

FREE - donations accepted.

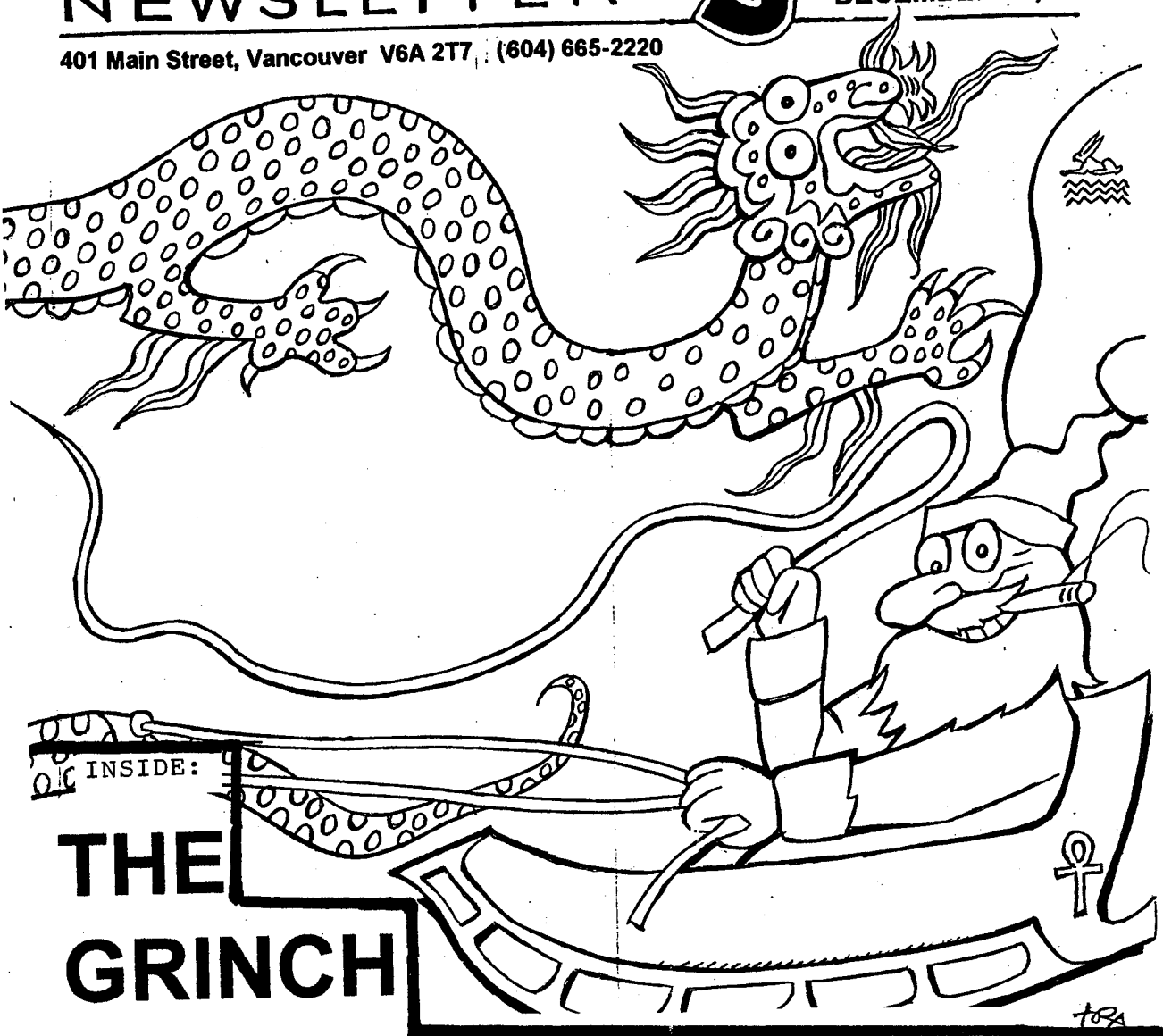
Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 15, 1996

401 Main Street, Vancouver V6A 2T7, (604) 665-2220



INSIDE:

THE GRINCH WHO STOLE CARNEGIE

702A

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Seniors Meeting And Party

Seniors Lounge 2pm

Entertainment

**Boxing Day Tickets available*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Christmas Crafts

1:30pm-4:30pm/Lane Level

**Christmas Dinner Tickets on sale Tickets: \$3.00*

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20

Christmas & New Years Art & Crafts

1pm-5pm/Third Floor Art Gallery



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21

Cultural Sharing Winter Gathering

2:00 pm - 8:00 pm/Theatre

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

Solstice Singers 4-5pm

Earle Peach 5-6pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve - Celebration

Open all Night to 7am

EVERYTHING FREE!



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Free Breakfast at 5 am

Christmas Dinner

Concession 2nd floor/5pm

**Tickets \$3.00*

Entertainment

**New Year's Dinner Tickets Available*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26

Boxing Day Turkey Dinner/

With a Visit from Santa

3 sittings -2:30/4:00/5:30

**Tickets at info*

Karaoke Night with Rob Smith

Theatre 7pm-10pm

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Entertainment

7:00pm-1am/Theatre

Hot meal

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 01/97

New Year's Dinner/2nd floor concession

**Tickets \$3:00*

FRIDAY JANUARY 03/97

Dance/ Theatre 7 - 10 pm

Entertainment TBA

A Christmas present we could do without

Merry Christmas from the provincial government and Vancouver City Hall!

Just when you were wondering what they could hit us with next, here come the budget cuts.

The province is slashing \$17 million from the money it gives the city every year, and the city is adding its own cuts to bring the total to \$26 million. That puts the Downtown Eastside services at special risk, because a lot of them depend on combined provincial/city funding.

These cuts could hit hard at Carnegie Centre, and other places like Evelyn Saller and Ray-Cam. The city will go through a review process in the next six weeks to decide how to handle the shortfall.

They could raise property taxes - but can those poor hard-pressed homeowners in Kerrisdale really afford to pay an extra \$85 a year?

They could cut some of the subsidies to the fat cats - like \$600,000 to Tourism Vancouver and \$2 million to developers. George Puil (!?) wanted to do that immediately, but his friends in the NPA one-party state voted him down last Tuesday.

Two years ago, the city went through a

Owen said council will look at cancelling city funding for social services and health agencies — such as AIDS Vancouver, Carnegie Centre, the Gathering Place, social housing, daycare — that are provincial responsibilities.

"That's an option," said Owen. "It's their responsibility. They are the ones who created this mess. They took a hammer and smashed us over the head."

Vancouver Sun

five per cent budget-cutting exercise. Every department was targeted, but Carnegie successfully fought to maintain its budget.

We had right on our side then. But more than that, we were organized, and campaigned effectively to show how our program was absolutely essential to the well-being of this community.

But these are leaner times, and the fight

will be harder, with grinches like W.A.C. Clark and Shaughnessy Phil turning the screws..

Carnegie and Ray-Cam are meeting soon to help start the fight, and hopefully it will spread

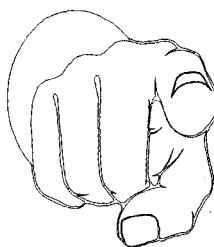
Those programs include Downtown Eastside services such as the Carnegie Centre and the Evelyn Saller Centre — a drop-in facility — along with services to help city residents find rental housing, community services grants and special programs for young people in the inner city.

Province

throughout the community, the city, the country and, heck, why not the world?

How hard is it going to be? Listen to NPA Counc. Nancy Chiavario - she who is always saying how much she feels for the poor. Now she suggests cutting off some Downtown Eastside program just to embarrass the provincial government into restoring the grants.

Hey, that's our lives you're playing hardball with, Nancy!



She also opposed cutting the subsidy to the developers, saying she wants to study the issue more because they might really need the money.

The NPA and their corporate cronies are the types who have been screaming deficit reduction for years. Now when it rebounds on them, they try to make it into some sort of NDP plot.

The chickens are coming home to roost, Philip. So don't lay no eggs in the Downtown Eastside.

Eddie Bersoff

The Program

something went wrong
 i didn't get the program
 i memorized the lies
 regurgitated for grades
 but it didn't stick
 the facade was too flimsy
 now i'm in an awkward position

mom and dad
 refused me TV
 "never in this house!"
 "but I want
 Gilligans Island!"
 now look at the
 mess i'm in

here's my
 christmas wish list:
 cellular phone
 aptiva computer
 internet access
 a fender guitar
 CD player
 Plymouth Acura
 burglar alarms
 TV and VCR
 VIP pass
 for Richards and Madisons
 a nice gold necklace
 and a Gucci watch
 Calvin Klein cologne
 hair implants
 and
 porcelain caps
 wait
 i'm not done yet!

i want to
 not see
 those who crouch
 and beg
 unless its CBC
 showing me how

unpleasant they are
 i want to
 not pay
 some twelve year-old
 hooker
 and punch her in the face
 after i've got off good
 i want Ronald McDonald
 to babysit my kids
 while i take my wife out
 shopping
 for bigger silicone tits

go team go
 go team go
 i want i want i want i want
 i want i want i want i want
 i want i want i want i want
 i want i want i want...
 geez
 i guess i turned out
 OK after all

goblin 96



you think you've
 got problems
 unjust system gonna
 cut you down some more
 enslave you into workfare
 do away with
 disability pay
 leave you starvin
 and freezin
 gettin
 spit on in the street
 but
 after all is said
 and done
 all you got is life

payin the bills
 inch by inch you're
 gettin ahead
 to get you by
 towin the line
 till its time
 to retire
 and
 after all is said
 and done
 all you got is life

you think you're
 doin OK
 takin' care of
 business
 punchin the clock

after all is said
 and done
 all you got is life
 you think you've
 got it made
 people puckered up
 just to kiss your ass
 lives made or

ruined
 with a finger twitch
 power
 you can feel it
 surge
 the thrill of it all
 just makes you
 but
 after all is said
 and done
 all you got is life

goblin 96



Surviving Christmas

Christmas was never a happy time for me. Too many tensions curdled in the dark corners of our house. A huge gap existed between the unspoken unhappiness at home and the peace and joy that Christmas was supposed to bring.

