D.E.W.DROP IN DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

DECEMBER 1997



THERE WILL BE NO **CHRISTMAS AT THE CENTRE**

Instead we will be having our Christmas Celebrations in a Hall at 475 Alexander St. No tickets needed

In past we have always had our Christmas dinners at the Centre. Everyone is expected to rush through their dinners, get their gifts and hampers and leave the Centre, within minutes. It has not been a very Festive occasion, staff members have felt uncomfortable herding women in and out of the Centre like on a conveyor belt. So this year we are doing something completely different. We have rented a hall at 475 Alexander Street, between Dunlevy and Jackson just next to the Jim Greene Residence, for the occasion. There will be a van shuttle from the Centre to the hall for women who do not feel safe walking there or if women are not familiar with the location.

In the hall there is room for everyone to sit down and have a relaxed meal with friends and family. We have also arranged for entertainment for the event, Ellen Anton and the Tradational Mothers Dance and other Special Guests. At the celebration we will be giving out gifts for all women and children as usual. Food hampers will be available at the Centre on Christmas Eve. Please pass the word around and we'll see you there.

DECEMBER 4 ART PROJECT LAUNCH

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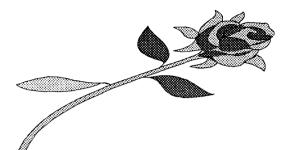
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This is the project where women from the Centre were given disposal cameras and asked to take pictures that represented their experiences. Some of the photos from this project will be made displayed in bus shelters through out Vancouver in the month of December. On December 4 there will be a launching of the posters created, there will be city officials and media personell.

WOMEN'S CENTRE 10:00 AM

ALL CENTRE MEMBERS ARE INVITED. There will be men present in the Centre.

> SPEAKERS EXPECTED GUESTS INCLUDE AN INVITATION TO THE MAYOR



DECEMBER 6th

This year on Dec.6, the National Monument Marker of Change will be unveiled at 2pm in Vancouver's Thornton Park. The monument names the 14 women murdered in 1989 at Montreal's L'Ecole Polytechnique and is a symbol of peace and remembrance dedicated to all women murdered by men. Speakers at the Unveiling Ceremony will include human rights activist Rosemary Brown: Marker of Change artist Beth Alber: and Suzanne Laplante Edward. mother of Anne -Marie Edward. Other family members of some of the 14 women will also be in attendance.

"It is especially significant for women that this memorial has been conceived as a gathering place, where vigils and services can be held, where ceremonies and public awareness campaigns can be centered on the profound and continuing grief that we share with each other because women's lives remain at risk." Sue Hammell,MLA,Minister of Women's Equality. Members of the public are encouraged to bring a flower for the ceremony and a mug for hot beverages. Thornton Park is next to the Main Street Skytrain station at Main St. and Terminal.



This is a new feature of the DEW DROP IN, there will be brief notes of issues discussed in Women's Voice meetings, including comments from staff and where possible Steering Committee members. Please try to remember that this is a forum for discussion not decisions or policy.

Nov. 6

Anyone who stays for group dinners should stay for the meetings, this includes staff, Steering Committee members and volunteers. Barb Grey presented a letter relinquishing her duties as a Volunteer, and Workshop Facilitator. Her reasons are because she feels that it is sometimes hard for some people to define the lines between the positions. She will continue her responsibilities as a Steering Committee member. She also recommended Maggie as the Women's Voice Rep. to Steering and Staff meetings.

Volunteer Orientation, how is it going? Concerns were raised regarding favoritism, some volunteers were doing the same jobs. Women thought duties were to be assigned and rotated. There was a question raised Continued on the next page. about the need for kitchen volunteers to have their Food Safe Certificates. The kitchen Supervisor is away on sick leave so she will not be able to answer our concerns. One woman brought up the issue of the kitchen staff being rude, when she asked for a meal after serving time. The kitchen staff got angry because the woman approached the office staff. In another incident the woman did not finish the food on her plate and the kitchen staff got angry. The concern is that the kitchen staff are over worked.

Is it possible to have Medical based workshops on an ongoing basis especially on issues dealing with Women's Health.

In groups sometimes women interrupt others while they are speaking. Facilitators often allow this to continue. It was recommended that the Group Norms be respected.

Is it possible to have packaged hot cereals or cold cereals. Concerned about the sugar fix in the morning.

Some volunteers are treated badly when they are trying to clean the centre. Centre guidelines should be read at least twice a week.

Some women are really overloading themselves with items from our clothing room while many women have to go without. These are the guidelines; each woman gets 10 minutes in the CR and entitled to 10 items. Volunteers are asked to adhere to the guidelines.

There was gas smells in the Centre. Please investigate.

Air freshners recommended for the bathrooms. There were aerosol freshners purchased and they will be kept in the kitchen; please ask the kitchen staff for some and remember to return it. Also recommended Bounce for the dryers.

