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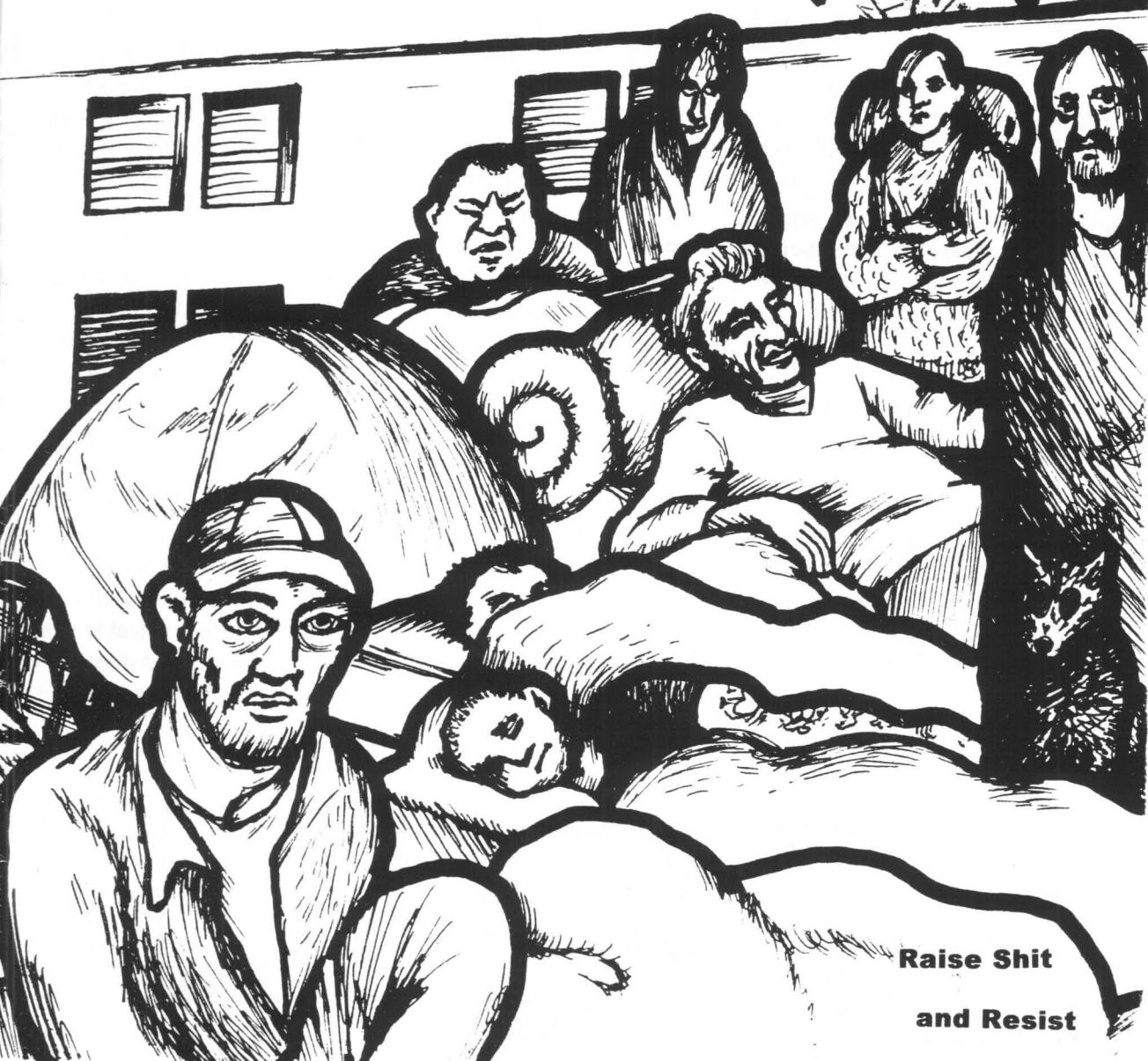
Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

401 Main St, Vancouver V6A 2T7
604-665-2289

OCTOBER 1, 2002

carnnews@vcn.bc.ca



Raise Shit

and Resist

Bustin' into Woodwards

In the second week of September I heard that Gordzilla and his band of slimy cut-throats were quietly selling off the Woodwards building . Jim had been talking about occupying Woodwards for weeks before but the idea had seemed somewhat daunting to me. The urgency of the news - that the shadows were moving - dissolved any trepidation I had .

Saturday Morning (the 14th) three of us and one dog met on the Abbott side of the building with pack – sacks full of camping gear, banners, a megaphone and two extension ladders . We heard guard dogs inside so I crowbarred through the boarded up second story window with pepper-spray at the ready . Thankfully the dogs didn't come up from the main floor, so we quickly hauled all our stuff (and our dog) in through the window . Then we hurriedly hung banners in the southeast corner windows in preparation for the rally marching down Hastings St. from Victory square .

The rally wasn't large but it was loud and enthusiastic, chanting "Campbell's cuts are class war!!" . Emboldened by the passion of the people, I grabbed the megaphone: " The provincial government is planning to sell off this building that has for a decade been slated for social housing to a private developer . This is a theft from our community and so we are opening Woodwards today and inviting any one who wants to come up and visit our new social housing!" I was hardly electrifying, but people began climbing the ladders and entering the gutted place.

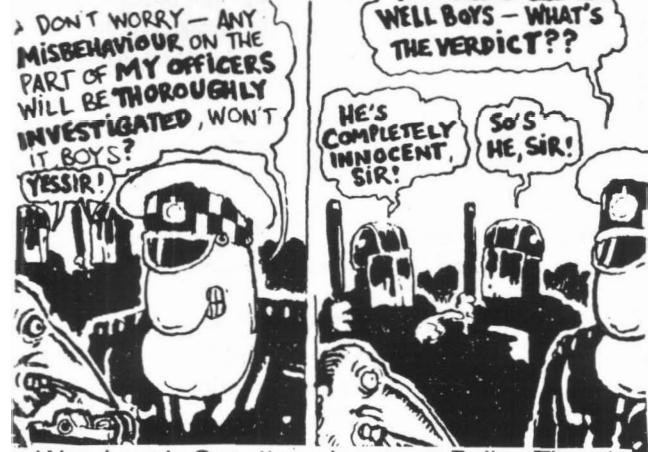
Woodwards is huge and primed for development. After a brief meeting of folks determined to occupy (roughly 10 men and women), I grabbed an armful of banners and a sturdy looking fellow to climb the big red "W". The air was a bit still that day and, after a thrilling climb to the top, three long banners hung from the "W" saying "**Campbell's Olympic Shame**". This refers to the evil ones' willingness to spend billions and billions of dollars on the chance of hosting a two-week long sporting event eight years down the road, while our own citizens suffer more and more from deprivation of the basic necessities of life .

Since the "government " began this current swindle of Woodwards from the Downtown Eastside community and B.C. society, what began as a modest political statement has taken on a life of its own . It has grown into a huge squat of homeless people, complete with despicable police brutality, media contortions, huge public support and visceral commitment from people holding the politicians to their responsibilities . The current slogan the folks are chanting the loudest is " we shall win ! " .

WE SHALL WIN !!

shawn m.





Woodwards Squatters denounce Police Threats

After a successful rally of hundreds of people outside the Woodwards Building, the police spoke with a representative of the squatters inside. Cst. Dave Dickson said, "We are disbanding for now, but we will be back tomorrow. We will be back to remove people with force, and if they are violent we will use pepper-spray. We've stopped negotiating." "This is outrageous," said Kaspar, a squatter. "We are not violent. We have not used any violence, and we have no intention of using violence. We oppose the police using violence to evict homeless people from the squat."

"We are constructive, not destructive," said another squatter named Jean. "We are for a constructive way of solving the problem of homelessness. We call this social housing. We are opposed to any destructive actions on the part of the police."

