

Carnegie

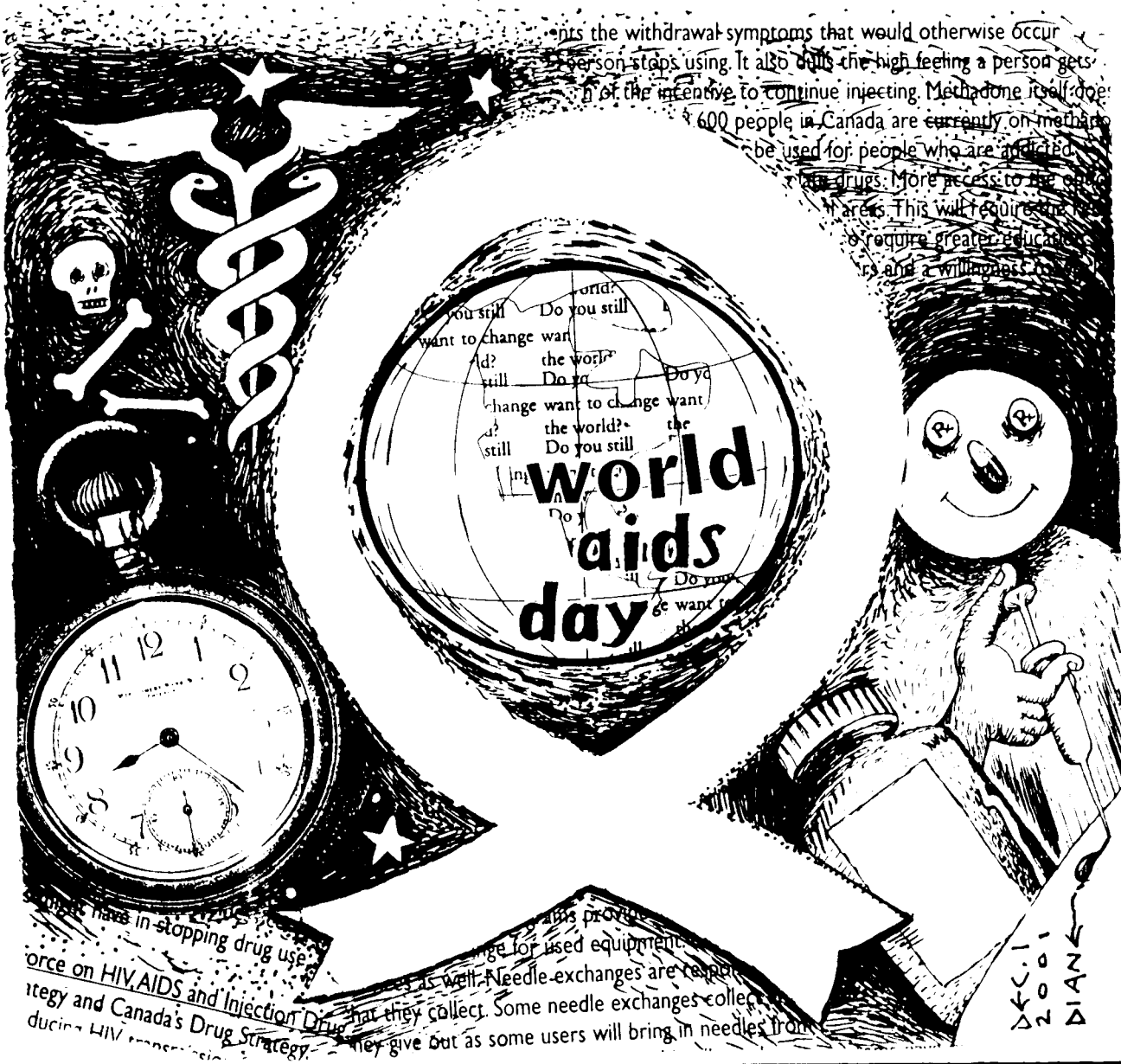
NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 1, 2001

401 Main St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7

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We Can't Go On But We Go On

We are in shock. We are in mourning. Terrorism in New York. Terrorism in Afghanistan with the dropping of huge bombs on innocent children. Paralyzing fear and the loss of civil rights. And now a neo-liberal government in power in British Columbia, not so much because citizens voted for it, but rather



because citizens voted against an incompetent New Democratic government.

British Columbia has elected a monster. This so-called Liberal provincial government may be the most ideologically driven government of any government ever elected in Canada - more fanatical than Klein in Alberta, more brutal than Harris in Ontario.

The ideology that drives the Gordon Campbell government in B.C. is neo-liberalism, or free market capitalism. Free markets mean private power free of social or political control. Free markets mean the end of democracy and the beginning of corporate oligarchy. "Democracy and free market capitalism (neo-liberalism) are rivals, not allies," John Gray, a professor at Oxford University, said. (1) Unregulated, free market capitalism "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." (2)

The economic fundamentalism of neo-liberalism (unregulated private power will solve all our problems) is as dangerous as any kind of religious fundamentalism. Free market capitalism is self-destructive, and by widening the gap between rich and poor to a dangerous degree it undermines the social cohesion that makes a stable society possible. The economist Barbara Ward pointed this out when she wrote. "Rich nation philosophy has still, in the main, to get past 1840. The market (private power) will

provide...The growth of the rich will pull up the poor in its wake...and if the result turns out to be misery for the many and well-being for the few, that is simply the way in which the laws of economics work. For a century or more we have been modifying this stupid, unworkable, and dangerous philosophy within our economies." (3)

The huge tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations, and the ferocious cuts to social programs and the public service have been documented, and will continue to be documented, in the *Carnegie Newsletter*. Libby Davies said the provincial cuts to social programs add up to a systematic assault on the most vulnerable people in our society (*Carnegie Newsletter*, Nov.15/01).

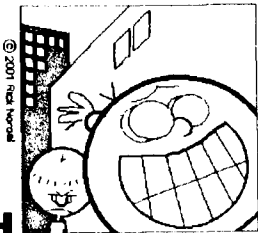
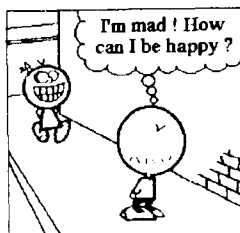
So overwhelming are the cuts to social programs that the Directors of British Columbia's six schools of social work sent a letter to *The Vancouver Sun* (Nov.14/01) expressing their outrage at the provincial government's actions. "At a time when welfare benefits to the rich (in the form of significant tax reductions) have been introduced," the letter said, "the proposed cuts are morally indefensible and make little economic sense. Trading tax cuts for essential services is not in the public interest."

