

# STORMING HEAVEN

free

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“Good things of day begin to droop and drowse; While night’s black agents to their preys do rouse.”  
-Macbeth, Act III Sc. 2

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## Memory And Solidarity

**MAYDAY 2012: A RAVENOUS BLACK BLOC** appears, seemingly out of nowhere. The individuals involved are amassed, yet individuals nonetheless, acting according to their own rage, despair, wishes and dreams, accompanied by co-conspirators, known and unknown. Surrounding them are the demonstrators, varied and eccentric, as well as idle spectators and potential tattle-tales with their phones and cameras aimed at the momentary attraction. The media and the Seattle Police Department soon follow on foot, bicycle, and cruiser.

These various subjects are not so neatly categorized. Some exist in between lines, and a swirl of bodies makes every moment as unpredictable as the last. Such is the nature of subversive activity. We know from our experience of a controlled world that the uncontrollable element itself is the most dangerous. And for this reason the witch-hunt began. SPD has yet to learn how to consistently identify those covered in black clothing, and for every advance they make demonstrators innovate accordingly. When appropriate, their tactics change even without precipitation. The federal grand jury that convened in the Pacific Northwest starting March 2012 is a systematic attempt to identify demonstrators, target anarchists, and generate a condition of fear, all in hopes of quelling the efforts and haunting the minds of those who wish to strike out against the sources of their discontent.

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## Jail, Social Prison,...Or?

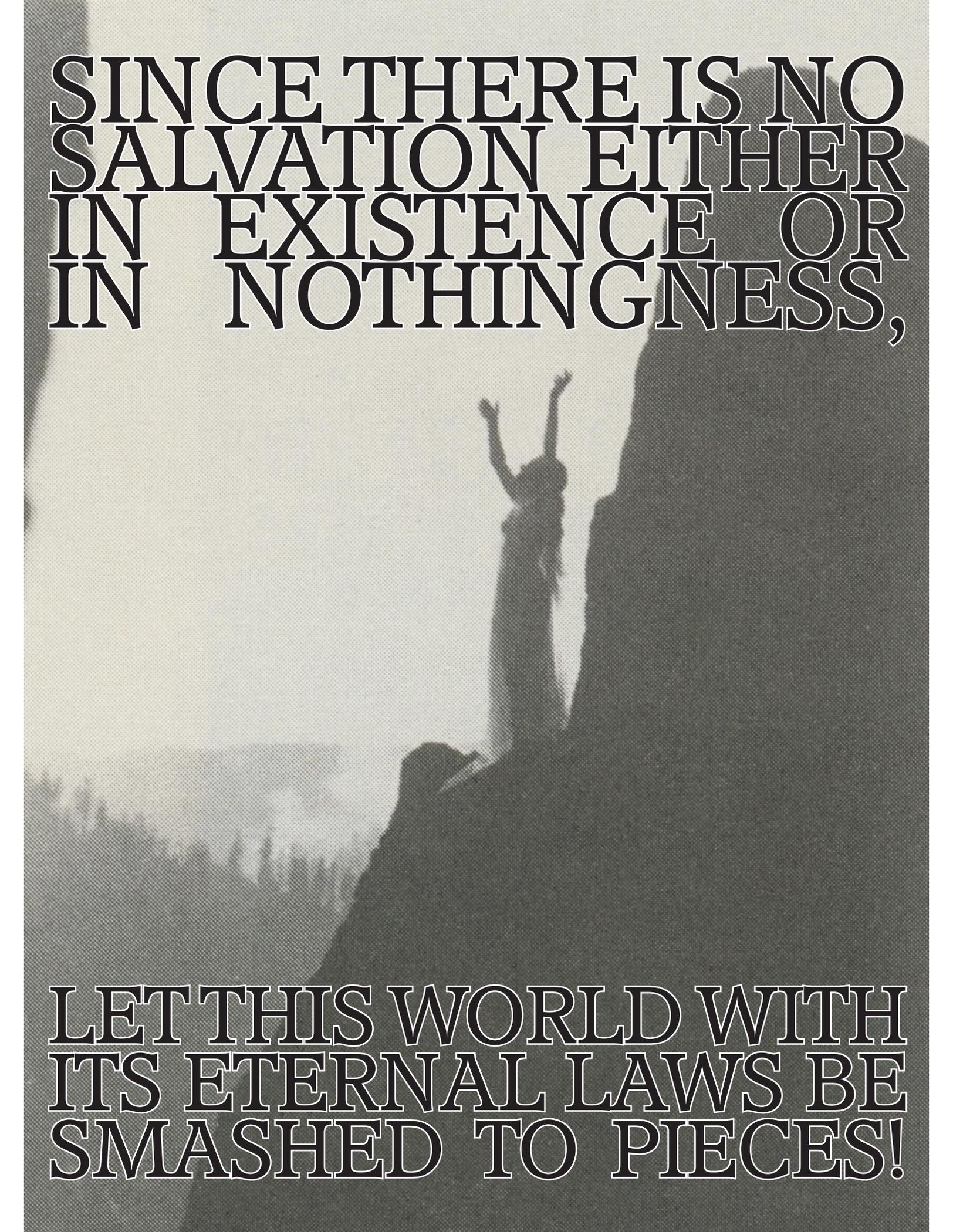
A Call for an Anarchist Response to the Construction of the Youth Jail at 12th and Alder

