

Free – donations accepted.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 15, 2001

401 Main St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7

Email: carnnews@direct.ca



COMPASSION AND REVENGE

The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are occasions of great significance. They are opportunities for you to feel inside, to find those parts of yourself that are in fear, and to make the decision to move forward in your life without fear. That is the challenge for each individual on this planet today. The pursuit of external power, the ability to manipulate and control, creates only violence and destruction. The painful events in New York and Washington are living examples of that reality.

The causal chain that created this violence is one in which compassion and wisdom are absent. Are wisdom and compassion present in you as you watch the television, and read the papers? It is important to realize that you don't know all that came to conclusion, or into karmic balance, as a result of these events. Because you are not able to know all that can be known about them, you are not in a position to judge them.

It is for you to decide what you will contribute to this world. Many will be asking your opinion of these events. Each question is an opportunity for you to contribute to the love that is in the world or to the fear that is in the world. This is the same opportunity that presents itself to you at each moment.

If you hate those who hate, you become like them. You add to the violence and the destructive energy that now fills our world. As you make the decision to see with clarity and compassion, you will see that those who committed these acts of violence were in extreme pain themselves, and that they were fueled by the violent parts of ourselves, the parts that judge without mercy, strike in anger, and rejoice in the suffering of others. They were our proxy representatives. If you can look with compassion upon those who have suffered and those who have committed acts of cruelty alike, then you will see that all are suffering. The remedy for suffering is not to inflict more suffering.

This is an opportunity for a massive expression of compassion. It's also an opportunity for a massive expression of revenge. Which world do you intend to live in - a world of revenge or a world of compassion?

By ANDREW ZUKAV

Cartoon furore

A cartoon on the front of the *Carnegie Newsletter* is racist, says the editor of the Indo-Canadian *Voice* newspaper.

And Rattan Mall is concerned that the cartoon, in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist tragedy, could incite a hateful response to anyone wearing a turban.

The image — which is part of a montage of Wanted: Dead or Alive posters featuring revolutionary Che Guevara, Osama Bin Laden and Karl Marx — shows a bearded man and says "Anyone In a Turban."

"This is going to create a lot of misunderstanding," said Mall. "This is tantamount to hate literature."

In Response to Rattan Mall —

The previous cover of the Carnegie Newsletter was a montage of **Wanted: Dead Or Alive** posters intended to express my concern that the Sept. 11 bombings and subsequent man-hunt would create a backlash of violent racism and suspicion. I fear a wave of Cowboy Mentality, where "white" equals "right" and people of colour are "wrong" or "uncivilized". My concern is that the word "terrorist" would automatically equate a Sikh or a Moslem, and brand anyone critical of American foreign policy a "traitor." I hope this explains "Anyone In A Turban" to Mr. Mall of the Indo-Canadian *Voice*.

Did he not notice that I also included ALL the people of East Timor & Central America on the Wanted List?

The cover was inspired by my initial reaction to the news, when on Sept. 11 on CBC I heard an American woman sobbing at the loss of innocent lives, "WE don't kill women and children!" I asked myself "Is she that ignorant?" and resigned myself sadly to accepting yes, she and probably millions of Americans believe that. Weren't all those Guatemalan women and children innocent victims? (and Salvadoran, and Indonesian, and Iraqi, and...) Or was it all too simple for her and millions like her to believe they were all "Communists", end of thought process, kill them?

I am sorry Mr. Mall saw the cover and the article it illustrated as a racist attack, rather than an attack on racism.

- Diane Wood

PLEASE STOP THE UNJUST HATRED

3

Because of the recent bombing in New York and the intense media attention many North Americans have been lashing out at people that resemble those responsible for the attack. This is an e-poster to bring attention to the harassment that innocent people are suffering because they *seem* to look like the terrorists that are being shown on TV.



BIN LADEN
KNOWN TERRORIST

THIS is not the same
as THIS
race or religion, not even
the same country!!!

These innocent Sikhs/Arabs
and Middle Easterners are
being harassed by people
even when they line up to
give blood at the Red Cross.



Innocent Priest

PLEASE REMEMBER



This man bombed the Federal Building
in Oklahoma, that doesn't mean that
all whites are guilty of terrorism.

**PLEASE FORWARD THIS MESSAGE
TO EVERYONE YOU KNOW.**

Thank you.

Feeling the Squeeze

The Survival of
Inner-City, Low-Income
Neighbourhoods



Guest Speaker: Victoria Basole
Wednesday, October 17th, 3pm
Sunrise Café - 101 E.Hastings St.
•refreshments served

As part of CCAP's *Confronting Marginality Project*, guest speaker, Victoria Basole, will discuss community-based strategies for securing low-income housing in inner-city neighbourhoods faced with increasing property development and speculation.

Mrs. Basole is a US housing expert and Professor, Urban and Regional Planning, University of California

Dear Carnegie Newsletter

I was interested to see Dan Feeney's article & his connecting of recent geopolitical events - especially the anti-globalization movement - and I think it is good politics to be suspicious about university motives for programs like Humanities 101. But I also think it's important to think dialectically about these matters; universities [even UBC!] are sites of intellectual struggle, not only monolithic and malevolent institutions. If Humanities 101 succeeds in exposing marginalized students to some of the riches of our cultural heritage, it is only because many other educational and community organizations in the DES and elsewhere exist - from learning centres and the Tuesday night coffee group to the Street program, housing & anti-poverty & harm reduction activism, and so on.

Clint Burnham
Academic Co-ordinator
Humanities 101



Editor, The Province

The front page of the *Carnegie Newsletter* has seldom if ever drawn such a vitriolic and tunnel-visioned response as that cited in your paper on Tuesday [Oct.2]. The epithets of "racist" and "hate literature" had virtually everyone here shaking their heads in sad astonishment. The montage of "Wanted; Dead or Alive" posters had one of the dozen or so panels with "Anyone in a Turban" and Che Geuverra and Karl Marx and Binnie and the Jets and also included maps featuring East Timor and the entire land mass of Central America.

To be sure, articles and graphics in the *Newsletter* have incited virulent denigration from various politicians, business and class interests when their particular venality was exposed or, more often, given balance generally lacking in the daily media.

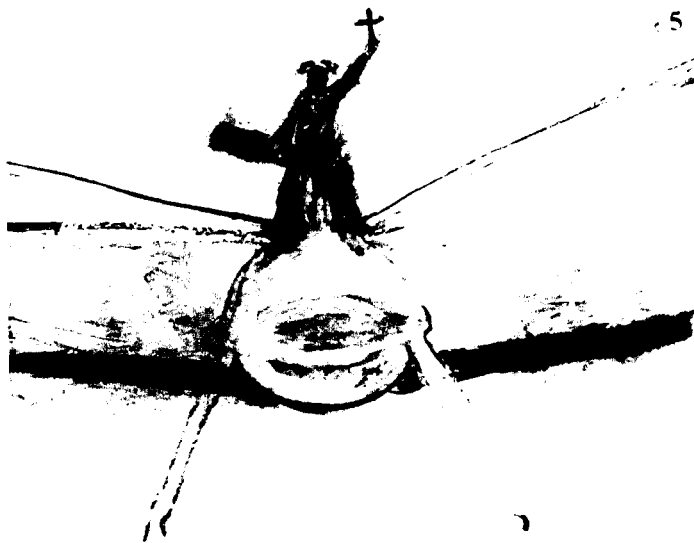
What is disconcerting here is that the person with their nose out of joint over the cover obviously didn't read one word of the contents of the paper.

Their response is similar to that voiced by various grand-standing politicians over the remarks made by the former head of some national women's body on the inherent bloodiness of American foreign policy. She was condemned for trying to give more of the whole story - more of reality -, rather than the correct line acceptable to the long-term globalisation (or monopolisation) inherent in pax americana.

