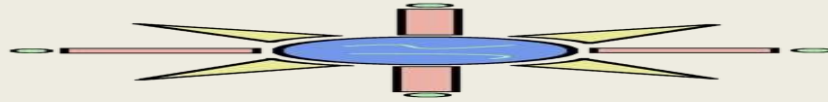


# The Coquitlam Review



Edition 1, October 2016

## In Regards to Housing

Vancouver doesn't have a housing problem, it has a squatting problem. To be more precise, Vancouver has a lack of squatting. There are thousands, if not tens of thousands of empty houses and buildings in and around Vancouver, change the squatting laws and the housing crisis will disappear. Much of British Columbia was built by squatters, they were called homesteaders - they occupied a piece of land and improved it - and the system worked extremely well. Reinstating fair squatting laws and watching the city transform into not only the arts hub of Canada, but the technological hub of North America.

Let me be clear on squatting etiquette and law, squatters have a duty to maintain and if possible improve where they squat, a building must be vacant for a year before it can be squatted and squatters must be given one year's notice before they are to be evicted. Most squatters are youths and young adults in need of their own space in order to grow into productive members of society, or artists and entrepreneurs in need of inexpensive lodging in order to positively affect our culture. Squatters pay the gas and electric bills, maintain the property and make improvements where possible (usually through art installations and community spaces), they are transitioning from thinking to doing and the extra time afforded them by not paying rent allows their ideas to come to fruition. Money cannot buy culture, nor spur invention, these are the realms of the artist and entrepreneur. (cont. p.3)

## Wars of the World

The issue of war in the world stems from the same root, that is, societies with technology more advanced than their culture. For instance, most of the Islamic world is socially and culturally in the 17<sup>th</sup> century yet they have 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. Russia is socially and culturally in the 19<sup>th</sup> century but holds 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. The United States is socially and culturally in the... (cont. p. 3)

## I Don't Care What You Are, I Care What You Are Not

You are not genderless, you are born a boy or a girl or a hermaphrodite.  
You are not without race, you have a genetic background and cultural history.  
You are not a prefix-Canadian, you are a Canadian.  
You are not naturally a consumer, you are indoctrinated to be as such.  
You are not a born soldier, you are a born hunter.  
You are not ADHD, you are energetic.  
You are no less for raising your own children, you are more.  
You are not created to be a slave to a system, you are free.  
You are not beholden to money, money is beholden to you.  
You are not afraid of failing, you are afraid of being perceived as foolish.  
You are not a coward, you are afraid of dying.  
You are not what you tell, you are what you show.  
You are not a reflection of the TV, you are utterly unique.  
You are not useless, you just stopped trying.  
I don't care what you are, I care what you are not.

## Colouring for Dummies

I found myself reaching for one of those ubiquitous adult colouring books the other day, enticed by the prospect of sitting quietly, filling in the swirls and curls with purples, greens and red.

I leafed through the "stress-relieving" pictures of flowers, streams and forests, the underwater reefs and felt a strong urge to plunk down my \$13.95 plus tax when a lightbulb went off.

What is wrong with the world that adults feel the need for a colouring book? When the prospect of a few minutes spent whiling away the time ensuring our crayons are colouring inside the lines with meticulous strokes seems enticing?

According to CNN, 12 million adult colouring books were sold in the US in 2015. They are marketed as a way of relieving stress although very little research has been done on whether they have any benefits related... (cont. p. 2)

## Victory for Trump, Victory for the West

The United States is not part of the West, let us be clear on that. They have no desire to work together for a common goal, they desire to rule, to be the top dog, and the West has gone along with them for too long. Any hope of a useful United States went out the window with the murder of John F. Kennedy.

How then would the presidential victory of a loud mouthed bulbous buffoon be a boon to the West? By finally forcing the West to give up the fantasy that has been holding back progress these last 50 years, that being that democratic governance is possible on a large scale. It is not, and the world has a multitude of examples, from the Roman Empire to Genghis to modern day China and India, to prove such. There is only one example which is held up as a checkmark in the eye column as to a government grown to an unruly size but done so successfully, the United States. A president of the nature of Donald Trump would finally put paid to that unfounded notion, would force the West to wake up to the fact that cooperation between small self sustaining entities is better than domination from on high, that facilitation far out strips dictation. It would put an end to the foolishness of the European Union and see the West, as it did for centuries, drag the world towards progress, not with force but with ideas, not with unity but with diversity.

