

FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER



MAY 1, 1997.

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

Kassem Aghtai:  
BY THE EVIL YOU HAVE WROUGHT;  
A CURSE ON YOUR HOUSE  
FOR FIVE  
Generations.

SEEK REDEMPTION

## THE BATTLE FOR WOODWARDS IS A BATTLE FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE



This symbolic and peaceful occupation of FAMA HOLDINGS LTD. is being held to protest FAMA's violent occupation of the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

FAMA's decision to betray its commitment to social housing at the Woodward's building and plan instead 364 condominiums is a death-blow to the unique, creative and valuable community of economically poor people in the Downtown Eastside

The displacement and homelessness which will result from FAMA's decision is extreme violence done to hope and life and community and many thousands of vulnerable human beings

The Political Response Group in cooperation with other Downtown Eastside groups takes this action today to demand from FAMA social housing in Woodward's.

As Woodward's goes, so goes the Downtown Eastside.

After the outrageous behaviour of Kassem Aghtai, owner of FAMA Holdings and the Woodward's building, members of the local Political Response Group (PRG) went to his offices in West Van and occupied them. About a dozen people, with a few children not in school yet, were there and had a great time responding to his attempts to get them to 'see reason'. They handed out this statement to people outside and got tremendous support. Inside, Aghtai kept shooting himself in the foot with rhetoric like "14 months was just too long" - response: "Being homeless for 14 days is too long"; like "it was a business decision" - response: "You're never going to miss a meal or be without a roof or have to sleep under a viaduct or in the park"; he said something like 'it's just another development' and a mother, on the floor with her daughter helping colour in a book, looked up, smiled sweetly, and said, "it's a matter of life and death" and went back to enjoying her child. As many learned, Aghtai and FAMA pulled out of the development permit process at the last minute because they knew they'd never get away with presenting the co-op design as their own. This gives the breathing space we need to organise in the entire city in the next 10-12 weeks. Stay tuned.



***All of Woodward's for all the people of the Downtown Eastside***  
**In Unity is Our Hope**

poem-speech spoken at woodwards  
19 april 1997 the day of the community block party

the courageous self-sacrificing and hard-pressed  
people of the downtown eastside  
have suffered a terrible violence in the past couple of years  
a violence of loss  
the rapid loss of housing at welfare shelter rates  
the loss of 46 dollars in welfare cutbacks  
the loss of 96 more dollars to those  
in the unemployable category  
meaning those who are ill or injured or disabled in some way  
it is violence that is taking this money  
it is violence against the people of the downtown eastside  
and when the loss of lives through epidemics  
goes unrelieved  
loss of lives from a.i.d.s.  
loss of lives from drug overdoses  
loss of lives from hepatitis c  
loss of lives from suicide  
these losses are a violence  
that would provoke extreme outrage  
from media and politicians  
if these losses occurred anywhere else in vancouver  
and these losses would provoke immediate emergency responses  
but we have suffered the shame  
of pender detox being closed for years now  
we have suffered the loss of a sobering centre  
before it was ever even put into operation  
we have suffered the violence  
of the pressure of upscale development  
and loss of land for those of us  
who are economically poor  
and have lived here for many years  
and so the violence of homelessness  
the violence of displacement  
now assaults our community  
we are also suffering the loss of hotels  
where we have lived and made our homes  
and now the agreement for social housing  
in this woodwards building  
has been broken  
and this is a terrible violence done to us  
to those of us who would have lived here  
and that is the final straw  
this building is the end of the passive acceptance

of loss  
in this community  
our community depends for its very life  
on this building going for the crying needs of all of us  
down here  
and this building is where the battle for our lives  
and for community will be fought  
but we will respond to this violence in our lives  
with non-violence  
with non-violent civil disobedience  
with marches and block parties and community meetings  
and organizing  
because each resident  
each member of the downtown eastside community  
is so valuable  
and so important  
and so dearly needed  
to defend our community  
and then our voice and our cry and our shouts  
and our resistance and our battles



for this building  
when joined  
to the voices of the many people  
who care and support and are concerned about us  
about our community  
about not letting us get blown into the streets  
when our voice and our presence  
is joined by theirs  
this building will be ours  
this entire enormous and vast building  
will be the tree  
from which new life

new hope  
new beauty  
new love  
new community  
will burst and bloom  
from our suffering and our struggle  
we  
want  
woodwards  
and we will not stop  
until  
woodwards belongs to this community

*Bud Osborn*

### "Street Cries"

At first it seems harmless,  
with nothing to fear.

"I can leave anytime, I don't have to stay here."

Then it calls you, it whispers your name.  
It wants you to stay, and play its cold game.

It laughs when it gets you to stay by its side.  
You might try to run, but there's nowhere to hide.

For the street doesn't want you to leave it alone.  
It sucks you in hard when you try to go home.

It sucks you right in, makes you play its own game.  
You hear the street laughing, it's feeling your pain.

Feeling so lonely, your cries and your weeps.  
You want it to stop but the street never sleeps.

Wondering when it will end, does it die?  
You wish for release, you want to survive.

A small town girl playing a rebel.  
Who says I deserve, now, to play with the Devil?

My words echo loudly, down the alleys they flow.  
I need them to help me,  
oh street,

Let me go...

*Lesley Grainger*

(submitted from BCCW)

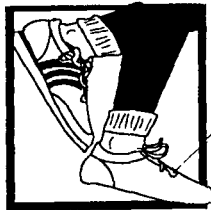


# SARTI WALK

## Walk #2 with Bob Sarti

Join us to explore **Queensborough**  
An island in the Fraser River

Come and see first hand an  
Island lifestyle  
and the Nalley's Potato  
Chip Factory



**Wednesday, May 7, 1997**

Meet at the info desk at 10:00 a.m.



...Sign up with Kathi on the 3rd floor

### **Too many jobs is bad news**

*"The government's reforms are aimed at making sure we never repeat the experience of the late 1980s. At that time growth was strong and job*

*creation was rapid, but as the unemployment rate fell below 8%, firms began to experience serious difficulties getting qualified staff..."*

**Paul Martin  
Minister  
of Finance**

## CARNEGIE KITCHEN NEWS

### UPCOMING PRICE INCREASES

As some of you will already have heard, prices at the Carnegie concession will be increased starting in mid-May. I know it is never good news to hear that prices are going up, and we regret the impact of these increases upon all of you who depend on the Carnegie kitchen for high quality meals, snacks and refreshments.

Carnegie has held the line on concession prices for many years. Diane MacKenzie, our former director, remembers raising the cost of coffee, soup and a couple of other things about six years ago. Meals and many of our other items haven't gone up for nine or ten years! Unfortunately, with our supply and operating costs rising all the time, we can no longer make ends meet.

How much will the increases be? On most items you will notice a change of 5 or 10 cents. A few items, such as meals, will have to be increased somewhat more. We will be posting all changes in prices on the second floor as soon as they are finalised and that will be at least one week before we begin to charge the new prices.

