

FREE - donations accepted

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

FEB. 1, 2000

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

Think about
Your Mother
Your Sisters
Your Wife
Your Daughter
Your Girlfriend



THE WOMEN'S MARCH on FEBRUARY 14th



"THEIR SPIRITS LIVE WITHIN US"

9th WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH

MONDAY *FEBRUARY* 14 AT 12:00 PM

**ASSEMBLY AT CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE
12:00PM**

MARCH BEGINS AT 1:00 PM FROM CARNEGIE CENTRE

**REMEMBERING THE WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN
MURDERED
AND ARE MISSING IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE**

BRING YOUR DRUM!

This event is organized by women & led by women because women especially Aboriginal women face physical, mental, emotional and spiritual violence on a daily basis. We ask that all the community join us in the spirit of the march. We also ask that men share their grief and show their support by respecting the structure of the march: Women Elders, women drummers, women with minor children, women and their partners and male drummers.

**POST MARCH GATHERING AT THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL
475 ALEXANDER STREET 3PM
*EVERYONE WELCOME: FOOD AND DRUMMING***



HERSTORY OF THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S MEMORIAL MARCH

For the 9th time, on February 14th 2000, the Women's Memorial March will be held.

What is the Women's Memorial march? How and why did it begin? How did it become a First Nations march, or is it? Why are men asked to walk at the end of the march behind women? These are questions that you may have asked yourself.

The Women's Memorial march was organized after the murder of a First Nation's woman in the Downtown Eastside; her name is not used out of respect for her family. She was murdered by someone from outside of the community. The woman's family took care of their beloved relative following First Nation's traditions. This murder was the catalyst that motivated the community to take action against the increased violence and murders of women who live in the Downtown Eastside.

The Women's Memorial march is held on February 14th, a day that is universally chosen to express LOVE. February 14th is a day to remember all women who have died from violent acts and put a STOP TO IT! February 14th is a day to raise awareness of the potential for violence against women and put a STOP TO IT!

The Women's Memorial march is not strictly a First Nations march. A woman Elder is designated to lead the march with prayers, smudging and the placement of a rose at the known sites where

women have died. It is important that the territory be acknowledged to the rightful owners. Musqueam, Burrard and Squamish people have been in this territory from time immemorial. We say Thank you for allowing us to hold our march on your land.

It is our intention to assist and help the community remember our sisters who have died. The march is held to remember women from all nations who have died through violence.

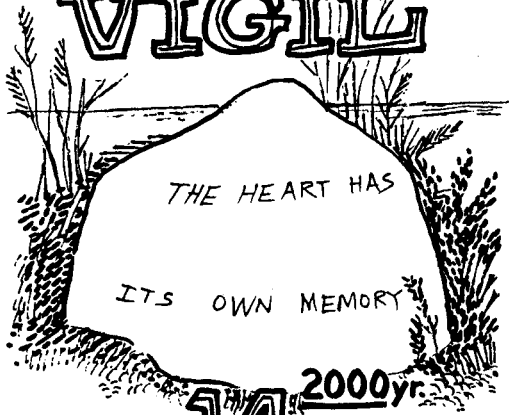
It is important that women show their strength by marching together. Most violent acts against women are perpetrated by men. It is meaningful for women to feel safe and not feel the need for a man to be at their side to act as their protectors. This is why it is requested that men respect the structure of the march as follows: Woman Elder, women drummers, women and minor children, women and their partners and male drummers. It is not to exclude our brothers from the process, but to include them in a meaningful way. Men show their support of women by respecting the unity and strength of the women leading the march. Men in the community have an opportunity to demonstrate their anti-violence against women stance by speaking out and preventing violence against women in the community for the other 364 days of the year.

The Downtown Eastside agencies do not have "ownership" of the Women's Memorial march, the women of the community do. Downtown Eastside organizations only act as a means to facilitate the process. Women in the community organize the event.

Everyone in the community knows that there is a high violence and death rate in the Downtown Eastside. The Women's Memorial march is one event for the community to come together and share grief for women in an open, supportive, caring and respectful manner.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in organizing the March for 2000, please contact Marlene at the Women's Centre at 681-4786 or the Breaking the Silence Against Violence Campaign at 682-3269 Ext. 8319.

NATIVE
MEMORIAL
VIGIL



FEB. 14th 2000yr. MONDAY

at CRAB 11 AM | SPONSORED
PARK FT. OF MAIN | BY CRAB-
ALL WELCOME | WATER FOR LIFE

DOVE

Powell Street
outside the Dugout where today
the clouds have opened just a little
and the sun makes one brilliant pool
and the customers are sitting
all over the sidewalk digging the light

a white dove flies onto centre stage
and I just walking by and the people of the street
we gasp at his beauty amongst the dull
dun and drab blue brothers and sisters
a cliché for the peace we all need,
for the Holy Spirit, shining Redeemer
whiter than the thighs of Our Lady,
China White, the consoler

a First Nations man
as awed as us all
laughs
tenderly
bitterly

e.s.l.

Our Women

February fourteenth – a Memorial
For our loved ones, our women
They may no longer be with us,
But their memories will never die
Our mothers, sisters, daughters –
Aboriginal women all.

From the cradle to the grave
The Spirit goes with you
Crab Park February 14th, 10:30 AM
Let us not forget our Aboriginal women
Who, for whatever reason
Are no longer with us.
Let us comfort the spirits of the families
That are still here with us.

Fred Arrance

February 14

The things that try people's souls are
not always from outside themselves. Fear is one of
those things and it has no right to intrude on our
peace of mind. But it will if we let it.

We are weakened when we tell ourselves
we cannot help what we feel. Feelings are like the
pounding of the surf that washes over things that
are supposed to be permanent. Sandbag them!

We are wise and strong when we say we
are—and we are well and happy when we dwell on
being well and happy instead of hearing all the
things that “could be.” Everyone is trying to get
ahead by being forewarned—but your spirit knows
what is true. Let it warn you.

*Give him to us and we promise you he shall never
lie again.*

TESSOUAT
OTTAWA CHIEF



Within Her Family

Over the years February has been the month for marches. These marches are held in recognition of the women who have either gone missing or died in the Downtown Eastside (DES). Each march is representative of either all women or aboriginal women and either women in the DES or internationally. But, not all marches are held in February. This past December a march was held in support of the women massacred in Quebec. The march that I will remember was held in January 1992.

Our woman Elder, Granny, back home requested our man Elder, Uncle here in the DES for a *memorial* to put Granny's granddaughter's spirit to rest.

Uncle approached a woman from the DES to request a memorial. Granny's granddaughter's memorial took place in January 1992. However, in addition to her ceremony, a march took place. The march was without the approval of the family.

This article has been written by Granny's granddaughter's female cousin (living & working in the DES) and upon the request of and *with the approval of* our man Elder, Uncle. I have chosen the title, 'Within Her Family', in recognition of the family's spiritual traditions with respect to a *memorial*.

Again, as originally requested by the family in 1992 Uncle and I urge you to let her spirit rest. Thank you.

CHRISTINE CROSSWORLDS

The time to save the Downtown Eastside from homelessness could be no better than now. The focus remains strong from the communities all around to put a stop to the conversion and demolition of already half the residential hotel units since 1970. There has been a great deal of trouble from business producing only for tourism in the Downtown Core. People have been taken from their homes, have had their rights to tenancy taken from them. Poor low-income housing in the SROs hasn't met the needs of the people. Cooking facilities, like their own kitchen, have not been ensured. Many people have been turned away from emergency shelters. There is little public space for parks among the low-income residences.

The youth of the present and the future need to be given the commitment that residential housing will be kept in place, or they will only be left on waiting lists after all their efforts to find a decent affordable place that can offer a vacancy. The year-long waiting lists for social housing (and waiting lists even for places found unlivable) have also brought attention to the fact that many places are too expensive for low-income residents. Our city hotels are being demolished to help make space for condominiums. Residents have been evicted with little notice. I even heard of a person who was living in a building where his roof caved in. He was evicted with no compensation and without replacement housing for almost a month.

