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Carnegie

NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 1, 2002

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

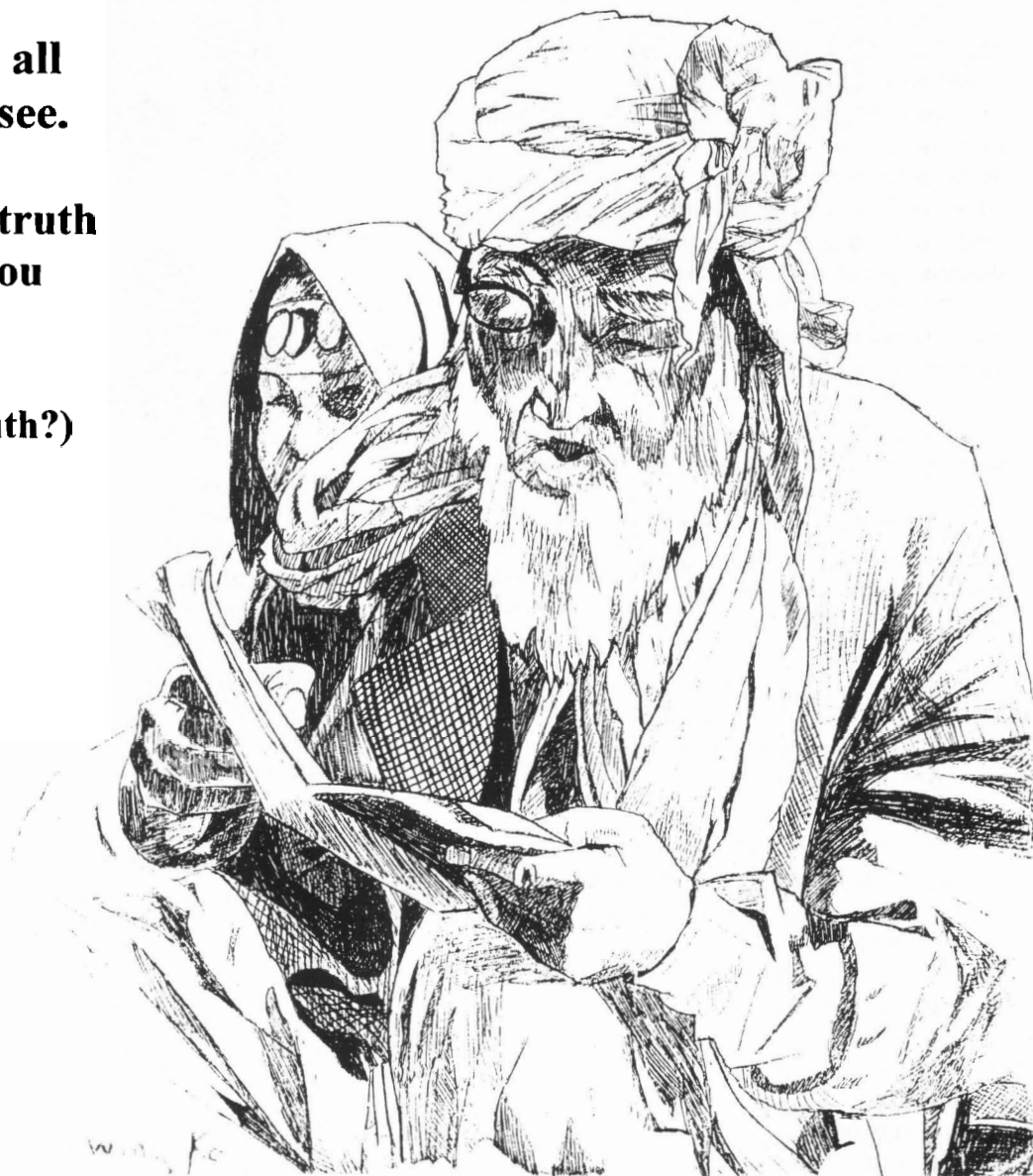
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**Question all
that you see.**

**Look for truth
in what you
read.**

(Who's truth?)

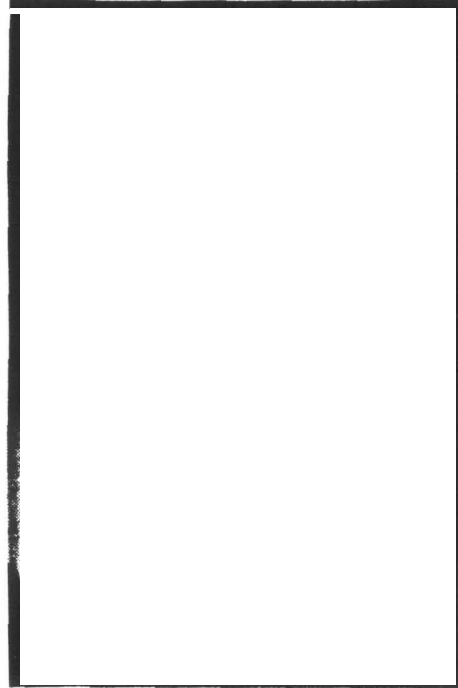
**(In what
context?)**



"we must suffer with them"

we should not look to the bible for moral examples
david was a mess
moses was a murderer
and as for christians' vaunted superior morality
jacques ellul, a french theologian
and resistance fighter against the nazis
said the second world war
was primarily the fault of christians
because instead of praying and acting against it
christians fought for it
and much the same can be said
of christians' response to the war on drugs
a real warfare which has arrived
at its current oppressive and destructive intensity
from the arrival
of the earliest european christians in north america
who called the aboriginal human beings
devils and beasts who were fearsome with disease
diseases spread by the christians themselves
and the same demonizing language
was invoked in the christian temperance crusade
against alcohol
but I wonder how many of us know
why alcohol is legal now
since by any measurement of human and social
costs
alcohol is the most destructive drug
but when alcohol was made illegal
it created much worse violence
and a new well-organized criminality
and alcohol was never before
so readily available to children
but christians thought prohibition was a victory
and now christians promote the prohibition
of heroin and cocaine
and drug addicts are demonized
as were first nations people
by the first christians in north america
but the illicit drug war is far more diabolical
than alcohol prohibition
because the drug war and its consequences
are a global scandal
and the results are everywhere the same
epidemics of hiv/aids
property crime
corruption of police
destruction of communities

and overdose deaths
the illicit drug situation is used now
as a political tool and political weapon
an immensely wealthy and powerful



transnational organized criminal enterprise
has developed of such magnitude
that the global economy is now dependent
on illegal drug money
and so are local economies like vancouver's
but the whole drug pyramid bears down
on the lone addict
but mostly addicts who are non-white and poor
those superfluous in the new world economic order
and in the united states
the drug war has allowed the incarceration
of half of an entire generation of young black men
and in canada
a similarly apartheid-like percentage of natives
are locked up for drug-related offences
illicit drug policies and laws are tailor-made
for the booming population control industry
but in the downtown eastside
there are numerous storefront christian missions
there is the union gospel mission
and first united church
and st james anglican church

and st paul's catholic church
 and the salvation army
 and a 4square church
 and an annual march for jesus
 and thousands of young christian volunteers
 and the results are that
 drug addicts in the downtown eastside
 have had the western world's highest rate
 of hiv/aids
 and more than 90% have hepatitis c
 and while the tuberculosis rate for adults in canada
 is 9 per 100,000
 in the downtown eastside the tb rate is
 132 per 100,000
 and nearly all of the drug addicts who
 live in what has been called
 the most wretched and lethal housing
 in north america
 have backgrounds of severe trauma and abuse
 much of it inflicted by christians
 in residential schools and foster homes
 and since the downtown eastside has become
 fiercely coveted
 by unscrupulous upscale development conspiracies
 wherein christians are directly responsible
 for the displacement of impoverished and
 desperately ill people
 life expectancy is dropping in the area
 an almost unheard of phenomenon
 in a first world nation
 but drug overdose deaths



are the leading cause of death
 for adults aged 30 to 45
 in all of british columbia
 and the downtown eastside has become
 a slaughterhouse and torture chamber
 and what has been the christian response
 to this preventable genocide
 from which they profit so handily?



