

AGAINST THE POLICE AND THE PRISON WORLD THEY MAINTAIN

Police violence is not an accident.

II Cops are Bastards

Cops = Murderers
Judges = Executioners

*Communiques from the
Pacific Northwest
January - March, 2011*

Anti-Police Arrestee Benefit Dinner¹⁶

On August 31st, 2010, John T. Williams was shot and killed by Seattle Police Officer Ian Birk. The murder prompted a series of demonstrations against the murder of J.T. Williams and police violence in general. Anarchists also disrupted a police accountability conference, engaged in street actions, and spread information on the role of the police in society and the media's role in neutralizing any and all anti-police sentiment.

16 people have been arrested during the demonstrations and jail support over the past month and a half all on misdemeanor charges ranging from malicious mischief, obstruction of an officer, criminal trespassing, and rioting. Supporting arrestees financially and emotionally is a small but vital part in the practice of solidarity. True solidarity is the recognition of your own struggle in the struggle of those suffering repression and then carried out through the continuity of that struggle; the maintenance of active revolt. The momentum that was born in the streets lives on even in the face of repression.

“Solidarity lies in action. Action that sinks its roots in one’s own project that is carried on coherently and proudly too, especially in times when it might be dangerous even to express one’s ideas publicly... A project which is not specifically linked to the repression that has struck our comrades but which continues to evolve and make social tension grow, to the point of making it explode so strongly that the prison walls fall down by themselves.” - Revolutionary Solidarity, Elephant Editions

¹⁶ Text of a poster widely posted in Seattle. It is included here for the analysis on revolutionary solidarity.

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Montreal, QC: Two Security Companies Attacked in Solidarity with Northwest and Montreal

Windows were smashed and paint was thrown on the walls and surveillance cameras of two security companies in Montreal, QC [on March 21st]. One company was attacked for its role in the installation of CCTV cameras and the other because it trains security agents. Take aim and target those complicit in the maintenance of this society of domination.

Solidarity to the North West US in their struggle against the pigs & to Montreal area anarchists facing state repression.

-Anarchists

fucking car right now and commanded at me to “STOP!”. I asked him if i was being detained or arrested, there was no response. I continued to jog and he started incessantly shit talking. Saying how me and all my buddies are going to prison, how we’re never gonna win, how we need to realize who were fucking with, etc...

At this point I kind of tuned it out because it all blurred together and the convo had been going on for about two blocks. The car then slowed down, which I assumed meant they were going to leave, they did.

The car (still driving on the wrong side of the road) slowed down and made a quick left, I ducked back to try to grab the license plate, but they speed away and then turned abruptly. I believe it was Washington plate, but I can’t say for sure whether or not it was a gov’t plate, it could have been. I remember it starting with a “0” and then it contained a “3” or “7” and a “9”. I realize this isn’t helpful, but its what I remember.

So yeah, doesn’t take a genius to figure out this is obviously related to the acts of sabotage at the westside police station. They were obviously prying for info, trying to get me into their car and shit.

There was an instance last week where people who were almost definitely officers of agents were seen photographing another anarchist oriented house, this was witnessed by those that live there.

So nothing we don’t already know, they are around, they are pissed, and they want to scare us. Just thought i’d share my story. word.

- An Anarchist from the 360.

Preface

The police—agents of social control and pacification, army of the rich, the long arm of law and order whose purpose is to instill fear and submission—are fundamentally enemies of any individual who wants to escape from predetermined roles and live a life of freedom and creative-destruction. Cops literally put people in cages; they also convince many to live in cages of their own, made out of fear. As such, an attack (quite different from a military operation) against the police is an essential part of the destruction of a world that is imposed upon us.

“... permanent conflictuality (a constant and effective struggle towards the aims that are decided upon, not sporadic occasional interventions); ... attack (the refusal of compromise, mediation or accommodation that questions the attack on the chosen objective). “As far as aims are concerned, these are decided upon and realized through attacks upon the repressive, military and productive structures, etc. The importance of permanent conflictuality and attack is fundamental.” - O.V., “Autonomous Base Nuclei”

It is beyond the scope of this introduction to delve any deeper into the historical context of the anti-police activity in early 2011 than a cursory review of the events of 2010 in the Pacific Northwest. The spring of that year saw an upsurge in anti-police activity that was largely organized by anarchists in west coast cities, significantly inspired by the Greek insurrection in December 2008 and the periodic anti-police activity in Oakland California through 2009 and 2010 (the Oscar Grant Rebellions). The city of Portland saw several conflictual demonstrations and well-coordinated attacks on police property, while in Olympia, Tacoma, and Seattle a variety of activity from demonstrations, graffiti, wheatpasting, counter-informational leafletting, jail noise demos, and clandestine attacks contributed to the practice of permanent conflictuality that is an important wager in the insurrectional process when struggle is relatively iso-

lated (as it has often been in the United States in recent memory). The motivation for a practice of permanent conflictuality is not based in the adherence to a program, however, but emerges rather from individuals' own refusal to wait for a generalized struggle before attacking state and capitalist infrastructure.

In the fall of 2010, the police execution of John T. Williams sparked general outrage in Seattle. The public (re)emergence of anti-police struggle had certain limits from the beginning, as all specific struggles do, simultaneously with and in contradiction to their insurrectional potential. The pattern is far from unique and cannot be overstated. The movement was, from its birth, focused on one particular victim, one specific "bad cop" who had gone beyond "acceptable use of force," and at the same time the particular instance illuminated a generalized rage toward the police and their social role that is ever-present and, if unleashed, is the very fuel of an insurrectional process that attacks and destroys the state and capitalism. The various leaders who organized the movement, despite their political differences, all sought throughout to contain and limit anti-police sentiment and prevent the generalization of the struggle, the expansion of analysis, and the diversification of tactics. It was in this emerging struggle, in spite of its limited scope, that certain anarchists in the Puget Sound positioned themselves to intervene and unleash a common rage—unwilling to ignore the struggle as reformist and wait for something more total, not satisfied to accept the limits out of deference to the "movement," and not seeking to act as its vanguard element.

"Riots, uprisings and insurrections are not generally inspired by grand ideas, utopian dreams or total theoretical critiques of the social order. Often the spark that sets them off is quite banal: economic instability, bad working conditions, betrayal by those who claim to represent one's rights, police brutality. These seemingly minor details spark revolt when rage combines with a distrust in both the

We don't talk to police, We don't make the peace bond

So today [March 21st] in Olympia I left my house for a run at about 1:00 PM. I had only gotten two blocks away from my house when i noticed a large white SUV turn out behind me, I didn't think anything of it at the time. However, a few blocks later i was jogging on the left side of the side walk and the large white SUV approached me, driving on the wrong side of the road and very slowly. Through out this whole conversation i continued to be jogging, although I did slow my pace.

The window was rolled down and i heard "Excuse me sir, can i ask you a question". Hearing this I looked up and realized two white men in suits with shaved heads, the passenger was wearing a blue tooth and was using a computer built into the vehicle. So... after seeing this, it was pretty clear who they were. I told them that I was running and wanted to be left alone. They replied stating "Please sir, it will only take a minute of your time". I responded in similar way stating that I was on my run and wanted to be left alone.

Their response was "Mr. First Middle Last"(name), "Mr. Sabot Infoshoppe (a student group I coordinate), You don't know who your fucking with do you." I responded stating that I didn't know who they were and that I didn't want to talk to them. They responded "Bullshit, you know who we are, we know who you are, you and all your little buddies better cut this shit out".

They then told me that I should get into the car, i said no. They said it again, telling me that I really should get into the car, I told them to fuck off. They then asked me if I have ever seen the inside of a prison cell, because thats where me and all buddies are going and once again said "you better realize who your fucking with". At this point i stopped responding.

He stated very angrily that I need to get my ass in the

Philadelphia: Bank Attacked

Tonight [March 18th] a bank was attacked and windows cracked when several bricks were thrown at it. We wish we could have done more, but we were just feeling it at the moment and did what we could with a small window of opportunity. You should know by now why these things happen, in addition to the fact that it's fucking fun to have brief moments where we can feel a small sense of freedom. **Much love from the east coast to our friends in Oly, Seattle, Greece, Chile, and everywhere else holding it down.** More to come from us here.

It's getting warm again Philly, bring out them flash mobs.

Portland: Flashmob Attacks Bank in Solidarity with Seattle and Olympia

On the evening of 03-20-2011 a group of well over a dozen anti-authoritarians converged onto the Hollywood district Key Bank in North East Portland. Rocks and bricks were thrown through its windows, the banks ATM machine was destroyed, and anti-police graffiti was painted across the buildings facade. It should also be noted that this attack was carried out as a police cruiser rolled into the banks parking lot and stood-by unwilling to engage the hostile crowd. The group then dispersed into the surrounding area without any arrests.

