

FREE - donations accepted.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

September 15, 1998

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



GREETINGS FELLOW READERS. I AM FEELING A LOT BETTER NOW. MY DR.

SAY'S I CAN CONTINUE MY REGULAR ROUTINE (DRINKING , CHASING WOMEN,)

I MUST ADMIT I WAS SCARED FOR I WHILE. IWAS TOLD I NEARLY DIED.

THERE IS A STORE AT 394 POWELL ST. NEXT TO THE NEW WORLD HOTEL THAT SELLS MANY HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AT A VERY LOW PRICES.

UNITED WE CAN IS WAITING FOR THE NEW RECYCLING PRICE GUIDELINES. I WILL BE WORKING ON THIS MYSELF. IN CASE YOU ARE NOT AWARE, BEVERAGE CONTAINERS WILL BE RECYCLABLE AS OF OCT.1/98.

WATCH IN THIS RAG FOR THE AMAZING ADVENTURES OF MAT BASTARDSON.

TAKE CARE. CARL MACDONALD.



Vancouver Urban Core Community Workers Association

Invites you to a workshop on
the future of Downtown Eastside

THEME Our Changing Community —

What could Downtown Eastside be like in five years

Hear about:

- The key driving forces for change in the next 5 years - street scene, housing plan, city development and community actions
- Implications of gentrification.

Discuss and plan "Next Steps - what can we do?"

- What are organizations seeing for the future;
- What would be a 'preferred' scenario;
- How can we work together to achieve that.

REGISTER. Call Connie 682-2344, local 2135

Fax: 631-5559

email: stsang@stpaulshosp.bc.ca

Friday, October 2, 1998

9:30 am to 3:30 pm

320 East Hastings

First United Church

lunch provided

no charge



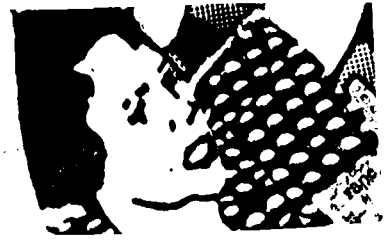
The Feminization of the Working Class

Before the Second World War, the industrial working class was blue collar and male for the most part. Today a majority of the working class is white collar and female. Think of the sales workers, office workers, restaurant workers, hotel workers, cleaning workers, garment workers, daycare workers, community workers - and teachers and nurses who bestride that working/middle line. (Relations of Ruing - Class and Gender in Postindustrial Societies, by Wallace Clement and John Myles, p.36)

In 1950, women's share of the entire labour force was 21 percent. In 1986 it had increased to 44 percent (Clement, p.181). Most part-time workers are women. Female-led and dual income households are more common than those with a sole male breadwinner. Over 66 percent of women with employed husbands and children under sixteen work for pay. (Clement, p.181) They work at paid jobs, as well as working at home, to make ends meet. Even children are working so some families won't go under.

"The feminization of the working class changes the capital-labour relation since the conditions under which women supply their labour differ radically from that of men." (Clement, p.86) Major issues for women include equal job opportunities, pay equity, day care, safe workplaces, flexible hours, maternity leave, and benefits for part-time work equal to benefits for full-time work.

Women's perspective on class relations includes



both relations of production and reproduction. The paid job and the home are both workplaces for women. (Recast Dreams - Class and Gender Consciousness in Steeltown, edited by David Livingstone and J.M.Mangan, p.10)

It is absolutely essential that the family and the labour market adapt to the reality of women in the workplace. Before equality can be achieved in the paid labour force, much more attention to equality in the home will be required. (Clement, p.210) As the unpaid that women do in the home is worth billions of dollars to the economy, wages for housework would be one way to recognize this contribution and to strengthen the family.

Trade unions have been progressive on women's issues in Quebec, but in the rest of Canada and in the United States some unions are on a collision course with a backlash by men against the demands of women for equality in the labour market. (Clement, p.252) Wallace Clement warns that any union or Labour party that fails to take up these issues of concern to women is doomed to extinction. (Clement, p.37) The Canadian Auto Workers (CAW) is a good example of a union that reaches out to a larger community. The CAW answered a call for help by two young women at a MacDonal'd's restaurant in Squamish; that place now has a trade union.

The backlash by men has been activated by fear as their employment prospects have worsened considerably in the global economy. Often male identity is tied to that of breadwinner, and unemployment can be a shattering experience. Excluding women through sexism and racism will not solve men's unemployment problems, however. Someday, men and women together will

have to face the nightmare effects of the global economy on ordinary families. Someday we're going to have to face the enormous contradictions in our society - that poverty for many is the direct result of obscene wealth for a few, for example. The class struggle, the gender struggle and the racial struggle are fundamentally about exploitation and resistance to it.

Millions of people are fighting the 'Scrooge-

had-it-right' global economy all over the world. As the Declaration From The Southern Women's Organizations, Women Linking For Change Conference, Thailand, 1994, stated: "Though the challenges are great and the situation is complex, we have hope that we can change conditions and build a better tomorrow."

By SANDY CAMERON



Reading Room News

Greetings! The Reading Room has obtained some interesting new books that you may want to know about:

Nisga'a Final Agreement and Appendix

- We have a reference copy of this behind the Circulation Desk (ID required) and a couple of circulating copies.

Information about the Nisga'a Final Agreement

- We have put together two folders of brochures about the agreement (one reference and one to take out).

BC Benefits Appeal System Training Manual and Self-Directed Study Guide

- We keep these items (they are together in one binder) behind the Circulation Desk (ID required).

After looking at the above titles you may want to browse through our new expanded collection of Sci Fi novels. Happy reading!!

Andrew Martin, Librarian
Carnegie Reading Room

Humility

Therefore, our first practical step towards humility must consist of recognizing our deficiencies. No defect can be corrected unless we clearly see what it is. But we shall have to do more than see.

