Interviewee: Denise Cooper
Affiliation: Brown Collective/Basement Nation
Interviewer: Monica Ghosh

Interview Summary:
Denise Cooper of Basement Nation and Brown Collective discusses the difficulty in motivating and involving minority communities in the protests at the WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle. Many of the minority communities were uneasy with the protest movement, and felt that the ideas of middle-class white males dominated the protests and the recruitment efforts, Cooper says. This feeling was exacerbated by the inability of the larger, mainstream organizations to realize that mobilizing communities required different tactics. Some of Basement Nation's main objectives during the WTO protests were to ensure the minority communities themselves were properly addressing gender and race issues and that their presence was felt. Cooper feels that the key to the future of minority-based community activism is to relate the community's issues to global issues. She also sees the need for the continuation of Basement Nation with a focus on police accountability and a focus on the disproportionate number of minorities incarcerated on charges of drug-related or property crimes.

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MG How and why did you get involved in WTO mobilization?

DC It was an interesting summer, actually, for me. I had just come out of a period of homelessness, and just displacement period. And it was an eye-opening summer too. I noticed in the paper, it was talking about the WTO. Last summer really, for me, was marked with connections of realizations that I made - my condition, like my homelessness and just other, like feeling of being displaced, like there's just no help in the world or I just saw my condition connected to a larger condition worldwide, and there was nothing that was going to stop it, and it was just going to lead to the utter destruction of human beings in society. Then I was reading in the paper about the WTO and what was being done about it here in Seattle. And N30, I was like 'N30, N30, I have to be involved in this.'

MG November 30th.

DC Yeah. And so, when I started school, I noticed a lot of people talking about it. At first I wasn't planning on getting involved with the organization that was working on it, but I kept seeing them more and more at different stuff that I was at. So I decided to go to a couple of their meetings - this is No2WTO

here on campus. And I was involved in some of their meetings, and through their meetings I got hooked up with a group of people of color activists and women. Basically, it was a group of marginalized activists in the community and at the UW who wanted to break away from the mainstream organizing for WTO and do our own organizing for marginalized communities to make sure that we're represented at WTO.

MG How did you guys start talking? What were the circumstances of how you got into this?

DC Tammy Lu, she's a student here at the UW, she approached me. And she knew all these people. And she was like, would you be interested in meeting with us at Four Corners Cafe. And I was like, sure. At the first meeting, I think there were about six of us.

MG Were you all students?

DC Not all students, there were some organizers within the community. Lydia Cabasco, she works with People for Fair Trade. Hop Hopkins, Summer Thomas, Nichole Pearson, these are just people who work in the community on different issues. We were all noticing that we didn't feel comfortable in these faces of largely white middle-class organizers for WTO, and we wanted our own space. So that's how we got hooked up. And we started to coordinate with each other, support for each other especially, and deciding what we wanted to do. The one thing that we wanted to do was one mobilized communities here at the UW against the WTO, but specifically communities of color and marginalized communities. So we approached BSU and MEChA. MEChA really received us well, so we did a couple of trainings for MEChA. Then we decided to join them during the student rally and march. So we supported MEChA during that part.

MG Why were you feeling a disconnection and displacement from what was going on?

DC Well, it seemed like most of the people who were working on the WTO . . .

MG Are you talking about people on campus that you were dealing with?

DC Well, it was people on campus, but you have to understand that it was such a coalition from the start with the organizing of it. So it was people on campus, it was People for Fair Trade, it was people in the unions and stuff. Basically, what the issue boiled down to was, we have to help developing nations. And nobody wanted to talk about the fact that there were so many communities within the United States who are on a par with developing nations. There are some neighborhoods where there isn't clean water, because the pipes are so bad. And we wanted to talk about that. We wanted to talk about the

marginalized communities here in the U.S. and how their plight relates to the globalization of other developing nations.

