

D.E.W. DROP IN

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN DO DROP IN

THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE

MAY 2000

FREE

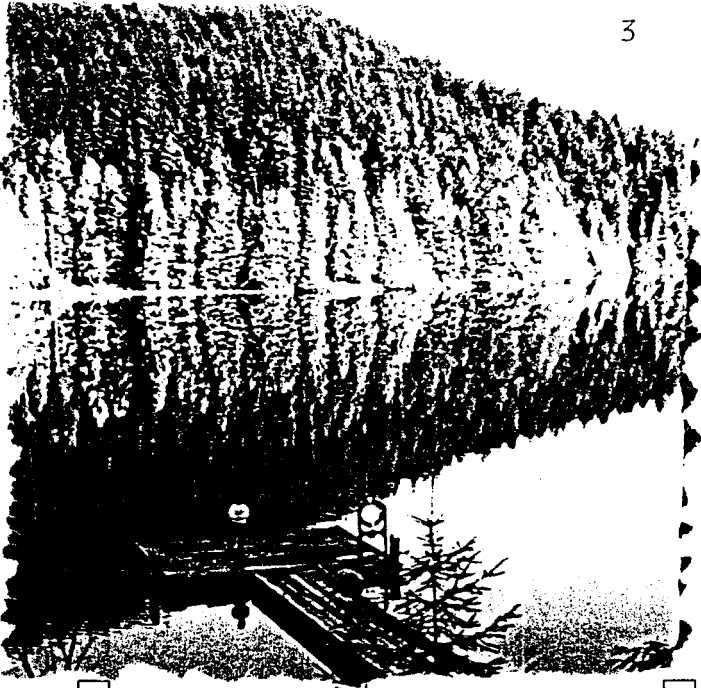




volunteer's retreat



D.E.W. DROP IN - 2000 MAY ISSUE



volunteer's retreat





volunteer's retreat



ADMIRED

THE BEAUTY IN YOUR SMILE
THE SUNSHINE FROM YOUR EYES.

FEELINGS THAT LAST FOR AWHILE,
AS ALL I CAN DO IS SIGH.

LIVING OUR LIVES DAY TO DAY
FOR THOUGHTS OF YOU ARE NOT FAR AWAY.

CARRYING OUR OWN WEIGHT AS
TIME DOES NOT WAIT.

VALUES THAT WE HOLD CLOSEST
TO OUR HEARTS, HAS NO
WAY OF TEARING
THEM APART.

SELINA BARTON

JAN 14, 1994

POSTAL BLUES

TENSIONS HIGH, FEELINGS LOW.
FOR IT IS ALL A MATTER OF THE FLOW.

TOWNS, CITIES, PROVINCES AND WORLDWIDE.
MAILBAGS SITTING SIDE BY SIDE.
TRUCKS GOING FOR MILES AND MILES.

THE FRUSTRATION OF FIGURING OUT MESSY HANDWRITING,
FORGOTTEN POSTAL CODES, OR SHORT PAID ENVELOPES
WITH SMALL CRACKS AND HOLES.

WITH A LITTLE EXTRA SPEED, WE COULD BE
IN THE LEAD AND OMIT SOME OF THE NEED.

OUR MINDS ARE PREOCCUPIED FOR THERE ARE
PARCELS AND LETTERS TO GET OUT ON THE LINE.
AS WE DO NOT WANT TO BE TOO FAR BEHIND.

SELINA BARTON

DEC. 19, 1991

PLEASE

PLEASE LISTEN WHEN I SAY "I CARE A LOT
THAN YOU MAY OR MAY NOT KNOW".

PLEASE LISTEN WHEN I SAY HOW MUCH I CARE
BY CHECKING UP ON YOU, WHEN YOU DON'T
EVEN KNOW I'M THERE.

PLEASE LISTEN WHEN I EXPRESS HOW I FEEL
IN THE POEMS I WRITE AND FIGHT
FOR WHAT I THINK IS
RIGHT.

WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, I HAD YOU
WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE COMFORT
I HAD YOU.

WHEN I SHED A TEAR IT
WAS FOR ALL
MY OWN FEARS.

