

FREE - donations accepted

CARNEGIE



NEWSLETTER

December 1, 1998

401 Main Street. Vancouver V6A 2T7 (604) 665-2289

PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL is a slippery word in our language. It can mean promise of a blissful marriage.. or a developer's dream.

It can mean new hope, a fresh start.. or it can mean an end to cherished plans, family reunion, safe haven for the disabled, the very young, shelter for the aged and infirm, hope for the lost and unloved.

It can mean citizen's nightmare.

Sam Roddan

The real agenda of Money -

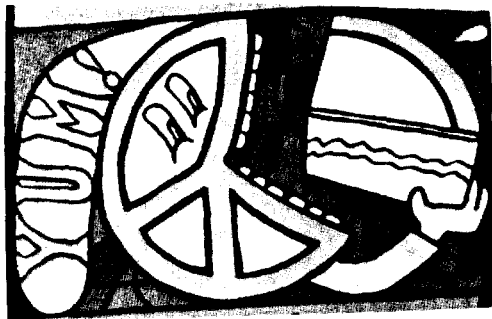
- business cartels and their one-party Council at City Hall,
- the Board of Trade and the coming Convention Centre,
- the Gastown/Chinatown vested interest pincer movement

is to remove all obstacles to their growth and concentration. A major stumbling block is the visibility of poverty - our neighbourhood is an embarrassment. The one idea behind 'reports' on the Downtown Eastside.

... read on →



Here comes the gravy train . . .



It seems like our little neighbourhood is the flavour of the month. Wednesday's big announcement by UBC President Martha Piper sure got a lot of attention. Big, powerful UBC wants to help solve our problems. Mind you, UBC has a hard time solving its own problems, but that's another story. So -- what are they going to do?

Well, guess what folks? UBC has experts for us. More experts to tell us how and what we need to do. I don't know how this neighbourhood has made it through the last century without more experts than there already are down here. According to the *Vancouver Sun*, UBC will set up a community office in the Downtown Eastside to help the residents overcome poverty, violence and a staggering HIV-infection rate among drug users. Golly gee! If we'd only known that those things could be taken care of with yet another community office. Thank heaven all those UBC experts managed to apply their immense knowledge to let us know that's what we need. Just think what incredible insights they'll be able to give us once they have a community office down here. They'll be able to study us, analyze us, investigate us, examine us, label us, classify us, etc., etc. Why, the DE will be a real life laboratory for all those social scientists and experts. But don't fret about it. Guinea pigs usually get fed very well before the researchers are finished with them.

Even better, UBC students will be able to get work placements in the Downtown Eastside. Isn't

that the vision you always had for your community -- as a place for university students to get their career goals fine-tuned. And I always thought that it was people here who wanted jobs. Guess I was wrong.

But seriously folks. Beware of universities bearing gifts. It's been rumoured for some time now that UBC has wanted to be a competitor in the downtown education scene. Simon Fraser U got there first, and now BCIT has a downtown campus. But since the property boom drove downtown land prices skyward, where will UBC be able to find land for a campus?

Well, it just so happens that the Downtown Eastside has the cheapest land in the downtown peninsula. Is it any coincidence that UBC is trying to embrace the Downtown Eastside now? Not likely. Universities have terrible records in their relations with poor communities. Anyone who thinks that UBC will be a benign or even helpful force down here needs to look at the real history of universities and their relations with the neighbourhoods around them.

The University of Toronto and McGill, to name two august Canadian institutions, were both directly responsible for gentrifying the low income communities that surrounded them. Universities always, always look after their own interests first. If that means bulldozing cheap housing, evicting low income tenants or steam-rolling a whole neighbourhood, then it usually gets done. Maybe that's not what UBC has in store for us... but it's difficult to trust any university in this situation, considering what has happened everywhere else. When comfortable, middle class, white people with power and good salaries tell you that they know what your problems are and they are going to fix them, then it's time to be very careful. The first time UBC got involved with this community in a big way was in the early 1950s, when the School of Social Work conducted studies for the

City of Vancouver and CMHC on Strathcona. (In fact, they are the ones who named it Strathcona, after the local elementary school. Prior to that, it had simply been 'the east end'.)

The master plan for urban renewal was called *Rebuilding a Neighbourhood*, and it envisioned the total destruction of the existing houses in Strathcona and their replacement with big highrise apartment towers. The study was used to justify the policies that saw hundreds of houses, rooms, and apartments knocked down. Residents were displaced or relocated to housing projects which

they had no hand in planning or building. **3.** Stamps Place (Raymur) and McLean Park were to be only the beginning. Eventually, the whole neighbourhood was to be filled with places like that. The people who studied the area, who proposed, planned, and designed the urban renewal policies believed they were experts. They believed they knew what the problems in the community were and that they knew how to fix them. They are coming back, and now they want to fix us.

(I hear that gravy-train a-coming, a-coming 'round the bend)....

By E.A. BOYD



Slime Stopping in B.C.

"The federal government feels comfortable stealing money from workers." Richard Brooks is an organizer with the newly formed Union of Marginalized and Unemployed Workers (UMUW). Both UMUW of Victoria and the Marginalized Workers Action League (MWAL) of Vancouver held simultaneous protests on October 30 against the theft of the \$20 billion UI (EI) surplus by the federal Liberal government.

This was the first in a series of protests to be held on the last Friday of every month (except December) outside the downtown UI offices in both cities. They were initiated after hearing that workers in Germany did it on the last Friday for several months, and saw support grow from a handful of people to thousands. UMUW and MWAL hope other groups in Canada will follow suit for national opposition to this attack on the unemployed.

"Right now only 37% of workers qualify for benefits. Ten years ago it was 87%. Many people pay into the fund but will never see any benefit. This misuse of UI funds is happening across



Europe and in North America. It is part of a bigger pattern of gutting social programs and implementing workfare."

The Harris government in Ontario has already introduced legislation to make it illegal for people in workfare programs (where you have to work *X* hours to get a welfare cheque) to form unions, so no one can bargain or take collective action on issues of pay(!) or working conditions.

The next protests will be held at noon on December 18 outside the downtown UI office at 757 W. Hastings Street. For more information, call **MWAL** at **253-1961** or **253-3024**.

By CYNTHIA L'HIRONDELLE

Let me catch my breath
 Let me be at rest
 Let me be in harmony
 Let me be my best

Me catch my breath
 Me be at rest
 Me be in harmony
 Me be my best

Catch my breath
 Be at rest
 Be in harmony
 Be my best

My breath
 At rest
 In harmony
 My best

What is it like?

What is it like
 To swim in deep water?

What is it like
 To walk on the moon?

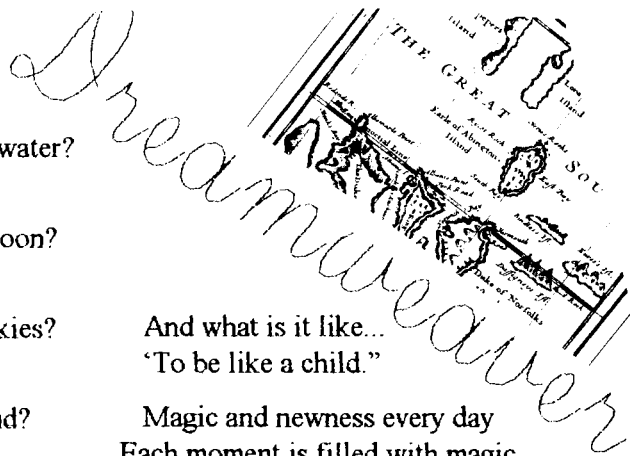
What is it like
 To soar in clear skies?

What is it like
 To float on a cloud?

