



# Tides of Flame

a Seattle anarchist paper

joy ~ freedom ~ rebellion

*Tides of Flame* is a biweekly periodical which is part of an ongoing project of anarchist analysis and practice within the Puget Sound area. As anarchists, we do not have an interest in waiting for the necessary moments to act upon our ideas. We refuse to simply dream of some far-off utopia. At any moment, an individual is capable of agitating within existing struggles and attacking capitalism and the state for their immediate destruction. We strive to live fulfilling lives of joy and freedom, and for this, we are criminals.

Long live anarchy!

issue #1 | early july 2011

~  
*Who will revive the violent  
whirlpools of flame if not us  
and those that we  
consider brothers?*

*Come! New friends:  
this will please you.*

*We will never work,  
oh tides of flame!*

*This world will explode.*

~  
-A. Rimbaud



## Capital Hell

**B**elow the useless phallus of the Space Needle one can find a statue of Chief Seattle. Surrounding him are several saloons, filled with laughing white men, sipping on the trickster's brew. Up on the hill, buried below the concrete of Broadway, lies a forgotten battleground. The colonizers' warboats once shelled the natives staked out in the woods overlooking the bay, blasting away the earth and driving the people into slavery. Now, on that same battlefield, we have seen a giant hole open into the hill, weighing down on the forgotten realm below the bricks—a wild land free from concrete, slavery, and control.

This time, the architects of the city truly have dug their own hole, once again awakening a force that has existed here forever. This power lies within each of us, connecting us like chains of DNA. We choke on it every time we swallow our pride in the face of our boss, a policeman, an abusive lover, or asshole teacher. This force exists only in defeat—defeat is the kindling to its flame. The fire has been fed for too long and is ready to explode. The stories, news, and analysis that will be contained in *Tides of Flame* will narrate the process of this force assaulting the fabric of Seattle's capitalist democracy.

This fine city is a contradiction, an impossibility, and a badly managed disaster. A city cannot live without theft. Our bosses steal our time from us and with the little money they give us we buy resources stolen from across the entire planet. Our lives in the city are dependent on the grocers selling us food, on the truckers transporting the food, and the immigrant farmers harvesting that food. Only those with wealth can always shop at a farmers market. Unfortunately, there are not (CONT'D ON PAGE 8..)



Rowdy queers smashed out the windows of two police vehicles during the third annual "Queers Fucking Queers" street dance party in Seattle's Capitol Hill on Saturday, June 25th.

## Uncontrollable Queers in Broadway Smash

SEATTLE – For the third consecutive year, uncontrollable elements within the queer and anarchist circles organized an unpermitted dance party during Pride weekend. The party served as an alternative for people who wanted something other than paying to express their individual desires at beer gardens, clubs, and shows.

Like the previous year, these uncontrollable elements proceeded to attack the symbols and tools of capitalism. A Ferrari dealership had one of its large windows smashed out, forcing the removal of the expensive cars from the show room.

Further on, the dancing crowd surrounded several police cruisers. A metal street barrier was thrown through the windshield of a police cruiser. Another cruiser had its windows smashed out with a hammer. During this incident, various people fought off the cops with sticks, displaying a clear disregard and anger towards the SPD.

As the dancing crowd traveled along Broadway, someone smashed out a Bank of America ATM while others threw smoke bombs at police cruisers. When the crowd arrived at the American Apparel on Broadway, several people began to frantically break out the windows of the store.

The fervency of this attack demonstrated a deep anger towards American Apparel. The company has increased its profits and also drawn criticism for endorsing the legalization and normalization of queers by marketing "legalize gay" t-shirts. Clearly, the attackers had no intention of being either legal or normal that night.

Shortly after the attack, the police charged into the crowd and jumped a person attempting to (CONT'D ON PAGE 7)

## Canucks Rioters Happy, Not Angry

VANCOUVER, BC – Thousands of people broke from their roles as passive spectators of the Stanley Cup hockey championship on June 15th to finally become direct participants in the timeless sport of destruction.

