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CARNEGIE



NEWSLETTER

MAY 1, 2001

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



A Letter From Jenny Kwan

Dear Downtown Eastside residents,

Regardless of the outcome of the coming election, it is clear that the people of the province want change. The question is what kind of change, and what will this change mean for working families, low income people, women, and our aboriginal communities.

In Vancouver Mount Pleasant and the Downtown Eastside we have an entire community that has been constantly striving for change to address the most serious social problems in this province.

The change we need must bring greater social justice.

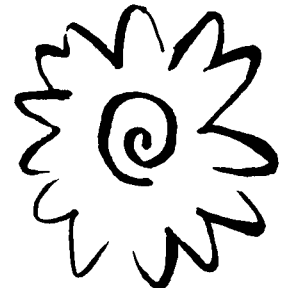
We must have more affordable housing. We must have more resources to address the social crisis of drug use and the HIV/AIDS/HepC crisis. We must have action on poverty. We must have justice for aboriginal communities. We need change for the environment and more democracy for local communities in the face of globalization.

How does any of this fit with the prospect of a Liberal government headed by Gordon Campbell? Community activists, environmentalists, the women's movement, and labour know that if Gordon Campbell becomes Premier, the next five years will be full of struggles.

In Vancouver Mount Pleasant and the Downtown Eastside, we have kept up a relentless struggle for social justice. Today, our goal and my pledge is to ensure that the social needs of this community will not and can not be ignored.

I want to invite you to join us in this campaign for social justice in our community.

Sincerely,
Jenny Wai-Ching Kwan



Here are just a few highlights of what the residents of the Downtown Eastside have gained with JENNY KWAN's help:

Poverty

Jenny Kwan has devoted her political career to fighting poverty. A recent major breakthrough for low income families: the clawback of the federal child tax credit has been eliminated. This means \$72 per month MORE per child for families on welfare.

And more: \$300 MORE per month for disabled persons with HIV/AIDS.

And for children in poor families, there is now free dental and optical care. Finally - real steps towards addressing child poverty!

Jenny will continue to fight for a substantial increase in welfare rates, with rates indexed to the cost of living. She will fight to restore hardship and crisis grants, to raise the minimum wage, to provide BC transit passes for people on welfare, and to make pharmacare, dental care, and affordable housing a priority for BC.

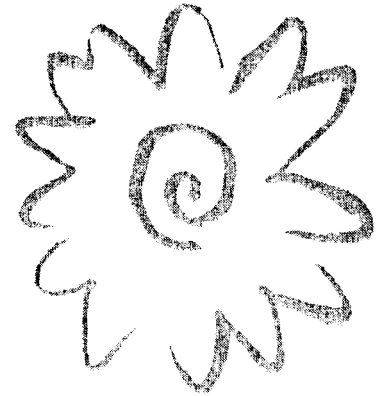
Housing

The NDP government has a strong track record in building non-profit housing. Since 1994, the province has built 7100 units of affordable housing in BC, and another 1800 units are pending.

In February, Jenny Kwan helped celebrate the opening of 78 native housing units at Pender and Carrall. In April, another 800 units of housing were announced in cooperation with the Lookout Emergency Shelter. There are many other examples of housing that Jenny helped secure in our community.

They include: Bridge Housing for Women (48 units), City Gate Housing Co-op (102 units), Lore Krill Housing Co-op (213 units), and more!

Jenny will continue to fight for more funding for affordable housing.



Woodwards

On March 1, 2001, the Province of British Columbia became the proud owner of the Woodward building. Woodward will house 275 units on non-profit housing, as well as being a centre for social and economic activity.

Working with community activists and residents over this long and emotional battle, Jenny Kwan was instrumental in ensuring that this historical landmark will serve the community for the years to come. For Jenny, who angered the previous owner and faced charges for painting daisies on hoarding, this is a wonderful end to an emotional campaign.

Community Safety and Drugs

Community safety and an effective drug strategy are urgent issues in the Downtown Eastside. Jenny Kwan supports the comprehensive "four pillars" approach which combines enforcement, treatment, harm reduction, and prevention to ease the crisis.

As the Minister responsible for the Vancouver Agreement, Jenny has negotiated \$14 million to fund new initiatives under this approach. These are positive accomplishments, but just a start toward the long range solutions to this overwhelming social problem. Jenny Kwan has taken a stand to protect the whole Downtown Eastside community.

Jenny will continue to fight for treatment on demand for addicts, the development of a preventative community-based education program on drug abuse, an increase in funding for affordable housing and other social measures that will help users get out of the addiction cycle.

Aboriginal Rights

3

Jenny Kwan has worked hard to meet the needs of aboriginal people and their organizations. As part of the Vancouver Agreement, Jenny helped the United Native nations win funding for a community organizer. She also helped provide funding to create and aboriginal artists cooperative to help young Native artists. And she helped the Carnegie get money to build two new Pow Wow drums!

Jenny has been a tireless advocate for native housing. The 78 units of native housing at Pender and Carroll is the third native housing project Jenny has helped deliver for our community.

Jenny stands for the preservation of the treaty agreements which were negotiated in good faith to win justice for aboriginal peoples. Jenny will continue to fight for more affordable housing for urban native communities and for an overhauling of the Ministry of Children and Families to address the social conditions of aboriginal people. She will fight for continued support for First Nations' organizations in Vancouver and other urban centres.



The list of things we have gained with Jenny's help goes on:

- * Sunrise dental clinic
- * Interurban Arts project
- * Educational resource centre for Humanities 101
- * Common Concerns community run laundry
- * New facility for Co-op radio
- * Facility upgrade and emergency child care services at Crabtree corner
- * New child care facilities at Raycam
- * Portland Cafe set up by Save our Living Environment
- * Women's training programs at the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
- * and on and on....

SO GET OUT AND VOTE FOR JENNY!!

ELECTION DAY IS WEDNESDAY MAY 16.

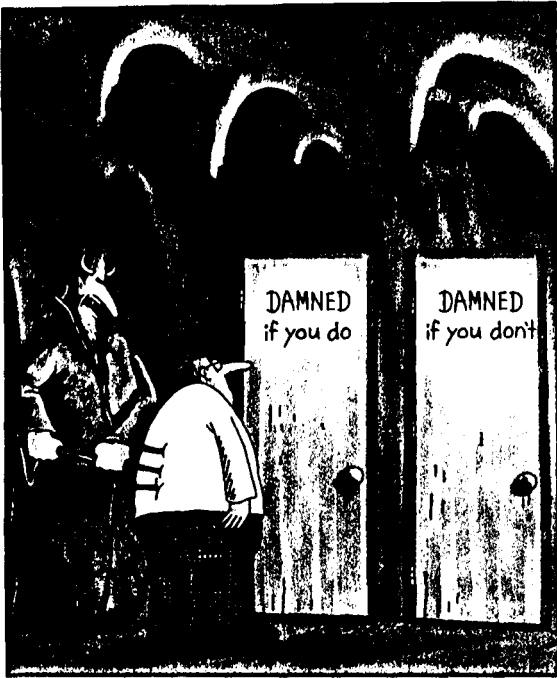
Advance polls will also be open on Wednesday May 9th, Thursday May 10th, Friday May 11th, and Saturday May 12th.

To vote, you need a piece of ID with a photo on it and another with your address.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ARRANGE A RIDE TO YOUR POLL, CALL JENNY'S CAMPAIGN OFFICE AT 251-4900.

VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED TO HELP WITH THE CAMPAIGN!!! So please give us a call if you have a few hours to spare, or just come on down to our office on the corner of Hastings and Glen, across from the Pink Pearl restaurant.





