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NEWSLETTER

MARCH 1, 2004

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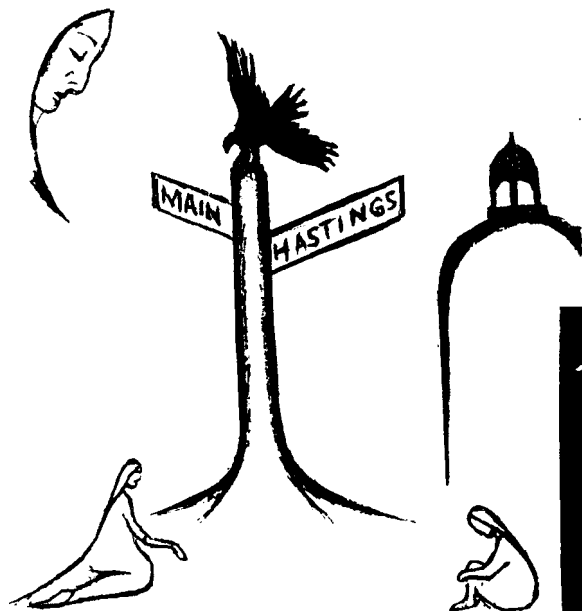


Neighbourhood News

Rev. Kevin Annett has written articles over the past 7 years or so, and a book, been interviewed, sat on panels, been invited to speak, participated in workshops, helped found a Truth Commission into Genocide in Canada and has had interaction with the United Nations. The subject of all this has been and remains the malfeasance of religious institutions and the supporting roles played by the RCMP and federal governments over the obscenities of church-run Residential Schools for Aboriginal children.

Kevin details much of the often-ludicrous attempts by mentioned churches, through their lawyers and with governmental/police collusion, to deny everything – and of course to malign him in any and every way. Internet diatribes, interfaith newsletters, and academic low-browling are just some of what he describes in a new series of articles he is posting on his own website regarding the lies being told.

The Carnegie Newsletter cannot carry the whole story or sufficient detail to make the dirty tricks honestly obvious. www.hiddenfromhistory.org has the beginnings and links with more of this sordid tale. There is also a program on 102.7 FM – Co-op Radio – every Monday in the early afternoon, with ongoing reports of hidden crimes being brought to the light of our minds. Look and listen.



PRACTICING DEMOCRACY

A ground-breaking legislative theatre experiment

Produced by Headlines Theatre

March 3 – 21

The good news is that thousands of welfare recipients will not be cut off April 1. The bad news remains that after years of cuts to social services and welfare, poverty's effects are commonplace: crime, panhandling, homelessness and malnutrition are just part of the picture, and they're not going away. What would you do?

Vancouver City Council has unanimously agreed to consider the legal report derived from Practicing Democracy, marking a Canadian first: using Theatre to create law

It's directed and joked by David Diamond; created and performed by Vancouverites experiencing cuts to welfare. Admission is by donation – no one will be turned away for lack of money

Tickets: 604-871-0508 www.headlinestheatre.com

Reservations Recommended!!

Here are times / venues for Practicing Democracy

WHERE and WHEN	W	Th	F	S	S
Japanese Hall 475 Alexander	3 *☾	4 *☾	5 ☾	6 ●☾	7 ☾
Croatian Cultural Centre ♿ 3250 Commercial Drive	10 ☾	11 ●☾	12 ☾	13 ●☾	14 ☾
St. James Community Square 3214 West 10th Ave.	17 ☾	18 ●☾	19 ☾	20 ☾	21 ☾

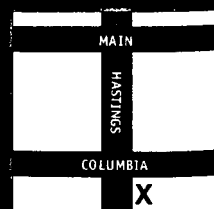
● matinees 2PM
☾ evening shows 8PM

* March 3 – preview
* March 4 – opening night

*...and more actual news: Pigeon Park Savings is set to open on March 15th in the building vacated by the Scotia Bank at Columbia & Hastings. ↓↓



On March 15th, Pigeon Park Savings will open on the corner of Columbia and Hastings. You can transfer your account from 4 Corners simply. 4 Corners ID will be accepted for cheque-cashing.



For info call:
604-609-7350

*Libby Davies, our fantastic Member of Parliament, is holding her Travelling Community Office in two locations on Saturday, March 13th:

- 1) Strathcona Community Centre, 601 Keefer,
10am – 11:30am;
- 2) Chinese Cultural Centre, 50 E. Pender,
1pm – 3pm

Libby is our rep in Ottawa and can address federal issues and contact federal ministers regarding anything in their jurisdiction. Bring concerns or just stop by to talk. (Libby is one of the very few people who makes the statement that “all politicians are crooks” false. She’s one of the good guys!)

*...Much of this issue’s content has to do with the reverberations of the Liberals getting kicked in the head again. They’ve got their rap down pat, replying to each and every example of blatant stupidity and waste with reams of rubble about how wonderful everything is. Witness Ida Chong saying that women are just so taken care of that she can’t hardly stand being so proud – while the closure of 37 Women’s Centres goes ahead; witness the fiasco of the disability review, costing \$5 million to kick 46 people off; witness the gutted garbage of time limits and punishing people for being poor, now obviously continued as only a mean-spirited and elitist chunk of crud.

The Carnegie Newsletter doesn’t generally engage in bashing one political party over another, but the word “Liberal” is getting as slimy as “Conservative” when it comes to voting. Can people who have realized how vindictive and vicious the puppet government of Campbell is actually bring themselves to vote NDP? Last time it took 16 years of Socreds before the lack of moral integrity kicked them in the head (but a lot of them, like Clod Richmond, just used semantics to become a “Liberal”).

Even Smyth, writing for the Province, sees the BC Liberals as fitting the “anything is better than the NDP” even while writing what passed for news but was just a top-down message from the puppet masters at the Fraser Institute. Interesting how we get so upset with local manifestations of global dictation!!

By PAULR TAYLOR

13 Points of Life

13. Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.

12. Life is sexually transmitted.

3

11. Health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

10. Men have two emotions: Hungry and Horny. If he doesn’t have an erection make him a sandwich!

9. Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day; teach a person to use the Internet and they won’t bother you for weeks.

8. Some people are like Slinkies . . . not really good for anything, but you still can’t help but smile when you see one tumble down the stairs.

7. Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

6. Whenever I feel blue, I start breathing again.

5. All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

4. Why does a slight tax increase cost you \$200 and a substantial tax cut saves you thirty cents?

3. In the 60’s people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

2. Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first.

AND THE # 1 THOUGHT FOR THE DAY:

You read about all these Terrorists most of them came here legally, but they hung around on these expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years. Now, compare that to Blockbuster; you are two days late with a video and those people are all over you. I think we should put Blockbuster in charge of immigration.

AUDITIONS

Storyeum is actively seeking versatile and experienced male/female performers, ages 18-65, all ethnicity. [They especially need First Nations’ females and Asian-Canadian male applicants.]

Come help us bring B.C.’s history to life.

Submit photo/resume to:

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Opening June 2004 www.storyeum.com

Giving the family a bad name

Paul Martin might want to have a quiet word with his Liberal friends in British Columbia.

They've already embarrassed him once. Just 16 days after the Prime Minister's swearing-in, police raided the offices of two top Liberal organizers at the Victoria legislature. Now, another problem is brewing. The B.C. Liberal government is poised to start throwing people off welfare this spring.

Social activists across the country are rallying to save what's left of Canada's battered income security system. More than 125 organizations — food banks, churches, women's shelters, city councils, human rights associations, health-care groups and First Nations — have appealed to Martin to intervene in B.C.

The Prime Minister has a choice: He can tell B.C. Premier Gordon Campbell that slapping a two-year limit on welfare runs counter to Liberal values. Or he can explain to Canadians how punishing the poor advances his vision of a society built on "fairness, generosity, respect and caring."

Martin's social development minister, Liza Frulla, winces at the mention of the B.C. welfare cut-off. "It's extremely hard to watch," she said in a recent interview. Campbell is not the first premier to enact harsh welfare reforms. He is following in the well-trod footsteps of former Ontario premier Mike Harris and Alberta Premier Ralph Klein, but he is the first Canadian politician to put a time limit on social assistance. If Campbell executes his plan to remove "employable" adults from the province's welfare rolls on April 1, he will set a national precedent.

"This represents a catastrophic break with the traditions of Canadian social policy of the last 50 years and an abandonment of Canada's commitment to social citizenship and an inclusive society," the anti-poverty activists wrote in their letter to Martin.