So that wasn't being talked about so much. We wanted to really make sure that somebody paid particular focus to that. Also, we wanted to make sure, we didn't feel comfortable in these spaces, we didn't feel that people in these spaces were addressing their sensitivity toward racial issues, toward women's issues. A lot of the activism was dominated by one white, Anglo-Saxon point of view. But also a largely male point of view. So we just wanted to create our own space, instead of going to these other organizations to do it for us.

MG What did you guys do to mobilize people? Did you guys name yourselves once you separated from ...

DC Actually, it wasn't so much of us being an organization, because the time we got together, two weeks before N30, but we knew that was what we wanted to do as activists, as organizers. And we talked about that. The only thing we got accomplished in relation to WTO is that we were able to help MEChA become informed and get connected to the larger rally, which didn't seem like it was going to happen before with the outreach that No WTO was doing. As a result, MEChA was the only group that we really reached a connection with. Eventually, that group of activists that met before WTO are now a collective here in Seattle called Brown Collective. And they are working now on putting out their magazines, speakers bureaus. They worked with us, Basement Nation , the group that I'm a part of, for the police accountability thing. What you noticed about WTO was it wasn't so much what got organized beforehand. It was what happened afterwards. That was really important. So a lot of connections were made. So it fueled a lot of mobilization.

MG Did you guys do anything to approach the leaders, can I just call it the ‘mainstream movement’?

DC Yeah.

MG Would you say that there was a more mainstream movement?

DC After WTO happened, we did talk a little bit about, we talked with IMC about bringing, because everybody wanted to look at us, token ethnic people, and ask us why there weren't that many marginalized communities out there. One, we had to explain to them, when there's going to be a lot of police in any area, you're not going to see too many people of color, because they know that they're going to be targeted first. Second, you have to understand that the people you are looking for don't have time, because they are working, or they're taking care of children, or whatever. You definitely have to give credit to those communities for what's going on with them and their issues, but also,

myself as an activist, I wouldn't bring some communities into these spaces. Because if they're not safe for me, they're not going to be safe for them. So we did address that with the IMC and a couple of other organizations.

MG This is after the protest?

DC This is after the WTO. And the Independent Media Center, we told them, 'look, we would love to build a coalition between ourselves and you and our communities, but you have to understand that you guys have a lot of internal oppressions that you need to work on. So until you do that and create a more sensitive atmosphere, we can't bring anybody into this space.'

MG So while the movement was being built, why didn't any of you approach the people from this group and say, we really need to bring people of color into this. Why didn't you work on fixing it from within?

DC Right. There were issues that were being raised. From my point of view, I can only address what was going on at the University, because that was the only part that I was involved in. It was important, but they were trying to reach everybody. And they always say like, it's almost like an excuse of why don't they come to us. It was like "we put the word out, we told them." Unfortunately, organizing for marginalized communities has to be done differently than the way you organize for a larger community. Simply because, one, the people approaching, it's key to know that you have to have somebody approachable, giving out the material, and they have to feel some kind of affinity for you in order to even hear what you have to say. So, I'm not going to criticize them for their outreach, because they did try. But, again, while I was passing out material, I got comments like, "I'm only taking this because it's you."

MG Advertising what?

DC WTO and what was going on. From people who are in my community, I was getting, "I'm only taking this information, because it's from you." So that's a big thing. I've read reports and I've heard stories from other organizers in other cities, like Oakland, California, and stuff. They got offered scholarships to come up here, or funding to come up here, and they refused to take it, because they didn't want to be involved in a movement which they called, quote-unquote "a white hippie movement."

So one thing, I mean we did raise the issue, but again, it was more than just these people going out and trying to organize marginalized communities, because sometimes these marginalized communities wouldn't have been receptive to them anyway. We did reach out. We tried to go to the Cambodian Students Association. Part of it was some of the communities didn't even realize how this affected them, because they didn't understand

their history as a community, and the history of the World Trade Organization and how it is that countries like Cambodia and Vietnam and the whole continent of Africa, and so relating it on that level was difficult, because a lot of the students didn't even understand their own history.

