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NOVEMBER 15, 2005

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

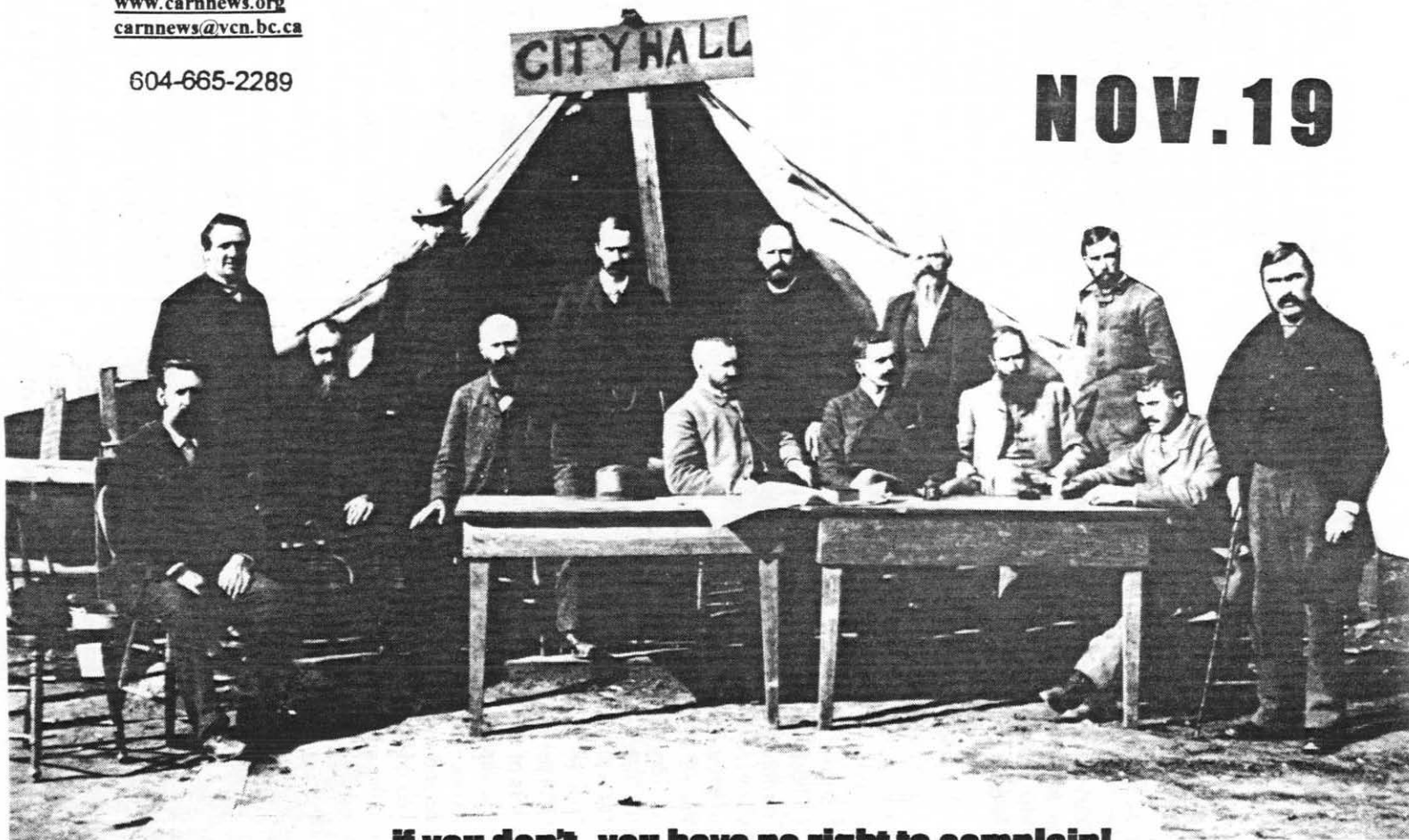
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VOTE

NOV. 19



if you don't, you have no right to complain!



Vote on November 19

Don't know who to vote for on November 19? The library has a notice board with information on how to vote and where to vote. We've also got lots of information and newspaper articles on the individual candidates and issues.

\$HITTY HALL

[Thank you Mr. McBinner]

It's been a little easier not to hold the entire civic government thing in contempt since the NPA (Non-Partisan Association - *I've got mine so screw you.*) was defeated in the last election.

When COPE (Coalition of Progressive Electors) won every seat they had candidates running for in 2002, there was hope for the first time in a long time (what with the vicious stupidity of the Soereds back in Victoria under the veil of BC Liberals).

When the Liberals ran the provincial election, the owners of the media instructed their writers and editors to support the re-election of Gord Campbell; everyone was asked to just ignore the sleaze and slime and smell left behind wherever they had fucked things up. The sad part of democracy is that even though the majority of voters have little understanding of stuff, they vote on the basis of a group's purported 'principles' - or, failing that, on a kind of popularity contest thing - or, failing that, on whether you like the appearance or sound of voice of whoever last got your attention.

On the civic level, it gets stickier as often only the final yes or no is what we hear about. In the course of this current council, there was a split of COPE - and Larry Campbell/Jim Green somehow decided that they were neither beholden to nor responsible for any part of the debt that COPE incurred in running the election campaign that got them elected.

The reasoning behind such has never been made public and money is still owed to people who took loans and re-mortgaged their houses to get enough cash to pay for the campaign last time.

As with most pre-election editorials, this one has some advice; take it or leave it.

1. **VOTE.** If you don't vote you can't bitch.
2. A vote for the NPA is a vote for Gordon Campbell
3. Kevin Potvin is one of the best independent candidates in years. He's the editor and publisher of *The Republic* and owner of *Magpie Books*. **YES - X**
4. Phyllis Loke is an Independent and an assistant at Libby Davies' constituency office. **YES - X**
5. If you vote for Sam Sullivan you're a blank.
6. If you vote for Jim Green you're cautious. With Jim it seems to be *What kind of gentrification do we need to get in step with?*

Election day is Saturday (19/11) but you can vote in advance - on Tuesday and Wednesday, 8am-8pm - The 2 closest places Trout Lake community Centre and City Hall. Whenever, wherever - make it count.

You can't vote for me 'cause I'm

PAULR TAYLOR



Carnegie Community Centre Association

Meetings are fitted backwards from the 1st Thursday, when the Board of Directors meets.

BOARD Thursday, Dec 1, 2005; 7:00 pm (Theatre)

FINANCE COMMITTEE Wednesday, November 30, 2005 at 4:30 pm (Association Office, 2nd floor)

PROGRAM COMMITTEE Tuesday, November 29, 2005 at 4:00 pm (Association Office)

COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 24, 2005 at 4:00 pm (Association Office, 2nd floor)

SENIORS' SUPPORT GROUP Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 2:00 pm (Theatre)

EDUCATION/LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 4:00 pm (Clrm 2)

HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL ³

The Tipping Point

"*The Tipping Point*" is a three act musical radio drama by Bob Sarti, with songs and music by Bob Sarti and Earle Peach. It was also presented at the Ukrainian Hall. The radio drama is about Bruce Eriksen, the legendary Downtown Eastside activist who helped start the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA), won the Carnegie Community Centre for the neighbourhood, and helped to change the image of the community from skid road to the Downtown Eastside.

The play is called "*The Tipping Point*" because in the early 1970's Bruce Eriksen, an ironworker who had hurt his back, decided to take a job as a community organizer with a federal government program that helped people on skid road. Things have never been the same in our community since then. The play was directed by Jay Hamburger, and was presented by Theatre In The Raw and the Heart of the City Festival. The actors did a fine job, and Christopher Mansbridge played the part of Bruce Eriksen with dignity and authority.

Bob Sarti did excellent work in the writing of this play. The story of DERA, led by Bruce Eriksen, Libby Davies, and Jean Swanson, and the fight for respect and human rights in the Downtown Eastside in the 1970's, is a huge story. Bob shaped that story into a play, and gave us a sense of the importance and intensity of the struggle, focusing on the charismatic crusader, Bruce Eriksen.

Through the clear and informative commentary by the narrator in the play, and in the words of the actors, we get an understanding of some of the issues Eriksen addressed. The community of the Downtown Eastside demanded to be treated with the same respect as any other community in Vancouver. It demanded that the City of Vancouver enforce its own by-laws concerning the running of hotels and beer parlours. Eriksen had a vision of the residents of the Downtown Eastside standing up for themselves as citizens, and fighting for their human rights. Residents start to do that in the play. Many groups today are doing exactly that.

