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Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



MAY 15, 1997.

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



ADVANCE VOTING: Friday, Saturday & Monday...May 23, 24 & 26.

At Strathcona Community Centre on Keefer Street.

The ELECTION is on MONDAY, JUNE 2. Make sure you are registered!!!

NOT VOTING IS HAZARDOUS TO THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE!

I've been knocking on doors and canvassing in the Downtown Eastside, with the help of Bud Osborn and Augustine Mok, for the coming federal election on June 2nd.

These are some of the things I've been learning:

- People are very worried about what's happening to the community and wonder if anyone is listening
- A lot of people have told me how mad they are about welfare cuts
- Most people just want to see peace and stability in the neighbourhood - with secure housing and livable incomes
- Some people say they don't know if they will vote because they are so fed up with it all; other people smile and say they know me and think I'll do a good job

What are my answers?

- I tell Downtown Eastsiders I meet not to give up. If we do, the Liberals will win big time and things will get worse.

- I tell Downtown Eastsiders, **Please, Don't waste your vote!** Send a message to Ottawa & the Liberal government that our votes do make a difference.

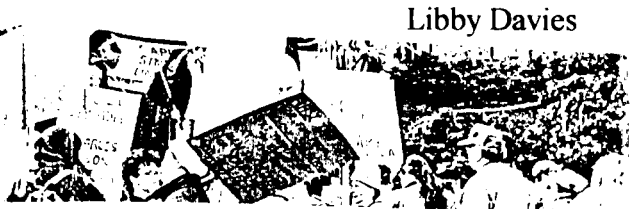
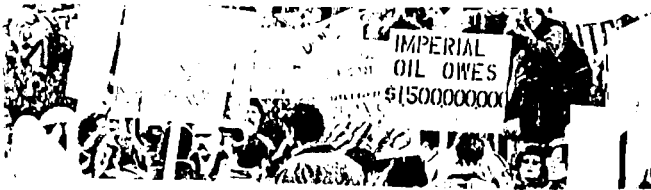
- I tell people we have to stop the massive federal cuts in health, education and welfare because they are hurting poor people, students and children.

- I shake hands and listen as hard as I can, and hope that Downtown Eastsiders will use their vote to fight back for housing, for better health care and for social justice.

I will keep on canvassing and asking for your support so I can go to Ottawa to fight for the Downtown Eastside, to change some of the terrible things that have happened.

NOT VOTING IS HAZARDOUS TO THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

Please - vote for yourself and your community, and for those who aren't here anymore, but keep struggling every day for a better community. One thing I learned from Bruce Eriksen - *struggle is the essence of life.*



Libby Davies

Libby Davies - Biographical Summary

As a resident and community activist in Vancouver East for 25 years, Libby Davies has always fought for justice and equality for all. Along with her late husband, Bruce Eriksen, she was a key figure in the formation of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA) in 1973 and helped us find our voice. In the next 10 years of community organising work with DERA, Libby and Bruce and Jean Swanson spearheaded drives

to force slumlords to install sprinklers, to maintain their buildings to inspectors' standards, and created a new neighbourhood in Vancouver - the Downtown Eastside. These three, and especially Libby, were responsible for the conversion of the abandoned Carnegie building into the Carnegie Community Centre in 1980, to the dismay of "Conservative" or "Liberal" councillors who referred to the DE as a "rat-hole".

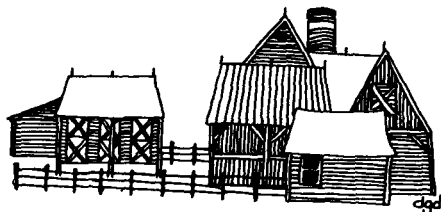
Libby was herself elected to City Council in

1982 and served five consecutive terms, becoming the city's most popular municipal councillor ever. Her dedication and commitment to helping local residents meant her door was always open. Moreover, her work in Vancouver East involved her in every community issue from protecting community services to developing affordable housing and fighting for parks.

Her accomplishments at city hall include assisting seniors to access civic services, as Chair of the Special Council Committee on Seniors, and fighting for better transit for local communities. Libby has always been a strong supporter of Vancouver's cultural and immigrant communities as well. She worked for the establishment of the Chinese Cultural Centre, Italian seniors' housing and the Chilean Housing Co-op. Libby has worked tirelessly on the issue of human rights - fighting for racial, gender and sexual equality - and has assisted many families with local problems and concerns at various levels of government.

Libby knows Vancouver East. In addition to working with each and every neighbourhood as a city councillor, she has lived in the Downtown Eastside, Grandview-Woodlands, and now resides in Hastings Sunrise with her 18 year-old son, Lief.

At the urging of many local residents and activists, Libby decided to run as the NDP candidate



Bedside manners

A few things you don't want to hear during surgery:
 Better save that. We'll need it for the autopsy.
 Someone call the janitor - we're going to need a mop.
 Accept this sacrifice, O Great Lord of Darkness.
 BoBo! Come back with that! Bad Dog!
 Wait a minute, if this is his spleen, then what's that?
 Hand me that...uh...that uh.....thingie.
 That's so cool! Now can you make his leg twitch?
 Oops! Hey, has anyone ever survived 500 ml of this stuff before?

ON JUNE 2 VOTE FOR
**A REAL
 VOICE**
 FOR
VANCOUVER EAST

for Vancouver East and wrest this riding from the federal Liberals. Margaret Mitchell had represented us for years in Ottawa, but she lost to Anna Terrana amid the dumping of the Conservatives. Libby is deeply concerned about the devastating impact of Liberal cutbacks to unemployment, health, education and welfare, and their impact on the people of Vancouver East. Equally dismaying is the ineffectiveness of Terrana in making our voice and concerns heard anywhere. (* We meet about street safety and the violent deaths of over one hundred and thirty women in our neighbourhood and Terrana asks for 15 minutes to talk about the GST!)

The long-standing reputation of Libby Davies as an effective advocate - as someone who will fight for the safety and stability of our neighbourhood - is a ray of hope. (**Nothing is 'for sure': Use your vote!)

(*** and *** - Editor's notes.)

What's this doing here?

Ya know, there's big money in kidneys. Hell, the guy's got two of 'em.

Everybody stand back! I lost my contact lens!

Could you stop that thing from beating; it's throwing my concentration off.

Damn! Page 47 of the manual is missing!

And now we remove the subject's brain and place it in the body of the ape.

Submitted by Gram

MUSICIANS!!!

We are engaged in a two-year project to create a CD of Carnegie Musicians.
If you are interested in participating, come
11 a.m., Thursday, May 20th



Do you want work?

I've finally found it!

By enrolling in a Manpower Skills & Training course, I finally found out where the work is:

1. 1 - Welfare Case Worker
2. 1 - Financial Aid Worker
3. 1 - Skills & Training Co-ordinator
4. 1 - Resume Instructor
5. 1 - Guest Speaker for Starting Point course
6. 1 - Starting Point Instructor
7. 1 - Interviewer in the Education Dept.
8. 1 - High School Upgrading Instructor
9. 1 - GED Exam Instructor & Tester

There's more (trust me) that I had to deal with.

There is at least 1/4 of a million dollars being spent on weekly wages to find me work or to prepare me for work, including (maybe) Manpower ads in newspapers extolling the virtues of men over 55 going back to work.

The question I ask all major political parties:
"Where is the fuckin' work??!"

Skookum Jim



This boom is a hoax...

After having worked in Alberta off and on during the 70's and 80's, and reading in newspapers of "Jobs, jobs, jobs!", I decided to go back from BC again to find work. Mistake.

The Social Services office in Kensington states new "Klein Rules" in black & white:

No job = No Assistance

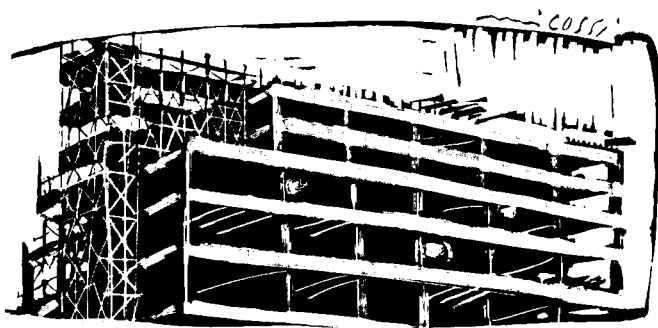
If you don't have written confirmation of a job you don't even get food to tide you over for even 1 month while you look around and try to find one.

I would strongly recommend that construction tradesmen from other parts of Canada stay home. Alberta is convinced that they don't really need you; they will build their future on the backs of unskilled labour...

I have 30 years of trades experience and three construction-trades related certificates, yet have been sneered at, ignored or treated like last week's lunch by both companies and prov. government bureaucrats... even though I could, at the very least pass my skills and knowledge on to younger Albertans.

I'm sorry, but this "boom" is a hoax.

Skookum Jim

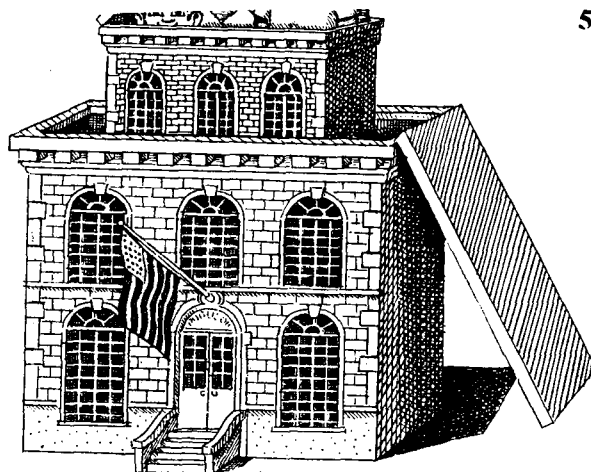


We all know the danger of life. Especially the danger of our small life. But can we be wrong! Life and death go hand in hand. There is always more life than death.

When there is a fire, don't the seeds grow and there is more life? Isn't there more catastrophe with animals like whales and caribou? When this happens there is more meat for other animals like the bear and wolf and people. Nothing on this earth is wasted.

When I die I'd like to be burned and put in the water of life.