These acts of sabotage not only allow us to lash out at the symbols of domination in our lives, but also serve as a means to forge bonds of trust and experience acting with one another.

This was done as a collective act of solidarity with the recent anti-police resistance in Seattle and against the recent police repression targeting anarchists in the Puget-sound.

-some anarchists on the grey coast

ruling and oppositional institutions. This fact calls for anarchists to avoid an ideological purity that calls for participation only in total struggles. It also calls for the a keen theoretical development capable of immediately understanding specific situations in terms of the totality of domination, exploitation and alienation, and at the same time capable of making a practical application of this theory. This requires a willingness to constantly examine the developing realities around us, making connections that show the necessity for a revolutionary rupture, while at the same time singling out appropriate areas for intervention and appropriate targets for attack.”
- Wolfi Landstreicher, “Autonomous Self-Organization and Anarchist Intervention”

The communiques that follow (everything from texts of leaflets distributed in the streets to call-outs for demonstrations, report-backs and summaries of mass actions, communiques from attacks on police property, and more) represent ideas and actions that mostly followed the general trajectory that we outlined above (of permanent conflictuality and anarchist intervention), while also expressing ideas on a variety of subjects from revenge and solidarity to counter-insurgency and methods of attack.

We believe that the events that are documented in this pamphlet, far from having importance for what they accomplished, should act as a source of inspiration and also a reminder of the possibility to engage in struggle in every moment and in every place, no matter how pacified the struggle against state and capital may be—a constant wager not to be overlooked or dismissed. In other words, the events of January to March 2011 in the Pacific Northwest are exemplary within the trajectory of constant war, which is far from over and of which these events are but a tiny drop within a tsunami of rage and destruction against the world of law and order, of work and misery.

Seattle, WA
May, 2011

There is No Justice – Just Vengeance¹

Today the jury deliberated over questions of whether John Williams was a threat to the Ian Birk, the cop that murdered him, and whether Birk perceived Williams as a threat. Only half of the jury believed that ‘Birk felt’ Williams was a threat, and most believed that Williams was not actually a threat to Birk. The answers to the questions posed to the jury are obvious. More importantly, they are irrelevant. The four or five rounds that the pig fired in a matter of seconds are an indication not only of the fact that Birk was out for blood, but also that he—and cops in general—are afraid of us all. They hide behind a badge and a gun because they are fucking scared. But so are those willing to engage in dialogue with them.

This act of murder is one of the countless deaths done by this murderous system. The forces of power will ensure that the cop gets off. It is dangerous to fall into the trap that the police and the media are setting with their two-faced promise that “this situation will be dealt with” through a democratic process of consensus and compromise. Calls for reform, for better police training, play perfectly into the game that ensures we remain complacent, controlled, and in our assigned places. Reform is not a solution but another iteration of the problem itself.

Equality before the law is a myth constructed to ensure the continuation of this murderous system, to keep the powerful in positions of power. Law rests on a mystical foundation as well. That is, law does not have a legitimate ground other than the exercise of power at the moment of its insertion into the social order.

¹ A few hundred copies of this leaflet were distributed by anarchists at an RCP-organized rally in Seattle, January 20th.

Olympia: Arson attack on police station

Responsibility has not been claimed for an attack on an Olympia, WA police station with an incendiary device on the night of March 15th.

Santa Cruz: Police Car Attacked

Two Santa Cruz County Sheriff Department vehicles were attacked on the night of March 15th. Their tires were slashed and etching fluid was thrown onto their windows
Seattle. Montreal. Bahrain. Fuck the pigs.

Vancouver: Probation Office & Signs Painted

On the night of March 15th, the front of the probation office on Commercial Drive, Coast Salish Territories (Vancouver), was covered with the messages: “Prisoners to the Street!” “Fuck the Police!” and the circle A. Large new signs installed on Commercial Drive to help tourists find their way were completely obscured by paint as well.

A small act in solidarity with comrades in prison on hunger strike in Chile and with comrades in the Puget Sound fighting the police!

Montreal, Quebec: Public Security Ministry Vehicles Attacked

Several vehicles belonging to the Public Security Ministry of Quebec were doused in paint stripper and had their tires slashed [on March 17th]. This Ministry oversees the provincial prisons and police forces.

Big ups to people who have been out on the streets in this city recently in solidarity with arrested anarchists and against the police, and also to people engaging in struggles against the police in Seattle and the Pacific Northwest.

We have been taught that this is human progress, this constant scarcity. The lie perpetuates that government is of the people, that our choices and votes matter, but the truth is a power elite manipulating a few different shades of shit. Republican or democrat, liberal or communist; it's all the same cage with windows meant to pass for freedom.

While we're told to grow up, to quiet our rage, to check another ballot, wait another decade for change, our limbs and minds grow weary. Through the bars, our dreams and desires yearn to overflow, for something different. Some of us claw at the walls where many have died before, fight for one last glimpse of the sunlight. Anarchists.

BELIEVE IN EACH OTHER, NOT THE STATE

The media and government call anarchists silly idealists and terrorists; maybe we're both. But theirs is a system based in lack, and we have no need for them. Anarchy means 'no rulers'. You don't need a boss to get things done. You don't need a church to choose right and wrong. You don't need police to keep you safe. You don't need a government to tell you how to live.

Anarchism means destroying the forces that seek to keep us on our knees, as much as it means finding your friends, lovers, families and communities to have each others' backs, with unbounded rage and joy. The riot that spills into the streets with dancing and laughter, the potluck that leaves everyone fed, the social center filled with books and ideas, the friendships based in affinity and unconditional solidarity, the window smashed to let in the light from outside.

A world where we are not caged and alienated from ourselves, our land and others is not only desirable; it is entirely possible! Do you see the window?

xoxo some anarchists

The outcry for the prosecution of Ian Birk for murder—for the power of the law to bring down its heavy hands upon the murderer—reinforces state power. "Police accountability" is a contradiction of terms. The police are the overt, violent front of a war that is waged against us in innumerable ways. They maintain the social order as it exists: all of us below and one percent at the top. They are slave drivers of our everyday lives who uphold the interests of the elite. The police exist precisely to act without accountability.

In the aftermath of a traumatic event in which the police suddenly and brutally reveal their true face, the mayor and the chief of police and other politicians—as well as their lackey media—offer such promises as "justice" to distract us from the reality of how fast power decomposes. We have glimpsed the fragility of this system in the fear in the eyes of the cops, in the quivering of Ian Birk's testimony. In every gesture of condemnation of the cops there is a germ of revolt against the entirety of this world that crushes us. The act of vengeance is infinitely sweeter than anything this world could offer up.

**THERE IS NO JUSTICE – JUST VENGEANCE!
OFF THE PIGS!**

Let's Burn the Bridges They Are Building

Demonstration Against Police January 27th

This is a call for participants in a demonstration against the police on Thursday, January 27th at 5:30 PM at 11th and Jefferson. This demonstration is being called in response to the announcement of the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition that John Diaz—the chief of Seattle Police—will be the guest speaker at their 6 PM meeting at Chardin Hall on Seattle University Campus.

The goal of the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition is to create “partnerships among residents, schools, businesses/merchants, the Seattle Police Department, social service and government agencies to effectively address public safety issues.” In other words, this non-profit seeks to build bridges between Seattle communities and the police force. It is fitting that they would be hosting Diaz now: Seattle police have shown their true, violent face again and again recently. Diaz needs to construct such connections as well. Community meetings like this one, like the Stranger’s insulting “Police Accountability Forum” (in reality, no more than a public relations opportunity for the SPD), and other recent examples exist to reinforce the liberal myth—which has neither a historical basis nor any clear analysis of our actual situation—of the police as a social service. As the resident politician of the police force, chief Diaz’ role is to give it the appearance of a friendly-if-troubled public servant that listens to the concerns of its customers. We are expected to more or less accept the existence of his violent gang but ask for some meager reforms, such as the right to walk through town without being harassed, beaten, or shot.

The EPCPC also expects many questions from the community, who they have asked to arrive early and sign up in an orderly fashion to have a chance to ask one sixty second question each. (What can you accomplish with your sixty seconds, citizen—compared with what murderers like Ian Birk unleash in a mere four seconds.) In contrast, we gather in opposition to this sentiment; we recognize, like anyone who faced the violence of the police, that there is no desirable dialogue with the police. Cops have never existed to “serve and protect” us—they are the overt, brutal front of a war that is waged against us in innumerable ways. We recognize their very existence in our neighborhoods as a forceful occupation, and reject any supposed spokesperson of our communities that would have them as “guests.”

