

FREE - donations accepted.

# Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 15, 1998

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

# End Gentrification



# In the Downtown Eastside

# Find out how - inside!



### **First floor staff**

Paul Haythorne, Ted Chiang, Jazz Polson, Edward Johnson, Mike Guy, Gilles Rioux, Dave Alexander, Lisa Lilge, Maggie Massingale, Kim Dugray, John Ferguson

absent -Hazel Davies, Phil Goad, Fred Gordon, Phyllis MacEachen, Terry Collins, Alain Guy, Tanya Michelle, Donna Zinkowski

## **VOLUNTEERS**

**BECAUSE ANYBODY CAN SERVE**

**YOU DON'T NEED A COLLEGE DEGREE TO SERVE**

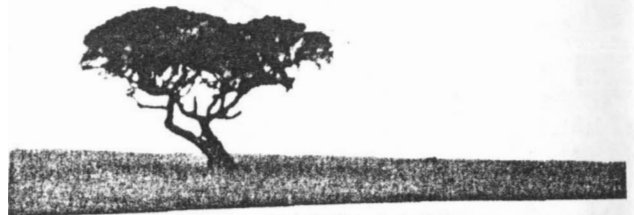
**YOU DON'T HAVE TO MAKE YOUR SUBJECTS AND YOUR VERBS AGREE TO SERVE**

**EVERY ONE OF US, THE VOLUNTEERS, CAN BE GREAT**

**WE ONLY NEED A HEART FULL OF LOVE**

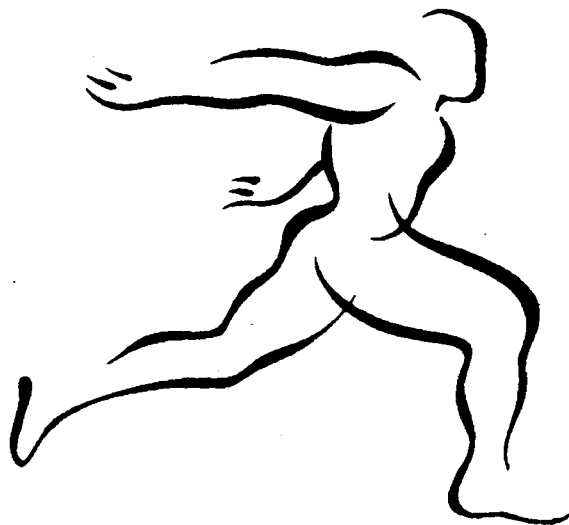
**A SOUL GENERATED BY LOVE**

**MARCEL**



**TETRAULT** — John Louis (Kai), born November 22nd, 1922, passed away on January 7th, 1998 at Peace Arch Hospital. Survived by his loving wife of 48 years Winifred (Wynn); sons Daniel, Richard (Esther), Ronald (Glennis); sisters Angeline McDonald (Don), Madeline, Bird (Allan) and Genevieve Hurt (Leslie), Lorraine Tetrault; and several nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his sisters Pearl Yost and Alma Tetrault, brothers F/O Remi Tetrault and F/O Joseph Tetrault. John was a long time teacher in Surrey, much respected by his peers and students. At his request there will be no service. In lieu of flowers donations may be made in his name to the B.C. Parkinson's Association, 411 Dunsmuir St., Vancouver, V6B 1X4 or to Carnegie Community Centre Association, 401 Main St., Vancouver, V6A 2T7 (for purchase of books or music).

# Oppenheimer Park, here we come!



## FRONT YARD NEWS

January '98

1998. A fresh start. A blank page to be written on. Our New Years Resolution is to write the youth of the Downtown Eastside into the Oppenheimer Recreation Program. By the time school's out, we'd like to have the success of our resolution guaranteed by strong relationships with the youth and youth agencies in the area. We'll need more than your support on this one, we'll need your participation. Our Volunteer Program provides an excellent opportunity for those interested in our community's youth to be actively involved in meeting their needs. Call Amy or Sharon for details (665-2210) or drop by the Park (400 Powell Street). Happy New Year?

### Set Programs and Special Events

- \* Seniors Strolls with Alain every Thursday at 1 pm
- \* Bingo every Wednesday at 1 pm
- \* swimming/skating (at Britannia) every Saturday, bus ticket available at our office
- \* movie every Friday at 11 am
- \* the "Standing with Courage, Strength, and Pride" totem poles are underway and carvers Dick Baker and Paul Auger welcome you to participate in the creation
- \* Katherine hosts her monthly dinner (date available by word of mouth)
- \* arts and crafts every Tuesday and Saturday at 1 pm

# Vancouver's poor face squeeze in downtown area housing

ROBERT SARTI  
VANCOUVER SUN

It's the biggest bloc of affordable housing in Western Canada — 7,000 hotel rooms in downtown Vancouver accommodating some of Canada's poorest and most vulnerable citizens.

But development pressures are reducing the stock of these single-room occupancy (SRO) hotels, and city officials and business and community groups warn that large numbers of people will be forced on to the street unless the units are protected or replaced.

That's the stark prospect facing the city as it begins a public review next week of the future of the low-income SRO housing stock.

Charles Gauthier, general manager of the 5,000-member Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association, said Thursday he has been getting anxious calls from businesses worrying about the loss of the SRO housing.

Homelessness is bad for business, as well as for the people involved, said Gauthier.

"We are concerned that if there aren't any solutions that come quickly, the situation will deteriorate very rapidly into people living on the street," he said.

"We don't see a lot of homeless here yet, but we don't want Vancouver to become versions of New York or San Francisco, where there was such a loss of SROs."

SRO housing is often reviled

as substandard, cheerless and dangerous — a tiny room, with a bathroom down the hall.

But, at under \$400 a month, it has become the home of last resort for thousands of people who can't afford Vancouver's pricey housing market.

About 85 per cent of SRO residents are male and single. Many are middle-aged or older,



MARK VAN MANEN/Vancouver Sun

## ONE-ROOM EXISTENCE:

Sonny Kenick, 67, makes do with one room in New Dodson Hotel.

former workers in B.C.'s forests, mines and factories, now subsisting on welfare, disability allowances or old-age pensions.

Between 25 and 60 per cent have some sort of mental problem, according to studies.

Pensioner Sonny Kenick, a retired sales representative, lives in the New Dodson Hotel on

With fewer low-cost hotel rooms, there are fears many will be forced on to the street unless the units are protected or replaced.

East Hastings, near the centre of Vancouver's street drug scene. He has an active social life by day, but doesn't like to venture out of his room at night.

