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Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 15, 1999

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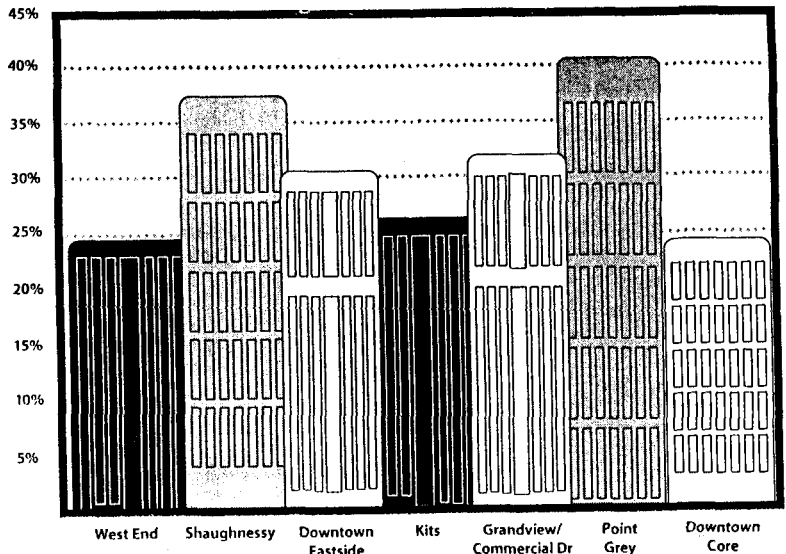
USE your vote

JOE PAT DAN FRED TOM BUD

Election Day is Saturday, Nov. 20.

and Washington State, USA

**I SEE MORE OF
WHAT IS GOING
ON AROUND ME
BECAUSE I AM
NOT CONCERNED
WITH FINDING A
PARKING PLACE.**



This shows the percentage of eligible voters who cast ballots in various neighbourhoods. It explains why city politicians – Council, Parks, Schools – do what residents in Shaughnessy and Point Grey dictate... why the NPA has a monopoly and rejects a Ward System.

A guide to voting

How to vote even if
you're not registered

Civic voters need to be aware of changes to voting regulations before casting ballots in the upcoming Nov 20 municipal elections.

According to Vancouver's deputy elections officer, some changes have filtered down from the province that affect voters registering on voting day.

The time has passed for advanced voter registration, but voters can still register right at the polling station, says Rod Drennan. All that's required is for you to be 18-years-old or

over, a Canadian citizen, a BC resident for at least six months and a resident of Vancouver (or the municipality in which you're voting) for at least 30 days.

To be approved under those conditions requires a simple "declaration" on voting day. (Technically any voter's qualifications can be "challenged" but that almost never happens.) But changing provincial regulations mean you must bring two pieces of identification, with at least one bearing your signature.

As well you must have one piece of ID with your address. Utility bills are helpful but don't count, says Drennan. If you don't have a driver's licence then start applying for a BC Identocard as soon as possible to be ready for voting day.

You only need to register if you didn't vote in the last provincial election or have moved during the summer. The city already has a database of registered voters based on the provincial voters' list, updated to Jul 14 of this year.

While you can wait until Nov 20 to register, you can only register at one designated polling station, which depends on where you live. According to Drennan the city is mailing out approximately 260,000 "where-to-vote" flyers to registered voters this week. The same information will be available in libraries and community centres for the unregistered.

While the Nov 20 polls are open from 8 am to 8 pm, Drennan advises same-day registrants to show up at 7:30 pm at the very latest.

The deadline for registering as a municipal candidate is Oct 15 at 4 pm.

For more information call the Elections Office at 871-6678.

—Tom Yeung

NPA campaign figures don't add up

WE FINALLY HAVE THE NPA AD CAMPAIGN to munch on, but a word of caution: Keep the Tums handy.

Let's go through the one that invites us to "Look at the Non-Partisan record."

You'll notice that you aren't told what period this record covers. Don't assume it's the period since the last election. There's a claim that \$250 million has been raised through levies on private construction. Much of that goes back to when Gordon Campbell was mayor. Just four per cent of the total relates to this term.

The ad claims the 1999 police budget was increased by 8.5 percent to \$118 million. According to the city's own figures the amount of tax dollars budgeted for 1999 is \$112 million, slightly lower than last year. You could add the \$6 million recovered from Ottawa and Victoria among others, which is slightly more than last year. But no matter how you do the math, over this term the increase is about three per cent. More than that was eaten up by pay raises. Maintenance and vehicle purchases were cut.

