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Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 1, 1999

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

World
air's day



DIANE
2000

In memory of women killed in
 Montreal and in our own community
 December 2nd, 3 – 5 PM, 509 E. Hastings
 Showing of video "Marker of Change,"
 about the Women's Monument
 December 3rd, 2 – 4 PM Women's Centre
 44 E. Cordova
 Memorial posters workshop
 December 6th, 1PM Meet at Pigeon Park
 (Carrall & Hastings)
 Memorial March

Breaking the Silence by Speaking Out
682-3269 #8319



World AIDS Day Schedule:

Wednesday, December 1, 1999

- pm12:00 LUNCH
 M. Eror, Dr. DeVlaming, B. Schneider
 K. Hosie
 Methadone, Panel Discussion
 BCPWA Treatment Info. Workshop
 "AIDS, the ABC's" (pottery room)
- 1:00 Diana Peabody,
 "HIV and Nutrition"
- 2:00 Sue Currie, VIDAS
 "Update: VIDAS Study"
- 2:30 Judy Weiser, HIV counselor,
 "Heart, Mind, Spirit, and HIV- How
 your feelings affect your physical
 health."
- 4:00 Theatre Positive
 "S.E.X."
- 5:00 DINNER
- 5:30 Dr. Julio Montaner
 "Antiviral Treatment HIV/AIDS"
- 7:00 AIDS Candlelight Vigil and Mem. Com.
 Candlelight Ceremony
 Native Smudge
- 8:00 CAKE AND POP
 Crossroads Productions
 Video, "I.V. Positive"

Health & Fitness
on Tuesdays @ 6pm

December 7 Michiyo Kudo R.D.N

Mich is a nutritionist from St. Paul's Hospital who'll be sharing with us
 some of her ideas on healthy eating on a limited budget.

December 14 Pamela Mayumi Clever B.Sc., DTCM

Pam is a Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine who practices an
 alternative approach to healing and preventative medicine.

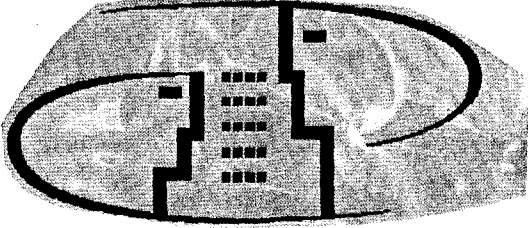
December 21 Sue Curnie

Sue is a nurse and a runner at the Vidus Project who recently completed
 the Alcatraz triathlon and will be showing us some pictures of her trip.

December 28 movie: *Chariots of Fire*

run for you life
 682-3269 box 9126

A Brave Man Has Died



Officer Gil Puder of the Vancouver Police Department died of cancer on November 12, 1999. He had been a police officer for 17 years, and in the past few years he had become one of the most intelligent and passionate speakers in North America on new approaches to drug control that have been shown to increase public health and safety, and save lives from drug overdoses and street violence.

It took two tragic events in Officer Puder's career before he was able to accept the fact that the war on drugs doesn't work. A fellow police officer and close friend was killed on duty in an incident involving drugs, and Officer Puder was forced to shoot an armed drug addict in self defence during a failed bank robbery.

Officer Puder might have left the police force after these traumatic experiences. He might have withdrawn into himself, or he might have become bitter and violent towards all those in the underground drug culture. What he did do was seriously study the global drug problem, and learn about positive approaches to drug prevention, treatment, harm reduction and law enforcement.

Officer Puder believed that the drug crisis, which involves both licit and illicit drugs, is a public health crisis. In an article in the *Vancouver Sun* he wrote, "My hope for 1998 is that Santa has left a large measure of courage and wisdom in a number of stockings so that our children can mark this year as the one when we finally began treating drug abuse as a health issue rather than a criminal industry... At some point the policing profession must live up to its image, place public safety ahead of careers, and take up the leadership challenge abdicated by elected officials... Decriminalization (which does not mean legalization) would not result in heroin sold at corner stores... Various

drugs (think of alcohol, tobacco) require different 3. forms of regulation, which could be phased in slowly... The windfall savings on law-enforcement dollars could be plowed into health care, education and rehabilitation, which are the only methods proven to correct substance abuse. Participation (in treatment and harm reduction programs) would be much easier to encourage when sick people are not stigmatized by criminalizing their addiction... While millions of public dollars are squandered (on the war on drugs), people continue to die. I'm tired of bringing their families the bad news.' (1)

Officer Puder was a brave and caring man who spoke and wrote eloquently for intelligent approaches to drug control even when his superiors ordered him to stop. By following his example we will do honour to his name.

By SANDY CAMERON

1) "Dispatches from the war on drugs - decriminalize. by Gil Puder, *Vancouver Sun*. Dec.31/97.