"The use of pepper-spray, legal prosecution, and imprisonment against people who are making homes for ourselves out of a derelict building that was slated for social housing is unquestionably immoral. This violates our human rights and international law," said a squatter named L.

"We would like to thank all those who came out to support our cause, including Councillor Fred Bass, Marg Prevost, MP Libby Davies, Jack Layton, MLA Jenny Kwan, Sheila Baxter, and Jim Sinclair, President of the BC Federation of Labour," said Jim Layden. "We will continue to fight the BC Liberal government, with whatever tools we can find. This Squat is one such tool, and we will use it – we will peacefully occupy the Woodwards building until our demands for social housing are met."

WOODWARD'S

Down on Hastings, Woodward's stands moldering in her dusty dreams of glory when she was a shopping mecca. Across the street derelict buildings echo her demise. But last Tuesday night when the sun went down, she was roused from her troubled slumbers by a dandy rally and march.

It was held to lend support to the courageous Woodward's Squatters who want to have the building turned into social housing for the homeless. But the struggle hasn't been easy. The squatters got the old heave-ho by the police early Saturday morning, and again on Sunday when they were chased off the sidewalk.

In response, the Anti-Poverty Committee organized the rally. It was like a call to arms. Many people and organizations have responded with donations of money, food, bedding, and building materials. They also came down to give moral support and inspire with words of encouragement.

George Heyman, president of the BCGEU said: "This building was dedicated for social housing and it needs to be developed for social housing. I call on the government, and the premier, and George Abbott to follow through on what should have been done long ago. Develop this huge, great building for the people of the Downtown East Side, so you can have housing, so you can be a full participant in this community and lead a decent life." And the people chanted:

"Everybody needs a home!"

Hey Hey! Ho Ho!"

When the police rousted out and arrested the squatters, lawyer John Richardson was with them. He took issue with police tactics. Richardson said that the police destroyed the personal property of the squatters. Photographs, identification, medication, and bedding were thrown into trash bins and garbage compactors. He asked: "Are these people in need of assistance? People deserving of care and compassion? Or are they criminals, to be kicked and beaten and chased and imprisoned?"

"Shame! Shame!"

Libby Davies (MP Vancouver East) also sided with the squatters. She told the crowd that she asked the police chief "... to exercise caution and restraint, and to not trample on people's rights in defending their human rights."



The Woodward's building has been the subject of much speculation about it's future use. But there also has been foot dragging on the part of the owners and governments in developing the site. Davies said that this is the most important issue in the neighborhood and that there is strong public support in Vancouver for social housing. "What we want to see happen, the solution here, is to say to the city, and to the province, and to the feds, that you must sit down with the community, that you must make sure that this building is not lost, and that social housing is made available to the people who need it in the community."

"No Justice, No Peace!"

Local resident Rick Lavallie was introduced as another 'arrestee'. "Hello, my brothers and sisters. Listen." he said, "I'm handicapped, you guys. Listen to me closely. The police dragged me across the floor. But you all listen to this! I got twenty stitches into my back!" And the people said:

"For Shame! For Shame!"

But Lavallie wasn't through. He also threatened to have his lawyer bring charges against the police. "Listen for a second, guys. You know what? This is native land we're standing on, right? I got to say, guys, we got to fight for this land. All right people! We got to fight for this land!"

"Yay! Yay! Yay!"

Lavallie also had a message to the premier. "I tell you, Campbell, there's a thousand warriors out here right now!"

"Gordon Campbell's got to go!"

Hey Hey! Ho Ho!

Anita Kennedy spoke to the crowd and pointed out that with the lack of opposition in the legislature we need to protect our rights. She also said how proud she was of the squatters and the job they've done.

"The people united!"

Will never be defeated!"

Beverley Jones contributed to the evening with a fine voice by belting out her eagle song:

"Way oh hey oh hey oh

Way oh hey oh hey oh."

After the speeches and songs, the rebels moved out. 600 strong: They marched on Abbot, up Cordova,

Cambie and back down Hastings. A few buses and cars were held up as the marchers passed. All the way they chanted, blew whistles and beat on drums.

"Fight fight fight!"

Housing is a right!

They carried flags and banners and signs. They said: "Hospital Employees Union, CUPE", and "Collective Opposed to Police Brutality", and "Stop the War on the Poor", and "Students for Class War", and "Simon Fraser Student Society", and one that said: "Bad Cop, No Do Nut, 5 a.m. Bust on the Homeless". They marched onwards.

"The people united!"

Will never be defeated!"

There were mothers pushing toddlers, fathers carrying babies, people on bicycles, a few dogs on leashes, a person on crutches, homeless people, your average joes and jills, and they were all together chanting:

"Whose building?"



"Our Building!"

And as they marched along, police were waiting in the wings, waiting for trouble, waiting to pounce. But there was nothing for them to do. The marchers were peaceful. The only things disturbed were one or two pigeons that circled overhead.

"We will win!"

"Whose Street? Our Street!"

Back on the corner of Abbott and Hastings, the crowd milled around, talking, taking pictures, some recording with video cameras. The police across the street were also videotaping. The sidewalk campers began to get settled. It was going to be a long night. Kerry Pakarinen said it was starting to get colder and was busy organizing temporary shelters. But he wasn't worried about the police coming again and taking away their bedding and things. He said if they did "... destroy the little bits and pieces that these people have, then let them. All we'll be is back in force again with even a larger voice."

Pakarinen felt that the money the city spent on the police swat team and everything else could be better used. "If they gave us that money," he said, "We could be renting, we could have the down payment on a property right now. They're spending all this cash to beat up the homeless when they're already dissected by society as it is. Here they throw all this money at police officers to do it again. It's reprehensible."

Some volunteers began making cucumber and tuna sandwiches and handing them out. There were people like Anne Warren from Sorrento who donated food and mentioned that they need kitchen things and propane to carry on. She said the Carnegie Centre brought down chili and corn bread one day. Other people helped out with the food by making hamburgers and hot dogs.

Gale Marriott and Carlos were on the sandwich detail. When asked about the squatters' situation Marriott said: "I'm tired and fed up with people living in rat and cockroach infested rooms. I'm tired and sick of people dying on the streets. I'm tired of people not having proper adequate housing. And I'm sick and tired of people down here treated like a bunch of morons. They are human beings and they were driven into this situation by that bundle of puke, Campbell. He's cutting 19,000 more off on the first of October. He's a mental defective and should be shot. I am going to stay here until we get what we want. These people deserve a home, not a street corner and a cement sidewalk. And we don't deserve police brutality either."

Finally, to put it all in perspective, organizer Anton Pilipa gave his take on the purpose of this rally: "We intend to show just how much public support exists for turning Woodward's into social housing. We intend to show to the people that this government can be fought, that we can win. And we also want to show that the homeless and poor people who are staying here do have allies, that they're not alone, that they will not fight alone, and that they will have unions and churches and community groups and anti-poverty groups and all manner of people and organizations supporting them."

As a follow up, Debbie, a volunteer with The Anti-Poverty Committee, was excited about Libby Davies coming down to spend a night on Abbott Street with the sidewalk campers. Also, the Committee just received a five thousand dollar donation to help continue the fight.

By PATRICK FOLEY

MAYORALTY CANDIDATES MEETING

On October 4 @ 10:00 A.M. in the Carnegie Centre Theatre, DERA will host a meeting of Mayorality candidates. Larry Campbell (COPE) has agreed to attend; Valerie MacLean (vac TEAM) has agreed to attend; Jennifer Clarke (NPA) will not be attending as her attendance at a GVRD meeting that morning apparently is of such urgency that she can't come.

(Some candidates talk *about* the Downtown Eastside; some talk *to* the Downtown Eastside).

