Dance Yourself Free
Bern, Switzerland, May 25

“Sometimes We Had a Brick”
An interview with former SHAC 7 prisoners Jake Conroy and Josh Harper

Dr. Marie Equi: A Portland Firebrand
Revisiting local radical history

Crimethinc’s Rolling Thunder
A review
To our wild comrades in and on the run from the Pacific Northwest, in Turkey, and around the world:

**TURKEY:** Mass protests erupted in Turkey on May 28. The unrest stemmed from a violent eviction by police of an occupation of an Istanbul park the government had decided to turn into a shopping mall. Violent clashes with police took place in Istanbul, Ankara and numerous other Turkish cities on May 31. Protesters in Istanbul re-occupied Gezi Park and the adjacent Taksim Square on June 1, as the protest widened against the rule of Prime Minister Recep Erdogan. Clashes, involved barricades, Molotov cocktails and police attacks using tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons. The park was again evicted by riot police on June 15. The protests saw over 3,000 arrests, 7,000 injuries and 6 deaths. The former site of Hayes Valley Farm in San Francisco was occupied in solidarity on June 1, and was evicted on June 13.

**CAMBODIA:** Workers at a Nike apparel factory in Cambodia staged protests outside Phnom Penh on May 21. Thousands of workers were attacked by riot police on May 27. Workers again clashed with police on June 4, as workers fought with those from a rival union who went to work despite the strike. Hundreds of thousands of people are employed in the garment trade in Cambodia. Apparel is Cambodia's largest export. The workers were seeking a $14 monthly pay raise that would have brought their monthly wages up to $88. Three hundred workers were fired as a result of the strike and on June 18, 16 were charged with inciting violence and damaging property. Strikes by garment workers have tripled in the last year, with 134 strikes reported in 2012.

**BRAZIL:** On the heels of the Turkish protests, violent clashes in Sao Paulo, Brazil broke out start June 6, initially over a plan to raise public bus fare. The protests spread to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Salvador, and other Brazilian cities on June 17, as hundreds of thousands of Brazilians took to the streets nationwide, marking the largest mass demonstrations since 1992. Although the government of Sao Paulo said it would cancel the fare increases, protests continued as of June 20, with over 1 million protesters amassing across Brazil to decry social inequality and government expenditure on next year's World Cup.

**GMO WHEAT:** Oregon grain exports are in doubt, as genetically modified wheat traced to Monsanto was discovered in Eastern Oregon in April. A farmer who had sprayed Round-Up, Monsanto's popular herbicide, on a field, noticed that some wheat didn't die off as a result. After bringing samples to OSU, a federal investigation determined that the wheat was grown from Monsanto “Round-Up ready” seeds, which produce wheat impervious to the pesticide. No one knows how the wheat came to be grown in the field. Oregon grew GMO wheat in 2001 on a trial basis, but GMO wheat has never been approved for sale. A worldwide day of protest called the March Against Monsanto took place on May 25. On June 20, 6,500 Syngenta GMO sugar beets were destroyed in Jackson County, Oregon.

**REISTER LAWSUIT:** On June 5, the city of Portland approved a record settlement of $2.3 million, awarded to William Kyle Monroe, who in 2011 was shot repeatedly by Portland police officer Dane Reister with live shotgun rounds Reister apparently believed to be “less-lethal” beanbag rounds. Monroe was suffering from a mental health episode near the south waterfront when Reister shot him. Monroe nearly died and is now permanently disabled. Reister faced no discipline as a result and remains on paid leave. He is, however, facing assault charges in a rare indictment against a police officer from a grand jury. A federal investigation deemed that Portland police routinely use excessive force against the mentally ill last year.

**TREE-SIT:** In a move to criminalize environmental protest in the state, the Oregon legislature passed a bill making protesters liable for civil damages claimed by private companies logging on state forest lands. Undaunted, Cascadia Forest Defenders are holding a tree-sit in Myrtle Creek, Oregon, in an attempt to halt the cutting of the 77-acre White Castle sale and logging on O&C lands, a scattering of land tracts along I-5.

