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## Rebel with a Clause



### Rebel with a Clause No shelter from storms

By ALEX G. TSAKUMIS

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If you are a level-headed, astute Vancouverite, you must wonder why it is that for almost seven years, we have not had a mayor worthy of the chain of office.

The permutations are somewhat complicated and heavily steeped in the internecine warfare inside both the NPA and COPE, but the result is, frighteningly, the same: Not Larry, Sam nor now Gregor, brought with them a plan of benefit to all Vancouverites.

No even hand, and a complete reversal of the splendid rhetoric of the campaign. It's all about dealing with their philosopher kings.

This phenomenon has materialized with the same kinds of curious twists and turns with Vision Vancouver, and that might explain why St. Gregor of Obama was fawning over our ruthless, arrogant premier in the lead up to the last provincial election: Politically, at least, they operate in precisely to the same manner--they couldn't care less about your opinion.

It's all about them, even when they are wrong.

Take these blasted, infernal shelters that the mayor and Coun. Kerry Jang hail as such successes. Since they opened at 1435 Granville and 1442 Howe in December and February respectively, there has been absolute mayhem: Crime, drugs and prostitution - in a family neighborhood.

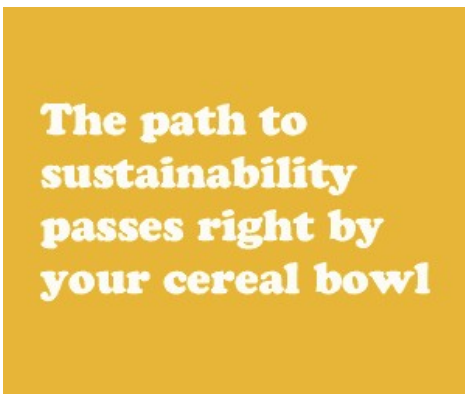
On June 11, months after having declared the previously temporary shelters permanent the Vision dimwits in support of this rank insanity finally called for a consultation between almost 200 residents of the area and Silly Hall.

Included were also the RCMP, some media and even city staff zombies, who actually support this social engineering lunacy. The net result? Good Heavens, a glowing review: Open drug dealing, open drug use, stashing needles in the flower-beds of family homes, loitering at all hours, theft from cars, used condoms stuck to the bottom of residents' shoes and the wheels of baby carriages, and my personal favourite -- endless stories of public urination and defecation on the patios and stairwells of residents' homes.

Such stellar neighbourliness!

What happened to borrowing a cup of sugar? When the alley is hosed down every evening, the tidal wave of rats looks like a Santa Cruz surfers paradise at high tide.

Oh, and I almost forgot: Threatening, fighting and vulgarity galore, even when these shelters are closed during the day, since the shelter users are then too busy sunning themselves just down the way at Sunset Beach, where they routinely tell police to "f--- off", between throwing up and using the sandy shore as their litter-box.



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This is such a success story, according to Vision, that I'm told they are planning to expand the program to Dunbar.

Essentially, the mayor is birthing new satellite versions of the Downtown Eastside, except in neighborhoods where peace and tranquility previously reigned supreme -- and in places he didn't get many votes. And in spite of the obvious, incontrovertible evidence of these shelters' failure, yet another twit on staff at Silly Hall suggested that the shelters were "necessary in the area".

So who's to blame? To his credit, Coun. Jang, bless him (Kerry's a very personable fellow) wrote me an exceedingly kind note when I exposed these shelters as shams weeks ago.

But it was so heavily laden with utter nonsense about "the plan" to get the province to fund these disasters, that I laughed out loud. What bloody plan? The one that puts people's lives at risk?

But it's the mayor who should wear this travesty. Gregor Robertson should hang his head in shame. He has destroyed one neighbourhood, and counting, while putting hundreds of people and their families at risk. Like his hero Gordon Campbell, he's as high on arrogance as the premier.

And there's no shelter from that, is there?

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