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# Carnegie



## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1, 2000

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

Resource Centre Approved





## A new resource for the community

Cold, wet, hungry or simply in need of a washroom, intravenous drug users will finally have someplace safe to go at night in the Downtown Eastside.

A "resource centre" for drug users will open in about four months in an industrial building at 575 Powell, at the corner of Princess.

The centre was approved unanimously Feb. 21 by the city's development permit board following a six-hour hearing that lasted well past midnight.

More than 50 people spoke at the hearing, most in favor of the plan. The centre proposed by the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board had support from users, the police, many residents, the people and agencies that work with users, and B.C.'s chief coroner.

Carnegie Centre and the Carnegie Association gave strong support at the hearing. Through its street program in front of the building, Carnegie has a lot of experience dealing with the street scene, but has nowhere to refer people at night after the street program closes.

The resource centre will be a place where people can get inside and maybe also talk to someone about their health and about ways to deal with their drug dependency. It will be open from nine in the evening to one o'clock the next afternoon – getting users off the streets at a time when it's hard for them to find other services, or even a washroom.

The new centre is part of a "harm reduction" strategy to both reduce the health risks to users and strengthen the sense of well-being in the community at large. Its operation will be monitored by a community board working with the city

and the centre staff to keep its impact on the surrounding area to a minimum.

Establishment of the centre represents an achievement for VANDU (the Vancouver Network of Drug Users), the mutual aid group which has worked tirelessly to bring users together and give them a voice in the wider community.

Every speaker at the City Hall hearing expressed support for the *idea* of the resource centre, but some were opposed to the location. Some Strathcona residents feared the location on Powell was too close to Strathcona School; and a new business lobby group, the Strathcona Area Merchants Society (SAMS), just didn't want it in their back yard. SAMS, which includes several beer parlors within a few blocks of the new centre, is already on record as opposed to any new services to treat alcohol or drugs in the area.

However, the city's development permit board acknowledged that the "war on drugs" isn't working, and that drug use continues to spread even as police make more and more arrests. As they said, it's time to try a new approach.

Bob Sarti



## Image is EVERYTHING

The Resource Centre proposal went to a public meeting on February 21. Talk about power, talk about money "...and tax bases and the impact on businesses and property owners and you get the ear and sympathy of people who know how the real world works."

The quote above is for the outraged members of SAMS – the Strathcona Area Merchants' Society – who voiced arguments couched in such concepts to kill this centre.

The Development Permit Board had over 60 people on the speaker's list. The vast majority

(50+) spoke in favour of having a place for drug users to go – for safety, for simple necessities like showers and laundry, advocacy, counselling and referrals to treatment. Reps of various agencies, community groups and issues spoke of the need, the gaps and limitations in their own efforts.. the sense in establishing such a centre in the Downtown Eastside. Drug users spoke from the basis of need, of being people, of being shut out or barred from services, of access to information and other resources being difficult without a place to begin.

There are concerns, of course. How will it be run and who will be responsible for the community’s impressions and impact and grievances? These are all legitimate and require more than a “cross-your-fingers” approach. If it’s open 18 hours a day, 5 days a week, what kind of internal set-up will deal with users who decide not to pay the rent and just live out of the centre on a more-or-less daily basis – and what kind of response can be given to those riding inside SAMS and using taxpayers’ money to give their *raison d’etre* as “total opposition to any more services, social housing or treatment centre in our (sic) neighbourhood... zero tolerance for street activity [I’m guessing sex trade & drug use, but it’s vague] and dispersal of the resident population to treatment/hospitals/jail/workcamps ELSEWHERE! [‘sic’ – same-in-context]

Reviewing each speaker isn’t the point; weighing pros & cons is an ongoing debate, but the power of whose voice gets highlighted is underlying all issues. The first 50+ speakers were dismissed as “Cause-driven” by the last ten or so, eight of whom used SAMS as their primary bona fide. If you’d spoken of the need for stability, resources and harm reduction as complements to police and enforcement, then ‘you couldn’t begin to understand the totality that a business person must consider.’ The SAMS ideologues would attack the Dugout as the most infamous example of a social experiment gone wrong, saying that its very presence was anathema to Gastown and the legitimate property owners’ concerns. *Image* is everything – “We don’t want to *see* these people in our (sic) area; *seeing* them in Gastown hurts business; *seeing* people from outside the area

coming here for sex and drugs is bad for business...” and such verbal niceties originate from hotel & bar owners, rooming house landlords, people whose business is to get money/patronage from the very residents whose congregation they oppose for reasons of ‘image’.

At the beginning I referred to power. Not one question or comment was voiced by appointed



members of the DPBoard to anyone who spoke in favour of the Resource Centre. Sympathy flowed from the political hacks, to the point of buffoonery. Janet Leduc made a mockery of intelligence with such remarks as “You can’t have a tax-based service if its very presence causes all taxpayers to leave.” “You’ll have showers there for these people and users will come there from other parts of the city to have showers; everyone in the area already has showers.” “This should be set up in Kerrisdale, have the bugs worked out, and then relocate to the Downtown Eastside after it’s running well.” [My apologies if it’s not word-for-word.] Each concern of business, whether valid or off-the-wall, was treated with the utmost respect, and the Advisory Panel members tried to make the voices of resident and volunteer alike be isolated, inconsequential or just loony in comparison to the valid, overarching and common sense reactions of anyone claiming to be in it for the money.

It gets rolled eyes when Patricia Hotel owner Wayne Nelson gets on a roll about all the undesirables affecting his ability to make an honest (sic) buck {with his history of evicting people to ‘make an honest buck’ off tourists during Expo and Olaf Solheim, 40-year tenant, dying); the owner of the Drake screaming in the face of a Health Board staffer about how the proximity of the Resource Centre was the death knell for his business – bar/strip joint – and his

elite clientele that he'd worked so hard to get.

Getting tax money to fund rent-a-cops and such vehemence as outlined above, through the seemingly valid exercise of a Business Improvement Association (or Area) is a mirror of the Gastown Business Improvement Association and its skewering by the cloned owners. Using the Dugout as a scapegoat for Gastown's failings has sonorous duplication in the Resource Centre being blamed for anything and everything.

