

"I met with these people over this Carrall Street corridor. It seemed best to be at the table with our community's concerns and needs, but now they've shown the real agenda. I feel used."

Frank Gilbert, DERA



No housing = no poor = no drugs + no crime???

"We are all thieves, but most of us are tolerant towareds ourselves and intolerant towards those who are found out and are not of the ordinary run. What is a man if he is not a thief who openlycharges as much as he can for the goods he sells."

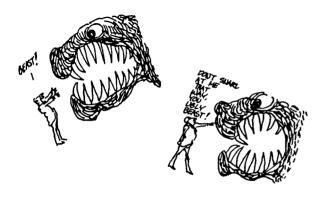
Gandhi

"You have to go over to Hastings Street." Rent-a-cop to a resident in Gastown.

"WHY DON'T YOU JUST KILL US"

"you'll guarantee the spectacular failure of low-cost housing if you build any more here" - a direct quote

"These people go beyond buffoonery" Dan Feeney



Did you read it? Did you believe it? "It" was an Open Letter to the Mayor and City Council from a bunch of Gastown groups - the Homeowners and the Community Safety Society and one blank claiming to speak for the Business Improvement and another claiming to speak for a Strathcona group of which he isn't even a member and then the Chinatown Merchants director...

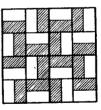
"It" called on the City of Vancouver and the provincial government to stop all funding for any drug-treatment facilities, drop-in centre for users, detoxes and all harm reduction strategies like the needle exchange; to abandon any housing initiatives that would result in social housing, retention of existing SROs or renovation/upgrading of *anythin*' remotely connected to low-income people; to vigorously support their desire for a safe corridor between Gastown and Chinatown by rousting anyone and everyone who looks suspiciously like a non-tourist...

Reaction was disbelief, dismay, sadness, some anger, some laughter, but most of all a feeling of unity amongst many in the community.

A "press conference" was held at the Chinatown Community Centre the day after this rabid rant came out and the room was packed with locals.

Sue Bennett, erstwhile ownee, read "it" and tried the image of 'concerned citizen' for a minute or two. "It's about safety, and we can no longer tolerate _____." The blank says it all, since she could no longer be tolerated..or was intolerable..or not there to respond to the vehement, passionate and (dare i say it..) rational responses from many people in attendance. "Drug users are not stakeholders..." and, by extension anyone living in lowcost housing should hit the road as well'... It wouldn't be fair to say that she was stoned on tranquilizers because that would make her a hypocrite as well as morally obligate her to admit she is not a stakeholder either.. and that's not nice. It also wouldn't be fair to say that her practiced obnoxiousness is conscious; 12 years on tranks is effective. What is fair to say is that the whole strategy of these individuals is to polarize the community into them and the rest of us.

* There had been an initial set of meetings about the proposal to make this 'safe corridor' along Carrall Street. Carrall has the Meat Market, the Rainier, the Portland and the West, as well as Pigeon Park on it. Bringing community concerns and issues to the table seemed to be a start, even though the gut feeling of most people had this pegged as gentrification one street at a time.



* The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board and Health Canada were bureaucratically involved in the need for a strategy on drugs and HIV and harm reduction and local activists had met individually with several groups (some of whom then signed onto "it") and many people aligned with the misfits from Gastown said on their own that they saw and supported these initiatives

* The city's draft housing plan wasn't even out yet, but one Michael McCoy, from the historical area bunch, sent his own open letter to City Council with similar (if I call it an idiotic rant, would that be nasty or just nice?) 'stuff' to Bennett and others; it got a sensible (if somewhat disparaging) response (from prt/hee-hee)) and was filed in that great round file-on-the-floor

Individuals at the press conference condemned the statements made by Bennett as tantamount to genocide - one asked the Chinese representatives to think back to the days when, by replacing "drug-users" and/or "low-income recipients" with "chinese" (or Black or Jewish or..) this kind of "no-one-that's-not-just-like-me" stuff was rightly damned as racist and fascist

* Tenants' Rights activist Linda Mix voiced what so many see clearly - that what these bozos want is precisely what has decimated the inner-city neighbourhoods of most American cities - well off special interests causing mass evictions and homelessness and then ignoring the whole thing with laws against panhandling and giving food to poor people and sleeping in public parks and standing in one place for more than 2 minutes...

* VANDU responded with a sheet of facts on the realities of SRO living and the abominable conditions that people live in and try to survive in

*RayCam rightly saw this kind of classism as having no place in this country

*DEYAS got it just right when accused of perpetuating the whole smozzle just to keep cushy jobs: "What are you smoking?"

*DERA issued a Call To Arms to everyone to show up and enlighten the media and residents on what this 'safety' charade is really about

*Carnegie's Community Action Project had announced its Open House, set for the following evening, where a Community Housing Plan was being launched. "It" was strongly in favour of burning this Plan unread.

It's difficult to be objective... nah, it's impossible to be objective. This bunch of misfits claiming to speak for Gastown/Chinatown/uptown/downtown is really counting on some inevitable destiny with the entire Downtown Eastside becoming a true urban wilderness, open for their fantasies. They've consciously ignored

- the condemnation of the neighbourhood, cited for having the largest open air drug trade in North America, being responded to with plans for decent housing, drug treatment, harm reduction strategies, detoxes, opportunities and street use by everyone



for information tables, artists, outreach, literacy... by Carnegie, DEYAS, VANDU, Native Health, DE Women's Centre, DERA, Main&Hastings, Urban Youth, First Church, and many others. During the past several months all have had input and made recommendations on - the portrayal of every resident as a drug user countered with facts around HIV/AIDS and the epidemic proportion of this disease among the hundreds of users residing in the community.. the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board gives credence to realistic strategies involving user consultation, education on needle exchanges and harm reduction programs including detoxes and treatment facilities

- the Woodward's betrayal by FAMA Holdings is taken to the Board of Variance while the Co-op Committee reports on seeking other sites and venues for development in this neighbourhood

- the Legal Services changes are affecting residents negatively so legal aid from student lawyers is here as well as Native legal clinics

- a Community Harm Reduction Forum is helpful in education and in responding to naysayers

- Walls of Change blossoms into giant murals on buildings, on hoardings along Hastings Street, and in the coordination and excitement of literally scores of individuals and groups giving whatever help they can

