

FRASER INSTITUTE: BOUGHT BY BUSINESS (P5)

Solidarity Times^{50¢}

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GENERAL STRIKE OR OLIVE BRANCH?

PAGE 2, 6, 7

WORKERS OF THE WORLD
UNITE!

WORKERS MARCH IN VANCOUVER MAY DAY PROTEST, 1930's

News Briefs • Courtenay Jobless • David Boswell

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SOLIDARITY PROTESTERS OUTSIDE SOCRED
CONVENTION, OCT. 15, 1983

Trouble in Paradise

The march that roared

By Stan Persky

It was quiet up and down the length of Robson Street from Terry Fox Plaza to Burrard at 9 a.m. Saturday morning, Oct. 15, the day the Solidarity Coalition had set for its "Last Chance" march against Premier Bill Bennett's controversial right-wing legislative package.

For weeks, the local media had been writing premature obituaries for the sprawling collection of trade unions and community groups that had fought the Socred budget since it was introduced last July. Only the day before the slated march, a Sun editorial pooh-poohed the protest movement's latest brief to the government, branding it unreasonable. Solidarity "does not seek concessions from the provincial government, it seeks only capitulation," declared the afternoon daily that had urged voters to re-elect the Socreds five months earlier.

Meanwhile, as the first protesters trickled into the side street assembly points feeding into the march route, downtown Vancouver was waking up. The newly-renovated courthouse was about to transform itself into the Vancouver Art Gallery, as curators straightened the last crooked pictures and prepared to welcome Governor General Ed Schreyer for the official ribbon cutting that morning. In the Hotel Vancouver, some 1,200 self-satisfied delegates to the Social Credit annual convention were getting over the hangover of leader Bennett's fiery "we will never back down" speech of the night before.

"We have only just begun. We will continue. We will fight on. We will never give up," Bennett had told the cheering throng in Churchillian cadences of resoluteness. "The critics never stop to be part of the solution but always wish to be part of the problem. These people think that they can picket their way to prosperity. . . . I say to those people that the eyes of B.C. are upon them as never before. Pickets and protests are not part of our future," thundered the premier.

The future arrived the next morning. By 10 a.m. the trickle had turned into a swell. Surpassing even the most optimistic of organizers' estimates, Solidarity Coalition supporters — pensioners, students, teachers, carpenters, fire fighters, women, civil ser-



The idiot box

vants — flooded the sidestreets and grew to a crush at the stadium plaza. At 10:30, led by the Firemen's Marching Band playing "When The Saints Come Marching In," the largest political demonstration in the province's history rolled up Robson Street.

At Robson Square the strains of "Solidarity Forever" wafted over the well-heeled crowd invited for the opening of the \$20.5 million art gallery. At Burrard, the flow turned right, and marching 15 abreast, in the high point of the demonstration, took two hours to pass the Hotel Vancouver. The confrontation with the Socred delegates was peaceful and strictly symbolic, but there was no question that the march that roared was delivering its message to the double-knit government of the day.

By the time the march poured into the Queen Elizabeth Theatre plaza to ratify a coalition-penned "Declaration of Rights," the first estimates were coming in from the news choppers circling overhead. The initial count was over 40,000; the official police estimate put the crowd at 45,000; the CBC noon broadcast called it 50,000; before it was over, the demonstrators would claim 70,000. Whatever the numbers, the turnout "should prove to anybody that the rumors of the demise of the Solidarity Coalition are about four years premature," Solidarity co-chair Art Kube told the gathering.

As important as the size of the march was its mood. Placards, badges and leaflets calling for an all-out general strike Nov. 1 — the day the government was planning to

fire the first of 1,600 B.C. Government Employees Union members — were as much in evidence as Solidarity banners. The sentiment for general strike grew during the week.

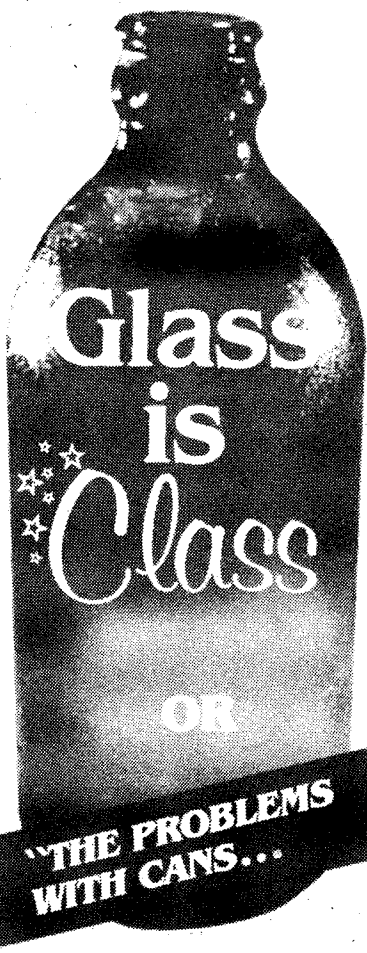
An all-day conference of Women Against the Budget the next day declared itself in favor of pulling the plug. The next night 400 delegates to the Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition, meeting in Burnaby, backed the general strike call. They were followed on Tuesday by the Vancouver and District Labour Council, which said it was prepared to support BCGEU job action if Bennett didn't back down. Even the heretofore cautious media joined the chorus of dissent by mid-week.

The previously resolute premier and his advisers counted the numbers on their fingers and their computers and suddenly had second thoughts. On Thursday, Bennett was pre-empting prime time television with a 23-minute address to the province. Although his second thoughts didn't appear to be any better thought through than his first musings, mixed into a rambling defense of his government's "restraint" program were a few crumbs that the business media hailed as an "olive branch" by the next morning.

Bennett announced the adjournment of the legislature where he had already rammed most of his legislature package through to the point of assent

See page 14: TROUBLE

Help Save B.C. Jobs Buy Bottled Beer!



Bottled beer is rapidly becoming a thing of the past

If this trend continues the result will be a total denial of choice to the consumer, e.g. lounges, restaurants, even liquor stores.

This denial of choice will also result in a negative effect on the employment picture in B.C. Brewery workers, glass workers, paper workers, printing trades as well as those who handle the product will be directly affected. B.C. workers will be replaced by out-of-province workers. At present the majority of the cans are being produced in the U.S.A.

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**Bill Bennett opened this wound
— Band-aids won't close it.**



**Vancouver Municipal and
Regional Employees' Union
SUPPORTS
The Solidarity Coalition**

Talks offered

In what some critics are calling a major conciliatory gesture, the government is contacting Solidarity Coalition spokespersons for consultation on legislation still before the house.

Spokespersons for opposition to the Residential Tenancy Act, the Medical Services Act and the Human Rights Act, which have not passed second reading in the house, were contacted Oct. 24 by the government. Coalition members were to decide how to deal with the government's latest move at a Solidarity Coalition steering committee meeting scheduled the next day.

B.C. Teachers' Federation president Larry Kuehn said he was concerned that education has been excluded from discussion.

A spokesperson for the B.C. Tenants' Rights Coalition said a meeting with consumer and corporate affairs minister Jim Hewitt is set for Nov. 3. Wayne MacEachern said a delegation from the Solidarity Coalition would meet with Hewitt to discuss "individual problems faced by tenants" and present proposals for a new Residential Tenancy Act.

"They've been dangling the idea of retaining the Rentalsman's office in front of us for some time now," MacEachern said Oct. 25. "In making these proposals, if they agree to them we'll accept that, but it does not mean we'll pull out of Solidarity's fight for all the other rights."

"They're just living up to the promise they made on T.V., and they have to do that. And we have to answer that," MacEachern said.

Coalition consults

By Trish Webb

Solidarity Coalition delegates will "bend over backwards" to consult with the government on legislative changes, but they won't back down.

Rather than hold out for talks with Premier Bill Bennett, the coalition is pushing for discussions with ministers responsible for contentious legislation after a Oct. 22-23 Solidarity Coalition Conference.

"It would be an exaggeration to say we're overly optimistic about the results of meetings with ministers," coalition chair Renate Shearer said in a Oct. 24 press conference.

Two hundred and forty delegates from 50 B.C. com-

munities committed themselves to "win back for the people the rights lost through legislation", and mobilize opposition to future legislation which is not in the public interest.

A steering committee of 27 representatives from interest groups are organizing a conference to develop economic and social policy.

"We'll work as long as we have to to reach our goal," Shearer promised.

B.C. Teachers' Federation president Larry Kuehn said results of a teacher's strike vote will be announced Oct. 29.

* * *

In what appears to be an effort to defuse an impending general strike, the provincial government has reinstated human resources workers.

On Oct. 21, regional managers told workers "everything is on hold and you will continue in your regular duties until further notice," according to family and child services co-ordinator Patsy George.

Many human resources workers were previously classified redundant, terminated and scheduled to be fired Oct. 31. On Oct. 20 many received notices informing them they were "super numerary" and would be put on "make work" projects when their regular jobs were terminated.

Lives axed by grant cut

A legal battle is shaping up against the cuts to grants paid to welfare recipients for community work in B.C.

It's a small amount of money involved in the fight: \$50 monthly for approximately 2,500 welfare recipients



CIP worker Stan Saunders

classed as disabled or unemployable who work 20 hours or more each month in the Community Involvement Program. But a lot of lives hang on the outcome, says CIP Fightback Committee spokesperson Barry Coull.

There has already been one suicide and another suicide attempt by people whose grants have been cut, says Coull. Depression and stress caused

by the loss of work will cost the government far more in increased psychiatric care and hospital costs than it might otherwise save.

And the man in the test case for the planned legal fight, Dennis Jensen, designed and worked with other CIP volunteers in a now-discontinued "door check" project in a Vancouver East End low income housing project, credited with saving the lives of 29 people in the past five years. The project's end means many tenants, especial-

nett's Oct. 20 speech seemed to indicate the government could be willing to move on the most contentious issues.

But the union still says Oct. 31 is the deadline for an agreement, and says if any worker is fired after that date they will take massive job action which could involve other public sector unions across the province.

Bargaining began and broke off Oct. 4 after government negotiator Mike Davidson insisted that "the concept of tenure in the public sector is ended."



Solidarity marchers jam downtown Vancouver.

JOSHUA BERSON PHOTO

ly the elderly, will die alone in apartments when their daily movements go unnoticed, he says.

The "door check" program was adopted in 60 per cent of Vancouver's low income housing projects.

"Since the project was discontinued here I've seen four people taken out of here in ambulances," Jensen said.

The application now being prepared for legal proceedings against the government by lawyer David Mossop will attempt to obtain an appeal for Jensen's cancelled CIP contract. Said Jensen "If the judge decides these contracts must be honored, then contracts must be honored as long as each and every worker keeps up their end of the contract."

Deadline near

Contract negotiations which could determine whether the province is shut down by a general strike continued behind closed doors at press time.

The B.C. Government Employees Union is trying to get the provincial government to take most of the bite out of Bill 2, which gives the government power to dictate contract clauses previously negotiated by the BCGEU, and to agree not to fire any workers under the terms of Bill 3, which ignores seniority clauses.

A news blackout has been in effect on the negotiations.

The two sides agreed to talk again after Premier Bill Ben-

Biz rebels

Not all of the business community supports the provincial budget.

The Community Business and Professional Association of Canada, which represents about 450 small businesses in B.C., has denounced the restraint program and has even joined the Solidarity Coalition.

Association secretary Barry Morley says Social Credit's economic policies will seriously harm small businesses. "All they will do is take money out of consumers' pockets," says Morley.

"What Bennett is doing is not restraint. It's a blatant attempt to destroy the social fabric of this province for the good of the corporations that put him in power."

The association helps its members fight bankruptcy, and lobbies the provincial and federal governments on taxation issues affecting small businesses.

Forest on brink

The forest industry this week moved closer to a province wide shutdown when the Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada were locked out of nine mills.

The lockout was in retaliation for a strike by the union at two other mills last week.

The PPWC has threatened to close one mill after another with roving picket squads until company negotiators make a reasonable contract offer.

NEWS

Cruise a snooze

Last April's flood of protest became a trickle at Vancouver's Refuse the Cruise rally Saturday.

The few thousand people who gathered in front of the Jericho Park hostel fell far short of the 65,000 who walked for peace on April 23. The march drew about 5,000 people, although End the Arms Race Committee organizers gave their official tally as 12,000.

The event's small size was only outdone by its lack of enthusiasm. The protestors were for the most part quiet and restrained, even when they passed the Canadian Forces Base on Fourth Avenue. Armed forces personnel watched from windows as the marchers passed, but the only sign of dissent was a spray painted peace symbol.

The protest continued down Fourth to Macdonald, then swung over to Cornwall and on down to Vanier Park. The walk took 90 minutes to end.

"Doesn't this remind you of China in '48?" one protestor said ruefully. "The Long March."

"They should have had it downtown," said another. "Marching through Kitsilano is useless."

"We knew it wasn't going to be big like April's rally," said Helen Spiegelman of End the Arms Race. "It felt small, but it was big enough to be significant."



A few of the Oct. 22 5,000 anti-cruise protestors

Comox press play played

COURTENAY — Criticism of the commercial media's coverage of budget protests is not confined to the Lower Mainland.

Some Comox and

Courtenay residents are upset at the Comox District Free Press' treatment of the local Solidarity Coalition's protests and activities.

Coalition chairperson Doug Hillian says the paper was ordered by publisher Phillip Bickle to downplay its coverage of anti-budget activities.

Breaking down barriers in Courtenay

By Trish Webb

COURTENAY — There's something going on in this community that hasn't happened for years: people and groups who usually keep their distance from each other are uniting to fight the government's restraint package.

"The legislation has brought together forces in this town that wouldn't sit down at the same table for any other reason," says Wayne Bradley, a school trustee who has lived here the past 15 years.

Bradley helps staff the office the local Solidarity Coalition shares with the area's teacher association, an unemployed action centre and the carpenter's union. It's a busy place, and Bradley sits by the door to be near the constantly ringing phones.

He says he has never seen commitment and co-operation reach the level it is now at in the Courtenay area. "Normally it takes all of September just to organize something for October. But this year we drew 1,500 people, the biggest crowd ever — to a rally on Aug. 29."

Lately, most of the coalition's activity has been centred around two strike votes: the government employees' and the teachers'.

Shop stewards and community group representatives are busy organizing a steering committee for picket line support. And a coffee house featuring local performers is trying to raise funds and increase moral support.

Not surprisingly, says Bradley, the NDP has

lost some respect in the area through what he calls their inaction and compromise.

"This budget never addressed the banks, forest or energy companies. The banks are pulling in bigger profits than ever before and no one, not even the NDP, has addressed the possibility of further taxation," he says.

Bradley is also trying to be realistic with a dwindling school budget. As a school trustee he is responsible for paring down the school system's costs to manage a \$500,000 cut in the local budget. Supplies and maintenance in the schools have been cut to the bone and substitute and temporary teachers are getting less work.

By January we will have to cut full-time, permanent teaching staff," says Bradley.

Marginal students will be hurt most by the budget cuts, according to local teachers' president Gwyn Reilly. The areas they usually do well in (art, music, drama and French) are now considered frills. "If their interests are cut off at that age, the effects can last a lifetime," says Reilly.

