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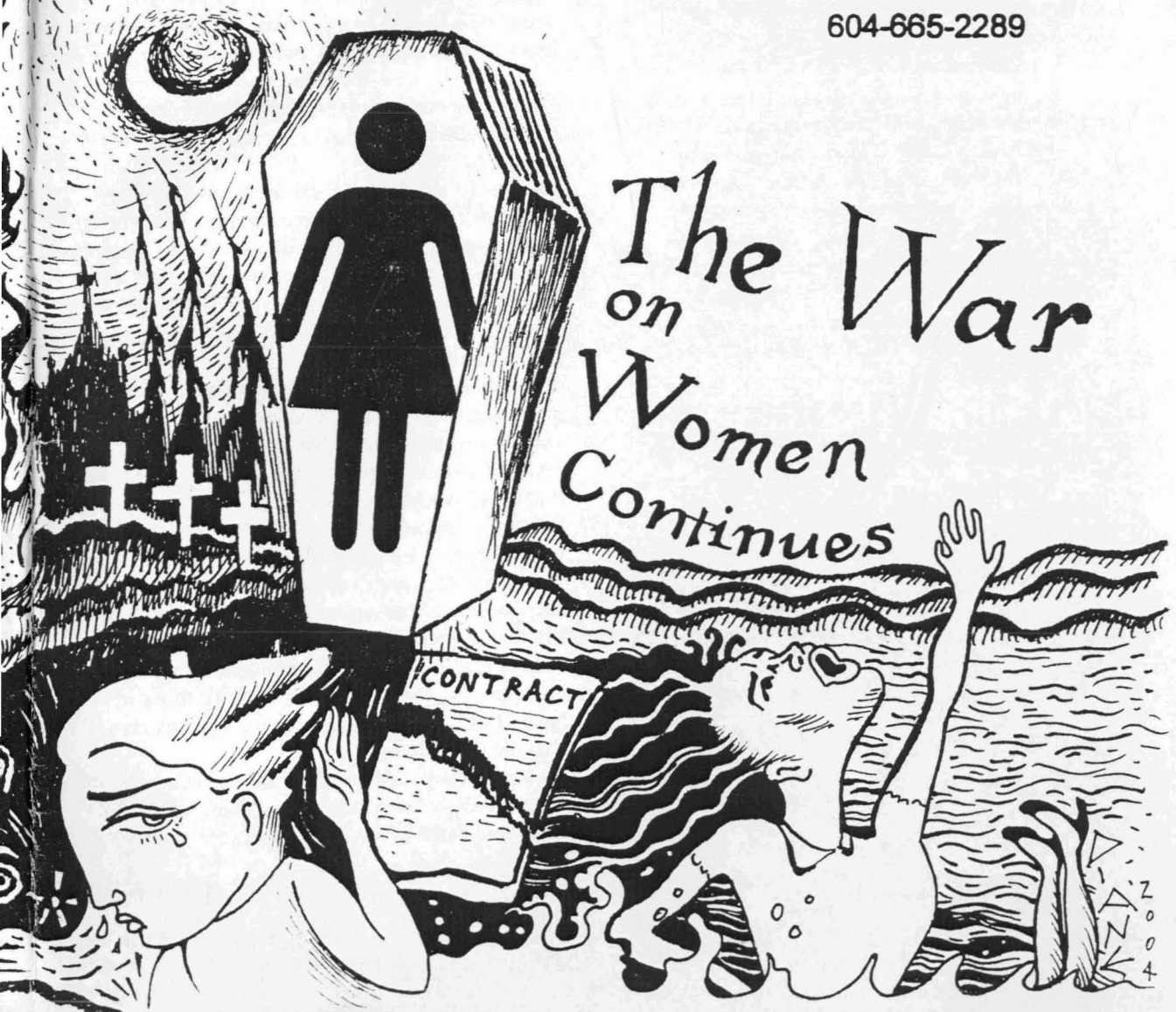
MAY 15, 2004

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The War on Women Continues

THE WAR ON WOMEN CONTINUES

We like to give lip service to the equality of women. We believe women should have equal pay and an equal right to earn a living wage and to live on what they earn. I bet even Gordon Campbell believes that.

Last week the Campbell government, that earlier slashed social programs, wages and welfare and let their rich friends keep an extra \$1.2 billion in taxes so that working women who need those programs can pay more user fees and taxes, really showed us equality in action.

HEU members were ordered back to work with a 15-per-cent wage reduction, longer hours of work and the right to be terminated, privatized and hired back—if at all—at close to the minimum wage.

Eighty-five-percent of HEU members are women. If you saw them picketing last week—and you probably did because there were thousands of them—you saw a pretty representative sample of working women in our society. They span all ages and colours and religions. Almost a third are immigrants; 27 per cent are visible minorities.

But among working women they're actually a minority. They're among the few who are unionized, and therefore, earn more than the minimum wage.

I spent over a decade of my life organizing



women just like these. The difference is that those cooks and cleaners and care aides worked in the privatized sector of health care—which we are now told to rise up and applaud because privatization is going to save our health care system (just like those corporate tax cuts saved our economy and gave us secure jobs and good pay and really great health care).

I understand this future of privatized health care because I know the past. The women I helped organize worked at minimum-wage jobs at private hospitals and care homes. I visited them and their kids in trailer parks and basement suites. And if I arrived in the last week of the month, I saw soup on the stove—and only soup. I met their kids, home alone, who let me in to wait for their mother's shift to end. During that hour or so, I was their caregiver. And when Mom came home, sometimes the dollar she gave to sign up with the union was her last dollar until payday.

Now we're told that these women who fought their way to a livable income and now have the audacity to earn double the minimum wage (imagine!) are some kind of fat-cat, bloated free-loaders who deserve what the Campbell government has in store: privatized health care where they can do the same work at half the pay.

And to help them along the way to that goal, the government has enshrined in law that these women's wages must be reduced. Not even a threatened general strike could stop it. In exchange for the promise that fewer workers will lose their jobs (and of course Gordon Campbell keeps his word) the government gets to drive those women's wages down.

Doctors' fees aren't rolled back by 15 per cent. They're not told to work longer for the same money. It's the women working at the bottom who are told to save health care. The government's idea of equality is just like the Good Book says: To those who have, it shall be given; from those who have not, it shall be taken away.

Gordon Campbell's ratings among women voters, unsurprisingly low at the best of times, are going to tank. One battle's down but there's a whole war out there. Just watch.

By Sharon Yandle

Sharon Yandle is a past director of the Hospital Employees Union, and the [Westender] editor's mom.



EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES FOR SEX TRADE WORKERS

J. MacPhail: According to a confidential question-and-answer document prepared for the Minister of Human Resources, British Columbians with mental health conditions and serious drug problems that interfere with their ability to search for and accept employment will have their benefits taken away if they don't look for work.

The minister says it's all about helping people. He's writing letters to the editor to tell everybody to stand down and not worry. But he doesn't mention that his government is closing doors on innovative programs designed to get young people - many who have drug, alcohol and mental health problems - off the street.

At the end of April, WISH, a non-profit society on the downtown east side, is losing a \$125,000 provincial grant to provide pre-employment programs for sex trade workers, many of whom have mental health and addiction issues. To the Minister of Human Resources: how can he justify cutting employment programs that get people off the street and into school, into work, when the government is demanding that they look for work as a condition of receiving assistance?

Hon. S. Hagen: I'd like to point out to the member that since the Gordon Campbell government was sworn in on June 5, 2001, this government has spent \$300 million on job training programs for various individuals.

In the meetings that I've had with advocacy groups and other groups, they make it very clear to me that the people they represent actually do want to become engaged in the community. They want to be trained and they want to work. Research is clear that for people with temporary mental illness or an addiction issue, being involved in an employment program is very helpful to them.

With regard to the specific issue that the member questioned about, that particular group was duplicating services offered by another group. We fund PEERS in Vancouver, who are able to take up....

J. MacPhail: Did you actually talk to them?

Hon. S. Hagen: I have met with PEERS, as a matter of fact. They are going to be able to deliver the programs that are necessary for those clients.

Mr. Speaker: The Leader of the Opposition has another question.

J. MacPhail: That shows just how out of touch this Minister of Human Resources is with the answer he just gave. WISH does not compete and is not a duplication of PEERS at all. In fact, WISH has been a very successful downtown eastside program supported by a wide range of governments, including Social Credit governments and NDP governments; this government just cancelled its pre-employment program. They claim they want to help people get jobs, but they're taking away the supports to help people get the life skills and confidence they need to find and maintain employment.