In the play we see Eriksen take on the hotels in their vicious game of overserving customers in the beer parlours. We see him fight for sprinklers in the hotels, a fight that DERA wins. We are shown the historic meeting of the City of Vancouver's Community Services Committee in the empty Carnegie building on February 11, 1976. This meeting was a tipping point (turning point) in the seven year fight to save Carnegie for the community. Councillor Sweeney, a member of the Community Services Committee, had the courage to change his mind. At first he was against saving the building for the community because he couldn't see the living, breathing residents of the neighbourhood. But in that grand old building, listening to the speeches of local people, he saw the community. He saw the needs of the community, and he voted for a community building. That vote enabled the project of turning the old Carnegie Library into a community centre to continue. Eriksen was there, of course, and so were Councillors Harry Rankin and Darlene Marzari. They were both members of the Community Services Committee, and they strongly supported the idea of a community centre. Councillor Mike Harcourt was



Sam Roddan

there, but he couldn't vote because he wasn't a member of the Community Services Committee. Darg Bell-Irving of the Vancouver Library Committee was also present. Both Harcourt and Bell-Irving supported the plan to turn the old library into a community centre.

The image of Bruce Eriksen that is presented in the play is the image that most people know best - the feisty, gruff, working class, hard-nosed, in-your-face fighter for justice. Eriksen, however, was more complicated than that image. In the 1980's, as a City Councillor, he became a skilled political strategist. He was an artist, a first class gardener, a maker of fine furniture, a man who could make the most beautiful wooden hobby horses you ever saw, and a devoted family man.

Not bad for someone with a grade three education who was on his own when he ran away from an orphanage at the age of twelve. Sarti was aware of the enigmatic, gifted person behind the aggressive political activist image, but his play concentrated on the tumultuous 1970's when Eriksen had to be tough to survive and to get DERA up and running. His militant style reflected the feisty politics of the trade union movement in B.C. - unions that protected their members from the abusive policies of the corporations - and in the 1970's a majority of men who lived in the Downtown Eastside were old-time workers.

At first the music and songs in the play surprised me. I have spent a lot of time in beer parlours, and in logging and mining camps. As a general rule, people there don't burst into song unexpectedly. But I liked the music and the songs, especially the last one about the words on the front of the Bruce Eriksen building on Main Street, and I noticed that people in the audience seemed to like the songs as well.

This play is an important part of the people's voice in the Downtown Eastside. Powerful forces of wealth and privilege still want to destroy our low income community so that those who have much can have even more. Powerful forces in business, government and the media still refuse to acknowledge the existence of the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood. But we are here, and we aren't going to go away. Bruce Eriksen is an inspiration for us, and "The Tipping Point" acknowledges his contribution to the long history of struggle for human rights in the

Downtown Eastside. Well done, Bob. We look forward to seeing your radio drama produced as a stage play at the Heart of the City Festival in 2006. Memory is the mother of community.

Sandy Cameron

Hastings Street Ramble

Meeting all the swells on Hastings Street
Yes, meeting all the toffs on Hastings Street
Meeting all the gents on Hastings Street.
Life is sweet on Hastings Street
Life is sweet on Hastings Street

There's my broker man, my advisor-in-chief
I got a nag in the third, and the Habs beat the Leafs
I look him up when I have a good tip
Same corner tomorrow, same odds on trip.

On Hastings Street we are really so haut
The chips in the fryer, and gravy in the boat
Ovaltine cafe - It's the elite joint in town
So pass the catsup, and let's chow down.

Chorus - all join in

*Oh, meeting all the swells on Hastings
Street Meeting all the tolls on Hastings Street
Meeting all the gents on Hastings Street.
Life is sweet on Hastings Street
Life is sweet on Hastings Street*

Some places got opera, others ballet
But Hastings St honky-tonk, it sure makes my day
A good ol' boy band with a beat like a gong
And a happy/sad ending to an old country song

Some people go to the pubs to meet their own kind
Me - I drop by the pub for a chance to unwind
The terry cloth table tops soak it up neat.
Gotta go call my broker so don't take my seat.

Chorus - all join in

*Oh, meeting all the swells on Hastings Street
Meeting all the tolls on Hastings Street
Meeting all the gents on Hastings Street.
Life is sweet on Hastings Street.
Life is sweet on Hastings Street.
Life is sweet on Hastings Street!*

Lyrics by Bob Sarti

The Fight for The Carnegie Community Centre The Early Days of DERA

(From *Fighting for Community* by Sandy Cameron)

In September, 1972, Vancouver's Social Planning Department, concerned about the unsatisfactory living conditions of low-income citizens in the Downtown Eastside (known as skid road "in those days), appointed Peter Davies as the local area coordinator.

Davies was born in England, and joined the army at the age of fourteen. After a successful military career, he came to Canada with his family in 1969 to begin a new life.

Because of his organizing skills and his strong sense of social justice, he was hired by First United Church in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside as a community worker. While there, he started the Downtown Health Clinic.

Davies went to the Social Planning Department from First United Church. He showed his understanding of the times and of community development in an interview with John Griffiths (Vancouver Sun, Nov.5/73) where he stated, "...there was a growing awareness of the need for people to take control of their own circumstances...One of the most visible experiences of this was the federal Local Initiatives Program, under which we got approval to hire ten persons as People's Aids to work in skid road and help residents with their problems... The association (DERA) evolved from this project in the belief that there had to be a, permanent association of local residents if anything significant or lasting was to be developed...You cannot be given independence; you have to gain independence. You cannot be given freedom; you have to gain freedom, and that's what it's all about here (in the Downtown Eastside)."

Peter Davies wasn't the only person to believe in the importance of a Residents' Association in the Downtown Eastside. A rangy, fierce-eyed resident who worked on the People's Aid Program also stressed the necessity for a militant citizens' group. His name was Bruce Eriksen. In late 1972, Bruce Eriksen, an ironworker who had hurt his back on the Knight Street Bridge Project, noticed a sign in a welfare office asking for applicants for a People's Aid Program that would start in the Downtown

Eastside in January, 1973. The pay was one hundred dollars a week.

Eriksen knew little about social planning, but he had been an itinerant resident of the Downtown Eastside since the age of fourteen. He knew that his community had been neglected for years by City Hall, and its residents treated like skid road stereotypes in spite of the fact that the Downtown Eastside was one of the most stable communities in Vancouver. With the fervour of a prophet, Eriksen wanted his neighbours to know that they had rights as human beings to decent housing, a decent standard of living, and a decent community.

He was born in Winnipeg in 1928, one of five children of an immigrant Danish couple. His mother died when he was five, and he was sent with two brothers to an orphanage called the Knowles School for Boys.

He learned to fight there very fast, understanding that if he didn't fight back, others would walk all over him. Eriksen ran away from the orphanage at the age of twelve, and rode the freights to Vancouver two years later. At sixteen he shipped to Shanghai on a freighter carrying grain. Later, he logged around Port Alberni and the Franklin River, and worked in a shipyard in Vancouver during the Second World War.

Over the years Eriksen discovered that he had talent as an artist, and he painted pictures and murals for hotels in the Downtown Eastside.

By the age of thirty he was an alcoholic whose life was a series of blurred events and lost days. In 1958, a policeman told him bluntly that he was destroying himself, and encouraged him to check into a sanatorium where he stayed for three months. Eriksen said that this was the best thing that ever happened to him. It gave him a chance to see what he was doing to himself. When he left the sanatorium, a brother found him a job as an ironworker, and he remained at that trade until he hurt his back.

Eriksen was an intense, angry man, obsessed with the injustice he saw in the Downtown Eastside. "It depends on the class you come from," he said in an article in the *Vancouver Free Press* (Jan.22-28/79). "If you come from a certain neighbourhood and you get into trouble, there's a hue and cry (on your behalf). If you're poor, it doesn't matter. Nobody cares."

He was not overly endowed with the smooth, middle class social graces. He was working class, part of that group of men in British Columbia who worked in resource and attendant industries. They had to contend with company towns and a company province, and they organized militant unions for self-protection. They were independent, feisty, adventurous men with a strong sense of fairness. They were the men who built British Columbia, and many of them made their homes in the Downtown Eastside.

In a Vancouver Sun article (July 28/76), Randy Glover wrote, "Eriksen is dry and boring and tedious and longwinded, and he never, ever, gives up. The difference between that which should be and that which is, is the measure of the energy he will bring to an argument."

Peter Davies hired Bruce Eriksen for the People's Aid Program. Maybe the two mavericks recognized each other the ex-military man whose spirituality expressed itself in social action, and the ex-ironworker with a glittering eye. The ten residents of the Downtown Eastside who had been hired on the People's Aid Program held their first public meeting to form a citizens' group on April 18, 1973.

