

FREE - donations accepted.

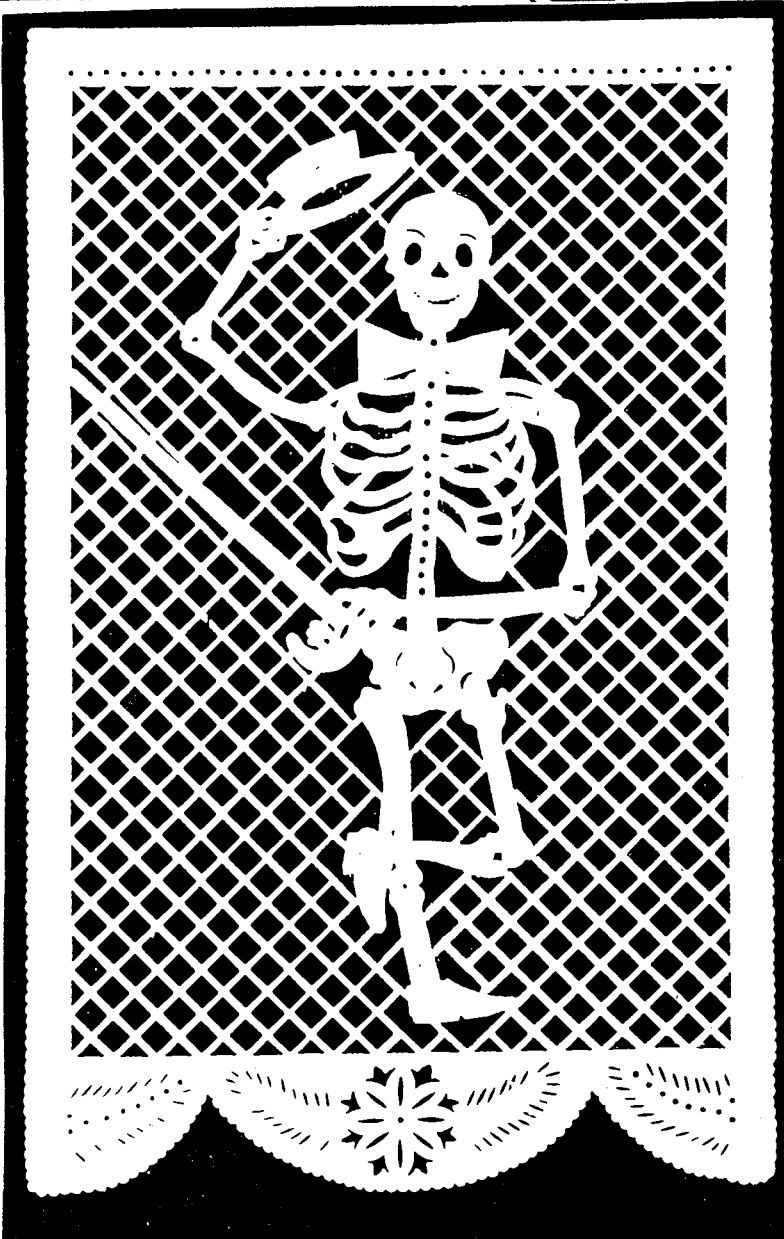
Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

JULY 15, 1999.

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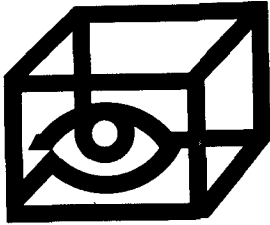


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sixteen cameras

friends're shaken
disturbed upset
"sixteen cameras ...
I don't do any wrong
but I don't want them here
watching me"
watching me
watching me



a neighbour of mayor owen
flies cocaine from miami
a cessna full
every three months
"you go philly-boy" he
firmly shake-hands the
straight grip



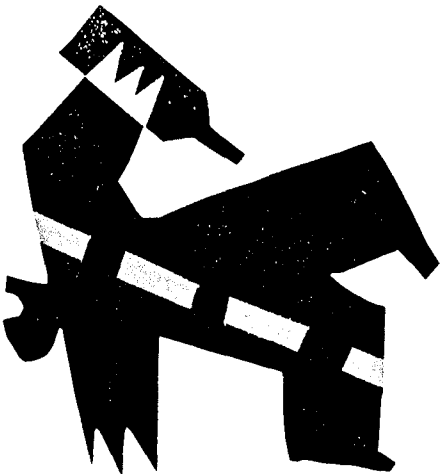
of the corporate homey
"we'll get that ghetto scum
who smash 'n grabbed from
mrs. owen's car!"

"pass the pretzels
constable bob!"
"shshsh! here's where
I slam that junkie bitch
to the ground!"
I remember the sickening sound
when her head hit the sidewalk
and will they know
I'm smiling 'cause I farted?

(expose smelly secrets!!)

friends're shaken
disturbed upset
pender detox
isn't what they get
and my good doctor
can't cure my ills
there's no prescribing
crackrock pills
sixteen cameras
all watching me
'tis not paranoia
its security
am I standing correctly
oops, I picked my nose
some say they like it
that's the way it goes ...

jiang chang



Profiteers of Death

(July 9 Wice Rine demonstration)

Margaret & Tom & Jeff & Tom and a number of demonstrators, accompanied by Native drummers, did a walkabout through the neighbourhood, collecting empty rice wine bottles in a shopping cart.

