

# The Nor\*Easter

Issue #2, Summer 2008

THE OFFICIAL QUARTERLY OF THE  
NORTHEAST ANARCHIST NETWORK.

## Can't Fake the Funk

BY LEGBA CARREFOUR AND SAMANTHA MILLER, DC STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY

**\*"Funk the War! Yes, we can! Disco beats are back again!"**

On March 19's unprecedented day of mass direct action in Washington, DC against the occupation of Iraq, the core of the largest and most militant action – among a whole field of radical and brave departures from the anti-war norm – was a red wagon, a car battery, an mp3 player, and a 300 watt speaker. And a guy in a polar bear costume. And women in fairy wings. And glitter. And paint balloons. And 600 kids from all over the US roving through the streets of DC, blocking traffic at will, dancing into war-profiteers' offices, mussing up the facade of a military recruiting station (twice), and locking down in intersections in complete defiance of a somewhat hapless Metropolitan Police

Department – all to the backing of the occasional Donna Reed vocal and a LOT of M.I.A.

The action was Funk the War. It's a simple idea, but it represents a pretty significant opportunity for channeling youth energy at demonstrations and moving away from the rock-and-hard-place choice of lame-duck marches or black blocs that have often frustrated mass mobilizations for social justice in the last few years (the last IMF/World Bank protest in DC opted for both on separate days to a mixed bag of results).

Back in January, DC SDS was presented with a problem: We wanted to do an Iraq Moratorium action, but no one could stomach a candlelight vigil and we didn't think we were ready to...

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**T**he 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 amongst 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](http://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. \*



Above: Protesters lock into school desks at Funk the War 3, a mobile student dance party in Washington DC on March 17, 2008

To submit articles, events, etc., e-mail: [noreaster-submissions@neanarchist.net](mailto:noreaster-submissions@neanarchist.net)

## Opinion.

### Full-Speed Ahead!

By JAKE CARMAN

Fellow anarchists, anti-authoritarians, horizontalists, and other such rebels and dreamers: Let's take a look at ourselves and a deep, collective breath as we prepare to plunge into what could be the most exciting year of our lives (thus far). Across the United States, conditions are ripe to galvanize popular support for an anti-state, anti-capitalist revolutionary movement. We should encourage each other to take ourselves seriously and not let this narrow window to the new world pass us by.

Our country teeters on the edge of economic collapse. As people continue to lose their homes, their jobs, and their savings, the giant middle class that has protected US capitalism is shrinking. The foundations of the capitalist system are becoming shaky. The population is increasingly aware of the pandemic environmental devastation, and it seems like everyone knows who to blame.

Most excitingly, save the usual political zealots and activists for this or that candidate, it appears that many people are fed up with the two party system and candidates who don't represent them. It is our role to bring to the table an alternative, one that is both romantic and tangibly achievable.

At least in Boston, the only city I know and love, anarchism has been rapidly attracting people to the movement. New faces constantly appear at meetings of local groups, new organizations and projects are springing up, and our coordination has vastly improved. Since last August, the Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN) has blossomed from a dream – a twinkle in the eyes of some BAAM (Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement) organizers – into a rapidly growing, completely horizontal network including almost 15 organizations and hundreds of participants from south of Washington, DC to the top of Maine.

With seven Network assemblies under our belt, our example is an inspiration. Every city and town that hosts a NEAN event plants a seed as new people join up and new groups form. We are all part of a vibrant organization that represents and connects most of the popular trends within anarchism, and more importantly, our organization is structured in such a way to foster massive coordination and effective organizing. Even as far away as Arizona, our comrades' eyes are on us. We have the opportunity to set a damn good example. So then, comrades, what lies ahead?

Our biggest task is to bring our ideas to the public, a public that is growing increasingly distrustful of its masters. The most effective way to make anarchism accessible is by working within existing community and labor movements and struggles as anarchists – not to shove the word "anarchist" (or our image or fashion or music) down people's throats, but to expose our neighbors and co-workers to our wonderful ideas.

When we're asked why we aren't voting, "Because these candidates all serve the rich, and in fact, no working-class candidate has or could ever be elected in this corporate two party system" is a much better answer than "Because I'm a bloody anarchist, can't you read my patches?"

Many community struggles already have dedicated and long-time organizers who hold anti-authoritarian beliefs (though some may not even know it), and our long-term and serious participation will only help clarify these positions. Community and labor struggles, though less glamorous than affinity group-based direct action, are the vital organs that create and sustain any successful revolutionary movement. Let's lend a hand to the groups who are already building new worlds for themselves.

We must also step up our propaganda efforts, but this should not happen instead of organizing. The Northeast Anarchist Network has a whole campaign dedicated to exposing the electoral system for the fraud that it is and promoting anarchy/direct democracy.

## 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 towards 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 so 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.

### ISSUE VOLUNTEERS

**Jake Carman**  
**Hannah E. Dobbz**  
**Wes Hannah**  
**Marie Skoczylas**  
**Sublett**  
**Richard Vallejo**

We have a library of ready-made fliers. Find them at the following link, download them, photocopy them, blow them up and hang 'em: [www.neanarchist.net/q=antielect08/about](http://www.neanarchist.net/q=antielect08/about).

Even better, make your own. Drop banners, write songs, make stencils, cover the city walls with our own media decrying the lie they call "democracy."

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TO LEARN MORE, VISIT OUR WEB SITE:  
[WWW.NEANARCHIST.NET](http://WWW.NEANARCHIST.NET)



**NORTH EAST**  
**ANARCHIST NETWORK**



## Call-Out.

# Roadblock the NAFTA Superhighway\*

INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY DYLAN FROM FREDERICK

The I-69, or NAFTA superhighway, is a planned highway four football fields wide that will go through parts of Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas. Its goal is to foster trade between the United States, Canada, and Mexico, further exploiting the people of Mexico.

In Indiana alone it will displace four hundred residents, and go through historical sites and a national forest. Over 1500 acres of forests and wetlands will be destroyed. Indiana and Texas are the main I-69 battlegrounds in the United States.

A promo video is available online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IeDKgzXZsFg>

There are many ways to help the campaign, or to do this work on your own, in the communities and tactics to which you are accustomed. We need our struggle to incorporate every manner of fighting in order to succeed. Indeed, if the struggle remains as localized as it has been, we will be easily defeated by the forces of oppression.

### Things you can do:

\*Come to Indiana in the summer of 2008. Come with ideas, with plans, with food, with resources. Come for a week or for a season. Come with those you trust and skills honed. Come prepared.

\*Visit early to get to know and appreciate areas scheduled to be paved over. Get to know the local community and resources. Find long term housing, short term employment, whatever you need to do to fulfill your needs while you're here. E-mail [i69housing@yahoo.com](mailto:i69housing@yahoo.com) for housing leads.

\*The companies who are building this road have offices everywhere. Interact with them: find them at <http://stopi69.wordpress.com/those-responsible/>

\*We need resources! Money, food, medics, lawyers, money, zine makers, people who like tabling and going door-to-door, money, hardware store

about it wherever you are, hosting direct action skillshares – all of these things are incredibly helpful. Check out our resources page for outreach material we've made that you can use, or make your own!

Specific questions? Things to offer or things you need? E-mail us:

Working Groups:

[i69housing@yahoo.com](mailto:i69housing@yahoo.com),  
[i69supplies@yahoo.com](mailto:i69supplies@yahoo.com),  
[i69legal@yahoo.com](mailto:i69legal@yahoo.com),  
[i69medic@yahoo.com](mailto:i69medic@yahoo.com), or  
[i69media@yahoo.com](mailto:i69media@yahoo.com)

All other concerns:

[roadblockef@yahoo.com](mailto:roadblockef@yahoo.com)

More detailed information about the supplies needed are on our Web site at: <http://stopi69.wordpress.com/how-to-help/>

If you have an idea for something to put on our list, please e-mail us at [i69supplies@yahoo.com](mailto:i69supplies@yahoo.com), and we'll add it. Or just get some friends together and start gathering the materials or practicing the skills to make sure your idea happens!

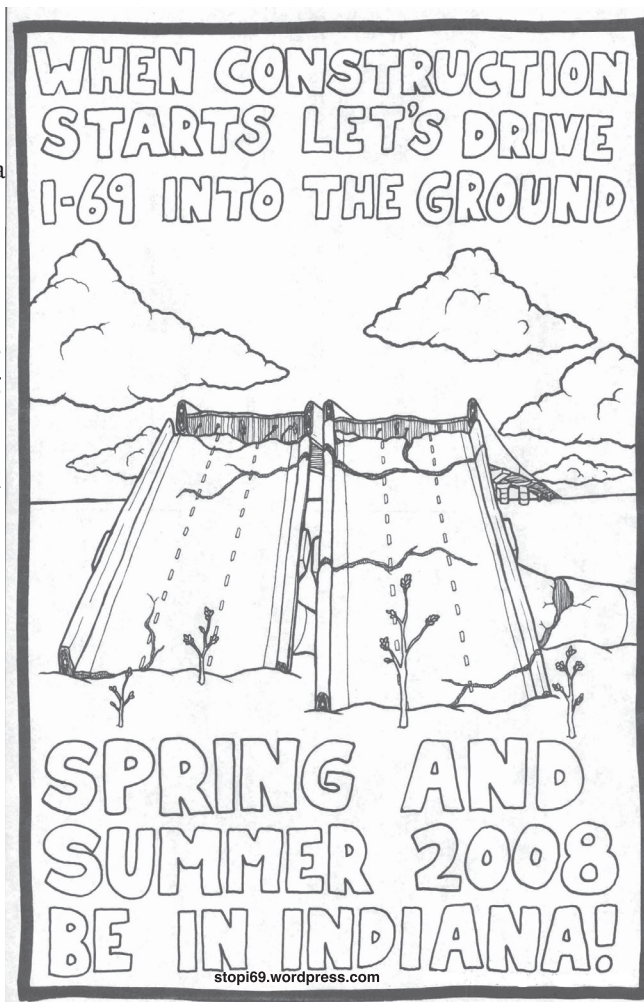
Also, e-mail us at [roadblockef@yahoo.com](mailto:roadblockef@yahoo.com) or [i69supplies@yahoo.com](mailto:i69supplies@yahoo.com) if you are gathering materials and want to get stuff to us by 1) making a drop-off in Evansville or Bloomington, or 2) arranging a pick-up in Louisville, Chicago, Indianapolis. Packages can be sent to us at the following

addresses:

I-69 Listening Project 323 S. Walnut Ave. Bloomington, IN 47401  
1319 Fountain Ave. Evansville, IN 47710

We have recently set up a P.O. Box in Evansville. Please send all checks and money orders here:

Turtle Turn P.O. 2161  
Evansville, IN 57728 \*



credit, camping gear, money – you get the idea. If you have a skill or access to physical supplies, we can probably use it. E-mail [i69medics@yahoo.com](mailto:i69medics@yahoo.com), [i69legal@yahoo.com](mailto:i69legal@yahoo.com), or [i69supplies@yahoo.com](mailto:i69supplies@yahoo.com).

