

Illara's Drop Page 4.2

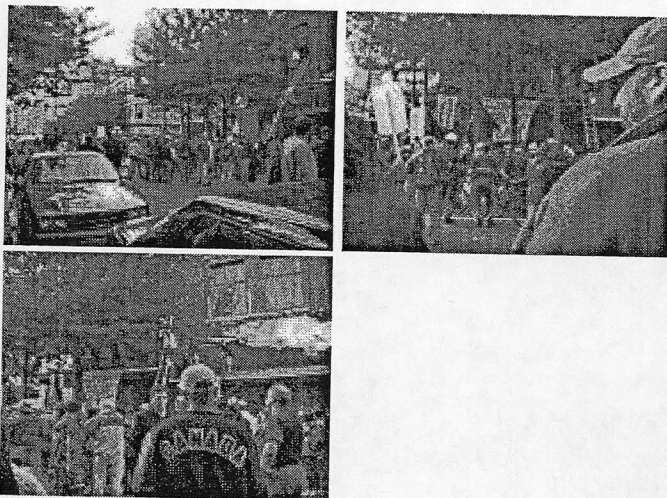
More From The Local Revolution 2002 September 20th

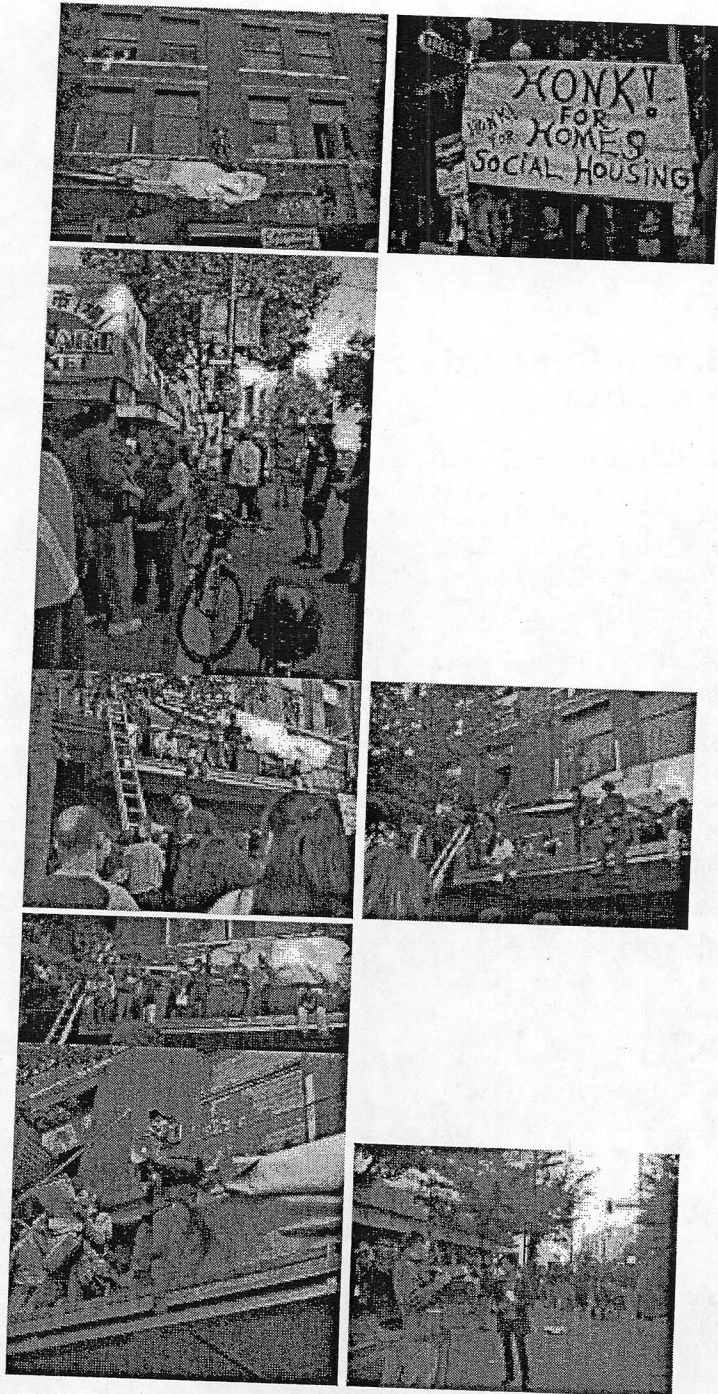
For Media Coverage Go to Vancouver IndyMedia, and DowntownEastside.Ca.

Yesterday I was starting to notice the general noise level of the street was becoming louder, and looking outside I couldn't really see what was up because I can only see the street itself partly, and what was happening was more near the corner.

So I put on my suit jacket which is pretty typical of me the last little while and I headed outside. Seems there was a rally going on, and the people who took over the Woodwards building were organizing and trying to get support and just get their voices heard. There was quite a few people at the rally between 500 and a 1000 easily. Being the person that I am, I had my camera with me, and I took pictures, its my neighbourhood, and I wanted to remember this.

I wasn't the only one, seems most media outlets were there, and given the rally started just before 6pm, it was easily all of the local news stations.