They then went to several retail outlets, including one in the Save-On-Meats mini-mall in the unit block of West Hastings, where they threw the empties on the floor.

At MJM Groceries, in the unit-block of East Hastings, the protestors also tried to "return" the bottles and some were physically pushed and told

to “get the fuck outta here!” Constable Dave Dixon tried to cool things down, but some bottles got accidentally broken in the process. The man running the store, when confronted with the statement that “people are dying from this stuff”, responded by saying, “Well, they’re gonna drink it.. I don’t care.”

The protestors feel that sellers of rice wine should at least take responsibility and hire local people to pick up the discarded bottles, to clean up the mess store owners help create. They want to expose the sellers, whom they call ‘profiteers of death, pain and poverty’; who either get really angry when confronted with their actions or totally deny ever selling the stuff.

Jeff said that protests like these help keep the issue in the public eye. He said that protestors



WOUNDS

-Norman Bethune-

“ARE WARS OF AGGRESSION, wars for the conquest of colonies, then just big business? Yes, it would seem so, however much the perpetrators of such national crimes seek to hide their true purpose under the banners of high-sounding abstractions and ideals. They make war to capture markets by murder; raw materials by rape. They find it cheaper to steal than to exchange; easier to butcher than to buy. This is the secret of all wars: Profit. Blood. Money.

Behind all this stands that terrible, implacable god of business and blood, whose name is profit. Money, like an insatiable moloch, demands its interest, its return, and will stop at nothing, not even the murder of millions, to satisfy its greed. Behind the army stand the militarists. Behind the militarists stand finance capital and the capitalists. Brothers in blood, companions in crime.

What do these enemies of the human race look like? Do they wear on their foreheads a sign so

3, want the attorney General of BC to do something to control the sale of this dangerous product. The matter of harm reduction is crucial, as alcoholics are drawn to rice wine because of its cheapness - \$3-\$4 a bottle against \$7 a bottle for other wine - and its potency - 38% alcohol by volume against 12-15% for other wine. The salt content - 2% by volume - causes massive trauma and horrible death. Jeff never thought he’d be promoting the sale of liquor, but alternatives are necessary for those who can’t quit.

The demonstration ended with some Native drumming at the front steps of Carnegie, with what looked like a brand new drum in beautiful tan colours.

By RUDOLPH PENNER



that they may be told, shunned, and condemned as criminals? No. On the contrary, they are the respectable ones. They are honoured. They call, and are called, gentlemen. What a travesty of the name! They are the pillars of the state, of the church, of society. They support private and public charity out of the excess of their wealth. They endow institutions. In their private lives they are kind and considerate. They obey the law, their law, the law of property. But, there is one sign by which these gentlemen can be told. Threaten a reduction on the profit of their money, and the beast within them awakes with a snarl. They become as ruthless as savages, brutal as madmen, remorseless as executioners. Such men as these must perish if the human race is to continue. There can be no permanent peace in the world while they live. Such an organisation of human society as permits them to exist must be abolished.

These men make the wounds.”



Who thought up the term "abusing drugs"?
WHO'S ABUSING WHO(m?)

"Abusing drugs"? No Siree
I say them drugs is abusing me!
They affect my mood like instant tea
Drive me to the streets with a screaming plea

Billions of dollars made from "meds"....
Half my friends in realm of dead
No fancy place to kill the pain
No body comes to keep me sane.

Crack cocaine hits the well-to-do
Nope it don't or they will sue!
"Designer drugs" from the C.I.A.
Designed to make the poor folk pay...

Pay no more to lose your life
Pay no more for woe and strife
Serve each other to respect and love
Serve each other and you are above.

Divide and conquer is their 'game'
And in their 'game' they kill and maim
Waar On Drugs is war on us
The joke's on them when we survive plus.

Don't buy the bull or white elephant...

To My Love

I fight myself out of that shell
That shell enclosing me warmly
Protecting me from a hostile world
That shell – your love.

As the chick will die if she fails to break through
So shall I die in my spirit
Enclosed forever
in your overwhelming, all-knowing beneficence.

Wilhelmina

I picked a poppy from your garden
Still green and in the bud.
At home my curious fingers peeled away the covering
To reveal a colour of oranges, a colour of sun.

In water it struggled to unfold its curled petals
A brilliant butterfly roused too soon from the cocoon.
How this poem of flame graces my breakfast table
Sprinkling pollen black as coal on the cloth.

Wilhelmina.