The living space for a hotel residence must have minimum standards and be affordable for a low-income resident. The people of the Downtown Core need a Housing Preservation Program to help the renovation of SRO's for residential needs. Many days go by with homeless people having no place to go. They wake up next to a water sprinkler or the police who ask them to move along. Then, with no resources other than to borrow change as a means of personal wealth, they find they are only bothered again by more police. The days of winter go by with people still on the streets having no place to go

By A.O.

Handiman Wanted

Have you got time on your hands?
How about getting together.
WISH Drop-In Centre needs shelves built.
Please consider us.

WISH is located at 320 E. Hastings St.
Please call Karen Doddy @ 536-8728



As I walk home tonight, but not a star in the sky
It may be cloudy but there is a twinkle in my eye
My heart jumping for joy, my body is on high
Butterflies in my stomach and only I know why

My thoughts wondering about what she has spoken
Remembering every word, my thoughts not broken
Still hearing her soft, tender and sweet voice
Topics that were talked were by choice

We have many things that make us a lot like the other
Neither of us hiding our feelings under the cover
She is my princess and I am her sweet
Fate was how we were to meet

OK, with my self esteem put away
A new man came out of the closet today
There are a lot of things I do not know
But That is life, onward I go

I get older with the passing of each day
I must act now or the chance of a lifetime will go away
Trying not to move too fast or make the wrong move
Just getting into the romantic groove

As for her I am rich and she has a heart of gold
I might not be getting younger, but with her I am not growing old
She is sweet, tender, caring and beautiful all the way through
All I have is my love and this poem for you

Anthony Dunne

Valentine Karaoke

Friday,
Feb. 11, 2000
7:30 - 10:00 PM

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

Romantic Giveaways

Random Door Prize

Beats's Hour

So bring
your mate &
don't be
late



Health & Fitness

- Feb 1: Movie – aging athlete makes comeback
- Feb 8: Andrew Tuovinoen of the Running Room demonstrates stretching and weights
- Feb 15 Jill Chrysler RM of City Core Massage on massage techniques and more. *8 PM

FREE

Tuesdays @ 6pm in Carnegie
run for your life 682-3268 #9126



Birthday Bash

Carnegie, as a community centre, celebrated its 20th birthday on January 20, 2000. It was an Open House with drumming at the front entrance by Tom Oleman and friends about 1pm. For the next 2 hours, each area and floor hosted music, info and volunteers just hanging out to talk about programs and bits of history. There was a zany skit in the Art Gallery by the *What, Me Worry* Players, with an appreciative audience. Food was part and parcel of the event.

Starting at 3pm the Chinese Choir welcomed people into the standing-room-only Theatre, with songs in Cantonese and English. Lorelei Hawkins opened with a Native prayer, then Michael Clague acted as MC. He recognized the drummers who had begun the festivities and noted that the drug dealing continued right alongside. Contradictions of Carnegie! Margaret Prevost, the Association's President, thanked everyone who over the years put time, energy and love into making Carnegie the most successful community centre in Canada. Jean Swanson next, and she and Bruce Ereiksen and Libby Davies were the core staff at DERA in the 7 years prior to January 1980 who fought long

Power & Participation

A workshop with Janet Kee

Thursday, Feb. 3, 2 – 4 pm

**What inspires us to participate?
 How can we use our power effectively?**

These questions and more in the context of our involvement in Carnegie and beyond.

Info - call Lucy in the Learning Centre

and hard to get this abandoned building turned into “something like sunrise.” See the report of Doubledrum Mike on what she had to say. One part of the community centre's birth unheard before came from Maurice Egan, now retired but who was head of Social Planning in the late 70's. He told the story of how much bullet-biting the City fathers had to do over costs once they'd voted to re-open the building. Talking of \$800K, then an additional \$700K, then another \$200K... he was no one's favourite but it got done. Words from Libby Davies, MP, on how half of the neighbourhood was and is still engaged in bare survival while sharing a myriad of talents and skills – notably the murals painted on the hoardings while lobbying and negotiations went on; from Jenny Kwan, MLA, on the tenacity and essential spirit that runs deep through the Downtown Eastside despite poverty and vested interests; and from Philip Owen, Mayor, who congratulated past and current staff and noted what partnerships can mean.

The afternoon was moving and the voice of users of Carnegie came through loud and clear with the collective presentation of Tora's Poem “Carnegie” written in the 80's.

The birthday cake and shmoozing followed, with many people who'd been present on January 20, 1980 quietly and overtly amazed at what has happened in the 20 years since.

Not Enough Money!

At Carnegie's 20th Birthday Party [as a community centre], Jean Swanson said that the support part of welfare for a single person was \$191.00 in 1980. Today the support part of welfare for a single person is \$175.00, \$16.00 *less than* in 1980. As you know, the shelter part of welfare, which the landlords get, has steadily increased over the years.

Since 1980, the cost of living in British Columbia has increased by well over 100 percent, and Statistics Canada told Jean that if single people on income assistance in Vancouver were to receive a support payment today that had the same purchasing power of the \$191.00 per month they received in 1980, they would be receiving \$427.00 a month. Instead, they are receiving \$175.00 per month. The loss in the support payment is not just \$16.00, from \$191.00 per month to \$175.00 per month. It is a loss of \$252 per month - from the \$427.00 people should be getting because of the cost of living increase, to the \$175.00 per month people are actually getting. No wonder there's begging in the streets. This is legislated poverty with a vengeance.

Doubledrum Mike

Bill 22

Bill 22 was recently passed into law in British Columbia.

Under this new law a doctor can have a person committed to a psychiatric institution simply by signing a certificate of admission. Yet there is no provincial or federal legislation which requires that psychologists and psychiatrists (or doctors) undergo mandatory screening for mental illness or mental abnormalities.

Doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists make the decision to commit a person - possibly for their entire life - to a psychiatric institution, yet no one questions their diagnosis, their treatment of or authority over other human beings. No one questions their impartiality or their mental competence.

Doctors, psychologists and psychiatrists experience grief, depression, anxiety, stress,



Guts... Hope... Spirit

Often in the Downtown Eastside a character strikes a chord of memory... a reminder of hidden beauty obscured with grief, misery, failure - a survivor but, by god, hanging in on guts, hope, spirit.

- Sam Roddan

insomnia, etc. the same as other human beings. Some have committed suicide, some have been charged with murder, some have been convicted of sexual assault. However, there is no legislation that requires doctors, psychologists or psychiatrists to undergo psychiatric evaluation.

A doctor's license can be revoked if he/she is found guilty of unethical conduct, but the revocation of a license will not get a person out of a psychiatric institution.

Under the former communist regime in the Soviet Union, people were sent to psychiatric institutions simply because they criticized the government or were political activists. Such a thing can never happen in Canada? But it *has* happened!

A doctor need only sign a piece of paper and a person can be committed - no questions asked.

SUSAN

Privilege

I have regrets about the past and various things that happened contrary to my best wishes. The right to voice the regrets -by itself- is but a royal privilege. It is the right to mourn the passing of a loved one which is necessary in order to claim whatever remains of the future, for example, high hopes that belong nowhere else.

The privilege of voicing regrets is self-granted yet only by those who claim their entire past away from the mistakes of those who claim no such privilege of their own.

How unjustly hard was, at times, the life we've lived. I regret that. I regret being born into a century that expected me to market the enthusiasm of youth as an object of popular desire. I was only a toddler when Stalin died causing all the women to cry from uncertainty, how pertinent for a city purged [during an occupation.]

That's where my parents met and realized their union. As a fetus I was denied the right to choose my port of entry and so the future became a one-way but an *onward* street of marching demagoguery

I regret that small city-states have long disappeared. It was a place where citizens used to pride themselves in exceptional skills like the baker at the break of dawn, the shoemaker on the verge of winter, the gardener with a vivid palette of offerings on display in the main square.

It was a place where poets used to make the only books worth a keg of ale.

Individual efforts have become increasingly meaningless in the face of progress and I regret that. Even the local profiteers have ceased to be a part of the urban landscape. They belong nowhere; flying above, like electronic locust.



Our media is preaching violence in fair anticipation of excessive profits, and we're witnessing the mongering of fear where no preacher could ever again sell the concept of eternal fire. Fear is the spiritual food of our mass-culture.