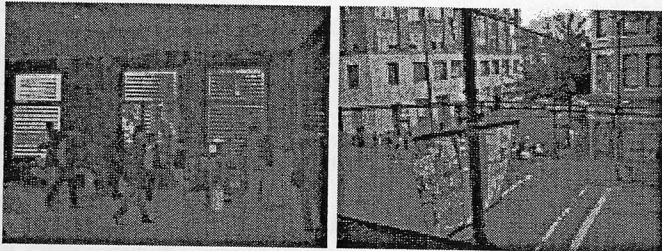


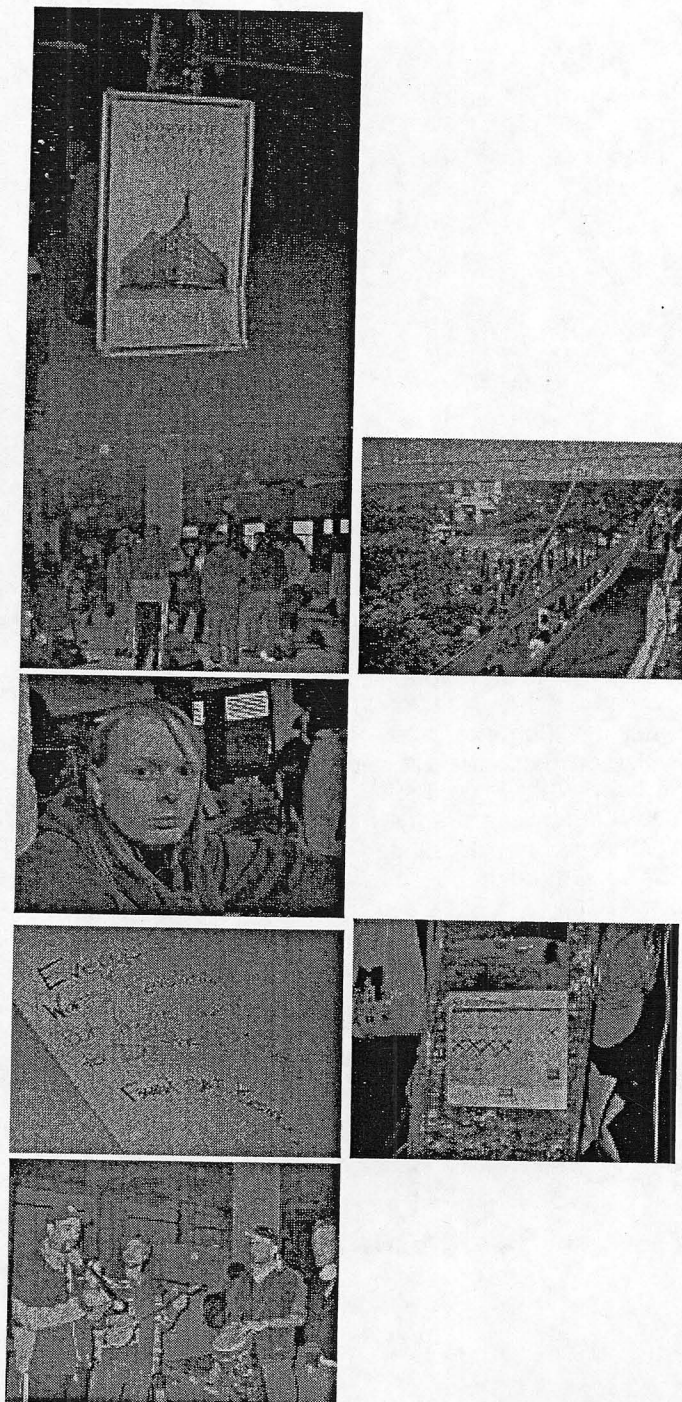


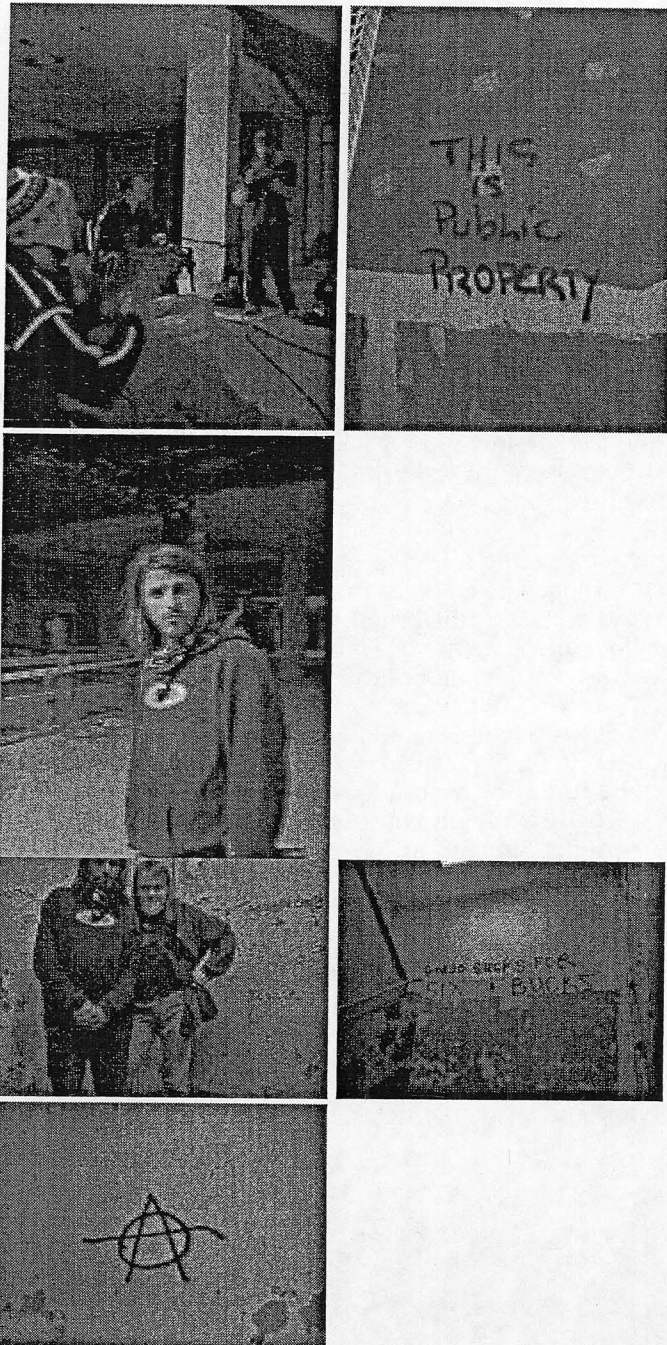
Nearing the end of the rally there was a call from one of speakers from the squat Ivan, who said anyone and everyone can come in because the more people the more unity the more solidarity the harder it will be for the cops to forcibly evict people from the squat @ woodwards. So I rushed home grabbed stuff incase I had to stay all night and clambered into the squat.

Inside was a festival atmosphere, lots of people making music and dancing, and people could actually see how large the place was. Pictures cannot describe the huge size of the place, it has like 7 floors, and takes up a city block, if they had constructed something the size of my own place within the building (which is in part what they had planned from what I could see in the plans & designs which were in the building) you could almost assuredly house every homeless person in Vancouver, or if not almost everyone, the place is so huge that its beyond understood what could be done with such a space.

I was shown around in part by Chris, who you see in some of the pictures, he was someone I hit it off with while I was on the inside.







While I came home to sleep I headed back early to help out here and there totally enjoying the community feel of the place, and I found myself helping haul materials that were just laying around the place and bringing them to the work area. They were then being fashioned into fames and then into walls to be used. The place was slowly being improved by its inhabitants.

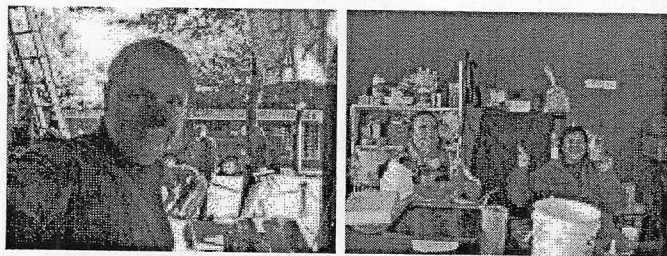
However there were only so many tools so because I didn't feel I was being much use to people I went outside to see what they needed at the food table.

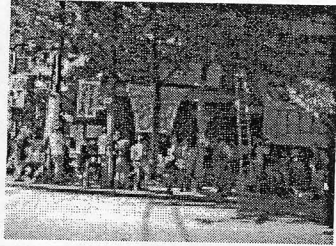
