A General Anarchist Union in the Boston Area

Capitalism's Crisis: It's Enough to Drive You Mad!

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Natural Gas and Capitalism's Cost in Appalachia. Page 4

The Big Bad Wolf promises help to Greece and the five PIIGS. Page 6

Are Drug Laws Keeping us Behind Bars? Page 8
Republicans are screaming about the government’s supposed socialism. The Tea Party, led notably by Republican politicians, is capitalizing on an anti-government, libertarian sentiment to direct popular rage away from the capitalist system. The Democrats and leftists are wondering where Obama’s populist, pro-working people sentiment went (along with the public option, the closing of Gitmo, and the end of foreign wars, etc).

Wherever you find yourself on this political spectrum, two things are clear: the people who truly benefit from the new healthcare system are the insurance companies, and whether Republican or Democrat, the US is governed by the rich, for the rich.

What passes for political discourse in this country is an argument about which of the two parties will cause us less suffering. The solution is not replacing one worthless political party with the equally-terrible one we voted out last time; nor is it to prop up some new political party, led by the same people. The solution is the abolition of a political and economic system that allows a small number of powerful people to control us all, and to replace it with decentralized, directly-democratic structures of community self-determination.

Obama, like every president before him, and all that will follow, came to power on promises he probably never intended to keep. The latest example is a statement Obama issued at the passing of the Health Care Act, entitled “Ensuring Enforcement and Implementation of Abortion Restrictions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.” In it he writes, “it is necessary to establish an adequate enforcement mechanism to ensure that Federal funds are not used for abortion services... consistent with...the Hyde Amendment.” Below is a response from the National Network of Abortion Funds to the “Pro Choice” President.

Statement from the National Network of Abortion Funds

At this very moment, a woman is rationing the food left in her pantry, further delaying her electricity bill, and facing heavy penalties on her late mortgage payment—all because she cannot pay for an abortion she needs. This is the cruel legacy of the Hyde Amendment, a legacy that President Obama renewed yesterday by signing an executive order to appease a handful of legislators who represented no one’s interests but their own. As a nation, we demanded that health care reform address the inherent inequality and unfairness in our existing system. But with the stroke of his pen, President Obama expanded the Hyde Amendment’s guarantee of inequality and unfairness. Because of the Hyde Amendment, every year nearly 200,000 women who cannot afford abortion care must make extreme sacrifices in order to pay for a basic health care procedure. By singling out abortion care, Congress and our President have betrayed their obligation to protect the interests of all people living in this country, not only those who already have every advantage. Our nation deserves much better.

The National Network of Abortion Funds has been leading efforts to dismantle the Hyde Amendment and ensure that every single woman in the United States has the ability to make important life decisions for the health and wellbeing of herself and her family. We are absolutely committed to educating Congress, the Administration, and the public about the devastating impact of the Hyde Amendment and yesterday’s executive order and continuing the work to restore fairness.

Every week, our local abortion Funds help at least 400 women obtain abortion care they could not otherwise pay for. While we cannot meet the need created by our discriminatory health care system, we will continue to provide this essential service until every woman is treated with respect and dignity by her government.
The Fight Against Layoffs
At the World’s Richest School

By Geoff Carens, HUCTW

Last year, Harvard University laid off hundreds of workers. Because of layoffs, attrition, and an early retirement “deal” that was more like an offer workers couldn’t refuse, there are now about 340 fewer workers in the clerical union than there were a year ago. Harvard is exploiting temps, and using students to perform jobs previously done by union members. Staff endure furloughs, unpaid time off without unemployment benefits. Workers accustomed to full-year jobs have had them unilaterally converted to “seasonal” positions, meaning summers off without getting either pay or unemployment, slashing their yearly incomes.

Meanwhile, Harvard received $121 million in federal stimulus money in the last quarter and got over $600 million in gifts in 2009. The “non-profit” university sits on a huge pile of money ($26 billion). To encourage Harvard to create more union jobs, rank-and-file activists in my local held a lively picket on March 25th. We rallied for an hour in front of Harvard’s main administrative building. Clerical union members enjoyed the support of allies like BAAM, which brought the biggest contingent to the action outside our own ranks. Red and black flags snapped in the breeze, as various deceased members of the Harvard Corporation spun violently in their graves. We have a tough contract fight ahead of us this summer, and a complacent, passive union leadership, but look forward to further collaborations with our natural allies.

