

# INTERNATIONAL NEWS



## **Greek Anarchists Protest Prisons, Continuing Struggle for Freedom** by Jake Carman

On November 5th, thousands of Greek anarchists protested outside prisons in 8 different cities simultaneously. In Athens, police attacked a gathering of over 1000, resulting in a street battle with rocks and tear gas. Protests also occurred in Thessaloniki, Patra, Heraklion Crete, Larisa, Volos, Ioannina and Komotini, calling for the abolition of prisons among other demands.

This month's protests follow a string of prison uprisings last April, triggered by the beating of anarchist prisoner Giannis Dimitrakis. The revolt began in Malandrino prison, and soon spread to at least 11 other prisons, where prisoners, fed up with poor living conditions, frequent discipline and transfers, rose up not just against their guards but the notion of prisons themselves. "All wards are now under our control," Giannis Dimitrakis told the Athens daily 'Eleftherotipia'. In prisons across the country, hundreds escaped their cells and gathered on prison rooftops, demanding, according to Athens Indymedia, "the abolition of disciplinary measures, the conversion of life to twelve-year sentences, regular leaves for all, release after spending 3/7 of the sentence and the conversion of 25-year sentences to 10 years."

The anarchist movement in Greece is one of the oldest and strongest in the world, with a long tradition of insurrectionary struggle that manifests in frequent attacks on police stations, banks, and government buildings, very rarely resulting in arrests.

## **In Case You Weren't Convinced That Capitalism Is Bad**

By Adrienne

November 10th, in Chongqing in Southwest China, 3 people were killed and 31 were injured during a stampede. That's awful, yes? But why were they stampeding? Were they trying to escape a fire? Was it an athletic event? Why were these people crushing each other, you ask. Well, readers, you will be grieved to learn that 3 people were killed and 31 were injured trying to get into a supermarket with a time-limited sale on cooking oil. Just let that sink in for a moment. 3 people were killed and 31 were injured over *cooking oil*.

In present day U.S., we have yet to understand, let alone witness, the kind of widespread poverty and the accompanying desperation that causes people to trample upon their fellow humans to get a discount on food items. While food prices are generally on the rise, China is especially feeling the pinch, being saddled with a 17.6% increase from last year. This seems a good time to point out that the earth is not stricken with a food shortage crisis, merely a distribution crisis. The current production of food is enough to give every man, woman, child and genderqueer individual 4.3 pounds of food every day. So why do we have dumpsters filled with fresh, edible food while hundreds of millions of people starve around the globe? That's a good question. Let's ask the capitalists.



## **Greek anarchists hold banner (left) fight police (above) during prison protests. Photos from Athes Indymedia** **A New World in Our Streets** **Meditations on Fascism in Spain** by Autumn

When most people hear fascism, especially in its relation to Europe, they generally think of Adolph Hitler or Benito Mussolini. History textbooks conjure up images from World War Two: D-Day, the capture of France, even the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. But what of the Iberian Peninsula? Given recent events in Spain it is necessary to revisit the Spanish Civil War, the resistance to Franco's dictatorship, and how it all relates to now.

Starting with the summer of 1936, Spain was in the grips of an all-out civil war. What the far-right nationalists had intended as a simple coup d'état had exploded into a scramble for control of Spain. The loyalists, who supported the leftist/socialist regime currently in charge of the Spanish government, and those proposing a deeper social revolution like the anarchist worker's union the CNT (National Confederation of Workers), were on one side. They comprised a popular front of socialists, communists, liberals, republicans, and anarchists. On the other side were the so-called "rebels" looking to re-conquer Spain and turn it into a nationalist dictatorship, backed by the Catholic Church.