Months had passed during which they stared entranced by a spectacle of excitement transmitted through television screens and sports arenas, finding in the glow some hint of the kind of fierce play and knife-edged danger so lacking in their own daily lives of work, leisure, and relationships. But when the season finally reached its culmination, when the spectacle came to an end and the screens shut off, they awoke inside the caverns and avenues of the metropolis in which they daily pass the time in boredom. This metropolis would become their playground and the object of their vengeance for all that it had stolen from them for so long.

It mattered little whether their team had won or lost. (CONT'D ON PG 8)

## Barefoot Bandit will go unpaid for 'Grand Theft Auto: Reality Edition'

SEATTLE – Colton Harris Moore (a.k.a. the Barefoot Bandit) has plead guilty to seven federal felony charges in a plea agreement that recommends he serve between 5 ¼ and 6 ½ years in prison.

Part of the plea means that the federal government now owns Colton's story. He has become a folk hero for his numerous burglaries, airplane thefts, and his ability to evade the police. There are already movie and book deals on the table. The prosecutor Jenny Durkan has said, "While we cannot stop him from telling his story, we can make sure he never sees a dime for his crime."

But the film industry, numerous publishing houses and assorted media hacks are poised to get rich off of his life story. "All representations of this folk hero's life of crime belong to us," say the system and its lackies. Sadly, Colton still faces 30 state felony charges in four counties.

*-Free the Barefoot Bandit-*

# Recent Actions in Seattle

com•mu•ni•qué  
noun

an official announcement or statement, esp. one made to the media. | from French, past participle of *communiquer* 'communicate.'

\*all communiqués anonymously published online and reprinted here



## SUV attacked in solidarity with eco-anarchist prisoners

6/11/2011

Last night in honor of June 11, a luxury SUV parked in a rich area of Seattle had the majority of its windows ruined and the words "Yuppie Scum" spraypainted on the exterior. This was done in the tradition of struggle in the Northwest against all those who wish to destroy the earth. In solidarity with Sadie, Exile, Marie Mason, Eric McDavid, Grant Barnes, and all other eco prisoners including those who live semi-free in clandestinity. Dedicated to the memory of Avalon!

## City council forum disrupted

6/10/2011

After discovering that our favorite paper The Stranger was giving power-hungry ding-dongs another free opportunity to interface with the public they want to manage, we decided to pay the event a little visit.

At The Havanna Club in Capitol Hill we found ourselves assaulted by democracy-fanatics, imploring us to register to vote (so that we can vote in the city council). The earnestness and sincerity with which these democratic-insurgents tried to push their religion was utterly astounding and it took some time, once getting past them and entering the bar, to fully make out what was happening.

The hippest of democracy-lovers were drinking and occasionally fielding some questions to the candidates

for the Seattle City Council. The candidates were hamming it up as usual, putting on their most disgusting grins and feigning the deepest concern. We know full well, after they are elected, these bozos will further criminalize the homeless, redesign and gentrify what is left of the nasty Seattle streets we love, and make the city a green, social-democratic paradise, all the while making over 100,000 dollars a year. We have no interest in government, and so, as anarchists, we proceeded to disrupt the event.

Our intelligence team found out the speechifying was about to start and so we rushed into our positions. In no time at all, the putrescent smell of sulfur filled the air, as did a nice cloud of smoke from a smoke bomb. The speech stopped, dozens of people left the bar covering their noses, and we disappeared as quietly as we had entered. On the way out, fliers were left explaining why we hate politicians.

This modest effort was aimed against capitalist democracy and all of the drones who mindlessly perpetuate it. We do not want a nicer city for rich people. We want to tear down the flimsy curtain hiding the people who turn a place of vibrancy and life into a sterile wasteland of consumerism and boredom. Our dream is for the city to return to a wild state, for the population to decrease, and for the city hall, Seattle Police, and every petty ruler to disappear. We don't care about progressive politics. We want NO POLITICS!!!