Cuts in child abuse and family support services will further affect these children, she says. "Generally students having difficulty in school have less money at home. Because of budget shortfalls we are going to have to ask the children to buy more."

Reilly expects at least 65 per cent of the teachers to approve job action. "We have a very reasonable board here, but there is not much point in negotiation when there is no money in the budget for essentials."

But Free Press editor George LeMasurier disagrees. "These people are very adamant. I don't think they have very open minds. We're not giving in to any pressure group."

The dispute, which has tempers running high in this north Vancouver Island community, began when the Sept. 2 issue of the Free Press hit the newsstands.

Although nearly 1,000 people demonstrated against the government's restraint package, the story was relegated to page three with no photo. The paper's front page covered a meeting about the erosion of some local bluffs and ran a photo of a man with a flower.

SCARED and fighting

Some Vancouver high schoolers are SCARED — Student Concerned About Restraints in Education — and are worried about the provincial government's education policies.

Compulsory Grade 12 exams determining half their final marks, the loss of teacher job security, and their own loss of representation on local school boards are their concerns.

The month-old organization is hammering out plans to fight the budget legislation, said Coral deShield, a Grade 11 University Hill student.

Only 35 high school students — mostly from University Hill and Ideal, one of Vancouver's alternative high schools — are official members. The group has contacted more than half of Vancouver's secondary schools.

SCARED is circulating a petition opposing education policies. Some 300 students have signed so far, said Sarah Chase, also of UHill.

"We are opposed to the current legislation being passed which will prevent our school system from functioning adequately," said Chase.

SCARED supports the Solidarity Coalition, but will probably not join because it wants to be a student group.

Pamper-ing pols

A Vancouver resident has sent her own special brand of restraint to Forestry Minister Tom Waterland.

Mary J. Prinz, impressed by the teddy bear Waterland keeps in his legislature office, has sent the stuffed animal what she calls a "restraint diaper."

"Enclosed for use at either end . . . a diaper marked restraint . . . before the house moves further afield," wrote Prinz.

Waterland has yet to reply or acknowledge the gift.

Donors revealed

By Keith Baldrey

For the first time, an exclusive report documents the corporate funding of the Fraser Institute, a right-wing economic "think tank" based in Vancouver.

The report, written by two Vancouver researchers for the Solidarity Coalition, lists parallels between the institute's economic policies and the provincial government's budget legislation.

Corporate funding for the institute is documented by a secret membership list of corporations. The list was obtained by the study's two authors — Cliff Stainsby, an energy analyst for the Society Promoting Environmental Conservation and John Malcolmson, a researcher for the B.C. Teachers Federation.

Malcolmson says the report's main conclusions — that the institute has a direct effect on Social Credit economic policy and that it is funded primarily by large corporations — have been "vaguely alluded to in the commercial media. We've provided a more detailed and documented look."

Stainsby says the study was done "to reveal whose interest the current legislative package serves."

Four of the nation's five largest corporations are listed as members of the institute, as are Vancouver City Savings Credit Union, Thompson Newspapers, Southam News, and B.C. Television.

The authors criticize the institute's insistence that it is an "independent" research organization. "We try to make it clear in the study that they have a large lobby and propaganda presence," said Stainsby.

But Fraser Institute director Michael Walker denied his organization was a lobby group, when told of the report. "We're certainly not lobbyists. We don't target a piece of legislation and go out and lobby for it," said Walker.

"Our object is to encourage public discussion of economic issues. We spend a lot of time communicating our work to the public," he added.

The report points to five areas where institute recommendations and government policies are almost identical. Social welfare; education; government spending; rent controls; public sector unions.

• Social welfare:

The authors quote Walter Block, the institute's senior economist, as contending that since churches have lost their

traditional role of providing welfare to those in need, society must return to a private and voluntary form of social welfare.

The provincial government, the report points out, is currently cutting services to underprivileged people and defending the cuts by saying churches and the family can fill the gap.

• Education:

Walker is said to have suggested the government pick a target year and reduce funding and staff levels to those provided in that year, as well as increasing grants to private schools.

The government is trying to reduce staff to 1976 levels while at the same time increasing grants for private schools, according to the report.

• Government spending:

Walker is said to have suggested the government cut staffing levels in order to reduce wage and salary expenditures, and to "prevent the mortgaging of the future."

The Bennett government is trying to reduce the number of government employees by 25 per cent before Sept. 1984, and speaks of the need to "avoid placing a burden on future generations," says the report.

• Rent controls:

The report quotes an institute publication claiming rent controls help worsen the problem they are set up to redress, and suggests they be abolished to allow the private market to provide an adequate supply of housing.

Current budget legislation

NEWS

lifts rent controls in B.C. The government has said the private market will provide the kind of housing needed by people who sought protection under rent controls.

• Public sector unions:

Another institute book, written by Sandra Christensen of SFU, argues that public sector unions are privileged and therefore should have special regulations placed on them to control wage and salary costs.

The government has continually said public sector workers enjoy special rights; Bill 3 and the Compensation Stabilization Amendment Act both seek to change all of that.

Walker doesn't deny the Fraser Institute's policies might have had some effect in the drafting of government economic policies.



Michael Walker, director of the Fraser Institute

BEV DAVIES PHOTO

VanCity an investor

The secretary on the phone at Vancouver City Savings Credit Union sounded suspicious. "Are you from the media?" she asked.

"Yes, I am. I'd like to talk to someone about VanCity investments."

"Oh, you must be talking about the Fraser Institute," she said.

The world's largest credit union has received about two dozen phone calls in the past two weeks inquiring about their membership in the Fraser Institute.

The credit union's membership is documented by the institute's corporate membership list, obtained by two Vancouver researchers who have written a report on the organization.

Does VanCity support the

institute's right-wing economic policies?

"Our membership in the Fraser Institute does not in any way imply that we support their policies," says Peter Cook, the credit union's manager of corporate affairs.

Cook says VanCity pays an annual \$1,000 membership fee, and for that receives the institute's literature and an invitation to its annual meeting.

"As people who deal in the economic markets we have to be aware of all views. The Fraser Institute regularly comments on financial policies and trends and we should be aware of them," says Cook.

The report's authors — Cliff Stainsby and John Malcolmson — said the study was done partly to document "the long suspected corporate funding of the institute."

They would not say where they obtained the membership list, which is an internal Institute document and not

available to the public. Institute director Michael Walker, when told the report contains the list, said: "Someone must have stolen it. That's sad."

The report also questions the Fraser Institute's "independent" tag, saying it is dependent on corporations and therefore formulates policies beneficial to them.

Walker defends the institute's source of funding. "How then should a research institute be funded? We have a cross-section of all funding sources," he says. "If people say we're not independent, how can you get it?"

Although the report lists almost 300 corporate sponsors, it does not include their separate membership fees. Walker says fees are determined on the size of the corporation, but the institute "does not rigidly enforce the fee structure."

See page 14: FRASER

GENERAL STRIKE

What it's all about

Not all that rare

By Bryan Palmer

General strikes are not the freaks some would have us believe. They are a part of the history of every industrial nation and their impact has been considerable.

As early as 1832, William Benbow, an English shoemaker, devised a plan for how a general strike would unfold. He called it a Grand National Holiday. Ten years later some 500,000 British workers took just such a holiday. They stopped work in opposition to a 25 per cent wage cut, but they also demanded the right to vote, which was denied them at the time.

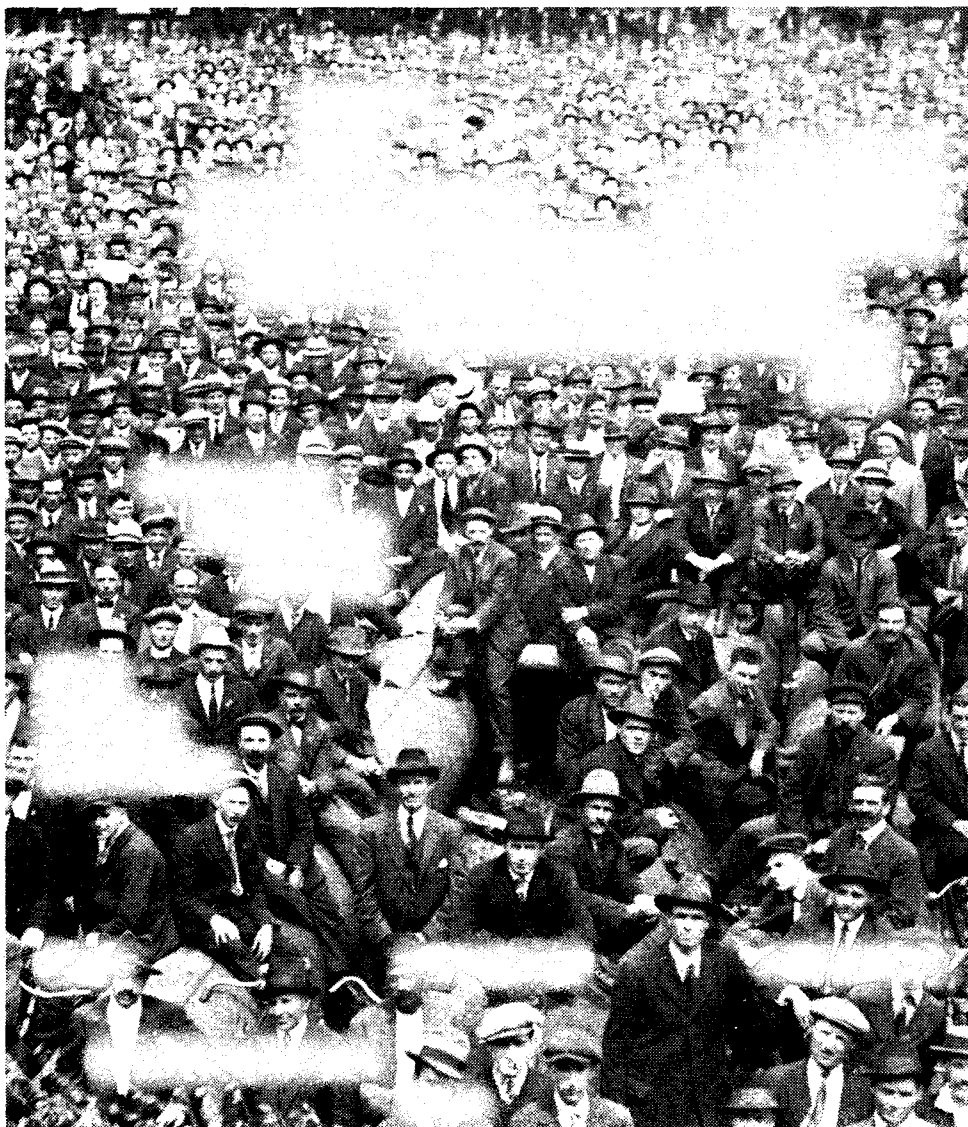
The general strike of 1842 showed how workers and their allies in the many affected communities could organize society. A strike committee provided work permits to those in essential services, ensured that people policed themselves, collected and distributed food, and held democratic meetings — in an England still without democratic elections — where the course of the strike was discussed, debated, and determined.

Almost a century later Britain was rocked by another when coal miners were locked out of the pits, and the Trades Union Congress organized a general strike. Almost four million workers endorsed this action, which quickly escalated into a strike against not only the coal bosses but the government as well.

In other countries, too, general strikes were fought. Belgium, Sweden, Finland, the U.S. and Russia all experienced general strikes between 1886 and 1919. Usually they were limited in both their duration and their capacity to involve the entire country's workforce. They were impressive shows of solidarity nonetheless. And because such strikes inevitably confronted *both* the power of employers and the authority of the state, they were subject to great opposition and endless repression.

On more than one occasion these forces defeated the immediate objectives of the strike. Yet general strikes persist in the modern world, notably in France (1968), Poland (1980), Belgium (1983), Quebec (1972), and here in Canada (1976).

Out of short-term defeat has come long-term victory. The Russian General Strike of 1905 signalled the arrival of working-class power that would help defeat czarism in 1917. Out of the British general strike of 1926 came decisive steps in the Labour Party's march to power.



A meeting of workers during Winnipeg general strike, 1919

The general strike erupts when no alternatives seem available. It is a last resort which workers and others are pushed into when the assault on common people appears massive and unprecedented, when the forces marshalling such an assault tolerate no compromise or retreat from their stated objectives.

Workers in the industrial city of Hamilton waged the first Canadian general strike in 1872, demanding the nine-hour day. They failed, but they did secure legislation legalizing trade unions, elected the first worker to the House of Commons, and organized a forerunner of the Canadian Labour Congress. As the possibility of war threatened workers in the years 1911 to

A GENERAL STRIKE ERUPTS WHEN NO ALTERNATIVES SEEM AVAILABLE IT IS A LAST RESORT

1914, the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada regularly passed resolutions urging a general strike against war. In 1918, after labour organizer and socialist Albert "Ginger" Goodwin was shot by a special constable while avoiding induction into the army, Vancouver workers proclaimed a one-day holiday, a general strike of protest.

Most dramatic of Canada's general strikes was the massive work stoppage in Winnipeg during May and June of 1919. It began as a simple struggle by workers in the metal and building trades for collective bargaining rights. It soon became a test of where political authority in Canada lay. By mid-May a strike committee of 300 literally ran the city of Winnipeg, authorizing milk

deliveries, printing its own newspaper, and drawing thousands to its mass meetings. Unorganized workers, craft unionists, the ethnic community, unemployed ex-soldiers, and consumers united behind the strike effort. The police force was dismissed for refusing to sign pledges prohibiting union membership.

Then a local "Citizen's Committee" hired "special" police who, in conjunction with the Royal North West Mounted Police, arrested strikers and attacked parades with baseball bats and small arms. One man was killed, another 30 injured. Aided by federal and provincial politicians, employers beat back the strike effort, but not before labor across Canada, from Victoria to Amherst, Nova Scotia, waged similar general strikes in support of the Winnipeg action.

More recently, Quebec workers formed a Common Front in late March, 1972. More than 200,000 teachers, clerks, hospital workers, and other public sector unionists opposed attempts to restrict them to a 4.8 per cent wage increase. They organized a one-day general strike and then later seized workplaces and ran them on principles of workers' self-management. Eventually they were legislated back to work and three of their leaders jailed. More geographically wide-ranging, but limited to a "Day of Protest", was the Canadian Labour Congress general strike against Trudeau's wage controls in October, 1976.

Since early July, British Columbians have built a broad and unified movement that embraces those inside and outside the trade unions, organized massive demonstrations of opposition, employed creative tactics, and established a newspaper. This is what most general strikes have had to accomplish after they started.

Bryan Palmer teaches working class history at Simon Fraser University.

MLAs mull over moves

VICTORIA — Through summer and the early fall opposition leader Dave Barrett and his NDP colleagues were at the centre at the legislative storm. But with the adjournment of the legislature, speculation has turned toward the idea of a general strike. NDP MLAs had mixed reviews of the notion.

Said Comox MLA Karen Sanford: "At this point I hope the government will back off, ensure proper discussion will take place and the whole thing can be avoided."