So, there were two difficulties for us as organizers. One, we were trying to raise the issue with these larger organizations about the fact that they were missing key components of outreach. But, two, it was our own outreach was not being received too well, because these organizations were concerned with other things.

It's difficult to raise awareness about sweatshops and working conditions in developing nations, when half the people in your audience are wearing Abercrombie & Fitch or Gap t-shirts. It's difficult. And that's a part of our own internalized oppression as communities of color - what do we take for value, and what have we been taught that's valuable. There's a lot of work that needs to be done. But mainly, it's got to be on our part as a community, but also, again, I would stress that more outreach needs to be done, but not just the same outreach that is done for other people. It's difficult.

MG Yeah. Who were you guys reacting against, can you name, like were they Labor people, were they mainly white activists?

DC It was just the fact that it was mainly a white movement. It wasn't really reactionary or anything like that. Every space we went into, it seemed, every meeting I would go to for WTO, I would be the only person of color there. And I just wanted to see more of my people just to get a reassurance that we were out there and working on it. And I felt like when we spread our energies so thin, working for other people's causes, we all felt we could be together and working on our own cause and doing the same thing.

MG How did this mainstream movement react to you guys?

DC I don't think there was any problem with it. I think people respected that we wanted to branch out and do our own thing. And again, let me say that it wasn't such a large group of us that it polarized the movement, or anything like that. We were most visible during WTO, because we got arrested and people noticed that we all looked a certain way. There were eight or nine of us that looked like this. So, I think during WTO, we became more visible than before WTO. Because it was really just a couple of meetings at a coffee shop talking about what we were doing, introducing ourselves to each other. And from there, people started to after N30, and after we were jailed, and then after all the WTO stuff, people started to notice that, hey, there's a group of colored activists out there who are working on these issues too. So people started to open up their eyes and see what was going on.

MG Did I already ask you how do you mobilize people?

DC No, I don't think you did. How do you mobilize people. That's the dilemma that's been going on since the beginning of time, because there are two, who was the first guy? The history of mobilization goes back to the Labor movement and how you organize communities around issues. Fortunately, organizing marginalized communities is much more difficult than organizing, say, a UW community that all they really need is some information - that's all they need, because once they get the information, they've got time to come to the meetings, or they've got money to support, or something. So organizing marginalized communities is so, one, it takes education, but two, you need to organize the community around their issue, and not bring in your own issue. Because that's the only thing that's going to fuel it. Because you can come in with your issue, but as soon as you leave, that issue is going to die, because there was nobody there to sustain it.

So, what we're really trying to focus on is when we go into this community, they have their own issues already. Let's try and connect that to the larger globalization issue. Because everything can be connected within that. So right now, we're just working on, like with this police accountability thing, that's not coming from us. That's coming from the community - the church is involved in that, students, people, concerned citizens. What we're doing is, we're going into that and we're saying, hey, we can help out and we can also connect this to the larger prison industrial complex, which is also connected to the larger globalization issue. And so, it takes a lot.

For marginalized communities, you one have to understand that a lot of these communities are run by women, or not run by women, but a large population of them are single mothers and women who have children and who have jobs. So if you're going to be having meetings at night, one, who's making sure their children are fed and taken care of. You've got to make their constraints less constraining, so they can be free to come to meetings and organize. So you really have to adjust those issues.

MG Is that what you guys tried to do during the WTO? I know you only had two weeks. Did you guys do any kind of outreach?

DC Basically for WTO, we centered it around the UW, and we tried to reach all the marginalized campus student associations, like the BSU, Cambodian students organization, Vietnamese students, MEChA, and the only group that seemed already political was MEChA. So they understood the connections right away. With that, we were able to go from there. And I mean, the other groups, it might have just taken time for us to find issues that they were concerned about. Right now, if I had known, I would have connected it to the lack of diversity here at the University and how that's connected to the larger issue of how the WTO wants to privatize education. Therefore, it's a larger

issue than just a lack of diversity on the UW campus, because private education means only certain people who can afford to pay for it will be able to get that education.

