

Nov. 15, 1999

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Real CHANGE

VOL. 6, NO. 22, NOV. 15, 1999

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DONATION

WTO in Seattle No Day at the Beach

Photo by David Kane

Your WTO Concierge

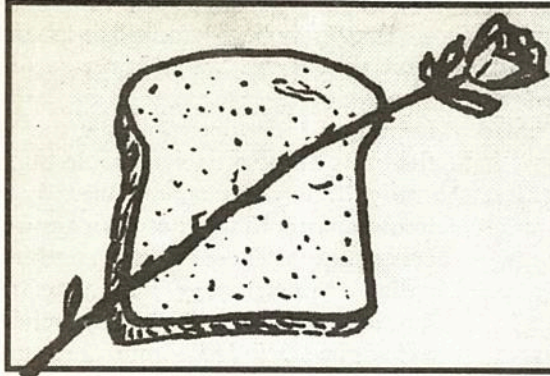
WTO: Above the Law?

Renegade Journalists

No Tents, No Peace

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Things Fall Apart

SHARE/WHEEL pledges action for homeless, despite cold shoulder from city

By TODD MATTHEWS

As city officials scramble to accommodate the upcoming World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial, activists say they will find a safe place for the homeless with or without the city's help. Unfortunately, homeless activists and city officials are now further apart than ever, and a showdown seems almost inevitable.

Dialogue between Mayor Paul Schell's office, Seattle Housing and Resource Effort (SHARE), and Women's Housing, Equality, and Enhancement League (WHEEL) initially looked promising. As late as mid-October, city officials were actively exploring the possibility of a temporary encampment for the homeless during WTO.

But at an October 24 meeting between Deputy Mayor Tom Byers and nearly three dozen SHARE/WHEEL members, Byers and other city officials backpedaled hard. Citing an overly taxed police force and fears of setting a precedent, Byers gave what he termed a final no to a tent city.

"We feel abandoned by the city," commented Ted Randall, spokesperson at SHARE/WHEEL. "The city did not offer an alternative plan. They just said no. The callous decision made by Byers and his constituents is just outrageous." Randall said that just one week prior, Deputy Mayor Byers and other city staff had spoken positively regarding tents for the homeless.

At an October 13 meeting, SHARE/WHEEL had many successes. They received \$35,000 from the city to fund the Veterans Hall shelter — a facility that would serve approximately 50 homeless men and women in Seattle. And, as mentioned, the possibility of shelter during WTO looked promising. After months of negotiations over a temporary encampment during

WTO, Deputy Mayor Byers agreed to work with SHARE/WHEEL, and assigned Theresa Fujiwara, Special Assistant to the Mayor, to meet with the two organizations.

But things fell apart, and the October 24 meeting was a huge setback for SHARE/WHEEL. "[We] are disappointed," said SHARE/WHEEL, in a statement released shortly after the meeting. "But we are determined to do our very best to keep our community of homeless men and women safe. The 2500-plus men, women and children who sleep outside in Seattle every night — after every shelter bed is full — are always at risk. But the risk will be much greater during WTO."

According to Fujiwara at the Mayor's office, the city of Seattle originally thought that a tent city was a real possibility. "But given further discussions with city officials overseeing WTO," said Fujiwara, "we learned additional information about the size of WTO and risks involved. [Tent City] became something that we felt wasn't in the community's best interest."

"It's under control"

Fujiwara argued that the city has addressed homeless concerns during WTO via expanded shelter capacity and more voucher funding. Moreover, the city has promised that there will be no homeless sweeps during WTO. But activists for the homeless are concerned about this promise. Back in 1993, during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference in Seattle, the King County Jail population reached a record high of 2,310 — a number that quickly dropped in the days after APEC.

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So It Begins

Labor activist David Reid finds taking power is personal

INTERVIEW BY GRETCHEN KING

David Reid worked as a Mobile Equipment Operator for 20 years at Kaiser Aluminum in Spokane, Washington. In 1998, after suffering gradual wage and benefit cuts stretching back to the 1980s — cuts that included loss of retirement benefits, a decrease in wages, and basic health benefits — Reid and his fellow workers at Local 329 walked out. After spending a month on strike, the workers offered to return under the same contract. Instead, they were faced with a lock-out.