The Development Permit Board voted at 12:40 a.m. and approved a 1-year operation. The tender will go out for management and a number of strings are attached.

\* Good Neighbour Agreement;

- a Neighbourhood Liaison Committee is to be established;
- a 24-hour phone with a person at the end to take all concerns, complaints, problems

\* Evaluation

- regular reporting to the Director of Planning and the Inspector of Licenses

- regular presentation to both a steering group and the Neighbourhood Liaison Committee (if more than one [internal::external])

Operating hours are: opening at 9:00 evening to 1:00 in the afternoon, five days a week.

Business asks for the ability to regulate itself, with mostly laughable results. Profit over all. Now the community, drug users and deinstitutionalized people say "Let us do what we know is necessary. Give us a chance to work on all this." It's funny how lawyers, police officers, politicians, business people and bureaucrats get 'converted' when they take the risk to listen and see. The strings attached to operating this facility are more than for image polishing. If this place isn't managed responsibly, it can fail; efforts to get a decent response to the proliferation of hard drug use will slow and more people will die.

The overlapping nature of poverty, profit, drugs, housing, safety, service need, the sex trade, law & order and health is contained in the realization that substance use and abuse is not going to just go away. Responding with faith and hope is another way of saying 'trust your intuition'.

By PAULR TAYLOR

\* 5 8 6 3 4 6 8 4 1 1 9 \*



## DAZZLED BLIND

One legged he cries his defiance  
Spewing long runny shit  
To empty bowels ejecting ballast

He then hops lightly  
From a rock just off land  
Catching wing the merest breath  
Off of water

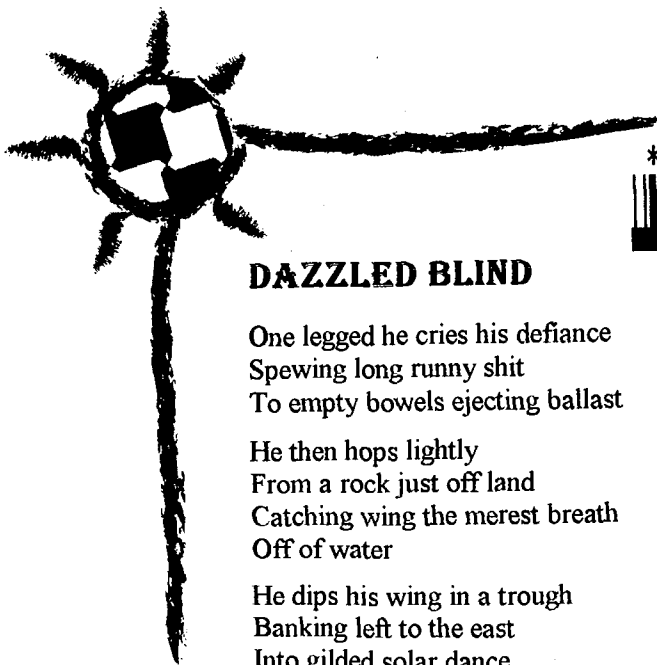
He dips his wing in a trough  
Banking left to the east  
Into gilded solar dance  
On the flat rippled calm  
Off sunset beach  
And up the finger of false creek

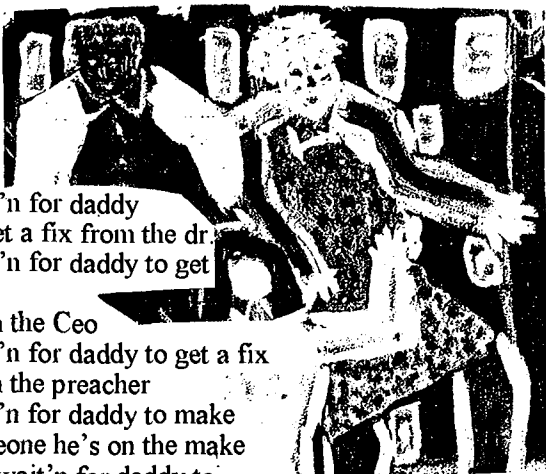
Bright gold spans an urban finger  
From just above the east horizon  
To west end of sunset beach  
Where is wed sky and sea  
Dance of gilt married glee

An old Egyptian might fervent say  
He flew to Ra and burnt his wings  
In the awe of some old god

Still too young I dare not say  
It was the awe of Ra sun god  
But dazzled blind I might say  
It was the last I ever saw  
Of that defiant old seagull

J. Appleton





wait'n for daddy  
 to get a fix from the dr  
 wait'n for daddy to get  
 a fix  
 from the Ceo  
 wait'n for daddy to get a fix  
 from the preacher  
 wait'n for daddy to make  
 someone he's on the make  
 for, wait'n for daddy to  
 get home from a Big business trip  
 or extended holiday  
 in some beautiful sunset  
 ravaged community somewhere  
 down south in penny wage land  
 is no different  
 at all  
 no worse  
 than wait'n for daddy on the  
 sidewalk  
 to get a fix  
 at  
 main 'n' hastings  
 wait'n for mom to put on her  
 next mask  
 wait'n for ma to pour out  
 hollow controlling love  
 by the next  
 and next  
 and next ladle  
 wait'n for dad to skillfully  
 prepare and apply and buy  
 ego armour for his skull  
 wait'n as he works his ass off  
 uses up his time  
 my time, to sell his ass and soul  
 to dump a mercedes in his empty hull  
 empty hole  
 is no different  
 no worse than wait'n for ma  
 ta score  
 on hastings

*sparrow*

## run for your life!

...is a free running and walking program open to anyone in the Downtown Eastside regardless of age, ability or financial situation.

### The Running Group meets:

Place: Andy Livingston Field

[Soccer field at Keefer/Union/Carrall Streets]

Time: 8:00am

Days: Sunday, Monday, Thursday and Saturday

### The Walking Group meets:

Place: Andy Livingston Field

[Soccer field at Keefer/Union/Carrall Streets]

Time: 8:00am

Days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday

The clinics are based on a walk/run program that starts out walking and builds up to running gradually, staying within each person's limits.