\*Outreach. We need everyone to know about this outrage and to help us in whatever way they can. Setting up your own speaking tour about I-69, tabling

# BEHIND THE BIKE LOCK AND PINK DUCT TAPE:

## How We Closed a Bank of America on April Fools Day

BY FUNKY FLAMINGO  
AND ISLAND LIME

A lot of us have read about actions that other people have done and said “that sounds great; but how do I do that?” We show up for actions other people have organized, but still don’t feel confident that we can pull off our own. This article is about a group of people who organized a “lockdown” style blockade at a Bank of America (BOA) branch in Boston, MA, on April 1. Four people attached themselves to one another with lockboxes, with one of their necks attached to the bank’s door with a bicycle U-lock. Although there were varying levels of experience among the participants, none of us had ever been the primary organizers of this type of action before, so while none of us can claim to be experts, we thought we’d share some of the lessons we learned with other people who might want to try their hand at this sort of thing for the first time.

The action was planned to coincide with the Fossil Fools International Day of Action called for by Rising Tide, Rainforest Action Network (RAN), and others. Our target was chosen based on an existing campaign pressuring Bank of America (BOA) to recall its loans to corporations involved in mountaintop removal (MTR) and other forms of strip mining for coal, not to mention industries that burn coal, and those who tout so-called “clean coal” technologies. We felt that BOA’s high profile, with branches opening all over the Boston area like spreading cancer cells, made it a ripe target for a highly visible action to send a message that people in the Northeast know about Bank of America’s links to coal and plan on holding them accountable.

This action wasn’t organized by a particular group with a particular name. Our strength came from friendships and social ties, whose importance can’t be overemphasized. A persistent obstacle to successful organizing among the majority white, young, anarchist-identified subculture in Boston is its tendency for a shifting cast of characters to move through or disappear before ever becoming a really cohesive community. This has prevented solidarity work with some amazing and well-established community organizations from becoming as powerful as it could, and created a situation that at times feels like continually reinventing the wheel. It’s encouraging to see a group of people come together and carry a plan through to fruition, and hopefully this is an indicator that something stronger and more lasting is developing. If we can do this, you can too.

### Beginning at the Beginning

One problem we had to overcome was that we didn’t really get our act together until a fairly short time before the day of action. This was an instance where priorities on maintaining security culture resulted in a simple lack of communication, and it wasn’t clear who was doing what, who knew what, and what still needed to be done.

Once it became obvious how much needed to be done in a short time, we laid out a plan of how to accomplish our goals, and we found it useful to make a backwards time-line.



Activists lock down in front of Bank of America on April Fools Day.

Photos by: Saul Loeb of BU's Daily Free Press

First, what did we want to achieve? We wanted to prevent business as usual for a clear reason, spread information to as many people in the surrounding area as possible, serve as an inspiration for action, and get useful media coverage that connected BOA’s name to the practices they fund – all the while keeping all participants in the action as safe as possible. We then created a list of roles that would need to be filled and support infrastructure that would be helpful on the day of the action.

Roles that helped make this a successful action (success in terms of our short-term goals; we know we haven’t won yet):

-Highest Risk Arrestable People: These are people who went into the action with the highest likelihood that they would be arrested, because they were the ones who physically blockaded the bank’s entrance. It was important for these people to assess their legal, emotional, and physical state to make sure that they wouldn’t be putting themselves into a position that was too dangerous. It would have been wise for us if we had planned on having backup people who could switch out with any of these people who decided that they couldn’t fill this role, for whatever reason.



-Direct-Support for High-Risk People: These people would also be at significant risk, because they would be the ones physically closest to the people who were locking down, providing physical and emotional support. This group, including several trained action medics with first aid supplies, carried food, water, and emergency blankets for the people locked down. Direct support people also provided a link between locked-down activists and a larger support rally nearby, and an extra layer of support in the event of a need for de-escalation of situations where emotions run high.

-Police Liaison: A person whose designated role is to talk to police when they arrive, explaining the situation and carrying messages back and forth between activists and cops (which also happens to take up time). They give the cops someone to focus on and ask questions of, which may be advantageous in terms of keeping them relatively calm and relaxed. Of course, there's always a chance that the highest ranking officers will just ignore the liaison. Still, it can be reassuring to people locked down to have someone designated as a police liaison so they can feel less pressure to talk to the cops themselves.

-Media Liaison: People locked down or taking part in a rally might not feel comfortable being drilled with questions by the media, but we wanted positive media coverage of our action, so we needed someone prepared to talk to people from the media when they arrived. This person needed to be knowledgeable and well-spoken on the issue at hand. It's important to remember that the media is focused on brief sound bites, so we prepared certain points that we wanted to emphasize in our messaging, and we made sure to always have our answers return to these key points when we answered reporters' questions.

-Off-Site Media Team: This group kept in touch with the media liaison, while staying close to a computer in order to send press releases and updates, and field emails from media contacts. In the event of some kind of mass arrest netting the primary media liaison at the scene of the action, an off-site media team could serve as backup to communicate with the press.

-Legal Support: This role was filled by someone who staffed a landline for people to call when they'd been arrested (everyone

at the action had this phone number written on their body). The person staffing this line would also call the police station where arrestees were being held to get updates, and was prepared to write down any important information provided by arrestees over the phone. It's useful for the legal support line to be a landline because many cell phones can't accept collect calls from jails.

-Legal Observers: If you're lucky enough to live in an area with an active chapter of the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), they conduct trainings in how to be a "legal observer" at demonstrations, and there may already be people who are trained in what to watch for (as far as any police misconduct, etc.) that could prove useful in court later on. We were lucky to have two legal observers present. However, we learned that if this is a role you want filled, you should contact the NLG in your area well ahead of time to find out if it is a possibility (which should have been obvious). Two things to keep in mind are that observers are not simply "on call" in large numbers, and that someone trained by the Guild must have NLG approval to act as a legal observer at a particular demonstration.

#### Other Things to Take Care of Before & After

-Messaging: It was important for us to decide on our message ahead of time and try to make sure that people taking part in the action were familiar with the issues. We wanted to have signs, banners, and flyers that expressed our points concisely and that stuck to our message. The people locked down requested that everyone else focus our message on the demand for Bank of America to stop funding ecologically and culturally destructive industries even while they were being arrested. Even when it's assumed that people are going to get arrested, and there's no reason to think yelling at the cops is going to help, it can be hard not to, when they're taking away people you care about a lot, so it was good that we'd talked about this ahead of time.

-Rally Outreach: We also did outreach work to get numbers of people out for a support rally across the street from where the lockdown action was taking place. People at the rally were in a public park, and therefore in a lower risk position, while able to make a lot of noise

about why we were there that day. When people were being cut out of the lockdown, most of the rally moved across the street to get close, which helped keep energy high. It makes sense to publicize for such events well ahead of time, especially those scheduled at busy times of the week or early in the day; it's worth it to have people there.

-Creating a Supportive Environment / Convergence Space: It can be so useful to have a common space where people can prepare for the action together. It's not just the advantage of space to make preparations for the action that's important, though; more than anything, it's the "we're all in this together" feeling of camaraderie and trust that develops among people working intensely toward the same goal in a supportive environment. But whether we'd been able to find a convergence space or not, we've certainly learned the value and can't emphasize enough the importance of people spending time together to bond and get to know one another better. It definitely increased our confidence during the action to not only have large numbers of people, but to be surrounded by the familiar faces of people we knew we could trust. Part of building that trust ahead of time came from talking about what people's concerns were and what would help them stay calm in stressful situations. It was also important to us that we valued and made space for emotional support and took time to talk about things other than the "action" details. It's also very useful to make sure there's a decent supply of food available in the preparation time leading up to an action, since there are enough things to worry about without going into an unpredictable situation hungry!

-Press Release: It's much easier to write a press release ahead of time and have it ready to send out right when you need it than to scramble to put it together when the action is under way. Research how to write an effective press release and remember you can always change small details right before you send it. Composing a press release also made us feel more confident that we could articulate our message during and after the action.

-Practice: Practicing the high-stress roles beforehand was absolutely necessary...

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# "WE WILL NOT BE MOVED!"

## EL BARRIO FIGHTS BACK AGAINST GLOBALIZED GENTRIFICATION

By MICHAEL GOULD-WARTOFSKY

**F**rom London's Grosvenor Square you can't see East Harlem, but you can buy it. For £250 million, 47 buildings, and 1,137 homes at a time. That, at least, was supposed to be the deal for UK-based investment bank Dawnay, Day Group when it reached across the ocean last March and snatched up entire blocks of this historic neighborhood of low-income immigrants – one of the last such communities left in Manhattan.

Dawnay, Day Group's plan follows the typical logic of displacement for "development," a logic well known both to real estate profiteers and to the poor people they displace.

East Harlem tenants like Carmen Sanchez know the game: "The only purpose is to take us out of our homes. So they can renovate our apartments and then rent them for ten times what we are paying now."

Director Phil Blakeley has publicly pledged to do as much, saying the company is doing its part to "bring along Harlem's gentrification" as a beachhead in its bid to build a \$5 billion real estate empire here.

Yet Dawnay, Day may have gotten more than it bargained for in East Harlem, known as El Barrio to those who call it home. Here, the powerful multinational corporation has run into a different kind of power -- the power of a community ready to defend its right to exist.

For tenants, the company's offer to "bring along Harlem's gentrification" can be translated to mean harassment, eviction, displacement – experiences all too familiar to the people of Harlem, if all too invisible in the media. Every time we hear of the deepening hous-

ing crisis facing homeowners, we hear nothing of the other housing crisis – the perpetual crisis that low-income renters face every day in cities like New York, in neighborhoods like East Harlem.

But here is a "community in resistance." Since 2004, inspired by the Zapatista rebels of Mexico and by a long tradition of struggle in their neighborhood, tenants have organized themselves into a force to be reckoned

would see the launch of their International Campaign in Defense of El Barrio.

"Dawnay, Day Group is waging a war against our community from their headquarters across the ocean," they said in a recent declaration, "with the sole purpose of forcing us from our homes in order to increase their profits... Together, we make our dignity resistance and we fight back against the actions of capitalist landlords and

multinational corporations who are displacing poor families from our neighborhood. We fight back locally and across borders."

Both faces of the struggle were on vivid display on the steps of City Hall. On the local front, tenants shared their experiences with the new

"Together, we make our dignity resistance and we fight back against the actions of capitalist landlords and multinational corporations who are displacing poor families from our neighborhood."

with, a force called Movement for Justice in El Barrio (MJB). For four years, led by the community itself, MJB has battled the gentrification juggernaut from the ground up, winning victory after victory, building by building.

On April 6, Movement for Justice in El Barrio descended on New York's city hall. They marched up the steep stone steps of the municipal palace – mothers, fathers, children, and elders helping each other up the steps as they called out to one another:

--Si se puede!

--What do we want? Fair housing!

--El Barrio, united, will never be defeated!

Following an indigenous invocation, and standing among hand-painted signs and banners and a giant puppet of a masked Zapatista woman, the hundreds assembled declared that they were taking their struggle against gentrification to the next level: Today

capitalist on the block – speaking of a campaign of threats and harassments, of needed repairs never made, of supposed debts never owed, of actions befitting an absentee slumlord. They told their supporters how MJB is fighting back, as it has done before, with tenant committees demanding dignified conditions in their buildings, members taking Dawnay, Day to court for illegal harassment, and growing grassroots mobilizations bringing heat in the streets.

