

BCGEU BACKED BY CLASSROOM SHUTDOWN

Solidarity Times^{50¢}

GCIU 48

VOL. 1, NO. 4/WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9, 1983

STRIKE TWO

TEACHERS OUT:
IT'S A WHOLE NEW
BALL GAME! (PAGE 3)

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BEV DAVIES PHOTO

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This Week

Count-down to Phase 2

By Stan Persky

With less than one shift to go before the B.C. Government Employees Union's Halloween-midnight strike deadline, Premier Bill Bennett popped up on the tube Oct. 31 with a generous trick or treat offer.

If the BCGEU called off its strike, the premier would delay (for two-and-a-half days) the slated firing-without-cause of 1,600 of the union's members, and rush in special mediator Vince Ready to continue the already week-long negotiating talkathon. The union declined the offer of the grinning jack-o-lantern on TV, and by midnight, amid the noise of the Halloween firecrackers, the first BCGEU pickets appeared.

What followed was Week One in a strike that could eventually pit all of the community groups and trade unions that make up B.C.'s Solidarity movement against

the right-wing legislative package introduced by Bennett's Social Credit government last July. If the government workers' dispute wasn't settled by Tuesday, Nov. 8, it would trigger "phase two" of Solidarity's protest: BCGEU members would be joined by teachers, crown corporation workers, civic employees, bus drivers and hospital workers in escalating waves. But it all depended on the premier. As Province political columnist Allen Garr put it: "What we are experiencing, of course, is the latest example of the premier's crisis-management style. First he creates the crisis and then everyone else is left to manage."

Tuesday, Nov. 1: The talks continued. Despite the rejection of the premier's bid, the 1,600 BCGEU members were not fired and special mediator Vince Ready appeared at the Labor Relations Board offices in Vancouver, site of the negotiations, where special Bennett aide Norman Spector (with provincial secretary Jim Chabot hovering in the wings) led the government side of the bargaining.

Meanwhile, out in the rain, 35,000 striking workers pounded the pavement, picketing 3,000 government offices and shops around the province and explaining to reporters what it was all about. "This is about principles," BCGEU picket captain Jack Sherwood told the press. "Not money. You just



University of B.C. student examines striking clerical worker's literature

don't go dumping people with 28 years on the job," he said, referring to Bill 3, the already-passed piece of legislation giving the government the power to fire workers at will. "You can only push people so far and they'll stand up and fight for what they believe in."

Solidarity co-chair Art Kube underscored the determination of the strikers. "If essential services legislation is invoked, I have every feeling that the BCGEU and other unions in the public sector will not adhere to that legislation," Kube said. Asked if he was advising unions to defy the law if necessary, he replied, "Yes, I

am." Kube also reminded the government that if a settlement wasn't reached by Nov. 8, teachers would be the next ones out.

Wednesday, Nov. 2: Teachers were on the government's mind. While BCGEU talks continued under a news blackout, Bennett's cabinet met all day in Victoria. At the end, education minister Jack Heinrich threatened teachers. A teachers' strike would be illegal, Heinrich claimed at a press conference. He also reminded school boards that they could lift teachers' certificates, effectively firing

them, and went on to warn school districts that shutting down in the event of a teachers' strike could result in board members being charged with breaking the law. B.C. Teachers Federation president Larry Kuehn was not intimidated. He called Heinrich's position "ridiculous," accused the minister of "playing games" and suggested the war of words would only anger teachers.

Thursday, Nov. 3: Nor was Operation Solidarity, the trade union segment of the coalition, terrified by Heinrich. After an emergency session, Solidarity's Kube said the education minister's threats had "inflamed the situation" and vowed that Solidarity would call an immediate general strike of public sector workers if any teachers were fired for walking off the job. "If any education employees are victimized by the Bennett government then we shall call upon all public sector employees to take immediate job action," he said.

Heinrich appeared to have second thoughts. Speaking to B.C. school principals in Nanaimo that day, he carefully played down his earlier warning. At the same time, the president of the B.C. School Trustees Association called for "sanity and reason and a cooling of tempers by all parties." That afternoon, the Bennett government cooled down

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B.C. FEDERATION OF LABOUR

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Teachers walk on threats

Despite newspaper editorials denouncing them, and a host of injunctions aimed at stopping their job action, most of B.C.'s 30,000 teachers stayed away from school on the first day of their strike against government restraint legislation.

A last-ditch attempt to hammer out an agreement to protect teachers from Bill 3, the Public Sector Restraint Act, was apparently foiled by the government's scuttling of an agreement between North Vancouver teachers and their school board.

School boards in Vancouver, Victoria and Cranbrook were granted injunctions Nov. 7 aimed at keeping the schools running. But parents, school support staff and other municipal workers combined forces to shut down most schools in places teachers were prohibited from picketing.

Provincial tallies on school closures were unavailable at press time, but a Vancouver school board spokesperson said less than 25 per cent of teachers and students showed up for class the first day of the strike.

The Vancouver school board applied to the Labor Relations Board for a cease-and-desist order to prevent the Canadian Union of Public Employees and the Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees Union from picketing the schools. The result of that injunction was not known at press time.

A spokesperson for the Burnaby school board said that while all schools were officially open, none operated with more than half the student population present.

B.C. school principals are expected to join the strike Nov. 9. The BCTF is also asking for financial support from other teacher groups across the country.

About 14,000 Canadian Union of Public Employees members also walked off the job as the second phase of Operation Solidarity's strike strategy went into effect. Support staff at Vancouver and Victoria schools are CUPE members.

The Labor Relations Board is being asked to rule on a number of injunctions requested by college and university employers in a bid to keep their campuses open. Any in-



Burnaby South teachers talk it over.

BEV DAVIES PHOTO

junctions against teachers are being dealt with by the B.C. Supreme Court, since teachers are not under the jurisdiction of the labor code.

The strike came as a surprise to several observers in the labor movement and the media — many of whom predicted that a settlement covering public sector workers and teachers would be reached by the B.C. Government Employees Union and government negotiators.

As the teacher's strike deadline drew closer, the tension mounted at the Labor Relations Board, where negotiations were taking place.

But when the haggard and glum faces of B.C. Teachers' Federation president Larry Kuehn and Art Kube, the head of Operation Solidarity, appeared before an impatient and excited throng of reporters, all speculation was put to rest: there would be no settlement to prevent the teachers' walkout.

Negotiations between the two sides were continuing at press time. It is expected that the teacher's demands, which deal with education spending and "social and human rights," will be put on the bargaining table along with the BCGEU's demands.

Operation Solidarity's escalating job action continues Nov. 10 when crown corporation employees walk off the job.

Colleges seek injunctions

Support for striking education workers was still being coordinated as midnight approached Nov. 7.

Student leaders at B.C. post-secondary campuses appealed to their constituents to aid Operation Solidarity's strike action and respect picket lines. Some faculty members joined picket lines despite threats of reprisals from administration.

Several campuses applied Nov. 7 to the Labor Relations Board for injunctions against picketing and after marathon 25 hour deliberations, the LRB granted injunctions at UVic and the College of New Caledonia in Prince George. At press time UBC's appeal was still before the LRB; and an injunction was denied at Douglas College.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees at UVic said they would continue picketing despite the LRB ruling. The B.C. Government Employees Union, Association of University and College Employees and Pulp, Paper and Woodworkers of Canada continued picketing campuses.

A Nov. 7 strike information meeting at Simon Fraser university drew 600 students concerned about the disruption

of classes and academic penalties. One man accused the student society of "messing with my education and my future" by recommending the campus close until the dispute is resolved.

"We're trying to make sure the government doesn't mess with our future," said SFSS officer Ken Russell.

The student society opened an off-campus strike information office and organized student pickets.

Students at Emily Carr College of Art in Vancouver were told the college would be open but attendance would not be recorded. Faculty voted 83 per cent in favor of walking out.

Instructors at David Thompson University Centre in Nelson, off the job since PPWC struck Oct. 25, planned a one day protest.

HEU unafraid of scare letter

By Debbie Wilson

The Hospital Employees Union is filing unfair labor practice charges against B.C. hospitals for letters sent to hospital workers warning of discipline if they refuse to cross-picket lines to go to their jobs, says a union spokesperson.

The letters violate charter of rights and labor code guarantees of the right to political protest, said union secretary-business manager Jack Gerow. Hospital employees across the province have voted to walk off the job Nov. 18 in support of an Operation Solidarity public sector general strike.

Lecia Stewart, another HEU spokesperson, said members are threatened with "all kinds" of penalties for staying off the job.

"It's my understanding that there's some form of disciplinary action being threatened at just about every hospital in the province," Stewart said. "Just pick a hospital and phone them."

At the Shaughnessy Hospital in Vancouver, labor relations representative Dave Harvey said letters included with pay cheques told employees that any strike action would be illegal, and any staff refusing to cross a picket line would face discipline up to and including firing.

"On a hospital-wide basis we're not instructing employees about what to do, because basically we're not expecting a picket line," Harvey said.

Tony Beliso, an employee at Mount St. Joseph Hospital in Vancouver said staff at his hospital received the same letter.

"It's a form letter, obviously, to all employees to make them think twice about going out," he said.

NEWS

Coalition opens strike centre

Escalating public sector strikes have bumped the Solidarity Coalition from the headlines, and left some members of the Coalition wondering what role their group will play in future strike strategy.

So far, the Coalition has urged its members to support strikers either by joining them on the picket line or supplying them with coffee and food.

But the Lower Mainland Solidarity Coalition has taken that support one step further and set up an "action centre" to coordinate joint picketing and to supply some services to community groups. Shane Simpson, the Coalition's coordinator and lone staff person at the 805 E. Pender office says unions and community groups will be asked to fund the centre for three months.

"Hopefully, the centre will improve communication between individuals and groups," said Simpson. He said day care and other facilities may be set up by the centre.

Out of work organize in Ont.

The Ontario Federation of Labor began to organize the first province-wide union of unemployed workers in Canada last week.

OFL president Cliff Pilkey said the federation would help the 45 district labor councils to recruit and organize Ontario's 400,000 jobless. Pilkey predicted that as many as 50,000 unemployed workers would likely join the organization.

The fledgling union intends to become an active lobby group to press governments for full employment policies and better programs of support for the jobless. Pilkey said that the new organization will push for greater social assistance benefits, since many unemployed workers have used up their unemployment insurance.

Tenants jilted at Hewitt meet

A planned Nov. 2 meeting with tenants' representatives, relocated outside legislative picket lines, was a no-show for consumer and corporate affairs minister Jim Hewitt. Hewitt remained in the

legislature; tenants' representatives, at a nearby hotel.

Now tenants' groups are reconsidering their offers of consultation with the government on Bill 5, which eliminates the Rentalsman and rent controls and allows landlords to evict tenants without cause.