Acceptance

And acceptance is the answer to all my problems today. When I am disturbed, it is because I find some person, place, thing or situation - some fact of my life - unacceptable to me and I can find no serenity until I accept that person, place, thing or situation as being exactly the way it is supposed to be at this moment. Nothing, absolutely nothing happens in God's world by mistake. Until I can accept my dependence, I cannot begin to be free; unless I accept life completely on life's terms, I cannot be happy. I need to concentrate not so much on what needs to be changed in the world as on what needs to be changed in me.

RICE WINE

I'm all for the silent killer to have it removed from the market. So many of my dearest and precious friends met death because of rice wine. I drink it too and I hate it!!! but I'm an alcoholic and "rice is cheap.

Anonymous

A few letters arrived from family members who lost a loved one due to the use of Rice Wine...

I am writing this letter to express concern over the sale of large quantities of rice wine on the East side of Vancouver.

My brother, an alcoholic, was found dead in his apartment in March of this year (1998). When we went to collect his belongings from his residence, we found several empty bottles of this beverage strewn around the couch that he had died on. In addition, there was a bag with three unopened bottles lying on the floor. The bucket containing vomit by his bed strongly suggested that he had died violently.

This is not an isolated case. Empty bottles of cooking wine are frequently found under park benches, and in other localities frequented by Vancouver East-side residents. It seems to me that the shop owners in this area are fully aware of the consequences for the men and women that they are selling this wine to.

My brother was depressed (his wife had died in hospital two weeks prior to his death). He leaves

behind four young sons and two grandchildren. He was forty-seven years old. His death was tragic, and I feel it could have been prevented.

Sadly, it is too late to save my brother's life, but Tom could have been anyone's brother. I believe that selling this wine to alcoholics is despicable, and is analogous to selling heroin or cocaine to drug addicts. I urge the public to express concern to the Vancouver City Police regarding this matter. Merchants that sell it should be prosecuted to the same extent as drug dealers.

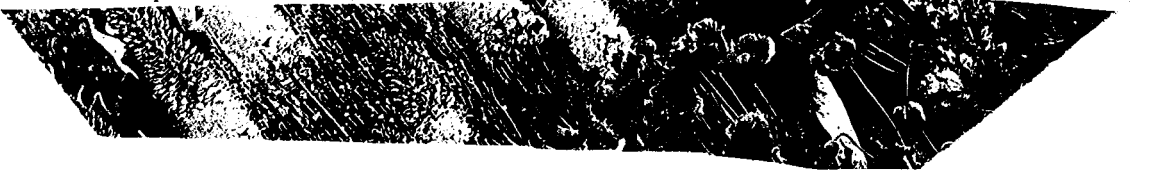
Ruth MacGregor

To Ruth

Our prayers go to you and your family. At this time our community is working towards a solution to this issue about Rice Wine, a product that is poisoning our people. To date the number of deaths due to Rice Wine is higher than that of drug O/D'S in our neighbourhood.

Rice Wine is sold at many corner stores - those people who are selling this product are making a profit off people looking for an escape. At this time Rice Wine is the cheapest and strongest kind of alcohol for users in this neighbourhood.

I can let you know that we in this community have gotten people like yourself to let us know about your loss; also that there is a petition going around for people to sign. Our hope is to get every member in this community to sign including




Ambulance, Police, & hospital personnel.

While not everyone will sign this petition, the point is that we have people in our community who do care. There is help for our people who use this product...it is a matter of getting that help on our side.

Hi Margaret

You're about the dear best friend that I have ever had. First about me: I've drank a lot of that stuff and it nearly killed me a couple of times but I didn't quit until it was nearly too late. I'd buy it by the case; nobody would say anything to me about quitting. I mean it was nearly too late. You see I got so sick I couldn't eat, I just kept vomitting like my stomach was going to pop out. I couldn't even walk ten feet to the bathroom, someone had to hold me and walk me anywhere I wanted to go.

To let you know how the rice wine really got me is when I lost my two friends. They drank a lot of rice wine with me. I seen them so sick that they were scared to stay alone by themself so we would get together and try and get some kind of drink... anything to calm our nerves. I know it's too late for them but for me I don't think I'll ever drink it again. Thank the Lord he got to me in time. I forgot to tell you - the rice wine nearly blinded me. It got so bad that I could hardly see the T.V. I had to



get about 2 or 3 feet away before I could see it. My eyes would get so watery that I would have to get ice or hot water and keep wiping and washing them as they would get so red and sore. My skin would get so itchy I'd scratch so hard my body was scarred from scratching.

That stuff isn't funny at all. I know, I've been there. There are other people I know that died

from Rice Wine; we drank all together from time to time. I'm sure glad to get away from the stuff. I know one thing that I'm not going to die from rice wine. I bought myself a typewriter and I'm teaching myself how to type. Next I'm going to get myself a computer. If possible let me know what you are going to do with this letter if you can.

Sincerely yours,

Fred

PS: There are so many things to do in this Life. Why waste it? Do something constructive with it. It might help another person and if so then time is not wasted.



Chinese Cultural Centre

Dear Ms. Prevost:

Alcoholism is a serious health problem and we all agree that it should have the attention of all communities, especially in our neighborhood.

However, I totally disagree with your attitude that the Chinese Rice Wine is the poison killing "Our People" and that the government should stop the sale of only such a product. If your argument is correct then you must try to stop the sale of Lysol, after-shave and skin braces, rubbing alcohol, vanilla extract, mouth wash preparations and all other products which contain alcohol.

