

FREE - donations accepted.

Carnegie

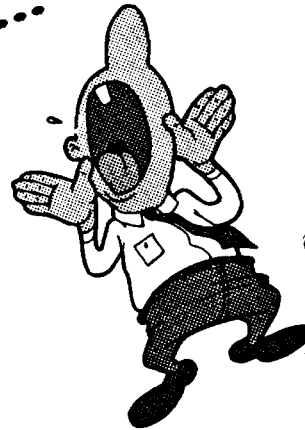
NEWSLETTER



MARCH 1, 1997.

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

**Surprise,
surprise,
surprise...**



Mr. Dan Tetrault
Acting Director
Carnegie Learning Centre

Dear Dan:

25 February 1997

Despite good intentions, a willingness to help the Learning Centre succeed and eight months of effort, I must reluctantly advise you that the Vancouver School Board will be withdrawing its remaining staff from Carnegie effective 1997 April 1st. The program is not viable either educationally or financially and there does not appear to be any sign of significant improvement to justify its continuation.

We will, of course, be willing to assist you and the association in developing an alternative program, and will certainly advise prospective students of your program when it becomes operational.

This decision was not an easy one, but we informed the Board of Trustees of this decision on Monday evening. They too were disappointed at the necessity of the decision but understood the reasons behind it.

I would be happy to meet with you and others to discuss this decision and its ramifications and would ask that you call me if this would be helpful.

Yours truly,

Ken Harvey, Director of Career and Community Education Services, Vancouver School Board.

cc: Ms. Muggs Sigurgeirson, President, Carnegie Community Association.

The four people working part-time in Carnegie's Learning Centre received a version of the letter on the cover. Between the lines, it basically says:

- adult literacy is not education
- the Vancouver School Board (VSB) has never recognised local people as students unless they are taking 'credit' courses to get their Grade 12.
- the VSB is cancelling all funding, including the salaries for four staff, none of whom work more than 25 hours a week
- it's Carnegie's fault for not meeting VSB criteria or standards

Following are pertinent factors.

- Beginning over 2 years ago the Learning Centre started to noticeably move away from one-to-one tutoring and helping people with filling out forms, writing letters, learning basic reading, writing and math skills; there were, more and more, courses for the Grade 12 equivalency and stuff on current events, grammar, English literature and so on. There was an increasing number of English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) students.

Tutors began to complain, and members talked with staff to find out the 'why' of this trend. It was the Vancouver School Board giving standards for what "its" schools should be doing. Carnegie, as a unique place, didn't fit and they were changing that, making us conform. Staff were given strict instructions on registering students, having courses with a minimum number of such registered people but not being "permitted" to register anyone who was an immigrant without a certain status.

The staff began to form into two groups: those who thought the VSB had every right to call the shots and set policies and rules; those who wanted to continue and expand the spirit of the Learning Centre as a child of Carnegie, for members of the Carnegie Community. This led to some sabotage and extreme watchfulness. Those staff in support of the VSB welcomed the hiring of a new coordinator, Brian, who is a very good yes-man and bureaucrat. He aroused the antipathy of other staff and many members of the Association. Students not working on their Grade 12 and people here for help with the basics felt left out, not welcome, 2nd class. It also sparked months of meetings.

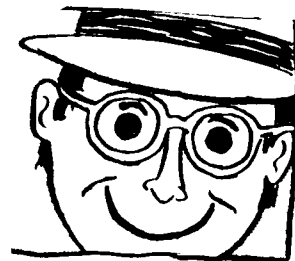


It soon became clear that members of Carnegie wanted the Learning Centre to expel the structured and rigid schoolroom courses format. A job opened within the VSB for a co-ordinator for all the adult basic education in the Downtown Eastside, including the Gathering Place on Helmcken. The person hired would be in charge of Carnegie's Learning Centre as well. The hiring committee saw a result of everyone from Carnegie wanting to hire Lee Weinstein. Brian was rejected; the VSB, headed by Ken Harvey, refused to hire Lee and instead gave the \$80,000/yr. job to Brian.

Within weeks Brian 'announced' that the VSB Grade 12 courses and ESL classes were relocating to First United Church.

Carnegie could now encourage local people to return and use its facilities, a new computer room, a redesigned 3rd floor, and help with all the original challenges in reading, writing, math, forms, resumes, etc.

The VSB immediately set up standards for the Learning Centre staff..criteria for students, the requirement for numbers to demonstrate the "educational and financial viability" of this service ...that we presumably owed the VSB everything for..in essence the staff had to compete with Brian's fake school but with the rules almost 100% in Brian's favour.



Meetings with Ken Harvey gave almost zero results. Comments included, "We don't want any of your assistance in 'designing' Carnegie's services"; "we've seen the results of your 'concerted efforts' - no thanks!"; "the dynamism

of Carnegie's community involvement is totally lost on these \$100,000-a-year bureaucrats." 3.

Regardless, the Learning Centre was given a period of time to show that it was one of the Vancouver School Board's Adult Learning Centres, meeting all the number and funding criteria that the others had to meet. Brian, as the coordinator-in-absentia, refused permission for any of the part-time staff to do outreach work anywhere outside Carnegie during their working hours. It was exactly "Increase the numbers of people going to school in Carnegie but don't do anything about it."

If the *proper* use didn't improve, the VSB would stop paying for it. Carnegie had provided the space rent-free to the School Board for years; the cost to the VSB for an entire year - salaries included - was about \$80,000. In the meantime, funding for the Downtown East Education Centre at Powell & Columbia was growing by leaps and bounds, with tens of thousands of dollars being spent on renovating and readying the space for its opening. It is an adult school with priority given for school courses and ESL, but the sidewalk sign, up since January, promises 'help' with practically all the services that Carnegie provides. We were seen as being in direct competition with this place and, lo and behold, the numbers of local residents using Carnegie increased. People have almost always felt comfortable coming here!

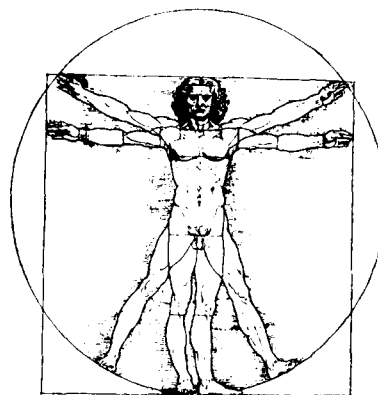
The Provincial government Minister of Education announced a cut of \$9 million to Adult Basic Education; Vancouver School Board had its share of this and at once cut Carnegie to nothing, firing four staff. The rationale somehow allows the victories of people just showing up to get literate to be devalued, the intense interest and participation in the First Nations group to be devalued, the needs of a community whose adult population may be as high as 40% illiterate to be devalued.

The Education Committee has met for months, worked with Lee Weinstein to find funding, and has a program in the works based on federal dollars and literacy. It should have funding for two full-time (four part-time) positions, but will also have reporting criteria and minimum quotas. The

money will be provided for 6 months, for a pilot project, and is then renewable for 2 years. Vancouver Community College is expressing much interest but the immediate hiring of the four staff is not ensured - they are employees of the VSB and members of a union with a fine Collective Agreement.

Carnegie members will continue working to maintain the independence of our Learning Centre, and much help will be needed in going before the Board of Trustees to ask for/demand better support. This will specifically not include the aggressive friendliness of Brian, nor any continuation of his and the VSB setting policy.

By PAULR TAYLOR



Carnegie Community Centre Association
401 Main St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7

Dear Paul Taylor,

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$1,000 as your grant from B.C. PLURA.

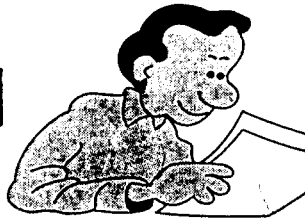
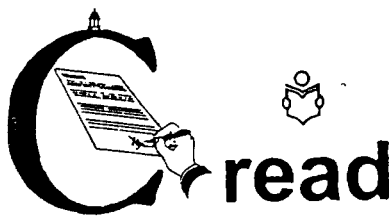
Would you please give us an accounting of how you spend the funds.

