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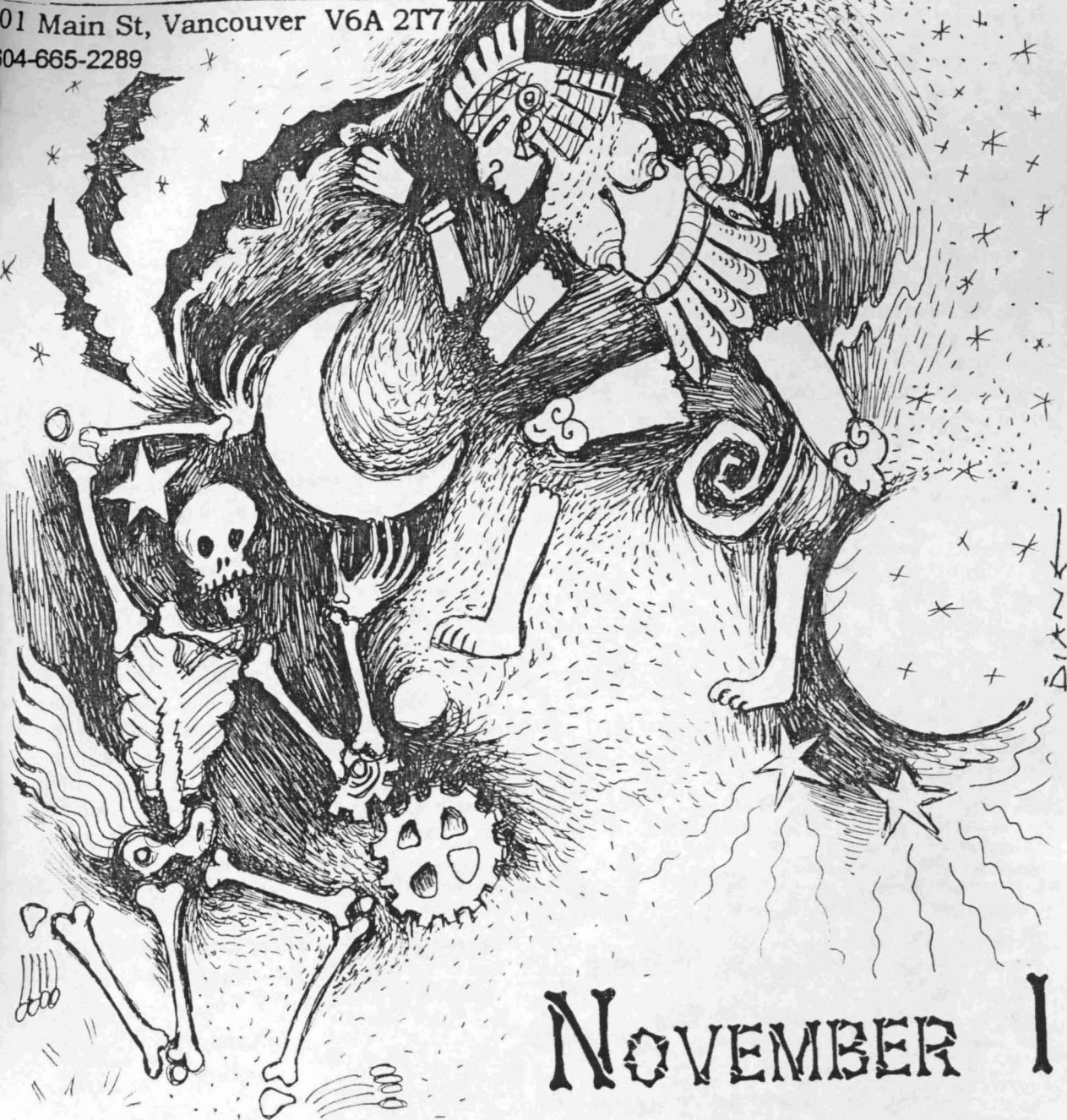
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Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

401 Main St, Vancouver V6A 2T7

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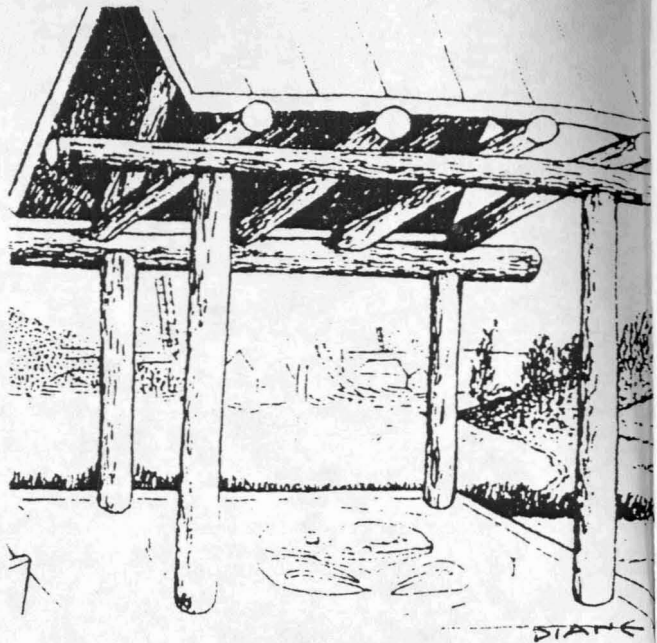
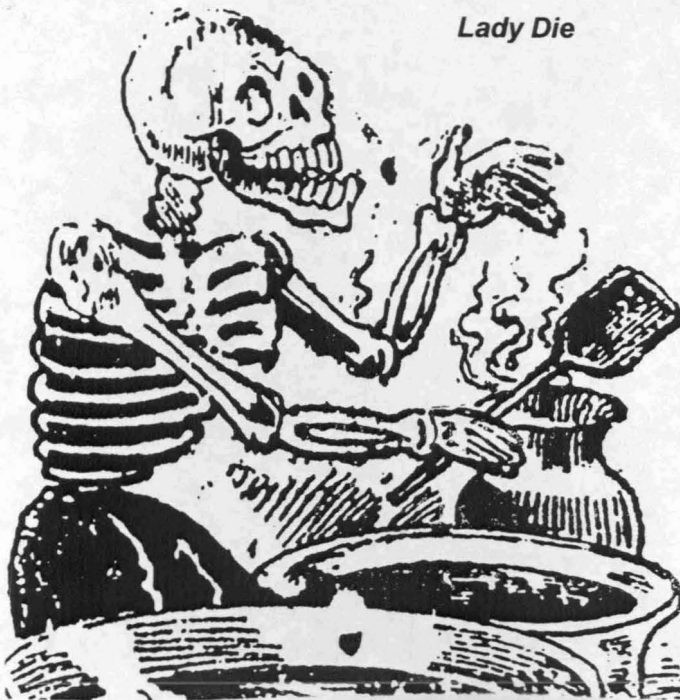
NOVEMBER I

DAY OF THE DEAD

In Latin America November 1 & 2 are the days to commemorate loved ones who have died, a tradition dating back to the Aztecs, who believed that death was not an ending, but a beginning of a new and eternal existence. It wasn't the God of Death they feared, but the uncertainty of life. *Miclantechli* wasn't a punishing god, he released them from their burdens.

