

BAAM

Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement

A General Anarchist Union in the Boston Area

**Don't Be
Afraid,
Just Be
Ready**

by Jeff Reinhardt

In a flash of a little over a month, the financial sector of worldwide capitalism has seen its worst fears come true. A credit crisis has developed in the financial institutions at the top of the US economy and it has spread to the rest of the world's markets through neoliberal trade policies linking them all together. But these were not mistakes with actual repercussions for the banking elite, all thanks to the US government's bailout of these profit-gouging institutions. The bailout package was intended to "save the economy" for all of us, because supposedly wealth "trickles down," when in reality it only directly benefits the few. I, for one, am not surprised by these ill-conceived actions, but I am also not worried. To me, the financial meltdown offers more hope for a better world than any fear of total collapse.

As I sit in my neighborhood of Central Square, Cambridge I can't help but think how little has changed since the crisis started over a month ago (and really long before that). How have things changed on the ground? In reality? I ask myself as I sit amongst the homeless, the wealthy, the college students, the newly immigrated, the middle class: What has changed? The sky is still blue, cars and bikes pass me; grocery stores are still open; the internet is still available—and I realize that the residents in Central Square have hardly noticed a change at all. Perhaps some are nervous—food prices have risen, personal investments have floundered, but to the casu-

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Thirty-five bands from all over the world came to Davis Square for the Third Annual Honk! Festival. *Photo by Rich Navin.*

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Bailout the People, Not the Banks

Protesters converged at Bank of America in Harvard Square on Tuesday, October 7 at high noon. The crowd assembled to demand that the banks switch to socially responsible investment and abandon their deadly funding of mountain top removal coal mining and other dirty investments.

Protesters chanted, "Bank of America this crisis ain't funny; funding coal, killing communities- NOT WITH OUR MONEY!" Groups represented included Rising Tide Boston, Rainforest Action Network, and City Life/Vida Urbana. Soledad Lawrence, a tenant organizer with City Life/Vida Urbana, delivered a brilliant speech about the role of

banks, particularly Bank of America, in post-foreclosure evictions of families in Boston, despite the tenants' willingness to pay rent or buy at appraised value. The rally then marched around the corner to Citibank where four climate activists protested Citibank's funding of mountaintop removal coal mining. They were locked to the front doors, effectively shutting down the bank.

Bank of America and Citibank are the leading funders of the coal industry and mountain top removal coal mining, which is devastating Appalachian communities. Said Rachel

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If Voting Could Change Anything... It Would be Through Ballot Initiatives

The Anarchist's Guide to Mass. '08 Ballot Questions



People generally assume that anarchists are against voting in elections. In many ways, for many anarchists at least, this is true. We strive for a world where the decisions that affect our lives are made in open public meetings with ample time for discussion and compromise, and in a process that is extremely decentralized and organized on a community level. We call this Direct Democracy, and it stands in stark contrast to the current form of Governance in the US, namely Representative Democracy, where we vote for the Reps who will make those decisions behind closed doors, taking the power out of the public realm. The way we see it, with Money as the master and the politician easily bought and sold, only the extremely rich and powerful are truly represented by Representative Democracy. One can argue that the lesser of evils will make life better for some people somewhere down the road, and this may be true, but many of us don't bother to vote for Presidents, Governors, Mayors, Congress etc, because we don't think these people could ever represent the working, lower or even middle class.

Well, in the current Capitalist Republic we live in, Ballot Initiatives are as close to Direct Democracy as we're going to get (outside of neighborhood or workers' meetings). In taking a half hour out of our day, we can vote on issues that directly affect our communities. This time around, there are some pretty important questions on the ballot. Read about them below and hit up the polls. While you're at it, you could even cast a ballot for the Lesser of Evils, or not. As always, the most important thing is to be involved in your community and struggle to build a popular movement for collective liberation. Anarchists and others dreaming of a world beyond the ballot box can use initiative voting strategically to make our lives a little more bearable while we build the Revolution.

Question 1

by Adrienne

Ballot question 1 is the Small Government Act to End the Income Tax, which would cut income taxes in half for the tax year beginning 1 January 2009 and eliminate income taxes the following year. This ballot measure was made possible by a handful of libertarians calling themselves the Committee for Small Government [whose website is yellow, of all tasteless color schemes. You've been warned]. They are convinced that, following the passage of this act, every citizen in Massachusetts will pocket an additional \$3,600 every year. They squawk that 41% of Massachusetts' budget is 'wasted,' which number they derive from asking people how much of Mass' budget they feel is 'wasted.'

This ballot measure and the ideology behind it reeks of cruel, narrow-sighted libertarian greed and truly got me angry enough to go down to the neo-brutalist eyesore that is Boston City Hall and register to vote. See, I like public schools. I like public libraries. I like public transit. I love MassHealth. Roads and bridges are kinda useful, too. Granted, not one of these things is perfect, but I shouldn't have to explain the value and importance of the continued existence of each.

Furthermore, the claim that we'll all 'get' an additional \$3,600 a year is bogus. If you earn \$50,000/year or less, as about 2/3 of Mass does, you'll only be keeping an extra \$850 a year, which is about \$70 a month, which is about \$17 a week. If, however, you are one of the few who make \$100,000+/year, you'll be keeping an additional \$16,000 a year. I just dug up my own 2007 tax return and found that Massachusetts only withheld \$327 from me last year. I don't shed a tear over those lost earnings and I'm sure as shit not crying for whatever was held from the profits of the wealthy. Certainly I am not pleased that this money also goes towards prisons and police and the salaries of politicians, yet it's a tradeoff I'm willing to make if it means that there are still avenues of public education, transit, healthcare, and other means of public assistance.