Each Tuesday evening at the Carnegie Community Centre we have a guest speaker from the running or health community to give us tips on nutrition, training, shoes, form and technique.

**Mar 7** Meditation and Visualization  
with Leila Billows

**Mar 14** Dr. Gabor Mate, author of "Scattered Minds" will be speaking on attention deficit disorder, exercise and endorphins.

**Mar 21** Steve Méttina from the "Running Room" on race strategy and preparation.

**Mar 28** Jennifer Epp, a nutritionist, on diet and exercise.

All workshops take place at the Carnegie Centre 3<sup>rd</sup> floor classroom on Tuesday evenings at 6pm

The focus of the program is to have fun and to help each person develop a personalized fitness program in a safe and supportive environment.

*For more information come to any session or  
phone: 682 3269 #9126*



### *Prude*

She calls me a prude  
because I don't go on and on  
about my gay old days.  
I fail to mention about being  
in a gay public toilet, how  
the door swung open and the fists  
were flying, fifteen before  
I could pull up my pants  
how bloody hamburger my face  
how it took a week for  
my eyes to open again, lying  
in bed for a week with a  
torn apart face.  
typical gay bashing with the  
greaseball feeling like a "real"  
man afterward attacking  
someone with their pants  
around their ankles.  
ya, I'm a prude alright

They say you are or you aren't  
but there's so much blue space  
in between.. why must we define  
forever what changes constantly?

You can change, people do  
Gay at 20, straight at 30  
just not interested at 40  
Why pigeonhole everything?  
Why define what never stays  
the same shape?  
Why condemn anybody different?  
Why do we need someone below us  
to make us feel okay about being us?  
It's the year 2000 and we still  
haven't learned how to just let  
people be themselves.

R. Loewen



### **Editor,**

I meant to write several weeks ago to congratulate you on the Feb. 1 issue. Before I got around to it the next one was out! I always enjoy the poetry, and the article on addiction and school education was very well presented. Dan Feeney's rant was provocative and the article by "a volunteer" describes my experience.

It is hard to make the time to write a coherent letter, but it's important to write in support of Leonard Peltier.

Thanks for the sensitive work.

a subscriber

For many people and for their own reasons, Carnegie Centre has provided them with a place to go. Carnegie Centre Security Staff are dedicated to preserve this environment. Carnegie Centre Security Staff are proud of Jazz and his integrity, I have to thank Jazz for his efforts at Carnegie. For six years he has endured the changes at our doors. I have worked alongside Jazz for five years and appreciate his commitment to our job and community.

Jazz took it as well as the rest of us. It is no secret the amount of garbage we take on the job and he would never let it get past him. Workin' the door ain't no piece of cake and Jazz ate his too.

Good luck Jazz ( like ya need it).

I know you did good work here.

Sincerely

Edward I. Johnson  
Security Officer II  
Carnegie Community Centre

*p.s.*

If that's the last I see of him that will be fine with me.  
I know Carnegie will miss him.

I won't.

I know he left something here.

Seeya.

*p.p.s.*

I'm keeping the cat.



## DERA Marks Another Year at Annual General Meeting

### BOARD REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'm happy to present to you an informal report on events, accomplishments, victories over the past year, as well as updates on continuing challenges

My thanks go out to our current Board: Jin Pei Huang, Carey Speck, Chris Laird, Marie Lands, Barry Morris, and Paul Taylor; and to Jim Wu, who left the Board last year because of time and employment constraints. It is most gratifying to find that as days and events rush by us, sometimes chaotically, people like these continue to give generously of their time, spirit and wisdom to help further the well being of our Community.

Last September, we held an Autumn fundraiser event at Sun Yat Sen Gardens, an outdoor festival with music and cultural presentations which was very well attended and appreciated by old friends and new acquaintances alike. This was followed up on New Year's Eve afternoon with a huge public wild game barbecue which we held in partnership with The Vancouver Native Health Society. Over 1300 residents were served a free sit-down dinner of moose, elk, deer, or salmon and were well entertained by a band consisting of local musicians. Free festivals like this are too few and far between in the Downtown Eastside and we will make every effort to ensure that something like this can happen at least once a year.

DERA sponsored an inaugural Street Market on Abbott St. as a pilot project last Fall. Although the weather was atrocious on most days, many local residents came out with their crafts and artistic products and were encouraged enough by the initial response to work together over the winter months to build a bigger and better market

The Metropole Hotel, which will be open this

Spring, will feature 64 totally renovated self-contained rooms for Downtown Eastside residents, rooms that were dingy, depressing and on the verge of being shut down. The hotel itself was at serious risk of conversion to tourist use and we are most grateful to our public and private sector partners for enabling us to save it for good quality housing which the Downtown Eastside desperately needs.

On the political front, we held a number of dynamic monthly meetings at the Carnegie Centre which helped the community focus on vital local issues. Last summer Jenny Kwan, one of our area's MLAs, attended and explained Province's role with The Vancouver Agreement, and answered questions about a number of residents' concerns. We hosted two public meetings dealing with the ongoing controversial issue of public surveillance cameras. We hosted a Mayoralty candidates debate last October between Philip Owen and David Cadman where many significant Downtown Eastside issues were brought forward for discussion prior to the November election. When we were confronted by city bureaucrats with a demand to remove a mural on the side of the DERA office building, we resisted successfully with much support from people within the neighbourhood and beyond. After considerable negotiation, the mural, a significant locally developed Community asset can now remain to help lift peoples' spirits as they pass by Carrall & Hastings. Perhaps the biggest victory the Downtown Eastside witnessed this past year was the long overdue regulation of rice wine. The parasitic merchants who have for years poisoned our residents with this fatal product finally had it removed from their premises and placed in Liquor Stores where its distribution can be controlled responsibly. Most people recognize the improvement in the lives of the consumers and in the quieting of the overall street scene associated with it even over this short period of time.

