

Illara's Drop Page 4.2

The Hornets Unleashed 2002 September 25th (21th)



Yesterday there was a rally, it started slow, but in comparison to the rally that was held on the 19th, five days previous, it made the 19th look like a small set of friends getting together to talk about shit. There were a lot more people and there was a definite tension in the air.

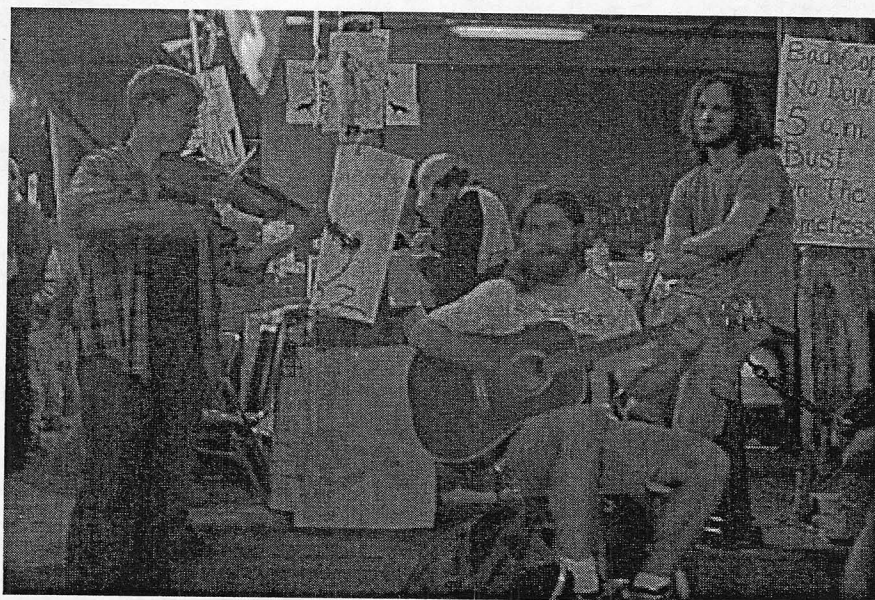
Instead of the police being near the protest making sure the rally didn't interfere with traffic they were a block away on all sides. Why were they so far? Maybe they didn't feel welcome. I don't know perhaps when the Vancouver Police Department roused everyone on Sunday night, gave people about ten, or twenty seconds to get their shit and leave before arresting the lot of them. Then they brought in garbage trucks and tossed what they called garbage but were peoples belongings, stuff like mattresses, tents, clothing, sleepingbags, identification, photographs, letters, writings, drawings, everything. It all went into the trucks and were crushed, and then carted away to the dump. Just *MAYBE* they pissed a few people off.

To say that the police were not at all welcome would be a severe understatement. But no one would have harmed them, its still a nonviolent protest, yes the crowd was angry, so fiercely angry that many were white knuckling it listening to what people had to say about that night. Reports like Chief Ricky Lavallie even though he is disabled was dragged across the street, and he required 20 stitches in his back. Even the lawyer for the homeless was arrested.

The crowd was so full of anger and energy the rally turned into an impromptu march around the block when passing uniformed police offers, our finest found themselves the brunt of the insults and displeasure regarding their actions on

Sunday night. The crowd marching was so large it extended the length of the block from Abbott to Cambie on Cordova & Hastings, all of them chanting various slogans ranging from 'Social Housing Now' to 'We Will Win' to 'Whose house? OUR HOUSE, Whose streets, OUR STREETS', others like 'Fight Fight Fight, Social Housing Is A Right' were also to be heard. It was a very rousing march.

Upon returning back to the intersection of Abbott & Hastings, they held the intersection for quite some time. For lack of things to do after that people ended up becoming festive, their anger somewhat dispersed they started having a party in the intersection which ended up just on Abbott St north of the intersection to allow traffic through. One person had a drum another a guitar, and they started to jam. One woman pulled out a fiddle and soon an accordion showed up.



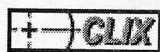
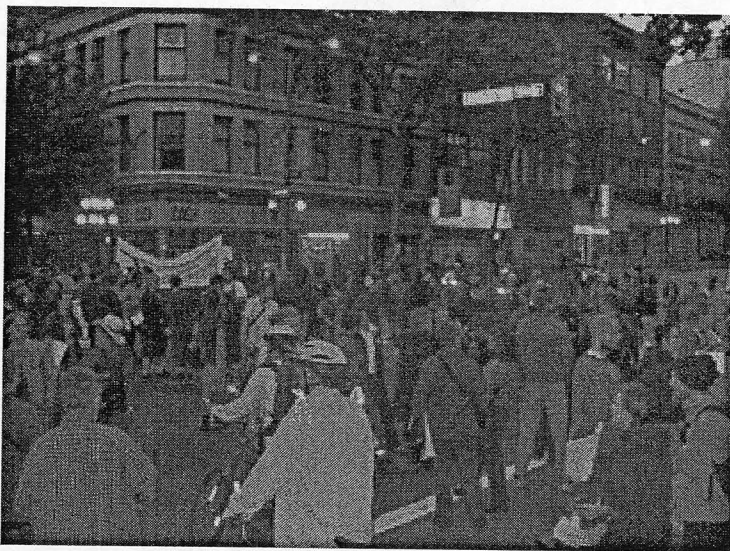
Later two police arrived asking (not telling, ASKING) that the people still left to move onto the sidewalk so that they could reopen the road. There was a lot of concern about being moved off the street last night like they did Sunday night. The police gave their word that they wouldn't come in and do a sweep like they did Sunday night.

The festive atmosphere continued into the middle of the evening when they quieted down in respect for their neighbours and they went about their business quietly during the night, secure in the knowledge that the police shouldn't be doing a sweep that night (no one says police always tell the truth but it was on tape and would be used against them in court if a sweep did happen).

Who knows what will happen tonight, but the police know that doing anything like they did Sunday night will just draw a bigger and more vocal crowd and as it stands there will be a lot of legal work against the police and their actions as it is, someone is going to be charged for what happened. If they are smart they won't be doing THAT again.

I'll keep an ear out tonight and taking pictures if anything happens, as will my neighbours {the protestors out there on the street}, they are making sure everything suspicious by the those empowered to *serve and protect* are recorded and used when the time comes.

A mini animation of the intersection after the march.



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