

Carnegie opens doors for Thanksgiving feast

A last-minute agreement with striking city workers means a vital centre for the city's poorest can reopen.

By YVONNE ZACHARIAS
Joyce and Chuck Morgan were giving thanks Sunday. They were giving thanks for their friends in the Carnegie Community Centre, which had just reopened after eight days of civic workers' other and for dinner being ly sum of \$1. "We're gl Thanksg not just Morga ing al run in

For a while, it looked as though the big dinner of the fall season would be called off because of the strike by the Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 15, which centre. But Carn after the came to men

friends as seen each "Hey, man, one guy asked, shook hands, raggy clothes draped in look- liked perfect- faces creased eried. They be back. n got a hose g up the de- by wrappers the back

FREE - donations accepted

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 15, 2000

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

Friends gre though they h other in year how're ya doin' another, as the Some wearing and empty faces ing lost; others ly at home. Wea into smiles. Sor were so happy t One elderly n and began clear bris and the ne had accur so pr



PETITION
Sandy
David
Alan
Elliot
Dawn
Sharon
me

STREET PEOPLE
Debbie
Margaret
Slanon
Dawn

OVER 1,000 VOLUNTEERS + PATRONS NEED FOOD

IS CARE FOR SENIORS
KEEP IT OPEN
WE KEPT IT OPEN

IS FOOD ESSENTIAL??

KEEP IT OPEN

ate reopene and the unio nick-of-time agreed iday afternoon to re centre, one that serve 5 dinners at rock-bo es daily and provides o some of these

DAZZ

We here at the Carnegie are like a family!
 United we will stand! Volunteer union band!
 If you dare give a damn! Bake a cake glaze a ham!
 Our seniors show all their worth!
 The pool room never chalks a curse!
 The kitchen crew is on their toes!
 For why we will never know!
 Their food is always #1!
 Even though there's *mustard* on their buns!
 I know that they're not to blame!
 Bradley is the claim to fame!
 Weight room has fame to glory!
 But that again's another story!
 Learning center 'tis a shame!
 No one may learn again!
 Our staff is union after all!
 We're now one against da man's big wall!
 Again I plead! Hear my call -
**"DON'T MAKE ME COME DOWN
 TO SHITTY HALL!"**

mr .mcbinner
 binner@vcn.bc.ca

***We are Paul St.Germaine and Marianna Young**

We need your sponsorship in order to run in the Seattle Marathon on November 26.

We did the Victoria marathon – Paul ran it in 4:15 and Marianna did it in 4:52. (That's hours!)

It all started a year ago with the Portland Walking & Running group. It's in our blood now and we can't stop. A special thanks goes to Mark Townsend who sponsored us for the Victoria one, and in Seattle if he doesn't have to ay for the whole thing.

The Entry Fee is US\$50 x 2, and there will be the cost of accommodation, transportation and food. Any help, small or big, is greatly appreciated. Please call anytime: Marianna - 255-0337

Paul - 974-0095

We need sponsors! Run for life and love Always!!



Margaret Prevost and Margaret Davies at Metropole opening.

Carnegie Centre on the line

September 30 became Black Saturday. Due to the Citywide strike, Carnegie Centre staff walked off the job, leaving Carnegie volunteers at the doorstep of 401 Main Street. WHY you ask? C.U.P.E. Local 15 is a Union, which Carnegie Centre Staff are members of. During this week, Carnegie volunteers got

1500 signatures on a petition to keep Carnegie Centre opened. WHY your ask? Carnegie Centre is their home away from home. Over 100 volunteers a day keep the Centre running smoothly.

Without Carnegie, many of our members were lost and had no where else to go. Instead of staying home they came to Carnegie Centre everyday, making signs and asking 'where else can I go.' 'How long

are we going to be out here?" No one had a for-sure answer.

During this week many of our members suffered in one way or another. I can only say to them, I am happy that we are open and I hope this will never happen again. However, I cannot see into the future.

Our staff have their own values and a few of them are not happy to be back at work. WHY you ask? To the best of my knowledge: *as much as they want to be here, they know their brothers and sisters are still on the picket line. Just like we were fighting to gain access to the Centre.*

The last meeting was Friday October 6th. We went to the lawyer's office at 8am to develop our strategy. Then we hopped over to the Labour Relations Board

office and here I learned how to be patient (we were here till 5:30pm). At times I didn't understand WHY we had to fight to reopen the Centre as an essential service. I could blame a lot of people for this action but when it comes down to the bare essentials, the Mayor and NPA council could have saved us from all this hassle if they had only made a motion at the council meeting (prior to the strike) to declare Carnegie Centre and the Gathering Place essential services.

I appreciate the Union as well as the City for their willingness to be flexible about Carnegie and urge both parties to return in good faith to the bargaining.

Margaret Prevost, President

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE STAGE BAND PRACTICE

**WITH 2
INSTRUCTORS**



**Steve
and
Paige**

**INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED...
OR BRING YOUR OWN**

Friday, October 20, 4-6 p.m.

POTTERY ROOM

Everyone Welcome!

SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENED THE WEEK CARNEGIE WAS CLOSED

People rallied. Leadership emerged from within our Carnegie volunteers and the vigil began on the front steps. It was an impressive display of determination and an example of how much people believe in this place. The front steps became the rallying place to maintain morale and recruit hundreds and hundreds of signatures (about 1,500 I'm told). The media held interviews there. Members helped sweep up and so did people in the "market." Food was donated. There was music. And fortunately, the weather was great.

Carnegie's board met outside the Centre to plan strategy. A delegation from the Board and from the corner volunteers put the case for re-opening to all the parties - Union, the City, and Labour Relations Board.. Carnegie's 7 day-a-week presence was presented as central to people's lives and well-being in the community.

In the end it was the good will of management and

union which enabled both the Gathering Place and Carnegie to re-open without the Labour Relations Board declaring them as "essential services."

And now our staff and volunteers are back on the job. For many staff it has not been an easy adjustment. Understandably there are loyalties to fellow workers still on the picket lines and to the larger issues in the strike for the union as a whole. But they are here and as committed to members and the community as ever. Welcome back all.

A special thanks to all who maintained the vigil, did the advocacy and kept Carnegie's presence alive at the corner of Main and Hastings and in particular to the organizers: Carol, Brenda, Willie, and Jack and Chris - and to Margaret and Muggs. Egor, Eva, Larry, Andy, Larry, David, Nahid, Cody, George, Chris, Mary, and numerous others all made important contributions as well.

Michael Clague, Director

STRIKE UPDATE

October 13, 2000

First I want to acknowledge what an amazing group of Volunteers, board members and patrons we have here at the Carnegie. Your spirit, determination and your willingness to confront the City *leaders* makes all of us very proud to work here, trying to do a proper job for all who enter our doorway.

Unfortunately there are over 2000 of our members who are still on strike, and we will have no reason to celebrate our small victory until the strike is over, all community centres are reopened and everyone is back to work.

As I write this our bargaining committee is meeting with the GVRD bargaining committee and we hope that the strike's end is imminent. But I'm not holding my breath (that's for sure.)

Briefly, so you are all aware, there are two issues that have caused this strike, (that's right, only two). The City, our employer, is asking for things that no other Municipalities feel they need to have in order to successfully manage their areas. Money is not an issue. That has been settled. The Union is asking for less, in fact, than the other municipalities already have established in their workplaces regarding a compressed work week(CWW). This is a major stumbling block in the negotiations.

The question that needs to be addressed is: why can other municipalities manage very well with this benefit(to both sides), and the City of Vancouver can not? This strike is hurting thousands (except of course our money-bag City Council and friends) and it seems that there is a mean spirited mind set permeating the NPA (see money-bags above) dominated council.