"We feel pretty much that it was just a continuing part of the sham," said B.C. Tenants' Rights Coalition spokesperson Wayne MacEachern. "It's not meeting in good faith. It's just another method used by the Socreds to fool us again."

"We took the time to prepare a brief. But they're not prepared to see what the alternatives are," he said.

They have not spoken with Hewitt since then, but meetings between other ministers and other groups opposed to the provincial government's legislation are planned later this month, MacEachern said.

Break from bus drivers

The often-stormy labor relations between bus drivers and the Metro Transit Operating Company are taking a turn for the better, says the head of the bus drivers' union.

But better relations will not halt a possible walkout by transit employees slated for Nov. 15 as part of Operation Solidarity's escalating public sector strike strategy. Office and Technical Employees Union members will also picket Metro work sites Nov. 15.

Meanwhile, Metro is appealing the Labor Relations Board ruling that political protest strikes do not violate the collective agreement. B.C. Hydro and the B.C. Council of Public Sector Employers

have been granted intervenor status in the appeal, which gives them the right to present arguments at hearings and to receive submissions from all parties in the dispute.

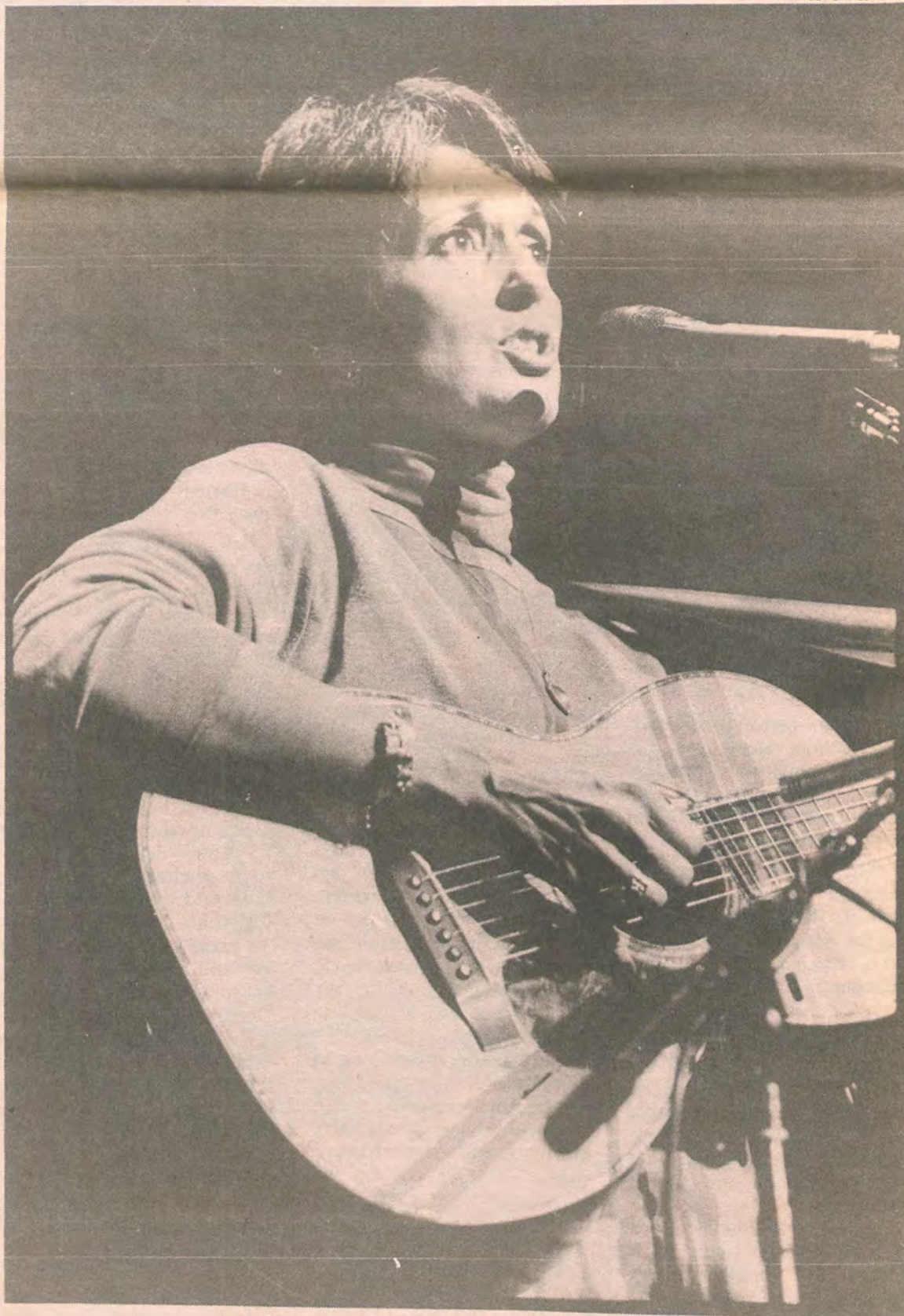
"It is our understanding that the public employers' council urged Metro to appeal," Colin Kelly, local 1 president of the Independent Canadian Transit Union said.

Less at work

Unemployment in B.C. edged up to 13.5 per cent last month (it was 13.4 per cent in September), while in the rest of the country the rate dropped from 11.3 to 11.1 per cent in October, Statistics Canada announced last week.

The reality, however, was worse than the figures. While the number of unemployed people decreased across Canada and in B.C., so did the number of those with work.

BEV DAVIES PHOTO



Joan Baez crooned for peace in midst of B.C. strife.

SFU, UBC protest surprise

It was not a strike, or an official resolution, or even a majority decision by the faculty at Burnaby's Simon Fraser University.

But it sure surprised the faculty association president when faculty members attending a Nov. 7 meeting voted to walk off the job in protest for a week.

A formal faculty vote can only be taken by mail. Nor can faculty legally strike because they're an association and not a union. Though only about 30 per cent of the university's 450-odd faculty were even at the meeting, seventy four of them favored withdrawing their services in protest against the provincial government's legislation until Nov. 14.

"Nevertheless it is a much stronger statement than anything that has come out of the University of B.C. or University of Victoria. These people are going to be losing their pay purely as a political protest," said faculty association president Ehor Boyanowsky.

"This is a directive from their fellows; not a decree from the executive. It is a much more sincere thing because of that," he said.

Boyanowsky said some faculty members who opposed the walkout offered to organize some other way to use part of their salaries to tackle the legislation.

He guessed that roughly a quarter of SFU's faculty would stay off the job.

At UBC Nov. 8, dressed in full academic regalia, 150 professors and 100 supporters picketed at the UBC's main gates Nov. 8. The recently-formed Committee of Concerned Academics said they have the support of 10 to 20 per cent of UBC faculty.

Close to half of all chemistry and history professors refused to perform their normal academic duties. Not one social work faculty member crossed the picket lines erected by campus unions at university gates.

The committee pledged to "give aid and support to any student who is being penalized for refusing to cross the picket lines during the present situation, and will intercede with administration and the faculty association to have them do the same."



Like mother . . .

Student aid

College and university student organizations have opened a crisis and information office in East Vancouver.

The Students Helping Students office, located at 1011 Commercial Drive, is advising students about child care, financial aid and other educational concerns. The office can be reached at 251-5195.

It was opened by the Canadian Federation of Students, Simon Fraser University, Douglas, Kwantlen and Capilano student associations.

Parents slam school board budget cuts

By Trish Webb

"I hope the school board has a heart, because the provincial government does not," parent Sophie Dikeakos told a Nov. 7 Vancouver school board meeting considering drastic cuts to the school system. More than 200 parents and students turned out to protest the cutbacks.

Plans to reduce learning assistance, English as a Second Language training and alternate school programs were contained in a budget proposal leaked to the press last week. The plan, which could close seven schools and dismiss 734 teachers and support staff, was drafted in response to a ministry of education demand for a \$17 million reduction in 1984 operating costs.

A public meeting of trustees and parent consultative committees was slated for Nov. 14 to debate the cuts, but the possibility of pickets at school board offices prompted worried parents to crash the Nov. 7 board meeting. Chris Taulu, Vancouver district parent representatives chair, said parents feared "the Non-Partisan Association trustees would try to use the strike to pass the budget in secret."

Many parents' group representatives defended the teachers' strike action. At least six parents' groups promised to walk the picket line with teachers.

Inge Williams, chair of the Southlands School con-

sultative committee urged trustees to support teachers. She was responding to remarks made by school board chairman Kim Campbell to reporters. Campbell said she hoped striking teachers "got their asses kicked" in court, and likened their planned withdrawal of services to terrorism.

Trustee Pauline Weinstein moved that Campbell resign her position because of her remarks.

"If this board had led the fight for proper funding, teachers would not be hitting the bricks tomorrow," Weinstein said.

"You made no comment that the cabinet should have their asses kicked when they closed schools for six days and took away six days pay last year."

Her motion failed six to three.

BEV DAVIES PHOTOS



. . . like son.

Wet, confusing and successful on first picket shift

By Stan Persky

Naturally, I was late for my first shift on the picket line.

And wet, since it was drizzling. And confused, since I had read the morning Province filled with news about injunctions against protesting teachers.

But in the middle of all the other thoughts I have driving over the Second Narrows bridge to Capilano College in North Van, there's always a moment that contains something other than my usual mental sludge. The morning of my first picket shift, I looked up beyond the traffic, past the low grey cloud underbelly, and out there, as if I'd never seen them before, was the heap of mountains, each one distinct, half-wrapped in fog shrouds, spotlighted with sun shafts breaking through the cloud cover. The romance of it lasted about half a microsecond and then I was turning off Lillooet Road, hunting for a parking space, experiencing picketer anxiety.

Even though I've been protesting for a million years, I've never arrived at a demo, picket line, or political meeting without feeling, for an instant, the absolute certainty that I'm going to be the only one there. Fortunately, wrong again.

There was Matthew, Noga, Sayer checking off the names on a clipboard, Carl in yellow slicker rain gear and ear to a crackling walkie talkie, the reassuringly familiar

sight of Ed. And about 35 others.

"So, what about the schools? What's happening?"

"North Van's closed down. Only 10 crossed in West Van, out of 300. I just heard it on the radio."

"Yeah, but what about the injunctions?"

"Didn't you get a call at 3:45 this morning?"

"No. Why?"

"Well, VMREU was organizing pickets for the schools."

"And the teachers are allowed not to cross?"

"Yeah, it's a matter of conscience."

"So, it's mostly closed?"

"Yeah, as long as most of it is shut down. Picketing isn't an exact science . . . Do you want half a sandwich?"