"Thobani has credibility - she can say what she wants. You [Carnegie Newsletter] don't have such credibility, so are restricted." From here we have the support of believers and non-believers.

Respectfully submitted,
PAULR TAYLOR
Volunteer Editor, Carnegie Newsletter.

**DRY EARTH
&
SCATTERED ASHES
OR
DRY EARTH
&
BURIED GOLD
OR**



[Also printed in The Frances Court Enquirer]

Let me state emphatically at the beginning of this article that I am against all forms of terrorism. I abhor the terrible tragedy that happened in New York on September 11.

What were the causes of the attack? I will quote from some publications I have been reading (be warned, they sometimes do not agree with mainstream media viewpoints).

From *The Westender*, from the column titled "Evil Brain" by Brian Peterson: "I've been plenty critical of American foreign policy in the past and I sure don't intend to back down now. Their corporations have plundered the cheap energy of the lands they've occupied. Their foreign aid and arms packages have enabled dozens of brutal dictators to massacre millions. Their aircraft carriers and military bases enrage religious communities."

In Iraq, it is estimated that 1.5 million people have died during the past 11 years as a result of US sanctions, 500,000 of them children.

US film maker and author Michael Moore quoted in *Terminal City*: "We abhor terrorism--unless we're the ones doing the terrorizing. We paid and trained and armed a group of terrorists in Nicaragua in the 1980s who killed over 30,000 civilians... We fund a lot of oppressive regimes that have killed a lot of innocent people... We have orphaned so many children, tens of thousands around the world, with our taxpayer-funded terrorism (in Chile, in Vietnam, in Gaza, in El Salvador)..."

From an article in *The Vancouver Sun* by Jonathan

Manthorpe: "Many Muslims see only one common strand running through the West's attitudes towards the Middle East in the last 100 years and that is maintaining control over oil supplies."

Renowned journalist John Pilger quoted in *Terminal City*: "Far from being terrorists of the world, the Islamic peoples have been its victims--principally the victims of US fundamentalism, whose power, in all its forms, military, strategic and economic, is the greatest source of terrorism on earth. This fact is censored from the Western media, whose coverage at best minimizes the culpability of imperial powers."

From *Alarm*: "Margaret Wente, columnist for the *Globe and Mail*, constructed the world as being made up of either an us with a 'common civilization' or a them who belonged 'in the killer's world.'"

There are terrorist organizations in 60 countries in the world, including the US and Canada. Does the US intend to send troops into all of them or declare war on all of them?

From *Terminal City*: Our MP, Libby Davies, is concerned that 'Canada not blindly follow the Bush/NATO agenda unleashing massive violence and attacks against civilians...'

Here is a fitting quote from *The Vancouver Sun* from letter writer David Sadler: "If the US drops a bomb on 100 people to kill one criminal, this too must be regarded as a terrorist act."

By Rolf Auer



Our 'Friends' Are Killers, Crooks and Torturers

Almost four weeks after the crimes against humanity in New York and Washington, we are playing politics on the hoof and allying ourselves to some of the nastiest butchers around.

Mr. Blair may believe that the values we believe in should shine through what we do in Afghanistan but few of our friends in the region have many values, and some of them have a lot of blood on their hands. As we search for facilities and jumping-off points and air space and access -- and we are now creating policies by the day -- we are being asked to forget a lot of recent history.

First out of the memory goes Chechnya. The savage repression of this Muslim republic, complete with mass executions, mass rape and mass graves, was the brainchild of Vladimir Putin, the former serving KGB officer into whose soul Mr. Bush believes he peered in Slovenia.

Mr Putin's assault on Grozny was timed to bring him the Russian presidency, and within weeks his undisciplined troops had turned the rubble of Chechnya into something approaching Afghanistan. Mr. Putin now seems our strongest ally in the war against terrorism. And why not, when he is himself such a master of terror?

Second out of the memory goes the nasty little dictatorship run by the Saudi royal family, whose religious "mouttawa" police taught the Taliban how to run their Ministry for the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue.

We should forget that women are not even allowed to drive a car in Saudi Arabia, we must ignore the weekly head-choppings outside mosques, the country's disgraceful and unfair judicial system --



everything, in fact, which might remind us of Saudi Arabia's carbon copy, the Taliban, whose destruction we are now seeking.

Then we must turn our attention away from the not terribly democratic regime of General Pervez Musharraf. Only a little while ago, the general was the Pakistani army commander who overthrew the democratically elected - though corrupt - government of Nawaz Sharif. Indeed, General Musharraf was rather keen to hang Mr. Sharif until President Clinton dropped by Islamabad early last year to condemn Osama bin Laden and appeal for Sharif's life.

Only a few weeks ago, the general appointed himself president. And while the world tut-tutted then, it now respectfully accords General Musharraf the title of president too.

Fourth down the memory hole goes our new friend Uzbekistan whose President Islam Karimov currently holds 7,000 political prisoners in his jails. There is no free press, no political opposition.

Mikhail Ardzinov, one of the few human rights activists in Uzbekistan, who was brutally beaten by Karimov's secret police two years ago, says that although America had promised not to sell out human rights to get Karimov's friendship, we know that the tone will change now. Too true. Karimov has promised that his air space can be used in the fight against terrorism for humanitarian and security aims.

And this is not the moment to remind anyone that Uzbekistan has its own reasons to destroy the Taliban -- not just because the Taliban has been exporting its revolution over the Afghan-Uzbek border, but because President Karimov wants to run an oil pipeline through Afghanistan to a Pakistani port, a project that will help fund his bankrupt police

state (as well as a few American oil companies).

One of Karimov's allies is the anti-Taliban war criminal Abdul Rashid Dustum, whose men went on a rampage of rape in Kabul in the early Nineties and who, for several months, went to fight for the Taliban after receiving a massive bribe for his change of allegiance. So it's amnesia too for the anarchy and mass human rights abuses perpetrated when the Northern Alliance, our friends in northern Afghanistan, ruled Kabul. We must remember with sorrow its former leader, Ahmed Shah Massoud, a genuine patriot murdered by Arab suicide bombers on 9 September, but we must forget his colleague Rasoul Sayaf whose men used Shia women as sex slaves in the early Nineties.

Now it's true that Churchill, when told in 1941 that Germany had invaded the Soviet Union and that Stalin was now his ally, announced that if Hitler invaded Hell, he would at least make a favorable reference to the Devil in the House of Commons. But we're not making any references at all to our "friend" in the region. We have drawn the shining bright sword and have no time to worry if the hands we shake are covered in blood.

This is a war of democracy versus evil, according to President Bush. It's just that there's not an awful lot of democracy around.

By Robert Fisk

Published on Sunday, October 7, 2001 in the
Independent/UK © 2001 Independent Digital (UK) Ltd



ramblings of mine

- Have you ever stopped to think
how fucked we all are?
 - Have you ever stopped to smell the flowers?
 - Have you ever stopped and wondered
how many people you've hurt?
 - Have you ever stopped, stopped to remember
how lucky we all are?
 - Have you ever stopped to remember
who you are.
- Have you ever stopped and
forgot to start again?

J.Sarson & S.Cushing



7



WHEN ALL HELL BREAKS LOOSE

The best defence, when walls of treason choke us off is defiance, curses, fury. Then, hopefully, a rally of friends: knowledge, focus, confidence, courage, guts, stamina... then action with a counting of blessings and words of a prayer

SAM RODDAN

COWARDLY

"Shamefully fearful" the word is defined

"A reprehensible lack of courage in the face of danger or pain" Yet we heard over and over again

"Cowardly acts of terror" "Cowardly suicide bombers" Is suicide an act of bravery or cowardice?