Emery Barnes (Vancouver Centre) said he sympathized with the Solidarity Coalition's dilemma.

"We're dealing with a government that won't listen to people," he said. "People are being pushed to the breaking point. If it comes to a general strike, it's up to the government to take responsibility for it. It would be based on the government closing the door to serious dialogue, on the government provoking deliberate confrontation."

Every NDP MLA interviewed agreed: a general strike is a dangerous tactic; the government must be beat at the ballot box instead of on the street.

Said Dennis Cocke (New Westminster): "A general strike is not somebody going out to tea or going out to the Ritz. It's a pretty serious problem."

Lorne Nicholson (Nelson/Creston): "The history of general strikes has been they have set back the labor movement. I've always felt strongly political action is the route to take. That's why I'm in politics."

Whatever their apprehensions, MLAs admitted that the decision to carry out a general strike was not up to them and that they were speaking as individuals.

Said Chris Darcy (Rossland/Trail): "I'm concerned about the affects. But the decision is not in my hands. It's in the hands of the working people in B.C. No one can predict what will happen."

If a general strike developed, the MLAs say they would not take action against NDP employees who honored picket lines. John McInnis, NDP legislative research director, said there is no question that research workers would respect picket lines.

"The Socreds believe it's necessary to smash the B.C. Government Employees Union. They're gambling they can do it without triggering anyone else. But if they do try to smash the BCGEU, there'll be tremendous disruption," McInnis said.

Past

Present

And now for the lowdown on tomorrow's showdown

By Keith Baldrey

Just a week ago the words "general strike" were part of everyday conversation. Media reports, some bordering on hysteria — told of feverish plans for a province-wide shutdown.

Then Premier Bill Bennett's televised talk on Oct. 20 defused, or at least postponed, a general strike. But the government's non-response to criticism of the planned elimination of the rentalsman's office and the human rights branch has kept a general strike on the opposition's agenda.

A general strike has not occurred in B.C. in 64 years. How would it happen? Who would it involve? How long would it last?

"A general strike is never planned," says Art Kube, B.C. Federation of Labour president and co-chair of the Solidarity Coalition. "In a general strike you react to something. Anyone who tells you that you can plan a general strike is wrong. All you can do is work out a number of options."

The Federation has already adopted a "program of action" that outlines an

escalating public sector strike if the B.C. Government Employees Union's contract talks break down.

"If the BCGEU goes out, everything will be done legally at first," says Kube. "If the government takes action such as special legislation or the essential services act or a back-to-work order — then I presume the leadership will defy the order. If their order is defied, people might go to jail."

Kube says that if the government "used the power of the state, the industrial relations dispute would

become a political dispute, thus widening the perimeters."

If that happened, he adds, the B.C. Federation of Labour would order "all out support" for an escalation of the strike.

Harsh government action would be prompted by a sympathy strike by other public sector unions, such as the province's teachers and municipal and hospital workers. Those employees will strike soon after the BCGEU's walkout, according to B.C. Teachers Federation Pat Clarke.

"They won't be by themselves very long. The call for teachers to join them would come very shortly," he says.

When the Federation orders the escalation, the private sector unions would be asked to join the massive action. How will they respond?

"I think we'll wait and watch at first to see how strong and determined the BCGEU membership is about this before we get into it," says Telecommunications Workers' Union president Bill Clark. He thinks private sector employees will not hesitate to join a province-wide strike.

Capilano College instructor and labor historian Ed Lavalley says the success of the strike could hinge on private sector employees' support. "It has to include the private sector to be successful. That's the unknown factor in this whole thing: the role of the private sector."

Another key factor will be the amount of support and loyalty the labor movement receives from the general public. "The (Solidarity) coalition is a fragile thing," says Clark. "But everyone realizes that the problems we face are more important right now than the differences we have with each other."

What happens if the BCGEU signs an agreement? Besides averting a massive public sector strike, it would also effectively cancel any plans for a general strike. Instead, different tactics could be used by coalition supporters in their battle with government.

Already, the coalition is planning a consumer boycott. TWU president Clark thinks some sort of consumer action or legal battle might be the only effective weapon against the government's plan to eliminate the rentalsman's office and the human rights branch.

"There should be other long-term things planned. Consumer actions take longer to get results," says Clark.



Hired goons march down Portage Ave. on June 10, 1919.

On one hand, then again on the other, then again...

By John Mackie

What do people think about a general strike?

Solidarity Times took to the streets last week to get a sampling of opinions.

"I think it stinks, if you want the truth," said an ad sales person who refused to give his name. "What's it all for, anyway? They're working, they're making money. If they don't want to work, why don't they just quit and give the jobs to somebody who does?"

"I think it's the only way out," said Danny Kostischun, a ceramicist. "It's the only way to make this fascist government take notice of what's going on. They've made a choice to turn a blind eye . . . it's symptomatic of a government that doesn't give a damn about people within a certain wage bracket . . . people who aren't car salesmen or businessmen."

"I'm afraid that a general strike is coming," said student Doug Bengle. "I'm not too impressed with the government but I don't want it to happen. I don't support the government but I don't support organized labor either. I think they're both being a little extreme."

Office worker Sarah Raymond would walk out if there's a general strike. "My mom's a counsellor for the West Vancouver school board. There's

a good possibility that she would get laid off before the end of the year. It's affecting me personally."

Henry Berg was laid off from the history department at the University of Calgary in August and moved to Vancouver because his employment possibilities are better here. He wonders if the strike will achieve its goals. "Frankly, I'm not sure I would support it, largely because I don't think it would put enough pressure on the government. I think it could probably be better handled with negotiations between labor and government ministries."

"If the outcome is achieved, I support it," said courier Cam Patterson. "The government's running amok right now."

Jordan Brooks, an unemployed secretary, doesn't sympathize with the strike. "I think they're insane, because with the unemployment problem right now they should be glad they're working."

"I would support it, but I don't know of the chances of it actually happening," said a store clerk who didn't want to give his name because "my boss might get pissed off with me" for supporting the strike. "It's the best way to deal with Bennett, after giving him a chance to deal with it by other

means in a reasonable, adult fashion."

"I don't like the idea," said Brent Nickerson, a carpenter from Victoria. "It'll screw up everything and won't make things any easier. It just won't help. I just don't believe that labor is doing the right thing. I think the only way (for the economy to rebound) is to go through what the government is doing."

Out on the picket line at the Open Learning Institute in Richmond, employees have been on strike since Oct. 16. The government has offered them no pay increase over the next year: the union is now asking for a five per cent increase: three per cent in salaries and two per cent in benefits. They've been without a contract for seven months.

"Nobody wants to be on strike," said Maurice Verkaar, a mark-up technician. "I hope it works itself out . . . that Bennett backs off on some things. On a lot of things."

Bus driver Jim McGill put his views most succinctly. "I think we're probably going to be going out. I don't think Bennett is going to go anywhere. With a general strike we're either going to win big or lose badly. I don't think there's going to be any middle ground."

Future

Short end of stick

The business media were quick to hail Premier Bill Bennett's televised performance last week as an "olive branch" held out to his opponents.

Pardon us for not immediately reaching out to grasp the leafless short end of the stick.

First, why did Bennett take to the tube? The answer to that one is easy. While Premier Bill and the Sacred convention delegates were huddling inside the Hotel Vancouver on Oct. 15, more than 50,000 Solidarity Coalition protesters were marching in the streets outside.

It's as simple as that.

What's more, member groups of the largest political demonstration in the history of the province followed

up their street action with a series of unambiguous pledges. Women Against the Budget, the Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition, and the Vancouver and District Labour Council, among others, promised to back Operation Solidarity "job action" (that's the polite phrase for general strike) until the government's legislative package was withdrawn and social services restored.

Second, what exactly did Bennett say in his televised address? That's harder to answer, and not just because Premier Bill is not the world's clearest communicator. The business media were prompt to point to the premier's "conciliatory" gestures: adjournment of the legislature, reiteration of a previous vague offer of consultation with individual ministers on the few bills yet to be passed, and an invitation to the B.C. Government Employees Union to return to the bargaining table.

Before examining the murky content of these so-called concessions,

it must be remembered that three-quarters of Bennett's speech was devoted to a hard-line defense of his government's program. "Our goals are firm and unshakable," said Bennett, and for a change, perhaps we ought to take his remarks at face value. Although forced to back off a millimetre here and a couple of centimetres there, thanks to the actions of the Solidarity Coalition (and it's important to recognize the coalition's victories), Bennett gave no signs whatsoever of changing his government's course. Seen in that light, the Bennett speech appears to be little more than a cynical maneuver to divide Solidarity.

The offer to consult with individual ministers over yet-to-be passed legislation (concerning the Rentalsman and Human Rights Commission) solves nothing, though of course Solidarity will again offer to meet the government as it has throughout the crisis. But the fact is that Bennett did not offer substantial changes to the legislative package nor restoration of chopped social services.

Bennett did make an unclear gesture toward the BCGEU, currently faced with the firing-without-cause of 1,600 of its members on Oct. 31. The premier seemed to be saying that the GEU was invited to negotiate a normal contract without the threat of Bills 2 or 3 as pre-conditions. We say "seemed to be saying" because Bennett did not say, he merely hinted.

The GEU has been eminently clear about its bottom line. The government will not be permitted to fire-without-cause a single member of its 40,000-strong union. If Bennett does so, the GEU will strike, and Solidarity will back it "up to and including general strike."

The job of the GEU is to protect its membership. As a component of the Solidarity Coalition, it knows it has to succeed or every other worker in the public sector will be at risk.

The job of the Solidarity Coalition, including the BCGEU, is to carry out the program passed at its first formal provincial conference last weekend: to continue the fight to repeal the Sacred legislative package and to achieve full restoration of social services. Whether or not the GEU negotiations lead to settlement or trigger a general strike, Solidarity's program remains the same. It gives no sign of splitting, diffusing, caving in, going away, or rolling over and playing dead. It is, for the foreseeable future, a fact of political life in B.C. The form of its actions may change; its goals have not.

Until the Bennett regime changes course, all the olive branches in the great rain forest are just so much firewood for the long winter ahead.



Dispatches from the front lines

By NORA D. RANDALL

Let me tell you, it's been an interesting couple of months in my apartment building. In August our previously absentee landlord drove in from Calgary to announce: "I'm raising the rent. There's no law to stop me." He followed this salvo with some enigmatic statements about being "tired of being the good guy." It was his most inspired performance since the roof fell in.

We organized a little tenant get-together and an organizer from the renters' coalition gave us a detailed report on what to expect from our landlord. Fortunately his yahoo response to the Sacred legislation was premature.

September started with the landlord putting up a sign saying he would be coming through our suites with the city

inspectors. On the appointed day he arrived with seven men: two inspectors and five contractors. They walked through my apartment and talked to each other about what they would do and where they would paint.

Every speck of paint in that apartment had been bought and applied by me. I had done every repair. It was the same for everyone in the building because it was impossible to get anything out of the landlord. Now he comes swooping in like a vulture to decide what colour he's going to paint the walls that I painted.

The thought of having this building renovated so it conforms to fire regulations is very attractive. None of us are romantically attached to living in a fire trap. We just can't afford to pay for the renovations by having our rents increased fifty per cent.

We found out when the landlord bought the building, how much he paid for it, that the mortgage was paid off and what the property taxes are.

This little exercise did wonders to dispell the Fraser Institute image of the beleaguered landlord going broke. It turns out that our landlord could make our homes fire safe without raising our rents and still laugh all the way to the bank. Of course, he may have over-extended himself when he bought the race horse, but that's not our fault.

So now it's October and life progresses. He evicted the two tenants in the illegal basement suites so he could begin renovations. Those suites were so bad they chose to move rather than fight. The rest of us are just hanging tight.

Nora D. Randall is currently travelling through the Cariboo.

Solidarity Times

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Stan Persky

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Contributors

Sheila Adams, Muriel Draaisma, David Gordon, Dale Jack, Terry Johnson, Brian Jones, Ken Mann, Erin Mullan, Bryan Palmer, George Stanley

Our Woman on the Road reached the Comox-Courtenay district this week and returned with a tale of how a mid-island Solidarity Coalition is holding off 1984, Sacred-style.

Our Staff learned that General Strike is not the commander of Canadian forces on Cyprus when Simon Fraser University labor historian Bryan Palmer gave us a fireside chat on the history of massive work stoppages. Potential general strikers looked into the crystal ball for us and people in the street practiced not going to work while giving us their views. Cliff Stainsby of the Solidarity Coalition gave us the first scoopful of dirt on the free enterprise lunatic fringe at the Fraser Institute. We promised to follow up until every chilling detail is exhumed.

In general, a very entertaining week was had by all, from smoke-filled pubs with throaty singers to the sanitized atmosphere of The Right Stuff. Our Trusty Agents, armed only with neckties and baggy pants, rubbed elbows with unrepentant Sacred, but failed to take out membership cards.

Meanwhile, Robert Bonner of B.C. Hydro decided whether or not to stuff our sub cards in B.C. Hydro envelopes along with the free advertising provided for his pal Jim Pattison, and the Victoria Press Gallery fretted over Solidarity Times credentials. Our ebullient business staff meantime fretted over subscriptions, ads, and distribution.

All in all, it looked like a real newspaper acquiring a real newspaper look. Press the green eyeshade Charlie, we're entering the Sacred twilight zone.

Solidarity Times is a politically independent weekly newspaper that supports the aspirations of Solidarity Coalition, trade unions, workers, women, ethnic minorities, native people, the handicapped, pensioners, social service recipients, gays and lesbians, tenants, defenders of human rights, environmental and peace activists, consumers, students, artists, and religious people seeking a socially relevant church. It is published by a non-profit society and is not the spokesperson or official organ of any organization.

Solidarity Times is published at 545 West Tenth Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5Z 1K9.

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Put it in Writing

Get heavy

I am concerned about the emphasis on Bill Bennett in your first issue. This reached an extreme in the B.C. Government Employees' Union advertisement which states simply, "It's Bennett's fault". This is gut reaction, not intelligent political analysis. The situation in B.C. is not an isolated aberration; it is consistent with the stranglehold that right-wing movements are obtaining across the world. The anti-people, pro-money policies of the Socreds are supported by the financial elite who, although a small minority of voters, hold real power in the province. Consequently, if the whole Socred party dropped dead tomorrow there would be a new crew of intermediaries willing to attend to the interests of those who control our economy, social well-being, media, and political complexion.

I would like to read less hysterical description and more thoughtful analysis. For instance, the Fraser Institute is behind this budget. Exactly who are they, where do they get their funding, and what are their interests?

Toby Smith
North Vancouver

Steer straight

I received your first issue and read it with some interest and some more misgivings. You had an advertisement for a disarmament production, an article supporting the Nicaraguan revolution, an advertisement for the NDP,

Women missed on front

I was sorry to see that the only images on the cover of the first issue of *Solidarity Times* were those of males. In three photographs, males were portrayed from childhood to manhood. This is 1983 and it is not okay that the cover of the first issue of *Solidarity Times* is all male. Why are females invisible on the front page?

