

Carnegie

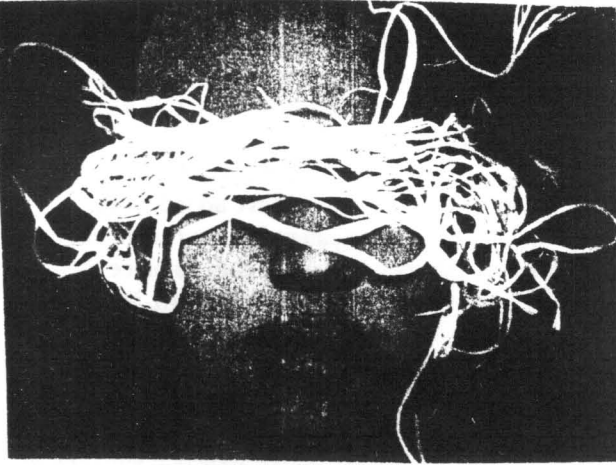
NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 15, 2002

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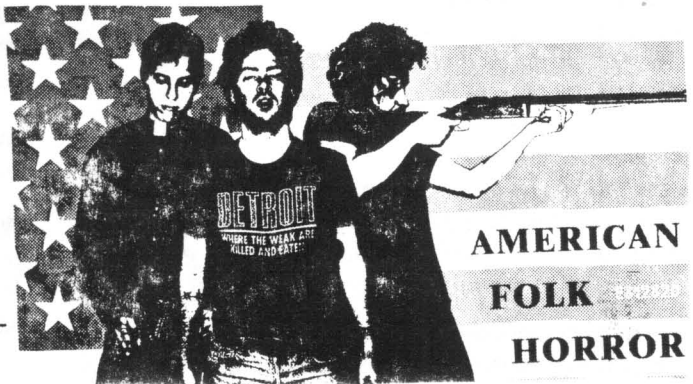
SMOKE AND MIRRORS.

Having been a conspiracy theorist for many years now, I have long believed in the existence of the "Illuminata", that supposedly small and secret cabal of individuals whose immense power and wealth truly weild the shaping of history behind the scenes. This "Concilium 13" as they are also called, are said to have originated hundreds of years ago, well before the advent of Freemasonry. It is this select and omnipotent group that tell Presidents and Prime Ministers what to do and when to do it, what to say and when to say it. The fact that we do not know their names is the first and foremost benchseat of their power and authority. To convince us through conspicuous absence that, like the devil, they do not exist.

Since the morning of Sept 11th, I have strongly believed that it was this group of people who were instrumentally responsible for the whole tragedy, probably engineered through the NSA (whose budget, by the way, is thirteen times larger than that of

the CIA.) Why would the powers that be want to deliberately cause so much suffering, death and damage, as well as inflicting such far-reaching havoc upon an already troubled economy? Very simple -to achieve what they have wanted to achieve for the past fifty years, but could not implement openly: The emergence of the totalitarian police state.

For the past thirty years now, slowly at first, but with increasingly undistracted momentum, the entire world has become subconsciously colonized by american culture and the american media. There are now six billion people in the world with six billion individual wills. And more and more of these wills, with increasingly blatant purpose, want the "American dream". The houses, the cars, the money and all the trappings that go with it. But at the same time that this is happening, we are also reaching the end of the monopoly game. More and more wealth is in fewer and fewer hands. Oligopolies are merging to become new monopolies while more and more mouths clamor for a bigger piece of an ever shrinking pie. This, in turn, is fuelling the nitroglycerin of emotions, particularly those of rage, dissatisfaction and conflict, as well as the baser staples of greed and envy. And, as Dostoevsky well knew, there are times



when human beings will do something totally outrageous, injurious and possibly even lethal to themselves or others, simply to prove that they are not predictable variables in a politically manufactured equation. The Illuminati know this and events of September 11 have been engineered to provide the perfect excuse to "Bring in the sails and batten down the hatches." The following quotations are from a both credible and incredible tome entitled "The Illuminatus Trilogy" published in 1975 by Robert Shea and Anton Wilson:

"If the Illuminati control America already, what's the purpose of the assassinations?"

"Their grip on Washington is still pretty precarious. They've been able to socialize the economy, but if they show their hand now and went totalitarian all the way, there would be a revolution. Middleroaders would rise up with right-wingers and libertarians and the Illuminati aren't powerful enough yet to withstand that kind of massive revolution. But they can rule by fraud, and by fraud, eventually acquire access to the tools they need to finish the job of killing off the Constitution."

"What sort of tools?"

"More stringent security measures. Universal electronic surveillance. Government inspection of first-class mail. Automatic fingerprinting, photographing, blood tests and urinalysis of any person arrested before they are even charged with a crime. A law making it unlawful to resist even unlawful arrest. Laws establishing detention camps for potential subversives. Gun control laws. Restrictions on travel. The assassinations, you see, establish the need for such laws in the public mind. Instead of realising that there is a conspiracy conducted by a handful of men, the people are manipulated into reasoning that the entire populace must have its freedom restricted in order to protect the leaders. The people agree that they themselves can't be trusted. At present rate, within the next few years, the Illuminati will have the American people under tighter surveillance than Hitler had the Germans. And the beauty of it is, the majority of Americans will have been so frightened by Illuminati backed terrorist incidents, that they will beg to be controlled as a masochist begs for the whip."

Can anything written more than a quarter of a century ago be more uncannily prophetic of what

will now be imposed on us collectively, post 2001? Many of these measures have already come to pass pre-9/11, and since then, sophisticated new covert-surveillance systems such as the Echelon project and "Magic Lantern" are either already online or will be shortly. Very soon, people will be monitored from cradle to grave. More and more, we are living in the age of scrutiny. Coming generations will be forced to tow the line completely, and when anyone, for any reason, falls off the tightrope of their life's journey even once, they will find it almost impossible to get back on again. I have been told by a quite reliable source that there's already a concentration camp for dissidents up and running underneath the old Denver airport near Stapleton Colorado. What is that old saying?

Something about if you are not part of the solution...

Here on the homefront, we have added woes. A government that seems determined, through massive health care and social program cuts, to place their boot upon the necks of the already down. What will we do? It has been said that violence and revolution do not work. I sometimes wonder. Our leaders have proven themselves to be untrustworthy time and again, ad infinitum, ad nauseam.

Collectively, we are not unlike someone who allows themselves to be handcuffed, upon promise of being freed later. But it must always be remembered that once this happens, the bottom line is that from the moment those cuffs are snapped together, we have voluntarily relinquished our ability to defend ourselves. What will we do?

Martin A McDermid.

The following joke was voted "funniest in the world" by a U.K. website:

Famed fictional detective Sherlock Holmes and his gruff assistant Doctor Watson pitch their tent while on a camping expedition, but in the middle of the night Holmes nudges Watson awake and questions him.

HOLMES: Watson, look up at the stars and tell me what you deduce.

WATSON: I see millions of stars, and if there are millions of stars, and if even a few of those have planets, it is quite likely there are some planets like earth, and if there are a few planets like earth out there might also be life.

HOLMES: Watson, you idiot! Somebody stole our tent.

Join us to celebrate
CARNEGIE'S
22ND ANNIVERSARY

Friday, January 25th
2-4 pm in the Theatre



Carnegie Centre (shown above in 1932) was once Vancouver's main library. Next door were City Hall and the Art Gallery. Together, they formed the heart of Vancouver's original city

When you go in to the Carnegie Center on the corner of Hastings and Main, walk past the library and go up the circular staircase to the second floor where you will find the cheapest, tastiest meals in Vancouver in the cafeteria there. On your way up, notice how the staircase handrail is decorated with pointed pieces of metal every few meters. Those pieces of metal were added to the staircase handrail in 1910, when the building was seven years old and Vancouver's first and only public library. Boys sliding down the staircase from the Museum on the third floor were such a problem for the librarians (and presumably for the boys' parents) that the staircase was altered.