**DOWN WITH DEMOCRACY!!!  
UP WITH ANARCHY!!!**

*-Anti-Political Youth Gone Wild*

## Disruption outside Goldman Sachs

05/16/2011

Revolt burns in us on this day, Monday May 16th, because to live is to rebel. Thus, in the spirit of solidarity with those in struggle in Greece, we blocked a busy intersection in the business district of Seattle during rush hour with a banner that read: "Revolt burns in us. The time is now. From the first sparks, we are with you."

This intersection is outside an office of Goldman Sachs, architects of the financial crisis that set the stage for the IMF takeover of Greece.

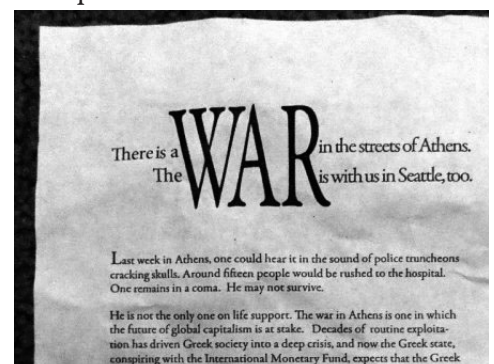
Hundreds of leaflets were afloat as the citizens gaped, open mouthed, but our actions are not for them.

This brief halt in the normal movement of the city traffic was a small gesture committed out of our hatred for this world.

The time is now.

From the first sparks of rebellion we conspire because the only reason to live is for a dream of what is not.

We are with you. Not out of pity or duty but because solidarity is our weapon.



One of the fliers thrown outside of Goldman Sachs during the disruption

(CONTINUED ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

COMMUNIQUE (continued)

## Chase Bank Attacked 05/02/2011

In the early hours of the morning on May 2nd, with the fire of past Maydays still rushing through our veins, we attacked an institution that perpetuates the isolation and alienation we feel in our daily lives. This was a small act in solidarity with the Asheville 11, the Haymarket anarchists, and all comrades in prison or facing repression around the globe. For all those who have not been tamed by the horrors of society. To greet fear with a warm embrace. May our memories become tinder for the fire that is to come.

*A few anarchists*

## Capitol Hill Bank Attacked at Dusk in Solidarity with Prisoners 04/29/2011

Today at around 9PM we attacked the Chase Bank on Broadway in Capitol Hill. About a dozen windows were broken. It's important to note that this was done at time when Broadway is very busy with pedestrian and car traffic. One group of onlookers was heard saying "It's not a big deal, they're not hurting anyone" as people stood by watching, no one was seen calling the police and no one was chased. Fliers were thrown in front of the bank stating solidarity with the Chilean anarchists on their 60th day of hunger strike\* as well as the non-cooperating Green Scare defendants serving time in prisons across the US. A short analysis of why one might attack a bank was included as well. No one was arrested.

This action was taken because banks are a clear symbol of the misery and slavery that we experience under capitalism. We chose to use solidarity as a weapon in our struggle against power because our passion for freedom knows no borders or prison walls.

**Solidarity with the Chilean anarchists  
on hunger strike!**

**Strength and freedom to the non-cooperating  
Green Scare prisoners!  
Prisoners to the streets!**

for the proliferation of the attack,  
*-some anarchists*



Boarded-up windows at Chase Bank after the attack

## Cops Forget Gun Busy Drinking Starbucks



Stopping for a routine coffee break at a downtown Starbucks, an unidentified officer left an AR-15 rifle resting on the trunk of their cruiser. The AR-15 is a powerful rifle used by the SPD which has a magazine that carries either 20 or 30 bullets. The SPD can often be found at several downtown Starbucks at various hours of the day. It is unknown why Starbucks creates such a fascination and fixation in the minds of police officers, but what is clear is that some magnetism of the Starbucks corporation never fails to draw in the men and women in uniform.