MG What moments of that week had the greatest impact on you.

DC Going to jail. The whole weekend was amazing. On N30, to see that student march and all those people. We turned down Denny, I think, and the sun came out, and it was so beautiful, and you would look up the hill, and there were just thousands of students. That was just gorgeous. And then you went downtown and you'd see all these people. And downtown was so quiet. Nobody was shopping. Everybody was out. They were yelling and screaming about something that meant something. Then that night, when the police went crazy and started tear-gassing us, it was the weirdest thing. I felt like I was in a different place in a different time. I didn't feel like this was the United States, because how can they do that to us? We haven't done anything. It was crazy.

And then the next day I was so upset about what they did to us on Tuesday, the 30th, all the tear gas and the police reaction, that I had to come back out. And the fact that they basically told me that I had no more rights to protest, like, no, we're declaring downtown a no-protest zone. I couldn't even fathom that my constitutional right to protest and for my word to be heard would be just squashed at a moment's notice. So I went back out early that morning, and I got arrested.

In hindsight, that was the best thing that could have happened to me. While I was being arrested, I felt bad because I was going to miss the rest of the week and the rest of the protests and stuff, but being arrested, I got to meet a lot of people from different states and different countries who were working on the same issues. And we got to help each other. I think the jail solidarity process and just being in jail with a lot of women who were concerned about organizing, there was a healing process going on. It made me feel more connected to the people I was organizing with, especially the Brown Collective.

Before we were just a motley group of activists, we didn't really know each other, we were like, okay, maybe we have something in common. But after we got arrested, bonds formed. And not just within our group. I'm telling you, you could feel the connections being made, because people in D.C. were like, 'I'm in D.C., but when you guys are planning on coming out to D.C., you can stay with us or see what you want to do.' And I'm still in contact with the people I got arrested with. So, I mean, connections, coalitions happened that week.

MG Can you tell me about the evolution of the Brown Collective?

DC Yeah. It started with a group of activists meeting at a cafe. Then we had a sort of affinity for each other. I wouldn't call us an affinity group, because that's a political term now. It means that you've been trained together and you know what kind of tactics everybody's going to use.

MG Where did the political term come from?

DC I believe it stems from the Anarchists and how they usually do direct action, a core group, and they call it an affinity group. So these people have been working together for a pretty long time. And they understand each other's tactics, and they're willing to, they work as a unit to pursue disobedience. So, I wouldn't call it an affinity group, but during WTO we definitely, it's kind of like affinity group by fire.

We really buckled down and gained a lot of knowledge of how each person reacts in systems of pressure or whatever. So after WTO, we really wanted to mobilize into a collective, in that if we couldn't live together and be in the community together, at least we were going to be a political collective, in that we meet regularly and we do things together. We didn't want it to be an organization, so to speak, where anybody could join. We wanted to be more, not close so much as just more nurturing. In that way, it wasn't the same as anybody can be a member. It was like a few select people who chose to be together to work toward political ends.

Now I think it's a number of around eight or nine people, a group of activists here in Seattle. It's Brown Collective, referring to, one, the color of people but, two, the fact that there are white people in the organization, so they like to use Brown for John Brown, the guy who raided Harpers Ferry. So right now they're working on, one, they want to get their ‘zine out and, two, their speakers bureau.

And I say them, because now that I've gone more Basement Nation, that helps my political activism to an extent. I work with Brown Collective through Basement Nation, and we put on events together. Brown Collective's main focus is alleviating oppression and all the *isms* ahead of us, racism, sexism, but centered around youth issues, like we really want to make sure that the youth has a voice. So that's the main goal, oppression work around youth.