The eye of the motion picture pops out from its socket and we're supposed to not know what that means. Strangely popular has become the smearing of slaughterhouse blood. We fake our own satisfaction and denounce the resulting consequences.

I regret that truly.

I look back with regrets at my own actions. The many checkmates, to finish off my game-playing potential; the moves I've made while afraid of potentiality rather than out of the will to win.

I was concerned with how to protect my integrity during the tournament with materialism. I thought I was about to lose it with the profusion of end-games.

Eventually, the many steps, I had taken turned into a mockery of simple self-respect. So I regret that. I would find myself being overwhelmed with the feeling of hopelessness. But hush, our children are listening.

Our policymakers are getting a high on assertions that the general standard of living is high. Bureaucrats would not want to live feeling choked; so, they've learned not to account for the homeless. So little is being done. I regret that.

Have we been led by the instinct to expand. It is nature's antidote for the futility of the phenomenon of living. The futility we have been marked with is but a clear proof of nature's own determination. It speaks as much about the need of weddings

as it does about the history of rapes and punishments that follows.

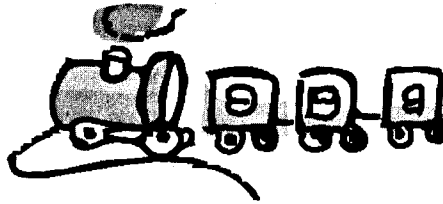
Thus, young women will not escape their bodies and vigorous men will not stop their instinctual fight.

There's nowhere we can stop and think. I regret that.

We're meant to witness it all but not for too long a time. We will only account for the dreams not fulfilled. Desires to eliminate the sources of misfortunes. Perhaps there's a higher sense to all change when what is youth remains as annoying as the closing of wearing age.

Richard Tylman

[*Hear Richard Tylman read this and other of his recent poetry on Co-op Radio 102.7 FM Wednesday, February 9 at 2 pm.
Host: Diane Laloge & Steve R. Duncan]



February is Black History Month

- * the first Blacks arrived in the British Colony of Vancouver Island in the spring of 1858
- * The Colony's first police force was the all Black AFRICAN RIFLES appointed by the Governor, James Douglas, in the summer of 1858

"From every mountainside, let freedom ring. And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of that old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!"

- Dr. Martin Luther King, August, 1963

Thanx for the ride, Lady

There's a poem inside me about a woman on the moon. she fills my smokey eyes and wakes me in the morning.. and like a fool I come back from the dead.

There's a woman who sends me money for accidentally ending up in her womb. She loves me despite my being a terrible son.

An ex who loves me despite my devils crawling between us and like fools we wasted our lives loving each other – the dysfunctional children bear witness to our madness.

I owe everything I am to some woman along the haggard trail I've traveled; always someone to save me. Maybe one day I'll prove to be worth the effort,

R. Loewen

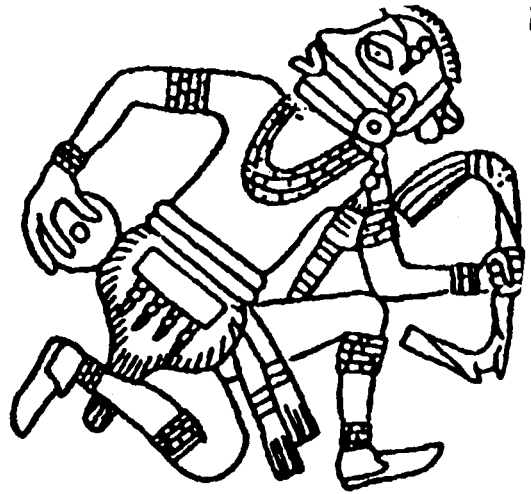
MY LIFE AS A CARNEGIE VOLUNTEER

PART ONE: *getting into the building*

In the olden days a fortress or a castle might be guarded by a dragon and/or encircled by a moat inhabited by sharks or monsters with snarly teeth who would just as soon eat you for breakfast if you hesitated or looked the wrong way. Sometimes a crafty old woman stood at the gate, offering something to eat, demanding a kiss. Falling to her enchantment is a diversion that will surely prevent you from getting safely inside the building.

Carnegie Centre is a fortress of sorts, a sanctuary, a beacon of hope and light in the dark of the inner city. The building itself has a venerable history, undergoing a thorough face-lift for its latest incarnation as a Community Centre only just over 20 years ago. Thanks to the dedicated perseverance of far sighted volunteers and professionals, including politicians, not only was the building saved for community purposes but also given a mandate flexible enough to accommodate the particular needs of the actual dtes community, for the most part. So we have in the heart of the place a fantastic cafeteria where the focus is on wholesome and affordable meals and a warm and safe place to gather. On the same floor is a regulation size gym as well as the newsletter office (which may produce one of the few not influenced or controlled by any media barons). There is the clay room, the pool and weight rooms, a darkroom and instructors for learners as well as a self-contained seniors centre on the basement level. On the main floor, the theatre with its two pianos and satisfying acoustics shares a wall with the library, a small but well connected branch of the main system with grand old style heavy wooden tables in two rooms that are usually filled with serious browsers. On the top floor is the continuously upgrading computer room and the learning centre as well as the various offices of the always keen programmers.

Everywhere there are people engaged over



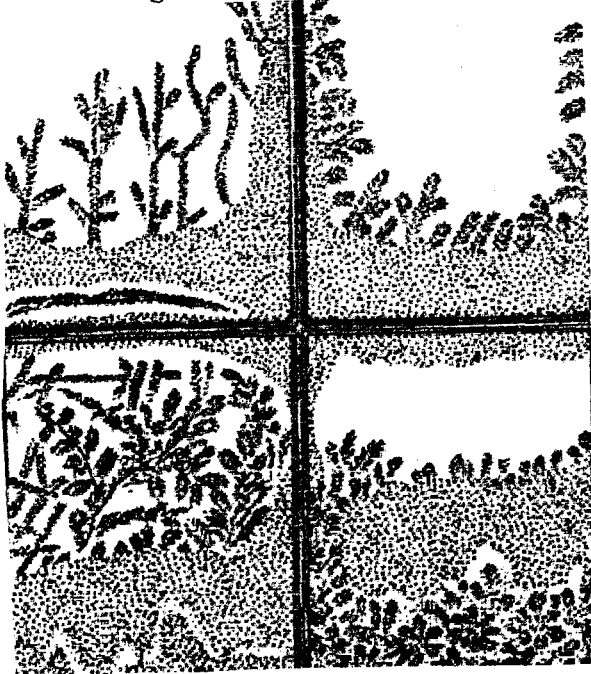
board games, in lively dialogue, coming together in pursuit of a range of activities that over the years reflects the common creativity and the increasing capability of the community.

As documented in the archives and testified by the various political luminaries who attended the recent anniversary celebration, Carnegie Centre represents nothing less than a miracle, but there are some that absolutely won't and many who would rather not go near this corner, surrounded as it is levels of concentric traffic. To get inside there are perils to be faced that effectively intimidate the over fastidious and faint of heart. For the car jocks, the gawkers and the players and for pedestrians too the traffic lights are venues where you get to demonstrate your attitude. Here you also get to interact with panhandles and pushers, gentle(or not) lunatics and ruthless (or gentle) thieves. They want to sell you drugs. They want you to give them money. They know misery and can explain it. Each one has their own story which boils down to this moment, this particular urgency. They could stall you forever in sympathy. If you are alert and skilled in diplomacy, offend no one and keep an eye out for rogue drivers, you should make it easily across the street. There are statistics on the people struck down and mangled or killed on that intersection.

Safely on the corner, you are not yet home free.

- a volunteer

More Thoughts On Drug Education in Schools



An effective drug education program for schools would move beyond the principle of only two choices, abstinence or abuse, and concern itself not only with the prevalence of use, but also with the harmful consequences of use.

Traditional drug education programs equate drug use with drug abuse. Young people know this equation is false from their own experience, and virtually all research has found that the vast majority of students who experiment with drugs do not become drug abusers. Programs that blur the distinction between use and abuse are ineffective because students know the information presented to them is not believable.