The "40 more officers" the ad claims were deployed "for city-wide policing" actually all went to the Downtown Eastside.

We're told the crime rate is "down 21.8 per cent." That's a tricky one. Taking credit for crime rates is a bit like taking credit for the economy. It has a lot more to do with spin than substance. Assuming the figure is accurate and forgetting that the ad doesn't tell you what time period this covers, you should ask two questions. How do we compare with other North American cities and where does that place Vancouver in Canada?

The support for an expanded Trade and Convention Centre is even less substantial. The real question is: what will the city contribute other than a bit of cheerleading?

There's the claim of more than "1,400 social housing units constructed since 1995." City records show only 591 of those units have been built. But more importantly, the NPA's refusal to implement demolition and conversion controls in the downtown area has been devastating to low-cost housing stock, according to a city staff report. The major lobbyists pushing this policy include NPA godfather Jan Paul Shason and his sidekick NPA campaign manager Grant Longhurst. The number of single-resident occupancy rooms lost since June 1996 is 903. There has been a net loss in social housing. The ad doesn't tell you that, either.

The one bit of unvarnished truth in the list is the claim the NPA "forced [the] NDP government to back down on expanded gambling." There's no question about that.

As for the other NPA claims, they raise far too many questions to consider this ad campaign the act of a "responsible government."

★★★

A note to Coun. Jennifer Clarke regarding her letter to the editor last Sunday. After a council meeting two weeks ago, she expressed concern about my comments published Oct. 10 on her actions regarding widening the Stanley Park causeway. After she raised her concerns the first time, I checked my facts. Now with her letter, I checked my facts again. I found no reason to change what I wrote. I'm sticking to my story.

allen garr

According to Statistics Canada, Vancouver is still the worst major city in the country for overall crime, particularly property crime. That fact isn't mentioned in the NPA ad.

Here's what I came up with. Crime is down all over the continent, and Vancouver is simply part of the trend. The most commonly cited reason has nothing to do with politicians or police resources—it's about demographics. The number of males between 15 and 24—those who commit the most crime—has declined.

But according to Statistics Canada, Vancouver is still the worst major city in the country for overall crime, particularly property crime. That fact isn't mentioned in the NPA ad.

Incidentally, a 1996 NPA ad boasted they were "making our city safer" in part because they appointed a child and youth advocate. That position has been eliminated.

The \$2 million this year's ad lists for drug treatment and detox centres is so far just a promise that can be withdrawn.

Reading Room News Flash!!

Carnegie is pleased and very honoured to welcome Roch Carrier.

Mr. Carrier, who is the National Librarian, will be touring the Carnegie Library and Centre on Thursday, November 18th at 4:15 p.m.

Roch Carrier is a well-known Quebecois author. He has received many prizes and honours for his work, which includes books for both children and adults. His book Prayers for Very Young Children won the Stephen Leacock prize for humour in 1991
Bienvenue A Carnegie!



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 the realm of the dead
No fancy place to kill the pain
Nobody comes to keep me sane.

Crack cocaine hits the "well-to-do"??
Nope it doesn'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 this game they kill and maim
The War on Drugs is war on us
The joke's on them when we survive plus!

Beth

WHO ARE THEY?

Who are these Visigothic barbarians that would banish music from our streets... seize instruments ... clamp down on joyful noise... vandalize the spirit of the young? What strange and shriveled world do they inhabit? Where do they come from?

Sam Roddan





As I sit in the bar
 Wondering how and where you are
 Staring at my glass of beer
 Hoping you know that I care

Listening to the country tunes
 Remembering our nights under the moon
 Watching couples dance the night away
 Hoping you will appear someday

Ladies ask me to dance
 Not jumping at the chance
 Ladies of the night wanting company for the night
 others just wanting beer and that's not right

Ladies selling flowers
 I wait for the magic hour
 I just want to dance and hold 'you close
 Maybe someday, with help from the big house

I don't hate you for saying goodbye
 I still often wonder why
 Tears forming in my eyes
 All that's left is for me to

Anthony Dunne

THE BUM

I once met a man who lived in the city
 With his patchy old clothes
 He looked quite a pity

His face was unshaven
 And his hair was uncut
 And everyone looked at him
 Like he was some kind of nut

But as I came closer
 There's a tear on his cheek
 It's not money the man wants
 But a friend that he seeks

I asked him if he'd like to talk
 He nodded his head so we went for a walk

He had once had a wife
 And a very happy home
 Butt his wife went away
 And he was left all alone

Now he loved his wife
 For she was real fine
 So he tried to forget her in a bottle of wine

As all the lonely years went by
 He tried but in vain
 to find that ost love
 It just wasn't the same

Money and car and home all gone
 There was nothing left for him to pawn.
 He sank even lower with the passing of time
 He found himself down on the streets
 begging for nickels and dimes.

