

The Nor*east

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY OF THE
• NORTHEAST ANARCHIST NETWORK •

The Northeast Anarchist Network is a regional, horizontal organizing network in the Northeast, striving to link those committed to anti-authoritarian, anti-capitalist and anti-oppressive struggles.

We recognize that the anarchist movement has a diversity of perspectives and priorities. We seek to nurture solidarity and mutual aid among all participants of the Network, especially in the face of repression.

Started in February 2007 by anarchists from across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, NEAN has grown through many subsequent meetings around the region. The process of creating this Network has connected many groups and individuals and has been a catalyst for the formation of new groups and projects. We have reason to be optimistic about the future of this Network and region, and we welcome anyone sympathetic to our goals to be a part of it. www.NeAnarchist.net

The Nor'easter aims to provide an outlet for anarchist-related news and events while simultaneously introducing non-anarchists to anarchism and plugging them into the movement.

May Day: Then and Now

By JAKE CARMAN

In the late 1800s, workers in the United States faced abysmal conditions on the job. Workers, including children, could suffer 16 or more hours a day under dangerous, stifling sweatshop conditions to earn starvation wages and live in cramped quarters. Like today, workers poured in from all over the world to pursue the American Dream through their own honest labor. Workers came from Ireland, Italy, Germany, China, Russia, Japan, Spain, Mexico, Norway, Syria, Slovakia, Poland and elsewhere in search of better lives. When they arrived, however, they faced blatant racism and hate, just like migrant workers do today. Eking out hard livings in tight-knit ethnic communities, most were considered second-class citizens, regarded as diseased criminals, untrustworthy scoundrels and, most importantly, a cheap and dispensable source of labor.

Comparing their tortured conditions to the lives of luxury and leisure that their labor provided to the factory owners and bosses, these workers became determined to organize and win for themselves lives worthy of humans.

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NEAN flag waves on May Day 2009 in Boston.
Photo by Brad R.

Life and Death on the Border

By HUNTER JACKSON



Photo by: Hunter Jackson.

Paulino was from Puebla but had lived in the United States for seven years. After his mother died, he returned to Mexico for her funeral and then had to figure out how to get back to his life north of the border. He decided to bring with him his two youngest daughters, Arleta (age 9) and Jacquelin (age 14), who had been living with their grandmother. They began their walk through the brutal Sonoran Desert a few days before Jacquelin's *quinceañera* (fifteenth birthday party), a major milestone in the life of many Mexican girls. Their *pollero* (guide) assured Paulino the trip would be quick and the girls would safely be with their mother in L.A. in time for the party.

As is often the case, the trip took much longer than expected. Days of walking up and down rocky trails in the extreme heat wore them all down, especially Jacquelin. She became sick and unable to keep up with the rest of the group. The *pollero* left the three of them behind. The next day,

Paulino tried unsuccessfully to flag down a passing Border Patrol helicopter. He was considering starting a brush fire to get some attention when we ran into him.

They were miles from any road, in the middle of the desert, and Jacquelin was not doing well. She had turned 15 the day before, but their circumstances diminished the significance of the event. That July afternoon it was 110 degrees in the shade. Unfortunately, there is very little shade in the desert.

It was my first day volunteering with No More Deaths, an organization based in Tucson that provides direct humanitarian aid to people crossing the border in southern Arizona. We had set out early that morning, the dangerous sun still low in the sky, to patrol the remote trails that crisscross the desert and lead literally thousands of people into the United States every day.

Each group of volunteers has at least one Spanish speaker and someone with medical training. Our medic tried to cool

down Jacquelin's overheated body and gave her water. Luckily, Jacquelin was in good shape — in Puebla she had been a soccer star. It did not take much to restore her strength and energy. Armed with several gallons of water, food and packets of electrolytes, the three set off to continue their journey north as the sun started to set behind the stark stone mountains to the west.

During the time I have spent volunteering with No More Deaths over the last two years, I have met many other people on the trails. Everyone has had a different story, a different reason they were risking their lives to cross the desert on foot. Many (like Paulino and his daughters) have families already in the United States that they are trying to join. Others leave their homes to come work for a few years, save some money and then go back.

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Resisting Unconventional Gas Drilling in the Finger Lakes, Marcellus Shale

By DISOBEY WAN KENOBI OF
SHAESHOCK ACTION ALLIANCE

As fossil fuel resources reach their peaks, energy companies move toward the most marginal, hard-to-get-to reserves, using the most intensive, destructive, toxic extraction techniques. From the tar sands of Alberta to mountain-top removal in the coal fields of Appalachia, the scope of violation to land and communities boggles the mind. Now, we in the Northeast are staring down the barrel of "unconventional" natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale. Similar operations are occurring throughout the Rockies, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and elsewhere, but in this article, I'll focus on the Northeast.

The Marcellus Shale stretches from Upstate New York through Pennsylvania, West Virginia and eastern Ohio. It has been described as the Saudi Arabia of natural gas — the third largest natural gas field on the planet. Big players such as Exxon/Mobil, Halliburton, Talisman, Chesapeake, Schlumberger and others are busily drilling in Pennsylvania and are working their way through toothless regulatory agencies in New York, where they are expected to begin drilling this summer. They also plan to construct between 50,000 and 100,000 five-acre wells — a massive industrialization of rural landscapes and lives.

How It Works, in a Nutshell

"Conventional" gas drilling involves variations on the theme of drilling into a pocket of gas and sucking it up. The Marcellus Shale, however, is a mass of widely dispersed little bubbles of gas. As

such, it could not be obtained until Halliburton created the technology to literally shatter the shale to break up the bubbles. This technology, "High Volume Horizontal Slickwater Hydraulic Fracturing" (usually referred to as variations of "hydro-fracking" or just "fracking"), involves two- to nine-million gallons of water per "frack." Blended with this are about 10,000 gallons of toxic chemicals, which are sand-blasted deep beneath the ground at very high pressures for each "frack." Fracking may occur up to 12 times over the life of a well (up to 40 years). That water must be trucked there (10,000-gallon tanker trucks, plus nine-million gallons water/frack, plus 12 fracks, plus 100,000 wells equals lots of trucks...), and it must be trucked away to an as-of-yet unknown place when it has become toxic waste.

The dangers involved include but are not limited to: ground and surface water contamination with chemicals and methane (in Colorado, some folks can ignite their tap water), chemical spills, massive removal and toxification of fresh water from ecosystems, air pollution and ground-level ozone exposure (from constantly running diesel equipment) and, of course, the perpetual question of what to do with billions of gallons of toxic waste. The chemicals involved are known carcinogens and endocrine disruptors. Serious health effects have been reported by residents in drilled areas.

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Jonah Fields in Wyoming, 40 acres of spacing gas development.

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POINTS OF UNITY:

- 1. A very clear rejection of capitalism, imperialism and authoritarianism.
- 2. A rejection of all forms and systems of domination. Embracing the full dignity of all.
- 3. An attitude of active resistance toward all state, corporate and other oppressive institutions.
- 4. A call to direct action, support for emancipatory social movements, advocating for the liberation of all, as well as the construction of local alternatives.
- 5. An organizational philosophy based on decentralization and autonomy. This network is specifically inclusive of all Anarchist struggles and supports all of them as long as they adhere to these Points of Unity, even though not everyone in the Network might consider a particular struggle a priority. Anarchists must show solidarity with each other's struggles as a principle of revolutionary necessity. In order to embody these values, we see the need for an Anarchist social revolution.

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Nor'easter Statement

When mayor of San Francisco Gavin Newsom first introduced gay marriage to the U.S. political scene in 2004, the California Supreme Court was quick to overturn it. But Newsom warned that he had started a ball rolling, and it was unlikely to stop until every state deemed the ban unconstitutional, whether California agreed or not. Five years later, Newsom's prophecy is beginning to come true: A majority of New England states, including Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and Maine, as well as Iowa, now recognize same-sex marriages, with New York and Washington, D.C. currently working on similar bills.

Gay allies everywhere are excited by the success of the campaign. But as legislation changes, state by state, it is important to remember that – along with racism, sexism and transphobia – homophobia itself has not been written out of daily life. Furthermore, to the extent that gayness has been accepted in the mainstream, it has also been commodified. Institutional acceptance could limit the movement to seek change through legislation, stripping it of the revolutionary nature that has for thousands of years shaken the foundation of hetero-patriarchal society. Only a partial

milestone, the legalization of gay marriage does not guarantee liberation and dignity for all. Legalized gay marriage should not marginalize those elements within the movement that challenge gender binaries and hetero-normative institutions. Keeping queerness radical and pluralistic will be essential to the gay rights movement. Because, as with any movement, no one is free until we all are.

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ISSUE 4 CORRECTIONS:

Sea Bandits: Two photos, of militants with the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), were mislabeled as Somali pirates. MEND operates in the delta rivers near the Atlantic coast, is ethnically Ijaw and hits transnational oil extraction instead of shipping.

Send corrections to noreaster@neanarchist.net

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G20 Demonstrations

On April 1 and 2, the G20, a group of finance ministers and central bank governors from the world's 20 most powerful economies, met in London, sparking protests and police repression. Beginning on March 28, with 40,000 people participating in the Put People First March, activists from a variety of affiliations made known their opposition to the policies of the G20 and global environmental and social conditions.

On April 1, dubbed "Financial Fools Day," thousands of people took to the streets of London, converging around the Bank of England. The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), which has received billions of pounds from the British government to prevent it from collapsing, was invaded by protesters who broke windows and went inside, destroying equipment and spraying graffiti.

A Climate Camp was set up outside the Carbon Exchange to protest the practice of carbon trading. Carbon trading is the scheme by wealthy industrialized nations and corporations to avoid reducing their carbon emissions, instead turning the emissions into another commodity to be traded. The camp was complete with kitchens, toilets, tents, workshops, picnics, barricades and more.

On April 2, police raided an activist social center called RampART, breaking through windows and doors and arresting several people. The squatted center was being used by protesters as a convergence space when police forced their way in, detaining everyone, threatening them with Tasers and reportedly tearing up floorboards inside the building.

The primary tactic used by the police was that of "kettling," in which lines of riot police surround groups of protesters and hold them in place for several hours, not letting anyone leave without being photographed and identified. The often brutal and aggressive actions of the police led to the death of a man named Ian Tomlinson. He was apparently on his way home from work as a newspaper vendor when he was attacked from behind by riot cops, swinging batons and forcing him to the ground. Several minutes later, Tomlinson died. An autopsy revealed that the cause of death was internal bleeding, and there is a possibility that the officer who hit and pushed Tomlinson could face manslaughter charges.

The Big Apple Occupied New York Schools See a New Trend

In recent months, New York City has developed into a hotbed for local university occupation.

In December 2008, students at the New School University occupied their Graduate Faculty building at 65 5th Ave., demanding the resignation of university president Bob Kerrey and his executive vice president, James Murtha. Kerrey, who in December received an overwhelming vote of doubt from the faculty at the New School, refused to resign, but agreed not to press charges or reprimand any of the occupation participants. The occupation lasted about 30 hours and ended questionably through negotiations.

Then, on Feb. 18, 2009, students at New York University occupied the Kimmel Center for University Life with a list of demands, such as guaranteeing fair labor practices for all University employees, more transparency for the school budget, tuition stabilization for all students and investigations into corporate ties between the university and war profiteers. The administration refused to negotiate, and on Feb. 20, the NYPD stormed the building and arrested or cleared out all occupiers. Many of the students who took part in the occupation were suspended for their involvement. More than 170 NYU faculty members signed a statement calling for the suspended students' return.

Early in the morning on April 10, students at the New School University once again occupied the building at 65 5th Ave., again calling for the resignation of Bob Kerrey and James Murtha. This time, however, no negotiations ensued. Instead, riot police arrived, surrounding the building and occupying the roof. Police forced their way inside, spraying tear gas and pepper spray into the building, arresting dozens. In early May Bob Kerrey announced he will be leaving his position at the end of his term in July, 2011.

While dissatisfied CUNY (City University of New York) students were protesting tuition hikes earlier this spring, they have not attempted an occupation. In 1990, however, CUNY students did stage a sit-in, stating similar complaints.

NYU students protest tuition hikes on April 21.
Photo by Louise Pedigo.

Rhizome Collective Evicted

On March 17, the Rhizome Collective, an Austin, Tex.-based group that focuses on urban sustainability, was evicted from their warehouse by City of Austin Code Enforcement. The warehouse, located at 300 Allen St. in Austin, has been used by Rhizome for nine years and was also the headquarters of several other groups, such as Austin Food Not Bombs, Bikes Across Borders and Inside Books.

On March 3, officials from the Buildings and Standards Commission of the City of Austin inspected the warehouse, and on March 5, a letter outlining code violations was delivered to the collective. There were 15 violations in all, including "unsafe sewage systems," most likely referring to the greywater filtration system set up by Rhizome to use otherwise wasted wash-water to feed plants and trees. The residents and organizations that used the warehouse were given until March 16 to vacate the premises.

At the time of the eviction notice, the Rhizome Collective was in talks to purchase the warehouse from its owners. However, due to the cost of bringing the building up to code, combined with the \$30,000-a-day fine threatened by the City of Austin, purchasing the warehouse is no longer an option.

A 9.8 acre brownfield site, which was donated to Rhizome from the City of Austin in 2004, along with a \$200,000 cleanup grant from the EPA, was not affected by the eviction.



May Day from page 1

Many immigrants brought with them the radical traditions of their native countries. Anarchists, socialists and other revolutionaries found eager ears among their fellow workers, foreign and native-born alike. Recognizing the injustices of the United States, they dreamed of a world where workers controlled the products of their labor, where all people had access to food and housing, and where communities – not politicians and bosses – made the decisions.