By the way the Steering Committee has Oked the purchase of an industrial dryer for the Centre. Unfortunate it will be awhile because there needs to be some electrical work to be done first.

Nov. 13

Volunteers had a meeting and elected Denise Stilwell as the Volunteer Rep. to Women's Voice.

Concerns were raised about kitchen volunteers and staff not following Food Safe Guidelines, especially about handling food with bare hands.

The barring policy is inconsistently applied depending on individual staff members. Please follow the policy.

Women from the Centre are concerned about staff absences to outside meetings and training. Women want accountability . Women also want to have access to training money and possibly to attend training and

meetings with staff.

Staff should be courteous to visitors to the Centre. There was an incident where a staff member refused to see some visitors who were Mental Health Nurses because they did not have an appointment.

The kitchen should give out any extras such as muffins.

How about one more meal per week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. And potatoes instead of rice.

Women are concerned that nothing is being done to get Christmas Gifts for women. We do have plans to get collection sites in various offices and business and Organizations and individuals have committed to contribute.

Nov. 20

Women were disappointed that nothing was in place in the Centre for Addiction Awareness Week.

Volunteer should wear gloves when packaging unwrapped sanitary napkins. Also could we get a box of Attends for emergencies. Would like to have videos on Cheque Day and Holidays. Also is it possible to have popcom and hot chocolate. Please. Steering Committee members should have the meal with the groups before their meetings instead of having separate meals.



Women receiving childcare money should get the money after the group. This is so that they do not leave early.

Volunteers are meeting on Dec. 10, they would like to get more information about Centre objectives from S.C. and Staff. We should be sharing information every 4 months, possibly on Cheque Day. B.C. Children's Day, what kinds of

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projects/resources/services can we provide. It was recommended that we establish one day per month to focus on the needs of children. We could address certain issues such as; discpline, Rights, education etc. Saturday recommended. Possibly in conjunction with Crabtree.

SOME THOUGHTS ON COURTESY (my own opinion) - Maureen

1 am finding myself increasingly frustrated lately with the lack of respect we sometimes display towards each other. I am speaking not only of women who use the centre, but staff

 and steering committee members as well.
 When a woman comes into my office for advocacy, I am often interrupted by someone who also wants to see me. Sometimes people will just open the door, without knocking, and

start talking, unconcerned about the feelings of both myself and the woman in my office. This also happens when I am on the

telephone. I can be in the middle of a conversation, and someone will just open the door and try to engage me in another conversation. This is very frustrating. I have
a sheet posted on the outside of my door for woman who wish to see me. If I am with someone, please put your name on the list, and I will get to you as soon as I am able to.

As my office is very small, and also very hot at times, I will often confer with a woman with the door open, if the issue is not too personal and she's fine with that. If you see the door open, I would still appreciate an "excuse me" if you absolutely need to interrupt (as in an emergency.)

I've had the pleasure of filling in as floorworker recently, and appreciate how hectic this job can be at times, especially when we are full to capacity, and people are lining up for their lunches. We are aware that woman are hungry and get impatient with each other when jostling in line. I recently had a horrible experience while serving food to the elders. I was being harassed by a woman in the line, who took issue with elders being served at the table. Some women asked what it was they had to do to get served at the table. I was in no position to explain our policy at that time, as it was completely packed in here with hungry women, and everyone wanted to eat. As I made my way from table to table with lunch travs. I was literally grabbed by women who wanted serving first. Not only is this extremely rude, but I was imagining that either I or someone else was going to end up with hot soup spilled on their body. I was also asked by one woman who seated herself, when she was going to be served because she was "a senior too you know." We try to do our best here at lunch, and get just as frustrated with the lack of space and long line ups. I've noticed as well that the kitchen staff are

treated quite rudely at times. They work very hard to prepare meals, and are often working from 8:00 until 3:00 or later with no breaks. A simple "please" and "thank you" goes a long way to keeping harmony here. You may or may not be aware, but the kitchen isn't even licensed to serve full meals at the centre. We are only licensed to serve light snacks and coffee. As there is an awful lot of hunger down here, the City of Vancouver has chosen to turn a "blind eye" to the situation. Please be aware of this. We are also trying to beef up (no pun intended) the menu's and offer a variety of new foods, but presently, we are doing the best we can with what we have. After a long day in the kitchen, the last thing kitchen staff need to hear is that the food "is shit." Continued on next page

When a woman is angry or upset with another woman, it is best to walk away from a confrontation if you find yourself or the other party escalating the situation. It takes a lot of strength and courage at times. If you are being harassed or see someone else being harassed, please advise the floorworker or other staff member so that the harassed can be dealt with by a staff member. Remember also, that we have children in the centre at times (especially meal times), and they need to be afforded the same courtesy and respect that we all desire. This also includes refraining from swearing and yelling in their presence. We can't be shocked at the language young ones use, when we have set

the example ourselves.

