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Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



NOVEMBER 1, 2001

401 Main St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7

Email: carnnews@direct.ca

DAY OF THE DEAD



DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

DAY OF THE DEAD

In Mexico, on November 1 & 2, it is an honour and a duty to commemorate family and friends that have died. This tradition can be traced back to the Aztecs. They believed that death was not an ending, but the beginning of a new and eternal existence, so they respected the cycle of life by honouring the dead.

Every culture must learn to deal with the loss of life in order to survive. Feelings of abandonment, anger, guilt, and fear must be released before we can go back to the business of living. Through centuries of poverty, oppression and violence, death has been ever-present. The sense of being vulnerable in a life full of dangers, chaos and demonic spirits has made generations feel that to live is to suffer.

The Aztecs did not tremble before their god of death, Miclantechtli; they feared the uncertainty of life. Miclantechtli didn't punish the dead for their "sins" on earth, he released them from their burdens.

In our times, **Day of the Dead** has evolved to become a mixture of Pre-Columbian and Roman Catholic beliefs. The Catholic All Saints' Day grew out of the Egyptian festival of mourning for the murder of Osiris, the God Of Life, Death and Grain, in November.

Latin Americans celebrate the communion between the living and the dead with beauty, music, love and humour. The living invite the dead to join them in the party, to come home for a few hours before returning to the "other side". They visit the graves from sunset 'til midnight with candles, food and drink. The ghosts are offered their favourite food, cigarettes and alcohol, and the living help them drink it! Strolling musicians or family members play the ghosts' favourite tunes. It's a time to make fun of the living and how seriously we take ourselves. **We** are suffering, the dead "rest in peace".

Home altars, called *ofrendas*, are built to commemorate the dead. They are decorated with candles, special food, sugar cane stalks and marigolds. Flower petals carpet the floor to the *ofrenda*, where photos of those who died are placed

alongside religious icons, to invite the ghosts in. The heavy aroma of copal incense fills the room.

A group of volunteers from Latin America will be celebrating Day of the Dead tomorrow, **Nov.2**. At 1:00 they will be leaving **Oppenheimer Park** for the Surrey Cemetery, where Rudolpho's son is buried. They will be re-uniting at the park around 5:30 ("Mexican Time") to honour the volunteers who have died, Wilfredo, Oscar and Mauricio, among others. Everyone is invited to bring musical instruments, noise-makers, flowers, photographs and candles, and to come costumed or masked. The procession will then march along Hastings St. to Pigeon Park, and then double back to the Carnegie for music and festivities. As in past years, we will break *pinatas* on the street out front. Isabel, a Mexican *folklorista*, will perform spirited songs and dances to which you may all join in. In the past we have broken *piñatas* shaped like a coffin, a rice wine bottle, a heart and a grinning skull, and carried coffins from Vandu in a mock funeral procession (not that funny, considering the number of friends that have died in our community). So many *Latinos* fight for their lives in their own countries against overwhelming police/military repression, war and poverty, then struggle to get to Canada to make a fresh start, only to die here from the alcohol and drugs they get involved in, in what was meant to be their "new life".

The sad reality is that I always have someone to grieve, in all the years I've been part of this celebration: this year it's Jean-Marie. I'll be bringing a painting, photos and flowers and add my voice to the others. There's laughter too, it's so much more balanced a way to remember the dead than the solemn funerals I usually attend. So bring your photos and mementos and join us on Friday. Any questions can be directed to Ingrid Cruz at Watari 604-720-8492 or Sandy, the programmer at the Carnegie *Hasta la vista!*

- Diane Wood

Woman missing for over 10 weeks



Heather Chinnock

RCMP ARE looking for Heather Gabrielle Chinnock, a 30-year-old Surrey woman who has been missing since April 15, the day her boyfriend says they had an argument that ended with her storming off.

Chinnock, who has a police record, was not reported missing until June 19, after she failed to collect her last two wel-

fare cheques.

She is described as a Caucasian female, 5'3", 140 pounds, with green eyes and long brown hair.

Anyone with information on her disappearance is asked to contact RCMP Const. Gursharn Bernier at 599-7777 (local 3430).

Paul,

enclosed is a donation to continue my subscription to the Carnegie newsletter. I am very pleased to receive this information. you are doing great work. I'm very impressed. Great reading from everyone!

Charlotte Fortin
Chianko Forks, BC

[If anyone wants this paper mailed to them it costs about \$18 a year for stamps.]

PreacherMan

Preacherman sez Forgive! Gotta life to live
Preacherman never waited at the gate with a .38
Brotherman I can't stand no more bullshit baby
I'm close to the edge.. don't go pushin' me

Preacherman sex Take care of your kids!
How?man when you be flippin' your lid?
Preacherman sez Stay calm
He aint never made hisself a bomb..

Lord have Mercy on me, set me free
I'm an angry man in an angry town
Keep pushin'.. some shit go down

Brotherman I can't stand no bull
Gotta triggerfinger -don't make me pull

Preacherman never be threatened for his safe life
Never hadda worry, no hunger, no strife
Preacherman sez God He gotta Plan
Sometimes gets one wonderin' if the Preacherman
even understand what it looks like
from where I stand.

Robbie Loewen

Hard Labour

We loathe predators and child abusers.. minds pock-marked with immaturities. Our best defence is unforgiving toughness. In courts of law let us have penalties of hard labour directed to building shelters for the young and homeless at risk in our community

Sam Roddan





On October 16th, Bridge Housing Society for Women celebrated, officially, the opening of Bridge Housing for Women, a seven-story, multi-purpose building located at the corner of Columbia and Cordova in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. More than 100 friends and dignitaries were on hand to honour the efforts of the women whose hard work and commitment made Bridge Housing a reality.



Speaking on behalf of the Bridge Board, chair-woman Ellen Woodsworth thanked the community, funders and supporters of Bridge, without whom the project could never have succeeded. Though the current project has been in planning and development stages for close to ten years, the dream of building much-needed housing for women has been passed from one generation of women to another for more than twenty years. The current project is the culmination of this lasting vision, and evidence of the determination, dedication, and countless hours of hard work of many women from a wide variety of backgrounds.

Bridge's current board members have experience and expertise in many areas, including social housing, issues confronting urban Aboriginal people, persons dealing with disabilities, and women's issues. Perhaps most importantly though, they bring their personal histories of grappling with and overcoming adversity. Several board members have lived or do live in the neighbourhood and know first-hand the hardships faced by women struggling to cope with unsafe, unclean, and inadequate housing. Their knowledge is invaluable to Bridge's efforts to develop supportive housing that is sensitive and responsive to women's needs, and supportive of their life goals and aspirations.

Also on hand to celebrate Bridge's opening were board members and staff of Atira Women's Resource Society, the organization contracted by Bridge to provide programs and services to Bridge residents, both in the shelter and in the permanent housing. Like Bridge, Atira is committed to diversity among the women it serves and does not and will not discriminate on the basis of race, ability or sexual preference. In addition to providing one-to-one support, Atira will facilitate 16-step groups, creativity and healing circles, provide group meals, advocacy and accompaniments as requested. Women will also be supported to resolve conflict at it arises, including support in understanding the ways in which gender, race, class, ability and sexual orientation affect all our lives.

The building features thirty-six units of permanent housing and twelve units of short-term stay shelter. The non-housing first floor and basement is the new home of the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre (DEWC), which has been providing crucial services, advocacy, and most importantly, a safe place for community women for more than twenty years.