IN JULY 1961
ErNeST HeMingWay
killed himself
claiming CIA persecution
TO HONOUR HEMINGWAY,
AND TO PROMOTE LOCAL TALENT
Common Concerns Association
launches
UNCLE HENRY'S
CREATIVE CABARET
FRIDAY, JULY 21ST
8:00 - 11:30 P.M.
at **Uncle Henry's Cafe**
547 East Hastings
Sign up and Showcase your Talent
performers call 255 - 4383

Street Church

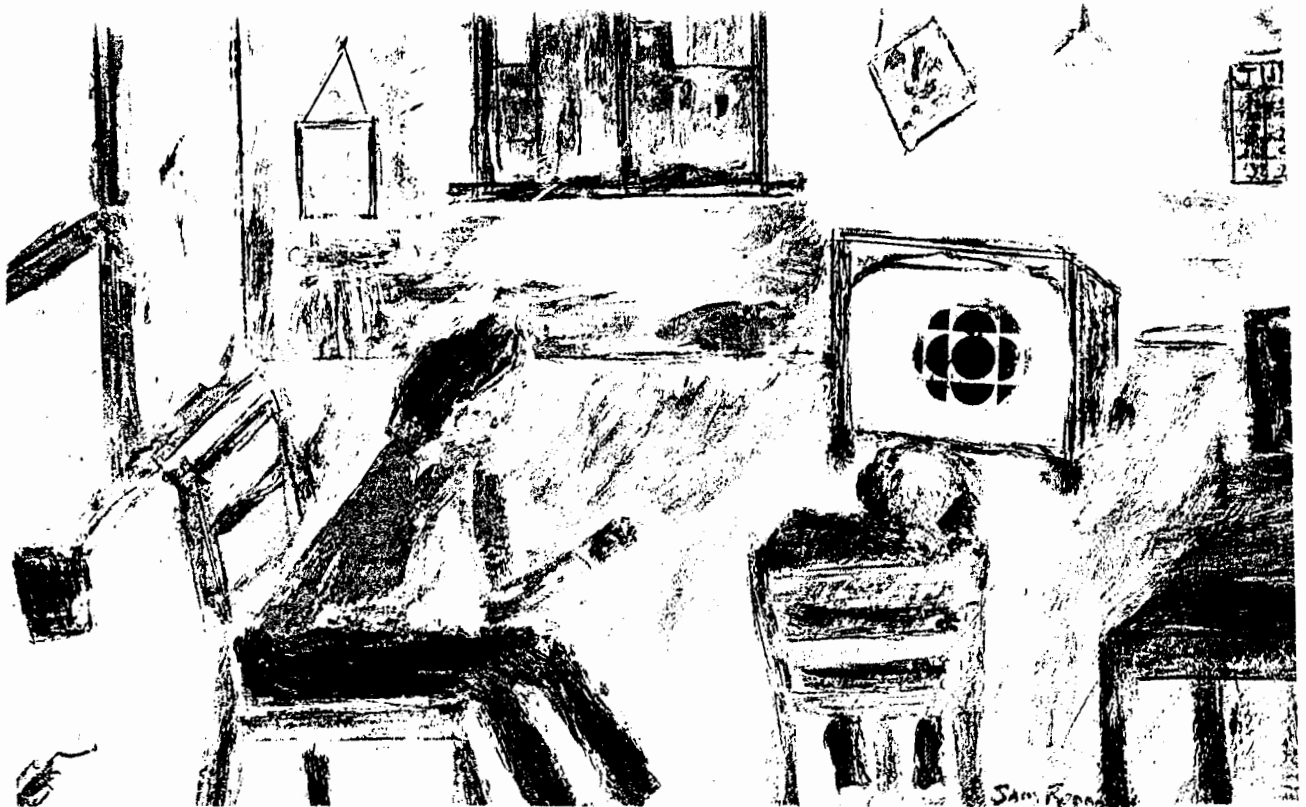
Me and my husband went to the Street Church. We saw one of my friends there, going for a hotdog as usual. We went to the top of the stairs, seeing a lot of friends along the way, and found a place to sit beside another friend who had been sick from rice wine.

There was a woman kissing the feet of Jesus, an

5, old man whose pants didn't fit and who fell down while children were playing at the front. The old guy got picked up, a girlfriend was being talked to by a Native woman about drinking rice wine.. 'you are gonna die if you don't stop'

I went to get some water. I got a loaf of bread. I sat down with my husband and then we left.

By DORIS LESLIE



NO ANTIDOTE FOR THE POOR IN SPIRIT

Nobody, not even a saint, can live by TV alone. Massive doses of TV are no cure for loneliness, poverty, despair. Most TV is a patent medicine: At worst it is synthetic, dry, like stale shredded wheat, desiccated and easily forgotten. At best, in rare moments, TV can be a moving epiphany, a revelation of spirit... but, Oh God, how rare are such moments! How rare!

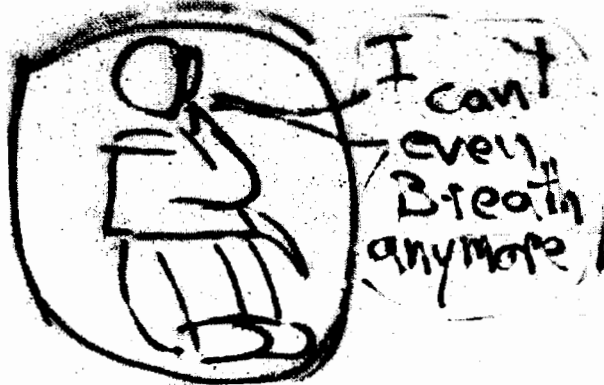
Sam Roddan

Joann Bear-Graveline

March 28 – June 17, 1999

We will always love you Joann.