Carnegie Library began in January 1901 when George Maxwell, Member of Parliament for Vancouver, wrote to Andrew Carnegie requesting a donation for a city library.¹ "Before then, the only libraries people used were by subscription. People had to pay membership dues to borrow books,"² Dick Turner, Carnegie's librarian told me, in an interview in his tiny office. Andrew Carnegie donated \$50,000 for the library while the City of Vancouver contracted to give \$5000 yearly for the library's maintenance. Carnegie made millions in the steel industry and "gave away close to 90% of his fortune . . . (in) an attempt to overcome the conflict between his spiritual values that placed human life

above property, and his business values that placed property above the needs of citizens."³

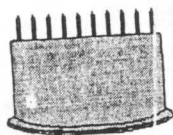
The Freemason's Society donated the land at the corner of Hastings Street and Westminster Street, as Main Street was then called, in the city's original town site. March 29, 1902 was a sunny warm day when a parade of the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Order followed their marching band to lay the cornerstone. A time capsule under the cornerstone contains Masonic documents, a copy of the city's Act of Incorporation, lists of civic officials, examples of the postage stamps and coins then in use, a copy each of Vancouver's three daily newspapers and the oration Reverend L. Norman Tucker gave that day.⁴ Carnegie Library's architect, George W. Grant, who also designed the courthouse in New Westminster in 1891 and the Heather Pavilion of the Vancouver General Hospital, had recently come from Nova Scotia.⁵ According to Pat Hood's fact-packed brochure about the history of Carnegie Centre: "The granite for the foundation came from Indian Arm and the sandstone for the 10 inch thick walls came from Gabriola Island."⁶ Almost ten thousand pounds of iron and steel were used to build the spiral staircase.

Carnegie Library opened in 1903. Hood describes the interior: "Fireplaces heated the building, the floors were oak, and the walls and ceilings were

DANCE*DANCE*DANCE

with the
CONNECTIONS

7-10 pm in the Theatre
EVERYONE WELCOME!



JAZZ

(12-2 FREE ART GIVE AWAY!)

ART

SNACKS



HUMONGOUS CAKE

3:00 PM

wood paneled The library was on the first and second floor and the third floor held Vancouver's Museum. The basement was used as a book bindery.⁷ According to Hood, "the buildings' finest feature is its etched and painted stained glass windows." Today, as you climb the worn down marble stairs in the spiral staircase, you can see them on your left. "Designed and crafted by N.T. Lyon of Toronto, . . . the windows . . . show figures of Milton, Shakespeare and Spenser . . . below the poets feet were three smaller windows depicting Scott, Moore and Burns.

Carnegie Library's early years are recorded in the History of the Vancouver Public Library, which includes minutes of meetings and photographs of patrons.⁸ Leafing through the book you may be surprised to learn that in the early 1900's men "expectorating . . . in the upstairs room" was such a problem, an area in the basement was relegated for a men's reading room. You can examine a photograph of several older men, all wearing hats, and reading newspapers in a large room with animal trophy heads mounted on the wall behind them. In March 1910, meeting notes record the purchase of forty-five thousand 3x5 cards from the firm of Webster, Hannon and Co. In many of the photographs the large card catalogue files that held those cards can be seen.

During the Depression ". . . the Carnegie Library became a cultural and social center for the community . . . By the 1930's the Library functioned as an important refuge for the local population. At Christmas time the unemployed flocked to the library where they were served turkey dinners with plum pudding. And on a day-to-day basis, the library continued to be a home for those who were penniless, out of work and with nowhere to go. During 1931 circulation figures soared to over 1.2 million

even though there were only 90,000 volumes in the library.⁹ However, the library was closed for the summer of 1933 due to budget cuts. "The library's budget for 1935 was only 9 cents more than 1934; the Library board threatened to sue the City for more funds."¹⁰ In fact, ". . . the library became known throughout North America as the 'Library without books'."¹¹

The Depression got worse. Governments set up work camps where unemployed men 'earned' "20¢ a day to build roads and clear land."¹² People organized and the library was the scene of an important political action in Canadian history. In the words of Willis Shaparla ". . . on Sunday, May 19, three divisions (of the Relief Camp Workers Union) marched . . . (but our division) started about four minutes behind them so the police . . . would leave us alone. There were approximately three hundred and fifty of us . . . we got to the corner of Main and Hastings. Then the excitement, the significance of what we were doing hit us, individually and collectively. This was defiance. We entered the main library and went up the spiral staircase to the top floor museum. We promised (the staff) to take very good care of the artifacts . . . Right away we telephoned our people to say we'd occupied the building successfully . . . The police were stationed outside the Carnegie building and up both sides of the . . . staircase. Being the chairman of the maintenance committee, it was my job to see that the part of the building we occupied was kept clean and in good order so I had access to the roof and climbed outside. (Coming up Hastings toward Main) . . . were well over 1,000 men marching four abreast . . . And they were singing:

*Hold the fort for we are coming, union men be strong!
Side by side we'll battle onward, victory will come.
Look, my comrade, see the union banner waving high*

Reinforcements now appearing, cheer my comrades, cheer!¹³

Mayor McGeer agreed to pay the strikers \$1800 for food and lodgings. Two weeks later, 1800 men left Vancouver by rail on the On to Ottawa Trek. Their slogan was 'Work and Wages.' The men were violently stopped in Regina by the RCMP on July 1, 1935.¹⁴

In 1957 the VPL moved its Central Branch to Burrard and Robson Street and in 1967 the museum was moved. In 1968 the *Vancouver Sun* newspaper quoted Mayor Tom Campbell saying: "I can't see any use for a derelict building." The reporter of the article, described the empty Carnegie as "grimy and pigeon-stained."¹⁵ He quoted Campbell; "Personally, I think it should be demolished . . . I want to see a modern high rise office building or a hotel in its place."¹⁶ In a chapter titled "Save the Carnegie," Sandy Cameron writes: . . . "on July 2, 1974 the City of Vancouver placed an advertisement in the newspapers offering the empty building for sale or lease.

All through the 1970's, Libby Davies, Bruce Erickson and Jean Swanson, organizers with the Downtown Eastside Residents Association (DERA) fought with Vancouver Mayor and City council to save the building. "DERA . . . issued a press release saying 'the building has a public history. It must remain in the public domain as public property.'"¹⁷ In 1972 the building was declared a historic site, and the community was victorious again in January 1980 with the grand opening of the Carnegie Centre and Library. Shelley Fralic, reporting in the *Vancouver Sun* called the renovation a "two million [dollar] face lift."¹⁸ The windows near the spiral staircase, which had been removed when the library was converted into a museum in 1958. . . were located intact in 1985 and replaced . . .¹⁹

The present Carnegie library is one of the many services residents of the Downtown Eastside use in the building. "In 1986 Carnegie Library...(received) the BC Library Association Merit Award. According to present Carnegie librarian Turner "most of the patrons are male, there are an equal number of Chinese and English speaking people with smaller numbers of Japanese, Aboriginal, Spanish and French speaking people who use the reading room."²⁰ "Almost all patrons live in the (local)

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hotels or rooming houses and there are (about) 1500 people (who) use the Centre in a day, making it the busiest Community Centre in Vancouver."²¹

So when you are in the neighborhood, or if you ever feel cynical whether ordinary people can work together to make healthier communities, walk through the drug sellers and users and go into the Carnegie. Walk up the spiral staircase to the cafeteria and enjoy good food at a low, low price and as you make your way down to the library you can reflect on the hundreds of thousands of people who used this library before you.