Could a coward sacrifice her/his life?

A religious fanatic could

A mother to save her child could

A very depressed person could

A father to feed his family could

A patriotic soldier could

An elder to provide more space could

A jealous lover could

A bullied teenager could

A temporarily insane person could

But a coward?

Leith Harris



A Day at the Opera

The Vancouver Opera Travelling Ensemble

Performing works by Verdi, Bizet,
Mozart, Donizetti, Floyd, Stravinsky and Strauss

Sunday, October 21 at 3 p.m.

Carnegie Community Centre

This is a totally free event. All welcome.

Refreshments served.



INTERESTED IN RADIO?

COME TO A PUBLIC MEETING TO
DISCUSS DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE
PROGRAM IDEAS FOR
CO-OP RADIO
THEN GET INVOLVED!

BRING YOUR CREATIVE JUICES

TIME: MONDAY, OCT. 22ND, 4:00

PLACE: Carnegie Art Gallery

EMPLOYMENT for RESIDENTS?

Would you like a regular pay cheque?

- Do you live here?
- Would you like to work here?

Come to a community meeting.

Jim Green will be speaking about DESTA'NEZ, a pilot project designed to increase *jobs* in the Downtown Eastside *for residents* of the Downtown Eastside. Come to get information and share your thoughts.

When and Where?

Monday, Oct. 15 at 3:30 pm

Portland Hotel, Ballroom

or

Friday, Oct 19 at 2:00 pm

Carnegie Theatre

Coffee and snacks will be served.

Call Marcia Nozick at 604-692-0781



KIRSTIN ORTWEID. *Tons of Circumstances*, 1997. Cast aluminum and steel chains. Detail

Piercing

I don't need to pierce my nipples
I don't need to pierce my lip
I don't need to pierce my eyebrow
Just the thought makes me rather sick.

I recently saw "Hannibal"
Tuesday Night Movie at the '44'
I thought "Silence of the Lambs" was bad
But disemboweling.. eating brains..
God! - such gore

What is wrong with this planet?
Are we witnessing the final days?
Two towers get skewered in NYC
People walk around in a haze.

I'm glad I'm not a Muslim
Nor a Christian nor a Jew
Look what happened to Jesus -
Nailed to a cross and run through...

I thought that we were heading
Into the Age of Aquarius
One thousand years of peace
Foretold by Mayans, prophets and Jesus.

When will be the turning point
To stop the fighting madness?
a plutonium trigger, a uranium core
That turns the desert into glass.

Larry Morrisseau

Note From a Happy Camper (at Fircom)

9

Soon the others started to arrive, and breakfast was prepared by two other newer volunteers, man those guys should be hired as a team and paid well. "Omelettes cooked by Tom and Daniel" - their signature should have been put on each and every of them. It was a piece of art.

Oh by the way, this is where I would like to explain how I caught this haircut. I didn't measure it but it's probably the world's record for the longest haircut. We cut it outside and every time the sun moved the shade of the tree we moved along with it. I figure about sixteen feet, and a nine year old crop. A wonderful person named Colleen started this venture.

Now, this woman thinks just about anything is fun, and yeah, she coaxed my into the cutting. Giggling and laughing all the time, just as she bent near and said 'the mission had been accomplished.'

John, another friend, came over and stated in no uncertain terms that I had an uneven cut. Colleen started her hysterics and the sudden feeling of uncertainty, you know the lack of confidence was there again. With her cantoring around and giggling like that I believed him more than her. Johnny had a turn saying nothing; I had seen him cut hair before and he knew just about what I wanted. No sooner had he finished and Doris was next at bat cutting the crown of my head, with one of the group announcing that my bald spot was now covered by the way she had styled the "DO".

Now the man who had made the omelette took his whirl at my head, but by this time I was thinking 'at least if they wreck my hair I got someone to blame.' He finished by saying "There now, no one else, and if you want a little more come and see me in a few days time."

I found the nearest mirror, confronted my image and was very impressed by the style and how young it made me feel. These people liked me enough to give me a look of when I was in my early thirties. The fondness of Camp Fircom was thus enhanced for me by this care (not to mention the great food!). The time - you must find that for yourself. There never seems to be enough of it when you're there.

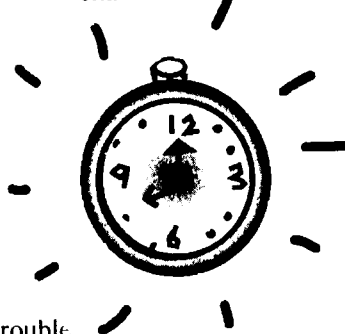
Thanks For One Heck of a Good Time!!

The Anonymous Board Member

even better than a sure thing
 everywhere
 the ultimate in audacity
 committing decide
 deep and high
 trying his luck
 flipping a coin
 keeping things simple
 a fashionable configuration
 designed to compete
 frenzied

merciless
 as it is
 ahead of his time
 autocratic
 tradition can be lucrative
 as a spectacular display
 dazzling and threatening
 fancied like mad
 forward looking
 wise

charles fortin



Big Girl Now

Looking at photos in Jack's album
 the bald two year-old never a lick of trouble
 happy to suckle and sleep
 the total opposite of Ali, hell on wheels
 Colic and the biggest change in my life
 Saved me from a shallow grave somewhere.
 Jack worked 12 straight hours cleaning house
 for the rich white paper pushers in Kerrisdale
 Her mother really wants to work, by god
 The Queen cleans house for other people
 I wish I could tell her
 ..how proud I am.. both together
 learning what life really is [12 hr days]

Miles Davis 'round midnight
 the loneliness of all-nighters
 when you aint even high
 Somehow I must lose the anger
 Seeing the girl in the kitchen
 keeping house, no kid, no more
 helps dissolve the ball in my guts
 Other day sez to me Dad
 gotta job, got school work to do
 Excuse me if poetry aint up there
 with priorities like cash and book learnin'
 I know it's all you ever do but me
 I got life to live ya know?

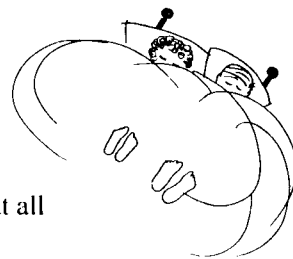
Al Loewen

Some Old Movie

There is a place called the Grouse
 Where there is an old log House
 Deep greens and blues everywhere
 Seen with the crisp cool night air
 Someone called the mountain poet
 So shy, he never liked to show it
 All those write-ups in magazines
 Prizes won in so many scenes
 Leaves now leaving the tree bare
 Our youth on the grass left there
 The rich destroy hope for this age
 Then send Freedom back to a cage
 It was the best summer ever spent
 All over in such a short moment
 Only the dead cedar that nature set
 With the dumb looks keep the secret
 Then like saints burned at the stake
 All else in life seems to be so fake
 We forget what Thanksgiving is about
 A time when we helped each other out.

Daniel Rajala

tough
 honest
 no wonder
 no wonder at all
 original
 intact
 something really desirable
 always greeting with a smile
 excited to be
 early morning enthusiasm
 serious and organized
 hammering away at the fundamentals
 learning to impress
 the hard way
 don't be timid
 push ahead
 especially when stuck
 avoid the mistake of gentleness
 perfection
 he'll be back
 charles fortin



Sisters Resist!

a Women's Week of Education, Mobilization and Action
by, for and about women in the Downtown Eastside

Breaking the Silence is pleased to present the program for Sisters Resist Week. We invite women living and working in the DTES to drop by **the Sunrise Hotel Café, 101 E. Hastings St. (at Columbia)**. We'll be there Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Come in and relax, enjoy some refreshments, take part in the activities, and find out more about Sisters Resist Week. Bring your children -- children's activities and childcare available on site.

events and activities every day from
October 15th - 19th, 2001
all around the DTES

for a full schedule of events... turn the page

Everything's Free!!