The war itself raged on for three years, resulting in a victory for the nationalists led by General Francisco Franco. Franco's regime lasted until the mid-1970s and until just recently had not gained official recognition as a brutal dictatorship. My father, who grew up in Franco's Spain, often said that the time period was looked upon briefly and as a "necessary step" in the evolution of a modern Spanish state. After all, fascism brings order to a country like nothing else. "Whose order?" is certainly a topic of discussion. George Orwell talks of the horrific anarchy in his account of the Civil War, *Homage to Catalonia*:

Practically every building of any size had been seized by the workers and was draped with red flags or with the red-and-black flag of the Anarchists; every wall was scrawled with hammer and sickle and with the initials of the revolutionary parties; almost every church had been gutted and its images burnt. ... Every shop and cafe had an inscription saying that it had been collectivized; even the bootblacks had been collectivized and their boxes painted red and black. Waiters and shopwalkers looked you in the face and treated you as an equal. Ser vile and even ceremonial forms of speech had temporarily disappeared.

Horrific chaos indeed! One can easily see how this situation would need remedy, and why groups such as "National Democracy" (a fascist front group) would fight so hard to prevent the anarchy of Catalonia from ever occurring again.

(...continued on pg 6)

# Gay Liberationist Massimo Consoli Dies at age 61

by Jake Carman

On November 4th, famed gay Italian anarchist Massimo Consoli, 61, succumbed to cancer. A gay rights activist, historian, teacher, theorist, and writer, responsible for 40 books including "Andata & Ritorno," (2003)—an autobiography—and "Homocaust," (1984)—a historical work about Nazi crimes against gays, Consoli is credited with founding the modern Italian gay movement.

In 1963, Consoli started the organization La Rivoluzione Ã  Verde (The Revolution is Green), and in 1966 the Associazione Culturale Roma-1. According to a November 8th article in Gay City News by Doug Ireland, "The name 'Roma-1' did not refer to Italy's capital city, but was a secret acronym for Rivolta Omosessuale dei Maschi Anarchici - Prima fase (Homosexual Revolt of Male Anarchists - First phase)." He quickly gained the attention of the Catholic Church and the Italian Counter-Espionage Service, (Servizio Informazioni Difesa), and he moved to the Netherlands in 1969, where he published the "Manifesto per la Rivoluzione Morale: l'Omosessualità Rivoluzionaria" ("Manifesto for the Moral Revolution: Revolutionary Homosexuality") in 1971. This document circulated widely in Italy, spurring the creation of numerous organizations, and marking the beginning of the Italian gay movement.

A dedicated organizer his whole life, Consoli started the paper Gay News Rome in 1982. He also maintained a website (in Italian) up until his death: [www.cybercore.com/consoli/](http://www.cybercore.com/consoli/). He was remembered at his funeral by gay Italian Parliament member, Franco Grillini, who said, "Massimo told with energy and passion...the reality of gay and lesbian life both in Italy and internationally, and its history. He has been a tireless promoter of the spread of gay culture in Italy. The death of Consoli, with his example of vision and courage, is a serious loss for the Italian LGBT movement and the culture of our country. We promise that we will carry on the many works of Massimo which remained unfinished." (*"Radical Carols" ...continued from pg 1*)

"the people shopping..." . One couple who were passing by joined us after listening to "Profits", a jolly rendition of Jingle bells.

After accidentally making about six bucks in loose change, tossed by passers-by, we couldn't resist moving to the entrance of the Gap and informing consumers of the GAP's labor practices in song form:

## \*GAP Sweatshops Are Coming To Town\*

Oh...you better watch out  
You'd better not buy  
Don't shop at the GAP  
I'm telling you why  
Gap sweatshops are coming to Town.  
They start off in one country  
The workers are sucked dry  
And when they start to organize  
The GAP just says ' goodbye'...\*

While this was all very delightful to me, it also appeared that most shoppers were amused rather than annoyed. We were ejected by mall security after getting through four songs for "protesting", so we decided to call it a day and walked up the street to enjoy some Food Not Bombs, and to lift the spirits of our freezing comrades with our singing.