Tenant activist Filiberto brought a clear message for the company and another for the community: "Ya Basta! Enough! We know how this multinational company works. They want to squash us at any cost. They want to displace the immigrants, people of color, poor people, our people." But the people would not go quietly: "We are El Barrio. We believe in El Barrio. And we are not going to go. Here we are



going to stay.”

As the crowd erupted in shouts and chants (“Aquí estamos! Y no nos vamos!”), Filiberto insisted: “We are going to save El Barrio.”

If they save El Barrio, there will be no politicians to thank for it. In a year when so many are looking to the political system for salvation, MJB looks to its own community for solution, believing the struggle can only be won by the people of El Barrio themselves — not by those who claim to represent them. So MJB came to City Hall also to denounce those within its walls: the City Council, which has rubber stamped the displacement of thousands across Harlem and beyond, and the Department of Housing Preservation and Development, which is doing little to preserve anything more than landlords’ profits.

Clutching her baby girl, Josefina Salazar spoke of the complicity of elected officials who know nothing of the life or the will of the people: “We are here to let it be known who the politicians really are.

[The politician] does not know what it is to live and suffer the bad conditions in our homes.” Behind her, the faces of the crowd were turned not towards the halls of power, but towards each other.

As promised, the struggle has spilled across borders and across the ocean, reaching from community to community in a “fight against the global empire of money. A fight against neoliberalism. A fight for humanity.” In a very real way, this immigrant-led organization has always struggled without borders — its urban Zapatistas have already joined those in Mexico as part of the Other Campaign, and have stood with Mexico’s social movements against those who would crush them.

Now MJB is extending the fight across the Atlantic, taking its message from its own neighborhood to Dawnay, Day’s and setting out on a whirlwind tour of cities in England, Scotland, France, and Spain. There, according to Oscar Dominguez, members will “invite the communities of the world to accompany us in our inter-

national campaign... When we have any activity against that company, they, in the places where they live, will accompany us in taking direct action.”

In a company like Dawnay, Day, gentrification has reached global proportions. In the International Campaign in Defense of El Barrio, Dawnay, Day now faces the prospect of a resistance as global as its capital, a challenge as transnational as the threat it poses to community.

Such corporations would rather keep a safe distance from the people affected and displaced by their dealings. But the people below are encircling their corporate castles and city halls, uniting in defense of their homes, their cultures and communities. The resistance began on the block, in the heart of El Barrio, but now it is echoing on a thousand blocks, in a thousand barrios. It can even be heard in the distance from the corporate boardrooms, the shout growing louder, coming closer, impossible to shut out:

--No nos moveran! We will not be moved! ✱



Above: Supporters of the Movement for Justice in El Barrio on April 6, 2008.

# "TAKE IT TO THE STREETS AND FUCK THE POLICE--NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE"

**Eyewitness Report on the Rebellion That Greeted Acquittal of Killer Cops in New York City**

BY ANONYMOUS, OF NEAN & NEFAC-NYC

**The spark:** The acquittal of the three cops who fired 50 shots into an unarmed Black man on his wedding day in 2007.

The demand: Justice for Sean Bell and all victims of police brutality.

But the community of Jamaica, Queens knows there can be no justice for poor people of color under a system that has always stood for white supremacy, no justice from the state that sends occupying armies into the hoods of America to beat, kill, repress and terrorize the people.

So it was the day of the verdict, April 25, 2008, that crowds gathered by the hundreds across the street from the courthouse after the cops had pushed them back from the courthouse steps that morning. By the time night fell, the pigs could no longer hold the people back.

Led by survivors and families of the victims, and following a rally with People's Justice Coalition, hundreds poured into the streets in an unpermitted march down Queens Boulevard. The streets seethed and echoed with the cries of rage and revolt:

"We are all Sean Bell, NYPD go to hell!"

"They say get back? We say fight back!"

"Take it to the streets and fuck the police—no justice, no peace!"

The militant march grew to over 2,000 strong—mostly Black and Latin@ youth—as it wound its way through the community of Jamaica (home of Sean Bell), shutting down traffic for over three hours and drawing cheers from just about every window, rooftop, storefront, and public bus.

When the crowd reached Liverpool, where the site of Sean's assassination was marked with flowers and graffiti, they were given the order to disperse. While hundreds obeyed, including almost all the white people present, a group of over 500 youth of color refused to yield an inch.

This was their hood. These were their streets.

They made the spontaneous decision, there and then, to stay in the streets of Ja-

maica and to meet repression with rebellion. These were kids from the community, Black Power activists, community organizers, gang bangers, and a supporting crew of anarchists and communists.

First, following the residents of Jamaica, we took it to the "40 Projects," a public housing complex where Sean hailed from. The people leaned out their windows and spilled out of the buildings to join an impromptu rally in the project playground.

Police helicopters buzzed overhead, shining spotlights on the crowd which responded with the bird and the raised-fist salute. Up the block, the cops were waiting in their riot gear, in their wagons and golf carts, guns and batons and chemical weapons at the ready.

But the youth had seen enough. They were not going to take this NYPD terrorism anymore. They marched with determination out of the playground, and before a rain of rocks and bottles and whatever they could get their hands on, they forced the police to beat a retreat back up the block.

Then it was on to the 103rd Precinct, home to killer cops Michael Oliver, Giscard Isnora, and Marc Cooper. Alerted by a Level 1 Emergency on police radio, lines of riot cops stood behind metal barriers protecting the precinct from the "mob," while snipers and suits manned the roof.

The people held their ground, standing off with the cops for another half hour, sending an occasional projectile landing and shattering behind police lines. But for the first time in recent memory, the NYPD, outnumbered and fearing a general revolt that could spread from hood to hood, was forced to stand down.

For once, the police could taste their own medicine: Fear. And for once, the people could taste their own power.

Street fighting and limited looting continued for another hour up and down Jamaica



Avenue. But unlike many riots, not a single spot belonging to the neighborhood was damaged. The target was not the hood, but whatever ground the cops were standing on.

This was urban warfare. The youth continued to resist the riot police with rocks, bottles, poles, newsstands, and impromptu barricades, until a veritable army—probably over a thousand strong—charged in to make arrests, shields out and batons swinging, near Jamaica Center.

Yet most of the youth escaped up the side streets just in time. Only two were arrested all night—probably because the NYPD feared the consequences of their actions. The hood was swarming with roving riot squads all night long—but the rebels had dissolved, disappeared to safety.

The struggle continues, as it always will so long as the state occupies the hood.

As Illvox of Anarchist People of Color (APOC) recently put it in a declaration on the murder of Sean Bell: "People of color are in the cross hairs of this system every single day. Now is not the time to mourn, but to build with determination for anarchist revolution."

The actions of April 25, 2008 opened a window, shattered an illusion, and gave us a glimpse of what that revolution might look like on the streets of Jamaica, Queens one day. ✱



# Disrupt the Democratic National Convention

Anarchists and anti-authoritarians: Join us in Denver, CO, August 24 to 28 as we engage in coordinated direct actions against the Democratic National Convention, its corporate sponsors, and the military/police occupation of public space. Respecting diverse tactics and the autonomy of affinity groups and individuals, Unconventional Action has created the following framework to maximize our impact as we disrupt the DNC.

Unconventional Action's strategy at the Democratic National Convention will hold the Democratic Party accountable for promoting unjust policies: environmental degradation, the enforcement of arbitrary borders, attacks on the poor, complacency in war, and racist policing. We will expose to the nation that the Democrats and Republicans are two sides of the same coin, both parties funded by the same corporations and upholding the same unjust political system that fails to meet the needs of the vast majority of people. Anarchists and anti-authoritarians are urged to engage in a broad variety of tactics to disrupt fundraising events and prevent Democratic delegates from voting for no-choice candidates. Unconventional Action will honor and support autonomous actions while coordinating a highly publicized assault on the pageantry, violence, and abuses of the Democrats and the two-party capitalist system.

Unconventional Action will target a variety of the 1,500 proposed fundraisers, countless delegate hotels, and designated institutions perpetuating global injustice. Using space reclamation, street theater, direct confrontation, positive action, and a broad array of other tactics, we will force the national media to question the Democratic Party's failures, hold Democratic candidates accountable for their abuses of power, and engage in direct actions

that reflect our ultimate goals of joy and liberation through creativity and confrontation.

Below we have outlined our anticipated schedule of direct action for the DNC. While rough, our outline can be used as a guide to schedule and develop actions. Our calendar is a flexible work in progress and will shift as needed. Unconventional Action Denver will provide updates on the Web site, [www.dncdisruption08.org](http://www.dncdisruption08.org).

This is at best currently a rough outline, and will most likely change and solidify as the weeks progress. Take this as a guiding schedule for your actions, and expect to hear more from UA Denver about these events and actions. Denver organizers have designated certain themes for particular days. Consider coordinating the message of your actions based on each day's theme. The calendar is as follows:

## **SUNDAY AUG 24: Anti-War/ Occupation Day**

AM: All are encouraged to participate in an Anti-War/Anti-Occupation March and related actions.

PM: Directly following the march, Unconventional Action Denver will plan for a low- to medium-risk reclamation of space somewhere in the city, as yet to be determined. This action will be widely publicized, although the location may be revealed only in the lead up week or two, and will be designed to show our strength and ability to create our own systems of organization. After our reclamation, we will *party all night long!* From this party, affinity groups will be encouraged to depart and engage in autonomous actions targeting those who profit from wars and our oversized military.

## **MONDAY AUG 25: Free Political Prisoners/ Human Rights Day**

AM: Participate in a Free Leonard Peltier/All Political Prisoners march ending at the capitol across from Civic Center Park. Because Peltier has a vital hearing later in the week that could free him from his long illegal imprisonment, Unconventional Action Denver encourages all to attend this march.

PM: SHUTDOWN THE FUND-RAISERS! The DNC/Democrats are hosting a giant party to raise as much money as they can. On this night, we will interrupt this flow of capital and disrupt the fund raisers. Our theme: No business as usual. The Democrats and their corporate backers will be unable to continue their celebrations of environmental, economic, and social destruction, political corruption, and failed policy. UA Denver will provide more information about events/locations.

## **TUESDAY AUG 26: Environmental Issues/ No Global Warming Day**

AM: STOP THE VOTE! WE VOTE NO! Tuesday is the day when all the delegates put in their vote for who will represent the Democrats in the election, *but they only have until 6p.m. to vote* and it is a long, arduous process. We encourage people to focus on ways to stop the delegates from getting to the Pepsi Center to vote. Our targets: hotels, intersections, and transportation systems. Special attention will be given to keeping the so-called "super-delegates" (what funny comic book characters they would be!) from being able to attend the vote. *All tactics welcome and encouraged!* Come prepared with a plan and ready to make a stand

cont'd on next page

## DNC continued from page 9

...with your affinity group and friends.

PM: At night we'll target fundraisers of corporations profiting from and furthering global warming. We will also shut down actual sources of environmental degradation and greenhouse gas emissions. Get creative and use a diversity of tactics.

### WEDNESDAY AUG 27: NO BORDERS DAY

AM: A No Borders march will be planned by other groups. Unconventional Action hopes to see no actions during the time of this march that compromise the safety of march participants. Our goal is to ensure that the march is safe for all people, regardless of documentation status.

PM: At the People's Feast we will share food around Denver with as many people as we can, especially those

negatively affected by the DNC's presence in town. Focus on food liberation. Do the delegates really need that much food?

