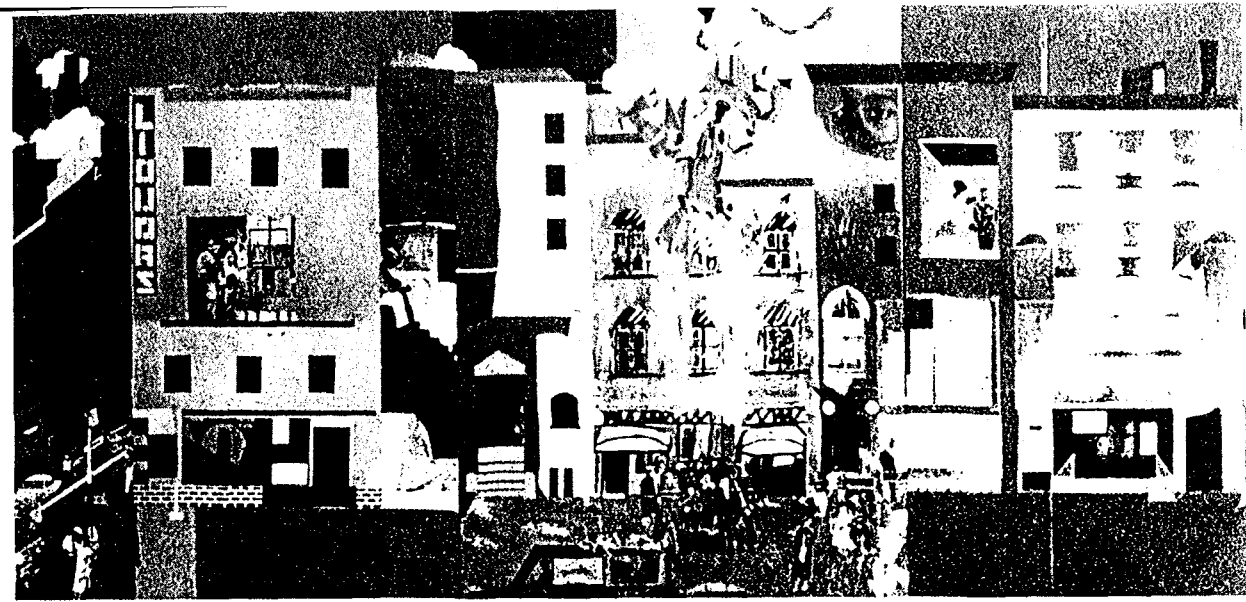
I have also learnt that it costs the developer approximately \$230 a square foot for new construction of a unit. But consider this equation of $\$325 \times 12 \times 20 \text{ yrs.} = \$79,000!$ And that \$325 is not frozen rent. There will be rent increases over the next years.

Another issue which has people concerned is having an entrance way down a dark alley. You would have to carry a baseball bat with you to go to the store in fear of getting mugged. This is no solution to crime. It only breeds it.

So please keep in mind: could you or would you live in the situation I have outlined?

If so, accept this proposal; if not, reject it.

Thank you.



HERE'S WHAT WE SAID

Thanks to the united voices of Downtown Eastside residents and organizations, Brad Holme's "condo and egg carton" scheme is history. So now that we've made it clear what we don't want, the City is asking the Downtown Eastside what we do want. At a CCAP Public Forum on the 17th of June, local people spoke about this. On this page and the back page are some of the ideas expressed at the Forum.

On the "Micro-Suites":

- "What is a good room size?"
- All suites should be like handicapped suites. They have better use of space, more open layout.
- Brad Holme's proposal is just like a coffin, a cupboard, a box, a bathroom. Like they have in cities all over the world. Is that where we're headed?
- We don't want to limit the number of square feet we'd get in any low-income housing development. Once we put a cap on it, that's all we'll ever get.
- People focus on the lowest cost and getting what they can for the neighbourhood. But we should be thinking about the condos. Condos drive gentrification.