In the words of Bruce Eriksen, "...about forty skid road residents held their first meeting. They were fed up with their daily diet and nightly diet of muggings, hold-ups, and killings. The residents circulated a petition seeking stricter enforcement of the City's lodging house bylaws and provincial liquor laws as they applied to beer parlours and night clubs in the area" (*Get Rid Of Poverty Profiteers*, by Bruce Eriksen, 1978).

This was the beginning of the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association (DERA), although the organization was not registered as a non-profit society until August 29, 1973. What these citizens insisted on receiving from City Hall was respect. As Harry O'Laskey said at the meeting, "Too many people think of the skid road area as being full of drunken bums and dope addicts. It isn't. Most of us are honest and just looking for the right thing to do." Then he added, along with Bob Neumann, that one of the areas' biggest needs was a recreation and social centre with facilities for all ages. The forty residents who gathered together on April 18th were determined to act collectively as a citizens'



Jean Swanson, Libby Davies and Bruce Eriksen. DERA workers in the 1970's. Photo from Bruce Eriksen.

organization, "to bring about the changes necessary for improving the life of our community and to expose and publicize the inadequacies we discover in the laws...that...are provided for us... to fight the indifference and the corruption we experience or become aware of" (*Get Rid Of Poverty Profiteers* Eriksen/78).

A letter from Bruce Eriksen and Calvin Sandborn of DERA, dated April 25, 1973, to Mayor Art Phillips and other public dignitaries, sounded like a battle cry. When people who have been rendered silent begin to find their voice, it is apt to be shrill at first. Strong language, and strong action, are sometimes the only ways to be heard and seen when you've never been listened to before.

The letter said in part: "The people of Vancouver have heard enough talk from wealthy politicians and jingoistic bureaucrats about decent housing. Now's the time to evict the cockroaches and rats, to turn on the water at hotels where they turn it off at night, to restrain the landlords who give only 5 days' notice of rental increases, to turn on the furnaces and light up the dank hallways. The new City Administration claims to be for people. We'll see."

Those who preyed on poor people with exploitive housing or corrupt beer parlours did not appreciate the actions of DERA or its moral crusader president, Bruce Eriksen. By the end of November, 1973, four beer parlours had been closed, two others

were on probation, a dance hall license had been cancelled, and the hours of two cafes had been restricted.

It was about that time that the Vancouver Police informed Eriksen that someone had put out a \$500 dollar contract on his life. They advised him to leave town, and Eriksen, taking the threat seriously, went to Victoria for a few days. Then he returned to Vancouver, and announced to the media that he would continue his work in spite of the threat. He said that if he were killed, he hoped that his death would help the people in the Downtown Eastside build a better community.

Eriksen was not playing the role of martyr in this incident. He simply knew himself well enough to know what he was prepared to die for. It was Gandhi who said that we can only be true to ourselves, and others, when we are able to commit ourselves, on selected occasions, to the death.



A WINTER SOLSTICE LANTERN PROCESSION

will be winding through Chinatown to light up the longest night of the year. The procession starts at Science World or Strathcona Community Centre at 6:00 pm, and ends at the Dr. Sun Yat-Sen Classical Chinese Garden. Free.

DEC. 21 6:30 – 9:30 PM



[On The Day of the Dead]

Celebration!

Brothers and Sisters in the 'hood

Human
Marching train
Brave the rain
Wind blows
Flooded streets
Like a river she flows.
Speeches flow
Candles glow
Sadness fills the night.
Friends ponder on life,
loved ones gone
and those beyond,
Music sounds fill the air
Strangers, friends everywhere
We laugh, we dance + play
Friends sing of beauty
Ears ring
Language not a barrier
A truly moving experience
The DTES
R rich in art & culture

Stephen Lytton

A HEART OF THE CITY FESTIVAL THANKS!

Thanks to all the artists who contributed your work, your talent, and your voices to the great success of this year's festival!

Thanks to all the crew, associate programmers, production, outreach, committee and administration people for all your hard work to make the festival a reality!

Thanks to all our festival partners and associates for your support and contributions!

Thanks to the media for supporting our festival and letting the larger community know about this great community and the great work we are doing here!

Thanks to our sponsors for your ongoing financial support!

Thanks to this incredible community for all you do with your heart and soul!

Peter Fairchild, Terry Hunter

Heart of the City Festival



A big, big THANK YOU to all the folks who have contributed so much to *The Shadows Project* workshop presentation and the Roots of Addiction Forum. We couldn't have done it without you.

COMMUNITY WRITERS: Sheila Baxter, Wendy Chew, Paul Decarie, Mary Duffy, Melissa Eror, Patrick Foley, Leith Harris, Stephen Lytton and Muriel Marjorie

COMMUNITY ACTORS: Sue Blue, Roger Brouillette, Bruce Gongola, Luke Day, Paul Decarie, Sophia Freigang, Corrina Gurney, Montana Hunter, Luka, Bradford Keewatincappo, Maria Isabel Krause, Dian

Le Claire, Victoria Marie, Mike McNeeley, Joan Morelli, Eroca Morin, Elizabeth Murdoch, Theresa Myles, Naomi Narvey, Sheralyn Paulhus, Tom Quirk, Priscillia Tait (with special thanks to Arlene Sinclair and Corinna Gurney)

COMMUNITY MUSICIANS: Rick McCallion, Jenna Newman, Joelysa Pankanea, Jim Sands

COMMUNITY CREW: Lighting captain Patrick Foley, **Lighting assistant** Jason L. Harris, **Assistant stage manager** Sandra Pronteau, **designer's assistant** Lou Vodnak

COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTORS TO SCRIPT RESEARCH: (oral interviews, questionnaires,

written contributions): Bruce Alexander, Gayle Anthony, Rick Archambault, Brain Arrance, Fred Arrance, Harold Asham, Sheila Baxter, Barry Beyerstein, Sue Blue, Jim Bridge, Mark Budgen, RH Maxwell N. Bur, Alex Burnip, Sandy Cameron, Grant Chancey, Yvon Chartrand, (Wendy) Wai Yin Chew, Robyn, Ann Cooper, Suzy DeBell, Paul Decarie, Nick Dobrinsky, Roland Donisi, Mary Duffy, Henry Dumla, Melissa Eror, Gladys Evoy, Peter Fairchild, Dan Feeney, Patrick Foley, Sophia Freigang, Colleen Gorrie, Demitri and Leith Harris, Montana Hunter, Luka, My Kossoff, Sharon Kravitz, Rev. R. Leith, Lesa, Dian Leclair, Donald MacPherson, Haede Mason, Kuei-Ming Lin, Ann Livingston, Robyn Livingston, Muriel Marjorie, Julia Mark, Ruth Mehta, Kurt Menzie, Eroca Morin, Charlene Morrison, Naomi Narvey, Ahjala Nelson, Bud Osborne, Sheralyn Paulhus, Earle Peach, Sandra Pronteau, Tom Quirk, Isabel Ramirez, Joseph Ray, Dora Sanders, Jim Sands, Bob Sarti, Muggs Sigurgiersen, Priscillia Tait, Randy Tait, Paul Taylor, Brian Tomson, Neil Thompson, Rika Uto, VanDu, Victoria Marie, Karenza Wall, Ethel Whitty, Lynne Werker, Cynthia Wong, Susan Poshan Wong, Elwin Xie and all who wish to remain anonymous

SHADOW WORKSHOP COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS: Richard Alexander, Chris Allan, Richard Archambault, Harold Asham, , Sheila Baxter, Sue Blue, Jason Bouchard, Mavis Brass, Roger Brouillette, Grant Chancey, Yvon Chartrand, Wendy Chew, Mickey Clark, Sarah Conchin, Rosemary Collins, Dara Culhane, Paul Decarie, Luke Day, Antonio Dossantos, Laurel Dykstra, Mary Duffy, Melissa Eror, Gladys Evoy, Patrick Foley, Melissa Fox, Sophia Freigang, Rosemary Georgeson, Colleen Gorrie, Gram, Nan Gregory, Jay and Sylvan Hamburger, Merlin Hans, Yvonne Kato, Leith Harris, Klisala Harrison, Montana Hunter, Deepthi Jayatilaka, Diane Jetsen, Diane Leclair, Robyn Livingston, Adrienne Macallum, Earl Majeski, Victoria Marie, Muriel Marjorie, Julia Mark, Alex Martin, Lora Masotti, Eroca Morin, Michael McNeeley, Joan Morelli, Eroca Morin, Elizabeth Murdoch, Naomi Narvey, Jenna Newman, Teresa Ng, Qui Li Pan, Brenda Prince, Todd Prince, Sandra Pronteau, Tom Quirk, Isabel Ramirez, Leif Saba, Jim Sands, June Seto, Cathy Stubington, Ruth Tabata, James Fagan Tait, Ulie and Priscillia Tait, Jonathan Turner, Tamara Unroe, Lou Vodnak, Susan Poshan Wong, Karenza Wall, Savannah Walling, Ethel Whitty, Fanna Yee

