

NOR'EASTER

The Official
Quarterly of the

NORTHEAST ANARCHIST NETWORK

Southern Mexico's Revolutionary Movements: The Government's New Plan to Crush Them

By Jake Carman

On December 16, in the state of Chiapas, Mexico, Subcomandante Marcos, military leader and one spokesperson of the Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) delivered a speech titled "Feeling Red: The Calendar and the Geography of War." During the speech, Marcos warned his comrades of an impending invasion by the Mexican government. He said, "The signs of war on the horizon are clear," and that he would withdraw from the public eye in preparation for a government attack on Zapatista territory.

According to Naomi Klein in her article "Zapatista Code Red" in *The Nation*, "researchers at the Center of Political Analysis and Social and Economic Investigations have been tracking with their maps and charts. On the fifty-six permanent military bases that the Mexican state runs on indigenous land in Chiapas, there has been a marked increase in activity. Weapons and equipment are being dramatically



Oaxacan Rebels During 1-hour battle to defend Radio Universidad from Federal Police. Nov. 2nd, 2006. Photo by John Gibler

upgraded, new battalions are moving in, including special forces – all signs of escalation." This, in combination with an increase of the government's use of paramilitaries to threaten, rape, murder, and maim Zapatistas and their supporters, explains why there is a sense of "war on the horizon."

On January 1, 1994, the small and poorly armed EZLN rose from Mexico's incredibly poor and mostly indigenous southern state of Chiapas to fight for *(Continued on Page 2)*

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

We recognize that the anarchist movement has a diversity of perspectives and priorities. We seek to nurture solidarity and mutual aid 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 regions gathered in Boston, NEAN has grown through many subsequent meetings across 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 with our goals to be a part of it. More info:

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.

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autonomy. After a few days of unproductive conflict with the Mexican army, Marcos and his rebel comrades turned to the international media – through the Internet especially – to halt the government’s attack and spread their call for “Peace, Justice, and Democracy.” A cease-fire followed, although the Mexican Government continue what they call “low intensity warfare” against the Zapatistas. However, the Zapatistas have been winning the information war; a battle for the hearts and minds of their fellow Mexicans, rebels, and activists worldwide. The Zapatistas now control at least 38 autonomous municipalities in Chiapas, but their influence is certainly international.

The recent government escalation should come as no surprise; besides maintaining autonomy for 12 years, the Zapatistas launched a campaign in 2006 – “The Other Campaign” – empowering and coordinating radical democratic social movements across Mexico. Instead of supporting any of the presidential candidates in the national election, “The Other Campaign” spearheaded a grassroots organizational surge against the Mexican Government and its political parties. This coincided with the height of the popular rebellion in Oaxaca, a state directly west of Chiapas. Along with the contested presidential election results of 2006, the campaign bought valuable time for Oaxaca’s movement to blossom that summer and gave the government reason to target the Zapatistas.

When the electoral confusion died down by last fall, the government used a brutal military strategy to reclaim Oaxaca City in December and crush the movement for Popular Assemblies (or at least to drive the international media out) at a time when Oaxaca’s autonomy was poised to destabilize the entire Mexican governing system. Before the government invasion, the people of 13 different Mexican states had started Popular Assemblies, and everyone looked to Oaxaca to take the lead. Today, the government still represses Oaxaca’s continuing

movement, including using paramilitaries against a youth march on January 15. But with international attention off of Oaxaca, the government has set its sights on the Zapatistas.

According to Klein’s article, the Zapatistas feel “their calls for help are being met with a deafening silence.” The Zapatistas, through their dedication not only to their own liberation but also their tireless contribution to the global movements for freedom and equality, have inspired us all. They have reached beyond the borders of their autonomous rebel territory to spread the seeds of a bright future. It is time we return the favor and turn a “deafening silence” into a raging storm of action in defense of our southern comrades in struggle.

VIVA ZAPATA!



CALLING ALL ANTI-AUTHORITARIANS: JOIN THE SOLIDARITY WITHOUT BORDERS CAMPAIGN!

We are writing to introduce the Solidarity Without Borders Campaign, a coordinated, sustained, three-pronged campaign in solidarity with immigrant and indigenous struggles across North and Latin America.

Anarchist and anti-authoritarian groups from across the Northeast and Midwest USA have come together to form the Solidarity Without Borders Group.

This working group came out of the recent Consulta of the Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN) and Midwest Action Network (MAN). The proposal was initiated by the Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement (BAAM) and NYC Local Union of the North East Federation of Anarchist Communists (NEFAC), and has been joined by an-

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- Wes Hannah

Thankyou for reading the First Issue of the Nor' Easter, the brand new quartlery of the Northeast Anarchist Network. Please help us with this project by submitting articles, events, photos, graphics, etc. Email: noreaster-submissions@neanarchist.

NEAN's 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. **2**

RNC 2008: Organizing, Autonomy, and You

By Wes Hannah

The Republicans are coming! This summer, Republican delegates and protesters will be gathering in St. Paul, MN for the Republican National Convention from September 1-4. As with RNCs in the past, organizers of diverse political inclinations are planning a number of ways to raise opposition to the convention and to the system of dis-empowering electoral politics in general.

The RNC Welcoming Committee, an anarchist/anti-authoritarian organizing group, began planning for an effective resistance last summer with the pReNC, a conference in the Twin Cities, and has continued organizing and preparing throughout the past year. According to the Welcoming Committee, “this time the fear-mongers will be met with their own biggest fear: people mobilized, organized, and taking the future back into their own hands.”

The critical aspect of this organizing, and what sets it apart from other anti-RNC organizing, is that they intend to create a framework that any anarchist organizations can choose to mobilize within while still retaining the freedom to plan autonomous actions. Furthermore, they intend to create an infrastructure of resources, including food, housing, and transportation, that anyone can utilize. At the same time, the group is working on building local outreach to Twin Cities communities and with activists nationwide. Their goal is not to lead the protests, but to help coordinate the cooperation and mutual aid of activists and anarchists coming from across the country to give a proper anarchist welcome to the Republicans. In addition to putting out resources such as maps and advice, they have released an inspiring video, available on Youtube.com, called “We’re getting ready! RNC Welcoming Committee trailer.”