Anyway we, the staff at Carnegie, are back and glad to be serving our community, but the fight still rages and until it is over I would ask that people continue writing and calling City Council and the Mayor, demanding an end to this brainless strike.

Finally, here's something to chew on: the city has approximately 400 managers and they are each getting paid \$64 per hour, \$768 per day, 7 days a week, to do the work of our Union members. Sort of makes you wonder, doesn't it?..

John Ferguson
Shop Steward for CUPE 15



When Fishermen Meet

"Hiyamac"
"Lobuddy"
"Bine arlong?"
"Coplours"
"Cet chane nny?"
"Goddafew"
"Kindarthay?"
"Bassencarp"
"Ennysize toom?"
"Cuplapowns"
"Hittinhard?"
"Sordalike"
"Wahchoozin?"
"Gobbawurms"
"Fishanonaboddum?"
"Rydononaboddum"
"Igoddago"
"Tubad"
"Seeyaroun"
"Ye ahtakide ezy"
"Guluk."



Owen's anti-Midas touch to blame for strike

Kevin potvin

UNLIKE YOUR TELEVISION, city hall doesn't come with a "brightness" knob.

Whoever had the dim idea to take away the city workers' four-day work week should be made to clean up around all sidewalk garbage cans using only his mouth. And when he's done, he can clean floors around public library urinals with his tongue.

I'm told it was an American efficiency consultant whose bulb glowed with this bright idea. It's one thing to listen to staggeringly stupid people fight through strings of drool and swollen tongues to utter appalling idiocies. But what can be said of a mayor who puts those idiocies into action?

The city's withdrawal of the four-day work week is the cause of the latest city strike, and it has put us at risk of disease from festering waste and thriving rats, has shut down public libraries and community centres, and has put a dead stop to all

sorts of businesses. A fine piece of work, Mr. Owen.

I used to complain when the mayor failed to make any decisions. Silly me. Those were the days! I didn't know that the mayor was afflicted with the anti-Midas touch to turn everything he touches into a brown coil of fecal waste.

But Philip Owen is not where the buck stops in this town. After the well-documented ballot-box stuffing at the last NPA nomination meetings prior to the 1999 civic election, it became obvious that Mr. Owen has more hands up his backside than a lone wooden dummy at a ventriloquist conference. To blame the mayor for the strike is no better than coming home and kicking your poor dog because you've had a bad day at the office. Owen hasn't got a clue what's going on, and that makes him the perfect NPA mayoral candidate.

If you want to blame somebody for this strike, and you should blame someone, look at that bunch of developers who've turned the crime of robbing the city blind into a multi-genera-

I used to complain when the mayor failed to make decisions. Silly me. Those were the days!

tional family business. Land developers hand-pick NPA candidates for mayor and council seats by stuffing the ballot boxes at nomination meetings. Then they grease the election results by showing enough cash over their NPA puppets to finance a campaign twice as rich as their nearest competitors. The reason we don't have a ward system in Vancouver is because it would cost more money for developers to buy the election.

Willingly flying the NPA banner over their campaign takes a peculiar sort of character, as does participating in the corruption that has misdirected Vancouver for so long. You must have a hole where personal dignity is usually found. You need to be unburdened of pride and self-respect. And you need honkin' big blinders to ignore the degradation cit-

it's the reason we suffer another civic strike three years after the last: dimwittedness. Because the NPA is a developers' private party, and their mayor and councillor puppets must be sheep, no one with foresight or intelligence will be attracted to the NPA. No one with initiative would compromise themselves by becoming an NPA candidate. Hence, we get a mayor and a council who do something monumentally dumb like suddenly withdrawing the four-day work-week for civic workers. Barking mad.



ibid,
11/10/00

Carnegie Centre kudo

Thanks must be given to striking CUPE workers who allowed the city to reopen the Carnegie Centre and Gathering Place. The city neglected to put the two operations on its list of facilities that provide essential services. D'uh!

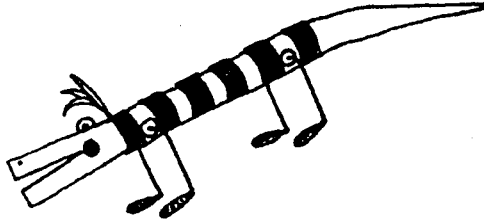
House of Cards

Community Alliance
Non-compliance
Steal from the poor
Then bolt up our doors
Stamp out earned rights
Then accuse us of blight
Show phony petitions
To corrupt politicians.
The Canadian Alliance
Relies on corporate compliance
You speak of your archaic traditions
Yet try to contain us with
iron-clad, draconian conditions
You can't stand us



when we try to rain on your jackboot parades
You call in the Goon cavalry
for-hire, yellow-jacketed stormtroopers
To stomp, wrestle and headlock the
residents of the Downtown Eastside
You steamroll through the Howe Street canyons
All the while waving your inflated egos.
You and the Canadian alliance – what a charade!
There is no end in sight for our defiance
You won't steal our neighbourhood
So dig your heads out of the sand
Get off our backs and buzz off our turf
Just take a hike or we'll do more than protest
Remember this. You know the rest.

Robyn Livingstone



The Deep Sleep

A country needs the rare people
Who give up those regular jobs
Bringing in the big pay cheques
Needs poets, musicians and artists
Starving for something that's real
A country needs youth and rebels
People that question authority and
Are not afraid of breaking the rules
When enjoyment of life is missing
A country needs it's brave men
Taking the road least travelled by
Who get angry at all the injustice
People who are not afraid of trouble
Breaking windows and brick walls
Of a growing uncaring establishment
That puts everyone in a deep sleep
And robs us of the freedom we have
Taking time to reflect, I conclude
What a country needs most is lovers
Kissing and standing at street corners.

Daniel Rajala



Heroes Welcome

So it seems life is a lot of trouble
To give up a cocaine addiction
I must dismantle that precarious
Tottering structure of my life
Throughout the years of plenty
Walking in the valley of death
Amongst the shadow of trees
Robed monks standing watch
As I'm hurled off the mountain
By the devil himself and pride
The hand of God to rescue me
I return to the Island so loved
Alone, at a bus station at night
Empty beer cans in the parking lot
With the smell of the sea weed
Remembered so well as a child
Serendipity reunites old friends
Not seen since the Pumpkin days
Of college and our rebellious youth
A country mourns a great leader
Jesus, naked on the cross to comfort
People come with flags to wave bye
I climbed back down the mountain
To find that black stove pipe again
Like a lost penny, without a home.

Daniel Rajala

It's been over 2 weeks and the ugly hatred seems to just grow.

On September 30, the bunch calling themselves the Community Alliance held a much advertised march. It's business and property owners mostly, but a very narrow – or should I say select – crew. It promised thousands of people and had about 150. The police were on hand, but so, too, were squads of private security.. rentacops, and a small army of young men recruited from some martial arts school. They were there to 'protect the marchers', most of whom were told that they could be attacked by fanged drug addicts at any moment. These enforcers of all that's good and righteous were certainly ready to fight anyone...

The theme was "anti-Drug Program" and opposition to any services or health programs that in any way aid or assist users. They aim to have law enforcement deal with the drugs and users, to close down any facilities that work on harm reduction



models.. in short to just remove the problem by locking up everyone involved.

Talking to individuals always gets the response that "[I/we] know treatment is needed, but not here. There is too much of everything here now and it should be somewhere else..." It gets much uglier when the presentations of this bunch to politicians see the light of day:

*"Our demands are not negotiable."

*"We will only speak to policy-makers."

*"We will fight (this approach) to the death."

In contrast to their aims...