"I moved in here for temporary housing, and I'm still here 14 years later," he said.

"A lot of people — if the hotels closed, they'd be on the street."

City housing specialist Jill Davidson said there is simply no other stock of housing in the city or region that could absorb that number of people.

She said SRO residents rely on social services and a feeling of community in the downtown area, and many would have difficulty adjusting to a big move.

The total number of low income people in SROs and social housing in the area stretching from Richards Street east to Clark Drive has remained stable at 10,000 for the past generation.

The B.C. government is building more social housing per capita than any other jurisdiction in Canada, but is falling behind the demand.

In the past few years, an average of 85 SRO units have been lost each year to conversions to tourist or backpacking or other uses, or to demolitions.

And the rate of loss is speeding up as land values rise.

The city and condo owners

groups are keen for redevelopment, and want to see the number of market condos rise in the area from the current 2,300 to 4,600 in the next 10 years — a 100-per-cent increase.

City staff say this could be mostly accomplished by building on empty sites, with a minimal number of conversions of hotels.

Lost SRO units would be replaced with social housing or new suites built under private-public partnerships.

As well, the city is contemplating an anti-conversion by-law that would impose a levy on

developers who want to convert SRO units.

Low-income groups are wary of the city approach.

"They're putting the cart before the horse," said Margaret Green of the Downtown East-side Seniors Centre.

"They want to let the condos in, and then hope the low-cost housing gets built.

"But once the condos are in, the land values will be too high to build low-cost housing."

## **'DEEP REGRET' SAYS THE MINISTER. BUT NOT IF YOU'RE AN ABORIGINAL PERSON LIVING IN THE CITY**

Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs, made a public statement on January 7, 1998. She said that the government "deeply regretted" what it had done to several generations of Aboriginal children who were abused in the residential schools. There was a great deal of debate over the difference between "regret" and "apology" and, of course, the bottom line involved how much money it would cost the government.

Minister Stewart met with Phil Fontaine, Assembly of First Nations Grand Chief, and her announcement reflected that. She stated that \$350 million would be provided to address issues arising from abuses in residential schools. And she continually held up the First Nations Summit as the model to be followed. Our experience, here in BC, is that the First Nations Summit, and the RCMP's investigation into residential school abuses, have devoted their work to on-reserve Aboriginal people by excluding us because we do

not live on reserves.

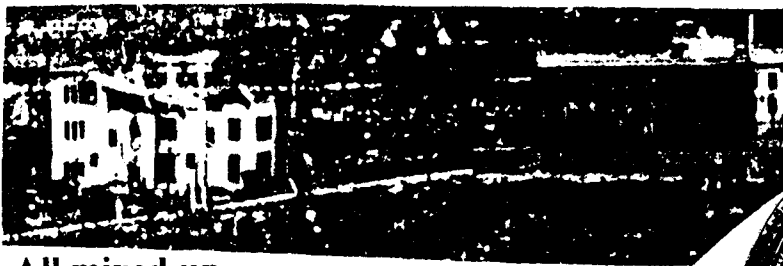
Many abuse survivors have greatly suffered in their adulthood with problems like violence, addictions, depression, loss of parenting ability, and many other things. These are things that we, in Vancouver and other urban areas, have to deal with too. Once again, the Department of Indian Affairs, through Minister Stewart, is neglecting its fiduciary responsibility to Aboriginal peoples by excluding us because we do not live on reserves.

If programs and services are being created to deal with abuses suffered in residential schools, they should be created in cities, like Vancouver, where we have a large Aboriginal population. I would suggest that programs should be offered in prisons, too. Aboriginal people in prisons across this country told the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples that they had been victims of either the residential school system or the child welfare system. And now, the First Nations Summit is looking to access the ~~BC share~~ of the \$350 million to run healing programs.

So where does that leave those of us who live in urban areas and those who are in jails?

"This universe is now shrivelled up for me into such a narrow compass as is filled by my own bodily sensations."

Fay Blaney



## All mixed up

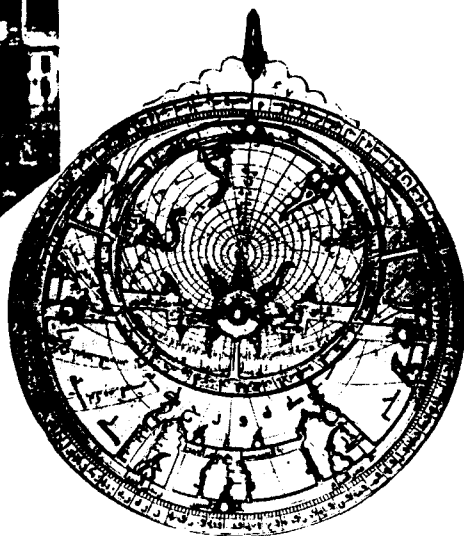
The social engineers at City Hall who have taken aim at our neighborhood tell us we need a better mix of people here if we are to get "healthy." That's why we should welcome all those well-heeled condo owners and urban pioneers into our midst, they say.

But they don't say any other neighborhood needs a healthy mix. In fact, if you look at the figures, the Downtown Eastside is the most mixed neighborhood there is. According to city of Vancouver stats, the downtown has 10,000 low income housing units - non-profit housing, co-ops and hotel rooms - and 2,400 market-price condos. That's 80 per cent low-income and 20 per cent upper. Just counting co-ops and non-profit rental, we have a 53/47 per cent mix.

Now, according to city stats, how does that compare with say, Kerrisdale? Well, that well-heeled neighborhood has 100 per cent market housing, and zero per cent social housing. And Dunbar - the same. Ditto for Shaughnessy, of course. City Hall doesn't seem to be worried about the lack of mix there.

In fact, for the entire city, the mix is ten per cent social housing and 90 market housing - not much of a mix compared to our own mixed-up neighborhood.

The condoheads in the Downtown Eastside ~~sub~~zone known as Gastown say that responsibility for low-income housing is a city-wide or regional responsibility. That's the leaf-blower theory of dealing with social problems - just disperse 'em.. Of course, people aren't leaves, and they won't just dry up and blow away. We're here, and we're staying here.