To those people who say "We are fighting a repressive government; who cares whose picture is on the front page!" — let me tell you, I care. Just because we, men and women are fighting repressive legislation, is no reason for women to take a back seat to men. If we have time and energy to put men in front, we have time and energy to make women visible.

Dorrie Brannock
Vancouver

another for anti-cruise missile bumper stickers and an endorsement by the lesbian and gay caucus. To one degree or another, I disagree with the aims of all of these. When I see these various interest groups making public relations headway under the auspices of the *Solidarity* title, I feel my own support for *Solidarity* has been compromised.

I support it because I am opposed to the manner in which government restraint is being implemented. Period. Such successes as *Solidarity* may enjoy will be because it enjoys a broad, general support. To do that, it must subordinate the pet interests of its constituent groups. If it does not, it will lose my support. It will lose the support of people like me — generally conservative, yet who think the government is taking unwarranted liberties with its mandate. If that conservative element is alienated, the *Solidarity* movement will become exactly what the present government would like it to be... a shrill rag-bag of leftist curiosities that it can ignore with impunity.

Accordingly, a suggestion. Be more restrained as to your editorial content.

Dave Danylyshyn
Zeballos

Teacher unity a plus

Congratulations on your (our) first issue. It's wonderful having a paper representing the people of B.C. and not the corporations. Thanks also for your positive article on the Unemployed Teachers' Action Centre (UTAC).

You focused on our services to unemployed teachers. I'd like to mention that UTAC, in addition to being a much needed and well used support system, also has been very active politically. Our latest action was taken during health, education and social services week. We set up a mock overcrowded classroom on Robson Street and did street theatre to illustrate how devastating the continuing cutbacks to education are. We are very involved in both Operation *Solidarity* and the *Solidarity* Coalition for we see the unemployment affecting our members as being part of a larger social problem. As such it can only be solved socially, that is, in united action.

We'd like to invite all unemployed teachers and education students to come down to UTAC. We'll do our best to assist your personal situation in any way we can. Also, let's get together and use our collective power to help get rid of this destructive legislation and this destructive government. That way all of us will be back to work again soon.

Mel Lehan
Vancouver



Farcical justice a bitter harvest

This government says we don't need confrontation to win Justice. They tell us that we can win with consultation, co-operation and compromise. Well, to farmworkers and other workers in this province this "consultation" exercise has proven one thing: consultation is a farce.

In October 1982, Jarnail Deol, a 19 year old farmworker, died of pesticide poisoning. The Workers' Compensation Board responded quickly, and it appeared as if Jarnail would not have died in vain. The board set up a consultative committee of farmers, farmworkers and Board staff to negotiate regulations on the use of pesticides on B.C. farms. After three months of this consultation, realistic regulations were agreed upon that could have saved Jarnail's life. This consultative committee, with representation from the largest trade unions and industries in the province, unanimously recommended that these regulations go to public hearing. At last we could see action to stop the daily poisoning of ourselves and our children. However, the Board said no, no public hearings, no regulations, no safety, no reasons. Reason and justice do not prevail in the

face of backroom deals and political favours. A year and a half ago, the Socred minister of agriculture threatened the chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board with firing if he upset farmers with pesticide regulations. It is obvious to us that that threat still stands.

Farmworkers do not believe that the citizens of British Columbia support this discrimination. We believe that the contempt this government has shown for our lives is repulsive to British Columbians. We also believe that farmworkers are only the first to be attacked. If the Socreds get away with this they will try attacking the health and safety of other workers, too. We urge concerned citizens to speak out. Call your MLAs. Write to the minister of labour and make it clear that human life is not worthless in B.C.

We can only win equality when this government gets that message loud and clear. In the memory of a 19 year old farmworker, let us all work together to put an end to this bitter harvest.

Raj Chouhan, president
Canadian Farmworkers Union
Burnaby

CFRO opens airwaves to progressive broadcasts

Vancouver Co-operative Radio is a non-commercial, community-oriented and owned, listener-supported radio station that has been on the air for eight and a half years. We are carried on cable to many locations throughout B.C. and can be heard on air throughout the Lower Mainland and the southeast coast of Vancouver Island.

Among our over 50 weekly programs are many which are of special interest to labor and community groups, such as Union Made, Womanvision, Ecowatch and of course our flagship program *Redeye* on Saturday mornings.

As a community radio station, we believe we have a responsibility and a role to play in the fight against the provincial budget and associated legislation. One of the ways we try to do this is to cover the events and issues

raised by the legislative package on our public affairs shows.

This will be one of the main emphases of a new daily Monday to Friday public affairs show called *The Rational* that we will be launching Monday, Nov. 7.

But we think we may be able to do some more, and we would like to make an offer to the groups represented in Operation *Solidarity* and the *Solidarity* Coalition.

We would like to make more airtime available to organizations in the *Solidarity* movement to tell their constituencies and the population of B.C. about the implications of the Socred legislation and the need to fight it, and about how the fight is being carried on.

This could take a number of forms ranging from a weekly speak out on the air by a series of different organizations and

unions, to letting union strike committees use a regular time on the air every day to keep their members informed in the event of a strike.

We would like you to discuss within your union or organization how it might be useful to you to take advantage of this offer. We are open to your suggestions.

We believe it is important for the *Solidarity* movement to be able to speak in its own words to its members and the general public without the mediation of the commercial media, who have not been especially favorable to the aims of the *Solidarity* movement.

If you wish to discuss this further, please call me at 684-8494 between 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Vinny Mohr,
CFRO station co-ordinator,
Vancouver.

TEAR AWAY!

OCTOBER 26
VANCOUVER

Touchstone Theatre presents *Children of the Night*, comedy thriller by Paul Ledoux, at the Firehall Theatre, 280 East Cordova. Until Nov. 5, Tuesdays through Sundays. Tickets are \$6 and \$7. For further info call 687-8737.

“Planning Your Will,” People’s Law School’s second day on preparing a will, with lawyer Gary Wilson. At the Fireside Public Library, 1950 Argyle St. (Victoria and 54th) from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Free. For more info call 734-1126.

"With These Hands," exhibit of visual arts by women at Sister's Restaurant at Davie and Seymour. Continues until Nov. 13. Sponsored by Battered Women's Support Services.

Women in Focus presents "The Parisian Laundry — An Extravaganza of Women's Work from Toronto," a show by 44 artists. Daily until Nov. 5 and includes some performances. Admission \$3, \$2 for the unemployed. For more info call 872-2250.

Labor lecture on "Ontario Workers of the 20th Century," at 7:30, 2859 Commercial Drive.

Paula Ross Dance Company performs at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Oct. 26-29. Show starts at 8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, \$7.50; Friday, \$9; and on Saturday a shorter performance followed by an auction, \$20.

OCTOBER 27

CULTUS LAKE

Theatre on the Lake presents Tribute by Bernard Slade, Oct. 27-29. Tickets available at the Arts Place, 9339 Main St., in Chilliwack, or at the door. Curtain at 8:30 p.m. For more info call 792-2069.

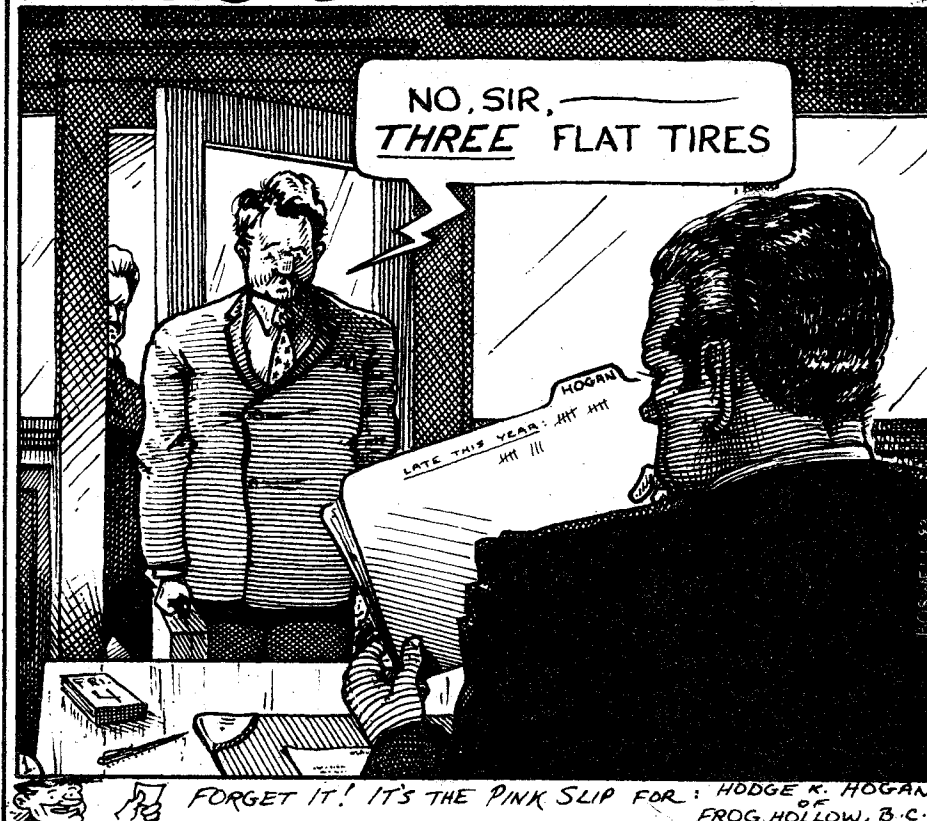
VANCOUVER

"Imagination and the Rise of the Popular Front," a French film documentary, at the Pacific Cinematheque, 1155 West Georgia, 7:30 and 9:30. For more info call 732-6119.

"Unrestrained" writers reading with Judith Fitzgerald and Carole Itter at Octopus Books, 1146 Commercial Drive, at 8:30 p.m.

Fred Penner, a children's performer with the Vancouver International Children's Festival, is

EXCUSE OF THE WEEK



appearing at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Venables and Victoria. Shows Oct. 27 and 28 at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., \$3; and Oct. 29 and 30 at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., \$5, and \$4 for children under 12.

OCTOBER 28

NEW WESTMINSTER

Fotofest '83, an evening of slide-show entertainment at Douglas College auditorium, 700 Royal Ave., New Westminster, 8 p.m., \$3.

VANCOUVER

Kent Native Brotherhood is holding a Benefit Dance with music by the Industrial Waste Band, Shanghai Dog and Enigmas. Dance starts at 9

p.m. at the Oddfellows Hall, 1720 Gravelly, at
Commercial

Kosta Tsoukleris performs electric Greek bouzouki music at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Drive, 8 p.m., \$2.

OCTOBER 29

VANCOUVER

Banquet and dance to celebrate the 46th anniversary of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, at 600 Campbell Ave. Dinner is at 6:30 and costs \$10, \$8 for the unemployed. Tickets available at the Pacific Tribune office and Co-op Books on Commercial Drive.

Elijah Rald, a progressive folk singer, performs at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Drive, 8 p.m., \$2.

OCTOBER 30

VANCOUVER

Songs of Peace and Solidarity with George Hewison and Bob Wishinski, Queen Elizabeth Playhouse, 649 Cambie, 8 p.m. Tickets cost \$6 and are available at Co-op Books, 1391 Commercial and through the Vancouver and District Labor Council.

Solidarity Sing-Along, with songs, poetry and an update on the present state of affairs in B.C., La Quena, 1111 Commercial Drive, 8 p.m.

Leading mountaineer and photographer Arlene Blum speaks on the history of women's mountaineering, 7:30 p.m., UBC, Instructional Resources Centre, lecture hall #6. Tickets are \$3.50 for students and advance sales, and \$4.50 at the door. Available at Ariel Books, Octopus East and the Alma Mater Society box office in the student union building at UBC.

Utah Phillips, Wobblie and protest singer, performs at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables at 8 p.m.

Halloween Benefit Dinner and Party from 4 to 8 p.m., with dinner at 5, Oddfellow's Hall, 1720 Gravelly Street (at Commercial). Tickets are \$6, and \$3 for children.

OCTOBER 31

VANCOUVER

Point of Order, a documentary film on McCarthyism. 6:30 and 9:30 p.m. at SUB in UBC.

AIDS Benefit Halloween Party at Neighbours,
1337 Robson, 7 p.m.

Halloween costume ball and benefit dance for Co-op Radio at the Inner Circle, 828 East Hastings. Tickets \$5.

NOVEMBER 1

VANCOUVER

"Shutdown" and "No Life for a Woman", 2 films about workers, women and the system at the Little Mountain Neighbourhood House, 3981 Main St., 7:30 p.m.

What does a Canadian businessman checking out the business prospects in the Phillipines and a tolling employee in his surveillance equipment factory have in common? A **do** with the arms race.

Find out the answers at Headlines Theatre's "disarming rev **Gun**, touring the province starting Oct. fun than a barrel of after-dinner speakers and informative, too.



Hepcat hop

Tickets are now on sale for a Press Gang and SORWUC Halloween Benefit Dance in Vancouver on Oct. 29. Communique and Juba will get the hepcats hopping, while Acting Up does just that with East Side Story, and Arlene Mantle belts out labor and feminist songs.

A fin and a bit (\$6) gets the salaried in, while \$4 is enuff for everybody else. The fun starts at 8 p.m. at Astorino's, 1739 Venables at Commercial. Tickets must be bought in advance and are available at the usual bevy of alternative bookstores.

So much for the dance info. Now for details on who benefits.

Press Gang is a 10-year-old feminist and anti-capitalist print shop and publisher. Always in a precarious financial situation, the recession and rapid technological change make the squeeze that much tighter.

Last year's benefit covered one-fifth of the cost of an instant print platemaker, which (ahem!) revolutionized their instant printing. This year they have their eye on a new small press.

The Service, Office and Retail Workers Union of Canada is an independent, democratic union for working women. SORWUC promotes the idea that women's work is essential whether it's unpaid labor in the home, or low paid labor in a female job ghetto. A guide to writing contract proposals and for negotiating new contracts — a must for inexperienced new members — is in the final stages. Their share of the proceeds will be used to have the guide printed at (where else?) Press Gang.

Phone 684-2834 for information or child car and wheelchair accessibility.

Lend us your beers

Don't start the revolution without us.

This is the place to publicize your meeting, demonstrations, club, semi-secret cabal, party, poetry reading, concert, wake, petition, art show, or campaign to save B.C. or other places from the excesses of those who have money and power to spare.

We're interested in short announcements carrying the basics: who, what, where, when and why. If you think your group or conspiracy is worth more than an announcement, send us a short article of 100 words or less. Make it to the point, lively and informative.

Get Happy and Get Serious are bulletin boards for people and groups who, shut out of existing media, have had to use clandestine and extra-legal means to spread the word about their gatherings and campaigns. But keep on gluing up those posters. We all need something to assault our senses as we trudge to our workplaces, be they real or imagined.

Send your messages, preferably typed (so if there is a screw-up, you can blame us), to Get Happy, Solidarity Times, 545 West 10th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1K9. Deadline is noon the Friday before the issue you want to see your announcement in. We reserve the right to edit for space.

A new angle

A new monthly newspaper for gays and lesbians will begin publication in Vancouver in late November.