This year's celebration in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside will be on a smaller scale than previous years, but everyone is invited to participate. On Tuesday November 2 at 10 in the morning, the Latin American Community will carry crosses with the names of those who have died from the Lifeskills Centre to Oppenheimer Park. There is a memorial bench there for the park volunteers who died, as well as a tree that was planted for Paul Wright. The day's events include a lunch, *piñata* and games. It's a time to make fun of the living and how seriously we take ourselves. We're the ones who are suffering, the dead "rest in peace". There will be an altar, called an *ofrenda* at the entrance of Lifeskills decorated with candles, special food, flowers and photos. Bring flowers and pictures of the loved ones you want to remember for the *ofrenda*. For more information contact Ingrid at Watari (604) 328-8492.

Lady Die



RAVEN'S REVIVAL FOR THE SPRING

Needles in sandboxes. The danger thereof down at Crab Park at Portside (foot of Main). A complaint to the Vancouver Parks' Board of potential discarded drug needles in the kids' playground area will lead to the removal of the sand.

Crab Water for Life Society has proposed a replica of Tora's "Raven - Killer Whale - Crab" aboriginal style design, that is currently on the park's band shell floor, be used in the small tots' play area in mosaic tiles. The tiny tots' play area is found in the southeast corner of Crab Park. This will be done if the Parks' Board's Neighbourhood Matching Grant for \$10,000 is approved. CETA (Creating Employment Through Art) has been approached to do the actual tile work. The Raycam Community Centre is co-sponsoring this mosaic tile project, which will revive the lost tiny tots' area. This will be the first new project in Crab Park since the park opened in 1987. We hope to see a "Raven Revival" and artist Tora's work made permanent (legacy) in colourful mosaic tile.

Sincerely,
Don Larson

CARNEGIE VOLUNTEERS ARE³ THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

'VOLUNTEERS OF THE MONTH' (October)

Paul Carten

Paul has been volunteering as a tutor for the expanded discussion group to improve English vocabulary twice a week for years. Thank you Paul for your quiet enthusiasm and determined perseverance. We would all be honoured to see you at the Volunteer Dinners. Don't you like our cooking?

Jessie Atkinson

Jessie is a Kitchen volunteer who came to us as a complete novice as a baker (her admission) but has quickly become a connoisseur d'art. Her consistency and reliability are as sure as the sun and stars above. Besides baking, Jessie volunteers as a Prep Cook in our busy Kitchen and as a Cashier for our Concession which is a particularly tough position. Its so nice to have you join our family Jessie. Keep coming back. It works ©

Volunteer Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, November 10th, 2004 Classroom II at 2:00pm (it is now the week before the Volunteer Dinner) EVERYONE WELCOME! Your voice is needed and appreciated.

Volunteer Dinner an opportunity for the staff to serve you for a change!

Wednesday, November 17th, 2004 at 4:30pm
If you have 16 volunteer hours in this month, please pick up ticket from Colleen in the Volunteer Program office on the 3rd floor.

DJ MIX - MOVE TO THE GROOVE

Join us for a swingin' good time ~ have fun!

Loosen up! Dance with your creative spirit.

Everyone Welcome! THAT INCLUDES YOU!

Friday November 5th, 2004 7pm - 10pm

Carnegie Theatre

Refreshments served

HAIR WITH HEART ~ Hair Cuts styled by our hair maestro 'Herb' Fridays 7-9pm on the 3rd Floor


KARAOKE WITH Gerald!!!

Friday, October 08, 2004 7pm - 10pm

Carnegie Theatre

What do Mickey Mouse, karaoke, a Hawaiian Luau, and Marilyn Monroe all have in common? Come to Karaoke and find out!!!

Refreshments served to the brave willing souls.



DANCING YOUR EDGE

to a world beat

CARNEGIE CENTRE

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14

1-3PM 2ND FLOOR GYM

COME AS YOU ARE

DANCE AWAY WINTER DREAD

CREATIVE RESISTANCE

~ ending drug prohibition for good!

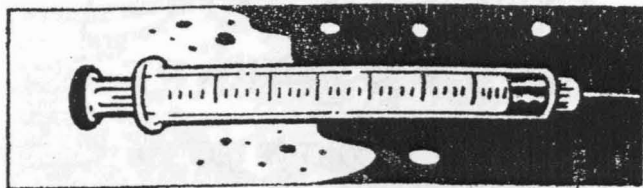
Mission

CREATIVE RESISTANCE is a social justice movement committed to ending the War on Drugs by 1) **exposing** the violence and corruption the Drug War generates, 2) **educating** the public regarding the devastating personal and social consequences of drug prohibition, and 3) **advocating** alternative ways of managing the reality of drugs in society.

CREATIVE RESISTANCE has as its ultimate objective ending the War on Drugs and thereby reducing the destructive fallout of a drug policy formulated as war. Prohibition, with its manifold mechanisms of enforcement, has proven to be a colossal failure,¹ succeeding only in multiplying incidence of death, disease, crime, and addiction. Alternative drug policies need to be imagined, discussed and implemented, for the sake of fostering a more just society.

In order to accomplish this objective, CREATIVE RESISTANCE will undertake to raise awareness of the harms of prohibition through a number of means: a newsletter and/or journal, website, hosting educational events, forums and conferences, taking the word to the street, lobbying government, etc. This is primarily an educational strategy, one that seeks to counter the massive propaganda of the War on Drugs. In addition, CREATIVE RESISTANCE will maintain alliances with other groups working in this area of social reform (LEAP, Stop the Drug War, DrugSense, Lindesmith Foundation, etc.).