And there I am, armed only with my picket sign around my neck, a handful of goldenrod-colored leaflets ("We, your instructors, are making a political protest . . .") and my umbrella. I'm on the line no more than five minutes before my character completely changes. I'm homicidal every time a car drives through the line. "Hey you, don't cross," I say to a student who's crossing.

We shuffle around, gossip, and agree that the protest is pretty much a success.

Three or four hours later, I'm cold, and my bad leg is stiff.

EDITORIAL

Back to basics

Several union shop stewards in the past week have told us, surprisingly enough, that there are still many people in the province who don't understand what the fight is all about.

"Why don't you," suggested one veteran of the picket line, "use your editorial to go through the basics one more time?" Maybe it's not such a bad idea.

Here's what the Solidarity Coalition and its trade union members, such as the B.C. Government Employees Union, are fighting for: restoration of social services, the future of education and health care, workers' rights, democratic decision-making, dispute-solving procedures, and the preservation of human rights. Let's take them one at a time.

Last summer, Premier Bill Bennett's Social Credit government introduced an extremist legislative package in the name of fiscal "restraint."

Before any of the legislation was even debated, the government hacked away at a range of social programs:

from a \$50-a-month Community Involvement Program payment for handicapped welfare recipients, to various services for women and children, to motor vehicle safety inspection. Solidarity is opposed not only to the cutbacks, but also to the way they were made — arbitrarily and without public hearings to find out if they were the right cutbacks or even necessary.

Then there was the legislation itself. Bills 2 and 3 were a direct attack on public sector workers' rights. If left unchallenged they would strip workers of normal bargaining rights and give the government the power to "downsize" the public sector by firing workers without cause. Those are the bills the BCGEU has been fighting, on behalf not only of its own 40,000 members, but also for teachers, hospital workers and all other public employees.

The package of Socred educational legislation and budgetary policy will cripple the school system, from kindergarten right through university. That's why 30,000 teachers passed an unprecedented vote in favor of a political protest walkout. Socred health policy will have similar damaging effects on the public's ability to obtain adequate care. That's why 25,000 hospital employees are voting on a political protest proposal. Remember, none of these workers is asking for money or any of the traditional demands of trade unionists. They are trying to save our educa-

tional and health systems on behalf of everyone.

Further Socred legislation destroys regional planning, ends the rentalsman process for solving disputes between landlords and tenants, and wipes out human rights protection in B.C.

There have been efforts by the government and its backers to make it appear that the current debate can be reduced to a narrow trade union question of "bumping" rights. It's

true that defence of the principle of seniority is part of the fight and that a BCGEU settlement represents an important victory. But that's only a part of it.

When you add it all up, it's clear Solidarity's got a lot to fight for. That's why, settled or not, Solidarity will continue. Never before in provincial history have workers and community groups come together for a struggle of this magnitude. That's why the nation is watching B.C.



COMMON SENSE

How many Cubans can fit on head of a pin?

By Lanny Beckman

After it was all over, someone woke Ronald Reagan up. The first words out of his mouth, after he'd been brought his cocoa and a children's atlas, were: "How many of them were there?"

It wasn't only the presidential tongue which this question sat on the tip of. Harvey Kirck, Dan Rather, Hugh Downs—the best minds in all television—relentlessly spat the same query at anyone they could nail to the studio floor: "How many Cubans are in Grenada?" This simple question, upon which the entire fate of the earth might still turn, is of course a variation on an older question, "How many Cubans are in Nicaragua ... El Salvador ... Angola ...?"

You'd think that only a few geographers and travel agents would show any interest in the comings and goings of a handful of Cubans. But this promises to mushroom into a major fad. Parker Bros. plans to blow *Trivial Pursuit* out of the water with its "boardgame of the eighties," *Cuantos Cubanos?* And ABC intends to lift Dezi Arnaz out of his alcohol bath to host the TV game show.

One nice thing about the Cuban-counting mania is that it can be adapted to innumerable para-military situations. Bill Bennett will want to

know how many Cubans are in the Solidarity Coalition (which happens to have an active membership about the same size as the Grenadian population).

What's behind the Cuban-counting compulsion? History.

U.S. president James Monroe has been dead for 150 years but his legacy lingers on. Monroe, who majored in Marketing Techniques at college, was fond of the institution of slavery and had some modest ideas about extending it throughout the hemisphere. Enslaving negroes at home, one by

one, was a noble endeavor, but costly and inefficient. Enslaving entire countries in a fell swoop was a more exalted and profitable expression of the national will.

The scheme was manifestly brutal and hence was quickly adopted. For a century and a half it worked like a charm. Then, in 1959, one small slave, Cuba, broke completely free. America's uninterrupted efforts to recapture and lynch it have proven futile. (Chile was much less fortunate.) Now another slave, Nicaragua, has taken a few steps off the plantation and America and its dogs are in hot pursuit. Other slaves, too, are straying suspiciously close to the fence.

Clinging to Monroe's tattered vision, the current hemispheric slaveowners betray a mean and foul temper that brings tennis brat John McEnroe to mind. Theirs, though, is more understandable: they haven't won a major tournament for 40 years. For this they blame the umpire, the lineswomen, the ballgirls, the fans—in a word, Cuba. Cuba has set a bad example not only by showing the others a path to freedom from the U.S., but also by lending a direct hand now and then.

The Reaganites' problem, though, is that they have a learning disorder.

Specifically, they insist on repeatedly unlearning the lessons of modern history, which is mainly the lesson of Vietnam. Like the slow-witted bullies they are, they try to avenge the shitticking they took from that little slave-country in someone else's backyard by brutalizing even smaller ones in their own.

Counting and killing Cubans in Grenada and Carriacou is a diversion and moral booster but Ronald Reagan will never rest (not more than 16 hours a day) until the U.S. has achieved its ultimate hemispheric goal, the recapture of Cuba.

In the real world, this seems the impossible ambition of a madman. In *Cuantos Cubanos?* though, a scenario suggests itself.

Once in every few million games, the cards will come up in this order:

"How many Cubans are in Grenada?"

"Three million."

"How many Cubans are in Nicaragua?"

"Five million."

"How many Cubans are in Cuba?"

"None."

The last card says: "Take it, Mr. Weinberger, it's yours."

Lanny Beckman is publisher of *New Star Books* in Vancouver.



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.

Solidarity Times is published at
545 West Tenth Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C., V5Z 1K9.
Telephones
(Business) 879-4826
(News) 879-5465, 879-4691,
879-4692
Printed at College Printers.

Next issue will be on the street Nov. 16. Deadline for advertising, letters and Get Happy! notices is, as always, the Friday before publication.

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GCN

Put it in Writing

Times snoozed on Cruise demo

The "Cruise a Snooze" article (Times, Oct. 26) had the tone and distance of a review: "The event's small size was only outdone by its lack of enthusiasm." You might have analyzed why this important event had little energy, given its context. The Solidarity rally of the previous week attracted tremendous participation and left many of us drained. Everyone is doing what he or she can. That the demo occurred, no matter what the turnout, should be lauded and further actions concerning this vital issue should be reported intelligently. You're part of the alternate media, remember?

Renee Rodin
Vancouver

You did not do justice to the Oct. 22 walk for peace. This international day of protest celebrated the beginning of United Nations disarmament week. It was celebrated in 40 towns and cities across Canada, which included at least five places in B.C. The article, which contained less than 200 words, did not contain any of the above information. It certainly did not speculate as to why the turnout was so low by comparison with the one in April.

Alan Kingsley
Vancouver

Thousands of Vancouver residents rallied Oct. 22 to oppose Cruise missile testing in Canada. This action was part of an international day of protest which saw millions



demonstrate in Canada, the U.S.A., and Western Europe against the deployment of Cruise and Pershing II weapons, and in favor of a nuclear freeze and balanced disarmament.

Regrettably, Solidarity Times' coverage of this important event did not inform readers about its significance, nor did the report cover the remarks made to the rally by war veteran "Giff" Gifford, Ald. Libby Davies, or MP Pauline Jewett. Instead, the article, cynically headlined "Cruise a Snooze," commented on the rally's "small size" and "lack of enthusiasm," in general presenting a singularly negative image of the event.

Concerning the reasons for the relatively small turnout:

Vancouver was deluged with record downpours all day Friday and Saturday morning, abetting only five minutes before the start of the march. Second, the Refuse the Cruise march received only scant publicity from the big bizz media (or for that matter from the Times) in the days leading up to Oct. 22, in contrast to the advance coverage afforded the April Walk for Peace.

Finally, the growing fightback against Socred legislation has removed many forces and organizations which otherwise would have played an active mobilizing role for the peace march. The trade union movement played a large role in organizing for the April walk, but has now been forced to put the bulk of its resources and energies into

the Solidarity movement. This is only understandable. What is not justified is the negativism and cheap shots taken at the peace movement in this article.

Miguel Figueroa
Vancouver

"Thousands of lower Mainland people added their voices to anti-nuclear protests across the country Saturday..." This is how The Sun began its coverage of the Refuse the Cruise march on Oct. 22.

Now, how did the alternative newspaper cover the event? Well, Solidarity Times began its short article: "Last April's flood of protest became a trickle..." I would have expected better from the Times.

A march of 5,000 people is not a "snooze" when it is part of a world-wide protest that drew over 2 million demonstrators in a single day.

Christopher Allnutt
Vancouver

I don't believe any of the End the Arms Race organizers who planned the Oct. 22 rally expected anything like the turnout in April. The April event has come to be regarded by many Vancouverites as something special and unique. Admittedly, it would have been more satisfactory if, say, 20,000 people came out Oct. 22 instead of the approximately 8,000 who showed up.

Another reason for the small turnout (besides the very threatening weather condi-

tions) was that many EAR organizers helped out in the planning of the previous week's hugely successful Solidarity demonstration. An unintended result of the Solidarity movement is that some of the energy of the peace movement has been drawn away for the intensely worthwhile struggle against Bennett's legislative package. I'm not complaining about this; it is a fact of life. In the long run, both the Solidarity and the peace movements are intimately related because Bennett's economic program is a clear attempt to align B.C. with the permanent war economy of the Reagan administration.

The Vancouver peace movement is hardly about to roll over and play dead as your article implied.

Richard Clements
Vancouver

Write in

We want to hear from you. Solidarity Times is looking forward to your letters, comments, criticisms and opinions.

Here's how to Put It In Writing: write to Letters, Solidarity Times, 545 W. 10th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1K9.

Letters must be signed and bear the address of the writer (name and address will be withheld upon request). Solidarity Times may edit letters for brevity, clarity and legality.

MEDIA PATROL

Day-by-day, Sun strike coverage goes bonkers

Stan Persky

B.C.'s daily press has once again discovered "the poor".