A movement for an eight-hour day was gaining momentum across the country. This struggle, undertaken by reformers and radicals alike, demanded eight hours for work, eight for sleep and eight for leisure. Chicago's strong labor movement won this right in 1867, to be enacted May 1. However, when that day came, the bosses refused to respect it and the government didn't force them to. Chicago's militant, organized workers went on strike to protest, but the police brutally crushed their resistance within a week and the despondent workers returned to their jobs.

In 1886, another, more radical eight-hour movement gained momentum. Led by migrant and other workers in the anarchist International Working People's Association (IWPA), a general strike was planned for May 1 to proclaim the power and strength of Chicago's determined workers. On May

1, 1886, Chicago saw 400,000 on strike, with another 350,000 joining them across the nation.

Labor Crucified

The workers' momentum continued with strikes and demonstrations. On May 3, the striking "lumber shovers" union held a public meeting of 6,000 near the McCormick plant. The police attacked the meeting with guns and batons, killing one worker and wounding more. Outraged, anarchists posted a call in their daily German-language paper, the *Arbeiter-Zeitung* ("Workers' Newspaper"), for a May 4 protest at Haymarket Square.

That night, thousands gathered at Haymarket to denounce police violence. The crowd listened calmly to speeches by migrant anarchist workers such as August Spies and Samuel Fielden. Even the mayor of Chicago, who attended the beginning half of the rally, said, "Nothing looked likely to happen to require police interference," and he advised police captain Bonfield to send his forces home. Bonfield didn't. Around 10 p.m., after the mayor and many attendees left, and as Fielden was calling the meeting to a close, Bonfield's force of 200 officers marched on the rally, threatening violence and demanding dispersal. Someone then threw a bomb at the police, killing one instantly and injuring many. In the chaos,

police fired indiscriminately, killing seven of their own plus numerous demonstrators, though they never counted the latter.

"Make the raids first and look up the law afterwards," the state prosecutor said. Police arrested all known anarchists and raided meeting halls, printing offices and homes. Eight prominent anarchists, newspaper editors and unionists – August Spies, Sam Fielden, Albert Parsons, Adolph Fischer, George Engel, Michael Schwab, Louis Lingg and Oscar Neebe – were charged with the Haymarket bombing. Of the eight men, seven were immigrants and only three were at Haymarket that night.

The state prosecutor handpicked a biased jury, but presented no evidence connecting them to the bomb. As the prosecution argued in court, "Anarchy is on trial. These men have been selected, picked out by the Grand Jury and indicted because they were leaders. They are no more guilty than the thousands who follow them. Gentlemen of the jury; convict these men, make examples of them, hang them and you save our institutions, our society." And so they did.

A massive international campaign followed, propelled by Lucy Parsons, an effective labor organizer and wife of Albert Parsons. In response, the state commuted the sentences of Schwab and Fielden to life

Still Hacking the Planet After All These Years

In early 2009, anarchist hacker Moxie Marlinspike, based in Pittsburgh, Penn., released to the public a program called SSLStrip. The program works by fooling an Internet user's Web browser into displaying a non-secure page as if it were a secure page, thus making any information sent vulnerable to interception. The program exploits vulnerabilities in browsers' implementation of Secure Sockets Layer (SSL), which is an Internet protocol meant to provide security for information exchanges.

SSLStrip is a type of "man-in-the-middle" (MITM) attack, which is when an attacker places themselves between two victims (for example, the first being someone logging in to their bank account and the second being the Web site of the bank itself) and makes both of the victims think they are communicating with each other, when in reality they are communicating with the attacker. MITM attacks are nothing new. All of the elements that make up SSLStrip previously existed in one form or another. SSLStrip simply combines several vulnerabilities in one easy-to-use program.

The tool was demonstrated by Marlinspike at the Black Hat Briefings in Washington, D.C. in February. Black Hat Briefings are a series of conferences focusing on information security, bringing together the top minds in this field from governmental, corporate, academic and underground sectors.

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New England Brings the Noise to the IMF and World Bank

By THE NEW ENGLAND CLUSTERFUCK

From April 24-26, hundreds gathered in Washington, D.C. to demonstrate against and disrupt the bi-annual meeting of self-described world financial leaders. Every spring and fall the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank meet with delegates from all over the world, but primarily from the wealthiest, most powerful nations and corporations. The G20, the 20 wealthiest nations in the world, recently approved giving the IMF over \$1 trillion to lend to other nations in the name of global capitalism. For almost a decade, anarchists, labor advocates, environmentalists and others seeking global justice have been protesting these meetings, working to prevent delegates from getting to the IMF headquarters to devise policies that result in worldwide economic and ecological devastation.

Who Are the IMF and World Bank?

Over the past 60 years, the IMF and World Bank have been waging a war against impoverished communities worldwide. They execute these attacks through Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs), which force governments to cut public services such as utilities, education and healthcare. SAPs encourage privatization, putting vital operations into the hands of unaccountable, profit-driven multinational corporations and away from local control.

As an example, the impositions of the IMF and World Bank eventually caused

the collapse of Argentina's economy in 2001, leaving the Argentinean people with nothing but a spirit of resistance as banks took all of the country's money out in armored vehicles.

April Uprising, 2009

Plans had been underway for months before the April meeting of the IMF and World Bank. The fairly elaborate agenda of events for the weekend included a 5K "Run on the Bank" and a walking tour of downtown D.C. on Friday. On Saturday and Sunday, blockades, multiple marches – with and without permits – and a People's Economic Forum (with a panel discussion, featuring Boston's James Herod) explained the world financial crisis and presented alternatives to the destructive capitalist model. Autonomous actions throughout the weekend were also encouraged.

After folks became more familiar with the city, autonomous actions began. In the early morning hours of Sat. April 25, a small group redecorated PNC and Wachovia banks with paint, smashed 10 windows, caused tens of thousands of dollars in damage and closed the branches for at least three days. While self-described journalists and cops had a hard time making the connection, both of these banks, like the IMF and WB, are complicit in the financial crisis sweeping this nation and the globe. Their policies punish the poor, and these banks are responsible for evicting hundreds of families from their homes. Both of the banks received federal bailout money and continue their anti-poor policies. In October 2008, within hours of receiving \$7.7 billion in federal bailout money, PNC acquired National City Corporation for \$5.58 billion. It is obvious that this was a premeditated move by PNC; knowing

they would be in receipt of federal money, they decided to expand instead of using that money to help keep people in their homes or fund community enrichment projects.

Later Saturday morning, multiple marches against the IMF snaked around the streets of D.C., working to prevent the delegates from reaching IMF headquarters. One march was aerobics-themed and others were explicitly anti-capitalist. When the anti-capitalist marches met up with the spandex march, they left the sidewalks and took the streets, followed by increased police attention. The march was effective in using reinforced banners to hold space on the street as well as prevent the police from forcing people back onto the sidewalks. The march chose a route that brought it to three checkpoints around the IMF that were used to smuggle in delegates.

As the march approached each of these checkpoints, police had to shut them down and re-route self-described world financial leaders elsewhere. Anti-capitalists managed to shut down two of the checkpoints. As they approached the third in the front of IMF headquarters, police attacked. The march had almost pushed through a line of police when a reinforced banner snapped, shooting bamboo into the faces of police. An intense shoving match ensued. Protesters faced off against police, who were attacking with batons, grabbing, jostling and head-butting demonstrators with their helmets. Protesters were eventually pushed toward the sidewalk and into a metal fence surrounding Murrow Park. The cops kept pushing, and there was no room left to move; those who fell were trampled.

A federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agent deployed a mixture of teargas and pepper spray while other police used standard-issue pepper

spray. This was the first use of chemical weapons at a protest in D.C. since Bush's inauguration in 2005. One protester, sprayed at point-blank range, required hospitalization, as did her partner, who suffered a severe leg injury. Street medics treated over a dozen people for exposure to chemical weapons. Police sustained injuries as well; one was sent to the hospital for facial injuries from bamboo, another from being sprayed by the ICE agent. In the end, the IMF/WB meeting was delayed for over two hours, the same amount of time the militant march had been in the streets.

On Saturday night, after the People's Economic Forum, a soccer-bloc took to the streets and ended up in Georgetown – the wealthy commercial area of the city where delegates schmoozed in swanky hotels. Police came down hard, detaining most of the participants, arresting two and slowly releasing the rest. Police accused 21 medics of "hiding behind the cross" – that is, pretending to be medics while actually participating in the action. Sunday afternoon saw an uneventful, permitted march of 150 people, ending at a rally with a speak-out.

Final Thoughts

Saturday's successes can be attributed in part to autonomous actions across the city throughout the morning. Despite the rapid failure of the publicized blockade strategy, there were enough independent backup plans that the IMF/WB meeting was still delayed for two full hours. The organizing groups, Global Justice Action and the Self-Described Anarchist Collective, provided activists with logistics, legal and housing support, but it was up to affinity groups to organize actions.

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Intro to Free Schools

By WES HANNAH

Across the Northeast, radical free schools ("free skools") are on the rise. More and more cities are seeing their educational opportunities broadened through non-traditional programs involving the likes of young and old, Ph.D.-holder and high-school dropout alike. Their common goal is to replace, or at least fill the holes left by, the current education system.

According to David Easton, advisor at the Brooklyn Free School in New York, "The mission of our school is to help students get to know and understand themselves, and in that sense pursue the things that they're passionate about and interested in, [as] part of a community of people doing the same thing."

Mainstream schools and educational policies tend to implement rigid learning environments in which students are taught using formulaic methods, stressing discipline and indoctrination, while minimizing critical thinking and independent investigation. While society largely measures a student's intelligence and maturity by how many grade levels they have passed or how many diplomas they have accumulated, these alternative free schools are attempting to return focus to education for the sake of enrichment.

Some common attributes of free schools include an emphasis on peer education, self-motivation over artificial goals and incentives, and a non-hierarchical dynamic between students, teachers/facilitators and parents. Peer education means that all participants have something to share and to learn; teachers and textbooks don't have a monopoly on knowledge. And rather than a strict emphasis on tests, grades and attendance, students are encouraged to develop at their own rate and pursue what truly interests them.

In such environments, it is not the institution's role to dictate how and when

students will be exposed to certain concepts. According to Easton, mainstream schools' "focus is on external things, whether it's a canon of knowledge or certain outward expectations that come from politicians who decide that they are important for everybody. [The Brooklyn Free School's] goals are individually focused."

This non-hierarchical dynamic means that just as students themselves have something to contribute to the learning process, they also have a right to be a part of the direction-setting of the school itself. Some groups, such as the Ithaca Freeskool, operate with an open collective so that new people can get involved in the organizing, while others, such as the Brooklyn Free School have regular council meetings for students, teachers and parent-volunteers to set school rules and direction together.

The variety of free-school models is diverse and fills a range of niches – some are small collectives that line up calendars of skill-shares and other workshops, while others more closely replicate traditional schools, albeit with less rigidity and, according to them, more success.

"I was a public school teacher for two years," Easton said, "and I think it's pretty obvious pretty quickly without having any sort of instrument to measure by: Our students are happy; they know their strengths and their weaknesses and how they learn." Easton has been at the Brooklyn Free School for four years and says he's seen students grow and get to know themselves better every year.

The Ithaca Freeskool, on the other hand, is a different type of free school, which serves more as a system for organizing skill-shares. Founded three years ago, the first classes included fun-and-games in the park, an anarchist reading circle and bike repair, to name a few. Since then, the program has expanded – this spring the group offered 31 classes, including the making of tortillas, tempeh and maple syrup; workshops on yoga and chi gong; and an introduction to

woodworking. Programs such as these are relatively less complex to organize; the Ithaca collective, for example, solicits workshops, helps facilitators find meeting spaces, and prints and circulates the calendars.

Some more intensive alternative-education programs, such as the Albany Free School and the Brooklyn Free School, have their own campuses. The Albany Free School has, in fact, assembled an entire complex of school buildings, housing, a farm and a store to help fund the program – and they strive to offer a comprehensive alternative to traditional schooling. Most have paid staff and offer a full day of learning, mimicking a traditional school calendar. They can also have large cooperative educational projects and offer resources such as farms, darkrooms, computer labs and more.

These are, of course, only two examples from the multitude of "free" learning models out there. Here in the Northeast, we have a diverse range of options, with more free schools forming and growing every year.

Although they are rising in popularity, free schools do face some challenges. Those that operate with a volunteer collective body require a large amount of energy, which risks burnt-out volunteers and collapsing programs. Such schools furthermore face a problem with mainstream legitimization. While government accreditation may not matter to some participants, parents and children may need to consider the long-term pros and cons to an alternative education, or may need to be sure of the level of accreditation of their chosen school.

Overall, these programs complement or offer practical alternatives to conventional schooling with high success rates. "Everyone who comes here, even if they don't stay here, experiences different levels of that success," Easton said. "They come here and leave knowing where they want to go and what they want to do. I would love for there to be an instrument that can measure that someday."✱

Additional reporting contributed by HANNAH E. DOBBZ

Some Free Schools in the Northeast:

North Star

Hadley, MA | Teens

Sudbury Valley School

Framingham, MA | Elementary

WoGAN FreeSkool

Worcester, MA | All ages

Ashuelot River Free School

Winchester, NH | All ages

Ithaca FreeSkool

Ithaca, NY | All ages

Harriet Tubman Free School

Albany, NY | Teens

The Albany Free School

Albany, NY | Elementary

The Brooklyn Free School

Brooklyn, NY | Ages 5 to 15

Teddy McArdle Free School

Little Falls, NJ | Ages 5 to 12

The New School

Newark, DE | Ages 6 to 19

The Circle School

Harrisburg, PA | Elementary & pre-teens

New London Freedom School

New London, CT | Ages 4 to 19

River Valley Sudbury School

Chester, CT | Ages 5 to 19

Mountain Laurel Sudbury School

New Britain, CT | Ages 5 to 19

Toronto Teen Still Sits in Prison:

The Story of Omar Khadr

By JOSHUA AINSLIE

Prior to July 2002, everybody who knew the young Omar Khadr identified him as a Canadian. He liked BMWs, basketball and action movies. He named a visit to the Metro Toronto Zoo among the best memories of his life. His father earned a master's degree from the University of Ottawa, and his grandparents owned a bakery on Toronto's Eglinton Ave. But, like the children of Canadian diplomats, Omar had a father whose work took the family overseas for long stretches of time.