Accidental Touch

In heaven sits a guy who does the clichés
for all the country songs
I'd like to employ him one more time
just for you

that casual touch, spontaneous caress
means more than all the pills I've ever taken
every drink, all the sentiment
that guy in heaven ever pecked out

if you only knew but no one will tell you
'cause certain lines never cross
boundary after boundary
the things you do when you don't know what
you are doing mean the most unconscious love
is the sweetest 'cause it doesn't know where
it comes from.. it's just there

Richard Loewen

Queue

First time in the Downtown Eastside,
playing cool sounds of modern Jazz

Saturday, Dec. 4, @ 2 PM

Corner of Main & Hastings
(Outside Carnegie)

West Coast Symphony String Quartet

Back by popular demand with works from
the Classical and Romantic periods

Sunday, Dec 12 @ 4 PM

In the theatre

Ode to Nellie

Child of sunny, breezy, hypnotic days
She never was, is, will be in eons to come
So unique, exquisitely rare, priceless in our hearts
Deep in us all who knew her, know about her,
have felt her aura encircling our souls.
Remember the magnificence of her departed soul
So far so near instantaneously present,
appearing suddenly, shining.
Young Nellie, I realize that you hear me
so tune in your celestial ears –
I can almost touch your soaring, shooting star.
Your presence so painless, free, neverending...
absolute. So fear not. Oh so sweet Nellie
Breathe ever so deeply, gently,
Carefree in endless twilight, riding on a windless
crest of timelessness, saddled upon a surreal,
creamy white steed, a proud prancing unicorn in
the fullness of flight..
Return to me on any day, Nellie, either given or
bestowed.. as you wish.
You know I will always be here
resting on the shores of this great expanse
Sleep peacefully my Nellie. sweet dreams

Robyn Livingstone

Submissions for Special Millenium Issue

of the Carnegie Newsletter
Short pieces (say 100 words or so)
FOR THE AGES!

Get your stuff in by December 19th at
the latest!!!!

From the depths of November

Depression lurks
in the contemplation of failures
large and small eclipses
mundane pleasures and
the ability to be cheerful

sinking into despair
we often clutch towards
shiny things or people
who seem calm in themselves but
who are dangerous
to our equilibrium

shaking it up
we release our emotions
in unlikely ways
it is when we start to hate ourselves
for things we have or haven't done
words said or unsaid
that we become sour

we lurch through our lives
to display eventually
all those inner tendencies
that compel us from sleep
to our graves we take
the distillation of all our actions

getting bogged down in sorrow
accelerates the process

Delayne



RESOURCE CENTRE FOR IV DRUG USERS OPEN HOUSE

*TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 3-7 P.M.
575 POWELL STREET*

5.

What is the Resource Centre? The following has been accepted as a statement of Guiding Vision and Principles:

"The Resource Centre is a safe and welcoming place for drug-users, from all cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It is a place of sanctuary and support, mutual respect and acceptance. It is a place that will promote individual and community health, and in so doing it will contribute to the reduction of personal and social harm that attends drug use.

The Resource Centre is a place of healing. It is a place where every person is considered a full and equal member of our common human family. It is a place to inspire every person to better meet their responsibilities to themselves, their loved ones and to society.

The Resource Centre is a refuge from the streets and the drug scene in the Downtown Eastside. It is the explicit desire of drug users and others in the DTES community to create and maintain an environment tolerant of drug users and their addiction to drugs, but not of ingestion or dealing of drugs in or around the Resource Centre.

- For the individual user, it is a place of refuge, support, shelter and access to personal care amenities. It is a place to regain a sense of worth and dignity.

- For the users in the DTES, it is a place of empowerment and organization to advocate responsibility within the wider community on issues of

community health and development.

- For the user community it is a place of social connection, peer support and counseling; a link to health and social resources; a place for education, training and social integration.
- For the health and service agencies, it is one link in the larger chain of public and private resources that must be forged through cooperation and common action.
- For the whole community of the DTES, it is a place for positively impacting the health of the area and diminishing harmful social effects of drug use. It is a place to promote understanding of drug-related issues, and build bridges between users and non-users through cooperative engagement and activities.

The Resource Centre will function as a bridge, linking drug users to community services.

Based on principles of self-help and community development, the Resource Centre will be a place where drug users can take a leading role in the governance, planning and operations of the Centre. Since personal empowerment is a key determinant of human health, this is essential to the health-promoting, harm-reducing role of the Resource Centre."

If you are interested in finding out more info or have some comments and suggestions to make, the **Open House** is a perfect place to do it!

Muggs Sigurgeirson

Volunteer Christmas Parties:

Dec. 6, 1 pm – Street Program

Dec. 8, 4:30 – All volunteers

Dec. 10, 1 pm – Learning Centre

Dec. 14, 12:30 – Pool Room

3 pm – Weight Room

Dec. 18, 3 pm – Receptionist

Dec. 22, 3 pm – Computer Room

All players for the Cabaret on Dec. 8th must sign up 2 days in advance with Earle, Stacy or Kai!

Carnegie's Children's Christmas Party

Dec. 19th in the Theatre

Tickets available Dec. 4th at Info Desk.



Be on the alert

The Rice Wine situation is getting outta hand.. almost every corner store in our neighborhood is selling. The date set for it no longer being legal to sell this stuff anywhere outside a liquor store is December 1. Store owners are not taking the effect of this lethal product into consideration, more now than ever. **IT'S still KILLING OUR PEOPLE**, and I got a message from Mission they are having the same problems. The most reported store is on Hashing St., called U2 groceries. While I was in there I noticed young kids running the store, while the father or brother was in the back 'resting'.. - actually selling the rice wine. I need help! Any suggestions?

Margaret Prevost
293-5981

RICE WINE OUT! U-BREW IN?