Furthermore you must ask the Government to prohibit the sale of all alcoholic beverages and spirits inside the Liquor Stores, restaurants, bars and all beer parlors in Vancouver, Canada

Chinese cooking wines are used in cooking, preparation of BBQ products, manufacturing of sausages, preserved food products - NOT FOR DRINKING. If a person does not follow proper

uses recommended by the manufacturer then the product could become hazardous to the user.

We are all actively working to better our communities and it's our responsibility to educate people about the harm of such a misuse of a product which contains such a high level of alcohol, salts and other ingredients for the sole purpose of cooking and bringing out the nice flavour in the food.

We must deal with the roots of ALCOHOLISM and not to stop the sale of any alcoholic preparation on market. The public has the right to choose the rice wine for the purpose of cooking. To prevent the abuse of alcohol and any toxins we must educate the people about the harmful effects of such products and in this case about Rice Wine. I would like to recommend the following:

- 1) The City should revoke the business licenses for the stores that sell the Rice Wines to intoxicated individuals who might not understand the proper use of the product, and for the purpose of resale and trafficking
- 2) The products must be kept under lock and key. They cannot be openly displayed inside the stores. The buyer must provide proper identification and sign in a registry, which has to be reviewed and monitored by a license inspector. The inspector will inspect the premises and irregularities would be recorded
- 3) The staff being assigned to look after the sale of rice wine in the store should have an alcohol serving license similar to the waiters who work in the bars and dining lounges. The staff can lose his license and face penalties if he is selling the product indiscriminately and without due

diligence to stop the product falling into the hands of an intoxicated person.

- 4) The importers, distributors and retailers must submit the invoices and inventory records to the Government inspector for inventory control and the numbers will be subjected to scrutiny.
- 5) No 24-hour stores would be allowed to sell the product.
- 6) More detox centres should be built inside the province.
- 7) Detox centres as well as the beer parlors should not be concentrated in our neighborhood, preventing the stubborn alcoholics from entering into the skid-row area which has the highest level of crime and drugs.
- 8) Public education and awareness must be stepped up.

This list can go on but I like to emphasize that we should not be just targeting on Rice Wine alone for what alcohol has brought upon this community.

Yours truly,

Derick Y H Cheng, Chairman
Chinese Cultural Centre of Vancouver



First United Church

Dear Margaret,

We know each other. I conducted a memorial service for your Uncle Jimmie not so long ago. It was well attended and I think, a holy time. His Spirit was so much in evidence and so greatly respected by everyone there that even had I not known him personally I would have had no question in my mind that he was an elder in this community.

Your Uncle is one of the dozens of persons for whom we hold memorial services during the course of a year because of addictions to various

substances - prescription drugs, street drugs, alcohol. In his case it was salty rice wine that made him an old man before his time, eventually killing him. Our experience is that many of the deaths in this community are associated with salty rice wine. We see it being sold openly to folk who find it affordable and it is seldom denied them.

I stand firmly behind you in your efforts to have cooking wines become controlled substances. I know that controlling the sale of salty rice wine will help save some lives. People have nattered about it for years, and its control would be much less costly than the cost of services necessitated because it is too readily available.

Addiction to rice wine is not a cultural issue. You only have to spend a few minutes on our streets to verify that fact. It is, however, a societal issue! Insufficient affordable housing, non-existent detox and treatment centres, inappropriate efforts to create employment for persons whose dignity is attacked because there is nothing productive in society's eyes available for

- Fountain and Wa
- Books and Video

Akira Kurosawa, Chretien etc.

An inane article in the Province proclaimed the great Japanese film director Kurosawa (who died recently, and after whom my son is named) made movies about men facing moral or ethical dilemmas. This is exactly what Kurosawa did not make films about. We do not face moral and ethical dilemmas, rather, what we do is a moral and ethical dilemma. Actions have an existence beyond systems of morality and ethics, and dilemmas arise in the attempt to place one's actions within systems that are political, disguised as morality and ethics. Power rests in the ability to judge, not in the particulars of any moral or ethical polish on the basic class structure. Business, political, and professional leaders speak about "making the right choice" or "doing the

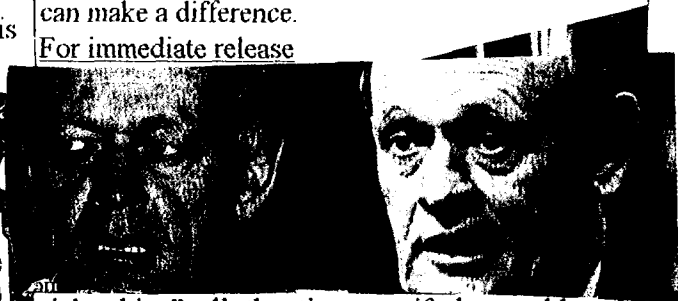
them to do, are the real cause of addiction to drugs including alcohol. Any programme or effort to bring about a change in the lives of persons must be based in recognizing the dignity of the individual. That means the programme planners, the service providers, and the society in which we have found ourselves must work using the principle of respect as a starting point.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Ruth Wright
Executive Director

[*Note: To date we have over 300 signatures on petitions...if you would like to sign the Rice wine petition, drop in the safety office @ 12 east Hastings - or see Margaret and if you need a petition faxed to you page Margaret @ 293-5981.

Thanks to all who are behind this cause: Everyone can make a difference.