**JEREMY HAMMOND:** Anarchist hacker Jeremy Hammond pled guilty to charges related to the 2012 breach of the servers of Strategic Forecasting, a powerful private intelligence firm, which netted millions of internal e-mails and credit card information of clients. Hammond had been in federal prison since May 2012 while awaiting trial. He potentially faces decades in prison.
“Insist that ‘freedom’ and ‘the state of nature’ are synonyms and the cadavers will try to bite you. The tame, the domesticated, try to monopolize the word freedom; they’d like to apply it to their own condition. They apply the word ‘wild’ to the free. But it is another public secret that the tame, the domesticated, occasionally become wild but are never free so long as they remain in their pens.”

- Fredy Perlman, Against His-story, Against Leviathan!

In times of danger, we hope you feel immense love.

Jerry Koch: New York City anarchist Jerry Koch was taken into federal custody on May 21 for refusing to cooperate with a grand jury investigating a 2008 off-hours bombing of a Times Square military recruitment station. It was the second time Koch was subpoenaed. He is not thought to be a suspect, and the government alleges that he was in a bar where people involved may have discussed the incident, something Koch says he has no recollection of.

NSA: The U.S. surveillance state was exposed on June 5, as former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden revealed the existence of the NSA's PRISM system, a partnership between internet conglomerates such as Apple, Google, Facebook, and Microsoft to provide the government access to their servers, so that intelligence agents could obtain mass amounts of data. It was also revealed that a federal surveillance court had ordered Verizon to turn over records of every customer of one of its divisions continuously to the NSA, from a period from April 2013 until July. Snowden is in hiding in the Moscow airport, fearing charges under the Espionage Act, the fate of numerous government whistleblowers, including Private B. Manning, whose military trial began last month.

Smashing Shit: Numerous acts of property destruction have occurred around Portland in the last month. Animal rights saboteurs claimed attacks on Metro Body Piercing on Southeast Hawthorne, and Ocean Beauty Seafood in Southwest. Sheepskin of Oregon and Archers Afield were both targeted by those in solidarity with grand jury resisters and the Nike store in Northeast was attacked in solidarity with queer struggles.

Belgium: Brussels anarchists are facing repression from the federal government, after numerous homes and an anarchist library were raided on May 22. Eleven people now face terrorism charges as a result. During interrogations, authorities questioned the anarchists about activities dating back as far as 2008, including protests of prisons, against the construction of an immigrant detention facility, as well as numerous acts of local insurrection against the EU. Authorities are also investigating the publication of anarchist materials, including the anarchist paper Hors-Service, which they can obviously, and especially, go fuck themselves over.

Switzerland: On May 25 in Bern, a street dance party which attracted 10,000 people turned into a riot, which saw revelers fighting police and causing hundreds of thousands of francs of damage. Fifty people, including 20 police were injured and there were 60 arrests at the event called “Dance Yourself Free.” It was the third year the dance party was held in protest against restrictions on the capital’s night life.

Greece: The government on June 11 attempted to shut down public broadcaster ERT, in an effort to pay off debts associated with their EU- and European Central Bank-imposed $317 billion austerity measures. Greek unions staged two national strikes and the station continued on in a pirate broadcast, until the closure was rescinded by a court order. However, the re-opening is temporary, pending the decisions of an increasingly precarious coalition government.

Your pals, The Radicle
“Sometimes We Had a Brick”

An interview with former SHAC 7 prisoners Josh Harper and Jake Conroy

by Mike Klepfer

Jake Conroy and Josh Harper are two former prisoners. Part of the animal rights campaign Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC), the two were engaged in an international effort against the private animal experimentation laboratory Huntingdon Life Sciences (HLS), which drew activist ire after undercover video showed HLS workers abusing animals; punching beagle puppies in the face, slamming and shouting at them.