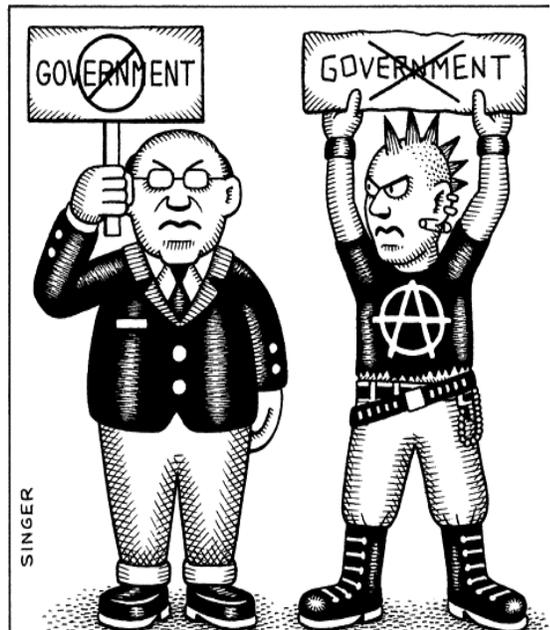
The passage of question 1 would mean far-reaching devastation for the people of Massachusetts, an ever-increasing number of whom are impoverished and unemployed and getting evicted. Though irrespective of its passage, the governor just announced deep, painful cuts in budget and public services, so people who use public services are probably all screwed anyway.

Here's what's true, though: Libertarians talk a lot of shit about how they hate government. Anarchists talk a lot of shit about how they hate government. The difference? Libertarians hate government because it can, from time to time, prevent them from screwing people over as hard and from becoming as superlatively wealthy as they would otherwise, what with its pesky regulations and socialist schools. Anarchists hate government because it starts catastrophic wars, supports and protects the ruinous dealings of the private sector, and institutionalizes the intersecting oppressions afflicting the world and its denizens.

So whatever. I'm going down to ward 13, precinct 8 on 4 November and voting no on question 1 because as much as I abhor repressive institutions, this one is still performing needed and enriching functions for real people in our Commonwealth that might be otherwise unavailable. I'm still writing in 'NOBODY' for president, though.

NO EXIT

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**LIBERTARIANISM IS JUST
ANARCHY FOR RICH PEOPLE**

Question 2

by Jake Carman

Basically, if Question 2 passes, people over the age of 18 caught with up to one ounce of weed would be issued a \$100 citation, similar to a speeding ticket, instead of being arrested and sent to trial. Even if you don't smoke pot, consider this: Whitney Taylor, Campaign Manager for the Committee for Sensible Marijuana Policy, wrote in the 2008 Massachusetts Voter Information Manual, "Police would be freed up to focus on serious crimes, rather than arresting 7,500 people annually...Taxpayers would save \$30 million in arrest costs."

On top of that, smokers and other taxpayers would be spared the costs of court and prison time, and arrestees would avoid a black mark on their CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information), which often bars working class folks from getting jobs and student loans. The only drawback is tougher penalties for minors caught with weed (including mandatory notification of parents and drug awareness programs). All laws involving vehicles, drug dealing or possession of quantities more than an ounce would stay the same.

As Marianne Manzler wrote in her article for the Suffolk Journal, contrary to the opposition's claims, "the only US government study to assess the impact of strict legal penalties on marijuana use concluded that 'decriminalization has had virtually no effect either on marijuana use or on related attitudes and beliefs about marijuana use among American young people.'" The opposition also claims

the marijuana of today is nine times as potent (we wish) than 30 years ago, and its users are ten times more likely to be in car crashes. Luckily for all of us, the drivers would be going 60% percent slower than sober or drunk drivers, minimizing risk of injury or property damage.

According to Tony Lee of the Boston Metro, "all 11 of Massachusetts' district attorneys, Gov. Deval Patrick and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino," are opposed to Question 2. Can we get 13 anarchists to vote and cancel out their votes? Massachusetts has the highest percentage of pot smokers in the country, and not just among College students, either. Manzler reports that the Federal Government estimates 10% of Mass. residents "pursue this once a month... and that over half of us have tried marijuana, placing Massachusetts first in the nation for monthly and lifetime use." Between working on construction sites and attending preschool through college in Mass., my estimates are considerably higher.

According to the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, "a poll analysis released (in September) by 7NEWS/Suffolk University shows that seventy-two percent favored the proposed law. Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington all have decriminalization laws on the books, and have seen no resulting rise in crime.

Opponents claim that this bill would increase violent crime, but is violence against candy bars and pizza really that tragic? Vote Yes on Question 2.

Question 3

by Cady

Question 3 on the Massachusetts ballot in November 2008 decides the future of greyhound racing in our state, and it should be a no-brainer for any half-decent person of any political persuasion. Racing greyhounds in Massachusetts are warehoused in cages too small to fully stand up for twenty hours a day and many have tested positive for cocaine. They are fed raw meat which has been deemed unsafe for human consumption and which dogs can usually only stomach if it has been cooked. They are injured at the rate of about fourteen dogs per week, with most of the injuries serious and many dogs getting euthanized. While most serious injuries are broken legs with varying degrees of severity, dogs also regularly suffer from fatal neck and head injuries and cardiac arrest as a result of being forced to compete in the races.