- hotel workshops and grassroots encouragement, lobbying efforts and harsh lessons of other cities



all give impetus to the call for an anti-conversion bylaw to save the existing housing stock for lowincome people

- the women's march to heal the open wound of over 130 deaths-by-violence in the last 5 years

- the community responds to initiatives by MHR and its disclosure form; to the steep expenditures by City Police on arresting very low level dealers while the tide of illicit drugs seems to be swelling; to uncovering fraud by local hotel management and their insidious practices of charging visitor's fees and key deposits and even renting the same room to several people at the same time... and to the call for Carnegie to get directly involved in being needle-police at Poison Park or having Walls of Change used to justify an invasion of holier-than-thou gentrifiers from Gastown as they hold their noses and eyeball both Pigeon Park and Blood Alley or the attempt to change Neighbourhood Safety Office from a highly effective community endeavor to another empty storefront. - we watch and wait for the development of the Washington & Sunrise buildings, for the expanded interest and support hoped for behind the Community Housing Plan and, most remarkable, the raising of the Downtown Eastside's first totem pole in Oppenheimer Park.

Each of the Downtown Eastside's many groups and organizations and agencies have a stake in the present and possible future of our community. I would like to personally thank Secret Agent Sue (Bennett), Mikey McC, Douglasss and the person claiming to speak for the Chinatown Merchants ... who likely have no idea what is being done in their name (or if they do, shame on ya')... for doing with one piece of paper what many thought couldn't happen - uniting many disparate views into a cohesive voice.

As one wag put it, "Why don't you just kill us?"

By PAULR TAYLOR

CONCESSION



COFFEE TEA----JUICES HOT CHOCOLATE -----50 CENTS-----

LOUNGE -T.V. VIDEO THROUGHOUT THE DAY

ALL PROCEEDS SUPPORT SENIORS RECREATIONAL PROJECTS AGE LIMIT TO LOUNGE IS 40 YRS. AND CARNEGIE MEMBERSHIP IS REQUIRED.



HEY FOLKS! CARNEGIE SENIORS LOUNGE (Lane Level) WE'RE OPEN: 9:00am - 10:00 pm

Letter to Gastown Homeowner's Association

A letter went to Libby Davies MP, from your group, damning the needle exchange for causing crime, prostitution, drug dealing, the degeneration of everything, and the spread of HIV.

- what evidence do you have that clearly shows the needle exchange programs have failed?

- the spread of Aids has decreased since 1985

- the GHA has not worked to help this community at all. Never before have they referred to Gastown as part of the Downtown Eastside but now we are one neighbourhood.

- people come here from all over; the needle exchange is a necessary health service in the area, over 90% of people entering our community don't live here... the cabarets and bars and nightclubs especially in Gastown have been nothing but a hassle every weekend for years. Police constantly deal with gun shots, knife fights, drug and gun dealing, and public drunkenness. Lo and behold, the perpetrators are from everywhere *but* the Downtown Eastside.

Here are some facts.

TRAC - the Tenants' Rights Action Coalition won two major victories in the last week. One was in Vancouver and the 2nd was in Burnaby at the Parkwood Terrace. Seems the owner had given all 100+ tenants eviction notices, claiming that he was going to do renovations. TRAC looked into it and found that he hadn't even applied for permits too do any kind of work. An arbitrator from the Residential Tenancy Branch overturned all the evictions! Paul Clermont of TRAC said that while looking into the legal matters they found that the renovations didn't warrant making people move out anyway, so even if the owner now applies for the proper permits, he still will have a hard time throwing everybody out on the street.

Well done!

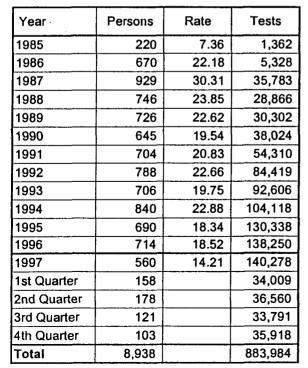


Table 2.1 Persons Testing Newly Positive

for HIV by Year and Rate, 1985-1997

1997 figures are year to date. TESTS is the number of HIV tests performed, positive and negative, at the Provincial Laboratory.

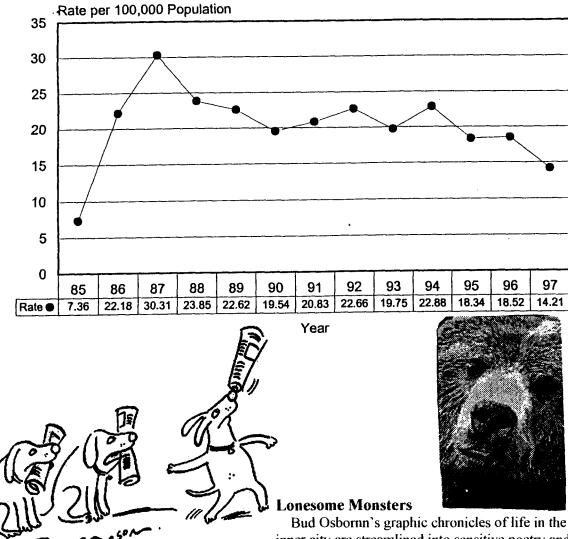
RATE is per 100,000 population. 1985 annual total is for the months of October, November and December only.





5.

Graph 2.1 Persons Testing Newly Positive for HIV by Year, 1985-1997



"Amazing ability to manipulate the media."

Computers at the Carnegie Join the computer subcommittee for a discussion about computer use and services throughout the centre.

Tuesday, June 2, 1998 3rd floor 10:30am

inner city are streamlined into sensitive poetry and prose praised for its universal appeal. Lonesome Monsters, the name for Osborn's recent book, is also the title for his collaboration with versatile improviser Graham Ord on saxophones and adventurous bassist Paul Blaney. Together they combine spoken word and music in interactive performances that mesmerize audiences. They will be releasing a new CD this spring.

June 20 Western Front (part of The Jazz Festival)

IN THE DUMPSTER

binner@vcn.bc.ca Fax: 684-8442 Ph: 682-3269, #8072

Greetings fellow binners and binnerettes. On Friday the Amsterdam Cafe at 301 W.Cordova was busted by narcs for selling marijuana seeds. Panhandlers and buskers are not welcome in grasstown but it seems drug users are. Conceivably needle users might be welcome with open arms.

