

**IS B.C. THE NEXT PHILIPPINES? (Page 3)**

# **Solidarity Times**

**50¢**

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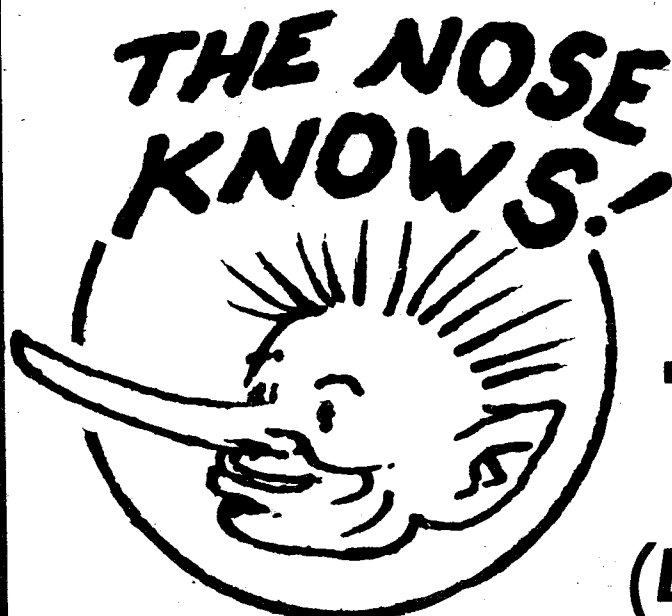


Janet and Joan Rykyta

BEV DAVIES PHOTO

Larry Kuehn  
5574 MacKenzie St.  
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10/26/84



**Get Your  
Miracle  
Truth Serum!**

**(Boswell, page 15)**

# This Week

## No deal on school funding

By Stan Persky

The two men emerged onto a Kelowna front porch shortly before 10:30 p.m.

After a four-hour meeting in the living room of B.C.'s premier, and just an hour or so before thousands of civic employees and ferry workers were due to join 85,000 striking public-sector workers who had been on the picket line since Nov. 1, Bill Bennett and B.C. Federation of Labor first vice president Jack Munro, representing Operation Solidarity, announced an unwritten agreement Sunday, Nov. 13 that would end the most massive protest in the province's history.

For four months, an unprecedented Solidarity Coalition of trade unions and community groups had fought an extreme rightwing package of legislation introduced by Bennett's Socred government last July. Now, the worst of it was

over. The fight against the legislation was no doubt still on, but the threat of a general strike to oppose it had receded.

"I can say we have agreed on an avenue to resolve the problems," said a cautious Munro, who had agreed not to reveal details until Bennett had met with his caucus.

For the rest of the week, the province puzzled over the "avenue" of resolution. Rumors, claims and angry counterclaims, and more rumors, clouded the picture.

Not until week's end, when Munro offered the details of the deal and Bennett confirmed them the next day in a television interview with broadcaster Jack Webster, did some basis for assessment become available. Even then, one of the central issues — the question of educational funding for 1984 — remained in dispute.

Here, apparently, is what Bennett and Operation Solidarity agreed upon:

- Bill 2, designed to remove collective bargaining rights, was dead.

- Bill 3, which bypasses seniority rights and gives the government the right to fire public sector workers at random, is law, but an exemption clause will make it inoperative. A written collective agreement, concluded hours before the Munro-Bennett pact, between the B.C. Government Employees Union and the provincial government, ensured



Bill Bennett on the way to coffee with Webster.

that seniority rights would be retained.

- Before proposing changes to the labor code, the government will establish a consultative committee with labor representation.

For labor, then, the move into the streets had substantially slowed the government juggernaut. On social issues, however, the results were far less clear.

A consultative committee on human rights would be established prior to the government passing pending legislation wiping out the pre-

sent human rights commission.

Further consultation would be invited before passing legislation eliminating the rentalsman's office. Munro understood that a rent-review mechanism would be established, but Bennett has yet to confirm it.

Recent cuts to social services will not be rescinded, although human resources minister Grace McCarthy will review plans to wipe out a \$50-a-month program that supplements welfare payments

to handicapped recipients.

Restoration of educational funding to 1983 levels remained totally murky. B.C. Teachers Federation president Larry Kuehn claimed that the \$18 million "saved" from the teachers' protest would be applied to next year's funding. Bennett denied this would happen, insisting the money would only be used to pay teachers making up days lost during the protest.

When the provincial Solidarity Coalition steering committee and the Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition assembly met at the beginning of the week, coalition members made clear their dissatisfaction with both the results of the talks and the absence of consultation with the coalition in the course of coming to a settlement. Operation Solidarity leaders Art Kube and Mike Kramer heard a barrage of criticism from the community-oriented coalition.

Kramer conceded that labor had erred on consultation. "We made an error not consulting the coalition enough. We learned a lesson," he said. At the same time, Operation Solidarity authorized further funding for the coalition and the Lower Mainland group vowed to fight on to produce "mass political pressure" in support of more meetings with the government on social questions.

The most favorable assessment of the outcome came from Sun labor reporter Doug

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## A CONDEMNATION OF ACTIONS OF THE B.C. GOVERNMENT

**The International Labour Organization, an agency of the United Nations, has recently issued a report condemning actions the provincial government took against teachers last year.**

### It said:

- Cutting teachers' salaries by chopping 6 to 11 days from the school year constituted an interference in the collective bargaining process.
- The adoption of legislation without consultation with teachers was "not consistent with the principles of freedom of association."
- School board budget limits which made it impossible for boards to comply with their collective agreements were "not consistent with the principles of free collective bargaining."
- Submission of negotiated agreements to the Compensation Stabilization Commission for approval "is not only liable to discourage the use of voluntary collective bargaining; it is also incompatible with the principle of non-interference in the collective bargaining process by the public authorities."
- Prohibition against striking by public servants should be confined to genuinely essential services.

**The ILO is now examining complaints about the even more arbitrary actions taken by the government against teachers this year.**

**Tell the government to be fair to students and teachers.**

### LET JUSTICE BE DONE

**A Message from the B.C. Teachers' Federation**



## Socreds plot trade zones

The Social Credit government's budget legislation is aimed at creating free trade zones in this province, similar to those found in Third World countries, says a Simon Fraser University economist.

The provincial government has twice drafted legislation — although never passed — that would have severely restricted union powers and created conditions permitting free trade zones.

"The basic Socred plan is not to build a light rapid transit system or develop Northeast coal," says Michael Leibowitz. "What they are attempting to do is to put B.C. into the bidding process for international floating capital. They are bidding with a cheap docile labor force and tax concessions. The best parallel to this budget would be found in the Third World."

In free trade zones, components and raw materials are shipped in, assembled and exported, free from customs inspections and tariffs. Workers are forbidden to organize in unions. Computer chip production and computer assembly industries use free trade zones in the Philippines and other Third World countries to bypass the higher costs of organized labor in the countries where their products are consumed.

Federal trade regulations and taxes prohibit true free trade zones in Canada, but Leibowitz says similar conditions could be created with the application of the Technology Assistance Act, a bill drafted by the Social Credit government in 1982 which died on the order paper before it was introduced into the legislature.

According to the Act, industries whose research and development expenditures equal five per cent of annual sales would be exempt from minimum wage laws and union activities by its employees would be banned.

Proposed labor code changes drafted by the ministry of labor last summer — and then leaked to the media and later denied by labor minister Bob McClelland — would make union organizing more difficult.

Decertification of unions would be easier, closed shops in the construction industry could be ruled illegal and in some industries collective bargaining rights and minimum wage laws would be waived, if the proposed changes were implemented.

Labor Relations Board officers would no longer be appointed for fixed terms and represent employers and

employees in equal numbers, but would be cabinet employees without job security. The Essential Services Disputes Act could be applied to the private sector, with wider powers to declare strikes illegal.

Employer protection for "economic development projects" which could include rapid transit, Expo 86 and Northeast coal, would prohibit strikes, even for health and safety reasons. Breaches of the labor code would become criminal offences and violators subject to stiff fines. Greater protection would be given to employers' rights, says Leibowitz.

The proposed labor code changes — though later denied by McClelland — resulted in Operation Solidarity's insistence for its input into new labor code changes now expected next year.

Building trades workers are already suffering from government policy on publicly financed construction projects, says Clive Lytle of the Building and Construction Trades Council. Public boards are forced to accept the lowest bid, regardless of the contractor's ability to fulfill his obligations, he says.

## Rights group blasts 'farce'

The provincial government's poor track record of consultation with community group leaves little hope that major changes will be made to proposed social services legislation.

That's the view of tenants' and human rights' groups trying to stop the government from scuttling the Rentalsman's office, rent controls and Human Rights Branch.

"The consultation is a farce," said Raj Chouhan, spokesperson for the B.C. Human Rights Coalition. "There's no clear commitment from the government. Unless you get something in writing from that man (Premier Bill Bennett), you can't trust him."

Chouhan said consultation with the provincial government had "betrayed British Columbians" in the past, and pointed to farmworkers as an example of consultation having little effect on government policy.

"In the case of the farmworkers, the government has promised us many things, but they've always gone ahead and done something completely different," said Chouhan, who is also president of the Canadian Farmworkers Union.

Tenants' groups are also worried the government will ignore their concerns and plunge ahead with its planned Bill 5, which removes rent controls and abolishes the Rentalsman's office.

"Bennett hasn't said why the current mediation process, the Rentalsman, should be shut down. We know it's not to save money," said David Lane, a B.C. Tenants' Coalition spokesperson. "We have no indication from Bennett or his ministers that they will move on the most critical issues to us—namely the eviction without cause clause in the new bill, and the abolition of the Rentalsman and rent controls."

But Lane said his group will

meet with government representatives "in a positive way" and plan to submit a list of suggestions aimed at protecting tenants' rights.

"We want to meet and present our ideas. We'll give it a chance," he said.

Both Chouhan and Lane said their groups will continue fighting the proposed legislation and will not fall apart. "The coalition is not finished. If we want to see any changes made, we have to intensify our strength," said Chouhan. "We have to let people know we're still around and we're still together."

Lane said the tenants groups will "continue to fight with demonstrations and stepped up organization of tenants on a grassroots level."



When Greyhound Bus Lines "left the driving to" scabs, trade unionists were there to protest. More than 50 demonstrators set up a picket line at the Vancouver depot Nov. 16 and prevented the non-union driven Seattle-Vancouver run from pulling in. Greyhound drivers in the U.S. have been on strike since the beginning of the month and the dispute turned ugly when the company decided to hire scab drivers to keep profits rolling in. Strikers have clashed with police in more than a score of American cities.