Also, concrete decentralized actions. Guerrilla gardening, free school/workshops, gentrification reclamation, informational bike rides, helping negatively impacted communities, impromptu dance parties, and anything else you creative people out there can think of. Thematically, we call for people to engage in actions targeting corporations and individuals profiting from the criminalization of immigration and contractors in Denver working on the border fence.

### THURSDAY AUG 28: End Racism/ Imperialism Day

AM - PM: Today we will engage in visually stunning, media-attract-

ing actions targeting the Democrats' complicity in racism in Denver and nationally through gentrification, police brutality, criminal injustice, the prison industrial complex, etc. We will target institutions and corporations that bring US imperialism and racism to the rest of the world and inflict it upon us.

Late PM - Friday AM: Tonight we will party, sleep, and support our comrades before heading to Minneapolis to disrupt the RNC.

Strategy endorsed by:

ACTIVATE (Grand Rapids, MI SDS), Animas SDS, Boston Anarchist Black Cross, Chicago Anarchist Black Cross, Iraq Veterans Against the War, UA Central North Carolina, UA Denver, UA Frederick, UA Midwest, UA Upstate New York

*If your group would like to endorse the strategy as well e-mail [unconventionaldenver@riseup.net](mailto:unconventionaldenver@riseup.net) \**

## Duct Tape continued from page 5

...to make sure we knew how we would move into place quickly and easily. The unfortunate reality was that not all of the people and props were gathered together until late in the game. Eventually it became too stressful and too late at night to keep practicing, and it was important to just trust that things would work out after everyone had gotten some rest, and they did.

-Post Arrest - After the four activists blocking the bank's entrance were removed from their lock boxes and a bicycle lock and arrested, supporters started getting ready for the next step. A group of people gathered bail money and went to the police station where the arrestees were being held after the legal support had heard from most of them that they had been processed. Unfortunately, in Massachusetts, bail commissioners work independently and set their own hours, so it was many hours later that one finally showed up to accept bail money. Lesson learned: be ready to wait a long, long time.

The next day after the arrest was the arraignment in court, where the arrestees are asked how they plead. Remember: always plead "not guilty" at an arraignment. You can change your plea later if you want to, but the arraignment is mainly an opportunity to set the next court date, not a time to argue your case. It's also quite likely (at least here in MA) that the court will enter a "not guilty" plea on your behalf, and you will just need to be present. Arrestees in this case wrote down their recollection of events ASAP, before details faded, in order to be more confident in disputing any false accusations or violations of their rights, and so that the police aren't the only ones with a record of the day's events.

### Some Conclusions

Somehow we managed to have an element of surprise. The

civil disobedience portion of the action was never publicly announced and it was not discussed over email, which has been the downfall of other actions in Boston. The publicly announced rally was vague in its promotion, but a lot of people still showed up, probably as much because of people knowing each other as because of flyers announcing it. The riskiest part of the action was planned and carried out by people who were friends, or at least friends of friends, which helped us feel more comfortable with each other. Perhaps the biggest success of this action was that it strengthened friendships and increased everyone's experience working together, while shutting down a branch of the one of the largest corporations in the world for half a day. There is also a general resolve to get the word out about how and why the action was planned, making future actions all the more likely. Hopefully, people who gained experience from this day of action in Boston will actively look for ways to become tighter and more effective organizers of direct actions without alienating new folks who want to get involved. If we're going to win any significant victories, it will be necessary to make it easy for newcomers to plug in and feel comfortable and empowered enough to organize their own actions independently.

While it would certainly be good to see more actions taking place in areas that are being destroyed by resource extraction, we feel that there are a lot of strengths to urban actions also. We should take advantage of our proximity to financial backers and profiteers as much as possible. Corporate headquarters are often in major urban areas, and as major financial centers with large concentrations of capital, big cities hold very important potential pressure points for a variety of campaigns and struggles. When it comes to an issue like mountaintop removal coal mining or coal slurrypipelines, the people of Appalachia or Black Mesa shouldn't... (cont'd on next page)



## Funk continued from page 1

...do an occupation of a recruiting station. People had been kicking around the idea of re-booting the long-dormant Reclaim the Streets model (the European rave-cum-demonstration popularized in North America at the height of the anti-summit movement that arose out of a militant anti-road movement in the UK) and it seemed like a natural choice to do an anti-war version, but with a marching twist. And thus Funk the War was born: a Militant Mobile Anti-War Disco. The first Funk the War started with 30 people, an unmixed mash of music, and a march that weaved around DC's downtown business district blocking traffic. The second swelled to 100 high school students along with a DJ; a spontaneous occupation of Lockheed Martin; the dismantling of all the posters and furniture on the inside of a recruiting station; and the wallpapering of the recruiting station, DC republican party headquarters, and war profiteers' offices with stickers. The idea caught like wildfire: By this writing, some 25 other incarnations of Funk the War have sprung up across the US and exploded beyond the confines of being just an SDS thing.

By the time M19 rolled around, the idea hit maturity: A full-scale party that pretty much did what it wanted. Simultaneously, it accomplished something unique in recent activist history: It managed to attract press, seize control of how we framed our protest, and made it impossible for the corporate media to present our message in any way other than how we dictated:

young, organized, vibrant, in-your-face, confrontational, likable, infectious, and most importantly, successful.

M19 itself is an important milestone. It's the first time outside of the Direct Action to Stop the War-organized actions at the immediate outbreak of the war that stopped up San Francisco's Market Street, and the Portland Port Militarization Resistance actions of last fall that any kind of mass direct action against the war has taken place and certainly the first of its kind in DC since the war started. More importantly, M19 represented a return to the best days of the anti-globalization movement – a series of autonomous, networked, mutually-supportive but deliberately-planned events that showcased a variety of actions.

With rallies, street theater, creative blockades, impromptu marches, Funk the War, and even spontaneous actions by people who hadn't planned on risking arrest, it gave everyone the opportunity to participate and made everyone's participation equally key. With just a thousand people, M19 managed to close Downtown DC and get news coverage just about everywhere (and, we proudly note, Funk the War provided the backing visuals for just about every television news report), something that marches with half a million people haven't accomplished. Meanwhile, it allowed the anti-war movement to move from symbolic protest to a kind of disruption that made visible private interests that support the war. (Thanks to visuals of a "blood"-splattered and stickered Bechtel office with kids dancing in the lobby, millions of Americans now know that Bechtel even exists).

By itself though, the Funk the War idea gives us a newly revived tool of resistance. It showcases bright colors and kids as young as 14 dancing and smiling – something the press loves and couldn't criticize if it wanted to – mixed with occasional property defacement and reclamation of public space in defiance of the authorities that avoided one of our biggest arguments: How to avoid the problem that escalating tactics might disrupt and endanger the integrity of a demonstration, the safety of protesters, and the message we send to the rest of the world, while preventing our protests from becoming predictable, co-opted, easily ignored, and ultimately frustrating.

Meanwhile, it is ultimately simple. An event that can be scaled to however many people you have, to whatever you want to do, to wherever you want to go, to whatever you want to say, that requires nothing but a sound system and, most importantly, your own youthful energy. In fact, it's an event that thrives on youth leadership – something that our resistance has been sorely lacking over the last several years.

Funk the War may just be one tool for us to use, but you can't argue with the results. Our forerunner, Reclaim the Streets, was so successful, so easy to replicate, and grew so fast that in 2001, that FBI Director Louis Freeh, in his annual report to Congress on terrorist activity, included Reclaim the Streets in his summary of radical groups who pose a threat to the US.

And that's success we need.

Join DC SDS for Funk the War this summer at the RNC!

Check [www.dc-sds.org](http://www.dc-sds.org) for updates.\*

have to shoulder all of the responsibility for resistance while those of us in the Northeast use massive amounts of energy without having to think about its sources or implications.

There were certainly mistakes made in the planning process for the Boston Fossil Fools Day Action, some of which are becoming more clear as we talk things over. However, enough elements of the day were positive that people who were involved are excited to continue organizing together and feel confident in our ability to do so. All in all, around 50-60 people from Boston and around the Northeast took part in this action in some way or another, and that's not including

all the passersby who gathered around at the end when the police were cutting the lockboxes. Hopefully it will have a ripple effect, inspiring other confrontations with illegitimate authority and ecological devastation. Civil disobedience is certainly not the only tactic available; it's not appropriate for everyone, and it can be a drain on time, energy, and money. But as a tool for revitalizing a widespread direct action culture, it might be a good way to involve lots of people in something that is illegal without scaring them away before they get a little more comfortable with high adrenaline, confrontational situations. \*

# Toward an Open Source Society

By PETER

One of the oldest arguments against anarchism is that it is impractical, that without central authority to keep the peons in line any large project will dissolve into chaos and disorder. Yet the open source software movement provides modern day proof that anarchism works, even when not conducted by anarchists.

Source code is the human readable text of a computer program, written by programmers and compiled into binary format for execution by the computer. Without the source code, it is nearly impossible to modify a computer program, or even understand how it works. Proprietary software vendors like Microsoft keep their source code confidential, distributing binary-only software to rob users of the ability to modify it for their own purposes. They also throw in things like undecipherable file formats that no other software can understand. Customers are left completely dependent on the vendor for bug fixes and new features, trapping them on an endless treadmill of upgrades, always hoping that the next version will fix their current problems without introducing too many new ones. Usually they are disappointed.

Open source software projects, by contrast, make their source code available to everyone. Anyone with an Internet connection can access the code and submit changes to the project maintainers. Non-code contributions can include bug reports, testing, documentation, and tech support. Development is thus conducted by a community for mutual benefit, instead of a corporation for maximum profit. This advantage is not just hypothetical. Successful open source projects in all areas of computing are slowly burying their closed competition.

Anarchist hacker Richard Stallman probably deserves more credit



than anyone else for starting the open source movement (although he prefers the term “free software”). Stallman became an anarchist at the MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab, where MIT gathered the best hackers they could find, gave them the most advanced computers available, and let them go nuts. Nothing was kept secret within the lab, and anyone could work on whatever they wanted, including picking locks and hacking the phone system. What resulted was software that was decades ahead of its time and a group of programmers who could command huge salaries from industry. When the other AI Lab hackers left for more lucrative jobs, Stallman continued writing free software on his own.

His work during this period included a set of vital utilities for Unix-based operating systems called the GNU tools (GNU stands for GNU's Not Unix), as well as the Emacs Text Editor and other useful programs. But Stallman's greatest contribution, and his greatest hack, was the GNU General Public License (GPL). Under copyright law, copyrighted works – which include software – can be licensed under nearly any terms the author desires.

Anyone receiving the copyrighted work is legally bound by the terms of the license. The GPL allows anyone to freely redistribute the software it covers (and any derivations), but they must include the source code in the redistribution and put the redistribution under the GPL, as well. So while Microsoft would be allowed to sell a GPLed program as their own, there would be no point in doing it. The fact that they would have to include the source code means that their customers would be able to compete with them on an equal footing. This neat bit of legal jiu-jitsu makes it impossible to monopolize GPLed software, the exact opposite of the intent of copyright law. While there are other open source licenses, the GPL is the most common and has done the most good for the movement as a whole.

There are legions of successful open source projects, but two of the best known are the operating system called Linux and the Firefox Web browser. Firefox is known to millions of users as a fast and convenient way to access the Web. Its extension system allows programmers to easily create downloadable plug-ins, resulting in features like



ad locking that no commercial vendor would dare provide. Firefox has been stealing market share from Microsoft's Internet Explorer since its introduction in 2004, approaching 50 percent in parts of Europe.