Many more challenges lay before us. The IV drug scene is still killing and harming too many people in our midst and too few options have been laid out to date to remedy the situation adequately.

The new Resource Center on Powell St. will open this Summer, and while this represents an opportunity to reach out to street-involved people, we all know that if it is not operated responsibly, the project will not succeed and people will not respond positively though the need is urgent.

With your continued support, the new Board will work diligently towards making the Downtown Eastside a better place for all of us to live, work, play and prosper in and will continue to bring new ideas and projects forward which will advance causes which you tell us are important to you. Thank you again for your support.

Ian MacRae, President

Terry Hanley, executive Officer, gave a synopsis of the reports from the many activities of DERA. The Advocacy Project has three full-time people who dealt with 4,317 cases, and of these there were over 1500 detailed concerns that required ongoing battles with government departments. "We win virtually every time, but the whole reason for this service is that the government and many landlords don't follow the rules and laws."

Susan Wong gave highlights of her work with Chinese Seniors. Eyeglass distribution, Seniors' Strut participation, the Senior's Summit and many outings, events and housing concerns. Barry Morris got heartfelt support when he rose and affirmed the crucial role that Chinese residents play in DERA's membership.

Terry went on to cover the VoiceMail Project, which has over 1700 subscribers. Literally scores of people have thanked DERA for how this phone service has helped them get better housing and employment – ironically helping them get their own phone and cancel their VoiceMail address! Film liaison continues, with DERA monitoring movie and TV production. This liaison service provides work for up to ten people.

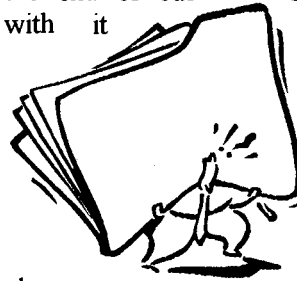
One of the most interesting and exciting aspects of DERA lies in the work done by Frank Gilbert, the Community Affairs Co-ordinator. The Metro-pole Hotel is the beginning for actually owning property and businesses, having equity and creating training and employment opportunities.

Nothing stabilizes people better than decent housing; nothing gives people the ability to have a say in their life and future of our community than meaningful work.

The next year promises to be very challenging; as developers continue efforts to gentrify, DERA and many organisations and residents work side-by-side in Community Directions to respond with reality checks and our collective inability to be dormant or invisible.

## The Idealist Mistake

We are always saying we cannot handle it, whatever it is, always sure that we have reached the end of our so-called rope, yet deal with it we do, as ineffectively, inefficiently as ever. If



we could put all of our lives and the world and whatever we say is beyond our capacity to deal with together in one place, in one phrase, as it were, it would look pretty much like the world that is, be a précis of it – the entirety of life and the so-called world is this clump of impossibility we must live in. The mistake that pervades our lives is the mistake of idealist and the academic. Everywhere there are those preaching the benefits of knowledge and expertise and technique and so-called productivity – in fact, evil is defined as the opposite of these so-called things – and yet, with all the experts and knowledge and productivity, the world is as horrible a place as it ever was, more horrible with each passing so-called progress, each so-called amelioration. We cannot even be right about the simplest things, yet we think we can be right about everything. Idealists and academics generally believe we are gradually, ever so slightly, but always, improving our knowledge of the world and life, and that that is what we should be doing, or is, at least, the most so-called positive thing we could be doing – the idea of most positive being a particularly idealistic



idea. Idealists and academics think what they think, what everybody thinks, is *significant*. They dream they can put their hands through anything, and touch themselves, hoping, I once said. In the clump of impossibility that the world and life is, so-called idealism seems to be the easiest response. It allows us to proceed in total ignorance of the things our lives depend on and are defined by completely – for example, who grows our food, who manufactures our clothes, who builds our shelters, our entertainments etc. Not knowing about these essential things is normal. Knowing so little, yet forever ready to make vast and vastly mistaken pronouncements about all and sundry that doesn't really matter, about that upon which the world and life do not depend, but which, when



turned into a program or a machine or a law or whatever, can affect the world and life to no end, almost always in a way that destroys people, the idealist and the academic and the technician, the enforcers of class prejudice and class structure in their every breath, ensure the continuance of the idealist mistake.

Dan Feeney

## The Library Column

Libraries through out the country are creating programs for the week of February 27<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup> marking **Freedom to Read Week**. If you thought books are not banned here in Canada drop by the Reading Room to inform yourself. Our Library staff has prepared a Banned Book Display. Bookmarks listing banned books are also available. Librarians have been at the vanguard of informing the public about the banning of books.

I'd like to back track to the January Library Committee meeting. Some exciting projects were talked about in the Librarian's report. Dick offered three projects he is planning to implement while he is here as our Interim Librarian. The Carnegie Newsletter, which many people use for research, is going to be indexed. He will set up a manual for on-going indexing of articles, poetry, art, etc. that are continuously requested by people searching through back issues. Second, the Spanish language materials are going to be expanded and any suggestions you may have will be greatly appreciated. Thirdly, Dick proposed a study of the Carnegie Building's history for publication and distribution in book form for the Carnegie Building's Centennial in the year 2003.

*"A Librarian to the Rescue"*

Recently a patron of the Reading Room used- a 1999 T-4 form as a bookmark in a book he return-

ed to the Carnegie Library. Later he discovered he had left his income tax form in the pages of the returned book. OOPS! Since it was: a Vancouver Public Library book, a city-wide call went out. Librarians to the Rescue! A West Point Grey Library staff member phoned to say she have found the form and it is on it's way back to the Library patron here in the Carnegie Reading Room.

Bad News. A Canadian Encyclopedia recently acquired for the Reading Room by the Carnegie Association is missing. It was in the Library Reference section for less than a month. Now it is gone. If you see it, please help us and return it.

Lastly, The Library is planning a 20th Anniversary Authors and Readers event. A subcommittee is planning the event for May, 2000. Let the library staff know who you would like to hear.