“Migration Management cannot be attacked, but what can be attacked are the concrete embodiments, structures and people that make it possible”\*

**FOR THE PAST YEAR** the City of Seattle has been in the planning stage of building a new “Children and Family Justice Center” (CFJC) at the site of the current youth jail at 12th and Alder. The new facility’s name and much of the rhetoric surrounding it obscures the fact that one of the central functions of the new construction will be to create more cages to put black and brown youth in. Nevertheless, it would be shortsighted to simply understand this project as the creation of another jail. The state has already anticipated arguments from leftist organizations and community groups that jails ‘don’t work’. In fact, the state recognizes this reality and is shifting its approach in response to it. Jails are increasingly becoming an inefficient means of regulating the lives of black, brown, poor, and/or trans\* people. To critique the prison system because it ‘doesn’t work’ is to be sucked into the states logic and to ignore the fact that a ‘working’ criminal justice system is a system that effectively reproduces a world built on domination, violence, and racism.

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SINCE THERE IS NO  
SALVATION EITHER  
IN EXISTENCE OR  
IN NOTHINGNESS,



LET THIS WORLD WITH  
ITS ETERNAL LAWS BE  
SMASHED TO PIECES!

## Continued from “Memory And Solidarity” on first page

The overall effects remain varied. In times of overt repression, people have the choice to scatter or come together. Generally the mix settles somewhere in between. I've seen previously unbridgeable gaps between individuals contract then disappear, sparking new connections and greater bonds, revealing unseen potentials for affinity. Some who were close are now closer and more potently dangerous than ever. Inversely, some have strayed, kept a distance, or otherwise fallen off. Different people have different reactions; you never really know if someone disappears because they are terrified or because they're working with the police; perhaps some individuals decide it's best to vanish completely and continue their conspiratorial mischief in the shadows.

Since over a year ago, there's been a consistent flow of anarchist activity. Attacks of solidarity continue to reveal themselves by mouth, the media, and anonymous communiqués. Mayday 2013 saw a new wave of nobodies wild out on the streets of Seattle and Olympia. Those who were subpoenaed and appeared in court have been by now both imprisoned and released. Some in exile are still on the run. In other parts of the country we see repression, not directly related to the PNW, but certainly related in the sense that the State is seeking out undesirables who impose discontinuities in the timeline of historical progress. They know we coordinate with those we trust, that we do so in both the public and private spheres, and that we can act not only locally, but also nationally and internationally as well. This is why the feds have moved so viciously upon us. Conversely, we've come to know some things too. Many of us have grown to learn from our recent experiences, the wisdom of which I hope to touch upon now in hopes of sparking discussion:

Repression is continuous within the context of domination. The rise in support in the past year has been awe-inspiring, yet this same repression has existed since before this grand jury, before the green scare, the red scare, before repression against anti-war dissent, before the slaying of uncompromising Spanish anarchists and implacable illegalists, and it will continue after this grand jury ends. The resistance of those who seek autonomy today stems back to the original peasant revolts, indigenous struggles and all the anti-colonial efforts of the past, and while the Kings of the digital age possess technologies of mass data accumulation and an army of submissive citizens, I must still be quicker than it all, more sly and quick-witted than ever. If my friends share the same desires, perhaps we can attack with twice the power that I alone could harness.

Memory is a weapon. Now, in this sort of contextual aftermath, is the time we specifically do not forget. This is the time to resist the social amnesia that afflicts so many. Remembrance is not passive; it is expressed through activity, be it benefit events, attacks, or any effort by the creative individual to compromise the structural integrity and to atrophy the idea of social control itself. Recognizing a continuity of struggle allows us to contextualize our conditions, act with passionate precision, and care for one another. Taking care of each other while concurrently making it clear

that our struggle has not ended is at the heart of the concept of living-and-struggle, a condition that refuses crystallization in either category.

Our network is global. Our current reality is a globalized one, and for this reason I challenge those in the PNW and everywhere else to think about what comes next. Now more than ever, it is important that affinities discuss the possibilities for the following year. The premise of this writing is to encourage that dialogue and all the action that could arise from it. Insurrectionary ideas are now widely understood by the anarchist milieu, and what we've learned from them is a sort of puissant togetherness that rejects classical organization and allows a constant critical transformation of ideas and strategy. The power we share takes form as a sort of amorphous cohesion, and this involves support across space. To this degree, anarchists are not hopelessly confined to their respective cities. On the contrary, the feeling of (and sometimes the adherence to) separateness in this terrible digitalized and globalized reality is effectively an illusion. Taking advantage of our reach is simply another tactic to be considered. As anarchists share local and regional extensions of support and attack, the enemies of anarchists coordinate across the globe. For example, west coast networks of solidarity can prioritize the struggles of the east coast, and furthermore, U.S. and Canadian anarchist networks of solidarity can support one another as well.