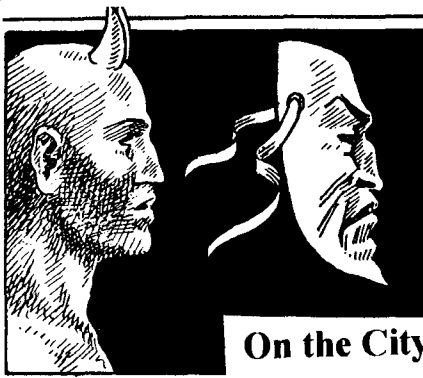
On Condos:

- The Brad Holme proposal is the first condo development Downtown Eastsiders have stopped. If we had protested more, we might have been able to block Brad's other two projects on the corner of Carrall and Cordova.

- "When can we cancel another one?"



Continued on back page



Continued
from page three

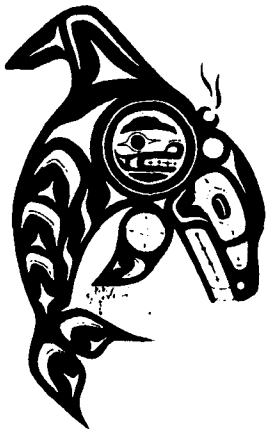
On the City's plans:

- Why should welfare pay for these units? In the Downtown Eastside, about \$2 million a month goes to private landlords to rent SRO's. Most of this money comes from welfare.

- Our rent money should be used to purchase hotels for local residents. These could be owned by the City and run as co-ops or non-profits.

- Why doesn't the City make developers like Brad build their micro-suites down here and take their condos to another neighbourhood - say North Van?

- The City should set aside money that comes from development and put it in a "Housing Bank" for the Downtown Eastside.



Thanks to everyone who came to the Forum and spoke, and especially to Ellen from NHP for taking these notes and Nathaniel for showing the video!!

The Forum ended with a call for another one. So CCAP is having our second Public Forum on Tuesday July 2nd at 10:30 am at the Carnegie. The topic is: "What do we want in a living space?" City Planner Nathan Edelson and the Tenant's Rights Action Coalition have been invited. Everyone is welcome!!

- Low-income people choose the Downtown Eastside because they feel it is home. Residents must have the final say on who builds what. Any development should be stopped if it isn't approved by us.

- The Tenants Right Action Coalition is calling for a moratorium on condos. That means no more condos in this area until approval is granted.

- Remember that other parts of the city have stopped other projects. How do we find our own voice as a community?

Plans for Action:

- The City Plan means homelessness. We need to draw together a coalition of groups around the principle of "Zero Displacement." That means if even one person is made homeless by a development plan then the plan is no good.

- 65% of the City's voters are renters. This could be an issue in the November municipal election.

- We have all kinds of Downtown Eastside organizations that protect us.

- The danger is that the City is chopping our neighbourhood into pieces (Chinatown, Gastown, Victory Square...). The Downtown Eastside is a whole with all kinds of groups and areas contained within it.

PUBLIC FORUM



Pray for Dick's Spirit

A fellow tenant died in this hotel apparently between May 22 and June 2, 1996. I didn't know him and asked what his existence meant to me? Nothing much... and this is deplorable.

That he died here, in what is described as "a safe and secure environment," is sad. He was only 38 and could have lived longer. That his body was in his room decomposing for eleven days before it was discovered makes me question how safe and secure is this building? Has life here been criminal for the last eleven days? Are we all guilty of not getting to know our neighbouring tenants and at least daily asking after their welfare? Or is this the best we can do to and for one another?

Surely, primitive tribes had more regard for one another.

I've been living in a hotel with a fellow tenant's decomposing physical self. I'm in a state of shock, I'm disgusted and I'm mad as hell! More important right now is how his spirit self regards me. How guilty does his spirit find me?

