

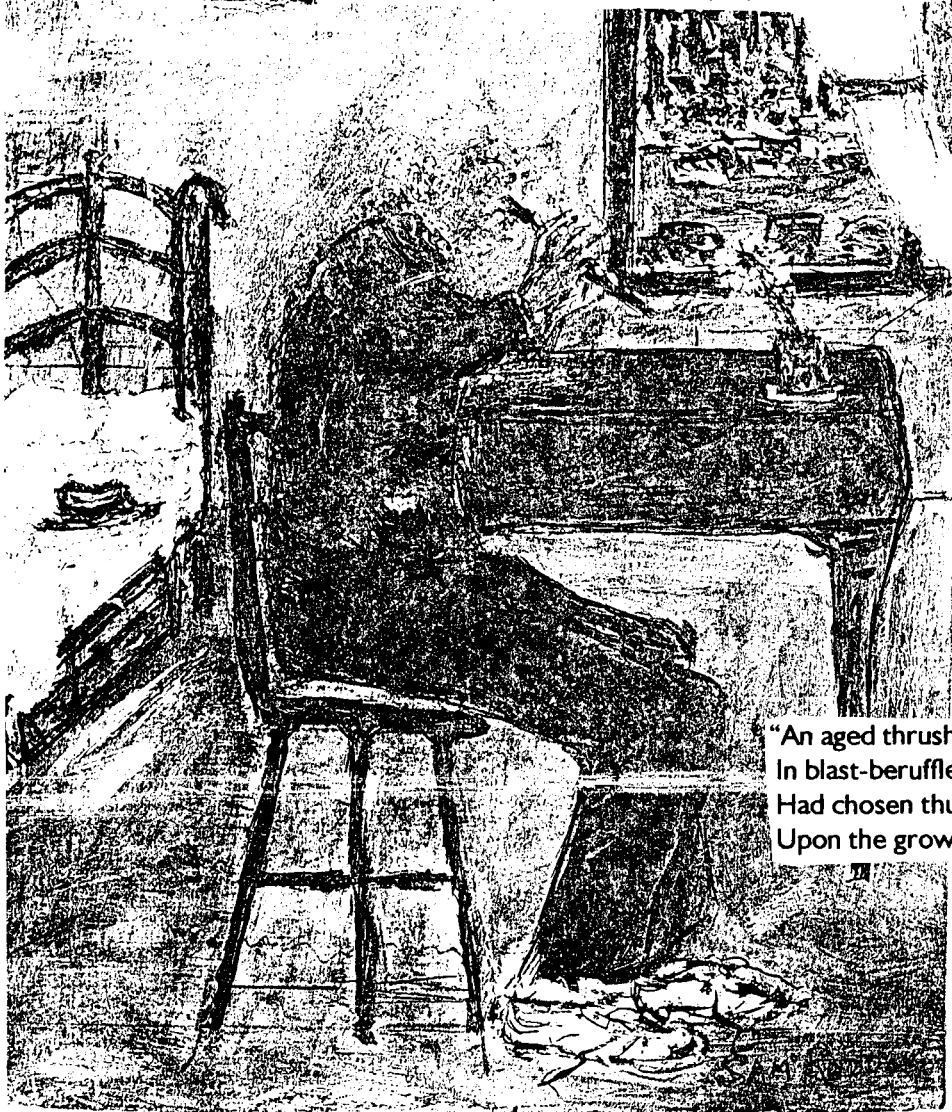
FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER

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

FEBRUARY 15, 1997.



"An aged thrush, frail, gaunt and small,  
In blast-beruffled plume,  
Had chosen thus to fling his soul  
Upon the growing gloom."

Amid the dregs of dissension, discord, litigiousness, the rasping, scratching, braying caterwauling that at times swirls around us all, I like to find solace from a penny whistle and the soul of an aged thrush. It is then I count my blessings....

Take care, Sam Roddan

OUR COMMUNITY—AMAZINGLY ALIVE!

# A REAL LIFE SERIES

## ON THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

Saturdays—February 15, March 15 and April 19, 1997

The Main and Hastings Community Development Society and Simon Fraser University are co-sponsoring a series of 4 workshops exploring the myths and realities of the Downtown Eastside. The first workshop addressed fundamental concerns through heartfelt presentations of real life experiences; it was titled *Poverty and People*. The 2nd one - *Health and Safety* - is happening on Saturday, February 15th, 10am - 3pm, at Theatre E, 254 East Hastings. It is free for low income residents of the community. Health and Safety will look at basic needs of individuals in terms of survival skills, drug or alcohol use being legal or health concerns and the spiritual path of the Medicine Wheel.



Editor:

In January Vancouver East's MP, Anna Terrana, attended a community meeting to hear concerns over federal funding to the CBC. More than 200 people turned out on short notice to make a desperate appeal to save the CBC from current and future cuts which will devastate both CBC radio and television.

Ms. Terrana attempted a difficult political maneuver, but most of those present were not particularly impressed. Terrana attempted to identify with CBC supporters without criticizing her own government which is responsible for the cuts. When pressed for her views, Terrana said that she supported the CBC but that there are difficult choices to make. The choices boiled down to support for the CBC or addressing issues like child poverty.

Of course, that is a false choice that Canadians do not have to make. I suggest Anna Terrana call a meeting on the subject of child poverty, and at least as many people will turn out. Will it be said then that children live in poverty because of the CBC?

In fact, the Liberals have singled out the CBC for cuts which are far greater than the cuts in any other area of government services. In the period 1994-1998, government services have been hit with cuts in the order of 19%. However, cuts to the CBC over the same period will be 33% - one third of its budget. Clearly, cuts of this magnitude are far beyond mere deficit reduction. This is a policy to dismantle the CBC as a central cultural force in our country, and it has absolutely nothing to do with the Liberals' disgraceful record on child poverty.

Anna Terrana and the Liberals must be held accountable for betraying their election promise to provide long term, stable funding for the CBC. The Friends of Canadian Broadcasting have launched a lawnsign campaign in Vancouver East with signs that say "Keep the promise." I intend to put a sign on my lawn, and to ensure that the CBC promise is remembered in the coming election.

LIBBY DAVIES

Candidate for the NDP federal nomination in  
Vancouver East

## spared mariners

I am becoming something impossible  
necessary and sudden  
now, poised for some unfathomable rage

we hear here of eloquent  
silent chambers, brown universities  
in green clothes  
a desperate sightlessness of desire  
stymies us with  
ourselves, the repetative noise  
of the tight little myths of our time  
the crackpot myths of our time

a large and unforgiving wave  
night's fat disembodied handedness  
the spirit of an ocean  
blue poncho from a lost book  
of hours, resolutions  
inaccessible to us

I imagine a man living  
alone in the midwest on a large  
private property, sinking  
posts for many years without reason  
similarly we drive  
our stakes deep  
into the ground, while  
about us whisper  
the sandy sounds of decay...

he remembers the dark  
moist ignorance of childhood  
like a diagnosis

of what?

\* \* \*

evening coming, a blue poncho  
deflates, the picnic  
tables hum inhumanly  
the broken surface and broken  
deep, the shame of learning  
so late the irreplaceable  
years, the hours that slept  
with us in some vacant  
gesture of collapse

there is only the wire of the world  
and those who fall  
from rules into the anarchy  
of poetry and pointless  
desire, for the time  
being in their lives  
spared mariners



Dan Feeney

Feeling Stressed?  
Tense? Tired?

Have you ever  
tried Yoga???

Here's your  
chance...

## DROP IN YOGA

First classes from  
February 24 to April 24  
in the Carnegie Gym

Two times to choose from or  
attend both!

Mondays: 11:00 to 12:30

Fridays: 4:30 to 6:00

Come and give it a try!

# SPOKEN WORDS

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

7:00 - 10:00 P.M.

IN THE THEATRE

SNACKS AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED

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

## SPOKEN WORDS

The monthly event of stories and poems took place on Friday, January 31st. There was a great deal of talent and the authors spoke straight from the heart.

I thoroughly enjoyed being the M.C. for this very special evening. Among those who participated were Taum Danberger, Randall, Shawn Millar, Brian Paley, Rudolph Penner, Demetri, Leonard, Terry Flamond, Robert, Matt, Muriel and Amy. Many thanks to all those who helped make this program such a great success.

There was one man who had been drinking and he wandered into the theatre when Terry Flamond was speaking. He seemed to get a lot from Terry's talk and I could not help but think that perhaps he was trying to stop drinking alcohol. Each of us receives a different message from what we hear.

If you wish further information please contact Amy MacFarlane at 665-3545. The next *Spoken Words* night is on February 28 at 7:00 p.m.

By IRENE SCHMIDT



## For the Third and Final Time.

DERA, the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association, held its third Annual General Meeting in one year - on February 1st. It's not necessary to rehash the particulars of this; suffice it to say that a few individuals tried to destroy perhaps the oldest and most credible organisation in our community, while telling people of some vague utopian ideals or just plain lying.

The same tactics of delay and procedural wrangling were attempted at the AGM, but the vast majority of members present overrode the crap. It still took from 10:40 until after noon to get to the actual election, but everything was squeaky clean. It was like being in court and remembering to cross all the "t's" so no appeal would be heard.

The results were a satisfying relief; no members of Innovative Empowerment were elected.

There were 232 members who signed in, 189 cast ballots of which 5 were spoiled; 184 votes counted

|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Fred Oliveira - 176 | Barry Morris - 174     |
| Mr. Huang - 172     | Margaret Prevost - 170 |
| Mr. Choy - 170      | Bud Osborn - 169       |
| Perlas Sabino - 165 | Deirdre Keohane - 163  |
| Mel Adams - 161     | Ian MacRae - 161       |
| Paul Taylor - 156   | Bob Harkus - 155       |

Of course there have been threats to keep DERA in court over one idiot motion or another, made by the same blanks. Stay tuned; it's almost over..