Thanks.



say hello to the new members of the centre staff

Deepa is the Women Centre's new, part-time "Stopping the Violence" counsellor. She will be at the Centre on Wednesdays and Thursdays until 2:30 PM, and on Fridays until 5:00. She will be providing counselling and crisis support for women who have experienced or are survivors of violence-such as sexual assault, battering, or child sexual abuse. She will also try to get women to go to lots of rallies, which she loves to do.

Deepa was born in Montreal and grew up in Regina, Saskatchewan. Both her parents are from Trivandrum, which is a city at the southernmost tip of India. She has worked as a rape crisis counsellor at WAVAW, and as a mental health worker at Coast and Victory House. She also works at Peggy's Place right now, as a support counsellor for women survivors of violence who have experienced the mental health system. She tried desperately to think of something funny to write about herself for this blurb but failed (writer's block!) She's really looking forward to getting to know the women who come here.

Hello. I am Alix Mathias and my friend Drew Dennis and I are the two new Financial Managers for the Centre. We are doing this work as job-share which means that we each work part-time. Together, we are responsible for the Centre's funding. In order to make the job share work we have split up many of the tasks. For example, I will be working on most of the funding that comes from government and Drew will be working on funding that comes from corporations and individuals. The Direct Mail Campaign is something we are both working on. Every year the Women's Centre sends a letter out to hundreds of people - telling them about the importance of the Centre and asking them to give any amount of money to support us. This campaign is important because it not only brings money into the Centre for things like the Holiday Dinner but it raises awareness and that makes it easier to raise money in the future. We will be getting help from volunteers to prepare all the letters for the mail.

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Drew and I are both working at home so you will not see us in the Centre as often as other staff. Financial managers spend a lot of time on the phone, at meetings and with their faces in the computer writing reports.

- We both have message folders on the Administration office door (Research Lab!) and you can leave a message for us there. I would like to attend a Women's Voice
- g meeting some time to get to know the women at the Centre better.
 - Maybe once all those letters are in the mail! See you at the Centre
 - Alix Mathias

PS Don't worry if you don't know which one of us is Drew and which is Alix. Just ask. We know all those Financial Managers look alike.

Two Financial Managers for the Price of One!



The Following has been Submitted by Women's Centre Member - Sandy Hall 1900's Plus 1997 = History, Minus Tradition = Today!

Today, as I look into the faces of our lost tribes, many are plagued with drugs and alcohol. And there are only a few who still stand firm, who know, or are familiar with their rights as a Native.

But still, just knowing this knowledge, and doing something about it are still two different things.

Taking an expression from the twelve step groups, and applying it to the

- Native race, will and very well could break the bondage that has been imposed on us over the generations
- ' that have faded away. This expression from these groups that I am speaking of is this..."If you know your talk, walk your walk."
- What this means and what it would bring is a strong bond of being able to...



1.) See again; to acknowledge your surroundings, and to be able to trust in yourself that you are a First Nations person who has the same rights as well as anybody...

2.) To feel again become in touch with your emotions and to learn more about the communication skills that would be beneficial to you as a Native, and to further your knowledge about your lost and watered-down heritage...(Background)

3.) To speak again; to be able to communicate better with your elders, to try and learn of our forefathers, and about the mistakes that were made in the generations that have already gone by and not take, or accept any condemnation from any other source of power and work towards a better Continued on the next page.

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future for our children and our children's children.

4.) To trust again; to be able to empower your self with a healthy pride of knowing whom you are and where your tribunal ancestry lies and forever goes unchanged.

This sounds like an easy thing to do, but the reality of it is...the first step starts with you...you are not alone. If you are scared, and are overridden with fear, please remember this even if it is the only thing that would be remembered at this point: "Needing help isn't a sign of weakness, it is simply a sign of being human."

Dedicated to all of those who have been suffering, or have lost their lives and/or families through an ongoing war with a string of bureaucratic red tape. Your pain has not been forgotten about, but the truth of the matter runs deep, in reality as I speak your pain has been a gift to us this day, because it gives us the strength to be able to stand here and acknowledge the changes that need to be made in order for a better tomorrow.

1900's Have Come Full Circle

At the turn of the century, when the Europeans had first settled on the B.C. coast, their first reaction was then and still seems to be fear. At the time, the law that was imposed on our ancestors had seemed to protect the European from the unknown...our cultural potlatching, and other ways that were known and practiced by our Elders.

The law that was used against our people then was extremely abusive and degrading...for one: either Man, Woman or Child was jailed for the practicing our cultural potlatches, and to add to the devastating act of this type of corporal punishment, the Indian regalia that was used for the sacred ceremonies were burned while our people were jailed! This is not to say, that this same government that had already segregated our people from the rest of the land, had called this first separation "reservations", and again with much control they had separated our people for a second time from the government given reservations...this is known today as residential schools!