Maybe that's why the adults drank too much at Christmas. Too much pain. The pain of men dying in the trenches during the First World War. The pain of women denied their rightful place in the sun. The pain of un-lived life.

One Christmas Eve, when I was about four years old, an argument among adults in the front room drove me onto the back porch. Looking at the sky, I saw an angel fly overhead, and this vision reflected the Christmas spirit, which wasn't doing too well inside the house. Years later, I realized that the angel had, in fact, been an airplane.

These days, I approach Christmas with great caution, and completely reject the commercialism of the time. There is much to forgive, but there is much to be thankful for as well. The religious aspect of the season promises a new heaven and a new earth. How can I be part of that vision?

In this century of war and refugees, many human beings have had to live with a deep loneliness that can only be broken by an even deeper love - the kind that spiritual people talk about at Christmas. We all need respect and caring, but maybe we have to give what we most need in order to receive what we most need. It sounds simple, but why is it so difficult?

At Christmas, hope is born one more time. I can try, no matter how awkwardly to keep that hope alive. This task can only be done with others. It took me forty years to learn that lesson. We're still struggling with it in the Downtown Eastside, although there is more caring here than anywhere else in Vancouver. It's not that we want a perfect world - just a better one.

Christmas is the struggle for justice.
Sandy Cameron

For fun, Refreshments, Conversation

Come to the Women's Group.
3rd floor at Carnegie Centre

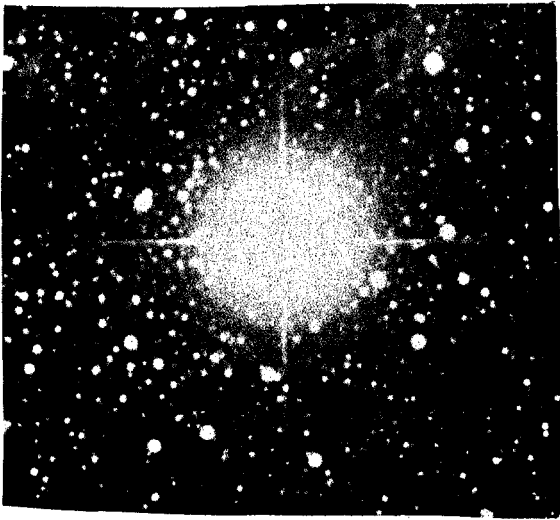
Wednesdays, 12-2

All Women Welcome



* look for our upcoming special workshops





The Point

When they give acting awards they ought to have a special category for drug addicts trying to score a shot in hospital emergency wards.

Afterwards, the doctor asked me how I felt. I told him I was still in pain. The doctor looked bewildered, and said: "But we gave you the same amount of Demerol we give for a broken leg!" "I don't know," I said, "but it's not enough." But this is the point I'd reached. This is how huge my habit. I had to get the drugs. I had to.

I decided to go out on the streets at night with a hammer concealed in my clothing, and search for someone who looked vulnerable, and like they might have a couple of bucks.

I was going to come up quietly behind them, whack them over the head, and take their money. "You might kill or maim somebody," said a voice in my head.

But I had to get some money. I had to.

And it was just at this moment, hefting the hammer in my hand, sweating and shaking, I saw a pitch-black hole open in front of me, like one of those black holes in space, that grabs all the light near it, sucks the light into its hole, and crushes it.

The Vancouver Recovery Club is moving

We've outgrown the old house



New Number
708-9955

It's time for something new



GRAND OPENING
December 1, 1996

Our new address is 261 East 12 Avenue.
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 3L1

**WE ARE ON THE SECOND FLOOR PLEASE ENTER
FROM THE NORTH EAST SIDE OF THE BUILDING
ON SOPHIA STREET.**

I knew then that if I took this next step, whatever light still flickered in my soul, would be extinguished, for a long time, for this lifetime, at least.

And so I suppose I made a choice - not to - but it was this vision, this vision more formidable than the furies of my addiction, and another human being I couldn't drive away from me, that started me towards a new life.

I had a lot going for me, but if I hadn't, like so many addicts I have known don't

it might have been your life
your hopes
your dreams
in the way
of the hammer
of my
desperation.

Bud Osborn



In the Dumpster

Greetings fellow binners and binnerettes. Tis the season to be jolly. At least, I am. Another year is almost gone and I'm still alive. The good Lord must be watching out for me with all the booze and running around I used to do it is almost a miracle I'm still here.

"The People's Republic of the Downtown Eastside" indeed. What a concept. I wonder what the Downtown Eastside British Properties (8E Cordova) think of that? Who cares?

Shitty Hall is at it again. At least Councilor (Uncle George) Puil is. A while back he was saying we have too many green parks in East Van, and that False Creek should be used for something else. Now he wants the billboards removed from the streets and buildings. Little does he know or care about the Seabord Company that employs many people. Go figure.

Check this one out. A binner was behind Vancouver Hospital dumpster diving about 3

7
weeks ago. Security jumped him and held him for police. He was held for about an hour just for looking for cans and bottles. I don't know if it's still there, but on the 400 East 6th there was a sign outside a dumpster. The sign said, "Pickers Will Be Prosecuted." What's with these dorks? If they don't want us in their bins lock them up. Of course, that never stopped Tom Lewis.

I would like to wish all my many friends and all the people of the DE a Merry Christmas. The only problem is there are so many I wouldn't know whom to start with so here's to everyone. Don't forget I live in an alcohol free environment. Please feel free to bring me a drink.

(Yes Bud, you too.)

A couple of things are really bothering me. I wonder, if an owl is supposed to be so wise, why does he always ask "Who?"

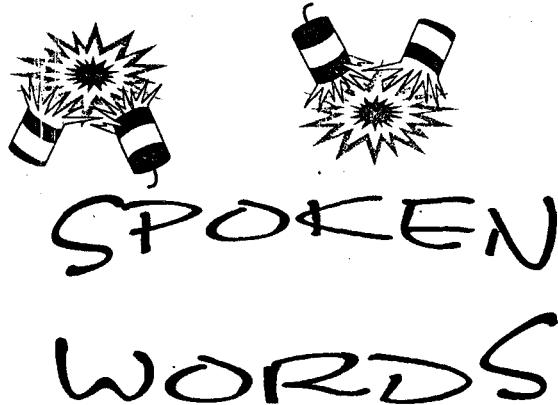
If you shoot a mime, do you use a silencer? Things like that are why I drink.

Now for the Ken Report.

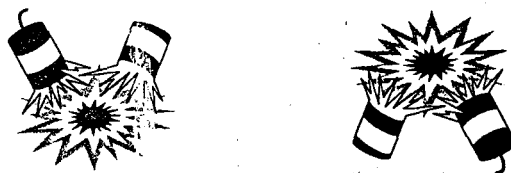
Volume is way up. United We Can wishes everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. UWC will be open Christmas and Boxing Day 'til noon. Yes it's true. You can bring in Simply Cola cans now.

May the bins be with you all. Happy 1997.

Mr. McBinner



CARNEGIE CENTRE PRESENTS AN
EVENING OF LOCAL VOICES
SHARING THROUGH POETRY,
STORIES AND MORE!



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27
7:00 - 10:00 P.M.
IN THE THEATRE

SNACKS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
AMY MACFARLANE 401 MAIN ST. 665-3545

Conversing with the Invisible

for Marina

Words and images on the run
the soul of ideas
stationary
silent to the world.

Little Spanish folk songs
unsung
because of the **tendentious** melodies.
We forgot to remember
We forgot again!

Will we try to separate
the waterfalls
with could have beens"
or a parody
starring pseudo political
artifacts?...

Is this for the ones
that think
they see a better way
Is this for the ones
who don't want to be?

Is it for the bitter
and
the arcane?
I guess not!
Perhaps guessing
is all I can do.

All these costumes for the circus.
Trailers in the desert
where tricksters and magicians
train pigs
to spit out the corporate dream.

Imagination will always
be something
derogatory
to anyone that
must
nourishes themselves
with pragmatism and
probable cause.

The rest of humanity
calls it common
and OK.
Let's not build any
monuments
to ourselves.
In fact let's not even hint
that
it's possible.

Leigh Donohue



Merry Peace and a Happy...

You've made efforts to avoid trouble,
some go out of their way staying away from
hostilities yet...somehow, some way.

You won't be the first and you won't be
the last person who, though innocent, got caught
up in a terrible mess. It's not always your karma or
dharma or destiny.

My point is waste happens; (shit) after it
happens to you, you may become offended that all
your good work has not prevented time and
chance perhaps or plain old evil coming into your
life.

Yeah, it can really shut a person down,
some bounce back up quick while some don't
ever seem to bear up or recover.

We are not all the same; getting back to
time, as 1996 is now going or gone by the
memory lane route I am grateful for having had
the opportunity of writing to you, the reader.

Thanks Paul, Carnegie, Downtown
Eastside and Newsletter supporters.

Sincerely, Mike Bohnert



Count Your Blessings

I just wish that when we open our eyes each morning, we could all just take a moment to count our blessings and realize we are on this earth to help one another, not tear each other apart.

Maggie



A Change Is As Good As A Rest

Chasing the wedge on ethereal zodiacal light seen only in the fall or spring. Mercury, Jupiter and the moon. Saskatchewan nights so perfect for stargazing. Red dawn day break.