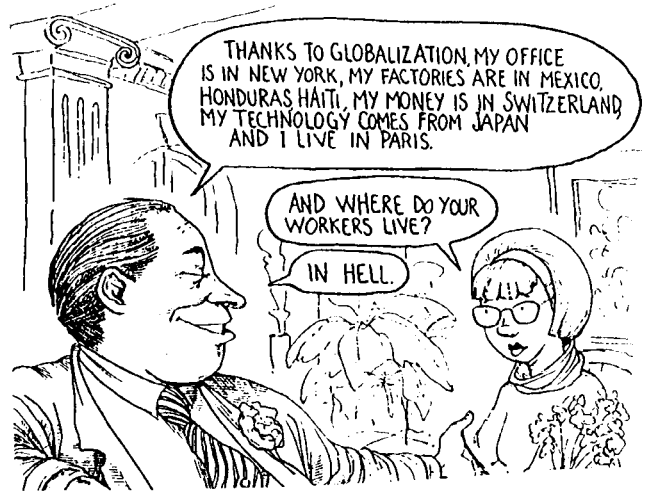
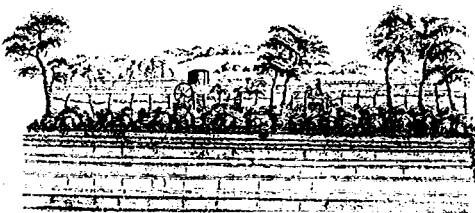
What can I do to make life here move away from the last criminal eleven days? What can I do to get over his anonymous life and anonymous death?

I can regard my life today as a gift, and the lives of my remaining fellow tenants as a gift. I can try to be more respectful of this gift that we all share. Please help me to remember this each day.

Can we not try and weave our last eleven days into the fabric of our present and future existence in such a way as to make our lives like cloth? For only a time was the very coarsest and most tenuous of threads on the loom.
God bless you Dick. May your Spirit rest in peace.

Sincerely,

Wayne, MPA Member 2606



Court Clears Innu Supporters

In the autumn of 1995, nine people were arrested in Toronto for trespassing at the British and Dutch consulates in support of the Innu in their fight against low-level military flights over their land in Labrador.

The trial took place in April, 1996, in Toronto, and many witnesses told of the hardships these flights caused the Innu - heart attacks, miscarriages of pregnant women, constant fear, sleeplessness, and environmental damage.

Witnesses told how the jets appeared without warning, and they described the fierce bang as the jets flew by, just above the treetops.

The Justice of the Peace noted the years of work that the defendants had peacefully performed within the law to draw attention to the injustice of low-level military flights. He then dismissed the trespassing charges against the nine people who had been arrested.

"The defendants broke the letter of the law...to prevent a greater evil, that is, to prevent the destruction of the Innu people and their basic human rights," the Justice of the Peace said. Therefore he ruled that their civil disobedience was justified, and compared their action to the action of a driver breaking the speed-limit in order to get somebody to the hospital.

(The Catalyst, Citizens for Public Justice May/June '96)

BC BENEFITS?

I have serious questions and concerns about where Premier Clark and Joy MacPhail learned their math. According to them, newly released numbers of people receiving social assistance indicates potential savings of \$350 to \$470 million. I believe that these so-called savings are mere shell games, because the government has only changed the names of programs, shifted funding pockets, and altered eligibility requirements for many of BC's needy.

- **D**id they begin this audit of savings with a \$47 million dollar deficit of withheld federal transfer payments because of the ninety-day residency requirement? Did they factor in the legal costs of Joy's challenge to the federal government? What about the costs to be incurred from people denied assistance who challenge the BC government in court and through the welfare appeal system?
- **B**y denying a person assistance, how did they find a savings in the cost of \$38 a night in a government funded shelter compared to the approximate \$10 a day provided by welfare for rent? If a desperate person commits a crime, this cost escalates to \$153 a night in jail!
- **P**eople between the ages of 19 and 24 have been transferred from the regular welfare role to a new program called 'Youth Works'. The reduction of their numbers from welfare has been reflected in this 'savings', but they are still receiving government dollars—all that has changed is the program name and funding pocket!
- **W**hat about the plan to provide up to \$103 for the 1-in-5 children of low-income families earning less than \$30,000? Its quite easy to see the savings to social assistance by shifting the support money that a welfare parent receives for a child to a new cheque called 'BC Bonus' from the BC Finance Department, but is this a 'savings' or even honest?
- **C**apital Regional District medical health officer, Dr. Richard Stanwick, reported that, "good nutrition is beyond the reach of the poor", and states that, "this can be the root cause of chronic disease later in life". Does this *really* mean that the dollars being saved now by welfare cuts will be spent twofold in the future through escalating medical problems and expenses?

I am insulted by this governments poor attempt at playing 'hide the pea'. I also don't believe that the tax-payers of BC are as interested in imaginary savings as they are in providing the real and necessary services to the provinces poor.