For 351 days a year — the other 14 being devoted to a surge of Christmas-time charity and "empty stocking" tales — the Sun and the Province leave the impoverished and the handicapped alone. But no sooner than a public sector worker picks up a picket sign than the business media suddenly realize that the "disadvantaged" are among us.

The B.C. Government Employees Union had barely hit the bricks last week before the dailies were running front-page photos of people needing food, money, care and other social services. There were homeless victims sleeping in cars and fathers of babies admitting to stealing baby food.

While it's true that more and more British Columbians are in dire straits during the Great Recession of the '80's, it's hard to escape the sneaking suspicion that the media's sudden concern with their plight is less than completely sincere. Their desire to combat various social evils would be more persuasive if the media addressed such problems during strike-free spring-times. And one would be less suspicious that the poor are simply be-

ing used by the media to subtly attack the strikers.

But perhaps these media "pangs of conscience" are merely typical of the style of strike coverage in the business press. When it comes to specifics, it was the Sun that was hands-down winners of the sweepstakes for editorial hysterics during Week One of B.C.'s burgeoning strike against Bill Bennett's legislative program.

The Sun had a field day. Day-by-day, the Sun lead editorial and the regular column by its chief political analyst, Marjorie Nichols, was devoted to proving why the strikers were wrong.

On Day One, it was "a no-win strike." Soon the familiar catchphrases were popping up: "period of chaos," "nightmarish chain reaction," "regrettable and unnecessary." By Day Two, Solidarity leader Art Kube was accused of being "irresponsible," that catch-all term reserved for protesters. (Imagine an editorial that read: "We oppose this very responsible, dignified, serious strike.") On Day Three, the Sun editorial pontificated against "freedom denied."

Then there is the curious case of Marjorie Nichols. For months columnist Nichols displayed a finely honed

sense of indignation about the scandals, sleaze and extremism of the Socred government. Along comes an actual protest against all of this, and Nichols goes wonky. The BCGEU members were "self-destructive lemmings" who had "taken temporary leave of their senses," she declared on Day One. The next day she was raging against picket lines and fellow reporters who wouldn't cross them. After that, it was the teachers' turn: Nichols compared them to kidnappers sending death threat ransom notes.

Last Friday — Day Four — the Sun went into a full court press against those who disagree with the premier. Not satisfied with an editorial chastising labor leaders "bent on confrontation," or another blast from Nichols, the Sun called up the reserves. Denny Boyd, a columnist normally devoted to chronicling the doings of the rich in syrupy prose, was now warning teachers that they "risked the mark of Brutus" if they struck; and temporary civic columnist Pete McMartin (who only two weeks before was positively drooling over a black-tie Art Gallery opening attended by the glitterati) lent a hand with a few paragraphs of union bashing. Finally, unable to find anybody else to lash out at, the Sun

threw in an additional editorial blaming the opposition NDP, apparently for failing to denounce the strikers.

Nowhere in any of this was there criticism for Bennett. "The government has shown its awareness of what is at stake through its recent concessions," purred the Sun. Nowhere in the nitpicking could a reader get a sense of the breadth of the protestors' concerns. (Yet CBC-TV's Toronto-based The National and The Journal programs had little trouble understanding that the dispute as a wide-ranging affair involving fundamental questions about the nature of society.)

On Saturday, Day Five, there was more of the same. On Sunday readers got a break: The Sun doesn't publish. But never fear. Southam Press' other B.C. daily, the Province, was on the doorstep with Fraser Institute economist Michael Walker cheering on the free enterprise lunatic fringe with a timely suggestion that the government ought to simply fire all public sector workers who won't knuckle under.

All in all, it was classic fish-wrapper journalism; only in this case, the rotten prose out-stunk the harmless creature from the sea.

This is an occasional column of media criticism, Stan Persky is editor of this paper.

Put it in Writing

Decert

When I learned, three months ago, that one of the only two unionized branches of VanCity had decertified, I complained to the directors—both as a user of the services and as a trade unionist.

That this decertification should have occurred became understandable to me when VanCity's membership in the Fraser Institute was revealed. It is not unreasonable to

assume that this ultra-right think tank, with its robber baron sweatshop mentality, played its part in encouraging this group of workers to dump the union.

I was tempted to immediately withdraw my funds from VanCity, but held back since I had received no reply to my complaint and felt also that to make withdrawals between interest dates would, in effect, reward them—and I had no wish to provoke their laughter

all the way to the bank.

I still have to find somewhere to bank, but since I am unemployed and with my unemployment insurance about to expire, the problem may soon be solved for me.

We may be starting late in the day, but one thing that I think Solidarity can do is encourage organized labor to assist credit union and bank workers to organize.

Phil Hebbard
Vancouver

Polaroids

Bennett's offer of "conciliation" is like a man who sets fire to a building and then offers to help stamp out the blaze. It's the least he can do. However, it doesn't mean there will be no more fires.

Bennett still defines democracy as his right to centralize all power because he won the last (and he may mean last) election. He dismisses as poor losers those who believe democracy is also the right of local authority through municipal governments, unions, school boards, health collectives, etc.

Absolute power corrupts (be it Socred or Socialist). Therefore, it is reasonable to want power in as many hands as possible. It may not be the tidiest form of government, but it is better than Bennett's pathological world of "them vs. us." We now face a situation where the most responsible thing one can do is choose a side and fight for it wholeheartedly (blemishes, and all). The luxury of examining each problem on its particular merits is kicked out in the cold as B.C. polarizes.

Karen Mill
Vancouver

Next time

I am glad to see that Mr. Trudeau is taking time off from his busy schedule to save the world from total destruction.

I would have gone myself, but what with taxes, rent, groceries and all this marching in the streets, it's hard to find time for serious things.

Sorry, Pierre. Maybe next time.

John Ayerbe
Vancouver

You, I on UI

Please note that the enclosed cheque is post-dated. Had I been employed, I'd have been among the very first to subscribe and buy gift subscriptions, but on partial Unemployment Insurance, one has to budget and plan ahead.

As a participant in Solidarity, I've been among those who chafed for a media outlet in friendly hands (in addition to Co-op Radio and the Pacific Tribune) from the very beginning, and will do everything I can to help the paper succeed and survive.

Ed McDonough
Vancouver

Say again

I write to correct an erroneous impression that may have been left by part of your article "Breaking down barriers in Courtenay" (Times, Oct. 26). The report attributed comments to Wayne Bradley, our coalition's employee, suggesting that the coalition's development has been ac-

companied by a loss of respect for the NDP locally. Whether Mr. Bradley was reported accurately or not, I wish to make it clear he does not speak for the Comox Valley Solidarity Coalition and his alleged impressions are not shared by the majority of our members.

While the NDP is not a formal coalition member due to our non-partisan approach, the strong backing by NDP members and supporters at every level has been a vital part of our success in building a coalition in this area. Our prospects for continued success depend on a growing mutual respect among all sectors opposing the offensive legislation. We must take care not to be divisive.

Douglas Hillian, chair
Comox Valley Solidarity Coalition

Civilized

I am generally pleased with the articles and content of the paper. A small, but important, point: in the Oct. 26 issue, Stan Persky refers to government workers as "civil servants." I previously couldn't have cared less. However, due to Czar Bennett's contemptuous, bullying attitude towards those of us in his employ, I request you use the phrase "public employee," or "government worker," but not "civil servant."

I am not now, nor will I ever be a servant of this anti-democratic government, nor of the contemptible rabble that caused its election.

Lori Mitchell
Victoria

Perishable

Following the ongoing political crisis in our province is somewhat like watching an afternoon TV soap opera. We are always left with a new set of questions in our mind.

Rather than try to answer hypothetical questions, we should strive to understand the basic aims of the Socreds and also to act collectively to ensure that their aims do not succeed.

Basically, their aim is to salvage a failed capitalist system by enriching their business elite at the expense of working people and the underprivileged. This aim is to be fulfilled by destroying or weakening unions, by granting tax concessions to the corporate elite, by increasing taxes on working people and removing their social services, etc.

To ensure the failure of the Socreds' aims, we must act as one or we are all likely to perish. Let's give it our best try. It's a long time until the next election.

Don Nordin
Gabriola



CIP worker Alvin Hoganson

Fifty bills

Picked up your paper while in the city yesterday. Very much impressed. I am one pensioner who does not vote Social Credit and never would. It seems many of them do, and don't give a damn for anyone suffering under the Socreds. I especially feel for the handicapped and their loss of the \$50. I hope my subscription helps to keep you in business.

A. Mae Young
Vancouver

CIP needed

You listed a number of general strikes in your issue of Oct. 26. I'd like to add one: Iceland, Oct. 24, 1975. The women of Iceland held a one-day protest that shut the entire country down. They held a massive demonstration of 25,000 people in the capital. They closed the schools, banks, transportation and telephone services, daycare centres, media and industry. The economy ground to a halt as unpaid women workers in the home, and women in the paid work force, stopped work.

Understanding the power of women's work will be the key to winning these fights against the attack on all of us by the provincial government. When we make our demands—for a rentalsman's office, human rights officers, social services, return of C.I.P., and inexpensive medical care, to name a few—we make them to move all people's struggles to a new level. These demands are women's demands. But if we lose any of those demands we have lost the very ground all workers stand on.

Ellen Woodsworth
Vancouver

Light rapid spending on line

A glaring example of lack of restraint in Victoria is getting minimal attention in the media.

It is Advanced Light Rapid Transit, which is promising to become the gold-plated Edsel of the transit industry. Here is a system which has never carried a passenger in revenue service, imposed by the provincial government without going to public tender.

The latest estimate of capital cost is pushing \$1 billion. Essentially all that money is to be borrowed. When all the capital and interest charges are paid after about 30 years, the taxpayers will have sunk about \$3 billion into a line that doesn't even cross the Fraser River, where the real transit bottleneck continues. In terms of cost per kilometre, that will work out

to approximately 13 times the cost of conventional systems now under construction in Portland and Sacramento. That's restraint?

The start-up capacity of ALRT is about one-half of what B.C. Transit claims. Its pride and joy, the linear induction motor, will be abandoned in future rail systems in its home province of Ontario.

The English transit expert, Norman Thompson, put it so delicately when he said, "Vancouver is taking a non-commercial approach."

Three billion dollars. Ah, shucks, that's only about twice the provincial deficit that's worrying the fiscal brains in Victoria.

You've gotta give credit though, to those tidy minds over there. Have you noticed how everything in the transit

system is being converted to the glorious old red, white and blue, even if repainting, or recovering of bus seats isn't due on the normal maintenance cycle?

Must have the good old Socred colors there. It will be good for the morale of the taxpayer, when the ALRT tax bite has so flattened his wallet that he can't afford the transit fare.