The looming deadline is not a surprise. The B.C. Liberals made it clear from the outset that they intended to chop the province's welfare budget by a third and break recipients of their "entitlement" mentality. Shortly after their landslide victory in 2001, they got to work drafting legislation to reduce social assistance rates and tighten the eligibility requirements.

Their new rules, including the two-year time limit, took effect on April 1, 2002. That means hundreds

of individuals are now nearing their cut-off date. Some have mental health and addiction problems. Some live in resource dependent communities where no work is available. Some are homeless. Some are caring for elderly, sick or disabled relatives. Thanks to public pressure, the Campbell government's Employment and Assistance Act is not as draconian as it once was.

★Originally, mothers were considered employable as soon as their child reached his or her first birthday. Now they are exempt from the welfare cut-off until their youngest child is 3.

★Originally, individuals with disabilities were put through a rigorous and stressful benefit review, to ensure that they really were unable to work. That is no longer being done.

★Originally, welfare recipients who reached their cut-off date were to be allowed no reprieve. But two-and-a-half weeks ago, the government announced that it would exempt individuals who were training for a job or actively seeking work. That reduced the number of people facing imminent removal from the welfare rolls from thousands to hundreds. But it left the government with the right to deprive those whose need had gone on too long, in its view, of their only source of income.

"So long as the rule remains, vulnerable people will be at risk," said Shelagh Day, director of the Poverty and Human Rights Project in Vancouver.

What she would like Campbell to do is rescind the two-year time limit. What she is asking Martin to do is give the B.C. premier a powerful prod. Ms Day and her colleagues want the Prime Minister to attach conditions to the transfer payments Ottawa makes to the provinces. They are proposing that provinces be required to guarantee "secure and stable funding for social assistance that will not be withdrawn or reduced unilaterally" in order to receive their share of the Canada Social Transfer (worth an estimated \$14.4 billion).

According to Frulla, this is impossible. "You can't make the social transfer conditional," she said flatly. Under current federal legislation, she is right. Nine years ago, Ottawa gave up the right to tell the provinces how to use their transfer payments. This leaves Martin with three options.

He can overhaul the transfer payment system, restoring Ottawa's ability to set conditions on the money it sends to other levels of government.

He can ignore the B.C. situation, in the hope that most Canadians won't notice — or care about — a west-coast welfare squall.

Or he can discreetly tell Campbell that, while he respects the B.C. government's right to set its own priorities, there is something profoundly illiberal about yanking the last safety net away from those who are heading for a crash.

By CAROL GOAR



International Women's Day is March 8

This yearly event was started to commemorate the dangerous working conditions most women endure, after a fire in a Manhattan factory claimed 146 victims in 1911, mostly women and girls. The fire escape door had been locked to keep workers at their machines. Owners were found not guilty of manslaughter when it couldn't be proven that they had ordered the doors locked. A civil suit found them negligent and they paid \$75 to each family who had lost a woman in the fire.

International Women's Day

- Vancouver District Labour Council is putting on an International Women's Day dinner on March 8
- On March 6 starting at Burrard Station at 11am there is an International Women's Day rally that will go to the Vancouver library
- Contact Bev at bam123@shaw.ca if you want an info table
- It will concentrate on fighting back both globally and regionally
- There will also be a dance that evening at 6pm at the Wise Hall
- Women have suffered brutally under the cuts and have been at the forefront of the Liberal assault
- BC Committee for the Elimination for the Discrimination of Women took their grievances to the UN which reprimanded BC and its treatment of women
- BC Liberals have also put out a brochure on a 'New Era for Women'

Dawn on the corner,
Early morning casting long shadows,
The pillars of Carnegie
standing out in strong relief.

And there, just off to the side,
part in shadow, part in light,
A child's Fisher-Price kitchen
Plastic stove and fridge resplendent in white,
yellow and red

On either side, snuggled tightly in,
As though proximity might transform their world
Into some child-like place of warmth and safety
and happiness

Were two women, wrapped in blankets,
on the pavement

Slowly they stirred as the street awakened,
People walked by.
Buses hissed and disgorged their passengers.
Others stared numbly at the scene.

The morning crowd was gathering:
"Uppers, downers, T3s"
Another day at Main and Hastings

Michael Clague

International Women's Day Celebration

Saturday, March 6th, 1 – 9 PM

Carnegie Theatre

(A women-only, children-friendly event)

1 — 5 PM: Paint a women's canvas.
Create honouring art pieces. Receive a
reiki treatment. And more!

6 — 10 PM: Celebrate with food and
performances. View display of canvas
and artwork. Win a door prize. Call
Rika at 3rd floor program office if you'd
like to sign up to perform or just step
up that evening to an open mic.

Welfare reassessment farce a waste

Long before the Gordon Campbell government spent \$5 million to remove 46 people from disability assistance, it was warned in a confidential briefing document that the whole idea was flawed from the start.

Auditor-General Wayne Streliaff released a bombshell report this week on the Liberals' controversial "reassessment" of 72,000 disabled British Columbians receiving welfare benefits.

The provincial government had planned to save up to \$100 million in annual welfare payments by tightening up eligibility rules for disability assistance and then reassessing everyone in the system. The review was expected to disqualify more than 9,000 people from receiving benefits.

The grand money-saving scheme turned into a disaster for disabled British Columbians and taxpayers as a whole. Just 46 people were eventually kicked off the system. Thousands of disabled citizens were put through the emotional trauma of being "reassessed."

The whole farce cost B.C. taxpayers \$5 million. Now here's the insult after injury: The government was warned nearly two years ago that its plan was full of holes. An internal briefing note marked "confidential" warned the government that the reassessment would become a bureaucratic nightmare.

"The large number of files to reassess is a huge workload issue for staff," said the document, released yesterday by the NDP. "The ministry appeal process . . . may have difficulty coping with a glut of appeals that may arise from people who have been denied the disability designation all at the same time." The document added: "Many clients with disabilities, especially those with mental disorders, become alarmed and/or confused when they receive letters from the ministry."

If only the government had listened to the warnings from its own staff. Instead, the auditor-general revealed this week that most of the \$5 million spent on the reassessment was paid to doctors and other professionals to help their disabled patients through the stressful and confusing reassessment.

The government barged ahead with the plan with no cost-benefit analysis of the project and no compelling evidence that it would result in the \$100 million in savings, Streliaff concluded.

What a waste of your money! And this is not the first time the B.C. Liberals have barged ahead with a doomed project that ended up wasting millions. The government was warned over and over not to proceed with the privatization of the Coquihalla Highway. It spent \$6.5 million on the project before deciding it wasn't a good idea after all.

This is Campbell's idea of running government like a lean, mean corporate machine? This machine has sprung a leak and it's costing you a fortune.

Michael Smyth

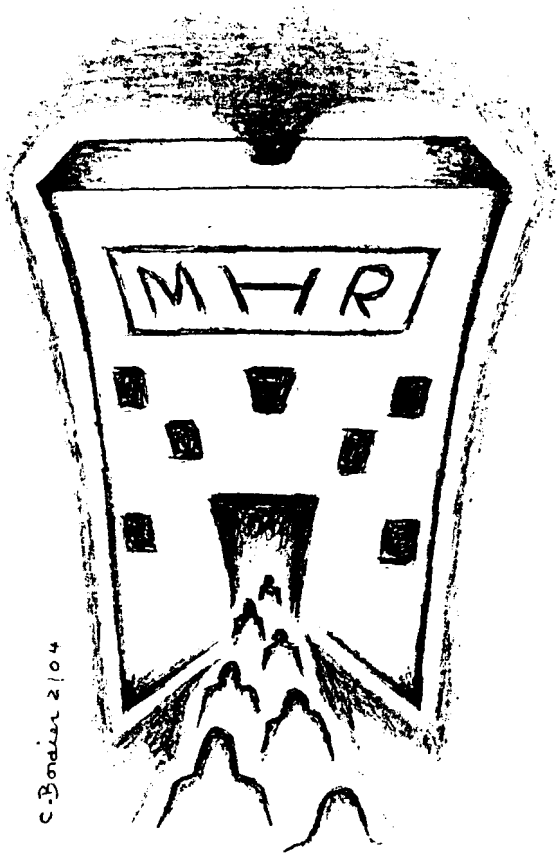
© The Vancouver Province 2004

Liar

walking down Hastings with my buddy who's so convinced of his own lies that he has to get all animate as he weaves this fantasy about how he shit-kicked 6 crack dealers in front of Garlane's. I've heard the same fantasy/lie a time or two before he'll elaborate one day, leave out sections other days all totally convinced you believe his line of shit after all he's told the lie so many times it's become real in his own mind anyway I'm thinking how do I throw this loser? luckily there's 4 cops standing in front of the bank and he gets spooked so says so long splits glad to see him go sad that that's all he's got: made up stories where he always comes out the hero he's so eager to impress and so desperate to have you like him that he bullshits on and on his lies becoming his life.. the only life he seems to have is his lies – made up history is such a pathetic stretch for sympathy some closeness against the cold I've met his type before people whose story gets bigger and better every day but it's delusion while they hope to hell that somehow you'll believe their grandiose crap so insecure in the sad mundane of their true existence so they paint pictures so maybe you'll think they're cool and accept them trying so hard when you probably would have liked him anyway without all the fooforah and balderdash some people are all story and nothing real ashamed to be themselves?!