By DORIS LESLIE



Two Summer Poems



doing next
to nothing and getting
lost in it anyway
little principalities of summer
a circularity ridden
to the sun of some difficult
further rock

I am writing to you from a great
window. every word
must make its slender way
through the fields that ripen
between us

a corridor of grass
echoes closing like doors
in armless ratios of vacancy

these hidden moments of intentionality



like a car lot at night
the straw-colored lights
and the shadows between them

like the empty directory
of an unfinished suburb
where the last gas station dozes
in its unvisited midnight

or like the office towers asleep
their dreams a maintenance
of vents, wires, plumbing

where quiet, unseen custodians
move the slow clockwork
toward another day

these distances that keep us
from each other

for what? where the bowling alleys thunder
vacantly, where kitchens empty
like vast linoleum into the darkness
and everywhere signs of leaving
point to this timeless chill, this exhaustion

where you once rustled among the sheets
of an unwritten diary, a forgery in the making
but still turned to hear the distant signature
of the trains, fading

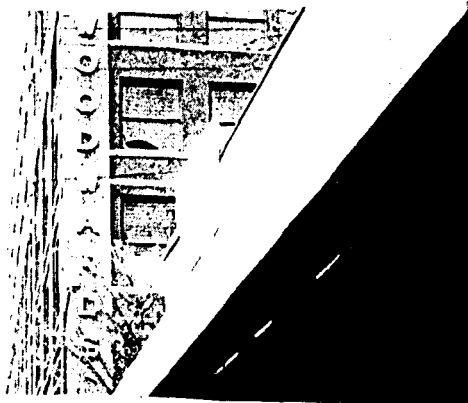


Dan Feeney

WOODWARD'S STORES LTD.

Woodward's Stores Ltd. had been a long-time establishment - "Serving The West Since 1892"

Woodward's was a traditional family service. The pioneering and cooperative spirit served fami-



lies and others who came to the store and they also helped the community.

Woodward's effect was to connect everybody in the community, much different from other businesses which get together exclusively for their own self interest.

Woodward's stores had a good reputation for serving customers, which was quite a moral and ethical achievement, and to this day people still recall all the friendly service given to them. I myself felt and sensed the really human experience of belonging to a whole when in there, and I held the Woodward's workers in high esteem. (They were in debt like everyone else but, as a whole, upheld family values with dignity and respect.)

When the business shut down, there was quite a bit of talk at first about what they were going to do with the Woodward's building. The Downtown Eastside community had been waiting for a long time to have social housing in the area, and we were finally given a promise of half the building for this. Then it came over the radio or on TV: it had fallen through (because things had gotten hot and heavy?). One city councillor, in an interview, said that now the whole area would be cleaned out - all old buildings would be torn down! He took as

final that there had been a 'breakdown' between the province and FAMA Holdings Ltd. on the Woodward's deal.

In my opinion the developers were never interested in helping this community. This just shows their self interest in adding to their own empires. These developers are trampling on us as they grasp for more wealth, listening to their greed while seeing this neighbourhood as nothing more than prime property.

Well-off people want to live in the city and continue to enjoy suburban comfort. It is of little concern for them to ignore the rest of the existing community - we who are already living here.

There is a lull at Woodward's now; "All quiet on the Western Front". Hearing about various wars on the radio is like hearing about news in the DE - and it's easy to see who are the "allies" and who is the "enemy", from Conrad Black's viewpoint. To me, the force that is fighting for the Downtown Eastside is made up of residents and community activists (like the soldiers - many who died during their flowering time - the boys who defended our country and our freedom) working to protect the integrity and livability of our neighbourhood.

The following statements were written on the Woodward's building the day after FAMA Holdings betrayed this community:

- ♦ **PRG - Political Response Group**
- ♦ **NO Condos**
- ♦ **Woodwards belongs to the people**
- ♦ **We need a community centre for people**
- ♦ **Think of human beings, not economics.**
- ♦ **This building belongs to people of the DE.**
- ♦ **NO to Fama. PRG says NO!**
- ♦ **Make Woodward's social housing.**
- ♦ **Justice - Woodward's for the community.**
- ♦ **We are here to stay. We live here.**
- ♦ **The poor are people.**
- ♦ **Keep your word.**
- ♦ **Zero Displacement!**
- ♦ **No market development here.**
- ♦ **Justice for all.**

A long-time resident.

7.

Many thanks to all at the Dodson who've been collecting our strays and returning them here, via Carl MacDonald and others. And to all our other



Our next news is that we will be having a self-serve Netscape Terminal in the Reading Room in the next few weeks. This means our patrons will have Internet access from this location. Eventually, you will find this new terminal beside our on-line catalogue.

We've just finished some re-positioning of our collection. The Women's section now includes pregnancy and childcare. Cookery has been expanded to include diet and nutrition. Please ask us if you need any help with locating these subjects.

We continue to add to our First Nation's collection with purchases from MacLeod's and UBC Bookstores. This section has doubled in size in the last couple of years. There are now about 500 items, plus newspapers, a collection that patrons from all over the city are beginning to appreciate.

Well, that's all for now and I promise to be in touch more often.

*(*About 10 days ago Eleanor shared the news that she is going to retire in a few months. You can't retire from the Downtown Eastside, but drop by and wish her the best. (She's not gone yet!))*

Greetings fellow binners & binnerettes.

What's with that new rag called "The New Downtown"? Who are the dudes that put it out? Putting BC Collateral's picture on the front page was, in the least, in very poor taste as they are an honest business and have a very good reputation. Just because a few of the newer stores (pawnshops) screwed up doesn't mean they all do.

The weather has been good for binning but I keep getting the swine flu. I drink like a pig. Gotta quit that. Take it as it comes, I guess.

May The Bins Be With You.

Hey! Let's be careful out there.

MR. McBINNER

uptown@vcn.bc.ca
uptown@thepentagon.com
fax: 684-8442

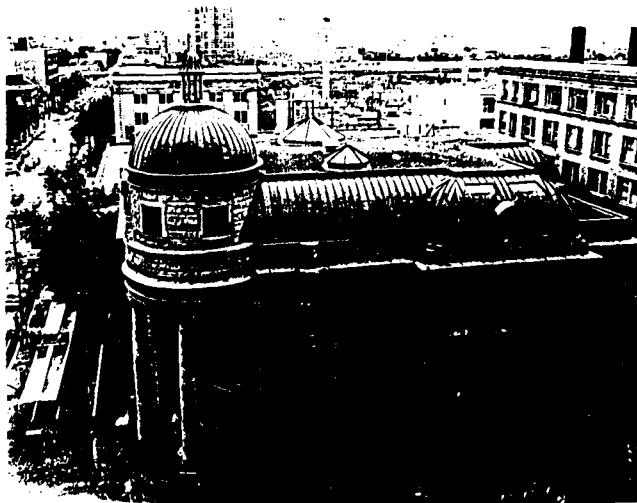
Trashhopper says...

Who was that dude whose face was plastered beside my article last time? Looks a lot like Mr. McBinner. Anyway, all *I* wish to do is wish a belated Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers in the DE and Happy Birthday to 1 year-old Emily!

Also a belated Happy Mudder's Day to Dave Todd.

Play safe. and remember -

The lotus is a flower that grows in the mud. The thicker and deeper the mud, the more beautiful the lotus blooms. This thought is expressed in the Buddhist chant: nam myoho renge kyo



Annual General Meeting

On Thursday, June 5, the Carnegie Community Centre Association will hold it's Annual General Meeting. The AGM is a very important event for a democratic organization - the occasion for the membership to review everything that has happened in the past year, and to set some directions for the future.

As you are probably aware, the past year has been a very busy one. It seems like every year is a busy one around Carnegie and the Downtown Eastside. The Board has had a lot to deal with, both inside and outside the building - from relaunching the Learning Centre as a community-based basic literacy program, to trying to help secure more affordable housing for our residents.

As well, the Association has continued its role as initiator and supporter of many of the programs in Carnegie. For instance, we help fund the Volunteer Program (including volunteer out-trips and free dinners on five-week months) and lots of special events like Christmas and the Mother Earth Celebration (formerly called the Pow-Wow); we also produce the *Carnegie Newsletter* and contribute items to every part of the building, from the seniors to the kitchen.

All of this is possible only with strong interest and participation by the membership and volunteers. The invaluable fundraising efforts by Carnegie volunteers is what makes a lot of these programs tick. The dedication of Board members has helped us operate effectively in the past year.

The AGM starts at 7:00 p.m. in the theatre. The meeting will include elections for the Board - registration for voting starts at 6 p.m..

Carnegie is the most successful community centre in Canada. To keep it that way we need a strong and informed membership.

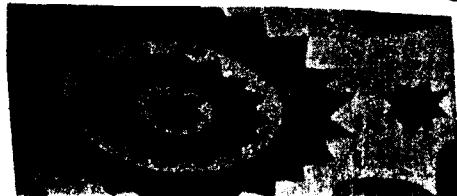
So, see you at the AGM!

By MUGGS SIGURGEIRSON

14th Annual International AIDS Candlelight Memorial & Vigil

**Sunday, May 25th 1997
8:00 PM
at Alexandra Park
(Corner of Bidwell and Pacific Avenue)
Vancouver, BC.
Candles will be provided**

Sponsored by



FREE LEGAL ADVICE from a UBC law student.

**Small Claims; WCB; Welfare; Criminal; Landlord/Tenant; Consumer; UIC;
Debts; Wills; Referrals; Aboriginal issues. - especially for women -**

TUESDAY 2pm-9pm; WEDNESDAY 10am-4pm

Carnegie Centre, 401 Main. -

We're the Law Students' Legal Advice Program. For info, call 822-5791.

The Link Between Land and Well-Being



In British Columbia a very small population lives densely in small regions of a vast land mass. Not very long ago there was a much more intimate relationship with the land. Rarely now is land something one cares for and nurtures, lives on till they die, and then passes on to their children.

About 90% of the province is Crown Land, mostly leased to huge corporations to grow fibre for export. Less than 6% of the province—the smaller and more urban units of land—are commodities, bought and sold for profit, open to speculation.

Most land owners hope that their holdings will appreciate in value in order to provide a nest egg for themselves and their beneficiaries. A few speculate on a grand scale, gambling to attain huge (sometimes obscene) profits.

One result of treating land as a financial investment is that something fundamental has been lost, an intimacy with the earth. This loss is reflected both in personal and public policy terms.