So for all you statistics freaks, here's the neighborhood-by-neighborhood rundown of subsidized housing from lowest income to highest:

D.E.-Strathcona	53 per cent
Gran.-Woodland	16
Mount Pleasant	07
West End	06
Cedar Cottage	05
Fairview	11
Hast.-Sunrise	16
Riley Park	05
Marpole	0 8
Sunset	03
Collingwood	09
Fraserview	11
Killarney	30
South Cambie	04
Kitsilano	04
Arbutus Ridge	03
West Pt. Grey	06
Oakridge	04
Dunbar	00
Kerrisdale	00
Shaughnessy	00

Wayne Terwilliger

## Man in Motion, Ay?

Today hi-tech rules -- more people are flying around faster -- going further -- and paying more, for it -- than ever before. This can lead to some pretty hairy situations. All it takes is one loose connection and your astronauts can go up in a puff of smoke -- or worse. For example -- a few months ago, in Mexico City, a huge passenger jet blew up, instantly killing 167 people.

Now, those 167 people weren't just your usual bad credit ratings hanging out in Orlando's.

Those were 167 upwardly mobile hi-tech heroes with digital name tags on designer luggage all set to go. So -- Mexican lawyers made hundreds of thousands of dollars investigating the explosion and after several months of poking around in the ashes they found out what caused it . . . It wasn't Khadafy, the antichrist, the PLO, the IRA or the Ayatollah Khomeini . . . It was . . . an overheated tire. That's right -- *one* overheated tire. You know, you burn rubber -- it sends sparks into your hi-octane -- and fires up a few hundred well-dressed strangers strapped into their seats next to you -- And the stewardess won't even let you light up a cigarette.

A few years ago, you'd get a hot tire on the way to Mexico, pull into a drive-in for a toke and change it while the kids ate french fries -- and hit the painted desert just in time for sunrise. . . . Not any more.

Not if you're a hi-tech yuppoid hopping off at cocaine city for tacos and enchiladas, ay?

167 charred and mangled corpses don't exactly brighten up your day -- even if you're one of them.

But at least it was something they could explain. . . . Around the world, hi-tech disasters and million dollar breakdowns happen every day caused by something even *more* bizarre than overheated tires.

Something called "glitches" -- a glitch is something no one can explain -- no one can fix a glitch . . . and its liable to show up at any time in a computer system on which the lives of thousands



of hi-tech victims depend. There's nothing anyone can do about it, of course.

People just want to go faster and spend more money next year than they did last year . . . and why do they want to do that? Well -- advertising says if you do *that* it means you're more *successful* . . . you live in something caled *the fast lane* everybody wants to get into. And there isn't any alternative advertising says because all the counterculture heroes playing rock revival over at Expo say "live fast -- be brave and die young" . . .

So -- don't forget --

Hi-tech rules -- even if its just arms and legs and burned out shoes flying through the air . . .

Its -- Man-In-Motion -- All the way!

You are invited,

Tora

PROSE  
POETRY &  
PERFORMANCE

Coffee Nights

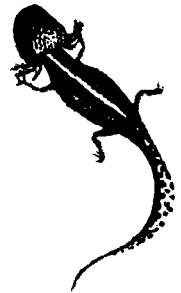
at Gallery Gachet  
88 East Cordova  
(between Carrall and Columbia)

next event dates:

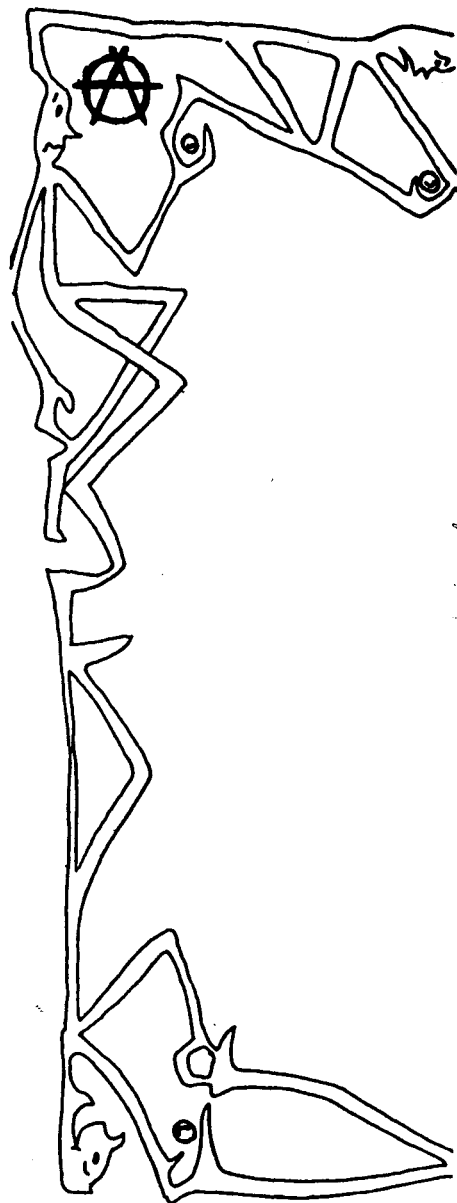
Friday, Jan. 30, 1998  
8:00 pm

'open mike' format

for further information cal:  
Myriam Nelson, 687-2468



the asia pacific economic conference  
 is an affliction  
 and affliction means causing pain and suffering  
 and I am a human being  
 like so many who have known affliction  
 in my family  
 in my nerves  
 in my thoughts  
 in my heart  
 in the community of the poor  
 in the downtown eastside  
 indeed this global economy turns its hand against me  
 again and again  
 all day long  
 and it has besieged and surrounded me  
 with bitterness and hardship  
 with isolation and self-destruction and self-centredness  
 this global economy has made me live in powerlessness  
 like those long dead  
 it has walled me in so that I cannot escape it  
 it has weighed my heart down with chains  
 and with thoughts it has inflicted into me  
 so that I become this system of oppression  
 I make scapegoats of others  
 I hate and I resent and I fear and I am greedy  
 and even when I have called out or cried for help  
 my voice and my wounds are managed by the system  
 this system of development and theft  
 has blocked my life with offices and paperwork and meetings  
 it has made all my paths hopeless  
 and like a rapist hiding in the shadows  
 like a serial killer offering a hand and a smile  
 this system drags me from the path of real life  
 and mangles me  
 and leaves me without help  
 for my heart  
 for my life  
 for my soul  
 this system of tourism and globalization  
 bearing down in the downtown eastside  
 makes me a target  
 for gastown merchants  
 for city hall  
 for the provincial and federal governments  
 for news media