Contacts: Bud Osborn (778) 371-9718
Dave Diewert > (604) 253-5911 or
email > ddiewertt@shaw.ca



[1. After three decades of fueling the U.S. war on drugs with over half a trillion tax dollars and increasingly punitive policies, our court system is choked with ever-increasing prosecutions of nonviolent drug violations and our quadrupled prison population has made building prisons this nation's fastest growing industry. We have imprisoned more than 2.2 million of our citizens and every year we arrest an additional 1.8 million for nonviolent drug offenses - more per capita than any country in the world. The United States has 5 percent of the population of the world but 25 percent of the world's prisoners. Despite all that, illicit drugs are cheaper, more potent, and easier to get than they were 30 years ago. Meanwhile people are still dying in our streets and drug barons continue to grow richer than ever before. This scenario must be the very definition of a failed policy." LEAP (www.leap.cc)]

NIGHTMARE ON SAFE STREET

Vancouver squeegee kids and panhandlers may have to start looking for new lines of work now that the provincial government has introduced the controversial **Safe Streets Act**, a piece of legislation some have accused of being an attack on the poor... "Even the provincial government can't quite figure out how to enforce it," said Vancouver City Councillor Anne Roberts, a member of COPE. "How do you give a fine to someone who has no money?"... A study done at the University of Guelph found that the Ontario Safe Streets Act was incredibly successful at eliminating squeegee kids from city streets, but found that some had to turn to prostitution and drug dealing to make up for the lost income...

Homeless advocates are concerned that the provincial government will not come through with the social services that many of the politicians who support the Safe Streets Act say are necessary... "Nobody here supports 'aggressive' panhandling, but we don't see more policing as a solution," said Kim Kerr, a homeless advocate for DERA. "The solutions we need to see more of are detox and fighting addiction."

By Gary McKenna

Reprinted from **Terminal City** Oct. 14 2004

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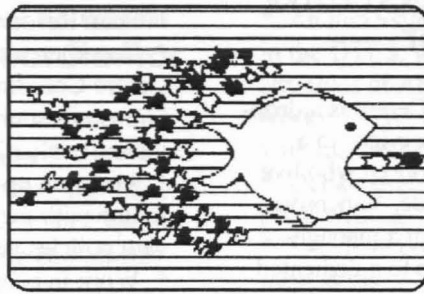
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For

The British Columbia Public Interest Advocacy Centre

208-1090 West Pender Street
Vancouver, BC V6E 2N7
Tel: (604) 687-3063 Fax: (604) 682-7896
email: bcpiac@bcpiac.com
<http://www.bcpiac.com>



Poverty Law Lawyers to Campbell: Punishing poor people through "Safe Streets" law and Trespass Act amendments will further victimize the poor

Anti-poverty lawyers are urging the government to reconsider passing the *Safe Streets Act* and *Trespass Act Amendment Act* into law.

"Many of the vulnerable people who are down on their luck are Aboriginal people. If this legislation is passed then these people will become sitting ducks," said Linda Locke, an Aboriginal lawyer who practices poverty, family and criminal law in Hazelton.

Jim Quail, staff lawyer with the BC Public Interest Advocacy Centre (BCPIAC), added that we already have laws to deal with aggressive behaviour. "For example, the *Criminal Code* deals with assaults, threats, public nuisance and causing a disturbance. The *Trespass Act* and the *Criminal Code* permit the defence of property. The *Motor Vehicle Act* already prohibits people from impeding traffic, or from soliciting any form of business on a street. Inventing even more offences to charge people with will not help the problem."

"If this government really wants to reduce poverty and homelessness in BC," said Sarah Khan, staff lawyer with BCPIAC, "it will repeal harsh welfare eligibility rules such as the three week wait and the two-year employment requirement and reinstate poverty law legal representation for low-income people, not pass this disappointing legislation."

For further information, please contact:

- Linda Locke

Ph: 250-842-5218

1-877-842-5218

Email: lindalocke5@msn.com

Ph: 604-687-3034

- Jim Quail

Email: jimquail@bcpiac.com

Ph: 604-687-4134

- Sarah Khan

Email: skhan@bcpiac.com



DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE seeks a **Centre Coordinator**

The Downtown Eastside Women's Centre is a drop-in Centre offering a wide variety of services to a diverse community of women and children who live and/or work in the Downtown Eastside, Vancouver. The Centre Coordinator will be part of a management team to offer creative leadership to a dedicated group of staff and volunteers. In partnership with the Administrative and Financial Coordinators, the Centre Coordinator will report to the Board of Directors and will be responsible for the overall management of the organization. She will ensure that the services, programs and projects work toward the mandate of the society. The DEWC is a union environment with a staff complement of eight full time and ten part-time/relief workers.

Aboriginal women and women of colour are strongly encouraged to apply.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Centre Operations & Administration

- * Coordinate day to day centre operations, including receiving and responding to management enquiries
- * Work with staff to coordinate special events and in-centre programming
- * Develop and maintain information sharing systems and policies
- * Work with the Administrative Coordinator, Financial Coordinator, Board of Directors and staff in creating an annual budget and project funding

Human Resources

- * Together with the Administrative Coordinator, the Centre Coordinator is responsible for all aspects of Human Resources including hiring, training, supervision, evaluations, discipline, and firing of staff
- * Maintain up-to-date personnel practices which are in line with the collective agreement and other relevant policies and legislation
- * Work in cooperation to create staff orientation, evaluation, development and training systems

Organizational Development

- * Ensure the development and maintenance of the Centre's policies and procedures
- * Ensure regular strategic planning and organizational development sessions
- * Ensure staff training as needed

Qualifications:

- * Significant experience in non-profit management position, preferably in a unionized environment
- * Demonstrated teamwork, leadership and administrative skills
- * Excellent communication, facilitation, and organizational skills
- * An understanding of the issues that effect women in the DTES, with a particular awareness of the struggles of aboriginal women, women of colour, working class women, queer women, and women with disabilities.
- * Excellent conflict resolution and crisis management skills
- * Women in recovery need 2 years sobriety
- * Experience working with other agencies, service users, board or directors, staff and volunteers
- * Driver's license essential, class 4 unrestricted license an asset
- * Language fluency in Mandarin or Cantonese an asset.

Salary: \$39,000 a year (30 hrs a week).

Benefits: Medical, dental, RRSP, annual vacation.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday November 17th, 2004 at 5 pm

Please fax cover letter and resume to Centre Coordinator Hiring Committee 604-681-8470.

No phone calls please. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
seeks an **Administrative Coordinator**

RESPONSIBILITIES

- * Administration & Human Resources
- * Coordinate day to day office activities, including receiving and responding to administrative enquiries
- * Maintain administrative files, office equipment and supplies
- * Coordinate internal and external communication tools, including the annual report
- * Act as liaison with other Downtown Eastside community agencies, all levels of government, donors, media and the general public
- * Together with the Centre Coordinator, the Administrative Coordinator is responsible for all aspects of Human Resources including hiring, training, evaluations, supervision, discipline, and firing of staff
- * Ensure regular strategic planning and organizational development sessions
- * Liaise with and provide administrative support to the Board of Directors

Financial & Fundraising Coordination

- * Liaise with the Financial Coordinator to ensure that funds are expended in accordance with Society policies, budgetary authority & funding agreements
- * Pursue funding opportunities for programs and services of the Society and monitor timely submission of all funding reports
- * Coordinate required Society and Revenue Canada records with the Financial Coordinator
- * Work with Fundraising Committee to develop and implement fundraising strategies
- * Develop and deliver direct mail campaigns with support of staff collective
- * Maintain donor database
- * Develop and maintain relationships with funders, donors, members, and supporters

Qualifications:

- * Significant experience in non-profit management position, preferably in a unionized environment
- * Demonstrated teamwork, leadership and administrative skills
- * Excellent communication, facilitation, and organizational skills

- * An understanding of the issues that effect women⁷ in the DTES, with a particular awareness of the struggles of Aboriginal women, women of colour, working class women, queer women, and women with disabilities
- * Demonstrated experience in fundraising including grant writing
- * Excellent conflict resolution and crisis management skills
- * Women in recovery need 2 years sobriety
- * Experience working with other agencies, service users, board of directors, staff and volunteers
- * Language fluency in Mandarin or Cantonese an asset.