A full listing of the Welcoming Committee’s Points of Unity is available on their Web site. It includes a rejection of capitalism, imperialism, and the state; organizing based on de-

centralization, autonomy, sustainability, and mutual aid; actively working to eliminate relationships of domination and subjugation; and direct confrontation of systems of oppression, while respecting a need for diversity of tactics.

Preparations are beginning not only in Minnesota, but across the country, where groups have been actively organizing in their communities and traveling to St. Paul to begin planning with the Welcoming Committee. The fifth consulta of the Northeast Anarchist Network has officially endorsed the call to action and many affiliated groups are developing plans to be a part of the protests. The NEAN endorsement, citing the absurd nature of electoral politics and the necessity for individuals to act to express their beliefs and desires, went with a contingent of NEAN-ers to the Twin Cities in January to meet with organizers and begin planning.

An umbrella organization, Unconventional Action, is an affiliated network that connects organizing in the Twin Cities with local and regional organizing in the rest of the country. UA’s goal is “to build a horizontal, inclusive framework for protests [through] organizing meetings, propaganda, and consultas in our communities and encourage those in other regions to do the same.” Those interested can get involved in Unconventional Action groups or start organizing themselves under the Unconventional Action banner. A recent UA consulta in Binghamton, NY brought together groups from Upstate New York for a report-back from the returned Twin Cities delegation, skill-share on street safety, and networking around the RNC protests.

In January, a national information tour made up of Minnesota anarchists began moving region by region though the country to speak to local groups and consultas, providing information, helping to make plans, and answering questions. They also hope to develop networks of support as they move and to receive feedback on what

issues the St. Paul organizers should be focusing.

Already the tour is receiving widespread attention from both allies and the State! When the group tried to cross into Canada on February 2 for several pre-arranged informational gatherings, they were denied entry into the country. During their several-hour detainment, their computers and literature were examined, and they were threatened with several charges. Finally, they were released back into the US and were forced to cancel the Canadian leg of the tour.

In addition to traveling to Minnesota next summer, anarchists can get involved in a number of ways before then. Most importantly, folks should start getting together in affinity groups and at local consultas to start planning. The Welcoming Committee isn’t going to have everything planned out – they are going to have an infrastructure set up so that anyone can seek support in carrying out their own plans.

Groups and individuals can also use the next half-year to develop and carry out lead-up actions. Not only will they help hone plans for the RNC, but they will show that this action in September and this opposition in general won’t be limited to just one long weekend. Groups that are planning on being there can be in communication with the Welcoming Committee to help coordinate activities and make sure the resources needed are available. Minnesota organizers are also raising funds for legal support, food, a convergence space, and many other aspects of support – they are asking for any financial support groups can provide, as well as any other supplies useful for the protest. Finally, anyone with the time can head out to Minnesota before the protests to be a part of the on-the-ground planning and organizing work!

More information on Welcoming Committee and their work: <http://www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org/>. **3**

The complete NEAN endorsement can be read at: <http://www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org/2008/01/13/northeast-anarchist-network-endorses-wc-call-to-action/>.

Unconventional Action: <http://unconventionalaction.org/>.

The Northeast Unconventional Action tour is mostly over, but it may still be possible to get involved. The tour schedule is available at: <http://www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org/the-tour/>.

A Better Choice: Challenging the Two Party System

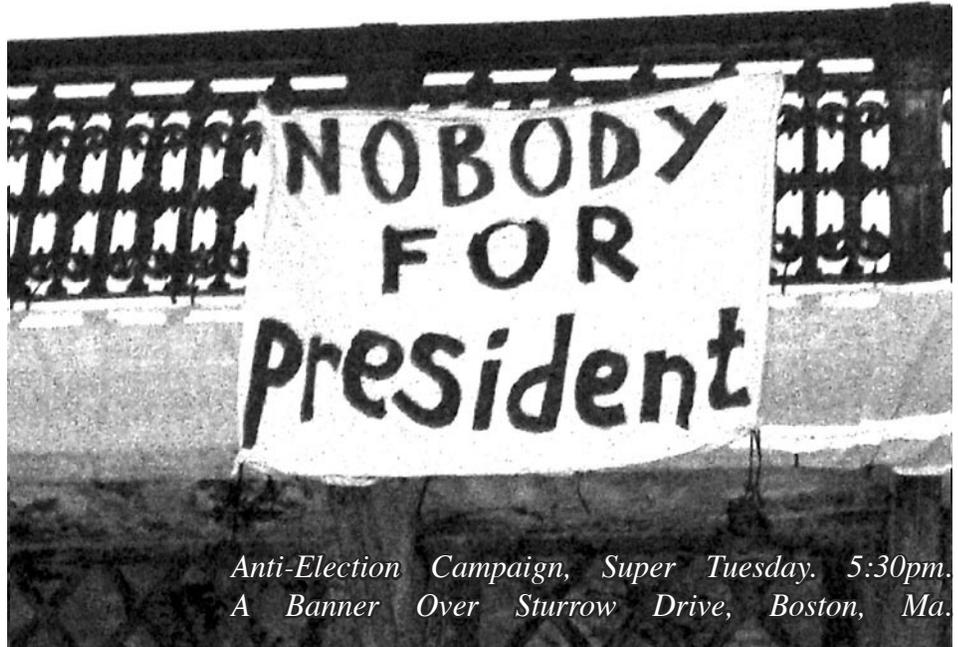
By Jake Carman

While the US voting public chose between a few bad corporation-nominated candidates, members of the Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN), Unconventional Denver, and other groups across the country spent "Super Tuesday" protesting representative democracy and promoting direct democracy and practical democratic alternatives.