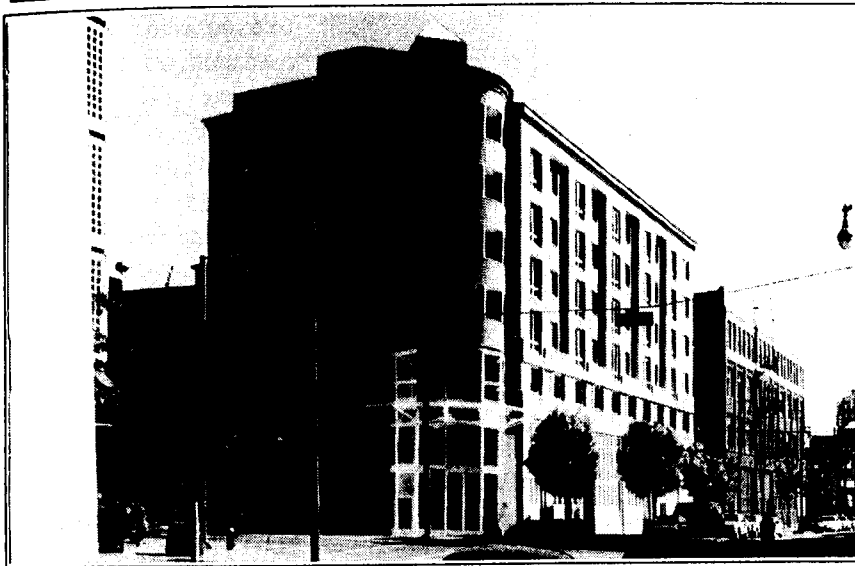
Don't try to fool us - We are not amused!

WHO BENEFITS?

Reprinted from Red Zone



BRIDGE HOUSING UPDATE



The Board and staff of Bridge Housing Society for Women have been working feverishly over the last months to raise the funds necessary to finance our project. The project is to be located at the southeast corner of Columbia and Cordova.

Just to remind readers about the Bridge project—we are building housing for forty-seven low-income single women in the Downtown Eastside, in addition we will be providing space at ground level for a women's resource centre. Our first tenants in that space will be the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, which has been serving women in the community for twenty years. The Centre's current location is cramped, poorly ventilated and generally inadequate.

We have raised \$5.5 million of the \$6.3 million that our project will

cost. The B.C. Housing Management Commission, and the Ministries of Women's Equality and Social Services, are funding the residential part of the project, but the money for the ground floor space—where the Women's Centre will be located—must be raised. So far, we have raised a significant portion of the \$one million we need to ensure that the project is built the way we, and the women of the Downtown Eastside, have envisioned it. The City of Vancouver, and the Vancouver Foundation, and the Face the World Foundation, among others, have given us grants, and other organizations and individuals have given generously, as well. In March a fundraiser was held with the cast of 'Showboat'.

Reprinted from DERA Newsletter



We hope to have our funding in place so that we can begin construction in the Fall of this year. Once we start building, the project will be completed in about one year. The Bridge Housing Society will be holding our Annual General Meeting on July 8, 1996. We invite new members to join the Society and our efforts to build this vital housing project. If you are interested in attending a meeting or speaking with a Board member, please call us at 251-1978, or reach us by mail at P.O. Box 4436, Vancouver, BC, V6B 3Z8. The Board would like to thank the Downtown Eastside residents, agencies and all others involved in the project thus far, for their support.

CHAOS AND FATE

Garry Gust

Chaos is an almost constant state that exists before a particular event occurs. After the event happens, it cannot be altered and is thereafter a particle of fate.

This specific fate did not exist before the event occurred, but was formed out of the random building bricks of chaos.

Thus, fate is an after-experience that teaches us, again and again, the power of chaos. The purpose is to incite us to learn from our experiences, and so evolve our well-being.

If we look back on our lives and remember only the bad things, we might think that fate has been unkind to us, but in actuality, we must blame our own inability to understand the state of chaos that exists around every material thing on earth.

From the sleeping volcano, to the smallest hunted animal in the food-chain. From mountain formations, to human societies.

Chaos is the wind that carries our scent to the predator.

Chaos is the fire that once having heated our home, burns down our house.

