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Carnegie



NEWSLETTER

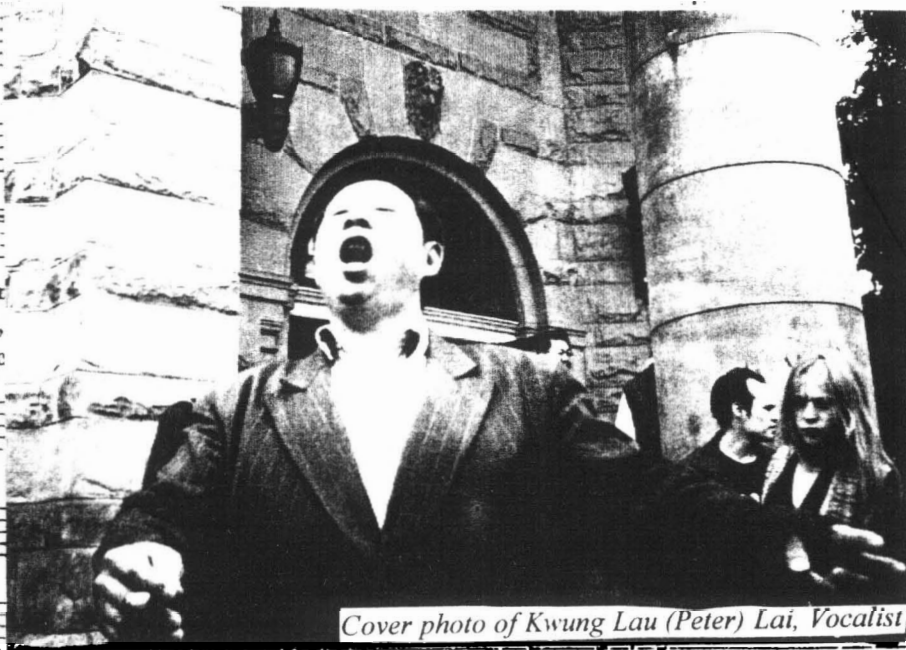
JULY 1, 2002

401 Main Street, Vancouver V6A 2T7 (604) 665-2220

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boon; Mer-ri-ly high the prices fly, On monopoly's big balcony;
You speak of the poor—what they endure, Deprived of their bit of
face; But when one stops, and reels and drops, There's another to take his

look
fire,
place



Cover photo of Kwung Lau (Peter) Lai, Vocalist

1. Let them strike as much as they like, To us 'tis a perfect
2. Good pay? absurd! Upon my word, What more can the men re-
3. I'm willing to add, Their work is bad. And dangerous, too, to

their
Re -
By -

CONGRATULATIONS! On June 11, 2002 Dr. James Chi Ming Pau was awarded the 2002 Community Services Volunteer of the Year award from Volunteer Vancouver for his extensive work in the Downtown Eastside. Carnegie seniors, staff, volunteers and board are very proud of you James and we are honoured to have you as a part of our community

Since his arrival in Vancouver and to Canada in 1975, James has volunteered. He started volunteering for SUCCESS, to visit seniors and new immigrants in their homes. James has been serving on the Carnegie Community Centre Association Board for the past three years. During this time he has actively participated in the redesigning of the corner of Main and Hastings. James has lobbied for more recreational facilities to help alleviate some of the problems in the Downtown Eastside. Dr. James Pau has dedicated himself to becoming involved in new immigrants concerns, poverty, health issues, senior's advisory, drug and alcohol, inadequate housing, safe street awareness and many more issues.

James is currently serving his fourth term on the Senior's Executive Committee of Carnegie. Some of the capacities he has held during that time were Secretary and Treasurer. His guidance, experience and dedication to the Carnegie Senior's Program have been invaluable.

James is the advisory member of the following committees~ Special Advisory Committee on Senior's, City of Vancouver, St. Paul's Hospital, Senior's Population Health Advisory Committees, Vancouver Richmond Health Board, Vancouver Elder Abuse Network, the Eastside Senior's Advisory Committee, Acute Care of Elders Committee, and Vancouver General Hospital.

James is instrumental in helping the chemical-dependant by providing free alternative treatment and consultation through the North American Buddhist free clinic, Downtown Eastside HIV/AIDS Drug Users Consumer Board. He provides free seminars and workshops to help the drug dependant of the new immigrant groups who are homesick after they have arrived in Canada.

Dr. James Pau is a capable leader who tirelessly volunteers hundreds of hours per year to lead the community and lend his support to these important issues His leadership, caring, compassionate, dedicated personality and accomplishments have ~on him the Community Service Award, Power of Humanity, from the Canadian Red Cross, in May of 2001.

Thank You James for being a part of the Carnegie Community

JAMES PAU

**VOLUNTEER-
OF-THE-YEAR**



Volunteer Vancouver's
Community Services

Yoga for body & mind

Yoga exercises and meditation to improve and tone up the muscles and the nervous system to give a peaceful inner harmony.

2-3pm *Teacher Dada Tattva*

TAI CHI for inner health

With smooth motions of tai chi the body remains in a state of relaxed efficiency to make the mind free.

3-4pm *Teacher Yogatma*

Free of charge! Everyone welcome!

Every Saturday in the gym
Carnegie Community Centre,
401 Main Street

Tom Laviolette has been the Carnegie Association's political pitbull since 1996. As coordinator of the Community Action Project (CCAP), Tom's infectious passion for his work inspired dedication in many volunteers: Eldon & Maggie Jones, Sonny Kennik, Don Baker, Mike Lawrence, Taum Danberger, Shawn Millar and Anton Pilipa are notable.

Tom's research on housing in the Downtown Eastside has become the official standard, and his recent work with Sarah Evans has produced a revealing study of retail activity in the Hastings corridor that conclusively dispels the dominant myths about retail decline in the neighbourhood.

He is most familiar to us as the dynamo action organizer behind innumerable demonstrations for social housing at Woodward's and City Hall. Our community's relentless call for decent, affordable housing has pushed the creation of many improvements in the area. For example: renovations and professional management of several SRO hotels, and the creation of housing with the Main & Hastings Housing Society, the Portland Hotel Society and the Lore Krill Housing Co-operatives.

Tom is stepping down as Carnegie's 'hired gun' and is moving on to develop his career. From everyone at Carnegie, thank you Tom for your exemplary work and dedication.



Somewhere, My Love

One time about 12 years ago, or was it 13? I can't even remember now. It was about the time I decided to stop drinking, I went over to a little club which was for people like me.

It was sort of lonely then, but one person sat next to me and we got to talking, or rather she got to talking.

But I should explain about this person. I didn't say that I didn't know her. I had seen her around for

years but I had no use for this woman. Never even talked to her.. just walked right past her.

What it was that I perceived to be wrong with her, don't remember, but I had no use for her.

As it turned out, they got me working in the place: I was the coffee man, serving coffee in the canteen. I remember my first shift, I started thinking "What a rotten place to end up." I started to think of people I knew years ago, even my friends from school. I thought "How did I ever end up here? Whatever happened to them? Some became doctors, some became lawyers, but I ended up in this Skid Row dump. But thank God, they can't see me now."

