

Cops bash press and press bash cops in the press



BY JESSE ROSENFELD

TORONTO—As thousands marched through Toronto on Friday demanding social and economic justice, it would seem the Police were especially irate with critical media, taking out their frustration on cameras and reporters' faces.

After arbitrarily arresting a young, hearing-impaired man of colour at the corner of Yonge and College, police lines formed to block cameras viewing the violent takedown of the man and subsequent beating of activists trying to protect him. Toronto police violently threw protestors and press alike off the

sidewalk and away from the violent arrest in process.

During the police provoked clash, officers smashed the camera of an Alternative media center photographer, while Real News Network journalist, Jesse Freeston, was punched twice in the face. Immediately following his assault by officer M. Martinez, Freeston responded, "do you treat all media like this?" and subsequently had his microphone stolen by officer J. Ure. It was only after persistent protest in front of the rest of the surrounding media that the equipment was reluctantly returned.

PHOTO BY SEAN DECORY

From Toronto to Guangdong, We Fight Together

BY AMY MILLER

PHOTO BY ACTIVESTILLS

TORONTO—On Friday June 25th, the city of Toronto saw a proud and vibrant march of about 4000 people take to the streets under the collective banner of *Justice for Our Communities: No to G8/G20! Yes to Taking Back Our City!* Despite many people being subjected to illegal searches, threats of being charged with trespassing, and an extreme police presence, the march began at Allan Gardens at 2:30pm with powerful speeches from members of No One is Illegal and the Ontario Coalition against Poverty (OCAP). John Clarke from OCAP passionately stirred the crowd. "Let it be clear. We are not just fighting for the people of Toronto and Ontario, we are fighting as part of a larger movement of social resistance...I would like to think that right now on some flickering internet screen in some hell hole dormitory sweatshop in Guangdong province in China, they are gathered around and saying "their fight is our fight!" And we will fight together!"

The jubilant march included those fighting against poverty, ableism, and borders. Music snaked through the crowd with two lively samba troops, an anarchist marching band, as well as a sound-truck pumping out motivating beats. Kelly, a member of Disability Action Movement Now (DAMN), explained to The Spoke why she came out. "I think people with disabilities due to policy are some of the most vulnerable people in our city, and a meeting of the elite, rich and powerful is a perfect opportunity to come together and fight back and not take it sitting down."

Judith Weisman, marching strong in her golden years, is active in numerous groups who organize against the occupation of Palestine and came out because of the price tag for security. "I wasn't expecting to come out to any of the actions, but when I heard the amount of money - \$1 billion - and heard what they were doing, I was so enraged that I thought I had to do something, so I came to march!"

After a few long pauses due to police interference, blocking movement and hours of taking to the streets, at 7:15pm the massive demonstration returned to Allan Gardens to begin a community meal and tent city.

Judge greenlights sound cannons

BY MARTIN LUKACS

TORONTO— Sound cannons are likely to be used for the first time in Canada during the G20's weekend summit in Toronto, after police were given the green light Friday morning by a provincial judge.

Judge David Brown ruled Toronto Police would have to conform to the protocol of the Ontario Provincial Police

(OPP), meaning they will be able to use the sound cannons from a distance of 75 meters instead of 22, and use the ear-piercing "alert" function for two to four second bursts every 30 seconds.

"Our position is that this is not the end of the road today," said Nathalie Des Rosiers, General Counsel of the Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA), which had filed an application for an injunction against the use of the sonic cannons.

Continued on reverse...



Tent City Sets Up

BY CAM FENTON

TORONTO—At the close of yesterday's Community Day of Action, organized by OCAP and No One is Illegal, marchers returned to Allan Gardens to set up a tent city. The park was reclaimed with around 100 people pitching tents and hanging tarps to spend the night. Musicians and local community organizers kicked things off with a block party, highlighting community struggles against poverty and

homelessness, and the significance of Allan Gardens as a flashpoint in this history. Dozens of red tents were set up to demand affordable housing for all, the same tents used in a similar action during the 2010 Olympic Resistance.

Just as the energy of the evening began to ebb, over 1000 people - attendees of the Shout Out for Global Justice - marched from Massey Hall to join the occupation, bolstering numbers and solidarity.

PHOTO BY ACTIVESTILLS



DAMN moves disability rights to the forefront

BY HILLARY LINDSAY

TORONTO—Disabled people were setting the pace of Friday's anti-G20 march, says Andrew Mindscenthy.