SELINA BARTON

JUNE 21, 1991

"SPIRIT MAN"

I REMEMBER HIS LONG, BLACK, SILKY MANE. IT HUNG LOOSE AND FREE, FALLING TO THE BACK OF HIS WAIST. IT WAS AS HIS SHIELD, HIS BLANKET, HIS SWEATLODGE. HIS SMOOTH SKIN BURNISHED TO CHOCOLATE FROM THE SUMMERS' SUN AND RPIMD. BRPWM EUES. ;PPLOM STRAOGJT AT WHATEVER HE WANTED TO SEE. HE WASN'T EDUCATED, NOT FROM THE SCHOOL SYSTEM AS SOME MIGHT KNOW IT, BUT STREET-WISE AND HE'D KNOWN SO MUCH. HE WAS A SPIRIT MAN.

THE CITY WOULD PUNISH HIM WITH DURGS AND BOOZE AND STRANGE WOMEN HE FORGOT THE NEXT DAY. PUNISHED FOR BEING SO SOFT AND GENTLE AND KNOWING OF THE CRUEL, SAVAGE WAYS OF A FATHER THAT SHOOK HIS WORLD AND A MOTHER THAT DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW.

PUNISHED FOR LASHING OUT AT THE WORLD IN RETURN FOR STEALING HIS INNOCENCE.

HE KNEW THE WALLS AND BARS OF A PRISON, MORE THAN ONCE, AND TALKED OFGOING BACK, IF ONLY BECAUSE, AS HE WOULD SAY, HE FELT SAFE THERE, AND COULDN'T GET INTO ANYMORE TROUBLE. IT SEEMED A LIFE MORE FAMILIAR THAN ANY OTHER HE'D KNOWN. HE WAS A HELPER, RATHER THAN A HELPMATE; A BIVER MORE THAN A TAKER, AND IT WAS DIFFICULE FOR HIM TO ADJUST TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. HE WOULD TRY THOUGH, AND WITH THE URGINGS OF FRIENDS INVOLVE HIMSELF WITH HIS CULTURE AND DANCE TO THE DRUM BEAT. AT FEASTS, HE COULD BE FOUND SWEEPING AND COOKING AND KEEPING BUSY, FOR BUSY SAKE. HE FELL FROM GRACE MORE THAN ONCE, AND EACH TIME, WOULD PICK HIMSELF UP AND TRY AGAINN. TO FIT INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF THINGS. IT WASN'T EASY, BUT HE WOULD KEEP AT IT. SOMEWHERTE ALONG THE WAY, HE WOULD PICK UP A PENCIL OR PEN OR MARKER AND WITH WHATEVER SCRAP OF PAPER FOUND LYING AROUND, WOULD CREATE WONDROUS DRAWINGS OF BIRDS AND FISH, EAGLE, RAVEN AND WHALE, AN THE MOON. ALWAYS THE MOON, SURROUNDING THESE MAGNIFICENT PICTURES, THAT WOULD APPEAR AS IF BY MAGIC, BY SOME VERY SPIRIT FROM DDEP INSIDE THIS FIRE KEEPER, THROUGH HIS FINGERTIPS, GUIDING THE LINES TO CREATION. A SPARK FROM WITHIN THAT ALL OF US WOULD KNOW TO BE HIS WEAPON. A WEAPON TO SET HIM FREE. HE WOULD NOT SEE IT. NOT YET. © BARBARA GRAY
APRIL 22/1991.

GHETTO

ghetto: get-to, n:

A SMALL PORTION OR SECTION OF A CITY, GENERALLY LIMITED TO WHERE LARGE NUMBERS OF MINORITY PEOPLE LIVE.

OF POLAND

THIS TERM BECAME DEROGATORY, STARTING WITH THE WARSAW GHETTOS ~~IN POLAND~~ WHERE JEWS WERE SEGREGATED INTO A VERY SMALL, WALLED AREA. UNTIL TODAY IT IS NOW AN ACCEPTED TERM FOR A POOR, SQUALID, POPULATED AREA OF ANY LARGE CITY.