When the gangly 15 year old was found crying in the remains of a bombed-out hideaway in Afghanistan in July 2002, politicians and media outlets refused to recognize Omar as a true Canadian, absolving the country of any responsibility for securing him a fair trial. According to his family, history was rewritten to avoid an uncomfortable truth.

"We were Canadian," said his older sister Zaynab of their time overseas, "it was hard to miss that."

So, did pundits and spin-doctors simply erase a Canadian child's past, to avoid risking uncomfortable relations with the United States?

Born into a family of two Canadian NGO workers, Omar was widely known as his mother's favorite child. Married to a workaholic and grieving the death of a young son, she latched tightly onto the 16-month-old Omar.

In 1992, 7-year-old Omar was living with his family just beyond the Dundas West subway station and attending first grade at the same Mississauga private school where all his siblings were enrolled. But his single-income family's sole earner was bedridden at Sunnybrook Hospital following an accident in Afghanistan, and so the Khadr moved into a small apartment in the deteriorating neighborhood at the intersection of Bloor and Lansdowne.

Eventually, Omar and his family followed their father back to an orphanage he had built in the refugee camps surrounding Peshawar. Enrolled at the Ansar Scientific Institute, a private school that taught foreign families in the region, Omar found himself fortunate. As a Canadian from a devout family, courses such as English and Religion proved very simple, and he quickly excelled. "He was one of those students

who worked hard, he liked his sciences," his sister Zaynab recalled, "though he didn't like math very much." During summer vacation, the family would often return home to Scarborough.

Like the rest of his family, Omar found that his father's frequent travels left him well-versed in local languages. In addition to English and Arabic, he also learned to speak Pashto while in Peshawar and picked up Dari from the refugees who filled his father's life.

After the Afghan Civil War had largely ended, Ahmed moved his operations from Pakistan into Afghanistan itself. Preferring that his children remain in the accredited Ansar Institute, Ahmed arranged for Omar and his siblings to be home-schooled for the next two years, returning to Peshawar to write their exams each semester.

When Omar's mother and older sister returned to Canada, Ahmed sent them a letter containing a cassette tape, on which he explained how Omar had transformed himself into a domestic caretaker in their absence, proving himself "very handy and very helpful."

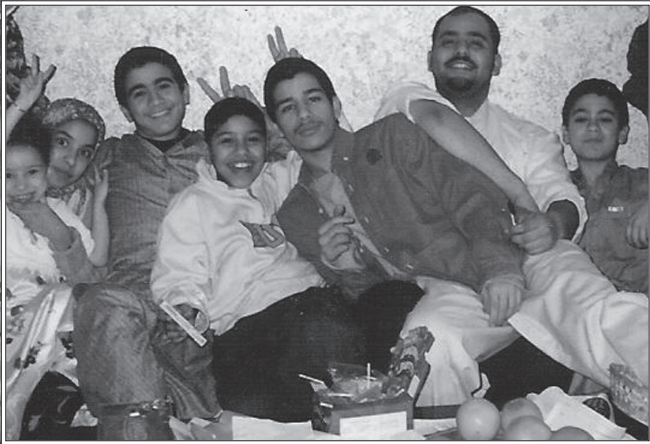
The year before he was taken prisoner, Omar was virtually indistinguishable from any other young teenager. A fan of sports cars, Omar attended the February 2001 Auto Show at the Toronto Convention Centre with his cousin and younger brother. After passing over the Nissans and Volkswagens in favor of the Lamborghinis and Ferraris, the group got their photograph taken standing in front of the Batmobile. "We're fans of the Batmobile," Zaynab boasted, pointing to her brother's deadpan expression as she explained that he doesn't smile for cameras.

Even in Guantanamo, Omar speaks openly about some his favorite movies; Hollywood films like *Die Hard*, *Harry Potter* and *Braveheart*. "Who doesn't like *Harry Potter*?" laughed his sister, adding that watching *Braveheart* was a "family tradition" in their household. While overseas, Omar and his siblings would amuse themselves by going to the marketplace to purchase pirated DVDs. "We'd get the movie over there the day it came out...very cheap, maybe half a dollar," Zaynab recalled, proud of the purchases.

In November 2001, as the Khadr joined the caravan of fleeing Afghans heading for the relative safety of Pakistan's



Above: Omar as he is interrogated for a crime he did not commit.



Right: Omar with his family in Canada.

mountainous border regions, Omar's brother Abdurahman was captured by the Northern Alliance. Not long afterward, Zaynab took his other two brothers, Abdullah and Abdulkareem, to Islamabad as she sought medical attention for her own daughter. Omar was now alone at home with his mother and his 10-year-old sister.

In the spring of 2002, Omar's father, Ahmed Khadr, listened as his 15-year-old son explained his loneliness – neither classmates nor siblings surrounding him anymore – and how he felt humiliated when his mother forced him to dress as a girl to avoid being targeted by Pakistani security forces. The elder Khadr offered his teenage son a compromise: He could move into a group home for young men if he promised to still check in regularly with his mother. The only son who had never been allowed out of his mother's sight, Omar quickly agreed to the deal.

A month later, a family friend approached the Khadr and explained that he had some Arab colleagues staying at a small farm a few miles outside Khost who needed a translator to interact with the locals. Since Omar spoke both Dari and Pashto, it was agreed that he could serve as their translator and guide. "We had an orphanage in Khost," Zaynab explained, "so my brother knew the area."

It wasn't long before the teenage expatriate found himself in trouble. Although there weren't supposed to be any American soldiers in the area, Special Forces were drawn to the Arabs' homestead after one of them made a phone call that piqued suspicions, and a shootout between Omar's new colleagues and the Americans followed.

After the homestead was reduced to rubble by aerial bombardment and a pair of Apache helicopters, the soldiers entered and picked their way over the dead bodies. A sudden spray of bullets crashed against the walls around them and a grenade

appeared, arcing toward the soldiers from a small corridor. Sgt. Christopher Speer fell, fatally wounded by the blast.

Turning the corner, an American soldier shot the lone surviving gunman and then spied the Canadian teenager with his back to the noise, kneeling in pain against a shrub. Raising his rifle, he fired two shots into Omar's back.

Although the Special Forces' report following the firefight stated that the dead man had been the one to throw the grenade, the military overseers stated that, with all the other occupants of the compound now dead, the United States would lay the blame on Omar and seek life imprisonment for the Canadian youth at Guantanamo Bay.

"They want him to suffer for the rest of his life for a crime nobody even believes he committed," Zaynab said angrily. While she admits it's possible he may have thrown the grenade, she points to crimes committed by other Toronto youth. "It's not like he just went into a shop and shot somebody," she said.

When asked, while still in prison, about his plans for the future, Omar replied that he wanted to become a doctor. "It says a lot," his sister whispered, reflecting on the past six years. "Working for charities and helping people" is a future she and her family would love to see for their beloved brother. A Canadian college in Alberta rose to the challenge last year, announcing that they would offset all tuition costs for Omar to attend post-secondary education.

But as Omar's hopes of attending medical school fade, they are replaced by the very likely scenario that he will spend the rest of his life in detention.

As Stephen Harper, then leader of the Canadian Alliance Party, summarized on the day the capture was announced in 2002, Omar represents something "dangerous to the Western alliance." And so he rots in a foreign prison, sacrificed on the altar of Canada-U.S. relations.✳

Northampton Resists Anti-Panhandling Law

By DAVID BEYER OF POVERTY IS NOT A CRIME

Since its proposal by Northampton City Council, anti-panhandling Ordinance 285-53 has seen a wide spectrum of public opposition, with resistance from the homeless, business owners, street performers, students and other community members. This ordinance would, in addition to adding civil penalties to the existent criminal punishments for "aggressive solicitation," enforce a number of restrictions on asking for money, banning it in many downtown areas with high foot traffic. It would prohibit anyone from asking for money on the sidewalk, on public benches, using crates, under overpasses or 15 feet away from too many locations to count — banks, bus stops and patios, just to name a few. In other words, Northampton City Council's response to unmet needs and the homelessness crisis is to push the victims of capitalism out of sight and out of mind by silencing them, rather than addressing the causes of poverty and homelessness.

This ordinance, unconstitutional under the First Amendment, would effectively criminalize a necessary lifeline for Northampton's low income and homeless populations. These populations already

suffer from a lack of adequate housing, from shelters with often draconian rules and month-long waiting lists, and from a lack of regular meals.

Anyone who does not obey Ordinance 285-53 would face fines ranging from \$50 to \$300. Since most panhandlers cannot pay these fines, they would be entered into the Criminal Offender Record Information database. This would make them ineligible for vital social services and give them jail time, or subject them to "alternative treatments."

This ordinance is far from an isolated case. Atlanta, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Chicago have enacted similar anti-poor ordinances with nearly identical methods and language. These laws, which small towns and cities are increasingly adopting, aim to "cleanse" the streets of people in need. They form part of a larger program of violent gentrification to increase tourism and luxury sales profits. To see how this will be accomplished (what with rising rent costs and foreclosure rates), one need not look further than Northampton Mayor Clare Higgins, who has eloquently declared, "We might have to [move people along in the streets] if they're in the wrong place."

In Northampton, as in many cities and towns throughout the world, gentrification includes the formation of a Business Improvement District or a collusion of businesses that practice urban renewal by

privatizing once-public spaces, hiring off-duty cops to patrol the streets, and turning once-vibrant communities into shopping centers. This process also includes the use of government-corporate "solutions to homelessness" that build affordable housing projects in far-away host towns fit for profit but not for people.

We responded to these problems by creating Poverty Is Not a Crime, a group of the currently or formerly homeless and their allies dedicated to organizing against this ordinance and against gentrification, while demanding long-overdue community resources such as food, shelter and social services. We started with a series of four demonstrations that increased in size to about 100 people. These demonstrations were carried out in tandem with a public awareness campaign and a petition of 278 area residents against the ordinance.

Some of our demonstrations have combined resistance with celebration, in which demonstrators eat Food Not Bombs-supplied hot food and march through the streets with pots, pans, trumpets and cardboard signs, with chants such as, "The people, united, won't let this ordinance pass!" Another demonstration included a silent corridor of people in front of City Hall for councilors to walk through, as well as a vigil for a homeless man who froze to death a day after being kicked out of a shelter. "This

man gave up on life," said Ira McKinley, a homeless community organizer. "This is what poverty does."

Despite the cancellation of the Public Safety subcommittee meeting where this anti-homeless ordinance was to be discussed, around 25 people attended the most recent demonstration on Jan. 6. On this day, we also began a boycott against the Gazebo, a lingerie store owned by the mouthpiece of this ordinance, who is now (in)famous for her statements in full support of gentrification. We expect that due to public action, the ordinance will, in its next draft, be toned down to one that prohibits blocking sidewalks. Though this may be a victory, such an ordinance could still pose a threat if designed and enforced with the motive of hiding people with needs.

We believe that the struggle for the right of the homeless to exist is tied to movements such as Food Not Bombs and Homes Not Jails, which strive to provide desperately needed food and shelter in a not-for-profit, participatory way. Because, ultimately, the solution to poverty will not be the fat, lounging frog statue collecting charity donations that our local government set up in the central square, but autonomous organization and rebellion against the deprivations of the highly unequal and unjust system under which we live.✳

The Cyclical Tale of Tristan Anderson

By HANNAH E. DOBBZ

Like the fog of Golden Gate Park, a somber spirit hung over this year's San Francisco Anarchist Bookfair. The annual festivity was dampened by news of an American comrade critically injured in Palestine the previous day. On Friday, March 13, Israeli soldiers shot Bay Area-native Tristan Anderson at close range with a teargas canister. Word traveled quickly to the U.S. West Coast, and by Saturday, fast-acting friends and supporters of Tristan were at the bookfair with information tables and brilliant banners depicting his well-known smirk.

Tristan, a seasoned, 38-year-old radical, is known in the Bay Area for his activism, which has ranged from marching to tree-sitting to reporting for Indymedia.org. This time he had been protesting the Israeli wall in the West Bank village of Ni'lin. Perhaps mistaken for a Palestinian, Tristan was shot in the forehead with a high-velocity projectile (described by his girlfriend Gabrielle Silverman as rocket-like due to the attached propeller) that fractured his skull and left eye socket.

According to Israeli activist Jonathan Pollack, "The firing incident took place inside the village and not next to the fence. There were clashes in the earlier hours, but he wasn't part of them. He didn't throw stones and wasn't standing next to the stone-throwers. There was really no reason to fire at them. The Dutch girl standing next to him was not hurt. It only injured him, like a bullet."

Israeli troops stalled the ambulance and delayed Tristan's arrival at a hospital, likely affecting his chance of recovery. Reports state that Tristan's brain was visible after the collision, the result of being hit by a new kind of canister marked, "40mm bullet, special/extended range." He immediately underwent a surgery that removed part of his right frontal lobe, which could leave him blind in one eye and with an unknown degree of brain damage. He later had a second operation to remove a buildup of brain fluid, but his condition has remained critical.

While Tristan lay unconscious in his Tel Aviv hospital bed, 7,000 miles away, long-time friends mobilized San Francisco to act in solidarity with him and other victims of Israeli violence.