By PAULR TAYLOR

## **Not in our neighbourhood you don't!**

Keep your fingers crossed, but it looks like Carnegie and other Downtown Eastside programs may escape without taking a major hit from all the City spending cuts.

The city is going to raise taxes, increase user fees for some services and cut some programs but, so far, nothing that affects this neighbourhood.

Credit has to go to the people of the Downtown Eastside who were the first to raise publicly the demand that, rather than cut programs that affect the city's most vulnerable residents, the costs should be born by the residents who can afford it most - the property owners of the city. Nearly 200 people gave Mayor Philip Owen that very message loud and clear at a Carnegie public meeting in January - by far the largest number of people to attend one of the mayor's budget-cutting shindigs.

We were concerned that cuts to Carnegie's budget would result in shorter hours at the Centre - a recipe for disaster when people are trying to find a safe, alcohol-and-drug-free place in the neighbourhood in the morning and later in the evening.

The Carnegie Board and other groups like Strathcona Ray-Cam and community centres conducted a very spirited campaign to convince city councillors that cutting programs in this neighbourhood is being penny-wise and pound-foolish. Cut Evelyn Saller, Carnegie, or any other service and the City will wind up paying more in costs from homelessness and social problems later.

We also hosted Counc. Don Lee, who visited Carnegie's seniors lounge and the library and saw how cuts would affect the Chinese-speaking community. Carnegie is one of the largest resources for Chinese-speaking people in the city.

All this doesn't mean the danger is over yet however. The city is making some cuts in the library and parks budgets and, if we are not vigilant, these could be felt down the road in the Carnegie library or at Oppenheimer and Crab Parks.

As well, the increase in user fees will mean children will have to start paying at swimming pools

and other city-run facilities. That, and the increase in library fines, will affect low-income families.

These cuts have come about because of the right-wing campaign to cut the deficit on the backs of the poor, cascading from the federal to the provincial to the municipal level.

At least when it got to the neighbourhood level, we were able to say, **Not here!**

By MUGGS SIGURGEIRSON



## **"Politics Is Like Boxing"**

At the meeting about the Native Studies Program, the D.I.A. official attacked Philip for not running the program according to government directives. Philip just sat there as the bureaucrat raved, and I was crushed by the attack and Philip's silence.

After the meeting Philip noticed my long face.

"Don't look so sad," he said.

"That guy killed us," I replied.

"Politics is like boxing," Philip said.

"You don't win every round.

Sometimes you let a few rounds go by while you're thinking of a new strategy. The most important round is the last one.

Don't worry; we'll get what we need."

...and we did.

Sandy Cameron

## rip-off

it's a rip-off  
as tho' you got a gun  
like mister bean calling  
me a goof  
if only you knew  
how you make me feel

it's a rip-off  
'nd yer on the trot  
lookin' over your shoulder  
checkin' what you got  
'nd it's all so easy  
'nd that's why you fall  
on down that track  
that's the view you see  
me laughin' at you  
you're there laughing too  
your eyes wild  
mine sad  
away you go  
someone else  
screaming at you  
it's your serenade  
doing what you gotta do  
hey, a job's a job  
someone's gotta do it  
it's a rip-off  
as tho' you got a gun  
balls blown up like balloons  
'til you're impressed  
'til you're not afraid  
of whatever it is

**goblin**



## It

If you love something, set it free!  
If it comes back it was yours and always will be yours.  
If it never returns, it was never yours to begin with.  
If it just sits in your livingroom, messes up your stuff, eats your food,  
uses your telephone, takes your money, and never appears to  
know that you actually set it free in the first place,  
you either married it or gave it birth.



## 'Perverved drivell'

In the *Verbatim* column Jan. 25 Chris Sarlo (writing for the Fraser Institute) says the symptoms of poverty, hunger, abuse, being unloved, and being dysfunctional - are borne by children not because their parents' income is inadequate, but because the parents are irresponsible. This is exactly an example of the "blame the victim" approach to reporting poverty that is too often seen in the news media today. It is a form of poor-bashing, and wouldn't be condoned for an instant by anyone with a speck of humanity in them.

The Fraser Institute, in its publication *The Fraser Forum*, is often guilty of poor-bashing and much more. I quote from a recent article about the Fraser Institute: "Canadians need to be wary when (think tank) financing is substantial and secretive; when journalists become silent promoters for the powerful; when research is twisted to fit a political motive at its very core."

*The Sun's* editorial and op-ed pages are already overflowing with right-wing gibberish, while writers with a conscience, like Stephen Hume, have been marginalized. Please don't print any more of the Fraser Institute's nauseating and economically perverted drivell in *Verbatim*.

Rolf Auer

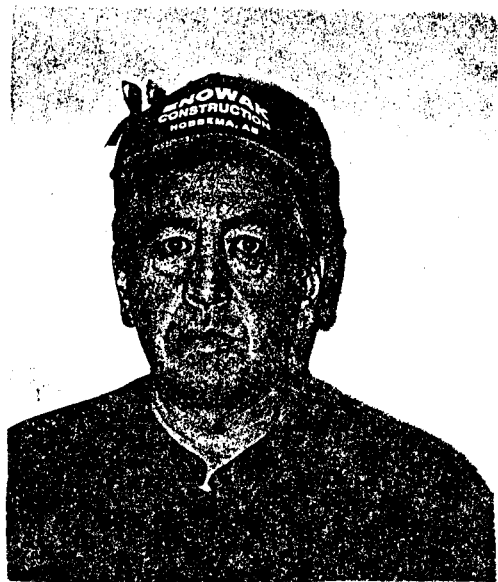
## LINES FROM THE LEARNING CENTRE

### Terry Flamond - Student

Terry, who is a First Nations person (Cree), comes from North Battleford, Saskatchewan, where he experienced a great deal of hard luck and misery before he ended up as a volunteer at Carnegie and as a student in the Learning Centre.

When he was 2 years old he was placed in a foster home and from then on he grew up in a series of foster homes and residential schools. He attended some 'white' schools and also sometimes lived in residential schools Monday to Friday, returning to a foster home on weekends. Throughout these years he says the only foster parent who loved and understood him was an elderly native woman, Caroline.

When Terry was 9 years old he smoked some



heroin given to him by his older brother, Leonard. By the time he was 16 years old he was in trouble with the law - mostly for stealing cars. His unhappiness had him on the terrible road to

alcoholism and drug addiction.

When Terry was 12 years old and living in a foster home in Cochen, Sask., he found out that he was an Indian - says he discovered this for himself. At the age of 30 a chance encounter when he was hitchhiking in Saskatchewan linked him to his relatives. When a car stopped to pick him up, Terry was struck by the fact that he and the driver looked alike. They started to talk and soon discovered that they were half-brothers - he and Richard had the same father but different mothers. Terry's father was Bill Flamond and his mother was Elizabeth Bull. Apparently the father had 2 wives simultaneously and had produced 18 children. The father died many years ago, but Terry discovered that he had a sister, Clara, who he is still trying to find.

Terry's life is completely different now. He says, "I am a traditional native man now. No more drinking or drugging - I live one day at a time. I go to native sweat lodges where pipe ceremonies, sun dances, smudging for the Creator, pow-wows and drumming are carried on. I am in it all except the sun dancing, which I will learn later. I am now a traditional elder."

Terry has a daughter and a granddaughter in North Battleford who he keeps in touch with by phone. He also sends them gifts. Because he is dyslexic he has great difficulty writing letters.

However, now that he is a student at the Learning Centre, he is learning how to write and soon hopes to write to them.

Terry enjoys being part of Carnegie Community Centre - he is a volunteer in the pool room and also works as a phone receptionist. He says he eats here, meets beautiful people, enjoys being with teachers, students and tutors. He says, "I love each person at the Learning Centre - unconditionally! If I like you as a human being you have the greatest friend in the world, but if I dislike you I won't talk to you or shake hands with you, but I will pray for you. I wish and pray to help anyone to help themselves."

Terry wants to end this by saying he loves you. His Indian name is Wapoose.

Given verbally by Terry to Joan Doree, Volunteer Tutor.

# PM to promote free trade

It is vital to Canada, Jean Chretien said on his way to the Philippines to attend the annual summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

## Eviction on as APEC summit draws near

Vancouver faces doubling of costs  
for Asia Pacific conference

### Don't Believe the Hype!

**Countdown to APEC: 276 shopping days left!**

APEC stands for Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation, or as we like to call it: Anti-People Economic Control. It is a grouping of 18 countries including Canada in the Asia-Pacific region who want to impose a free-trade zone in the region.

10,000 media and business people including the leaders and their spouses will be converging on our fair city this fall. The province and city have already said they will spend over \$5 million hosting the Leader's Summit. Meanwhile, Clark and Owen continue to threaten slashing funding to Carnegie, welfare rates and other social programs all in the name of "deficit-reduction." But behind the fancy words and the pretty face they are putting on APEC and Vancouver as an "international city" are the **real** effects of APEC and globalization: job loss, cuts to social programs and an ever-widening gap between the rich and the poor.

#### • For working peoples...

APEC means more cuts to B.C. Benefits and Health Care. Free trade is resulting in large corporations closing shop to move to the Third World in search of cheap labour and materials.

#### • For women...

APEC means the displacement, commodification and increased trafficking of women: prostitutes, mail-order brides, and domestic workers.

