

We are all in this Together



S.S. MINNOW

# NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

**Resource Centre** – It was first thought of a couple of years ago. Drug users were being barred from community centres, agencies wouldn't let people hang out or act out when drunk and users soon got the message not to go in or even try to access services if/when loaded. The street population grows, drugs claim lives in horrible ways and the "war" on them, from a police perspective, is (or is presented as) a lost cause. Overdose deaths rise from 39 in 1992 to over 350 in 1993 and have killed over 1200 people in the last few years. Merchants, residents, school teachers, parents and residents all want something done, as the very visible users on our streets seem to offend just by their visibility. People looked at experiments and programs in other cities and at what was missing or needed here. Enter the idea and conscious planning for a resource centre for drug users – a safe place, somewhere to go for food, counselling, health concerns, washing, maybe even sleeping for awhile. It would be drug free, with no using on site, and the community would have input in an advisory capacity.

The opposition to this thing is all out of proportion. Charles Lee, the president of the Chinatown Merchants Association, was part of the planning group that did the land search and insisted that it go where it is. He said he spoke for merchants and Chinese residents. He's gotten hysterical reactions to even the existence of a drug user's centre and is now leading the charge to destroy the thing. Some residents in Strathcona see it as totally evil and claim that it is too close to the school 8 blocks away; Ray-Cam has joined with the Strathcona Area Merchants society (SAMS) and their Business Improvement Assoc. to claim this place will increase drug use, murder or enslave their children, destroy business and all life in the neighbourhood if not the Free World. The most vehement opponents – Archimbeau, who's made stopping this centre his mission-in-life; and Nelson, owner of the Patricia.. responsible for a few dead people

during Expo, and maker of much dinero off alcoholics – enrage people with fantasies about the worst possible scenarios. People go to meetings with reps from the Health Board and scream vile threats, even saying "All drug addicts should be rounded up, taken to an island somewhere and shot." This is insane. Vows to fight this to the death, promises of taking it to the Supreme Court, death threats against city staff. Welcome to the Monkey House! Welcome to the community!

**Kids** – A few years ago it was an eye-widener to come across kids under 16 on the streets. Now it's common to hear birthdates after 1987 – kids under 13 and in the sex trade or being used as drug mules or in-between dealers and buyers. Now it's becoming easier to get information, case histories, pictures, up-to-date flashes on kids who are missing or runaways or 'last seen with' reports. These are our kids, whether they come from the Downtown Eastside, somewhere in the Lower Mainland or Nova Scotia. There is a network of services involving schools, social workers, the police, youth counselors, even adult sex-trade workers who are all looking out for these kids. If a 12-14 year-old is on the street or being 'hidden' by a dealer or pimp, the chances of pulling it off for any period of time are getting smaller all the time. Responses include the CPIC computer network in Canada and NCIC in the states; the INS stateside and Immigration Canada here; sharing of connections amongst youth workers and various detox and halfway houses. When it comes to sexual predators, the community's response is coming in Community Alert Teams (CATs) and how people can identify predators and pedophiles and help our kids. If the needed thing to do is get a kid into treatment or a house or even just prevent them from coming to the Downtown Eastside these things can be legally arranged.

## Places to contact about kids:

- \* Neighbourhood safety Office at 12 E.Hastings [687-1772];
- \*DEYAS at 223 Main [251-3310];
- \*Youth Action Coalition at 342 E.Hastings [602-9747];
- \*Watari at 432 E.Hastings [251-7615];
- \*Vancouver Police and Car 278 or Yankee 177

[911 or 665-3535]. There are more but start with one of these. If they can't act immediately they'll know who can.

**W.I.S.H.** – Women In Search of Housing is what it stands for but, much more than that, it is the working women's drop-in/resource thing currently at First United on east Hastings. I have only a little information but between 40 and 80 women come by daily and they're looking for more space and working with other groups like DEYAS to improve the dynamic.

**Enlightment?** – Experience and maybe a little wisdom from Europe brings the concept of the "four pillars" approach to drug abuse: prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement.

\*Over the last 3 issues a dead man's words have been presented in the printing of Officer Gil Puder's paper "Recovering our Honour: Why Policing Must Reject The War On Drugs".

\*The Main & Hastings group has police, drug users, social planning staff, community centre security and assistance from health & street workers meeting and working on the model of Frankfurt in Germany. seeing what problems can be addressed, who needs to be involved, what kind of cooperation is needed and shared respect.

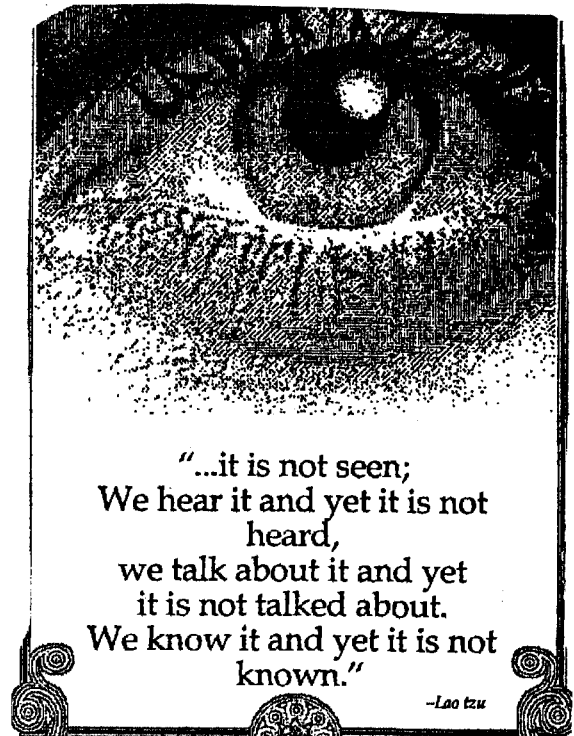
\*Treatment is a key component. An international conference (Downtown Eastside style) on Harm Reduction got amazed responses from people with experience in it – they were amazed we're trying harm reduction with big shows of enforcement but had virtually no treatment options that were easily accessible. Bud Osborn has spoken at many schools and churches and was a constant goad on the Health Board on the need for treatment and programs, especially for kids. His call for safe fixing sites and the closely monitored, medically administered heroin trials (modeled on Germany, Switzerland & England) helped Libby Davies MP in her attempt to get federal legislation permitting the same. The spotty political support is irksome. Condemnation of the provincial government is usually "those fucking idiots/bastards/fools" and in *The Province* (!) a 2-page spread on waitlists growing while young addicts suffer. Seems that university professors and business executives (you

know, decent folks) are waking up to the fact of their addicted kids and are angry that treatment isn't available. *They* have formed a group called From Grief to Action and want;

- more detox and long-term residential treatment programs on demand
- coverage of the methadone bill after an addict in recovery gets a job and off welfare
- an increase in the number of pharmacies that dispense methadone
- safe injection sites that position health and social workers to encourage addicts into treatment and recovery.

