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Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

401 Main Street, Vancouver 665-2289

SEPTEMBER 1, 2000

For Sale
for a million bucks

I COULD SELL THIS.

IT COULD WORK.

money

Completely Remodeled

DESIGNER

CRAP

BUCKS

Good

Bad

McCensorship

HOTELS

CLUBS

BARS

Real Estate

BUSINESSES FOR SALE

CASHED BEAUTY Salon for
tyle station, male station, chi
room can be use for aesthetic
offer Call Mike 7-484

STOP RENT
Brand new 3 bdrm, 2 1/2
Dish garage 1/2

\$2,000 DOWN
ONLY \$800/MO
Combined family inc

\$22/hour
CALL NOW! 585-7



3Ms – Moratorium Money Murder

I thought to use an analogy, saying that all words in very small dictionaries between moratorium and myopia have to do with murder, but that's like an intellectual fart.

Several people having businesses, property and attitude in Gastown, Chinatown and Strathcona became vocal about their vicious disapproval of any and all measures taken in the Downtown Eastside to deal with the drug problem. Rather than talk about solutions and engage in comprehensive, holistic approaches involving harm reduction, treatment, prevention and enforcement, they choose to demand that all such efforts besides direct enforcement (and enforced treatment) be stopped.

And they are trying to play hardball with local politicians. The Mayor of Vancouver, Philip Owen, responded to threats from members of his party and the list of organisations that had been co-opted into having their names appear on petitions. This is where it gets interesting:

Gastown has the Business Improvement Association and the Merchants Association and the Homeowners and the Residents and the Citizens Concerned About Safety and the Historic Area Planning Committee and the Land Use Task Force and the rentacops and a Police Deployment Centre and a few others – all told about 12 people. If you live or have property or a business within the 'borders' of Gastown, you are claimed as a member of one or more of these groups. The handful of people being verbal or public or just pain in the ass arrogant about anything then claims they are speaking for or representing the entire membership – virtually every person or business whose affiliation is mandated by City bylaws is in no way supportive of the nasty nuisances speaking for them. This scenario is repeated in **Chinatown**, with a few people claiming to speak for the Merchants, the Business Association, the Residents, "for all Chinese speaking people in the community" – and various groups like SUCCESS and other cultural things find themselves *supporting* the few people using the drug

problem as the political football required for the same few to ride to nominations for office.

Strathcona gets the Merchants Society, the Business Improvement Association, the Property Owners & Tenants, and then lists local schools and health services as part of or under this umbrella and again a few wingnuts claim to speak for everyone while spewing their own bigotry.

The "Community Alliance" takes this aberration to the next level, with groups and organisations listed who have no idea what they are supposedly supporting and who write angry letters to the few wingnuts using their names and demand an end to it.

It certainly ruffled the Mayor. Brice Rositch, the architect at 120 Powell who thinks nothing of partying til you puke, goes around claiming to speak for/represent 3000 businesses, 150 organisations and 10,000 residents. and he does it with a straight face!

The Mayor? He claimed to understand the need for our whole approach, supported the initiatives of harm reduction, signed the Vancouver Agreement and spoke for the Downtown Eastside. Then he declared a 90-day moratorium on all new drug and alcohol treatment programs, freezing anything that would deal with drugs or the drug-using population.

Tim Louis, COPE councillor and a lawyer, states that this move was blatantly illegal.. that no Council meeting was called.. that the Mayor does not have the authority to make such a unilateral declaration.

So we get down to it: Who can 'get' to the mayor and force him to do this? How can such individuals apply such force? How vulnerable are elected people like the Mayor to such blatant bullshit? Does Owen think blaming it all on the NDP excuses seemingly running for cover when votes are at stake? How threatened is the NPA? This is the layer of power.

The final layer is the money. Virtually all of the few people claiming to speak for everybody in the named areas are propertied and worth from hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars. The drug-using population is being used as the most visible and easily condemned segment of the neighbourhood. They may number at over a thousand but are cited in daily media as "7000 drug addicts in the Downtown Eastside" and all social services, social housing and related harm reduction measures are universally condemned as operating only for these monstrous criminals. Lo and behold addicts don't wear signs,

so the police are being slammed for not arresting anyone and everyone who 'looks' bad.

We, the residents and working people, families and owners, are an inconvenience to the greed and classism of these few. The Mayor's moratorium will encompass the deaths of more people who may have been helped by the drug and alcohol services that are hoped for. **Murder** is an appropriate word.

By PAULR TAYLOR



Emotional I.Q.

What is your emotional I.Q.?
 Are you tolerant or intolerant
 Do you believe in gods or evolution
 Are you sexy or dismal.. eager or anxious
 Do you believe in welfare or forced labour
 Do you give your kids what they want
 What's best: punishment or rehabilitation
 Do you pursue ecstasy or suffering
 Are you brave or timid
 Have you told your wife of every romance
 Have you ever smoked crack?
 These and other questions can be asked
 When you're wired to a polygraph
 When your pulse quickens anxiety is displayed
 Thus anything can be revealed...
 Brave and he hasn't smoked crack
 Brave and he hasn't discussed romance -
 This is a test for politicians
 To separate the men from the boys -
 But how many men are there
 who support this superstitious system?
 Mayor's a Quaker; PM's a lousy dad,
 Judges are afraid of (my) recommendations
 and so it goes
 Soon experts shall reveal the emotional IQ of leaders
 .. and they are wanting!

A. Kostyniuk

To: **MDS Metro Laboratory**

CC: Gastown-Chinatown-Strathcona-Victory Square
 Community Alliance

Jenny Kwan, M.L.A.; Carnegie Centre Newsletter

On recently using the MDS Metro Lab on Keefer street, we saw a "Petition in Support of a Healthy Community" displayed. In fact, this petition is from a campaign to stop health facilities for drug users in the Downtown Eastside. It is inappropriate for MDS Labs, a health facility, to campaign in this way against another facility. In our view, the Community Alliance, a business lobby, is trying to stop necessary treatment for drug users in the community. Until MDS stops such anti-health propaganda from being distributed in its outlets, we will no longer use your facility.