On Tuesday, May 19, United We Can sported the Binners Olympics. A good time was had by all. Among those in observance were Jenny Kwan. Jan Pettinger, Libby Davies, and Jim Green who starred in playwright Ken Lyotier's premiere skit presentation of "Leaky Condos.."

The olympics were opened by a streaker strutting his stuff through the back alley of UWC. A computer was presented to Chris Laird, founder and head of Carnegie's diabetic support group, by Phil Wigle. Both Phil and myself received an award dedication from Libby Davies for our work at

United We Can and in the community. Yours truly received an award as a founder of SOLE and "Binner Extraordinaire"

United We Can has elongated their hours to 2pm on Saturday and Sunday. Please wait for computer room times and community loans of computers as we are trying to institute a program for times. Plus we are not quite set up for the public vet so please be tolerant.

May The Bins Be With You ... and hey! let's be careful out there.

By MR. McBINNER

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May 19, 1998

CARL MACDONALD

As Member of Parliament for Vancouver East, it is my pleasure to offer to you my sincere congratulations on the occasion of your becoming recognized as Binner Extrordinaire and Founding Member of Save Our Living Environment (SOLE).

bb Dane

Libby Davies, MP Vancouver East

Grace Edge:

I write in response to your <u>Sick of Hotel</u> <u>Complainers</u> piece (April 15 - Carnegie Newsletter)

My compliments. Nicely done. I appreciate your sentiments and admire you for speaking out. While it is true that we live in a society that **requires** a pool of unemployed and surplus labour at the bottom of the pecking order, folk who focus only on what is wrong with the culture (nearly everything) and how hard their lot is are aiding and abetting in their own imprisonment. Such folk only assist our society in locking them into the cage of victimhood. It's a dead-end street.

Some 2500+ years ago, a wise Chinese dude wrote of the ultimate strength and creativity of the universe as being female. Such power is known as **wu wei** - acting without acting - because of its subtle behaviour. Passive, receptive, tranquil...yet at the same time able to assert herself.

> The spirit of the fountain never dies. It is called the mysterious feminine. The entrance to the mysterious feminine Is the root of all heaven and earth. Frail, frail it is; hardly existing. But touch it; it will never run dry.

Lao-Tzu

(Tao Te Ching)

There are many, many translations, yet this is the one that moves me most. I don't know what hotel you're in... I understand that the Orwell in the 400block E.Hastings has been redone nicely; don't know what their prices are like. The Wing Lock at 431 E.Pender is run by a nice, young Vietnamese couple, is relatively well-policed and is quiet. It is situated on a lovely block, close to two nice parks.

I, too, live in a small room and I enjoy my solitude immensely. A friend comes by to visit and says repeatedly and with envy, "Man, you're lucky to live with such simplicity." I, too, am proud to have a small hotel room.

Oh yeah, rule ONE is" Smiling is not allowed!



Terry ??????Aug. 9, 1952 May 12-1998 Terry was a friend-a good listener-and a great teacher.

Terry - had a great talent for talking-yes talking Terry learned to do some reading and writing. He got involved with boards in the community. To his family 1 am sorry for your loss. My prayers will be with you.

He cared about the elderly, Kids and his street people (friends)

Some of whom can't come to his memorial as they are barred.

Everyone of them have a story to tell you about Terry.

Terry will not be forgotten as his memories will live inside your heart.

I will miss Terry smiles and kind words.

"Time Zone"

There was a time zone A total flip could this be death All we think becomes reality I like it To be as we think! All around us there is!!!! Is then the power of the power in action To zone travel to where we are! To mirror life as in death This being so we never really cease It is only those of us that think we are! Hmmm it could be quite profound to be with those who choose to be with you in the time zone what a beautiful thought Thought they where they are! Harold Finley

There's a new priest at the church. He's sensitive, handsome, intelligent and graceful... someone for whom one would lay down one's life.

I had the privilege to do so when the anti-christ targeted the priest with an upside-down sword. I lunged at him with a karate kick in mid-air, got him, but was hit by a slingshot to the head from one of Satan's accomplices. I ended up in purgatory but was able to bribe the gatekeeper with \$20 that Muggs Sigurgeirson had lent me.

I'm happy to say that the priest is alive and well and out of peril and that I just narrowly missed going to hell.

Anita Haviva Stevens

There is now an institutional phone on Carnegie's first floor. It is behind the info desk and pre-set for much-called numbers.

People drink rice-wine or cooking wine because they can get the same buzz as a 26'er of vodka for a few dollars BUT all of the salt in it is killing people fast, destroying their insides. It is possible to take the salt out very easily and completely, and you can show others who drink rice-wine how to do thisbefore they get killed by salt-poisoning.

How to get the salt out of Rice Wine

Put a mug in the centre of a large saucepan, with a folded dish-cloth underneath. Pour rice-wine around the mug to 1/2 way. Cover the saucepan with an ice-filled wok (replace the ice when it melts) Heat on a stove at Low, <u>1</u> to <u>3</u> at most. The alcohol will evaporate and drip into the mug (with out any salt). When the mug is full (check every 15 minutes) empty it into a glass container and replace the mug. When finished you will have a 26er of 40% alcohol without salt for a few dollars. *Optional*: If you can't get a wok, use a BIG

saucepan-lid turned upside down and filled with ice. You can use a sealed plastic bag to hold the ice. Use only stainless steel cookware.



I was married to "Rice Wine"

The day I got married to rice wine was at the end of August '94. I didn't know what I was getting involved with. Every morning I'd get up; I would be really sick sometimes but I always had a bottle. I would have liked 6 bottles when I woke up. I'd go out and panhandle, I would chip in with other people, and if I didn't have the money or a bottle when I woke up I would go and sell my jewellry or go to a pawnshop. It was getting so bad that at one point I went out and tried to sell myself.

During my days of being a slave to rice wine I did so much wrong. I stole and ripped people off. I'd start panhandling at 10 or 1 lam and pan all day until midnight. I would make sure I went home with 6 or even more bottles, and had money for more. I didn't think of getting any food; all I was worried about was getting the "rice". When welfare came around my whole support cheque went to "rice." I was so hooked I wouldn't even go to a liquor store. I didn't want to spend money on anything else.

It took me over 2 years to realize that I was dying. I went through hangover after hangover. I'd wake up shaky and sweaty and was a nervous wreck. One day I went through a seizure - believe me, I'd never had one before - and then started cramping up. That's when I knew that if I didn't stop the bottle it was going to stop me from everything.