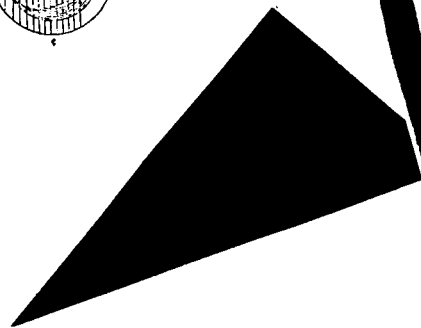
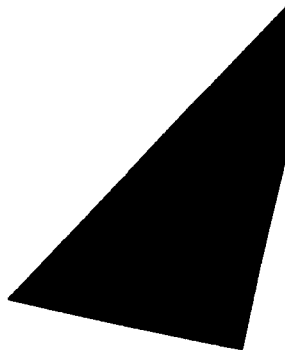
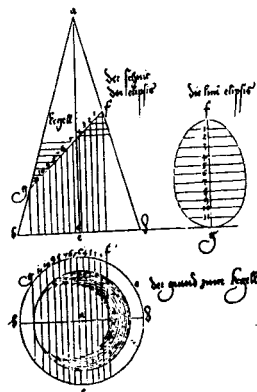


for free trade and economic warfare  
 the system has pierced my heart  
 with lies  
 and my voice and my anguish and my loneliness and my wounds  
 become as nothing  
 I become a laughingstock to this system  
 it mocks me in entertainment all day long  
 it mocks me in newspapers magazines television moves  
 and advertising  
 it has filled me with self-contempt  
 and sated me with resentment  
 it has broken my teeth with indifference  
 and crushed me into fantasies  
 and I have no idea what true relationship is  
 the system reduces me  
 the system reduces my heart  
 the system reduces my imagination my hopes my dreams  
 reduces me to the size of a shrinking welfare cheque  
 but I remember my affliction  
 I remember with bitterness and fear  
 I well remember  
 and my soul is knifed within me



yet I also bring something else to mind  
 and therefore I have hope  
 because of our deep and bitter and oppressed  
 love for one another  
 deeper than any economics or greed or madness  
 no we are not destroyed  
 or completely turned against each other  
 for true compassion never fails  
 compassion is new every morning  
 compassion means feeling with the suffering of him or her  
 compassion for the one who is most like us  
 and from compassion comes hope  
 life is good for us if we seek to be compassionate  
 if we seek to understand the other person  
 life is good if we live to help each other  
 without conditions  
 and life is good  
 no matter how vicious the system is  
 if we use our own suffering  
 to understand others who are in pain  
 life is good if we live to defend others  
 who are weaker and more powerless and more afflicted

than ourselves  
compassion means the care and love of a beautiful mother  
for her child  
and life is good if we become for others  
the mother we may never had had  
life is good if we realize tha tour lives are not all right  
if the lives of our brother or sister  
whom we fear  
are distressed or degraded  
life is good if we can see we are all  
part of each other  
life is good if we can see  
beyond the reach of the system  
that our lives depend on the lives of others  
the aliveness in our lives  
depends on the aliveness of others  
so perhaps it is not the worst thing  
that this system strips us of everything  
except what we have in our hearts  
for we are not to be without  
what our hearts most deeply desire  
love  
and care  
and though we now live grief-stricken  
so powerful is compassion  
that it will overcome this global system  
this system based on death  
this system denying us our full lives  
but we live differently  
than the system intends for us  
we live in cooperation and compassion  
we have arisen  
we have come alive  
we are resisting



bud osborn



Newsletter of the Carnegie  
Community Action Project

January 15, 1998

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



***These neighbourhoods have  
no income mix, they need a  
housing plan fast!***

**Shaughnessy: Zero  
low-income housing!**

**Kerrisdale: Zero low-  
income housing!**

**Dunbar-Southlands: Zero  
low-income housing!**

The City is approaching the Downtown Eastside with a plan .  
You have likely seen the City's recent glossy flyer entitled *Housing Plan Issues*.

There are 3 main parts to this housing plan:

1. **MORE CONDOS** -- Yep, that's right, City of Vancouver planners predict that if current trends (i.e. gentrification) remain the same we can expect more condos to the neighbourhood. They have a long-handled name for it called the "Mix of low-income and market housing." However, we need to remember these are just predictions, not statements of fact. As a low-income neighbourhood, the debate of mix is a serious issue if city policy, development guidelines, or zoning regulations for the neighbourhood are changed to turn predictions into reality.

(continued next page)

**(IMPORTANT MEETINGS, SEE BACK PAGE FOR DATES)**

(continued from front page)

Currently, in the Downtown Eastside there are only about 800 or so condos. In other words, the City would like to *increase the number of condos by 4 times*.

What's the point of it all, you might ask? Well, according to planners, there is not enough "variety" in our neighbourhood. What does that mean? We've got all kinds of people living here, coming here, working here, etc. There are people from all kinds of linguistic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds -- First Nations people, Anglo-Canadians, Francophones, East Europeans, people from South and Central America, Asia, etc. There are people of many colours. There are straight, gay, lesbian and transgendered people living here. Old people, young people, middle-aged people. Singles, families. The variety is endless.

What more do they want? According to the Housing Plan, the key measure of variety is the number of middle class people with property. Someone has decided that we don't have enough of them in the Downtown Eastside. Says who? Well, it seems this has been decided by middle class property-owners -- including politicians, planners and Gastown condo-owners.

Is this same standard being applied to other neighbourhoods? NO WAY! Most other places in the city have way more property owners and way less poor people than the Downtown Eastside. But for some reason it is only the Downtown Eastside where there isn't enough "variety." This harks back to the old Victorian rule that poor people need middle class people around to 'civilize' them. How about more poor people moving into the mansions of Shaughnessy or the elegant homes of Dunbar?

## 2. MICRO-UNITS

In the meantime, planners note that there are now 10,000 units of social housing or hotel rooms, including Strathcona. Even though the plan, as it now stands, calls for more condo units, there are no plans to increase the number of housing units for people with low incomes.

Instead, City staff are pushing for the construction of micro-units -- rooms of 180 ft<sup>2</sup> to 275 ft<sup>2</sup> - with some bathroom and cooking facilities. CCAP has already discussed these in earlier newsletters. We don't support them. Based on our own Livability Survey and studies of micro-units in some US cities (there are not that many cities that allow small suites), CCAP believes that a livable micro-unit is closer to 300 ft<sup>2</sup>. There are serious unresolved issues related to, for example, suite size, building density, financing, and amenity space. One current proposal, for the site at the old Golden Crown restaurant across from Woodwards (128 - 132 West Hastings) calls for up to 300 units in a project.