A crew of people involved in the 'other side' – working on a model of harm reduction, treatment, prevention, and enforcement, advocating for



programs of methadone, prescription narcotics to reduce crime, safe fixing sites, needle exchanges, treatment and detox and housing and training and education in a total picture - also began to march.

The second bunch were in costumes, hoping to give some colour to the march, but the things that began to happen were obscene.

People in the 2nd crew chanted and jeered at those in the first crew carrying signs that read "It's their choice. Let Them Die!" A big banner calling for methadone programs was being carried by two people in the 2nd crew. They were suddenly arrested! Two people carrying a coffin and signs saying 'shame on the march.' were grabbed. Some young women wearing black and dancing as they passed out sheets about health and harm reduction were hauled off. The private security and martial arts goons began to push and shove anyone not part (in their mind) of the main march. There was a Downtown Eastside Raging Grannies group of senior women singing good songs about all of us being in this together – and the ugly hatred was on the faces and in the incoherence of those walking past.

At Canada place, where the "thousands" were supposedly waiting, were six charter buses of people brought in from Fraser Valley and the suburbs – apparently the 30,000 individuals who signed their sacred petition weren't committed enough to this kind of propaganda to show up, so the organizers had to get 'nice' people to come in. All told there were about 450 souls. There was a big show of presenting a petition to government officials – one in which no printed name or address appears, just pages of scrawl – and claiming over 30,000 'individuals' had signed to express their disgust with all the governments' actions. Brice Rositch, the well-heeled architect at 120 Powell, got up to make his speech and further his political ambitions. Activists got behind him (and behind several security) to

dispute what he was on about. He turned and screamed "Just shut the fuck up!"

Police were watching, no more than feet away, as one of the people taunting Rositch had her granny wig torn off and was thrown down a step by two security goons. They did nothing. People were being arrested and thrown into paddy wagons for just walking and carrying signs that didn't agree with the rants of the main march.

When the federal govt. rep for Hedy Fry spoke he was repeatedly hit with a sign wielded by one of the march organizers. The cops just watched until the granny reminded them that it was a federal bureaucrat being assaulted. One cop then stopped the bashing. When Jim O'Dea, speaking for Jenny Kwan, was at the front, the same sign-wielding basher began hitting him. Again, one of the grannies had to call a cop's attention to this assault in order to get him to intervene.

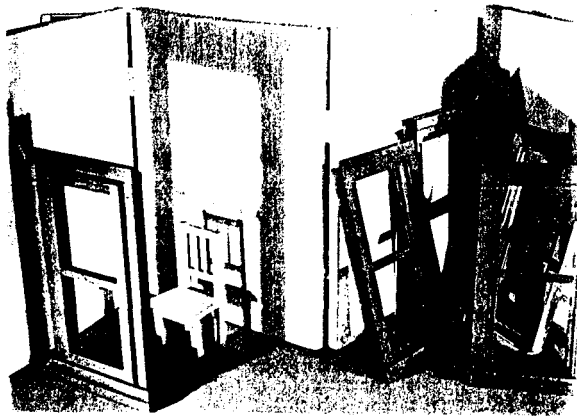
The upthrust nose of Leonore Sali, the rabidity of Sue Bennet and the whine of Mikey McCoy were combined to produce a low hum when asked 'what exactly do you want?' Mikey saved the day, after Leonore sniffed and Sue snarled, saying something like "We want all this gone and out of here." (!!!)

Intelligence is in great demand but the supply is low. The police watched as private, hired wannabees roughed up, pushed and assaulted people on public property. They arrested people for carrying signs. It seems that it was a private, by invitation march/rally and anyone dissenting from the main message was a criminal. When an APEC-demo lawyer arrived at the police station, he was told that the police had acted on the basis of Section 31 of some civic authorization, giving them the right to hold anyone - for up to 4 hours - that they feel might be causing a disturbance or whose actions may be leading to a confrontation. The illegal actions of the security and other thugs were okay; they were not causing a disturbance or doing something that might lead to confrontations...

The press coverage, aside from inflating some numbers (saying 1500 were there) was generally okay. It gave coverage to both sides. Then BCTV was called and ranted at, and their 11pm show gave just the alliance line with the 2nd crew only pictured while being put in paddy wagons - "the drug supporters" - with the word 'program' or anything hinting of intelligence curiously left out.

Isn't it wonderful what money and connections to media and politicians and developers and so on can do when you want something that doesn't work, can't work, and is criminal in itself?!

By PAULR TAYLOR



TRY SPITTING NEXT TIME

To be
Trivialized
Minimized
Marginalized
By psychiatric labels
You need to
Have honesty

Stand up
Take a stand
For what you believe in
Slap:
You're out of touch
With reality

Speak your mind
Slap:
You're psychotic
Assert yourself
Slap:

You're resistant to treatment

You're angry
Slap:
You're showing
Signs of hostility



You're happy
Slap:
Get real
You're Manic

Oh yeah
Thanks for the
Slap in the face
For the \$3.00
a month Increase
on the Comforts fund

Get real
Try spitting next time
Sharon Tayl





implications of proposals for developing new and innovative sources of funding, both public and private, for dedication to social development and poverty eradication programmes.”

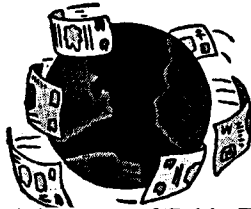
A currency transactions tax (often referred to as a Tobin Tax after the Nobel Prize economist James Tobin), set at 0.25%, would earn \$250 billion a year, which is about the amount the UN says is needed to wipe out the deepest forms of poverty, to clean up our environment and to provide basic healthcare, nutrition and education for every person on earth.

For more info, contact the Halifax Initiative, 1200 – 1 Nicholas St, Ottawa, K1N 7B7; halifax@web.ca.

National Anti-Poverty Organisation News

*October 17 is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The latest Human Development Report from the United Nations Development Program strongly states that poverty eradication is first and foremost a human rights issue, and not just a worthy goal. NAPO has been emphasizing this message for several years. “The UNDP goes so far as to state that poverty is the central human rights challenge of the 21st century. The report makes it clear that eliminating poverty through redistribution of wealth must be seen as a right and not a handout.”

This year marks the 7th year in a row that Canada has ranked #1 internationally in terms of human development, but Canada dropped from 9th to 11th place in the ranking of developed countries in the area of poverty. If the Canadian government takes pride in their #1 ranking in human development, shouldn't they also be disgraced by their lowering ranking on poverty? As witnessed by the BC rep in NAPO at the Geneva session on poverty, she heard Canadian government reps giving false statements and figures on the United Nations' panel. She mouthed to one member silently “She (the rep speaking) is lying!” The UN panel member mouthed back “I know!”



*Victory for Advocates of Tobin Tax on Currency Speculation: The Canadian delegation to the follow-up World Summit for Social Development overcame fierce opposition from the United States to achieve agreement that the UN host a study on a currency transactions tax. The study was to conduct a “rigorous analysis of advantages, disadvantages and other



*The City of Winnipeg has repealed panhandling by-law. It was specifically targeted to allow police to remove people who are poor from city streets. NAPO was involved in the Charter challenge case and the law was “a mean-spirited bylaw that demonstrated a blatant disrespect for other people.” As out-of-court talks led to impasse, city lawyers finally convinced Winnipeg City Council that going to court would be a losing proposition.