Finally, in '96, I decided I wanted a divorce. I was tired of living just for a bottle and quit. Since then I still have serious problems: my nerves are shot, I still get anxiety attacks and sometimes bad withdrawals. It's been 2 years now that I've been sober, and in that time I've lost a loved one and 15 to 20 of my friends.

Yours truly,

"Muggins" (free at last!)

Ron J. Mathison



In loving memory of my friend and soul-brother LANCE SOWAN-SOUND

We met oover coffee and cigarettes, both from two different ways and places of society, but from the first second or two it was our souls meeting. You were always there making me laugh until the tears of pain left. You understood my pain of having Aids and cancer - no cure for either - but your shoulder, hugs and heart were mine, given freely and unconditionally. You cried with me when I felt like no longer living; you felt my pain of feeling ashamed, dirty, and alone, but you never let me feel lonely.

You used to say life is a gift from our Creator, that just as a butterfly leaves its cocoon we also leave our cocoons and fly like eagles. So my soulbrother Lance Sowan-Sound, fly like an eagle, sing the songs of our grandfathers, dance to the heartbeat of the drum and, when it is my turn to make my journey, take my hand and show me the ways, prayers and dances of our ancestors. Walk slowly, my friend. When we meet again take my hand in yours and guide us to our peaceful place.

Until we meet again,

your friend and soul-sister, Delia Aquino

I think it's time to organize a boycott of Gastown & Chinatown

In response to Wednesday's frightening press conference by the Gastown & Chinatown Merchants and their allies, I think it's time for the Downtown Eastside to appeal for more allies internationally.

When B.C.'s forests are treated as 'throw-aways' in the interest of profit, boycotts on the purchase of related products has had an effect. When people in a B.C. community are treated as 'thow-aways' in the interests of profit, I think a boycott on related products could have a similar effect. I think it's time to ask tourists to "just say no" and boycott Gastown and Chinatown. Cruiseship lines could also be asked to stop promoting Gastown and Chinatown as hot tourist destination spots or face boycotts themselves.

Social audits of companies are gaining alot of attention these days. Many consumers no longer want to purchase from companies that fail social audits. Obviously, the Gastown merchants -- with their valuing of trinkets made in Taiwan over humans in the Downtown Eastside -- would have difficulty getting a passing grade on a social audit.

A boycott wouldn't be too difficult to get started either. Last year when I was browsing the Internet, I noticed a section exclusively devoted to promoting international boycotts.

Obviously the only thing driving the actions of the Gastown & Chinatown merchants is profit, and the only thing that will make them re-think their position is a threat to their profits. If they get even a whiff of a boycott, I believe they will become more co-operative.

To: Carnegie Newsletter From: Maureen Rivington, Tel. 687-5222 your money seems to go to fat, grey-haired men in suits?

The Class Consciousness Of The Business class

Of all the various groups in society, the business class is the one with the strongest sense of class consciousness. They know what they want maximum profit. In their narrow, monetary world, anything that increases profit is good. Anything that decreases profit is bad.

The Establishment writer, Peter Newman, was a graduate of Upper Canada College, the school Conrad Black was kicked out of for selling examination papers that he had stolen. Newman wrote about the business class that runs Canada in his books on the Canadian Establishment. He said, "Canada's Establishment (ruling elite) consists of a surprisingly compact self-perpetuating group of pernaps a thousand men who act as a kind of informal junta, linked more closely to each other than to their country." (<u>The Canadian Establishment</u>, vol. 1, by Peter Newman, pub. by Scal Hooks, 1917, p.446)

¹The most important Establishment group is that formed by the businessmen who control the Canadian economy's private sector. Canada's Establishment is dominated by the corporate elite." (Newman, p.446-447)

"Operating outside the constitutional forms, the Establishment's adherents exercise a self-imposed mandate unburdened by public accountability.. they consider themselves an untitled aristocracy whose virtue has been certified by their elevation to one of the dominant elites. They are, therefore they rule." (Newman, p.446)



A newspaper columnist, Allan Fotheringham, said that we didn't need to read Marx to understand that Canada has a ruling class of mainly white business men. All we had to do was read Peter Newman on the Canadian Establishment.

According to Newman the business oligarchy that runs Canada believes, "All men.. are essentially a product of the marketplace; everyone therefore and everything has its price." (Newman, p.153) In other words, monetary, market relations are the only relationships worth considering. That's what Scrooge meant when he said "Humbug" to Christmas.

Let's close with a quote from George Black, one time corporate director and former president of Canadian Breweries, "...sure there's an Establishment in Canada. it consists of about one thousand wealthy families. it works by exclusion.. .What it consists of is a sharing of attitudes even if the people involved don't have the same politics.. money is power." (Newman. p.195)

If working/middle class Canadians had the same strong sense of class interest that the business class has, we wouldn't be blaming poor and unemployed people for our deteriorating life styles. We would be blaming the economic policies of the business elite that pushes the corporate global economy.

"Corporate power is Canadian society."

(Professor James Eayrs, guoted in Newman, p.447)



King Fillup and his search for Balls (The ongoing saga of Shitty Hall)

One day King Fillup was eating another tax free dinner with his idiotic courtiers and courtesans when they were suddenly interrupted by an old woman carrying a young child.

"Please sirs and madams, we need help," she exclaimed. "Help?!" yelled King Fillup looking around the chamber at his friends. "Away with you," he screamed, "you'll get *no* help here." "But sir," she began.

"Enough," yelled Lord Georgie. "The King has spoken. You must leave immediately. Guards!" he yelled, "Remove her." Then, "It's too much. These people are too much."

Constable Newspaper swept down on the woman and her child immediately. He was in such a rush to be noticed by the King and his courtiers that he almost dropped his new Motorcycle Kit He issued the woman a ticket for loitering and then sped her and the child off to the nearest downtown eastside sidewalk.

"King Fillup, may I offer you another piece of cake?" asked queen-in-waiting Jennifer Figurine. "Oh but you may." said King Fillup, "you may. Feel free; after all this is a democracy." The King and all his courtiers began to laugh. "Democracy," they chuckled. It was said that Gordon Priceless laughed so hard he began to choke on his stuffed salmon. Luckily Nancy Curlio was able to wrap her impeccably long locks around his chest and perform the Heinrick maneuver just in time. "Enough," called out King Fillup, pushing his plate of desserts aside. "I must retire now," the hour is getting late and I want to watch another episode of Body Watch with my new Spice Girl Dolls."