Women seeking access to the Shelter can call 604-684-3542 or, buzz number "one" at the main entrance to the building at 100 East Cordova. Applications for permanent housing are available by calling 604-684-3571 or by buzzing "two" at the main entrance. Each of the 36 units can house one woman only, and only women can live at Bridge.

October 17th is the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. To mark the day, *Breaking the Silence* held a panel discussion on "Poverty as Violence Against Women" as part of our week-long Sisters Resist activities. Rita Wong, a member of Direct Action Against Refugee Exploitation, spoke at the event about the politics behind the growing poverty here and around the world. Below is her speech, edited for length:

Globalization and Poverty as Violence Against Women

On September 11, 2001, over 35,000 children died from starvation in poor countries around the world. While the mass media focused completely on the tragic deaths in New York, thousands around the world who were also dying because of a violent economic system were ignored.

Poverty may not sell as many newspapers as terrorism does, but it is every bit and even more deadly than terrorism. All the time. Poverty kills more people, especially women and children, around the world.

In the so-called global economy, which some have



called the casino economy, we are seeing the rich get richer and the poor get poorer faster than ever before. According to the United Nations, the income gap between people in the world's wealthiest nations and the poorest nations has shifted from 30:1 in 1960 to 60:1 in 1990. It jumped again to 74:1 in 1997.

Globalization continues the pattern of exploitation that imperialism and colonialism began. For

centuries the North (by which I mean countries like the US. and Britain) has been stealing the resources of the South (by which I mean countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America). This was first done by governments and is now continuing under multinational corporations.

People have been forcibly and systematically pushed off their lands and impoverished, both here on the First Nations land we call Canada and around the world.

If we keep this situation in mind, the migration of people across borders is a political act for it rejects the impoverishment and exploitation that global corporatism inflicts on large populations around the world. Why is it that only wealthy people are able to move across borders so freely? Poor people should have that right too. Why should a woman in China make two dollars a day sewing clothes for 12 hours when she can make seven dollars an hour here in Canada sewing clothes? Either way, she is still poor by Canadian standards.

It is important to remember the history of why and how some people became so poor at the same time that some people have become so obscenely rich.. To have several cars and houses all over the place is obscene when people around the world are still dying of starvation.

Over one billion people worldwide struggle to survive on \$1 day or less. Over one billion people don't have access to safe drinking water. About 150 million children are malnourished, and more than 10 million children under five will die in 2001 alone. In Iraq alone, an estimated 5,000 children are needlessly dying each month because of sanctions.

There is enough food for everyone on this earth, but it is not properly distributed. One fifth of the world's population controls over four fifths of its resources. This is immensely violent, and we see the effects of this everywhere from here in the downtown eastside to the thousands of deaths of children every day around the world. This is a global tragedy because there is enough wealth on this planet to prevent these deaths. The question, however, is one of political will. I hope to see in my lifetime a society that addresses the deadly effects of the current economic system instead of wasting its resources on needless war.

By Rita Wong

DANCE LIVE BAND

Friday, November 23

The Volunteer Dinner will be followed by a
Live Band Dance from 7pm – 10pm.

It will be a fun evening, so spread the word.

Everyone welcome!

Refreshments served.

Sometimes someone
dances the dance

moving in
moving out
leaving us

breathless

sometimes someone
dances the dance
in the dreamer's eye
the child's song
laughter for the soul

sometimes someone
dances the dance
leading us to truths
forgotten

sometimes someone dances
touching us
& at last we know
sometimes someone
joins us
in the dance

Gail D. Whitter

unveiled
revealed
after years of wondering
sometimes unfathomable
kind of fun
apocalyptic
monumental
real emotional
so simple
so violent
it seems pretty clear
something is going on
huge questions
where?
what?

a cause of great concern
touching many souls
horrified enough to think
futuristic innovations
defying logic
a weird phenomenon
thinking really big
it's a shocker

charles fortin

a sheen of perspiration
over an alabaster body
sweat streaked guitar
keen barbaric bloodnotes
smoky
fuzzy
wild
halfway in between
distorted riffs
monstrous, monotone vocals
maximum cool please
a serious metamorphoses
a passion for the obscure
and the sickly, blue rays
of late-night t.v.
the psychotic debris
seldom so tortured
impressively destroying
vague, glazed expressions
return to the living
over the grave
causing trouble

charles fortin

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

Attention

ALL VOLUNTEERS

The next Volunteer Dinner will be on
Friday, November 23 (4:30pm Theatre)
instead of the usual Wednesday.

We have a special dinner planned for you.
Don't miss it, Please come.

JUST TOO DAMN MUCH!

I love your kisses.
I love your touch.
I love your smell
just too damn much!

I love your smile.
I love your eyes.
I love your hugs
but not good-byes.

I love your laugh.
I love your cry.
I love the way.
you make me sigh.

I love your humour.
I love your stand.
I love the way
you take my hand.

I love your kisses.
I love your touch.
I love your smell
just too damn much!

Kimberley Scott

7

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: It's the only thing that ever has."

(Margaret Meade)

Are you seeking an opportunity to make use of your ideas and skills to make the community a better place to live? Are you concerned about your neighbourhood? Would you like to have a voice in improving service?...

then we want to hear from you.

Community Health Committee #2 is looking for new members!

For more information and how you can participate,
contact your local health committee team
at 659-1130

Community Health Committee #2
(Grandview Woodland, Strathcona, DTES)
**Vancouver/Richmond
Health Board**

Working Together for Better Health

after she leaves
changing shadows on the wall
he notices

Gail D. Whitter

I received a telephone call last evening from an individual identifying himself as an AT&T Service technician who was conducting a test on telephone lines. He stated that to complete the test I should touch nine(9), zero(0), the pound sign (#), and then hang up.

Luckily, I was suspicious and refused. Upon contacting the telephone company, I was informed that by pushing 90#, you give the requesting individual full access to your telephone line, which enables them to place long distance calls billed to your home phone number. I was further informed that this scam has been originating from many local jails/prisons.

I have also verified this information with UCB Telecom, Pacific Bell, MCI, Bell Atlantic and GTE. Please beware. DO NOT press 90# for ANYONE.

for Ma

I'll get back to Normal someday
Normal Manitoba or Ontario, I think
get back to Normal.. have a woman waiting there

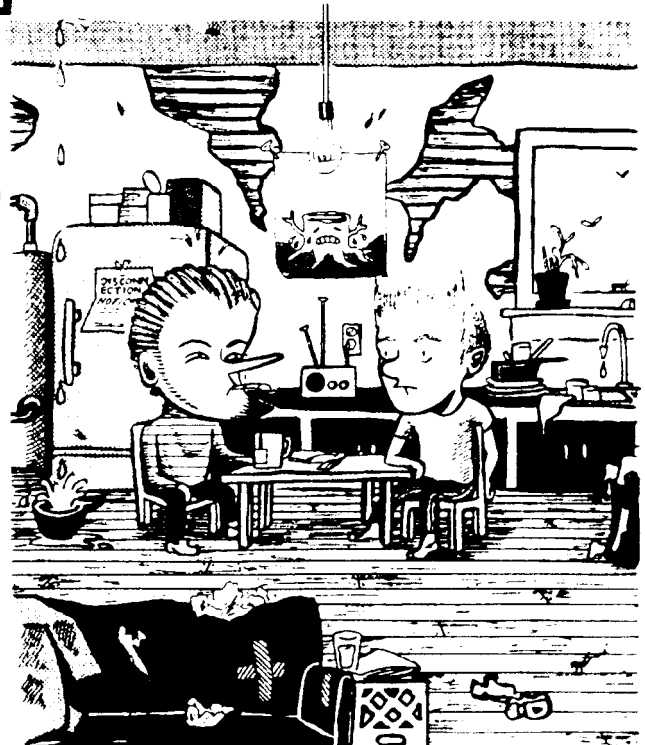
This ball of anger is ripping my heart apart
I know I'm lost but don't know where to start
my way back to normal, wherever it is

Withdrawal is a hellish business
So easy going in, so difficult to make it
Back to Normal

My shoes keep carrying me
I keep praying I'll see
Normal again.