According to ministry officials, this minister's officials, the B.C. Liberals have decided that funding drop-in centres for at-risk youth is no longer a priority - their own briefing documents. The government's guidelines for funding say that community-based outreach programs for high-risk youth should get minor emphasis. Apparently, programs that focus on outreach and prevention are no longer worthy of government support.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Hon. member, time for the question, please.

J. MacPhail: To the Minister of Human Resources: can he confirm that drop-in centres for at-risk youth are getting the axe, and can he tell us how much this mean-spirited move is adding to the government's bottom line so that it can pay for its failed high-income tax cut?

Hon. S. Hagen: I can tell the member opposite one thing and one thing for sure. This government is not going to give up on the people who need the help the most just because they have some barriers. Our programs are put in place not just...

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The minister has the floor.

Hon. S. Hagen: ...to spend money. They're actually put in place to achieve results. We actually want to help those people achieve their potential. Every human being out there has potential. We want to make sure that our clients, particularly, are able to reach that potential through the programs that we have. I know the member is pretty focused on Vancouver. I'd like to remind her that we just announced a \$3.25 million Vancouver agreement, which is going to deliver some of those services as well. However, having said that, the program that she's talking about was a duplication of a program that we are presently funding.

STUDIO PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK YOUTH

J. Kwan: The minister and this government are cutting programs that are successful and that help people in the community, and the minister knows it. Let me give the minister another example. For 17 years the Studio has been helping some of Vancouver's most vulnerable and troubled young people get their lives together. For these young people, the Studio is a lifeline providing a safe, caring atmosphere away from a hard life on the streets of the downtown east side. For many, the Studio is the difference between a life on the streets and a life of learning, work and opportunity. It costs the province \$60,000 a year, but the Premier has cut the funding, and now the Studio may have to close its doors.

To the Minister of Human Resources: what is wrong with the Premier's priorities when he spends \$600 million on a highway to Whistler but won't spend \$60,000 to help youth find a way off the streets?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please. Order.

Hon. S. Hagen: I want to say to the member opposite and to all of the people of this province: nobody cares about the people in this province more than the Premier.[!?!]

The member opposite is focused strictly on dollars of expenditures. We're actually focused on outcome. We're focused on how people's lives can be changed for the better. I was at a graduation ceremony this morning out at Camosun College on a job-track program. Thirty people took that program, have graduated and are now looking forward to being in the workforce. They had three people there who graduated from the program prior to this, who gave testimonials about how their lives had been changed for



C-Bordier 3/04

the better because of these programs.

We examined every program to make sure that the program is delivering what it's intended to deliver. In the case of this one, it was duplication.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Vancouver-Mount Pleasant has another question.

J. Kwan: The minister is completely out of touch. The Studio has been successful for 17 years and has lived through several administrations. Why? Because it provides much-needed programs for youth at risk. The cost to fund the Studio is less than half of one deputy minister's salary. It is less than the cost to taxpayers to keep Bob Virk on staff until the police concludes the investigation into the B.C. Rail raid. The Studio, the Picasso Cafe and other innovative, successful programs are closing their doors because this Liberal government can't see the value in giving hope to at-risk people.

I ask the Premier. These programs are critical. We cannot afford to lose them. On behalf of the young people, will the Premier today announce that he...?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The member has the floor.

J. Kwan: To the Premier, on behalf of the young people: will the Premier announce today that he is reversing this government's mean-spirited cuts to

drop-in centres as a first step - restore the \$60,000 funding to the Studio so that it can keep its doors open to at-risk youth?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Order, please.

Hon. S. Hagen: I would ask the member opposite: what is wrong with an expenditure of \$300 million, since we became government, to help people change their lives for the better? What's wrong with designing programs that really work for people, where there's a positive outcome, where people's lives are changed for the better? This government is committed to make sure that the programs that are delivered are actually producing results that will work for the people who are the clients of this ministry.

And for a special addition today, here is yesterday's quote of the day from a Liberal backbencher.

During debate on a motion on the Working Land Base, the Member for East Kootenay, Bill Bennett, *"Some people hate the look of a clearcut, for example, and they don't want clearcuts along highways and roads. I personally like the look of a clearcut."*



Neighbourhood News

This issue has stories and input on stuff that strikes at the core of the "invisible" struggle of women. It's apparently below the reality screens of a lot of people, but most specifically (and most viciously) Gord Campbell and his masters are out to put women in a deep, dark hole and seal them in.

Before the threats of fines and jail that averted a general strike, Campbell appeared on several lower mainland television stations. He had the gall (naw, he doesn't even rate that) to say that the "Hospital Employees' Union and any union are wrong to put the health and hospital care of BC communities at risk. They (and anyone) are wrong to put their personal interests (implying greedy for big bucks) in the way of poor seniors and sick people ..."

The letter from Sharon Yardle is amazingly clear, but there's so much more to show how greedy and heartless Campbell and cohorts are. They took a surplus in seniors' funding and gave themselves raises of 33% while shutting down homes, medical programs and care facilities for seniors. I hope and trust that, long before the actual campaigns begin for the

May 2005 election, a "Book on Campbell" is out for everyone to see, chronologically and with the overlapping hypocrisies, what this bunch of thieves have done since 2001.

According to one source, Gordo himself got the press ball rolling in Hawaii when he got busted for being a drunk. Apparently he was ranting at the police that "you can't treat me like this! You don't know who I am!!" And it was only through a political deal that other charges laid that night were swept under the rug. Other allegations have his wife ready to divorce him for verbal and ongoing physical abuse, and his inability to treat women as people.

I don't want this paper to get into a continuous mud 'n slug fest about the inadequacies of Campbell. Just trust that as much researched and provable stuff as possible will appear over the next several months. The HEU and supporting thinkers may have lost one battle but the war is still raging and we cannot let it be lost to these twerps.

By PAULR TAYLOR

Play Today, Pay Later?

Has our whole society gone crazy or what? Our monetary system is based mainly on credit and the banks, loan companies and credit card institutions fight to "give" their monies away while almost everyone is drowning in debt.

There was a commercial on TV showing a couple with 1) a big mortgage; 2) car payments; 3) borrowing from one credit card to pay the other - and last they were pushing a shopping cart with the final merry comment being "We are so happy!"

The whole monetary system is like a pyramid: if/when the foundation gets shaky the whole thing collapses. About 90% of the population 'buys' stuff on credit. If people lose their jobs they can be a month or two away from being homeless. This may be one of the reasons why much of the public is so uncomfortable seeing homeless people. Unconsciously you see yourself. Some people's vicious reaction to poor people, welfare recipients and the homeless may be a rejection of their own quite possible future.

Sooner or later the whole system can or will self-destruct, and those who vilify us now may one day join us. Poetic justice or just logical conclusion?

Christiane Bordier

WISH Drop-in Centre Society

Women's Information Safe House

515 - 119 West Pender St., Vancouver, BC V6B 1S5



Hon. Stan Hagen
Minister of Human Resources

Dear Mr. Hagen,

I am writing with regard to a discussion you had in the legislature with Joy McPhail around **Employment Transition Services for Sex Trade Workers, April 27, 2004.**

The discussion began with Ms. McPhail talking about individuals with mental health and drug problems that interfere with their ability to search for work, yet they will be cut off benefits if they don't look for work.

Ms. McPhail went on to tell you about "WISH, a non-profit society on the downtown east side... losing it's \$125,000 provincial grant to provide pre-employment programs for sex trade workers, many of whom have mental health and addiction issues".

You stated that "in the meetings I've had with advocacy groups and other groups, they make it very clear to me that the people they represent actually do want to become engaged in the community. They want to be trained and they want to work. Research is clear that for people with temporary mental illness or an addiction issue, being involved in an employment program is very helpful to them" You went on to say that "that particular group was duplicating services offered by another group. We fund PEERS in Vancouver...". When Ms. McPhail asked if you actually talked to them, you responded that you have met with PEERS and "they are going to be able to deliver the programs that are necessary for those clients".

Mr. Hagen, I know for a fact that it was PEERS Victoria you met with, not PEERS Vancouver, and you never met with WISH at all before deciding to take away the funding for the **Women Helping Women Transition Program**. The whole reason that PEERS Vancouver offers the Elements Program is that through their discussion with WISH it was determined that the women who came out of the **Women Helping Women** program needed an intermediate program before they could go on to PEER'S Rise program.

The **Women Helping Women** program is just the first step in the journey back out of poverty and addiction and is the first step toward stabilizing chaotic lives. This program offers support and advocacy for it's participants, gives work experience within the office and at the drop-in centre operated by WISH and engages women in the community. Each participant designs her individual plan with the coordinator or the support worker, allowing her to progress at a pace at which she can succeed. There is a health component that goes hand-in-hand with the work through the program. This can range from multiple accompaniments to health care providers, to the stabilization that comes from being involved in the program which increases their level of health dramatically.