"C'mon, c'mon—it's either one or the other."

NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWS

*It seems to be a quirk of human nature. Antipathy (bad feelings, letting one incident colour everything, feeling or being left out or not respected, having knowledge or experience that is somehow being discounted... and more) between an individual or group and another individual or group can make for reactions that never get healed.

It's part of life in the Downtown Eastside. What's hard to take in stride is being castigated as an "idiot, incompetent, sucked in, conned, a government pawn or 'you just have no idea what's really going on'."

Carnegie is now the target of a human rights 'investigation', according to an article written by Charlie Smith in the *Georgia Straight*. John Turvey, director of DEYAS, is quoted as being the instigator, after hearing a tale from a woman denied entry to Carnegie. He rails against the admissions rules that, according to his source, deny drug users entry just for being drug users.

A quote from a memo authored by John Ferguson, head of Security at Carnegie, directly contradicts this assertion: "Junkies are not denied entry just for being junkies."

Smith got a quote from Michael Clague, Carnegie's director, saying that there is a review happening right now (it started over 3 months ago) of all Admissions rules, criteria, and processes. Criticism is welcome, but constructive stuff helps.

What has gotten to many people, especially those directly involved in working the front door and the administration, is the nature of Turvey's actions. It's like being called not competent or incompetent and then told to like it. Nowhere in Smith's writing does he give the reasons for the Admissions policy, or say that one of the benefits of this community centre is as a straight and sober atmosphere for people to rebuild their lives. There's no reference to ongoing work under very difficult conditions, that happens 7 days a week 365 days a year, on keeping the open drug market and related states of influence kindled by participation in it outside the doors.

The Review Committee for Admissions meets regularly. People involved right now include staff, Association members, patrons, community reps, drug users and local residents. One of its activities is a survey of people both inside and outside the Centre, asking for opinions on the current practice of requiring patrons to be straight and sober for entry. Also under review is the practice of excluding those dealing and/or using right outside and then wanting to come in to eat or hang out.

Like anything, this review happens in a timely manner and is healthy. The residual effects of Turvey's statements may be around for a while, as the outside changes and Carnegie is not transformed into a burn ward for people drinking or using.

There were a couple of letters in the last *Straight* in response to Smith's article, each ridiculing Turvey for being so sensitive to the plight of junkies. Their take implies that everything DEYAS and Carnegie do in the name of harm reduction is a colossal waste – and as always leaves any attempts at solutions to the dark side.

The Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Vancouver see a different view of John Turvey, naming him **Friend of Youth 2000**. Turvey was given this award at a dinner recently, and was honoured for "fighting tooth and nail for bettering the lives of youth in Vancouver."

*Yes there's an election. Yes, there is an implicit endorsement here of Jenny Wai Ching Kwan for re-

election as our MLA.

"Everyone has an opinion, but is it informed?" The NDP has done what it's done, and the corporate media has been lined up against their government since day one. It's hard to get a picture of anything when it's a requirement – even an obligation – for whatever is written or broadcast to give the worst possible spin on events or decisions. This is not whining, it's just fact. Witness such bottom-feeders as Michael Smyth in the *Province* and his clone, Vaughn Palmer in the *Vancouver Sun*, getting brownie points from Conrad Black and the Business Council on National Issues for puking on the page. Witness Tony Parsons and Gordon Campbell's brother giving "unbiased" reports on BCTV that, after investigation, are manufactured by Campbell's Liberals and funded by the Fraser Institute hacks.

In this riding we have Jenny Kwan, who as a member of cabinet has worked hard for this area. She didn't resign in protest over the direction taken by her colleagues with BC Benefits changes, and that may or will make a number of people angry. Don't be fooled, though. At the beginning of this piece, I touched on the concept of "antipathy" – keep your perspective and weigh consequences.

Gordon Campbell is touted as the "premier-in-

waiting" and the election is his to lose. For this very reason, he is being smothered by trainers and handlers and spin doctors, all determined to keep him on a pre-planned course until the day after the election. He is a lousy actor. Actual consequences of his agenda will be like what has already happened in Ontario and Alberta. He admires Harris, probably thinking the 30,000 homeless people now on the streets of Toronto is a good or at least minor thing, he admires Klein in Alberta who just trashed social programs and sees shelters as adequate housing for anyone not making money hand-over-fist in the boom of ripping people off for energy.

Think of consequences when you vote. It's almost a given that in 6 months people all over BC are going to be shaking their heads and saying "We didn't want this! What the hell is Campbell doing?!"

The most intelligent question I've heard about the candidates in this riding is "Who in hell is Gail Sparrow?" A question to ask her, if you get a chance, is "Campbell has promised to take every land claim made by Aboriginal people to a province-wide referendum. How can you, as a First Nations person, support such a racist policy?"

By PAULR TAYLOR

Lost Little Girl Blues

Long ago I feared my sins as a son
would somehow come back to haunt me
all the years I made my mom worry over
my whereabouts, state of mind, the kinda
monsters I was hangin' with.. worried her sick

Turnabout is fair play as they say
My daughter who I love more than life



ain't coming home anymore
leaving me worry, even hash don't help
14 and so vulnerable, ashamed of me
so she don't turn to me for help, she's driftin'..

Teenage blues be the baddest there is
Is this kid gonnna make it to 20?
Or will she change her mind, pull the plug,
end it before it really starts?

I worry like all depressives, imagine the worst
helpless to help just gotta watch my baby
go thru hell, growing up is damn hard, harder
if all the big people around her are as screwed
as she is,, all I can do is pray
and this morning that just ain't enough

Al Loewen



Ending Violence Against Women

As you're walking through the neighbourhood, you may see large purple and gold ribbons with names of women written on them. Purple ribbons represent women murdered in our community, through violence such as poverty, racism, sexism, homophobia, elder abuse and other systemic oppressions. Gold ribbons represent women from our community who are missing. Through the week of April 23 to 27, at the Women's Centre, Seniors' Centre, Oppenheimer Park, W.I.S.H., Carnegie Centre and the Carnegie Street Program, women and men were invited to write on the ribbons names of women who have died or are missing in the Downtown Eastside in the hopes of raising awareness and encouraging actions to stop violence against women.

During the week, we also had a rally and a march that began at the Women's Centre with an opening prayer and song by the Traditional Mothers and powerful speeches by women who have experienced violence. On Thursday afternoon, we had a video viewing followed by a discussion. We distributed T-shirts with "**Break the Silence, No Means No**" on the back and encouraged people to paint their own messages on them. Thank you to all those who contributed to the week with their actions, creativity and heart.

Although these events and activities took place during Prevention of Violence Against Women week designated by the Ministry of Women's Equality, we are committed to ongoing action to bring the issue of violence against women to the forefront in our community. What are you doing to stop violence against women? If you'd like to join us in our campaign, please contact Break the Silence at 682 3269, Box 8319.



Mental Health Week May 7 - 13

May 7 - 11 (Monday - Friday)

"Emerging Into Light" Free lectures 11:45 - 12:45
Roundhouse Community Centre

Each lecture will delve into the effects of imbalance in a particular area as it relates to your health and wellness. These areas are physical, mental, social, emotional and spiritual.

***** Van leaves Carnegie every day at 11:15 AM;
please sign up in Program Office *****

May 9 (Wednesday)

Discussion group for mental health consumers,
friends and family

1:30-3 PM Classroom II

How can the Carnegie Centre be more accessible to people with mental health concerns?

Join facilitator Karenza Wall for discussion and refreshments.