NEAN organizers in Boston put out a call for a day of action against the elections, and Massachusetts anarchists and their allies responded with a campaign of hanging and wheat-pasting fliers and posters on buses, trains, campuses, and city streets, carrying out at least four banner drops and other creative actions.

Commuters driving into Boston during heavy morning rush-hour traffic found something to occupy their minds: A banner hanging over the Market St. Bridge in Brighton read, "Love Democracy, But Hate Politicians?" On the next bridge, the Everett St. Bridge, a second banner read, "Try Anarchy. It's Democracy Without Politicians," with NEAN's web address at the bottom. In March, the NEAN-affiliated Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement (BAAM) is hosting a presentation on challenging representative democracy and promoting direct democracy, followed by a workshop and meeting.

Anarchists with Unconvention-



*Anti-Election Campaign, Super Tuesday. 5:30pm.
A Banner Over Sturrow Drive, Boston, Ma.*

al Denver, an anti-Democratic National Convention organizing group, called for a day of action against the primaries and were able to get a banner over Interstate 25 reading, "Two Parties, No Voice." The action was covered by Fox News.

According to a report back from Unconventional Denver, actions also took place in Grand Rapids, Milwaukee, and California. "Just hours before the caucuses began in Grand Junction," Unconventional Denver wrote, "a banner was unfurled stating 'WE VOTE NO' on the new parking garage in downtown Grand Junction. Emblazoned with a red anarchy sign, the banner faced the Wayne Aspinall Federal Building."

Milwaukee participated with three banner drops of their own, which read, "Victory Against Politics," "Shut Down the RNC," and "9-1-08," referring to the beginning day of the Republican National Convention. Outside Milwaukee, two banners were hung on billboards along US Highway 41 in Oshkosh, reading, "Demcrans and Republicrats Both Fuck Working Class," and "8.24.08 Recreate68.org/9.1.08 NORNC.org."

Various groups in California, including anti-war activists, picketed debates and polling stations on and before "Super Tuesday." On January 21, hundreds rallied against the war in front

of the Kodak Theater in Hollywood, the site of the Democratic Party Debates. Protesters shouted, "Clinton, Obama, you will see, the Iraqi people will be free," as anti-war groups, including the Maoist front-group ANSWER, tried to pressure the candidates to take firm anti-war stances.

On primary day in the Bay Area, California, the group Direct Action to Stop the War (DASW) held protests at 5 p.m. at both Clinton's campaign offices in San Francisco, and Obama's in Oakland. In an article for the Bay Area Independent Media, DASW member Kate Raphael said, "Hillary Clinton still refuses to acknowledge that her vote to authorize war with Iraq in 2002 was wrong." Raphael also said Clinton supports "the surge" of troops in Iraq, believes it is working, and "voted for a resolution threatening military action against Iran."

The anti-war protesters also had something to say about Obama, who is considered the anti-war candidate by many US liberals. "Barack Obama wants to end the war in Iraq only to escalate it in Afghanistan and attack Pakistan," said activist Vern Nuanez. "He recently wrote a letter justifying Israel's refusal to allow fuel, food, and medicine into Gaza, where people are literally starving and freezing to death."

The overwhelming participa-

tion in this day of action is an encouraging sign of things to come as momentum builds and time gets shorter in the countdown to Convention Summer 2008. The seeds of doubt are taking root in the minds of the public. Rebels, our time has come: out of the woodwork to build popular democracy!

-Boston Call for Super Tuesday Day of Action: <http://boston.indymedia.org/newswire/display/203383/index.php>

-Unconventional Denver Call "We Vote No:" [Http://www.unconventionalaction.org/news/2008/02/02/february-5th-national-day-of-action-against-the-elections/](http://www.unconventionalaction.org/news/2008/02/02/february-5th-national-day-of-action-against-the-elections/)

-Unconventional Denver "Round-up of Super Tuesday Protests"

<http://www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=2008020807302743>

-Milwaukee banner drops

<http://prod.milwaukee.indymedia.org/en/2008/02/209185.shtml>

-Oshkosh banners: <http://prod.milwaukee.indymedia.org/en/2008/02/209183.shtml>

-Los Angeles Protests Democratic Debates: http://la.indymedia.org/archives/arhive_by_id.php?id=1584&category_id=3

-Bay Area: Protests at Major Democratic Candidates; Bay Area Offices on Primary Day

<http://www.indybay.org/news-items/2008/02/05/18477162.php>

Two Battles in the Struggle for Greece

In January, the City of Patras, Greece, was the site of a major victory for thousands of migrant workers living in shantytown settlements. According to the recently-launched Indymedia Patras, on January 19 and 20, Patras authorities served the mostly Afghani and Kurdish migrants (who for years have flocked to the Greek port city hoping to gain passage to Italy) an unsigned final eviction warning. Police had the settlement surrounded by January 21, and despite organized protests from an-

archists and other supporters, managed to demolish a portion of the settlement on January 23.

On January 29, however, the tide turned. According to Indymedia Patras, "in an unprecedented move, the vast majority of the settlement's residents (over 1,000) joined in the solidarity demonstration and demanded their rights to dignity and asylum...The demonstration took the authorities by surprise and local mass media report that in its light, the knocking down of the remainder of the settlement is to be postponed." This is a major victory for the Patras settlement, but the struggle will surely continue.



Another battle took place the weekend of February 2 and 3 when 100 fascists from the Chryssi Avgi (Golden Dawn) group gathered in Athens' Kolokotroni Square for the 12th anniversary of the Imia islets dispute with Turkey. Anarchists and other anti-fascists, numbering around 400, marched to defend their city from racist hate, but when they reached Kolokotroni Square, the police had formed a protective wall around Chryssi Avgi. Soon, the cops let fascists cross the line to stab two of the anti-fascists and hit others with rocks. One of the stab victims needed surgery, but is not in critical condition.

At 11 a.m., a fight broke out between the two groups, and the police responded again by aiding the fascists and beating the anti-fascists, knocking one unconscious. Afterwards, small skirmishes that broke out across the

city exploded into larger battles for the city's main squares. According to The Irish Times, "About 400 anarchists barricaded themselves along the main street, throwing rocks and petrol bombs," a police officer at the scene said. "Two policemen and two anarchists have been slightly hurt, but there are no serious injuries."