Chaos is the water that transports small grains of rock to form deltas at the mouth of a river.

Chaos is the greed that men practice in order to have more than other men.

With the knowledge of study, certain potential chaotic after-experiences can be predicted, and thus be specifically directed to a positive fate.

The ozone layer depletion is a fine example of intercepting a lethal fate by directing those who manufacture ozone-killing chemicals to cease and

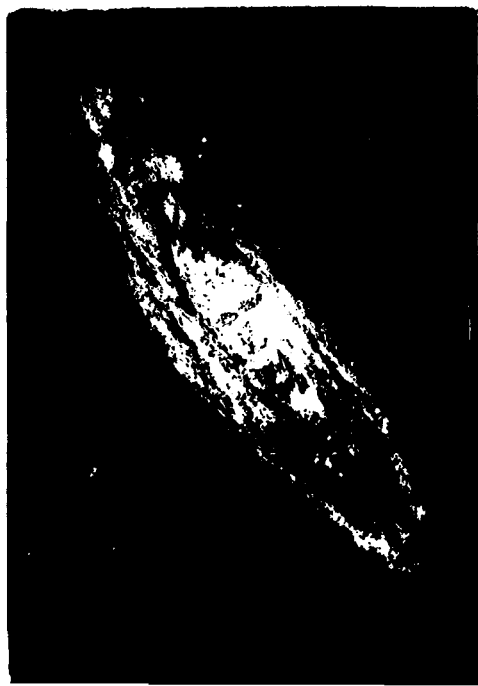
desist.

Here in B.C. some of our citizens now have criminal records because they attempted to direct lumber corporations to stop clear-cutting a major source of our oxygen supply.

The expanding communities of conservationists, the unemployed and welfare recipients have formed organizations to direct the saving of the planet from devastation, poverty, and economic slavery.

But when certain events are clearly predictable, and are ignored by the small elite of economic power brokers who control our governments, there can be no other course but to rise up and destroy the offending power, before it destroys countless millions of lives under the out-of-control capitalist system of economics.

We must begin to create our own chaos until the looming evil fate is defeated, and a positive evolution is back on track.



One afternoon a drug addict, an alcoholic, and a prostitute, who had all gone to the same school together, found themselves reunited in Pigeon park.

They sat on a bench to relive old memories, but eventually eased into the topic of how they had each arrived at their current condition.

"I never outgrew those weekend parties we used to have," said the alcoholic. "I've been going at it since grade ten, but the buggers keep raising the prices on me, so I gotta drink this Cheaper rice wine."

The drug addict pushed his shaking hands into his scruffy jacket pockets and related how he had moved out to Surrey in 1992. "At our first christmas office party I got my first snort of coke. Six months later I was coming down here every two weeks to score, and sort of graduated up to H. I live down here now. It's easier that way."

"I know what you mean," sighed the prostitute. "After graduation I started kicking around with bands, and there was loads of free junk around for awhile, but then I had to start putting out for everybody to feed my habit. Then they all lost interest in me so I took to the streets"

The three looked up as a score of pigeons fluttered down into the park to feed on freshly scattered handfuls of bread crumbs. For a minute the park was bathed in tranquillity as all eyes fixed upon the murmuring quiver of the pintoed birds.

Then the heavy boot thumps of a young man rushing to nowhere shooed the pigeons skyward, back to their safe-house on the edge of a red brick building across the street.