Til next month. **Ruth McGibbon**

Library Committee Chair and Association Board Member

The Carnegie Book Club will be meeting Monday, March 6<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon. We are newly formed and our first selected book is "Alias Grace" by Margaret Atwood. Anyone is welcome to the book club discussion and to join the Book Club. There is no cost as the Library system is providing the books. The discussion will be lively as this current choice is about a controversial double murder that occurred in Ontario during the 1840's.

# COFFEE PLUS IDEAS

Every Tuesday Evening from 7-9 PM  
Carnegie Centre, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

Tuesday, March 7, 2000

Gordon W. Roe, PhD

“Drug Policy Reform in BC”

Tuesday, March 14, 2000

Leah Diana

Filipino Women Immigrants

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

Peter Raabe, PhD

“How can Philosophy help you feel better?”

## The Laughing Buddha

Years ago the small, flat-roofed building on Hastings Street near my home was a Christian church. Today it is a Buddhist temple. The only difference in the appearance of the outside of the building is that a seated statue of a Laughing Buddha now watches the traffic on Hastings. He laughs, I think, at our frantic busyness, and his large stomach suggests one who is ready to give birth to compassion for all beings.

For the past two years I've been catching the downtown bus at the bus stop in front of the Buddhist temple. While waiting for the bus, I developed the habit of reading a small notice of Buddhist teachings posted on the door of the temple. One sentence in particular caught my attention, “Be decent, wise and don't engage in selfish competition, but do meritorious deeds for the benefit of others.”

In the following months I found myself repeating this Buddhist teaching every time I caught the bus in front of the temple. The expression, “Be decent, wise and don't engage in selfish competition, but do meritorious deeds for the benefit of others,” became a mantra for me. It helped me orient myself to the events of the day. It made me feel that there was more to life than maximum profit. The

## Happy Trails

Walking away wasn't easy  
after finally realizing  
the two worlds we live in  
will never even come close  
closer than the moon and Mars.

For awhile I could handle the out-of-orbit  
but the jazz cowboy and the healer  
live in universes so far apart  
as to not exist at all.

I found I couldn't get any warmth  
from a fire not built for me  
and the coldness, that impossibility  
was slowly eating away at what  
was left of me.

So I'm sorry if I was a little rude  
in the way I cut myself out of the picture  
No way to do the wrong thing  
the right way. Happy trails..  
I wish you well.

R. Loewen

Laughing Buddha became my friend.

At 7:30 a.m. one morning in late autumn, I was waiting for the bus and repeating my helpful mantra, when I noticed an old man shuffling along, mumbling to himself. He would have been in his mid-seventies, with dishevelled white hair, old clothes, and a distracted look on his face. When he saw the Laughing Buddha, he stopped and gazed long and hard at him. Then he stepped into the flowerbed where the Buddha sat, and carefully avoiding the flowers, he slowly approached the statue, one deliberate step at a time. When he reached the Buddha, he paused for a few seconds in intense concentration. Then he threw his arms around the neck of the Laughing Buddha and kissed him. After that, he stepped back, smiling. Carefully he made his way to the side walk, bowed to the Buddha, and went on his way.

Which one was Buddha, I wondered.

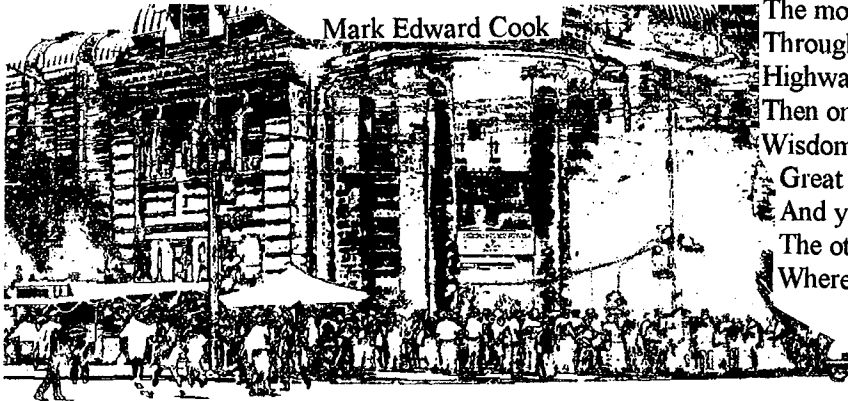
By Sandy Cameron

## *La Dumal de Orange*

Dumal de la Orangel is set in a lonely, neon blue café in Pascal Old Montreal. The building itself is old bisque brick and tile.

The street outside is cobblestone in grey granite. The neon blue lighting is artificial and casts a somber hue. People and tourists mill about in a half-lit twist – laughter is commonplace and the Parisian mahogany tables are red wine trickemyre

In the centre of the room sits a red-stained Russian oak table with three old French armoire chairs – but no one restores them.



### **My Life As A Volunteer**

1992 Marty Lucas, a volunteer from Nova Scotia, suggested I could spend some time at Carnegie in the Learning Centre.

Marty, Colin and I did outreach E.S.L. at Little Mountain Community Centre. The students were Ethiopian and Somali.. mostly women and older children. We would pause in tutoring to allow the Muslims to do their evening prayers. It was an exciting and educational experience for me.

**Back in the Learning Centre.**— We had a seniors E.S.L. class - Cantonese and Mandarin. I filled in if a teacher did not show up. Claude Mortimer and I took a group of Cantonese speaking seniors to the Aquarium once. It was a lot of fun. There seemed to be more money in those halcyon days of the Vancouver School Board.

I went back to school to finish an English Lit. degree.

1997 Did an Advocacy course at St. Paul's Church of the West End. Returned as a volunteer

## **JET BLACK**

Your hair is JET BLACK like  
The feathers on the ravens back  
Your eyes have a glow in them  
Like little soft nuggets of gold  
Your lips are the deep rich red  
Of a papaya that's cut in half  
So sweet and delicious are your  
Kisses and nothing but goodness  
That is coming out of your mouth  
When you get older you will ride  
The motorbike with a wind blowing  
Through your hair flying down a  
Highway on a full moon night  
Then one day you will hold the  
Wisdom and knowledge of all the  
Great scholars and poets in your hands  
And you will play soccer with all  
The other men on the field of green  
Where everyone dreams of being a king.