Now let's not forget that he's still a man
 And he'll try to help himself out
 The best way he can.

So just 'cause you have money
 And are well-to-do
 Remember, don't ever laugh at a bum
 Because the same thing can happen to you.

Lyle Hayes

A marriage made in (developers') heaven

7.

Here's a news item from the *Georgia Straight* about two sweethearts whose attitude to the people of the Downtown Eastside is all too clear. Chuck Brook is the developers' lobbyist who organized the Gastown attack on social housing in Woodward's; thankfully, he failed, but not for lack of trying. Gordon Price is the know-it-all NPA councillor who pompously lectures and berates people when they come before council to try to give their opinions.

FUNDRAISER QUESTIONED

As a member of the Vancouver planning and environment committee, NPA city councillor **Gordon Price** is scheduled to vote on a staff recommendation about a proposed hotel redevelopment on November 4. The applicant, development consultant **Chuck Brook**, has organized a fundraising party for Price's reelection campaign on the same day at the new Westin Grand hotel on Robson Street. Admission to the Price fundraiser is \$75 per person.

The committee vote concerns a proposed expansion of the Holiday Inn on Broadway, but details were unavailable because the staff report won't be released until Friday (October 29). Price told the *Straight* that he doesn't believe he would be in a conflict of interest if he voted on Brook's application. Under the Vancouver Charter, an elected official is in a conflict of interest if there is a "pecuniary" benefit.

"Is the presumption that anyone who has any dealings with city hall cannot participate in the political process?" Price asked, adding that this would raise

questions about the political involvement of unions, neighbourhood associations, or anyone else who comes in contact with civic elected officials.

He added that he has voted against proposals that Brook has brought to council in the past and would do so again. "You're not buying anyone here other than someone you believe is going to make the best judgments to the people I'm responsible to, which are the voters—in fact, all the citizens of Vancouver," Price said.

Brook told the *Straight* that he was a city planner when he met Price, who was then a community-newspaper reporter. "When Gordon said he might want to be a city councillor, I decided I would help him because I really appreciate his perspective and his intelligence," Brook said. "I have a history of supporting good people in government. Some of them are in the NPA and some of them are not. I've supported people in COPE, too."

Brook, who has submitted several rezoning applications to Vancouver city hall on behalf of his clients, said he only organizes the election-year

fundraising party for Price and does not make financial contributions. "On the issue of conflict, I think you need look no further than on how Gordon voted on my last rezoning application in Vancouver, which was at the corner of Stephens and 10th," he said. "He emphatically led the charge against it."

Coquitlam resident **Edward Rogers**, who received a faxed invitation to the Price fundraiser, told the *Straight* that he objects to a developer's consultant organizing the event. "Gordon Price comes off as holier than thou," Rogers said. "Yet he would knowingly allow this gentleman to raise funds for him."

Rogers also said he objected to the \$75 entrance fee, noting that this ensures anonymity because candidates must only disclose the identity of those who contribute more than \$100.

Price replied: "If the argument that anyone who contributes less than \$99 is doing something surreptitious—and anyone who contributes over that and then that becomes public knowledge, and is presumed to be in a conflict of interest—where does that leave everybody?"

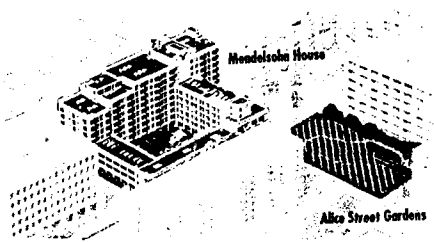
• CHARLIE SMITH



Picture of Lord Mayor Owen



Picture of rabid dog



be nice...

In San Francisco they said **"We won't move."** The City had been convinced (bought&sold) by a developer's wet dream to bulldoze the low income area known by the locals as South of Market – named Skid Row by everybody else. Local residents were categorized as "bums and winos standing in the way of progress." They fought back, forming a residents' association and a corporation of their own – the Tenants and Owners Development Corporation (TODCO). They struggled to keep the housing stock, to build housing, to force owners of slum housing to follow bylaws and standards of maintenance.