Continued on Page 9
Chesapeake Energy
CEO Aubrey McLendon
Not Welcome in Hub

By Alysha Suley and Deirdre Lally

On February 25th, activists representing the marcellus shale field residents and their Boston allies spoke to the dirty truth of gas drilling at McLendon’s lecture at Harvard University titled “Natural Gas: Fueling America’s Clean Energy Future.” Chesapeake Energy has been called the second largest producer of natural gas from marcellus shale in the United States. While CEO Aubrey McClendon sells natural gas as the key to “fueling America’s clean energy future,” the residents of marcellus shale-rich areas tell a different story: poisoned groundwater, toxic waste, and rural communities that have seen their once pristine air now contaminated with higher levels of ozone than Los Angeles.

Why should people in Boston be concerned about hydrofracking? The drinking water supply of most major cities on the northeast coast is at risk for contamination. After comments from audience members about what chemicals are used in fracking, concerns of health defects, and how gas and oil companies are exempt from regulations, McClendon abandoned the lecture forty minutes early, clearly shaken by the feedback. One activist showed him a jar of murky brown water to represent well water after fracking, and asked McLendon if he would drink it, as people in rural communities often have no choice after fracking but to drink toxic well water. McClendon, predictably, refused a taste of his own medicine. After the lecture, activists delivered a packet with letters, questions and comments to McClendon directly from impacted community members. As he was escorted out of the building by police, about 15 people sang songs of ecocide to enliven his departure.

Residents of the shale fields are actively resisting the greedy, destructive endeavors of Chesapeake Energy and its cohorts. According to Jeff Andrycik, a resident of Pulteney, NY, “On Superbowl Sunday an overflow crowd of 500 people met in tiny Pulteney, NY to oppose Chesapeake’s injection well application. US Rep. Eric Massa, along with other Pulteney residents, even said he would throw himself in front of a toxic brine truck.” According to the Charleston Gazette, Chesapeake Energy “underpaid royalty owners by $134 million and deserved to pay $271 million more in punitive damages.”

The True Cost of Natural Gas

by Deirdre Lally

Northern Appalachian regions (including PA, NY, OH, and WV) are under attack by giants such as Halliburton and Exxon once again, this time in the form of natural gas drilling.

When the Susquehanna River Basin regions were feeling the effects of the economic collapse in the fall of 2008, rich men from Texas began making calls, and soon tricked most rural folks into signing leases to the “gold” found underground: natural gas. In the early 1900s the region experienced a “boom and bust” when coal was discovered and mined. By “boom,” I mean that coal companies promised a future of riches and happiness for families living in the area. They bought up our farmlands and mountains, gave us backbreaking jobs in the mines, and instead of paying us, offered us items from the company store on worker credit. We were trapped. By “bust,” I mean that when the companies had taken all the coal and violently destroyed the unions, they finally left us alone again. But what they left us alone with was land devastated by blasting, mining and wastewater storage, a polluted Susquehanna River, and families and communities torn apart due to poverty, illness, and union busting.

In the years since the golden age of anthracite coal, our areas experienced long-lasting poverty and a non-unionized majority of workplaces as a direct result of the bloody battles of repression against the working class. We have been kept in poverty with poor public education while our forests and farmlands were beginning the painstaking process of regeneration. Though the general community opposed them, we have seen the implementation of nuclear plants on our farmlands; businesses in power consistently disregard our rural voices to further economic and industrial expansion. Just when we thought things couldn’t get worse, they did. In came the rich white men from Texas in their 10-gallon hats offering us another future of riches and happiness if we would just let them drill the natural gas under our farms and forests. They told us that natural gas was the clean energy key to a secure independent future. They said that they would pay us millions if we leased our land. Many of us fell for it out of economic desperation and the fact that we have been so removed from the real magic of living in an ancient forest watershed. If we can’t afford to watch 500 channels of cable TV in our homes in the woods, we should probably sell our resources so we can afford that satellite dish.

The process of natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale starts with hydraulic fracturing, or “hydrofracking.” Some call it what it should actually be called, “chemo-fracking” due to the cocktail of endocrine disruptors,
benzene, naphthalene, arsenic, radium, etc. in the fluids used. Unlike in conventional gas reserves, the gas in the Marcellus is trapped and dispersed throughout the shale in tiny pores, and must be released through hydrofracking. In each fracking, 2-9 million gallons of (what would otherwise be clean, potable) water mixes with sand and deadly chemicals and is forced through the well into the formation at extremely high pressure to fracture the shale. About 65% of fracking fluids stay in the ground. The rest of it (1-4 million gallons) comes up out of the well and is considered industrial waste that must be disposed of.

