

From chunk@resist.ca
Subject "The APC Book"
Date Wed, September 29, 2004 7:13 pm
To lubby@resist.ca

Dave, this is good for a narrative-chronological account. What I've been thinking is that we could do an overall APC chrono since the beginning in a list sort of format. Then what I think would be good for you to write is an essay explaining APC strategy and tactics in broad terms: why is APC so disruptive? Why does APC do direct action? Why do you get arrested so much? How does the casework relate to the larger campaigns? How does APC relate to the broader anti-poverty movement. These kinds of questions and within each one you can draw on the successes and failures of the past 4 years with examples. So it includes info about specific actions but places that info in the context of telling people about APC's overall goals and, I think, even more importantly, about APC's methods. This is poorly understood both by the leftie types, COPErators, liberals, and the DTES residents living in poverty who think it's preferable to keep their mouths shut and just take the tiny piece-offs they're stuck with. These are just some general comments. Talk soon. Will be out at meeting next Tuesday--maybe we can talk about it after with crew. CHNK

> -this is a rough draft of a propa peice a did a bit ago but became out
> dated in my head. im bad for that. it needs alot of fine tuning (exact
> dates and shit) but im sending it to get you off my ass. id work best
> with a very detailed request as to what to write. im better writing in
> response if ya know whad i mean? do ya? hun?

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>>Over the last three weeks organizers from DERA and the APC have been
> involved in defending the rights of tenants being evicted from 3
> different buildings. Engaging in a diversity of means the city of
> Vancouver and developers have subverted city by-laws to throw hundreds of
> tenants out of their homes. The closures and illegal evictions signify a
> strategy that is being used for the preparations of Olympic
> gentrification. The destructive power of development has begun and the
> catastrophe of homelessness is intensifying.

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>>On July? two budget moving vans rented by the police and filled with
> well-armed officers, stormed the Marr hotel. Everyone in the bar and
> rooms upstairs were searched and their rooms ransacked. Following the
> invasion, city's permit council terminated the Marrs liquor and business
> license. The tenants were told they would have to leave.

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>>The Marr tenants committee was formed and immediately demanded that all
> tenants be relocated by the city. The 33 tenants where abandoned in a
> deplorable building that is falling apart. With no regards to their
> safety the landlord and city left them to drag their belongings out onto
> the streets.

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>>A series of escalating press conferences where called by the committee.
> Beginning at the hotel and moving on to City hall tenants spoke out
> against COPE for making no effort to recognize their rights. It was COPES
> responsibility to bring the building up to code then charge the owner the
> cost. Instead 33 more people are to be assimilated into the ranks of the
> homeless while COPE maintains their progressive persona.

>>

>>Fortunately between the lies of Jim Green who stated on camera that
> "there's nobody who's homeless in the DTES" and "their social housing
> everywhere" the tenants with the assistance of their supporters found
> decent low income housing. Unfortunately there would be no more housing
> to be had as the next wave of evictions hit the streets.

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>>The Passlin hotel has been bought by the Millennium development. A multi
> national corporation that specializes in gentrification and currently
> holds the leading bid to develop Woodward's. The past owner was told he
> must throw everyone out before Millennium would take possession, and
> that's what he did.

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>>With pie in the sky promises of social housing in the distant future, the
> landlord and a posse of minions intimidated and manipulated over 50
> people from their homes. Although the city knew full well what was
> happening they made no effort to ensure that all the tenants would not
> end up in a line up for a shelter that is full.

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>>Organizers are currently working on the day to day survival of the former
> tenants as well as denouncing Millennium's strategy of exploiting loopholes
> in the city's anti-conversion by-law.

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>>The anti conversion bylaw brought in by COPE to quell the fears of
> opponents of Olympic gentrification has been proven not to be worth the
> paper it's written on. The by law makes developers and owners to go through
> a gauntlet of city bureaucracy. Council can request a fee for every room
> converted. In San Francisco where the idea was adopted from the conversion
> fee is 80 00 dollars, here in Vancouver it's 5000. For any large
>>development firm the fee is insignificant in comparison to the amount of
> profit to be made in the booming condo trade. As well in the by law is a
> section that clearly defines the obligation of the developer to relocate
> all tenants into housing that is no more expensive than their current
> accommodations. Millennium and USA Ltd. have gone around this by having
> the previous owners illegally throw them all out before any possession of
> the building or demolition permits is exchanged.

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>>USA Ltd. is another large developer that specializes in gentrification
> internationally. Geoff and Tanya Hughes who became notorious for their
> bid to purchase Woodward's (that sparked a revolt of 200 homeless persons)
> are the couple heading up the development here in Vancouver.

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>>Two years ago the Hughes purchased the Dunsmuir house from the Salvation
> Army then leased it back to them. As of September 1st all 132 tenants had
> been thrown out except one man who refused to sign the bullet. A signed
> agreement made it the Salvation Army's mission to vacate the entire
> building before USA Ltd. retook possession.

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>>Leading up to the evictions tenants were harassed and intimidated to the
> point where one senior who had lived in the room for years hung himself
> with the sheets provided.

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>>The Salvation Army claims the tenants were relocated in to their new
> building a block away. The truth is 33 tenants are allowed to stay for a
> maximum 18 months in a maximum security shelter" with funds and subsidies
> from the provincial government the SA is being paid to harbor men

> recently released from imprisonment.
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>>The rest of the tenants left with their belongings strapped over their
> shoulders in garbage bags with a hotel list given to them by a city
> worker that was out dated by three years.
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>>DERA and APC are supporting the last man standings right to remain in his
> home and are exposing the inherent brutality within the operations of the
> Salvation Army.
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>>Just with these three buildings developers and the city have mastered the
> techniques needed to fulfill their promise to the IOC to revitalize the
> DTES. Currently over a dozen bars are faced with over a hundred by-law
> violations. If the liquor licenses are with drawn then the same will
> happen to the rooms above as are happening with the American hotel right
> now. After having their bar shut down the owner has stated that he can no
> longer financially keep the rooms open, as it is the bars that make the
> money.
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>>COPE council who awards its self as being progressive has shown that
> their true interest is repressing the poor if there is a buck to be made
> off it. By encouraging social cleansing they must be held accountable for
> every person forced to live and die on the streets. By passing a by law
> last year that crimanlises poor people for resting their heads on any
> city property they have ensured that the fall out of the 2010 Olympic
> games will far surpass the destruction brought about by the 86 Expo. They
> have proven again after selling out Woodward's, deploying 50 new cops into
> the DTES and countless other crimes against the people that there is no
> hope in cope and progressive politics and revitalized rhetoric only
> disguise the true brutality of class warfare.