We are in shock, and we are hurting. We think we can't go on, but we go on. We mourn the loss of our democracy, and we try to understand how we have been taken over by an army of marketeers. We pace ourselves. We are in this fight for the long haul. Tens of thousands of people are beginning to organize against B.C.'s vicious neo-liberal government. We look for the words that will describe our own experience. We avoid the language of the oppressor - language which, in its technical abstraction, dehumanizes us and blames us for the faults of an economic system that creates great poverty alongside great wealth.

We get involved with a group that is trying to make things better because we cannot survive alone. There are many such groups in Vancouver, such as the Bus Riders' Union, VANDU, DERA, the committees at the Carnegie Centre, Community Directions, End Legislated Poverty, First Nations groups, church groups, social justice groups, social housing groups, anti-war and anti-racist groups, and many others. Working with other people is an expression of solidarity. It is a way for us to find meaning in a

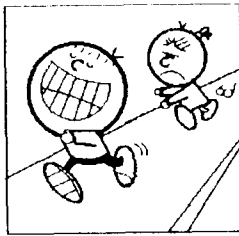
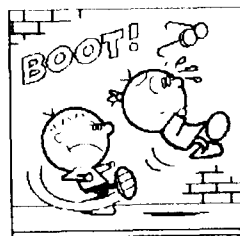
profit-driven society that has no use for many of its citizens.

Once we're involved in a group, in a relationship of mutual support, we look for others (including elected representatives) who have the same vision of social justice. We clarify what side of the fence we're



**Main
stream**

By Rick Nordal



"Let's See a Liberal MLA live on \$500.00/month"

I have been listening to the debate in BC about reforming the welfare system for a few weeks now. The more ignorant scapegoating of unemployed people I hear, the more I miss my old friend, Emery Barnes. Back in 1982, when Bill Bennett's Socreds cut welfare rates to what was then their lowest ever (the NDP, in 1993, cut welfare to an even lower rate, relative to inflation), Emery Barnes, the MLA for Vancouver Centre found a way to let people know what living on welfare was really like.

Emery decided to forego his MLA's salary and live on the pittance welfare provided. He lost a lot of weight. He got sick. He lived in a rat infested hotel and cooked his meagre food on a hot plate. I'm not asking Gordon Campbell and his Liberals for an economic miracle. I'm just asking them to walk in the shoes they are demanding others walk in. That's why I want to see Murray Coell do something that all welfare office tours and meetings with bureaucrats will never do: live on \$510.00 per month.

Since Gordon Campbell took office, he has found a way to pay virtually every MLA a monthly bonus of \$500.00 on top of their salary. He's managed to give

on, and we discover who is there with us. As Pat Smith wrote on one of her posters, "Class consciousness is knowing what side of the fence you're on. Class analysis is finding out who is there with you."

Over the next three years enormous resistance will build against a provincial Liberal government that has placed corporate economic power above the social and political concerns of citizens. It is too early to say what new, progressive political force will emerge. I predict that many young women and men will come forward to provide energy and leadership in the fight for justice. It could be that the Liberal government in B.C. will split apart under the strain of its fanatical, neo-liberal leadership. The fight's not over yet, that's for sure.

By SANDY CAMERON

- (1) False Dawn - The Delusions Of Global Capitalism, by John Gray, Granta Books, 1998, p.17.
- (2) False Dawn, p.38.
- (3) Progress For A Small Planet, by Barbara Ward, p.259.

his members a raise equal to 98% of a welfare cheque. Murray Coell, who, as a cabinet minister, is paid 15 times a welfare recipient is each month, has the nerve to lecture people about how we don't provide enough incentives to get people off welfare. After a month or two of living on welfare, I'm sure Mr. Coell would agree that earning more than \$510. a month is incentive enough. Unfortunately, an incentive doesn't mean a whole lot to someone whose welfare cheque doesn't cover the cost of photocopying a resume, buying a bus pass to get to job interviews, or replacing their worn out shoes and clothes.

Unfortunately, an incentive doesn't mean a whole lot to someone forced to live in such miserable conditions that the hope and self confidence vital to getting hired has been sucked right out of them.

So how about it Murray? Gord? You guys are supposed to be expert penny pinchers and great financial managers. Living on welfare should be a piece of cake.

And if you guys can't do it, I'm sure you can spare one of your 50 backbenchers for the task. If nothing else, assigning one of them to this project should save the taxpayers at least \$4500.00 per month.

By STUART PARKER

Bradley Yorke: a Sybaritic Angel

I venerate Bradley's life; I do not mourn his death.
I cry for us who loved him – we're orphaned
without his jubilant laugh.

Brad was a proctor.

He instructed us assiduously and artfully on the
therapeutic value of a zestful laugh.

I see him now: He spins a tale, throws his head
back, flashes his pearly whites and let's out a
glittering guffaw.

His laughter was golden. It warmed my heart. it
warmed the room. Hell, it warmed the who goddamn
Carnegie community.

I wanted to bottle it – bring it out on special
occasions.

Bradley, needless to say, was a God of laughter.

Mr.Lothario, at your altar I shall worship each and
every day.



Mike Guy

BYE BYE BRADLEY

It was a sunny mid-November day that would have
seen Bradley in shorts. I wore my brightest every-
colour-of-the-rainbow shirt to pay tribute to his
flamboyance. There were flowers everywhere,
petals on the floor, and Abba's "Dancing Queen"
set the mood for Bradley Yorke's memorial at the
Carnegie. Instead of a funeral, we did a Bad Boy
Boogie to do him proud! He was a disco diva, and
we "saw him off" in style. Push it, stroke it, uh huh
uh huh! We celebrated his life and his sense of
humour. He was a drinker, a drunk, an alcoholic, a
party animal, all of the above, and above all a well-
loved friend to many. We heard personal stories
from kitchen workers how he'd touched their lives.
And we heard an eloquent call to the community to
look at how often Natives die alone, and a plea for
us to look under the surface. His body was found in

The Humour King

Even though I heard about Bradley's passing, I was
still looking for him in the kitchen. Everyone just
expected him to be a permanent fixture. Bradley's
spirit remains in so many places.

Bradley used to tease me about being raised on a
farm. His favourite question was, "Now tell me – do
the cows come home by themselves or do you have
to go out and get them?!" One day when I was
browsing through dollar stores I found the perfect
placemat for him. There was a sign that said
"Bradley's Farm" and the mat pictured a bull
chasing a farmer. I put these words on the card:
"Contrary to popular belief, the bull does not give
milk."

I know Bradley was smiling as he looked in on his
memorial. The decorations were spectacular and, as
soon as tributes were given, his friends danced up a
storm. Bradley's favourite expression – Party Till
The Cows Come Home! Sleep well, my brother.

Irene Schmidt

his bed some days after he died, when questions and
phone calls from the Carnegie prompted tenants in
his co-op to take a look.

