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Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1, 2001

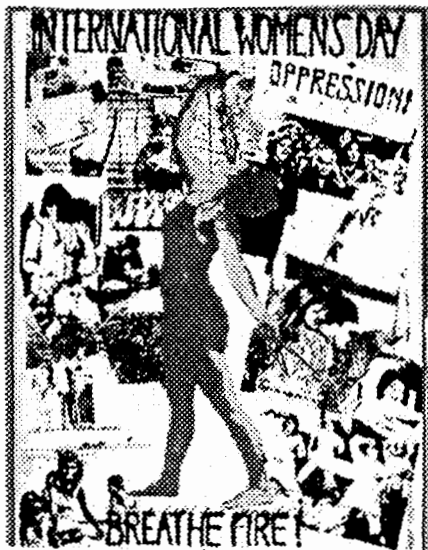


International Women's Day is Thursday, March 8.

Come celebrate in Carnegie's seniors lounge. It will be reserved for women only from 10 am until 7pm.

Throughout the day there will be time to enjoy a foot massage, shiatsu massage, other healing arts, a banner making and other workshops, discuss issues pertinent to us as women, watch videos, share food and refreshments and have fun.

Laurel Kimbley, current director of the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre, brought in an article in the *Globe&Mail*. It was the obituary of Rose Freedman. She was a lifelong activist for women's rights after taking a personal tragedy to heart and fighting for change. Rose was one of a handful of girls who survived a factory fire in Manhattan in 1911.



"Hundred and forty-six people in half an hour," she said. Mostly women and girls were killed as a fire swept through what today would be called a sweatshop. The fire escape doors had been locked to keep workers at their machines. Owners were found not guilty of manslaughter when it couldn't be proven that they had ordered the doors locked. A civil suit found them negligent and they paid \$75 to each family who had lost a woman in the fire.

From then on Rose fought for rules and regulations to force such unscrupulous businesses to treat all employees like human beings.

She was 107 when she died.



Attention: Residential School Survivors
For financial compensation, call the Merchant
Law Group - 1-877-677-5077 - Mr. Mantyka.



FISHER - PRICE DREAMS

Dawn on the corner;

Early morning sun casting long shadows.

The pillars of Carnegie standing out in strong relief

And there, just off to the side, part in shadow, part in light,

A child's Fisher-Price kitchen,

Plastic stove and fridge resplendent in white, yellow and red

On either side, snuggled tightly in,

As though proximity might transform their world

into some child-like place of warmth and safety and happiness

Were two women, wrapped in their blankets, on the pavement

Slowly they stirred as the street awakened.

People walked by.

Buses hissed and disgorged their passengers

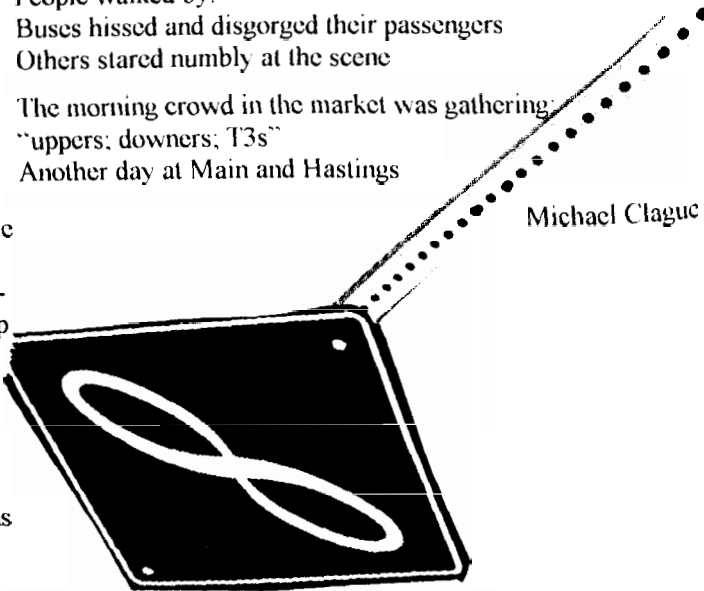
Others stared numbly at the scene

The morning crowd in the market was gathering:

"uppers; downers; T3s"

Another day at Main and Hastings

Michael Clague



"NO MORE FEAR"

(a task force to address police violence)

This meeting was called in response to an apparent increase in police brutality of late. Anita Stevens spoke first, saying that she has not only witnessed brutality, but has been the victim of brutality herself.

Robert Byrd and Delanye were both witness, as were other Carnegie members, to an incident on Wednesday February 21st, wherein a young native woman was disrobed in the process of arrest. When she was finally hauled away she had been stripped down to her bra. Delanye was threatened by the police, and was grabbed by the arm, forcibly removed from her proximity to the scene.

Delanye has recorded and filed 2 other complaints with the Vancouver Police Dep't. Others who might have witnessed incidents are reluctant to file complaints, since a requirement is that the person who files a complaint must identify her/himself.

In response to this, it was resolved that Marlene Trick will design a complaint form (non-official) for the use of civilians who wish to draw attention to unacceptable behaviour on the part of police officers. The form will be designed after official forms, asking for badge numbers, dates, and details of incidents.

Anton stated that Ken Doern, VPD inspector, has been consulted and has said he will investigate personally every complaint filed.

Marlene agreed to liaise with Community Directions to see if they are willing to collect (and distribute) forms, and it was agreed that an effort would be made to inform the public of this process and encourage locals to take part in vigilance.

All Downtown Eastside organizations should be apprised of our plan and receive copies of the forms, along with a brief explanation of the above.

Marlene and Luka will make mention of this at Program Committee, and it is hoped that the Portland Hotel Society and our own programs like "coffee and ideas" will also be informed.

Next meeting tentatively set for March 12 at 5PM (Anton will approach Portland Hotel re housing the meetings)



Development Permit Hearing

Dear Sir or Madam:

I've been a resident and member of the Downtown Eastside for 12 years.

What I have noticed is the increase of drug activity in our Community. When I heard of the 4-pillar approach, I thought this is a great plan and I hope to see it in action soon. Carnegie has been a major part of the solution in this whole plan.

I have seen the interaction of the Street program staff and drug users on the corner of Main and Hastings. When everyone else has said NO! in our backyard, Carnegie has been there for those who others consider not human. Please

I need for you members of this panel to please be a part of the solution and put forward this action immediately. Help us save lives and be a part of saving humans - who otherwise are thrown out as outcasts.

Drug addicts are human beings lost in a world to which NO ONE is throwing them a lifeline. Treatment centres, detoxes and homes are not available to addicts, unless they are clean for 4, 10, 30, 90 days. Again the 4-pillar approach is part of the solution - everything starts with one step at a moment.

One thought becomes an idea - I believe in this approach.

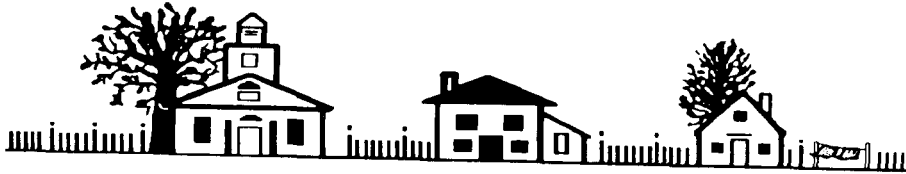
Laura Cecil

What if?