B.C. PLURA must send in yearly reports to National PLURA so information from you would be of great help to us.

Thank you

Joyce Freeman, Treasurer.

[Protestant, Lutheran, Unitarian, Roman Catholic, Anglican. - PLURA]



The following accident statements are copies of actual written statements submitted to the police. Drivers were instructed by the form to give brief statements as to the particulars of the accident and their own version of what took place.



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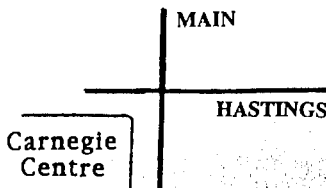
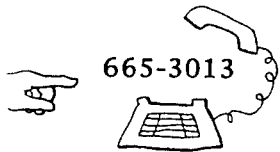
MATH



THE CARNEGIE LEARNING CENTRE

401 Main
- Main and Hastings -

英文 數學
會 話 班



- Coming home, I drove into the wrong house and collided with a tree I don't have.
- A bull was standing near and a fly must have tickled him as he gored my car.
- I collided with a stationary bus coming the other way.
- The other car collided with mine without giving warning of it's intention.
- I thought my window was rolled down, but found it was up when I put my head thru it.
- A pedestrian hit me and went under my car.
- A truck backed through my windshield into my wife's face.
- I left my car unattended for a minute, when by accident or design it ran away.
- The guy was all over the road; I had to swerve a number of times before I hit him.
- I pulled away from the side of the road, glanced at my mother-in-law and headed over the embankment.
- The gentleman behind struck me on the back-side. He then went to rest in the bush with just his rear end showing.
- My car hit a pothole and came to rest approximately 15 feet below the surface of the road.

To All Volunteers:

The Volunteer Coordinators would like to personally thank you for your contribution to the Carnegie Community Centre in 1996. Carnegie could simply not function without its approximately 500 volunteers.

In 1996 volunteers contributed around 5,000 hours of service each month, donating valuable time and energy to every imaginable facet of Carnegie's activities. Volunteers have demonstrated what a caring community the Downtown Eastside really is.

The Volunteer Program in 1996 was 60,822 hours strong and its success is thanks to you. We look forward to working with you through 1997.

Sincerely,

Phil Goad

Amy Macfarlane

Sandy Mackeigan



Whatever happens on the third floor of the Carnegie Centre, let's keep in mind the bottom line - that everyone in the area in need of literacy services, whether it is help in filling out forms, help with resumes, help with personal writing skills, help with services the access to which requires some level of literacy, or whether it is in having a place with physical resources, such as books, computers, paper, pens etc., and personnel to facilitate the use of those resources, which can be used by the people of this neighbourhood. a quiet and safe place in which to practice literacy at all, should have such a place here at Carnegie, as they have had for many years.

The Carnegie Learning Centre has been an important, a central part of literacy services in the Downtown Eastside for a long time. In an area where many people struggle month by month to get by on minuscule welfare payments, where many days out of the month they are in soup lines or just generally trying to get together for themselves and perhaps their families the things they need in order to survive (a situation unimaginable to the slashers and burners, to the criminally irresponsible fiscal-talking, fat-bellied political nobodies who practice their venom-filled, greed-motivated hate-policies on the poor), expectations of daily attendance, of so-called progress, of so-called work-readiness, are not just farcical, they are inhuman. A place where people come for the things they need (which they are fully capable of deciding for themselves), where stupid and useless and expensive so-called employment programs aren't shoved down their throats, at the expense of their own needs (the only true and lasting motivation)...is it impossible to defend?

When we go to a movie nowadays they are showing some movies with crime like killing and shooting; they should not show pictures like them. Because when we were young in the old days they really had good movies. They had ones that you could watch all the time, they had some with Shirley Temple dancing and singing and she was real smart and cute. And another one with Bing Crosby and Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour in road shows. And a nice picture with Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland blowing the whistle of a train to save another train - toot toot, toot toot, toot toot and they saved the train from going over the bridge... the good old movies.

Albert Anthony



Dan Feeney



THEY'RE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

How many of you know that our one and only Mary B. is really 65 years young!? Then there are Terry Flamond and Fred Arrance working with others building a better future for First Nations Peoples. Phillip Mo is now one of our brothers - at his hearing with Immigration he WON!

The Women's Memorial March was a success. Thanks to the Women's Centre and to all who got involved. Once again this March could not have happened without your help and support.

In the Carnegie Seniors Lounge, Peter is teaching about working with modern technology (computers). Mike and a few others are taking courses at DERA, about computers and much more.

Bud Osborn and the Political Response Group are making waves at City Hall as well as in the GasDowntown and in the immediate community.

The Neighbourhood Safety Office is taking a bigger role in the Community with the help of all on its Steering Committee and its liaisons. One of the many issues is *johns* buying sex from kids. The Law says it's wrong to buy sex from a child - this is child abuse.

DERA now has a good Board that is going to continue working with the community to recreate or find our Unity. The office is hopping with excitement and it's believed the 2nd wind has come, thanks to organising, compromising, cooperating and team efforts.

Everyone! Step out and take a good look outside your door - opportunity is knocking.

By MARGARET PREVOST

[This is the Year of the Ox, which has many talents and a lot of strength... and a very hard head.]

Young at heart

Bodily exposure

Sun heat soothing, flesh tingling

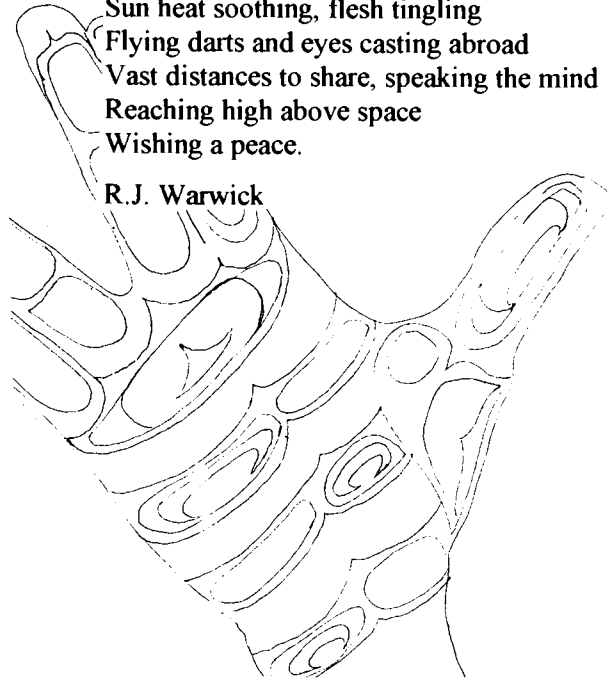
Flying darts and eyes casting abroad

Vast distances to share, speaking the mind

Reaching high above space

Wishing a peace.

R.J. Warwick



ELECTIONS '97

For the Carnegie Seniors Executive

March 18th, 1997. 2:00 p.m.
Senior's Lounge

- * All those who wish to submit their names for nomination must attend in person.
- * All those who wish to cast a vote in this election must attend in person.
- * All those who wish to take part in this election must have a valid seniors membership card on their person at the time of the election.
- * All positions on the Senior Executive Board will be open for nominations.
- * All elections will be by secret ballot and all elections will be final.

Closing Out Sale!

As many of you know, there are a number of residents and groups working as team leaders in trying to better our community. Well, on Feb. 25, both City Councillors and community officers reviewed a compilation of evidence in a hearing to close down one of the many unwelcome 24 hour stores. The license of the Sport's Cafe at 109 E. Hastings was revoked.

The owner was in big denial, repeatedly saying that what his workers do is not his problem, and "I was not there!" when shown evidence of drug trafficking on his premises.

Many of us witnessed video coverage of a CBC undercover reporter at the Sport's Cafe. It showed that the owner turned a blind eye to drug dealing and the use of washrooms as shooting galleries.



SUCCESS STORIES

I've been feeling this joy that's been fluttering in my heart. I see every day the many changes going on in the Community.

I haven't seen much of our Seniors. Why?: because they've been working themselves hard, building what they see is needed for a better community. People are fighting for better housing, better living environments and a better place for our future children.