R.Leowen

REALITY TV: SHOWS WE'LL NEVER SEE..... LIFESTYLES OF THE POOR & UNKNOWN



Fraser Institute intensifies attack on poor

By Jean Swanson

The corporate-funded Fraser Institute took advantage of the summer to launch even more attacks on people who are poor, vilifying them as people who choose poverty willingly, and recommending to government that the Canadian welfare system be drastically gutted along the lines of the US system.

On August 9, *The Vancouver Sun* and some other papers with the same owner gave Fraser Institute Director of Social Affairs Fred McMahon nearly all of page 9, along with a front page article, to outline his theories that poverty is voluntary and welfare subsidizes bad choices. "All... the barriers that could pen people into poverty... have disappeared," he claims ignorantly.

To understand what's really going on, it's crucial to realize that the Fraser Institute has argued for years, on behalf of its corporate members, that welfare, UI and other social programs should be cut, taxes for the rich and for corporations should be cut, and we should have corporate rights deals like the North American Free Trade Agreement that allow corporations to move to where ever wages and taxes are lowest. The Fraser Institute knows that social programs give workers a teensy bit of power to keep their own wages half decent. But decent wages cut into profits. So now the Institute is revving up its campaign to blame the poor for the poverty that its pro-corporate policies create. We will see some of this ideology that welfare causes poverty and that the poor choose their poverty from the new Liberal provincial government

Similarly, in August the Fraser Institute released a 60-page "critical issues" report comparing Canadian and US welfare programs and suggesting that Canada should copy the US model. The report contains an introduction by Marvin Olasky, a professor at the University of Texas and author of *The Tragedy of American Compassion*. Olasky is not concerned about the lack of decent jobs or decent wages. Olasky thinks people who are poor need "challenging personal and spiritual help" so they will do low-wage jobs like shining shoes and taking in laundry.

While the Institute approves of Canada's welfare

changes that have been "aimed at reducing the disincentive to leave welfare for low paying work," it wants to do a lot more to force people on welfare to take whatever crumb an employer offers. For example, the Fraser Institute wants Canada to implement:

- a five-year lifetime limit on welfare;
- diversion programs that keep people in need from coming onto welfare;
- immediate workfare. This means the minute you get on welfare you have to work for your cheque;
- a focus on employment, not on training or education. This means people on welfare will be forever tied to low-wage jobs;
- privatization of the welfare delivery system. This means for-profit companies will decide who gets on welfare and how much they get. For-profit companies will then keep any leftover money for their own profit;
- "adopt a family" programs by churches whose members provide "advice" and "counseling" to people on welfare with teams of people who meet to discuss how each family is progressing.

I believe that these are the kinds of changes we should be anticipating from the new Liberal government. The Institute report claims that when these changes happened in the US there was "little evidence to show that families experienced severe material hardship." However, *The Welfare Mother's Voice*, an anti-poverty paper that comes out of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, says that since welfare changes have been implemented in that state:

- infant mortality has increased by ten per cent; and by 37 per cent in Milwaukee's African American Community;
- although mothers are legally allowed to spend three months with newborns before being forced to find low-wage work, 35 mothers of newborns had

their cheques illegally cut between July and December, 2000;

- 3000 Milwaukee families are evicted from their homes by courts each year compared to 700 before the welfare cuts;

- the privatized agencies administering welfare in Milwaukee requested extensions (longer periods of time allowed on welfare) for only 13 per cent of their clients while non profit agencies requested extensions for over half.

The Fraser Institute report notes that along with the cuts to people on welfare in the US, employers are offered tax credits of as much as \$8,500 for each welfare recipient who is newly hired.

It's not just that the Fraser Institute is behind this thinking and these recommendations. According to Donald Gutstein, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Communication at Simon Fraser University, close links between right wing so-called think tanks and the daily media help the corporations get their ways of thinking and messages out to the public. (See *One big happy family* below.)

Just because these guys are so rich and powerful, we can't let them get away with brainwashing the public about people who are poor so they can justify getting even cheaper labour than they have right now.

Whenever we see or hear this victim-blaming line, and the welfare-is-bad-for-the-poor-so-we-should-cut-it-even-more line, anti-poverty activists and their organizations and allies need to challenge it.

chinese/mexican

fish swimming, deeper & deeper thoughts
furry banks of sagebrush -
- sub-pond

I'm slow, and I need to
accept that

Accept the fly nibbling on
shellac, orange-brownish-red painted
sitting-rails at the Chinese garden

Mexican rocks — hollows of water
for a mirror-memory
hiding something for sure
a spider-web of meetings

the horror of resistance

Rudolf P

Bud's right; his expression brings truth to the hell in an SRO hotel in the downtown eastside. I saw his filmpoem on CBC ('cause we don't pay cable) instead of the so-called 11 o'clock news.

Based on "Keys to Kingdom" by Bud Osborn, it made me sick because it was so true. Some strange things bring about individual survival, like when one guy is chopping the door with a hatchet, another is trying to come through the window with a knife and the end seems near and all Bud can say is "make this violence end"... and it strangely does - the guy at the window falls, the guy at the door just stops, and Bud falls asleep.

A very authentic portrayal of the evil people deal with on a daily basis in the downtown eastside.

My thanks to Bud and everyone who made the filmpoem - it is a Canadian impression; it's one for the Prime Minister's Office.

If they want to stop terrorism then start with the kind of terrorism low income people face every day. Give us opportunities, let us build our own communities where we can be free of the maddening merry-go-round that seems to cycle our world like "Pop Goes the Weasel" - until something breaks to destroy yet another poor person.

Mike Bohnert

TOWN HALL MEETING

• BUILDING COALITION & STRATEGY
IN RESPONSE TO CUTS

WE NEED YOUR IDEAS

- WELFARE CUTS
- HOUSING FREEZE
- HEALTH CARE CUTS
- ETC., ETC., ETC.

THURSDAY, 8 NOVEMBER

2:30 P.M.

**CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE
MAIN FLOOR - THEATRE**

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE CITIZENS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For Information Phone 682-3269 Box 6237

HALLOWEEN SPECIAL: THE BC LIBERALS IN "An Evil Scheme to Punish the Poor"

**(Coming attractions this Christmas, for all B.C. Benefits
recipients: a lump of coal.)**

CP – Victoria, BC – October 31, 2001

The previous NDP Provincial Government, terrified of monsters hiding in their closet, decided to give BC's lowest paid workers a little Halloween treat. They amended the minimum wage law, raising the rate from \$7.65 to \$8.00 an hour, effective November 1st, 2001. That made the Liberal Party-goers very mad, so they hatched an evil plan and kept it secret. Gordon "The Ghoul" Campbell used his power to hypnotize masses of people during the election. He promised to play nice and not steal anyone's 35-cent pay raise candy.

The inner Liberal coven has concocted something sinister they call a "Training Wage." Poof! Two-tiered minimum wage. If you are hired after Nov. 15th, the minimum pay will be a cruel and punishing \$6.00 an hour for your first 500 hours worked.