(Plan your own radical caroling. Check the back of this issue for "Frosty the Snowman" More songs can be found at: <http://www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=03/12/27/2839372&mode=print>

## ("Fighting Fascism in Spain" ...continued from pg 1)

This month, an already turbulent time for Spain given it marks the death of Franco (November 20th, 1975), a clash between one fascist and a group of anti-fascist activists came about on the heels of an official declaration by the Spanish government denouncing Franco's reign of terror. As of now, Spain's president hopes to take down any statues that commemorate the former dictator. Of course, the government still continues to grant legitimacy to fascist groups and permits them to celebrate the lives of nationalist soldiers from the Civil War. The fight broke out on November 11, right before an anti-immigration rally organized by National Democracy. A small handful of anti-fascist activists spotted Josu  Est banez de la Hija, an off-duty soldier for the Spanish armed forces, sporting a neo-Nazi symbol. After a brief verbal exchange, Est banez de la Hija pulled out a knife and fatally stabbed Carlos Javier in the



*Antifascists line up against police at a November 19th protest of the fascist murder of 16 year old Carlos Javier. A riot ensued, with 10 officers injured.* <http://bombsandshields.blogspot.com/>

heart. This incident brought outrage from the anti-fascist community. From Barcelona to Madrid riots have broken out, resulting in arrests of activists and police injuries. On November 12th in San Sebastian, thousands of antifascists—including elderly veterans of the Spanish Civil War—built barricades and fought the police forcing 8 busloads of fascists to turn back and hold their rally in a supermarket parking lot instead of the center of town. To be frank, it's about time fascists started to see this kind of resistance here in the United States as well. We cannot expect the State to give us aid -- they gave none to the loyalists in 1936, despite the so-called "Good War" to end right-wing nationalism and brutality the world over. If we truly wish to end the wave of fascism that is sweeping through society today, we must build the new world in our hearts now and be prepared to defend it with everything we've got.

Sources: <http://slackbastard.anarchobase.com/?p=939>  
<http://www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=20071120084512457> [http://www.expatica.com/actual/article.asp?subchannel\\_id=81&story\\_id=46097](http://www.expatica.com/actual/article.asp?subchannel_id=81&story_id=46097) [http://www.kaosenlared.net/noticia.php?id\\_noticia=44742](http://www.kaosenlared.net/noticia.php?id_noticia=44742) <http://www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=20071115133903498> <http://www.infoshop.org/inews/article.php?story=20071015050822238> <http://www.indymedia.nl/nl/2007/11/48329.shtml> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,2213063,00.html>

## **Reportback: Fifth Assembly of the Northeast Anarchist Network.**

On November 17th and 18th, 80-100 anarchists gathered at Hampshire College in Western Massachusetts for the fifth Assembly of the Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN). This Assembly was an overwhelming success. With nine organizations from Pittsburgh to Portland (Maine) and Syracuse to Cape Cod now officially affiliated with the NEAN, the Network structure is up and running. Participants solidified the Network's committees, such as Internal Communications, Legal Defense, Education/Outreach, and Website, and developed campaigns and projects.

The Network has a lot on its plate for this winter. The New England Subregional of NEAN will hold its second Assembly in Portland, Maine, January 12th and 13th. Check the calendar on page 8 of this issue for details. NEAN plans to meet with the Midwest Action Network in February, hold a meeting at this year's National Conference of Organized Resistance, and also organize against bourgeois electoral politics on two fronts: with an anti-election campaign aimed at discrediting representative democracy and promoting direct democracy/anarchy, and by organizing and educating for, as well as directly participating in, anti DNC/RNC protests this coming summer. The Assembly set up a Newspaper working group, which will publish its first quarterly paper in February. They also set up a working group to make a list of all NEAN skill-shares and workshops. This list will soon be up on our website so that groups in the region can "order" skill-shares such as "Know Your Rights," "Medic Training," etc.

This Assembly benefited from the momentum coming off last month's anarchist victory in Georgetown, DC (see October Issue of BAAM), and the impressive rise of Northeast Anarchism in general. This winter promises to be an exciting one. Learn more about NEAN at [NeAnarchist.net](http://NeAnarchist.net).

## **THE NORTHEAST ANARCHIST NETWORK**

## **Unmanned Car Ravaging Through the Desert**

by Alex

A Land rover careens through the desert, top-heavy with a half-million dollars of video cameras, radar, and laser rangefinders. No hands are needed to touch the steering wheel as the vehicle merges into traffic. Sensors whirling and focusing, the car picks up speed- with nobody driving.