"It is estimated that 125 people a year are dying from rice wine," council candidate Anne Livingston declares. Attorney General Ujjal Dosanjh said the ministry is taking action to prevent more deaths.

The government is pulling rice wine out of grocery store shelves and limiting its sales to liquor stores, but many chronic alcoholics who drink rice wine regularly will be left with Lysol as an affordable but riskier substitute. Can a U-Brew in Downtown Eastside Vancouver be a healthier, affordable alternative?

Rice wine is Chinese cooking wine with around 40% alcohol and 2% salt content. Many DE residents drink it because it's conveniently found in local corner stores for only a toonie, but after Dec. 1st stores caught selling it will be charged.

Dosanjh consulted with community agencies, police, retailers and distributors. City councillor, Daniel Lee, said "this action will benefit local business." Did they consult rice wine drinkers?

Word on the street says "it's going to be bad." Livingston is employed with Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU) and held two meetings gathering input from rice wine drinkers.

She says it's a misconception that only 'ricers', those drinking publicly, buy it. The truth is, it's the drink for many poor people because they can't afford better. Many say they will buy mouthwash and cleaning supplies for a drink or buy rice wine illegally from corner stores' hidden leftover stock.

Dosanjh says the new law makes it an offence for retailers to knowingly sell non-beverage alcohol products as intoxicants, and the ministry will begin educating retailers on the dangers of household product abuse and how they can prevent it.

Alternatively there's 'harm reduction' where the focus is not on attempting to control consumption but on reducing the harm associated with it. Livingston says a U-Brew in the Downtown Eastside can provide a safe cheap drink and replace rice wine.

Deaths due to low-grade alcohol abuse can be prevented when a healthier, cheaper drink is available, says Paul Alexander - speaker of the Green Party. He wants to see a U-Brew in the Downtown Eastside. After an initial cost of \$30, U Brew makes about 23 liters of 15% alcohol for \$11.

By Valerya Edelman

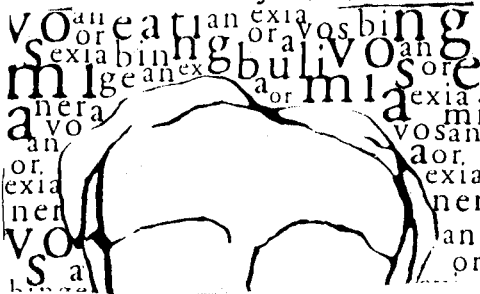
She's my best friend although we've never met
 First impressions haven't come yet
 We have been through good and bad
 We've been through happy and sad

She's my best friend and we talk everyday
 Even though we live far away
 We talk about everything
 She's a Queen and I am a King

She's my best friend and yes she cares
 For each other we will always be there
 We always joke about having a dance
 Before the millennium I'll get my chance

She's my best friend and I love her so
 Don't have to tell her she already knows
 We'll be together through thick and thin
 She's my best friend till no end

Anthony Dunne



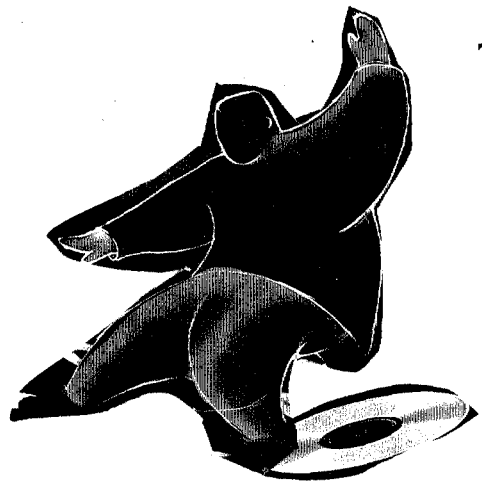
I'm nobody! Who are you?
 Are you - nobody - too?
 Then there's a pair of us!

Nothing to illuminate,
 Nothing to eliminate,
 Looking perfectly at perfection itself
 Seeing perfection, one is perfectly free.

My companion has passed away
 The Master, too, is gone.
 There is no friendship now that equals this;
 Mindfulness directed to the body.

The Old Ones now have passed away,
 The new ones do not please me much,
 Today I meditate all alone
 Like a bird gone to its nest.

Videha



FRIDAY NIGHT KARAOKE

Although it was cold and rainy on a Friday night a couple of weeks ago (November 12), it was sure warming up in the theatre at the Carnegie Centre. The reason for the heat being turned up was the once-a-month Karaoke show.

The Karaoke show is a chance for all those budding musicians and aspiring singers to come out and enjoy an evening of music, fun and dance. It's a chance to try new material or just to meet old friends.. and maybe even make new ones.

Even though we had some electronic difficulty, and started a half hour late, Eva and Anthony rose to the occasion as the co-hosts of the show. They brought us some beautiful music and all had a great time.

We had a variety of entertainers ranging from our regulars to a few new faces. We had a guest appearance by Robert Doucette. We welcomed back all the regulars and also the new singers.

Two prizes were donated anonymously. The first prize was a random door prize and was won by Ralph. The second prize was for a mystery song but no one chose the song so we made a second door prize draw which was won by Anita Stevens.

Thanks to all those that attended, and a special thanks to our individual co-hosts, Cody, Robert, Egor and those who helped at the end. We look forward to seeing all of you back and hopefully seeing a lot more new faces at our next show on December 10, 1999.

