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Carnegie

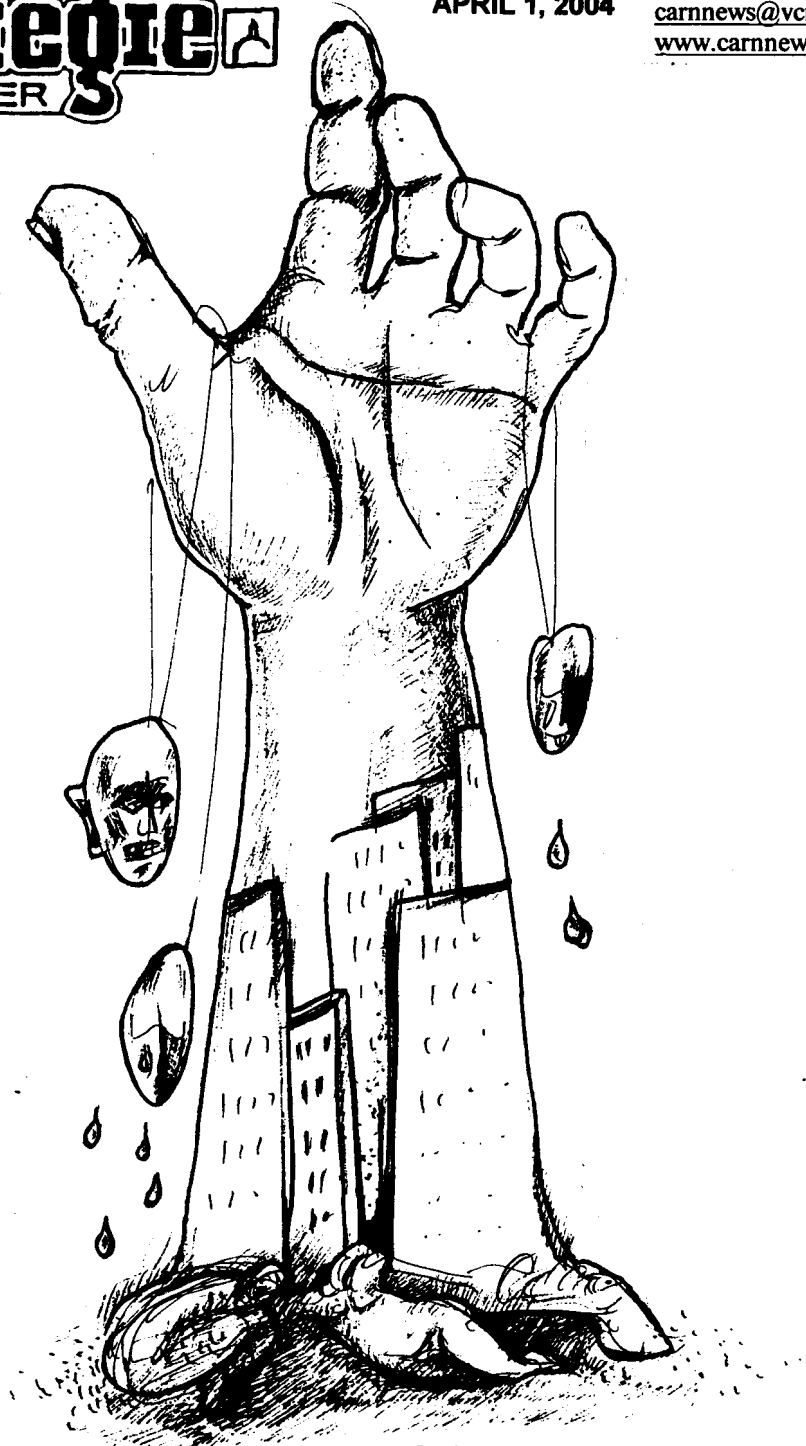
NEWSLETTER

401 Main St, Vancouver

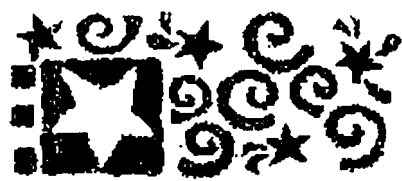
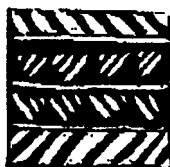
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APRIL 1, 2004

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www.carnnews.org



Young Shin . 2004.



DOWN TO EARTH

Homeless people roaming the earth, with no plot of ground to call their own. Gentrification pushing people out of their stomping grounds. Waiting in the soup kitchen line. The homeless are forced to wander from one government shelter to the next, never allowed to stay and grow food and find stability. Poor people die early all the time, due to malnutrition, poor health, violence and suicide, and end up in "six feet of ground". Earth is used as a symbol of wholesomeness and plenty, yet the poor get called "dirty, scum, slime, filth". The words to a Peter Gabriel song; "digging in the dirt, trying to find the places we got hurt."

These are the thoughts of Diane Thorn, that have shaped the art exhibition she is curating in the month of April at the Gallery Gachet, called **Down To Earth**. It's a play on words, as all eight artists in this show use clay as their medium, yes, we're still playing in the dirt and making mud pies! The majority of us have lived in poverty, and our ideas for the work we have made are a result of the fear and anxiety this neighbourhood has experienced with the threat of Gordon Campbell's Liberal government chopping benefits to thousands of needy people on April 1st, "April Fools!" Though a series of exemptions has dulled and dispersed the cuts, the Two Year Time Limit still exists on the books, and can always be used at the discretion of the Ministry or the individual social worker. Along with the voices of anti-poverty activists, **Down To Earth** will offer eight artists' insight into poverty.

Shelley Lavell has many years of experience throwing on the wheel. She has created a piece which shows the strain of constant stress, cracked, and repeatedly repaired, necessary for its owner, yet irreplaceable to the user, who is too poor to buy a new one.

Youngsin Lee sculpts the human form in clay. She has had successful exhibitions in Korea and Toronto; this is her first showing in Vancouver. She has created a hand, reaching up from the streets in gesture

of supplication, or perhaps a symbol of our unified strength.

April Marchant states that for years she denied her creative side in an effort to fit in and be a "productive member of society". She now realizes what this has cost her in terms of her physical and mental health. Self expression feeds the soul, and feeding the soul is the corner stone to survival, the corner stone to building self-awareness and self-acceptance. To do this requires the courage to "dig in the dirt" of one's own life, to wade through the mire of perceptions and emotions that shape one's self image. To be willing to unearth one's true self, exposing the soul to the healing powers of the sun. She calls her piece "Sanctuary".

Laurie Marshall's quirky clay characters are the inhabitants of a city street, some hopeless, some hopeful, all waiting...for Godot? The second coming? The end of it all? What do you do when the money runs out? Hang out on the sidewalk, watching, waiting, maybe talking and having a smoke with someone else in the same predicament.

Noelle Nadeau has created a charming community of clay houses, but oh no! One after another tenant gets evicted and ends up on the street. This installation is a literal representation of the lack of security when a person lives from cheque to cheque, with the ever-present threat of homelessness.

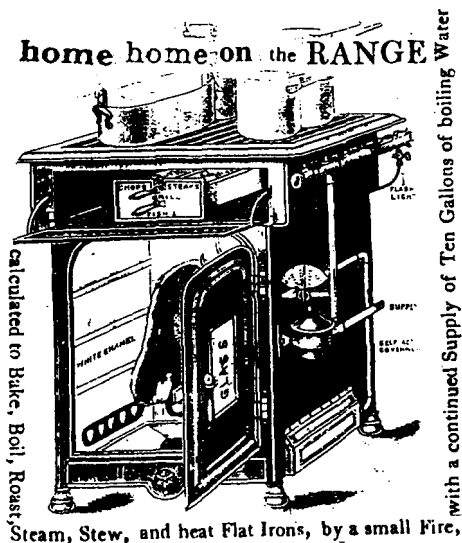
Sharon Smith's piece is a personal commentary on poverty and the medical system, and her search for healing from the indignity she experienced in its assembly-line treatment of her body. She works through feelings of rage and futility in the face of a doctor's indifference to her needs as an individual.

Diane Thorn appears as a modern-day Venus of Willendorf. We will be able to watch a video of her "Mud Slinging" performance which exposes the self-hate and hopelessness of being poor, and the stigma attached with living beneath the poverty line. Poor-bashing as a mob sport, who under all its jeering and ridicule, subconsciously understands that a twist of fate can land anyone on skid row, a sacrifice to the gods of prosperity.

Diane Wood creates an installation called "Keep the Home Fires Burning" to represent homelessness and our search for a safe place, both physically and spiritually. She builds a cave filled with altars to Vesta, the Goddess of Hearth and Home, and Her cronies Brigit, Pele, and Frida. Come in, she said, I'll give you shelter from the storm.

Opening night is Friday April 2 at 7:00 pm. The Solidarity Notes Choir will be performing at 8:30. The Gachet is at 88 east Cordova Street, and is open Wednesday - Saturday from noon 'til 6. Tel: (604) 687-2468.