Sensational stories or pictures of drug abuse undermine the credibility of drug education programs. Young people are aware that the wide availability of licit and illicit drugs is a fact of modern life. They know that one-time experimentation with drugs is not abuse. They are aware that adults need to look honestly at their own licit and illicit drug use, and they distrust adults who give them false information. (1)

Many conventional drug education programs have been based on the mistaken notion that young people have little to contribute to their own drug education. A common complaint of the Drug

Abuse Resistance Education program (D.A.R.E.), according to a study published in *Psychiatric Annals* in 1991, was from students who did not believe their opinions were taken into account. (2) A good drug education program would give young people an opportunity to work out their own attitudes to drugs, and to hear the views of others.

A school drug education program needs to be part of a larger health curriculum, and be taught by school-based personnel using a variety of community resources. Police officers could be one resource, especially in the area of law enforcement, but the areas of prevention of drug abuse, treatment, and reduction of harm call for a range of skills generally outside the police department. For example, Elliott Currie has said that, "The link between drug abuse and (social) deprivation is one of the strongest in forty years of careful research." (3) This important statement means that a discussion on the prevention of drug abuse would have to include a discussion of the social factors that cause some people to be more at risk than others - factors such as poverty, child abuse and family dysfunction, for example.

Adolescence can be a confusing, rebellious time in this society. Telling young people not to use drugs can have the opposite effect, especially if the order comes from authority figures like the police. Ironically, students most at risk in terms of drug misuse would probably be the same ones most hostile to a police presence. At the same time, it is important to recognize the positive work that a number of police officers do on the street in relation to helping drug abusers find counselling and treatment. After all, it was a police officer who told Bruce Eriksen to stop hurting himself with booze, and helped to point him in the direction of detox.

By SANDY CAMERON
to be continued

References

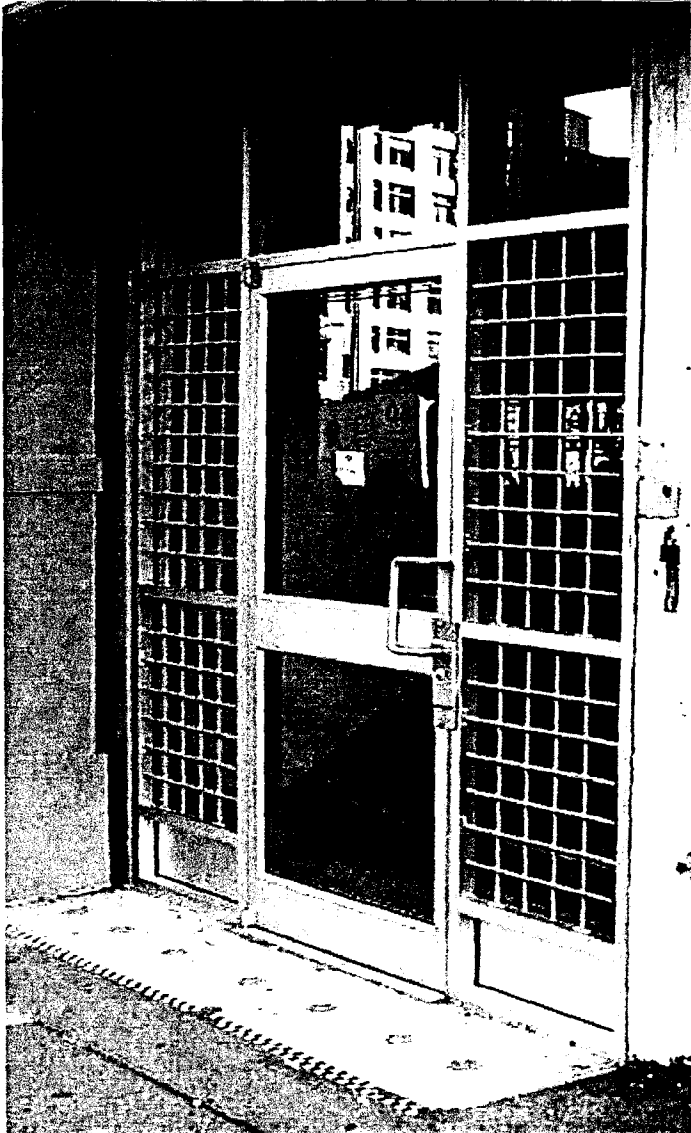
- 1) Kay, James & Cohen, Julian, The Parents' Complete Guide To Young People And Drugs, Vermilion, London (UK), 1994.
- 2) Rosenbaum, Marsha, "Lessons in Harm Reduction", The Drug Policy Letter, Summer, 1996.
- 3) Currie, Elliott; Drugs: The Cities And The American Future, Hill & Wang, 1993.



Newsletter of the Carnegie
**COMMUNITY
ACTION PROJECT**

February 1st, 2000

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



WHAT
HOTEL
IN THE
DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
HAS THIS
DOOR ?

Answer on next page.

What's Up With Pender St. ?

If you walk down Pender St. regularly or know anything about the hotel with the door on the front cover you would be as surprised as CCAP was to see this door on the **Arco Hotel**. The last door was a windowless, banged-up wooden door that looked ready to fall off. The Arco also had a reputation within the community and with city inspectors as being on the verge of collapse and closure. Now, the Arco has a new exterior paint job, new door, cameras and, according to one resident, a new manager "who's really cleaning up the place."



What's really interesting about the transformation of the Arco and, for that matter, the rest of this block of Pender St. is that this is all happening because of International Village. Due to their influence and money much of the Pender streetscape across from their development has had a makeover. Even the **Pender Hotel** has had its front pressure washed and painted. According to the manager, the owners of International Village, Henderson Developments, may even paint the west side of the Pender. So with the help of the City and their redoing of the sidewalks, Pender St. looks much different than it did before International Village was simply called Lake Pender (i.e. the water filled hole).

Image Is Everything

What this all says is that Henderson Developments

is very image conscious. They obviously consider the condition of the Pender streetscape a liability to their investment and ability to market this enormous commercial and residential venture. In fact, they probably consider the entire Downtown Eastside a liability. We all remember their marketing slogan: "It's More Than A Development. It's A Neighbourhood." Nothing about the neighbourhood it was moving into.

Gentrification — Image Is Everything

While a new door and new management at the Arco may be a positive side-effect of Henderson's marketing strategy, in all likelihood rising property values will be the biggest change we'll see. And with rising property values comes gentrification and instability to the Arco as residential hotel. The same goes for the Pender, Heritage, Silver and Avalon Hotels. Another reason why CCAP is still pushing the City to pass the Hotel Demolition and Control By-law as way to discourage speculation and rapid losses to the hotel stock without replacement housing in place.

So, more surprising changes to Pender St. are likely to continue. Unlike the new Native Housing going up beside the Pender Hotel a lot of this change may not benefit the Downtown Eastside.

Note: So far, International Village has been given special permission from the City to: hang oversized banners and extensive neon, a video game entertainment center and a large bank of video screens at the entrance on Pender and Abbott St



Promoted by the Downtown Vancouver Business Improvement Association and the Arbutus Rotary Club and approved by City Council, we know have SPARE CHANGE METERS.

Meters are located outside the Granville Sky Train station, near the former CP station on Cordova, on Seymour near BCIT, on Granville's Theatre Row, near Burrard Sky Train, at the Art Gallery plaza, and outside London Drugs on West Broadway.

Councillor Lynn Kennedy, according to a *Courier* article (Jan. 26, 2000), endorses the meters because panhandlers are making way too much money. Councillor George Puil and former Councillors Don Bellamy and Alan Herbert were opposed. Basically they think it's idiotic So does CCAP.

Community Directions

**Next Meeting, Saturday,
February 12th, Jenny
Pentland Place, 540 E.
Hastings St.**

Community Directions is a coalition of residents and community groups and their allies which are pledged to work for improvements on behalf of low-income residents

Working Groups have been formed around 5 key issues: 1) Community Economic Development 2) Housing 3) Child/Youth/Family 4) Safety and Well Being 5) Alcohol and Drug.

There is also a Community Assets Inventory currently underway, which is being headed by Heady Mason. Heady can be reached at 713-4465.

For those interested in Community Economic Development, the CED Working Group's next meeting is Tuesday, February 8th, at Common Concern, 681 E. Hastings St. For info on the Housing Working Group contact CCAP (ph. 689-0397 or 2nd flr. Carnegie). For info on all of the working groups contact the Community Direction Organizer, Marg Green @ 760-7859.