For immediate release



right thing" all the time, as if the world and whatever situations obtain there can be "answered" with a moral or ethical "choice." This is pure arrogance, generated by the unchecked power of the corporate, criminal class. What obtains is conjectural - the sources, the bits of information are transient, unreliable, subject to change, always expanding and always shifting. Kurosawa never trusted "the world" or any individual's idea of it. In fact, he felt the opposite - as in the acclaimed film *Rashomon*, were there are as many versions of what obtains as there are people. The province writer seems to agree with all those present TV commercials glorifying men in business suits who talk about "making your

money work," that is, investing, not working, commercials that attempt to give overpaid, destructive, arrogant members of the useless class the morally and ethically pure aura of "work", while dissing, trivializing, attempting to reduce to the lowest common denominator the image of the productive working class (the factory worker as a failed businessman). "The world" of what is their absolute truth, all else is optional, personal, an opinion, powerless, insignificant, aesthetic. That a director as clear as Kurosawa about his ideas regarding so-called morality and ethics can be cheapened and lied about by such idiots as this Province writer isn't really surprising, considering how the major newspapers lie, trivialize and think arrogantly that they have the truth about everything, when in fact they are merely towing their business bosses' lines, when, in fact, newspapers are the most extreme and destructive example of distortion, of moralizing and judging, of "contextualizing" (suffocating actions under a plastic sheet of conscious or unconscious "analysis") what happens. This mentality pervading all media allows anti-democratic and traitorous people such as Jean Chretien to trample on everyone's freedom in the interest of that

Ever since corporate elites understood the real threat to their system manifested by the social, political and ecological movements of the 1960s and early 1970s, there has been a powerful move to discredit all political life. The corporately-dominated media has played its part in three ways: by seeing its goal as the unveiling of the flaws of every political leader, generating cynicism about the moral health of those who sought change; by misrepresenting the Sixties as little more than a youthful fling of exuberant self-indulgence, fostering a misremembering about what had actually been accomplished when people acted together politically; and by eliminating serious public discussion and replacing it with sound-byte news, "analysis" programs like Crossfire that substitute the one-sentence put-down for deep thought, and with television programming dominated by sex-oriented talk shows and scandal-driven "news magazine" shows.

Rabbi Michael Lerner

Choir Singing for everyone!

Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Carnegie theatre
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!!!

primary, corporate world, the "real world," the business goons will say, as during the APEC summit, to protect even the "image" of dictator cronies like Suharto or any of the other anti-democratic leaders with which this world is presently saddled. "Trade," that is, economic opportunities for the already rich useless class, comes before anything else, especially human rights (almost exclusively human rights), and that notoriously racist anti-civilian, anti-native institution the RCMP, will, it appears, perform any illegal, anti-human act to support such hateful men and their even more hateful business bosses. More than a shame, it is, simply, criminal, and Chretien should be booted out of office like the fool and the traitor he is.

Dan Feeney

Carnegie Community Association Committee Meeting Schedule

(in association office unless otherwise noted)
Education - Tues., Sept. 8, 4 p.m. Chair: Luke
Community Relations - Thurs., Sept. 24, 4 p.m.
Chair: Margaret
Program - Tues., Sept. 29, 4 p.m. Chair: Muggs
Finance - Wed., Sept. 30, 4 p.m. Chair: Jeff
Library - Sept. TBA
Publication - TBA
Oppenheimer Park - Tues., Sept 22, 4 p.m.
Seniors Support Group - Thurs., Sept. 17, 2
p.m. (theatre) Chair: Mike
Volunteer - Sept. 15, 2 p.m. (3rd floor gallery)
Chair: Peter

[*The following was spoken at the peoples' festival in victoria, b.c.]

take back space

I was talking last week with libby davies, member of parliament for the downtown eastside of vancouver, and libby told of a star trek episode she'd seen a futuristic situation in san francisco - an enormous wall had been constructed dividing poor people from everyone else.. and outside this wall in super consumerist upscale society there was almost no awareness of who was struggling to survive on the other side of the wall nor how wretched their living conditions were and libby said "that's not our future it's happening right now"

north america's anti-panhandling bylaws and other prohibitions against the presence of certain people in what was formerly public space is a central objective in the global and local war against the poor

to put this situation in perspective I'd like to quote from an excellent book "geographies of exclusion" by david sibley; he says

"power is expressed in the monopolization of space and the relegation of weaker groups in society to less desirable environments.. the boundaries between the consuming and nonconsuming public are strengthening with nonconsumption being construed as a form of deviance

at the same time as spaces of consumption eliminate public spaces in city centres, processes of control are manifested in the exclusion of those who are judged to be deviant imperfect or marginal - who is felt to belong and not belong contributes in an important way to the shaping of social space

it is often the case that this hostility to others is articulated as a concern about property values the urge to make separations between clean and dirty ordered and disordered us and them that is to expel the abject is encouraged in western cultures creating anxieties

because such separations can never finally be achieved this anxiety is reinforced by the culture of consumption in western societies

the success of capitalism depends on it

and a necessary feature of the geographies of exclusion the literal mappings of power relations and rejection is the collapse of categories like public and private and to be diseased or disabled is a mark of imperfection the fear of infection leads to erection of the barricades to resist the spread of diseased polluted others there is a history of imaginary geographies which cast minorities .. imperfect people .. and a list of others who are seen to pose a threat to the dominant group in society as polluting bodies or folk devils who are then located elsewhere this elsewhere might be nowhere

as when genocide or moral transformation of a minority like prostitutes are advocated the imagery of defilement which locates people on the margins or in residual spaces is now more likely to be applied to the mentally disabled the homeless prostitutes and some racialized minorities"

the downtown eastside of vancouver, where I live, is by any statistical measurement of poverty and disease a third world area

besieged by upscale developmental greed of truly genocidal proportions the highest rates and numbers of hiv/aids..suicide.. hepatitis c..syphilis and tuberculosis in the western world and close to the lowest life expectancy

and the single question I am asked more than any other by media and concerned citizens is "where will they go?"

where will the people go when they are driven from this area by gentrification/displacement?

referring to sibley, I must conclude that the municipal provincial and federal governments must have some imaginary geography in mind because there is nowhere for the people to go and in the downtown eastside the public space that has been available for drug addicts, mentally disabled, homeless, prostitutes is being seized from them

WISH YOU WERE HERE...