"No free public utility has affected the lives of so many Vancouver citizens so vitally and so intimately and the value accruing to our city is inestimable" - Robinson, E.S., Librarian, Vancouver Public Library 50th anniversary, 1887-1937, *History of the Vancouver Public Library*.

By LINDA MOREAU

¹ Cameron, Sandy. Fighting for Community: Stories from the Carnegie Centre and the Downtown Eastside. 1996. 6

² Turner, Dick. Carnegie Librarian, personal interview. Oct. 17, 2001 at the Carnegie Library. Hastings and Main Streets in Vancouver

³ op. cit. Cameron. p.7

⁴ McDowell, Jim. Vancouver Sun newspaper. March 27, 1980.

⁵ Godley, Elizabeth. "Heritage site facelift restores former glory." Vancouver Sun newspaper. February 13, 1990.

⁶ Hood, Pat. The History of Carnegie Centre. Prepared for the Carnegie Branch Library [1988?].

⁷ ibid.

⁸ Greenwood, Bessie. History of the Vancouver Public Library. Spe Ref 027.4.U22h

⁹ Griebie, Rosemary and Harris, Aphrodite. BCLA Reporter. September, 1985.

¹⁰ Op. cit. Hood.

¹¹ Griebie, Rosemary

¹² op. cit. Hood.

¹³ Kimbley, Lural. Hastings and Main: Stories from an Inner City Neighbourhood. 67-69

¹⁴ op. cit. Hood.

¹⁵ "Old Museum, 'Let's Demolish Campbell Urges' ". Vancouver Sun newspaper, Sept, 27, 1968.

¹⁶ ibid

¹⁷ op. cit. Cameron.

¹⁸ Fralic, Shelley. "2 million face lift" Vancouver Sun newspaper. January 21, 1980.

¹⁹ op. cit. Hood.

²⁰ op. cit. Turner.

²¹ op. cit. Hood.

BIG
POETRY
READING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30
7 - 10 PM

IN THE THEATRE

sign up at the door
to read a couple of poems
or read for 5 to 10 minutes

Bring one or two printed poems
to be published
in the Carnegie Newsletter

FREE

Limousines

A laughing scream.. they taunt as they roll on
With heads in cloud, they think they rise above
Their smiles are plastic as they sip the wine
They break the dove and sacrifice the dove.

They're inmates in their cages – they cannot run
They have no freedom, only shallow fun
“Want to join me in my cage?” she said to me
“No I don't.. the fame won't make you free.”

They say for fame one must sell their soul
The thrill offers phony streets of gold
I've seen those streets reeking of excess
And the many crimes no one will confess.

I see the streets created by their greed
The ones where people stand and hope in need
Some are hungry, some plead in vain
As Limousines go laughing at 'Hastings & Main'

I'm not the violent type at all
And I pity those whose souls did take the fall
Yet when I see them helping not one bit
I see those limousines as made of shit.



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

They should not be allowed to exist
They make me want to shout & shake my fist
All symbols of the elite do surely suck
They tell us who has got “all the luck.”

Lucky they won't be when all is known
In the muck will be their lot when shown
We'll make it clear what got them where they are
The blood of others making them a 'star'

The time has come for all of us to stand
The time has come to lend a helping hand
We'll make it known just who the good ones are
We'll make it known we'll live among the 'stars'

I believe the *Big Cock Limo* has had its day
Along with the *big cock boys* who wrote the play
The script we'll change to our own delight
The new one is gonna be quite a sight

We'll write it with a lot of soul and heart
We'll include all those who need a part
“The Losers now will be later to win”
Bob Dylan was right and now can grin.

A sister in the struggle,
Beth Buchanan

The Empire Strikes Back

Over 3,500 innocent men, women and children have been killed in Afghanistan by U.S. bombs, a report from the University of New Hampshire says.(1) The report was released on December 10, 2001, so the death toll would be much higher today. There has been almost nothing in the American and Canadian corporate media on civilian casualties in Afghanistan, and little analysis as to why the American Empire, with its free market globalization, is hated by many of the world's powerless peoples. For example, the latest President of Argentina has blamed free market policies for the economic chaos in his country.

Empires are evil because power over others corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely, as Lord Acton said. Empires crush all opposition to their interests. Some years ago, one U.S. President said that the Russian Empire was evil, but with their dynamic of power and violence, so were the various European empires all the way back to the Roman Empire.

Today the American Empire stands as the most powerful empire the world has ever seen.(2) Think of all those weapons of mass destruction this Empire has. It can buy governments that support its corporate, imperial plans, and if governments resist, and therefore become "rogue states", there is CIA interference and low-intensity warfare all the way up to nuclear weapons. In Afghanistan the Empire is striking back. Already about as many (and probably more) civilians have been killed in Afghanistan by American bombs as were killed in the United States on September 11, 2001.

The Roman Empire used local elites in parts of its empire to control local populations. Think of King Herod. The Roman Empire also used the terror of crucifixion as a form of control. If mass crucifixions didn't keep conquered peoples in place, the Roman legions were sent in, and they could destroy entire cities. The American Empire also uses local, ruling elites to further its interests. Military personnel from Latin America have been trained in population control and torture at the School of the Americas in the United States. Behind the military of the client states lie the CIA, Special Forces, Stealth bombers, and nuclear weapons. Many Americans do not even



know that the Empire exists, and there is a huge gap between the American people and the military/ industrial elite that rules them.

In 1989, the richest one percent of American families owned 36.2 percent of the nation's total private wealth. To put that another way, in 1989, the richest one percent of American families owned more than the combined wealth of the bottom 90 percent of the American population.(3) This statistic alone shows that America is no longer a democracy.

Now that the corporate empire has become global with high tech sophistication, it has turned against ordinary Americans in a downward spiral of competitive impoverishment. When corporations move to countries with abysmally low wages, American workers are thrust into poverty and despair. Someday, the American people, along with other people in the world, will see that the Empire, with its dynamic of accumulation, is undermining the future of the entire planet, and they will take steps to dismantle it, and replace corporate globalization with land-based community development with roots in the cultures, traditions and dreams of the various peoples of our beautiful earth.

By SANDY CAMERON

(1) "Study says U.S. bombs have killed 3,500 civilians", *Catholic New Times*, Jan.6/02, page 7.

(2) see *The Washington Connection And Third World Fascism*, by Noam Chomsky & Edward S. Herman, Black Rose Books, 1979. *Deterring Democracy*, by Noam Chomsky, Hill & Wang, 1991. "9-11", by Noam Chomsky, Seven Stories Press, 2001. This is a small book of interviews with Chomsky after Sept.11/01.

(3) *The Next American Nation*, by Michael Lind, The Free Press, 1995, page 191.

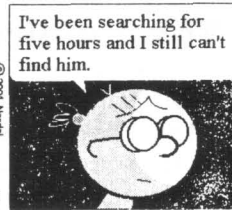
6. **No Iraqi Threat to Saudi Arabia.** Satellite photos of Iraq and Kuwait on September 11, 1990, revealed no evidence of a massive Iraqi army threat to Saudi Arabia, as cited by president George Bush that same day in his efforts to rally public support for the Gulf War.

10. **The Bush Family's Conflicts of Interest.** In recent history, no president has had the blatant but unexplored familial conflicts of interest comparable to that of George Bush. These include his brother, Prescott, a financial consultant with influential contacts in Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines; his sons: Neil, a former director of Silverado Savings and Loan whose business failure cost taxpayers about \$1 billion; Jeb, a Miami real estate developer with questionable ties to a drug trafficker; and George W., a director and consultant to Harken Energy Corporation which has a lucrative oil production agreement with Bahrain, a tiny island off the coast of Saudi Arabia.

