



AMERICA IN UNREST
election coverage
special edition

Civil unrest increases across US: read more A6



Capitalism on the brink: read more A7

Capitalism Wins at the Polls

2.3 Million
Doing Time
GOP and Dems Agree:
It's Not News

By Jesse Trimmons

WASHINGTON, DC As voters went to the polls Tuesday, presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama agreed that recent statistics indicating that one of every 99 adults in the US is in prison are not important.

"Our country is a beacon of freedom around the world," declared Senator McCain, in reference to the fact that the US currently imprisons more human beings than any other government on the planet. He emphasized the importance of taking a firm stance internationally against repressive regimes such as Iran, Venezuela, North Korea, and Cuba, whose human rights violations do not include imprisoning nearly as many of their own citizens as the US.

Senator Obama's message of racial reconciliation resonated with voters willing to ignore the racism in US policing, trial, sentencing, and parole procedures. His appeals to hope and change went largely unnoticed, however, by disenfranchised felons, families broken by immigration raids, and others subjected to the harsh law and order provisions supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

In a touching display of bipartisanship, both candidates expressed appreciation for the \$100 million budgeted by the Department of Homeland Security to quash protests at the party conventions over the summer. "In spite of our differences, I believe that the two parties can work together on many things," affirmed House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi. "Keeping our political system secure through increased policing and an expanding prison population is one of them." Even in the midst of a hard-fought campaign, Senators McCain and Obama united in their support for federal wiretapping immunity legislation and the PATRIOT Act, which paved the way for unprecedented criminalization of political dissent including the definition of convention demonstrators as "terrorists."

Experts noted the economic advantages of mass imprisonment, as corporations reap significant profits from privatized prisons. "A consistently replenished captive labor force working for next to nothing was the initial source of this country's economic power," pointed out Harvard economist Milton Warden. "It's an American tradition that continues to this day." However, a high incarceration rate also entails risks: "The nation's prisoner population currently outnumbers the US military's active duty personnel by nearly one million. In a revolutionary situation, the potential for

SEE UNREST B9



Newsline

Tuesday

at voting booths throughout the country, cardboard "ballot boxes" were set up so that the children of voters could also register their views. To make this civics lesson in the importance of voting complete, the paper "votes" were promptly discarded at the end of the day.

Read more A2

Over the weekend

12 different executives from banks across the country were held up at gunpoint. Though police believe the incidents to be unrelated, all 12 of the assailants demanded exactly \$2300, an amount roughly equivalent to dividing \$700 billion by the number of people currently living in the US.

Read more A3

Another victim

of the financial crisis, Huntington Life Sciences, has declared bankruptcy. In addition to recent economic circumstances, company executives cited consistent sabotage as a major source of HLS' decline. For years, the animal testing company has had its business disrupted and investors scared off by militant protesters angered over its gruesome cruelty to animals.

Read more A4

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

by far the most famous victims of recent foreclosures and evictions, have unexpectedly moved out of their Hollywood mansion. "We just couldn't afford it anymore," Brangelina told reporters. Their 6500 square foot home is currently empty, though a group of squatters recently expressed interest in turning the house into a free daycare center.

Read more E1

Officials from National and American baseball leagues

will meet this week to discuss the possibility of postponing the World Series. Thirteen games have been cancelled in the last two weeks, as the teams have been unable to find enough gas to fill their buses. One player declared in frustration, "We can't play the game if we can't get to the stadium."

Read more D1

A new organization

calling itself Gays Against Military Service, which is composed primarily of members of the armed forces, has apparently claimed responsibility for a series of attacks against key military headquarters in Iraq and Afghanistan. When the underground group was asked as to the location of their next attack, they merely replied, "Don't ask, don't tell."

Read More B4



Anarchy Brewing in the Streets

By Sandra Marcuse
UAP

As results poured in from precincts around the country, capitalism claimed an uneasy victory in the 2008 presidential election, even as social unrest threatened to send the nation careening into anarchy.