Support from strange worlds. We are all in this together.

PRT



"...it is not seen;  
We hear it and yet it is not  
heard,  
we talk about it and yet  
it is not talked about.  
We know it and yet it is not  
known."

-Lao tzu

Carnegie  
Street Program  
1<sup>st</sup> Year Anniversary  
May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2000

MARKETING PEOPLE IN WEIGHTED SACKS  
AT THE BOTTOM OF A POLLUTED RIVER



### Notes from the Reading Room

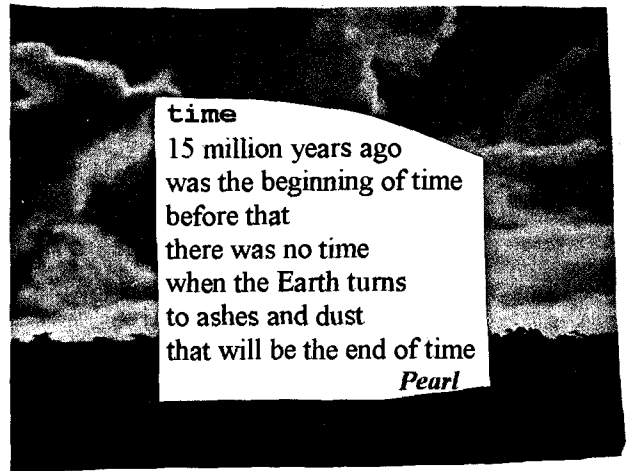
We want to remind everyone of the upcoming twentieth anniversary celebration of the Reading Room. It will take place on, Tuesday, May 23, 2-4 pm in the Gallery on the third floor. There will be several authors reading from their works for everyone's entertainment, of whom the following are just a few: Robert Waltz, Joan Skogan, Angana, Bill Blanchard, Shaun Millar. There will be coffee and goodies, too. Everyone is welcome and we hope to see you all there.

Despite our best efforts to please those readers of Westerns out there, we simply can't seem to keep those paperback carousels even half full. As a result we've contacted our paperback supplier and placed a very large order. So, those of you who are Western lovers, keep an eye out for a new supply; they'll be here in a week or so.

It's been quite a while since we've had a book giveaway out on the corner. We keep putting it off because the weather has been so cold and wet. As a result, of course, we have quite a stash put aside. This is just to let you know that on May 31, for

### HERE FROM DICK WAD dick\_wad@canada.com THE TOP TEN REASONS DOGS DON T USE COMPUTERS.

- 10/ Can t stick their heads out of windows 95
- 9/ Fetch command not available on all platforms.
- 8/ No fire hydrant icon.
- 7/ Words: carpal paw syndrome
- 6/ www.sniff-u\_sniffe-me still out of service.
- 5/ Shys away from chuchwagon screen saver
- 4/ Hard to read monitor with head cocked to the side.
- 3/ Sniffs everywhere to find that tree directory.
- 2/ Every time he sees the mouse he looks for the cat.
- 1/ Thinks dot com means spot come.



the Street Program anniversary celebration, we will have a *super* giveaway as our part of the celebration. If the weather warms up a bit, we may even have a small giveaway before the end of the month. Keep you eyes on the corner. On May 31, though, we'll be out there no matter what the weather's doing.

I've just refilled the display cases on the third floor, so wander up and have a look when you have a minute. Remember that if you want to borrow any of the books in the cases, just come down and ask me, and I'll retrieve them for you.

Dick Turner, Acting Branch Head  
Carnegie Reading Room



### **Breaking the Silence: Meetings/Workshops Thursdays, 3-5 pm**

*May 18 Facilitating Good Meetings [Kathi B]*

*May 25 Organizing with Music [Raging Grannies]*

For info and locations: 682-3269 ext 8319

### **Community Directions Needs Our Support**

The Downtown Eastside has suffered tremendous abuse from the media, some profit-driven groups, and a few politicians. When men of great power deny our humanity and the history of our community, they tend to think that they can destroy both the people and the place without moral qualms.

A discussion paper prepared for the Gastown Improvement Society in 1992. referred to Downtown Eastside residents as "those social service clients who frequent the area."(1) A Simon Fraser University teacher, when talking of the human beings who call the Downtown Eastside their home, said. "They get moved along; they get kicked out. Those poor buggers are used to it. They always get disenfranchised."(2) When Mayor Owen said that 70 percent of those living in the Downtown Eastside were transients from other municipalities, he was wrong, and I'm sure he would like that statement back.(3) The Downtown Eastside is a stable community. As Marg Green, an organizer with Community Directions, has said. "Most of the population consists of long-term residents.

Even in the single room occupancy (SRO) hotels, it is not uncommon to find people who have lived in the same hotel room for 15 or more years."(4) Residents who move from hotel to hotel, don't often move out of the neighbourhood. To slander the majority of DE residents as "transients" is extremely hurtful and dishonest. The Mayor was badly deceived by those who gave him that twisted information, and we hope that he will

keep in touch with Community Directions to obtain a more balanced view of our neighbourhood.

The events that caused Downtown Eastside organizers to begin to build Community Directions involved the "Revitalization Plan" for the Downtown Eastside, and the five million dollars that the federal government gave the City of Vancouver in early 1999, through the National Crime Prevention Centre, to launch this five year plan. Residents were worried that this "Revitalization Plan" left them out, and when I read the city report "Building A Sustainable Future Together - Part Of The Downtown Eastside Community Revitalization Program" (Nov/98). I had the uncanny feeling that the flesh and blood, historical, residential community of the Downtown Eastside had once again been rendered invisible.