He fell down some steps
And when he came to
He crawled to the table
Where the phone was
And pulled the phone down
He dialed 911
He said, "I fell down some steps."
He half expected them to say
"Do you have any broken bones?"
But instead the operator said,
"I have to put you on hold."
He thought she added,
"Did you break a leg or arm?"
Press #1 if so,

Were you shot? Where were you shot?
Press #2 for the chest,
#3 for the head
#4 for your arms or legs."
"Are you hemorrhaging?"
Press #5"
He came to as someone was
hollering into the phone
"If you don't need 911 hang up."
He said, "I fell down,"
and pressed #1
They came to arrest him
for misuse of the 911 system,
but didn't
He had passed out again.

Dora Sanders



UFO alert!

Carnegie Newsletter Ecuador Bureau

You have to watch out for unidentified flying objects during Carnaval week in the Andes.

They come winging at you when you're walking down the street, or riding in a bus, even wailing away with a machete in the deep woods. And when they land they make a big SPLASH that leaves you drenched.

The only clue to their planet of origins is the gales of laughter from groups of school kids that are lurking nearby.

This is no science fiction story. Our group from Vancouver's own Environmental Youth Alliance have been the targets of these guided missiles. We're not taking it too personally, because everybody is considered fair game during Carnaval. Frivolities of all sorts are a tradition during Easter season all over Latin America (think Mardi Gras).

Actually, these UFOs are water-filled balloons, called bombas de agua (water bombs). They started flying about a month ago, on the sound principle that you can't get into a holiday too soon. (Like in Canada, where Christmas preparations get underway

sometime around Halloween.)

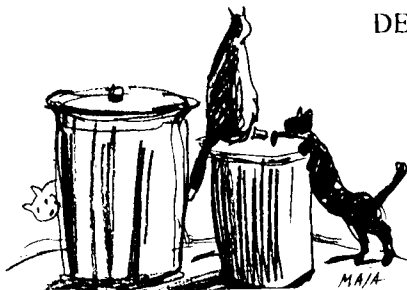
Speaking of unusual cultural manifestations, we picked up the good old *Vancouver Sun* website recently, and found out that 2,500 letters had gone into City Hall supporting the drug harm reduction proposals, with only 900 against. Way to go! I am hereby claiming the door prize for the longest-distance submission: I e-mailed my two cents-worth in to the Vancouver city clerk from Quito, Ecuador, umpteen thousand miles away.

But hey, don't think we were just lazing around. After all, EYA is supposed to be here helping save the cloud forest. Well, we cleared a site for an organic garden in the past few weeks, dug two beds and transplanted chard, cilantro and lots of other good stuff.

And we planted a little piece of Canada right here at the 9,000-foot level (that's twice as high as Grouse Mountain), with seeds sent from EYA, including heirloom broccoli, two varieties of kale, rhubarb and, of course, turnips.

Too bad we won't be around when they come up. Sounds like a good reason to pay a return visit. Meanwhile, see you at the end of March.

Roberto Sarti.



My name is Leith Harris. I have lived and worked in the Downtown Eastside for almost 20 years. My two sons are healthy and considerate people. The Downtown Eastside is our neighbourhood and many of the neighbours are our friends. Although this paper presents only my opinions, I do listen a lot to my neighbours, especially the kids.

During the last few years, it has become increasingly horrible to watch this epidemic of drugs and disease grow and spread. We feel very bad for the drug addicts, the young girls working the streets and the homeless. The hardest part of walking with children through the Downtown Eastside misery has been trying to explain the callousness of the rest of Vancouver.

The children ask questions like - "Why can't we find homes for the homeless"? "Why isn't there more garbage cans around here"? "Why do they take all those drugs"?

While the supply of drugs is in the hands of mafias and gangs, the demand will continue to escalate. Until drugs are legalized, Vancouver will have huge problems which will require huge solutions.

I applaud these beginning steps to the Four Pillar approach. I implore the governments to take action now.

And I have a few suggestions:

The prevention pillar needs more and immediate attention. Young people need to be told the truth about substance use and misuse. The "Just Say No" and the "Us and Them" approaches obviously don't work. Youth need healthy choices and reasons to live. They need to know that people care. And they need to know they won't be called the scum of the earth and left to rot in the alleys because they made a few mistakes.

The treatment pillar requires sensitive and understanding workers at all levels. We don't need any more poverty pimps. We don't need bureaucratic, self-serving outsiders putting people down, then

spending their fat pay cheques in affluent parts of town. There are very capable, experienced and compassionate people living and/or working in the Downtown Eastside now. People living with substance abuse issues are the experts - they should be listened to and paid for their expertise.

The enforcement pillar must support Downtown Eastside and Strathcona residents as well as drug users. As police presence at Main and Hastings increases, drug dealers are selling in the Strathcona school district. Families, especially the kids, are very upset about that. I think there should be officers patrolling the school area everyday at dismissal time.

The harm reduction pillar wants building. I don't believe these initial projects will make much of a dent in the spread of death and disease. The homeless need homes now. It is deplorable that people are sleeping in doorways where other people have spit and urinated and vomited. The needle exchange and the street cleaning services are due for vast improvements to reduce the risk of death and disease. Drug users need safe injection sites to reduce the deaths and disease.

Enough studies and consultations.

I agree that the time for action is now. We must work towards HUGE solutions to these HUGE problems.

Like turning the old Woodward's building into a HEALING FROM ADDICTIONS centre.

One floor could be a 24 hour medical clinic for addicts. Another floor could offer a wide variety of counseling styles. Another floor could provide all the various detox options. Another floor should be for First Nations' healing methods. Another floor could be for families with guarantees that children wouldn't be taken away from healing parents. Another floor could be for employment and training of those with addiction issues.

The rest could be emergency and social housing.

For this Framework to be successful, the key elements must be sensitivity, understanding and respect towards those with substance abuse issues.



Theatre Night
 Carnegie Theatre Workshops
in a
LIVE Performance
 Wednesday, March 28, 7 – 10pm



A Comment . .

Where were DERA, DEYAS, Vancouver Native Health, Vancouver Native Liaison, Community Directions, Aboriginal Friendship Centre, and Youth Organizations during the Development Permit (DP) Hearings? Don't tell me you didn't know about it, cause I won't hear of it – lives are at risk here.

If you say there was not enough consultation I beg to differ.. the city held information meetings in the DE and other areas of Vancouver.

Have you not had enough research and reports and picked to the brains on solutions for dealing with our drug problems in the Downtown Eastside – EVERYONE in Vancouver had opportunities to voice their opinions at any of the meetings.

By not coming to the DP hearings – your silence is your own doing and no one person is to blame for you not being heard.

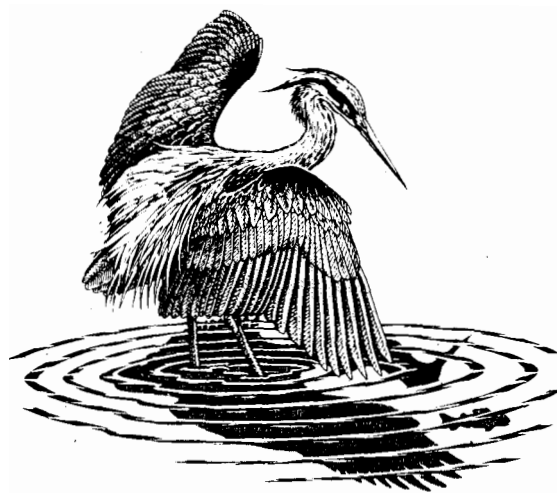
I pray that the DP be passed unanimously and hope it becomes reality effective immediately. I DO NOT want to see anymore deaths happen due to a problem with not being able to access treatment.

This plan might not cover all bases, but it is a start to helping deal with our drug situation in Vancouver.

Here is a copy of an email from Campbell River
 Hi there!

