

selected excerpts & stories from www.anarchistnews.org

ANARCHIST NEWS DIGEST compiled for August

No Gods, No Masters...

CLERICS, COPS, CONSTRUCTION SITES...

Disruption of the High Mass at Koekelberg Basilica (Belgium)

from cemab.be

This Thursday, the high mass being held in the KOEKELBERG basilica, which was honored to host a delegation of 70 priests, was subjected to a slight disturbance. The archbishop Monseigneur Leonard couldn't make it to the big party unfortunately, but that didn't stop a small group of persons from showing up to interfere for a moment the solemn and silent procession of the eucharist, that ritual of instant communion with god. Condoms filled with shampoo were thrown across the pews of the faithful, red dye was added to the holy water font, slogans were shouted, and when they left the assembly, which was quite hostile to the intervention, two alarm clocks attached to helium balloons were sent floating up to the ceiling of the basilica. Resting against the ceiling, their sweet melody resonated for a long while after the disappearance of those who had brought about this furtive act.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11629

Police targeted in fire at new **Olympia City Hall**

OLYMPIA - An apparent anti-police arsonist entered the new City Hall, used some kind of chemical accelerant and set fire to a stack of construction materials, causing an undetermined amount of damage and setting back a \$35.6 million project that had been on schedule.

Firefighters were called to the four-story building under construction in the 600 block of Fourth Avenue East at 5:34 a.m. Thursday. They put the fire out within minutes, but the damage was done. The fire, though confined to one room, spread smoke through the building, blackening new drywall. It also melted wiring on the first and second floors.

It's unclear when the fire was started, but it was after workers had quit for the day on Wednesday.

"(Expletive) PIGS" was spraypainted in red on one of the walls outside the room where the fire started.

No one at the scene was injured. Police were investigating the fire as suspicious.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11702

Direct Action vs the High-Speed Railway in Basque Country

From Sindominio

Last night four people locked themselves inside the shafts of the old Itsasondo mines in the Basque Country (on the Spanish side of the border) in order to "stop the construction of the High-Speed Railway (HSR)" and to denounce the "social model of which these construction sites are just the outer mask". They are demanding the "immediate cessation" of the tunnelling work taking place in that same area.

"We know that the risks are high. We've

gone deep down underground in order to strengthen with our bodies this very earth. We are locked inside the mines so as to defend our ideas and denounce the lack of sense of those who hold power. Our bodies are our weapons and direct action is our path".

This is what the four people who have locked themselves inside the mines of Itsasondo had to say about their act... The statement was communicated to the press by fellow opponents of the mega infrastructure in a press conference in which they also warned of the dangers of the Ordizia-Itsasondo tunnel.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11634

Free Our Friends! Community Update on G20 Detainees

From Vancouver Mediacoop

While G20 leaders met behind a steel cage and a 1-billion dollar Fortress Toronto operation, we witnessed an unprecedented coordinated police operation in the city of Toronto. Police brutality against protest participants, journalists, legal observers, medics, and random passers by came in the form of indiscriminate arrests, beatings, pepper spray, rubber bullets, police horse charges, illegal searches and seizures, and extended arbitrary detentions. While in custody, people were forced into steel cage cells with up to 40 people per cell; made to sleep on concrete floors with open bathrooms; denied food, water, toilet paper, and sanitary products; subjected to sexual harassment, threats, humiliation, and intimidation: and refused access to medical attention, phone calls, and legal counsel.

Many were beaten and brutalized, leading to serious injuries and hospitalization. According to an article authored by resident physicians of the Toronto Street Medics, "All of the serious injuries we treated were inflicted by the police. While violence against property received a great deal of coverage, violence against people -- broken bones, cracked heads and eyes filled with pepper spray--has yet to feature prominently in any mainstream media. Our teams of medics witnessed and treated people who had been struck in the head by police batons, had lacerations from police shields and had been trampled by police horses."

Over the weekend, there were 1090 arrests, of whom 113 were released without charges on the street, 714 were held for breach of the peace and released within 72 hours, and 263 released with pending charges.

http://g20.torontomobilize.org/

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11718

Toronto: Police Release G20 Photos of "Most Wanted"

From The Toronto Star - by Henry Stancu

After amassing more than 14,000 images and 500 videos of burning, looting and window smashing during the G20 summit, Toronto police have launched another public appeal.