For the dedicated dish-washer-apprentice or the aspiring sandwich-artist, 6 months of "training" wages is a simple game of Survivor – foraging for food, sleeping in the great out-of-doors, proving your worth to the tribe. The lucky winners gain access to the \$8 minimum rate.

TRICK OR TREAT! – British Columbian voters elected a one-party state, a fundamentalist free-market dictatorship. This horror show opened with a dramatic private enterprise bang, featuring the explosive special effects of deliberate budget crisis pyrotechnics. Liberals' Special Forces units packed so much tax-cutting TNT into the Balanced Budget that the ensuing shock-waves even rattled a few nerves on the business world.

A World Bank economist explained the principle behind the 25% pay cut that a "Training Wage" gives new workers. "It's not unlike training pants," the World Banker chirps. "Poor people are spoiled rotten! Just like unruly children, you have to send them to bed without their supper or lock them out of the house. That's the best way to learn 'em good."

By LLIAM

Report warns against "new era" of rising inequality

www.policyalternatives.ca

(Vancouver) Inequality increased in most provinces during the 1990s, but BC held its ground, according to a new report, *Behind the Headlines 2001*, from the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives. This will change, however, if the new government pursues the same market-oriented policies that led to rising inequality elsewhere.

"A combination of big tax cuts and deep spending cuts is a recipe for growing inequality in BC," said Marc Lee, the report's co-author and an economist with the CCPA. "Through income transfers and social programs, the provincial government plays a major role in offsetting the inequalities of market income."

Surprisingly, the report notes that BC's taxes were not high relative to other provinces before the Liberal tax cuts this summer. When total taxes were considered, only Alberta had consistently lower taxes. BC also continues to have a very healthy fiscal situation, a contrast to perceptions that BC "suffers" from high levels of debt.

The report also notes that BC does not have the most generous social programs in the country. In health care, BC's relative position has dropped as other provinces have re-injected funds after cutting back in the mid-1990s. In education, gains in BC by the previous government to expand post-secondary spaces and maintain a tuition freeze are in jeopardy.

"Current levels of funding for health care and education suggest no cause for complacency," said co-author Andrea Long, of the Social Planning and Research Council of BC. "Given the needs in our society, there is still much work that needs to be done."

Behind the Headlines surveys data in five public policy areas--fiscal environment, tax system, health care, education, and equity and economic justice--comparing BC to other Canadian provinces. The report takes a snapshot of BC at the time of transition to a new government, and makes policy recommendations based on comparisons of BC to other provinces.



Newsletter of the Carnegie Community Action Project

November 1, 2001

For more information, call 689-0397 or drop by our office, Carnegie 2nd floor

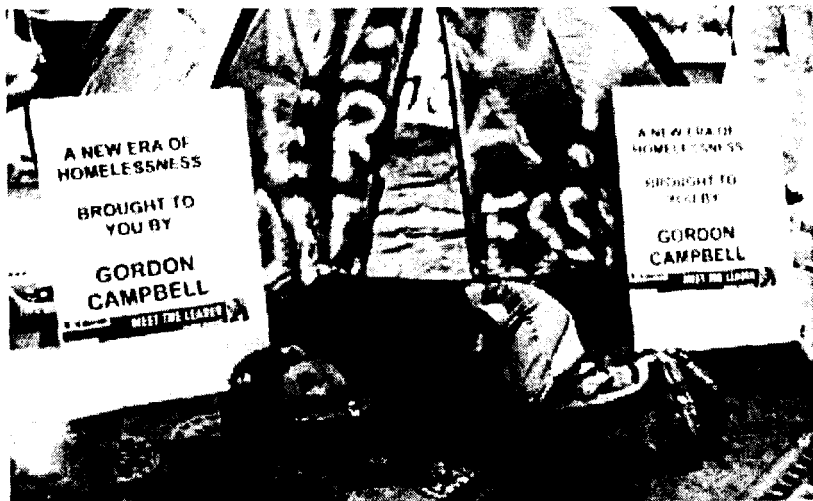


**Gordon
Campbell's**

**New Era of
Homelessness**

**The Premier
poised to cut
social housing
in
British Columbia**

Demonstration
at
Vancouver Board of
Trade luncheon
attended by Minister
responsible for BC
Housing, George
Abbott



Affordable Housing Week - Gordon Campbell Style

Last week was Affordable Housing Week! and it was declared so by the Premier, Gordon Campbell. In the same breath he froze projects approved, but not yet under construction and is poised to cancel social housing in British Columbia. This is the same man who as Mayor of Vancouver brought in development cost charges, the 20% on new neighbourhoods and Vancouver Land Corporation, all for affordable housing. Now he doesn't care.

The Minister responsible for BC Housing, George Abbott, has stated that the 2000 units of housing that have been allocated and are under construction will go ahead. The additional 1100 units that have provisional approval and another 600 that have "conditional approval" are under review. Read cancelled. Below is a list of those project with provisional approval. Notice it includes Woodward's .

16 Provisional Projects Approved now on hold (permanently)

Union Gospel Project 361 Heatley Ave
YWCA-Sheway 533 E. Hastings St.
Lu'Ma Native-1254 E. 8th 1254 E. 8th Ave
St. Elizabeth Home 335-349 E. 16th Ave.
Segal Place 63 E. Hastings St
Mennonite & Wings Project 1321 Richards St.
Portland Project 1005 Station St
Pennsylvania Hotel 412 Carrall St
Stanley/New Fountain 35 W Cordova
Recovery 5616 Fraser St

Recovery 2 Undetermined
Dunsmuir House 535-573 Homer ST
Haida Court Redev. 2929 Laurel St
Woodward's Co-op 101 W Hastings St.
CBA Project Undetermined
Katherine Sanford Project 475 E
Hastings

Total number of units 1,179 units

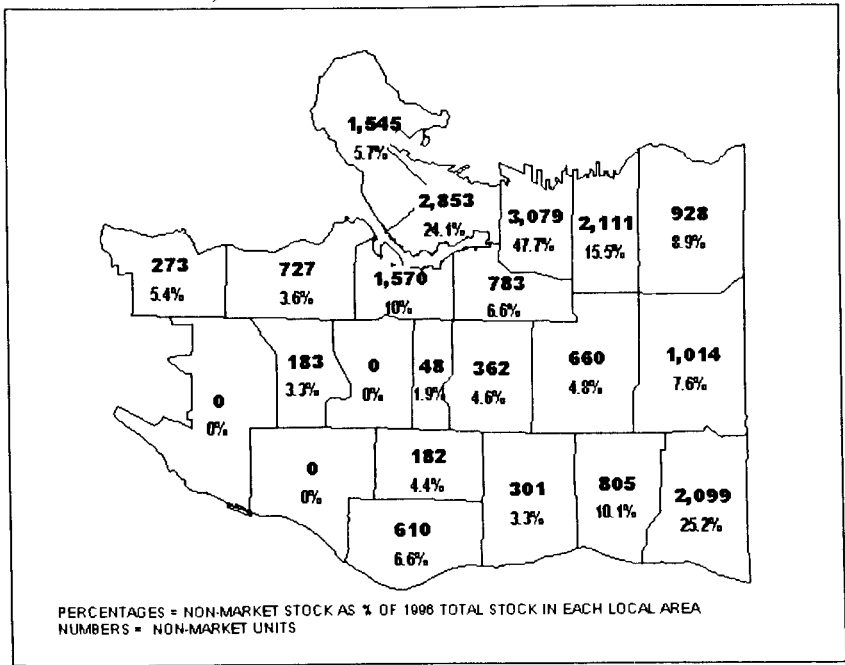
Some Notes on Housing

Excerpts from a report to council by the Vancouver Director of Housing, Oct. 3 2001

The 20% affordable housing requirement in new neighbourhoods (i.e. False Creek north, Coal Harbour). A capacity of 2,540 units of non-market housing has been created across the city of which half (1,320) units have been built or funded.