Joann is loved by many in this community. She will be missed, but she'll always be in our hearts. Her son ReJean and daughter Lisa will need our support through this time of sorrow.



Come Together, Right Now

Ever since the federal government gave the city of Vancouver \$5 million earlier this year to launch the "revitalization" of the Downtown Eastside, the low-income community has been insisting that community needs come first.

Not the needs of real estate speculators, or the tourist industry or the johnny-come-lately condo owners who think of themselves as urban pioneers - but of the vast majority of residents, mostly low-income, who make up Canada's most unique inner city neighbourhood.

Now it looks like the community is starting to get heard, thanks to a lot of hard work and cooperation by a coalition of individual residents and groups working together as **Community Directions**.

On July 9, city manager Judy Rogers met with members of the coalition and gave strong assurances that a substantial amount of cash will be allocated to the low-income community to help protect its position when the serious action starts on the revitalization process.

Joann arrived in Vancouver in 1985 and returned to Manitoba in 1989 to get custody of her children. She always expressed her love for her kids with all her heart. In 1989 Joann lost her son Oswald; she was devastated by his death.

We celebrate Joann's journey. Her spirit will live on in this community, as she touched and helped so many of our street people and others. She gave so much and asked so little.



The memorial service for Joann Bear-Graveline was held on July 13 at First United Church.

The coalition had presented a proposal for \$372,000 to hire organizers and get a lot of residents involved in hammering out the community's position on issues like housing, alcohol and drugs, safety, child protection, economic development and women's concerns.

Rogers told the meeting she was impressed with the scope and seriousness of the community proposal.

"This is absolutely something we are prepared to support," she said. "You have started a process that hopefully we all can work with."

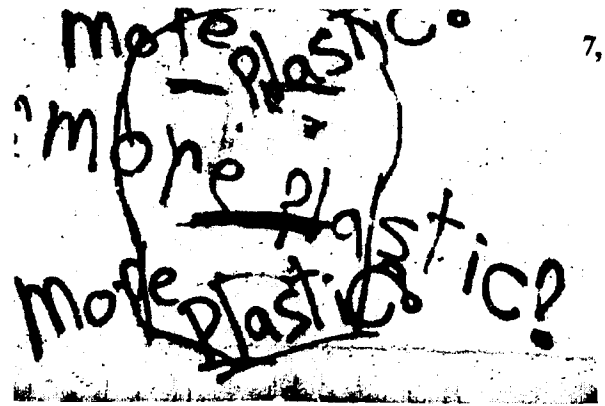
By sticking together, the community has so far been able to prevent the city from importing an army of outside experts to tell residents what they need and want. Residents are in a strong position because the city wants to start spending the \$5 million, but it has to show that the low-income community is involved.

Already, through a process of public and open meetings, dozens of residents and almost 30 groups from the community and their allies have signed a "participation agreement" spelling out

basic points of agreement. The general theme is that community needs and not real estate mentality should determine the future of the neighbourhood.

The success of the unity effort dispels the notion spread by bureaucrats and the media that everyone in the neighborhood is always squabbling. In fact, the Vancouver Foundation, a charitable funding agency that supports community organizing, has already agreed to pay to put together an "assets inventory" which will show just how much expertise and agreement the community already has developed.

For instance, the well-researched "Community Housing Plan" drawn up by the Carnegie Community Action Project already has widespread endorsement from community groups. It calls for secure, affordable and livable housing for all residents, backed up by an anti-conversion bylaw to prevent wanton destruction of low-income



housing by speculators and developers. Without this kind of basic level of agreement, the community is in danger of being steamrolled at City Hall by the special interests like the Gastown and Chinatown business groups and the condo lobby.

After all, they already have their own unity around one simple position - no more affordable housing, no more social programs, and full-speed ahead on gentrification of the neighbourhood.

As the participation agreement states: "Improving" our community will increase land values and is likely to displace many of our residents. This is a strong community and we want to improve it for the people who live here now.

"We can only work together with governments and institutions in a framework that recognizes this fundamental issue and begins to address it."

To make the process strong and credible, it requires the widest possible participation of residents. To find out more, or to lend a hand, contact the Ray-Cam Community Centre, 920 East Hastings (257-6949) And while we're at it, what about the consultation processes in Gastown and Chinatown? The special interests there make a lot of noise, but they actually seem to prefer the back door method for getting things done. Maybe City Hall can suggest they follow the example of the low-income community and become more open, democratic and representative. That would certainly cause some changes.

Chili Bob

An advertisement for Waste Management. It features a black and white photograph of a garbage truck. The truck has the text "WASTE MANAGEMENT" and "522-7007" on its side, along with the slogan "Your Garbage is Our Business". A white sign is attached to the side of the truck with the text "THIS IS NOT WATER!". Below the sign is a detailed warning about hazardous fluids. At the bottom left, there is a small graphic of a person's head and shoulders, possibly representing a child, with the text "WHEN THIS DRIES IT BECOMES PART OF THE FINE PARTICULATE MATTER THAT IS IN THE AIR WE BREATHE." and a signature.

WASTE MANAGEMENT
522-7007
Your Garbage is Our Business

THIS IS NOT WATER!