Efforts at reform and better treatment for the dogs have been stymied by a Racing Commission that exists to protect the interests of business over the interests of suffering living creatures. The only compassionate response to the level of cruelty shown at Massachusetts' two greyhound racing tracks is to vote yes on question three and begin the process whereby racing will be phased out before 2010.



Beyond the Markets

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al observer, life goes on relatively similar to how it did a month ago.

Giant financial institutions have for years seen the world as only numbers, models, values, equity, leverage, and a host of other terms which no one cared about until now. The truth is, our existence as human beings is not bound to these forces.

In fact, this disconnect between the world of money and reality is a root cause for the current crisis. For too long, the only solutions to the world's problems have been rooted in finances. While I admit there is a need to put

money to work as it may be, it cannot suffice as our means for survival. Indeed, there is a reality beyond the numbers, and it might take a total collapse of the worldwide banking and financial system to realize this.

Perhaps our biggest obstacle to making this realization is the mainstream media—a tool for the corporate elite. The most unacceptable thing for the corporate media to do right now is to offer people hope. This is a disastrous message to send to the public. After all, these major media conglomerates are scared, and they should be. The infrastructure that supports them is crumbling. Thus, the media is trying to scare us through a consistent broadcast of fear and no proposals for healthy, forward-looking alternatives.

What neither the mainstream media, the government, nor the corporate elite will offer to people is a way out of this mess. This is precisely because the best way out involves becoming less dependent on these institutions and re-evaluating the system we live under. Ignoring the media's relentless fear mongering is the first step to creating viable alternatives to face future challenges.

No sector of the American people needs

this more than the working class, who will be the first to feel the ill effects of the bad economy, but who will also be the first to adapt. Many of these problems are already pressing: the building trades are at a standstill because no one is buying houses; homeowners are getting tossed on the streets by foreclosures; restaurants and even bars are hurting because banks aren't lending money and people are too scared or too poor to spend—but everywhere you look, life goes on, and people are learning new ways to help their neighbors and co-workers. Workers are combining their efforts to keep everyone on the job, the food industry is localizing, and people are even uniting to stop unjust evictions in their

neighborhoods.

An economic depression is a frightening scenario—money disappears, jobs evaporate, advantages we once took for granted are no more—but it also affords us a new view of the capitalist system. After all, hasn't this system deter-

but each of these necessities actually needs no money. This is a bold statement. We have been taught to believe that this is not possible, but it is time to prove to the world and to ourselves, that it is.

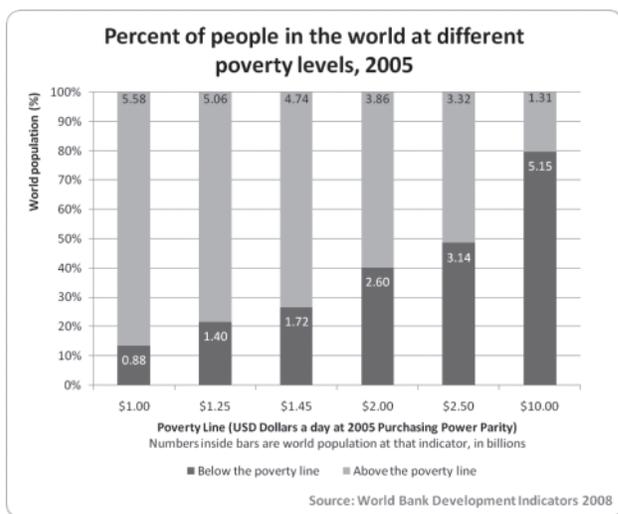
As the prospects of this collapse loom near, I look around at the world and at the challenges various nations face and I see how money isn't going to solve these problems. For example, one development that has been completely overshadowed by the financial meltdown is the world food crisis. Even the president of the World Bank, Robert Zoellick, came out and said that 33 countries are risking social unrest from a lack of food distribution. The division here is between the theoretical and the physical. While money may lose value, food cannot. It is essential to life. If we can begin to produce more food as a society—a challenge in its own right—then we can feed people. Money, in a sense, has made feeding people harder than it has to be by replacing the more basic need (food), with a more complicated need (money) that can be a lot harder to come by, especially for the impoverished people of the world.

For too long, larger macro-economic forces have determined the supply and affordability of food. Impoverished areas typically have a harder time supplying food for themselves because neoliberal trade policies have deprived farmers of the ability to sustain themselves and feed their own people. US agribusiness has effectively wiped out small farmers domestically and internationally. These methods

of controlling the food trade have made it unaffordable for people in many countries to feed themselves. And the data on poverty levels around the world is staggering.

According to the World Bank, at least 1.4 billion people in the world, that's over 20% of the population, live on under \$1.25 a day. The same research finds

that almost 80% of the world's population lives under \$10 a day. The causes of such large-scale global poverty are complicated, but something can be said in that the richest 20% of the world consumes 76.6% of its goods. This inequality is rooted in financial policies, and has little to do with people's ability



Food is a major political issue and many more countries will face civil unrest due to shortages. Photo by Raja Islam.

mined this less-than favorable position from the start? In times of economic strife it is essential to question this system, and to cultivate the desire for a better one.