Given the top-down approach of government reports, their abysmal bureaucratic language, and the fact that Downtown Eastside land is attractive to developers, residents felt that "revitalization" of tile community could easily mean 'gentrification.' We knew our community better than anyone else. We didn't need outside experts to tell us what our priorities were. We wanted a community development process that included the human beings who live here, and we wanted to be treated with respect. One of the worst things that can happen to people is to become what the negative image of them says that they are. Well, we are "somebody" in the Downtown Eastside, and Community Directions can help get that message to the world.

Community workers and residents in the Downtown Eastside realized that an organizing initiative that included as many groups as possible was necessary in order to resist the forces that threaten us. No one group could speak for a community as complex as the Downtown Eastside. The coalition of groups, Community Directions, came out of this vision.

**By Sandy Cameron**  
*to be continued*

(1) Carnegie Action Project Newsletter, September 15, 1996

(2) "Gastown ideal for single women." by Fiona Hughes, The Vancouver Courier, January 21, 1996

(3) "Downtown Eastside vacancy rate highest in city," by Harold Munro, The Vancouver Sun, May 29, 1999

(4) "The Downtown Eastside - A Time For Mediation Or A Time To Take A Stand?" by Marg Green, Carnegie Newsletter, March 15, 1999.

# COFFEE + IDEAS

Moderator : NATHAN POPKIN

**EVERY TUESDAY, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.**

Carnegie Centre / 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor / Learning Centre  
**BOOKS, VIDEOS, GUEST SPEAKERS**

**TUES., MAY 16: ERNIE CRIST**

Elected North Van. Councillor

**TOPIC: "PUBLIC TRANSIT & POLITICS"**

**TUES. MAY 23: DALE BEYERSTEIN, Ph.D.**

**TOPIC: "PARANORMAL PHENOMENA:  
REAL OR UNREAL?"**

**TUES., MAY 30: MARG GREEN**

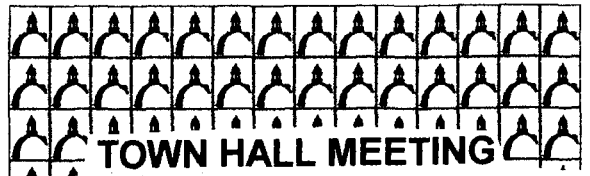
**TOPIC: "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
FOR WHOM in  
the Downtown Eastside?"**

*REFRESHMENTS SERVED*

## Shining Knight

So often in life what we are shown  
Is just a facade and not everything  
A Knight in all of the Shining Armor  
All those things good about our lives  
Behind it there is a Drug Addiction that  
Has been holding me back half of my life  
So much in this world is all about Death  
Great plans to destroy poor mans dreams  
The time spent looking for fame and glory  
The weather changed and there was none  
There was a life once loved in the Cabin  
High up on the mountains above the city  
Now it only exists on a Computer Disc  
The song life plays is the saddest sound  
This is where the true beauty can be found  
And when all of the Grieving is done  
That's when the parties and fun can begin.

*Daniel Rajala*



## **TOWN HALL MEETING** **Carnegie's MISSION STATEMENT**

Over 120 suggestions have been made so far for Carnegie's Mission statement. Common themes and draft statements will be part of this meeting, so please come and share your ideas.



**TUESDAY, MAY 23, 7-9 PM**

**!! refreshments !!**

Not meaning to take McBinner's space, I started regular retrieval from garbage over ten years ago. It was my 'turn-around-decade'; too bad the rest of the country didn't manage the same. It was quite a process or head trip being seen looking in garbage – a personal and powerful journey.

The other night I found dozens of lipsticks & cosmetics (new) thrown out by a store. It made me think of the high markup price they charge and over \$100 just tossed; what happens to someone caught shoplifting such items, getting a serious record, losing employment, etc. It sure makes me wonder.

The same thing happens with big food stores – every day they throw tons and tons of good, useable food items into locked compactors where even us salvage people can't get it, yet, if you stole a brick of cheese.. watch out!

Yeah, "our" city is not right. The wealthy are not aware of the 'gap' between rich and poor. It is also a big space between us that only real love can reach across. I believe some wealthy do have such love. My journey from \$30,000 a year to dumpster diving was gradual; I felt a sudden divestment would be too difficult and I wanted to understand the process. I got off my high horse and am trying to voice what is wrong from a low-income view.

Mike Bohnert

Beethoven

Are you familiar with Ludwig  
Who suffered all his life?  
Proud and gifted, sublime for all time,  
and what is his message now?  
To take Art where it's never gone,  
And life as well, to cast such exotic spells  
We are enchanted, moved go tears..  
How he could bend our fears  
Create such beginnings, such finish,  
"I shall hear in Heaven," he said.  
The Heaven in people's faces,  
The immortal applause, his cause  
to affect his time for all time.  
And how did we treat him?  
With tender respect or something less?  
He sold masterworks for peanuts;  
he received an annuity but his generous  
nature cost more; he was refused love,  
thought eccentric, irascible, talented,  
But if he were in charge would peace govern?  
He removed Napoleon's name from concerto.  
he would help women, assist the poor...

### Archie Miyashita

1916 - 2000

Archie was the eldest of 8 children. I was the youngest. I was just in Vancouver to arrange his funeral.

*To the members of the Carnegie Centre*  
Dear Folks,

I'm writing to tell you how much Archie's family appreciate the Carnegie Centre for the good times he had there.

I didn't have time to go to your centre but I read all about it in Archie's writings. It was a great place for him to expand on his ideas; albeit he was very cantankerous at times. sorry about that!!

He loved ballroom dancing and made it wonderful for many who hurried through meetings. He was especially frustrated with Parkinson's disease, which made him lose a lot of his agility.