Anyway, I finished my shift, and after that my friend(?) came over (yes, the same one), and she said something strange.

She said: "you look happy."

I sort of thought, why should I look so happy? It wasn't until much later, it finally dawned on me. "You don't have to be alone.

Not too much longer after that, I think it was a Saturday, I found myself with her over on Granville Island, and she was wading her feet in a small pool. She looked at me and said: "I'll bet this is the last place you thought you'd end up today, isn't it?" I didn't have the heart to tell her, "Yes, and it's the last person, too."

I saw her many times after that, over the years. She used to come over to my place quite often; usually to get something: either tea, or coffee, cigarettes, whatever. Sometimes the landlady would say: "How's the little woman?" and I said: "She's not my old lady, you know. She's just a friend." Of course, she never believed that, although it was true.

One day I decided to interview my friend. I asked her about that, and she said "If it will help you, I'll do it." She was always willing to help someone else, and she is still helping me. She helped me to write this article.

One day, I got wind of the fact that she was in the hospital, and I went over to see her. We talked for a while, and I said I'd be back to see her in about 2 weeks, if she didn't get out before that. I was just going out the door, but something strange happened. I stopped, and I went back, and I held her hand, and then I went back out, and I even remember thinking: "Why did I do that?"

Little did I know that that was going to be the last time, that I would ever see her.



*Somewhere, my love,
There will be garlands of roses,
Somewhere my love.*

Now when I look back, I have not found it necessary to drink anything for all these years, and I say this not to make myself feel important: I say this so that if other people find out what I did, they can do it, too, and they also may be able to get well. I wonder if we can somehow learn to love those people that previously we had absolutely no use for, we can somehow manage to get well, ourselves.

By Robert R. Rich



Longest Day of the Year

There on the Coast mountains
The once Canadian Wilderness
With the invitation to the dance
Away from all of the city stress
I've got the pup tent assembled
By a rose garden I come to bless
The cabin gone and remembered
Finlanders, used logs and beams
How something in me still stirred
The tortured relationships it seems
Taken to bed, don't give me ease
In the middle of the night, I hear
The lonely, far off cry of coyotes
This is the longest day of the year.

Daniel Rajala

Letter to the editor,

It's too bad we can't sue Gordzilla and his Monster Cabinet for death by shock, starvation, poor health care, loss of schooling, the ruin of family harmony, and putting children's futures in jeopardy.

My single parent granddaughter has two special needs children. The nearly 8 year old boy was harmed by his mother taking drinks while she was pregnant with him. The nearly 5 year old girl who is super bright has a really bad attitude. She gets into awful tempers and is a control freak towards her mother and brother, so the child has to be controlled with strict rules. The mother has lost the classes these two went to for special needs children. She now has to handle these troubled kids on her own. Her income was cut by \$350. She has no money for bus fare to take these two out to parks and other distractions.

When the girl is told she can't have something she will react badly. She should be in a special class where others can distract her. Instead she will do unbelievable things. After her mother told her she could not go to class anymore she deliberately killed a pet hamster. When her mother said they did not have the bus fare to go somewhere the child felt she needed to go the girl deliberately, viciously killed a kitten. Can you imagine what my greatgranddaughter is going to be like when she is a little older! Why can't the government continue these special needs classes? The children's futures are at stake. People's lives are at stake. Children end up on the street, as runaways. I see that in the girl's future.

I have an aunt whose son got measles when he was small, the disease blinded him and made him deaf. Later he got his sight back, though being hit on the head, but he could not hear and refused help. He was a really bad boy, and killed someone. I think my great-granddaughter will end up doing the same.

I blame the children's difficulties on Gordzilla, and that monster cabinet in Victoria. People mean nothing to them.

Thanks for listening,

Sincerely,

Dora Sanders



Community-based victim assistance programs and sexual assault programs were established in the 1980s to respond in an effective and specialized way to the complex crimes of sexual assault, woman abuse and child abuse, and to act as a bridge for victims to the justice system. Given that only one in ten women who have been sexually assaulted reports to the police, these cuts to sexual assault programs and other community-based victim assistance programs will mean less access to safety, support and justice for women who've been sexually assaulted.

These latest announcements of cuts to community anti-violence programs in BC follow a recent announcement from the Attorney General that cases of violence against women may not be prosecuted but rather diverted. At a meeting that took place in early May, Crown prosecutors were told "to be more tolerant of domestic violence". All of this - in light of cuts to legal aid, women's centres, courthouses, social assistance, child care subsidies, and other critical services in the province - causes these organizations to be alarmed and gravely concerned for the safety and security of women in BC.

The Ministry of Attorney General Criminal Justice Branch is currently engaged in a review of their policies governing violence against women in relationships. The Criminal Justice Branch is considering giving individual Crown prosecutors greater discretion in deciding whether charges should be laid in spouse assault cases. There are indications that the Criminal Justice Branch is considering the expanded use of alternative measures in cases of violence against women in relationships which looks like a move to decriminalize violence against women in that offenders of these crimes who are provided with an alternative measure end up with no criminal record whatsoever.

If these reductions in services and prosecutions in the area of violence against women initiated by the provincial government are financially driven, we would like to remind the government that there is 18 million dollars in the Victims of Crime Surcharge Fund designated for initiatives supporting victims. British Columbia has the highest rate of violence against women in Canada (Statistics Canada, 1993). We would like to encourage our justice ministers to work closely with those in BC that have expertise and experience in working with victims and offenders. It is urgent that this government demonstrate a

true commitment to ending violence against women by restoring funding and consulting with those organizations working to end violence against women so that decisions will not compromise the safety and security of women and children.



In the heart of Downtown Eastside Vancouver a community celebration of Aboriginal Day took place, co-hosted by Carnegie Centre, The Health Contact Centre, and the United Native Nations.

The event included drummers and a fine feast of salmon and bannock received by residents of the eastside. UNN President Scott Clark said he was pleased to be part of this event which honors the aboriginal members of this community who are most marginalized. Scott spoke of the fact that "there is a need for all members of the broader communities to work together to overcome those things which dishonor all people by keeping them in poverty & creating barriers to health, dignity & wellness."

Addressing the need for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginals to fight for change in our community, an exciting and well-received announcement took place during the Aboriginal Day speeches. Lou Demerais of the Cree Nation and President of Vancouver Native Health announced his intention to seek a seat on City Council under T.E.A.M. "It's high time that aboriginals get involved in civic politics as electors and candidates, thru our involvement we can make a significant change in civil society"

For more Information Contact:

Scott Clark UNN
(604) 688-1821

or

Lou Demerais
(604) 716-4080

Idle Speculations

Time is discontinuous at the sub-atomic level
Consciousness is the true faith to tenth dimension
There have always been seven of us on earth,
otherwise there wouldn't be a universe.
Thought travels faster than the speed of light you see
Einstein knew this but didn't think it mattered.
Thought is boundless, as prisoners ever prove
(will is something about which I refuse to speak)..
Consciousness is shared on seven planes of being,
Collective consciousness Mr. Jung, not 'un!
A small mistake but much larger ones were made
A Mr. Adler's psychology falls by the wayside
for example
America looked to Greece, chose to pluck 'slavery'
but could've chosen what slavery obtained: leisure.
Now that's what I call a big mistake.
The only bigger I can find is what became 'money'
oh well.
There never were dinosaurs, I think
Piles of bones near each other, fused together by
tons of earth (about this, I could be wrong)
Better end here, then, just in case.