I left the Carnegie, my hair sticky with sweat from
dancing, and a smile on my face for a truly
memorable memorial. I even mentioned a couple of
times "I want Cody to DJ my funeral!" Minutes
later, on the way home, I noticed the corner of
Cordova by the Sisters' cordoned off with yellow
police tape around a couple of pools of still red
blood. Who died? Who got killed? I asked the
people in the park. I heard "a machete fight...a cut
to the neck...a cut to the leg". No-one was clear as
to whether he'd died.

We just laid Brad to rest, 'cept he's probably
gyrating with Gabriel on a fluffy cloud up there
somewhere, not actually "resting", and another life
gets chopped down. What's under the surface?
Addiction and alcoholism, we all know that. And
what's under that? Racism, homophobia. And
what's under THAT?

The healing journey is like peeling an onion 'til
you find the jewel in the centre of the lotus...and
that's YOU!

Diane Wood



The Forces

They're mostly a quiet presence
But if you raise their ire
They become a hurricane
A storm can be exciting
But you can get very wet
Earth Wind & Fire
Consequences dire

Sam

To Carnegie newsletter:

Since the re-design of the outside facility at Carnegie is impelled by the police war on drug users, those of us who know the origin of that war will be watching the developing design very closely for the inclusion of anything resembling "showers".

Sandy MacDonald

Hi, I just wanted everyone to know that there is a residency coming up at Video In called THE DOPE SHOW.

The terms are that each participant will make a 5-7 minute video addressing drugs (anything from prozac to caffeine to smack). Six people (three from Toronto, three from Vancouver) will be selected to participate.

They will receive \$550 in production equipment, 40 hours of editing time on the Final Cut Pro, a free membership to Video In, and will be paid a small screening fee when they complete their project. The projects will screen at The Images Festival of Independent Film and Video in Toronto and Signal and Noise in Vancouver.

Each application must include a two page description of project and copies of previous video work if available and/or a one page introduction letter speaking about other art projects that you may have been involved with.

Must be able to work somewhat independently to complete the project. Limited technical support is available.

The deadline is being extended to Dec 30th
You may include a CV if available.

Winnipeg Boys on the Beach

5

Sour suite song describes Chinatown this morning
a grey November day, lazy starting,
aching from the night before,
Another Winnipeg boy says it about New York,
fancy hotel, but it fits right here in my heart

No use looking back they say.. sometimes
it's all you've got

Can't change a thing whether you wanted to or not
The worst part of it is knowing you'll survive
after your loved ones and friends have all died
Has to be as reason I'm still alive
This morning I really can't tell you why

Must be 'cause I had the blues for Christmas
and I'm not feeling up to par
Maybe ol' Neil Young remembers
but my memory don't go that far

So for all the Winnipeg boys
Lost in terminal city, city of the Westcoast Blues
is this the land of gold you once sought for
or is it just the end of the line?

R.Loewen

My boy

My boy Ali makes me proud
Hardworking 'til 2.. cruising 'til dawn
pays his dues and carries on
Whooped a cracker the other night
who couldn't tale No for an answer
Left hi sobbing in a heap of blood
Good show, I say. Stand up for yourself.

Generous how he wipes out a debt
Washes away the money like dirt
Offers me a .22 Auto for Christmas
Aint that sweet? - kid offers me a peashooter..
Got Bart Simpson written all over him, don't he?

Tough, good-looking, smart as a whip
I'm proud to be his father, damn proud
Knows enough to steer clear of the needle
and watching me go through the paces taught him
Smart enough not to go there, a different road
he'll walk, now a young man but always my boy.

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R. Loewen



Vancouver Inner City/Eastside Special Coalition

Premier Gordon Campbell
Government of British Columbia

Dear Premier Campbell,

The undersigned Vancouver Inner City and Eastside neighbourhood-based resident groups, community organizations and service agencies accept the challenge posed by your government to rethink current organizational and service delivery models in order to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of community-based program provision. We agree that there are different and in many cases better ways to deliver community services than have been used.

To that end, we propose the establishment of a pilot project wherein your government undertakes to work directly with our organizations under a single umbrella mechanism to develop appropriate delivery and evaluation models for community-based services within our neighbourhoods.

Vancouver's Inner City and Eastside neighbourhoods face what is considered by many to be the most challenging high-risk environment in Canada. We have residents who are hard-pressed to provide for even their most basic needs and whose complex health and social issues place costly demands on an overburdened Provincial system. We are concerned that the consequences for our communities could be disastrous if changes are not made in a sensitive, comprehensive and consultative manner, utilizing the expertise that exists in the community. Change should ease, not increase hardship for those people most vulnerable; bolster, not undermine the important and already fragile continuums of care that do currently exist.

As has been noted by the Fraser Institute, among others, client-centred community services developed and delivered by non-profit organizations can put in place inter-connected services that stabilize residents and communities while saving dollars to taxpayers. Over many years, our community based resident

groups, non-profit organizations and service agencies have developed this necessary knowledge, experience and expertise. We are further strengthened by the community accountability inherent in our consumer input structures, and yearly elections process.

Our common purposes of promoting optimal service of benefit to the community provides the motivation to set aside differences and accept the need to work together for the common good. Through cooperative action, we have shared resources, volunteers, services and managerial expertise in ways that produced achievements beyond the capabilities of government bureaucracies or single-stream funding initiatives. Working collaboratively, our accomplishments have totalled much more than the sum of their constituent parts.

The model we are proposing to you is not a new concept. It was successfully employed in 1996 when our community organizations worked with the Ministry of Human Resources to develop the Community Services Fund, an innovative, ongoing and highly successful collaborative approach to developing and supporting locally relevant and workable training initiatives. Again in 1999, faced with the contract restructuring process of the Ministry of Children and Families, many of our organizations and residents engaged in an extensive planning and consultation process which saw the development of a comprehensive community-based process that more effectively used existing community infrastructure through enhancing existing services and finding new and innovative ways to respond to emerging needs utilizing the strengths of the partner groups and organizations.

These unique collaborative efforts have brought great benefit to all parties. Working together, we have developed flexible programs based on the realistic capacity of participants that in turn achieve Ministry objectives. Taking what were 'stand alone' contracts and placing them at the grass-roots level, we have also been able to support otherwise limited initiatives with extensive community resources, relieving pressures on participants and system resources.

The *Community Services Fund* and *Network Two* models (see appendices) are but two examples of community/government collaborations that are

consistent with the principles outlined under *Strategic Shifts* in the *Core Services Review*. In collaboration with your Government, we now hope to expand these ways of working together to establish a comprehensive, consolidated and community-based service delivery system. The community umbrella model we are proposing will have the further advantage of being able to work with all sectors to provide programs in ways that will maximize cost-effectiveness, communication and positive outcomes for all concerned.