At 4:30 the alcoholic said he had to sweep some hotel hallway floors to make

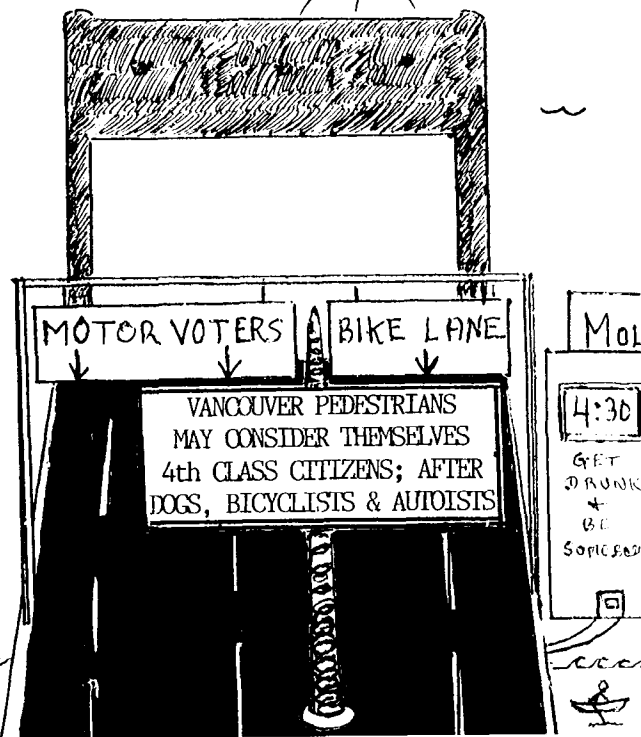
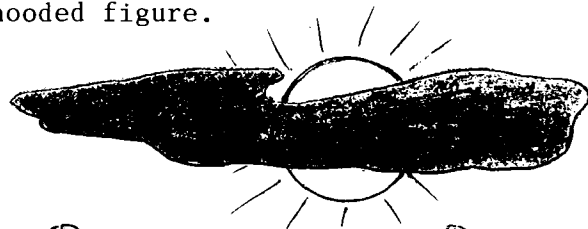
a few bucks before the store closed.

The drug addict had already scored but wanted to save it till night, so he wasn't in a hurry.

The prostitute bounced up on her spiked heels. "Well, I gotta hit the bricks. It's been really nice meeting like this! I usually have breakfast at the 2 Jays about noon, so meet me for a coffee sometimes."

The three went their separate ways into the rush hour streets. Shortly after, the park was entirely empty as a hooded figure appeared from the shadows of the trees, showering the contents of a bag onto the concrete.

One by one the pigeons returned, and once again a peaceful air fell on Pigeon park. "If only," whispered the hooded figure.



AGG

A WALK THROUGH REAL VANCOUVER

(to my friends in the Downtown Eastside)

As I walk down an alley near East Cordova and Main
There's a boy, my age, shooting up in a stairwell,
He turns his face, so my eyes will never see his
And I continue on.

Dozens of syringe packets line the streets,
Vomit on the curb,
Someone's over-consumption of alcohol, just moments before my arrival.
On the corroded walls that surround me, is continuous graffiti -
It's better to die on one good fix than fade away.
The rain begins to come down hard.

And as many others, I seek shelter on 401 Main Street, Carnegie Hall.
There, while reading Sartre's Nausea, I meet a young man of 22,
not much older than I.

A high school graduate, not even a dropout,
Nowhere else to go, trapped on the east side,
Both parents killed by strangers in the night.
His own first encounter with a bullet at only five.

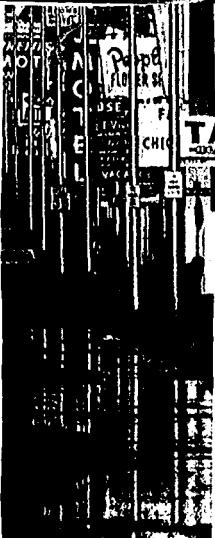
He wears these dark sunglasses,
Yet not a drop of sunlight enters the room,
I guess they make the world even darker.

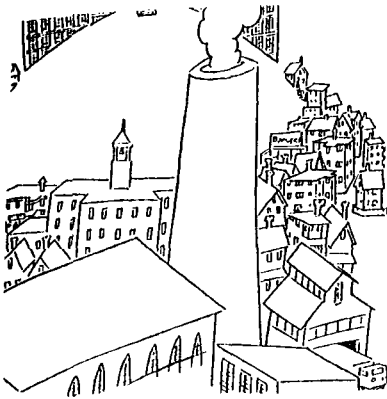
He carries with him a homemade toy weapon,
A cut cable, connected to some octagon crystal,
Used for either strangling or knocking his victims unconscious
It's the dealers with money and crack who are his prey.

In his right pocket is the New Testament Bible, coincidentally the same as mine,
He continually fiddles with it,
And I wonder if its pages have ever been read,
Or if they were just placed in his hand by a wandering preacher.