Money does not feed us, clothe us, or give us shelter. It has, over time, become the only means by which we can acquire such things,

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to supply their own food.

Ironically, it is these same neoliberal policies that have now thrown worldwide capitalism into chaos. In pursuit of profit, many multi-national corporations have accrued incredible debt in order to expand beyond reasonable limits. And now the real damage of Paulson's bailout plan is that we are, as taxpayers, rewarding this elite class for their debt-ridden, greedy practices that caused a financial meltdown and leave millions hungry. The banks have walked away with a handsome reward and the majority of country is left dreading recession. But what can average citizens do about all this?

This is why I have hope. As seemingly insurmountable challenges face us, we must believe that a better world can be built. But we need more than just hope. Locally, in our communities, we need to start thinking of ways to support our neighbors and ourselves in times of economic strife—what we need to survive. We can set up free stores using the principles of gift economics, use community resources to grow and get food to those who need it, find ways to pool our heating supplies for the community that are separate from any official corporate or government body.

Workers, too, must gain better control over their own economies. We must move towards more collectively run businesses that give their employees equal bargaining power and a stake in the company. This will keep businesses open for the sake of the workers and the community, rather than trying to compete in the open market. Workers make the world go around, not money.

Economic changes must also take place in the household. The amenities of our time have robbed us of practical methods of sustenance that were common in previous generations. Grassy green lawns can be converted into space for growing food, waste can be composted, and food can be canned for the winter. We need to buy more locally produced goods that support other members of our communities. We need to transform our households into productive spaces that contribute to our wellbeing.

The extent of things that need to be done is beyond this scope of this one article, but I implore all who read to begin preparing. It begins with talking to our neighbors, learning about our communities, and beginning to get a sense of what needs to be done to sustain ourselves without the help of the financial world. It takes patience, an open mind, and the willpower to envision a new world. It's an idealistic course, I know, but it might be the best way out.



The lockdown was successful in closing the bank for the day and bringing attention to the destructive practices of major banks in the US. Photo by RAN.

CitiBank Shut Down "Not With Our Money"

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Leone of Rising Tide Boston, "We want Citibank to invest more in renewable energy and stop funding coal because it can't happen without financing."

Deirdre Lally, one of the four prisoners, stated, "Our hope was to increase pressure on Citibank and Bank of America to move another step towards ending their dirty investments in the coal industry." The other three who had locked themselves to the doors of Citibank said they wouldn't stop until the banks stopped their dirty investments, encouraging banks to invest in solar and wind technology.

Julia Tredeau stated that they were acting "in solidarity with our fellow activists and friends who have been fighting mountaintop removal coal mining in the Southeast for years using similar tactics," noting that the devastation caused by coal, "far exceeds the boundaries of the coalfields." Urging account holders with Citibank and Bank of America to invest in local credit unions instead, Michelle Todd maintained, "They aren't going to listen unless we make them listen."

The four climate activists were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. They are scheduled to appear in court on November 4.



The four activists stayed in high spirits as the police questioned them and cut them loose. Photo by RAN.

Jericho 10/10 Weekend of Resistance

by Molly

In honor of the 10 year anniversary of the Jericho Amnesty Movement, on October 10 and 11, organizers and activists took to the streets of New York City to demand freedom for political prisoners in the US, reclaiming a weekend traditionally dedicated to Columbus, a bringer of torture, enslavement and genocide to the Americas.

On Friday 10/10, starting at 12pm there was a picket and rally outside the United Nations and then an un-permitted march through the streets, passing numerous embassies, businesses and consumers. The police were nowhere to be seen for the first half of the march, until we started entering the shopping districts. Even then, marchers ignored their calls for us to move off the street, instead chanting louder and mocking their sirens. The march ended at a rally in Madison Square park. Various affiliates of the Northeast Anarchist Network were represented—from Pittsburgh and Boston to Providence and Portland—however there could not have been much more than 150 or 200 total and many lamented the fact that it was held on a Friday, when most workers would not be able to take the day off.

Saturday we marched from the Harlem State Office Building, constantly chanting, to a rally at Morningside Park with speakers and music. Speakers included Chief Billy Tayak of the Piscataway Nation, Iyalua Ferguson and Herman Ferguson, co-founders of the Jericho Movement, and Ashanti Alston and Kazi Toure, co-chairs of the National Jericho Movement. There were representatives from the International Center for Traditional Child Bearing, the New Black Panther Party and the Puerto Rican Independence Movement among others. While everyone brought their own perspectives, the messages from most of the speakers had a similar theme: we are not doing enough.

In 1996, Jalil Muntaqim, a prisoner caged in 1971 because of his work with the Black Liberation Army in the struggle against racism and oppression, released a call out for a demonstration on Washington DC in order to demand the recognition and amnesty of all US-held political prisoners and prisoners of war. This mobilization materialized in March of 1998 along with the birth of the Jericho Movement.

Ten years later the US still denies the exist-



Protestors rally in Harlem to demand freedom for all political prisoners. Activists from all over the world met in NYC. Photo from thejerichomovement.com

tence of political prisoners and POWs in this country, trying to maintain the façade of a land of freedom and democracy. Meanwhile, their numbers steadily increase as the government “of, by and for the people” continues to ensure the perpetuation of its capitalist, neoliberal policies by imprisoning dissenters and organizers of alternative models of living. Freedom fighters of the 60s, 70s and 80s have been languishing behind concrete walls for decades, some of whom have died due to age and medical neglect. Bashir Hameed of the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army and target of COINTELPRO just recently died in August of this year.