May 9 (Wednesday)

MADNESS, MASKS AND MIRACLES

6:30 - 9:00 PM

GF Strong Lecture Theatre

A candid look at depression and other mood disorders through musical theatre, followed by discussion with the cast.

******* Van leaves Carnegie at 6:00; sign up in
Program Office *******



Porridge Prayer

Easter morning, sunshine, hot porridge, feelin' great
the editor has fed me a few times, poetry=porridge
literally keeping the arts alive on Easter I feel
like thanks are in order in the midst of all this cruelty
there shine flickers of compassion

So Easter/Jesus/ wasn't love your brother as yourself
one of ol' Jeez's favourite lines 'round here
Kindness.. weakness/vulnerability..jailhouse mindset
but I prefer the line about random acts of kindness.
Blow someone's mind, do something kind
One soft touch can and does save lives.
Be a human being.

Preacher Al on Easter Sunday
...listening to Carlos Santana
we both worship the Holy, who or whatever that is
May the Great Spirit travel beside you
Walk the beauty way.

Al Loewen

Send the following to your local MLA

We, the riders of the Transit system, demand government intervention to replace the management of Translink with competent individuals who are more in tune with the real world of business (a competent management team that is in charge of a company that is in financial trouble would not cut back on the product it delivers after promising their customers improved service, while at the same time giving themselves a raise). We demand that this new management team be an elected board we can hold directly responsible. We demand that this newly elected board ensure the buses continue to operate by addressing the demands of the bus drivers and designing a plan to meet demands that are reasonable. We demand that the transit system be termed an essential service, thus ensuring its

Our next Carnegie Hepatitis C Forum 7
Thursday, May 10

2:30— 4:30 PM
Carnegie Theatre

HIEPHIVE and Carnegie Hepatitis C Support Group
are pleased to present:

Hepatitis C Treatment and What's New in Treatment

According to VIDUS studies, 86.5 % of IV drug users have hepatitis C. The majority of these drug users live in the downtown eastside. Many people know they have hepatitis C and you may wonder about progression of the disease and treatment.

In this forum we will discuss how the doctor assesses you for treatment, the treatment options available and how they are accessed: Can you access treatment while on methadone? What does the treatment entail? Is it for you? What are the other treatment options and what does the future hold for treatment?

*Everyone welcome!
Refreshments served.*

Hepatitis groups in the downtown eastside:

Mondays (except Holidays), 4:30 - 6:00 PM,
Class Room 2 Third floor at the Carnegie
401 Main Street.

First and Third Thursday of the month, 2:00 PM,
Positive Outlook at **Vancouver Native Health**,
441 East Hastings Street.

operation. We demand a decrease in bus fares, as we will not be receiving better service or more buses. We demand that the government increase gas prices or initiate a vehicle tax to ensure that Translink does not operate in a deficit.

Signed _____

Printed name _____

Date _____

Resident and voter in the municipality of




MAY 5	JULY 14
MAY 19	JULY 28
JUNE 2	AUG 11
JUNE 16	AUG 25
JUNE 30	SEPT 8

RIVE GAUCHE MARKET

BI-WEEKLY FESTIVAL OF LOCAL FOOD, ARTS, CRAFTS AND PERFORMANCE

2:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.
EVERY 2ND SATURDAY
BEGINNING MAY 5TH, 2001

PIGEON PARK
AT CARRALL AND HASTINGS



RIVE GAUCHE MARKET AND THE DOWNTOWN EAST SIDE

So there's to be a new biweekly market at the corner of Hastings and Carroll.

This can't help having repercussions for the entire community, both positive and negative. It's important to try to minimize the negative effects and maximize the positive ones, so we should talk about what those (possible or likely) effects will be and what can be done about them.

Before I start this exercise I want to say a couple of things. First, this is just an example of what I think is the kind of discussion that still needs to happen among local residents and vendors. Second, I'm not starting from totally neutral ground, since I've been hired on a contract by the city to work on the entertainment at this market. I'm just trying to work through in my own mind what all this means.

POSITIVE

*This market will put money in the hands of local residents, preferably cash. This will be money they have earned, as opposed to a sop.

*It will provide an outlet for people's creativity. This may draw into activity people who have not participated up to now.

*It will show the world (that needs to be shown, over and over again) the positive face of the Downtown East Side: the diversity, the creativity, the intelligence.

*It may create some area for mutual acceptance between the class gulfs in the area.

NEGATIVE

*The money has to come from people who have it, ie tourists, wealthier residents. This will give them aesthetic voting privileges, at least on that corner.

*It will display goods to people who can't afford them.

*It may drive away people who have made that corner their home, at least while the market is on.

*Over time local resident vendors may be replaced by those who have more upscale goods to sell.

*This is a "top-down" initiative, not one which emerged from discussions among residents. It's likely that, at some level of the city (which seems to hold the purse strings), some planner believes that all of the above negative possibilities are desirable.

Assuming the market is going to happen (as it seems that it will), and that we want the positive results with as little of the negative as possible, what comes to mind are these thoughts:

-the whole notion of what the market is and will be must still be discussed by the community. This discussion should be public, open and democratic. The market, the community and the city should live by the consequences of that discussion.

-the market must be guided by principles that will honour the community. These principles should be worked out by the community and the vendors, to be observed by the vendors and by the market's organizers.

-there must be ongoing accountability to the community. I mean that people should, on a regular basis, have the opportunity to speak their mind about the market in a public forum and have their concerns acted on.

-the market is an experiment. If it doesn't serve the interests of the Downtown East Side it shouldn't continue.

I propose a public forum on the subject of the market at Carnegie Centre.

Earle Peach

Art Pets

poems are never satisfied with your love.
paintings don't need you anymore once they're done,
although you may gaze upon them if you wish.

Anonymous



The Hell of Living in Woodlands

This is what really went on at Woodlands. I was there for 12 years. They own you as property; you have no rights or entitlements at all. If you tried to be heard, even with the basics in life, they would put shots of Paraldehyde into you to wipe you right out. If that wasn't enough they would use other heavy drugs, then the hard wooden floor of a control room with nothing in it and the door locked. They would make you go hungry, things like meals, dessert, coffee — they would make you eat baby food. They made me go hungry for two weeks in a row, three times. Bread milk, bread water, bread milk, bread water.. most of the time you didn't even get your spending money, and if you did now and then, any purchases you made, everything, was instantly taken from you. They took your home visits away, including phone calls. They made you kneel for hours at a lime on a hard wooden floor until you could hardly move.

Woodlands was a deadly prison. You were forced to live there against your will. They tried doing everything to keep you there, just to make money. . The physical, social, mental, and psychological torture was ongoing. I was determined not to let myself become permanently damaged. I'm a long-time survivor because of that. I've been in the community 22 years arid on my own for 18 years

No one who is disabled deserves to go through what we had to go through.

By LOUANNE BRADSHAW

Coffee & Ideas

May 1, Tuesday, 7:30-9:30

Access to Higher Education in the Downtown Eastside

Guest: Andrew Sharpe
All welcome!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE – meeting for May
is

Thursday, May 3, 11am
in the Learning Centre – 3rd floor.



