

2033 Chaucer St.,
Victoria, B. C. V8R 1H6
595-5977
Aug. 18, 1995

Gallery Gashet,
1134 Granville st.,
Vancouver, B. C. V6Z 1L8

Dear Gallery Gashet,

I hear you're doing an art exhibit. I have a piece that I hope you will consider. Enclosed is a facsimile of it. I've worked it in various ways, hoping to have someone pick it up as a poster that might affect peoples attitudes some.

I have manic - depression. I was attending my first candlelight vigil in Oct. 93, after 6 months of doing really well and being involved beyond myself in the 'consumer' movement. As the daylight was fading and we were standing with our candles glowing a photographer started lining up shots and flashing away at the group. Having a background in photography I stepped out of line and suggested she try using the light of the candle thusly. She took a bunch of shots of my hand sheltering the flame and then we got talking. Turned out she is the editor of a weekly, this was for tomorrow's deadline and would I and another vigiller like to come back to the office to give some of our take on mental illness/health?

While we were talking in the little interview room the darkroom tech. came to the door with a beautiful dripping wet 11 x 14 enlargement. That night, being a little buzzy from the heady experience of having someone listen, knowing that image would be on the front page and that Cindy was up through the wee hours putting that article together, I called her and dictated the words to go with the image.

I was dismayed when the image appeared with getting a grip across it - along with other purple prose like '*their silence screamed into the night air*' (!). The careful input my friend and I had given her was hardly touched on.

For my friend's pains, only her name and illness were included. Our bit was crammed into a hair-raising article already written about a woman very severely affected by M/D. We had hoped to offer a more manageable picture. My words were quoted in the middle of that text, *'says Bruce Saunders'* It was my first experience with 'the Press'. I was really unhappy and leaned heavily on Cindy to make amends. She did respond some, but too little, too late.

It wasn't until the art show at Schizophrenia '94 that I had the incentive to put the words and image together as I envisioned them in my (hypo-manic) creative mind that night. A friend did the calligraphy and Cindy sold me a nice 11x14. I got it matted and framed and showed it. It's great incentive to know there's a chance to exhibit!

This is a Xerox copy of an attempt to work it up for a poster. If you're interested I would go to the further work of reshooting the photo and reassembling it as Cindy has tightened up on the use of the photo and the original is in two mini shows in Victoria during M. I. month.

I'm a great admirer of your organization, having been involved in pulling consumers' work together, I know how challenging it can be. I was quite inspired by your gallery when I visited and photographed it last Nov. and often put up a display including them at my **Movie Monday** weekly events. Appreciate the show notice post cards too.

Yours Sincerely,

Bruce Saunders.

enc. There's a flame...

M. M. Sept. Playbill