CCAP is holding hotel workshops at the Pender and Dodson Hotels early this month as part of the Housing



Private Security Anti-Panhandling By-law

CCAP presents Todd Kellam

**Tuesday Evening, February 15th
Carnegie Theatre, 7pm - 9pm**

Todd will show his video on Private Security in and around the Downtown Eastside. Todd has also been working hard on forcing the City to withdraw its unconstitutional and malicious anti-panhandling by-law. An update and discussion on both of these subjects will be the theme of the evening.

Vision TV is showing a 5 part series on the Downtown Eastside starting Tuesday, February 8th, 7pm on Skylight, Channel 24 (Cable). To run every Tuesday for five weeks.

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
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 Kettle -\$18 Sonya S.-\$60 Beth L.-\$25
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 Ray-Cam -\$70 Van MPA -\$75 Buss -\$5
 Brenda P.-\$10 Wes K.-\$50 Leah S.-\$20
 Anonymous -\$124 Claudette B.-\$20

FREE - donations accepted

Carnegie

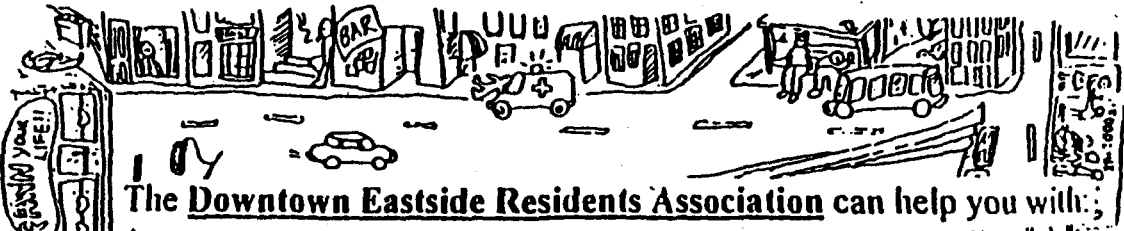
NEWSLETTER

161 Main Street, Vancouver BC V6C 1P7 (604) 681-1100

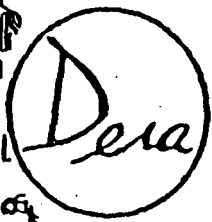
THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
 CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION
 Articles represent the views of contributors
 and not of the Association.

**Submission Deadline
 for next issue
 Thursday, February 10**

carnnews@direct.ca



The Downtown Eastside Residents Association can help you with:

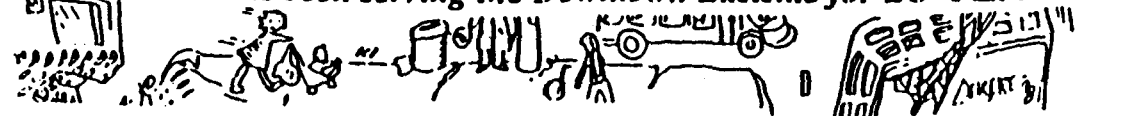


- Welfare problems
- Landlord disputes
- Housing problems
- Unsafe living conditions

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!



Once you have sobriety,
don't turn back.

Search for serenity,
stay on the right track.

Relapse . . .

You think it will never happen to you,

It could . . .

You think it will be different the next time,

It won't so don't!

If you do relapse,

You'll wish you hadn't,

Oh! How you'll wish you hadn't.

The guilt will eat you up inside,

It's something you just can't hide.

The guilt, so painful, so enormous,

Like a pain shooting through your heart,

Relapse

By Angela

And you thought you were so smart.

Now, the merry-go-round starts.

The guilt you feel, so very real.

So take another, no big deal.

But the guilt is still there,

It won't go away.

So drown your guilt,

think about it another day.

You think it's all a game?

Things will never be the same.

Unless of course, you find honesty,

Only then will you find sobriety.

So swallow a little pride,

Don't keep it all inside.

You think your different,

You're not!



HOMELESS IN THE 30's

It was a time of misery, despair, pain, anguish. The homeless 'lived' in tar paper shacks and old piano boxes, most near the garbage dumps at the foot of Campbell Avenue, Napier, and under the old Georgia Viaduct. Canned heat and vanilla extract were the favourite drinks. On a Monday morning, workers from a Mission Church on Gore Avenue handed out a potato, a bit of bread, a chunk of frozen fish. Few survivors are left today.

- Sam Roddan



The First Annual Conference on Practical Applications of Integrative, Complementary & Alternative Medicine.

By DBlair

Having recently arrived back in Vancouver after an absence of about 8 months, I was looking forward to engaging in some cultural events and socializing with my friends, among other things.

Instead I collapsed. All I wanted to do was sleep, and I simply didn't have the energy to push myself to do anything. Up at 10:00am and back in bed by 2:00 PM seemed to be the routine. I was startled and scared.

I crawled out to my doctors -naturopathic and medical. The conventional doctor did a battery of tests (full physical, blood work etc) and I checked out fine. The naturopath did her magic and informed me that I was very stressed. Both doctors were aware I was going to the other; and in fact they know of and respect each other.

Sometimes there was an interesting dance around each others recommendations, since I keep them informed of each other. At one point, I mentioned to the medical doctor - the more outgoing and direct of the two - that maybe they could talk to each other about a particular issue. Her reply was "We don't speak each other's language." I believe that, since the results of their examinations were so different.

Boy was I confused.

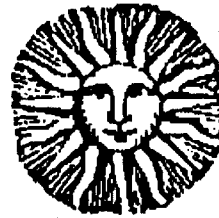
I discovered a one day conference called Practical Applications of Integrative, Complementary & Alternative Medicine taking place at UBC on Saturday, January 22, 2000. I decided to go.

The conference was put on by students of UBC who have organized a society called AIMS - Alternative & Integrated Medical Society. It

seems that my confusion over the diverse methods that are available and the lack of integration concerns them as well. AIMS was officially constituted in March of 1998 with the prime focus as the

"Integration of the two extremes of medicine, alternative and conventional... In other words, when we integrate all types of medicine, we stand a better chance of understanding who our body works." (1)

The AIMS impresses me. They produce a well written quarterly newsletter, Bi-weekly lectures at UBC, give access to the AIMS reference library, discounts at some health food stores and other perks. This conference was impressive as well.



160 people attended; the format and the quality of the speakers was impressive. They had speakers discussing various themes in the evolving alternative medicine and the way society and conventional medicine are dealing with it.

We got a general overview of the philosophies of alternative medicines. (An acronym that expressed the concept of "complementary alternative medicine" was CAM. Many of the speakers weren't happy with it; but everyone agreed it seems to be the common term currently used to lump the various forms of health practices that are outside conventional medicine, some examples include acupuncture, homeopathy etc)

Barb Findlay RN, BSN at the Tzu Chi Institute gave a brief description of major CAM's and very generally how they work. One point is it works more directly with a patient's own self-healing mechanisms. She gave funny examples of the problems when conventional medical doctors and CAM doctors get together to try and understand each other. (One will be talking about chemical properties and the other might be talking about the

energy systems.)

Allison McCutcheon PhD is a researcher at UBC specializing in the scientific evaluation of traditional herbal remedies. –i.e. How does one regulate the quality of herbs? How can one find out reliable information? She gave us a summary of what's going on in the world of herbal medicines, and gave some recommended sources for further credible information.

Zoey Ryan, a registered Dietitian/ Nutritionist at the Tzu Chi Institution, gave an upbeat lecture on how we could improve our eating habits. Bottom bottom line...eat more vegetables especially the most intensely coloured veggies (dark green, orange and red) and eat veggies from the cabbage family. Avoid processed foods.

Allan Best PhD is a health psychologist who is currently the Senior Scientist in the Center for Clinical Epidemiology and Evaluation in the Vancouver Hospital & Health Science Centers. He talked directly to the students, who composed the majority of the audience, enticing them to go into research by telling them of the possibilities, trends and changes in the coming years. If I was much younger, I would have been hooked.

Debbie Monkman, the librarian at the Tzu Chi Institution, gave us a quick and dirty lecture on how to do medical research on the net.