Julie Sawatsky, Clint Burnham

More Random Acts of Kindness...

A few years ago I had managed to screw up my life so badly that I found myself without a home and without hope. I'm ashamed to admit it, but even then I was so absorbed by my own self-pity that all I could think of was begging for enough money to buy the cheapest drink I could find. One day I was sitting in front of a store panhandling when a woman walked by with a small boy in tow. She ignored my pitch and hurried away. As I watched them go down the sidewalk, the boy broke free and came running back. He stood in front of me, fumbling in his pocket; he pulled out a five-dollar bill that was almost certainly more money than he had ever held before, and handed it to me.

I was completely dumbstruck and just sat there staring at him with the money in my hand. By then his mother had returned and, with tears in her eyes, gently led the boy away. He turned back once to wave and then they were gone. I don't know how long I sat there, but I have not had another drink since then.

* We have to move beyond the mind-set of powerlessness, - *Audrey Edwards*

* Noble deeds and hot baths are the best cures for depression. - *Dodie Smith*

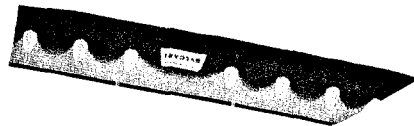
Support gathering for Woman who are HIV/AIDS+

Join us for good food, great conversations and company as each week we focus on different topics and issues concerning the daily lives of women who are affected by HIV/AIDS.

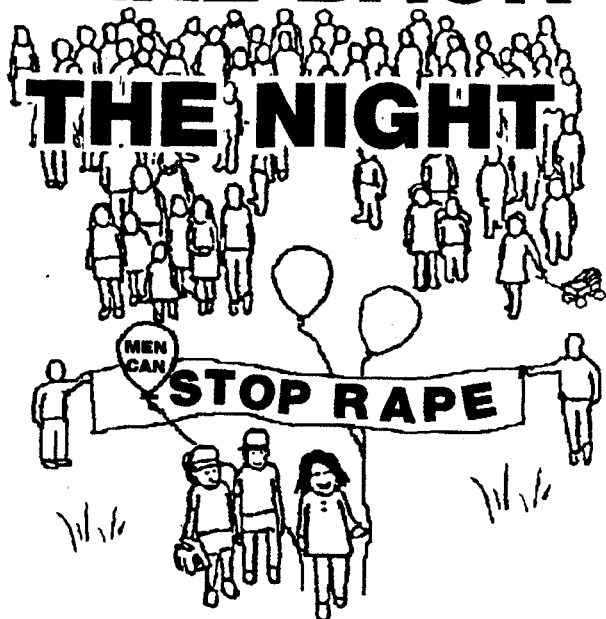
Where: D.A.M.S. 167 West Pender

When: Fridays, 12:30 to 3:30 (starting September 1st)

For more info call: Donna (788-0387); Meshell (728-7353)



TAKE BACK



Breaking the Silence Campaign September 16

- Take Back The Night

5:00 pm - dinner and information session

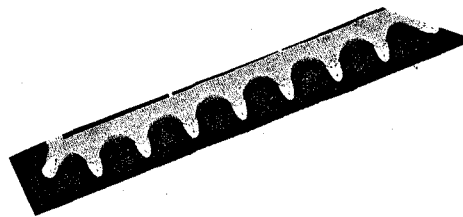
7:00 pm - van leaves DTES Women's Centre

7:30 pm - March begins at Art Gallery

September 20

1:00 pm - J. Green Room, 133 Powell Street:
Plan strategies for women of the Downtown Eastside
against poverty & violence; plan a retreat. There will
be a speaker from the World March of Women,

For info, call 254-6207



7:30 PM Saturday, September 16, 2000

Vancouver Art Gallery (Georgia and Howe)

Women Demand Safety

on our streets and in public places

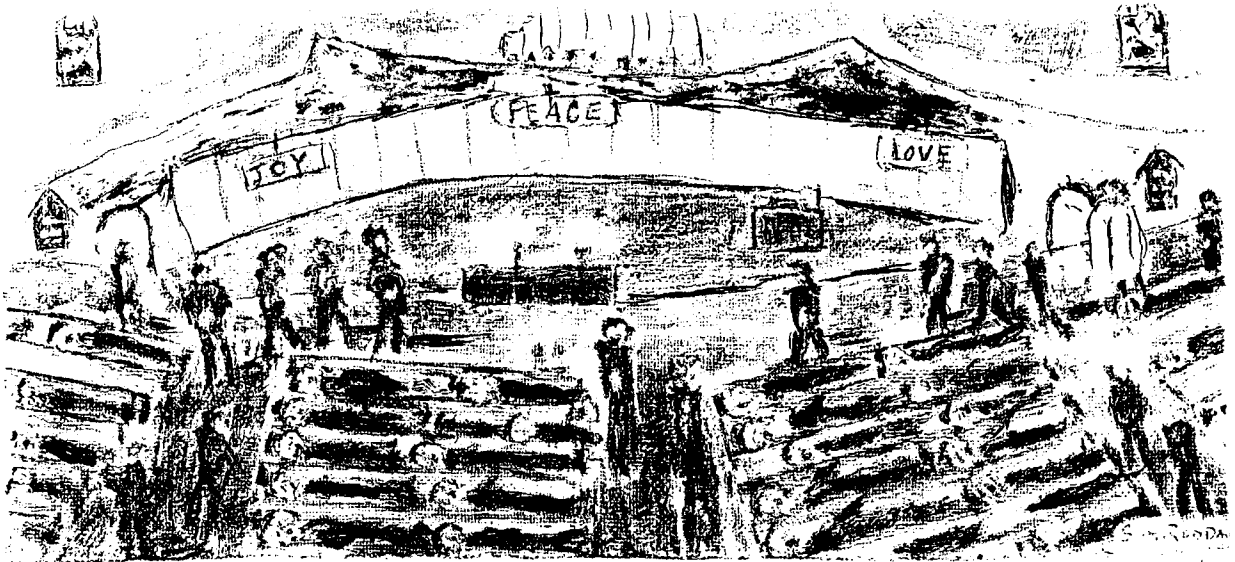
women-only protest

free child care sign language interpretation - partially accessible

Organized as part of the Canadian Association of Sexual Assault centres

Call Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter to get Involved: 872-8212

website: rapereliefselter.bc.ca



REST STATION

On weekdays the pews in the mission at Hastings and Gore are always crowded. No hymns, no sermon but here a weary traveler can get rest, shelter, shoes,

a coat, soup, good advice, charts, new bearings for a fresh start ---. And so it was when I was a lad, so long ago.

