

Courage of *VS*: Calling a Spade....¹

Seldom has the *Sun* served a bowl of intellectual oatmeal that sticks to our intellectual ribs as does the issue of February 22, 2013. First, there's Fralic's column (A9) about "enabling addiction, poverty and anti-social behaviour" in the Eastside that no one dares to mention but is a "much-documented reality."

Equally blunt but true, she writes of "the crackheads" etc. who have "far more access to tax... funded health care, emotional support and financial assistance than the average single working mother of an autistic grade-schooler." Glad *Fralic* dares.

Secondly, there's the Guest Editorial (A10) that chides our secular missionizing elite for resisting the resurgence of religion. That resurgence does "not sit well with the secularist mandarins."

Thirdly, the *Sun*'s own editorial about the new Pidgin restaurant. We cannot "protect slum housing." Neither should we attempt "to maintain the character of the Downtown Eastside...." It is no solution "to protect a slum as a haven for the poor." We must instead work towards creating mixed neighbourhoods" and support institutions that create wealth, not treat them as "unwanted intruders."

For years we've mostly been fed the one-sided and *much-needed* pap of compassion. Now you're finally balancing the equation a bit. Thanks for your courage and keep it up.

[1] Letter to Editor, *VS*, 27 Feb/2013. *Every Square Inch*, vol. 4, pp. 139-140. This letter triggered correspondence with my friend Nick Loenen, a former BC Member of Legislature, that is reproduced in "[Aboriginals, Racism, Political Correctness.](#)" item (2).