## Govt. starves Colony Farm

The provincial government is in no hurry to reveal plans for Colony Farm, the Coquitlam farm which feeds Riverview Hospital inmates and employs many in rehabilitative work.

A representative from the Save Colony Farm Committee was barred from a meeting about the farm between provincial government officials and Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam city councillors on Nov. 21.

The committee has no idea why it was not allowed to join the meeting, said committee member Cathy Fox. They don't know who kept them out, either.

"This makes a mockery of the government's and Premier Bennett's invitation for public consultation on the budget," the committee wrote in a letter to Chabot.

The committee invited Parks and several agriculture department officials to a public meeting last month, but they didn't show, said Fox.

Specific enquiries to the government about their plans for the farm have gone unanswered. The government will not say under what conditions it will sell, keep or lease the land, Fox said.

"The only government response is that there have been no applications to take it out of the land reserve," she said. "They're not saying anything."

The committee wants Colony Farm to remain agricultural land, either leased to farmers or used as an agricultural research facility. But there is pressure to turn the farmland to industrial use, Fox said.

Auctions of the farm's sheep and machinery began last weekend, and that might be the first step in selling the land, said Fox.

"As the auctions continue they're reducing the options of what can be done with Colony Farm," she said.

Chabot and Parks could not be reached for comment.

BEV DAVIES PHOTO



# Canada Report

## PM peace tour hits Far East

By Stan Persky

Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau condescended to pause long enough between airports on his globe-trotting peace mission last week to let Canadians in on the details of his trip.

After a whirlwind, six-nation European tour to garner support for his initiative, Trudeau unveiled the main features of the peace plan Nov. 13.

The plan calls for: a conference of the world's five nuclear powers; extension of the 1970 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; beefed up "conventional" forces for the West and a ban on testing "Star Wars" type weapons.

The only problem with the presentation was that to hear it

you had to be one of 2,000 Liberals forking out \$150 at a party fund-raiser. Critics wondered whether the prime minister was promoting peace or playing politics.

Although Trudeau claimed that he returned from Europe "with clear expressions of support" for his plan, doubts were raised later in the week when the scheme was criticised by American defense officials who accused Canada of making inadequate contributions to NATO. Said one: "It's a cop-out. Even the Europeans, who aren't as crass as we are, think Canada should put its money where its mouth is." Pentagon officials in Washington uttered similar sentiments.

Trudeau, by then in Tokyo for talks with Japanese prime minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, bristled at the sniping. "Pentagon people aren't noteworthy for their concern with disarmament," he said, before flying on to Bangladesh at week's end.

If the cracks in Trudeau's plan were debatable, those in Canada's recently-purchased CF-18 fighter aircraft were literal.

While Trudeau preached peace, investigators grounded three of the planes, part of a \$5-billion order for 138 U.S.-made fighters, after finding tiny cracks in their aluminum engine mounts. Defence minister Jean-Jacques Blais brushed aside criticisms in the Commons, saying the



PM out of country, but protesters remain

cracks posed no safety hazards.

In mid-week, Blais flew to Washington for meetings with his U.S. counterpart, Caspar Weinberger. Afterwards, he announced that testing of the U.S. Cruise missile in Canada would take place in March, and reported that the Americans had agreed to detour the test-flight path to avoid most populated areas.

Canadian opponents of the controversial Cruise tests were not mollified, however. In Toronto, more than 80 of them were arrested after scaling a fence and lying on the grounds of Litton Systems Canada, a maker of guidance systems for the missile. Elsewhere in the world, there were arrests in England and West Germany as installation

of Cruise and Pershing missiles began in Europe.

In the midst of the noisy peace debate last week, there was a moment of silence as Tory MP Walter Baker was laid to rest. Baker, 53, who had been House leader during Joe Clark's brief reign, died of cancer Nov. 13.

Less decorous behavior attended the funeral ceremony for mobster Paul Volpe, whose bullet-riddled body was found stuffed in the trunk of a car Nov. 14. At the funeral, Volpe's brother decided to take revenge on a CBC cameraman, felling him with a kick to the groin. He was charged with assault.

In other crime news, the presiding judge hearing the 'combines' case against Southam and Thomson

newspapers, accused of lessening competition in the newspaper business, announced that he would deliver a verdict Dec. 9.

In nationally-important provincial affairs, apart from the uneasy settlement of B.C.'s near-general strike Nov. 13, attention focussed on Quebec premier Rene Levesque's bid to rebuild his political fortunes in the face of a strong challenge from Liberal opponent, and former premier, Robert Bourassa.

On Nov. 13, the chain-smoking Levesque appeared on television to present an ambitious plan to cut Quebec's 13.5 per cent unemployment rate and boost economic recovery. The scheme included incentives for industry to settle in Quebec (the carrot offered was cheap energy), a revamped welfare system allowing people to get benefits while working, and retraining programs for workers.

"Our object is to launch a momentum so our economy not only reaches, but maintains, a growth level superior to the Canadian average," said Levesque.

Two days later, at the opening of the fall session of the Quebec National Assembly, finance minister Jacques Parizeau, in a supplementary budget, chopped gasoline surtaxes by four cents a litre, and committed \$30 million to stimulate economic programs.

Two days after that, the Parti-Quebecois government unveiled changes to the Charter of the

See page 12: CANADA

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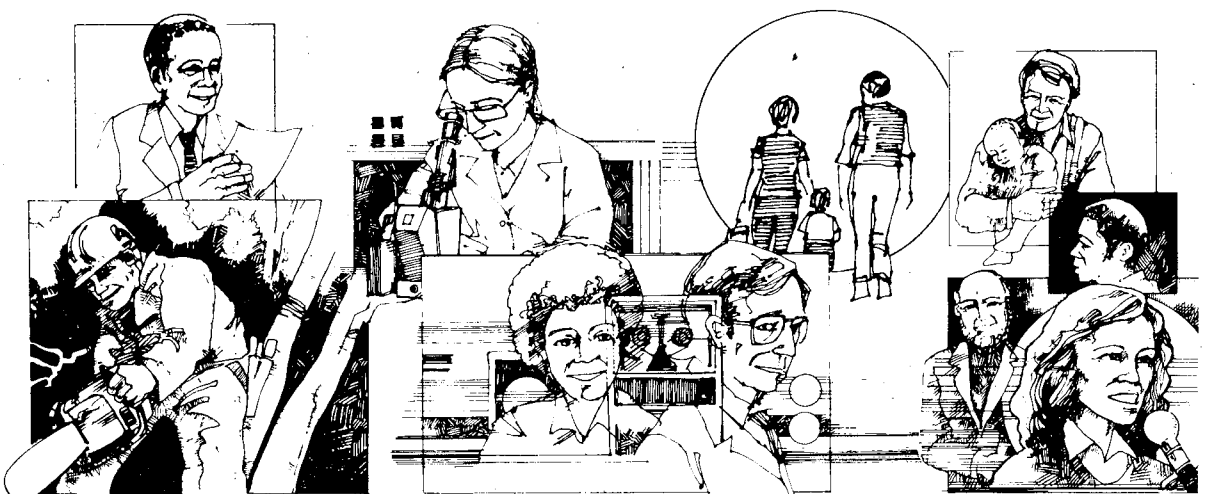
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## NEWS

## Gay worker challenges sex registry

By Trish Webb

Rob Joyce is finally going to court.

For the first time in almost two years, he will be allowed to defend himself against allegations of sexual abuse of a minor. Joyce filed a petition with the Supreme Court of B.C. Nov. 18 asking the court to order the removal of his name from a provincial child abuse registry.

Joyce was a job counsellor at Senator house, a hostel and rehabilitation program for young prostitutes run by the Alternate Shelter Society for MHR and child welfare. His work was lauded by human resources minister Grace McCarthy and featured in the Dec. 1981 edition of B.C. Corrections Newsletter.

On Jan. 12, 1982 an article in Vancouver's morning daily outlined the concerns of some Senator House staff members about management policies which condoned sexual relations between residents and staff, drug abuse and trafficking by residents and staff, violent acts of residents, including the use of weapons, and staff members safeguarding money residents obtained through prostitution and theft. Staff members said residents who were not prostitutes when they moved into Senator often turned to that trade because of the influence of other residents and management's failure to control their activities.

According to affidavits filed in court by Joyce, a special meeting of Senator staff was held later that day where Joyce announced that he had arranged a meeting with Jack Gillis, regional director for the ministry of the attorney-general. Shelter society accountant George Horie told him, "if you are not with us, get off the bus."

Two days later Horie filed a report with the superintendent of child welfare alleging that Joyce had paid a teenager for oral sex.

The boy, Robert Barry Schaddalee, met Joyce on Oct. 22, 1981 and was referred to Senator House when he said he wanted to get away from the street life and go back to school. Joyce says in his affidavit that he was concerned the boy was making sexual advances and told him that he was not interested in having sex with him or any other minor. At work the next day



Rob Joyce wants his name off sex abuse registry; goes to court

Joyce told the story to two other staff members and, except for a few chance encounters on the street, never saw the boy again.

Three days after Horie filed the complaint against Joyce, the boy retracted his charge before a social worker. The case was investigated by a social worker who refused Joyce's requests to present information or to be informed of the content of allegations. He offered to submit to a lie detector test and make a statement to police but was refused. He was fired Feb. 3, 1982 and his name entered in the Child Abuse Registry.

Joyce says he was hired at the Senator because he was a gay activist and his employers felt that an openly gay man would have a positive effect on the attitudes of young male prostitutes, most of whom are gay, but who have confused feelings about their sexuality. Allegations of child abuse effectively lock Joyce out of social work; to continue his career his name must be removed from the Child Abuse Registry.

Child abusers registered with the ministry are usually parents or guardians of the victim. According to the rationale offered by ministry officials, since the child is usually too young to understand the proceedings, and the accused simply denies the charge, neither are consulted for the investigation. By listing the offender's name in the Registry, even if claims are unsubstantiated, it is possible to detect patterns of abuse and to determine if a child is in a dangerous situation, the ministry says.