Linux was introduced in the fall of 1991 by Finnish student Linus Torvalds in response to the copyright restrictions surrounding Minix, an operating system used for teaching purposes at universities. Torvalds switched Linux over to the GPL the next year and later incorporated Stallman's GNU tools. Known formally as GNU/Linux, the new operating system got a tremendous boost when the Internet, formerly confined to academia, was released to the general public in 1993. Now anyone with a phone line and a PC could download the Linux source code and make their own modifications.

Volunteer hackers all over the world rose to the opportunity. Attracted by the subversive potential of the GPL and the chance to help create something new and worthwhile, they poured code into the new project. Device drivers, bug fixes, and new features began to accumulate. Other projects sprang up to provide applications for Linux. Non-programmers contributed documentation, testing, and Web hosting. Within a few years, Linux progressed from a student hobby to a powerful, stable, and enormously flexible operating system that now runs on everything from iPods to supercomputers.

As Linux improved, users began to take notice. Network administrators trying to save money on server software started making the switch. Stealth Linux installations began to appear in corporate IT departments, powering firewalls, e-mail servers, and more, with in-house geeks keeping the "hippie operating system" a secret from their bosses. A small startup called Google found Linux to be ide-

al for indexing Web pages. As time went on, Linux's reputation grew. It started to crop up on things like cell phones and home wireless routers. Big hardware companies like IBM and HP began adopting and even contributing to Linux, if only because it was cheaper than trying to extend their own proprietary operating systems to compete with it. Even in the home-user market, Linux's weakest point, distributions like Mandriva and Ubuntu have made Linux a relatively painless experience for novices.

Gandhi famously remarked, "First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win." Linux marked its entry into the winning phase on January 30, 2007, the day Microsoft unleashed Windows Vista on a defenseless computing public. Four years late, horribly slow, saddled with a restrictive DRM

system and severely lacking in hardware support, Vista destroyed forever the idea that software is best developed by a bureaucracy. Facing a user revolt, Microsoft was forced to allow computer makers to continue selling Windows XP simply to prevent a mass defection to OS X and Linux.

So if the open source approach works so well for software, why not use it everywhere? Why not make an open source society? These are the questions the ruling establishment desperately hopes you won't ask. Passive, isolated consumers are the lifeblood of the corporate oligarchy, and that makes open source anything an enormous threat. As more and more of us turn to mutual cooperation to solve our problems, the elite will be faced with a question of their own: If anarchism is so impractical, why is it working? \*



## Reportback on Boston Anarchist Activities and Happenings

FROM BOSTON MEMBERS OF NEAN

There is a ton happening in Boston. The local Anarchist Black Cross recently held a fun benefit show with live music, food and fun games for the ABC Network's RNC legal defense fund. The turnout was underwhelming, however, and only \$200 was raised. The local branch of the Industrial Workers of the World held a more successful fundraiser the next night for the family of a pro-union worker fired from the Harvest Co-op. The IWW has an organizing drive at Harvest and, contrary to the small chain's reputation as a progressive business, organizers have been met with threats, disciplinary actions, and even firings. A widespread flyering campaign at the store's two locations has brought a lot of pressure on the management.

Hundreds of anarchists participated in both May Day marches: one on the Boston Common, complete with feeder marches to the rally and a Red and Black/anti-capitalist block after; and one in East Boston/Chelsea, where the majority of the areas' immigrants rallied. The Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement hosted radical children's games on May 3 at the long-standing community festival in Jamaica Plain (a southern Boston neighborhood) called Wake Up the Earth. Despite the rain and cold, hundreds of kids came out and played "Smash the Wall of Capitalism," "Throw Away Your Vote," and the "Iraq Exit Plan" maze, which, of course, had no exit. One BAAM member also spent all day painting hundreds of happy kids' faces. The Allston/Brighton Neighborhood Assembly held a "community picnic" a few weeks before, using some of the same games. It was a beautiful day and a lot of fun, though again with a frustratingly low turnout. Their fight continues to preserve the neighborhood against Harvard's invasion. This winter, the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society got a plaque reinstalled on the building that housed the Sacco

and Vanzetti Defense Committee (the original plaque mysteriously disappeared decades ago) and planned a May 12 benefit for a Borglum-made Sacco and Vanzetti memorial monument with Howard Zinn, though the event had to be postponed due to a Zinn family illness. The Society is also starting to gear up for the 3rd annual Sacco and Vanzetti memorial events in late August.

BAAM and the BU Collective are becoming increasingly involved in the campaign against Boston University's proposed L4 bio-terror lab that would bring deadly incurable pathogens into the low-income neighborhood of Roxbury, administered by a staff with a history of outbreaks in lower level labs. The Stop the Biolab Coalition, a long-standing community organization, has invited BAAM and our allies to escalate the message against the bureaucrats and politicians pushing an institution condemned by reputable researchers and scientists. Joint protests and actions against the lab will be underway by the time this paper goes to print and will continue throughout the summer.

The Suffolk and Emerson Anti-Authoritarians recently held a Hand-Me-Down-Night in protest of Emerson's official Hand-Me-Down-Night, a gala event which cost tens of thousands of dollars of tuition money. SEAA's event was a huge success, with lots of people bringing and exchanging clothes and other free stuff, many taking home SEAA's "Urban Pirate" newsletter and a comic about the Gift-Giving Economy. SEAA is also starting to talk about a November 5 "Day After the Elections/Guy Fawkes Day" protest on the Boston Common, irrespective of which corporate politician wins.

The ABC is hosting a Northeast day of workshops and trainings to prepare for this summer's conventions,



complete with know your rights, street tactics, legal observing, police tactics, affinity group medic trainings and more. The trainings will be all day May 24 and 25 at Encuentro 5, 33 Harrison Ave in Chinatown. ABC can provide a place to crash in Boston, so let us know ([Bostonabc@riseup.net](mailto:Bostonabc@riseup.net))! ABC Boston is also going to be hosting the ABC Network gathering this summer. Up the Network! \*

### NEFAC-Boston

By McKAY

Among other things, NEFAC-Boston members are currently involved in: a citywide organizing campaign to prevent post-foreclosure evictions; an immigrant worker center; community education; Katrina survivor solidarity; public actions against xenophobic laws, predatory service fees, ICE raids, and the wars; the Jericho Movement; the IWW; the Raging Grannies; and producing the latest issue of the *Northeastern Anarchist*, which is available now! We hold a monthly discussion group to compare notes, brainstorm anarchist strategy within these disparate struggles, educate ourselves together, and support one another. *Get in touch:* [nefacboston@nefac.net](mailto:nefacboston@nefac.net). \*



# Ratting It Up In

## Boston

BY ADRIENNE

On February 21, an e-mail call went out seeking: musicians, stilters, dancers, jugglers, fire dancers, street performers, sword swallowers, hoopers, improvisers, performance artists, anarchists, radicals, and all other interested, friendly folk. What formed is Boston's Radical Arts Troupe, better known as RAT. After two months of sharing ideas through a series of irregular meetings, we have begun presenting socially conscious performances in public.

On April 30, we performed a highly dramatized funeral procession for the most recent victims of violence in Palestine. Our concern was that the deaths of these people, and indeed, the violent demises of non-white people, are turned into statistics and dismissed. To humanize these people and commemorate their lives, our visual artists created charcoal drawings of bodies and limbs on cardboard with the names and ages of victims (there were over 100, but we only had the time and resources to represent 30ish). These were laid on a long white sheet of fabric that was carried through the Public Gardens and the Common by four RATs in giant puppet heads of mourning women, the foremost two carrying a sign that read, "US hands not clean." These four were followed by a ghost on stilts carrying a sign with Palestine's flag that read "Justice for Palestine," two drummers of funereal rhythms, and a reader. Proceeding very slowly, the mourning women would stop at periodic intervals, whereupon the four would set down the load of bodies, pick one up, lay it down on the path and set down a shell on the body. The reader would read out the name and age of the victim while the four women silently mourned on their knees. It took close to two hours to cross the Public Gardens and the Common and to deposit and mourn the body of each victim. The many passersby were awed at the solemnity and we received more praise for our work than Zionist



RAT performs a funeral procession for most recent victims in Palestine.

condemnations.

The next day on May Day, International Workers' Day, RAT wanted to make a statement on the ways in which immigration and border enforcement causes migrant workers to live in fear of deportation. We settled on the idea of a tableaux vivant, wherein silent and motionless persons are arranged to portray a scene or incident. Before the crowd on the Common, we set up a box surrounded by a circle of 20 neckties tied together. Four people in masks of anguished, tired faces arranged themselves in this circle. A construction worker stood in the center as an agricultural worker, a textile worker and a domestic laborer stood and crouched motionless around. A fifth person in a border patrol uniform carrying a wooden gun and wearing a large mask with a cruel face prowled around carrying a thick, noisy ring of antique keys. As the keys

were ominously shaken in the faces of each worker, that person would have to change their position and activity. This continued for about half an hour as curious spectators gathered around to watch. To conclude the performance, Border Patrol tied up each worker with the neckties that had surrounded them and dragged them all away.

RAT is just getting started, though! We have many ideas in store and many performances to plot and share with the world. *If you want to be a part of it or want us to be part of your ideas, e-mail [talktrash@riseup.net](mailto:talktrash@riseup.net). #*



RAT's May Day performance: migrant workers live in fear of deportation.

## NEAN Reports.

### Binghamton Not Bombs

A group of Binghamton-based anarchists and anti-authoritarians met in our secret lair and decided to form a collective called Binghamton Not Bombs and have that collective become an affiliate of the Northeast Anarchist Network. The Binghamton Not Bombs collective is based on the reclaiming of space in the Binghamton community. The goal of this strategy is to begin to expand, on a localized scale, decentralized collective forms of organization and living on the plane of everyday life. The collective will be engaged with projects such as squats/social centers, guerilla gardening, food not bombs, and really really free markets, as well as other programs which will be developed through the squatted social centers. We are also working with two separate groups on potential communal farms in the area.