The Volunteer Program is at the heart of Carnegie Centre and we will try to ensure that changes will have as little effect on our volunteers as possible. The value of the volunteer tickets will be raised to help cover the additional costs. There'll be no change in the amount of tickets and cash that volunteers will need to pay for most menu items. A few things will cost more, a few will cost less. It is important to recognise that the kitchen plays a major role in helping to meet the costs of our Volunteer Program.

We are proud of the quality and selection of foods produced by our kitchen volunteers and staff and we appreciate being able to continue to serve these very good foods at reasonable prices.

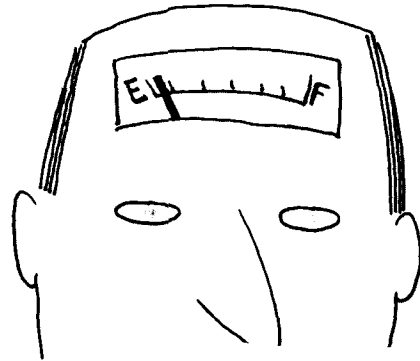
We thank all of our customers for your support.

Dan Tetrault, Acting Director.

# Trash

Political correctness, the way some people do it, is a hostile and cynical way of perpetuating the myth that educated, academically tainted, brainless buffoons, who spend their lives trying to tell other people how educated, academically tainted buffoonery is correct, are justified in spending their lives honing and developing their ability to persistently and endlessly badger other people about what is what, when in fact these academic imbeciles, these self-righteous self-defined arbiters of what is what, these hysterically intense, banal people are the least capable of knowing what is what. The same people who spout off about this, that and the other fad of correctness do nothing for anyone else, besides, perhaps, driving whoever they are spouting off to into a fit of depression at the idiocy, the lunacy we have to put up with, from people who have all the privileges in this world but still insist on abusing and assaulting the rest of us with their tenured or cultured or artistic stupidity and ignorance, their self-disgust disguised as arrogance, their arrogance disguised as pragmatism, their depravity disguised as worldliness, their empty, aimless sarcasm. Privileged academics and pseudo-academics badgering each other, and innocent bystanders, with politically correct balderdash, wasting time and resources and breath, to bolster their banal self-image and establish their intelligence to themselves, at whatever cost to anyone else, regardless of the consequences, regardless of the fact that their badgerings only establish their own stupidity to everyone else, and to themselves, secretly, which makes them, it seems, all the more eager to attack everything that doesn't fit their sanitized, deadly view of what's what, to degrade whatever they touch or create or enforce with their own pathological need to tell everyone everything they supposedly know, to replace what is (what was working before they came), with their banal ideas, with empty facsimiles of their own banal rituals and so-called lifestyles.

Dan Feeney



## trash ivory towers

You cold hearted academics  
condescend towards all others  
literature art philosophy  
law medicine science  
hide in separate  
hermetically sealed buildings  
secure against any intrusion  
or learning from society  
self-styled 'authorities':  
gossipy, forever smug

but

the humblest streetperson  
penniless on the sidewalk  
drenched to the rag-clothed bone  
is more of a philosopher  
than you will ever be

because

this person knows life  
knows poverty  
knows hard times  
knows humanity.

Oh academics so pompous fat  
stick to your ten course credit card meals  
of unhumble pie and student veal

*john alan douglas* for Curt P. & Doug K.

BC DEAF SPORTS FEDERATION



## STANLEY PARK SUNDAY MAY 11, 1997

A fun, non competitive event for all ages!

Choose a 4 or 9 km walk or run along the  
Stanley Park Seawall and Lost Lagoon Lake.

### EVERYONE WELCOME

Your completed registration  
automatically enters you to win the

**GRAND PRIZE DRAW**

**TRIP FOR TWO**

**ANYWHERE IN**

**AIR CANADA'S**

**WORLD**

**AIR CANADA**



Vancouver  Aquarium

BCDSF Silent Walk/Run  
218-1367 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC V6H 4A9

Employers shake their heads over days lost due to strikes, but in the early nineties days lost to strikes amounted to over 5 million, yet over 18 million work days were lost because of injuries, and that only counts the injuries accepted as claims. 7.

### OUR TAX SYSTEM STINKS

The 1997 version of Unfair Shares, published by the Ontario Coalition for Social Justice and the Ontario Federation of Labour, shows that the tax system continues to be unfair.

Here are a few examples:

- Canada Safeway had a pre-tax profit of \$71,200,000 in 1995 and paid no income tax;
- London Life Insurance had a pre-tax profit of \$99,000,000 in 1995 and paid no income tax;
- Western International Communications (WIC) the company that owns BCTV and CKNW (among other things), owed \$25,695,000 in deferred taxes in 1993. That amount increased to \$40,910,000 in 1995. There is no interest charged on these deferred taxes; they become virtually interest-free loans from the people of Canada. When companies avoid taxes, there isn't enough money for education, health care and other public programs that made Canadians proud of their country at one time.

As of 1994 there were 81,469 corporations in Canada with combined profits of \$17,110,000,000 which paid not one cent in income tax.

Corporations in Canada have been able to defer (not pay) more than \$40,000,000,000 in taxes. By rolling over these deferrals from year to year, much of this tax will never be paid.

Corporations, for the most part, aren't doing anything illegal. They have simply used their muscle, and fanatical propaganda groups like the Fraser Institute, to get tax laws written to their benefit at our expense.

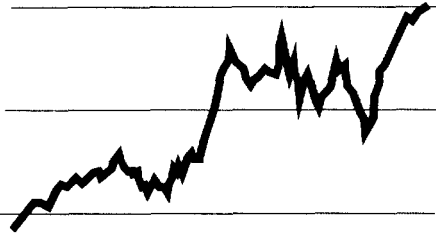
The very wealthy think not paying taxes is a point of honour. The French nobility thought the same thing just before the French Revolution in 1789.

*Doubledrum Mike*

## Junkies' Bedtime Prayer

Now I lay me down to sleep.  
The trip was great; thanks a heap.  
But if I die before I wake,  
Then drugs really are a big mistake.

Submitted by Dean Ko



You have won all  
You will win all  
You will triumph in the end.  
I thought the best had come and gone  
But now I realise, if it's not too much to ask,  
We could be together forever.  
Now that the end is near  
What are you going to do?  
I caught you shedding a tear  
What are you going to do?  
You did that once too often...  
You thought my heart would soften

Elizabeth Thorpe



## THE QUEEN OF KITSILANO BEACH

Garry Gust

Years ago I first met her  
In the city of Vancouver,  
In the hippy days on Fourth Avenue.

She would always sing along  
When I played out my old songs;  
I liked rock & roll  
but she liked the blues.

We'd hang out everywhere,  
Living life without a care,  
Searching for anything  
that was out of reach.  
I was the king of English Bay  
She was the Queen of Kitsilano Beach.

Every night after dark  
We would crash in Stanely Park,  
Waking up in the summer sun.  
Then we'd argue where we'd meet  
On Fourth Avenue or Denman Street;  
Denman had more money  
but Fourth was more fun.

Survival was a game,  
One by one the lessons came,  
We learned all that  
summer school could teach.  
I was the king of English Bay  
She was the Queen of Kitsilano Beach.