In the Downtown South, which was rezoned for high-density residential housing in 1990. Half the Development Cost Levies (DCLs) collected in the Downtown South are allocated to housing to replace the 1,400 SRO units that were in the area when it was rezoned. To date 658 replacement units have been built or funded. (Since 1991 there has been a 40% decline in SRO units (-558) in the Downtown South and 515 replacement units built since 1991).

For the foreseeable future, the downtown single room occupancy (SRO) hotels and rooming houses will continue to be lost and replacement housing for the residents, most of them singles on very low incomes, needs to be provided if increased homelessness is to be avoided. Since 1991, 1,520 SRO units have been lost and replaced with 1,355 social housing units for singles. A priority is to increase the supply of housing for low-income singles outside the downtown (and the city). Most of the rooming house stock that once existed outside the downtown has been lost, and it needs to be replaced if choice is to be available



Non-market
Housing Stock by
Local Area,
September 1,
2001

*of course none in
Shaughnessy,
Kerrisdale, Dunbar*

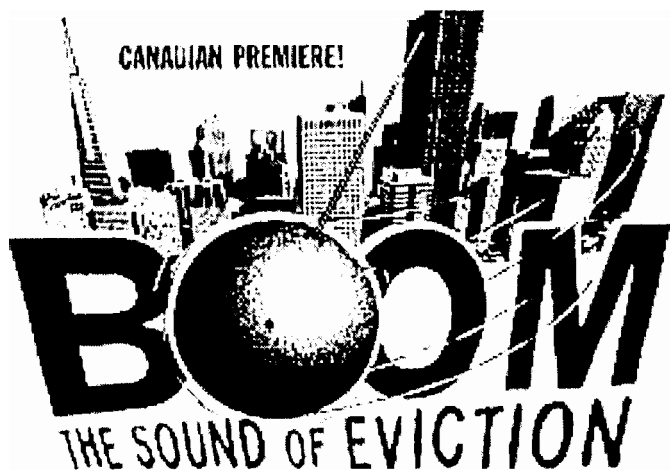
*Homelessness
is a
National
Disaster*

**Mayor declares
National Housing Strategy Day
Thursday, November 22**

We declare it a National Day of Action on Housing

Look forward to a demonstration and other events, details to be posted in the community and the Carnegie Newsletter, November 15.

National Housing and Homelessness Network



Must See Movie!

**Saturday,
November 10 8:30pm**

**Blinding Light Cinema
36 Powell (Gastown)
Filmmakers attending**

Enthralled by dot-com fever and dreams of instant wealth, the nation largely ignored the disastrous housing crunch that gripped San Francisco during the internet years. Now the bubble has popped and most of the startups are gone, but the tidal wave of gentrification that came with the new industry has changed the city and its political landscape forever.

This sprawling and ambitious documentary takes stock of the dot-com boom and bust and asks the question – Who benefited?

A Room With A View

We look from our windows to a city we do not
know or lived, played or we were lost in.
The night sky like a painting lite up with
lights that can only be touched by our eyes.

Each light different, just as were are.

Some brighter than others, But each
there for a reason. One driven by drugs,
another needs the excitement of the chase
and the ones that need both because they are
not sure what makes them feel more alive.

Each one wanting something, but not sure
what it is or how to get it. Like jumping from a
plane, we want a rush. Racing in a car, We want
excitement. For some all they wanted was to be
noticed.

When all's said and done we all have the same thing.
A room with a view, of a city we don't
know, or once lived, played or were
lost in.

Billie Coture.

WHO KNEW

Who would've thought I'd end up in here
Who would've thought I'd go down for robbery
Who would've thought I'd fight over the phone
I really never thought I'd be so alone
Who would've thought I'd be a mom
Who would've thought I'd be a widow so young
Who would've thought he'd leave me with HIV
Yeah that's me

Sherry Allen



Improper Usage?

A more nuanced word would be hard to imagine...

The first time I saw her she breezed into the office
asking if I would help her and others carry over
some much-needed, still usable chairs she had
spotted, thrown out in a nearby alley on her way in.

I meant to tell her that I was eager to please her
because I had never seen anyone more staggeringly
beautiful in my life and furthermore – if she turned
out to be unavailable for wooing (she was so), I
hoped the weight of the chairs pressing against my
skull as I carried them that way at her subsequent
suggestion would be enough to crush my will to go
on living without the possibility of her love.. or at
the very least would dull my heart enough to enable
me to fill these next seventeen-some years with an
unrequited pining so deeply profound that it would
only surface now, at this moment of writing, in the
grand early nineteenth century tradition of the
romantic fool...

... but all I said was "O.K." –

So the next time you hear or use this most comm.-
only used word on earth as determined by linguists –
be sure to listen for any passing nuances. OK?

Stephen Belkin

Saturday November 17, 2001

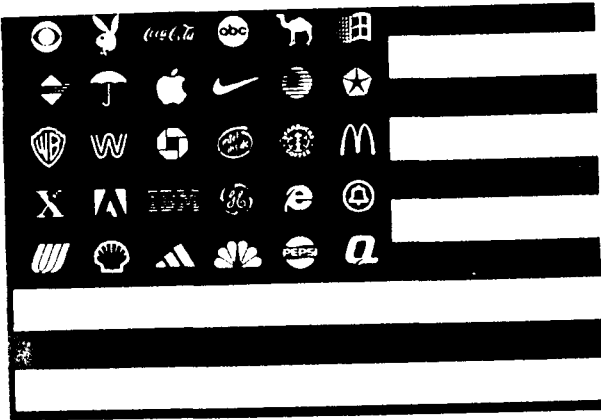
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Carnegie gym

DANCING YOUR EDGE

American Flags

After the tragedies in New York and Washington on September 11, 2001, flags were flying everywhere in the United States. The houses were covered in flags. The streets were covered in flags. The truth was covered in flags. These flags offered comfort to a



people in deep mourning. Someday, however, Americans will have to step out from behind the uncritical security of a flag that symbolizes military and corporate power, and into the light of a liberating flag that stands for 'government of the people, by the people, for the people.' (1)

"Why do they hate us?" an American asked. "Because we have freedom," President Bush replied. He didn't mean freedom for all Americans to live fulfilling lives. He meant the freedom of free markets, the freedom of private power to make money without social or political restrictions, the freedom of those with great wealth to impose their will on the world for the sole purpose of getting even wealthier. It is this unrestrained freedom of private, corporate power that is sending the world into chaos.

President Bush talked about freedom, but many millions of Americans are not free. They live lives of great economic insecurity. The gap between rich and poor in the United States is wider than it was between the peasants and the aristocracy before the French Revolution of 1789. America is the most powerful military force in the world, and under that armour is a soul tormented by anxiety and fear. The Oklahoma City bombing is a direct result of the despair and fear generated in America's heartland by

government policies favouring corporate agriculture. (2) The global, free market system doesn't work for many people in America or anywhere else. But let's not face this truth. Hide it with flags. Hide it with patriotic hysteria. Hide it with Stealth bombers.

