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# Carnegie

## NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 1, 1992.

401 Main St., Vancouver. V6A 2T7 (604)665-2289

WHAT'S HAPPENING?  
ANY DEVELOPMENTS?  
HOW'S IT GOING?  
WHAT'S NEW?

These questions, followed by a short silence, are designed to either get a specific answer or to turn the one asked into a babbling booby with diarrhea of the mouth. So, if what follows starts to go from the latter and becomes the latter, just follow your gut reactions.

\* McCarthy, the editor of \$pare Change, was scheduled to show up at the Community Relations committee. There were a few people - Sheila, Tora, Bharb, Alicia, Lorelii, Jeff, Donald & me - with a few questions. Like who he thinks he is to pass judgement on poor people, what kind of response is he planning to the people who contributed in good faith to the 1st edition of \$pare Change, only to find he had surrounded articles with rants & warnings about helping people in need & a full-page poster on the back for store owners to put in their windows (his ideal I guess) telling people not to give anything to panhandlers except a copy of his paper & tell them to go sell it. And of course he's backed by DEEDS.

\* Ian MacRae, Jeff Sommers & Jimmy Wu gave a report on some of their work in the Strathcona/Downtown Eastside Coalition. Funny thing they found is that housing is the number one issue throughout the city but reaches prime status in our neighbourhood. Another point that DERA has & is addressing is the non-existence of the Downtown Eastside as a community

in the eyes of the City's Planning Dept. Having public meetings & talking individually with hundreds of residents, Jeff & Jimmy & Ian called for and got support for demanding that the City help form a Planning Committee for this neighbourhood specifically. One stat - in the last 10 years there has been a net loss of 2000 units of housing in the D.E. alone. New buildings & condos are not meant for the people already living here & this requires our input & by-laws to deal with.

\* For the afficianados of Carnegie staff and (can't resist) the sometime lack thereof, the following memo, stamped TOP SECRET, was leaked to the press. No money changed hands, honest. It's from someone named MacKenzie, which may be a bogus ID scam, but here it is:

"The Granville Street project is hanging over my head & Council expects a January report with details of where & what a mini Carnegie should be, how it'd be funded, etc. Therefore, I've got to get off my fat ass & get the work done.

Effective the date of Donald's return from vacation he became the Acting Director & I became Ms. Granville. I hope to open a storefront office at 1075 Granv. as soon as possible in September...

As you may know, the Kitchen Programmer and Assistant Programmer positions have been reclassified. Catriona now reports directly to the Programmer Co-ordinator. Dan Tetrault will continue as Acting Programmer Co-ordinator while Donald is Acting Director.

Jerry Sentino will continue as Acting Security Supervisor while Dan is covering for Donald. Marty will continue as Acting Assistant Kitchen Programmer

Does this all sound very complicated? (It sounds like there's a lot of acting going on!) There's more.

Bruce Jackson will return (is this a promise or a threat?) for at least two months as Recreation Programmer. He will be responsible for Oppenheimer Park, all activities in the gymnasium, & the development of a Carnegie recreation program. (Is this sufficient warning?)

"MacKenzie" finishes by saying, "Once I'm settled on Granville I'll be extending invitations. In the meantime I'll be wandering around Carnegie but Donald..."

\* There's going to be a by-election on September 19 for the vacant seat on City Council. Campbell & his ~~NAP~~ cohorts are running a person whose entire platform in the last election consisted of saying "I'm a woman." (which is certainly different

from saying "I'm a man" to say the least. MEL LEHAN is the neighbourhood candidate. More on the issues next issue.

\* Also in the next issue will be a report on the open secret that Sheila Baxter won the award for writing the best book in B.C. on women's issues: Under the Viaduct: Homeless in Beautiful B.C. I can't say anything more until (secret) is officially announced by (secret).

\* Sheila gave me a hand-made card congratulating the Carnegie Newsletter on its 6th anniversary last issue. It read -

"WORK"

There was a man called Paul  
That's all he did..that's all.  
From dusk till dawn & sometimes more  
At work he was heard to SNORE  
while yet awake...

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

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

City Info staff can't accept donations for this newsletter, so if you can help, find Paul Taylor and he'll give you a receipt.

Thanks everyone!



## NEED HELP ?

The Downtown Eastside Residents' Association can help you with:

- \* any welfare problems
- \* information on legal rights
- \* disputes with landlords
- \* unsafe living conditions
- \* income tax
- \* UIC problems
- \* finding housing
- \* opening a bank account



Come into the DERA office at 9 East Hastings St. or phone us at 682-0931

DERA HAS BEEN SERVING THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE FOR 19 YEARS.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE DOCTORS OF B.C.

Dear Madams & Sirs,

The question arises in my mind: What are the doctors in BC up to?

What has happened to their Hippocratic Oath..or does it no longer hold in this profession? And does it imply, as it does in my understanding of it, that doctors are committed to serving people in need of their aid, regardless of who the applicant for help is - friend or foe, rich or poor, local or foreign?

As the message comes through to me, the BC doctors are outraged because our gov't has capped their income through application of user fees - has, in short, either limited their anticipated income for the immediate future, or undercut it in some way; and this gov't has, as it appears to me, somehow jeopardised the pension arrangements made during the previous socred gov't? If I am wrong in this, please correct me. But, in sum, the issue appears to be one of income.

At a time when hundreds of thousands of Canadians, including those in BC, are not only having their financial resources "capped" but cut back or eliminated altogether through plant closures and/or company financial "restraint" policies, it seems to me singular that the doctors are so upset about restraints on themselves.

### The Hippocratic oath

---

If I fulfil this oath and do not violate it, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and art, being honored with fame among all men for all time to come; if I transgress it and swear falsely, may the opposite of all this be my lot.

---

As a group, the medical personnel at the level of practising doctors has the highest (or among the highest) personal disposable incomes. Nobldy, and certainly not me, denies the demands made on the services of doctors, nor the effective response

of doctors on the whole to those demands. But the public's understanding is that persons choosing the medical profession as a career do so at their own choice, & take the Hippocratic Oath. They thus accept the conditions of their calling, as does every one accepting specific employment.

In the present instance I'd expect the doctors, if they are dissatisfied with the remuneration the gov't is prepared to provide for their co-operation in medicare, to join with other people providing products &/or services to the public in deman-



ding curtailment of unjust taxes, such as sales tax at the retail level, &/or that those not paying their just share of taxation be required to do so..retroactively as well as currently. There is sufficient evidence of tax evasion or lack of effective taxation on the part of corporate bodies to make it unnecessary for me to go into detail on this.

In short, I ask why are doctors not ready to shoulder their share of "restraint", or better still, why do they not join with other victims of lop-sided & damaging distribution of purchasing power in a drive to rectify the present system, & introduce a greater ekenebt if faurbess & justice to all?

Beatrice Ferneyhough

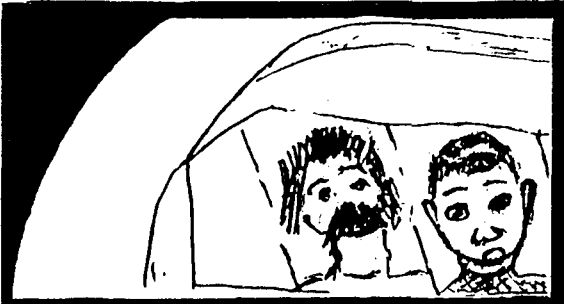
PS: It's notable that the rich - who oppose medicare anyway - being financially able to shoulder medical costs continue to get services: it is only those already victimised by the current economic system who are being penalised by doctors striking. Is this fair? Is it even decent?



### SIGHT-SEEING ON A BUS

Whenever I ride a bus for a day  
 I see many types of faces  
 from various races  
 Some seem quite vacant  
 While others are real hype  
 From different places  
 While riding on a local bus  
 I see censor-type faces  
 From all ages  
 Their expressions seem to say  
 "Wonder where you're going?"  
 As their moods change  
 Whatever day I'm riding a bus  
 I see granite-like faces  
 And when they disembark, they cuss  
 These types are difficult to accept  
 So I just grin and bear it.  
 And try to hold onto my own smile  
 Whether I'm on an early or late bus  
 I see several sad, angry or worried looks  
 That you'd only read about in books  
 In some way, I wish I could help  
 These seemingly lost souls  
 If only their destinies had real goals  
 There'll always be a few pleasant days  
 To see a genuine smile or two  
 While riding on a city bus

Verna Johnston



### ONCE

Once there was a poor man  
 Who had a really good line  
 "I may not have a penny  
 But I have good friends."