Then we drifted down the coast  
To Frisco and Mexico,  
Looking for adventure,  
singing in the streets.

And it was hot as hell  
Living in that cheap hotel;  
No air conditioner,  
But she liked the heat.  
I left her there to go home,  
And tho it was years ago  
Those were the best  
times that'll ever be;  
When I was the king of English Bay  
And she was the Queen of Kitsilano Beach.



## CELEBRATE CANADA'S YEAR OF ASIA PACIFIC!



CANADA'S YEAR  
OF ASIA PACIFIC  
1997 L'ANNÉE  
CANADIENNE DE  
L'ASIE-PACIFIQUE

Canada's Year of Asia Pacific (CYAP) is an exciting celebration of our ties to Asia Pacific. Throughout 1997, CYAP events across Canada will...

- promote Canadian business to the dynamic markets of Asia-Pacific,
- exhibit the rich culture of the region and promote cross-cultural understanding,
- show young Canadians how Asia Pacific can be a part of their future,

...culminating in the APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum) meeting in November, when the Prime Minister will host economic leaders from Asia Pacific in Vancouver.



To find out more, contact: 1-800-267-8376  
Internet: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/~cyap-acap/>

Issued under the authority of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister for International Trade.

Canada

All welfare recipients got this nifty piece of propaganda in the envelope with their last cheque. The Carnegie Newsletter has been publishing articles in every issue for the last few months prepared by the NO! to APEC coalition, headquartered at the Kalayaan Centre, 451 Powell.

The people there, especially the women of

Filipino ancestry, have first-hand experience with the workings of the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and Structural Adjustment Programs. They also have direct contacts with many of the thousands who protested and demonstrated against APEC in Manila.

It's fascinating that the Canadian politicians can so easily ignore the human rights' violations of people like Marcos and Suharto and countries like Indonesia and China while drooling over the prospects of selling nuclear reactors and other junk to unsuspecting countries. It's not so much fascinating as sad and amoral for local politicians to violate the rights of ordinary Canadians to basic security and a life by way of economic war against millions of low-income citizens and immigrants.

On Saturday, May 24, from 7-10pm, there will be dinner and discussion with Elmer Ordonez, a professor of English from the University of the Philippines and very politically active in his country. It will be at the Kalayaan Centre and will cost \$10. Call 215-9190 for a ticket.



UPTOWN@VCN.bc.ca  
surreyVanka@hotmail.com  
Fax: 684-8442

## Trashhopper Says...

Now that we have the bottle and can recycling problem solved, maybe we can with no thanks to Woodwards recycle some human beings. It makes me want to puke the way some people can treat others. I haven't made much progress binning with this weather but my fridge is okay and purring like a kitten. All I did was waste our money on food.

I was out the other day and ran into some roofers in Kitsilano and am reminded of this story that happened to me when I was on a real bad pissup. Even Tom Lewis couldn't top this one. One hot afternoon I was binning and drinking my way through the alleys in Kits and came across these empty pop cans. Beside them was a backpack with a full 2 litre pop, some sandwiches and cookies. Thinking some good soul left it for the binners, I scooped it up. Next thing this Mexican dude pulled me off my bike, swearing in his language.

After the ambulance left we all had a good laugh. It sure hurt for awhile but I'm feeling much better now. Have a good one. Keep it clean.

Trashhopper

## The Binner and the Hamster

There once was a hamster who had a nice home till his owners left him caged in a dumpster, starving and alone. Along came a binner, a song in his heart. When he came upon that dumpster the wee sound gave him a start. This was at 1477 Lamey's Mill Road. The binner was from the Eastside: "this is not our code." He rescued the tiny hamster and took it to the 4th Ave. animal hospital. "I'm proud to proclaim he now has a home and even a name."

This is a true story. The poor hamster was upside down in his cage with no food. The cage itself was damaged and bent in such a way that he could not even drink from the water bottle.

Carl MacDonald



## SENIORS OFFER LOWEST PRICES IN TOWN AT SPECIAL SALE

From Monday, May 5th to Friday, May 9th, the 411 Seniors Centre is holding a **Spring Clearance Sale** in their Thrift, Gift and Used Book Stores.

"Sales like these are essential to our Centre," says Friedl Schmitz, a volunteer member. "The money raised helps us to provide a variety of recreational; and educational programs, Information and Referral services and nutritious low-cost meals for seniors"

Racks of quality clothing, shoes, knick-knacks and books will be sold at rock bottom prices. There will also be a chance for customers to fill bags of selected clothes and books for \$1 and \$2 a bag. The sale hours will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day in the lobby of the Centre at 411 Duns-muir Street, downtown Vancouver. All proceeds will be used to help keep the Centre open for services to low-income seniors.

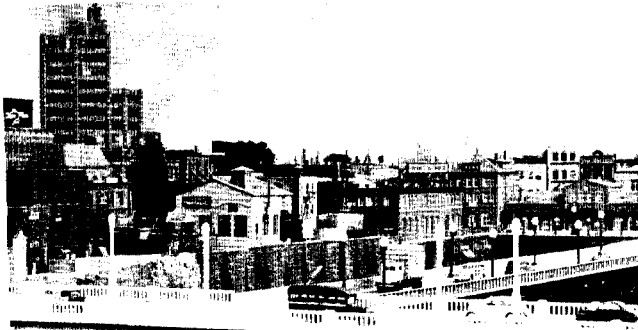
For more info about this sale, or about donating used clothing, gifts and books to the Centre, please call Jessica at 684-8171.



## "A Government From Hell"

The provincial Minister of Human Resources, Dennis Streifel, spoke at a British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) Conference on April 12 in Richmond. He said *BC Benefits* helped working poor families, and it's true that some working families are helped with a family bonus and medical and dental needs - although many of them still live in poverty.

Unfortunately, the Honourable Minister didn't seem to be aware of the enormous suffering the new social service regulations were causing people on income assistance. He didn't seem to know that



taking from poor citizens to give to other poor citizens was morally unacceptable, especially in a country where the richest 10 percent of Canadians own 51 percent of the wealth while the poorest 20 percent own minus 0.3 percent of wealth. The Honourable Minister stated that "the welfare system doesn't work." We know, however, that it is the economy that isn't working for ordinary people. If decent jobs at decent wages were available, the welfare system wouldn't be in trouble.

The government has been conducting a war against low income citizens. It is part of a cheap labour strategy so beloved by the global captains of industry. Cuts to welfare are a prime example. Income assistance rates are too low for people to live on, let alone look for work. Emery Barnes, who tried to live on welfare for one month in 1986 (when rates were higher) could have told that to Mr. Streifel. Now, with cuts to medically unemployable citizens, desperation will go up a few more notches. Crime, violence and sickness will

increase, as Lou Demerai pointed out in his letter to the *Vancouver Sun* on April 17. 11.

The government has cut hardship assistance and crisis grants. It has cut allowable asset levels. It has made the welfare appeal process more difficult. It has reduced allowable earnings for those on income assistance. It is forcing parents of young children to train or work, and it is forcing citizens over 60 to take early CPP.

