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Rebel with a Clause



Rebel with a Clause

Vancouver's poetic injustice

By ALEX G. TSAKUMIS

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Over last weekend, I was musing about this column while perusing a splendid anthology of master works by W. H. Auden, gifted to me some days earlier by an old friend, who always remembers my birthday.

In "As I Walked Out One Evening" I came across a stanza that hastened what you are about to read, and not because it was a watershed moment. Gradually, over seven months, I knew this day would come.

'In the burrows of the Nightmare

Where Justice naked is,

Time watches from the shadow

And coughs when you would kiss.

Gregor Robertson was a massive, gargantuan mistake. And I have partly myself to blame.

When he first announced his candidacy, in this column, as a mayoral candidate for the now drifting Vision Vancouver, I was elated, just as much for the fact that he might rid us of you-know-who, but too, that Robertson appeared moderate and intelligent.

The NPA could, appropriately, rest.

Well, I may very well have been deceived expecting justice, but as we cannot conquer time; there is no elixir to cure what ails us, because Gregor is not simply unwilling, he is incapable.

He has failed us, miserably.

The mayor is much like the false messiah to the south, minus the soaring oratory, of course.

The promise of a plan to get healing to the mentally ill, aid the addicted by strongly advocating treatment, and provide a steady hand on the tiller, have all fallen away; broken promises shattered on the sidewalk of hope: Replaced with Sullivan-esque fantasy; chicken coops, gardens of fancy, idealistic green-washing and fringe environmental policies.

I guess Vision has never heard of Stephane Dion.

This week's revelations about the mayor's temporary shelters is emblematic of the greater problem with Vision Vancouver: They are a rudderless ship, with a few fixing to toss their captain overboard, but only when the waters are deep enough in 2011.

Vision is badly divided. Don't believe me?

How many times have you heard from Coun. Raymond Louie in the last half year? Not many. Only from Coun. Meggsalomania and his endless stream of blinding nastiness, reminding us that Jimmy Hoffa was such a nice man.



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When Robertson announced last fall that these shelters would help, I was amazed that he had no long-term strategy that he could sell to the province and the federal government.

No such plan exists. Instead, the mayor has dispatched Coun. Kerry Jang, who expertly illustrates how Vision has no clue how to run this city.

Dr. Jang told CKNW that, "there's no money from Victoria - that's the problem".

Earth to Dr. Jang's spaceship: Without a cohesive plan, why would anyone give you money for anything?

Open drug dealing and drug use, lewd acts, using the street as a toilet - these are the "successes" of Gregor's shelters - all before a neighbourhood of families, young couples, the elderly - lovely.

Since his inauguration, the mayor has spent more time offering sanctimonious spoof than prudent policy: Realism has been replaced by regression; initiatives substituted for idiocy.

Robertson spends most of his time, I am told, pouring over speaking notes from his staff: Mike, Kevin and Maria - his Obamabots.

Albeit, when he delivers media sound bites, it's more like it was all written by Larry, Curly and Moe.

The Downtown Eastside is a brooding cesspool of grief pimps, povertarians, harm seductionists, drug legalization loons and the downtrodden they prey upon; densification foolishness abounds; taxes increase and left-wing philosophical masturbation is the order of the day.

But be not alarmed.

The NPA board leadership is crazily loading a Suzanne Anton run for mayor: Yes, for a woman who is perpetually bereft of a coherent thought.

Thus, Auden's aching prophesy lives, for now, until someone authentically worthy comes along.

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