What is it like
 To fly in deep space?

What is it like
 To see clear to heaven?

Imagine.



And what is it like...
 "To be like a child."

Magic and newness every day
 Each moment is filled with magic
 All cares are thrown to the four winds
 And they go for it all the way.

We should join them, not beat the crap out
 Of them to make them like us.

World AIDS Day

Tuesday, December 1, 1998
 Carnegie Comm. Centre,



Carnegie
 Centre

Afternoon events

- 12:00 LUNCH
 Canadian Liver Foundation, Talk
 "Hepatitis A, B, & C and AIDS"
- 1:00 Wayne Moore, BCPWA, Talk
 "Treatment Issues"
- 2:00 Dr. Edward Thorpe, Talk
 "Nutritional Support for PWA's"
- 3:00 Dr. Howard Koseff, Talk
 "How to Achieve a Healthy Balance"
- 4:00 DINNER
 Thank-you's and Presentations,
 Door Prizes

- 4:30 Dr. Brian Conway, Talk
 "Anti-viral Treatment, Real Life Issues"
- 5:45 Tim Stevenson, MLA, Memorial Address
- 6:00 COLD TRAYS
- 6:30 Vancouver Men's Chorus
- 7:00 Candlelight Vigil and Memorial
 Eva Britt, Native Smudge
 Andrew Johnson, Exec. Dir.
 AIDS Vancouver, Memorial Address
 Father Douglas Fenton, Prayers
 CAKE AND POP
- 8:00 Movie "Philadelphia"

The Residential School (for Ken Duncan Tabata)

I broke the bread in the devil's bed,
In the residential school.

I sipped the wine in the devil's web,
In the residential school.

Now, I just don't want to see anybody.
I don't want to see anybody anymore,
'Cause after the fall, when I came undone,
It was no fun at all.

I danced for the devil. I sang for the devil.
I swung from the hangman's jig.
I felt like a fool. That wasn't cool.
Damn the residential school.

Now, I just don't want to see anybody,
I don't want to see anybody anymore,
'Cause after the fall, when I came undone,
It was no fun at all.

I saw the devil's wife at the chopping block
Preparing her axe for the kill.
She cursed. She hexed. She vowed that day
To let them all eat swill.

Dear Nancy,

I read your letter, "as a reminder to all and sundry" addressed to Paul in the November 1, 1998 *Carnegie Newsletter*. You mentioned that you particularly looked forward to reading my writing and were it not for the *Carnegie Newsletter*, I would not have a voice.

Allow me to enlighten you.

My publication venues are as follows:

The Peak, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC
The Literary Storefront Newsletter, Vancouver, BC
The Alberta Poetry Yearbook, Alberta
Byword, New Delhi, India
The Networker, Vancouver, BC
The Primal Newsletter, Vancouver, BC

Now, I just don't want to see anybody. 5.
I don't want to see anybody anymore,
'Cause after the fall, when I came undone,
It was no fun at all.

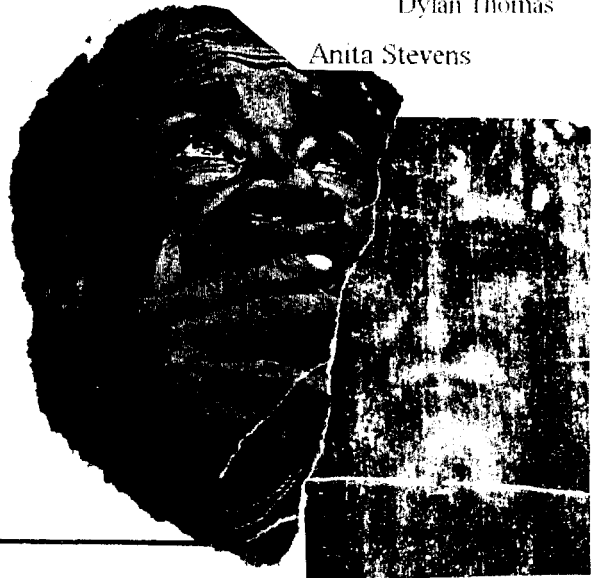
I just want to tell. I have to tell somebody,
What went on in there.

I am nobody's fool. I'm cool.
Damn the residential school.

*"Do not go gentle into the dark night,
Rage against the dying of the light."*

Dylan Thomas

Anita Stevens



The Jewish Western Bulletin, Vancouver, BC
The Phoenix, Vancouver, BC
The Downtown Eastside Poets, Vancouver, BC
Carnegie Newsletter, Vancouver, BC
First United Church Newsletter, Vancouver, BC
The Transitory, Vancouver, BC
The Province, Vancouver, BC
...not to mention correspondence with the *New Yorker* magazine editors in New York.

You also stated that I used to go into the library and raise hell. I no longer go there as hell is there and I left it alone.

Respectfully yours,
Anita Stevens BA (Simon Fraser U.)

SECURITY NOTES

In the past written I have about what I think is the excellent job done by our security staff in the face of all the nonsense that prevails right outside our doors. And, I will say, with virtually no police assistance being made available except in extreme situations (like what goes on out there hour-by-hour isn't extreme). What most people don't realize is that Carnegie Centre also staffs Oppenheimer Park. Steve Johnson is the supervisor of staff in the park and has been a major player in the progression of Oppenheimer for many years. The staff there have also dealt with threats, violent assaults, and unending abuse over the years from some of the people who would make the park a drug dealer's paradise; a place where many drink themselves into oblivion and become involved in senseless acts of violence.. with seemingly no memory or conscience to keep themselves in check. Worst of all, people die there.

On November 10th 1998 one of Oppenheimer's staff - Sapphire Games - attended to an elderly, very intoxicated gentleman who spoke to her, assuring her he was okay and going home. This was 11:30 a.m. At 11:40 a.m. Sapphire checked him. his face was turning blue, he had no pulse - he was not breathing! Jose Rodriguez, another staff member, began to administer CPR. The man vomited. Jose continued with CPR in a desperate attempt to keep this fellow alive. The ambulance arrived and the paramedics worked on him for 40 minutes; when they finally left for St. Paul's the man had a slight pulse. At 1:50 p.m. the hospital informed Jose and Sapphire that he did not make it.

It is not the first time our staff have responded to this kind of emergency and Steve Johnson tells me that Park staff have this sort of thing happen four or five times a year. Even inside the Carnegie

ATT. DAVE DICKSON

This afternoon I counted 25-30 dealers at the bus stop outside Carnegie. Pedestrians could not get past them without being hassled. I was waiting for a woman and her young child and saw people waiting for a bus in fear, a lot of them Asian seniors. This is not right. Where is our protection?

A concerned Carnegie volunteer



itself we have several overdoses a year and we react quickly and efficiently in an effort to keep people from dying.

To Sapphire and Jose: You have done well by the patrons of the park and the citizens of our community and the Carnegie Centre staff are proud of your 'above and beyond the call of duty' efforts.

A final note: until the politicians and 'wigs quit pissing around with their planning and meetings and coalitions and symposiums and actually do something, you, the residents of the Downtown Eastside, can hopefully feel some solace in knowing that the staff at Carnegie Centre and Oppenheimer Park are at least trying to make things a bit better, and certainly safer.

JOHN FERGUSON

LETTERS



YO! Editor-critter

I do write in praise of the November ye fiftoonth issue of the Carnegie Newsletter. Not too shabby at all, at all. One of the better issues, methinks. Mind thee, that's probably just me innate prejudice and bigotry showing through.

I particularly enjoyed the two pieces by Sandy Cameron. A most conscientious woman; her writing is always well-reasoned and researched. Some of us actually appreciate that calibre of scribbling.