What followed for Reid was a moment of enlightenment, of sorts. He attended the Ruckus Action Camp and organized his fellow workers and people in his religious community for the upcoming World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial in Seattle. *Real Change* reporter Gretchen King recently met with Reid to discuss his experience at the Ruckus Action Camp, traveling with the WTO roadshow, and the upcoming trek he is making from Spokane to Seattle with other Local 329 workers for the WTO Ministerial.

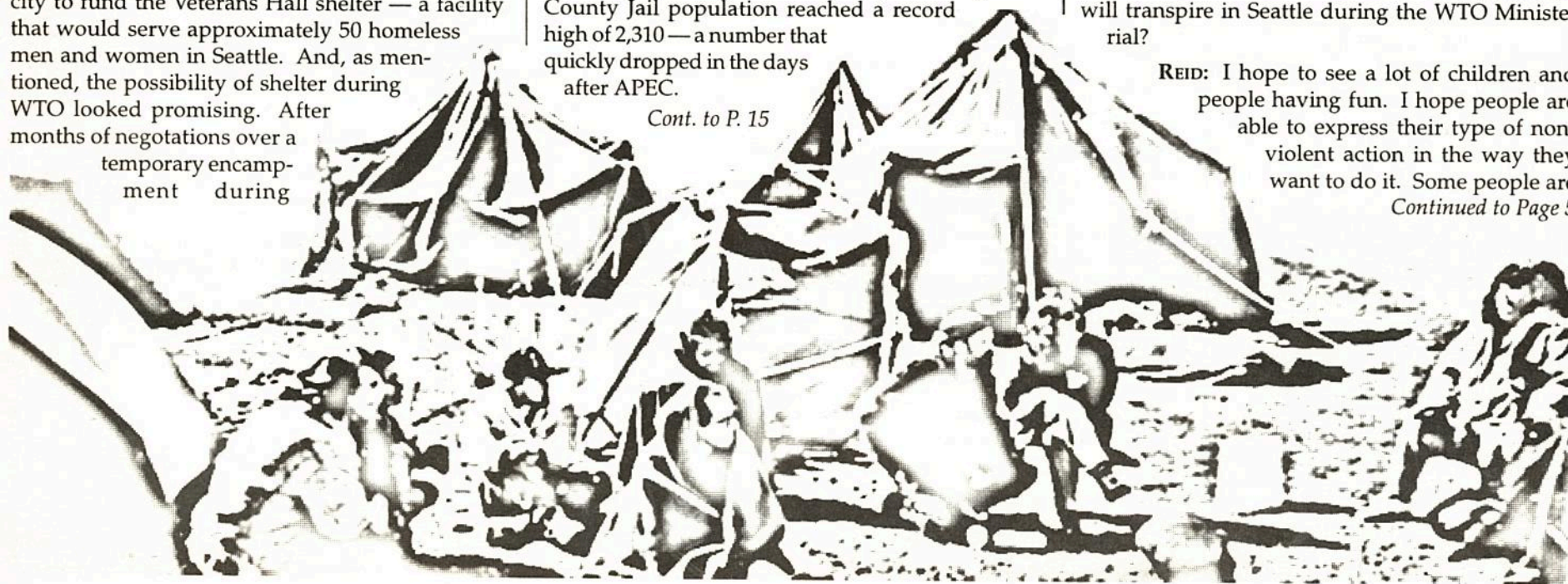
RC: What do you believe is wrong with the WTO, as it relates to labor, and how can WTO be changed?

REID: I don't know if there's anything they can do to fix the WTO, other than to abolish it and start with something new. I know as a family, a parent with three children, I believe that the WTO is not just about labor. Everyone wants to talk to me about just the labor side of it, but I'm a parent and I have three kids and I'm worried about their future and I'm worried about the future of their children. The WTO doesn't just affect our jobs and labor; it also affects the air we breathe, the food we eat, and everything else that has to do with the environment.