Once there was a rich man  
 Who had a really good line  
 "I have lots of dollars  
 and I buy my friends."

Once there was a working man  
 Who had a really good line  
 "I have a few dollars, but  
 I'm far too busy for friends."

Once there was a Native man  
 Who had a really good line  
 "The riches of my hands  
 I will share with my brothers."

Once there was a black man  
 Who had a really good line  
 "If it ain't from the heart  
 with respect and love  
 it ain't good enuff."

Once there was a yellow man  
 Who had a really good line  
 "Where I come from we have  
 respect for the old ways."

Once there was a spiritual man  
 Who had a really good line  
 "Throw away your lines  
 and follow me."

Dreamweaver

### A NEW SEASON

Oh, time! be slow!  
 It was a dawn ago  
 I was a child  
 Dreaming of being grown;  
 A noon ago  
 I was  
 with children of my own;  
 and now  
 It's afternoon  
 - and late,  
 and they are grown  
 and gone.  
 Time, wait!

Gram

Knowledge Network (475 W. Georgia)

Dear Folks,

A man named Jim Bach sent a description of a 'documentary' he proposed to do in the Downtown Eastside. It's working title was Welfare Wednesday. He wanted the approval/support of the Carnegie Community Centre Association (actually he wanted the approval of the Director of Carnegie..he knew nothing of the association).

He used the name of the Knowledge Network & the Open Learning something in the proposal.

This letter in your hand & the enclosed Carnegie Newsletters are sent to you to keep a promise to readers & residents. The almost unanimous response to Bach has been negative. The issue of August 1, 1992 contains a first response...Bach then came to the Community Relations Committee meeting on July 30, to get the approval that every one refused to give individually in lieu of (i.e. before) the scheduled meeting. The issue, Bach's first letter & his second letter 'apologising' for the first, & his proposed approach to the area/people/stereotypes, was discussed. The Committee voted unanimously to reject his proposal.

The Newsletter for August 15 has written responses, requested in the August 1 issue, to Bach & this whole venue of biased, stereotypical media.

As promised, all responses are coming to the Knowledge Network. The Newsletter issues of July 15, August 1 & August 15 are all enclosed to give a longer view of people here, to show that our response to Bach & others of his ilk is not an isolated, knee-jerk reaction. All newsletters are produced from start to finish (except for the actual printing) by volunteers. I have been the editor on a voluntary basis for 5½ years..the paper's 6th anniversary was August 15.

For years hundreds of individuals & over a dozen groups/organisations have done incredible community work to change the nature of our community, to refute the lazy, vicious monicker "skid row" & establish the neighbourhood as the Downtown Eastside.

This stuff comes to you not as a polite package of interesting information, but as

a vehicle for the strong emotion contained therein. Bach used the name of the Knowledge Network as though his project had the tacit (maybe even the full & enthusiastic) support of your editors/managers/whatever you call the brass there. If this support was given even before the video was produced, that's disturbing. Most people have a very positive opinion of the Knowledge Network & the stuff you air. If this kind of garbage is now going to be featured, you are 'shooting yourselves in the foot'.

A response would be appreciated. The extra copies of the Newsletter are for the Open Learning something that Bach also listed in his proposal. If you know what or who this is, please forward what you can to them. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul R Taylor, Editor.



To Whom it may concern.

Recently I was reading in the newspaper that Mexico City is having such severe pollution problems that they are considering installing giant fans to blow the smog up & over the mountains. A more efficient way of solving this problem would be to install a high volume vacuum pump at the outlet of the storm sewer system, the polluted air could be drawn from the streets into the storm sewer system, then to a filtering system or piped right out.

The GVRD (Vancouver & district) is now on a six-month campaign to solicit suggestions from the public for environmental clean-up...but after writing for 3 months for an acknowledgement of just receiving this submission, I can only assume it is the same as submitting any suggestion to any level of the Canadian gov't - you may as well throw it in the trashcan.

Gordon Birkby

Editor,

Our humourous dollar coin was the result of a gov't competition gone awry. When the gov't planned to replace paper dollars with coins & held a competition, several designs were rejected. The number of selections whittled down to two. The chosen design was sent by courier to the mint, but it failed to arrive on time, if at all. The mint was on a schedule so they cast the second choice.

Had the gov't but known it would bring smiles to Canadian faces, & a new term that has won our hearts, they may have chosen differently. We have inherited "Looney Bins" as coin banks & "Looney" to mean dollars. I doubt we will stop using the term when the bird picture is replaced by a new, more 'dignified' design, which is in the works.

Dora Sanders



Editor,

I am in agreement with Tora's letter re "Spare Change". This rag pretends to help poor people but the editor's comments and back page poster discriminate against the poor.

Panhandlers are individuals the same as everyone else. If we choose to give to someone, that's our own choice. I have met abusive panhandlers & I've also met frightened, sick, lonely, starving, confused & homeless panhandlers..each an individual who deserves to be treated as one.

It's like the labels "welfare bum", "welfare child", "welfare mother", "welfare dad"...Society puts the label - welfare = beggar. Let's drop those labels & give people some dignity.

PS: Keep "Spare Change" out of Carnegie.

Sheila Baxter

### The Tires

coming into the rain, the last cafe  
before dark, evening setting like a shower  
of rust and reckless coffees

tires stacked in a brown slush  
by the gate, as silent as dead rivers  
that dishearten the freeway

they are small infinities of perfect black  
sad mouths of history  
glistening brims of emptiness

I stopped driving because of this  
excruciating, expected hour, this  
unavoidable need for bearings

anywhere, a thin cigarette line  
the only comedian

Dan Feeney

### A Street Child.

Boy or Girl.

Little one Little one standing there  
with your eyes so sad  
and your unwashed hair  
thin pale face hanging down.  
the streets your home,  
the pimps are watching  
just waiting to grab  
and use you for meat  
in the sex trade.

Little one, little one  
not yet twelve  
run, run home, run,  
but you can't run home  
because it's full of abuse,  
so where can you run to?  
A group home, foster care  
fills you with fear;  
where will you run to  
Little one, Little one?  
Where will you run to  
Sad, frightened child?

Sheila Baxter

Send me dead flowers...

Most of the generosity in the Downtown Eastside is not rich people giving to poor people - most of it (probably 90%) is the poor sharing what little they have with each other. Meanwhile, all around them an incredibly wealthy society is wheeling & dealing in millions & billions with tax breaks & write-offs galore.

When the rich or middle-income brackets donate to established charities, they give to maintain political & bureaucratic structures.

In Somalia, when western countrys donate food & medicine it's picked up at the airport by soldiers who store it in heavily guarded warehouses while their desk-monkeys arrange trade-offs for weapons & military equipment.

In Canada, donations to organized charity are used to pay rent, salaries, advertising budgets, maintenance costs & expense accounts before any of it trickles (oozes) out to the people. What's the difference between financial aid to Third World countries & charity donations to low income neighbourhoods? Very little.

There's really no need for all these desk jobs when we have a technology that faxes information & economic credit around the globe in the wink of an eye & stores accurate accountability in instant access databanks. When we have container trucks & trains capable of shipping perishable goods to all parts of every continent & cargo planes that can fly tons of supplies anywhere in the world, the holding companys that control world markets have no excuse whatever when it comes to a fair & necessary distribution of products.

We know, of course, that they only play a board game with the Earth's resources which has no relationship to real need... it's only public relations & media convenience that make it appear otherwise.

People are not stupid - they know they're being scammed by power sucks in smart suits.

Here & everywhere else, the image of charity, benevolence & generosity is nothing but a puppet show arranged for personal gain. The poor, & those in need of assistance are always confronted with clever-

ly worded rules that sidetrack & siphon<sup>17</sup> off as much as possible into bank accounts of official job-holding career freaks.