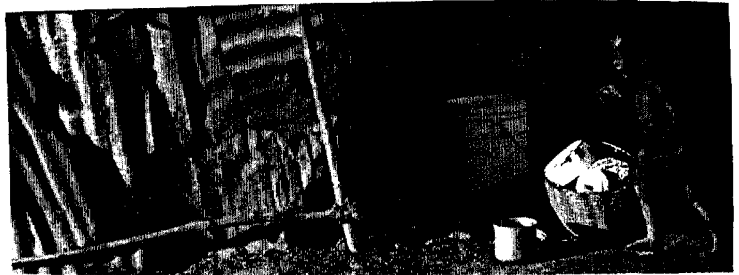
Thank you again for adding to his life.

Love,  
Susan Tsuji

Was he driven too far?

The lesson he bequeaths (among many) -  
Let us reward Artists as they reward us!

Andy Kostynik



If we could shrink the earth's population to a village of precisely 100 people, with all the existing human ratios remaining the same, *it* would look like this:

There would be

57 Asians

21 Europeans

14 from the Western Hemisphere  
(north and south)

8 Africans

52 would be female

48 would be male

70 would be non-white, 30 white

70 would be non-Christian,

30 would be Christian

89 would be heterosexual,

11 homosexual

59% of the entire world's wealth would be in the hands of only 6 people and all 6 would be citizens of the United States

80 would live in substandard housing

70 would be unable to read

50 would suffer from malnutrition

1 would be near death

1 would be near birth

1 would have a college education

1 would own a computer

When one considers our world from such a compressed perspective, the need for both acceptance and understanding becomes glaringly apparent.

## [Justification? Responses:]

*\*\*\* What follows is on the police doing checks on welfare recipients' rooms. There are strong feelings; responses are welcome. Sam Stewart, long-time resident, supporter of slowpitch and critic of police methods, would have written a response as fast as the pen would move. Sam passed away last week.*

In the last few months there has been a lot of controversy over the actions of the police and the verification officer from the Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security with regards to visits to hotels in the Downtown Eastside. I am the police officer who usually accompanies the verification officer to the hotels.

The Ministry, under the B.C. Benefits Act (and others) has the right to verify the addresses of individuals who receive housing subsidy. This is required to reduce fraud. Under city by-laws, the police also have the right to check hotel registers. Frequently, verification is accomplished by checking the hotel register against clients who are living in the hotel. However, as many people familiar with the DES will know, some hotels in the area are poorly managed and are havens for criminal activity. These hotels do not welcome outside interference; therefore, due to safety concerns the police also attend. As a result of these hotel visits many other issues have become known in the DE.

When the police and the ministry workers started teaming up, several hotels in the DES were "out of control". To say that these hotels provided adequate housing for residents of the area would be an incredible stretch. On paper, some hotels had many more residents than rooms, but upon a physical checking of the hotel, many rooms were found to be vacant: sometimes hotels were up to  $\frac{3}{4}$  empty. This discrepancy was often as a result of the selling of rent cheques to managers.

Criminal activity was also entrenched in hotels, with rooms being used for prostitution, storing stolen property, drug dealing and as "shooting galleries". In some hotels, elderly long-term residents had barricaded themselves in their rooms, too fearful to leave, even to use the bathroom facilities. "Managers" were using "enforcer tactics" to control tenants who refused to obey new rules. In many cases tenant's personal property would be

taken, illegal evictions were occurring and tenants were intimidated into remaining quiet.

Hotels were also deteriorating physically with a huge amount of damage and theft occurring inside. In many cases bathrooms were inoperable, bed linens filthy and furniture non-existent. In some cases even fire fighting equipment had been stolen thereby presenting a threat to the lives of tenants and adjoining buildings.

Although these conditions are occurring in only about 20 of the 200 hotels in the DES, these hotels are responsible for a huge problem both in policing and as a source of "available" housing for local residents. Through the verification process it was discovered that many of the problem hotels were not providing housing for the residents of the DES. Instead, they were actually taking housing away from the residents by allowing ongoing criminal activity, usually by individuals from outside of the downtown core. This information becomes important when both the government and local agencies lobby for increased housing in the DES. This also adds to the problem of homelessness, when individuals end up living out on the street because they have traded their right to a room for money for drugs. The only way that this misrepresentation can be discovered is through actually visiting residents in hotels.

At the same time that we visit hotels, we are also looking at the overall condition of the hotel. This information is passed onto the NIST, Neighbourhood Integrated Services Team, which is made up of several city hail departments. The NIST is responsible for problem solving in the area and as a result, within the last few years several of the hotels and other businesses in the DES have had their illegal and poor business activities curtailed. Not only are these businesses profiting from the grief of others, but they are doing local residents