Come prepared to talk about issues that will affect the future of our community.



TOWN HALL COMMUNITY MEETING on OPPENHEIMER PARK

Where: Oppenheimer Park

When: Wednesday, October 9, 2002

Time: 10:30 a.m. sharp!

Bring ideas, suggestions and solutions

Carnegie Volunteers

I want you ALL to know that I appreciate each and every one of you for your tireless efforts volunteering at Carnegie. Few people come into Carnegie and make the Centre seem bright, but you're each one of those many rare and wonderful people. Keep up the good work!

If you have a concern or suggestion, please feel free to attend our Volunteer Committee. This is held at 2 PM the same day as the Volunteer Dinner.

Happy Birthday to ALL October Volunteers.

Margaret Prevost, President

PS: I would like to thank the Vancouver Police Department (Dave Dickson and Scott Thompson) for returning our Cultural sharing drum. Unfortunately, this was borrowed under false pretenses. However, it is important that we have it back -- an elder will cleanse the drum before we are able to use it again.



Signs of the times

The "Strathcona" business group that has been trying to put its brand on a part of the Downtown Eastside has gotten some bad news from City Hall.

The group's plan to install signs on Cordova and Hastings Streets welcoming motorists to "Vancouver's First Neighborhood - Strathcona" was derailed Sept. 19 by a city council committee after delegations from the Downtown Eastside registered strong objections.

The Strathcona Area Merchants Society (SAMS) is trying to rename the area north of Hastings Street from Clark to Gore as part of some campaign to shine up its image.

That area, which includes Oppenheimer Park and is



home to nearly 6,000 people living mostly in social housing and hotels, has long been recognized as part of the Downtown Eastside. As everyone but SAM'S seems to realize, Strathcona is the residential area known for its single-family Victorian homes south of Hastings.

SAMS has already installed banners on lampposts along Powell, Cordova and Hastings Streets, all in the Downtown Eastside, without bothering to consult with the community. Apparently, that is considered okay practice for business groups.

The banners and signs are part of a trend to whittle down the voice of the low-income residents. City policy is to build up the profiles of businesses and condo owners in places like Gastown and Victory Square, even though the majority of residents are low-income.

The plan to install permanent signs had to go through a public meeting because it would require alterations to city property. The plan was opposed by Carnegie, DERA and Community Directions on the grounds that taking away the name of a community erases its identity, reduces its voice and is disrespectful to its residents. And it's just plain false to call that area Strathcona.

Paul Wright, a resident of the Oppenheimer area, made an eloquent plea on behalf of the community, saying how the Downtown Eastside is a compassionate, caring neighborhood that tries to deal with social problems that other areas dump on it. He said it's hard to take when outsiders who cause a lot of the problems then badmouth the community.

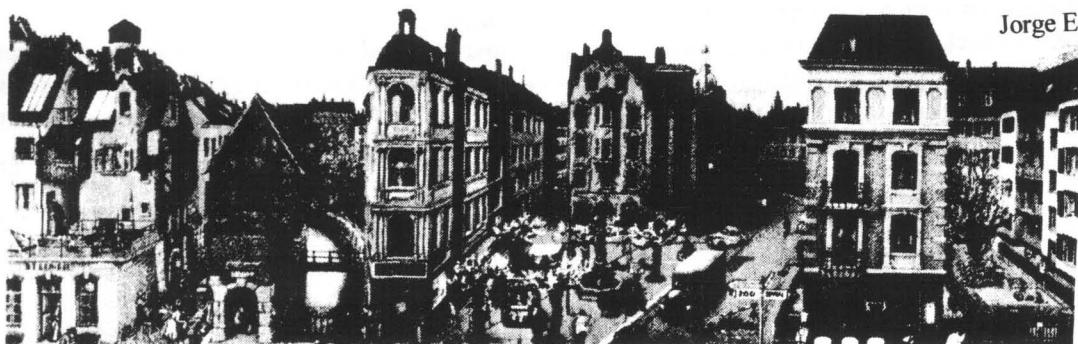
City Council told SAMS to go back to the drawing board and consult with the community on acceptable wording. That seems like a tall order, considering the strong feelings on the issue. Meanwhile, the banners are still flapping on city lampposts - plainly an ongoing insult to residents.

By BOB SARTI

"A true story of a little big reading room"

Because it had been a tough day of hard work;
because I had finished reading the latest book after midnight —the day before;
because my evening “home-made-coffee” would not forgive me the absence of a cozy lecture;
because I had eyed my next pick on those shelves — where the treasures are...
I was walking faster, crossing Hastings at 8:55 pm on that Friday,
and when I climbed those ancient stairs,
I was amazed to see the closed doors and the sing with that notice: “Closed at 8:00 pm due to an emergency”.
Then I pictured the natural beauty of our “little big reading room”: where the written word and the food for the
mind are always waiting to be awakened to life — all year long;
where the Friendly Workers of the library are always ready to help you with a good book.
Well, I guessed, I would have to come back the next day to get my prospective piece.
The good thing of our “little big reading room” is that you can always come back.
It is funny how we don't realize how important something is until it is not there for us, even for a short while.
On that night, I realized the idea quite clearly: the world is far from complete without our “little big reading room” at Carnegie; along with my neighbors of this “territorio libre”, that little temple of knowledge on the
Down Town East Side -where the Great Spirit Is and has been for years and years
... well before any cut.
Our little big reading room makes a big difference in our citadine landscape, the landscape of a Place of
Vancouver, which is fighting onward for His legitimate right to stay precisely there.

Jorge Escalan



Hepatitis and HIV Education and Outreach
449 East Hastings St
Vancouver, BC. V6A 1P5

www.hephive.org
604 254-9949 ext 232
hephivel@shaw.ca

Hepatitis C Health Fair October 11, 2002

HepHIVE is hosting the Second Annual Hepatitis C Health Fair at the Carnegie Centre on October 11.
The event will take place in the Theatre from 11am-3pm.

Hepatitis C is a major health concern in the DTES, which has the highest new infection rate in North America. There continues to be a need for education and prevention. The infection rate in the Aboriginal population is *eight times* higher than in the Canadian born non-Aboriginal population. HepHIVE proposes to have this health fair address these concerns and many of the guest speakers will focus on the aboriginal hepatitis C issue.

The Street Nurses will also be at the fair. They will do free testing and hepatitis A and B vaccinations.

Door prizes will be given out every hour and refreshments will be served all day. Everyone is welcome.

From The Carnegie Library
Some of our New Titles this week:

Voices of Revolution: The dissident Press in America by Rodger Streitmatter The author presents 14 case studies that examine the effect that dissent or alternative periodicals had on American society from 1830 to the present.

Hidden Agendas by John Pilger. Pilger is well known for his expose on the genocide in East Timor. He has written numerous books and articles on recent war and the effect of sanctions on the people of Iraq. *Hidden Agendas* weaves together many struggles from the Liverpool Dockers to forced labourers in Burma

Classical Music 101 by Fred Plotkin. This is a comprehensive guide which introduces the reader to over 100 significant composers. The author includes a discography and helpful advise on how to get the most out of listening to music.

Tibetan Book Of Living and Dying by Sogal Rinpoche. An acclaimed favourite, always in demand, which provides information from the Tibetan tradition on meditation and the practice of

compassion for the dying.

Their Own History by Betty Griffin and Susan Lockhart. Local authors give us the proud history of the working class women who shaped the province of British Columbia.

Humanities 101.. .Binder is available for consultation at Library Check-in Desk

Remember, if there is a title you want ordered, we are open to suggestions and

Yes..The Best Olympics Ever?: Social Impacts of Sydney 2000 by Helen Lenskyj *is on order for the Carnegie Library..*

A big Thank You to all who participated in the Literacy Day Events. To our celebrated author and long time supporter of Carnegie Larry Loyie congratulations! It was an honour to have you do your "launch" here. To the dashing MC.. the Carnegie Readers, the marvelous puppeteer and of course Kitchen for the SUPERCALIFRAGILISTICEXPEALIDOCIOUS cake!

and the quote from a patron at the book giveaway... "Reading is a socially acceptable way of escaping reality"... .We couldn't have done it without you.

