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The Woodwards 58

by Friends of the Woodwards Squat • Sunday September 22, 2002 at 12:54 AM
violetta_sera@hotmail.com

Summary Report from the Courthouse: 21 September 2002

Summary Report from the Courthouse
21 September 2002

The 58 residents of the Woodwards Squat who were arrested this morning were brought before a judge in twelve groups of three, four and five, between 11:15am and 1:50pm. The exceptions to this procedure were the four people treated as minors. These four appeared individually after 1:50pm. The conditions for their release were negotiated in closed chambers with a representative from Social Services. The prisoners were not permitted to speak with legal council prior to their appearance in the courtroom and were prohibited from speaking with council as a group.

Several of the native leaders had their shoes confiscated while being held in cells then forced to appear in the courtroom without them.

Given the choice between remaining in captivity until November 7th, the date of their hearing, and agreeing to four conditions of release, 53 of the 54 adult residents chose the latter. These include four "promises."

"I promise that I will strictly comply with the terms of the attached order and will otherwise keep the peace."

"I promise that I will not enter onto the Lands ... or any structure or building on the Lands, or encourage or counsel others to enter onto the Lands, without the express authorization of the Plaintiff."

"I promise that I will not obstruct or interfere with the operations of the Plaintiff, or its agents or employees, on the Lands or in any structure or building on the Lands."

"I promise that I will not obstruct or interfere with the access to, or egress from, the Lands or any building or structure on the Lands, by the Plaintiff or its agents or employees."

The one resident who declined these conditions was taken to the North Fraser Remand Centre and will appear in court again on Monday morning. In reply to demands for the return of clothing, medication, blankets, and other personal objects, the Vancouver Police offered to prepare an inventory to be ready next week. Many of these items, however, are required immediately.

Detailed accounts and documentation of police actions during their violent eviction are in preparation.

Supporters are invited to attend a community picnic tomorrow (Sunday September 22nd) between 1 & 3pm. Bring food, instruments, clothing, blankets, water and an appetite for social housing!

Friends of the Woodwards Squat

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Photographs, video, audio, updates: <http://vancouver.indymedia.org>
A History of Vancouver Squatting: <http://www.geocities.com/emithsilas>
International Squatting News: <http://www.squat.net>

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Welcome to the Show

by Azad • *Wednesday September 25, 2002 at 12:31 AM*

The last time I had been in to view a court case was back in grade school, and I left with the same heavy lump in my stomach this time as well. From the moment I walked in and was padded down to when I exited past the sheriffs around the so-called water cooler, everything was there for appearances.

It began with the sheriffs decked out in full police street gear (cuffs, guns, pepper-spray, body armour); put putting on dainty white glove to signify their dress uniform. If someone in the gallery spoke louder than a whisper, had a hat on, or even fell asleep, look out! First would come the stern looks, and if that didn't work, one of the ten in court would have to shuffle over all nervous, hand on pepper-spray, and tell you in a polite, but firm, whisper to cut it out. You are being disrespectful to the court.

And then there was Madame Justice Bennett herself. She was there to decide whether or not the defendants were to be release or held in jail until their court case. She was very adamant that that was the only reason for the court that day and nothing else would be discussed. But she came to court with her mind already made up, sign and go free, refuse and sit in jail for six weeks. Where was the justice? The whole trial was for show.

And lastly there were the three defendants arrested outside the Woodwards building. They were not trespassing, nor showing legal contempt for the previous court injunction. They were, however, the only ones to be pepper-sprayed (and denied treatment for seven hours); strip searched, and finger printed for a civil law they didn't even break. I guess it's better to actually break the law, than to offer first aid or be a member of the media.

Respect. Authority. Responsibility. Truth. These are what the court screamed from the décor to the mannerisms, but all were lacking. I wonder why they are so desperate for us to believe.

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look in the mirror

by Katherine • *Wednesday September 25, 2002 at 07:18 AM*

While you are at it, why not take a look at your own preconceived notions of the establishment. Based on your posting, you clearly had your mind made up before even entering the court room. I would not doubt that your obvious contempt for authority of any kind taints your ability to see anything objectively. I find it amazing that you complain about the police and how they handles themselves at the squat, when the pepper spray was used and people were arrested, THEN you complain about being asked to take your hat off? Being asked to have some respect and to refrain from speaking is somehow an affront to your personal liberty? Wow. I get the distinct impression that you would have found fault with anything or anyone there. All that ends up doing in leaving you with a real credibility problem.

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Clairification

by Azad • *Wednesday September 25, 2002 at 09:52 AM*

Perhaps I should be make the point of my last post clear. I entered the court expecting to witness the law, right or wrong, good or bad, but was treated to a show that pretended to be the law. I wore no hat and I said not a word preferring to listen and learn. But all there was to see was a facad of respect and authority.. I was dissappointed.

[add your comments](#)

actually

by dizazt0r::blank1t • *Friday September 27, 2002 at 01:06 PM*
pointoinfinity@yahoo.com

'Based on your posting, you clearly had your mind made up before even entering the court room.'

--it would appear from the text you refer to that the person was actually in the courtroom and experienced the

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re-formation of an opinion which, at once, was already held. no change in view because no (apparent) change in what was to be viewed.

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