The paper, named Angles, is published by the Vancouver Gay Community Centre Society, a Solidarity Coalition member.

Angles will be available in many West End gay establishments including Little Sister's Books, 1221 Thurlow Street. Subscriptions at \$15 per year are available from Angles, P.O. Box 2259, Main Post Office, Vancouver, V6B 3W2.

GET SERIOUS

OCTOBER 26 VANCOUVER

Lecture and group discussion on The Recovery — Fact or Fiction, with Marty Smith from the carpenter's union, 1 p.m., Fishermen's Hall, 138 East Cordova. Call 688-9001 for more info. Free.

The second evening in the Feminist Discussion Series. Tonight's topic is sexual harassment. At the Vancouver Status of Women, 400A West 5th (at Yukon) from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Child care is available. For more detail call Patty Moore, 873-1427.

OCTOBER 27 VANCOUVER

Alvaro Fernandez, a student leader from Chile, will speak on the situation in that country, 7:30 p.m. at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Drive, 251-6626.

Laski, an atomic bomb survivor, shares experiences of the Hiroshima A-Bomb attack. Evening includes a film and discussion. At Carnegie Centre, Main and Hastings, 7 p.m.

Solidarity update, at UBC Law School, with speakers Hanna Jensen, Bill Black, Jean Swansen, and Stuart Rush, 12:30 noon.

OCTOBER 28 VANCOUVER

Alvaro Fernandez, a student leader from Chile, will speak on the situation in that country, Fishermen's Hall, 138 East Cordova, at 7:30 p.m.

Rev. Michael Hapsley, from ANC, and Susan Nghidinwa, of the Southwest Africa People's Organization, will speak on the situation in South Africa, at the Science of Mind Hall, 2915 Commercial Drive, at 8 p.m. Sponsored by SAAC.

Gay and Lesbian solidarity caucus meets at 7 p.m. at 686 West Broadway. For info call 874-4582.

Ending the Arms Race, a series of five lectures on Fridays, starts at noon at Robson Square.

OCTOBER 29 VANCOUVER

Disarmament and Beyond, a 2-day conference of workshops and lectures making connections between militarism, labor, women's and solidarity movements, will be held at Langara campus of Vancouver Community College, 100 W. 49th, \$3.50 unemployed, \$6 employed. Childcare available. Sponsored by

Women Against Nuclear Technology and the Trident Action Group. For more information call 255-0524 or 988-3649.

TAG DAY

The following Solidarity Coalitions have announced Tag Days as a major fund-raising drive: Burn's Lake, Powell River, Gibson's, Campbell River, Nanaimo, Kelowna, Grand Forks, Richmond, Smithers, Dawson Creek, McKenzie, Nelson, Merritt, Hope, Surrey, Prince Rupert, and Vancouver. Other coalition members may also be holding tag days. Contact your local coalition for more details.

OCTOBER 30 VANCOUVER

Leo McGrady and Peter Beaudin of the People's Law School give a free lecture on "Domestic Workers and the Law," Vancouver Public Library, 750 Burrard, from 2 to 4 p.m. For more info call 734-1126.

Community budget meeting sponsored by the Riley Park community association, 50 East 30th Ave., from 2 to 5 p.m. Child care provided. Accessible to wheelchairs.

Disarmament and Beyond, second day of conference. See October 29th for details.

OCTOBER 31 VANCOUVER

Refuse the Cruise action planning meeting for the anti-nuke solidarity days on Dec. 2 and 3. Ken Nightingale and Paul Desfor from California will be available for discussion. For more info call 875-1098. Held at the First United Church, Hastings and Gore, at 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 1 VANCOUVER

The third evening in the Feminist Discussion Series. Tonight's topic is pornography and violence, Vancouver Status of Women offices, 400A West 5th (at Yukon) from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Child care is available. For more info call Patty Moor at 873-1427.

NOVEMBER 2 NELSON

Nelson Solidarity Coalition will be holding a general workshop with guest speaker Alicia Lawrence. Call your local coalition office for more information.

VICTORIA

OCT. 26

The South Pacific People's Foundation presents a slide show titled, "The Marshall Islands — The U.S.'s Radioactive Trust," 7:30 p.m., James Bay Community Centre, 140 Oswego St.

The Catholic Social Justice Commission and the Victoria Solidarity Coalition are co-sponsoring a workshop with GATT-fly, a project of Canadian churches for global economic justice. The workshop will teach groups to analyse the economic crisis, identify alternative programs, and develop strategies for political action. From 7 to 10 p.m. Pre-registration is essential; call Anne Fletcher (592-5979) or Doran Doyle (658-5605). There's a \$10 fee.

OCT. 27

Public forum with the Physicians for Social Responsibility as part of disarmament week, 8 p.m., Eric Martin Auditorium on Fort St.

Second night of the Catholic Social Justice Commission, Victoria Solidarity Coalition and GATT-fly workshop. See Oct. 26 for details.

OCT. 28

"Women and the Changing Family" is the subject of this year's Status of Women action group conference, today and tomorrow at the University of Victoria. For info call 381-1012.

OCT. 29

Greater Victoria Disarmament Group presents Kinuko Laskey, a Hiroshima survivor, as well as the films Prophecy and The Lost Generation, 7:30 p.m., Eric Martin Auditorium on Fort St.

OCT. 31

Regular weekly meeting of the Women Against the Budget, 8 p.m., Room A204, Clear-time Building, University of Victoria.

NOV. 3

Victoria Solidarity Coalition meeting, 7:30 p.m., Victoria Union Centre, 275] Quadra St.

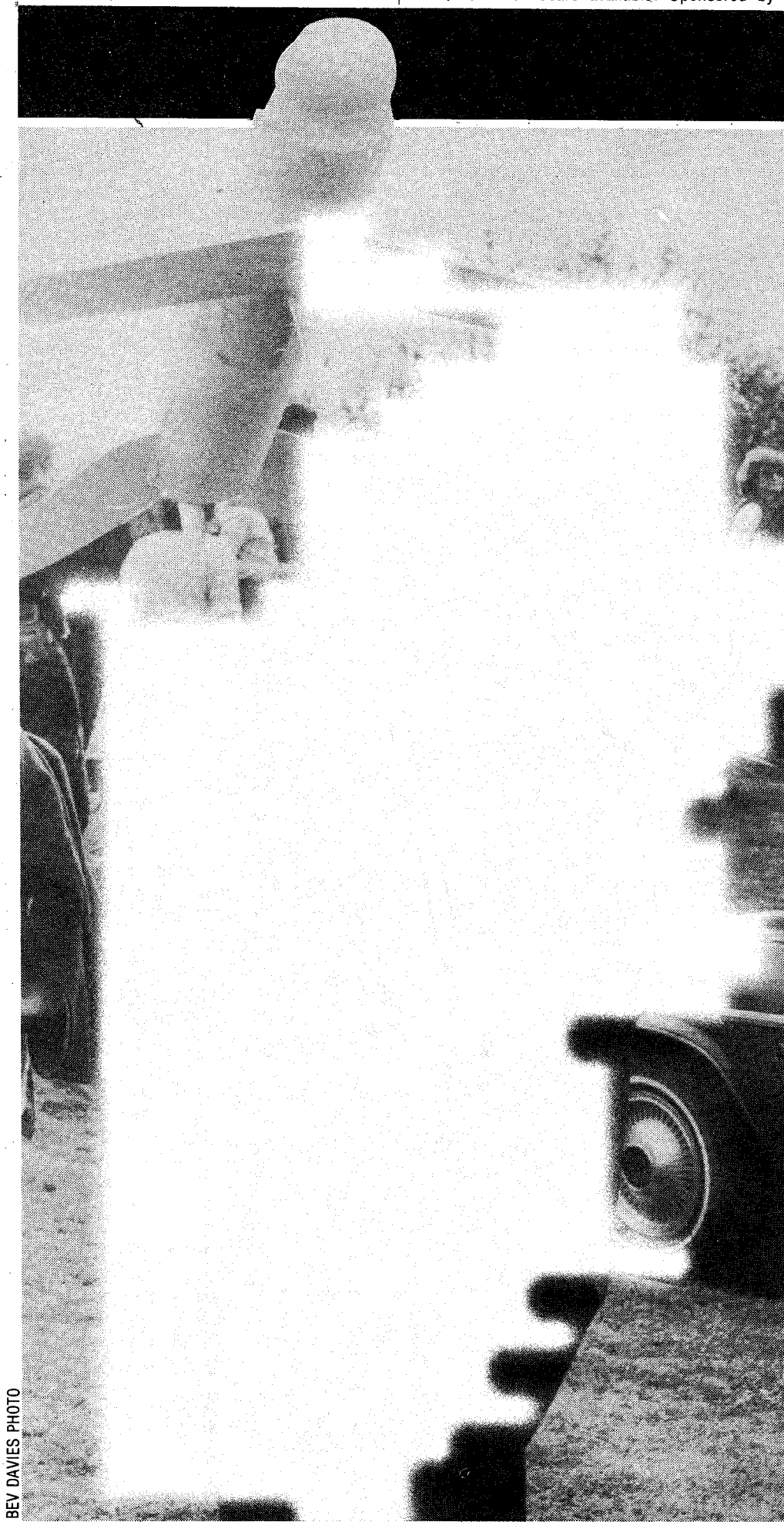
NOV. 14

One-hour panel discussion with Joy Illington, Judy Liefshultz, Sara David and Dina Stanley of Women Against the Budget, 7 p.m., on Victoria Cable 10.

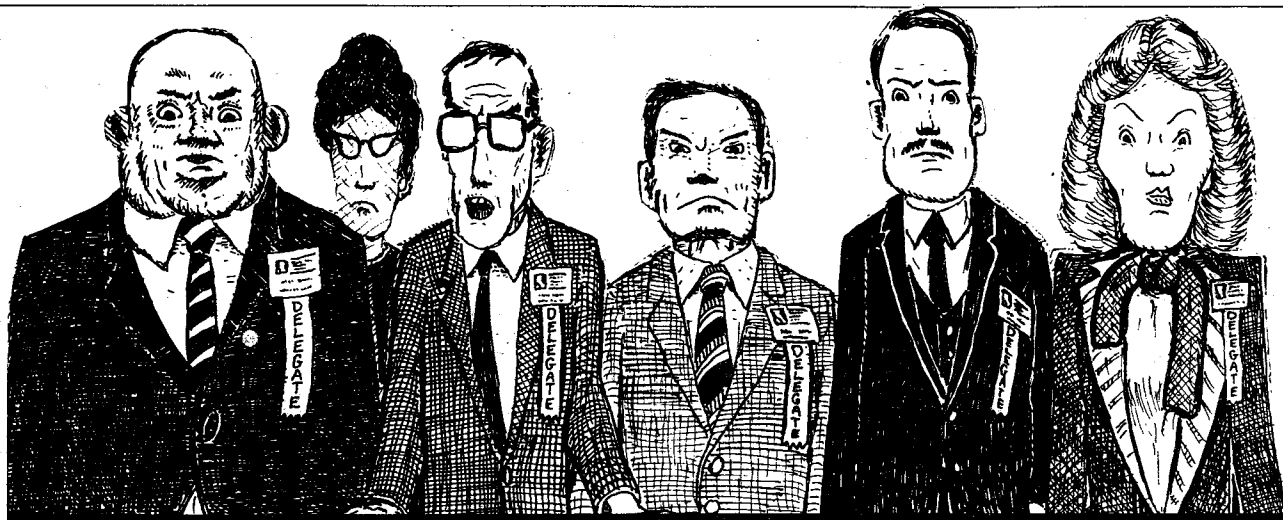
PENTICTON

OCT. 27

Regular meeting of Solidarity Coalition, 7:30 p.m., Carpenter's Hall, 695 Wade Ave. West.



BEV DAVIES PHOTO



Remember Harold Gorney, that whiney, snivelling guy in high school who, no matter how serious or insignificant the problem, *always* managed to blame someone else? Harold Gorneys are smug, arrogant, cruel, petty and plain mean-spirited. When they are successful they call themselves self-confident and self-motivated, but mostly they're just selfish.

There were several Harold Gorneys, accompanied by Mrs. H. Gorneys, in attendance at a caucus breakfast during the Social Credit convention on Oct. 15.

It was a bawdy and boistrous session. Several MLA's wore tall white chef's hats while they took turns playing Shecky Greene at the Sands. Here's MLA Bruce Strachan on a fellow MLA: "Rita Johnson was the second person in our party to use closure. Isn't that *something* for a new member? . . . According to the rules of the House, closure is called standing order 46." With that he flung his arms defensively across his chest as the room screamed with laughter. One woman twirled her red cloth napkin in the air.

Someone else had a story about North Okanagan MLA Don Campbell, who had recently insulted lesbians. "Campbell's aides got word of a protest. So his aides approached him: 'Don! Don! The lesbians are going to picket your store!' Now that didn't bother a businessman like Don. He said, 'That's great. How else would you get so much publicity for having fruits in the Okanagan'." Again the room shook.

Grace McCarthy rose to make a short speech about the "Slow opposition," before handing fellow cabinet minister Stephen Rogers a pair of red underwear. "I suppose this makes them half-fast," she cracked.

Somebody made yet another closure joke to end the breakfast. As they poured out of the Hotel Vancouver's opulent Pacific Ballroom, one woman gushed: "That's the best part of the convention."

The Mrs. H. Gormleys often don't fare too well. Two fellows were chatting at the vacated campaign table of Meldy Harris. Said one to the other: "It's a shame they couldn't find a man for the job, but they looked and looked and no one would take it!"

Or there was this exchange between media baby sitter Dick Collins and his wife. She let some reporters take coffee cups from the media room to watch a video presentation. Dick put a quick halt to that. "There'd be nowhere for them to put the cups in that room," Dick snarled.

"But I thought they could just stand at the back of the room with their cups in their hand."

"Excuse me," he said curtly, correcting his wife for talking back.

She tried to reply.

"What!" he snapped. It wasn't a question.

"Nothing," she said resignedly, folding her hands in her lap.

Let's go to an upstairs window during the big afternoon demo. Below is a scene out of a Frankenstein flick: the angry citizenry storming the mad doctor's castle.

Tourism minister Claude Richmond sidles up. He surveys the Seig Heil-ing throng below and says, "Look at that — not a suit and a tie in the lot." One delegate from Vancouver Centre took a hard look at this march through his riding, before an-

nouncing to no one in particular: "These are just communists. That's how they operate. You know, they should ban them here just like they have in the States . . . Sure a lot of kids in strollers out there. The kids, they sure use those kids. It's the teachers. They get these ideas in them. And it's just not right.

Most of them can't even get jobs. They don't know why they're here." The other word on the convention floor was that none of the protestors earned less than \$30,000. Anyways, it was just rent-a-crowd making the usual noises, they said.

On the street they had begun singing that mocking hockey taunt: "Na-na-na-na, na-na-na-na, Bill Bennett, goodbye." Upstairs, delegates plodded through their business, oblivious that they had become the N.Y. Islanders of B.C. politics.