Building on the community assemblies project, which has created assemblies in every neighborhood in the city, we are aiming at decentralizing political power by creating political space through action and community organization and solidarity through the grassroots community projects. We believe that in a town the size of

### Rochester Anarchists

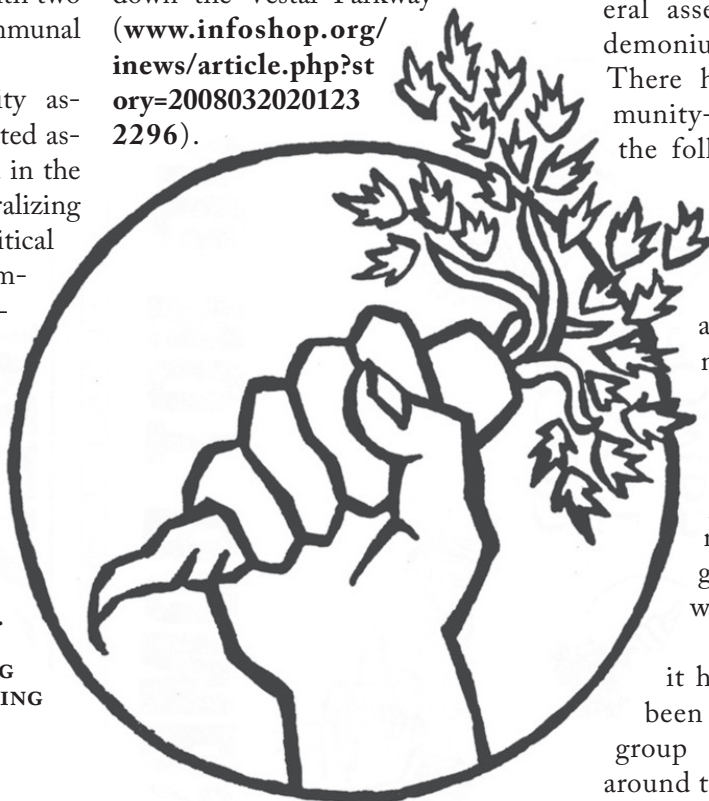
A.K.A. GREATER ROCHESTER ANARCHIST CONSPIRACY A.K.A. GREATER ROCHESTER ANARCHIST COALITION, ALSO DOING BUSINESS AS ANARCHIST READING GROUP  
By RON

Over the last two years, our local coterie of anti-authoritarians has undergone massive changes in name, outlook, activities, and personnel. In its current incarnation, our group is just a reading group, rather than an activist group. One reason is that most people are (hyper)active in ad hoc

Binghamton, which has around 40,000 people, that a dedicated campaign to reclaim space from the State can have major on-the-ground effects on the current socio-economic situation that this area is attempting to cope with.

Binghamton Not Bombs has squatted its first social center. On April 12 members of the collective entered a building that we had been scouting for weeks. The project is moving along quickly and we plan to open a community organizing center, free food and clothing distribution, an office for the Coalition Against Evictions (another building collective), serving area for Binghamton Food Not Bombs (which will start with the opening of the space), and an infoshop (The Sabocat Infoshop) at the space.

On March 18, nine Binghamton activists were assaulted and arrested by Vestal, New York police during a march down the Vestal Parkway ([www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=20080320201232296](http://www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=20080320201232296)).



causes like the UnConventional Action. (One of my gripes against these big events vs. grassroots organizing; oh well, it's only every four years...) Nevertheless, I hope to have an activist offspring soon...

To learn more or get involved, contact [arrg@lists.riseup.net](mailto:arrg@lists.riseup.net).

The university attempted to launch on-campus judicial hearings against the arrestees. In a matter of weeks, hundreds of letters were generated, we got a statement of full support from the mayor's office, dozens of faculty called and complained, whole departments full of graduate students signed statements of support, and finally a protest of 150 students took this demand, and a series of others, to the administration building and...we won! The charges got dropped on campus and now we are beginning to focus on our trials, which have been put off until the fall. \*

### Update from the Ithacuddle!

By BRYN

Hello, NeAN! It was wonderful having lots of you fine troublemakers in our town for the last general assembly. Ithaca's been pandemonium these past few months. There has been some great community-building downtown where the folks at Ghost Cat Collective have declared, "Food Not Lawns!" and turned their tiny, street-front property into vegetable gardens and a mini cornfield. The whole neighborhood is tantalized by this idea, some word of other community gardens is blooming, and in general people are friendlier in the neighborhood – which is great for the Ithaca Freeskool, which starts up in June.

Up at Cornell University, it hasn't been so lovely, but it's been exciting. An autonomous group organically came together around the urge to stop the rape culture at the school, which emerges especially from the fraternities and sororities. This culture has always been here (and everywhere in our society!), but the final straw was a recent persecution of a young woman who was sexually assaulted at a frat and then subsequently forced out of school





because the administration said she had a drug problem and “got herself into bad situations.” Little was being done to seek justice for this woman, and the at least 25 percent of other people on every college campus that experience sexual assault. Until now, that is.

Our group, Sexual Violence Resistance Network, is not officially an anarchist group, but anarchists participating in and heading up the group have really pushed everyone else to take a more empowered, militant stand against sexual violence. Whereas groups like this are normally pretty watered down and bureaucratic, SVRN is really riling up the whole campus. We burst into one administrator’s office hours and managed to get the head honchos of campus sent in to talk with us, which resulted in some gains.

We’ve also played the polite game and scheduled lots of other meetings with people in positions of power around the school, and we have demanded justice and prescribed solutions. We have produced a zine, which we demanded that one of those head honchos pay for (and he did!). We had a raging rally that exploded into a spontaneous, militant march. We

Took Back The Night. We have produced patches about consent. We are currently working hard with allies at the Women’s Resource Center on plans for a mandatory consent education program inspired by Antioch’s Sexual Offense Prevention Program for all Cornell students, and especially fraternity and sorority members.

Included in our consent education program are leadership trainings by Men Can Stop Rape for men on campus who are interested in facilitating workshops for their fellas on standards of masculinity, homophobia, consent, sexual assault, sexual expression, and all those things that Cornell men need to get into their heads. Also, we are designing a revamped reporting system for survivors of assault that is safe, extra-legal and actually packs a punch to the perpetrators. In general, SVRN ain’t taking shit from nobody, and we’re getting what this whole campus needs. It’s a movement in which members feel ownership, feel inspired, and feel empowered. I think that for the folks who started this effort, NeAN was a real catalyst in terms of giving us faith that we could build and sustain this community.✳

## Syracuse Solidarity Network

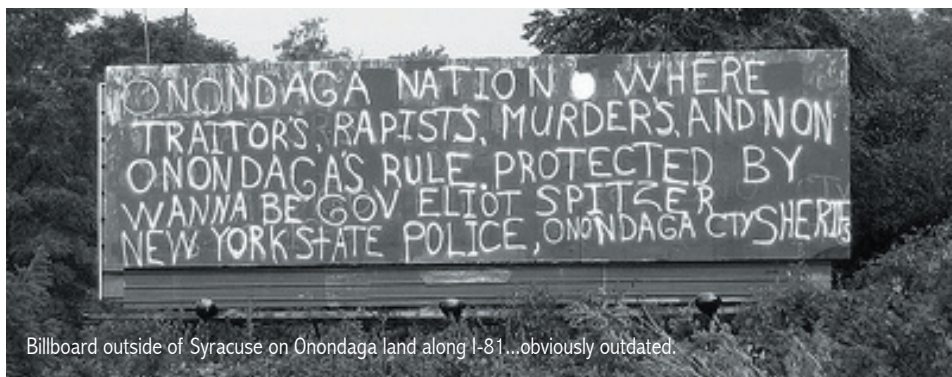
BY SERA BROWN

On March 19 the Syracuse Solidarity Network joined an anti-war march that culminated in the blocking of a main city street outside a bank and the *Syracuse Post Standard* for over an hour, with banners and chants loudly proclaiming “Fight the rich, not their wars!” Elsewhere in Rochester and Binghamton, New York, anti-authoritarians hit the streets with disruptive actions to mark the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. In Syracuse, over 20 arrests, in Rochester seven, and in Binghamton nine were arrested as cops pepper-sprayed and assaulted student demonstrators who had blocked a major parkway.

Protests and arrests in all three cities included members of the North East Anarchist Network. Anarchist resistance is making its presence felt across the angry, beat down rustbelt of Upstate NY!

Back in November of 2006, a group of us came together to organize an emergency demo in solidarity with the popular uprising in Oaxaca, Mexico. We quickly organized a rowdy street march in ten days expecting a small turn out. On that frigid snowy night, 40 people, mostly high school students, attended the march, rally and vigil.

Inspired about the next steps we could take to raise the resistance, Syracusians drove to the Boston Northeast Anarchist Consulta in February of 2007 that led to the formation of the Northeast Anarchist Network. Building on the excitement and possibilities of regional organizing, we put on



Billboard outside of Syracuse on Onondaga land along I-81...obviously outdated.

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## **NEAN Reports.**

several events at the Syracuse Women's Information Center like the "open mic night against work and war," celebrated May Day with immigrant rights speakers at a radical bookstore, and had creative propaganda-making socials. With no common organization or group we somehow set up a North East Anarchist Network (NeAN) gathering and sparked interest in becoming something that could affiliate with the Network. From the Oaxaca Solidarity march to hosting the third NeAN gathering we had reached a lot of youth, mostly punks and ladies, who wanted to fight back and get free.

Fast forward to the end of last summer and picture an unpermitted march led and organized by youth against the war with an anti-authoritarian tone - it was full of F-bombs, and calls for art against war and an end to prisons.

On September 29, the youth and anarchists marched together as a contingent in the Upstate New York-wide soldier/citizen demonstration against the war that brought 3,000 people to Syracuse. Just in time to fill the contingent with black flags, Syracuse Solidarity Network was created out of radicals, feminists, queers, and fellow travelers who were actively working within anti-authoritarian and community movements.

SSN meetings act as a forum to empower individuals to create their own projects and learn about both explicitly radical and grassroots struggles. We try to work in a way that brings in people from different groups while encouraging collectives to work together, at the same time being anti-representative as no one speaks for the whole network. SSN has maintained as a multi-tendency group that agrees with points of unity similar to NeAN's while bringing together members of Food Not Bombs, Syracuse Animal Rights Organization, Youth in Action, the Vagina Monologues, Women's Information Center, No Bombs No Bosses 315 distro and the Syracuse Peace Council. While gearing up for the October Rebellion in

Washington, DC, some of SSN created an affinity group and worked together to play a prominent role in the actions against the IMF and World Bank. The need has been echoed all across Upstate New York to create tight affinity groups to achieve active participation in larger mass mobilizations. We have succeeded with networking regionally across Upstate, especially through the Upstate New York-wide Unconventional Action meetings and the budding Upstate NY Bash Back! Like most Upstate towns, regional support is really important to a city as small as Syracuse, which is dominated by a private university. This support has been a huge factor in popularizing anti-authoritarianism here, whether it's using and working with the nearby Rochester Indy Media Center, networking with folks downstate to do a skill share or out of town radicals coming to our events.

Syracuse has a deep history of resistance continued to this day with Partnership for Onondaga Creek fighting environmental racism to the Onondaga Nation land rights battle and the Women's Information Center providing a safer space to the community. Syracuse Solidarity Network is a fairly young group that will keep fighting alongside local struggles while finding new ways to support one other. We hope to carry on the tradition of defiance while carving out a place for ourselves as radicals, anti-authoritarians, and anarchists. ✱

## **The Black Bird Legal Collective: Portland, Maine** By PAUL

The Black Bird Legal Collective, a NEAN Affiliate, was started in the Summer of 2007 in Portland, Maine with the goal of organizing the Portland community to challenge the injustice system, continued gentrification of Portland and abuses by employers. We have seen time and again that the legal system does not represent the working people, but only the moneyed elite. Only by the people coming together,

sharing resources, experiences, tactics, and standing together can we defend ourselves and community against the inequalities in the US legal system and challenge the forces of oppression that uphold it.

The Black Bird Legal Collective works to build community resistance in Portland and throughout Maine. We do this by organizing community defense workshops, offering support to prisoners, raising awareness of political prisoners in the US and to support them. We seek to include not just the activist community, but the Portland community as well, raising radical ideas in non-radical circles and seeking to build coalitions to make effective change.