Everyone is getting involved. WHY?: because if they don't do it now our community will fall through the cracks and people will start fading into their little hotel rooms and rooming houses. Many have already been forgotten by society because of it's belief that we don't deserve to have better living space, better lives.

Oh hell, they don't even know we exist until it's *time* or convenient for their consciences.

Even working women are making a difference, working on the issues of violence against women

7. (This was one of several 24 hour stores who do the same 'blind' eyes thing.)

Community members were blocked at the door and told to leave. If we weren't buying drugs they weren't going to serve us! Again, there are a number of such places but just saying so won't get them closed. Evidence of anti-community activity is needed in order to rid our neighbourhood of people who cater to our addictions. It is possible with focus kept on treatment centres and housing.

Thanks to you and your friends we have a beautiful, loving and caring community. Special thanks to the CBC reporter and our community officers.

M.O.D.E. (Member of the Downtown Eastside)



and the sexual abuse of children.

Coming soon will be a few of us to repaint the garbage on walls, kicking out the unwanted 2nd-hand stores and 24-hour 'dealerships' which don't serve our Community.

Some residents of the Downtown Eastside, whether troubled alcoholics or drug addicts, can't be changed or saved by those of us who are neither. We can only show them we do care and give them the little ray of hope that is needed for them to become part of the Community again.

I believe there are many success stories here; we don't ever have to look far. It's happening at Carnegie and has been for awhile. Some people are getting a start on life...part-time jobs. Many are going back to school and learning about computers. Granted, many are not cutting the ties with welfare but the future holds the possibility of letting go when the money is right.

Everyone has a voice; everyone can make a decision. A future is in the making and it's the community that will be the successor. My hand goes out to the people for creating a vision for the future.

By DE Resident

Child support reforms⁹ target the pockets of non-custodial parents

By Janice Mucalov
Contributing writer

ONE OF THE MOST PROFOUND CHANGES IN LAW EXPECTED this year will be the proposed new child support guidelines.

It's in response to a growing need to reform child support laws. Currently, child support is awarded case by case and the amounts ordered often don't accommodate the costs of raising children. Single, separated and divorced mothers generally have to make do with less, and many live on welfare in relative poverty.

The new guidelines aim to change this. After May 1 child support orders made in divorce proceedings will be based on the new Child Support Payment Schedule. The non-custodial parent (normally the father) will have to pay a percentage of his income as child support. On average, that will amount to paying about 18 per cent of gross income for one child, 30 per cent for two, and 37 per cent for three children.

Specific examples of the B.C. Schedule include the following: If the 1996 annual gross income of a parent is \$30,001, he or she will pay \$279 per month for one child or \$466 for two. If the parent annually earns \$50,001, the respective payments would be \$439 and \$716; at \$70,001 it's \$576 and \$933; at \$100,001, \$767 and \$1,232.

The amounts are not carved in stone. Amounts can be increased or decreased, depending on two factors.

- If there are "special child-related expenses."
- If "undue hardship" results.

If children need extra expenses covered and the non-custodial parent is judged to be able to afford them, he or she may have to pay additional amounts on top of the basic payment set out in the schedule.

"Special child-related expenses" are divided into four categories.

- Child care for children not in school.
- Medical expenses over \$200 a year not covered by provincial health.
- Educational expenses (university tuition, private school fees, costs of special learning programs).
- Expenses for extracurricular activities (art classes, hockey, music lessons).

If the non-custodial parent is legitimately in debt (because of supporting the family, not because of gambling), or if he or she has to fly to Prince George each month to visit their two-year-old, or if a new spouse and children are being supported, "undue hardship" may be pleaded and the amount reduced. Usually, the non-custodial parent will have to prove he or she has a lower standard of living than their ex.

The new "percentage of income" guidelines will apply to all new orders for child support in divorce proceedings, and to orders that change existing child support orders, made after May 1. This means that if neither you nor your ex applies to change existing payments, these guidelines won't apply. But if you're paying more (or are getting less) than

what these guidelines suggest, you can ask the court to change the amount of child support you currently pay or receive.

This column is written with the help of the Vancouver law firm of Tim Louis & Company. The column provides information only and is not to be relied on for legal advice.



In The Dumpster

binner@vcn.bc.ca
mcbinner@hotmail.com
fax: 684-8442



Dear fellow binners & binnerettes;

Welfare Wednesday I went tripping around on the Skytrain and stopped in New Westminster where I saw a bottle depot on 10th & Auckland, run by Encorp, the same company that picks up for United We Can and some other depots. When I walked in to say hello I was greeted with "Go back to United We Can or wherever you come from." The old woman was real snotty and rude. You might want to avoid the unpleasant experience of dealing with people who don't appreciate your patronage. Anyway, later I went and terrorized Surrey... while I was there I found a 24 hr. cafe complete with 2 Internet screens, a full menu and live music - it's at 107th & King George.

Speaking of the net I was very displeased when I found out I can no longer use 'hotmail' (an e-mail service) at the Vancouver Public Library. It seems that some people are doing nothing but e-mail and holding production up for others. So be it. I will find another way to help my brothers & sisters at Carnegie. I'm not asking for much - just a 386 and a printer. 'Seek and Ye shall find!'

The other day I went to Port Coquitlam to take advantage of a sale on potatoes - \$0.88/10 lbs. When I got there the sale was over; it was \$0.98 - still a good deal. Anyway I spent the day down there and what a change of pace! No emergency vehicles. No one asking "Spare change? Weed? Up? Down?" I walked along the Coquitlam River Trail and over the new bridge..talk about peaceful. Gotta do that again some day...

Now for the **Ken Report**:

United We Can reports a record of deposits on recycled containers with a steady increase in volume. Watch for Spring activities.

May the bins be with you.

Mr. McBinner

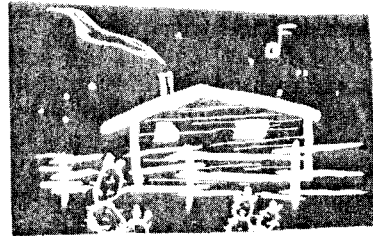
Let's all be careful out there.

Trashhopper says...

uptown@vcn.bc.com

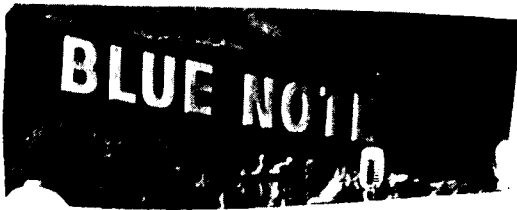
What's with these losers at Citygate Condos? Who are they to move into the area and then bitch at what was there before they were? Makes me wanna barf. Anyway, enough griping - let's shop!

Believe it or not, there are many places in the DE and Chinatown for good, fresh veggies & meat. First, let's check out *Save-On-Meats*: Veggies and meat are competitive, but I like the counter near the west exit where you can get a whole barbecued chicken for under \$5. Next I go just east of the Dodson to *Paradise Discount* - it has almost all



you need in staples. Noodles are 4/\$1, gravy packages are \$1 and they have powdered juices. Now I go to Carnegie to eat, 'cause you can't beat Tom's soup or Bob's chili!

Now let's go to Chinatown. At the southwest corner of Main & Keefer there's a store I can never remember the name of..just walk down the stairs. They have all kinds of Chinese & Canadian foods; canned, bottled, raw and cooked. This is my place for rice and sometimes meat when it's on sale. Next I go to the 200-block of Pender and sometimes walk on the street, as there are so many people shopping. (This is a good sign! A lot of seniors shop in that area and they don't have a lot of money, like most of us in the DE.) After one or two purchases my bag is usually full, so I go home then back to Carnegie. Depending on my coin and



my energy I might go to Surrey, PoCo, or just to Gore and down Union to Georgia..checking out bargains.

One thing I stress for myself is to eat before I go shopping 'cause you can psyche yourself out buying food items you don't really want or need. Another thing is not to walk past the Liquor store, in case I try to convince myself I'm thirsty. The Swine Flu can always get me later.

The newest supermarket is at Keefer & Abbott. Mr. McBinner shops there also. This store has it



Meditation

Meditation is a way to quieten the mind. Meditation Masters have been practising this way of Sitting for thousands of years.