To this day, in the year nineteen hundred and ninety seven, this act is still being practiced on the Native race, and has been done with the same amount of abuse, if not more so.

Nevertheless, this government that had done these strong mentally and emotionally abusive acts against our ancestors in the nineteen hundreds have been as such; "Don't see, don't speak, don't hear, don't trust"...This has carried on into the twentieth century, and the only example at hand would be "the separations of the Native families, which again have been torn apart by the government employees." Social Workers that dictate the way we should live, according to their structure, and whom also censor out the needed help, the help that is needed does vary as each family structure differs.

This Divide and Conquer scheme, that has aided this government with their teachings, (don't see, speak, feel or trust) has only proven over the years to be a training for an addiction of one form or another...this training for an addiction, is abuse!

This kind of stereotyping that has come around full circle, has prepared the Native environment more so today, from the idiosyncrasies that have been carried out, acted out, and passed down by such people that are known as government officials, whom still are acting out the same behavioural, tactical mistakes, that were used by the brothers and sisters of the bureaucratic system. Their tactics have only proven to keep the Native race suppressed and somewhat powerless, and this has been happening just a bit too long.

This section of the Act also stated that all children have the right to know what plans that have been made for them beforehand, and this also includes that they have a right to their own privacy. Our children not only have the right to be protected from physical abuse as has been stated under the Child Act, but who is going to protect them from the mental and emotional abuse that is caused when they are separated from their natural home environment, and this comes directly from "The Ministry of Child and Family Services", who would rather tear a family apart, than to use the law that is there, and is meant to keep a family together.

The Child Act was made to protect a child from the removal from the homefront, and the policy is a structure that would benefit the whole family's bonding, and is supposed to give a firm foundation to all of the families in general, and this would



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Keep the circle strong. Let the Healing begin.



 We are now approaching the twenty first century, and again this government is ignoring the very law that is supposed to
 be helping and protecting our Aboriginal and cultural heritage...section seventy one of the Child Act says that our children's cultural background is supposed to be nurtured, as well as the nurturing of their ongoing communication with their biological families.



and very well could break the cycle of abuse that has been carried out just one century too long! Stop the cycle of abuse, return the children, and work towards a better future.

To all of the broken families, that have been marked down as just another statistic...

Sandy Hall

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

44 East Cordova St., Vancouver

681 - 8480

DECEMBER 1997

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDA		SAT
	1 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group Only accept new donations	2 1:30 Card making and Letter writing 5:00 Battered Women Support Services		3 1:00 Community Nurse 2:00 Stanley Park 5:00 Alcohol and Drug Support Group	4 10:00 Art Project Media Launch 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Make ornaments out of clay. 2:00 AIDS Van. 5:00 WST	beginners Volu 1:30 Ratile fund 2:00 Video 2:00 Main Won Dedi		00 - 4:00 lunteers to help with draising mail outs 0 Thornton Park at in Skytrain. omen's memorial dication
7 1:00 Video	8 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group Clothing Room closed till 29th	9 1:30 Dough Ornaments 5:00 BWSS	give test 1:00 5:00 Sup	30 Street Nurses to e syphilis info and ing. D Community Nurse D Alcohol and Drug oport Group D Arts Club Theatre	11 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Making and painting wood and clay ornaments 2:00 AIDS Van. 5:00 Women Surviving Together	12 10:30 Internet 10:30 Sewing a alterations 2:00 Video 2:00 Tree Trim		13 11:00 Volunteer Meeting at the Centre to discuss Christmas Plans
14 1:00 Video	15 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	16 1:30 Paint Candle holders 5:00 BWSS		17 CHEQUE DAY 1:00 Community Nurse 4:30 Van Dusen Garden Light show 5:00 A + D Group	18 10:00 New Volunteer Orientation 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 AIDS Van. 2:00 Frame Painting 5:00 WST	10:30 Internet W 10:30 Sewing and the		20 Wrapping Day at the Centre 10 am to the end
21 1:00 Video	22 CHRISTMAS DINNER AT 475 ALEXANDER	23 1:30 Beading 2:00 Horse Carriage Rides 5:00 BWSS		24 10:30 Food Hampers 1:00 Community Nurse	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS CENTRE OPEN 12 - 4:30 12:30 Pancake Breakfast Present exchange	26 10:30 Sewing and alterations 1:30 Raffle 2:00 Video All donations accepted		27 Mon. 10:30-5 Tues. 11:30-5 Weds. 10:30-5
28 1:00 Video	29 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group Clothing Room Open	30 5:00 Wenlido		31 1:00 Tobogganing 5:00 A + D Group	JANUARY 1 1998 CENTRE OPEN 12 - 4:30 12:30 Pancake Breakfast 1:30 Making stuff out of clay		CENT	RE HOURS Thrs. 10:30-5 Fri. 10:30-5 Sun. 12:00-5

REGULAR PROGRAMMING

LUNCHSERVED

DAILY AT 12-30

Learning Group - Every Monday, doors close at 5:15. Explori different ways of Learning.

