

Whereas, it is Resolved that there shall be **Fire** and **Ice**:  
*A Flash® Based Interactive Installation Piece*

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## I. The Concept

This piece was a reaction to the absurd nature of hearing the genuine dialog of a community fighting to survive pitted against public relations so thinly veiled it was hard not to, "pay attention to the man behind the curtain."

I wandered into this train-wreck of opposing narratives as a first-year student at Antioch College during 2007-2008 Attempted Closure of Antioch College (here after referred to as either "the Antioch Debacle" or, more simply, "the Debacle").

The use of Fire and Ice in this piece is a shorthand to represent the two main factions in the Antioch Debacle: Fire represents those wanted to see Antioch College continue operations (or, in the vernacular of this metaphor of opposing elements of nature, begin a new summer) after June 30, 2008; Ice represents those who wanted to see Antioch College suspend operations (or enter into a long winter) either temporarily or permanently. The black-and-white image of Antioch College's Main Building is another illustration of the polarized nature of the Debacle.

This piece uses direct quotes from various members of the factions involved in the Debacle. All the quotes were read by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans (who read the Ice quotes) or myself, Gaël Lumière (who read the Fire quotes). By using one voice to represent each side the voices become another part of the installation's polarizing shorthand.

The audio is intentionally on a hair trigger, and impossible to stop with out leaving the installation. This is to simulate the dizziness of too much information presented too quickly. The way in which the audio files becoming distorted when too many are playing at once is a metaphor that is both so obvious and convenient that it articulates itself.

The overall intention was to create a hyper-simplified, hyper-partisan, and hyper-binary reality, in which existed noise, unsynchronized signals, and discordant messages, in which the observer feels a loss of control, and a frustration over the cacophony of voices.

## II. The Quotes Used

### Fire

- "The University and its Board of Trustees should be ashamed at what they have done to Antioch College, but we will not let it die. The community, while saddened, is undaunted, committed, and most of all, passionate about Antioch and its future. Nonstop Antioch is just that—Antioch College for our time, and Antioch College for all time." – Ellen Borgersen, Vice-President of the Antioch College Alumni Board, read by Gaël Lumière
- "We refuse to accept what has been handed down to us. We want to secure the spirit of the current community and enable it to be passed on to the next

- generation of Antiochians. We are not ready to let it die!” – The *Blaze* Editorial Collective, read by Gaël Lumière
- “Antioch University administrators and the Chair of the Board of Trustees have continually maligned the college’s shared governance, academic programs, faculty and students, and have misled and misinformed the public and the news media” – Antioch College Action Network, read by Gaël Lumière
  - “Where is the Antioch in Antioch University?” – The *Blaze* Editorial Collective, read by Gaël Lumière
  - “Community is the destination at which we never arrive.” – Hassan Rahmanian, Antioch College Faculty Member, read by Gaël Lumière
  - “The top-down implementation of the plan to charge depreciation to each campus is, for the College, the crushing blow.” – Bob Devine, Antioch College Faculty Member and Former President, read by Gaël Lumière
  - “The college is your mother, have a little respect.” – Ann Filemyr, Former Antioch College Faculty Member, read by Gaël Lumière

### Ice

- “The university wants everyone to understand that the suspension of operation of Antioch College does not affect our continuing ownership of WYSO, both now and in the future. The station will continue broadcasting with the same staff and programs on which WYSO listener-supporters rely.” – Toni Murdock, Antioch University Chancellor, read by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans
- “The alumni are chaotic.” – Toni Murdock, Antioch University Chancellor, read by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans
- “I didn't give you a voice.” – Andrzej Bloch, Interim President, Antioch College Interim President, read by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans
- “The College’s low enrollment and lack of adequate funding led to the decision to suspend operations and declare financial exigency as required by the faculty personnel policy.” – The Antioch College Website, read by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans
- “I lived in terror that I was going to say something I didn’t even know was offensive. I began to feel uncomfortable with my knowledge of the English language.” – Eli Nettles, Associate Dean of Faculty, Antioch College, read by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans
- “The world was moving in a different direction and Antioch didn’t move with it fast enough. It is one of the last symbols of the ’60s, and that has not served it well.” – Andrzej Bloch, Interim President, Antioch College Interim President, read by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans

- “We did just about every analysis we could think of to keep the college alive and give a viable education, but the numbers couldn’t generate enough income.” – Toni Murdock, Antioch University Chancellor, read by Kim-Jenna Jurriaans

### III. Special Thanks

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