Lady Di



Countdown to Beyond

Bankin on nothing, figurin on something,
take some's buck away, return to pay, no way
how d'ya suppose this predicament transposed If
you're in such dire straights why d'ya deserve to rate
Maybe the captains n' kings obscure y'r brass rings
rippin change outta y'r head 'til it's all you can stand
Do ya still wish for the stars as reachable as Mars??
I can't love anymore. Life's such a bitch, such a bore
what's a person to do? I've no answers, no clues.
Curry favor from upper classes while wadin in ashes
can't stoop so low with my battered baggage in tow
makin a mess at my best further sinkin into distress
My dearest, forget shallow platitudes,
and come back to me with your attitude
Just as you are, please, your spirit at ease

Robyn



Friends of Women and Children in BC -

A look at media poor-bashing

In September I was lucky enough to teach Downtown Eastside classes on media literacy in UBC's Humanities 101. I started one evening with a summary of the day's news cast, which prompted outrage but not surprise.

The first story featured aggressive panhandlers, with the requisite images of dazed and confused looking homeless people. Next was a story about sex trade workers and last a story about squatters in Stanley Park, alleging the dumping of large amounts of garbage.

Why, the students asked, didn't the reporters talk about why people were squatting? panhandling? working in the sex trade? Why didn't they talk to people who would tell them why? Why were they focusing on the poor as a problem and mentioning nothing about corporate pollution and tax breaks? Why were they ignoring provincial government policies that helped create conditions in which people become sex trade workers, or squat, or panhandle to survive?"

To read the full report, which focuses on government and media poor-bashing, visit:

<http://www.wmst.ubc.ca/Mar04FWCBC.pdf>

by Michelle Stack

MAKESHIFT

An exhibition curated by Veronika Klaptoecz with Keren Ben Zeev and Merryn Singer of the Joubert Park Project (Johannesburg, South Africa)

8 April - 1 May 2004
at Interurban (9 East Hastings St, at Carrall)

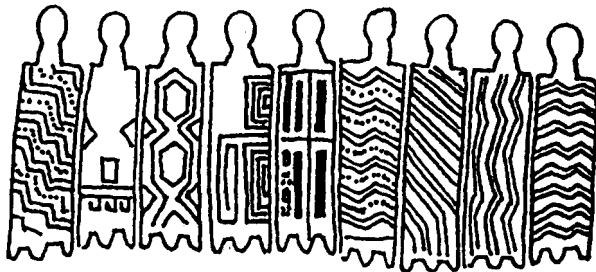
Opening Reception: Wednesday 7 April, 8-10 pm
Curators' Talk: Saturday 17 April 3 pm at Interurban

Makeshift is an exhibition in two parts. The first part, which took place in August 2003 in South Africa, involved 25 artists interacting with the dynamics and idiosyncrasies of the inner city spaces that surround the Johannesburg Art Gallery. The current exhibition brings together video and photo documentation of the artists' projects at *Interurban*.

The Johannesburg Art Gallery is located in Joubert Park, a transit hub where crime, high unemployment and homelessness co-exist with street trading, dense commuter traffic, and a wide range of cultural activity. The pressures of daily survival in this neighbourhood, combined with the resourcefulness of people who live, work, or pass through it, have led to a continual reuse and reformulation of space and objects.

For the project *Makeshift*, artists were invited to examine contradictions and connections between the Gallery and this environment. Having to make do with a budget of 100 Rand (\$20 CAD) and a three-week timeline, most artists staged transient performances and interventions in public spaces such as markets, streets, taxi ranks, and the park.

In the context of current debates about the relationship of artists and galleries to the Downtown Eastside, the Johannesburg projects serve as a basis for new dialogue and makeshift experiments. Keren Ben Zeev and Merryn Singer, two artists from the Johannesburg-based Joubert Park Project, will lead a series of discussions and workshops for neighbourhood residents, artists, organizations, and other interested individuals beginning April 10. The complete schedule will be available at www.geocities.com/interurbangallery, and will also be posted at the Interurban and the Carnegie.



For more information contact Veronika Klaptoecz at 604.726.7159 vk@interchange.ubc.ca. Interurban, 9 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, V6K 1M9, Canada. Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 1-5pm. www.geocities.com/interurbangallery/

Event schedule for *Makeshift*

Saturday, April 10, 2003

11 am – 2 pm: *Workshop for artists with Keren Ben Zeev and Merryn Singer (Part 1)*

Keren Ben Zeev and Merryn Singer, two artists and curators from Johannesburg, will lead a workshop for artists living, working, or otherwise involved in the Downtown Eastside. The workshop will centre on artistic strategies for engaging with this urban environment. Participants will be encouraged to conceptualize and / or produce an intervention or performance at the end of the workshop.

Saturday, April 17, 2003

11 am – 2 pm: *Workshop for artists with Keren Ben Zeev and Merryn Singer (Part 2)*

Continuation of Part 1. Artists are encouraged to come to either session, or both.

3 pm – 4:30 pm: *Curators' talk by Keren Ben Zeev and Merryn Singer*

Keren Ben Zeev and Merryn Singer will speak about the role of artist-run organizations such as the Joubert Park Project (JPP) in the current transformation of Johannesburg's inner city.

Monday, April 26, 2003

1 pm – 3 pm: *Workshop the Urban-Zine with Madeleine Lours*

This workshop will involve collage, drawing, cutting and pasting images and texts based on themes in *Makeshift*. Copies of the zine will become part of the exhibition.

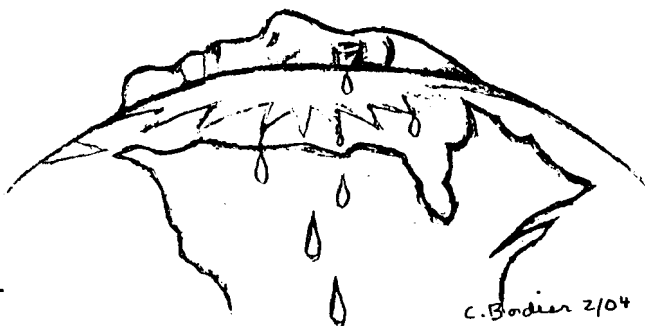
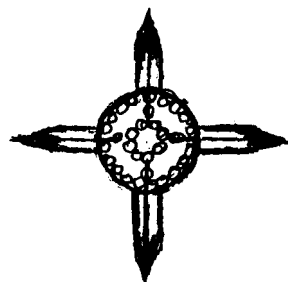
Last Saturday, I walked with thousands of other Vancouverites in what we like to call an anti-war protest. It reminded me of the time I took my first walk for peace in September of 1973, shortly after the Americans had chopped up the socialist government of Chile and helped murder and torture thousands of her people.

In righteous indignation, a few hundred Vancouverites, and me, walked around the U.S. Embassy off Georgia street in rush hour traffic and yelled a lot. Some of us poured ox blood on the sidewalk outside the Embassy and got arrested. Thirty years later, I consider it to have been supremely naive of me to think that the American government was going to change its spots and halt its war machine simply because of a protest - or any number of protests. But then, I was only seventeen back then, and new to all of this.

Last Saturday, I lapsed into sentimental naivety again and protested a war with my feet. The country in America's cross-hairs has changed - it's Iraq now - but that's about all that's different. The CIA's friend, International Telephone and Telegraph, funded the 1973 Chilean massacre; this time it's Unicol and other oil companies at the helm of the latest war.

Just like in 1973, a lot of us yelled last weekend, and sang and chanted slogans against a nasty American President, although thirty years later the protest has become a lot tamer. This time, it was held on a Saturday, when the US Embassy is safely locked up, and not even traffic was inconvenienced by our polite stroll. Even the cops were accommodating and friendly.

I still think it's naive to think we're doing anything to stop war through such self-satisfying gestures. But then, ironically, stopping war doesn't seem to be the aim of such "protests". After all, if the thousands of us really wanted to stop war, we wouldn't be dutifully paying our taxes to our war-making government and its subsidizing of a \$1 billion a year Canadian arms industry. If we wanted to stop the Iraqi war, we'd be leafleting the Canadian soldiers bound for Afghanistan and telling them to desert. Or we'd be getting trade unions to refuse to handle arms and supplies headed to the Gulf War, and we'd blockade government offices and border points and airports with our bodies.



That's how you stop a war machine. But that's also how you get arrested, or beaten to a pulp. And it's so much easier and safer to simply walk around Vancouver for a few hours and listen to speeches.

In the light of this revelation, I've been sitting here pondering why so many of us don't seem to want war to end, when we think we do. And the answer is very simple.

We depend on it.

The prosperity of our continent, and you and I, rests on two things: bountiful natural resources gained by our deliberate massacre of probably thirty million of our indigenous people, and a permanent war economy. Canada and the USA are both bound by this bloody, historical fact.

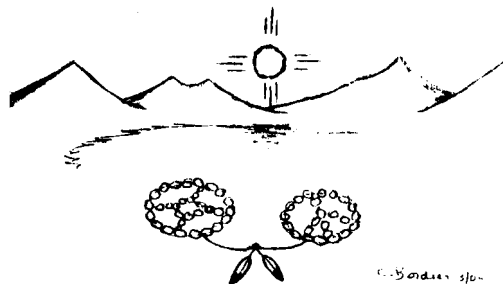
The American economy is sustained by a \$1 billion a day arms industry. Without this golden goose, neither you nor I could drive our cars or heat our homes, or afford to buy our groceries. We're all locked into an economic system that requires war and war preparation, just as much as it requires that we are a drug-dependent, unhealthy and fear-ridden populace.

Do we really think that such a system is going to suddenly stop bombing innocent people, or conducting wars of aggression? Of course not. There's too many jobs on the line, too many profits to make. There's the GDP to consider. I think we all know this, which is why so many of us seem content with doing nothing but parade around on a weekend and pretend we are somehow staying George Bush's hands.