Social antagonism comes in waves. Finally, here we are, back in this overcast metropolis. We find here the most empowering phenomenon of surviving repression: the second wind. If it was the authorities' intention to eliminate chaos in this city, they'll be displeased to discover that our love-fury has done nothing but bloom and mature, and that our taste for destruction simply grows stronger in acuity. A question for Seattle: do you feel the rumbling beneath the concrete?

Amnesia is our Achilles' heel. What drives you to act? From one's anguish and rage to an idea of freedom or the memory of those who have fallen or are imprisoned, there is much to be driven by. As we speak, Jerry Koch is being held in contempt after being subpoenaed for the second time since 2009 in NYC. You can find information on how to act in solidarity with him on his support webpage ([www.jerryresists.net](http://www.jerryresists.net)). Then there's Steve, the currently exiled PNW grand jury resister who could use our help. Ways to support Steve can be found online as well (<http://solidaritywithsteve.noblogs.org>). As each friend fades from our daily lives, we strike with ever-growing ferocity fueled by the despair we feel in their absence, and that space is filled with an unrelenting conviction.

There can be no tolerance for state repression and no credence for any judicial process whatsoever. By our shared value of autonomy we reject the power they claim over our lives. Support is necessary for all targeted individuals. As the wounds of repression heal, they are survived by the stories and lessons that we pass on.

Let's not forget. Remembrance is key.

For progressive bourgeois Seattlites, however, this new project looks like a common sense approach to dealing with ‘criminals’ that is clean and rehabilitative. In addition to the construction of a 154-room detention center, the CFJC is proposed to “make the criminal justice system work” by providing access to “mentoring and support services, education and employment services for youth on probation,” as well as a number of alternative-to-incarceration programs for young people who would otherwise face jail time. [a full description of the project can be found at [www.kingcounty.gov/operations/FacilitiesManagement/CFJCProposal.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/operations/FacilitiesManagement/CFJCProposal.aspx)]

It is not surprising that the levy to fund the CFJC passed. The rhetoric surrounding it fits nicely into a liberal view of prison reform and progressive partial decarceration. It acknowledges that some people do not ‘deserve’ to be in prison because they can be reformed by being given either better opportunities or the skills to ‘make better choices.’

This rhetoric is appealing to liberals who congratulate themselves and sleep well at night because its implementation in Seattle has already significantly decreased the population of the juvenile detention center. In the past decade, alternative-to-detention programs, ‘community courts’, and ‘problem-solving justice’ initiatives have ‘worked’, decreasing the number of prisoners and lowering of the rate of recidivism.

While it would be absurd and reactionary to condemn putting less people in prison, we refuse to listen to the deceptive lullaby that is the state’s narrative of ‘progress.’ Let’s respond to the small concessions of the state by spitting in its face, not by asking to suck its toes. The product of a decreased prison population and lower rates of recidivism is not freedom from domination, but rather domination in another form, namely increased surveillance, monitoring, and control for the same people who would have been filling jail cells. Family courts, drug treatment courts, youth-led peer courts, and punitive social services all work to rehabilitate those who can assimilate back into society to be functioning, whitewashed productive subjects. Their stated objective is to ‘increase youth investment’ in the criminal justice system. This system of control further reinforces the division between the ‘criminal’ and the ‘good citizen’ by insisting that the ‘criminal’ can be ‘saved’ and can become a ‘good citizen’. However the mutability of these categories is a farce. The idealized good citizen in Amerikkka has always been a white, cismale, wealthy, and able-bodied subject. The state has defined the category of ‘criminal’ in practice as black, trans\*, poor, and undocumented. It should be no surprise then that as the prison population has decreased the disproportionate incarceration of black and brown youth has increased.

These new methods of control often mean that instead of serving a short sentence for getting in a fight after school, a 16-year-old kid will be funneled into a system of punitive social services for a much longer period of time with the threat of jail hanging over their head. The state has no power without the threat of force. So we see that the ‘alternative to incarceration’ is entirely

dependent on the threat of force that looms behind it – the ever-present possibility of a prison sentence. Concretely, this looks like trading a few nights in jail for months or even years reporting to a social worker, being in court-mandated therapy sessions, having attendance and grades monitored, regular drug testing, and community service. Who would engage in this kind of process without a pig pushing them against a wall and reaching for their handcuffs? All of these techniques make the ever-expanding snares of racist social control and assimilation look like “progress.”

Unsurprisingly, it has been liberals and radical prison abolitionists alike that have been the torch runners of this new expanded disciplinary logic. Less prisons, more state-based ‘transformative justice’. Let’s just say it. In this case, transformative justice means the further transformation of Amerikkka into a social prison. In the struggle against the CFJC there have been few voices heard outside of the state, its collaborative muses: NGO coalitions, and liberal groups that claim to represent the community. We have no interest in justice meted out by the state and its pigs, managers, and executioners. We know the state cannot be rationally persuaded to abolish its systems of control.

We don’t have to choose between jail and social prison. Let’s refuse both.