Together we have an opportunity through implementing this pilot project to achieve a constructive and effective Government/community partnership. The limited resources of the Government can best be utilized through working together, and together we can minimize the impact of significant changes to service delivery in our community.

We request a meeting to discuss this proposal at your earliest convenience. Given the tight timeline involved in the Core Services Review, we are prepared to work quickly and comprehensively to achieve our mutual objectives. Please contact Bob Gilson, who is representing the undersigned organizations, at 604-253-9355 or via email at rgilson@tradeworks.bc.ca to make meeting arrangements. Further communication should be directed to Mr. Gilson at 876 Cordova Diversion, Vancouver, V6A 3R3.

Yours truly,

Annette Garm, **Britannia Community Services Society**
Enzo Guerriero, **Britannia Elementary School Parents Advisory Committee**

Donna Chang, **Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood House**
Barbara Wright, **Cedar Cottage Neighbourhood Police Centre**

Paula Carr, **Collingwood Neighbourhood House**
Chris Taulu, **Collingwood Neighbourhood Policing Centre**

Glyn Shephard, **Community Directions**
Deb Meams, **Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Safety Office**

John Turvey, **Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society**

Dr. Ruth Wright, **First United Church**
Gary Dobbin, **Frog Hollow Neighbourhood House**
Dominic Main, **Job Start**

Steve Boyce, **Kiawassa Neighbourhood House**
Booth Palmer, **Mount Pleasant Community Centre**
Dave Adair, **Mount Pleasant Neighbourhood House**

INDIAN LAND FOR SALE⁷

GET A HOME

OF
YOUR OWN

EASY PAYMENTS



PERFECT TITLE

POSSESSION

WITHIN

THIRTY DAYS

FINE LANDS IN THE WEST

IRRIGATED
IRRIGABLE

GRAZING

AGRICULTURAL
DRY FARMING

IN 1910 THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SOLD UNDER SCALED BIDS ALLOTTED INDIAN LAND AS FOLLOWS

Heady Mason, **Network 2 Community Services Society**
Kimberly McGhee, **PACE 2 Pre-Employment Training Program**

Kerstin Sturzbecher, **Portland Hotel Society**

Carole Brown, **Ray-Cam Co-Operative Association**

Sabine Tanasiuk, **Raymur Place Childcare**

Bill Hamilton, **Renfrew Collingwood Youth Project**

Lorraine Chow, **Renfrew Park Community Centre Association**

Frank Green, **Second Mile Society**

*Horacio Valle, **Seymour Elementary School Parents Advisory Committee**

Sister Catherine Fujisawa, **Sisters of the Atonement**

Sharon Mohammad, **Skeena Terrace Tenants Assoc**

Karen Larcombe, **South Vancouver Neighbourhood House**

Mel Scales, **Stamps Place Tenants Association**

Alexander Charlton, **Storefront Orientation Services**

Daisy Chin, **Strathcona Community Centre Assoc**

*Strathcona Elementary School Parents Advisory Committee

Brenda Burroughs, **Templeton Secondary School**

Lily Dong, **Thunderbird Community Centre Assoc**

Sandy Wheelhouse, **Thunderbird Elementary School**

Bob Gilson, **Tradeworks Training Society**

Joy Hall, **Vancouver Aboriginal Centre**

*Blair Harvey, **Vancouver Aboriginal Council**

Hendrik Hoekema, **Vancouver East Employment Prog**

Lou Demerais, **Vancouver Native Health Society**

Ken Annandale, **Vancouver Technical Secondary Sch**

Michelle Fortin, **WATARI**

Karen Duddy, **WISH Drop-In Centre Society**

c.c. Members of Cabinet



To: Gordon Campbell and the
BC Liberal Government

We demand that Gordon Campbell and all
MLA's who voted in favour of the "First Job"
Wage be paid \$6 per hour for their first 500
hours in office since the 2001 election.

Canada is a world-class trade bully

'Why do they hate us so much?' This question, asked by millions of Americans in the aftermath of the assault on New York and Washington, is symbolic of what differentiates Canada from the United States. Our sympathy for ordinary Americans post-Sept. 11 is accompanied with an unspoken relief that at least "they" don't hate us. The United States is the evil empire. We're Canada -- peace-loving, caring, cognizant of the needs of other nations.

But this sanguine attitude is becoming more and more like whistling past the graveyard. Canada is increasingly being seen by the third world community as a country that has abandoned its commitment to internationalism and fairness. The fact that we have jumped on the "coalition" train delivering a catastrophe to ordinary Afghans is just part of the picture. We are now seen as little more than a crass lobbyist for the world's, and our own, largest corporations.

When Canadian non-governmental organizations meet counterparts in international forums they brace themselves for the inevitable question: Why has Canada abandoned its historic role to become one of the most aggressive pushers of free market policies? Ever since Canada signed the original free trade deal with the United States, we have been moving in the direction of the corporate state. Ottawa's policy of trade *über alles* means the corporate sector is no longer just one of many interests competing for government policy attention. It's become completely

integrated into the fabric of government.

There are still glimpses of resistance but they are few and far between. Canada initially fought off the WTO's patent protection provisions trying to defend its generic drug legislation. It argued eloquently the agreement was never intended to "unduly prejudice the vital public interest" in pursuing health objectives. It lost the case.

Now it is one of just five countries at the WTO ministerial meetings in Qatar vowing to block an African declaration that would ensure poor countries can take "measures to protect public health" such as using cheaper generic drugs to deal with the AIDS epidemic. The patent protection treaty Canada is now defending is the antithesis of the free trade the WTO says it stands for. It is globally enforced protectionism for the world's most powerful drug companies. Millions will die because of its provisions.

Michelle Swenarchuk of the Canadian Environmental Law Association, attended the final meetings aimed at establishing an international bio-safety protocol, held in Montreal in January, 2000. She came away disgusted. Canada was a member of the Miami Group, along with the United States, Australia, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, opposing a 150-nation consensus on the need to deal with the implications for bio-diversity, food security and health posed by genetically engineered seeds. "Canada's goal was to prevent international regulation of food and feed," she said. "We parroted the U.S. line and even spoke for the United States on some topics. The Canadian negotiators, just as the end was in sight, almost derailed the protocol by holding out into the middle of the night. As one Asian delegate said to me, 'Canada used to be such a positive influence. What has happened?' "

Following Canada's failed WTO challenge of France's asbestos ban, Chile announced its own ban.

For their initiative to protect their citizens from this deadly carcinogen, Chile's elected officials were vilified by Canadian bureaucrats. Canada's ambassador to Chile, Paul Durand, accused Chilean Health Minister Michelle Bachelet of being "in the thrall of American environmental" lobbyists. Department of Foreign Affairs trade official Pierre Desmarais declared the Chilean decree banning asbestos "undemocratic."

