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Galloway Talk Prompts Campus Campaign Against Pro-Palestine Groups

by Isaac Oommen

On November 22 George Galloway spoke in Vancouver. Organized by a number of groups like Solidarity with Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR), a University of British Columbia (UBC) student group, his talk was given to a packed house.

With a few days left before the event, students from several groups such as the Israeli Awareness Committee (IAC), Hillel House and the Jewish fraternity tried to storm a meeting of the Social Justice Centre (SJC), which they alleged was helping SPHR with the Galloway event and donating to the Canadian Boat to Gaza: two actions

that the group said were against SJC's mandate of promoting social justice.

"The people who showed up to stack the meeting said that they were unaffiliated even though they were all clearly members of campus pro-Israel clubs," said SJC member Gordon Katic.

"They said that some of the posters used for the Galloway event were making the campus feel uncomfortable to Jewish students, to the point that they wanted to reclaim the SJC."

When the takeover did not work, the groups went to the UBC Alma Mater Society (AMS).

"UBC AMS President Bijan Ahmadian froze the transaction of funds between SJC and SPHR," SPHR member Omar Shaban told the Vancouver Media Co-op. "This is a violation of AMS law and also makes Bijan complicit in blocking humanitarian aid to Gaza."

Ahmadian was involved earlier this year in the cancellation of an on-campus fundraiser for anti-Olympic arrestees. He did not respond to a request for comments.

Ahmadian was also part of the group that walked into the SJC meeting: an action that Katic said was meant to intimidate the group. Katic also noted that the IAC supported Ahmadian's election campaign.

To read this article in full and to support the SJC, visit: vancouver.mediacoop.ca



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Students and allies contest Goldcorp donation at SFU board of governors meeting

by Tami Starlight

On Thursday, November 25, members of SFU Against Goldcorp and Gentrification (SAGG) together with community members converged at Simon Fraser University (SFU) Burnaby campus to discuss Goldcorp's \$10 million donation to SFU with the university's Board of Governors.

The Board ended up posting notice of the meeting being cancelled and held a private conference call with only a few members in attendance.

SAGG and community members took to the halls of SFU, began painting their banner and set up an info table on a busy walkway to engage students, sign petitions and pass out leaflets.

The donation has raised concerns among groups working on a wide variety of issues, including, but not limited to, Canadian mining abuses, academic freedom, gentrification of the downtown east side, and the erosion of public education.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATOR
ENVIRONMENT DESTROYER
UNIVERSITY CORPORATIZER
D T E S G E N T R I F I E R



SAGG Poster

2010 Vancouver Transgender Day of Remembrance

by Tami Starlight

On an early west coast winter evening, members of the trans community and their allies gathered in front of The Carnegie Community Center and marched to SFU Harbour Center for a solemn memorial for those killed due to anti-transgender/transsexual violence and hate.

Approximately 120 people marched and participated in events at SFU Harbour Center, where a short film was screened, along with a reading of the proclamation from Vancouver City Hall making November 20 the Vancouver Transgender Day of Remembrance, as well as a statement from Bill Siksay on Parliament Hill at the Ottawa TDOR and rally for Bill C-389. In addition, Out In Harmony performed, a short film from Dion Manley was shown about the 2002 San Francisco Transgender Day of Remembrance, among other discussion.

The most important part of the event: the memorialization of our murdered trans family, and acknowledgement of those we have lost due to suicide. We also acknowledged unceded coast

salish territory, anti-oppression space, and that many of the murdered trans people were women, of colour, and sex workers.

The march and event at SFU equalled the scope and attendance of the largest Vancouver TDOR back in 2005. Yet this one had a more balanced and diverse agenda.

Vancouver is one of at least 197 events taking place in 19 countries and 39 states.

The community is looking forward to planning next year's, with the exception that we are memorializing murdered trans people. The goal of the event and non-profit society is to no longer have a need for such an event: a fact that was agreed upon by the community

people in attendance.

The event concluded with a statement about the current status of the Trans Health Program: a historically under-funded Vancouver Coastal Health Program at 3 bridges Health Clinic on Drake & Hornby.



Tami Starlight photos

OCCUPATION



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HAS NO FUTURE

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EVENTS!

December 4, 6-10pm - Crafts for a Cause, \$2 admission, Rhizome Café (317 E Broadway)

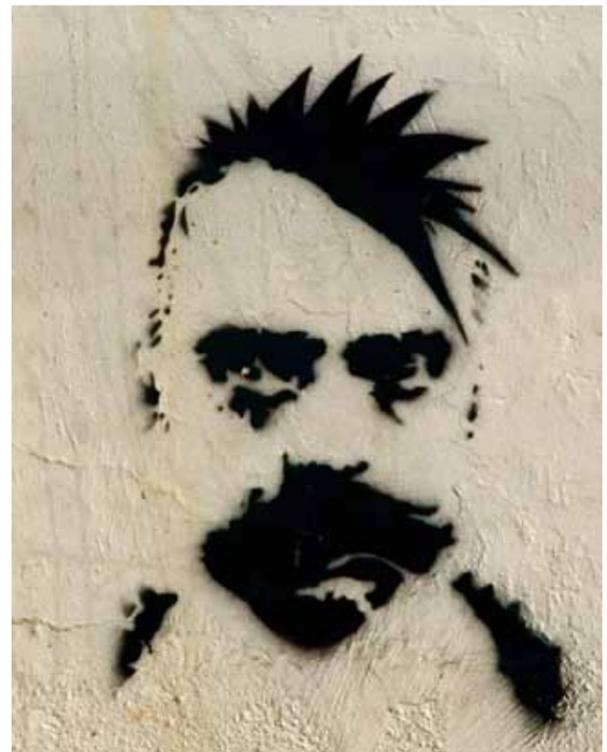
December 8, 8pm - Occupation has No Future, Film screening with filmmakers in attendance, by donation, 12th & Clark (1284 E 12th Ave)

December 10, 7pm - Rhymes & Resistance, \$5-20, Rhizome Café (317 E Broadway)

December 11, 12pm - Mass Direct Action for Climate Justice, Meet at Waterfront Station

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- The Indian Wars continue: Reports from the trial of John Graham
- Update: UBC student society backs SJC and aid for Gaza



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