On Oct. 1, 1982, Schaddalee saw Joyce on Davie Street and told him that he wanted to "make matters right", according to the transcript of an interview between Joyce, Brent Parfitt of the ombudsman's office and Wayne Nickel from human resources. Joyce flagged down a police car and Schaddalee wrote and signed a statement saying that "Rob Joyce did not sexually represent himself in any way" and

the "story that was eventually publicized was based on rumors." The retraction sparked a review, but it was limited to a consideration of the credibility of that retraction.

The review was completed Dec. 17, 1982 and the designation of the child abuse report was changed from "unsubstantiated" to "unconfirmed."

Joyce had hoped Schaddalee would take the witness stand in court and repeat his retraction, but the boy died of a heroin overdose in May. He was 16 years old.

## Save \$50, says CIP group

By Debbie Wilson

Volunteers in the Community Involvement Program are taking the provincial government to trial. Proceedings started last week in B.C. Supreme Court are another step in the battle by welfare recipients and community workers to budge the government from its decision to kill the program.

The government's position remains unchanged. The program, which pays \$50 to handicapped or unemployable welfare recipients who do at least 20 hours of community work each month, dies in March.

Human Resources Minister Grace McCarthy said the program might later be reinstated, but only for the handicapped.

One spokesman for the CIP advocacy group says separating the handicapped from the unemployable on welfare is "hair splitting."

"This is not a reinstatement," said Barry Coull, of the CIP Fightback Committee. "It's a reduction. It means chopping 1,500 people out of the program."

Officially "unemployable" welfare recipients include: the physically or mentally infirm, those over 65, single parents with a handicapped child at home, or single parents with

either a child under seven or two under 12.

These people, said Coull, have been unemployed a long time, have little confidence and few job skills. "Their's is just a less serious definition of 'handicapped'."

McCarthy has said CIP benefits are unfair because they go to only 2,500 of B.C.'s welfare recipients. Responds Coull: "So expand the program." Cutting it is like taking away everyone's rights because some have more than others, he added.

A test case, now awaiting a date for a hearing in B.C. Supreme Court, will be based on Vancouver CIP volunteer David Jensen's right to appeal the cutoff of his CIP contract earlier this year.

Lawyer David Mossop said if the case succeeds, people who apply for CIP and are rejected can go to an appeal tribunal.

Government regulations establishing the program remain on the books, says Mossop. "The position we're taking in this case is it has never been done away with."

All CIP volunteers were to lose their grant on August 30, but Mossop warned the ministry that legal action would be taken if contracts were not honored. The ministry backed down, and volunteers can now complete their contracts. Most are six months long. Some, left undated, last until March.

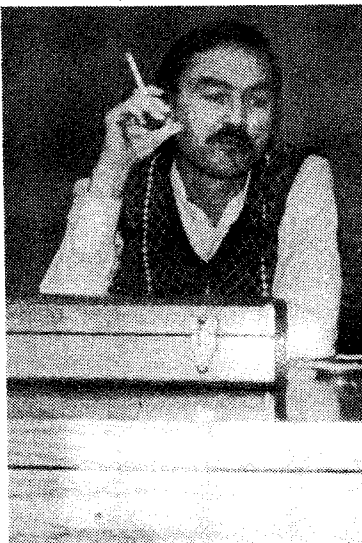
To Roy Hubbard, the monthly \$50 "means an awful lot. Extra food and stuff like that." His contract ends in March. "I don't know what will happen. I haven't thought that far ahead. I hope we're all back on CIP by then."

What does the death of CIP mean to Andy Lunden? "I won't be able to go down and get a good meal like everybody else can."

Emma Walkus says her \$50 "comes in handy. I can get a little bit of clothes or something."

The program costs the provincial government \$750,000 a year; the feds kick in another \$750,000. "It doesn't even make any sense in terms of restraint," said Wendy

See page 12: CIP



CIP's Barry Coull

## EDITORIAL

## The teachers' case

The argument over who said what about education in Bill Bennett's Kelowna living room 10 days ago misses the point.

The issue is not who said what, but what should be said.

The real issue, the one that led 45,000 educational employees to hit the bricks, is what will happen to B.C.'s education system next year.

It's a subject Premier Bennett and his education minister, Jack Heinrich,

have been doing their best to avoid. Instead, they have been concentrating on reprisals against protesting teachers, transparent ploys to divide trade unionists, and wrong-headed schemes to make next year's classrooms even more crowded than this year's.

Despite talking about "a time for healing," Bennett spent most of last week insisting that teachers make up days lost during the protest. Even though the Bennett government casually chopped several days from the teaching term last year in order to "save" money, suddenly every moment of teaching time is sacred. Hopefully, that hare-brained scheme was laid to rest by Vancouver school superintendent Dante Lupini, who pronounced the plan unworkable.

Nor was Bennett any more successful in his bid to drive a wedge between trade unionists on the education question by bickering over the details of the Kelowna deal. When the premier attacked B.C. Teachers Federation president Larry Kuehn, B.C. Federation of Labor president Art Kube wasted no time in letting Bennett know that the teachers had the rest of labor's backing.

That leaves the \$18 million "saved" by the protest. The teachers want it applied to the 1984 budget in order to forestall hundreds of layoffs, school closures and program cutbacks scheduled by the government. Bennett refused. The resulting fury of teachers' leader Kuehn is easy to understand, and the suspicion that Bennett is playing despicable politics has been heightened.

When teachers joined the picket lines in the name of restoring 1984 educational funding to 1983 levels (among other demands), little did they realize that the money to do so was simply going to come out of their pockets.

For Bennett to deny them even that is to add insult to injury.

The ultimate injury, of course, will be visited upon school children. The issue that remains unaddressed by the government is whether the original plans to reduce educational spending in 1984 and subsequent years were justified in the first place. The measure of the premier's pettiness in all this becomes glaringly obvious when one reflects that the amount being argued over, some \$20 million, is less than the sum pumped into rescuing the government's pet Whistler ski resort project.

Once more the issue isn't restraint, but priorities. And the priorities are infuriating.

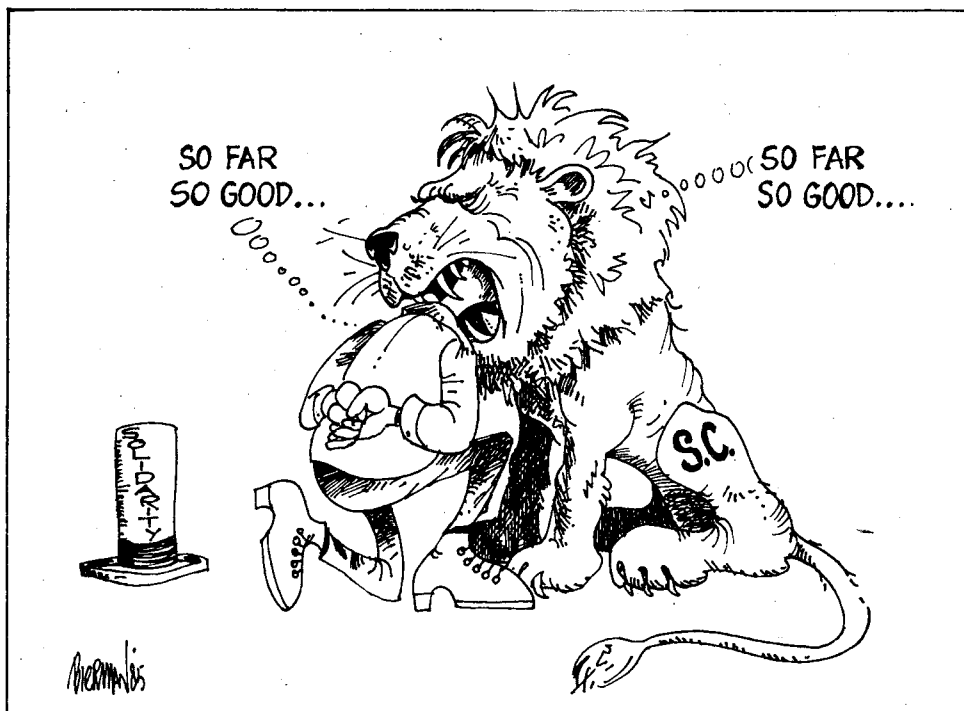
## Bloodhounds

When Greyhound advertises, "Leave the driving to us," the "us" they're referring to is a seasoned workforce of professional drivers.

When these drivers move out from behind the wheel and onto a picket line, and are replaced by scabbing bloodhounds, forget it.

What traveller in his or her right mind would want to discover the icy roads of America under those circumstances? Bring back the greyhounds, please, and return the bloodhounds to their kennels.

## BIERMAN



## COMMON SENSE

## How democratic is the parliamentary 'zoo'?

By John W. Warnock

Here in Victoria the provincial legislature is referred to as "The Zoo."

It takes only one visit to learn why it has acquired that reputation. Personal invective is the norm and there is precious-little enlightened debate on legislation.

A recent public-opinion poll revealed that 65 per cent of Canadians have little or no interest in the federal parliament. We are lucky that no one has done a similar poll on the B.C. legislature.

As irrelevant as the provincial legislature is to the great majority of people, one has to admit that the session this fall will probably go down in history as one of the most bizarre in the history of the parliamentary system.

Normally only two or three bills are on the floor of parliament at any one time. But on July 7, the Socreds introduced 26. Over the summer they brought any one of them up for "debate" at any time, regularly introducing them and then withdrawing them. The NDP opposition had to come prepared to speak on any of them at any time.

There was no debate. Only the NDP spoke on the bills.

Comfortable with their majority, the Socred members just sat back laughing, joking and shouting out insults. Over the summer and into September the legislature sat an average of only 24 hours per week. No legislation was passed.

Suddenly, on Sept. 19, the Socreds shifted tactics. There were all-night sittings. For the first time in 112 years, the government used closure to cut off debate. It invoked closure 10 times to get Bill 3 passed in time for the Social Credit Party convention in mid-October.

The NDP used all the tricks in the book in its filibuster. The Socreds used their majority to control the Speaker and interpret the rules to their benefit. NDP leader Dave Barrett was ejected twice, the second time for the rest of the session. In the end, the Socreds used their majority to suspend the sitting of the legislature indefinitely.

Some people were astonished at the way the Socreds used the legislature to pass controversial legislation. They were a bit crude. But it should be

remembered that time limits on debate and regular use of closure are a normal part of the British system of parliamentary government.

The Socreds won the May 5 election. That was all that was necessary. They have a majority in the legislature. They won the right to rule for up to five years. They can call the next election at their convenience.