Canada's new status as global bully extends to the WTO. It and the other members of the so-called Quad countries -- Canada, the United States, the European Union, Japan -- learned their lesson from Seattle. They have dropped any pretense of democracy and fairness. Brute intimidation is the name of the game. The Quad met in Mexico in August and in Singapore last month and cobbled together the draft declaration presented to the 142 WTO members this past weekend.

On Oct. 31, Mike Moore, the WTO Director-General, and Stuart Harbinson, the WTO general council chairman simply declared -- with no legal authority whatsoever -- they would not revise their draft to indicate the opposing views of other delegations. Abandoning past practice of including detailed objections of delegations in a covering letter, they declared the documents would go before the Doha meeting on Nov. 9 without the required 10-day notice. The draft read as if there was consensus, yet Third World countries are even more opposed to a new round than they were in Seattle.

Canada is an eager participant in this whole contemptible process. What is stunning about this turn of events is that Canada's new role in the world -- bully, toady of the United States, running roughshod over the weakest nations in the world -- has been determined without a shred of public debate. If Third World peoples don't hate Canada yet, it's only a matter of time. By the time most Canadians find out, it will be too late.

By MURRAY DOBBIN

[Murray Dobbin is a freelance writer and author in Vancouver. His latest book is The Myth of the Good Corporate Citizen: Democracy Under the Rule of Big Business.]



This kinda puts the mantra "unsustainable housing program" into context...

A beginner's guide to *Liberalspeak*

Michael Smyth, *The Province*

Your belt-tightening, penny-pinching government has spent about \$200,000 of your money so far on its televised open cabinet meetings.

As gripping TV entertainment goes, I'd rank 'em up there with late-night infomercials for Butt-B-Gone weight-loss machines.

Boring? Let's put it this way: Even Premier Gordon Campbell was spotted yawning, and he's a workaholic who probably reads cabinet briefings on the john.

It's just too bad they didn't spend some of that 200 grand on subtitles so the folks at home could understand what these cabinet ministers are droning about.

These guys have developed their own Klingon language -- a mystifying political lingo you might call *Liberalspeak*.

So clip-and-save this handy glossary for the next time you skip *The Bold And The Beautiful* and tune into the *Govern Along With Gord Show*:

"Reprofiling The Civil Service": A nice way of describing the plan to hack out one-third of the public payroll. (See : "Employee Transitioning.") Sounds better than "We're gonna fry 11,550 desk jockeys."

"Rescoping Capital Expenditures": Not building buildings you said you'd build. Sometimes it's expensive to bail out on constructing new schools, hence Education Minister Christy Clark's reassurance yesterday: "It's not going to be a big expense to rescope most of them."

"Change Management": What senior government bosses call the nasty business of firing underlings

and then coping with the resulting turmoil. Example: "Can't do lunch today. I'm attending a Change Management conference."

"Integrated Multi-Modal Plan": A utopian vision of public transportation under the Liberals. Also known as "toll booths."

"Process Pushers": Redundant, cubicle-dwelling civil servants who care more about counting paper clips than getting on with the Liberals' "Results Oriented" agenda. Most "Process Pushers" will soon be "Reprofiled."

"Recyclers": Employable deadbeats who move on-and-off-and-on the welfare rolls. Most "Recyclers" will soon be "Transitioned."

"Maximizing Flexibility": Returning the favour to private corporations that bankrolled the Liberal election campaign. Hence, bars and restaurants achieve workforce "flexibility" with a \$6 training wage. Can also apply to Crown corporations: ICBC can finally "maximize flexibility" by jacking up your insurance premiums.

"Moving Forward": Hardly lingo, but it's become Campbell's favourite mantra. He must have said it a dozen times yesterday. His doting cabinet ministers, meanwhile, constantly claim to be "excited" with all their furious "Reprofiling" and "Rescoping." Re-markable. Now get your hand off that re-mote.

REGULATION TIME

Deregulation Minister Kevin Falcon said yesterday his people have counted 403,733 regulations, many of them useless and expensive, imposed by past governments on business.

The NDP is the biggest anti-business villain, of course, piling on tones of regulations and red tape via employment standards, workers' compensation, forest practices and liquor control and licensing, Falcon said.

The Liberals have vowed to cut the regulatory "burden" by one-third within three years.

MACPHAIL ON TRAIL

Premier Gordon Campbell denies NDP leader Joy MacPhail's accusation that he "bullied" Liberal members of the finance committee to "water down" their pre-budget consultation report.

Now MacPhail has filed a freedom-of-information request with Campbell's office in an effort to find a

smoking-gun memo. MacPhail said a draft report called on the government to proceed "very cautiously" with budget cuts because the public service is already "cut to the bone."

She said those recommendations were missing when the report was made public.

Boyd Pyper, LL.B., LL.M. (cand) Tel: 604.732.4228

Policy Specialist Fax: 604.732.0752

Pacific Salmon Forest Project Cell: 250.889.3208

An Advocate

I have some limited good news. A Pharmasave druggist called MHR and lost his cool in describing the urgent need of my client for 2 types of insulin. MHR responded by issuing a voucher for 2 bottles of each type of insulin (about a months supply). A Dr. who is a diabetic specialist is on the phone to MHR as I write this. Another Dr. has offered free medical services. Also the person in charge of the Diabetic Centre at the hospital in Vernon is contacting MHR.

This solves the insulin problem for a month but not the need for money to purchase required foods. So the need to obtain assistance and of course have medical coverage is still on. I have a call into our MLA, awaiting a reply.

May

At 5:30 last evening the Regional MHR office authorized enhanced medical coverage for the client!

We now await the response to the reconsideration request but expect the need of going to tribunal to obtain income assistance. If so, I will document the denial of medical coverage until yesterday. One of the statements I plan to make is if a parent had denied a life sustaining medication the child (the client is 17) would very likely have been apprehended, yet the government can neglect the child and get away with it.

Media Democracy: What a concept

In mid-October hundreds of people gathered in Vancouver, Calgary and Toronto to discuss a topic guaranteed to raise the hackles of press barons—media democracy.

The first annual Media Democracy Day drew mostly youthful activists who wanted to talk about how to change the media so that it better reflects the diversity of experience and opinion in our society. In the context of war, the debates on how to create a more independent and diverse media have never been more important.

The burgeoning media democracy movement is an important component of the anti-corporate globalization movement. Young people are fed up with corporate control of our society. Nowhere is that control more destructive than in the media itself.

Corporate concentration of the media is worse in Canada than even in the United States. Chains own 72 per cent of daily newspaper circulation today compared to 57 per cent in 1980. On top of that these same chains now own two of the three television networks. The third is the CBC.