[*This was ten years ago. The date is coincidental(!)]

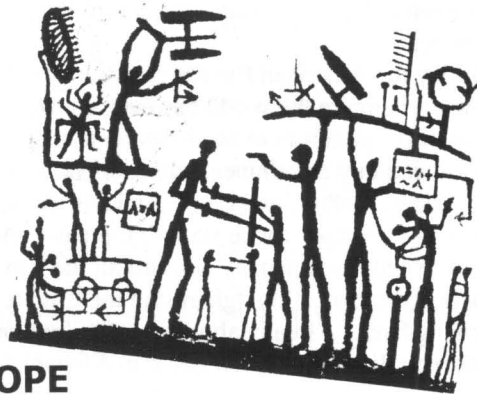
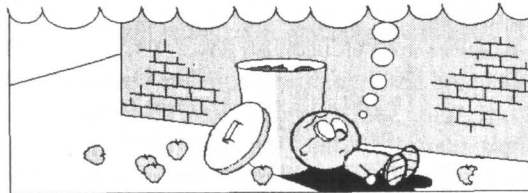
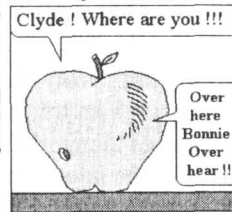
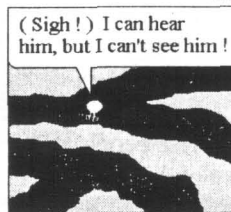
there'll be no crying over you
 what's done is done
 it's over
 you won't find me praying at night
 you won't live long
 it will become painfully clear
 what were you so proud of
 you've fallen apart
 don't you know what this means?
 there's nowhere to turn to for help
 every day from now on
 will be about illness and despair
 you can't outlive these problems
 your life is incomplete
 it's all out of reach
 you will suffer and be crippled
 you will not be relieved of responsibility
 you live in a graveyard
 and there you'll be buried
 you still won't accept the truth
 there will be no mercy
 it will be a better world
 without you
 it's time for your life to end

charles fortin



© 2001 Nardal

H
Main By Rick Nardal



ANGEL OF HOPE

The Angel of Hope
 Has similarities to the Angels of Pureness & Humbleness
 She has the look of awe and peace.

The Angel of Hope
 Has properties of the sky – It's everywhere She's everywhere
 She can be found in the colour blue.

The Angel of Hope
 Has abilities to share.
 She has provided me the greatest gift of all – the strength to go on.

The Angel of Hope
 Everyone has one.

CrossWorlds aka Julia

Folks,

Last week I was shocked when, in a television interview, Bruce Allen revealed his vision for people enduring life on the Downtown Eastside streets to be simply massacring them all with a flamethrower. Equally disturbing was a public opinion portion where passersby were actually supporting the idea of this nightmare for mayor.

Bruce Allen says Vancouver needs more parties, with more alcohol, more often, for more people spending more money. He's thought of everything; when the big party's over and you've pooped your pants in Pigeon Park shaking your head wondering

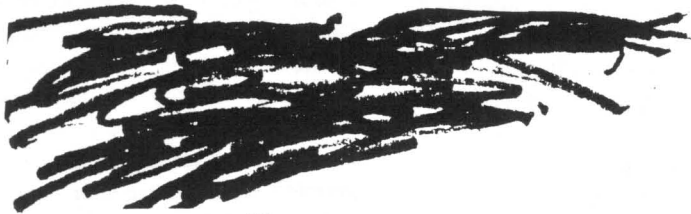
what happened, Bruce'll be there with his flame thrower to make sense of it all for you.. 9

Dull ol' Mayor Owen, on the other hand, rides the vanguard of progressive policy in North America with the common sense four pillar solution [treatment, prevention, harm reduction, enforcement] to the fallout of hard-party casualties, wherein genocidal sentiments are a glaring omission.

As for fun, the mayor seems to be telling Vancouver to go fly a kite! Or climb a mountain! Or ski down one! Ride a bike, make some music, get real! I've stumbled around blindly with puke in my hair enough to prefer the authentic thrills Vancouver offers naturally.

Let Bruce Allen push his toxic dreams of profits

Shawn Millar



Dear Editor

Alternatives offer more than hope..

The current government is making huge slashes in health services that it is contracted to deliver to the people of British Columbia.

We have an "insurance" plan. This means (hello?) that we pay "premiums" that the plan then "invests", getting a return for the money that then goes towards payouts to members of the plan, and, in the case of private sector insurance companies, vast profits to shareholders.

My question is, and I pose it to both the NDP and Liberals, what is being done with the premiums paid in by, dare I say millions, of British Columbians. Who is mismanaging, oops, I mean managing, these funds, who is in charge? And is the judicial arm of our democratic system going to do something about investigating this? I for one call for an investigation into the investing of health care premiums.

The interesting thing is that we all run scared - which is exactly what the powers that be want us to do. When scared we do not think clearly and forget to ask important and pertinent questions.

Another point - why is this being done? What will happen, if and when these reductions in services take

place? Ah-hah, she says. Listen up girls and boys. PRIVATE, oh yes, private insurance companies will pick up the slack - and will then suddenly be able to turn a profit. The very same insurance companies, investment companies and banks that are now reaping money, their sticky fingers in our pockets at all times, those very same locker room boys, alongside with their bought politicians will be turning yet another profit at our expense. And at vastly increased premiums, no doubt.

Another point. No insurance company would unilaterally cut so many services from its packages and hope to stay in business. This, as well as premium hikes, are well planned and actuarially thought out. As have the implementation of the proposed cuts to the British Columbia medical services plan.

These are the tactics of the power hungry and have been long in the making, and finally the lackeys are following orders, to the T. The name of the game is Power Through Profit.

Power to the People.

Yours sincerely,

Karenza T. Wall



Liberal Policy has People Dying for Compassion

The BC Liberal Government has capped the number of allowable treatments to those most in need of medical services. Such is the case of Sheila Baxter and her fiancé Hardy. Hardy is 68 and has Parkinson's disease, Diabetes and lives in a nursing home. Sheila, a disabled senior, provides Hardy with daily emotional support and is also dealing with cuts to her Pharmacare coverage. Prior to Gord Campbell's cuts to health care, Hardy received the medical treatment he needed for a \$10 user-fee per session. As a result of the health cuts the couple is in a crisis situation, riot unlike many other British Columbians.

As of January 1, 2002, Hardy is only eligible for ten treatments per year. The ten treatments apply to any visit to a physiotherapist, podiatrist, chiropractor, naturopath, or massage therapist. Since Hardy is a diabetic and needs a podiatrist to cut his toenails for him once every six weeks, the podiatrist visits cost him nine of his ten allowable treatments. Now Hardy has only a single visit left for all other treatments this year.

The question for Sheila and Hardy is: Do you decide whether you should risk losing a leg because you're diabetic, or being so stiff because of Parkinson's disease that you can't get out of bed and will end up in extended care? Before Hardy started physiotherapy he was bent nearly in half and unable to walk. Since Hardy started getting frequent physiotherapy treatments, he is able to stand straight and even take a walk outside the nursing home.

Sheila's health is also compromised as she needs a motorized scooter for mobility, and requires prescrip-

tion drugs to control high blood pressure and other ailments. As of January 1, 2002 Sheila must pay \$10 per prescription, a cost she says she cannot afford. Sheila says, "If I don't take these blood pressure pills, I'll get a stroke and then I'll be in a hospital."