NEWSLETTER OF THE CARNEGIE

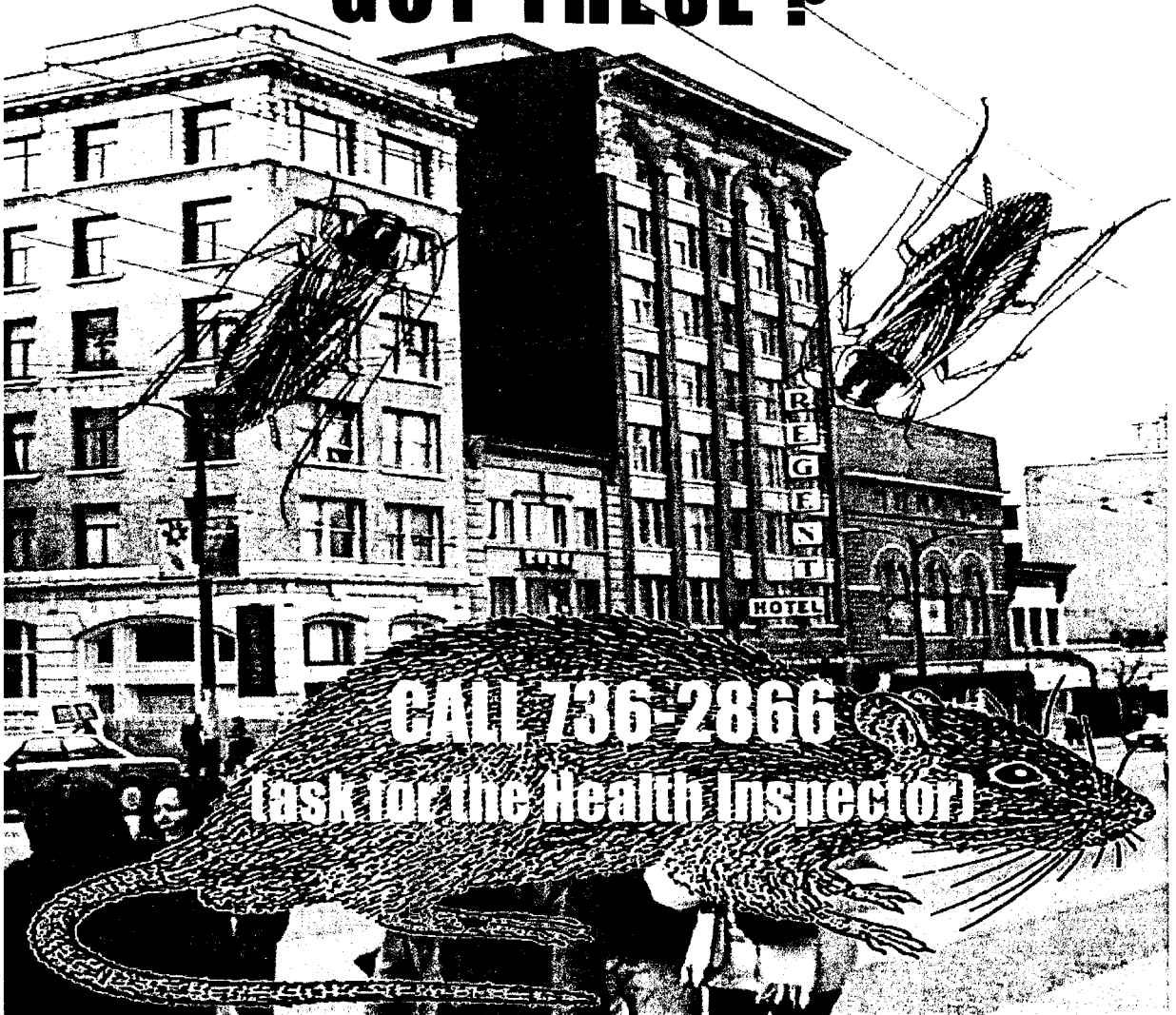


# COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2000

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 689-0397 OR DROP BY OUR OFFICE, CARNEGIE 2ND FLOOR

## GOT THESE ?



CALL 736-2866

(ask for the Health Inspector)

Recently, the **Working Group on Housing for Community Directions** held a meeting at the Columbia Hotel regarding bugs and varmints in residential hotels. Three Health Inspectors from the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board attended the meeting and informed us of their role in applying the Vancouver Health By-law (see below) to the hotels.

If anything became clear it was the following points (next page):

## Vancouver Health By-Law

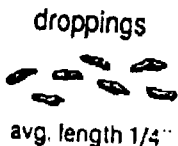
The By-law requires property owners to keep their buildings repaired and maintained to prevent infestations and to take the necessary steps to eliminate any infestation that occurs. Before a pesticide can be applied in a multiple dwelling

The By-law allows for only trained and certified persons to apply pesticides in a multiple dwelling (e.g. hotels).

### Rats



### Mice



For rats and mice the best treatment is to rodent proof the building as best as possible. This includes removing sources of water and food, plugging holes and removing harbourage (nesting sites).

Killing them with poison will only work if they're not being replaced with new rodents from outside.

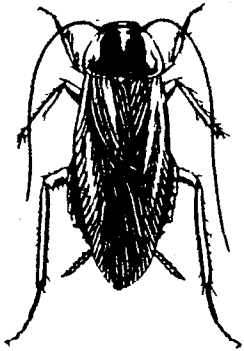


## The Paste

Conventional treatment for cockroaches involves noxious sprays, where residents are usually required to clear items out of cabinets and put everything in the middle of the room. For good reasons, many residents find this impossible to do or find the pesticides harmful to their health. Now there something called “paste,” which is proving to be very successful at getting rid of roaches. Their are even stories of **hotels being roach-free** because of paste treatment.

When paste is used residents are not required to move their belongings out and it’s “environmentally friendly.”

To be most successful the pasting needs to be part of an Intregrated Pest Management plan that includes treatment, monitoring (i.e. traps) and ongoing sanitation by both the manager and residents.



Why isn’t every hotel using paste ? Because it’s more

labour intensive than spraying, so it costs more. Many hotels spend as little as possible on roach control. This is the problem.



## Lack of Reporting

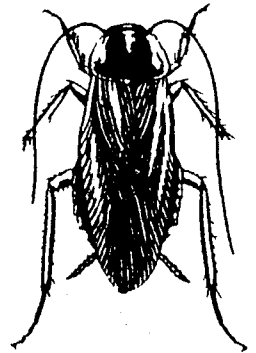
The health inspector for the hotels reports that very few complaints about pests come from residents. This lack of reporting is not just because most residents don’t have phones. Other reasons suggested have included: not sure who to call, fear of reprisal by a landlord, the toxic nature of the sprays, invasion of privacy and the ineffectiveness of past pest treatments.

The “paste” should take care of some these reasons for the lack of reporting. Also, the inspectors perform their inspection in a random fashion, visiting many rooms, in an effort to maintain the anonymity of a resident who has reported a pest infestation.



## Tolerance

Over the years its seems that there has been an accepted level of roach infestation tolerated by residents of hotels and, to a certain extent, inspectors. It’s as if roaches can be expected. There is no reason for you to tolerate bugs in your food, in your clothes or running across your face while you sleep. You may have a neighbour whose habits breed cockroaches - this doesn’t help - but still there is no reason why your room cannot be bug free. This is especially true with new treatments like paste.



## Public Awareness

Although this has been a ongoing issue for decades, it’s time to get the word out (again) that

**“YOU DON’T HAVE TO LIVE WITH BUGS.”**

It has become evident that in order to break the level of tolerance and the lack of reporting the community and the health board need to embark on a public education campaign informing residents of new pest treatments and their right to live in a bug-free environment. The Health Inspector’s phone #736-2866.