Chief Billy Tayak commented that in the natural world, before the concrete was laid and cities were built, there were no prisons. Prisons are not, like we are taught to believe, a necessity. Through prisons and the criminal

injustice system in general, the government is able to remove “undesirables” from the streets, effectively ending the lives of those that are deemed dangerous to the status quo, those who would dare to speak out and fight back against the oppression that keeps the power in the hands of the few while most people (and the planet) are exploited in order to fill the pockets of the CEOs and politicians. Liberation movements throughout the world are diverse but we are all fighting a common enemy, and we must never stop fighting for the freedom of those that fought before us, those that helped to lay the foundation of our struggles.

If you want to get involved, contact the Boston Anarchist Black Cross (bostonabc@riseup.net or PO Box 230182 Boston MA 02123) or the Boston chapter of the Jericho Movement (jericho_boston@yahoo.com).

RNC Legal Solidarity: An Arrestee's-Eye View

by Sublett

One of the most inspiring aspects of the protests at the 2008 Republican National Convention was the glimpse they afforded of the world we are trying to build: a world that runs on solidarity and mutual aid, without repression or hierarchy. A world where the stranger in the call center reading a canned greeting actually cares about your problem and wants to help.

“Coldsnap Legal Collective, this is not a secure line.”

I had been in custody for nearly 24 hours before I heard that welcome sentence—good time by the standards of the Ramsey County, MN jail. Coldsnap’s number was written on

my leg in sharpie, and my jailers had done their part to preserve it by not letting me take a shower the whole time I was there. But once I had Coldsnap on the phone I wasn’t sure what to tell them. I didn’t want them to call and alarm my parents if there was any way I could get out on my own, and in any case my bail hadn’t been set yet. The phone numbers of my affinity group were trapped in my cell phone and besides, most of them were in jail with me. In the end I just told the operator I didn’t need medical attention and hadn’t seen anyone who did.

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I ended up spending nearly a day and a half in jail, and while it wasn't uneventful, that story is better told by those who stayed longer and saw more than I did. Suffice it to say that the Ramsey County Sheriff's Department will think twice before imprisoning large numbers of anarchists again.

Coldsnap dispatched legal observers during the protests and held know-your-rights training sessions in the days leading up to the convention. They also started a support group for arrestees to coordinate court solidarity actions and help with logistics for people returning to St. Paul for court dates.

After my bail was finally set, my ACLU lawyer called my parents, who bailed me out. At that point, I had no idea how to get back to the building I'd been staying at, or whether there was anyone there to let me in. I had left my cell phone there as well, so that it couldn't be used to identify me. On top of that, the cops had taken all my cash when I was booked (they eventually mailed me a check). Even so, I was better off than the people the cops had driven to Minneapolis and dumped off at some random intersection, because Coldsnap had the foresight to set up a vigil in front of the jail to support newly released arrestees.

Situated on a grassy strip between the sidewalk and the curb, the vigil offered everything you could ask for after getting out of jail in a strange city. There was hot coffee, cold water, and good food, that last item most appreciated after a diet of prison bag lunches. Blankets and sweaters were available to ward off the chill. Somebody from Coldsnap was there with a cell phone, and outtake forms to keep track of who had been released. There was even a gas station with a bathroom just down the road. I still had no idea what to do next, but I could at least hang out with my fellow jailbirds and trade stories while I figured it out. Eventually two of my friends showed up, bailed out a third, and we all left in a taxi.

The next morning I had to go back to the courthouse for my second arraignment (I guess the first one didn't take?). Coldsnap had arranged for dozens of lawyers from the National Lawyers Guild and the American Civil Liberties Union to represent protesters. They also had observers in the courtroom keeping track of the status of prisoners. Some of my friends were scheduled to be arraigned (for the first time) after me, so I stayed to find out how much their bail would be.

As I watched, a few trends began to emerge.



“The Twin Cities press eventually admitted that only 16 people were charged with felonies out of the 818 ‘dangerous rioters’ arrested.” Photo by Avye

ACLU lawyers mostly just took their clients through arraignment, while their NLG counterparts generally signed on for the duration of a case. Bail during the morning session was for all intents and purposes set by the prosecutors. I only saw two cases where the judge allowed a lower amount than the prosecution requested, and in one of those they had asked for more than the legal maximum for misdemeanors. Bail for out-of-state protesters was usually \$2,000 for the male-bodied and \$1,000 for the female-bodied, with Twin-Cities residents being released on their own recognizance. The judge in the afternoon session, by contrast, reportedly released almost everybody on their own recognizance. A guy I'd shared a holding tank with told me later he hadn't even seen a judge, but was simply given a piece of paper with his next court date on it and released.

Something else that quickly became apparent was that felonies were evaporating right and left. Everyone I saw who had been tagged with felony charges by the cops had them reduced to misdemeanors on arraignment. The Twin Cities press eventually admitted that only 16 people were charged with felonies out of the 818 “dangerous rioters” arrested.

The next step was bailing the rest of my friends out of jail. I wasn't sure how to do that, but getting my wallet back seemed like a good start. It had been passed to a friend of a friend for safekeeping when I'd decided to do jail solidarity. Since I hadn't gotten the guy's phone number and didn't know where he was, it was safe from me as well. The one member of our affinity group who knew the

wallet-holder and wasn't in jail didn't have a phone, but I figured he'd turn up eventually. Back outside at the vigil I made some calls to friends back home and settled in to wait. Pretty soon I started talking with two other people, and we eventually introduced ourselves. One of the names rang a bell. “Um, dude, random question, but would you happen to have my wallet?”