Sam Roddan

Mayor Philip Owen and Members of Council,

July 31, 2000

It is with deep concern that we are writing to you about the opposition of a number of businesses and organizations in this area to the programs and services for drug addicts that Carnegie Centre is providing or is planning to provide.

We are the people who are most affected by the sorry spectacle of open drug dealing and consuming at the corner of Main and Hastings. Every day we witness lives being damaged and people who will die of AIDS, Hep C and other infections, and by drug overdosing. We know the answer isn't in dispersing people to other neighbourhoods. At least half of those on the corner are residents of this community. Law enforcement alone will not work. Carnegie and the police work in close cooperation to control the numbers of people on the corner and the levels of violence for the safety of the public and of the addicts. There is frequent police presence on the corner. On average the drug market resumes about 7.5 minutes after the police leave.

Our extensive experience with the drug population tells us that harm reduction programs, including health centres for safe injection and heroin maintenance, are an essential part of the continuum of services that need to be put in place, such as detox and treatment programs. The information we have gathered from over 300 users on the corner and in Pigeon Park tells us that the great majority want to manage their addictions safely, and that many want an opportunity to get off drugs altogether. Significantly, the clear priority among users is for training and employment opportunities.

The reality is that the continuum of care that enables people to live a healthier life and to create the possibility of getting off addictions is not in place. Harm reduction measures will be the entry point for many addicts. These programs create the first periods of stability in people's lives. Gradually these periods can expand through health supports and training and job experiences specifically tailored to the addict's condition. The experience in this community, in Vancouver and in other jurisdictions is that law enforcement and incarceration by themselves do not reduce drug activity. It continues to grow. Enforcement must be coupled with the continuum of services.

A good plan has now been developed for the corner of Main and Hastings. It links a redesign of the corner (so that it will be less conducive to large drug activity) with the opening of a nearby supervised indoor space for addicts, and the continuation of the Carnegie Street Program indoors and on the street. This project is itself linked to a larger plan now being developed through the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board and the three governments. For the first time we believe a real possibility is emerging of reducing drug activity in our community and in the city.

The real value of the Street Program is that it works in the midst of the drug population. Staff develop relationships and are there at the "reachable moment" when an addict may seek help. The indoor space will accept addicts while they are under the influence (though people will not be permitted to administer drugs in the space). It will have basic health and first-aid services. The current cultural, arts, and literacy activities of the Street Program will be available and entry level volunteer, training and employment activities can be initiated. It will provide information and referral to other harm reduction, health and treatment services and to more advanced training and employment services as they develop. It will work closely with the Drug Resource Centre planned for Powell Street and will complement the much more extensive health services that will be offered there.

Those opposing a drug plan offer no solutions other than dispersal. This is bad for other neighbourhoods, and bad for addicts, whose lives are placed even more at risk. There is a very real drug crisis in this city and in our community. We urge those who oppose plans which will reduce drug activity and improve the quality of life in our community, and which help addicts, to join us in constructive efforts to bring these plans into reality.

We appreciate Council's support for the Street Program, and we appreciate the leadership the City is providing to develop a constructive response to the drug crisis.

Yours Sincerely,

Marg Prevost, President,
Carnegie Community Centre Association



Dear **Mayor Owen**:

I write this letter as a regular patron and volunteer of the Carnegie Street Program. I wish to express to you and the City Councillors my full support for the work being done by the staff and volunteers every day.

The street program has improved the situation at Main and Hastings in many ways. The corner is now safer, friendlier, and serves the needs of many. The majority of the patrons of the street program are entirely without resources; behavioural problems and a lack of social skills have resulted in them being barred from most of the social service centres in the neighbourhood. Indeed, most are prohibited from entering Carnegie Centre itself.

The music, arts and crafts, literacy work and such are a method of establishing communication with people. The street program has been an important first step towards an attempt to change their lives for many. For those not yet ready to make wholesale lifestyle changes, the program provides a brief respite from the incredibly harsh day to day grind of drug addiction and life on the street. This is front line, hands on harm reduction and in itself of great value.

The health services offered by Street Nurses, who have a safe, comfortable, "on the street" place to provide their services, as well as first aid administered by the street program staff, help to maintain some measure of physical health for many who do not have even have BC Care insurance. From a purely economic standpoint, treating some of these wounds and medical problems before they become infected, and worse, makes good fiscal sense.

My own focus as a volunteer for the program has been literacy and education. In the year or so I have been participating, I have referred many people to such things as continuing education programs, G.E.D. upgrading etc. Of at least equal importance, we have helped over one hundred people write letters to estranged family members, and re-establish contact. This is a very important first step in making meaningful lifestyle changes (we also provide a return address to Carnegie Centre, which is very important as many of the patrons are homeless).

I understand that the continued funding of the program remains in doubt. I strongly urge you and the city councillors to provide the necessary funding that will enable the program to continue to provide this valuable service. Every drug addict who is able to change their life for the better saves the province over \$6000 a year in welfare costs alone, not to mention the reduced property crime, prison administration costs, health expenditures etc. I respectfully suggest that if the city is truly serious about improving the Downtown Eastside, and by extension the entire city, you will find the money that will allow this worthwhile program to continue to operate, and perhaps even expand.