The government has introduced a new, arrogant and hostile "management culture" into welfare offices, which is turning them into simmering centres of distrust - much to the dismay of both those on income assistance and social service workers. The government has closed welfare offices, resulting in inadequate service and increased anxiety.

Low income citizens, anti-poverty and community groups, front-line welfare workers in the British Columbia Government Employees' Union, BCTF, the Nurses' Union, the NDP Social Committee, the Vancouver & District Labour Council, the Canadian Auto Workers, the Canadian Federation of Students, the Vancouver Status of Women, the WHOA coalition (Workfare Hurts One and All) and many other individuals and groups have spoken against the negative aspects of *BC Benefits*. The government, and the corporate media, haven't been listening. Frankly, my friend, they don't give a damn.

A painful insight for ordinary Canadians today is that government and the economy have stopped working for all but the most privileged citizens. "We have a government from hell," said Sheila Baxter at an ELP rally in front of the Fraser Institute, a corporate lobby group. Her words apply to both the federal and provincial governments.

Robert R. Rich, a member of Carnegie from day one, reflected on the increasing environmental unrest, the increasing desperation of low income people, the growing housing crisis in the Downtown Eastside, and the growing anxiety over power deals like NAFTA and APEC that undermine human rights. Improvising on Shakespeare, Robert said, "Now is the summer of our discontent."

By SANDY CAMERON

*Sign up now for:*

# Fourward Action Training

or

# Job Club

at

*pride*

CENTRE

People Responsible for Improving Downtown Economy

## What is Fourward Action?

Fourward Action Training is a three month program which assists people who are looking for work. You will be trained in a number of areas including:

- introduction to computers
- food and beverage
- personal development
- industry recognized certificates

## What do I do now?

If you: • have been receiving **Social Assistance** for ten months or more  
• are employable

Then: • visit us to complete an application form!  
• after approval from your Training Consultant, you can join Fourward Action.

Priority is given to applicants who are 19 to 24 years old; however, seats are available for applicants over 25!

## Start dates:

**April 28 & June 23**

Services PRIDE Centre provides for all participants include:

- photocopying (resume)
- printing of cover letters
- phone lines / facsimile

## What is Job Club?

Job finding Club assists people who are looking for work with:

- practising interview techniques
- resume preparation
- cover letter writing
- finding job sources

## What do I do now?

**If you:** • are **unemployed** and feel job ready

**Then:** • visit us to complete an application form!

## Start dates:

April 21, May 26, June 30, August 4, &  
September 8

**Services** PRIDE Centre provides for all participants include:

- photocopying (resume)
- printing of cover letters
- phone lines / facsimile

PRIDE Centre Programs are funded by the Ministry of Education Skills and Training, and by Human Resources Development Canada.

## Who is *pride*?

Located in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, PRIDE Centre is designed to provide training, work experience and job search information to residents of the downtown area. We provide up-to-date job search skills through an individual and personalized approach.

PRIDE Centre is a registered Private Post-Secondary Institution. Please phone or visit us for more information.

### ADDRESS:

PRIDE Centre

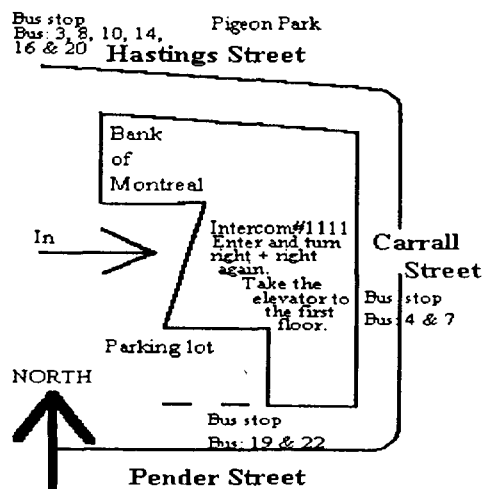
Suite 110 - 1st Floor

425 Carrall Street

Vancouver, BC V6B 6E3

Telephone: 685-1288

*(push #1111 on intercom)*



# REASONS TO

# TOP 10



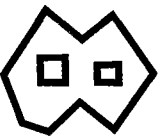
## RAGING UNEMPLOYMENT

Unemployment has been above or near 10% for 6 and a half years—over 1.5 million Canadians are out of a job. There was no job growth last year in the Atlantic provinces—unemployment is officially 19% in Newfoundland, and over 12% in Nova Scotia. More than 600,000 young people have no work. Unemployment for aboriginal women is over 17%; for disabled women it's 16%.



## OBSCENE PROFITS

Companies make immense profits but put workers on the streets. The free trade agreement that business and government promised would bring jobs has put more than 200,000 out of work since 1988.



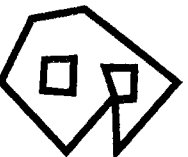
## BUTCHERING UI

The Liberals cut \$8.5 Billion from Unemployment Insurance. They can change the name to "employment" insurance, but they can't hide the fact that half the unemployed can't collect benefits from the plan they paid into for years. The government is using the \$6 Billion surplus in the UI fund to pay down the deficit.



## SHRINKING PAY

Wages for workers are flat. Family incomes have fallen steadily. Between 1990 and 1995, average weekly earnings increased only 1%. The federal government is fighting pay equity. Many workers saw no increase at all. But corporate salaries are ballooning. Some CEOs received annual increases as high as 2,686%.



## SLASHING SERVICES

The Liberals proudly cut 45,000 government jobs—the public service is now as small as it was in 1945. Program spending cuts have caused thousands of job losses in provincial health care and education. In a single day they ordered 10,000 ad mail jobs cut from the Post Office, 7,000 jobs have been cut from CN Rail and 4,000 from CBC—one third of CBC staff across the country is gone.



## CHOKING OFF THE PROVINCES

The Liberals have cut \$14 Billion in federal spending leaving provincial governments to take up the slack in education, health care and welfare. It's no wonder emergency rooms and hospitals have closed, tuition fees have increased, training programs have disappeared, welfare payments are below the poverty line. British Columbia lost \$2 Billion over the past two years; Quebec has lost \$1.4 Billion this year alone. Despite promises there is no national child care program, no new program to address violence against women.



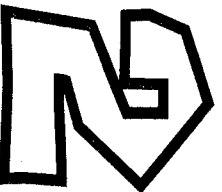
## DOWNGRADING EDUCATION

Education funding cuts mean tuition increases and higher student debt. Debt loads are now \$17,000 and student bankruptcies are on the rise. The government estimates student debt will grow to \$25,000 by next year. That puts education out of reach for more and more young people.



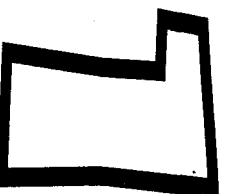
## OPEN SEASON ON WORKERS

Corporations are maiming and killing thousands of workers every year while they fight regulations that would improve safety in the workplace, and are attacking workers' compensation systems across the country to cut down on benefits and eligibility.



