

How long have you been in Vancouver?

I've been in Vancouver since the 18th of April of this year. I got here at *midnight* April 18th. A twelve-hour hitchhike from Prince George. Pretty good time. I came here to find Travis and I found him.

Are you from Prince George or did you grow up there?

I was there for all of my teenage years so from the time I was 13 until April. Travis and I lived in Trail and we lived in Nelson. I lived in Edmonton for a brief amount of time but it's too damned cold there in the winter. I never lived in Vancouver really so I had to try it. A little bit of rain as opposed to a lot of snow. I like the coast. The city scares me a little bit especially now that we're going to have a baby. In a smaller community I think it's a little easier to raise a child. You worry less. There's less worry, I think. You don't have to worry which immersion school your child's going to go to. You send your child to the school down the block. Letting them to walk to school on their own in grade one is not an issue. They're not going to get hit by a bus or attacked by a chihuahua or some madman escaped from Riverview. I definitely don't want to raise a child in the big city. If there was no pregnancy we would definitely stay here.

Have you met people at the squat that you'll stay in contact with?

Hell *yeah!* Hell *yeah!* Like *everybody!* I have met *so* many beautiful souls here. If I lose touch it'll crush me. We're all in this situation together. Whether the people are supporters or squatters or just showed up out of the blue and needed a place to stay. There's so many beautiful people here. Everybody is out to help each other and there's no way that I could ever let that go. I haven't met more beautiful people in my entire life. I've met people here that I love more than I people I've known since they were born. My address book is going to be so fat when I leave.

Friends of the Woodward's Squat
www.woodsquat.net
friends@woodsquat.net
604-682-3269 ext. 6315

W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #14



“I Haven't Met More Beautiful People
In My Entire Life.”

An Interview Chrystal Durocher

DAY 27 – THURSDAY – 10 OCT 02

Why don't you start with when you first arrived at the squat?

I first arrived at the squat on a Wednesday night--the first Wednesday after the big occupation began. I didn't think I was going to stay here but I did because Travis was here. It's been interesting to say the least. It's like family. Everybody has their arguments and their fights. We love everybody and we hate everybody all at the same time. Most of us are here for the same cause so it all works out in the end. I'm happy the way it is but I just wish we were all *inside* the building knocking on each others' doors to borrow cups of sugar and a couple of eggs. But we're outside and we deal with it.

What was it like on the inside with the sleeping & eating & meetings?

I never attended a single meeting inside because the first one I heard scared me. It was all loud voices--they were crazy--and they scared me so I just layed in my bed and I slept. I just avoided the meetings. The kitchen was awesome. I'd just go into the kitchen and eat any time I want. I think the only problem we had with the kitchen up there was people bitching "oh, well, you didn't clean up your mess!" How hard is it to run a rag over the table? And so I ended cleaning the kitchen like four times a day. That was my job.

What's the kitchen like here on the outside?

Militant. [Laughs]. It depends on who's in the kitchen. I don't want to name names because that's not nice. When there are a certain couple of guys in there the kitchen rocks, the kitchen rocks. But some of the people who are volunteering, as wonderful as they are--I mean they're doing fabulous, fabulous jobs--they just get really snarky and kind of bitchy and it wears on my nerves because I'm pregnant and bitchy myself. So we end up snarking at each another and I usually win because I walk away faster than they do. But it's almost like it's an institution kitchen. It's like "this is how it's going to go and, no, you're not allowed in the kitchen and that's it." If somebody happens to sleep through a meal then they're SOL cause dinner's not until 7pm. That's the way it runs.

Wasn't there an attempt to start a second kitchen? How did that work?

[Laughs repetedly] That was horrible! They tried really hard but there were so many people in the kitchen. Little Travis was trying to cook for 150 people. He doesn't have that many dreads to start with and he was ready to pull them out one-by-one. That poor little man. It was a big bust. The thought was there. Their hearts were in it. But there was just not enough space. Not

enough communal organization. And poor little Travis was stuck in the kitchen damned near 24 hours a day trying to cook for *so* many people. I'm surprised he's still alive. But the thought was there. Everybody's hearts were there.

How is it different now that you have a tent?

Nobody can see me when I'm changing my clothes. [Laughs]. It's a little bit warmer and there's a little bit more privacy. But our little tent section here is now being referred to as the "rich" section of the squat. I am actually spoiled rotten because I am pregnant. I'm constantly having people bring me food. I'm constantly having people bring me beautiful clothing. The only way that you could possibly tell that I'm a homeless person is that I live in a tent and I haven't combed my hair in two weeks, right? I totally appreciate the tents. They're wonderful. They keep us out of most of the elements. But there's a lot people that don't have tents and it makes me feel really sad. Sometimes I just want to take all my blankets and stuff out of the tent and just give them to somebody else. But then I get greedy and I think "no, I'll keep the tent and I'll stay the rich bitch of tent city." [Laughs]. It was a wonderful idea. It really was. But it doesn't take care of *everybody*.

How pregnant are you exactly?

Oh God! I'm in my seventh month. Just into my seventh month. I *feel* like I've been pregnant for ten years. I *look* like I'm two months overdue. In the past three days I've had nine or twelve different people tell me: "Oh! It's twins!" Wonderful. Wonderful. So, due the end of December and I'm hoping there's only one.

What are your plans if the squat packs up?

Stay as safe and as dry and as warm as humanly possible until November 1st and then we're going to figure out whether we're going to stay in Vancouver or move somewhere, maybe to the Island, maybe back up north. But for October we're outdoors. I need to get settled all through November just in case the baby comes early. If we're going to move out of the city I don't want to leave it too close to my due date. That would be absolutely frantic, trying to move with a brand new baby. And Travis wants a dog so that could get a little hectic too. Me and him and a baby and a dog trying to move into a new place. Yeah right.