A.D. Turner, chair
Citizens for Rapid Transit
Burnaby

Write in

Here's how to Put it in Writing: write to Letters, Solidarity Times, 545 W. 10th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 1K9.

GET HAPPY!

Theatre Space
presents
Brecht's "Mother",
Nov. 17-Dec. 4

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9 VANCOUVER

- "Flamenco" with Carmelita, gypsy flamenco dancer, 10 p.m. Classical Joint, 231 Carrall St. For more info call 689-0667.
- "Three Brothers", a film by Italian great Francesco Rosi, 7:30 p.m. Vancouver East Cinema, 7th and Commercial, for two nights.
- "The Murder of Auguste Dupin" by playwright J. Ben Tarver, at Queen Elizabeth Playhouse, 649 Cambie, until Nov. 26. For more info call 683-2311.
- "Terrace Tanzi — The Venus Flytrap", a play by Clare Luckham, at the Vancouver East Cultural Centre, Victoria and Venables, until Nov. 26.

THURSDAY, NOV. 10 VANCOUVER

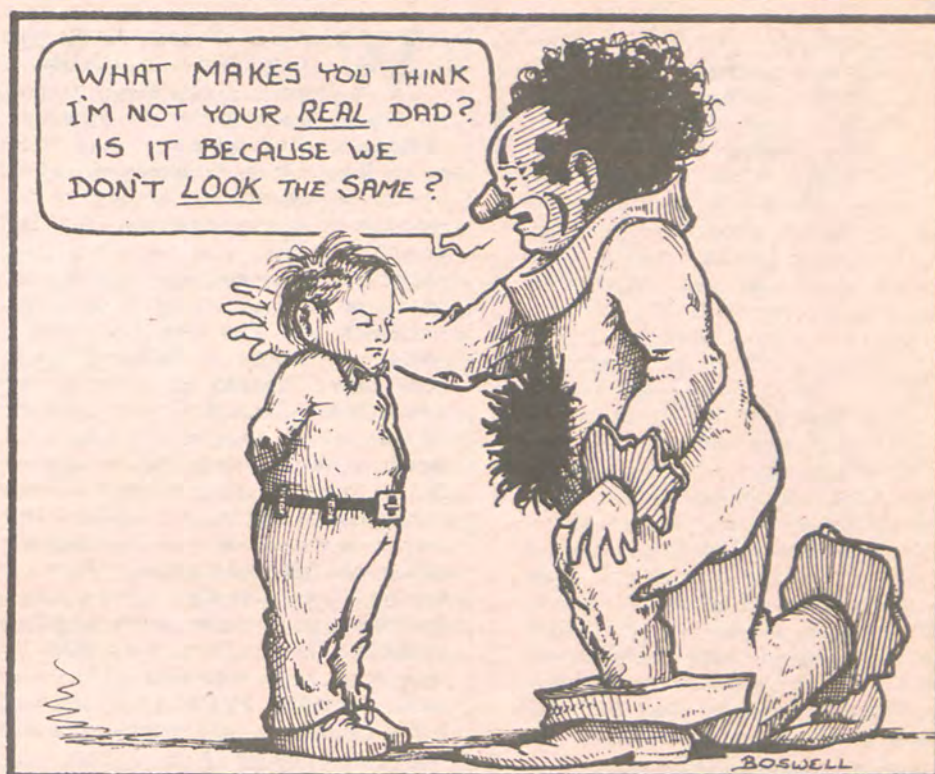
- "Voyage of the Pacific Peacemaker" film showing at 12:30 p.m., at SUB-UBC, sponsored by UBC students for Peace and Mutual Disarmament.
- Benefit dinner for Nicaragua with MP Pauline Jewett speaking on her recent trip to Nicaragua and the recent invasion of Grenada, 7 p.m., at International House, UBC, sponsored by the Coalition for Aid to Nicaragua. For more info call 733-1021.
- Training session for canvassers wanting to work on the fundraising drive for Medical Aid to El Salvador, 7 to 9 p.m., at CRS (corner of Odium and Charles). For more info call 255-0523 or 255-4868.
- Film: "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" from the Slavonic cinema series, 7:30 p.m., at Pacific Cinematheque, 1155 West Georgia. For more info call 732-6119.
- Concert: "Ethnica" roots of common musicality, 11 a.m., at the Queen Elizabeth Playhouse, 630 Hamilton Street. Tickets — \$1.50.

FRIDAY, NOV. 11 VANCOUVER

- Singers Lynn McGown and Michael perform contemporary and traditional political songs on the fiddle, concertina and melodium, 8 p.m., at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Drive. Cover \$2. For more info call 251-6626.
- Jazz with Stuart Loseby, Glana Powrie, Steve Johnston, Harvey Korsbud and Sheila Davies, 10 p.m. at the Classical Joint, 231 Carrall St. For 2 nights. For more info call 689-0667.
- Film: "Choice of Arms" by Alain Corneau, 10 p.m., at the Vancouver East Cinema, 7th and Commercial. From the 11th until the 13th. For more info call 253-5455.
- Film: "Un Chien Andalou and L'age d'or" from the Luis Bunuel tribute series, at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., at Pacific Cinematheque, 1155 West Georgia. For more info call 732-6119.

SATURDAY, NOV. 12 VANCOUVER

- Training sessions for canvassers wanting to work on the fund-raising drive for Medical Aid to El Salvador, 1 to 3 p.m. at CRS (corner of Odium and Charles). For more info call 255-1523 or 255-4868.



- Toronto singer/songwriter Arlene Mantle performs women's, labor and protest songs, 8 p.m., at La Quena, 1111 Commercial Drive. For more info call 251-6626.
- "A Hot Fall Night, IWW Benefit Dance," 8 p.m., Ukrainian Hall, 805 East Pender, with music by Communique. Tickets \$5 for the employed and \$2 otherwise. Available at MacLeod's Books, and Octopus East.
- Pub Night, a benefit dance for Rape Relief and the Women's Shelter 8 p.m., Hastings Community Centre, 3096 East Hastings. Music by Vancouver's Irish Comhaltas Band and others. Tickets \$4, \$3 for the unemployed. For more info call 872-8213.
- Co-op Radio's Redeye news show, 9 a.m. to noon, at 102.7 FM. For complete calendar of shows call 684-8494.

MONDAY, NOV. 14 VANCOUVER

- Medical Aid to El Salvador, door-to-door canvass from 5:30 to 9 p.m. For more info call 255-0523 or 255-4868.

TUESDAY, NOV. 15 VANCOUVER

- Jazz with John Sereda quintet, 10 p.m., the Classical Joint, 231 Carrall St. For more info call 689-0667.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16 VANCOUVER

- Film: "The Clockmaker" by Bertrand Tavernier, 7:30 p.m., runs for two days at the Vancouver East Cinema, 7th and Commercial. For more info call 253-5455.
- Vittorio De Sica's Italian film "Il Generale Della Rovere," 7:30 p.m. Pacific Cinematheque, 1155 West Georgia. For more info call 732-6119.



GET SERIOUS

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9 VANCOUVER

- Slide show on a nuclear-free Pacific and the history of the Pacific Peacemaker, 7:30 p.m., Bayview Community School (Collingwood and 6th).
- Labor history lecture on Workers on the Prairies in the 20th Century, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., AQ 3150 at Simon Fraser University. Allen Seager lectures.

BURNABY

- Burnaby Solidarity Coalition meeting, 7:30 p.m. Burnaby Central High School, 4939 Canada Way. If your organization has members living in Burnaby and you haven't been represented at past meetings, please send a delegate.

THURSDAY, NOV. 10 VANCOUVER

- Women Against the Budget's regular meeting, 7:30 p.m., First United Church at Hastings and Gore.

FRIDAY, NOV. 11 VANCOUVER

- Woman's ceremony to remember women's experiences in war, 10:30 a.m. at Victory Square. Meet beforehand at Pender and Hamilton.

TUESDAY, NOV. 15 VANCOUVER

- Lawyer Michael Bolton gives a two evening class (Nov. 15 and 16) on civil disobedience, including an explanation of fundamental freedoms, civil rights, and Bill C-157, which was to create a civilian security intelligence agency. The class is at 7:30 p.m. at Britannia Secondary School, 1001 Cotton Drive.

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 16 VANCOUVER

- Committee of Progressive Electors — South's regular monthly meeting, 7:30 p.m., Fraserview Library, 1950 Argyle.

BURNABY

- Labor lecture on the emergence of public sector unionism by Peter Warrian, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., BCGEU Hall, 4911 Canada Way. For more info call 291-3521.

Volunteers are needed for the second annual Medical Aid for El Salvador canvass on Monday, Nov. 14, from 6 to 9 p.m. Only one short training session is needed. These will be held on Monday, Nov. 7 from 7 to 9 p.m. at La Quena coffee house, 1111 Commercial Drive; Thursday, Nov. 10, from 7 to 9 p.m. at CRS (at the corner of Charles and Odium in East Van); and again at CRS on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 1 to 3 p.m. For information call 254-2230 or 255-0523.

Last year some \$4,500 for medical supplies was raised in just three hours.

WHITE HOODS

Julian Sher
takes us
inside the
Invisible
Empire

What kind of people did the Klan attract? The Klan Handbook, needless to say, insists that only the cream of the white race joined the Klan: "Our decision to become a citizen of the Invisible Empire is the beginning of a whole new attitude toward life. We are the new elite, men and women of Race and honour."

The active Canadian Klan members appeared to fall into one of three general categories. The first type of Klansmen could be described as frustrated young white losers. Toronto Star reporter Neil Louttit, who infiltrated the Klan for several months in 1981, observed that many KKK members were simply "down-and-out WASP losers, trying to blame their own failures on anybody but themselves." That assessment was echoed by an Ontario police officer who followed the Klan: "They're a bunch of losers. The Klan is just a vehicle for these guys, it's highly visible for young people who have nothing. It's a place for them to go, to be somebody." Even Klan leader Alexander McQuirter conceded he had attracted plenty of "misfits." Don Andrews, who dominated the extreme right-wing stage through the 1970s, dismissed most Klan members as "knee-jerk reactionaries" with little education who "are just looking around to kick some niggers."

The average age of six Klansmen arrested in Toronto on different occasions for various charges of mischief was 20 years; most were either unemployed or had no steady job. Typical among them was Derek Edward Saunders. Raised by his grandparents in a poor, run-down section of east Toronto, Saunders was 17 when he was drawn to the KKK. He had frequent run-ins with the police. According to one neighbor whose teenage son was brought to Klan meetings by Saunders, a major attraction for youths was the heavy consumption of alcohol at the Klan's Dundas Street headquarters.