Restless Souls

To the people whom I meet every day in Vancouver

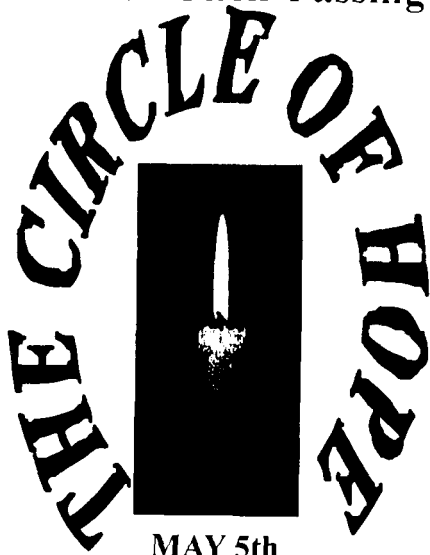
People seem terrified of Main & Hastings,
Maybe because our lives just lay a wastin`.
Addicts, alcoholics and hookers are the same,
Walking endless paces that are part of our game.
Looking for a fix, drink or trick as a daily thing,
So our aching souls can dance & sing.

The market stays open to us all night long,
Feeding those who don't know from right or wrong.

The cops are a joke to us all,
Who unsuccessfully try to make us fall.
Medics in ambulances racing down the street,
Not caring if they're too loud or indiscreet.
The streets of Skid Row never go to sleep,
Taking the lives of many-forever to keep

Copyright ©2001 Rob Morgan

Honour Their Passing



MAY 5th
11 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.
OPPENHEIMER
PARK

Child poverty rate won't budge Provincial welfare reform fails to ease growing problem in Canada's largest city

The rate of child poverty in Canada's largest city has remained stubbornly fixed even as provincial welfare rolls have shrunk, a new report says. One in three children were living in poverty in 1998, says Report Card on Child Poverty in Toronto, written by Cohn Hughes for Campaign 2000, a group that advocates for the elimination of child poverty. And poor families slid deeper into poverty from 1995 to 1998.

Mr. Hughes, a community worker with the Children's Aid Society of Toronto. "I just don't think people get it how severe and bad poverty is in this city. It really is more than numbers."

What the numbers show is that, while the population of Toronto children under 18 rose by 2 per cent from 1995 to 1998, the latest year for which figures are available, the count of poor children jumped 7 per cent.

There were 152,250 poor children in the city the

The 2001 Vigil of Honour

The schedule of events on May 5th:

- 11 am - Opening Ceremonies, Gathering of Drums
- 12:30 - Walk of Honour
- 1:30 - Hot lunch and tributes to those who have died or can't get proper help.
- 2:00 - Multicultural and Multi-Agency Events
- 5:30 - Dinner, Closing Circle, Candlelight Ceremony

For more information about the Vigil or to volunteer your help, call 215-2287.

year Premier Mike Harris came to power — 31 per cent of children. Three years later, 163,010 children were considered poor.

In measuring poverty, the report relies on Stats Canada's Low Income Measure, which sets the threshold for poverty at half the median income for families of the same size. For a single parent with one child, that's \$17,080. But most poor families are living on incomes that fall thousands of dollars shy of the poverty line. The evidence lies in the growing number of children staying in homeless shelters and waiting for hampers at food banks, Mr. Hughes said.

The number of children with parents on social assistance in Ontario has plunged from about 145,000 in 1994 to roughly 72,000 now. But as the face of poverty has changed from people on welfare to those juggling low-wage and part-time jobs, child poverty rates have barely budged.

"You can't equate declining caseloads with an assumption that families are automatically better off,"

At food banks across Toronto, a soaring number of working, poor families are turning up for hampers. A study just conducted by the Daily Bread Food Bank found that one in five families receiving food in late February and early March held down jobs. A year earlier, one in six people using food banks were working.

By MARGARET PHILP

“Japanese Language School Unsafe”

- Community Alliance



It was with this statement that five (5) people jerked the system and this community in their latest exercise of vicious stupidity.

Leonore Sali puts herself forward as speaking for the Gastown Business Improvement Association; Mikey McCoy puts himself forward as a concerned citizen and is inflicted upon the Gastown Historic Area Planning Committee; Richard Lee is now the main man for the Strathcona Alliance or the Community Alliance (or the Strathcona Community Alliance); Brigit Snider puts herself forward as an honest business person (with fancy digs in Anmore and maybe \$2.5 mill in the bank) and finally Lynne Bryson is the titular head of the Victory Square Property Owners Association and registered for the so-called Community Alliance.

The *Frumpy Five*, if I may be forgiven, were allegedly representing “37 thousand people” as they had waited until the last day to appeal, forcing a Board of Variance meeting to be convened. The venue was the Japanese Language School on the 400-block of Alexander.

On the day the City of Vancouver had about six senior staff, Vancouver/ Richmond Health Board had about ten staff, the police had three senior officers and perhaps another six officers present, an RCMP spokesperson, chief medical officers for larger agencies, a coroner, and over seventy people who had to travel to City Hall just to register to speak.. all on hand to here this appeal of what'd been passed unanimously by the Development Permit Board.

Okay, so here are all these people. (The cost was guesstimated at \$25 grand but hey, it's just public money.) The five are at the front and say about two

sentences each – “We submitted our appeal in writing but are extremely intimidated. We fear for our personal safety. We will not sit here and subject ourselves to assault by them [not specified]. We are extremely intimidated.” [*Close enough - Ed.*]

They then got up and walked out! Talk about arrogance.

Let's talk about manufacturing fear. Lynn Bryson (who is incidentally the sister of the well-heeled wannabee architect Brice Rositch, who quit being spokesperson after somebody shit on his doorstep and he connected it to death threats and loss of business and criminal harassment and lack of respect) she (Lynn) sent a letter to the secretary of the Board of Variance asking, among other things, if there would be a weapon's check (!) at the door, if the Board knew it was “Welfare Wednesday” and the danger imposed by poor people suddenly having money (“anti-social behaviour”), if the parking problems and assault on one appellant at the DP hearings (somebody tossed a muffin at Snider, calling her a ‘bitch’) were factored into their choice of venue? She (Bryson) wanted an immediate response because all the odds were stacked against the white knights and knightesses of the Alliance.

The Japanese Language School had a bake sale while the meeting was on.

Snider asked for a police escort out of the area, even though she has run an SRO hotel for 25 years in the area.

Okay.

Speaker after speaker talked, again, of the need to do something, of the viability of the proposals, of the philosophy and practicality of each. Underlying almost all was the feeling (voiced several times) of having already done this, of being insulted and ticked off at the arrogance and viciousness of the appellants. The gross abuse felt by people, of their time and energy and lives, was palpable.

The first day went until almost midnight and the second day from midafternoon 'til about 8:30. The Board of Variance had to go through the whole process of having speakers up for each proposal – five times – and then vote on each separately. At the end of it all, all five appeals were turned down and all five permits were upheld.

I'd like to say this is now the end of it, but it's just

the beginning. The polarization between those wanting nothing but real estate and class-consciousness to prevail and those thinking there are other ways than enforcement alone will continue, and there will certainly be opportunities for the former bunch to try and scuttle positive work.

Good Neighbour Agreements come to mind but that's a whole other story. The depiction of the Downtowns Eastside as a cesspool and armpit of BC is another. Media hype and sound-byte coverage for sensationalism and stereotyping add fuel to the fire.

A parting word to this frumpy five – give your heads a virulent shake, preferably within kissing distance of each other. Any resulting collisions could only be 'in the public interest.'

By PAULR TAYLOR



VOTE

We vote again, for more of the same
In 47 years I haven't received benefit
A musician who is now forced onto welfare
Pennies from heaven tied to job applications
Federal Liberals gutted Unemployment Insurance
The poor pay again
while corporations bankroll politicians
and seek cheap labour.. making the poor.. who

It's an impediment to humanity we must address
Politicians on either side must assess
pleasure before pain, love before gain,
each individual's right to comfort and dignity
or society's dispossessed will spread their despair.