\* This is from a collection of essays against the construction of an immigration detention center in Belgium called “Nothing is Finished: Essays from the Anti-Prison Struggle in Belgium”. The struggle against migration ‘management’ is also the struggle against prison society.





## Briefly, What Is The Northwest Panopticon And What Is DIY Servitude?

**THE ENGLISH PRISON REFORMER JEREMY BENTHAM** came up with the idea of the panopticon prison. It's an architectural design where all inmates can be watched by guards but can't see the guards and hence don't know when they are being watched, leading prisoners to self police their activities. The philosopher Foucault took this idea of the panopticon as the arch metaphor of modern power. On many levels this holds true with the northwest becoming a sort of open air prison with cameras on more and more corners and drones soon to become common place. In tandem with this proliferation of the electronic eyes of the state, government agencies like the NSA and many businesses are vacuuming up and storing as much information as possible, from as many sources as possible, and coupling this info with their ability to use engineering and algorithms to erect a staggering system of monitoring, social sorting, and policing.

At the same time there is a different form of control at play, a DIY form of servitude, something neither Bentham, Foucault, Orwell or Kafka foresaw. The pervasiveness of social networking sites (facebook, twitter, vine for example) and cheap cell phones with gps and cameras, have quickly become the basic means of communicating, or more precisely, "connecting." Businesses along with new technologies have seduced people into sharing the details of their own lives. They have also capitalized on people's enjoyment of the vicarious and voyeuristic consumption of other's profiles, pictures, and interests. This has effectively turned the panopticon on its head, now the watched become the watchers and at the same time enjoy and desire being watched. Unlike the cameras on the corner or drones in the air which gather information whether we like it or not, a unheard of amount of information is happily shared online. This "sharing" reveals many are going so far as to reach into the virtual world of the internet to try to form meaningful relationships, most likely in reaction to the lonely, exploited, and alienated lives that are experienced under capitalism and the state. But one thing is sure, that it is difficult to find another such straightforward example of the ruled in voluntary cooperation with their rulers.

## A Chronology Of Action

### 8/30, Marysville Recruiting Station Attacked Again, Call To Action

Windows broken and back of building covered in graffiti. From the communique: "As yet another imperialist war looms, actions should be taken to discourage more people from becoming a tool of imperialism, and to encourage those who are already tools from working for the ruling class."

### 8/30, Bank Robbery

Employees said a man in his 40s entered the bank and passed a note to a clerk. He implied he had a weapon, though none was seen. He came away with an undisclosed amount of money.

### 9/4 Released Prisoner Attacks Jail

When a man was released from a three month sentence at the King County Jail, he quickly ran to collect handfuls of rocks from the surrounding area and returned to the jail to start throwing them at the tall windows. He damaged 11 of them, causing at least \$11,000 in damage.

### 9/6 "Crazy" Man Attacks Police

Police reported to have responded to a man "acting crazy" on Capitol Hill, and intervened in a fight he had allegedly started. When approached, the man assumed a fighting stance and attacked the officers. One officer suffered a sore right knee and a cut on his right hand. The second officer suffered a bruised right hand.

### 9/7 Baptism Brawl

Police showed up to a reported disturbance at a baptism celebration in South Park shortly before midnight. A fight had broken out, and when officers arrived the crowd quickly turned their anger at them. A city-wide call for assistance went out and five officers were assaulted in the brawl.

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### 9/13 Banner Drop in Eugene, OR

The Emerald Valley Anti-Racists dropped a banner "in response to a white supremacist banner dropped on the I-5 pedestrian bridge." The banner read "Fight The Racists, Hunt Them Down, Kick The Nazis Out Of Town."

### 9/15 Portage Bay Piracy

Police were called to respond to a report of a man who had stolen a yacht, while not wearing any pants, and was in the process of ramming it into the other yachts and docks at the Queen City Yacht Club on Portage Bay. It took a concerned citizen's shotgun to deter the would-be pirate, who stopped after getting shot and exited the boat right as the cops showed up.

### 9/17 Leather Shop Attacked With Paint In Portland

Leathercare Inc, a store that specializes in providing maintenance services for fur and leather garments and operates a fur storage facility in Seattle, was attacked with paint "in solidarity with the recent acts of sabotage and liberation targeting the fur industry in Ontario, the Bay Area, and the Midwest." From the communique: "these acts can serve as a starting point for individuals to build confidence and experience acting outside the law..."

### 9/18 Graffiti Spree on Capitol Hill

Two people were arrested after reportedly buying two cans of spraypaint from the Blick Art Supply store on Broadway and immediately afterwards painting the Jimi Hendrix statue outside. They then painted nearby construction equipment, buildings, city utility signs. The two boarded a bus, painted it, got off and continued their spree towards downtown. Police say they were intoxicated and caught on surveillance cameras.