Women come into the 6-month program, often without a home, a sense of belonging or any hope. The women attend a minimum of four activities per week, ranging from workshops, volunteering in the office or the drop-in, to one on one counselling to outreach into the community. As each woman's capacity increases, the **Women Helping Women** program finds and pays for and makes initial accompaniment to courses for her. One individual has become very proficient in watercolour painting while another has just completed a computer course. On the surface you may not think that a watercolour course is going to get someone a job, but it is a significant step toward re-integration into the general population. One of the watercolour courses was in the Kerrisdale Community Centre and her classmates were a group of mature Kerrisdale matrons. It was a great exercise in encouragement and acceptance for them and a great confidence builder for the participant. This woman now has a part-time paid position which would never have been available to her had she not gained the confidence and drive through the **Women Helping Women** program.

PEERS Vancouver would tell you that WISH is not duplicating services they offer, but more importantly, that you could fund many more programs like Women Helping Women and there still would be need for more in the community.

WISH would welcome a meeting with you to discuss the importance of the **Women Helping Women Transition Program** in this community. Meeting with a group in another city and deciding to cancel funding to a completely different program is hardly on balance and we are asking for your reconsideration of your recent decision.

I can be contacted at 604-669-9474 to set up a meeting with you and any members of your ministry who might like to find out more about **WISH** and the **Women Helping Women Transition Program**.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,
Kate Gibson
Operations Manager

[Editor's note: *What the hell is a "temporary mental illness"?*]

mom

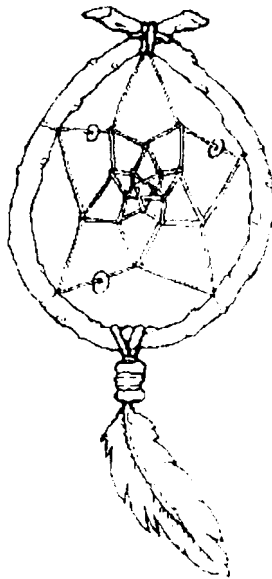
left us all alone
in this fucked up world
don't know how to cope
just a little girl
seemed everyday
you'd make it hard for me
didn't understand
till you fell in front of me
I understand now
how you make the money
but the thought of you
on the street
just makes me feel funny
Dear mama
Please don't leave my side
couldn't stand it if you
ever said good-bye
Everyone dies
this is -4- real
But do you ever think
how it makes me feel

Amethyst

mother

I'll take a walk through pigeon park
to look -4 her when it gets dark
but she's not here, she's down the street
forgetting we're supposed to meet
but that's okay I'll just go home
and once again I'll be alone
another day I'll go downtown
maybe then she'll be around

Amethyst



Hostages: "What, Again?!"

"Here we go again." We the people have once again become pawns in an age-old battle between the bosses – the Provincial Government – and the workers – the Union.

We the people are again caught in the middle, the crossfire of those in question. While they continue their battle behind closed doors, it leaves those dependent on the services out in the cold.

While the battle at the top lingers on, the provincial government continues to show a lack of leadership, confidence and accountability in those decisions they have made. From the time they were elected there have been major cuts to programs, the disabled, welfare and welfare offices. These cuts have had the most impact on working class people, patients and the poor (and the people who fight for them all).

It is a travesty that we've gotten to our current state, but it all stems from the drastic cuts then. And now a province-wide strike has been narrowly averted. Why?

Our government must be held accountable in the next election. When are we the people going to hold ourselves accountable and wake up and speak out for ourselves and our right to quality health care? We must not allow profit and privatization to take over and take away what we have: an affordable health care system. Only the rich benefit from privatization.

I support the Hospital Employees Union in their fight to keep decent-paying jobs. We the people must work together in solidarity in addressing the issues of the day. We all must continue to fight, all the way. Health is not a game; it's a right no matter your economic status. Kill the privatization plans.

By STEPHEN LYTTON



Message from the President of the Vancouver-Area Network of Drug Users:

VANDU has been an important community agency of the Downtown Eastside for over six years now. Our membership has grown to over 1,500. We are the premier model of harm reduction in North America. With willingness, openness and honesty we can achieve any and all our objectives, all things being equal of course.

Thanks to the commitment of many people, groups, the health authority, the city, the provincial and the federal governments, we have been able to increase access to more respectful, sensitive and approachable community resource centres, clinics and drop-in centres that are geared for marginalized people such as drug users and mentally challenged individuals in residents of the Downtown Eastside (DTES).

Through trial and error interspersed with wisdom, knowledge and a meddle like no other city has, we have done our best to see that all people have a place in society. The idea that "Junkies" can do work, volunteer or assist others in a constructive format with a vision, purpose and goals was always just an ideal by a few especially talented people. People like Bud Osborn, Brenda Wells, Thia Walters, the Political Response Group and Ann Livingston were the trail blazers in the early days. Some of the people and groups may have moved on but they left a legacy behind that will and can have lasting effects for years to come and reduce the harms related to high risk behavior like intravenous drug using and drinking illicit alcohol such as rice wine

We will be there for the ones that don't want us there, we'll be there when we're most needed and once in a while we'll be there when someone wants us. We do this by providing peer support, education and networks for and by users "where they're at." Integrity, seeking the truth and maintaining a sense of humour sounds absurd and too far reaching; however we have it in us as long as we believe in our selves and remember where we have come from and that we "bow down" to no one.

Mel Hennan

Remembering Spartacus

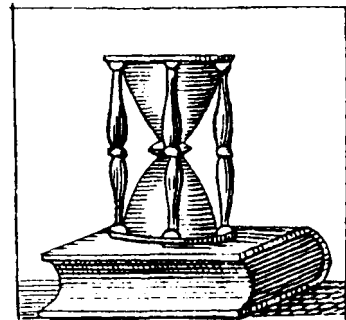
I was seventeen and restless in my chains when I first saw the bright red star over a ramshackle store front on Vancouver's Hastings street. It tugged at my heart, that star, and led me up a hallway festooned with posters / proclamations into a place crammed with people and thoughts that forever changed me.

Jack Scott was on duty that first day, in the spring of 1973. He scowled at me from behind a newspaper with eyes that had seen it all. I couldn't have known that he's one of the founders of the Workers' Unity League and the On to Ottawa Trek, back in the dirty thirties; the names meant nothing to me then. But his eyes said it all.

I met a lot of veterans like Jack at Spartacus Books: men and women who had led strikes when you could get killed for doing so, people who had fought the whole system with nothing but their courage, and won. They began to show me the real world, the one I had sensed but could never describe. I heard their stories on Friday nights, when the bookstore held public forums that drew hundreds of people: trade unionists, revolutionaries, refugees, and just hungry men off Hastings Street looking for something more than charity to feed on.

I was eager to learn, to join whatever was the most radical rejection of the stinking unjust bullshit that lay around me. And so I started working at the store and organizing the Friday night forums where anyone getting screwed could speak and somehow fight back.

What a splendid and vibrant chaos those forums were! People were unafraid back then, free to shout their rage and march together at the drop of a hat. Nobody checked out reality on a computer screen. Other people were enough; and the flood of ideas and causes and leaflets that spilled out of us like breath.



One Friday night we held a forum on "The Future of Socialism in B.C.". The "S word" wasn't a no-no in those days: we were clear that workers needed to take over the world, abolish capitalism and destroy the state. The only issue was how to do it.

We hashed it over that night, amidst shouts and speeches. Harry Rankin, the mildly communistic city alderman, gave the main talk, and was roundly denounced by the Trotskyists and Anarchists in the hall for even suggesting that one could use a parliamentary system to do away with the Beast. A fight broke out and some chairs got broken. But then we all went around the corner to the Lotus for a beer

Another time, some Chilean refugees showed up to speak about their dream that had been slaughtered, after the military coup of that bastard Pinochet. A socialist named Hernan Ortega spoke of how the workers had taken over and run all the factories in his town for over a year, without bosses. Until the tanks arrived.

Hernan and his friends gave me the kind of soul jolt that comes maybe once or twice in a lifetime: a sudden awakening to the world the way it is, not the way we would like it to be. You cannot overcome this thing called capitalism peacefully. The rich will kill the entire world to hold onto their wealth and power.

The suffering of those few survivors of a Holocaust set me on a different road that I still trod, far from the world I knew at seventeen. There have been few victories and many defeats on that road, and my only consolation has been that I'm still walking on it with a few others, even today. And it all began at Spartacus Books.