It was an excellent conference. Personally, I came into it confused by my two practitioner's varied



approaches to medicine, and having no real idea about either approach. (Up to now I have been lazy, and simply did what ever either one of them said to. Becoming so run down scared me enough that I don't want to have that happen again.) Now I have a clearer idea about Alternative Medicines and conventional medicine and the philosophies of each, and how the two are starting to acknowledge and try and work with each other. And – most importantly – I was given the knowledge to access resources to inquire on my own.

I tip my hat to the student-run Alternative and Integrative Medical Society, AIMS, at UBC, and President Ashley Riskin and the students who put this together. I recommend keeping an eye on AIMS and joining it if you have the time to commute to UBC to attend the bi weekly lectures that interest you, and wish to receive their newsletter. (The cost is \$10.00/yr)

References

- (1) AIMS newsletter Premier Issue Fall 1998

AIMS

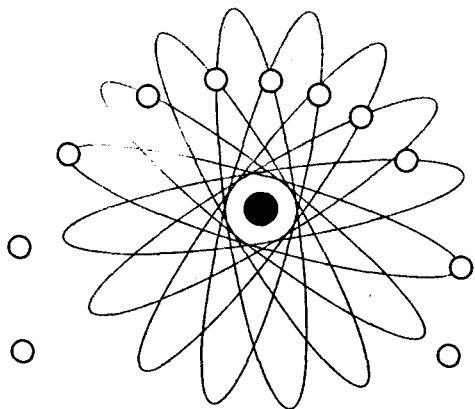
www.ams.ubc.ca/aims/home.htm

Our goal is to offer students, faculty and community members an unbiased source of credible information pertaining to integrative, alternative and complementary medicine. In so doing, we hope to help in bridging the gap between conventional and non-conventional medicine.

Tzu Chi Institute for Complementary and Alternative Medicine

www.tzu-chi.bc.ca

Our mission is to improve health through research of complementary and alternative medicine, and to promote the integration of safe and effective practices into mainstream health care. *(This website has an excellent selection on resources for alternative medicine. The selection includes data bases, journals, websites etc.*



Neighbourhood News

High Times in Town

High time that the 2nd workshop on Community Economic Development came back to a meeting of **Community Directions**. Part of the continuous process is to educate people on what has happened, and to avoid reinventing the wheel each time. Community Directions is the coalition of groups and individuals working to meet expert, outside plans and agendas on revitalizing the Downtown Eastside with local reality. There are things like the *Vancouver Agreement*, wherein the 3 levels of government – federal, provincial and municipal – channel funds from a national crime prevention plan into a strategy on this community; the *Vancouver Economic Development Commission* mentions tourists and high tech as ‘possible’ factors and CD players react with concern; the behind-the-scenes agendas include massive dispersal on the one hand, fueled by the whining and nose-out-of-joint activities of gasbag gentrifiers, coupled with police initiatives and rentacops ready to jump to it with a new Business Improvement Association and the Strathcona Area Merchants wanting all street activity eliminated and calling for total opposition to any new or even improved services in the area.

The out front agenda of Community Directions and its members includes the areas of Housing – social and non-market; Drugs & Alcohol – harm reduction, detox, treatment; Children & Youth – youth protection from sexploitation.. and getting recreational facilities; Community Economic Development – possible community development corporation; Safety and well being – poverty and responses; Women’s issues – speaking out about violence, matters of housing, safety, opportunities and more.

Throw into the mix the two universities, who may help and who may be caught up in ‘do-good’ stuff.

Bruce Eriksen Place Opening

It’s been up and running for months. The 35 units are like a dream come true for residents, but



as with all housing that isn’t standard market-rate rental, there were countless hours of volunteer time and an avalanche of obstacles to get through to get it built. For several years residents and community ctivists strove to design a livable spaddce that would be benefifial to occupants and the community at large. On January 21, 2000 scores of people – from the community, agencies, government, and long time friends of the late Bruce Eriksen came to the official opening.

The Main & Hastings Community Development Society and it’s President Monica Hay welcomed everyone. Lorelei Hawkins asked a Native Prayer and gave Kathleen Boyes, executive officer, sweetgrass to burn for spiritual aid. Live music enhanced the ceremonies and Philip Owen, Mayor, Jenny Kwan, MLA, and Libby Davies, MP, spoke. Libby had warm remembrances to share of her husband, Bruce, and some of the events that went hand-in-hand with the struggle in this neighbourhood. A mural that Bruce had painted on the hoardings outside Carnegie, when he and Libby and Jean Swanson were fighting for DERA to get the community centre, is now adorning the wall in the office of Bruce Eriksen Place. Bruce came down in November 1996 and re-did this after it was donated by Carnegie to the new building. Bruce was not well, but people kept an eye on him to ensure he didn’t overwork himself. Libby’s parting words are potent: “Keep fighting for housing. A decent place to live is everyone’s right and this community is here to stay.”

Frankfurt, Germany 10 years ago was similar to the Downtown Eastside today. There were over a thousand people on the streets everyday, dealing



and using drugs. The Carnegie Community Action Project recently hosted a public meeting featuring Werner Schneider, head of Frankfurt's Drug Policy Department. He had been here as part of the Out Of Harm's Way Conference in Nov. '98 where people from Germany, Switzerland, England and the United States came to Vancouver to share knowledge on drugs and the use/misuse of same. Werner remarked at the time that our current practice – waging the “war on drugs” – was changed in Frankfurt about 10 years ago to harm reduction, opening low-key services that provided easy access to addicts, and working with police and health policies and business and crisis centres.

Schneider came this time after Don MacPherson gave a report on drug policies in Frankfurt and Switzerland to the City of Vancouver. We are up against the same kind of resistance and rigidity here as Schneider recounts were extant a decade ago in his city. At Carnegie he talked of the street scene, with users by the hundreds fixing in many places, of an open air drug market 10 times as large as that in the DE. There, the overdose death rate peaked in 1991 with 147 dead. (Vancouver's unenviable rate in 1994 was over 250 in the DE alone, and similarly horrible in more recent years) In Frankfurt they began with a crisis centre that had a safe-injection aspect. This expanded to 5 centres, the facilitation of 1.5 million injections over several years, and no on-site deaths. There has been a tremendous amount of energy and struggle to de-glamorize drug use, to treat addiction as a health issue, to set up treatment and housing and training opportunities. Methadone

access was expanded and the usual barriers or disincentives to users getting better or treated were identified and, as much as possible, eliminated. Schneider spoke of special facilities and programs for women and dealing with consequent difficulties of women addicts identifying themselves and fearing for their children being apprehended.

As an ongoing comment, Vancouver has a needle exchange and crisis services but extremely limited treatment and little else. Learning from others' mistakes can only help. Even learning from our own can't hurt.

PRT

Four Corners Community Savings held it's biannual election for members of the Advisory Council. There were over twenty candidates for seven positions, and voting was open from 10am to 2pm. Simply put, the support for this institution is far-flung. (*The number of members who voted completely surprised the election committee and it took an hour longer than expected just to count!*) Candidates spoke for 2 minutes each and ranged from mental health consumers to long-time residents to volunteers to Elders to lawyers to those with a variety of business experience and a judge. The structure requires five of the seven positions to be filled by people residing in the Downtown Eastside or Downtown South; the two remaining positions can be filled by 'outsiders'.

The seven members elected for 2 years are: David Brown, Barbara Charlie, Vickie Dutcher Peter Fairchild, Barry Fergusson, Sylvia Isaac and Garry Jobin.

Due to resignations by council members in the last term, the organizers took the people getting 8th to 14th place as councillors-in-waiting so byelections are unnecessary. They are: Nancy Chevario, Roger Howie, Leslie Kemp, Gael Marriotte, Ruth Meta, Paul Meyer, John Williams.

The network builds, with community economic development of great interest to Four Corners and the Support Fund Society.

nesting on spikes

she eyes me warily
through the window of
the office
metal spikes bristle up around her
placed there by the city
to prevent
pigeon nests
yet
there she sits
on a little egg

her nest itself is kind of
spikey
built from straws, stirsticks
syringe plungers,
a few feathers...
she moves about very gingerly
wings spread up
probably poked

last year an egg lay there
cold

I took it home
its insides rattling around
rock hard
made me think of
junkie street girls
expecting one day
then too soon again
skinny
nesting on spikes...

jiang chang



She said to me:

Our community, the Downtown Eastside, has been through many changes over the years. Each year the media makes our community out as filled with many awful places and sights... in

particular our addicts who suffer on the streets..