## Capitalists Swoop In to Save Horse Cops

The slow collapse of the world economy has taken its toll on the SPD. Due to budget shortages, the horse mounted police units were set to be cut. The public was urgently asked to donate money to police officers who are trained to have their horses trample people in the street.

Since very few people would donate money to maintain this violent tradition of the SPD, Expeditors International stepped in and donated enough money for the mounted patrol to exist for another three years.

Expeditors International is a company that handles the logistics of moving commodities, food, and resources across the planet. With their headquarters in Seattle, the company hopes to keep the streets below their skyscrapers free from the victims of the economic collapse. Whenever there is resistance to the banks and corporations located downtown, the mounted patrol will be there to restore order.

# The Knox-Weiner Connection

**A**manda Knox is on the front pages again. Casey Anthony and Anthony Weiner have also received a lot of media attention recently. Meanwhile, Greece is exploding in rebellion against a new round of Troika imposed austerity measures\* set to accompany a new bailout of the country's collapsing economy. The New York Times assured us on June 30th that the market was improving as a result of the Troika plan's approval by a majority of Greece's parliament, despite widespread popular disapproval. The message is clear and quite familiar: Keep calm and carry on.

As with the long-smoldering conflicts in Northern Africa and the Middle East, Greece's ongoing social war has been largely ignored by the American mainstream media. It is only when events come to a head in spectacular violence and begin to effect the world economy that we suddenly hear about what's going on in other countries. The sights and sounds of everyday struggle in Greece and elsewhere are ignored until intense times like these for one reason: they hit a bit too close to home. Greece presents a glimpse of the U.S.'s potential future as budget cuts continue to hack away at the institutions and social services which serve to keep a huge population of poor people fed, clothed, and, most importantly, compliant.

So far, resistance to U.S. austerity has been spotty and largely reformist in nature. The most famous example were the protests (including the occupation of the capitol building) in support of public worker strikes in Madison, WI. Elsewhere in the U.S., unions and activists have organized countless demonstrations and conferences, calling on politicians like Anthony Wiener to "tax the rich" and to put a stop to government worker furloughs and cuts to public education, healthcare, housing, and other welfare programs.

The past few years have also seen numerous student activist and anarchist occupations of university buildings, some with "No Future" rhetoric that reflects the dead-end most young people face whether or not they receive a college diploma. Many of these occupations went without making any demands whatsoever of those in power. The participants knew that democracy is a farce and that university administrators care more about making money than anything else. Other students made demands, most of which went unanswered.

All of this has had little effect on state budgets, which continue to shrink.

As a result, tactics are changing. Anarchists and other anti-capitalists in the Bay Area recognize what may come in the events unfolding in Greece and elsewhere† and are organizing themselves accordingly. The recent Bay of Rage‡ anti-cut actions against austerity, gentrification, prisons, police, library closures, and banks are taking the first shots in the new assault against capitalism and its crisis. They are testing a strategy that shows the links between institutions that are usually confronted separately by issue-specific activist campaigns.

While talking heads and magazines obsess over the youth and beauty of alleged murderesses, angry Greeks attack the riot police guarding the national parliament building in Athens. While blogs re-blog Anthony Weiner's "lewd" Twitter-pics, thousands of Greeks build barricades to protect the occupation of Syntagma ("Constitution") Square.

As always, the media works to distract and pacify its faithful followers. It remains to be seen whether people will wake the fuck up and stop scrambling after the crumbs falling from the master's table. 🐣

\*"Troika" is the colloquial term for the International Monetary Fund, European Commission, and the European Central Bank. Based on the new agreement, the Greek state is now required to sell off a number of its public assets and liberalize many professions and industries. The resistance has thus far waffled somewhere between revolutionary and reformist. Much of the rhetoric focuses on taking power from the politicians and giving it to directly democratic popular assemblies. Like in Tunisia, Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, and Syria, the uprising has been leaderless and largely horizontal, with groups and individuals with differing ideas moving with and against each other on a completely new political terrain. Unlike these other countries, however, significant anarchist participation in the Greek struggle has and will continue to complicate the recuperation efforts of political parties and reformists.