Bring banners, leaflets, noisemakers, black flags, and your friends.

Why We Wear Masks

We cover our faces and conceal our appearances for the simple reason that we have no need to be identified. In this world where cameras sit on every other street corner, where the police, FBI and CIA use every chance to profile us and to build up files on our activities, where participation in social struggle or public demonstrations can compromise our freedom and ability to act in the future, we see no reason to make their jobs easier for them. Just as we refuse to cooperate with FBI interrogations and police investigation, we’re also going to make it as hard as we can for the systems of social control to crack down and break us. Developing a practice of (partial) anonymity in situations we choose opens up space for participating in actions for folks who would otherwise be risking too much be it legal status, immigration status, or employment. Not only does it make profiling more difficult, but it also helps to keep people out of police custody: the Seattle police and community snitches are having a much harder time identifying masked faces that were present at the demos on the 16th and 18th of February after Ian Birk got off. Wearing masks won’t get us home safely all the time, but it does disrupt routine repression and social control.

It is time we break them instead of letting them break us!

Anarchists: What the Fuck Are They Doing?

We live in a fundamentally untenable society, where the accumulation of wealth takes precedence over life. The legacy of *democracy* in the U.S. forgets that the land we live on was stolen through genocide; that slavery, patriarchy, the enclosure of land and our bodies greases the wheels of capitalism.

What is an Anarchist?¹⁵

Anarchists look reality in the face and desire its complete transformation: the elimination of exploitation and domination.

Anarchists recognize the one-two punch of the right and left wings of the state. The right-handed uppercut of market capitalism and the strong left hook that more government offers have taken turns pummeling people and the earth for hundreds of years. Anarchists are those who have had enough of it all.

Anarchists see the imposition of racism, class society, nationality, and patriarchy all playing parts in creating a world where a few own everything and the rest are forced to work for them in order to survive. A world that is also held in place by institutions of direct control in the form of police and prisons.

Naturally anarchists are decried as dangerous by cops, politicians, and the rich, and rightly so, because if anarchists had their way those roles would no longer exist.

Anarchists are also those who want to live in a world without hierarchy where interactions are based on mutual aid rather than the accumulation of power and commodities. Anarchists remain ever critical of themselves and bring their ways of thinking, acting and relating into constant question.

At the same time in world full of alienation and apathy anarchists are willing to act in accordance with their ideas.

¹⁵ This text and the next two are all from leaflets distributed at the March 15th anti-police demo in Seattle and other demonstrations.

Police Violence is Not an Accident²

There are gaping holes in the efforts of police spokespeople, community members, and city officials to apologize and rationalize the ongoing violence of the Seattle Police Department. What we hear repeatedly are sentiments like, “They are just doing their jobs, which are stressful and dangerous,” as well as, “These are isolated incidences.” Dialogue around how to correct overt force demonstrated by SPD revolves around reform and “making the police remember who they work for.”

While police accountability is certainly an issue that many communities rally behind for good reason, it also neglects the reality of the history of the modern day police force in the United States as well as who constitutes its body. You cannot apologize away an insitution that was formed to protect capital and the rich, nor can you deny the pattern of abuse in the SPD as being “isolated.” In fact, a culture of violence initiated the police force and maintains it’s power today.

The Modern Day Police Force

While the modern day police force has had several incarnations (including the commonly corrupt sherriffs and constables of days past), the system of policing as we know it today was never intended to protect citizens from one another: it was intended to provide insurance to slave owners who felt that their minority status in the South was a threat to their estates.

“Faced with the difficulties of keeping a major portion of the population enslaved to a small elite, Southern society borrowed from the practices of the Caribbean...There,

² Text of a flyer distributed by anarchists outside of the police-community relations meeting on January 27th.

slaveowners used professional slave catchers and militias to capture runaways, while overseers were responsible for maintaining order on the plantations...in the 1680s, the militia began making regular patrols to catch the runaways, prevent slave gatherings, search slave quarters, keep order at markets, funerals, and festivals, and generally intimidate the Black population.” (“Our Enemies In Blue,” Kristian Williams)

The modern day police force is modeled after these slave patrols and their job is to protect the social mechanisms of capitalism. Cops, SPD included, do not serve the public, they serve private interests. This is what is happening as they meticulously pick off the homeless, people with disabilities, and other marginalized communities who do not have the resources to fight back, and why they are so often not prosecuted.

The Culture of SPD

Recently the Stranger and the Seattle Times both reported on the newspaper written and distributed by the Seattle Union Police Officer’s Guild, The Guardian. The Guardian is a monthly publication written by cops, for cops. The content in the SPD paper that both publications reported on include an open disdain for civilian insight into the way the SPD is run as well as flaming critiques of the racial and social justice programs implemented in the last 5 years. Editorialists in the Guardian go so far as to call Seattle city officials “socialists,” as well as promoting the idea that social rights advocates are “enemies.”

The Stranger spotlights Officer Clayton Powell’s editorial, “Reality or Ignorance: the State of Being Out of Touch” (November 2010). Powell writes that cops should have access to racially and sexually charged words in order to relate to the communities that police are trying to develop credibility with. It is unclear at what point he believes using the “n” word in a community of color will “connect”

have seen what police violence looks like first-hand multiple times this past year. The minute someone is homeless, jobless, or can’t handle the repetitious drone of everyday life, the pretense of police protection vanishes. They become criminal. For many others the semblance of protection never exists. Police murder is a war on all those who won’t follow their every order, and those who don’t fit the cut-out copy of citizen. All the excluded become dehumanized, explained-away statistics. Even after an inquest or after a resignation, police murder does not stop, and it won’t, until there are no more police in the streets. Taking to the streets on our own terms is a step toward building resistance to the police on a practical level.

No peace in the streets with police in these streets!

Tacoma: Wells Fargo sabotage in solidarity with Montreal comrades

Last night [March 13th] paint was thrown on a Wells Fargo and the ATMS were glued shut. This was a small gesture of solidarity with comrades in Montreal. “LE 15 MARS, LA VENGEANCE.”¹⁴

Tacoma: Police Car Attacked

on the night of march 14th, a police car had paint thrown on it, etching fluid was used to ruin at least three windows. this action is dedicated to those comrades imprisoned in chile, on hunger strike since february 21st. solidarity knows no borders.

¹⁴ At the time of this action, about a dozen comrades had recently been arrested in Montreal at a demonstration on conspiracy charges, just days before the March 15th anti-police demo where clashes and rioting often occur in Montreal.

ATTACK on Seattle Bank

A Seattle Chase bank was attacked on the night of March 4th. They did not hear our laughter as we glued the ATMs and covered the building and windows in black paint.

This act of revenge was done not simply against the bank but against the police who protect the tortuous coils of capital. This is but a blow to this world of death with which we are at War.

Nothing will be compromised; nothing spared.

March 15 Demonstration Against the Police¹³

March 15 has been a day of international action against police brutality around the globe since 1997. The specific date is significant because in Switzerland, on March 15, two children, ages 11 and 12, were beaten by police. M15 originated from the Black Flag group in Switzerland and from the Collective Opposed to Police Brutality in Montreal. People in countries across the world come out to the streets in March to express their rage against the police. In Montreal specifically, there has been fierce annual riots erupting from the depths of the dispossessed. This March 15, Seattle will be joining the rest of the world in the streets and the timing couldn't be more appropriate.

Traditionally, the day is titled "International Day Against Police Brutality" but this definition is limiting. We are calling for a demonstration "Against the Police". The brutality of the police is an inherent part of their role as the guard dogs of the bosses and the rich; it is not simply an abuse of power, but a symptom of power itself. Here in Seattle, we

¹³ Text of a post wheatpasted by the dozens around Seattle before the demo. No reportback from the demo

his whiteness to their systematic oppression by the police and State. Disturbingly, Powell recommends that other officers watch the movie "Kings of Comedy," particularly what Bernie Mac has to say about using profane language such as "Motherf****r," in order to appreciate officer's abilities to utilize problematic language.

It should be no surprise then that Powell, unable to understand the racism behind a white cop using the "n" word, was also investigated by the SPD in 2000 for threatening and stalking his ex-wife. The Seattle PI reported in an article on July 23, 2003 ("Cops who abuse their wives rarely pay the price") that these charges were not taken seriously by the department and Powell was not disciplined.