2008 marks the 56th consecutive victory in the presidential elections for capitalism, which has successfully weathered crises ranging from the abolition of slavery to the Great Depression and the Summer of Love over the course of its 219-year administration. Experts attribute the resilience of this economic system to corporate ownership of media outlets, the restriction of political discourse to electoral politics, and timely crackdowns on opposition movements.

Still, leading political analysts had questioned the certainty of the outcome, given the climate of instability and desperation prompted by financial crises, catastrophic climate change, ongoing military occupations, and a growing gap between rich and poor. But American voters, lacking any meaningful alternative, once again gave their leaders a perfunctory go-ahead.

"I mean, hope and change, right?" asked

resigned voter Noah Joyce. "What else have we got?"

However, amongst the non-voting majority of the American population, discontent ran rampant as Election Day unfolded. Millions stayed home from the polls for reasons ranging from despair about their own conditions to cynicism about the similarities of both parties and the futility of making their voices heard. "What's the point?" asked discouraged

"IF WE ACTUALLY HAD REAL SELF-DETERMINATION IN OUR LIVES, I WONDER IF WE'D NEED POLITICIANS AT ALL."

abstainer Hook Ayers. "If my entire political participation consists of ticking one of two boxes to decide which rich guy gets to boss me around the next four years, I'm staying home to walk my dog."

But with the election over, voters and non-voters alike are casting about for other ways to wield political power. "If we actually had real self-determination in our lives," mused citizen Noam Knot-Ghana, "I wonder if we'd need politicians at all."

Some are exploring collective forms of organization and decision-making, sharing

power horizontally in contrast to the top-down model exemplified by the US government. Others, prompted by worsening economic conditions or disillusionment with the cutthroat ethic of the free market, are forming mutual aid networks to share resources outside of the capitalist economy. Many have indicated support in their communities for "direct action," bringing the world they want to see into being immediately through their own efforts rather than lobbying for change through the existing political channels.

Analysts believe these trends are linked to the resurgence of values promoting *anarchy*, a state of freedom and equality outside the domain of authoritarian power. "A world based on cooperation, without police, politicians, or corporations?" scoffed Police Chief Ray Cyst, as he frisked students entering Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary. "That would just be chaos! And I'd be out of a job."

"The real problem is, when it comes to these goddamn anarchists, it doesn't matter who wins the election," Cyst continued. "They just keep going about their business, making more trouble for us."

At the upcoming presidential inauguration, See RIOT J20

Economic Woes Rock US, Banks Profit ■ see full story A2

CONTENTS

- Nation.....A
- World.....B
- Business.....C
- Sports.....D
- Entertainment.....E
- Police Log.....A2
- Movies.....E11
- Crossword.....E10

Media Consolidation Complete

New Conglomerate Will be "Fair and Balanced," Analysts Predict

By Alex Harris

Yesterday representatives of the remaining corporate media outlets announced their merger into a single entity, ABNBCNNBSFox. The merger completes a long process of concentrating control of America's TV and print news into fewer and fewer hands.

Media spokespeople dismissed concerns about censorship, corporate influence over journalism, and lack of diverse perspectives. "A centralized mass media plays an important role in a free, democratic society," stated

ABNBCNNBSFox chairman Rupert Murdoch. "You'd be surprised how much both parties agree on. It's our job to get the public to agree as well."

"This is an important step towards fighting the widespread perception of a 'liberal' media bias," Murdoch emphasized. "With this final merger, we're ensuring that your media outlet is every bit as conservative as it is liberal, and vice versa."

Republicans and Democrats greeted the announcement enthusiastically. "We never could have invaded Iraq on faulty intelligence without the corporate media's unquestioning support," said Senator McCain. "If the public knew who really funded my campaign, they'd never have bought my 'hope and change' line," agreed Senator Obama. "We really can't thank the media enough for their unwavering focus on

the two-party electoral system."

Most Americans responded to news of the merger with indifference. "Uh, I think it's fine," stated John Q. Public, a conveniently selected random citizen, as he updated his MySpace profile. "I mean, they're pretty, what's it called, fair and balanced or whatever."

Analysts agree that independent media sources largely disappeared from US society years ago. "But--!" yelled Indymedia activist Terry Wrist, as Department of Homeland Security agents confiscated her computer and dragged her away.