The Ontario Coalition Against Poverty and affiliated groups are supporting a group of panhandlers in Toronto who have been charged with violating the new Safe Streets Act. The panhandlers are taking Mike Harris's Ontario government to court over the Act, which they claim is not compatible with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Their lawyer is arguing that certain sections of the Act violate people's freedom of expression and discriminates against poor people. There are now over 30,000 homeless people in Toronto after Harris destroyed all social and low-rent housing and cut welfare. (ocap@tao.ca)

Business bites back I: The new class war against the poor in the Downtown Eastside

"... we will not be drawn into trying to solve the problems ..."

From a statement by the business alliance to the Mayor and City Councillors, Aug. 3, 2000

This statement sums up exactly where the new business alliance down here stands on everything that has been going on in our community for the past decade. This group claims that its goal is to get rid of drug users from the Downtown Eastside. It says it wants all services to drug users immediately stopped. This would include everything from the needle exchange to the Carnegie Street Program, the street nurses, and various other health and social services. The businesses also want the police to enforce drug laws in a draconian manner. Presumably that would mean cops would arrest and charge anyone they found in possession of a joint or a rock or a T3, etc.

But drugs are only a facade for this outfit, a way to focus the attack on the community of low income people and the services many of us use on a daily basis. Most of us down here — drug users and non-users alike — find the drug situation intolerable. But, unlike the alliance, most of us want to find real, long term solutions that include everyone in the community, not just the select few.



While claiming it is concerned about drug use, the business alliance has focused its attack very carefully on community services, trying to de-legitimize them. The groups it fronts for, including the business improvement associations (BIAs) in Gastown, Chinatown and Strathcona and organizations like the Gastown Homeowners Association, have long been opposed to services for poor people in the neighbourhood. This despite the fact that people with low incomes have been the majority of the population down here for sixty or seventy years.

When they have opposed social housing or services in the past, it has always looked obvious as the mean-spirited poor-bashing that it is. This time, though, they must figure they've hit on a winning formula. By linking community services specifically

to drug users, they are trying to stigmatize those programs in the same way that society has demonized drug addicts. Real citizens like us, they seem to be implying, don't need or use community services. Only those bad people do.

If you pay close attention to what they say, the business alliance agenda becomes a little clearer.

Brigit Snider, who is the Strathcona representative for the business alliance (she lives in Anmore), told the Mayor that: "We have lived through two decades of escalating social and special needs services, and declining support for those who live and work here" Of course this ignores that reality that the majority of the people down here (including the tenants of Brigit's rooming house) who don't use drugs (except perhaps booze and/or cigarettes or a little pot) use services of some kind or another.

Gastown architect / developer Bryce Rositch, spokesman for the business alliance says that we are "saturated" with "unsuccessful social programs" that "plague our neighbourhood." Which services would he be speaking of? Would that *plague* be the Downtown Clinic or Native Health or Carnegie Centre? Are the street nurses, or the Health Board's mass immunization programs, or all the low rental housing projects in the neighbourhood unsuccessful? How about the Oppenheimer Park summer program (or year round program for that matter)?

The business agenda becomes a little clearer when you read Lynn Bryson, Rositch's sister, quoted in the *Sun* claiming that when she moved here in 1991: "It was a slice of life, a little edgy" But then, things began to "go steadily downhill ever since" she moved in. (Hey, maybe if she left, it would get better again.)

What planet have these people been on. I remember just how "edgy" it really was here in the 1970s and 1980s, when people were getting stabbed left and right, when there were rats as big as cats in alleys, when getting mugged was as easy as going to the



bathroom in a bar or in your hotel. In fact, you didn't even have to leave your room to get robbed, the robbers would just knock down your door. Landlords could and often did evict you on a moment's notice and keep your stuff because you weren't legally a tenant. They often turned off the heat and hot water to save money and inspectors did nothing about it. Young kids were sniffing glue in the alleys and doorways or shooting up "Ts & Rs" that they bought on the corner. They would finance these activities by selling their bodies. There were prostitutes working the streets in Chinatown. The grocery stores sold lysol, aftershave, and cooking wine by the case. By the mid 1980s, before the needle exchange came in, there were hypodermics all over the place, in the park, in the gutters, in the alleys, in the doorways, on the sidewalks.

It was a real "slice of life" alright. Maybe what Bryson means is that these kinds of things "didn't infringe on your life." Well, perhaps they didn't infringe on her life, but then she didn't live here. I know they certainly infringed on my life and the lives of just about everyone else I know down here. But we didn't try to exclude people or marginalize them. Instead, we've tried to do things to help improve the community, to work with people for positive change and to build things, instead of constantly whining about how awful it is and blaming the people who are the most socially, politically, economically vulnerable and therefore the most convenient scapegoats.

If the business alliance people are so concerned about the community, where were they when we were working to get rice wine off the shelves and into the liquor store? (Some of them actually opposed this.) Where is the business alliance when we try to deal with slum landlords? Where are they when we're trying to make sure people have decent and affordable housing? Where are they when we lobby for better health services, for better social services, for higher welfare rates, etc., etc.?

Well, where they are is nowhere. They only come out to claim that they have a monopoly on virtue and to deny that anyone else but people like them, or the people they claim to speak *for*, has a right to be here.

The next time you hear the business alliance speak, remember that there are only community services here because people down here fought to get them. Services are here because the people living here use

them. And remember, regardless of what negative 11 groups like this say, there are still not enough services to meet the needs of the community, to help people improve their lives and meet their aspirations.

Also, whatever the alliance says, always remember that they definitely do not want to "try... to solve the problems."

By E.A. BOYD



Business bites back II: When your message is stupid, get personal

At its recent march through the Downtown Eastside, the business alliance slogan seemed to be: 'Save Vancouver, Say No To Drugs'. You almost expected to see Nancy Reagan cheerleading the crowd. The vacuity of this slogan belies the much meaner agenda that I looked at in Part I: the eradication of community services from the neighbourhood.

Now, people like Lynn Bryson, Brigit Snider, and Brice Rositch don't need most of the services that are in this community. They have nice homes, jobs, money, and political connections. We should be happy for them and their success. But it's hard to be happy for people who begrudge meager basic comforts to their less well-off neighbours. Lynn Bryson, for example, is the person who sent a fax to City Hall endorsing a magazine column that told drug addicts to "quit or die." (Sure, just as long as they do it in someone else's back yard.) Brigit Snider, whose interest in this neighbourhood is through her ownership of a rooming house, is co-owner of

around \$2.8 million in property, including a house in bucolic Anmore (out by Indian Arm) and a business address in Port Coquitlam.

In a recent letter to the Mayor, Snider writes that "government ... supposedly represents 'we the people'". Apparently, "the people" don't include those of us who are too sick to look after ourselves properly or too poor to house ourselves properly, or too messed up psychologically or emotionally to deal with daily life. And this is the basic problem with the worldview of the business alliance.

Apparently, only property-owners should have a voice. Anything that inconveniences or challenges that principle becomes an obstacle to be removed. Is this why they don't want to work with the rest of the community to deal with the drug problem? By doing so, they'd have to acknowledge that the kinds of people they don't like also have rights. They'd also have to acknowledge that community services are an important and necessary part of the community.

Because the drug situation serves as a wedge, a way of stigmatizing community services and the people who use them, the business alliance cannot stray too far from its basic message. They have to keep saying they just want to get rid of drug users. Out of sight, out of mind, as the old saying goes.

The problem with this, of course, is that it's a stupid message. No one can seriously believe in the year 2000 that police are an effective solution to illicit drug use. The only thing police enforcement will do is MAYBE push it into someone else's back yard. And then they'll get the police to try and push it back. So, when the alliance is confronted with this fact, when they are challenged on the basic mindlessness of their message, they don't have too many options but to make personal attacks. For some reason, some of the people at the Carnegie Association have made them really mad.