How could anyone refuse to approve this? It sounds wonderful - Lots of Luck to you in this initiative Margaret. (Just to show you how old I am - when I was in grade one our school went to the 'Carnegie Building' - except it was the museum then - filled with lots of scary bugs, mummies and stuff)
 Take care.

Anita C Peterson – her husband is the Mayor of Campbell River



[Following is a brief from Hansard, the transcript of the House of Commons in Ottawa]

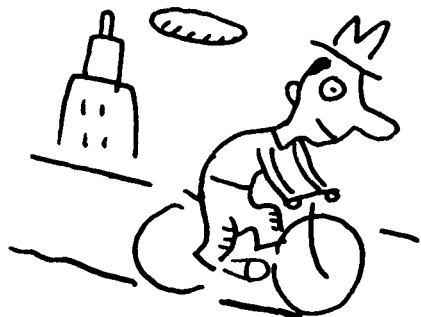
Ms. Libby Davies (Vancouver East, NDP):

Mr. Speaker, the recent poll in the *Vancouver Sun* is yet more evidence that Vancouverites are ready to embrace significant change in drug policy reform. It is long overdue.

When I first rose in the House in 1997, I spoke to the Minister of Health and told him about the devastation, pain and impact on crime and safety that are the result of Canada's drug laws. I also spoke about the health crisis in my riding of Vancouver East. After nearly four years of stalling and wrangling, it is time to take the volumes of studies and expert opinions and reform Canada's drug policies.

The Vancouver Agreement and the mayor's Framework For Action are a start. However I believe we need to go further if we are to save lives, reduce crime and improve the health in our communities.

In August 1998, I introduced a motion in the House of Commons calling on the government to set up clinical trials for a heroin prescription program. I implore the Minister of Health and the Minister of Justice to listen to the people of Vancouver and take the lead in changing Canada's drug strategy by bringing in heroin trials, safe injection sites and decriminalization for possession. [9 Feb 01]



Drug Courts are Coming...

and people cheer or groan.

Let's get some basic info up front.

1.) You are arrested for possession or trafficking. If it's selling and not commercial, meaning you're not a major business, you're still in; you can't have a history of psychosis or violence

2.) You go to court and are given a choice:

i) proceed on the charges like normal court, with a trial and so on. If you are convicted you go to jail, and all priors are taken into account in sentencing.

ii) enter the Drug Treatment Program. If you choose this, you give up virtually all your rights – there is no trial, you admit to being a drug addict, you must come back to court twice a week to answer questions you must have your urine tested (for anything – not just the drug you were caught with) as often as twice a week, you must go through detox and treatment and find stable housing and employment and avoid circumstances or situations where drug use may be encouraged (like drinking or being in nightclubs or bars or at parties).

3) You will be questioned by the same judge and there is a whole team of legal and health professionals who administer and monitor all participants, and their evaluation determines your position. The goal is to have you 'graduate' and be clean, sober, employed and living in stable housing. Cheers!

Now let's look at the reality.

If you are arrested and charged and go through the legal system, you have a right to a fair trial and the right against self-incrimination. If you fail to transform into a model citizen, are taken out of the program for non-compliance or dishonesty or testing positive in the random urine samples or withdraw or don't make it to court for the twice-weekly hearings or don't get/keep a job or can't find stable housing –

you are subject to a public shaming in court for your weakness or bad decisions or lack of money to even get transit to court. If the judge and team prosecutor decide you are hopeless then it's back to Day One and your trial proceeds on the original charge. Hmmm.

This is not brand new. Most articles on drug courts refer to its beginning in Florida and subsequent spread to many cities in the States. A Drug Court has been running in Toronto for over 2 years and a summary report has come out: There were 75 clients, people who chose the Drug Treatment Court Program; after 12 months of this, 32 were unsuccessful (had failed, withdrawn or been terminated from the program by authorities); of the remaining 43 clients, 42 were unable to graduate. One person graduated. After 16 months, dated to April 2000, 17 individuals had completed the program (graduated) and 42 were still in it (not having graduated yet). Being coldly observant, it could be said that the program costs \$3.06 million to administer (half on the Dept of Justice and half at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) and an additional \$1.4 million in actual treatment costs. This makes it roughly \$60,000 per participant.

Being coldly observant, it seems that the Drug Treatment Court Program is a colossal failure. Hmmm

Why is it being pushed and championed and applauded? Maybe it's the idealized result of forcing drug addicts to totally abstain, with good old law & order jail if they don't. This is what's favoured by many who see only complete prohibition/incarceration/black&white etc. The 'war on drugs' has certainly made it a colourful issue with 1-in-4 black males in the US involved in the criminal justice system (in prison, jail, on parole or probation), the incidence of poor people in jail is skyrocketing, drugs are involved in over 70% of convictions, prison construction is a major growth industry and Canada, with similar stats on Native people, is easily led into demonizing drug abuse with bad decisions by bad people who need to be forced to shape up and fly right whether they want to or not. Does this make sense?

Addiction is a health matter. Libby Davies, MP for Vancouver East, is opposed to Drug Courts. "The drug court is based on the premise that people

are somehow refusing treatment and therefore they have to be coerced into it," she said. "The reality is that people are desperate to get treatment. There are waiting lists, there are lineups. It's difficult to get into detox."

This is the crunch: it's hard to get treatment if you want it, if you plead and beg. You may have to wait for weeks or even months. How then are the limited treatment options going to be made immediately available to people under court order to get them and strictly comply for an indefinite time?

If you are an addict and want treatment, do you have to commit a drug crime in order to get to the top of the list and in before you relapse and die?

Jenny Kwan, local MLA, went to Toronto to observe their Drug Court and was in cabinet here when the decision was reached to go ahead with similar courts in BC. She made the following observations and suggestions:

- No money now used in treatment for people who voluntarily choose or demand it should be taken away to set up programs specifically for and limited to clients of such drug treatment court programs

- 40% of the budget in Toronto goes to pay for the constant urine-testing. If you hadn't signed away virtually all legal rights upon entry into this program, there is no legal way that you could be forced to submit to this kind of random testing. Many drug users have gainful employment, homes, families and imaginative lives. This intrusion on people's lives should just be stopped and the money re-allocated into real treatment.

- stable housing for drug users and addicts has to be a component of treatment. People who are homeless or without secure housing are shut out of care option but housing that requires sobriety (drug&alcohol free for 2 years) shuts them out completely.

- the 'success' criteria for graduating from the DTCP is too rigid. Total abstinence, stable housing, employment, right/acceptable living relationships all set up those with the disease of addiction to fail. The health aspects and harm reduction are simple reality.

- expand the treatment options available to clients. Given that drug courts are now going ahead willy-nilly, make it possible for people to see themselves involved and taking treatment that will help. Heroin substitution (methadone), low level access to many different methods including reduction rather than

enforced abstinence will keep hope alive.

- resources have to be available that go beyond those restricted to court-referred individuals. The way it's set up in Toronto has any social agency or treatment facility dealing with the general public being required to hold and turn in any client who has been deemed a failure by said Drug Court. This puts staff and even volunteers at such treatment places in the impossible position of trying to help addicts while under threat of being charged with aiding and abetting a fugitive.

- community representatives in the drug treatment system and necessarily working with the department of justice in this new program must be scrutinized.

Drug Court evaluations are biased in favour of total abstinence and community reps and agencies can be and are intimidated by the legal ramifications.

Drug Courts are a step, but the many users who want treatment seem to have been usurped by well-meaning health and legal professionals who simply, implicitly, *know* they know better.

By PAULR TAYLOR

Spirit Fires Aflame

Protecting your boundaries
Paying a high price
Guarding your borders
Being both desperate and nice.