Before US President John F. Kennedy declared a War On Poverty, in the early 1960's, the age-old and universal concept of being poor was being landless. It was better to own the land than to rent; better to be a sharecropper than a squatter; better to be a squatter than not to have any land. With land one could provide food and fibre for the family - therefore

one wasn't poor. The environment was also protected because it provided for you. The War On Poverty changed all that. In the US, Poverty was redefined as lack of income. Canada and the "developed world" followed suit.

Thereafter many people who thought themselves to be among the richest in the world—because they were self-sufficient on their land—were called poor. Disassociation from the land created another type of poverty—the poverty of over consumption.

Several years ago one of the foremost interior design magazines featured a palatial triplex apartment atop a Manhattan skyscraper. The olympic-sized swimming pool on the middle floor was but one of the outlandishly luxurious features. What is more obscene than the tens of millions of dollars that the apartment and its furnishings represent, is the owner's source of income. He sells weapons of killing and mass destruction to the highest bidder. Could the lack of connection to the land 73 stories below help explain how this human being has become so disassociated from humanity?

Does the lack of spiritual connection to the earth, for some, create a insatiable appetite to acquire material possessions in order to fill a void? If that is the case, no matter how great their material wealth they are to be pitied. A stiff land speculation tax may be the cure for their malady.

Despite over twenty five years of the Agricultural Land Commission, land speculation still artificially inflates the price of land in the ALR. So while there is general popular political support for the ALR, most agricultural enterprises would not make a reasonable profit if they had to pay for the present day value of the land.

Farmers must be provided with a means of providing for their old age with dignity, without having to resort to land speculation.

The stewardship of land is a sacred trust; the basis of our common wealth—belonging to nobody, to be protected by all while we are here on earth. This is what provides us with our collective well-being.

Herb Barbolet



Robbing The Rails For Food

It was just after nightfall when Luis Hernandez Suarez, 18, left his family's shack on the side of Mt. Atitla in Mexico. He joined several dozen men, women and children at a remote rail crossing

Their plan: to greet the 14521 Express as it lurched through the rugged mountains of Veracruz State toward Mexico City, and to force the night freight to stop.

Hernandez - who had just been laid off a \$3 a day road crew - helped pile boulders onto the track (police said). When the train stopped, villagers forced open three boxcars, emptied them of 5,000 pounds of corn and sugar, and fled into the dark.

All but Hernandez got away. As police hauled him off to jail, he said, "No one here has enough to eat. We have many women and children who are dying of hunger, and there's no work. We rob out of hunger. We rob to live."

In the last 18 months there have been at least 10 such major food heists.. peasants attacking freight trains and later blaming hunger as the cause.

In Durango State, 600 miles to the northwest, women and children turned out by the hundreds to rob six freights in five months last year. Children, ages 11 to 13, were sent by mothers and grandmothers to use boulders to stop the trains and loot the boxcars. They fled on tricycles packed with stolen sacks of grain, police said.

These train robberies illustrate the effect of the government's economic policies on small rural farmers.

Mark Fineman, Los Angeles Times

(The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has made life much worse for peasants and the poor in Mexico, as this article and the Zapatistas in Chiapas testify.)

Embrace the Thrill of the Climb

Don't stop now. You're almost there.

You've worked so hard to climb this mountain. In the beginning you were excited, exhilarated at the prospect of the mountain you were about to climb. Now, you are almost at the top. You've struggled, gotten weary, and kept going. Now, your goal is in sight.

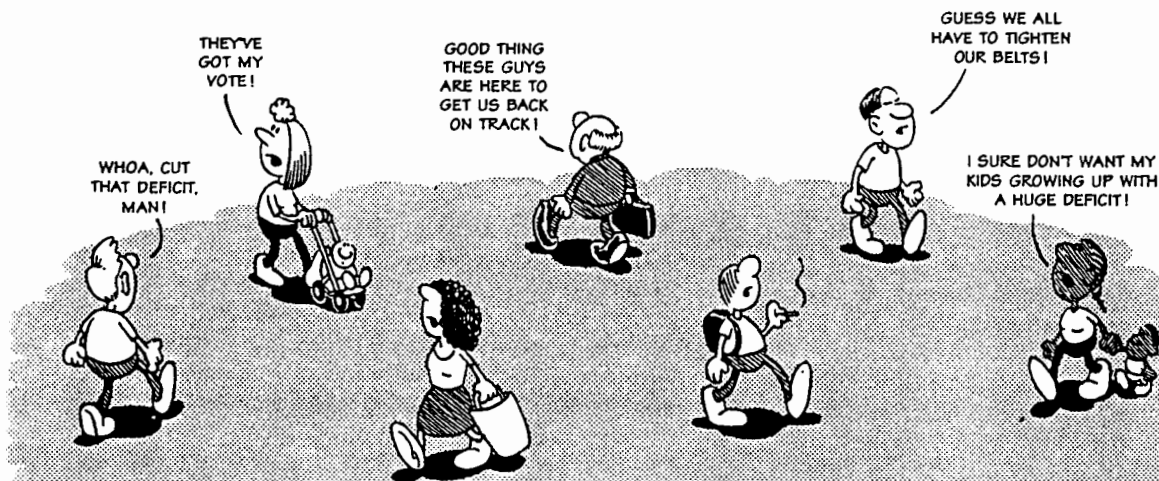
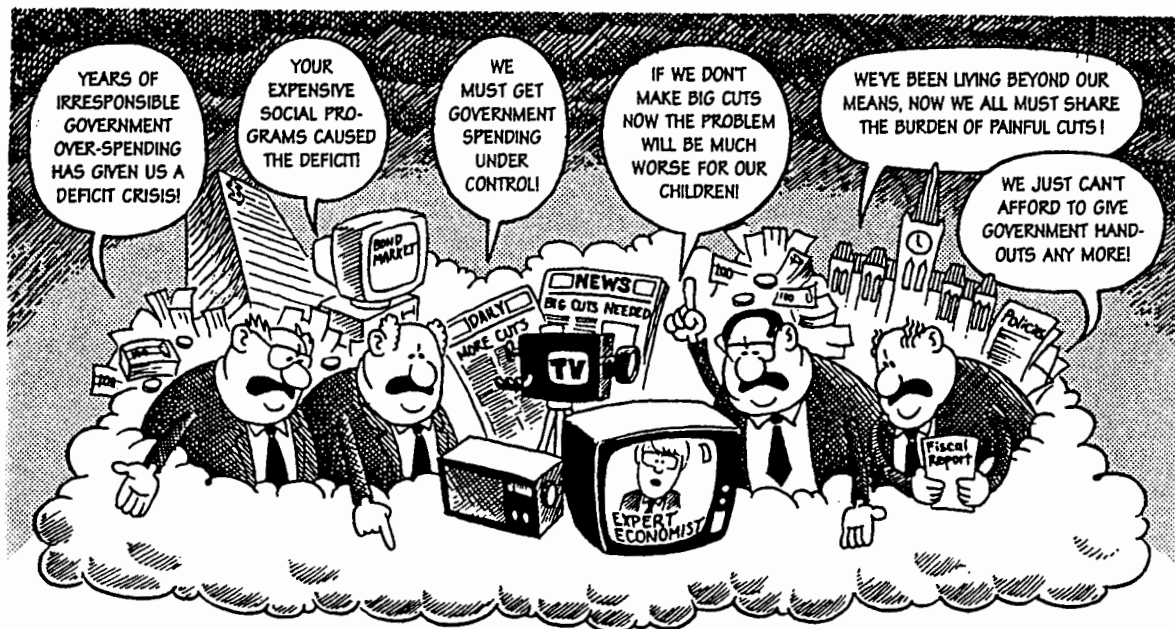
Keep going. Helpful guidance is still available. The life force that keeps you going, keeps you moving forward, is still there too, burning brightly within you and charging all that you do with its energy. It's more difficult for you to feel it but that's only because you are tired.

As a mountain climber climbs a mountain there are dangers, precipices and challenges all along the way, but the higher he or she goes, the steeper it gets. The more tired you become, the more energy you have to put into the climb. Don't tell yourself that the way you feel is an indication that you should stop. The way you feel now is the way anyone would feel who was so deeply committed to life. It's the way anyone would feel who has committed to climbing to the top of that mountain.

* *Don't stop now. Relax as much as you can. Know that the rhythm of life is still there, moving you forward. Don't look back. Focus intently on each step. Soon you'll reach the top, reach your goal and experience victory. Keep your eyes focused and look straight ahead. Embrace the thrill of the climb.*

Melody Beattie - Journey to the Heart





"DOESN'T ANYONE WANT TO QUESTION WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?"

Understanding deficit mania: an illustrated guide

Written and illustrated by Tony Biddle



WE'VE GOT TO CUT THE DEFICIT, YES
SIR! I DON'T WANT MY KIDS TO HAVE TO PAY
FOR OUR OVER-SPENDING. WE HAVE TO CUT
SOCIAL PROGRAMS. WE CAN'T
AFFORD LUXURIES
LIKE THAT.

HEY, HOLD ON A SEC!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT
THE DEFICIT IS AND WHERE
IT CAME FROM?



WELL, SURE, THE DEFICIT IS
THIS...UH...HUGE DEBT..
UH...THAT WE HAVE
TO PAY BACK...
AND IT CAME
FROMMM....
FROM TOO MUCH
GOVERNMENT
SPENDING...ON
SERVICES WE
CAN'T AFFORD. YA,
THAT'S IT!

WELL... THERE'S A
BIT MORE TO IT THAN
THAT. WHY
DON'T I FILL
YOU IN ON
A FEW
POINTS?

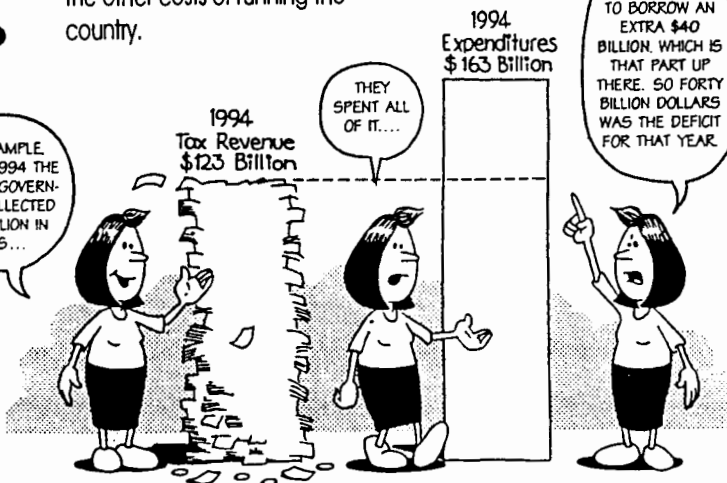


1. What is the "debt and deficit"?

Governments collect money from our taxes to pay for social programs, like welfare and health care, and for infrastructure, like roads, schools, sewers and hospitals, and for all the other costs of running the country.

