

BALANCE AWAY!

Territory

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Detention Centre Demo Launches New Year

by Anarchist Solidarity

In the early hours of New Years Eve, anarchists marched on the Burnaby Youth Detention Centre to show those on the inside they are not forgotten by those on the outside.

We entered the prison grounds playing loud music and amplifying our voices. We walked through the gate and to the front of the prison complex. A short statement was read (this was read at all our stops around the prison) and anti-prison greetings yelled. Prison guards (screws) increasing in number, began to approach and insist we leave the property - but didn't take any action except to inform us they'd phoned the cops.

This detention centre is also where noise demos were held in the summer of 2010, when women and children among the 492 Tamil refugees were held captive after being pulled off the Sun Sea ship.

Police, including a K9 unit, began to arrive in numbers equaling our own. Parting cheers and chants were yelled and fireworks lit off as we started to leave the premises. The pigs entered the lot

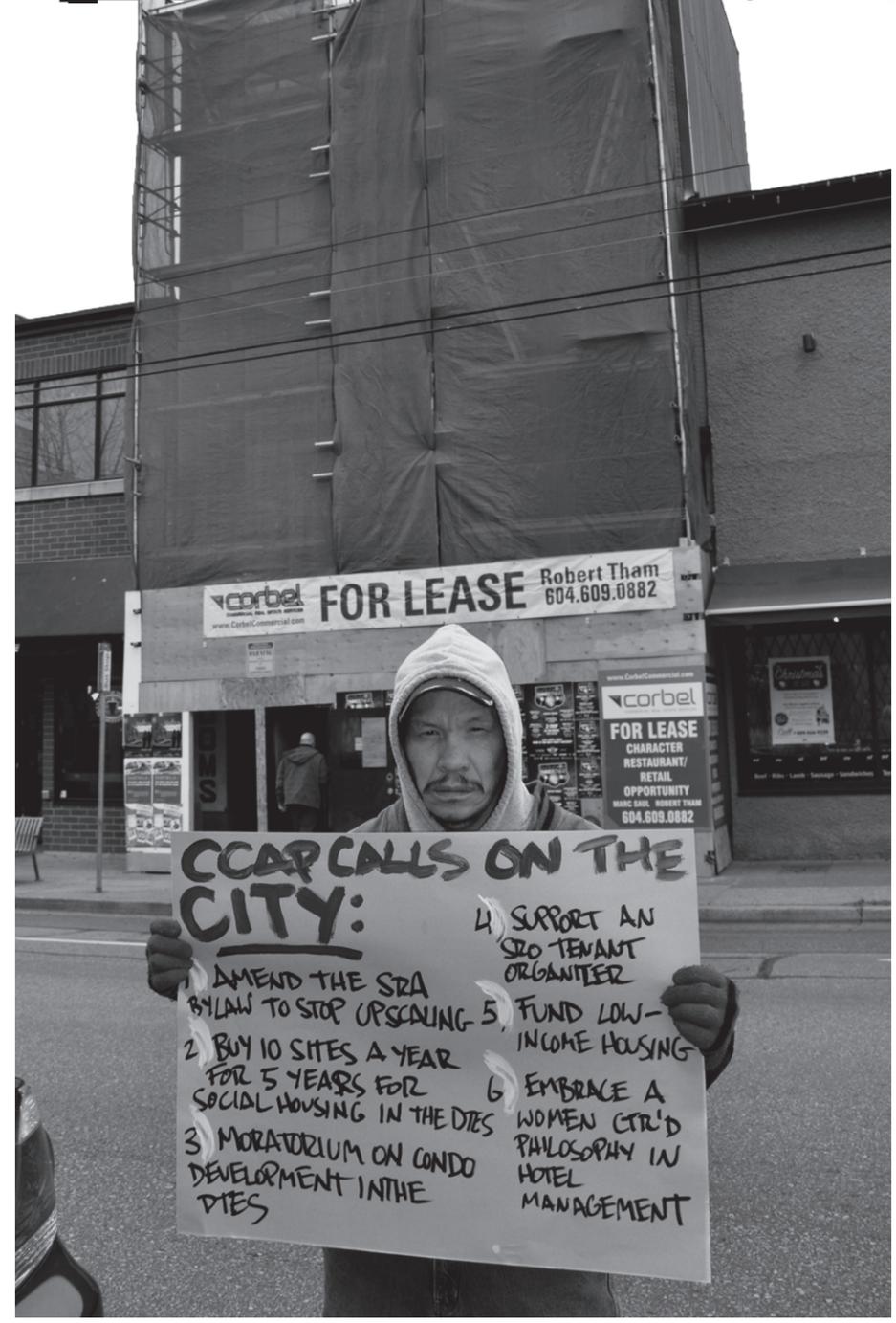
just as we were exiting. They looked like they were about ready to pounce on us, but cooled down as we left.

They followed us for a few blocks while our system blasted out the classic N.W.A. hit, *Fuck the Police*. When one of the cops asked us what the black flags meant, multiple comrades responded; "They mean, 'Fuck Off!'"