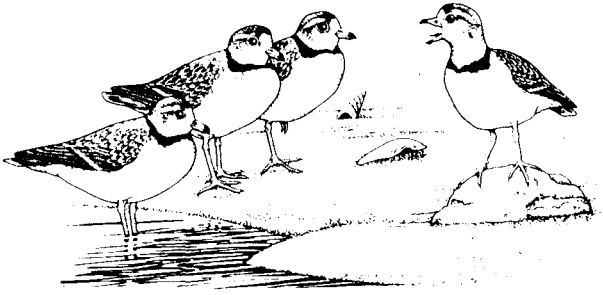
Keeping the land, that's your right!
You've lived here long before them
So always be vocal, never give up the fight
Parade a vigil, deep into the night.

Be who you are, not who they want you to be
Forever connected to your ancient roots
Mother Earth was not meant to be smothered
by asphalt and concrete
Rivers and streams were destined to flow free,
to take their own route.

It is your domain to do with as you wish
To care for and nurture – tear down the fences!
To travel easily to game, to be closed to the fish...
We will always be on guard, until
the transfer of title commences.

Robyn





The Interurban is an Idea Factory a place for the production of ideas

The Interurban means connecting communities.

What is it?

Throughout the history of the Downtown Eastside there have been thousands of great ideas that have stayed just great ideas. Over the past few years there have been an abundance of ideas that have had three things in common: they are creative and resourceful, they promote more independence financially and spiritually, and they lead to creating a healthier community. The Downtown Eastside is filled with people who know what it means to be creative, caring and committed, and The Interurban is about giving them a place to show it.

The Interurban is a multi-purpose community space where we can work together to create economic change in our community and spiritual change within ourselves. It's a place to create, exhibit, and sell artwork and crafts; A place to talk about ideas and make them happen; A place to learn and teach.

The Interurban is profoundly a place where we will celebrate and honour the individuals, cultures and histories of the people of our community.

Where is it?

Well, with a lot of hard work from some very hard working people, these ideas are going to have a place to live. The Interurban will be located at 1 East Hastings Street at the corner of Carroll and Hastings. Our total space is approximately 9,000 square feet. The building will have a central multipurpose space for production, performance, exhibition and many other possible uses. There'll also be a Gallery/ Shop on the main level. There are a number of rooms on the second floor available for program use or office space.

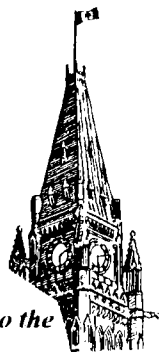
What do we need?

You, your ideas, skills, and a level of commitment

Some of the ideas that have been talked about for The Interurban are:

- Art Centre
- First Nations Art Centre and Gallery
- Healing Ceremonies
- Small appliance fix-it shop
- Sewing repair
- Embroidery, Weaving and knitting nights
- Street Theatre
- Gardens Medicine, Vegetable, Flower, Fruit Trees, music with found objects, a sound garden, with sculptures made from plants, wood, and metal.
- Planters of flowers, and murals in the alleys
- Video Production
- Photography
- Tool and art supplies library
- Opera
- A memorial wall
- Hanging baskets
- Music lessons
- Teaching of traditional First Nations' languages
- Gleaning project with farms
- Summer outdoor feasts in our parks
- Latin American Kite Festival
- An ever changing moveable graffiti wall that is documented each week and scanned to make silkscreen, cards, f-shirts, and comics
- Furniture building
- Set design and prop building
- Sound studio
- Mentor ship program with First Nations artists
- Dances, celebrations, carnivals, parades
- Farmers' Market
- A welding shop
- Sign painting and customized murals and many, many more, and more to come!

"Work without vision is drudgery, vision without work is daydreaming." D. Nahance



[From Hansard, and a good prelude to the announcement at the end - Ed.]

Ms. Libby Davies (Vancouver East, NDP):

First, I thank the people of Vancouver East who supported me and voted for me in my reelection.

I have to say that I came back with some anticipation and maybe even a little bit of eagerness that we might hear something new from the government side, that something from the Canadian people had resonated with the Prime Minister and government members in terms of what would be in the throne speech.

In listening to the throne speech the thing that I was paying attention to was whether the government would be willing to address what is truly a national crisis in our country: the growing gap between the rich and the poor

In question period I told the government that the growing inequality in our country, the growing poverty where more and more families are experiencing difficulty in paying the rent and finding work, or living on substandard wages, is a direct result of a decade of failed Liberal policies that have created this inequality. I must say that the throne speech failed miserably to address that issue in any substantial way.

One of the concerns I have is the reference to a national project on poverty which is nothing more than a new guise for a program that one could consider a workfare type of program, where low income parents on welfare would be motivated or compelled to work in the low wage ghettos and be subsidized. It is really a subsidization program for employers who provide very low wages.

That is the government's answer to dealing with poverty. It does not deal with the reality that one in six Canadians live below the poverty line. It does not deal with the reality that many aboriginal people are living in destitution and poverty on reserves as

well as off reserves.

The messages and the commitments in the throne speech were utterly disappointing in addressing what I believe is truly a national crisis.

The same goes for housing. Any organization that has dealt with this issue - national housing groups, housing advocates and people who deal on the front line - have said over and over again that what the government must do is get back into the housing supply program. There is no getting away from that simple straightforward fact.

Instead, what did we see in the throne speech? We saw one reference that the government will stimulate the creation of more affordable rental housing. What this says to me is that the government is now ready to begin a program of subsidizing developers. This is not a national housing strategy. This will not provide affordable housing for families, single people and seniors, the people who really need it....

It is particularly reprehensible when one considers that the finance minister [Paul Martin], sitting on a big fat surplus, 10 years ago in the opposition produced a very good housing report. The report called for a lot of the programs that people today are calling for. Does that minister believe in his own report that he wrote a decade ago? It is the kind of hypocrisy that makes Canadians feel very cynical about the political process.

As the spokesperson in our party on the issue of post-secondary education, I try to stay on top of what the government is doing or is not doing when it comes to helping students. I hear about the innovations of the high-tech future of Canada, the vision of the future and the knowledge based economy, but there is not a single reference to the crushing debt that students are facing in the country.

Why is Canada only one of three OECD countries without a national grants program? Why is the average student debt now \$25,000? Why have student loan bankruptcies increased 700% since 1989? It is because the government has abandoned post-secondary education. The retreat of public funding and the dramatic increase in tuition fees of about 240% is now hammering students. They are graduating into poverty. That is the Liberal answer to post-secondary education.

When it comes to issues of justice and equality, the throne speech had nothing to offer. I and the New

Democratic Party have very deep concerns about the vision of the government. We have concerns about the very role of government. It's changed its vision of helping people, of providing a social safety net and of strengthening democracy. It has now become the propaganda machine for globalization.

We were also looking for references that would deal with the threats of corporate globalization, that would respond to the concerns of Canadians on the Free Trade Area of the Americas. These trade agreements weaken our democracy. Again, the throne speech was silent on this matter.

We in the New Democratic Party see this as the most pressing issue before us. Whether we are talking about health care, education, culture or our very democratic foundation, we are threatened by globalized trade agreements that are literally transferring power from democratically elected governments to private corporations that have no accountability. The government is allowing that to take place.

We are just a small group but we will be a very strong force in taking on this issue in parliament and challenging the government on its agenda. [Feb 2001]

FLASH The Council of Canadians is a national organisation coordinating the struggle against corporate globalisation. Both **Maude Barlow** and **Tony Clarke** will be speaking at **Christ Church Cathedral, Georgia & Burrard, Saturday, March 3 at 7:30pm.** It's a free event.