Sisters Resist Week would not have been possible without the support of the many agencies that lent their staff time and resources to the planning of the week and for the activities during the week. Breaking the Silence would like to thank:

Aboriginal Women's Action Network ♀ ASIA ♀ Battered Women's Support Services ♀ Bridge Housing Society for Women ♀ Carnegie Community Centre ♀ Direct Action Against Refugee Exploitation ♀ DAMS ♀ DERA ♀ Downtown Eastside Women's Centre ♀ End Legislated Poverty ♀ Neighbourhood Helpers Project ♀ PACE ♀ Powell Place ♀ WAVAW Rape Crisis Centre ♀ WISH Learning Centre ♀ Vancouver Status of Women ♀ YouthCo. AIDS Society ♀ YWCA Crabtree Corner

Breaking the Silence would also like to thank our community partners who made donations in-kind or financially in support of Sisters Resist Week. Thanks to:

Aline LaFlamme ♀ Traditional Grandmothers ♀ Partners in Economic and Community Help ♀ Strathcona Community Centre ♀ Portland Hotel Society (Sunrise Hotel Café) ♀ Carnegie Community Centre Association ♀ Vancouver Second Mile Society ♀ Oppenheimer Park

Sisters Resist: A Women's Week of Education, Mobilization and Action

October 15th to 19th, 2001

Sisters Resist is sponsored by Breaking the Silence (BTS), an ongoing campaign to end violence against women in the Downtown Eastside. During the week, BTS will be set up at the Sunrise Hotel Café, 101 E. Hastings St. (at Columbia). We'll be there Monday, Tuesday & Thursday from 9:00am to 5:00pm

Drop by and relax, have some refreshments, make your very own button, watch a video, start a discussion, contribute to the collective journal, enter the prize draw, and meet other women.

Children are welcome; childcare provided at the Sunrise. Bus tickets are also available for the activities during the week.

We invite all the women who live or work in the Downtown Eastside to check out some or all of these activities.

Monday, Oct. 15th

9:00 - 10:00am
Opening & Pancake Breakfast
at DEWC
302 Columbia St.
(hosted by DEWC)

10:00am - 3:00pm
Aboriginal Women Against Violence
for women of Aboriginal ancestry. Lunch served at DEWC

10am - 3:00pm
In Solidarity with Aboriginal Women: films & discussion open to all women
at the Sunrise Hotel Café
101 E. Hastings St.

6:00 - 8:00pm
Button Making at WISH
for women in the sex trade
at First United Church
300 E. Hastings St.
(hosted by WISH Learning Centre)

2:00 - 9:00pm
Cultural Sharing
open to the community
in the Carnegie Theatre
401 Main St.
(hosted by the Carnegie Seniors Group)

Tuesday, Oct. 16th

10:30am - noon
Bridge Housing: The Official Opening
at DEWC
302 Columbia St.
(hosted by Bridge Housing Society for Women)

Noon - 2:00pm
Homelessness: It's Your Turn to Talk
at Powell Place
329A Powell St.
(hosted by Powell Place)

2:00 - 4:00pm
Your Rights as a Tenant
at Pendera
133 W. Pender St.
(hosted by DERA)

4:30 - 6:30pm
"Hands-on-Banner" Making
at Crabtree Corner
101 E. Cordova St.
bannock, soup & crafts
for women and children
(hosted by YWCA Crabtree Corner)

Wednesday Oct. 17th

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

8:45 - 9:15am
Vigil for Peace
at the Totem Pole in
Oppenheimer Park
400 E. Cordova

10:00 am - Noon
Poverty is Violence Against Women, locally & globally open to the community
in the Carnegie Theatre
401 Main St.

Noon - 1:00pm
March Against Poverty
open to the community
from Main & Hastings to
Oppenheimer Park

1:00 - 2:00pm
Light Lunch
at Oppenheimer Park

3:00 - 6:00pm
How We Hurt Each Other; How We Can Work Together
at DTES Seniors Centre
509 E. Hastings St.
(hosted by ASIA)

5:00 - 8:00pm
Popular Education: Focus on Women with Disabilities
at DEWC
301 Columbia St.
(hosted by VSW)

Thursday, Oct. 18th

10:00am - Noon
Pathways to Self: Creating a Self-Care Journal
at DAMS
167 W. Pender St.
(hosted by DAMS)

Noon - 2:00pm
Sexual Assault Against Women
at DEWC
302 Columbia St.
(hosted by WAVAW)

2:00 - 4:00pm
Older Women's Tea
for older women
at Seniors Centre
509 E. Hastings St.
(hosted by NHP)

5:00 - 9:00pm
Women Surviving Together Group: Strategies for Safety
dinner & discussion
at DEWC
(hosted by DEWC)

Friday, Oct. 19th

Women's Fair
all day
at DEWC
302 Columbia St.

Information tables
Creative Activities

10:00am - Noon
The Week in Review; Where Do We Go From Here?

12:30 - 1:30pm
Lunch

2:00 - 4:00pm
Women Here and Around the World: Voices of Solidarity

4:00 - 6:00pm
Encouraging & Affirming Each Other
(facilitated by Aline LaFlamme)

6:00 - 7:00pm
Dinner

7:00 - 9:00pm
Celebrating with Music

Have any questions, want to volunteer to help... then drop by and see us at the Sunrise Hotel Café, E. Hastings & Columbia, or give Breaking the Silence a call at (604) 682-3269, box 8319.

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Wednesday, October 17th

Open the Community

Today is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. And today, Breaking the Silence honours women here in the Downtown Eastside and around the world who are fighting the violence that poverty brings to their lives and the lives of others. As part of Sisters Resist Week, Breaking the Silence is hosting a number of events on this day. We invite women and men in the DTES to join us.

8:45 – 9:15am

Vigil for Peace

at the Totem Pole at Oppenheimer Park

Breaking the Silence has been holding weekly Vigils for Peace for the past month. We know that war and military actions are very much linked to people's economic situation and survival. We also know that war only leaves more women living in poverty. Now that the United States and their allies have started to drop bombs on Afghanistan and kill people, we need to speak out even more for a different solution. War is not the answer.

10:00am – Noon

Poverty is Violence Against Women, Locally and Globally in the Carnegie Theatre

This event will feature women who have been active in pushing governments and the public to end the poverty faced by women and children. Among the speakers will be representatives from End Legislated Poverty, Aboriginal Women's Action Network and Direct Action Against Refugee Exploitation, as well as other community guests. We will then have an open mic for women to share their words. Refreshments will be served.

Noon – 1:00pm

March Against Poverty

starting at Main & Hastings

From there, we will march over to Oppenheimer Park for a Gathering in Solidarity. At the park, we will share a light lunch.

For more information about any of these events, call Breaking the Silence at
(604) 682-3269, box 8319.

**An interview with Jean Swanson, the author of
Poor-Bashing: The Politics of Exclusion,**

By Linda Moreau



The publisher made an unusual announcement at the book launch for Jean Swanson's book Poor-Bashing: The Politics of Exclusion in Toronto last May. Peter Steven, sales and marketing co-ordinator for Between the Lines, said the price of the book was \$24.95 *or what you could afford*. Swanson said later: "I was talking to Peter before it started, telling him I wanted to give the book away to poor people. I was surprised he really understood".