Over the course of time, the momentum of the accretions of life's circumstances and the legacy thereof causes great turmoil in a human spirit and the only thing that is sensible to do is to sit still. Worries, concerns and various issues are enfolded in the stillness.

Having realised the insubstantial, unpermanent nature of life, I'm dedicating the rest of my life to meditation. In meditation one sits still. Thoughts arise and go. One neither clings to the thoughts nor pushes them away.

Eventually one learns to meditate wherever one is and, just as importantly, at whatever one is doing.

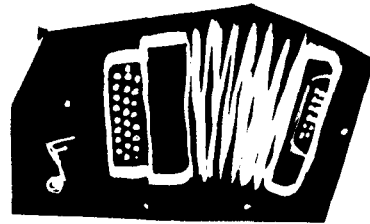
Dean Ko

all, including live seafood. Bring your own cart if you can so you don't have to put a coin in the slot for one there; otherwise this is an excellent store.

Now I'm full. Was it good for you too? Time to go get the Swine Flu.. gonna drink like a pig.

"So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, and I haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish. I'm really glad of that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot of help."

- Author unknown
(submitted by Carl MacDonald)



ACOUSTIC NIGHT AT THE CABARET

There's a new feature in the Carnegie Cabaret: The first Tuesday of every month is acoustic night. This means there will be no drum kit, no electric bass or guitars, and just one microphone (for people with really quiet voices). The first acoustic cabaret was held last month and was a great success. I want to invite all the musicians out there to come in and sing a tune or two, especially if you've been avoiding the cabaret because it was too loud. I'm hoping you'll start to see some of the longtime players come back and start to play again. This means you, Harvey Bowers, and you, Maria Breeze, and others!

Earle Peach

P.S.: This month's tongue twister: To begin to toboggan, first buy a toboggan, but not too big a toboggan; too big a toboggan is not the toboggan to buy to begin to toboggan.

IN THE LIVING YEARS

My perfect day would be to be with a special person whom I have had the privilege of spending days with. The place where we would spend the most time would be Stanley Park.

At times we went with relatives or just with friends. We all had food to take with us wherever we went. We always had wine or beer to swallow whatever we ate. The both of us always had a room or rooms to stay at. In the summer we saved our money from rent and camped outside. Summer was always a beautiful time to sleep out, to watch the stars.

I think the most difficult time we had was when my parents passed on to the hands of the Great Spirit. All the time at the funeral was like a dream that was not to be. It was not that I didn't love my parents, but my mind was always coming back to the one I thought of always. That beautiful person was Joanne Lynn Crazybull. She passed away a week ago. May our spirits be one now and forever.

Ken Ward

An apology and a correction:

Last issue an article reported on the new Board of Directors at DERA. The names of both of the Chinese gentlemen were incorrect. Welcome to **Jin Pei Huang** and **Yuk Wa Tsoi**.

Dear Carnegie People,

I have been coming to Carnegie for 15 years. I find many interesting things to do here, all kinds of facilities available: pool, cheap meals, coffee, books, and I have also made some good friends.

This is a good place to hang around. It is clean and decent, and good people keep order and peace

Come and join us and pass your hours. Enjoy yourself.

Yours truly,

BB Polecat

PS: I hang out with the Carnegie Writer's Group on Tuesdays from 2-4pm. Join us!

STREET TALK

**Street Writers/Poets
Sidewalk Chalkers
Free Thinkers / New Writers
Free Spirits**

Tell or write your Street-Stuff

**We are planning a Spring/Summer
Carnegie Writers' Book**

**LOTS OF FREE COFFEE
TUESDAY, 2-4**

Welcome One And All!
(Sheila)

PSYCHECONOMICS

Garry Gust

Depression is the
absence of optimism.

Equality is a
capitalist big lie.

Wealth is the
creator of poverty.

Democracy is
pie in the sky

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

**Come join us for a preview get-together for
International Women's Day!**

(This Day is 8th March)

There'll be a snack, a video and informal chat on

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH,

1:00 - 3:00 PM

**Classroom 2 on the Third Floor
Carnegie Community Centre**



Ms. Margaret Prevost
Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Safety Office.

Dear Community Members of the Downtown Eastside:

This letter is written with sadness, and in memory of women whose lives were taken from them. They [were] remembered by their families, friends and loved ones at the Women's Memorial March on February 14, 1997.

Vancouver must not forget the loss of even one person through violent death. We join you in spirit to pray for the end of such tragic stories as those of the 136 women who died over the past 11 years in the Downtown Eastside. Indeed, "their spirits live within us all".

The Downtown Eastside Community is to be commended for ensuring that the larger community of Vancouver, and the media, will always remember the loss of "human beings just like you and me", our mothers, daughters, nieces and sisters.

Yours truly,

Philip W. Owen, Mayor.



Province Newspaper Challenged On Their “Element of Responsibility”

Let me ask you something

When you sit down to read a newspaper have you ever given any thought to how they get their information, whose human rights they have violated, how they have abused their “mythical power”? I say mythical because their power comes from the people who buy their newspaper and unknowingly contribute to journalism’s lust for sensationalism..but if people stop buying their newspaper their “power” would be gone.

“The people giveth and the people taketh away.”

The following is a true story, one I have lived and am still living; the nightmare of it will be with me for as long as I live.

When the news broke about my youngest daughter Tracy being found murdered in August 1995, the media had a field day. I realize that the news is supposedly reported with “the good of the people” in mind, and in some cases that’s true, especially when it comes to warning people of some sexual deviant or violent predator moving into a neighbourhood, but let me tell you about one newspaper in particular, *The Province*, one of Vancouver’s and British Columbia’s morning dailies.

The first article had the screaming headlines “Hooker Victim of Murder” but it contained a picture of the brother of the victim along with irrelevant information (more than 5 years old) about him. When I spoke with reporter Roberta Staley on the phone (who, by the way, did not inform me up front that she was recording our conversation) and asked her why this had happened she told me, “Try and see my side of this. I had been working on this story since 8:15 and did not have any information on Tracy and did not know how to get a hold of you, so I went to the archives and got out stuff about Michael as I had a deadline to meet and a space to fill.” Can you imagine anyone who calls themselves human making that kind of statement to the family member of any victim, especially in this type of circumstance? She even went so far as to phone Angelo Dundee in Florida to ask him for Michael’s phone number and tried to solicit how Mr. Dundee felt about Tracy’s death. (Mr. Dundee had only met Tracy once in his life.) As far as I’m concerned the archaic information about the brother was totally irrelevant as he was neither the victim nor the perpetrator of the crime.

I conversed with Staley for 2 hours and then she asked if she could do a more humane report with my assistance. I agreed to that but I also informed her that neither she nor anyone from *The Province* was to attend the funeral service, as they would not be welcome. (No information about the service was sent to any newspaper anywhere.)

Staley proceeded to phone around trying to find out where the service was being held and demanding “Where is Michael Olajide? I want to interview him.” When she contacted someone in Vancouver and a family friend in Las Vegas, she was told by both to “stay away”. Her response to the friend in Las Vegas was

"That's ok. I know where they live and I'm going over there." Suffice to say she never came to "where they live" - the proof of that is that I am still walking around a free woman.

Staley did succeed in finding out where the service was being held and came complete with photographer (neither myself nor my family had any idea they were there). They came inside the church and waited outside for more than 2 hours to take pictures of people leaving the service. They printed one of these pictures, the victim's son (my Grandson) and myself leaving after the reception - they printed his name and age, all without permission of any of the five adult relatives who were in attendance.

Now if minors who have committed a crime are not allowed to be photographed by the media, what about the rights of a child who has not committed a crime? I visited *The Province* and spoke with an editor/sub-editor named Fabian Dawson. During our conversation I asked him why they had put my grandson in their paper and I was told "it was news" and that they felt that my grandson was not in any danger so they went ahead. "Not in any danger!?! No one has been apprehended for my daughter's murder as yet..we do not know why she was murdered..and they have the gall to say that my Grandson is "not in any danger". Who are they to make that type of decision for someone else's family member?