If the cuts persist, Sheila knows that before long Hardy will stiffen up like a board, because he no longer receives the frequent physiotherapy treatment he needs. Sheila says, "This is horrible. Patients don't often get outside the door. The physiotherapist even had people walking outside, so they were not bed ridden."

Not only will the cap on treatments take away from Hardy's quality of life, it may soon cost him his room in the nursing home. When Hardy gets so stiff that he is unable to make it out of his wheelchair and into his bed, he will be transferred to an extended care facility where he will require round the clock, 24-hour treatment, a far more costly alternative.

Sheila and Hardy's situation is not isolated. Their crisis demonstrates the Liberal government's focus on short term savings at the expense of poor people's lives. These short sighted 'savings' will only cost Medicare much more money in the future, because poor people cannot afford the medical treatment they require. When people are forced to forego preventative medicine, it ends up costing the health care system more in future hospitalizations and constant patient care. End Legislated Poverty demands a return of preventative medical treatments before more lives are lost and our health care costs spiral out of control.

Grassroots Advocacy is sponsoring a Social and Advocacy Forum on issues such as Residential Schools, Child Apprehensions and Welfare Rights on January 23 from 4:00 to 7:00 in the Carnegie Theatre. Our group is unique because it involves all BC communities and cultures. We must be united to fight the most draconian government this province has ever seen.

—Irene Schmidt

You Heard That... I Heard This...



Human medical experimentation is common. People willingly volunteer everyday to be research subjects for universities, private research etc. Using the informed consent model, all details of the experiment are explained including the risks to the participant and the potential benefits as an outcome of the research.

The establishment of the guidelines outlining how these experiments are conducted comes under the purview of biomedical ethics. Fairly cut and dried, not really that scary. Researchers are honor bound to do everything within their power to ensure the safety of participants.

Then what am I afraid of?

** Volunteer dies in clinical trial of hexamethonium bromide (asthma medication) Consent form failed to disclose full information about status of substance to participant. Known risks not disclosed.*

Canadian Medical Association Journal 11/13/01

** Johns Hopkins researcher barred from conducting future investigative trials after testing new cancer drugs that he'd not cleared through customs on patients in an Indian cancer center.*

Lancet 11/24/01

** Nigerian meningococcal medicine (Trovan) tested on children without informing families of option for safe and effective treatment with approved medications. "...a violation of the Helsinki Declaration exposing children in need of treatment to inferior therapies. ...developing countries used as testing grounds for treatments designed for developed nations."*

Lancet 9/8/01

A history in the world of bad, unethical experimentation with unwitting, often unwilling and uninformed subjects who are overwhelmingly poor, politically disenfranchised, objectified participants. I'm afraid of institutionalized moral corruption. I'm scared to death of those situations where other human beings are stripped of their humanity, making

them fodder for authoritarian forces within their own societies. Knowing that what has been termed the "perceived" benefit for all society is sometimes a mask for greed, sadism, and aggrandizement, weighing so heavily against the welfare of the individual in past experiments...

When have we ever had institutionalized moral corruption?

When have we not?

My mind goes back to the Renaissance period but we could go much further, where the use of pharmacology to dispose of political enemies of the government was widespread. Poisoning then was common. Hopefully we don't live in that type of society.

But the trend since the necessity of adopting a Nuremberg Code has been subtly away from protection of the participant and toward increasing participation from the weaker spheres of our society. Children, the mentally disabled, pregnant women are all considered to be able participants in experiments following proper channels of consent. A guardian could give it...

Since Nuremberg, the international community has adopted other standards for ethics for governing human experimentation, The Helsinki Declaration, revised in 1975 and again in 2000: "...taking care to delineate between different scenarios for the experimental model, one of them being the doctor/patient relationship, another being research without therapeutic goals, purely in the interest of science."

Dr. Henry Foster attended Individual Risks vs. Societal Benefits: How Those Risks are Distributed, a forum discussing the participation of the poor in human experimentation. This was a National Academy of Sciences sponsored event. Dr. Foster is a former president of the County Medical Society in the Tuskegee, Alabama region during the time of the syphilis experiments. In 1975, this study was still not widely publicized. His remarks...

"As with any socially structured system, conflicts develop in the application of values by those who are part of the system, resulting in compliant and deviant behavior. There is a great need for the socialization of human values in medical school and beyond..."

Studies show that the socialization of scientific values is well ahead of that of human values.

...Further disasters at this juncture will do far

greater harm to the interests of biomedical research than will the exemption of a small, vulnerable segment of our population."

Apparently Dr. Foster's vision could not have foreseen the cancer trial scandals at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Washington State, where even the Nobel winner was implicated. Conflict of interest was cited, as researchers were also major stockholders in the companies funding their research into radical new therapies. This research has since been proven to be unethical and to have greatly hastened the demise of the patients that participated in these studies. Legal penalties have been little more than a slight tap on the wrists to the researchers involved.

I'm scared as I look back into the past and consider some chilling remarks by Dr. Foster, himself ineffectual in bringing a halt to the Tuskegee experiments in an area under his own authority. Why did he not intervene there?

"By some estimates it is believed that possibly 80 percent of all human experimentation...involved the poor...it is apparent that the biomedical sector has come to rely too heavily and in a disproportionate fashion on the use of the poor for human research."

But that is the USA. What about Canada?

By R.CLARK

Homesick Blues

If I had a home I'd be homesick
Wander from place to place, stay out of their space
Park benches and loading docks shelter the stranger
Seems the harder you try to change, the more
Things get worse despite your efforts.

Like an ol' cowhand I'm bunked up at a hostel
Strange curves life throws your way
You get up, breathe in, breathe out, keep walkin'
Just praying for another sunny day.

Been down before, knocked around, always landed
on my feet,
Just another interval of living on the street
Everything I lost I can replace.. the only thing
you really need is the will to keep on keepin' on
and the strength to keep on hangin' on.
Don't worry for me, I'll be around.

Al

ALWAYS RETURNING

but that's what a memory is
an aftertaste perhaps
of a time long past

it could be about most anything

the way embers glow
warm after the blaze
how the ranks of aspen held
against the storms every charge

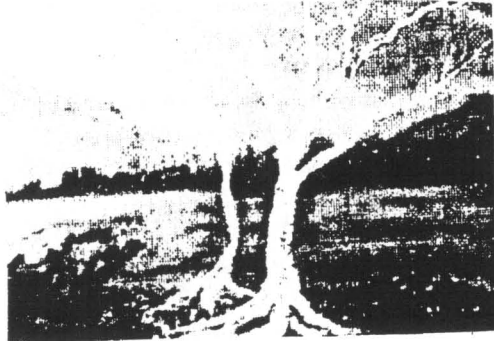
or that day nighthawks plunged
and splashed in the sunset sky

remembering is a kind of loving
reliving it and then
remaking it anew

that smile that touch

always returning

Ken Morrison



ECONOMY

We harvest grain of our labour
Invest sinews of faith
Finance with currency of optimism
Cash in bonds of co-operation
Save dollars and sense
Buy empire of paper burns
and market finance flips
Stock options securitized; Futures
compromised, Tax breaks income.
Ethical face lift, Downsizing,
Wage rollbacks, Mergers, conformity,
Interest. Inflation targets bankruptcy..

C R U S H

A.Kostynuik

This Transgendering Thing

What a scary thing! To go from a Male body thing to Female. God what does it entail?

Perhaps a Spirit born into a wrong body. Sorrelle is this Female stuck in a Male body. She has seen her chance as a way of being released. To her, the electrolysis, her first assessment, then in the new year her final assessment. Then she has to dress in the clothes of a Female and either work or volunteer as such for two full years.