We have a continuing campaign to stop torture in detention facilities throughout Maine, inspired by the national call put out by the San Francisco 8. We have been collecting petition signatures for a people's referendum to addresses these heinous acts happening inside Maine jails and prisons. In conjunction with this campaign, we are supporting Deane Brown, a Maine state prisoner who was exiled to one of America's most dangerous prisons in Baltimore, Maryland. He was a key source in exposing torture occurring in Maine State Prison in Warren, and - after refusing to stop reporting - was sent to isolation in a prison in Maryland on Maine Governor Baldacci's order. He was the most important source in Lance Tapely's award winning pieces that were printed in the *Portland Phoenix*. We are working to gather support to have Deane returned to Maine to be closer to his family and loved ones, and prevent any other retaliatory measures from being taken against him.

In January of this year we organized the first statewide meeting of all prison advocacy groups that took place in Belfast, Maine. It was a great success, with many groups now aware of one another and networking. The Black Bird Legal Collective was able to raise some radical concepts about the use of prisons as the frontline of class war and white supremacy not only in Maine, but the



United States. At the end of the conference the groups came together to form an umbrella group called Maine Prisoner Advocacy Coalition that continues to work on the issues of prisons in Maine and justice for prisoners.

The Black Bird Legal Collective was recently invited to the National STOP-MAX meeting put on by the American Service Friends Committee, with the goal to create a national network based on shutting down all super maximum security prisons across the United States. From this event we will hopefully be able to network on a national level to gain support for shutting down super max prisons not only in Maine, but across the nation.

In March of this year, we held an event in support of the MOVE 9, who were up to be paroled. We showed the explosive documentary called "MOVE-Confrontation in Philadelphia" by Karen Pomer Jane Mancini and had Ramona Africa call from Philadelphia to speak about MOVE and their continued resistance against the oppressive American system. Afterwards, we wrote letters to MOVE's parole board, and that sparked a group of people to form a Friends of MOVE and Mumia Abu-Jamal group here in Portland. Though the MOVE women's parole was denied, we continue to support their efforts to gain freedom and be acquitted of the baseless charges they were convicted of.

At the end of March we held an event called "Challenging the US Prison System, From Activism to Uprisings," which explored the efforts of inmates in America's prisons. We showed the documentary *Attica*, which showed stark footage from inside and outside the prison during the uprising and some lessons learned from it. This event took place on the University of Southern Maine Portland campus, with the featured speaker Ray Luc Levasuer, a member of the United Freedom Front and of the state branded "Ohio 7." The campus pigs attempted to shut down the event by demanding \$300 so extra officers could be on duty to keep us

"safe" from potential protesters. These protesters (who never showed up) were rumored to be Portland police officers and other state and county pigs. The event went on, without us paying a dime for the two pigs who stood around and attempted to intimidate those who approached the event table. The Black Bird Legal Collective even made the local news amid rumors that the police were going to protest the presence of Ray Luc.

In early April, a Black Bird organizer felt the bite of a careless system, and the effects of gentrification of rent in Portland. This member, a single parent, was going to be evicted because they could not make rent. The collective came together and organized our first rent raiser, to support our fellow community member and prevent them from being evicted. Another member allowed her apartment to be used, we had a local DJ donate his time, got a keg with some more booze, had some food and spread the word. It was amazing how many people in the community showed up who we did not know. Everyone was speaking about the high price of rent, the increasing gentrification of Portland, and landlords who could care less about their tenants. In the end we raised over \$400 and our community member was able to keep their apartment. Since then, two other rent raisers have been held in Maine to support community members in need.

In mid-April we had the honor of co-sponsoring an event with Victory Gardens, Common Ground Relief, and the Coalition to Free the Angola 3. We had two amazing guests who shared their experiences on the continuing struggle against the racist American prison system, super max conditions, the fight for New Orleans's environment and its people. We had Robert King Wilkerson, a former member of the Black Panther Party who has spent 29 years in solitary confinement after being framed in the death of a prison guard and who is fighting for the freedom of Herman Wallace and Albert Woodcox, the other members of the

Angola 3. We also had the honor of hosting Malik Rahim, co-founder of the Louisiana Black Panther Party and Common Ground Relief who has been working endlessly to bring the story of post-Katrina New Orleans to the world. Malik spoke about the continued struggle in New Orleans to give housing back to the residents, the oppressiveness and open brutality of the New Orleans police force and Blackwater, and how we as activists in Maine can help that. Albert spoke about the continuing work to free his comrades Albert and Herman, and some small successes they have had in their battle for the freedom of the remaining two members of the Angola 3.

We are continuing to build community resistance and action here in Portland and plan to use the tactics and knowledge we gain from attending the STOPMAX campaign to continue the struggle for prisoners' rights and to shut down the super max in Warren, Maine.

Fire to the prisons, banks and bosses.  
*Contact lookingforward@riseup.net. ✱*

## Maine Against Atlantica BY ANI

Here in Maine, we're working on organizing against corporate interests in our region. Currently, we're focusing on organizing against the large private landowner Plum Creek, which plans on creating super-resorts in the great northern woods. We're also mobilizing against the NAFTA-like trade zone known as Atlantica – whose proponents, corporations such as Emera Energy, Irving, and Exxon-Mobile – are pushing to remove trade barriers such as minimum wage legislation, unions, and environmental regulations.

*For more information,  
contact: maineEF@yahoo.com or  
MaineAgainstAtlantica@riseup.net. ✱*

## NEAN Reports.

# POG Remembers Spain, Cages Recruiters, Fights Racism, and More...

BY MARIE

In July 1936, the Spanish army attempted to overthrow the country's popularly elected left wing government. In response, the Spanish people rose up to fight fascism. A long-awaited anarchist social revolution was unleashed with the creation of non-hierarchical militias fighting at the front, the collectivization of land by rural peasants, and the establishment of worker self-management of industrial Spain. That same month, 16-year-old George Sossenko headed for Spain; he left his parents a note stating that he was leaving his loved ones in Paris behind to join the struggle and that history was being decided in the fight for Spain.

In April 2008, George Sossenko came to Pittsburgh to share stories about the fight for Spain, his life, and the enduring appeal of the anarchist ideal. As part of the Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG) Anarchist Speaker Series, Sossenko reminisced about his experiences fighting with the Abraham Lincoln Brigade, the Durruti Column, and – after the fall of Spain – his continued struggle against the Nazis in north Africa, Italy, and his native France alongside units of the “Free French” resistance. The event was held at the Teamsters Temple and included a potluck, a screening of *Land and Freedom* and clips from *Into the Fire* – a documentary about American women in the Spanish Civil War. Listen to Sossenko's speech on POG's Web site.

Also part of the Speakers Series, noted author, activist, and organizer Cindy Milstein gave an inspiring introduction to anarchism and its aspiration on March 29 to a standing-room-only crowd at the Thomas Merton Center – Pittsburgh's hub of peace and justice. As this issue of *The Nor'Easter* goes to print, POG is preparing for the next two speakers in the series: “Anar-

chist Panther” Ashanti Alston on anarchism, Black Liberation, the Black Panthers, and the revolutionary struggle for freedom on May 17 and “The Abolition of the State: Anarchist and Marxist Perspectives,” a discussion with author Wayne Price on May 24.

On March 19, POG and supporters gathered to mark the anniversary of the war in Iraq and remember the tragic toll the world continues to pay. Sixty-five protesters gathered on a cold and rainy evening to stand in solidarity and resistance with protesters in hundreds of cities around the world marching, protesting, speaking out, disrupting, and taking direct action. But while the anniversary of the war is – much like symbolic casualty milestones – not significant in and of itself, each day and each death is equally lamentable, it has meaning for those who have suffered and for those who remember. Faced with the reality of limited resources to devote to publicity and a desire to avoid the long time and resource commitment large scale arrests/direct action would entail, POG members decided to try something new: enlisting the right-wing to help us.

The plan was simple: put out a call saying POG was going to evict the recruiting station and bring a moveable cage to confine military recruiters until they no longer posed a danger to our community, all the while we would march to a different war-related institution, either the local ROTC office or Carnegie Mellon University (CMU).

The goal: get the right-wing to do publicity for us, allow us to focus the cops and expectant counter-protesters



POG cages militarism at CMU on March 19.

Both photos: Marie Skoczylas

on somewhere we wouldn't be, all the while publicizing a message not typically heard or discussed—that military recruitment and recruiters themselves are a threat to our communities, a blight on our neighborhoods, and they deserve to be confronted with direct action capable of addressing the fact they are key to the continuation of this war.

And help us the right-wing did. From the far right blogosphere, news of our protest migrated to national Fox news, a press conference in Washington, DC, and local talk radio. The Department of Defense gave us a shout-out in a leaked bulletin warning local recruiters of the diabolical anti-war crowd and all the resulting buzz sent traffic to our Web site skyrocketing. This guaranteed advance media coverage and created a huge spectacle. The multitude of creepy death threats, violent homophobic language and imagery, and promises to meet us there and beat us to death with their own hands helped highlight the true agenda of war supporters who claim to care about the “freedom” of others.



Highlights of the action included: locking a 12 x 5 foot metal cage to the front of CMU's administration building; entering the military-funded halls at the university; failing to be deterred by an overwhelming police presence from multiple departments; leaving right-wing war supporters angry and confused, in the rain, in front of an empty, closed military recruiting station; and enjoying extensive press coverage while suffering no arrests. Read the full report on our Web site.

On April 2, POG held a demonstration outside a local bar, the Garage Door Saloon, to bring further attention to the presence of a racist bar in Pittsburgh. This spring, the bar began running a drink special for Coronas and tacos called "Wetback Wednesdays." When it started making headlines in early March, it spawned a lot of controversy. Most either insisted that it was offensive and should be taken down or that it was a harmless joke. POG members strongly disagree that using a racial slur in a joke is harmless, and also don't think that it's enough to claim that the drink special itself is the whole of the problem. The problem is deeper than a sign; the problem is that a white supremacist who owns and operates two bars in our city is trying to spread his hateful ideas through his business. About 50 protesters demonstrated outside the Saloon. Some attendees handed out flyers about the bar and even convinced five people not to go in.



Ashanti Alston speaking in Pittsburgh in May.

Finally, on May Day eve, POG held a solidarity dinner for workers on the picket line of Calgon Chemical who had been locked out since late February. Rather than let work continue under an extension of the previous contract, management locked out 63 members of United Steelworkers Local 5032, barring them from the plant. Workers are struggling to maintain affordable family healthcare coverage and pensions in the face of continual management efforts to cut benefits and crush the union. On April 30, a dozen POGgers showed some solidarity and support of labor by bringing the workers dinner and standing with them on another cold night of the camp-out.

For more on POG, visit [www.OrganizePittsburgh.org](http://www.OrganizePittsburgh.org) or contact [pog@mutualaid.org](mailto:pog@mutualaid.org). \*

## Presenting the NORM:

### NEAN's Network of Revolutionary Musicians!

Music is an incredibly important aspect of all revolutionary movements. Inherent in song is the power to bring people together, united under common grievances, beliefs, emotions and visions for the future. As revolutionary anarchists of Northeast North America, our struggle is no different. Therefore, members of the Northeast Anarchist Network have recently launched a Network of Revolutionary Musicians (NORM), an association of musicians and bands striving – through their art – to promote anarchism and people's struggles. We hope that through this project we can connect all of those musicians and help them bond together in the common cause of providing a soundtrack to our struggles and inspiring new generations to join the fight for a new world.