On Wednesday, investigators announced they are asking for help in hopes of identifying the people who were involved in the rampage on downtown streets where police cruisers were burned and windows were smashed.

"These people will be systematically located and apprehended," said Det. Sgt. Gary Giroux as he presented clear images of 10 men.

He said two of the "most wanted" — both masked, one wielding a pick axe, the other a bag of rocks — were captured on security video from inside businesses

where windows were smashed.

While the bulk of images and video have come from the public, some were taken by undercover officers who were in the G20 crowds.

The 22-member G20 investigative team is using facial recognition software supplied by the banking industry in an attempt to identify suspects in poorer quality images. Police say even a face partially hidden by a bandana can be identified by the technology that can match a person's eyes with someone on file.

Last week, after police issued a series of images of six men, three were identified the same day with help from the public. Accompanied by a lawyer, another man turned himself in at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11756

We Support Liberation, by Rioting & a Thousand Other Means

From Infoshop

Regarding Ryan Harvey, Rioting, and the G-20

On September 24 2009 over a thousand protesters, took to the streets of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in unsanctioned defiance of the G-20 summit. Multiple times throughout the day they attempted to march on the summit site or through corporate centers while the police attacked with sound weapons, pepper gas, and baton rounds. People fought back with rocks, dumpsters, poles, banners, and property destruction.

The same day Pittsburghers were hitting the streets, Baltimore-based Ryan Harvey, a long time anarchist organizer and musician with the riot-folk collective, released a statement entitled, "Are We Addicted to Rioting?"

The piece -and a subsequent hour long radio interview - is an attack on resistance at the G-20 and of militant summit protests in general, arguing that such protests accomplish nothing, that everyone involved misrepresents what happens at the events, that anarchists generally partake in them for no reason besides chasing an addiction to wilding out, and that such efforts come at the expense of far

more valuable community organizing.

As an organizer involved in the G-20 protests, a local resident, and a first-hand participant in the action I would like to take this opportunity to respond.

My reason for doing so stems from the desire to correct factual inaccuracies, address the emotional trauma argument of the experiences Ryan references, and challenge the deeply flawed critique he has built upon shaky foundations.

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The first foundation of Ryan's critique is that the media, police, and activists all engaged in a hyping effort to make the G-20 protests appear larger and more militant than they actually were and that such inflation hurts our credibility and is dishonest.

Curiously, coverage of the only news organization mentioned, the BBC, is hardly a poster child for exaggeration as their reports say that trouble has flared, but the violence isn't as much as they're used to seeing in Europe.

Watch, read, and listen to other corporate news and you will find the same thing, a downplaying of the level of disruption alongside police statements that they were able to contain troublemakers.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11782

BART verdict: 'Anarchists' clash with Oakland police

From LA Times - by Maria L. La Ganga

A group of people angry with the BART verdict clashed with police in riot gear in downtown Oakland late Thursday, throwing rocks and bottles at officers, starting small fires in the street and breaking into downtown businesses. Police were making numerous arrests.

Oakland Police Chief Anthony Batts said at a news conference that about 8 p.m., a group of people dressed completely in black and wearing black face masks moved south on Broadway, taking an aggressive posture. Batts described the group as "anarchists."

"It was clear that they were taking an aggressive posture.... We started taking a number of rocks and bottles," Batts said. "We then made a dispersal order" about 8:30 p.m.

Most protesters left, but those dressed in black did not.

A group of protesters shattered windows along Broadway, breaking into a Foot Locker and taking bags of athletic gear and shoes and throwing some into the street. Fresh graffiti was spray-painted on walls along Broadway; one outside Telly's Coffee read: "You can't shoot us all."

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11696

Baltimore: police vehicles hit in Oakland solidarity action

Early this morning in Baltimore, we defaced three police vehicles with slashed tires, spray paint, and feces on door handles & through an open window to say 'Fuck you'

and to express solidarity with the mobs rioting and looting in Oakland after the Oscar Grant verdict, and the 80+ people arrested there.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11699

Another Attack on Police Drop-in Station

Our news partners at The Seattle Times are reporting that the SPD drop-in location at 23rd and Union suffered its second violent attack within a week when a man and woman broke out three windows with a sledgehammer:

"At least four witnesses called 911 just before 11:30 p.m. Sunday to report hearing loud thuds as two people swung sledgehammers at the windows of the substation at the corner of 23rd Avenue and East Union Street, said police spokesman Jeff Kappel."