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*As tourism heats-up for this summer so too does the attack against low-income citizens of Vancouver. The police, private security guards and business improvement associations will all step up their actions to remove panhandlers from public space.*

Join us for a **PAN-IN** at the corner of **BURRARD ST. AND ROBSON ST** (next to the old library). Help send the message that punitive measures like the Anti-Panhandling By-Law and spare change meters have no place in this city.

Sponsored by  
CCAP, Downtown South Residents Rights Association and End Legislated Poverty.

out of viable job opportunities by paying "employees" in beer, cigarettes or guest fees. Many businesses in the area could be sources of viable employment for DES residents, providing them with increased income as well as the self-respect which comes from being a positive part of society.

We have tried to make our visits as unobtrusive as possible, but it is only natural that everyone will not agree with what we are doing. We are committed to making housing in the DES safe, clean, and affordable to all legitimate residents of the DES. Anyone who wants to move into the DES only to use it as a base for his or her illegal operations, which bring grief to their neighbours, is not welcome.

In the past I have been stopped on the street by locals and information has been passed on to me regarding problems in hotels. I have also been welcomed into people's rooms to discuss issues they felt they could not deal with on their own. As a Community Police Officer I will continue to assist those who can't help themselves but I will not be as kind to individuals or businesses who come into the DES with the intention of profiting at the expense of those who are trying to survive here.

Susan Parsons, PC 1252  
Community Police Officer

### Combine Your Writing

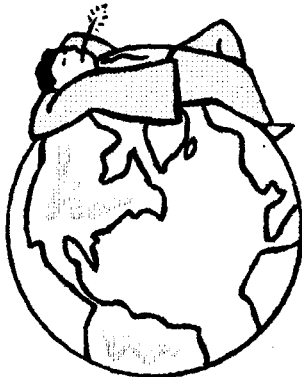
with Images

Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup>

1:00 to 3:00 PM

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Learning Centre

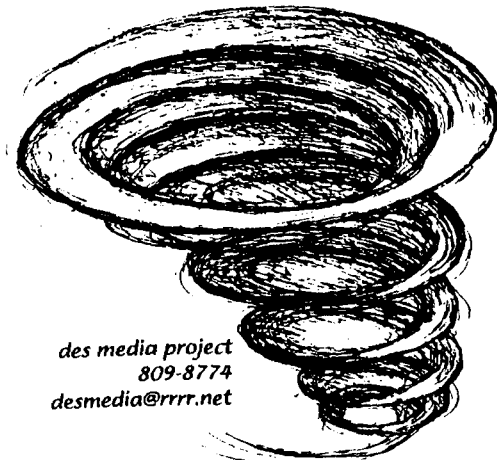


Diane Perkins will show

us ways to put images with writing.

No Experience Necessary

Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he  
also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.



des media project  
809-8774  
desmedia@rrrr.net

## DES MEDIA WORKSHOP IS LAUNCHED

The DES media workshops are off and running, with the launch being held last Thursday, May fourth. To celebrate the new workshop, everyone who came enjoyed delicious Carnegie carrot cake and Trolley's tea while slides of artwork and video clips made by the facilitators were shown.

There was a good turnout for the launch, with a broad spectrum of people. The facilitators, Bernadette, Devona, Trolley, Jayce, Athene & Claudia clarified people's questions about the workshop, and discussion began around art, representation, and other issues. Many people had specific interests or brought ideas that they wanted to develop in the workshops, which included beading, starting a neighbourhood newspaper, and learning about the technical aspects of video. There was much talk around how people's own creative work would fit into the media workshop, and there were many suggestions about how the workshop would work best with the variety of interests and talents participants will bring to it.

The next workshop will take place on Thursday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, from three to six on the third floor. There will be a workshop every Thursday, same time, same place. All are welcome. Bring your stories, talents, ideas!

For info call 809-8774 /// desmedia@rrrr.net



## ***Economic Development***

At the monthly DERA meeting, held at Carnegie on the first Friday, both John Barr of the Vancouver Economic Development Commission (VEDC) and Nathan Edelson, Senior Planner with the City of Vancouver, came to talk about what they're doing and, more importantly, how it affects the Downtown Eastside.

John Barr has spent a fair bit of time and energy trying to quiet fears that he is part of big business and the gentrification of the area. He spoke about enterprise development, of providing help to people in terms of making a business plan to get ideas off the ground. It was interesting to note that no outside businesses have spoken to him about re-locating to this community; but there is the ongoing grind of businesses leaving and storefronts boarded up. The Downtown Eastside gets much more attention than other areas of the city because of this 'depressed' state, but it is just this non-local interest in revitalization that was behind the concerns and questions of people.

Ruth Meta, who has been struggling for almost 2 years to start Clothes Encounters, a Laundromat/Café, spoke about the difficulty that locals have in getting businesses going. Nathan talked of the lease subsidy program, wherein local enterprises can get financial help from the city in the first year or three.

Questions concerned the duplication (seeming) of the VEDC doing a 'capacity study' to see what businesses the community could support, or just

## **PHOTO OP!!!**

The gnomes putting together the book for the Carnegie Association's Annual General Meeting have a novel idea: photos of people! If you want to grace these pages, go to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor on Thursday or Friday (18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>) and ask for Bob. **OOPS!**

**Carnegie Community Centre Association's  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Sunday, June 11, 1-3pm**

A blind man can have ideas about light, but that will not help him. A deaf man can have ideas about music but that will not make him understand music, experience music. I don't have any ideas; these are my experiences. Whatsoever I am saying to you, I am not saying it as a philosopher.

Videha

house, and the asset inventory being done by Community Directions. The studies and division of the DE into many 'separate' neighbourhoods have too often left people feeling like it's just a charade, that planning and final plans go into high gear with lip service paid to community input. A few people spoke of having nowhere to go with their ideas.

Both John and Nathan responded, saying that all ideas and business plans are presented for community review, but the reality can be daunting. Not every idea is feasible, and starting a business is hard work.

Ian MacRae, president of DERA, asked about the proposal to employ over 5000 people in some kind of high-tech park near CityGate (Terminal & Main) and how our involvement will have any impact on such a multi-billion dollar project. The forces, all players, and us - we fight back to protect our community and not let it be swept away in the face of these same forces.