Each well may be fracked up to ten times during its productive life. The water produced from the Marcellus Shale is toxic waste. In addition to the added chemicals, the water picks up hydrocarbons, heavy metals like arsenic, and radioactivity from the shale. Billions of gallons of wastewater are produced in our area alone and need to be trucked to a final disposal site. The most common method of disposal will be Deep Well Injection Disposal, where the waste is forced underground at high pressure into dry gas wells. There have been cases of locals observing wastewater trucks dumping the waste fluids illegally into areas such as abandoned quarries. The waste fluid, as all water does, then runs into ground wells, which are the most common forms of drinking water in rural communities.

Wastewater has also been found to travel into local waterways, revealing symptoms such as dead fish and smelly, foamy water in what were once clear pure waterways. Wastewater is also stored in what are called “brine pools” on the lands of folks who have signed drilling leases. Brine pools are large holes about the size of a football field dug into the land, covered with a flimsy plastic drop cloth, and filled with wastewater. These brine pools have no protection from the elements or rain waters, and so on top of flooding over into formerly fertile farmlands, there have been instances of livestock and family pets naively drinking the brine water and dropping dead almost instantly. Yet, the gas companies insist that there is no risk involved in the drilling and fracking processes.

Once our land has been fracked and a drill pad has been set in place, there are many things we can look forward to experiencing on a daily basis. In the once peaceful, beautiful, and quiet tiny mountain villages and valleys, we have light and noise pollution from the drills which operate 24/7 until they run dry. Our once pure and clean well water now contains cancer causing chemicals and endocrine disrupters. Our tap water in some cases has been flammable due to the gas that seeps into it. If you feel the need to breathe the air, you risk breathing in constant toxic fumes.

We used to have beautiful country roads cut through the mountains with very few cars; perfect for riding bikes and taking long walks. We would wave at our neighbors as they walked by our houses in their hunting gear, shotguns in tow. Now, our roads are literally crumbling beneath us—our cars are getting run off the road, our school buses are getting run into—all thanks to overweight trucks carrying drilling and fracking equipment. Because of this, the police must be on patrol to ticket overweight trucks, which means that police presence has increased daily and nightly.

This is an occupation through and through. We have been duped into signing these leases, and now we are all working to fight our way out of them. This is a fight for our lives and rural culture. Natural gas drilling is a last-ditch attempt for the capitalists to keep their hold on us, and we certainly do not intend on letting them win.

Thanks to Bush-era policies, natural gas companies are exempt from legislation such as the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. Pushing the government to regulate the industry is one way to stop the madness, but many people who live in the valleys and mountainsides directly affected by gas drilling and fracking are starting to realize that this must be stopped immediately by any means necessary.
The Crisis of Global Governance: Greece, Europe and the US

by Chris Spannos, March 14, 2010

Standing before an audience at the Brookings Institute on March 8, a day before meeting U.S. President Barack Obama, Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou made the case that the current European crisis involves American interests and that today there is a “crisis of global governance.” His segue into this point was made nostalgically, appealing to an event in history that began 53 years ago this week.

For many this event was an act of U.S. barbarism that would not only thwart Greek autonomy and self-governance to this day, but in hindsight helped maintain the trajectory of U.S. global dominance beyond the Cold War rivalries of last century and into this one.

The event that Papandreou spoke of was U.S. President Harry Truman’s address to a special joint session of Congress on March 12th 1947, in which he articulated what became known as “The Truman Doctrine,” a Cold War strategy aimed at affecting the balance of power in favor of the U.S., which was implemented during the Greek Civil War, where the U.S. and British crushed the Greek resistance movement for fear of Left contagion spreading to other surrounding countries.

In his address Truman argues, among many things that, under war-torn conditions, “a militant minority, exploiting human want and misery, was able to create political chaos…” and that, “The very existence of the Greek state is today threatened by the terrorist activities of several thousand armed men, led by Communists, who defy the government’s authority at a number of points…”

Alluding to post-war reconstruction, Papandreou’s speech ignored the tragic history of his own country, including U.S. backed military dictatorship and repression (Nikos Raptis, U.S. Occupation, ZNet, 1999) and instead praised U.S. intervention that “enabled our two continents to rise above the crisis and build an unprecedented era of shared peace and prosperity.”