Al

PS This is a bowl full of porridge, warmly filling, full of love, it has no relation whatsoever to lying dentists with pill hang-ups it is round and white, full of love and oats & sugar, it is the hand I needed to hold the comforting touch of humanity it knows nothing of lies



Dear Letters Editor, (*Vancouver Sun*)

Re "BC's U-turn on welfare reform spells disaster," by Fraser Institute writers Clemens, Veldhuls, LeRoy, on Feb. 16: (*Vancouver Sun*)

These writers are objecting to the recent BC government decision to allow a 25th exemption to the two-year time limit rule on collecting welfare, which will allow single, employable social assistance recipients to continue to receive benefits as long as they are looking for work.

In their words, "Unfortunately, this move will harm society's most vulnerable citizens." I don't understand how maintaining income for people with no other source of income will harm them. Perhaps the Fraser Institute writers would like to give up their salaries, and show how no harm will come to them? The writers go on to claim that the US has had great success in placing restrictions on the amount of time people can collect benefits there. What they don't

say is that these restrictions apply only to the cash 7 dispensed by the US welfare system, and other social supports, such as food stamps, are left in place, along with other programs, such as daycare, etc. There was no such provision in BC's legislation. If the right-wing interest group writers had read *A Bad Time to be Poor: An Analysis of BC's Welfare Policies* by the CCPA's Seth Klein and SPARC's Andrea Long, they would know this. But of course, being firmly entrenched in their own ideology leaves no place for opinions from so-called left-wing interest groups.

The writers conclude, "[Time limits] have been pursued in the US to great effect: lower welfare rates, higher income and employment levels, and reduced poverty." Unfortunately, the six dollar per hour training wage imposed by the provincial Liberals (on the advice of the Fraser Institute) makes this impossible to achieve. That's not even taking into account that there are not enough decent paying jobs to absorb all the people who would be left stranded if their benefits were cut off.

No matter how the Fraser Institute tries to disguise it, their recommendations for social policy always appear to be uncompassionate, if not downright mean-spirited.

Yours sincerely,

Rolf Auer

I honestly could not read through this whole thing the first time. It simply outrages me and to think that this is a big think tank of people who, if they are truly analysts, should be researching all angles. How truly misinformed they are about REALITY. Especially, although, as I read further I could find even more ill informed comments .. "confronted with time limits, welfare recipients change their behaviour to minimize casual relief so that future eligibility can be preserved in times of true emergencies" I am so upset by this, I am going to ask that NAPO consider responding to the Fraser Institute. (One of my old economics professors works there. I never agreed with his points in class, and only passed when I actually framed everything in response to what he wanted to hear!)

Aimee Clark
NWT



COUNCIL E-lert 02/25/04: Council Endorses Homelessness Action Plan Framework

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

- The COPE-led city council has entered the next phase in the re-development of the Woodward's building, approving a short list of potential developers and non-market housing providers to partner with the City of Vancouver in moving forward with the project.
- Council directed staff to prepare the request for proposals outlining the city's objective for the project including cultural and social goals, non-market housing requirements, environmental sustainability, heritage retention and restoration of the Woodward's 1903/1908 building, financial oversight, and provision for further community consultation.
- City council also requested staff develop a homelessness action plan, indicating what the city and others can do to address this urgent problem.
- The proposed framework for the "3-ways to Home" plan identifies **housing, income, and support**, as three essential components to alleviating homelessness.
- The proposed action plan would outline what can be done with sufficient public support from all levels of government.
- Due to cuts to social housing by the BC Liberals, approximately 1200 people in the city are shelterless on any given night, double the number of two years ago.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Learn more about the plans for the re-development of the Woodward's building by visiting <http://www.city.vancouver.bc.ca/corpsvcs/realestate/woodwards/>
- Find out about COPE's "3-Ways to Home" homelessness action plan by visiting

**Do protests bore you?
Sick of that hey hey, ho ho chant?**

Get out your pom poms and get involved with the SFU Radical Cheerleaders, who wrote the following chant –

Yay Vancouver

Yay Vancouver in 2010

How many homeless will you have by then?

Social housing – there's no need,

Here's this empty tent city!

Campbell's games, paid by cuts,

When will BC realize he's nuts?

The 2-year limit's already set

Wile Vancouver falls to debt.

Fuck Campbell and fuck the Games,

Up with the people who feel the same!

Fuck Campbell and fuck the Games,

Up with the people who feel the same!

For more information, email
sfuradicalcheerleaders@hotmail.com



"When I feed the poor, they call me a saint.
When I ask why the poor are hungry, they call me a communist."

- Dom Helder Camara, Archbishop of Recife, Brazil

Time limits for welfare disregard the humanity of poor people

Monday, February 16, 2004

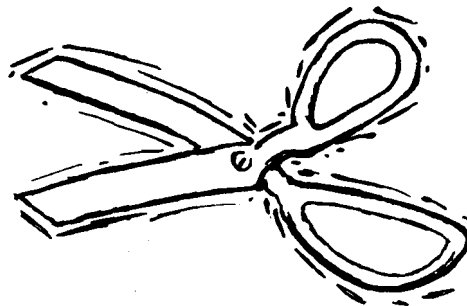
Victoria now says that, over the next year, only 339 people will be affected by the 24-month time limit on welfare -- the rule intended to limit "employable" welfare recipients to two years of support during any five year period. Last week, the provincial government announced a new exemption -- the 25th. Now those who follow their employment plans and are seeking work will be exempted from the 24-month time limit. Although this is an encouraging development, the government still has to go the full course and remove the time limit from the books altogether.

The announcement of this new exemption is a backhanded admission by the Liberals that applying a time limit to welfare does not work. The message of the time limit legislation is that if you have not gotten a job in 24 months, you are, by definition, "unwilling" to work, lazy, a malingerer and should either be cut off welfare or have it reduced as a penalty. Premier Gordon Campbell has been bent on persuading the public to treat those who are poor as market failures who can be punished and abandoned with impunity.

But this is a false and mean stereotype. People who are poor are not lazier than people who are rich. They are competing for marginal jobs in a provincial economy where about 200,000 people are unemployed. The 25th exemption essentially acknowledges this; it admits that looking for a job does not necessarily mean finding one. It is also an acknowledgement that no one "chooses" to be on welfare -- social assistance incomes are deplorably low and living on them is hard.

The 24-month time limit was never necessary. Even before this new "exemption," the 24-month rule was redundant. The Employment and Assistance Regulation already permits the government to cut recipients off welfare for failing to follow their employment plans, or for refusing to accept work.

What happened last week is that the government retreated in the face of mounting pressure from community organizations, churches, unions, city councils, social policy experts and individuals who let Victoria know that the 24-month rule is both impractical and morally repugnant.



B.C. is the only province in Canada that has ever placed an arbitrary time limit on welfare eligibility. It represents a serious break with Canadian social policy of the last 50 years. Canada has built a somewhat patchy, but important social safety net, based on an understanding that collectively we should provide everyone with protections against "universal risks to income," that is against those natural and market events that can make any one of us unable to provide for ourselves and our families -- sickness, disability, old age, child-bearing, unemployment and under-employment. We have agreed that Canada should distribute its resources in a way that provides a minimum level of income when these events threaten our security, either temporarily or permanently.

Social assistance is the very bottom of the social safety net, available only to those who are in the most extreme need, who have no employment and who have exhausted their savings and any other benefits to which they may be entitled.

Cutting people off social assistance -- not because they are no longer in need, but because their period of need has lasted longer than the government would like, is bad policy, whether it affects thousands of people or 339 or one person. It displays a complete disregard for the humanity of those who are poor. A rule that requires 25 exemptions is a feeble rule. And a rule that, to save the government's face, requires an exemption that guts the rule itself -- as the 25th exemption does -- needs to be scrapped. The government should, therefore, just take the 24-month time limit off the books.