Sincerely,

Scott Hamel
Carnegie Street Program Volunteer
Carnegie Board of Directors

P.S. As I sit here composing this letter, the program co-ordinator, Mr. Bob Moss, is attempting to facilitate one of the patron's acceptance into the Harbour Light detoxification centre. Just thought you should know.

cc: All City Council Members



WORLD MARCH OF WOMEN

Upcoming Vancouver Actions

Friday September 8

Journey for Justice;

Speaking out against violence against aboriginal women and children.

Panel Discussion. Learn about the demands of aboriginal women from the Aboriginal Women's Action Network. 6-10pm, Native Education Centre, 285 East 5th Avenue, Vancouver.

Info: AWAN 254-5028, or sbdean@sfu.ca

Saturday September 16

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT

(women only protest against male violence)

Women gather at Vancouver Art Galley at 7:30pm

Women demand safety on our streets and public places.

Info or to get involved Vancouver Rape Relief and Women's Shelter 872-8212

www.rapereliefshelter.bc.ca

Monday September 25

Greet native women rafters

as they arrive in Musqueam territory

Info: AWAN 254:5028, or sbdean@sfu.ca

Tuesday October 17

Women's Rights Tribunal:

Calling on all women and women's equality seeking groups to testify as a witness on how the policies and actions of governments and corporations have impacted on their lives. Government representatives will be called on to listen and answer Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre, 1607 East Hastings Street (near Commercial)

6-9pm. To participate: BC Federation of Labour 430-1431

**DANCE
DANCE
DANCE**

with DJ-MIX on Friday, September 1st
6 – 10 pm in the theatre
free! refreshments!!

GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR HEART?

FIND OUT SOME ANSWERS ABOUT:

- **What diseases there are; Risk factors; Diet and Exercise;**
and Get Your Blood Pressure Taken at

The Heart Information Table

The First Floor Foyer, CARNEGIE CENTRE

Wednesday, Sept. 6th, 1-4pm

You and Your Heart

When the word "heart" is mentioned, many things come to mind. To the average person words like love, Valentine's Day or a body part are thought of. Some people link word "heart" as an ill part of the body if they or their family members have heart problems. There are a few important facts you need to know about your heart such as some of the numbers, how the heart works and what kind of illnesses affect the heart.

Your heart, which is the size of your clenched fist, is very important in keeping your body running. Your heart, veins, arteries and blood make up the cardiovascular system. To make it a good pump, your heart has a natural electrical charge that your brain controls. It pumps blood, which carries food that keeps your body going, through your arteries to all your body parts where the blood quickly trades the food for garbage. Your heart pumps the blood with garbage in it away through your veins to your body's garbage cans where it is removed. With an ill heart your body has trouble getting food to work with and you would have quite a large garbage build up that would run you down.

You should know a few important facts about your heart. Because there are more and more older people in Canada, the health professionals say that there are more deaths caused by heart and blood problems than in the past. They say that these problems cause approximately 1/3 of Canadians to die. They believe these deaths will go up in the next 15 years because they expect larger numbers of elderly people. When you have heart and blood problems, the professionals say that your life can change a great deal. You could have constant pain, be disabled and not be able to get a job (Facts from *The Changing Face of Heart Disease and Stroke in Canada, 2000*).

There are many diseases that can affect your heart and blood. These include angina, stroke, heart attack and heart failure. Information about the diseases will be at a table in the foyer at Carnegie Centre on September 6th from 1-4 p.m., along with what you can do to help prevent these diseases or lessen their impact on you.

Melissa Carter
University of Victoria Student Nurse



NEWLETTER OF THE CARNEGIE COMMUNITY ACTION PROJECT

September 1, 2000

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

NEW HOUSING IN AND AROUND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD



Housing opened this summer

- 1) Regal Hotel, GVHC, 40 units
- 2) New Portland Hotel, Portland Hotel Society 86 units
- 3) 40 E. Hastings, Main and Hastings CDS, 83 units
- 4) Metropole, DERA, 63 units

Housing expected soon

- 1) Union Gospel Mission, 81 units
- 2) Lori Krill Co-ops

Georgia St., 97 units (for families and seniors)

Cordova St. 106 units (for singles and families 10)

- 3) Bridge Housing, 102 E. Cordova, 48 unit
- 4) 26 W. Pender, Vancouver Native Housing, 98 units
- 5) 668 Powell, Main and Hastings CDS, 65 units
- 6) 55 E. Hastings, City of Vancouver, 98 units
- 7) 377 Powell, Victory House, 32 units

Housing in the Downtwn South

- 1) 1265 Granville St. 63 units
- 2) 1205 Seymour St., Affordable Housing, Bridge and McLaren Housing Societies, 136 units
- 3) Mole Hill, Mole Hill Living Heritage Society, 168 units

Housing Nearby

- 2626 Watson (near Main St.), Vancouver Native Housing, 39 units
7th and Cambie, BC Housing Foundation, 49 units



HOME

The sense of home is a fundamental part of being human in society, and any true justice protects our right to home. It grows from the cultivation of meaningful relationships with our family, friends, and community, and brings us the feeling of rootedness and belonging. In the Downtown Eastside we are lucky because our passion for home is often stronger than folks in other communities ever get to feel.

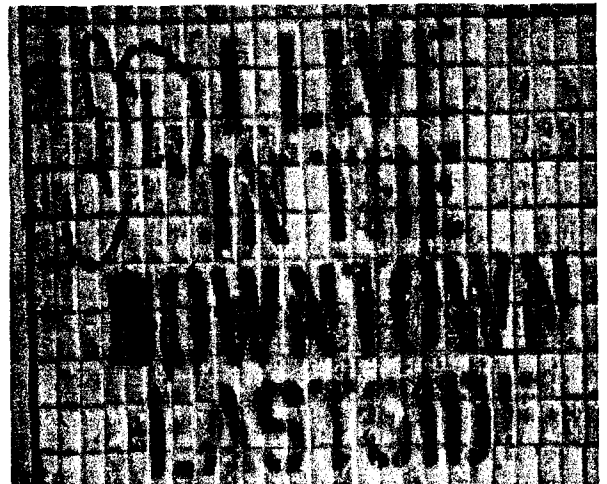
Our absurdly desperate poverty brings us to seek affirmation primarily in each other rather than in the superficial things typically sought by more successful materialistic consumers. This is very evident in the dynamic on the street with the drug culture and possibly explains somewhat why the drug culture is so strong here and in other impoverished communities; it holds people together.

