

## CHRISTINE LECLERC / G20 2009

Ambient sound of white noise throughout.

Sound of a helicopter overhead.

0:00

The screen reads:

G20 2009  
September 24

Democracy 101:  
Riot Police Attack  
Students at the  
University of Pittsburgh.<sup>1</sup>

•

A partially lit tower.

•

Sound like synth-vultures.

A student walks through the night as police arrive on campus in black pickup trucks.

•

A black truck with SWAT written on it enters left. Blinding lights.

A cyclist pedals past.

The truck plays the synth-vulture sound as it drives past a rowdy

<sup>1</sup> Works well as scansion exercise.

looking group of troublemakers with POLICE written across their chests.

Red light streams from the truck's open back door and someone with a black helmet on is inside.

•

A searchlight, and not the moon, is seen through the branches of a large tree.

0:30

AUTOMATED POLICE CHIEF

Those who remain by order of the city of  
Pittsburg Chief of Police I hereby  
declare this to be an unlawful assembly I  
order all those assembled to immediately  
disperse you must leave the immediate  
vicinity—

•

People in riot gear.

—if you do not disperse you may be  
arrested and subject to other police  
action.

•

People in t-shirts stand under trees.

A grenade lands nearby.

PEOPLE

Oh!

The light is blinding and there is a lens flare.

Someone in a t-shirt is filmed filming something.

•

People in black helmets advance through a cloud of smoke.  
Someone in a white t-shirt walks past.

A grenade lands

•

and people scatter.

People run across the lawn.

A grenade is launched.

A PERSON

Oh my—

PERSONS

Oh, god—

Fug—

•

A young man in a t-shirt holds an old man in a suit and glasses. Other students standby.

YOUNG MAN

(lets go a little) Are you okay?

The old man begins to fall.

YOUNG MAN

(catches old man) Actually not okay—

YOUNG WOMAN  
(runs up) I'm speechless, I am—

•

There are large white trucks parked across the street and the students in the foreground leave coughing.

•

A police lightbar flashes. Windshield and other indeterminate objects suffer the blue-red glow.

Students mill about.

PERSON  
Yo, I got the grenade! Grenade! This is  
the grenade they were throwing at us,  
says—

A SECOND PERSON  
What is that?

A THIRD PERSON  
Fucker.

PERSON  
Six two four dee ay oh see oh see be  
aerosol grenade.

1:30

SOMEONE ELSE  
Ah, we weren't rioting. We were just  
sitting there in the William Pitt Union  
Lawn—our own, our own union. That's  
where they take us down, our own  
union, just sittin there, doin nothin  
wrong.

•

FROM CROWD

Shit!

People run.

People freak out.

SOMEONE

Get the fuck—

Screams.

•

Witnesses witness the scene with cameras as the witness witnesses people run past. Some cameras are news cameras.

SOMEONE

Holy shit! They were spraying pepper spray at us. They were—I'm just a student!

•

Helicopter gets louder as it hovers above the tower like a not-moon in the night sky.

Students mill about amid towers. Lamplight lights the scene. There is a lens flare.

•

Two women walk past as agitated students mill about in the background. One woman walks with her phone flipped open. The other puts an arm around her.

•

About seventy people in white, black, red, yellow, green, blue, and  
stripped t-shirts occupy the street.

2:00

Halogen lamplight glints off the visors of those who wear helmets.  
They walk down the street shoulder to shoulder.

The crowd emits the sound of garbled voices.

SOMEONE  
—photographer—yeah—

CHANTERS  
(shout) Let's go Pitt! Let's go Pitt! Let's  
go Pitt!

•

The helmet-wearers also wear gas masks. Zip ties hang from their  
fanny packs.

TARZAN VOCAL IMPRESSIONIST  
(hollers) FREEDOM!

Someone holds a sign above their head. It reads:

1  
AMENDMENT

Their thumbs touch the A and T.

•

Woman in a sweat suit waits for a friend as people run from the crack  
of a new grenade.

•

A big black truck.

Muffled voice. A person dressed as G.I. Joe presses someone's head into a low rock wall.

2:30

People run past hand in hand.

SOMEONE

(to someone) Hey! What's your name,  
dude? What's your name?

SOMEONE

Hhkhkhoh.

G.I. Joes swoop in.

G.I. JOE

Get back!

SOMEONE

(to someone) Hey, dude, shout out your  
name. What's your name?

•

G.I. JOE

(comes at witness, shouts) Get back!  
Move! Get back!

•

Three POLICE on the back of a pick up.

•

A pick up stops at South Bouquet Street.

The people in the crosswalk cover their ears.

AUTOMATED POLICE CHIEF

The use of riot control agents and or less  
lethal munitions which could cause risk  
of injury to those who, \*synth-vulture.\*

SOMEONE

Ow!

Witness' camera jerks about.

AUTOMATED POLICE CHIEF

Injury, \*synth-vulture.\*

SOMEONE ELSE

Assholes!

AUTOMATED POLICE CHIEF

Injury to those who remain

•

no matter what your purpose is you must  
leave if you do not disperse you may be  
arrested and or subject to other police  
action.

Slow-moving people in t-shirts, some with cameras, walk along sidewalk.

•

People in POLICE vests advance to the words of the automated police  
chief.

AUTOMATED POLICE CHIEF

—emissions which could cause risk of  
injury to those who remain by order of



the city of Pittsburgh Chief of Police I  
hereby declare this to be an unlawful  
assembly I order all those assembled to  
immediately disperse.

3:30

A sign in the background reads:

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURG<sup>2</sup>

•

SOMEONE  
—the fucking people on top of Forbes.

A parked car. A line of POLICE. Wagon behind them.

They're macing the people on top of  
Forbes.

SOMEONE  
Where the fuck are we supposed to go?

•

Police advance, zip straps on fanny packs.

Two people do not leave street. The helmet-wearers plow them along.

CHANTERS  
(shout) Beat 'em! Beat 'em! Beat 'em!

Several POLICE break away, tackle the pair.

<sup>2</sup> Trochaic tetrameter.

White truck enters left.

•

There is a parking garage in the background and a gas station nearby.

WITNESS

Excuse me. Could, could you explain the reasons for all of this? Sir? What, what's happening? Sir?

Man with badge stares at You.

Another officer appears.

ANOTHER OFFICER

(waves his left hand) You gotta clear out. You gotta, clear out.

WITNESS

Could you explain, could you explain what's happening? Why, why we have to disperse.

MAN WITH BADGE

Get that camera out of my face.

Man with badge looks away.

Witness continues.