Then comes the approval for female hormones and all number of blood tests. Then the tracheal shave! What's that? Well, it's shaving a bit off (or more precisely cutting a bit off) of my Adam's Apple.. to make my voice higher. After this breast is augmentation –implants under my skin. Female hormones will start to eliminate any chest hair. The final approval, after all this, will be for the operation to remove my male genitalia and construct a female vagina.

However, during all this time, I have to dress in female clothes and make-up, boots or shoes, skirt or female jeans, nail polish, lipstick, earrings, my walk and talk. . and I'm up for public ridicule, derogatory remarks, the pain of losing friends.

There is the expense of all this, but if you were a female stuck in a Male body, would you not take a chance.

Please bear with me..don't be afraid..don't use the derogatory remarks. I will answer your questions if asked in a polite manner.

Who knows, there might be someone you know who's about to come out and state "I am this Female (or) I have this Male body with two genitalia.. male/female.. that needs correcting.

We who are known as transgendering or transgendered ask of you respect. And that is part of the Carnegie Centre's Mission Statement

Respect. No matter The Race, The Colour, The Creed, The Gender.

Don't be afraid to ask us questions. We are not all cookie cutter molds; we're all different just as each person is unique.

This transgendering thing takes two, possibly three years. Each of us is dedicated to walking this path and yes, it's filled with pain and shame. Would you want it?

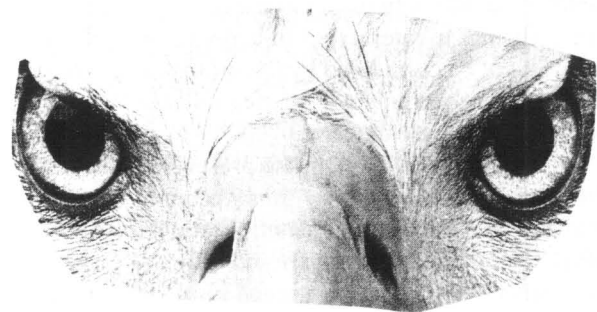
Sorrelle Pulshaw

Carnegie Theatre Drama is Alive and Thriving

On Sat. Dec. 22nd the Carnegie Centre drama group performed their 9 scene play at 7pm before a crowded theatre audience. During the dress rehearsal earlier in the day a photographer was there to take pictures. He captured many likenesses of the actors in the middle of their scenes. We certainly hope a very dramatic series of photos comes from among those he took from all angles. A pictorial of part of the downtown eastside character...

Each play was successfully performed before a backdrop of a single hotel room, consisting of a table, two chairs, and a cot. The managers office window and telephone the only other fixture on the stage. Many thanks go to Jay Hamburger for directing the multi-talented actors and writers. There is strong desire to see Jay continue the drama group. Many fine performers emerged, along with new playwrights.

By Dora Sanders



COMPUTER TRAINING SCHEDULE JANUARY

- 16 Word processing basics: how to write a letter on a computer
- 23 Word processing tricks and tips
- 30 Internet basics: how to surf

FEBRUARY

- 6 Independent media on the web
- 13 Free stuff on the web
- 20 Internet e-mail: how to get an e-mail address and use it
- 27 File management in a difficult world

In the 3rd Floor Computer Room

2:00-3:00 P.M. Every Wednesday with

Dave Olsen from Vancouver Community Net

Space is limited; sign up in the Computer Room.



Reducing Welfare is Not an Option

A new report released today by the Social Planning and Research Council of BC (SPARC BC) shows conclusively that income assistance (welfare) rates in BC are not sufficient to meet recipients' needs.

The report, entitled Falling Behind: A Comparison of Living Costs and Income Assistance Rates in BC calculates the gap between welfare benefits and what it really costs to live in this province. It provides detailed costs for food, clothing, personal care, transportation, shelter and other costs of daily living. Calculations are provided for a variety of family types and highlight the inadequacy of current welfare benefits.

According to the report, welfare benefits only cover 45-65% of the cost of daily living, depending on the family type. Reductions to income assistance of any kind, whether in rates, types of benefits, or eligibility, must not be considered by the provincial government, as the government is already failing to meet its obligations to these citizens.

"We are concerned that, in the present climate, the Provincial Government may think reducing welfare is an option," said Tarel Quandt, Chairperson of SPARC BC's Income Security and Labour Market Committee. "What's really needed is an increase in welfare rates because living on income assistance is already too painful."

"The findings in the report show that the poorest of the poor are getting even poorer," said Michael Goldberg, Research Director at SPARC. In 1982, a single recipient received \$175/month to cover food, clothing, transportation, personal care and other non-shelter costs. In 2001 benefits for a single person are only \$185 to cover those same costs. "With inflation, a single person would now require \$339 a month to be able to purchase the same goods and services as in 1982."

Falling Behind shows that it isn't only single persons who are suffering. Welfare rates now cover less of the costs incurred by income assistance recipients in 2001 than in 1997 in all five family types analyzed (single person, two adults without children, lone

parent with one child, lone parent with two children, and two parents with two children).

Based on the analysis, SPARC BC recommends that the provincial government

- * Immediately raise income assistance benefits to meet the minimum costs of living for all recipient groups as outlined in this report.
- * Create a single overall benefit that allows recipients to make their own spending decisions by eliminating the separation between the support and shelter components of income assistance.
- * Extend enhanced medical coverage to all recipients of basic income assistance.
- * Establish and empower a public review committee with responsibility for developing an adequate income assistance rate structure, with the operations of this committee being transparent and open to scrutiny.
- * Fully index income assistance rates to cost-of-living increases between each review of the overall adequacy of rates.
- * Recognize that single parents have the same privacy requirements as couples with children and shelter allowances need to take this into account.
- * Recognize the fact that the cost of raising children increases as they grow older and that the rate structure needs to take this into account.
- * Immediately raise the asset levels in determining eligibility for singles and couples without children to the previous minimums of \$2,500 for singles and \$5,000 for couples without children.

Over 90% of British Columbians support government role in building affordable housing

Vancouver: Today's announcement by the federal and provincial governments on the signing of an affordable housing agreement comes on the tail of a new poll by McIntyre & Mustel which shows over 91% of British Columbians support continued provincial investment in building non-market housing.

The poll also found that 89% of British Columbians support the BC Liberals cost sharing with the federal government to build more non-market housing.

"These poll results clearly show that people understand the essential nature of ensuring affordable

housing for all our citizens" said Kimiko Karpoff, Advocate for the Lower Mainland Network for Affordable Housing. "We are encouraged by today's announcement. It is definitely a step in the right direction to have both the federal and provincial government working with other partners to provide housing".

The affordable housing agreement provides \$177.4 million over 5 years in matching funds from the provincial and federal governments.

However, housing advocates are concerned that the agreement lacks specifics and a clear commitment to building new affordable housing units for low-income families as well as seniors and people with special needs.

"The BC Liberal government must match the federal contribution with new money for new units. Otherwise, this agreement will not respond to the real affordable housing crisis", said Vanessa Geary, Coordinator of the Tenants' Rights Action Coalition.

The need for more affordable housing is critical. Over 25% of renters in BC pay more than half of their income on rent. This puts these families and individuals at risk of homelessness. In addition, near zero vacancy rates in many urban areas point to a lack of affordable rental housing.

In response to concerns about possible provincial government cuts to housing a coalition of housing and other groups in BC has launched a post card campaign to encourage the BC Liberals to continue to invest in housing.

"The poll clearly indicates that housing is a priority for British Columbians. The postcards will keep the province's feet to the fire and let them know we want them to commit to building new affordable rental housing", said Shane Simpson, Communications Director with Smart Growth BC.

