

Issue # 4

-November 26, 2007-

BAAM Boston Anti-Authoritarian Movement

A General Anarchist Union in the Boston Area

Welcome to the fourth issue of the BAAM Newsletter. We are a general anarchist union in the Boston area. Our structure reflects our belief that anarchist organizations should not be configured in such a way that conflicts with the ultimate goal of a classless, stateless society. We feel that being class conscious is not enough; we oppose authoritarianism in all its forms, including capitalism, government, and all types of oppression such as racism, sexism, nationalism, xenophobia, homophobia, and environmental devastation.

To learn more about BAAM, come to our monthly meeting: every 1st Tuesday of the Month, 7pm at the Lucy Parsons Center, 549, Columbus Ave, in the South End of Boston, or visit our website: BAAMBoston.org

-And now for the news:

Radical Queers: A Zillion Fred Phelps: Zero

By Adrienne

The news that the Reverend Fred 'God Hates Fags' Phelps was coming to town November 4th began circulating among Boston's buskers and street performers. Those most familiar with the Westboro Baptist Church know that these deluded godbags revel in attention of every variety. The more opposition they encounter, the more they feel they are serving their creepy god. Having no desire to feed into the Phelps Klan's holy self-aggrandizement, a call was sent, asking for a delegation of statues, street performers, musicians, and generally fabulous individuals to show up at Phelps-targeted Copley Square at 10AM in order to detract from their loony, queer phobic thunder.

Oh. My. Gawd. Never in our wildest, (...continued on pg 2)

**November 11
Remembering
the Haymarket
Martyrs, page 4**

**Portland:
Direct Action
Haults the US
War Machine**
by Hayduke

Wednesday evening,

November 7th, protesters in Olympia, Washington, as part of Port Militarization Resistance (PMR), began blocking truckloads of Stryker armored vehicles headed to the port to be shipped off to Iraq. PMR held the port until the morning. Police attacked the small crowd with pepper spray and batons, arresting two, and eventually escorting the military shipments through to the ports. The next night, 200 protesters arrived and set up an encampment, keeping the military from the port for the night.

On November 9th, just a few dozen brave radicals

(...continued on pg 3)



Photo by Tomas M., Copley Square, 11/23/2007
**Making this Holiday Season a
Little Warmer: Radical Caroling**

by Lydia T.

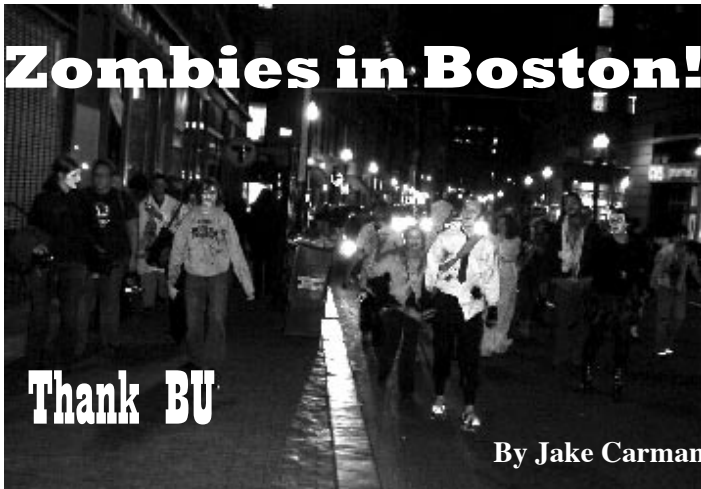
When the biggest shopping day of the year rolls around, Black Friday, I usually spend it hiding out at home in an impotent rage. This time, however, I went to the Prudential Mall and sang anti-consumerist, anti-sweatshop jingles to the tune of Christmas classics, a BAAM tradition in its 7th year. Reactions to the gaggle of singing anarchists from shoppers ranged from open stares and mouths to smiles and laughter. One man stopped to demand who we thought we were singing to; we responded with "you", "ourselves",

(...continued on pg 6)

**The Other Abortion
Access Issue, PG 3**

WHAT IS ANARCHISM? PG 4

Zombies in Boston!



On November 7th, 40 zombies left Boston University's BioSafety-Level 4 (BSL4) Lab in the South End/Roxbury, and walked the streets of Boston. Scientists with a megaphone and caution tape tried to cordon off the infected, and handed out flyers to onlookers warning of the dangers of the weapons-grade, incurable pathogens that will be researched and produced within the lab once it is completed. "I have the Bolivian Hemorrhage Fever," said Everett, one of the Zombies. "I was bitten by an infected mosquito that came from BU's lab. It started with flu-like symptoms, but now I throw up blood and bleed from the nose." If she were really infected with this disease, which will be kept in BU's lab, Everett, a 19-year-old Texan and BU student would die in 2 weeks. The zombies and scientists were accompanied by almost as many photographers and reporters. This bizarre procession was a demonstration against BU and the City of Boston's BSL4 lab, dubbed by local neighborhood residents as the "Bio-terror lab."