Mary Ann C



A TASTE OF THE ORPHEUM
with writer and historian, CHUCK DAVIS
part of the

ORPHEUM 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

On November 7, 2002 Vancouver's 'Grand Old Lady of Granville Street' turns 75. Spend a nostalgic hour with well-known Vancouver historian and editor-in-chief of *The Vancouver Book*, Chuck Davis, as he looks back at the Orpheum's history through slides and stories about:

- The Building
- The Vaudeville Years
- The Movie Years
- Famous Performers
- Saving the Orpheum
- The Symphony Years

A Taste of the Orpheum will be presented at the following Library Branches:
Strathcona Branch Library October 8, 1:00 pm
Carnegie Branch Library October 9, 7:30 pm

Admission is free. All are welcome.

For more info on the *Orpheum's 75th Anniversary Celebration*, which runs Oct 31 to November 11, check www.orpheum75.com.

Rare earth arias

Featuring the commissioned word arias of six women writers from the Downtown Eastside and the reactive luster of some of Vancouver's most acclaimed theatre divas, *Rare Earth Arias* is an earthly meeting of words, dresses, electrical conductivity and the celebration of the rare voice.

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Rare Earth Arias features the writing of Rosemary Georgeson, Wendy Chew, Leith Harris, Sharon Jo Jelden, Ruth Matemota Barnett, and Muriel Williams, all members of the Downtown Eastside Women's Writing Group. Artistic Directed by Marie Clements and Maiko Bae Yamamoto, and directed by Mercedes Baines, Rachel Ditor, Kathleen Flaherty, Lorena Gale, Sophie Merasty and Adrienne Wong,

Rare Earth Arias is performed by Patti Allan, Patricia Collins, Tasha Faye Evans, Patricia Idlette, Suzie Payne and Vera Wong with the operatic stylings of Katherine Harris. Set and costume design by Barbara Clayden, lighting design by James Proudfoot and stage management by David Kerr.

Rare Earth Arias is presented at The Firehall Arts Centre — Studio (280 E. Cordova), October 17th to 26th, 2002. Special pay what you can preview on October 16th. **ALL SHOWS AT 6PM.**
Tickets: \$12/10. Call 604.689.0926. Group rates available, please call 604.692.0885.

urban ink productions is a Vancouver based, First Nations production company founded in 2001 by Marie Clements. The mandate of the company is to create, develop, and produce Aboriginal and multicultural works of theatre, writing and film, utilizing an approach that embraces the combination and integration of artistic disciplines, including different forms of theatre, story-telling, dance, music, video and multi-media.

Rare Earth Arias is produced with the support of the Firehall Arts Centre Launch Pad program.



Knocking on being Knocked

This is my desire – to humble you
With all my heart

I honour myself in your grace

Within me or around me

I pray all I adore remains desired

I give you my shared heart

I give you my shared soul

I am together in spirit

I breathe each breath taken

That my blessings are given

Victoria Majeski



There is an Indian belief
that everyone is a house
of four rooms:
a physical, a mental, an emotional,
and a spiritual.

Most of us tend to live
in a room most of the time, but
unless we go into every room
every day, even if
only to keep it aired,
we are not complete

-House of Four Rooms (Morrow)

We can not live life with slippery hand,
so grab it and live it OKAY!

what has happened to him is outrageous.

Dr. Noam Choisusky, August 7, 2002,

referring to Rev. Kevin Annett



OPENING THE LID ON GENOCIDE IN CANADA: A WHISTLEBLOWER'S TALE

"LOVE AND DEATH IN THE VALLEY", by Rev. Kevin Annett, is a contemporary David and Goliath story of one man's struggle to uncover crimes against aboriginal people and children in church-run "residential schools" across Canada.

This struggle cost Rev. Annett everything - his job and career as a United Church minister, his livelihood, and even his family. But his perseverance has helped bring to light long-buried evidence that more than 50,000 native children died or were killed by Canadian church and government employees, whose goal was to exterminate non-Christian natives through sterilization programs, terror, and outright murder.

"Love and Death in the Valley" is a gripping account of how Rev. Annett helped to break the silence around these crimes by working with eyewitnesses and giving voice to their stories.

Confronted with media indifference, smear tactics and lawsuits by the United Church and RCMP, and direct attacks from persons named as criminals, Rev. Annett still brought to light the accumulated evidence of Genocide at the first International Tribunal into these crimes, in June, 1998.

For the first time, this story is available to a mass audience. First Books of Bloomington, Indiana, has published "Love and Death in the Valley" in paperback form, as of September, 2002. Advance orders for the book can be made through Rev. Annett or First Books (see below).

Rev. Annett will be conducting a continent-wide speaking tour during the fall of 2002 and the spring of 2003, to promote his book and the work of The Truth Commission into Genocide in Canada, whose aim is to initiate an International War Crimes Tribunal into Genocide against native people in Canada. Please support this important work by ordering copies of "Love and Death in the Valley", and by arranging a reading by Rev. Annett in your community.

For more information: Rev. Kevin Annett **e-mail:** kevinannett@yahoo.ca

First Books 1-800-839-8640, ext. 246 website: <http://www.lstbooks.com>

The Truth Commission into Genocide in Canada Matthew Helm, Ph.D., Convenor
email: genocideincanada@yahoo.ca **website:** <http://canadiangenocide.nativeweb.org>

Imagine a Woman

11

Imagine a woman who believes it is right and good she is a woman,
A woman who honours her experiences and tells her stories,
Who refuses to carry the sins of other within her body and life.

Imagine a woman who believes she is good,
A woman who trusts and respects herself,
Who listens to her needs and desires, and meets them with tenderness and grace.

Imagine a woman who has acknowledged the past's influence on the present,
A woman who has walked through her past,
Who has healed into the present.

Imagine a woman who authors her own life,
A woman who exerts, initiates and moves on her own behalf,
Who refuses to surrender except to her frugal self and to her wisest voice.

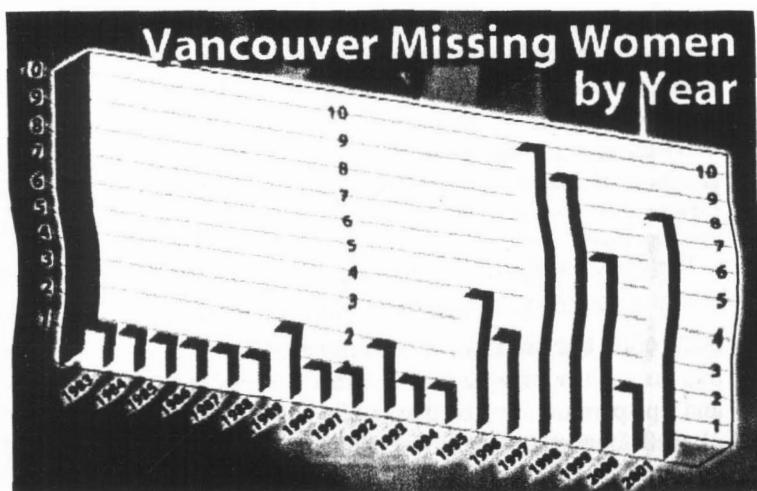
Imagine a woman who names her own gods
A woman who imagines the divine in her image and likeness
Who designs her own spiritually and allows it to inform her daily life..

Imagine a woman in love with her own body
A woman who believes her body is enough, just as it is
Who celebrates her body and its rhythms and cycles as an exquisite resource.