A Community Development Corporation is one option to this uncertainty, and for local people to continue including economic development in our struggle to be recognized as 'stakeholders' in our own future.

By PAULR TAYLOR

DOWNTOWN  
EASTSIDE  
YOUTH  
ACTIVITIES  
SOCIETY

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

2000 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$55  
Sam R.-\$15 Nancy W.-\$20 Eve E.-\$20  
Margaret D.-\$30 Shyamala G.-\$18  
Joy T.-\$30 Val A.\$36 Wm B-\$20  
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  
Wisconsin Historical Society -\$10  
Heather S.-\$18 John S-\$50  
Yukiko -\$10 VEDC -\$25  
Rockinggays -\$30

FREE - donations accepted

# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER

811 2nd Street, Vancouver V6B 1Y1 (604) 681-1100

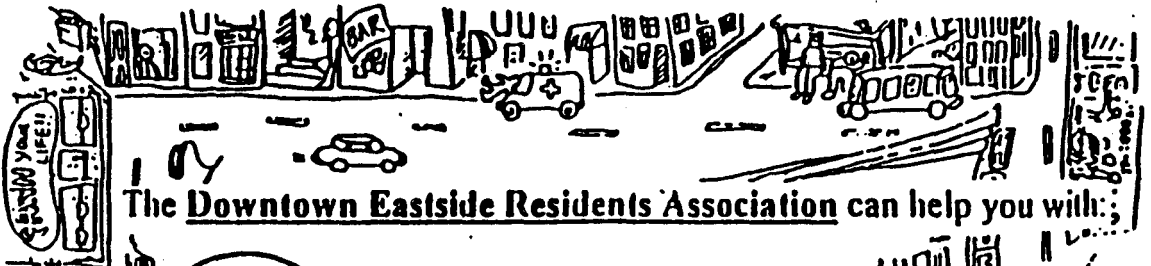
THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE  
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

Articles represent the views of contributors  
and not of the Association.

**Submission Deadline  
for next issue**

Monday, May 29

carnews@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!**



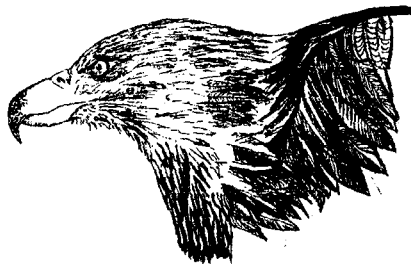
## Housing and Disability: A First Nations Perspective

Affordable housing and the lack of it for the Downtown area is a major concern for community groups that represent this area in housing issues. There is, however, a lack of focus on housing for First Nations people. The groups that are involved with First Nations housing are not pro-active. They are not representing First Nations concerns around social housing. Groups such as D.E.R.A., the Portland Hotel Society, and the Carnegie Association appear to be pushing for more affordable housing. My question is: What are these groups doing on behalf of First Nations people who may be living with a disability?

The strategies that are being implemented now do not appear to take into consideration the needs of the disabled within the First Nations population, a population that is in the majority in our neighbourhood. The reasons are many and various why we have such a large disabled First Nations population in this the poorest area of Vancouver. Some of these reasons relate to the residential school syndrome, and in general the success of the Federal Government in systematically destroying a culture they considered inferior. In place of traditional values the government offered European ones which were forced on the original peoples through education and the Christian church. Suddenly it became illegal to practice the beliefs and customs of our ancestors, or even to speak our languages. Oppression is similar wherever it appears. The damage to colonized peoples is immeasurable.

It is important for the community groups that are representing the interests of First Nations people to take these factors into consideration. Unless we, the First Nations people of the Downtown Eastside, are included in the planning and development of adequate housing there will never be any real changes in our neighbourhood.

Perhaps the groups who see themselves as community leaders in the matter of affordable housing should consider a quota system which would include a certain percent of disabled First Nations persons. We only want to be fairly dealt



with.

Another way to ensure a fair representation of First Nations people would be to support a grassroots initiative on housing run by First Nations people for First Nations people. Vancouver City and B.C. Housing could buy the old Roosevelt Hotel. (a proposal made by others in the past). The Roosevelt is next door to the Carnegie Community Centre. The proximity of these two institutions could bring a heightened quality of life for those people who are both poor and disabled by allowing them to have access to programs and facilities which, under normal circumstances, would be out of their reach both physically and otherwise. As it stands now, only a few disabled people are able to leave their rooms on a regular basis. These few patronize the Carnegie Community Centre, a beacon of hope in an otherwise pretty hopeless area.

Housing continues to be a crucial issue for all people living on disability pensions, welfare, or low incomes. However, I believe we can do something about improving the dreadful conditions human beings are forced to live under. By improving the quality of life of these, the lowest on the socio-economic scale, the disabled poor, the marginalized minorities, we can change the present conditions which breed discontent, misery, and many other social ills.

Fred Arrance  
President W.A.N.D. Society



I left her in the storage closet sleeping  
Crept out early - looking for vengeance  
Looking for peace.

The police were polite but uninterested  
"Did he abuse her?" they asked  
I had to admit he had not  
At least not in a conventional way.

Wilhelmina

Abuse - that's a funny word, isn't it?  
Means everything means nothing.  
He took all her money giving vague promises in return,  
Betrayed the trust she put in his profession  
Social Worker.  
Social Workers like this we can do without.

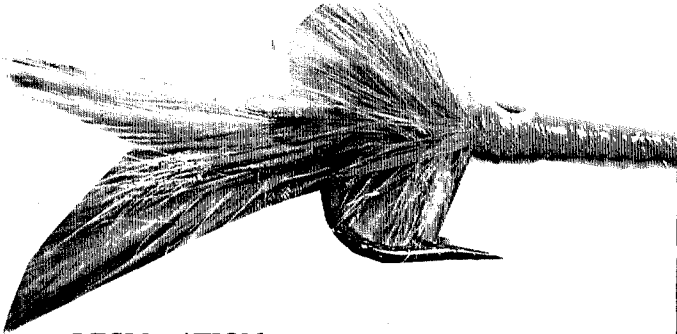
Now she wanders the city, homeless, penniless, Depending on friends who get tired of her  
demands for attention And after a few days tire of her and ask her to move along.