Indeed, this was not the first instance of Israeli forces brutalizing protesters from the United States. Most famously, ISM

(International Solidarity Movement) member Rachel Corrie was crushed by a bulldozer and killed almost exactly six years earlier, in 2003. Brian Avery, from North Carolina, was shot and maimed only a few weeks after Corrie. Other ISM members also murdered by the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) include Britons Iain Hook, Tom Hurdall and James Miller, all within six months of Corrie's tragic death.

While the death toll of foreigners may startle some, the Palestinians statistics remain far more disturbing, with 7,150 dead and 40,294 injured between Sept. 28, 2000 and March 30, 2009, according to the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy. And the violence is ongoing.

Back in downtown San Francisco, supporters of Tristan organized a last-minute protest at the Israeli consulate on March 16, complete with picket signs, informed speakers and a pre-injury audio recording of Tristan talking about his reason for traveling to Palestine. SF was not alone in its action; demonstrations were held around the world from Miami to Providence to Cambridge, UK. But despite popular support among peace activists and radicals, some began to question the demonstrations' efficacy. After all, how can a group of people in one place resist a force on the other side of the planet? How can direct action work when there is no direct method of implementing it?

As the picket demonstration in San Francisco grew in numbers, protesters began a march through the financial district, making their cause known to evening rush-hour traffic. When they circled back to the consulate, however, police attacked, snatching individuals, clubbing them and arresting six, charging four with felonies. The scene was formulaic, with riot cops chasing black-clad anarchists, hopping over newspaper boxes and racing down one-way streets. Protester Jonah Larrama went to the hospital, requiring eight stitches in his head.

"Two or three cops grabbed the girl who was dancing," Larrama said, "and then other people jumped in, and then more people jumped on. The cops kept coming and coming. We had no warning. The cops told us to get on the sidewalk...I refused to move and they wanted to arrest me.



Above: March in solidarity with Tristan and Palestine in San Francisco on March 16.

People didn't know what to do. [Cops] hit everyone. They hit me. It was chaos; I don't know what happened."

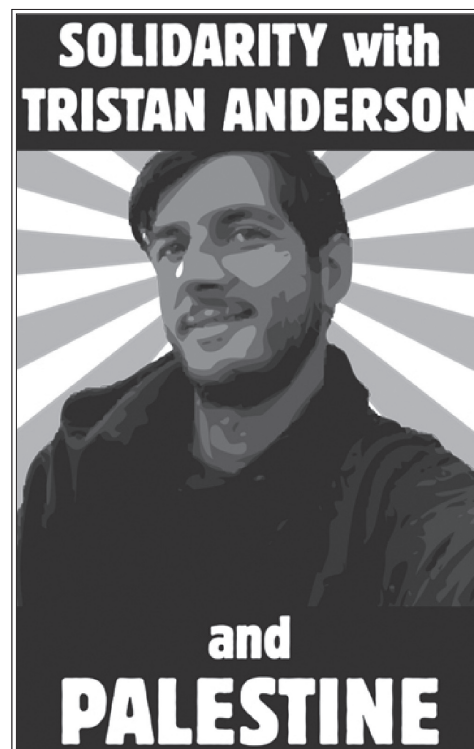
Soon after these events, many tired and dissatisfied Bay Area anarchists began discussing their tactics and the meaning of the demonstration. In their attempt to resist, protesters and police had merely reenacted the same sort of authoritarian brutality that landed Tristan on life support in the first place. Now the focus necessarily shifted from solidarity with Tristan to supporting and raising money for friends in San Francisco jail.

Attorney Ben Rosenfeld, who often represents those arrested on such charges, expressed a concern that folks were potentially protesting in circles.

"Maybe I'm just a bourgeois lawyer," he said, "but I found it utterly counterproductive and lame to watch the Israeli Consulate protest degenerate into the obligatory, half-baked, occupy-the-intersection/reclaim-the-what exactly?" protesters-vs.-cops routine. There are times to join the group, add one's body to the mass, act in unison; there are other times to sever from groupthink and reconsider the one-size-fits-all approach to demonstrating."

It may be surprising how soon after the Oscar Grant uprising in Oakland that Californians are questioning the power of Riot. In January, hundreds of youth smashed windows and burned cars to voice their outrage at the unprovoked execution of Oscar Grant by BART police. And it worked. So why was the Tristan solidarity march two months later such a disaster?

As history illustrates, radical social movements have frequently used the disruption of traffic and commerce as a tactic for change – from Oaxacan strikers to Bolivian farmers to French immigrants and Argentinean *piqueteros*. Engaging in actions that transform people's relationship to the



urban landscape has proven over and over to be an effective method of protest. But history also insists that protesters survey each scenario individually and then act accordingly. After all, how does occupying an intersection in downtown San Francisco shake anything in Israel? While the BART police in Oakland were a target that was present and identifiable, the IDF was not close enough to home to make an impact. While Oscar Grant supporters could have burned down a BART police station to make their point, all that Tristan Anderson supporters had was symbolic street theater.

"It was not really organized," Larrama said. "It needed to be more organized. I don't think there were even any affinity groups there. People wanted something to happen, but nobody tried to do anything."

Everyone knows that once they up the ante, the police will do the same, resulting in more Tristan Andersons and Oscar Grants. But no one wants to admit that until they start posing a real threat, supporters of all the Tristans and Oscars will forever remain on the fringe of politics, filling the role of conscientious objector confined to a "free speech zone" in which no one can hear them, much less take them seriously.

All the while, Tristan remains hospitalized in Tel Aviv. As of April 11, he is out of intensive care and in a regular ward. He is semi-conscious and responsive, but his condition is still considered critical. And the IDF continues killing.*

Solidarity in the Aftermath of the RNC

By KATE BONNER-JACKSON

Although the Republican National Convention happened nine months ago, the St. Paul/Minneapolis activist community is still fighting the same corrupt structures of government that it fought last September. There were over 800 arrests of resisters during the RNC, but it's the unseen and daily struggles, long after the glorified showdowns with cops on the streets, that show the true strength of the St. Paul/Minneapolis community.

What characterized the RNC resistance as meaningful and significant on a large scale was not necessarily visible from the streets or even on Indymedia. The strength of the resistance was in the convergence space in which people could meet, eat, plan, read literature and pamphlets, attend trainings, use the Internet for free and hold consensus-based spokescouncil meetings; it was in the free, healthy, delicious vegan meals provided twice a day for over 300 people; it was in the communications collective that used Twitter to send text-

message updates on the whereabouts and actions of police throughout the convention; it was in the trained medics out on the streets each day, risking their safety to flush out pepper-sprayed eyes or tend to wounds left by Tasers and other weapons on which the police spent \$50 million; it was in the legal observers on the streets and in court proceedings, and the Coldsnap Legal Collective, coordinating a myriad legal issues and maintaining the vigil outside the Ramsey County Jail; it was in the bike collective that provided safe and free transportation for out-of-town resisters; it was in the wellness center, the wonderful safe space staffed by physicians, massage therapists, counselors, acupuncturists, medics and allies, and stocked with healthy food, tea, herbs, a decontamination zone, quiet and green spaces, information and a change of clothes.

This list, far from exhaustive, fleshes out how multi-faceted and holistic the resistance last summer was. It is with this same spirit of mutual aid, self-reliance and solidarity that the residents of St. Paul and Minneapolis are helping each other through the aftermath of the RNC.

The Community RNC Arrestee Support Structure – or CRASS – is an organization

created to ensure that the momentum and rage sparked by the convention remain constant. They hold regular community meetings, send out newsletters, and provide legal and financial support, information, court solidarity and housing for those people who are fighting charges from the RNC. CRASS is divided into the working groups of Courtwatch, Felony Support, Media, Pressure Campaign, Civil Litigation, Hospitality, Spokescouncil and Fundraising. Thanks to the well-organized structure and sincere assistance of CRASS, there have been many victories, dismissed or dropped charges, and much support.

CRASS has raised funds, awareness and support in creative ways, including the Tour de Fletcher – a bike tour of the houses that were raided before the RNC – a Mardi Gras Civil Litigation delivery party, a Drop-the-Charges dance party outside of Ramsey County Attorney Susan Gaertner's campaign fundraising event, crashing the St. Paul Mayor's Holiday Sledding Party, a National Day of Solidarity for the

RNC arrestees from New England together months after their arrests.

RNC 8 (one of the day's highlights being a pillow-fight protest in Flagstaff, Ariz.).

CRASS mainly works with RNC arrestees, but has also done important solidarity work with other groups such as Communities United Against Police Brutality and the Anti-War Committee. Members of both groups had trials in the beginning of the year that were well attended by CRASS court watchers, and both cases were either dismissed or acquitted.

There has been a lot of positive news. For instance, almost 85 percent of the original 672 misdemeanor cases have been dropped or dismissed.

(Continued on page 8)



No More Deaths from page 1

Some came to the United States when they were small children, lived here their whole lives and were deported. They may not speak Spanish or know anyone in the country that the U.S. government sends them back to. They are seen as “illegal” in the place they call home.

For the last five summers, No More Deaths has operated a remote camp about 12 miles north of the official border, near the town of Arivaca, Ariz. Hundreds of people from all over the country have volunteered over the years to help run the camp, some for a week, others for months. Each morning and afternoon small groups hike some of the most trafficked trails that funnel people north toward Tucson. Volunteers carry gallons of water, first-aid kits, clean socks and food packs.

Some days we encounter groups of up to 30 people who take our water and socks and keep going. We also see smaller groups or lone walkers who have been separated from their groups, which can be extremely treacherous for someone unfamiliar with the desert. Sometimes they want to keep going, sometimes they want to go back to Mexico so they can go home or try again later. Occasionally, we find sick or injured people in serious danger who need to be evacuated by ambulance or helicopter.

Usually, however, we see more signs of people than the people themselves. Fresh footprints, empty water bottles, food wrappers, apple cores still yellow. Backpacks, hats, shirts, shoes. Toothbrushes, underwear, lipstick, children’s toys. The trails are littered with thousands of pieces of thousands of lives, scattered across the ground in the most inexplicable ways. We can sometimes sense their presence, but if they don’t want to be found, we won’t find them. It’s better that way — it means they don’t need help.

The border passes through one of the most brutal landscapes on the continent; thousands of square miles of harsh, dry, rocky desert inhabited by rattlesnakes, scorpions, vultures, coyotes, tarantulas and innumerable spiky, spiny plants that slice through any exposed skin. Armed bandits roam the desert trails, preying on migrants. Sometimes they work in collusion with the polleros, who lead groups straight into ambushes where everyone is robbed of all the money they are carrying to pay for their journey. Women are routinely raped, their bras and underwear left dangling from tree branches like trophies. Border Patrol abuse is all too common.

The border makes people invisible. By pushing migrants away from populated areas and out into remote desert, the border prevents most of us from witnessing and understanding the violence and brutality inherent in the U.S. immigration system — and in borders in general. People walk under cover of darkness, far from roads and houses, sometimes for five or six or more nights. When they encounter bandits or Border Patrol, there are no witnesses.

When people (or a father and his two daughters) are left behind — or when they die — no one knows where to look. Most bodies are never recovered, making the official count (183 in Arizona last year) a gross underestimate. And when they reach their destinations in the United States, migrants are often expected to remain in the shadows, on the margins.

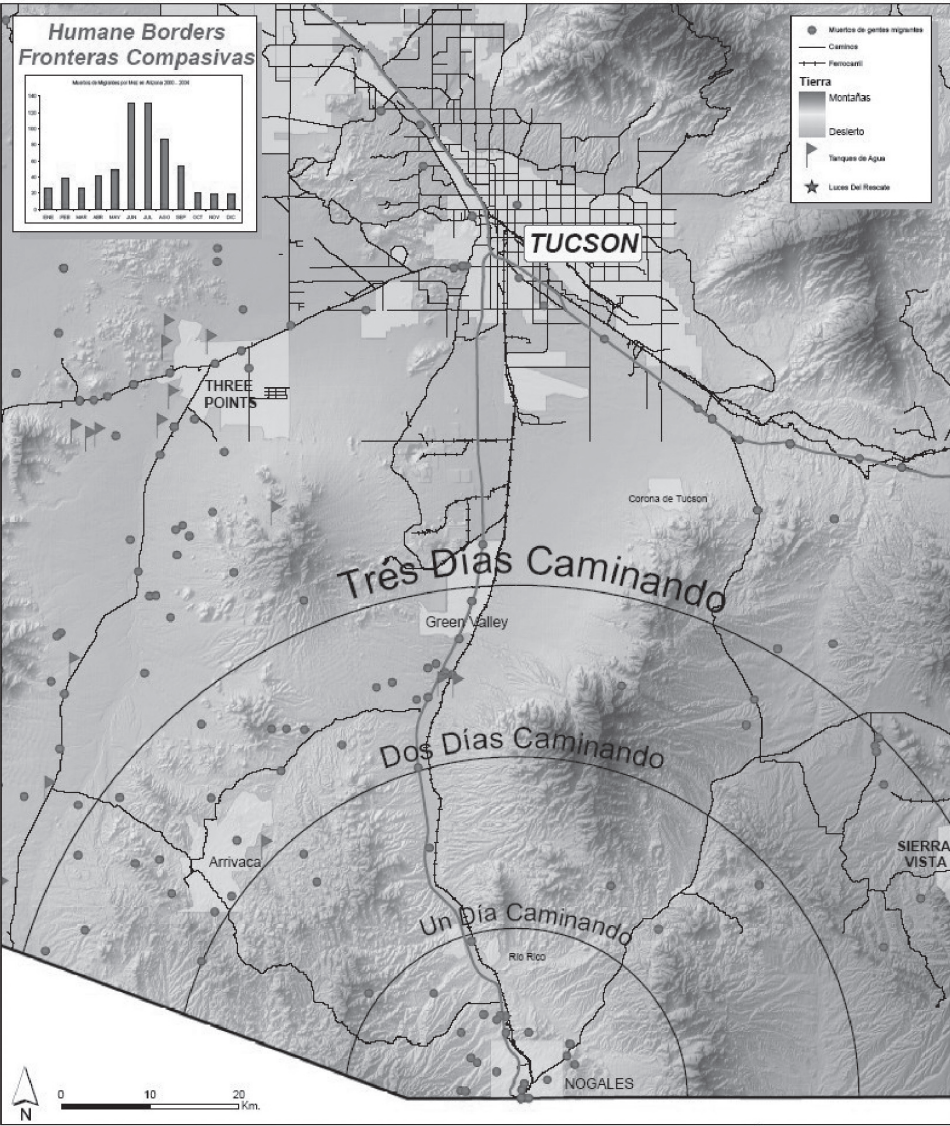
No More Deaths helps make the border real to those of us who have never had to cross it. It ceases to be a line on a map or a wall that people have to devise a way around and becomes a place, a region, a system. It transcends politics and books, theories and debates. It’s about life and death, humanity and dignity. It is about people who have been made invisible, each with their own vibrant stories and histories and dreams, walking for days through that unforgiving, inhospitable landscape. Spending time out in the desert helps make them visible to us.