I see him dead before his 23rd birthday.
Either by a gun shot, knife fight, getting the shit kicked out of him,
Or the most likely a crack overdose --
Die on one good fix, then fade away.

The Centre becomes crowded with people trying to get out of the storm,
Feeling claustrophobic I decide to take another walk,
This time to the edge of Gastown, toward the old Woodward's building.
On the window is a painting of Olaf Solheim,
Forced to live on the streets because another's greed craved wealth
I think to myself.





Push them back, far back.
 They have little strength and won't overpower you.
 Build great skyscrapers and high class condos,
 To support your empty wants and
 Hide the decaying buildings and lives behind them.

I came searching for the truth; on Main Street I found it.
 Here everyone is accepted, connected by pain and suffering.
 Here everything is honest to its existence.
 Here life is real.

So go on, let them fade away,
 This is real Vancouver.



THIS IS THE NEW DOWNSIZED
 GLOBAL VILLAGE

Monique Jacobs



During the last issue I was away house-sitting up by the PNE. The air was so clean and unpolluted, compared to downtown, as I was below the traffic exhaust and dust from cars.

When I came back downtown I couldn't breathe and just wanted to sleep all the time. Is that healthy? I don't think so, but the City fathers want to build more roads and bring more cars here. Go figure.

The first Saturday night I went through Grasstown. At Abbott & Water some Christians were preaching the word, not loudly. Holy Rollers, just preaching, and the jerk who sells hot-dogs called the police on them. What next?

The noise coming from the nite crowd and the early morning construction along Powell, Alexander and Carrall streets has my nerves rattled so much I don't know what to do. I really am screwed up over this. I can't afford to move to

find another hotel that is as nicely run as where I now reside. Betty, Jim and Buddy are the best. They have other hotels but I like it where I am; I can see Grouse Mountain, which means a lot to me. I'm on sleeping medication over this and my nerves are shot. Give me a break.

Please remember that Carnegie Library is holding a "Bring Back Books Program." If you see *any* books or magazines that belong to our library, please bring them back. Thank you.

Carl MacDonald

(If you see a library book in any pawn shop or buy&sell, just pick it up, tell the person there that it is public property, and bring it back. If the owner starts to give you static, ask him to call the police. They'd be happy to straighten it out! - Ed.)

You Ain't Seen Nothin' Yet. Boom.

The last week before cheque day turned out to be a wealthy one. I got information that helps me put two and two together and the final equation is: 10 for them and 0 for us.

I know there are lots of people who have faith in the NDP or Liberals, but I don't. I don't trust political parties and never really have. I grew up in the NDP, observed all the others and there isn't one I would take out membership with, because the structure of our politics is stagnant and decrepit.

The philosophy of our political system came out of the European Middle Ages, which grew out of the early Christians, which came out of Rome. The original rancid attitude taken by the Romans was one ruler and all the people and their things belong to him. Since there were so many of them and only one of him, the administration of it all had to be shared with others. The others know one man can't know everything and this enabled them to take some of the ruler's wealth. The others take, but the one owner concept is believed and so there is no sharing with those who have nothing. And, this equals more crime.

The word is the NDP plan to dismantle the Ministry of Social Services in a year's time. Those who are classified GAIN for Handicapped are to receive their money from the Ministry of Health, all employables will be administered from the Ministry of Skills, Labour & Training and there will be the new Ministry of Children & Youth.

- How do single parents get paid? I guess that will depend on the pretty item in BC Benefits that says when the youngest is seven years old the parents are employable.

The creation of the new ministry comes from the GOVE REPORT. It is the recommendation that will be followed. Like most reports that come out of the minds of bureaucrats, very little reflects what the people said. The report is white-washed and the truth hidden.

This white-washing puts my antennas on alert. Given the history of our politics, the evilness that

permeates from Victoria to us, I say, we are in for real ugliness. As per usual, the talk about child poverty is being twisted to make all poor parents look incapable of looking after their kids. The fact that kids living in poverty is due to their parents living in poverty is purposely ignored. Poor parents are made to look like the devil incarnate, which is truly the reflection of the law makers.



In essence the new ministry has the aim to further separate kids from their parents, thus causing greater emotional stress and illness among the poor. The kids are vulnerable and easy targets. The bureaucrats are spineless in their aims to tear kids from the people they will learn best from.