COMMUNITY FORUM VOLUNTEERS: Joe Dzado, Nick Dobrinsky, Nancy Johnson, Leslie Kemp

COMMUNITY FORUM PANELISTS: Sharon Kravitz, SFU Professor Emeritus Bruce Alexander, Carol Martin, Donald MacPherson

COMMUNITY FORUM DISPLAYS (VISUALS AND WRITING)

Bruce Alexander, Barry Beyerstein, Sue Blue, Nick Dobrinsky, Nancy Johnson, Sharon Kravitz, VanDu, WISH Drop-in Centre participants

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP COORDINATORS: Leith Harris and Sandra Pronteau

COMMUNITY REFRESHMENTS: Sue Blue, Luke Day, Antonio Dossantos, Sheralyn Paulhus, Susan Poshan Wong, Fanna Yee, Tzu Chi Foundation

P.S. We beg forgiveness if we've forgotten anyone's contribution. Just remind us with a note left in *The Shadows Project* file at the Carnegie front desk

International Volunteer Day takes place on December 5th each year and is officially recognized by the United Nations as a day on which volunteers around the world are recognized and celebrated for their contributions and dedication. Volunteering touches every part of a community and is something regularly practiced by over 6.5 million Canadians.



"Speaking Words Of Wisdom"

A Multimedia/Text Group Show

Oct 30 - Nov 19, 2005

Havana Gallery

11212 Commercial Dr, Vancouver

Hours: mon-thurs 11am-11pm • fri 11am-midnight
• sat 10am-midnight • sun 10am-11pm

The Artists:

Corre Alice • Solange Belleforte • Elizabeth Carefoot
Mary Chernoff • Pat Davitt • Florence Debeugny
Famous Empty Sky • Anne Gaze • Leah F. Georgia
Kiku Hawkes • Maggie Manning • Heather McPherson
Trish Mitchell • Karen Muntean • Katherine Polgrain
Catherine Pulkinghorn • Sharalee Regehr • Bill Thomson
Ann Vicente • Margie White • Joyce Woods

VOLUNTEER DINNER

Wednesday, November 16th, 2005-

Theatre @ 4:30pm SHARP!!!

This is a dinner for all Volunteers with a minimum of 12 hours service for the month. It's one way staff show our appreciation to our hard-working noble volunteers for all that you do for the community.

HEN PARTY

"Nobody here but us chicks!"

FABRIC ART BY THE CARNEGIE SEWING CIRCLE

at the Potluck Café, 30 West Hastings

until November 30,

hours are 7:00 am - 3:30 pm, Mon- Fri

The centuries-old tradition of women's sewing circles is alive and well at the Carnegie every Thursday morning. We meet on a free, drop-in basis from 9 'til 11:30. The work on exhibition at the Potluck Café showcases the amazing "naïve Folk Art" that we make. It was done by the core group of regulars: **Yin Mei Chan, Fong Sum, Sally Ho, Lee Ping, Dai Di Liang and Guan Cai Hunag.**

I encourage individuality and imagination; we don't reproduce patterns from quilting books and magazines. The results are incredibly unique panels, in brilliant colours, embellished with beads and sequins. They are all hand-sewn; for a few I have stitched a backing on with a machine, if they haven't sewn one on themselves. The ladies are thrilled people want to buy their work, and aren't keeping the money, it all goes back into the programme. All of the fabric is donated, but we need to purchase scissors, needles, pins, embroidery thread, sequins and trim.

The prices range from \$10 - \$50

Anyone interested in purchasing, please contact Diane Wood at the Carnegie Centre 604-665-2220
All women are invited to join our group



NEW CD RELEASE!

outLaw Angel

Lazarus



This CD brings together the best of Roman Bociurkiw's recorded bandura music from the past fifteen years - *A little Bandura Music* (1986), *Magical Strings* (1989), *Echoes of Ukraine* (1993), and *Ave Maria* (1994). It represents the eclectic mix of classical, pop and traditional Ukrainian songs Roman's listeners loved, and includes digitally remastered vocal tracks from Roman's first-ever recording.

Roman Bociurkiw was a much-loved street musician and expert bandura player who performed across Canada. He modeled himself on a medieval figure, the Ukrainian kobzar, who traveled from town to town bringing news, poetry and music to the common person. Much like a kobzar, Roman performed across Canada for many years, until finally settling down in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. He passed away in his sleep on July 5, 2002.

Proceeds from the sale of this CD will be donated to the music program of the Carnegie Community Centre Association, at a community centre in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver.

For more Information on Roman Bociurkiw, go to www.geocities.com/rbociurkiw
To order: [email publisher@lazaruspress.ca](mailto:publisher@lazaruspress.ca)
Include name and full address. Cost \$15.99 each (20% discount for 10 or more) plus postage.

Music Program. Random Notes....

Sheesh, what time is it? It's that fall day when the clocks go back an hour, and I'm supposed to be at the Ukrainian Hall with a whole passel of other Carnegie Critters for early morning sound checks. (Who booked early morning sound checks anyway? I bet they don't play in a band.) We *would* be doin' this kinda obscene thing on a day when everyone's messin' with clocks.

Coffee! That's what I need....where's my shirt?...Is that 9:00 am, or 8:00 am? And I still got to get this PC over to the hall before sound check. 'cause there's this thingy we've been workin' on, maybe you've heard of it; Carnegie CD Project #2.and...ouch!... stubbed my toe on that mixer Tony donated to the programmaybe I should continue this later.

For anyone who didn't make it to the *Heart of the City Festival Gala*; my big toe is healing nicely, thank you very much, and the Carnegie Centre's contributing artists almost stole the show. It was both nice to *see*, and be a part of. Thumbs up guys!

Speaking of the Carnegie's second CD Project; a meeting is scheduled for the 24th of November, (third floor classroom.) basically to catch up on where the project stands at present, new ideas like Earle Peache's suggestion to include recordings he is still in possession of from the first CD project, and any other new ideas people involved in the project wish to submit for approval by consensus, or vote.

At the last musicians meeting, a suggestion from Bhab was. floated concerning implementing regular musicians meetings in third floor spaces that are less in demand than the Carnegie theatre is; A good idea that Carnegie has permitted for the entire music program/ Programs. So. for the foreseeable future. musicians meetings will be held on a regular basis, the last Thursday of each month. At 5:00pm. (Except Christmas. of course.) I'll post any unforeseen changes to this new regular schedule on the theatre bulletin board, and if I can make Paul's deadlines also include a notice in the Carnegie Newsletter.

So. please remember, last Thursday of every month. 5:00pm. third floor classroom.

M.

Philomena

"Philomena" is a one-act stage drama by Patrick Foley. A live reading of the play was presented by Theatre In The Raw and the Heart of the City Festival at the Ukrainian Hall on East Pender Street. The play was directed by Jay Hamburger.

Philomena is the name of a young runaway girl on the streets in the city. She is befriended by an old man, and the sensitive, lyrical conversation between them is a good example of the poetic, caring writing of Patrick Foley. The acting was very competent, but a special word must be said for the luminous performance of Diana Bang as Philomena. She conjured up a vulnerable but brave young woman right before our eyes, and the audience was captivated by her enchantment.

Sandy Cameron



Dissed

I am woman
Hear me roar

Watch me kick you out the door

Should you try to play me out
Should you try to take me out
If you think you can, then try it
Just know -I can- make you buy it

My dysfunction makes me want you
My heart says why does he want you
My mind justifies and thinks things through

If you wanna, play, let me play it
If you wanna go, just- wait a bit

I wanna be the one to
Wanna be the one to

Let me be the one to- have-a-fit
And let you go
Go go go go...

Kat

VANCOUVER OPERA

"The Night Before the Opera"

Dialogues of the Carmelites



The first 75 people will receive free tickets to the final dress rehearsal of this opera.

Wednesday

Nov. 23, 2005 @ 7pm

Carnegie Centre Theatre

Presented by Vancouver Opera's UBC Learning Exchange in collaboration with the Carnegie Centre.

Come and enjoy West Vancouver's
AMBLESIDE ORCHESTRA

Wednesday, November 16th

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Carnegie Theatre

e n c o r e



ETIQUETTE FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE

Miss Manners answers a question overlooked by most books and advice columns on etiquette –

Dear Ms. Manners,

I've read that book "Men are from Mars..." and I still don't understand my boyfriend. Please help me. He drives me nuts, but I still want to be his girlfriend.