The anarchists and other leftists, in their occupied squares, organized another anti-fascist demonstration for 6 p.m.

According to Athens Indymedia, "A little later than 3 p.m., the Public Prosecutor announced their decision to ban the manifestation of the fascists and disperse their gathering. The fascists initially refused, but left when they saw more squads coming." The leftist radicals held their anti-fascist demonstration in the evening as planned, and the riot police again attacked the 600 marchers with chemical weapons and batons. The attack resulted in 120 arrests, and many others were sent to the hospital with injuries. Though all of the arrested were released without charges, "among the ones in the hospital, four to five of them stayed there, including a female comrade who had been hit by a tear-gas shot directly on her eye and her forehead," according to Athens Indymedia. Around the end of the demonstration, anarchists attacked a police station with incendiary devices.

Patras Indymedia Article: http://patras.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=577

Photos: http://patras.indymedia.org/front.php3?lang=el&article_id=593

Athens Indymedia Article: http://www.anarkismo.net/newswire.php?story_id=7400

The Irish Times: <http://www.ireland.com/newspaper/breaking/2008/0202/breaking29.htm>

Global Warming and Capitalism:



As the Ice Melts, the Land Rush Begins

By Devin Stronge

The Northwest Passage is one of the most fabled sea routes in the world, located above the northern Canadian province of Nunavut among the frozen arctic islands that dot the North Pole. The Passage provides a sea route from Europe to Asia, but had never been used extensively because of the Arctic islands that choked the sea route and barred any large shipping means of access through the Passage. All this, however, is about to change. Satellite images from the European Space Agency (ESA), taken in September of last year, show that the ice covering the Passage has shrunk to a size small enough to allow navigation. The ESA reported that this is the first time that the Passage will be navigational since the agency began monitoring it in 1978.

The ice has been shrinking steadily for the ten years, but last summer's reduction has been the largest and most rapid. Leif Toudal Pedersen of the Danish National Space Centre called last year's reduction "extreme," stating that typically the ice had been melting at about 38,600 square miles per year, but last year saw a shrinking of around 386,000 square miles—one hundred times the "typical" rate.

This environmental disaster has created an exciting opportunity for capitalists. In 1997, Pat Broe, a Denver entrepreneur, bought derelict ports in Hudson Bay from the Canadian Government. Broe was hoping that the ice would eventually melt to a navigational level and thus make his initial investment of seven dollars a very profitable venture. Large and small corporations

alike are mimicking Broe's logic and this year will see a corporate rush for virgin territory.

The capitalist invasion of Manitoba and Nunavut has other consequences, as well. Nunavut is a province populated by mostly indigenous people whose way of life, which is already threatened by the disappearing ice, will be changed drastically by the corporate onslaught. Sheila Watt-Cloutier, a leader of a transnational Inuit group explained: "As long as it's ice, nobody cares but us because we hunt and fish and travel on that ice. However, the minute it starts to thaw and becomes water, then the whole world is interested."

And the whole world is interested and not just in the Northwest Passage, but in all of the Arctic and North Pole. A United Nations treaty called the UN Convention on the Law of the Seas allows countries to make claims to territory according to how far their continental shelf extends into the sea. Using this treaty, nations have begun to stake claims in the Arctic including Russia, Norway, the United States and Canada. The prospect of undersea oil among the melted ice has made the North Pole prime real estate. Russia has claimed almost half of the Arctic Ocean. If oil is found, Russia could come to challenge the power of OPEC. Canada has already commissioned ten nuclear submarines

to patrol the Northwest Passage and the Arctic. Eventually, all of the Arctic ice will melt and create a sea that will be larger than the Mediterranean, which could very well be a future cause for conflict among nations over the sea routes and the natural resources.

This environmental disaster is of little concern to capitalists and nations currently vying for influence in the region. Profits and realist policies have taken precedence over the preservation of our planet. Not only have the environmental consequences of the opening of the Northwest Passage been largely ignored, but the impact of industrial and corporate development on the virgin land of northern Canada has been of little interest to the capitalist invaders.

According to transportation minister of Manitoba Ron Lemieux, "[This is] the positive side of global warming—if there is a positive side."

-Warming Opens up Northwest Passage, BBC News, September 14, 2007, news.bbc.co.uk, © 2008

-As Polar Ice Turns to Water, Dreams of Treasure Abound, Clifford Krauss, Steven Lee Myers, Andrew C. Revkin, Simon Romero, The New York Times, October 10, 2005, www.nytimes.com, © 2008



An Update on the Pittsburgh Organizing Group

By Marie Skoczylas, a member of POG
Pittsburgh Organizing Group

(POG), a Southwest Pennsylvania anarchist group that is an affiliate of the Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN), kicked off 2008 with a weekend retreat in the woods to reflect on past work and plan for the year ahead, including the formation of a POG cluster at the September demonstrations to protest the Republican National Convention (RNC) in St. Paul, Minnesota.

As this issue of the Nor'Easter goes to print, POG is preparing to host an inter-regional consulta February 16-17 in Pittsburgh that will bring together members of NEAN and the Midwest Action Network (MAN) to discuss, strategize, and aid our networks' efforts to shut down the RNC. The RNC Welcoming Committee will be sending representatives to provide logistical information and present the strategic framework. The gathering will also provide a space for networking and relationship-building between collectives and individuals, and an opportunity to learn about each other's work.

After two years of general anti-war organizing, in 2005 POG began an effort to counter military recruitment, which has included hundreds of pickets outside recruiting stations, and direct actions that have shut the stations down. POG has also put on presentations and skill shares outside of Pittsburgh, and a networking conference for counter-recruitment activists in other cities across the country. The counter-recruitment project also included educational outreach at local high schools, and the distribution of tens of thousands of flyers that dispel the myths recruiters like to perpetuate to meet their quotas.