As U.S. born and educated leader of Greece’s ruling “Pan Hellenic Socialist Party” (PASOK) and also president of the “Socialist International,” Papandreou expressed no irony when praising Truman’s “vision” and “sturdy foundation for policies and institutions, such as the Marshall Plan and the Bretton Woods arrangements.”

It would seem that Papandreou’s PASOK party, which has 160 seats in the 300-seat parliament, would have little trouble implementing his austerity plans. A recent poll suggested that the majority of Greeks, like the Right-wing opposition New Democratic Party, agreed with Papandreou’s austerity measures. Additionally there is no general election scheduled until late 2013.

However, a new poll this week suggests that a large majority of Greeks are opposed to the austerity measures. With a series of general strikes paralyzing the country, internal dissent in his own party, and European Union (EU) oversight, Papandreou’s talk in the U.S. seemed more revealing about his own crisis of governance than those he was speaking to at the center of power in Washington.

At home, Papandreou is forcing Greeks to submit to combined austerity measures totaling 4.8 billion Euros ($6.5 billion US), comprised of E 2.4 billion ($3.3 billion US) in spending cuts and E 2.4 billion ($3.3 billion US) in new tax revenues.

These include an increase in the value-added sales tax (VAT) from 19 to 21 percent, with further increases in the fuel, alcohol (20 percent), and cigarette (6 percent) taxes, and a new tax on luxury goods. Additionally there will be a 12 percent cut in add-ons to civil servant wages, and 30 percent slashed from bonuses given to civil servants as holiday pay.

The goal is a reduced public deficit and national debt which translates into protecting the wealth and power of elites across Greece and the European Union as the cost of profit making in the Eurozone is passed onto workers and the people of weaker countries who have less bargaining power than their rulers. In a country like Greece, on the periphery of European power, this means imposing severe austerity measures on the Greek people and making them pay for a crisis they did not create.

The imposed austerity measures are not enforced by the EU or International Monetary Fund (IMF), but, as he has made clear, are pushed by Papandreou himself, and are designed to be consistent with policies that benefit the rulers over the ruled, “We are not asking for a bailout. We are not asking for financial help from anyone. What we are doing is first of all, revamping our own economy. We are taking measures to put our economy on the right track and that has been recognized and hailed by many leaders and as I said earlier also from very important institutions such
as the IMF and the European Central Bank.” Among Papandreou appealed to U.S. elites stressing that American interests are at stake in the European crisis, “So, for America, a weak euro also means something else. It could mean a rising dollar. That, in turn, means a rising U.S. trade deficit, which will not help America’s economy rebound.” He argued that the U.S. and Europe should work together to tame rampant financial speculation.

However, U.S. interests were expressed by U.S. elites themselves in various meetings with Papandreou. For example, during a reception for Greek Independence Day in the East Room, President Obama said, “Whether in good times or in bad times, the people of Greece will always have a friend and a partner in the United States of America… whether it’s the close counterterrorism efforts between our governments or the deep partnerships between our people.”

When meeting with Papandreou in the Capitol, Rep. Nancy Pelosi expressed her appreciation to Greece for “sending troops to Afghanistan for the reconstruction there and to serve – allowing us to have a base there for soldiers traveling to Iraq. Not really having a base there,” she clarified, but “that we can pass through Greece.”

And when meeting Papandreou in the Treaty Room, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton remarked, “Of course, as NATO allies, we work side by side on so many of these matters, and I thank the prime minister for Greece’s contributions to the refocused mission in Afghanistan. Both of our countries know what it is like to be targeted by terrorists and we are committed to confronting violent extremism that threatens peace-loving people everywhere.”

Additionally important are the strategic motives operating in the background for U.S. dominance and made more possible through the current Euro-Greek crisis.

Like the massive earthquake that struck Chile February 27 that may have affected the entire earth’s rotation, shifting the earth’s axis by approximately 3 inches, and thus shortening the length of each full day on our planet by milliseconds, the Greek financial crisis is unfolding on deep European fault lines tied together by currency and debt that could have sharply-felt socio-political impacts throughout the region, especially if economic instability spreads to other European economies.