#### • For indigenous peoples...

APEC means the continuing dispossession of indigenous people's lands and natural resources in the name of profit. Since NAFTA, the Canadian government has been scrambling to close treaty deals with indigenous peoples to clear the way for

multinational corporations to gain greater control over the extraction of resources.

#### • For youth...

APEC will force more youth into McJobs and skills training for non-existent jobs, as already seen through NAFTA. Young people have been targeted by the Youth Works or workfare program. APEC member countries also have a mandate to structure education based on the needs of the multinationals involved.

#### • For the environment...

There will be increased exploitation of natural resources: fish, timber, oil, water, etc. At the same time, these sectors are being privatized and deregulated. For example, even though we have the Forest Practices Code it is enforced by the private sector which has an economic stake and stronghold in resource based industry.

For these reasons, the **NO! to APEC** coalition is conducting an educational campaign building up to a grassroots' people's counter-conference when APEC comes here in November. We are a grassroots coalition of individuals and organizations. We have several committees for you to get involved in:

- ⇒ coordinating and finance
- ⇒ mobilizing and organizing
- ⇒ research, education and media

Watch out for more activities coming up at Carnegie Centre: educational workshops, video and slide-showing, puppet-making and lots of other activities and ideas are being planned.

**Inform yourself and take action before it's too late!**

Call: 215-1103 for more information.





## In The Dumpster

binner@vcn.bc.ca  
mcbinner@hotmail.com

Greetings fellow bidders & bidderettes. Mr. McBinner has gotten over the flu and is back to his paranormal self. I went out the other day and made \$27 binning so I went and got the swine flu again..I drank like a pig. With this unpredictable weather it is very important for all of us to eat the proper foods when possible. Trashhopper said he wants to do a feature on shopping for cheap grub in the Downtown Eastside.

Thanks to Leith Harris for her story on Janice Saul. I remember her very well..especially when I hear *Fogtown*, one of Michelle Shocked's songs.

I still see Christmas trees on the ground and garbage thrown all around some bins. Some people have no respect. Little do they know, or maybe they just don't care, that fences could be erected. I have seen this happen before. This also reflects on the rest of us bidders. Show some class.

As of this writing there is no new news from United We Can.

It is a known fact that on July 17, 1909, the Shah of Persia had retreated to Sultanabad only to later be banished from the country. Now I hear (this is just a rumour) that shitty hall is trying to procure a Downtown Eastside Shah to oversee shitty hall's attempts to raise havoc with the homeless and poor, to destroy the DE so big condos can be built, and to generally ruin people's lives. I hear one can apply for this position by phoning 666-6666 or fax 666-DEAL.

Have a good month and be careful out there.  
May The Bins Be With You.

Mr. McBinner

## LOVE

Love is something that's sometimes hard to find  
It's really in your heart, not always in your mind  
It can take a broken man and make him whole  
It can take a shattered nation and give it soul  
Love can be everywhere and nowhere at all  
Love can make a bad man stand tall  
Love is at the heart of every revolution  
Love is always the answer love is always the solution  
Love can cause a miracle love can work a cure  
Love can make a certain man out of someone who's unsure.



Elizabeth Thorpe

## HATE

Hatred is disease hatred is death  
Hatred is always the wrong answer  
Hatred never pleases hatred is lethargy  
I cannot watch as hatred commands her  
I must intervene  
Hatred is the cog that disunites a country  
Hatred never works hatred is a curse  
Hatred drives the hearse of every nation's downfall.

Elizabeth Thorpe



**JEALOUSY**  
Jealousy is the worm in every marriage  
Jealousy is a mirage where there should be the water of love  
No one needs jealousy - all it is is insecurity  
Beware of jealousy's bitter bite  
Jealousy is blindness where there should be sight  
Jealousy destroys what love has carefully created.  
Jealousy is a worm that must be eradicated.  
Elizabeth Thorpe





Dear Alicia,

Thank you for your part in obtaining the New Year's gig for my band. It was a great honour to come back to the place where I first received the courage to go on stage. Many thanks to everyone who put up with me when I was struggling. Some of them have passed away, such as Tom Lewis and Peter Sherstobitoff. They had a great deal of patience with me.

Here is another frog to add to your massive collection. Robert Davidson has been one of my favourite artists ever since my mother took me to the Vancouver Art Gallery to see his show. We spent a long time enjoying the various exhibits.

Going to Saskatchewan last summer was a real adventure. After growing up in a crowded city, I was intrigued by the wide open spaces and just stood and admired the view for a long time.

I could write a full length novel about working at Super Slave Store. They cheated me on some pay three cheques in a row. The supervisor kept promising me that it would be on the next one. Just recently I was amazed to see the back pay in my bank account. Everyone works part time, yet they keep on hiring more people so they do not have to pay any new benefits.

We may be on strike soon - the union is urging employees too vote yes. If we go on the picket line we shall receive the paltry sum of five dollars per day. Haven't we returned to the 1930's? I am most fortunate to have my music to back me up, but what will happen to the rest of the fellow employees? We must fight hard against APEC or things will become much worse.

Wayne Schmidt

*Carnegie newsletter submission -- Feb. 15/97*

## Save your breath

Some people say that Carnegie is full of hot air. Well, there's going to be more of it soon.

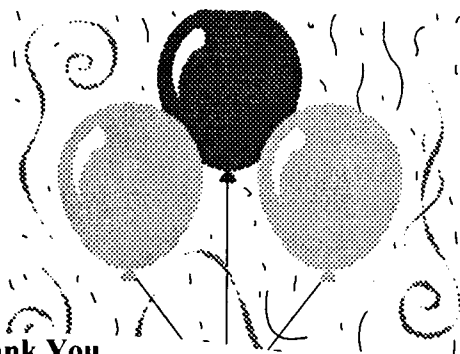
The Carnegie Board is buying a mechanical balloon blower-upper to save a lot of huffing and puffing on the part of volunteers.

Every time you go into the theatre, it's a treat to enjoy the wonderful decorations, especially the balloons hanging from the ceiling. From Canada Day to Valentine's Day to Hallowe'en, Christmas and Thanksgiving, and all the dances in between, the decorations get changed at least once a month to keep the place looking lively and festive.

That's more than 2,000 balloons a year that need to get inflated.. a lot of work for volunteers and especially if you're a senior and getting short of breath. Doctors say it's not the most healthy thing to blow up a lot of balloons in a row - there's more air going out of your lungs than coming in.

So Floyd, George and all the other windy types who blowed 'em up real good - party on, dudes, but take a deep breath and relax. The gizmo will be doing the huffing and puffing from now on.

Muggs Sigurgeirson



Thank You

*Main&Hastings, 1pm, Feb. 11:* I got off the Main bus. Close to Carnegie's steps I heard "Mam, Mam, you dropped this." A young Native man, soaking wet from the rain, handed me my wallet with a bus pass, bank card, ID, etc. inside. I had dropped it and not noticed.

Thank You. Thank You! The Great Spirit will bless you.

Sheila Baxter

## The Women's Memorial March Honours Our Fallen Sisters

11.

The Women's Memorial March. It's simple and profound - a gathering of friends, family members and people who care to honour the women who have died by violence or drug overdose or suicide in the Downtown Eastside.

It is organised and conducted in a way to respect the surviving families and to bring the matter of one hundred and thirty-six deaths to light for honest reflection. The March is not to be used as a political tool to be twisted or warped for people's personal or narrow emotional gripes.

At one of the earlier annual marches, the police had asked those present to keep to one lane on the

street and not blockade traffic. The Native people agreed; some individuals claiming membership in various groups kept their resentment of the police or men in general (or something) as raw as possible, telling the cops to fuck-off.

By the time this is read the March will be over. So far, three groups are claiming it as "theirs" and "their" rules only apply. I've heard no cops and no men and so on. I've heard of a press release in which one person claims sole responsibility.. This kind of thinking, and the personal power-tripping, dishonours the families and the heart.

Pray for spiritual strength.



Ladies and gentlemen of law enforcement & the news media, please be kind enough to give me a few minutes of your time, as I would like to tell you something, maybe even ask you some things that will awaken an awareness in each of you that may or may not have been there before, that may make the news media (especially the newspaper reporters) think before they report their stories, that may make law enforcers think when they are going about their investigative duties.

Have any of you ever had someone you love dearly or care about dearly, die? From what causes did they die - old age, illness, car accident, suicide... or have you ever had one of your children die? What kind of feelings were awakened in you - helplessness, anger, wishing it had been you instead, anger at the deceased (depending on the circumstances)? You could even be forgiven for ranting and raving at God (How dare He offend and hurt you this way!). If you have never been close to or involved in a death situation, try and imagine what your feelings might be. Consider yourself lucky if you have escaped it thus far, but believe me we all have to deal with it sooner or later.

Now I ask, have you ever had someone you love murdered? Have you ever had a child murdered? On both counts I can say that I have. I can just hear you saying, or imagine you thinking, "I can't imagine how that would feel" or "I would just die", and you could be forgiven for even thinking "I'll kill the bastard if I get to him before the police do." Your friends and family feel the same way; members of the public feel the same way. I can't even begin to tell you the feelings that are aroused in you. One feeling is as though someone has just come along and cut off an arm or a leg or cut into your stomach to remove a cancer without anaesthesia and used a rusty knife to perform these grisly tasks. A part of you is gone forever, plus all of the above feelings. If I am being too graphic for you, forgive me, as I am trying to make a point here. Right now you are sympathising with me and my loss.