Imagine a woman who honours the face of the Goddess in her changing face
A woman who celebrates the accumulation of her years and her wisdom
Who refuses to use precious energy disguising the changes in her body and life

Imagine a woman who values the women in her life
A woman who sits in circles of women
Who is reminded of the truth about herself when she forgets
Imagine yourself as this woman.

Author unknown.



STRONGER THAN BLOOD

Community is how I choose where I live. Community is the women who are there for me and who want me to be there for them, the women who are real and present. They are the women who respect me and know that they are worthy of the respect I accord them. They are the women who make me laugh, the women who make me cry, the women who confront me instead of walking away and complaining behind my back; and they are the women who ultimately appreciate me doing that for them. They are glorious magnificent, gorgeous women. They are the women who are growing and looking at themselves, who dare to speak the truth and show what they feel. These powerful women, women with strong tears and deep feelings, women who know themselves and know their fears, women who face the world with their head held high, and refuse to carry the burden of society's idea of what a woman should be. They are passionate, intense, and bold. They listen to the music of their souls, and follow their heart's desires. They are women who walk with eyes wide open and meet your gaze without flinching. They are healed and healing. This is my community. These are the women who will drum and sing around my body when I die.

By MIKAYA HEART

JUSTICE FOR MISSING WOMEN

I can hardly bear to open the newspaper or watch the nightly news for fear of another story of the unfolding tragedy of the missing women of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. For me and many of the people I work with, the case of the missing women, coupled with the ongoing health crisis of drug users in the area, represents not only a colossal failure of public policy but of our democratic system itself and our faith in Canadian values of fairness, compassion and equality.

I often think of Serena Abotsway, one of 63 women missing from the Downtown Eastside, and one of the eleven women that Willy Pickton is charged with murdering. I knew Serena for several years, and in the last federal election took her and Josie, who is still alive, to vote on East Pender St. It was the first time Serena had voted in a federal election, and she had hope for the future - hope that things would improve on the street. I saw her a few times after that and then she, like so many others, 'disappeared.'

The perpetrator(s) of such vicious crimes must be held to account and brought to justice. But there are many other questions that lie unanswered; questions that are too troubling to face it seems, for they mock and rip apart any illusion that public policy is rational, well-founded and based on democratic principles of justice and the welfare of all Canadians.



The missing women and many more who are still working the streets today are not only victims of their own tragic individual circumstances, but they also fall victim to the failure of public policy. The criminalization of drug users and sex workers and their resulting marginalized status places them at greater and greater risk. The law not only failed them, it aided and abetted their demise. Federal laws pertaining to prostitution force women on the street into dangerous and illegal activities.

Not since the Fraser Commission first grappled with Canada's prostitution laws in 1985 has there been a willingness to honestly debate the impact of these hypocritical laws relating to the sex trade. As a society, we continue to turn a blind eye to the sex

trade that operates beyond the street, and instead focus law enforcement on street prostitution activities and 'communicating'. This creates a revolving door of abuse, criminalization and neglect.

Federal laws pertaining to illicit drug use have fared no better, condemning users to a life of crime, and exacerbating the health crisis among injection drug users, especially women. If there is any doubt about this, one only needs to read the latest Vancouver Injection Drug Users Study in the Canadian Medical Journal, showing HIV incidence rates among female injection drug users are about 40% higher than those of male injection drug users.

All of that is pretty awful but there is another thing gnawing its way to the surface:: when expert evidence clearly documents that our laws and policies have failed and actually create enormous

harm, why then is there a failure to act? Why, when 54 women are missing and the largest murder investigation in Canadian history is under way, are the Vancouver Police Department and the RCMP still pointing fingers at each other and saying it wasn't their jurisdiction? Why won't local authorities, or even the Minister of Justice, agree to call a public inquiry to probe the massive failure of law enforcement agencies who neglected to investigate these disappearances dating back to 1987? I have repeatedly called for a public inquiry, and will continue to do so, because the lives of these women matter and we have a responsibility to find out what went wrong and why.

I also wonder why Fed. Minister of Health Anne McLellan is stalling and holding up critically needed health interventions like supervised safe injection sites and heroin maintenance trials for chronic users who are dying daily? These interventions have strong backing locally, but we've not heard a peep out of the new Health Minister.

Having just returned from Europe with the House of Commons Special Committee on Non-Medical Use of Drugs, I know, as does the Canadian government, that there is ample evidence to support the pragmatic health approach being taken in Europe on the drug issue. Countries such as Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands have reduced crime, improved the health of drug users, and dramatically reduced the rate of new HIV infections.

The health and safety of sex workers and injection drug users and safety of the community as a whole continues to be put in jeopardy by government inaction. These dual crises continue to rage uninhibited in my riding of Vancouver East. So I have to ask the question, what does democracy mean to us and in whose interest is public policy being formulated? When Serena went to vote, she did so with the belief that she was entitled to the same dignity, worth and rights as any Canadian. I believe that. Being poor should not rob anyone of democratic rights nor access to resources and opportunities.

Being powerless is a failure of those in power, not of those who struggle at the bottom.

By LIBBY DAVIES
Member of Parliament, Vancouver East





Lose the Olympics!

The Olympics are a no-win situation - not only for the Downtown Eastside, but for the entire province. Gordon Campbell proposes to spend up to \$6 billion for low-priority mega-projects like highways, white elephant SkyTrains and elite athletic venues for the Olympics while the province is reeling under school closures, hospital downsizings and social service trashings.

In fact, you can look at the whole Olympics circus as a straight-forward highjacking of provincial resources from communities all over B.C. to enrich one of the most privileged and well-off corners of the province - the Whistler corridor, playground of the international jet-set.

Of course, Campbell won't ask the public if they approve spending public money on the Olympics. He knows they won't, just like the residents of Berne, Switzerland, didn't, in a referendum last week. He'd rather spend \$34 million of taxpayer's money to hire high-priced consultants, spin doctors and bureaucrats to convince us we want the games.. One poll by the respected polling outfit MacIntyre and Mustel Research for the environmental group SPEC, found that only 19.7 per cent of British Columbians are prepared to spend money on the Olympic games. In fact, the Olympics rated last as a spending priority behind environmental protection, health care, education, transit and public services. Campbell claims the Olympics will bring in billions of dollars in economic spinoffs. But his 45-page

economic outlook, the Economic Impact of the Winter Olympics, is such a bush-league document, so vague and unscientific, that even the usually Liberal-friendly *Vancouver Sun* columnists have been shredding it.

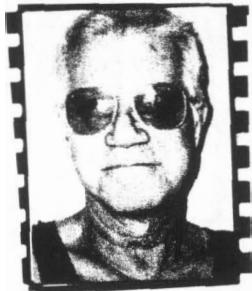
The main beneficiaries of the Olympics are the tourist industry, property developers and multi-national advertisers like Nike and Coca-Cola, all bed-fellows of the Liberals. What the rest of us will get, besides closed hospitals.. daycares..schools and courthouses, is a notched-up police state. Security measures will be in the hundreds of millions of dollars, with increased surveillance, restrictions on peaceful protest and relocation ("voluntary" or not) of homeless and other street people.

The Main and Hastings area is on the axis between two main sporting venues, B.C. Place and the Pacific Coliseum, and there is going to be terrific pressure to "clean up" the street so that visiting Olympics' officials and athletes don't get offended.

Remember the evictions of low-income people during Expo 86 to make way for tourists? Expect a re-run at the Olympics. All we get is vague burblings from the Olympics Committee, but no guarantees that the Downtown Eastside will be protected.

When you add it all up, it doesn't seem worth it, does it?