The store's namesake started life like most people, in misery, as a slave in one of the Roman Empire's stone quarries. But one day he learned how to fight in the arenas of death where polite Roman society feasted, and he used what he had learned from his oppressors to fight against them and nearly overthrow them, seventy three years before Jesus. But like his fellow rebel, he ended up impaled on a cross along with 6,000 of his fellow slaves who'd broken free.

The Roman Pinochets didn't kill Spartacus. He's alive today: in me, in my friends at the Hospital Employees picketline, in my buddy Arlene who stopped

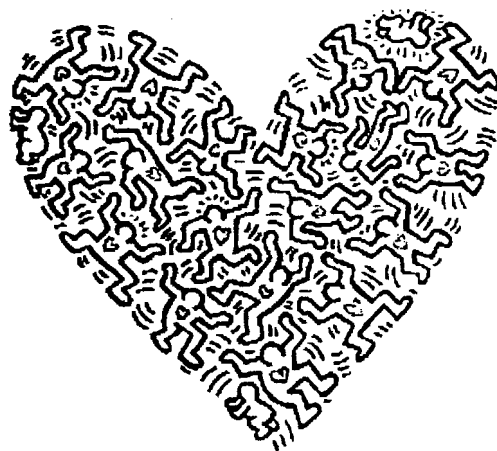
traffic outside the Vancouver cop shop for an hour with twenty other people to demand the release of their friend. Because, like the bookstore that bore his name, Spartacus taught me that we are born in a world of wrong that can only be made right by our action.

Spartacus Books is gone now. After more than thirty years, and a move to a smaller site, a fire claimed it, and the echoes of those passionate debates and calls for freedom are silenced, for now. But the spirit of the dead always survives in the memory of the living, as any rebel or poor person can tell you. And that spirit is honoured and brought to life again when we carry on the dream for which so many have died.

I got to know Jack Scott, the old communist and labour leader, before he too passed on. Over a beer one night, I asked if he thought we'd see the revolution in our lifetime. Jack smiled at me for once, and said simply, "That all depends how bad we want it."

Struggle and survive, O rebels and poets!

By Kevin D. Annett



If they can choose a Volunteer of the Month, then we, the volunteers, can pick

STAFF OF THE MONTH!

Cast your ballot in the newsletter office
Let us know WHO and WHY should win
this prestigious new award

*(Note: Staff can not vote for themselves,
or each other)*



Hi ho. Hi ho.

If you're 19 or older and looking for employment, it's back to work you go.

If you're out of work, and need help finding a job, then here's your opportunity. The Job Shop is a free program that will support you in a quick return to work. With the support of one-on-one coaching, you'll get connected, gain confidence, and learn from others – all with a view to finding meaningful employment. It really does work. Call **604-253-9355** now to attend the next Job Shop info session. The Job Shop is brought to you by Tradeworks Training Society.



PROGRAM MADE POSSIBLE BY
 Government of Canada
 Gouvernement du Canada

TO: Terry Hunter and Cast and crew of the
Downtown Eastside Community Play
c/o Japanese Hall, 475 Alexander Street, Vancouver

Dear Terry and friends:

Thank you so much for bringing Vancouver's history so vividly to life with *In the Heart of a City*. Thank you for so forcefully and beautifully making the point that our understanding of the past shapes the way we can live in the present. I was riveted to my seat for every minute of the performance, astonished and delighted as you wheeled out, one after another, powerful and moving interpretations of the Downtown Eastside's history.

Out of all the stories from the past that are out there, I think you chose some of the most important and most useful ones for us in the year 2003. It was thrilling to see them presented with so much courage and feeling (and humour). It was wonderful to see clothing and objects from the Museum's collection reflected in the amazing costumes and props.

Thanks to each of you for your part in this landmark event. Vancouver's history will never be the same.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Seidl
Curator of History

Try Again!?

Last summer a flea market established itself in the parking lot just west of BC Collateral on E.Hastings. It was wonderful!

Sellers had an opportunity to sell stuff at good prices and people in the community could buy things that otherwise many couldn't afford at regular or even some so-called thrift stores.

As a self-proclaimed treasure hunter I was there almost every day. I was in heaven! Then the drug dealers took over, attracting buyers, and the rumours began that a lot of stuff was stolen merchandise. The police closed the entire "shop" and we, the dtes community, lost.

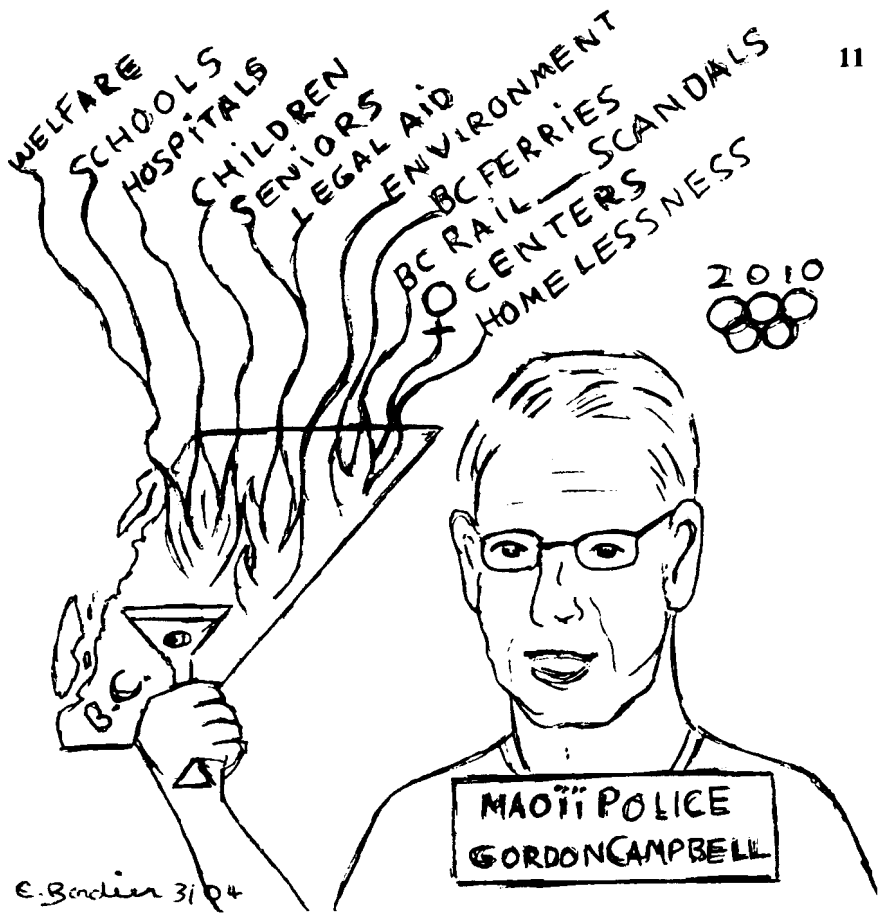
The reason for writing this is to ask everyone if there is a way that we can start a local flea market again and self-police? We could have the pleasure of shopping safely (for treasures!) and getting things we can't afford otherwise; sellers could make a bit of money. We show time and again that we have the power of community and this could be a fine example of us using this power for our own best interests.

Christiane Bordier

ONE

The one I know best
 Why should I hide from
 The world I belong here
 Been one is one I can
 Not hide from
 We all are one and there
 Is not one like you or me
 But we can relate one and
 Another that we can share
 So keep on looking
 Keep strong be proud because
 There is only one of
 You and me so take care of you
 I'll take care of me

Sandra.J



PICKING UP HITCHHIKERS IS ILLEGAL

Don't remember me this way my old friend
 ended up addicted and crazy on Skid Row
 See me please 30 years back
 when it was all roses, children and the future
 let's not remember breaking both of our hearts
 losing a dream only we'd be crazy enough to share
 see me as someone who held your dreams for free
 when tomorrows were always endless and sunny
 See me out on the endless No. 1
 soaking in becoming the noonday sun
 hawks soaring near the mountain tops
 remember me as one who actually tried
 living out the dreams we're all spoon-fed
 but only the fools actually believed.
 see me hitchhiking under the PICKING UP
 HITCHHIKERS IS ILLEGAL sign...

Al Loewen

Window Pain Art Group

presents

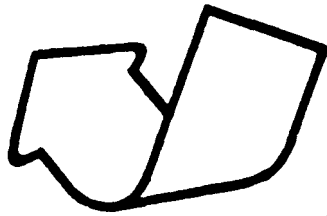
"RIPPING IT UP"

16 artists with disabilities create works to express
 how the Campbell government's "reassessment"
 of disability benefits has affected their lives.