The suspects were spotted near 25th & Cherry, ID'd by the witnesses, and arrested for felony malicious mischief.

Last week protesters left anti-cop graffiti on the building following the California verdict against a police officer who shot and killed an unarmed man.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11737

Oscar Grant Verdict Sparks Protest in Portland

At 10pm protesters marched from Peninsula Park occupying the streets and demonstrating against the police as a result of the verdict given to Oakland Police Officer Johannes Mehserle who killed Oscar Grant January 1st 2009.

Oakland BART police officer Johannes Mehserle fired a single shot in Oscar Grant's back and proceeded to handcuff him as he lay down in his own blood. What made this case so important is the overwhelming amount of evidence that was take by bystanders at the time. Although the police made every effort to confiscate any footage that would incriminate them and sweep yet another brutal case under the carpet, footage spread all over the internet and made the mainstream media. Riots ensued in the following days in Oakland and the police were unable to control the situation, forcing the Mayor and District Attorney to arrest and charge Mehserle.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11701

Montreal Royal Canadian Mounted Police Station Vandalized

From CBC

Police have opened an investigation after a federal government building was vandalized early Monday morning in Montreal's Saint-Henri district.

Several windows were smashed on the building, located at the corner of Saint-Jacques and Rose-de-Lima Streets.

The building houses various federal government offices, including for the Department of National Defence, and the RCMP.

Police said three suspects, wearing dark clothing and with covered faces, were seen fleeing the scene at about 2:10 a.m.

No arrests have been made.

Here is the text from a flyer that was distributed in the neighborhood:

The other night, we attacked an RCMP (national police force) station in St. Henri, Montreal. It almost goes without saying that we did this because we hate the police, and we certainly aren't alone in this hatred. Let's cast our minds back to 2006, when a handful of stolen cars were driven through police station windows, or to spring 2008, when half a dozen SPVM (montreal police force)cars were set ablaze just before the annual International Day Against Police Brutality march and another dozen were lit off when the Habs lost a crucial game in the playoffs. Recall the street battles at every March 15th demo, where people come out in thousands and some fight cops, break windows, build barricades, and wreak havoc. Keep in mind the Montreal North riots in 2008 after Fredy Villanueva was killed by the pigs. Remember the 'flics assassins' graffiti campaign, and the dozen cruisers damaged in a St. Henri police station parking lot earlier this spring.

This action, coming on the heels of the 20th anniversaries of the Standoff in the Pines at Oka and the Sex Garage riots in Montreal's gay village, only supplements a plucky struggle against the police. Continue the fightback.

- some anarchists

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11792

Anarchist Nikos Maziotis Ends Hunger Strike: Demands are Met

From Occupied London

Nikos Maziotis and Pola Roupa are two of the anarchists imprisoned in relation the Revolutionary Struggle case. As we published earlier, Nikos had gone on hunger strike, demanding access to the hospital where Pola Roupa would be giving birth and also, access to visits to her and their son at the female wing of Korydalos prison in Athens.

Today's news from Athens IMC:

The hunger strike by Nikos Maziotis and Kostas Gournas ended a few hours ago, along with the abstaining from meals by approximately 90 prisoners across the country; they were abstaining in support of the demand of Nikos Maziotis to visit his newly-born child.

Nikos Maziotis was transferred this morning to the Alexandra hospital in Athens and visited his comrade and partner Pola Roupa, who gave birth to their son yesterday with good care and without the presence of the anti-terrorist unit at any stage of the procedure. It is almost certain that Nikos' second demand, to be visiting Pola in Korydalos prison, will also be met.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11815

Hugh & Gina (Tiga) Court Date Follow-Up, Plea Agreement

A dozen or so of us journeyed one last time (we hope!) to Petersburg, Indiana with Gina (Tiga) and Hugh to sign the plea agreement that was offered by the prosecution. The plea was accepted by the court, and thus begins the end of this insane situation.

As has been the case with other court appearances, the event was far from serious.... But that doesn't mean it was all easy, as it was still really emotionally difficult hearing our friends state "guilty" when asked how they plead.

Details of the Agreement: Hugh and Gina each pled guilty to 2 counts of trespassing (class A misdemeanor) and were each sentenced to two years non-reporting probation and a \$10 fine, plus court



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costs. According to the deal, if they don't violate their terms of probation, they will be able to move to have it terminated at 15 months and this motion will be accepted.