Unfortunately our struggle as a community for health and strength raises the ire of those who want us to be poor and weak for them to feel as they are; rich and powerful.

Our home is currently under devious attack by an ad hoc group of merchants called "community 'alliance". Those these folks may own property or businesses around our home it is not their home. If it were their home they would be

working with the established community instead of against it, and indeed I would be referring here to them as "us". They are targeting the most vulnerable of us (addicts) in an assault on our entire community with a concerted effort to thwart the hard won steps we're taking to bring health and humanity to those most in need. Their lobby is simply an argument for ignorance in the interest of greed, and they are providing political slugs like councilor Lynne Kennedy an opportunity to exercise their callous bigotry. The "alliance" is a soul-less shell lashing out against justice and have need to cloister their secret meetings behind private security guards. This is not the way of community at home. Our meetings are upfront, open, and accountable. See you at Woodward's! See you at city hall!

Shawn Millar



tech-park.com Development Permit Approved

Schroeder Properties Limited was given development approval on August 21 to go ahead with their 2,000,000 square feet in eight buildings six to seven storeys high.

The development is being promoted as the "Pacific Northwest's future corporate technology headquarters." The location of this development is next to the train station and directly east of the Ivanhoe and American hotels.

This development received approval from the city under its new industrial zoning (I-3), which places no limit on how big a project can be. The result is the largest single development application in the city's history. This has meant few community contributions were required of the owners. For example, no requirement to protect the residential hotels (close to 300 units) from conversion due to rising property values as a result of this development.

The owners have agreed to establishing an employment strategy to hire local people, but the owners don't have to commit money to making this possible.

More than \$2million will be levied by the city from this development. How it will be spent has yet to be determined.

No.5 Orange Opening Up a Restaurant

Approval given by the City's Board of Variance.

Due to a set of unusual circumstances the No.5 Orange Hotel (211 Main St.) was able to get approval of a restaurant without having to go through a Development Permit Hearing. It didn't go to a DP hearing because the existing strip bar is not a permitted use under the current zoning. Therefore, it needed special consideration that falls under the responsibility of the Board of Variance. On August 16th a decision was made to accept the proposal with the following set of conditions.

Conditions

- 1) That no liquor licence be issued for the restaurant.
- 2) That there be no physical connection between the restaurant and the existing strip bar
- 3) That hours of operation be limited between the hours of 6am and 11pm.
- 4) That no additional seats be added to the strip bar.
- 5) That the owners work with the city and the neighbourhood to provide local employment opportunities in the restaurant.
- 6) That the operating licence be limited to one year, which can be renewed upon review by the Board of Variance.

Community Directions

THE OFFICE IS NOW OPEN!

384 Main St (Bruce Erickson Bldg.)
ph.801-6893/fax8016371

Upcoming Events

1) Volunteers Orientation Series

Come out and tell us what you can do and how you want to get involved.

Session #1 - Introduction/Orientation
Friday, September 1 10am - 12pm
Friday, September 15 10am - 12pm

Session #2 - Training and Practice
Friday, September 8 10am - 12pm
Friday, September 22 10am - 12pm

LUNCH PROVIDED

2) Community Slogans and Poster Making

Come out for an afternoon of creative brainstorming, painting and poster making.

Help create a public awareness campaign!

Wednesday, September 13, 1:30 - 3:30 pm

REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

CD WORKING GROUP ON HOUSING

"draft housing plan nearly complete"
next meeting September 12, 10am to 12 noon.

CCAP presents

Clint Burnham

Instructor UBC, Emily Carr

September 20th
7pm

Gentrification and Architecture in the Downtown Eastside

Slide show and talk

Place:

Portland Hotel, 20W Hastings St.
(across from the Army & Navy)

APAC presents

Woodwards Demo

Monday, September 4th
4pm

Food, Painting and Fun



Notes from the Reading Room

There are two events coming up that I want to tell you about. The first is a tour of the Central Library which Rika and I are planning, followed by a picnic lunch in Queen Elizabeth Park. This tour happens on September 6 and there will a sign-up sheet in the library. All are welcome.

The tour of the Central Branch will take you to all the subject divisions and their public service areas: to see the resources available at Central that we simply don't have here at Carnegie. The tour will also help you find your way around, show you the locations of the major reference and other resources and just generally put you at ease in the place. I haven't worked in any of the non-public areas, such as Catalogue, Preparation, Acquisitions or Quick Information Services (QIS), but the librarian in charge of QIS says she'll be happy to show us around her area.

The second event is our celebration of Literacy Day, which will be held on September 19. We have organized some writers to read from their works for us and there'll be some snacks and drinks, too. The Reading Room and the Learning Centre are working together on this and it runs in conjunction with the Learning Centre's Open House. A colleague at the Vancouver Public Library, who is much more familiar with the literacy resources available within the VPL system than I am, will make a presentation to us about what can be found elsewhere. There will also be a variety of literacy related material in the display case on the third floor.

We have recently placed large orders for more paperback westerns and war-and-sea adventures. The war-and-sea books arrived and were promptly

In the Learning Centre – 3rd floor Harry Potter comes to Carnegie

Every Wednesday morning at 11 am there is a reading circle in the Learning Centre. September's gatherings will read the work of the famous author J.K. Rowlings, and her novel

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Please join us to listen and enjoy.

checked out. If you're interested in that category, keep an eye on the shelves and find the new ones as they are returned. The war-and-sea books are now going to shelve them in with the rest of the fiction collection. Each book in this section has the first letter of the author's last name stuck on its spine.