Salary: \$39,000 a year (30 hrs a week).

Benefits: Medical, dental, RRSP, annual vacation.

CLOSING DATE: Wednesday November 17th,
2004 at 5 pm

Please fax cover letter and resume to Administrative Coordinator Hiring Committee 604-681-8470.

No phone calls please. Only candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.



Native Residential Schools: "Kids Put On Electric Chair"

The following newspaper article was published in the *Edmonton Journal*, Tuesday, October 22, 1997.

The home-made electric chair used for years to punish aboriginal children at St. Anne's Residential School in this James Bay (Fort Albany, Ontario) community has disappeared, but its memory endures. Hundreds of children who survived the horrors of the school have bitter memories of the chair - used as a means of forcing them to bend to the will of Roman Catholic missionaries who ran the school.

"The nuns used it as a weapon" says former student Mary Anne Nakogee-Davis, 41. "It was done to me on more than one occasion. They would strap your arms to the metal arm rests, and it would jolt you and go through your system. I don't know what I did that was bad enough to have that done to me."

Edmund Metatawabin, 49, former Chief of the Fort Albany First Nation, remembers being forced to take turns with his classmates sitting in the chair and receiving painful jolts of electricity to entertain visiting dignitaries.

"I was six years old. There was no sense of volunteering or anything. We were just told by the brother to do it and there was never any question of not doing it. Once the thing was cranked up, I could feel the current going through me, mainly through my arms. Your legs are jumping up, and everyone was laughing."

St. Anne's operated as a residential school from 1904 to 1973 in this isolated Cree community of 1400 about 1000 kms north of Toronto.

A three year investigation by Ontario Provincial Police has found evidence of widespread sexual and physical abuse of students, hundreds of whom have been left with deep emotional scars.

Regional Crown attorney Martin Lambert has said some priests, brothers, nuns, and lay workers who ran the school soon will be charged.

The federal government forced Cree and Ojibwa children to leave their families and live for ten months of the year at the school, which was operated as part of a nationwide policy of trying to assimilate aboriginals into the dominate white culture. It was a policy that didn't work. Most schools were closed during the 1960s and 1970s.



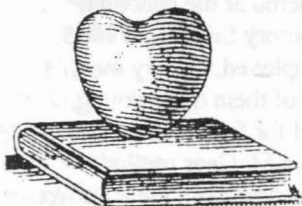
St. Anne's was operated by the Roman Catholic diocese of Moosonee, the Oblate order and the Grey Nuns, without much outside supervision.

Other students have told police investigators of heterosexual and homosexual rape, sexual fondling, forced masturbation and severe beatings. Students have complained of humiliating treatment, such as being forced to eat their food off the floor.

Boys and girls in the school weren't allowed to speak to each other, and if brothers and sisters communicated, even by a wave of a hand or a smile, they were beaten, students say.

When children died of natural causes, their parents were not always notified. They learned of the death only when their child failed to come back to their community for the two-month summer holiday.

"What happened at St. Anne's is the truth and we have to acknowledge it," says Nakogee-Davis. "If we don't do anything, then people will say it never happened, that we are just talking. We have to prove it happened and help the victims."



News from the Library

The Museum called Canada: 25 rooms of Wonder

by **Charlotte Gray**

Your guide through *The Museum Called Canada* is biographer and historian Charlotte Gray, who tells the story of 25 of the country's most revealing artifacts and explains how they have come to shape Canada. Gray is the author of several best-selling books, including **Flint and Feather: The Life and Times of E. Pauline Johnson**. When browsing through this unique book, you'll find high art next to pop culture, scientific inventions displayed beside prehistoric creatures—all myriad pieces of our past that tell the story of Canada. On one page you'll gaze into a hollow fossil tree trunk that trapped one of the very first creatures ever to walk on land. On another page you'll be able to examine the intricate Métis beadwork on the coat Louis Riel may have worn at the Battle of Batoche. And on still another, you'll stand among the eerie wooden statues of an ancient west coast whaling shrine, statues that have for too long been hidden away in the storeroom of a New York museum.

This book will be Reference for use in Library only but we bring it your attention so that you may enjoy browsing through its contents.

Other new titles received include

Meena: Heroine of Afghanistan by Melody Ermachild
Chavis A story of the martyr who founded RAWA and struggled for women's rights in Afghanistan

The Life and Death of Anna Mae Aquash by Johanna Brand

Richer & Poorer: The Struggle of Inequality in Canada by Anton L. Allhar

Black Death: Aids in Africa by Susan Hunter

Play Poker Like the Pros by Phil Helimuth

Under 10 with 4 or less: frugal feasts for busy cooks.

This simple cookbook tells you how to make over fifty thrifty recipes with four ingredients or fewer in 10 minutes or less.

Book Club Group invites you to attend the screening and discussion of *The Corporation Part 2..* in the theatre Thursday November 4th at 2.30 pm

The lawn needs mowing
The walk needs sweeping
The trees need pruning
The house needs painting
The windows need wiping
The fence needs mending
The cat needs feeding
The dog needs walking
The puppies need weaning
The leaves need a raking
The guitar needs a tuning
The vcr needs new heads
The baby needs burping
The wife needs a hug
The squeeze needs an answer
The kids need new clothes
The neighbour needs a loan
The car needs a tune up
The garden needs weeding
The basement needs cleaning
The in-laws need a munch
Uncle fester needs a date
My cousin needs to get laid
The loan shark wants his pay
The bank wants their bread
The world needs peace
I need a new piece
My back needs rubbing
The cable wants its' coin
disco is dead
so is uncle fred
The cheap ass left no will
For auntie's pills he owed me forty bucks
The ungrateful suck
I need revenge
My brother needs a wig
Her sister needs a pap
His father needs a club
Vancouver needs some class
Most dorks voted for an ass.
Eastside needs some hope
More pillars means less dope
Voting means yer a sucker
Sunny drinks, corn off the cob
Surrey needs a few more cops
I need a rest

Carl macdonald

Lest We Forget

On November 11th, 2003,
a large crowd
gathered at the cenotaph
at Victory Square in Vancouver
to remember Canadians
who had died in war.
The mood of the people
was somber, respectful, and anxious.
So many have died,
and war is everywhere.