The Rt. Hon. Jean Chrétien
Prime Minister of Canada

Prime Minister:

I am writing to urge you, in the strongest way possible, to keep Medicare public and universal. I am very disturbed by suggestions coming from the Senate's Kirby Committee that health care could be privatized and wealthy Canadians allowed to purchase superior services. This two-tier approach would be grossly unfair and increase the cost of health services enormously. We know from other countries that for-profit health systems are far more expensive than our public system and always leave large numbers of low-income citizens with no coverage at all.

I am also tremendously concerned about your new willingness to allow health care user fees. As you know, studies have consistently found that user fees do not control costs but do serve to deter poor people from getting the services they need. I very much hope you will return to the stance you took during last year's election when you said, "The Liberal Party has a very clear position on user fees. We're not studying it at all. We're opposed to that."

If there's a problem with Medicare, it's that your government has been slashing its funding and not enforcing the Canada Health Act. The cure is a renewed political commitment on your part and sustained re-investment. Private profit is *not* the cure.

I join with The Council of Canadians' 100,000 members and other citizens in urging you to *reject* health care privatization and user fees.

I await your response.

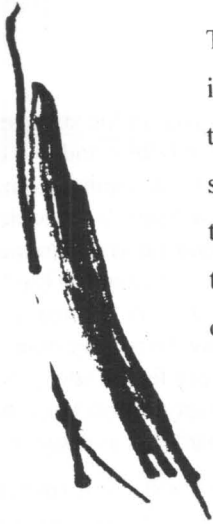
Yours,



STORM

The cold earth
is so mad
that he blows
so hard
that he blows
the needles
off the trees.

Devon Bird



Root Causes of Poverty

The original root cause of poverty is greed. Greed stems from fear, insecurity, ignorance, producing an "us" versus "them" dichotomy. Separating oneself from other humans and casting them into "otherness" allows the greedy to see the others as different from and less than themselves. Terms like "geeks," "queers," "savages," and "broads" are used to dehumanize the people you want to discriminate against and oppress.

The greedy act out of ignorant self-interest. Educated self-interest understands that interconnectedness and interdependence is crucial to human survival on planet Earth. The ignorantly self-interested are concerned with their own survival and comfort. Their ethic is "dog-eat-dog" rather than "neighbour's keeper." This illogical, social Darwinist ethic needs an elaborate and complicated political and economic system to prop it up and to obscure its true intent. The resulting system is called Capitalism.

A capitalist system's purpose isn't benevolent; it is based on the power of "us" over "them" to profit on "their" resources, including labour. Its framework involves governmental policies and laws. Political systems exist to keep the privileged in power and the underprivileged out of power. Naturally, this relationship is not clearly stated in government documents, yet the intent becomes clear as the language of legislation and policy is deconstructed.

Other elaborate constructions of language and

image reinforce the status quo. False assumptions, lies, myths and half-truths are fed to the masses by a media that is owned and controlled by the ruling class. If the people truly knew what was going on, if they were aware of their own oppression, they would revolt. In order to prevent this revolution, they are fed lies, pap and distracting fantasies and entertainments. As a result, they remain ignorant of their own exploitation. They are brainwashed with myths like "the poor will be always with us" and "war is inevitable" instead of being challenged to action by questions like "how do we provide the childcare facilities that all children deserve?" or "how are we going to eliminate poverty?"

Capitalism that profits by exploiting natural and personal resources requires constant growth and expansion. If foreign governments resist, rulers who will allow the exploitation of the country and the people supplant them. Thus begins another round of power and control supported by law and government, reinforced by the media and enforced by military and police powers. If an economy gets sluggish, war is used to stimulate new growth through arms manufacturing and sales. This cycle has evolved to the point where corporations, rather than governments, control the world's economy. The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organisation are running the world and our politicians have become their puppets.

As the corporate world gets richer, the poor are more exploited and the gap between the two widens. What kind of morality is this based on? Advancing globalization creates a "race to the bottom" for labour. The destruction of unions, the decline in decent jobs, and the competition with third world labour prices all contribute to this race. As labour is devalued, more work for less. Government policies, such as the omnipresent cutbacks, create more unemployment. Legislation keeps welfare rates low. Privatization and globalization despots disregard the social safety net. The further the poor are removed from the privileges of the rich, (education, health care, housing, welfare), the worse off they are.

The root cause of this disparity is greed, supported and institutionalized by government legislation and policies, which exacerbate and perpetuate a system of inequality and injustice.

By MARSHA DRAKE

Libby Davies Speaks Out for Ordinary People

The federal Liberal government introduced a new budget to Parliament on December 10, 2001. Libby Davies, our Member of Parliament, criticized this budget the next day in the House of Commons.

She said that while Canadians have serious concerns about security, we need to ask whether or not the \$7.7 billion in the budget for security measures is going to provide the help ordinary Canadians need. The economic security of poor Canadians, and the two out of three unemployed workers who have paid into Employment Insurance (EI), but are not eligible for it, is just as important as the security issues of large corporations.

Libby said that the gap between wealthy people and poor people has surged to a 25 year high, and she quoted the coordinator of Campaign 2000 who said, "The average family on welfare now receives 12 percent less than it would have several years ago." The Liberal budget did not speak to this injustice.

Libby used Statistics Canada figures to show that students from rich families were two and a half times more likely to go to university than students from low income families. She said that there was nothing in the Liberal budget that would improve the accessibility of college education for low-income students.

Turning to the crisis in affordable housing, Libby said that not only was homelessness on the rise, but over 800,000 Canadian households pay more than 50 percent of their income on rent. Libby called for a national housing program. She criticized the federal government's budget in regard to housing, and said, "The \$136 million for five years...which was re-announced in yesterday's budget, does not even come close to meeting the huge gap that exists for people who are fighting for affordable housing."

"The finance minister (Paul Martin) has chosen to ignore the people who are most at risk - aboriginal people, poor people, kids who are living in poverty and families who are looking for housing. He has chosen to ignore the very real economic security issues facing these families," Libby said.

Sandy Cameron

SUMMER DAY

Bird chatter and water trickling
Lying on my back in sweetgrass
Breathing scents of spruce and citron
Against blue sky with cloud litter
I see above a broad winged hawk
Soar then cruise into a circle
Mary's here beside me
I can feel her tickle
and then
There is laughter.

Ken Morrison



CHECK YOUR BLINKERS..VANCOUVER

In the press, no one ever reports on the vitality and spirit of the Downtown Eastside, but don't be savaged by such insensitive neglect. This community is vibrant in light and shadow; in moments of pain and inconsolable grief, but always it is living and breathing with great spirit.. great expectations. If your eyes are open, a surprising beauty clutches the heart

Sam Roddan

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

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

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

Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am

2001 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$69
Sam R.-\$30 Nancy W.-\$4 Eve E.-\$25
Margaret D.-\$25 Shyamala G.-\$30
Pam C.-\$20 Val A.\$20 Wm B-\$20
Harold D.-\$20 Pam-\$20 Mary C-\$30
Rolf A.-\$75 Bruce J.-\$34 Peggy -\$45
Kettle -\$20 Sonya S.-\$120 BCTF-\$20
Nancy H.-\$19 Bill G.-\$130 Wes K.-\$14
DEYAS-\$150 RayCam-\$70 LSS-\$230
John S-\$34 Paddy -\$60 Sarah E.-\$20
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The Edge -\$200 Celeste W.-\$22
Jo's Mom -\$25 Charles F.-\$10
Mennonite CC -\$60 Rosemary Z.-\$60
Joanna N.-\$50 Jenny K.-\$18
Charlotte F.-\$20

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

**Submission Deadline
for next issue:
Monday, January 28**



**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!!!!**

Dera

CANADA: NEWFOUNDLAND ADDS A NAME

The eastern province of Newfoundland has been renamed Newfoundland and Labrador. Acting on a constitutional amendment proposed by the federal government and approved by Parliament, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson issued a proclamation changing the name of the province, which consists of Newfoundland Island and the vast region of Labrador — nearly three times the size of the island — on the mainland.