"Dogma is bad theory, presented as truth," said PRT. Oh YEAH! Ain't it just so. And the free market globaloney spewed by high priests of the fundamentalist edifice known as Economics is the dogma of our day. Trouble is,, all priesthoods are inherently corrupt, ultimately debilitating, then destructive to the societies they exist to give structure to.

When it comes to the quality of the Newsletter. I'm of the opinion that 'tis just foine, thankya very much. An energy-filled "rag" indeed; a community enhancer/builder filled with a variety of voices.

When I read of folk in the downtown eastside criticizing the newsletter, I just shake my head. Excellence frequently begets jealousy, I fear. When some self-righteously indignant homeowner trashes the Newsletter as "third-grade asswipe" I burst out laughing. Such a response just means that the "rag" is being successful. Puncturing pomposity, smashing the illusions of people who prefer to take their reality in black and white. My, my. How awful. Can't have the rabble traumatizing the middle classes, can we?

Keep on scribbling. You and the crew do one hell of a job. As for the small-minded, insecure

folk who think concepts such as community and the common good are only for the select few.... an old Navy expression comes to mind: "Fuck 'em, Jack. They're gunnysack!"



Dear Sir or Madame:

Re: the article "High Noon in the Downtown Eastside" [**This was submitted months ago but was just found in the box for donations/ballots.*] Bud Osborn talks about the 'mugger' who was himself mugged by the public.

There are lots of old people who are pushed down and viciously mugged by young punks (whichever race it doesn't matter). Most never heal again.

Beating this mugger up was the public's way of getting back at these people, and a symptom of the public's frustration at the growing crime rate. Old people are preyed on - like with home invasions. How upset would you be if your mother was badly beaten? Would you want retribution for the crime? So few are caught.

What I resent most about Osborn's article is how he tries to turn it into a race extermination event. This is so typical of the fraudulent Freudian pseudo intellectual crap that is being used by *agents provocateurs* to incite race hatred in the community. "Don't blame me, blame someone

else." It's the old 'United We Stand, divided you fall' ploy. I can't agree with Mr. Osborn.

If you commit a serious crime, and in particular a cowardly, evil crime like attacking old people, mugging etc., don't expect any mercy when you get caught. and don't hide behind your community and try to incite race hatred to hide your selfish criminal activities or psychopathic behaviour. The public won't fall for that manipulative childish shit any more.

We're fed up with bullshit and irresponsibility and buck-passing while the police seem useless in solving these crimes.



Sandy Cameron:

I write in appreciation of your ongoing contributions to the Carnegie Newsletter. In your two essays in the November 15 issue (Voting and Class War & Pepper Spray) you have excelled yourself, methinks.

BRAVO! shithotte, nattoooshabby, nicelydone, gollygee, flubadap, gorg and Zorch! Otiouse they ain't. And, it do striketh me, neither is thee.

Always a joy (it is, it IS) to encounter clean, spare and incisive prose. With no trace of the prolix syllababbling of the Academy.. Perceptive, dispassionate and screamingly-needed profundity with nary a hint of a smidgen of pothor. (yeah, yeah...i does has this thang about alliteration. just another of me myriad and congenitally Norse defects, beep beep)

Your dedication is indeed appreciated.

rolf sorensen

**WATCH OUT FOR BIG BROTHER'S
CAMERAS MOUNTED ON THE
HYDRO POLES IN THE UNIT AND 100-
BLOCKS OF EAST HASTINGS. THEY
ARE WATCHING YOU.**

PAUL REVERED. footsoldier1@yahoo.com



In The Dumpster

binner@vcn.bc.ca

Greetings fellow binners and binnerettes.

As some of you might know, Mr. McBinner nearly died a while back. A lot of it was brought on by stress and getting attached to the wrong woman and a Voodoo curse. Although it was all true please leave me alone about it, as I am still having problems. These things are very dark and real so don't ever let anyone fuck with you on it.

As for me I must leave for awhile to another community in the interior to regain my sanity and to re-establish my faith in God and Jesus. I pray for all my fellow binners and M*****, who hopes to be the first binnerette on skates. Go Girl!

Trashhopper is gonna check on my mail. Please send positive email only.. to surreylanka@hotmail.com. If you dudes and dudettes want me as your next Mayor, help me get better by getting rid of all the negative shit in the DE.. starting with the dope dealers. Thank you for your support.

May The Bins Be With You. ...and hey! Let's remember that it's almost Christmas out there so let's get along. I'll be back by next issue so behave!

By MR. McBINNER

PS: I have not yet begun to fight!!

Tess
(for Thomas Hardy)

I look to her for gentle love
That flows from the depths of her fiery heart
A beauty that is rare indeed,
That one soul so selflessly can impart.
You are my impetus, my reason for being,
My life, my joy, my eyes for seeing
That beauty, in whatever form
Can resurrect a broken storm -
A phoenix rising in sublimation
To leave her mark on civilization.
Long life. If Solomon had lived to see
The wisdom G_d has given thee.

Anita Stevens

Growing
(for Buddha)

Needing the courage to brave through grave
errors:
to change.
In need of companionship to fill the
intellectual and emotional void:
communication with precision.
Relying on experience to forge ahead,
Rest, not look back in anger,
But forward to the beauty of wisdom.

Anita Stevens

Eric Erickson, R.I.P.

Eric Erickson, a familiar figure around Carnegie Centre and the Strathcona Community Gardens, died at home Nov. 10 after a short illness.

Eric was 68 years old and lived at the Chinese Freemasons Manor on Prior Street, next to his beloved community gardens.

For years he was the Mr. Fixit of Carnegie. If you had a broken TV set or a toaster, he would come to your place and repair it for free. He also spent a lot of time tutoring in the Learning Centre and was a regular contributor to the Carnegie Newsletter. His most recent article was on how to obtain compensation for injuries suffered if you were a victim of crime.

Eric was a founding member of the community gardens and helped set up the composting system. He was a real resource in the gardens because he was so wise in the ways of plants and could communicate with them.

Born in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, Eric worked as a truck driver, real estate salesperson and on a newspaper in his younger days. He was married and had two children, but had been on his own for many years.

Eric was an example of the kind of individual



that makes the Downtown Eastside so unique - whatever his personal problems, he quietly made his contribution to the community, helping others along the way and leaving it a better place than he found it.

He hated pretense of all kinds, so he has asked that there be no memorial service for him. All those who want to show respect to Eric's memory might consider performing some random act of solidarity in the community.

Bob Sarti

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

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

Nancy W. - \$100

Agnes - \$9

Val A. - \$50

Neil N. - \$20

Helene S. - \$18

Jenny K. - \$18

Tim S. - \$18

Thomas B. - \$35

Beth L. - \$18

Bill G. - \$100

Rolf A. - \$25

Bruce J. - \$14

BCTF - \$12

Sabltra - \$15

Susan S. - \$7

Margaret D. - \$20

DEYAS - \$150

PRIDE - \$50

Pam B. - \$20

CEEDS - \$50

City - 5:45 p.m. - 11:45 p.m.

