

A CHALLENGE

In response to the comments of Don MacQueen, made on 3/24. He asks if the writers of previous commentary "understood that they were attacking the basic economic system of our country?" Then asks us to give serious thought to the idea of abandoning capitalism, maintaining that a change could bring dire consequences such as "the drastic curtailing of present economic motivations" and "the instituting of severe population curbs."

I challenge Don MacQueen to watch the Oscar-winning documentary, *An Inside Job*, and then ask yourself whether unregulated capitalism is still the best economic system of choice. As the film shows us, once again, this new generation of "robber barons" have demonstrated that unregulated "laize faire" capitalism gives license to unbridled greed. Greed on such a scale that our financial institutions have made our brand of capitalism responsible for a global economic crash so devastating that millions of people world wide have lost their hold on any chance of escaping poverty. So much for supporting the "present economic motivations."

Here in this country, the middle class complain about high taxes while billions of the government bailout money was paid out in bonuses these rich cats who systematically defrauded investors and borrowers alike. The rest of us, including our children's generation, have been left holding the bag while they sail away with their booty like the pirates they are. The only problem is, they haven't sailed

away. They are still here, running our government, corrupting everything any of us hold dear about our democracy, trying to convince us all with the latest market numbers, to be greedy (or just desperate) enough to get back into their rigged game.

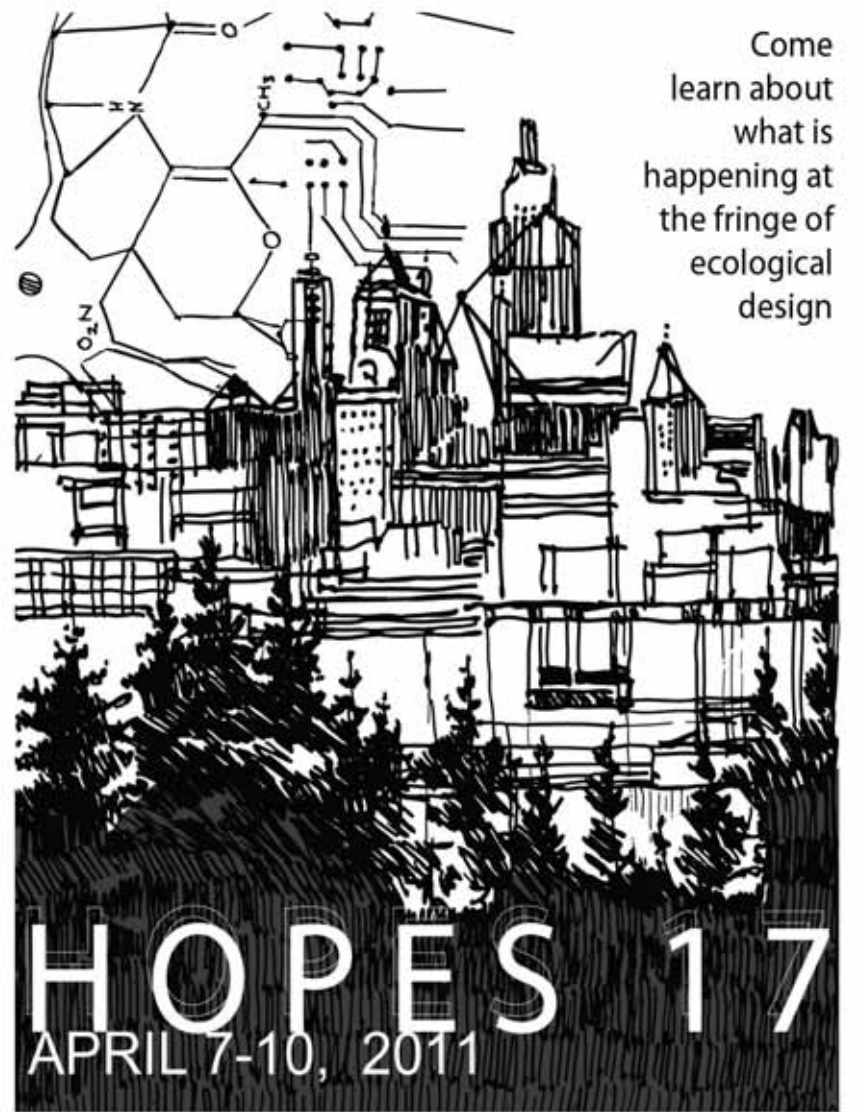
Perhaps you would dismiss Shannon Wilson's comments (same issue) as a Utopian dream, but he is right, other countries around the world have been experimenting with hybrid forms of socialist/capitalist economies with growing success; a difficult thing to do when the global economy keeps trying to suck you in to the "Help the filthy rich get richer" game. Meanwhile, the ever-growing chasm between rich and poor worldwide is sparking revolutions all over the Arab world, leading to the kind of instability that has us engaging our military to oust a brutal dictator that would rather slaughter the people of Libya than give them a chance to make better lives for themselves.

You maintain that "economic systems tend to come in packages," but do they have to? Personally, I think we human beings can learn to think outside the package.

M. Gabrielle Legault
Eugene

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