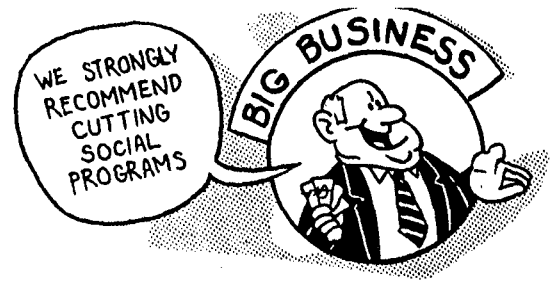
Back to Square One

About a week ago the government announced the restoration of earnings exemptions for people on social assistance. In plain words, if you're on welfare you can earn and keep up to \$100 a month and if you're a family or disabled you can earn and keep up to \$200. If you earn more it gets deducted from your next cheque.

There were a number of government people on hand at United We Can, the Downtown Eastside's (and Vancouver's) shining example of what recycling is. The bustle of activity in the place is evident every day all day, as bidders & bidderettes bring in containers culled from various 'triplines' in the urban core.

When the NDP government started acting on bad advice from social engineering consultants – when BC Benefits replaced GAIN – it seemed that the rantings of the Fraser Institute corporate tank had overwhelmed common sense. The punitive nature of these new regulations and criteria put it on a par with the worst of the new welfare rules in states and provinces across the continent. It's a long story of heightening the hysteria of making scapegoats – as the wealthy and classist go into the stratosphere in terms of personal perks and fortunes, those left behind are enticed into blaming the poor, people of colour, aboriginals and immigrants and women heading single parent families...

Now the NDP is responding to voices not headlined or quoted in the obligatory anti-NDP rhetoric of the daily media, and a real systemic change that people applaud comes through. What needs to be understood is that it takes a few years for such changes to be made, but it's a return – a restoration. Government, and specifically the BC NDP, needs to re-examine the poverty-promoting legislation that has gutted much of their support base. It's really easy to be fooled by the bullshit in the *Province*, *Vancouver Sun*, and radio & TV, all owned by self-interested jerks like Conrad Black, and repeat the non-thinking that says "anything or anyone else is better." At the same time, people



recall the NDP fundraiser, held at Dr. Sun Yat Sen Gardens, when activists, the very poor, mentally and physically disabled, single parents, addicts and users all deafened the gathering with rage at cuts and punitive measures.

In the last provincial election campaign, Gordon Campbell and the Liberals, parroting the Fraser Institute, called for a huge reduction in basic rates and the institution of workfare. "\$450 a month and you work for it!" You want to be semi-slave labourer?? When greed gets control, ordinary people can't even get to square one.

The Surplus

"It is important to remember that the federal government [*pressured by US corporations, "free" trade bullshit and the Business Council on National Issues*] created its own fiscal crisis in the 1980s and 1990s, predominantly through irresponsible cutting of taxes & poor fiscal management."

***Rhetoric: a) skill in speaking and writing
b) insincere language
c) talking until it all sounds the same

NAPO, the National Anti-Poverty Organisation, made an intelligent and well-researched submission to the Standing Committee on Finance. The occasion? The federal government has a surplus of over \$12 billion dollars, soon to balloon to over \$20 billion. This government has cut Employment Insurance so that only 40% of workers are now eligible, even though everyone has to pay into it on every paycheque; they've cut transfers to provinces for health, education and welfare, leaving provincial governments to take the political fallout

CCAP COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

Newletter of the Carnegie

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

December 1, 1999

For more information, call 689-0397 or drop by our office, Carnegie 2nd floor

**Q. WHY DID THIS
HOTEL GET A PAINT
JOB ?**

**Q. ARE ITS DAYS
NUMBERED AS A
RESIDENTIAL HOTEL ?**

**City of Portland, Oregon, enacts a
conversion control by-law.**

**But one well-connected landland
gets it defeated**

Lessons for Vancouver ?



A. INTERNATIONAL VILLAGE

The rumour on the street is that the owner's (Henderson Development) of the soon to be opened International Village paid to have the **Arco Hotel** (83 W. Pender St.) painted white. If true, it would appear that the owner of this new development is worried about its neighbourhood image. After all, a dirty old building across the street may scare customers away. If you remember, the owner's marketing had always tried to define itself as a neighbourhood all onto itself. Obviously trying to remove any association to the Downtown Eastside, which is right across the street. This brings us to the next question: Are the days of the Arco Hotel numbered as a residential hotel ?

International Village tower and condos overlook Hastings Street



A. Most likely

Although the City's most recent report on the future of Vancouver's residential hotel stock, completed by Colliers International, does not list the Arco Hotel as a candidate for redevelopment or conversion, the forces of change are likely to be very powerful if International Village is as commercially successful as its owners would like it to be. But of course, if it isn't commercially successful no doubt the Downtown Eastside will be blamed for its failure.

Too bad, the owner's concern for the 'look' of the Arco did not ask why is it that the Arco is in such bad repair. If they had they would have discovered that the owner has a long history of mismanagement and failure to maintain the building. There are strong rumours that city inspectors will be shutting the Arco because the owner refuses to comply with city-ordered repairs.