Since I filed my complaint with the BC Press Council in February 1996 they (*The Province*) have been given a couple of opportunities to apologize but have chosen not to do so. In May 1996 a hearing was held in Vancouver between the press council, the paper concerned and myself. The Press Council found in my favor, an adjudication and press release was issued and sent to approximately 169 newspapers for them to use as they wished but *The Province* was to "Print Verbatim". They did not do so, claiming that the copy the Press Council sent to them was not stamped with the above instruction and they were unaware of the fact that they were supposed to "print verbatim", so Fabian Dawson edited it before placing it in their paper.

The two people who attended for *The Province* were Chief Editor Michael Cooke and Ms. Joey Thompson, their legal editor. During questioning by one council member in particular, they were challenged about the fact that they sensationalized Tracy's death more than most of the working girls who have been murdered; Cooke's response was "Yes, we thought it more newsworthy because she was the sister of a celebrity." When they were asked why Roberta Staley was not there to answer questions, he said that no one had informed Staley, but then Joey Thompson said that she had sent Staley a package containing my complaint but when speaking to Staley had told her that it really wasn't that important for her to be there. Further questioning revealed that Staley "no longer worked for them".

Please understand that what I have stated is only directed at the four individuals named herein. I have been informed by reliable sources that a number of employees of *The Province* were unhappy with the way in which my daughter's death was reported by their employer. I thank them for that.



I have spoken to a few lawyers about what I could do legally and it appears that they too labor under an illusion regarding the "power of the press" and say that I may not win, but also, I may not lose. It appears to me that the lawyers to whom I spoke are devoid of testes!

The main reason I have written all of this is to let you, the public at large, know what people go through at the hands of these people. It is traumatic enough to lose one of your children under normal circumstances... one never anticipates outliving their child(ren) does one?

There are approximately 67 unsolved murders in British Columbia of women who work in prostitution. No

one except crime-stoppers offers a reward for information to try and catch the killer(s) but I did catch a news bulletin a few weeks ago where the police officer said that they are considering a reward to try and catch the person that is setting mobile (johnny-on-the-spot) lavatories on fire (40 of them, to be precise).

This is written for: Tracy Fadola Olajide, for Cheryl Joe and for women who have died because they are considered "disposable" by some, but regardless, are loved by someone, for others who are still missing, their fate unknown, as well as for those who the news media feels are not worthy of respect.

This is how "the news" is brought to you by *The Province* newspaper. I have presented just a couple of incidents of how they operated, and I just possibly may have overlooked some of what they did, but when they victimized an innocent child and hung him out to dry publicly, I had no other choice but to challenge their element of responsibility. Footnote: Just 2 weeks before her death, Tracy had made a conscious decision to return home to make a life for herself and her child.

By OLIVE OLAJIDE

Spinning for Dollars ...

Carnegie is \$25,000 richer, thanks to a merry band of volunteers who don't mind missing a few hours of sleep if it's for a good cause. The money will go to pay for the van that transports Carnegie folks on all those outings and camping trips.

The volunteers raised the cash at a two-day casino recently at the Royal Towers in New Westminster. But, no, they didn't risk their welfare allowance on the roll of the dice or the spin of the wheel. They were the crew who participated in the casino on behalf of the sponsoring group, the Carnegie Community Centre Association.

Volunteering for casino duty means having to work all evening at specified observor/checker tasks, and then stay up half the night counting and recounting the cash.

Did you ever see a \$1,000 bill? It's got a picture of an evening grosbeak (that's a bird) on the back. I had one in my hand. Nice and crisp, of course; it doesn't get much circulation. People actually spend these gambling. It's nice if you can afford it

It takes staying power and a good sense of humour to get through the night, and the volunteers had that in large measure.

So when you're enjoying one of those unique Carnegie out-trips, give a thought to the people who made it happen: Vickie Dutcher, Chris Laird, Irene Schmidt, Egor Marov, Jeff Sommers, Nathan Williams and Muggs Sigurgeirson.

And while we're on the subject, don't forget the volunteers who do bingo duty every Monday night week in and week out, from 8:30pm to 1am at the Star Bingo hall on East Hastings.

They raise the money that the Carnegie Board uses to help fund all the programs it does - from the volunteer out-trips, to free chili in five-week months to that big video screen in the theatre and all sorts of other good stuff.

So hats off to George Nicholas, Irene Schmidt, Chris Laird, Mike McCormick, Mike Rennie and Debbie Gosselin.

As long as fundraising is necessary, we should be glad we have such dedicated volunteers to make sure that the job gets done, and gets done right.

H.P.C.A. THRIFT STORE LTD.

- **What do the initials HPCA mean?**
H.P.C.A. means Helping Prevent Child Abuse. We feel that this is one of the most important issues in our society today.
- **Where does the money go?**
We donate 20% of the profits to the Vancouver Police Union Charitable Foundation Helping to Prevent Child Abuse and the balance goes for paying expenses and paying debt.
- **What is the affiliation with the Vancouver Police Charitable Foundation?**
There is no affiliation what so ever, we own the HPCA Thrift Store. This is a family run business.

- **You started out as the SPCA Thrift Store, why did you change?**

This was a difficult decision to make as we were not going to stay in business unless we made some changes. We were not making enough money to cover expenses and the SPCA wanted us to donate them more money or they wanted us to stop using their name. We understand their concerns but we had to make the change to stay in business. The SPCA is a wonderful charity that does great work and we are very sorry that it did not work out. We needed help with promotion to make our store profitable.

Chili Bob



Total Destruction

Governments at every level have gone completely insane. They slash funding everywhere you look, especially for low income people while they continue to live off the fat of the land.

The major cuts started when the federal government abolished the **Canada Assistance Plan** and cut transfer payments to the provinces. This has a trickle down effect with drastic cuts from the provincial and civic governments as well.

The federal government kept the Grief and Suffering Tax while scrapping the CBC. When



Ujjal Dosanjh,
Attorney General.

Dear Mr. Dosanjh:

I am writing on behalf of the members of the BC Association of Community Law Offices to thank you for your expressed support of poverty law services and the initiatives you've taken in order to protect them.

We were pleased to hear that you consider it implicit from your February 6 letter to the Chair of the Legal Services Society Board of Directors that the intent of asking LSS not to cut the overall expenditures of community offices is that there be no cuts to poverty law services. We appreciate your support as these very services were disproportionately affected when the LSS Board adopted the last round of funding cuts. Your request also acknowledges the unanimous resolution of the Policy and Planning Committee in support of maintaining poverty law services. The position that you have taken is of profound significance to the law abiding poor of BC who require legal aid services.

In the event that the LSS Board authorises cuts to the funding of community offices or redefines it to negatively impact on poverty law services, we will be urgently requesting a further discussion with you to consider an alternative course of action. In the meantime, let me restate our thanks for your assistance. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the clients of the community law offices continue to receive much needed and critical services in the poverty law area.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Agg, BCACLO President.

we had the *Save the CBC* meeting at the Hastings Community Centre on February 19, citizens told Anna Terrana that they would do everything in their power to make certain that she wasn't re-elected. The Liberals promise to restore funding for the CBC in 1998 but how can you be whole once your arms and legs are cut off?

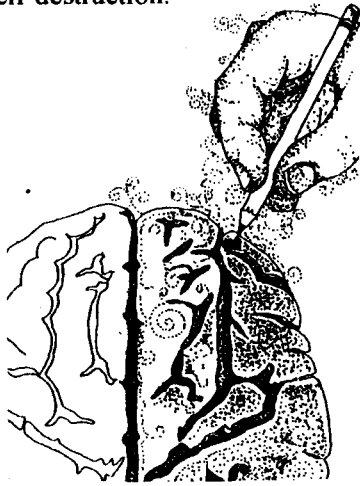
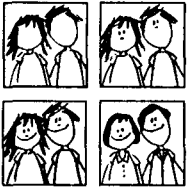
Now we hear that they have cloned a sheep called Dolly. We have a suspicion they have been cloning politicians for years behind closed doors. *Just look at the calibre of these idiots and you know it was impossible for any woman to give birth to them.* This is the utmost in faulty cloning. We are in deep shock over the firing of the staff in Carnegie's Learning Centre. Keep those petitions and letters coming.

Irene Schmidt

Going,
Going,
GONE?