When the parasites of corporate infrastructure hold their annual award dinners & media events they shake hands & smile & praise themselves enormously, but back in the office & corporate bedrooms they're knifing & shafting their "colleagues" like you wouldn't believe. Every one of them, right down to the lowliest shmuck in the mailroom is shuckin' & jivin' for a heavier slice of economic action.

...We don't need any of them! An efficient & fair distribution of world resources could easily be managed by computer banks & international networks of shippers, receivers & distributors. One small group of simple-minded accountants with idealistic motivations could run the whole thing from a single floor of the U.N. building. All the rest of the unused offices could be converted into living space & free clinics. We could solve most of the world's problems overnight & get to work on the real tough stuff first thing in the morning.

- Where there's a will there's a way. Unfortunately, the facts are - there is absolutely no will to do this among those who have the power to move mountains. There is, instead, only the will to grow rich & look good - the rest of us can go to hell, & sometimes I think we are already there.

TORA



BETH CAMBRIA

BETH CANBRIA, Cymru

"Where are you, when it's  
a hot / cold summer's night...."?

Hot! Hot in the hotel room...  
Cold. Feet in the sand at the beach.  
Crab beach.  
Seashore, on the other side of the tracks.

Dogs on the beach,  
Dog digs up a rock.  
"Go fetch!" I nervously said as  
I swam ashore. Too cold to say it.

Dead. Dead crabs litter the shoreline,  
all kinds of sizes, mainly quite small.  
One red claw entwined with seaweed.

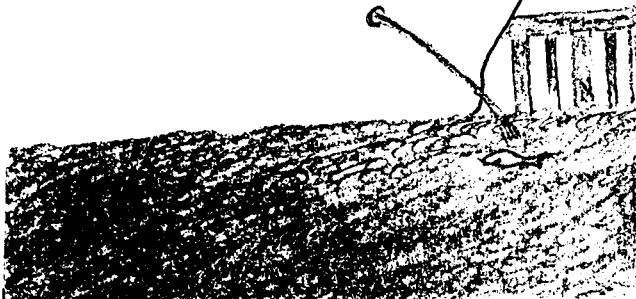
Cruiseship leaves a turmoilous wake of  
waves and deadly undertow. Canned aspirins  
and toilet paper swirls up to the surface.  
Diesel fuel fumes descend although  
close to the shore a windy breeze quickly  
takes care of these.

Ball playing allowed. Golfing too!  
Botchy ball and frisbees and one blue  
rubber ball for the dog.

Margaret wheels bye  
smiling now wave  
on my bike soon enough  
to brave traffic, tracks  
and fire trucks.

taum Danbye

AH, NOTHING FEELS  
BETTER THAN A  
GOOD LEAK.



Don't Change - Slow Change - No Change

We have been led to worry about an econ-  
omy & preserve it as is. It is not wise to  
protect an economic system that is destruc-  
tive to humanity and nature.

We have been led to fear major changes  
to the economy. It is not wise to fear ma-  
jor changes that might benefit humanity &  
nature.

We have been led to believe that wealth  
and possessions give security. It is not  
wise to believe that lifestyles of greed  
don't harm humanity and nature.

Peaches

This shows you the importance of keeping  
stocks up. Be sure to have always in store  
a goodly supply - 3 months' worth, say -  
of flour, sugar, tea, and bottled drinking  
water. And learn to dry your fruit & vege-  
tables. This way in the event of disaster  
- not the natural kind, but the human,  
I mean, the human catastrophe of  
neighbour upraised against neighbour -  
you should  
not need to race out between volleys in a  
daily laying-in of provisions.

Let this be a lesson to you to guard  
your children with dilligence, knowing now  
how small bodies accept the assassin's bul-  
let as an ideal target, given the extent  
of the damage inflicted. Be prepared with  
blankets, games, comic books, in case you  
need to keep the young concealed (although  
they could have committed no harm; even  
though the people who threaten them were  
friends, formerly). Also keep candles,  
matches, medicines and linens on hand.

This lets you see, then, that there well  
may be many more outside the walls than  
are in. And often those discovered and  
confined as 'afflicted' have depleted  
themselves. While the true madmen, for  
whom the fever of madness can only be re-  
lieved in the anguish of their nearest  
countrymen - local tyrannies - and whose  
family name might as easily be Irish,  
Khmer, as Serbian,  
are rarely stopped in time.

Anonymous



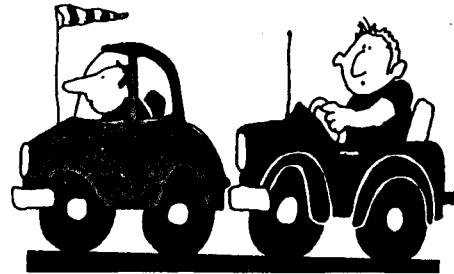
WHAT say Jack & May...

- As I lay dying the thought came to me so clearly: What criminal idiocy, what total bankruptcy contemporary society is in.
- Those are strong words!
- As I lay dying the impact & clarity were very strong, very sharp.
- But you weren't dying - you are still here, talking.
- I am dying - being killed minute by minute, hour by hour by contemporary society which, on the contrary, should be prolonging my life..if it were not criminally idiotic..if it were not totally bankrupt.
- How can you say that? Look what medicine is doing, look what great cities - like Vancouver - are demonstrating: huge buildings, more & more highways, automobiles everywhere, huge train-size delivery vans roving along every street & highway, banks everywhere, hospitals everywhere, mental institutions all around, police forces growing, armies fighting on all sides... so much going on.
- Precisely. Is not that proof of criminal idiocy? .. of bankruptcy?
- I don't get you. People come here from all over the world because of our wealth here - for a better, freer life.
- Precisely. Because their own homelands have been wrecked in order for these "world class cities" in the west & north to arise - highrise office buildings, huge convention centres, luxury hotels, condos, massive trading centres & trade exhibition halls..BUT
- But what?
- BUT the other side of the picture! Those "world class cities" are rotting at the core - every one of them - everywhere. At the core are people like me dying from lack of employment, induced by this social order; people mentally unbalanced, due to the frustrations of this order of society; people invalidated out, due to the labour conditions imposed by this society; people madly seeking escape from unresolvable living problems, taking to drugs & alcohol; people sleeping in the streets because homes are not being built & homes in the way of new highrises are being 'bombed'

down, forcing people into the street. New diseases never before known are appearing for which medical science has no answers - induced by aspects of the present social order, which rejects full employment & an opportunity for everyone willing & able to work to get access to the means of making a living....

- Yes, you're right. I often ask myself 'How can any individual or group have the right to exclude anybody from the right of access to making a living. And yet governments, already elected to serve the whole community, do not stop employers from denying those who alone can operate the productive capacity, because of their skill, access to the plants & machines that produce; & not only that, do not stop plants from being moved into other areas out of the country of their origin (where they were built by the labour of the people who are being fired).

- True; governments are elected to protect the welfare & interests of all the citizens. But we live in a highly competitive world - we have to be world class - to compete.



- Rubbish! As I lay dying from the impact of this social order on my life, I could see it all very clearly. People from all around the world are flocking to these big cities because they have been starved out of their homelands by the very corporations who are now closing down & moving plants from areas where their policies & practices disrupted & destroyed traditional ways of life. The so-called "competitiveness" of

contemporary society is simply transnational, corporate, international policy being carried out quite deliberately by means of the devious methods of hidden, private, secret double entry bookkeeping, which juggles allegedly 'sound' figures around to conceal world-wide deliberate devastation of people & natural resources. This is called "preserving cash flow".

- That's quite a mouthful. Come again?

- We here in America are now experiencing the full impact of capitalist, imperialist policies: our traditional way of life, from that of Native peoples of the longest standing (the Indians & Inuit) to that of the people of European origin of longest standing, to that of the most recent immigrants who have taken out citizenship - in short the entire Canadian traditional way of life - is being disrupted & rent to pieces by aggressive, intrusive & radically exploitative American multinational corporate capitalist greed & ruthlessness, and this with the eager co-operation of the Mulroneys in Ottawa.

We are being reduced systematically to a backward colonial asset & source for raw materials.

Idiocy & bankruptcy are the only terms for "doing in" people, "doing in" natural resources, "doing in" life itself: what for? CASH ASSETS my love - so nourishing, so soothing to the body, so helpful in keeping out the cold dontcha know?