THE ORIGINAL MEANING OF GHETTO WAS A SMALL ENCLAVE OR COMMUNITY AREA, RATHER NOT AS WE HAVE COME TO KNOW IT. B.G.

THE SUBURBS ARE FOR WHITE PEOPLE
ME, I LIVE IN THE GHETTO
WHERE BLACK AND BROWN ISN'T THE ONLY THING
HAPPENING
AND WHITEY GOT TURNED AROUND AT THE RED LIGHT

THE WESTERN PONY SLAMS ITSELF AGAINST
THE WALLS, VIBRATING
AT THE BASE LINE
AND THE BOUNCER MAKES NO DISTINCTION
AT 2:00 A.M.
EVERYBODY HITS THE PAVEMENT THEN

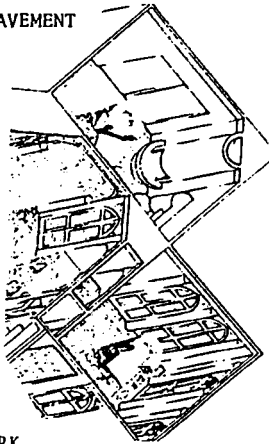
FAY BOY ON THE CORNER, WANTS TOO MUCH FOR HIS PACKET
IN THE END, THE TIPS WE GET IS ALL THE SAME SHIT

TOM TOMS THUNDER OUT THE MONDAY BLUES
AND WACKY WEDNESDAY STARTS THE LONG WEEK-END TO
OBLIVION

HOT CHILI PEPITAS WALK IN DISDAIN
TO THE RHYTHMIC NEON,
FLASHING OFF THE SPIT-SHINY PAVEMENT

THE ONLY TRASH DOWN HERE
IS THE YAHOO
HOLLERIN, FROM HIS TRUCK
'HOW MUCH FOR A FUCK?'

THE MUCKY-MUCK LADY,
PASSING THROUGH,
SHAKES HER HEAD, THINKING
OF HER OWN SATIN-LINED
BED,
OF ROSES
AND HER MUCKY-MUCK MATE
CAN'T WAIT
TO CREEP DOWN HERE
ON BENDED KNEE, TO SEE
FROM BEHIND THE BUSHES,
LITTLE GIRLS,
DOING SOMMER-SAULTS IN THE PARK.



DOWN AT THE PAWN SHOP,
TRADING GUITARS, BIKES
AND FAMILY JEWELS,
NOT HAVING THE TOOLS
OF THE TRADE
BUT NEEDING THAT 5 OR 10 BUCKS
JUST TO GET THROUGH TO NEXT WEEK
WHEN THE CHEQUE ROLLS IN,
AND YOU STAND IN LINE AGAIN,

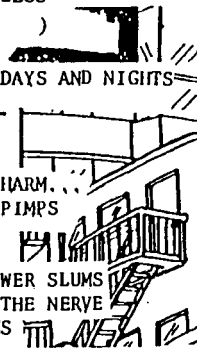
MEN AND WOMEN
THEY FIGHT AND FIGHT
FOR THE RIGHT
OF A CHEAP MEAL
AT THE 44

THEN THERE AIN'T NO MORE
ROOM, AT THE INN
AT 666

THE CORNER PIG
COULDN'T CARE LESS
IF YOUR 'RIG'
IS CONDEMNED

AND YOUR LAST DAYS AND NIGHTS
ARE SPENT
IN THE HOLE
IN YOUR ARM

SO WHAT'S THE HARM...
THE POLITICAL PIMPS
PASS THE BUCK
OVER
TO THE HIGH TOWER SLUMS
AND THEY HAVE THE NERVE
TO CALL US BUMS
YEAH, THE SUBURBS ARE FOR WHITEY
ME, I LIVE IN THE GHETTO