Examples from cities that have built micro-units are often cited. Yet, San Diego has stopped building any more. Los Angeles refuses to build them. In New York City, the Times Square Hotel, a renovated SRO hotel has rooms averaging 250 ft<sup>2</sup>. Another New York housing group has decided that its rooms will be a minimum of 255 ft<sup>2</sup>.

So, in Vancouver, if you have money you will get to purchase a nice condo. If you don't, you'll be assigned to a micro-unit in a warehouse.

If micro-units are allowed, they will become the norm for new social housing and we'll never get another housing project with larger units again.

### 3. A BYLAW TO STOP THE CONVERSION OF HOTELS

In the last year, people living in 400 hotel rooms in the Downtown Eastside and on Granville have been evicted as the owners get ready to convert to tourist use. Vancouver is trying to become the tourist capital of the west coast. So if you think Expo was bad, you ain't seen nothing yet.

What does the Housing Plan have to say about this? Not much. In fact, the question seems to be not *how* to ensure hotels stop evicting people from their homes, but *whether* it should be done.

Last summer, the Province of BC passed a law that allows the City of Vancouver to stop hotel owners from evicting tenants in order to convert their rooms for tourist use. Everyone knows that most hotels are in bad shape and the owners often don't put any money into their upkeep. Some have argued that we shouldn't bother keeping hotels because they are not adequate or healthy places to live. However, they have no plan to do anything about them. The loudest voices supporting this position are some Gastown property owners.

CCAP believes that a bylaw against conversion or demolition is absolutely necessary to prevent further mass evictions. San Francisco has had one for over 17 years, since 1991 they have no legal conversions.

For those people who claim that hotel housing is currently unlivable and should therefore not be protected, we point to the renovated rooms at Abbott Mansions as an example of what can be done.



## Dismantle and Disperse

While many organizations and individuals across the city endorse Anti-Homelessness Legislation (i.e. Hotel conversion and demolition control by-law) for the City of Vancouver, the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee (GHAPC) is on record as opposing any such legislation.

Not only does GHAPC oppose any hotel conversion controls, they also endorse a policy of **DISPERSION** (i.e. dismantle and spread the Downtown Eastside to somewhere else, especially out of Gastown). In a letter to council GHAPC said this about the dismantling of the Downtown Eastside.

*Unquestionably this initiative [the proposed hotel conversion control by-law] will be targeted at Downtown East [GHAPC won't even say Downtown Eastside], and will serve to perpetuate both the substandard living conditions in many of these hotels, and will also continue to concentrate this type of housing in one area rather than work towards dispersal. (July 15, 1997).*

Oh yah, GHPAC is also opposed to any more new housing for low-income residents of the Downtown Eastside

*GHAPC is opposed to further impingement of subsidized housing, whether by unit number or unit size.*

GHAPC's position on dispersion is the same as the Mayor of New York City, Rudy Guiliani, who admitted dispersion "is not an unspoken part of our strategy... That is our strategy" (*Village Voice*, May 9, 1995). Monkey see, monkey do.

**Artists against  
Art for Humanity: conversion and  
homelessness!**

The City of Vancouver now has the opportunity to avoid massive homelessness seen in other cities. The Downtown Eastside community has been pushing for an **anti-homelessness by-law**, which would protect the existing low-income hotels from converting to tourist use and choosing profits over people. We need this by-law immediately.

The **Gallery Gachat**, the **Urban Youth Alliance** and **CCAP** are planning *Art Against Homelessness* -- a week of street performance, speakers, and public art to be held at the end of March.

We are looking for people and organizations interested in contributing their art, writing, street theatre ideas, or organizing experience to help expose the homeless crisis in Vancouver. You don't have to be a professional artist to contribute. Together we can educate people about the reality of homelessness in Vancouver and the Downtown Eastside.

**First Meeting to be held:**  
Sunday, February 1, 1998  
Time: 2:00 p.m.  
Place: 88 E. Cordova  
Drinks, food and bus fare provided. For child care call Layla @ 681-3676.

**CCAP  
XMAS DINNER**

Residents from 5 hotels, where CCAP has held housing workshops, were invited to Carnegie last December for Christmas dinner. The dinner gave CCAP the opportunity to thank those residents who have regularly participated in CCAP hotel workshops. It also gave the residents an opportunity to make introductions and share stories with other residents of the Downtown Eastside.

The participation and input by residents who had attended hotel workshops over the past few years has been very important in shaping CCAP's position on housing issues facing the Downtown Eastside.

The workshops have been very important to the exchange of information between CCAP and hotel residents. They've also been effective in developing a constituency of residents willing to participate in CCAP actions and city hall meetings. So, CCAP looks forward to more hotel workshops in 1998.

**IMPORTANT HOUSING PLAN  
MEETINGS**

**January 16<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 10am @ Carnegie,**  
sponsored by DERA.

**January 26<sup>th</sup>, Monday, 7pm, 136 E. Cordova**  
(across from Harbour Light) in the Actor Studio

# The Frustration of Love By The



## Unsparring Clarity of Focus

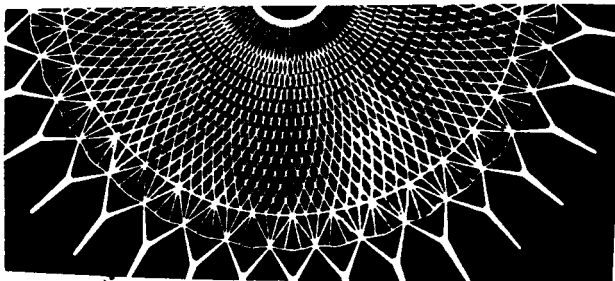
New & Old Visionary  
Works By Northwest

Outsider Artist Donna Balma

JANUARY 17 TO FEBRUARY 14, 1998

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 17th, 2-5 pm  
Gallery Gachet, 88 East Cordova Street, Vancouver

Media Contact: April Porter, Gallery Gachet  
phone: 687-2468 fax: 687-1196 e-mail: gachet@café.net



FOUR CORNERS SAVINGS:  
A SYMBOL OF COMMUNITY PRIDE

Residents of the Downtown Eastside community created, designed and now operate Four Corners Community Savings. They were involved in everything from drafting legislation to

overseeing renovations. Since it opened in 1996,<sup>11</sup> nearly 4,000 people have opened accounts here. Located just across the street from Carnegie Centre in a restored heritage building, Four Corners has become a symbol of community pride.

“Accessibility was key in planning and design by local residents,” states Jim Green of Four Corners. They ensured that the building is entirely wheelchair accessible for both clients and staff. As well, clients are offered a public washroom and chairs to sit in while waiting, instead of a line-up. Some would consider these comforts but planners knew they were necessities.