Battered Women Support Services and Wenlido will be alterna on Tuesday nights from 5 - 8:30

The Nurse Community Nurse - is in every Wednesday from 'Alcohol and Drug Support Group - Wednesday from 5:00 - 8 do you have or had a drug and/or alcohol problem. This may t place to get some support, no preaching or guilt trips.

Law Student - PLEASE CHECK THE SCHEDULE.

Women's Voice - Thurs. 1:30. Let us know what you think about the Centre. Your opinions and ideas are needed. **AIDS** - Margareth from AIDS Vancouver will be here every Thuat 2:00. To answer your questions or for support.

Women Surviving Together - Thurs. 5:00 - 8:00 Healing Circ and support group for women. Reta's back, YAH! Raffles - Fridays at 1:30 or 2:00. Items which are not clothing items that have been donated to the Centre are raffled.

CRAFTY WORKSHOPS - Materials provided.

Watch out for our Christmas Craft Activities and make some gi Beading with Leona - Every Monday, 1:30 pm. Learn how to bead, expand you skills or just share ideas.

Ceramic and Tile Painting - Every Thursday. Make somethin you can use everyday or give to a friend.

Fabric Arts with Freeda - Every Friday morning. Learn to do your own sewing and alterations and also to knit and crochet.

OUTINGS - Watch the Outing Board for RUSH tickets to ev

Wed. Dec. 3 at 2:00 - We're going to Stanley Park to visit the p zoo and go on a train ride on the miniature train.

Wed. Dec. 10 at 7:00 - Festive theatre fare at the Arts Club The on Granville Island.

Wed. Dec. 17 at 4:30 - Going to see the Annual Light Show at 1 VanDusen Gardens on Oak and W.37th.

Tues. Dec. 23 at 2:00 - A Christmas treat, a tour around downto Vancouver in a cosy 6 person horse drawn carraige.

Wed. Dec. 31 at 1:00 - We're going to Mount Seymour to ride t garbage bag down the slopes - Be prepared for fun!

Sign up sheets are put up at the beginning of the month, even there is a waiting list chances are there will be space available. NOTE: Sometimes things get canceled or set up on another da make sure to check "Update sheet" on the front chalk board. The Activities Board will also have information on other events



NEWS FROM THE ADVOCATES

NOTES ON ARBITRATORS DECISIONS - RE: QUIET ENJOYMENT

In Semeniuk v. White Oak Stables (1991) the B.C. Court of Appeal examined "good faith" under section 29 of the Residential Tenancy Act. In this case, it was established that the landlord was acting in good faith, but the court made some useful comments on motive when it stated that "the landlord must truly intend to do what it says, and it must not be guilty of dishonesty, deception, or pretence." A recent decision of the B.C. Supreme Court ion Cameron V. Huntly Investment Ltd. et al (June 27, 1997, Vanc. Registry A964041) quoted this passage from the Semeniuk decision with approval and went on to say, "In this context, the motivation of the landlord may be relevant (see Mechaut v. Westhall Properties Ltd. (Nov. 25, 1996) Vanc. Registry A963759)."

Good faith is also discussed in the Arbitration Review Panel decision,

Azrael v. Sarjola (1996), which deals with a landlord's monetary claim for damages. In setting aside the arbitrator's decision, the panel noted that the landlord's application was "retaliatory in nature and not brought in good faith." This judgement was based on evidence of a previous arbitration at which the tenant had successfully sued for breach of quiet enjoyment.

Tenants and their advocates fighting retaliatory evictions should refer to these decisions in arguing that the landlord's actions were not undertaken in good faith. They will also want to present evidence of previous arbitration proceedings or other relevant information that shows bad faith in motive.

As well, tenants and their advocates should be prepared to argue the "believability " of a landlord's intention. In a recent decision, the arbitrator

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agreed that one's intention must be honest, without deception or pretence, but held that the motives behind the intention are not relevant. Although this distinction seems inappropriate in view of the authorities, the arbitrator overturned the eviction notice on the grounds that the landlord's intention to occupy was not plausible, given the difference in scale between the landlord's Shaughnessy mansion and the tenant's humble Ease Side abode. Retaliatory evictions make a mockery of tenant's right to security of tenure. We need amendments to the Residential Tenancy Act to prohibit retaliatory evictions and to clarify an arbitrator's power to dismiss eviction notices and other legal actions that are clearly retaliatory in nature. A recent Ontario court decision extends the law on a tenant's right of quiet enjoyment in Ontario and have useful ramifications for tenants in B.C. Historically, arbitrators through the **Residential Tenancy Branch and** judges in other jurisdictions have refused or been reluctant to accept a tenant's claim for compensation where there has been no physical interference with the tenant's right to quiet enjoyment.