We have no use for reform or discussion with the tools of social control. The criminal justice system attempts to create morally and socially 'corrected' individuals. This society has little to offer but continued subjugation and exploitation. It's time we take our lives back and fight back - against all prisons and the world that needs them!



graphic: the prison lingers in my head by lena merhej



CCAP list of demands outside the 'upgraded' York Rooms. flux photo

The Rising Cost of Gentrification

by Murray Bush

DOWNTOWN EASTSIDE - The "upgrading" of SRO hotels is putting low-income residents out in the cold. The Carnegie Community Action Project's 2011 hotel report cites gentrification and government inaction for the worsening crisis.

The survey of privately-owned SRO (single room occupancy) hotels found the number of rooms renting for \$375 or less dropped by 5% in the past year to only 7% of the 3,500 rooms in the neighbourhood. In 2009, the percentage of rooms renting for under \$375 was 29%.

The 2011 report, entitled *Upscale: The Downside of Gentrification*, found that:

- More hotels are excluding low-income DTES residents by high prices and by class, racial and health profiling;
- The rooms where the lowest rent is \$425 or more declined;
- The rooms where the lowest rent is \$600 or more increased;
- More hotels are renting illegally on a daily or weekly basis.

The report recommends the City buy 10 sites a year for social housing in the DTES and stop condo development until all current DTES residents have decent housing. Download the complete report at: <http://ccapvancouver.wordpress.com>

Port Disrupted Dawn 'til Dusk

by Joseph Jones

VANCOUVER - Occupy Vancouver stood in solidarity with other West Coast port actions and shutdowns Dec. 12 stretching from Alaska to California.

The tone for the cold sunny day was set in the early morning by small groups of protesters who temporarily disrupted traffic entering the Clark and Heatley entrances to the Port of Vancouver.

A widely advertised Noon gathering drew together for photographs behind a huge banner proclaiming *Stop Port Expansion*. Then a series of speakers took their turns, with the banner as backdrop, and the surrounding crowd shifted position to become audience.

After speeches, a group of about 130 headed north on Renfrew, experienced brief directional confusion at the intersection with McGill, and then turned east down the hill. At the foot another turn led left onto Commissioner and directly toward the port.

Stretched across the road at the bottom stood a single row of police officers, with chain-link fencing abutting either side of the road. At 1:30 pm the crowd halted in front of the police line. Police forces in the direction of the port numbered 30-35. Eventually two police



Occupy the Ports demonstrators face off against Vancouver Police line.

photo by Michael

vans pulled up and a separate small squad monitored the situation. Someone reported that a large media camera near the police had departed, apparently at police request. That catalyzed a decision to reverse course. As the parade began to retrace its route, the entire police line followed at a distance.

Back at the corner of McGill, the protest group divided into two, one portion holding Commissioner against the police line, another straggling out into and west on McGill. A handful of officers unsuccessfully attempted to order the foremost group over to the curb lane.

Since most of the policing remained at the rear of the march back, the widely spread collection of walkers, bicycles, and signholders effectively occupied all of the westbound lanes of McGill.

When the group turned south on Renfrew, police attempted to clear at least a portion of the street by bringing their line up along the east side. However, conditions favored the marchers holding the entire width of Renfrew until they returned to Callister Park. There a diagonal line of motorcycles formed to funnel people off of the pavement. After brief discussion, separate small groups of protesters headed west toward the other port entrances at Clark and Heatley. By 3:10 pm a sizeable crowd filled the street in front of the Clark entrance. A line of eight police stood in front of a closed gate, and another group of about the same size stood on the SE corner of Clark and Franklin.

At 4 pm the Heatley contingent of protesters arrived, marching with vigor along Hastings. Since policing was concentrated north toward Franklin, the new arrivals briefly were able to take over the intersection of Hastings and Clark. Again the LRAD was used to broadcast the same warning. Most of the two groups of protesters then gathered along the sidewalk. Suddenly police took down two persons, one of them an alternative media journalist. A bit later a third person was handcuffed.

After a good deal of discussion, most of the protesters headed west along Hastings, accompanied by a minimal police escort. Destination: jail solidarity at Main Street. According to livestream reporting, the crowd at the jail numbered 48, taken for determining possible presence of an Occupy Vancouver general assembly quorum.

Following on contradictory reports from police and a good deal of confusion, it soon became clear that the five arrestees had been released without charge.



Out of control cop goes for the throat to protect pipeline company from peaceful protest. flux photo

City police attack pipeline protesters

VANCOUVER - VPD attacked environmental activists outside the offices of Apache Pipeline. People peacefully protesting Apache's stake in the proposed Pacific Trails pipeline at a midday rally were punched, shoved and kicked as Vancouver police locked down the office tower.

Before the doors were barred, activists launched a balloon-powered banner reading "Stop Apache Oil's Pacific Trail Pipeline." The banner floated gently to the ceiling of the tower's lobby and stayed there. Outside, Gitxsan Melana Bazil told the small crowd "natural laws must be respected - we must reconnect with our hearts."