November 3rd saw eleven self-controlled robotic vehicles hit the road at an empty airport for the 2007 Urban Challenge, a contest funded by the Defense Research Projects Agency (DARPA) to push development on robotic war machines. But for the MIT team, which placed fourth in the competition, mounting a machine gun turret atop their modified Land Rover LR3 didn't seem to be a high priority. "To have a robot that can drive in traffic – that just captured our imagination," says John Leonard, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, speaking as the team's leader. Over the last sixteen months, a 30-person team of faculty and students from MIT, WPI, Wellesley College, and Olin College have been collaborating on the project, funded by a grant from DARPA and fueled by a zealous wish to see a robotic car driving. Says Dr. Leonard, "This is an impossible challenge; that's why we were drawn to it."

But this isn't an innocent science fair project. The Urban Challenge competition was created explicitly to create technology for sending robotic vehicles into war zones, allowing the U.S. military to pursue riskier and more dangerous military operations around the globe. Cargo-carrying vehicles such as these are just one aspect of the "Future Combat Systems" project, which hopes to see 46 new technologies rolled out into the battlefield by 2015. The cost to the American taxpayer? \$160.7 billion, a price that will be bumped up further as more delays and cost overruns get filed.

Even though putting a robot at the steering wheel might save a few soldiers, programs like this keep bumping up the country's defense budgets, to the highest levels since the cold war ended. While international peacekeeping forces and humanitarian efforts are seeing their budgets cut, unilateral defense spending is going up yearly- sucking 21 to 51 cents out of every dollar paid into income tax (depending on accounting methods). Add that discretionary spending to the price tag for veterans' services, and even the most conservative economists are left shuddering at the prospect of higher taxes and a devalued dollar.

While DARPA scrambles to raise funds for truly militarized robotic vehicles, the MIT team's vehicle, Talos, is once again on the sidelines as the team members steam forwards with other projects. Of the school's \$1.1 billion federal research budget, \$677 million comes from the department of defense – making it good betting that the brightest minds in engineering will be seeing their creations sent to the battlefield in the years ahead.

Team member Troy Jones smiles as he thinks about the prospects of the technology that he's developed, looking to see it deployed in consumer cars in the near future. But while his attention has moved on to the next exciting challenge, the Department of Defense is working just as purposefully to see that his ideas next see life in the cockpit of a hummer, running convoys in the dust of Iraq.

## **Wachovia, AXA, Rathbone Drop HuntingdonLifeSciencesShares**

By Boston Animal Defense League

Another campaign win against notorious commercial animal testing lab, Huntingdon Life Sciences, leaves the lab with 197,218 dumped shares: HLS is much closer to closing. Global AXA Group was HLS' 2nd largest shareholder, with 84,618, and number one supporter Wachovia dropped 92,600. After one demonstration, Rathbone threw out their 20,000 shares. Help is needed to wake up the rest of the shareholders, suppliers, and customers to bring HLS to financial bankruptcy to match its moral bankruptcy. To get involved locally, check out [www.boston.animaldefense.info](http://www.boston.animaldefense.info), and nationally, check out [www.closehls.net](http://www.closehls.net)



## A lesson in Radical Carols!

# Frosty The Snowman

by Jamie and Alexander

Frosty the Snowman, was a jolly happy soul,  
With a can of beer and all black clothes, and a flag on a wooden pole.

Frosty the Snowman, is an anarchist, they say.  
Capitalism may grow, but the children know that they'll be free  
one day.

There must have been some magic in that smashing  
window sound,  
cause people started using their heads, and capitalism soon fell down!

Oh, Frosty, the Snowman, was alive as he could be;  
and the children say we'll smash capital today,  
just the same as you and me.

Smashity, smash, smash, Smashity, smash, smash,  
look at capitalism go.  
Smashity, smash, smash, Smashity, smash, smash  
We will overthrow.



Frosty the Snowman, knew that liberation was here to stay,  
so he said, "Let's run, and we'll have some fun and keep the  
bosses far away."

Down to the village, with a black flag in his hand,  
Running here and there, all around the square, sayin',  
"Catch me if you can."

He led them down the streets of town, right to the traffic cop;  
and only paused a moment, when he heard him holler, "Stop!"