Newspapers, radio and television are not just businesses. They have a critical role in the democratic system. The press is as important to the democratic system as Parliament, the Courts and the Executive branch.

Yet we have allowed the vast majority of our media to fall into the hands of a handful of rich men whose primary interest is making money. Where are the safeguards to democracy in a media system where the richest of the rich own the means of information? In the United States, this system has led to a shutting out of any real diversity of opinion. Because we still have a public broadcaster in Canada, we have not suffered as badly from what Noam Chomsky calls manufactured consent. Needless to say when money rules, right-wing opinion dominates.

Complaining about a pro-corporate media is practically a profession on the left in Canada. A few have tried to do something about it. The Council of Canadians challenged Conrad Black's newspaper monopoly through the courts without success. Others have intervened at the CRTC but the march to media monopoly continues unhindered.

It is not just left-wingers who are poorly served by

media. In fact in most polls, journalists vie with politicians and lawyers for the lowest rungs on



the scale of public respect.

Yet in this day and age the idea that more of the media should be publicly funded and independent of corporate or state influence is not even a legitimate topic of discussion. It is a mammoth struggle just to protect the CBC from decimation. This week an Ontario cabinet minister suggested we should sell the CBC to save medicare.

Challenging the corporate media and defending the CBC are two of three pillars of the fight for media democracy. The third is to strengthen the independent media.

The emergence of the Internet has created the possibility of much broader alternatives to mainstream media. Since September 11, Internet sites that present alternative information and views (like www.rabble.ca, which I publish), have enjoyed a dramatic increase in visitors.

Not only do more and more people use independent Web sites to get daily news and views but the existence of these sites challenges the corporate media's monopoly on information. The Internet is a powerful new tool for journalism that few in the mainstream

understand how to use. Independent media sites are on the cutting edge of online journalism.

There were a handful of mainstream journalists in attendance at Media Democracy Day but what struck me was how few. One of the problems is the gulf between media activists and professional journalists who want progressive change. On the left, the hostility to the corporate media often translates to hostility toward the craft of journalism itself. One of the few mainstream journalists in attendance thanked me for my remarks. "You didn't offend me once," she said.

On the other side, journalists often have contempt for those who criticize the media because they don't understand the real pressures of deadline, lack of resources and the importance of storytelling. A lot of journalists feel that political activism is contradictory to their professional role. If there is to be real media reform, it has to be led by a coalition of media activists and journalists- no easy task.

There has never been a better time to create such a coalition because journalists are very worried about yet another round of cutbacks in newsrooms across the country and are looking for allies in the fight against the Aspers' bottom-line approach to their media monopoly. Despite that, or maybe even because of it, the time has never been better to launch a campaign for media democracy.

By JUDY REBICK

DERA General Meeting

Please join our long-time good friend
JEAN SWANSON

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2-4pm
in Carnegie's Theatre

Jean is the author of Poor-Bashing: The Politics of Exclusion, an investigation into how the poor are systematically abused throughout mainstream society.

Please join us for a lively discussion on this urgent public policy issue.

!DANCE!

Friday, December 7, 7-10pm

**'Rock around the
Xmas Tree'**

DJ - mix



The High Cost Of Folly

Everything is now cleaned up around the cenotaphs...wreaths gone, flowers.. poppies swept away all tidy and neat.... except memories of lost friends crack of yet another 88 unanswerable cries....the. waste of sanity and life.

Sam Roddan

AND THE DEALER SMILES

The struggle, the sweat
A scarred body
Your insulted soul

Haphazard experience
You shuffled and bet
And you won by bluff

But now it's double or nothing
Your chips are all in the pot
Your fate is the wager
And
The dealer smiles

Ken Morrison

Humanities Storefront OPEN HOUSE

49 W.Cordova

Come and meet the new Board, look around,
bring ideas and inspiration, refresh yourself!

Saturday, December 8, 4-6pm

.young
lean
ear-ring
bleached blonde
works for the government
synthetic cool
but otherwise a tool
he'll never get a lawyer to sue
for the damage that he's done
to himself
he'll never know the truth about his failure
but he'll try to get faster
he'll try to get harder
but his future is death
he's going through the motions
he's counting on some luck
and he can't say just when
but he's waiting for the end
it's been planned for

charles fortin

In Memory of a Stand-Up Dude

Shocked. Disbelief yet knowing
my friend died on Friday night
booze and pills rolled over into a pillow
suffocated, too stoned to move.
Coroner said it was probably the best way to go
My daughter sez 'He aint moved in 12 hrs'
Son-in-law touched the cold yellow flesh
Cops and Coroner came
Took d'Andy away

Point blank she sez 'Andy is dead.'

I'll always hold dear to his spirit
The only dude who'd help one time
when my ass was in a sling
Drove me all the way to Hope
apologizing he couldn't make Nelson with me
Kinda guy 'd give you a lung...

Now he's hanging up there in Spiritland
with Leeska who OD'd 6 years back
He blew back a gram and survived
Arm was gimpy for a year or so; no guitars
Still, after all that, in his old bedroom at home
The Devil caught up with him after all
His mother watched both of them go –
To you it's just a number.
To me it's a piece of my heart.

Al

What Can I Write

that's worthwhile, that will help you to see
vividly.. more than I can chew,
and what's to become of you
who walks in someone else's shoe
and try to fit it to you...
It's what **one** must do:
-correct your errors and try something new
errors **are** a clue to a better view-
so I **write** and hope I can get a message thru

A.Kostynuik

Libby Davies Speaks Out On The Decriminalization Of Marijuana

On November 7, 2001, Libby Davies, our Member of Parliament, spoke in the house of Commons, Ottawa, on the decriminalization of marijuana. She said that the risk to individual or public health from the use of cannabis is minimal, and that the greatest risk to public health concerning drug use is from prohibitionist policies.

Libby said that in Australia, where the decriminalization of marijuana has already taken place, the use of cannabis did not increase, and law enforcement costs were significantly reduced. She reminded the Members of Parliament that 30 years ago the Le Dain Commission came to the conclusion that cannabis, or marijuana, should be decriminalized.

Libby said that in the Downtown Eastside there are people who are in pain, who suffer trauma, and who have been marginalized as a result of criminalization due to Canada's drug laws. She called on the government to support the following points:

- * user accessible treatment on demand. There are people who want to get into treatment, but treatment is not available or accessible.
- * a comprehensive, honest drug education program focused on health and well-being. Drugs, legal and illegal, are everywhere in our society, and the "say no to drugs" approach is so simplistic and ineffective that young people just dismiss it.
- * safe injection sites; multi-centre heroin trials; the decriminalization of marijuana for personal use as a step towards a broader discussion on the decriminalization of marijuana and other substances; housing programs, and other support programs, for injection drug users who have been marginalized and criminalized by current attitudes and laws.