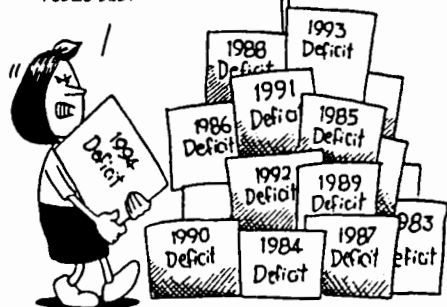
In any given year when the government needs to spend more money than it gets from our taxes, it has to borrow money. That borrowed money is called the "deficit". All the borrowed money from past deficits added together is called the public "debt".

FOR EXAMPLE,
BACK IN 1994 THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT
COLLECTED
\$123 BILLION IN
TAXES...



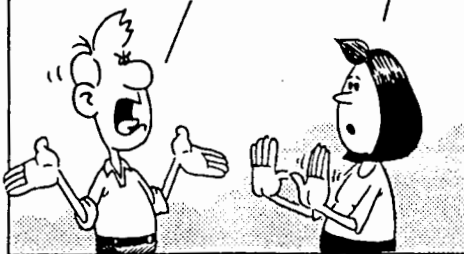
THAT DEFICIT GOT ADDED
ONTO THE PILE OF DEFICITS
FROM EARLIER YEARS,
WHICH MAKES UP THE TOTAL
PUBLIC DEBT

Public Debt



A-HA! SO IT'S TRUE.
THEY WERE OVER-SPENDING
ON SOCIAL PRO-
GRAMS. I KNEW IT!

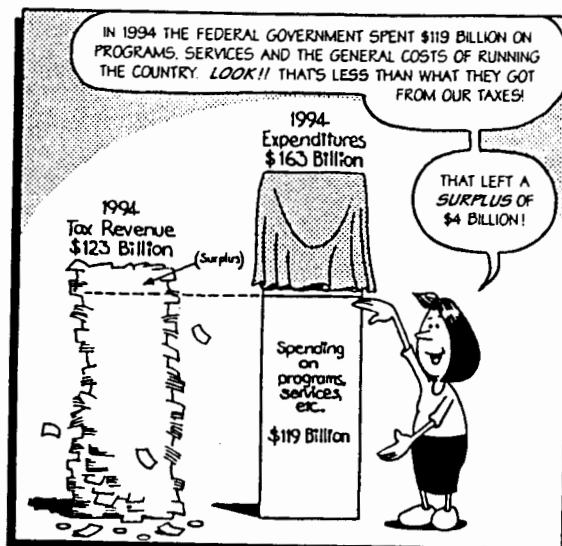
WHOA! WAIT A
MINUTE, NOT
SO FAST!



In fact, in recent years the government has actually **collected more money from our taxes** than it has **spent** on programs, services and the general cost of running the government. **So the truth is they have NOT been over-spending at ALL!!**

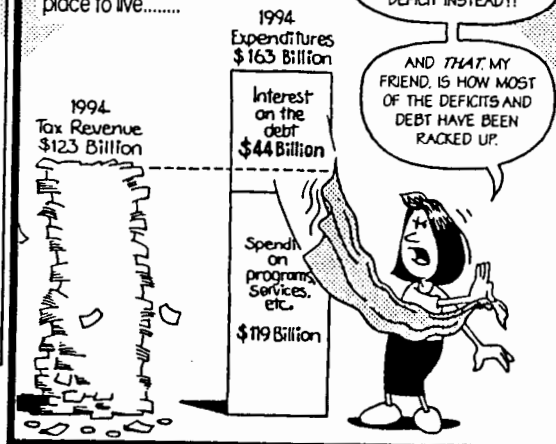
I DON'T GET IT. IF THEY HAVEN'T BEEN OVER-SPENDING, WHY DO THEY HAVE BIG DEFICITS?

WELL, LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE PICTURE.



But, there is one other **HUGE** amount of money that governments pay, and it has **nothing** at all to do with making Canada a decent place to live.....

THE INTEREST ON THE DEBT!! INTEREST WIPED OUT OUR \$4 BILLION SURPLUS AND GAVE US A \$40 BILLION DOLLAR DEFICIT INSTEAD!!



2. Interest rates and the debt (...and the deficit)



Since the early 1980's the public debt has

BALLOONED

to over \$500 billion thanks mainly to very high interest rates in Canada. As we just saw, the huge interest payments the government pays each year is what actually gives us most of the yearly deficits.

WELL, "INTEREST RATES", I MEAN, THAT'S THE FREE MARKET ECONOMY FOR YOU. NOTHING MUCH WE CAN DO ABOUT IT, IS THERE?

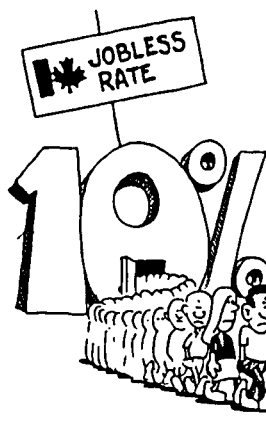
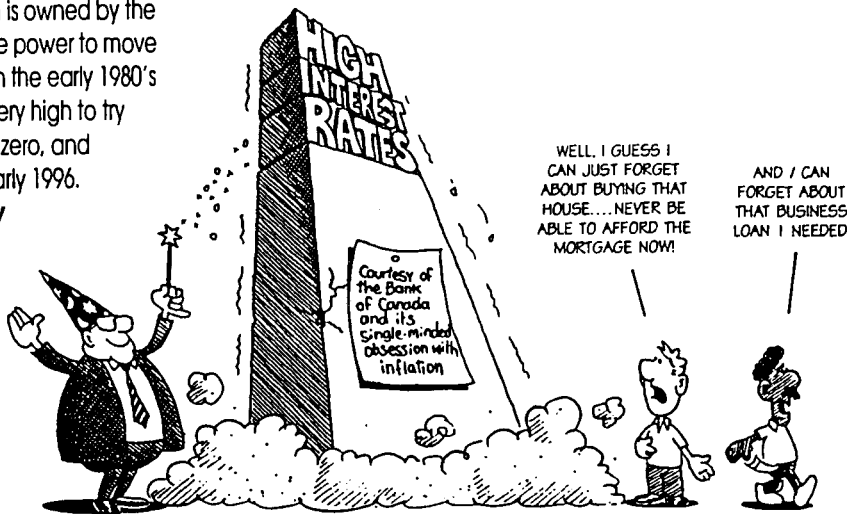
WRONG! THE BANK OF CANADA DECIDES WHAT INTEREST RATES WE SHOULD HAVE.

IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY.

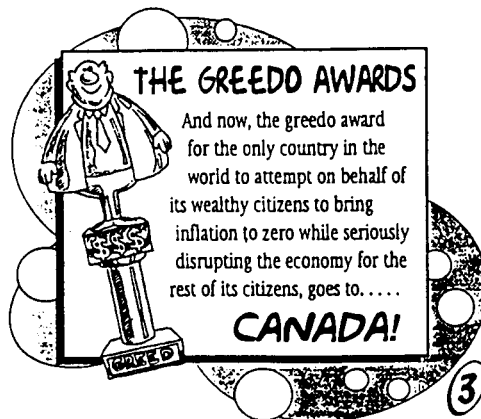
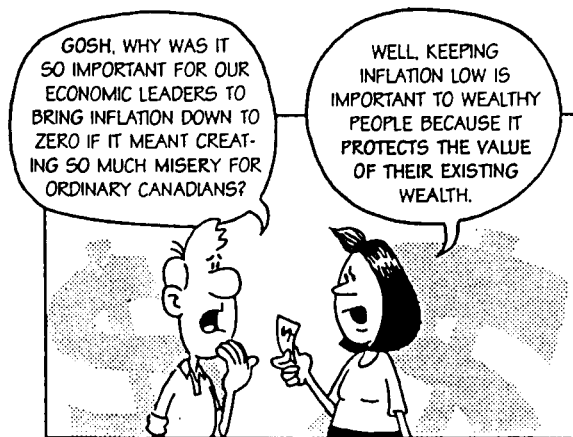
NOT REALLY.



The Bank of Canada, which is owned by the federal government, has the power to move interest rates up or down. In the early 1980's the Bank set interest rates very high to try and bring inflation down to zero, and they kept them high until early 1996. They did this **knowing very well that high interest rates slow down the economy** by making it too expensive for most people to borrow money. Remember the recessions of the 1980s and 90s? Well that's how they were created!!!



When the economy slows down, people lose jobs. Since the early 1980s when the Bank began its high interest rate policy, unemployment has been way up around 9 and 10%. The sad thing is **it never had to be that way!!** Policies like these which kill jobs cost us more in the end—we get less people paying taxes and more people needing the services that taxes pay for, like unemployment insurance and welfare. High unemployment has cost the government **BILLIONS** of dollars in lost tax money.





Newsletter of the Carnegie
Community Action Project

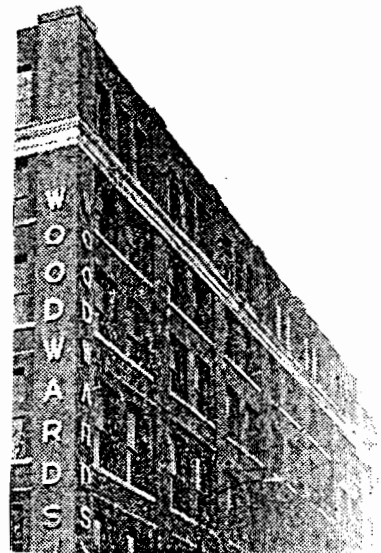
May 15, 1997

Want to get involved ! Call 689-0397 or come see us at Carnegie (2nd flr.)