So long as the rule remains, some vulnerable people will remain at risk.

Shelagh Day is a director of the Poverty and Human Rights Project in Vancouver, and a research associate with the B.C. Office of the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.



Laws called savage, niggardly

Poor Kept in Poverty by U.S., professor says

The United States is squeezing and grinding many of its 35,000,000 poor with savagely punitive laws while waving anti-poverty banners, a U.S. professor of social work said in Toronto last night.

Dr. Richard A. Cloward, professor of social work at the Columbia School of Social Work, New York, called the U.S. public welfare system "barbarous, savage and niggardly." He was speaking at the annual meeting of the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto.

He said public welfare laws and policies, in combination with low wages and inadequate schools in many low-income areas, condemn the poor to remain poor, infringe on their civil liberties and affront their dignity.

Among the devices that punish the poor he listed the following:

- Relief payments of between one-third and one-half the amount calculated as the absolute minimum for staying alive.

- Stringent residential eligibility laws -- some of which demand that persons live in the state or local jurisdiction for as much as five out of the previous nine years before they qualify for public assistance.

- Midnight raids on the homes of relief recipients, to see whether they are breaking any regulations.

- Laws that remove mothers from relief rolls as a penalty for having illegitimate children. Laws that pauperize relief recipients -- force them to sell everything they have, before they can qualify for public assistance that is too small to keep them alive. Rules that force the poor to enroll in rehabilitative or educational programs -- or forfeit their relief cheques.

If the United States wants to launch a real anti-poverty program, instead of a pretence of a program, Dr. Cloward said, it must do the following things:

"Abolish poverty by ... redistributing income. Create a guaranteed minimum income characterized by two features: an adequate level of the right to an income vested unconditionally..."

"Reform the institutions that help create and perpetuate poverty. A HeadStart program, good though it may be, is not a reform of the educational system. Public education in the United States has always been characterized by gross inequalities." (Poor neighbourhoods get smaller, less well-equipped schools, less well trained teachers, he said). Expand rehabilitative programs. However, he added "I don't believe poverty is a problem that can be solved merely by rehabilitative efforts. They're needed -- but people need money."

He said many young persons get a taste of work through anti-poverty programs -- and then they are turned loose to find that the only jobs they can get are menial, low-paid and dead-end -- or none at all.

"Poverty is maintained because a great many men working full-time earn so little that they fall below the absolute level we call poverty." By the U.S. Government's definition, the poverty line for a family of four is \$1,850 a year in the country and \$3,100 in town. [*Absurd, even in '66*]

Of the 35,000,000 in the United States who were called poor by this standard, 5,000,000 were aged. There were 7,000,000 families, in half of whom the head of the household was reported as having been employed full-time for at least the previous year (1960 census figures). One quarter of the families were headed by women.

The U.S. anti-poverty program, youth-oriented and directed to education, job training and the effort to establish what is thought to be self-reliance, is useless to the elderly and to a large percentage of poor families, he indicated. Even if the women family heads could be set to work, he said, there remained the problem of looking after the children in working hours.

"The program says, in effect, that substantial numbers of the poor must be abandoned."

--

Forwarded by Penny Goldsmith, Co-ordinator
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Time limits on welfare rescinded but not scrapped

On Saturday, February 7, 2004, front-page headlines in *The Vancouver Sun* announced "Province backs off plan for dramatic cuts to welfare: Only 339, not the expected 28,000, will lose benefits." The article stated that the provincial government had proclaimed a new exemption to the two-year time limit on welfare rule, stating that a person who was actively looking for work would not have their benefits cut off.

Reaction to the government's about face was swift. On the Internet site PovNet, a website about poverty, several people were quoted. Here's a couple:

Seth Klein, BC Director, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives stated on Feb. 6th:

"The policy's sole remaining function is to intimidate welfare recipients who, in spite of the new exemption, will live in fear of being cut off. The exemption's application remains uncertain. Once this issue recedes from the public spotlight, the Ministry may instruct case workers to be more demanding about employment plans, or may refrain from in-

forming clients about the exemptions. The onus 11
should be on the Ministry to inform the thousands of people living with the stress of a looming cut-off that they are now exempt from the rule.

While today's announcement does show that the government is reconsidering the time limits rule, it must go further. The Ministry's estimates indicate that hundreds of people will still fall through the cracks. Regardless of whether the number is 15,000, 300 or one, this is a bad law. It remains an awful precedent in Canada and should be removed from the books."

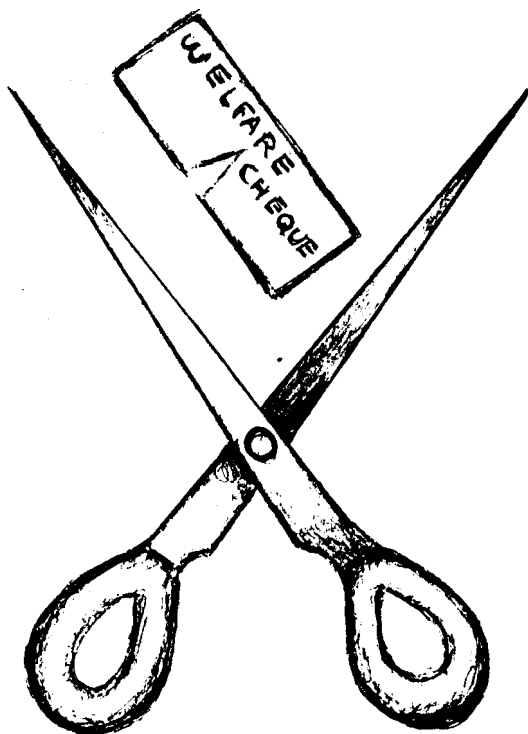
Shelagh Day of the Poverty and Human Rights Project points out "This is a major retreat. The government has essentially acknowledged that the time limits legislation was wrong. Now it has to take it off the books entirely. The government owes an apology to the many people it has insulted and put under terrible stress."

About a week after *The Sun* made its announcement, on Feb. 13, it ran a treacley editorial titled "Victoria should dispense with welfare time limits." But it was not because *The Sun's* editorial writers thought the law was unjust that they advocated this; it was because they considered that the law didn't work! In fact, *The Sun* revealed just what it thought of welfare recipients in the following sentence from the editorial: "But now we have a regulation brought in as the ultimate response to welfare deadbeats and it turns out that out of the more than 150,000 people still receiving benefits, hardly anyone will be affected." *Welfare deadbeats?* This is poor-bashing at its worst. *The Sun* has learned nothing from its years of interacting with anti-poverty advocates.

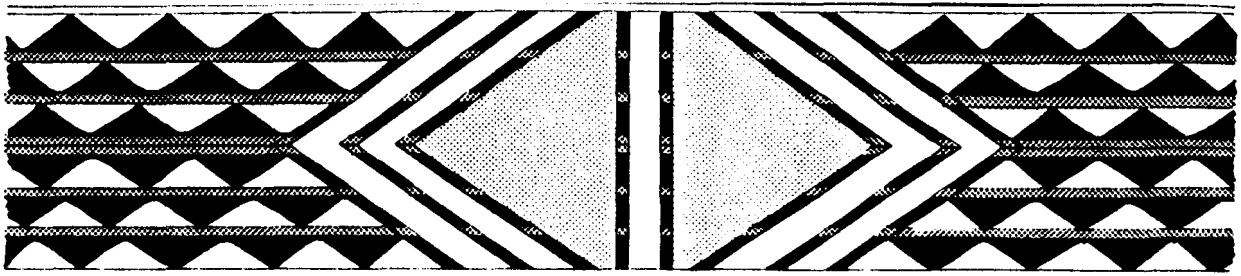
On Feb. 14, on page B3, *The Sun* ran a small article noting that more than 125 organizations are calling on PM Paul Martin to put conditions on BC receiving the Canada Health and Social Transfer such that BC's government couldn't impose time limits on collecting welfare. The group considers time limits as contravening the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

It is unlikely that Martin will listen, however; he has said in the past that he thinks Gordon Campbell is "a breath of fresh air" and not because Campbell smells good, either.

By ROLF AUER



C. Gordon 2/04



**TALKING STICK Celebration
of Aboriginal Performance and Art
Feb. 29 – March 7, 2004**

Friday March 5, 8 pm

**Redwire's First Political Roast
and Open Mic Night**

An evening of performance / comedy /
stand-up / open mic / music

Featuring Manik, OS12, Skeena Reece and
others.