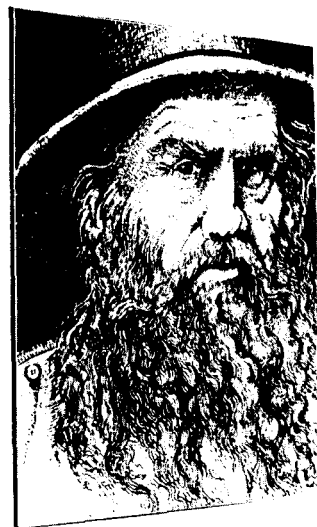
As Rita Johnston so clearly stated it in the debate with Mike Harcourt: "The figures Mike! The figures!" Mike was too smart for her..he didn't answer. The smoke & mirrors trick was all too obvious to him. As I understood him, he knew that it's real assets that life demands & what all people need. A miraculous cure for the disease of greed is

born in the exercise of people's real assets; doing this stands the current social order on its head resulting in true social justice for all. Needed is the will to try. -But, right here in BC? HOW?

- By backing every positive, democratic action of the NDP gov't that puts control on multinationals & corporate exploitation ..not just in words but in action. The transition from the current order to a just & free society is not an academic dream, but we have to start with what we have & with who we are.

- Hmm. Well, I'll think about it. You may have something there.

BNK



"In a few moments, the new war that the whole world is watching."

(BCTV newspeak - 21/8/92)

"God desires respect for the poor more than the honouring of the exalted."

(from The Instruction of Amen-em-Otep Egyptian, Thebes, 1000 b.c.)

"The life of the day before yesterday is that of any day."

(early Babylonian: tablets of Ur; 4000b.c)

"Come out, Come out" the bourgeois cry  
Hearing the poets rave  
"Come out and stand here by our side  
And sing the laws we gave."

The peoples' poets hear that voice  
And answer in their pride  
"The peoples' poets still are we  
By their laws we abide."

"Oh, sing of wealth & private gain  
And we will give you gold"  
So say the bourgeois to the bards  
So say they strong and bold.

"Oh, sing of wealth & private self,  
Sing ruthless enterprise,  
Sing us the song of profits strong  
And stocks that only rise."

So say the bourgeois to the bards  
Strong in their stocks and bonds  
They know the poets can not live  
Without their pence and pounds.

But still the bourgeois hear that voice  
Silver and strong and clear  
Singing a song they dare nor know  
And yet they needs must hear.

What are the words the poets sing  
What are the tales they tell?  
They sing of death and misery  
Of youth too soon grown old.

Bitter they sing of broken gomes  
Of homes destroyed..of war;  
Of homeless people, helpless youth  
Of millionaires, of masses - poor.

Of plants closed down and others fled  
To foreign lands, though built up here.  
They cry aloud in grief for dead  
That could have flourished without fear.

Except for bourgeois pride and greed  
That syphon off the cash we need  
To keep our families, feed our kids  
And have security that rids.

The mind and heart of endless dread,  
That cash abd jobs BRING US instead

Too soon, too fast to give us time  
To live throughout our working prime  
The bourgeois sucks our strength & brain  
Their only thought - their private gain.

But poets too sing out in pride  
Of battles won against distress  
They tell the tales of unions built  
Co-ops and creches, easing stress.

Of neighbourhoods that hold their own  
When rich men plan to tear them down.

These songs & tales the bourgeois hear  
Despite their will to block their ear  
And keep the fighting words that fly  
From winging far throughout the sky.

Proclaiming labour's will to live  
And flourish well in town, and where  
The farmers till the soil, and where  
The seamen sail, and fishers strive.

"Come out, come out!" - That cry is vain!  
The peoples' poets still remain  
The voice of men - and women too -  
Strong willed to make the world a-new

In line with nature's fine design  
That growth promotes, and life sustains;  
That moves the sun and brings the rain,  
Where laws, ratified, will define  
A happy life for all who work  
And share the good that hand and brain  
Bring into being, and attain  
(for all who do not shirk)

Peace and good will' and settled ways  
That move to love; that give what stays

"Come out, come out" the bourgeois cry  
Hearing the poets rave  
"Come out and stand here by our side  
And sing the laws we gave."

The peoples' poets hear that voice  
And answer in their pride  
"The peoples' poets still are we  
By their laws we abide."

We sing of wealth for all to share  
We sing of owrk, of homes secure  
And build a land of wealth and cheer  
We build a land of freedom - here.

Bea Ferneyhough



There are two Vancouvers, just as there are two of every North American city. The first Vancouver is made up of the rich & the Middle Class. The other Vancouver is made up of a hodge-podge of groups such as those on welfare, petty criminals, short-term unskilled workers, drug addicts & ex-convicts.

In the past, most women had all the appearance of being citizens of Vancouver I, but because of their gender were nevertheless denied full membership in that society. The Feminist movement seeks to change that.

Similarly, the gay liberation movement strives to gain a place for as many gays as possible in Vancouver I.

Almost all property & almost everything of value is owned by the citizens of Vancouver I. They & their counterparts across Canada also own the various governments, labour unions, churches, police forces, courts, jails & armed forces. All of these institutions exist to aid, comfort & carry out the wishes of Vancouver I.

I once came to the rescue of some women who were being harrassed by a man on Granville Street. The women took off in a cab leaving me holding this man down on the sidewalk. The police happened along, separated us & quizzed us. When they learned that I had a job, while the other man was on welfare, one policeman said to me, "That's what it's all about, isn't it?" They arrested him & hauled him away but sent me on my merry way. The point is that they took me for a citizen of Vancouver I because I had a job. The fact that he was on welfare made him part of Vancouver II & therefore he had to be in the wrong..I was unquestionably in the right.

The primary hob of the police is to protect the well-being & possessions of those who own almost everything from those who own almost nothing. Criminal courts & jail have the same primary purpose.

The citizens of Vancouver I evaluate themselves by contrasting themselves with those of Vancouver II. The alcoholic in Shaughnessy sips his Scotch & muses: "If I was really, seriously an alcoholic, I'd be down on Skid Row drinking Lysol." The unemployed union member is respectable on

Unemployment Insurance but cringes at the thought of it running out & the necessity of applying for welfare because he, like his associates, accepts that Social Assistance means an automatic loss of membership in Vancouver I & hence, just as automatic, reclassification into Vancouver II. The suburban housewife rejoices as she drops a can into the Food Bank collection box because that act so well emphasizes the wide gulf that separates her from those who stand in Food Bank lines.

The CCF political party was originally a child of the co-op movement. The main beneficiaries of the co-op movement, had it flourished, would have been the poor..its success would have been to the detriment of the rich. Therefore, the CCF never really got anywhere until it dumped the co-op idea & attached itself, as the NDP, to organized labour. Thus it became a Vancouver I type of party. Only then did it begin to succeed in elections.


Vancouver I citizens & their peers elsewhere do not provide welfare because they don't want the poor to go to bed hungry.

They don't do it out of love. They approve such programs because they keep the citizens of Vancouver II docile & submissive & out of the way. That is what Vancouver I types want because they are terribly aware of one fact - that those of Vancouver II, who own nothing, hold as hostage all of the properites & possessions owned by those who own everything. The greatest fear of Vancouver I citizens is that those of Vancouver II will realize that fact and get together to trash or take possession of it all.

The riots in Los Angeles & Toronto undoubtedly sent chills down the spines of many members of the owning classes & their aspirants because those riots quickly turned into orgies of looting & burning..more so than riots of the past.

One wonders if the handwriting is on the wall since those events. Will those who own nothing take collective action on future occasions to so act against those who own everything? Time will tell.

By ERIC ERICKSON



SALTY SAM'S HAVING A PARTY

Salty sam's party eyes  
iris wide open, jest jokes  
pecks (their all Stoopid (id))  
"You fucking pervert" shouts outta the street  
she says, "Yah, your always available!"  
But GOD is a fish, He wants Y O U  
3 girls thought they could  
He's having a party  
( Is why where so . . . . )  
" No! No! " shouts outta the street....