In the Ontario case, the tenants based their claim for compensation on the disruption caused by lengthy repairs to the building spread out over the course of two years. In addition to the noise of construction, the tenants lost

the use of their balcony, air conditioner, parking space, and access to the common pool. Evidence presented at the trial indicated that the repairs were necessary to maintain the safety of the building and keep it in a state of good repair, and that the landlord was acting in good faith in making the repairs. Awards for abatement of rent are more commonly found in where the landlord has breached the contract by not initiating repairs in a timely fashion. In this decision, the judge stated that the reasonableness of repairs and the manner in which they were effected was not at issue. In other words, it is irrelevant that the landlord's breach of quiet enjoyment was a direct consequence of the statutory obligation to repair. In awarding the tenants \$1,975 in compensation, Justice Ferguson stated that the main issue at hand is that the tenants did not receive a benefit to which they were entitled in exchange for the rent. The decision reinforces a principle that tenants would consider as basic as baseball's "three strikes and you're out": if you don't get what you pay for, you should be compensated.

TRAC (Tenant's Rights Action Coalition) encourages tenants and advocates to consider this decision when bringing claims before arbitrators for compensation for disruption of quiet enjoyment.

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From the Steering Committee

There are several vacancies on the Steering Committee. It is very difficult for 6 or 7 members to try and stay on top of all the business that Steering needs to attend to as well as deal with the every day stuff that crops up. We need women who want to have input into this center and participate actively in the day to day operation of the business. This is 1 or 2 steering meetings a month, as well as 1 committee and hopefully 1 outside group to which we as D.E.W.C. belong . Steering committee meetings are open to any woman who wishes to attend, but unless you are a member you do not have voting privileges. You always are able to have input !!! To join steering please submit a letter about why you wish to join steering, and have 3 people support you in your request ! There are several groups that I wish women would attend on behalf of D.E.W.C. even if they do not wish to belong to the Steering Committee. There is :

END LEGISLATED POVERTY E.L.P. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POVERTY ORGANIZATIONS N.A.P.O. DISABLED WOMENS NETWORK D.A.W.N. FEDERATED ANTI-POVERTY GROUP F.A.P..G. TENANTS RIGHTS ACTION COALITION T.R.A.C. SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL S.P.A.R.C. **B.C. COALITION OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES** B.C.C.P.D. DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION D.E.R.A.

AND MORE !!!!!!

To attend you need to find out from one of the staff ,who is going to one of these groups and find out more. When it meets, what the mandate is, and what our role is in any one of these groups. or you can just find out and go yourself. But then it's as an individual not as a member of D.E.W.C.

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Copy from Carnegie Newsletter November 01, 1997 Edition.

If you ever had any doubts about how the new neighbors in the condos really see you and me, it's time to let them go. Here's a letter we received this week from a new property owner in the Van Horne, at 22 East Cordova, also known around here as Fort Cordova. (*This is the real thing, honest. We didn't make it up.*):

Dear Miss Sigurierson,

I am writing to you today after reading about the happenings at City Hall on October 20 in regards to the "ownership" of the downtown location of the former Woodward's building.

I'm afraid I cannot comprehend what community you stand for. I know it would be "the Downtown Eastside Residents Association" but exactly who does that refer to ? Are you talking about the people I see everyday milling around with no purpose in their life except simply existing? What entitles them to this building ? I'm writing because I'm concerned that the building will not be restored to it's once glorious look and become condos. The building certainly deserves that much. There are plenty of vacant lots that the city owns that could have a affordable housing placed on , no? Why aren't you using this anger and energy to make something of one of these empty lots? I was born and raised in Down-town Vancouver , and for years , every week-end my Mother or grandmother and I would stroll to Woodwards where we did our shopping , (not to mention all the times I didn't go with them), and never , never did I se e what I see now ! I even started working there when I was 16. Your "community " is made up of people who have no desire to do anything but,

- 1). Use drugs (in public)
- 2. Defecate in pubic,

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- 3. Mill around with no purpose or direction,
- 4. Panhandle, steal, and participate in illegal activity.

What kind of community is this? I'm sure some of you are not like this, but where are you? I don't see you. I do see people like myself conducting themselves in the manner of which community it built. I'm sorry, but could you help me understand where you are coming from? I feel as though if anyone should be holding a vigil outside the building, it would be my family and Mr. Woodward's no?