By BOB SARTI



To: International Olympic Committee
Château de Vidy
1007 Lausanne
Switzerland Fax: (41.21) 621 62 16

Please know that for the following reasons, I am in opposition to the 2010 Olympics being held in Whistler, British Columbia. I oppose this for the following reasons:

- The current BC Government has demonstrated an enthusiastic disregard for the natural environment (specifically, in reference to natural gas and oil; forestry industry given a free hand; relaxation of pollution-control policies eg. deregulation of automotive exhaust rules);
- The current BC Government has demonstrated absolute disregard for the rights of people native to our province by imposing a widely-opposed referendum on treaties;
- The current BC Government has eliminated income security for hundreds of thousands of single parents, disabled persons, the unemployed, and promised further severe cuts to provincial social programs. Further, the current BC Government has eliminated federally-mandated support for legal representation of those most affected by the cuts. At the same time, they have cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy.
- The current BC Government is committed to reducing access to medical services, required medications, publicly-held power production and infrastructure, and public transportation.
- The current BC Government has restricted access to education, halted access to affordable housing, and reinstitutionalized disabled people to save money.
- The current BC Government lied in its campaign promises to secure votes.
- The current BC Government continues to lie to its public about its activities.
- The current BC Government is holding fast in this direction despite deaths, extreme hardship, and opposition of its moves by teachers, physicians, nurses, social workers, and citizens.
- The current BC Government has opted for these moves despite the homelessness and deaths experienced in other countries which have made similar moves.

-The current BC Government is holding fast in these extreme violations of human rights and has stated plans to continue.

Finally, the current BC Government has made it clear that it cannot afford to spend enough on its citizens to ensure their basic human needs / human rights are met. If this is truly the case, then surely it cannot afford to spend the billions it has pledged for this event.

Signed,



Carnegie Learning Centre

Tutor Training

Begins Thursday, October 3rd
3:00 to 5:00, 5 sessions

If you are interested in becoming a tutor, come to the Learning Centre between 9am and noon, Mon – Fri, or call 604-665-3013 (Lucy or Debbie). We need tutors to assist learners with English, math, writing, GED and computer skills. Come and talk to us!



Victory of the Loud Little Handful

The loud little handful - as usual - will shout for the war. The pulpit will - warily and cautiously - object ... at first. The great, big, dull bulk of the nation will rub its sleepy eyes and try to make out why there should be a war, and will say, indignantly and earnestly, "It is unjust and dishonorable, and there is no necessity for it." Then the handful will shout louder. A few fair men on the other side will argue and reason against the war with speech and pen, and at first will have a hearing and be applauded, but it will not last long; those others will outshout them, and presently the antiwar audiences will thin out and lose popularity. Before long, you will see this curious thing: the speakers stoned from the platform, and free speech strangled by hordes of furious men... Next the statesmen will invent cheap lies, putting the blame upon the nation that is attacked, and every man will be glad of those conscience-soothing falsities, and will diligently study them, and refuse to examine any refutations of them; and thus he will by and by convince himself that the war is just, and will thank God for the better sleep he enjoys after this process of grotesque self-deception.

Mark Twain, "The Mysterious Stranger" (1910)

LANDLORD

Definition: (1100 A.D.)

Archaeic, medieval term meaning –Ruler of property and subjects living on said property... usually with bad attitude and squad of goons to collect taxes/rent.

Definition: (2000 A.D.)

...nothing much has changed. Only his/her "castle" is now in Richmond or Surrey – still has bad attitude and still has a goon to collect rent.

Somewhat I feel like a pawn. If I was a landlord I'd live in the building with my "subjects" and we'd all live like queens/kings!

Landlords don't read the Carnegie Newsletter or other radical (i.e. truthful) writings. Maybe they should.

Larry Mousseau

"Mary used to be really popular."



Mary, age 17, High School senior
"Now she won't talk to her friends because she doesn't trust anyone."

Psychosis is a treatable medical condition that affects thinking and perception. Three out of 100 people will get it.

Worried about yourself or a friend?
Visit www.hopevancouver.com or call us
at 604-822-9732 for confidential help.

Vancouver Coastal Health Authority

Until You Are Here

At first I surmised and then I felt you existed; I knew you were out there
I couldn't quite squint through the traffic.. it was too much to bare
It seemed to me you were elusive, as if just a trail of willowy smoke
I often dream of you – have you within reach – but you're so hard to coax.

Have I ever passed by you on the street, or just missed you rounding a bend?
Sometimes I'm sure we'd never meet and then on whom would I depend?
It can be hard to catch a star I often wonder where you are
If you will read this here and now in person or in spirit from afar

Has this all been a fantastic dream – is it real or imagined
I really don't believe so. I'll know you're the one at once, instantly
I'll read it deep within your eyes and farther into your soul
When this is meant to be the two of us will suddenly just know.

Robyn Livingstone

just pour in the gravy
then invite the maggots
it's ugly to see you die
does it hurt?
use cocaine to fake it
it's your last night
i'll just listen to the radio
and pretend to be someone else
it's easy to imagine
why all the killing and dying?
in this neighbourhood i'm the man
plenty of reasons to say no
you'll meet someone new
i knew it from the start
now i'll watch you suffer
as a familiar face
it's your life for death
get used to it
it might all be possible
it's a big surprise

charles fortin

Call for Submissions - Anpual Open exhibition of artists who support a Well Community

This year the show is **Pillows of Unrest**, an international, expressive arts and public awareness campaign dedicated to providing an outlet for personal healing and creating a platform for public education on Mental Health.

The project, conceived by National Association of Mental Health, USA Founder and CEO Frank Marquit, utilizes a pillowcase as a “canvas” and encourages those who participate to express the personal turmoil that can exist within one’s own recovery.

Through the ‘Pillows of Unrest’ project, we provide a space to express what it is that plagues our unrest and hinders our well being. By taking it upon ourselves to address these issues, we play a part in our own healing, while having the opportunity to educate those who witness the exhibit.

To participate: Use a pillowcase as your canvas. White pillowcases work best but you may use whatever color you wish.

Any materials, such as markers, glitter, buttons, photos, paint, etc., can be used but should be non-fading and permanent.

You may draw, paint, write poetry, create a slogan, or do a short story on your pillowcase. Reflect on personal issues in your recovery and the effects of stigma.



We would also appreciate a brief letter stating your opinion of this project. Is it helpful in your recovery? If so, how? This isn't required but'd be appreciated.

Submissions deadline is October 25, 2002

If you would like to participate in “Pillows of Unrest” please contact Promotions Director at Gallery Cachet, 604 687 2468 or email: gallery@gachet.org

THE NEW DISABILITY BENEFITS APPLICATION FORM

The new **Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act** will require you to complete a new application form. The application has 3 sections: one for you to complete, one for your doctor and one for your assessor. The form is expected to be long (maybe up to 20 pages). The new form is available only from your MHR office, and your Employment Assistance Worker (EAW) *must* sign it.

Your section provides space for you to describe your disability and say how it affects your day-to-day living. It should fully describe your needs and identify how you *get* the help you need.

The Disability Benefits Application will rely most heavily on your doctor's opinion. Your doctor must provide very detailed answers to questions about your disability and how it affects your daily life.

The assessor must be a Health Professional acceptable to the Ministry. The Ministry says a Health Professional means a person who is licensed or registered as a physician, psychologist; nurse or psychiatric nurse; occupational therapist, physical therapist; or social worker. Remember to remind your doctor to complete the assessor section if your doctor is going to be the assessor.

To have the best possible chance of success, your application will need to:

*Provide a diagnosis of your disability. You doctor will need to identify your disability from a list of "diagnostic codes" provided by the Ministry.

*Provide proof, in the form of your *doctor's* opinion (supported with specific details), that you have a severe "mental or physical impairment" that will continue for at least 2 years. If you have more than one medical condition, your doctor should document all conditions and impacts upon daily living activities. This is especially important to remember when the doctor is a specialist.