Sure enough, he did, as well as enough cash to maybe bail out one person. All we had to do now was trot off to the nearest bail bond agent and plunk down our money, or so we thought. It turned out not to be that simple. For starters, we didn't know where the nearest bail bond agent was. A security guard in the jail parking lot pointed down the road and said “Just head in that direction and you'll find one.” An address we had been given turned out to belong to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, but a receptionist there gave us directions to an office located in back of a restaurant.

There a grandmotherly woman explained to us the facts of life concerning out-of-town arrestees in St. Paul. Simply handing over ten percent of the bail amount and strolling back to the jail to greet our friends as they emerged was not in the cards. We were going to need collateral in the full amount of the bail, plus the ten percent, plus an additional fee. The collateral was usually handled by putting a hold on somebody's credit card, so that the credit limit was reduced by the amount of the

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bail, but the bail bond agent didn't take the money unless the arrestee failed to appear in court. It would have been cheaper to just pay the bail directly to the court, but they only took cash, which would have taken days to come up with. On top of all that, the cops were continuing to hold people for as long as six hours after their bail had been posted.

Eventually we pulled it off by a bootstrapping process that involved bailing out the people thought to have credit cards first, who in turn rescued those remaining, along with the generous help of various relatives, we managed to extract our entire affinity group from the clutches of the Ramsey County sheriff's

department by early Thursday. Unfortunately, Coldsnap wasn't much help during this operation. Their exquisitely designed know-your-rights pamphlet said almost nothing about the actual mechanics of getting out of jail, and their web site (coldsnaplegal.wordpress.com) wasn't very informative on the subject either. The Coldsnap representatives I asked likewise didn't know much. While this was a minor flaw in an otherwise stellar legal support effort, I believe it is worth bringing up for the benefit of future actions.

I have focused on Coldsnap in this article because I spent most of my time in St. Paul dealing with the legal system, but I should make it clear that they were only part of a

comprehensive support system that also included health care and street medics, a convergence center, housing, meals, bikes and a communication system featuring scouts, text message alerts and a pirate radio station. The irony of the RNC is that the best-organized summit protest in North American history was also the least attended. No more than 500 anarchists showed up, out of the several thousand originally predicted by the organizers. Liberal numbers were similarly disappointing. Nonetheless, the work of the RNC Welcoming Committee and the other St. Paul organizers will be enormously valuable to protest planners in the years ahead.

Biolab Panel Takes Flak From Locals

by Jeff Reinhardt

Dr. Adel Mahmoud sat with his head in his hands at the center of the table seating 13 elite scientists. His frustration was obvious to everyone in the audience, but that did not stop speaker after speaker from coming up to the microphone and saying the same thing, in many different ways, basically amounting to this: the people of Boston don't feel safe and don't want Boston University's Biosafety Level 4 lab to operate. Yet the message for Mahmoud was hard to take.

"We are just here to simply help the community," exclaimed Mahmoud after another angry speaker finished their rant. But the large majority of the crowd that had assembled at Hibernian Hall in Dudley Square, on Tuesday October 14 didn't see it that way.

Mahmoud is the head of the National Institutes of Health's (NIH) blue ribbon advisory panel for doing further risk assessments on the proposed BSL4 laboratory. This lab will handle the most deadly pathogens in the world, including ebola, anthrax, and the bubonic plague. Labs such as these are usually located away from densely populated urban areas, but this lab has been placed in the heart of a working class community.

The blue ribbon panel was set up last May by the NIH to determine better ways to assess the risks of the lab and reach out to the community (many of whom vehemently oppose the project). This was only after the previous risk assessments were found to be so scientifically flawed that they could not be published in a scientific journal. This, along with a state and federal lawsuit, has prevented BU from operating the already-built lab in the South End.

The panel had intended the session to function as a way for the community to voice their

concerns and make suggestions on how BU and the NIH can better ensure the safety and foster open communication with the residents around the lab. Unfortunately, for the vast majority, this all came much too late.

At-large councilor Michael Flaherty, who had supported the lab for many years, voiced his newly formed opposition to the project.

"My support for the biolab was always based on the belief that the biolab would not present any meaningful safety and security risks to Boston residents," said Flaherty. "I realize now that my earlier decision to support the lab was made without knowing all the details."

City Councilors Charles Yancy and Sam Yoon also spoke out in opposition to the lab. Most of the councilors pointed to the lack of preparedness for a possible outbreak from the lab, including the poorly designed evacuation plan in Boston, and the lack of a plan to transport the pathogens.

"Are we prepared as a city government ... to respond to an accidental or purposeful release from the lab?" asked Yancy.

City Councilor Chuck Turner, a longtime opponent to the lab, spoke of the dishonesty of BU and the NIH, who had both assumed the lab would be opened without incident by

2006 and certainly by now.

"When do we say that BU has not demonstrated responsible policies?" asked Turner to the panel. But he was not the only city councilor to speak out against the lab. "It's time to put an end to another one of the ill-conceived Bush administration policies."