America has the highest child poverty rate, the highest infant mortality rate, and the highest divorce rate of all the industrialized nations. The average length of a marriage in the United States is seven years, and a major reason for this is economic instability. America has the highest violent crime rate, the most horrendous drug problems, and the highest rate of putting people in jail of all the industrialized nations. Incarceration is a central policy of social control in the United States, replacing the right to welfare, U.S. anti-poverty activists say. Free market economic efficiency, without regard to social costs, puts the demands of a free market economy over the needs of the human beings who make up society. "Democracy and free markets are rivals, not allies," John Gray, a professor at Oxford University, said. (3) Unregulated, free market capitalism (also called neo-liberalism) "is a costly and hazardous venture. Peace and stability are the last things to be expected in societies which allow themselves to be ruled by it." (4)

Today the United States is the major force behind free market globalization — the freeing of enormous transnational corporate forces from social and political control for the purpose of maximum profit. John Gray wrote, "By seeking to impose a single (free market) economic system on the world, America risks turning manageable differences into intractable conflicts." (5) The gap between rich and poor is getting wider and more desperate, and over 100 million refugees and immigrants wander the earth, looking for a place to call home. Poverty, dispossession of homelands, extreme suffering, powerlessness, an overwhelming sense of injustice, along with the frustration and anger of Third World countries that have experienced centuries of European imperialism, are reasons for terrorism against the United States and other northern countries. The domination of the world under free market, global capitalism drives the terrorism of the "advanced" industrial nations — the crushing of dissent in poor nations, or anywhere else. Yet many of the world's growing economies, especially in

Asia, do not follow, and do not wish to follow, the American free market model of capitalism, and northern European countries such as Sweden, Norway and Finland are attempting to balance the forces of free market productivity with the forces of social cohesion, cultural integrity, local autonomy, and human rights.

America is much more than a business culture in which the social costs of doing business are ignored. America is the land of Emerson, Thoreau, Whitman, Lincoln, John Dewey, Martin Luther King Jr., and the millions of Americans who have fought for justice throughout the history of this complex nation. In the United States, for the first time in history, ordinary people helped to stop a war being waged by the military/industrial elite - the Vietnam War. Such is the power of the American people when they see through the propaganda of the oligarchy that rules them. (6)

Until Americans realize that their own form of free market capitalism doesn't work for many of them, and for most human beings in the world, innocent people everywhere will continue to die. An inspiring democratic tradition is part of the history of the United States. Maybe the American people can reform their exploitive economic system for all of us. What better way to honour the people who died so tragically on September 11th than by working for peace and justice throughout the world.

By SANDY CAMERON

- (1) The Gettysberg Address, by Abraham Lincoln, Nov. 1863.
- (2) Harvest Of Rage, by Joel Dyer, Westview Press, 1997.
- (3) False Dawn - The Delusions Of Global Capitalism, by John Gray, Granta Books, 1998, p.17.
- (4) False Dawn, p.38.
- (5) False Dawn, p.205.
- (6) for America as an oligarchy, see The Next American Nation, by Michael Lind, The Free Press, 1995, p.141—161.

“To be truly radical, one should make hope possible, rather than despair convincing.”



**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

Child

You be the judge
with your murmurs of contentment
your gentle laughter or sighs;
and peace obviously is your choice
and weapons must be destroyed
such horrific emblems of inhumanity,
of mass destruction;
and jails must be closed
and victims of demoralized society
nurtured with love
until they face their mistakes;
and poverty be eliminated
the insufferable straightjacket
of indifference that warps a mind
as it denies the body;
and God Herself be exposed
the archangel of deceit
the crutch of the weak and crossed;
You be the judge, child,
because our judges have misjudged
and for their mistakes we must pay
every day, until we lose our sense
of what is right and cry in the night

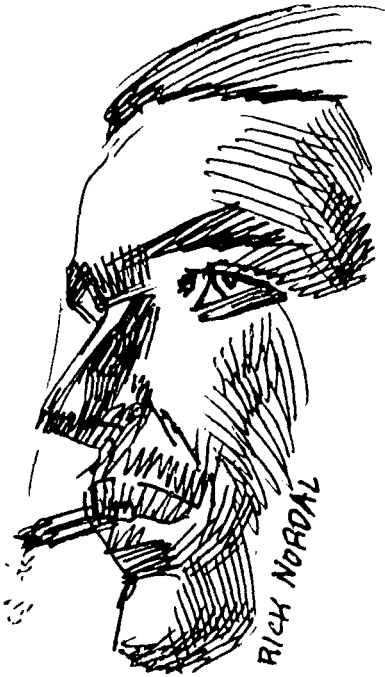
A.Kostyniuk

A War Is Organized

Part I

At least one thing is for certain, recent events are bringing us Canadians a little closer to the realities of global politics. Things are as confusing as ever, only now somewhat less abstract.

We could all find New York on a map prior to September 11th, and our Middle East geography is getting better all the time.



During this brief I will state Bin Laden with the same weight I state The United States, simplifying things into a Bin Laden vs USA sort of affair. Both the United States and their fundamentalist muslim-middle east-Al Queda enemy seem to accept Bin Laden as the head honcho – so be it.

The American military base in Saudi Arabia is one of the major purported stickling points of Bin Laden and his crew. He wants the US to pack up the base and leave, he has said this many times before the

recent attacks in America. It's possible, at least, that if the base were not there in August, then September would have been a different sort of month. So perhaps a good place to start is in Saudi Arabia and, by association, Iraq.

The US established the base in Saudi Arabia during the gulf war. They are using it to enforce the no-fly-zones over and around Iraq. The United States also enforces a list of sanctions and conducts periodic bombings inside Iraq. The purported what and why of the bombing is not hard to ascertain, at least from a US perspective: Iraq is banned from developing weapons of mass destruction and is suspected of maintaining a biochemical weapons program, which is illegal by international law. The sanctions are levied in an attempt to force compliance through hardship and possibly bring instability to the regime. *(the sanctions prohibit countries from selling or giving various goods to Iraq)*. Presumably, the US identifies suspected violations of these restrictions and targets them, collateral damage and all. The sanctions are widely believed to have caused the deaths of many thousands of Iraqis and certainly do unjustly target the countries most fragile, and by default most innocent, peoples *(we can admit here that sanctions cause little hardship for the ruling elites)*. This (particularly the bombing) has created a climate of war in Iraq that has a very clear and defined enemy - So it must be stated that, at least from the Iraqi point of view, the United States has been at war with Iraq for over 10 years.

Arab news has been reporting on this perpetual state of war for the last ten years. Millions in the arab and muslim world are keenly aware of the Iraqi situation; many, like us, watch news daily. This has resulted in far reaching sympathy for Iraq and a cold at best view of the United States. Conversely, there has been very little coverage in our (western) daily news media. Even after the 9/11 attacks, our media has alluded to Iraqi involvement several times, without even mentioning the bombing or the sanctions. Many people in the US and Canada do not really understand middle east anti-Americanism or ascribe it solely to the Isreal/Palastinian conflict.

Trevor Robinson

Part II next issue

Between The Lines

I picked up the Oct. 1st Carnegie Newsletter from the lobby and briefly gazed at the cover. It took about five seconds to assimilate the significants of the cover that showed 'Wanted Dead Or Alive' posters of people who go against the grain of the USA's politics and foreign policies.

A few weeks later I picked up the Oct. 15th Newsletter and read that the front cover of the Oct. 1st issue had been equated to hate literature by the editor of an ethnic newspaper!