The European Union is scrambling to resolve the Greek crisis from within in its own family of nations by considering a “European Monetary Fund” and by recently committing to an EU bailout of Greece, rather than asking for help from the IMF or the U.S. Although Papandreou has repeatedly stated he has not ruled out a U.S. or IMF economic bailout, doing so would allow more U.S. influence than the EU would probably like, demonstrating that the EU was not able to manage its own crisis. However, economic destabilization of the Eurozone exacerbates what Defense Secretary Robert Gates perceives to be the “demilitarization of Europe,” where “budget limitations relate to a larger cultural and political trend affecting the [NATO] alliance.”

Speaking last month about the new “Strategic Concept” of NATO Gates said, “The demilitarization of Europe – where large swaths of the general public and political class are averse to military force and the risks that go with it – has gone from a blessing in the 20th century to an impediment to achieving real security and lasting peace in the 21st.” (Contrary to what Gates says above, it is hard to believe that he really thought European sentiment for peace could be a blessing in the 20th century.) While Gates does not explicitly say that the U.S. should “go it alone” without Europe and against public opinion, there is tension between the EU and U.S. around “security cooperation.”

The new Strategic Concept involves NATO war planners and managers embracing what they learned since the 1999 bombing of Serbia and 2001 bombing of Afghanistan, to aggressively apply Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty that formed NATO, which says an attack against one NATO member is regarded as an attack on all members.

Retaining this power-projection capability in a post-9-11 world is fundamental to U.S. interests and barbarity – and perhaps even better with a weakened EU.

Papandreou is right that there is a “Crisis of Global Governance,” but what he means by this crisis is, not only his own ability to govern Greece when the market and global capital ravage the country, but also when it erodes elite power and wealth throughout the EU, potentially destabilizing the region and with consequences that can cause massive social unrest. It is when this crisis affects elites that the alarm bells are rung.

The real crisis, felt every moment of our daily lives, is that, we, the people everywhere, have been robbed of our capacity to govern ourselves.

From Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Asia, Africa, and Latin America – everywhere – there is a need for mass social movement building to take collective decision-making power into our own hands to achieve a classless and self-managing alternative.

Overcoming this core problem, in the real crisis of governance, is what we need to resolve.

**UPDATE: March 30th, 2010**

This week, EU leaders came to an agreement on a bailout for Greece. The other EU leaders appealed Germany by bringing in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to help if needed. The 7-year bonds are the equivalent of $US 6.72 billion, and come with a 5.9 per cent interest rate, according to Business Spectator.

Greek Prime Minister George Papandreou said, “The European Union… rose to the task. Both with determination, with a strong will, we, the European leaders, have succeeded in safeguarding our union and our common currency.”

Meanwhile, strikes, demonstrations, occupations, and bomb blasts continue in protest of austerity measures, proving that unrest continues in Greece. We can only speculate that this will increase as the EU and IMF authorities work to enforce Papandreou’s austerity measures. If Greece goes under, it doesn’t bode well for the other “PIIGS” (Portugal, Ireland, Italy, Greece and Spain), periphery EU nations with struggling economies.
**Against the Unjust Prison System**

*By Adrienne of the Anarchist Black Cross*

If you are reading this, chances are good you have a sense, if not a thorough understanding of some of the basic ways the ‘criminal justice’ system in the U.S. is failing all of us. You don’t need to be a dedicated prison abolitionist to feel repulsed and outraged that, in this country, 1 in 31 of us is incarcerated or on probation or parole or some sort of punitive state supervision— that number jumps to 1 in 24 here in Massachusetts. Well over half of those incarcerated are in for nonviolent drug crimes, which class of charges is levied against 70% of new intakes.

While the reader and I are surely on the same page about the bullshittiness of incarcerating people for their use or distribution of narcotics, we may feel understandably squeamish when the school zone enhancement is applied to an individual’s charges. Because if someone is dealing in a school zone, it means they’re pushing to children, right? Well, about that. This rant is a byproduct of research I did for a prisoner held at South Bay in Boston for school zone drug charges. I don’t know the details of her particular case, but it was with horror that I received an array of information from the internet, some of which should have been common sense; namely that this is a geographically small and densely populated urban area and there’s essentially nowhere in this city you can be that is 1000 feet or further from a school property, playground, or registered daycare center. This is truer in areas with higher concentrations of poverty. Thus, law enforcement can bust you for dealing in a school zone even if you’re dealing out of your apartment. Indeed, a 2001 study of 443 drug cases in Massachusetts school zones found that fewer than 1% of sales are to minors. Furthermore, intent to distribute can be assessed on no stronger a basis than possession of a large amount of whichever narcotic you got.