Replace South of Market with the Downtown Eastside. TODCO began in the early 70's and went toe-to-toe with the market forces striving to gentrify the entire neighbourhood. Think of DERA and, more recently, the Portland Hotel Society, Main&Hastings Community Development Society, First United Church Housing and St.James Housing. Parallels between TODCO and the work of DERA and the Downtown Eastside community are many, but they achieved something in San Francisco in 1979 that is still to be a reality in Vancouver.

The city government there passed an anti-conversion bylaw, regulating the ability of property and hotel owners to change the use of their buildings from housing low income, long-term tenants to the more lucrative business of tourist and backpacker rooms. Displacing and making homeless the poor is a consequence that such owners and developers refuse to be held accountable for, but an obscene example woke people up in San Francisco .

This is not just a history lesson. While people were agitating for conversion controls a slum

landlord tried to evict a few hundred seniors from an area that was to be part of a 'redevelopment' scheme. They got to the final day and over a hundred seniors were carried out and deposited on the sidewalk with their belongings strewn around them. Scores of arrests were made BUT there were over 15,000 people there. It was one of the biggest demonstrations of solidarity since the anti-war movement. There was a binding referendum on the next election ballot and this bylaw was in.

The Carnegie Community Action Project got established to do research on housing issues, to counter the gentrification and market pressures of local and offshore property owners and to work with housing and tenant groups to establish decent housing and harm reduction measures in the Downtown Eastside. It was through CCAP that John Elberling, the current executive director of TODCO, came to Vancouver in the first week of November. He met with staff of the BC government's Community Development Unit and other non-government housing bodies. To assist in the lobbying and organizing work, he came to Carnegie for a public meeting billed as "Stop The Evictions"

Tom Laviolette (CCAP) gave a brief history of SRO (Single Room Occupancy) housing. Tom really pisses the local NPA politicians off because he uses their facts and figures, their reports and the laws and bylaws already on the books to make our 'case'. In 1980 there were over 13,000 units of SRO housing; the Collier Report (commissioned by the City of Vancouver) released last month shows less than 8,000 now and an average of 800 being lost every year - some through demolition & fire, but most due to conversion to backpacker & tourist use. The latter is accomplished by evicting long term, low income tenants. This bleak outcome has



been thrown down in front of several Councillors and especially the current Mayor, Philip Owen, with sadly predictable results.

Owen chooses what facts to believe.. or so he'd have us believe. The inherent stupidity of saying that the number of new units being built more than makes up for those lost is just that – stupid. In the Downtown Eastside and Downtown South hotel after hotel evicts everybody and starts charging by the day or week. If new housing is for seniors or families or non-poor singles, those who were evicted from these SROs have no chance of getting apartments or rooms. Owen would have us believe that he doesn't understand this, or that he knows that enacting an anti-conversion bylaw would somehow increase homelessness and we refuse to see it. The seedier reality is that Owen's bosses – the corporate landlords and key owners – have simply said no to such controls or regulation and Phil (if nothing else) obeys.

John Elberling gave decent and worthwhile views of what he and the many other community activists in San Francisco have been up against for the last 20 years. "Landlords lie. They don't report or just make it up. If you rent by the month you get certain rights, so they only rent for 28 days at a time. Slumlords will do anything and everything to get around or disobey basic laws. There are illegal conversions and blatant disregard for bylaws, but the anti-conversion regulations have helped us keep about half of the 30,000 units that were there for low income tenants in the 70's."

He spoke of learning to be effective against landlords who would insist they would shut down whole buildings rather than do essential repairs. SROs are the housing of last resort – "short of the sidewalk" – yet even the successes they've had came in the midst of such things as a convention centre and the ensuing loss of a few thousand

rooms. Elberling made no bones about not having a magic wand or some secret for getting housing, and that in itself was refreshing. Grim humour is the only way to put a light side to California's biggest SRO boom in decades – "they're building prisons."

At an all-candidates meeting Vanessa Geary of the Tenants' Rights Action Coalition again pressed Owen with the city's facts & figures and Owen again just lied. When Vanessa caught him he said "I'll never back an anti-conversion bylaw! You're just wrong."

Maybe the statement made by Larry Beasley, then the Assistant Director of Central Planning for Vancouver, that "The voters of Vancouver could easily live with 25,000 homeless people and not even notice," is the idea that Owen and the money running the Non Partisan Alliance monopoly at City Hall repeat to each other. Look as well at the efforts to criminalise the activities of poor people – music on the street, panhandling – and to disperse the denizens of the Downtown Eastside and have them (and their reps) say thank you. Elberling spoke of the need to diversify and to engage in economic development. This, to me, makes a lot of sense. If the obligatory anti-NDP rhetoric in the daily media manages to convince the majority of voters and residents that anyone else is better, the government money now coming into the DE will dry up within days of a Liberal victory. Much of the housing now going in is with provincial money, like it was in Ontario, but Gord Campbell and his Fraser Institute cohorts will make the hatchet job of Harris in that province look like a Sunday picnic compared to what they'll do in the name of "correcting the NDP's mistakes.' here.