They will be promoting their new book Global Showdown and giving insight and information on the upcoming Free Trade Area of the Americas forum in Quebec City in April. It is already being touted as the most massive security operation that the RCMP has ever been involved in. Think of the demonstrations against the WTO (World Trade Organization) in Seattle. It makes the APEC summit in Vancouver look tame.

FRIDAY, March 2, 7-10

DJ MIX

FEEL LIKE DANCING

Refreshments - Carnegie



In a trailer somewhere a baby is born

The Sioux are freezing in South Dakota
The 9 white buffalo calves don't help much
against the cold, the beer, Mom & Dad fighting
The Navajo have over 250,000 members on the rolls
And I'm a trailer-trash poet in search of identity
I've chosen to be a Four Corners man, despite that

The Mohawks are sleeping tight tonight
The QPP are always nervous.. I like that
The whole police state ought to get nervous..
sooner the better..

Since I have no culture, no father, no history
I can bloody well be whoever, whatever I choose
And I can't change the colour of my skin
My spirit is all I have and that is brown
I chose to join the indigenous people of the world
armed against the New World Order.

While people sleep under freeways, bums freeze,
junkies live and die in the next alley over
I stand with the dispossessed, the HIV victim, the
cancer-ridden, all of us on guaranteed poverty list
Until they decide to get rid of all of us I'll be around
Reminding you we owe it to ourselves, our children,
to make this world a place worth living in -
a place you could call home.

the paranoia of city life
Stop the ripoff, stop the violence, stop killing each
other.

Al Loewen

Frankenstein - Lonesome Monster

Hollywood got Frankenstein all wrong. According to Boris Karloff's film, Frankenstein was a bad guy because he had been given the brain of a criminal. In other words, he was born, or created, bad. This explanation for Frankenstein's destructiveness uses the inadequate argument of biological determinism. Bad genes made Frankenstein bad. The argument is inadequate because it leaves out all the terrible things that happened to Frankenstein after he was created. This "biological determinism" argument by itself is both simplistic and dangerous. In the past 500 years, the narrow argument of biological determinism has justified racism, sexism and classism, and has falsely condemned, to a miserable existence, millions of people who have committed no crime except to be members of a despised and excluded race, gender, class or group. (1)

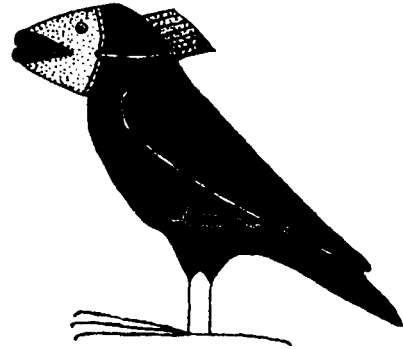
Mary Shelley published the book, Frankenstein, in 1818, when she was 19 years old. Her Frankenstein was very different from the Hollywood version. Mary Shelley's Frankenstein wanted to relate to people in a positive way. He learned French while hiding underneath the house of a noble family reduced to poverty. His three favourite books were Plutarch's Lives, Goethe's Sorrows of Young Werther, and Milton's Paradise Lost. Compassion and respect could have put Frankenstein on the path to a decent life. Fear and hysterical rejection by his creator/parent, Victor Frankenstein, and most other people, drove him to isolation, fury and revenge.

Frankenstein became destructive because human beings rejected him violently and unjustly. In his outward form he was different from them, and they could not accept this difference. His resulting loneliness became unbearable. "I knew that I possessed no money, no friends, no kind of property," he said. "I was...endowed with a figure hideously deformed and loathsome...Was I then a monster...from which all men fled, and whom all men disowned?"

When Frankenstein presented himself to the blind old father in the household above his hiding place, the two of them talked together with respect and dignity. Then the man's son appeared, and drove Frankenstein away immediately. "I am malicious because I am miserable; am I not shunned and hated by all mankind?" Frankenstein said. "Shall I respect man when he condemns me? Let him live with me in

Reading at Vancouver Public Library

Sandy Cameron will be reading from his book Sparks from the Fire on Monday, March 5, at 7:30pm. This event will be at the Central Branch, 350 W. Georgia, in the Alma VanDusen Room on the lower level. Admission is free.



the interchange of kindness, and instead of injury, I would bestow every benefit upon him with tears of gratitude at his acceptance."

Mary Shelley's Frankenstein is a moral tale. Frankenstein's creator/parent abandoned him at first sight. He reneged on his responsibility to care for Frankenstein, and to help others see the intelligent, caring being behind someone who was different. Other people just reacted unthinkingly to Frankenstein's appearance. They denied him dignity and respect, therefore reinforcing the negative image in Frankenstein himself. The worst thing that can happen to members of a minority group is to become what the negative image of them says that they are. (2) The violence of Frankenstein was created by the violence of the society that rejected him.

Stephen Jay Gould ended his essay on Frankenstein by quoting Charles Darwin, one of the most important thinkers of the past 200 years: "If the misery of the poor be caused not by the laws of nature, but by our institutions, great is our sin." (1)

By SANDY CAMERON

(1) "The Monster's Human Nature," an essay in Dinosaurs In A Haystack, by Stephen Jay Gould, Crown TradePaperbacks, 1995. Gould's essay is the basis of my article.

(2) Invitation To Sociology, by Peter L. Berger, Anchor Books, 1963.

Hopes

Confusion and fright,
Hatred and fear,
Running from evil,
The devil is near.

Looking at fun,
Wishing I had,
No more running,
No reason to be mad.

The tears are leaving,
The pain has gone,
The laughter is coming,
And it's singing a song.

Sher Robinson

Obsession

I'm sick of this shit,
I need some help.
Please come save me,
And throw me a rope.

The truth will come,
Only time can tell,
If being so hurt
Is actually hell.

My new story is starting,
I'm ready to work.
The trouble is parting
From this outstanding hurt.

The hurdles are there,
I'm ready to jump,
Just give me a push,
I'm getting pumped.

My life isn't great,
But this is a start,
Just give me a minute
So obsession and I can part.

Sher Robinson



Lunch

I'll walk outta here someday soon
soon as the methadone runs out so do I
You can die here if that's your intention
I'm going up in the hills, start anew
make my life a new invention

A teepee or a cave or a semi-submerged Hogan
the shelter don't matter – warm and dry
a hole in the roof to let the smoke of
ganja, sweetgrass, sage & smoke
maybe a trailer... I don't care

I'll be walking out, not carried out
You can't win the war; better to stay alive
somewhere up in the West Kootenays
Ccity living's got a lot of style
but it leaves me having to remember to smile
You can't win or even come even, losing ground
Time to get outta Dodge before Dodge has me for
lunch

Al Loewen



Moving On

Life will get better,
But I can't seem to wait,
Something is preventing me,
To stop,
And open the gate.
I wish everything would go away,
Let me go on,
I want to stay.
I've gotta move on,
Leave my life behind.
Learn to get better,
And start to be kind.
This incredible force
Just won't leave me be,
I need to open my eyes,
There's so much left to see.

Sher Robinson

Dreams

When I open my eyes
I can suddenly visualize
That I've put away all my dreams
All just to sit there and scream
I want to change the past
Put away all the hate
but god looks over me
and says I'm too late

My thoughts are turning sane
hopefully soon
I can get rid of this pain
maybe even start to have fun
So this awful war
can finally be won.

Sher Robinson

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.