Muggs, the vice-President of the Association, has come in for some particularly vicious invective. In a by now widely circulated email (copies are available on request), Linda Ruiz, a Strathcona homeowner who is active with the alliance, accused Muggs of "encouraging" members of VANDU to break into her house.



In a recent letter to the Mayor and the Premier, among others, Brice Rositch complained that Muggs assaulted one of his customers. In a similar letter, Brigit Snider made the same accusation. Together with several other people, I actually witnessed the incident in question, which is probably more than Brice and Brigit can say. They should be a little more chary with their words next time.

Rositch also complained that, together with Jeff Sommers and Paul Taylor, Muggs is responsible for picketing businesses who oppose services in the Downtown Eastside. (And by the way, they seem really pissed about these pickets. I hope there are more of them.) However, it seems that Rositch got a little carried away with his own rhetoric. He also complained that the three of them "occupied the front of our office," even though he had already written that "we were forced to lock our doors as the group pressed to gain entry." (Well, really, how could someone occupy his office if the door was locked?) By blaming these three, is he saying that nobody else in the neighbourhood has an opinion of their own? Or that the rest of the people here are incapable of independent action?

Their level of anger about these pickets is amazing. They don't mind making public statements in which they scapegoat vulnerable people, or make "demands" which they say are "not negotiable". But they sure dislike being directly challenged. Maybe that's because when they are confronted, the basic shallowness of their "say no to drugs" and get rid of services theme becomes very evident.

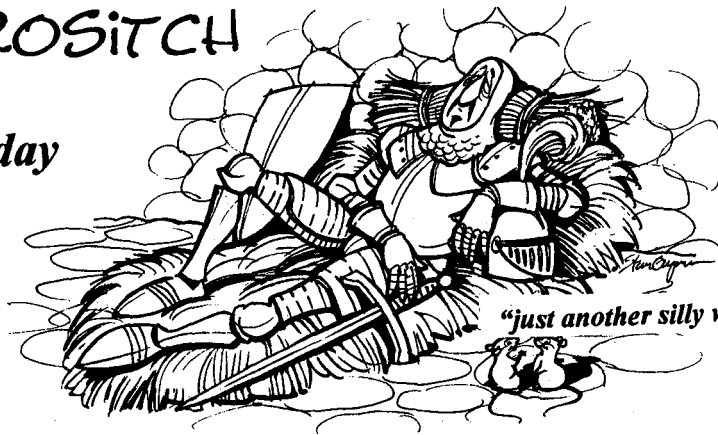
Of course, we shouldn't be too surprised at this kind of response. The fact is, they only want to work with people who have power. In their own words: "We will deal only with direct policy-makers..." and "We are not prepared to negotiate with drug users ... nor are we prepared to compromise" To refuse to deal with the powerless is a surefire way to aggravate marginalization. I believe that this is a deliberate strategy by the business alliance. It is designed to split the low income community and make it easier to pick off the different sectors of the neighbourhood.

In the next newsletter, I want to explore this strategy in more detail.

By EA BOYD

BRICE ROSITCH

after a hard day
at the office
(120 Powell Street)



"just another silly white knight, Sigmund"

The Alliance claims support from 150 groups, 1500 businesses, 5000 property owners and 30,000 individuals. It's a sham(e). The organisations that have their names attached to the propaganda and hatred brought into the Downtown Eastside are peopled with many, many individuals who have no idea that their groups are being manipulated for such things. A massive deception is being worked by the few who are most vehement and vicious, using fear, slander half-truths and outright lies. (This was recent-ly evidenced when only 150 local people marched while surrounded by a small army of young toughs; in order not to be exposed, six busloads of people from Fraser valley and Richmond were used to swell the ranks to offset the absence of the 'thousands' who got wise and didn't show.)

The many who see their names indirectly attached to this machine express their surprise, annoyance and even anger at the discovery. I share their distaste and hope, with the few thousand people working to improve our home, to get true, factual information to the many so used. The examples are right out of an appalling letter sent to governments, where this precise tactic was used:

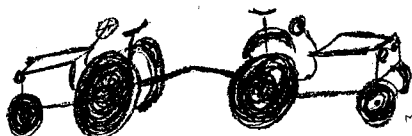
- Chinese Benevolent Association
Yung Quon Yu
- Chinese Cultural Centre
Miriam Yu, Monty Jang
- Community of Strathcona Alliance
Brigit Snider, Yvonne De Valone
- Gastown Homeowners Association
Sue Bennett
- Chinatown Merchants Association +

- Chinatown Property Owners Association
Tong Yuet
- Strathcona Area Merchants Society
Harry Jung, Wayne Nelson
- Gastown Business Improvement Society
Jon Stovell, Grant Longhurst, Leonore Sali
- Victory Square Property Owners Association
Dorothy Barkley
- Gastown Safety Society
Lynn Bryson
- Strathcona Property Owners Association
Sang Lee
- Chinatown Business Improvement Society

If Yung Quon Yu and Miriam Yu are husband & wife, their politics are now being presented on behalf of the hundreds of people in the CBA and the thousand or so affiliated with the CCC. Brigit Snider is the SRO owner who lives in an exclusive suburb and stated she'd do anything to rid 'us' of undesirables while the community of Strathcona has thousands of people in it. Sue Bennett is variously alluded to with Mikey McCoy and wasn't permitted to use Historic Area Planning Committee as well; homeowners in Gastown regularly express outrage over what she does in their name, and are among many generous supporters of the Dugout (which Sue/Mikey/Leonore have been trying to close for years). Wayne Nelson is fairly infamous as the owner of the Patricia, which killed Olaf Solheim, and decrying any treatment services while selling booze by the bucket. Longhurst and Stovell are the bagboys for the NPA machine & Leonore is behind all the rentacops in Gastown who assault poor people for being on 'her' turf. The

Victory Square thing is about 3 people, but Lynne Bryson was so miffed at someone else taking precedence that she started her own thing, and uses it to harass the police into becoming ever more used to the directed excesses of the rentacops. Strathcona Property Owners and Tenants Association voted not to join this alliance, so Sang Lee, who incidentally was the one wielding the sign and bashing the federal and provincial government reps at the 'rally', has either left that little factoid out or there is now a new group devoid of tenants (and most property owners too). If you have a business in a geographic area, you are required by law to be a member of the local Business Improvement Association. If, as has happened in Gastown, Strathcona, Victory Square and Chinatown, some property owners get together, call themselves an association or society and use the area's name, it's just that - a few people demanding an equal voice with organisations having hundreds or even thousands of members.

Curiously left out of this list are Brice Rositch, the architect, and Charles Lee, who was part of the



planning committee to establish a resource centre for drug users. In the last issue was a letter from another architect (also a business and property owner in the area) which lambasted this bunch for their narrow, reactionary hate and war mentalities. Rositch is a political wannabee, claiming to be a spokesperson for all these groups/businesses/property owners/individuals. It sounds good in a sound byte anyway. Rositch is the next candidate for the NPA Council and is getting help on this kind of bogus stuff from a master at the craft, Councillor Lynne Kennedy. Charles Lee got his brain and ass fried for agreeing to the needed resource centre, did a 180, said it can't go here of course, and, because he's jumped up for the Liberal nomination, got his name taken off alliance correspondence to be 'independent' of groupism. There's more!

PRT



LAST FRIDAYS

Prose, Poetry & Performance Art

GALLERY GACHET

88 E. CORDOVA ST.

'open mike' format

next event date:

October 27th @ 7pm

Featuring the premiere of the multimedia project (funded through VRHB):

Video Screening & Reading of:

"The Last Gold Wave"

by Mark J. McLeod

"Pioneer Visionary Canned Experience" by Tim Ray

for further info call Carmen at 687-2468

Admission by Donation

Vancouver Courier, Oct. 11, 2000

Alliance out to lunch on drug problem

I'VE GOT A FEW QUESTIONS for Bryce Rostich. He's the spokesperson for the Community Alliance, the coalition of folks from Gastown, Chinatown, Strathcona and Victory Square who want more cops and fewer treatment centers for druggies in their part of town.