Using a decentralized approach and targeting not only the lab, but investors and key corporations that did business with HLS, the campaign nearly toppled the multimillion dollar company in 2000, before HLS received a bailout from American investment bank Stephens. Because of the success of the campaign, its tenacity and its militancy, U.S. lawmakers sympathetic to HLS and other animal-exploitation industries sought prosecution of SHAC organizers Harper, Conroy, Lauren Gazzola, Kevin Jonas, Darius Fullmer, Andrew Stepanian and John McGee, collectively the SHAC 7. With the exception of McGee, who was dropped from the case, all were charged under the Animal Enterprise Protection Act, receiving sentences between three to six years in March 2006. Stepanian spent a portion of his incarceration in a Communications Management Unit, a federal prison within a prison meant to drastically isolate prisoners and restrict their ability to communicate. For a further examination of the SHAC campaign, read Crimethinc’s “The SHAC Model: A Critical Assessment,” available online.

Conroy and Harper both spoke at the Resistance Ecology Conference at Portland State University, held from May 31 to June 2, this year. Gazzola, unable to travel to the event, made a statement via video. The full interview can be found at our website: portlandradicle.wordpress.com.

Radicle: This is the first time you’re reuniting since your trial. It was obviously emotional. When are the rest of the SHAC people off of probation and are you all planning on getting together?

Josh Harper: One thing that I try to be really careful about, and sometimes I’m not as careful as I should be, is extrapolating my prison experience and saying it’s the prison experience. Every prison sort of has its own culture. Even depending on the era that you’re in one prison, it can change quite drastically. There’s an old political prisoner by the name of Claude Marks and he did time out at Sheridan, where I did my time, and even though there were some similarities between the prison environment that he was in and the one I was in, over a space of ten years, there were also some very drastic changes. I talk a lot about the negative things that happened to me in prison because I want people to know when they’re being asked to make sacrifices for a movement, that those sacrifices are real and severe. But what happened to me will not necessarily happen to others. In fact, I’ve had some friends who have done their times in low-security, minimum-security and even medium-security where they didn’t have to face the sorts of things that I did, so I try not to make everyone panic by saying “What you’re going to see is exactly parallel to mine.” I also try to be realistic about my own experiences.

JC: Yeah, I’m looking forward to it. You spend so much time with these people and really grow strong bonds, friendships, and all that’s taken away from you. Obviously it’s going to be really emotional and overwhelming, but exciting to see people you haven’t had a chance to see in such a long time. Especially when those bonds are broken by forces outside of your control.

Josh, you said repeatedly yesterday that “prison fucking sucks.” Do you have advice for people potentially facing prison sentences, people about to go into prison? Can you talk about the things people face in prison that other people should know about and ways to beyond the prisoner support that is usually offered?

JC: I agree with that. For me, before I went into prison, when we were on house arrest, I wrote as many political prisoners as I could, including people who were in prison at the time and just asked for advice and I would write just pages and pages of letters back and forth just to get an idea of what things were going to be like. And I even wrote someone that was, after I found out what prison I was going to be in, another prison, at the same security level, in the same facility, of the four prisons in total at Victorville. And what he told me was going on down there was not the same as what was going on one hundred yards away at another facility. It was completely different. I think the other thing to remember is that before the SHAC convictions, there really wasn’t a lot of political prisoners in the United States doing a significant amount of time in the animal rights movement. Within the animal rights...
movement, there wasn’t a whole lot of people to correspond with and get information from. And primarily, they did their time in low-security prisons or camps, and so there wasn’t a lot to [assess] what we were going to be facing. I think now, as the government repression continues and increases, people are doing more and more time in larger and more terrifying institutions and I agree with Josh that a lot of the rhetoric, before we went to prison, was like “the hardest thing about prison is the long walk to the salad bar” and that’s just not the case anymore. It probably wasn’t then, either. I think you have to be very aware of what you’re getting yourself into. I’ve spent a lot of time traveling around the country, talking about my prison experiences, and at the end I say the same thing, that I’m not here to tell stories like “Look at me, look how great I am, look what I did, look what I accomplished,” but “Look at me. I’m this scrawny little vegan white kid that somehow managed to come out the other side intact.” While it’s terrifying and awful, it is do-able, but you have to just be prepared for the worst, expect the worst and figure out how you’re going to survive.

Have you talked to Andy [Stepanian], about his time in the CMU?