Included in this category of Klan "losers" were some small-time criminals. In B.C., for example, the Klan began to flirt with biker organizations; some members of a Surrey motorcycle gang were reported to have joined the KKK. B.C. Klansman Al Hooper conceded "a lot of bikers" came to Klan meetings.

These younger members were the Klan's arms and legs, carrying out some of the organization's dirty work, but remaining essentially the foot soldiers. Less numerous but more influential in the Klan were the older fascists, like Wolfgang Droege and Armand Siksa — "the throwback to World War II types," as Louttit called them. These were men born in Europe who were sympathetic or active in the Nazi movement there long before they encountered the Klan. They exerted an ideological influence over the Canadian Klan and helped give it its decidedly anti-Semitic bent.

The third, smallest category of Klan members consisted of those who came to the KKK not as frustrated losers or longtime Nazis, but as middle class Canadians intellectually attracted to the Klan's racism. McQuirter fits into this category, as did Ann Farmer, a student at the University of B.C. who became a provincial KKK leader. Proud of her Christian upbringing, she said she was "concerned about the increasing number of non-whites in Canadian society" and decided to join the Klan "because I am impressed by the Klan's spectacular history of fighting for white rights." These young, articulate leaders provided the public image for the Klan, the sanitized facade behind which the confused "losers" and the committed Nazis could hide.

In addition to these Klan members were also the secret supporters of the KKK, the sympathetic financiers. "The Supporter provides the monies needed and is a mainstay of the organization," the Klan Handbook states. Running a country-wide operation such as the Klan was not cheap. Never formally registered as a legal entity or political party, the Klan was not required to provide a public budget or list of contributors. Its annual spending must have run into the thousands of dollars.

McQuirter made a cross-Canada media tour in 1980; the following year he made frequent trips between Toronto and Vancouver to check on Klan activities. The KKK printed business cards, leaflets and a newsletter and it would eventually publish a tabloid newspaper. Membership dues presumably paid for a part of these ex-

penses (according to the Handbook, there was a \$15 initiation fee, annual dues of \$30 and lifetime memberships available for \$300).

There also had to be outside sources of money. McQuirter claimed that well-placed people in business and government secretly gave money to his Klan. Wolfgang Droege made a similar boast about "more prominent members of the nation" clandestinely backing the KKK: "Such parties preferred to stay in the background . . . Their motives (for secrecy) were well-founded and proved obvious: they couldn't compromise their positions of standing, but their deepest convictions were that of a Canada overrun with race mixing, mongrels, breakdown of morals."

Needless to say, such Klan claims were difficult to confirm. Martin Weiche, a Nazi who lent his London, Ont., estate to the Klan for cross burnings, said he was sympathetic to the KKK: "I'm not a member. They're just friends. There's a potential for them. They have a number of young people who all want to go out and have some action." Weiche, who made his money in real

estate, touched" with like-minded organizations in Canada.

Aside from its actual size and its secret financiers, there was another disturbing aspect of the invisible empire: a number of Klan members appeared to be connected with law enforcement agencies. It was widely suspected by anti-racism activists that the Klan was heavily infiltrated by the police.

The American experience certainly supported such suspicions. In the mid-sixties, for example, it was estimated that the FBI had informers in the top levels of seven of the 14 different Klans then in existence; of the estimated 10,000 active Klansmen, 2,000 were reportedly relaying information to the government. The morality, let alone legality, of the actions of FBI informers within the Klan was highly questionable.

Was the same pattern occurring in Canada? Certainly, authorities here have shown little reluctance to hire and pay informers who commit racial crimes while on the police payroll.

The best documented case of this was revealed during the 1977 trial of Western

A ROGUES' GALLERY OF HATE



Alexander McQuirter

estate, admitted he gave cash to the Klan but wouldn't say how much. "Sometimes, when I attended their meetings, I'll put some money in the collection box." When asked by Star reporter Louttit how much Weiche contributed to the Klan, McQuirter said, "Put it this way, he was a millionaire."

Another wealthy Klan backer was Ian V. Macdonald, a senior civil servant in the construction and consulting services branch of the federal department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. McQuirter, who made frequent trips to Ottawa, boasted of his acquaintance with Macdonald, who admits his Klan sympathies but says he is not a member.

"I provided only hospitality to McQuirter," he said in an interview. "Some of his points of view have merit. The Klan tends to clear the air; it puts things right out in public."

"Sympathetic? In a way," he said. "I was with the Klan in the sense that they were a minority and they are discriminated against. They are harassed to a certain extent and I think they should be allowed to have freedom of expression."

The Canadian Klan apparently also relied heavily on financing from an international web of fascist organizations and movements. "We get money coming in from different parts of the world — England, Germany, France, Spain, Mexico and other parts of South America," claimed Jacob Prins, one of the founding members of the Canadian KKK. Prins, who made several trips abroad, frequently boasted about his connections with the National Front in England and neo-Nazi groups in Germany. His boasts were probably not without foundation. During a murder trial involving members of the pro-Nazi German Action Group in Stuttgart, West Germany, it was reported that "new evidence of the existence of a world-wide neo-Nazi organization has been uncovered," and German Action Group leaders testified they were "in constant



Ann Farmer

Guard leader Don Andrews. One of the chief witnesses at the trial was Robert Toope, who in May, 1975, had been approached by a Corporal George Duggan of the RCMP to join the Western Guard. Over the next year, Toope went out "a couple of hundred times" on Western Guard raids, which included postering, spray painting swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans on homes and buildings, and throwing bricks through the windows of black and Jewish religious establishments and homes. Toope testified that at times he "would go to any extent to help the [Western Guard] Party" in order "to gain their confidence." He became a "group leader" and sat in on their executive meetings.

Toope said he usually met with his RCMP supervisor a few times a month: "On every incident that I did go out, on most incidents, I did phone my — the boss that I was working for then, Mr. George Duggan." Toope was paid "between \$300 and \$500 a month." He was never prosecuted for his participation in the Guard's illegal actions. His RCMP handlers were also let off the hook. The trial judge at the time concluded that the RCMP learned of the illegal acts only after the fact. But the McDonald Royal Commission into RCMP activities, which studied the Toope case, concluded otherwise: "We find it hard to reconcile the findings of the trial judge with the testimony" since the RCMP officer and his superiors were aware that Toope "was being paid by the RCMP at the time he was committing the offences" over a 14-month period. The commission concluded unequivocally: "Many of the acts of vandalism carried out by the informer were performed with the full knowledge of the handler and his supervisors."

How many Toopes were there in the Klan working for the police? One likely candidate was a KKK official named William Lau Richardson. Police informants usually "are chosen because of an existing personal history which allows them to approach a target without arousing suspicion," according to the McDonald inquiry. For example,

the source might 'espouse' a philosophy similar to that of the target."

Toope became known to the RCMP because of his anti-union and anti-communist work during a stormy strike at Artistic Woodworkers. Richardson came with similar credentials. In the latter half of the 1970s, he worked for Centurion Investigations Ltd. under Daniel McGarry, a former Toronto policeman. Centurion specialized in union busting. In 1976, one of Richardson's assignments was to work in a clothing company's warehouse to help set up the firing of two union organizers.

Three years later, Richardson built a bomb which was planted in the car of union activists at McDonnell Douglas of Canada Ltd. He was put on probation after pleading guilty to public mischief. Testimony at trials focusing on Centurion's activities revealed that Richardson had previously worked for the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. Army Intelligence before coming to Canada in 1970. Richardson was quoted as saying he had a "professional relationship" with the RCMP. Star reporter Louttit said Richard-

continued his work for the police. "There is nothing that he knows that I would be worried about his passing on." The RCMP officer who supervised Richardson's work (his "handler" as the position is known in the trade) told one Toronto journalist that Richardson had been put in a "cool-off" period after the bad publicity around the Centurion trials.

Still, old informers never die, they just hang around until they are needed again. The partial RACAR membership list which Richardson had obtained would have been of interest to the RCMP, traditionally much more cautious about left-wing organizations than about the extreme right.

Police officials refuse to divulge the names of their informers inside the Klan, of course, though they indirectly concede they have them. "We know what McQuirter is going to do before he does," boasted one Ontario Provincial Police official who watched the Klan. The inch-thick file he had on the KKK included many color photographs of Klan members taken at their meetings.

For the authorities, the employment of informers within groups like the KKK was

headquarters in Toronto, but frequently made trips to the Maritimes, southern Ontario, the prairies and especially B.C. to promote the organization's media image and keep the troops in line. McQuirter's right-hand man was Wolfgang Droege, chief Klan organizer. Droege, who had helped to build the Klan on the West Coast and in Ontario, was probably the only person in the Canadian Klan whom McQuirter respected as his equal. Certainly he was the only other person who, as a Klan national organizer, made as many official statements to the press as McQuirter did. Directly beneath McQuirter was Gary MacFarlane, a former U.S. Marine and security guard who headed the Klan's White Security Force. The security force included the Klan Intelligence Agency led by William Lau Richardson.

Below this national level were the Klan structures in individual provinces, called "realms". Provincial leaders were called Grand Dragons. Jacob Prims held that post in Ontario for several. In the Maritimes, a man named Tom Zink was named in a Klan newsletter as a regional director. In B.C.,

burning in B.C. The "elite troops" of the Klan, as the Handbook described them, were selected for the White Security Force. "Preference will be given to those having military or police background." The force ostensibly was divided into three sections: a Defensive Security Branch trained in defence, crowd and riot control, the handling of attack dogs and military conduct; Richardson's KIA, specializing in the infiltration and disruption of opposition groups; and the Klokian, or secret police. It is doubtful that the White Security Force actually operated effectively; the Handbook's description of it appears for the most part to be Klan bravado and fiction.

It was undeniable, however, that Klan officials took the question of violence seriously. MacFarlane, head of the security force, was reported by the Toronto Star to wear a pistol and carry a blackjack in his hip pocket. "You never argue with a man with a gun," he was quoted as saying. MacFarlane should know: he shot and killed a man in an argument; in April, 1973, he was found not guilty by reason of insanity. He was committed to the maximum security



Armand Siksa

son's experience included spying on left-wing groups, Chilean exiles and American draft dodgers.

Once he joined the Klan, it did not take long for Richardson to rise quickly. A tall man in his forties, usually sporting dark sunglasses, a brown leather jacket, jeans and black boots, Richardson exuded the kind of confidence and toughness that must have appealed to the Klansmen. He was named to head the Klan Intelligence Agency (KIA), which was supposed to spy on left-wing and anti-racist groups for the Klan (and, through Richardson, perhaps for the police as well). The KIA's effectiveness — in fact its very existence apart from Richardson himself — was difficult to gauge, shrouded as the KIA was in secrecy.