The ceremony was dignified,
and sensitive to the grief
of veterans who had lost comrades
in war, and sensitive also
to those who had lost
family members.
Prayers called for peace,
but there is no peace,
and the people mourned
at the cenotaph
while the great "W" of Woodward's
looked down,
symbol of the hope
that speaks to the homelessness
that plagues our nation.

Lest we forget -
but we have forgotten
the hopes of returning veterans
in 1945.

The First Canadian Division
was made up of men
who had lived through
the bitterness and violence
of the Great Depression.

Gathered at the cenotaph
in Victory Square, in 1935,
unemployed, hungry men,
most of them quite young,
asked for food and shelter.
Mayor McGeer replied
by reading them the Riot Act.
One million Canadians
were in uniform in 1945,
and their dreams
for a better world
were expressed in
the United Nations'
Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
"War has opened the eyes
of working people," a veteran said.
"Never again will we have
the unemployment, poverty,
and homelessness of the 1930's."
Yet in 2003, we see poverty,
unemployment and homelessness
everywhere.

In 1944, the hope for justice
by ordinary Canadians
fighting for their country,
helped Tommy Douglas and the
Co-Operative Commonwealth Federation
get elected in Saskatchewan,
and in that same year
the Conservative Party
changed its name
to Progressive Conservative.
In 2003, the word "Progressive"
was shamefully removed,
leaving our country
with a Conservative Party
divorced from its long tradition
of social responsibility.



Mackenzie King, leader of the federal government in 1945, was acutely aware that when citizens fought for their country, they expected to be treated with more respect than as market commodities.

He established programs for veterans, planned for high and steady employment, and created the Ministry of National Health and Welfare to co-ordinate social programs.

We were proud of ourselves in those days.

We had seen what Canada could do in a national emergency.

We had a social democracy for which men and women had died, and we believed industrial growth ought to be regulated by ethical priorities.

We even dreamed of having our own flag.

In these abysmal days of food banks, high unemployment and homelessness, we need to remember that veterans fought for a decent life for all our citizens, not for the corporate oligarchy we have now.

At the memorial service on November 11th, an anguished cry for peace silently rose into the blue sky, a cry of the living and a cry, also, of all those who have died in war. The dead were with us on that day, in that place. They help us carry on, and we have a duty to work for peace and justice in their name.

As John McCrae said in his poem Flanders Fields,
"If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields."

Sandy Cameron



Dear Friends,

We are at a critical stage regarding Canadian involvement in US missile defence. All indications are that the government is going to sign. Although Martin has committed to a parliamentary vote, the Liberals can easily get the support they need from the Conservatives and claim a "democratic" victory.

Our only hope is to demonstrate public opposition before that happens. We know from the Ipsos-Reid poll that was commissioned last April that 69% of Canadians are opposed. But, unfortunately, most of them have not been sufficiently motivated to express their views.

The website: www.ceasefire.ca has a number of letters opposing missile defence that you can modify or just send as is to Paul Martin and Members of Parliament. I hope you'll take a few moments to send a letter, if you have not already done so.

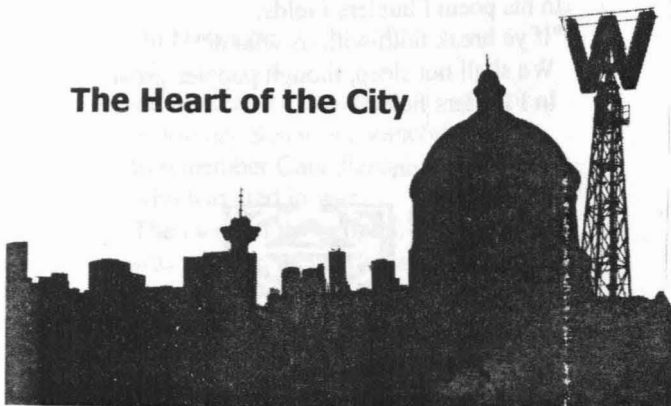
In case you haven't been following the debate - missile defence will likely create a new global arms race whether or not it works as countries prepare to defend themselves; if it defies the critics and actually works, it will increase the likelihood that nuclear weapons will be used as the US will feel confident in its ability to defend against a retaliatory strike; it will severely constrain our sovereignty and independence; how can we help to defend the US against retaliation yet refuse to participate in their military adventures? After all, Bush is fond of saying, "You are either with us or you're against us". Do we really believe that we can be both?

Mel Hurtig just published a new book, "Rushing to Armageddon". He contends that this is the most critical foreign policy decision that Canada has ever faced.

I hope you'll do your part before it's too late.
Many thanks,

Jillian Skeet

The Heart of the City



Within the community dynamics
learning constantly unfolds
as a transformation,
supporting dynamic changes in people

In the Heart of the City
my fragile ego is going on a journey
and new knowledge turns into
long-term changes
when I am taught strategies
for monitoring my own, ongoing performance

I'm alive, not fixed and predictable —
I need a little madness to cut the rope and

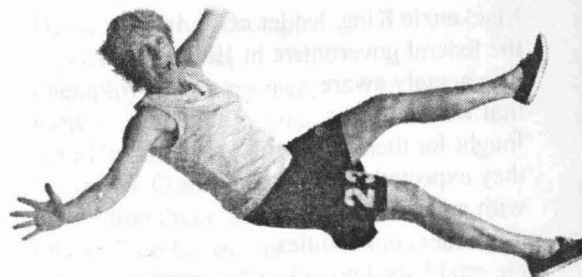
be free

Willy



Heart of the City Festival

The First Annual Cultural Arts Festival was a huge success. The astoundingly ambitious "over 45 events at over 20 venues" offered something to most everyone. I attended 26 events at 16 different locations and would have gone to more but my feet got sore. My favourite events were the GALA (what a fabulous line-up!), the Aboriginal Front Door videos (so "from the heart" and documented for posterity), the Radio Plays (a riot!), the First United Coffee House (just bopping!), the Learning Centre Open House (writing and decorating poetry to the background music of Earl Peach's jazz band in the Gallery) and the Hungry Thumbs Studio (finally getting to see the inner workings behind the incredible sculptures we've been admiring in the front window for years).



Each event was special. It was very Downtown Eastside sensitive to provide free food at many of the happenings.

Hearty congratulations to Dan Feeney, Rika Uto, Savannah Walling, Terry Hunter and everyone involved.