JH: Him and I had a phone call a few months back where we spoke a little bit about his experience and one thing I have to say I really admire Andy for is one, he’s very open about his beliefs, even if they’re not popular in radical communities. He’s a Christian. While he was in, he was held in this facility that was predominately incarcerating Muslims. The compassion he felt for these men and the concern he’s had for their continuing existence was really striking to me. He’s on the outside communicating with their families. He’s trying to make sure that those of them that are the most impoverished are getting a little bit of money on their books. He’s trying to take some of the worst stories of the abuses of the war on terror and what it’s done to Muslim Americans and publicize them and make sure that the reality that the rest of the United States is aware of. I can’t speak for Andy, or know what he physically endured, or what he saw in there, but I am very much honored to know him and proud of the work he’s done since he was released from the CMU.

You’ve heard about Daniel McGowan’s situation*, where he was taken back into custody for a day for publishing an article. Do you have any thoughts about his situation, what he’s had to go through since he’s been out?

JH: Daniel is an old friend of mine. I first met him on an e-mail list in 1996 and he came out and visited Eugene, Oregon, where I was living again in late ’97. [At this point, a group of tourists on Segways rolls through the park and I joked that things had changed since the two had been out. Josh Harper then proceeded to sing part of the chorus to “A Whole New World” from Disney’s Aladdin.] He came out to Eugene and we had a lot of mutual friends and it was difficult for me when he was indicted. The thing that a lot of folks probably don’t know is that Daniel did attend SHAC events. We had national demonstrations when he was living in New Jersey and he would come out and attend, and hold signs. He was opposed to Huntingdon Life Sciences and what they did, and he was supportive of SHAC and what we did. So seeing him go away was difficult. Three days before he self-surrendered, his attorney was based in Seattle and I was on house arrest there. Daniel actually came to my house and brought me vegan Thai food and beer and it was the last time I saw him, and I won’t be able to communicate with him for many years, but I certainly have him on my mind and hope that he’s doing well and that the state quits fucking with him.

What would you have done differently in the SHAC campaign?

JH: It’s a difficult question to answer, because there’s a lot of that stuff that I haven’t quite processed, and it’s hard, when you’re removed from that moment, and you are more able to think more rationally. Hindsight’s twenty-twenty. It’s easy to be a Monday-morning quarterback, as Lauren would say. I really think we did the best we could with the knowledge we had at the time. There’s a lot about the rhetoric that I personally used that I regret. I said some very ugly things, some things that were unlikely to get us widespread support, to grow our numbers. If there’s one mistake that I think the campaign, at large, was guilty of, it was using almost an absurd language of militancy that wasn’t likely to build our numbers, that was macho, that was posturing. I wish we had strayed away from that. But the actions themselves, by and large, I support, and I still think were wonderful. A rich guy had his boat sunk. I’m glad that it happened. A lab got broken into and beagles got taken out. I’m glad that it happened. People who daily make profit off of suffering animals in cages, when they had their cars spray-painted, or the windows of their homes broken, I didn’t really feel sorry for them and I do appreciate that that occurred, that there were people who still cared enough and weren’t beaten down by the system to such a degree that they were willing to let that pass. So we used the tactics that were available to us. We didn’t have political power. We didn’t have billions of dollars. We didn’t have the money that HSUS has, the political connections, but sometimes we had a brick, and I think we were justified in using it.

JC: I think there was an idea that, since this was based on campaigns like Consort and Hill Grove, Shamrock, and Regal Rabbits, one-month to 18-month campaigns, I think we realized that HLS would be a much harder victory than those, but the campaign was designed to be a short-term campaign, and so there was a lot of posturing. “We’ll shut this place down,” “If we can get rid of this target, we’ll shut this place down.” In theory, it should have worked that way. If you get rid of their last investor, and there’s no one left to invest, then it should be shut down. But I think there should have been a little bit more conversation on longevity, and I think, in the end, in the SHAC office, we recognized that, and were trying to build, in the last year and a half, we were working on plans to build that into more of a long-term, stable, organization, and expand on some of the ideas, but that didn’t happen because we all went to prison.