Andy Kostynuik

Parallels of Illusion

The mouthpieces state their Newspeak
The scribes jot down their quotes
Some promises and pledges simply reek
But all this babble translates into votes

So listen, weigh it, carefully make up your mind
Read the tracts and the pamphlets
It's up to you to decide
Try to make your choice absolutely correct

Go to the rallies and to the afternoon teas
Stand and be counted, give a piece of your mind
Don't take no for an answer
Let them hear all of your pleas
When the ballots are counted
It's a tie that binds for a long, long time

Robyn

CALL 'N' POST

There is a new endeavour at 16 W.Hastings. DERA has taken the space recently vacated by Shane's World and established CALL 'n' POST.

For some time DERA has been running a Phone operation whereby individuals and groups could have a telephone number of their own - for messages and accessible just by calling in whenever. It has been a relief and a delight to many who cannot afford \$20-\$40 a month for a personal line. Price is \$3 a month (or \$25 a year).

There were problems in people coming to pay but finding DERA's office hours – 9-5, closed weekends - at odds with their personal time. CALL 'n' POST is a decent solution to this and other needs.

CALL 'n' POST has the Phone operation in its entirety, with more flexible hours and open on Saturday. There are also mailboxes available for rent at a very reasonable price (\$4-\$10 a month) for people who now get whatever 'somebody' doesn't toss or lose or steal where they have a room. In addition there will be fax machines, a photocopier and Internet computers. Someone has already asked about setting up a cappacino/coffee thing, and other stuff can be added as needs are identified.

Again, CALL 'n' POST is across from Pigeon Park at Carrall and Hastings.

PRT



LABOUR

I labour each day
 To put food on my table
 Drink in my cup
 Smoke in my lungs
 My art is unpaid but for handouts
 Tokens for the effort I produce
 The wheels that drive the economy
 are labour fit for each
 The poor and the rich
 The poor's labour no less dignified
 than the rich
 The fit no less than a millionaire's suit
 But love's labour's lost in our economy
 Welfare sits awkward at middle-class tables
 The poor work hard for little
 The rich work little for hard
 Politicians miss that labour wears varied dress
 And deny labour's fortune and noblesse
 With depictions of sloth and greed
 Making our mess of poverty and need.

Andy Kostyniuk

社區大聯盟何去何從？

只有李松市議員有勇氣說出真相。

華埠的商戶及住客已經被人出賣及利用。

煤氣鎮聯盟的 Bryce Rostich 把李溢，李偉謙，李思遠等人出賣及利用，將煤氣鎮 Blood Alley 的戒毒診所搬到華埠。他們重建煤氣鎮，只顧自己發財，不理他人死活。

我們辛辛苦苦收集簽名，組織社區，游說政府的努力全部白費。

支持李松市議員，聲討煤氣鎮，捍衛華埠利益！
對付毒品問題，所有社區應一同分擔責任！

A Major Event

Mark the evening of Friday, May 25 and go to the Vancouver Public Library on E. Georgia.
 "Poor-bashing: The Politics of Exclusion" by Jean Swanson is one of the most incredible books in years and the Vancouver book launch is taking place on the date above.

Poverty is one of the most basic issues in our lives, and most people reading this either live in or know someone who lives in poverty. This work examines the underlying prejudices and class bias that permeates our society and even our thinking.

Please come. It's at 7:00 that evening, May 25th!!



INTERNAL FIGHT WITHIN THE ALLIANCE

(now they are fighting within/against themselves ... — this poster is all over Pender and Keefer only in Chinese language) James Pau translated

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE — WHERE TO GO FROM NOW?

City Counsellor **Don Lee** is the only one who has the courage to speak out about the truth.

Merchants and residents in China Town have been used and betrayed.

Alliance Bryce **Rostich** of Gastown has used and betrayed Richard Lee, Charles Lee, Daniel Lee, Bryce **Rostich** has moved the Detox Clinic in Blood Alley to China Town. That means that the Gas Town business people only look after themselves to make money and they don't care about people in China Town, live or dead. The Gas town people are going to rebuild Gastown.

We have worked so hard to collect signatures, organize the community, to talk to the Government, all these efforts have been wasted.

We have to support City Counsellor, **Don Lee**, we have to fight Gastown business people. We have to protect the benefits of the China town business people. We have to tackle the drug problem, all the communities should share this responsibility.



Community Economic Development

This is one of five working groups under the Community Directions umbrella. They had a public meeting at Strathcona recently and following are some notes on it...

The meeting began at 1:00PM with students from Simon Fraser University presenting the findings of their survey. Main points which were made was that community economic development has to do with local control and involves those who are marginalized by the normal economy and existing institutions.

From the literature they discovered that control by outsiders was an important issue. One major premise of community economic development is that there are untapped resources within the community that can be mobilized.

To better understand the local neighbourhood economy, the students had first considered doing a survey of businesses but this did not prove feasible. Instead, four housing groups involved with the management of non-profit housing in the Downtown Eastside were chosen for interviews. They were the Portland Society, The Downtown Eastside Residents Association (DERA), the St. James Society and Outlook. For each group a qualitative survey about inflows and outflows was conducted. The students reported that numbers were hard to come by and that the most insightful findings came from personal interviews rather than the filling out of the questionnaire. With the exception of the Metropole Hotel, run by DERA, each group depended upon financing and operating funds that came from each of the three levels of government.



Beginning with DERA, mention was made of the private partnership which Dera had with a backer and how this built up equity which allowed the organization to go to bankers to secure loans because they now had equity. However, since the Metropole gets no on going funding, rents are a bit higher than other SRO's in the neighbourhood. While Dera attempted to hire local people the St James Society appeared to be less inclined to do so; many of the people employed by the society were professionals who lived outside the neighbourhood.

St. James society depended more upon donations and funds from foundations that could be tapped into than the other groups surveyed. While Equity was a goal for DERA this was not a priority for the St James Society.

The Portland Society operated on a charity model and have no investment pool or assets which could be used as levers for economic development. Except for DERA no groups were involved in equity building which might make them potential partners in community economic development initiatives at the present moment.

When asked about local purchasing, constraints were mentioned. Some organizations were mandated by government to take the lowest possible bid. Problems of scale were also brought up. Many locals did not have the capacity to be regular providers of goods and services.

By MARCIA KOSIK

Board of Variance, Malice, Last Word on the Mission Statement, Two Curry Beef and Potatoes, DES *pro forma* Conclusion, etc.

In a rather typical move, someone from the City of Vancouver told Carnegie staff, including street program staff, people they have hired, presumably, for their knowledge of the DES and the issues here, issues any community centre in the middle of such a neighbourhood would naturally be concerned with and knowledgeable about, not to speak at the recent Board of Variance hearings. I imagine it was because speaking at the hearings would appear too political a gesture, and *the word political does not appear in the politically correct mission statement*, even if the entire history of the Carnegie Centre, and of the street program, has been political. The Roundhouse and other community centres put their names to events like Mayworks, which supports the protests against globalization, the most overtly political issue of our times, without a problem. Not speaking at the BOV is a louder politics than speaking would have been, but having to be prevailed upon to even appear at the hearings is irresponsible. (My criticism of the anti-historical and superficial approach the committee took to the mission statement process is not trivial, and is at least more than just the rant of a "shit-disturber", as I was referred to by the instigator of the committee. But there it is, the statement, on the wall, proving, disapproving. The committee *never even talked about the history of the centre, how it came to be here*. And the statement *erases*, or attempts to erase, Carnegie's history, particularly its political history. This is the last word on the so-called mission statement. I give up, for lack of response.)