As a pre-festival outreach worker, I found a much greater response and general interest amongst Downtown Eastsiders as compared to before the Community Play. Last year we were cajoling and dragging people to workshops, this year there were waiting lists! There is definitely an artistic buzz in our neighbourhood.

But elsewhere in the Downtown Eastside this progress is contrasted by a drastic demise in the quality of life of many residents in the last year. As I trudged about with posters and program guides I saw more poverty, more desperation, more bodies huddled under dirty blankets in doorways, longer line-ups for food, more services cutback or closed right down, more photos of missing women, more begging, more fighting, more pain. People with homes feel bad, look away but our hearts are becoming cold and drained. We avoid eye contact and smiling at strangers for fear they'll ask for something.

The blossoming of the cultural arts in the Downtown Eastside is giving hope to many residents that their creative genius will finally be noticed. I think the challenge for future festivals is to reach out to more of the most vulnerable people in our neighbourhood and try to reverse the downward spiral caused by this war on the poor.

Leith Harris



Thoughts On The First Annual Downtown Eastside Heart Of The City Festival: *October 8 to October 17, 2004.*

It was an explosion of talent, energy and caring. "Over 45 events at 20 locations," the Festival Program said. It was a powerful, multicultural display of creative activity in which the many voices of the Downtown Eastside declared that the neighbourhood will not only survive, but prevail.

Congratulations to all the people who took part in this extraordinary festival, either as organizers, artists, or listeners. Every good story, whether in words, music, paint, film or dance, needs an audience. The truth of an artistic creation is not only in what the artist experienced, but also in what becomes experience in the sharing of that artistic expression.

We are richer, stronger, and more united as a result of this Festival, and we're going to need our strength and solidarity. The cannibal corporate city, "a machine rationally and effectively designed for making money,"* would like to devour us. Powerful people in a market-driven city cannot abide the idea that poor people are living on land that developers could make a whole lot of money from. The word "gentrification" tells us that moving well-to-do people into a low-income neighbourhood, and pushing poor people out, is a class-rooted process. Already land values around Woodward's are going up, and the looming Olympic extravaganza is causing great concern in the Downtown Eastside. We have a right to our community, and we will have to be strong in order to defend it.

At the opening of the Heart Of The City Festival in the Carnegie Theatre on October 8th, Mayor Larry Campbell said, "This is your community. This is where you live, and will continue to live." We will need to remind the Mayor of these words in the coming years.

An ancient saying tells us that "Memory is the mother of the Muses" (the Arts). Memory is also the mother of community. The Arts and community have the same mother, and her name is Memory. We must remember our history. We must remember those who have fought, and sometimes died, for dignity and human rights in the Downtown Eastside. Sure, there are many communities within the larger community of the Downtown Eastside. The Festival showed us that diversity. But these different communities, which have not communicated with each other very well in the past, have two important things in common - poverty and the struggle for human rights.

Why do we do creative work? Why do we tell stories, write plays and poems, paint pictures, write and sing songs, make films, and do the many other creative activities that you can find in the Downtown Eastside? It seems to me that creative work is born of hope, and that the vibrant Heart Of The City Festival, with its many artistic expressions, was an inspiring outburst of hope. We are somebody. We have the power to define our reality and the power to change it through our stories, images and songs. In this great cry of hope we are connected to all the peoples of the world who struggle for human rights.

We reach out to them, and they reach out to us.
We sing. We dance. We organize.

Sandy Cameron

* The Developers by James Lorimer, 1978, page 79.



Ex-Addicts' Housing Rouses Protests

By Rolf Auer

There was a mass protest at City Hall about constructing housing at Fraser and 39th Ave. for people who are mentally ill and have had addiction problems. Residents of that area are fearful of the situations which could arise from establishing that type of housing in their area; specifically, crime increase, addiction issues, fear of unstable people, etc.

The housing was to be run by Triage Emergency Services and Care Society.

I heard Mark Smith of Triage speak on the issue on Rick Cluff's CBC Radio One show one morning. He said that maybe Triage had failed to communicate well with the area's residents to assure them that the proposed housing facility wouldn't engender problems.

Darrell Burnham, Executive Director of Coast Mental Health Foundation, wrote a letter to *The Vancouver Sun*, published Oct. 18, in which he stated, "Should the community be concerned about this project? Not by any measure. Triage is an experienced and competent service provider – they'll do a good job."

I spoke with Darrell about Mark Smith's comments on the radio. Darrell said he doubted that any improvement in communication with the area's residents would have made a difference – the problem is how people perceive the issue of housing for ex-addicts and the mentally ill.

He is probably right, judging from comments by people at a subsequent public meeting. For example, Leonard Miller, a retired police officer who used to walk the beat along Fraser Street and lives in the area said, "When you put into that a rehab centre

with bi-polar people, and people that are mentally handicapped and [recovering from] drugs, you are going to be pouring gasoline on a smoldering fire."

Not so, wrote Oct. 20 *Sun* letter writer Shelley Durante. She stated, "I am appalled by the lack of compassion in this world. I live next to a recovery house that houses 20 recovering adult male addicts. The yard is tidy, the people are friendly, and most of all they are off drugs."

But then right-wing nutbar *Sun* columnist Pete McMartin had to put his two cents worth in, also on Oct. 20. With a little poor-bashing, ("By the time the proposal filtered through the neighbourhood's cultural and linguistic membranes, most of the neighbours saw this as just another corrosive influence on their turf – the importation of the *social welfare cancer that has already eaten away the Downtown Eastside and Chinatown.* (italics mine)) McMartin said the residents had a right to deny such a housing project based on the NIMBY (Not In My Backyard) principle – the Westside didn't have any like projects, why should their part of the city get one?

I'd like to point out to McMartin that if this type of thinking was current, Vancouver would have never got a safe injection site, because other cities in North America didn't have one. That doesn't mean the site (and the proposed housing) aren't necessary – they are.

But wait, the story doesn't end there. A recovery home housing eight former prostitutes and former addicts in the same area as the proposed Triage housing was shut down due to protests, again, from area residents. Once again, the problem appears to stem from an abundance of prejudice on the part of the residents against ex-addicts living in their area.

Fortunately, not everyone thinks this way. On Oct. 23, *Sun* letter writer Carol Payne wrote, "They are someone's daughter. They didn't plan to be where they are. Many are mothers, desperately missing their children. They sincerely want to get clean and a recovery house is their last chance. Some *do* make it."

Despite some people's good wishes, the recovery house will be closed as of Dec. 31. Where will the women go, and how will they continue their recovery? The Fraser Street residents don't seem to care.



Hello everyone,

I saw an article on CBC news world that said that the Canadian government and the Ontario government have been asked by Ford to give them two hundred million dollars to refit a plant in Ontario. Talk about "corporate welfare bums"!

I wonder what the yearly payroll of the factory is. Could it be more than two hundred million dollars? Why give Ford two hundred million to save these jobs?

