

driven around the other side of the building, out of view of supporters and the media. Police dressed in riot gear boarded the bus and forcibly removed people. As they got toward the rear of the bus, they started using pepper spray. While seated, I was sprayed in the face twice (long bursts at close range). They also held open some arrestees eyes while spraying into them. They then cuffed me and dragged me off by the hair.

### Jail

Throughout our stay in jail, our rights were systematically removed in an effort to break our spirits and solidarity, and to punish us. For 23+ hours a day they kept us locked up alone, or with one other prisoner. I was denied my right to see a lawyer (as were many others). Other prisoners were subjected to extreme physical and mental abuse. One woman's nose was broken when her face was smashed down into the floor, then she was refused medical attention. Another was left handcuffed naked on the floor of a jail cell. Others were pepper sprayed, beaten, and thrown into walls. Some prisoners were refused essential medication (for HIV, diabetes, etc.). The aforementioned violence is just the tip of the iceberg.



After the protesters were jailed, a protest camp was erected outside the jail. Most prisoners were released 3-5 days later, after the WTO conference was over.

### Most Cases Dismissed

In early January, City Attorney Mark Sidran announced that almost all of the remaining cases were to be dismissed due to lack of evidence. This occurred after many defendants had already invested a good deal of time



and money to return to Seattle for arraignments and pre-trial hearings. These dismissals show that they have the power to arrest us, strip us of our rights, keep us locked up for four days, then just dismiss the case due to a lack of evidence. It is clear that protesters were arrested on trumped up charges to get us off the streets where we might embarrass some rich dictators (politicians & CEOs). ACLU and Amnesty International are investigating police brutality, and victims will be filing civil suits in order to show those in power that they can't just take away our rights and get away with it.

### Corporate Media Cooperate With Police

In general, the mainstream media cooperated with the police by focusing coverage on the relatively few acts of vandalism, and mischaracterizing protesters as violent and dangerous, while labelling police actions as provoked, necessary, tolerant - anything but violent. When windows were broken, the media con-



“Police Appreciation Day,” at Westlake Park, to congratulate themselves for a job well done. Police gave out pizza and sold t-shirts that said “The Battle of Seattle.” Family and other brainwashed public were there to support the police, but we outnumbered them and we played music, sang, chanted, and argued with police supporters.

### Seattle: Just the Beginning

Many have said that Seattle was just the beginning. People active in the anti-war movement since the 60's (or before) commented that they've never seen or felt anything like it. The diversity and numbers, coupled with autonomous organizing, direct action, determination, and solidarity, provided hope that there is a future for our species and the planet.

Tens of thousands of people joined together in solidarity for justice. We used our power of numbers - people power - to make a difference. There were labour groups, environmentalists, social justice and human rights activists, womens groups, students, farmers, anarchists, church groups, many other groups, and many regular people who

demned it as “violence”, but failed to tell us why these corporations (Gap, Starbucks, Macdonalds, Nike) were targetted, failed to tell us about the violence that these companies perpetrate around the world. It didn't seem to concern the media that non-violent protesters were arrested and assaulted. They were more concerned with measuring the impact of the protests in “lost shopping days.” The day after the WTO conference, free busses and parking were announced, in an effort to spur people to make up for the “lost shopping days.”

### Police Appreciation Day

The following week, the police organized

had never protested anything in their life. Seattle radicalized thousands of people - showed people that we have the power, allowed them to feel the strength of resistance, and awakened people to the fact that our rights are far from guaranteed. It showed millions of people, not only what the WTO is and what lengths the state will go to in order to protect it, but also that resistance against corporate rule is alive and well - and growing.

### Future Action

In mid-April there is a World Bank / IMF (International Monetary Fund) conference in Washington, DC. Since these institutions are the other two pillars of the global economy (besides the WTO), many activists are planning to crash the party and shut it down like we did in Seattle. This sort of Direct Action will be a continuing tactic for stopping injustice. Following that is Mayday (May 1), billed as an international day of resistance, strikes, and street parties - a carnival against capitalism.

The future is ours to create. Let's make it a future of solidarity, resistance, and celebration. Just remember: we're fighting for freedom and love. The cops (and the rich) are only fighting for pay. Besides, there's more of us than them! Most people just haven't figured that out **END** YET!