## GUTTING TWO FISHERIES

The Federal government has driven the East Coast fishery into the tank, and is now rearranging the west coast fishery to reduce the fleet, in a move that gives a few wealthy fishers, and the processing companies more control over the catch. The changes aren't about conservation of the fishery—they just make fishing and processing jobs in coastal communities extinct.



## PUSHING PEOPLE INTO POVERTY

700,000 more Canadians have fallen into poverty since the Liberals were elected—40% of those have jobs. Eighty-nine percent of young single mothers and their children live in poverty. Thousands of Canadians use foodbanks. Welfare payments in every province are well below the poverty line, and the new federal child tax benefit will do nothing for the poor on welfare. This is the second richest country in the world, but 5.2 million Canadians live in poverty.



## OPINIONS

A VOICE FOR CHANGE

### The Medium is Not the Media

The media coverage of recent NDP budgets and the chronic rantings and unfounded allegations of dishonesty and incompetence dominating media outlets may show that democracy and a free press are not as secure as many would think.

The reporting of the court decision in the ridiculous trial over whether the government knew the 1995/96 budget was not balanced, but said it was just to get re-elected is a real case in point.

While Vancouver's two dailies cranked out headlines of supposed victory by the right-wing *Help* (that's a joke) *B.C.*, the actual decision said something quite different.

Despite what can only be described as compassionate generosity by the judge, almost all of *Help BC's* case was dumped for lack of evidence. The

court said no action can be taken against 36 NDP MLAs simply because there is neither a shred of evidence, nor a single voter complaint (unfounded or otherwise) that they misled anyone about anything. In the three ridings where a petition was filed, the court, in its generosity, granted *Help* a further hearing to see if it could proceed with their case, even though the petitions were filed late and presented no supporting evidence.

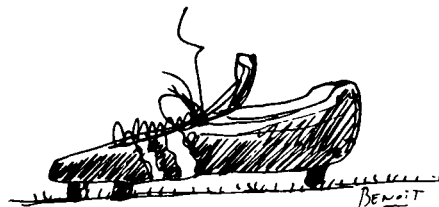
Yet to hear most of the media on this issue, one would think the government had been tried and convicted. Media coverage of this issue overall is even more biased and sensational, making it out to be a David and Goliath situation, Goliath being the evil NDP and David being appropriately David Stockwell, *Help's* leader, who's supposedly just out to keep politicians honest.

The fact is, Mr. Stockwell is hardly a "little guy" like the rest of us. Rather, he is a well-to-do businessman, a prominent Liberal Party member and a front man for the powerful National Citizens Coalition, a semi-secretive extreme right-wing elite of very wealthy and influential capitalists, executives and insurance tycoons committed to suppressing just about every form of democracy in society.

This clique has expressed admiration for brutal fascist governments around the globe and pushed for the enactment of militaristic policies, authoritarian government and unchallenged corporate control over the Canadian economy. It has attacked hard-won rights of working people, demanding infringement on the right to freely associate, form labour unions and have input into the economy.

This clan is against everything from universal public education and health care to human rights and civil liberty laws. And it is this group which is footing the bill for this show trial.

(From the *Columbia Journal*)





They claim, without no-fault – your premiums will rise by 40% – because they say ICBC is in financial trouble. **But**, ICBC admits it made a profit of \$354 million during the last three years – and planned a profit for 1996.

### **If Their No-Fault Plans Become Law It Will Mean:**

- 9-out-of-10 accident victims will not get compensated for pain and suffering
- Your compensation for lost income will be drastically reduced or eliminated
- 92% of car accident victims will lose their right to sue for fair compensation
- ICBC will have total control over your life if you are injured in an accident

### **Stop the No-Fault Assault!**

Call or Fax Premier Glen Clark Today  
*Tomorrow may be too late!*  
 Greater Vancouver **Call 431-8119**  
 Greater Victoria **Call 387-1715**  
 Other areas within BC **1-800-663-7867**  
 (Ask to be transferred to Glen Clark)

Premier Clark's fax numbers:  
**604-660-0279** (Vancouver) or  
**250-387-0087** (Victoria)

Or write to Premier Clark:  
 Parliament Buildings,  
 Victoria BC V8V 1X4



## **Downtown Eastside Residents' Association**

**Press Release: APRIL 29, 1997.**

### **B.C. BENEFITS IS NO FRIEND TO THE POOR**

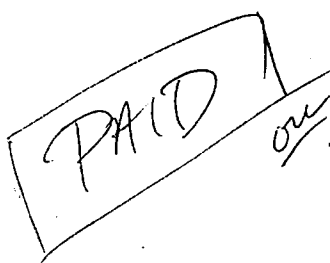
DERA Advocates recently attempted to secure a bus pass from the Ministry of Human Resources for a man injured in a serious accident. Citing new regulations governing BC Benefits, he has been refused this relatively inexpensive, yet vital, form of assistance (transportation for medical needs). The man, who was receiving BC Benefits prior to the accident, is unable to walk without the assistance of crutches.

Under the new BC Benefits regulations, a Special Needs category, which replaces and changes the Unemployable category, can only be offered to an individual who suffers from an injury lasting longer than one year and certified to this effect by a doctor. In this case, a doctor noted the man would probably be better in one year, thereby making him ineligible to receive assistance such as a bus pass. Further, had the doctor agreed that the injury would last longer than one year, the man would still have to wait six (6) months to get his enhanced medical which in turn would provide for medical equipment and transportation for medical needs.

BC Benefits, a provincial program established to assist those most in need in British Columbia, is refusing to comply with its own reasons for being. The NDP government's refusal to offer assistance to its historic constituency, the disadvantaged, betrays directions set by their own grassroots' membership. And most noteworthy, a disadvantaged member of our society must carry out his daily activities in pain and discomfort, with no help from his 'friends'.

Frank Gilbert, DERA Community Affairs Co-ordinator, 682-0931





## INVOICE

DATE: April 14, 1997

TO: Carl MacDonald

FOR: #67 A Tribute to Bruce Eriksen VHS dub  
"Best of .." package

AMOUNT: Free for Volunteer Week at Carnegie Centre

PAYABLE: to "Working TV",  
c/o 2149 Parker Street  
Vancouver, BC V5L 2L6  
GST # R140325317

### TUTOR TRAINING

The Carnegie Learning Centre is alive and well.  
We are starting some new tutor training and the  
first meeting will be held on:

**THURSDAY, MAY 1st**  
**1:30 - 3:30 p.m.**  
**in the Learning Centre**

All new, old and potential learning centre volun-  
teers are welcome!

**Anyone who can read and write  
can be a tutor.**

• **Frank Stronach** of  
Magna corporation made  
\$47,226,100 but declared  
it amounted to little more  
than minimum wage be-  
cause of the hours he  
worked.