AVOID CONTACT WITH FLUID AS IT IS FULL OF VIRUSES, BACTERIA'S & DIFFERENT TYPES OF CHEMICALS AND MANY OTHER KNOWN AND UNKNOWN SUBSTANCES MIXED AND COMPRESSED INTO A CONCENTRATED FLUID CALLED HOPPER JUICES. GET NUMBER OF THE TRUCK, THE COMPANY NAME, THE PLACE AND TIME OF THE SPILL AND REPORT TO YOUR CITY ENVIRONMENTAL DEPT.

WHEN THIS DRIES IT BECOMES PART OF THE FINE PARTICULATE MATTER THAT IS IN THE AIR WE BREATHE.

she read shakespeare aloud

she read shakespeare aloud rocking me to sleep
she glamourized the night
when anything could happen
and the streets

i grew up with gamblers strippers and gangsters
skid row bars and the horse racing track
felt more like home than anywhere else
my mother showed me the power
of using yourself seductively
men fell all over her
millionaires wanted to marry her
I took to heart her credo
"feeling no pain"

we got drunk together / stoned together
we were locked up in the same jails and nuthouses
she made opportunities for me to make money
setting up drug deals
asking if i'd run dope from florida to texas --
even suggesting I think seriously
about becoming a transvestite performer
and when the fbi were after me
my mother was willing to go to prison
rather than tell them where i was
her boyfriends and husbands
and my girlfriends and wives
sometimes reacted angrily jealously
when they saw us together
she and i would let go our lives
at the drop of a phone call
and go to each other

but i've spent most of my life
running away from her
at 5 years old and at 15 and at 35
tried to kill myself
when living with her
i ran coast to coast . and believed i'd become free
cowering in a bowery avenue doorway
sleeping on a bed of cardboard and broken glass
strung out on heroin and wine
pus and blood stiffening my ragged clothes
i superimposed our early dramas
onto every woman who took me home
and when i refused
to have anything to do with my mother
she attempted suicide



and a friend of hers told me it was all my fault
black acquaintances said they'd seen my mother
enter ghetto bars so violent
even they wouldn't go in there
- and a woman who as a little girl -
was so fascinated by my mother she actually tried
to emulate her
later ended up in places my mother did
very bitter
the glamour vanished reality like an ambush
my mother began to hear god talk to her
in heavy metal music and television advertising
she ran with a black motorcycle gang
crackheads winos
stressed-out vietnam vets
and raged at everyone who truly cared about her
"i'm going to do just what i want to do!"
and I became to her, in my degradation, a hero
last time i saw her far from feeling no pain
wracked with suffering
she told me she was going to manage

a rock and roll band
she drove me to a train station and wept
when i said goodbye but tried to bribe me to stay
promising narcotics

not long after, another new 'friend'
drove her to a hospital where
having had trouble in the past
slapped my mother in the psychward where she
died of a heart attack and her latest 'friend'
instead of remaining with my mother stole her car

but my mother was once stopped in her tracks
by words that came to 'her
when looking at rain falling on a street
and told me self-consciously hesitantly
she'd written a poem which began "it's june"
the month - but her own middle name
and recited the lines "can't go can't stay
or do these drops that dance a dervish love?"

we can only run away from the tension
of trying to live an answer
yes these fleeting falling dancing drops we are
are powerless against love

a tree in full bloom leans
over the bones of my mother

Bud Osborn

AWARD DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE HEALTH ADVOCATE WINS

Liz Evans, a tireless advocate for the homeless and hard-to-house on the Downtown Eastside, is the winner of the 1999 Health Advocacy Award presented by the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.

Evans, 33, is a non-practising registered nurse who has worked to provide housing, advocacy and health services to some of Canada's poorest adults.

Through her position as associate director of the Portland Hotel Society, she has helped to

everynlight is

hockey night in canada
somebody call the cops
dad's crosschecking mom
into the icebox

cause it's hockey night in canada
when blood flows free as beer
get your stitches keep your mouth shut
don't show any fear

cause it's hockey night in canada
and you better skate for your life
the neighbour lady's spearing her husband
with a long kitchen knife

cause it's hockey night in canada
3 stars will get awards
uncle's got his little niece
pinned against the boards

Bud Osborn



create housing for people termed hard to house due to mental illness, drug and alcohol addiction or other health problems.

Evans was named among the province's 25 most influential people by *The Vancouver Sun* last year.

"The health advocacy displayed by Liz Evans has had a remarkable effect on the poorest of the poor," said Rob Calnan, president of the Registered Nurses Association of B.C.

Evans said the people housed in the Portland Hotel have been abandoned by the system and have absolutely no other housing options.

- Evans began her career in 1988 as a psychiatric nurse in Ottawa. While at the University of Ottawa, her work with homeless women introduced her to the challenges of housing for those often perceived as undeserving.

In 1991 Evans left nursing and took a 50-per-cent salary cut to begin work on finding housing for those ignored by most other agencies.

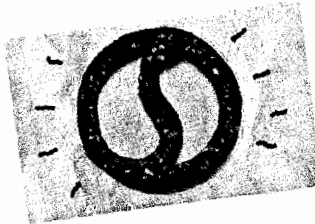
Two years later, she founded the Portland Hotel Society which operates three renovated hotels on East Hastings. A new Portland Hotel will open its doors to 88 homeless adults in December.