Mule deer dash in front of vehicle. So nimble they are up the slope before you realize what's going on. From Regina to Prince Rupert, 36 hours later.

Blue zone. Telkwa. The Skeena River. Deer, goats, rabbits, grouse, partridge and bear.

Farming is everyone's business.

Met so many people. Mark a blood cree going to to meet his mother.

The 'cross the border to shop. Chick-o-stix mmm. Made in Texas. Ccovered in coconut. Mmmm. Operation Comfort. Yes, I've shaved. I did make a difference 'round here.

Maple Creek Junction. M14 Mmmm.

Taum



Lost Indian

I am a First Nations person. I am lost in my own land.

I take my land as my mother. My mother gives me all my medicines, and the most important is the creator, the creator who gives me the gift called life each morning.

I was once lost, but now I am found by the creator and by doing my native traditions.

Native traditions give me a balance and harmony and unity with the whole world.

We are all brothers and sisters, no matter what nationality we are. That goes by the ribbons that I carry and the four directions and the four seasons and the drum and the pipe and the sundance and the sweatlodge. That is part of my teaching.

We are all learners and teachers. As a native Indian, I just know a little bit as I know nothing.

My prayer is:

I pray to the four directions, four seasons, mother earth, father sky, the animal people, the tree people and human people. I am small and weak and I don't know nothing. Can you help today?

I only pray for my needs, not my wants. With this writing, I wish to show a little bit of my knowledge to help my brothers and sisters of the red road and the black road.

If only the world would be as I see it, it would be a wonderful world to live in. Although there is so much hatred of races and alcohol and drugs and I am a poor person living in an urban Indian world, I love you and the creator loves you.

All my relations.

Terry Flamond

Letter to the Editor,

Well, I thought the civic election was over on November 16 and we could get back to our regular routine. That is until I read the first article in the December 2 issue of the Carnegie Newsletter.

Who is this Murray Petralia? He is probably using an alias like so many of the mayoralty candidates in the recent civic election. I always sign my name to anything I write and I expect other people to do the same. Many patrons who read the vindictive article are wondering if this particular person even took the time to vote, as these people usually complain the loudest.

I deliberately wrote a happy positive article to cheer up low-income residents as I know they felt badly about the election results, but my efforts were undermined by articles depicting a great deal of anger. Leith Harris wrote a real human interest story about her young son and looked at everything objectively!



I was both shocked and hurt when I read the following: "The union-bashing Green Party got 14,000 votes for their candidates." This statement accusing the Green Party of 'union-bashing' is completely false. In fact, we have regular meetings

(Excerpts from a Green Party letter on the same subject)

I was shocked though to see an article in the Carnegie Newsletter accusing the Greens of bashing unions. We have a lot of union members and activists in the party who would be upset if we had ever attacked the labor movement. In the last election we didn't talk a lot about labor because the NDP has done an O.K. job on labor issues. We did say that B.C. needed more protection for non union workers such as tightening minimum wage laws so that employers can't cheat workers by labeling them self employed or giving them wages on a piecemeal or commission basis. We also advocated gender equity legislation to cover large private employers similar to what the Rae government passed in Ontario. Most importantly we demanded a Labor Ministry office to help service industry workers who are trying to join unions. We continue to fight for the rights of contract workers, demand full benefits for part timers and dream of a world with full employment.

One of the things that is crucial to the Green party is the environment, for instance preserving sufficient forests for our grandchildren to enjoy and work in. If you wanted drastic change such as an end to mechanized clear cutting your going to need powerful allies, but who? If you could convince the executives of Mac Blo that something was more important than there Christmas bonus then the shareholders would overturn them. If you could get the inner cabinet to care more about the future of B.C. than the wish lists of foreign investors then the Bureaucrats would stall until big media could fix another election. If however you could convince forest workers that "the industry is due to run out of wood in ten to fifteen years" (government figures) then you have a force which can shut the industry down until a rational management plan is in place. (WARNING: this may involve community control)

IN SOLIDARITY

MICHAEL HORN

with various unions about the welfare cuts and they are most supportive.

My brother belongs to the BCGEU and their particular union is also being attacked by the provincial government. I know John Shields personally and have had discussions with him. Besides some of the Green Party candidates are union members, but we all work to make conditions better for British Columbians.

I admire unions so much I have been trying to start a Volunteers' Union for quite some time. A great name for our bargaining power would be the Volunteers' Equal Rights Unions. Someday my dream may come true.

The author of this repulsive article should do more research before putting out false information. Too many people act like judges as they often make decisions without knowing any of the facts.

Another statement I find offensive is "That's why these rule-or-ruin splinter parties are so destructive." They also wonder if this is a personal attack on myself, as I ran for the Green Party in the last provincial election. Everyone has the right to run in any election, not just the NPA and COPE.

Perhaps if people in this community would stop fighting each other and learn to work together, everything would run more smoothly. When we continue to do this, it lets the politicians off the hook and gives them an excuse to cut our funding.

In closing, I would like to see an apology to the candidates who ran for the Green Party and the entire membership. By attacking us, you simply made us receive more supporters, and some have promised to donate to our next election campaign.

P.S. The main reason for the low voter turnout is because of the continuous mudslinging by the two major parties. Why don't the politicians just stick to the issues?

Irene Schmidt

ADVENTURE WALK

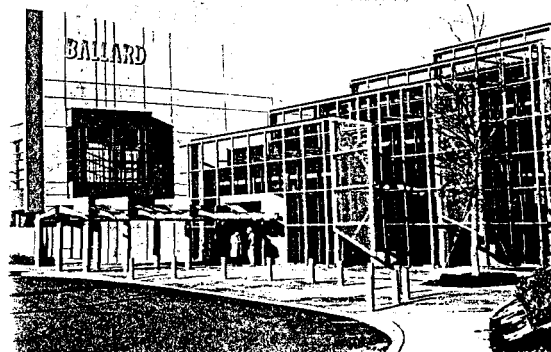
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On Nov. 16, a group of mine drove out to the Big Bend Industrial Park in South Burnaby. From there we hiked along a beautiful trail beside Byrne Creek. There was an abundance of ducks in the water.

It was sad to see the development taking place on the other side of the creek. What a sharp contrast from what nature had to offer. They were covering peatland and replacing the landscape with industry.

I felt cheated when I saw the narrow strip of trees down by the Fraser River. They were the only trace of what used to be.

We had lunch in the Fraser Foreshore Park. As it



was extremely cold we heated soup on a small propane stove. After Marina washed the pots in the Fraser River we reminded her that there was a sewage plant right next to us.

After lunch we continued hiking and ran into the infamous Ballard Company. Someone dared me to apply for a job and I asked if there were any job openings. The receptionist said no and I replied, "We just wanted to see where our thirty million dollars went." Carl asked if we could have a tour of the premises. Some of us made ourselves right at home and rested in the comfortable chairs.

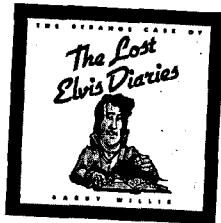
In case you don't remember Prime Minister Jean Chretien came out here the day before and gave the Ballard Company thirty million dollars. It is quite obvious he was buying votes. The secret to obtaining federal funding is not to have done anything worthwhile, all you need is plenty of

money to open up a new plant, and say you are in the process of doing research.

I only hope voters remember how the federal government scrapped the Canada Assistance Plan and that is why we see cutbacks at every government level. It has a trickle down effect. But no one at the top feels the pinch and they continue to live high off the hog. We should present them with troughs for Christmas.

The pictures of our hike are on the second floor. Everyone who loves trees should go to the Parks Board meetings and fight to save the four hundred trees in the Fraserview Golf Course.

In today's society people would be far happier if

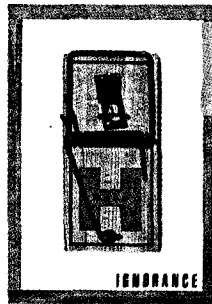


**WHY
GOD**
never received a
PhD

they weren't so materialistic, especially at Christmas time. I have a friend who has had a terrible time obtaining her Canada Pension. They refused to give it to her so this means the rest of the family have to support her. Luckily, I know a lawyer who will give advice for nothing and her doctor wrote an excellent letter for the appeal.

Well, Norma could not even buy a Christmas card so she made a beautiful card out of some construction paper she had laying around. She is very artistic and combined animals and birds from two stories I had written for the newsletter. One was the trip to Camp Fircom while the other was to Harrison Hot Springs. This card meant more to me than any store bought item. Remember the most important gift you can give is yourself.

Irene Schmidt

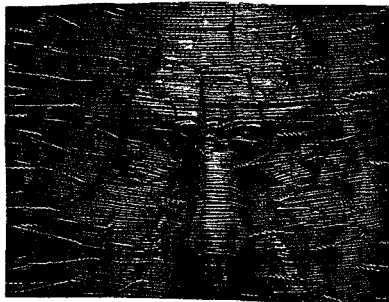


A B C D E F G H

1. He had only one major publication.
2. It was in Hebrew.
3. It had no references.
4. It wasn't published in a refereed journal.
5. Some doubt he even wrote it by himself.
6. It may be true that he created the world, but what has he done since?
7. His cooperative efforts have been quite limited.
8. The scientific community has had a hard time replicating his results.
9. He never applied to the ethics board for permission to use human subjects.
10. When one experiment went awry, he tried to cover it up by drowning his subjects.
11. When subjects didn't behave as predicted, he deleted them from the sample.
12. He rarely came to class, just told his students to read the book.
13. Some say he had his son teach the class.
14. He expelled his first two students for learning.
15. Although there were only ten requirements, most of his students failed his tests.
16. His office hours were infrequent and usually held on a mountaintop.