Let me tell you about the positive side, and the direction which I see our community going in. There is much talk in the neighbourhood about the Resource Centre and the Sobering Centre. What impressed me the most was when Werner Schneider and his friends came from Frankfurt, Germany and Switzerland and explained how their problem turned into something positive.

These people made a huge impact on many who were in doubt of the two centres. I saw hope and a lot of excitement in people's eyes. In order for the Resource Centre and Sobering Centre to happen, everyone with an interest in the Downtown Eastside - including the businesses, residents, addicts, medical people, councillors, the Mayor, Police Department and the Judges - all need to be in agreement: This is a medical issue, not a criminal issue. My understanding of the Resource Centre is - they are going to deal with the medical side of the addiction. The sobering centre will help deal with the living side of the addiction. But that is not the complete circle. The other side is proper housing, job skills and much more. In order to be part of the solution we need to be part of the plan.

It is also time to close the down the trade that is robbing our community, stealing the souls of our addicts and the lives of our community.

We are seeing more and more of the young kids coming here to purchase drugs. I don't like this at all, and it is up to us who sit, stand and watch this activity happen. TO STOP IT!

I don't want any more drug deaths.

It is my community and I am going to do the best I know how and that is to talk to those dealing and selling - let them know that what they are doing is not right and when it comes to dealing to kids. God help!

To take an addict away from the streets is not going to be easy but, if we push the dealers away, it becomes easier for the addict to cope with his/her problems. It's not going to be easy, but this community has pulled together before and we can do it again.

God will help me

There was a man called him Jim, who lived near a river. Jim was a very religious man. One day, the river rose over the banks and flooded the town, and Jim was forced to climb onto his porch roof. While sitting there, a man in a boat comes along and tells Jim to get in the boat with him. Jim says "No, that's ok. God will take care of me." So, the man in the boat drives off.

The water rises, so Jim climbs onto his roof. At that time, another boat comes along and the person in that one tells Jim to get in. Jim replies, "No, that's ok. God will take care of me." The person in the boat then leaves.

The water rises even more, and Jim climbs on his chimney. Then a helicopter comes and lowers a ladder. The woman in the helicopter tells Jim to climb up the ladder. He tells her "That's ok." The woman says "Are you sure?" Jim says, "Yeah, I'm

sure God will take care of me.

Finally, the water rises too high and Jim drowns. Jim gets up to Heaven and is face-to-face with God. Jim says to God "You told me you would take care of me! What happened?"

God replied "Well, I sent you two boats and a helicopter. What else did you want?"

Little Johnny was walking down the street. He noticed something shiny in the middle of the road. "Hey look," he said to his friend, "it's a quarter!" His friend rushed into the middle of the street and got run over by a car. Little Johnny laughed and laughed "Ha ha, it was only a nickel!"



Ode to the Aliens

Lillooet! Nis'ga! Eskimo too.
All have princesses who are
fair, lovely and true.
Indians, Indians –
both east and west
Comes a time says Neil Young
when we must pass a test.
White men! White women!
Star people all
Waiting for flying saucers
due sometime next fall.

Earth changes! Earth changes!
Prophesized long ago
By the Hopi, by the Sanskrit sages
by Jesus, John and Paul.
The Himalayas, the Andes
Grouse Mountain too!
Are hiding spots for Pliedians
Sorry, but I'm no fool.

I am from the stars
Born eons ago
My soul is quite ancient
I'm a teacher – like so
My real teacher's the wizard
The only one on this planet
In some other life
He must have been a 'Janet'

This poem is quite long
The message is very true
it's been "interesting"
at Carnegie
But God! – what a fucking zoo!
Happy 20th to the Carnegie
I am now writing my book
if you think this poem is neat
Then take a second look.

So long, and
"thanks for the fish"!!

Larry Mousseau / Two Bears

IN THE DUMPSTER

binner@vcn.bc.ca

Greetings fellow bidders & biddersltes:

Another year and what can I tell you? Carnegie held their 20 year anniversary on the 20th of Jan. featuring many guest speakers and performers. Topping the bill was retired *Sun* reporter-turned-actor-turned-playwright Bob Sarti's play "It's My Story And I'm Sticking To It"

with a cast of thousands.

By the way the cake was awesome! Have a good month and hey! Let's be careful out there.

By MR..McBINNER

*THIS IS WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU
STICK UP FOR YOUR RIGHTS*

**LIBBY DAVES, M.P.
VANCOUVER EAST**

December 7, 1999

Jacqui Cohen, CEO

Army & Navy Department Store Ltd.

Dear Jacqui,

I am writing on behalf of my constituent Mr. Carl MacDonald, who purchased a package of frozen french fries August 19 and was charged GST for it.

I realize the GST paid is a small amount but I am concerned that other low-income shoppers, who rely on the Army & Navy, are being charged GST for food items in error. The item Mr. MacDonald purchased was not a convenience food item, and therefore, I believe Army & Navy should not have charged GST.

I would like an explanation of your policy and an assurance to Mr. MacDonald and other low-income shoppers, that Army & Navy is not improperly charging GST for food items.

I would appreciate your response.

Sincerely,

**ARMY & NAVY DEPT. STORE LTD
74 CORDOVA ST. W., VANCOUVER, B.C.**

Libby Davies M.P

2412 Main Street, Vancouver, BC

Re: Your letter December 7, 1999

Dear Ms. Davies,

Thank you for bringing the transaction error to my attention.

We have reviewed our register procedures and have put in place what we feel confident is a safeguard against future errors.

I have forwarded Mr. MacDonald's receipt to our Vancouver Store Manager, Mr. D. Wright. The next time Mr. MacDonald is in the store he may contact him for his GST reimbursement.

Yours

Jacqui Cohen *wrb 19*

Thanks to Carl and Libby, no GST surcharges!

Heidi Shall Prevail

To and fro on the kiddie stroll.

Heidi rocks and Heidi rolls

Turn around, upside down

Over, under, merry-go-round.

Who's to blame that caused her shame

Who makes her stand in pouring rain

Damn the soul who broke her heart

She's gone again.. she must depart.

Returning to her corner, once bare

She looks up at the stars; she stares.

Her muffled cries Heidi contains

Because of her sorrow she suffers pain.

The clock ticks on.. the moon descends

Should she go home? It all depends.

She counts her cash and comes up short

She bites her lip but knows the score.

Heidi marches on, the sky turning blue,

The tricks roll by but they can't be true

She's had enough, she's had her fill

She packs it in and strides up the hill.

She makes it home and lies in repose

Heidi sprinkles powder up her nose

Sweet dreams, princess, if you can hear it


No one will ever break your spirit.

Robyn Livingstone

Live & Learn Together

LITERACY AND LEARNING IS A FAMILY AFFAIR AND IT CAN BE FUN!

FAMILY LITERACY DAY IS JANUARY

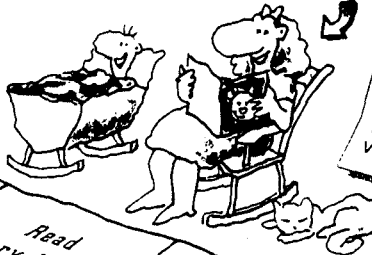


START at home!

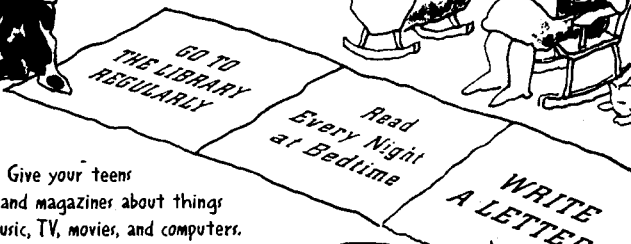
START EARLY It's never too early to read to your children. An early start helps to develop their learning skills and improves their chances for success.