Examining the race, gender, and class dynamics at play would make this article at least three times longer, but it is nonetheless true that there is an ever-exacerbating trend to incarcerate rather than treat or heal. As long as incarceration is profitable, there will be no examination of this broken and abusive society and economy that denies educational and work opportunities, thence bringing and keeping more and more people into the ‘criminal’ economy. In Massachusetts, possession with intent to distribute in a school zone carries a mandatory minimum of two years. No consideration is given to your prior record or your role in whatever led to your arrest; if this happens in Suffolk County you will do two years in a hellhole off Mass Ave teeming with rats and un(der)investigated deaths. If when you emerge, you will not be eligible for federal financial aid for college and your Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) will bar you from public housing and give pause to your potential employers, who can be much pickier now that they’ve got an increasingly massive population of the desperate unemployed to choose from. Clearly, someone who likely started out with few educational and economic opportunities should be given far fewer. That’ll keep them lawfully employed and out of prison for sure!

However, in not-completely-horrible news, there is state legislation pending to alleviate the situation. S.2220, passed in the senate in November and now bouncing through the House Ways and Means Committee, would make drug ‘offenders’ eligible for parole after serving two thirds of their mandatory minimum sentence if they’re held by the state, and after serving half if they’re held by the county [like the woman who asked me to look into this]. They would also be eligible for work release programs. Families Against Mandatory Minimums is working to get the house version of the bill to reduce school zones from 1000 feet to 100 feet. This bill also takes on CORI reform, sealing misdemeanor records after 5 years [currently 10 years] and felonies after 10 years [currently 15], and would begin the waiting period after release, rather than after the end of supervision. It would stop listing non-convictions and improve employment opportunities by establishing hiring standards for employers who use CORI.

Do you know how to use google? Do you want to help fulfill research requests from prisoners? While you’re welcome to join us in person at any of our twice-monthly prisoner support events, you can also do this from the comfort and convenience of your own home computer! Contact abc@riseup.net if you want to join the small band of people who are willing to look up and/or print off and/or write up and send off information requested by prisoners.*

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**Reports and Reviews**

*By Jake Carman*

H ave we finally emerged from our winter slumber, like the peering, early crocuses, happy to find ourselves surrounded by colorful friends again? Have we renewed our path to transcend the artificial divisions that break us into individuals and subcultures, to build the type of community we need to create a viable and worthwhile alternative to capitalist authoritarianism. On a rain-soaked weekend in early March, this appeared to be so.

On Friday, March 12th at 7pm, the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society (SVCS) held a celebration of Howard Zinn’s life and work; “The ideas of Howard Zinn.” The event was sponsored by a number of anarchist, anti-authoritarian and leftist groups, and close to 80 packed tightly together in the third floor of the Community Church of Boston. Sergio Reyes introduced the event for SVCS, then played guitar and sang some songs. As the purpose of the event was to celebrate and discuss the revolutionary ideas of Zinn, Matt Andrews spoke on behalf of the Socialist party, and Jake Carman (yours truly) spoke about Howard’s anarchist ideas.

Next, SVCS previewed parts of an upcom-
Schools, Continued from Page 3

University of California system have built a militant occupation movement. After months of escalating actions in California, the governor’s Chief of Staff, Susan Kennedy, said in an interview that, “Those protests on the UC campuses were the tipping point, our university system is going to get the support it deserves.” Massachusetts lawmakers better be watching what happens with public education, because people are organizing, resisting and winning! We are all realizing this is a crisis and we are at the point where we swim or sink. Collectively we are all pushed to swim and to create our own model of mutually supportive education. At UMass Boston, a coalition has formed with the intent of escalating until our demands are met. They are no more fee hikes, no more layoffs or furloughs, no more union busting, and a halt on privatization of public education. Resistance is, has, and continues to build all over Boston. The Coalition for Equal Quality Education has been meeting with community organizers, students, parents and union members to decide the steps to continue making together as a city. More people than we know are ready to escalate, this was made very clear on the 24th. We’ll see what happens.