The work of No More Deaths does not end when we leave camp — the border exists and expresses itself in other ways farther north. It divides cities, neighborhoods and neighbors. It is the hazardous working conditions, minimum-wage violations and the extreme lack of security that comes from the jobs so many immigrants find when they arrive in the United States. It is the fear to report police abuse, go to the hospital or fight an eviction. It is the stereotyping and discrimination still faced by brown people who have been in this country for generations. All systems of oppression rely on the dichotomies that are created by borders — queer/straight, man/woman, legal/illegal, us/them. The border is everywhere, but most people think they have never seen it.

In order to seriously fight the wall that supposedly separates the United States from Mexico, we must also fight these other borders. The most obvious inland manifestations of the border are the ICE raids on homes and workplaces that terrorize immigrant communities and destroy families. Across the country, groups have been forming and organizing to fight the raids. Many cities now have hotlines that people can call for emergency advice if they think ICE is in the area. In other places — like San Francisco, Rhode Island and Watsonville, Calif. — people have created rapid response networks, phone trees used to mobilize people who are able to challenge, disrupt or publicize immigration raids. Other similar projects are in the works elsewhere.

Borders are integral to the functioning of capitalism, a system based on division and exploitation. Every day we have the opportunity to confront the oppressive, violent, hateful reality that results, be it by making the desert safer for people on their way to the United States or by challenging the power dynamics in our interpersonal relationships. No More Deaths is just one avenue through which we can take action to help bring about a borderless world; others are created daily. All are essential.✳

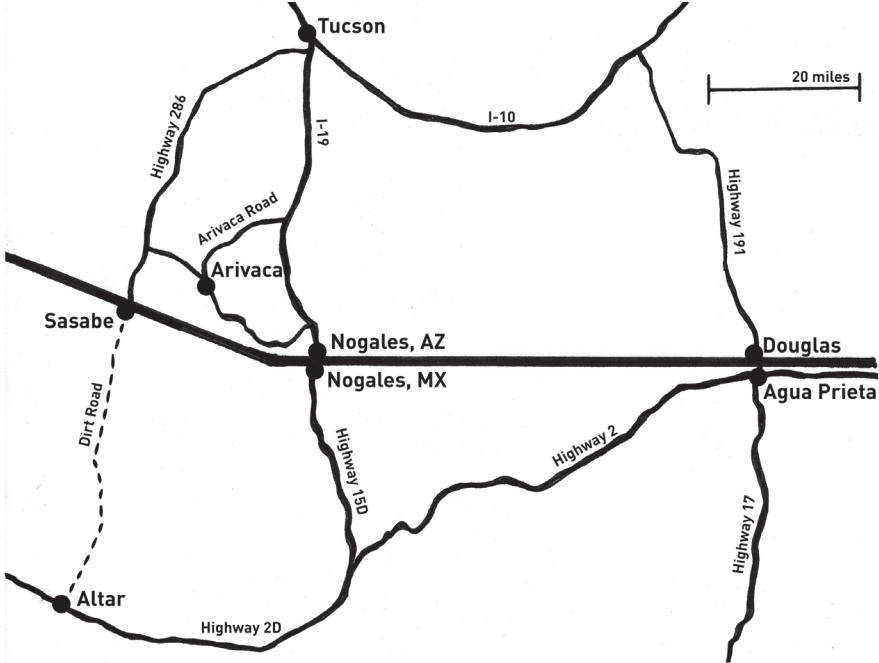
Top right: This section of fence in Sasabe is one of the newest stretches of the border wall. It is supposed to be more environmentally friendly since small animals are able to pass between its bars; at the same time, it could not be easier to climb.
Middle right: Crosses hang on the border wall in Nogales, Mexico, to commemorate the hundreds of migrants who die in the desert every year. This stretch of wall, which was built in 1994 when Bill Clinton attempted to seal off the major urban crossing areas, is made of corrugated metal that was used as landing strips in the first Gulf War. Photos by Hunter Jackson.
Bottom left: The final leg of many migrants’ journeys begins in Altar, a dusty desert town about 50 miles south of the border at Sasabe. People travel to Altar from other parts of Mexico and Central America, where they find guides to take them over the border. Most of the people we meet out in the desert came along this route.
Bottom right: Reported migrant deaths in Arizona in 2007. Map by Humane Borders.



Información para migrantes
Pasará la frontera caminando por el desierto es peligroso y puede terminar en la muerte.
Si decides pasar la frontera a pie, prepárate bien.
- Ve con gente que conoce y en la que confías.
- No cruces el desierto entre mayo y agosto ya que las temperaturas son muy altas.
- Trae bastante agua y comida.
- Conoce bien la ruta y la distancia antes de comenzar.
- Busca los tanques de agua en el desierto señalados con banderas azules.
- Puede hacer mucho calor en el día y frío en la noche.
- Usa ropa adecuada y zapatos o zapatos tenis.
- Lleva tus documentos importantes: tu identificación y los números de teléfono de tus parientes o amigos con quien puedes comunicarte en caso de emergencia.

Números de teléfono para emergencias:
Patrulla Fronteriza: (877) 872-7435
Policía: 911
Consulado Mexicano: (520) 287-2521
Grupo Beta de Nogales: (01) 631-312-6180

**¡NO VAYA UD!
¡NO HAY SUFICIENTE AGUA!
¡NO VALE LA PENA!**



May Day from page 3

Finally, in 1938, massive militant movements of workers and unemployed forced the Roosevelt government to pass the Fair Labor Standards Act, establishing for many the eight-hour day with extra overtime pay, as well as a national minimum wage and the abolition of “oppressive child labor.”

Repression, Deportation and the Decline of Labor

The story doesn't end there. During the May Day parade in 1919, hundreds of workers were arrested, hundreds more were badly beaten and many workers' headquarters were ransacked. In Roxbury, Mass., police and nationalists assaulted parading workers, beating them with clubs, trampling them with horses and shooting at them. In the ensuing battle, two workers and two officers were shot, and a police chief died of a heart attack.

Beyond the police violence, the government also passed a slew of laws to make the deportation of immigrant activists easier and to keep foreign radicals out. In 1903, a new law excluded anarchists and other revolutionaries from entering the United States and enabled the government to deport radicals who had lived in the United States for three years or less. This law was broadened in 1917 to make immigrants deportable for up to five years, with no time limit for those who advocated anarchism or revolution. This law was used to target the strong Jewish and Italian anarchist currents. In 1918, a new law allowed the deportation of “aliens who are members of, or affiliated with, any organization...that writes, circulates, distributes, prints, publishes or displays, or causes to be written...or has in its possession...any written or printed matter” of an anarchist or revolutionary nature.

From 1919 until 1921, U.S. Attorney General Palmer used these laws in a wave of arrests and deportations, targeting Italian anarchists and other radicals. Radicals who were not deported either fled overseas or went underground. The Palmer Raids decimated the workers' movement. During this time, Massachusetts framed and executed immigrant workers Sacco and Vanzetti based on their Italian heritage and anarchist beliefs in what is recognized worldwide as one of the worst miscarriages of justice in history.

The Struggle Continues: May Day Today

In May 2006, it was again the migrant workers who led the struggle for the rights of workers worldwide. Reviving the tradition of International Workers' Day with *El Gran Paro Estadounidense* – the Great American Strike – migrant workers organized a one-day strike of work and school and a boycott of commerce. Millions participated in the demonstrations, especially in Los Angeles and Chicago. Everywhere, workers and student allies joined the immigrants, and the demonstrations helped to stop HR4437, a bill that would have made felons of all undocumented immigrants. Across the country, workers again marched for migrants' rights on May Day 2007, 2008 and 2009.

This year, a thousand workers and activists marched from Central Square in

East Boston to a rally in Everett, Mass. The march, organized by an immigrant rights coalition, proclaimed, “Yesterday We Voted for Change, Today We Demand Change!” About 100 anarchists and socialists joined the march, bringing a message of anti-capitalism and distributing hundreds of newsletters featuring the history of Haymarket and May Day. The groups that organized the Anti-Capitalist Contingent included BAAM, the Socialist Party, the Industrial Workers of the World and the *Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional* (FMLN-El Salvador).

More than 1,000 participated in New York City May Day actions. According to NYC Indymedia, rallies were held on Long Island, at Madison Square Park and in Chintatown, converging for a mass rally at Union Square. The demonstrators then marched to the Federal Plaza in Lower Manhattan. The Industrial Workers of the World also held an action at a Starbucks in Union Square to protest the company's union-busting attempts and bad labor policies.

At Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, Ny., students held two rallies in solidarity with union college staff members and marched on the campus to draw attention to administrative issues.

Maryann Colella, a member of Bread and Puppet Theater from Vermont, reported that 300 marched in Richmond, Va. In a puppet-led parade, people commemorated the day with flags, signs and a Mother Jones puppet. According to Colella, they also protested against “Virginia Commonwealth University's plans to build a parking lot over a slave burial ground.”

In Frederick, Md., around 40 anarchists and their allies held a Reclaim the Streets action, drawing passers-by into the road to dance and celebrate May Day. Participants also educated curious onlookers with an anti-capitalist 'zine put out by Unconventional Action-Frederick, called “Refusing the Spectacle.” Police eventually forced the demonstrators off of the street.

Hours after anarchists rallied in Milwaukee, according to witnesses, 20-30 masked folks – suspected anarchists! – smashed windows of a US Bank Building, Whole Foods Market, Bruegger's Bagels and Qdoba.

In the nation's capital, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers began International Workers' Day by making a 6 a.m. raid at an apartment complex. Later that day, workers responded with a 1,500 strong march for immigrant rights, organized by the National Capital Immigration Coalition. Hours later, 60 anarchists and leftist allies held an unpermitted street march, leading to minor skirmishes with the police.

Tens of thousands of workers also fought police and attacked corporate and government property in Berlin; Istanbul; Linz, Austria; every major Greek city and most major cities in France and Spain. In Mexico City, workers defied the ban on public gatherings – presumably to combat swine flu – and marched against the real swine. Large demonstrations also occurred in L'Aquila, Italy; Moscow; Nigeria; Havana; Tokyo; South Korea; Cambodia; Japan; the Philippines; Zimbabwe; Taiwan and England.✱

April Uprising from page 4

Aside from the blockades, multiple marches and the PNC/Wachovia bank actions, other actions were reported against the International Finance Corporation – a branch of the World Bank – and other culpable targets. Together, these actions dispersed police response across the city and provided cover for each other. A small turnout was able to accomplish much despite obstacles, mistakes and repression – and to delay the meeting!

Though the meetings were not shut down, resistance was shown in the streets against not only the IMF, but also global capitalism. People are linking the international banking syndicate to the domestic banking criminals, as evidenced by attacks on banks and other targets. More and more people are realizing the power within themselves as they push through police lines to stay in the streets.

When Capital is Global, So Must Be Our Resistance

Are you angry yet? The New England Clusterfuck calls this IMF/WB summit a successful beginning. We are part of the resurgence of the anti-globalization,

anti-capitalist movement. Thanks to the resistance of people in the Global South and oppressed people in our own country, the global financial system is faltering. We know these systems aren't sustainable, but with an armory of state, corporate and martial power to back it, capitalism has proven durable and flexible. We must join together to ensure that our dreams of community-controlled, ecologically-sound economics are realized.

Resistance begins at home. As the anti-globalization movement has died down over the past decade, anarchists have turned toward creating infrastructure in our communities that can support ourselves long term, financially, emotionally and logistically. Housing and workers' collectives, infoshops and Indymedia centers, gardens, autonomous spaces and mental health support are examples of what we wish to create, as well as supportive structures for a bigger and more effective movement. It's time to put these resources to use. The G20 summit is coming to New York City this September. We're preparing now by organizing medic trainings, networking with activists along the East Coast and meeting with friends for play-dates to build trust and teamwork.

What are you doing?✱

Solidarity from page 6

The state has declined to charge 323 of the almost 400 people who were corralled, attacked and arrested on a bridge on the last day of the convention. All of the people arrested at the Rage Against the Machine concert during the convention who have fought their charges have gotten them dropped. All of these failures and withdrawals demonstrate indiscriminate abuse of power on behalf of the police and the use of bogus criminal charges to threaten and squash dissent.

Eight members of the RNC Welcoming Committee, known as the RNC 8, were originally charged with two counts of conspiracy, which in December became four counts, two with terror enhancements. These charges were brought under Minnesota's version of the PATRIOT Act, which was the first time this act had been used. Thanks to an abundance of pressure on Gaertner, the terrorism-related charges – Conspiracy to Commit Criminal Damage to Property in Furtherance of Terrorism and Conspiracy to Commit Riot in Furtherance of Terrorism – were recently dropped. Since Gaertner is running for Governor of Minnesota, her decision to drop the charges is likely a political move based on the intense public pressure and scrutiny of her usage of the Minnesota PATRIOT Act. This reduction of charges also suggests the state's lack of evidence and shows that adding and trumping up charges is nothing more than a threat tactic.