*Daniel Rajala*

in L.C., now administered by Capilano College and the City of Vancouver. An exciting time but difficult. The new First Nations staff were faced with many challenges at first, both from staff and volunteers. Persons who now cheer their efforts.  
2000 I'm still here, tutoring A.B.E. and singing in the Street Program and Song Circle. Occasionally, the kitchen beckons, but that work is very physically and emotionally demanding.

Improvements I envision: Greater communication within and between departments. We in the L.C. do not have enough contact with the Volunteer Coordinators. They have an immense responsibility. But like Delayne said in her piece "Carnegie is a beacon of hope and light in a storm-tossed sea of human misery and social degradation."

So. Get a membership NOW  
Volunteer NOW  
Participate in programs NOW

Wilhelmina Harriman-Miles

Dead silence is the only heritage  
of all the victims of disillusionment;  
those, who have never been told  
how to go about living without having to  
silence their own curiosity first.  
Silence of the disillusioned  
keeps pushing each new generation back  
into the cradle of self-knowledge.

Thus, coming of age, how could we be told  
anything useful about aging, by those  
who abandoned their own youthful selves  
in shame for having been there once  
without any insight. Coming of age,  
for instance, we have but little knowledge  
of the interdependence of  
the astral bodies and those of our own.  
The Moon cycles and the times of change  
are not beyond comprehension; even though  
they require a level of awareness,  
and certainly such skills remain rare  
not only among the old but also among  
the well experienced. Yet, we expect  
the young to rise  
above our gross inability to live  
in accordance with the lunar cycles.

Old customs make no mention  
of our own species basic stuff of life.  
We make no preparations for  
a none celebration  
of yet the biggest event among all  
of our powers and that is  
a girl's first fertility cycle. There's  
nothing but shame that comes crashing down  
upon girls where there should be music  
and an all-night dance, a feast for all  
and a showering of gifts, a long gown  
that would make her proud and  
new shoes for the boys, so as to help them  
stand-up to the occasion.  
Instead, there's the secrecy of silence  
that surrounds the imminent arrival of yet  
another lunar spell.

The ghosts of Gregorian monks  
keep rising up  
with plumes of steam

from a squeezed-out sponge  
in a cold and darkened bedroom.

There has yet to be invented  
the universal rhythm calendar  
with gestation time as the individual unit  
of measurement for each human being  
subdivided by the exact number of weeks  
of growth from inception to birth.

A calendar book per person;  
both, male and female,  
with days of rest and reflection, reflective  
of menstrual bleeding of women  
at the beginning of each cycle  
followed—half way through—  
by an equivalent of an egg release for  
each brand new project. Six billion rhythm  
calendars envisioned  
for a present-day Planet.  
A flood of blood matched only  
by a flood of Moon calendar publishing  
from Katmandu all the way to Lublin.

But I hear you say, my friend,  
you are not aware of such a subtle change  
taking place; such as  
your own breasts becoming misty soft,  
each month regularly like the waning Moon.  
For once, quiet and carefree,  
at a cusp of a new phase,  
as only you can be  
when you're no longer fertile.  
Such were the rhythmic ways  
of life experienced by your gender yet  
never appraised in public since the times of  
our own forbearers.

I guess, deep down,  
we don't really like each other  
that much, mothers and the mothers  
of mothers to be. The old, who care  
not about the self-knowledge of  
the young but the hymens getting thorned  
with or without the shiny proof of purchase  
like the silly dreams  
of their own innocence lost  
once and for all.

Richard Tylman

## Age of Aquarius

There is an old saying that you cannot put your foot in the same river twice.

The 90's was an insipid, uninteresting decade. I spent New Year's Eve celebrating the end of it with ot, rum, beer and some cider.

This decade is going to be pretty good. For one thing, next Spring will be the official start of the Age of Aquarius. In the monthly calendar it goes from Aquarius, then Pisces, then Aries, but for the 2000 year cycle it goes the other way around.

This North American culture does not have enough hero prophecies. According to mythology, Jesus was the messenger to the Age of Pisces, so there must also be a messenger for the Age of Aquarius. This person should be here and may even be female! According to astrology, the 2000 year cycles correspond to the 12 parts of the body with Pisces being the feet, Aquarius the shin-bone and so on. As the ages move up the body there is also supposed to a move towards more evolved states of consciousness and being.

Rudolf Steiner, a philosopher, believed that the human world goes through times of matriarchies and patriarchies, and that these times were divided between rescuer and destroyer. Babylon, with fertility cults and human sacrifice, was the time of the female destroyer. Cool-headed patriarchs were the time of the male rescuer. Now, with teen violence, a century of bloodshed, nuclear bombs, it's the time of the male destroyer. The female rescuer times should be here next.

Yntil about 3000 years ago, the world religions and governments were mostly matriarchal. The patriarchy of this millennium has crested already. Men, with their nasty Y chromosome, have more of a tendency to violence.

Anything is better than to take our current course off development to its logical, Cartesian ultimate. In 1900 women didn't even have the vote, yet now there are women senators and, I believe that in this century there will be a woman as Prime Minister here and as President in the States.

This new millennium will be interesting!!

By DEAN KO

The Vancouver Native Health Society's Upgrading Skills has relocated to 166 East Hastings Street, in the commercial space of the Roosevelt Hotel, next door to Carnegie Centre.

The program helps individuals take control over their lives, to move in an upward direction, and strive for personal and economic independence.

All persons on Social Assistance are welcome to apply. We do have program incentives based on daily attendance. Contact Rena at 351- 4958 for more information



### FROM THE OFFICES OF DICK WAD:

*The Top 10 signs you are drinking too mush Carnegie Coffee.*

- 10) Juan Valdez names his donkey after you.
- 9) You speed walk in your sleep
- 8) You haven't blinked or yawned since the last lunar eclipse.
- 7) Starbucks wants to adopt you..
- 6) You help your dog chase his tail
- 5) You sleep with your eyes open.
- 4) Favorite hobby is licking your coffee pot clean.
- 3) Instant coffee isn't fast enough
- 2) You ski uphill.
- 1) You answer the door before people knock.