Overnight - 12:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

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

FREE - donations accepted

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

101 Main Street, Vancouver V6A 2T7 (604) 681-3288

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNegie COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

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

**Submission Deadline
for next issue
Thursday, December 10.**

1998 DONATIONS

Paula R. - \$10

Wm. B. - \$32

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

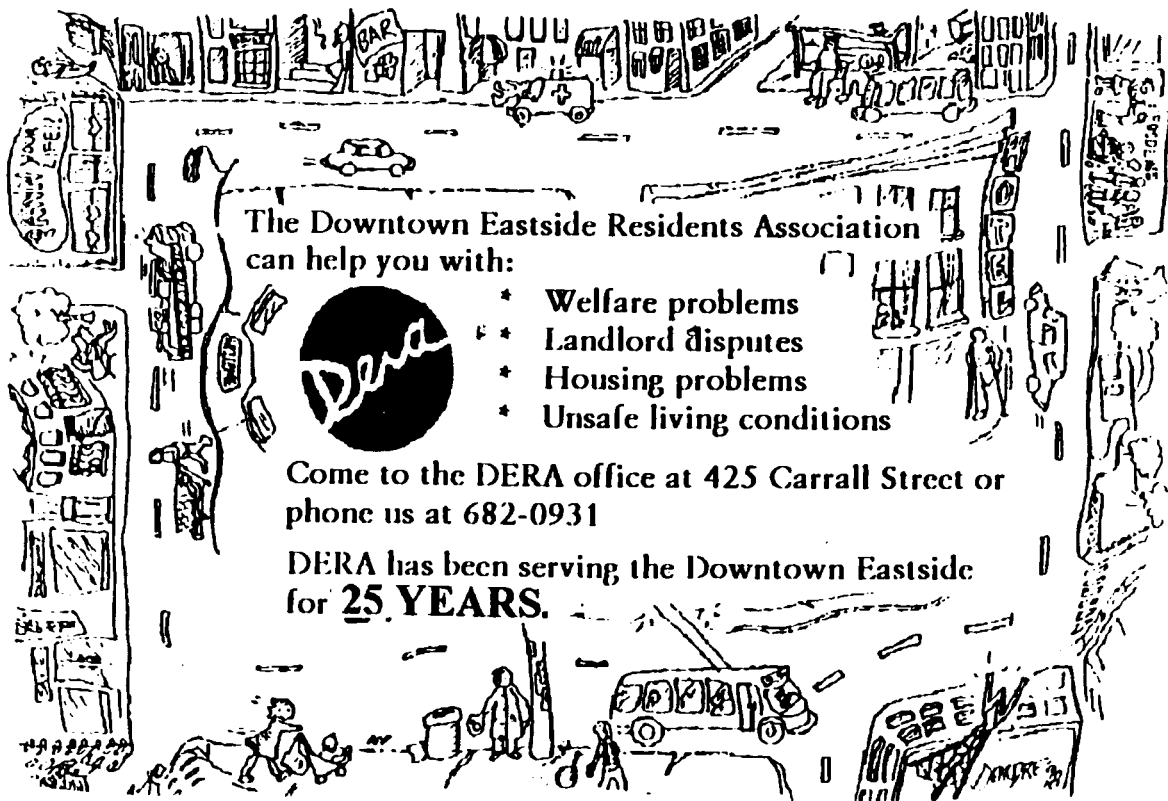
Sonya S. - \$80

Nancy H. - \$35

Jennifer M. - \$15

Brenda P. - \$10

Wisconsin Historical Society - \$30



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 **25 YEARS.**



NEWLETTER OF THE CARNEGIE

COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

Seasons Greetings

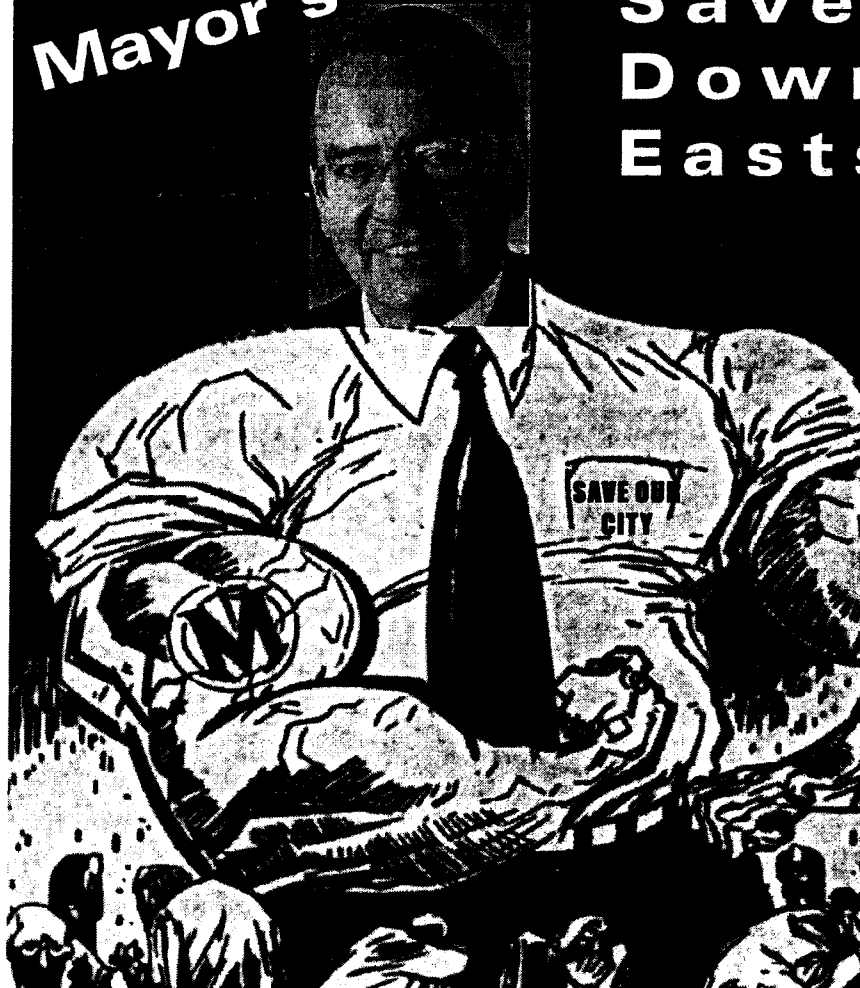
December 1, 1998

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 689-0397 OR DROP BY OUR OFFICE. CARNEGIE 2ND FLOOR

**Will
the
Mayor's**

**Vancouver Coalition for
Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment**

**Save the
Downtown
Eastside ?**



Plus,

**What does the
Federal govern-
ment's National
Crime Prevention
Strategy have to
do with the
Mayor's Plan ?**

**Lost:
One Housing Plan
and
Hotel Conversion &
Demolition Control
By-law.**

**If found please
notify city hall.**

Building Whose Future Together ?

The Downtown Eastside Community Revitalization Program

Q. What is the connection between the Mayor's **Vancouver Coalition for Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment** and the **Downtown Eastside Community Revitalization Program** ?

A. More than you think !

Last October Council's endorsement of the *Downtown Eastside Strategic Action Plan* was delayed by almost a month so that it could coincide with Council's approval of the *Downtown Eastside Community Revitalization Program*.

This five (5) year, \$6.25 million dollar funding proposal to the federal government's National Crime Prevention Centre, written by the City Manager and Constable Gordon Spencer, has the objective "to restore the Downtown Eastside to a viable, safe community."

For many years now CCAP and many other organizations and individuals have been working with City staff on this same objective. The problem, however, is that our "working together" led to a completely different series of reports, which includes the Housing

Plan. However, there is are different plans now. We just didn't know about them.

It is now apparent that any significant decisions and resources related to Downtown Eastside issues are to be coordinated through the Mayor's Coalition and the Revitalization Program.

So much for process. We may never see closure to planning reports such as the Housing Plan, the Victory Square Plan, let alone a

decision on the Hotel Conversion Control By-law.

There's a new player in town !

But what about the Housing Plan and the Hotel Conversion & Demolition By-law ?

Sorry, we have different plans

And it's the Vancouver Coalition for Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment and their Revitalization Plan for the Downtown Eastside. However, one thing is consistent. Major decisions and prompt action continue to come out of the City Manager's Office. Not other city departments, who involve themselves with us in consultation and process.