*Former Earth Liberation Front prisoner Daniel McGowan was taken into federal custody on April 4, and spent a day in prison for writing an article about his imprisonment in a CMU.
Dr. Marie Equi: A Portland Firebrand

Marie Equi was a lesbian, anarchist, feminist, abortion and birth control advocate and lifelong radical.

by Matt

Marie Equi was born in 1872 in New Bedford, Massachusetts. She dropped out of school at age 8 to work in the textile mills until age 13, briefly leaving the states for a few years to live in Italy with her grandparents. At the age of 20 she moved with Bess Holcomb, a high school friend to The Dalles, Oregon in 1892. Bess had found employment at Wasco Independent Academy and this time marked one of Marie Equi’s first recorded direct actions. Reverend Orson D. Taylor refused to pay Holcomb a promised $100 in July of 1982. In response Marie stated that she would publicly horsewhip him. She followed up on her promise and was arrested. All charges were dropped though a bail of $250 was required. Many people in town responded favorably to Marie’s actions. She was easily able to raise the funds both for bail and to reimburse Holcomb.

A number of years later Bess and Marie moved to San Francisco, California so that Marie could begin studying at the Physicians and Surgeons Medical College in San Francisco in 1900. She finished her studies at Oregon Medical School once they started accepting women, completing her degree in 1903. She established a general practice in Portland, primarily treating working-class women and children, often at no charge. She was one of a few doctors who performed abortions in Portland with little care of money or social status.

On hearing of the devastation caused to San Francisco by the 1906 earthquake she quickly organized a group of doctors and nurses to provide humanitarian aid. She received a special commendation from the United States Army. During her time in San Francisco she became involved with Harriet Spechard, the niece of Olympia Brewing Company founder Leo Schmidt. While numerous attempts were made to discourage them, the family went so far as to threaten to revoke Harriet’s inheritance, the couple returned to share various residences together in Portland, Oregon.

During the years between 1903-1913, Equi’s politics were progressive, supporting the eight-hour workday, suffrage and state-supported education. She was involved in the woman’s suffrage movement that saw women get the right to vote in Oregon in 1912. In 1915, Harriet and Marie adopted an infant girl, Mary, who referred to Harriet as her “ma” and Marie as her “da”.

By 1916, Marie Equi’s politics quickly shifted to becoming more radicalized after witnessing the brutality and repression of workers during the Oregon Packing Company fruit cannery workers’ strike in 1913. She was also disillusioned with the progressives, whose hypocrisy she was hard-pressed to overlook. Progressives and radicals joined in assisting the women-led strike against low wages, poor working conditions and unsympathetic cannery management. The Industrial Workers of the World were one of the supporters of the strike. Portland’s city government and its police force repeatedly jailed IWW members in order to halt public protests. The protests were one of the “free speech fights” the union organized in the region, when they would call in outside reinforcements to fill a town’s jail until authorities gave up and allowed them to speak publicly. It was during this time of both the free speech fight and the brutality used to break the strike that Marie Equie started espousing anarchist ideas and denouncing capitalism. In fact, because the police would haul IWW street speakers off their soapboxes before they could finish speaking, Equi once donned lineman’s spurs and gave her speech up a telephone pole, out of reach.

In 1916, Equi joined the American Union Against Militarism. During a war-preparedness rally in downtown Portland she unfurled a banner reading: “PREPARE TO DIE, WORKINGMEN, J.P. MORGAN & CO. WANT PREPAREDNESS FOR PROFIT”.

In 1918, Equi was arrested for sedition under the newly revised Espionage Act. The act sought to criminalize dissent and has been used over the last 100 years to jail and intimidate people across the political spectrum, most recently Army whistleblower B. Manning. Her arrest centered around her giving a speech that among other things said “workers should not participate in a war where they would be killing fellow workers at the bidding of their masters” during an anti-war speech for a group of IWW members. In October 1920 Equi began her 3-year sentence at San Quentin State Prison, which was later reduced to a year and a half.