Like children, the Community Alliance folk cannot distinguish between feeling disliked and being threatened, and they are using this convenient aura of innocence to try to make the people of the DES seem like raving fanatical

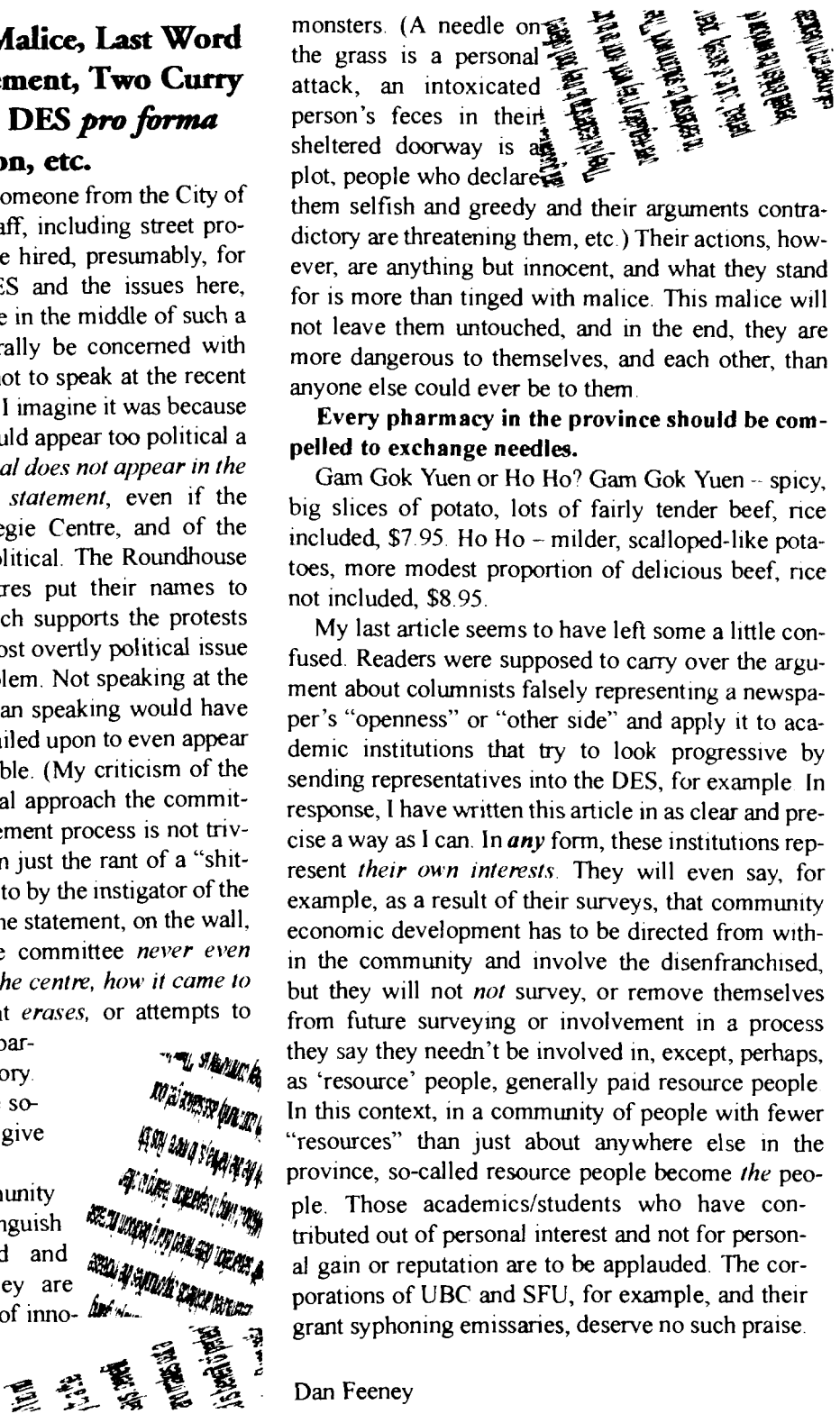
monsters. (A needle on the grass is a personal attack, an intoxicated person's feces in their sheltered doorway is plot, people who declare them selfish and greedy and their arguments contradictory are threatening them, etc.) Their actions, however, are anything but innocent, and what they stand for is more than tinged with malice. This malice will not leave them untouched, and in the end, they are more dangerous to themselves, and each other, than anyone else could ever be to them.

Every pharmacy in the province should be compelled to exchange needles.

Gam Gok Yuen or Ho Ho? Gam Gok Yuen - spicy, big slices of potato, lots of fairly tender beef, rice included, \$7.95. Ho Ho - milder, scalloped-like potatoes, more modest proportion of delicious beef, rice not included, \$8.95.

My last article seems to have left some a little confused. Readers were supposed to carry over the argument about columnists falsely representing a newspaper's "openness" or "other side" and apply it to academic institutions that try to look progressive by sending representatives into the DES, for example. In response, I have written this article in as clear and precise a way as I can. In *any* form, these institutions represent *their own interests*. They will even say, for example, as a result of their surveys, that community economic development has to be directed from within the community and involve the disenfranchised, but they will not *not* survey, or remove themselves from future surveying or involvement in a process they say they needn't be involved in, except, perhaps, as "resource" people, generally paid resource people. In this context, in a community of people with fewer "resources" than just about anywhere else in the province, so-called resource people become *the* people. Those academics/students who have contributed out of personal interest and not for personal gain or reputation are to be applauded. The corporations of UBC and SFU, for example, and their grant syphoning emissaries, deserve no such praise.

Dan Feeney



Vancouver's 13th annual

"working class" Festival

60 *Mayworks* events take over 20 venues on 'The Drive' and Downtown Eastside

The Drive comes alive again with the 13th Annual *Mayworks* Festival presenting live theatre, cabarets, spoken word, film and video, visual arts exhibitions, and political discussions in eight venues all over Commercial Drive. Another eight venues in the Downtown Eastside also host cultural and political programs during the Festival's twenty-day run.

"For this year we wanted to concentrate Festival programming around Commercial Drive in the evenings so people could head to the Drive and be entertained and inspired," said Irwin Oostindie, one of the volunteer Festival organizers. "If we had a Festival slogan it would be 'Working Class and Proud' because we only program arts and politics which speak directly to people's everyday realities."

Mayworks is in its thirteenth year in Vancouver, and was originally inspired by May-works in Toronto. But the west coast version has transformed itself into a more grassroots political arts project, reflecting the visions of many of the city's left and cultural organizations. Traditionally the Festival had appealed to trade unions for funding and audiences, however in recent years that strategy was reconsidered, and a suitable new name was adopted: **Festival of Working Class Culture & Politics.**

Some of this year's highlights include...

- Glace Bay Miner's Museum, a Theatre in the Raw production, plays the Havana Theatre for a two-week run telling the tale made famous by the Canadian cinema hit 'Margaret's Museum-.'