Sincerely,

Michael Boulton

A reply from the Centre Steering Committee member is on the next page

RESPONSE FROM DEWC STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER	
November 26, 1997	v
To the Editor;	v ti
I felt I had to respond to Michael Boulton's letter printed in the November 1 1997 issue	ť
I have a hard time believing Mr. Boulton does not see anyone but the addicts he describes. I	V
live in the neighborhood. My spouse works security just outside Vancouver and neither of us are small enough to be overlooked.	۷ د
Yes, Mr. Boulton the people you describe are here, and so are many others. The poor, the	C s
disabled, the single parents, the many who suffer from mental illness.	p E
But, you forgot the other 95% of the people who live or work here.	E
No, they are not on corners. They serve you coffee in the shops. They ring up your bill at A & \sim	p N
N. They take your order at' The Only' and the' Ovalatine'.	
They help people with housing and Income Assistance Issues at the' Downtown Eastside	p V
Women's Center 'and 'Downtown Eastside Residents Association'.	d
They are people who are invisible because they are trying to make a difference in lives and	n C
the waste of human beings in this area of town.	Ľ
They are people who are talking about the 'systemic genocide' that is happening here, where	S
we live, because humans cannot remember to care about other. They care about the poor	(1
and the disenfranchised. They are people who work and volunteer at 'CARNEGIE ' and ' Sally Ann ' and' First United. '	- 1
They are also the young under-age sex trade workers who earn money by going with men	li d
from other areas of the lower mainland, who will pay the price for sex with children.	d o
They are also the young, well-dressed kids who come down here on the week-end to frequent	a
the cabarets and bars and have a lot of loud. high-spirited partying in my community and	V
keep my neighbors awake.	а
They include the men who have given up looking for work in a 10% unemployment era, if they	N
had the education or skills to get more than a \$7.00 hr job that doesn't get a family off	۷ S
welfare.	0
They include the women who have left abusive partners, and are trying to raise their children	Т
under very difficult circumstances.	t€
They include the new refugees who live here because it's cheaper than other areas, if they	c d
can get housing.	u C
Drugs use is not confined to here it's everywhere.	a
Others defecate here too, especially the party crowd.	W
Mill around? In some cultures it is a very normal thing to do. It is how people get information, socialize, plan a day and shop.	S
Dephandle, yea they do conceively these who are brake and really can't get or hold a job! The	a

Panhandle, yes they do especially those who are broke and really can't get or hold a job! The

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healthy ones also' dive', 'busk', do odd jobs or work at poor paying jobs. Yes, we have our problems! What are you doing to make a difference? Are you speaking out against poverty? Are you trying to find solutions? Are you volunteering somewhere? Yes, I used to come down here to Woodwards too, many moons ago. I came here shopping

on \$1.49 day.



And before that , 35 years ago, I was here as an under-age sex-trade worker and junkie. This area has only gotten bigger, maybe somewhat worse. The problems are still here!!! After 35 years! I remember it, why don't you?

But what do you know about why people use drugs or alcohol or sell their bodies ? Did you ever stop to consider no one gets up one morning and decides to be a prostitute or addict. You cannot take prostitution 101 in college. Did you ever consider the reasons that kids sell their bodies? Did you ever stop to consider the number of addicts or sex-trade workers that were sexually abused as children ? The native children who were abused in Residential schools? The women beaten by partners or murdered by persons unknown ?

Do you not realize that sexual abuse knows no boundaries, addictions are a medical matter and unemployment is only a stones throw away from your door ? That spousal abuse happens in the best neighborhoods?

Do you know anything about where you live? You are in a prison, you can't see the beauty that abounds in this area. The artists selling pictures, the musicians at Carnegie, the funky little shops and some of the greatest places to eat in Vancouver! Go to Oppenheimer Park, Sun Yat Sen, or Crab Park to take in the fascinating cultural diversity here.

Perhaps you and Mr. Woodward should hold a vigil, how many jobs were lost when he closed down?

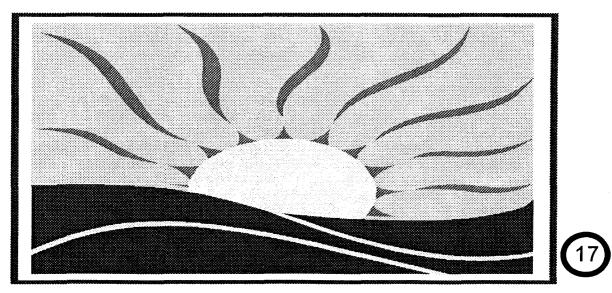
It's not as clear cut as you or I can summarize in a letter, but neither is it as bad as you paint it to be. Where are the rest of us?

Well, I guess we are all just busy trying to be ordinary people.

Yours Truly

Carole

WE ENCOURAGE WOMEN TO RESPOND AND SPEAK UP FOR OUR COMMUNITY, WE WILL PUBLISH YOUR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS ON THIS ISSUE.