Recently, POG's Counter-Recruitment and Anti-Militarism project has continued to draw attention to local groups and people working towards the development of warfare robotics. In January, the group held a demonstration outside the home of John Bares – direc-

tor of the National Robotics Engineering Center, a mainly Pentagon-funded branch of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) that develops robotic vehicles and weapons delivery systems for the US Army and Marines. NREC recently received a \$14 million contract to further develop "Crusher," a new generation of unmanned offensive ground weapons for the army. This further moves CMU toward not just research, but direct design and production of killing machines. Seventeen people attended the demonstration, local law enforcement recorded the protesters from a distance, and the event garnered two



"Somewhere over the barricades"
POG's Anarchist Prom, February 2007
very favorable articles in Pittsburgh's corporate media.

The Counter Recruitment Project is co-sponsoring a Valentine's Day picket with CodePink Women for Peace on February 14 at a local recruiting station with the theme, "Don't enlist, stay and kiss; that way, everybody makes out!" Members of the project are also planning to mark the March 19 anniversary of the war with a pitchfork-wielding, torch-lit march to a modern day castle of abominations – the local military recruiting station – which marchers plan to evict. Rumor has it that members may also be bringing a moveable cage in which to confine any recruiters who stand in the way.

This spring marks POG's offi-

cial transition to an explicitly anarchist group. While the group has always worked within a non-hierarchical, consensus-based, anti-authoritarian framework, opposing interconnected forms of oppression, the decision to reposition as a revolutionary organization working to overcome capitalism and the state marks a new beginning. The decision was a product of extensive dialogue among members.

POG will continue the many projects and campaigns from the past five years including the anti-militarism work, support for the global justice movement and global solidarity, and work on a myriad other local, regional, and global issues, incorporating pickets, rallies, marches, teach-ins, film screenings, and lectures that have always been a mainstay of POG's tactical repertoire. But the group will be working to integrate more explicitly anarchist messaging into many actions and events, and will be producing educational materials, developing an introductory workshop on anarchism, and exploring other ways to spark dialogue and discussion on anarchism.

This exciting transition will take place at the annual radical "informal-formal" dance on March 1 at Chatham University's Rea Coffeehouse. Last year's "Somewhere Over the Barricades" was a huge success, drawing more than 100 people of all ages. This year, POG will continue the tradition – big bowls of punch, cheesy photography, and prizes – with "The Anarchist Ball."

Other upcoming efforts include a Speaker Series spanning March through May. Members of POG are currently solidifying presenters and dates, which will include noted anarchist author, activist, and organizer Cindy Milstein on March 29, Spanish Civil War veteran George Sessanko on April 26, and "Anarchist Panther" Ashanti Alston sometime later this spring. On May 10, North Eastern Federation of Anarchist Communists (NE-FAC) member Wayne Price, author of *The Abolition of the State*, will lead a

lively discussion about revolution and the anarchist vision for a post-revolutionary society.

POG continues to provide skill shares to interested groups through its Tactical Training Initiative. Workshops include Media 101, Strategic Corporate Research, Lockboxes and Lockdown Devices, Self-Defense, Recent History of the Global Justice Movement, Global and Political Economic Frameworks, and Going to a Mass Action 101.

For more information about POG or to get involved, contact the group at pog@mutualaid.org.



Call Out for Coordinated Decentralized Counter Convention Audio Broadcast Projects

Imagine a round-the-clock Internet broadcast from the streets of the DNC and RNC actions that articulates both what's happening on the ground and why it's happening. We envision broadcasts in downtown areas, college campuses, community centers, in front of coffee shops, on sidewalks and in parks – wherever people are. They could be re-broadcast on community and pirate stations all around the country and beyond. Anyone who can get a wireless-enabled laptop, a connection to the Internet, some cords, and speakers can probably do this. We could circumvent corporate media and create a space for people to engage with the reality of what mass mobilizations are really like. People could hear what the TV news coverage was leaving out, and public space could be transformed in a strange and interesting new way. Folks broadcasting sites could take donations for legal expenses incurred at the ac-

tions, provide a personal connection to the events, distro literature, encourage people to tune in at home, and connect people to local networks.

What we would need:

-A live audio Web broadcasting team in St. Paul and/or Denver with whatever equipment that would require (Web site, creative ideas for content and reporting, etc.).

-An outreach campaign to get folks excited to set up sites for public playing and explain how to do it.

-Some live test runs to give everyone a chance to debug. We encountered a number of software troubles when we tried this out that could have been more smoothly handled had we had the foresight to test it beforehand. Also, rain seemed to interfere with our ability to receive the wireless signal. We need folks who know the technical stuff and can help troubleshoot the inevitable issues that come up.

-Your brilliant ideas!

Here's a link to the August Sound Coalition's live audio site from the 2004 RNC: <http://radio.socialtechnology.net/RNC/index.html>

Send replies to: counterconventionaudio@riseup.net

Reportback: NEAN and Midwest Action Network Meet in Pittsburgh

By Adrienne Naylor

On February 17 and 18, a monumental gathering took place between the Northeast Anarchist Network and the Midwest Action Network in Pittsburgh, PA. In addition to being rife with radical history, this hometown of our legendary hosts, the Pittsburgh Organizing Group (POG), was geographically ideal for its accessibility to both the Northeast and the Midwest. While the gathering was not a decision-making body for either network, the meeting was extremely productive. Among the scores of anti-authoritarians present, connections were built, friends were made, ideas were shared, and fun was had.

Much of the meeting dealt with planning for the upcoming Republican

National Convention in the Twin Cities, September 1-4, 2008. We were fortunate enough to have two touring members of the RNC Welcoming Committee swing by and speak about their exquisite planning and answer questions about the blockade strategy, among other things. After their departure, a great many ideas were shared and much excitement was expressed about the three-tiered blockade strategy. Those assembled also put forward the idea of blocking the delegates in, as a logical continuation of the blockade strategy. Another popular idea was to emphasize through banners, pamphlet distribution, press communiqués, media interactions, and street conversations the message that we're not just fighting against Republicans—we're fighting for Direct Democracy and a world free of tyranny in all its forms, of which representative government is but one.

