Demonstrating 'tribe' Coalition plans May 5 rally disrupts Washington

By Pete Peckarsky

WASHINGTON - For the last week of April, West Potomac Park resembled a city under siege with the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice (PCPJ) disrupting business at a series of federal buildings and principle highways.

The 'tribe's efforts to block traffic into the city yesterday morning met with limited success. By 10 am most traffic was moving normally, although there had been tie-ups on the Arlington Memorial Bridge and 70 arrests were made.

I was the "Algonquin Peace Park" just south of the concert site, south of the Lincoln Memorial. The concert was held in the area, which by noon had been swept clear of demonstrators. The program was made up of a main stage, and a number of small groups, each with its own theme, which included music, poetry, and discussions.

It appears that the permanent reoccupation Sunday of the Mayday Tribe's permit to use West Potomac Park as a camping site will be extended indefinitely. The District of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department has received many requests for permits to use the site, and plans for meetings later in the year.

The District of Columbia police director said that the park was used mainly for political meetings and that the police were present to ensure public safety.

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