Members of Safety Net and the Stop the Biolab Coalition, which have both been at the forefront of battling the lab, met with the city councilors on the previous Friday, to further illuminate some of the issues at stake. As it turns out, many members of city council didn't know all the details of the lab and some, like Flaherty, were persuaded to change their stance.

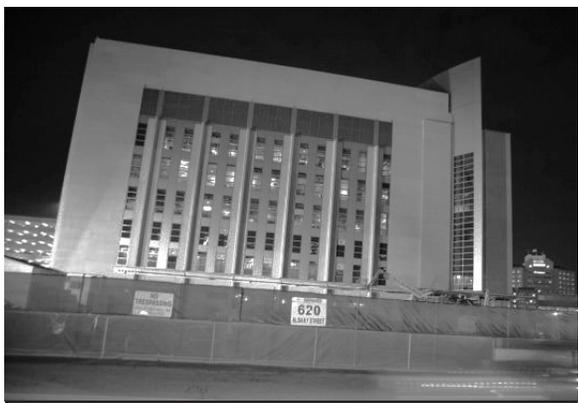
For years, the Stop the Biolab Coalition has been fighting an uphill battle to convince members of city council that the lab is not a good idea. Several surrounding cities and towns including Cambridge, Watertown, Newton,

and Wellesley have all passed moratoriums on BSL4 research in their districts and now Boston residents are asking their city government to do the same.

For now, however, all parties involved have a period of waiting, as the blue ribbon panel figures out what suggestions it

can give for further risk assessments and community involvement. For them, this meeting fell short of expectations, while for others it succeeded.

"When you come to a community meeting," said one resident during the hearing, "prepare for the unexpected."



The BUMC lab sits unused on Albany St. Activists have asked the city to put a ban on Biosafety Level 4 research in the city.

CALENDAR: GET INVOLVED

EVERY MONDAY:
PAPERCUT ZINE LIBRARY MEETING, 7:30PM,
45 MT. AUBURN ST., CAMBRIDGE

FIRST TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:
BAAM MEETING, 7PM, LUCY PARSONS
CENTER, 549 COLUMBUS AVE, BOSTON

EVERY WEDNESDAY:
FREE RADICAL FILM NIGHTS AT THE LUCY
PARSONS CENTER, 7PM, LUCY PARSONS
CENTER, 549 COLUMBUS AVE, BOSTON

SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH:
ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS MEETING (DE-
FENSE AND PRISON ABOLITION GROUP),
8PM, 45 MT. AUBURN ST., CAMBRIDGE

SECOND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH:
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD
MEETING. 2PM, LUCY PARSONS CENTER,
549 COLUMBUS AVE, BOSTON

EVERY FRIDAY:
FOOD NOT BOMBS FREE COMMUNITY
MEAL, 4-6PM, BOSTON COMMON, PARK ST
T-STOP

LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH:
CRITICAL MASS BIKE RIDE. MEET IN COPLEY
SQUARE, ON BOYLSTON BETWEEN CLAREN-
DON AND DARTMOUTH, 5PM.

EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SUNDAY:
RISEING TIDE BOSTON MTG.
6PM AT THE LUCY PARSONS
CENTER.



October 31st.

Zombie March on Coal's Top Investors. Bank of America and Citibank are top investors in coal. Coal Companies use mountain top removal and other ecologically devastating practices, are the nation's top source of air pollution and toxic mercury, and are responsible for one-third of the country's greenhouse gas emissions. Dress in your finest gore and living dead attire. 4:00pm. Copley Square, Boston, MA <http://www.risingtideboston.org>

Halloween Bash to benefit the Boston Anarchist Black Cross's community defense fund. Mark your calendar! Dance, drink and party with your friendly local anarchists for a great cause. Location and time TBA. Check BAAMBoston.org for details.

November 2nd.

Anarchist Black Cross Prisoner Support Afternoon at the Arsenal Hall (North Brighton, email Jake at Trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net for directions) 3:15pm.

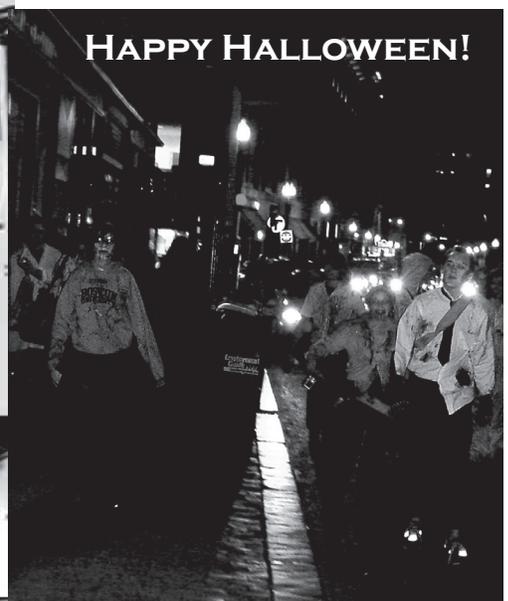
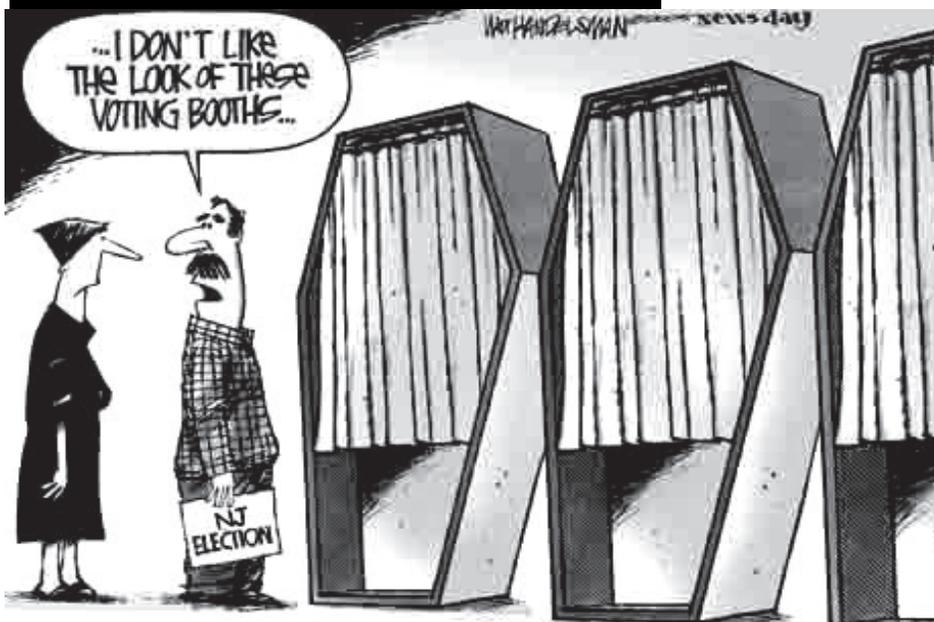
November 5th.