- Stephen Belkin

Oh yes, I almost forgot: you can have God or you can
have a universe - you simply can't have both.
If it makes you feel better, God becomes the universe.
Therefore there is no evil in the world, only goodness -
and folly. Now can I get laid?



evil is an exact science
so be carefully correct
you'll be happy when the dead come home
i'm a man amazed by magic
don't tell me what to think
don't tell me what to say
don't tell me what to do
all this and more
stealing from the street
if you think that you're going to get away with that,
you're mistaken
fresh from the noise
i beat all the boys
so what
it doesn't matter
this is living in the cosmos
is there really nothing to fear?
see that this matter goes ahead
you're owed that much

charles fortin



Rapist Moves to Downtown Eastside

(Submitted by M.Prevoist)

Richard Major admitted to his crimes in an exclusive interview with BCTV News on Global, and said he has to 'live with it.' Major has moved to a small apartment in Vancouver's Downtown East Side. Police have reissued a warning to residents that he's at a high risk to re-offend.

When I heard about this person moving into our community I phoned up an officer and spoke to this person about Major. I was surprised, NO one has made a fuss about this issue, I asked myself WHY? I came up with our community is so disposable, that no cares.

Major lives close to a Co-op in our community and a few blocks away from a Senior's Drop-in Centre and a hop, skip and a jump from Oppenheimer Park. He was suppose to live in Abbotsford, but the community got together and made sure he left. The reason for this article is to inform everyone that Major is now here in our community. I also contacted an old friend who has worked with sex offenders in the criminal justice system for over twenty years. She sent this:

"When a sex offender (whether a child molester or rapist) becomes involved with any center (even seniors) there is always a risk. With a child molester for example, often people say 'well the adults don't have to know because they are not at risk - he is interested only in children.' That may be BUT an offender is extremely manipulative and even at a center with elders it is a danger due to the vulnerability of those people in perhaps needing to feel special, being lonely, being needy, they are perfect targets for an offender to ingratiate himself with them. This in turn often allows him access to their grandchildren because the elderly person has developed a relationship and "trust" with the offender. Often not being aware that they are a child molester and often, even when they are told, are of the old belief that he has changed, he would never hurt their kids, etc. It is a High risk situation.

If he wants to volunteer at the center there are a number of issues that need to be looked at:

1. Are the staff members going to be informed of the fact that he is a convicted sex offender?
2. Are those persons who will be volunteering at the center going to be made aware he is a sex offender?

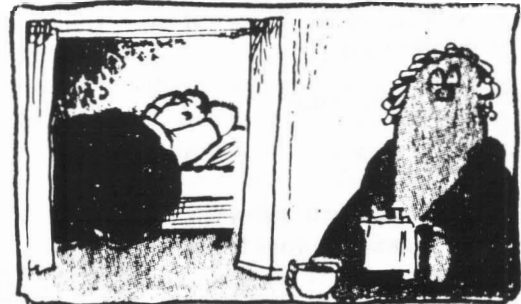
3. Are those persons using the center going to be made aware he is a sex offender?
4. Is there going to be constant monitoring and supervision of this man - particularly if children (such as grandchildren coming there with their grandparents) are attending?
5. If there are children in attendance, whose responsibility will it be to contact the parents of the children to make them aware of the situation so that they can make an informed decision as to whether or not they choose to have their children there?
6. What is the group's liability factor should this man re-offend on their property or due to a contact made at their center?

You also have the right to get a copy of his conviction from the court registrar in the area where he was convicted. Under the Freedom of Information act they have to provide you with a copy of it. There may be a small fee for paper work. You also have the right to post the information around the center and cannot be sued for slander or defamation or harassment. You are only providing public information and not maliciously making up something. If he is on probation, you may wish to contact the probation office with your concerns as well, and the community center (if he is volunteering) has the right to a copy of his conditions of probation so that they can report should he breach any of those."

I am sending a paper I wrote for a Friendship center that was facing the same problem and concerns. I am currently working on one which will cover other situations such as community hours, etc.

Hope this helps. Linda

[The paper just referred to is in the Newsletter office. If anyone wants a copy please call 665-2289]



"ETHEL, CALL IN SICK FOR ME TODAY, MY MAD DRIVING PASSION FOR THE ALMIGHTY DOLLAR IS FLAGGING!"



to protect it as you stumbled into things and people became some weird passion, some kind of memory

and now the pinball machine city has turned completely splendid bright the dirty road, barefoot love and you can see a tree over there

you stop on the road, turn, and walk over to it you lie down there for some time your thoughts turn to something like breathing sleep, dreams

dreams, flashes

you wake

the air is different

it's true: the forest on your arm, like cut grass

it has merged with the other forest over there

your anger flows back and forth but you let it melt

and now you cry

for those you cannot see

Marcel Bertrand

RICOCHET

the things you respond to always there crisis will come when you resolve to fight

feelings like molasses for those who match your skies and gravity of planets you should have left a long time ago

you are the one who chose to leave all the people who had the universe for you ..and make no mistake, they did!

but you chose the stumble-ground the earthquake planet for the gift of sight when random begins to make sense

pinball machine ball ricochet in risk out of the 'City' of past loves and hates out on the dirt road

doubt, fear, guilt, shame cloud bead walk the dirt road

and protect that little tiny forest you found growing on your forearm a few years ago scratching it was pain tiny forest but very real had truly grown on your arm



What Lies Beneath

From start to finish, the meeks' hopes, may diminish Temperatures will rise as we muse and surmise Who's for us.. against us.. who really doesn't care The crux of the matter: tough it out, never despair.

We've all seen this movie, either now or before We know we'll win this game and the final score Flip a coin, turn a card, spin the bottle, Ciphers get steamrolled when we go full throttle

A galaxy of realizable dreams at the order of the day They can't be hijacked by drones or snatched away As movers and shakers we all believe this to be true It is History that all can't be denied or misconstrued

I have some ideas & notions if worse comes to worst That can spring into action –no more hunger or thirst It's my secret; it'll obliterate pain and fear No fireworks, nothing sublime, nor anything severe

Storm clouds are gathering, trouble is in store Talking heads trying to con us – 'less is more' To stop a clock that tic-tocs as a bomb –a suggestion Be strong of heart and beat it with aplomb!

Robyn L.