Outside the squat on the corner there was a food table set up where people would donate and then it would be given out to the people who needed it, the people who were around the place all the time before the squat, and who weren't wanting to risk jail and possible trouble for being in the squat when it was raided, though a number of squat people came out as well and had a bite or two to get away from the dust which was kicked up by the number of people moving around and working in the environment, most people had dustmasks (as you see I had in the previous photos) but still a break outside in the freshair does people good.

I found myself outside at the foodtable for about 4 to 6 hours, just helping making sandwiches, juice and just making sure that people were being fed, we served well over two hundred people in the time I was there, people who needed the meal people who were thankful for what we were doing. It was great, no one was turned away and people got the food as we could make it.

At one point I happened across a clown nose and ended up wearing it for the time I was behind the counter helping out, it made people smile it made people laugh. It was something good to do so I wore it. I was impressed by the sheer amount of work that was needed to be done but I was also impressed by the level of generosity by the local community, at one point we ran out of tuna, and within moments, even without having ASKED for any, we found ourselves handed a case of salmon. It wasn't vegan food we were making but only a few people had problems with that, we were feeding people and mostly those who needed it weren't too fickle on it being anything more than food.

After a number of hours I felt like I was literally going to fall over so told people I was on my way and left, came home and slept for two straight hours because I knew I needed it, I was exhausted, I will see if I can help out tomorrow but I also have my own life to lead, and so I can't help too much but I think it has been an interesting time for all of us.





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