Upon analyzing the confusion of perceptions between my impressions of the front cover and that of the editor, I came to the conclusion that regular readers of the Carnegie Newsletter have been elevated over the years to an almost esoteric state of understanding, while a novice reader might look through the Newsletter and wonder what on earth's going on here!!

What I believe this cover was saying, along with several articles on the same topic, was a desire to cease aggressions of violence and to negotiate a peace with our perceived foes.



If the editor of the newspaper missed the point of the Oct. 1st front cover of the Carnegie Newsletter, then it is strongly recommended that he become a regular reader in order not to go off half-cocked with hurtful accusations of hatred.

Garry Gust

Editor,

I am writing this letter in response to an article printed recently in the Carnegie Newsletter in reference to the Humanities 101 program offered to low-income residents of the downtown eastside. The article elaborated on some negative connotations that its author associated with this program.

I, myself, was lucky enough to be accepted for the program, which I am presently attending. I was first introduced to the opportunity of joining Humanities 101 upon viewing an advertisement posted in Carnegie Centre, where I am currently volunteering.

I have found the program most beneficial; not only the courses offered but also the fact that my student card gives the opportunity to use their computers (including Internet access) as well as the use of their library facilities, which are the 2nd largest in Canada.

I feel that the positive aspects of this program far outweigh any negative ones that may exist within or are a result of it.

Ronald Schlamp

WAVES OF EXPERIENCE

Because for a long time

There were no waves

And everything was calm

Setting out from shore alone

Was my first experience

Truly uniquely my own

Wonder delirium came next

I fell in love

Blissfully riding the crest

It was downhill after that

After love had died

My world entirely smashed

No I won't tell you

About what came later

Just the usual stuff

That's how it goes now

Always looking for miracles

Occasionally finding a few

Ken Morrison

Justice

is punishment that tastes like sour milk that has been sitting out for days until someone throws it away.

Justice is keys jangling when you have been locked up inside yourself for a long time and can't figure which way out.

Justice is dirty laundry that has been sitting for days in a room where there are flies buzzing round it

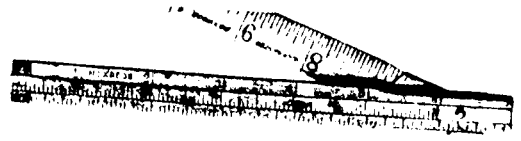
Justice is rubber that when you bump into it you bounce back to where you were before.

Denise Boysis

One of those days

I forget I don't have to worry
In a society bent towards war
Just have a good sense of humor
Discovered in the day, disaster
Happens over a period of time
Sunday afternoon I got home
And I flew right at the painting
A constant state of democracy
With perfection and mistakes
Paint flying everywhere today
Breaking the plastic pallet knife
While cleaning the mixing tray
How colours started out with
Changed and hard to get again
Oranges the same colour as the
Chanterelle mushrooms in Fall
Trying to go outside the existing
Always seems to be so difficult
Sunlight pouring in the window
Carefully scrutinizing the work
It was really behind the canvas
A reality of smoke and mirrors
With all the layers of paint used
There was some kind of deadline
With the constant reminder of
Every painful detail of my past
Catching up with me so quickly
The very essence of my being
That had been buried deep inside
Exposed for everyone to see in
So unashamedly in the year 2001
Something to put my signature to.

Daniel Rajala



The days just continue to go by
Each one of them with a promise for the future.
I dream of holding your hand,
Of touching your face,
Of kissing your lips.
But even with these thoughts in mind,
they can only take me so far.

I miss so much about you.
You have so much worth missing
I envision a whole, better, new world for us.
And that's what I keep on insisting.
We'll stay clean, dammit!
And nothing will tear us apart again.
God help us to stay strong and clean.
So we can live together, happy and serene.

Kim Harder



Don't Ask Me Why

I step off the curb, then cross the walkway west
Don't want to be disturbed, don't want to talk, just let it rest.
Get off of my case, don't ask me why,
Stay out of my face, don't bother to try.

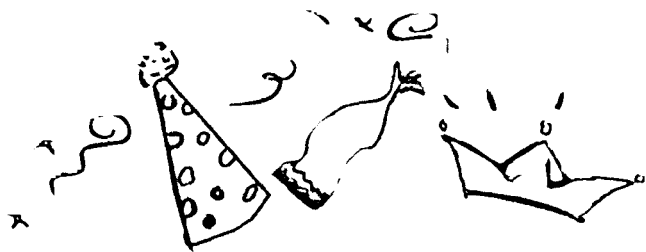
You whisper, "Buy This.. Buy That" no sale from me
Take your stuff elsewhere, I won't pay your fee.
Further on down the road the trips thin out somewhat –
obstructions, distortions .. what's happening here?
'to grasp a piece of the pie' – don't ask me why

Who's running this circus? Who's in charge of this mess?
Am I on the frame of this painting? Are you in distress?
Do I communicate in code..are you shocked and confused?
When you venture outside are you withdrawn and abused?
Is there someone to talk to? Do you shuffle along, shunned and alone?
If this is the case, might just as well disconnect your telephone...

Do not lock yourself inside, and don't lose your ring of keys
Don't become a sullen, sulking prisoner. Fight and strive to remain free.
If in the beginning you don't succeed, go deep and keep trying
For your soul knows the reasons. Just don't ask me why.

Robyn L.





Vancouver Co-op Radio. CFRO, 102.7 FM **Grand Opening On Columbia Street**

It's official! On Friday, October 26, 2001, Vancouver Co-op Radio held its grand opening at its new location at 360 Columbia Street in the Downtown Eastside. Jane Williams, Chair of the Moving Committee, presided over the ceremonies, and Libby Davies, our Member of Parliament, cut the ribbon. Jenny Kwan, our Member of the provincial legislature, was also present. Jenny helped Co-op Radio obtain funding from the provincial government when the NDP was in office.

Co-op Radio had been planning this since 1997. The old location in the long defunct Mercantile Bank of British Columbia at Pigeon Park was deteriorating rapidly. The roof leaked, and the winding marble staircase made the radio station inaccessible to people with disabilities. With financial support from the City of Vancouver, the provincial government, the Vancouver Foundation, and many other organizations and individuals, Co-op Radio moved to its new location on July 27th of this year. The move took years of planning, and months of organizing, archiving, sorting and packing. Congratulations! A job well done. As Chair of the Moving Committee, Jane Williams received a bouquet of flowers for her untiring efforts to obtain a new home for the radio station.

The new location on Columbia Street is part of the same building that holds the Sunrise Hotel, managed by the Portland Hotel Society. The building itself is owned by B.C. Housing. The new space is bright, cheerful and community-friendly. Large windows let you see what is happening in the broadcast studios, and an open mezzanine, with a shared workspace, looks out over the other common areas. Because it is at street level, the station is available to people with disabilities. This sparkling new location, and its new equipment, have given everyone a lift. Onward, Co-op Radio.

The location may be new, but the co-operative spirit of independent radio has been part of Vancouver Co-op Radio from the beginning. Co-op Radio was started to give a voice to the many groups in the Vancouver community that are ignored by the main-line media that is corporate-owned and profit-driven. It began in the early 1970's as a synthesis of two Vancouver groups, Neighbourhood Radio and Muck rakers, and it made its first broadcast on April 14, 1975. Co-op Radio is free of government or business control. It encourages community participation. It listens to what the people have to say. Over 80 different community programs, from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, are produced at Co-op Radio on a weekly basis.