As always in the Reading Room, we are concerned about the amount of material which walks out of the door without having been checked out. Some of it never returns, but some of it surprises us. Last month, we twice received rather strange, large, brown envelopes from the Toronto Public Library. Each contained a western paperback with Carnegie stickers and markings and nothing else. Even the barcodes were still attached but they hadn't been checked out

We have also had an important reference book stolen, Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialties, the big blue one, commonly called just QPS. Fortunately, it had been donated to us from another branch which was discarding it, so it cost us nothing. We realize it has a high 'street value', but that doesn't excuse theft. It's an extremely important resource for all patrons who are on medications of any sort. They use it for determining what adverse effects to expect from their medications or whether there are any such effects when their current medications are taken with other medications, I know that my predecessors have refused to buy this title because it's just too frequently stolen, and I, too, will refuse to buy it. I may, however, occasionally receive a discarded copy from other branches.

We'd like to mention Chris Laird, here, for returning bags full of Carnegie books he's found abandoned outside of Carnegie. Many thanks, Chris.

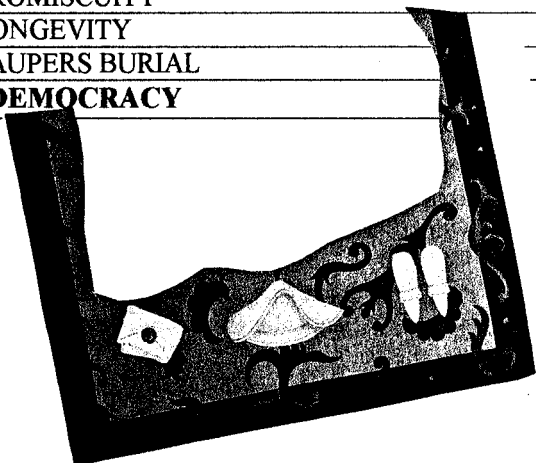
Dick Turner, Branch Head
Carnegie Reading Room

THE COST OF LIVING

ASSETS

LIABILITIES

BORN INTO POVERTY	EQUALITY
12 YEARS OF SCHOOLING, BABYSITTING AND INDOCTRINATION	KNOWLEDGE IS ESTEEMED AND HARD WON
THE VOTE	POLITICAL ACTION AND ETERNAL VIGILANCE
SERVITUDE UNDER CAPITALIST MASTERS	WORK WILL BE FAIRLY REWARDED
INUNDATED BY MEDIA PROPAGANDA	TRUTH OVERCOMES EVIL
SUBJECTED TO EXTREME APPLICATION OF LAW AND ORDER	JUSTICE AND EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW
EASY ACCESS TO ADDICTIVE DRUGS	LIFE HAS MEANING
WELFARE	DIGNITY
PAYING RENT TO A SLUM LANDLORD	A HOME PROVIDES PEACE COMFORT AND SECURITY
PROMISCUITY	LOVE IS INVIOULATE
LONGEVITY	QUALITY OVER QUANTITY
PAUPERS BURIAL	NO MAN IS AN ISLAND
- DEMOCRACY	ALL DEBTS FORGIVEN



Ken Morrison

my being. Thoughts of suicide have come and gone for many years, and continue to intrude. Most of the time they are in the back of my mind, surfacing weakly, part of my reality, but at times these thoughts become more powerful, pushing all else aside. I am truly capable of ending my life when the pit of depression becomes so deep.

This nite I sat talking with a carving knife, asking if it could help me deal with life. Was it the solution.. could it help me deal with problems? By joining my body with the knife would the problems go away? Would its blade fill the emptiness in my life? Was it possible for the pain to end? Could it truly be my friend or would joining my body with the knife have a different outcome?

I sat with the knife, prodding myself with the tip. I can still feel the pinprick of pain, see the little dot of red as I teased/tested myself with the blade. I shudder remembering slowly and carefully drawing the blade across my gut, leaving only a fading red line, knowing that if I pushed a little harder my questions would be answered.

I still have the knife. I keep it as a reminder of what mite be. You never know; what the future holds is unclear.

Paul Wright

Ask A Knife

Do you know
What it's like

To sit at the table
In the middle of the nite

And ask a knife
Will you be a friend?

Can you take away
the pain?

Can you take away
the loneliness?

Can you fill
the emptiness?

Can you truly
be a friend?

Do you know
what it's like

In the middle
of the nite

One nite when the blackness of depression was upon me, I spent hours at the kitchen table with thoughts of suicide streaming thru my mind. This was a period in my life when such thoughts were constantly active, intruding into the consciousness of

The Nightmare

The nightmare of drugs
fearing how my next trip is
fearing if I'm going to overdose
snorting, smoking and munchin'
the scariest trips
wondering who's watching
wondering who I am, hurting
I went through all this bullshit
hurting my family
my friends and family watching
hurting myself day upon day
hour upon hour slowly and painfully
smoking things that will make me high
snorting powder for the rush
munchin on mush, blueberries, cid
just for the fun trip
or what I thought was a fun trip
but it was all a nightmare

the nightmare of drugs
the nightmare that was killing me
killing me slowly

Madeline Benneau

I wonder

I wonder why I feel like killing myself
I wonder why I go through all this pain
I wonder to myself hour upon hour
Is my life worth taking?
Are all the people around me
really seeing me - the real me?
I wonder why I do things the way I do
I wonder did I miss something in life?
Is that why I am going through this?
I wonder why I am the way I am

I wonder

THE STAIRS

Two strangers pass by - one headed up, the other down,
Each absorbed in the careful navigation of their intricate course - the tight, twisting arc on the inside climb,
marble treads worn into hollows over the century - and the broad-sweeping curve on the descent,
And watched over by Milton, Byron, and Shakespeare they pass without comment;

The coffee stains are the evidence that much food and other stuff are freighted up; Attempts at great feats of
digital dexterity - two, sometimes three cups in hand, or perhaps a tray laden with ginger beer, sandwich, soup
and dream bars - all wending their way to the top - And then there is the challenge of the door that must be
opened.