RC: Can you tell me a little bit of what you hope will transpire in Seattle during the WTO Ministerial?

REID: I hope to see a lot of children and people having fun. I hope people are able to express their type of non-violent action in the way they want to do it. Some people are

Continued to Page 5



Real CHANGE

Puget Sound's Voice of the Poor and Homeless

Real Change is published the first and fifteenth of each month and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Annual subscriptions are available for \$35. All material is copyrighted to the authors. Submissions are encouraged and should be mailed to "Real Change," 2129 2nd Ave., Seattle, WA 98121. Tel. (206) 441-3247.

On the Web at
<http://www.realchangenews.org>
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Mission Statements:

Real Change organizes, educates, and builds alliances to find community-based solutions to homelessness and poverty.

Goals

- Provide a foundation for grassroots organizing.
- Publish the views of marginalized communities.
- Create direct economic opportunity.
- Build bridges with a broad range of allies in the struggle against poverty.

The Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that sponsors the StreetLife Gallery, StreetWrites, and the Homeless Speakers Bureau. The RCHEP raises the voices of the poor by supporting cultural, artistic, and literary expression to place a human face on homelessness and poverty. All donations to the RCHEP support these programs and are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Editorial Policy

Articles appearing in *Real Change* reflect the opinions and perspectives of the authors. We encourage the submission of journalism, opinion, fiction, poetry, and artwork, and hope to create a forum where the many perspectives on poverty and homelessness can find expression. The editorial committee reserves the right to edit any material for length and style. Articles considered libelous or which encourage violence, sexism, homophobia, or racism will not be considered for publication.

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Ways of Knowing

Dear *Real Change*,

I would like to take issue with Richard O'Reilly's assertions (in his letter to *Real Change* appearing in the Nov. 1, 1999 issue) that there is no scientific evidence for the efficacy of alternative medicine and that, therefore, it should not be practiced.

There is, in fact, a growing body of scientific evidence supporting the use of various types of alternative medicine. Many positive studies have even been published in the il-

lustrious *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), which Mr. O'Reilly cites as his authority on the matter (see, for example, the JAMA special issue of Nov. 1998).

To give just one specific example of scientific validation of an alternative practice: after reviewing the available research, a committee of the National Institutes of Health has endorsed acupuncture for the treatment of certain types of pain and nausea (see *The Seattle Times* of Nov. 6, 1997). The 12-member committee of independent doctors and scientists "came to the clear-cut decision that the treatment...really did work," according to Dr. David Ramsay, president of the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and chairman of the committee.

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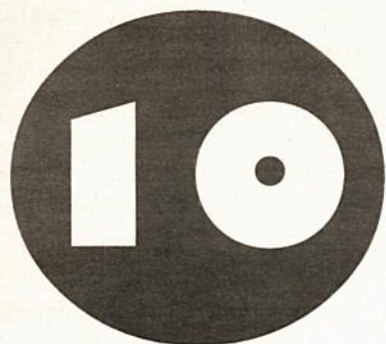
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Good Reasons to support Real Change/RCHEP this holiday season

There's a lot more to *Real Change* than meets the eye. This year we've doubled our frequency of publication, and we have exciting plans for more improvements over 2000. Thanks to you, our vendors are doing better than ever.

Timothy Harris

But *Real Change* is not just a newspaper. Our Homeless Empowerment Project builds human dignity by creating opportunities to succeed. We offer a voice to those who otherwise might not be heard. The StreetLife Art Gallery and StreetWrites peer support group provide homeless and very low-income artists, writers, and poets a creative community in which lives can be healed and beauty can be found. Our new computer lab provides opportunity to learn the skills that many of us take for granted.