The political direction of Co-op Radio is social justice and empowerment. The station is run by 3 paid employees and over 300 volunteers. Up to 20,000 British Columbians listen to Co-op Radio weekly. The signal is carried on 102.7 FM in the Lower Mainland, and by cable in most other areas of B.C. Co-op Radio is one of three genuine, independent, community radio stations in English Canada. There's one in Ontario and one in Saskatchewan, and there are many university campus-based radio stations.

In these abysmal times, when the mainline media is dominated by big business propaganda, it is absolutely essential that citizens work for, and support, independent media such as Co-op Radio. If you would like to get involved as a volunteer, call 604-684-8494. The Downtown Eastside is a richer community, and British Columbia is a more intelligent province, because of the inspiring work of Vancouver Co-op Radio.

By SANDY CAMERON

New computers at Carnegie

A month has passed since the much-awaited installation of the 15 new computers and the festive ribbon cutting ceremony during Literacy Day. The Computer Room is once again a hub of activity and the Learning Centre and Seniors' Lounge are seeing new users exploring the world of cyberspace. Much thanks go to Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for

the new computers, Vancouver Public Library for choosing Carnegie Centre as one of the sites for distribution and for their ongoing technical support, and to all the dedicated volunteers who have made the transition to the new system so smooth.

The new computers in all three areas are Internet accessible and run on Windows 98. Office 2000 is available for word processing, spreadsheets and data management. If you'd like to practice your typing, try Mavis Beacon typing tutor. And the VPL library catalogue is a double click away with the WebPAC system.

The three areas have different rules of access. The Computer Room on the 3rd Floor is open every day from 10 AM to 10 PM if a volunteer is available. It is open to anyone with a Carnegie membership. If you are a first time user of the new machines, we ask you to read the rules of usage and sign an agreement. There is a one hour limit to the use of the computers and two computers are reserved for word processing. The three computers in the Seniors Lounge are for Carnegie seniors (anyone who is 40 or over with a Carnegie membership). Rules of use are similar to those in the Computer Room. The Learning Centre computers are for students and volunteers of the Learning Centre only and not for every day public use. If you are interested in becoming a student or a tutor, you can go up to the 3rd floor between 9 AM and 5 PM and a staff person (Bev, Lucy, or Tim) would be happy to speak with you. Of course the first Internet-accessible computer in the Centre is still available in the Reading Room. It follows the VPL rule of two 30-minute sessions per day with at least 30 minutes between sessions. Please visit the specific areas for more detailed information on the rules of usage.

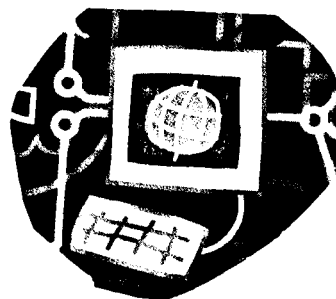
Many people have asked about computer lessons and we are in the process of organizing them. For now, check out these two workshops:

Wednesday, Nov 7, 2 -4 PM Computer Room
"Introduction to the Internet"

by David Olsen from Vancouver Community Net

Thursday, Nov. 8, 1 - 2:30 PM Computer Room
"Poverty Resources on the Internet"
by Miriam Jurigova from PovNet

If you are interested in either of these workshops,



please sign up in the Computer Room. Space is limited to seven people but if there is high demand, we will schedule repeat workshops. For future classes, look for posters around the building.

If you have any questions regarding computer use at Carnegie, see Rika on the 3rd floor Program Office or call her at 604-665-3003. Happy surfing!

HELP WANTED

CLOTHES ENCOUNTERS LAUNDRAMAT

We are seeking self-motivated people to help operate a laundramat/café in the Downtown Eastside. Staff duties will include:

- Providing customer service
- Keeping the laundramat clean and orderly
- Working in commercial laundry production
- Operating the café/concession counter
- Some promotional work and special events
- Working with the manager and other staff.

Staff will report directly to the Manager of Clothes Encounters Laundromat. Salary is negotiable depending upon the level of experience; an hourly or monthly rate can be negotiated.

Preference will be given to residents of the DTES and/or persons on income assistance who meet the minimum qualifications established by the Board of Common Concerns. No experience in operating a Laundromat is necessary; training will be provided. Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate a good work ethic, ability to work well with others, and have some administrative/financial skills.

If you think you are qualified for this position, please forward your resume and covering letter by fax to (604) 681-2999. If you need assistance with a resume and letter or access to a fax machine, please utilize the services provided by the Carnegie Centre or other agencies in the DTES.

Kids

My daughter loves me like a runaway train
Kicks ass when she has to
Heart of silver, turquoise and steel
The real deal

My son holds his niece; picture hides
the bandaged fingers he nearly lost (gang business)
A scythe to his throat.. looks real sad in the photo —
His true spirit is gentle may he find it someday

Wherever you are Jesse, first-born,
Been too long, so much gone wrong
Wish I could tell you something but
someone cut our line

Marcy, the foundling from hell, did pretty well
Proud, just lost her grandma, out on the reserve
I wish I could take her pain away
My grandfather is dead, same as same, real pain
May your babies all be as beautiful
as you turned out to be.

These are my children
I may be gone, but never forgotten
Blood and tears for years, years.

Al

Dear Carnegie Newsletter,

PAULR TAYLOR's article, "Conspiracy", on tax-and-service cuts was right on the nose. And you're right; they are NOT liberals. They should call themselves Gliberals because they say one thing and do another. One of the most blatantly cynical examples of this came just this Monday, the first day of a public-relations gimmick by the Liberal government, "Affordable Housing Week". On this very same day, George Abbott, the minister for housing and everything-else-that's-of-no-value-to-the-Liberals, announced that the programme was to be gutted and 12,000 projected units were to be shelved. I wrote an angry song about it that day.

The next day was the official opening of the Bridge housing project. (Way to go, you guys!) All the nobs, including representatives from the provincial government, turned up to take credit for a very fine

job. Still, I think most people knew that the success here was due largely to the tremendous amount of work that was done by local people over the last 24 years.

Well, on Tuesday we were a small group of old women who had been invited to sing. We had a bunch of songs congratulating the tenants and workers of the Bridge. When we were going over the line-up beforehand in the lobby, we also ran through the new song about cuts to social housing. A government bureaucrat of some kind heard us, got pretty steamed up, and told us we were not to sing that. So we didn't, not wanting to spoil a happy occasion anyway.

But two things have stuck with me from that day: One was when a young tenant was talking to us all in such a moving way about what the Bridge shelter had meant to her, and I could have cried for all of the people whose chances for such housing have now been cut.

The other was Sandy Cameron's reminder in the Newsletter of Shakespeare's "Speak what we feel, not what we ought to say." So, here is that song or AFFORDABLE HOUSING WEEK

tune: You Made Me Love You

George Abbott tells us,
"I didn't want to do it—
(the Gliberals made me do it)
— Cut social housing."
He says that they'll "review" it
Which means they really blew it.
We'll lose twelve thousand units
For Housing Week!
Twelve thousand homeless
Can stay out on the street.

George Abbott tells us,
"Because of cuts in taxes
We'll hone up all our axes
And cut such 'perks' as
Housing for the poor, and then
We'll cut and cut some more."
Mister Abbott, we could cry for
You're holding back the housing
that these folk could DIE for
George Abbott, we're watching you!



By JOANNA NAGEL

**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

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

Submission Deadline
for next issue:
Monday, November 12



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!!!!**