The same can be said for Saturday’s big event, “The Self-Styled Anarchist Fashion and Craft Show.” Thirteen models appeared in over thirty ensembles, displaying clothes, accessories, housewares, and other creations from local radicals. Anarchist models from as far away as Pittsburgh and Maine strutted to music on the runway. There was a large turnout, despite the rain pounding Chinatown’s Encuentro 5, and after the show, many stuck around to have drinks and snacks, dance to music, and purchase the clothes and crafts from the show. Proceeds went to the Anarchist Black Cross, who raised over $700. While the attendees were largely young people, folks brought along a whole crowd of friends and relatives, those brand new to the anarchist community, and those who haven’t been around in a while. Hopefully, our spirits will continue rising, our projects connecting and our efforts uniting. This spring, we’ll strive for a vibrant and cohesive anti-authoritarian movement!
Monthly Events:

First Tuesday of Every Month:
BAAM public meeting, 7pm, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave. Open meetings feature an introduction to BAAM, reportbacks, and workshops.

Second Tuesday of Every Month:
Anarchist Black Cross meeting (defense and prison abolition group), 8pm, email bostonabc@riseup.net for location.

Second Sunday of Every Month:
2pm Industrial Workers of the World meeting. Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston

Every Monday:
Papercut Zine Library meeting, 7:30pm at 226 Pearl st in Somerville. Regular open hours: friday -monday, 2-7pm

Every Wednesday:
Free Radical Film Nights, 7pm, Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave.

Every Friday:
Food Not Bombs free community meal, 3-5pm, Boston Common, Park St T Stop, Boston

Every Sunday:
Food Not Bombs free community meal, 3-5pm Central Square Cambridge, MA

Calendar: Get Involved

Sunday, April 4th
ABC Ice Cream Social (ABC Easter) Come and meet members of the Boston Anarchist Black Cross, talk about our work, and learn how you can get involved, all while eating delicious ice cream! at 4pm in Dorchester. Please email bostonabc@riseup.net for directions.

Wednesday, April 7th
Sprouts Spaghetti Dinner. 7:30pm @ 339R Summer St, Somerville. An evening of political performances/discussion with delicious spaghetti and sauce. This month’s theme: public space and transportation. $10 suggested donation. Visit th es prouts.org for more information.

Sunday, April 11th
ABC Prisoner Support. 2pm @ the Papercut Zine Library- 226 Pearl St. in Somerville. Join us for an afternoon of prisoner support. We will be writing letters, sending literature, doing research, and more! All are welcome!

Wednesday, April 14th
We are an Image From the Future: The Greek Revolt of December 2008. A short film showing, followed by the presentation of a new book by the editors, Sissy Doussiou and Tasos Sagris, members of the Void Network in Athens, a group promoting art, theory, action, and the creation of autonomous spaces. 7pm at the Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston.

Sunday, April 18th
Papercut Re-Opening Party! 12:30-7:00 pm. Featuring open mic, zine readings, films, food, and more! Come check out the new location of the Papercut Zine Library at 226 Pearl St in Somerville!

Wednesday, April 21st
Cruel and Unusual: A film about the experiences of transgender women in men’s prisons. Presented by the Anarchist Black Cross and TransCEND.Boston. 7pm at the Lucy Parsons Center, 549 Columbus Ave, Boston.

Saturday, April 24th
Free Tarek! Benefit Show & CD Release Party! Food, Raffle & Live Music to support TAREK MEHANNA and all political prisoners! 6:00pm @ Spontaneous Celebrations, 45 Danforth Street, Jamaica Plain, MA (Stoneybrook T-stop on the Orange Line) $10 - 30 sliding scale suggested donation. Any donation over $15 gets you a FREE CD with entrance! All Ages! Wheelchair Accessible. No alcohol, please. Featuring performances in support of Tarek by 7 artists featured on the CD! NATURAL BLISS, BROADCAST LIVE. SPIRITCHILD, SISTAH MIA, L.O.S.T., STEPHANIE ROOKER, and MAJESTY. For more information about Tarek’s Case and what you can do to help: www.freetarek.com

Support Striking Shaw’s Distribution Center Workers

ADOPT A SHAW’S OR STAR MARKET NON-UNION STORE

The 300 UFCW Local 791 members at the Methuen, Mass. Shaw’s Perishable Warehouse have been forced on strike since March 7, 2010 to protect their affordable health care. While workers have been trying to negotiate a fair contract, Shaw’s has refused to bargain in good faith and wants to shift unaffordable health care costs to its workers instead.