Of course, I have been accused of being a pessimist. So prove me wrong. Stop paying your taxes. Incite a soldier to desert. Put your body in front of a military base or a government office when it's not closed for the weekend. Then I'll believe that you really, truly hate war.

A good, poor man who got himself nailed to a cross for trashing a wealthy church once said that you shouldn't ever start a journey without counting the cost. So before you actually do something to stop the Iraqi war, ask yourself what it will cost you - and the world you inhabit. And ask yourself this: Can a society and economy like ours survive WITHOUT war?

After all, what matters more to you, honestly: the safety of an Iraqi child, or your own job and material comforts? Which will you choose, if you have to?



I expect that if the 20,000 Vancouverites who strolled around last weekend "for peace" had to actually make such a choice, and lose something in their lives because of their convictions, we'd see a hell of a lot less people out to march against George Bush. But then, none of us will ever have to be put to such a test, here in Canada. The system ensures that. None of us will ever know war, or famine, or real suffering. Only other people will: the ones whose labour and agony we feed off.

We have bled and slaughtered the world and its people to achieve our prosperity and oil-based wealth; so why would we ever put an end to the war machine that has won and continues to protect such comforts for we privileged North Americans?

Personally, I think we need to put an end once and for all to an economic system that has bred and requires continual ecocide, conquest and warfare. but such a change will overturn our lives, and so it probably won't ever happen.

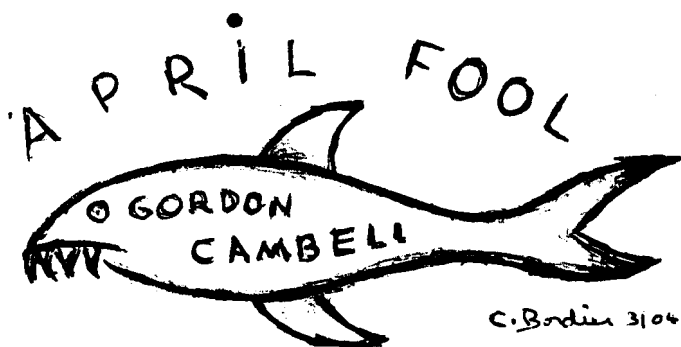
Nevertheless, if real peace is ever to come to our sorry little planet, you and I will have to go without so that most people in the world can start to survive. We need to radically redistribute the wealth and power to the have-nots, starting in our own cities and neighbourhoods.

Or to quote labour songster Utah Phillips, we will need to "Feed the poor and starve the bankers!". How else are we ever going to live at peace with the earth and its spirit?

Short of such a revolution, let's stop wasting our time trying to politely convince the ravenous tiger called global capitalism to stop devouring lambs. It's time, rather, to kill the Beast altogether.

If you shrink from such a task, and can somehow go on accommodating yourself to this slaughterhouse of a planet, at least know yourself. Know what you are a part of. And stop all the meaningless gestures.

By Kevin D. Annett



Ex-Liberal denounces Gordon Campbell

On Monday, March 8, MLA Elayne Brenzinger resigned her position as a governing provincial Liberal. She gave as reasons that Premier Gordon Campbell was ruining the province, destroying communities, and disregarding the concerns of his political team.

Brenzinger said that the reason she went into politics in the first place was to help the disenfranchised: the poor, the disabled, seniors, and other disadvantaged groups of people. She said that Campbell's government was cutting funding to those groups, adversely affecting them, instead of helping them.

She said Campbell's administrative style is "chaotic, haphazard, and destructive to British Columbia. I cannot continue to participate in this disassembling of BC."

It's interesting that Brenzinger resigned exactly on International Women's Day. Neither she nor the media made any reference to this fact. It seemed to highlight her resignation and Campbell's mistreatment of vulnerable groups in BC, including women.

Another item that had been in the news leading up to her announcement was the provincial Liberal's cutting of all funding to all 37 women's centres across BC. Surely this also played in her decision, but not a word was said. You'd think that if Brenzinger herself didn't say anything, at least the media would have made the links. But since they are generally in bed with Campbell's Liberals, they can't be expected to say anything critical of his government.

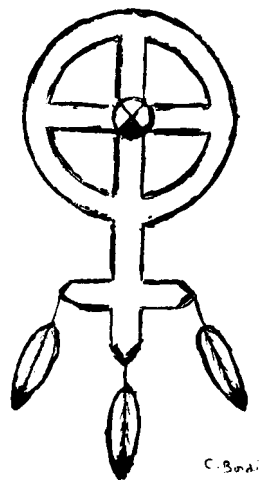
The amount of the funding to the women's centres is small: \$1.7 million. Given all the services these centres provide to women in need, that is a real bargain. Five women were arrested at the BC legislature for refusing to leave after discussing the cuts with women's services minister Ida Chong. According to the demonstrators, Chong refused to hear their arguments against the cuts, and walked out on them. They stayed in the legislature to try to get a fair hearing, and were arrested instead.

The *Vancouver Sun* did a hatchet job on Brenzinger in an editorial on March 10, titled "The Brenzinger affair: Who is looking after the public interest here? Here is a sample of the editors' ideological slant: "We can also see how she might decide that the positions she was forced to support in government were against her own values, although we might wonder whether she had read the party platform before signing on as a candidate." As usual, acting as apologists for Campbell's Liberals.

Amnesty International just initiated a two-year campaign to fight violence against women. I consider the cuts to women's centres to fall in that category, and I sent an e-mail to AI to that effect. You might want to inform them also. Address: Amnesty International, 312 Laurier Ave. East, Ottawa, ON K1N 1H9; phone: 1-800-AMNESTY; e-mail: info@amnesty.ca; website: www.amnesty.ca.

Maybe we can turn Brenzinger's resignation into something positive.

By Rolf Auer



SCARY

That's how I felt and kinda foolish too. Last summer a friend of mine asked me if I would like to go kayaking. I have never been in a kayak and I thought I'd give it a go. I said yea and she said she'd get in touch when it was convenient. I guess it never was convenient because she didn't call.

Summer passed and autumn rolled in and we never did get a chance to go out on the water in a flimsy little boat. I don't know how trustworthy they are, but they must be because I see them on sports shows and I have seen them in English Bay. On TV they have been shown around whales, the killer ones, Orcas.

Anyway the offer sorta got me interested in the idea of kayaking. The start of the new year came and again we discussed kayaking. She gave me a book about tides and currents. She told me I would have to know something about them to be able to go sea kayaking. Since we live by the seashore that made pretty good sense to me.

In one of my First Nations Journeys classes on Mondays and Wednesdays, our instructor, Gary, brought in a booklet with a picture on the cover of one of the big West Coast Native canoes. He said there were also some stories inside about West Coast Native culture. He asked if anyone wanted to read the stories and I said I'd like to.

I took the booklet. When I finally got around to reading it I realized that it was a booklet put out by a kayaking advertising company called "wavelength magazine." I thought it must be my destiny to go kayaking. Then I started helping out at the Skookum Hub (Mon-Fri 9am til noon approx.) the coordinator Brianne said she was a kayaker. All these things can't just be a coincidence, can they?

Well I've started to explore kayaking companies on the web and have even written down the names of some places where I can get some classes. Hopefully, I can take a ride or two to get used to being on the water before I have to make a decision on whether or not I would like to take up kayaking as a hobby.

All of this got me thinking a lot about going out on the water. One night as I lay in bed, thinking about what I was going to do, I realized that one day in the future I might be paddling up the Inside Passage and there would be some Killer Whales swimming along



beside me. Being the kind of person I am I'd probably get spooked and pull into shore for a breather. Of course sitting on shore would be a couple of Grizzlies or even a couple of Black Bears. There wouldn't have to be a couple just one would do of course. They/it would be hungry and looking for Salmon or something to eat and who should pull into shore but their dinner (me). So now my only choice is who should I get eaten by. Whales or Bears.

Maybe I could trick them into eating each other and save a bit for my lunch. I guess that's what dreams and nightmares are all about. I don't know if this is a dream or a nightmare. What do you think?

I feel silly because I don't even know if I will like kayaking. Even if I do I wonder if I will ever get the courage to take off on my own for a month or so just to discover the Inside Passage from sea level. The longest journey is like the shortest they say. They both begin with the first step. My first step is to take a ride in one of these kayaks and see if I like the idea of being on the water with all those other things.

Another one of my dreams is to take a bus to Nova Scotia, buy an old bike and paddle my ass back to BC. That's another story and I'll tell you about it sometime if I don't get eaten by a mountain lion somewhere along the way.

--hal

NSO – now at 501 East Hastings

The Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Safety Office is very sorry to announce the departure of long-time Coordinator Deb Mearns, who has resigned her position for personal reasons.

Deb came to the Safety Office in 1995 as the founding Coordinator. Working in collaboration with the community-based Steering Committee, Deb took the idea of developing a hub for community safety based on a model of community development and coordination and made it a reality.

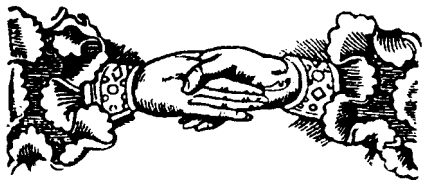
Working for many years as the Office's sole paid staff member, she and her 'partner' Constable Dave Dickson fought fearlessly to protect and promote the safety of all who live and work in the Downtown Eastside, enhancing and fostering cooperation among local agencies and organizations such as the Vancouver Police Department.

