

**An Update For Movie Monday Fans & Supporters - especially those who donated specifically to my participation at IAPSRs 97 In Vancouver, June 10-13. Thanks!**

In the usual MM low cost but highly effective manner your protagonist did his first international conference. Ingrid and I found great (separate) accommodation at the International Hostel. It was a welcome walk from the conference hubbub and maddening elevator waits and also an intriguing atmosphere with world maps everywhere and exotic language notes and conversations all around. A fine way to be comfy in Van!

Good ol' Norm Ellis was, as usual, most helpful getting us, all our stuff, camera gear, art work, bundles of handouts, and the MM tri-fold to the site. He picked us up Wednesday at morning 7:30 - What a guy!

I managed to nab a free spot for my display on a table marked "miscellaneous pamphlets" - (exhibitors had been offered the "hot" price of \$480 for table space) - so upwards of 1200 delegates from USA, Britain, Italy, New Zealand and the rest of Canada were exposed to the MM propaganda machine.

I attended seven 1 1/2 hr. workshops besides our own, all on consumer/recovery issues;

- Leadership Empowerment, an activist group from Eugene, Oregon kicking a little establishment butt.

- Consumer/ Survivor Initiatives in Ontario, given by a pair of able consumers who have their fingers on a purse of 3.5 million bucks. One of the presenters went home with a MM sweat shirt and a promise to send me a packet of helpful stuff for my endeavours.

- Overcoming Discrimination, given by an educator from London, England devoted, as I am, to changing attitudes through the media, public education, and grassroots activism. She later came to our workshop and took home with her a "MM The Movie" video.

- Widening The Circle of Support: A Step-By-Step Life Coach Training Program, by a panel from Long Beach California. In a program called "The Village" they employ consumers to use their skills and experience to help others in custom in-home support. Very

empowering, innovative, humane, and even surprisingly cost effective.

- Wellness Skills, a panel from Vancouver about a course in their community college.

- We Are People Too, a panel of artists in recovery, (including Carma Rogers whose video I've featured at MM), and their therapist who are doing a couple of innovative projects in Vancouver. I'm swapping a copy of the Open Door's book "Out In The Open" for their similar new publication of photos and writing. You'll see it at MM soon! Great networking in a topic that fascinates me.

- Empowerment, a powerhouse presentation by a woman who has worked through years of turmoil with manic-depression to be billed here as Director of Consumer Relations, Michigan Department of Community Health. She's using her experience and excellent communication skills in inspired talks like this all over.

- Our workshop, Being Out About It, went well, one of our Victoria delegates gave us an enthusiastic 98%.

In other workshops people talked about the challenge of getting positive press. We could smugly report that we had a reporter from CBC Radio attending our workshop. When our 'performance' was over, Carma Livingstone took us to the CBC studio and interviewed us for an hour. We had the heady experience Friday afternoon of hearing ourselves talking BC-wide about our topic with Carma and Katherine Gretzinger, as we drove off the home-bound ferry. That's us on the car radio! We really were there!

It was great to have a companionable, grounded, fun loving compadre like Ingrid as a co-presenter at the conference.

One evening we took in one of Ingrid's "Vancouver Indulgences", catching a double feature at Canada Place's IMAX Theatre. Incredible .... *I want such a theatre!*

Our workshop and the radio interview are on video and audio tape respectively and available upon request.

  
Bruce Saunders

June 23/97

**Thanks YO for helping  
make it happen....**

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