Portland City Council enacts a Conversion Control By-law

On November 4, 1998, the Portland City Council passed the "Affordable Housing Preservation Ordinance" as part of an overall strategy to maintain existing affordable housing within the City. In doing so, Portland wanted to protect affordable housing for its most vulnerable and low income populations. Under the ordinance owners of apartments subsidized by the US federal government would have to give the city first choice to purchase the apartments instead of the owners canceling the federal subsidy and evicting low-income renters by raising the rents for higher income renters.

However, CCAP has learned in a phone interview with a Portland city official that a well-connected landlord was able to convince his political friends in the State Senate to defeat the ordinance. Too

bad. However, the City of Portland still has a Condo Conversion Control Ordinance protecting its remaining stock of residential hotels from conversion to condominiums. Apparently, the City of Portland does not have a problem of hotels being converted to backpackers hostels or budget hotels.

Well what are the lessons for Vancouver ? 1) That the Portland City Council had the will to try and control losses to its existing low-income housing stock, this is not apparent here in Vancouver. 2) That in British Columbia it is highly unlikely that the province would stop the City of Vancouver from implementing a Conversion Control By-law. Aferall, it was the province, at the request of City Council, who gave the city the power to create such a by-law.



Police film on the Downtown Eastside to be aired on national television.

Odd Squad Productions will have its film, "Through a Blue Lens" about drug use and life in the Downtown Eastside aired **Wednesday, December 8th, on CBC National News**, which starts at 10pm. As many people possible living in the Downtown Eastside should watch this film so that a broad debate regarding its portrayal of the neighbourhood as well as its usefulness as an educational tool in schools against the misuse of drugs.

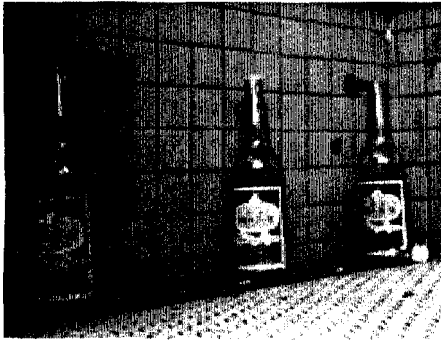
Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee: They will not stop until the Dugout is moved out of Gastown

The following is an excerpt from GHAPC Minutes, October 21, 1999

Dugout: City staff are reviewing the concerns expressed by Gastown residents and business people about the impacts of the food line-up at the Dugout and are developing possible options about discussion with the Dugout and the groups which expressed concern.

Nathan Edelson advised [that] staff from various City departments have met with Dugout to get a sense of how the line-ups are managed. Real Estate and the Building group have been asked to look at other facilities in the area which might better accommodate the meal program. Staff will report back when more information is available. (p.4)

The Dugout held an open house last week, GHAPC was invited to attend, but none bothered to show up.



Rice Wine: Off Store shelves Dec. 1

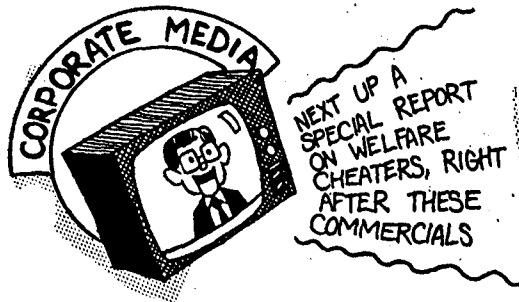
After a one month transition period, where stores selling rice wine had the month of November to sell off their inventories, rice wine will now only be legally available in liquor stores. The price is to remain below \$5, but time will tell whether stores continue to sell the wine or a substitute appears that could be more deadly than rice wine.

Community Directions goes Green

Members and participants of Community Directions have hired **Marg Green**. Her job will include the coordination of planning and facilitation necessary to come forward with community development policies and principles which respect the interests of the existing low-income community in the Downtown Eastside. Congratulations, Marg!

Next Community Directions Meeting: Thursday, December 2, 3pm at Jennie Pentland, 540 E. Hastings St.





and rage as the most vulnerable are punished with cuts. Hospitals close, services are cut back or eliminated, tuition skyrockets and people are forced to work for ¼ the minimum wage. The surplus is presented as a just reward for getting Canada's financial house in order, when it's money made on the backs of the non-wealthy.

Okay, what you've read so far could be taken as sour grapes rhetoric.. if you've profited from all the cuts. Those who stand to make a fortune from privatizing healthcare or education or getting welfare recipients to work for below minimum wage see these measures as good.

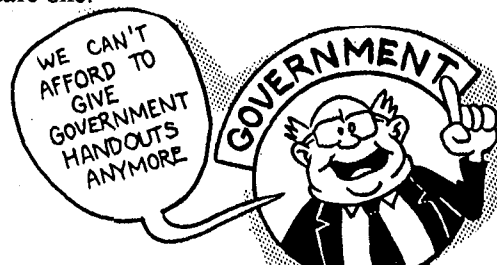
The hole in the balloon of joy over increased wealth for the few gets widened by things like child poverty. Mel Hurtig publishes a book called "Pay the Rent or Feed the Kids" and the disgust over the increase in children living below the poverty line is national news for days. The few whose interests run counter to things like a national child care program or a national housing program are shown as a *balance* to the story, calling all the research and reports and numbers "wrong" "mis-guided" crap. The politicians who get paid and supported by these same few are quick to mouth the rhetoric of "doing the best we can and proud of it" but it's evasive in the face of independent facts.