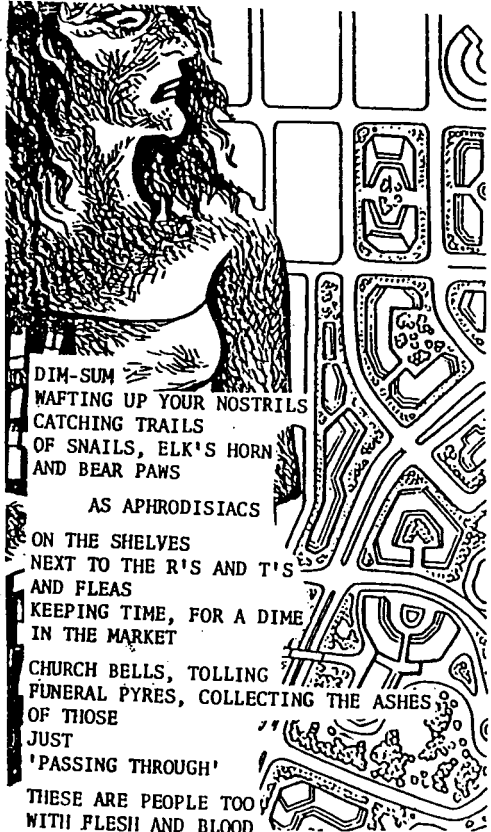
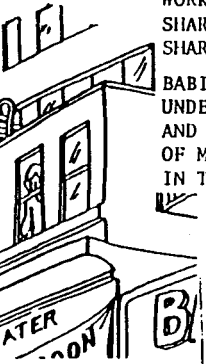
WHERE THE CULTURAL FLAVOURS
BLEND
WITH A CHEAP COFFEE AND
CIGARETTE-BUTTS
HEADS
WITH, MILTON, SHAKESPEARE, AND BURNS
LOOKING DOWN
ON DRUNKEN CROWNS
AND COCKROACHES, DANCING OFF THE TURF
WITH YOUR LAST PIECE OF CAKE

BROTHERS AND SISTERS
LOOKING OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER
AS SENTINELS
ON THE CORNER
'SPOTTING' FOR THE GERM
THAT CRUISES BY,
ON HIGH

PREACHERS AND PERVERTS
MINGLE
AT THE SALLY-ANN
SHARIN GOD
AND A PAN
OF TUNA STEW
AND YOU
WONDER WHAT THE HELL WENT WRONG

SILENT VOICES SCREAMING
TO BE HEARD
OR SEEN
OR RECOGNIZED

RECOGNIZED, AS HUMAN
LOVING
WORKING
SHARING
SHARING SPACE
BABIES PLAYING
UNDER WATCHFUL HEARTS
AND EYES
OF MOTHERS
IN THE CO-OP PLAYGROUND



DIM-SUM
MAFFING UP YOUR NOSTRILS
CATCHING TRAILS
OF SNAILS, ELK'S HORN
AND BEAR PAWS

AS APHRODISIACS

ON THE SHELVES
NEXT TO THE R'S AND T'S
AND FLEAS
KEEPING TIME, FOR A DIME
IN THE MARKET

CHURCH BELLS, TOLLING
FUNERAL PYRES, COLLECTING THE ASHES
OF THOSE
JUST
'PASSING THROUGH'

THESE ARE PEOPLE TOO
WITH FLESH AND BLOOD
LIKE ME AND YOU

YEAH, THE SUBURBS ARE FOR WHITEY
ME, I
BREATHE
AND TASTE,
AND SMELL,
AND LIVE
...IN THE GHETTO.

© Barbara Gray 1993

From a work in progress entitled
"In The Autumn Of Her Moon"

Read to the 'Opal Commission on Policing in BC'
Carnegie Community Centre, Vancouver
May, 1993.

REGULAR PROGRAMMING**LEARNING GROUP**

-MONDAY, 5PM

EXPLORING DIFFERENT WAYS OF LEARNING WITH FIRST NATIONS ELDER.

BATTERED WOMEN SUPPORT SERVICES

-TUESDAY, 5PM

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE.

SHIATSU MESSAGES AND REFLEXOLOGY

-TUESDAY, 11AM

FIRST COME FIRST MASSAGED. GET PAMPERED AND FEEL ENERGIZED.

POPULAR EDUCATION GROUP – WEDNESDAY, 5PM**WOMEN'S VOICE**

-THURSDAY, 1:30 PM

LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT THE CENTRE. YOUR OPINIONS AND IDEAS ARE NEEDED.