Show Now On at the InterUrban

(Hastings & Carrall, across from Pigeon Park)

until May 21st



Paul's law: You can't fall off the floor.

In May 2005, we can get rid of the BC Liberals and their thieves in Victoria.

The reign of Gordon Campbell may be the most hated government in the history of B.C., hated more than W.A.C. Bennett, more than Bill Bennett, even more than Bill Vander Zalm, and for good reason. It's been the most greedy, cruel, corrupt, incompetent and violent administration in living memory. It came to power on a pack of lies. It rules on behalf of capital. It's the local face of the neoliberal agenda. And its grip on power is slipping.

The reality of Campbell's agenda and its brutal impact on the economic and social fabric of our communities is now apparent to all. Whole towns are in crisis. Whole industries are on the verge of collapse. And the result of this is that for the first time since 2001, the NDP has caught up with the Liberals in the polls. Outside the Lower Mainland the situation is even better, and Campbell's party is now finding itself in serious trouble.

For all these reasons, the provincial election scheduled for May 17, 2005 is likely to be one of the most important, and one of the most bitterly contested in the history of B.C. And this creates a real dilemma for the left, for trade union militants, and for activists in the social movements. It goes without saying that we must defeat the Campbell government, and that to do so would be an enormous and much-needed victory. But every silver lining has a cloud. We think that the fact it's now possible for the Liberals to be defeated is likely to create a stampede of activists to the NDP. This is rooted in the realization that Campbell is destroying the whole postwar social contract, and the reality that, like it or not, only the NDP is in a position of being able to defeat the Liberals and end their rampage of destruction.

The leaderships of the NDP and BC Federation of

Labour will attempt to push this even further – they will argue that the need to defeat the Liberals at the polls in 2005 is so great that everything else has to be subordinated to preparing for the election. They will argue that going on strike will play into the hands of the Liberals. They will argue that fighting the welfare cuts will divert energy and resources needed for the election campaign. They will argue that the thousands of hospital workers fired by the Liberals need to bite the bullet, not fight back. They will argue against CUPE's Day of Democracy. They will attempt to put the brakes on every struggle in order to divert every fight-back into a parliamentary framework, where the game is rigged and we lose every time we play.

Yes, we need to defeat the Liberals. But we also need to challenge the assumption that this can be done by putting the fight-back on hold. We need to increase every form of resistance to the Liberal agenda. We need to intensify our struggles, not call them off. We need to stay in the streets. We need to strike more, not less. We need to increase the social heat as much as possible, in as many ways as we can find, precisely because this will make it easier to defeat the Campbell government next year. To ensure this defeat, we need to find every way possible to create a social relationship of forces against the Liberal regime. We need to see every mobilization, every demo, every occupation and every strike as another opportunity to pound yet another nail into their coffin.

Bigger prisons, longer chains . . .

But there's another reason to be cautious here as well . . . Why elect the NDP if it simply means electing an NDP government to administer the Liberal's cuts? Will they reverse the damage the Liberals have done? Will they reverse the privatizations and cancel the contracts, in health care and education and BC Rail and Hydro and everywhere else? Will they rehire all those thousands of workers the Liberals fired after tearing up legal contracts? Will they promise the ferry workers an NDP government will never again outlaw their right to strike, like it did in 1975? Will they end the welfare cuts (not just Campbell's cuts, but Joy McPhail's too)? Will they re-establish public services to previous levels? And if they do, how will they pay for it? Will they throw out Campbell's tax cuts and begin to make the rich and the corporations pay their way? And if they don't do all of this, why should anyone elect the NDP?

For 43 years the "New" Democratic Party has been the party of "humane" capitalism. But the long postwar economic boom is over, the social contract is toast, capitalism has gone neoliberal, and like it or not there

is no middle ground any more. And that, among many other reasons, is why we think activists everywhere need to start thinking about the opportunities and the challenges presented to us by next year's provincial election.

First and foremost, we need to reject the electoral game, a game that is thoroughly rigged. Look at the lessons of the 90's. After suffering through sixteen years of Socred attacks on the environment, we got a social democratic government that refused to challenge the forest companies and jailed 800 activists who were trying to preserve Clayoquot Sound. A government that brought in the harshest welfare cuts B.C. had ever seen. A government that initiated the whole P3 process that today threatens our public services. A government that did not hesitate to order strikers back to work. A government that refused throughout its mandate to bring in proportional representation, but did deliver Bingogate, the fast ferries and a huge Liberal majority.

As long as we stay trapped within the logic of the current system, a logic that forces us to choose the evil of two lessers, nothing fundamental will change. We need to begin to break this cycle of cynicism and despair created by electoral politics, not by ignoring it but by challenging it in its entirety. Abstaining from the elections would mean passing up a golden opportunity to defeat Campbell. Worse, it would mean abandoning thousands of those who we have fought alongside with in our communities and workplaces to the dead-end illusions of social democracy.

To break this cycle, we need to begin to create a genuine alternative politics. And today in B.C., we think this requires us to take a serious look at fielding independent labour and community candidates in next year's provincial election.

We would like to explore the possibility of organizing one (or more) independent socialist campaigns based on a programme that breaks with and confronts both neoliberalism and electoralism; one that is organized democratically, from the base up; and one that is designed from the very beginning as a complement to struggles, rather than being counter posed to them.

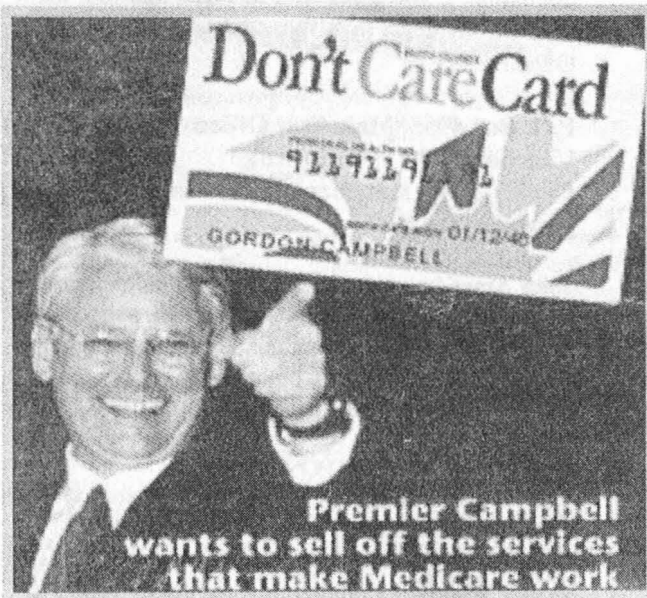
We would like to start a series of discussions on what such a programme might look like by embarking on a process of dialogue with all those best equipped to help define it—the activists in the trenches, whether involved in fighting welfare cuts, organizing for union democracy, struggling against the closure of women's centres, combating homophobia, or preserving the eco-sphere. For us, any such programme would need to encompass all of the above issues.

We encourage you to join with us in beginning this discussion. If you agree with this call, add your name. If you'd like to get involved, contact us at info@leftturn.ca

**P.O. Box 4955, Main Post Office
Vancouver, B.C., V6B 4A6.**

**Copies of this statement are available at
www.leftturn.ca**

John Ames (member, BCGEU local 503, delegate to Vancouver and District Labour Council, activist in Lower Mainland Coalition for Social Justice and Prepare the General Strike Committee)
Shane Calder (activist, Victoria Communities Solidarity Coalition)
Paul Craik (member, PGSC)
Gary Cristall (member, New Socialist Group)
Gretchen Dulmage (officer of C&W Local HEU / CUPE 6010; activist in PGSC, LMCSJ, and HEU Provincial Women's Committee, recently elected to the executive of the VDLC)
Tom Hansen (webmaster, Prepare the General Strike Committee web site)
Ken Hiebert (member, International Warehouse and Longshore Union, local 500; member, Canada-Palestine Support Network)
Fatima Jaffer (member, B.C. Coalition Against Violence Against Women and Children; member, Coalition of South Asian Women Against Violence; member, Vancouver Custody and Access Support and Advocacy Association (VCASAA))
Ray Koehler (member BCGEU local 303, VDLC delegate, activist in LMCSJ, PGSC and Queers United Against Kapitalism)
Harold Lavender (Latin American Connections solidarity activist; member of editorial committee, New Socialist)
Phil Lyons (co-coordinator, B.C. Seniors Network)
Jazmin Miranda (executive member, CUPE local 15; VDLC delegate; member, PGSC and LMCSJ)
Mehdi Najari (environmental and social activist; B.C. NDP 2004 leadership candidate)
Will Offley (union activist, Vancouver First Aid Network Coordinator.)
Earle Peach (conductor, Solidarity Notes labour choir)
Susan Stout (retired member of Canadian Auto Workers, cyberactivist)
[ORGANIZATIONS ARE LISTED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY]



**Premier Campbell
wants to sell off the services
that make Medicare work**

I've learned that one should keep their words both soft and tender, because tomorrow they may have to eat them.