It's time for the Downtown Eastside to close ranks. We don't have much time to come together and plan a counter action to the coming ugliness. We have to concentrate on the big picture here and put aside our personal grudges to enable us to make the needed decisions. All personal grudges can't be ignored. We all need to acknowledge what we are thinking and doing to keep those ill feelings alive.

Feeding the grudges will only result in the right-winged agenda having more energy. The left-winged philosophy is based on the idea that the whole community must have the individual needs met to assure health and happiness for all. Its time to help ourselves by really helping each other.

I ask everyone when they hear of meetings to make the effort to join, regardless of who organized them or who attends.

Alison Cameron



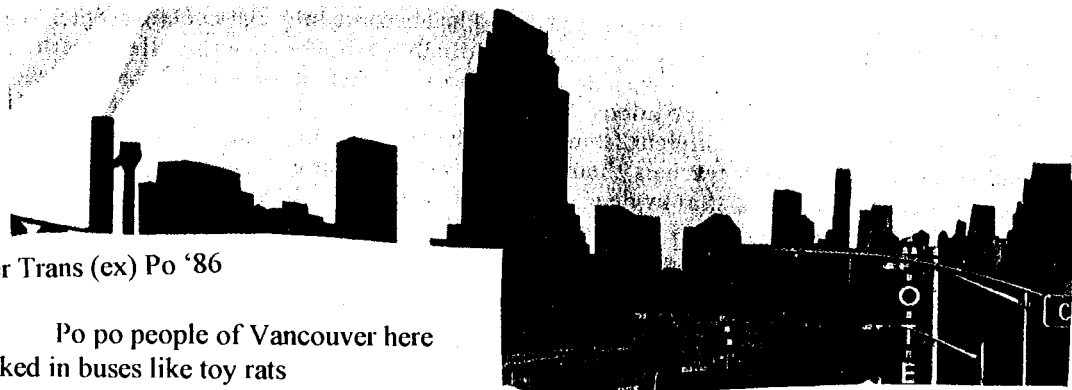
End Legislated Poverty's
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***"ORGANIZING AGAINST THE
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education and skill-building
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After Trans (ex) Po '86

Po po people of Vancouver here
packed in buses like toy rats
on ice 10 years after we
'streaked' the world with
our pseudo-competence.

now we still pollute air our air
we still travel in too many cars
we still don't exercise near enough.
Have we learned from our expensive
bally-hooed world fair?

Still sitting on our fat asses
only thinking of me me me me.
no no it was all mall impressive
but somehow empty for where oh
where are we now re transit terms???

john a douglas june 1996

for Timothy Leary

you were a true iconoclast
and lived to the full
at the smorgasbord of life

you finally zoned out into
some far out far beyond
beyond the computer

beyond the magic wand
but never never out
of our hearts

john a douglas 1996



Father's Day '96 for My Dad

I'll never really know the sacrifices
you worked for us

Can only guess at the decades
of sweat, worry, toil.

But may this verse be a mini-splice
of my debt to you

and a learning growing partial understanding
of a 20th Century Father's life

john a douglas 1996

**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)**

1996 DONATIONS

Paula R. -\$10

Win. B. -\$20

Lillian H. -\$25

Sonya S. -\$100

Kettle F.S. -\$16

Hazel A. -\$10

Joy T. -\$10

Bea F. \$30

Frances -\$50

Charley -\$25

Diane M. -\$15

Lorne T. -\$20

Mel L. -\$17

Sara D. -\$20

CEEDS -\$20

Susan S. -\$30

DEYAS -\$100

Brigid R. \$30

Amy E. \$20

Rene F. -\$50

Anonymous \$60

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.

**Submission Deadline
for the next issue:
July 11, 1996
Thursday**

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.**





photo by Mr. Jeff

Would you buy a used
(or new) condo from this
man?



Yes, that's developer Brad Holme's handiwork there. Brad is known for the Bad Homes he has built in Mount Pleasant, and now he's bringing his deft touch to the Downtown Eastside.

Bad's condo project on Cordova Street proved what a good neighbor it will be, when it caused the collapse of the side wall on the Blarney Stone next door. The wall went down so fast that the toilet paper was still hanging off the roll in the bathroom, flapping in the wind.