Some regard the consolidation of corporate media in a less positive light, however. Reports are circulating that late last night, in cities across the nation, disaffected citizens donned black sweatshirts and

SEE MONOPOLY A3

Bailout? Stick-Up



This Isn't a Bailout, This is a Stick-Up

By Carter Lewis, UA editorial staff

Financial Crisis

On Friday, October 3, Congress approved a plan for the government to buy \$700 billion in banks' least desirable mortgage assets. Before it was even officially approved by Congress, this use of taxpayer money to save Wall St. banks and investment firms immediately drew anger and resentment from across the country, in what one CNN reporter referred to as "a new era in class fury."

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, as it was called, was a response to a crisis in major financial institutions brought about in large part by the deregulation of the banking industry and "sub-prime mortgages." In a process essentially driven by greed, less and less qualified buyers were found and given sub-prime mortgages to buy houses at inflated prices. When homeowners were unable to keep up with payments, banks would raise their interest rates, eventually forcing many to default on their mortgages entirely. In addition to putting thousands of families out of their homes, these bad mortgages had a rippling effect throughout the banking industry, and eventually the entire financial system.

Normally shielded from the social consequences of its actions, Wall St. was being gutted by its own internal logic, forced to feel the effects of its own greed. Economists were stunned, corporate news anchors were on the verge of tears, and political candidates from both parties

but really this was capitalism on display in its most pure form: when families are being evicted and workers losing their jobs, politicians are nowhere in sight; but when the financial institutions of the wealthy are in trouble, Washington is the knight in shining armor.

Corporate media coverage of this "crisis" has displayed politicians, economic experts and wealthy CEO's desperately trying to solve this problem so as to save ordinary Americans from a drastic recession. It is true that a financial collapse would have drastic consequences for all of American society, not just banks and investment firms, but this misses the point. The "financial crisis" for ordinary Americans did not begin with the buyout of the American International Group, and it will not end with the Bush bailout plan. For some this crisis has been a permanent feature of United States history, and is not a "crisis in finances" but the normal conditions of desperate poverty. For others it began with the steady decline in living conditions since the 1970's, as more people had to work more hours just to stay afloat. Some began to feel crises of their own after NAFTA was passed and jobs started leaving the country in greater and greater numbers. For no ordinary American, however, did the "financial crisis" suddenly begin in late September of 2008. In this economy, many if not most Americans are consistently stuck

save her own kidnapers when their insane plans go awry. One thing is for sure: to sick kids and part-timers, to the unemployed, the evicted, and the people who lose their savings, Washington will send no billion-dollar bailout. Even were the politicians willing to help Main St. with the same enthusiasm with which they hope to save Wall St., the bailout plan leaves no money left to do it with. The silent crises of tens of millions in poverty, insecurity, and frustration will attract little more than failed promises from the next president, no matter how many times he uses the words "hope" and "change."

An Opportunity in Disguise

As the recession deepens, people will continue to employ the same survival strategies they've always used: neighbors will band together and share what they can, groceries will be bought with the occasional bad check, the restaurant worker will take all that he can from the kitchen, the cashier will skim a little off the top. But in times like these, sometimes mere survival becomes a social act of necessity. Working people start coordinating their individual actions more effectively, or families reoccupy the foreclosed homes from which they've been evicted, or perhaps neighbors begin meeting to plan how to use that abandoned plot on the corner.

After Argentina's economic collapse in 2001, for example, neighbors formed assemblies for just such a purpose. Simultaneously, citizens developed a bartering and mutual aid network of over 6 million people, unemployed workers reoccupied empty factories, and others blockaded highways to pressure the government for social services. To the chant of "Out with them all!", five presidents were ousted in one week. As the fabric of capitalism was torn apart, a new world was growing in its place. That movement continues to this day.