EXCERPTS FROM HANSARD (28 May 2002)

Ms. Libby Davies (Vancouver East, NDP):

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to rise in the House today to speak to Bill C-416, the Housing Bill of Rights. This bill addresses the need to create a national affordable housing strategy. Canada is the only industrialized country in the world that does not have a national housing strategy.

This bill would entrench in law the right to affordable housing for all people. As a signatory to the 1976 United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Canada already recognizes and protects the fundamental human right to adequate housing. Under Bill C-416 the right would be formalized and enshrined in Canadian law.

Bill C-416 outlines that individuals would have the right to secure, adequate, accessible and affordable housing without discrimination. These rights would extend to security of tenure as well as protection against arbitrary eviction, forced relocation or any other form of harassment. A right to housing would include housing appropriate to individual or family specific needs.

Bill C-416 would guarantee the right to privacy and a safe and healthy environment free from the threat of violence. It would ensure housing was affordable. It would provide for protection from rent increases, property tax increases or other sudden or excessive costs and had the effect of diminishing housing as a basic human right. ...

I've brought the bill forward because for a number of years we have seen a growing crisis in Canada. Four years ago the Federation of Canadian Municipalities declared homelessness a national housing disaster. Municipalities across the country passed resolutions urging the federal government to develop a national housing strategy to respond to the grow-

ing crisis. The Toronto Dominion Bank, the Toronto Board of Trade and many other organizations have recognized that we have a housing crisis in Canada.

Approximately 250,000 Canadians will be forced to sleep in emergency shelters this year. Almost one in five rental households, or about 800,000 Canadians, pay more than 50% of their income on rent. Between 1991 and 1996 housing need as defined by CMHC, not by me or anyone else but by the government's own housing agency, skyrocketed upward. Some 1.7 million Canadian households are now defined as being in core need. That means people who pay more than 30% of their income on rent.

It's shocking that the number has increased by 40% over a five year period. Half the tenant population in Canada can afford to spend only \$580 per month on rent. Yet what we have seen, particularly in urban communities, is the lowest vacancy rate in history since statistics were adopted by CMHC.

We are facing a crunch not only for people at the bottom of the economic ladder who are destitute on the streets. We are facing a crunch for tenants who work, students, seniors, and families who find they are paying more and more of their often meagre monthly incomes for shelter costs which are becoming exorbitant. These are some of the things that contribute to the housing crisis

I am sure when some members of the House, [from the government side], get up to speak they will say there was a problem but the federal government fixed it by signing a housing agreement in Quebec City last November with the provinces and territories. I was there when the agreement was signed. I have worked with many of the organizations that have monitored it. While the agreement is an important step it has in no way created a financial or policy foundation from which to develop a truly national housing strategy.

In the six months since the deal was signed only one of the provinces, the province of Quebec, has lived up to the commitment it made in terms of the money it has put in. Five of the 10 provinces have gone the other way and cut money for housing. This information has been monitored by the National Housing and Homelessness Network. The Network put out a report card a week ago which clearly demonstrates that the agreement has been a dismal failure. ...

It offers no guarantee that affordable housing will



be produced. It allows the provinces to replace provincial money with federal money. This is happening in my own province of British Columbia. Some provinces are sidling around the agreement and doing a bit of a shuffle game. They are robbing Peter to pay Paul. ...

The agreement outlines that over a five year period \$680 million should be committed at the federal end to housing. Maybe that will produce 5,000 units per year, and that is a qualified maybe. We have documentation from CMHC and other organizations that says the need in various communities across the country is about 30,000 units annually.

This should give members an idea of how far short the agreement is from what we need to do to develop a national housing strategy. Even the government's own task force, the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues which was not an all party task force, called for a national strategy. It recommends that the Government of Canada: "Establish A National Affordable Housing Program that could include:--Strengthening the mandate of Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) to develop A National Affordable Housing Program in collaboration with all orders of government, and housing providers ..."

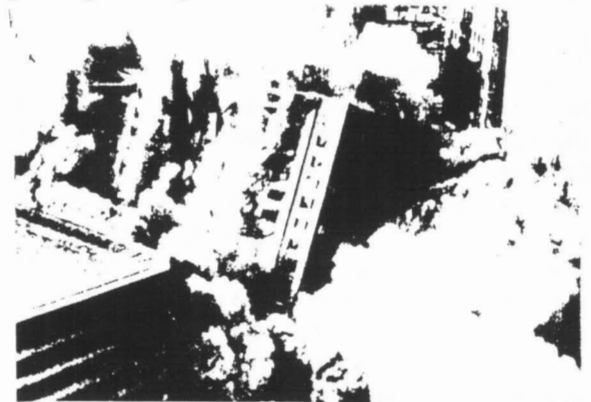
It made the recommendation after the agreement was signed last November, so clearly even the Liberal Task Force is aware of the grievous shortcomings of the agreement signed last year.

I am one of the people in the House who continually raises housing issues. I found it ironic that the Deputy Prime Minister who is the minister responsible for CMHC and housing responded to a question of mine last week by saying no one noticed he had responsibility for CMHC. It was alarming that the minister responsible for housing would joke about the fact that no one knew he was the minister of housing because of all his other duties. We see the Prime Minister shuffling his cabinet. I sure as heck wish he would shuffle in a real housing minister. We would then have someone on the government side who was

clearly responsible for this most basic human right and need in Canadian society. ...

When I started working on the bill and putting out information I wrote to organizations and individuals across the country. I received some wonderful mail. I will quote a few people who wrote to me. I got a letter from a fellow in Kelowna, B.C. who cannot afford housing. He said: "I agree we need more affordable housing. I am 44 years old and have had to leave the workforce at 33 due to health problems. I would be writing to you by computer but I do not have one. I am on a disability pension, but now there is nothing out there to rent for \$325 a month."

I also have a letter from the National Union of Public and General Employees, often referred to as the National Union. In a letter to the Finance Minister in support of my bill the union pointed out: "While your government sits on the largest budgetary surplus among the OECD countries we have a growing housing crisis in this country."



This is a shocking fact. We do not have a housing crisis because we lack the financial capability to deal with it. We have a housing crisis because we have lacked the political will and leadership to make it a priority and make sure it is adequately contained in the budget.

I have a letter from the Carnegie Community Centre Association in my riding of East Vancouver. It says: "Given the Carnegie Centre's situation in the centre of one of Canada's poorest neighbourhoods, the crisis of homelessness is particularly critical for us as we have constant and immediate contact with the extreme suffering it causes."

I want to underscore this. It is not some sort of academic or hypothetical situation. A week or so ago a video was released in Toronto that showed the con-

ditions in an emergency shelter, some in violation of even the United Nations' policies for refugee camps. We are talking about Canada, not refugee camps.

I have visited shelters in Toronto. I was appalled to see people sleeping on the floor on mats with only one washroom for the men and one for the women. I am talking about extreme suffering. I am talking about people freezing to death and people who have TB because they are out in the cold and living in unhealthy conditions. This speaks clearly to the suffering caused not by individual failure but by the failure of the government to do anything about it in terms of public policy. ...