Later, at a Meet the Cabinet session, an elderly fellow rose: "I don't know whether to address this question to you Mr. Premier, or to the minister of labor . . . If there is a general strike, would you return to us that basic human right, the right to work?" He got the afternoon's loudest ovation for posing this darling demand of arch-conservatives.

After the applause died down, Bennett jokingly waved his arm: "The minister of labor." Everyone laughed as Bennett sidestepped the touchy question. Bob McClelland took his time getting to the lectern and when he did said, "My friend the premier." That broke them up again.

Another elderly fellow got up to say he was scared of his rent increase now that the Rentalsman's office had been eliminated. "The landlords should be more compassionate and practice a little restraint," he said to thundering silence.

"It was rent controls that brought in a confrontational attitude between landlord and tenant," Bennett replied. "It is presumptive of us to presume that landlords are mean and vicious." For that Bennett got applause.

The joking mood was returned when former cabinet minister Len Bawtree got to a floor mike. "If I had a herd of reindeer," he appealed loudly, "would I (now) have the right to advertise for a male Lapplander shepherd, with a Christian background and certain political beliefs?" That one really wowed the Harold Gorneys.

The rest of the session was much the same: a mousy guy complained that the demonstrators had "infringed on my human rights at not being able to get out of this hotel;" a woman wanted to know when the one remaining union-staffed transition house would be privatized; a professor wanted to know if someone could get the three university presidents together so that they could all raise their tuition fees without worrying about being undercut on the open market; and there was a call for raised speed limits on the province's highways.

The election news was slipped in during a long reply about the government's openness on the Public Sector Restraint Act. Said Bennett: "Consultation will give us a stronger program and it will help . . . ah . . . give everyone an opportunity to be part of the fight we must fight together. That legislation's still not passed. Uh. That opportunity still exists. It will exist next week, it will exist next year, it will exist the next year, and the next year, and after the election of 1987, it will continue to exist with a government that has a larger majority than we have now."

BENNETT PROMISES ELECTIONS FOR '87

BY TOM HAWTHORN • ILLUSTRATION BY STU MORRIS

Parting with post partum counselling will plunk social services into the past, say staff. A wall full of letters concurs.

PARTUM SHOTS

By Debbie Wilson

Nola Holden couldn't understand what was wrong with her. She had no energy. She had irrational fears about someone breaking into her home. She had trouble moving around.

"If I was sitting down after breakfast, it would be hard for me to get up. I just felt bad. I felt like I had lost everything I ever had."

A recent move from Ottawa left her completely isolated with her baby. The local Family Places and public health centres she tried didn't help but someone in Ottawa had given her the number for the post partum counselling office in Vancouver before she left.

"She must have known something I didn't know."

Holden learned through the post partum counselling group she joined that her depression was common, that about 20 per cent of women experience post partum depression. She became a counsellor under the system developed there where a woman who has been through it helps another in the thick of post partum depressions.

"Quite a few women come there with their second child, and with their first child they never got over it. The depression backed off so they could function, but when they had their second child they got it all back."

"Now, without post partum counselling, for two or three years they are going to be pretty dysfunctional," Holden says.



Handford and Knight think doctors won't fill void.

She knows of one woman in the program who will have to wait two or three months before she can see another professional about her depression. And she is one of the minority, says Holden, who can afford to pay for help.

"You can go to someone who understands depression and anxiety, but they are not usually someone who understands what it's like to be at home with kids."

Holden is only one of the authors of letters to the provincial government and newspapers which protest the Oct. 31 closure of B.C.'s eleven year old post partum counselling centre. In the darkened and sparsely furnished Van-

couver office, walls are papered with other letters from Coquitlam, Richmond, Burnaby, Cranbrook, Victoria. They are from the medical health director in Richmond, doctors, the Battered Women's Support Services, and many, many women.

There are over 70 letters taped on the wall. Penny Handford, one of the five remaining staff members at the post partum counselling office, waves one hand at the display in a futile gesture. The day before they met with Sam Travers, executive director of services for the human resources ministry, she says.

"He just dismissed all these. The only letters he cares about are from doctors; forget all the women who have written to him."

She apologizes: "We're in a very low place today."

Travers told the women their program would not be saved. Mental health workers and public health nurses would treat post partum depression. He had treated it himself, he said.

Handford's co-worker Sandra Knight thinks it over. "We should have asked him to define post partum depression."

Most people think it is the "baby blues" women experience 48 hours after birth, she says. Or psychosis, which is very rare. The counsellors see women with children up to three years old. Not that it ends then. Many women never get over it.

"They had absolutely no understanding of the seriousness of post partum depression and that these women are suicidal," says Knight.

When their office closes, health nurses' and social workers' work loads will increase, says Knight. The "medical model" will be used for treating post partum depression.

"That will reinforce to women that this is an abnormal experience, that they are inadequate. Which reinforces everything they've already been thinking about themselves."

Tacked above the electric kettle in the office's coffee nook is a poster in which two doctors peer over a woman trapped in a medicine bottle. It says: "Take a pill, Mrs. Brown."

Trying to keep the product fresh

By Trish Webb

COURTENAY — Sylvia Lindstrom is grieving. She lost her job, her savings, her friend, and unless she starts working soon, she will lose her home.

We took photos of her new three-tiered patio, Sylvia acting the proud homeowner. Her heart wasn't really in it though: she hardly smiled.

We talked about unemployed life, the theatre group she works with, and Simon Fraser University, where she learned to typeset. Four years ago she moved to Courtenay, got a job with the local printshop and bought a house. Then came last year's lay off; the printer finally declared bankruptcy in August and her unemployment insurance claim ran out.

"I'm concerned about the federal government's plan to raise UI premiums for working people. I think it could be very divisive. People find it easy to blame someone they don't know. The unemployed are faceless."

Sylvia has been looking for jobs on the Island. The new printer in Courtenay is staffed by the owners; they told her to come back in five years.

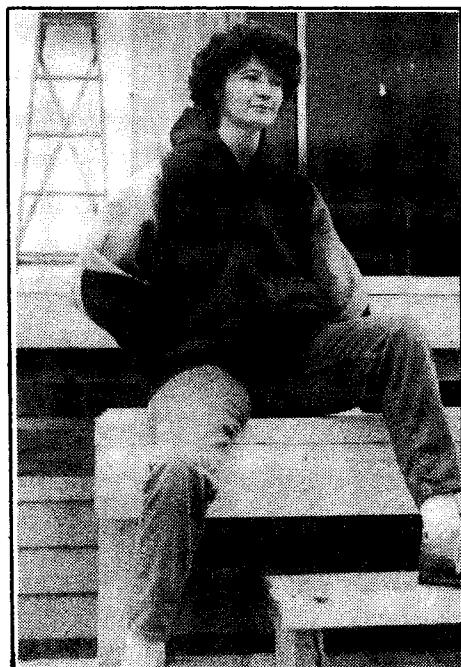
Sylvia is concerned that a shop with the latest technology might not provide the training time she'll need if she remains unemployed much longer.

"You're selling yourself, like potatoes or onions, except you can't be

put on the shelf for awhile," she said.

To keep the product fresh, she enrolled in the local college's only computer course. A proposed expansion of the Campbell River community college includes a computer program — with a maximum enrollment of twenty-five. Competition will be stiff.

"It's ironic that proper training isn't available now. Obviously people are



Lindstrom: "You're selling yourself."

interested in retraining and picking up new skills." Going to school in another town or city is a possibility, but not a welcome one.

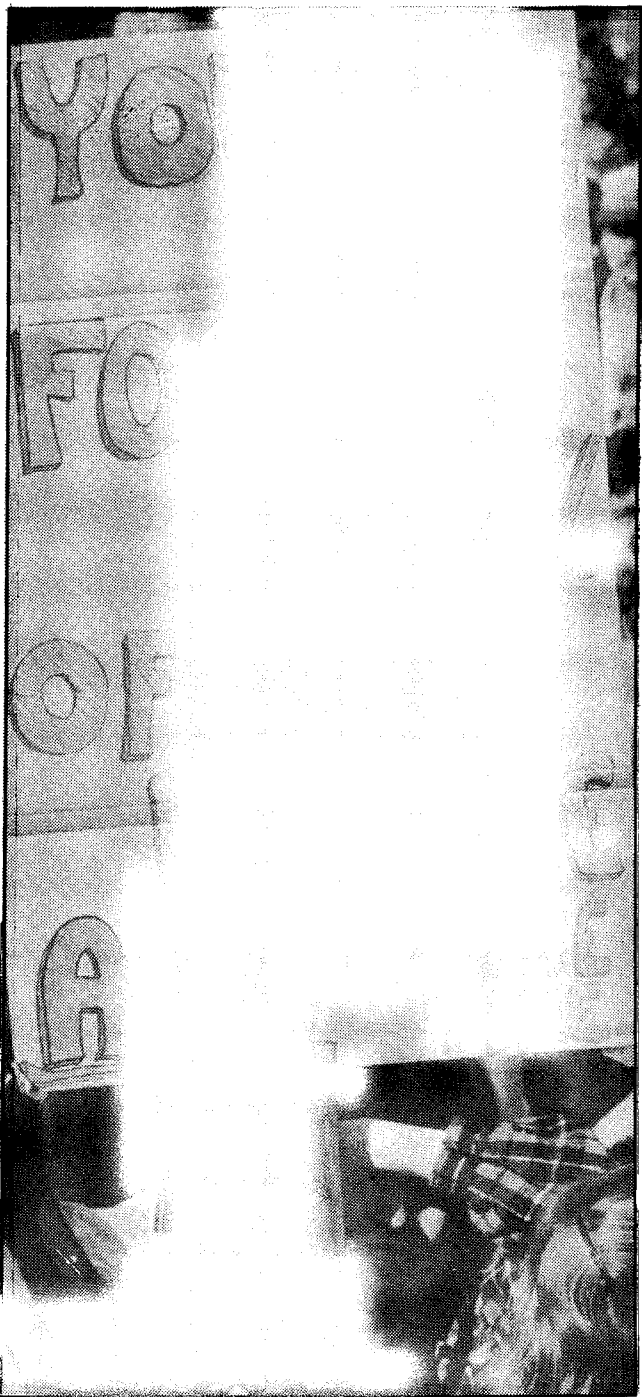
"It's okay to move — in fact, I could get excited about being in a new place, meeting new people — but when it's dictated by a job it is hard to accept. It could happen again and again and that is depressing."

Like many others, Sylvia is trying to keep her head above water. A close friend of hers gave up.

"Not being sure of your future and not being in control leaves you with the feeling you have failed. This spring a friend — she was the only person I knew on the Island before moving here — separated from her husband. When I last saw her she was working at a temporary job and really optimistic about supporting her son, and excited about her independence. Well, her temporary job ended and just a few weeks ago she killed herself. She had said she was concerned about her ability to support her son."

"She took it on herself; she felt she was a failure. I walked around stunned for about a week. I thought people only killed themselves for really personal reasons."

"Having no future is like that, people take it really hard and blame themselves."



Sign of times at Vancouver rally

Trouble

From page 2

by Lieutenant Governor Bill Rogers. The premier also threw out an invitation to community groups to consult with his ministers on as-yet upassed bits of legislation. Most of his alleged concessions, however, appeared directed to the strike-threatening BCGEU. Bennett urged the government employees back to the bargaining table.

Although some commentators called the Bennett speech an olive branch, Solidarity was considerably less impressed. Woman Against the Budget responded with an impromptu march in downtown Vancouver. Coalition co-chair Kube saw only a bid by Bennett to "defuse a general strike." As before, Solidarity was willing to talk, especially if the government was prepared to answer some questions. "What's he going to do about people who require public assistance?" Kube asked. "And what about Bill 3?"

When Solidarity co-chair Renate Shearer called the premier's office the next morning to set up a meeting with Bennett, the olive branch was quickly withdrawn. Maybe later, said Bennett spokesman Norman Spector.

Nor were the 200 delegates at Solidarity's first formal provincial conference last weekend enticed by Bennett's

vague televised offer. The coalition authorized its steering committee to develop a plan "to escalate the fightback" against the legislative package and to restore social service cutbacks, and, as well, to invite Operation Solidarity, the trade union coalition partner, to support the plan "up to and including a general strike."

Even as the BCGEU returned to the bargaining table early in the week to prevent the firing of 1,600 of its members, the ominous watchword of the coalition remained: the clock is still ticking.

Fraser

From page 5

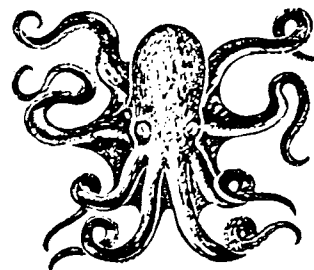
Corporate sponsors can pay as little as \$300 or as much as \$15,000 each year, Walker says.

In 1982, corporations donated \$477,000 while foundations donated \$225,000, according to Walker. Individual members, of which there are about 200, gave \$17,000.

The corporations listed include many of Canada's largest, including Canadian Pacific Limited, Noranda Mines, MacMillan Bloedel and the major banks.

Also listed are B.C. Television, Thompson Newspapers, Southam Inc., Premier Cablevision and Maclean-Hunter. The report says "it is interesting, and somewhat disturbing to note" that the media outlets all contribute funds to the institute.