2001 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$39
Sam R.-\$30 Nancy W.-\$4 Eve E.-\$4
Margaret D.-\$30 Shyamala G.-\$2
Joy T.-\$14 Val A.\$20 Wm B-\$4
Harold D.-\$7 Pam-\$6 Mary C-\$30
Rolf A.-\$75 Bruce J.-\$34 Peggy -\$25
Kettle -\$2 Sonya S.-\$120 BCTF-\$9
Nancy H.-\$19 Bill G.-\$130 Wes K.-\$14
DEYAS-\$150 RayCam-\$ LSS-\$
Wisconsin Historical Society -\$
Heather S.-\$2 John S-\$34 Paddy -\$60
Rockingguy - \$30 Anonymous -\$103

FREE - donations accepted

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

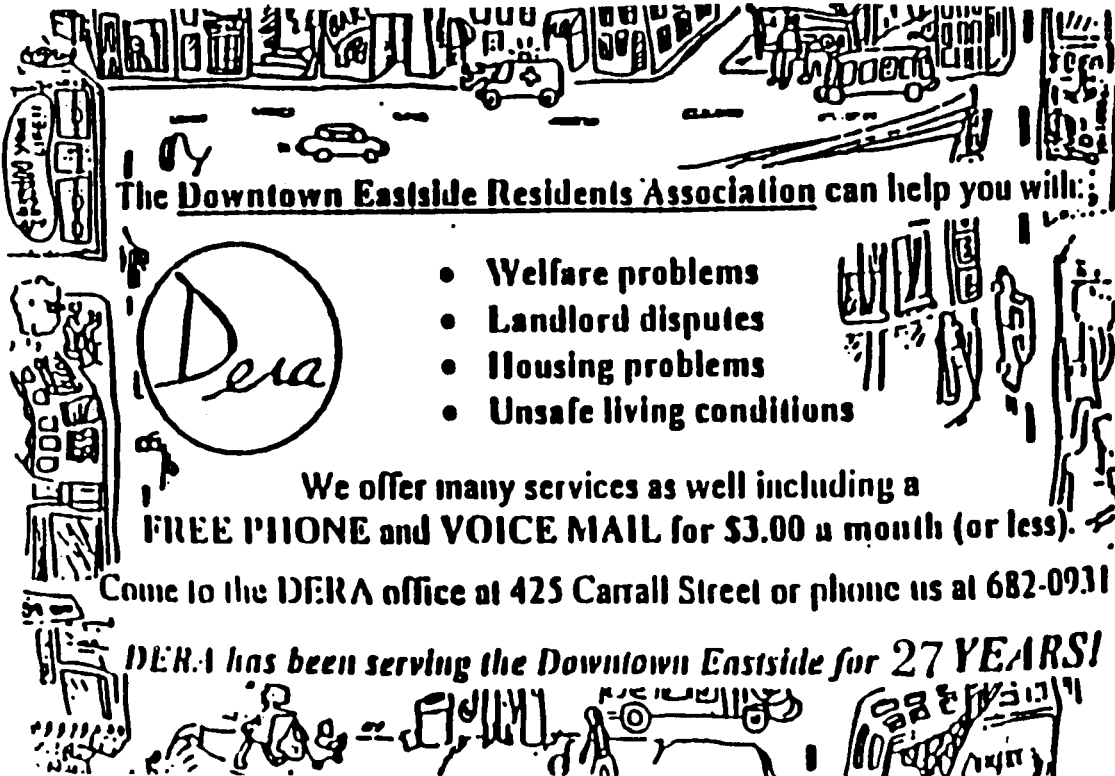
401 Main Street, V6A 2T7 665-2289

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

Monday, March 12



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!

Development Permit Board Hearing

Dear Sirs:

Re: Health Board's First Focus in the DTES

I am enthusiastically in support of this application. I speak on my own behalf, and not for any organization I may be affiliated with.

I have been involved with this city's drug dilemma ever since the chief coroner, Vince Cain, came out with his 1994 report on the shocking drug overdose statistics and solid recommendations on how to turn it around. Here we are 7 years later, and it's only become worse – much worse for both the addicted and the surrounding communities. Shame on us.

Vince Cain may have been the catalyst for my activism, but Bobbie Kennedy was my inspiration. During his office as Attorney General, and his offensive on organized crime, he said: *"Every society gets the kind of criminal it deserves. What is equally true is that every community gets the kind of law enforcement it insists on."*

With that quote in mind, plus Cain's report and a growing deterioration of my neighbourhood, I became involved in Community Policing, eventually resulting in the opening of our CPC in 1995. Though some still see us as in the pocket of police, most realize we really are just members of the



community who partner with police to solve our problems. Our biggest problem stems from drug addiction which accounts for 80% of crimes to property in Vancouver. I also traveled to Germany last year to visit their Drug Crises Centres. They are 10 years ahead of us, but we can and should be learning from them. We could be where they are in 5 years – because they were the experiment and we

can benefit from their experience and mistakes.

The DTES is also a community. It is chock full of helpers as well as those needing help. The huge sums of money being poured into a plethora of agencies to help the growing dysfunctional community is astonishing – especially when it just gets worse. It's no wonder the surrounding Strathcona, Gastown residents and Chinatown merchants are fed up, suspicious and refusing to take it any longer.

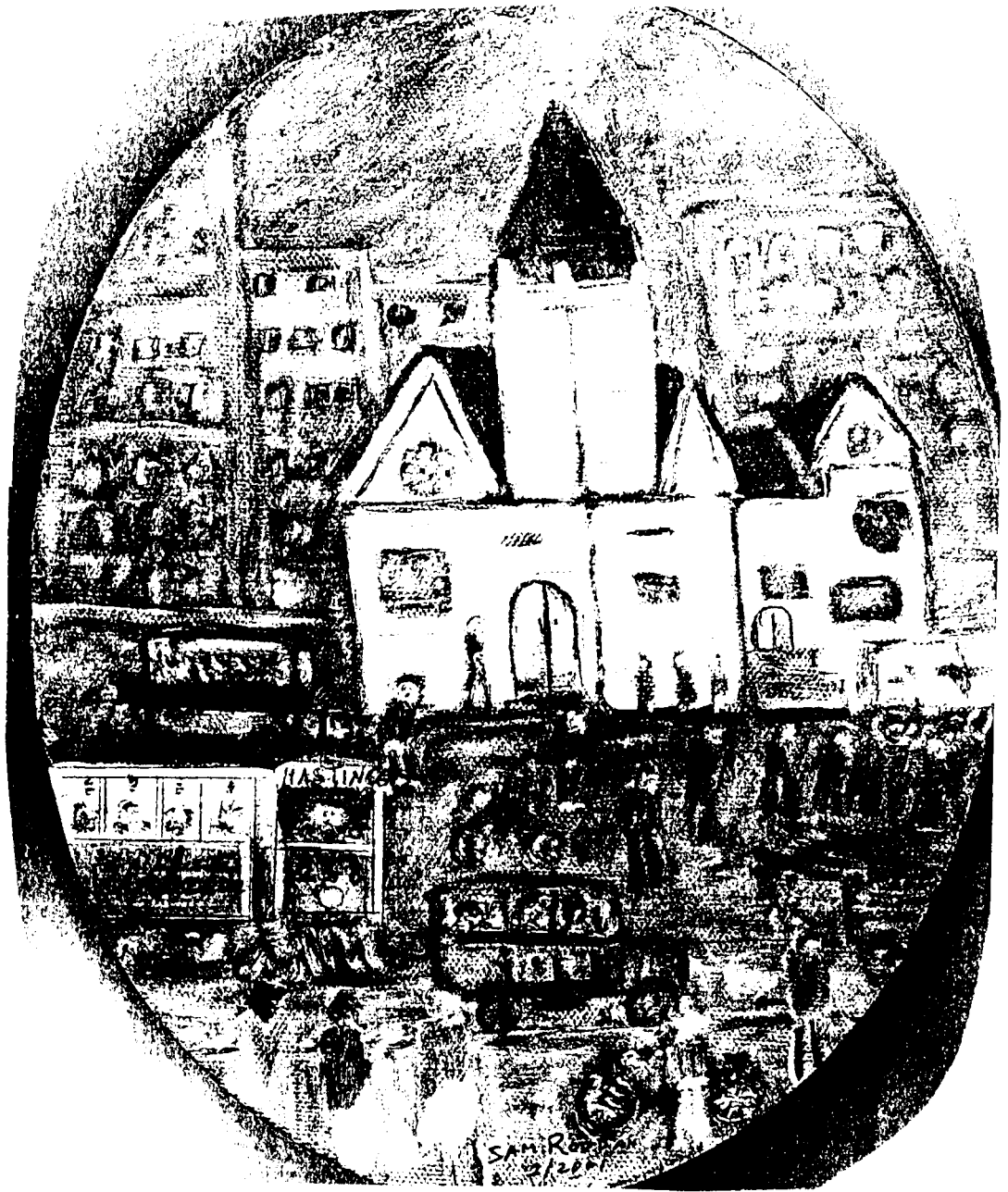
The irony however, is that for the first time there is *a plan of action and a budget* that has been agreed upon and approved by four levels of government – the City, Health Board, Provincial and Federal Governments.. five if you count the police department. This is unprecedented and completely outside the many agencies operating in the DTES. This is a cohesive, collaborative plan developed through years of research all over the world. At last we have something tangible to try, a few baby steps to take toward something that has proven very successful in other countries. An action plan that will be accountable to the larger community. So what's stopping us?