Taum Danbee

dead to the world dead to the world dead to hypocrisy  
daed to the death in me dead to the world  
dead to the world dead to the world  
dead to the government dead to the president dead to the artistry  
dea- to the freakout sea dead to the world  
dead to the world dead to the world dead to the bongo drum dead to  
the put down thumb dead to the factory to blue collar slavery  
dead ti administration to the real sick groovy nation dead to money  
to poison soaked in honey to multi multi multi millionaires get outa  
my hair to renting disney for a million a day to rooks glory daze  
dead to the world dead to the owrld dead to the gloriously weilded'  
razor sharp edge golden rule to legislated enforced school  
speakin' so nice give no water in your cup to suckin it up  
to preachers of varieties all kinds of notorieties  
dead to the world dead to the world dead to the world  
dead to the so so wise holy fool to the world of white disguise  
to white and black thinking blinders to no boundaries  
lying lips lying eyes to parents that don't speak for years months  
weeks or when they talk talk with threat belts and pain to all  
this stuff goin down the drain to crud that peaks in me to this  
sad sickening swirling sea to sin outside inside me dead to  
pulped trees disrespected slaughtered animals to polluted skies  
dead to the world dead to the world dead to the world  
dead give me a casket lay down and rise

Timothy Kirk

MIDLIFE CRISIS # 392

BY GARRY GUST

I'M RUNNING  
OUT OF  
TIME.



IT'S NOT  
OVER 'TIL  
IT'S OVER.



EASY FOR YOU  
TO SAY, YOU'RE  
JUST ILLUSION.



SO IS  
TIME.



HOW CAN YOU  
COMPARE  
MIRRORS & CLOCKS.



HOW CAN YOU  
COMPARE THE  
REST OF YOUR  
LIFE WITH TIME.



Joan Smallwood is a snail:

Sandy Cameron, in the last issue, complains of being labelled a "consumer", & blames this language-attitude on "big business"...he's right of course - but then we see Joan Smallwood in the same issue referring to those on welfare as "consumers" of social services.

Is our NDP gov't the same as "big business"? Not quite, but they're getting there. In fact Ms. Smallwood (I hesitate to call her "The Honourable") uses outrageously sanitized business language - the kind of sterilized, de-humanizing word images governments have deliberately used for decades to turn people off.

I think they do it on purpose. If an individual in public office knows they must make a show of responsibility but at the same time detests the philosophys of those they must communicate with, the solution to their dilemma is easily found by saying the right things in the wrong language. This is a method used by businessmen & governments to hold people off at arm's length, while covering their ass at the same time.

Here are some of Ms. Smallwood's phrases taken out of context: "Ongoing dialogue, vested interest, professionals in the field, special interest advocacy, consumers of our services, members of the tax-paying public, establish an advisory council, "support of my colleagues, approach my colleague, position papers on the administration, reviewing further options, in-put to date," etc.

Ms. Smallwood says, "I also believe people need to be empowered so that they can view themselves as consumers of our services"...it's just possible that Joan Smallwood, the human being, has been writing & speaking this way for so long that she couldn't do otherwise even if her political career depended on it. I think this is a far greater tragedy than just being on welfare.

TORA

Glen Clark is a shark:

Everyone has heard by now of the tragic accident in Nanaimo where a ferry pulled away from the dock while cars were still loading. It killed a mother & her daughter & seriously injured 4 other members of the family. Visibly disturbed witnesses appeared on the video, demanding justice.

After the BC Ferry Corporation's lawyers had prevented the police from questioning the crew members responsible, 5 other incidents of unsafe docking practices were dredged up to be investigated simultaneously with this case. This conveniently turned the focus of the situation away from the terrible crime committed by negligent staff & instead made the issue a general one of public safety - i.e. How can we improve your ferry service?

Instead of punishment for criminal negligence, the issue is being turned into a public relations bid by BC Ferries. - For me, the final confirmation of this came when I witnessed the Attorney General Glen Clark\* on television, saying he would not defend the Ferry corporation "if they were wrong"...that's what he said.

(\*Glen Clark is the Finance Minister; Colin Gableman is Attorney General - Ed.)

Now everyone knows without a doubt that the boat pulled away while the cars were still loading!...No one denies this - also, no one can deny that these deaths & injuries were a direct result of this fact.

But Clark says "...if they were wrong!"...how wrong can they get, Glen?...We know you always choose your words carefully when appearing on camera, & that you always comb your hair & shine your shoes & take great pains to appear to be a fair & just Attorney General - but this is ridiculous. I think the captain & crew should be held under water for 15 minutes themselves, just to see how they like it.

TORA

## THE TOWERS

The old invisible verticals, motion only apparent when it occurs sideways - self as some kind of tower without levels, without floors. Boundaries visible, but the vibrating column of air is impatient and unnamed, fingerless.

Luminescent trees of dark thirty - poles like stripped supports for some huge building, some forgotten, decayed institution - only the whites left, symbols of a new, cleaner sparser method of exchange. And another light begins to spill; whiter, warmer, full of sound, traffic moving in & around. In all these residences the variegated breakfast smells rise & fall. Soon, there will come the harsh, clean odors of cleansers, & radio noise.

I remember one morning in the bookstore where I worked, listening to the radio news, wondering when the snow would come, December 7, 1989.

A colder wind came down the nervous street. All that lost natural medicine, all the forgotten necessities of the green & vibrant world, which it has taken so many centuries to bury, seemed set to

invade the city from the distant hills, seemed poised to repossess us.

It was only wishful thinking, however. This sterile, blood-mad & empty hungering is our inheritance. I remember the witch & I love the witch, but we will no longer accomplish the simplest love in this place. The sacrifices that are necessary, which are not sacrifices of others but of our obscene privilege, are everywhere made more & more unlikely, more & more convulsive; less & less do they appear to make sense or even to be other than futile, for no context remains for them.

Where community is, real community, there possibly one can ask the right questions & act upon this knowledge.

Empty towers, vibrating columns of nameless, interchangeable air.

I wonder if anything can ever be impossible again: if perhaps the unbound & consequently unfrustrated & disinherited self can, in its freedom, choose exile from those precarious, deadly towers... then the horror may not be our final, choking declaration.

By DANIEL FEENEY

## Native Self Government

Nature does have a certain capacity for repairing itself from the damage caused by humanity. Unfortunately, humanity's appetite for resources along with a self-determined, presumed adequate program to repair the environment is not adequate enough.

Nature's ability to repair and replenish is being severely curtailed by humanity's inability to extract resources of necessity without disturbing the natural order.

To prevent the crippling of nature, a certain balance must be achieved. One of the most important purposes of native self government is to teach and promote the changes needed to bring about the balance between nature and humanity.

The native peoples believe that the industrial revolution has created positive & beneficial technologies and these achieve-

ments should be and can be progressed upon without severely damaging nature. For too many years the advances of industrialization have not been very civil. Many environmental problems were overlooked and now everybody and everything on the planet suffers because of the short-sightedness.

Native self-government is a positive step toward helping their peoples.

Who is going to help the rest of society?

Perhaps the next step to take should be to welcome and allow the native peoples to apply their abilities to prove that properly maintained industry and nature can co-exist. But would they go for it?

If we are fortunate, the window of opportunity might open for the rest of us to learn something from the wisdom of the native peoples.

By PETER BALDASSI

*Really*  
 THE NICE UNDERGROUND GUYS  
 IN A SECRET TUNNEL UNDER THE CARNEGIE CENTRE

by *Dora Sanders*

THE MEETING WILL COME TO ORDER  
 You all know why your here I hope.



We are goin' to rescue drunks and dopers who pass out on our streets. Make them invisible to the video cameramen out to make everybody think all welfare recipients are like them.



Good, you got it. Louie will give you your uniforms. We wanna blend with the street people but stand out so that the drunk or doper won't mark us for spys.



Hey! Get up!  
 Guys with video cameras are coming to show what you look like passed out on the sidewalk. Hey! The Cops!



Huh!!!!!!  
 What?! What!? Where? Hey I don't see any Cops.



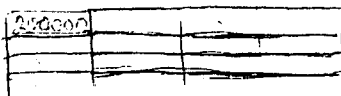
Come on. We don't want you on tv. Hear what I'm saying. We don't want no welfare Wed. guys caught on video. Move.