shutters and grates cover doorways and stairwells where human beings who have nowhere else to go at least could stand for awhile awnings are removed from buildings so that cold rain pours down on very ill people large private security forces in gastown and chinatown business districts enforce to the limits of their capability anti-panhandling bylaws and harass poor and vulnerable people out of their areas..away from tourists and businesses

there is serious talk of establishing what is being called the carroll street corridor - a kind of demilitarized zone between gastown and chinatown so that tourists do not have to walk through the defiled downtown eastside

and in the midst of the downtown eastside the police have established a red zone for prisoners released from jail, meaning you could be arrested simply for being found on a certain block and vancouver city council has recently invested time and money in an attempt to circumvent the charter of rights and freedoms naming the downtown eastside specifically as the target of this action to loosen even more the search and seizure regulations

there are no-go zones in new westminster several block areas where you can be charged if you are deemed an undesirable just for being there and that is basically in response to drug addicts driven from the downtown eastside to new west by police

but there is resistance. I know there is here in victoria and in vancouver not long ago activists protesting the anti-panhandling bylaw invaded city hall and occupied city council chambers

the sophistication of the system we are opposing is such that the presence of panhandlers in business areas of vancouver has been greatly reduced without the police having to charge a single person yet thus the system is able to avoid a public legal challenge and public space continues to be seized

to put this in a theological perspective I'll briefly quote from a book entitled "money and power" written by jacques ellul, who fought in the resistance in france during the second world war and engaged in many social justice struggles throughout the remainder of his life. ellul says

"ultimately the rich seek to kill the poor this happens because the rich are exasperated by constantly being called into question by god through the poor - and this is the real reason for the amazing problem that in all societies the rich have detested the poor and why when precisely the rich are the powerful the superior the strong do they set themselves against the poor? we can find of course all the psychological and sociological reasons we could want but none of these reasons is definitive none really explains but they all relate to the fact that the poor are a temporal reflection of god"

to resist today is to take back space but when we are few in numbers and have no money or political power, what do we do?

the question I finally asked myself is not which cause, which new assault on the poor should I take on? anti-panhandling bylaws? the health care system? housing? the legal system? racism? unemployment? the theft of children from poor women? welfare? but who are the defiled? the ones who don't belong? the human beings who are relentlessly dehumanized? those who are victimized by this social cleansing?

in the downtown eastside as well as throughout the province of british columbia it is the drug addicts who are homeless, diseased who are excluded, marginalized, pushed out, vilified abandoned and destroyed and it is the impoverished drug addict on whom the entire system bears down every institution of law education business health and religion

the degraded situation and circumstances of drug addicts is one issue that affects or will affect everyone in b.c. and is the only opening, the only breach in the system I have yet seen

during my activism in the downtown eastside the horrendous condition of drug addicts has forced government, the system, to yield resources it never would have otherwise

I believe that in the downtown eastside to defend the entire community of poor people the best way to do it is to defend and stand with and for those who are most defiled and excluded the drug addicts

a year ago several downtown eastside activists involved with the drug situation held a protest

we blocked the corner of main and hastings
and distributed a pamphlet describing the horrendous
situation of overdose deaths and disease
we planted 1200 crosses in oppenheimer park
to commemorate the number of people
who have died as a result of drug overdoses
in the past 4 years

and then

as a member of the vancouver/richmond health board
representing the downtown eastside
I introduced a motion which passed declaring the
hiv/aids infection rate among injection drug users
vancouver's first public health emergency

these events brought international media attention
to the predicament in the downtown eastside
and since drug addiction and its consequences affects
all areas of our live including massive health care costs



the media has the story from one perspective or another
ever since, in such a widespread and ongoing manner,
that libby davies said she has never
in all her years of activism seen anything like it

at approximately the same time as these events
ann livingston and myself held meetings with drug
addicts in the downtown eastside
hundreds of addicts and listened to them say over and
over that what they most needed was a place to go
a place, some space to be safe and rest and have the use
of a telephone and a shower and a restroom
common amenities denied them
for even the community centre in the area is off limits

from these meetings a campaign developed
for a 24-hour resource centre for drug users
and that coincided with the federal government
the liberals coming forth with a million dollars to deal
with the public health emergency
and it has been decided that the federal government will

initially fund this resource centre for addicts
a commitment which would have seemed
impossible unthinkable and absurd a year ago

there is currently a battle over where this facility will be
and there are those insisting it be located anywhere
elsewhere nowhere but it will be in the downtown
eastside; and it is space taken back
because if anything can be said to be
an anti-gentrification project, it is this one

and the health board in cooperation (of all things)
with other ministries and bc housing
put together money not marked for any other housing
venture and purchased 2 hotels in the dark heart of the
emergency - the block where the red zone is located
the block most people in business wish was gentrified
and the addicts expelled as soon as possible

and these 2 hotels will house mentally disabled drug
addicts, many of whom are infected with hiv/aids
this initiative is an important signal that a commitment
has been made to house "undesirables"
in the downtown eastside

and most dramatically of any project so far
is a drug users' organization
also funded by the vancouver/richmond health board
it is called vandu -vancouver area network of drug users

sibley says in his book
"there is always the hope that through political action
the humanity of the rejected will be recognized
and the images of defilement discarded"

and that is what vandu
has most powerfully begun to accomplish -
the de-marginalization of those most marginalized
the most powerless and voiceless are finding their
voices and speaking forth at meetings and conferences

and on committees where they had never been seen or heard before

it occurs to me regarding activism in the downtown eastside that out of all advocacy efforts and all the meetings and demonstrations around housing, while important as acts of resistance, they have not yielded one square inch of space taken back but the drug emergency has been truly hopeful