At the Wise Hall, 1882 Adanac St. Tix: \$10
or pay-what-you-can, available at the door

Saturday March 6, 1:30 pm

**Free Public Forum: Renewal and
Transformation**

Aboriginal traditions in contemporary
performance with Margo Kane, Jeannette
Armstrong and Maria Campbell.

At the Roundhouse Community Centre, 181
Roundhouse Mews (the corner of Pacific
and Davie) Phone (604) 713-1800

**Mon. March 1 through Fri. March 5,
12:30 pm - Aboriginal Lunch**

Brown-bag it and enjoy free performances
by Métis jiggling artist Yvonne Chartrand;
from Squamish, Hereditary Chief Ian
Campbell and S7ahplek (Bob Baker) and the
Eagle Song Dancers; Rap & Spoken Word
artists, Manik, OS 12, Skeena Reece and
Janet Marie Rogers, Tzo'kam Family
Singers, Our Elders Speak Wisdom Drum
Group, writer and poet Vera Manuel, poet
Kat Norris and Wally Awasis and the
Arrows to Freedom Drum Group. In the
atrium of the Vancouver Public Library

**Mon. March 1 through Fri. March 5,
2:30 pm - Talking Stories**

Readings by contemporary Aboriginal
writers

March 1: Vera Waubgejig is Anishnawbe
urban mother, freelance writer and
videographer, and has been featured in
Breaking the Surface, Redwire Magazine,
Gatherings V, VII, IX, X, Sweetgrass Grows
All Around Her, Home As I Remember and
Reclaiming the future: Women's strategies
for the 21st Century.

March 2: Joseph Dandurand is a
Kwantlen poet and playwright whose poetry
has been featured in numerous anthologies,
journals and collections such as Upside
Down Raven, I Touched Coyote's Tongue
and burning for the dead and scratching for
the poor.

March 3: Marie Annharte-Baker, an
Anishinaabe (Objibway) poet, the author of
Being On the Moon, Coyote Columbus Café
and Exercises in Lip Pointing, and one of
our very own Downtown Eastside Poets.

March 4: Chris Bose, born in Merritt, BC,
of the N'laka'pamux Nation, is a musician,
artist and the author of Somewhere in this
Inferno: A Narrative. For more info on
Chris go to www.ulusulu.com

March 5: Philip Kevin Paul, a WSA, NEC
Indian from the Saanich Peninsula, has
previously been published in Breathing Fire:
Canada's New Poets, An Anthology of
Canadian Native Literature in English
(Oxford) and BC Studies. His latest book of
poetry is Taking the Names Down the Hill.
At Chapters on Robson Street on the 3rd
floor.



Play Readings at the Havana Restaurant,
1212 Commercial Drive

March 4, 4-5:30 pm: Kevin Loring's **Little "Red Warrior and His Lawyer"** directed by Chris McGregor.

This is a satirical fable about power, politics and procreation. Little Red is the last remaining member of his tribe. One day while heading into town, Little Red discovers that the development firm Smith, Smyth and Goldsmith has violated his traditional territory. Enraged, he attacks one of their engineers, is arrested and assigned a court-appointed lawyer. Since Red no longer has a place to stay, the lawyer and his wife invite him to stay with them. But as they soon find out, when you invite a coyote into the coop, don't be surprised if he walks away with your chickens.

March 5, 4-5:30 pm: Maria Campbell's **"The Alley"** directed by Curtis Ahenakew & Glenn Gould

In this play about Aboriginal youth, light struggles against the shadows, and innocence is often the casualty. "The Alley" was a collaborative effort with the 2002 Circle of Voices, a pilot theatre project that looks at the causes of abuse, neglect, poverty, crime, and racism. The participants, ages 13 – 23, came from a variety of backgrounds and learned to work together for 8 weeks, writing, acting, and producing a performance based on their own stories. Elders, community leaders, and professionals worked with the youth throughout the programme, providing guidance and inspiration. This included traditional culture,

talking circles, sweet grass ceremonies and for many, their first sweat lodge.

Artists' Talk – Futuristic Regalia

Peter Morin and Sonny Assu

March 3 at 5 pm

Button blankets, the West Coast traditional regalia, have changed in appearance many times, however to this day they still protect, guard and spiritually strengthen the wearer. These two artists have created their own cultural future, based on their experience of living in a metropolitan environment while maintaining their first nations culture.

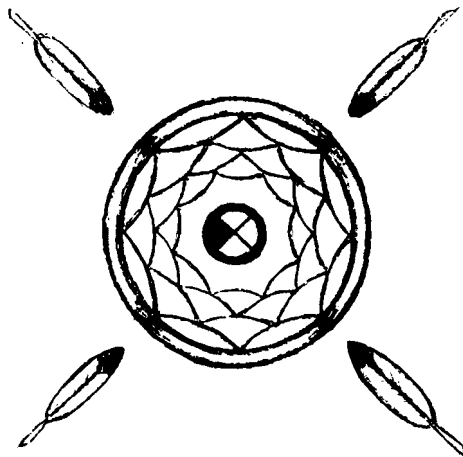
At the **grunt gallery**, Phone (604) 875-9516
#116 – 350 East 2nd Ave.

Art Exhibit "Urban Spaces"

March 5 – 13

Opening Welcome & Speakers

March 5 at 5 pm, at the Emily Carr Institute of Art & Design,
1399 Johnston Street, Granville Island



The Rez Show Community Workshops
Saturday March 6, 11-12:30 pm
 These workshops offer traditional and contemporary artistic techniques to instigate and inspire Aboriginal community participants to express personal and collective creativity. These workshops will be the primary tool for generating script material, by gathering stories, images, dance and ideas for inclusion in the Rez Show Project. Emotional, physical, mind and spirit will be integral themes. Participants can choose from one of the following hour and a half workshops: **Dance, Healing Arts, Visual Media, or Theatre and Writing.** At the **Roundhouse Community Centre.** Phone (604) 683-0497 to sign up.



on Valentine's Day

Yellow tulips
 on Main Street today
 A circle of people
 Hundreds strong
 Covering our sisters
 As you beat your drums.
 Hear our heart beat
 while you pray a song
 Feet weighing down rhythm

To take back this ground
 Stained with our blood
 Spirits soar to touch
 All that is gone
 Sisters all
 We hold each other up
 Roses are Red
 Love so true
 As one
 We will speak our truth.

j.m.smith

For more information: www.fullcircle.ca

TWO HEARTS AS ONE

Two hearts,
 Finally together.
 After a very long wait,
 Seeing their love for each other.

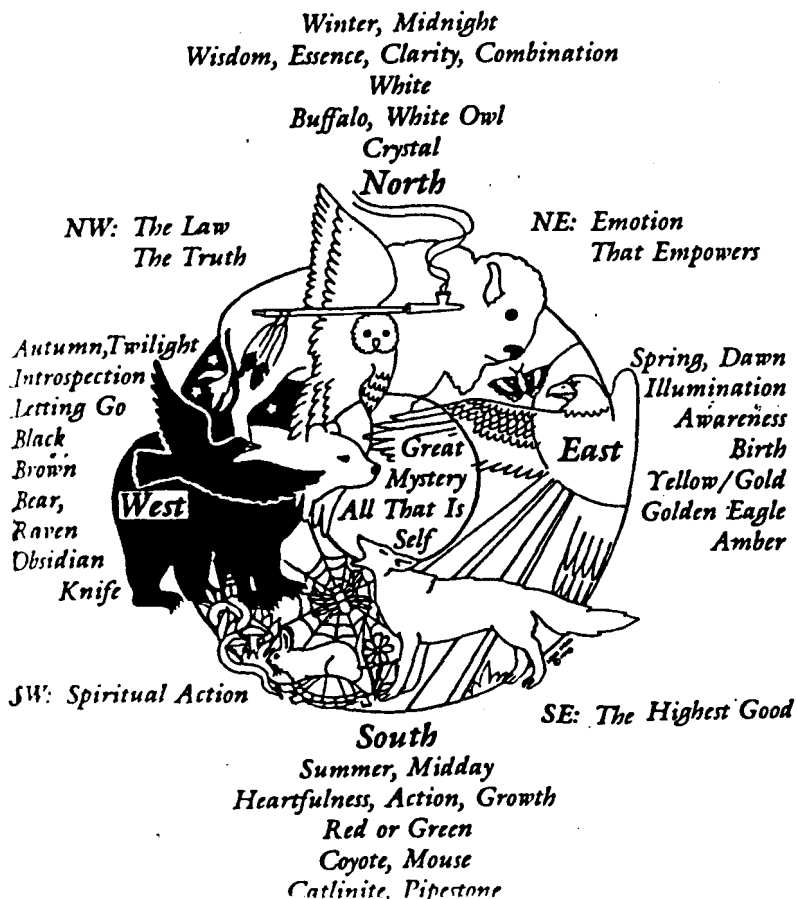
Their lives were so empty,
 And lacking of fun.
 Though now together,
 Together as one.