We need to have a say and a hand in promoting and developing enterprises and endeavours that will benefit local residents and keep this community as livable and dynamic a neighbourhood as its history deserves. This direction cannot rely solely on going before authority figures – like politicians and developers' public hearings – and asking/lobbying/pleading for them to "be nice".


By PAULR TAYLOR



December 6, 1999


Women's March in Memory of the Montreal Massacre

starts at Pigeon Park 12 noon



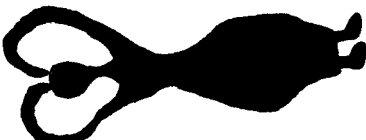
Poster-making gatherings
for the march at Downtown
Eastside Women's Centre

Nov. 26 2 - 4 PM
Dec. 3 2-4 PM




video: "Maker of Change"

509 E. Hastings (Senior's Centre)
Dec. 2 3 - 5 PM



Breaking the Silence
682-3269 #8319



THE USERS

Garry Gust

They turned her down cold, they turned her down flat...
She spat on the floor and walked away...
Then in a wet alley she took a cold bath...
And swore that by morning she'd make them all pay...

And the doctor, the lawyer, the judge and the priest
Agreed that she wasn't to blame...
But the Jurymen shouted: "Let's kill her at least,
For filling our city with shame..."

His brain's full of Winter and his blood's full of snow...
He's numb and at last feels no pain...
He wants to feel love, but it just can't be so;
The monkey must soon eat again...

And the doctor, the lawyer, the priest and the judge
Said: "Let's give him one more try."
But the citizens held fast and just wouldn't budge;
"Let's teach the poor bastard to die"

"Your needle, my needle, pay it no mind, Just fill it up and shoot it to me..
They fell asleep for the last time behind where Pender Detox used to be

sally's remembrance

glass shattered
in a rootless alley
blood emptied in the lane
some say it was sally's
that was not her real name
she had a hidden fear
was abused and hurt
wouldn't let anyone near
when she had powder in her hands
boy could she do the snake dance
but freedom alluded her
what the hell did they do to her
painful memories took sally
now there's room
for one more
in the alley

David Kossakowski



Cold Like Ice

Paul Wright

The death house is dead
So many passed thru
Glenhaven it was
On Hastings near Clark.

“Service at Glenhaven”
Been seen for many years
Notices all over
In the Downtown Eastside.

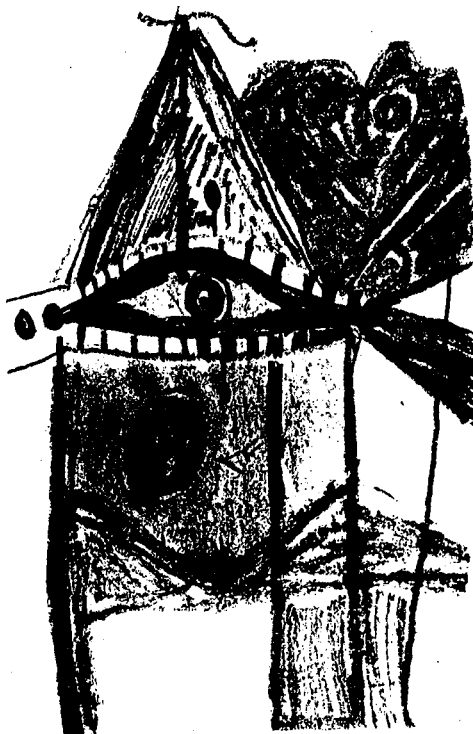
Rivers have flowed
From the people who gather
Honouring ones
In the life hereafter.

Filled many times
With pain and misery
The walls worn thin
From the spirits within.

Robin’s I went to
When last I was there
Never went anymore
Too much to bear.

Too many I’ve gone to
These memorial services
For people who died
Too young down here.

Stacked to the ceiling
With spirits inside
Ones who are dead
Their spirits inside.



The new house is built
Just up the hill
The walls thick and strong
This death house on the hill.

Death house on the hill
What a place it is
Waiting for the spirits
Of those still alive.

