

LIQUOR LAW

August 12 2002: Solicitor-General Rich Coleman Announces Changes In Liquor Regulations: Last Call at 4am—restaurants may set aside 20% of capacity to serve liquor without food—2 pieces of ID to be required from anyone under 25—municipal governments retain control of licensing—small businesses fight to protect / increase market share

“THE PUB IS A CELL OF JOY,” Terrace-Vancouver poet George Stanley wrote. So I should be happy, and I’m sure I will be, around christmas when the new rules take effect. But this summer I’m thinking about the contradictions: the Courier’s two-part article on money troubles and in-fighting at DERA is framed by shame-on-you details of DTES residents relaxing in the Metropole (Abbot Street between Hastings and Cordova), while Jamie Lee Hamilton, who doesn’t think DERA should be operating a pub, wants to run a brothel. Gillian Wearing’s show, *Drunk*, at the VAG: she gets “street drinkers” To stagger for her camera, says she’s studying the “psychological effects of alcohol.” She’s interested in “inhibition” and “voyeurism.” So why not set her cameras up in the lounges of the financial district, in the brew pubs of Yaletown and West Gastown, on Granville and Davie streets where frat boys, who, after the police, are by the far the most dangerous creeps on the street, lose their inhibitions in gay-bashings? Wayde Compton’s got it in his comments on Under The Volcano (14th Annual Festival of Art and Social Change, Cates Park, August 11): “Anarchism and socialism should be fundamentally about gratification, just as much as they are fundamentally about justice, retribution, compassion, sacrifice [...] We need a redistribution of wealth, but we also need a redistribution of joy in this society” (*Discorder* Aug. 8-15). Meanwhile, the Anti-Poverty Committee (604-682-2726 <apc@resist.ca> 42 Blood Alley Square, Vancouver V6B 1C7) organizes against police brutality and harrassment, the 3 week wait for welfare, cuts to sexual assault centres, and the training wage. “Any of you out there who have more money than time, we need money for our phone bill, childcare, bus tickets etc. We are also looking for a decent computer and printer, access to a photocopier, paper, office supplies, placard/banner supplies,

and food and coffee for meetings” (*APC News* #6). Because the same ideology that permits drinking til 4am can consider turning the old Woodward’s building over to Wal-Mart *Georgia Straight* Aug. 8-15), it won’t be long until training-wage workers are forced to submit urine tests. Because the The City of Vancouver will impose different closing times in different neighbourhoods, the VPD support longer drinking hours because they are easier to police. At the same time they oppose any form of harm reduction (needle exchanges, shooting galleries, decriminalization of drugs), and the off-duty cop who assaulted his Sikh taxi driver enroute to Foggy Dew’s in Coquitlam is back on the beat. “This is about maturity and enforcement,” the Solicitor-General says. Vancouver’s poorest neighbourhoods are the least likely to enjoy the changes, giving us a two-hour head start on the rich, who will be driving through our neighbourhoods drunk at 4:30 am.