a petition campaign was begun by vandu members for safe injection rooms in the downtown eastside more space for the lowest the least and the last and because of the horrendous number of overdose deaths, this has become a possibility the 24-hour resource centre committee unanimously supported this petition and safe injection sites and this committee includes a gastown business leader and an inspector of the vancouver police department and the chief medical officer of bc. john millar, in a report on the public health emergency, urges the government to yield resources with housing mentioned prominently to help save lives of drug users

out of this suffering of drug addicts and their families out of this exclusion, out of this genocide, out of the enormous health care costs now and later out of the monstrous market of international drug trade against first nations people out of the wild fire consequences of the prohibition of illicit drugs out of the disease, out of the lives of the most execrated most written-off and hated human beings in our society has come an opening.. a possibility for something new for change for taking back space

and the emergency is not going to go away problems associated with drug use will only increase and worsen if real changes are not made for social activists this is an opportunity that may not ever come again

you can take on the whole system from the side of a drug addict this crisis is in victoria, it is in the comox valley it is on reserves throughout the province it is across the world and so I urge political activists to organize with drug addicts - they are in the biggest mess there is their lives are the biggest messes and the closer you are to them the more of a mess you get into

but this solidarity is the only hope I see for actual concrete change

the downtown eastside is being crushed there are a million battles to fight I have never before realized the width and breadth and power of the system as I have in this advocacy because here is a real threat to the system, trying to save the lives of those others would rather see die



I'll close with another quotation from the best book I know on this whole debacle it's called "the corner" the corner being the drug corner, the drug scene. the authors david simon and edward burn say

"the corner is everywhere and we have swallowed some disastrous pretensions allowing ourselves a naive sincerity that even now assumes the battle can be restricted to heroin and cocaine limited to a self-contained cadre of lawbreakers when all along the conflict was ripe to become a war against the underclass itself we can commit to the people of the corner, to the notion that they are our own, that their future is our future or we can throw the problem back on them empathy demands that we recognize ourselves in their faces, that we acknowledge the addictive impulse is something more than simple lawlessness that we begin to see the corner as the last refuge of the truly disowned and connectedness admits that between their world and ours the distance in human terms at least is never as great as we make it seem"

Bud Osborn

Free sandwiches & coffee every night at the
11:00 pm meeting at the Vancouver
Recovery Club, 261 E. 12th Ave. at Sophia.



First, the notion that "the personal is political" was mis-
used by the Right to legitimate the use of state power to
coerce people into a patriarchal family model.



Carnegie Community Centre

invites you to a

Celebration of Literacy

- WHO:** Readers, writers and musicians from in and around the Carnegie Community Centre. All are welcome to attend and participate.
- WHAT:**
- 1:30pm - 2:30pm Book giveaway at the corner of Hastings and Main
 - 2:30pm - 4:30pm Poetry, stories, songs, open mike. Everyone is welcome
 - 4:30pm - 5:30pm Refreshments
- WHEN:** Friday, September 18th, from 1:30pm till 5:30pm
- WHERE:**
- Hastings and Main - Book giveaway
 - Carnegie Auditorium (1st floor) - Poetry, songs, stories, open mike
 - Carnegie Art Gallery (3rd floor) - Refreshments
- WHY:** September 8th was International Literacy Day. Every year the Vancouver Public Library and the Carnegie Learning Centre like to have some kind of an event at the Carnegie Centre in September to celebrate this special day.
- CONTACTS:**
- Andrew Martin (Vancouver Public Library, Carnegie Reading Room) 665-3015
 - Sarah Evans (Carnegie Learning Centre) 665-3013

Carnegie Writers' Circle

come and see what we're all about!

Everyone is welcome
to sit, listen and read.

When: EVERY Tuesday from 2-4 pm

Where: Carnegie's 3rd floor.

DOWNTOWN STD CLINIC - 219 Main; Monday-Friday, 10a.m. - 6p.m.
EASTSIDE NEEDLE EXCHANGE - 221 Main; 8:30a.m. - 8p.m. every day
YOUTH NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN 3 Routes
ACTIVITIES City - 5:45p.m. - 11:45 p.m.
SOCIETY Overnight - 12:30a.m. - 8:30a.m.
Downtown Eastside - 5:30p.m - 1:30a

1998 DONATIONS
 Kettle - \$18
 Paula R. - \$10
 Wm. B. - \$12
 Joy T. - \$18
 Charley B. - \$15
 Libby D. - \$50
 Sam R. - \$40
 Rick Y. - \$45
 Sharon J. - \$30
 BCCW - \$25
 Ray-Cam - \$10
 Harold D. - \$20
 Sonya S. - \$80
 Nancy H. - \$35
 Jennifer M. - \$15
 Brenda P. \$10
 Wisconsin Historical Society - \$30

Helene S. - \$18
 Jenny K. - \$18
 Tim S. - \$18
 Thomas B. - \$14
 Beth L. - \$18
 Bill G. - \$9
 Rolf A. - \$25
 Bruce J. - \$14
 BCTF - \$12
 Sabitra - \$15
 Susan S. - \$7
 Margaret D. - \$20
 DEYAS - \$50
 PRIDE - \$50
 Pam B. - \$20
 CEEDS - \$50

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:
Sept. 26, 1998

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association
 can help you with:

- * Welfare problems;
- * Landlord disputes;
- * Housing problems;
- * Unsafe living conditions;

**Come to the Dera office at 425 Carrall Street or
 phone us at 682 - 0931**
**DERA has been serving the Downtown Eastside
 for years !!!!!**

WELCOME TO
VANCOUVER

HOME OF THE
STANLEY PARK
PRISON FOR
WHALES

V6A

A CASE FOR THE FREE-RANGE CHICKEN

And Other Consumables

Garry Gust

Science tells us that the sun emits photons that travel to earth on particles electromagnetic energy. The energy is converted to chemical energy in plants through photosynthesis.