MG So right now, the issues that Basement Nation is working on is the police accountability?

DC Yeah. So, with that police accountability, what we want to do is, again, connect the police accountability to the fact that two million people are in jail, and they're all in jail for drug-related or pot property crimes, which is definitely an indication of their class when they're not prisoners, and why they

chose crime as the solution for their lifestyle. So we're trying to connect police accountability and the fact that police target minorities and abuse them to the fact that the main prison population, to the fact that the prison industrial complex and the fact that our government and our society make so much money off keeping these people in prison is connected to larger issues of globalization.

MG Can you talk about how you got involved in Basement Nation, and what Basement Nation is.

DC I became involved in Basement Nation at the same time that I started doing the WTO organizing and stuff. Actually, I met Gavin through Basement Nation, and that's how I got to the WTO. Like the No WTO, Gavin was working on it too, and he told me about it again. So that's how I, it was all connected. Gavin Sullivan opened up his house to an open mike and he called it Basement Nation. It turned political real quick, because it was so close to WTO and so many people coming were concerned about political issues.

So what we do now with Basement Nation is it's not so much of a political entity. It's more of an artistic collective for people to come and speak out and have their voice heard. But what happens is that what people are speaking out against is so political that it takes on a political agenda of its own, Basement Nation does. But what we're doing now, it looks like, is instead of forcing everybody to subscribe to the politics of myself or, say, Gavin or whatever, we do separate things.

Basement Nation works on, we have two things. We have the Thursday night open mike, which is just anything. But we are also going to be working on issues with other groups, such as Brown Collective or People's Coalition for Justice, on specific political issues. Also, under Basement Nation, we went to D.C. for the IMF-World Bank protest. We're planning on doing either the Republican Convention or the Democratic Convention this summer. It was the right time and the right place for it to happen. People are angry about a lot of things. And what I noticed about Basement is it's so young, I mean the oldest person there is probably 25, and under. We get all ages, but really the fact that it's so young, from 15, 16 on up, tells you that the youth especially in this city has something to say, and they're dissatisfied with what's going on around them. So if I could characterize Basement, I would just say, it's a place where people speak out.

MG Do you think it gained a lot of fuel from the WTO mobilization?

DC I don't want to say that, because to me, it really is two separate things. Like, people will tell you, like, "I'm not really political," if you go to Basement, and it's so funny, too, because to me Basement is completely political in that what people are speaking out against is the political system, if you sat down and

really looked at it. No, I think Basement had a whole space of its own, but you can't say that it's disconnected, because the space, the people needed that space. They needed it. They were at a point where they needed somewhere to go where people were going to understand them. The reason why they needed that space was because of our political system, our societal system, and so that's how it's related to WTO. We gained a little bit of recognition from people working on WTO, because a lot of people in Basement were also involved in WTO, but I wouldn't say that they're necessarily one in the same. You can't separate the WTO here in Seattle on anything that happened after that, because it seems like so much started with that here in Seattle, especially.

MG What did you think of the role of people of color overall in the protest?

DC Some people would say that we weren't that visible. And I think that's false, in that people just didn't know where to look, so to speak. Some coverage, I thought, was really well done. I thought there were a lot of people of color who, the People's Assembly, I mean, just the fact that Rice is like, he's on every video for WTO, every poster, he's going to be on the mural project. So to me, it did have a voice from people of color. And a lot of us who were jailed were the spokespeople for our groups ourselves, so when we were released, a lot of us were on the news and stuff. So I think we did have a face. It's just, those of us that were there were very vocal, but the fact that people didn't see mass numbers of us upset a lot of people.

MG There was definitely a presence.

DC Yes. But I wouldn't say it was numbers so much, as those people who were present were just really magnificent human beings. I mean there were people out there. The People's Assembly had their own march, it was an unpermitted march. But they had over 300 people, international delegates and such from the Philippines and from other Asian communities and stuff, so there were people of color there, from India, from Africa. It's just that, again, because we were all so spread out and it was dispersed with a sea of a hundred thousand white faces, it was hard to make an impact with the numbers.