The Key

I know this woman, have for all my life
I've lied to her, stolen from her, conned her,
and despite it all she says "Sonny Boy,
all we got is love, we all got to forgive,
learn how to forget and just keep on loving."

After a lifetime of pain, this tiny woman
tells me the whole secret of living –
you got to keep on loving
no matter what happens to you
you got to keep on loving
after a lifetime of pain and hard work
she's given me the key
Keep on loving no matter what.

after all it's all there is to do

R.Loewen

My Project is to get out of the Project

each one of you were held once
close to the breast of mama
and you lacerated her heart to thank her
that's what sons do
break their mama's heart

Spanish kid on the corner selling crack
tells his mama 'no it's alright I'll be home soon'

if Mama knew what Luiz did for his cash
she still thinks he's in Templeton night classes
doesn't question the hundred-dollar pair of runners
fancy clothes.. the cell phone..
she sits and listens to Spanish radio dreaming back
to the beautiful hot sun in Oaxaca, not wet
and cold like the people here Mexico was poor
but you could talk to your neighbour and, somehow,
even tho' they had nothing, they had plenty of that

Now Eduardo works til 10 at night.. doesn't talk
Kicks off his boots, eats cold tortillas 'n warm beer
not the laughing man he was not long ago
and for what – a colour 33" Zenith, the Nintendo
what's the matter now? isn't this what we want?
El Norte, land of money, somehow we all thought
it'd be more than a big, pretty but empty, box
a place to put your dreams I guesss
so far none have come true
I guess we'll just have to wait
and of course work twice as hard as before

Luiz Alta





kids at risk

The Vancouver School board's budget for the BC Ministry for Children and Family Development's CommunityLINK programs was cut almost \$3 million this year (2004/2005), and more than \$1 million last year (2003/2004). The Vancouver School Board also has an additional \$8 million dollars of cost increases for 2004/2005 that are unfunded by the BC Ministry of Education.

The Vancouver School Board used money in their reserve fund this year (and last year) to mitigate the impact of these funding cuts, but there isn't enough money to protect inner city and community school programs from cuts.

We are losing the following positions:

- Family Advancement Worker
- Youth and Family Worker
- Neighbourhood Assistant
- 50% Counsellor

The Community School Coordinator at Hastings Community Elementary School currently raises more than \$100,000.00 each year from the community, for the many school programs run by the Community School. Our Community School Coordinator will be now be shared with as many as six other schools. The Vancouver School Board is trying to save our community schools – spreading the resources across the district by creating a new hub format for them.

In our hub, or family of community schools, there has been a cut from 11.5 full time positions at 6 schools to only 4 full time position equivalents for the 6 schools. We value all the wonderful staff and programs to support families and children in our area and around the city. The dollars that go to these resources are well spent and the children and families reap the benefit now and into future generations.

Today we want to invite the Minister of Education, the Hon. Tom Christensen and the Minister of Children and Families, the Hon. Christy Clarke to visit our school, and we want to invite parents to call these two Ministers and invite them personally to our school.

They need to see first hand why things work so well at this community school.

This community school is all about building and deepening relationships of respect. Children need to have trusted adults in their lives and our community school with the myriad of trusted adults working cooperatively gives them this opportunity. We need the funding to make things work well for our children

*Speech written and presented by: Jim Houston,
Youth and Family Worker – Hastings Elementary,
Vancouver School Board*

"No Cuts to Kids" Rally – February 15, 2004

I am a child who arrives at school with the echoes of another argument between my parents... reverberating through my conscience. I know they will soon go separate ways. I know that it is my fault and the loser of the last fight they have gets to take me with them. I cannot remember what we did in the class this morning.

I am a child and I can't wait to get to school. They have a breakfast program. The noises in my stomach keep me up at night.

I am a child and "Spring Break" will soon be here. I hate Spring Break. I hate Christmas Break and the long, miserable months of summer. Sometimes, it seems as though I cannot find a breath with which to sustain myself and the walls of my apartment suite close in on me a little more. It's not safe in my neighbourhood. I would gladly go to school every day of my life to save me from all this.

I am a child. Next year I will go to Kindergarten at the school where my older sisters go now. My mother is nervous today and gets angry at the little things I do. She just went out to "buy a twenty". I don't know what that means but my mother is way nicer when she buys a twenty.

I am a child, one of seven in my family. We are staying in a transition home with my mother. It's a secret. I am not allowed to tell my Daddy where we live. I hate it here. It's a long way to get to my school. We have to take three buses and many times I am late. I wish we could go back home but my mother is afraid. She is also brave.

I am a child. Next year I go to high school. I am not going to make it to graduation.

I am a child in Grade 5. This is my eleventh school. Don't expect much and you won't be disappointed.

I am a child and my father lives in Central America. I have not seen or spoken with him for half my lifetime. I'm angry and I don't trust you much either.

I am a child and, last night, the Police came through our front door with a big battering ram. They took my father and all our plants away. We had to go stay with my grandma.

I am a child and I live with my mother and sister in a transition home. My father goes to meetings and is not allowed to live with us right now. We're moving to a new apartment and I must leave the only school I have ever known and all my friends. Last night I threw up.

I am a Youth & Family Worker. I hang out and talk with kids. I meet with families, school Principals and Teachers. I am the cheapest "fix" in town and getting cheaper by the day. Every dollar I am paid potentially saves ten dollars down the road in the Attorney General's budget (In the words of Ebenezer Scrooge, "Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?")

I am a Youth & Family Worker. I coordinate and advise Peer Helper programs, facilitate Roots of Empathy, teach Focus on Bullying and violence prevention, problem-solving, fair play, cooperative games and hand out tickets for random acts of Respect and Kindness. I work with children about the changing nature of families, separation and divorce, death and grief. I meet with a group of students and we learn how to trap and tame worries. I find housing and buy and deliver groceries, take families to medical appointments and walk children home after school. I am a safe person. Patient. Flexible. I am the reason that the Ministry of Children and Family Development never hear about some of our school's children and families. I greet students and families and invite them in. I build bridges and I hear secrets. I set limits and I smile. I smile a lot.

I am a Youth & Family Worker...one part of a diverse, dedicated and talented network of supportive people in Vancouver schools, school neighborhoods and communities, specialized classrooms and alternative programs. We forge the possibility of significant relationships with children, youth and families. We provide a safe place where Teachers can teach and students can learn.

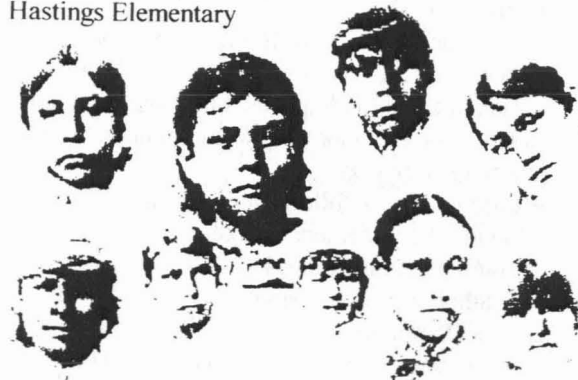
I am a Youth & Family Worker and I can't believe that I am at yet another one of these events railing at injustice and attempting to advocate, in an increasing hopeless void, for the emotional well being of children and families.

I end with a quote from a former president of Harvard University....

"If you think education is expensive....try ignorance."

Thank you for your time and attention today.

Jim Houston
Youth & Family Worker
Hastings Elementary



Dedicated to all "street" youth with
No Where To Go

So many lost childhoods on the streets of the east-side: no where to go but to the pusher, pimp or john. That familiar alley, crack shack, shooting gallery or that cheap hotel room with a stranger laying next to you.

Nobody acknowledges how hard this life is; everyday you feel a piece of your soul dies. Filled with lies, anger, despair and sadness.. feeling hopeless with no one to turn to and nowhere to go. Want to get help but where do I go?

You always think just one more night but once again you watch dawn turn to dusk with nowhere to go.. no one to reach to for help

You yell out in rage but nobody hears you; you are invisible to society's eyes. I'm just a kid yet nobody sees where drugs and the streets are taking me. Do you see? Do you hear? Do you care of my despair? Another day passes with no where to go.