soup and sandwiches

and flowers for homeless sick prostitutes
 who are being stalked, disappeared and murdered
 by serial killers
 and hot chocolate for dying addicts
 and demoralizing morality speeches
 before permitting
 malnourished people to eat 2nd and 3rd-hand food
 but christians of course
 are essentially concerned with saving souls
 and to save souls
 in a community of poor people suffering its
 passion
 a community crucified organ by organ
 is nothing less than obscene and anti-christ
 christian charity is a vinegar sponge
 offered to a tortured slowly dying jesus christ
 jesus was not crucified because he was a teacher
 or a friend or a healer or a man of peace
 crucifixion was a death penalty for social rebellion
 for those who directly threatened
 the religious and political establishment
 jesus deliberately broke laws and violated taboos
 jesus was called a drunkard and a glutton who has
 a demon inside him
 just like a woman I know in the downtown eastside
 who was told by a good christian
 that she has aids because she's a sinner
 jesus spoke many more scathing parables
 about the rich taking land away from the poor

and oppressing them
 than he spoke about personal morality
 but I heard the mayor of vancouver say
 "I follow in the footsteps of jesus"
 and say it as casually as you or I might say
 we are going to the corner store for a newspaper
 but those are mighty bloody footsteps
 and in light of the execution on the cross
 what does it mean for any of us to say
 "I follow in the footsteps of jesus"?
 and about the downtown eastside the mayor says
 "we have contained those people
 and now we are going to disperse them"
 containing the people created conditions
 of disease and death; dispersing the people
 will sentence sick afflicted people
 to having nowhere to go
 no relief for their afflictions
 and will spread epidemics
 dorothy day who lived both
 social justice and the works of mercy said
 "the mystery of the poor is this -
 they are jesus
 it is not the decent poor
 it is not the decent sinner
 who was the recipient of christ's love
 but the criminal
 the unbalanced
 the drunken
 the degraded
 the perverted
 in even the lowest and most depraved
 we must see christ
 what right has any of us to security
 when god's poor are suffering?
 while our brothers and sisters suffer
 we must suffer with them
 I was that drug addict
 screaming and tossing in her cell
 beating her head against the wall
 and not because the man or woman
 reminds us of christ
 [of the divine in all of us]
 but because of plain and simple and
 stupendous fact
 he or she is holy"

Bud Osborn

christ...

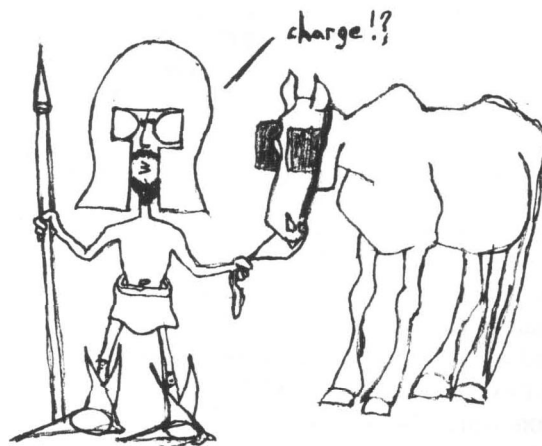
There was Saint Paul on his great white steed, and it was his own, no one else was allowed to ride it. It was called Carnegie Community Newspaper, but it wasn't really that, it was Paul's very own.

Paul thundered through the community attacking Christians on their most basic tenants, exclusiveness (there is no other way ye may be saved) prosterlizing (go ye into all the world spreading the gospel) and the very worst of all - feeding the poor. And then suddenly, there he was, on a new street, on one he had ever known before - it was called the Damascus Rd.

Signed by
 Christian Community Activist
 C. Della Cootes

...word for word. Couldn't figure what she was on about, since there has been no attack on Christians that I've put in the newsletter for awhile, then it dawned on me! like a vision!! like an awakening on the road to Damascus!!! it's about the self-righteous arrogance of 'fundamentalists' getting shut down in Oppenheimer Park when they cranked up their noise and started preaching at all the people in the public park. Seems that giving away food first translated into a god-given right to save you whether you wanted it or not. "We're gonna take you to court.!" "We're gonna get every God-fearing Christian in the world to stand up and we're gonna rain fire and brimstone on anybody who gets in our way.!" "The Supreme Court better clear its calendar!!!"

you get the idea? And a real community activist said what almost all residents say all the time about these _____s: "We don't want you."





From the Library Shelf

****Upcoming news: Return visit of Wayson Choy to Reading Room AUGUST 6th 2002 10.30 am**

Come for an informal get together with this author who delighted so many of us on his last visit.

New to the library ..Children's Books.

We have many attractive new picture Books for children, this is in response to requests from some Carnegie parents and grandparents. Hope you enjoy them!

Hot on the shelf.. Some new titles.:

Please remember we are always open to suggestions, if there is some item you would like to see in your library.

Along the Silk Road: 950 GRO

This richly illustrated, lively book is published in conjunction with famous cellist Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project and has contributors from a wide field who explore the rich culture and history of the present day Silk Road.

What Becomes of the Broken Hearted?;813. 5

DUE. This work of fiction is a sequel to the powerful international best seller which became an acclaimed movie *Once Were Warriors*, and continues the saga of the Maori people written by a renowned Australian Aboriginal author Alan Duff.

New Hope for People with Borderline Personality Disorder 61&85

A compassionate and complete look at up-to date information and coping strategies written in clear language useful for those with BPD and their friends and families.

Executing Justice: An inside account of the case Of Mumia Abu-Jamal 346.66 WIL

There is an inundation of books about the sensational murder case of activist-journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, but none is as comprehensive as this one is. Williams, the death row inmate's defense lawyer s, offers previously unrevealed details about the lengthy battle to appeal

One Foot In the Gutter; Peter Plate Fiction 813.5

Peter Plate taught himself to write during years spent living in abandoned buildings in the mission district of San Francisco. His work is described as "poetry of the street". This is the first of his series known as Mission Quartet.

Making Native Space: Cole Harris 971.1 HAR

Describes the process by which Native peoples in British Columbia were dispossessed of their lands claims to be the first book to offer a comprehensive account of the reserve system in B.C.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It gives us no great comfort when cost-cutting on our behalf seems to be undertaken at the expense of the most helpless members of our society. It gives us even less comfort when meanness is disguised as generosity." -- Editorial, *Victoria Times Colonist*, July 12 on BC Liberal government policies eliminating eligibility for disability benefits and forcing disabled people to work.