In other positive news about the RNC 8 case, one of the main FBI informants in the case, Andrew “Panda” Darst, was found guilty in late March of three criminal counts, including damage to property and assault. The charges are from an incident that happened in January and undermine Darst's stance and credibility as a witness.

Although there is much good news, there have been quite a few plea deals and guilty verdicts as well. In many ways, fighting these charges is a privilege that not all can afford. Many of the arrestees are from out of town and simply do not have the time or money to

fight the charges, even with support from CRASS.

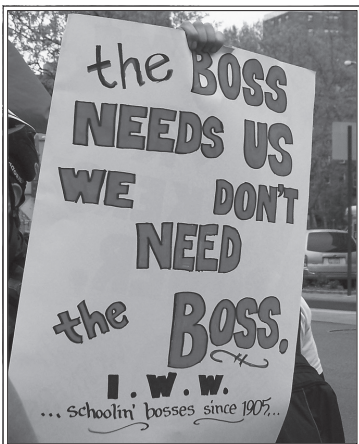
Others, like David McKay, pleaded guilty after what seems to be FBI coercion. Much of McKay's case was based on proving that Brandon Darby, an activist turned FBI informant, entrapped him and his co-defendant Bradley Crowder, convincing them to make Molotov cocktails. McKay, after his first trial ended in a mistrial, pleaded guilty shortly before his second trial was to begin. The FBI, realizing that their informant for the case has been prone to violence himself on many previous occasions, and that the defense was prepared to demonstrate this, threatened Crowder with a longer sentence if he did not testify against McKay. There is speculation that perhaps McKay pleaded guilty to avoid putting Crowder in this position.

CRASS is also working on creating a 'zine to share its strategies and stories of supporting people who were arrested. By keeping the energy from the RNC going and documenting the victories and defeats, CRASS is strengthening not only their local communities but also our collective and national movement.

In the past 10 years, there has been a noticeable increasing and intensifying of police brutality in everyday life, as well as during conventions and summits. The more organized we are, the more we share our experiences with each other, the more we see patterns in our struggles, the more we create continuity in our movements and our communities, the better prepared we will be to fight back. Through continuing the work of the RNC Welcoming Committee, CRASS is proving that it was never simply about resisting a four-day symbolic convention; that the threat is much greater and we must therefore resist in kind. In the face of a system intentionally designed to demoralize and isolate each of us, CRASS is demonstrating that, once again, solidarity is working. ✱



New England group blockades the streets of St. Paul during the RNC.



Left: Starbucks organizer Liberte Locke displays her message for May Day.

Above: NYC IWW marches on May Day. Photos by Diane Krauthamer.

The American Dream and the Anarchist Dream

By JAKE CARMAN

Throughout the years, much has been written about the American Dream. We learn from our schools, our families, the churches and the media that to achieve this dream – namely to own a home, to gain material wealth, and the freedom to buy; to have both leisure and convenience – is to achieve happiness. In a word, the American Dream is to prosper, to carve out a life of prosperity for you and yours in a highly competitive society.

For millions of Americans, this dream is slipping away. The American Dream is being replaced by the stark reality of American Life: a constant struggle to survive capitalism, to have food on the table and a roof under which to sleep. People are increasingly realizing that the American Dream is unattainable. This realization comes from the recent and obvious failure of the capitalist system, represented by the global economic collapse and ensuing depression that grips us all by the stomach and by the throat.

Except for a small minority of people, the American Dream has never been and could never be more than a dream. And to maintain the Dream is to condemn the vast majority of people to a lifetime of thankless toil, to produce for the privileged few their vaunted spoils of leisure and convenience. Without the sweat of the working class, there is no American Dream. Thus, it is not

only a false dream for all but the privileged few, it is also a selfish dream, because its realization for anyone dooms the rest of human society to economic slavery.

The myth of the attainable American Dream is perpetuated by those who have achieved it, in order to keep the rest of us working hard to produce the wealth, leisure and convenience they enjoy.

So let us, then, explore another dream: the Anarchist Dream. Springing forth from the very nature of humanity, a vision of society as old as society itself, it was given a name (Anarchism) late in the process of departmentalization and segregation of civilization into a system of classes, castes and nation-states. The assignation of a name marked the birth of a movement against the slavery and bondage to which the majority of us are subjected. Our masters consider the Anarchist Dream a dangerous dream indeed. These masters, those leeches who enjoy the benefits of the American Dream by sustaining our nightmare, call it dangerous, foolish and unattainable. In a way, these condemnations are true.

The Anarchist Dream is dangerous – for the rich – because in this beautiful dream there are no rich. And there are no poor to make them the rich. There are also no homeless and no hungry, for where there are people with hands, brains, skills and talents, we can create. And where humans can create, we can produce, gather and distribute vast quantities of all the necessities, more than enough for us to all live good lives. And when we are free, there's no reason not to share. Just look at the things we've already created! Vast cities of skyscrapers, incredible labor-saving

technology and inspiring environmentally-sustainable methods of producing energy, food and everything else.

All of these and more are the accomplishments of an enslaved humanity. Imagine what we can do together once we are free, once we are inventing, not for the profit of corporate bosses, not for the dominance of this government or that military, but to dream up, invent, produce and create for a life of enjoyment for our communities.

The Anarchist Dream is dangerous for the rich because the rich cannot control workers infected by it, they cannot dominate societies that fill their cups to the brim and boil over with the revolutionary spirit, and they cannot divide and conquer a people who recognize each other as siblings whose lives are interconnected.

The Anarchist Dream is foolish and unattainable because, according to the leeches and parasites, it can never happen. Except it has happened: In short breaths of life in Greece in December of 2008; in Oaxaca, Mexico in the summer and fall of 2006; in the neighborhoods, factories, hotels, restaurants and other recovered workplaces in Argentina, 2001 and 2002; rising from the Kabylie region and spreading across Algeria throughout 2001; in much of Spain from 1936 to 1939; in southern Ukraine from 1918 to 1922; in the countless revolts and revolutions of peasants and workers throughout the middle ages; and for all of human history before the class of parasites established its dominance over free societies by hoarding food and land with violence and treachery.

According to our masters, the Anarchist Dream is foolish and unattainable, and so

they will do everything they can to destroy us. They will try to stop us from spreading our ideas to others, to plant them like the seeds of hardy weeds or the particles of an infectious virus.

But they cannot kill us all. Each time they've tried, the Idea, the Dream escapes their slippery, sweaty fingers and surfaces again. They will never kill the Idea, the Dream, nor the rebellious nature of the hardy weeds, constantly trampled underfoot, but always refusing to stay down.

We, foolish dreamers and romantics who profess the Anarchist Dream, will never give up, for we know another thing they wish we'd forget: While their dream, the American Dream, is obtainable only by the privileged few, our dream includes everybody – even them, if they're willing to abdicate their thrones and toss their paper crowns aside. Anarchism, by name, nature, Idea and practice, promises freedom and equality to everybody. A far cry from the misplaced dream of the toiling, slaving millions, dreaming only to stand in the place of their oppressors; to be their own masters.

So give up the American Dream, for it can never be yours. Even if it is yours already, it comes at the expense of the rest of humanity, that strong and rebellious breed who will shun you and fight you for freedom until the last breath and the final ounce of blood. Embrace, instead, the Anarchist Dream, the beautiful vision of a liberated humanity, in which we are all free to dream and where the collective creativity of emancipated thought and labor will turn the brightest of dreams into vivid realities. Defect, siblings, to the revolution, that righteous insurrection of dreamers.✝

Anarchists and Liberals in D.C. on Iraq War Anniversary

By ANONYMOUS

On March 21, I gathered with a small group of anarchists in Farragut Square in Washington, D.C. to oppose the imperialist wars in Iraq and Afghanistan – an action called for by the Self Described Anarchist Collective (www.selfdescribed.org). Our plan, finally conceived at a reportedly four-hour-long spokescouncil the day before, was to wait the cops out. By hanging out in the square for a while and then marching to a park near the World Bank to play soccer for a while before starting the real march, we hoped to convince them that we were harmless enough to send home at least some of the 100 or so cops surrounding us. It didn't end up working out that way.

In the square, I caught up with some old friends, was introduced to some new ones and settled in to wait for the banners and food to show up. Meanwhile, the cloud of cops surrounding us kept growing, and anarchists continued to trickle in. Just before the food arrived, Capt. Herold of the D.C. Metro cops approached. Herold is famous in D.C. for chatting up protesters and later using the conversations against them in court. Unfortunately, too many of us took the bait this time, standing in rapt attention around Herold as he laid down his spiel. (Luckily, no one ended up getting arrested that day.)

Soon after, fortified with dumpstered bread and vegan chili, we got our plan underway. The banners were gorgeous (although only two of them were reinforced), the sun was shining and we were on our way to play soccer – or at least that's what we thought. We were also confined to the sidewalk by about twice our number in pigs, but at that point we still had hope of losing some of them. It was not to be. Upon arrival at the park, the cops immediately told us we

couldn't stay. In spite of gatherings in parks being perfectly legal in D.C., they strongly hinted, but didn't quite promise, that they would disperse us by force if we didn't leave. Some of us wanted to stay and call their bluff, if it were a bluff, while others were in favor of moving on. The movers-on were louder and probably more numerous and so prevailed. This was a theme that would resurface later in the day.

Back on the road, we headed for the World Bank building. We took a couple of laps around the place, and two of us made a quick dash for the door. It was locked, but I don't know if they anticipated our arrival or just aren't open on Saturdays.

From the World Bank, our march departed on a long and circuitous journey. Our ultimate destination was the "March on the Pentagon" liberal rally organized by the ANSWER Coalition, where we hoped to merge with the crowd and escape the cops. Not being familiar with D.C., I had no idea where we were most of the time, but a few events stand out. At one point we came across a homeless man holding a sign reading "Please Help." We gave him some of our bread and chili, the latter in a bowl fashioned on the spot out of aluminum foil, and continued on our way.

In Georgetown, D.C.'s rich neighborhood, the cops got even more aggressive, at one point even denying us the right to cross a street on the crosswalk. We still managed to throw them a couple of curve balls. Passing an Urban Outfitters, one person dashed in and came back out again a few seconds later. A few more attempted to follow suit, but a clutch of cops charged toward the entrance and pushed us back.

A little later, we stopped in front of the home of Jack Evans, a D.C. city councilor who has waged a relentless war against poor people. It didn't look like the cops had any idea he lived there until we announced it, and we were able to stay and give him a hard time, loudly, for several minutes.

Finally, we arrived at the ANSWER rally, loudly chanting anti-capitalist slogans, just as their march was starting.

As we tried to merge with the crowd, a line of green-vested liberals – the ANSWER "security team" – held hands in a line to block us. Their job was apparently to secure the march from having any actual impact on the war machine. After we had gone around and under their ridiculous blockade, they claimed that they had only been trying to save the front of the march for Iraq Veterans Against the War. However, IVAW would certainly have been invited to the front before the march started, making ANSWER's excuses even lamer than their blocking technique.

All was calm for a little while. We ate some lunch and passed out literature until we got to the counter-protesters – a handful of right-wing, U.S.-flag-waving genocide supporters who had come out to heckle the march. We happily threw bread chunks and plastic bottles at them while the green vests complained that we were violating the sanctity of Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision (or something like that, I wasn't really listening).

About 100 yards past the counter-protesters, a line of riot cops stretched across the highway. The march leaders took us all down a ramp to the left before we even got close to it. The March on the Pentagon had just turned into the March Past the Pentagon, and we were the only ones who cared, or even seemed to notice. Instead of confronting the war criminals in their lair, the march shuffled through a sort of miniature industrial wasteland, the main feature of which was a public storage facility. It was the perfect place to chant "Whose public storage? Our public storage!" but sadly, we let the opportunity slip away.

Soon after, in a narrow stretch of road between a fence and a building, APOC made their move. Anarchist People of Color, backed up by the black bloc, stretched orange plastic netting across the route to cut the march in two. Their purpose was to give the liberal marchers trapped in the back an earful about the racist assumptions and practices of ANSWER and the white-dominated anti-war movement in general, an effort that was unfortunately handicapped by an under-amplified megaphone.

Self Described Anarchists march on the Pentagon on March 21. Photo by Isis.

(Continued on page 12)



Lucy Parsons Center

By SUBLETT

The Lucy Parsons Center (LPC) is Boston's collectively-run radical bookstore and community space. Named after the famous anarchist organizer and IWW co-founder, the LPC is entering its 40th (they think) year of operation.

In addition to selling a wide variety of radical books, 'zines, DVDs and other literature, the LPC provides meeting space for groups and events. Wednesday night is reserved for radical film screenings, and fundraising events and author appearances happen on a regular basis. Comfortable couches, free wi-fi and a public Internet terminal are available for the convenience of visitors.

Decisions at the LPC are made on a consensus basis at bimonthly steering committee meetings, which are open to any collective member who wants to attend. Agenda items can be proposed in advance by members even if they don't go to the meeting. This system allows members to choose their own level of involvement, neither being forced to assume a greater burden than they can handle nor trapped in a permanent underclass.

In February, the LPC set up a computerized inventory system using software acquired from the wonderful people at the Red Emma's bookstore in Baltimore. A weekend-long data entry party saw the entire stock categorized, inventoried and re-shelved. Since then an LPC member has added several useful new features to the software.