For low income individuals, access means much more than being able to get into the building. Residents of the Downtown Eastside have faced barriers in accessing banking services. These barriers include minimum deposits, service charges and prohibitive identification requirements. In some cases, especially for those with mental illnesses, they simply did not feel well. At Four Corners, there are no service charges to those who can not afford them and no minimum balance is required. Everyone gets a free picture identification.

People from the neighbourhood make up the elected Advisory Board. And a new Community Outreach Team will ensure that Four Corners continues to grow, talking to depositors regularly to ensure their ideas and needs contribute to future planning. “We want our clients to know that we have heard their concerns about long waits on cheque day and we are constantly looking for ways to improve service,” says Anthea Whittaker of the Outreach Team.

Many kinds of cheques, including income assistance, can now be deposited directly into your bank account. This means you don't have to wait in line-ups or wait for the mail to get your cheque. For people who may go the hospital a lot, or who have frequent changes of address, direct deposit means that your money is secure instead of sitting in a mailbox somewhere. There is no fee for direct deposit and the forms can be picked up at Four Corners.

The Community Outreach Team will be calling on organizations, businesses and unions to support Four Corners by becoming clients themselves. The revenue generated by larger deposits from institutions will ensure that Four Corners will continue to operate. It will eventually generate funds for more community development like housing, education and employment. "Our success will be measured not only by the numbers of clients using their service but by the strength of our community involvement," said Blair Petrie of the Community Outreach Team.

The Outreach Team can be contacted at 606-0130.

Top 10 ways to piss off your landlord

10. Pay rent in change
9. Pay rent in cans
8. Stay one more month
7. Walk naked to and from the shower
6. Bring in some bikers for dinner
5. Start a nudist colony on your floor
4. Start a blow up doll escort service
3. Make pets out of mice and cockroaches
2. Tap dance outside office
1. Leave deep fryer unattended under fire sprinkler.

Anon.

# FREE!

## Sto:lō Nation Language

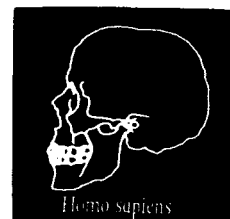
### Halq'emeylem

Carnegie Learning Centre  
Classroom II  
3rd Floor  
Carnegie Centre

Mondays 1 pm - 4 pm

## *Everyone Welcome*

Gloria Joe, Instructor



**Happy Birthday Carnegie!**  
18 years old! Just because we're getting older, doesn't mean we have to grow up!  
**Birthday party**  
**Tuesday, January 20, All Day**  
Entertainment, refreshments, significant happenings.  
All welcome!



*"Literacy is the ability to fully participate in one's own life -to be able to listen, to understand, to express oneself verbally and in writing in order to be able to belong, to not feel excluded from the group."*

-Definition of Literacy given by Lorraine Fox of the Native Education Centre at the First Nations Literacy Gathering

## **Update Learning Centre Outreach**

Fay Blaney and Sarah Evans have been hired as "Community Literacy Workers" to do outreach for the Carnegie Learning Centre.

Our first job is a thing called a Literacy Needs Assessment. This means we will be talking to people in the community about literacy .

First, we want to talk to people in the Carnegie and the Downtown Eastside who would like to improve their reading, writing, math, and communications skills, but who are not going to school anywhere now. We'd like to get an idea of what kind of learning situation would meet people's needs if they decided to improve their reading/writing/math/ or communication skills.

Second, we will be talking to Carnegie volunteers to find out how much reading/writing/ math/and communication is part of what they do on the job here. We want to find out if the Learning Centre can support volunteers, maybe by offering something called "Workplace Literacy."

Third, we will be holding "think tanks" to talk about literacy with different community groups as follows:

**Aboriginal Think Tank**  
Thursday January 15 at 4pm  
Carnegie Learning Centre

**Women's Think Tank**  
to be announced

**Elders Think Tank**  
Thursday January 29 at 1pm  
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Society

**Disabilities Think Tank**  
to be announced

**Youth Think Tank**  
\*Thursday February 5 at 1pm  
Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Society

**ESL Think Tank**  
to be announced

Finally, we will be approaching community agencies and activists who wish to have input into this study.

For more information, please contact Fay or Sarah at 665-3013 or leave a message for us at the Carnegie Learning Centre

Letters to the Editor  
Carnegie Newsletter

I am late in writing this letter to you. I was delayed both by procrastination and the mail strike.

I just want to say that I have found every issue of the Carnegie Newsletter to be inspirational. I especially liked the October 15 issue, with Sandy Cameron's long poem, "One Hundred Years of Struggle," and Bud Osborn's long poem, "Raise shit." These poems are very motivational and very creative -- I would ask that these be reprinted every so often because they are too good to just let go.

Please find enclosed a money order made out to the Carnegie Newsletter in the amount of \$25.00. I would be pleased if I could receive a subscription -- I am a low income person.

In closing, I want to repeat that it always gives me pleasure to read the Carnegie Newsletter. Please keep up the good work?

Yours sincerely,

Rolf Auer

January 9, 1998

Downtown Eastside Guru

Many Blessings from your most humble  
Downtown Eastside Guru. I can be reached at  
[guru@lycosemail.com](mailto:guru@lycosemail.com)  
Sing Don Fie Lock.



Christmas

T'was the night before Christmas and all through  
the Dodson,  
Not a creature was stirring, not even a Dave.

Peter and Celina

(Peter is back behind the till on the 2nd floor after a  
10 year absence. Celina is a volunteer tutor at the  
Learning Centre on Tuesdays.)



Street Soldier

Imaginary wars, he fights them in his sleep  
A soldier, invisible, through a line of fire  
indivisible

He prays to no one but forgets not a single thing.  
A memory carved in stone, every face he sees, he  
reads.

And the words stain the page of his heart  
Like tears that never dry.

Frank Molnar  
to the Carnegie Writer's Group

Dec. 14, 1997

It may be a fresh 1998 when you read this, the eight part of my "turn around decade."

I had remained away from driving at least until August '97. Now I rack up about four hundred kilometres a week to maintain a small income of two hundred or less per month for two adults. A big reason is the apparent elimination of public housing in Port Coquitlam. The house we were in and four others are now demolished. This kind of social housing meant we had a city that recognized responsibility for low income. No more. As I've heard, municipalities are increasing their business position even on such social needs; human needs, housing. The dollar figures takes place of human figures with no process in place to ensure low income housing in Port Coquitlam.