RUNNERS UP:

On The Shocking Rise Of Homelessness In Bc

"Parents with babies are looking for a place to stay for the night. That's the reality we're dealing with. The face of poverty is changing. It's not the man with the bottle in the paper bag anymore. It's mom.

It's dad. It's the little ones too." -- Colleen Kasting, director of the Burnside-Gorge Community Centre, *Victoria Times Colonist*

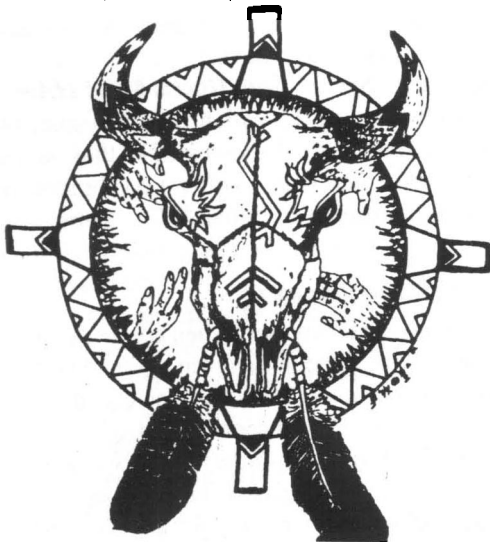
"Over six weeks this spring, 30 families came to the [Burnside-Gorge] centre for help. During the same period last year, only 12 families sought aid. Such a drastic increase in the need for the centre's service points to a homelessness crisis." -- Sarah Glen, *Victoria Times Colonist*

On Government Eliminating Dental Program Coverage For Children

"Some hospitals are saying they can't even absorb more kids on their waiting lists. Dental disease is progressive and we fear many children will end up becoming emergencies." -- Jocelyn Johnston, executive director, Association of Dental Surgeons of BC, *Victoria Times Colonist*

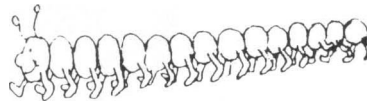
On Negotiating In Good Faith With First Nations

"A good negotiator must be capable of appreciating other points of view. Premier Gordon Campbell shows little talent for that. He said he wants treaties that are "fair, affordable, and workable." But what



might that mean to a premier who recently ripped up legally negotiated collective agreements? First Nations have good reasons to worry.

"Treaty making takes political will and negotiating skill, not the kind of polarization wrought by the B.C. provincial referendum." -- Tony Penikett, former Yukon premier and treaty consultant for the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation, *Globe and Mail*



"I haven't seen anything come down that would benefit the young people of my "community." Former Songhees Chief, Robert Sam on Gordon Campbell's promise to improve the lives of aboriginal youth.

On What Happens When Government Abandons Bc Parks

"It's a free-for-all out there. We've had more police calls than ever." -- Peter Lishman, assistant manager for the Kamloops Forest District commenting on the sudden rise of vandalism in BC parks since gov't cutbacks to the forest service, *Kamloops Daily News*

On The Shabbiness Of The Garden City Entrance Due To Highways Cutbacks

"It sure doesn't look much like the City of Gardens." -- Saanich Mayor, Frank Leonard, *Victoria Times-Colonist*

"They [the government] haven't cared for a long time about what their highways look like." -- View Royal Mayor, Bill Camden, *Victoria Times Colonist*

"It's just not good enough to take that kind of an attitude without visiting and having discussions with industry and municipalities to see if there's another solution."

-- Tourism Victoria CEO, Lorne Whyte, *Victoria Times Colonist*

On Killing The Kelowna Transit System

"Kelowna has the fastest-growing public transportation system in the province, boasting ridership that has almost doubled in five years. But a provincial freeze on transportation funding threatens to stunt the system's growth." -- David Wylie, *National Post*

"Here's Kelowna and we're growing like crazy. And now we have to reduce our service to meet budget." -- Kelowna Mayor, Walter Gray, *National Post*

On Shutting Down St. Mary's Hospital

"We don't need those millions to go to Whistler. Let them take care of the seniors and the hospitals." -- Elderly patient at St. Mary's Hospital, CBC Radio

"We're all in shock, very much so." -- New Westminster resident, Wendy Folka, CBC Radio

Hard Times in the Land of Plenty

My brief stints as a sanitation worker and as a worker in a recycling depot wrenched my eyes open painfully wide to the tragic wastefulness of the consumer classes. I couldn't even begin to chronicle the things that make up landfill here, and anyways it's something you really have to experience yourself.

As a result of these things I've seen I have a strong respect for bidders. Bidders offer us a fleeting window of redemption greater even than the best bargains on everything; they sell back to us a tiny little bit of our integrity.

Over the process of furnishing my apartment I made the acquaintance of several bidders with their modest treasures laid out neatly across towels on the sidewalk. It was while visiting one such individual that I got the damned ticket.

There were three of us there when the cops pulled up and i.d.'d us. Then two more cars, and a bur-wagon. Buddy claims all of his wares and the cop goes and when he comes back he's got \$75.00 tickets for the three of us, "vending without a licence ..plus he impounds all of the goods, and now I'm looking at a couple of court dates to dispute this thing.

I've talked to the cops in the past about this and their attitude is that bidders are selling garbage and Joe Public has to learn to stop encouraging them. This would account for the disparity in attention rich international students get from the squad when dumping their temporary apartments in the street. "A thirty dollar toaster?" "It's only nine months old!" "The coppers never seem to bother them.

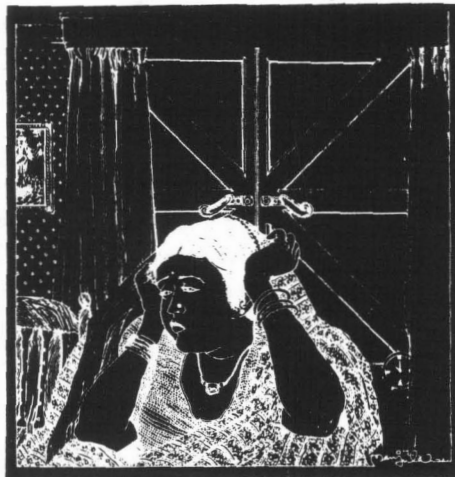
My buddy recently failed to dot an "i" for the Ministry of Love so is cut off and homeless. He's binning to survive. He works very hard and is an honest, generous guy. All of these bidder folks are and Gordzilla is enabling more of us honest, generous masses to be on the street selling redemption, getting kicked in the pants by a pig.