As Bill Bennett regularly points out: "We won the last election. Those who lost it, like they lost it before, will always be looking for some way to get another chance."

Industry minister Don Phillips is blunter. "When you are out in the real world, away from this never-never land over here, you know what goes on over here is so insignificant, the people don't give a damn. They elect us to run the government and it's time we got doing it."

Under the British system of parliamentary government and the single-member constituency, majority governments are almost always the case. In many cases, the winning party gets less than 40 per cent of the popular vote. But it can rule as it pleases for

five years.

The NDP basically agrees with the system. It objects to the grossest acts of the Socreds, but doesn't deny their right to rule. Electoral victory has given them this right for five years.

In his television speech of Oct. 20, the only alternative that Dave Barrett offered us was greater use of the parliamentary-committee system. He invited the Socreds to open the committees up to presentations by interested parties. Yet he stressed that the Socreds, with a majority in the legislature and on the committees, would still be ruling.

Is this all we can expect from government? Is democracy only casting a ballot every three-to-five years?

A great many people do not accept this as democracy and want significant changes made.

*John Warnock is the author of Profit Hungry and a member of the Victoria Solidarity Coalition. Next week, he will examine reforms designed to combat cabinet "dictatorship" and make the system more democratic.*

## Solidarity Times

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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.

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48

GCU



Pui

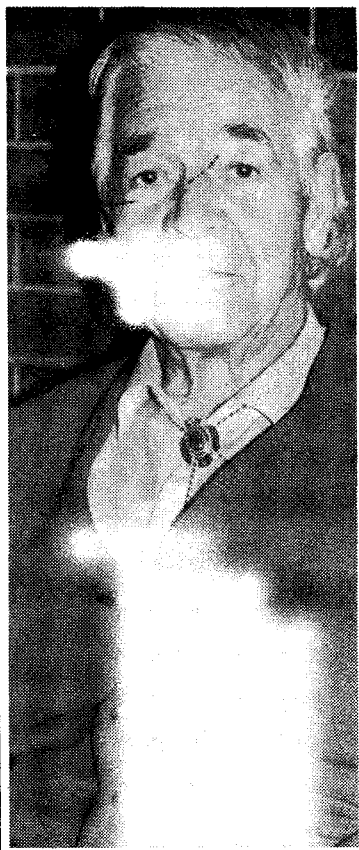
## Crafty bit of writing

Sooner or later, everyone must fire their last piece of ammunition. To me that piece of ammunition was the mighty letter to the editor. In 19 years of active involvement in the labor/political movement, including the best part of a year on picket lines, and so many elections, marches, rallies and demonstration I can't remember the count, I have never before written a letter to the editor.

Oh, I had fantasies that when I wrote that letter, it would be an important and cerebral contribution to a vital issue of the day. I was convinced that my epistle would give cause to a special edition, front page editorial, calling for a fundamental redistribution of wealth and power. I was sure that it would lead to workers on the bench of the Supreme Court as opposed to the dark and dirty benches of the unemployed.

Then I read "In the Valley of Restraint" (Times, Oct. 15) and decided I just couldn't wait any longer. It's a crafty little article that is right on the money in pointing out how we have all gone around genuflecting at the altar of restraint. How else could author Lanny Beckman have criticized us all without seeming to be divisive?

Maybe in future articles we can also be less apologetic about the name Solidarity and the slogan, "An injury to one is an injury to all" by fleshing out the relevance and origins of an earlier slogan: "As you



Ralph Spicer

## A token of desire

As a former teamster (Pony Express, shop steward for 20 years), I am entirely in sympathy with the aims of the public servants, the teachers, and all others in Solidarity.

What makes me angry is the apparent opposition and hostility of so many citizens directed toward striking union members when their diatribes should be aimed at the causes of the withdrawal of services — the repressive legislation of the present government of B.C.

Please accept the enclosed as a token of my desire to put my pocketbook where my mouth is.

Ralph Spicer  
Vancouver

## Check out labor tabs

I'm quite sad that you are not putting together a newspaper that deals with the problems facing B.C. at this time. Don't get me wrong. I think the KKK is horrible. I think they are a threat, but I fail to see how a two-page spread in the Times will do much more than make people wonder why you were unable to find news to fill those pages. You should look at how some of the labor newspapers, such as Pacific Tribune and On The Level, have dealt with the issues.

do unto these the least of my brethren, so you do also unto me." And then again, if we are really into it, we could write about how it wasn't Marx who first proposed the quaint little notion, "To each according to need, from each according to ability to give."

By the way, I lied about firing my last piece of ammunition. When I rooted through my ammo sack I found one bullet and one bouquet. The bouquet goes to Solidarity Times, the other piece I'm saving to pass on to my children just in case they forget how fragile freedom is.

Dave MacKinnon  
Terrace

At this moment in our history, we are trying to organize the most widespread fightback since the Second World War. Give us news about the constituent groups in this fightback, give us news about the key players on both sides of the fight, give us news about the organizing attempts of Solidarity, give us news about the various strategy options facing our organizations. Keep your analytical pieces few in number, concise in format. Let people know about sources of information, en-

courage people to educate themselves. Quit trying to spoon-feed analysis on these good folk.

If the Times is to be useful it must serve to inform people about what is happening, where it is happening, and how to get involved in what is happening. Get to the point of the protest. Anger, not reflection, is the guiding emotion at this stage of the protest. Get with it and quit printing crap.

Bill Goodacre  
Terrace



Another British Columbian speaks her piece. BEV DAVIES PHOTO

## SOAPBOX

## News from one end of horse

### Special to the Times

"This economy is booming, but we're not seeing it because the usual indicators aren't showing it". That's the word straight from the horse's mouth. The horse in this case is Michael Manford, chief economist of Merrill Lynch Securities, speaking at the "Economic Outlook Conference" of the Association of Professional Economists of B.C. during the first week of the "cease-fire" between Bill Bennett's government and Solidarity.

Manford excitedly pointed out how manufacturers' inventories were being reduced, which means a recovery is taking place at the retail level. He admitted, however, this recovery was caused entirely by consumers dipping into their diminishing savings.

There is no reason for buying to slow down as long as incomes continue to grow, he said. There is one uncertain spot in the recovery, however, and that is: average wages are not growing. "We are not getting a lot of income growth

coming through to the basic guy who has a job," he added.

Personal consumption accounts for 64 per cent of the gross provincial product. Yet, B.C.'s retail sales are showing a decline in real terms from last year. Further labor strife can do real damage (especially at Christmas). Prospects for future wage growth are poor. Considerations such as these led George Pedersson, keynote speaker at the Conference and advisor to some of the province's top corporations, to predict that "the recovery" will not bring economic growth back to previous levels. Stunted recoveries are typical of the last few world recessions. What's worse, the recessions have been occurring more frequently and with sharper consequences.

A Statistics Canada study also released last week concurs: the pace of economic growth appears to be slowing in the face of weakening consumer spending and continuing high unemployment rates.

And a report from the B.C.

Central Credit Union said last week that at least 2,500 jobs a month will have to be created next year just to keep the B.C. unemployment rate from climbing higher. The report notes that government and primary industries are not expected to be major job creators. At 13.5 per cent, B.C.'s unemployment rate is running well above the national average.

So what do we do? Listen to Michael Walker of the Fraser Institute, of course. "We told them (the B.C. Government) what they should do in very specific terms," bragged Walker at last week's Economic Society of Alberta meeting. Two weeks of a government employees' strike in order to trim the civil service by 25 per cent is not a big price to pay, he said. The confrontation with the employees will also set the tone for legislated reductions of union power.

How this is supposed to lead to recovery is never spelled out. Perhaps we should ask: recovery for whom?

## Some ideas

I can appreciate the Times' efforts to present a clean, easily readable, and aesthetically pleasing product. However, I don't think the allocation of so much "dead space" furthers those desirable objectives.

Also, I would like to see more emphasis on background pieces analyzing the present political impasse in B.C. For example, Stan Persky's "Media Patrol" article (Times, Nov. 9) was excellent in style and substance, and provided pertinent information.

Some suggested topics: 1) Is the Solidarity Coalition about to become a full-fledged political party? 2) An examination of the role of politically active clergy in Solidarity. 3) The broader relations between Bennett's "restraint" program and the Western world political phenomenon of "neo-conservatism." 4) In-depth interviews with some of the leading "personalities" of the Solidarity Coalition. 5) An examination of the NDP's position and view on the present "crisis" in terms of its future "philosophical" approach to politics.

All in all, however, I want

to ask you to keep up the good work.

Richard Clements  
Vancouver

## Testy

The young people in high school who are concerned about the Grade 12 final exams should be supported — for their concerns are valid and well thought-out.

It is important that we all realize that the students are not questioning whether or not there should be final exams. That is not their issue. The concern the students have raised is that it is unfair to them that for the first time they are expected to write finals in all their academic subjects.

It is also unfair for the students to have the exams count for 50 per cent of their final mark. That is far too much emphasis put on one day and one exam. Even when provincial exams used to be written in the "good old days" this was never the case. Furthermore, there is no appeal process.

It would have been fairer to our students if these exams had been phased in over a period of years. I hope adults in this province will support our young people — their future is our future.

Barle Laird  
Vancouver

## Put it in Writing

### Never again

Stan Persky in "Media Patrol" (Times, Nov. 9) claims Marjorie Nichols "displayed a finely honed sense of indignation" when criticizing the B.C. government. But when she decides to criticise the B.C. Government Employees Union, suddenly "Nichols goes wonky," Persky says.

So much for my first introduction to your paper.

Tom Walker  
North Vancouver

### Excellent

Your coverage and discussion of the issues has been excellent so far, especially the Fraser Institute piece (Times, Nov. 2). I really hope the Times is still around in a year, and that it continues even after we've got a decent government in B.C.

Robert Tyhurst  
Vancouver

### Slingshot

I remember being moved to tears at the first Solidarity rally, as I heard representatives speak on behalf of the rights of the disabled, the poor, women and children. I remember the stirring calls to form a united front of opposition to the injustices about to be done in the name of restraint. I remember seeing tough, burly labor men wearing their power with confidence and rattling their sabres with indignation. And I remember feeling slightly awed and profoundly moved that finally the unions would begin to wield their power in defence

of something other than two-year contracts and wage increases.

Now, with the flood of memories, comes the bitterness of a "sell-out" that sees big labor and big government smiling gleefully over their truce. These Goliaths of the right and left stand in their respective corners, content with a split decision. And in the center of the ring sit the bruised and disillusioned "bleeding hearts."