Dear Girlfriend,

OK listen up, he's a jerk. They're all jerks. The "good ones" just don't act like jerks until you get to know them. They're slippery and sleazy and BS is their middle name. So once you accept this, girls, it's gonna make life a lot easier. Men are like cats; you can say "get down" a million times, but the minute you're not watching, what do they do? Life becomes less stressful when we accept cats own us, not the other way around. In fact, cats own everything. Especially clean laundry and the spot in the middle of the table where they can stretch out and knock things on the floor.

So, back to the guys. They will "yeah-butt", cut you off in mid sentence, change the topic or go glassy eyed when you are right. They will use stories about people you never met to filibuster. They cannot be wrong! Remember this. Remember Fonzie on "Happy Days", he couldn't even say the word, he'd stammer "wr...wr...wr". Another thing they cannot do is sit and listen for any length of time. They need to do something. That's why they invented tools and cigarettes.

There are some women, as well, with higher levels of testosterone or a well-developed "animus" who display these characteristics and could also be classified as jerks (though that's not what we call them). Think of Belinda Stronach, the Ontario MP who crossed the floor to join the Liberal party before the confidence vote, Maggie Thatcher, Martha Stewart and Hedy Fry.

What's important is that you focus on why you want to be with this man, not what's wrong with him. 'Cuz it's not just him, and changing partners will only change the shade of blues you're gonna sing, and it'll still be blue.

One of the "intimacy tools" Ms. Manners uses to repair Bad Days is Rudolph Steiner's Faithfulness Verse, which she has re-written for you here, without the Ten Dollar Words:

Create for yourself a new perception of faithfulness. What is usually called faithfulness passes so quickly. Let this be your mantra or prayer for faithfulness:

You will experience moments with the other person when they will appear as if they were filled with light and spirit. And then there may be other moments, even long periods of time, when their light is darkened. At these times you will learn to say "The spirit makes me strong. I remember when they shone. I saw it once. No illusion or deception can rob me of that." Always struggle to see that person as you saw them then. This struggle is faithfulness.



Supporting Emotional Wellness

A Twelve Week drop-in Support Group
for People Living with Emotional Difficulties.

If you need help with any of the following.

- . Depression, lack of energy, emotional numbness
- . Anxiety.
- . Unstable mood.
- . Strong emotions such as anger or fear.
- . Any of the above plus substance abuse.

At the Lifeskills Centre 412 E. Cordova.
Starts Thursday October 27th, 10.15am-12.00 pm
For More Information please call
Andrew: 604-216-4253 or Benita: 604-642-5809

Mirror, Mirror Inside, Inside

No hope in the mirror, breaking you up.
The voice from inside says "never enough".
No transformation,
so unaccepting, wanting something!
Losing too much,
No hope in my mirror,
The voice from inside says "enough!"
By Mandy Mombourquette

Oh how we mumble loudly,
wear our shame so proudly.
Covered in our blank expressions;
trying to look interesting.
Blame it all on me, 'cause
God I need a hit right NOW.

Only eager-afters
gladly take the credit
for the lines created
by the people tucked-away from sight.
On the road I'm about to go on now,
If you find a way out,
would you let me know how?
Oh just let me know

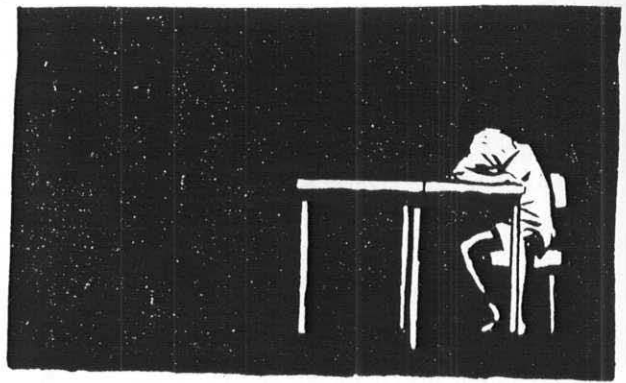
?HOW?

Language is the liquid
we're all dissolved in
From solving problems,
after it creates a problem

Mentally demolished fools

Hiding behind my plastic smile.
Withdrawn from my consciousness.
I open my eyes to view this wasteland
Of mentally demolished fools.
Lacking the courage to confront
the situations that face me.
"Don't shoot the messenger" right?
And Hastings is wasting away.
The condescending angel of darkness
dwells in my dreams tonight.
And you still tell me that nothing will ever
come between us.
How dare you lie,
Hypocrisy resides in your breath.
Deceit, deceit in your coal tainted eyes.

By Mandy Mombourquette



Notes on Notes

If you're considering suicide remember to leave a note, otherwise those you leave behind will think you made a big boo-boo.. or just fucked up.

The other night, after scoring a half-gram of heroin, six balls of powder and another six nice-size rocks, I decided I'd had enough.

I smoked the rocks one by one. I was trying to remember my life but I couldn't really remember much. Funny how the good and bad moments mix and then fade away. Even your memories desert you. Your family deserts you, your friends desert you and then even your mind deserts you.

I mixed up the powder and the smack into 7 rigs, each one a little stronger than the last. The very last was double the strength of the first. I started shooting and was feeling really okay when I shot the last one. I smiled and snickered good-bye as if I'd really pulled off a fast one. I remember counting but didn't get past 8

Needless to say I woke up 2 days later. I opened my eyes: dammit to hell! It had taken all my nerve and I'd blown it.

I tried to move but couldn't. When I finally struggled to my feet I realized my right arm was dead. I sat and tried to figure all this out. I lurched forward and puked my guts out, my dead arm just hanging there, smashing against the sink. I guess I'd missed that last shot.

I took about an hour to get dressed. As I stumbled down the hallway my neighbour came out her doorway. She smiled a smirk at me and said, "I heard you falling around last night. Quite a party you had yourself!" I looked at her laughing face and thought "Ya, a real party... a real bloody party indeed."

R. Loewen

ALONE AGAIN

It's so weird

Alone again

My night in shining armor

Sweeping me off my feet

And riding off into the sunset

We took our time

But it happened so fast

From magic to love to hate

Defeat riding along side, waiting and watching

We tried so hard, again and again

To dig ourselves out from the mire

But defeat rode in valiantly

and shoved our love aside

And trampled it into the dust

We traveled with him so far

To the point of no return

We couldn't find our way back

Easier to stay lost

We talk now and then, "So..How are you doing?

"Oh, I've been fine, ..and you?"

Talking like strangers.

We want to feel some of that old tenderness

But each afraid to show what we feel- as weakness

You tease a little, then stop as soon as you start

I at once feel uplifted, then guarded

We both want to feel and hear that ol' magic

That we miss. Instead, lapse into awkward silence

Uncertainty fills our senses

"Does he hear, does she hear the thump-thump
thump of my heart?"

Then defeat sidles in upon his trusty steed

"Well...I'd better get going..."

"yeah, uh...I gotta go too...."

"So...ah..take care of yourself.. okay?"

"Yeah...you too"

"Okay, well...bye."

"Bye..." pause

Then, I listen to the click

Only then can I let myself feel the pain

Of losing the love we said would last forever.

I cry

kat

The Good Times Are Killing Me

These walls here are paper

thin and everyone hears

every little sound.

Everyone's avoiding everyone, watch him,
watch her, not me, right now...

They're shaking hands,

They're shaking in their shoes,

Don't shake me down.

Everyone wants half of him

and half of her, everyone else too.

It's been a long time since

you've been around.

Lost in the madness,

Chaos in these corrupt skies around.

Insanity in the walls.

Music soothes the inner beast

that resides in all of us,

for the moment at least.

To be a complete unknown

Belonging in my own beliefs.

Growing up in a hurry. Worry.

By Mandy Mombourquette

DOWNTOWN IN THE CITY

After a time you see

Everything, everyone

As clear as black and white

With just a look

A glance

at times after a minute of conversation

We generalize a person's worth

Their feelings, intelligence, life's experiences

Their whole being unconsidered

but

Because of how they're dressed

Maybe it's the look on their faces

Or because of the way they comb their hair

We shut off our empathy

So as not to share their pain

We snap or roll our eyes

And look the other way

kat



Downtown
Eastside

NEIGHBOURHOOD
SAFETY OFFICE

501 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 1P9
PHONE: 604-687-1772 FAX: 604-687-1776

Vancouver Police Union
202 - 190 Alexander Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1B5

Dear President Stamatakis:

November 9, 2005

Re: Request from Downtown Eastside Community Concerning Dave Dickson

The Vancouver Police Department and the Vancouver Police Board have responded to the Downtown Eastside community's petition for a Community Outreach Police Officer. While a replacement has been assigned, this officer's retirement is anticipated in two years. In light of the inability of the Vancouver Police Organization to attract a willing and suitable transitional candidate for the role a "Back Up Officer" to assist, then replace the soon to retire Dave Hancock, the community is left wondering why Dave Dickson will not be rehired to continue his work in our neighbourhood thereby avoiding an expensive and time consuming learning curve.