These kinds of things will never be covered by the corporate press as part of the financial crisis. The media may carry personal interest stories about surviving in these "hard times," but what about when survival is no longer enough? Those robbed of a future have always robbed back, but when the future of an entire society comes into question, more must be done. In this sense the financial crisis and accompanying recession present not just tragedy but also opportunity. It is the opportunity to reevaluate the society we live in, to take back the world from the leaders who got us into this mess, and to enact new visions of a future without Wall Street.

scrambled to appear in control of a situation they didn't understand. While their parties maintained an appearance of debate around minor provisions, presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama were in total agreement about using \$700 billion in taxpayer money to save the financial system to which they owe their power.

"THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE, FORCED AGAINST HER WILL TO SAVE HER OWN KIDNAPPERS WHEN THEIR INSANE PLANS GO AWRY."

A Rotten Deal

The Stabilization Act was passed in an attempt to save capitalism from itself, to somehow leap over the bust period intrinsic to this economic system. Some economists complained that this government bailout was a violation of free market principles,

between a rock and a hard place *whether or not* the financial system collapses.

In reality, the reason that economists, bankers, and politicians of all stripes were so desperate to spend \$700 billion in taxpayer money on bad mortgages was to save their own system. For the wealthy, the Stabilization Act was an act of self-preservation. Aside from empty posturing, it is clear that the Republicans and Democrats have no fundamental differences of opinion when it comes to saving Wall St. at the expense of education, health care, and other social programs, many of which now may never see a cent of that \$700 billion.

The American taxpayer is being held hostage, forced against her will to

Police Blotter National Highlights

Philadelphia, PA – Developer's house set ablaze in broad daylight. While he was at a high profile city planning meeting, urban revitalization proponent Carter Cumbie's downtown residence was torched by an angry crowd shouting, "Revitalize this!" and "Stop burning down our homes!" They left only a banner reading, "Stop the eviction! Stop the gentrification!"

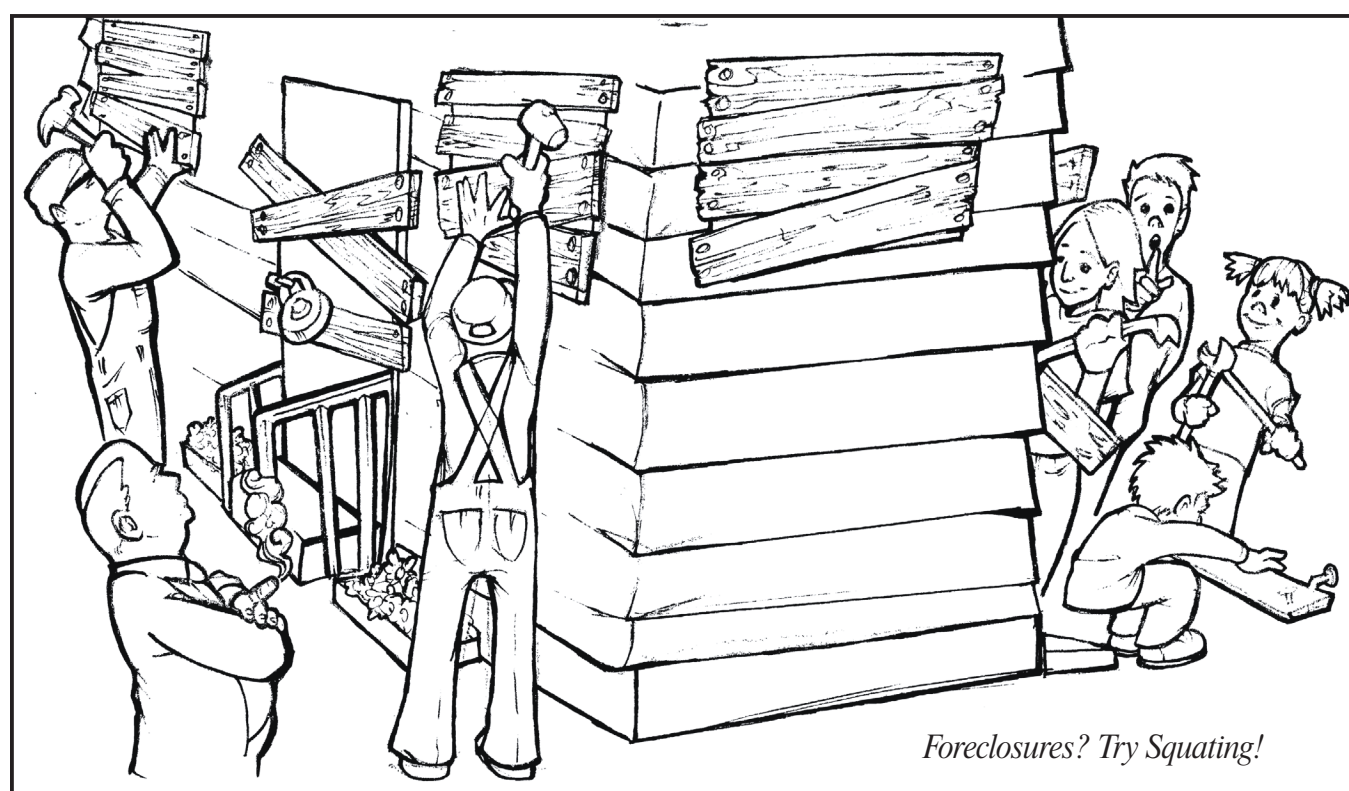
Chicago, IL – One man hospitalized, found with his pants around his ankles. Witnesses say he started cat-calling two women and trying to touch them on the street, but by the time he had dropped his pants, they had dropped him. One of the women said about the incident, "Look at what I was wearing; clearly he deserved it." No charges are being pressed because everyone involved thinks he learned his lesson.