King Fillup retired to his chambers and removed

a curtain that hid his plastic effigy of Mel Gibson. After rubbing the effigy several times he began to speak. "Oh Mel, Mel on the wall, who's the sexist of them all?" "Not you - came the reply. "You have no balls." "No Balls?" said King Fillup, a bit confused. "What do I need balls for? I'm upper middle class, I have lots of money, lots of rich and powerful friends. Doesn't that make me sexy?" "No," said Mel, "it does not. If you want to be as sexy as Leotard Mishap you'll need some balls." "But where do I get these balls?" asked King Fillup. "You have to earn them," answered Mel. "Earn them?! That's ridiculous," said King Fillup. Just tell me where I can buy them and I'll get some right away." The effigy spoke no more so King Fillup called upon one of his most trusted servants, Cameron Greyscale, to help him out.

"Cameron," he asked, "do you still have all that money left over from International Pillage and the Boa developments? Remember? 'Payment-in-lieu' we called it?" "Yes I do," replied Cameron, feeling very suspicious. "Good," said King Fillup. "I want you to take that money and find me a pair of balls." "But sir" replied Cameron, "with all due respect, that is my money." "Listen: I am the King and I order you to buy me some balls!

Cameron went back into his office and phoned Lord Georgie for advice, but Georgie was sleeping again and didn't want anyone to distract him from his dreams. Then he phoned Jennifer Figurine but all she could say was, " I honestly think its too late for him, but I can always ask my husband Dalton what he thinks." Before Cameron could finish making any other calls King Fillup burst into his office and demanded a pair of fresh balls. Cameron had to think quick; that alone was a serious mistake. He concocted an elaborate story of intrigue and deception that had such a air of complete boredom that King Fillup was totally enthralled. Somehow Cameron managed to convince King Fillup that they would need to don disguises, sneak past gossip Gordon Pricless's office and then, by continuing to keep a low profile they could crawl by the main office where Nancy Curlio could always be found bribing the secretaries to let her read Jennifer Figurine's mail. "Once these maneuvers are completed," Cameron continued, "we can proceed to the nearest Government Liquor Store where it is rumoured that you can purchase a 6-pack and a fresh pair of balls."

Taking public transit, Cameron Greyscale and King Fillup arrived in front of the Liquor Store and immediately started pleading with passersby for a pair of balls. Unbeknownst to them, Constable Newspaper was on the other side of the street inside a phone booth trying to assemble his new motorcycle kit. Suddenly he noticed the two strangers on the other side of the street aggressively accosting the tourists and businessmen. Using his Dick Tracy wrist watch and his G.I. Joseph codes he called central booking for a paddywagon. "Yeah, I've got two live ones," he said with a smile. A special squad of anti-panhandlers was sent out to secure the site.

As King Fillup and Cameron Greyscale were arrested and forced to sit beside other common panhandlers, their complaints fell on deaf ears. "I'm your boss for Christ sake!!" screamed King Fillup. "Don't you recognize me? I'm in disguise!" It takes more balls to panhandle than it does to be a king.

By Leigh Donohue

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

includes: Gastown, Chinatown, Strathcona, This can go on.....

Let's face it we ARE a COMMUNITY!

the only ones not being apart of the solutions are the people who signed the open letter to Philip and his council:

> Drug dealers and users ARE stakeholders in Everyone's Community:

Wake up and get a LIFE!

There are addicts and users living in your communities



FIRST NATIONS LEGAL CLINIC 601-6430, 191 Alexander: All First Nations people who do not qualify for Legal Aid can attend the clinic (Mon-Fri in the morning) to see if it can help.

Hello

Is anyone there? Can you see me? I am sitting right here. I have reddish brown hair--eyes are hazel brown--and my skin is brown. My blood is red. I am doing research on addiction. I have been in this neighbourhood for over 13 years. I have met many people from all over the world. Addiction for me is no escape from what lies ahead of me. I have no responsibilities. I get no pay for my research. I do get some moneys from Social assistance. It helps to pay for some of my research. This research has led me to the unthinkable. Selling my soul to my drug of choice. To feed my habit I sell my body; therefore my soul leaves. During my walk down misery lane, I became a thief to support my habit. 1 stole from the rich and the working poor, elderly and persons with a disability. I've shared many things with my street friends including this disease called alcohol. I have heard that there is help if I need it. But I cannot reach the help because society has made it impossible for me. 24 hours have gone by and my body is craving my drug of choice. If there is a God help me! I need help with this disease, help to get clean and sober. Help to find my soul I lost on the streets of bar alleys and tweak city. I have to be clean for 2 weeks before I get any kinda treatment Our detoxes are full so I put my name on the list; even then I have to wait..call every hour on the hour to see if they have a bed. I walk the streets, lanes and alleys in search of a warm place to sleep. I can get a free coffee over there on Powell. a free meal on Cordova or free clothes at the women's Centre and over at Oppenheimer Park. My disease had no boundaries - getting my next fix was a paying job for my lost soul.

Member of Society

W.A.N.D. SOCIETY

(Westcoast Aboriginal Network on Disabilities) People with disabilities have equal rights to universally accessible services, security, selfdetermination, privacy and full participation in all aspects of community life enjoyed by all citizens.

Systemic barriers deny individuals with disabilities equal access to personal, social and economic opportunities available to most people. Disabilities affect health and lifestyles: common social attitudes, although they are changing, tend to treat individuals with disabilities with resentment or pity. They are often treated as charity cases who need a hand-out and who are less capable than others. Aboriginal people living with disabilities have unique needs. It's often assumed that thev have never worked or paid taxes and that they have been life long burdens to taxpayers. In a recent brief presented to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples by the BC. Aboriginal Network on Disability Society, the main message given highlighted this steoeotypical imagery used by all levels of government. Problems with housing were identified as a first priority.

We are living in difficult times and we, as Aboriginal People, have gone through some dramatic changes in the past decade. For all too



many people the prosperity of earlier decades has become little more than a memory. Those Aboriginal People who have moved to the urban areas of the province have suffered greatly, as a result of the move that was supported to improve their standard of living. There are many conditions that force these people to live in poverty. Aboriginal People are faced with chronic unemployment, inadequate housing and discrimination. There are more Aboriginal People who are poor and they are getting poorer; their survival has become an existence. A disproportionate number of individuals with disabilities live in poverty and must bear the extra costs associated with their disabilitv. Aboriginal People with disabilities are among the hardest hit by poverty.