Libby Davies, Member of Parliament, questions the Prime Minister about the reality of half a million more poor children and the lack of social housing and is told that "provinces rejected this"(!) It's exactly this kind of response that was mirrored in Europe. Canada was condemned by the United Nations for its levels of poverty, especially child poverty, and for its treatment of Aboriginal People. While the government was making its presentation an anti-poverty activist silently

mouthed the words "She's lying," to one of the Council members. The Council member mouthed back "I know."

In Newfoundland, individuals are expected to survive on \$2500 a year if they receive social assistance. In Ontario, homelessness is rampant and the number of poor children has doubled in 10 years. In BC, elements in the NDP react to this global trend in competitive impoverishment and bring in a vastly inferior welfare system that punishes on purpose. If you are an activist and speak out, you run the real risk of petty retaliation, either personally or in terms of organizational retribution.

This kind of language is akin to being between a rock and a hard place. The New Democrats, when not being the government, have always had the backing of labour and working people and the poor; there's always been a strong commitment to fundamental social justice and human rights and the myriad of social issues that get split between "left" and "right". Individual stories of inexplicable treatment by certain ministries and a bureaucracy with a penchant for increasing hardship and need seem to get stifled by this fear of retaliation – if the people you thought of as friends or at least sympathizers turn on you or just turn away to seemingly join in with the oppression that's always been there, what do you do? Where do you go? The only answer is to fight back, to again get to square one.



Frustration? Is it planned this way? Isn't it obvious? In terms of political reality, this endless cycle seems to be played out with every government and the issues that we can win seem to get more petty or just mundane. We have a clear idea of what's right, and persistence shows the holes in the wall of The System. Take care. be aware.

By PAULR TAYLOR

HOMELESSNESS: JUST THE FACTS

* In 1992 the federal government abandoned housing programs for low income Canadians; since then 75,000 units have not been built. (Source CMHC 1993 annual report, housing projections to 1997).

* Poverty and lack of access to affordable housing are major contributors to homelessness.

* In BC, 47% of renters pay more than 30% of their income on shelter. 25% pay more than 50% of their income on shelter. (BCHMC Homelessness Fact sheet)

* Most people on welfare spend 75% of their income on shelter.

* The Vancouver area has 330 emergency shelter beds. Over 500 people a month are turned away from shelters due to lack of space. (BCHMC Homelessness Factsheet)

* There are 10,500 households on the waitlist for BC Housing. (BCHMC Homelessness Fact sheet)

* The withdrawal of federal funding and the

cancellation of numerous housing programs in the 1990s resulted in 11,000 fewer affordable housing units built in BC. (BCHMC Homelessness Fact sheet)

* Studies have shown that a supportive housing unit, with medium support, ranges in cost from \$30 to \$40 a day, compared to \$124 a day for a prison or \$360 a day for a psychiatric hospital.

* One third of those without decent housing are suffering from a mental illness. (Golden Report on Homelessness)

* In 1998, over 880,000 Canadians used the food banks. (National Food Bank Assoc.)

* In the year 2000, the United States will spend 28 billion dollars on housing programs. Canada will spend under 2 billion. (U.S. Housing and Urban Development, CMHC)

* In 1999, Canadians got a tax break of approximately one dollar a day. The 1% solution to end homelessness will cost taxpayers 50 Cents a day.



Lonely Hearts

Loneliness is an insidious scourge.. a trench fever with gut-wrenching pain. It's a festering sore that gnaws at the soul. There's no antidote but faith in yourself, then deep-felt outreach for comrades, travelers and pilgrims along the way.

Sam Roddan

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 - 6:45 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
 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. \$50
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FREE - donations accepted

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

101 Main Street, Vancouver V6B 1T7 (604) 682-1300

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
 CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION
 Articles represent the views of contributors
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**Submission Deadline
 for next issue
 Monday, December 13**

carnnews@direct.ca

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association can help you with:

- Welfare problems
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DERA has been serving the Downtown Eastside for 25 YEARS!

No Code of Ethics

BCTV, CBC, Rogers Cablevision and the Carnegie Newsletter did a terrible job of covering the recent civic election. To get your information from one of these media outlets one would think the only parties running were the NPA and the COPE/Green team.

Patrons are calling the last three issues of the Carnegie Newsletter the Bud Osborn press. The newsletter should be impartial and if they cannot cover everyone who is running for the Downtown Eastside no candidate should appear in this undemocratic paper.

Anyway, you may treat me as if I were invisible,

but you shall never break my spirit!

Another thing many patrons and I believe you went too far comparing Mayor Owen to a rabid dog. If you keep on with that attitude you may be on the outside of the building looking in. Carnegie could be destroyed from within and not from the outside if certain individuals do not stop being so bullheaded.

Irene Schmidt

[* *This paper has never been impartial. Coverage stems from submissions and of course a personal awareness, however humble or misguided, of the all-volunteer crew. Speak for yourself. – Ed.]*

MICHAEL CLAGUE **(Carnegie has a new Director)**

Do you really want my bio? I suspect the *Newsletter* can probably cook up something better than what I can provide. Probably there should be something about the fact that I like to use “*big words*” but I promise to supply the dictionary!