The excitement of having two such large, organized anti-authoritarian groups represented in the same room begged for further collaboration. While several models of collaboration were raised, the idea of shared projects was the best received, especially as there was no shortage of projects to share! NEAN invited the Midwest to carry out their own anti-election campaign and to share the resources on NEAN's Web site. BAAM and the Antithesis Collective from NYC urged everyone to get on board with an elaborate International Solidarity Campaign with Indigenous Mexican movements for justice on both sides of the border.

The great success of the meeting can be attributed to the energy of its participants, skillful facilitation, and the lack of alcohol-fueled partying that has been known to have innumerable negative effects on many anarchist gatherings. It is the hope of our networks that all who took part will return to their communities scattered across the 800-mile expanse with fresh ideas, renewed enthusiasm, and new resources. We'll be sure to recognize more faces when we meet in the streets!

(Solidarity ... Continued From Page 2)
archists from over a dozen other towns and cities.

The campaign emerges in light of the escalating war on indigenous communities in Mexico and immigrant communities in the United States: In light of military and paramilitary aggression against the peoples of Oaxaca and Chiapas, in light of Plan Mexico and the Security & Prosperity Partnership, in light of recent attacks on immigrants here in the USA, and in light of the corporate invasion and displacement of their communities.

The campaign arose in response to calls to action from the Zapatista Army of National Liberation (EZLN), from the Council of the Indigenous Peoples of Oaxaca-Ricardo Flores Magon (CIPO-RFM), and from New York City's Movement for Justice in El Barrio (MJB).

Please join us in Solidarity Without Borders, endorse this campaign, and begin to organize within your communities and alongside us. For Solidarity Without Borders!

Our Call To Action:

We are calling for a coordinated, sustained, three pronged campaign by the anarchist movement in the United States to:

1. Confront repression of our comrades, shut down Plan Mexico and SPP, and stop the invasion of rebel territory in Mexico.
2. Confront repression of immigrant communities in our own cities and regions.
3. Confront the corporations invading communities both here in the northeast and south of the border.

* We recognize, with the Zapatistas, that these struggles are intertwined and none of these things can be won without the others *

Our Goals:

1. To take action at US government offices, Mexican consulates, and offices of related corporations across the region.
2. To support local and national actions in defense of immigrants, with the ul-

time goal of shutting down all ICE detention centers and offices.

3. To support the International Campaign in Defense of El Barrio being launched by Movement for Justice in El Barrio.

4. To raise resources and supplies, if and when needed, for our comrades in Chiapas, Oaxaca, and El Barrio.

5. To send a delegation to Southern Mexico, in the event of invasion or escalating repression, to stand alongside our brothers and sisters.

Our Next Steps:

1. Local groups send delegates to the new Solidarity Without Borders Group.

2. Local groups make contact with local organizations in their area, especially immigrant and community organizations, join local coalitions and support their struggles.

3. Local groups support other organizations and actions with common goals in their communities.

4. Local groups visit government and corporate offices, delivering letters and ultimatums to those responsible.

5. Local groups plan and implement creative direct actions, beginning no later than May Day, sooner in the event of invasion or escalating repression.

Contact: solidaritywithoutbordersgroup@gmail.com

For more information:

-On the situation in Chiapas: <http://chiapas.indymedia.org> (Spanish)

-On the situation in Oaxaca: <http://www.elenemigocomun.net>

-On Plan Mexico: <http://www.globalexchange.org/countries/americas/mexico/planmexico>

-On the Security & Prosperity Partnership: <http://www.dollarsandsense.org/archives/2008/0108sciacchitano.html>

-On Movement for Justice in El Barrio: <http://www.narconews.com/issue42/article2037.html>

-On the border & the war on immigrants: <http://deletetheborder.org>

-On immigrant solidarity groups in your area: <http://www.immigrantsolidarity.org> <http://www.fairimmigration.org/about/who-we-are.html>

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ZAPATISTAS! A MESSAGE FROM MOVEMENT FOR JUSTICE IN EL BARRIO

Brought to the Northeast Anarchist Network by NEFAC-NYC



What is Movement for Justice in El Barrio? Movement for Justice in El Barrio was founded by immigrants and low-income people of color fighting back against the effects of neoliberalism and discrimination in all of its forms and operates on a commitment to the ideals of self-determination, autonomy and participatory democracy. We believe we have the right and responsibility to lead our own struggle for justice by making decisions collectively and democratically and by developing our political analysis through the examination of the root causes of oppression.

Driven by multinational corporations and profit-seeking landlords and facilitated by city officials, gentrification has swept New York causing the grand-scale displacement of low-income people of color and immigrants from our communities. East Harlem is experiencing a wave of harassment, abuse and intimidation in attempts by greedy landlords to evict us from our homes in order to raise rents and increase profits. Movement for Justice in El Barrio is fighting back:

“We Will Not be Moved! No Nos Moverán!” We have fought hard for 3 years and made great strides in building a 400-member community-led organization. We have successfully protested, marched, gone to court and fought back against the actions of multinational corporations, abusive and

greedy landlords, and the city institutions that are agents of the gentrification of our neighborhood.

After months of fighting against the most powerful landlord in El Barrio, we celebrated our victory over Kessner as we forced him to sell all of his 47 buildings. While he viciously attempted to drive his tenants from their homes, we turned the tables on him and drove him out of El Barrio.

Through our “Consulta del Barrio,” we hit the streets to facilitate self-determination by consulting with the community as to what our next issue would be to address as an organization. Deeply inspired by the Zapatistas, we implemented our own form of Urban Zapatismo in the heart of NYC through grassroots participatory democracy involving the community.

Through this process, 1500 community members participated directly in a community-wide vote, town hall meetings, and hundreds of one-on-one interviews.