Currently, the biggest problem at the LPC is finding enough active members to cover shifts. Unfortunately, the store is sometimes closed simply because no one is available to work. While several new people have joined the collective in the past few months, they have mostly been offset by existing members leaving town. To alleviate this situation, the LPC is recruiting trainees to join the collective. Trainees work four training shifts, during which they observe the operation of the store, and four double shifts, during which they run the store with a collective member standing by to answer questions. In addition, they write a brief letter of introduction stating why they want to join the collective, and observe at least one steering committee meeting before being voted in.

The Lucy Parsons Center is located at 549 Columbus Avenue, Boston, MA 02118. They can be contacted at 617-267-6272 or at lucyparsons@tao.ca. Their Web site can be found at www.lucyparsons.org.

Black Bird Collective: Solidarity Beyond Walls and Borders

By PAUL McCARRIER

Recently, the Black Bird Collective organized a state-wide conference of groups, churches and individuals in Maine interested in working for concrete change to the state's incarceration system. The meeting was a great success, and now there is a state-wide group known as the Maine Prison Advocacy Coalition (MPAC).

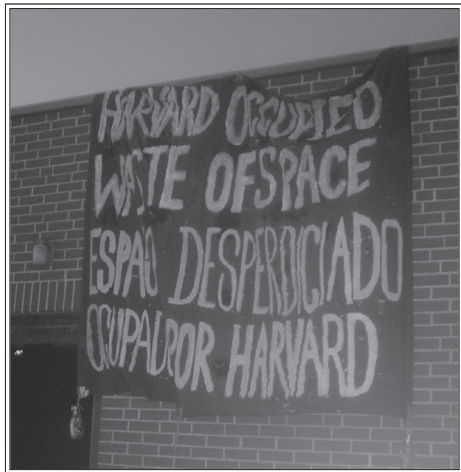
We have decided that at this time it is best for the Black Bird Collective to focus only on prisons, jails and the conditions inside of them. This is due to many factors, one being the amount of work that is required to make changes within these institutions. We still work with individuals and groups in the community and are actively working to engage more of the conventional community in Portland in taking a critical look at the Prison Industrial Complex that is ruining millions of lives in this country. MPAC: www.maineapac.org.

Boston Update

Boston is ever buzzing with radical activity. Since the *Nor'easter* last heard from us, the city has witnessed a range of events, fundraisers, protests and projects.

The Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Assembly (ABNA) remains entangled in a long-term struggle against Harvard's devastating expansion into their neighborhood. Resistance is often seen in the form of banner drops, holding presences at community meetings, and organizing with Harvard's workers and students. In addition to drawing attention to the negatives, ABNA emphasizes positives and possibilities. Really Really Free Markets have become a monthly occurrence and ABNA held a North Allston/Brighton Fair on April 18 to celebrate and defend what's left of the local economy. Replete with music, games and picnics, people were encouraged, with discounts and give-aways, to support local businesses. To keep up with their events and press coverage, <http://www.myspace.com/DefendAllstonBrighton>

Rising Tide Boston keeps the pressure on against the banks and the companies that are destroying the planet and its denizens. Pairing up with local tenants' rights organizers City Life/Vida Urbana,



festive protests against Bank of America are a regular affair in this town, educating the public and spreading rage about BoA's irresponsible funding of climate change and ruthless support of post-foreclosure evictions. An especially dramatic Break Up with Bank of America was called on Valentine's Day, wherein attention was drawn to the unhealthy relationship that so many people share with BoA, and account holders were encouraged to get their money away from the venomous tentacles of the bank that has swallowed Boston whole.

In completely unrelated news, a lone protester from Mannequins for Climate Justice chained himself to a BoA branch in Kenmore Square before the branch opened for the day, successfully shutting down not only the bank, but Kenmore Square. The police blocked the streets and swarmed the protester, Guy Fox, subjecting him to the indignities of examination and dissection by bomb bots and a man in a turtle suit. Before being crammed into evidence lockers, Fox reportedly told interrogators, "Even a dummy like me can see that Bank of America's massive loans to coal companies and support for the epidemic of foreclosures and evictions has to stop now." Stay strong, Guy!

The Boston Anarchist Black Cross (ABC) continues its regular support of

Banner drops on Harvard-owned property.



hundreds of prisoners by sending out literature, fulfilling research requests and maintaining penpal correspondences. ABC keeps up a \$20 per month contribution to Jericho Boston's commissary fund, which goes toward meeting the material needs of political prisoners. Boston ABC maintains its own bail fund, bailing out local activists and contributing to the legal and medical costs incurred by state repression both locally and across the country. They also give Know Your Rights and Security Culture workshops whenever possible. Both were presented as an appetizer for an ecstatic open mic fundraising show in February, and Know Your Rights was presented again in March at the Boston Area Student Teach-In held at Boston University.

If you want to support the prisoner support and legal defense work of Boston Anarchist Black Cross, you can send concealed cash or blank checks (Boston ABC has no bank account!) to:

Boston ABC
P.O. Box 230182
Boston, MA 02123

The Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement (BAAM) is busy as always, publishing a monthly newsletter and organizing fun public events. BAAM marched with the Red and Black Anti-Capitalist Contingent at the May Day march, and held "reviving radical roots" anarchist kids games, as is tradition, at the Jamaica Plain "Wake Up the Earth" festival, adding an anarchist picnic onto the event. BAAM has also added a second monthly meeting, this one a "work day," on the third Sunday of every month.

To keep up with Boston's radical news and events, be sure to check out the monthly newsletter of the Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement! You can find it at www.baamboston.org or boston.indymedia.org.

Wooden Shoe Collective

As a 32-year-old book infoshop located in Philadelphia, Wooden Shoe Books has provided the community with access to literature specializing in social justice, radical theory and culture, anarchism and other related ideologies, as well as providing a place to hear speakers of many different topics dealing with social justice, radical theory and underground culture for decades. As such, we would like to make a special announcement.

For many years, the collective was open to anyone with the time to volunteer. There was very little training and mentoring given to new members. This led to a small number of individuals dominating the collective, through taking up a lot of the responsibilities and not giving space for others to take on tasks and offer new ideas. It was often hard to retain any institutional knowledge of what had been tried before, what hadn't worked and how to learn from mistakes. Any conversations to address these issues couldn't be sustained for more than a few months because many collective members would get frustrated by the collective and leave.

While there was some structure set up to address these problems, the collective had very little accountability, and members would often disappear after taking on roles in various committees. Newer people would take on the burden of trying to work through these issues, however, this was hard with such a high membership turnover. People felt over time that major problems were either ignored or that it became a blame game, focusing on individuals

instead of examining the entire structure and mission of the organization. It is hard to run an organization with so many internal problems. We were losing money and not having enough collective members to order merchandise for the store or to even keep the store open during regular hours. We needed to do something major in order to keep surviving.

A core group of collective members formed to talk about the past, present and future of the collective and the store space. It became clear that we couldn't continue thriving without changing the structure and communication of the collective. We needed to meet more often, be more clear about what we were asking of people, enhance our training of new people, examine our role in our community and how we could make that stronger, and have ways of extending long and difficult conversations on how to challenge oppression within our store and collective, as well as maintain the sustainability of the store. We looked to infoshops that we felt were successful, such as Baltimore's Red Emma's or NYC's Bluestockings.

This project was largely inspired by Red Emma's collective in Baltimore, Md. We are extremely grateful to them for assisting and consulting with us throughout the transformation process. We met with members of their collective several times and had a delegation attend one of their meetings. Although we adopted our new structure to retain the original Wooden Shoe flavor, we borrowed many concepts they use in their collective, and we highly encourage others to look at their model for creating a strong collective.

Providence Update

By KATRINA

Hey from Providence! In a town where the number of foreclosed and abandoned houses is quickly approaching the number of those that are inhabited, foreclosure defense is growing as well. So far, the resistance is on the outreach level, where folks have been going door to door, connecting residents with the Rhode Island Bank Tenant and Homeowner Association. The struggle for justice for the Colibri workers also continues, with a recent direct action in which workers and allies barricaded a company auction.

We've stayed warm this winter with some rowdy homo activity, in which What Queer?!, Providence's favorite group of radical queers, organized several reclaim-the-streets actions, full of brass and sass. Providence labor activists Alex Svoboda and Jason Freidmutter are currently offering a speaking presentation about Alex's attack by the North Providence police two summers ago and their legal fight since. They are also still collecting donations for their drawn-out case. If you want them to come speak at your community space/house/school, e-mail Alex at wakeup_alex@hotmail.com.

As we continue to organize, we also mourn the loss of two of our comrades: Geovanny Sian, who was murdered upon his return to Guatemala, and Dan "The Man" Daley, whose cancer took over. Geovanny was an active participant in the Olneyville Neighborhood Association, English for Action and the Providence Industrial Workers of the World. Dan was involved with the Providence IWW and Direct Action for Rights and Equality, among other projects.

POG Stayed Warm This Winter

By MARIE SKOCZYLAS

It may have been bitterly cold outside, but Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG) members have been busy stoking the fires of justice this winter. Here are some exciting action briefs:

Standing with Oil Workers:

On Jan. 15, POG held a “Stand with Oil Workers” solidarity picket at a local Exxon Station. The contract covering oil workers nationally was set to expire in February. We wanted to send a message that they should get a new contract and that we are in solidarity with their demands that it provide safer working conditions.

Eating Disorders and Radical Communities:

On Jan. 23, members of POG put on a workshop as part of an internal anti-oppression initiative to educate each other about eating disorders within radical communities.

Anarchist Ball 2009

We set the night on fire with a blazingly successful annual Anarchist Ball on Feb. 20. This major POG fundraiser brought out more than 100 people and brought in about \$1,000. The evening included a raffle featuring items such as prints, zines and media projects by local artists, gift certificates and anarchist books, to name a few. Local DJs kept the crowd dancing throughout the night after the Pittsburgh Radical Marching Band kicked off the festivities. Attendees feasted on lentils and rice, vegan chili, cupcakes, cookies and gluten-free snacks. There were fire pits, more than one giant string-light circle-A and a general atmosphere of anarchist pride.

Back in Court for the RNC

During the last week in February, five members of our group traveled back to Minnesota for our arraignments from the arrests at the Republican National Convention in September 2008. After several months of waiting, the Ramsey County Courts finally summoned us to be arraigned for unlawful assembly and disorderly conduct, both misdemeanors. After some hurried travel arrangements and legal negotiations, we eventually took a deal offered by the county prosecutor: We each paid a fine plus court costs, and the state immediately dropped one of the original charges and agreed to drop the other charge after a year (if we are not arrested in Minnesota again during that year). This was probably the best we could have hoped for. Unlike the majority of people arrested at the RNC who had been penned in and taken to holding cells, we had planned – months in advance – to blockade an intersection; we had widely publicized our intent, followed through with it and our action was well-documented by onlookers as well as the authorities. Additionally, our one and only trip back to the Twin Cities cost us a substantial sum in travel costs and lost work hours – not really an affordable trek for most of us to keep making. We are relieved that our cases are closed, and we continue to get the word out about the events surrounding the RNC and the cases of others that are still pending.

Anarchists Against the Wall

On Feb. 28, we co-hosted the Pittsburgh stop on the AATW speaking tour, along with Pitt Students for Justice in Palestine and other local groups. AATW is a direct action group that fights against Israeli apartheid and oppression in all its forms. Members, working in cooperation with Palestinians, have participated in hundreds of demonstrations and direct actions against the wall and the occupation.

Police Brutality Protest

On March 6, some members of our group – alongside folks from other local collectives

– participated in an autonomously organized demonstration at Pittsburgh Police Chief Nate Harper’s house to call attention to the violence and abuses that the system allows the police to get away with on an everyday basis. Fourteen blocked-up demonstrators carried black flags and distributed flyers that detailed some of the reasons that we have to be upset with the police, including beatings, harassment, eviction enforcement and murder...all under the guise of “protection.” The response from bystanders was overwhelmingly positive; many of them cheered and shouted encouragement. The cops reacted dramatically; a few minutes after the demo started, eight police cars pulled up, sirens wailing. Nevertheless, we held our ground for about 15 minutes, holding up flags and signs and chanting, “No justice, no peace! No racist police!” and “Stop killer cops!” Police cars followed us home the entire three miles, filming and harassing us with provocative comments.

Anti-War Anniversary Film Screening

On March 20, the anniversary of the war, we gathered members of the larger anti-war community together to screen two appropriate films: *Shutdown*, which tells the story of how social justice organizers and everyday people came together to plan and shut down San Francisco’s financial district in March of 2003, and *500 Miles to Babylon*, which presents a narrative of Iraqi daily life, disintegration and the humor that ordinary people adapt when living in a war zone. The room was packed and, despite some technical difficulties that prevented us from screening the entirety of the second film, the event spurred informal discussion among the different groups and people in attendance.

Financial Fools Action

On April 1, Financial Fools Day, about 50 Pittsburghers turned out for a rally and march expressing solidarity with those demonstrating in London. The message was that any economic system that puts profits before people and our environment is foolish and must be resisted. The spirited march through downtown set off behind a banner that read, “Globalize Liberation – (A).” There were stops at PNC Bank, the Federal Building, Payday Lenders, Mellon Bank and our local city and county government buildings.

IMF/World Bank

POG mobilized for the spring meetings of the IMF and World Bank in Washington, D.C. We are also prepared for a weekend-long training by two incredible organizers from the Signals Collective in New York City. Autumn Brown and Sam Conway came to Pittsburgh April 17-19 to share their mad skills on building consensus, facilitation and public speaking.

And, of course, we continued to work hard on putting out Issue #3 of the *Steel City Revolt!*, our quarterly anarchist publication.

If you live in Western Pennsylvania and are interested in getting involved in our myriad activities, send us an e-mail (pog@mutualaid.org). We have periodic orientations for new members. We could always use more help!✱



Top left and bottom right: Pittsburgh Financial Fools Day action. Top right: Pittsburgh anarchists set the night on fire at the 2009 Anarchist Ball.