Jacqueline Frances

lost in darkness and depression

not knowing where to turn
been down this road too many times
but still we just don't learn
hoping and praying wishing for the past
feelings, too many i'm scared and alone
how long will these feelings last
feeling load and guilty too wrong to go home
i feel like it's me against the world
stuck in an endless dark hall
al i have is me and i'm just a scared little girl
i'm starting to slip and i'm scared to fall
i need you now
we've come so far now don't leave
so tell me now
because i don't know what to believe
so answer this please don't lie to me
tell me now my friend
when things get hard will you up and leave
or are you here till the end?
i've been hurt way too many times
i don't need to be hurt again
it's hard enough already
if i keep running where will i be then
all i can say is i'm ready
i want my life back i know i can
i don't need you making it harder
i can do it on my own i don't need a man
so a little life lesson - it'll get better from here
remember that
and know when you're at the end of your rope
hold on tight and tie a knot
and find a way to cope



'cause yes sometimes life does get hard
and you'll want to turn and run
but look back on your past
look what all the running has done
it will get better wait and see
it will get better it's meant to be
nothing lasts forever
even these feelings won't last
just keep trying and believing
this too shall pass

Amanda Stevens

Sam Roddan's Legacy

Sam and Huddy (his better half) are good friends of the Downtown Eastside. Sam's art is part of our history and part of Carnegie - one of the most remarkable things: Sam began painting at the age of 80!. It was a sad time when, at 87, he passed on.

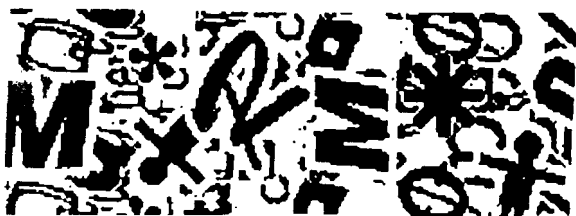
The Carnegie Newsletter has been the beneficiary of print after print of Sam's work and the line or short paragraph of what and why each was. Sam's wife Huddy, who still lives in the woodsy cabin he designed and built, remains very active in outreach work in the downtown eastside and Surrey communities.

In February of this year, Sara Baker Wansbrough got together with Huddy and held a 3-week long exhibit of Sam's art; and Rika Uto, Carnegie's Education Programmer, connected with this and has, with Huddy and Mark Townsend, been encouraging an exhibit of Sam's work at the InterUrban Gallery across from Pigeon Park.

One truly wonderful outcome of the February show is that Huddy and her daughter Janet have donated over \$1700 to Carnegie to be used in Education programming.

When dates are set for a show of Sam's work in the Downtown Eastside, you'll know soonest!!





Dear Friends,

The CCPA-BC is co-sponsoring a conference for youth on June 4-5 called "Class Action: What's your idea of a good education?" Hosted by young activists, the conference features music, theatre, workshops and other venues for young people to express their experiences and views on public education.

Friday June 4 (evening) – Saturday June 5 (day & evening)

Vancouver Public Library (Central Branch, Hamilton & Georgia Streets)

Join other youth at Class Action, a conference that will explore questions about public education in BC. It's free, and it's open to all youth in secondary or alternate school, and youth who are working or taking time out from school.

When British Columbians were asked recently about education, here's what they had to say about students and education:

"...the learner is at the center of public education."
"We promise to respect, encourage and foster the learner's role as a full participant, together with others in the educational community, in developing their own goals, learning activities and curricula."

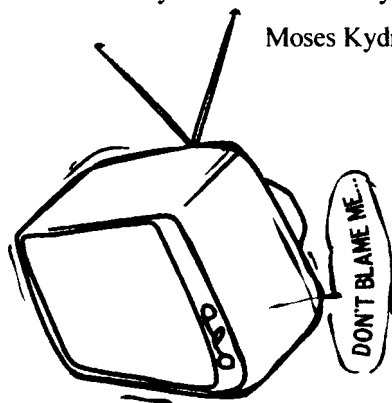
- * What does this mean?
- * What should it mean?
- * Is it just somebody's fancy words and idealistic dreams?
- * Shouldn't learners decide these things for themselves?
- * What should our schools look like?
- * How could they be organized?
- * If learners had their say, what would the goals of education be?

For more information or to register:
Call Kathy Whittam at 604-255-5458, or email
<youth@publiced.ca>
<http://www.charter.publiced.ca>

Tuned Out Years Ago, howz 'bout you?

sometimes people don't seem like people no more
the way they actually live breathe believe follow
all the crap on a friggin sitcom
like what Seinfeld meant to a whole generation
for some people TV is real.. it's real because
it's what I do every Tuesday at 7 o'clock
Dan Rather means more to some people
than their own families; people are involved
in Oprah: they actually believe what they're told!
the whole dog and pony show day and night
Sundays you get religion on Ch.21 from 9 to noon
then football..or the spinee-tingling action of golf..
I know people who talk bout characters on *Survivors*
like they were members of their own families
I'm sorry, folks, to be the one to tell you
that stuff ain't real, you see, it's all made up
it's all mind candy to fill in the space
from quitting time to starting up again time
don't let me blow your bubble but baby it's bullshit

Moses Kydman



I've learned that money doesn't buy class.

I've learned that a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned that life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned that opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned that when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

Being homeless is not an easy choice. [It's not a 'choice' at all]

"People don't realize the homeless are dying in Vancouver. It's a death sentence being on the street." Said Kim Kerr of DERA, quoted in a recent Terminal City article.

I think properly "It *can be* a death sentence on the street." Definitely one has to deal with oppression, poverty, lack of shower, lack of health care, perhaps no social supports or even moral/spiritual support. Some of us were in charge of wealth and other assets before being out there or 'sleeping out' Vietnam Vets had the same problem when they came back. It is shocking that many just don't get it that poor people are responsible and trust can go a long way.

I tried to get a first-hand look at homelessness, the value of not living inside four walls. About 10 years ago I slept out for 3 years, dumpster diving and struggling to grasp what was happening to me. As many of us experience, people aren't reaching out in important ways, and it's not just to the homeless.

Real friendship, gentle observation, expressions of care... I am not always there; I regret my roughness because the inner person needs to know there is an answer. The proposal that DERA is taking (or has taken by now) to Council is for a tent city on unused land (known locally as 'dogshit park'). I've been in a tent on public land with traffic rolling by and, except for the usual screams of "get a job" or "get a life", it was reasonable. The point of getting the City involved is to have garbage picked up and toilets available. As DERA says, "It's a chance for homeless people to do something for themselves."

I'd hope that the place, if such is ever given tacit approval, would be called "Hope Village" because that is what homeless people need more than anything - hope. I'd also hope that those accepted to live in such a community would hold true to what is best for that community, and not let open drug use or criminal activity destroy it for everyone else.

Protest can help us find that ultimately people need to wake up and care before it's too late. Thank God for ethical people speaking up and walking the walk.

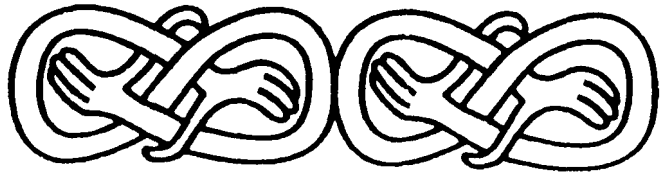
By MICHAEL BOHNERT

I've learned that love, not time, heals all wounds.

For JESS MICHAUD

Especially on sunny mornings I wonder
where is my son this morning?
is his car broke down somewhere
between Indian Head and Moose Jaw
...maybe just outside the Hat?
is he riding over Saskatchewan someplace,
that damned toque still on in the springtime!?
'it's new school ya old fool' he'd smile and say
Son, I ain't forgot you..you know where to look
on sunny mornings the grasshoppers dance
this summer my long lost bastard son
think of me as I think of you
it's just miles that separate us
the blood always stays the same
always has, always will
Live well, my son. Come find me.

Grasshopper



LOSING LOVE Blues

Be it you be it me it is for everyone to see
Two people together, just a girl and a guy,
Is it so wrong to be shouting about over nothing at all?
And at the end of this crisis who takes the sad fall?
Am I being presumptuous or too matter of fact?
Is there ever a better way? Could we use more tact?
When no one apologizes, who's right...who's wrong?
Why's it so hard to say 'I love you.'

they're such simple words... but do we feel the
vibes - without reason, without rhyme?
Do you really care so very much that I often seem to
hide this so deep inside? When will you open your
true heart, when will you confide?