"By eating plants or by eating animals which eat plants, man acquires this solar energy, which is then made available to power his brain..." (Kenneth W. Ford: The World Of Elementary Particles)

If life-sustaining energy is transferred to us from the animals we eat, what other chemical properties of the animals do we receive? Can eating a mentally ill creature make us mentally ill?

If a living creature is allowed to exist in a reasonably free-range environment, it's logical to assume that the creature's bodily systems will be fairly healthy.

But if you put the same creature in a small cage and feed it unnaturally fortified foods, you're going to have a very unhappy creature on your hands who's bodily systems of hormones and other chemicals will have been under the worst kind of stresses imaginable.

Now, if we have to eat creatures like chickens, what would you rather eat; a chicken

whose been allowed to roam around a large penned area, or a chicken who has spent all its days in a wire cage not much bigger than its body.

.....

The same goes for plants. In a famous documented experiment, indoor plants were subjected to several types of music.

When, from a nearby speaker, the plants were exposed to a heavy-metal song, they literally cringed and bent away from the sound.

When symphonic music was played, the plants actually leaned towards the speaker.

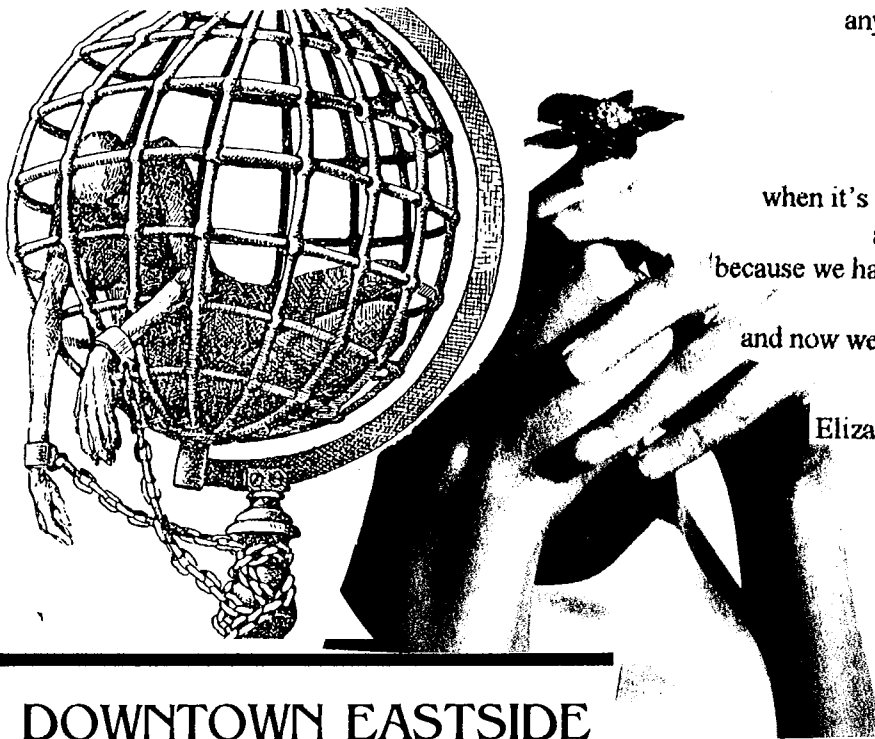
.....

All things vibrate at their respective natural speeds. From blood cells to specific musical notes, the individual vibration rate is distinct and constant.

A blood cell will vibrate at a different rate than a brain cell just as all the notes in the musical scale vibrate at different rates of frequency.

When a specific cell no longer vibrates at its natural rate, it becomes ill and out of harmony with its other family cells like an out of tune string on a guitar or piano.

What this is all getting down to is that we should **demand of our food growers and their corporate middlemen that they produce plants and animals with the healthiest cells possible** so that we will receive the maximum benefit from the gifts of the sun.



anyway you look at it I am yours

I will be yours

we shall rule the world

anyway you look at it

anyway you look at it

when it's all over we shall die violently

and then rule in no time at all

because we have loved each other wickedly

we have remorse

and now we have sworn ourselves to god

because we are his

Elizabeth Thorpe

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

WOMEN

Break the Silence Against Violence!!

Join us in a campaign to fight violence against women in the Downtown Eastside!!

- Workshops, Speak-outs, Events
- A three-day Women's Retreat

Do you want to be involved?
Call 682-3269 Mailbox #8319

The Immigrant Services Society of BC
#501-333 Terminal Avenue
Vancouver BC V6A 2L7 684-2561

New Programs starting soon - Please apply NOW

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| Hospitality Services | Income Assistance for over 9 months | - begins December 7, 1998 |
| Cooking Training | Employment Insurance or E.I. exhausted | - begins December 14, 1998 |
| Painting & Decorating | Income Assistance for over 9 mo. | - begins October 26, 1998 |
| Resident Care Attendant | E.I. or E.I. exhausted | - begins October 12, 1998 |
| Warehouse Training | E.I. or E.I. exhausted | - begins October 26, 1998 |
| Stepping Up program for Immigrant Women | Income Assistance for over 9 months | - begins October 12, 1998 |

The City's Plans for Downtown Eastside etc.

The City of Vancouver sponsored three public meetings on the future of the Downtown Eastside. At the one held at Carnegie there were about 70 people, and discussion seemed to centre on crime and drugs. There were references to housing and the lack of conversion controls or regulations to stop the loss of low-cost units; there were stories about personal experiences with prostitution, kids, and the danger of life on the streets; an outreach idea got translated into "street programming" and it seemed to get pigeon-holed right away as 'top down' rather than 'bottom up.'