But Frosty, the Snowman, kept going his own way,  
And he raised his fist, sayin' "I won't stop cause I'm fuckin' here  
to stay!"

*Pick up your own book of Rad Carols at the Lucy Parsons Center*

**Help us save trees! (paper and money)  
For a free email subscription, contact  
Jake at trenchesfullofpoets@riseup.net**

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**-www.BAAMBoston.org-**

## Calendar of events:

**First Tuesday of every month:** BAAM meeting,  
7pm, Lucy Parsons Center 549 Columbus Ave (this month, Dec. 4)

**Second Tuesday of every month:**  
Anarchist Black Cross (defense and prison abolition group), 8pm,  
45 Mnt Auburn st, Cambridge, Ma (this month, Dec. 11th)

**Second Sunday of every month:**  
Meeting of the Industrial Workers of the World. 2pm, Lucy Parsons  
Center 549 Columbus Ave (this month, Dec. 9th)

**Every Friday** Boston Common 4-6pm- Food Not  
Bombs community meal rain or shine

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**November 27th:** ABC Prisoner Support Night.  
Help out by folding and mailing literature, responding to re-  
quests, getting a penpal, doing research. Free vegan pizza!  
7pm at the papercut zine library. 45 Mt. Auburn st., Cambridge

**December 1st, 10am-5pm:** Papercut yard sale followed  
by a pop-punk papercut benefit show. 45 Mnt Auburn, Cambridge

**11:30am:** Sacco and Vanzetti Commemoration Society  
Plaque Rededication ceremony. 256 Hanover Street, North End.

**1:30pm:** Jericho Boston Presents: The Shootout, w/ Per-  
formance artist, Jihad Abdul-Mumit: two-person performance and  
workshop. Great Hall, Codman Square, Dorchester

**December 2nd:** International Day of Solidarity with  
Political Prisoners Pannel. Encuentro 5. 2-6pm 33 Harrison Ave.,  
Chinatown. Panel organized by Jericho Boston. Seakers include:  
Ashanti Alston (ex Black Liberation Army Political Prisoner)  
Edwin Cortes (former FALN Prisoner of War)  
Jihad Abdul-Mumit (ex Black Liberation Army Political Prisoner)  
Pam Africa (MOVE! Organization, ICFMAJ)  
Ward Churchill (American Indian Movement, Author)

**December 9th:** ABC Prisoner Support Night. 5pm Pa-  
percut. potluck! Papercut zine library. 45 Mt. Auburn st., Cambridge

**December 15th, 22nd and 23rd:** BAAM Radical  
Caroling. Join us on a tirp to the busy shopping centers of Boston  
to sign anti-capitalist holiday songs. Location/time TBA. Check  
BAAMBoston.org, or come to our monthly meeting for updates

**January 12th-13th.** The second New England Sub-  
regional of the Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN). Portland,  
Maine. Meetings at 10:00 am at the Meg Perry Center at 644 Con-  
gress St. Contact Ani at stamand@riseup.net or (850) 502-7420.  
Check www.NEanarchist.net

**January 19th:** Industrial Workers of the World In-  
dustrial Union 460 benefit. Food, drinks and entertainment. Film:  
"Hallelujah, I'm a Bum" with Al Jolson (83 mins). Musical perfor-  
mances: Bill Bumpus, Jake and the Infernal Machine + more TBA.  
6-10pm. Encuentro 5, 33 Harrison, Chinatown. Date is tentative,  
email Bill at wbumpus62@comcast.net

**January 21st-23rd:** Unconventional Action Network  
Consulta. Meeting for the NEAN and allies to plan resistance to the  
Conventions. Binghamton, NY. Check NEanarchist.net for updates

**February 16th-17th.** Meeting between NEAN and the  
Midwest Action Network. Pittsburg, PA. Check NEanarchist.net  
**"Anarchism does not mean bloodshed; it does  
not mean robbery, arson, etc. These monstrosi-  
ties are, on the contrary, the characteristic fea-  
tures of capitalism. Anarchism means peace and  
tranquility to all."** --August Spies, Haymarket Martyr