What is the National Strategy for Community Safety and Crime Prevention ?

This is a federal crime prevention strategy coming out of the Department of Justice and the Solicitor General of Canada.

The first phase of the strategy started in 1994 a Council of experts, who developed a plan to deal with the underlying causes of crime.

The second phase started early this summer and included a **\$32 million dollar** funding program administered through the newly created **National Crime Prevention Centre**.

Under the *Safer Communities Initiative*, three funding streams have been developed:

- 1) THE COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION PROGRAM (\$17 million)
- 2) The Crime Prevention Investment Fund (\$7.5 million)
- 3) The Crime Prevention Partnership Program (\$2.3 million)

The Mayor's *Vancouver Coalition for Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment* is applying for \$6.25 million over 5 years under the Crime Prevention Investment Fund. Their funding proposal is called **Building a Future Together: The Downtown Eastside Community Revitalization Program**.

Much of the \$6.25 million to be spent in the first year will be for professional consultants. Yes, consultants, who will show us how to "revitalize" the neighbourhood.

What is the Mayor's Vancouver Coalition for Crime Prevention and Drug Treatment ?

Established in October, 1997, the twenty (20) or so original members included Mayor Philip Owen, Chief Constable Bruce Chambers, the Board of Trade and other high level business and city-wide community organizations. Most of the original members are part of the City's Urban Safety Commission.

So far activities of the coalition have included:

- 1) Crime Prevention Seminar, March 31, 1998, sponsored by the Insurance Bureau of Canada. About 50 small businesses and reps of the business improvement associations attended.
- 2) Two-day international symposium on crime prevention and drug treatment, June 12-13, 1998, Robson Square. \$125 to attend.
- 3) Mayor's Forum "Making Connections," SFU, October 29, 1998.
- 4) Co-sponsor with the City for federal funding under the National Strategy on Community Safety and Crime Prevention. Proposal called "The Downtown Eastside Community Revitalization Program."

If you would like to contact the National Crime Prevention Centre
Toll-free: 1-877-302-6272
e-mail: ncpc@web.net
web site: <http://www.crime-prevention.org>

Fine wine in the Downtown Eastside



Margaret Prevost hosted the first annual wine tasting tour (November 13th) of fine wines sold in a number of specialty stores located here in the Downtown Eastside.

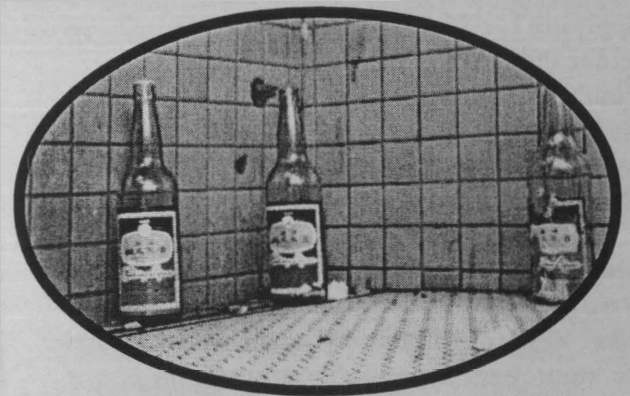
This unique industry enjoys many privileges, including the absence of any cumbersome regulations. Thus, costs are low and consumption keeps growing as more specialty stores open in the Downtown Eastside.

The tour visited three of the seventeen (17) known specialty stores. Of course, no wine tasting would be complete without fine cheeses.

The first annual wine tasting tour was organized because treating this issue seriously has not resulted in politicians or regulators taking any action to alleviate the problem. For over a decade the lethal sale of rice wine in the Downtown Eastside has been an unresolved public policy issue.

Merchants purchase rice wine at \$1.25 per bottle and sell it for anywhere from \$2.00 to \$6.00. These are usually under-the-table transactions - no taxes are paid.

Rice wine causes as much harm as heroin and cocaine. It's responsible, directly and indirectly, for countless deaths and irreparable damage to liver, kidney and throat. The salt content, as much as 2% per bottle, is a main reason why this 38% alcoholic beverage causes so much damage so quickly.



The Media and The Politics of Hate



In September 1995, the *Financial Post Magazine* carried an article on the Downtown Eastside called **“Welfare Wednesday - welcome to Vancouver’s skid road”** Why would this paper bother to run a slanderous article about one of Canada’s poorest neighbourhoods?

This wasn’t the first article the *Financial Post* had published that vilified poor people. In the early 1990’s, Diane Francis wrote a series of misinformed articles on the welfare system and supposed welfare fraud. She came close, in my view, to promoting hatred towards men, women and children on income assistance - a dangerous political strategy, as the people in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia will attest. (1)

In the summer and fall of 1995, *The Province* ran a series of articles that suggested that large numbers of citizens on income assistance were practising fraud. These articles were based on gossip, hearsay and innuendo, and they created such an ugly mood of suspicion and hate in British Columbia that I personally heard a young working man say, after he read a *Province* article on unsubstantiated claims of huge welfare fraud, (2) “These cheaters are useless. The best thing to do is set up a machine gun on Hastings Street and open fire. They’re gonna die anyway, so it might as well be sooner as later.”

You’ll have your own story about poor-bashing in the media. CBC TV came here on cheque-issue day in October and Paul Taylor wrote about that exercise in poornography in the November 1, ‘98 *Carnegie Newsletter*.

When things are going wrong in a country, fearful individuals look for people to blame for the troubles of the time. Poverty is blamed on poor people. Unemployment is blamed on the unemployed, and sometimes on immigrants. Homelessness is blamed on homeless people. This is called scapegoating, and it blames the victim instead of the structures and policies that cause poverty, unemployment and homelessness.

Scapegoating is a system of control by the powerful. It increases fear. It turns person against person. It avoids serious analysis of the problem, and it directs hatred toward powerless minority groups. It is expressed in the media through such things as unsubstantiated claims of welfare fraud, the presentation of unemployed people as lazy, and the depiction of residents of the Downtown Eastside as degenerate and dangerous criminals.

When men of great power deny the humanity of human beings and the history of community, they tend to think that they can destroy both the people and the place without moral qualms. Think of the racism and hatred that has been directed towards aboriginal and third world peoples in the name of empire. Development corporations see the Downtown Eastside as an urban frontier to be conquered and exploited, and to hell with local residents. When the powerful vilify poor people in this and other places, it makes it easier for them to take over. It also makes it easier for governments to eliminate social programs and introduce workfare - a policy that will undermine the wages of working people. This is the politics of hate.

This hatred is a structured part of our society. Because of emphasis on economic competition,

we tend to see people as winners or losers rather than as persons. As those with greater resources generally win, the gap between the rich and poor grows; the winners blame the losers on the grounds of supposed inferiority. The vilification of the poor, then, is used as a defence of the advantages of the rich. (3)

Low income citizens are living proof that our economic system doesn't have a fair distribution of wealth and income, and it is to the advantage of the Canadian Establishment, and its media, to blame the victim rather than admit that the system isn't just. Sure, it creates great wealth, but it

(1) "Welfare system economic suicide" by Diane Francis, *Financial Post*, April 15/91. This was one of many articles denigrating poor people through innuendo and incorrect information.

(2) "Abuse troubling, not welfare" by Kathy Tait, *The Province*, July 31/95. This was one of many articles denigrating poor people through gossip and innuendo. The British Columbia Teachers' Federation (BCTF) has written a learning resource entitled "Poverty - It's local, It's global and It's all connected." One section in the resource unit compares a *Province* article, "Fraud: Untold Millions" to a *Globe&Mail* article, "Cheating less prevalent than gossip has it, students indicate." The purpose of the section is to

creates great poverty at the same time.