VOLUNTEER NEWS

Minutes from the Volunteer Meeting held on Wednesday, November 12 at 2 p.m.

There were 13 of us and we discussed a number of issues. We plan on having a Volunteers only meeting once a month on the second Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on Wednesday, December 10 at 2 p.m., we will be meeting at the Centre. There will be snacks and refreshments. Regular volunteer meetings with the Volunteer Coordinator will continue once a month in addition to these meetings.

These are some of our concerns regarding Centre Operations;

We have been hearing a lot of comments from Centre members about the frequency of Hamburger and Rice as a meal. We would like to offer some suggestions to the Kitchen Supervisor for menu changes. How about meatloaf and potatoes or Pasta and Salad and more potatoes and fresh veg? If it is possible please keep the vegetables separate, as some people really dislike peas. There were six volunteers who got their Food Safe Level 1 at a Centre workshop who would like to help to cook. Those names will go to the Kitchen Supervisor if she needs any help.

There used to be a board to inform women of the different conferences and gatherings for women. This is so that women who are interested in attending can register and apply for financial assistance. The voice of women from the Downtown Eastside will not be heard if we are not there and we cannot get there if we do not know what is going on. A request has gone to staff to post all pertinent information on the notice boards.



On the issue of cleaning the Centre. We would like to see Out of Centre Volunteers cleaning the Centre. The last time we did it we got nothing but grief, no one appreciated it. People do not realize how hard it is clean the ceiling, walls, light fixtures, etc. Frankly we have had enough.

Raffle items are still walking off. Some volunteers have noticed that items that they put into the raffle cupboard does not always appear in the Raffle. What is going on? The clothing room/raffle storage key needs to be available to the Sunday staff and Thursday morning staff. Some women have been taking all the coats form the clothing room and selling them in the bars, we should change the rules to read; 10 items per day and only one coat each.

Now for Volunteer matters - SOME volunteers are taking donations, we know about it and we are mad as hell. Please stop it because it reflects on other volunteers and it just is not a nice thing to do to Centre members. If you want to steal, take from someone who can afford it. When women volunteer, they are expected to make a commitment to the Centre not just hang out and sit around. Many of us volunteer at the Centre because it makes us feel good and we are proud of our work here. If you are grumpy or bitchy or just plain not feeling good talk to someone and get it off your chest, we are all here to enjoy ourselves and do some good. If you are going to be late for your shift try to call the Centre and inform the staff. If you are late do not expect your shift to be there, staff will fill the position as soon as the Centre is open. If you have left your volunteer hours till the end of the month, don't push anyone off their shifts, try to complete your hours before the end of the month. For all those volunteers who want to be on the Incentive program please see Cynthia and she will write a letter for your worker. Please remember to get the

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floorworker to sign you in an out when you volunteer.

We are all very happy to be here at the Centre, we would like some professional name tags printed and our photos put up behind the front desk so that we will all know who the volunteers are. It would also be a great idea is there would be pictures of staff on the front board and on their office doors so that women can recognize them.

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The volunteers will be sending representatives to various meetings. Doris Big John will be the volunteer rep. for the Steering Committee, Denise Stilwell will be the rep. to Women's Voice and Peggy Jandrew will be attending Staff meetings and reporting back to the Volunteers.

We are glad that we have the Volunteer Store and we have some suggestions, we would like to have shampoo, face soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes, tobacco, socks, underwear, bras, tampons, make up and gift certificates in our store. Christmas is coming and these items will be very handy.

We went to Uncle Willy's for a Brunch meeting. We will be having our Annual Christmas Dinner at the Keg Ceasars restaurant. Starting in December Dawn Cook will be responsible for the Volunteer Store and hours will be counted up twice a month, the second Friday and at the end of the month. We will also be having a Christmas Volunteer meeting on Dec 13th to talk about all the Christmas happenings. It was great to hear that the volunteer meeting was a great success. The information and concerns raised are very important. The volunteers have been really come through for the Centre. The shifts are always filled and volunteers are working very hard. Of course there are volunteers who abuse the program. Those people know who they are, mostly volunteers work hard and really care for the Centre.

We're going to need lots of help in the Centre over the Christmas Season. Check for the various events and attend the planning meeting.

VOLUNTEER DATES TO REMEMBER

Sat. Dec. 6	11:00					
Stuffing Envelope	es for Christmas					
mail out - lun	ch provided					
Sat. Dec. 10	2:00					
Meeting, gather						
Sat. Dec. 13	11:00					
Volunteer meeting						
Thurs. Dec. 18	10:00 - 12:00					
New Volunteer Orientation						
Fri. Dec. 19	5:00					
Volunteer Chri:	***************************************					
Sat. Dec. 20	10:00					
Wrapping Party						
Mon. Dec. 22	10:00					
Christmas	Dinner					