The foregoing has provided a very brief background as to why the W.A.N.D. Society was established. The founding members of the organization were quick to recognize the needs of Aboriginal People with disabilities because they themselves are amongst that group of people so identified by today's society. It's recognized as well that there are agencies in place who are trying to meet their needs but, as with everything else today, these agencies are understaffed, underfunded, and have suffered from the cutbacks in federal and provincial budgets. W.A.N.D. founding members identified the value of empowering one another and to promote this empowerment through personal experience with the needs of Aboriginal People with disabilities. They see empowerment as a dynamic process, one in which individuals gain increasing control over their own lives. In order for this change to happen, it is necessary that funding agencies at all levels and community leaders give up some of their authority to front line workers and to the people who are receiving the services. It is time to take a serious look at the current situation of people in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver and more specifically at those people with disabilities who are of Aboriginal descent.

W.A.N.D. believes they are moving in the right direction to respond to the needs of that particular group of our society. We are well aware of many solutions. Empowerment becomes an uphill challenge when individuals are continuously rendered powerless by poverty, unemployment, isolation, attitudes and "the system".

We have identified a need for an information centre/drop-in centre for Aboriginal People with disabilities - where they will be known as consumers, respected as individuals and part of the solution to whatever "problem" they are experiencing. There is much value to the establishment of such a centre. It would provide an area within the community that these citizens could identify with and also provide a social outlet for some. It could provide the environment and social structure that would encourage the building of positive attitudes, increase self- confidence and self-determination. As an information centre it could provide a onestop type of shopping list for the consumers, rather than getting the run-around and being sent from one place to the next.

Submitted by Fred Arrance

Carnegie Community Centre Association 1998 Annual General Meeting

We're coming around to another milestone in the Carnegie calendar - the annual general meeting of the C.C.C.A. This year it will be held on:

Sunday, June 14, at 2 p.m. in the Theatre

The AGM is the occasion in the life of any organization when the members take stock of what has happened during the past year and set a course for the next year. We also elect the Board of Directors for the coming year.

The Association is the voice for Carnegie patrons in the affairs of the Centre. We help develop new programs and raise funds for a wide variety of activities in the building. We also represent Carnegie's position on issues in the community, including safety and security on our streets and the need for affordable housing and sufficient services.





Everyone is welcome to the AGM. To vote, you must have been a member for 14 days (as of May 30). To run for the Board, you must have been a member for 60 days (as of April 15).

We can only be effective with a strong and informed membership. Everyone needs to have their say, so see you at the AGM.

Muggs Sigurgeirson, President.

Editor,

While people on social assistance don't get any clothing or bedding allowance and the ministry sends us to St. James's store, the only giveaway in the store is a binful of rainsoaked & worn-out clothing dumped by the front door and few racks inside. The truth is we have to pay for clothes & shoes that are still wearable. There is no free bedding, cooking or household items at all. Never.

The sheets and blankets are kept behind a closed door that's marked "Employees Only". We have to ask for permission to see them and they may let us, if they feel like it.

The only sign of a fair and organized system is a few price tags but price can change from day to day and vary from person to person. About two months ago 1 overheard the training instruction of a new employee. "You can charge whatever you want for it, and the price is because you say so. You can do what you want with the stock..keep it or give it away."

When people tell them that they're on welfare and the asking price is steep for merchandise sold "as is" (with no receipt, refund, exchange or guarantee), they start to yell, "Go somewhere else! I've had enough of you!" The staff in the store is profit-driven and pestering comments are frequent "For those you have to pay. You don't have any money. Why are you looking at them?!"

This exploiting set-up in the St. James's store is an example why it's wrong for the ministry to let charity groups administer social aid. They're accountable to no one.

Liza Ellis



MANAGER: Crabtree Corner Community Programs

You will be responsible for the management of the YWCA Crabtree Corner Community Programs. Crabtree Corner is a family drop-in and emergen cy childcare centre, located at 101 E.Cordova St.

<u>Duties include</u>: >supervision of staff >working with program staff to research, assess, create, implement, evaluate & oversee program planning and development > provide resource and referral information for clientele > maintain good working relationships with the Downtown Eastside community through involvement on advisory and ad hoc committees > develop, implement and monitor policies and procedures, budgets, grant proposals and statistical systems > coordinate volunteers > work with the Director, Children & Family Services, to identify key advocacy issues. <u>You will need</u>: >a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work or a related field, with 6-8 years related experience > group and individual counselling skills > crisis intervention skills > supervision and administrative skills, including proposal writing and budget development > facility management skills > sensitivity and understanding of the needs of women and children in the DTES.

FIRST NATIONS WOMEN ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY

Resumes can be sent to the YWCA HR Dept., 535 Hornby St., Vancouver, V6C 2E8, fax to 684-9171, or e-mail to hr@ywcavan.org by June 5



TRASHHOPPER SEZ

Yo! guru@lycosemail.com, footsoldier@yahoo, sir_mac@exciteemail.com plus myself are some of the many dudes and dudesses on the net who support Mr. McBinner in his campaign in 1999 for Mayor of Vancouver. It is not known for sure but Joe Kuntz (joekuntz@mailcity.com) will be his manager. Sock it to that Shitty Hall of Shame!

How about them Binner Olympics? I heard Mr. McB got an award from Libby Davies. Go Dude!! I will be away for awhile. I'm going to convey a snipe-hunting safari in Brazil. CU when I get back



Painter: Interior/exterior with 25 years experience. Reasonable rates. Call 683-3398; leave a message for Harold

Causes

The Fate of You is long overdue Once we knew what was all-inclusive Now our clue is fate itself Why we have nothing but life and love is because we need no more than this Chant "love is life - heaven is life" Because we are the inveterate foe of death We have nothing but death, and to accept it leads to life, not dissolution. Our solution is love.

Causing

We have a quorum - we are arrived We are celebrating what we strived Nobody can take this away, now we have all From Him we shall not stray, now we have all.