I want to acknowledge some of the groups that contributed and helped produce the bill, particularly Dr. David Hulchanski, a professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Hulchanski is one of Canada's foremost housing experts. He has helped monitor Canada's progress in meeting its housing commitments under the social and economic covenant.

The National Housing and Homelessness Network has done a tremendous amount of work to keep the pressure on the federal government and bring the issue forward. I also acknowledge the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee and the Tenants Rights Action Coalition.

I have received about 2,000 petitions in support of Bill C-416. I hope the bill will bring about a real commitment from all members of the House to recognize housing as a human right, act on it and make it a reality for Canadians. ...

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the members who participated in the debate and for the time they took to read this important bill and give their perspective.

...The Parliamentary Secretary said that the federal government recognized the need for housing. That is somewhat true but it has to be qualified by pointing out that it was only after an incredible amount of pressure by groups like the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the Canadian Housing and Renewal Association or the Toronto Disaster Relief Committee, or even a guy that I came across called Daniel Dufresne who on his own went out and collected almost 1,500 signatures on a petition to put forward the need for housing. There has been a groundswell from the community who have pressed the government since it bailed out in 1993.

I was curious to hear the Parliamentary Secretary say that the government supports co-ops. I am glad to hear that the need for an independent agency may finally come to fruition because the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada has worked for that for a long time.

In some ways it is such a sad irony because co-ops are a real Canadian success story. They were started in Canada. They are the living example of how to produce affordable, mixed housing where families can live in safety and security, and where a real sense of community can be developed. However there have been no new co-ops developed since 1993 when the federal government opted out of social housing and co-op funding. To me that is a real tragedy. ...

We have enormous capability and resources in this country to produce not for profit social housing, or co-op housing, yet we let it go to waste because we have not had the financial program to put it together. ... I hope we are a little further ahead in recognizing the importance of people's individual human rights, to have basic shelter and adequate, safe and secure housing. I encourage the government to go beyond its framework agreement and to look at a real national housing strategy that gets us closer to the goal of providing 30,000 units a year, to build safe and healthy communities with municipalities, provinces, territories, aboriginal communities and local organizations that are now, ready to develop that housing.



the dreamer stays
statue still lioness
pinned point claws firm
and gentle playing her
fangs against his scalp heart
frantic she plays with the
dreamer
like a great big cat

he has in less vivid moments
thwarted careful fascists
having pre-planted a
huge rocky mountain mushroom at
kananaskis and now
precariously cliff edge
path is falling and
can't wake up

forced to watch our power-mad
premier's twisted maniacal smile the
dreamer derives near comfort as a
primitively skilled tooth extractor giving
tin falsies as a public service
has no place or time the dreamer decides between
binning alleyways or bathing with
adoring lovers
chooses to lose flying over the
city covered in crystal ocean



florence spencer

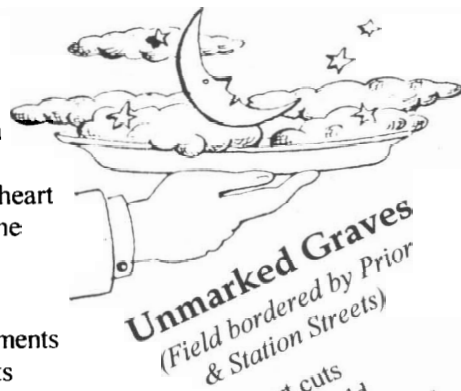
A man of no shame

40 by 6 the garden was planted in spring
Sunflowers and pumpkins against the wall
did their thing

Along came a squirrel, Mr Knuckles his name
A chomp on the stem, down the sunflower came.

Bent and twisted, lying on the ground
No one to help, no one around

On came a man his thumbs all green
Here was some help - or so it would seem



Unmarked Graves (Field bordered by Prior & Station Streets)

I take short cuts
Through the field
Where Hi-Tech offices
Are the Plan.

China and bones
are what I saw
On mounds of unmarked graves.

The watch tower
Across the street
What did they see?

Not enough, to pay
Taxes on our braids?
To work for CPR
as menial slaves?
You had to blow us
up in tunnels
because you did not
want to pay

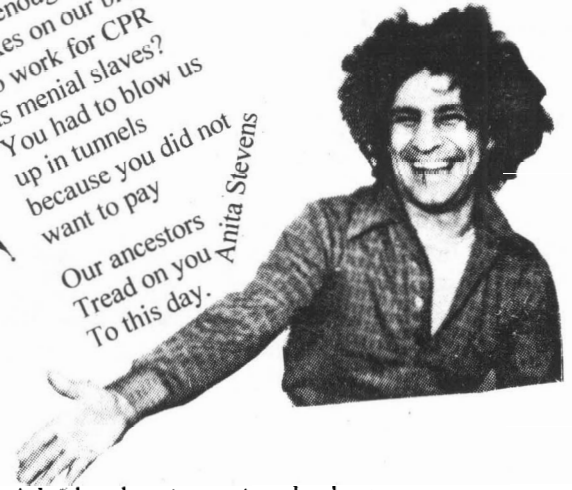
Our ancestors
Tread on you
To this day.

Anita Stevens

Middle age is a sly devil
creeping up through stiff joints
and backs going out of whack
and suddenly you're not the
centre of the universe for your kids
and love has lost its luster
just too many heartbreaks later
your heart creaks to a stop.

if only peace and wisdom
were a part of the deal automatically
bumpin' 50 and still groping in the dark
still looking for answers
for yet-unsolved mysteries...

R.Loewen



A broken heart a ruptured spleen
A bit of bandage, tied up with string
Again against the wall the sunflower did lean

You can stomp us down and make us cry
But once again we will face the sky

You'll take our cans and keep us lame
There's a man, Gordon Campbell his name
A bootlick and lacky A man of no shame

Stephan Angeloff

Ten Warning Signs of Normality

1. **COOL:** You're cool, you hold everything in and always put "a good face on it" You never cry or laugh much, or show emotion in any way, certainly not in public. Your psychiatric label is "tearlessness."
2. **SERIOUS:** You always do the proper thing - never anything unusual, playful, spontaneous, "different," wild, or creative, if you can help it. You believe playing and being silly are beneath your dignity and only for children. You have a psychiatric label of "stiff upper lip."
3. **NICE:** You always act nice even if you can't stand the person to whom you're talking. You never say what you're really thinking. Your diagnosis: "inappropriate smiling."
4. **RIGHT:** You always do everything right - wear the "right clothes", say the "right thing", associate only with the "right people"- you know there is only one right way, and it's your way. You are diagnosed as "conformity prone."
5. **BORING:** Your conversations, life and living space are dull and boring. In the more advanced stages you have much inner "lifelessness" and "flat affect" - in other words, you are one of the "walking dead." Your psychiatric label is "hyper-inactivity."
6. **OBEDIENT:** You always try not to offend anyone, especially those in authority - your security seems to depend on that. So therefore you are willing to put expediency ahead of principles. Your psychiatric label is "adjustment prone/adjustment reaction."
7. **GULLIBLE:** You believe that the doctor always knows best, that the media is telling the truth (major newspapers always print the facts, right?), and that the medical model of "mental illness" has been proven scientifically. Your diagnosis is "normal naiveté disorder."
8. **AVOID FEELINGS:** You are out of touch with yourself, with the natural world, and with what is going on with other people. It has become too hard to face how others are being oppressed, so you choose a more comfortable path. TV starts to look very, very good. You are labeled with "severe blinder-itis."
9. **DON'T TRUST YOURSELF:** You learned in school that it's important to always pay attention to those in charge and not to trust your own thinking. You learned to "play the game," and you are still doing that. You



believe your own lies. You have an advanced case of "schoolmania," which, if not stopped in its early stages can lead to severe overwork and, in advanced stages, "corporate asskissingitis."