Swanson's insights about poverty developed as a grassroots organizer in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside with the Residents Association (DERA) and as the founder of End Legislated Poverty (ELP). "I've been poor. I've haven't had a particularly easy life. I've worked in the anti-poverty movement for 25 years from the community level to the international level."

What is poor-bashing? "Neighbours won't let their children play with your children if you're on welfare so there all those really personal experiences of poor-bashing, but there's institutional poor-bashing like having low welfare rates.. having low minimum wages.. you don't have enough to live on.. allowing poverty to exist when we live in a world that's rich enough to end it... to me that's poor-bashing."

Swanson wrote the book because "Sandy (her partner, Sandy Cameron) is always telling everybody that they should write a book." Poor-Bashing and Cameron's book of poetry Sparks From The Fire were advertised in BC BookWorld this spring.

Swanson began writing the book in 1998 when she was ELP's newspaper editor. She was also the president of the National Anti-Poverty Organisation (NAPO). "There was a huge upsurge of poor-bashing in the 90's - which was disgusting - connected to the increase in corporate rights deals, (which), as I say in the book, "enlarg(ed) the group (of people) that corporations can say: 'It's OK they have a shitty job'." I was coming to the

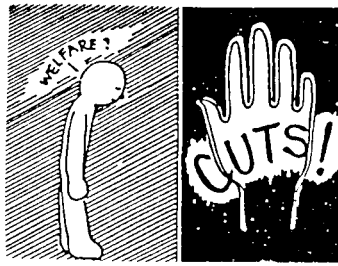
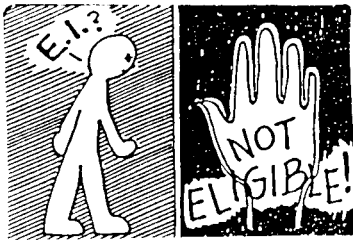
end of my time as NAPO president and I put it to the board of directors: Should I write their newsletter or a book? They chose the book."

Swanson found a publisher easily. Margerie Cohen, Simon Fraser University professor, suggested that she contact Between the Lines and they were interested. "It's exactly the kind of book that we seek to publish. Lots of books present or expose or sensationalize the suffering, poverty and injustice. Jean's work is quite the opposite. It's written from the perspective of the people who are suffering those injustices," says Paul Epril, from Between the Lines.

Swanson thinks her background helped her write the book. "I come from a privileged background. I have a university education, and I'm white. I feel like I'm bi-class - working and middle. That makes it easier to write a book than if I was just working class. Being middle class, I wasn't afraid of going to the library. Being middle class helped me know enough about language so that I didn't think it was bad to use plain language." Swanson thinks she would not have been able to write the book if she had been poor herself during the writing. She listed her expenses, including copy cards at the library, bus fares and the cost of courier services to send drafts to an early editor, Bev Brown, in Newfoundland.

Swanson continues. "First thing I wrote an outline, and for one year I asked people questions relevant to the outline. I met all these people over the years who know about poverty and poor-bashing. I was taking advantage of any chance I got to speak, to travel and interview people about what poor-bashing meant to them. Sometimes I interviewed people individually. Sometimes I interviewed people in a group, like the NAPO board for six hours and people at the Dodson Hotel in the Downtown Eastside (together). Then I wrote the introduction."

As the written material for the book accumulated,



Swanson said she had to be organized. At this point in our interview, Swanson pointed to numerous file folders standing upright in cut-down cardboard holders, on shelves in the living room. She had boxes of files for each chapter. At one stage in writing the book, she had three boxes per chapter.

Swanson wrote the book chapter by chapter. She remembers writing was very difficult. "I kept asking myself what is the point I want to make? I wanted to have an introduction (for each chapter) that drew people in to read it. Sometimes I'd have four or five introductions to each chapter. There's so much from the material in my head and clippings. Which examples to use to explain the point? I tried not to use jargon or to be too rhetorical. I can lapse into that. I wanted people quoted in context. I read through all the interviews and memorized them."

Swanson said the three history chapters were especially difficult to write: "I did the chapters in order, except for the history chapter. ...I realized I didn't even remember the history I'd been part of in the 80's: the GST fight back, free trade, deficit mania and cuts to UI. I didn't have the sequence in my head. I had to make a time line and I spent weeks trying to get it straight."

Swanson struggled writing about racism and poverty as well. If not for the help of Nandita Sharrna, a Vancouver activist and Fay Blaney, a college professor and founder of the Aboriginal Women's Action Network, Swanson said the book would have been very different. "I thought there should be a whole chapter on poor-bashing and racism, but then I thought that would be racist and it had to be integrated into the whole." Sharrna and Blaney's editing resulted in many profound changes to the book. "I had to ask myself where I stood on the capitalist system. I wrote 'we have to share the wealth' and Nandita underlined that phrase and it made me think. I want a system where the rich don't get it in the first place. I had to go through and change the whole

book based on the insight that she made me see."

When the book was ready to be published, there were problems at Between the Lines. There were three complete staff changes while publishing Swanson's book, putting the release date back six months. The first editor "made so many changes, she even changed words in quotes," said Jean. "The publishers had experience with authors changing things endlessly and they didn't want that to happen with me. I promised not to make more than five changes, but the final editor saw what the first editor had done and was horrified."

The publisher wanted a picture of a poor child on the cover. Swanson: "I didn't want that and I told them I would not agree to it. I knew nothing about contracts but months before, when I'd signed it, I'd changed the contract to say that I had to approve the cover. The time was getting tighter. They showed me the cover three days before going to print", said Swanson. The artist of the cover, Margie Adams, described her work: -(the cover represents) "the idea of an inside and outside, a privileged space and those excluded." Paul Epril, production coordinator with Between the Lines added: "(the) cover is true to the spirit of the book ... the wonderful thing is how vibrant the area outside the little square of privilege is ... we want to emphasise people don't have to feel ashamed of not having money."

The reviews of Poor-Bashing: The Politics of Exclusion have been positive. "Swanson traces "poor-bashing" back to the French Poor Laws of the 1500's and then draws a beeline straight to the policies of Ralph Klein, Mike Harris, and Jean Chretien. Readers will be rewarded with a highly accessible overview of the policies creating Canada's rapidly increasing population of have-nots" wrote Mathew Behrens in the Ouill and Ouire. David Coltezjohn in his Vancouver Sun review of Swanson's book wrote: "This should be required reading for Canadians who care." Rolf Auer wrote

an article in ELP's May Long Haul newspaper about the book, titled: "Finally, a book about poor-bashing." The book has been reviewed in union newspapers including The Guardian, the Hospital Employee Union newspaper. The Georgia Straight's Tom Snyder writes as a person who has been poor that Poor-Bashing contains enough righteous anger, clear analysis, and hope to inspire those most affected to start holding those accountable, the wealthy few who benefit most by our oppression."

Fr Jack Costello, S.I. wrote a review in the Catholic Register, but Swanson thought the headline (Poor-bashing is only a recent phenomenon) "was a lie, unless you are talking in geological time". Tom Sandborn wrote in the Columbia Journal that "Swanson's new book ... is a bracing antidote to the noxious propaganda bilge we are subjected to every day lit the business press, the hot line radio shows and the policy announcements of the new Campbell government." Murray MacAdam in The Catalyst wrote "it's a fresh, provocative read, one that challenges the reader to think hard about one's own stereotypes about the poor."

A nine-minute show on Vision TV about Swanson and her book called "The Birth of a Book", aired on April 24 and had interviews with the author and scenes of the book being printed at the Toronto University Press.