THE SUICIDAL MIND

Massive unemployment, widespread poverty, alcohol and drug addiction, alienation and disintegration of the nuclear family, millennial angst. Genius is not required to see why suicide is rising at such a rate in our society today, that it can no longer even be truly considered as a behavioral anomaly. In his latest book, "The Suicidal Mind" (Oxford University Press, 1996), Edwin Schneidman, a psychiatrist and suicidologist for 35 years, brings into view his vast archive of data, interviews, case histories and counselling experience in an attempt to narrow the parameters of the root causes and commonalities of self-destruction.



On its most primary level, suicide is the attempt to block out psychological pain resultant from "thwarted psychological needs" vital for that person. But Schneidman also believes that an unhappy childhood may be the most conductively singular element in eventual suicide. Those are two key words in any human life: "unhappy" and "childhood". And if that childhood, for whatever reason, has been unrealised, vandalised or robbed, then the later adult, or even elderly may never have the proper "homunculus"; the tough internal armor, necessary to withstand the average span of life's "slings and arrows".

Early in his career, Schneidman amazed both himself and his colleagues by identifying five suicides from the psychological profiles and case



histories of thirty individuals several years before the suicides actually occurred. One man did not actually commit the act until eleven years later. This fact holds darkly provocative implications: If suicide can be identified several years before it happens, does this mean that the suicide is embedded in the life history? Are individuals starcrossed and unable to change their own fates? Is suicide in the character, "bred in the bone"? Is one's life history immutable? To what extent is it malleable? Can things be done to prevent suicide? And if so, why were things not done in these cases?

Personally, I believe that most, if not all of Schneidman's theories are highly valid, but I could not help but notice a strange omission: I truly believe that as we drag ourselves, weary and bleeding, towards the next millennium, we will see a substantial increase in what I can only choose to term "rationally weighed suicides"; people with previously normal and healthy lives who now no longer have even the physical and social minimum of a decent life -- together with a total lack of any rational probability of ever attaining it. Of course, this attitude can be taken to a ridiculous extreme as well. A news item recently reported of a millionaire real estate developer in Surrey committing suicide a month ago, after an investment went awry and failed to return "more millions" fast enough. These individuals fail to elicit sympathy in me. After the stock market crash of 1929, Thomas Wolfe wrote about these pathetic souls: "It was the ruin of men who, discovering not only that their values were false, but that they had never had any substance to begin with, now saw at last, the emptiness and hollowness of their own lives. Therefore, they killed themselves, and those who



did not die by their own hands, died by the knowledge that they were already dead.”

At the other end of the spectrum, however, is the truly tragic. On February 8th, nine year old Scott Pelletier hung himself. A week before, he had attempted to swallow a bottle of sleeping pills.

Symptoms were previously known to emergency room staff in the forms of bruises, cigarette burns and bite marks. I can only imagine what kind of existence had been endured that would force a child, after only nine years of life, to finally relinquish all hope and opt instead for the “sparrow’s final flight through the darkened hallway”.

Schneidman described it best at the end of his book by quoting Herman Melville’s “Redburn”:
“Cold, bitter cold as December and bleak as its blasts, seemed the world then to me. There is no misanthrope like a boy disappointed. And such was I, with the warm soul of me flogged out by

adversity -- talk not of the bitterness of middle age and afterlife -- a boy can feel all that and much more, when upon his young soul, the mildew has fallen and the fruit, which with others is only blasted after ripeness, is with him nipped in the first blossom and bud. And never again can such blights be made good. They strike in too deep, and leave such a scar, that the very airs of paradise might not erase it.”

Schneidman concludes by saying that the great social debate -- really about subintentioned deaths -- is over the role of the larger society in contributing to poverty, social degradation and hopelessness -- conditions that are clearly about behaviors that bring death to far too many before they need have died. Scott Pelletier: 1988-1997 on this earth, Child .. Sleep now.

By MARTIN A. McDERMID



Quotable

You must learn from the mistakes of others.
You can't possibly live long enough to
make them all yourself.

Sam Levenson.



Quotable

From Live and Learn and Pass It On by H. Jackson Brown, Jr., who has asked people from ages five to 95, "what have you learned from life?"

I've learned that the three best words to say are "I love you" and the four best words are "I love you, too". -- Age 22

I've learned that the best moments in life happen when you least expect them.
-- Age 20

I've learned that ignoring the facts does not change the facts. -- Age 56

I've learned that if you hang something in a closet for a while it shrinks two sizes. -- Age 62

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW
TO BILL C-91,
AN ACT TO AMEND THE PATENT ACT**

Dear Friends,

In 1992, the Mulroney government passed this law which gives monopoly patent protection for foreign brand name drug companies. C-91 delays market competition by keeping cheaper Canadian generic drugs off the market.

In return for their patent protection, the multi-national drug companies promised, among other things, stable prices for new drugs. In the past five years, prescription drug costs have skyrocketed. This drains the health care system of hundreds of millions of dollars at a time when basic services are being cut. In fact, in the health care system the cost of drugs is now almost equal to the total cost of paying for all physicians.

C-91 has impacts on poor people in two important ways: if the cost of drugs go up, the provincial pharmacare programs for welfare recipients may require that people pay deductibles or they may de-list drugs that used to be covered. For the working poor who generally don't have drug

plans, it may mean foregoing their medication entirely because they just can't afford it.

NAPO (National Anti-Poverty Organization) is working with the Canadian Health Coalition on this issue and we will be going to the committee. Please read the urgent action request of the Canadian Health Coalition. If you can do any or all of the four actions, it would be very helpful. This bill will go unchanged and drug costs will continue to skyrocket unless people speak out on how high drug costs are affecting them.

Sincerely,

Lynne Toupin, Executive Director
National Anti-Poverty Organization

**Canadian Health Coalition
Bill C-91 Review
URGENT ACTION REQUEST**

Public Hearings on Bill C-91, the *Drug Patent Act*, will commence on February 19, 1997. (The announcement was made in a press release issued late Friday afternoon, February 7th.)

1. Ask to appear before the Committee by faxing



**RALLY
AGAINST THE
FRASER INSTITUTE**

**High Noon
April 1, 1997
626 Bute Street**

**Don't let the Fraser Institute think tank
roll over you!**

**This event is organized by the Commercial Drive
Anti-Poverty Group of
END LEGISLATED POVERTY**

For information, call 879-1209



the Clerk at the number below, **before the deadline of March 3, 1997**. Written submissions are to be sent to the Clerk by April 3, 1997. Insist on your right to participate in the Hearings.

2. Ask your members to write their M.P.'s urging them to protect Medicare as opposed to drug company profits. Hand written letters have the biggest impact. (See sample letter.)
3. Write letters to the editor and call open-line shows urging the Liberal government to keep its promise and change the drug monopoly and protect Medicare.
4. Organize meetings with M.P.s in their riding office during the Easter break - **March 22nd to April 5th, 1997**. Groups are also encouraged to organize telephone calls to M.P.'s riding offices.

For further information on the Hearings call the Clerk of the Committee:

Santosh Sirpaul
Standing Committee on Industry
180 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Telephone: (613) 996-1175
Fax: (613) 996-1962

Will this make any difference?

The multinational drug monopoly is counting on you NOT writing or calling your M.P. Constituents who take the time will influence the decision on C-91. Protect your health care system, write today!



SAMPLE LETTER WRITE TO YOUR M.P.

House of Commons
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A6

Dear _____, M.P.

Re: Parliamentary Review of **C-91**

I am counting on you to oppose the interests of the powerful brand name drug lobby (PMAC) and to represent the interests of Canadian taxpayers and consumers. I am asking you to work for changes to Bill C-91 by supporting a **National Strategy for Medication** to:

1. establish a drug insurance plan for all Canadians;
2. ensure that cheaper generic drugs are available quickly;
3. monitor quality and effectiveness of research;
4. make the drug approval process safe and publicly accountable;
5. control prices for all medicines including generics.

With these changes, Canadians will have access to safe, affordable and appropriate drugs.

I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,
(Signed by you)

No postage required. Include your return address.



Chretien, construction cranes, development and APEC

263 Shopping days 'til APEC!

Urban poor people speaking out about the lack of housing are wrong to complain, according to Jean Chretien.