Here are ten good reasons to give generously this year to *Real Change*/RCHEP:

Reason #1

We do a lot with very little. People are always surprised when they see how small our office is. The newspaper, writers group, art gallery, and computer lab run with less than three full-time paid staff. Our newspaper budget for last year was only \$130,000. Your donations of equipment, supplies, and volunteer hours make it all possible.

Reason #2

Real Change builds bridges. Our vendors move 25,000-30,000 copies of our paper every month. We promote understanding between the homeless and those who are more fortunate. Many of the people who buy our paper have made friends with our vendors.

Reason #3

Real Change makes an immediate difference in the lives of the poor. Anyone who is homeless or vulnerably housed can become a vendor after attending a brief orientation. Vendors get their first 10 papers free, so anyone can begin right away. We offer an alternative to begging for those who may be desperate.

Reason #4

Real Change comforts the afflicted and afflicts the comfortable. We publish quality, socially committed journalism, and always place the voice of the poor first.

Reason #5

Real Change goes beyond just words to taking action. Through our own campaigns and the Citizens Participation Project, we provide the tools people need to create change. We recently co-founded First Things First, a coalition for accountability and democracy in human services, to help

ensure that homeless people's concerns are heard.

Reason #6

We believe that everyone should have the chance to create. StreetLife Art Gallery and StreetWrites create an environment where a creative community of homeless and low-income people can thrive. These programs of the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project publish a bi-monthly magazine of their own, *Out of the Margins*, that is distributed for free in shelters and drop-in centers.

Reason #7

We provide opportunities for homeless people to learn valuable skills.

Our new MacWorkshop offers computer time, access to the internet, and hands-on skills workshops at no charge. This year we gave more than 20 donated computers to homeless people who found housing.

"We offer a voice

to those who otherwise

might not be heard. The Street-

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This little paper, which now publishes twice a month, receives no foundation or government support, and your donations matter a lot. *Real Change* depends upon the grassroots support of our readers to do a lot with very little money. Your contribution goes beyond simple charity. *Real Change* helps people help themselves while they work for a more just world for everyone. Donations to the Real Change Homeless Empowerment Project (RCHEP) are tax deductible and support our work with StreetWrites, StreetLife Gallery, the Macworkshop computer lab, and the Homeless Speakers Bureau. Checks written to *Real Change* are not tax deductible, and support the newspaper itself.

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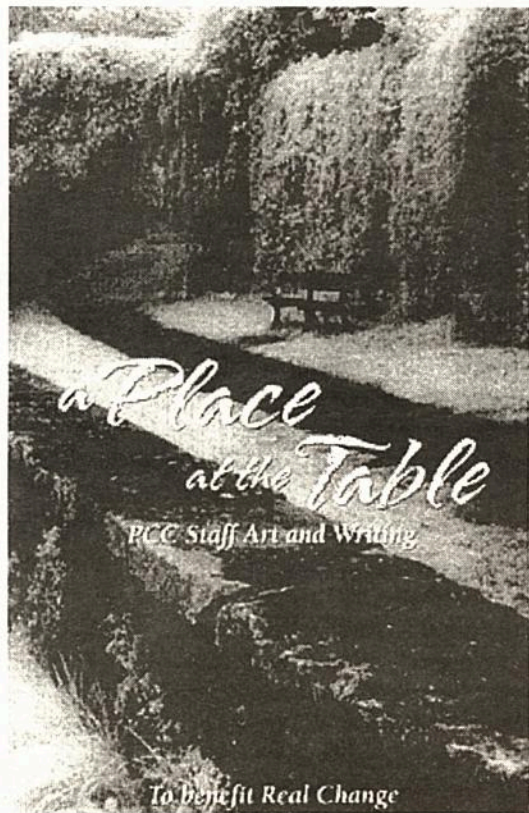
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Thanksgiving heralds the appearance of an anthology of writing and art by staff of Puget Consumers Co-op (PCC) Natural Markets, with profits dedicated to *Real Change* — Puget Sound's Newspaper of the Poor and Homeless. The anthology, *A Place at the Table*, includes poems, prose, photographs, and drawings by 24 writers and artists from all PCC stores and the Corporate Office. As their donation to the effort, Consolidated Press is printing 1500 copies of the anthology at cost.