Communications from the Frozen North: A Toronto Update

By BRYN ROSHONG AND WES HANNAH

This long winter and chilly spring in Toronto saw the blooming of new anarchist and radical projects, with grand plans for more to come.

Facing a long-standing problem of having a somewhat splintered anarchist movement, Toronto started the new year with an initiative toward more integrated networking. Two or three Anarchist Potlucks/Anarchist Gatherings have occurred, with the intent of drawing similarly-minded people together, serving as a Petri dish for new projects to arise.



Really Really Free Market in Toronto. Photo by Wes Hannah.

Binghamton Not Bombs

By TOM

In Binghamton right now we are focusing on the budget crisis. The state is \$11.5 billion in debt due to the loss of revenues from Wall St. Raising taxes by four percent on those making over \$250,000 would fix the budget gap. Instead of this, the state is drastically cutting education and healthcare spending and raising tuitions on all SUNY and CUNY schools, even while cutting funding to liberal arts programs. In response, we showed up at Governor Paterson’s local town hall meeting at Broome Community College and had a rally sponsored by the Binghamton IWW.

After the Paterson action, we started organizing for a state-wide day of action for March 25 to correspond with the vote on the new state budget. Along with this action, we are organizing the SUNY Social Justice Network, a network of SUNY and CUNY students formed at last semester’s SUNY Social Justice Conference. ✱



One such project was the Toronto Really Really Free Market, which saw its debut this past March. The eventual goal is a permanent space for a community free store; right now the market will be a once-a-month affair. The first RRFM, operating out of a space donated by the Toronto Free Gallery, had around 500 people of all walks of life turn out to give, take and share. Everything from books to toys to household goods to bicycles was given and taken. The event wrapped up with a free dinner served by Food Not Bombs to around 100 people, as well as a free concert. We received overwhelmingly positive responses from all kinds of folks who participated or heard word from elsewhere. Some want to get involved in organizing with us, others want to start one in their own neighborhoods.

As the weather warms up, so do our Canadian hearts, and we hope for big things this summer.✱

Syracuse Solidarity Network Update

By SYRACUSE SOLIDARITY NETWORK

Following the Republican National Convention (RNC), this past winter has had a different feel for Syracuse Solidarity Network (SSN). After the RNC, SSN took a step back to recover and reassess. We realized that constantly doing outreach and trying to get new people involved hindered our ability to do certain projects and accomplish certain goals. So we decided to focus more on the energy we already have and follow through on some long-dormant projects.

In the fall, some of us took part in an event alongside Rochester Indymedia to recount the events of the RNC.

In December, we took to the streets on the International Day of Action in solidarity with the Greek uprising. We took this opportunity to reconnect and rekindle relationships with anarchists and anti-authoritarians in Upstate New York, including Binghamton, Oswego and Rochester.

We spent the spring preparing InfoBoxes, which will be placed in different spots around the city. The InfoBoxes will serve as a means to distribute right-on literature and fliers, as well as being a place where anyone can put their own artwork or literature, as long as it is consistent with our points of unity.

We also hosted an Upstate NY-wide consulta to share information and strategies regarding the IMF/World Bank protests in April.

There has been a steadily increasing momentum for anarchists in Upstate, and SSN is excited to contribute to it in any way we can. For dead-end Rustbelt towns, the ongoing crisis is nothing new, and the time is ripe across the world for shit-towns to rise up for a Summer of Rage.✱

Upstate Drilling from page 1

The breakdown of communities and local economies is not far behind all this as neighbors blame each other and the land becomes unfit for farming, tourism, hunting, etc.

Resistance

Shaleshock Action Alliance is a decentralized, grassroots, consensus-based environmental justice organization.

As small town people in rural areas, we face this looming threat knowing that we can't afford to isolate ourselves. The severity of the devastation compels us to implement a diversity of tactics. Shaleshock puts on film screenings, hosts speakers, prints literature, lobbies elected officials, organizes grassroots water testing, works the regulatory channels, works with other groups, designs and hosts trainings and classes, and scrambles for legal footing to buy time. And new projects keep sprouting.

As a tactic, we also use what are called listening projects, in which locals are asked about their connections to the area, their values, and what experiences, thoughts and opinions they have with regards to gas drilling issues. Listening projects are not a new idea; they are currently used in organizing against mountain-top removal in Appalachia and were used extensively by groups critical of nuclear weapons and U.S. foreign policy during the 1980s.

In Upstate New York, we go door to door in the areas that are to be drilled first (those closest to pipelines) and listen to what folks have to say. We have literature if people want it, but we try not to proselytize. Through this process, we become clearer communicators and gain a ground-level understanding of the complexity of this issue in the microcosm of small-town life.



Fortuna's test site in Troy, PA — one of several horizontal Marcellus wells concentrated in a small area.

Listening projects reveal unlikely alliances, challenge stereotypes, provide information for other organizing, show us our blind spots, identify allies and inform our actions with a community-based perspective. Listening projects require listening skills, emotional I.Q. and the humility to hear people out. If we, as anarchists, wish to connect with communities, we'll need more activities like this informing our work.

We have also made use of innovative facilitation methods during community discussions such as "world cafés" — a conversational process meant to connect people, groups and networks — to make things more participatory and self-organizational, and to take conversations deeper.

For more information, please visit Shaleshock.org and TheWorldCafe.com. We'd also like to give props to Rising Tide North America at www.risingtidenorthamerica.org.

March to Pentagon from page 9

While the liberals squeezed their way around the ends of the APOC blockade, we argued about whether to make a move against a nearby office building. Police presence was minimal, but the same dynamic that had hobbled us before struck again. However, as we closed ranks to continue marching, there was a sound of shattering glass, and a masked figure dashed back into the crowd, pursued by cries of "Provocateur! Provocateur!" A first-floor window had suddenly acquired a large hole.

Further along, Virginia state cops in full riot gear lined the road on each side, prompting chants of "This is what a police state looks like!" Behind them were a couple of guys dressed for a black bloc but apparently confused about which side of the line the protest was on. As we jeered and chanted, one of them pulled down his mask and glared at us defiantly. A colleague quickly summoned him behind a pillar, presumably for a quick refresher on the meaning of the word "covert," but he reappeared a little later, still sans mask.



Top: Protestors. Bottom: Cops and protestors. Photos by Isis.

At the end of the route, the liberals in front attempted to deliver a symbolic coffin to the headquarters of General Dynamics, a large defense contractor. A standoff with the cops ensued in a small courtyard in front of the building. The situation eventually calmed down and nobody was arrested, but for a while it looked like an ideal spot for anarchists to avoid, especially after someone who hadn't been in the black bloc popped up among us, loudly proclaiming the virtues of mass arrests as a protest tactic.

I went home shortly after that, but not before the liberals took their inadvertent revenge. A chorus of Code Pinkers, laboring under the twin delusions that reformism can work and that they knew how to sing, belted out classic protest songs, including an absolutely butchered rendition of "Bella Ciao."

All in all, not withstanding a few bright spots, the day was one of missed opportunities. The poorly defended office buildings near the APOC blockade in particular were a perfect opening for an enraged mob of thousands to wreak enough havoc to get the attention of the ruling elite. But, of course, we didn't have an enraged mob. All we had was a day-tripping liberal mob, surrounding and mostly neutralizing a handful of frustrated and intimidated anarchists.

In this respect, our march was a microcosm of the anti-war movement overall. For the last six years, liberal anti-war activists have focused exclusively on officially sanctioned tactics while excluding anything resembling direct action. This might have been defensible in late 2002, but after over half a decade of complete futility there is no excuse left for doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result. The insurrection in Greece that began last December, as well as the anti-G20 and anti-NATO protests more recently, have shown what can be accomplished when large masses of people get angry enough to break things. But until the anti-war movement is willing to resist the war instead of merely protesting it, they will continue to play into the hands of the war criminals.

Remember, it's not civil disobedience if you do everything they tell you.

Events

Fri., May 29

(Boston) Protest John Kerry with UMASS Boston Students Against Occupation at the UMASS Boston Commencement. John Kerry supports the Israeli Occupation of Palestine and the apartheid wall! 3p.m., on the Campus Center front lawn, UMASS Boston, 100 Morrissey Boulevard. We are meeting at the UMASS Boston Campus Center entrance. More info here: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=90098467392>.

Wed., June 3 - Sat., June 6

(Pittsburgh) Working Class Studies History Conference. Of special note, June 5 panels: "New Frontiers in Anarchist History" and "Anarchist Theory Past and Present." June 6 panels: "History of Anarchism" and "Anarchist History: An Appreciation of the Life, Work and Legacy of Paul Avrich (1931-2006)." www.workingclassstudies.pitt.edu.

Thurs., June 4

(Cambridge) No Layoffs Campaign pickets Harvard students' commencement. Harvard isn't broke, they shouldn't be laying off workers! Meet at noon at the Holyoke Center, 1350 Mass Ave. harvardnolayoffs.blogspot.com.

Sat., June 6

(Pittsburgh) McKees Rocks Strike Centennial Panel Discussion, 10 a.m. Ryan Arts Center, McKees Rocks, Penn. John Makar will represent the McKees Rocks Historical Society. Evan Wolfson will represent the Pittsburgh General Membership Branch of the IWW. Many other exciting and knowledgeable presenters.

(Ontario) Common Cause presents Hamilton's 2nd Annual Anarchist Bookfair. 10a.m. - 4p.m. Westdale High School 700 Main St. West, Hamilton, ON. Free lunch by Food Not Bombs. Free child care provided. Confirmed workshops include: Life Under Occupation — with Jamila Ghaddar (Palestinian Human Rights Activist) and Tom Keefer (Non-Native activist organizing in the Six Nations struggle).

(Boston) Anarchist picnic and reading group. Join BAAM, NEFAC Boston and the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society at 1p.m. at the Jamaica Plain Arboretum. Picnic and reading group from 1-3p.m. Games and sports from 3-5p.m. BAAMBoston.org

(Allentown) Demonstration against the Dept. of Homeland Security Act. The presence of Bush's Dept. of Homeland Security sets precedent for tortured confessions, esp. of political prisoners such as Herman Bell and Jalil Bottom (Muntaquim) of the San Francisco 8. At 5th St. & Hamilton St. in front of the federal building. 2p.m. - 6p.m.

Thurs., June 11 - Sat., June 13

(Philadelphia) Trans Health Conference, Different Paths, One Journey. www.trans-health.org.

Sat., June 13 - Sat., Aug. 15

(Syracuse) THE POWER OF REVOLT: Grassroots Resistance in Oaxaca. Exhibit of photographs from the Oaxaca, Mexico resistance movement. Film screenings, panel discussions and presentation from Solidarity Without Borders 2008 Mexico Delegation will accompany exhibit. ArtRage Gallery, Syracuse (505 Hawley Ave.), opening reception Sat., June 13, 7-9p.m. www.artragegallery.org.

Sat., June 20

(Pittsburgh) Really Really Free Market. Allegheny Commons in the North Side, rain or shine, noon to 5 p.m.

Wed., July 8 - Fri., July 10

G8 Summit in Italy, solidarity protests worldwide.

Mon., July 20 - Sun., July 26

(Pittsburgh) Crimethinc Convergence. www.crimethinc.com

Wed., July 15

Nor'easter #6 Deadline

Issue #6 of The Nor'easter, Fall 2009, will tentatively be released in late August. Contact the Nor'easter Collective to pitch a story by July 15. Event submission deadline is August 15.

Sat., Aug. 1

(Pittsburgh) POG Fifth Annual Anarchist Picnic. 1p.m. to 6p.m. Overlook Shelter, Schenley Park. Pittsburgh Organizing Group pog@mutualaid.org www.organizepittsburgh.org

Thurs., Aug. 6

(Philadelphia) 2009 Northeast APOC Summer Conference. Details TBA. Conference will be geared more toward Radical People of Color (with anti-authoritarian tendencies) in the Northeastern part of the United States of America, but all other interested RADPOC are welcome.

Sat., Aug. 22

(Pittsburgh) Centennial of "Bloody Sunday." 11 a.m. Memorial March from the Bottoms to Presston (McKees Rocks) — march with the Pittsburgh IWW! Noon: Dedication of State Historical Marker. 1 p.m. Community Potluck with music by Mike Stout and The Human Union.

Sun., Aug. 23

(Boston) Sacco and Vanzetti Memorial March. Join the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society for the forth annual march to remember the fallen Italian anarchist workers, and to continue their struggle for revolution. No Deportations, No State Repression! www.SaccoandVanzetti.org

Last Saturday of Every Month

(Allston) Really, Really Free Market in Ringer Park.

Every Saturday

(Philly) The People's Movie Night Wooden Shoe Books 508 S. 5th St. Philadelphia, PA 19147 215-413-0999 sabot@woodenshoebooks.com www.woodenshoebooks.com

Every Friday

(Ithaca) Intro To (A)narchist Studies 101. 6 p.m. @ Silent City Distro. Curious about Anarchism? This is the place for you. Every week we read short articles, chapters or 'zines as a group and have discussion. In the most simplistic definition, Anarchism means no government. This is a class where we explore the vast realm of anarchist studies. Theory, history, action, folklore, art, etc...

Every Sunday

(Ithaca) Radical Reading Circle. 6 p.m. @ Silent City Distro. Every Sunday a group gathers at the Distro Zine Library space to discuss the latest book or 'zine. Herbal Teas are provided. Dress your Sunday best!

GET THE WORD OUT!

The *Nor'easter* hopes to provide a venue for groups throughout the region to share news, events, analysis and organizing efforts. Any and all events are welcome, from local to global; from meetings, demonstrations and workshops, to conferences, parties and anything else that may be going on!

Send any events to noreaster@neanarchist.net.

Events can also be posted on the Northeast Anarchist Network Web site. For more information, event listing or to post events, visit www.neanarchist.net/event.