What I'd like to know for starters is this: How many aboriginals does his organization have among its members? How many are women and how many are on the Alliance's executive?

I suspect that even though Rostich claims the Alliance represents 90 percent of the people in the area, this rather large group of residents is nowhere to be found among the frequently hysterical crowd Rostich and his pals have whipped up to oppose the rather modest plans of governments to deal with the crushing consequences of drug addiction.

I raise the issue of aboriginals because of their alarmingly disproportionate numbers among the victims of that failed policy known as the war on drugs.

The most recent evidence comes in a report presented at the last Vancouver Police Board meeting. The document was a study of street kids or "youth at risk."

From May 18 to July 5 of this year, two police mobile units targeting kids conducted surveys among those they apprehended. The number crunching was done by SFU criminology student Clayton Ross. I doubt many of Rostich's crowd have looked at the report.

There were 283 "interventions" involving 158 individuals.

The police picked them up for a variety of rea-

31 per cent were aboriginal females.

Aboriginal females represent more than half the kids picked up more than once during the six-week survey. Two thirds of the young people used drugs or alcohol and a third were addicted to rock cocaine, heroin or both.

For the merry merchants who think we have inherited someone else's problems, two thirds of the kids live in Vancouver and virtually all of them are from B.C.

Then there is the issue of education. The average level of the people picked up by the cops and surveyed was Grade 8, and 61 per cent were no longer in school.

So what we have with this survey is a model for almost certain failure. Take a city kid who is aboriginal and female, watch her drop out before she hits high school and the odds are good that she will end up on the streets in the Downtown Eastside, hooked and hooking.

There are, to be sure, non-aboriginals from Point Grey to Boundary Road who are junkies and drop-outs. There is no question there should be social services throughout the city to deal with these people before they cause more harm to themselves and the rest of us.

But tell me this: What is the Alliance and Bryce Rostich proposing that will help any of these people?

Rather than help victims, including these young people, the Alliance thinks it can solve the problem by driving them out of the neighborhood or putting them in jail.

This is not a position that should be taken seriously.

allen garr

Rather than help victims...

the Alliance thinks it can solve

the problem by driving them

out of the neighborhood or

putting them in jail.

sons, but mostly because they were deemed to be at risk due to the neighborhood they were found in, or because they had been reported as either runaways or missing.

Even cops familiar with the scene of drugged-out youngsters who spend their lives on our city streets and turn tricks to feed their drug habits found the results shocking.

According to the 1996 census, aboriginals represent about four per cent of the population of British Columbia. That's about double the national average. Yet they make up 17 per cent of Canada's prison population.

That's nothing compared with their numbers among youth at risk on the streets of Vancouver.

Of the kids who were picked up by police, 87 per cent were found in the Downtown Eastside. Of those surveyed, 41 per cent were aboriginals and

**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 - 5:45 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.-\$40 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 Paula -\$10
Kettle -\$18 Sonya S.-\$140 BCTF-\$25
Nancy H.-\$35 Bill G.-\$150 Wes K.-\$30
DEYAS-\$200 RayCam-\$25 LSS-\$25
Wisconsin Historical Society -\$10
Heather S.-\$18 John S-\$50
Yukiko -\$10 VEDC -\$25 Paddy -\$60
Rockingguy -\$30 Anonymus -\$67

FREE - donations accepted.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

401 Main Street, V6A 2T7 665-2289

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

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

**Submission Deadline
for next issue**

Friday, October 27

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 27 YEARS!



DERA General Meeting – October 6

John Turvey is the executive director and Judy McGuire is an administrator of DEYAS, the Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society. At the October general meeting of DERA, the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association, John and Judy made a presentation on the many aspects of DEYAS – history, purpose, mandate, programs – and answered questions from those present.

John has been in the neighbourhood for over 20 years, and DEYAS was formed as an independent organisation in 1984 after 3 years in Carnegie. It began in the space now occupied by Crabtree Corner on E.Cordova with the first board of directors having reps from the police, aboriginal youth, Carnegie and DERA. It's now at 223 Main Street.

Its work involves Youth Outreach, a drop-in, drug & alcohol counselling and a needle exchange.. There are relationships with the Latino community through SOS (Street Orientation Services), Watari (research, detox, outreach), MOSAIC (refugee & immigrant issues), and networking with Ray-Cam and others through the Neighbourhood Safety Office and the Child & Youth Protection Strategy.

Interconnected with this, the DEYAS mandate and purpose gives rise to a Health Van for first aid, clean syringes, condoms, information and assistance. and cars that take the same essentials to other areas.

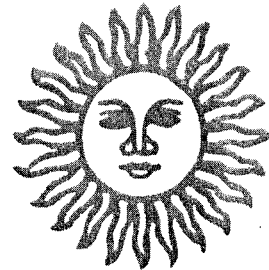
The Youth Detox has 6 beds and normally helps 45-50 kids under 19 every month.. about 500 a year. Both drug and alcohol detoxification involve much more than just getting clean or drying out, and counselling and referrals are major parts of this service. The research aspect involves networking with and learning about other services, methods, projects and the like going on anywhere... all to better the bit done here, to help each person understand and cope with their substance stuff.

The Youth Action Coalition operates out of the

first floor of the Hazelwood Hotel. it is responsible for outtrips, taking inner city youth camping and just out of the area; there is a food bank of sorts, clothes, safety and about 100 hot meals served a day.

DEYAS employs people to sweep schoolyards for needles and used condoms, to clean sidewalks and hose down alleys, and to assist residents. There are health and safety services for sex-trade workers and liaison with programs offered through the Vancouver/Richmond Health Board – HIV/AIDS & TB testing, Hep A,B,C diagnosis, the STD (sexually transmitted disease) nurses and mental health ones.

John (remember John?) spoke of the Needle Exchange as only one involved from its inception



could – it may now be the highest volume exchange in the world; 2.7 million syringes were given out last year and 2.86 million were turned in; the incidence of intravenous drug use is not driven by the presence of this facility.. this has been proven in every study ever made that much larger forces aiding the importation, degree of purity and street value/sale are the causes of drug use increase, along with societal difficulties with poverty, decent and affordable housing, sex, and on and on. Needle exchanges are a health service, working to stem the epidemics of AIDS and Hepatitis.

Dollars came up in terms of cost-effectiveness: The annual budget of the Needle Exchange is under a million dollars. For every person who gets infected with the HIV virus believed to cause AIDS, it will cost between \$100,000 and \$250,000 for all the health care and drugs to deal with the disease until they die. Simple arithmetic shows that if just ten people are prevented from contracting the sickness through using clean needles and safe injection practices, or from using condoms, the entire project justifies its funding. The whole point of needle

exchanges, harm reduction methods and education in safe practices is to keep drug users as healthy as possible until they can kick their habit.

Questions and comments from people present brought such responses. It was truly amazing how much the same people changed their opinions in the short space of the DEYAS presentation. One older Chinese man, who started out blaming DEYAS for all the drug use and misery in the community, stood up near the end and thanked John and DEYAS for the work they do. He asked if they could come to his block and clean up the needles and John said "Sure!"

No, DEYAS is not living happily everafter. There are ongoing difficulties with adequate funding. The Health van, described briefly above, has been underfunded for almost 2 years. The Van/R Health Board promises more, knows what it's providing now is insufficient, but the hoped for dollars never come. Judy was serious in saying that, unless the VRHB

lives up to its promise, the van will stop.