*the encampment at Occupy Seattle*

## Missed Potential In Nickelsville Eviction?

**THIS SUMMER HAS SEEN** yet another transitional moving period for the homeless camp formerly located in West Seattle known as Nickelsville. The camp was started in September of 2008 and was named after Mayor Nickels in commemoration of his violent police-lead eviction of a previous homeless camp. The Seattle City Council voted early this summer to evict the camp, citing general lawlessness, drug-use and pollution as reasoning. The well-being of the campers was never actually in the minds of City Council members, as they opted only to set aside a lump sum of cash for the camp to find alternative housing instead of longer term proposals that advocates for the camp were asking for.

The camp located three separate sites in which its residents were able to move to; two in the Central District and one in far south Seattle. Calling this a victory, however, would only gloss over the stress that moving all of one's belongings many times over the last year brings, not to mention that an entire community of people who found housing together in a houseless world have now been split up between three separate locations all at the whim of the Seattle City Council.

There has been a noticeable absence in this entire scenario. The last time an illegal encampment made up of a collection of capital's excluded seized news headlines, the camp's name was Occupy Seattle and anarchists had a very recognizable presence in the camp's day-to-day activities. It would be perhaps inappropriate for anarchists to start to hold a presence at the Nickelsville camp, unless they lived there. But it seems as if all notions of mutual aid have been thrown to the wayside as another illegal encampment is given the boot by the city.

Perhaps the reason why anarchists did not step up to the plate when eviction orders came down for Nickelsville was because there had been no established connection between radicals/subversives and the encampment, unlike the relationship between anarchists and Occupy where radicals had contributed to building the space and atmosphere from the beginning and therefore had very much at stake at in defending the space and making it an antagonizing force.

Is the presence of a very real relationship built on directly shared experiences and engaging with aspects of social bodies who are also crushed by the daily weight of this boring existence under capitalism the base of a social insurrectionary project? If a group of anarchists had approached the residents of Nickelsville about militantly resisting their eviction

and continuing to occupy the land they were living on without previously knowing any of the residents, could anyone expect the residents to take them seriously? But if we simply lined up to offer a hand to help with moving and feeding people, what would set us part from the non-profits and charity programs who simply exist to grease the gears of capitalism?

How are we to say that Nickelsville would have been hospitable to an anarchist presence? Up until now, there has been no public anarchist discourse surrounding the homeless camp. It would be foolish to assume that an antagonizing presence would have been welcomed with insurgent hearts at the camp. But wondering at the possibilities of what may have come out of a longer-standing relationship between anarchists and the camp when faced with the eviction, we can still take this lesson to heart as we continue to look for instances of when we as anarchists can contribute to projects that happen outside of our subcultural circles. If one is to acknowledge that Nickelsville was an illegal encampment of some of the most excluded people in Seattle, it can be easy to wonder why there wasn't at least an attempted anarchist presence.

*Camp Nickelsville*



## An Open Letter To A Youth Prison Escapee

*gleaned from PugetSoundAnarchists.org*

This is directed at the one who police described as, 'a white boy, 5 feet 10 inches, slender build, dark hair, dark eyes and wearing a yellow jumpsuit' the one whom escaped the prison known as Echo Glen Children's facility.

You obviously have some very important choices ahead of you. Remember that the shit you crawl through is the shit you choose to take. When I was in a enclosure similar to Echo Glen I remember thinking about escape a hell of a lot. You have done something most only dream of doing.

I won't pretend to know your story or what's exactly going through your head.

All I can say is me and my friends were inspired by your actions.

Take care and run faster comrade, the old world is behind you.

**9/19 Juvenile Prisoner Escapes, Caught Again**  
A 15-year-old prisoner at the Echo Glen Children's Facility in Snoqualmie, a medium/maximum security facility, escaped only to be found the following day after spending the night in a ditch and being spotted by a State Patrol helicopter.

**9/23 Man Robs Bank, Twice**  
According to police a man entered a Burien Key Bank in the early afternoon and passed a note to the bank-teller demanding money. He left with an undiscolored amount of money, only to return a couple hours later in different dress and demanded money a second time.

**10/4 Thirteen-Year-Old Arrested In Security-Assault**  
A 13-year-old boy from Des Moines has been arrested in connection to group assault on a Westlake security guard that happened earlier this summer. After witnessing a theft, the guard approached the victim, prompting the three women allegedly responsible to begin yelling and attacking him. A group of five to seven others joined in the assault on the security guard, and the guard who was beaten alleges the boy "kicked the guard's head several times and attempted to steal his wallet." He was recognized by a park ranger days later at a candy store at Westlake and then arrested.

**10/6 Riot At Southern Oregon Youth Prison**  
Eleven prisoners rioted at a youth prison in Southern Oregon, taking over a portion of the Rogue Valley Youth Correctional Facility in Grants Pass for several hours. One guard had to barricade himself in an office Sunday night until police and guards regained control. Two other guards backed out and locked down the quadrant.

**10/9 Armed Robbery of a Jewelry Store**  
Two men armed with handguns made off with jewelry from a South Seattle jewelry store and are still on the loose.