Labor leader Elizabeth Gurley Flynn stayed with Equi to rest after campaigning for the release of Sacco and Vanzetti, two anarchists convicted of shooting and killing two men in an attempted shoe factory robbery in 1920. Flynn would live with Equi for over ten years. After Equi’s release she lived a quieter life, but remained active with the IWW, responding to national events such as the 1934 West Coast Longshoremen’s Strike. In May of 1927, Equi’s daughter came to live with her “da” in Portland. Many years later, on July 13th, 1952 at the age of 80, Equi died in the Fairlawn Hospital in Portland.

This is Your Paper!
The Portland Radicle aims to stimulate discussion of anarchist thought in our communities. We seek to disseminate diverse ideas of autonomy, self-determination, and mutual aid in order to encourage constructive resistance against political, economic, and social forms of domination in our lives. The Portland Radicle is an anarchist-without-advocates project that is looking for articles from anarchists of all backgrounds for consideration. We like writing that is accessible, but not simplistic. We are looking for articles between 500 and 1500 words. To submit please go to our website: portlandradicle.wordpress.com and click “Write for us.”
Like many anarchists roughly my age, I remember being captivated by the Seattle World Trade Organization protests in 1999. The short, confrontational period that followed at trade summits all over the world, when coupled with radical environmental actions by the Earth and Animal Liberation Fronts, presented this incredible image of uncontrollable, sustained war against the ruling class and oppressions of all forms that I, a scrappy kid from the middle of nowhere, felt I'd someday join the ranks of.

We all know what followed: 9/11, hyper-patriotism, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, eight years of George W. Bush and Obama’s “war on terror.” The flame of rebellion present at capital sums was contained and spurious terrorism charges and preemptive arrests at those events are now the norm. Earth and animal liberation warriors were betrayed by their former comrades and faced crushing repression. In short, malaise crept in.

It was during this time in the early 2000s that someone handed me a copy of Days of War, Nights of Love, which completely pushed my fucking wig back. Enjoining readers to reject work and social roles and embrace the promise of lives steeped in immediate enjoyment and struggle, this anarchist primer spoke to all the wounded little parts of my low-wage life. It prescribed stealing, sex and abandonment of bourgeois imperatives in favor of a full existence. It imagined a mythical underground populated by impassioned revolutionaries trying to break free everywhere. It was a powerful story.

The publisher, Crimethinc, enjoyed a brief and sometimes ignominious popularity, as it appeared to fail to connect with entrenched, working-class leftists who saw its exhortations as indicative of privileges few could actually enjoy and its dropout overtones as unprincipled and “lifestyle”. The collective published a useful “cookbook” of subversive tactics (to replace the better-known Anarchist Cookbook, which is just a lot of shit about crude bombs), as well as the oft-maligned dropout bible Evasion, albums, ubiquitous posters, stickers, and numerous journals.

One that stuck was Rolling Thunder. Billing itself as “an anarchist journal of dangerous living,” Rolling Thunder seeks to collect analyses of worldwide uprisings, anarchist projects, including squatted community centers in Europe, and Really, Really Free Markets in the U.S. This heady content shares space with comics, sheet music, and reviews, along with the slick graphic design that the collective has been able to constantly produce. Spanning ten issues so far, with the goal being biannual publication, Rolling Thunder last rolled out a summer issue in 2012. It’s been mothballed ever since.

I picked up issue 10 recently. It’s good shit. It contains the usual essays attempting to synthesize worldwide revolts over a period of two years, basically the precursors which “culminated” with Occupy Wall Street and lots of beautiful photos of wrecked cop cars. Also lots and lots of analyses of riots in London, Greece, Toronto. There’s a great text from Seattle mapping how anarchists came together after the 2010 shooting of John T. Williams to confront politicians and police and reject the empty, pacifying rhetoric of reforms which let power off the hook. There is a lot of talk of how riots played out, how they could have destroyed more property, each reportback containing the unacknowledged idea, an article of faith at this point, that these social rebellions would eventually result in a generalized social rupture, given the right conditions, and seizures of momentum by rioters before the inevitable crush of state repression.