Among Deb's many accomplishments are the entrenchment of the 'Hard Targeting' initiative as the key vehicle for coordinating strategies to deal with high risk youth, the development of the monthly Safety Nights for women in the sex trade at WISH, and the coordination of reports on community concerns such as "Steal and Pawn, Dusk to Dawn".

For five years, Deb served ably as the Safety Office representative on the WISH board of directors. She wrote the Constitution and Bylaws, establishing the Safety Office as its own Society, and in the process staunchly defending and helping to establish the organization as an independent entity. Without Deb - her knowledge, expertise and hard work - the Safety Office would not exist in its current form.

The Safety Office and the Downtown Eastside will not be the same without Deb's energy, intelligence, integrity and commitment. We will miss her very much and wish her the best of luck as she and her husband John Turvey move to Courtenay and begin their new life there.

With all good wishes from the Board, Staff and Steering Committee members of the Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Safety Office.



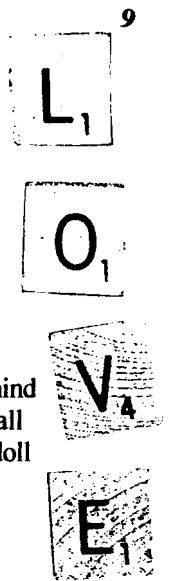
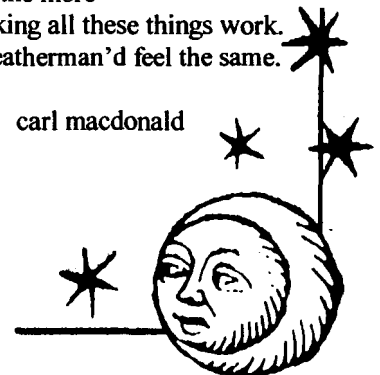
nothing to write
this thursday night
felling half tight
out of mind visitors
keep clogging my mind
i can't seem to make nothing rhyme
well that don't make no never mind
'cause i ain't got nottin' but time

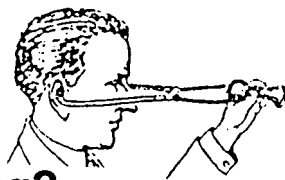
play your game you know you're to blame
can't look can't feel i know you aren't real
a true friend is hard to find not just in your mind
i have my wall i will not fall i walk upright tall
all i can say is bye ya all you are one weird doll
i do not know if you care or heard that
hurt is just a four letter word
i might still get my money from a bin
sometimes i might wear a grin
but that's where \$nuggle bunny comes in
\$nuggle bunny on the go
typing shopping high and low
my inspiration friend so true
there is nothing i won't do for you
i just wish that i could say
every day's \$nuggle bunny day
if i decide to practice a slight movement
right to left or left to right
it's nobody's business but my own
[tina]

carl macdonald

vancouver moon why do you shine on us?
what did we do to deserve your beauty?
not only that but you bring the heavenly stars to do
their twinkling dance for us.
we are not worthy to see your great presence.
this only convinces me all the more
there is a god up there making all these things work.
my only wish is that the weatherman'd feel the same.

carl macdonald





Curing or Healing?

Throughout the centuries Western medicine has found cures for some of the deadliest illnesses and fixed bodies that were, before, beyond repair. But it also lost its soul in a sea of technology and pills.

The ancient medicine people had an important tool we have lost – knowledge of the Spirit. Without it the technology of today is only an empty shadow.

Medicine has become a business married to the pharmaceutical industry. Many of today's drugs' side effects are worse than the actual disease. The psychotropic drugs are mainly trial n' error experiments with the disturbing truth finally coming out that many "antidepressants" actually induce suicide in a significant number of patients (or 'consumers' as we say today).

Money is the prime driving force, with many medical procedures little more than obscenities. A few days ago doctors announced they had successfully performed an 8-organ transplant on a patient less than a year old!? People are kept on life-support for years, cloning is around the corner with the goal of producing organs for transplant without rejection. We are being obsessed with the myth of immortality - Frankenstein is here now!

Recently some emergency room doctors went on strike, risking the lives of patients for more money while the health care system is falling apart. They forgot their oath: "First, do no harm."

In every aspect of life there is always a line we are not supposed to cross. But in the U.S. many people have died because their H.M.O. (medical insurance) refused to pay for procedures or medications that could have saved their lives. Finally these HMO's are being investigated by that government.

The key words are "life at all cost". But what about quality of life? If a person is terminal, burned beyond recognition or hurt badly in an accident without hope for recovery, s/he should be able to exit peacefully. Active euthanasia is dangerous but we could have an enlightened process to permit nature to just take its course. It would be the compassionate thing to do.

To fight and not give up or to go peacefully should be a choice. The Western spiritual system is based on one lifetime, and this is reflected in the medical approach – save life no matter what (that's where the money is).

I envision a medicine of the future that understands the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual needs of the patient. It will combine the Western, Eastern and Indigenous knowledge and wisdom. Our cold, sterile and inhumane modern hospitals will become Halls of Healing, where all needs are met with compassion and, above all, love.

Is it unrealistic to hope that this can be done before it is too late?

Our planet is a mass of pollution and poisons, with global warming accelerating because of profit-with-out-restraint. Population is over six billion people and the quality of life for the majority is declining. A few centuries ago colonization brought doctors (and missionaries with misplaced intentions) to save lives (and convert people) and to help them live longer, to stop the death-at-birth suffered by so many babies without understanding balance. Birth control did not exist then and is still forbidden by the Catholic Church and others. Mother Earth cannot apparently care for our masses, and it may be the reason why viruses and diseases are mutating beyond the control of antibiotics; and 'old' diseases like TB, smallpox, polio, syphilis etc. are resurgent, resisting vaccines and medications, coming back with a vengeance. (We also see a number of new viruses – superbugs – emerging.)

Billions of people are condemned to a life of poverty and suffering these returned (and new) illnesses while drug corporations are bent on making the healthy presentable, with profits beyond imagination.

Humanity needs to awake, if it is not too late, to the realization that all life is interrelated. We cannot afford to think in terms of isolated boxes. Modern medicine needs to become holistic in all aspects, with an understanding of the sacred knowledge of the ancients, more valid than ever. Any system has to encompass the divinity of all things and incorporate all parts of each being in healing.

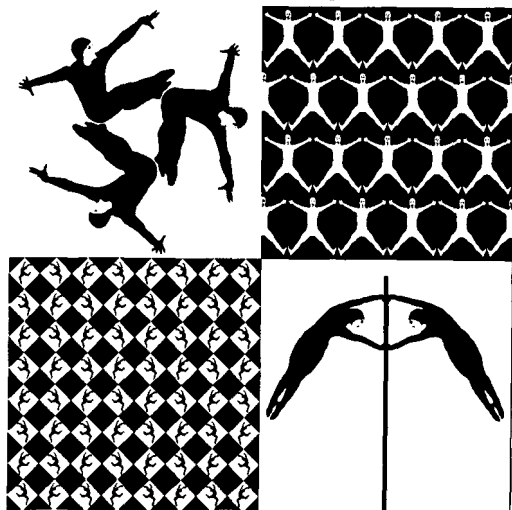
By Christiane Bordier

CELEBRATING OUR GEMS

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION WEEK

Sunday April 18th - Saturday April 24th

Our Volunteer Program is a very unique creation that provides enormous benefits, not only to the community that Carnegie serves but also to each and every individual who participates in it.



**THANK YOU ALL VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUR
CONTINUOUS CONTRIBUTIONS AND THE
POSITIVE EFFECTS YOU HAVE ON THE
COMMUNITY**

**LET'S ALL CELEBRATE TOGETHER THE
SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM AND THE
HUMAN SPIRIT IN GENERAL**

Colleen

DJ Mix and Friends' with Cody

Friday, April 02, 2004

*7pm- 10pm in the Carnegie Theatre
Refreshments served to quench your thirst
EVERYONE WELCOME*

Karaoke Hosted by Colleen

Friday, April 9th, 2004

*7pm - 10pm in the Carnegie Theatre
Come and sing your heart out with us
Refreshments served to wet your whistle or pipes!*

~ Volunteers of the Month (March)

Paula Vitvar, 2nd Floor Receptionist, Yoga Instructor, Weight Room Monitor (drop-in) Paula joined us a year ago and we are appreciative of her quiet solid demeanor while she busily goes about all her various tasks in 3 different areas. We thank you Paula, for your involvement and faithful commitment.

Jason Tizzard, Computer Lab Monitor, Learning Centre Tutor, Role Playing Seminar Jason Jason — what would we do without you. For the past year, there is rarely a day goes by that Jason is not volunteering in either the Computer Lab or the Learning Centre or both. Your skills and helpful disposition provide an enormous benefit to all.

Volunteer Program Committee Meeting

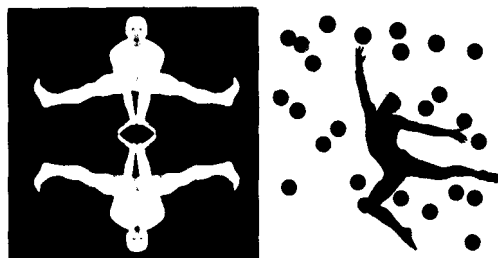
Volunteer Recognition Week,

Sunday April 18 to Saturday April 24th.