"But wait a minute," I hear you say, "her daughter was a prostitute and a drug addict. It's her own fault she was murdered. If she hadn't been out there it wouldn't have happened." But we all know it has happened, and to women who were not prostitutes. They have been abducted from their place of work, abducted from their homes, abducted on their way home from school. Because a woman is a prostitute does it make her less of a human being? But they do not get the "sympathy" because they are "just a prostitute." A murder victim is a



murder victim whichever way you look at it. Prostitutes and non-prostitutes have a few things in common, two of them being that - someone loves them and is left behind grieving for them, and they are now victims of a heinous crime. There are many reasons that a person resorts to prostitution, and we are not here to judge any person. Who died and made you God anyway? (You may or may not believe in Him normally, but just hit your thumb with a hammer or, when you're in trouble, who do you call first? It sure as hell ain't Ghostbusters!)

To the male law enforcement officers, I respect the work that you do. A lot of work & effort goes into a murder investigation, but what is the attitude when the victim is a prostitute? The detectives dealing with my daughter's death are very fine and considerate gentlemen; they show me a lot of compassion and respect. But can I dare to hope that all law enforcers are the same? If not, please talk to them. All I ask is that you give these types of investigations your best also and without prejudice. It may be hard sometimes but you know if there were no johns there would be no prostitutes. If these women were not out there it may be a whole lot worse for the rest of us females, or the females you care about... and it's not that safe. (Your work load just may increase that much more if they were not there.) These women take the brunt of these weirdo's frustrations. Admittedly not all of these men are psycho; they are visiting prostitutes for various reasons but, for some reason, it seems to be acceptable for them to beat, batter or murder these women. After all, it's not okay to belittle the man, and it always seems to be the woman's fault for "being out there".

To the females I say, there but for the Grace of God goes you or I. It could be you who's not coming home any more to your family or, at the very least, having to deal with the trauma of having been raped. These women may be part of the reason that we have not had to suffer these types of humiliation up to now. Some of these women do not have any other way to make a living, and this is the only way they know. They are not depriving you or me of anything. They are not laying in wait for old age pensioners to come out of the bank and robbing them. Some of them have children to support, some may have a drug habit to support. Whichever, they are not harming you personally, so why the attitude of self-righteousness?

Now I come to the news media - the ever-loving, ever-caring, ever-lusting for sensationalism news media. Do you realise the damage that you do in the way you report certain things? When my daughter's body was found her death would have gone virtually unnoticed and unheralded as many a prostitute before her. She would have only been mentioned in the news once as "A young black prostitute was found murdered today" and then forgotten. That is all she would have mattered or rated, if not for one fact: she was/is the sister of a celebrity, one Mr. Michael "The Silk" Olajide, former Canadian middleweight champion, who you may or may not know. There is one newspaper and reporter here in Vancouver that assumed that this fact gave them the authority to ride roughshod over the victim, my daughter and my family. I took this particular reporter to task about the first article she attempted to write about my daughter, and to which she added my son's picture, making him look as if he had been the "hooker & victim". Reporting this tragedy as if it was some sort of publicity stunt, this reporter, undaunted by her ignorance of how to reach me, went to the archives and retrieved stuff about my son that was not at all pertinent to the death. As she had a deadline to meet and a space to fill, she used this stuff because she did not have enough info about my dead daughter. They took it on themselves to attend the memorial service even though they were told by myself & two other people to stay away. This memorial service was not put into the obituary columns in any newspaper, making it a private service. They lay in wait for us for two hours to leave the church and, from a furtive vantage point, took a

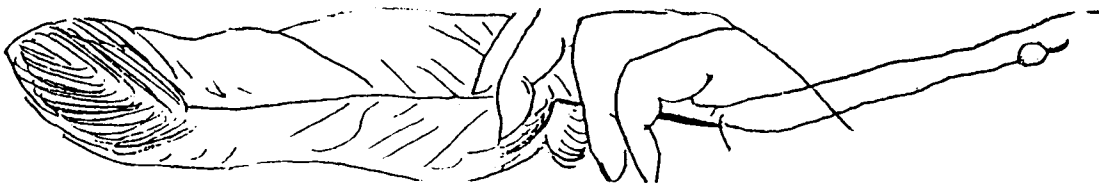
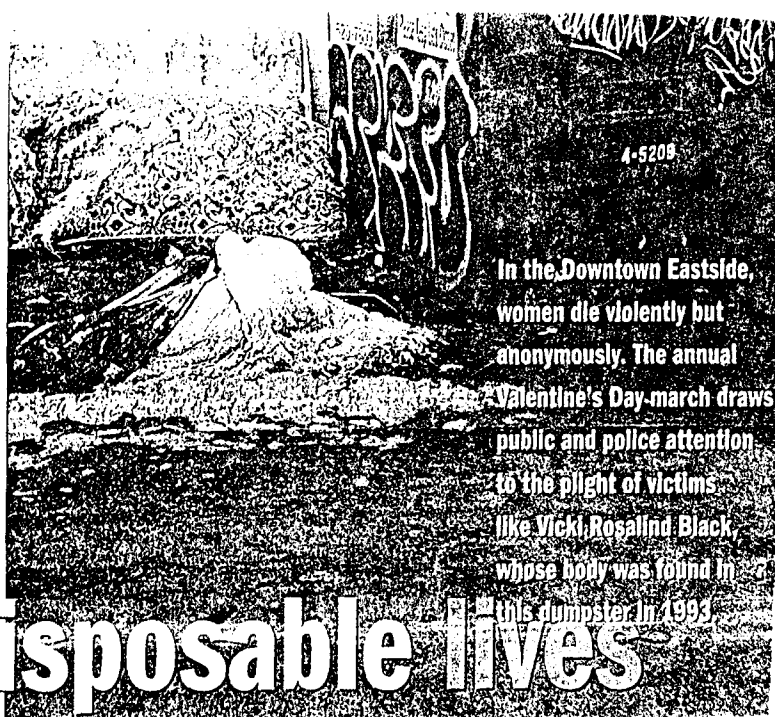


photo of the victim's son, my grandson. They published this picture, complete with his name and age, without permission from any of his adult relatives who were present. Under this picture they wrote that his mother had been a prostitute for 11 years to support her cocaine habit. He is 6 years old. How does this make his birthright appear? Yes, my daughter had been a prostitute; Yes, she had used cocaine but not for the length of time they stated. This little boy had not committed any crime; neither had her brother (my son). I could possibly have overlooked some of what they did, but when they turned this innocent little boy (my grandson) into a victim, they declared war on me. As far as I am concerned this newspaper and its reporters are pimps. They prostituted my grandson and my family to sell their newspapers. Actually I respect pimps more than I respect them - at least you know where a pimp is coming from. Obviously you (the media) don't see or choose not to see the damage and pain you inflict, the hurt you bestow on the remaining relatives and friends in your frenzy to present "The News". A person is hurting enough when their loved one dies from natural causes, but the murder of your loved one is the worst insult that anyone can ever heap on your head. The helplessness one feels cannot be measured, the wondering why. The waiting for someone to be apprehended is frustrating, but you just have to wait and for God knows how long, and most of the media in Vancouver just did not give a damn. In fact, do any of you media types give a damn? Most of what they published surrounding my daughter's death was not "in the public interest". I want to say to you media people, "Be careful how you treat people on your way up, as you meet the same people on your way down."

The reason I have mentioned all of this today is that a fine, caring person, with whom I have recently become acquainted, asked me if I would care to present things from the point of view of the relative and mother of a victim. Nearing the end of what I have to say I would like to request of all of you - give some consideration to what I have put before you: examine your own attitude towards these women and their plight, and if you agree with me, whenever you hear anyone talking about these women as if they were 'excreta under their or someone's shoe', give them an attitude adjustment. Death has a way of making all of us equal no matter what profession, colour, race or creed, but we all still go around thinking "It will never happen to me."

To conclude, my grandson last saw his mother alive June 18, 1995. She hugged and kissed him, told him she loved him, hugged and kissed and told me that if anything ever happened to her I was never to blame myself as she had chosen the path she was currently walking, that I was the best mother anybody could ever have. She left a brand new night-dress in her son's bedroom closet, as she said that she was slowly getting back to normal and would be coming by more frequently (it still hangs there, never worn and with the tag still on it) and for me to be patient a little longer and just be there for her. She phoned us a few times after that visit, and I had a phone call from her on August 4/95.. then again on August 6/95. On August 12 her lifeless body was found. She always said that one day she would tell me what made her take up this type of life... now I will never know. On the long weekend in September '95 I ran into a friend who told me that Tracy had made up her mind to come back home to us, just the week before she was murdered.

As I prepare this, the date is March 3, 1996, Tracy's 21st birthday. I gave birth to 4 beautiful children, two sons and two daughters. Now I am deprived of having my youngest daughter around. My grandson is deprived of his mother. I was a single mother for many years, and now I am a single grandmother. I just thank God that I am able to give love, guidance and care to the beautiful young man who my daughter entrusted to me.



In the Downtown Eastside, women die violently but anonymously. The annual Valentine's Day march draws public and police attention to the plight of victims like Vicki Rosalind Black, whose body was found in this dumpster in 1993.

# Disposable lives

by **Fiona Hughes**  
staff writer

A scavenger rummaging through a dumpster behind the 7-Eleven at 2092 East Hastings one afternoon in March 1993 made a gruesome discovery. Wrapped in a grey, double-sized, square-patterned bed sheet was the body of a woman. She had medium-length auburn hair, weighed 47 kilograms and was 157 centimetres tall. Her name was Vicki Rosalind Black. She was 23 years old.