The four black and whites and eight cops and three "vending tickets" spectacle must be indicative of something meaningful. The poorest of the poor carting about in their divine work are way over — interesting to the authorities for one thing. I guess another is that dumb old visceral feeling of the

wrongness of it all. Just a feeling. Anyways, I've started warming up my vocal cords for the court dates

florence spencer

7



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**



There's a
movement
going on
in
the bowels
of the
Downtown Eastside

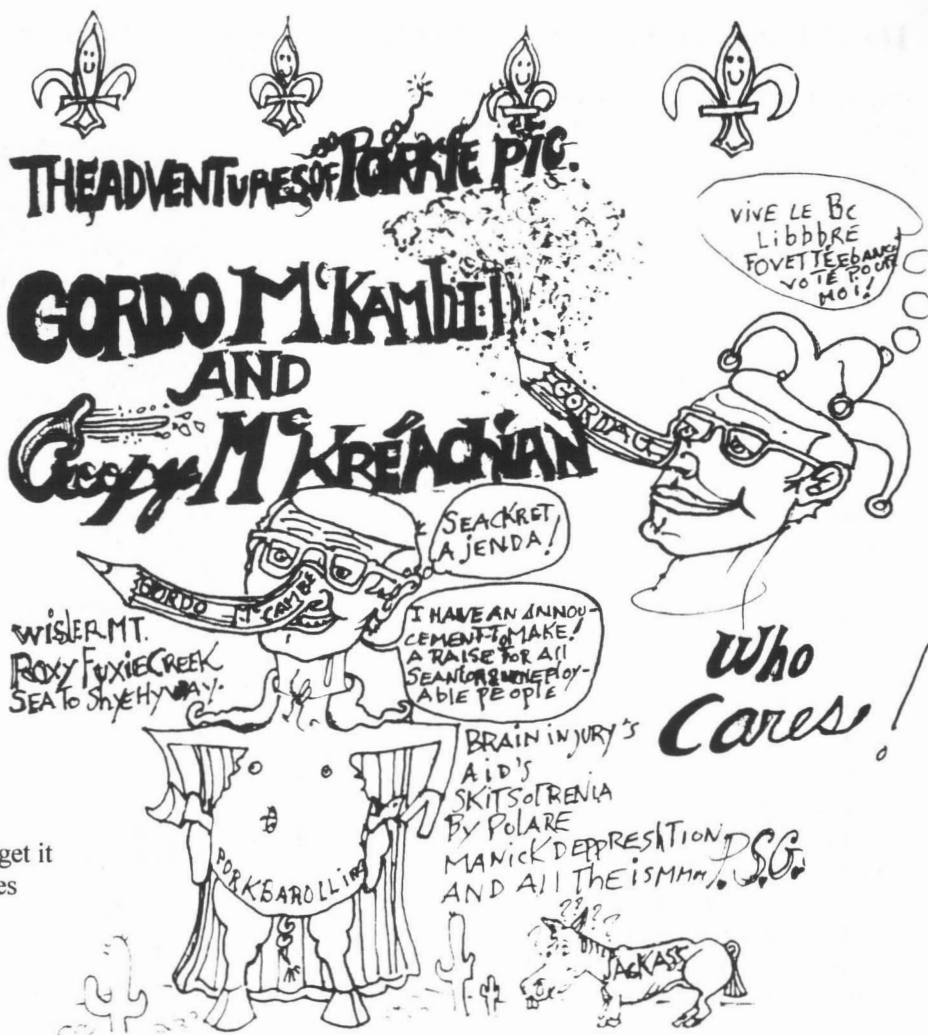
There's a
rumbling
in
the city

We R
the heart
&
the guts
of the city.

There's a Movement
going on
Anita Stevens

i'm back
and you're not going to forget it
like i remember your crimes
and your lies
i lay in wait
for the inevitable
that's just like me
to make a deal
so stop me

and i know that you tried
now you are afraid
there's no way to influence this witness
what i know is damaging
desperate behaviour
the impact and the reasons
it's not like you need any more
as an angel
there can be no death
never when you're high
that should really do it
charles fortin



Kisses on the Pillow Nighthawks in My Hair

Do you hold me in your arms
when you're sleeping alone
Dance with me
when Pm not there
Keep me in your heart
though time and space apart
Kisses in absentia,
with your cheek against my hair

I fall asleep



with the books you gave me
Stretched open
across my pillow of dreams
And think of you
upon awaking
I love you'
doesn't always say what it means

Hope Feathers

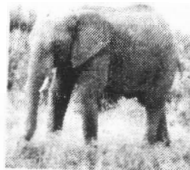
people puzzle me, perplex me
 they want whatever you got in your pockets
 and get all pissed off when you don't shell out
 money, cigarettes, dope, anything, figuring
 they have a RIGHT to everything you own
 and if you dare say no you're cussed out for a
 block down the line 'cause you ain't got time
 to roll 'em a smoke or give away your last dime
 they end up cryin' the almighty blues
 as they stomp their shoes like you owe them
 they want a smoke but it's only a rollie
 like you owe them to smoke Their brand
 and if you look like you once seen a dime
 it's a crime not to hand it all over because
 everyone owes them everything and damn you
 if you don't fork over Exactly what they want
 Where does this attitude begin?
 What ungodly sin is there in
 keeping yourself to yourself
 to hell with anyone else
 when You need something the same people
 wouldn't give you spit

sometimes it's hard to give a shit



wait'n for daddy
 to get a fix from the dr.
 wait'n for daddy to get a fix
 from the Ceo
 wait'n for daddy to get a fix
 from the preacher
 wait'n for daddy to make
 someone he's on the make
 for, wait'n for daddy to
 get home from a Big business trip
 or extended holiday
 in some beautiful sunset
 ravaged community somewhere
 down south in penny wage land
 is no different
 at all
 no worse
 than wait'n for daddy on the sidewalk
 to get a fix

Al



at main 'n' hasting
 wait'n for mom to put on her
 next mask
 wait'n for ma to pour out
 hollow controlling love
 by the next
 and next
 and next ladle
 wait'n for dad to skillfully
 prepare and apply and buy
 ego armour for his skull
 wait'n as he works his ass off
 uses up his time
 my time, to sell his ass and soul
 to dump a mercedes in his empty hull
 empty hole
 is no different
 no worse than wait'n for ma
 ta score
 on hasting

sparrow

There's No Stopping Me

9

Tripping the switch, pulling the plug
 Which way is up? Don't take me down
 Some could care less with nothing to share
 Pushing my buttons, I'm walking on air.

Navigating the maze, the haze of despair
 'Lowest is hopeless' 'the devil may care'.
 Take a trick, taste a treat, dig as deep as you wish
 If you're confused, stay focused; do not miss
 Don't be pushed, strike back as you please
 It ain't simple, it won't happen with ease,
 You know how to score and tramp the mean streets

Cut out the red tape, stop filling out forms
 Crawl under the wire before the next storm
 If you're caught in the wave of the incoming turmoil
 You better act fast 'fore it comes to a harsh boil.

That's all I can tell you, that's all I can say
 If you ignore my advice you're most certain to pay
 Break some dumb rules, break some curious codes
 Put this off and you'll end up carrying the load.

Robyn Livingstone



Victory Square Summer Events

(Near Cambie St. and W. Hastings St.)

COME CELEBRATE BC DAY!!!

Monday August 5, 2002

12:00pm – 4:00pm



Join us for games, activities,
Live music all day and
Free refreshments and BBQ
For more information
604-968-1084

Victory Square Summer Program

Come check out a summer full of programming in Victory Square. Bring your lunch to a free noon hour Concert Series every Wed. & Saturday 12-1:

Aug. 3 - Kim Ling Chinese Musical Group, a Chinese traditional music ensemble

Aug. 7 - Simukai, An African beat with marimba, mbira, hosha, and djembe drum. This show will be followed by a half hour of comedy from Gramma Susie from the Yukon (Sharon Shorty)

Aug. 10 - Afro Shillelagh, Musical sounds from across the globe come together in this quartet

Aug. 14 - Monmouth Puppeteers. Bring the kids & camp; enjoy puppet theatre.