The Times reported that City Councilmember Tim Burgess said, of the Guardian editorials, "[the comments are] not consistent with the values of the police department or the rules of behavior the department sets for our officers." Taking a brief look at SPD's history of recent violence could, however, prove otherwise.

SPD's (Incomplete) Recent History of Violence

* May 2009, Christopher Sean Harris was chased down a street in Belltown by unidentified men. In reality, Deputy Matthew Paul, who was not identifiable as a member of the sherriff's department, shoved Harris' head into a wall and crushed it, resulting in a catastrophic brain injury that only recently won Harris a \$10M settlement.

* November 2009, 15 year old black youth Malika Calhoun was slammed into a wall and punched twice while being detained in a holding cell by King County Sherriff's Deputy Paul Schene.

* April 17th, A group of Hispanic men are pulled over near Lake Union. Officer Shandy Cobane asserts: "I'm going to beat the f***ing Mexican piss out of you homey. You feel me?" and stomps one of the men.

* June 14th, two black youths crossing MLK are stopped by

the cops for jaywalking and one is punched in the face by officer Ian Walsh.

* September 2010, 6 people shot in one week, 5 killed, including John T. Williams. Williams, a Native woodcarver holding a 3-inch closed blade, was shot by Ian Birk within four seconds of being accosted and ordered to drop his wood carving knife.

* January 2011, a man is handcuffed and forced onto the ground, punched, and spit socked by two officers on Rainier Ave. S. after wandering into the street. Witnesses report excessive force

It shouldn't be a surprise that SPD invests time and energy holding community meetings intended for public relations outreach and then defames critics of the department in their private union paper. The Stranger reports, "The intended audience is the police department," says [Sean] Whitcomb. 'It's very police-y. It's specific jargon. They are writing to a specific audience.'"

The two faces of the SPD are meant to soothe the public while protecting private interests. They cannot accept money from the state if they are open about the internal culture they are cultivating. As author and police investigator Kristian Williams has said, "The main function of the police has very little to do with crime or enforcing the law and is more directed toward maintaining existing social inequality, especially those based on race and class."

It is a mistake to believe that the police can be reformed. If we wish to take our lives back from the chokehold of the prison industrial complex, we must abolish all its servants—including the police—and end our enslavement to capitalism and its enforcers.

This is an attempt by the police to counteract anti-police activity through identification, harassment, and intimidation.

In this effort we must ensure their epic failure.

We saw the power of solidarity in the days of action in west coast cities at the end of February. West coast and everywhere else, now is the time to act.

Olympia, WA: Police station attacked in a retaliatory fashion

On the night of March 4th the Seattle swine pulled a rebel behind police lines and proceeded to beat and arrest them. This infuriated us.

Later that night, two police vehicles were smashed up and the station itself received a few love taps that they won't be forgetting anytime soon.

Anarchists, now is not the time fear the baton of a pig and slink into hiding. Now is the time muster up courage, scheme evil plots, and seek revenge. This was not simply an attack against the police, this was a call to make everyone of those motherfuckers pay dearly! Not just for beating a fellow rebel, but for the everyday management and misery these spineless bastards heave upon our backs. In the coming nights it is our deepest desire that others will take it upon themselves to launch a greater surge of aggression against the swine that fill our streets.

Pigs, there is nowhere for you to hide. Become firemen before it is too late.

-The Blood Thirsty.

bike lights. They pushed the march onto the sidewalk almost immediately and kept it corralled, while riding horses into the march to trample, push and separate people.

After about twenty minutes of marching and handing out fliers on the sidewalk surrounded by a sea of pigs, the cops decided to arrest someone for no apparent reason. The protesters reacted by yelling, demanding his release and moving in closer. Two more arrests were immediately made; one individual was repeatedly punched in the face, head, and back during the arrest behind police lines. The demonstration dispersed.

In recent weeks there has been lots of media attention put on Seattle anarchists; it comes as no surprise that last night the media parroted the police reports.

Today 14 people went to the jail to post bail for those arrested last night and wait for their release. While people were waiting in the lobby, jail guards called police, although nobody knew this. The cops did not arrive until the arrested person was released and everyone was walking away. Four cars of cops detained the whole group and more cops arrived for a total of fifteen donut-loving cowards. People were told that they were being detained for trespassing at the jail and were asked for identification. Recognizing that this was an attempt by the police to identify people involved in the recent anti-police activities, everyone refused to identify themselves. Six individuals were arrested, presumably based on photographs and information that the police were checking. One of the detained had an anxiety attack and was taken by ambulance to the hospital accompanied by a friend. The remaining six detained were told they would be released if they provided identification, which they did. They are not “permitted” to be on jail property.

It’s been five hours since the six arrested individuals were seen entering the jail in cuffs, and they have not yet been booked.

Second Seattle General Assembly to Address the Problem of the Police

Calling all Pacific NW anarchists, anti-authoritarians, autonomists, etc. to come together, make connections, and talk about the increasingly hostile environment we find ourselves in and what we are doing about it. This General Assembly will vary from the 1st held in September in that there will be space provided for groups to share their work and progress or challenges in struggle against the police, as well as discussion regarding potential collective or individual action regarding Ian Birk’s recent inquest. You may be familiar with Ian Birk’s name—he is the cop who murdered John T. Williams.

Our aim is to encourage the momentum of resistance to the presence of police in our lives. We are uninterested in a discussion of better police training. Arguments for police reform are not welcome at this assembly. If you choose to express good faith in this violent and oppressive system you will be asked to leave. The only requirement for attendance at this assembly is the desire for the total abolition of the dominant social order that commits violence against us—including the police force. To this end, political parties are unwelcome—including so-called “revolutionary” ones.

Call for a Demonstration Outside Stranger’s “Police Accountability Forum”

Seattle’s “alternative” weekly gossip rag has organized a press conference for the SPD and local politicians to make political posturings and clean up their image. They are calling this a “Police Accountability Forum.” See previous critiques of “bridge building” efforts [above].

Meet at 6:30 Thursday, February 3rd at City Hall on 5th and James. The demonstration will be a visible and vocal manifestation of the refusal of any sort of dialogue with the police, the politicians, and the make-believe journalists who pretend to critique them. Bring leaflets explaining your analysis, banners, black flags, noise makers, and your friends.

The End of Dialogue³

The media experts are at work. Their desks are covered in putrid piles of reports; the towering images they put to use legitimizing the spectacle driven world. We saw their attention at the killings by police in the region. We read the reports detailing the goal of social peace through police and civilian dialogue. The ‘alternative’ newspaper *The Stranger* offers us their assurance: “We need to bring people together who can acknowledge why people are upset and that the vast majority of Seattle officers are working honorably.” By now, we can only meet their call for education, and the appeal good intention of the police, with laughter.

They are not interested in our comfort but in their own. There was never any question as to their true intention. It is perfectly clear who they have come out to defend. They are hosting this recital, a show of civility and good faith in authority to insure that nothing disrupts their quiet world of order.

While they *play at* being advocates of human rights they do nothing to question the social organization that ensures death at the hands of police—that is Democracy. The mayor, the chief of police, and the whole syndicate of politicians are the generals of a war. Like the coercive ideologies of Equality and Justice, the media work to preserve the existing social and economic system based upon division and mediation. Everywhere mediation.

³ Several hundred copies of this leaflet (and others) were distributed outside the forum and tossed in the lobby of City Hall and on the streets outside.

4720 SE Hawthorne Blvd.

We did this in solidarity with our comrades in Seattle and the recent uprisings against the police on the west coast. It is our hope that our struggles, and further, the struggle of all anti-authoritarians, will be mutually inspiring. The police have always used violence to uphold the institution of capitalism, and for that they should expect nothing less than to be attacked.

Against Police and the Prison World They Maintain

-Portland Anarchists

An update on the past 24 hours of repression against the anti-cop demo in Seattle

Mar 5th

Last night, March 4th at 7pm in downtown Seattle, a small demonstration was held against the police. Since their embarrassment at demos in the last few weeks, the SPD have changed their strategy of reacting to demonstrators and are now taking preventative measures to try to stamp out the collective rage that has been on the streets of Seattle in relation to police violence.

The police had mobilized in expectation of another physically aggressive march with a black bloc (see 2/12, 2/18, 2/26), but this demonstration had been organized at the last minute by Seattle Cop Watch and the general approach was to spread ideas, have a continued presence in the streets, and not initiate physical confrontation.