Most of us knew the gamble we took when we ventured into the corner of big unions. We could not afford to ignore the cries of pain uttered from even a wincing giant. We could not afford to ignore the hand offered in friendship. It provided needed skills and equipment for a good defense against attack. We did not expect the fight to end in the first round.

So, here we sit in the middle of this awful ring, and as the fighters divide up the spoils, we quietly take stock of the remaining equipment: love, justice, compassion and patience. Pretty good materials from which to fashion a slingshot.

Patricia Jennings  
Vancouver

### Sign me up

Even though I went through two weeks of what was an unprecedented strike on \$75 a week strike pay, please find enclosed my cheque for \$33 for a one-year subscription.

I've thoroughly enjoyed the first issues and I'm so glad you're presenting a view of things that I can truly identify with. It's such a wonderful counter-balance to the Mar-



Government negotiator Vince Ready mugs for the cameras.

jorie Nichols and the Les "Spewleys" of the "other" paper.

M. Elaine Bellamore  
Vancouver

### Overdue

Please accept my subscription. A non-doctrinaire forum to reflect the dynamic political movements within B.C. has been long overdue. The fact the paper is both serious in its responsibility to good journalism, yet enjoyable to read is of particular credit.

In future, I hope you will consider some in-depth features on the political economy of B.C. and Canada. In addition, a look into the various chapters of B.C. labor history, including interviews with rank and file activists

both past and present would be welcome. On the whole, I think it's a good paper and I hope you manage to stick around for a long time.

Dennis Brown  
Vancouver

### Aimed at all

I am amazed that no one in the labor movement has pointed out something which was clear when the Bennett government first introduced the public sector restraint act in July. This legislation is not aimed at public sector employees, but at all workers in this province, and especially at those who work in our export industries.

The government has and always did have the machinery

for reducing the number of its employees, and no special legislation was necessary for it to do so. The public sector restraint act is superfluous to "down-sizing" the public sector.

What then is its aim? To set the standard and to establish the conditions under which all workers will be hired and fired in this province. The aim is to set the precedents to be followed by private sector employers. The wages and working conditions of public sector employees have only a marginal effect on the state of the economy. Public sector employees do not produce goods and services which have to be sold in the marketplace, only private sector employees do that. Therefore, in order to make those goods and services more "competitive," especially in the export market, it is the wages and the working conditions of private sector employees which will have to be "restrained." Mr. Bennett knows this very well, and the aim of his government is to establish guidelines for private sector employers to follow. He is showing the "leadership" in dealing with his employees in the manner in which private sector employers hope to deal with theirs.

Name Withheld  
Victoria

### Whoops

We would like to apologize to Holly Devor for inadvertently omitting her photo credit from a photograph published on page 10 of last week's issue. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused her.

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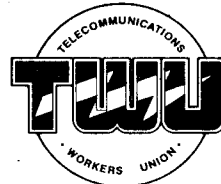
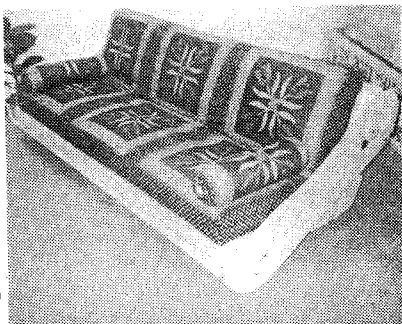
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By Jeannine Mitchell

"You know how I feel? Like I've been hit by a tidal wave or something."

Joan Rykyta is speaking. A single mother in her early forties, she lives with her handicapped sister and eight-year-old son in East Vancouver.

"Look, I'm not a passive type of person. I believe in taking charge where you can. But this budget, (here she stops to tap her finger against an invisible wall in the air) this budget is changing our lives."

For Rykyta, "this budget" and its accompanying raft of legislation means three things on a purely personal level: an almost certain loss of her job; a threatened loss of services for her sister; and a definite loss in the quality of her son's education.

She worked against the election of the Social Credit party in B.C.'s May election. Her months since then have been hectic ones in which her worst fears have been realized and the marginal quality of her family's life has been assaulted.

Rykyta works as a "mothers' helper" — a family support worker — with the Ministry of Human Resources. Her salary is \$1,380 a month before deductions. She has no car, her apartment is sparsely furnished, and her major possession is a television set.

She lives, one might say, close to the line.

On Nov. 13, with fellow B.C. Government Employees Union members, she put down her picket sign at the request of Operation Solidarity leadership. She also set aside her support work around the issue of education funding.

Yet the picket signs remain with her. They lean against the wall in the middle of her living room — ready, as she is, to return to the fray.

Nothing in Rykyta's life appears resolved by the recent settlement. Her voice, when she mentions this, reveals bitterness.

Rykyta was supposed to be terminated along with 90 per cent of the other family support workers in her section of the department. She now expects that termination will be delayed, but not cancelled.

"We (family support workers) are among the people the government wants to get rid of the most. It's up in the air right now, but I figure I'll be out of a job within the next few months. And programs like ours will be gone. That I'm sure of."

"I guess what upsets me the most is knowing that there are kids out there who are going to die. Some government people and media people like to laugh off statements like that. Well, they're not the ones who deal with this stuff. We are."

"I've got my share of horror stories to tell, just like all the other workers in my department. And I know of a number of times when we've saved a child's life. It's happened to me, too."

"We deal with child abuse, sexual assault, malnutrition, neglect and things like babies being fed cough medicine and alcohol to keep them quiet. You know, alcohol-fed babies can die of dehydration before a doctor even realizes there's a problem. Many of the people we deal with go out of their way to avoid people like doctors, at least until the damage is done."

As a mother's helper, Rykyta performs a complex task under the direction of health professionals and social workers. She does housework, usually working side by side with her clients as she teaches them basic skills such as budgeting, nutrition, sanitation, child safety and parenting.

"People who think we're wasting tax money by pampering lazy parents, well, all I can say is they can't have any

**'We deal with child abuse, sexual assault, neglect and things like babies being fed cough medicine and alcohol to keep them quiet.'**

idea what we're dealing with. We're dealing, in most cases, with people who never learned the basic parenting and coping skills that society considers natural. In some cases, the parent is simply someone like you or me who has hit a crisis point and needs help getting back to normal.

"But generally, we're talking about people whose problems go back through generations of abuse and neglect. We're trying to break the circle through programs like ours and Project Parent (a therapy-parenting skills program due to be terminated next spring)."

In some respects, Rykyta's job can be a dangerous one.

"I've had my share of scary moments," she says. "We all have. We're dealing with a fair bit of domestic violence. One of my clients was slashed with a knife by her husband. I still remember cleaning up all the blood, I'll tell you. You feel threatened at times."

"Another time I was trying to stop a fight between a woman and her landlord by stepping in between them. It didn't work. About the time I realized I was likely to get hit with a frying pan, I managed to get out and call for help."

What compensates for the risk and the low pay, she says, is a sense of real accomplishment. That is what she says she will miss.

"We really have made a change in people's lives," she explains. "I remember one little boy who some people thought might be retarded. He was four years old, and he didn't know any colors, or about the kind of differences most kids know, like hot and cold."

"I brought him books. I do that with a lot of the kids. I teach them songs and take them for walks and point out things to them, like colors. And I tell the parents how to do these things themselves."

"So everything I did with this little boy became a learning experience. And it turned out he was craving for a chance to learn. He just went nuts over the books I brought him. There was nothing wrong with his mind — he just needed the chance other kids get."

"And I remember one woman I worked with (who) was alone with two babies when I started with her. Her youngest baby had its head flattened on one side from being left constantly

# PLAYING THE WAITING GAME



Joan Rykyta (right) and her sister.

BEV DAVIES PHOTO

in a plastic lounge. That woman was on valium, booze, sleeping pills; whatever she could get her hands on. I worked with her for two years.

"She's got a job now. She's earning a better wage than me, in fact. She's really happy, and her kids are doing great."

Since the BCGEU settlement, Rykyta's case load has completely changed. She explains that her old clients had been closed off by social workers anticipating the Oct. 31 terminations that would end the program.

"It's incredible," she says, "how many people there are out there who need our program. Within four days of my being back at work, I had a full case load of new people. And Project Parent has a huge waiting list, even though it's about to end."

What lies ahead? She slumps back in her chair.

"This week, I got a letter from a day program that my sister Janet goes to. It asked that I be at a meeting to discuss the future of the program and whether or not Janet will still be in it."

Janet, at 47, has premature senility. Her brain is literally shrinking, according to doctors. As a result, she is mentally retarded, has trouble speaking and walking and she faces further deterioration in the near future. Rykyta is the only person between her and the prospect of life in an institution.

"Again, things are up in the air as far as Janet is concerned," explains Rykyta. "They haven't started the health department cuts yet, so I don't know what we're up against. But she really likes her handicapped programs. If she has doctor's appointments and can't go for a few days, she starts getting depressed. Besides, I can't leave her alone every day when I'm out working."

In one area, Rykyta has mapped out a plan for life-after-the-budget. She is preparing to pull her son out of the public school system.

"Look," she says. "I've always

been active in the school consultative committee ever since he started grade one. We were concerned about education cutbacks before this budget. For example, we lost our enrichment program and it was the only one in this part of town."

"Chris has needed learning assistance in the past. It helped him to the point where he's doing okay now. He doesn't need it anymore. But I wonder how he's going to cope with so many teachers about to get fired and so many programs about to get cut year after year."

"I'm going to work as hard as I can all this school year to try to make parents aware of the damage these cutbacks are going to do to our schools. And believe me, in the East End, where we have so many language and other problems, we're talking about real damage."

"So I'm giving things the rest of this year to sort out. But if the government sticks with the cutbacks, I'm damned if I'm going to let my kid suffer a lousy education."

"We'll go without in other ways if we have to. I'll put him in a Catholic school until he's older. Then, maybe I can send him to school in another part of town."

Cutting herself off, Rykyta gets up and heads for the kitchen. There is a brief, energetic clatter of pots and dishes, followed by the sound of a stove clicking on.

"I can't stand much more of this without some coffee," she says, re-emerging.

"It feels like everyone I know — my family, the people I work with, the people I work for, my friends — we're all stuck playing this waiting game. And it seems to take a lot of energy."

So much energy she hasn't had time to throw out her picket signs?

For the first time in our interview, Rykyta laughs.