MOVING IN: An unidentified squatter lowers a rope to the street so belongings can be raised to his new home in Barcelona. An estimated 1,500 Spaniards have taken over abandoned buildings as a 40-per-cent unemployment rate and high rents force their hands.

High rents fuel Spanish squatters' movement



***So, we're not the only ones with
rising rents, rising property
values and vacant buildings.***

Anti-Conversion laws for hotels?: It's not a new idea.

It's 1997 and probably for the past decade housing advocates, especially DERA, have on many occasions argued for protection against the conversion of hotels to tourist-only.

In San Francisco, city hall and the state government actually listened to housing advocates in the city's low-income neighbourhood, called Tenderloin. The following excerpt from *Urban Affairs Review*, March, 1995, (an academic journal) talks about San Francisco's anti-conversion ordinance (the same as by-laws in Canada).

New Year's Eve 1980 saw a groundbreaking resolution emerge from the supervisors' chambers: Following the advice of the DCP [Department of City Planning], the supervisors permanently banned the conversion of SRO units to tourist uses, which was the first ordinance in the United States. The ordinance also strictly regulated residential hotel rents, prevented the moving tenants from room to room against their will, and gave the Bureau of Inspections the right to inspect hotel logs and rooms for violations.

According to the DCP, only 109 units were legally converted between 1981 and 1989, although nearly 5,000 units were converted in the preceding five years. To convert these 109 units, owners were required to contribute about \$500,000 as replacement money to the city's affordable-housing fund.

So, words to think about. More on this in the next issue.

Woodwards' Update

Signs of the Times

Fama Holdings is paranoid enough about our neighbourhood that they have posted signs on the outside of Woodward's warning of dog-patrolled security. Also, the word in the community is that there are private security guards (untrained and likely poorly paid) in plain street clothes as well patrolling. Apparently, they pretend like they are not from Woodward's instead are just hanging around the street. "Another professional project by Fama Holdings."

Development Application

A development application is still needed before any new construction can begin at Woodward's. However, they do have a demolition permit and that's what is going on right now at Woodward's (as far as we can tell) We can expect an application sometime in the summer, so we need to be prepared to take on Fama and their planning consultant, Brook Development Planning.

SEFC: Flicker of Hope

After much prodding and criticism by delegates, including CCAP, council recently amended its recommendations over the tabling of Stanley Kwok's report on South East False Creek. Council instructed staff and Stanley Kwok to proceed, however to place "special emphasis on sustainable development including life cycle and long-term cost benefit economic analysis." This wasn't done even though they were instructed by council to do so right from the start. While the environmental side of sustainability still has a chance nothing was said by council regarding the social side of sustainability (i.e. low-income rental housing)

Resident Profile

Balmoral's John T.

by Jim Ford

Contributing to many of the traits making up the make-up of the Downtown Eastside are those who have spent a number of years in this area. John T., who has lived in the Balmoral Hotel for the last 8 years has dwelled in this part of town for approximately 10 years. He was born in Port Arthur, Ontario, now part of Thunder Bay !, in 1924. His father worked on the railway and the family moved to Winnipeg on a job transfer when John was quite young. All of his schooling and employment with Western Bakery took place in this area. John's first job was with the C.N.R. where he worked as a Bwadle man and a cook's helper.

While with Western Bakery, John experienced the transition of the horse and buggy age into the automobile era. He was a delivery man and his first vehicle was a horse and wagon which was later replaced with a van. Following a lengthy tenure with the bakery John came to Kamloops and worked with his brother who was a commercial artist. He also worked in the orchards and blueberry fields.


John has always been a hockey fan and used to play on amateur teams. His position was right wing. With Vancouver his favorite team, Stanley Cup fervour is much diminished. Reading and listening to the radio are regular pastimes.

John considers this area to be a rough area of Vancouver, and in his experiences it always was. He doesn't consider is safe after dark and says the area between Main and Abbott is the worst. You will find both good and bad within any type of class of people. As a rule you receive the

same respect and reactions you yourself have for others you relate to.

PRG Strikes Again !!

The Political Response Groups (PRG) continued its program of protests by demonstrating last Monday (May 12) outside city hall. One of their goals is to expose the gentrification in Downtown Eastside and the need for a ZERO DISPLACEMENT policy. Such a policy includes an anti-conversion, anti-demolition and one-for-one replacement by-laws related to the residential hotels.

While demonstrating at city hall, PRG discovered that Mayor Owen and Premier Clark were to be at Science World later in the day at an unveiling of the new Indy race track. It was a great opportunity for PRG to get the message out. The mayor, especially, found himself having to answer questions about gentrification and displacement. He was noticeably annoyed by such questions. As usual, he replied with incorrect social housing statistics that made it look like the city was doing all it could. One gets a bit dizzy  listening to his misinformation.



..... **QUICK NOTES**

More RRAP for privately owned hotels !

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC), the federal government's gutted housing office, will likely (not finalized) drop \$890,000 into privately owned residential hotels in the Downtown Eastside and Granville Street neighbourhoods. Called the Rooming House Residential Rehabilitation Program (RRAP), CMHC has allocated close to \$ 2.5 million in 1995 and 1996 to hotels for renovations. CMHC would not give details to CCAP on which hotels in 1996 got RRAP money, but a total of 98 units for \$684,000 were approved. So, if you see a hotel renovating it may be public money that's paying for it.

Concord buys its own condos

(an excerpt from an article in the *Vancouver Courier*, May 4, 1997)

Concord Pacific has routinely advertised completed projects as "sold out." However, the company places unsold suites in Concord-created holding companies, then sells them through the Real Estate Board's Multiple Listing Service. (Concord Pacific's major shareholders are the Li, Lin and Hui families, and the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Terry Hui is managing shareholder, president and CEO)

CCAP believes that the same thing may be happening at the Van Horne project. The rumour is that units are not selling fast enough, so the owner, Brad Holme and his investors are buying units in order to make it look like the building is worth buying into. Our neighbours at the Dodson Hotel report that the Van Horne shows little activity of people actually living there.

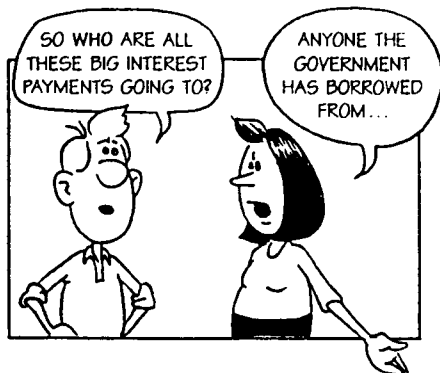
SROs make top three !!

The Gastown Business Improvement Association recently had a workshop, where attending members were surveyed on "what matters, what's wanted and expectations." Following "make it safe" and "two way traffic" for Water Street, "no more SROs" was listed next, followed by 53 other issues. As usual, the hotels and existing residents are the scapegoat for problems within Gastown.

What ? A Community Context Evaluation Team !!

CCAP discovers while reviewing the minutes of the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee (GHAPC) that head planner, Larry Beasley has set up a Community Context Evaluation Team in relation to the Trade and Convention Centre to be located with all likelihood next to CRAB Park. The GHAPC representative will be Jim Letho.

CCAP had to phone the city to find out who would, if anybody, represent the Downtown Eastside. It turns out that Bob Smith of First United had been approached by the city. CCAP will be meeting with Bob to discuss potential concerns that he can pass on to this "team."



the government interest anyway, but that's not such a bad thing because, since the federal government is the Bank's only owner, the interest received by the Bank (from our taxes) is returned to the government as revenue. The problem now is that the Bank of Canada has been getting out of the lending game, so the government has to go looking elsewhere when it needs a loan. So where do they go instead? To the big commercial banks and foreign creditors. When, these guys collect interest on the debt, they keep it for themselves, and they're making billions at it!.....

1. The Bank of Canada

The Bank of Canada holds about 6% of the federal debt, so it collects some of the interest. This is where most of the federal debt **should be**, with the Bank of Canada. Why? Because the Bank of Canada is the federal government's own bank, so it doesn't have to charge interest on the money it lends itself.

In fact, the Bank **does** charge

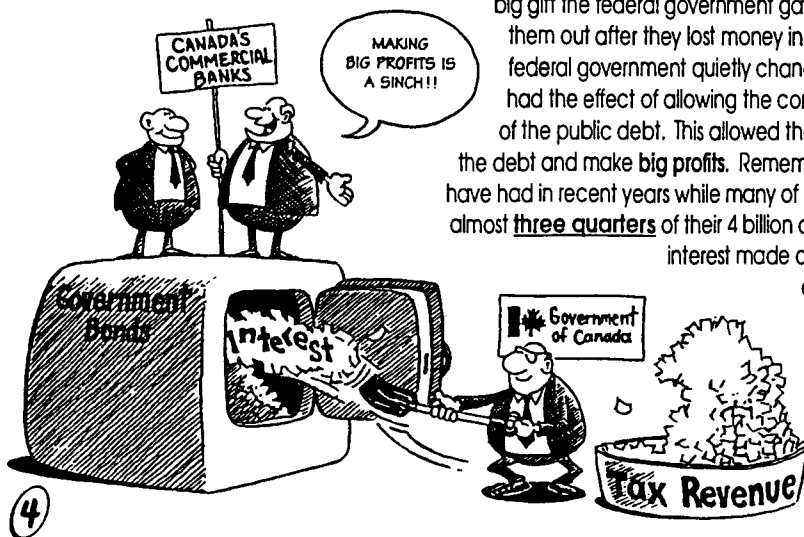


2. Canada's big commercial banks

These guys sneak money out of the pockets of Canadians in ways you couldn't even imagine. Their share of the federal debt grew from around 6% in 1987 to around 17% by 1994. This was partly because of a nice

big gift the federal government gave to the commercial banks to help them out after they lost money in the 1980's in real estate loans. The federal government quietly changed the Bank Act in 1991 which had the effect of allowing the commercial banks to grab a big part of the public debt. This allowed the banks to collect the interest on the debt and make **big profits**. Remember those huge profits the banks have had in recent years while many of us struggle to survive? Well in 1994 almost three quarters of their 4 billion dollars in profits came from the interest made on that gift. The interest they collect

comes from our taxes, and **THAT** makes it "corporate welfare", which makes our commercial banks **corporate welfare bums!** Meanwhile these guys are some of the biggest supporters of cuts to everyone else's welfare!