The police mobilized about seventy uniformed officers on horse, bike, and foot, as well as an unknown level of plainclothes deployment. The officers immediately began ticketing demonstrators for minor offenses such as littering (throwing fliers or dropping cigarette butts) and not having

as of now, rioting, obstruction, and pedestrian interference (but have been stayed-to be charged potentially at a later date-or not at all).

This action was prompted as a continuance to the anti-police climate that has intensified over the last two weeks. Our intention as anarchists, is purely conflictual in nature, in so, we intended to create the space for agitation and attack. There was no public call outs made, in order to use the element of surprise on our enemy, the police. Seemingly this worked successfully, but also, it should be noted that it wasn't just the surprise but also our presence of no compromise in the streets that kept the cops at bay. What we lacked in numbers we made up for in our ability to be flexible and act quickly.

Our dreams are in the streets!
Against the police and the prison world they maintain!

Tacoma police department building attacked

On the morning of February 28th, a Tacoma Police Department building had all its windows smashed out and some paint thrown on the facade.

This was done as part of the West Coast call out for two days of action against the police.

Solidarity is our weapon.

Portland Police Substation Attacked in Solidarity with Seattle Comrades

On Sunday night the 27th of February we smashed with rocks the windows of the Portland Police contact office at

The media are the front line, employed to enforce obedience. If the police catch you out of line you may get four rounds to the chest. But it is the media that kills calmly by waging an ideological war against any abnormality, any act of rebellion. It is through latent forms of violence that try their best to pacify us.

Today's forum is more than an opportunity for the police department to perpetuate the lie of 'community accountability.' It is a tactic to ensure that the media and the police work as one to assimilate any spark of spontaneous rage before it has time to catch. These institutions are working together to create a harmony of surveillance and discipline as part of a grand attempt to standardize behavior, create reality and decide the appropriate response to police. They will do everything within their power to assist the goal of the police at transforming rage into collective submission.

None of the murders or attacks by the police are the exception. They are, on the contrary, the rule. The very logic on which this society is based is one of death. It is a society dedicated to the myth of equality before the law. But this fragile pane is shattered when a cop lives up to his true duty of executioner and gets away with it. This is where the media step in to reassemble the illusion of social progress and protect the interests of the ruling class by proposing questions about how to move forward.

Our contempt for the media is inextricable from our hatred of this entire world. Representations in the media are mythical and compressed. They reduce a series of events into one static illustration placed within the logic of capitalism. What was previously a fantasy of communication is now a game of abstraction. It is not the job of the media to record reality but instead to create it by encouraging linear thinking, social progress, fragmentation, specialism, thinking in parts. The story about one bad cop perfectly illustrates this compartmentalization.

The question posed by *The Stranger*—"where do we go from here?"—can be cast upon the trash heap of history.

The only question remaining to be addressed is that of *their* very existence.

fire to the media!
fire to the police!

Report from Noise Demo Outside Seattle Jail on Sunday Night⁴

On Sunday night [Feb 6th] at 10pm around 40 people met in front of the downtown Seattle jail on 5th avenue. They proceeded to make noise with bells, pots, horns, yelling, screaming, howling, chanting, and the like. People yelled such things as “Hate, hate, hate, the hate inside of me. All cops are bastards, A-C-A-B!” and “cops, pigs, murderers!” A surveillance camera was taken down, a grate from the guards parking lot was ripped down, and a trashcan was thrown at a cop. A lot of noise was made for 40 minutes. People locked in jail were banging on the windows of several stories and could be visibly seen from across the street.

Many people came out to support their friends who, in the early hours of Superbowl Sunday, were threatened, attacked, and arrested by the police in their home. Two are now being held on false charges, and one has been released but still faces false charges. This all took place during a climate of escalating tensions with the SPD.

Solidarity with all imprisoned comrades, and those resisting police repression.

Addendum: A report from inside the jail earlier that day said that chants of A.C.A.B. were being exchanged between cell blocks. During the noise demo, on floor after floor we could see hands waving and banging on the windows. Lights out in the jail is at 10 PM—as the demo began to move in order to avoid being boxed in by the cops, we could see the

⁴ The demo was organized with a few hours’ notice.

Everywhere, Bite Back!”¹². People began to paint around the intersection on walls and on the ground, a roller piece was seen in the street reading in big white letters “Fuck the Pigs”. Fences were cut down and thrown into the street. Caution tape was wound around the four poles of the intersection.

A cop pulled up within minutes but was sprayed down with a fire extinguisher into his window, causing him to leave immediately. Minutes later more cops came from the other direction demanding that people take down the caution tape, their demands were met with “Fuck you”’s as people decided to continue out of the intersection and up the street toward Capitol Hill. Bunches of tire puncturing nails were thrown steadily behind the group to push back the cops.

As the march reached the Hill, the group had grown to about 30 people in black. About 25 flags were seen waving in the air. Around 1000 fliers were thrown into the air throughout the hour. Along the way numerous newspaper boxes, trashcans, etc. were thrown into the street. Flares were lit, some were thrown back at the police cars tailing the crowd but went out before doing any damage. Anti-police slogans were sprayed on walls and buildings as the march progressed, like “cops = pigs = murderers”, “all cops are bastards”, “fuck pigs”, “fuck cops (A)”. At least one luxury car was damaged while others were attempted.

Upon reaching Broadway & John, paint bombs were thrown at an American Apparel, Subway, US Bank, Chase Bank, and a now defunct Bank of America. Several windows were banged on with sticks and other objects but failed to break. Shortly after, the group decided to disperse splitting off in different directions. Three people were arrested and released several hours later. Their charges are,

¹² Someone had punched, eye-gouged, choked, bitten and tried to disarm a cop in downtown Seattle a few days prior to the action.

hot motherfuckers lookin real fly¹¹

you: dressed in black, brandishing a flare and screaming feverishly, eyes lighting the city on fire.

i: couldn't suppress my lust as you roamed downtown like the streets belonged to no one and everyone at the same time.

you: yelled "A.C.A.B." until your bandana was covered in a frothy halo, though you're anything but a saint.

i: i am into hyperbole, state smashing, and reading cixious, bernstein and hocquenghem in the moon light.

let's meet up and talk about dialectics while we nibble each others ears and lament the return to normalcy. or maybe we don't have to return to normal.

When: Friday, February 18, 2011

Where: downtown

I saw a: Transsexual (male to female)

I am a: Transsexual (female to male)

Portland anti-police banner drops

One said "History tells us that the police are the real criminals- Stop Them"

The second one seen says "The police are legalized terrorists- Stop Them"

Report Back from 2/26/11: Seattle Anti-Cop Action

On the night of February 26th, 20 anarchists dressed in black with masks covering their faces met at the intersection of Boren and Howell (where John T Williams was killed) in Seattle. A banner was seen reading "Cops Murder

¹¹ A message posted online at a 'missed connection' forum.

lights flickering on and off inside—the guards must have been doing this to try to warn or punish the prisoners. On the police scanner, the pigs discussed possibly needing to put the jail on lockdown. It seems as though ultimately this didn't happen.

Needless to say, the prisoners heard us and understood why we were there. **Our passion for freedom is stronger than their prisons!**

The Police Must Go⁵

They cannot be replaced. We recognize the police to be a tool of capitalism and therefore we have no desire to engage in dialogue, only permanent conflict with capitalism and its many faces of oppression. We have nothing to lose and everything to gain; them, quite the opposite. If they want us to be silent, we scream! If we are pushed, we push back. If they talk of reform, we talk of destruction. If they want to 'Ian Birk' us, we want to 'Chris Monfort' them.⁶

Jail the Cops Burn the Prisons

(A)

⁵ Text of a leaflet thrown in the streets at the jail demo.

⁶ One of the cops who beat and arrested the comrades in their home the night before had threatened to 'Ian Birk' (i.e. murder) the comrade who he was beating. Chris Monfort firebombed several police vehicles, murdered one cop and wounded another in Seattle in the fall of 2009.

Report Back from Seattle Anti-Police Demo

On February 12th, 150 people met at Westlake Center in Downtown Seattle. Hundreds of fliers were distributed during the initial rally which had the title “Police Are The Absolute Enemy.” The rally was predominately reformist and had been called by the October 22nd coalition, a front group of the Revolutionary Communist Party. However, the anarchist block, composed of 40 people dressed entirely in black, pushed the crowd into the streets and began to march.

As the march went on, thousands of the flier mentioned above were distributed. At Pike Place Market, a notable tourist attraction in Seattle, hundreds and hundreds of fliers swirled through the air, caught by the wind (a beautiful sight to behold!). On the way to the East Precinct Police Station, barricades were thrown into the road. Several people from the street joined in as the march proceeded, all of them filled with hatred towards the police. When the march reached the police station, the windows of a police cruiser were smashed out. At this point, the police moved in. Several of them were hit with the thick flag poles that carried black flags. Two people were arrested. At the time of this writing, they have been charged with misdemeanors.

