

peeing in their pants and on their constituents.

Not so John Clarke whose anti-poverty demonstration was similarly broken up at the turn of the century. For months after, the OCAP leadership was targeted in courts, Clarke not allowed to go near the Legislature which is at a corner of downtown that is the hub of the transportation network. Among the first of the principled people targeted as “terrorist”, he deserves recognition.

Only last year, one of their number, Gaetan Heroux was fired from his position in a street-health organization which attempted to move his office to suburban Scarborough beyond the reach of clients dependent on him. I saw him sitting issuing whatever he was issuing to a line of the poor before he was fired, then to cheer my troubled and cowardly heart in bad times, he was putting up posters in his own defense using a bucket of glue against the walls of my own place of work.

Surrounding him were Toronto cops who have clearly been watching those vicious cop shows where intimidating and humiliating the poor is entertainment, a very old art form of filthy money from the dawn of capitalism onward. Gaetan, my hero, calmly completed his task and walked across the street against the traffic and proceeded to do the same in full sight of an inspired crowd of young people.

“What are you smiling about?” said a cop to a kid looking on in that surly voice which is surely a part of their training. “You”, the kid said. This loss of fear of the cops everywhere is a startling change. I see it daily when harassment becomes an opportunity for street theater different from OCAP’s, but politically, no offense meant, more important. The kids long ago lost their respect for authority, but losing their fear is new, and the street theater many put on when they are harassed is very encouraging.

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