Perhaps the government should just make a rule that when Ford or any other corporation moves their plants to some other place, they can only take their capital and must leave the factory and machinery. Then a co-op formed by the workers could run the place in competition with the Corporation.

I don't think government's should be in the business of creating jobs. We are giving corporations much too much money.

Can anyone justify giving corporations money so that they will make money? They defer their taxes to the point where they owe us billions as well. It is no wonder we have a big national debt and must deny money to social programs to keep from having yearly deficits.

Maybe I don't understand, but this seems stupid to me.

W. Robert Arnold
President
National Anti-Poverty Organization



Welfare Rights Workshop

with Janet Berry, an advocate who works at First United Church

Topic: Persons with Persistent Multiple Barriers to Employment (PPMB)

Find out:

How can I get on PPM B?

How much money do you get?

What are you entitled to?

Are medical benefits available?

Time: 1 pm, Tuesday, November 9, 2004

Place: Carnegie Learning Centre, 3rd floor
For information call, 604 665-3013.



Poor-Bashing

My opinion on the welfare system:

Why is it that the Government is labeling people like we are cattle? It reminds me that, in the early days of Nazi Germany, they used that system for the Jews.

People who are on disability are being picked on because they don't know any better. Learning disabilities or language are usually the factor. There are so many reasons and questions.

What is the future for poor people? Are they being forced to commit crimes or just take matters into their own hands?

Did the government forget that we hardly had any education years ago? Education nowadays is being affected again, just like (and because of) the welfare system. *They* should try and live on what they give people.

Is this decade going to be like the "Depression years"?

Come on, Government, pull up your socks. Surplus money! Where is it??

Bonnie E. Stevens

Two Birds

Two birds perched outside on a tree
Waiting to see what my choice will be
To stay and live or to be freed
Pick that illusion or the irony.

The crow, he wails of destiny, of
shattered dreams and fantasy
While the softer voice of the gull
calls to me, "Forget the ending of the story,
Take the first step and live in the journey."

The choice has been so hard for me
Up till now I listened to crow you see,
But the message of the gull sits best with me:

"Take flight with wings," the gull tells me,
"It's there you'll find your Recovery."

Dawn Margaret
8/'68 - 9/'04

The Truth Be Known

Wheat-golden, silken blond tresses, grayish-blue hued
elusive eyes, suddenly giving then gone..flitting inward
Subdued optics aside, feelings, caressing as blessing -
I miss you most when time seems precious, so fragile,
so stolen and true when things may end in a moment -
no cues; why do you keep things so mysterious/hidden/
shuttered as I desperately search for minute clues thru
threadbare veils, on past the clutter? And why do you
try so hard in your thoughts and deeds - maybe des-
peration on your part - but time will tell the tale...
So distant and puzzled, lips parted, mouth slightly ajar,
I see your eerie soul like a clouded sunset, silent, calm,
so clean, so pristine. I do not know yet who you are but
why should you care? As I drift off to fast sleep, with
your blurry face in my mind Is it really so pointless to
fence, to match wits with you, for the one I crave,
maybe you are my long-lost soulmate who abruptly
departed.

Did you know that misery may come in many stages
and phases? It makes me so anxious and driven but I
cannot expect your derision and become quite lost in
the mist. Through the approaching twilight I am pursu-
ing ghosts who are billowing in & around the corners
of memories. Not a glimmer of you yet, yet all I ask of
you is sympathy for the condition I find myself in

Robyn L.



WOMAN INSIDE

You won't find me in that
dozen for a dime
the one and only
I have my own mind
Urban Aboriginal Queen
I got the hottest look
when I step upon the scene
I feel eyes on me when
I strut around my town
Proudly displaying my ethnicity
it is the sweetest crown
Bold like an eagle
No one could ever hold me down
flying up into the sky
you can watch me fly
There I will be
floating around from place to
place with style, esteem and grace
all sorts of people staring at
my smiling face wondering
just how they could be
close to this extraordinary
woman inside me

... Crystal Asham

**DOWNTOWN
EASTSIDE
YOUTH
ACTIVITIES
SOCIETY**
49 W.Cordova
604-251-3310

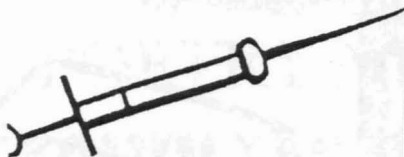
NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN – 3 Routes:

604-685-6561

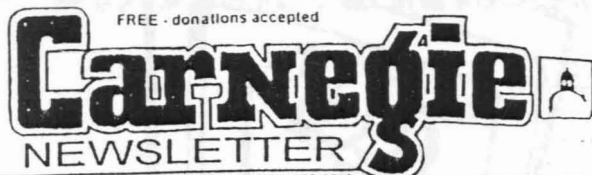
City – 5:45pm – 11:45pm

Overnight – 12:30am – 8:30am

Downtown Eastside – 5:30pm – 1:30am



2004 DONATIONS Libby D.-\$40
Barry for Dave McC.-\$50 Rolf A.-\$45
Margaret D.-\$25 Christopher R.-\$25
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 Rockingguys -\$20
The Edge Community Liaison Ctt -\$200
Peter T.-\$20 PG for PB -\$25 Wm B-\$20
Mike B.-\$15 Alicia M.-\$40 Maureen K.-\$40
Anonymous-\$23



FREE - donations accepted

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THE NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
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**Submission Deadline
for next issue:**

Thursday, November 11

Editor: PaulR Taylor; cover art & layout: Diane Wood.

We acknowledge that Carnegie Community Centre, and this
Newsletter, are happening on the Squamish Nation's territory.



**Contact
Jenny
Wai Ching
Kwan MLA**

Working for You

1070-1641 Commercial Dr. V5L 3Y3

Phone: 775-0790 Fax: 775-0881

DO YOU HAVE A LEGAL PROBLEM?

**Come to our FREE CLINIC
On Carnegie's 3rd floor**

UBC Law Students' Legal Advice Program

Tuesdays 7-9pm

The Downtown Eastside Residents Association

DERA helps with: Phone & Safe Mailboxes

Welfare problems;

Landlord disputes;

Housing problems

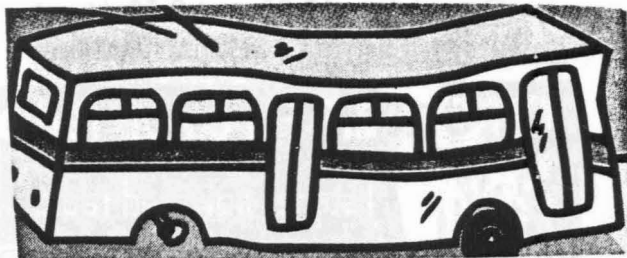
Unsafe living conditions



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

ATTENTION ALL TRANSIT CUSTOMERS

To Stop the Fare Increase!