"As a local, community-owned business, PCC has contributed to Seattle-area organizations for nearly 40 years," commented editor Jody Aliasan. "This book reflects staff consciousness of our responsibility to those in need, and supports the self-help with dignity that *Real Change* provides."

A contingent of participating staff will deliver an advance check of \$2,000 to the offices of *Real Change* early Thanksgiving week. "PCC shoppers have always been great to our vendors," said *Real Change* Director Timothy Harris. "They understand that buying *Real Change*, like shopping at a co-op, is using their money to support what they believe in. We're very grateful that PCC is offering this chance to support our work even more."

A Place at the Table is designed by PCC's Graphics Department, with a card stock cover featuring a black and white photograph by Roy Salmon in wraparound format. The book is available for \$10 in all PCC stores. It can be ordered by mail with a check for \$12 (to cover tax and postage) sent to *A Place at the Table*, PCC Offices, 4201 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105.

—Todd Matthews

Ready for Armageddon

Mass casualties, biological and chemical warfare, international terrorism, and numerous arrests. It appears that the Seattle Police Department, public officials, and the media have not exempted a single expectation in preparing for the upcoming World Trade Organization Ministerial.

"All the elected officials, police, and news media are interested in is: 'What's going to happen? How many people? Will there be violence? Will there be property damage?'" says Mike Dolan, organizer for Public Citizen's Trade Watch campaign. Focusing on what is going to happen when tens of thousands of protesters descend on downtown streets is, according to Dolan, the "same old sensationalistic approach to what is a historic confrontation between civil society and corporate rule." A less narrow focus would ask: "Why is this going on?"

Jeremy Madsen, organizer for Citizen's Trade Campaign and People for Fair Trade, agrees that preparations around the WTO Ministerial by police and public officials, and the media's coverage, have excluded the "real concerns about labor and the environment" that are bringing protesters to Seattle.

"Organizers," says Madsen, "are trying to make a broad-based event with everyone from the radical left to mainstream people." Yet, the collective reactions of public officials, the police, and the press have attempted to counter the public's negative perception of the WTO and to marginalize the groups traveling to Seattle to demonstrate. Madsen criticizes their reactions for "trying to scare people by talking about arrests, biological and chemical warfare, and German riot squads coming into train police." He says, "I think it's a scare tactic, really, to minimize the numbers of people in the street."

"Politicians being naive and politically stupid is nothing new. ... They know the stakes are high, they know we're winning the public relations fight, so it gives them an opportunity to be hysterical and stupid, really stupid."

Organizers fully expect such reactions from the police and public officials. "From Patty Murray on down to the police chief, they're overreacting," says Dolan. "They need to just chill out, but it's not tactically smart of them to just chill out. As long as they stay hysterical and say things like anthrax and terrorists and anarchists, as long as they feed that to a gullible media, they will reduce the level of commitment by swing voters, by regular joes, to get out of their cars and join us."

Will such "tactics" affect the number of people expected to turn out for mass demonstrations planned during the week of the Ministerial? Madsen sees little impact if organizers are able to do their job effectively.

"We have to push the fact that it's not just a bunch of radicals, people coming to rappel down buildings or get arrested. It's people from all walks of life coming to speak on these issues and of their concerns." Dolan agrees that reactions by police and public officials will not undermine the nature of the mobilization.

"In all my political organizing experience," says Dolan, "there is always the possibility of politicians being stupid, and Patty Murray is stupid. Politicians being naive and politically stupid is nothing new. The stakes are pretty high here. This is a major stepping-stone as we build a bridge to the 21st century on globalization issues. They know the stakes are high, they know we're winning the public relations fight, so it gives them an opportunity to be hysterical and stupid, really stupid."