†The United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Ireland...

‡Check out bayofrage.com for more information. July 8th is Anticut 3: Austerity is a Prison.

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## Yuppies Throw Tantrum, Autonomia Resilient

Recently, a group of wealthy homeowners and other conservative elements launched a campaign against the Autonomia Social Center, hoping to drive it out of the neighborhood. The yuppies have blamed every disturbance in the neighborhood on the social center, collaborated with the police, and spread false information.

Autonomia's open hours and events mean that more people hang out on the street corner outside. In a properly gentrified neighborhood, there would be no free street life that does not involve the exchange of money. By breaking the rules of capitalist society and charging nothing, Autonomia has brought on the wrath of the wealthy, whose large green houses are testaments to the profits that have extracted from capitalist society.

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# FORGOTTEN HISTORY

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## *The George Jackson Brigade, City Light, and the Capitol Hill Safeway*

**T**HE GEORGE JACKSON BRIGADE (GJB) was an urban guerrilla group that operated in Seattle from 1975 to 1978. The group was named after George Jackson, an imprisoned Black Panther who had been killed at San Quentin Prison, California, in 1971. The Brigade was composed of unemployed ex-convicts, ex-students, and working class communists and anarchists. Over half of the members were women and half of the women in the group were lesbians. The group had no leader and all decisions were made together.

The group's first actions in the spring 1975 centered around a labor struggle in Seattle. A local contractor had refused to hire black people, triggering a popular campaign against the contractor. There were many pickets and blockades of the contractor's work-sites during which many people were arrested. The media also extensively covered this popular struggle.

Finding it opportune to intervene in the struggle, the Brigade placed a bomb at the contractor's headquarters in the middle of the night, harming no one while completely destroying the building. They also circulated a leaflet in the crowds of demonstrators that criticized the struggle for making it center around race rather than general unemployment. Later, the Brigade sabotaged construction equipment, burned a truck, and damaged a CAT that belonged to the same racist contractor. Due to the bombing, the contractor refused to testify against the protestors who had been arrested during the pickets. The Brigade did not claim these actions, not wanting to detract from the struggle or have their actions be labeled terrorism.

In June, Brigade members bombed the Department of Corrections building in Olympia, expressing their solidarity with all of the prisoners in Walla Walla State Prison. This was the first time that the Brigade claimed an action by issuing a communique to the media and the public. In August, they then bombed the FBI office in Tacoma and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in Everett on the same day. This was done in retaliation for the suppression of the American Indian Movement by the FBI and BIA. These bombings went unclaimed.

By the end of the summer, after three successful actions, Brigade members were joyous and hopeful. All of their actions had been carefully planned and executed, harming no one and resonating with the public. With the Brigade, Seattle had joined the armed international struggle against capitalism. It seemed as if the summer of 1975 was to mark the beginning of a new offensive.

But life is chaotic, filled with traps, and always eager to test the bold. One evening in September, a young man not affiliated with the Brigade attempted to arm a bomb at the

Capitol Hill Safeway. At the time, Safeway was far more corrupt and exploitative of immigrant farm workers than it is today and had become a target for protests, pickets, and arson across the US. That night, the young man blew himself up while arming the bomb. Hearing the news of his death, the Brigade immediately planned their revenge. Unlike their previous actions, their plans were rushed. A timed bomb was placed in a bag of dog food at the Capitol Hill Safeway, and members quickly telephoned in to the police and told them to evacuate the store. Hoping to make the GJB out to be monsters, the police did not call Safeway and have them evacuate the store. The bomb went off, causing minor injuries to several customers.