(Agence France-Presse)

Found in the *New York Times*! Did anyone know?

Neighbourhood News

*Articles in here have touched on the workings of money and economics and social control and world trade constrictions and the corporate agenda. The words can get to be rhetorical — repeated so often that they lose the impact or cease to explain anything ... more of the same.

But the identical thing happens all the time to get us to accept that “cuts are necessary”, that “a way must be found to bring costs under control”, “there is no money/alternative/choice...”

Campbell and cohorts (the current government) are taking almost everything in the public realm — health care, land, education, the environment, welfare — and changing it to suit those who have a lot of money. The ‘words’ referred to above include the litany of “market forces”. And what better group to attack.. pardon me, ‘correctively adjust’.. than the poor, the marginalized/vulnerable/non-players in the game.

Welfare is up for chopping 50% off. That has a ring that means “privatize”. Taking much of the few facts available from other writers in other papers, the call went out in December for bids from interested parties on ways and means to streamline social services. A firm called Anderson Consulting got a contract to do precisely this in Ontario. They more than doubled their cost, from \$50-\$70 million to over \$180 million in the process of setting up a high-tech computerized system for Ontario’s welfare system, and the result has been condemned as a massive failure. The government’s own Auditor General slammed the sleazy business practices of this firm and the system in general as one of the worst uses of taxpayers’ money ever.

Campbell and cohorts are so eager to have this firm come here that they made a criteria of the tender for the consultations here require the successful bidder to have had experience in “another province.” That is Anderson again.

The scenarios painted (in the other articles that this is based on) include having kiosks or public computer terminals that anyone applying for welfare would have to use, and the machines would click and whir and tell the applicant if they are eligible. It is just one thing, but the trend with this is to reduce staffing levels throughout the Ministry by at least 1/3... for starters. Privatising welfare also means that a private company would be making a profit out of deciding who gets welfare. It is in their direct interest to reduce the client load by as much as possible. Discretion and human feeling become an impediment to profit.

In context, Campbell and cohorts are not reinventing the wheel or going off the deep end. They are following the flow of transnational capital and the Structural Adjustment Plans of the IMF and World Bank and the whole nine yards. Reduce taxes. Off-load government services and downsize public workforces, devalue the currency by creating so much stress and uncertainty amongst the low-income and middle class people that social involvement is deserted in favour of survival pain.

The individual stories of suffering and misery are starting to sound faintly like those of people living in the Third World and in the Central and South American countries, where the iron fist of military and elite control is so brutal.

It seems that the provincial government is tabling its first budget next week, and much of the uncertainty on cuts and slashing will be resolved. Campbell and cohorts are feeling invincible, but they are pissing off so many people.....

***The Health Contact Centre** at 166 E.Hastings opened just before Xmas, after months (years) of struggle with the so-called Community Alliance. There is no drug use on site. It’s a 24-hour first point on contact for individuals wanting a safe break from the street and from the corner of Main & Hastings. It is across the alley from Carnegie, on the first floor of the Roosevelt Hotel building. There are basic health issues dealt with, and referrals for treatment and detox. For more information, call **604-648-0021**.

Here are some comments from the log book at the Health Contact Centre:

-“Wow! A community center for drug users. Thanks

thanks and thanks again. We're very lucky to have you people. Can't say much appreciate in English.. With 24-hour bathroom I guess I'll be peeing in a toilet & less in my clothes. A Drug User

-“To Founders, Staff & You, I find this place has a very special warm and caring atmosphere. We on the street need this relaxing and positive ambience. I wish you all the best of love & luck in life.”

-“I have been volunteering here and I am amazed at the non-judgmental staff and the openness of the center. I suggest honorariums for volunteers and more structured activities once open 24/7. This is a much-needed facility.”

-“It's a great place to be.. I love you all!!”

-“No comments, suggestions or ideas.. just one person's thank you to all who take and have taken time to make being homeless, cold, hungry, bored but most of all with a weak bladder and a promise to myself never pee outside. Thanks a lot and may your goals for this drop-in come true.”

-“I think this place is awesome. A great big thank you to whoever opened it up. It will help a lot of us and already helped me a lot more than I thought it would & like I said THANKS A LOT!!”

-“Nothing now seems true, only that is was Heaven just to be with you.”

-“I think it's great to finally see that all the hard work people from Vandu & Carnegie has paid off. All of us, Brothers & Sisters alike, also made this happen. GREAT JOB to all the staff!

-“HOPE Wandering in the alleys, no where to go, trying to find a place with a little bit of hope. It's fading away in the blink of an eye, starts with a laugh and ends with a sigh. You find a friend that shows you love – spread that energy and there will be good things to come.”

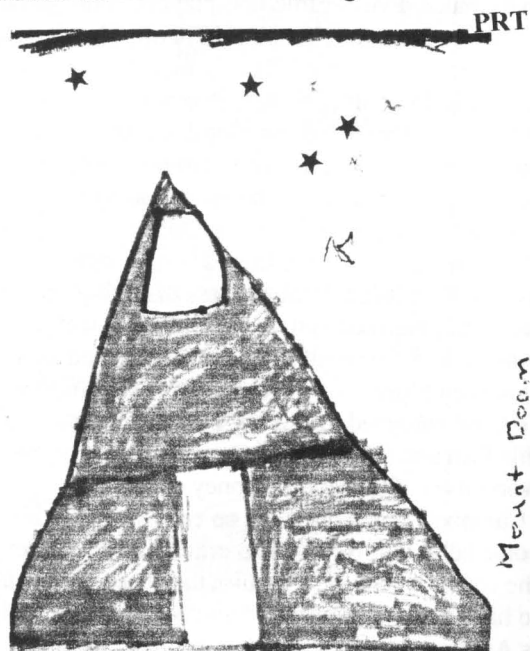
-“LOVE & RESPECT Love is a simple of togetherness and hope. Togetherness is when we as brothers & sisters stand, stronger than ever, and for a moment forget dope. Respect is the most important love of all, for we stand strong. When we have courage & respect one another, when no one can feel the pain we know as drug users. We look into each other's eyes and see it. But down deep in our hearts is love and fate and the respect we have for one another. Courage is something that we as addicts are afraid of, but remember that love and hope can help us be courageous.”

***The Downtown Community Health Centre** relocates to 569 Powell. This facility is expanding its services to include basic health care, mental health and addiction treatment, counseling, an on-site pharmacist, TB x-rays & treatment, podiatry, home support and outreach. It's open from 8:30-8:30, 7 days a week. Call **604-255-3151**

***The Pender Community Health Centre**, at 59 West Pender, is a new facility with some services relocated from the Blood Alley clinic. There is expanded basic health care with doctors and nurses providing assessment, diagnosis, treatment and referrals. There is alcohol and drug counseling, methadone maintenance, mental health services, specialists for infectious diseases and podiatry, dermatology and wound care and alternative therapies like acupuncture, acupressure, etc. It's open from 8:30-4:30. Call **604-669-9181**

These 3 initiatives are under the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (formerly Vancouver/Richmond Health Board), part of the Vancouver Agreement.

There are a Neighbourhood Liaison Committee and two Program Advisory Committees. Their functions and mandates are somewhat hazy, and the so-called Community Alliance is still trying to advance its agenda of urban pioneering. That's a nice way of saying bulldoze and start over. Leonore Sali hasn't melted and the Lees are still foaming. Oh well..



PRT

Mount Doom