THE MEETING WILL COME TO ORDER  
 You all know why your here I hope.



Yea. We bought the videos of ordinary Wed. Welfare recipients paying their rents, their bills and trying to buy a few groceries with whats left.



And I got videos of those same recipients at food banks and soup lines. These should bore the tv stations to pieces but their more real.



*Dora Sanders*

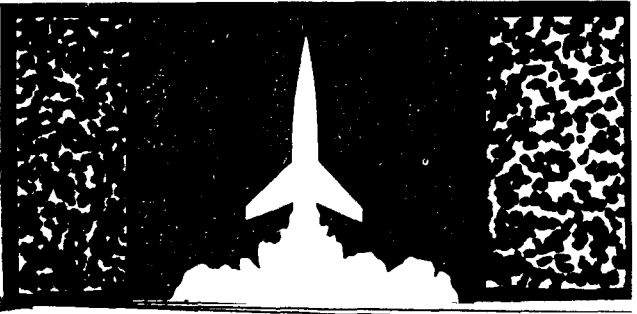
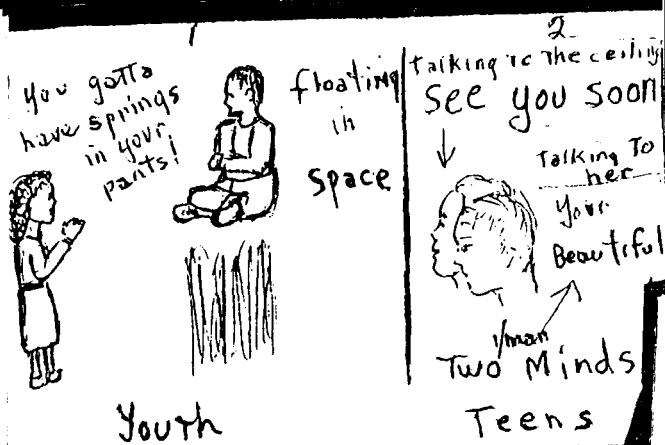
WASP, GRASSHOPPERS  
 TWO CRABS STRUGGLING  
 wasp, grasshoppers  
 two crabs struggling in the sand  
 one found shade  
 the other might of perished  
 but I took both of 'em to the water's edge  
 next wave wept them away  
 Gone Home.

Taum Danbee

Okay, now start writing  
 Your mother's life is  
 on the line.  
 First Nations  
 Never Surrender.

Elizabeth Thorpe





Bush Statue Committee  
 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C.

Dear Friend,  
 We have the distinguished honor of being on a committee for raising \$5 million for placing a statue of George Bush in the Hall of Fame in Washington. D.C.  
 This committee was in a quandry - where to place the statue. It was not wise to place it beside the statue of George Washington, who never told a lie, nor beside Richard Nixon, who never told the truth, since Bush could never tell the difference.

We finally decided to place it beside Christopher Columbus, The Greatest of them all. He left not knowing where he was going & upon arriving didn't know where he was. He returned not knowing where he had been, & did it all on borrowed money.

Over 5000 years age Moses said to the children of Israel, "Pick up your shovels, mount your asses & camels, and I'll lead you to the Promised Land." Nearly 5000 yrs later, Roosevelt said, "Lay down your shovels, sit on your asses, light up a Camel, this is the Promised Land."

Now Bush is stealing your shovels, kicking your asses, raising the price of your Camels & mortgaging the Promised Land. If you are one of the fortunate people who has any money left after paying taxes, we will expect a generous donation as a contribution to this worthwhile project.

I.M.Dunn, Secretary.

P.S.: It is said that President Bush is considering changing the Republican Party emblem from an elephant to a condom. It stands for inflation, protects a bunch of pricks, halts production & gives a false sense of security while one is being screwed.

REALITY IS IN THE EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

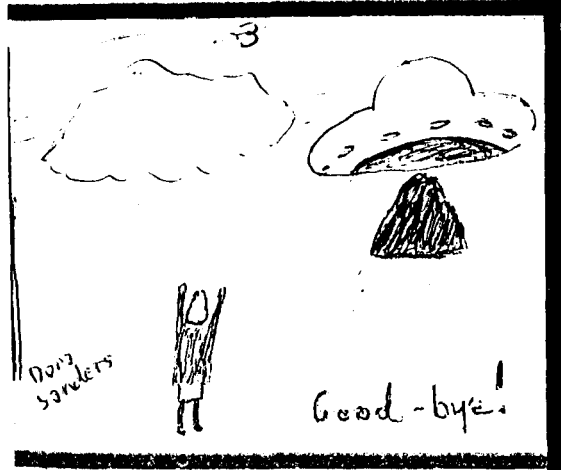
She claims to have been Visited by a human being From Outer Space

In fact, in her case Three different times Once in youthful climes Once at a teen dance And during divorce evidence?

"Why me?" she asks, wondering, sadly  
 "Why?" I tell her gladly  
 "So that you can proclaim That they are here Hiding up there!"

What choice does she have in her claim?  
 But to shout her belief  
 The truth. Believe. Believe.

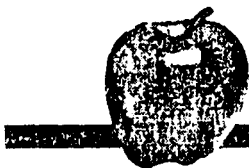
Dora Sanders



'Dear Folks' seems kind of corny; maybe it will get you to read this through. Free Trade is a sordid tale of what "the fix is on" & "the prospects for peace are awful" mean. This article appeared in 5 parts in a weekly paper called The Georgian in Stephenville, Nfld. As a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) may become law, it is important that brainwashing & lies & corporate media propaganda not be allowed to bullshit people as it did in 1988.

PRT

## *bobbing for apples*



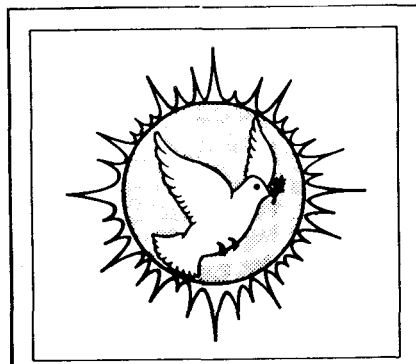
### Free Trade (Part 1): The history

The Independent, a self-described journal for thoughtful Canadians, published an interview with David Orchard, chairman of Citizens Concerned About Free Trade (CCAFT). It was first printed in 1989 after the Free Trade Agreement between Canada & the US became law. The Independent recently printed a second interview with Orchard, who is a farmer in Saskatchewan.

Orchard paints a scary picture of Canada which he describes as an underdeveloped colony with vast potential to become a great & independent nation, but has no organised leadership to accomplish that.

The U.S. has always held a concept of Manifest Destiny - that it was the American destiny to control all of North America. The only country that has invaded Canada militarily is the US, propelled by its Manifest Destiny idea. It invaded during the American Revolution in 1775, capturing Montreal & being defeated in Quebec City. It invaded in the War of 1812 & was stopped by an alliance of Canadians & Aboriginal people. In 1870, American Fenians invaded & were stopped by Louis Riel and his Metis army.

Military options were clearly not work-



ing, so the Americans began attempting to invade economically, through free trade deals. Canada had its first free trade election in 1891, says Orchard. The American Senate passed a bill for commercial union with Canada & pressured the Liberal Party to adopt a policy of "full & unrestricted reciprocity." American money flowed into Canada to support the Liberals during the election, but the personality of Canada's 1st prime minister, Sir John A. MacDonald, succeeded in defeating the deal & winning the election.

In 1911 the Americans again negotiated a deal with the Liberal Party to support a free trade agreement. Under pressure from Canadian citizens' groups & business leaders, the Conservatives under Robert Borden opposed the deal & won the election.

In 1891, free trade was defeated by a margin of 4% of the vote. In 1911 it was defeated by three per cent.

Around 1985 the US again approached Canada about a free trade deal. (The Trilateral Commission was & is the engineering force - Ed.) A popular misconception (says Orchard) is that the Canadian gov't approached the US. Not true, but the Americans knew it would fail if Canadians knew it was an American proposal. So then-American ambassador to Canada Paul Robinson pushed Canadian big business organization (many Canadian in name only) to support free trade.