The Downtown Eastside Community is formally requesting the membership of the Vancouver Police Union pass a motion that the Membership will not impede the rehiring of Dave Dickson by the Vancouver Police Department for the role and employment as Downtown Eastside Neighbourhood Police Officer.

The Community is represented by residents and agencies named below.

Lyn Cutshall, Interim Coordinator,
Downtown Eastside Safety Society, with

WATARI

RayCam Cooperative Centre

Downtown Eastside Youth Activities Society

Vancouver Native Health Society

WISH Drop-In Centre Society

Carnegie Community Centre

Storefront Orientation Services (SOS)

Portland Hotel Society

NewStart Employment Bridging Program

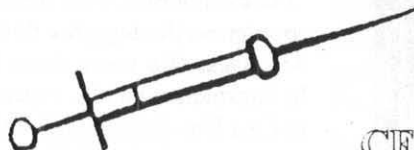
Cc: Vancouver Police Union Directors
Mayor Larry Campbell
Chief Graham, Vancouver Police Department
Mike Howell, Vancouver Courier
Valerie Casselton, Vancouver Sun
PaulR Taylor, Carnegie Newsletter

Vancouver Police Board
Vancouver City Council
Vancouver Board of Trade
Daphne Brahm, Vancouver Sun
Paul Chapman, Province Newspaper
Charlie Smith, Georgia Straight

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

**FIXED EXCHANGE SITE – 5 E Hastings
NEEDLE EXCHANGE VAN – 3 Routes:**
604-685-6561

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



CFRO 102.7FM CO-OP RADIO

FREE – Donations accepted.

Carnegie

NEWSLETTER

THIS NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF THE
CARNEGIE COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

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

Editor: Paul R Taylor; layout by Diane Wood.
Cover photo of Vancouver's first City Council (1886)
by Harry T. Devine (Vancouver City Archives)

Submission deadline for next issue:

Monday, November 28



Contributors are not permitted to malign or attack or relegate
any person or group or class, including drug users and poor
people, to a level referred to or implying 'less than human'.

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

Downtown Eastside Residents Association
12 E. Hastings St, or call 682-0931



Definition of "charity":

(pre-socialist usage) <in an exploitative society>
[a well-to-do person or institution] which gives
donations to selected 'poor people' in a humiliating
manner while using philanthropic and religious
slogans in order to conceal the necessity of radical
social changes.

2005 DONATIONS Libby D. -\$40

Barry for Dave McC. -\$50 Rolf A. -\$45

Margaret D. -\$25 Christopher R. -\$50

Mary C. -\$30 Bruce J. -\$30 U'mista - \$20

Heather S. -\$25 RayCam -\$30 Gram -\$200

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 Bruce G. -\$5

The Edge Community Liaison Ctt -\$200

Pam B. -\$25 Wm B. -\$20 Janice P. -\$20

Michael C. -\$50 Sheila B. -\$25 Beth B. -\$20

CCPA -\$20 Rape Relief -\$25 Anonymous -\$5

Humanities 101 -\$100 MP/Jelly Bean -\$20

DO YOU HAVE A LEGAL PROBLEM?

Come to our Free Clinic
on Carnegie's 3rd floor

UBC Law Students Legal Advice Program

you must make an appointment

TUESDAYS, 7 – 9PM

Sharing a Native Prayer

Be as tall as the trees,
Strong like the mountains,
And gentle like the stream.

Keep love and Spring in your heart
Then the Great Spirit will always
be with you all.

submitted by Denise



November 15 – December 2
Oppenheimer Park Presentation of
a photographic exhibition.

SHINING MOMENTS

Since arriving from Vietnam in 1998, Tuan Luu has worked in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside; first with the Asian Society for Intervention with AIDS (A.S.I.A.) and, for the last six months, with the BC Centre for Disease Control's Street Nurse Program.

During this time, he has photographed many of the people he regularly meets and sees in the area.

Tuan wishes to express his deep gratitude to all who've shared their lives with him and granted permission to be shown in their *shining moments*.

Opening Reception
10:30am Tuesday, November 15
Oppenheimer Park Activity Room
400 Powell, Vancouver BC
Park Hours: 9-5, Tuesday - Saturday

Don't believe until you See for Yourself

I knew nothing. To Vancouver, I rode across the country on the big grey dog, and residents of this winterless city warned me, "Don't go to Hastings." In Saskatchewan, the warning evolved to, "Don't go to East Hastings," and by Alberta, "Don't go to East Hastings and Main." They said I would regret it, it was a dangerous corner.

"First impressions can get you killed" along Hastings, a man told me, presumably joshing. Perhaps my first impressions, on my second Vancouver day, startled me, but I certainly wasn't threatened. In place of fear, I had intense empathy.

Early evening and I approached the East Hastings and Main corner, the dangerous one. My friend and I were distracted by conversation, then interrupted by the corner, most unlike others I have viewed. Rows and groups of unhappy people sat and stood in the drizzle.

"Spike? Spike?" some asked, and others, "Spare change?" They all wanted help, some convulsing too badly to ask. Then I knew my coins couldn't help. Crossing the street toward the police station, a half a block away, I was startled. That scene was bad.

The return for my second impression was on my fourth Vancouver day and much different. Promised a good, cheap breakfast, I found myself where I was warned against being, at the dangerous corner. But past the corner, inside Carnegie Community Centre, I found a good scene.

Smiling people played guitars and friends chatted over coffee while I ate my cubed scrambled eggs, which I was reminded of all day. In the gym, some exercised their bodies and in the library, their minds. People also played games and watched movies, all knowing the alternative behind the stone walls.

This was a community drawn together by need and united by goodwill, a haven amongst the chaos of drug addiction, I knew.

Six-year resident of our fine city, 28-year-old Ny-cholle Tokohopie said, "I wasn't into the drug scene until I got here."

Like a diamond in the rough is Carnegie Community Centre and so it must be, and grow as an alternative to a dangerous corner. This I know

Tamara

Telling Your Own Story

Dara Culhane, editor of *In Plain Sight: Reflections on Life in Downtown Eastside Vancouver*, gives a workshop on collaboration and telling your own story in your own ways when you work with editors or researchers. How can you tell your story, your way, and have a say in the final version?"

Monday, December 5, 3.30pm

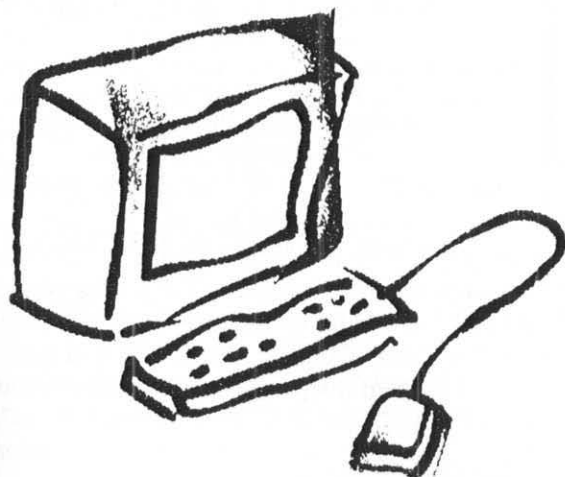
Level 3 Classroom

UBC Learning Exchange

Celebrates five years in the DTES

The UBC Learning Exchange celebrated the fifth anniversary of the opening of its Main Street storefront on October 14. This event, attended by many Downtown Eastside residents, representatives from community organizations, students and other members of the UBC community demonstrated the essence of what the Learning Exchange is about: the strengthening of civil society through the creation of learning-focused relationships between people from UBC and people from inner city neighbourhoods.

The Learning Exchange, at 121 Main, is a lively centre of dialogue and discovery. The computer drop-in currently operates at capacity with an average of 30 people using the computer resources each afternoon. The storefront also offers access to the on-line and other resources of the UBC Library. In addition, various free educational events and programs are offered.



Several programs are supported by funding from HSBC Bank Canada: the Computer Skills Programs, the ESL Conversation Program, and the Personal Goals Planning Program. This past year, 126 people took part in the Basic and Advanced Computer Skills Programs. These four to five week programs are very popular: registration typically reaches capacity several weeks in advance.

The ESL program trains and supports DTES residents to facilitate English conversation sessions with small groups of immigrants. In the time between the establishment of the ongoing program in January 2005 and September, 25 local residents acted as conversation facilitators and 189 immigrants took part in conversation groups. Each group met several times each week for periods of six to eight weeks.

The personal goals planning program enables DTES residents to set and establish a plan to achieve their goals, whether these are linked to education, employment, or other life goals. In the period from January to August 2005, 36 people took part in the program.