Black is one of about 48 B.C. sex trade workers murdered since 1988. Most worked the Downtown Eastside. In the spartan offices of the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Safety Office on East Hastings hangs a large

red banner listing the names of 44 women who lived in the community and died violently. Another two white banners list 74 names. An additional 20 names are to be added to the white banners this year. Of the 138 women, some overdosed on drugs or committed suicide. Others were murdered or died under mysterious circumstances that police are unwilling to call homicide, but which people in the community label highly suspicious.

Though many of their killers still walk among us, these women, most of them native, are not forgotten. Every Feb. 14 since 1992, their lives and spirits are honoured in a special Valentine's Day march.

"The focus of the march is to highlight that women in the Downtown Eastside, which includes street-involved women, are dying faster than women in any other community," explained Margaret Prevost, vice-president of the Carnegie Centre and a march organizer. She estimates that native women constitute 60 per cent of the 138 women. Nationally, aboriginal women comprise between one and two per cent of Canada's population.

THE MEDIA RELEASE FOR the march notes the event is: "To remember our sisters for who they were. Human beings just like you or I. They were mothers, daughters and sisters." The march also serves to remind the police to report on the status of their investigations. Reacting to the number of unsolved cases, march organizers said the law has a double-standard toward the murder of prostitutes. "The law today perceives working women more as a statistic than a victim... Their killers are still out there."

Const. Anne Drennan, police media spokeswoman, disagrees with that statement arguing each homicide is treated equally, no matter what occupation the victim was in.

"The homicide investigators don't sit back and say 'oh, that was just a prostitute who died so let's just shove this one under the desk for now and move onto the other murders,'" she said. "They are right out there doing everything they possibly can. Right after it happens, they're out there often for 48 straight hours working the area believing that if you can nail something down in the

early hours following the homicide that's the best possible time to catch somebody."

Even when the murderer is caught, the law still discriminates, argue native groups. A case in point is the recent conviction of two white Saskatchewan university students who beat to death native prostitute Pamela George in Regina. Claiming they were drunk, Steven Tyler Kummerfield and Alexander Ternowetsky were sentenced to six and a half years each for manslaughter. They had been charged with first-degree murder, which would have carried a life sentence with no eligibility of parole for 25 years. According to a Jan. 31 *Globe and Mail* article, the judge told jurors it would be dangerous to hand out a life sentence because George was a prostitute and the question of whether she consented to have sex was muddled. Local native groups took to the streets Thursday to protest the sentence.

THE FIRST VALENTINE'S march stemmed from the horrific slaying of Sechelt native Cheryl Ann Joe, a 26-year-old mother who sometimes worked as a prostitute. Her mutilated body was found beside the loading dock of a building on Salisbury Street, Jan. 20, 1992. Her murderer, a man once voted Parent of the Year by an East Side elementary school, was charged and convicted. Brian Allender, who watched the grisly and disturbing film *Silence of the Lambs* shortly before killing Joe, is serving a life sentence for her murder.

"Cheryl Ann Joe got a lot of press because people in the Downtown Eastside demanded this murder be looked into right away. But that kind of press doesn't happen all the time," said Prevost. "We don't have \$10,000 to

put up for a reward. We don't get the support for the police to conduct a thorough investigation."

That march began in front of the warehouse where Joe's body was found. Following a traditional native smudge ceremony to heal the victim's spirit, participants marched west along Hastings to the Carnegie Centre, picking up signs bearing the names of women who died in the area.

As in the past five years, this year's Valentine's Day march will gather together a community of friends and families at the Carnegie Centre at 10:30 a.m. to walk down 100-block East Hastings, which Prevost calls Canada's largest reserve. "Native women and men came here thinking (the Downtown Eastside) is a better place than their homes on reserves where there aren't many jobs, but when they get here they see the scuzzy hotels they have to live in and what a dangerous place it can be," said Prevost.

Although police now focus on arresting johns and pimps instead of sex trade workers, the streets remain as unsafe as when Black and Joe were murdered. Drennan said it's almost impossible to protect the women although it is a concern that they are becoming victims of violent tricks and pimps.

"It's very difficult. A lot of these women for one reason or another cannot see their way clear out of this lifestyle, but when something happens we respond as quickly as possible."

According to a 1995 study called *Violence Against Persons Who Prostitute: The Experience in B.C.*, prostitutes are 60 to 120 times more likely to be murdered than non-prostitutes. In the study, SFU criminology professors John Lowman and Laura Fraser compared the rates of homicides between prostitute

and non-prostitute victims. Basing their calculations on the average number of women murdered in B.C. each year, the number of prostitutes constitutes about 12.5 per cent of all murdered women, which Lowman and Fraser say is a large over-representation. Lowman calls it "a crime wave without moral panic."

The media rarely devote much ink or air time to them. Their deaths (usually from beating, stabbing or strangulation but not gunshot wounds) tend to merit one or two stories in the press and a brief mention on the six o'clock news—more if there is fear of a serial killer or if the victim is related to someone famous, as in the case of Tracy Olajide, whose murder prompted a flurry of stories because her brother Michael is a well-known boxer.

Unlike Lynn Duggan or Mindy Tran, whose names are familiar long after their violent murders largely due to ongoing media coverage, the names of murdered prostitutes fade fast and are rarely heard again. Few can recall the names of two other prostitutes murdered around the same time as Olajide—Tammy Lee Pipe and Victoria Younker. All three bodies were dumped in the woods near Mission and Agassiz, but it was Olajide who generated most of the attention.

Black, the woman found in the dumpster, was known to be a heavy drug user who would wander the neighbourhood looking for anyone who'd pay for sex. It was reported Black was mentally ill and would often talk about aliens chasing her. Despite her mental instability, or perhaps because of it, a man picked her up, killed her, dumped her young body into a Smithrite and

# Murdered prostitutes' names fade fast

drove away.

Diandra, a prostitute who knew Black, told a local newspaper reporter at the time that the 23-year-old was addicted to crack cocaine.

"I don't care what she did... nobody deserves to end up like that," she said.

In that same year (1993), three more prostitutes were murdered—two women and a transvestite.

Six years previous, in July 1987, the RCMP established the Unsolved Female Homicide Task Force to ascertain if a serial killer was responsible for the unsolved murders of 12 prostitutes, two exotic dancers and three women thought not to be connected with prostitution, all of whom had been murdered since 1982.

The 1988 slayings of five prostitutes remain unsolved. Within a 12-month period eight Vancouver prostitutes were murdered—two (Katherine Mary Lou Daignault and Francis Ann Grant) were killed within a week of each other in June 1989. Concern about the unsolved murders prompted a week-long conference in 1991, which brought together officers from the Lower Mainland and the United States (including the FBI) to profile the crimes. By the end of the conference, it was concluded that the murders were not the work of one, but many offenders, some of whom may be responsible for more than one offence. The task force has since disbanded.

Police insist they treat prostitute killings as seriously as other murders, but say those homicides are more difficult to solve

because they're committed by strangers in remote locations where there are few witnesses.

In Lowman and Fraser's study, police also said investigators often only have access to the body dump site, not the murder scene, which one homicide detective said yields an estimated 75 per cent of useful evidence. Police also cited the anonymity of the suspect and victim.

"People tend to notice what is out of place. In areas of street prostitution, prostitutes tend to become anonymous in the sense that they are not noticed when they climb into a vehicle," Lowman's study noted. "The most common crime scene is a vehicle, but in very few cases are witnesses able to identify the vehicle. The offender has total control of the crime scene and he takes it with him, usually without much trace, after he has dumped the body."

JAMIE LEE HAMILTON, a former prostitute and Downtown Eastside activist and business owner, attends the march each year. She, like many in the community, believe the murders would be less likely to occur if prostitutes had a safer working environment.

"These women are victims of horrendous brutal acts. The march is a time for us to remember, express solidarity with families and show that this is unacceptable," she said. "What irks me about (current city councillors) is they turn a blind eye to the problem. Council says 'we're not going to make safe strolls' and 'it's just too bad that young men and women are in this trade

because murder is a risk and that comes with the business.' Turning a blind eye doesn't do anything. All it does is reinforce to men that sex trade workers are disposable. I'd like to see the police take a more active role in lobbying for changes in legislation. They're the people who should be protecting the women."

Lowman agrees and says the quasi-illegal state of prostitution helps expose women to more violence. Since police will prosecute hotels for bawdy house violations, tricks will be turned in cars, exposing the women who prostitute to greater risk. But police also don't want prostitutes plying their trade in residential areas and they encourage residents to mount "Shame the Johns" campaigns, pushing the women to a different neighbourhood or forcing them into poorly lit industrial areas, Lowman said.

"Only when we work out where prostitution can occur will we create conditions in which violence can be reduced," Lowman concluded in his study. "The problem is that many people are reluctant to take this step because they do not want to be seen to condone prostitution."

Although city council can't change federal legislation, it could create safer zones. The NPA-dominated council and the police flatly refuse to countenance the idea.

"That's something that the government has to do if the government is so inclined," Drennan said. "Creating a red light district or safe stroll is not an option for the police even if that



## Lack of witnesses, clues hampers police



were something we condoned or believed in."

COUN. GORDON PRICE acknowledges the danger to prostitutes. He said instead of legislation sanctioning prostitution there should be restraining laws to prevent the women from going out on the street to earn a living.

"The hypothesis I'm testing here is if the danger to the women is so great, society should exercise the sanction against street soliciting... that we could physically constrain them from any ability at all to be out there," he told the *Courier*. "It's just as realistic, in fact, probably more so, than legalizing it. The moral sanctioning of human flesh for sexual purposes opens such a Pandora's Box that the implications are very much worse."

Price's advice to street prostitutes: "Don't go out on the street

corner. If you don't want to put yourself at risk it's easy to do. Don't sell yourself on a street corner."

