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When the Truth is Found, I Hope it is the Truth

for You. Hoyt Axton

Rev. Hults

Editorial

Now & Then

Thoreau in Seattle

The story goes that Thoreau was jailed for refusing to pay his taxes to support war, and when a friend came to bail him out, he asked Thoreau, "What are you doing in there?" and Thoreau asked, "What are you doing out there?"

The Seattle version has a non-violent protester asking an anarchist, "Why are you breaking windows?" and the anarchist asks, "Why aren't you?"

I was taught that violence is never the answer. I have learned that violence is always a question. As we all know there was violence in the streets of Seattle committed by more than 600 law enforcement officers, less than 100 'alleged anarchists', and a few dozen opportunists. The questions asked by this violence are many. Who hit what when where and why? The five basics of 'journalism' have been much discussed of late by the alternative media and on the internet. The Anderson Valley Advertiser, as usual, has had a fine series of stories going for weeks, we here at the Upper Left Edge have had a storm of e-mail on Seattle, and it confirms our new-found hope that human beings can on occasion rise to their better nature. In Seattle there was much shouting, chanting, singing, screaming, laughing, crying, and little dialogue.

Each side said, "You don't understand, so I have to show you how important this is to me." Whether it be a baby with a wet diaper in a tantrum or a 20 year old anarchist on the streets of Seattle with a crowbar and an attitude, or a cop on the same streets who is on his 10th hour of having people in his face, and not just idiots, but guys he would drink a beer with, asking if he's in the union, and he hasn't had a break, and he's dehydrated and hungry, and he's afraid he's gonna pee his pants if he don't get some relief soon, and it doesn't look like anybody else is on his side, except the guys beside him, the obvious happens. Violence; against property on the part of the anarchists and violence against people and property on the part of the powers that be.

So, here's my story; Jack who builds the beer at Bill's said he'd be my ride. I was on my favorite stool with my favorite beverage, packed to go. We drove to Portland and switched vehicles (you can't be too careful). We made a stop at the Olympic Club Cafe, Brewery and Pool in Centrailia, to honor the Wobblies, and yes, have a beer or two. We reached the Emerald City in time for the late news, Monday night. We were staying with Bill & Kelly in Ballard and the next morning was a blur of sign making, coffee, meeting friends and bus rides until we reached the Memorial Coliseum where I lost track of them until Wednesday morning. It was here at the gathering point of the Labor March that I witnessed the thing that has given me hope. I watched Labor Leaders, Human Rights Leaders, Environmental Leaders, and just ordinary folks come together to go into battle. Before the week



was done, each one would go back to their homes and tell their neighbors, "I was there, I was at the Protest of the Century."



[Photo by Jack Harris]

There was this woman dressed in a brightly colored dress with an umbrella to match, it had been raining after all, with ribbons and buttons and all manner of things to delight the eye, and bring a smile to the lips. She was probably in her late fifites, full of figure and smiling as she moved through the crowd to her own music and greeted all she met with words of love. By this time the sun had come out full and bright and warm and a rainbow appeared. (I saw her later in the day, away from the demonstrations, she was walking alone in front of me when two men walking toward us stopped and one said, "Hi, you're the Wallingford Lady?" "Yes," she said with a smile, "but I'm better known as the Rainbow Lady, I dress like this all the time."

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10:22 6.5



BASEBALL

Okay, so things have been tough on the Cubs in the 1900's, but that's over. We've got pitching, hitting, fielding, coaching, and the owners have actually spent a little money lately. This has got to be our year!! Go Cubbies!!!!