For transparency's sake, we'll soon be posting scans of their plea agreements on the website (http://mostlyeverything. net). ... We realize that plea agreements can be sketchy and we'd like to be as open as possible about all of this. We've done a lot of work with our lawyers to make sure that these pleas won't implicate anyone else. Gina and Hugh both remain fully uncooperative.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11781

Farewell from the Midnight Special Law Collective

From Midnight Special Law Collective

Dear Friends,

Midnight Special has been engaging in months of discussion and critical analysis about the role of law collectives, both amongst ourselves and with other members of the law collective movement. We have also been looking at our own internal process as an anti-authoritarian collective. We have reached various conclusions: that we have been unable to break out of the service provider model; that we are dissatisfied with jumping from action to action, and leaving little infrastructure behind; that we often emulate the oppressive structures we seek to change; and that these problems are much harder to solve than we had believed.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11800

SFPD to Create Low-level Civilian Police Force

From KTVU

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Police Department will launch a new, 6-month pilot program to train civilians to investigate some non-violent, non-emergency crimes, a police spokesman said Monday.

The Police Department plans to begin hiring 15 civilians for the pilot program in January 2011, police spokesman Albie Esparza said.

The civilians will be trained at an academy and in the field and will be subjected to a background check before they hit the streets.

They will respond to non-violent calls for service, such as reports of burglaries, which are not considered a priority, Esparza said.

Often, victims of non-priority crimes have to wait several hours before an officer can respond to take a report.

Hiring civilians to take reports is designed reduce the amount of time a victim has to wait for an investigator to respond. At the same time, it will free up sworn officers to respond to violent crimes and to be more proactive in fighting crime.

Civilian investigators will be trained to do basic crime scene investigation, such as dust for fingerprints and document the scene, Esparza said.

San Francisco Police Chief George Gascon came up with the idea for the program in 2004 when he was working as assistant police chief in Los Angeles. In 2006, while serving as police chief in Mesa, Ariz., he implemented a similar pilot program.

Mesa's civilian police investigators program recently launched citywide, Esparza said. That program has resulted in a 40 percent reduction of workload for sworn police officers, he said.

The pilot program is budgeted for six months in San Francisco, after which it will be evaluated to see if it is effective.

Sworn officers will still respond to all violent crimes and crimes in progress.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11827

Russian Anarchist Mob Attacks Mayor's Office

From Kommersant

Five hundred Russian anti-government activists attacked the office of a Moscow suburb's mayor to protest the construction of a highway through a forest, Kommersant reported.

The protesters gathered in central Moscow yesterday and took a commuter train to the northern suburb of Khimki, armed with air guns and baseball bats, the newspaper reported. Police fled after being pelted with rocks and bottles and nobody was arrested, Kommersant said.

The anarchist youths set off flares and tried to chop down the main door of the mayor's office with an ax, according to Kommersant. They spray-painted "Save the Russian Forest" on the walls of the building in the five-minute flash protest, the newspaper reported.

An environmentalist camp in the Khimki forest was attacked by a group of masked men over the weekend, Kommersant said. Mikhail Beketov, the editor of a local newspaper, was almost beaten to death in 2008 after campaigning to stop construction of a highway through the Khimki forest.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11858

The Afghanistan War Logs Released by Wikileaks, the World's First Stateless News Organization

From NYU Journalism

"In media history up to now, the press is free to report on what the powerful wish to keep secret because the laws of a given nation protect it. But Wikileaks is able to report on what the powerful wish to keep secret because the logic of the Internet permits it. This is new."

Wikileaks.org: Afghan War Diary, 2004-2010

Der Spiegel: Explosive Leaks Provide Image of War from Those Fighting It

New York Times: The War Logs The Guardian: The Afghanistan War Logs

From my internal notebook and Twitter feed, a few notes on this development:

1. Ask yourself: Why didn't Wikileaks just publish the Afghanistan war logs and let journalists 'round the world have at them? Why hand them over to The New York Times, the Guardian and Der Spiegel first? Because as Julien Assange, founder of Wikileaks, explained last October, if a big story is available to everyone equally, journalists will pass on it.