In Manila last year for the APEC Leaders Summit, Chretien dismissed the "clean-up" of half a million squatter families by pointing to the numerous construction cranes around him.

"You know there are more cranes here in Manila today than you have in many of the cities in Canada. And the people you see working around those sites are people from the Philippines," he said. "Trade and prosperity in a country lead to prosperity for everybody eventually."

Does Chretien think that the profits from those construction projects are going to go to the masses of displaced urban poor whose homes were demolished in preparation for the APEC meeting? Does he also think that because construction projects are a familiar site in the Downtown Eastside that things are looking up for people?

Meet the Leaders!

Today's feature:

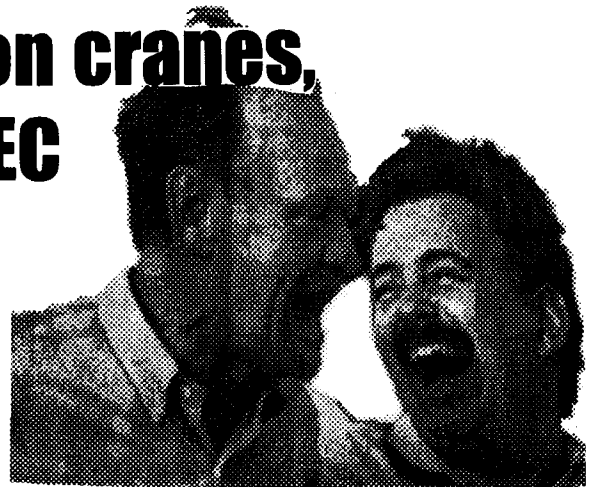
Jean Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada

- expert signer of free trade deals
- co-hort of U.S. and big business
- once opposed free trade, now loves it

Maybe for the people who will be riding elevators up to their 12th story condo suites! But not for the thousands of unemployed and working poor Canadians.

Chretien wants you to believe that throwing people out of their homes is a good thing. It means your city is developing at a healthy economic pace and dollars are pouring in! That's what they told us would happen with NAFTA and free trade. The problem is the money's only pouring into the pockets of the government and big business.

Why is the federal and provincial government and the city ready to spend millions of dollars for the APEC



conference while they are slashing funding for social housing?

In 1997, the APEC Leaders Summit will be in Vancouver and organizers predict 10,000 journalists, delegates and general tourists will descend into the city in November.

Chances are they'll need a place to stay.

Although Vancouver is not Manila and there are not the same scale of squatter communities to demolish, there are people to throw out, especially in the Downtown Eastside.

The owner of DES hotels might not be delegates to the APEC conference but they will be capitalizing on it. By converting to tourist hotels, owners can attract some of the thousands of people who will need a place to stay during the event. We might as well be talking about Expo '86 but on a much larger scale!

APEC is not something we should ignore and leave to the politicians. APEC and globalization are happening and will continue to increase the gap between the rich and the poor.

Housing is only one issue and example of how APEC and globalization are affecting us. From now until November the Carnegie newsletter will feature one of the 18 APEC country leaders and discuss an issue of how APEC is affecting us.

There will be a public launching of the Nov. NO! to APEC counter-conference on March 20, 1997 at the Kalayaan Centre at 451 Powell St. (across from Oppenheimer Park) at 11 a.m. All are welcome.

For more information on ways to get involved in opposing APEC, call the NO! to APEC coalition at: 215-1103.

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 1997 DONATIONS

Paula R.-\$10	Diane M.-\$15
Wm. B.-\$20	Lorne T.-\$20
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Frances -\$25	CEEDS -\$10
Charley B.-\$15	Susan S.-\$30
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Tom D.-\$10	Amy E.-\$10
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Sonya Sommers-\$100	
Census Employees-\$200	
Holden Hotel-\$5	LSS -\$1230
B.C. PLURA -\$1000	

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:
March 11
Tuesday

NEED HELP?

The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association
 can help you with:



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

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

DERA HAS BEEN SERVING
THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
FOR 23 YEARS.

CHINESE FESTIVALS



Chinese New Year

The Chinese Calendar is based on a lunar system; i.e. each revolution of the moon around the earth is a month, with 12 months in a year. The first new moon of the first month is Chinese New Year's Day, and since the coming of Spring usually falls around this first month, the Chinese New Year is also known as Spring Festival.

There are twelve animals which represent the symbol of each year. They take turns in the order of mouse, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, chicken, dog and pig. This year is the Year of the Ox.

During the Chinese New Year Festival, families visit with each other; people usually celebrate by greeting and saying best wishes to one another. They also prepare gourmet food and a lot of candies of different kinds. Adults give pocket money in red packages called 'laise' to teenagers. There is also the *Lion Dance* and fireworks!

Different animals also represent the first seven days starting from Chinese New Year's Day. They are chicken, dog, pig, ox, horse, goat and man respectively. People also celebrate the 7th day since it is the birthday of every human being.

The first full moon is Chinese Valentine's Day. People write some 'hints' on hanging lanterns, so that their lovers can guess the answer. Celebration finishes after the first full moon of the month.

Ching Ming Festival

According to the Chinese calendar, there are 24 special days every year, each of them occurring in a half-month. Since ancient China was an agricultural society, these special days can tell us exactly when spring, summer, fall and winter come. Moreover, they can also tell farmers when is the best time for sowing, harvesting and even some information about snowfall, the hottest day in the year and summer and winter solstices.

The Ching Ming Festival is one of these special days occurring in the third month. It usually falls on April 5th each year. The weather around Ching Ming is rainy; the rain comes small but frequently.

People believe that it is time to clean up the cemetery and graves holding their ancestors. They bring brooms and knives to cut down long grasses. They also bring food and wine to show they respect their ancestors, burning candles while they pray to them.



Dragon Boat Festival

On the 5th day of the 5th month is the Dragon Boat Festival.

About 2500 years ago, China was divided into 7 states. They fought battles all the time, and the strongest state was called Chin. Once, the Chin invited the king of another strong state, Choo, to visit their land. The Minister of the Choo, Mr. Chu Yuan, advised the king not to go because it was a trick. The King, however, ignored Chu Yuan. In order to show his loyalty to the king, Chu Yuan jumped into the river and was drowned. People couldn't find his body. The king still went to Chin and was eventually assassinated.

In order to prevent Chu Yuan's body from being eaten by sea creatures, people made dragon boats

and sailed around the place where he had drowned to chase them away. They also dropped rice dumplings in the water to divert the attention of sea creatures away from Chu Yuan's dead body.

Nowadays, people play dragon boats as a sport and in annual competitive games. Rice dumplings have been developed into different kinds of foods and are not just dumped into rivers anymore...

Moon Festival (Mid-Autumn Festival)

On the 15th day (also the full moon) of the 8th month comes the Moon Festival.

- Once there was a new concubine of a king whose name was Shang-on. She was always trying to escape from his palace and one day just disappeared. Some people said she had flown to the moon.

- Since the autumn full moon looks nice and the weather is usually fine, people make different kinds of lanterns for walking on that night.

- In the year 1368, the Mongolian Empire, which had ruled China for 90 years, declined. All over China, troops were set to overthrow this Empire. One of the army leaders, Chu Yuan Chang, decided to invade Mongolia on the night of this full moon. He had many cakes made and put messages inside, then had them delivered to other troops secretly. Finally, the Mongolian army was totally defeated. Later on, Mongolian invaders were sent back to the north and the other parts of their empire, all over Asia and even into Europe, completely collapsed.

Nowadays, people make different kinds of cakes called Moon Cakes and place them, together with other fruits, on a big dining table to celebrate the Moon Festival.

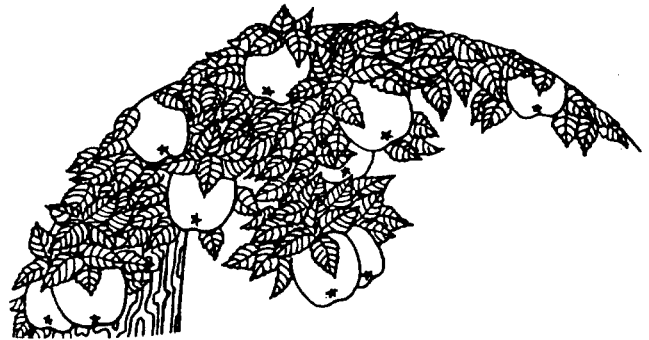


Chung Yeung Festival

The Chung Yeung Festival is also known as the *Double Nine Festival*, since it occurs on the 9th day of the 9th month.