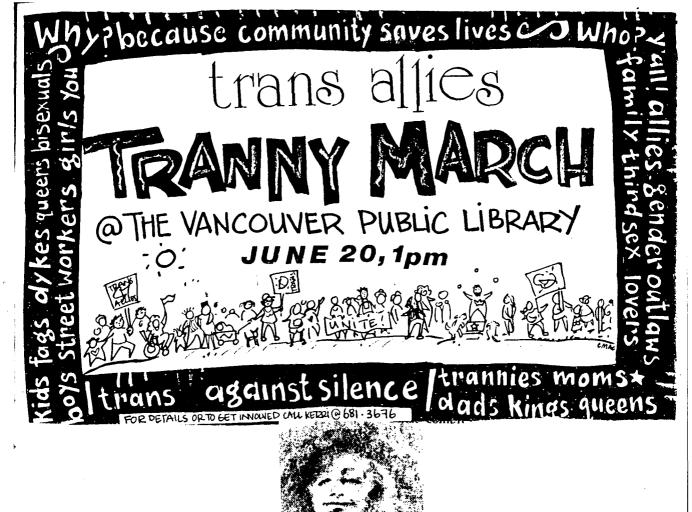
The Celebrant

I am God. I am Love I am with you. All of you. I have All - It is Yours.

The Forgiven

Please forgive me. I have lied.
I forgive you. You are mine.
Please forgive me. I have gone astray.
I forgive you. You have paid.
Please forgive me. I have gone to you coarsely.
I forgive you. You are now fine.
Please forgive me. I have done you harm.
I forgive you. You are awake..
The Unforgiven
I beg not - I have suffered
I beg not - I shall suffer
I beg sometime - I have sometime
I beg always - I have always.

Elizabeth Thorpe



Herbs and Menopause

The following is a guide for those of us experiencing the changes of menopause. As with all herbal healing, diet is as important as the herbs being ingested. Nutritional support will include calcium from dairy products, supplements & seaweeds like kelp and spirulina; additional iron is necessary as is Vitamin E. Avoid alcohol, caffeine, processed foods, refined sugars and salt. A high fibre, low fat diet is best. Get adequate exercise!!

Ginseng and sage, taken daily as capsules or teas, can help alleviate hot flashes. Chickweed, nettle and uva ursi help alleviate water retention. Don't stop taking fluids - your body still needs liquids. Cranberry juice is also effective in retention.

Estrogen replacement can be done naturally with a combination of 2 parts wild yam, 2 parts gingko, l part false unicorn root, 2 parts spirulina, 2 parts licorice, 3 parts sasparilla, l part cinnamon, l part vitex, l part ginger, 2 parts sage, 2 parts gotu kola and 1/2 part black cohosh daily. This can be made in tea form or the powders can be blended and put into capsules. Take plenty of Vitamin E, 400-800 mgm (half that if you have diabetes, a rheumatic heart or high blood pressure). Two capsules daily of dong quai, bee pollen and/or ginseng along with the above formula can be very effective.

Do remember that growing old doesn't mean growing slower. Stay active. Find new interests.



A letter of concern to Vancouver City Council members:

I am impressed that a recent audit you initiated found the local DEYAS needle exchange to be both efficient and successful in controlling the spread of HIV and that, at the same time, it did not encourage drug use.

It is therefore troubling to see some community members and local elected politicians trying to deprive a small group of people in our community access to these important health services. These services are designed to reduce the spread of HIV and Hepatitis B & C within that community and consequently within the local community as a whole. These are compassionate and proactive community services.

I am not willing to see these discriminatory and potentially lethal attitudes imposed upon a visible minority in our community. Nor am I happy with the prospect of being financially burdened by the \$120,000+ per HIV infection which will result from such closed-minded and prejudiced action.

I ask you to show your humanity by being proactive in supporting existing services and expansion of needle exchanges and harm reduction programs which address the spread of HIV, Hepatitis B & C in Vancouver.

Sincerely,	Postal Code
P.S.: (Personal comments)	

The rabid bleatings of a few can surely be made to sound endemic. The Britannia Community Police Office conducted a Commercial Drive Community Survey (1997). They went to great lengths to be inclusive - bringing the survey out to residents, panhandlers, merchants, street vendors, people using the parks and community centre, squeegee people, seniors' groups, new immigrants, patrons of cafes and people employed in local businesses. The survey has 30 questions, each answered on a scale - 1: <u>Completely unacceptable</u> (You think the appropriate agency should stop it); 2. <u>Unacceptable</u> (You prefer not to see this and might do something about it); 3. <u>Tolerable</u> (You don't like it, but it doesn't bother you enough to do something about it); 4. Acceptable (You're not bothered by it); 5. <u>Completely acceptable</u> (you perceive this as a good thing).

#28. Do you think the needle exchange making12345scheduled stops in the neighbourhood is :15%6%21%20%38%

DOWNTOWN STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday-Friday, 10a.m. - 6p.m. NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 8:30a.m. - 8p.m. everv EASTSIDE **NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN 3 Routes** dav YOUTH ACTIVITIES City - 5:45p.m. - 11:45 p.m. SOCIETY Overnight - 12:30a.m. - 8:30a.m.

Neil N -\$20 T1998 DONATIONS WisconsinHistorical Helene S.-\$18 Paula R.-\$10 Jenny K.-\$18 Wm. B.-\$12 Tim S.-\$18 Jov T.-\$18 Thomas B.-\$14 Charley B.-\$15 Beth L.-\$18 Libby D.-\$50 Bill G.-\$9 Sam R.-\$40 Rolf A.-\$25 Rick Y.-\$45 Bruce J.-\$14 Sharon J.-\$30 BCTF - \$12 BCCW -\$25 Sabitra -\$15 Society Rav-Cam -\$10 Susan S.-\$7 Harold D.-\$20 Margaret D.-\$20 Sonya S.-\$80 DEYAS -\$50 Nancy H.-\$35 PRIDE -\$50 -\$30 Jennifer M.-\$15 Pam B.-\$20 CEEDS -\$50 Brenda P.\$10

Downtown Eastside - 5:30p.m - 1:30a

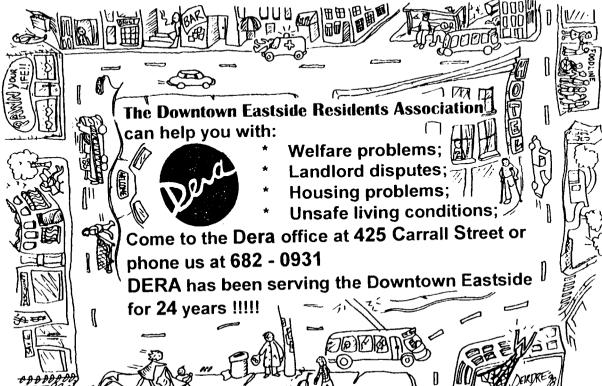


THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

> Articles represent the views of individual contributors and not of the Association.