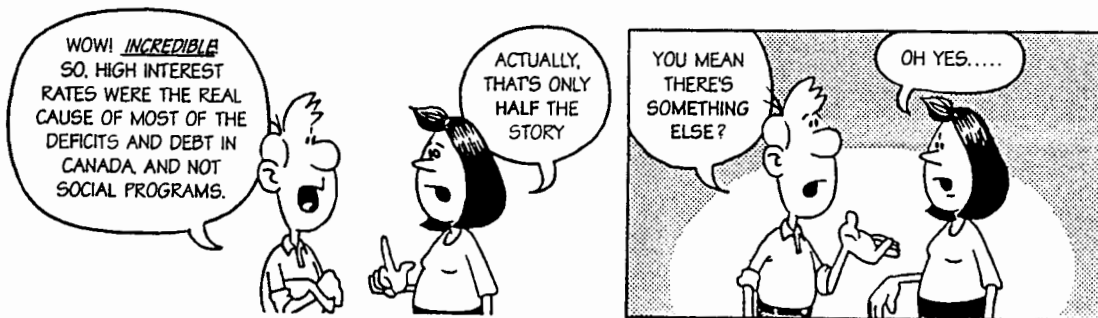
3. Foreign creditors

These guys came running to buy up Canadian bonds when they saw what big profits they could make from our insanely high interest rates. They hold about 25% of the federal debt, and they get billions of dollars in interest payments, much of which come directly from our taxes. And **THEY** don't even pay any taxes on their interest earnings!!!



4. Canadian bondholders

About half of the public debt is owed to Canadian bondholders. Who are these people? Well, mostly middle income and wealthier Canadians investing through the country's financial investment firms. The debt held by Canadians actually could be used to **help** the economy, if we chose that strategy!



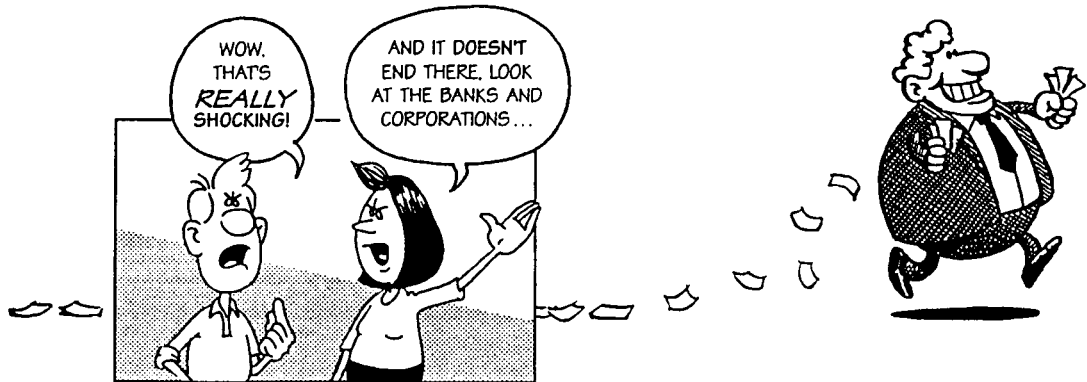
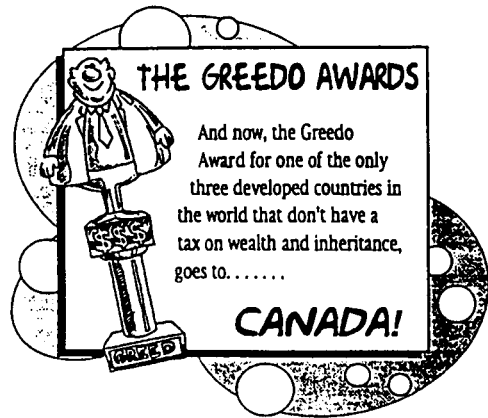
3. Canada's unfair tax system

Much of the federal and provincial debts and deficits could have been avoided if corporations and wealthy individuals

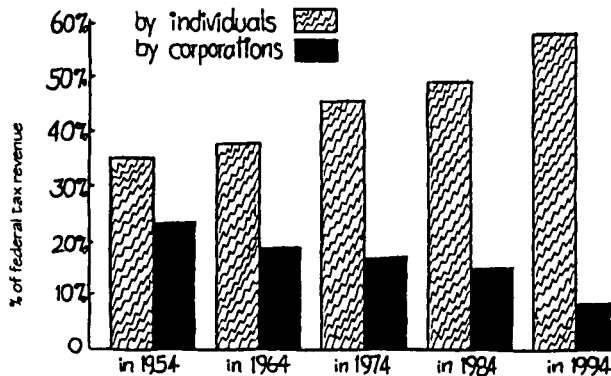
were paying their fair share of the country's taxes. Many corporations and wealthy people are able to use all kinds of tax shelters and loopholes in our tax system to get away with paying next to nothing in taxes.



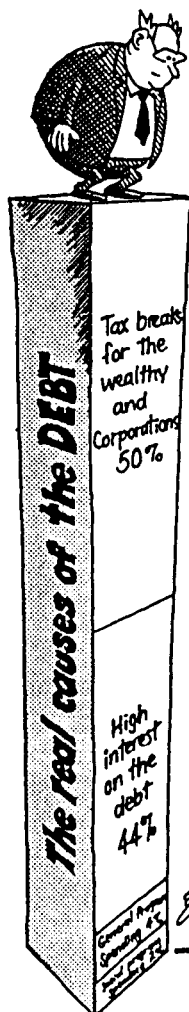
In the case of wealthy people for example, in 1992 there were 98,347 Canadians with salaries of \$100,000 or more who managed to get away without paying one cent in income taxes!!! Many put a lot of their income into family trusts which are exempt from taxes. And because Canada does not have a tax on wealth and inheritance, we miss out on a potential \$15 billion of tax revenue from these people. And can you believe that there are at least 20 Canadian millionaires who are able to keep their yearly taxes to less than a hundred bucks?!!! Wouldn't that be nice? Meanwhile the poor and middle class Canadian and the small business owner is hounded for every last penny of taxes.



Contribution to Federal Revenue



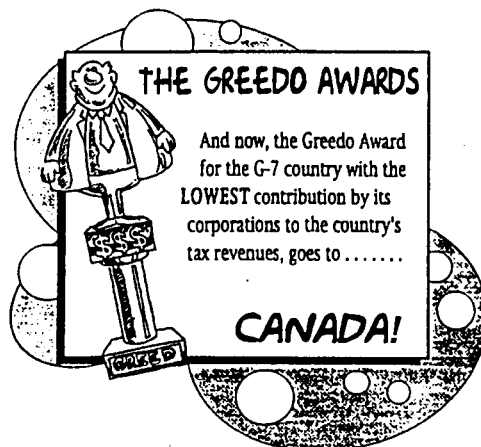
LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THE CORPORATE SHARE OF THE TAX BURDEN - IT'S **GETTING SMALLER AND SMALLER!!** BY 1994 CORPORATIONS WERE ONLY CONTRIBUTING ABOUT 7% OF THE COUNTRY'S TAXES!!



Look at the commercial banks again: during the 1980's the banks were given \$2.8 billion in tax breaks. Often just one single bank teller will end up paying more in income tax than the actual bank, a mighty corporation, will!!!

Many corporations use tax "deferrals", meaning they're allowed to put off paying taxes until some later time. Corporations owe the federal government about \$40 billion in deferred taxes. They will tell you that these deferrals (which are basically like loans with no interest) are needed to help them create jobs. But is that what they're doing?!! NO! Generally speaking they have been investing in technologies that replace workers while laying people off!

IT'S THE SOCIAL SPENDING, WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT UNDER CONTROL



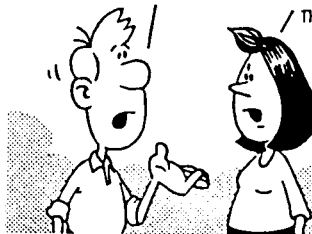
And now, the Greedo Award for the G-7 country with the **LOWEST** contribution by its corporations to the country's tax revenues, goes to

CANADA!

Some estimate that the failure to collect taxes from the wealthy and from corporations is responsible for about half of the federal debt. High interest rates accounted for another 44%. General program spending together with social spending has accounted for only 6% of the federal debt, yet that is what has been targeted for massive cuts!!

WOW! SO HIGH INTEREST RATES AND AN UNFAIR TAX SYSTEM ARE REALLY MOSTLY TO BLAME FOR THE DEBT AND DEFICITS.

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU SEE? WE'VE BEEN TRICKED INTO BELIEVING THAT THE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES / THAT MAKE OUR COUNTRY A FAIRER PLACE TO LIVE FOR ALL OF US ARE TO BLAME.



WOW! BUT THAT LEAVES ME WITH ONE OTHER QUESTION...

SHOOT.



WHY ON EARTH WOULD OUR POLITICAL LEADERS WANT TO CUT SOCIAL SERVICES AND PROGRAMS IF THEY HAD PRACTICALLY NOTHING TO DO WITH THE DEBT OR DEFICIT?

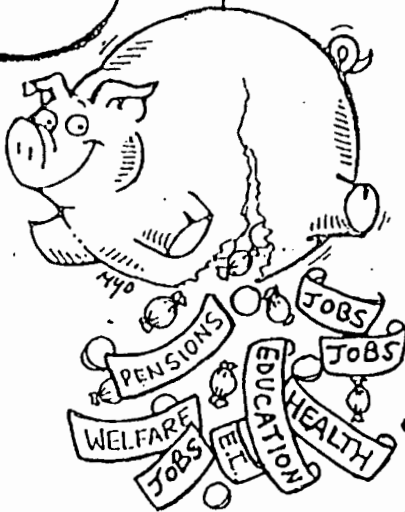
A-HA!!
GOOD QUESTION!!
LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT FOR A WHILE. SHALL WE?



To be continued.....

You're invited to the

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMUNITY FIESTA



Saturday

May 24

12 noon

Carnegie Theatre

411 Main St.

Vancouver

- music • fun • food • prizes •
- community leaders • issues •
- candidates • open mike •
- busfare and childcare costs reimbursed
for people living on a low income •

Come and have fun. We'll have community leaders speaking about the election from four groups: aboriginal people, low income people, women and new immigrants. We want to give everyone who comes a time to speak, including all the candidates in the Vancouver area.