*Provide proof, in the form of your *Assessor's* opinion (supported with specific details), that your impairment 'directly and significantly restricts' your ability *to* perform 'daily living tasks' either continuously or for extended periods of time. Daily living activities means

- (a) the performance of meal preparation, management of finances, performance of daily shopping, usage of normal transportation means, performance of basic housework, mobility inside and outside of the home, performance of daily personal self care and management of a medication regime; OR
- (b) the performance of social functioning for persons with a severe mental impairment. ('social functionin,' means daily decision making, interacting, relating and communicating with others.)

*Provide proof, from your *Assessor*, that you need help to deal with your daily living activities in the form of either

- 'an assistive device';
- significant help or supervision of another person;
- * an 'assistance animal'

*In order to help your doctor or assessor to provide the best possible answers for you, you should take and give them as much information about your disability and your needs as you have. That means taking letters from your friends, family, community workers, counselors etc. setting out the specific details of the help they give to you. Your doctor or assessor should refer to and attach this information to their section of the Application. The letters could include information such as;

- Estimates of time they spend helping you.
- Details of the type of help they give to you (driving to do grocery shopping; carrying bags, wash floors; telephone contacts to ensure you keep appointments and/or keep up social contacts etc).

- Personal observations of your abilities (become confused in crowded stores; must take frequent rest breaks during meal preparation etc).
- Any reports you have from other professionals that are aware of your impairment (reports from an educational counselor showing learning disabilities, reports from any treatment agencies/facilities you have attended)

Encourage your doctor and assessor to pay attention to the exact language in the question. Remind them that their answers must contain enough detail to show that your disability is severe. It is not enough for the doctor to say your impairment is severe; it is crucial that the application contain hard facts as well as medical opinion. You may wish to offer to sit with your doctor when the form is filled out. If that is not possible, then offer to be available to help answer questions, if they have any.

Remember

A successful application is one that is supported with detailed and provable information about the severity of your disability. You still have the right to appeal if your application is denied.

www.PovNet.org
Septtmbre/02

[This letter went to these MLAs about walking and chewing gum at the same time...]

Mr. Richmond & Mr. Krueger,

As you are no doubt aware, changes to the Disability Benefits Program Act are imminent. It is my understanding that recipients of DBII Benefits will receive a letter in October which will question the recipient's entitlement to benefits. I further understand that many or all of these individuals will be required to prove that they are disabled for a second time.

Please note, brain injury is not curable. As we say in the brain injury community, "brain injury lasts forever - prevention is the only cure". As all of the current empirical data and clinical research recognizes that brain injury is not curable, I'm questioning the wisdom of advising brain injured recipients of DBII that they must re-prove their disability. I anticipate that on average each brain injured survivor who attempts to re-prove his/her disability will cost the provincial government an extra \$980. This money will be spent on physician visits, Case Managers, Occupational Therapists and Neuropsychological assessments, all of which are required to assess a disability due to brain injury. As current estimates indicate that there are between 32,000 and 76,000 British Columbians living with brain injury, we are talking about a significant amount of money. A conservative estimate would be \$30 Million.

I would suggest that the Ministry of Human Resources be instructed not to send DBII letters to persons with brain injury. We all want avoid an

unnecessary financial burden when doing so is

Although I have not included this in the above analysis, I'd anticipate that acute care expenditure would rise as well. Brain injury survivors who come depressed and/or enter a crisis over the prospect of losing their financial support will utilize the acute care system. We have already had a member attempt suicide over this issue. This one instance alone cost the Interior Health Authority: 5 acute care bed days, a psychiatric consult, emergency physician services, an ambulance fee, and subsequent mental health counseling. We must remember that brain injured people often have difficulty with information processing and problem-solving. My point here is that these individuals are in all likelihood not going to be able to cope with the impending DBII changes on their own. They will undoubtedly require assistance, assistance that will be unnecessarily costly.

You can take the steps necessary to ensure the unnecessary financial burden will be minimized. Will you have the courage and foresight to do so?

Please respond by September 25th. I know you are both very busy, but if we cannot deal with this problem proactively, your staff will be even busier. Brain injury survivors are used to attending their MLA's office whenever their security is threatened.

Karen Waller
Executive Director
Kamloops Brain Injury Association

Breaking Down the Barriers

This is a call for all artists in the Downtown Eastside! The UBC Alma Mater Society is looking for artwork for display in conjunction with an information forum on the Downtown Eastside.

Submission can be visual or written work.

Artwork will be put on display in the Student Union Building from October 7th to October 9th 2002.

This is a great venue in which you as artists can showcase your talent!

If you have any questions or if you wish to have your submission put on display, contact Julia Mackay at phone number **604-822-6868** or email at vexcom@ams.ubc.ca

Deadline for Submissions is Oct 3rd, 2002.



Are you prepared?

Prepare the General Strike - Notes from a pamphlet written by the General Strike Committee

The Liberal government of British Columbia came to power through an electoral fraud. It ran on a programme of systematic lies designed to conceal its

real agenda. They promised there would be no health care cuts. They promised that signed collective agreements would be respected. They promised that there would be no cuts to education funding, or cuts to public services. They promised they wouldn't reduce the minimum wage or welfare rates. Now every single election promise of any substance has been broken.

This government has abandoned any moral right to govern. It does not care if your children don't receive an education. It does not care if you live on the street. It does not care if you live or die.

A programme of struggle against the B.C. Liberals must include defending people who are poor (higher welfare rates and a \$10.00 minimum wage, for example), defending seniors, defending unions, defending non-unionized workers, defending health care, defending public services, defending rural communities, defending education, defending First Nations, defending women, defending sexual minorities, defending families (with universal daycare, for example), and defending our environment.

To achieve this programme, we need a general strike. We believe that nothing short of the massive economic and political disruption of an all-out general strike can possibly hope to defeat the current Liberal offensive. We are not talking about a symbolic one-day walkout, but rather a full-fledged general strike that shuts down the BC economy and government, and generates increasing pressure on Campbell's Liberals until they are forced to abandon their plans. We're talking about a general strike like the Quebec general strike of 1972, where the actions were organized not just by unions, but by entire communities.

Clearly, we're a long way from a general strike, but we can work towards it. We can target corporations with effective consumer boycotts. We can fight against the provincial government's plan to spend \$6 billion dollars on the Olympics at a time when health care, education and social services are being savaged. We can demand that the Olympics go elsewhere in 2010. We need to support every local struggle against the cuts by the Liberals, and we need to support our friends in the upcoming municipal elections in November.