B.C. Klan chief Al Hooper, who told reporters that the RCMP had approached his members to become paid informers, claimed the KIA had "infiltrated several left-wing organizations in Canada."

"Richardson did succeed briefly in joining the Riverdale Action Committee Against Racism. Offering to help with the security for a major anti-Klan rally set for the spring of 1981, he even managed to secure a partial list of RACAR members and supporters before he was shut out of the group when his background was discovered.

Was Richardson still on the RCMP payroll, sent in to join the Klan with the promise of immunity from prosecution, much like Robert Toope's infiltration of the Western Guard? Or did Richardson sign up with the Klan on his own initiative, hoping to later offer his information to his police contacts? The answers will probably never be known for certain. Richardson himself naturally declines to confirm or deny his association with the police. "Why should I? Print what you want," he said from his Toronto home.

Klan boss McQuirter was less tight-lipped about his intelligence advisor's role. "Lau was up front that he had been reporting to the RCMP in the past," McQuirter said, adding he was not concerned if Richardson



Al Hooper

justified by the fact that it allowed them to keep tabs on the organization and to catch criminal elements it attracted.

Such reasoning might have been acceptable had the police forces' inside information on the Klan led to prosecutions, but the law enforcement bodies proved to be extremely slow in moving against the Klan in any way. The nagging question remained: how many Klansmen were getting paid by the police while they were carrying out various activities of racial harassment and violence?

The Ku Klux Klan was secretive about its internal structures as it was about its membership and financing. Nevertheless, from public and private Klan documents, a picture could be painted of a highly-centralized organization. "Our Movement," said the Klan's internal Handbook, "must be strong, viable and capable of instant mobilization." As national director, or Grand Wizard, Alexander McQuirter ran a tight ship. He generally worked out of the Klan's national



Wolfgang Droege

the Klan chief initially was Dave Cook, a fisherman from Vancouver, until he was kicked out of the KKK for publicly criticising Klan policy. He was replaced by Al Hooper, a burly former truck driver and construction worker who ran the Klan's activities in the Vancouver area, along with Klan media spokesperson Ann Farmer and another Klan official named Dan Wray. ("I've always been right-wing politically," explained Hooper, "and so when the Klan emerged here I jumped on the bandwagon.") Hooper made his living running Patriot Press, a distribution outlet for Klan and Nazi T-shirts, badges and related paraphernalia.)

Ordinarily Klan members were part of small groups or cells called dens, containing six to 30 members each. In a region where there were several dens, a local chapter was formed, led by a Giant. The Giant for northwestern Metro Toronto, for example, was John Gilroy, a truck driver in his thirties. Each den was supposed to be led by a Den Commander. In Rexdale, Ontario, for instance, a young Klansman named Kenneth Whalen had that responsibility. Each den, according to the Handbook, was to hold three official functions per month. A regular business meeting was supposed to be scheduled in the first week of every month; there was supposed to be "at least one Klan social activity" such as a party or picnic per month, and every den was "required to conduct some sort of activity each month that will spread the Klan message and build membership" such as distributing literature, holding a demonstration or calling a public meeting. The Klan also claimed to operate a Youth Corps "composed of boys and girls aged 14 through 17 who believe in the principles of the Ku Klux Klan."

What was particularly worrisome about the Klan's structure was its paramilitary overtones. The Klan, after all, had a mission to accomplish, a war to win. "We see this as a race war, a struggle between whites and non-whites," McQuirter allowed in one of his less guarded moments during a cross



W. L. Richardson, KIA

mental health centre in Penetanguishene, where he stayed until June, 1979.

Jacob Prims, the Ontario Klan leader and former professional wrestler, said the .22 calibre magnum handgun was his favorite gun because "it packs a good wallop." To ensure other Klan members developed an appreciation for guns and military training, the Klan organized "survival" camps which included arms instruction. McQuirter claimed there were four such camps in southern Ontario, but there is no direct evidence of their existence.

In B.C., on the other hand, Klan leader Cook announced the KKK was preparing for "unavoidable race war" by arming its members with rifles, handguns, and survival equipment. "We recommend that our members buy guns and learn how to use them," he said. Klan member Dave Harris, who claimed five years experience in the army, conducted arms training for his fellow Klansmen. Al Hooper admitted he and other KKK members took a "lot of weapons training," usually in the form of exercises lasting one or two days or, occasionally, longer. "A lot of people use their own hunting rifles, semi-automatic rifles, M14s, AR15s," he said.

New Westminster Columbian reporter Terry Glavin was able to confirm that at least one day-long training course was given to 30 to 40 people by an arms expert who charged \$100 an hour. "They're arming themselves and they're quite serious," he reported.

The "invisible empire" of the Ku Klux Klan in Canada was deadly serious about its race war. With a small but devoted band of members, access to outside funds and a paramilitary structure, it was prepared. Warned Charan Gill of the B.C. Organization to Fight Racism: "I think it's only a matter of time before someone gets killed."

Julian Sher is a Montreal journalist now working for CBC radio. His book *White Hoods*, from which this is excerpted, was published this week by New Star Books of Vancouver.

Law union protests court injunction

The B.C. Law Union says it will return to court to fight for the right to join in the appeal of a court order which members say is frighteningly wide in its implications.

Three Law Union lawyers were refused legal standing Nov. 4 to argue against a B.C. Supreme Court injunction against picketing or interfering with the operations of any B.C. court. The effect of the court's order on freedom of speech — like distributing leaflets supporting striking government employees in front of the courts — is the Law Union's concern.

B.C. Supreme Court Justice Allan McEachern ruled that the voluntary association has no special rights to argue against the injunction. This time

around, though, the Law Union will appeal only the standing of lawyer Susan Gilbert, who was distributing Law Union leaflets at the Vancouver Law Courts when the injunction was handed to picketing government employees there.

Gilbert consulted with other lawyers about the broad wording of the order. Law Union members decided to try to have the order set aside.

"It seems to cover anyone who might try to discourage anybody from entering the courts. It could be a lecture, a leaflet, anything," Gilbert said.

Law Union members had voted the night before the strike to produce the leaflet urging lawyers to respect the BCGEU pickets around law courts. "It

was quite hard for us to decide to do," said Gilbert. Criminal lawyers had to consider clients needing bail, and family lawyers might need to obtain restraining orders, she said.

But the Law Union decided respecting pickets was the most effective way to pressure the provincial government to change their legislation, which they hear will seriously affect B.C. courts.

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THE HOUSES THE LIL'WAT BUILT

By John Mackie

The first thing you notice are the kids. Kids walking on the side of the road, kids sitting on the steps of dilapidated houses, kids playing with dogs, kids hanging out here, there, and everywhere. There are 1,200 people who live on the Mt. Currie Indian Reserve, five miles north of Pemberton, and over half are under 20.

There are only 170 houses to shelter these 1,200 people. That averages out to over seven per house. Mt. Currie has a reputation as one of the most overcrowded reserves, but it is by no means unique. "There's a lot of Mt. Curries up and down the coast, inland and across the country," says Jean Rivard, executive director of the Native Friendship Centre in Vancouver. "That's indicative of how we treat Indian people."

Who's to blame? Chief Len Andrews of the Mt. Currie band, the Lil'wat, finds it hard to pinpoint a single villain. The real problem, he says, lies in the faceless bureaucracy of the Department of Indian Affairs. People on the reserve knew long ago that housing was needed, that there was an explosion of children, and that there was a need for job retraining because logging, once the mainstay of the area, was on the decline. But they have no control over the money needed to implement programs. To do things they knew were necessary, they had to apply to Indian Affairs. At best, that means waddling through mountains of red tape and years of delay. At worst, that means having somebody along the line, be they local, regional, or federal, nix the proposal because they deem it unreasonable.

The way out of this mess, according to native leaders, is to give people who live on the reserve control over money spent on the reserve. It finally seems somebody in government agrees with

them. A House of Commons committee report leaked to the Canadian Press last week wants to get rid of the Department of Indian Affairs within five years and let Indians rule themselves.

The report recommends that a third level of government (alongside the federal and provincial governments) be set up on the reserves which would give Indians the power to write their own laws for the reserves, plus decide how money is spent. Funds would be handed over in block payments like the federal government does with the provincial governments. The new native governments would have complete control over native lands and resources, education, social development and taxation within their jurisdiction.

Native spokesmen are happy with the recommendations, but are guarded in their remarks about whether or not the report will actually ever go through as is. "It sounds alright, but time will tell," says Len Andrews. "It's hard to get excited about it if all the commission does is make recommendations. Whether they'll accept the recommendations is another thing. They can just turn around and table it."

Says Jean Rivard: "It'd be great if we can pull it off." He says that, at present, an educated guess is that only about 35 per cent of the money spent by Indian Affairs (\$1.2 billion this year) ever gets to the bands themselves. Rivard says that DIA often spends "a lot of money finding ways not to do it." Band X applies for money; DIA commissions a report on whether they should be given the money or not. The report spends a good portion of the original amount asked for doing the report, which in turn recommends against the original proposal. DIA then commissions *another* report to find out what they should do instead.

"It basically comes from a position of distrust from both sides," says Rivard. "It (the bureaucracy) is against you, not for you. The red tape is basically a way not to do it. When I go to Ottawa and I see all these people in their nice desks with their nice salaries, I think 'you guys are really out to lunch.' Seventy-five per cent of Ottawa bureaucrats (in Indian Affairs) have never worked in small communities. Of that 75 per cent, 80 per cent have never worked out of Ottawa. That just blows you away."

Len Andrews compares working with DIA to climbing a ladder. "You're at the bottom of the ladder and have to climb a bunch of steps. You have to prove it to step one to get to step two, and to step two to get to step three. You always have to impress them to get to the top. If you falter, then you're right back at the bottom again. And you have had a hard time if you didn't do it right. If they're at fault, what can you do?"

DIA is understaffed and has a continuous turnover, according to An-

drews, who feels that the result is a lack of long-range planning and that bands wind up with "peanuts" to appease them; instead of getting money for 20 houses, they get money for one. "The band has always been here . . . we know what our needs are," he says. The problem is "that there's a lot of turnover in Indian Affairs. You just get used to working with someone for four to six months and he's gone."

There are many things bands have to contend with when they want to see a project through. First there's the Vote 10/Vote 15 system. Vote 10 means that everything is managed by DIA and the Indian band has no say in how a project is run, to the extent that, says Andrews, "contractors come in and the band can't even ask for a job — they don't have to hire Indians from within the band."

Vote 15s are usually handed out to the bigger bands who DIA feel can handle projects better and are run by the Indians themselves. The Mt. Currie band is currently building 100 houses employing both systems. For those



Chief Len Andrews

areas where they don't have the expertise to go it alone, such as road-building, they let DIA handle it under a Vote 10. In other areas, such as building houses, they took responsibility under a Vote 15 and hired a construction management firm themselves.