Missoula, MT – The transgender health clinic was vandalized yesterday by No One. No One threw a rock through the rainbow colored, stained-glass front window. No One held hateful signs and stood chanting on the front steps of the clinic with their children. No One terrorized people, preventing their entry and access to crucial health care.

Washington, DC – Following a robbery, witness accounts concur that the suspect was definitely a middle-aged white man wearing a tie. Some of them didn't even see the incident, but you know how this area is. Every suspect who fits the description is now being stopped, particularly those standing on street corners or driving unnecessarily fancy cars.

Houston, TX – Criminal ring uncovered: a network of mutual aid three counties wide. Suspects were found to be trading practical services like carpentry and family medicine for goods like food and friendship. No suspects are yet in custody because no leaders have been found.

Monroe, NC – The Monroe Neighborhood Association for Community Self-defense arrested 200 self-proclaimed "police" last night. They were found parading around town in groups of two to six, harassing people randomly and terrorizing them with big sticks. When they were corralled in the evening, journalists asked them, "Who do you work for? Who do you serve?" One arrestee with slicked back hair replied, "We are police! We work for the Justice...Department."



It's up to us to take matters into our own hands. The ones who created the crises are not going to solve them for us. No newspaper can tell you what you should do; you have to figure that out for yourself, with your friends and neighbors. But here are some resources to learn about what others are doing:

Critical Resistance is a national prison abolitionist organization with chapters throughout the country. Their website www.criticalresistance.org has contact information for local chapters as well resources on the prison industrial complex.

General information on anarchist ideas as well as anarchist news and opinion can be found at www.infoshop.org

An excellent chart mapping the conglomeration of corporate media is available at www.mediachannel.org/ownership

Infoshops are radical bookstores and social spaces that serve as places for people to find each other, share ideas, hold meetings, and engage with the community at large. To find an infoshop near you, go to www.infoshop.org/page/infoshops

For news and information on upcoming inauguration protests and actions, as well as contact information for anti-electoral organizing in your area, you can go to www.anarchistresistance.org

For a variety of free anarchist outreach materials, visit www.crimethinc.com

For more information on social movements in Argentina and their response to financial crisis, read the excellent article "Horizontalidad in Argentina," by Marina Sitrin, available at www.info.interactivist.net

A wide selection of articles presenting an accessible critique of capitalism and wage slavery can be found at www.prole.info

To view an excellent documentary on direct action and protests during the Democratic and Republican National Conventions, visit www.submedia.tv For information on police repression during those protests as well as ways to support those facing felonies, go to www.rmc8.org