As Wednesday, April 21, 2004 is the day of our Volunteer Party to celebrate our gems, the Volunteer Committee Meeting will be cancelled for that date.

Volunteer PARTY / DINNER / DANCE

Wednesday, April 21st, 4:30pm Theatre
2:30pm Party 4:30pm Dinner 7pm Dance

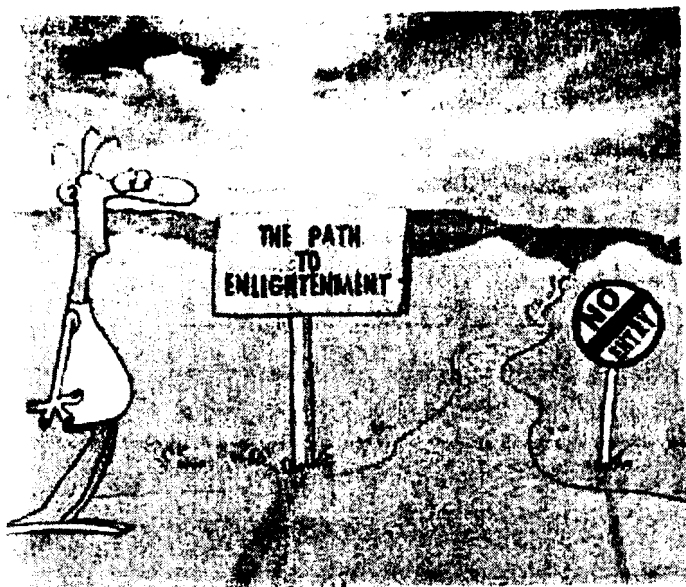


Friday, April 23

4pm-7pm DEVRA. Awards Dinner and Dance

For the first time ever, the Volunteer Program of Carnegie Community Centre invites local agencies and their volunteers to attend the ~ Annual **Downtown Eastside Volunteer Recognition Awards**. This gala affair will be a community-based celebration of volunteer spirit that focuses on individuals and community agencies.

7pm- 10pm Dance with our very own *Carnegie All Star Band*; always guaranteed fun! (all band members are talented musicians and active Carnegie volunteers).



Subject: support to our Womens Centres

Hi all! Please take a few minutes in your busy day to show your support to our Womens Centre by signing in your name and sending a message to our government that we would like to have our funding reinstated, by visiting this website:

www.savewomenscentres.ca

THANK YOU from all of us at the Island Womens Society!! *Lisa Haida Gwaii*

The above simple message went to everyone in the sender's address book.

To: Veerman, Maarten; JuliaRuns; zola nova; VPL - Mary Ann Cantillon; VMT and/or Savannah/Terry/Montana; Victoria Marie, OSF; VANDU - Ann Livingston; VAC; TFN -Schiffner, Fred; Taoist Tai Chi Society Members; STORYEUM; Sharon K; sara ross; Run For Your Life - DTES walk/run club Andrew Sharpe; Rosemary G; Renae M; RayCam CC - Caroline Credico; RayCam CC - Carole Brown; Portland Cafe; Pearl D.; NF -Ian Burns; NF - Sherry; nancy@wawaw.ca; Michelle Hehewerth (E-mail); Mary H; linda@dtcs.ca; Larry Loyie & Constance Brissenden; Kui Mi; Kevin Siluch; julie-brassard@selfdesign.or; John Van Luven; Jo-Anne Smith Lu'ma Native Housing Society; jo-anna_russell@hotmail.com; joanmorelli@yahoo.com; Jim Hamilton; Jim O'Dea; jeffrey goreski; IC - George Jung; Gringo Star; Gillian Maxwell; George S; Garry J; fluxdesign@shaw.ca; flo@wawaw.ca; Evelyn Lockyer; eve moreau; EMBERS-Nozick, Marcia; EMBERS - Bart Reid; EMBERS - A Carlson; Edna Nyce Aboriginal

Women's Council; Don S.; Dionne P; DEYAS - Judy McGuire; DERA -CAPC -Gaye Ferguson; ddiewertt@shaw.ca; dayevents@firstunited.ca; Dawn Patterson; Dara C; susan_gordon@city.vancouver.bc.ca; Marinaszjarto@aol.com; john@bigwavedesign.net; dspencer@firehallartscentre.ca; CP -dan; be-berle@interchange.ubc.ca; Cook's Studio Cafe; Consultant; Housing Working Group-Sr. Elizabeth Kelliher; CD WG - Latin American -Latinos In Action Gustavo Carcuz; Aboriginal Front Door; Chinese Seniors Discussion Group Frank Tong; A&D Working Group-Joyce Rock; Women's- Trick, Marlene; CD WG -Children & Families-Fortin, Michelle; Cleo R; Clemencia G; Circle of Hope - Jim Leyden; Chris Laird; Charles Carlos Herbst; CCCA - Michael Clague; cassandra & chanel & grandma Hawkins; Carol Rosset; carlos@serfiosurf.com; Candy Zazulak ACCESS; Candy Campo; cameron wong; Bob Sarti; Beverley M; ASIA - Cynthia Low; annie lee; Andrienne Burk; Aleisha Cuff; akeil@tradeworks.bc.ca; ah-jahla@yahoo; wg - kendall, alice; wg - nipshank, mable; wg - ramage, debra; wg - scott, marg; Suze Kilgour Cc: VCHA -Sheena Campbell; VCHA -Jazmin Miranda; R. Paul KERSTON; tracey h; Tammy McLaren; Steering -Munoz, Monserrat; Steering -Felix, Vince; Steering -Bouchard, Steve; Steering -Glyn Shepard; Tradeworks - Bob Gilson; MCC - Paul Neufeld; js; js; cbourel@district.kent.bc.ca; viley@city.whiterock.bc.ca; CAP -Steve Olmstead (SLRD); Badyal, Sara; CAP - Sandra Dunn (CNV); rapaterson@city.surrey.bc.ca; mcollier@squamish.ca; CAP -Lisa Zwarn (City Clerk); CAP - Linn T; lelchuk@pittmeadows.bc.ca; CAP -Joan Merrick (SCRD); CAP -Don Jolley (PMeadows); CAP -Dave Owens (CNV); CAP -Dan L Campbell; cmbonneville@city.surrey.bc.ca; chris-tine_baird@city.vancouver.bc.ca; Lee, Barbara (Human Resources); CAP -Anna Marchiafava (CNV); CAP - Yvette Roberts (CNV); tarthur@city.langley.bc.ca; CAP - Stephen R. Gamble; Shelley.Karakochuk@city.burnaby.bc.ca; pcatlin@tol.bc.ca; Mmarshall@fvrd.bc.ca; Manjit.Sunner@gvrd.bc.ca; CAP - Malcolm; LSissons@cnv.org; ljones@pittmeadows.bc.ca; Janet.Teves@gvrd.bc.ca; InfantiE@city.port-coquitlam.BC.CA; Gary_Mah@dnv.org; dlazzarin@williamslake.ca; Dalyce.Brandt@leg.bc.ca; Blanka.Zeinabova@city.burnaby.bc.ca; amacdonald@slrd.bc.ca

Julia Mark, a local activist, sent it to everyone in her address book, and the following began:

From: info@serftosurf.com

On behalf of all of us, Julia, STOP SPAMMING!

From: PaulR Taylor

The automatic STOP SPAMMING message is offensive. Saving Women's Centres can hardly be equated with "Send \$5 and your life will change!" crap that deserves the SPAM moniker. Everyone, the cuts for a whole new wave of misery and powerlessness begin April 1 Assassination of Campbell is hardly worth the effort as he is just dancing to the tune whistled by those who see this "new era" as only the beginning.

From: info@serftosurf.com

Dear Paul,

I object to your statement. I am extremely busy and I also do not have the time to receive duplicate e-mail messages on a continuous basis. Also I am not interested one bit in the "assassination of Campbell", so keep your political views to yourself!!

Charles Herbst

President/CEO

Serf to Surf Products Inc.

Vancouver, BC

From: PaulR Taylor

Then take yourself off the list. Campbell doesn't dignify the name politician, nor is it political to see the world as just a bit less whacko with him and others of his ilk (*sic*) gone.

From: info@serftosurf.com

I have and I'm not going to tell you again. I don't give a shit about your political views or any of the rest of you left wing nuts. It's the NDP that a made a mess of things for years. Somebody has to clean it up and that always hurts. The next election will clearly define just whom the people want so you can rant all you want, it won't make a bit of difference. Too many low-lives have been feeding out of the trough and

have been making far too much money for basically nothing.

I have 34 years of business experience which I am using to create a company that will create jobs for people that actually want to work and know what that means, not those that want to sit on their asses and expect a bloody handout!!

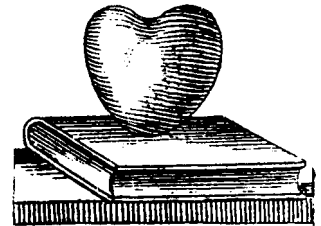
Do not e-mail me again or I will report it as spamming to your ISP

Carlos

From: PaulR Taylor

The ease with which your use of stereotypical constructs grows ... s'matter, truth hurt?

**Anyone and everyone who thinks Charles Herbst (or "Carlos" – his closet revolutionary handle!?) is sorely in need of an education or, if that seems pointless, needs more 'spam' – feel free to share his email address with the world!