WOMEN SURVIVING TOGETHER

-THURSDAY, 5PM

HEALING CIRCLE AND SUPPORT GROUP FOR WOMEN. LED BY ELDER.

RAFFLES

-FRIDAY, 1:30 OR 2:00PM

ITEMS WHICH ARE NOT CLOTHING ITEMS THAT HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE CENTRE.

ANTI-VIOLENCE DISCUSSION GROUP

-FRIDAY, 5PM

GATHERING TO SHARE STORIES AND STRATEGIES TO KEEP OURSELVES SAFE.

CRAFTY WORKSHOPS**BEADING WITH LEONA**

-MONDAY, 1:30 PM.

LEARN HOW TO BEAD, EXPAND YOUR SKILLS OR JUST SHARE IDEAS.

CERAMIC AND TILE PAINTING – WATCH FOR NOTICES FROM KAORI.**FABRIC ARTS WITH FREEDA**

-FRIDAY, 10:30 AM.

LEARN TO DO YOUR OWN SEWING AND ALTERATIONS.

DREAMCATCHERS

-SATURDAY, 1:30 PM.

LEARN DIFFERENT STYLES OR WORK ON YOUR OWN PROJECTS.

OUTINGS

-TUES, LEAVE AT DIFFERENT TIMES DEPENDING ON THE OUTING. SIGN UP SHEETS ARE POSTED ON 1ST OF EACH MONTH. EVEN THOUGH THERE IS A WAITING LIST CHANCES ARE THERE WILL BE SPACE AVAILABLE.

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE WOMEN'S CENTRE
44 East Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC V6A 1K2
Front Desk: 681-8480 Women's Line: 681-7458

LUNCH SERVED DAILY
AT 12:30

MAY 2000

SUNDAY 12 – 5 pm	MONDAY 10 am – 5 pm	TUESDAY 11 am – 5 pm	WEDNESDAY 10 am – 5 pm	THURSDAY 10 am – 5 pm	FRIDAY 10 am – 5 pm	SATURDAY 12 – 5 pm
	1 1:30 Beading	2 11:00 Shiatsu Massage 11:00 Reflexology 2:00 Outing 5:00 BWSS Group	3 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education Group	4 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 WST Group BTS –Seniors Centre	5 12:00 noon, 1:00 & 2 :00 pm SPRING DINNER 5:00 A-V Group	6 1:30 Video 11–3 Mail Out VIGIL OF HONOUR
7 1:00 Video VIGIL OF HONOUR	8 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	9 11:00 Shiatsu Massage 11:00 Reflexology 2:00 Outing 5:00 BWSS Group	10 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education Group	11 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 WST Group	12 10:30 S + A 5:00 A –V Group	13 1:30 Video
14 1:00 Video SINGLE MOTHERS DAY EVENT	15 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	16 11:00 Shiatsu 11:00 Reflexology 2:00 Outing 5:00 BWSS last group	17 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education Group	18 1:30 Women's Voice 2:00 Dreamcatchers 5:00 WST Group	19 10:30 S + A 1:30 Raffle 5:00 A –V Group	20 1:30 Video
21 1:00 Video	22 VICTORIA DAY Centre hours: 12 – 4:30 pm	23 11:00 Shiatsu 11:00 reflexology 2:00 Outing 5:00 Child Apprehension Workshop	24 CHEQUE DAY 1:30 Dreamcatchers 5:00 Popular Education Group	25 CENTRE CLOSED 5:00 WST Group	26 HOT MEAL 2:00 Video 5:00 A –V Group	27 10:30 S+A 1:30 Video
28 1:00 Video 12:30 PANCAKE BREAKFAST	29 1:30 Beading 5:00 Learning Group	30 11:00 Shiatsu 11:00 Reflexology 2:00 Outing 5:00 Writing Group	31 10:30 Street Nurse 5:00 Popular Education Group			

The Popular Education group - Where we share information, learn together and plan for action.

May 3 and 10 - we will be discussing and planning around police brutality.

May 17 through June 21 we will be finishing our work on women and Diabetes. This group will be closed from May 24 until June 21.