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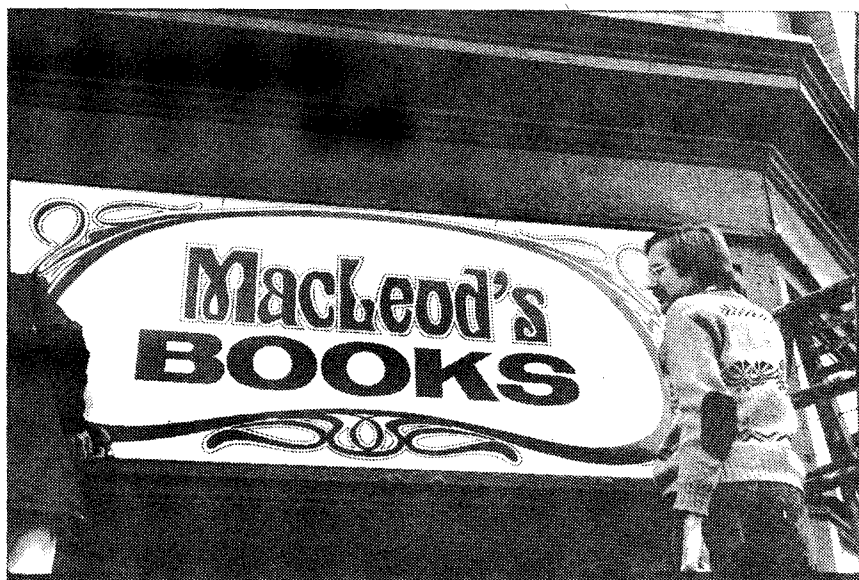
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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

COMMODORE BALLROOM

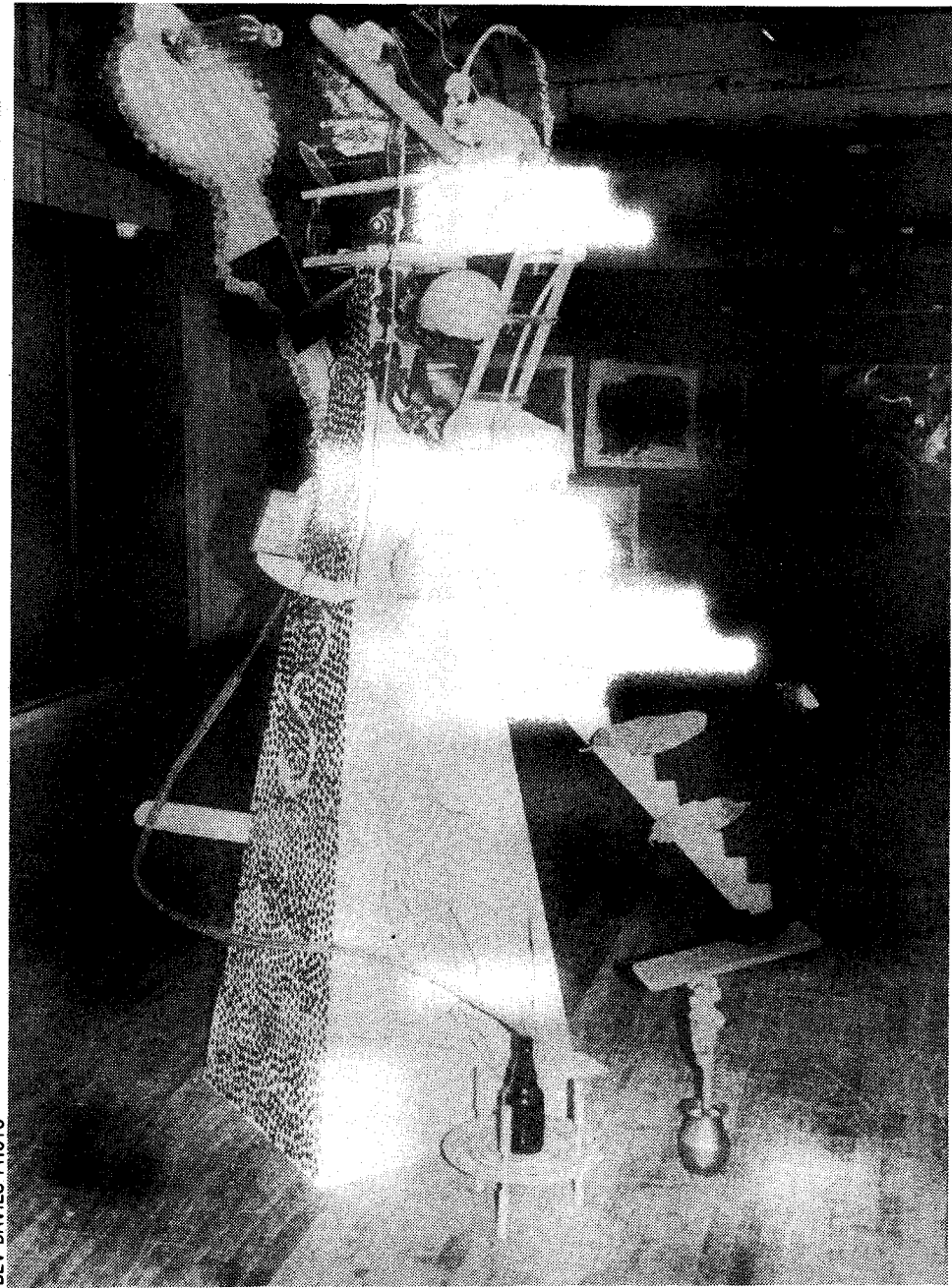
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BEV DAVIES PHOTO

Forget Dancing, Let's Art!

By Scott Watson

An Exhibition of Vancouver Contemporary Art. 1078 Hamilton Street, Oct. 16 - 29.

This is a mammoth exhibition including the work of over 100 Vancouver artists. It was organized by a committee of six "non-aligned" artists and critic/curators as a response to the opening of the new Vancouver Art

Gallery with its mammoth *Art and Artists; Vancouver 1931-1983*. The exhibition fills three floors of an old warehouse in Yaletown and seems to represent, on a local level, the current universal longing for the overview — a mood one might call the Long Good-bye.

The October Show, if not exactly a *salon des refusees*, is certainly a salon, the likes of which Vancouver hasn't seen since the big B.C. Annuals ended in the late sixties. The general impression is jarring — making one realize at once that painting is a matter of im-

BUT IS IT ART?

itation in more ways than one. What a whore painting seems in this exhibition — it's a grim masquerade in which all have shown up wearing the same costume, that of the victim. One must except from the general horror the warmth of Jeannie Kamins' portraits which assert humanist values on an intimate scale, bill bisset's dazzling paintings of real angels and Phillippe Raphanel's smokey nocturnal universe. I am not saying that the rest is dreck, I'm saying that in this exhibition the painting is placed to disadvantage.

It was in the installations and the photography where I saw work that I felt was authentic, moving and complete.

Georgianna Chappell's installation is probably the finest in the exhibition. Coloured lights at the back of the low timbered basement illuminate a pile of white marble dust and what I guess must have been the old building's sump as well as the walls and the space. It is a case of economy of means used to produce a complex work that is also very emotional. Alan Storey's revolving timber column goes through all three floors and is an awesome engineering marvel. It is a cool, laid-back instru-

ment of torture. Neither cool nor subtle, but nevertheless redeemed by extremism, are Joe Average's savage homages to the S & M of everyday life. Freddy Douglas's *The Van* is evidence of love of another order. The customized van and all the implements of self-sufficiency it contains — hundreds of dishes, tools, utilitarian objects are laid out on the floor — combines the myths of the nomad with that of technological mastery.

Perhaps it was the messiness of the paintings which made the photographs seem so clear in their intention. Share Corsaut, Ken Straiton and Marion Penner Bancroft certainly stand out as artists who are in complete command of their means.

All in all this is an exciting exhibition and one which asks a few serious questions.

The curatorial statement, as qualified as a communique from Geneva, celebrates "diversity". I saw fragmentation, in works themselves (Oraf, Lemieux) and in the way the show was arranged. A claim is made that the October Show will "draw attention to the conditions informing local art". Yet little is to be seen about what this place is and what it is going through. Lots of work about nuclear apocalypse, media manipulation, difficulty with symbols and words, the norms of western culture. As it is the same culture which has eroded a sense of place (one has to know where one is before one can act), most of the work illustrates the general crisis of the times and does so as if crisis were distant, not our pressing problems here.

There is one piece outside the building that houses the rest of the work. Gerry Gilbert filled a city trash bin with burned books. The books were from a recent fire-bombing of McLeod's Books. Right wing terrorists are suspected. I might note that this crime has gone practically unnoticed in the press which tried by media the Squamish Five only months ago. The bin is covered with old news stories from Chile about the fall of Allende. Allende's last interview is played on a tape recorder in the bin. It might not be great art. But it unsettles. Pinochet's men seem closer now than before.

Special to The Times

Remember getting up early in the morning back in the '60s to watch those early space shots? An hour of watching a rocket sitting on its pad, followed by three minutes of fireworks, followed by numbing hours of watching a simulated astronaut sitting lifeless in a boring simulated capsule. It would finally end with fuzzy pictures of a capsule floating to sea under its parachute, and a banal speech from a handsome God-fearing astronaut whom we had read about in *Life* magazine.

Eventually, the public turned off their TVs and by the time Tom Wolfe wrote his book *The Right Stuff* in 1979, the politicians had turned off the U.S. manned space program, at least temporarily.

Wolfe's book, perhaps the best that will ever be written about the pioneer spacemen, turned the simon pure men of the first U.S. manned space project, Mercury, into real live pilots, foibles and weaknesses revealed to one and all. Wolfe also defined the world from which they came, the fraternity of test pilots, epitomized by Chuck Yeager, the man who first broke the sound barrier in 1947.

Now *The Right Stuff* has come to the screen, and it is an exhilarating three-hour journey into the realm of the test pilot. The \$25 million extravaganza replaces the boring simulations and two-dimensional astronauts with thrilling flight sequences that emphasize the violence of jet and rocket against air. *Life* magazine cutouts

emerge as real people with troubled private lives who have to gain respectability among their fellow test pilots.

Yeager stood head and shoulders above his fellow pilots, and so does the performance of Sam Shepard, who plays Yeager, the dominant character of half the movie. The depiction of the seven Mercury astronauts occasionally

falls into caricature as the actors emphasize the quirks of the characters they play.

While some will unfortunately see the astronauts and Yeager as the new epitome of macho, the cost of their behavior is a major theme of the movie. Barbara Hershey, as Yeager's wife Glennis, turns out to be the

No Fluff In Right Stuff



toughest and most self-assured character of *The Right Stuff*.

Since the events shown are of recent memory, and most of the characters still very much alive, writer-director Philip Kaufman faced a major challenge. Particularly difficult was the characterization of John Glenn, the hero who received critical treatment in Wolfe's book, who's now the conservative Democrat standard-bearer for the 1984 U.S. presidential sweepstakes.

Glenn, played by Ed Harris, comes across as an ambitious ham who ultimately gains appeal when he overrules the space agency, the vice-president and his ambition, in favor of the needs of his wife.

Parts of the movie are eerily close to what actually happened, from Alan Shepard's pre-launch gaze at his rocket to Gordon Cooper's lopsided grin.

But in an effort to dramatize events, liberties are sometimes taken with the facts. Wernher Von Braun and his German rocket team played a much smaller role in Mercury than the movie suggests, John Glenn did not hum on his flight, and the idea that the U.S. (or the Russians for that matter) knew who the first two cosmonauts would be the morning after the 1957 launch of Sputnik is preposterous.

Despite this, *The Right Stuff* is likely to be the best movie ever to be made on the early days of space flight. Its lapses can be forgiven when one sees the real people on the screen and the breathtaking flight sequences that put real life on a higher level than the exploits of the sci-fi space jockeys of *Star Wars*.

Family Chaos

By David Gordon

Forever Yours, Marie-Lou
By Michael Tremblay
Directed by Maro Diamond
At Simon Fraser University Theatre
Until October 29

Forever Yours, Marie-Lou is a play about love that is lost: between a married couple; between them and their two daughters; and, saddest of all, by the daughters altogether.

The theme, colorfully played out in two simultaneous conversations, is achieved by four characters who rarely move from their chairs. Marie-Louise, the mother, sits in an easy chair at one end of the stage, knitting (her chief joy in life) while at the other end her husband Leopold sits meditatively over a table of draft beer. They more or less have a conversation, since their remarks to each other are addressed straight ahead towards the audience. Occasionally they drift into monologue.

Between them, their daughters Carmen and Manon sit at the kitchen table ten years after their parents' death. They discuss life with their parents and how it affected what they are presently doing. Carmen has become a sleazy sensualist while Manon is a compulsively guilty religious fanatic. They occasionally flash back to two frightened teenagers eavesdropping on their bickering parents.

This is not as chaotic as it may sound. The two conversations almost

FROM THE FOOTLIGHTS

never overlap. But several times, though ten years apart, they comment on each other appropriately.

There is a sensitively-paced momentum that seems to sweep the cast and audience together. Gradually, the characters are revealed and gradually the subject matter moves from crunchy peanut butter to sexual frustration and death. And we finally see that these people are terribly lonely because they've lost the love that could have bound them together.

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UNDER FIRE

Love, Deadlines and Revolution

By Dale Jack

A new American film has brought to the state of the movie art a new and clearer view of the machinery behind modern war.

Focusing on American journalists covering the 1979 Nicaraguan revolution, Roger Spottiswode's *Under Fire* is not an outright condemnation of U.S. involvement, as in *Missing*, or on love and revolution a la *Reds*, or *The Year of Living Dangerously*, although shades of both themes are present.

What makes this film truly revolutionary is its backdrop of war in the third world as a business for the superpowers in a North vs. South — rather than an East vs. West — scheme.

From the first footage a guerilla skirmish in Chad to a mercenary's farewell of "see you in Thailand" in the film's final moments, we are thrown into the lives of journalists, mercenaries, spies, and businessmen who profit from war.

AT THE FLICKS

It is a world where peace means a time to move on to redder pastures, where bullets are an occupational hazard (if you care to get that close to the truth), and the only real danger comes from challenging the status quo which maintains and feeds off war.

This is itself ambitious, but Spottiswode has put this theme in the perspective of non-partisan journalists merely trying to do their jobs. In striving for objectivity and "getting the story," they find that simply telling the truth becomes an act of war, subject to all the reprisals of war.

Most of the statements in *Under Fire* are subtle; the film is carried by the action of the plot, colorful characters, and the love triangle between the three principals, played by Nick Nolte, Joanna Cassidy, and Gene Hackman. Having superlative actors and a (for the most part) well-paced plot, Spottiswode does not rely on strident condemnations, preferring to inject his theme through imagery and irony.

Spottiswode twists reality and illusion to expose the dark underside of war. Like Nolte's character, photo-journalist Russell Price, we are duped by Jean-Louis Trintignant's portrayal of Jazy, a French spy who plays a charming and foppish Scarlet Pimpernel: "I cannot keep my mouth shut. I love to have my picture taken. Am I not a terrible spy?"

Like the camera with which Price makes his living, Jazy never lies, yet he is the embodiment of all the deceptive elements in the film.

Under Fire undermines faith in the camera as a news tool, showing us its potential for deception and evil. But in this case it is hard for Price to decide to use his camera to lie to help the guerilla cause. But even this decision does not prepare him for seeing his photographs used by Jazy to a more evil end.

"*Under Fire*" is a testament to the faith we place in the visual media. When the shooting of ABC reporter Bill Stewart by a Nicaraguan soldier played on the North American television, U.S. aid to the country was cut back. Yet it is only when the act is recorded as it was in "*Under Fire*" or "*Missing*" that its reality is driven home. At one point in the film a Nicaraguan woman tells Claire: "50,000 Nicaraguans have died, and now a Yanqui. Maybe they should have killed an American reporter fifty years ago."

To take it a step further: maybe they should have made a movie about it.

After a guerilla's face is blown off in an aborted kidnapping, Alex Grazier, Gene Hackman's character, is on the phone trying to convince his U.S. news service the story is more important than the Pope's visit to Egypt. In one scene reporters on the hotel balcony calmly sip drinks and send copy as President Somosa's army bombs the

capital city of Managua around them. A TV reporter waits until a bomb cloud appears behind him before he begins his coverage. Spottiswode uses this irony as his indictment of the reporters in war who scramble after "the story" while ignoring the realities of the situation, and the moral responsibilities of their profession, in the interests of keeping their jobs, their beats, and their lives.

Alfred Equals Suspense

By Keith Baldrey

Suspense. There's no other feeling quite like it: that sometimes delicious terror when you know — you just *know* — something terrible is going to happen and there isn't *anything* you can do about it.

Suspense ranges from mere apprehension to outright stomach-churning horror. In whatever package it comes, suspense latches onto the emotions and refuses to let go.

It's hard to create, and maybe that's why most efforts at cinematic suspense end up as unintentional comedies.