I struggle to have an alternative within financial reach of low income. I fail many because of my strength, health and age. For having a low income alternative is very difficult anywhere near the expensive city of which Vancouver is the core.

We went to the water; yes into the water, living on a boat. We are surviving, but the wealthy and the authorities exert oppressive influence afloat also. We need alternatives which youth and

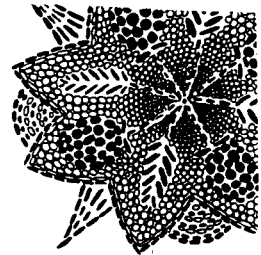
seniors can afford. While entire forests lay in booms on the shore lines, providing tremendous lease income to various harbour commissions, the boating and floating house population is forced to do without. If a marina doesn't like you, your boat or if you have a pet, it is no go joe. You had better prepare to move and keep moving until you find a niche to hand onto.

I hope some people read and understand; surely our voices are often ignored. The drum continues to beat in the downtown eastside but are the sounds being carried into the chambers of government or committee meeting rooms? It occurred to me that landlords should be held accountable for rental costs too. Why are they not required to provide proff of their need? Is the mortgage paid up, are they making a profit maintaining market value? Do landlords ever rent below market? The answer is few do and certainly not all that could.

We bring in another year maybe there'll be improvement for some in this world.

Mike Bohnert  
General Delivery  
Port Coquitlam, BC V3C 3V3

# SPINNING TALES WEAVING HOPE



MAKING STORIES - - - - -

- FAMILY STORIES TO TELL YOUR CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN
- COMMUNITY STORIES TO TELL YOUR NEIGHBORS + FRIENDS.

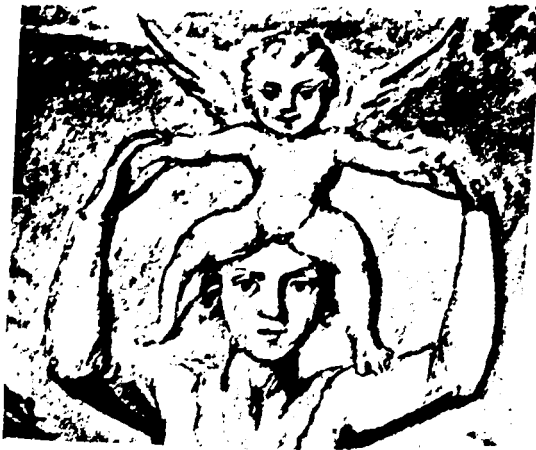
THURS. AFTERNOON 2 TO 4 P.M.  
STARTING THURS. JAN. 15.

3RD FLOOR  
LEARNING CENTRE



Contact  
Linda for  
more info!





## The School System and Class War Part I

(written with respect for the teachers and students who have fought against the injustice of the system for years.)

I used to think school was the path to so-called upward mobility for low income children. Students who were "smart," and worked hard, could improve their situation and become doctors, lawyers, and company executives. In individual cases, low income students do move upward in status by schooling, but that is not the pattern.

What the sociology of education has shown for at least thirty years is that the school system divides society on the basis of income and wealth. As a rule, the poorest students drop out first and the richest last, not because the poorer students are stupid, but because the school system discriminates against them. In other words, the school system does the opposite of what it says it does. It perpetuates a class system, and legitimizes a society so unequal that most of us can't even imagine the wealth of the richest Canadians.

Poor children, working class children, and culturally different children are not dumb, but school is a much stranger and more threatening place for them than it is for middle class children of the dominant culture. Those children who do not conform to the system, and quickly, are pushed aside. Some children have learned that they're too

"dumb" to go far in school by the end of grade three.

Low income students drop out of school at about twice the rate of other students. Maybe they feel excluded because their clothes don't carry a fashionable label. Maybe they get tired of being called dumb in a hundred subtle ways. Maybe they can't find the money for books and field trips. Maybe they have been reduced to silence because the school and its curriculum do not reflect their life experience. Maybe their self-esteem has been so shattered by failure that they simply refuse to go to school. Some children have been so badly traumatized by the system that their minds automatically shut down as soon as they enter it.

Unfortunately, students generally blame themselves for their failure, and the school system blames them as well. They're told that they have low IQs, or that they're culturally deprived, or that they're slow learners -- but such culturally biased assessments only show that the school does not know these children. Students learn to *feel* stupid in school, and they accept that as meaning they *are* stupid. It can take a long time before a person has enough confidence to risk new learning.

School failure, for the most part, is not due to a lack of intelligence or motivation on the part of low income students. It is due, rather, to an inability of the child to grasp the school's dominant culture (language and power structure for example), and the inability of the school to meet the needs of children who are different from the middle class norm. Intelligence is social. It takes two to fail.

It's a big jump in insight for a student from, "I am stupid," to "We have not been served well by the school system." It's a jump First Nations people made many years ago with the manifesto, "Indian Control of Indian Education."

to be continued

Sandy Cameron

## Snowmen with Hearts

There was a little snowman  
With a very big heart  
He stood outside all during the day  
And closed his eyes at night

He would wake up at 4:00 with the 'morn  
To start his day anew  
If he didn't have his afternoon nap  
The rest of his day was askew



Larry Mousseau

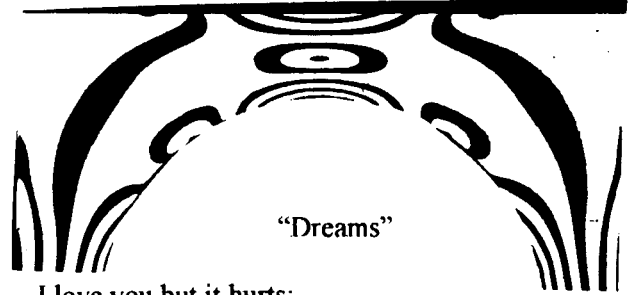


Television

The TV hurls out images that reproduce the system and voices that echo it, and there is no spot on earth it does not reach. The entire planet is a huge suburb of Dallas. We eat imported emotions as if they were canned sausages while the young children of television, trained to watch life instead of making it, shrug their shoulders.

In Latin America, freedom of expression consists of the right to protest on a few radio stations and in local newspapers. It has become unnecessary for the police to ban books: their price alone bans them.

Eduardo Galeano  
from *The Book of Embraces*



"Dreams"

I love you but it hurts;  
so I'm afraid to stay and afraid to go.  
I long to feel your touch, hear the sound of  
your voice, feel your lips on mine.  
Our bodies are close.