Finally finding,
 Their one true love.
 After many nights praying,
 To the almighty above.

Now their prayers are filled,
 With joy and praise.
 As they ask for help,
 In their lives they raise.

Rising together,
 Just the two.
 The two hearts as one,
 Whom found their love, so true.

Sent by Sue Blue's son



On the Subject of Centering

This visual art show is about the act of centering. I define this as the creation of an inner space which is like a breath. That is a place of possibility, a space made for healing and growth.

My show is about the ways I create this space in the whirl of my day-to-day life. The images in my show are mainly of three different varieties. One group of works depicts gesture-like subjects in acts which I consider centering, such as yoga and meditation. Another body of art is concerned with visualization and manifests itself as quasi abstract horizons. These horizons are a physical depiction of what I visualize before going to sleep; I try to imagine a space on the horizon between the earth and the sky. The third grouping of work is bas-relief in form and celebrates the mandala-like structure of the flower, and other forms in nature.

What all these works have in common is the creation or recognition of a space within which to pause and recollect and redirect oneself. I hope you will come and share these spaces with me.

In addition to my work there is a performance by Siobhan McCarthy at the opening night at 9 pm. It is an experimental theatre piece using masks to interpret my work and the theme of "Centering". Siobhan is fantastically talented and this event is not to be missed.

There is also a guest artist showing in the back of the gallery, Ivy Pomerantz, my daughter. She is displaying a series of quasi-abstract paintings based on the story of *The Little Mermaid*. Her presence in my life has grounded and centered me, and her artwork is immediate and uninhibited. At the back of the gallery is *The Members' Salon*, a permanent display of Gachet's diverse talent which you are welcome to view.

I hope you are able to attend the opening on March 5, from 7 — 10 pm, or come down to view the show at Gallery Gachet until March 26.

Cate Curtis

News From the Library

Some of the new titles received at your library:

To Live by Yu Hua. We have recently purchased many titles of classic and contemporary works by Asian authors in translation for your reading enjoyment. Yu Hua is described as one of the most profound authors coming out of China today. *To Live* is an award winning internationally acclaimed best-seller which was originally banned in China but recently named as one of the most influential books of the last decade in China.

The Red and The Black. By Stendhal. Many of our patrons have expressed an interest in reading the "classics". Stendhal's work is often cited as one of the greatest works in Western Literature. It is a portrait of ambition which goes awry and a satire of political and church hypocrisy in Restoration France.

Jemmy Jock Bird: Marginal Man on the Blackfoot Frontier by John Jackson. This work is a reconstruction of the life of an important Métis Trader and exposes a little known history of part of the Northern Fur Trade

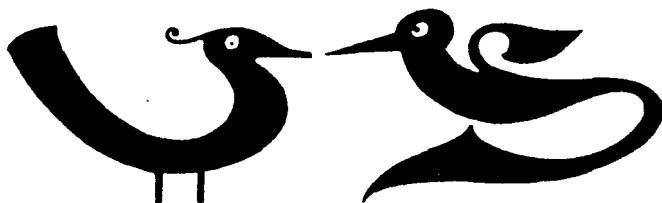
Make your own electric & Bass guitar by Dennis Wangri. If you want to enjoy both the building and the playing here is your chance. The instructions are simple and logical and instruction is given in the use of common tools, which allows the student to build a finished instrument suitable for different musical styles from rock to jazz.

Blacklisted: The Film Lover's guide to Hollywood Blacklist by Paul Buhle Just in time for Oscar madness, here is a reality check and maybe a warning of what the current "Patriot Act" may lead to as history repeats itself. With over 2000 entries *Blacklisted* is the ultimate film lover's guide to Hollywood's darkest days.

Chinese Whispers by John Ashbery. An unruly and enjoyable collection of poems by this award winning poet and, like the words of our Carnegie Poets which we have been lucky enough to hear for the past three months, it is a work which can challenge, delight and surprise us.

International Women 's Day: As we did last year the library will feature works by Canadian Women in a special display for International Women 's Day. Come check it out and please check out our excellent books

mary ann your librarian

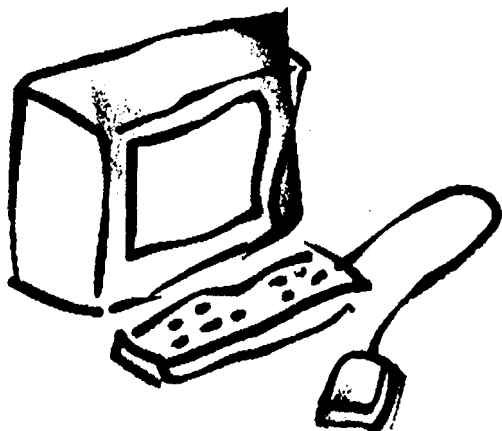


OPEN HOUSE

Thursday March 4th

11:00 AM til around 4:00 PM.

A new and much needed facility was recently opened in the Eastend, just below the offices of the Vancouver Native Housing Society at 1726 East Hasting Street. This facility is called the Skookum Hub Resource and Learning Centre. It is a place for anyone of aboriginal descent. If you don't know how to use the computer and/or the Internet, we can teach you. This will help in finding a job.



The Hub has a small but sufficient greeting place which leads back into Raven's Room, a resource and a sorta coffee/lunch room area. It also has a couch and is a place to relax and have a coffee or whatever as liquids aren't allowed near the computers. A wee bit down the hall is the OFFICE, the control centre, where the charming Brianne Island sits and controls her empire. Across from her is the smaller of two computer labs. We call it the Turtle Island Room. It is a drop-in lab that has nine computer stations where people can search the net or do resumes and other job finding activities.

The computers are good enough for the job they have to do, which is to aid people find jobs. The chairs are comfortable as I have sat in most of them doing computer maintenance. I'm Harold, I volunteer here to help people become better acquainted with these monsters of Cyber Space. I'm just here in the morning. The end of the hallway leads into the main computer lab, The Sun Room. It has room for fourteen computers but as I write this there are

twelve computer stations.

From one til nine PM the centre is taken over by Linsey Ernst and the Urban Native Youth Association. (UNYA). You'll have to ask Linsey what they do. I just started volunteering here and I don't have any information to pass along at this time. Linsey is friendly and outgoing and I'm sure she can fill you in on any details you may want to hear about. Now is your chance to meet one or both of these ladies. We're having an **OPEN HOUSE** come next Thursday March 4th from 11:00 AM til around 4:00 PM. at 1726 East Hasting Street, street level front door.

PLEASE STOP BY AND ASK ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU MAY HAVE.

I hope to see you there as I will spend the whole day there to help in any way that I can.

-Harold

BREAKING THE SILENCE: TRUTH AND LIES IN THE WAR ON TERROR

John Pilger's newest documentary
Sunday March 7 at Pacific Cinematheque
1131 Howe

Two showings: 1 pm & 2:30 pm
Admission \$5

While President Bush refers to the US attacks on Afghanistan and Iraq as two 'great victories', Pilger asks the question – victories over whom, and for what purpose? Pilger describes Afghanistan as a country "more devastated than anything I have seen since Pol Pot's Cambodia". He finds that Al-Qaida has not been defeated and that the Taliban is re-emerging. And of the 'victory' in Iraq, he asks: "Is this Bush's Vietnam?" He goes from the offices of the liars who make the wars to the scenes of their murderous crimes.

John Pilger has won awards for his films on Palestine, Vietnam, Cambodia, Iraq and East Timor. His website is www.johnpilger.com



Veteran Dissident Chomsky to Speak at Vancouver March 20th Rally

By Derrick O'Keefe

"The US occupying forces have imposed on Iraq an economic program that no sovereign country would ever accept: it virtually guarantees that the Iraqi economy will be taken over by Western (mostly US) multinational corporations and banks." Noam Chomsky, January 2, 2004.