Don't Explain!

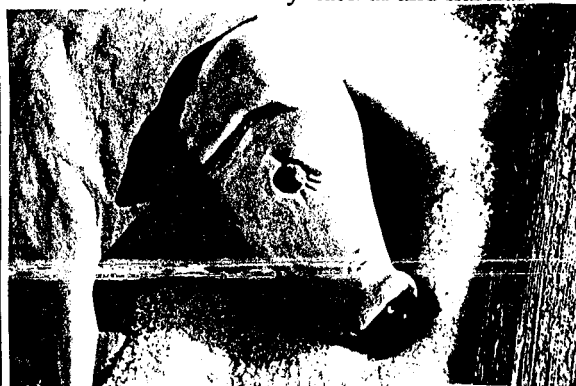
The attempts we make to state, clearly and explicitly, what we believe needs to be done, clears up and explains nothing, ends up, in fact, mystifying and opaquing the very situations we are attempting to impose our desire for clarity and explanation upon, the clearer and plainer the statements the mistier and opaquer the situations they are attempts to explain, while the degree of passion with which the statements are made seems



almost always to be directly proportional to the mistiness and opaqueness of the situation, the mistier the situation the more passionate the attempt to impose clarity and explanation upon it, if such an attempt is made, and any supposed gain obtained by such imposed clarity being beneficial, apparently, to the person or people doing the imposing.

This is identical to the process by which this world, this country, this city, this centre, set upon by all those passionate to impose structures, to impose their passionate attempts at clarity, becomes rule-ridden, system-burdened and over-examined, with no room left for the spontaneous, the irregular, the informal that are not part of the imposed clarity and structure, such clarity and structure always being based on the exploitation of the situation and those in it, whatever the situation is or is perceived to be, by those who impose the structures that they feel comfortable with, that they can see some good in, that they can negotiate with unmatched, unself-reflective ease (because they impose it), that they can benefit from imposing, a structure that will always leave those imposing it certain of the grid of expectations and rules and so-called facts, such as what's what and who's who or whose, who's getting paid and whose

bread and butter the bread and butter is, when in fact none of this is clear at all, the grid is merely the exploitative tool by which the imposers of the grid hog all the competence and the benefits and then say, without choking on their vicious, destructive, intentionally hateful and hurtful



words, they will share with those upon whom they've imposed their exploitative structures, their clarities and explanations, the prison-like grid of their arrogance, and their fear of their own incompetence in any situation that hasn't been signed, sealed and delivered by themselves, their fear of all that cannot be named and exploited, their fear of any situation in which they have no advantage over others, in which the spontaneous, the unplanned might occur, any situation in which they might be left with no recourse to power (imposed) or structure (imposed) or authority (imposed) through so-called superior knowledge (superior obeisance) etc.

People in this centre, this city, this country, this world, suffering under the weight of imposed structures and ideologies, which are shoved down people's throats and drummed into their heads and their bodies, prove time and again the bankruptcy and destructiveness of those structures and explanations, but this in no way dampens the rulers' and explainers' desire to continue with their ruling and explaining, to stay above and beyond those who would undoubtedly be unpredictable and unaccountable and uncontrollable without such enforced structures, those who are *doomed* by these structures, whose lives are crushed, those who are executed, slaughtered like animals under

the weight of these grids, these machineries of hatred, these ideas about truth and what's necessary that the rulers and explainers hammer down upon the world (a world in which there is more concern about smoking in public places than about the most destructive thing in the world, the automobile, more concern about jay-walking than the on-going genocide of people all over the world, more concern about minuscule legalities or how so-and-so is or is not doing their job than about starvation and epidemics or the extermination of an entire class, more concern about a snub, or a perceived snub, than about the wholesale contamination and plunder of resources necessary for our survival, a world where Tom Lewis, or someone like him, will no more read poetry in our theatre, drunk, and contribute inestimably by doing so, where none of us will ever find ourselves lost ever again, because everything and everywhere is known and owned and named and regulated), trying, it would seem, to convince even life itself that it must cease and desist its chaotic doings, pulling, as it were, the last weeds from the concrete in a rage over the inadequacy their structures and ideologies seem to display no matter how they try to make their nightmare of control and brutality universally and unquestioningly applicable, for they must not allow themselves to see the chaos they have killed and maimed so many to prevent proliferating at their own hands.

Dan Feeney

Triage Emergency Services
& Care Society

707 Powell Street
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6A 4C5

Business Phone: (604) 254-3700
Business Fax: (604) 254-3747
Clients Phone: (604) 254-3787



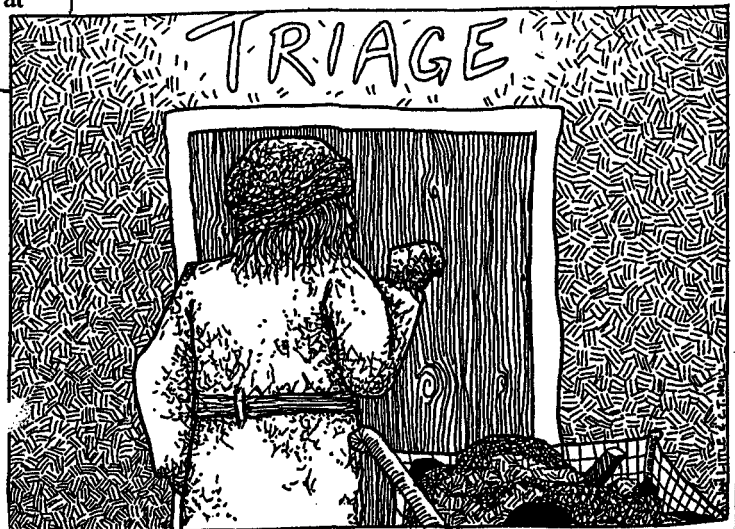
TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

(traditional Indian style)
On the first day of Christmas my
true love gave to me
a warm fire in a teepee
2 beaded earrings
3 ribbon shirts
4 buckskin skirts
5 birch canoes
6 copper bracelets
7 silver pendants
8 tons of moose meat
9 bags of bannock
10 pails of tea
11 jars of grease
12 pinto ponies

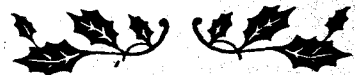
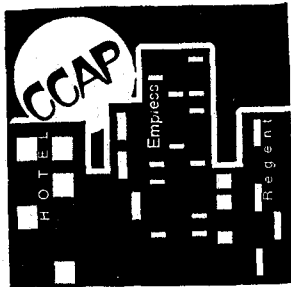


Written in collaboration with
the following talented
performers for your
listening pleasure!

Gunargie O'Sullivan,
Marlanne Sundown,
Arlene Manuel, Murlane
Carew and Nuhkinka



original art by Jan Little and Chris Neill



Newsletter of the Carnegie Community Action Project

December 15, 1996

SEASONS GREETINGS/ HAPPY SOLSTICE !!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED CALL 689-0397 OR DROP BY OUR OFFICE (2ND FLR CARNEGIE)

CMHC gives money to hotels for renovations

Hotels that received Rooming House RRAP

- for 1995 (\$1,622,870.00)

- 1) Hazelwood Hotel , 344 East Hastings St.
\$105,213.00 for 92 of 113 units
- 2) Beacon Hotel, 7 West Hastings St.
\$372,000.00 for 31 or 43 units
- 3) Siesta Rooms, 936 Granville St.
\$442,000.00 for 65 of 69 units
- 4) Yale Hotel, 1300 Granville St.
\$444,000.00 for 37 of 44 units
- 5) Georgia Rooms, 634 East Georgia St.
\$259,657.00 for 23 or 23 units

- for 1996 (\$1,100,000.00)

- 1) Niagara Hotel, 435 West Pender St.
(unable to find out amount loaned)
- 2) California Hotel, 1176 Granville St.
(unable to find out amount loaned)

1996. In 1995, a total of \$1,622,870.00 was given out to five of the seven hotels.

Under CMHC's Rooming House Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) private hotel owners in the Downtown Eastside and Granville St neighbourhoods can apply for financial assistance for the purpose of making repairs.

There are certain conditions which the hotel must meet to be eligible for rooming house RRAP money. Two major criteria for eligibility include that the money be used for structural/mechanical or other essential repairs and that the monthly rental rates need to be below 60% the median market rent in the area. In other words, no cosmetic repairs like a new exterior paint job and the monthly rental rates need to be below approximately \$390.00 per month.

CMHC officials explained to CCAP that if a hotel has met all the criteria for eligibility than the money is released in installments based on inspections that demonstrate that the renovation work is actually being done.

Details regarding how much money each of the two hotels (California and Niagara) that received Rooming House RRAP in 1996 was not available from CMHC. However, the total Rooming House RRAP budget for

(continued on next page)

Under a little publicized program, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) gave financial assistance in the form of forgivable loans to seven privately owned hotels to do renovations during 1995 and

(continued from front page)

1996 was \$1.1 million. It is unlikely that there will be a budget for 1997 due to budget cuts.

In just two years over \$2.5 million dollars of federal money went into privately owned hotels. Considering that the federal government backed out of funding new social housing in 1993, it came as a bit of surprise to CCAP that CMHC was active in the neighbourhood. Perhaps community organizations in the Downtown Eastside could have been of assistance in advising which private hotels were being run responsibly or help monitor that the proper renovations are being done. In fact, the report, *Nowhere to Live*, released last year by the Lower Income Urban Singles Task Group had a number of guidelines for an SRO-specific rental rehabilitation program that may have been useful to CMHC's Rooming House RRAP. Community involvement may also have calmed the concerns of those familiar with hotels who had received RRAP money in the 1980s and are unsure if any long term benefits have resulted. Could the money have been better spent?