In Manitoba, where the  
minimum wage is down  
to \$5.40 an hour, Frank  
would have to work  
8,745,574 hours in one  
year to make that much.  
(1 year = 8760 hours)



CARNEGIE

*WHAT WOULD I DO WITHOUT CARNEGIE?  
I CAME HERE FULL OF LETHARGY  
I WAS DESPERATE, HUNGRY  
WITHOUT CARNEGIE I WOULDN'T HAVE  
MANAGED AS WELL*

*SURVIVED*

Dora Sanders

# Child dies: trapped by fire & welfare laws

Niki Gallant Bourgeois was an 8-year-old Canadian of no fixed address. She died last May screaming for her mother, trapped by fire in a converted bus the family was travelling and living in. Cause of death — severe burns, and smoke inhalation. Anti-poverty activist Linda Goyette will tell you Niki's death was also caused by Canada's neglect of the poor.

In an article first printed in the *Edmonton Journal* Goyette explained: "The fire began when a tent heater fell over inside the bus and ignited fuel which had leaked from the camp stove. The rest of the family escaped, but Niki was trapped on a couch at the back. Two bunk beds

suspended from the ceiling fell on her before anyone could reach her. Niki's mother could hear her screaming but couldn't get back inside."

When the family arrived in Alberta, they were flat broke.

They had left Oshawa in early May hoping to find work in Vancouver or along the way; father Paul, mother Joanne, three children (Aaron, Niki and Paul). Joanne's brother Walter and friend Gill Bourque were with them. Everything they owned was piled on the bus.

By Calgary, they were down to \$30 and the weather was freezing.

They called Alberta Social Services hoping for a

motel room to get out of the cold, but they were refused because the family had already received a May payment of \$1,325 in Ontario and you can't collect twice in one month from two provinces.

The city did provide emergency assistance for the four adults and three children—it was a \$30 propane voucher. Just enough to get the bus to the border of British Columbia.

The Canada Assistance Plan used to oblige every province to provide emergency assistance—food and shelter—to poor Canadians. The Chretien government abandoned minimum national standards for welfare, along with its promises to end child poverty.





## Funds renewed for panhandling fight

A two-year-old project to rid downtown streets of panhandlers has been renewed by two business associations.

Information cards, to be given to the public by merchants, will be fused with a contract with Vancouver Recovery Club to provide outreach assistance to panhandlers.

The cards tell people that giving money to panhandlers doesn't eliminate the problem, but further enables them with their substance abuse.

"Our experience over the past two years has shown as many as 90 per cent of panhandlers have drug or alcohol addictions," said Charles Gauthier, general manager of Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association. The other group involved is Robson Street Business Association.

The outreach work in the two association districts has been blamed for driving panhandling activity to other areas of the downtown core, including Davie Street.

Under the program, two workers walk certain downtown streets talking to panhandlers and directing them to detox treatment, counselling, and shelter.

## Panhandling program faulted

That problem panhandling is a scourge to business operators who wish to rid the streets of unsightly human litter which makes shoppers and tourists feel uncomfortable is not surprising ("Funds renewed for panhandling fight," April 17).

What is most disturbing is that a group like The Recovery Club would continue to lend its name to participating in this transparent scapegoating of the disadvantaged it strives to assist. Thousands of volunteer hours are invested daily throughout our local communities by people who recognize that poverty is real; it's ugly; it's a public disgrace and it grinds its victims into dismal depths of despair, yet only The Recovery Club seems to feel that public humiliation is an essential component to helping people assemble a future for themselves. A "calling card" and a gentle shakedown does nothing to alleviate an escalating social dilemma that is far more complex than sorting poor people into tidy categories and sending them off for a good talking to.

Ian MacRae, President  
Downtown Eastside  
Residents' Association

### ***Weight gained.. weight lost, maybe..***

When I stopped smoking many years ago.. well it's been six years come June 1st.. I never thought I'd be sitting around a table discussing diets with overweight people, at least not in this lifetime. When I removed the last cigarette from my mouth I replaced it with food.

I used shovel, fork, spoon; shovel, fork, spoon. It was like I was starving. I ate in the morning after breakfast, in the afternoon after lunch, in the evening after supper and late at night. I was out of control. I did not stop until one day I was huffing and puffing, trying to walk up Alexander Street to my home at Rodim Lodge. I had to stop 4 times in one block. I had to confess finally that I'd become a food junkie and needed help.

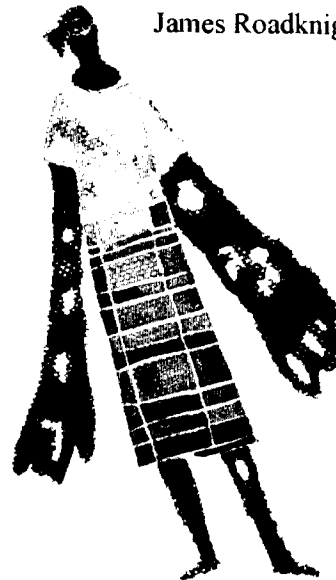
James Roadknight

### ***Love***

If you can respect your self then you can respect others. If you have love in your heart then you can share this love with other people. If human beings loved one another there would not be any wars.

I used to have a fear of using the word love because men and women take it the wrong way; until they get to know me better, he or she, I use the word I like.

James Roadknight



### ***The Caribou is Grizzly Country***

Man does not own the mountains.. they belong to the bear, the wild sheep and all the rest. Man is only a small part of nature, but some men, in the name of greed, want to control (destroy) all animal life. If this happens, we too will die. We have to pass laws - now, not later - in an effort to protect animals.

In the Interior the Grizzly bear is king. These big bears mind their own business and will not attack human beings unless forced to 'with their backs to the wall of a cave'. They are usually as docile as grazing sheep. They *will* work with wolves to bring down a deer and share with one another.

Grizzlies are great travellers, and will roam the Caribou country from one end to the other. Late in the fall they gorge themselves on berries and fish; after 'filling up' they will find a cave and

hibernate for the winter. (I wish I could do that.)

In the spring bears are hungry, after sleeping the winter away, and some kill cattle just as they might a deer or sheep. This usually happens after they've come across a thawing carcass of some domestic animal that died in winter, and it leads the bear to easier prey in ranchlands. Ranchers or farmers then hunt them down.

Some men are now hunting bears just for body parts. Oriental medicine puts great stock in a bear's gall bladder; about a year ago the largest black bear ever seen, which lived in a provincial park in Alberta, was found shot dead with only its gall bladder cut out.

This is a shame. All this destruction is based on greed. If man manages to kill the animals - the Grizzly, the birds, the fish - we will die too.