6 haiku by Gail D. Whitter

moon
making herself known
in the eucalyptus

fireflies
casting only a glimmer
bottle-green

sweet peas
pollinating my eyes
purple, pink, salmon



weeping together -
violet blue stars
wound the night

walking home
where her foot falls
dead crow

moon
firing up the branches
you take for granted

3 hand-held poems by Rudolf Penner

Out there -- on the street --
handfuls of people
linger
never seeing the rain -- the grey of their eyes
mingles with overshadowing clouds
They talk out their plans
one bends to pick up a paper

Up to here in neck
I hope you're not too scattered
Your brains selling another sip of life
Never seeing the drip drip
of Chinese rain
a Jade Medallion for your efforts

Yoga reinventing the Wheel
sure we stopped
upon the track,
a sniff here, sniff, sniff
an Ezra Pound-poem coming in
Tall ship sales



bio sphere with Interviewer Rudolf Penner



Victorine Tio

Interviewer: Victorine, how did you come to be at Carnegie Centre?

Victorine: How?

Int: How did you come to be here?

Victorine: Rudolf! asked me to go for yoga. And I enjoy it very much, that's why

Int: (ha, ha, ha) I treat him; I spoil him once in a while.

So, what do you think is important at Carnegie Centre?

Victorine: It's important because you can meet so many different kind of people.

Int: What kind of people have you met?

Victorine: Some (ha, ha, ha) crazy bum, crazy (ha, ha, ha), some (ha, ha) interesting people (ha, ha) people that can cheer me up, some that you can talk with, spend your time with you...

Int: So would you recommend the Carnegie Centre to other people, to come here?

Victorine: Yes, I recommend many many friends, but friends from Indonesia, they are scared to see the lazy people there around (ha, ha) in front of the door. But I told them that some of them are interesting and it's fine to like to talk with them. If you come in, then you will find out.

Int: You always carry a shopping cart around. Everybody always comments on it.

Victorine: Because I...because I shop alot...you know...

Int: Ya?

Victorine: I need to shop...milk and groceries sometimes and I cannot carry. I lean, I lean on it if I am tired, then I hold it like a cane.

Int: You love to eat too.

Victorine: Because I have sleeping illness I become nervous. And I have diabetic, every time I am hungry. I have to carry food and drinks in my shopping cart.

Int: And what do you think of the Carnegie Centre food here?

Victorine: Some food are good, some food it's different than my food.

Int: What about Bob's stew? Remember this is gonna go in the newsletter.

Victorine: (Hee, ha, ha, ha, ho, ho, ho, ho.) You have to add some spice...like, (ha, ha, ha) chili and pepper and salt.

Int: Oh. And then it's okay?

Victorine: And then it's okay. It's delicious *then*. They hear it they get mad, you know.



Bruce Rabbit
Presidential Candidate



Hooke Jake
Thimble, Lawyer



Caroline Lightner
Executive Director of
ARCA



John Lawson
Batteries/Printer Designer



Anna Blaine
Poetry Chef

If the
greatest
gift of all
is life,
then the
second
must be
that no two
are alike.



Anthony Huckle
Delivery Peer Wearing
Dart



Chi Cha (Chikayo) Weller
Japanese Shi-Ban



Sangeeta Suresh
Anacle Indian



Anshu Jaiswal
Restaurant Manager



Joe Government
Cab Driver



Ludmila A. Padek
Shoreman American

The Barbarians Are Coming

In market-driven cities, developers go where the profits are highest. In the early days of Vancouver, profit-driven development moved from the Hastings and Main area to land owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) on the west side of the city. As Van Home, general-manager and later president of the CPR, said in a letter to Major Rogers on Dec. 8, 1884, 'our object should be, of course, to give the greatest possible value to our own land, and therefore the least to any other.'

Today profit-driven development is moving back to Vancouver's oldest community. The downtown eastside is now an "urban frontier," and the profits from land speculation in the coming decades will be in the billions of dollars. We are a tiny David



compared to the Goliath of development and our community is in crisis. Larry Campbell, a former city coroner, has said that the stress people are under is too much for many to bear. That is one of the reasons why there have been so many deaths in the Downtown Eastside.

How do we explain the viciousness of the business and media attack on the Downtown Eastside? When men of great power, in their quest for maximum profit, deny the humanity of human beings and the history of a community, they tend to think that they can destroy both the people and the place without moral qualms. Let's look at examples of this destructive dynamic in history.

The Holocaust that took place in Europe during World War Two was an efficient way, so it was thought, of getting rid of people who didn't fit into the vision of the Third Reich. After the war was over, the full horror of the Holocaust emerged, and historians attempted to explain it by saying such extreme brutality could only have been carried out by abnormal people. Later, the Holocaust was explained by an abnormal social system



(the Third Reich) in which normal people did abnormal things. More recently, the Holocaust has been seen as not an exception, but a logical extension of the industrial system that developed in the modern age. (1)

Consider European industrial imperialism, for example. Look at its doctrine of the survival of the "fittest", and its belief in the inevitable disappearance of so-called "inferior" races. That was Hitler's inheritance - 500 years of racist, colonial history. First Nations people have been living through this destructive experience for a long time. We in the Downtown Eastside are living through it now.