More on this later.



Say Good-bye to the **L** **U** Theatre **X**

As most of you have probably noticed another Hastings Street theatre has bit the dust. We now have an empty lot adjacent B.C. Collateral. It appears that the Lux Theatre fell victim to association with the adjacent building, which due to two fires had to be demolished. Both buildings are owned by the same person, so with no potential buyers for the Lux, the owner thought it would be prudent to demo both at the same time. Not only did we lose the Lux, but close to 20 rooming house units that were above Hastings Buy and Sell.

The Lux over the past decade or so had fallen on hard times. Besides showing movies or special events once or twice, it generally remained closed.

The Lux, built in 1939 and originally called the Princess Theatre, was up until the 1960s, and some short-lived moments during the 70s and 80s, regularly showing movies.

The loss of the Lux is unfortunate considering theatre space is not built often and we may find ourselves in the future sadly missing this community asset. What becomes of this now vacant space is something CCAP will keep an eye on.

"It matters absolutely not one bean to me" ... "And my purchasers, the people I build for, it concerns them not a whit. In some people's eyes, I go into risky areas and build cutting-edge projects. In the eyes of my critics, I drive other people out and make profit."

Developer Brad Holme
(Business in Vancouver, Nov.12-18, 1996),

No one could of said it better than the man himself. Brad Holme comments regarding criticism towards some of his more controversial developments, which includes the Van Horne, is a classic, textbook example of a developer involved in gentrification. For example, not only does he not care of the broader social implications of his work, but considers himself a pioneer heading into 'savage' territory.

In the article, Mr Holme goes on about characterising his critics in the Downtown Eastside as





IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
**ZERO
 DISPLACEMENT
 NOW!**
 P.R.G.



Five Vacancies on the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee.

For residents of the Downtown Eastside who live in the Gastown area it would nice to have more representation on this city sanctioned advisory board. A quick read of minutes from this committee and one gets a clear message that there is little support (sometimes downright contempt) for issues important to the existing Downtown Eastside community. For example, Downtown Eastside residents have been called 'socially disabled' or 'an undesirable element' (GHAPC, Sept.25, 1996).

However, getting on this committee is nearly impossible for residents of the over 1,300 hotel units and close to 800 non-market units in Gastown. There is only one position on this ten person committee for a renting local resident. There is also only one position for a local resident owner. However, resident owners are much more likely than someone living in one of the hotels to be eligible for other positions on the committee which target local business or professional representatives.

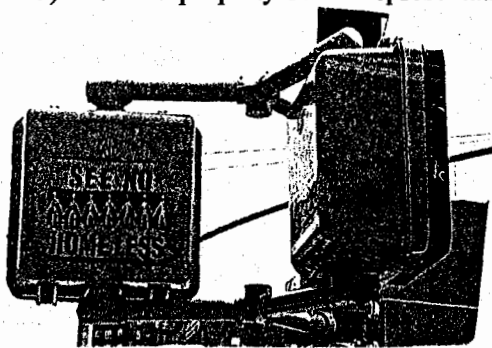
The five of the ten positions available this year include:

- 1) one community architect representative
- 2) one community business representative
- 3) one community heritage representative
- 4) one community resident owner representative
- 5) one local property owner representative

Political Response Groups (P.R. G.) opens storefront, more demonstrations and meeting planned

PRG has rented a storefront at 578 Powell Street for use as an organizing office. Quite a success considering PRG accepts no funding from any government agency and relies strictly on donations. PRG, formed in October, 1996, is a political action group to advocate the concerns and needs of the entire Downtown Eastside Community of economically poor and vulnerable people.

PRG will be holding a public meeting at there new office on December 22, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. for any and all residents of the Downtown Eastside. Coffee and other refreshments will be served. PRG will also be holding one more demonstration this year on Monday morning December 23, at Joy McPhail's office, to press for the re-opening of the Pender Detox Centre, whose continuing closure is a criminal act against this community. PRG will be meeting at the storefront at 9:30 am and will demonstrate from 10 am to noon.





“DIVISION is something that is created by those you don’t want to work with.”

MPrevost/96

We all have a role in life...we all have differences.

The problem is getting together and working it out as a group. We are all used to yelling and screaming to get our way.

As adults we see no way out except ours. I have faith that one day...the HOPE we so desperately need is at the beginning of Hastings & Main Street.



Dear Margaret:

We’ve been meaning to drop a line to say “Thank You” for your really wonderful remarks at the Bruce Ericksen Place ground-breaking. Sometimes we only think about divisions in the neighbourhood - you are truly a person who continually seeks and builds bridges and common understanding amongst people.

Your remarks were just great!

Many thanks, Margaret

In solidarity,
Bruce and Libby

Reprinted from the DERA Newsletter

RELOCATOR BRIEFS

As the development of up-scale condos and artist live/work studios in the Downtown Eastside area continues, displacement of long term residents is a growing problem. Many Gastown hotels are now occupied by students and the working poor. There are currently 57 education institutions within a one minute walking distance of Gastown. Sources at one of the many language schools provided an estimate that as many as 6000 students each year are looking for housing. This is causing displacement of long term residents.

The Abbott Mansions at 404 Abbott St. has been bought by the Central City Mission who plan to secure it’s use as safe, affordable housing for low income people. The Brandiz has been sold as well and it’s rumored that the New Dodson and the West hotel have also

been sold. We are currently awaiting confirmation from the city if these buildings were sold and who it was that bought them.

The City is currently pursuing legal action against seven East Vancouver apartment buildings. Two of these buildings are on Dundas Street, three on Triumph street and two more on Wall Street. These buildings have a history of by-law infractions and nuisance complaints that are well known to the city of Vancouver and the Police department. Through a court injunction B.C. Housing has taken over management at one of these buildings located at 2200 Dundas Street.

The battle for these buildings is still going on in the courts. DERA will keep a close watch on the outcome. The DERA Relocation Service has helped 617 clients so far this year.



There are Times

You wake up hoping that most of the day has passed. You listen submissively to the sounds of the building with the expectation that you will hear something that will confirm your idea of a later afternoon fantasy.

Instead you hear someone listening to the early morning news. Your tired eyes wander towards a broken down night table where that clock you found in the alley behind Carnegie reads a quivering 10:30 in the morning.

"Shit," you exclaim while trying to get back to sleep. You know that it's too late. The world has crept into your room and no matter what you do it's still Christmas day 10:30 in the morning.

You sigh a breath of disgust but try to acknowledge the daylight as it reaches through a three-inch gap at the bottom of your hotel room door. A one inch separation between you and the obstinate world outside. That's all there is.

You start to realize that your armpits are all sweaty and your body smells as rancid as the old high school locker room. You scratch everything you can reach and begin an intricate list of all the services and stores that will be closed on this day. "Fuck it," you mutter, "fuck it."

You check your tobacco and papers, **funble**, realize you're out of matches. You count your money so you can advance it to yourself when needed. You think about going down the hall for a shower, but there isn't one. You decide that the bathtub is looking pretty mean these days so you'll just pass on everything, take a piss and hope for the best.

In the back of your mind, you can remember somebody telling you that the Carnegie Centre is open for 24 hours.

So you get dressed and roll a couple of cigarettes that you know you won't be able to smoke right away. "So what the hell" you think and head out to Carnegie.

What's his name is standing out on the front steps so you bum a light from him and the



two of you stand smoking while watching the streetpeople do their sidewalk selling thing again. You don't talk much; it's more of a primal grunt back and forth. You finish your smoke and move inside where it's warmer and the thought of fresh coffee is a welcome you can smell.

Once upstairs on the second floor you crouch down and try to avoid all the Christmas regalia strewn about the building. Secretly you like some of this decoration but it makes you feel better to be left alone. You don't mind if a couple people say hello or wish you a good cheer but until you have the coffee silence is absolute.

As usual the cafeteria line is a dubious journey that moves its way through strange conversations and imaginative suggestions.

You spot a piece of pie you'd like to sink your nicotine stained teeth into and notice it's only 75 cents. The problem is there is only 3 pieces left and you're the seventh person in line. You watch and listen to everybody in the line wanting to hear or see anything that will guarantee a piece of that pie will be left for you.

An old acquaintance wanders up to you and hands you the money they borrowed 3 months ago. "All right," you say, "let's do it."

You get your coffee and pie. Eat the pie. Drink the coffee and return to the outer limits also known as the front steps of Carnegie.

You bum another light and look around. You see a friend trying to borrow money for something to eat. "Here, man," you say handing him 5 bucks. He takes the money and disappears.

So this is the first time in the day you begin to smile a little. You see life as an adventure instead of a problem. You're ready go on like you do everyday. You remind yourself that a lot of people like you exist and the world is a hell of a lot better place because of it.

Happy holidays man.

You deserve it!



Leigh Donohue

THE DESIDE WELCOME WAGON

Garry Gust

The Van Horne is almost completed and it does look impressive if you can blank your mind to the thought of the tenants at the Dobson and other hotels who used to have a view of the North Shore mountains before the grand development.

The new tenants at the Van Horne will be moving in soon along with their upper economic influence over our public safety authorities who have recently found the logic of "cleaning up" on local crime.

We should welcome our new neighbors with magnanimous grace, and perhaps send them word of what they should do when they turn on the light one night heading for the bathroom and see a Lord Of The Realm scurrying across the wall then disappearing into the woodwork.

Yes, dear new tenant, you now reside where cockroaches have survived and thrived since before the dinosaur vanished.

You can go to the Army & Navy and buy a "Roach Motel" which guarantees to vanquish the mighty beasts, but they'll be back in 6 months time like a bachelor uncle.