Anyhow, how does this sound:

I have worked in community development in both urban and rural communities. For the past few years I have been self-employed in community work but was the Executive Director of the Social Planning and Research Council of BC. My first community work was for the Chief and Council of the Musqueam Reserve. In 1970 I began my East Vancouver community work experience, first with the Grandview Woodlands Area Council and later as Executive Director of the Britannia Centre.

I am excited about coming to Carnegie. Everyone congratulates me and says “It will be challenging!” I believe it. But Carnegie has developed such an excellent reputation in serving the Downtown Eastside I feel fortunate to be part of it and feel welcome already, very much looking forward to



working with the Board and staff and all the volunteers. I know I'll be on a steep learning curve and there will be no shortage of people with advice. Your help will be appreciated.

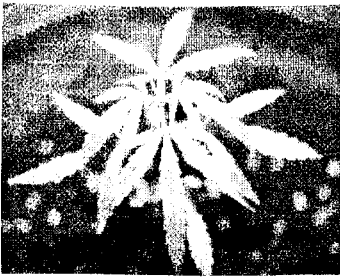
Thanks to Dan, the Board and everyone who has put in the extra hours and work while the search for the Carnegie Director was underway.

Oh yes, I usually get around town by bike – so you can expect 2-wheel arrivals and exits.

Michael

(Margaret's explanation) Who is Michael Clague? He is this tall, hair is this looong and he can be found on the third floor over there in that corner. If you have a question for him drop in and say hello - please don't forget your dictionary.

**S*smiles*



Potential

Marijuana has been part of human life for a long, long time. Archeologists have found cannabis resin and paraphernalia in ancient tombs in Egypt, China, etc.

Up to the beginning of the 20th century marijuana and, for that matter, cocaine and morphine, were legally available in drug stores (apothecaries). In 1905 the Harrison Act was passed, prohibiting the sale of opium, morphine salts and other opiates "if taxes were not collected". This Act was later amended to prohibit even possession.

In 1937 the Marijuana Act was passed. Conspiracy theorists widely believe that Wm. Randolph Hearst, the newspaper magnate, financed the movie "Reefer Madness" and lobbied for the illegality of marijuana to destroy the hemp newsprint mills that were directly competing with his wood pulp mills.

As a plant, cannabis sativa has uses as rope, clothing thread, oils useful for lampwick and in the manufacture of soap, hemp paper, plastic, etc.

There is an argument that a single marijuana cigarette has more tar than a conventional tobacco cigarette. That's like saying an orange has more juice than a deadly nightshade berry. One is good for you and one is not. Cannabis tars synthesize differently in the alveoli of the lungs and catalyze with one's thoughts differently. Marijuana helps people with insomnia, asthma, nausea, flu, AIDS, anorexia, headaches, chemotherapy convalescence, glaucoma, etc.

Some shamanistic cultures use marijuana as a sacrament in religious rituals. In the 1950s pot, along with other drugs, led many to various spiritual paths including Zen Buddhism. In Japan



many roshis (Zen priests) smoke tobacco and drink sake. There is no guilt associated with drinking in Japan. Interestingly enough, alcohol is a name given to that liquid by Muslims, who forbid it.

Controlled Drugs and Substances Act

Section 94 states that the Narcotic Act was repealed and replaced with the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act.. Pot, in Canadian law, is classified as a "controlled substance", rather than a "narcotic".

Section 60 reads that amendments could be made by adding to or striking out any part of the Act by the Governor General if deemed necessary. It is under this Section that Ottawa can be petitioned to legalise pot.

In Canadian history there was the LeDain Commission finding no serious health threats linked to pot. A Burnaby MP introduced a Private Member's Bill recommending its legality.

Why don't we all take a moment to write a letter to the Ombudsman and the Governor General requesting passage of a bill that, in a country where a person old enough to drink, vote, join the army (or possibly get conscripted) gives individuals the constitutional right to smoke pot with the same (or less) restrictions and regulations that affect alcohol.

Legalisation of pot would help the country's deficit through taxes. Ultimately, my ideal is to see the legalisation and decriminalization of all drugs.

By DEAN KO



I must say ever since this program has begun, I've seen so much in these people that I would have never seen in a lifetime.. such things as hidden talents in every drug addict down on this block. I know that it (the program) preoccupied my mind and my time several times, leading me to other things than doing drugs.

H.



cold pavement
makes my legs ache
and cold wet pavement
makes my heart ache
nights go longer, days go colder
soup is tasteless but it's free

"who do I look like?
- the cigarette fairy?"
get bent, smoke dog shit
sing for your tasteless soup
Days without rain are rare.

C. Middlecoff



Welcome Marg Green!

Marg Green, a long-time resident and active community person, has been chosen for the principal organizing job in the Downtown Eastside's largest coalition of groups and individuals.



Marg has been hired for a one-year term by Community Directions, the 54-member alliance that is attempting to cope with the "revitalization" drive being pushed by city and federal politicians on our neighborhood.

Many residents will already know Marg from her activities in the community. She is currently coordinator of the Downtown Eastside Seniors Centre, at 509 East Hastings, home to a seniors' drop-in and the highly-effective Neighbourhood Helpers Project, which makes calls on seniors in their hotel rooms.