A fax from DEYAS and supporting data from the Vancouver Police Department confirms the number of overdose deaths in the province at 202, from January through September. Of these, 37 were in the Downtown Eastside and 34 in the rest of Vancouver. What is a spark of hope or maybe just relief is that no overdoses at all occurred in the entire city in September. This must be spoken of in the same breath as saying that 2405 people have OD'd since 1992. A factoid for the reactionaries...

Good work DEYAS. Harm reduction is a workable solution.

By PAULR TAYLOR



Carnegie Learning Centre Presents

LET'S GO!

A Program for Individual & Community Development

Starts Monday, October 16, 1 pm

SIGN UP IN THE LEARNING CENTRE

For more information
call: 665-3013

Ask for Tim, Beverley or Lucy

Bridge Housing Society for Women is really happy to announce that the application forms for tenants for our building will be ready on October 17. The building, at the corner of Columbia and Cordova, will be open at the end of February, 2001. Please pick up applications and return them to 40 E. Hastings. There will be an information workshop about the building in early November. The Bridge telephone number is 682-3269, local 6085.

Join women all over the world in protesting against violence and poverty. In Vancouver, we are meeting at Oppenheimer Park at 4:00 PM on October 17 to hear speakers, drummers, and performers speak out on the International Day for the Ending of Poverty.

We are marching to the Women's Tribunal at the Aboriginal Friendship Centre at Commercial and Hastings, where women will put governments and corporations on trial. Bring empty pots and pans and other noise makers to show what current legislation and policies of globalization mean for poor people.

To get more information, call 215-1103, 872-8212, or 879-1209. Everyone is welcome!

The groups that are organizing the event are: Breaking the Silence, Crabtree Corner, Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, End Legislated Poverty, Grassroots Women's Discussion Group, Philippine Women's Centre and Rape Relief.

Empowering Women as ORGANIZERS

The situation is very complex and disturbing.

In our initial inquiry, through questionnaires and meetings with groups and individuals, a picture is developing. Women in the community are conflicted about the issues facing women in organizing roles.

We are often kept busy doing crisis management and not really supported in taking leadership to achieve systemic change. In addition to organizational challenges there is the deeper and more disquieting *problem of low morale among women's organizations and women working in the neighbourhood.*

We love our work, our colleagues and our neighbourhood, but we are struggling with each other.



There appears to be a lack of trust and understanding among us. When we do take the risk to be leaders, others judge us in ways that undermine the work that is being done.

**WHAT IS GOING ON?
CAN WE EVEN BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT THIS?**

Breaking the Silence Campaign would like to start the process of talking about the complex dynamics in the women's community. Some of the issues include distrust, lateral oppression, lack of unity and acceptance and especially the problem of destructive actions between women.

ARE WE READY?
Well, we are going to try!

Breaking the Silence is organizing a facilitated meeting and we encourage all individuals to attend; and we urge agencies and organizations to send at least one representative.

THURSDAY OCTOBER 26, 2000

12:30pm (Light lunch offered)

PENDERA BUILDING, 133 WEST PENDER ST.

Info: Rika(665-3003); Ellen(254-6207); Carol(681-4786) **Let's talk about trust and begin the process.**

My needs .

My needs
silent winds against my skin
my needs
sharing secrets my fantasies

my needs
confess my sins to my lover
and my friends

my needs
to be satisfied confides my mind
my needs
to be realized justified by time



my needs
I bare the truth here's the proof...

my needs
bring out the best in me
yet the worst in me

my needs
what will the future hold
my heart has been sold

This need
created what's become of me
I'm free

Wayne Melvin



Mother Nature's Firecrackers

Mount St. Helen's, Rainier too
Shasta near the water
The sticky lava brews
Why is it so quiet?
Along this western front
All are active volcanoes
When are they going to erupt?
I remember so vividly
when Helen did her thing
I even bought a bottle of ash
The cash register did sing.

Why not make a profit?
From chaos and destruction
GM, Chrysler and Ford do
See their weapons in Jerusalem.
Who am I to make
Such a strong and stinging statement?

Do I have a shelter
In a house - in a basement?
No, not really. I live down here.
I have to walk up three flights
'Cause I live on the third floor.
I have two candles burning
As I pen this little verse
Amidst the chaos and destruction

People are so blind
They cannot really see
That the negative thoughts they give off
Make the lava flow to the sea.
The earthquakes that do follow are a result
of us - negative-thinking humans.
Better not make a fuss!
Our life-time on this planet
is short in history.

Larry Mousseau



HALLOWE'EN DANCE

hosted by marlene



Saturday, October 28, 2000

7 - 10 pm in the theatre

Carnegie Community Centre



prize for best costume



CAUGHT IN A STORM (ON LAND OR SEA)

When all hell breaks out, keep out of the trough... steer clear of the dead heads
watch out for the bilge ...don't blame your compass, first mate or crew turn down
the temp... Best of all, keep your eye peeled for the light on the distant shore.

Sam Roddan

Beneath the great monolith of banking profits;
Between the crimes of political corruption;
lay the soiled streets.
In some corner of any Big city
on the edge of the profit lands
Those blocks the affluent only drive through,
with locked doors and indifferent radar.

Homeless spirits wander aimlessly, a never-
ending flow of spare change and cigarettes.
They flounder in drug stupor hazes, drowning
in desperation.

But still: all the road signs point to greed.
Apathy.. floods the gutters as it flows past
urine-stained alleys.. past doorways of empty,
hopeless, addict squalor.

My conscience slaps my heart with guilt
For recoiling from these tortured souls' sickness
My spirit refuses t wake as it dreams deep
Slumbering quiet life reflecting currents.

And I? I dream I want to reach out
Brush the drug dusty haze from eyed windows
If only I could reach through the oblivion

Wash all the pain off
Wipe all the shame away
Gently awaken dignity and hope.
I do nothing...



I became a reluctant Elaho protestor early in the
summer. I was walking Hastings, east of Cambie, in
search of a cheap sleeping bag when I ran into "Jane,
an addict. She was walking beside me and I was
shocked - I'd known her 15 years earlier - and said,
'what happened to you?'" She said 'I know, I know.'

Our whole encounter lasted only til the end of the
block, and I believed I was helping her with change
for the SkyTrain. The fares had gone up.. she asked
for 7 dollars to ride that new train...

I realized later it was for drugs and I'd been fooled
but it's no big deal. What a state she was in!

In the Elaho Valley we camped out over the
weekend, but it was uneventful. Come Monday we
headed out and coming round a corner right into a
protestor roadblock. Two guys from the clear-cutting
company Interfor arrived, probably alerted by radio



I try to sidestep the quagmire unsuccessfully.
It stains my sense of decency,
The foul slime clings to my empathy
with an overpowering stench.
Yet still my spirit sleeps;
It knows it is safe, nestled among
its dreams on its pristine river bottom.
Once again I know I can't help myself,
I guess it's my habit, my addiction,
my mind always wanders...
To those placid places of midnight lakes
ringed by lofty mountain nests
etched with reflections of star-filled skies.
Gazing heavenward with mirror surfaces
We silently ponder without a ripple
This universe leaning in an ink velvet sky.

- Teryl

to 'reinforcements'. They started acting like pigs,
taking pictures and demanding we identify ourselves
..I said they were violating our rights and demanded
they put the damned cameras away. Then I tried
putting my pack in their pickup truck for a ride out -
no way man! They left me there to wait for real cops
to show up. I was to be a criminal for standing up for
rights while being way out in the wilderness. The
cops did arrive and I vamoosed into the forest.