- Working on the Railway is a major visual arts exhibition at the Roundhouse Community Centre featuring roundhouses, trains and workers, including the often-overlooked treatment of Chinese immigrant workers;

- Carnival Against Capitalism takes over Vancouver streets on May 1—the international labour day—born out of the campaign for an eight-hour workday. May 1st is a holiday in almost every country in the world;



- The traditional evening May Day Cabaret, will be held at the WISE Hall, with freshly-cut videos from Québec City protests, Montréal performing artist Norman Nawrocki, and the Canadian premiere of 'The Internationale' which looks at the song and people who have sung it, including Billy Bragg and Pete Seeger,

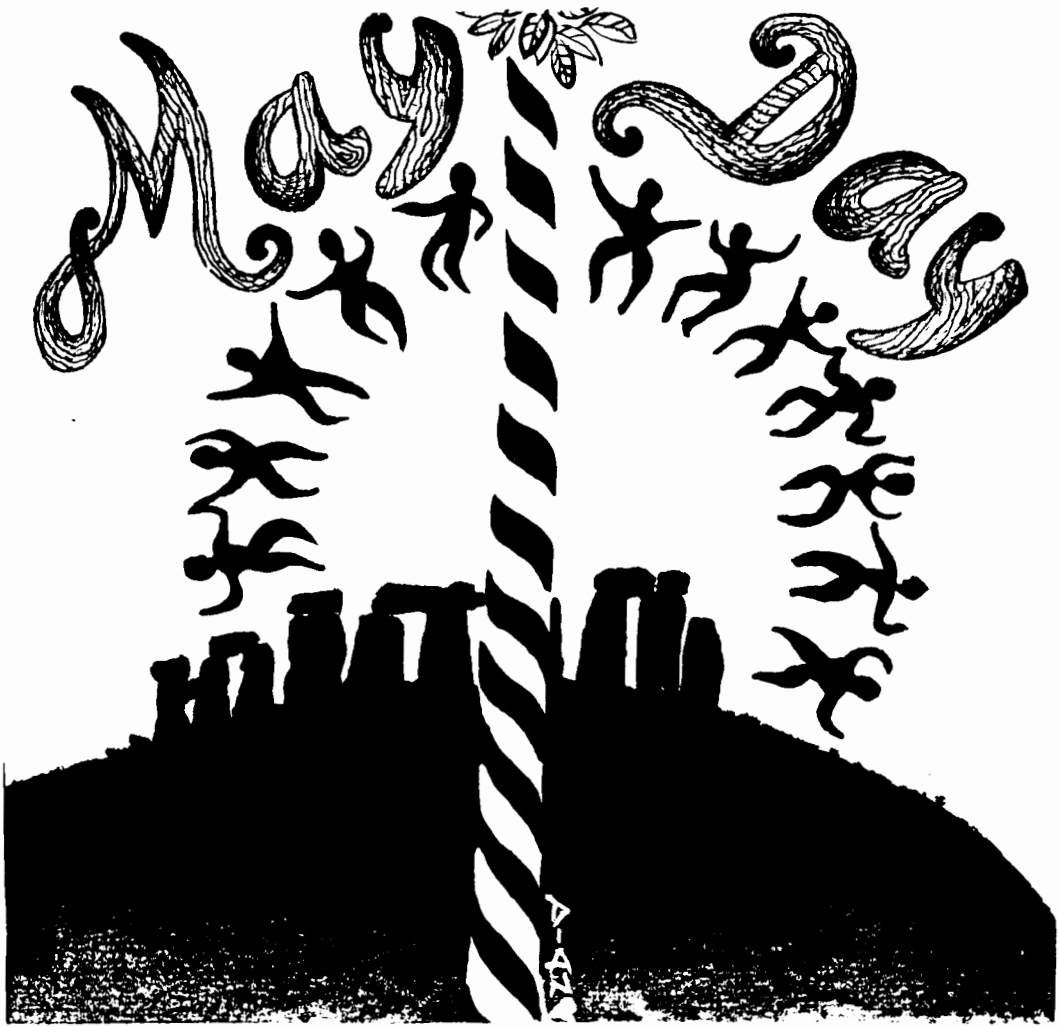
For a look at all sixty events check out the Festival's web site at www.tao.ca/~mayworks, pick-up one of the 25,000 printed 40-page Festival Guides distributed all over Vancouver, or call the hotline 682-3269 xr.6261.

Daily Rituals

*This poem is to friends who have disappeared
in E. Vancouver, BC*

Sipping hot coffee on Hastings Street
Watching the girls begin their endless beat.
Each selling their wares on every corner,
With the young ones on Kiddy Corner.
Being put at the mercy of pedophiles,
That line up for endless miles.
At risk of disappearing without any traces,
Only having loved ones post their young faces.
Violence & drugs can never fill up their appetites,
Working through the days & into the nights.
Seven days a week—twenty-four hours a day,
Living out a life that's their only way.

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Readers: Last issue there was a time problem and stuff about Volunteer Recognition Week didn't get in. Please accept my apology. Thanks McBinner, for recognising Mike McCormack as Carnegie's Volunteer of the Year.

A series of workshops for parents started in late April about "Helping your Children Make Healthy Choices Around Alcohol and Drugs."

"Help your children walk away from alcohol and drug use. Learn to understand this and discover ways to reduce substance abuse among kids today."

The first four workshops listed below have already happened. The last two are still open, but all are here to show people what's available. If you see one that you wish you'd known about in time, call Ray-Cam anyway.. get connected. It's important.

*What are the drugs out there – how would you know?

*Building bridges: Strengths already there in you and your kids

*Parent Support Network

*What your kids (10-12) are asking the people at school? and how to answer them...

*Talk to teens who have been there – and are out.

Tuesday, May 1, 7:00-8:30

Strathcona Community Centre, pre-school room
601 Keefer Street

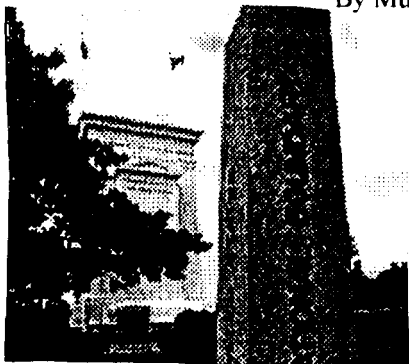
*Community Options: providing safety and choices for our kids

Monday, May 7, 7:00-8:30

Strathcona Community Centre, pre-school room
601 Keefer Street

The Free Trade Area of the Americas: (FTAA) It's not about trade

By Murray Dobbin



Free trade agreements have never been primarily about trade. This is true of the FTAA deal being discussed, amidst draconian security measures, in Quebec City.

From the original Canada-US free trade agreement and NAFTA to the WTO agreements and the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, these international treaties are about making it easier for the world's largest corporations to lower their costs. It allows them to seek out the cheapest workers, the most lax environmental laws and to use the threat of relocation to get what they want. The notion that any country, its workers or consumers benefit from such agreements is a myth.

Anyone doubting what these agreements are really about should examine NAFTA. The trade deal between Canada, the US and Mexico is the template for the FTAA. Everything that is in NAFTA - and more, of course - will be in the FTAA. One of the things in NAFTA is Chapter 11, the chapter on investment. (A virtually identical chapter is planned for the FTAA, as a leaked document revealed this week.) The chapter allows corporations to sue countries directly. In effect, they get to implement the terms of a treaty signed by sovereign governments.

These law suits are determined not by our courts but by appointed tribunals of trade experts meeting in secret. Their job? To determine whether our laws have reduced the level of profit that a corporation would have made if the law wasn't in place. And this includes future profits. When Canada banned the gasoline additive MMT because it had evidence that it was a neuro-toxin, the product's manufacturer

sought \$250 million in compensation through NAFTA. Canada threw in the towel half way through the hearing, publicly apologized to Ethyl Corporation, paid them \$20 million, and withdrew the ban.

Canada Post is threatened by a \$234 million NAFTA suit because the giant US courier UPS can't stand the competition. British Columbia's ban on bulk water exports is the subject of a \$900 million suit. Canada has already lost another NAFTA case in which we were sued for complying with an environmental treaty, the Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes. S.D. Myers lost business and profits when we stopped sending toxic PCB's over the border.