Fear and distrust. And here's the tragedy. The folks living and working closest to the open drug scene, the people who are most victimized, aside from the addicts themselves, are the very folks who present the greatest barrier to this plan going ahead. It's like cutting off your nose to spite your face. They are fighting the very thing that will help them. They say they just want the police to "do their job".

Well I'm sorry, but their idea of how the police should do their job has failed miserably. The "War on Drugs" has not worked. In fact it creates more profits for the dealers and increases crime throughout our communities because the police are constantly confiscating quantities of drugs from the addicts which results in them having to steal more to replace what the police took. The only winners are the dealers. We must start making contact with the addicts in order to move them toward treatment – whatever type of treatment might work for them.

The City, V/RHB and other levels of government must be brave in the face of this resistance and take the high road to do what most of us understand **MUST BE DONE**. To continue to sit on the fence would be the greatest tragedy of all. Like the book says, *Just Do It!*

ML Burke



ANCIENT HISTORY

Heritage seems irrelevant when you're down and almost out...but remembrance of things past has its own rewards. In the early 30s I drove street cars. For years I took up the collection in my Dad's mission church.. I knew the hang-outs of the famous rubby dubs in the lane behind the Empress theater that once stood at Gore and Hastings...Today, ancient landmarks have vanished ...Mission churches have come and gone. Old friends and rubby dubs too, have long bit the dust....But life "the way it was "(and could be) still burns bright, still palpable in the heritage of youth.

Sam Roddan

sunday morning light

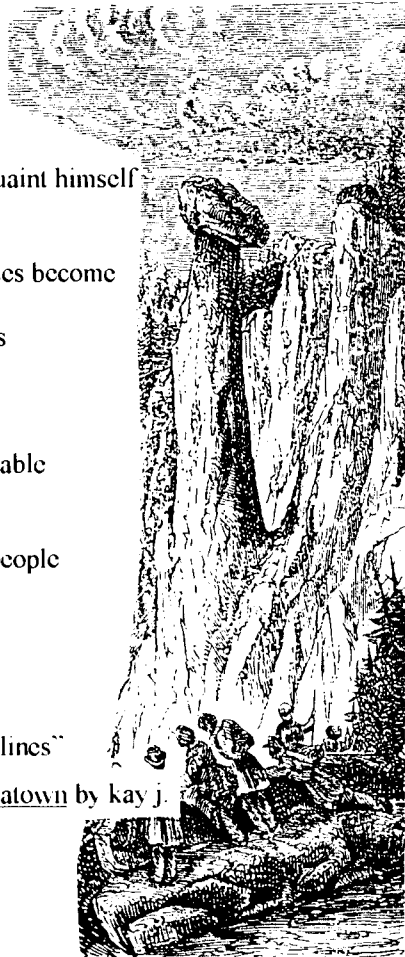
a documentary poem

john mackelvie
a member of parliament
speaking to parliament
about what he called
"the drug evil..."

"if any member wishes to acquaint himself
with how degraded
human nature
may under certain circumstances become
all he has to do
is visit certain oriental quarters
in british columbia cities
where he will find
a condition of filth and vice
vice which must be unmentionable
before audiences such as this
which ought to convince him
that the fewer of this class of people
that any country has
within its bounds
the better it will be
for its people
and for its civilization
to progress upon really proper lines"

(quoted from vancouver's chinatown by kay j.
anderson)

this speech
and many others like it
fueled anti-chinese hatred
and chinatown was called
"a plague"
because of opium dens
and "white women" made drug slaves
and led directly
in 1922
to amending the opium and narcotic drug act
to provide for the deportation
of "aliens" found guilty
of any
drug offense



I walk out of my building on union street
in chinatown
and enter the alley
it's a bright clear blue sunlit morning
2 older chinese women
laugh and chat and take their time
examining cast-off appliances
and not 10 feet from them
a man with long hair
holds his arm out
takes his time
and injects himself with drugs
a friend walking with me
calls this peaceful urban tableau
"sunday morning light"

the low income people of chinatown
and of the downtown eastside
are both oppressed
and rather than oppress each other
must join together
and work out a common plan
a place to stand
and say to the politicians
"this is what WE need
and what WE demand
because there is nowhere else
for us to go!"

a prominent chinatown leader
said to me very recently:

"the politicians don't give a shit
about the chinese
or the natives"

he's right

and unless we raise shit together
instead of clashing against each other
we will further weaken ourselves
and be easily run over
by political and economic decisions
not of our own making

so let's ignite
and let's fight
for sunday morning light
we can all endure

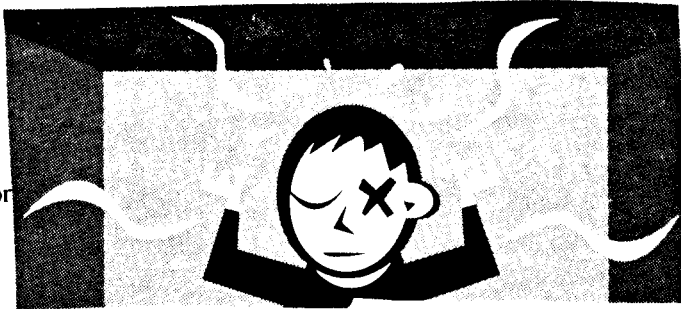
Bud Osborn

Report on the Development Permit (DP) By the time you read this, the Development Permit Hearings on the 5-prong approach to drugs will have concluded. Last issue a call was printed for people to write in and express views on the whole approach. What came in were copies of presentations that a few people made to the DP Board at the Plaza Hotel. They are in this issue.

There were over 600 people signed up to speak and the hearings were spread over 3 days to let anyone who wanted to speak do so. Out of the first 525 names, 122 spoke in favour and 26 were opposed. The rest didn't show up. Behind the scenes we have Brice Rositch, Sue Bennett, Lynne Bryson, Brigit Snider and various hangers-on meeting with the Mayor trying to pressure him into taking this whole matter to City Council. These salt+pepper shakers behind the so-called Community Alliance are running into process, kind of like the community and Woodwards, where a DP Board makes a decision that is at "arm's length" from political influence. This handful think they have an armlock on the NPA Nominating Board and can threaten the political careers of any sitting member of Council who doesn't vote the way they want. Hence their obsession with making this an item for a Council vote. At the actual hearings, there was clear favour shown to the minority of people against the whole 4-pillar approach of Prevention, Treatment, Enforcement and Harm Reduction.