Prepare the General Strike Committee
tel. 604-254-1421 fax.604-872-5105

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
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Overnight – 12:30am – 8:30am
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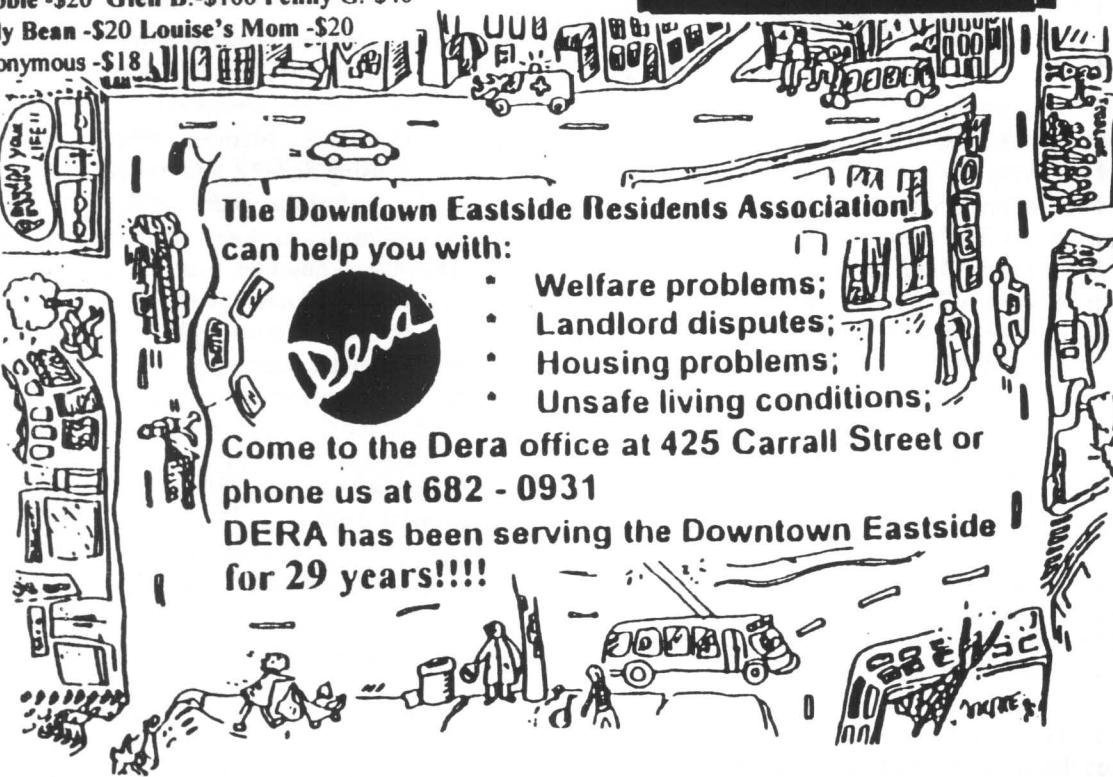
401 Main St, Vancouver V6A 2T7 Email: carnews@vcn.bc.ca

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:
Thursday, October 10



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 29 years!!!!

Dear Newsletter Crew,

I hope you enjoyed the first book of Recovery Jones. The book would not have been possible were it not for all the wonderful addicts I've met over the years, who have shared their hearts and minds with me while exploring in-depth the creative process in sobriety.

Most of all, thanks to sobriety itself for it's gift of Spirit and Freedom, without which our lives would be so different.

A heartfelt thanks to Kevin Kensick for writing/creating and publishing this book, and for his unwavering support during the difficult stages of it.

If you see or want to get this book, call Kevin at 604-716-4870. I cannot be reached because I'm still travelling through the darkness of East Vancouver, blazing a trail of cartoons similar to the ones I forged for you.



Jones



Kicking the poor . . .

Here is kicking the poor, the working poor that is. I am not very inclined to do my income tax now, but here I am living on God's love somehow.

My calculations add up to \$2,178.00 with maybe another \$150 I didn't get a receipt for. That's 2001.

The towers went down in New York, I got my picture used in a police thing about closed circuit surveillance like I'm some kind of terrorist and my motor got ripped off. Bus fares went up again. My Mom's near dying and my brother's going down the tubes as I watch. My rent went way up and I'm really noticing the homeless in the past week or so.

I am pressing on and I hope the Big W people do well getting poverty noticed before we get killed by it!

Michael Bohnert, General Delivery, PoCo

PS: That's only the bad news of the past year. It certainly wasn't all bad but things look very difficult right now. I think all these kicks mean something

PPS: Sorry again to hear about Sam Roddan. His art showed the spirit of the Downtown Eastside and spoke to all of us. Good journey Sam.



Ellen Woodsworth –

A Fighter For The Downtown Eastside

Ellen Woodsworth is running for City Council for the Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE). She has worked in the Downtown Eastside for a long time. She respects this feisty, multicultural community, and feels privileged to be part of a neighbourhood where people look out for each other.

Ellen started working for Neighbourhood Helpers in the Downtown Eastside ten years ago. Later, she was a co-founder of "Breaking the Silence Against Violence Against Women Campaign". This is an ongoing campaign to address the issues of poverty, racism and violence against women in the Downtown Eastside.

Ellen is Co-ordinator of the Seniors Summit, a coalition that has developed policy on health, housing, income and transportation for Seniors. In 1997, she became a Member of the Board of the Bridge Housing Society, and has been Chair of the Board for the last five years. Bridge Housing's \$7 million dollar, seven storey residence for women in the Downtown Eastside, was officially opened in May, 2002. The Society rents the basement and main floor to the Women's Centre for \$1.00 per year. Ellen has been a member of Strathcona Community Gardens for fourteen years. She is an award-winning member of the Green Streets Program, and a member of a committee that successfully fought for inclusion of questions concerning the unpaid work of women in the 1996 Census, making Canada the first country to do this. Also, Ellen worked with BEST to fight for, and win back from the provincial government, the Seniors' bus pass.

Listen folks, we have to vote for people in the City election in November who will fight for the Downtown Eastside. Ellen Woodsworth is one of those people, as is Jim Green who is running for City Council, and Larry Campbell who is running for Mayor. As you know, the T.V. program, DaVinci's

Inquest, is based on Larry Campbell's inspiring example.

Ellen knows that staying in the Woodward's building is important to the community. She thinks the three week waiting period for welfare, and the government policy that eliminated earning exemptions, can be stopped if enough pressure is put on the provincial government. She believes there should be a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week safe place for women in the Downtown Eastside. She supports the decriminalization of prostitution, and believes that welfare rates should be raised so people can live with dignity. Ellen, along with the other COPE candidates, supports the four pillar approach to the drug problem: (1) Prevention; (2) Treatment; (3) Harm Reduction; (4) Enforcement, and she knows that sufficient funding is essential for the four pillar approach to work. She supports the Community Directions' demand for many more units of social housing in the Downtown Eastside, and a First Nations Longhouse in Crab Pk.

Ellen says that the Downtown Eastside is the strongest community she has ever worked with. It has produced wonderful leaders, poets, artists, musicians political activists, dedicated volunteers, and thousands of caring residents. Ellen has a long history of fighting for social justice, going back to her great-uncle, J.S. Woodsworth, who was a founder of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation (CCF).

Go for it, Ellen, and may the forces of darkness disappear with a new dawn.

By SANDY CAMERON



Contact
Jenny
Wai Ching
Kwan, MLA

Working for You

1070-1641 Commercial Dr., V5L 3Y3
Phone: 775-0790 Fax: 775-0881



SPEAK UP

On September 14th, a group of activists entered and occupied the empty Woodward's building. They were speaking up about the need for housing in our province. Yes, the building is a Downtown Eastside landmark, but taking over an empty house in Smithers isn't as loud as taking over Woodward's. The important point, though, is that they spoke up. On September 6th, Chief Constable Jaime Graham was the guest speaker at DERA's monthly general meeting. A number of people went up to the microphone and told him about their concerns. They talked about how unsafe our streets are and about the Four Pillar Approach. The important point, though, is that they spoke up.

Marches, rallies, meetings, letters, demonstrations, petitions; all are ways in which we speak out about the things that concern and affect us. There are many ways in which a person can speak up about things. But there is one method that many people ignore.

Voting.

Many people did not vote last provincial election and look at what the result is. Now we are coming to a civic election. On November 16th, we will have the opportunity to speak up about who our Mayor and City Council will be for the next three years.

Will there be an increase or decrease to harm reduction programs? Will we get more parks or fewer special needs classes? Will traffic improve? Will restrictions on panhandling and busking be tightened or loosened? Will there be more music and entertainment festivals and events? You have a say in that by voting for people who support the same things you do.

Then there are all of you who don't vote because you believe that it won't change anything. You're wrong. With so many people thinking the same thing last provincial election and not voting, things have certainly changed. They've changed for the worse.

When it comes to not voting, well, a mouth that doesn't open is a voice that isn't heard.

On November 16th, SPEAK UP!

By HENRY DUTKA

Δ-Δ-Δ
2002

WOODWA

SUPPORT