In October, we organized the first-ever “NYC Encuentro for Dignity and Against Gentrification” to begin to build a city-wide, national and international network against gentrification. Representatives of 27 groups attended from as far as Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Jersey. Our organizing model has attracted attention from around the world and we have been proud to share this model with groups and people across the nation and across the globe.

What is the International Campaign in Defense of El Barrio?

Gentrification is one of the devastating manifestations of neoliberalism at the local level, but the threat transcends borders. Governments and institutions all over the world are sanctioning the violent, unjust, and inhumane displacement of people and communities from their rightful homes. As part of International Campaign in Defense of El Barrio, we are organizing on a transnational level to combat displacement in El Barrio by building a multi-national network to go after one



of our main targets, the multinational corporation Dawnay Day Group on all continents where they hold property.

Purpose of Tour: Through our speaking tour, we will share our organizing model, our vision, and our efforts on a local and international level in order to raise consciousness around the struggle against gentrification, gain allies in the struggle and raise the funds necessary to continue organizing for justice in 2008!

Contact: movementforjusticeinelbarrio@yahoo.com // 212-561-0555//
Network contact: mgw@nefac.net

Whats Your Anarchy?

We at the Nor'Easter recognize that there are as many definitions of anarchy as there are anarchists. With this in mind, respecting a diversity of opinion, we would like to introduce the series “What’s Your Anarchy?” in which anarchists can describe what anarchy means to them, why they became anarchists, or what their view of an anarchist future may be.

A quick bite of ANARCHISM

By Luke Romano

Fear and freedom can not comply with one another. If you are looking to understand anarchism, that is a great place to start. Anarchism is the one theory that does not rely on fear or threats, in any way, to uphold its ideas. Any form of statism – any kind of government – must, by definition, rely on threats and violence, and therefore, fear. Anarchists recognize that a person who is afraid is not free.

Anarchists, with the goal of a society completely free from institutional fear, reject government in all of its forms. And by logical extension, anarchists reject authority in all of its forms. Anarchists view freedom as a natural reality, not something graciously “granted” to us by government. Freedom is 100 percent free, contrary to the popular slogan, and the only power that government has is to limit such natural freedom.

As social beings, anarchists see that once human beings are accustomed to taking responsibility for their own actions, a society based on mutual aid, trust, and cooperation is a very real possibility. A society with no authority. No bosses. Why?

It is the natural aim of authority to enlarge itself. Governments are constantly making more laws, creating more intricate ways to control their populations. Whether it be a CEO, a police officer, a boss at work, a president, a parent, a teacher, or any other figure of authority – anarchists recognize that abuse of power is natural and necessary to maintain any form of authority. This is because these social relationships, these relationships based on an authoritarian social model, all share the common link of the division between the bosses and those being bossed. This relationship is not voluntary. This relationship is forced. Anarchists oppose force as a means to uphold anything. Therefore, authority must be abolished. But what to replace it with?

There is nothing in society to replace authoritarianism with that doesn't already exist. Cooperation – we all cooperate as a necessary form of survival, do we not? Mutual aid – it is always beneficial to exchange services and aid in any way and to somehow receive it back. With no power whatsoever, society can exist in a completely de-centralized fashion. No nations, no governments, no borders – just independent, self-sustainable communities networking with one another as a means of survival. This is the only way that freedom can exist – when it's not “given” to us by authority – when it exists in its natural state.

Do you want to work on your own terms? Are you tired of being bossed around? Do you hate being stricken with fear every time a cop car passes you on the street? Do you see the advantage to working with your neighbors rather than competing with them? Do you love a sense of equality in your social and personal relationships? Do you see freedom for what it really is? If so, then anarchism is a wonderful idea for you to explore and apply to your everyday life. Enough with the corrupting power and insatiable greed they've instilled in us! It's time to work towards an anti-authoritarian world.

Luke Romano publishes Cracks in the Concrete-asmallanarchistjournalbased in Southern New Jersey. Learn more at: www.freewebs.com/radicalrabbitdistro



Why Internet Censorship Doesn't work

By Sublett

Cypherpunks in the early days of the internet used to say, “The internet perceives censorship as damage and routes around it.” They were referring to the distributed nature of internet communications that prevents the entire network from going down when a single router fails. While this saying fell into disuse around the time Napster was getting sued to death, a new generation of internet protocols and web applications is now making information more free than ever.

The web site wikileaks.org is a case in point. Set up for whistleblowers to post confidential documents, wikileaks has become a major thorn in the side of the establishment. They have published the Guantanamo standard operating procedures and the rules of engagement for US forces in Iraq, among many other classified and otherwise incriminating papers. Recently they posted a spreadsheet detailing a tax evasion scam run by Bank Julius Baer (BJB), a Swiss bank with operations in the Cayman Islands. The scam involved fake insurance premiums that were deducted from the beneficiaries' taxable income and invested offshore. The spreadsheet included many beneficiaries' names, including the family of

former president Gerald Ford.

In spite of the fact that authorities had known this information since 2003, BJB went ballistic. They obtained a court order in California forcing wikileaks' domain registrar to de-list the wikileaks.org address. At the same time, in an astounding coincidence, wikileaks was hit by a massive denial of service attack and a fire broke out at one of their web host providers. The result was a textbook example of why internet censorship doesn't work.

For starters wikileaks.org can still be accessed through their IP address (88.80.13.160). On top of that the wikileaks.org.uk, wikileaks.de and wikileaks.cx domains were registered through different registrars and hosted with different providers and are still available. In addition to these technical defenses, volunteers from all over the world rushed to help out. Numerous web sites mirrored not only the BJB spreadsheet, but the rest of wikileaks as well. The spreadsheet was also posted in CSV format to chatrooms and social networking sites whose users would otherwise have never heard of it. Bloggers and tech news sites picked up the story and introduced thousands of first-time readers to wikileaks. By trying to censor damaging information, BJB succeeded only in spreading it further than it would ever have gone on its own.