"They may be around a lot longer than our Christmas tree will be," she says.

**For the first time, gays and lesbians are working side by side with trade unionists and community groups in the Solidarity Coalition.**

**By John Mackie**

One of the things that slipped by unnoticed with all the foofaraw over the budget and possible general strike is the fact that, for the first time, gay and lesbian representatives are working side by side with trade unionists and community groups in the Solidarity Coalition.

"It's sad that we have to rally around such a repressive budget to have changes for human rights and lesbian and gay rights, but I think it's perfect timing," says Sue Harris, co-chair of the lesbian caucus in the Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition. "I know that in a lot of the literature that's coming out, lesbian and gay rights (are dealt with), it's in their minds now, it's in their consciousness, and that's the beginning stage. The connections that have been made are very important for our credibility, and

"Basically, we raise issues and deal with things that are common ground with all of us. It's a forum. Very non-sexist, very non-racist. We're always questioning ourselves to be very understanding towards each other's specific needs."

Chief among the specific needs of the gay and lesbian communities is the axing of the Human Rights Commission. Both Harris and Grunsky see this leading to fear and problems among their constituents.

Grunsky tells of a public speak-out forum gays had a couple of months back. "We were very disappointed, because we thought people would be coming to the meeting angry and outspoken, but the crowd was very subdued," he says. "People were in a state of extreme paranoia about media. What we really found was that people were not willing to speak out in public and voice their concerns, and as activists sometimes we forget that. People in our community felt that a dark shadow was over B.C., and they really did not feel free and comfortable to speak out."

Adds Harris: "I'm really worried that, even if Bennett gives us back something, he's certainly not going to include the progressive changes that were recommended by the Human Rights Commission on sexual orientation. And we need that. We want those changes, we need them, or else we're really going to be massacred."

"People are going to have to remain in the closet, being afraid," she says. "They'll be afraid even more 'cause they won't have protection on the medical bill, because patient confidentiality is able to be broken, and if there's no change to Bill 5, the Residential Tenancy Act, they will be able to be evicted without cause. Which is true for everybody, except we've never really been protected except through the Human Rights code under their 'reasonable cause' clause."

At the same time, Grunsky feels people have to be realistic about the effect they have. "Many groups, like myself, realised (while) coming into the Coalition that we would never come to the point where we would see all our basic aims and objectives fulfilled," he says. "We're not so stupid as to think that Bill Bennett is going to all of a sudden make a U-turn and do what we want. We realize this. We see the Solidarity Coalition as an educational body, it's there to continually put pressure on the government through action, to get broader support in the community, to put pressure on the government and its allies to change."

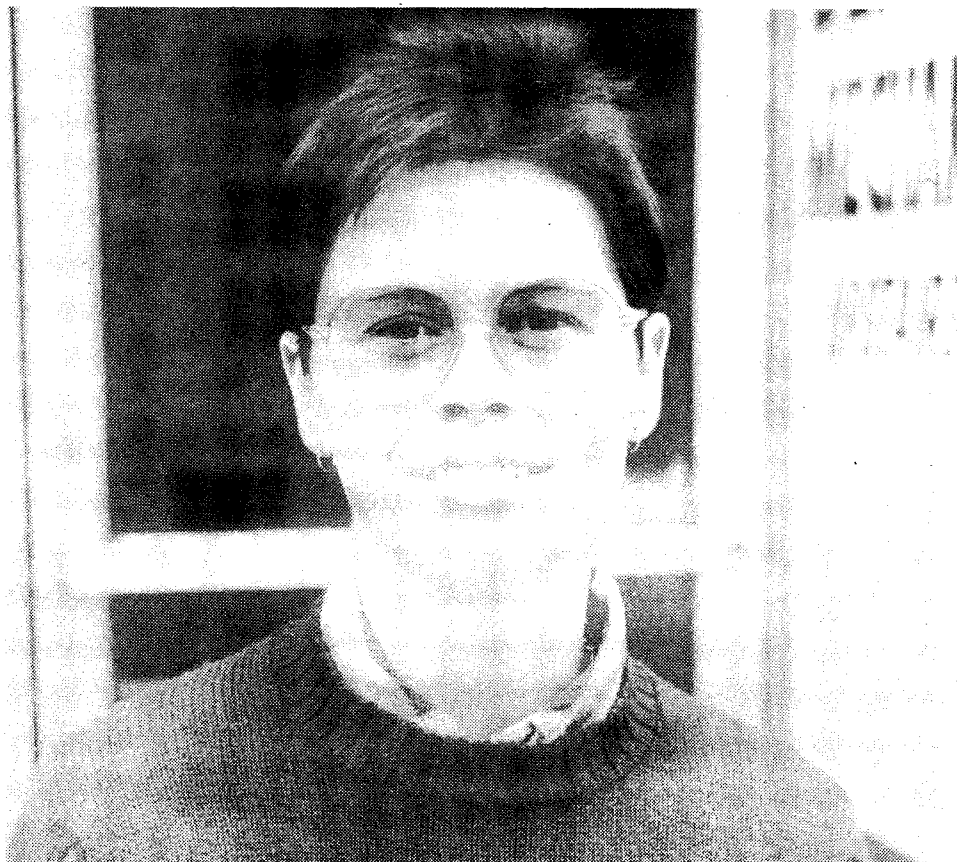
"I think that's an on-going thing, that education will never stop," he says. "Pressure on the government cannot stop, irregardless of what government is in power. We're all left with umpteen unsatisfied things, and we're only going to grow from here on in."

The future? Both see the Solidarity Coalition staying active, and their groups active within the Coalition.

"We are trying to keep going and trying to set up our constituency again, get more involvement from the grassroots," says Harris. "Build up from the bottom. You can't have a movement go forward from the top. It's impossible. If you have a change with Bennett and so on, you need a lot more people still."

"I think the deadline is over," says Grunsky. "I think we're going to be able to go back to our communities now, hold public meetings. Discuss what we want, discuss with other groups, speak with other groups, educate each other."

## THE BEGINNING STAGE



Sue Harris of the lesbian caucus.

BEV DAVIES PHOTO



Gay representative Harry Grunsky.

it's just a new experience sort of being there. Not that I didn't know we were okay before, but we are now considered a valid constituency and are included in this massive movement and are able to educate ourselves as delegates and members of Solidarity and the public. It's a perfect time. It's exciting."

Gay rep Harry Grunsky says the Coalition has worked because all groups withheld from pushing their special concerns all the time.

"Politically speaking, I've really been unhappy for the last few years with the lack of unity and the lack of people wanting to work around issues," he says. "Quite often, people representing groups have been coming in and finding their niche and working out of it. But quite frankly, the steering committee of the Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition has been quite incredible. There's been a real lack of nit-picking and back-stabbing, there seems to be real solidarity. There's a real legitimate concern that all people's issues are brought forward."

"In a coalition, you work on things that you agree on, and you tend to leave things that you disagree on in the background, because those things might be divisive," he explains.

# ENTERTAINMENT

## INSIDE THE IDIOT BOX

By Bob Bossin

Waiting for the missiles to hit in **The Day After** was like waiting for the other shoe to drop. Admit it: you were actually hoping for the missiles. For the first hour, the normalcy part, **The Day After** was practically Warholesque. Pop watched Bud at football practice. Sis took Dad to the art gallery where they talked about, what was it, moving to Boston? Yet we watched on, knowing relief was on the way.

By contrast, the opening scenes of **Testament**, the movie on the same subject at the Vancouver Centre, are rich with complexity and implication. The family is really normal, not TV normal. And so both movies continue. **Testament** is not to be missed, a moving film on a distressing subject that is not so much depressing as touching.

**The Day After** was not to be missed either, bad as it was, for it was not an artistic event but a political one. The point was not what it showed, but that it was shown. No need to belabor the script, or to ask how come the horses stayed so healthy. The real message was the medium.

So was it anti-nuke propaganda? You bet. Let ABC claim the program was neutral, that everybody is against the arms race. Sheer rhetoric, a trick to manoeuvre Ronald Reagan into bed with Bertrand Russell. But watching even this half-strength depiction of what nuclear weapons do, when they do what they are designed to do, you knew the truth: **The Day After** was about as neutral as a speech by Helen Caldicott.

But how much effect will it have? Will it lead viewers from the armchairs into the streets, or will it just deepen a numbing nuclear depression? Knowledge of the effects of nuclear war is just one prerequisite of anti-nuclear activity. One also needs a sense of imminence, of just how possible, even likely the use of nuclear weapons is getting. On this, **The Day After** was virtually silent, and where it wasn't, it was misleading.

The nuclear strike that wiped out Kansas followed a Russian invasion of West Germany, a scenario about as likely as a U.S. invasion of Poland. The prelude to a real war would involve a combination of frighteningly more recognizable factors, like the increasing choice of military over diplomatic solutions — what we've been seeing in the Falklands, in Lebanon, in Grenada, or in the night sky over Vladivostok. It would follow deteriorating relations between the super-powers; the new technological innovations like the Cruise, the handgun of the nuclear arsenal, or the incredibly speedy Pershing which forces the Warsaw Pact to launch their missiles on warning.

And the real prelude to war would feature a tenor of public discussion far from the quiet concern of the citizens of Lawrence, Kansas. What we will hear will be mass sabre-rattling and righteous declarations of national



Jason Roberts contemplating **The Day After**'s ratings.

## Several Days After

After one of the biggest buildups ever, **The Day After** came through . . . to an extent.

firmness — the kind of stuff that leaders, media and the public all slipped into so easily this September when the Korean airliner was shot down.

**The Day After** painted a picture — and, for television, not a bad one — of the consequences of nuclear war. But more important than such knowledge, more important than the recognition of

imminence, is the sense so many have of political helplessness.

That is what keeps people quietly in line in the march to war. In reality we are far from helpless, which is the lesson of the history of civil disobedience, a history not taught in the schools or indicated at all in **The Day After**. It is the history of Gandhi, Mar-

tin Luther King, and Lech Walesa, a history of small, seemingly insignificant individual acts that crescendo to great cumulative effect. And while it never raised this — there weren't even protesters in the simulated newscasts — **The Day After** itself was part of this skein, yet another limited, but nonetheless hopeful act of protest.



# Week

From page 2

Ward who argued that "Operation Solidarity can proudly point out that its extraordinary program of escalating strikes forced Canada's most rightwing provincial government to make significant concessions. At a time when labor militancy in North America was said to be at a post-war low because of the protracted recession, Operation Solidarity ... brought the battle to the streets with marches and job action. The coalition's momentum was impressive ..."