This disaster plagued the hearts of the Brigade members. The rest of the fall and winter of 1975 was spent locked in self-criticism. What was meant to reflect the general distrust and anger felt by the neighborhood towards the Safeway had instead harmed poor people from the same neighborhood. Their hasty planning was one factor that caused these injuries. It would not be until New Year's Day of 1976 that the Brigade would act again.

In attempting the practice self-criticism with their actions, they bombed the Safeway regional headquarters in Bellevue, harming no one. On the same night, the Brigade bombed a City Light substation that supplied power to the wealthy Laurelhurst neighborhood, completely destroying it. At the time, City Light workers were on strike against the company, and they staged a picket around the ruins, fighting off the scab workers who City Light had paid to repair it. After the failure of the Capitol Hill bombing, the Brigade found its actions supported and appreciated by working class people. The group had struck two exploiters in one night and the reasons why could not be any clearer.

Unfortunately, one of the Brigade members was to be murdered by the police three weeks later during a bank robbery in Tukwila. Two others members of the group were captured during the robbery, while the rest of the Brigade had to shoot their way out of the ambush. In March, while one of the prisoners was being taken to a doctor's appointment, the group attacked his police guards and freed him. In the process, a guard was shot and wounded. After the prisoner liberation, the group retreated into rural Oregon to regroup after their defeat. It would not be until 1977 that the group would rise again. But that is a different story.

Some of you may know this history. If you don't, next time that you spend too much money for shitty food at a Seattle Safeway or pay your bill to City Light, remember that it was not so long ago that people like yourselves decided to begin destroying the institutions and companies that degraded and sold away their lives. 🐾

## Queer Smash

(continued)

block the road with a traffic barrier. The police smashed the person's head into the ground before booking them into jail. During the arrest, the crowd started to chant phrases from the anti-police demonstrations in February, referring to the SPD as "pigs" and "murderers".

A police cruiser responding to the disturbance swerved to avoid a taxi and crashed into a light pole, severely injuring the officer. The crowd continued onward but soon dispersed, having lost most of the participants during

the police assault. Most of the bars in the area shut their doors for the rest of the night, the most lucrative hours of the weekend.

The arrested person was charged with pedestrian interference and bailed out the next day. Most of the mainstream media portrayed the incident as the hijacking of a legitimate event by anarchists. The reality of the night was much different. Queer anarchists organized the event, made a general invitation, and created a space where people could do whatever they wanted. Evidently, many of them made the most of it.



## On the False Opposition of Terrorism and Democracy

On June 23rd, Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif and Walli Mujahidh were arrested and charged with planning a terrorist attack on a Military Entrance Processing Station in Seattle. According to police, the two intended to attack the station with machine guns and grenades in order to strike the U.S. military where "they feel the safest." The Joint Terrorism Task Force began surveilling the men after an acquaintance informed police of the plot. Mainstream media have described Abdul-Latif and Mujahidh as "homegrown radicals embracing a militant Islamic doctrine."

This must remind residents of the Pacific Northwest of recent events in Oregon, where in November an FBI sting operation arrested Mohamed Osman Mohamud. Mohamud has been charged with attempting to detonate a bomb at a crowded, Christmas-related public event in Portland. As the facts surfaced throughout the mainstream media, it became clear that the plot was in fact authored by the FBI, who worked hard to convince Mohamud to attempt to carry it out.

The FBI has recently cited Mohamud's arrest while boasting that their terrorism investigations are "on the upswing." Law enforcement is eager to find those disillusioned with

the dominant political system, encourage their developing ideologies, and arm them—creating their enemy and defeating him in the same stroke.

The FBI has also spent great effort trying to create terrorist threats out of anarchists. Eric McDavid was sentenced to over 19 years in prison for "Conspiracy to damage and destroy property by fire and explosive"—a plan that was never his, but the work of an FBI infiltrator and informant going by the name of "Anna." People have been able to only speculate as to the ultimate intentions of John Towery, the Army-employed informant who infiltrated Puget Sound anarchist circles until he was outed in 2009. Towery was connected to a Seattle law enforcement "fusion center." The same fusion center also helped coordinate the arrest of Abdul-Latif and Mujahidh.