10. **INDOORISM:** You lost touch with wildness in nature, and within your own strong feelings. You do not rebel against ecological destruction. Label: "Tame."

DON'T PANIC:

Normality can be healed! If you have two or more of these signs, within any lunar cycle, it is not too late. Join us for MAD PRIDE, support one another, and take action to stop psychiatric oppression before serious persistent "normality" sets in.

Mad Pride events in 2002. Celebrate the social change movement for human rights and alternatives in the mental health system every July.

Embodied Non Violence Workshop — Denise Nadeau

Tuesday July 2nd, 5.30 — 9pm 2838 East 7th Ave

Collective creation of street / dance theatre — call to reserve a spot **604 733 5570**

Thursday July 4th

Video and Craft Night - Video In — 1965 Main street 7pm

Cindy Lou Griffith — 'Song of My father' and the classic 'The King of Hearts'
- what happens when the lunatics take over the asylum ???

RADICAL POLITICAL PUPPET SHOW AND OPEN TALENT NIGHT

GALLERY GACHET, 88 EAST CORDOVA STREET

7-10PM FRIDAY JULY 12th !!THIS ONE IS IN THE HOOD SO DON'T MISS IT!!

Mad Hatters Dance - Live music at the here on earth Night Club — Friday July 12th 8pm 1332 Hastings Street
Highs and Lows Choir will perform a couple of songs

Mad Pride Picnic at Guelph Park

Sunday July 14th, 12 noon at 8th and Brunswick near Kingsgate Mall

Games and Music — pot luck or bring your own sandwich Watermelon and beverages will be provided.

All events free for survivors of psychiatry; sliding scale (\$0 to \$20) for friend and allies.



CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY JULY 4TH 2002
Time: 3:00pm IN THE THEATRE
Registration at 2:30pm



- *to vote at a meeting of the society a person must have been a member for more than 14 days immediately prior to said meeting
- *to be eligible for election to the board of directors, a person must have been a member for more than 60 days immediately prior to the election

Summer Programs in Victory Square

On Wednesday July 3, at 12 noon, you are invited to the launch of the summer programs at Victory Square. Kelly White, will give a Coast Salish tribute to welcome park visitors. Clarence Hansen, Park Board Chair, and Mayor Phillip Owen will be in attendance and say a few words. Dragon River, a talented duo playing Chinese reed instruments and percussion will perform the opening concert. There will be light refreshments and games for all.

Noon-hour concerts are planned for Victory Square every Wednesday and Saturday until Labour Day. These free concerts feature a range of musical interest from jazz to African and flamenco to traditional Chinese music. Performers include the Bruce James Orchestra, the Armadillo Quartet, Kim Ling Chinese Instrumental Group, Simukai, Donald Morin, Brave Waves and Mother of Pearl.

This is the first time that summer programs have been offered in Victory Square. Staff will be in the park five days a week initiating activities and planning special events. A hands-on art project will be undertaken and games such as croquet and chess will be available to check out for informal play.

For more info call Susan Gordon at 604-257-8495



**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

SOLIDARITY

CAN TAKE THE WHOLE WORKS



COURT ORDERS UNOCAL TO STAND TRIAL FOR ABUSES IN BURMA

A landmark human rights lawsuit against Unocal Corp. will be going to trial in California Superior Court in September, following a decision by Judge Victoria Chaney rejecting the oil giant's attempt to dismiss the case. The suit challenges human rights abuses committed by the notoriously brutal Burmese military on behalf of Unocal's Yadana Pipeline project in southern Burma. It is the first case in U.S. history in which a corporation will stand trial for human rights abuses committed abroad.

"We presented the court with irrefutable evidence that the Burmese military forced villagers to perform hard labor against their will and committed widespread human rights violations for the benefit of Unocal's project," said Richard Herz of EarthRights International, co-counsel for the plaintiffs. "Unocal was dealing with the devil. Now they will have to answer to a jury."

The plaintiffs are villagers who lived near the pipeline. Some were forced to work on pipeline infrastructure by the military, Unocal's project partner. The remainder suffered other egregious abuses during the military's provision of "security" for the project. For example, two of the plaintiffs were sexually assaulted, and one, an infant, died after being kicked into a cooking fire.

Paul Hoffman, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said today "This is an important decision, not only because it allows Unocal to be held liable for abuses committed overseas, but also because it tells other multinational corporations that go into business with repressive dictatorships that they are responsible for their partner's human rights violations." Co-counsel Dan Stormer concurred, stating "After six years of litigation, the plaintiffs will finally have their day in court. We are confident that a jury reviewing the facts of this case will be horrified."



The Tax Freedom Daze

It is hard to argue against freedom. After all, no one wants to be constrained from doing what they want to do. Free marketeers are particularly adamant about their freedom to choose in the marketplace, and about how to spend their incomes.

Every year, the ultra-conservative Fraser Institute pronounces Tax Freedom Day - the day when Canadians (finally) stop "working for the government" and start "working for themselves".

Tax Freedom Day is, without a doubt, a clever and media-savvy ploy. That people actually derive benefits from government services in exchange for the taxes they pay is conveniently swept under the ideological carpet. Instead, the Fraser Institute suggests that up to a certain date, the government takes all of your income, burying it in some distant mineshaft never again to see the light of day, and thus stripping away your ability to be truly free.

In 2002, "Tax Freedom Day" in BC falls in late-June, a few days earlier than 2001. This leads us to believe that, even after federal and provincial tax cuts, the typical British Columbian pays close to half their income in taxes, and thus works for half the year to pay the government. But wait.. total tax revenues amount to around 37% of Canada's GDP. Why the discrepancy?

The Fraser Institute ostensibly calculates total taxes paid divided by total income. Simple enough, but there is a great deal of arbitrariness to what gets included as "income" and "taxes." On the income side, certain types of income are not counted, including employer-provided fringe benefits, capital gains, and gifts and bequests. On the tax side, however, everything that even resembles a tax is counted (including natural resource royalties), and these taxes are all completely assigned to families.

This way, corporate income taxes paid are included in the family tax bill, but corporate income in the form of retained earnings is not. Counting in this

way tips the scales, pushing Tax Freedom Day ahead in the calendar.