It took the band years to wade through the red tape and actually get the project underway. Because they're on a flood plain, they had to relocate 20 miles from the present village site in order to get Central Mortgage and Housing Commission money (DIA put up 40 per cent). Because they can't use reserve land as equity with the banks, for the portion of the money requiring private sector loans they had to convince the minister of Indian Affairs to come in and say "we'll guarantee the band will pay you back," says Andrews.

"Due to all the delays, that gave us an opportunity to teach some of our people skills," he says, to the point where 40 of the 60 people employed in the project are band members. This helped alleviate some of the chronic unemployment that has plagued the band, and Indian reserves in general, for the last few years.

While the band was still "isolated" — outside the realms of mainstream society — it was relatively self-sufficient, with farming and logging providing the main employment. As the federal government's tentacles reached out, logging dropped and more whites moved into the valley. Social assistance beckoned and has been a major part of reserve life ever since.

Nowadays the band is caught in a trap where they need it but don't really want it. Having a strong back no longer guarantees employment like it did in the big logging days: today you need an education or work skills. Manpower and Capilano College have set up training courses for reserve members, and it's through these courses that people were trained for the housing project.

The real answer lies in reasserting their independence, says Andrews. Self-government will help rebuild Indian dignity which has suffered through the bad relations with Indian Affairs and the dependence on welfare. The band already runs its own school, albeit in a condemned building, another legacy of Indian problems. A new school will be built on the new site.

In Andrews' youth, he had to go to a white school in Pemberton, and would be strapped or sent to a corner if he spoke his native tongue. As a result the band's language, Lil'wat, fell into disuse. Now they're trying to revitalize it by teaching it at the band school.

"Language is ideology," he says. "It's where you learn all your ideas. A kid today is really lost if he doesn't know his language; he can't go to his grandmother or grandfather and ask what life was like before."

Trouble

From page 2

enough to suspend its latest deadline for firing the 1,600 BCGEU members on the grounds that the ongoing negotiations were making some progress.

That night, however, Kube told a provincial Solidarity Coalition that if the teachers were forced onto the picket lines, Solidarity would demand changes in legislation on education spending and human rights before agreeing to return to work.

Friday, Nov. 4: While the BCGEU and the government exchanged new proposals to ensure seniority rights for public sector workers, federal government employees in B.C. announced they would hold a vote on whether to join the strike if it escalated. At the same time, despite Heinrich's apparent softening of the government line the day before, 30,000 teachers received a threatening letter from deputy education minister Jim Carter repeating

Heinrich's earlier hint of mass firings.

In the one actual emergency situation that occurred, government employees at Pearson long-term care hospital agreed to supply more staff after being told of an outbreak of skin disorders among bedridden patients.

Saturday, Nov. 5: Both sides in the marathon negotiations withdrew to their respective corners to consider new proposals. At the BCGEU headquarters in Burnaby, representatives from provincial government employee unions across the country convened in an unprecedented meeting and announced their support for B.C. workers by pledging \$3 million in contributions and loans.

Sunday, Nov. 6: The rains continued, and the talks resumed. For the second weekend in a row, British Columbians waited while the clock ticked down to the next deadline. Across the province, teachers at schools and colleges took out the last piece of chalk and prepared to draw the line if a public sector settlement wasn't reached.



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Heroes are so hard to find on film

SCREEN

GEMS

By Bob Bossin

Heroes are grand fodder for the movies. Whether they are debunked or canonized, their exploits provide lots of thrust for the plot and great vistas for the camera. So it is this week in Vancouver movie theatres. At the Vancouver Centre, the Mercury astronauts re-ascend into orbit in *The Right Stuff*. This weekend at the Vancouver East, turn-of-the-century explorers set out for the North Pole in *The Flight of the Eagle*. At the Downtown, that favorite hero of the '70s, the committed journalist risks life and love *Under Fire*. And, though not exactly a hero, Dorothy Stratten does become Playmate of the Year before being murdered in *Star 80* at the Capital.

That *The Right Stuff* failed to win an ovation from the Vancouver Centre audience is remarkable, not because the picture deserved an ovation, but because it wanted one so desperately. It tried everything: the soaring music of *Star Wars*, the ear-bursting sound effects of *Rocky*, the mystical skyscapes of *2001*, comic relief from Abbot and Costello, and more sunsets than any movie since *Gone With the Wind*. *The Right Stuff* is as insistent on being loved as a puppy, and as subtle in its tactics.

This is not to say that the film is without merits. It has some fine ensemble acting among the astronauts. Ed Harris does a great John Glenn, squeaky clean, human and just a little nuts. Scott Glenn, last seen as the coach in *Personal Best*, pares Alan Shepard down to skin, bone and nerves, and Dennis Quaid reads Gordon Cooper as the ultimate hot-rod. The actors have some taut, gritty writing to work with, helping them get at the earthier side of America's supposedly finest young men.

This layer of candor obscures the fact that the film is, at heart, puffery, a promo package for the American space program. If the astronauts ever wrestled with their angels, we never see it.

Mariel Hemingway does the icy glare in *Star 80*.

Surely they had front row seats on the manipulation of a research program into a propaganda one with them carrying the can. How did they feel about that? How did they reconcile their family responsibilities with the likelihood of sudden death? What did they really think they were doing it for? What, for them, was courage or fear? Such questions don't arise to slow *The Right Stuff* in its breakneck rush of ballyhoo, easy laughs and whooshing rockets. Perhaps that's why it failed to ring applause from the audience: it is just too cynical in its aspiration to uplift.

Jan Troell's brilliant *The Flight of the Eagle* has all that *The Right Stuff* leaves out. Though nominated as Best Foreign Film in last year's Oscars (it lost to the treacly *To Begin Again*), it has not done well in North America, perhaps because of its slow,

methodical pace and sombre mood. In fact, *The Flight of the Eagle* is downright grim, though it rewards the effort it demands. It is one of those rare movies that continues to develop in the mind weeks after one leaves the theatre.

In 1897, amateur explorer S.A. Andree (Max Von Sydow) and two assistants undertook, amid much toasting by Swedish society, to reach the North Pole by balloon. The expedition quickly becomes a shambles, and it becomes apparent that it could never have been anything else. Alone in the Arctic wastes (beautifully filmed by Troell whose previous credits include *The Emigrants* and *The New Land*) the explorers themselves cannot avoid such realizations, and must face the implications for their own notions of manhood. To Tom Wolfe, the right stuff is "the uncritical ability to face danger." *The Flight of the Eagle* defines it very differently.

The right stuff that Dorothy Stratten had was something else again. She had a body, face and innocence of expression that enraptured Hugh Hefner, who made her his Miss August. It was also the right stuff for Playboy readers, if readers is the proper noun, who voted her Playmate of the Year, and for Peter Bogdanovich, the film director who took her into his movie, his heart and his bed. She was murdered by her cuckolded husband.

Star 80 depicts the last few years of Stratten's short life and director Bob Fosse keeps things moving along with almost enough verve to cover up the movie's obvious failings. Above all, credit must go Mariel Hemingway who once again plays an ingenue, as she did in *Manhattan* and *Personal Best*. God, she does that well. Soon other such performances will be compared to hers in the way that actors doing rebels are judged against Brando.

Never Cry Wolf evokes grandeur

By David Gordon

From the first frame to the last, *Never Cry Wolf* is a gorgeous, graceful, almost stately evocation of the grandeur of the Far North. Shot after shot of spectacular beauty is blended to create a breath-taking montage.

Charles Martin Smith plays Tyler, an academic who travels north to see if wolves are responsible for a dramatic decline in caribou herds. He arrives at his solitary watching post with a bassoon, 24 cases of beer, and a preconception of wolves as terrible, vicious beasts. All are useless.

Tyler is not prepared for the wilderness and would probably die before he ever saw a wolf, but fortunately Ootek, an old Inuit, befriends him and provides shelter.

Tyler eventually discovers a wolf he calls George. George accepts Tyler's trespasses in a hilarious scene, as they stake out their respective territories by urinating. Tyler finds George's lair, where he is raising cubs with his mate, and discovers that wolves subsist mostly on mice. He too begins cooking and eating mice, because his food supply is running low.

Tyler goes "native" — even helping the wolves hunt. His two Inuit teachers, Ootek and a younger, English-speaking native, are much more practical. Although wolves kill only weak and sick caribou, upgrading the gene pool, the Inuit do not hesitate to kill them, since a single wolf pelt fetches \$350. The younger Inuit explains it is a matter of survival. He would

even kill Tyler's wolf pack but for the fact Tyler "would be angry and has a bigger gun."

George and his mate are eventually killed by hunters, desecrators from the "civilized" south. This enrages Tyler, who grabs his rifle to shoot at the hunters leaving by plane. In a sloppily-edited sequence, we hear two shots but never actually see Tyler firing. Disney Pictures may not have wanted to show the hero performing a deliberately malicious act, even though we sympathize completely.

Never Cry Wolf is a finely understated defense of the north and of wolves. It is a far cry from the vision of wolves Disney gave us in cartoons. Farley Mowat has found the best studio for the adaption of his book.

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The following is a list of retail outlets stocking Solidarity Times. As of our November 16th issue we will be distributed in Vancouver, North Vancouver, West Vancouver and Burnaby via VanMag — we will be available in over 100 stores and newstands in these areas.

We are in the process of arranging contracts with other commercial distributors which serve other areas of the province. We'll keep you posted as these arrangements are worked out.

Commercial Outlets in Vancouver Area

Mayfair News 1515 W. Broadway	Universal News 132 E. Hastings
Vanguard Books 3540 Commercial	Highlife Records 1317 Commercial Dr.
MacLeods Books 455 Homer	East End Co-op 1806 Victoria Dr.
Manhattan Books 1089 Robson St.	Octopus Books 1140 Commercial Dr. 2250 W. 4th Ave.
English Bay Books 1100 Denman	Co-op Books 1391 Commercial Dr.
Discovery Books 1206 Davie	Ariel Books 2766 W. 4th Ave.
Little Sisters 1221 Thurlow	Peregrine Books 2950 4th Ave.
Duthies 919 Robson	Black Swan Records 2936 W. 4th Ave.
Women's Bookstore 322 W. Hastings	Duthies 4444 W. 10th
Spartacus Books 311 W. Hastings	Buywise 1815 W. Broadway

Commercial Outlets Outside Vancouver

Pennisuls Market Sechelt
Eddies Newstand and Novelties 631 2nd Ave. W. Prince Rupert
Sunshine Coast NDP Bookstore Gibsons
Seaview Market Robert's Creek
Sechelt Bookstore Sechelt
Fong's Grocery Gibsons

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