Lowman said Price and his colleagues on city council are hypocrites and that they do condone prostitution. "Take a look in the Yellow Pages or local newspapers and you will see advertisements of the many escort services licensed by the city," Lowman said. "A legally sanctioned state-licensed prostitution business is flourishing in our midst."

Lowman also questions Price's blaming of the victim and his proposal for a 24-hour curfew on women who sell sex.

"What is he really saying? If women sell sex they must work in escort services? Is his political

sleight of hand just another revenue generating scheme for the city? It's a criminal offence to 'live in whole or in part on the avails of prostitution,'—how can the City of Vancouver get away with it?"

Lowman said it's hypocritical politicians who are the main reasons that we haven't found more effective ways to reduce the harms associated with prostitution, including nuisance, violence, the sexual procurement of youth and exploitation of women who sell sex.

"If prostitution is not going to be criminalized, politicians should decide where and under what circumstances it can occur rather than implicitly denying that they are already doing this when they hand out licences to escorts."

Nothing has changed to make the lives of these women safer. Prostitution is not only the world's oldest profession; it's also one of the deadliest.



## Special unit tackles unsolved murders

THE TASK OF FINDING KILLERS OF MURDERED prostitutes falls under the jurisdiction of the recently established Provincial Homicide Unit, also called the Unsolved Homicide Unit. The joint Vancouver Police/RCMP unit was formed about five months ago to look into the backlog of 800 to 900 unsolved murders in B.C. dating back about 75 years.

Of those cases, Vancouver accounts for about 200 unsolved murders. Vancouver officer Sgt. Brian Honeybourn says four to five cases are actively under investigation in Vancouver, but he's tight-lipped about details.

Asked about the unsolved murders of prostitutes, Honeybourn said a task force within the unit may be formed to look into those homicides.

RCMP Staff Sgt. Doug Henderson said the new unit will help solve cases faster because the unit is entirely focused on cases inactive for a year or more. Day-to-day crimes are attended by officers not connected with the unit.

"A unit like ours can stay totally concentrated on older homicides and never have their re-

sources diverted," said Henderson. "The other benefits are the jurisdictional problems that can arise. The murder can take place in Vancouver, the body can be dumped in Delta and the suspect could live in Chilliwack. The team is multi-jurisdictional... It's a more efficient and practical way to attack the problem."

Both Henderson and Honeybourn said the focus on the unit's efforts will likely be on murders that occurred in the last five to 10 years. That doesn't mean older murders will be ignored if new information surfaces. Solving decades-old murders like the 1953 Babes in the Woods homicide, one of the city's most famous cases, likely won't happen unless there is a death-bed confession. But Honeybourn expresses hope for the 20-officer unit.

"On most homicides somebody out there knows something. We get a lot of assistance from the public. The unit will be successful because people will come forward. They're curious about the mystique of unsolved murders."

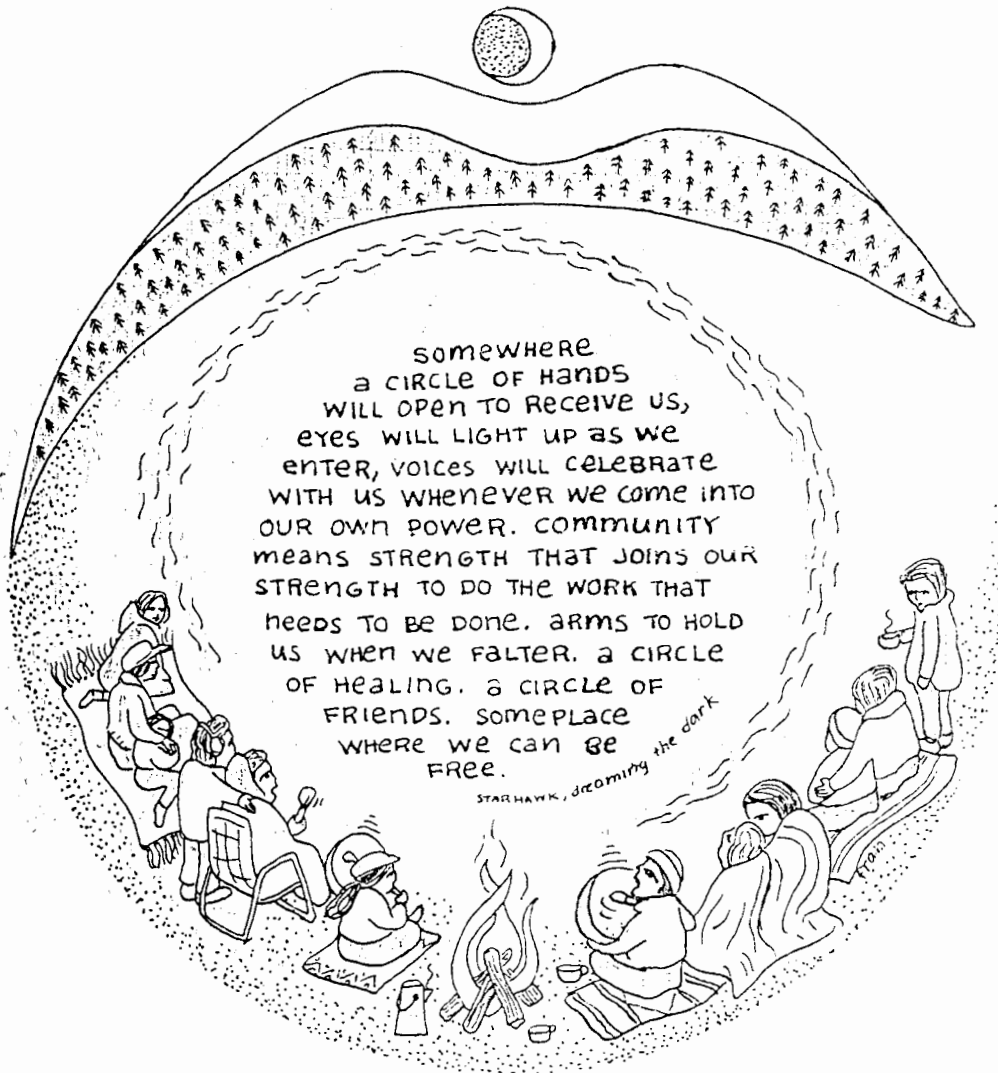
—Fiona Hughes



The Neighbourhood Safety Office, at 12 East Hastings, is putting together a list of girls who are missing.

If you have any friends or relatives who worked the streets or hung around and are missing, please contact Deborah Mearns or Dave Dickson at 687-1772 (phone) or 687-1776 (fax).

Please - this is important that we can compile a list and help find these girls and women so we can help them get home. Thank you.



This card was sent to the Seniors-Elders group from Fran Ertle & Marie Cooper in Saanichton. They hosted our group during the 1996 Elders Conference.



In the beginning there was a Woman and a Man, and nothing else walked or swam or flew in the world until one day the Woman dug a great hole in the ground and began fishing in it. One by one she pulled out all the animals, and the last one she pulled out of the hole was the caribou. Then KAILA, who is the God of the Sky, told the Woman the caribou was the greatest gift of all, for the caribou would be the sustenance of man.

The Woman set the caribou free and ordered it to go out over the land and multiply, and the caribou did as the Woman said: and in time the land was filled with caribou, so the sons of the Woman hunted well, and they were fed and clothed and had good skin tents to live in, all from the caribou.

The sons of the Woman hunted only the big, fat caribou, for they had no wish to kill the weak and the small and the sick, since these were no good to eat, nor were their skins much good. And, after a time, it happened that the sick and the weak came to outnumber the fat and the strong, and when the sons saw this they were dismayed and they complained to the Woman.

Then the Woman made magic and spoke to Kaila and said, "Your work is no good, for the caribou grow weak and sick, and if we eat them we must grow weak and sick also."

Kaila heard and he said, "My work is good. I shall tell Amorak (the Spirit of the Wolf) and he shall tell his children, and they will eat the sick and the weak and the small caribou, so that the land will be left for the fat and the good ones."

And this is what happened, and this is why the caribou and the wolf are one: for the caribou feeds the wolf, but it is the wolf who keeps the caribou strong.

Advocates fear Vancouver's poorest residents face eviction and homelessness as hotels upgrade.

ROBERT SARTI

*Vancouver Sun*

Tourists, students and even minimum-wage workers are starting to eat into downtown Vancouver's low-income housing stock, threatening the city's poorest residents with widespread evictions and homelessness, according to housing advocates and city analysts.

The most recent sign of the trend is the announcement that the century-old Dominion Hotel in Gastown will be converted into a haven for rich Asian tourists, paying up to \$150 a night. The 60 low-income residents of the Dominion will be evicted to make way for renovations to the hotel.

At least four other residential hotels in the area have also expressed an interest in converting to the tourist trade. Another hotel, the Cambie, started converting to bed-and-breakfast a year ago.

And a staff report to be presented to Vancouver city council Feb. 18 is expected to say an increasing number of hotels are starting to charge above the minimum welfare shelter rate of \$325 a month. Welfare recipients have the option of paying the extra rent out of their food money or moving out.

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association says the upward creep in rents reflects in part the growing number of educational institutions in the downtown, from small private business and language colleges to large new public facilities such as the B.C. Institute of Technology and Simon Fraser University.

An estimated 6,000 students attend classes downtown, with a large number of support staff and restaurant workers to service them. Many of those workers are seeking accommodation nearby — and driving up rents.

DERA president Ian MacRae said Friday the current housing crunch has been invisible so far because it hasn't involved any large-scale demolitions.