The NORM is planning a tour this summer, possibly called NEAN's "Traveling Festival of Anarchy," to bring revolutionary music, as well as skill shares, propaganda and workshops, in a caravan across the Northeast. Thus far, we have bands and venues set up in Massachusetts, Vermont, Upstate New York, and Maine.

The NORM is working on a page on the NEAN Web site where affiliated musicians can upload profiles complete with music downloads, videos, bios, and tour dates. We are also working on a compilation CD, hopefully the first of many, that NEAN affiliated groups and projects can use to fundraise.

Some of the NORM's other goals, laid out in the original proposal, include:

"Bridging musicians and music scenes with revolutionary struggles and movements, and empowering those involved in these movements to find creative expression of resistance through music...Acting as a committee to help set up entertainment events during and around NEAN As-

cont'd on next page



Patrons consider leaving the racist Garage Door Saloon in Pittsburgh.

## NEAN Reports.

semblies and other gatherings...Connecting a diverse range of genres and styles, and encourage the creativity, originality and bravery to break out of the comfort zones we limit ourselves to – musically and otherwise...(and)...fostering the creation of our own means of entertainment, expression, and sharing amongst ourselves in resistance to capitalist contracts, copyrights, and control over the music industry.”

If you are a musician, have a venue,

or just a music lover, get involved! We need help throwing this project together, bands, hosts and teachers for our tour, and songs for the compilations.

We have an e-mail list and are actively working on all of the above-listed goals. Please join up, send an e-mail to Jake at: [trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net](mailto:trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net). \*

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## NEWS   EVENTS   BLOGS   MATERIALS

### THE NORTHEAST ANARCHIST NETWORK ON THE WEB

[www.neanarchist.net](http://www.neanarchist.net)

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## Opinion cont'd from page 2

Whenever the far and especially anti-authoritarian Left (that being us) organizes, there is a rapid increase in the organizing of the far and authoritarian Right, be it the State or non-State fascist groups. As we grow, so will our enemies, and we must keep our ears to the ground. The frightening thing is that the Far Right has countless well-armed and trained paramilitary groups, to go along with the US government's armies and arsenals. That means that in the case of a revolution and civil war, we need to have massive popular support, not only to not lose and die, but to not subject our people to an even deeper fascism. This again illustrates the point that we need to become more involved with the struggles of our neighbors and co-workers. The government and the extreme right are taking us very seriously, as demonstrated by all of the arrests, surveillance, and anti-anarchist propaganda, and we need to take ourselves even more seriously if we aim to win this struggle. There is no anarchist boss or elected official to tell you to be a responsible and effective organizer; that is your job. We have a long and difficult road ahead of us. Are you up to it?

The other obstacle is ourselves. With all of the projects and campaigns popping up, and the complete lack of centralized power and direction in the anarchist movement, we need to be self-aware, self-disciplined, and self-critical. We need to constantly analyze our tactics and strategies, move away from what isn't working, and redouble our

didn't have our eyes on the future. The result was that once the democrats left town, our movement was in shambles.

This time around, let's make sure that we see these conventions for what they really are: a great opportunity to expose the excess and bullshit of the political parties, an opportunity to use the mainstream media to get our ideas across to a more-receptive and politically conscious public, and two week-long street battles in the ongoing struggle for revolutionary anarchism, a struggle we will continue until we win.

When the conventions are over, will we have more momentum, popularity, and strategic poise than before they started, or will we be caught up in massive state repression with no public support? With this in mind, let's deepen our roots in our communities this spring so that when we are making

efforts on what is. With the Republican and Democratic National Conventions coming up, we should make sure that we aren't putting all of our effort into these two protests.

The 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston really helped anarchism grow in Massachusetts that summer, but we put a disproportionate amount of time and energy into it and

ing headlines at the conventions this summer, the people around us know who we are and hear what we want from our own mouths, not just the propaganda of the State. Revolution is not a game; it's a struggle of momentum. Right now, the wind is at our backs, comrades, so full-speed ahead! \*





# ADVICE FROM A POLICE LIAISON

- 1.** Introduce yourself readily to the police and smile a lot. Explain what it means to be a police liaison.
- 2.** Explain to the police WHY the action is happening, (briefly) so they understand why Bank of America (or any equally nasty company) is being targeted. Give them a flyer or leaflet if you have one.
- 3.** a. Always refer to the demonstrators a “they” or “these people.” Do not use “we,” as you want the police to view you as somebody separate from the action, who is just there to facilitate communication. The idea is that the police will begin to view you as an ally, necessary to “get through” to the demonstrators.  
b. Also say “I believe,” so that it is clear that nothing you say is binding on behalf of the demonstrators. For example: “I believe these people are not going to disperse before 2pm.”
- 4.** Clearly establish in advance with the demonstrators the guidelines by which they are willing to negotiate, and stick to those guidelines no matter what!
- 5.** That doesn’t mean you can’t test the water; If the police aren’t negotiating at all, you can say something like “OK, well, I can ask the demonstrators how they would feel about unlocking an hour earlier.” By prefacing it this way, you aren’t making any promises on behalf of the demonstrators, but you can still see if the police are going to budge at all.
- 6.** Notify the police of any medical concerns regarding the demonstrators. If direct support or medics are available, explain to the police who they are and why they are there.
- 7.** Maintain a professional and helpful attitude while still being firm about your terms of the negotiation. (By referring to the action as serious, hard work, you let the cops know that you aren’t just hoodlums trying to make their jobs difficult, but rather, you are dedicated, organized activists who are there to make an important statement.)
- 8.** Don’t let the police speak to anybody else (unless that person has specified in advance that they would like to speak to the police). Always direct their questions back to yourself.
- 9.** After the arrest is made, find out what station the demonstrators are being taken to and get the address of that station.
- 10.** Pay attention to names and badge numbers. Have a notepad with you to write things down.
- 11.** Eavesdrop if possible. Police aren’t always that great at talking quietly. What they say to you will likely be different from what they say to each other.
- 12.** Send love to the demonstrators and always remain calm. Smile, smile, smile, no matter what - even if the cops are nasty and freaking you out and being really mean to you. Don’t be afraid to shake their hands when introducing yourself (if they ignore it, then they are the assholes, not you).



# Cover Letter

By MOLLY

Please, let me work for you. I am begging you; on my hands and knees, the way you like it – it is what you like, is it not? Like an animal in grateful servitude, thankful and forever indebted to your being so kind as to put food on my table, clothes on my back, blankets on my bed. If this is not what you like, if I have been mistaken, please, correct me, punish me for my ignorance and mold me as you so wish. Dress me in the clothes that you find appropriate for me. Likewise, style my hair so that it fits your needs and desires. Force me to wake however early you see fit, for my body's clock is far inferior to the preternatural green glow of the disjointed digital numbers floating above the table, which you have provided for me.

Please, please let me work for you. I am loyal, obedient, intelligent – or at least intelligent enough to excel at the tasks you ask of me, but not enough to see through your scheme. I am a hard worker and a fast learner. I would be more than willing to take on extra challenges and responsibilities if you so wish. Let me toil at one of your computer screens for hours and hours, bathing in the bluish light slowly washing away my soul, gasping in desperation as it swirls down the

drain of corporate America while you voyeuristically watch through your glass door. I merely want to serve you, to make you profits. If you are happy, I am happy.

Please – don't force me to leech off of the generous social services that you provide. You have given me so much already, done so much for me that I feel so awful not being able to pay you back in taxes. My public education for example, is something for which I only have you to thank and without which I would not have such a deep understanding of the importance of obedience and competition in being a successful American worker. Your ethnocentric fairy tale history lessons have left me with a national pride and patriotism that will survive countless attacks on the righteousness of the United States of America.

Please, let me repay you, let me work for you. If you should see any shreds of free thought and autonomy that happened to have slipped through the cracks they are yours to destroy. If there are sparks of humanity and rebellion remaining that scare you, you hold the extinguisher in your hand. I want to be your zombie. Only please, *hire me*.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,  
W.S.

# CALENDAR

## Saturday, June 7 & June 8

Great Lakes Anarchist Gathering (GLAG) in Toledo to build on the progress made over the last year and a half in bringing the Midwest/Great Lakes region anarchist communities together and strengthening the Midwest Action Network. More info: [midwest.azone.org/node/846](http://midwest.azone.org/node/846) or [sang\\_so\\_loud@yahoo.com](mailto:sang_so_loud@yahoo.com).

## Saturday, June 7:

Anarchy Ballet, 11am, 45 Mt. Auburn St. Bring comfortable (preferably form-fitting) clothes.

## Sunday, June 8:

Prisoner support afternoon, 2pm, Papercut Zine Library, 45 Mt. Auburn, Boston  
Bikes Not Bombs Bike-a-thon, Boston, Stony Brook T Stop, Orange Line, 3 rides: 62 mile- 8am, 25 and 15 mile- 9am. Preregistration required at [www.bikesnotbombs.org](http://www.bikesnotbombs.org)

Green Roots Festival, "a fair to share, explore, and celebrate knowledge for sustainable urban living," 12-5:30pm Stony Brook T Stop, Boston

## Friday, June 13 - June 15

East Coast Unconventional Convergence  
Come to Washington, DC to join DC Unconventional Action for a weekend working chronologically through the steps of planning and participating in a mass action and demonstration at the upcoming Republican and Democratic National Conventions. Location: Campus of American University. Cost: \$20 with housing, \$10 without housing, meals provided. More info: [ecc.dead-city.org](http://ecc.dead-city.org) or [dc@unconventionalaction.org](mailto:dc@unconventionalaction.org).

## Thursday, June 19 - 26:

Hope Under Siege: Pittsburghers in Palestine, a photo exhibit. Hear

eyewitness accounts from Palestinians and Pittsburghers who have seen and experienced life under the gun. View the scenes of hope and the images of despair. At the Shadow Lounge, 5972 Baum Blvd, Pittsburgh. Opening Reception June 19 from 6-9p.m. Exhibit Runs Through June 26. More info: [www.pittsburgh-psc.org](http://www.pittsburgh-psc.org) or [joeskillet@riseup.net](mailto:joeskillet@riseup.net).

## Saturday, June 28:

Massachusetts meeting to plan Jericho 1010 march in NYC, (tentative – location tba)

Safety Net and Stop the Biolab Coalition Yard Sale, 10am - 2pm, Blackstone Park, South End, Washington and W. Newton St.

## Saturday, July 5

Annual Anarchist Picnic. Join Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG) in reclaiming radical traditions by celebrating the

fourth annual Anarchist Picnic in Pittsburgh noon-7p.m. at the Anderson Shelter in Schenley Park. Info: [pog@mutualaid.org](mailto:pog@mutualaid.org).

## Saturday, July 12:

Bikes Not Bombs Benefit, 7pm, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Boston

## Sunday, July 27 - August 3:

Northeast Climate Confluence, High Falls, NY. [www.climate-confluence.org](http://www.climate-confluence.org)

## Sunday, August 24 - 28:

**Disrupt the DNC!**  
Help disrupt the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado August 24-28. More info: [dncdisruption08.org](http://dncdisruption08.org).

## Monday, Sept. 1 - 4:

**Shut Down the RNC!** Crash the Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota September 1-4. More info: [nornc.org](http://nornc.org).