To be clear, a gathering place where all may meet and discuss and strive to see a better world is a positive, is a necessity, is a most human thing. Cooperation has given our world a fighting chance at becoming a type 1 civilization, regulation will destroy that chance. Progress cannot be forced, it cannot be found at the end of a stick, albeit with a carrot dangling from the tip. Progress - the kind of progress that leads to a true peace, not the type that leads to nuclear power - can only be accomplished through facilitation, through openness and sharing. So let us hope that the leopard shows her spots and the new president of the United States finally puts an end to the want-a-be monarchs of North America.

## On the Aristocracy, Bourgeoisie, and the Proletariat

There lived on a farm, cats, rats and sheep. Cats ate rats, sheep ate grass, rats ate the waste. One morning the rats awoke to find themselves the same size as the cats. Cats, being sensible creatures, saw no advantage in an equal fight and sought a new food source, sheep, quickly striking a balance between herd size and breakfast portion, but most rats, having long been sustenance for the felines - and being suddenly bequeathed equality by some invisible hand - found it necessary to demand satisfaction from any cat crossing their path. Many good cats were lost this way, rats died too, many more than cats, and eventually an uneasy truce was brokered between the cats and the rats, mainly because the rats had remembered - what in their delight at finally being able to engage the foe in a fair fight they had forgotten, the sheep.

Have you ever seen a sheep after it has been tormented by a swarm of hungry cat sized rats? (cont. p. 4)

## Lining up to be Robbed

Never before was there a robber so sly,  
His victims would look him straight in the eye,  
And ask please sir would you be so kind,  
As to place your hand deep within my  
Pocket and take as much as you please.  
For it is not enough that I paid exorbitantly to see,  
Rich men play a game without glee,  
But I too would like to dole out two spoeks  
For a fermented drink - true cost: a buck,  
Or three toonies for a bag of popped corn,  
And pay more for a half litre of water  
Than does Nestle for a hundred metres cubed -  
Though I swear to you I am no rube.  
Yes never before was there a victim so simple,  
That the thief need but ask and get what he  
came for.

(cont. p.1 Colouring)

...to stress relief.

It could be argued that spending time colouring instead of watching TV might indeed result in less stress, but so would going for a walk, playing with your child, or chatting with your best friend.

Are we so stressed, so caught up in the treadmill of life, work, home that we need to return to an infantile state when colouring between the lines earned you a gold star? Do we feel so out of control that the simple act of choosing crayons and laboriously coloring between the lines creates the illusion of control? And if our stress is caused by the pressure of earning a living, raising a family and simply trying to make ends meet in an increasingly complex and expensive world, wouldn't it be cheaper and easier to simply take the crayons and a blank sheet of paper and set to? We could allow our minds to wander, to daydream and to imagine and then translate those thoughts and feelings onto paper.

But then, a blank sheet of paper is a daunting prospect. There are no constraints, no rules, no deadlines or deliverables. Instead it offers limitless possibilities. And what is scarier than that?

(cont. p.1 Housing)

Money buys innovation, but without culture and invention, innovation soon becomes stagnant. Vancouver is a leader in innovation, but without renewed culture and invention our innovation will become sterile. There will always be jerkbags and hapless folk unwilling or unable to play fairly - they are easy to deal with - the trouble comes when society fears these ne'er-do-wells and adjusts the laws in accordance to them as opposed to in accordance with the majority. Open up the squatting scene and watch Vancouver thrive, just as Amsterdam thrived socially and culturally from the 60's to the 90's. Easy solutions for complex problems work well socially, just as they do mathematically. Elegance is the preferred method of nature.

Vancouver doesn't have a housing problem, it has an ownership problem and a rent security problem. Why does everyone want to own an apartment or a condo? Apartments and condominiums are to be rented, not owned. What does one own if one owns an apartment or condo? A block of cement in the air. There is no land to cultivate, no maintenance to see to, no real responsibility. One still pays condominium fees every month, or strata fees, or this fee, or that fee. An apartment or condo is a fake house and the ownership of such is the perfect symbol of the times in which we live.

If there was security for renters, if renters knew they held the power, why would anyone buy an apartment or condo downtown? We would all rent a place in the city and buy a cool cabin by a lake, or a summer home on the coast or in the interior to get away from the craziness of the city, or buy a boat to explore the beautiful nature we expose over while drinking five dollar coffees in a place that is destroying that which we claim to love.

The real issue of the housing crisis is unspeakable in the halls of power, but it is this. All housing in the city of the condominium or apartment type must be city owned, city run and city guaranteed. It is not that condo developers are working for free or that apartment buildings lose money. A few people are majorly profiting from a human right, from the need of people to have a roof over their head, and those few people are doing so at the expense of everyone else, at the expense of everyone's quality of life. Do you really want to fix the housing crisis? Then kick out the barons and take back what must be the domain of the city, apartment and condominium buildings.

