

THIS SHIT WON'T STOP UNTIL ALL THE COPS DROP



On December 6th, 1998, Frank Paul, of the Mi'kmaq Nation, froze to death after some Vancouver pigs dragged him out of jail while he was unconscious and dumped his soaking-wet body in an alleyway.

Former Police Complaint Commissioner Don Morrison advised the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) that a public hearing into Paul's death would not be appropriate, citing "extended delays" and "other public interest considerations". In 2001, he changed his mind and recommended an inquest, but BC Solicitor General Rich Coleman disagreed and rejected the request, stating concerns about public anger over "racial discrimination". In March of 2004, Coleman again rejected a request from the Police Complaint Commissioner to hold a public inquiry.

But a public inquiry wouldn't do any good anyway. In January of 2005, a public hearing let VPD Constable David Bruce-Thomas off the hook for beating to death Jeff Berg. That's because the justice system and the cops work together to serve the rich at the expense of ordinary people.

The killings of Frank Paul and Jeff Berg weren't freak accidents, they were the result of cops' attitudes towards the people they're supposed to control. The VPD has killed and beaten down many people over the years, and they harass people on the streets daily.

From day one, the VPD have been used against Natives and poor and working people in general. The rich rip us off with every pay-check and rent-check. They need guard dogs to keep us in line because we have every reason to rebel. Native communities didn't need cops before colonization, because they weren't exploiting each other. Nowadays, the Mohawks of Kanehsatake in Quebec are proving that we still don't need cops unless we're actively trying to fuck each other over. In January of 2004, Kanehsatake community members kicked the cops off their reserve and have been getting by without them since.

Every place has its anti-social elements, people who prey upon others from their own social class. This is the main excuse used for why the cops are necessary. But just think about Vancouver's missing women and it becomes obvious that the cops aren't here to protect us from anti-social acts. Relying on the police to solve conflicts is unrealistic, and it's just a way of avoiding personal responsibility and solidarity with fellow members of our class.

The cops don't solve most crimes (the majority of which are property crimes rooted in poverty), they're just supposed to appear to be doing something to control the level of illegality, giving the comfortable class a false sense of security, while repressing any efforts we make to escape the miserable conditions forced upon us. Remember the cops' eviction of the Woodward's Squat, which threw dozens of people back onto the streets to protect the sacred right of property owners to hold onto empty buildings until more profitable times come along.

Public inquiries and political protests won't get us anywhere. Instead of that kind of crap, we need to take direct action ourselves, for ourselves and in solidarity with others who are doing the same thing and who suffer under the rule of the cops, landlords and bosses like we do.

The Woodward's Squat was an upstanding example of direct action right here in Vancouver, but it could have been taken further, and the squatters could have defended themselves from the cops just as the Mohawks of Kanehsatake successfully did. On March 15th of last year, the International Day Against Police Brutality, a crowd of about 100 people threw eggs, paint-bombs and fireworks at the police station on Main Street, and smashed police cars with sticks. For almost three weeks in November of this year, young people in the ghettos of France rose up, fought the pigs and attacked cop stations, businesses, and government buildings. Resistance has precedents that prove it is possible, that anyone can take part, and that it is much more desirable than continued submission.