Literal entrapment aside, there are of course those who develop their own commitment to terrorism without the explicit involvement of government forces. Abdul-Latif and Mujahidh may have charted their course of their own accord. Still, there is a more insidious entrapment at work. Examining it closely, one finds that the supposedly conflicting ideologies of this trap—terrorism

and democratic government—actually work together, like the teeth that close around an animal's leg. It's no wonder that people have become disaffected by the dominant political system. No amount of conscientious participation in the democracy—from voting, to careful shopping, to large scale protests—has demonstrated any ability to stop the global war on terror, economic collapse, ecological devastation, etc. It follows that some individuals tormented by the reality of their situation would escalate, attracted to the seemingly tangible results of terrorist violence.

But here they find themselves entrapped firstly by the discourse determined by democracy. That is, in contrast to the violence of democracy, terrorism appears as a bloody but necessary resistance; in contrast to the violence of terrorism, democratic government presents itself as a bloody but necessary security. They recreate and reinforce one another in their spectacular competition.

The challenge ahead is to fight outside the determined rationality of democracy as well its shadow components; to create upheaval that spreads like fire, burning not only the physical apparatuses of the state but also its discourse and strategies. 🐉

# Hell (continued)

enough small farms in the area to support the 600,000 people living in Seattle, nor could there ever be.

Global capitalism allows coffee from South America to magically appear in the chrome espresso machines of trendy cafes. Global capitalism brings more resources than would naturally be available into a concentrated area like this city. Without the thievery of capitalism, Seattle would never exist in the way it does now, nor would any major city. This is a contradiction we all must face. To be against capitalism is to be against what it has created. If it is not obvious, we will remind you that capitalism has created and structured our entire world. From the buses to the jobs to the bar and back to the apartment, we live according to the patterns of a system we did not create and that does not have to exist. We know this system does not have to exist and are working to hasten its end. Only if we refuse to reproduce the horror of daily life—and work to short-circuit business as usual—do any of us have a chance to free ourselves from the boredom, violence, and needless toil that plague us.

Every two weeks, we, the humble editors, authors, and publishers of *Tides of Flame*, will share, through illustration, inference, and example, how we mean to destroy the capitalist world system. We offer this to you in the hopes of finding comrades and accomplices, known and unknown, in a vendetta as old as kings. ☹

*Some say the world will end in fire,  
Some say in ice.  
From what I've tasted of desire  
I hold with those who favor fire.*

~ R. Frost

# Happy Rioters (continued)

There was no longer anything to watch. Left with nothing to do except go back home before another day like every other, or to finally participate in play, thousands of people opted for the latter.