News from the Library

Please drop by library and Fill ongoing Library Review as we attempt to find out what you would like to see happen in your library.

You may also wish to choose title for the One Book, One Vancouver event. Deadline April 15th

Poetry Reading in Gallery April 6~ 2pm: Award winning Poet Sue MacLeod visits Carnegie as part of a cross Canada tour and will read from *That singing You Hear at the Edges*.

Some of the new books received:

A game to play on the tracks by Lorna Jackson
Lorna Jackson spent nine years as a musician on the bar Circuit in British Columbia before settling on Southern Vancouver Island A Game to Play on the

Tracks is the story of a singer, Arden, and her failed return to the life of country music and the British Columbia bar scene. It is also a story of loss from the point of view of Arden's survivors her son and husband

The voices of the Marrakesh By *Elias Canetti*

Winner of the 1981 Nobel Prize for Literature, Elias Canetti uncovers the secret life hidden beneath Marrakesh's bewildering array of voices, gestures and faces. The book was first published in 1967, and has been hailed by critics as a unique travel guide.

The Secret Voyage of Sir Francis Drake by *Samuel Bawlf* Maritime historian Bawlf skillfully uncovers new information regarding Drake's voyage and how he became the first captain to circumnavigate the globe.

Bobbie Lee: Indian Rebel by *Lee Maracle*

Beginning with her childhood, Maracle traces her teenaged years and adulthood during the 1960's, 70's, and '80's. A valuable book about one remarkable woman's spiritual quest... "and a true story of one woman's incredible strength. Bobbie Lee confronts white Canadian society as Joy Harjo says this story's as poignant and powerful as it was when it first stunned an emerging generation (24) years ago"

Staff Pick- This week we are adding a review by staff member Holly, of a book which she found in-


teresting despite authors negative qualities. We invite anybody who would like to review a book for the library to come and borrow a new book to write a review for the Newsletter.

EMMAS WAR By Deborah Scroggins


Emma's War is an informative read outlining the history of civil war and colonial involvement in Africa's Sudan province. This book attempts to focus on the involvement of a British aid worker, Emma McClune, in the conflicts of this region. Forming an intimate portrait of Emma's fascination with adventure, Africa and, in particular, the child soldiers caught in the civil unrest, this book nonetheless remains unsympathetic and somewhat sensationalistic in its treatment of its main subject, Emma McClune.

Deborah Scroggins tone remains throughout this book judgmental and unsympathetic, describing Emma as a self-absorbed and superficial woman whose only interest in the Sudan is on the plane of high adventure. Given the extremity of the surroundings and the actual focus of Emma's work, starving children, Scroggins tone seems petty and slanted. Scroggins' strengths lie in her research and knowledge of the political situation, which she clearly describes






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

Program funded by HRDC



Human Resources
Development Canada

Développement des
ressources humaines Canada

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 and ask for The Job Shop.

LOCAL ARTISTS & CRAFTSPEOPLE

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO DISPLAY AND MARKET YOUR WORK



The Chinatown Arts and Culture Festival is a multicultural fair held on four consecutive Saturdays in July at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park courtyard. (50 East Pender St., Vancouver) Running afternoons from 1 to 4 PM, this year's festival features dancers, musicians and craftspeople from the Chinese, Malaysian, Japanese and Aboriginal communities.

Chinatown has a bustling tourist trade in the summer, and this is a great chance for local artisans/craftspeople to promote their work to locals and visitors within a living, vibrant, multicultural context. A number of tables are available for people to display and sell Arts & Crafts at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Park on July 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th. We are looking for people who want to set up for any or all of these days. Tables will be supplied by the Festival Committee. We are asking for a donation of 10 - 20% of proceeds to help cover Festival costs.

If you'd like to take advantage of this opportunity to be part of the Chinatown Arts and Culture Festival, send us your info, and what days you'd like to set-up. You will be asked to provide examples of your work to be reviewed by the Festival Committee.

The deadline for applications is Friday, April 23rd, 2004.

To find out how you can be part of the Chinatown Arts and Culture Festival, contact Rika Uto at Carnegie Centre, 401 Main St., Vancouver BC V6A 2T7

tele: 604-665-3003 or email: rika_uto@city.vancouver.bc.ca

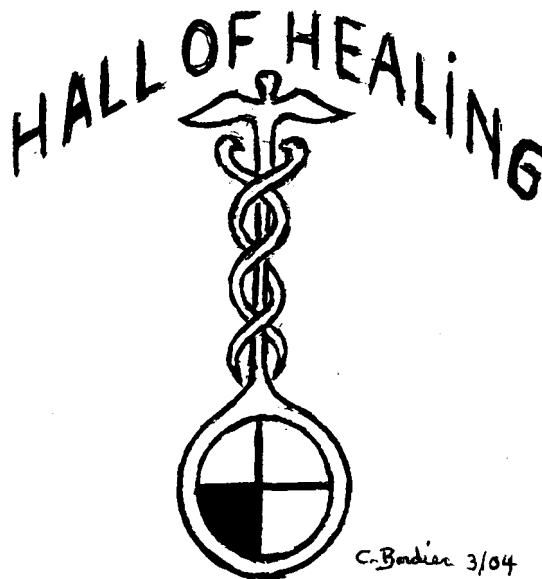
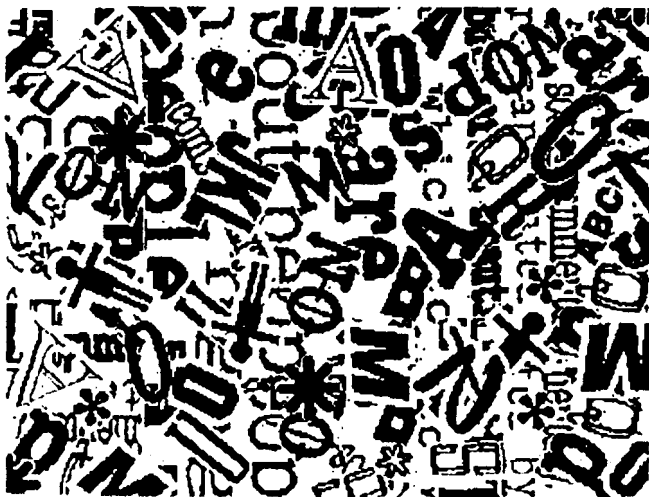
This event is a partnership between Chinese Cultural Centre, Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden, Vancouver Chinatown Revitalization Committee and Carnegie Community Centre.

Medical Alert!!!

The Gordon Campbell Liberals plan to sell off the Medical Services Plan and PharmaCare to either IBM or Maximus - both American multi-national corporations - by August 31. The government will give an American-owned corporation access to private records on every British Columbian. This includes health treatment, pharmacy, income tax, mental health and criminal records, as well as records from the ministries of Children and Family Development and Human Resources.

A New York expert on the new USA Patriot Act says this could even give the FBI access to our private medical records. This Act allows the FBI to demand corporations secretly hand over medical records and other personal information of innocent people. And U.S. legal precedents suggest even if the information is held by a Canadian subsidiary, the American parent company could be required to make medical information should not be made available to private corporations that don't answer to our privacy laws. It should remain in the care of public employees who are bound by an oath of office to keep it confidential.

For more information and to sign the petition,
<http://www.petitiononline.com/publiccp/>



Heroes

we like absolutes, they're easy, like saying all welfare workers are "witches" on and on. In my little experience I've had some bad but some very good girl I've got now is a blessing to me.. bends over backwards to make my life as tolerable as possible, the exception that proves the rule. Looks can be deceiving, they say. I saw right away from the talk of cats here was another soul battered by the insensitivities of the common folk some of us just ain't tough, would rather hide in a novel, pet a cat, spend afternoons walking a dog down a winding road... poor girl hides in her office, people phobic, tired of getting yelled at, forever made out to be the bad guy no matter what you do. We never look beyond ourselves, don't see how brave other people are, gutsy people who, despite the problems, just get on with it everyday, don't complain, just get on with it everyday... I see the real heroes not in the movies but on the SkyTrain and the early Hastings bus – you don't know happened with the cashier and her kid last night? or the guy at the store or the seemingly asleep dental clerk? we only bitch about ourselves when for all you know the cab driver's son is in the last days of leukemia.. Next time you feel like shooting off your damn mouth, think: Does anyone really need more shit?

R.Loewen

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**

49 W.Cordova
604-251-3310

NEEDLE EXCHANGE – 221 Main; 9:00am – 7pm every day
NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN – 3 Routes:

City – 5:45pm – 11:45pm

Overnight – 12:30am – 8:30am

Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am

*We thank the Coast Salish Nation for allowing
us to produce this newsletter on their land.*

FREE – donations accepted.
Carnegie
NEWSLETTER

401 Main Street, Vancouver V6A 2T7

www.carnnews.org
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604-665-2289

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

Editor: PaulR Taylor; layout: Diane Wood
This issue's Cover art by Young Shin Lee.

Submission Deadline for next issue:

Monday, April 12



**Contact
Jenny
Wal Ching
Kwon, MLA**

Working for You

1070-1641 Commercial Dr., V5L 3V3
Phone: 775-0790 Fax: 775-0881

CFRO 102.7 FM co-op radio

Listener powered radio

For free listeners guide, phone (604) 681-8154

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 Em-
ployment and Aboriginal Connection to Employ-
ment 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

DERA helps with: Phone & Safe Mailboxes
Welfare problems;
Landlord disputes;
Housing problems
Unsafe living conditions

At 12 East Hastings St. or phone 604-682-0931



Where have all the Feminists gone?