Two of the 22 opposed pumped their numbers by getting up twice, claiming to be speaking the second time for someone who couldn't or wouldn't come. One person, Charles Lee (Chinatown Merchants Association), spoke 3 times. The fairness - Leith Harris was asked to make a 2nd presentation on behalf of a single mother who couldn't arrange for day-long childcare, and was berated and criticized for "trying to speak twice."

The so-called alliance had a meeting at which the RCMP person on their US-influenced drug strategy, Chuck Doucette, got applause for saying that "harm reduction is a joke" and that the only way to deal with drugs is enforcement and prevention, with mandatory treatment secondary. Doucette came to Carnegie a few days ago to talk about this.



[He was misquoted on the "joke" statement..]

It was a small meeting, requested to hear why the RCMP would have a representative speak at a Community Alliance fundraiser. Doucette said he'd met with reps claiming to be part of this so-called alliance, and they wanted to have a forum with experts on Prevention, Treatment and Enforcement - emphasizing the 3 pillars that they perceive as being important. (not just the Harm Reduction aspect that they don't agree with and which they perceive has been given too much weight). They were going to have a fundraiser for this forum. He was asked to come with info about Canada's Drug Strategy. Two days before he was told the speaker had cancelled and could he be one of the main speakers?

When he arrived there wasn't a small group of concerned citizens but over 700 people, from many locations in the lower Mainland. He said he was shocked but gave his talk, which with translation took 10 minutes.

The RCMP doesn't support heroin maintenance or safe injection sites, seeing them as a cop-outs for governments to say they have done all that's necessary. The perception here was that the RCMP had been either complicit in taking the alliance side or duped into appearing to do so. (Doucette said that it may have been the latter.)

The meeting here got into social services, poverty, housing, health, gentrification, prevention, DARE and the law. Politics and the connections of the alliance wannabees was elaborated on. Drug Courts were mentioned and the differences kept coming to "let's not just sit and argue" and how the police seem to be at the beck and call of Rositch and gaggle.

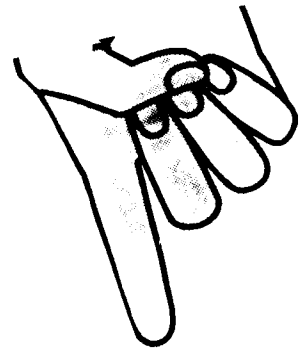
It ended with more shared respect and plans to talk further.. on drug courts and housing and 4 pillars, and half the people left to go to the last day of hearings; Doucette said he was going to speak in favour of the 5-prong initiative.

It's bizarre when media dutifully reports meagrams that the titular heads of organisations have about the 'conspiracy' of drug supporters and addicts to intimidate them. "I picked up the phone and no one was there! It must have been a drug addict trying to warn me to shut up!!" It's equally bizarre when anyone in favour of harm reduction and expanding treatment and prevention education and enforcement as a holistic package is automatically a drug user or pro-drug. This is ridiculous. Distortion of numbers – the CBC faithfully aired a story stating that 500 people opposed to the Framework for Action and the Development Permit showed up at the hearings. The actual number was 22. When the so-called Alliance had its march, the promised 'thousands' became 150 and 6 busloads from Richmond to pump their numbers to maybe 400. The media still used 1500... It gets tiresome when national media continue to refer to the "7000 drug addicts in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside" when the entire population of this community is maybe 12-14,000...

Meetings with Council members has them trying so hard to not take a stand, so if it does come to them for a final vote, they won't be caught by the NPA Nominating Board (there's that pesky thing again) with foot-in-mouth disease.

It is a given that the so-called Alliance will appeal the DP Board's decision. Then there are the 'Good Neighbour Agreements' that each part of the 5-prong initiative will be required to get. As one speaker said, when there was outrage from residents of Shaughnessy over a proposed Seniors Home in that wealthy neighbourhood, there was more opposition than at these current hearings, but the permit was granted anyway and no Good Neighbour Agreements at all were required. Why are we being treated so differently? Could it be (gasp) political? Or is it just cover your ass...

By PAULR TAYLOR



The Power of Prayer

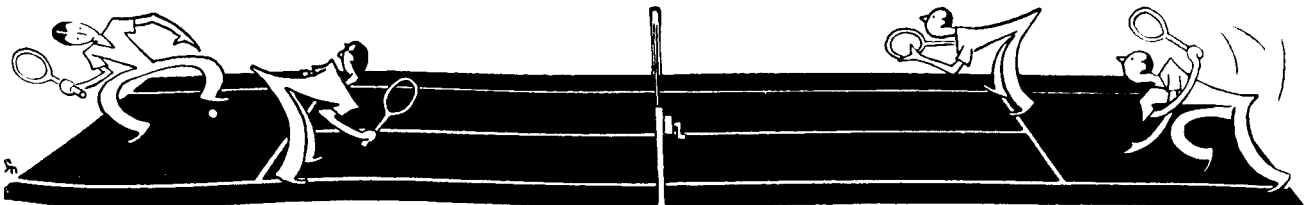
I kissed a frog into a prince
But he turned back
To his natural amphibian state
after many years
My kisses having lost their original magic.

Being pig-headed - and maybe pig-ignorant too,
I prayed to St. Jude
To help me with this lost cause –
It being his area of influence.

Now froggie appears a prince once more
Tenuously held up by prayer and pig-headedness
To be kind, generous, and handsome –
Qualities unnatural to my dear frog.
In hard times, and these were hard times.

I never learned from the past,
I guess I think change happens
And then remains fixed in place.
Some say the most beautiful thing is what you love
best.

Wilhelmina



Thanks



Dear Paul R Taylor and Carnegie Newsletter people.

Congratulations on another fine, successful year of putting out the Newsletter! I particularly enjoyed the series of articles on Rositch and the Community Alliance. If it weren't for the Newsletter, the truth wouldn't be out there. Please find enclosed a cheque for \$-- for another year's subscription to the Newsletter. Thanks!

Yours sincerely,

Rolf Auer

Dear Paul Taylor! Carnegie Newsletter,

We have greatly appreciated receiving the newsletters over the past several months and feel it is the single most important vehicle around for communicating and sharing information in the neighbourhood. Your dedication to getting this newsletter out is admirable. There are many of us here in the Edge who are working in the community, offering our services, and volunteering with different organizations. In the future we hope to be able to organize events to support the efforts of others in the area. At this time we would like to offer you this donation of \$--- to help you to continue your fine work and would like to request that 25 (or more if you can spare them) copies be delivered to us from this point on.

Thank you.

Jayce Salloum for,

The Edge Community Liaison Committee

Dear Paul,

I have just finished reading my Carnegie Newsletter that I received. As always, I enjoy getting it but this issue is particularly TERRIFIC. Your excellently written, clearly argued "Democracy in Action" article is wonderful. It is better than anything I have ever read in any newspaper with the odd exceptional piece in the Manchester Guardian. Enclosed is a token of my appreciation. Keep up the good work.

In Solidarity,

Paddy

**There was a decent letter from Margaret Davies that has been eaten by a file cabinet. It helps keep us on the track of the beast to know that it keeps other people inspired. It's heartening to be ridiculed and complained about and vilified as a "yellow rag" by minions of this beast, but the odd little whisper that ye olde Carnegie Newsletter is a gem, a jewel of the Downtown Eastside, keeps us inspired too. Baba Nam Kevalam

Paul R Taylor, volunteer editor.