Under it all was a current of frustration and fear. Drugs and addiction are being blamed for the pervasive fear that many residents have of going anywhere after dark, of walking to their usual haunts or places, to even being out at any time. It is a situation set to explode and be reacted to with huge increases in police and a kind of martial law. This is what causes much of the fear - most people know that they, too, will be caught in such a program.. that they, too, will be identified as part of the problem. When police start to sweep drug users and street people into detention, there will be little effort to differentiate between someone who is on the street because of drugs and someone who is poor or 'undesirable'. Witness the anti-panhandling bylaw being used as reason to tell residents on the streets in Gastown that they have to get out. The plans to deal with this are in the idea stage, but the person feeling the fear has to deal with being robbed or mugged yesterday or today, and isn't really interested in waiting for improved conditions at some future date. He or she has a point - if they've been robbed or ripped off 2-5 times in a month or two, talk of bettering the lives of addicts over time doesn't help. When newspapers state in large print that there are "7000 drug addicts in the Downtown Eastside" it's only known as bullshit if you live here - to

everyone else, it must be true? Increased harassment of residents by security goons from Gastown is not isolated to "aggressive panhandlers" on Water Street as these idiots are now strolling along Cordova and even beginning to threaten people on Carroll. The motion by Libby Davies, as our Member of Parliament, to introduce heroin trials (junk made available through prescription and under tightly controlled circumstance) flies in the face of a report taken off the Internet by Richard at Carnegie. Canada is a member of the Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs and has signed a paper that commits it to fighting the war on drugs; i.e. to maintaining the illegal status of heroin and cocaine. Locally, the addictive impulse means the need for the drug and the money to buy it. Locally this translates directly into the crime and violence associated with it necessary to get the money and the victimization of residents and the fear of injury and loss and damage to people's lives. Drug users are talking amongst themselves about

12TH ANNUAL

AIDS
WALK '98

SUNDAY SEPT 27TH

what is needed and hoped for, both for those who are former users and those still active in their addictions. It's hard to base any kind of working relationship on trust when you may be the only thing between a down-the-road improvement in conditions (pretty vague) and getting the cash to score right now (reality!?!). I no longer believe that there can be progress without the presence of trust, that this community can iron out its differences while each 'interest group' blames others right next door as the cause for all problems. Drugs and their use is not a fantasy that will disappear when everyone figures out what the 'real problem' is, so the more we each learn about forces at play, about personal or group agendas, and about who is behind some of the strange goings-on, the more will possible directions

become clear. Factors right now include:

- drugs, addiction, supply and demand, international trade and the billions being made (who and where);
- developmental greed, gentrification, classism, the dispersion of low-income residents and war on the poor;
- sex-for-sale, kids on the street, pimps and drug mules and head tax debt, first nations and rice wine;
- politicians and elections and erasure of the DE by attrition, with lip service and crumbs and outright denial

...hope and faith and joy and laughter and bliss...

All comments are welcome!

By PAULR TAYLOR



Facing East

Last year, after noticing a preponderance of photo journalist types lurking around the neighbourhood I began asking some of them what was up.. "When there's no news, I come down here and wait for something. We're looking for images of suffering and human degradation..." etc. etc.

Indeed our neighbourhood is very often host to the camera-wielding, and there are countless series of photos showing us at our worst - jones'd out, sick 'nd hurtin, exposed in bad light on grainy paper against back-drops of broken glass, rig wrappers, urine vapours...

Photographer Christopher Grabowski is inspired to 'turn the tables' on this kind of sensationalistic



During the early years I chose these places through intuition, without knowing exactly why. After visiting Auschwitz for the first time I realized that places of great suffering were also places of great healing. But the healing cannot arise until we bear witness to the suffering.

Bernie Glassman



exploitation and media manipulation. Using first-class, portrait quality, Christopher is assembling an exhibition of photos depicting what other photographers are anxious to avoid.. the true character of residents complete with honour, appeal and dignity. He will also be distributing cameras to people, allowing them to make their own photographic statements about themselves and life in the D.E., for the exhibit.

This is a very exciting project, and we are wishing Christopher the best for his efforts. Anyone willing to participate as a photographer or portrait model (no experience is necessary) is encouraged to contact Shawn Millar in and around Carnegie, or pager #640-0702 (asap). Hey! you're guaranteed a top-notch photo of yourself!



Playgrounds of our Childhood

For me a school yard is full of joy and merriment, rosy expectations, high spirits, a very special exuberance.. yet a place dotted with shadows, unexpected revelations...

Youth may fly like gulls on the playgrounds of my childhood, but how soon life changes. I taught school for many years and sometimes I meet old students.. many of them now fragile spirits, dried out - survivors - yet their very centres crumbled by bad luck, misfortune, rejection.

Which is why today I must marvel at that great host of wild flowers ever springing up, reaching for the sun, flourishing in the bleak and barren soil around them.

Sam Roddan

SPARE CHANGE. IT'S BETTER THAN NO CHANGE AT ALL.



If you want to lend a hand, give directly to those who need it. Contributions to service agencies and charities go to administrative costs and salaries. That money is never seen by hungry people on the street. Instead of food and shelter, we are offered "counselling" and "professional assistance."

We know that most people on the street suffer from malnutrition, and the diseases associated with it. When food banks open once a week, the line-ups go around the block.

All that is left for food from a welfare cheque is less than \$6.00 a day. If you are homeless, it's hard to qualify for even that. Emergency shelters limit your stay to two nights because they are so full.

The City of Vancouver's panhandling by-law infringes on our right to make a living. Those of us who panhandle spend our money just like merchants, developers, politicians and police officers: we feed our kids, or we feed our "addiction" to food, drink, cigarettes, and sometime alcohol or drugs.

So the next time you're asked to spare some change, don't listen to what self-interested shopowners, politicians and social workers tell you, do what feels right for you.

Produced by the *Granville Street Syndicate*
syndicate@walnet.org