## Did You Know

That sex heals, repression destroys  
Art heals, censorship destroys  
Drugs heal, fear destroys  
That sex was originally promiscuous  
Patriarchy practical sexism  
Art emancipated life  
Perverted into caste  
Drugs increased motor development  
Oppressed for fear of revolt  
Prostitutes were priestesses  
Sex labeled as sin  
Art created technology  
Used to amass wealth  
Drugs were holy  
Condemned as scurrilous sensation  
We're so used to horror we're numb  
But history is not so dumb &  
Teaches how fear is the sum  
of human wretchedness  
Let us take back the night  
Desire matures.. shine your light.

Andy Carson



### TRAIN SPOTTING/NAME DROPPING

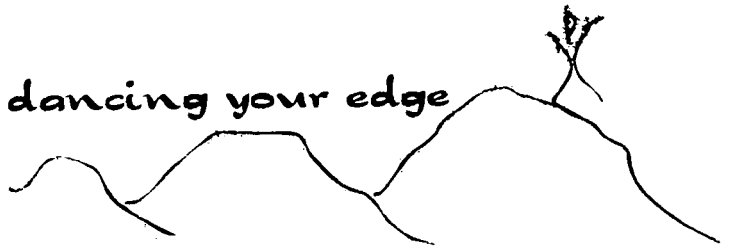
The rail yard, the junk yard, and the cemetery  
They were my playgrounds when I was a kid

Motion  
Decrepitude  
Internment

CN, CP, Burlington Northern:  
There was this girl in our class  
in grade three, and her name was Leocadia  
Which is pretty tough, you know  
Anyways, I hope she made it ok  
That's all I remember about her: her name  
Somebody gave it to her

Norfolk and Virginia: and Margaret Brownlee  
She had nice legs

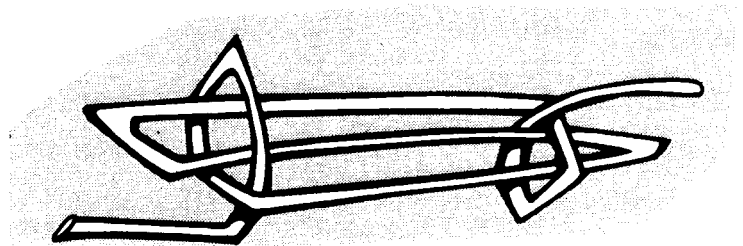
dancing your edge



moving from your own centre  
explore the rhythms  
release blocked energy  
make room for more joy in your life

classes begin  
Sat. March 11  
11 - 1 in the gym

wear loose clothing  
no jewellery  
bare feet • inner smile



### The Eye Opener

By Angela

I've lived a sheltered life  
It just doesn't seem right  
Oh! What a class  
To finally notice the mass  
Racism. Will it last?  
Will it ever be a thing of the past?  
A black man A white woman  
Together with love and commitment  
Why do people have a resentment?  
The couple was kicked out of a bar  
I think the bar had gone too far  
No! They were not of the same race  
But I wanted to slap the manager in the face  
Sure it is not a norm  
But WHY should people have to conform!  
The discrimination I've seen recently  
Will there EVER be Common DECENCY!

**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.**

**2000 DONATIONS** Libby D.-\$55  
 Sam R.-\$15 Nancy W.-\$20 Eve E.-\$3  
 Margaret D.-\$30 Shyamala G.-\$18  
 Joy T.-\$6 Jennifer M.-\$2 Val A.\$36  
 Thomas B.-\$41 Harold D.-\$7 Pam-\$22  
 Rolf A.-\$45 Bruce J.-\$50 Beth L.-\$2  
 Kettle -\$18 Sonya S.-\$140 BCTF-\$10  
 Nancy H.-\$35 Bill G.-\$150 Wes K.-\$30  
 DEYAS-\$200 RayCam-\$25 Bill B-\$20  
 Wisconsin Historical Society -\$10  
 Heather S.-\$18 John S-\$50  
 Yukiko -\$10 VEDC -\$25

FREE donations accepted

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER

101 West First, Vancouver BC V1Y 1G1 (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  
 Friday, March 10**

[carnnews@direct.ca](mailto: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!**

# BRING BACK



## Facing Towards the Future

*(Welcome home Sister Angelhair)*

Turning curves, rounding corners  
Now dissolving like pebbles to sand  
Sifting slowly through an hourglass  
Pulverized, vaporized, vanishing forever  
Attempting to erase the tapes of nightmares and  
dreams is hopeless, of course, but to  
sometimes try is a common occurrence.

You can't resist it yourself

- you know what I mean - Pulling, like a magnet  
to a vortex of clustered hopes, splintered goals,  
all shot to bits and pieces, scattered over the ages  
of your universal mindset...

Answers to this dilemma are sacred, yet secretive  
Pieces of your puzzle are connected, sketchy -  
When they appear to be in completion mode  
Your will power shall once again rule - you will  
no longer feel compelled to depart from now.  
Take this chance to rejoin us, to return..

...never ever your single solitary loneliness.

Welcome back to the real world, sister Angelhair  
Yes to our shared reality

you are loved fondly and dearly  
adored unconditionally

Never despair. Forever. For eternity.