MG Was this your first experience with massive demonstration?

DC On that level, yes. I don't think I'll ever see anything like that. Hundreds of thousands of people. I had done a little bit with the No I-200. I was one of the students that marched on the bridge and stuff like that. But never before in my life had I seen so much, just so many people.

MG How would you say it impacted your life?

DC You know how people were waiting for 2000 and the Y2K bug, and they're like, oh, my God, the world's going to end, or whatever. For me, the world did end on N30, in a way that ever since N30, I realized I've seen people, one, make connections and, two, it's spurred on the movement. So much activism has occurred just on campus since WTO. Some people might say it's separate. No, I think that's the energy that was left in the city from that mass demonstration has just seeped its way into the psyche of people here, and we've just begun, it was just the beginning.

MG Where do you think things are going to go now?

DC Thirty years from now when people look at this, they'll label it something - probably mobilization against globalization. Thirty years ago, it was civil rights. These things come in cycles. This is an important movement though, and I think for anybody who is concerned about the way their life is - the thing about globalization and what's going to make it so grand and so great is it's not just rights for Black people, better positions for Black people. It's not just for Mexican people, Chicanos, Latinos. It's not just for women. It's not just for so-called third-world countries. It's not just any group, it's everybody.

Everybody's affected by globalization, from the poorest person in sub-Saharan Africa to the richest CEO in Microsoft, simply because it affects our food, it affects our water, it affects our healthcare anywhere you go. So the reason why there were so many people at the WTO rally and so many different issues represented, that should be scary to a lot of people who don't want to see us make any change.

Because what failed for the civil rights movement and the movement that grew out of it, Black Nationalists, Women's Rights, is that they never reached everybody. It still remained on the fringe. This, it started with the fringe, and the poster boys or the darlings of the media are these fringe people. But people fail to realize how mainstream this movement is. Labor endorses, I mean that's a big deal when you have these major labor organizations endorsing it. So we're going places. This is a mass movement. Because people are really fed up. And if you tell them what's going on, anybody can understand what we're talking about.

When I was leaving D.C., I got a ride from a cab driver who had been here for 20 years. He was an immigrant from Russia. I told him about the IMF-World Bank. I didn't even tell him much, I just told him a couple of things about the structural adjustments and what they do to certain countries. And he was like, yeah, that doesn't seem right. It's that simple. It doesn't seem right. And if it doesn't seem right, people are more apt to change it.

MG What was your relationship with organized Labor?

DC I didn't even know too much about it. I didn't know too many people in organized Labor. I thought it was great that they came out, but I'm really more, I would call myself more, not radical, but when you're in the movement, so to speak, people want to section it off into different spots. There's more mainstream, and that's like Labor organizations and some other NGOs, and then you've got like the radicals or whatever, the radical section. I appreciate Labor for what they do, but they're under their own constraints. The fact that they've gotten so large and sometimes NGOs can hinder more than they can help, because they have to answer to so many different people. It's like a lot of the NGOs resemble transnational corporations, because they're so large, and the money that's getting pumped through them.

Somebody asked me, would I ever organize for a Labor union. I said, no. Even though I think they're needed in a lot of communities, for me, I'm more effective in a place where I feel safe and I feel nurtured, and I'm not tied down by a certain way of doing things. I have no problem with Labor unions if they're serving the interests of the people that they're supposed to be serving the interests of. But, I mean, there's a lot of corruption in those organizations. There's corruption everywhere. We just need to adjust that. And if the organization is for its people, hey, I'm all for it. But if it's serving the interests of others, I have a little problem with it.

MG Do you feel that you can comment on how effectively Labor mobilized or what you saw?