Some spirits we see
On the street down here
Death house bound
In their first year

Your number comes up
It’s the luck of the draw
Your notice will be seen
On the Carnegie wall.

Death house on the hill
Like a palace it is
Paid for with tears
Of people passing thru.

How many will stay
At the house on the hill
How many will die
Too young down here?

Built all fancy
Pretty and nice
Waiting for bodies
Cold like ice.

Living on the street
No clean clothes to wear
Sleeping in the park
No water anywhere.

No wonder small cuts
Turn into ugly sores
No shower for weeks
Sleeping on the streets.

New needles, sterile water,
They help quite a bit
So does a shower..
Gets rid of the dirt.

Hard to keep
A little self-respect
When you can’t have a shower
To keep yourself clean.

Everything grows
From self-respect
The first step of all
Self Respect.

Can’t respect
Other people and places
Without respecting
One’s spirit and soul.

We must not forget
The spirit inside
The body controlled
By the demon inside.

How can one believe
We really want to help
No where to be found
A place to get clean.

Paul Wright

[Free showers at Evelyne Saller Centre, 7 days a week;
First Church, 5 days a week; MPA drop-in 7 days a week;
The Gathering Place, 6 days a week.

Help in the Downtown Eastside, Pg.3]

NOW REALLY!

Call 5683 hurry, someone is on the crossroads of destruction. It seems that quite a few people are upset. WHY? Cause this community has come together -working on removing a lethal drug from this community, worse than heroin and cocaine.

As you've read from other articles in the Carnegie Newsletter, TV, radio and other papers Rice Wine has and still is killing many people. Some are in hospitals while others have made it to a form of detox or treatment centre's - they could be suffer-ing from many health issues - from heart failure, liver damage, kidney devastation and problems with the brain.

Personal history has shown me that sometimes intervention can be very helpful for some not all. Today I believe that what this community has done is good. By getting this lethal drug out of the 24 hour and corner stores, as well as having the Attorney General's Office make this law applicable as of December 1 1999. Anyone caught

selling Rice Wine after or on this date can be punished.

I am happy for this Law to come into effect immediately - this community did it for those who were and still are suffering. This victory goes to ALL who became involved with the fight towards removing Rice Wine from all stores in Vancouver. For this I have been getting threats from people on the street, yelling at me for doing the right thing. Quite a few have threatened to kill me and or harm me when I am alone.

My message to them is I am not afraid of you - I am not weak. I walk these streets of the downtown eastside with my head held high. My only protection is not the police force - therefore, if you feel the need to complete this action - it's your move. Last newsletter Jeff and I did a thank you note to many people. I left out a few people. That is Ted Matthew who worked between Victoria and Vancouver. His hard work paid off, with the help of Susan Parsons. Once again Thanks to everyone for being a part of this Victory - look for signs about a celebration party.

Margaret Prevost

**The Hepatitis Strategy – A Public Forum
review the new government policy**

**Fiday, Nov.19, 1-4 pm
Carnegie Centre Theatre**

**Theatre Workshops at Carnegie
Friday afternoons 1 - 3 pm
So powerful for health**

Ann Livingston is running for City Council in the Vancouver election that takes place on November 20th. She is running as part of the COPE/GREEN alliance.

Ann lives in the Downtown Eastside, where she is raising her children. She is active in her comm.-unity, volunteering with various organizations and agencies. Currently, she is the project coordinator for the Vancouver Area Network Of Drug Users (VANDU). She believes that Vancouver's citizens will come together to solve the city's crime problems in practical, cost-effective ways.

Ann is sympathetic to the voices of poor people, unemployed people, displaced persons, ill people, people with disabilities, people with addictions,

people who are still dying of overdoses, parents who are worried about their children and drugs.

Her platform includes decreasing Vancouver's crime rate by creating effective, well-researched interventions for people addicted to drugs. Using land owned by the City of Vancouver for affordable housing, and developing an accessible and affordable transit system for all citizens, especially children.

Ann will speak up for the community. She will not let those with great wealth and power take over. She will speak the truth about what's really happening in the downtown eastside.

So, please remember to vote on November 20, for Ann Livingston.

A new friend.

DELUGE

Mr. Big. ya got nothing
No longer the blame
Unite the flame

Ya gotta be tough
gang thang
Stay alive

"Mumbo jive" No.5
a real black ass
from the waist down
"No."

A good hiding place
Not too many sleeps now
Don't follow me here
I'm coming back fer you

Taum



Happy New Year

New Year's Eve is just eight weeks away. Will 20th Century Fox still be called that after the year 2000? Actually the purists will celebrate the start of the millennium in 2001 because that's when it really starts...