> > for the next issue: June 11, Thursday.

Submission Deadline



Ode to Gus

Things won't be quite the same without you here The weeds will grow in the garden The path not shoveled clear The dog will wait for her daily jaunt The dishes left undone I just never seem to get finished the job that I'd begun. But then over a beer with the lake so near The memories start to gush Of all the adventures we shared back then When Gussy was with us.

Lorraine LeBourdais



No Fuss Gus

Here's to our good friend Gus, He never made a big fuss, He swept all the floors And did all the chores Salute to our old friend Gus.

Lorraine LeBourdais



Everything will grow And you will go We will be sad. Gus, Gus, This poem is written to you.

> Kelly Diether Age 4

Dear Folks,

Sadly we must report that long time CEEDS member and comrade Gus Charley passed away at the 100 Mile Hospital on the 23rd of April. Gus was 67 years of age. He struggled bravely and with dignity with prostate cancer for the past two years.

Gussy received a warm send-off at the Soda Creek Reserve, along the shores of the Fraser River where he was born. Our friend Percy Rosette performed the Indian blessings. Rick Pop from the Soda Creek Band carved a beautiful owl marker for Gussy's grave. Friends from as far away as Kamloops traveled to Soda Creek (which is just north of Williams Lake) to say good-bye to a truly good and revolutionary man.

We're sending along a write-up that was printed and handed out at Gus's funeral. [*This is in the Newsletter office for locals who met Gus to read*]

Many of our friends from Carnegie who have visited CEEDS over the past few years will undoubtedly remember Gus - probably as he was bent over weeding in the garden or wheeling shit out of the barn on his way to the compost pile. To Gus..so long, we'll see you in our dreams.

Rob, for CEEDS.

You, who are willing, Will deliver hunger from the stomachs of the masses; Will banish pain from the souls of the addicted; Will block evil from the child's unready eye. You who are willing.

A MESSAGE FROM TOMORROW Garry Gust

I define my existence as being a prisoner of the planet Earth. My cell is flesh and blood. Solitary is my confinement. The sentence is indefinite.

Escape is not an option. For karma's sake I'll do my time until Nature's key frees me.

But only the good are released in youngness, so I'm in for a long stretch of years through endless seasons that rehabilitate my passedlife errors.

The wardens and guards provoke a violent air that spreads through the cell blocks like steam from a kettle. They praise their Gods but obey their Satans. Their crude propaganda of faulty knowledge is intended to shape the thinking of the inmates who mostly comply like grateful trained whales.

Only in solitary, within the pitch black dungeons, can a prisoner shut out his keeper's brainwashing influences and study the cosmic truths...

The cockroach's breathing emits an ancient whisper of spiritual survival.

The wooden plank floor creaks with a song from a long ago forest.

A rat practices comedy on the ledge's stage so my dim eyes will sparkle applause upon it.

Dank, foul air seeps up through ground dirt and sweeps the room with sweet peace...

But on the borderline between awake and asleep is where the true light of knowledge flickers for precious moments on Nature's pages, and the prison disappears another day away.



World class shoddiness

The greatest dangers to people in modern societies come from the self-interested, pampered and useless business class, self-proclaimed representatives of which, like Sue Bennett and Charles Lee, are the most inane, self-serving, and histrionically ridiculous beings alive, or whatever the term is, people who will quote themselves the most unreliable and misinformed trash to support their own solipsistic, idiotic pronouncements, pronouncements which they think are powerful and important, but are actually limp and silly, buffoonish, models of buffoonishness, even, or will have their lackey so-called friends, a term misleading to the highest degree when used to refer to anyone in the business class or connected to the business class, like the Conrad Blackian hate rags that pass for newspapers in this country, in which friendship is a commodity as much as anything else is, in which everything is secondary to their own gain, including the health of the world itself, let alone the health of their fellow citizens, since fellow citizens, to this class, are either potential customers or trash, and nothing more, this class that reduces the world and all the people in it to the piggish sign of their piggish greed, the sign of the piggish dollar, to them and their criminal ilk, misquote and misinform for them. The notoriously over-priced trinkets that are sold in Gastown, an area known around the world for the gaudiness of its goods and the belligerence of its shopkeepers, an area that tourists are over-heard constantly referring to in the most disrespectful and justifiably demeaning way, an area with a reputation for shoddiness of goods and ignorance of shopkeepers, have become the laughing-stock of the world of tourism. The business class that claims to represent the community of Gastown, even while it tries to destroy whole the community of Gastown, in every conceivable and shoddy way, doesn't even know that its reputation is for such gaudiness as to be world-class gaudiness, and its reputations for such extreme shoddiness as to be *world-class shoddiness*, a shoddiness and gaudiness that tourists never fail to mention when they return home, telling their friends and family that Gastown in Vancouver exhibits such a high degree of shoddiness of shopkeepers and gaudiness of trinkets that they *have to see it themselves to believe it*.

This hardly matters. But when the representatives of the Gastown special interest business groups, a mere handful of people, who reject outright the right for people who live in Gastown, the people living in the hotels, to speak for themselves, try to speak for the entire area, they cross the line from buffoonishness and inanity and shoddiness to fascism and a level of criminality that history shows is the greatest threat to anyone and everyone. While they are surrounded by levels of creativity, passion, understanding and knowledge that should humble them, they reject it all, because these people are poor, and instead of learning more than they could ever learn anywhere else, they close themselves off in their extremities of ignorance and hatred, and while the community does the thousands and hundreds of thousands of creative, loving things it does every day, they blather on idiotically about panhandlers and the drug situation, as if anything but the value of the useless property and the appearance of order on their trashy, insulting trinket ghetto Water Street, which is an eye-sore and a breeding ground for fascism and should be turned into a residential district for the people who already live there, the people in the hotels in particular, since that, at least, would be useful, were irrelevant.

Dan Feeney

Submissions for an upcoming Anti-Gastown Tourism web-site can be left at the front desk of the Carnegie Centre for Dan Feeney. This site will be indexed for all Vancouver and Gastown Tourism keywords in the major search engines.