DC One thing about Labor that I, the heads of the labor movement were really scared to do anything. That's what I noticed at WTO. They had mobilized 40,000 people, and as soon as they got downtown, the police told them they couldn't enter. The heads were ready to turn back. I have to give it to the people who are members of these organizations for saying no, we're not turning back. They went ahead and went along. But a lot of times the leaders of these movements have too much to lose. They're comfortable. So, again, I don't want to disparage the whole organization, but there are some people who just want to play it safe. With a movement like this, you can't play it safe when, for instance, the steelworkers over at Kaiser, they've been out of a job for 16 months. So they're ready to move. Once it gets tighter, their pressure gets tighter and tighter, you see that people want to mobilize more and more. But the leadership, because they're still getting their salaries and they're still pretty comfortable, are less likely to mobilize. I did notice during the WTO that the leadership was kind of slow to react and slow to give support.

MG What role do you think students played in the protest?

DC A large role, that really got ignored in the aftermath of the week. I was talking to somebody last week, and I just commented on how many students came out for the WTO. And she's like, you know, that's right, I forgot all

about it. There were like five, six thousand students who were at the Seattle Center, from the high schools, SCC and the UW. And I think that's important to realize, because a lot of these students, you've got to understand, because simply because they're here, they're going to be the ones that enter the job market and have the middle-class income. So the fact that they're concerned about these issues means that it's a cause that's not just for poverty or for poor people, but it reaches to everybody. And I think the youth was the most powerful out there, because we were the most vocal, we were the most willing to lay ourselves on the line. Most of the people who got arrested were under 25 years old. I noticed that the older people, once it was all said and done, they really apologized. I've gotten a lot of apologies from a lot of older activists who said, you know, we really weren't there to support you guys, and you guys laid yourselves on the line for this. They congratulated us and told us they were proud of us. This movement really is being run by youth. And most of these movements usually are run by youth. The civil rights, it was young people, like SNCC and people seldom realize that a lot of those organizations were run by young people. Simply because, and it makes sense, we have the least to give up. Most of us don't have children or too much responsibility, so we can lay ourselves on the line like that. That's not to say that older people aren't doing their part, because if they support us, they are doing their part. So I think the youth played an important part in WTO and still plays an important part.

MG That's the end of my questions. You covered a lot, and it was great. Did you want to say anything in closing?

DC I think, like you said, I covered a lot. I always get off the wall. I just want to make sure that I stressed the key points of what the WTO is all about. I don't want it to get just sectioned off, like oh, that's the WTO, this is the IMF-World Bank, this is a different thing. I really, really want to stress the connection, and from that connection, I want to stress how many people could be encompassed in this movement. It really is a world movement, and it's going to cross all boundaries of race, color, sexuality, gender, nationality. It's going to go places. I'm excited that I was there for the WTO and to see that, and I'm excited to see what else is going to happen. And in 30 years, I think this will be in the history books as a turning point in our history as a society.

MG One more question: Did you use the internet at all in your organizing activities?

DC Oh, yeah. It's funny how we're relying on technology, because it's scaring me, because we, one, we talk about this a lot, because we're working with marginalized communities, we can't get comfortable with the technology that's available to us, because a lot of our communities don't have access to it. But, yeah, the internet, one, the web sites that were started just to keep people informed about what was going on. I use those a lot. Two, the email to get

word out about what was happening. And that's how I communicate with most of the people who I work with is through e-mail, because phones don't work very well. Yeah, the internet is a big tool. Unfortunate, too, because, man, we still have to rely on those old ways of mass mailings and flyers and stuff, but those people who can reach their audience with the internet, it's so much easier, it really is. But then again, I like the personal touch of the flyers and the mailings and going around talking to people. I think sometimes, as activists, we get too comfortable in the technology. And you need that personalized contact, because too many forwards in mass e-mails get ignored. But the internet's going to, they use it for their tools, and we use it for ours. It's not so much the internet that's the demon, it's how you use it.

End of Interview

WTO History Project
University of Washington
wtohist@u.washington.edu