Pot has been illegal only in this, the 20th century. It wasn't illegal in the 19th century. In the 21st century of George and Elroy Jetson it would be a tawdry anachronism if pot is still illegal. Legalize pot in the 21st century!

I plan to stay home on New Year's Eve but in reality who knows what will happen. I'll probably be grafted onto some party.

This millennium has seen the invention of the printing press, the advent of a Protestant Christianity distinct from its Roman Catholic roots, and Buddhism celebrated its 2500th birthday in the 1950's. I really hope that Remembrance Day will be celebrated in the next millennium. I hope that people won't see it as an acknowledgement of 20th century conflicts and therefore irrelevant. The holocaust must not happen again for, thanks to the 20th century, society has installed safeguards to prevent the rise of another Hitler. [?]

Have a happy and safe New Year and please take good care of yourselves and each other!

Dean Ko

World AIDS Day

December 1st

Scheduled Events

From 9AM to 10PM

- 9 AM VMOJA, video "TB, HIV, The Connection"
- 10 Hep C BC, talk
- 11 Dr. Bob Hogg, "HIV Vaccine Trials" w/ Greg Elzonga, A/V Board
- 12 BCPWA Workshop, "AIDS ABC'S"
- 1 PM Diana Peabody, "HIV and Nutrition"
- 2:30 Judy Weiser, "Psychotherapy, HIV"
- 4 Theatre Positive, "S.E.X."
- 5:30 Dr. Montaner, "Update, HIV Antiviral Treatment"
- 7 Candlelight Ceremony, Candlelight Memorial and Vigil Committee
- 8 Crossroads Productions, movie "IV Positive"

There will be booths, dignitaries and street nurses inside and outside the Centre all day, panels from the AIDS quilt will be on display, and food will be served.

THE OLD-MAN

Daniel Rajala

For weeks I watched the moon
Travel past my window in the sky
Getting fuller all the time. I knew
There was a wild man inside me
Just waiting to be released again
"Every Junkie is like a setting sun"
Showing the most radiant colours
Just before the blackest night
The glorious days of youth have passed
Just pictures in the Blueboy Magazine
Dreams of sunny, palm treed shores
Are the only things that seem to last..
The whole world..a big nightmare
Halloween came round at the right spot
To do what He knows how to do best
Even if "That's all there is' left there
Scaring the life right back into me
The day is old butt the night is still young.

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

1999 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$90
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NEWSLETTER

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Vancouver Sun Literacy Hypocrisy!



On October 25, 1999, *The Vancouver Sun* published its third annual Raise-a-Reader edition, supposedly in support of improving literacy for all children. In a lead article, the Editor-in-Chief, John Cruickshank, wrote, "Our children can only grow to become... informed and educated citizens... if we... provide them with the tools they need. Literacy is chief among these tools."

If Mr. Cruickshank is serious about helping all children become "informed and educated citizens", he should look at the forty years of research in the sociology of education that gives us a framework for understanding why many children do not learn to read and write well.

* As a rule, the poorest students drop out of school first and the richest last, not because poor students are dumb, but because the school system discriminates against them. Low income students drop out of school at more than twice the rate of other students.

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

* "Illiteracy is not an isolated phenomenon," wrote Carman St. John Hunter, one of the most

respected adult educators in North America. "it can neither be understood nor responded to apart from the complex set of social, political and economic issues of which it is but one indicator... it is by addressing... poverty itself that a nation creates a climate for literacy... Poverty is the underlying cause of illiteracy... Equality and justice are the real issues -not just literacy." (1)

For years *The Vancouver Sun* has refused to allow an open discussion in its pages on the socio-economic background to illiteracy. Because of the powerful effects of poverty in the process of socialization, such a refusal is irresponsible. Mr. Cruickshank talks of helping all children learn, yet he refuses to discuss a major cause of student failure: poverty. How is a parent supposed to buy books to read to children when she/he doesn't have enough money for food and rent? How are families going to visit libraries if they don't have transportation money? How are low income parents going to pay the fines for late or lost books? These difficult questions don't arise in the elite world of *Vancouver Sun* managers.

The manner in which *The Vancouver Sun* has turned the subject of literacy into a self-promotion event for itself, the Grizzlies Foundation and the Vancouver Public Library Foundation, trivializes this critical issue. This is a good example of how the corporate media actually makes it difficult for us to think seriously about important social concerns by blocking the solid, well-researched information we need to make intelligent decisions. (2)

If *The Vancouver Sun* is serious about a high standard of literacy for all citizens, it will fight to end poverty and strive to build a just and equitable society that includes everyone.