Yet there's hope. We have something to teach those who have been barbarized by excessive wealth and power. The Downtown Eastside "has all the dimensions of any other community.. the ability to respond is here. People are much less far apart than in other areas... And people do care; there's lots of heart." (2)

By SANDY CAMERON

(1) Crime Control As Industry - Towards GULAGS Western Style? by Nils Christie, pub. by Routledge, 1993

(2) Hastings And Main, interviews by Laurel Kimbley, edited by Jo-Ann Canning-Dew, pub. by New Star Hooks, (1987) - Quote from John Turvey, p.157-158.

**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
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.

1999 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$90
 Sam R.-\$20 Nancy W.-\$20 Agnes -\$6
 Margaret D.-\$25 Shyamala G.-\$25
 Jenny K.-\$18 Joy T.-\$25 Eve E.-\$20
 Rick Y.-\$25 Jennifer M.-\$20 Val A.\$9
 Thomas B.-\$41 Harold D.-\$20 Pam-\$30
 Rolf A.-\$45 Bruce J.-\$18 Susan S.-\$7
 Kettle -\$18 Sonya S.-\$60 Beth L.-\$25
 Nancy H.-\$18 BCTF-\$10 Yukiko-\$10
 DEYAS-\$200 PRIDE-\$50 Wm. B.-\$18
 Heather S.-\$35 BCCW-\$20 Bill G.-\$180
 Wisconsin Historical Society -\$20
 Ray-Cam -\$70 Van MPA -\$75
 Brenda P.-\$10 Wes K.-\$50
 Anonymous -\$104

FREE - donations accepted

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

1611 Main Street, Vancouver V6J 1V7 (604) 681 1230

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 CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION
 Articles represent the views of contributors
 and not of the Association.

**Submission Deadline
 for next issue
 Tuesday, 27 July.**

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association can help you with:

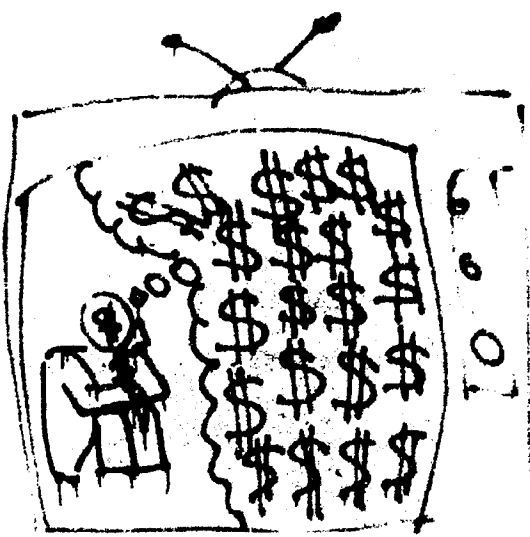
- Welfare problems
- Landlord disputes
- Housing problems
- Unsafe living conditions

DERA

We offer many services as well including a
FREE PHONE and VOICE MAIL for \$3.00 a month (or less).

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!



Neighbourhood News

* In general there are some interesting events that have transpired, and reports appear in these pages. The annual Open House at the Community Gardens in Strathcona drew hundreds of people – including several politicians from all 3 levels of government – to enjoy the free food, workshops, herbal information, tours and sales of stuff. It all made the Sunday event a great day.

The Festival of Delights, the Street Program outside Carnegie, the Community Alert strategy being coordinated out of the Neighbourhood Safety Office, the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board's support for VANDU and the Consumer's Board appears to be ongoing (yes/no?), the seeming headway that advocates at DERA are making in the war with BC Benefits and getting housing, the funding from the Vancouver Foundation for the Carnegie Community Action Project, revamping of High Risk into All My Transgendered Friends, the seeming success of establishing The Haven as a permanent facility, the expected launching of Bridge Housing's building for a new Women's Centre and housing for battered women, summer activities at Oppenheimer Park as a normal and fun part of life in the Downtown Eastside, ... Co-op Radio humming along, the Metropole Hotel getting ready for re-opening, the Washington and Sunrise are up and running with the first floor still

being worked on, the New Portland Hotel nears completion, and a few dozen ideas for economic opportunities – businesses, training and job creation, needed facilities and programs (like daycare, a bakery, safe housing and financial assistance) are being pursued. And lots more!

It's somewhat disconcerting when bus drivers and tour guides and other people who never set foot on our streets repeat the rhetoric of media and vested interests – "Don't go there!" "Welcome to Skid Road." "Watch your back and get out of here as fast as you can!" It's just sickening when an entire area – ours – is written off into categories. Once you label an area – "poor, run-down, drug-infested, scuzzy, ... (pick-your-own)" it permits extraordinary corporate crimes.



Countering this?:

Some kind soul handed me a yellow pamphlet while I and a consort were perusing the peculiar offerings of Gastown. Straightforwardly enough, it says Welcome to Gastown. It is here reprinted –

The tourist destination that has it all!

Yes, Gastown has it all!

We are a recognized leader in:

Homelessness – More than 2,000 low-income people still live in the old hotels in Gastown, but we are eliminating their housing as fast as we can to make room for more tourist shops and trendy offices.