Guy Fawkes Day, also Election Results Day. Direct Action against the Two-Party System. Wear your mask, whoever they vote for, we are ungovernable.



November 7th.

Papercut Zine Library Benefit Show, featuring: Friday, November 7 2008 7pm! Featuring: This Bike is a Pipe Bomb, Shellshag



CALENDAR: GET INVOLVED

Can Kickers, Jake and the Infernal Machine, and Sway. At The Democracy Center 45 Mt Auburn St - Cambridge ALL AGES! \$8 donation.

Also 7pm

Howard Zinn's Lecture, "The Meaning of Sacco and Vanzetti" to benefit the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society's quest to install and Sacco and Vanzetti Monument in the North End of Boston. There will also be dramatic readings by film producer David Rothauser. \$7 donation. At Dante Alighieri Society Italian Cultural Center, 41 Hampshire Street, Cambridge, MA. www.SaccoandVanzetti.org

November 8th.

Second Annual Community Book Drive. The Prison Book Program and City Mission Society of Boston are joining forces for the second year in a row to organize a massive city-wide book drive. Phone: (617) 423-3298 10am to 3pm at the Brighton-Allston Congregational Church UCC, 404 Washington St., Brighton, MA www.prisonbook-program.org/bookdrive/

November 11th.

Wobblies and Zapatistas: Conversations on Anarchism, Marxism and Radical History. A book discussion with author Andrej Grubacic. Starts at 7pm at the Lucy Parsons Center. Free.

November 13th.

Stencil Nation: Graffiti, Community, and Art. Stencil Nation focuses on the unexpected mix of this lively, accessible medium to reveal engaging aspects of an intentionally secretive international creative community. This one hour presentation will give a great overview of the art form, using examples from the book as well as other outside sources, materials, and interesting items. 7pm at the Lucy Parson Center. Free.

November 21st to 23rd.

The annual November vigil to close the School of the Americas at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, will follow the presidential election by two weeks. It will be an opportunity for the progressive movement to push for the closure of the SOA/WHINSEC and to set an agenda against oppressive US foreign policy, whatever the result of that election will be. The SOA is notorious for training members of Latin American

right wing death squads in weapons, twar actics and torture. www.soaw.org/

November 28-30th.

General Assembly of the Northeast Anarchist Network, in Providence, Rhode Island. All day both days (free). For more details, check NeAnarchist.net, or email Juice at TheMatch@riseup.net

December 5th.

Benefit show for the eight members of the RNC Welcoming Committee charged with terrorism known as the RNC8. Put on by Rising Tide Boston. More info TBA. Starts at 5pm.

December 6th and 7th.

New England Subregional Assembly of the Northeast Anarchist Network. Portland, Maine. More TBA. www.NeAnarchist.Net

December 12th.

Rhetoric for Radicals: A discussion with the author, Jason Del Gandio. Rhetoric for Radicals provides practical guidelines for public speaking, writing, conversation, persuasion, political correctness, propaganda analysis, street theatrics and new languages. 7pm at the Lucy Parsons Center. Free.

**HELP US SAVE TREES! (PAPER AND MONEY)
FOR A FREE EMAIL SUBSCRIPTION, CONTACT
JAKEATTRENCHESFULLOFPOETS@RISEUP.NET**

Contributors to this month's issue:

-Adrienne
-Cady
-Jake Carman
-Jeff Reinhardt
-John Cleary
-Molly
-Sublett



What is Anarchism?

Anarchism is the theory and practice of a human society organizing without hierarchy, authority and oppression. This means that all people have equal access to the decision-making process and to the products of their collective labor. Anarchy can be described as true, direct democracy. It is horizontal: i.e. workers working together without bosses, neighbors organizing housing and neighborhoods without landlords, and people making decisions without politicians. There are many different ideas on how to get there and what exactly it will look like. We can talk all we want, but only a truly free and revolutionary people will be able to decide what their revolution will look like. So comrades, let's get to work!

WWW.BAAMBOSTON.ORG