If you want to live in the city and can't afford to buy and maintain your own parcel of land then the only option is to rent, but renting only works when the renter is secure in the fact that, as long as they live, their home will be there and their rent will be fair.

(cont. p.1 Wars)

...20<sup>th</sup> century but lays claim to 22<sup>nd</sup> century technology. Much of Africa is socially and culturally in the 14<sup>th</sup> century yet holds 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. So what to do? How does one stop the spread of technology? Should one stop the spread of technology? Is one able to stop the spread of technology? The answer to the last question is no, we are beyond that threshold, technological advancement - because of the ability to transfer information digitally - cannot be confined. Do we then drop massive EMPs on less socially advanced societies? In the case of the current strife in the Middle East, yes, but it is not a world solution - though cleaning a wound may be the first step towards healing - the real solution is to see to it that the rest of the world advances socially.

How is social progress achieved rapidly? It is achieved so through Imperialism. The only way to achieve rapid social progress is through colonization. It is the proven method. Therefore we must colonize those societies whose cultural advancement is at odds with their technological capabilities, but this go around we must do it with ideas, not with people. We have seen the United States attempt such, but due to their lack of social progress it has served only to create more conflict throughout the world, with the current immigration situation in Europe being a prime example. Second and third generation immigrants in Europe are most often adopting US culture as opposed to the culture they are living in, creating conflict between the advanced native culture and the backwards imported culture. To make matters worse, most do not see a difference between the native culture of the land they now hail from and the exported culture of the United States and often wonder why there is discord between them and the natives, having adopted what they believe to be western culture. 21<sup>st</sup> century technology leaves no place for lies and deceit, for the covert and underhanded, what must be done must be done in the open. The time for the Commonwealth to shine is upon us. Let it be known that we come to colonize with ideas and that we come so in the hopes of saving all cultures and fostering world peace.

The difference is that of Hyperion to satyr. The cats wept for the sheep.

The rats, many having grown larger by all but polished off the sheep, returned to attacking the cats. The cats though, being shrewd, had devised a plan for this eventuality while brokering the truce, you see the cats knew that cat sized rats can't be stopped by cats, there are just too many rats and too few cats, it was only rats that could put a stop to rats.

The cats went to ground with the remaining sheep and let the rats devour each other. It was a trying time for the cats, no cat would come away without gaining a few grey whiskers, but they survived, and they nurtured the few ewes and rams they had hidden away, eating only what was sustainable and when the rats were all gone the cats started a new way of life, without rats, only cats and sheep, the cats ate the weak and suckled on the teat, and the sheep, well, they were sheep.

Do you travel in style?

Are you tired of light luggage and conveniently small foldable chairs?

Do you demand the luxury of the 16<sup>th</sup> century gentry?

Are heft, over intricacy and diabolical locking mechanisms a must for you?

Do you have strong muscles or servants?

Are you filthy rich and don't know what to do with your money?

If you answered yes to these six questions then you will want to purchase your travel chests and furniture from the Commonwealth Federation of Explorers, purveyors of the grandiose. For less than a serfs accommodations you can own a small to medium sized travel chest with a locking mechanism so intricate once shut you may never open it again.

The



Commonwealth



Federation of



Explorers

For inquires visit our secret workshop

## Circumcision is Genital Mutilation

There can be no quarrel, circumcision is a barbaric religious practice. The West balks at the ignoramus guilty of the heinous crime of genital mutilation, but only as it applies to females. It is time we called a spade a spade and stood up to the tentacles in the present of our own barbarous past. The moral high ground is a difficult path to navigate, it requires constant attention and adjustments. The West is lost.

The Coquitlam Review is published by the Commonwealth Federation of Explorers.

The editor is Simon Postma.

Articles contributed by:

- Leapnet
- Johan Cohen
- Your Working Boy

If you would like to submit articles for The Review please do so by email to [simon.j.postma@gmail.com](mailto:simon.j.postma@gmail.com)

All submissions will be considered, no limitations as to content or length except do your best not to be boring. Local or international, philosophical or satirical, poetry or prose, all are welcome, providing for quality, of course.

If you wish to advertise in The Review please submit advertisement to the same above email address. Only funny, or attempting to be funny, adverts will be accepted. There is no cost to advertise.

The Review is free and will remain free. Distribute and reuse to your heart's content, unless you are an evil money grubbing corporation in which case bugger off.

Licensed under Copy Left and Right.