Noam Chomsky, the 75-year old American linguist, writer, anti-imperialist and all-around dissident will be among the speakers at a major upcoming anti-war rally in Vancouver on Saturday, March 20. The veteran academic-activist -an all too rare combination these days -will be in the city for a gala fundraising event on the evening of March 20 to celebrate 25 years in Parliament for Burnaby's maverick NDP MP, Svend Robinson. That appearance, at the Orpheum, has already sold-out, leaving the anti-war rally at Sunset Beach as the only opportunity for many to hear Chomsky.

For decades, beginning with his commitment to the struggle to end the U.S. war in Vietnam, Chomsky has poured countless hours and the full force of his intellect into exposing the rapacious foreign policy

of his "own" government. He has relentlessly criticized the string of administrations -Republican or Democrat -that have been the sponsors of repression against popular and social movements throughout the world. After breaking its teeth on Vietnam, U.S. military intervention in world affairs was in many ways driven underground. Chomsky's prolific writings, however, followed the trail of money and weapons to expose the truth about U.S. foreign policy: supporting the racist apartheid regime in South Africa, arming the Israeli occupation of Palestine, funding the contras in Nicaragua and covering for Indonesia's brutal occupation of East Timor, to name just a few examples.

Unlike some of his '60s activist cohort, Chomsky has stayed the course, remaining an unstinting anti-imperialist. For instance, he resisted the pressure to support the war in Afghanistan after 9-11, a tragedy that turned more than a few anti-war radicals into blubbering apologists for the Pentagon. This consistency, combined with the fact that countless activists received some of their formative political education from Chomsky's works on imperialism, corporate power and capitalism, explains the lasting appeal of this soft-spoken septuagenarian.

The rally at which Chomsky will be speaking is being organized by StopWar.ca, a broad-based anti-war coalition that came together in the fall of 2002 to protest the U.S. drive to war with Iraq. March 20 will be a major international day of action to mark one year since the beginning of the invasion. The war has become a brutal occupation aimed at transferring Iraq's plentiful resources to U.S. corporate control and at setting up a pliant government. The occupation, however, has been met with resistance from the Iraqi people both before and after the much-hyped capture of Saddam Hussein. The resistance will again go global on March 20 as people on all continents express their rejection of the new U.S. Empire. Here in Vancouver, the rally will also be a chance to pay tribute to one of the defining voices of protest of our times.

For more information on the March 20 rally and march, check out www.stopwar.ca or email contact@stopwar.ca We will be gathering at 11:a.m. in Peace Flame Park, at the South End of the Burrard Bridge.

Welfare Cuts Coalition

[Following are (edited) minutes of a Coalition mtg to show some of the grassroots work that continues to be done by scores of organizations and hundreds of people, fighting back against the Fraser Institute and their provincial stooges]

Update on time limits

- * People between 22-24 months will have intensified case management and will have their employment plans reviewed monthly
- Employment and Assistance Workers will have to set up and interview all people with 22 -24 months counting towards the time limit by February 27 2004
- Workers will be used as pawns to carry out the dirty work of the Government
- Two year time limit is still in place - this exemption is an attempt to stop the rising public anger towards welfare time limits and to create the false division between those who are seen as deserving and those who are seen as undeserving of welfare
- Exemptions, as they are regulations, can be pulled at any time
- Calvin mentioned that he has heard of people on welfare who are being forced to work at Labour Ready type jobs -workfare
- Kathleen will look into and report back to the next meeting about job training programs that people are expected to comply with



—Dalia Sapon-Shevin (Woodcut crafted during Battle in Seattle)

- Edna has heard through a report that in one community they have seen a 30-40% increase in Aboriginal peoples returning back to their communities
- It is mainly women and single mom's
- The report has concluded that there is already a large shortage of housing for people to live in
- Other people in the meeting had heard that Aboriginal people's facing time limits were being forced by their worker and told that they had to return to their bands even if they had never lived their for their entire lives

Report Back for Petition

- Have around 2000 names
- We are in search of a good fax machine to send them from on March 1
- Pastor Don will bring all the petitions that the Anglican Church has collected to ELP
- Linda has been passing the petition around in Chilliwack
- Ray will mention the petition on his provincial telephone conference
- *Reminder to people to please ask people to return petitions to ELP for March 1 *

Media Committee Report Back

- We are always hungry for more stories
- Send stories to either Ray or Lisa at elp@telus.net or rgkbc@telus.net
- Make sure check facts
- Want to state how the welfare cuts are affecting various people and communities
- Next meeting is Friday March 5 at 11:30am at ELP office (456 W. Broadway, Suite 211)

BCTF update

- Kathleen informed us that the BCTF is having their AGM from Saturday March 13 to Tuesday March 17
- They will be discussing motions such as cuts to kids and the two year time limit on March 14
- People can attend and speak at the Mic as a visitor on these issues
- There will also be display tables for groups and information will go out to 800 teachers around the province

Active Community Presence Update

- Met last week at Vancouver Status of Women
- The kits are being updated



- The committee is planning for the action on Monday March 23
- VSW will be going to the Mt. Pleasant Ministry of Human Resources at 465 E. Broadway at 1pm and Housing Action Committee and Anti Poverty Committee will be going to the Waterfront Dockside Office at 2pm
- Linda reports that there have also been active community presences in Chilliwack
- Victoria has also been doing them

April 1 Committee

- Came up with purposes for April 1 - repeal welfare cuts legislation, cost corporations economically, get media attention, build support and solidarity....
- CUPE wants a province wide one day shutdown at all CUPE work places
- Dave C. will report back from the Refuse to Retreat Conference about what is happening for April 1
- Lisa will look into what other community groups in Vancouver are doing for April 1
- We decided that we needed more information to make a decision

Report Back on Vancouver District Labour Council Meeting

- They had a pizza educational on the two year time limit which Lisa spoke at
- Decent crowd
- Lisa Wulwik spoke, a MHR worker spoke, and Margot Young from BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre spoke
- Lisa has contacted Margot for a possible press release on what she spoke about
- Many trade unionists seemed interested

At last, it is written and published for all to see --
THE GAY AGENDA

Many of you have heard Dr. Laura, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, and others speak of the "Homosexual Agenda," but no one has ever seen a copy of it.

Since they are all so concerned about the "Homosexual Agenda", I thought it might be helpful to have a copy so I asked a friend of mine who recently obtained a copy directly from the Head Homosexual if he would send me a copy. He did and now I am sharing it with all of you.

6:00 am Gym

>

8:00 am Breakfast (oatmeal, egg whites and mimosas)

>

9:00 am Hair appointment

>

10:00 am Shopping

>

12:00 pm Brunch

>

2:00 pm

(1) assume complete control of the U.S. Federal, state, and local governments, as well as all other forms of world government

(2) destroy all healthy marriages

(3) replace all school counselors in grades K-12 with agents from Colombian and Jamaican drug cartels

(4) bulldoze all houses of worship

(5) secure total control of the INTERNET and all mass media

(6) be fabulous

>

2:30 pm Mud mask and forty winks of beauty rest to prevent facial wrinkles from the stress of world conquest

>

4:00 pm Cocktails

>

6:00 pm Light Dinner (soup, salad with romaine, radicchio, arugula, and balsamic vinaigrette dressing and Pouilly Fuisse)

>

8:00 pm Theater

>

10:30 pm "Do a little dance, make a little love, get down tonight!"

'DJ Mix and Friends' —

with Cody & hosted by Colleen

Friday, March 5th, 2004

7pm-10pm in the Carnegie Theatre

Refreshments served to quench your thirst



Karaoke with Darrell

Friday, March 12, 2004

7pm-10pm in the Carnegie Theatre

Come and sing your heart out with us

Refreshments served to wet your whistle...or your pipes!



VOLUNTEERS - YOU ARE TRULY #1

The spirit of volunteerism is a passion of mine, mostly because of the people that embody a spirit which compels them to do service for the good of others. Because of you, I can be around what moves me the most almost every day. I am often humbled by the goodness I see in so many of you. If I were a fairy godmother I would wave my magic wand and **make everything good for you**, but I am not, so all I can do is tell you how much I appreciate you and hope that my sincerity reaches your hearts.

Colleen

Volunteers of the Month (February)

Debbie Ventura, Kitchen Volunteer

Debbie came to us a year ago and we are appreciative of her sunny disposition and always willing to do her best. We have all watched her confidence grow and are up-lifted by her beaming smile. Thank you Debbie, for your reliable service and dedication.