Around the same time, the Toronto Star published a secret gov't document outlining strategy to promote free trade. The

gov't believed the higher profile the issue attained, the less likely it'd be approved by the public. Strategy, therefore, was to avoid educating the public about the deal & just try to sell the idea that it was a good initiative.

It also called for Prime Minister Brian Mulroney to avoid mentioning job losses, to discredit opposition MPs who raised concerns about the deal, & to isolate groups opposed to the talks.

"Benign neglect from the majority of Canadians may be the realistic outcome of a well-executed communications program."

When the Mulroney gov't finally succumbed to public pressure & held an election in the fall of 1988, it was basically a referendum on the Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

In that election, says Orchard, the deal was defeated by Canadians. Some 55% voted for parties opposed to the deal, while 43% voted for the Tories & free trade.

The 12% margin was the largest ever Canadian vote against free trade. When the NDP & the Liberals gave up the fight against free trade because the Tories had won a majority of seats in the House of Commons, they betrayed the majority of Canadians who had voted for them to oppose the deal.

### Free Trade (Part 2): The Deal

David Orchard & CCAFT felt Mulroney's government was purposely keeping Canadians in the dark about free trade before the 1988 election. So it produced Free Trade: The Full Story to inform Canadians about the dangers of the deal.

That 43% of voters in the '88 election voted Tory seems to indicate that at least 43% of the voters didn't read this book.

With the deal the US is going ahead with its self-proclaimed destiny without the mess of war & it has powerful allies within Canada, including our political leaders. As Orchard says: "Canada agrees to a one-way sharing of energy with the US. All forms of energy are included in the deal - oil, gas, uranium, electrical energy, coal & water. Canada agreed to never charge the US more for energy than it charges Canadians (art.903 & 904). In art.904 we also agreed that, in the event of a shortage we must share our energy with the US in the

same proportion it was taking before, even if we don't have enough to supply Canada. The US doesn't agree to share its energy.

Energy was the one thing Canada had to compete with the US with, says Orchard. The States has climate & a bigger population, but energy could have been used to make Canada a major industrial competitor. Not anymore.

The agreement also eliminates regulations that stated Canadian companies couldn't sell energy to the US for substantially less than what the Americans would have paid from domestic sources. While that sounds like it created a free & fair market, the reality is that the Canadian companies are subsidiaries of American parent corporations & they can now sell Canada's energy to themselves for as little as they want.

In Chapter 17 we give away our banks says Orchard. Before Free Trade none of our federally licenced banks or financial institutions, including the 5 major banks, could be more than 25% foreign-owned; foreign banks operating in Canada could not contr-

ol more than 16% of domestic banking assets in Canada. Now American banks (under art.1703) can take over 100% of Canadian banks. Canada changed 12 of its banking laws under the agreement.

"Once we lose control of our banks, this will be the nail in the coffin for Canada because once our banks are foreign controlled they will owe their allegiance not to the Canadian gov't but to the gov't in Washington," writes Orchard.

Canada is already the most foreign dominated of any of the industrialised countries in the world, most of it American owned. Article 1602 prevents us from screening any new American investment, from insisting that Americans use any local resources, industries or labour, or from favouring Canadian companies in any way through gov't contracts, grants or taxation policies.

A similar arrangement exists in the service industry sector as a whole, which accounts for 70% of the jobs in the country & includes everything apart from primary & secondary industry. The list of

△ services included in the FTA (over 100 pages of the document) covers anything you can think of in, to name a few, the food, beverage, drug, tobacco, banking, tourism, real estate, entertainment, insurance, health & social services, printing & publishing, agriculture, construction & building trades industries...

(Orchard notes that there's a curious exemption from the list - the lawyers drafting it removed themselves from the final text.)

The deal forces individual provinces in Canada to treat American corporations as if they come from that province, while still allowing discrimination against other Canadian provinces.

One of Mulroney's big selling points of free trade was that it'd exempt Canada from US fair trading laws & give Canada secure access to American markets. Well, says Orchard, that didn't happen. Under the FTA the US retained all its trade law against Canada & reserves the right to make them tougher if they so choose.

So the US gets the right to act against any Canadian imports any time it wants. What does Canada get? The right to appeal to a panel any trade ruling the States may make. But the panel has no power to enforce any of its rulings & can only rule on whether the States has broken any of its own laws.

"If the Americans are going to ignore World Court rulings at The Hague (when it ruled against the US mining of harbours in Nicaragua) I don't know what makes Mr. Mulroney think the Americans are going to listen to a toothless panel with two Canadians sitting on it, telling them what to do about their trade law."

#### Free Trade (Part 3): The aftermath

Free Trade was sold to Canadians (although 55% opted not to buy) on promises of increased prosperity. Mulroney promised it'd bring new wealth & new jobs. In actual fact jobs are vanishing at the rate of 2,000 a day, says Orchard. In March '91 Orchard said Canada had lost 290,000 factory jobs - close to 15% of the manufacturing sector. In a recent conversation Orchard said it's now 500,000

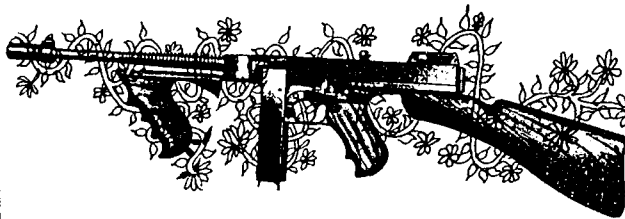
jobs..about 20% of the manufacturing sector. These losses are permanent, he says, & not a result of the recession.

Free trade will bring more investment to Canada which will make the country grow.. was another promise. In fact, American branch plants are pulling out of Canada & Canadian investment is going south to buy or build plants in the States. Some 96% of new American investment since free trade are takeovers of existing Canadian companies. In 1989, the first year of the deal, takeovers of Canadian companies were up 400%, mostly by American corporations.

Personal & business bankruptcies also increased sharply in the first 2 FTA-years.

Canadians were also promised secure, unrestricted access to American markets. Instead, says Orchard, we have faced more trade harassment than before. Steel, durum wheat, fish, lobsters, pork, softwood, ice cream, raspberries, yogurt, beer, potatoes & other exports have faced trade actions & border harassment.

We were supposed to get cheaper services & goods. However, prices in '89 rose more than at any time in the previous 4 years. On top of it the GST has added 7% (more in Nfld, since the prov.gov't taxes the GST) to almost every transaction in Canada.



The GST comes from free trade, says Orchard, partly as a means to replace the \$7 billion lost to the gov't in tariff revenues (removed under free trade), & partly as a result of Canada removing the Manufacturers' Sales Tax to bring corporate tax in line with that in the US.

Any cheaper goods are being bought in the States through cross-border shopping.

Free Trade was supposed to increase trade, making Canada & Canadians richer. When the negotiations began, Canada sold \$20billion more in goods than we bought. That surplus has dropped to almost zero, while the def-

icit in services has increased all over.

Agriculture is another sad story for Canada. We produce 5 times more wheat than we can consume, yet we have begun to import American wheat to make our bread. Why? Because US wheat is closer to central Canada flour mills, which will buy the cheaper US wheat while Canadian wheat goes wasted for lack of markets, says Orchard.

Canada is facing the systematic destruction of its ability to be self-sufficient in food, a phenomenon seen in other US-dominated countries. As examples, Orchard cites Iran (a major wheat producer that began to import American wheat under the Shah's regime) & Vietnam (which began importing American rice during the Vietnam War despite being the rice basket of the world).

"The FTA has given the US the kind of control over the Canadian economy it was only able to secure in other countries by military intervention," writes Orchard.

It has also affected our foreign policy, he maintains, although Mulroney promised it wouldn't. Orchard finds it odd that Canada joined the Organization of American States (a body we had always avoided because of its domination by the US) in the same year that free trade began.

Then we supported the American invasion of Panama, although it was a violation of international law. Then we turned around & supported the American-led war against Iraq, sending Canadian warships & aircraft

to the Persian Gulf to operate under direct American command.

Perhaps more disturbing, the announcement of our involvement in the Gulf was made by the American Secretary of State 2 hours before Mulroney stated the fact.

"The growing US control of Canadian foreign policy stems directly from American control of our economy, writes Orchard.