None of your fellow tenants will care to admit to having cockroaches until you've all lived there for about 2 years. Then out of exasperation you'll band together and discretely hire a pest control expert to come and spray your apartments, which should do the trick for about 15 months.

And it's during that period of time when those of us who are doomed to the wicked vice of gambling have wagered that the quality of work done by the slick dudey who built your place will begin to show its worth.

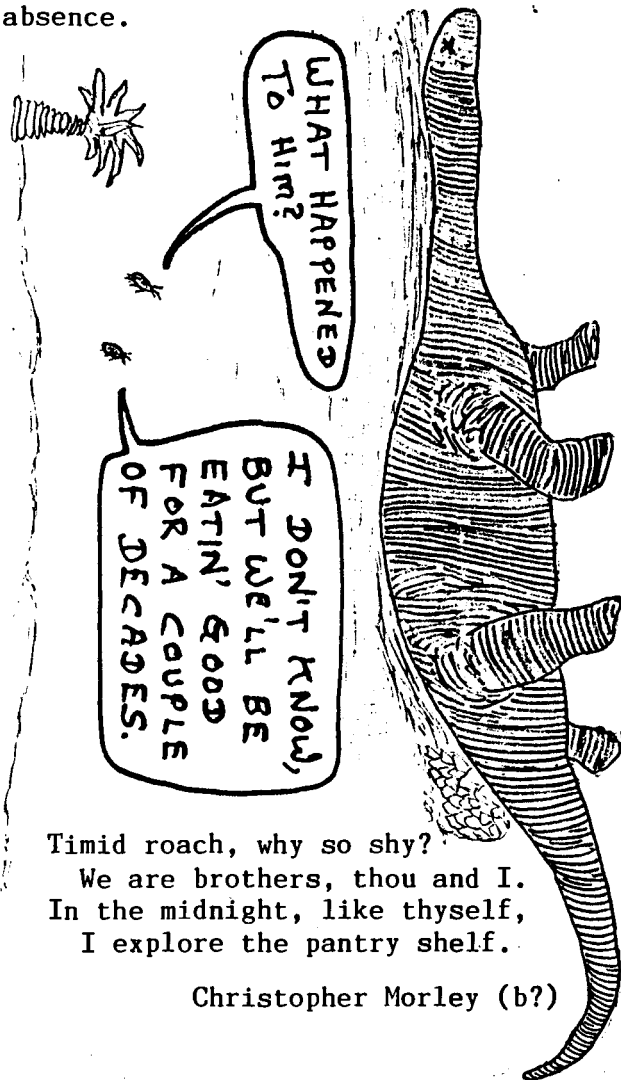
Odds favor the drain pipes in your shower and toilet going first, so make

sure you've got gumboots and plenty of flood insurance.

Next, at even odds, your drywall should begin to darken from the dampness of the beautiful BC rains, so don't hang any expensive paintings for about 12 years.

By and by, all these things will pass and you'll finally start feeling like a full fledged Downtown Eastsider.

But always remember that to really be at peace with the Lord Of The Realm, you must pay him homage by thinking nice thoughts of him in his periods of absence.



Philippines economy blamed for exodus

A protester says Manila police are forcing people out of a shantytown to impress APEC leaders.

ROBERT SARTI
Vancouver Sun

**You thought
NAFTA was scary,
wait 'til you hear
about APEC...**



**expose and oppose
imperialist globalization**

international APEC Summit set to
hit Vancouver in November 1997

**information
to get involved call:**

Mable ph/fax 604.322.9852
Suzanne ph 604.255.1509

She's 13,000 kilometres from home, but Jane Ordinario still has more than a passing interest in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit conference that started Monday in Manila, the Philippines.

Ordinario is a Filipina who has lived for the past five years in Vancouver, cleaning other people's houses.

She winces when she reads news reports of Manila police forcibly clearing thousands of poor people out of their shantytown homes to make way for a park in preparation for the conference.

"They want to show the world leaders that the Philippines are a good place for business," said Ordinario in an interview Monday at an anti-APEC demonstration in Vancouver.

Ordinario is part of a massive exodus from the Philippines — about 2,000 a day leaving to find work in other countries. About 45,000 have come to Canada, most of them to B.C. as domestic workers.

"People are the No. 1 export from the Philippines since 1980, more than natural resources, trees, mines," she said.

"We send back \$6 billion a year in foreign exchange payments. All my family is back there, and I'm alone here. I have to send money back because they have no jobs."

About 100 people marched past the Philippine consul general's office on Granville, then attended a rally in front of the World Trade and Convention Centre as part of an international day of protest against the global economy.

In the Philippines, police cordons prevented thousands of demonstrators from reaching Subic Bay, the former U.S. naval base where Prime Minister Jean Chretien and 17 APEC leaders were meeting today.

Marchers carrying banners that declared "Slam Evil, Slam APEC" and "Resist Imperialist Globalization" caused massive traffic jams in several parts of the Philippine capital.

The farmers, laborers and Catholic clergy accused foreign corporations, including Canadian companies, of forcing free trade on the region to exploit cheap labor.

The APEC members' goal is to create the world's largest free-trade zone by 2020.

Next year's APEC summit will be held in Vancouver, and Ordinario said a coalition of grass-roots groups is already planning a reception, including a counter-conference on the harsh effects of free trade.

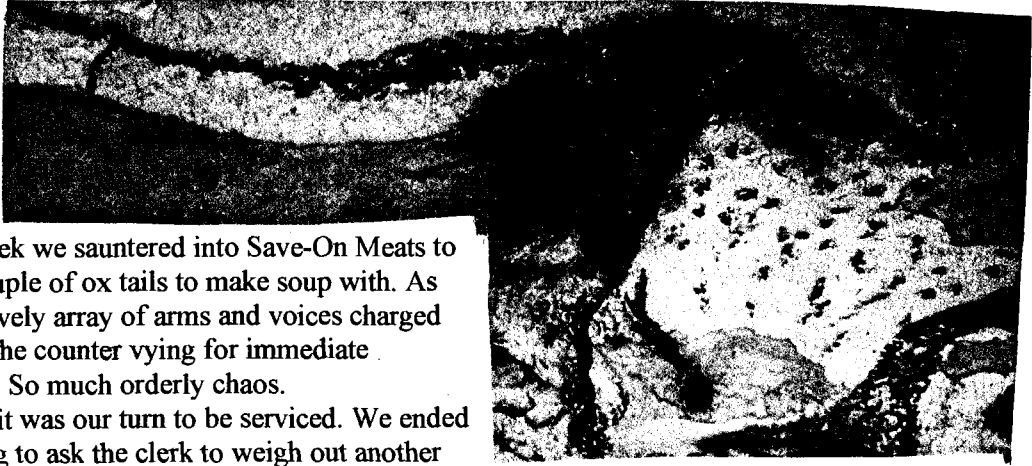
"APEC means globalization — that's privatizing public companies, the loss of jobs, the gap between rich and poor gets bigger, all the cutbacks," she said. "Money can come and go between borders. So the profit the owners make from the poor people of Asia can be easily taken out of the country."



WARD PERRIN/Vancouver Sun

PROTEST: Jane Ordinario speaks at Canada Place

Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation Tariffs, Partitions, and Homemade Soup 335 Days Till Shopping



Last week we sauntered into Save-On Meats to buy a couple of ox tails to make soup with. As usual a lively array of arms and voices charged towards the counter vying for immediate attention. So much orderly chaos.

Finally it was our turn to be serviced. We ended up having to ask the clerk to weigh out another smaller piece because the first piece placed on the scales was too expensive for us. The store clerks are very familiar with this process. It's demeaning but none the less very clear that we have to accept the limits of our budgets for survival. Welfare cheques, disability pensions, unemployment adventures, workfare or the minimum wage. Cheap jobs have always kept us buying lottery tickets and paying false taxes to keep us in some form of poverty or economic need. Makes you wonder what's going on! On a continent so filled with the riches of our labour and the products we have helped to produce we can't help but wonder why its so much trouble to afford some decent soup bones.

What have we done; or not done, to deserve so many hardships? One thing we don't need is more theories, or the academic language of abstract politics with "isms" galore. We demand a simple voice, one that everyone knows from personal experience. A straightforward language that respects all of us as we are. We need jobs, we need food, we need our families, we need better housing, we need more money, we need our friends. What's so difficult to understand? History has given us many fine friends, men and women

who have shared their lives and their ongoing dreams of human rights. People who have loved and made love to the ideas that have helped us to make some sense out of our poverty. People who have brought forward the words that describe an eternity of economic injustice.

As we struggle together we will find more voices to help keep us treading this muddy water. Our strength helps us stomach words and acronyms like imperialism, globalization, capitalism, culture, politics or A.P.E.C. We know that history moves. We know that we are an important part of that history because we breathe the life of change and not just the life of useless materialism.

"Monopolist capitalist associations, cartels, syndicates and trusts first divide the home market among themselves and obtained more or less complete possession of the industry of their own country. But under capitalism the home market is inevitably bound up with the foreign market."

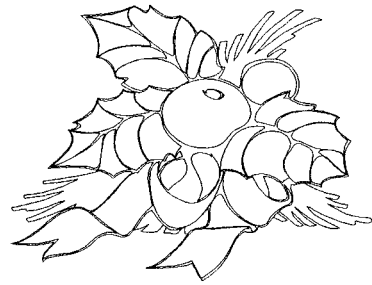
Who said this?

- a) Glen W.A.C. Clark
- b) Johnny Come Lately Chretien
- c) the manager of Save-On Meats
- d) none of the above

Sacco-Vanzetti

Friends Ron Hisco

Someone to talk to when you feel sad
Someone to laugh with when you feel glad
Someone to care when you are ill
Someone to be there, when you are silent and still
Someone to share your hopes and dreams
Someone to share your anger and screams
Someone to lug the dirty clothes
Someone to fold and pack them home



Ron Hisco passed away today
While walkin cross the street
He'd had a little drink or two
Up to God, he's gone to meet.