Solidarity to everyone fighting the police!

The composition of the crowd that began the demo at 6 PM differed considerably from the crowd that confronted the police at the precinct at 10:30 PM, meaning that many hundreds of people participated in the march. The only things that remained consistent were the black flags, the anger, and the determination. The march functioned autonomously for 6 hours, drawing in members of the population who, at this point, do not hesitate to chant “What do we want? DEAD PIGS! When do we want them? NOW!”

Later that night, at 3:30 AM, the mainstream media reported that a community police station had been set on fire.

All Cops Are Bastards¹⁰

We have no interest in preserving the social peace, or holding back the anger inside of us. In times like these when the way society truly functions shows its face, specifically by the murders at the hands of the police, one can begin to see how easily it could be anyone of us murdered or shot at. To question this killing (and every other one) and our response to it, other questions follow. Who holds power over us in this society? The police, the politicians, the bosses...

When we are enrage[d] and in the streets, when we respond by fighting back against the police, we are acting against our material conditions. The conditions that are imposed upon us by capital and the state, through forms of exploitation at work, through the measure of discipline at school, through the power held over us by politicians, and the killings by police. The ones who run the bureaucratic circus of politics like the mayor McGinn and the media’s spectacular portray[al] of Ian Birk. That is why we want to attack every manifestation of their power. Whether it is on the streets, in the prisons, at our place of work and in the schools.

**EVERYONE TO THE STREETS!
COPS = PIGS = MURDERERS!**

10 Text of a leaflet distributed by the hundreds on Feb 18th.

chist block. The dozens of flags on wooden poles that were passed out by the anarchists were gladly accepted, as were stacks of leaflets to be thrown into the air.

The anarchist block pushed out the media when they tried to get inside their space during the beginning of the march. Road flares illuminated the march as it wound through the Belltown district. At one point, a Bank Of America had one of its windows smashed out. When the march reached Downtown again, the crowd had grown to just over 200. After the march took a turn into oncoming traffic, the rear window of a police cruiser was smashed out. The pig inside got out of the car but forgot to put it in park. The cruiser then smashed into the police van ahead of it, making the crowd go wild in applause and jubilation. In a panic, the police flooded the area and began to pepper-spray people and back them up with their horses. Multiple cops were observed getting hit by objects and fists from the crowd. In one notable instance, undercover cops were outed by the crowd and then one was hit in the skull with the butt of a flag pole. A smoke bomb was thrown at the horse cops, causing even more confusion. At this point, the crowd in the area left and resumed the march.

Later, as the march continued, one person was arrested for (according to mainstream media reports) allegedly breaking the cruiser window. The march went to the jail and about 70 people held a noise demo for the people inside. After that, the marchers proceeded to Pioneer Square where they broke through a police line, fought with the police, and then marched up to Capitol Hill. There, it circled the streets and drew people out of the bars with chants of "Out of the bars, into the streets!". The march again went to the East Precinct, the place where a police cruiser had been smashed a week earlier in a smaller march. The precinct had been under siege and guarded by 60 riot police for the entire evening from 6 until at least midnight. When the march arrived, they yelled and threw objects at the police. After this, they left and continued onward. It is unclear when it ended, exactly.

Reportback & Statements Regarding the February 12th Anti-Police Demo

The October 22nd Coalition (O22), well known to be an RCP front group, has controlled anti-police discourse in Seattle through their many rallies and demonstrations over the past months. While there has been an anarchist presence in this discourse, it has been largely dominated by the O22. With this in mind anarchists in the Puget Sound decided that it was long overdue to exhibit our own collective force at the most recent O22 rally on February 12th.

The demonstration began with a rally at Westlake Center in downtown Seattle, a busy pedestrian shopping district. About 100 people were present while members of the RCP, O22, and unaffiliated organizations spoke. As the rally was wrapping up more and more anarchists in black began to appear leafleting* and holding a dozen black flags and two banners reading, "Cops=Murderers, Judges=Executioners" and "Police Violence is Not an Accident, All Cops Are Bastards".

O22 called for a march on the sidewalk after the rally but as they waited for the crosswalk to turn green anarchists formed a black bloc and pushed the march into the streets. The black bloc was composed of about 40 people, flanked by the two banners mentioned above. The march headed toward Pike Place Market. The black bloc drowned out the O22's chants and whining, despite the O22's two bullhorns, with "ACAB-All Cops Are Bastards", "Cops, Pigs, Murderers", "Seattle to Oakland-We Ain't Jokin'-Cairo to Greece-Fuck the Police".

Upon arriving in Pike Place Market hundreds of anti-police fliers were thrown into the air landing among crowds of curious onlookers and angry yuppies. Cries of outrage were heard from the latter who were more concerned with littering than the recent police violence. Moving away from the Market the march had grown to about 200 people. The O22 stopped to wait for a green light, while the anarchists

moved forward into the intersection and up toward Niketown.

Going up the hill anarchists began to pull newspaper boxes, metal fencing, and other objects from alleyways and sidewalks into the street. These acted as small barricades against the police cars that were tailing the march. Onlookers joined the march, some of whom asked to carry black flags and shouted “Fuck the Pigs!”, vocalizing and demonstrating their rage against the police.

By the time the march headed toward the East Precinct the march had decreased to about 75 people. Bike cops began to flank the march at this point. Just before the Precinct an unoccupied police car’s front window was smashed out with a hammer. The police, evidently shocked by this act, responded two seconds too late, while people in the vicinity blocked them from grabbing the window smasher who was then able to escape. Two people were beaten and arrested in the mayhem. Their charges are unrelated to the window smashing. They were both released on bail that night, charged with misdemeanor obstruction.

Regarding the O22’s call for justice:

The O22 and other reformists called for justice in the face of police violence on February 12th. As anarchists we know we cannot find justice under the State and Capitalism. Instead, we seek vengeance. Vengeance for those whose lives can never be given back and vengeance for our own lives constrained by the tentacles of social control. We do not want a better system because, in fact, better only means more efficient for those who wish to kill and imprison us. We do not strive to reform those who love to see us on our knees. Instead we seek the total destruction of this system of domination, with our feet planted firmly on the ground.

First Night

On the night of Tuesday, February 15, the media began reporting that the City Prosecutor had decided not to prosecute police officer Ian Birk for the murder of John T. Williams. Soon after, an event appeared on Facebook, calling for people to meet at 6pm on Wednesday, February 16, for a night of protest at Westlake Plaza, a busy shopping district in the heart of Downtown Seattle. The next day, anarchists leafletted for the demonstration throughout Capitol Hill and into downtown. The first protest brought 600-700 people into the street, all marching without a permit. The crowd marched up to Capitol Hill and met a line of riot police guarding the East Precinct. The crowd was angry and volatile but there were no major incidents that evening, and the march was unable/unwilling to break the police line.

Second Night

Another Facebook event appeared that night, urging further action despite Ian Birk’s resignation from the police force. The second protest, on Friday, February 18th, brought a fluctuating group of about 150 people out onto the streets, most of whom marched behind anarchist banners and some of whom held black flags.

Once again, the march took off without a permit. Thousands (literally) of anarchist leaflets were thrown into the air. Chants such as “An eye for an eye, the pigs gotta die” and “Cops and judges, we don’t need ‘em, all we want is TOTAL FREEDOM!” were yelled at the police.

Meanwhile, it was overheard on the police scanner that at around 6 PM, the West Precinct’s outside gas line was disconnected and the entire building had to be evacuated. It is unknown whether this was related, or if it is true.

The anarchist block numbered about 50. There were perhaps 15 RCP acolytes, but they remained marginal throughout the protest (at one point, the chant “boring leader” was directed at them by the crowd). Most of the crowd was supportive and gravitated towards the anar-

One person was surrounded by cops after having fell in the commotion. An angry crowd surrounded him yelling “Cops, Pigs, Murderers” & “Let Him Go!”. He was released back into the crowd. People scattered onto the sidewalk during the mayhem but quickly took back into the streets. Around the corner rocks were seen flying at stores, but failed to break anything (it seems). The march continued up the street heading towards the jail.

At this point many people began to disperse. One person leaving the march was detained and arrested. Two others were stopped as well, but were released, in large part to the march stopping and surrounding the cops. They are calling the arrestee the “window smasher”. They are currently being held in the King County Jail with no bail. Expected to be released later today.