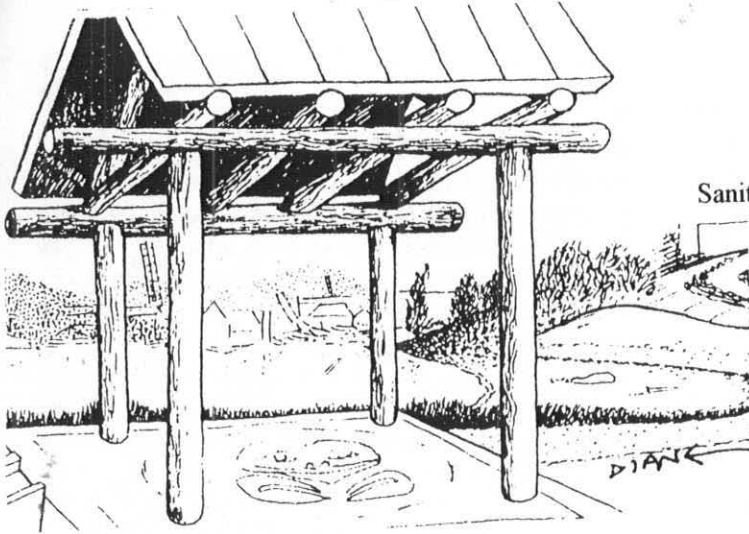
In addition to these free educational programs, the Learning Exchange brings students, staff, and alumni from UBC to DTES organizations and East Vancouver schools, where they do volunteer work. In 2004-2005, 800 UBC students took part in special projects or volunteered on an ongoing basis in 19 non-profit organizations and 16 schools in the Downtown Eastside and other inner city areas in Vancouver. During spring break, over 200 UBC students took part in 14 community service projects. All but one of these projects took place in Vancouver schools. Ranging from painting a mural focused on building community and working on a quilting project on the theme of personal and social responsibility, to preparing gardens for spring planting and renovating a meeting space for parents, the projects stimulated students' thinking about important social issues.

Many, many thanks to all the individuals and organizations in the DTES who have participated in our programs and initiatives over the past five years and who teach us so much.

For more information, please visit our website:

www.learningexchange.ubc.ca

By Margo Fryer, Director



Editor:

We are all concerned about the potential for a 30,000-plus-seat Whitecaps Stadium a mere 1 1/2 blocks from CRAB Park.

Also it appears that a few individuals and groups jumped on this stadium's bandwagon. Putting our hands out for more amenities or trinkets is not a good way for the Downtown Eastside to walk.

Mr Kerfoot, owner of the Whitecaps (and who is said to have \$800 million in his pocket), will be asking all three levels of government for public taxpayer money to help pay for his stadium.

The Trillium Flats location (Main & Terminal) is a better site location for any new stadium. Please keep us informed of any relevant meetings regarding the proposed Whitecaps Stadium.

Don Larson

Attention: Anti-Depressants

Have you or anyone you know experienced long-term, adverse health effects (medical conditions) from taking or having taken anti-depressant or anti-psychotic drugs?

If you wish to talk about it please call Stephen at 604-783-6856 (confidentiality assured).

HELP Give FREE HAIR CUTS!!!

We are looking for a volunteer to cut Cut Hair. We provide the tools. This is a very popular program as it provides a much appreciated and needed service. If you are interested, please talk to Colleen in the Volunteer Program Office on the 3rd floor

FIRST NATIONS FOCUS

Locus of control
Where the rainbow meets the earth
Eyes wide shut
Open to find a new reality
Sanity rules becomes insanity when you don't really see
Blind to 'their' rules of the game
That you keep on playing anyway
Playing their pawn
You being the pawn
'They' being the kings, queens
Movers, shakers
Tricky rook - sidelines us each time
Pawns only move one sorry step at a time,
one way - yield, sacrificed

find your focus
play the waiting game
watch, look and listen
pawns have their own power
the sacrifice of one for all?
Or the power of a few for the whole

Find a focus in everything you do
Leaps, bounds, slickocity reaps quick rewards
But you're left out in the cold alone

Me saying - "you find"

No, you say, 'I'

Me say, "what" you say 'I'

Jam it, slam it

Do it damn it

Don't let it be too late

Don't be lookin back on yesterday
on what you could have-should have
Tomorrow, don't look back on today
And say I wish I da..

Find a focus, your focus
A dream, yours can become reality
Or, at least an experience
Learn to play the game. Focus, it's a mental game
why don't you try it?
If you don't bother to try, then you lose

Kat

To lead the people, walk behind them.
Lao-Tzu



News from the Library

Spanish Books

We've recently acquired more Spanish language books, including lots of books for children. The Spanish books are on the low shelves in front of the library office and can be difficult to spot, so if you can't find them, please ask!

Tenemos nuevos libros en español en la biblioteca, y muchos libros para niños. Los libros están en los estantes bajos en frente de la oficina de la biblioteca. Los libros están difícil de ver. ¡Si no lo puede ver, pregunta a nosotros!

New Books:

Want to be a screenwriter? Check out *The Screenwriters' Bible: A Complete Guide to Writing, Formatting and Selling Your Script* (808.23 TRO). From screenwriting basics to writing specs to marketing your screenplay, this guide has all sorts of useful information such as contact information, checklists, and sample query letters.

We've also got some more books for writers. In the *Write Great Fiction* series, take a look at *Characters, Emotion and Viewpoint* by Nancy Kress (808.3 KRE) and *Description and Setting* by Ron Rozelle (808.3 ROZ). Poets should find some useful tips in *The Art & Craft of Great Poetry* by Michael J Bugeja (808.1 BUG), while *The Leisure Pen: A Book for Elderwriters* by Joyce S Steward and Mark K Croft (808.02 STE) has advice for seniors on the writing process.

Looking for a job? We've got two new books that may help. *Nail the Résumé Great Tips for Creating Dynamite Résumés* and *Nail the Cover Letter! Great Tips for Creating Dynamite Cover Letters* contain lots of common sense advice and sample documents. Both are by Ron & Caryl Krannich (650.14 KRA).

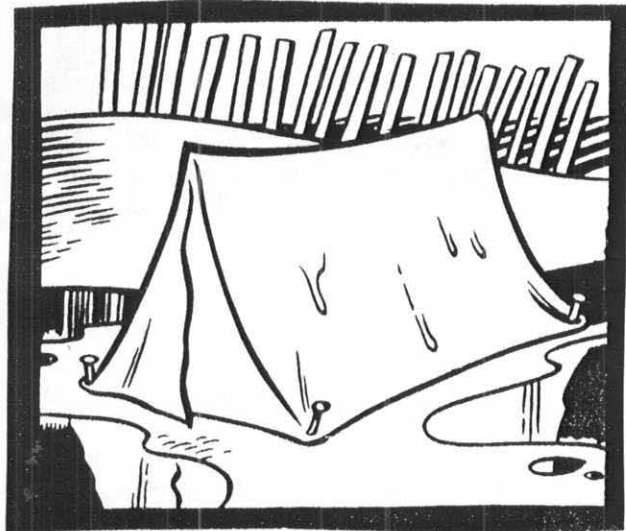
Gregory Scofield writes powerful, beautiful poems infused with the Cree language. *Singing Home the Bones* (811.54 SCO) is Scofield's latest collection, in which he "honours and reclaims the history of his Métis family while exploring newly discovered secrets about his long-lost father's Jewish heritage.

The Burn Journals by Brent Runyon described the author's experiences after he doused himself in gasoline and set himself alight at the age of 14. He suffered burns to 85% of his body, and spent a year in hospital and rehab facilities. In this book, Runyon looks at what he did and the reasons for it, and describes his long road to recovery. The *Burn Journals* -a moving book about teenage despair and recovery. *Addicted and Mentally Ill: Stories of Courage, Hope and Empowerment* by Carol Bucciarelli (362.29 BUC) tells brief stories of people with mental illness and addiction. Written primarily for family and friends of dually diagnosed individuals, this book talks about misconceptions and prejudices, treatment options and follow-up care. It's a U.S. book, written from a U.S. perspective, and it's a bit light on useful information, but many of the stories are very interesting.

In *Dragonslippers: This Is What An Abusive Relationship Looks Like* (362.82), Rosalind Penfold uses cartoons to tell the story of her relationship with Brian, an abusive man. This incredible book tells of the warning signs that Brian was not what he seemed, of small lies and petty cruelties, and finally verbal, emotional, sexual and physical abuse. Above all, though, it's the story of a woman who fought for and found the strength to break free.

Arriving just too late for Halloween, *War Stories: Operation Iraqi Freedom* (956.70 NOR) is Oliver North's take on Iraq. He says, "the mainstream media are trying to discredit our victory in Iraq by saying there was no reason to take out Saddam. But Oliver North knows better. He was there."