Mindscenthy is a member of Disability Action Movement Now (DAMN), a cross-disability coalition that includes disabled people and people affected by ableism.

DAMN's contingent was near the front of the march and included an accessibility van available for people to ride in.

"This is one of the first huge mobilizations – possibly the first mobilization of this size – that has had a coherent accessibility policy and has put accessibility on the agenda of all the marches," says Griffen Epstein, also with DAMN.

The accessibility policy has resulted in everything from a ramp being installed at the activist convergence space, to

accessibility marshals at demos, to sign language interpretation of speeches, says Epstein, who adds that "real accessibility" is a long way off, but that things are changing.

"It's been a long struggle, to participate as equals on the left or in social movements," agrees Mindscenthy. "There are a lot of ways people are excluded, from unthinkingly booking meetings where people in wheelchairs can't access to cultures where calling people 'insane' is an insult."

Disability rights activists were prominent at Friday's march, however, including a speech by Epstein emphasizing the links between different forms of oppression and the G20.

The leaders of the G20 are the architects of the brutal neoliberal policies that keep disabled people living in poverty, in the

had finally been allowed in to see him. Police were still refusing to allow an ASL interpreter; instead they insisted he and his lawyer communicate through a police interpreter. "So you want him to talk to his lawyer in front of a cop? It's completely unacceptable."

More solidarity activists were on the way to the prison at midnight. The people there owed to stay until he was released.

He will appear in court Saturday at 9 am at 2201 Finch Ave. West, room 203.

PHOTO BY TIM MCSORLEY



criminal justice system and policed and priced out of access to affordable housing, transit etc," says Epstein.

"We're working towards real accessibility," she says. "That means a raise in all social assistance rates. It means a cheaper and more accessible transit system."

"The money that was spent on criminalizing our dissent to [the G20] and on accommodating the richest leaders in the world could have been put into the pockets of poor people in the city who are disproportionately disabled people," says Epstein.

All-night Vigil at Film Studios Jail

BY TIM MCSORLEY

At midnight on Friday night, 25 people were gathered on Eastern Avenue, outside the Toronto Film Studios, recently converted into a prison for G20 detainees, in solidarity with a deaf man arrested while crossing the street next to the Shout Out for Global Justice demonstration in Allan Gardens earlier on Friday. He is being charged with assaulting a police officer; it is unclear what he did to deserve the charge.

Graham, one of the people in the crowd, said he had been roughly shoved to the ground and had his hands cuffed behind his back, making it impossible for him to communicate. "It was total discrimination towards anybody with a disability. It's just sickening."

Just after midnight, solidarity activist Shane Martinez announced his lawyer

Critical Mass gives bike love, avoids the fence

BY KATE MILBERRY

TORONTO—About 200 cyclists turned out for Critical Mass yesterday to celebrate safe cycling on the streets of Toronto. Critical Mass is a community bike ride that takes place on the last Friday of every month in cities around the world.

As cyclists were gathering for the ride, about 30 police piled out of mini-vans and arrived on bicycle at the southeast corner of Bloor and Spadina around 6pm. Police said they would not ticket cyclists and would act as escorts on the "conditions" that the ride remain north

of Dundas St. and not go on any highways. Aware of G20-related arrests of activists for bike-related infractions, some mass riders handed out bells.

Although the police presence seemed heavy-handed, officers blocked intersections, regardless of traffic lights. At times, it seemed as if police were leading the ride, but cyclists remained in control of the direction of the mass. The ride snaked slowly but uneventfully through the Annex and University of Toronto campus before heading east along Bloor Street.

PHOTO BY MARTIN REIS



Today's Events: Saturday, June 26

13:00
People First! Rally and March
Queen's Park

13:00
Get off the Fence
Breakoff march to the Fence
Queen's Park

23:00
Saturday Night Fever Street Party
Church Street Neighbourhood

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER
BEAT the HEAT! RECLAIM the STREETS!
Saturday Night
June 26
Late till Dawn



Sound cannons

Continued from reverse

"If they are recognized as weapons [in a trial set to happen before October 30, 2010], then they need to be regulated and maybe forbidden," Des Rosiers said. "We cannot have the police deciding for themselves what new technologies they will be using on citizens."

The sonic cannons have not been subject to independent scientific testing, have never been used before by a Canadian police force, and were expressly not used during the Vancouver Olympics.

GRAPHIC BY MEGAN COTTON-KINCH