"It's counterintuitive," he said then. "You'd think the bigger and more important the document is, the more likely it will be reported on but that's absolutely not true. It's about supply and demand. Zero supply equals high demand, it has value. As soon as we release the material, the supply goes to infinity, so the perceived value goes to zero."

- 2. The initial response from the White House was extremely unimpressive:
- * This leak will harm national security. (As if those words still had some kind of magical power, after all the abuse they have been party to.)
- * There's nothing new here. (Then how could the release harm national security?)
- * Wikileaks is irresponsible; they didn't even try to contact us! (Hold on: you're hunting the guy down and you're outraged that he didn't contact you?)
- * Wikileaks is against the war in Afghanistan; they're not an objective news source. (So does that mean the documents they published are fake?)
- * "The period of time covered in these documents... is before the President announced his new strategy. Some of the disconcerting things reported are exactly why the President ordered a three month policy review and a change in strategy." (Okay, so now we too know the basis for the President's decision: and that's a bad thing?)
- 3. If you don't know much about Wikileaks or why it exists, the best way to catch up is this New Yorker profile of Julien As-

sange.

http://anarchistnews.org/?q=node/11831

1.

"This action will be militant and confrontational, seeking to humiliate the security apparatus..."

- Southern Ontario Anarchist Resistance

"You see the humiliation on the officers faces when this stuff goes on in their city. My members are completely devastated by that." Mike McCormack, Toronto Police

Association

To say that anarchists' declarations of intent often seem quite unlikely to bear fruit is obvious. For example, in light of our calls to shut down any gathering of ruling elites that comes to our attention, the number of big summits effectively disrupted by anarchists is small. What is significant, then, about the destruction of June 26 in Toronto is that it was an explicit victory: we did what we said we were going to do, and had that fact echoed in the words of our bitter enemies. Our promises were realized on the streets.

Perhaps more importantly, said promises - or their putting-into-practice - resonated outside of the black bloc, outside of anarchists, and outside of "political" actors. In less exclusive language: normal people started fucking shit up. The demonstration - a performance piece of the sort that characterizes North American "countersummits" - was transcended by generalized rioting. Thus, Saturday was a victory for anarchists in a deeper sense. Autonomous direct action against capital and the state ("Burning cop cars and looting stores," Blatz), the anarchist project of attack, was taken up with people outside of an explicit identification with anarchism. Toronto Chief of Police, Bill Blair, observed, "Unfortunately, [anarchists'] criminal activity was made a lot easier by the complicity of the crowd, and so we had to contain and control the crowd in an effort to control those criminals." The broadening of complicities against law and order, even in a temporary way, is a vindication of the premise that the social peace is fragile. When the state loses its capacity to directly assert its monopoly on violence, the people "stand up! fight back!" in an authentic way.

2.

The largest mass arrests in the history of Canada - as of this writing, the media is saying over 900 - occurred in the days following the riot. An anarchist-organized demonstration against prisons, scheduled for the Sunday of June 27, was preempted by a virtual lockdown of the neighbourhood around Bruce Mackay Park, with police stopping and searching anybody unfortunate enough to be wearing a backpack or an article of black clothing. Muzzle blasts and rubber bullets were deployed against non-violent crowds outside of the makeshift detention centre. Still others of the 900 were arrested during the forceful clearing of the designated protest zone.

At least seventeen people are facing conspiracy charges, the evidence in which includes a rap video, an umbrella, and an undercover's recording of a spokescouncil in which those present come to a consensus on "no plan" (1). Four of the conspiracy arrests, of the Southern Ontario Anarchist Resistance's "executive directors", occurred in targeted raids early Saturday morning; they weren't even on the streets when shit hit the fan. Not surprisingly, there is a publication ban on the trials.

A press conference on the 29th, attempting to justify police actions, displayed seized "street weapons" such as a copy of anarchist journal "Upping The Anti", shin pads, and golf balls. Also on show were a chainsaw, a crossbow, and other objects which police admitted were unconnected to demonstrators, anarchists, or the summit, but happen to have been seized over the weekend.

This is the reality of social war: when the police are no longer able to discern the difference between protesters and anarchists, between self-proclaimed anarchists and criminals, between civil and uncivil society, they lash out indiscriminately. No doubt, in their attack on everyone unfortunate enough to be kettled in a given intersection, or to have attended a particular meeting, they may have arrested somebody who cracked a window on Saturday.