The march stopped for awhile, engaging in an impromptu small noise demo outside the jail. People made short speeches and tensions still ran high. The march continued up to Capitol Hill, lasting still a couple hours after, numbering about 50-75 people at that point.

There were reports of a cop being pissed on in an alley and many more people pepper sprayed.

The RCP people was also called out for the authoritarian organization that it is, many people in black and others not in black, were seen in the face of one RCP member. At another point the same person was shouted down with “Boring Leader!” from the crowd.

According to the mainstream news many hours after the demonstration ended a Central District police drop-in center was attacked with fire.

A Second Report Back

This is a very short, incomplete recap of the most recent events in Seattle. It concerns only the anarchists, not the protests organized by the family of the deceased. Undoubtedly, someone else will write a more thorough analysis for those of you who don't live in Seattle.

Regarding the arrests:

While it is unfortunate for comrades to have to endure the isolation and degradation brought down upon them by the police in such incidents, it is critical for us to remember that we are currently engaged in an everyday war. The lines are drawn, we have chosen sides, and the larger, better equipped, and more powerful side (the police) will take hostages.

If we let the threat of going to prison determine our actions then we enter a kind of mental prison in which our own fear becomes just as useful to the state as four concrete walls and a door made of iron bars. If we instead realize the position we have placed ourselves in, as enemies of the State and Capitalism, then we realize our trajectory as always leaning toward the possibility of arrest and imprisonment.

It is important to demystify the prison experience. This can come in many forms, from continuing the struggle in prison to sharing experiences of imprisonment with those who have not been jailed. First and foremost though, it must come with the acknowledgment that an arrest or a prison sentence does not imply failure or defeat in our struggle against domination.

If we are going to take ourselves seriously as anarchists, then we must take our position in society seriously and realistically as well. We are not activists who willfully march into the hands of the state for a chance at martyrdom while neither are we anti-social vanguards only acting at night, leading a double life. We are anarchists who wish to communicate socially but also realize that the State and Capitalism will never just disappear and that the time to act is now.

Repression is the natural response of the State. They will not simply slap the wrist of those who stand in their way. We do not wish to appeal to the courts nor to their police dogs. We express full solidarity with those who acted on their individual rage against the police on February 12th. As anarchists, we are neither innocent nor guilty, simply their enemies.

Police are the Absolute Enemy⁷

The demand seems to come from all directions: “We must work together!” Tracing this demand to its source, however, it becomes clear that it is the police who are begging us to work with them, that is to say for them. The message of cooperation and progress only gains its fictive everywhere-ness through the yapping mouths of the cops’ lapdogs—the politicians, the media outlets, and the well-to-do—everyone, that is, who is infected with dreary normality and possesses a seat at the table which means more to him than his own pathetic life.

They fall to their knees at every act of rebellion. In the face of hot anger, the con artists deftly gesture towards the open doors of the democratic system through which a better world is promised¹—an unreachable world that lies always on the other side of a daily grind of work, submission, and self-sacrifice. They don’t care to admit that the only promise this system has ever kept is that anyone who does not submit to the grinder will be cast into a cage.

The lies they offer up to calm our rage have all but run out. The coldness with which the cops carry out their duty chills one’s nerves and, one by one, people snap. The deceivers busily bellow out a smokescreen thick enough to hide a war. But where there is smoke, flames can be found, and even in these times there burns an uncontrollable inferno.

The duty of every cop is social control. And not every cop wears a badge.² The most insidious aspect of the SPD’s effort to clean the blood from their hands is the attempt to find ‘solutions’ to what they are calling a ‘disconnection with the community.’ We hear them loud and clear: what they seek are more minions who will assist them in their job by becoming citizen-cops.³

It happens every time an uncontrollable fire breaks out. The cowardly people who will talk with the police and work

⁷ Thousands of copies of a leaflet with this text (and hundreds of other leaflets) were tossed in the streets on Feb 12th.

lence is Not An Accident, All Cops Are Bastards”. About 30 black flags were seen waving in the wind.

The rally quickly turned to the streets heading around downtown Seattle. Thousands of different fliers were thrown into the air*. A black bloc was formed flanked by the two banners mentioned above. Chants were heard from the bloc ranging from the old favorites, “Cops, Pigs, Murderers” & Rage, Rage, Rage, the Rage inside of Me, All Cops Are Bastards, A-C-A-B” to others such as, “FTP, Fuck, Fuck the Police, Cops Are the Enemy, A-C-A-B” and “Cops and Judges We Don’t Need ‘Em, All We Want is Total Freedom!”.

There was a heightened sense of tension in the air compared to February 16th’s protest, where there were more people but as the mainstream news said of last night, “protesters were decidedly angry this time”. People in the street ranged from young to old, but there was clear presence of young teenagers ready to throw down. Compared to the last two protests this week, more and more people, unassociated with the black bloc, were seen covering their faces with scarves, t-shirts, and masks. Black flags were seen throughout the whole crowd. Flares were ignited, sparking up the night with colors and flames. Skirmishes with undercover cops within the demo erupted periodically. A few mainstream news cameras were damaged along the way as well.

The march weaved between oncoming traffic many times before turning one corner where an occupied cop car was stuck in traffic; at this point the back window of the cruiser was smashed out. In a move of pure brilliance, the cop put the car in neutral, ran out in a frenzy, leaving his car to roll flat into the police van in front of him.

Chaos ensued after this, people were seen banging on storefronts with sticks and other objects, the horse cops stampeded in trampling some people’s feet, cops began to unleash pepper spray on multiple people, and a smoke bomb was lit and thrown at the cops landing under the horse’s feet.

strators had one another's backs and no one was arrested!

We can't stop now! When Chief Diaz and Mayor McGinn explain that nothing can be done, they are asking us to accept that Birk will get away with murder. Tonight, we refused, but one night of amazing protest is not enough. The only way things will ever change is if we change it, and that will take more and more people in the streets.

In this spirit, please come out again on Friday night at 6 PM to Westlake for more demonstrations.

The Facebook announcement for tonight's event quickly grew from about 300 invites to over 6000 literally overnight. As one poster answered the prompt, "Who is organizing this event,": "At this point, we all are!" Please share this one even more widely, but also remember that social change is not an image on your computer screen. We are all needed in the streets!

Two Reportbacks from 2/18 Anti-Police Demo Seattle

(At approximately 6PM a police scanner reported sabotage at a police precinct, the gas line was opened causing the firetrucks and police backup to arrive.)

On February 18th at 6PM about 150 people converged on Westlake in downtown Seattle for the third time this week in response to the county prosecutor's decision not to prosecute Ian Birk, the cop who killed John T Williams, Seattle resident & Ditidaht member of the Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. The rally began as boring as before with the RCP whining over megaphones, while others voiced their outrage against the police to the crowd. Anarchists in black gathered at the side to the rally, holding banners that read "Cops=Murderers, Judges=Executioners" & "Police Vio-

with the police come out into the light. Some snitch to the cops, some call them for protection, some lead us toward meetings where we can 'talk it out.' Full of vain dreams that cops can be good, they bow their heads, take the side of the police. They, like all cops, live in fear and are ruled by fear. They, like all cops, are the absolute enemy.

They are afraid because they know that they are hated and reviled. They see that people are shooting back,⁴ and they watch with bated breath for a speeding bullet to take off their heads. They cannot sleep at night because they hate their wretched lives which grow more nightmarish with each passing day. They somehow manage to pass out on sleeping pills and wake up in cold sweats. They console themselves, "At least I have a job," and then—a whispery thought—"and if I ever wanted to kill somebody... I wouldn't go to prison for it..."⁵

But what they fear, what haunts their dreams and waking hours, is a fate far worse than death or prison, suffered at the hands of neither the state nor the devil, but an endless torment in which their bloodcurdling shrieks for mercy fall upon the deaf ears of the living.

They are at once pitiful and wholly undeserving of pity. Not one can be redeemed as long as the police force as a whole continues its miserable existence.

On their side lie cowardice, misery, and control. On ours is a fearless and uncontrollable joy. The rest remains to be decided.

Notes:

1. On January 12th, local youth, in partnership with the SPD, hosted a forum called "Building Bridges" to discuss relations between youth and police. On January 27th, a similar event is planned to take place at Seattle University, put on by the East Precinct Crime Prevention Coalition, where police chief John Diaz will field questions limited to 60 seconds. Meanwhile, on February 3rd the 'alternative' newspaper The Stranger is hosting a police accountability forum at City Hall with the SPD. We must ask ourselves, when the police are busy murdering and putting-

under-control, are there really any questions of ours they can answer? And why are they talking so much all of a sudden? What is it they are afraid of?

