

## Mondo Condos

A poem by Rolf Auer

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HEY, HEY, HEY!  
It's *condomania* time again  
in the Downtown Eastside!  
So, c'mon all you rich  
and well-to-do folks  
and swarm on down  
to the DTES  
to snap up all the  
bargain-basement deals!

On the auction block today  
are the new condominiums  
at the Pantages Theatre.  
Don't mind the mass exodus  
of the newly homeless  
you've evicted as a result  
of the rising rents in the area  
because of your real estate selfishness:  
just step over their bodies—  
don't worry: they're too weak  
from hunger to inflict  
any real, lasting damage  
on you, unlike what you're  
doing to them.

Then, once you've moved in,  
be sure to open plenty of  
high-end businesses in what  
is now YOUR area in the DTES,  
designed to push the old businesses  
targeted to low-income people  
out, so that you won't  
have to put up with those  
pesky poor anymore.  
Don't forget to put lots of security guards  
in your stores to keep the poor out.

Yes, *mondo condos* at the Pantages  
is the latest gentrification bomb  
lobbed right into the heart  
of the Downtown Eastside.  
A giant stink bomb, that is,  
one that can be smelled  
all the way up to City Hall.