During our interview Swanson said over 1000 copies have been sold. Swanson continues to give the book away, or she asks people to pay only what they can afford for it. Carleton University in Ottawa bought 70. Ben Carniol, author of Case Critical works there and has just had the 3rd edition of his book published. He wrote a leaflet about his book on one side, and Swanson's on the other, and sent it to progressive academic contacts in the US. Other Canadian universities have bought copies and the Vancouver Public Library has 24 copies.

As I thank Jean for the interview, she says: "The people I interviewed had high hopes. They gave me their insights and time and passion on the issue and I didn't want them disappointed in me. It made me want to come up with a book that was true to the interests of poor people. The big goal is to get rid of poor-bashing."

Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2R4.

Or ask your library or local bookstore to order it

"That in the opinion of this house, the Ontario government must conduct an immediate review of the health and well-being of any Ontarian, or their family, suspended from welfare benefits, and launch a broader social audit to assess impact of the government's unprecedented welfare reforms."

*This motion was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in Ontario by the Opposition. A young mother died after being cut off welfare and left with no way to house or feed herself and her children. An "immediate review", as called for, would have saved her life and corrected the situation created by the callous abandonment. The case outraged people back east, where the slashing of social services and safety net has already resulted in extreme hardship for thousands of poor people. Harris, admired by Gordon Campbell, has just shrugged at the misery and deaths caused by his government's agenda. There are 30,000+ homeless people on the streets of Toronto and many have frozen to death in the winter.



Jacquie Ackerly, President of NAPO and a grassroots activist in Victoria, said on the cover of Poor-Bashing: The Politics of Exclusion: "I am sure that anyone who has experienced living in poverty will find themselves saying 'Yes sister, tell it like it is' They will also say 'I have always felt hurt by that behaviour or those words but was never able to identify it as poor-bashing until now.' And sadly, they will also say 'I've always blamed myself for creating my poverty.'" For those living in poverty, this book delivers truth, freedom and power."

To order Poor-Bashing: The Politics of Exclusion call End Legislated Poverty at (604) 879-1209 or Between the Lines at 720 Bathhurst Street, suite #404.

EMPLOYMENT for RESIDENTS?

- Would you like a regular pay cheque?
- Do you live here?
- Would you like to work here?

Come to a community meeting to hear and share your thoughts about DESTA'NEZ, a pilot project designed to increase jobs in the Downtown Eastside for residents. Jim Green will be speaking.

Monday, Oct. 15 at 3:30 pm
Portland Hotel, Ballroom 20 W. Hastings
or
Friday, Oct. 19 at 2:00 pm
Carnegie Theatre

What is DESTA'NEZ?

DESTA'NEZ stands for Downtown Eastside Target Area and Empowerment Zone. It is a provincial government pilot project.

What is an "empowerment zone"?

It is a way to encourage government, businesses and non-profits to:

- buy locally
- hire local residents

What's in it for me and my community?

Because there would be more local buying, there will be more demand for products and services from the Downtown Eastside. The result is:

- Growth for existing businesses = NEW JOBS!
- NEW BUSINESSES started in the community = MORE new jobs!

Who gets these jobs?

- Businesses will be looking for local residents to hire. It could be YOU.
- Employment programs would give specific training to make sure that YOU qualify for the jobs that are created!

For more information contact Marcia Nozick at 604-692-0781

MADNESS 101 – MENTAL HEALTH DIALOGUE SERIES

"THERAPY'S VICTIMS" by Tana Dineen
Monday, October 22, 2001 at 7 p.m.
Humanities Storefront - 49 W. Cordova

Tana Dineen has over 30 years of experience in the field of psychology and is a licensed psychologist in British Columbia and Ontario. Dr. Dineen's book, *Manufacturing Victims: What the Psychology Industry is Doing to People*, was first released in 1996, significantly revised in 1998 and updated again in 2001 for a 3rd edition.

psychology was not the caring profession that people thought it to be but rather an "industry" in which she saw many of her colleagues creating "consumers" and manufacturing "victims." She closed her clinical practice and moved to Victoria, B.C. where she researched and wrote *Manufacturing Victims*.

Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m. Lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. *This is a free event.*
For more information contact **604-255-0255**



**Comments?
Concerns?**

**Contact
Jenny
Wai Ching
Kwan, MLA**

Working for You

1070-1641 Commercial Dr., V5L 3Y3
Phone: 775-0790 Fax: 775-0881
Office hours: Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm

I'm Worried, You're Worried, Libby Davies And Svend Robinson Are Worried

Libby Davies, Svend Robinson, Scott Clark, and Murray Dobbin all spoke at a meeting on September 27th at the Pacific Coliseum. Their concern was clear. We are losing control of our lives. No political party is speaking out powerfully about the fact that Canada, and the world, have been taken over by an army of marketeers, and government no longer works for ordinary people.

Over three hundred people came to this meeting which was called a New Politics Initiative Forum. Don't let the name put you off. Libby, Svend and many other caring people are trying to light a fire under the federal NDP to get it moving in the direction of global social justice in an authentic way. If the NDP won't move, then something else will have to happen. As the New Politics Initiative is a work in progress, no one can say how all of this will turn out.

Ordinary people are being stomped on something fierce. Just watch the stomp-fest of the neo-Liberals in B.C. with their hypocritical slogan "Sharing the Pain". The richest ten percent of Canadians own over fifty-three percent of Canada's wealth, more than the wealth of the other ninety percent of Canadians. Sharing the pain indeed! It is encouraging to see people like Svend, Libby, Scott and Jenny Kwan speaking, and encouraging others to speak, for a democratic society of participating citizens. Jenny supports this new initiative for honesty in talking about what is really happening in this frightening world, and for speaking what we feel, not what we ought to say. (1)

Bud Osborn started the September 27th meeting with a powerfully eloquent poem about our pain as human beings in an unjust world. That's where authentic politics starts for many people - with the pain of poverty, unemployment, lousy part-time work at low wages, homelessness, hunger, competitive impoverishment in global capitalism, racism, and exclusion from political and economic life by the oligarchy that runs Canada and owns most of its institutions. Doesn't the oligarchy know that it is sowing the wind, and that it will reap the whirlwind? Or does it believe it has enough armed men, tear gas, pepper spray, and concentration camps to crush all dissent?

The authentic sharing of pain is a foundation stone



of solidarity because it arises from a profound caring for each other and for the earth. Hope is a foundation stone of solidarity also, but not false hope. We need a solid hope based on the knowledge that our democracy has been under-mined by those with great wealth and power, and that we are going to something about it, even if it takes one hundred years. First Nations people can tell us something about that kind of enduring hope.

This meeting at the Pacific Coliseum on Sep 27th was very serious. Some words of the late Tommy Douglas will tell us how serious this meeting was: "Once more let me remind you what fascism is. It need not wear a brown shirt or a green shirt. Fascism begins the moment a ruling class, fearing the people may use their political democracy to gain economic democracy, begins to destroy political democracy in order to retain its power of exploitation and special privilege." (2)

Tommy Douglas was a fighter who knew pain and preached hope. He often quoted the following proverb: "It is only when the night is very dark that you can sometimes see the stars."

If you want to become involved in the New Politics Initiative, call Libby's office at **604-776-5800**.

By SANDY CAMERON

(1) see the last speech in the play King Lear, by Shakespeare - spoken by the Duke of Albany:

"The weight of this sad time we must obey:
Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say."

(2) Tommy Douglas Speaks, (the speeches of Tommy Douglas), edited by L.D. Lovlck, pub. by Douglas & McIntyre. 1979, page 209.

Twisting the Screw, Bolt Upward

Changin' the laws, changin' the rules
Comin' down hard, they dig dirty pool.
The Right's in control, goin' backward in time
Regressive in nature, ridiculous, not sublime.

To be cruel with intent is a terrible thing,
Always stirring up conflict for a political fling,
Never testing the waters.. in heat to make waves
Crucifying fine people, another log on the fire.

