

To the Chief Editor of the Vancouver Courier,

My name is Laura Anne and I am one of twenty four woman who reside in the Vivian Housing Facility.

It was brought to my attention that your newspaper had printed an article by Mark Hasiuk on April 5, 2011. It had mentioned our home the Vivian.

I had moved from a shelter to the Vivian. I have been here for just about 2 months now so I can give you a fresh perspective of what this place is like.

I find the rooms to be very clean and well equipt. for someone like me or someone who is starting ~~it~~ with nothing. It includes a fridge and sink. We have a community kitchen, common room, telephone and showers.

The Viv gives us a sense of security and a healthy living environment. We have a Doctor and Nurses that visit our Med-room 3 times a week. The Viv also has housekeeping for those in need of assistance. The Beer Program gives us a chance to work in our building for some mad money and every Tuesday we have Community kitchen for a tenant to cook for the residents and ~~pay~~ they pay for the groceries to make it. I find it ~~gives~~ teaches us responsibility for our home and gives us life skills.

As to responding to your article I feel I have to correct some of the things printed in Fridays

newspaper. These people have not the experience or knowledge to be able to understand how things work in this environment.

Let me ask you this, how would Michelle Miller, Director of REED, understand how pimps work? Does she know one personally? I find the majority of the girls don't have pimps. Come to think of it, I don't know any girl that has a pimp.

As for Mark Hasick, what gives him the right to park outside of our home and watch us? Isn't that an invasion of our privacy? As he watched us he said no one confronted us. Why should they? Is it a crime to have a cellphone? I know my boyfriend calls me when he is outside waiting for me.

Carrying on, I find support services for teenagers are very important. To have new housing for them is a great idea. This is a neighborhood and community where we pull together to help each other out. ~~I think~~ It's not a "wasteland" as Mark Hasick implies. I think he should open his eyes and heart and see what a good opportunity these teens have. This is where they have planted their roots. This is their home. This is my home. This is our home.

This is a community that cares.