Residents of the working-class, mostly black, and densely populated neighborhood of the South End/Roxbury have spent the last 5 years protesting, filing lawsuits, holding meetings, press conferences, and rallies. Their cries have fallen on deaf ears. John Elorca, a teacher at the Boston Public School's El Centro Del Cardinal said he was trying to keep his students informed. When asked for his opinion of the zombie march's effectiveness, he said, "I like this tactic. Anything that is dramatic and shocking and let's people know will help. A lot of people in the community are against the lab, but it needs to gain more attention elsewhere." Jesse J., a two-year resident of Roxbury, said she participated because she wanted to raise awareness. "This march by itself will not stop the lab, but it can convince onlookers to look into it and spread the word. People from all walks of life, especially in the community, have resisted for years. Its time to make a spectacle, and a lot of face paint helps."

If completed, BU's lab will be the first of its kind in a US city. As Somerville native and Northeastern Bio-chem. major, Melanie Araujo said, "This is a poor site selection." She said that the neighborhood was chosen, as opposed to Beacon Hill or other wealthy communities, "because low income people, the ones directly affected by this lab, have no political power." Araujo pointed to the threat the lab poses to the city in the case of a terrorist attack, and to BU's sub-par safety record. BU has had two lab accidents in the last two years, one a lab fire and the other infecting two workers with a pathogen. "Custodial workers," Says Araujo, "are extremely at risk in these labs."

The zombie procession marched through the Downtown Crossing shopping district to Government Center. Sci-

entists in gasmasks did their best to protect the curious on-lookers from infection. "I'm here because this lab is a threat to Boston that we don't need," said Rich Navin, a member of the Emerson and Suffolk Anti-Authoritarians, a group that organized the event alongside the BU Anti-Authoritarians and members of BAAM. "I don't want Anthrax, Monkey-Rage Virus, or Ebola at my doorstep. I don't want zombies at my doorstep!" Learn more: www.StopTheBiolab.org

("Queer Statues Take on Phelps"...continued from pg 1)

queerest dreams could we have predicted the vibrant, energetic delightfulness that followed in the middle of Copley Square. Three very dedicated statues created the backdrop for the spectacle, which spectacle was soon compounded by two polychromatically clad, incredibly talented individuals dancing and drumming on 4 foot stilts as a fiddler played and a lady in yellow juggled lemons. More costumed dancers showed up in a gender-fucking array of tutus, shiny leggings, lumberjack gear, rain boots, pretty dresses, gym shorts, drawn on facial hair, and enthusiasm. A number of friendly people with 'FREE HUGS' signs, organized by a local livejournal community, offered their complimentary services. On a less happy note, the premises were patrolled by infamous vigilante scum, the Guardian Angels, who would probably heart Phelps if it weren't for that whole protesting U.S. soldiers' funerals thing. The event really took off when a 1-2-3 Party dancer showed up with a boombox and began blaring 'I'm Coming Out.' The dance party that was at first limited to costumed dancers infectiously spread to the free huggers, to mouth-agape tourists, and to local passersbys. At one point, as the incredibly queer selection of dance songs continued, the habitually-still statues leapt off their milkcrates to join in on the exuberant dancing.

So where was Phelps? If one chooses to believe the Guardian Angels, and to believe that their source was indeed the BPD, Phelps was on his way, but decided against carrying out his protest upon the discovery of the counter-celebration taking place. As for the counter-celebrators, so much fun was had that we couldn't help but wonder why we even needed the threat of Phelps to spend hours on the street holding queer anarchist dance parties.

A Day of Anarchy at Simon's Rock: BAAM Workshops are a Success!

By Laila M.

On November 3rd four members of BAAM went out to Simon's Rock College in Great Barrington, MA to host a day of workshops. The day included a panel discussion on anarchy in which students submitted questions ahead of time for the panelists to discuss and then had another opportunity to ask questions afterwards, an interactive workshop about women's health and radical menstruation, a brief street tactics training, a great know your rights presentation done by the Boston Anarchist Black Cross, and music from Jake and the Infernal Machine and Clara Hendricks!!!