James Roadknight

## we reserve the right

I was on a baseball team in southern missouri  
I was 14 years old  
I was from ohio and the other boys  
came from all over north america  
and we travelled to our games  
in an old airport limousine  
we played mostly in small towns  
and one afternoon after a game  
we stopped at a greasy spoon diner  
I was the first one of us inside the place  
with paul a kid from washington d.c.  
paul was a nice friendly kid  
and a damned good ballplayer  
we sat down at the counter  
and gave our order to this guy wearing an apron  
the rest of the team had piled in by then  
I was hungry  
and waited for my food  
looking around  
talking to paul  
then I noticed other orders being delivered  
burgers fries shakes  
placed in front of other kids  
I got restless  
I wondered what happened to paul's order and mine  
I said "hey!"  
to the guy moving around behind the counter  
but I couldn't get his attention  
and I got bugged  
paul and I were the first ones to sit down  
we were the first ones to order  
I didn't know what was going on  
but paul was sitting on his stool  
all calm and cool  
not looking around  
not doing anything  
I could never get the attention  
of the guy behind the counter  
even when he was standing right in front of me  
he never even looked at me  
I watched the rest of the team finish eating  
I watched them pay for their food  
and then they went back outside



and got in the limousine  
"damn!" I said to paul  
then it dawned on me  
paul took me by the arm  
"come on man" he said "let it go"  
he led me out the door  
but in the parking lot I told the coach  
we had to do something  
"have everybody grab a baseball bat  
and go back inside!"  
I was furious  
paul was still cool and calm  
"forget it man" he said  
and he climbed into the limousine  
well if paul wasn't going to do anything  
I had no reason to  
I didn't understand paul's response then  
but now I do  
he would've paid a much heavier price  
than the rest of us  
for any trouble we caused  
because it was paul's fault he and I didn't get served  
paul was  
after all  
the only black kid  
on the team

*Bud Osborn*

## Homeless activists clash with police

TORONTO - An unruly group of protesters jostled with police as they tried to break into an abandoned downtown apartment building Saturday (19 April) and claim it as housing for the homeless.

At least seven people were arrested, including John Clarke of the Ontario Coalition Against Poverty. With nightsticks in hand, about a dozen waiting police officers struggled to push the 200 demonstrators back as they tried to fight their way to the padlocked front doors of the building near Maple Leaf Gardens.

"I want my home back. You had no right to kick me out of my home," yelled Jeremy McDowell, 25, one of about 60 squatters who lived in the long-vacant 80-unit complex until they were evicted by police last May.

Clark said it's "obscene" that there are 258 empty buildings in Toronto while people freeze to death on the streets.

"If the law says people have to die on the streets when buildings are sitting idle then I say that law must be defied," he said.

"In a sane society we'd expect the authorities to give us an escort and help us into the building and not ring it with police officers to defend it from the homeless."

As Clarke and activist Gaeten Heroux tried to pry



plywood off a second-storey side window with a crowbar, mounted officers used their horses to keep the crowd at bay and dragged the pair away.

Clarke was charged with counsel to commit an indictable offense and Heroux with attempted break and enter. Five other protesters were also arrested.

Billed as a Homeless Housewarming Party, Canadian Labour Congress vice-president Jean-Claude Parrot rallied the troops. Many demonstrators carried union banners.

The demonstrators planned to ask Mayor Barbara Hall for changes that would allow people without housing to make use of vacant buildings.

"The city could be bringing in bylaws that would say after a building has stood vacant for a certain amount of time, it should be used as housing," said Sue Collins, a coalition member.

Bob - omigod - Taken from the Internet.

# AWARENESS MEDITATION

with Miriam Caplan

Every Monday  
Starting on MAY 12

Here's an opportunity to  
learn to become still in the  
midst of chaos!

4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Classroom II on 3rd floor

Come and give it a try!

Talk to Kathi for more information



# Notes from Mali

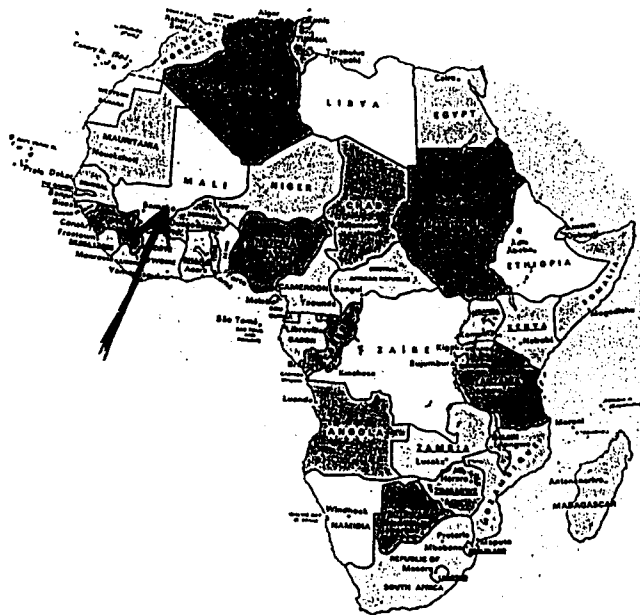
I think the most overwhelming experience I've had so far has been stripping. This is perhaps best understood by comparing Crossroads to the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps is American. Their volunteers go to developing countries for a period of two years. For the first half of their placement, they learn the local language, integrate themselves into the culture, and seek out or set up development projects on which they continue to work throughout their second year of placement. They receive extensive cultural and language training; they have a well-staffed, well-equipped home base in Bamako; they live in their own houses in small villages of their own choosing; they cook their own food; they have motorcycles and bicycles at their disposal for their own transportation needs.

The Peace Corps volunteers I have seen so far are easily identifiable: they are clearly neither tourists nor ambassadors, and yet they make no attempt to hide their American-ness. The ones I have talked to have a sense of purpose verging on arrogance: they are here for a reason and they express no doubts about its validity.

Crossroaders have none of the above. Despite the year of preparation that goes into our voyage, we are essentially parachuted into our situation here. We live, eat and sleep with a host family previously unknown to us. We struggle in the first few weeks to pick up the rudiments of the language as it is spoken around us. If we want to go anywhere, we have to figure out how to get there by public transit (which, I assure you, makes the #14 Hastings look like a clean, orderly affair). We are cautious about wearing blue jeans, sunglasses, hats, running shoes, and about using cameras. We feel guilty if we go to a tourist restaurant or send for something from home.

As I look around at my fellow Crossroaders in these early days, I am struck by a similarity in our appearance: we are all awkward and uncomfortable-looking, like we don't know what to do with ourselves or how to hold our bodies. We all look



like the new kid in class at the grade seven dance when nobody danced or talked with you.

Perhaps the greatest difference between the Peace Corps and Crossroads is the sense of purpose. They are here to organize communities, to set up local banks, to experiment with alternative agricultural methods, to establish schools, nurseries, centres, libraries, to build dams. We are here on a... well, it's kind of a cultural exchange thing. It's kind of hard to explain because most of the time I don't know myself what the Hell I'm doing here. We are just here - dependent on the kindness of strangers.

The stripping is the first part of this cultural exchange. We are stripped of comforts, stripped of company, stripped of both belonging and anonymity. Stripped of independence and pride. Stripped of schedules, dietary habits, exercise routines, mobility. Stripped right down to our cores. The Peace Corps is muscular; Crossroads is skeletal. They dig wells in fields. We dig wells in our souls.