Marg is also chair of the Woodward's Co-op Committee, which has been negotiating for social housing in the old Woodward's building, and is a member of the Resource Centre Advisory Committee, which is designing a centre for drug users.

She also has a long background in international development work, with experience in Africa and Latin America.

In her new position starting in early December, she will work with community groups to help clarify the issues that are important to the neighborhood to put us in a better position to deal with outside agencies, business interests and political bodies.

"Our community is reaching a critical point with all the pressures that are coming to bear on it," said Marg.

"If we pull together we can make a difference. And preserve the best of what we have in this neighborhood."

Community Directions holds regular meetings which are open to all. The next meeting is Thursday, Dec. 2, at 3 pm in Jennie Pentland Place, 540 East Hastings.

Community Directions is also sponsoring a one-day workshop on community economic development so we can help ourselves sort out the potential for meaningful jobs and other kinds of beneficial economic activity in the community.

The workshop will be held Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 9:30 am-to-4:30 pm, also at Jennie Pentland Place. All are welcome



Dug Out Reprise: 33 years young

The Dug Out is celebrating its 33rd anniversary. It's a place that most of us take for granted nowadays, but it has had an important role in the recent history of our community and our city. It was one of the first places in the city where people who had long been marginalized and excluded by the centres of power found a voice and an organization through which they could speak and work on their own behalf.

When the Dug Out was founded in 1966, the Downtown Eastside wasn't considered a neighbourhood or a community. It was called skid road. The people who lived here were not treated as real people, but were stereotyped as 'derelicts' and 'transients'. The area was slated for urban renewal, a fancy term for demolition. The population was slated for relocation and rehabilitation, more fancy words for dispersal or deportation to other areas.

The Dug Out was one of the first places in the area to work on the premise that people here were residents of a neighbourhood. In fact, it was in the Dug Out that the very first actual residents' group was founded. The Residents of Gastown was started in 1967 with the help of fieldworkers from the Company of Young Canadians.

The CYC was just one of a number of groups that were doing community organizing in inner city

neighbourhoods from Kitsilano, Fairview Slopes, and the West End (which were all poor and working class neighbourhoods, then), to Strathcona, Mount Pleasant, and Grandview. People all around the inner neighbourhoods of Vancouver were getting organized around issues that mattered to them.

In Strathcona and the Downtown Eastside, familiar issues like poverty, housing, and tenant rights were important. So were things like legal aid (there wasn't any) and medical services (there also weren't much of these). Above all, there was the freeway that the NPA city council planned to push through the area, demolishing much of the neighbourhood in the process.

The Dug Out was an important part of all this. Recognizing the people who lived here as *residents* of a *community* made it harder for civic authorities to dismiss the neighbourhood the way they had in the past. Providing space and resources for those residents to get organized helped build up the community so it could resist displacement and start planning its own future.

The drop-in was a key centre of activity when Senator Croll's Commission on Poverty came to Vancouver in 1970. It was also the base for the Residents of Gastown when, with the help of Ron Yuen at the Urban Design Centre, they managed to acquire the old Stanley and New Fountain Hotels and convert them into what is now the Gastown Residence.

Since that time, the Dug Out has been a mainstay of the community, offering many people a retreat from the streets, from too much booze, and from loneliness.

Unfortunately, over the past few years, it has also been the target of a mean-spirited campaign against it by a few people who claim to represent gastown and who also claim to be advocates for heritage.

On the gastown front, these people don't even have the support of those who they say they represent. When the gastown business group circulated a letter asking its members to complain to the City

about the Dug Out, some of them instead wrote letters of support. While the gastown historical area planning commission (ghaphacks) constantly complains about it, many of the people who live in condos across or down the street give donations.

These attacks on the Dug Out show up the narrow-mindedness of the self-appointed heritage commissars of gastown. If they were concerned with real heritage instead of picayune points of design and taste that only matter to a small elite, they would treasure the place. It is a vibrant, living connection with a part of Vancouver's past that many of us have forgotten or never knew about.

Of course, that is one of the reasons why these people hate the Dug Out so much. History shows us that if you can erase a people's memory, it is quite easy to undermine their community. This is what Europeans tried to do to the aboriginal peoples in the settler colonies of Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. It is also what the 'urban pioneers' of gentrification try to do in poor and working class neighbourhoods when they arrive and claim those places for themselves. Once you undermine the community, you can then get rid of the people who make it.

The so-called heritage advocates like to believe that it was the campaign to save gastown that stopped plans for the freeway and urban renewal, but it was actually the grassroots organizing that took place in communities by and with the residents that was responsible for this victory. The gastown campaign was part of this, but it would not have been successful had not Downtown Eastside residents been out campaigning on other issues.

Ironically, it was the displacement effects caused by the heritage renovation of gastown in the late sixties and early seventies that helped to create the need for places like the Dug Out and the community organizing of which it was a part. As recent events show, that need is greater than ever.

By E.A. Boyd

Where have all the dollars gone?



Every month, millions of dollars leave our community to line the pockets of outsiders. Let's find out how these dollars can remain here to fund jobs, grocery stores and other services, self help groups and other essentials for the community.

A workshop on community economic development

Wednesday, Dec. 8, from 9:30 am-to-3:30 pm

At Jennie Pentland Place, 540 East Hastings.

All welcome! Lunch provided.

Sponsored by Community Directions

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Classroom 2 - 3rd floor

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