"It's Expo all over again, with people being forced out of their places, except

# Low-income housing downtown diminishing

now it's inch by inch rather all at once," said MacRae. "Little by little, you're dying, and then, all of sudden, you're dead."

He said at least four hotels have also converted to backpackers' facilities — charging by the night and sleeping four to a room.

The official vacancy rate downtown is about three per cent, but DERA says most of the available units are the most decrepit in the area, or are priced beyond the means of the poorest residents.

The area contains about 7,500 single-room occupancy (SRO) hotel units. Another 2,000 were lost since Expo due to fires or conversions to offices or condos.

City officials acknowledged they're worried about the trend.

"Protecting the SRO stock is a council priority," city planner Nathan Edelson said. He said the city is looking at adopting a one-for-one conversion policy that would mean no low-income unit could be taken out of circulation unless a new one was built to replace it. The new units would be financed out of development fees and city and provincial housing funds.



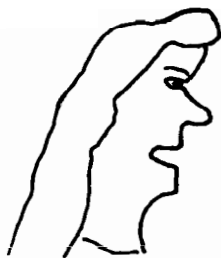
# RELIGION IN THE NINETIES

GARRY  
GUST

Jesus, Mohammad, Siddhartha-  
they were merely great mystic  
philosophers whose teachings  
were edited by religious  
zealots over the centuries.



What does  
Generation X  
mean?



It means that we've only  
got two generations to  
go. After we reach Z,  
it's all over!



Allah is  
good.



THE  
JEWEL



God is great



The Pope says he believes in  
evolution.  
How can he possibly come to  
terms with accepted theological  
convictions?



He's obviously attempting to bring  
his flock out of the dark ages and  
ease them into the twenty-first  
century, sans mindless dogma.



## Lattice Clouds

Waking to open drapes  
and the dawn, I saw  
a sky of strange clouds.  
I pinched myself  
to make sure I was awake.

The upper air  
was streaked with lines  
in two directions  
forming a lattice-like quilt.  
There must have been wind storms  
up there to make the clouds  
form those lattice lines

A different wind, or was it the same  
appeared to distort the lines  
blowing them into an oval shape  
much like the edge of a pie.  
The rising sun broke through the clouds  
and faded the scene  
It disappeared  
to remain an unbelieving sight



## BALL LIGHTNING?

Waking in the night  
to a cloudy sky  
Storms to the south  
over Washington  
on the other side of the mountains

The black clouds parted  
at one place  
Suddenly a large ball of fire..  
lightning?  
was there in that space.  
It came forward.  
turned into a brighter ball  
and suddenly  
It disappeared.

The mountains were lit up  
by what may have been an explosion  
on the other side of the mountains  
in that rain-soaked State.

I don't know if anyone else saws the ball  
but I know I was awake.  
And it may have been something else..  
Maybe a meteorite?

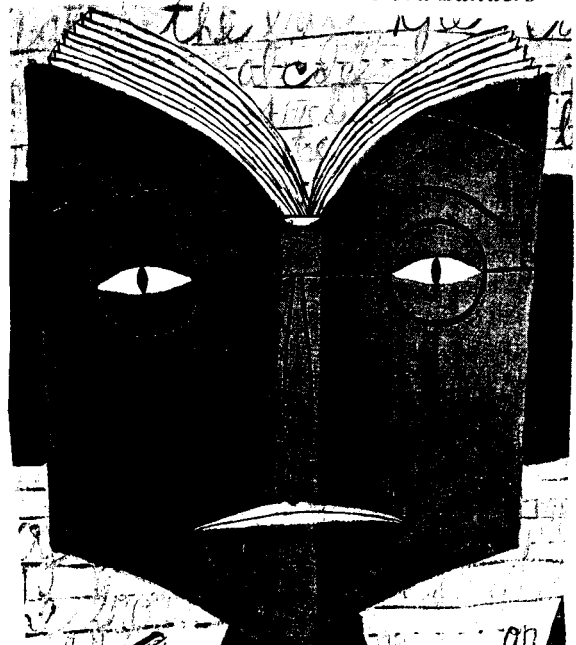


## Don't discourage, even one bit.

A young lady came to me and said that she wants to go back to a centre where she had spent three months recovering from various things. She had not understood why the staff at the place were making her do all the things she was told to do but, now that she has spent time away from the care centre, she sees the staff's point of view and wants to go back. Apparently some people down here told her, "You just want a free roof over your head and free food in your belly." Well, she didn't have a nice time the first go round up there, so if she's willing to do it again, more power to her.

No one should tell people not to get cures. It's discouraging. Anyone should be encouraged to return to a place for help. I'm trying to be anonymous here. I hope certain people get the message.

*Dora Sanders*



**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**

**1996 DONATIONS:**

|                    |                          |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| Paula R. - \$10    | Census Employees - \$200 |
| Wm/ B/ - \$20      | Neil N. - \$13           |
| Lillian H. - \$25  | Diane M. - \$15          |
| Sonya S. - \$100   | Lorne T. - \$20          |
| Kettle F.S. - \$16 | Mel L. - \$17            |
| Hazel M. \$10      | Sara D. - \$20           |
| Joy T. - \$10      | CEEDS - \$20             |
| Bea F. - \$30      | Susan S. - \$30          |
| Frances - \$50     | DEYAS - \$100            |
| Charley - \$25     | Brigid R. - \$30         |
| Libby D. - \$40    | Amy E. - \$20            |
| Guy M. - \$20      | Rene F. - \$50           |
| Tom D. - \$17      | Kay F. - \$15            |
| anonymous \$20     | Anonymous \$67           |
|                    | Sam R. - \$35            |
|                    | Doug Sommers \$100       |

# 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:**

24 February  
Monday

## 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.**



## Desperate Measures

I've just fought in my latest battle with the Suicide Urge. This particular round lasted about two months. Through most of December all I did day and night was plot my own death. The fact that I purposely went off my medication in November probably had something to do with this.

Then, on January 9th, I came up with an idea which would camouflage my real intentions: I decided to fast to the death to protest homelessness and starvation in the world; problems that shouldn't exist anywhere near the magnitude they do.

However well-intentioned this act seems, when it is rated on the degree of change that it could inspire, it's probably somewhere near zero. If someone can convince me that fasting to the death could create positive change rather than just elicit more empty promises then I may reconsider doing it. It certainly would help me immensely if I had at least one other person doing it with me.

I'm sure that the power-trippers and money-mongers would be overjoyed to see me and many other residents of the Downtown Eastside die off, regardless of the method or cause of death.

Being concerned about problems on the planet is praiseworthy but it's rational to be resigned to the

fact that there is only so much we can do to change the status quo. Killing ourselves is unlikely to change any government's policy one iota. They would probably just proceed with their cutbacks, which is all they have been doing for months.

Regarding suicide, the possibility that God exists is very high, and I haven't read anything on the subject by a religious author that depicts suicide in anything but an unfavourable manner. In fact it is the idea that suicide is a great sin punishable by God-knows-what that has kept me from killing myself for thirteen long and hellish years (as far back as February 1984). That's an awfully long time to be butting heads with Satan, who is definitely one tough adversary.. the dirtiest fighter who ever lived.

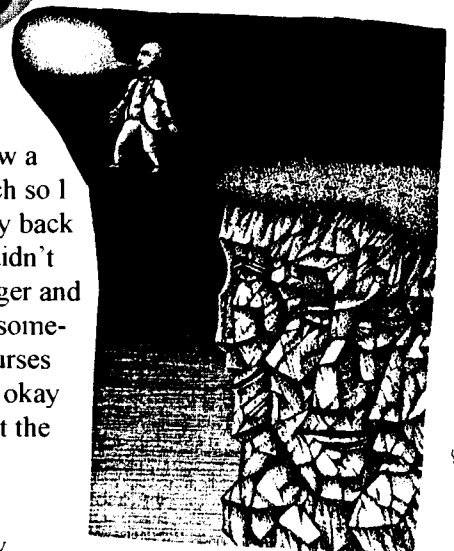
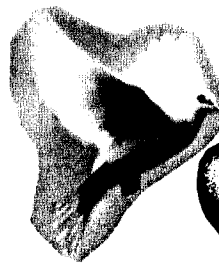
Anyway, no matter how often you or I have contemplated committing suicide. it's possible that the best advice we could follow is a line from the recent American elections: *'Just don't do it.'* Destroying our physical bodies may not bring the relief from our torments and troubles that we so desperately seek. In fact, suicide may only multiply our problems manyfold.

By RICHARD HANDY



one day I was walking down the street. I saw a man behind me and he asked me for a match so I said I don't smoke. Then he put a gun in my back and said "Give me all your money" and I didn't have any and that's when he pulled the trigger and shot me in the heart. It really hurt.. 'please someone call 911'.. then I woke up and found nurses and doctors around me asking me "are you okay because you were badly shot?" But they got the bullet out and saved my life.

so that is my story when I was shot.