Soon I will and you will be gone  
and I will be alone.  
alone yes but to have you in my dreams.  
I hear you say you love me knowing I can never  
have you  
Just in my dreams.

To have you touch my heart and to fly with my  
soul.  
If I reach for you will you go?  
If I don't try I will never know.  
I love you and this will never let me go,  
so should I open my eyes as if they were closed .  
?

Will you take my heart when you go?  
I hear your voice so soft and low.  
Give your heart and soul . . . . .  
Should I hide them or let them go?

Should I open my eyes and wake to find I am  
alone  
and you are just a dream??? No!!!  
I love you . . . Take my heart and soul.  
Let me dream someday I will reach for you and  
you may go,  
But for now, let me dream, Oh let me  
dream!!!!!!!!!!!!

Hugs and Kisses

Ernie Wms.

**DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY**

**STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday-Friday, 10a.m. - 6p.m.  
NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 8:30a.m. - 8p.m. every  
NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN 3 Routes day**

**City - 5:45p.m. - 11:45 p.m.  
Overnight - 12:30a.m. - 8:30a.m.  
Downtown Eastside - 5:30p.m.  
- 1:30a.m.**

**1997 DONATIONS**

Paula R. - \$30  
Wm. B. - \$20  
Lillian H. - \$25  
Joy T. - \$20  
Frances - \$25  
Charley B. - \$15  
Libby D. - \$40  
Guy M. - \$10  
Sam R. - \$20  
Rick Y. - \$63  
BCCW - \$60  
Joan D. - \$5  
Ray-Cam - \$40  
Sonya Sommers - \$100  
Census Wkrs - \$200  
B.C. PLURA - \$1000  
VanCity Chinatown - \$200  
Legal Services Society - \$1230

Nancy H. - \$40  
Jennifer M. - \$20  
Nathan E. - \$20  
Rocking Guys - \$30  
Diane M. - \$15  
Lorne T. - \$20  
Mel L. - \$20  
Sara D. - \$20  
CEEDS - \$10  
Susan S. - \$30  
DEYAS - \$75  
Tom - \$20  
Amy - \$10  
Sharon J. - \$50  
Rene - \$30  
Neil N. - \$10  
Holden Htl - \$5  
Mike - \$15  
Bill G. - \$20  
Harold D. - \$19.10  
Anita S. - \$10

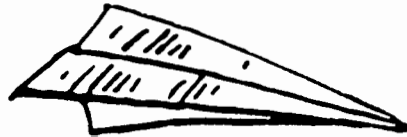
**Carnegie**  
NEWSLETTER

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:**

**25 January  
Sunday**



**NEED HELP?**

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association  
can help you with:

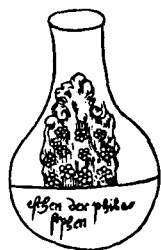
- Welfare problems;
- Landlords disputes;
- Housing problems;
- Unsafe living conditions;

Come into the Dera office at 425 Carrall Street or  
phone us at 682 - 0921.

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



Depression begins when you feel you have lost control of your life. I stare at the kitchen table in disbelief. How long have dishes, pots, garbage, ashtrays full of butts, bottles, plates of stale food been piling up here? I suppose I eat *my* meals here but I must have been just clearing a space for my plate and shoving all of this destruction to the back of the table and against the wall. The wall holds it all up, except for the smaller things, especially knives. They keel over the back and slip down behind. My life now is like a stack of dirty dishes that knives and forks slide off of and onto the floor. At least, everytime this happens, when I take the dishes to the sink, I think that it reminds me of my life, how gravity takes the place of precarious balance and slippery things skitter across the floor. There are deafening sounds as metal pot lids fall from the top of the pile. I knock over the dishes alot. Sometimes on purpose just because I am so sick of them. Now this table is piled with detritus, none of it looks familiar, I think I have really given up cleaning the house. I clear a little space at the front by shoving the whole mess towards the back and I put my plate of toast down in the space. A knife slides down the crack behind the table and hits the floor.



Have I lost control of my life? I have lost control of the house. I will eat the toast and then I will look for love. I'll look for it like they look for drugs when you visit the prison. I will stare into the mirror, open *my* mouth and lift *my* tongue, please. Not there. I will take off my boots and look inside. Not there. Perhaps in the seams of my coat? The hem of my dress? I need the expert fingers of the female prison guard. She runs her hands over my breasts. She runs her hands roughly up my leg to my crotch, and then down the other leg. She makes small talk and I tell her I am a prostitute. I ask them to pay me for the pleasure of feeling me up and for the male guard who gets to watch. They are afraid of me.

I would be in endless trouble in jail.

Kathleen Yearwood

# MARTIALARTS

WITH KEN

FOR WOMEN,  
CHILDREN AND  
MEN



**Drop in classes in the gym**

**Tuesdays - 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

**Thursdays - 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

**All are welcome!  
Come and give it a try!**



## AA SPEAKERS MEETING

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO SHARE YOUR  
EXPERIENCE, STRENGTH AND HOPE  
COME JOIN US

Carnegie Centre  
401 Main Street  
3rd Floor, Classroom 2

Every Wednesday  
6 pm to 8 pm

Seeking volunteers for speakers:  
Page Margaret @ 293-5981  
between 9 am and 5 pm  
Monday to Friday only

## DAVIES DEMANDS ROCK ACT IN DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

Vancouver -- Libby Davies, MP for Vancouver East today called on federal health minister Allan Rock to implement routine, voluntary toxicology testing of street drugs in order to prevent more overdose deaths. Citing the nine drug overdose deaths in Vancouver before Christmas, Davies called on Rock to follow the example of the US system where voluntary drug sampling, testing and the sharing of toxicology results is routine between the FDA, local and state coroners and community agencies serving drug users.

"As we begin a new year, I am haunted by the prospect that we will see more people die needlessly from drug overdoses, particularly in my riding of Vancouver East, because the federal government has failed to respond to the crisis of injection drug use and the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a health matter," says Davies in a letter to Rock.

Davies has repeatedly raised the issue of the need to medicalize drug use and reduce harm associated with obtaining drugs on the street. There has been no response from the Health Minister or his department to this key issue, which was a major recommendation of the National Action Plan on HIV, AIDS and Injection Drug Use released last May.

"I can't help but wonder what response there would have been had the nine deaths been due to a flu virus," said Davies. "One only has to consider the response to the so-called bird flu to understand how the stigmatization and marginalization of drug users prejudices our response to their urgent health needs."

For more information, call 775-7800