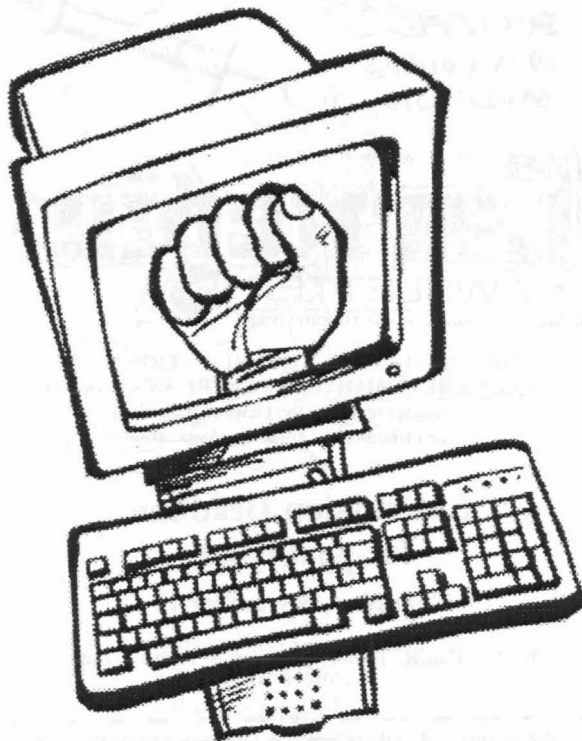
On January 1st TransLink is planning on raising fares again. If this fare increase goes through it will be the third fare increase in five years. It'll take \$41 million out of the pockets of bus riders over 3 years, money that will go directly into the pockets of big corporations and developers through rich contracts on mega projects like the Richmond-Airport Vancouver line, NOT into providing a first class transit system for everyone.

Fares are already too high. Throughout the region bus riders are struggling to pay high fares for buses that are often late, overcrowded, inaccessible or just not there. As bus riders we are already struggling to pay for housing, education and food on low-wages and with fewer public services – we are working harder and longer for less. The majority of bus riders are women, particularly women of colour, who rely on transit for our independence, safety, employment and the health of our communities.

Because women, communities of colour and Aboriginal people are disproportionately transit dependent, TransLink's fare increase is a racist and sexist policy that deepens inequality and worsens the hardship we already face. Everyone needs to get around. In a region as large as ours transit is basic human right, and necessary for the social, political and environmental well being and health of our communities and our region.

The Bus Riders Union is already organizing to stop the fare increase. Get involved in this growing grassroots movement with over 550 members and thousands of supporters taking a stand for our human rights. If bus riders don't get organized to stop this fare increase, we're going to keep paying more money for less service.

For more info contact the BRU at 604 215 2775 or bru@resist.ca



Computer available for people with Disabilities

Pathways Information Centre [at the corner of Main and Hastings] has some new additions to their computer lab. Thanks to the Neil Squire foundation we have 1 big screen monitor for people who have trouble seeing.

For people with motor difficulties, who would have trouble with a normal mouse or keyboard, we have a special keyboard and a **big** trackball. The lab and the computer station are wheel chair accessible. Our internet browser can read both Asian and European languages.

Pathways Information Centre exists for people who are looking for work or help finding community services. This donation from the Neil Squire Foundation will extend that service to a wider community. Hope to see you there.

Pathways Information Centre
360 Main Street tel 604-682-7353

fall between
the cracks

NOVEMBER POETRY NIGHT

THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE POETS



listen to us

free admission

join us

free coffee

fall in love

In the Carnegie Theatre

at nightfall

7:00 p.m.

open mike

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 6TH

fall under a spell

catch a falling star

fall to temptation

THE MASKS WE WEAR

Artist-in-residence Siobhan McCarthy and the **absolut theatre co.** join the Gallery Gachet for this 8-month major project, which includes weekly workshops open to the public. The project culminates in an exhibition and performance series in March 2005. To register phone the Gallery at (604) 687-2468. For more details visit www.whoareyoucallingcrazy.com
November Free workshops open to the public:

1 - Mask Making; 8 - Open Studio;
15 - Open Studio; 22 - Open Studio;
29 - Discovery & Exploration of the Character behind the mask

December Free workshops open to the public:
6 - Mask Making; 13 - Movement Open Studio;
20 - Movement Open Studio





Gallery Gachet – 88 E.Cordova

PULSE Nov.5 - 27

Reception: Friday, Nov.5, 7-11pm

Co-curated by jack Przybyla & Laurie Marshall

Artists: Steve Borton, Ron Buckland, Calvin Bradbury, Todd Carpenter, Cate Curtis, Nancy Kim, Lynn Kruszewski, Grace Lam, Sheil.y Lavell, Youngsl.n Lee, Stephen Long, April Marchant, Laurie Marshall, Siobhan McCarthy, W.N. Pope, jack Przybylo, Roberta Sciarretta, Sandra Smith, Sharon E. Smith, Danny Wickert, Diane Wood.

We live in a vibrating pulsing universe, one vast dance of resonating frequencies, from cells to stars. This show is a mini universe of rhythms—the creations here are inspired and built on the most basic of ideas—rhythm, harmony, beat or pulse.

There is work here inspired by the music of Enya and John Lennon, by the rhythms of Italian culture, and by the patterns in nature — plants, flowers, rain. There are images of snakes administering prozac on a patterned Celtic background, a rhythmically produced figure under a palm tree, a vibrant voodoo priest, and a piece that evokes the beating human heart. There is work created from the visual patterns of written language.

Among the sculptural pieces are a 3 lobed mobius strip done in wood, a seemingly academic portrait of a woman with spiraling hair, and raw, tribal folk-like carvings created by a rhythmic process.

Opening night will feature a “healing” chair, an experimental performance in movement, and drumming by Bruce Henczel. He is a multi instrumental percussionist who uses traditional instruments from around the world. In his Pulse performances, Bruce will play compositions inspired by visual works in the show as well as compositions from his own diverse repertoire.

The goal of **Gallery Gachet** is to support a well-community by enabling the artistic production of artists who are concerned with mental health issues. Gallery Gachet programs and services also provide for the cultural development of our Downtown Eastside community.

Democratically run, with a majority of those involved being working artists living below the poverty line, the Gallery supports both amateur and professionals, providing opportunities for diverse community members

Workshops

Open to the public — Register for all sessions by telephone 604-687-2468. Sponsored by the Consumer Initiative Fund,

SILKSCREENING

November 7, 14 and 21st 11am — 3pm

Preregister: \$15 fee for all three workshops

PANEL BOX MAKING

December 12, 11am — 3pm

Preregister: \$5 material fee