Your Union Brothers and Sisters at the Shaw’s Methuen warehouse need your support.

Adopt a non-union Shaw’s or Star Market store in your area and make your voice heard until Shaw’s does the right thing and gives the workers the fair contract they deserve.

www.JusticeAtShaws.org UFCW791

BAAM Newsletter - 10
Calendar: Get Involved

May Month of Anarchy!!!

Coming out of the 9th NEAN Assembly, a month of anarchist and related public events and actions across the Northeast. Here’s what’s happening in Boston!

Saturday, May 1st
11am, Black and Red feeder march. All anarchists and anticapitalists, meet at 11am on the Rose Kennedy Greenway (at Hanover Street) at the mouth of the North End. We will bring the history of May Day along with us as we march to the Boston Common. Called by the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society. (See flier on back cover)

12-2pm, Rally for the rights of all workers, migrant and non, on International Workers’ day, at the Boston Common. Will include speakers and music, followed by a march.

Tuesday, May 4th
5:30pm, Remembering Haymarket: the Origins of May Day. Meet at Park street to read the words of the Haymarket Anarchists, whose deaths helped the US working class win the 8-hour day, and launch a legacy of organized anarchism.

Saturday, May 14th
(location and time TBA)
The Bomb, a play about the Haymarket Affair. As he lies in a Latin American city, dying of consumption, Rudolph Schnabel confesses his involvement in the most notorious act in labor history, the bombing in Haymarket square. Dealing with issues that range from immigrant and workers rights, to anarchism and the question of militancy, “The Bomb”, takes a look at our own history and the origins of May Day.

Saturday, May 15th
A People’s Celebration of Howard Zinn. 2-4pm at the Old South Church. Featuring music, action and readings of Professor Zinn’s work in the labor, anti-war, education and civil rights movements presented by local organizers, students and artists. Old South Church, 645 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02116 FMI: email zinncelebration2011@gmail.com or visit us on Facebook at “The People Celebrate Howard Zinn”.

Sunday, May 23rd, the Food Not Bombs Festival, on the Boston Common. Come celebrate 30 years of Food Not Bombs, which started here in Boston. Live music, theater, workshops, interactive tables, a picnic and more. All free. Starts at noon.

Tuesday, May 25th,
Peter Gelderloos, author of How Nonviolence Protects the State, is presenting his new book, Anarchy Works, and talking on various other subjects, including Nonviolence, the War on Terror, and Revolution; Democratization and Insurrection in Europe; and Democracy as Totalitarianism. 7pm, at Encuentro 5, 33 Harrison Ave, Chinatown.

A Brand New Website!
WWW.BAAMBOSTON.ORG

Check out and Support these local projects!

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. Anarchist 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

BAAM Newsletter - 11
Fellow Workers!

Are you tired of dragging the weight of the rich on your backs? Sick of watching your families, friends, and neighbors struggle while the big banks and corporations get bailouts? Fed up with the government punishing you for the mistakes of the powerful?

On May 1st, we say No More!

Together, we can dump the bosses!

MAY FIRST IS INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY
JOIN THE BLACK AND RED ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN, ANTI-CAPITALIST CONTINGENT.

Workers are not to blame for the global economic crisis! Regardless of where we come from, we create all wealth. We work because we need to support ourselves and our loved ones. For us, this is necessity. We’ll travel anywhere to find work, and we’ve built the towers from which we are ruled, the prisons that they lock us in, and the walls that keep us divided. We could feed, house and clothe all of humanity, but we don’t control the products of our labor.

Living in capitalism, we work not for the betterment of our communities, but to profit the rich. Every week, we hand the treasures we create to our bosses, who waste it on selfish ventures. Our world is in crisis because the elite has mismanaged. We know who to blame. It’s the rich capitalists and their agents, the politicians. Thus, we march against capitalism and against authoritarianism.

On May 1st, anti-authoritarians, anarchists, socialists and other anti-capitalists will converge in the North End for a feeder march to the May Day Rally on the Boston Common. With signs, flags, banners, songs and puppets of the Chicago workers who died to bring us the 8-hour day, we’ll kick off the Month of Anarchy, and take walk together to replace the hierarchies of the old order with the freedom and equality of a new dawn.

Called by the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society.
To endorse this call, contact Info@SaccoandVanzetti.org
www.SaccoandVanzetti.org