He has a lot of friends down here
Who will miss his smilin face
His scissors and his papers
From our minds we won't erase.

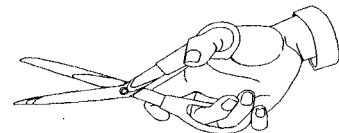
he helped a lot of people here
Running errands was his goal
Packin laundry, washin dishes
I just know God has his soul.

Ron, I can see you there in Heaven
With your scissors and your tape
I'm really going to miss you. Wife!
But someday you can meet me
at heaven's gate.

Sadly missed by all your pals

When perfection is in your midst,
your weakness is your strength.
When your reflection is all that exists,
your strength is weak

Friends of Ron Hisco



Sparky you old darlin
You're an MIA
I look at your chair each mornin
I don't know what to say
No matter who sits in it
It just ain't the same
I miss your cheery Mornin Lady
I know you're having pain

The eggs are going rotten
Waiting for you there
Me & June we miss you
For you we say our prayers

God keep you in his loving arms
And hold you by the hand
Trust in him and know that he
To you has a lot of plans

You're one of my favourite people Sparky and I
miss you

Brenda K.



CHANGES

1996 proved to be a challenging year. Carnegie went through some major changes - some for the good and some for the bad.

We also lost many of our members who moved on to bigger and better things and we mourned the deaths of many of our members. As well we celebrate their new beginning. Soon we will have a new Director, thanks to Dan T., Muggs S. and a few City Officials...I mustn't forget our ex-director Diane MacKenzie.

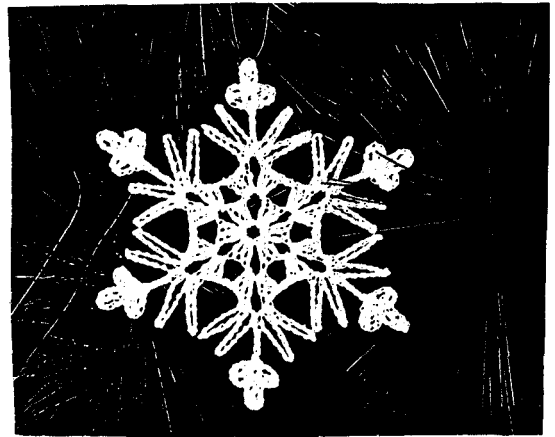
These are the biggest changes we've been through since Diane's departure...Donald is home with his family and I have heard that he has been to the slopes. No reports of broken bones, good job Donald. Miss you, big guy...there will always be a space up there on the 3rd floor.

- Upcoming events are the Wymin's March Feb. 14, if you have any sisters, daughters, nieces, aunts, or Mothers who have died of a violent death please contact Margaret or leave a message at the front desk...We will need volunteers etc.
- Then we have the March for Jesus to be taking place on May 24th...Bud O and I attended a meeting on Monday 9th opposing the March coming into the neighbourhood.

Speaking of healing, my HOPE for the future is that our Community, the Downtown Eastside, can get together with past, present members of the Downtown Eastside Residents. To speak of what ails them and how we as groups can heal the wounds of the past.

The media is making a mockery of our Community. They see us as fighting amongst ourselves...I don't see it as that. What I see is that we have quite a few people with different opinions and no one is willing to work together as a team.

This can only happen if those who have differences come to an agreement that they are working to better our Community, rather than



trying to destroy it. I plan to be here in this Community until I die or become goofy and leave accidentally.

- Bruce Eriksen has finished the painting at the bank if you have a moment drop by and take a look and or even a picture. Thanks Bruce for giving the painting a face lift...it looks great.
- Then we have DERA, which has been through many changes this year...congrats to the new Board of Directors and thanks to those of the year before. Everyone has contributed in the way which has made them your friends and mine.

The main thing is that we survived all disasters once again thanks to you, the members of DERA. Thanks for giving us the HOPE to carry on.

- Remember that safety is a big concern for our seniors and those who have a disability...Keep an eye open and remember the police are unable to help you if you don't report a crime. Call the neighborhood safety office @ 687-1772.

Also, if you are willing to volunteer please call Margaret @ the same number.

- Your friend and mine Marty Hunter is getting married...Congrats to Marty and husband to be.

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE
CARNEGIE LIBRARY AND STAFF**

**Merry Christmas And A Prosperous New Year
TO EVERYONE!**

Margaret Prevost



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

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 Wm/ B/- \$20
 Lillian H. -\$25
 Sonya S. -\$100
 Kettle F.S. -\$16
 Hazel M. \$10
 Joy T. -\$10
 Bea F. -\$30
 Frances -\$50
 Charley -\$25
 Libby D. -\$40
 Guy M. -\$20
 Tom D. -\$17
 anonymous \$20

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 Employees -\$200
 Neil N. -\$13
 Diane M. -\$15
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 Mel L. -\$17
 Sara D. -\$20
 CEEDS -\$20
 Susan S. -\$30
 DEYAS -\$100
 Brigid R. -\$30
 Amy E. -\$20
 Rene F. -\$50
 Kay F. -\$15
 Anonymous \$67
 Sam R. -\$35
 Doug Sommers \$100



THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
 CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

Articles represent the views of individual
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**Submission Deadline
 for the next issue:
 January 12, 1996**

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.**

PRG

POLITICAL RESPONSE GROUP

PRG is a political action group formed to advocate the concerns and needs of the entire Downtown Eastside Community. As a vehicle for unity in the Downtown Eastside PRG seeks to mobilize as many people as possible. Zero Displacement Now is PRG's rallying cry. No one who is currently housed in the Downtown Eastside should lose their housing as a result of upscale development and gentrification. Those that are now homeless must be housed. Unity is our hope as a community under assault.

Bud Osborn

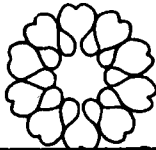
Spokesperson

OPEN HOUSE

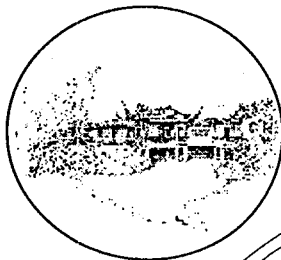
578 Powell St.

December 22., 1996. Sunday 2:00-5:00pm.

*Cookies and Refreshments
Everybody Welcome*



Welcome to our world.



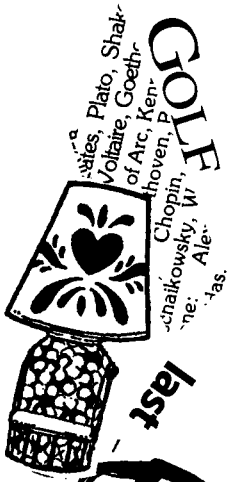
Dr. Sun Yat-Sen
Classical Chinese Garden
Free Admission December 1st to 24th

Treat yourself to a stroll through our one-of-a-kind garden, a landscape masterpiece where harmony and balance are reflected in symbolic plant life, precious Taihu rocks, covered walkways and jade-green water. Enjoy a complimentary tea, take a guided tour and visit our gift shop for unique Christmas gift ideas. Joy be unto you!



Tours: 10:30, Noon, 1:30, 3:00

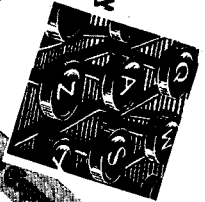
578 Carrall St. (at Pender) in Vancouver's Chinatown 662-3207



not a program

Potential

Time. Money. Potential. Well-Diversified Portfolio





SIGH... MORE POLITICS

Voltaire once said, "The Holy Roman Empire was neither Holy, nor Roman, nor an empire."

You could say the NPA is not non-partisan, because if they were, then what are they doing forming themselves into a political party. In the dictionary, non-partisan means "not partisan; especially, not controlled by or supporting any single faction or political party."

The NDP, some detractors would argue, is neither New (I guess they are new compared to their previous incarnation, the CCF), nor Democratic, nor a party (actually to be involved in political groups is often a stoic, and somber event.)

And when they introduced the GST, it was neither Progressive, nor conservative. (Although the P.C. party members themselves might say it is both!)

So you get the picture; the ambiguity in the political names frees the politicians from the stigma of vacillation should the accusation arise. Politicians are/have a necessary placebo effect for society.

A famous philosopher once quoted, "Even if God did not exist, it would be necessary for mankind to invent one." Same with politicians, I suppose.

I admire politicians. They have a difficult row to hoe. When a politician confides in a friend, "I think people are talking about me," the politician isn't being paranoid!

Politicians are civil service employees. Civil Service employees include librarians, maintenance workers, road workers, civic engineers, meter maids, bus drivers, social workers and welfare recipients.

Yes. Welfare recipients. We have a great package - a seven-day weekend, twelve months paid vacation, partial dental, full medical, not a

stitch of overtime, and welfare recipients cannot be fired! Like a union!

* * *

Sigh...I am feeling kind of tired these days. I write these political mini-treatises (written quite a few already), but I am actually a guy who's more interested in spirituality in the context of the study and practice of Soto Zen Buddhism.

But it's better for it to be said of a person that they write sleazy sounding political articles but they are actually spiritual, than the other way around.

Besides, there is a code of conduct that the Newsletter will not print any defamatory invectives, or material of a religious denominational nature.

Here are some sayings to help explain perhaps why my friends, my fellow writers of the Carnegie Newsletter, write:

It only takes a small spark to start a prairie fire.

To reshape the course of a river, make a small cut on the side and let the force of the river water itself do the rest.