There are certain individuals who are hiding under the guise of Feminism, pretending to stand up for women's rights when in fact they are the biggest hypocrites of the Feminist world.

When your sister is abused, they remain silent
When your sister is beaten, they remain silent
When your sister is homeless, they remain silent
When your sister is hungry, they remain silent
When your sister is addicted, they remain silent
When your sister is sick, they remain silent
When your sister is raped, they remain silent
When your sister has no safe place,
When your sister is murdered, they remain silent

This sadly, is happening in our community here in the downtown eastside, where once there was a number of women to stand up for what is right, there are but a few remaining. The women who speak out have their funding sources cut to their organization thereby symbolically cutting their tongues, so they cannot speak. This is the government's way of silencing women. When we as women take this assault lying down and remain silent, then we are saying that what the government is doing to women's programs is okay with us, SILENCE IS ACCEPTANCE.

If you are employed to advocate in this community on another's behalf, and you remain silent and turn a blind eye to what is happening to those who are asking you for help, eventually your job will be the one cut, and you could be the one asking for help. Who will be there to advocate on your behalf?

Sometimes, one has to take that risk and speak out. If you call yourself a Feminist, it is your duty to speak out to disapprove in a loud way by any means possible to let the abusers know that what they are doing is NOT OKAY with you.

The Ministry of Women's Equality and Ida Chong are nothing more than a token Ministry who are following the Liberal line and agenda which is attacking women's programs and setting the women's movement back by 30 years in this province. The women's centres were established in the 70's by women who were fed up with being beaten, raped, and treated like 2nd-class citizens.

There are many ways to demonstrate this disapproval: one way you can do this is at the Polling station where you have a VOTE and a VOICE. Another

way is to write letters to government Ministers, sign petitions, demonstrate and attend rallies, or phone your MLA to let them know that what they are doing to women's programs is not okay with you. 52% of the eligible voting public are WOMEN. That translates into a lot of political clout. On April 1st a mass demonstration should be held outside every women's centre in the province.

An article in the weekend *Vancouver Sun* (March 27, 2004) spoke about the Women of Colour taking over the National Action Committee for the Status of Women, which at one time had a significant amount of political clout. Is that because it was run by middle class white women and somehow their agenda was more important and should be heard? When the agenda brought forward in Ottawa is the agenda of Women of Colour and Aboriginal women, those doing the listening are all of a sudden STONE DEAF. Why is that? The article spoke about the statements made by Thobani (NAC President) accusing the Bush government and the United States of having the blood of third world nations on their hands and the retaliation of the 911 attacks.

Cuts are happening to not only women's centres but to other groups like Vancouver Status of Women, anti-violence programs, senior's programs, income assistance recipients, victim services etc. Is this what we voted for? I don't think so.

The Olympic bid and the multi-millions of dollars that it will take for mega projects are being funded at the expense of women's programs and off of the backs of the poor and disadvantaged groups in this province.

There has to be equality in the management and distribution of funding to every deserving person in this province. How can the government agenda be solely focused on attacking the disadvantaged? If we do not speak up and act, then who will?

Marlene Trick



Dear Women

Dear you,

Toady it's here, finally.

It was a cold, hard winter but for who I don't know. I have seen the first three dandelions on time, like Nature's got some sort of alarm clock. They looked so strange, unique brand new almost beautiful. Know that by the end of this wonderful season they'll be uprooted destroyed dismembered picked plucked and in general abused by nearly every form of life, climate and condition. Through all adversities they will return, as the sound of the robin and god oh yes! The beauty of you.

Love, man

The Kindness of Strangers

Brittle world this where kindness is unusual
I trade the red tickets my friend gives me
for porridge to keep these old bones moving
more than food it's validation that I too matter
kind the way my doctor reaches out, takes my hand,
asks "what is it we can do to make you feel better"
an act of kindness negates 10 acts of ignorance
buy him a coffee and the old man beams
in this concrete jungle he's recognized, important,
an elder due respect as he sits alone day after day
remember Dianne who bought a bag of tobacco
and gave it to shivering me sick from withdrawal
not strong enough to fight two addictions at once
it's been years but I'll never forget it
what goes around comes around tenfold sometimes
day to day we struggle just to keep our chin up
fighting poverty, depersonalization, degradation,
street people fight just to get by; it's that little act
that sustains us, makes us better, makes us human.
I've seen more humanity in the DTES than any place
I've been picked up and dusted off by strangers
who saw the robbery and didn't just stand there
who risked something to do something decent
and it's that which we carry with us always
forgive..forget.. but it's acts of random kindness
we carry like treasures thru our days After it's all
over it's not how much you've gathered - it's how
much you were willing to give away

Anonymous



Innocent woman jailed

Her middle name is different, there is no rose tattooed on her shoulder and this Melissa Joseph has never worked as a prostitute.

But she could not convince two Vancouver police officers of her good character when they arrested and booked her into jail, where she cried her eyes out for 21 hours.

The case bears a striking resemblance to that of Nachhattar Basra, a city employee who was jailed and strip-searched earlier this month after police mistook him for a man with an outstanding immigration warrant.

Joseph's lawyers say police confused Melissa Crystal Joseph with another Melissa Joseph-- a woman six years younger, with a different middle name and an outstanding prostitution charge. The experience was a blow to the 25-year-old woman who takes pride in her clean record.

"I worked hard to stay out of trouble," Joseph said yesterday, fighting back tears. "To get insulted like that, to be called a prostitute and whore and all that. If being locked up was not enough; officials at the

city jail lost the engagement ring given to her by her fiancé, Desmond Kenoras.

On the night of the arrest, Jan. 22, the couple was combing the Downtown Eastside for Kenoras' mother, who had been missing for two days. "My mom had been out drinking. I was concerned," said Kenoras, a soft-spoken man who held Joseph's hand while he spoke.

Joseph had stopped to use a pay phone when police approached. They were looking for victims of a hotel worker who was charged weeks earlier with sexually assaulting and torturing prostitutes. The officers searched Joseph's purse, checked her identification and arrested her on a warrant that police spokeswoman Const Sarah Bloor admitted yesterday had been issued under the wrong name. Nor could Melissa convince a judge the next day when -- in order to get out of jail -- she signed a promise to appear in court on a charge she knew had nothing to do with her.

"Nobody believed her," said Joseph's lawyer, Victoria Deroches.

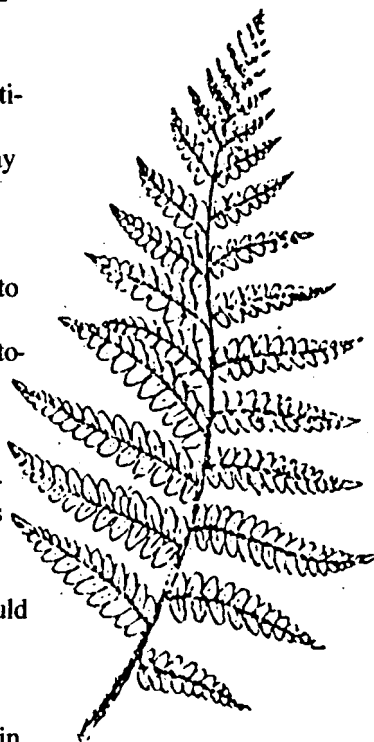
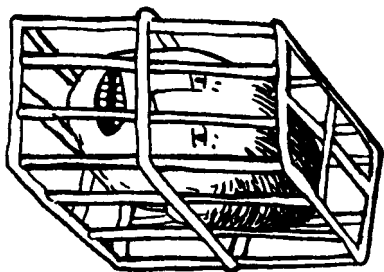
Finally, last week, a Crown prosecutor acknowledged the error and Provincial Court Judge Jane Godfrey instructed that the file be corrected to prevent future mistakes. Bloor said a new warrant has been issued for the true suspect.

"I certainly extend our apologies on behalf of the Vancouver Police Department," Bloor said. "I would hope this situation would never occur again."

Rick Brooks, the lawyer now handling Joseph's case, said his client deserves a written apology. "This woman should never have spent one minute in jail," he said. Deroches said it takes courage to speak out against the police.

"I want other young aboriginal women to read this and come forward," she said.

: Gerry Kahrmann



Spring returns

Sitting in crowded
Rooms with heart
That's jumping out
Where are we going?
With just such clout
Right on, to far out
Places in the mind
And really loving it
Kids jumping up and
Down on a trampoline
Having a ball and
Staying fit with some
Seagulls resting on
The black roof tops
The sun breaking
Through the clouds
Buds on the plants
Ready to effloresce
Into a brilliant array
Of colourful flowers
The highway is calling
The mountain which
Was home to me and
It all keeps me going
As the Spring returns.

Daniel Rajala

Urban Eagle

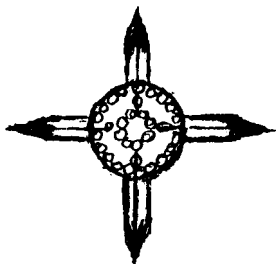
Drifting down blue sky streets
wings spread wide
seeking to rise
on currents that are not there.

While the young man sits
head down
blue steel eyes
fixed on an eagle feather.