This event is organized by End Legislated Poverty and The National Action Committee on the Status of Women. For information, call Linda at 879-1209.

"Living Is A Matter of Hope"

On April 7, 1945,
allied armies approached
the Buchenwald concentration camp
in Germany.

Prisoners could hear the American guns, and
they hoped, oh, how they hoped.
Then the SS decided to move
five thousand men from the camp -
five thousand skeletons -
to hide them perhaps,
to kill them,
these ghosts who bore witness
to holocaust.

So began a twenty-one day nightmare -
fifty freight cars
one hundred men to a car
wandering aimlessly in Europe.

No hope now.
Starving, delirious men
shared a few potatoes
a bit of bread.
Sometimes the train
sat at a siding for days,
suspended between life and death.
About two men died
in each car every day, and
the dead were left beside the track.
Some men went mad
and pounded their heads
against the wooden walls.
Others, delirious with fever,
screamed for water.
The SS hit them with clubs
to restore quiet.
Then an SS officer appeared
at the top of an open car,
his face contorted with hatred.
He fired his rifle into the car
as though killing others
would kill his inner torment.
One prisoner was shot through the head,
and his blood and brains
spattered on those around him.



In spite of themselves, the others
were glad it wasn't them.
They thought of the extra space
they would have
when the body was removed,
and they mourned their selfish thoughts
along with their dead comrade.

So time passed.
Men died of dysentery, exhaustion
and despair.

The world had become absurd.
On April 26,
as one more lay dying,
three of his brothers
from the Franciscan order
sat in silence beside him.
Slowly, as water trickles
from a hidden spring,
a song arose among them.
They sang the Canticle of Brother Sun,
written by Saint Francis,
and their voices touched the hearts
of the remaining three thousand prisoners.
"Glory...for the gift of your creation...
for our brother the sun...
for our sister the moon...
for our brother the wind...
for our sister water...
Glory be to you...
for those who forgive
for love of you."

They sang like
Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego
in the fiery furnace.
They sang like Nazim Hikmet,
the Turkish poet
who spent many years in jail
because he loved justice, and
who wrote while in prison:
"Living is a matter of hope, my love.
Living is a serious business,
like loving you."

Sandy Cameron

DOWNTOWN STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday - Friday, 10a.m. - 6p.m.
EASTSIDE NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 8:30am-8pm everyday
YOUTH Needle Exchange Van -3 Routes: City (5:45pm-11:45pm); -
ACTIVITIES Overnight (12:30am-8:30am) Downtown Eastside (5:30pm-1:30am)
SOCIETY

Legal Services Society -\$1230

1997 DONATIONS

Paula R. -\$30	Rocking Guys -\$30
Wm. B. -\$20	Diane M. -\$15
Lillian H. -\$25	Lorne T. -\$20
Joy T. -\$20	Mel L. -\$20
Frances -\$25	Sara D. -\$20
Charley B. -\$15	CEEDS -\$10
Libby D. -\$40	Susan S. -\$30
Guy M. -\$10	DEYAS -\$75
Tom D. -\$10	Brigid R. -\$10
Rene F. -\$30	Amy E. -\$10
Sam R. -\$20	Kay F. -\$5
Rick Y. -\$63	Neil N. -\$10
BCCW -\$50	Sharon J. -\$50
Sonya Sommers -\$100	Holden Hotel -\$5 -\$50
Census Employees -\$200	
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:**

29 May
Thursday

NEED HELP?

**The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association
can help you with:**

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

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

**DERA HAS BEEN SERVING
THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
FOR 24 YEARS.**



Obsolete

All the world's stories
Close in on me
When I stare at that sign
On the corner of Georgia
and Bute Streets

OVERNIGHT EVERY OTHER
RESIDENCE BECOMES OBSOLETE

In a flash I am there
On Ogoni soil
Trying to defend against
Shell Oil
The noose swings ominously
Before my face
Ken Saro-Wiwa is hanged
And I can't find a place
Within me
To understand death
For trying to protect
Your home

OVERNIGHT EVERY OTHER
RESIDENCE BECOMES OBSOLETE

Ungrateful in my bed
Till I hear on the news
How Burmese refugees
Sleep under the moon
They are no longer welcome
In Thailand
Since construction began
On the pipeline
I dig deeper
Into my blankets
And weep

OVERNIGHT EVERY OTHER
RESIDENCE BECOMES OBSOLETE

What if I were incarcerated
Like Wolverine
A political prisoner
Betrayed by the RCMP
For sun dancing on
A sacred land
We ignore the pain

Of a living man
Where is the conscience
In you,
In me
Underneath it all
We bleed

OVERNIGHT EVERY OTHER
RESIDENCE BECOMES OBSOLETE

I am asked to perform
At the techno cafe
A giant claw
So out of place
It looms like a bulldozer
On the corner
Of a block that I have loved
Displaced people fall
Out of their rooms
To make way for the boom
I am part of the betrayal
I cannot sleep

OVERNIGHT EVERY OTHER
RESIDENCE BECOMES OBSOLETE

There's a private army
For hire now
Operating above the law
It wipes out anyone in the way
Of diamond, land and oil claims
I feel it encroaching
I feel myself choking
No one is sacred
Anymore

OVERNIGHT EVERY OTHER
RESIDENCE BECOMES OBSOLETE

I am struck by the force
Of a new kind of bomb
I am felled by the weapons
Of a third world war
Corporations with money
Are generals with guns
The death here may be slower
But the dying has begun
Can you feel it?

OVERNIGHT EVERY OTHER
RESIDENCE BECOMES OBSOLETE

I return often
To the corner
Of Georgia and Bute
And the image of youth
Painted on blue
Takes me back to Nazi Germany
and uniforms
Two fresh faces
And a subversive warning
But the sun has set
On the days of glory

OVERNIGHT EVERY OTHER
RESIDENCE BECOMES OBSOLETE

Every...
Residence...
Overnight...
Obsolete...
OBSOLETE

I was feeling good. I don't know why, but I went with it. Around 10 p.m. I decided to go to the Archimedes Club for a glass of wine or two. When I got to the club the door was locked!?

Unperplexed I walked up to the Hildon hotel where I knew they had live music. I walked in and was instantly impressed by a duo playing recognizable rock & roll. I went to the bar and ordered a glass of wine which turned out to be a beer glass full of wine for three bucks!

I sat down at a counter stool facing the band and just as I was preparing to get into the groove, a waiter came over and grabbed my glass of wine, eyeing it and me suspiciously. I gave him my meanest dirty look and he put the glass back down with apologies. I guess he didn't like the way I was dressed or something, but my good mood turned into pissedoffidness.

I listened to four songs while I drank the wine feeling increasingly uncomfortably hot because of the lack of ventilation.

I took a last sip and walked out onto Cardova past the Van Horne where a security guard in the lobby was standing watching a TV security monitor.

Turning on Columbia street I heard music coming from the Columbia hotel. I opened the door and walked in. The room was jammed with young people in dark clothes. A lady sat behind a table on which a sign read \$5.00 cover charge. I looked at the sign and chuckled to myself: 'Good luck to you,' then walked back out onto Columbia heading home through Chinatown.

The wine I'd drank at the Hildon started to go to my head. I felt courageous.

By the time I got to Pender street I was determined to visit a notable Chinese nightclub that I had passed by many times during the day. It boasted a dining room and a lounge with Karaoke entertainment.

I opened the door and walked up a flight of stairs. As I reached the top, a young man came out and said, "yes."

"Do you have a lounge?" I responed.

"Yes," he said politely, guiding me to a table near the door. A young lady was sitting alone at the next table as I sat down in the large

elegant dimly-lited room. I ordered a glass of wine. A few minutes later the waiter brought a very small glass of wine and put it on the table. I took out my wallet and the waiter said, "9.65." !!

Fortunately I had a ten dollar bill and a couple of loonies. I pulled out the ten and told him to keep the change.

A large screen with video and words to chinese songs was hung at the far end of the room. People were taking turns going up to the microphones and sing out their favorite songs.

I took out my pipe, and asked the lady at the next table if it was alright if I smoked.

"Yes." she said.

I lit up and stretched back to watch the Karaoke singers.

'Why is a beautiful woman sitting by herself' I wondered. I decided to impress her by going up and singing a song. I walked back to the D.J.'s room and asked if he had any english songs. He gave me a list. I chose "Tie A Yellow Ribbon."

While waiting for my turn, I went to the washroom. It was down a long hall that had many doors with gold plated numbers on them.

'Why are there numbers on these doors,' I wondered. I thought of the beautiful lady sitting by herself. I thought of the numbered doors. Then I thought I shouldn't let my imagination get the better of me.

A few minutes after getting back to my table, I saw the title of my song come on the karaoke screen and rushed to the microphone to sing my heart out.

The song ended with a spattering of applause. I said, "Doe jay," then went back to my chair. The beautiful lady was gone.

Keep on Truckin'...



LET GO

TO "Let Go".....

does not mean to stop caring, it means I cannot do it for someone else.

is not to cut myself off, it's the realisation I cannot control another.

is not to enable, but to allow learning for natural consequences.

is to admit powerlessness, which means the outcome is not in my hands.

is not to try to change or blame another, it's to make the most of myself.

is not to care for, but to care about.

is not to fix, but to be supportive.

is not to judge, but to allow another to be a human being.

is not to be in the middle arranging all outcomes, but to allow others to affect their own destinies.

is not to be protective, it's to permit another to face reality.

is not to nag, scold, or argue, but instead to search out my own shortcomings and correct them.

is not to adjust everything to my desires, but to try to become what I dream I can be.

is not to regret the past, but to grow and live for the future.

is to fear less and to love more.



Author Unknown.