I began hiking through the woods like a fugitive,
avoiding the roads or scurrying into the bush when a
vehicle or helicopter came

"What's happening to me?!"

The cops sure tied up the whole area. It was like a
major operation against criminals. Draw whatever
parallels you can between this and "Jane's" life. The
cops didn't win against me that day. Peace to the
Elaho protestors!

By MIKE BOHNERT

Affordable Housing Week

October 15 – 21

This is to highlight different aspects of housing and let various levels of government praise each other for contributing to its development. Certainly there are successes, but the spectre of gouging landlords, skyrocketing rents and homelessness is sobering.

The Tenants' Rights Action Coalition (TRAC) and the Lower Mainland Network for Affordable Housing are seeking to engage people's minds and hearts with an event on the Vancouver Art Gallery lawn,

First United Church
320 E. Hastings St.

October 11, 2000

To Whom It May Concern:

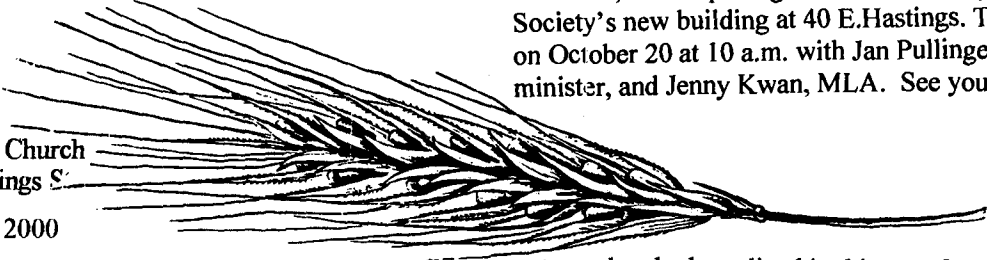
It has come to my attention that a concerted effort is being made by members of the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee to pressure the Ministry conducted at 59 Powell from continuing in that location. This is reprehensible. It is also a clear case of the new kids on the block trying to say what long-time residents can and can't do on "their" street.

When I first arrived in Vancouver in late 1981, I took up residence in the Gastown Lodge (latterly the Silver Lodge until it was burned down) and getting up before 8 a.m. was worth it to go to the Dugout for a coffee. After a few months of being there in the line, I was asked one morning if I could put sugar and a stir stick in the cups of coffee. I readily said I could and began volunteering, for about 20 minutes, every day. Until 1989 I missed maybe a couple of weeks; otherwise I was there every day. I saw many people in all states of inebriation, sobriety, economic malaise.. coming in after "surviving" the night. It is the most essential service to many people, the class of which I never felt to be 'above'

It is this last that is most galling in the efforts of GHAPC and cohorts to rid their neighbourhood (sic) of people whom they label as "undesirable" and a "blight". The underlying agenda is Property Value, nothing more. It is a crass and crummy attempt to

just west of the Granville Eaton's building. Arrive by noon on Monday, October 16. and see the cardboard jungle depicting the number of renters or tenants and the cost of housing.. and what is needed. TRAC got a good article in the *Courier*, then a low blow when called a "taxpayer-funded" group. TRAC is funded by several sources, some government for specific programs, but the majority of support is from the Law Foundation.

Another event, following on a recent opening of the renovated Metropole Hotel by DERA and CMHC & CanWest, is the opening of Main&Hastings Housing Society's new building at 40 E.Hastings. This'll be on October 20 at 10 a.m. with Jan Pullinger, housing minister, and Jenny Kwan, MLA. See you there!



get people who have lived in this area for decades out of sight (and immediately out of mind). There is nothing noble or altruistic about this effort. No matter what nice-sounding arguments, it will come down to threats and pressure on you as the overseers of the United Church's ministry in the poorest urban area in Canada. Poor people are not going to just vanish as the relentless drive to extinguish the Downtown Eastside continues. There is no compromise in these people's minds.

I urge you to take a principled and spiritual stand against these exploitative and manipulative people. You have long withstood such crude economic pressure, disguising classism. The unfortunate and poor are just not good enough for this new crew, these "urban pioneers" who have little or no regard for the fact that this community is peopled with almost 12,000 souls who live imaginative lives. The Dugout performs a valuable and critical service and it is not something to just be moved or relocated to appease the snobs on one block.

Respectfully submitted,
PaulR Taylor,

Editor, Carnegie Newsletter
Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors, DERA
Treasurer and member of the Board of Directors, TRAC
Member of the Board of Directors, Carnegie C.C.Assoc
Member of the Board of Directors, Four Sisters Housing

A University of Struggle and Resistance

The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo in Buenos Aires build a University.



It is called the University of Struggle and Resistance. The idea came from the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo who, in 1978, had demanded that the government of Argentina return their 'disappeared' children. The University started on April 6, 2000. It has 660 students and 100 professors. It has 5 areas of study: 1) human rights and politics. 2) investigative journalism. 3) social psychology. 4) politics and social sciences, 5) art. All areas of study are 4 year programs, and all have 3 basic courses in common: 1) history of the Mothers struggle for justice, (2) ethics, (3) human rights.

"This university was created out of love for our children," one of the Mothers said, "out of their dream of justice, which was annihilated, leaving 30,000 disappeared, 10,000 gunned down in the streets, 9,000 political prisoners and 1.5 million people sent into exile."

Students pay a US\$25 monthly fee. Scholarships are available for students who don't have the money. The only entrance requirement is literacy. National and international support helps pay for the university. Some of the University of Buenos Aires' most renowned scholars teach regular courses for free.

"We don't want to form erudite scholars, but young people who accumulate a great deal of knowledge because they are committed to life and politics," a Mother said. The university does not lure students with the promise of a good job in this age of disintegrating labour markets. Justice is the driving



force behind learning at this place - justice that the young women and men who disappeared in the 1970's struggled for and died for.

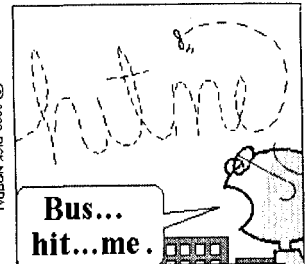
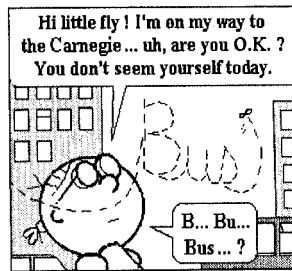
The University of Struggle and Resistance is the only university in Argentina that has not requested, and will not seek, official recognition for the degrees it grants. "We want the degrees granted by the Mothers to be valuable in their own right," said Hebe de Bonafini, president of the Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see a University of the Downtown Eastside, based on the model of the University of Struggle and Resistance in Buenos Aires? I'll bet there are professors, teachers, students and citizens all over Canada, and especially in the Downtown Eastside, who would be interested. What a challenge!

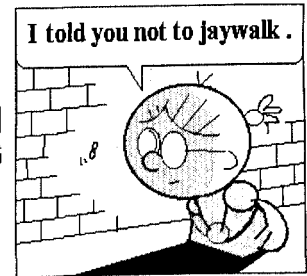
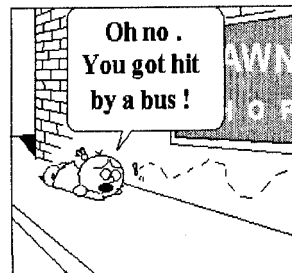
By SANDY CAMERON

*From an article, "The Mothers' Last Crazy Idea." by Andres Gaudin: In the *Catholic New Times*, Sept. 10, 2000.

Reprinted from *Latin American Press*, June 26, 2000.



H **MAIN** by Rick Nordal



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