The Fraser Institute calls its version of income for Tax Freedom Day "cash income." However, they also calculate "total income before tax," which includes other income such as fringe benefits and investment income from trusteed pension plans, plus the value of taxes paid on property, corporate income tax and indirect taxes (why these taxes are deducted to come up with "cash income" is a mystery). Re-calculating Tax Freedom Day based on "total income before tax" would make it fall about two months earlier.

Another reason why taxes appear higher is that the Fraser Institute figures are taken as an average for all Canadians. The trouble with averages is that they get pulled up by big numbers at the high end. For example, a room full of five people, with four making \$20,000 per year and one making \$220,000 per year, has total income of \$300,000-or an "average income" of \$60,000. In the same way, if each of the four making \$20,000-paid 15% of that income in taxes, and the person making \$220,000 per year paid 40% of that income in taxes, then the total tax paid among the five is \$100,000, for an average tax rate of 33%-even though four of the five really paid only 15%.

It is possible to nit-pick even more about how Tax Freedom Day is calculated. But methodological qualms aside, there is a misleading premise embodied in the tax freedom concept that should not be ignored: that taxes restrict freedom. As tax lawyer Neil Brooks points out: "Even with a tax on income, individuals are still free to make whatever career or investment choices they wish, and free to choose whatever goods and services they wish to consume."

On the other hand, public expenditures enhance people's freedom to travel on public roads, to learn in public schools and libraries, and to enjoy public spaces. Redistributive taxation can also increase overall freedom because of the income provided to low income earners. This expands their ability to make choices and take advantage of opportunities. In a market economy, the Fraser Institute's much-cherished "economic freedom" only matters for those that have enough cash.

By Marc Lee

**EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

2002 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$81
Sam R.-\$20 Eve E.-\$18 Nancy H.\$50
Margaret D.-\$22 Sabitri G.-\$22
Pam C.-\$9 Val A.\$18 Wm B-\$27
Harold D.-\$9 Mary C-\$18 Paula R,\$35
Rolf A.-\$75 Bruce J.-\$18 Peggy -\$25
Kettle -\$18 Sonya S.-\$100 BCTF-\$10
Bill G.-\$100 Wes K.-\$36 Charley B-\$25
DEYAS-\$125 RayCam-\$25 LSS-\$200
John S-\$36 Paddy -\$75 Sarah E.-\$10
The Edge -\$200 Celeste W.-\$10
Jo's Mom -\$25 Charles F.-\$10
Mennonite CC -\$60 Rosemary Z.-\$40
Joanna N.-\$40 Jenny K.-\$18
Charlotte F.-\$20 Nancy C.-\$50
Debbie -\$20

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

City - 5:45pm - 11:45pm

Overnight - 12:30am - 8:30am

Downtown Eastside - 5:30pm - 1:30am

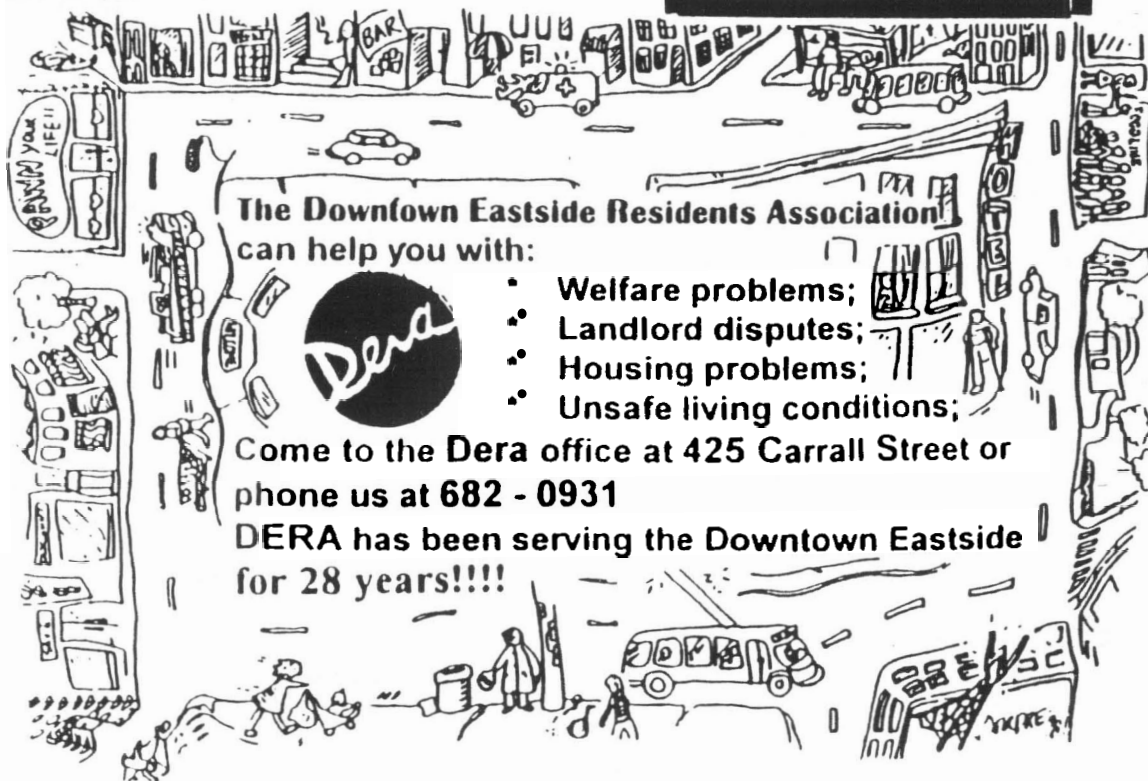
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**THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION.**
Articles represent the views of individual
contributors and not of the Association.

Submission Deadline

for next issue:

Thursday, June 27



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!!!!

"The undeserving maintain power by promoting hysteria. Small souls who seek power over others first destroy the faith those others may have in themselves. Spirituality is the art of ruling without hysteria, the art of being responsible for the uses of power."
- Frank Herbert

A Walk to the Pound

Been a week now I've been walkin ol' Robbie from
the Pound.... everyday sadly bring him back
after an hour of freedom
a dog doing dog things
up to his hips in the ditch
eternally sniffing and pissin
I know already how it'll hurt when somebody
finally wises up and takes this sweet soul home.
Some of the best moments of my life
have been in the company of dogs.

R.Loewen

An editorial is where the editor gives his or her opinion about something. How 'bout being regarded as 'invisible' or just being ignored? Does that hit any of you too close to home?

Seems that the soon-to-be-mayor, Jennifer Clarke, likens our neighbourhood to a ghetto, that "taking it back block-by-block" is her battle plan (not unlike, with her ghetto analogy, the Nazis in the Jewish ghetto in Warsaw). Seems that the NPA nominating committee, which says *yay* or *nay* to all those who want to run for civic office, is made up almost completely by the gastown twerps who've been so nasty about low-income people, who've stopped (or tried like hell to shut down) the Dugout, the Haven, Bridge Housing, a Parole/Probation centre, buskers and non-spending people on 'their' streets, the opening of the treatment centers, clinics and the resource centre for addicts, a Christmas street party, and more. Clarke is their choice for Mayor –so much so that Phil Owen was turfed in favour of her.