Drugs – Everything from crack and heroin to marijuana and vallium is easily obtained on the streets of Gastown. That's why experts say we are part of the largest open air drug market on the continent.

Child Prostitution – The police don't seem to be able to do anything about it. The pimps and johns wander freely here, so no wonder child advocates are starting to call us the Bangkok of North America.

Street Crime – Thefts from autos and auto theft on streets and in parking lots are at record highs. Makes you wonder if it's safe to leave your car unattended -but isn't that what insurance is for?

Hey – not to worry.

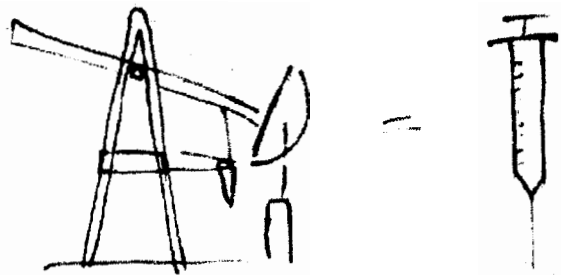
Gastown has one of the largest private police forces anywhere. They work full time to keep the unsightly panhandlers and shopping cart people moving and away from you. The pimps and johns know better than to tangle with our efficient guardians, so you'll always be fully protected as you enjoy your shopping experience. Don't you feel safer already?

And Vancouver city police have big plans to make it even safer. They want to install surveillance cameras that can scan all the high-crime areas of Gastown, meaning just about every sidewalk and street corner (*see walking tour map*). Then they can keep an eye on you as you go about your shopping.

And that's not all: Gastown is getting its second police station, at Carrall and Cordova, less than two blocks from the first one, with 40 extra officers dedicated to just one thing -giving you a good old-fashioned Gastown welcome.

For your shopping convenience, we are planning to create a "Carrall Street Safe-Transit Corridor" where police and rentacops will be patrolling in extra strength to protect you from unauthorized contact with the locals as you travel from Chinatown to Gastown and back in search of shopping experiences.

But we're also busy tackling the root causes of all these problems, too. When we're finished with the final solution, there won't be any poor people left in Gastown to spoil your shopping experience - only the new gentry living in high-security gated complexes. With our friends in Chinatown, we are currently lobbying city council to prohibit any



more low-cost housing or social programs here.

So once all those poor people finally get the message, they will pack up their few meagre belongings and move to a cardboard box in another part of town -or maybe to your town.

And as for all the people who have physical or mental disabilities, or have addictions, and the children and adults selling their bodies on the street, well, they'll just mend their ways on their own when they find out that there's no help for them available in Gastown.

So enjoy your visit to Gastown. Remember, it's not who you are, it's how much you spend.

This is an **incredible** neighbourhood.

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READING ROOM NEWS

Two weeks ago the reading room received a wonderful set of the Harvard classics from Margaret Morgan. The original Harvard classics were conceived by Charles W. Eliot (forty years president of Harvard university). In the reading guide to the set he states: "...in my opinion a five-foot shelf would hold books enough to afford a good substitute for a liberal education to anyone who would read them..."

Some of the volumes in the set include:

- Letters and Treatises of Cicero and Pliny
- The Thousand And One Nights
- Origin of The Species (Darwin)
- Odyssey (Homer)

Last week the reading room received an anonymous donation of the 1980 edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. This is a fine addition to our collection. It provides a nice compliment to our newer editions Happy reading!

Andrew Martin

PS: Our give-away of 15 boxes of books at the Festival was of volumes that there was no room for.

Festival of Delights

Over 60 music, dance and spoken word acts on three stages, 55 volunteers, and a few hundred spectators came together in bright sunshine at Crab Park Saturday in a celebration of the talent in the Downtown Eastside. Unlike the overturned oil truck on the Main Street overpass, however, this event was no accident, but the culmination of weeks of fund-raising, organizing and, for the performers, practice. There was free food (including 950 burritos) and refreshments, a book give-away (15 boxes, says Andrew), and much much music. At 8:00 PM, after all the stages were down and the garbage picked up, while waiting for the last load of equipment to go, organizer Earle Peach, when asked how he would describe the event, said: "A success." In spite of power supply peculiarities, misplaced or lost tools, broken guitars and faulty patch cords, etc., no one who attended would disagree with him.

The success was due in a large measure not only to the artists who performed, but to the generous donations of money, equipment and time from a number of organizations and businesses who believed in this event. We would like to heartily thank VanCity Chinatown Branch, Carnegie Community Centre Association 1st United Church, RayCam, Watari, The Lookout Society, St. James Social Services, 4 Corners Community Savings and VanCity Community Participation Program, all of whom donated money for the event. In addition, food and or coupons/certificates were supplied by the Vancouver Port Corporation, East End Food Co-op, Urban Organics, Que Pasa, Continental Coffee, and Happy Planet Juices. Volunteers came from VANDU and the Church of Scientology, who also donated the use of their tent. Vancouver Cityfest lent us the dance stage, Oppenheimer Park lent us their tent, and Vancouver Parks Board lent us the park. In addition, the Oscar Rozales Memorial Cooking Collective helped prepare the numerous burritos.

Thanks as well to Carnegie kitchen, and everyone else who helped out. Is this annual?!!