Sarah

**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**

Rocking Guys - \$30  
 BCCW - \$60

Paula R. - \$10	Diane M. - \$15
Wm. B. - \$20	Lorne T. - \$20
Lillian H. - \$25	Mel L. - \$20
Joy T. - \$20	Sara D. - \$20
Frances - \$25	CEEDS - \$10
Charley B. - \$15	Susan S. - \$30
Libby D. - \$20	DEYAS - \$75
Guy M. - \$10	Brigid R. - \$10
Tom D. - \$10	Amy E. - \$10
Rene F. - \$30	Kay F. - \$5
Sam R. - \$20	Anonymous 67
Neil N. - \$13	Rick Y. - \$63
Sonya Sommers - \$100	Sharon J. - \$50
Census Employees - \$200	
Golden 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:**

-12 May  
 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.**





## The Restoration of Work Camps

So you think the work camps of the 1930's had vanished forever? Well, you are wrong - they have been resurrected under *Youth Works*. Despite the numerous advertisements extolling the message about putting our young people to work, the entire system has a cruel and sinister side to it.

To begin with, even if you jump through all of their hoops, there is no guarantee that you will keep on receiving assistance from Social Services. One young lady had to wait two and a half weeks for her last cheque, then they closed her file and she had to re-apply at the new office. The woman had been living with her parents but, as they are leaving the province, she had to fend for herself. Financial Aid Workers seem always to blame the victims for situations they find themselves in. This young person had her ID stolen and had the task of replacing it on her own. She had her birth certificate and an old passport to prove who she was but this wasn't enough for the FAW. A social insurance card was demanded, the young lady didn't have one, and she was told there would be no May cheque.

An "Intent to Rent" form for an apartment to share had already been filled out by this young woman but, with no money coming to her, she will become homeless, like so many others.

Getting back to *Youth Works* - Many young people have realised there isn't any training

involved. The offices are nicknamed concentration camps and there are rows and rows of computers in large rooms. Each person is given a list of employers to call with no less than 30 places. The secretaries who answer are usually irritable because they haven't put an ad in any paper. The youth go to these places from Monday to Friday and get totally stressed out with this. I can see some of them heading for nervous breakdowns, placing an extra burden on our health care system.

When the government did its review of *BC Benefits*, many thought they would come up with a kinder report. I had a gut feeling that the last report would, in fact, be much worse - it was. In my opinion the four MLAs who took part in the review should hang their heads in shame.

Scrapping the unemployable status, reducing thousands of recipients' cheques to the base of \$500 from \$596 per month, is a cold and callous act. It will cause much unrest and civil disobedience. How many highly paid administrators did the NDP hire to put *Youth Works* in place? Why have the MLAs had two salary increases since they were re-elected last May? They must start to cut from the top, not from the bottom. We desperately need social justice in this province. I am sending a copy of this to the United Nations. We must let them know why Canada doesn't deserve to be recognised as the best country in the world to live in.

Irene Schmidt



(\**Editor's Note*: One fact that must not be lost sight of is that the corporate agenda is being followed enthusiastically by the current Federal Liberal government and Chretien, just as it was under the previous Conservative government and Mulroney. These two are the mouthpieces for the people we never see. They are both corporate lawyers and get to play the political game while making state-

ments like "If we said what we plan to do before an election we'd never get in." (Mulroney) and "If people on welfare just sit around drinking beer that's their problem. Some people are lucky to have jobs; other people aren't lucky. Nine percent unemployment is full employment." (Chretien) All the government services cut back or eliminated by the Conservatives pale in comparison to the cuts made by the current Liberals. Paul Martin, Liberal



1995



1996



ELECTION YEAR



1998

Minister of Finance & multi-millionaire guilty of gross income tax evasion himself (along with racist employment practices) happily destroyed the Canada Assistance Plan and the five basic rights of people on welfare. At the same time he virtually destroyed the provinces' ability to even carry on with welfare systems as they were when he cut SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS OVER TWO YEARS from the transfer payments made by the federal government. The consequences are becoming obvious but we certainly haven't seen the worst yet. A shining example is Ontario. The NDP government there, elected under a campaign slogan of "Down with the Poverty Premier" (the then-current Liberals) got in office with high ideals, then ran into a real-life version of "The (Corporate) Empire Strikes Back". All the major power brokers - owners of banks, transnational businesses and, of course, newspapers and television and radio stations - began and continued every day for four years to obstruct, stymie and ridicule anything and everything the NDP tried to do. The money men (the solid gaggle of old white men in suits) paid for all manner of activities to force Bob Rae into backing down or having to change direction on spending, after making it financially impossible for the NDP to spend their

way out of a fabricated recession (fabricated by these same money men). When the election neared the media was at an almost fever-pitch of anti-NDP reports and television news was completely one-sided. It worked and Mike Harris got in with his "Common Sense" crap, based on a highly public poor-bashing campaign. Ontario immediately became a rich man's paradise as the government cut, slashed and burned every social service within reach. Of course it's all done in the name of deficit reduction, but the facts of the deficit being caused by tax evasion practices of the same rich men's corporations is unheard. Heavily-armed police with dogs were virtually surrounding the Ontario legislature as this government destroyed every vestige of fairness, while attacking those on welfare and poor with a vicious vengeance.

Now the BC government, the NDP, are following Glen Clark. In a public meeting put on by the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) prior to election, Clark said that "We lost the debate over NAFTA ("free" trade) and we have to accept that." What we are getting is a toned-down version of Ontario's (and Alberta's, under Kline) attack on the poor as the undesirable element blocking economic prosperity - in plain English, as the

easiest scapegoat to blame.

This article started with "one fact" and stops here with another sure thing - if the voters get hyped enough by the corporate media to either sit on their hands or to choose "anyone but the NDP..." in the next election, we will have a provincial Liberal government headed by Gordon Campbell. He and his backers will make Alberta and Ontario look like picnics in comparison to what they will do here. In the last election Campbell said that welfare should be cut back to \$475 a month just for beginners, then the number of recipients should be cut in half at the very least. When he was acting (literally) as a mayor in Vancouver, he was "very excited" about the possibility of

changing this city into an *executive city* - one where only the employed, well-paid and upwardly mobile could live. He just took it for granted that everyone else - the unemployed, disadvantaged, poor - would 'live' somewhere else. This is the beauty of the corporate agenda - this universal belief in "somewhere else" for all the people they see as unacceptable i.e. costing them money.

By all means we must call the NDP to account, but doing this with a blanket condemnation leaves the entire province at the mercy of elite capitalism and a fake "Liberal" government. Blaming anyone under the banner of the NDP will also lead to splitting the vote in the coming federal election, which is exactly what this same gaggle of old white men, the money men, want. **Think.** - PRT)



### canadian crude

When not mugging some helpless hapless protestor or lie lie lie ing in front of an entire nation re gst --- and who knows what else Monsieur Chretien can be seen joke joke joking with Duke Clinton or backslapping with far eastern moguls

but

would/could he ever survive on single person's welfare somewhere in newfoundland

???????????????

john alan douglas

# Portrait of the DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

A MULTIMEDIA CONCERT  
BY TALENTED ARTISTS

• Musicians • Poets  
• Dancers • Film Makers

SUN • MAY 4 • 8PM

UNITARIAN CHURCH - 49<sup>th</sup> & OAK

Meet your neighbours —  
Enjoy their art!

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