It is important for all citizens to speak out when powerful groups or governments promote hatred against powerless minorities, and it is especially important for those who work in the media to demand a high standard of news reporting. This task won't be easy in a media that is corporate-owned and profit-driven. Journalists don't own the media, and when they don't reflect the opinions of their bosses, they tend to be marginalized. (4) The need for an alternative media has never been greater.

By SANDY CAMERON

help students separate hysterical hearsay from responsible research. This resource unit is available from the Lesson-Aid Department of the BCTF.

(3) Thinking Sociologically, by Zygmunt Bauman, p. 129.

(4) Conrad Black controls 58 of the 105 daily newspapers in Canada. Here's what David Radler, right-hand man to lack, says about freedom of the press. "I am ultimately the publisher of all these papers, and if editors disagree with us, they should disagree with us when they're no longer in our employ. The buck stops with the ownership. I am responsible for meeting the payroll; therefore, I will ultimately determine what the papers say and how they're going to be run." - from *Common Cents* by James Winter, pub. by Black Rose Books, 1992, p.70.

WORD JOURNEYS

Strife expressed in harsh vowel sounds
Or a placid mood in dulcet tones
Our loved ones, nouns, like places well known
A building constructed, a paragraph creation,
A sentence we own.

Now remember a time
And imagine a story
"Will you transport me there?"
"Take me with you!"
To an experience shared
With them, him or her.

Ourselves and others described
The adjectives chosen with delicate care
The ones we describe in toto.

Now imagine sounds without a voice
A story without a teller
The void is why we eventually enter
The One and Only

Carnegie Learning Centre.

Frank Molner



Panel Discussion

"Tell us... what moves at the margin. What it is to have no home in this place. To be set adrift from the one you knew. What it is to live at the edge of towns that cannot bear your company."

Toni Morrison

"See me? You see me?"

Mohammed Ali

I don't know how much I'm learning anymore.

Cause I used to think that going up to introduce myself... I mean,

You were BIG on that platform,
It's where I wanted to be, even now.

Cause I used to think that going up to introduce myself... I wait outside the wall of suits, and my eyes don't even reach your armpit unless I'm across the room, and I'm thinking that if I circle seven times and blow my own horn, the glistening skin would tumble down.

And we'd face each other.

You would tell me everything you knew and it would feed the fire in my belly.

Not now.

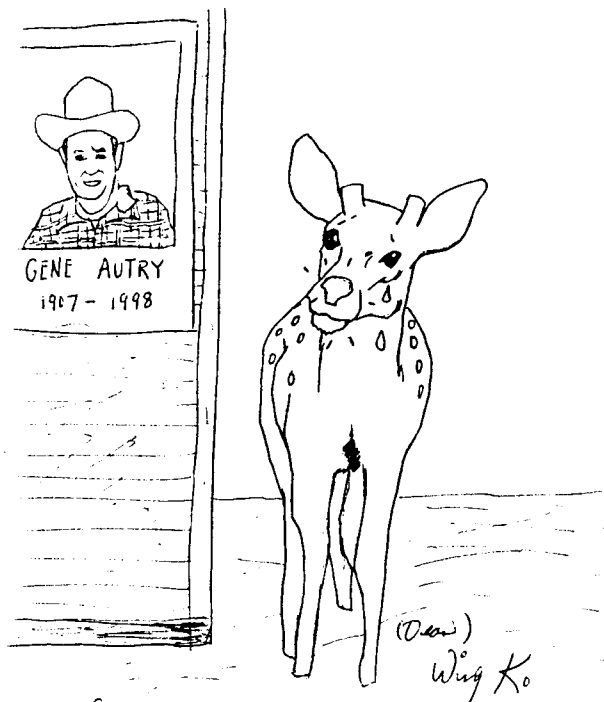
It never happened that way.

See I've been sitting on the curbside with my hands cupping my chin,

Thinking its not going alright.

Thinking I'm thinking really big thoughts at least as big as your thoughts and how can I get through how can I get through to you that its not going alright.

I'm watching you two continents removed,
floating away and you thinking you're still here.



*Some where in the North Pole, a certain
Red-Nosed Reindeer pauses sadly to remember
the passing of a old friend.*

Even saw you push yourself in the water.

So now its only you.

I can't sit on this curbside any longer, imagining
the giant retirement parties or the day you die
and what I will wear to your funeral.

And if I could, I would brace your neck,

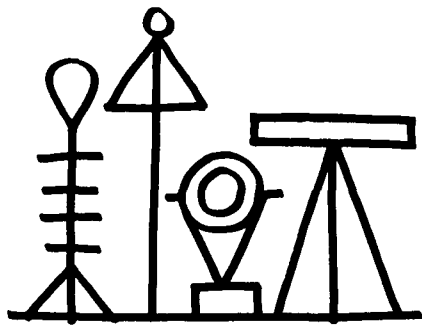
Even squeeze it and have you gasping for air, your
eyes bulge out of your skull so that at least you

Look at us.

Look at me. The fire that burns my insides is
flying out my mouth.

Ga Ching

November 1998



Suicide

Many people in this neighbourhood have committed suicide. Taking a closer look at this topic is to realize that in any given year, the suicide rate at least doubles the homicide rate in any given city. In this part of town, suicide has gone beyond trendy to the point of being normal.

The arguments for suicide seem compelling. Suicide is a very seductive idea, for it implies an eternal escape or release from life's problems. Many have felt that sure, they will miss out on the good things that life would have had in store for them, but they will also skip the bad things which would inevitably occur of themselves. And of course they would rather skip the bad things than experience the good things. Albert Camus writes of suicide in his book The Myth of Sisyphus. "One performs the gestures demanded of them by existence and these are largely out of habit, and one grows to question the insane character of habit and the uselessness of suffering."

In a world of six billion people, what's one more or less?

Often, it is not an overwhelming crisis or trauma, but the build-up of the thousand and one little pet peeves and loathsome annoyances that inspire a person to take their own life. I mean the stresses and strains of daily life like waking up every morning, taking a walk to the refrigerator, tying one's shoes, even taking the next breath have become just tedious prospects in an existence where the very process of living is a chore.

Once one gets over the religious barriers, realizing

that an eternity of hell for 70 years of well-intentioned mischief or an eternity of heaven for 70 years of faked and barely sustained morality is a lopsided equation, and the premise that life is a punishment and that you gotta keep coming back until you get it right (get what right?) is an illogical proposition, then one grows to see also that religions, being man-made, would not surprisingly discourage suicide, for dead men pay no tithes!

Points against suicide include a famous saying from Sophocles: "We must wait until evening to see how splendid the day has been."

Suicides leave their legacy of survivors. One man wrote: "My daughter killed herself. When it happened, I took it in stride. Six months later, I took it in stride. A year later, I took it in stride. A year and a half later, I took it in stride. Now it's two years later and I can't take it anymore."

Still, the humble author of this narrative can all too often feel the appeal of suicide. Autobiographies are only to be trusted when they reveal something embarrassing or scandalous or disgraceful. Any autobiography with only good points is probably a lie, since any life viewed from the inside is simply a series of defeats. And the pile up of the memories of these defeats past or perpetual could help inspire one to think of offing oneself.

It would be irresponsible for me to be so cavalier as to leave out the sentence that suicide is to be implicitly avoided. If life is a movie why walk out just when it is getting interesting? Never mind drugs, life itself is the greatest psychedelic trip of them all!