The day was a great success. The students and members of BAAM all had fun hanging out and learning from each other. With at least 25 students attending throughout the day, and an impressed activities director, BAAM has an open invite to return to the school for another presentation. BAAM plans on traveling to other schools to teach workshops and skill-shares, hopefully with more options than those already presented. If you would like BAAM to come out to your high school or college contact Laila at [icefox212\(at\)hotmail.com](mailto:icefox212(at)hotmail.com)

MISSING HISTORICAL PLAQUE FOR SACCO AND VANZETTI TO BE REDEDICATED IN BOSTON'S NORTH END

By the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society
Boston, November 21, 2007.- On Saturday, December 1st, at 11:30, the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society will rededicate a historical marker outside the entrance to 256 Hanover Street, the site of the Sacco and Vanzetti Defense Committee's headquarters from 1925-1927.

In 1976 the City of Boston placed a plaque on the building, located along the city's Freedom Trail in the North End, in recognition of the historical impact the men's trial and subsequent execution had on both the nation and much of the world. Sometime in the early 1980's the original plaque disappeared. Today, the Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society is proud to announce the upcoming unveiling and rededication of a new plaque.

Speakers will include Boston City Councilor Felix Arroyo (confirmed), Former Governor of Massachusetts Michael Dukakis (tentative), and others. There will also be readings from the writings of Sacco and Vanzetti.

256 Hanover Street is located a short distance from the Haymarket T stop. www.SaccoandVanzetti.org

Class: The Other Abortion Access Issue

by Clara Hendricks

Most advocates and supporters of reproductive justice are well aware of the significance of the year 1973. This was the year when the supreme court made the monumental decision in Roe v. Wade, making abortions legal for women in the United States. For many people, this indicated that the problem women had previously faced, not being able to access safe and legal abortions, was solved. And many people still believe this today.

What few people know, even advocates of reproductive justice, is that a mere three years after Roe v. Wade was decided, Congress passed the Hyde Amendment, sponsored by Illinois representative, Henry Hyde. This amendment, which has passed votes year after year, forbids federal Medicaid from funding abortions except in the cases of rape, incest, or endangerment to the life of the mother. The amendment also bans other federal healthcare, such as that for women in the military and Indian Health Services, from covering abortion. Thirty three states have also adopted the language and regulations of the Hyde Amendment for their own state Medicaid programs.

What the Hyde Amendment has meant for low-income women, who are disproportionately young and of color, is that serious barriers to safe and legal abortions still exist. When facing the choice of either paying for an expensive procedure (depending on the timing of the procedure cost can range from \$200 to \$2000) or paying rent and buying food, it is easy to see how many of these women end up having children they do not want and often cannot afford. Additionally as time passes while a woman attempts to raise the money for her procedure, the cost rises and her chance of actually being able to pay for it decreases.

It is in this way that the United States Government further marginalizes women of color and low-income women, not providing them with the same access to reproductive healthcare as those with more privilege. And as if not funding abortion weren't enough, there is a serious lack of both federal and state funding for contraception, emergency contraception and comprehensive sex-education. The government seems determined to give low-income women as few options as possible when it

comes to their decisions regarding their bodies and families.

Unfortunately, many feminist and reproductive justice groups have lacked a significant class and race analysis, and have seen Roe v. Wade as the be all and end all of abortion access. There has been a very unfortunate history in the movement for reproductive justice of white middle class feminists only looking at the legal aspect of abortion access. However, a coalition of reproductive rights groups, women of color groups, human rights groups and others formed last year for the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Hyde Amendment, bottom-lined by the National Network of Abortion Funds, to say thirty years is enough! This diverse coalition has taken action in various forms including holding community discussions and educational events, producing and distributing literature about the negative impact of Hyde on particular groups of women, introducing state legislature to increase state funding, and talking to congress people about the Amendment and its impact. Most recently, the coalition has drafted a petition to repeal the Hyde Amendment completely.

Until all women, regardless of socio-economic status, have complete access to safe, legal, and affordable abortion, reproductive justice has not been served. If you would like to hear more about the work of the National Network of Abortion funds or the Hyde: 30 Years is Enough! Campaign, please visit www.nnaf.org or www.hyde30years.nnaf.org.



Portland: November 9th Blockade of Stryker armored vehicle on flatbed. Photo by Robert Whitlock ("Portland Rebels Slow Military"...continued from pg 1)

put their lives on the line and sat down in front of flatbed trucks carrying the vehicles, succeeding in forcing the trucks to turn back. (Video: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=iVASp4CGh94>.) Without sufficient police support, the military gave up on shipping cargo for the day, leaving access to the port under the control of the protestors.

These actions continued over the course of the week, with Washington activists braving arrests and constant attacks from police batons and pepper spray. At least 12 were arrested on Monday. Riot police with shields and concussion grenades arrested 43 people on Tuesday, November 13th, during a direct action called by the Women's Caucus of PMR.