Nonetheless, the question remained whether the coalition could have gone further. A little-noticed Gallup poll released last week indicated greater national criticism of the Bennett government than might be expected. The poll found 52 per cent of Canadians (53 per cent of British Columbians) believed the Socred cuts were too severe, while only 41 per cent felt they were appropriate. Fifty-four per cent of Canadians outside B.C. said they were against their governments adopting a similar restraint program.

While B.C. went back to work and the media scurried to discover the details of the pact, the forces of politics were temporarily overwhelmed by the forces of nature.

By mid-week all attention shifted to the pounding rainstorms that washed out portions of the "killer" highway, 99 North, which runs from Vancouver to Pemberton and carries skiers to the government bail-out Whistler ski resort. Several people were killed in last year's flooding.

Instead of pictures of picket lines on front pages and television screens, there were now shots of back-to-work highway employees patching up bridges on the uncertain road while the rain continued to sluice down swollen creeks.

Later in the week, labor leader Munro, faced with incessant questions and mounting confusion about his settlement with Bennett, gave details on the verbal agreement with the premier. For his part, Bennett took to television Nov. 18, appearing on Jack Webster's talkshow to confirm practically all that Munro had said. The premier, however, couldn't refrain from attacking teachers' leader Larry Kuehn, and throwing a wrench into the deal, despite appealing for "a time for healing." Money saved from the teachers' walkout, said Bennett, would not be applied to 1984 educational funding.

Kuehn was predictably furious. In a press conference that afternoon he accused Bennett of "welching" on the agreement. "It was very clear to us that the commitment we understood was that the

money would go back into the system to provide services in 1984."

Bennett's remarks, said Kuehn, "will just keep the turmoil going on."

Indeed, the turmoil continued into the weekend. Bennett had insisted that teachers make up the days lost during the protest. But Vancouver school superintendent Dante Lupini said Nov. 19 that such a scheme was "impossible." BCTF president Kuehn said teachers would consider further protest action if Bennett reneged on restored educational funding.

A meeting between Kuehn and education minister Jack Heinrich was slated for early the following week. On its results hung several hundred teaching jobs, slated school closures and further program cutbacks. The truce between government and Solidarity, barely a week old, continued to be shaky.

## Canada

From page 4

French Language, (Bill 101), which has been at the centre of language controversy in Quebec since it was introduced six years ago.

Under the proposed amendments, English-language education would be permitted for any child with a parent educated in English in another

province, municipalities with majority English-speaking populations would be allowed to do business in English and retain English-language names and more room would be provided for traditionally English-speaking institutions to communicate with each other in that language.

The president of Alliance Quebec, the leading anglophone-rights group in Quebec, faintly praised the gesture, but damned the changes for falling "far short of the social contract and genuine solutions."

Whether the Levesque speech, the budget initiative and the appeasement of Quebec anglophones would revive the Parti Quebecois' flagging fortunes in the polls appear doubtful, according to most political observers.

Despite Quebec's efforts to boost its economy, the alleged recovery in the rest of the country remained stalled. According to a Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce report released last week, its leading economic indicators dropped for the second straight month last August, adding fuel to the notion that economic activity, whether it's called a recovery or not, is slowing down. The decline of .09 per cent was caused mainly by a sharp drop in residential building starts. "The recent declines in the Commerce Leading Indicator suggest that

economic growth in Canada will moderate during the early part of 1984," the bank predicted.

## CIP

From page 5

Solloway, of the fightback Committee. "Plus, when you think about all the turmoil it's going to cause. ..."

The CIP grant still doesn't make welfare a living wage, said committee head Ellen Frank.

"The \$50 doesn't make it livable. It makes a big difference, but it's nothing. It's not a matter of them giving us back our \$50 and we'll be fine.

"We weren't fine to begin with. And on top of not being fine, they rip off \$50."

More than providing the extra \$50, said Frank, the program provided people classified as "unemployable" or "disabled" in human resources ministry files with some recognition that they make a useful contribution to society.

"CIP members looked at that as a job. This is a society that values workers; you don't have a job and nobody wants you. The job was more important than the \$50."

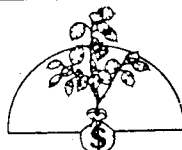
When CIP volunteers and community workers sit down in the Carnegie Centre on Nov. 30, they plan to piece together a proposal for a new CIP program to put before the provincial government.

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# The Wars an intense look at fear

By Don Larventz

**The Wars** has been hailed as the first Australian-Canadian film and the beginning of a revitalized Canadian film industry. It has also been dismissed by many critics as strangling on its precious intensity. With such disagreement over a Canadian cultural product you know that some Canadian sacred cow, and not just a film, is being weighed by reviewers. That sacred cow is none other than the belief Canadians can't make entertaining movies that explore Canadian subjects without trying to make them look like they're set in the U.S. **The Wars** is an intense look at fear, which is not an American movie subject at all.

Based on Timothy Findlay's novel, the film recounts the short and sad life of Robert Ross, son of a wealthy Toronto businessman (although we never learn what business) and his aristocratic wife. Pre-First World War Toronto society is laid out for us in all its colonial splendor and with all its social and sexual constraints and prohibitions. Robert (Brent Carver) lives the moral code of upper class Canadians of the period with confused intensity.

Without direction or interest, young Ross performs the social chores expected of a 19 year old and has moments of dreamy relaxation only with his sister, Rowenna (Ann-Marie MacDonald), who is physically and mentally impaired. His mother (Martha Henry) is an alcoholic in despair over the meaningless hypocrisy of a life she has no desire to change and his

father (William Hutt) is cool and detached. This is a world before Freud and everyone subscribes to the unspoken belief that the only way for civilization to continue is to repress messy impulses of lust, love or hate. So the lust is forever denied, the love unexpressed and the hate surfaces shortly in the endless mud, blood, urine and rot of the trenches.

There are some extraordinary scenes in the first half of the film that show us the undercurrents of life within this family. The most moving is Mrs. Ross' visit with her son in the family's huge green bathroom. "A mother's prerogative, to visit the wounded," she says, looking at her son's naked body with more interest than she could ever allow herself to acknowledge. Rowenna has just died in an accident and Mrs. Ross is enraged with her son. Martha Henry is superb in the scene as she recounts moments of Robert's childhood, but when tenderness threatens to surface she cuts it off with a chilled "we're all cut off with a knife at birth and left to the mercy of strangers."

Robert is an uninformed young man never able to put together two or three sentences in a row that could explain his predicament to himself. Gradually the pull of his peers and his wintery relationship with his parents sends him off to war. Brent Carver is unerring as a young man nearly lost to himself with only a tremendous compassion for animals breaking his chilly environment. It is his very love for horses that will provide him with his only avenue



Singer/comedienne Nancy White wowed them at the Ridge Theatre last week, eliciting more than a few giggles with some astute satirical lyrics. At a benefit concert in Victoria, she raised \$2,100 for OXFAM.

of rebellion. Carver is a small man playing a bigger man, frightened, and he succeeds without making him pitiable.

Director Robin Phillips gets fine performances from all his actors, but his set designer's trenches have the look of an over-careful stage set. The realistic illusion is inadvertently lost and the corpses of men and horses pressed into the mud look insufficiently real for those of us numbed by Hollywood's superiority in fake gore. This is unfortunate because it is just this gore that gradually undermines Robert's passivity in his role of the good, dutiful Canadian. Rebuffed by an insufferable officer in an attempt to rescue pack horses, Robert shoots him and escapes

after freeing the animals. Cornered by military police who set fire to the barn he has brought the horses to, he and the horses crash through the flames. Horribly burned, he accepts the offer of a nurse for a quicker death.

This is not a cheerful movie, or flattering of national sensibilities like so many of the Australian movies of the last decade. Fear and emotional repression, at least up to now, have not been thought of as subjects that sell popcorn. But for all its flaws it is a powerful and wounding film without peer in recent Canadian film history. We can only hope that Phillips' and Findlay's expressed desire to make more films can be realized.

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# Mother the life of the Party

## FROM THE FOOTLIGHTS

By Don Larventz

Agit-prop theatre was created to educate working people about their lives and to point out the exact direction for organizing for social change. If you leave the theatre after seeing an agit-prop work to write a review — instead of joining the Party — then the work has failed.

Bertolt Brecht's **The Mother** was first performed in Berlin a couple of years before Hitler and the Nazis took power. The intention of the play was clear: to show how to engage in revolutionary activities against a corrupt and brutal state. The setting was Russia before the abortive 1905 workers' revolt, but the intended theatre of activities off the stage was a disintegrating Weimar Republic. The work was intended to be performed at political meetings and other non-theatre settings. **The Mother** is powerful didactic theatre, not just a dull rant about Czarist bad guys and Bolshevik good guys. It was often performed in Germany before 1933.

Performing the play in Vancouver in 1983 in a loft theatre is a different matter entirely. The agit in the agit-prop is gone. We no longer look to the Soviet Union as a model of social experimen-

tation and it has been decades since Canadians have been presented with social problem plays advocating specific political solutions.

Director Joanna Maratta has inserted a few mild references to the contemporary situation in B.C., but they are asides as if to say, see, this is relevant to our times. In a distant sort of way it is. A mother of a revolutionary son is drawn into his political work to protect him, but is gradually transformed into a dedicated revolutionary herself even after her son's death at the hands of a firing squad. Around her, other political workers come to their senses and join the Party. Brutal times make for revolutionary solutions, at least at some times, and in some situations.

Maratta says that she staged the play because she "wanted to explore the phenomenon of grouping" and to show how a "clearly defined cause intensifies group dynamics." I take it that no one was intended to join the Party after seeing the performance. Brecht used events nearly 30 years old to frame his lesson for the audience, but the example of a Communist Party in Germany was clear to anyone then. The events are now nearly 80 years old, and have lost their immediacy, at least their political immediacy. So the prop in agit-prop is gone too. We are left with theatre.

The actors were earnest and the groupings had a studied look but the performers were uncertain about what to do with lines that were not



Judith Rane as The Mother.

meant to reveal character but inspire action. Judith Rane as the mother has a fine face and presence but sounded shrill in the set-piece addresses to the

audience. The songs were unmusical. The audience applauded the preview performance, but one doubts if any joined the Party, any party.