Promoters of free trade portray opponents as selfish - trying to deny Mexicans good paying jobs. In fact, Mexico and its workers have suffered under NAFTA. It's true exports have increased exponentially - but not as quickly as imports. Mexico is facing a balance of payments crisis as a result of "opening" its economy. Since NAFTA came into effect in 1994 the gap between US and Mexican manufacturing wages has grown by some 30 percent.

A recent study by the Washington-based Economic Policy Institute and the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives,* examined the impact of NAFTA on workers in the three countries. It revealed that manufacturing wages in Mexico had fallen 21 percent since NAFTA came into effect. Virtually all of the NAFTA-created jobs are in the border area Maquiladoras where wages are deliberately suppressed to attract US companies. Domestic manufacturing wages are twice what they are in the Maquilas.

What about Canada? The EPI study shows that at the end of the 1990s manufacturing employment was still six percent below its 1989 level. Canada experienced a net destruction of 276,000 jobs up to 1997. This happened despite an annual average trade surplus of \$19.7 billion during the 1990s, more than double the average in the 1980s. Average per capita income fell steadily during most of the 1990s and only regained 1989 levels in 1999. Economic growth and average unemployment were worse in the free trade 1990s than in any decade since the 1930s.

If we polled Canadians about whether or not they were in favour of these specific results of expanded trade we know what the answer would be. But most pollsters simply ask are you in favour of expanded

trade? *The results are totally predictable.* This week a CROP poll said 57% of Canadians support expanded trade and 25% oppose it. Even after a ten year barrage of supportive editorials and business propaganda, Canadians are wary about free trade and know who benefits: Forty-one per cent say businesses benefit most, 32 per cent say governments do, 11 % say consumers do and just 2% think workers do.

Another poll this week revealed that 90% of Canadians say they want public hearings and a parliamentary debate before the FTAA is signed. Many of those who feel most strongly about the issue of closed door negotiations were in Quebec City demanding to be heard. Free trade proponents ask the rhetorical question: Who do these demonstrators represent? The answer may just be the 90% of Canadians who think its time these negotiations were opened up to public scrutiny. Such exposure would doom the FTAA to certain defeat.

* The full study on the impact of NAFTA on workers in the three countries can be seen on the CCPA's web site: www.policyalternatives.ca

IN THE DUMPSTER

blnner@mybc.com

Greetings fellow binners & binnerettes:

Congratulations to all fellow volunteers for another year! Well done. In case you don't know Michael McCormack (Learning Centre computers & kitchen worker) was voted Volunteer of the Year. Well done Michael!!

As of April 30th the bank machine at the Royal Bank at 400 Main St. will be closed from 7pm -7am. I have talked with a staff person there and found that the reason is "too low volume transactions" and the street muggings. They have decided in the interest of public safety to take this action.

I agree with this decision. Maybe street muggings are so common due to the fact that the police have defected from the east side to false creek south.

Late at night if one needs help the doors are locked. All that there is is a 911 direct line. Keep the faith. May the bins be with you. And *hey!* lets be careful out there.

By MR. McBINNER



Smoke and Mirrors

My face painted in orange and black
Thought it was the Grizzlies colors
But told that I was a long ways off.
A slug left its long trail to the door
Like a beached up whale Friday I 3th
Could not move anywhere, any more.
Big sign on the corner said. HELP
And with the bus strike in the city
Confused by all the trappings here.
Three scientists and a beacon light
Caught on the fishing line, how far
Will one go to win the perfect prize?
Stopping to look at a silver sports car
Let off at the parking lot by Capers
Runway at the edge of the universe.
One foot flew on the side log piece
Over the dirt in the Planter Box and
Then bouncing down the side walk.
Red and yellow tulips ready to open
All of creation coming to life in spring
Wet muffins in the rain, Earth Sunday.
Were it the story of the good Samaritan
It was all done with smoke and mirrors
And had more to do with Jocks pissing.
Winter like a fur coat disappears soon
Just like the good things done in this life
I'll always wear the red rose on my arm.

Daniel Rajala

Takin' it down to Shitty hall
Talk about da free trade ball
Free to all except down here
Cost much more for smokes & beer
Bus on strike, nurses stand tall
Get ready to needle Shilty hall

Takin' it down to Shitty hall
Gonna tell 'em off y'all
Election time now is close
Time to stomp upon their toes
Time's awasting - hear da call
Got no class in Shifty hall



dickwad@canada.com

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

**STD CLINIC – 219 Main; Monday-Friday, 10am – 6pm
NEEDLE EXCHANGE – 221 Main; 8:30am-8pm every day
NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN – 3 Routes**

**City – 5:45 pm – 11:45 pm
Overnight – 12:30 am – 8:30 am
Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am**

FREE – donations accepted.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

401 Main Street V6A 2T7 665-2289

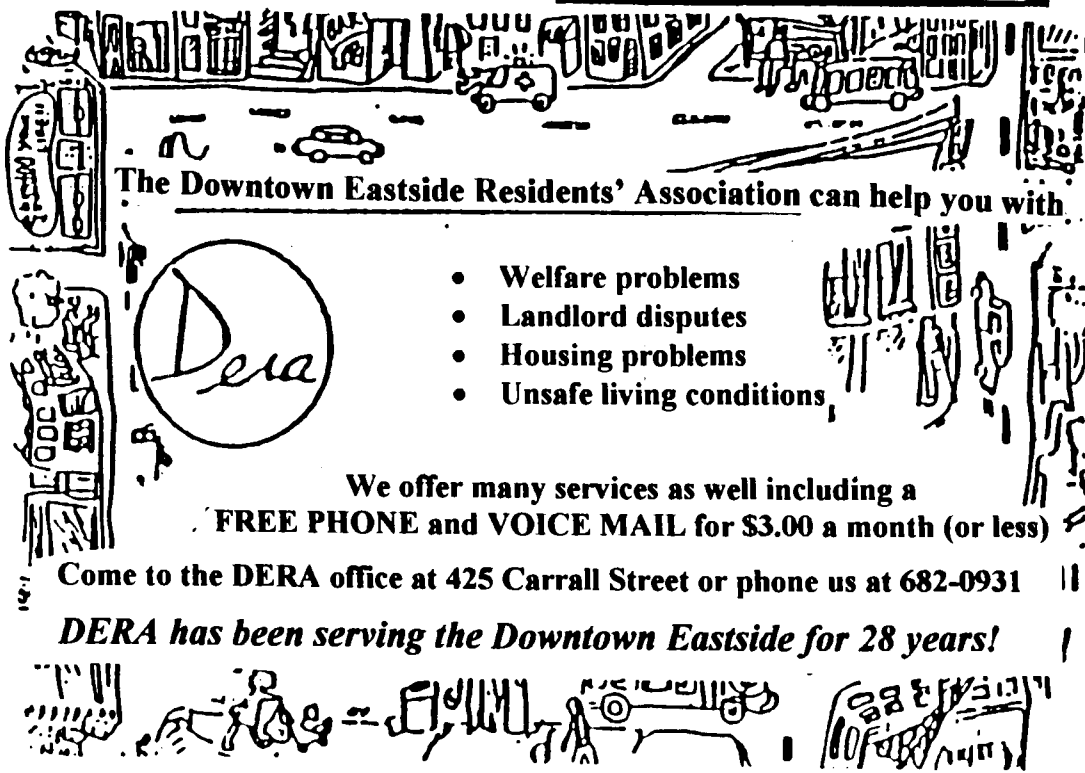
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**Submission Deadline
for next issue**

Friday, 11 May



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 28 years!