Drug overdose deaths are preventable, Libby said. Drug overdose is now the leading cause of death for people between the ages of 30 to 44. "These are preventable deaths if only we have the courage to provide the kind of harm reducing, realistic policies necessary, to provide treatment on demand, realistic education, and to help people where they are at, and not further criminalize them," Libby said.

By SANDY CAMERON

ZEN AGAIN

Let me not turn your heads too long
With words about.

There are miracles and sights to see without.
Where games abound and music plays.
Water drips with it's special sound,
Crows and seagulls screech and caw
Growing trees speak silently.

David Venus



FEEL - GOOD WORDS

Feel -- good words are words that
People like to say, because after
having said them
-- They make people feel good

Say after me: **FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY**
*See? You're starting to feel better already,
aren't you?*

LIBERTY, JUSTICE, EQUALITY
That's right, you're smiling now!

PEACE, BROTHERHOOD, FRATERNITY
Try not to laugh too loudly, though.

FAITH, HOPE, CHARITY
*Well... we could always try this again
some other time...*

Ken Morrison

Silvertone Celebration

Wayne Schmidt's band **Nomadic Sanctuary**
is at the Silvertone Tavern
December 6th, 6 - 8:30.

The 2nd CD is out and an official launch is coming
soon. Look for **Nomadic Sanctuary**



The **desmedia** collective will continue their weekly workshops at the Carnegie Centre (Hastings and Main St.) every Monday from 2:00 until 5:PM in the classroom #2 on the 3rd floor. We will work with residents and members of the downtown eastside community on collaborative and independent video projects (of all styles, experimental, video-poetry, fiction, documentary etc), communal paintings, and photowork. You are welcome to come by and chat, participate in creating new work, talk on tape, or just have tea.



CAMPBELL THE ICEMAN

Sung to the tune of *Frosty the Snowman*

Campbell the Iceman is a cold and heartless goof
He'll look at children real sweet,
then put them on the street
And he sits there all aloof

Campbell the Iceman is a Nazi some will say
But the people will have proof
that he is just a fucking goof
And he'll pay for this one day

There must have been some kindness in him
When he was Vancouver's mayor
But when they gave him a higher seat
He fucked thousands everywhere

Campbell the Iceman is the biggest prick today
He's told nothing but lies,
and won't listen to peoples cries
'Cause he gets a paycheck anyway

Kris Davenport



I have received this from a friend who got it from a friend who got it from a person who works for the Ministry and says it is OK to distribute it.

This is a synopsis of the Proposed New Changes in BC Benefits for April 2002.

(According to our MHR source: these changes are "expected" not definite.)

[Most *savings* will be achieved in year one because if they wait they will be running a deficit.]

- They are considering having single parents go to work when the youngest child is 3 instead of one.
- There will be sanctions/consequences for clients not participating in programs. They expect the budget to be cut 30 to 50 percent.
- Asset level for a single person will be about \$150.
- All current exemptions will either be lower or gone.
 1. Family maintenance Exemption
 2. Training incentive benefits
 3. Transition to work
 4. Christmas bonus -- changed to "winter clothing allowance." (not politically correct)
 5. Own your own home? Possible lien put on it by government to repay them for any income assistance when you sell the home.
 6. Crisis grants- likely gone.
 7. Appeal Board will be gone.
 8. Lifetime DBII status- going. Expect clients to re-apply when they go off and get back on. (do not expect grandfathering)
 9. New definition of emergency for new applicants. When one applies for IA they will be told to go do a job search for 2 or 3 weeks and return. (no money given until job search handed in and if it is not acceptable will have to go away again for 2 or 3 weeks to try again.) All new applicants will have to sign an employability agreement at the time of application.

Worker roles not defined yet.

MHR has presented 3 scenarios to Treasury Board. Cuts of 30%, 40% or 50%. Any cuts over 15-20 % will mean they have to close offices.

They expect to have mandatory:

- Drug and alcohol counseling. (*they are going to have us peeing in bottles to find out who needs the counseling.*)
- Mental health assessments. (*This bodes ill for people on DBII because of mental health.. It sounds like they will have their own doctors doing this.*)
- Literacy Assessments. (*They see this as a barrier to employment. It may be used to give illiterate persons money, or to make them go get literate.*)

This will be the basis of determining compliance.

They expect four phases:

1. Application for income assistance and employability agreement after successful (*acceptable*) self directed job search is completed;
2. Supervised or assisted job search;
3. Job placement program;
4. Training for Jobs.

Clients will be expected to go through each phase in the appropriate order.

Quote by REO:

"If someone is 7 months pregnant and has 2 broken legs they will be considered employable. If someone has bad teeth and not has a bath for 5 days, they will be considered employable."

There will be a broader definition of "employable". Clients with disabilities will be expected to work.

The government says BC Benefits did not go far enough and now the Ministry will move toward final changes. (*The word "changes" is crossed out by hand in the word "Solution" is written after it.*) There will not be enough Training Consultants. FAWs will be directed (in some areas) to provide these services.



Poverty in The Promised Land

In the Fifties we scrounged the dump for heavy glass -pop bottles -coca cola, orange crush, 7Up- Patsy Murphy & I traded them for penny candy: Black Babies, Honeymoons, Coconut Buds, -tiny cones full of honey + brown sugar

Delicious to us.

Also the blackberries by the train track - Near the dump, the abbatoir & Africville; but the biggest, juiciest grew near the graveyard.. We sold them for 50¢ a quart (remember quarts)

Now I cruise the lanes for good garbage, cans + bottles for recycling -to buy bread & milk, maybe a little meat Oh Canada, our home + the Native's land Glorious and free! Freedom is a thin gruel Human rights cold comfort in the mean streets.

Wilhelmina



A new priest at his first mass was so nervous he could hardly speak. After mass he asked the monsignor how he had done. The monsignor replied, "When I am worried about getting nervous on the pulpit, I put a glass of vodka next to the water glass. If I start to get nervous, I take a sip. So next Sunday he took the monsignor's advice. At the beginning of the sermon, he got nervous and took a drink.

He proceeded to talk up a storm. Upon his return to his office after mass, he found the following note on the door:

1. Sip the Vodka, don't gulp.
2. There are 10 commandments, not 12.
3. There are 12 disciples, not 10.
4. Jesus was consecrated, not constipated.
5. Jacob wagered his donkey, he did not bet his ass.
6. We do not refer to Jesus Christ as the late J. C.
7. The Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are not referred to as Daddy, Junior and the Spook.
8. David slew Goliath, not kick the shit out of him.
9. When David was hit by a rock and was knocked off his Donkey, don't say he was stoned off his ass.
10. We do not refer to the cross as the "Big T."
11. When Jesus broke the bread at the Last Supper he said, "Take this and eat it for it is my body." He did not say "Eat me"
12. The Virgin Mary isn't "Mary with the Cherry."
13. The recommended grace before a meal is not: Rub-A-Dub-Dub thanks for the grub, yeah God.