Taking lambs off to the slaughter slowly
And to 'scrap heap' their desires, definitely.
The masters of war shut down their sense of feeling
To keep the masses in check, always kneeling.

Resist crooked avenues, dissension & decimation
Kick out the jams and get your body machine in gear
Break out of invisible bonds of disturbance, distress,
and, finally, do continue to endlessly disturb
our corrupted political bosses of doom.
Enough said.

Robyn

I am Canadian

and fueled up from Thanksgiving (only in Canada
you say; pity). I want to speak out about the effects
of high-priced, high-tech video surveillance; not
only the 23 cameras wanted by Vancouver Police in
the Downtown Eastside but elsewhere in Canada.

I speak with love because it is only love which
enables us to go on despite the wrongs happening to
us "in Canada." I don't want our freedoms or rights
or rights to privacy lost by an over zealous response
to crime. Let's be reasonable, with not only our
future but that of successive generations in mind.

I realize our struggle for cooler heads to prevail
comes at a time when the push and monies are being
provided for local, regional, national and international
security and safety. Nevertheless we should
maintain not only our existing rights but try to
strengthen them to new levels amidst the onslaught
of new technologies.

There is a duty of care and a duty of trust. And we
have a burden of responsibility as free citizens.
Canadians don't want to be invaded by cameras,
computers or crime.

Mike Bohnert



"Not Guilty"

Well, now that I'm a sage
I've got continued war to wage
My mamma in 1929 won the vote
Well, maybe some women did, maybe she didn't
Indian status brothers and sisters until 1960 had a
longer stint

Historically speaking, before European review
Topless tissue

Was never a gender exclusive issue
By '35 brothers, fathers could legally doff their top
62 years later, they tell women folks, you still stop
Not for me that'll never do

With political incorrectness, aint we through
I want equality for the sexes

And the races too
But a friend and I got charged in Victoria Park for
equal undress

She was non-black
How's that for slack

I was non-white
How's that for sight
Guess you know the rest

What no top
Said the city cop
Yeah, but what about this political correctness

I pointed to men in similar undressness
The topless men said you gonna charge us
I said I want equality for the sexes
And you can add same time equality for the races
One topless man he said me you'd better charge
Or let them topless women remain at large
The cop he said interfering is an offence

What are you, dense
You committing a criminal offense
I'm pleading not guilty
It's the law that's guilty
Doesn't it know it's an offense

To be politically dense

Evangeline Godron ©97-10-16

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

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

City – 5:45pm – 11:45pm

Overnight – 12:30am – 8:30am

Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am

2001 DONATIONS Libby D. -\$69
Sam R. -\$30 Nancy W. -\$4 Eve E. -\$25
Margaret D. -\$30 Shyamala G. -\$30
Pam C. -\$20 Val A. -\$20 Wm B. -\$20
Harold D. -\$20 Pam -\$20 Mary C. -\$30
Rolf A. -\$75 Bruce J. -\$34 Peggy -\$45
Kettle -\$20 Sonya S. -\$120 BCTF -\$20
Nancy H. -\$19 Bill G. -\$130 Wes K. -\$14
DEYAS -\$150 RayCam -\$70 LSS -\$230
John S. -\$34 Paddy -\$60 Sarah E. -\$20
Rockingguys -\$30 Anonymous -\$283
The Edge -\$200 Celeste W. -\$22
Jo's Mom -\$25 Charles F. -\$10
Mennonite CC -\$60 Rosemary Z. -\$60

Free donations accepted

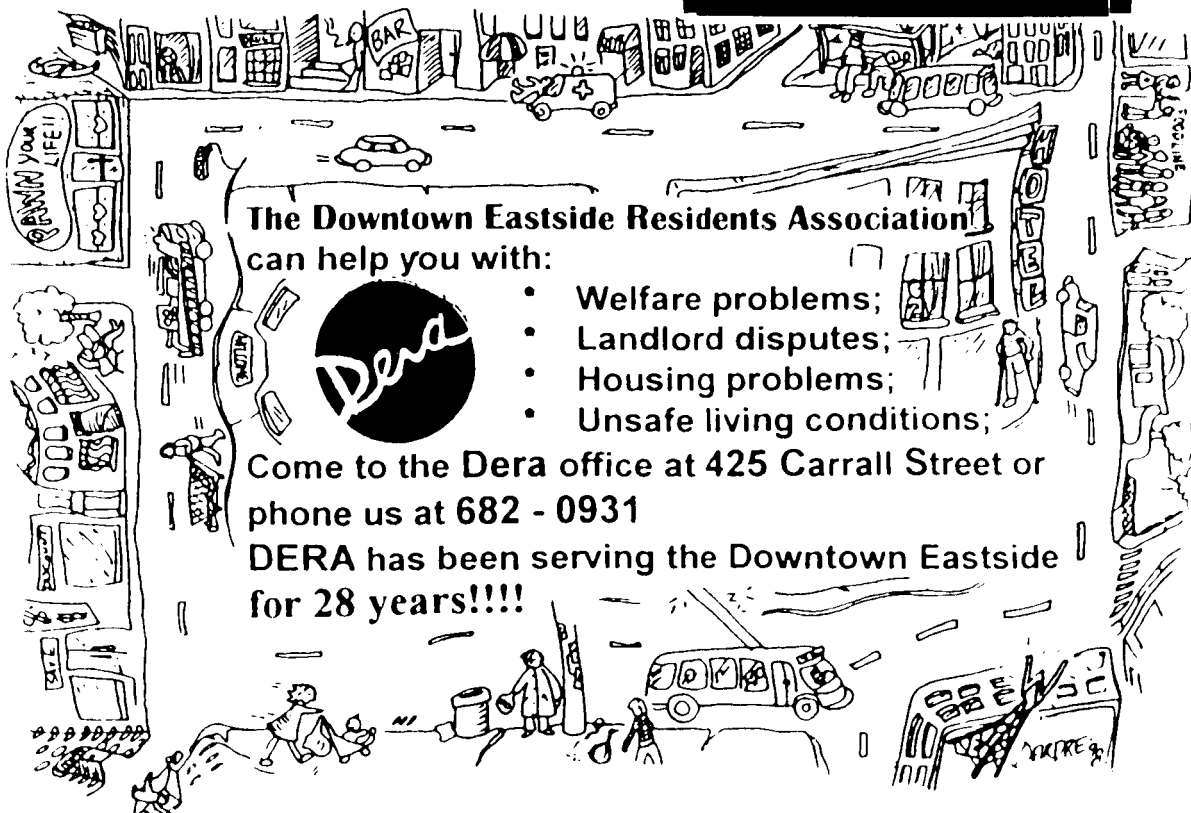
Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

401 Main St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7 Email: carnews@direct.ca

THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION.
Articles represent the views of individual
contributors and not of the Association.

Submission Deadline
for next issue:
Monday, October 29



The Downtown Eastside Residents Association
can help you with:

- Welfare problems;
- Landlord disputes;
- Housing problems;
- Unsafe living conditions;

**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!!!!**



And They've Just Begun...

VICTORIA - How can B.C. Finance Minister Gary Collins now maintain a straight face after claiming emphatically before last May's election that cuts to personal income taxes would bring in more revenue?

As noted previously, Collins and now-Premier Gord Campbell didn't just insist that the economic stimuli resulting from the tax cuts will, without exception, mean more money for the government immediately.

They laughed at economists and critics who noted it's only in very limited circumstances that reductions in personal income taxes provide more revenue. For instance, an absurdly high marginal income tax rate - of, say, 80 per cent or more - drives high-income earners out of the province or the country. When rates are reduced to more normal levels, many of the wealthy return. The consequence is more revenue.