Society imposes a strange brand of epic perfectionism in that we are supposed to be either a Nietzschean Superman, or some Ayn Rand character of achievement, or else some Horatio Alger rags-to-riches type of personality, and if one does not buy into this societal imperative to grab that brass ring (that is probably corroded anyway) then the impulse to kill oneself is significantly lessened

By DEAN KO



**QUESTIONS
(another rant)**

They told me U went 2 Heaven - but that's their job
"Give us yr \$ & U get 2 go 2 Heaven"
My faith & prayers seem hollow & hypocritical
Nothing I believe about God & Good & Evil makes any sense
I can't see U flappin around with angel wings
Would U come back & tell me if you've "gone 2 a Better Place"?

Were U suffering so bad U needed 2 leave this world 4 a more peaceful 1?

If U found a place that good, would U share it?
or would U keep it a secret,
so we don't all start offing Rselves 2 get there?

How could U leave th physical world & its pleasures behind?

Is it a bigger "buzz" on th other side?

U were proud U were arrogant U were very sexy
Do they/U have sex in "Heaven"?
Or do U fuck telepathically?

Did U go 2 meet someone U were missing?

Is it crowded over there, up there?

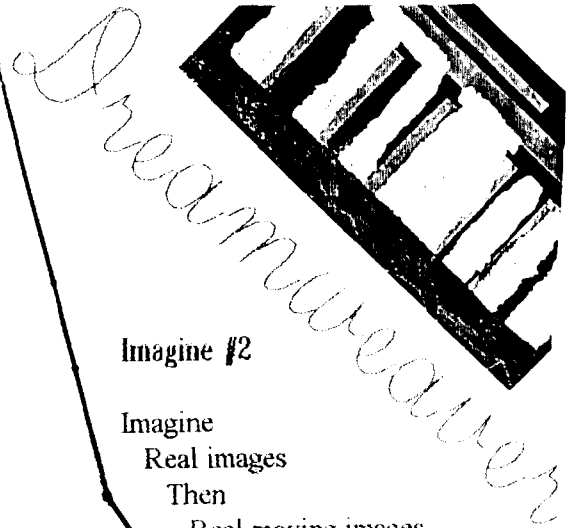
Where R U all?!
I know yr watching & listening
but I don't know where U R!

There's gotta B a reason
It doesn't make any sense

U were arrogant enuf 2 include yrself in everybody's lives
at th slightest hint of an invitation -
& then U fucked off & left us all here

It's been said we carry a piece of th people we've lost
in R hearts -
it just feels like a small sharp shattered piece of mirror

D.W.



Dreamweaver

Imagine #2

Imagine
Real images
Then

Real moving images
Then

Imagine
Real moving love

Then
Imagine
Real love

Then
Imagine
Love, really
THEN

Forget you ever knew anything



Sometimes, when I write a line
A second one will follow
Sometimes, I am doing fine
At worst, a little hollow

Sometimes words flow evenly
At time they simply stop
Sometimes they are seemingly
A little hard to drop

Sometimes, words are strange
At times they flow in season
Sometimes out of range
Usually within reason

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

* BC Housing bought the Washington and Sunrise Hotels last spring. The City of Vancouver just put in \$1 million and, together with the Vancouver-Richmond Health Board, the Ministry of Human Resources and Canada Mortgage & Housing, there is \$5.4 million to house 144 low-income singles in safe, secure rooms at \$325 a month. The Sunrise Pub is gone and the space will hold shops and services that support the revitalization of the community. The hotels, managed by the Portland Hotel Society, are to be run on a non-profit basis as long-term housing for local people.

* DERA announces that it is a partner in and is managing the Metropole Hotel on Abbott St. Read more about this in the DERA Newsletter!

* Out Of Harm's Way, presented by the Carnegie Association and organised by the Portland Hotel Society, was a somewhat unique symposium on the issue of drug use and harm reduction. There was an amazing response in the 2 weeks spent advertising it, and about 500 people came.

It was designed to get people from all aspects of



the issue - drug users, street people, alcoholics, sex-trade workers, advocates, volunteers, agency staff, community activists, students, health care workers, police, politicians and experts from several disciplines to at least sit together & listen.

Speakers were used to going to similar conferences, giving their presentation on what had worked for them in their city, and the audience was to draw hopefully useful direction on what was plausible and what was a crock. In the last



issue of the *Newsletter* was a quote - "There's a Downtown Eastside in every neighbourhood." People from Basle, Switzerland, Frankfurt, Germany and Liverpool, Great Britain outlined stuff done on a municipal level there to deal with a large drug scene and to reduce the harm caused. Three "experts" spoke on crime and addiction and cocaine use, and a Judge from the States talked about the drug courts in Portland.

Audience participation came with statements on Native land claims, women's rights and issues, unemployment, sexual abuse and the ongoing murders of Natives, working women and kids. One speaker got stopped with a hand-held sign about "how much expert advice can be gotten from white, middleclass fucks in suits?"

The gist of it all seemed to look at drug use as a problem to be overcome and treated. Repressive measures are dismally failing to stem use, and the application of same seems to be directly proportional to the spread and increase of narcotic use. The cooperation and involvement of the police was cited by virtually everyone as essential to getting a handle on substance use/abuse, and the political winds have shifted in the countries represented because of such cooperation. Frankfurt struggled for almost 10 years against the federal gov't of Germany. There was an election recently and the winning party had included promises to spread the success of that city's programs and methods throughout the country.

Several people have asked for an opinion of the Out Of Harm's Way event. It was a sharing of information and a gathering that will be noted as having occurred. If/when progressive steps are

implemented and evaluated as successful - in reducing harm but, more importantly, in raising the consciousness of people - this event will be referred to as contributing. If/when repression is stepped up and the predominant and official U.S. policy/dogma of locking everybody up and throwing away the key becomes the order-of-the-day, this event may be shrugged off as just more pissing in the wind.

It's up to each of us to decide which way to go.

PRT



The Fall (for Beelzebub)

Cryptic, skeptical, acidic tongues,
I'm going quite mad in your humdrum slums.
Half-way houses of ill repute,
Maneuvering minds half-destitute.

Feigning care when all the while,
A taste of death will do quite well.
I've had enough of this place called Heaven
Beelzebub, come. We'll try your method

The world is not as it should be.
Fools! that they are. Can't they see?
One path, Then another. And so it goes,
Straining impossibly high on their toes.

The fall is deeper than bilious lava.
Sensational pricklings deliciously splatter
On scalding, smoldering, twisted corpses,
The souls of which delight your forces.

Patience all. I'm nearly there.
Just one more jolt and then we'll compare
How we loved and laughed and sang to the stars,
And woefully crumbled when we struck Mars.

Anita Stevens



I
I am
I am here
I live for now
I am aware of today
I can plan for the future
I am a child of eternity, forever
I am alive today, in love
I am centered right now
I am alive now
I am here
I am
I



IN TIME
I RHYME
IN SPACE
I RACE
IN MIND
I'M KIND
IN BEER
I CHEER
HICCUP, SORRY

Look down

See the simple child
Be amazed by how much you have grown

Look up

See the infinite Light
Be amazed by how much you have to grow

Look inside

See the eternal love
The source of all being
and be amazed

Dreamweaver

BUFFALO-RUN

G.Gust

Clear a passage across
the prairie lands.
Divert the tracks
and fences
choking the liberty
of thunder on hooves.

Tonight they come,
stampeding from one
horizon to the other
without disruption

Once again the creature
becomes as man,
warming his skin,
his satisfied belly,
his spirit heart.

The coo is a thousandth
of the count,
perfectly balanced
in Nature's thriving.

Close your eyes and see.
Tonight they come.

Keep on Truckin'...