# Known Informants In The Pacific Northwest

LEAH-LYNN PLANTE was subpoenaed last year to the ongoing Federal Grand Jury investigating attacks on the Federal Courthouse in downtown Seattle on May Day 2012. After spending a significantly shorter amount of time in the SeaTac Federal Detention Center than the other non-compliant Grand Jury Resisters, Leah was released, refused to talk about why and disappeared. It later became known that Leah cooperated with the Grand Jury; to what extent we're unsure. This compliance with state repression shook the sturdy foundation of support that many anarchists built in many forms, from solidarity actions across the country and in Europe, poster campaigns and letter writing nights, and most importantly direct non-compliance with the Grand Jury through evading subpoenas or remaining silent in questioning and spending long painful months in the Federal Detention Center, mostly in solitary confinement. Her whereabouts are unknown at the time.

**picture:**<http://denverabc.wordpress.com/2012/10/21/statement-concerning-leah-lynn-plantes-release/>

**more information:** Refer to the article "True Facts: Keep It Silent, Never Sweat Or Bend" on [pugetsoundanarchists.org](http://pugetsoundanarchists.org)

ZACHARY JENSON was arrested with Lauren Weiner and Eric McDavid in Auburn, CA on Jan 13, 2006 as part of the government's Green Scare campaign. They were charged with conspiracy to destroy property by means of fire or explosives, facing up to 20 years in federal prison for a crime that was never committed. Zachary and Lauren both took cooperating plea deals to shorten their sentences and gave incriminating evidence against Eric McDavid. Zachary Jenson was seen in Seattle and Olympia during the fall months of 2012 and his whereabouts are unknown at this time.

**picture and more information:** <http://earthfirstjournal.org/newswire/informant-tracking/>

JENNIFER KOLAR provided information that led directly to the arrest and successful prosecution of at least one other individual, who she later testified against in open court. Kolar saved evidence from actions she participated in presumably just in case she needed to use that evidence against her friends in the future. Two accused co-conspirators of Kolar's, including an ex-boyfriend of hers, are still at large. If arrested she will undoubtedly be called to, and legally obligated to, testify against them.

**picture and more information:** <http://snitchwatch.wordpress.com/2013/10/11/green-scare-snitch-on-the-loose-in-seattle-3/>

ROBERT JOE CHILDS became an informant working for both local law enforcement and the FBI after offering to set up a Muslim man, Abu Khalid Abdul-Latif with mental health issues for a terrorism charge. Childs was paid more than \$90,000 for his work setting up Abdul-Latif in that case. In 2012 Childs joined the Seattle-based street theater protest group, Salish Salish Circa Rebel Clown Army (CIRCA) using the name Robert Vincent or Sarg'nt Yell'r. He has also used the names Robert Joe Childs, Zechariah Childs, A.M. Khan, Ismail White, and Zech Zelli. He was not only outed as an informant by Earth First! but also by activists in Seattle as "The Clown Creep" for sexual harassment. He is reported to have been traveling in a renovated school bus and was last seen in Seattle.

**picture and more information:** <http://snitchwatch.wordpress.com/2013/09/11/child-rapist-informant-outed-in-seattle/>

VAHID BROWN was or is an FBI instructor at the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, who has recently been attempting to integrate himself into radical and activist scenes in Portland. As an instructor for the CTC's FBI counter-terrorism training program, he designed curricula on Islamist terrorism and taught regular courses both at the FBI Academy and for Joint Terrorism Task Force training events at FBI Field Offices throughout the United States. He portrays himself as "an activist and woodland creature who has been reading poetry at Portland coffeehouses, ballrooms, and basement bars for nearly twenty years."

**picture and more information:** <http://nopoliticalrepression.wordpress.com/2013/10/03/watch-out-for-fbi-trainer-vahid-brown/>

DAVID AGRANOFF agreed to become a government informant as part of a plea agreement related to Earth Liberation Front crimes in Bloomington, Indiana, more than 10 years ago. According to the prosecution at Kruk's sentencing hearing, Agranoff began, "negotiating with the state on various issues" in 2009. In January, 2012, Agranoff was sentenced to 1 year and 1 day for misprision of a felony (knowing about the commission of a felony and failing to report it to the police). The court recommended he serve his time in a low-security prison camp. He also received 1 year probation. He was transferred to a halfway house in Seattle on 10-15-2012 and was released on 01-03-2013. He is currently residing in the Portland, OR and runs a blog (<http://davidagranoff.blogspot.com/>).

**picture and more information:** <http://earthfirstjournal.org/newswire/informant-tracking/>

# To Tread Troubled Waters

**AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY** the Seattle Weekly titled “Troubled Waters” by Daniel Person documents the history of how the Duwamish River was developed by early Pacific Northwest colonizers and settlers and rerouted for commercial ports, the consequent introduction and extreme rise in pollutants found in the riverbed and its devastating impacts on the communities that have depended on fishing the river to feed their families.