Crimethinc was born during the events in the 90s already mentioned. They could be seen as trying to popularize the modes of resistance of the 90s, a time marked by massive, confrontational protests at WTO, IMF and G8 summits. They often imagine a meaningful anarchist intervention in world politics that has not yet arrived, yet continually presents itself as a frequently-occurring undercurrent, flare-ups of social unrest in times of crisis. But sometimes their analytical texts do more to confirm positions than to open up lines of inquiry. While acknowledging the nearly limitless ways of fighting the repressive, the normative, the gray facade of the state and capital, attacks by anarchists manifested in the streets which are well-worn, telegraphed and sometimes barely strategic are the ones most focused on. While anonymity and collective authorship is one of the collective’s hallmarks, it often leads to a hive-voiced consciousness, embodied by “Crimethinc,” the views inside of which don’t differ greatly.

Crimethinc is also the offspring of the late-60s French leftist arts movement Situationism, which railed against “the Spectacle,” an...
alienating, all-pervasive, diametrically false existence that exists in mediated non-participation, through passive viewership of culturally significant events which reinforces values of, and roles within, domination. It is then paradoxical for media that seeks to be liberatory (and we’re guilty, too), to get attention by using dramatic images of rioting. Those same methods of attracting eyes breed consumption of the ideas of rebellion, if they ultimately may not be effective at actually spurring revolt. Riots need to be examined, but other means to understand and combat power need to be heard, too.

A long feature about the U.S.-Mexico border was the best story in the journal; it allowed readers who have never experienced the hellacious experience of crossing, pursued by Border Patrol, Mexico’s Sonoran Desert, a glimpse of the lives of the people who have. The piece also gives readers a lengthy exploration of the power dynamics at play, which make the border the way it is. It is a damning critique of both capital and the state. Maybe current anarchist tastes dictate a focus on spectacular riots in major cities, but to become truly dangerous and knowledgeable of the various manifestations of the power of our enemies, as well as the needs and concerns of non-anarchists we could fight with, getting more content from places unfamiliar to many of us, and different ways to fight and live, would be welcome.

If it sounds like I’m ragging on color photos of shit burning, I’m not. While I certainly like being put in the driver’s seat for first-hand reports of dangerous actions, I also know there is more breadth and imagination to the ways we could rebel. The time that we could be impressed by definitively disrupting major meetings of world leaders is over, and it’s obvious we need to grow and do a lot more. Crimethinc, in their introductory essay, even admits that the political terrain and media they began with has changed. Fine. Let’s adapt.

One idea the journal presents is that, in lieu of people uniting as workers in their workplace, or students at their schools, or any class adhering to their place within the matrix of capitalist life, that in a time of increased economic flux, when production and jobs flow like water, finding people more ripe for exploitation when currently exploited people rise up, those most dispossessed should unite with those who may await their fate. An event like the Great Recession should teach us that nothing is guaranteed to anyone in this economy and the capitalists will be the ones to recover best in times of a crisis they manage. This reinforces the notion that we need to understand one another more fully and teach each other novel ways to fight, so that we can see the social tinder that a momentary revolt will bring the spark to, in order to bring about lasting revolutionary change. Anarchist media, to the degree to which it should exist at all, should not only popularize our means of struggle, but explain our ends and explore those of others. It’s something at which Rolling Thunder often succeeds, but sometimes fails.

The journal’s five bucks, meaning it’s sold at or below cost, so pick it up and, insofar as they’ve been an inspiration to me, tell them “Thank you” or “Fuck you” for my contribution to this paper.

WE AREN’T JUST AN ANARCHIST, VEGAN, UNIONIZED REVOLUTIONARY WORKER COLLECTIVE TRYING TO BUILD A NEW SOCIETY BASED ON COOPERATION COMMUNITY, EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE, WE ALSO MAKE COFFEE.

THE RED AND BLACK CAFE

HAPPY HOUR EVERYDAY 4-7PM
LOCAL BEER & KOMBUCHA ON TAP

PORTLANDRADICLE.WORDPRESS.COM

WE AREN’T JUST AN ANARCHIST, VEGAN, UNIONIZED REVOLUTIONARY WORKER COLLECTIVE TRYING TO BUILD A NEW SOCIETY BASED ON COOPERATION COMMUNITY, EQUALITY, AND JUSTICE, WE ALSO MAKE COFFEE.