PMR's direct action campaign has not only directly targeted the supply line of the US military's imperialist war, but has also inspired the people of Olympia to stand up; at least one US soldier to walk out of the port, the military and into the anti-war movement; and dozens of other soldiers to show support for the protestors. The Port Militarization Resistance raised the bar for successful direct action against the war. Anarchists and other opponents of the authoritarian and capitalist wars should take an example from these actions and begin to target the infrastructure and supply lines of the war machine.

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!

Fighting Internet Censorship With Tor

by Sublett

Throughout history, governments have repressed their subjects by attacking the ability to communicate freely. Tapping phones, reading mail, and shutting down opposition newspapers and television stations have long been staple tactics of totalitarian regimes. In so-called democracies, media control is established largely by withholding advertising support from opposing voices. All leaders know that their power depends on keeping the rabble from collaborating to expose their lies and overthrow them.

In recent years, the rise of the internet has presented a new challenge to the forces of oppression. While internet-connected video cameras and databases have made it easier to control large populations, the internet also provides a decentralized, accessible communications medium that allows anyone to exchange ideas, opinions, pictures of torture victims, and much more. As web sites like Youtube and wikileaks.org continue to erode official credibility, governments worldwide are reacting predictably.

Former AT&T technician Mark Klein has revealed that the NSA is intercepting voice and internet communications for nearly all US residents (1). Klein described a special NSA-only room at the AT&T facility in San Francisco, where all through traffic, even within the US, is collected for analysis.

Abroad, the situation is even worse. The "Great Firewall of China" restricts Chinese internet access to government-approved web sites only. In 2004 Yahoo ratted out activist Shi Tao to Chinese authorities, who arrested Shi for revealing information about the Tiananmen Square massacre and sentenced him to ten years in prison (2). Other examples abound.

Fortunately, there is a way to combat such repression. Tor, short for "The onion router," is a distributed network of servers which anonymizes internet traffic. The servers are operated by volunteers all over the world. Tor users can access the internet without revealing their real IP address to web sites, or letting their ISP know which sites they visit. Tor works by routing connections through multiple nodes, each of which only knows the previous node and next node in the route. Exit nodes send traffic to its final destination. Traffic is encrypted within the Tor cloud and decrypted at the exit nodes.

However, Tor is not yet a perfect solution. For one thing, Tor connections are slow. This is partly due to their circuitous nature, but mostly there are just not enough servers to handle the load. Worse, there have been reports of attackers operating exit nodes and capturing traffic as it leaves the Tor cloud (3). While this attack will not expose IP addresses, the captured data may contain identifying information. The current scarcity of servers means that such an attack could collect a significant fraction of total Tor traffic.

In order to make Tor more secure and usable, more

people are needed to run servers. Instructions and downloads can be found at www.torproject.org. While installing Tor software is not difficult, one should read the instructions carefully.

1. blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2007/11/att-whistle-blo.html
2. www.rsrf.org/article.php3?id_article=14884
3. www.smh.com.au/news/security/the-hack-of-the-year/2007/11/12/1194766589522.html

You Can Kill Us, But You Can't Kill the Idea: Remembering Haymarket

By Laila M.

120 years ago, on November 11, 1887, August Spies, Albert Parsons, George Engel and Adolph Fischer, four of the eight anarchists who were framed for throwing a bomb in Haymarket Square, were hung at the gallows in Chicago.

On May 4th, 1886, a mass meeting at Haymarket Square, Chicago, was called to address an incident of police brutality in which police assaulted and killed striking workers the day before. As the assembly died down, the police showed up demanding that they disperse. The speaker answered by saying that they were almost finished. A bomb was thrown into the crowd of police, killing one



officer. The police responded by firing into the crowd, killing several, including some of their own men, and wounding many others.

In the following days eight anarchists who had been leaders of the movement for the eight-hour work day were rounded up and accused of the bomb throwing, though the only one of them that was actually present at the time was the speaker, Samuel Fielden. Although there was no evidence against them, all but Oscar Neebe, who received a sentence of fifteen years in prison, were condemned to death.

On November 10th, 1887, Louis Lingg, who was to be hung the following day, committed suicide in prison, keeping his promise that the state would not take his life. Parsons, Spies, Engel and Fischer were executed the next day, November 11th, after refusing to plead clemency for a crime they did not commit. Samuel Fielden, and Michael Schwab, who were to be executed at a later date, and Oscar Neebe were released in 1893 when Governor John P. Altgeld pardoned the Haymarket Eight, acknowledging that they had been given an unfair trial and were innocent.

Anarchists, immigrants and labor organizers were constantly being persecuted for their ideas and this is why these eight men were accused and convicted when there was no evidence linking them to the bomb at all. State repression of radicals has been an ongoing struggle, as they disappear, deport, and murder those of us who resist. The Haymarket episode was 120 years ago; Sacco and Vanzetti were executed 80 years ago; today, what has changed?