Angus Pratt

The Buz'Gem Blues

The Firehall Arts Centre presents *The Buz'Gem Blues*, the latest outrageous comedy from prolific award-winning playwright Drew Hayden Taylor. The action punches holes in absurd political correctness around dating rituals and knocks some of our most revered icons off their pedestals. *The Buz'Gem Blues* opens on Wednesday, March 31 and continues to Saturday, April 17. Performances are scheduled Tuesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., with a pay-what-you-can on Wednesdays at 1 p.m., at the Firehall Arts Centre, 280 East Cordova.



The Buz'Gem Blues (Buz'Gem translates from the Ojibway as 'girlfriend' or 'boyfriend') is the third play in Taylor's ongoing zany, often farcical examination of both Native and non-Native stereotypes. Set at a Native American Elders conference, Taylor throws together two aging tribal enemies, a recently divorced 'rez' sister, a student exploring her 1/64th Native American heritage, a self-described 'Warrior That Never Sleeps', and a professor researching the contemporary mating habits of indigenous people.

Tickets: Tues/ Wed /Thurs/ Sundays \$16 / \$14

Fridays and Saturdays \$20 / \$18,

Wednesdays at 1 p.m. are pay-what-you-can.

Group rates available.

Tickets are available at the Firehall Arts Centre by calling 604-689-0926

or online at www.firehallartscentre.ca.

Redskins, Tricksters and Puppy Stew

Special screening with director Drew Hayden Taylor

An in-depth, laugh-a-minute tour of complex issues like Native identity, politics and racism, wrapped neatly inside one-liners, guffaws and comic performances that overturn the conventional notion of the 'stoic Indian.' A National Film Board production.

Sunday April 4 @ 8pm

\$8 (\$5 with a Buz'Gem Blues ticket)

Geode Interior

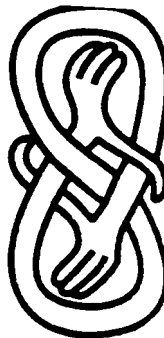
On TV, there are
Spots on the land where
Time is accelerated.
You step in, and
When you step out again
You are exhausted.
There, a wall needed climbing
Or a terror fighting
Or a blood-letting initiation
Into a new Life
In that invisible place
Where you've never, never been.

A small practiced movement
And I open up a red velvet lined box
And furtively tuck each treasure in,
Nestling it into the soft velvet
Remaining, waiting for someone to open
The box and take the pieces out,
Turn them over
Hold them up to the light.

What's it made of?
Where did it come from?
Why is it here, hiding
In the geode interior,
Black wood invisible
Against the backdrop of night?

Can I really believe
That a thing stored
In a red velvet geode interior
Has any true value?
Its worth is measured
Only in dollars
And only in the minds of
Cat burglars and pimps.
Its beauty is invisible.
Sawed open, they cost hundreds.
The treasure is a dinosaur egg.

Technology cannot take you
into the realm of invisible.
Cellphone calls from the rubble.
I'm sorry to meet people on this day.
No-one knows what to say to me
To guarantee that I'll agree.
The already late ex-boss
Will do and say what he likes,



Politely blank his face
 And thank me for saving his life.
 They're talking about home decor
 And this month's party,
 Gossiping about themselves
 And how they hate their roommates.
 They get stoned and say
 The world's coming to an end,
 And laugh.

Leona shapeshifter

YUPPIE CHICK

It's true I'm just a yuppie chick
 naïve about Skid Row
 I see suspicion in your eyes
 resentment on your face
 You probably think I'm stupid when
 I smile at you that way

Perhaps you think I'm only here
 to get my charity "fix"
 to pump my ego, then go home
 to brag how kind I am
 But that's not it at all, you know
 I see beneath your skin

You are God's angels come to live
 a life of pain in Hell
 to force the rest of us to look
 at what our fears have done
 A cancer we cannot ignore
 or hide from anymore

Your suffering is meant to show
 how sick our system is
 how judgment, greed and guilt destroy
 and change is needed here
 I can't imagine what it's like
 to be as brave as you

I couldn't live the life you live
 I'm just a yuppie chick
 The only thing I know to do
 is give my love this way ~
 I know the sacrifice you make
 I see beneath your skin

Maureen Kerr



PEACE

I feel its warmth
 Within my bones
 A drug that flows through me
 It's really just
 A choice I make
 To be from anger free
 Refuse to play
 The blaming game
 Invite the peace you seek
 Perception changed
 Is love expressed
 Don't let the dark defeat

Maureen Kerr

Work Placements For Welfare Recipients

A practical solution to the two-year time limit for welfare recipients is for the BC Government and employment agencies to institute work placements.

Many people want to get off welfare, but what company in their right mind is going to take the chance of hiring them? A very practical solution is to instigate work placements. First, the welfare recipient is assessed by a team of trained vocational professionals to find out the person's capabilities, then a suitable work placement is made within the business community. The government would then pay the insurance and in turn the company would provide training experience. Work placements require a willingness on the part of the recipients to train without salary but they create achievements and possibly jobs at the end of it. If a work placement does not directly lead to a job it at least increases the applicants self esteem and improves his or her employment resume.

Yes, some employable recipients can be taken off welfare but stopping their benefits without adequate measures in place is nasty and cruel. It's April; a drastic situation can be alleviated by the issuing of work placements for employable welfare recipients.

By Stephen Kinnis

Stop Welfare Cuts Coalition Demands to Know: 'Who's Looking After the Children!'

With the clock ticking down and no 'safe haven' in sight, the Stop Welfare Cuts Coalition stands by the "Kids" (13 to 15 years old) and the BC Association of Social Workers in asking where can high-risk, street-involved, sexually exploited children of British Columbia find safety and shelter on the "mean streets" of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside?

The BC Association of Social Workers is deeply troubled by the misleading statements of Minister Christy Clark in her Letter to the Editor of the *Vancouver Sun* on Tuesday March 16, 2004. Minister Clark's assertions that services are being provided, their budgets are not being cut and they're not disappearing represent a form of political dishonesty that does not present the province's "chief parent" in a good light.

Minister Clark would have readers believe that vulnerable people are the highest priority of the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Yes, the safety of children, the strengthening of families and the care for the developmentally disabled are the main priorities of all MCFD Social Workers and staff. Unfortunately it is not the priority of the BC Liberal Government. Otherwise, why would social workers and other professionals be asked to provide such crucial services to children within a budget that has been reduced by 63 million dollars?

Though Minister Clark defends the decision to eliminate funding for Safe Houses with the assertion that there are a sufficient number of placement options for children within the ministry, the information we receive from child protection social workers is that this is clearly not the reality; that in some locales there are simply no beds available, particularly for teens and for children with challenging behaviours. The closure of Safe Houses ensures that many of these kids are destined to be living on the streets.

To read the full release visit:
www.bcasw.org/news.htm

For more information please contact:
Linda Korbin
Executive Director

BC Association of Social Workers
604 730 9111
bcasw@bcasw.org

Groups involved in the Stop Welfare Cuts Coalition include: End Legislated Poverty, BC Teachers Federation, Vancouver Status of Women, , Anti-Poverty Committee Aboriginal Women's Collective, First United Church and various other churches across the Lower Mainland, BC Government and Services Employees Union, Lower Mainland Coalition for Social Justice, Vancouver Area Network of Drug Users, Tenants Rights Action Coalition, Prepare the General Strike Committee, Housing Action Committee, the Organizer's Training Group, Hospital Employees Union, United Native Nations Local 111, The Welfare & disAbilities Peoples Union (Victoria) and the Seniors Network BC. For more info: elp@telus.net



Hastings Bus Ride a lifetime later...

Michael Guptall banged hard on the cell door, screaming loud, then louder at his captors. He surprised them then. He lit the blankets wrapped around him, lit the bedsheets and bed, the newspapers and the pocketbooks, screaming through the smoke, "Take this you bastards!" Smoke built up and went gushing out the door when it finally swung open. Crazed, he laughed as he staggered to the washroom with guards ripping pieces of burning blanket from him. Michael looked into a mirror and saw his flesh already festering. He passed out.

Three weeks later he woke from the coma. Pink islands of flesh had formed on his body – patches of raised purplish skin like misshapen pancakes ran down his torso and up to his armpits, this way and that, pink to red to purple to pink, stretched and seared in places. For some reason only his face escaped the flames. His hair was singed back to the scalp but everywhere else was burned.

"That'll teach 'em, try'n lock me up," he snarled. He was 15 years old. It happened in Juvenile Detention in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia in 1971.

I saw Michael yesterday on a bus headed to Burnaby. I called his name but he'd forgotten me. Michael is someone you don't forget.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE POETRY SLAM !

**The April edition of poetry at its best
will be held in Carnegie's Theatre
starting at 7 pm on Saturday, April 3**

World-renowned people will *not* be permitted to attend,
unless of course they're fools.

Being a Fool!

"Who's the more foolish – the Fool or the Fool who follows him?!" - Obiwan Kenobee

See the story of one person's fight to make
the City control "**hopper juice**" (garbage
truck leachate) In Carnegie's 3rd floor art
gallery starting April 1.
Special thanks to Bharb Gudmundson!

**VANCOUVER'S 24TH ANNUAL
FOOL'S DAY PARADE
SUNDAY, APRIL 04th**

**Gather at High Noon
Aquatic Centre, 1050 Beach Ave.
Under the BIG TREE
In Your Most Foolish Attire**



Access more foolish info at
<http://personal.smartt.com/~shiva/>