2. If there was any question as to the intention of the SPD, they make it clear on the SPD blog with an open invitation to members of the community to join the Community Police Academy by enrolling in a ten week class. You can ride along and learn about patrol operations and procedures, the Office of Professional Accountability (the office within the Seattle Police Department that receives and investigates complaints about police misconduct), and the “criminal justice process.” There are more and more ways to be a cop, and the SPD classifies this as “increased accessibility.” The public is now encouraged to file police reports immediately and conveniently over the internet.

3. Aside from the obvious intention to foster community policing, the public relations campaign is an attempt to stitch shut the wound in the SPD’s reputation. The police department is under federal investigation for police misconduct and as of last week two former US attorneys—representing a 19 year old man who was threatened with a gun by an off-duty officer in 2009—joined the investigation into the SPD and, according to former US Attorney Mike McKay, Police Chief John Diaz engaged in a “full-blown coverup” by preventing the release of documents requested through state public records back in April.

4. MSNBC reported that the increasing number of shootings of police has led some authorities to believe that we are amidst a ‘war on cops’. It would seem that the media are getting it right for once as they wring their hands about the growing number of people taking their revenge upon the police. Christopher Monfort, Maurice Clemmons, and 14 cops killed in 2011 already.

5. It was in 2008 that a King County cop brutally beat a 15-year-old girl in the SeaTac detention center while another cop stood by watching. The cop, Paul Schene, had already shot two people, killing one of them, and the legal system he worked for found these shootings “justified.” Except this time, he was caught on tape. But the police live up to the promise of exception that comes with membership: Schene got off free and clear in 2010. The police always have the legal right to murder.

physical stamina. They should be the ones afraid of how we will respond to their insistence at obedience.

We demand the impossible, because we are already living it.

Another Rally at Westlake: Birk’s Resignation Means Nothing!⁹

Today, Seattle City Prosecutor Dan Satterberg announced that the city will NOT press any charges against Ian Birk, the cop who murdered John T. Williams last September. Hours later, Birk voluntarily resigned from the Seattle Police force—but this is not enough. In fact, today the mayor issued a statement explaining that, however guilty Birk may be, the way the law is written specifically protects the police from being prosecuted for murder. According to the system, the most we can hope for is disciplinary action from Birk’s employer!

But hundreds of people in Seattle refused to accept this, and on very short notice demonstrated in multiple different marches that wound their way throughout many parts of the city.

Demonstrators everywhere blocked traffic, chanting and distributing leaflets, but everywhere they were met with cheers and honking of encouragement from commuters who wished to join them in the street. The SPD mobilized a huge response, donning riot gear and wielding clubs to try to keep demonstrators from reaching key locations like police precincts or from congregating in key intersections, but demonstrators were unafraid of the police and continued to express their outrage throughout the night. Some people shouted down cops, while others sat in the street and refused to move as the police tried to clear them. Demon-

⁹ Text is from a Facebook event posted late on Feb 16th.

Justice Is Impossible and So Are We⁸

This is not just about John T. Williams, and it is entirely about John T. Williams. We know there is no justice, only an ontology that is filthy with other people's values and absent of our desires. This is the reason no officer has been prosecuted with criminal charges for firing a weapon in 30 years. Capitalism is an imperfect system that is impossible to maintain. It wrecks the earth, our bodies, and our spiritual selves by demanding a humanity that is calculated by industry/government. That is why it has its own security to enforce its doomsday fiscal politics: the police. If liberal democracy and capitalism worked, why would this force be necessary?

Daily we live with the knowledge that the lives we lead are not ours: we are fulfilling other people's wishes, living by their principles. Most are lead to believe that the only way they can have any power over their own lives is by competing and dog eat dog becomes their hegemony.

In order to be heard, they want us to distill our anger and condense our rage into a cohesive argument. We have to prove our dissatisfaction. However, we abide by the laws that they are free to amend at will. They shoot whomever they please, we go to work and obey their policies.

This cannot continue.

We demand no more police. We demand no more Guardians of Tourism and Capital. This means the entire system must give way to let us determine our own lives. They will tell us that we are crazy, that we should not piss off a system that is powerful and adept at crippling our psychic and

⁸ Hundreds of copies of this leaflet, among thousands total, were tossed in the streets of Seattle on Feb 16th.

Call out for West Coast Days of Action Feb 26th and 27th Against Police and the Prison World They Maintain

No charges will be brought against Officer Ian Birk for the execution of John T. Williams. Is anyone surprised? Is this the call for justice so many police-apologists desire? It's been nearly six months since the murder of John T. Since then footage of SPD brutalizing people have been leaked to the public, and just over a week since officers attacked anti-police demonstrators in their Seattle home.

In the early morning of Sun Feb. 6th the police approached a person vaguely matching the description of a suspect in a burglary on a nearby porch. After being asked for their badge numbers and denied entry to the house the pigs snuck in through an open window and attacked six people, arresting three and charging them with assault on an officer. One pig exclaimed "I'm going to Ian Birk your ass motherfucker" to one individual as he was handcuffed and beaten. Though the house didn't seem to be targeted due to knowledge of anti-police demonstrators residing there, once it was understood that these people weren't going to take shit from the authority the pigs escalated with violence.

That same night a group of 40 supporters gathered outside the jail and held a noise demo show solidarity with their comrades and other prisoners. Bells, horns, whistles, pots and pans all rattled through the empty streets and into the jail. A surveillance camera was destroyed and a grate from the guards parking lot was ripped down. The chant "A.C.A.B.- All Cops Are Bastards!" caught on inside on multiple levels. We could see lights flicker and arms wave through windows. The prisoners heard us and understood why we were there. Our friends were released on Tuesday, with no charges sticking.

The old adage “an injury to one is an injury to all” rings true in the face of our common enemy: the State and Capitalism, whose police and prisons maintain the depravity and isolation of a world reduced to commodities and appearances.

This call out for Specifically West Coast solidarity is not meant to exclude any regions from acting (in fact we encourage it!) but to reaffirm networks of affinity that already exist. To realize our strength as a collective force, and the feelings of joy that spread through moments of solidarity and revolt in the face of a common enemy. It is our actions together that bind us.

Against the police and the Prison World they maintain!

Solidarity with all imprisoned comrades, and those still resisting!

To John Graham, Leonard Peltier, Scott Demuth, G20 Arrestees, Asheville 11, Imprisoned Chilean comrades.

**Solidarity with all prisoners!
Destroy what destroys you!**

Report back from 2/16 rally in downtown Seattle

On twenty-four hours notice, several hundred people gathered Wednesday night in Westlake Center, downtown Seattle, after the announcement that the King County Prosecutor would not file criminal charges against Ian Birk. The march moved to the streets, pushing through rush-hour traffic and gathering more people from the sidewalks. Several were seen carrying black flags they had brought back from Saturday’s demonstration.

At 4pm, Birk had announced his resignation from the

Seattle PD. Cops lined the streets, many in riot gear, but stayed to the sidewalks and fringes of the march while protesters heckled them, chanting “Off, off! Off with their heads!” Hundreds of flyers fluttered through the air, left on cars and sidewalks, and handed to protesters who asked why we wore all black. Eventually the march converged with another 100 or so people with drummers at the corners of Boren and Howell, where John T. Williams was murdered on August 30, 2010. As the march moved again, a band of anarchists rushed to the front, diverting people back down to Pine and away from downtown.

Traffic was stopped for several blocks. As we passed through, tossing flyers into open car windows, drivers honked and hollered with us, some stepping out of their cars. A group that had splintered off caught back up with us as we headed across the bridge, and a huge group of teenagers rushed up. Two ran and bounced off of a stopped bus; several others tried (and almost succeeded) in pulling some chained-link fences from a construction site into the road.

Tension was high as we crossed into the East Precinct territory, but were met with more cheers and people spilling out of coffeeshops and bars to see what the ruckus was. Cruisers and mounted police blocked the streets surrounding the E Precinct. Some chose to stay, shouting down the police that “Chris Monfort was right!”; others splintered off into a group that came at the precinct from behind, another moved up Broadway into the commercial district of Capitol Hill, or back down to Westlake.

No arrests or injuries have been reported, but two bike cops were seen riding down Broadway with black flags. We can only hope they realize who’s having way more fun. While they attempt to retain control over the situation with careful concessions from the mayor to “restore trust” in the system, or let people march one night to “work it out”, the challenge is to not let the memory fade.

Another rally has been called for Friday night at Westlake. So what the fuck are you going to do?