#### Free Trade (Part 4): Mexico

In 1990, Mexican president Carlos Salinas announced Mexico would be negotiating a free trade agreement with the United States. Like Mulroney, Salinas repeatedly said before Mexico's 1988 election that he was against free trade with them. (He lost the election, had his soldiers seize ballot boxes, murder opponents, & declared himself the winner - Ed.)

Mexico, like Canada, has a tenuous relationship with the States.

Last year Rafael Mondragon, A Mexican social justice advocate, visited Nfld to spread the work of Mexican opposition to free trade with the US. He talked about Mexico's historical relationship with the States. The US has taken over 50% of Mexico's territory (including California & Texas) over the last 2 centuries. The States has also intervened militarily in Mexico over 400 times.

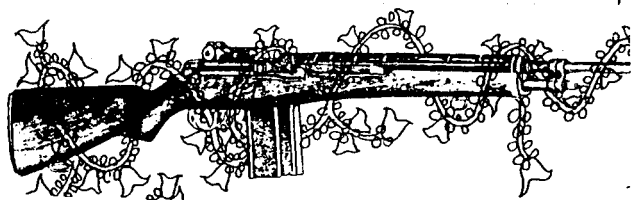
Free Trade with Mexico would complete the US's Manifest Destiny of control over North America. The big appeal to them of getting Mexico into a North American free trade zone is its cheap labour. Mexico has 20 million people unemployed or under employed.

Liam Grayer of CCAFT puts it this way: "(The Mexican gov't) proposes to turn Mexico into a 'free market' sweat shop, selling Mexico's people as near slave labour to American & Canadian companies. Mexico's place in the American empire will be as supplier of cheap labour, complementing Canada's role as resource cow"

Mulroney continues his role as America's flunky. In March 1990 he went to Mexico praising the effect of free trade on Canada's economy, saying it has created over 200,000 jobs.

Statistics provided by the CCAFT & Mel Hurtig in his book The Betrayal of Canada about how many jobs have been lost would indicate Mulroney is lying. I know this comes as a shock (sic) but we must face reality.

Free Trade has been bad for Canada, and the inclusion of Mexico would make it worse. "A free trade agreement with Mexico would finish off whatever secondary



manufacturing industries that were able to survive the FTA." (Orchard)

It seems like a reasonable conclusion. Orchard points out that businesses will have a choice of setting up in Canada and paying \$8 to \$15 an hour, plus vacation pay, social & health benefits & education taxes - or setting up in Mexico & paying 60¢ an hour with virtually no benefits or union protection. Tough decision to make for a business.

But this isn't just about protecting the already ravaged Canadian manufacturing industry. It is, more importantly, about protecting quality of life & human rights in Mexico.

Farael Mondragon has worked as a social activist in Mexico for over 20 years, largely on behalf of Mexico's exploited Indian population in a climate of increasing incarceration, torture & assassination. He has seen friends killed for their political activities & been imprisoned himself. He continues to speak out because his message is important. So don't dismiss him as a paranoid crank.

Mexico has had a small foretaste of free trade with the US through its maquila factories. The American-owned factories pay between 40 & 60¢ an hour to Mexican workers who produce individual parts of larger products. The parts are then shipped to the States where they are assembled & sold as an American product at American prices.

The factories are not subject to environmental restrictions & get away with polluting that wouldn't be allowed in the US or Canada.

The Mexican gov't has a neat, but illegal practice of firing unionised employees who ask for higher wages, then re-open the factory the next day with new employees. This does not apply to the maquila factories, however, since the workers in them are not unionized.

A free trade deal will hurt the environment, endanger Mexico's sovereignty & increase human rights abuses there.

#### Free Trade (Part 5):

It seems obvious that free trade with the States has had, to understate, a harmful

effect on Canada's economy. But what we, as Canadians, have to come to terms with is that the Free Trade Agreement essentially proclaims the demise of Canada as an independent country; an independence we have only had a tentative hold on since the 1920s when lowering of tariffs began to erode our manufacturing industry.

But free trade is in line with the international spirit of the time. Look at Europe, knocking down its national barriers to allow for more efficient economic interaction. Look at Mexico (or its gov't) clamouring to become a part of a North American free trade zone. (& Central America & South America - the transnational corps.)

The argument that Canada should promote free trade because most other countries are doing it ignores the real question of who benefits?

From the evidence it'd seem in Canada large corporations, already mostly American owned, are the only ones benefitting from free trade.

I suspect the same results will come from liberalised trade around the world. The economic elites in each country will benefit enormously & they'll try to convince everyone else that we all benefit.

Because communism proved ineffectual economically, the Cold War has ended. The US is promoting a new world of peace & security. That peace & security, however, will apply mostly to ensure an efficient international economy, while economic warfare is waged against the vast majority of the world's population.

Perhaps this gives a more real picture of the new world order. Statistics indicate that under the conservative regimes of Reagan & Bush over the past 10 years, lower & middle class Americans've lost large percentages of their real income. In contrast, the real incomes of the richest 1% of Americans have increased by some astronomical amount.

So free trade may bring us cheaper beer. That's great. It will also bring us (we have already seen the beginnings) lousy medicare, & unlivable unemployment rates & welfare assistance.

What's to be done? The first thing'd be to end the FTA. The deal has a clause

whereby either the US or Canada can get out of it with six months notice.

How can that be accomplished? By defeating the Tory gov't currently in power.

For the Citizens Concerned About Free Trade that means convincing the Liberals & the NDP to form a coalition in the next election whereby they don't run candidates against each other, to avoid splitting the vote as they did last time. (No one is so stupid as to ask Reform - Ed.)

Remember that 55% of Canadian voters voted against free trade in the '88 election, but because the opposition parties split the vote the Tories ended up with a huge majority of seats in the House of Commons. They took that as a mandate to go ahead with free trade, & neither the NDP nor the Liberals said much about it.

A coalition seems unlikely & free trade slips from the political agenda in light of Quebec & the Constitution.

By CHISHOLM POTHIER

\*\*\* Big business has put enough money into the Liberal Party to ensure that either they or the Tories will continue free trade. Chretien & the party leaders (at Alymer, Quebec) agreed to buy into the corporate agenda, making the official platform one of "renegotiation"...like saying you're going to change a flat on a car going 90 miles an hour over a cliff. The Reform Party is more big business oriented than the Tories. Under its skin of public relations & image & speeches is a real danger to basic justice & freedom for most Canadians. They represent the lunatic fringe elements of society.

The NDP has an official policy of abrogating the FTA. The Tories don't give a shit about who has been hurt; they're gung-ho for the NAFTA & are quite willing to be mouthpieces for their corporate bosses. Passing the FTA was just their first step in a corporate blueprint for changing Canada from an independent country to a colony of US transnationals.

One food effect of all this is profound committment & action from growing numbers of formerly apathetic or indifferent people in Mexico, the US & Canada.

Greed & uncaring arrogance are mental diseases. It's simple - we want justice, not charity... fair trade. PRT

ILLUSTRATION BY SUSAN MAJOR



Dear Readers,

These final Indian summer days get me out of this body of cells. So, from deep in the heart of this cell-block living, I bring you up-to-date on my '92 July Journal, before I start serving this life sentence unloking this prison for the public-at-large to bring you humor from the best Medicine Man...

"I appear below for what the fool has to say to u-all, for breaking out of my Cellie on parole on July 2, 1992. Was awakened by things using my hair to swing up to the bedtop, screeching! Looked & 2 baby mice were using my hair to swing up & try to grab hold of my plastic bag pastry tied on the head of my bed, holding raisin bread goodies. To & fro they were swinging all night waking me into reality & cutting my hair off in the morning. Now I'm the Bald Eagle Chief-of-Staff. Don't make a fool out of me.

Your fool, Richard Horsefall

# NAFTA - the North American Free Trade Agreement

NO! ...Don't sign it!

Hear

**Maude Barlow**

(Chair of the Council of Canadians)

and

**Tony Clarke**

(Chair of the Action Canada Network)

talk about...

- The record of Canada-U.S. Free Trade: Hundreds of thousands of jobs lost
- Economic and political alternatives to NAFTA
- An election strategy to oppose NAFTA

**Friday, September 11**

7:30 p.m. Free

SFU Harbour Centre  
515 West Hastings, Room 1900

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