Aug. 17 - The Blueberries - Easy listening guitar and piano duo

.....And take part in some other upcoming activities:

Monday, Aug. 5 - BIG BC DAY PARTY - Free Refreshments and BBQ

Every Thursday 2-3pm - English Corner - practice your English

Every Thursday 5:30-7pm - Free Yoga classes

Every Friday 12-4pm - Music Jam - Bring an instrument &/or yourself and join in!

Also... every Wed (12-3), Thurs (11:30-2:30) and Sat. (12-3) A community artist will be offering free mask-making workshops. The masks are to be used

in community celebrations. Everyone is welcome to come, learn and create a mask.

Check out signs at the park for more daily activities &/or give us a call at (604) 443-8705.



Vasco Pyjama meets the Fallen Angel who tells him that the only reason angels fly is because they take themselves so lightly.

Modern Medical Practice in the DTES

My doctor is a very unique man
he combines the elements of 2 TV shows in his work
You know the surgery show on cable- live surgery
where you can watch a very live performance...
and *Galloping Gourmet* (Graham Kerr). jolly fellow
For 6 months he's been preoccupied wit his own life
Like Graham Kerr saying "and now a gentle brush
of marinated monkey guts... inside the liver and
boiled over a voodoo fire... wonderful smell!...
Kerr (my doctor) rambles on
'Oh it's time for a holiday.. see you in a moth or so.'
Screws off for a walk across Europe; meanwhile
my medical problems are on the back burner
'must let those monkey guts simmer to a slow boil'
smiling affably at the camera enjoying culinary bliss
Ignoring vital data to welfare for an appeal
'and now a smidgen of parsley leaves for flavour'
comes back for a month or so before a 6-week hiatus
Meanwhile it takes 6 months to fill out 2 forms for
the fascists cutting people's lives to ribbons..
Happily the doctor leavers the paperwork undone
My life is draining away as he 'adds a bit of tumeric
to the monkey gut stew' so sometime in August he
may get around to writing one singular letter..
The whole process started in January (2 letters)
wouldn't want anyone's life spoiling the preparation
of 'an oh so delicious monkey gut stew'
now would we? **You watching at home?!**

Ex-coroner could take on Ghetto Blaster

THE THOUGHT OF LARRY CAMPBELL running for mayor blows across this city like a breeze off the water on a summer's day. It gives relief to the parched souls suffering from the oppressive heat of an anticipated Jennifer Clarke victory.

The prospect of Campbell entering the race is more likely now than when I first suggested it six weeks ago, after he was turned down for the police chief's job. If he runs, he says it will be for COPE. He's already a member.

Since Philip Owen announced he wouldn't be running, folks have been casting about for someone who would come up the middle and keep our lecturing, hectoring Head Girl out of the mayor's chair.

In a moment of apparent delirium at what the civic future holds, Owen confidante and provincial Liberal insider Judy Kirk took time out from her weekend jog at Jericho Beach a while back, crashed an NDP picnic and begged former city councillor and NDP cabinet minister Darlene Marzari to take a run at the mayor's job.

Marzari, recognizing Kirk was in a delicate state of mind, was flattered but nonetheless demurred. Marzari says Clarke as mayor "will never happen." She likes Larry for the job and, apparently, so does Kirk, though she'd prefer he run as an independent.

NPA council group George Puil, who still hasn't said whether he will run again, claims in the next few months he will expose the connection between his sworn enemies in COPE and the environmental group SPEC.

Odd when you consider how transparent that relationship has always been. SPEC president

allen garr

The rap against Campbell is that he's a one-trick pony. But a lot of folks come to politics because of one issue. Clarke wanted to stop a SkyTrain line running past her door.

David Cadman ran as COPE's mayoral candidate last time around.

The really scandalous civic connection is one that will actually damage Puil's party and Clarke the most.

It's the relationship between the NPA and the Community Alliance. The Alliance includes a small powerful group of business people from Gastown, Chinatown and Strathcona who have actively opposed Owen's harm reduction drug policy for years. They would like nothing better than to gentrify the Downtown Eastside.

Over the past two years, the Alliance managed to infiltrate the NPA board of directors, pushed Owen out the door, and has now endorsed Clarke, our Ghetto Blaster from crème de la crème country, in her drive to sanitize the Downtown Eastside "block by block."

With Campbell in the race, harm reduction will be central to the campaign. Remember it was Campbell, as B.C.'s chief coroner, who crusaded against the War on Drugs and the appalling number of drug overdoses. He figures Clarke will toll the death knell on the mayor's popular drug policy.

The rap against Campbell is that he's a one-trick pony. But it's worth remembering a lot of folks come to politics because of one issue. Clarke got into the game because she wanted to stop a SkyTrain line from running past her front door. Campbell's issue affects the quality of life for the whole city.

Campbell has been meeting with most of the political spectrum in the past few weeks, including the Green Party and NPA Lite—the New TEAM.

Lots of folks want him to run as an independent. He has two problems with that. He doesn't think he can raise the quarter million dollars needed for an effective campaign. I'm not so sure he's right.

He also figures he has a better chance moving the COPE machine to the centre than having a COPE mayoral candidate on his left and Clarke on his right. Serious negotiations with COPE started last week.

If Campbell is satisfied and decides to run, he expects Cadman and former COPE mayoral candidate Jim Green—both mooted as mayoral candidates—to run for council instead.

Meanwhile, Campbell's taking some time off to think about all this. But it would sure make for one heck of an exciting election.

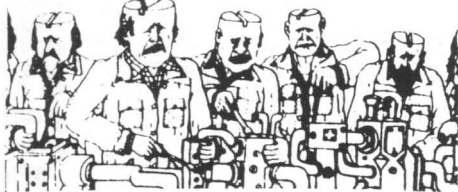
Warning: The P3s are coming!

I am a definite outsider when it comes to corporations, so I don't often get to enter the corporate culture and observe its special little rituals.

In May, I got the opportunity at a conference of the Canadian Council on Public-Private Partnerships (C2P3), the front-group for some of the world's largest corporations who try to make people feel good about privatizing every precious public service we have.

The C2P3 folks swept into Vancouver in a mood that can be described as giddy anticipation. They could just taste the profits soon to be made with the new Gordon Campbell anti-government, eager to turn over public services to the private sector. The Premier's Deputy Minister Ken Dobell had already declared that "the choice is now between either not getting the project done at all or delivering it through a P3."

The conference was a two-day cheerleading session



for P3s, and no one was allowed to say a negative word about these corporate giveaways. Journalists at the event were not allowed to ask questions during the sessions - we were reduced to trying to find presenters in the halls amongst the paid-up delegates munching their canapes at the breaks.

There were times when I felt I was at a meeting of the Shriners or some other secret society. The P3 priesthood even makes up its own language, with several promoters talking about the need for the "incentivization" of businesses to get involved, and



how to "incent" business and government into embracing P3s.

I, however, remained unincented. I would have liked to ask some questions of the privateers about their actual record or, as they liked to say at the conference, their "outputs". I would have especially liked to ask them about companies repeatedly defrauding governments, like dozens of American health-services corporations. (Many U.S. health-industry players now have their eye on Canadian medicare - there was a whole session on health care.)