The Duwamish River is the last twelve miles of water that connects the Green River flowing from the Cascade Mountains into the Puget Sound just south of Seattle. According to Person’s article, the physical manipulation of the Duwamish to fit capitalism’s needs began in 1913. While noted for its beautiful winding bends, the nature of the Duwamish River “was bad for business, and what was 13 miles of river eventually became five after 20 million cubic yards of mud and sand were moved to fill in its bends.” Many shipment facilities were built in and around the Duwamish River Estuary, including a Boeing manufacturing plant that hit high production rates for its B-17’s during the second World War and continues to this day to produce unmanned drones for U.S. led aggression overseas

What could be seen as a turning point in the pollution of the Duwamish was in the 1930’s when Monsanto developed polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, a class of chemicals that made paint last longer and prevent electrical systems from overheating. It was considered the best product on the shelf at the time for high-end construction, and was also extremely carcinogenic. It wasn’t until 1979, after nearly fifty years of its production, that it was banned in the United States due to its link to causing cancer. From Person’s article: “With every rainfall in Seattle, more PCBs are washed off buildings with old coats of paint and elsewhere and into Seattle’s storm-drain pipes. In the river, the chemicals settle into the river bottoms, where they are consumed by tiny worms and other creatures in the

sand. From there the PCBs travel up the food chain until they reach the resident seafood.” Despite the ban, the PCBs are continuing to have disastrous affects.

The South Park neighborhood of Seattle, located directly across the Duwamish from the airport in Georgetown, is home to a large community of immigrant families relying on fishing and crabbing for sustenance. People crab and fish the Duwamish for a multiplicity of reasons, economic and cultural amongst them. Often language barriers prevent an understanding of the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) signs about the high levels of contaminants in the river.

Immigrant communities in South Park fish and crab the Duwamish as a way to maintain some sort of economic autonomy. This creates a feedback loop between government bureaucracy and those it fails to serve because the inherent nature of capitalist infrastructure requires there to be those who are pushed so far to the margins. The EPA has offered a variety of services that it perceives as helpful to families who depend on fishing the river for food, like facilitating carpools from the Duwamish to other fishing spots where the water is not contaminated and funding Duwamish Dollars, a form of fake-currency that businesses accept near the river. Both of these band-aid strategies might ease the woes of families struggling to feed themselves in the short-term, but nonetheless reinforces the dependency on government initiatives. It is never our aim to strengthen aspects of capital or the state based on understanding the long-term implications of living a life under capital.

The EPA and other environmental agencies have lined up a multitude of different strategies for cleaning up the Duwamish, with the EPA claiming its intention to make fishing and crabbing the river safe. All of the proposed strategies are caught up in a quagmire of bureaucracy between funding (with some of the projects requiring hundreds of millions of dollars) and arguments over whether or not some of these strategies will actually make the sea-life fit for consumption. It (continued on right-hand column of page 11)



# Hot-Spot Policing

WE SEE LITTLE NEED TO YET AGAIN articulate our opposition to the police or reasons for such. Years of engagement have left this conversation dry. As we watch the world change around us it has become clear that now more than ever we need to view the police not merely as a collection of individuals in uniforms but an apparatus felt beyond our smaller daily scale. Our lives, and the way we desire to live them, are diametrically opposed to the concept of living a surveilled and contained existence. We fight against all structures within this society in order to destroy such apparatuses. Such is what it means to be an anarchist inside this newly globalized political and economic society. Such is what it meant to fight 100 years ago against the structures that wished to define us in those contexts. What we are doing here is not giving explanation to things you and we already know, but creating better and more strategic fronts in which to move from and inside.

It is easy to lump police and their practices all together. To dehumanize them into the arm of a larger more dangerous beast makes sense, and is in itself a form of strategy. But to not delve more deeply into the minutiae of localized initiatives is a disservice to our struggle against them.

There has been a lot of national attention on the Seattle PD in recent years. Specifically from Federal investigators being brought in to study the allegations of abuse of power and overstepping of protocol. This has made a mark on the SPD and the ways that the broader Seattle population views them. Federal investigations and Civilian Review Boards are obviously not ours, and in no way are we interested in any dialogue that strengthens this or any other police force. But the possibility lies in what can be gleaned from its findings. Trends as they emerge in law enforcement circles that can be identified in one area of a city can be applied to others, and even more broadly looking at the ways that their techniques are developed and then shared on a national basis has the possibility of creating a broader critique that may be applied in local strategies.

A current trend of “hot spot policing” or predictive policing as it is called in one such instance, has become standard in many police departments across the country. It is manifested in different ways based on different locales and deployed with a variety of maneuvers based on those locales. In short, the idea is one that smaller police departments have known for years. Places where beat cops are still common, especially in smaller municipalities have amongst themselves created means to identify “problem areas”. Neighborhoods they are called to repeatedly, corners where the most business is done. The difference in these new moves have been the mechanization of this

process into a systematic decision making structure. Instead of individual cops making the call on what parts of the city need their attention the most, data is more broadly collected and the information is fed into computer GIS mapping programs. A practical black box of algorithms is stuffed with information about past crime trends, neighborhood hangouts, economic brackets, development, etc. and out comes a definitive map of where officers are most “needed”. Those neighborhoods and intersections are flooded with police and surveillance in an effort to stem the tide of crime. Patrols are increased and the number of officers available to respond to given areas skyrockets. (continued from “Hot Spot Policing”)

The data is preliminary on their end, but the results they are receiving from this tactic are astronomically in their favor. It is ‘working’, and doing so well. Their arrest numbers are increasing, and by their numbers the crime statistics are dropping radically.