NEW START CANADA

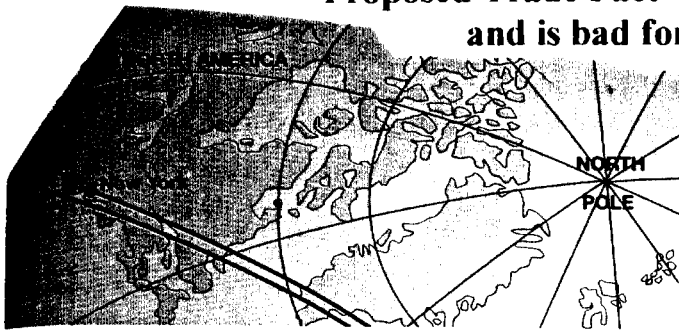
HAS JOB's FOR ANYONE WHO CAN WALK and TALK

AND Get paid everyday by percentage (30+%)
we will train you to ware you won't need
another income, with just four hours of work.

open : Monday to Saturday
9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM

1622 Franklin St. Vancouver, B.C.

Proposed Trade Pact 'cuffs Canada and is bad for BC



The Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) provides a set of rules restricting what governments can do to regulate international investment and corporate behaviour. The agreement would prevent countries from limiting what foreign investors can own... It would prohibit job-protection strategies that are enhanced by government employment initiatives unless they apply equally to foreign investors. Yet this agreement would expressly restrict government's ability to place domestic requirements on foreign investors.

In short, this agreement would give international investors the unrestricted right to buy, sell and move businesses and other assets wherever they want, whenever they want. We would no longer be able to require Canadian ownership; we would not be able to stop foreign companies from exporting assets they acquire.

[*An example of this right now is happening in Peru. Foreign investors (almost all transnationals based in the USA) quickly snatched national assets as Fujimori 'got with the program' and privatized both existing publicly-owned (i.e. "Crown") corporations and the rights to exploit natural resources. A huge gold mining operation was immediately converted to the most toxic form of extraction - cyanide solution is poured over the tons of ore and the gold is washed down. This has destroyed the countryside for almost 50 miles in every direction, but Peru has no way to enforce pollution standards (just as this MIA would ensure in Canada). The foreign investors had an annual production cost of \$87 million in 1995 and got \$317 million in gold. These costs were mostly due to changing mining practices, but were still half the cost of mining



gold anywhere else in the world.. They put \$4 million back into the Peruvian economy improving roads to the minesite, and paying \$500/hectare for land to graze cattle to feed management. They destroyed about 95 villages with poisonous waste and were restricted only by their consciences and their greed. Peru has long had an elite of very wealthy people who own almost everything. They have little enclaves where Domino's Pizza, Mail-boxes Etc. and McDonald's, among others, make them feel alive..or something..... Anyone protesting anything in this set-up is a rebel, a criminal. Peru's jails are full of such people. This was the reason behind the hostage-taking (at a corporate-government party) and 4-month occupation in the Japanese Embassy, which ended with the murder of all 14 farmers and students. The extent of poverty is overwhelming, but foreign investors export almost everything they can, leaving behind just enough for the elite and their armies.]

The MAI undermines Canadian sovereignty. We, as British Columbia, would be hurt right here at home. This deal would subject the province to an international agreement placing restrictions on the provincial government's authority over resources, investment and employment. All of these are under the province's jurisdiction and any unilateral act to change that, by the federal government, is a violation of Canada's Constitution.

The federal government doesn't have the authority to restrict the provinces' rights to manage either

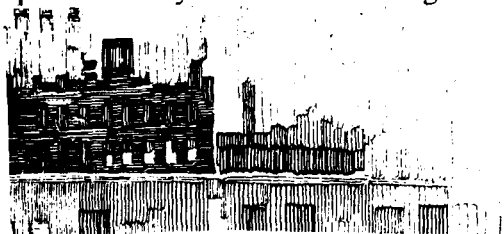
resources or investment. The federal Liberals have taken the position that the provinces would have the right to opt out. In BC, this is echoed by corporate *Public Relations* people.

Let's be realistic.. This is an international agreement in which Canada has not only been a participant but a player. Such assurances echo an all too familiar ring heard during the introduction of the "Free" Trade Agreement and NAFTA.

This (latest) agreement would bind Canada, and in reality the provinces, to a five-year deal. Even if we opt out after 5 years we cannot change the

terms, as they affect foreign investors, for a further 15 years. It's a Bill of Rights & Freedoms for corporations - local/provincial/federal law and, by extension, human decency, be damned.

(Extracts from an article by Gordon Wilson,
with editorialising by yours truly)



DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE LOCAL 133

(Umbrella under United Native Nations)

P.O. Box 88056

Chinatown 523 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6A 4A4

pager: 293-5981 fax: 604-688-7512

The following is a brief description of who Local 133 is and what our goals are.

On March 12, 1997 at Four Sisters in the jim green room we elected:

Margaret Prevost	- President	Nimpkish
Fred Arrance	- Vice-president	Cree
Glen Campbell	- Treasurer	Musqueam
James Shorty	- Secretary	Yukon Territory
Marlene Trick	- Board Member	Tsimshian
Florence Hackett	- Board Member	Coaishes/Homalco
Norman Mark	- Board Member	Sechelt
Ron Chevrier	- Board Member	Algonquin
Nigel Morin	- Board Member	Metis
Hector Hill	- Board Member	Gitkson

We meet at 133 Powell Street in the jim green room, Wednesdays at 6 pm.

(signs posted at Carnegie and in the Downtown Eastside)

Our goals:

- are to help and work with other First Nations and Aboriginal Peoples in the Downtown Eastside.
- are to reach out to other existing organizations in the Downtown Eastside for support.
- are to work with the Westcoast Aboriginal Network of the Disabled (WAND)
- are to help our people deal with their addictions...
- are to show Bands on reserves that they are responsible for their own people in the Urban Cores.

Downtown Eastside Local 133 hopes to open up a storefront office to serve our Aboriginal Peoples of the largest off-reserve community in Canada.

RIGHT WRONG BALANCE

What's right for me, is wrong for you.
What's right for you, is wrong for me.
What's wrong for me, is right for you.
What's wrong for you, is right for me.
We're both right.
We're both wrong.

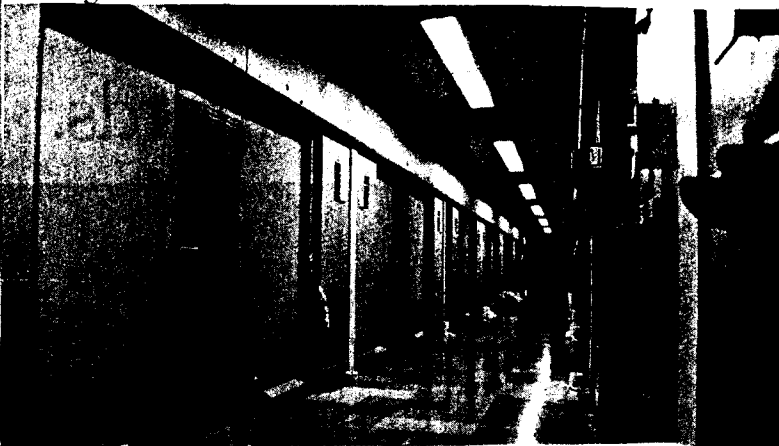
BB Polecat



Baby, I'm a baby with you
lonely in my desperation
you loved me then I hope
you do now
livid terms have separated us
be nice
reunited in our hatred
we wish for newness
and live in hopes of desperation
forgiveness to be with you
tonight

separation is our hope
we reunite to long terms
infinite being loved
we cave in and reunite
together in our pain
oh God we long to hold you
as we did
so long ago

Elizabeth Thorpe



FEELINGS FROM BEHIND THE WALLS:

WE ARE HERE FOR REASONS KNOWN ONLY TO US. THESE PLACES NEVER CHANGE. ONLY EACH OF THE NEW FACES. OUR FRIENDS PASS. WE SIT STILL. OUR TIME WILL COME ONE DAY TO SAY "GOOD-BYE." FOR A WHILE, THEN THE QUESTION EMBRACES US - "WILL I BE BACK?"

WE MOSTLY REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS, AND THOSE OF US WHO ARE CONDEMNED. WE'VE BEEN TAKEN AWAY FROM SOCIETY. SOME HAVE HOPE. OTHERS HAVE LITTLE OR NONE. TO THESE PEOPLE MY HEART GOES OUT.

IT IS HERE WE ARE PUT TO A TEST. WE MUST SHOW HONOR AND RESPECT. MOST OF ALL RESPECT FOR OTHERS IN OUR SITUATION, OR OTHERS WHO CALL THIS PLACE HOME.

EACH AND EVERY PERSON IN HERE HAS A HEART. IT DOES NOT MATTER WHY WE ARE HERE, WE JUST ARE. WE MUST MAKE THE BEST OF IT.

THIS PIECE HAS BEEN WRITTEN INSIDE OF THE BURNABY CORRECTION CENTRE FOR WOMEN. IT IS FOR YOU THE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND HOW IT FEELS TO BE WITHIN THE PRISON SYSTEM. EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES WE ARE STILL PEOPLE WHO CARE AND HAVE FEELINGS.

Written by DEBRA TOUGH - May 5, 1997.

THE NEW

DOWNTOWN

WHERE YOU WORK AND LIVE

VOLUME 2
ISSUE 1
SPRING 97

The Damning of the Downtown Eastside

DRUG TRADE & THEFT RULE
THE NEIGHBOURHOOD

77 EAST HASTINGS
AKAI SI100 SAMPLER
EXT HARDDRIVE
FREE PARKING IN REAR

The situation
[drug trade]
has turned
almost every
Downtown
Eastside
business owner
into an under-
world operator.

12 Gastown
BIA's
Vision for
the Future

6 Hong
Kong's
Rose-
Coloured
Glasses

16 Battle
Joined at
Woodward's

9 Cordova
Street
Connection

The Gastown Business Improvement Society (GBIS), the Gastown Merchants Association (GMA), the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee (GHAPC), the Gastown Residents Association (GRA), & most of the Gastown Land Use Task Force (all the same 12 to 15 people), tried to quietly (i.e. anonymously) write/print/distribute this *Downtown* thing without being recognized. (!!) As the headlines suggest, it's full of stereotypical, poor-bashing, hate-sheet (a la the KKK) crap puked on a page. They claim the betrayal of community rights at Woodward's as a victory for the desired wonder of complete gentrification and openingly assert their God-given rights to 'clean up the whole blight-ridden area east of Cambie'. What to do? Well, this bunch of invertebrates does not speak for all or even some of the people living and working in Gastown, and many are mighty pissed-off at their arrogance. The shit's about to hit!