Robert Beckman, Oppenheimer Park

This month, we had the honor of choosing a volunteer of the month from Oppenheimer Park. Robert has taken on jobs that are spurned by most and valued by everyone. Robert has been a devoted volunteer doing what no one else dare clean - the bathrooms! Every morning at promptly 9am Robert is waiting for the staff to open the washrooms so he can get to work. He does a meticulous job of cleaning some of the worst toilets in Vancouver. Thank you Robert!

~ Volunteer Program Committee Meeting,

Wednesday, March 17, 2004

Classroom 2, 3w" Floor @ 2:00pm

All Volunteers welcome to voice your concerns, or just sit, listen and learn

- Volunteer Dinner

**Wednesday, March 17, 2004 4:30pm
Theatre**

This is a dinner for all Volunteers with a minimum of 16 hours service for the month of March — this dinner is one way we show our appreciation to all of you for all that you do for the community.

Remember Me

When the snow melts
and the sun warms the earth
As spring brings forth a new hope for life
and the first flowers show their colours
When you look at the night sky
with its soft twinkling lights

When your children hold you close
and look into your eyes
As you hold dear to your heart
the love of your family,
never let them stray from the truth
When eagles soar in circled flight
and their wings touch.

And treasure the time spent with loved ones
for they are the most precious of all
As the rain falls on your face and the drops
roll gently down your cheeks, smile,
God has given us this day
to heal our wounds
With lightness in your heart,
learn from all what life has to offer.

Remember me, I'll always remember you.

StrongBearRedHeart
Submitted by Sue Blue

Perspective

Lord give me the sight to see what's really goin' on
hard when you see beautiful children unable to wander
You pick your way through the careless turd
someone left in a doorway Listen to some asshole
bragging about how he abuses his 'psychodykes'
Secretly you wish you were big and tough and you
could just pick out the trash and deposit all the idiots
in a box locked up and far away...
Sometimes I need perspective, a way to look over
top this garbage heap Sometimes because I am a
father I get afraid for my babies when I look at the
monsters the world's created
Boost me BuddhaMan I need to see what's really
goin' on lift me up higher than the muck and mire
let my light join the holy fire

You see them all fightin' over money, over drugs I
need divine intervention here Like Jesus said 'you
are all so busy vieing for position you ignore the
divine in us all; god I am blind everyday as I drift
my day into dust I forget that Spring is just beyond
this morning I have to keep lookin' on the sunny
side to see a world where little people like me have
half a chance at happiness -roses pushing up thru the
rubble- need Jack Kerouac again showing me that
even dog shit is holy

Perspective short of a great sense of humour is the
bread we need to eat daily love the staff we lean on
humanity our ultimate blessing
only those who seek the Divine ever see it

Al Loewen

The Quiet Man

Dressed in perpetual winter
Walkin in a life-long storm
He comes to the Carnegie 2 sit still

Who taught him how 2 be so quiet?
Didn't he yell at his abusers 2 STOP?
Did they beat the screams out of him?
Did they wring the tears out of him
'til he was a damp passive rag?
Did he learn not 2 ask any more questions?

Has he swallowed his rage
and inhaled his anger
with the sickly sweet smell of dope?
Where are his claws and his teeth
His taste for blood and thirst for revenge?

His words are dust that dance in the air
Or dandelion fluff that scatters in the park
His voice is beautiful and wavers in song
like bird's wings raising him
from where he sits in the dark

I want him to sing again and again
2 call off this war between women and men
but I'm scared 2 wander
in his emotional minefield
no, I don't wanna trespass
on his sacred ground
Megwetch for your beautiful music,
quiet man

Diane

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

49 W.Cordova
604-251-3310

**NEEDLE EXCHANGE – 221 Main; 8:30am – 8pm every day
NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN – 3 Routes:**

604-685-6561

**City – 5:45pm – 11:45pm
Overnight – 12:30am – 8:30am
Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am**

ONLY THE BANK IS LEAVING

The Four Corners Bank at Main and Hastings is shutting down services. There are still three other organizations in the building who will be continuing to provide services in 2004. Pathways Information Centre provides information and connections to all available services in the area. Fast Track to Employment and Aboriginal Connection to Employment will still be there working in their area. They all look forward to helping you as usual.

2004 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$40
Barry for Dave McC.-\$50 Rolf A.-\$45
Margaret D.-\$25 Wm B-\$20
Mary C-\$30 Bruce J.-\$30 U'mista - \$20
Heather S.-\$25 RayCam-\$30 Gram -\$100
Paddy -\$30 Glen B.-\$50 John S.-\$80
Penny G.-\$21 Jenny K.-\$20 Dara C.-\$20
Sandy C.\$20 Audrey -\$20 Wes K.-\$50
Joanne H.-\$20 Christopher R.-\$25
The Edge Community Liaison Ctt -\$200
Peter T.-\$20 PG for PB -\$25 Anonymous -\$2

Get your taxes done for Free!

See Peter at DERA, 12 E.Hastings
Mon, Tues & Thursday: 10am-4pm
Friday 10am-3pm
Closed Wed and daily for lunch 12-1pm.



The Downtown Eastside Residents Association
can help you with:

Phone & Safe Mailboxes
Welfare problems;
Landlord disputes;
Housing problems
Unsafe living conditions

Come to the Dera Office at 12 East Hastings Street



THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION.

Articles represent the views of individual
contributors and not of the Association.

Editor: PaulR Taylor; Cover art & layout: Diane Wood

Submission deadline for the next issue:

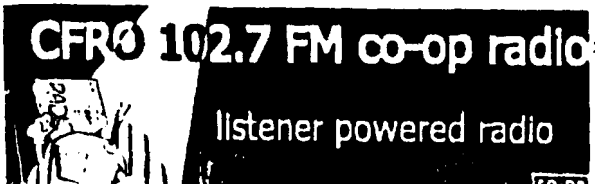
Thursday, March 11



**Contact
Jenny
Wai Ching
Kwan, MLA**

Working for You

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



Writing Workshop

Pathways Information Centre hosts the **dtes.ca** website, providing details about services available and training to find employment. This series of workshops are designed to help you tell your story, to see your self and life, and to share insights that helped you turn things around with others and the community at large.

Community News is a part of the **dtes** website, where information and articles on events and people in our community can appear, as well as a calendar of things going on.

The next workshop is at the
Four Corners Community Savings building, 2nd floor,
on Monday, March 8, 1 – 3 pm.
Come and make writing, even journalism, part of the skill-set you have to find and keep a job.

As an added feature, articles and stories selected for publication on **Community News** can be paid for!

Facilitated by Paul Taylor

LEFT FILM NIGHT

Salt of the Earth (1953, 94 minutes)

Salt of the Earth is the story of Chicano and Anglo miners and their families - particularly the strong women in the community - fighting against a giant company. Made by blacklisted Hollywood film artists, this is a film adaptation of a strike by Local 890 of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union against the New Jersey Zinc Company in Bayard, New Mexico. The miners played themselves in the film, which was made at the site of the original strike. The crew was made up of blacklisted technicians, and only two professional actors would appear: blacklisted Will Geer (who later went on to play Grandpa on *The Waltons*), and Mexican actress Rosuara Revueltas. **Starts 7:00pm**

The Trials of Henry Kissinger

(2002, 80 minutes)

Did Henry Kissinger sabotage the 1968 Vietnam peace talks for his own political gain? Did he orchestrate the secret bombing of Cambodia without approval from the US Congress? Did he authorize covert operations to overthrow a Chilean president? This documentary investigates these charges and others. Featuring unseen footage, declassified documents, and revealing interviews with Kissinger supporters as well as his detractors, this documentary explores how a young boy who fled Nazi Germany grew up to become one of the most controversial figures in US history. **Starts 9.00 pm**

SATURDAY, MARCH 13TH, 7 pm

**DOGWOOD CENTRE, 706 Clark Drive
CORNER OF Clark & E. Georgia**

The Job Shop supports residents of the DTES in their return to work. Participants develop and broaden the skills they will need to get and keep a job. Federally funded by HRDC, The Job Shop starts new participants every week. Program information sessions are held Tuesdays, at 1 p.m. Call 604-253-9355, Ext.234.

Need A Chance To Prove You're Ready, Willing & Able To Work?

Get the



you deserve!

Find out what your next step needs to be.

Call to attend The Job Shop Info session. 604-253-9355, ext. 234

Program funded by HRDC



Human Resources
Development Canada

Développement des
ressources humaines Canada



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!



Coming to the
Carnegie Theatre

7 p.m.

MARCH 13

FREE

**THE Downtown Eastside
POETS**

SHIT DISTURBERS, HISTORIANS (HERSTORIANS), BALLADEERS AND RAPPERS