Many try, some succeed, and others deposit samples of food and drink on the marble;

You can do all of your business on the stairs - they are the real Internet at Carnegie - Catch so and so on her
way to a meeting or holler three floors down, Hear the news of a community demonstration, or that an old
timer has found a room to live in that is clean and safe..

We celebrate on the stairs - the warmth and colour of the Christmas decorations, the passionate red hearts of
Valentines trimming the walls and alcoves

And the solitary flute player on the landing between floors two and three - the magic of her music
resonating up and down the magnificent stair-case - and percolating into the adjoining floors

But just what is the secret of making it from bottom to top? Some take it a stair at-a-time, pausing on each landing.
Others, more ambitious, try taking a run, but aching knees and pounding chest often find them stuck somewhere
between two and three.

The problem is - there are a lot of stairs, and they seem to be at the wrong height - half steps. So there are also
the striders who try loping up two or three at a time, but invariably, before the top, many too lose their rhythm,
and their breath - and resort to the step-by-step shuffle.

To strangers looking up at the challenge ahead - we say; "Sorry, but the escalator isn't working today - but you
could try the elevator!" And that is another story.

- Michael Clague

Sorrow

Why do we go through sorrow
is it a punishment
the crime that I didn't do
why was it put in my path
to learn that the world
is more than it turns out to be
Sorrow is placed on my shoulder
it is a heavy blanket
that covers and won't lift
Why have all this pain
when we can live happily
I don't know what sorrow is
but it's a mystery I have to learn

Madeline Benneau

were we children

were we children
we'd bicycle together
wheeling outside've boundaries that'd
get us spankt 'nd grounded
you'd be more than a toke

we'd want to kiss the same girl
id show you the bin for the candy factory and
pockets packed then the urban creek
full of crayfish 'nd tunnels undertown
I'd look for you – not when I'd jones for crack
but streethockey

we'd wrestle

last night I took zopiclone
trying to die
I dreamt of the city of my dreams
swam up sparkling rivers through playgrounds
built by kids

I was so glad to be where I didn't
owe you money begged in decrepitude
surfacing consciousness was panic filled
I love back down to where women love me
rolling hills invite grassily gentle green
stayed til seven pee eh
you knocked
wanting your twenty dollars

you buy me a glass at the grand union
I'm struck
the people are so respectable
I'm one who scans the sidewalk
can't afford a beer
alkies're a step up from me
though you say all that self talk's bull

Edi Ochre



16 times a lover
16 times a friend
I keep on smilin'
'til the very end

16 times a good friend
16 times amend
it's the same old glory
never ending story

16 times a lover
16 times a friend
U keep me awaiting
for the messages you send

16 times I love you
16 times

Taumi

Editor,

An old timer was telling us how they would make money fifty years ago on the lakes and rivers by salvaging logs or bringing logs into local mills. Now if you find a 1000 board foot log (a broomstick) you get nothing. No matter if you're poor or cleaned up a dangerous navigational hazard.. the big companies say 'You got my log. Give it back or your sorry butt gets booted into the slam.'

This cartoon illustrates how low paid newspaper carriers are abused by publishers. Twelve pounds is not an exaggeration, and the money made off advertisers is not passed on – it's like doing a route twice for the same four dollars. This kind of abuse is common among Vancouver's smaller weeklies..

yeah, my gripes go on and on. How about the fare increase on transit – try to save a dollar and they take \$3.50. Coming next are the exact change machines.. ar least now you can sometimes get a 2-hour transfer from kindly drivers. Right now you get clocked and have to pay extra if your bus doesn't cross into the next zone after 6:30. Maybe we do need a bus riders' union; fight back people. Thanks to George Puil and other elected blanks responsible for these massive expenditures on transit. Did you consider the working poor and others who have no relief from fare increases? When will the poor receive concessions or passes as youth, seniors or handicapped now have?

Mike Bohnert

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

NEWSLETTER

101 Main Street, Vancouver V6A 1T7 (604) 682-1200

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
Tuesday, September 12

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association can help you with:

- Welfare problems
- Landlord disputes
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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 27 YEARS!



“The loveliness of light”

for Anita Stevens

Anita Stevens has been a resident of the Downtown Eastside for fourteen years. She considers herself honoured and privileged to live in this community. She was one of the original Downtown Eastside poets who revitalized poetry not only in our community, but in British Columbia. Those poets travelled all over the province, and a teacher in Smithers remarked that a group of his students who hated “school poetry” were transformed into poets by the Downtown Eastside poets.

Anita is also part of the Carnegie CD Project, and she performed at the Vancouver Folk Festival along with the other members of the project. They received a standing ovation from the enthusiastic crowd.

Sing, poet. Sing our pain. Sing our joy. So does Anita sing, and all her writings quoted in this article have appeared in the *Carnegie Newsletter*. In “The Song of Joan” she meditates on Joan of Arc who heard voices and had visions, and she meditates, also, on “all those who see and hear what others do not and are, in general, neglected, misunderstood....” Anita writes, “I admire the tenacity, the strong survival instinct and the bravery of all those who persevere...while enduring this condition,” described in a French phrase as “touched by madness from the presence of God.”

Anita fights for people who are ill and oppressed. She reminds health care workers to respect the people they work with. “What is your objective?” she asks. “I shall tell you. Your mission is to empower the people to help them utilize their maximum potential.” And Anita never, ever, gives up. She writes:

* “Every one of us is capable of working through our problems and co-existing peacefully... We each have our own trajectory and the courage to persevere.”

* “Fall dons its coloured cloak with beauty radiant

ATTENTION!!! Oppenheimer Park is in need of a TV and a VCR. For info call 665-2210 – Jose or Sapphire.

before the storm. All creatures heed its message, slowly withdraw within their souls, search deeply for their worth and dream of things to come.”

Hope touches Anita’s poetry, but is not a facile hope. It is a hope that comes from one who has seen the world in flames (a painting by Anita), and who has written:

* “to reassemble an assembly line
of pieces picked apart

by frivolous hands

dropped, banged, bumped, bitten, chewed and spat back
onto the belt of bitterness, again.