In 2003, the Pentagon created their “Information Operations Roadmap,” in which they refer to the internet as “an enemy weapons system.” It's not hard to see why they think so. In fact, the only mystery is why they allowed the internet into the hands of the general public in the first place. As

WikiLeaks



the internet continues to evolve and grow, we the enemy will find an increasingly powerful weapons system at our disposal.

NEAN's Traveling Skillshare:

Northeast Anarchist Network has launched a "Traveling Skillshare Program" in order



to bring a wide array of collaborative presentations to communities in and around our region, both radical and otherwise. For a listing of skillshares available through NEAN, see <http://neanarchist.net/?q=skillshares>

Calendar

Northeast Speaking Tour of Irish Anarchist Andrew Flood. This talk will focus on the Irish anarchist movement as an example of effective movement-building. Sponsored by the North Eastern Federation of Anarcho-Communists. For more info, contact Matt at: circlematt@gmail.com. Hear Andrew Flood:

-Amherst, MA, Feb 27th or 28th, Food for Thought books, 106 N Pleasant street
New York City, NY, Feb 29th, A.J.

Muste Room, 339 Lafayette St (Corner of Bleecker and Lafayette)

Hartford, CT, March 2nd, 1:30pm, East Hartford Public Library, 840 Main Street (basement mtg room)

Philadelphia, PA, March 6th, 7pm, LAVA 4134 Lancaster Ave.

Baltimore, MD, March 7th, 7:30pm, Red Emmas (www.redemmas.org), 800 St. Paul St. Dates for Virginia, PA, and Upstate NY to follow.

March 1st, 3-7pm New York Metro Alliance of Anarchists General Assembly #10, At the World Culture Open **Manhattan,** 19 West 26th Street, 5FL (see directions below). Please e-mail proposals for the agenda and RSVPs (especially if you're bringing kids!) to: nymaa-comms@riseup.net Food and beverages, as well as childcare, will also be provided. Directions: Take any subway to 23rd street Manhattan, walk north to 26th street, then to Broadway. <http://www.nymaa.org>

March 1st, 4pm, Community Organizer Training,

Encuentro Cinco, 33 Harrison Ave, Chinatown in **Boston, MA,** \$5-20

March 1st, 2nd Annual Pittsburgh Anarchist Ball! 7:00pm-9:30pm at ReaCoffeehouse.ChathamUniversity,**Pittsburgh, PA.** www.organizepittsburgh.org

March 4th, 7-8:30, Building the Movement Workshop \$5-10 none turned away. @ Stone Soup, 4 King St., **Worcester, MA** in the Free School room.

March 5th, 5-7 pm, year anniversary of ICE raid on Michael Bianco, Jr. factory in New Bedford, Ma. Music, film, video and testimonies. Guatemalan snack food! Organized by Maya K'iche', Centro Presente and Center to Support Immigrant Organizing. At City Year's office in downtown Boston, 287 Columbus Ave, **Boston, MA** 02116 (around the corner from Back Bay T. station) Contact: Patricia Montes or Beatriz Senior from Centro Presente: 617 497 9080. Contact CSIO at csio@tsne.org

March 6th, (continuing every thursday) Anarchist Discussion Series, The Pride Center, **Buffalo, NY,** 7-9pm.

March 7-9th, National Conference on Organized Resistance (NCOR) at American University in **Washington, D.C.** Visit: www.ncor2008.org

March 8th, 2:30pm, Commemorate the 1st anniversary of the ICE Raids in New Bedford and Celebrate International Women's Day with the Jamaica Plain Rapid Response Network. The Nate House, 155 Lamartine st, JP, **Boston, Ma.** (Stony Brook on the Orange Line)

March 15th, 9am-5pm, Boston GMB of the IWW organizer training course. Encuentro Cinco, 33 Harrison Ave, Chinatown, **Boston, MA;** Information and materials <http://www.wbumpus.com>

March 19th, POG's Counter Recruitment Project holds war protest, 6pm "Evict the military recruitment station, cage the recruiters!" meet at the dinosaur sculpture in front of Carnegie Library, 4400 Forbes Avenue, **Pittsburgh, PA** Visit: www.organizepittsburgh.org

March 22-23, NEAN General Assembly

in Ithaca, NY. Visit: <http://neanarchist.net>

March 29th, POG Speaker Series hosts Cindy Milstein, "An Introduction to Anarchism and Its Aspirations," 7pm at the Thomas Merton Center, 5125 Penn Ave. **Pittsburgh, PA** 15224. Visit: www.organizepittsburgh.org

April 12th, Second Annual NYC Anarchist Bookfair at Judson Memorial Church in **Manhattan, NYC.** Visit: www.anarchistbookfair.net

April 18-20th, Finding Our Roots conference in **Chicago, IL.** Visit: <http://may-first.wordpress.com>

April 26th, 6-10pm Boston IWW fundraiser: bands, food, speakers and fun. Encuentro 5, 33 Harrison Ave, Chinatown in **Boston, MA**

April 26th, POG Speaker Series hosts Spanish Civil War veteran George Sossenko(details TBA). Visit: www.organizepittsburgh.org

May 3rd, RNC Welcoming Committee "pReNC 5.3" in Minnesota. www.rncwelcomingcommittee.org/mayday-convergence

May 3rd + 4th, Conference about sexism in the context of war. Kent, Ohio. Ending with May 4th Pink Bloc at May 4th 1970 Kent State Massacre anniversary.

May 17th, POG Speaker Series hosts "Anarchist Panther" Ashanti Alston Visit: www.organizepittsburgh.org

May 24-25th, Northeast RNC Training Weekend with the Boston Anarchist Black Cross. 1st day: legal and street tactics training. 2nd day: Medic Training. Encuentro 5, 33 Harrison Ave, Chinatown, **Boston.**

Great Lakes Anarchist Gathering, June 6th, Toledo, Ohio. Contact: october15ac@hotmail.com

To learn more, visit our website:
www.NeAnarchist.Net

NORTH EAST ANARCHIST NETWORK