THE DARK GARDEN

G.Gust

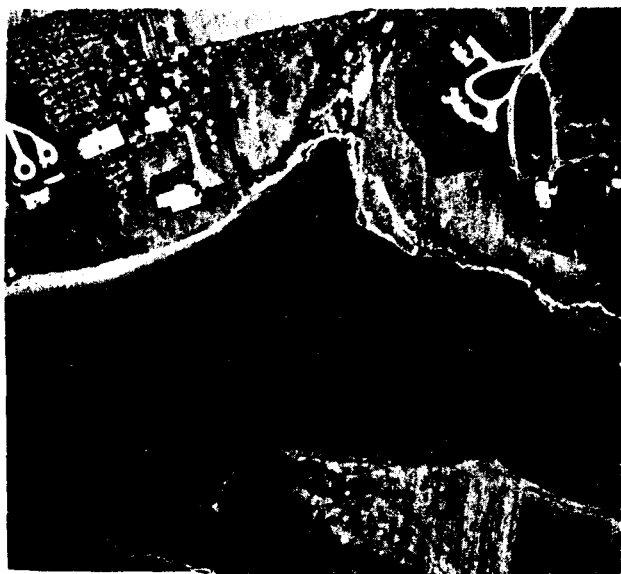
Good lies.
Bad lies.
Lies in between.
Lies are responses
We don't really mean.
Good lies protect
Another from woe.
Bad lies deceive and are
Trust's greatest foe.
Lies in between
Are like scattering seeds,
So choose your lie carefully
'Cause they grow like weeds.

AN ANALOGY OF THE "DEAL" Garry Gust

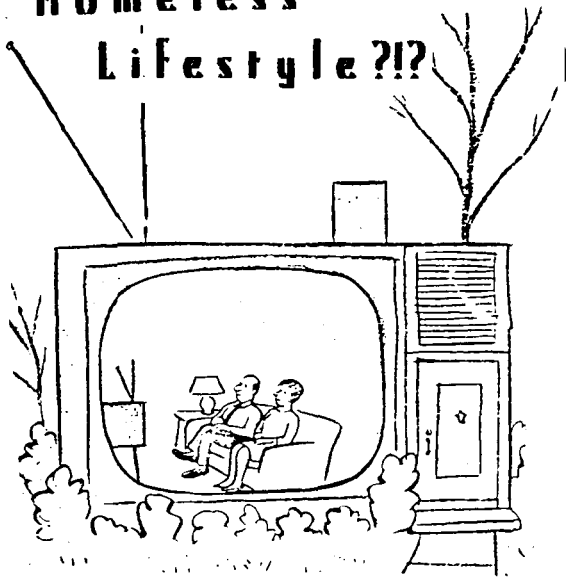
The courts have found that the Nisga'a People indeed had a case regarding land claims. The courts suggested that the government and the Nisga'a negotiate a settlement to their differences, which they've done.

The Nisga'a treaty sets a precedent for further treaties which are merely Landlord/Tenant disputes that signify the tenants must start paying compensation for occupying the landlords real estate.

Even the most unconscionable capitalist should be able to understand that.



Homeless Lifestyle?!?



On Nov. 14 the *Vancouver Sun* had an article on different responses to the decrease in the number of people receiving welfare. The government says that people are moving from welfare to work, yet from the other end of the stick are reports from the Food Bank and DERA and the Lookout emergency shelter that the number of people in desperate straights has been steadily going up. Karen O'Shannacery spoke of people being homeless and hungry. A response to this was a quote from Carol Carmen, the communications director for the Ministry of Human Resources, disputing the statistics.

"We certainly don't see any greater indication of homeless," Carmen said. "In fact, in British Columbia, as in Canada, no one has to be homeless. There's always a shelter. The shelters are almost never full, but people do make lifestyle choices that may or may not be economically driven." This was taken on its face to be an admission of the government as a whole that all perceptions of and reasons for homelessness are bullshit.

Jan Pullinger, the Minister of Human Resources, wrote in to state categorically that the Carmen quote did not represent the views of the NDP. She said that the causes are many and complex, that

being homeless is not simply a 'lifestyle choice', and acknowledged that shelters, while only a temporary stopgap, were essential.

Carmen so delighted Douglas Whorral of the Gastown Homeowner's Association - He was one of the enlightened few who sent the open letter to Council about safety and drug users not being stockholders and how eliminating street people from the streets was the only to go. He wrote another open letter to Vancouver's City Council saying that he wanted all present and future social efforts on poverty and homelessness to be dealt with as though Carmen's statement were gospel truth. 'Reframe the discussion' - homelessness is a choice! He wrote:

"...the only people without any form of housing in the Downtown Eastside are those who choose to repeatedly abuse the trust placed in them by their landlords and friends through anti-social and destructive behaviour, not because housing was not available, nor because some means could not be found to pay for it." (You should take anything and do anything to get the money to pay whatever is demanded for it...)

A homeowner extraordinaire! If you are homeless it's because you're a lousy person, not because of systemic inadequacy or lack of decent housing. The real culprits in all cases are "crime, drug addiction, mental illness and lack of education" and legislated poverty is an irrelevant concept. All of this nicely dovetails into the favourite whine of the condo crowd - this area has an over-concentration of 'last resort' social services that can only be rectified by the geographic diversification of public housing. In simple English, the Homeowner's Association wants everyone not up to their standards to go someplace else.

In the end 'he said/she said' can be pretty boring and irrelevant, but it's stuff like this that influence decision-makers like bureaucrats and politicians. Whorral is pissing in the wind while trying to avoid the spray. Fat chance.

By PAULR TAYLOR

Song Circle

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!
refreshing!

In the Carnegie theatre every Friday morning
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

I Wrote

I could be, I said, I wrote to an acquaintance, a *patronizing and pompous little booger*, but at least I'm helpful, I think, though someone else, anyone else, really, would probably doubt this, doubt that any of the things I do that I say to myself are helpful are helpful, doubt even that my intentions in doing any of those things, which I probably consider many but are, in fact, few, honourable, or whatever it's called, in any way, are anything but dishonourable, or whatever it's called. If I say I am being helpful, or trying to be helpful, I am quite certainly being, rather, cagy and/or contentious and/or confrontational, both in thinking I'm being helpful when I'm not, I think, and in whatever I actually or potentially do that I think or say, to myself or others, I said, I wrote, is helpful. If I could talk, I said, to someone who, not necessarily understanding me, would at least hear me without making negative judgements, it sometimes seems to me, it wouldn't be so hard, I think, so literally impossible, to know even the slightest thing, even if, when I do talk to someone who can listen to me and, possibly, understand me, without making, or appearing to make, negative judgements, it has not, in the past, really made it any easier for me to understand anything, I wrote. It has only *calmed* me, on one hand, and excited me on the other, and always those most capable of calming me, I think, I wrote, are those most capable of exciting me, of, as I have sometimes said, I said, unbalancing me, though what

Carnegie Choir dates:

Thursday, Dec. 10 Mt. Pleasant Community
Centre, 8 PM
Tuesday, Dec. 15 Gathering Place, 6 PM
Sunday, Dec. 20 Carnegie 4 PM

evening will hug you like the scent
of wood-fires and earth

as shadows stretch into cool
living darkness, where other hands

work bigger cauldrons out there
as yours work this

your glance, the sound of animals
rustling in underbrush

stars, like the blaze
that brings your true colour

to this small shelter
this immense forest

one smile, an indescribable
moment of precarious joy

as we share wild soup
wild hunger

Dan Feeney

this (or any other) so-called balance entails I, for one, haven't a clue. And not that they unbalance me anyway, but that my apparent need for people to, on one hand, calm me and on the other excite me is itself unbalanced, which is mostly what I am trying to say, I think, I said, and what I was trying to say, I wrote.

Maybe what I said I assume I think I need, I think, I said, I wrote, is a kind of annihilation.

Dan Feeney