

BALACLAVA!

May 1-15, 2010

Issue #11

unceded Coast Salish Territory

Vancouver Media Co-op • Check out our videos and more online • vancouver.mediacoop.ca

Local media bombs after attack on activist

NOT WANTED: Taking the fight to Craig Cobb



Photos by Isaac Oommen

VANCOUVER - Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice (SHARP) called for an April 24 demonstration against the employer of known Neo-Nazi Craig Cobb. Before the demo, Cobb was fired from his job at Xantel DM.

A small group of skinheads and allies arrived at the Vancouver Art Gallery anyway. They walked from the gallery to Cobb's apartment (as posted on his own website), giving out and postering hundreds of leaflets along the way.

Xantel DM also fired the two employees who complained about Cobb's associations before firing the Neo-Nazi.

by Isaac Oommen

ABBOTSFORD - On April 6 a bomb exploded at the house of Maitland Cassia, an activist with SkinHeads Against Racial Prejudice (SHARP) and Anti-Racist Action (ARA).

As if that wasn't enough, the fallout included the Abbotsford Times running a story on the incident using



the activist's name and where he lives after promising not to. Reporter Rafe Arnott "agreed specifically not to run my name in connection to the incident, for the safety of my family, in front of several witnesses," said Cassia.

"The next morning, the Times ran my name, affiliation and address, even including a picture of our house from the street." Cassia said the story included comments "taken wildly out of context."

Cassia agreed to let Balaclava use his name since it is already in the news because of the Times story.

"The Times pulled its initial article after the threat of legal action," explained Cassia, "but by then Canwest/Global (which owns The Vancouver Sun & The Province) were running Arnott's article, or twisted versions thereof."

The incident follows a large ant-racist demonstration on the International Day for the Elimination of Racism. The demonstration was organized to counter a planned "white pride" march into Vancouver that never materialized.

"We are a political organization, not a street gang," concluded Cassia. "I want to prevent this from degenerating into street level violence, but with 400-500 people mobilized, and a large portion of them now screaming for Nazi blood, these actions have created a delicate situation.

"I wish to state my public opposition to a violent offensive, but I urge my brothers and sisters to defend themselves by any means necessary."

Illustration: freexero

COMING EVENTS

May Day International Workers Day **Saturday May 1 12 Noon**
Gather at Clark Park (Commercial at 14th), march to Grandview, rally 1-3pm

Workers Control not Border Controls **Saturday May 1 7:30 pm**
Performances and speakers, DJs. Free! Rhizome Cafe, 317 East Broadway

The Goonies Movie Night in the Park **Sunday May 2 time TBA (after dusk)**
Grandview Park

Community Assembly **Sunday May 9 4pm**
For information and action planning Grandview Park

We ate the G8 Teach-in at Robson Square **Thursday May 13 7pm**
UBC Robson Square

Launch of the Dominion's Special Issue on the G8/G20 **Friday May 14 8pm**
Come for the Magazine, Stay for the Party APC office, 459 East Hastings

We Ate the G8 Workshops **Saturday May 15 11am-5pm**
SFU Harbour Centre

Block Party **Saturday May 15 time TBA (after dusk)**
Dancing, Biki Polo and more! Let's take the streets!! Grandview Park





GatewaySucks.org and the Council of Canadians (Delta/Richmond chapter) unfurled a massive banner on land that has been slated for freeway construction. Historic homes and Indigenous sites are being demolished or are under threat from the South Fraser Perimeter Road (SFPR) on banks of the Fraser.

The G8 University Summit, the Olympics and the future of public education

by Myka Abramson

VANCOUVER -- Representatives from the leading universities of the G8 will arrive in Vancouver May 21 for the G8 University Summit. Like the 2010 Winter Olympics, the G8 University summit markets itself as a project of sustainability and community development and like the Olympics, the legacy of the G8 University summit is one of privatization and corporatization. This is not the first time the University Summit has followed the Olympics: in 2009, Turin hosted the Summit three years after the 2006 Olympics.

In 2003, BC Premier Gordon Campbell called the Olympics the “largest single public-private partnership [P3] initiative in Canada.” P3s have long been a code word for the transfer of funds from public to private hands, and the University sector

has been no exception. Since Campbell’s speech, tuition has skyrocketed 52 per cent and the provincial grants programs was cut (2004). This year the BC Liberals cut \$16 million in student aid. According to the Canadian Federation of Students, “by 2011 tuition fees will be more revenue for the government than corporate income tax.”

Simon Fraser University recently developed a partnership with a private ESL college on its Burnaby campus and has become a partner in the Woodward’s building - part of a larger project to gentrify the Downtown Eastside.

Like the June G20 in Toronto, the G8 University Summit is just another piece of this larger program of de-funding, privatization, and gentrification.



For more info on mobilizations against the G8 University Summit: van.mobilize@gmail.com or visit <http://vcmn.resist.ca>

SUPPORT

local, independent news!

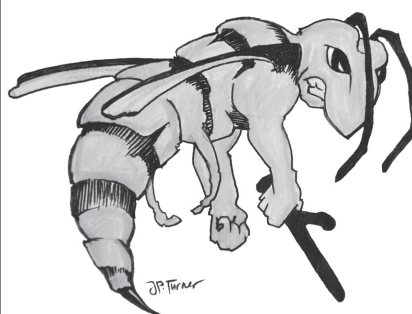
For as little as
\$5 a month,
you can own
your media!

Become a sustainer now: www.mediacoop.ca/join
Vancouver Media Co-op vancouver.mediacoop.ca

Yellow Jackets on patrol

by Dawn Paley

The company that provided private security for the 2010 Olympics has replaced Genesis Security as the security firm of choice for the Strathcona Business Improvement Association.



Two members of Contemporary Security Canada (CSC) were spotted on April 26 at Dunlevy and East Hastings Street, aggressively harassing people on the street. One man, who walked away from the security staff, said that the cops don’t bother people

for using or standing around there the way the CSC guards were.

CSC was formed specifically to provide private security during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. The firm received a federal contract for \$97.4 million in the lead up to the Games. It trained thousands of guards and hired more than 5,000 in February, 2010.

Gretchen Overholtzer from the Strathcona BIA confirmed that the organization switched to CSC in November. She claimed the switch over had nothing to do with the Winter Olympics, but did admit that they had “maybe heard of their name a little bit” because they got the security contract for the Games.

Illustration: Jordan P. Turner

★ WWW.PURPLETHISTLE.CA ★

Purple Thistle Centre

VISIT: #260-975 VERNON DR.
EAST VANCOUVER, BC, V6A 3P2
COAST SALISH TERRITORY

CALL: 604.255.2838
INFO@PURPLETHISTLE.CA