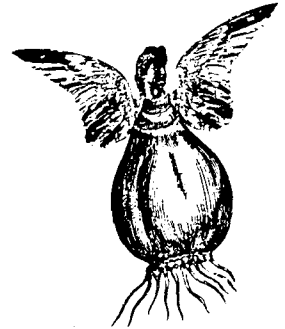
But Anita has taught her terrors to sing:

* “I saw a twig
on the path
in the shape

Of the Hebrew
symbol, life

When fall sheds
its leaves
and all seems bleak

A tree
leaves a sign
of life
at your feet”



We live in an age of such global nightmare that we ask, “How does a human being live?” Anita speaks to that question:

* “A man had been very kind to me. When I said, ‘What may I do for you?’ he said, ‘Pass on the kindness.’

* “Forgive yourself for whatever you’ve done that’s bothering you. Don’t dwell on it. Let it go. Get

over it and move on....dare to be yourself, rather than a sheep.”

* Learn to laugh. Humour is a healing force in Anita's poetry:

“You' the realized, unattainable men of my profoundest dreams

TAKE BACK YOUR RIB”

We feel empowered by Anita's vision of beauty, and her understanding of light as a sacred source of life:

* “where are the words to describe the wonder profoundly announcing the coming of dawn when the blues and greys framed by leaves gently unfolding embrace the wind and gracefully sway offering a symphony to the loveliness of light”

Anita challenges arrogant power. She knows that a boundary is not a wall, but “that from which something begins its presencing” (Martin Buber). She speaks the “No” of the rebel to oppression, and the “yes” to life, not only for herself, but for all suffering people. “I rebel —therefore we exist,” Albert Camus wrote. With Anita, the rebel and the poet are one in the community of the Downtown Eastside.

By Sandy Cameron

JOY RIDE

Life is one joy ride for some
Sitting in the back of the bus
Listening to the loud music
With Walkman and headphones
While the driver is going so fast
Down the U.B.C. Boulevard
Past the Cherry and Maple trees
And the acres of green grass
Of the disappearing golf course
Almost going right out of control
Taking a bus in North Vancouver
Climbing higher above the city
Past all the old indigenous trees
And the stately homes of the rich
Squeezing that lemon while some
Other passengers spread their legs
Just flying around all the corners
Like one of those rides at the circus
The FIRST Cup of Coffee of the day
And streaking everyone in the world
Ordinary life has lost all it's appeal
And it's a fire that can't be quenched.

Daniel Rajala

Free Jean-Marie!

they say two hundred fifty people
gathered on that day
to break bombless bread
and give voice to our will
after megaphonic speeches
we nailed a plaque to the wall
then we painted up our call
give the people what they need!

the media filmed footage
the cops took photos too
lined up across abbott street
was a stolid line in blue
then folks started leaving
but some trouble had broke out
when somebody raised the call
to free Jean Marie!

we marched to mainstreet station
and searched the wagon windows
then we gave a badgering
to the cop what made the bust
Jean Marie there was no sight of
but the message became clear
when in spraypaint on the wall
Free Jean Marie!

again the coppers came to bust
but we were all too strong
they could only take our paint
because our arms were linked
we answered to their questioning
in chanting and in song
the one voice of us all
to free jean Marie!

S. Millar



HEALTH FAIR



The idea for the Health Fairs that have been held in Oppenheimer Park this summer came up a couple of years ago, when the TB Control and Street Nurses thought of setting up information tables and giving vaccines in the park. At that point there was a vision of the "Health" part, but not much else; the "Fair" part came later.

The nurses joined forces with the Latin Friendship Group (*Grupo La Amistad*) and 4 Health Fairs were held last year. Native Health Outreach contributed food donations and cooks. This year the Vancouver Richmond Health Board provided funding and it became more organized, with enough money to feed 700-800 people. This year's fairs were very successful, so many organizations have contributed information tables and Outreach workers to spend the day in the sun, talking and listening to people, boogie-ing to the great disco music, and watching the soccer games. There have been free haircuts, paramedics teaching CPR, acupuncture, massage and of course, food! The atmosphere in the park has changed too. There was occasional violence during the fairs in '99, but there's been none this year, and the drinking is less visible.

I spoke to Byron Cruz, one of the originators of the *Grupo La Amistad*. He explained the group started to deal with violence between Latin Americans in Oppenheimer Park, people from different countries fighting each other. As well there was violence between *Latinos* and their native girlfriends. Rice wine was a big part of the problems. Watari provided the initial funding, but there was a lot of pessimism at first, a commonly-held belief that everybody is drinking and using drugs and nothing's going to change! The group began basically as a place/time to socialize. Food always brings Latin Americans together, Byron said. Yes, I thought, it's a big attraction for anybody in this community! But imagine being in a country where it's rare to be able to taste, smell and enjoy the food you grew up with.

They take turns each week cooking food from the different nationalities represented in the group. It went from being a small support group for Spanish-speaking members of this community, to a sit-down meal with cooks, waiters and waitresses, tortillas, and killer salsa, that feeds 60-70 every week, everyone welcome! As well the group meets at 1st Church on Tuesdays for support, communication, to teach lifeskills such as self-confidence, and how to deal with isolation and culture shock. Another group is in the process of forming through the Community Directions office at Main & Hastings, the Latin American Centre for Community Development.

This year's Fairs have been so much fun, I asked Byron now what? He said it started out very small and has taken on a life of its own. "We feed the baby, now the baby's grown up" and people are asking "when's the next health fair?" He'd like the participating community groups to do something more interactive, not just pamphlets on info tables (and free condoms!). what about games? The *Latinos* are well organized to play soccer, so what about other games such as softball or basketball, and activities for the kids? Someone (?) will have to approach Heather Hay on the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board for money for next year. All this year's money has been spent, mostly on food, but there will be one last Health Fair Sept 21. The Food & Service Resource Centre, those people you see outside 524 Powell in their white hats and jackets having cigarettes, will be cooking and donating the food for this one. *Gracias!*

By DIANE WOOD