None of those circumstances applied in B.C. before the election, and none of them apply now. So how do Campbell and Collins explain away their sudden change of heart? There are two possibilities.

One is that the Liberals recognized that if they admitted tax cuts would cause a \$2 billion drop in provincial revenue, voters might not support them. So they lied. The other possibility is that they were too thick to listen to the experts. In other words, they're stupid.

The first possibility just couldn't be correct, for integrity is a big thing with the Liberal government. Here's what Campbell said in an interview published

in the Sept. 29 National Post: "The [last] government misled the public. It was deliberate, malicious and wrong. A disgraceful government."

Referring to the NDP's 1995-96 and 1996-97 budgets, Campbell added: "They told British Columbians there was no deficit, but they knew it was coming. This was deliberate and destructive."

It's pretty clear that Campbell would never tell even a little white lie, especially about a budget matter. Which leads us to the other possibility.

Last May 16, British Columbians elected an idiot as premier.

In a recent column, I reported that according to the documents it filed with Elections B.C. recently, the B.C. Green Party ended last spring's election campaign with a surplus of approximately \$54,400. When I first asked her about it, leader Adriane Carr was puzzled, and she insisted there was no big pile of money lying about.

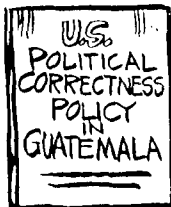
Carr later phoned back to say that the apparent surplus is only a "paper" surplus, the consequence of Elections B.C. rules. As of Sept. 29, there were just "four hundred and something dollars in the bank," Carr said.

According to Carr, the \$54,400 was the cost of printing signs, leaflets and other campaign material for the party's 72 local candidates. Because of the rules, the candidates are reported as having made donations, to cover printing costs, to the central party organization - even though they didn't in fact give a cent.

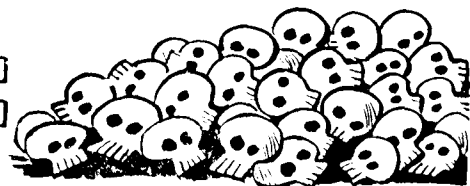
The uncollected donations from candidates will be written off, meaning that the actual surplus is zero, Carr added.

It sounds weird to me, as the upshot of all this is that the party reported receiving \$54,400 in gifts that it never actually received. Or maybe this is an indication of the new Green accounting system that the party will bring in for B.C. if they ever get round to electing 40 MLAs.

By RUISS FRANCIS



+ CIA =





“Conspiracy”

To paraphrase: In government/corporate conspiracy, the right hand can pretend to *not know* what the left hand is doing

It seemed to be a Catch-22 when BC Benefits “replaced” GAIN. The old Socreds had consciously ignored the dusty pile of rules and regulations that helped legislate poverty. Welfare was a grind, with people trapped in it. The holistic approach to relieve poverty with higher rates, creation of decent jobs, building decent, affordable housing and taxing the very rich in a fair way were all anathema to what passed for the philosophy of capitalism.

No, this isn’t a communist rant. Capitalism makes humans beggars. Communism makes the beggar a beast.

The NDP was going to be the champion of the poor, the working person, and change things to keep the worst excesses of capitalist greed in check. It’s too trite to encapsulate 10 years of government into a line or two, but the impact of BC Benefits was hard on many people. It seemed that organized protest and real resistance to the ‘new’ rules and regs was not to be, at least not in the way of the dying days of the Socreds.

The Liberals got back in, composed of many old Socreds, Alliance/Reform feeders, and corporate hacks. People on the whole take a “Let’s give them a

chance” attitude, and are somewhat relieved to have the obligatory anti-NDP stories on radio, TV and the daily press die down.

Tax cuts, first and foremost, and the richest get the biggest breaks in history. Now, after the salad days and the summer, the steamroller of cuts and slashes is in gear and moving. Lo and behold, cutting taxes means less money, means reducing the services and places that the money is used.

Campbell, erstwhile premier, signals up to 50% cut from most Ministries and the new bosses of same are to figure out how.

“We are philosophically opposed to social housing.”

-Claude Richmond, Minister of Social Services and Housing under Vanderzalm’s Socreds.

-Claude Richmond is now Speaker of the House with Campbell’s Liberals. They are starting the slashing of all new social housing projects, discontinuing any not already in the ground and cancelling proposals (like Woodward?).

When Murray Coell, Minister of Human Resources (welfare) spoke at DERA’s General Membership meeting, he was as respectful and open as it is possible to play it. Sadly, most questions were answered with “We’ll look into it” or “We’re reviewing everything.”

Well and good. While a program to provide very sick recipients with an additional \$225 for certain costs has been resurrected (up to \$300/month had been approved by the NDP), virtually every “employable” recipient has received a letter telling each to get ready to work or be cut off. There are thousands of people losing their jobs and thousands more already unemployed. The scramble to find work is never-ending, but the tenor of the missive from Coell is to start again on resumes and how to be interviewed and what little extras are available if you find full-time employment. This is almost a joke given that 90% of jobs at the low end, where most people getting off welfare find themselves, are part-time and minimum wage. Without government programs to create work, which (of course) Liberals/socreds/Alliance blanks state they are ‘philosophically opposed to’ it is a charade to just cut people

off and forget about them.

Yes, work is preferable, but unpaid work and social assistance are part of life for many thousands who want the benefit of their contributions valued. The drift here is that without devoting oneself to finding any work at any wage, you'll become a non-person. The drift in many states and other parts of Canada has lifetime limits to getting welfare of 2-5 years, of having to work 20-30 hours a week to get \$400 a month, of private companies making a profit by managing caseloads and cutting people off, ...

Anger and frustration can teach, but the snake oil salesmen are back in government. They haven't learned, but we have.

By PAULR TAYLOR

Mold and Money

I am a middle-aged woman who, unfortunately, has found herself at the mercy of Gov't Assistance. This means also that I have the unfortunate circumstance of standing in bread lines and frequently "free food" lines and outlets.

I am not an ungrateful woman. I appreciate all that is given me, however I feel that it is high time someone said something as to the quality of food given. All too frequently I receive rotten, damaged, moldy and outdated food products that would not be ALLOWED to be sold in local supermarkets. Am I to be grateful because it is free and consume these unsafe products?

When Jesus said, "Feed my flocks," did he mean give them that which you would otherwise throw in the garbage?

Canada's Food Guide to good health says that one should consume 5-10 servings of FRESH fruit and vegetables, as well as several other servings of grains, meat, milk and milk products to achieve maximum health.

My (and 1000's of others') Income Assistance does not support this guide; therefore my (and 1000's of others') health is compromised.

Bad food is dangerous – that is why it is removed from supermarket shelves.

Unhealthy bodies = unhealthy minds.

Elizabeth Ashforth
DTES Resident.

A NEW ERROR

We've been here before...

They used to call them Socreds



Now they call them Liberals.

A more deceptive name...

A more deceptive approach to politics

In an election where the independent voices within the Liberal party were quickly silenced; where few promises of any significance were made; and in a post-election period where the new government seems hell-bent on delivering a slash and burn type of governance which looks to reward their corporate contributors and abandons all others, we cannot afford to sit around waiting to see which way the wind is blowing. Arbitrarily overturning labour legislation, eliminating environmental safeguards, and arrogantly imposing their will upon the Aboriginal treaty process, we can already see clearly which way it's blowing. We just need to get ready for the struggle, which is inevitable.



And They've Just Begun...

The People's Opposition
Contact and meeting info:
(604) 291-4433 ext. 7878

Web:
<http://www.peoplesopposition.org>

Email:
peoplesopposition@hotmail.com