There is one film maker who never had any problem translating suspense into entertaining, gripping cinema. The name Alfred Hitchcock and the familiar hand-drawn silhouette of his rotund frame is synonymous with suspense.

No other director has portrayed terror — especially psychological terror — so well. He made 42 feature films and a score of TV dramas.

Now some three years after his death, five of his best films have been re-released after a 20-year absence.

The films, playing at the Ridge Theatre, are *Vertigo* (1958), Oct. 21-27; *Rope* (1948), Oct. 28-Nov. 3; *The Trouble With Harry* (1956), Nov. 4-10; *The Man Who Knew Too Much* (1956), Nov. 11-17; *Rear Window* (1954), Nov. 18-24.

The films were removed from circulation by Hitchcock to ensure healthy royalties for his family after his death.

The movies have the trademark Hitchcock elements: slow-moving beginnings and fast-paced endings, sometimes with a twist; unique and (at that time) experimental camera angles; and scenes that drift along aimlessly, with no apparent meaning, until something startling or out-of-the-ordinary occurs.

Hitchcock rarely wasted film footage; each scene was usually integral to the story and contained vital clues to the mystery on the screen.

In *Vertigo*, for example, the suspense builds slowly, and what at first appears to be the climax is really only start of a surprise ending. The

See page 18: ALFRED

Alfred

From page 17

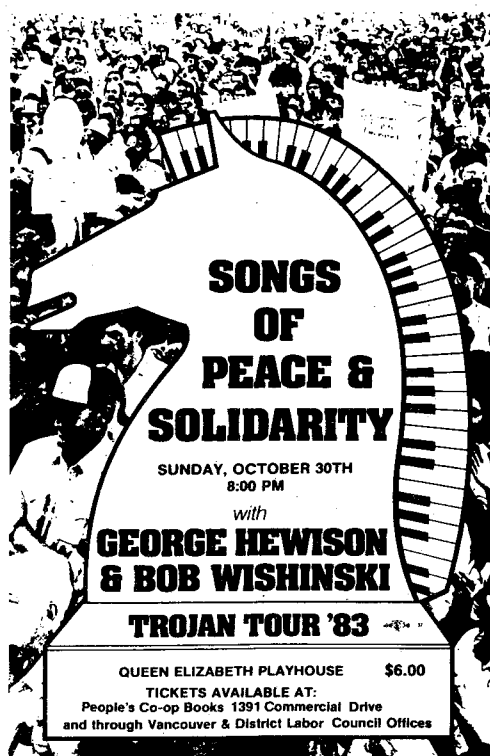
bare essentials of the plot concern a retired detective with a fear of heights. He is hired to trail a woman. Initially the film seems to be about a man overcoming both his fears and his obsession with the woman. Murder and psychological terror make a late entrance.

Hitchcock makes good use of his cinematic expertise in *Rope*. The movie seems filmed in one entire take with a single camera. Action takes place in one room. The plot concerns a thrill-murder by two young intellectuals to impress their visiting professor.

The Man Who Knew Too Much is a remake of his earlier 1934 film of the same name. In it, a man's child is mistakenly kidnapped and held for ransom against a foreign diplomat's life. It's an old-fashioned spy thriller full of twists and turns.

The Trouble With Harry is the odd film of the bunch. It's a dark comedy about a corpse that keeps popping up in embarrassing places with equally embarrassing results. Hitchcock, always fascinated with death, makes full use of bizarre imagery and morbid jokes.

Finally, a journalist confined to a wheelchair peers out the Rear Window while recovering from his injury. From his perch he observes the private lives of his neighbors. He gradually comes to suspect a neighbor of murder, and tries to convince his friends of that fact. It's a plot that has been used in several movies, but never with the skill and suspense employed here.



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Health Care is a Right — Not a Privilege

By John Mackie

When the Good Lord handed out humble pie, Chad Allan had seconds. To say that the 39-year-old former lead singer for the Guess Who is modest is to understate things: he is as apt to blow his own horn as the sky is to come crashing down on our heads. Youthful looking, with light brown hair and glasses, Chad Allan is your basic unassuming nice guy. The only thing out of the ordinary about him is that he can croon a tune. He never swears, he never says a bad word about anyone, and when he does mention someone's name, it's never glib or namedropping: he usually goes out of his way to compliment them.

All of which is not quite what you'd expect for someone with his kind of luck. Chad Allan is one of the great asterisks in rock history books: he was the lead singer on the Guess Who's first big hit, Shakin' All Over, but left before their chart-topping years. He also sang with Brave Belt, who changed their name to Backman-Turner Overdrive after he quit and went on to rack up millions of record sales.

Nowadays, instead of frying burgers in his villa by the sea, living off the interest on all the money he might have made, Chad Allan does a solo act in lounges around the Lower Mainland. Yet bitterness is not in his vocabulary.

"It didn't surprise me that they succeeded, but don't forget that success can mean different things to different people," he says. "And success to me not only means money situations but a certain piece of mind, tranquility, which I wasn't getting as a result of touring. It was interesting, and as a human being, you do get tinged of 'hey, what if I had stayed?' but never at any time did I get a desperate urge to rejoin the band."

If things had gone his way, Chad Allan might have wound up as the Canadian Billy Joel or maybe a western, poppier Gordon Lightfoot; Positions which, ironically, Allan's replacement in the Guess Who, Burton Cummings, seems to have filled. His sound definitely leans towards the middle of the road: pop ballads are his major strength. He has scored with a couple of ballad-type tunes (Dunrobin's Gone, when he was in Brave Belt and Spending My Time on his own).

Born Allan Kowbel ("it was too much like a cow. In school, it was a bit of a problem"), he changed his name

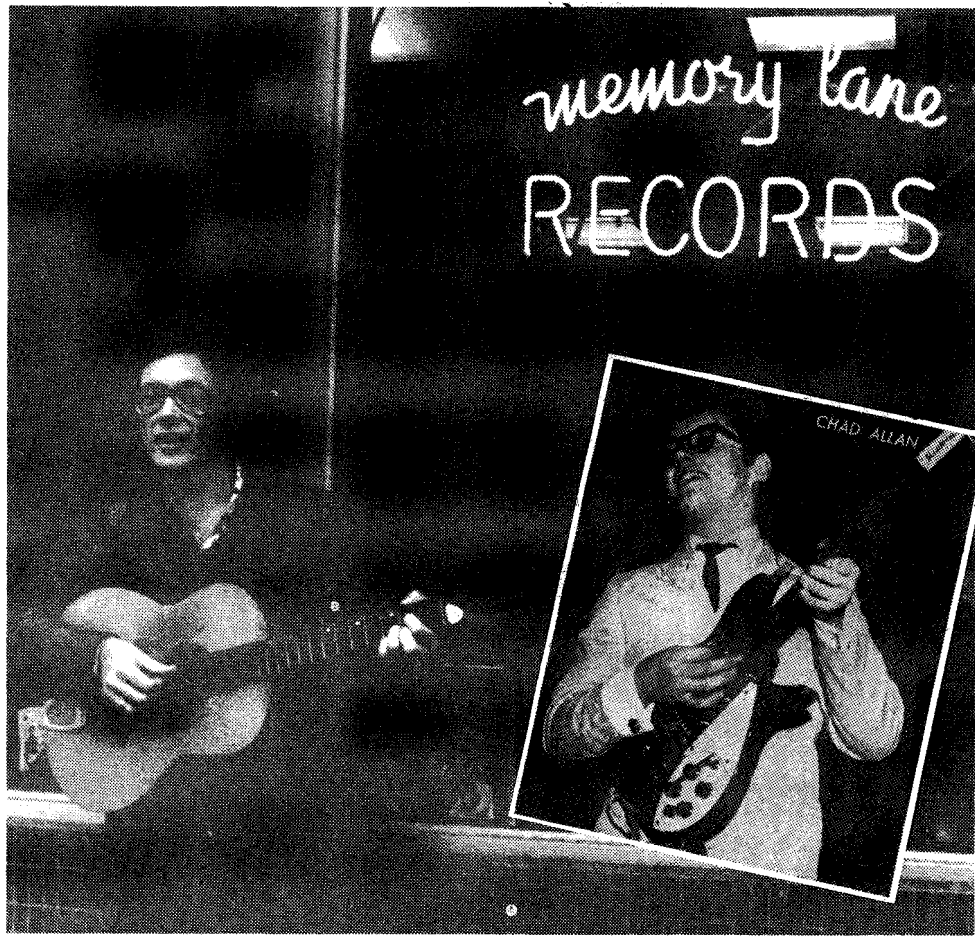
SHAKE & POP

to Chad Allan after Chad Mitchell (of the Chad Mitchell Trio) when he started singing professionally in Winnipeg in the late fifties. Like any number of fifties kids, he learned to play accordion, eventually teaching the instrument at Kent's Accordion College. He was in a number of high school bands and started to garner a reputation with the Reflections, who sold 1,200 copies of a 45 called "Tribute to Buddy Holly."

Across the Red River in North Kildonan a guy named Randy Bachman was freelancing around with a number of bands. The Reflections auditioned and took him. Bassist Jim Kale was already in the band, and when Bachman brought along a drummer from the Winnipeg Junior Symphony, Gary Peterson, the future Guess Who was born.

Changing their name to the Expressions, the band played around, cut a few records and gained a local following. Allan had a friend, Wayne Russell, who bought lots of obscure records. One of the obscurities he turned him on to was a British hit by

Lounging Around with Chad Allan



BEV DAVIES PHOTO

Johnny Kidd and the Pirates, Shakin' All Over. The band recorded it, and as a gimmick "Guess Who" was printed on the label as a contest — the DJ would play the song, say "Guess Who that was?" and people would phone in "Chad Allan and The Expressions" to win a free copy.

Shakin' All Over turned into a monster hit internationally and the name Guess Who stuck, though "Chad Allan and the Expressions" still appears under the Guess Who name on their first two albums.

When you talk to Allan about those days he steers clear of onstage memories and talks about things like seeing his first Shakey's Pizza Parlor in the States, or about how grueling it is to tour. Just a regular guy from Winnipeg, on the back of the first album he's described as "a third year science student at United College."

"I had this thing in my head, when I looked at the back of an album, where I would see the bass player performing with such and such a band, 'also attending MIT' or something. I used to think it was really neat. I used to figure, 'well, they're kind of building up insurance for themselves for the future.'"

As it turned out, he needed that insurance himself. After years of wailing away without the benefit of adequate monitors with which to hear himself above the band, and also singing improperly, his throat was shot.

"I couldn't hear myself," he explains. "If the band's too loud you tend to compensate and sing louder and louder and you just blow your throat. It got to the point where I got these little bumps on the voice cords, nodules or whatever you call them and the doctors literally told me I'd have to lay off for a year or two."

He quit the band, which had hired Burton Cummings a month earlier anyway, and finished off his bachelor of science. His throat improved, and he got a gig singing backup on a CBC show, Music Hop.

Those were the days when teachers were still in demand, so he took a free teaching course and was all set to be an

English teacher in Winnipeg when the Manitoba school board rang him up and informed him that if he was to teach anywhere, it would be where they wanted him, which happened to be out of town. He had the CBC thing happening, so that was it for his teaching career.

He went back to school and eventually got a bachelor of arts in psychology from the University of Winnipeg. In the meantime, he became host of another CBC show, Let's Go and started playing around town in a trio. Meantime, another Winnipegger hit the big time.

Neil Young "was just one of the guys," says Allan, who'd met him many times in jam sessions in people's basements and the like. Young used to come out and try to pick up pointers from Bachman, but never attained celebrity status locally. The thing about him that stands out in Allan's mind was when Allan was standing in line, waiting to register for university.

"Neil Young was walking around trying to decide whether he should register or not. He was in the process of making the decision as to whether he should go into university, get into that line, or pursue a musical situation. Kind of a crossroads situation. It's almost like, there I was inside in the lineup, and he was outside pressing his nose against the window, in symbolic terms."

Young went on to fame, Allan went on to get another degree. Then the Guess Who got huge and suddenly Allan wasn't the ex-singer in a band, he was the ex-singer in the *Guess Who*.

"I had formed a trio in Winnipeg, and we were playing on a crazy hotel circuit. It was steady work, but it was a little on the seedy side. This guy wanted to beat me up. He learned who I was, and the fact that I had left the Guess Who, and he was saying 'why did I leave' and 'c'mon eh, you've gotta be out of your mind,' stuff like that. The guy was getting very, very violent. It kind of struck me, why? I don't know this guy from Adam, I've never seen the guy. Why should a complete stranger be mad at me for leaving the

band? What I'm sure it has to do with is money. What he was saying to me was that I was very crazy to leave all that money and all that opportunity, which under normal circumstances I can understand, but him not knowing the complete circumstances . . . I was just happy to be alive, never mind having some guy beat me up for leaving a band. It's important, but it's not as if I killed somebody. What I learned is that certain people worship money, and it really scares me the number of people that I've met who seem to worship money over everything else."

After he got his psychology degree, he decided to have another go with the school system and was on the brink of getting a job as a school psychologist when Randy Bachman, who had

Allan in 1964

with guess who?

Chad Allan and the Expressions



recently quit the Guess Who, phoned him up. Brave Belt was born and he was back in the limelight. The first album was spotty, and Chad quit before the second one came out. (Ironically, Dunrobin's Gone was a hit after he'd left.) Fred Turner took over lead vocals; the band got raunchier, relocated in Vancouver and became Bachman Turner Overdrive.

He released one solo album, 'Sequel', in the mid-seventies, from which 'Spending My Time' sprang. Allan did jingles for a while and also sang on some of those House Of Random albums where hit songs are sung by other artists. He moved to B.C. seven years ago and has been doing the lounge circuit ever since. Most people who see him never guess at his past — to them, he's just another lounge singer.

"If I phone up an agency and say, 'can you get me jobs?' they'll get me a job at a pub or a club or whatever, but they'll want to audition me. It gets kind of embarrassing after a while. As a matter of fact, I heard Randy Bachman was in a situation like that recently, trying play here or there. 'Well, who are they? What do they sound like?'"

"I've gotten into a deal where I don't announce my original tunes," he says. "If I say 'here's a tune that I wrote with a friend,' many times the audience has a stereotypical response: 'Oh, local tune, couldn't be any good,' that sort of really dumb kind of response. I mainly announce it afterwards, but for all they know (when he's playing the song) it's somebody else's obscure album cut, so there seems to be a little more tolerance."

A funny thing to have to do for someone with Allan's track record, but he accepts it as a part of life. Currently, he's recording a new solo disc that might lift him out of the lounges, and he's teaching a songwriting course at Kwantlen College in Surrey. As well, Beowulf, a triple album musical epic he sang lead on in 1973, has been rereleased. It had been out of print for years, ever since the original label, Daffodil, went bingo.

Sequel has been out of print for years, too; he found a copy in Memory Lane records, where this photo was taken. He had lent his only copy out to a radio station, so he needed one. He took it all philosophically — after all, he got an "artist's discount".

Chad Allan paid \$3 for his own record.

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Kids On The Skids

It's Not Just Old Timers
On The Breadlines.
Debbie Wilson Reports
(Page 9)



Teachers: Class Warfare?

They're Drawing the Line,
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