What are your soft feelings.. certainly not what
you've implied.

If we don't share some real answers then let us two
depart, and sincerely thank each other, face to face,
for what was, after all, a beautiful rocky ride

Robyn L.

The March 20, 2004 anti-war rally

On Saturday, March 20, 2004, exactly one year after the US-led "coalition of the willing" invaded Iraq, millions of people around the world protested the continuing occupation of that country..

In Vancouver, police estimated 6,000 people gathered at Sunset Beach to hear speeches and register their dissent. Others put the number at 20,000.

Jack Layton was there, so one can safely assume he is against the whole idea of war in Iraq. By far, the majority of Canadians are opposed to the war. Former PM Jean Chretien refused to join the US, possibly the best decision for which his government will be remembered.

PM Paul Martin has never expressed support for the invasion, but has expressed interest in joining the US in their missile defense system plans.

Conservative leader Stephen Harper, one year ago, said we should be standing "shoulder to shoulder" with our allies, but recently declared that Canada should merely offer "moral support," and did not advocate sending troops into Iraq. Maybe the fact that the war in Iraq is immensely unpopular with most people in the world has changed his mind...

One very interesting speaker at the rally, introduced by federal NDP leader Jack Layton, was Dr. Noam Chomsky, American social justice activist for a period of time spanning decades (starting with Vietnam)..

I managed to download a copy of Chomsky's speech from vancouver.indymedia.org imbedded in the article titled "Mass Movement for Peace." Thus I was able to review the speech at my leisure and am excerpting these two quotes:

"Somebody has a sign, 'Bush is the real terrorist.' Well, actually, he's a convicted terrorist. His is the only government in history condemned by the World Court, namely for the attack on Nicaragua..."

"[re propaganda used to sway public opinion:] There's nothing new going on. This is just a repetition of a very familiar formula. You're shafting people - and they were shafting the population, they suffered badly in those years - you gotta frighten them. There's no other way to keep population under control. And it's happening now..."

Chomsky finished by saying we must remain vigilant and proactive in our protest to the actions in Iraq.

The CBC had a news story dated March 20 about the demonstrations around the world. The single biggest protest took place in Rome, with a million people participating.

"It doesn't make sense to bomb countries that have nothing to do with Sept. 11," said US protestor Reeves Hamilton.

"Bush's invasion of Iraq has incited more terrorism," said Lau San-ching as he marched to the US consulate in Hong Kong.

At a rally in Florida, US President George W. Bush, on the same day, declared Iraq an "essential victory" in the war on terror. He said the mission in Iraq "will make us all safer."

By Rolf Auer

The Positive Side

Positive thinking is important in our lives. I am talking about one person, Mr. Antoine, who I met in Vancouver. The first time that I saw him at the Carnegie Learning Center, he was very funny. One time he told me something; in explaining the word 'aura' he said, "Antoine always seems to have an aura of happiness about him." I thought he was always very happy, and he didn't undergo any worry about his life. However, I was wrong.

After morning class, I talked to Antoine about several things. I found out that in Vietnam, he suffered hard times and also had difficulties in living. He arrived in Canada from Vietnam, via Australia, with hard times. Nowadays, a part of his family lives in Australia. When he explains words or sentences, his gestures are always much exaggerated and very funny, but his attitude about learning is very serious and respectful.

In my opinion, it looks as if he has made a lot of effort to see the positive side of life. When he said his age was about 72 years, I was very surprised. His efforts to see the positive side of his life is the reason why he keeps himself young.

Today he explained two new sentences to me and asked me to repeat them back to him. "It is difficult to find a friend like Antoine. I thank all people of the Carnegie Learning Center, especially Antoine!" I repeated it.

Let us look at the positive side of our lives.

Jun-Bae Kim

Public Meeting

Columbia Street Pump Station Replacement

Wednesday, May 19, 2004

6:30 p.m. - Registration

7 to 9 p.m. - Presentations & questions

Vancouver Japanese Language School

487 Alexander Street, Vancouver
(Corner of Jackson Ave. and Alexander St.)

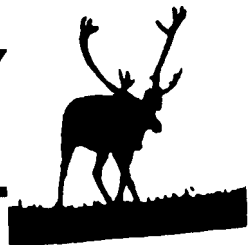
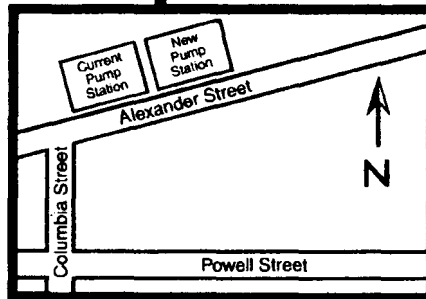
The Columbia Street Pump Station pumps sanitary and stormwater flows from the north-east section of downtown Vancouver to the Iona Wastewater Treatment Plant. Replacing the station will increase capacity and reduce combined sewer overflows into Burrard Inlet.

The City of Vancouver has approved this replacement subject to several conditions including public consultation on construction and operations management plans. These two plans will ensure that public concerns are addressed and impacts reduced.

The GVRD is committed to working with residents and businesses in the area regarding this project and to continue to discuss community concerns.

You are welcome to attend this public meeting which will include an update on the process to locate the station, and information on the public consultation workshops occurring in May and June 2004.

If you are unable to attend, or for more information, please call the GVRD Information Centre at 604-432-6200, fax 604-432-6399, visit www.gvrd.bc.ca, or e-mail gvrd.communications@gvrd.bc.ca.



OLD MAN IN THE MORNING

*8.05am, Cold pouring rain
In the alley behind the Firehall on Main*

An old man in tattered pants
Naked from the lower waste up
Bent over a dirty puddle
Scrubbing his long, bushy hair and beard
Splashing greasy water on his wrinkled folds

Two rusty shopping carts
Overflowing with bulging plastic bags
Were placed on either side
Of the dirty puddle
Forming a make-believe shower stall

*No one should witness an act
As private as that
Someone should take a picture
Send it to the governments and business sector
With a caption — Revitalize This!*

*Maybe it's the old man's choice
To live wild and free in the city
Maybe he's guarding his anonymity
From the "safety net" or the police
Maybe he has kids
Who wonder where he is
Maybe he has big dreams and schemes*

*Same morning - 8:25 am
Cold, drizzling rain
On the corner in front of the Firehall on Main*

The old man in the tattered pants
Wearing two heavy coats
Pushing a shopping cart in either hand
Panted up the slow grade
His face bright red through his thick, gray hair

He stepped off the curb
As the walk sign flashed on
The blue Mercedes turning right
Didn't stop
The car and one cart collided

A tall overweight man in a business suit
Jumped out of the Mercedes yelling
And shouting at the old man
The old man cursed back
The big man pushed the old man and kicked him

A young couple crossing at the intersection
Shouted at the man in the suit
"Leave him alone... Get outta here"
The big man took the time to inspect his bumper
Then got in his car and drove off

The young couple helped the old man to his feet
And righted his cart
Pushing his two part home across the street
Teardrops blended with raindrops
Dripping down his old red cheeks

Leith Harris



I am a prisoner now
locked in by cheques and balances
the bars are soft but just as strong
I lay in my cell each day
dreaming of my freedom
but dream is all I do

I have a fantasy princess
I dream of her thick black hair
her quick smile, the innocent happiness
no one in my old world
was ever as nice as she is

every day they let me out on the balcony
I listen to the school kids across the way
they just see a tired old man
whose memories far outstrip his dreams
to them there is no fierce dragon
just Mr Tong mumbling in his chair
being old is punishment
for not taking enough chances at joy
while you still had the body and the nerve
now this porch is my last lookout
from here I can see the entire world
not the one you see the one I've arrived at
too many decades to count

M. Tong


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SOCIETY**

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Thursday, May 27





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EMBERS presents
Exploring Self-Employment

- Want to start a business but don't know where to begin or if you're ready?
- Do you have a hobby you'd like to make into a business?

These are eight self-exploration workshops intended for individuals who think they may be interested in self-employment.

**Tuesday May 25 to Friday May 28
9:30-noon and 1:30-4 pm**

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
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Joanne H.-\$20 Christopher R.-\$25
The Edge Community Liaison Ctt -\$200
Peter T.-\$20 PG for PB -\$25 Anonymous-\$2

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

 
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



NEXT DAY

WHAT'S FOR SUPPER, MOMMY?

SORRY HONEY, SOUP AGAIN



Witches Apprehended, and Executed, for notable villanies by them committed

Mister Campbell

*With a most true triall how to know
whether a woman be a Witch
or not.*



Witch Finder