Albert Anthony

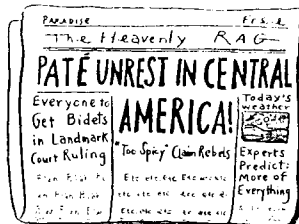


while women and children  
suffer unspeakable torture  
from death squads trained  
in the U.S.  
serving corporate interests  
in the third world  
here we follow docilely  
hedging our bets  
crunched a little lower  
trying to keep comfortable  
while mumbling the words  
we're trained to mumble  
to keep us from thinking  
unpleasant thoughts  
(why does truth here always  
sound like revolution? feeney.)  
well hey, you know  
who wants death squads?

the boom lowers  
and it's too fucking insane  
the price paid for power  
is anything  
is everything  
who could possibly battle  
such a monster?  
we'd need legions of grannies  
smothering all with kisses  
teeming oceans  
goose-stepping down  
through livingrooms  
over mangled TVs

"continue the struggle"  
I read somewhere  
I guess we all struggle  
inside  
I don't want no world  
with no elephants  
I don't want no world  
with no owls  
it stabs at my heart  
the distress that we're in  
people  
I need to stand by

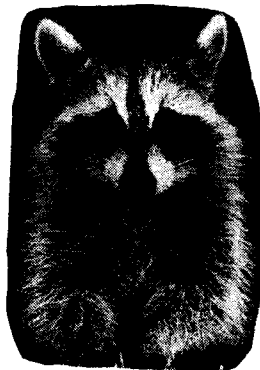
*goblin*



## Grizzly Alert

three weeks camping  
and nature wrestled  
my thoughts  
for my brain  
up with the sun  
and nights i lay  
my head swimming with  
images...  
bear faces full of fangs  
slashing  
paws with claws  
hot steaming bear-breath  
drooling  
the whole bit

got through the three weeks  
fine tho  
up 'til the very last night  
i'd only met a racoon  
and a floating family of loons  
but that night  
in absolute darkness  
i heard it  
walking around my tent  
i knew things had gone too smoothly  
and now the jig was up  
i wasn't about to just  
lay and let 'im get me  
and yet for a moment  
i froze  
wasn't it  
best to get dressed?  
'fuck that' i thought



## grease

the smell of  
boiling fat  
gets me hungry  
  
i am impeccable  
decidedly inscrutable  
perfectly appropriate  
i am cool  
the smell of  
boiling fat  
gets me hungry

## goblin



and bolted  
unzipped the tentflap  
flashlight in hand  
leaped out like lightning and  
landed on the grass  
stood there naked  
but it had gone  
all my beam revealed  
was leaves 'n trees 'n bushes  
'n a mouse bounding off  
into them

*goblin*

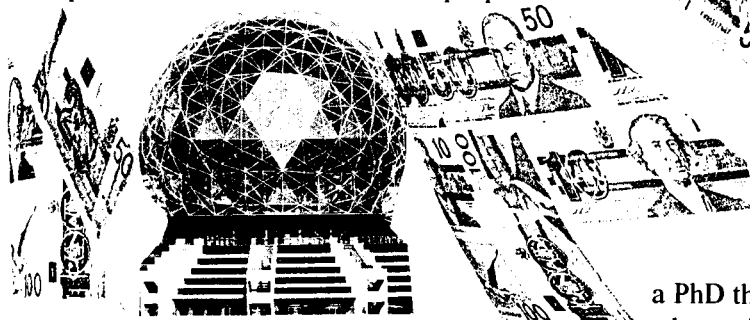
## Less Cutbacks - More Welfare

Welfare is the small string that ties the whole package of our society together. "A pittance grudgingly given" some would say, yet this pittance benefits the legislators that created it more than the actual "beneficiaries" it was designed for.

John Maynard Keynes believed that government spending is advantageous, especially in times of recession or depression, to keep things going. This is kind of like the booster shot to stir up a lethargic heartbeat.

Not only does welfare benefit society, but society (as we know it) could not exist without welfare. Welfare is one of the main reasons we are a First World nation.. not a second or third world nation.

Let's quickly imagine that welfare is ended: You'd have people lined up on street corners with their personal possessions, wondering what bridge to sleep under. You'd have these same people



asking themselves, "Which house in Shaughnessy, Kerrisdale or Kitsilano should I break into?"

Because of welfare, SRO rooms get the rent they do (\$325/mo). If there was no more welfare, these rooms would have to be rented out for far less and bang! There you have it: Property values falling!!!

I don't give much credence to poor bashers. Many of them are conformists with no understanding of the Tao, who know nothing of Transcendentalism and have little knowledge of politics or social demographics; to them, deciding to be on welfare is some loony, escapist, abnegatory denial trip, or just an example of plain abject laziness.

The various personal codes of these fascist poor-bashers - moral, social, intellectual - contradict one

another if you look at them with any kind of attention. The essential conflict is the luxury and snobbery of the 1980's and the existing asceticism of the 1990's. On one side are low-bible/church Christianity, sex-puritanism, disapproval of self-indulgence, insistence on hard work, respect for academic distinction; on the other are worship of games, contempt for braininess, a hatred of the working class, an almost neurotic dread of poverty and, above all, the assumption not only that money and privilege are the only things that matter, but that it is better to inherit them than to have to work for them.

So what's the point of having to explain the purpose and the fun of being on welfare to those who are self-contradicting anyway?

It would be a really great idea for someone doing



a PhD thesis in sociology to come up with reasons why society is not only enhanced and/or helped by the presence of a welfare system, but why society depends on its existence.

Without it, crime would be rampant with prisons overflowing (they are already), people dying everywhere of starvation, thousands forced to sleep in the streets or, if worse came to worst, you'd see children as roving street beggars and you'd see banditry.. like in the third world countries that do not have welfare. The legislators did not create welfare out of some arbitrary whim.

My argument about welfare is not only concerned about justifying its existence and continuance; we deserve a RAISE!

There is no reason for not asking!

By DEAN KO

## TOP FIVE AND THE BANK ACT

Based on the value of their assets, Canada's top five banks - Royal Bank, CIBC, Bank of Montreal, Scotiabank and Toronto Dominion - are the biggest corporations in Canada and control 70% of all deposit-taking assets, 80% of small business lending, 80% of the assets in the investment brokerage industry and a majority of consumer credit and mortgage lending. In 1996, these five banks made record profits of just under \$6 billion and \$1.43 billion of this was made by the Royal Bank alone.

For the past two years the big banks have refused to disclose detailed information about how much it costs them to provide services, how many people applied for loans to start a business or how many women, minorities or low income people received loans. Without this information it is impossible to know if the banks are gouging Canadians with service charges or credit card interest rates. And it is impossible to tell if banks are discriminating in their provision of services.

It is known that the small business sector has created 90% of the jobs in Canada since 1983; however of the \$400 billion lent to businesses, only 3% goes to small business. If banks are not supporting the needs of small businesses, they are preventing the creation of new jobs. We also know that over 600,000 Canadians, many with low incomes, have no bank account and inadequate access to other banking services. A major cause of this problem is the bank's requirement for certain pieces of identification in order to open an account or cash even a government cheque. Many low

income people do not have all the identification and therefore are denied access to services.

The federal government has not required banks to provide the information that could tell us whether they are hindering the creation of jobs or discriminating against certain Canadians. But the federal Bank Act is currently under review by the federal government. Write to your Member of Parliament, Minister of Finance Paul Martin and Prime Minister Jean Chretien and ask them why the banks don't have to disclose this information.

For more information contact the Canadian Community Reinvestment Coalition (CCRC) at P.O. Box 1040, Station B, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5R1, phone (613) 789-5753, fax (613) 241-4758.



### If You Want Happiness

If you want happiness for an hour —take a nap.  
If you want happiness for a day — go fishing.  
If you want happiness for a month — get married.  
If you want happiness for a year —inherit a fortune.  
If you want happiness for a lifetime —help someone else.

— Chinese Proverb



## Sixty Years Ago...

The money-players dropped the ball and the global economy crumbled. Hundreds of thousands of Canadians were left roaming from town to town looking for food, work, and shelter. The majority of the homeless were able-bodied young men who were becoming increasingly discontent. This made the authorities nervous - they started arresting and imprisoning them, deporting any who were immigrants. To discourage homeless men from congregating in the cities, they rendered them ineligible for any help from the Government (called *relief*).

Throughout the country concentration camps were built to hold tens of thousands of men. They were run by the military and the men were made to do hard labour that had previously been done by



heavy machinery. Conditions in the camps were abhorrent - bad food, vermin, no women for miles.. the men were given twenty cents a day 'allowance' and were stripped of their right to vote. Anyone who left the camps or was uncooperative in any way was black-listed across the country and either imprisoned or deported.

The government had assured the public that the camps were temporary, but years passed and public outcry against the injustice of the camps grew and snowballed.. to no avail. Demands for wages, the right to vote, and abolition of blacklisting were labelled communist subversion by the Government. The camp inmates organised a huge walk-out and thousands marched to Vancouver. The people of Vancouver got behind the men and for weeks unions, churches, women's groups, students and alternative political associations marched, demonstrated, held fund-raisers and supported the camp-men in every way. One gathering saw thirty-five

## RAIN



Rain coming down  
Pounding down  
Splashing up from the ground  
Lighting up the world  
With its reflections  
I want to shout for joy  
And make lots of noise too  
Just makes me want  
To burst with 'happening-ness'

Adam Adie



thousand protesters rally in Stanley Park. Municipal and provincial leaders began supporting the cause, but the feds refused to budge.

Morale bottomed; food ran out. The camp-men boarded boxcars for an On To Ottawa Trek and, with each passing town, support grew. The feds decided to halt them in Regina and ordered the railways to comply. A delegation of eight men was brought to Ottawa to meet with the Prime Minister, who proceeded to rudely insult them all by calling them thieves and worthless immigrants.

Discouraged, the eight men returned to Regina and held a mass meeting with the public in market square. Halfway through the meeting was ambushed by police who broke forth suddenly from hiding places all around the square. They attacked the assembled citizens with clubs, guns and horses. Blood flowed and the camp-men were beaten. The next few days saw them return to the camps.

Federal elections a few months later brought a new Prime Minister who was a little more sensitive to the will of the Canadian People; the concentration camps were all closed down.

By SHAWN MILLAR