**What we are doing here is not giving explanation to things you and we already know, but creating better and more strategic fronts in which to move from and inside.**

Discussions amongst police chiefs on a national scale are becoming more common. We are used to the calls from departments for mutual aid in times of certain levels of upheaval. More cops coming in from outside the city for

a demo, or after a few rowdy nights. But something we are possibly missing is the coordinated effort of departments to share information and strategize around people like us and other criminals on a much larger scale and duration. And all of these conversations and conference calls must originate somewhere; the idea has to grow from some local effort. In terms of this hot spot trend, now so common to most of us, the impetus was largely academic and based on the research of criminologists looking towards none other than Seattle as a model. It was investigations into Juvenile offenders in the Seattle area that pushed some of the first investigations in this field.

We never could have stopped this, the money invested and structures are too large. But we could have done something. Often we look outward, towards the places with the most activity, most demos, most sabotage. This has our gaze forever extended towards places beyond the political and geographical borders that we live inside of. Ours is a struggle articulated drastically differently depending on social (and anti-social) factors as well as the economic and cultural terrains of each place, making that outward look a worthwhile endeavor. The ability for us to maneuver more easily, to strike with more efficiency on these national and even international scales could be increased with more local vigilance. What could solidarity look like if we were able to more accurately identify trends in their policy shifts and confront them on a more intimate scale? Is it possible that the police saturation of certain neighborhoods in cities outside the northwest could have been forestalled by an ever increasing presence of conflictual elements in the places where the research was being conducted?

The answers to these and other questions of strategy can only come from a broader and more thorough attentiveness on the part of anarchists in this city and well beyond. Experimentation with the focus of creative energies, and the methods employed in such endeavors are assets that the decentralized and fluid nature of our politics and their manifestations that should not be ignored. This is not a call for another campaign against a police tactic, but a thought attempting to articulate what might be possible if we all paid a little more attention and believed in the capacity we hold as individuals and in the small crews we have been cultivating. It is a call to see what is possible.

(continued from "To Tread Troubled Waters" on page 9)

has been acknowledged as well that the Duwamish River can only be as clean as the Green River that feeds it, and so taking on cleaning up one river would mean cleaning the other.

These kinds of issues between funding different government initiatives in cleaning up a river shouldn't be what catches our eye when examining this situation, and one should fault Person for giving that specific issue so much thought in his article. One should also fault him for leaving out an entire history of indigenous people who lived in the region long before settlers came to destroy the land, but he's just a journalist.

Instead anarchists must do what only anarchists can do when engaging with those outside of our milieu; take what we like and forget the rest. Understanding the history of the development of the Duwamish can give anarchists in the Pacific Northwest a better understanding of the context in which we exist on these lands, and even better a deeper understanding of our enemies and why. For instance, Boeing is one of the largest companies on the river and is a leading developer of unmanned drones at home and abroad. Monsanto sent carcinogenic products into this region's waterways and continues to poison national and international food supplies. Getting a grasp on the contexts in which these entities exist can deepen the ways in which we attack and extend solidarity to those who are also pushed to destroy what destroys this world, from comrades in Italy fighting in the No TAV struggle, those committed to animal and earth liberation struggles, or the indigenous communities much closer to home struggling against the infrastructure of coal-mining across North America.

We also cannot buy into the lies of the EPA and believe that the Duwamish River can realistically be repaired after a hundred years of pollution and industrial infrastructure. If the plans for cleaning up the Duwamish go through, it will not meet federal water-quality standards and still not be safe to eat from at the end of the proposed clean up. This must be taken as a lesson for future industrial infrastructure developments and how we can engage with and against them. If things like the proposed coal trains running through the Northwest are completed, we will see even more wild space disappear with longer reaching affects than we have yet to feel. These development projects can seem like impossible monsters not worth tackling, but only through fighting does one learn how to swing their fists. The potential comrades that lay in wait in striking against projects of industrial development can only be met if we step out of the light of interacting with the spectacle and into the shadows of negating it.

## HOW TO FIND US:

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The Cusp Social Center (Olympia)  
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Pizzeria and Dumpster Values

Prisoner Letter Writing Nights  
Sunday Nov. 17th  
7 P.M. at Black Coffee Co-Op  
This is a regularly held event that happens on the first and third Sunday of every month.

ALTHOUGH POLICE CAN MANAGE THE TRANSGRESSION OF THIS OR THAT LAW, THEY CANNOT PREVENT THE WAY IN WHICH CRIME ORIENTS BODIES TO EACH OTHER AND THEIR ENVIRONMENTS.



IT IS PRECISELY THE LIMIT OF THE LAW AND ECONOMY THAT REVEALS CRIME AS ANOTHER WAY OF BEING, AND IT IS PRECISELY THE LIMIT OF CRIME, LAW ENFORCEMENT, THAT DEVELOPS THE CRIMINAL BEING'S INTELLIGENCE AND NEED FOR FRIENDSHIP.