In the mid-1990s, health-care fraud by U.S. corporate giants has been estimated as high as \$100 billion annually. Washington actually started catching up with some of these crooks by 1994 -- the year that National Medical Enterprises paid a then-record \$379 million in fines and restitution for fraud in psychiatric services. In 1997, the mega-giant Tenet Healthcare Corp. agreed to pay \$100 million to settle claims that patients were kept in psychiatric hospitals simply to maximize insurance payments. In 1999 alone, the U.S. Justice Department recovered \$840 million stolen from the taxpayers through health-care fraud.

Columbia/HCA Health Corp., America's largest hospital company, agreed to pay \$745 million to settle civil fraud charges. In 2001, Tap Pharmaceuticals agreed to pay \$875 million, including a \$290-million criminal fine. Schering-Plough Corp. will pay the U.S. Food and Drug Administration \$500 million.

Lest you think that all that is involved here is a few hundred billion in tax dollars, think again. People die as a result of these corporate practices. American

nursing-home advocate Ila Swan, testifying before the Senate Committee on Aging, stated: "I am still aghast at collecting 26,000 death certificates of nursing-home residents, showing the causes of death from starvation, dehydration, fecal impactions, bedsores and urinary tract infections."

Are all for-profit contractors providing public services engaged in fraud? Of course not. But you don't need to commit outright fraud to rip off the public. If the private-sector trashing of medicare in the U.S. doesn't convince you to keep these vultures away from your public services then we can turn to our own backyard and look at what P3s have to offer public education.

In 1994, Nova Scotia committed itself to the most extensive experiment in P3 schools anywhere in Canada. Called "leaseback" arrangements, they are common in the U.S. The government leases the schools from a contractor and then agrees to buy the school (or hospital, or prison) outright at the end of 20 to 35 years. In Nova Scotia, the government contracted the construction of 30 P3 schools to a local consortium. Within six years, there were so many scandals and improprieties the whole grand experiment was causing a public uproar. The government cancelled all future P3 construction. But by then, the 30 schools - with contracts as long as 35 years -- were slated to cost the public \$32 million more than if they had been built in the traditional manner.

It isn't just money. It turned out that corporations, not local preferences, determined where new schools would be built, usually on land already owned by a member of the consortium. And the consortium preferred to locate in upper-income subdivisions with lower land costs, rather than in urban cores where the schools were actually needed.

You might think that if you were leasing the school you wouldn't have to worry about repairs. Think again. The taxpayer is responsible for the operating costs, capital improvements and repairs, and technology upgrading. The private owners were assured of receiving 89 per cent of their costs through leasing charges, and will still own the building and the land when the lease is up. Then the government has to buy the school whether or not it is still needed.

Not sweet enough for you? The contract exempts the owners and the builders from any legal or

financial liability for shoddy school construction, or even faulty wiring and plumbing. This was an enormous incentive for using cheap labour and low-quality materials. And, of course, since the corporation owns the schools, it has the right to use them and all their technology for profitable activities after hours, on weekends and during the summer.

The C2P3 conference hosts didn't mention the Nova Scotia fiasco, which is a little strange given that it presented the first Halifax P3 school with its first prize in the "infrastructure" category in 1998. Students and staff in that school were still drinking bottled water in 2001, 12 months after arsenic was found in the school's well water. A water-filtration system had been installed, but it wasn't being used because the school board and the school's corporate owner couldn't agree on who was responsible for providing students with clean water.

I suppose we should give C2P3 a break. It's hard to find a corporation today that isn't fiddling the books

WORLD'S HIGHEST STANDARD OF LIVING



and/or stifling the public. Case in point -- Accenture (formerly Andersen Consulting of Enron infamy) is right at the top of the list of "sponsor members" in C2P3's welcoming letter to conference delegates. Among other things, Accenture is known in Ontario for its outrageous cost overruns (from \$70 million to \$180 million) in its welfare privatization scheme. They paid some project managers \$575 an hour.

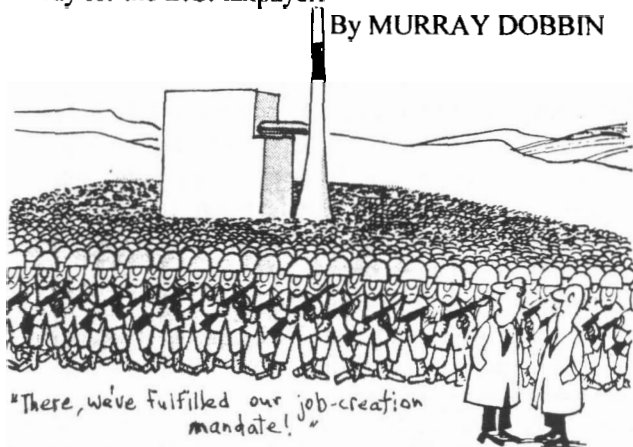
If Canadians actually buy the argument about P3s providing better and cheaper public services it will only be after a prolonged period of intensive

stupidification. But governments are already there. It doesn't seem to matter how many P3 disasters -- trains in Britain, water in Latin America, prisons and schools in the U.S. -- rain down on an unsuspecting public. It's a matter of faith, not reason.

Accenture has just been handed several divisions of B.C. Hydro to run.

Pray for the B.C. taxpayer.

By MURRAY DOBBIN



BC CHAMBER CALLS FOR RESTORATION OF THE BUSINESS VOTE FOR BC'S NEXT MUNICIPAL ELECTION

British Columbia Chamber of Commerce President John Winter is calling on the Province to legislate immediate changes to the Elections Act which would permit owners of businesses in BC the right to vote in local elections, regardless of their place of residence.



**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

The Annual Darwin Award – posthumous
(given to someone who does the service of ending their presence on the planet)

AND THE WINNER:

PADERBORN, GERMANY - Overzealous zoo-keeper Friedrich Riesfeldt fed his constipated elephant, Stefan, 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let fly-and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of poop!

Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him. "The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him," said flabbergasted Paderborn police detective Erik Dern. "With no one there to help him, he lay under all that dung for at least an hour before a watchman came along, and during that time he suffocated. "It is just one of those freak accidents that happen



Seniors' Benefits

I've received numerous complaints from seniors who have been spending much of their income on prescriptions and dispensing fees.

This problem could be eliminated if they receive a letter doctor to be put under Plan G for low income people. I have been sharing this information with many low income citizens and they no longer pay for prescriptions and dispensing fees.

The same rule applies for psychiatric patients who require medication. There have been so many changes it is most difficult to keep up with them. If you need further information please talk to me.

By IRENE SCHMIDT

War

I walk through war each morning
Through a market where health and sanity are bought and sold
The body count is high, getting higher they say
The injured perhaps more frightening than the dead,
Who eventually go away and give us peace (being biodegradable)

Whoever speaks of hellfire and damnation
Have yet to see the myriads of demon-possessed
In our neighbourhood
Their only cries "Up, down, rock"

Who still possess young and healthy hearts
Who hang on, in spite of the lack of humanity in man –
Waiting for the Man, the doctor to fix their sorry souls.