Single Mother's Day - May 14th

Vancouver Status of Women and the Downtown Eastside Women's Centre are making plans for another fabulous celebration of Mothers - food, relaxing, fun, conversation, entertainment, and someone else to play with the kids! Buses will leave from the Women's Centre - Keep watch for posters at the Women's Centre or ask Alice Kendall or Naomi (Popular Education Group facilitator) for details!

APRIL 19, 2000

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE STAFF AND KITCHEN FOR HELPING OUT ON AN IMPORTANT PROJECT THAT HAS TRAINED THREE WOMEN OF THE CENTRE FOR THIS PROJECT. THE PROJECT IS "LISTEN UP FOR H.I.V. & AIDS". **THESE THREE WOMEN** WENT AND DID THE CLASS OF NOVEMBER 1999. THE PROJECT IS TO HELP TRAIN WOMEN IN NEED. THE WOMEN WHO ARE TRAINED MEET EVERY FRIDAY AND TRY TO GET FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT. IT'S HARD TO DO BUT ME AND THE OTHER WOMEN WANT TO THANK MARLENE TRICK, VERA AND CATHY FOR DONATING SOME PASTRY AND COFFEE FOR OUR GROUP. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON OUR PROJECT, TOO. BY-
THE PEER SEARCHERS.

VANCOUVER FRINGE FESTIVAL - SEPTEMBER, 2000

Ladies, We are creating a play for the Women's Center to be a part of the Vancouver Fringe Festival in September, 2000. We would like to invite members at large or women from the Downtown Eastside to participate by donating their time and talent or potential talent. Ladies, this is a chance to prove or `strut your stuff'. If you have talent or want to improve your talent as producers, directors, playwrights, actors, actresses, stage managers etc... please, we would like your input. Come one, come all! Make your mark in the new millenium! Mrs. Anita Kennedy

ON MARCH 20 MY EYE GLASSES WERE TAKEN FROM THE CLOTHING ROOM. THEY ARE BLUE TINTED BIFOCALS. I NEED THEM VERY BAD. NO QUESTIONS ASKED. THANK YOU.

THEFT OF CENTRE PROPERTY

DEAR WOMEN, DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL A CENTRE MEMBER STOLE THE VCR DURING TUESDAY EVENING GROUP. WHILE THIS MAY SEEM TO BE GOTTEN AWAY WITH BY THE PERSON, IT WAS A MAJOR INCONVENIENCE TO OTHER WOMEN OF THE CENTRE. WOMEN LOOK FORWARD TO VIEWING A WEEKLY VIDEO WHICH THEY DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO IN THEIR HOTEL ROOMS. WHEN A THEFT OCCURS FROM THE CENTRE, THE THIEF IS STEALING FROM ALL OF THE WOMEN, NOT JUST THE CENTER ITSELF. MONEY THAT COULD BE SPENT ON PROGRAMMING IS THEN SPENT ON REPLACING THE STOLEN ITEM, NOT TO MENTION THAT THE ITEM MAY NOT BE REPLACED AS QUICKLY AS THE THEFT OCCURS. WOMEN COME TO THE CENTRE TO GET AWAY FROM THE STRESSES OF SURVIVAL IN THE DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE, WHEN THEFT IS OCCURING IN THE CENTRE IT IS VERY DISTURBING TO ALL OF US. RESPECTING OTHER PEOPLES PROPERTY IS IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE UPHELD WITHIN THE CENTRE AT ALL TIMES, AFTERALL THIS IS YOUR CENTRE. I KNOW WHO TOOK THE VCR AND IT IS MY HOPE THAT THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE WILL DO THE RIGHT THING AND BRING IT BACK, NO QUESTIONS ASKED...

