

You've been doing a lot of writing?

Yeah, yeah. All the time. I like to be alone, away from all this frustration. It's weird. I went through the week where all my friends were all down and depressed and shitty shit happened to them. But everybody here was so happy and "good going" and "here you want this" and everybody was just offering me everything. It was weird. I thought I was going crazy and I was sober. Buddy offered me rent to any place I wanted in the West End. I think that's kind of weird. I didn't take the offer.

You went out into the bush with Travis the other day? How was that?

It was beautiful! I was thinking "okay we're going to go out into the bush" and he's telling me it's ten minutes up the path but didn't tell me there were heights, didn't tell me it was wet and slippery. I'm glad I wore my combat boots! And then I'm like "okay we have to find a better way down" the next morning. And I'm like "Let's go down the face!" [laughs]. So I went down the face. It was fun cuz when you're going down you have better grip. But it was like "whoa! The ground's sinking!" But the spots up there are spectacular. Absolutely gorgeous. I wish we wouldn't have come down. But I didn't want to stay up there by myself. He said he was going to Victoria yesterday but I worked at YAC and got my \$25 and spent it as soon as I walked out the door. Last time I got paid I got ripped off so I didn't get any money.

What are your plans if the squat gets raided or goes down?

What can we do? Are we going to get beat up and go to jail? Okay, you've got a roof and three meals in jail but you don't get your freedom. I'm all about freedom. It's hard to explain because everybody sees things in their own different ways. I'm trying to see it everybody's different way. I hope they don't raid us. I think they should just give us a chance for one month or two months. Give us the bottom floor or like a quarter of the bottom floor. This is a big place in there. We can all fit in that. Give us a chance. We can live in our tents in there. Why not? Why not give it a chance? Instead of spending the money—how much did they spend on arresting us those two fucking nights? If we fuck up that's our problem. We don't live up to their codes that's our problem. If we do, we fuckin rule. If we're on the first floor there's no falling through the floor. There's one code written off right there. The asbestos is on the fourth floor or higher. This is the first floor. Build windows. Get the air going through there. If you want to have a security guard walking through, fine, have a narc walking through. It's our home. Maybe some people disrespect it but they can leave. Everybody's here for different reasons. I'm here because it's safe. I leave my shit here. I don't like to be alone when I get depressed because then I do stupid things. Whatever. I'm still here. I'm still breathing. Can't get rid of me that easy.

**[www.woodsquat.net](http://www.woodsquat.net)**

*Andrew Struthers is the freelance writer who trashed Lacey and other squat residents in last Saturday's Vancouver Sun. He can be reached at [astruthers@canada.com](mailto:astruthers@canada.com).*

# W.O.O.D.S.Q.U.A.T. #19



**“I’M STILL HERE. I’M STILL BREATHING.  
CAN’T GET RID OF ME THAT EASY.”**

## INTERVIEW WITH LACEY

When did you first come to the squat?

Day one. Jiivan was on Commerical driving by and he was freaking out about the squat and I'm like "where?" [laughs]. It was day one when I came down here.

You came up the ladder and went inside?

That was a couple of days after my bike got stolen. I didn't have it so I didn't have to worry about it. I just helped out with the clothing donations and cup donations.

**DAY 33 – WEDNESDAY – 16 OCT 02**

What was it like on the inside?

Big! [laughs] It was big! It was huge. It was scary. It was dark. [laughs]. But it was nice. It was cool. It was working while we were up there.

Were you sleeping on the second or the third floor?

Third floor. And I never got anything back: my purse, my ID, nothing. They said they were holding shit for evidence but I'm thinking the only thing they could hold my purse for was for having rigs in it. Clean rigs though. They said they brought the rest of it over. I was the first one to go through all of that and none of it was there.

You were in the 58 that got arrested, right? What was that like?

That was fuckin a rush, man. 6:30 in the morning in fuckin riot gear, *whoa!* I was looking at the cops like "oh, don't hurt me." [laughs]. I was the last one sitting down, though. It was cool that they let me out on my own guardianship. The judge was going to send me back up to Kelowna. She was like "You don't want a place to stay?" Like I do, but I got a job at youth centres. I'm working all my life right now.

What kinds of stuff are you doing with the youth centres?

Whatever they need. I used to work at five-star resorts in Kelowna. But it's harder if you don't have an address. I did up my resume at YAC. I got two fuckin pages.

You just finished making a dress?

Yeah. I'm a designer. It's cool. It's medieval. I found the material in a dumpster.

You're working on another one now right?

Yeah. It's like a slip kind of ballroom thing. I'm just starting it.

How is it different on the outside on the sidewalk?

It was nice being inside there with the kitchen and bathrooms.

So you have a tent?

This is my tent because I left Nick's tent. Somebody else took it. This is my tent but I'm letting Roger and his new girlfriend have it and I got this one because I want to be alone. I don't like surrounding people.

So they said this really nasty shit in the newspaper yesterday?

Oh yeah. Oh yeah. That was bullshit. It was this guy. I don't know his name. But me and my buddy were sitting having a smoke and he comes up and I'm just looking at him like "I don't know you; You haven't been around here before." I thought he was a cop. But he wasn't. Just a little too paranoid. [laughs]. Ken's talking to him and I didn't want to be rude and say "fuck off" you know. So I just shut up and sat there. And he's talking about the carny and shit. I don't know. I know people that work there. I've never worked there. I don't go to them. But he said that I'm a fuckin crackhead. I'M TOTALLY AGAINST CRACK. I don't like it because it ruined my moms's life. I've found out she's doing it again. She's smokin rock again. She used to be a high dealer. She's the best cook I know. But he took my picture and said "hey, if I get this in the paper, what do you want me to say?" I said "tell them we fought for a good cause." He's like, "yeah, right on!" Then this bullshit comes out. It was fuckin *bullshit*. I've been on the street since I was eleven. I've been on my own since I was nine. I raised myself. I raised my little sister. I took care of my mom, you know? It pisses me off because this is fuckin harsh disrespect. My mother's going to read this. My grandmother's going to read this. It's just like FUCK YOU MAN! I hope he has a fuckin conscience. Karma. I believe in karma because yesterday was a harsh day. But it has to get worse before it gets better. Yesterday was when I was at my fuckin worst. Today I'm having a good day. I haven't stopped shaking yet.

How long have you been in Vancouver?

Going on two years. I came down here to stay with a couple of my uncles from Surrey but they left. They went back to Edmonton.

Is that where you're from originally?

Prince George. *PGC—Prince George Crew '97*.

So have you made you a lot of friends here? People you'll stay in contact with?

*Totally*. I don't know about a couple of people but whatever.

What do you think about the toilets? They brought them back. Two new ones.

It's kind of gross. But at least it's better than the alley. Yeah. I've done protests before but this fuckin tent shit is wacked! At first I thought it was kind of degrading to us to sit on the streets like every Friday and Saturday night when these yuppies go by and call us down. Whatever. I like this. It's safe here. Chrystal's safe here. She's pregnant. We all help each other in our own little ways.

People don't seem like they're going to go away any time soon.

I hope not. I'm still ready. I got all my bags packed ready for a raid. I have since after the Sunday. They're going to look for any reason to get an injunction on this.