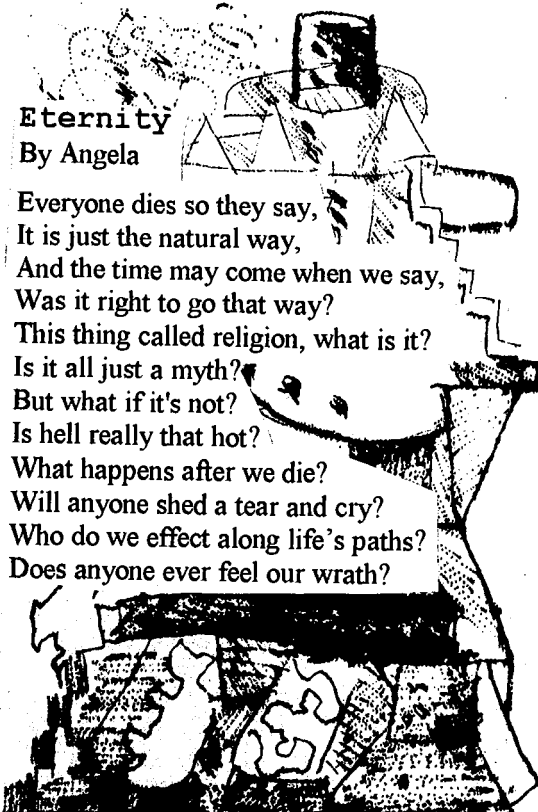
Sister Angelhair, you have personally solved the  
riddle of the ages.

Well done, my Lady of the Stars.

Robyn Livinestone

## Eternity

By Angela



Everyone dies so they say,  
It is just the natural way,  
And the time may come when we say,  
Was it right to go that way?  
This thing called religion, what is it?  
Is it all just a myth?  
But what if it's not?  
Is hell really that hot?  
What happens after we die?  
Will anyone shed a tear and cry?  
Who do we effect along life's paths?  
Does anyone ever feel our wrath?

The day may come when we find out,  
What life has been all about!  
All the different beliefs of faith,  
Do they have one common trait?  
What is it that is the same?  
Is it just a cultural norm to try and tame?  
Tame the wild spirit that's inside,  
The one that takes us on a roller coaster ride!  
Imagine, our life represented as a dot,  
And eternity represented as a mile long line,  
And everything we do within that dot,  
Determines where we spend our time within that line.  
A time with no end,  
Where will we be because of sin?  
But if it is all just a myth,  
And we spend our life trying to do what is right,  
Right according to the cultural norm,  
Of how we should behave and perform,  
Then what harm did it cause you?  
To try and be true,  
Take a minute and reflect,  
Did you earn any respect?



# Please take a moment to "deKlein" privatized health care

**R**alph Klein's plans to privatize surgical services and establish private hospitals in Alberta have immediate consequences for British Columbia's public health care system.

Klein is bent on undermining Medicare to bring U.S.-style two-tiered care to Canada. And, because of international trade agreements like NAFTA, it will open the door for private hospitals to operate in B.C. - even if British Columbians don't want them. That could also bring a flood of U.S. corporations demanding the right to run long-term care facilities or community health services like group homes or home support.

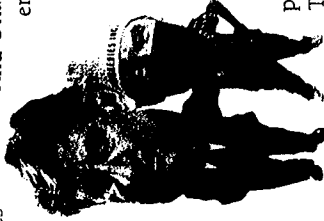
Seniors, community groups, advocacy organizations and unions are gearing up to fight coast to coast to stop Klein cold. The first part of the campaign is to press federal health minister Allan Rock to use the *Canada Health Act* or whatever legislative

action is required to ban private hospitals in Alberta.

And Ottawa must restore federal funding so that we can modernize Medicare.

It's critical that we expand Medicare to include home and community care and a national prescription drug program. But first we must put Medicare on a stable financial footing.

Please take just a moment to fill out the attached postcard to Allan Rock, and **mail it right away**. It's postage free so you don't even need a stamp. Keep in touch over the coming weeks to find out how you can play a part in protecting our public health care system. There's a toll-free number and web site on the other side of this card.



## I "deKlein" privatized health care

Dear Minister Rock,

I oppose Ralph Klein's plans to legalize private hospitals in Alberta. If he succeeds, private corporations could use trade agreements like NAFTA to privatize health care in every other province.

Please act now to stop Klein from privatizing Medicare. That means restoring federal health care funding and taking whatever legislative measures are necessary to safeguard Medicare.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

*British Columbia Health Coalition*



The Hon. Allan Rock  
Minister of Health  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

## Keeping the Heart Open

The media have a fixation on the mean and ugly.. the dissolute, disgraced, the outlaw, the callous... But sometimes I have seen things that gripped the heart. A woman with kids waiting on a bench at Pigeon Park.. An old man trying to get into the line-up at a food bank.. A young man asleep under a tarp on the steps of a Mission Church.. A young boy checking through the garbage in a lane behind Gore Avenue...

*Sam Roddan*



## The Legal Services Society

Over the years LSS has provided legal representation for more than a million people who could not otherwise afford it, and helped many more with free legal information, education, advice, or referral to alternate services.

The provincial government proclaimed the Legal Services Society Act on October 1, 1979, merging two organizations - the Legal Aid Society and the Legal Services Commission - that had been providing legal services to the public. Since then, LSS has operated, or funded, offices across the province to administer the legal aid plan, determine legal aid applicants' eligibility, and refer applicants to staff paralegals or lawyers, or private bar lawyers. Staff also provide a range of other services to their communities, such as poverty law advice and representation, public legal education, and helping aboriginal communities develop community based justice programs.

Suite 1500  
1140W. Pender Street

Tel: 604-601-6000

Vancouver, BC V6E 4G1

Fax: 604-682-7967



## TINY TOWN

With the full moon over the mountain  
I am at one with the whole universe  
Keeping a fire going in the fireplace  
See the city below which looks tiny  
Where everything is always so trivial  
Everyone is a star in their own movie  
Everyone trying to be like everyone else  
Seeing what their money will buy today  
Every one playing all their small games  
No-one is ever really able to win big time  
They look at the stranger who is different  
As they always wonder what is going on  
There is a new terror on the streets now  
That is not in love with the ways of man  
And maybe it helps to free everyone else.

Daniel Rajala

## St. Patrick's Day KARAOKE

Friday, March 10

6:30 - 10 PM

shamrock pull

Come & have a wee bit 'o fun!!

Carnegie Centre Theatre

401 Main St.

*rainbow door prize*