THANK YOU WOMEN FOR LETTING ME PUT THIS MESSAGE IN YOUR NEWSLETTER.
MARLENE TRICK

BUS TICKET POLICY

DEAR WOMENT PLEASE TRY TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE WOMEN'S CENTRE CANNOT POSSIBLY AFFORD TO GIVE BUSTICKETS TO TRY TO MEET EVERY WOMAN'S REQUEST OR NEED. WE SIMPLY DO NOT HAVE THE FUNDS TO DO THIS NOR IS IT REALISTIC TO EXPECT. THE BUSTICKETS ARE FOR MEDICAL EMERGENCIES ONLY. AND FOR VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE COMPLETED A SHIFT. EVENING GROUP PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE ONE TICKET AT THE END OF THE GROUP. IF YOU HAVE A SCHEDULED DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENT YOU MUST GET TRANSPORTATION FROM YOUR FINANCIAL AID WORKER. WE DO NOT PROVIDE TICKETS FOR WOMEN TO GET TO OTHER AREAS OF THE CITY, TO GET TO JOB INTERVIEWS, TO GET TO THE SOCIAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE TO PICK UP A CHEQUE, TO GET TO THE FOOD BANK OR ANY NUMBER OF OTHER REQUESTS FOR BUS TICKETS. PLEASE DO NOT BE ANGRY AT US FOR SAYING NO, WE MUST DO THIS TO KEEP CONTROL OF OUR CENTRE SPENDING.

Hot stuff off the press!!!

On April 12th, the Centre was closed in the afternoon for a special Volunteer Appreciation Event. They were treated to a meal prepared by Staff members. In-Centre volunteers were given haircuts, massages, shiatsu and reflexology treatments by out-of-area volunteers. Then each volunteer was presented with an achievement certificate and a T shirt. When the weekend of April 15th came along, we spent a few relaxing days at Loon Lake Camp in Maple Ridge with 18 volunteers. We went horseback riding and canoeing. We also went on nature walks in the forest. We spent countless hours sunbathing, soaking in the hot tub, folding origami paper and making our retreat banner. Check out the next issue for some hot pics!!! I'm sure that these pics will make everybody want to be a volunteer!!!

The above events would not be possible without the following wonderful women:

Celia for reflexology

Kelly (AXIS Hair Salon) for haircuts

Kaori for designing the T-shirts

Marni for shiatsu

Susanda for massage

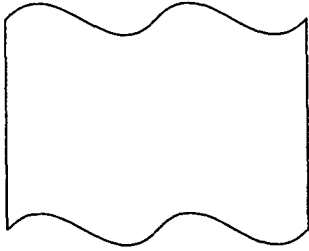
The students from the London School of Hairdressing and Aesthetic and their instructor, Irene Robinson.

All the staff for sharing their culinary skills

Christine and Julie for sharing their wits in coming up with those snazzy certificates

A big hug to Marlene who drove us to Loon Lake Camp on her day off. A major thank you to Rika and Debbie at Carnegie Centre for transportation arrangement on the way back. (ps. Denise is going for her driving test again, this time she will stick to the 50 km limit. She is practising every night by saying 50 km only 50 times before she goes to bed.)

Important dates in May:



May 7

5 pm Volunteer
Orientation

May 9

2 pm Volunteers-Only
Meeting

May 10

2 pm Volunteer Training

May 21

5 pm Volunteer Meeting

May 24

2 pm Volunteer Training



I have to quite ceramic class. because I have not found a kiln yet. I think I am not ready to come back to teach because I still have not locate a studio. also I had a car accident on March 25, 2000. I am still in bad shape and my muscles still hurt. I have decided not to come back.

I had ceramic class 4 years. such a long time I did. but i feel this is very short . many people joined my class. i had good time and sometime hard.

I remember alot of good art women made.

some women joined at first time In the class, She was nervous and she kept say "i can't make. i'm not good for make stuff" but after she joined 2 or 3 time in this class. She was so proud of her art.

I believe everyone can make great stuff if they believe themselves.

I really miss my class and wornens, I might come back when my situation gets better.

Thanks.

kao

RECENT DEWC STAFF CHANGES

Recently you may have noticed some new faces in the Centre and some staff shifted to other positions. Marg Scott the former Stopping the Violence Counsellor has moved into the Mental Health Advocate position, Marg will now be working Monday to Friday. Alice Kendall is the Legal Advocate moved from Mental Health Advocate position. Michelle Cormier is the new Women's Outreach Worker, Michelle's days of work will be Sunday to Thursday. Marcella Oleman is the Interim Administrator. Marlene Trick is the Interim Executive Director. We hope to fill the Kitchen/Floorworker position in the near future so watch for an announcement and a new face, in the near future.