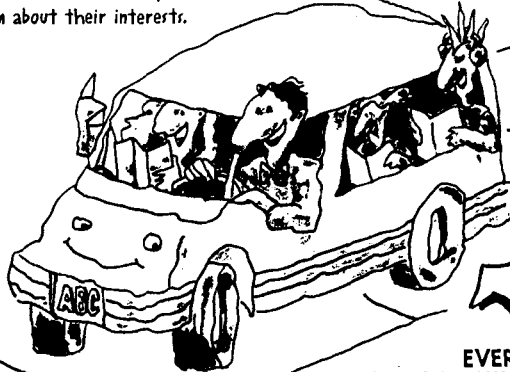
← **EVERYONE CAN JOIN IN!**



CREATE A SPECIAL COZY READING PLACE FOR YOUR CHILDREN AND THEIR BOOKS — THEIR VERY OWN LIBRARY!



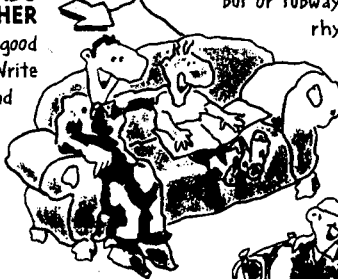
KEEP TEENS READING Give your teens books, newspaper articles and magazines about things that interest them—music, TV, movies, and computers. Talk with them about their interests.



GO TO MEET-THE-TEACHER NIGHTS AT SCHOOL. YOU, YOUR CHILD AND THE TEACHER ARE PARTNERS IN YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION.

THE FAMILY THAT READS TOGETHER LEARNS TOGETHER

Studies show that children with good verbal skills do better at school. Write down your children's stories and talk to them about their ideas. Encourage and value your child's efforts.



EVERY PLACE IS A LEARNING PLACE

For kids and families on the go, create a travel kit of books, newspapers, magazines, pencils, markers and paper for use in the car, bus or subway. Learn or make up songs and rhymes as you travel. Read maps and signs along the way.



MAKE EVERY DAY A LEARNING DAY

Ask your kids to help you make a shopping list. Read recipes with them and cook up a storm. Help your kids make a calendar of their weekly activities.

YOU ARE A ROLE MODEL FOR YOUR KIDS AND YOUR EXCITEMENT FOR LEARNING IS CATCHING. ENROL IN A COURSE LIKE MUSIC OR CRAFTS AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO DO THE SAME.

DON'T STOP NOW!

Learning is a lifelong experience

ABC

FOR MORE INFORMATION LOOK UNDER 'LEARN' IN YOUR YELLOW PAGES™ DIRECTORY

Our Children

Sandy Cameron wrote an article in a recent Newsletter. He talked about the treatment of kids as criminals, and about how social and economic policies are making more and more children poor. Sandy is clear – poverty is not a cause of criminal behaviour, but the social stigmatization and ever-elusive material goods advertised everywhere can be contributing factors. What shocked him and shocks many people is that Canada has the highest rate of incarceration amongst young people in the world. We just put them in jail!

The Family Service Association in Toronto has published a Report Card on Child Poverty in Canada: 1989-1999. They did this to mark the 10th anniversary of that rare event in Parliament in 1989 when resolution was agreed to unanimously: *“to seek to achieve the goal of eliminating poverty among Canadian children by the year 2000.”*

What has happened since 1989?

The number of —

Poor children	↑ 49%
Children in families with incomes less than \$20,000 (in constant 1997 dollars)	↑ 48%
Children in families experiencing long-term unemployment	↑ 16%
Children in working poor families	↑ 44%
Children in families receiving social assistance	↑ 51%
Poor children in 2-parent families	↑ 45%
Poor children in lone-parent families	↑ 61%

and, the rate of —

Low birth weight babies (1989-1996)	↑ 5%
Infant mortality (1991-1997)	↓ 14%

Notes

1. Poor children are those living in families whose total income before taxes falls below the Low Income Cut-Off (LICO) as defined by Statistics Canada. Numbers in 1989 use 1986-base LICO and numbers for 1997 use 1992-base.

2. Child is defined as a person under the age of 18 living with parent(s) or guardian(s).
3. All measurements reflect change between 1989 and 1997 unless otherwise identified.
4. Statistics Canada data excludes those on First Nations reserves; those in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut; and children living in institutions.



Those making policy in government and those who dictate what is acceptable (not the same) first tried to redefine poverty. The Fraser Institute in BC and the Business Council on National Issues in Ontario disputed any numbers and keep laying blame on parents and even the kids themselves. Corporate and wealthy members of these organisations are simultaneously responsible for the elimination of hundreds of thousands of jobs and the merger/downsizing mania going on. It's so easy to hear that some company, most recently Coca-Cola, is 'restructuring' and eliminating 3000 or 30,000 jobs worldwide. Real impacts are felt most strongly by women and especially lone mothers. Over a third of single women earn less than \$10 an hour; over two-thirds of lone mothers earn less than \$15 an hour.

Campaign 2000 suggests budget benchmarks for the 2000 federal budget that are needed to create conditions of well-being for all children and recommends that the federal government:

1. Present a five-year social investment plan for Canada's children with clear national objectives and targets recognizing that children and their families require a mix of income, service, housing and labour market initiatives to enhance their states of well-being.
2. Redirect at least 1.5% of the projected GDP to federal investments in children and families to meet the core objectives. For this benchmark to be met, federal investments in children and families should "grow" by \$16 billion from current levels by 2005. This would mean an average of over \$3 billion in new investments each year for the next five years.
3. Pursue a 50% reduction in overall depths and levels of child poverty.

ty by 2005, and work with the provinces for the elimination of exceptionally high poverty levels for children during the early years.

4. Establish a foundation of early childhood development services available to all parents in every community across Canada including the universal availability of quality community child care services, family resource centres and an extended public education system to include the availability of full day kindergarten for all children.
5. Invest in affordable housing required to improve the health and economic well-being of families and to ensure the availability of an adequate supply of affordable housing throughout the country.
6. Substantially improve the base child tax benefit for all low, modest, and middle income families.
7. Freeze and lower tuition fees for post-secondary studies across Canada by investment through provinces/territories.
8. Establish with provinces/territories a national commission to develop strategies to improve the availability of good jobs with living wages for family providers and adults in poverty.



More than 400,000 children lived in families in which the parents together had a full year of employment, yet they were still poor. Children of full-time working parents make up almost 30% of all poor children.

Well and good. The trend of global economics and the search & destroy octopus of the World Trade Organization, the MAI, NAFTA, GATT and their derivatives is alive and well in Canada with the competitive impoverishment of families and their children .

The Downtown Eastside and Strathcona areas have become destinations for a growing tragedy – the buying and selling of children in the sex trade. The numbers here are as shocking as those above on the increases in poverty. In a recent six-year period, 354 children were arrested for selling sex. In the same period, 6 men were charged and 2 were convicted. The message to kids is clear: We are a violent society which devalues children. [Of those johns charged under the adult section, about 87.5% were given conditional or absolute discharges; the remaining 12.5% got fines.] There



is much more to this than numbers. The details of individual stories and the reasons for kids being in the sex trade are as diverse as the kids themselves. What is crucial is that we, residents, parents, and everyone including adult sex trade workers, learn steps and methods to identify predators and those buying sex from children and to report this.

A steering committee has been working out of the Neighbourhood Safety Office. The concept and planning of the Child and Youth Protection Strategy was born in 1995. A real momentum has come to the creation of Community Alert Teams – CATs – and a training manual to help establish awareness of legal methods to protect children and youth at risk of victimization by predators.

“When I look at what happened in my life, I could see some of things about why I ended up on the street, and what kept me there. I know what it’s like to be marginalized by society. How people don’t let you back once you’ve worked on the street..you’re tainted. People would drive by and yell and throw things at us. The fact is that someone could rape, beat and kill us and there would be no one to complain. A lot of my friends died; dozens of my friends died from drugs, suicide and murder.”

- former child sex trade worker

CATs is a solid, community-based program. It is an initiative that will help residents take strong action against abuses of their children that threaten the very heart of the community. It would be beneficial for children and youth to see that the world is far bigger than that populated by johns.

Look for more on this in the coming months.

By PAULR TAYLOR