With each successive sentence, by piecemeal as it were, we utilize the supple effect to influence society. This implies responsibility, though. Please have a happy wintertime season, everyone!

Dean Ko

P.S. I once read this sentence that when I first saw, thought nothing of, and whose importance and profundity is becoming only increasingly apparent.

"The ability to choose and appoint your successor is the ultimate sign of power."

How true. Not even N. American Prime Ministers and Presidents have this power. That's why there are elections, so the populace decides. George Orwell said that, and leave it to George to come up with a gem like that!

By the way, are there any businesses in Vancouver, that are actually fronts for some money-laundering scam?

For Irene:

As she treks
Through the woods
And saunters to the shores

She will remember her voyage
As Christmas Draws near
Blue, heron, swan and -
Those wonderful deer



Memories of nature
The mountains and the bays
Christmas is the season
To recall precious days

Now the weather turns cold
And winter is here -
Have a great Christmas
And a Happy New Year

Norma

I'm Sick Of It All!!!

When people refer to the Downtown Eastside, more often than not they're not referring to a complex set of borders that parallel halfway to Commercial, on south to Broadway, or the complex of urban housing that's east of Chinatown. No, what they're referring to is from about 100 West to about 600 East Hastings, about 2 (or in some areas 3) blocks thick, stretching north as we go along. Let us call this the spotlight area as we stop and take a look at what everyone else is looking at. From drug trafficking at one end, to lone hookers and run-down buildings bordering on industrial at the other. This is what Vancouver points at and calls "The Downtown Eastside."

It seems that where the most despair is at, it seems just to get worse, and Hastings is no exception. Whenever anyone thinks about drugs, prostitution, or crime, Hastings Street is the place to be. I was even told about this in Calgary. Now I know it's a sense of pride to have your reputation reach far and wide, but is this the reputation we want? Is this what we're defending from "gentrification," the right to get drugs, cheap sex and hot goods 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Hell, we've protested the use of security guards and police in the area, I guess we really like the pill sellers on the corner, don't we?

The fact of the matter is that for every time we tell city hall not to develop down here (on Hastings), are we telling them that we like the crime and poor living conditions? Are we really after preservation of this community, or are we displaying selfish stubbornness that's resisting change? I've talked to dozens upon dozens of residents here on Hastings, and the stories of living here are nowhere near pretty. Talking to ex-residents of Hastings, none of them ever want to return. It's interesting to note that some of our most vocal activists of Hastings would never live in the hotels here if their lives depended on it, and we're the ones expected to rally around them. Maybe development is the catalyst we need around here.

Hastings is one of those areas where scenes from the movies come to life. Garish neon lights, crime and shady characters, prostitutes, and bars that you don't feel safe in without a gun. Feels like one of those "Chinatown alleys" in a cop movie. Watch the street at night, and realize that this is what you're defending.

Something gotta change.

Bruce H. Aitken

Welfare workers, recipients unite to fight NDP government

A public forum involving anti-poverty groups and trade unions will examine the effects of government policies.

ROBERT SARTI

Vancouver Sun

Provincial welfare cutbacks are uniting two groups of people who have often just glared at each other across the employment divide — welfare workers and welfare recipients.

Ironically, their common target is an old ally, the New Democratic Party.

The NDP government's controversial B.C. Benefits program and earlier cutbacks are causing job

stress to the workers and hardship to the recipients, both sides say.

Welfare offices have had to increase security precautions in recent years as a result of incidents of violence toward the staff. Workers and community groups say the violence is caused by frustrated recipients blaming the workers for the cutbacks.

The B.C. Benefits program was introduced by the NDP earlier this year after the federal government made massive cuts in federal transfer payments.

Poverty groups especially object to provisions that cut the welfare rate by eight per cent at the low end of the scale, for single employables; impose a three-month residency requirement for eligibility for welfare; require recipients to take training programs without being guaranteed jobs, and

Sunrise Ceremony

The sky was grey
when we walked to the lake
in single file.
The water was smooth and black.

An old man started a small fire
and placed tobacco beside it.
Then everyone faced east.
Smoke from the fire drifted upwards.

A little girl clutched the skirt
of her grandmother, and
a boy gazed at the lake sleepily.
The fire crackled in the stillness.

The old man prayed,
and his voice travelled
across the water.
The fire shifted, and sparks flew up.

The sky was turning
from grey to pale orange.
A band of gold
appeared above the eastern hills.

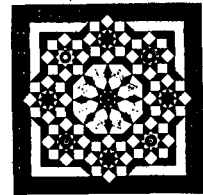
Behind me the trees were
the colour of burnished copper.
A slight breeze
moved the tree tops.

The people were singing now,
their faces reflecting the sun.
The children sang passionately,
eyes dark like the lake.

The worshippers stood together
joined in praise
joined in expectation
arms uplifted to the dawn.

Go in beauty, I thought.
The beauty of what is
is twin to the beauty
of what ought to be,
the evocative voice of the poet
twin to the harsh voice of the prophet,
Go in beauty, I repeated,
thinking of the earth's many peoples.

Sandy Cameron



reduce the amount welfare recipients can earn from part-time jobs.

A public forum Friday will bring anti-poverty groups and trade unions together to examine the effects of government policy on the poor. And welfare workers will rally Sunday to protest layoffs expected in the social service ministry, as well as the cutbacks in services.

Financial aid worker Ginger Richards said Tuesday welfare workers and welfare recipients will be at both events.

"We felt we need to work together to say to government, the neo-conservative agenda of balancing the budget on the backs of the poor and working people must stop," said Richards, speaking for locals 603 and 1203 of the B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union.

Linda Moreau of the anti-poverty group End Legislated Poverty, which is organizing the forum on behalf of more than 40 community and church groups and unions, said low-income people counted on the NDP to champion their cause while in Opposition.

Soon after it was elected, she said, the NDP

brought in some welcome changes, including the best hot lunch program for poor children in the country. They also made it easier for single parents to stay at home with their children.

"But it's been downhill ever since then," Moreau said.

Moreau said she knows the forum will be embarrassing to the NDP, but low-income people had no choice but to tell the government their support can't be taken for granted. She said she used to be an NDP member herself, but resigned in 1993.

"We had a meeting with the minister [Dennis Streifel] on Oct. 28 and we asked for a public review, and he refused," she said. "He said he was proud of the changes."

Streifel was not available for comment Monday or Tuesday.

Gonna Feed 36

Gonna walk into that big food store
Gonna take three dozen friends or more
Gonna load our buggys full of grub
Gonna munch our way up and down the floor

Gonna wiggle our bums to the looney tunes
Gonna toss in the stuff on the buggys real soon
Gonna push them through the cashier stall
Gonna say: "It's OK friend, the food's on them."

Gonna wheel right out the swinging door
36 buggys full - maybe more
When people start asking: "What'd ya do that for?"
Gonna say: "What'd ya think, it's a People's War!"

Gonna eat real well so we can do it some more
Gonna pass 'round the wealth from the big food store
36 friends strong - maybe more
Gonna feed ourselves like never before.

Norman Nawrocki

(Eastside Vancouver boy who made good in Montreal, from his new book, "Rebel Moon - Anarchist Rants and Poems/AK Press. He's moving back to Vancouver, so keep an eye out for him.)



Norman Nawrocki and friend (1984)

A living neighborhood, not urban decay

By giving his attention only to the skid road aspects of the Downtown Eastside, Dennis Bolen has ignored the stable, caring community that has existed there from the early days of Vancouver's history (Urban evolution eventually will drop its blanket over downtown's decay, Opinion, Dec. 4).

For the most part, the Downtown Eastside is a multi-racial, working-class community made up of seniors, youth, children, families, singles, First Nations people, recent immigrants, and physically and mentally handicapped people. Most residents are law-abiding citizens who live there because they want to. It is not "natural urban evolution" that will drive them out; it is market-driven development policies.

Not only homes are destroyed through unregulated gentrification and the dispossession of residents. A circle of friends is destroyed. A neighborhood is destroyed, a small world in itself, a world that people who are dispossessed cannot hope to rebuild.

It is possible to have the community and encourage development at the same time. What is needed is affordable housing for Downtown Eastside residents so they won't be displaced by gentrification, outreach workers for those most hurt, and adequate services for the ill and addicted.

As Canadians we are known by how we treat those who have the least power in our society. It is not just Vancouver's oldest neighborhood that is at stake - it is Vancouver's soul.

SANDY CAMERON
Vancouver

Why does Dennis Bolen think that just because he spent time on the Lower Eastside of Manhattan he understands what's happening in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside? Lots of us have visited the Lower Eastside of Manhattan and have a completely different take on events. If anything, the gentrification of the Lower Eastside demonstrates quite clearly that the displacement of poor households is not a myth and that resistance by the poor is possible. However, the brutal consequence of this resistance was the Tomkins Square Park riot in August 1988 and the subsequent violent evictions of homeless people from the park.

Mr. Bolen's attitude toward gentrification in the Downtown Eastside reflects the typical pioneer mentality so common to this process of urban development. So often "tourist" pundits and opportunists describe our neighborhood in terms of its decay and decline, as if there is nothing positive or any sense of community. As if the Downtown Eastside is a new frontier waiting to be colonized by those who truly appreciate turn-of-the-century architecture.

For those who believe that gentrification is a "natural urban evolution [that] will eventually create a more comforting blanket for downtown city life," please stay up on Robson Street and spare us the social Darwinism. There is nothing "natural" or inevitable about gentrification. It's a conscious act of market development and urban planning laced with moralistic, ideological and cultural preferences. You see urban decay, but we see a living neighborhood with a strong sense of community and history.

TOM LAVIOLETTE
Carnegie Centre Community Association