It happened long ago when a fortune teller told a man called Hun Jing that on that day he was going to have bad luck. There would be a disaster in his family and the only way to avoid it was for him to leave his home. The whole family went for a picnic on that day. They climbed up a high mountain but the weather was fine. At the end of the day, when they arrived back at their home, they found that all the poultry had died.

Nowadays people usually go to a holiday resort in some countryside area out of town or visit the graves of their ancestors.



The Winter Solstice

As mentioned before, the Winter Solstice is one of the 24 special days of the year. It falls from the 21st - 23rd of December but usually on the 22nd. China was an agricultural land in ancient times, but farmers still gather together to celebrate their food harvest, after working hard over the year.

All farming activities stop after Winter Solstice, until the next Chinese New Year!



By ANDREW

You don't really want

Editor:

"These pioneers in the gradual gentrification of the Downtown Eastside say their hopes for a middle-class lifestyle are undermined by the tenderloin scene down the street." (*Drunks irk residents - Doug Ward; 17/2/97*). The entire article is presented as the outcry of poor little rich kids unable to sleep because of the seediness and unreasonableness of three local pubs' owners; they have done so much to permit these businessmen to withdraw with dignity, in light of the new upscale residents and then, in righteous frustration, resorted to the last option open to them - petitioning City Hall.

There is not one word in consideration of local residents who have also complained for years about the rowdiness, insensitivity, blatant disregard to their rights and threat to their housing presented by the patrons of local pubs. It goes on at the Ivanhoe "It's a kiddie bar. They (the under-20 crowd) ride the Skytrain there...", and at several bars in and around Gastown. No. 5 Orange received so many noise complaints from the residents of Four Sisters Coop that the owner sold it. This changed little. Club Elite, at the corner of



CHAMELEON

Powell and Columbia, is a classic example of what Counc. Lynne Kennedy referred to - a bar that can just change its name and legal owner and re-open with no marks against it. This particular nightclub has been the scene of over a hundred patrons spilling onto the street at closing time only to 'party on', oblivious to every building in sight and the floors right above the bar being residential. This was and is a constant occurrence, with patrons

urinating in doorsteps, defecating on sidewalks, buying/selling/using drugs, alcohol and even firearms. The patronage is also, like the Ivanhoe's, almost exclusively made up of kids (-20 to 30 yrs) down to do whatever the hell they like and then go home to the nice house in the suburbs.

EMERALD CITIES

Residents of the Downtown Eastside are, for the most part, not involved in the street crowds that the residents of CityGate find so objectionable. It is strange that these seemingly intelligent people have taken to heart the retailer's illusion that they are, in fact, urban pioneers conquering the wilderness of the downtown - be it eastside or south or Coal Harbour or wherever. There are already thousands of people living here. Our voices have rung out for years about the perception fostered by and perpetuated by various media - *Skid Road* - that allows the Downtown Eastside to be the dumping ground for the unruly children from the 'burbs. The amount of drug abuse prevalent 'out there' is at least equal to that seen 'here'; heroin addicts in Point Grey high schools number at least one hundred. The difference Doug Ward focuses on, and which must make all the difference in the world, is that these new kids on the block have shelled out \$250,000. Their complaints *must* be real, their complaints *must* be answered.

The fact that having the business licences of the hotel owners pulled, resulting in maybe two hundred low-income residents being thrown in the street because of the behaviour of kids from the suburbs and complaints of richer kids in condos, is just a minor detail to these people. The same seediness, the same sleazy results are likely with a few hotels in Gastown and, eventually, on Hastings St. Lynne Kennedy's husband is a co-developer of the

condo housing at Carrall and Cordova, and those new owners were told the same story: "Don't worry about the neighbourhood; this will be completely different in 3 years..or 4 years..or 5..." Statements like these are made regularly by real estate agents, in the face of thousands of low income people intent on retaining the integrity and stability of their community. Locals who have complained and rallied and petitioned and marched for years on all manner of issues no less important see the 'difference' from a slightly less slimy point of view. Your side, my side..the facts.

Respectfully submitted,
PaulR Taylor
Editor, Carnegie Newsletter
Treasurer, DERA.

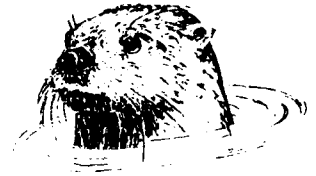


Running Down The Mountain

At the tip top
Mountain top
The last ridge skyward
And the sun a ball
Above the tips
Of white mountains.
And from this point
The steep falling away of rock
Downwards
Down to the valley floor
Already now in shadow.

The sky's too empty.
Home, feet
The earth's our mother.

Jump on the precipitous glacier
A summer snowslide slipping
Sliding down a thousand feet
Off like an otter
A curve of motion



Down
And now a talus slope
Straight down and down
With fine rock moving
Mountain moving
Rock river rumbling
Rock walker ride
A wave of rock
Down
A waterfall of rock roaring
Run with the flow, and run toward the edge
Leap from the sliding talus
And grasp the mountain immovable.
Granite cliffs leading down
Down to mountain meadows steeply sloping
Grass and flowers
Dall sheep grazing
Down, O down.

Feet run their way
Arms are wings
The mountain sings.

Down through evening dark
Of fir and pine
With golden streams
Of setting sun
Down, down
On thick moss skimming
Into shadows of the valley.

A night bird calls
The creek sings welcome home.
Look up,
The mountain peak is scarlet in the dusk
And there's the evening star.
Now light the fire.

Sandy Cameron

How Did It Happen?

i don't know how it happened... many events, witnesses, years....
but more important — it has...

i don't desire to be happy unless happiness is a universal right.

i don't care to be at peace when teenagers of the third world must learn to shoot anti-aircraft guns at American invading planes.

i don't want to be acceptable as long as rape, racism/sexism, multinational profit, C.I.A. destabilization of governments, joblessness, homelessness are acceptable.

i don't intend to be calm, pleasant, and likable
if the stink of injustice still must be raised.

i don't expect to be patient until there is 'HOUSING NOW' for everyone.

i don't know how to be quiet when our voices may be the only counter
to the rich's media controls, limits, inversions of the truth.

i don't think about being respectful when
hunger exists in the land of the plenty
poverty exists in this nation of wealth
uneducation and ill health runs rampant in this place of advanced technology
toxic waste ravages this once-beautiful country.

i don't plan to be non-disruptive of the "order" around us.

i don't yet choose to be a carpenter, if nuclear bombs production still steals
the housing construction budget.

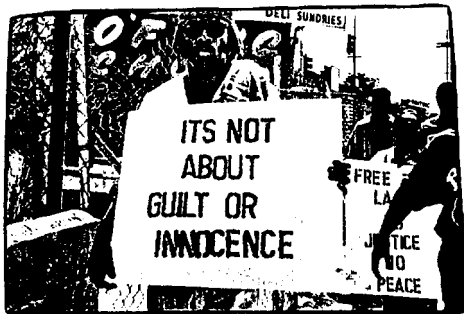
As long as churches and synagogues and temples do reverent, rituals
for rights and speak in pious platitudes of peace
and take no angry action that stops American Business as usual
to end homelessness, imperialism

As long as business lunches still happen in the glass condos looking
out over the homeless and hungry on the cold streets 10 stories below

As long as the City Fathers can work 8 hours a week for \$35,000 and
do little to learn of the peoples problems over whom they rule

i fully intend to dream of happiness — and peace when i sleep —
food, clothing, shelter, medical care, education, equality,
green space and peace for all

And meanwhile awake to live as unacceptably,



non-calmly,
unpleasantly,
dislikably,
impatiently,
loudly,
disrespectfully,
and disruptively
and as contagiously
collectively as I am able
as long as is necessary.

~ buddy gray