The demons have everyday faces - no horns or tails –
They be need, neglect, and maybe Just bad luck
to be born.

Their hosts weave in and out, ebb and flow around us;
Flotsam and jetsam
Bobbing to the beat of their pain

Careful to make a path
For the uninitiated
Knowing our innocence or ignorance places us beyond their touch,
beyond their sphere of influence.
Some soon to be driftglass on distant cosmic beaches.

For these the war is lost
The war on drugs
The war on inhumanity
The war on love.

Wilhelmina

BARDS ON THE BLOCK

*Coming Soon! When
Carnegie's new patio opens!!*

< Musicians >

< Politicians >

< Poets >

< Puppets >

< Dancers >

Open Mike - Look for Posters

I could do something with my life;
I could fight tyranny and oppression,
help to create a new society where
everyone is free and equal

If only I could get
out of this chair



Suicide

Ironic when you wanna die
you can't quite pull it off
Ended up in St. Paul's
can't even get suicide right
talk about being a loser
can't even kill yourself

Knew a guy hung himself
They cut him down just in time
7 months in a looney bin
seeing Psycho The Rapist
for botching the job

If you're gonna do it make sure
Knew another brother blew a gram
One shot trying to join his dead girlfriend
lying there beside him in bed dead

His arm just died but he survived
Paid the price with a gimpy arm for a year
Miracle when it finally woke up again

Yet other people just up and die over nothing
I guess it's up to God when you go
Some of us can't stop our own suffering
without divine intervention
Point being is don't even try
When the Creator wants you back
He'll come for you. You have no choice
whether you check out or not.

..another word on Sam

Three cheers for all of the hard working health care professionals at the Peace Arch Hospital! A special and tender thank you to the nurses on the Intensive Care Unit who looked after my dad as he struggled through the last week of his life.

My father, Sam Roddan was an amazing individual. He was an articulate and quirky human being who became even more interesting and zesty as he aged. As a dear friend mentioned at his funeral, "He was too young to die at 87!" Sam kept his vim and vigor right up until the end.

I loved my dad with all my heart. When I realized he was dying, he became the most important person in my world. The old roles were reversed; I became his protector and advocate. My love and concern for his comfort and care burnt fiercely. The nurses, familiar with the twilight zone of hope and despair, helped Sam live his last days with both love and dignity.

I was amazed at how much respect and concern they paid towards this dying old man. He had been put on a respirator and was unable to speak. Most days he lay in morphine induced slumber. How could they know what a vibrant, loving, caring and creative gem he was? But they hovered around him and carefully tuned the machines that connected Sam to the slim threads of life. They encouraged and supported him; speaking to him, gently inserting needles and medication, unflustered by the alarm bells on the machines and carefully, gently and yes lovingly did their job.

Sam was a lucky man. Even in his death! He left quickly, slipping away after a week-long battle with pneumonia. But when the tide began to go out for Sam; the nurses floated gently, not only around Sam but around his family too. As we sat with him and held his large warm hands and said all the things that lay buried in our hearts the nurses reassured us with their smiles and the care that streamed from their eyes like our tears. I loved Sam because he was my dad, but they cared for him because he was a human being deserving kindness and tenderness in his last days. Three cheers for the nurses who can work their magic under the tremendous pressures currently imposed upon our healthcare system by a government which seems to be neither concerned nor interested in the human tragedies of its people.

Shame on the arrogance of this government which demonstrates its small-mindedness and weak spirit in dealing with it's most vulnerable charges; children and the aged...

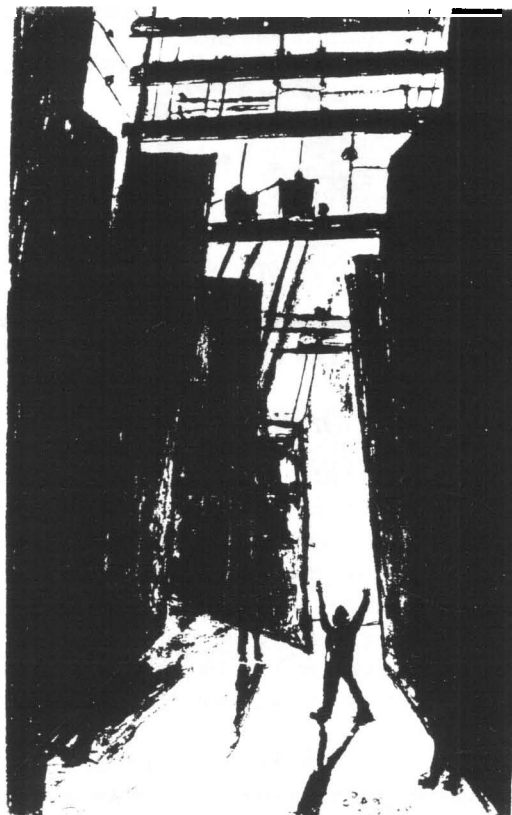
I am a high school teacher and Sam was also a teacher. He knew well the struggles that happen daily in our classrooms across the province! I say again "Shame" on a government which can only mouth words of fiscal responsibility and economic reality while leaving the real work of caring and humanity up to others.

Three cheers to all the hardworking and often unappreciated heroes and heroines who toil in our publicly funded social institutions.

Three. cheers for those who reach out, in spite of shrinking budgets and this government's shortsighted bills arid policies and make that small difference which can mean so much to a dying man and his weeping daughter.

Three cheers to you all!

Janet 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

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

Free donations accepted.
Carnegie
NEWSLETTER
401 Main St., Vancouver, BC V6A 2T7 Email: carnegie@direct.ca

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

Submission Deadline
for next issue:
Monday, August 12

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association
 can help you with:

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

**Come to the Dera office at 425 Carrall Street or
 phone us at 682 - 0931**
**DERA has been serving the Downtown Eastside
 for 28 years!!!!**

When you build a fence, have a gate so others can visit you.

A friend kept a cow in a small field with an electric fence around it. The fence was just one strand of wire, but the wire carried an electric shock which the cow didn't like.

After a few weeks my friend took down the electric fence. He intended to put it up around another field. He wanted to move the cow from the old field to the new one, and he asked me to help him. We tried to drive the cow out of the old field, but she wouldn't cross the line where the fence had been. She would stop dead as though there was a barrier in front of her. But there was nothing in front of her except her memories of what had been there in the past. It took two men, two women and a dog to shift the cow from one field, where she had eaten most of the grass, to another field that was knee deep in clover.

Many of us are like that cow. We have invisible fences around us that prevent us from reaching out to others. The Downtown Eastside is made up of many different communities that don't communicate with each other all that well, yet most of these communities have two important things in common: They are made up of low income people, and they are made up of people who are fighting for respect and justice.

A main theme in the long history of the Downtown Eastside is the struggle for human rights by many different communities - First Nations, Chinese, Japanese, Latino, working class, unemployed, low income singles and families, drug users, seniors, youth, women, children (who need safe streets and good schools), sex trade workers, people with disabilities, homeless people, volunteers, social activists, small business people, and many other groups.

We need to find a way to cross fences, to reach out to each other in a more trusting way. After all, it is the people who are the most wonderful part of the Downtown Eastside - the caring, courageous, feisty, irrepressible people who keep going in spite of everything.