## CELL PHONE MADNESS

These days, everyone seems to have a cell phone. Even men and women of the cloth use them regularly...I like to think they are on line to their Friend Upstairs.. I don't have a cell phone. (Anyway it'd be too hard for me to get long distance, or the right number). Besides, I like the personal touch - to clap my pal on the back, shake his hand. share his hang ups over a cup of tea or coffee or something better....

*Sam Roddan*



## RESIGNATION

I am hereby *officially* tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of an 8 year-old again.

I want to go to McDonald's and think that it's a four star restaurant.

I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make a sidewalk with rocks.

I want to think M&Ms are better than money because you can eat them.

I want to lie under a big oak tree and run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer's day.

I want to return to a time when life was simple; When all you knew were colors, multiplication tables, ~.and nursery rhymes, but that didn't bother you, because you didn't know what you didn't know and you didn't care.

All you knew was to be happy because you were blissfully unaware of all the things that should make you worried or upset.

I want to think the world is fair.. that everyone's honest and good.

I want to believe that anything is' possible. I want to be oblivious to the complexities of life and be overly excited by the little things again.

I want to live simple again. I don't want my day to consist of computer crashes, mountains of paperwork, depressing news, how to survive more days in the month than there is money in the bank, doctor bills, gossip, illness, and loss of loved ones.

I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, justice, peace, dreams, the imagination, mankind, and making angels in the snow.

If you want to discuss this further, you'll have to catch me first, cause "Tag! You're it."



Photo by David Turner

**4th Annual Corporate Golden Piggy Awards held in Victoria, British Columbia.**

Victoria BC went hog wild again at this year's Corporate Golden Piggy Awards held in April. A quartet of snorting singers led the audience of 300 in a more relevant version of our national anthem: *Oh Poverty*. Other sing-along songs included the Internationale (led by Lenin) and an accordion accompanied version of the Twisted Sister song *We 're Not Going To Take It*.

This year's award winners included: Japan Tobacco (who now own the rights to lung cancer vaccines). Toys R Us for violating US child labour laws, several cruise lines for dumping effluent, the World Trade Organization for trying to enforce globalization, Hoffman-LaRoche for a world-wide conspiracy to raise and fix vitamin prices and the Canadian banks for getting a big government handout to cover collection of student loans.

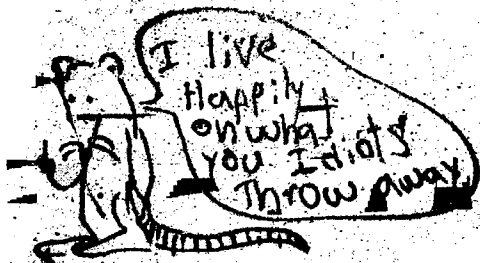
C.A.L'Hirondelle

c/o Together Against Poverty Society

415-620 View St. Victoria BC, V8W 1J6

phone 250-361-3521 fax 250-361-3541

## You Want To Make The Streets Safer?



Building positive links between the police and the community is important if we want safer streets. Good communication will help change the negative stereotypes on both sides. Community police offices and foot patrols are helpful for street safety. So is police training that helps officers become skilled at conflict resolution.

Unfortunately, in these unstable times, those with power and wealth tend to use the police to enforce their global vision of billions of dollars for a few and severe poverty for many. "Today the world's two hundred richest people hold assets of over US \$1 trillion. They are citizens of both rich and poor countries, and have more than doubled their net worth between 1994 and 1998. The top three billionaires in the world hold assets worth more than the combined GNP of all forty-eight least developed countries, with their population of some six hundred million." (1) How can the police help to protect citizens from this kind of global greed?

Police support and co-operation is essential in the building of safe communities. For example, the police force in Frankfurt, Germany, is a strong supporter of the prevention, treatment and harm reduction programs that have largely eliminated the violent drug street scene in Frankfurt. (2) We need that kind of support in the Downtown Eastside to help make our streets safer. We need support for the late Officer Gil Puder of the Vancouver Police Department, for Dr. John Miller, BC's Provincial Health Officer, for Libby Davies, our federal Member of Parliament, for the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board, for the Canadian HIV/

AIDS Legal Network, for the Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users (VANDU), for the Main and Hastings Group that has started at Carnegie (3), for Community Directions, a Downtown Eastside coalition with over 40 organizations, and for all other individuals and groups that work for intelligent drug policies that combine prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement. If we want safer streets, we must learn about and implement these policies. Go over the back issues of the Carnegie Newsletter, or read D. MacPherson's report, Comprehensive Systems of Care For Drug Users in Switzerland And Frankfurt, Germany for more information. The Crime Control industry's war on drugs hasn't worked.

Hope exists in our shattered world. The inspiring resistance to the World Trade Organization (WTO) Conference in Seattle and the World Bank/IMF Conference in Washington, DC, brings hope. The resistance to the APEC Conference in Vancouver brings hope. Walk for Democracy and Against Corporate Rule on April 29th, and the May Day Walk for Democracy on May 1st with 400 to 500 mostly young women and men, bring hope. Resistance to gentrification in the Downtown Eastside brings hope. Resistance to the corporate global economy all over the world brings hope. People want their countries back, their traditions back, their land back, their communities back, and their ability to govern themselves back. As the Declaration from the Southern Women's Organizations "Women Linking For Change" Conference, Thailand, 1994, stated, "Though the challenges are great and the situation is complex, we have hope that we can change conditions and build a better tomorrow." And with that "better tomorrow", will come safer streets.

By Sandy Cameron

### References

- (1) Economic Justice — a periodical on global issues of economic justice, pub. by the Ecumenical Coalition for Economic Justice. Toronto, vol.X, #3, October, 1999
- (2) Comprehensive Systems Of Care For Drug Users in Switzerland And Frankfurt, Germany by D. MacPherson. Social Planning Department, City of Vancouver, 1999
- (3) See the article, "Main and Hastings Group: Terms of Reference." Carnegie Newsletter, May 1. 2000.