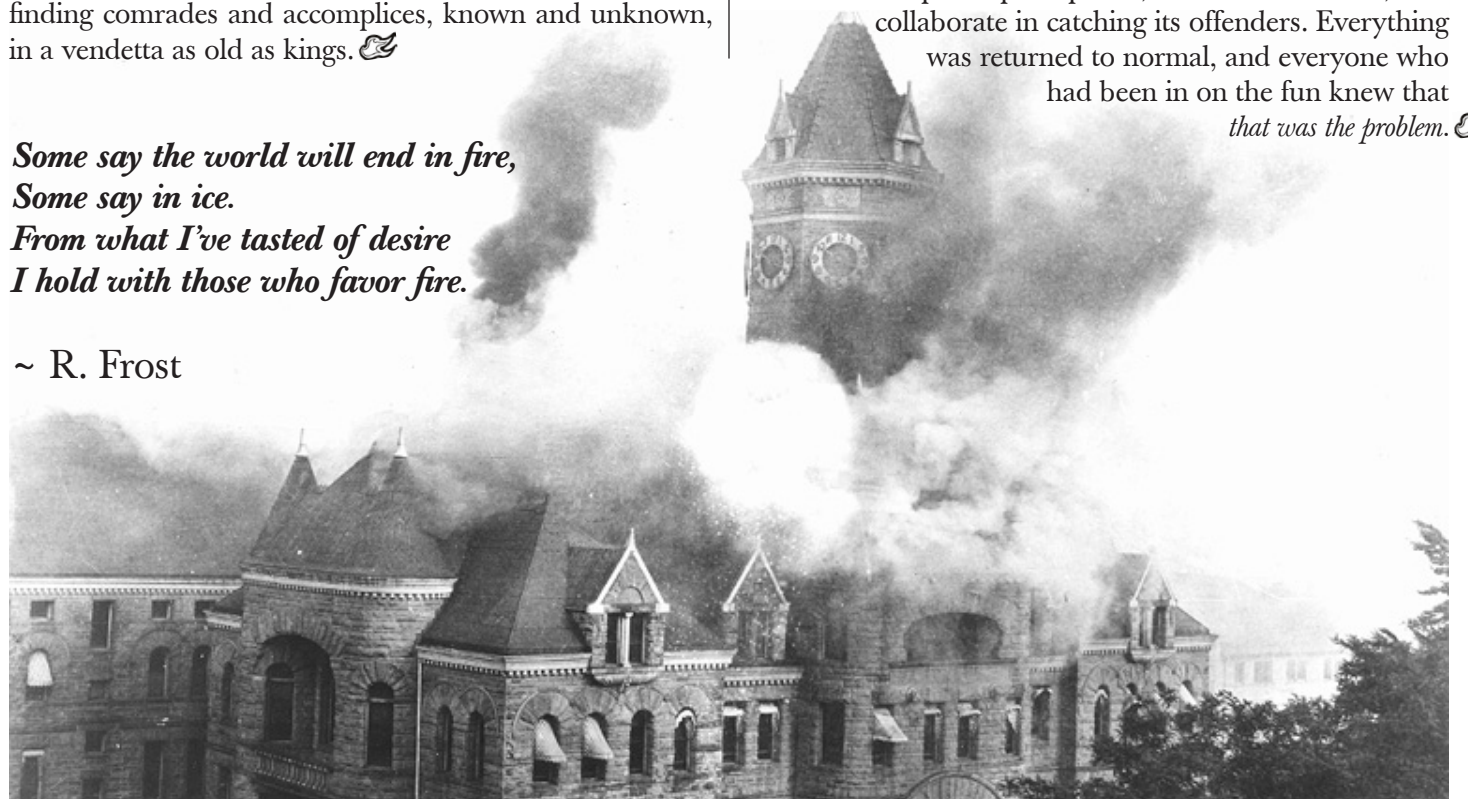
In this game of sudden death, they became the players, they ignored the rulebook, and they unleashed a frenzy of destruction against the arena and its referees. There would be no spectators any longer. But if everyone was a player, they were also all each other's biggest fans.

They cheered as shop windows lost their structural integrity. They gathered joyously around fires in the streets fueled by luxury cars and police cruisers. Their faces lit up as they emptied the stores, grasped the plastic limbs of mannequins and transformed these and everything else into weapons to turn against the city itself. The destruction was not mindless so much as it was playful and exuberant.

When cops tried to stop the fun, they were met with a violent backlash. This experience of a mob of fire and chaos, of a city coming into ruins around them, was too precious to give up. No one would be able to shut down the game, at least not without a hard fight.

The city took blow after ecstatic blow. After the cops had cleared the streets of all excitement, the city's slaves flooded in to pick up its pieces, restore it to order, and collaborate in catching its offenders. Everything was returned to normal, and everyone who had been in on the fun knew that

*that was the problem.* ☹



above: state capitol in Olympia burns, September 8th, 1928

*continualwar.wordpress.com // pugetsoundanarchists.org  
waronsociety.noblogs.org // autonomiaseattle.org  
anarchistnews.org*