One way to communicate with each other is through respectful, balanced articles in *Carnegie Newsletter*. In the last issue of the *Newsletter* (July 15/02) there was an inset from *Community Directions* - a Community Directions Newsletter. It was informative



and well-written, and I was happy to learn about the activities of this group. I always feel more hopeful and energetic when I visit the folks at *Community Directions*.

By SANDY CAMERON

Women's Stories Wanted

- Are you a woman who knows what the peoples of this area and the land was like before contact?
- Do you have memories of going to the Carnegie Library when it was Vancouver's only library, before the 1950's?
- Do you remember going to the Museum when it was on the third floor of the building?
- Did you work here before 1967?
- Do you have you friends or family members who worked here and have passed away?

Why the questions?

Because I'm writing a book about the history of Carnegie and I'm looking for women who were connected to this building and who want to tell their stories. I'm going to produce a booklet of some of these interviews when Carnegie celebrates it's 100th anniversary next fall. My book, Vancouver's Carnegie Library: One Hundred Years of Women's Stories, will be finished in two years.

If you'd like to be interviewed, you could leave a note for me in the Carnegie Newsletter office on the second floor. I'm using the computers here most days. Also email me at lindajones98@hotmail.com.

Linda Jones (formerly Linda Moreau, formerly of End Legislated Poverty)

Libby and DERA

Libby Davies, our Member of Parliament, was the guest at DERA's General Membership meeting on July 12 in Carnegie. It's always good to hear from her on what can be and is being done in our neighbourhood, and in Ottawa, to keep the Downtown Eastside strong and vital.

Libby opened with words of praise and admiration for the struggles and issues that DERA members, staff and volunteers have been and are involved in over its 28-year history. The organization will be 29 on August 29th this year.

Carnegie, closing the Main & Hastings Liquor store, getting bylaws passed that made absentee landlords have doors that close & lock, windows that open, sprinklers, .. stuff like that; the campaign to ban knives in bars and get Lysol and Ginseng brandy and rice wine and other alcohol substitutes/'cooking products' regulated; the basic need for housing, then an endeavour to run A Low Income Community Enterprise (ALICE - a food store;) SHIPSHAPE as a program for seniors, the ongoing involvement with Chinese Seniors and the annual fundraising efforts; the Downtown Deposit Project, forerunner of the idea that brought Four Corners to fruition, a Community Market that was taken on independently in its 2nd year, the Call 'n Post for really cheap phone service, secure post boxes, access to Internet and good printing; and now the struggle to secure housing in public-private partnerships and the harsh realities of the business world.

Libby touched on much of this and then put it in the context of Gordon Campbell and the agenda that his backers (those he answers to and whose bidding he does) have. Her questions in Ottawa directly attack the Liberal's blind eye as Campbell misuses Health and Housing money. It seems the perception of Canada not having a western (or northern or eastern (east of Quebec)) part that has to answer for federal money is more true each day.

Libby went across the country to talk with housing advocates and gather information on the effects of the federal cop-out on housing and various provincial governments making it infinitely worse. She presented a private member's bill to enshrine in law a Housing Bill of Rights. It was only permitted as a "non-voting" matter, to save the Liberals from

further hypocrisy in voting it down. She also spoke of her just-completed work in Europe getting more fuel for the fight on drug issues.

For some time Libby has been bringing community input to Ottawa on harm reduction, treatment, prevention and enforcement – the four pillar approach – and pressuring more than one Fed. Health Minister to recognize the severity of drug overdoses and the criminal intent behind those opposed to anything but



incarceration. A stark reference to the ongoing scene right outside Carnegie's doors was enough to make some people wonder what all this was going to accomplish – but Libby responded with a much-needed reality check: "There is no immediate or overnight action that will miraculously stop the drug scene, but just locking up everyone involved doesn't work either. What's been happening with harm reduction efforts and education is the only long-term measure; it works well in Europe and we have to find the political will here."

Libby returned to the broader picture of the cuts and devastation that Campbell and the Clarke-NPA City gov't. are and will visit on our community. The call to organize and resist is one part, but the need is to have a viable alternative. The way our system works with 'first-past-the-post' winning still leaves "anyone but Campbell" or even "anyone but Clarke" iffy – if people spread support among a half dozen candidates or parties the Liberals/NPA will win just by sticking together.

All this was and is refreshing with the recent media attacks on DERA in the *Courier*. There are problems – "real boats rock" – but the portrayal of DERA as a

sleazy or slipshod organization run by incompetents is sick. The writing takes factual information provided by DERA and twists it into a story in the best interests of Jaimie Lee Hamilton and others bent on destroying our community's oldest and most respected residents association.

Hamilton was part of an acclamation by-election a few months ago, nominated and then on the Board because there were enough candidates to fill the vacant seats.

The Board went through 3 months of disruption, with Hamilton tying up meetings with endless nonsense about procedure and vicious attacks on staff and then on any Board member not in attendance. She progressed to disrupting business at the Call n' Post and at the Metropole with lies and innuendo about staff, operations and petty differences exaggerated into life or death issues. One staff member told her point blank to stay out of his life and let him speak for himself regarding an employment issue. Hamilton continued to badger staff, making stuff up as she went and calling meetings by lying about the support from other Board members.

Things got progressively worse, with documents being stolen from DERA's "shabby(?)" office and Hamilton then falsely saying she had the Board's support in demanding the resignation of Terry Hanley, DERA's Executive Officer. The Board had had enough, and voted to remove her from the position of Secretary and to call a Special General Meeting to recommend to the membership that she



be removed from the Position of Director and that her membership in DERA be revoked.

Proper notice was given and the day before the meeting Hamilton came in and submitted a resignation. The meeting went ahead as planned, since the perception – voiced incorrectly in the *Courier* – would be that she quit in righteous form, having done nothing wrong. The scenario that was entirely possible, had the meeting not gone ahead,

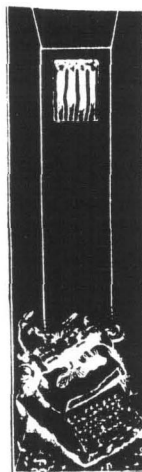
was for Hamilton to reappear at DERA on the next business day and want another membership.

The vote at the meeting was over 80% in favour of kicking her out. The matter also alluded to about losing subsidized housing is separate from the Metropole as well. Hamilton runs an "escort" thing, having money for ads every week in the paper, and the income she realizes from this "service". None of this is declared, of course, and the implication she keeps voicing is that she can do this because she (was) on DERA's Board! Nice try.

All this is to give context to the implications in the *Courier* articles about how rotten DERA is – by innuendo – and how innocent the motives and backstabbing crap of Hamilton and "former DERA employees" are. As for "refusing to answer questions and hanging up" I (as DERA's Treasurer) said 3 or 4 times, "If you want the correct information, please call Terry Hanley at DERA." This wasn't what the guy wanted to hear, but I wasn't going to keep repeating myself because he wanted to practice being stupid.

As Terry said, "DERA is fine and will certainly survive this." Hamilton might not...

By PAULR TAYLOR



...the number of people at risk of homelessness in the GVRD increased 65% in five years, from 80,000 in 1991 to 131,000 in 1996.

1,121 homeless people, including 71 children, were counted during a 24-hour survey in January 2002

- facts from a just-released study of homelessness in Greater Vancouver