

# STREET PARTY

June  
23  
2001

**The streets belong to the people!  
We are re-opening the streets, not blocking them!**

**What's going on?** Do you remember what it was like, as a child, to play in the streets? To ride your bike, draw with chalk, skip rope, dance, and enjoy being surrounded by friends? We may have gotten older and the streets may be clogged with cars, but that doesn't mean we can't take back our lives.

The privatization of public space by way of the car and strip malls contributes to the disintegration of community. The real street is sterile, a place to move through, not to be in. We believe the city and the street should be for people to live, meet others and celebrate creativity and freedom. The city should serve the human community, not mechanized consumerism. Cars are only the most visible and tangible representation of an inhuman consumer society which is smashing community, constricting human spontaneity and freedom and destroying the Earth's life support system.

Around the world, creative people are building counter-institutions within the shell of consumer society which permit them to live in a more cooperative, ecologically sustainable way. These projects include housing and food coops, unlicensed micro-radio stations and non-profit forums for community, discourse and creativity. We favor shaping social institutions - the city, the economy, transportation technology, agriculture, etc. - around serving human needs not corporate profits.

Our society keeps everyone indoors so that when you come to challenge the powers that be, inevitably you find yourself asking "should I play it safe and stay on the sidewalks or should I go into the street?" It is the ones who take the most risks that will ultimately effect the greatest change in society.

**We're throwing a party, not having a demonstration. We are celebrating, giving ourselves and the the community a chance to create the kind of world we would like to live in. While we insist on our right to reclaim what has been taken from us, we do so in a peaceful manner and will avoid confrontation.**

**THE MOVEMENT** This is the first Reclaim the Streets in DC, but we are part of a global movement. RTS started in England and has spread throughout the world. Over the past few years the movement has exploded in the US. RTS does not belong to any one person or any organization, everyone is invited.

**TUNE IN!** If you have a radio, tune it to 97.5 FM for the Reclaim the Streets DC radio broadcast from 3:00 PM until whenever the party ends!

**WHAT NOW?** The fact that you're reading this now and are surrounded by friends means that we've already succeeded. From Dupont Circle we'll march in separate groups to the party location. If we encounter oppression which prevents us from reaching our location or staying there, we'll move on and continue to dance and play!

# RECLAIM THE STREETS!

For information on future RTS events and to join our e-mailing list, visit <http://www.2wrongs.net/rts-dc/>