Residents of the Downtown Eastside are only seen as obstacles, as impediments to their drive to clean us out. The backlash is already starting with people being left destitute by the Liberal cuts and having to survive in ever more desperate conditions. Seniors and single parents are now having to choose between eating and paying the rent, between buying



now-delisted medicine and eating. The political buck-passing will get into high gear when Clarke and her clone (sorry, that's illegal) her soulmate Gordon Campbell decide that the Vancouver Agreement, where civic and provincial and federal money is equally put into a quasi-holistic approach to the Downtown Eastside, is just dumb and they favour urban pioneering instead.

Advocates trying to help people fight through the draconian changes to assistance programs are now being accused of lying, of making horror stories up about people having the most basic needs denied or ignored. The outrage is palpable – the Ministry bureaucrats have the audacity to impugn the integrity of advocates by rote – that the government has so many exciting job-find methods that anyone not succeeding and progressing in this "NEW ERA" must be a criminal not deserving anything. There are so many horror stories – one in this issue from Dora Sanders is just the frost on the tip of the iceberg – that advocates have even been accused of conspiring with each other to make them up in batches. The truth about Campbell's malignancy has never been hard to see. It will be doubled in spades if Clarke gets in the Mayor's chair.

By PAULR TAYLOR

Sam Roddan

- Friend Of The Downtown Eastside

Sam Roddan, who has contributed his paintings of the Downtown Eastside, and his thoughts, to the Carnegie Newsletter since 1996, died on June 8, 2002, at the age of 87.

Sam was born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1915, and came to live in the Downtown Eastside in 1929 where his father, the Rev. Andrew Roddan, was the minister at First United Mission Church. A writer, artist, soldier, teacher and story-teller, Sam encouraged us to fight for justice, and his paintings showed the beauty, as well as the pain, of the Downtown Eastside, Vancouver's oldest and one of its most stable communities.

"Years ago (in the 1930's), my country was Pender, Gore, Dunlevy, Jackson; streets where I kicked the can, chased the fire engine, shot the bull, let my dog run wild," Sam wrote. "I've travelled far and wide, lived in many places, but I still know, come hell or high water, the Downtown Eastside is my country."

We have been blessed by the presence of Sam Roddan. His colourful paintings, in the folk art style of Grandma Moses, with flashes of the passion and intensity of Van Gogh, speak to our hearts. We hear his words, "In a besieged community under bitter attack, the best way to overcome is to hold fast to family (the Carnegie family, the VANDU family, the Community Directions family, the DERA family, the Downtown Eastside Seniors family, and so on), to hold fast to an inner toughness born of past betrayals, and to a healthy sprinkling of goodwill. And never neglect to harness the spirit of the young with the passion and know-how of the street-fighter veterans who have gone before."

In one of his poems Bud Osborn wrote, "We have become a community of prophets in the Downtown Eastside, rebuking the system and speaking hope and possibility into situations of apparent impossibility." These words describe the paintings and writing of Sam Roddan. The cross as a symbol of suffering, sacrifice and hope appears in Sam's work, and we think of the crosses in Oppenheimer Park in remembrance of those who have died from drug overdoses. People raise their arms in hope in Sam's pictures. Kites fly. The streets surge with life. Old men sit alone in tiny rooms. Children

sell themselves on the street. Homeless people sleep in alleys. Sam writes, "It's worse than bombing when they start smashing up your home, tossing sanity, security, hopes and dreams into a dumptruck."

In Sam's paintings people suffer the indignity of food bank lines. Children climb trees. Poets read in Crab Park, and Sam writes, ".we found words brimming with life, bonding brothers, sisters, comrades in ties that nothing in all hell could break asunder." A painting called "Hastings and Main" is dominated



by the sorrowing face of a woman that is part of the street itself. Sam writes, "Hastings, doorstep to the Carnegie, has always been haunted by broken promises, yet beyond darkness and betrayals there is goodness, a strange beauty, great hearts, indisputable truths." For the May 1, 2002, issue of the Carnegie Newsletter, Sam sent us a powerful painting of First United Mission (1882-1962), with a street scene in the foreground. In the writing that came with the picture, Sam recalls an old friend he knew at the church. Orville Fisher, who became one of Canada's great war artists, and was one of the first to land in Normandy on D-Day in 1944. Sam remembers that Orville Fisher is part of the irrepressible spirit of the Downtown Eastside, and he gives his writing the



title "Old Soldiers Never Die". But Sam, too, is an old soldier, and his caring spirit joins his friends, and all those others, who have fought for respect, justice and human rights.

Sam Roddan's paintings are an affirmation of the community and the history of the Downtown East-side. As Paul Taylor said in the Carnegie Newsletter (June 15/02), "Since 1996, he (Sam) has contributed his artwork and a brief thought to exemplify compassion and trust in the human spirit, and the Carnegie Newsletter has been graced with both."

Your caring sustains us, Sam, and your paintings bring hope. Thank you, and may peace be with you, with your wife Hulda and all your wonderful family.

Sandy Cameron



Sir, I'm offering you the opportunity to display the human face of capitalism.

About two years ago, Barbara Ehrenreich, a middle class (if not uppermiddle class) writer decided to see what life was like for the working poor, now that everyone in the US is being pushed to work, no matter what. She worked for several months as a waitress, housecleaner (for one of the big agencies like Molly Maid) and for Wal-mart. She wrote a book called "Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America." Here are the last few paragraphs:

"When poor single mothers had the option of remaining out of the labour force on welfare, the middle and upper middle class tended to view them with a certain impatience, if not disgust. The welfare poor were excoriated for their laziness, their persistence in reproducing in unfavourable circumstances, their presumed addictions, and above all for their "dependency". Here they were, content to live off "government handouts" instead of seeking "self-

sufficiency", like everyone else, through a job.

They needed to get their act together, learn how to wind an alarm clock, get out there and get to work. But now that government has largely withdrawn its "handouts", now that the overwhelming majority of the poor are out there toiling in Walmart or Wendy's - well, what are we to think of them? Disapproval and condescension no longer apply, so what outlook makes sense?

"Guilt", you may be thinking warily. Isn't that what we're supposed to feel? But guilt doesn't go anywhere near far enough; the appropriate emotion is shame - at our own dependency, in this case, on the underpaid labor of others. When someone works for less pay than she can live on - when, for example, she goes hungry so that you can eat more cheaply and conveniently - then she has made a great sacrifice for you, she has made you a gift of some part of her abilities, her health, and her life. The "working poor", as they are approvingly termed, are in fact the major philanthropists of our society. They neglect their own children so that the children of others will be cared for; they live in substandard housing so that other homes will be shiny and perfect; they endure privation so that inflation will be low and stock prices high. To be a member of the working poor is to be an anonymous donor, a nameless benefactor, to everyone else.

As Gail, one of my restaurant coworkers put it, "you give and you give".