By Sandy Cameron

(1) "Myths and Realities Of Literacy/Illiteracy", by Carman St. John Hunter, in *Convergence*, an International Journal of Adult Education, vol. XX, #1, 1987.

(2) For example, see *The Politics of the Canadian Public School*, by George Martell; *Education and Inequality*, by Caroline Wersell; *The Land We Dream Of - A Participatory Study of Community Based Literacy*, by Elaine Gaber-Katz & G. Watson; *Literacy and Poverty - A View From Inside*, by the National Anti-Poverty Organization (NAPO), Ottawa, 1992.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)

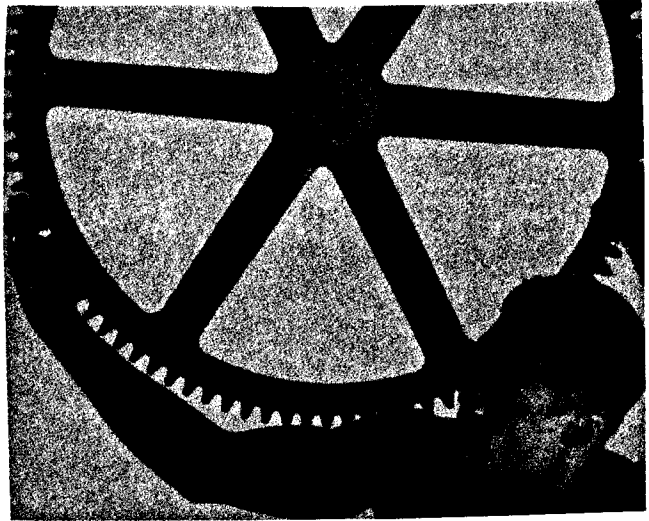
On November 30th U.S. negotiators will meet in Seattle with trade ministers and heads of state from across the globe to make the decisions that will govern world trade and investments for decades to come. These negotiations are run by and for the largest transnational corporations on the planet.

The WTO has/was/does&is for the principles of profit uber alles. Anything that is seen as a barrier to maximum profit is disputed before a closed-door tribunal of a trade 'court'... and their 'ruling' seeks to make illegal (by threatening sanctions or retaliation by these same corporations) human rights legislation, environmental standards, social programs and anti-poverty measures, national sovereignty assertions, minimum wage laws, preferences for domestic businesses and hiring, health and safety laws, and consumer legislation.

There was a thing called the Multilateral Agreement on Investment (MAI) that the same moneyed elite worked on in secret in Paris for over 2 years. They thought to get it passed by attending governments with no public hearings or even discussion. The Council of Canadians, in conjunction with activists in the U.S. and Europe, exposed this MAI for what it is – a corporate Bill of Rights – and forced the Canadian federal government to listen. The BC provincial government held extensive hearings and came out soundly condemning the MAI. This added to the worldwide derogation of the nature of what big business seeks – an economy that is free of any conscience. The MAI stalled and sank.

Lo and behold, the entire 'agreement' is on the table in Seattle for November 30th, albeit under a different name... Other things aimed for:

- prevent the labeling of organic food or "genetically modified" food
- promote a "free logging" agreement (making illegal any restrictions on clear-cutting or banning the export or raw logs)
- privatize education and health services
- limit government procurement (by abolishing the



rights of government to favour ethical, local or national businesses) enshrine "Rights" for genetic engineering of life forms, including patenting and ownership of different forms of plant and animal life, including human genes

It is hazardous to your health and life to ignore the implications of such global tinkering and thousands of people agree. To demonstrate belief in an alternative – like Fair trade and strengthening environmental, trade practice and human protections – a large-scale demonstration is being organized. It will happen in Seattle on November 30th, a Tuesday. Over fifteen buses are going down from Vancouver, sponsored by union locals, labour councils, environmental and community organizations. They will leave about 7:30 a.m. and return about 6:30pm. The BC Federation of Labour is organizing a WTO rally at the Hyatt Hotel in Vancouver for the evening of Nov.30th as well.

A bus is departing from the Downtown Eastside. We need at least 40 people. A sign-up sheet will be at Carnegie's front desk. In order to cross the US border with no delay, your name, birthdate and citizenship have to be submitted to the American Immigration Service prior to going. Sign up by the 21st of November. If it gets filled then call Randy Parraz, the WTO Mobilization Coordinator, at 215-0704.