The Women's Centre is also shifting to a condensed 4-day work week on June 1, 2000. The Centre hours of operation will remain the same and the impact to women will be minimal. The staff will be working their 35 hours per week, only they will be doing it in 4 days instead of five. The condensed work week will help to alleviate the stress factor for staff and cut down on the amount of sick days that are currently being taken.

Women Outreach Worker

Hello women, Meshell here I want to let you know more about my new position here at the centre as Women's Outreach Worker. My job includes:

EDUCATION/REFERALS: For women who are positive and for other women who are just interested in knowing more about HIV/AIDS I'm the person to talk to. I can provide information about prevention, protection, harm reduction, transmission, testing, medication and treatment and support. ***So don't be afraid to ask me any of the hard-to-ask questions concerning HIV/AIDS.***

ACCOMPANIMENT/SUPPORT: I am available to accompany women to appointment with their doctors, to clinics, hospital and support services dealing with issues concerning HIV/AIDS (ie; positive women's network).

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Every Thursday evening I do street outreach from 6 to 10 (except for cheque issue day) with the hopes of connecting with women who are not already connected with any services.

I work Tuesday's to Saturday 9 to 5 except for Thursdays.

Just to reminder that all information discussed with me is confidential.

Hi Women!!!

Just a little blurb to let you know that I have temporarily changed jobs- I am filling in as a Mental Health Advocate, Monday to Friday, for the time being: I work out of Office C now (yellow door, third one down). A description of the services I can provide is posted on the door, and reprinted here for your information.

This means there is no Stopping the Violence counsellor right now, and also that I will no longer be facilitating the Friday night Anti-violence Discussion Group, as of May 5th. Priscilla Tait, who has been co-facilitating for the past few months, and Angela MacDougall, who has facilitated many groups at the Women's Center, will be facilitating the group as of that date. If you have any comments or questions about this change, please come and talk to me in Office C.

A **MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATE** CAN HELP *YOU* WITH ...

Basic one-to-one counselling, crisis intervention, support, and referral to services for women living with mental health issues, and/or involvement

Financial issues-advocacy for women regarding BC Benefits, Canada Pension, Employment Insurance, doctors and the medical system, welfare tribunals, police, lawyers, obtaining Legal Aid, landlords etc.

Basic information regarding your rights in dealing with the Ministry of Children and Families: if the Ministry has apprehended your children or your family is involved with the 'child welfare' system, PLEASE SEE THE LEGAL ADVOCATE (Please note that Advocates are NOT lawyers, & many MCF situations require legal assistance)

Housing issues i.e. Housing applications, Residential Tenancy Disputes, referral to shelters or transition houses

Basic Needs i.e. Food, clothing, furniture, transportation

Health i.e. Medical Services Plan, referral to services, advocacy within the medical system

Lobbying governments on behalf of women living with mental health issues on the Downtown Eastside



Breaking the Silence

**Breaking the Silence
second month of
their spring campaign
"Empowering Women as Organizers"**

- MAY 04** Meeting re: upcoming workshops
- MAY 11** Honoring Mother's Day meeting
- MAY 18** Facilitating Good Meetings workshop with Kathi Bentall
- MAY 25** Organizing with Music workshop with the Raging Grannies

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

WATCH FOR NOTICES

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL
VANCOUVER INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

What's Inside

	PAGE
Members	1 - 10 15
Staff	16 - 21
Upcoming Events	14 22 - 23
Regular Programming	11
Calendar	12 - 13

JUNE 2000
newsletter deadline is
Wednesday, May 24, 2000.

Newsletter submissions will be accepted on disk.

BREAKING THE SILENCE

WORKSHOPS

May 4 & 11, 2000

133 Powell St,

Jim Green room

3:00 - 5:00 pm

For more information

call 682-3269 ext. 8319

VIGIL OF HONOR

May 6 & 7, 2000

Britannia (see posted notice)

Transportation provided

leaving at

11:00 & 1:00

leaving from

Oppenheimer Park &

Women's Centre