Opposition? Yes.



The beginnings of the BC Liberal regime are becoming clear – the idea of it just starting may be a groaner to people who have been following and keeping track and feeling the axe.

It seemed like role-playing to be 'in opposition' from Day 1, with people protesting at the inauguration, with signs and demands and outrage all poured from a bottle... but hindsight, being as crystal-clear as mud, gives credence to expectations.

Following are just tips of an iceberg of change:

Elimination of the Ministry of Women's Equality;

Elimination of the Ministry of Community

Development, Cooperatives and Volunteers;

Elimination of the Ministry of Multiculturalism

Elimination of Commissioner for the Environment

Elimination of Green Economy Secretariat

Elimination of Fair Wage Laws

Elimination of Sectoral Bargaining

Gutting of Ministry responsible for endangered species and biological diversity research

Elimination of moratorium on Grizzly Bear hunt

Elimination of Universal Childcare Program

Elimination of Public Sector Youth Employment Prg

Families now billed directly for dental care, eye care physiotherapy, etc.

Discriminatory attention paid to single parents

– parents on social assistance must now return to work when their youngest child is 1 year old;

– minimum wage reduced to \$6/hour

– \$7.5million cut from job training programs for welfare recipients

– hot lunch programs targeted for elimination

– high employment and issues of supply and demand in relation to entry level jobs and private daycare for infants not considered...

Poverty – Coalitions of anti-poverty groups, activists and organisations (ELP, fapp, ...) linked to

Housing – Coalitions of tenants' groups and co-ops and associations for affordable living (TRAC, CHF, ...) linked to

Education – students and tuition and courses and the stoppage of new facility money

Aboriginal Affairs – the whole issue of referendums and the majority deciding on minority rights and self-determination amid poverty, housing, education, health, and more.

The BC Liberal direction is for government to just give up on much of what has been its responsibility for years. Premier Campbell uses the line "First we have to get the fundamentals right..." The litany is a parody of "I've got mine so screw you." Every section of government is to cut 20-50% of its budget (excluding MLA's salaries and the Premier's Office) meaning that 20-50% of services and government is suddenly superfluous (or ripe for friends of capital to make mega-profits from); single parents are to start seeking/finding work when their youngest is 12 months old, the minimum wage has been deftly cut by 25% with the first 500 hours now "training" at \$6/hour and poverty is deemed the most heinous crime. End Legislated Poverty an' the federated anti-poverty groups are keeping track and part of fighting back. The National Day of Action on Housing brings the abdication of the provincial government, the "freezing" of projects and additional starts, and Campbell's ongoing delusion that "there is no housing crisis" into the media's glare.

What opposition means is the will to deal with the drastic devolutionary crap of the ideologues in

From an on-line poll:

Do you have confidence in Finance Minister Gary Collins's ability to manage BC's economy?

Currently **Yes 49.5%**

No 50.5%

power. We will not sweep these people from being 'powers-that-be' overnight. No single rally or demonstration or razing of this policy or that change will constitute a revolution, but every action will help. Each requires that those most affected, those most squeezed or pushed, start to organize while putting out hope -- are you a single parent or a poor student or an immigrant or finding a ceiling on all work so you can't earn more than \$6 an hour or First Nations or a senior or sick or wanting an over-priced education that won't just make you another corporate flunky or are you just poor and alone -- are you aware of years of being put down or just sick of being victimized or exploited...the links are to share information, to strategise, to respond to the headlong rush of this and other governments.

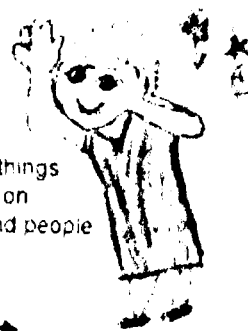
The issues of poverty, housing, education, First Nations, immigration, drug treatment, children & youth, health and safety, war, the environment, biodiversity and agriculture, resource utilization... each is being affected radically by changes that seem to benefit a few and dis-empower or rip off the vast majority. This kind of writing seems to say a lot but isn't very focused. There is no forum for arguing or presenting viable alternatives to this government, so we start by using and expanding on what we have. The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, internet rabble.ca, this *Newsletter*... We seem to be relegated to reacting and it is this that we start with.

Call each of the issues a sector, and there are many people who are the 'experts' living and working in each sector, be it poverty, housing, education and so on. Let's start with just sharing information, and then keeping a calendar of events and actions. This will naturally lead to larger and more formidable coalitions forming. At a recent talk organized by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, a person from Ontario spoke on "Life With Mike" -- 6 years of Mike Harris and cronies. By all accounts it was humorous and practical. his advice on what works and what doesn't was simply to do what you do, talk to people and don't give up. We are overwhelmed right now with the new government, the impending and in-place trade deals, the terrorist attacks and the war and so on. Look at the cartoon and smile. What they know, we know too.

By PAULR TAYLOR

[thanks to Jim L for help]

Only Nice things
should fall on
children and people



Vigils

in Support of Peace & Justice

Vigils are organized **Friday nights 5 - 6 pm** at the **Vancouver Art Gallery**.

Saturday community vigils are scheduled on:

Dec 1 North Vancouver Seabus 11am - 1pm

Dec 8 Granville Island (by bakery) 11am - 1pm

Dec 15 Granville & Broadway 11am - 1pm

Dec 22 Main & 13th 11am - 1pm

Dec 29 Hastings and Kamloops 11am - 1pm

**Further information on vigils: 604-224-1182
or write to vancouvervigils@yahoo.ca**

We stand in sympathy with the families and friends of the victims of September 11 and with those grieving for losses in Afghanistan. And we oppose the use of September 11 as an excuse for starting new wars, inciting racist hatred and removing civil liberties. War is not the answer to terrorism. When in history has increased repression served to make safer the population on which it has been imposed?

People can reject terrorism and war at the same time. Reality is complex, and reducing issues to a polarized "us or them" is simplistic. There are other views. Our concern is that this war will simply move on to more targets (Somalia, Yemen, Colombia, Iraq?), causing more innocent deaths.

It is not possible to stop this war machine only by appeals to peace, as necessary as these are. It is necessary also to address the fundamental causes of war: the growth of inequality and poverty, of sexism and racism.

We call on our governments and peoples to find legal and constructive solutions to the current conflicts. And we call on our fellow Canadians to not react with racism and hatred.

**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
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**Submission Deadline
for next issue:
Tuesday, December 11**