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## To All Volunteers:

The Solidarity Times will be holding an orientation and social evening for volunteers on Monday, November 28th from 7-10 p.m. at our offices at 545 West 10th Ave., Vancouver.

This is your opportunity to meet and talk to reporters and other staff, learn how the paper runs and where you can fit in. The subscription campaign will be announced and a group picture of volunteers will be photographed for the next issue.

So, please come along, exchange ideas, sign up for new volunteers and get involved!

Refreshments will be served.

For more information, call Ken: 879-4826  
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# GET SERIOUS

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23 VANCOUVER

People's Law School class on welfare rights instructed by Marjorie Martin, 7:30 p.m. Kitsilano Neighbourhood House, 2305 West 7th (at Vine). Free. For more info call 734-1126.

Women in Transition workshop on skills in improving your self image, from 7 to 9 p.m. at 544 E. 8th Ave. To register call Shirley Buchan at 669-5288.

## NEW WESTMINSTER

Labour history lecture series continues with "Women Workers in the 20th Century" by Sara Diamond, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the CAIMAW Hall, 707 12th St., New West.

## VICTORIA

Film "Women Under Apartheid". For time and place call 383-1691.

## PORT ALBERNI

The 53rd Annual Convention of the Native Brotherhood of B.C. will be hosted by the Nu-Cha-Nulth Tribal Council at the Maht Mahs Hall in Port Alberni. For 3 days.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 24 VANCOUVER

Women Against the Budget meeting at 7:30 p.m. at First Church, 320 E. Hastings.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 27 VANCOUVER

Slide show on Nicaragua at 8 p.m. at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Drive. For more info call 251-6626.

## MONDAY, NOV. 28 VANCOUVER

Benefit dinner and slide show for the Salvadorean Women's Association AMES at 7 p.m. at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Dr. Tickets are \$8 employed and \$6 unemployed and are available at IDERA, 2524 Cypress St. and at La Quena.

## TUESDAY, NOV. 29 VANCOUVER

People's Law School is holding a class on "U.I. Appeals" with instructor Allan MacLean at 7:30 p.m. at the Kitsilano Neighbourhood House, 2305 West 7th (at Vine). Runs for 2 evenings. Free. For more info call 734-1126.

## VICTORIA

Film showing of 'The Spiral', a documentary on the coup in Chile narrated by Donald Sutherland, at 7 p.m., at Cinecenta. Tickets are \$2.50. Sponsored by the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Chile.

China Travelogue slide show on areas of China not normally visited by tourists, 7:30 p.m. at the Meeting Hall, 535 Fisgard Street. For more info call 384-3852. Sponsored by the Canada-China Friendship Association.

Presentation by Gilles Labour on the role of the Unitarian Service Committee in developing countries, 8 p.m. at Little Lecture Theatre, Pearson College.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30 VANCOUVER

Women in transition workshop on Unwanted Patterns from 7 to 9 p.m. at 577 East 8th. To register call Shirley Buchan at 669-5288.



Psycho band, qu'est que ce? Talking Heads Chris Franz, Tina Weymouth, David Byrne and Jerry Harrison hit the rain forest December 3rd in Vancouver's Coliseum Concert Bowl. Will their hit single 'Burning Down the House' spell the end for the Big Apple's favourite artistes? Will David Byrne's head detach from his neck whilst he warbles? Will Jerry Harrison wear runners? Are Tina and Chris stuck in their chairs? Be there and find out the answers to these and other exciting questions. Tickets are fairly expensive (\$14.50) but it promises to be the last great concert in 1983.

# GET HAPPY!

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 23 VANCOUVER

"Xica" a Brazilian film by Carlos Diegues, 7:30 p.m. and "Montenegro" by Yugoslavian director Dusan Makavejev at 9:30 p.m. Both films are at Vancouver East Cinema, 7th and Commercial and run for two nights. For more info call 253-5455.

Film "Nights of Cabiria" by Federico Fellini, 7:30 p.m. at Pacific Cinematheque, 1155 West Georgia. For more info call 732-6119.

Premiere party for "Angles", Vancouver's new monthly gay newspaper, at Buddy's, 1018 Burnaby St. This is a fundraiser for the Vancouver Gay Community Centre. For more info call Neil Whaley at 681-6437.

## THURSDAY, NOV. 24 VANCOUVER

Exhibition of Dance Photography by artists D. Jones, I. Migicovsky, C. Randle, D. Cooper, J. Davidson, G. E. Erikson, R. Green and A. Hirabayashi shown daily at Vancouver East Cultural Centre, 1895 Venables (at Victoria). Continues until November 27. For more info call 254-9578.

## NEW WESTMINSTER

Labour lecture on "Workers in British Columbia in the 20th Century" at 7:30 p.m. at the Carpenter's Hall, 726 12th St., New Westminster. For more info call 291-3521.

## FRIDAY, NOV. 25 VANCOUVER

Wimmin's Fire Brigade Anniversary Dance with the Moral Lepers, Sassafra and Industrial Waste Banned, 8:30 p.m. at the Legion Hall, 2205 Commercial Drive. Women only.

Hitchcock film series begins tonight with "Rear Window" 7:15 at the Ridge (16th and Arbutus). For more info call 738-6311.

Film "Death Watch" by French director Bertrand Tavernier is shown at 7:30 and 9:45 at the Vancouver East Cinema (7th and Commercial) and runs for three nights. For more info call 253-5455.

Morley Loon performs at 8 p.m. at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Drive, for two nights. For more info call 251-6626.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 26 VANCOUVER

Benefit dance for Chile with Communique, 7:30 p.m. at the Ukrainian Hall, 805 E. Pender. \$4 employed and \$3 unemployed. Sponsored by the Vancouver Chilean Association.

Nina Simone appears tonight in a 'Salute to Bob Marley' at 7:30 p.m. at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre. Tickets at all VTC, CBO outlets and the AMS (at UBC).

International Women's Day benefit social, 8 p.m. at 545 West 10th Ave. For more info call 872-2307.

## SUNDAY, NOV. 27 VANCOUVER

Dennis Lee, Canada's favourite children's poet will recite from his latest book Jelly Belly at 11:30 a.m. at Vancouver Kidsbooks, 2868 West 4th (at MacDonald). For more info call 738-5335.

## WEDNESDAY, NOV. 30 VANCOUVER

Saskatchewan poet Lorna Crozier (formerly Uher) will read from her new book, The Weather, at Britannia Library, 1661 Napier St., at 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

Send your typed messages to Get Happy!, Solidarity Times, 545 West 10th Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V5Z1K9. Deadline is Monday, 10 a.m., before the issue you want to see your announcement in. We reserve the right to edit for space.

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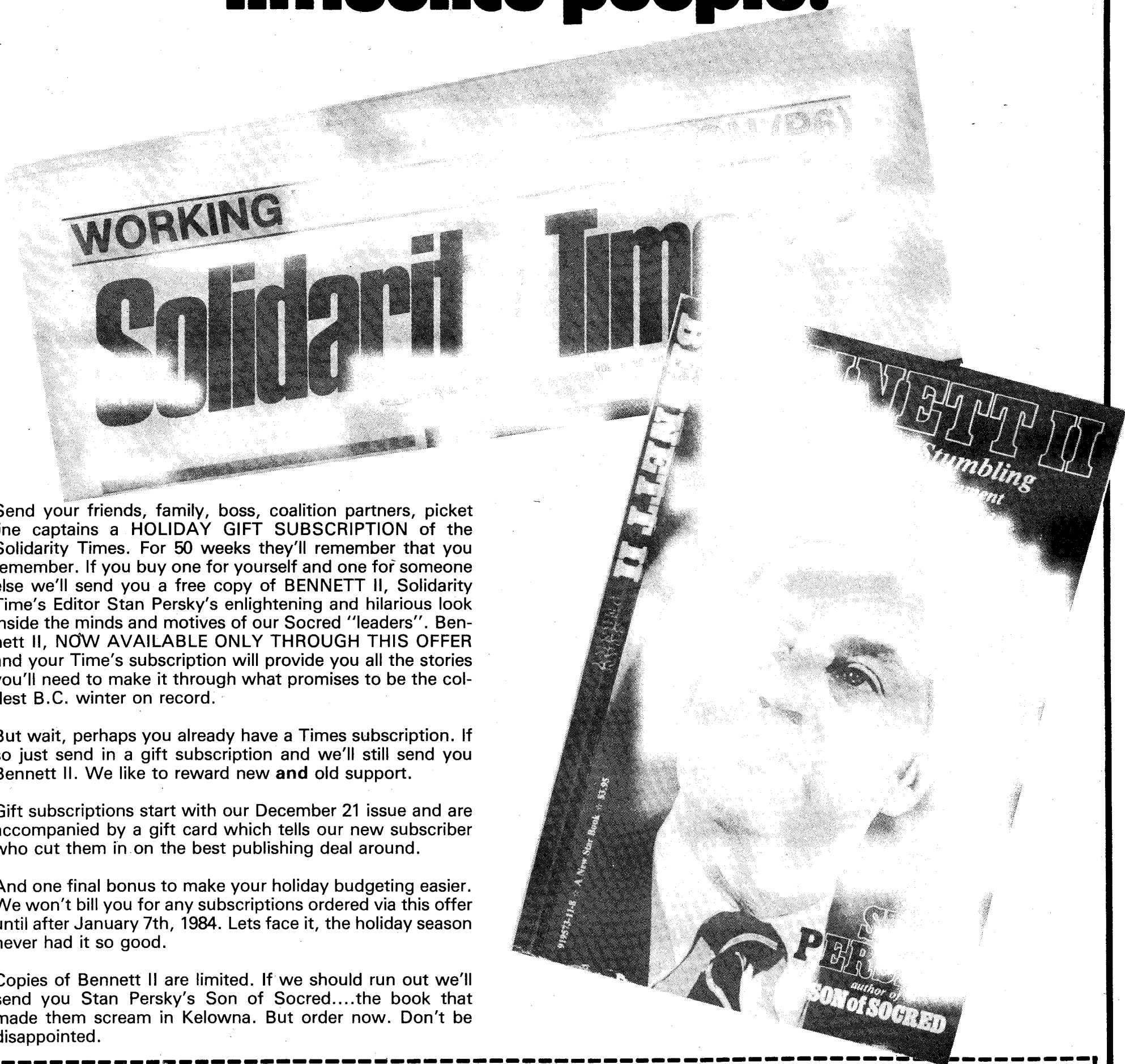
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