Beth, your librarian



Homeless Artists Step Out of the Storm

Gallery Gachet (88 E. Cordova) is stepping "out uv th storm" this November with a homeless youth-produced lyric video and performance art piece inspired by their experience living on the streets.

Throughout October, four street-informed youth artists worked with Canadian poet bill bissett, courtesy of the Vancouver International Writers (& Readers) festival, and performance artist Naufus Ramirez-Figueroa to produce the piece.

"This collaboration straddles four Vancouver festivals, and we are pleased there is so much interest in addressing the root causes of homelessness," says Irwin Oostindie, co-curator of the project.

The "out uv the storm" performance project coincides with "Out of the Rain: a project for homelessness," in association with the Roundhouse and more than 200 Vancouver residents and artists painting umbrellas. The November exhibition takes place at both Gallery Gachet and the Roundhouse.

"Artists can break down the stigmas associated with poverty and homelessness," Oostindie adds. "With audiences all over accessing *Out of the Rain*, I believe the visions of these young artists will reach new audiences."

Gallery Gachet partnered with a number of organizations to present the exhibition and performance: the 2nd annual Heart of the City Festival, the Roundhouse, Judith Marcuse Projects' earth(ing): a festival, the Vancouver International Writers Festival, and LIVE Performance Art Biennial.

Gallery Gachet is located at 88 E. Cordova St (at Columbia). Regular hours are Wednesday to Sunday, Noon to 6pm. For more information, call 604-687-2468 or visit the website at www.gachet.org.

ARTISTS IN RESIDENCE

New statistics show the East Side's reputation as a haven for artists is well-deserved: the postal code V6A (around Main Street) has the city's highest ration – 5% - of residents working in the cultural field, followed by V5L (around Commercial Drive) at 4.3%, according to a recent report from Hill Strategies Research. That's way above the national average of 0.8%, but it lags behind Montreal's Plateau area, which has a whopping 8%.

The "Artists by Neighbourhood in Canada" report, funded mostly by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Department of Canadian Heritage, found that 45 BC postal regions have concentrations of artists that are at least double the country's average. It also found that BC is the province with the largest overall percentage of its labour force in arts occupations: at 1.1%, it's the only one with more than 1%.

By Janet Smith

From the Nov. 3-10, 2005 Georgia Straight



THE ART STUDIOS OPEN HOUSE AND SALE

Unique gifts for the up-coming holiday season

THURSDAY NOV 24 2 – 7 PM

2005 E. 44 AVE., Vancouver

TEL: (604) 871 9788

Free Admission

THE ART STUDIOS OPEN HOUSE NOV. 24, 2-7 PM

This article is to raise awareness, and maybe raise some money for the artists, for a well-kept secret haven of creativity - the Art Studio at 44th and Victoria. This is an opportunity to buy original paintings, prints, ceramics, and greeting cards for Hanukkah / Solstice / Christmas. Admission is free; there will be refreshments, door prizes, demonstrations and a silent auction of artwork with the final bid at 7:00 pm.

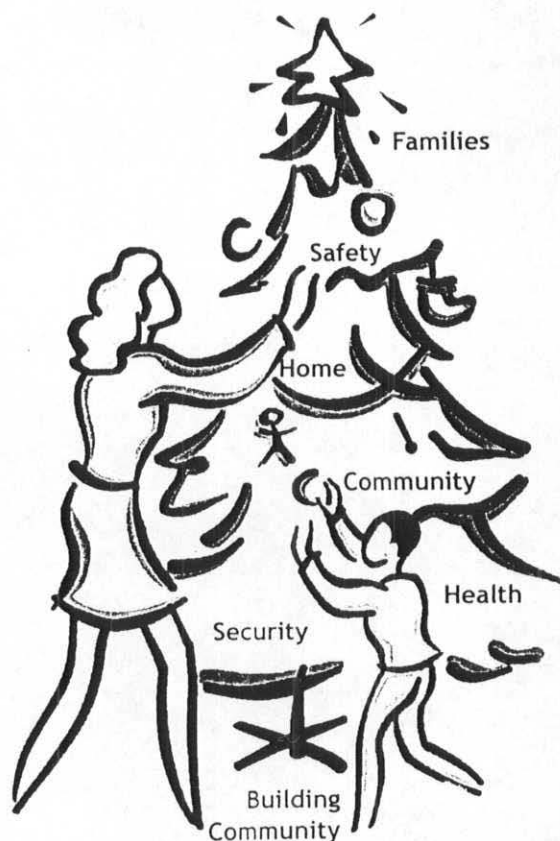
This school/workshop is mandated to be a safe place for mental health consumers who also happen to be artists. You won't find a sideshow of circus freaks, or drooling would-be psychotics. It isn't a club house or drop in centre where the focus is on cigarettes, coffee and card games to pass the time. The focus is on artists healing through their artwork and shared experience of the mental health system. People with mental illnesses are perceived differently by different segments of society. They are often considered "odd and weird" or "less than" the rest of normal society, if there is such a thing. What's "normal"? Sadly mental patients are usually represented in mainstream media as knife-wielding and wild-eyed victims of police-assisted suicides, riddled with bullets at their final showdown with the powers-that-be. In the DTES we see a lot of homeless/street people with a history of mental illness, and it's a commonly-held belief that they are unable to take care of themselves. This then translates into a fear that they are dangerous, when in fact what they are is extremely vulnerable. 20% of all schizophrenics attempt suicide, and half of them succeed. Mental illness is often self-medicated with street drugs, and suicide can be seen as the most fail-proof form of pain relief. What's least visible are the people who call themselves "survivors". Because they have been through the worst of mental illness, they can deal with their own and each others' problems. Many of them live in poverty, not because they're "lazy" but because their inability to connect ideas with action, or clinical depression makes it near impossible to hold a full-time job. However, they can create great beauty which brings great joy to everyone touched by it. The Art Studio provides them with a community and gives them a break from the frantic "normal world". People can talk openly and have access to

teachers and materials. This gives them the opportunity to learn, when so often they internalize society's labels of "hope less" and "useless". They can realize their full potential as unique human beings, and bring their own light to this gloomy "normal" world!

By Diane Wood

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON ADOPT A TREE FOR THE OPPENHEIMER PARK LIGHTS ALIVE FESTIVAL

December 12 - January 7



Take advantage of this unique opportunity to support local initiatives in the DTES by lighting and decorating a tree at Oppenheimer Park. This is a great way to enhance the park's programs for children, seniors and families. Adopt a tree by Dec. 8, 2005. Contact (604)830-2544. Email sandy.mackeigan@vancouver.ca

BUY NOTHING DAY

One day in 1992, local artist Ted Dave gave birth to an international movement over coffee and a muffin. Dave was working in downtown Vancouver when he realized he was wasting \$20 a week on trifles such as coffees and muffins and that he and others should rethink their patterns of consumption. Dave decided to create Buy Nothing Day, a day for consumers to refrain from buying anything for 24 hours.

In 13 years, Dave's idea has spread around the world, with dozens of grassroots organizations finding their own unique way to celebrate the anti-consumption day that takes place this year on Nov. 26. Some groups in the US dress in sheep costumes to become "blind consumer sheep." Others set up credit-card cut-up booths. In Japan, Zen-ta Claus, a giftless version of Santa, meditates in shopping malls.



Dave is shocked at how his creation has evolved. "It's a bit surreal but it's always thrilling. The art this event has generated is wonderful."

After coming up with the idea of Buy Nothing Day, Dave created a series of posters, placed ads in small local papers, and organized events. Eventually, the idea was taken over by Adbusters Media Foundation, a Vancouver-based advocacy group. Thanks to guerilla marketing and the power of the Internet, Adbusters helped spread BND around the world.

Just how widely the day is celebrated remains unclear, however. Adbusters has no statistics on how many people worldwide actually participate. A spokesman for the Vancouver Board of Trade says they have no knowledge of BND and no information about any tangible impact it has on local economy.

Dave believes that trying to find concrete numbers about BND is beside the point. BND is not necessarily about having consumers decrease consumption for one day; it's about having them pause to think about their consumption patterns.

Reprinted from Shared Vision

Community Opera

Meeting on Thursday, Dec 1, 2005 from 2-5 in the Carnegie Theatre.

Downtown Eastside singers, actors and artists are invited to discuss plans for creating a DTES community Opera.

This initiative is a partnership of Carnegie Centre, Vancouver Opera, and the School for the Contemporary Arts at SFU.

Vancouver Moving Theatre will also play a role in our discussions. We expect the process of creating a community opera to take up to two years or more. Everyone with an interest in participating is welcome.