—gretchen king

More Corporate Violence

Activists stormed the Seattle offices of the Consulate General of Mexico on Thursday, November 4, 1999, to protest the arrest and violent treatment of Rodolfo Montiel Flores, Teodoro Cabrera Garcia, and other campesino/ecologists who successfully defended the Mexican forest of Guerrero against the destructive logging contracts of the U.S.-based company Boise Cascade. After being arrested in early May of 1999, tortured during interrogation, and forced to sign confessions of gun-running, both men presently remain in solitary confinement, and are being denied adequate food, water, and medical treatment, according to activists.

In a letter written by the International Forum on Globalization (IFG) and the American Lands Alliance (ALA), and presented to Mariano Lemus, the Consul General of Mexico, activists called for the immediate release from prison of Flores, Garcia, and others who spoke out for their right to water, land, and a healthy forest ecosystem to support their communities. In addition, the letter demanded that the Federal Environmental Defender and Prosecutor stop the illegal process of destruction of the forests, the violation of Mexican Environmental Law, and punish the eventual complicity of Guerrero State officials.

"Flores, Garcia and the others were activists," commented one protestor. "They were not guerrillas. They were people who were fighting to preserve their farms and water supplies. They were merely protecting their families, and they were doing it legally. They were met with violence by local officials and Boise Cascade. American companies investing abroad should help promote better, more equitable, living conditions, including the protection of human rights and the environment, wherever they operate. Such incidents are precisely why our communities are skeptical of free trade and investment agreements that are detached from the enforcement of protections for human rights, workers rights, and the environment."

Consul General Lemus agreed to contact the Mexican government and notify officials about the protest at his office and their demands for the release of Flores, Garcia, and the other campesino/ecologists in Guerrero. Moreover, Consul General Lemus agreed to meet with the activists later in the month to discuss the matter at length. "Obviously he was flustered and feeling the pressure," commented another protestor. "If he does not meet with us later this month, he will have more protestors in his office."

—Todd Matthews

If there is an item you would like Real Change to cover, please let us know. Call Todd at 441-8143

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Can I Get a Witness?

Grassroots news center to counter corporate media

BY ADAM HOLDORF

Trusting Seattle's corporate-owned media to report on the issues surrounding the WTO Ministerial is like trusting the fox to tell you whether the henhouse is locked. But during the meeting, you won't have to take Messrs. Hearst and Blethen for their word. Hundreds of people will be in town to report and analyze from all different backgrounds. They'll take to the airwaves and spread papers on the streets in an effort to counter the mainstream media's perspective.

"Corporate-owned mass media have ignored public interest and colluded with the agenda of their multi-national owners," commented organizer Jeff Perlstein. "What's changing the picture today is that citizen access to the means of communication is increasing dramatically."

Anti-WTO media activists are launching three operations to provide the public with a wider perspective on the Millennium Round. They're covering the issues bringing people in to the negotiating table and out to the

street protests. Hosting press conferences, linking journalists with outspoken activists, and producing their own media, they'll try to explain the event from ground level. As Perlstein says, the alternative media will be on hand "wherever truth is speaking to power and needs a witness."

The Independent Media Center will occupy the ground floor of the Glen Hotel on Third Avenue, just four blocks from the Convention Center, site of the trade meetings. The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI), which owns the building, has donated the space for the duration of the meeting. LIHI also donated labor to help cover the cracked walls in sheetrock, paint, and install a bathroom.

The center will produce its own print, audio, and video coverage of the week for distribution in new and old media. It will print breaking news for street distribution twice daily, produce 15-minute to half-hour radio pieces on a daily basis, and upload text, photos, and audio onto its website (www.rewired.org/indymedia). In the weeks following

the Ministerial, members of the group will assemble material into a video documentary about the meeting.

The center will also provide badly needed facilities for out-of-town members of the alternative press. Journalists from San Francisco and New York City will be using the space, editing video and audio clips to produce documentary and news pieces. Many of these groups will want processing equipment. Some will bring their own; others will take turns with the equipment that organizers have managed to scrape together.

Organizers say all the videotaping and audio recording serves a dual purpose. A media activist's material can tell a story free of corporate bias; it may also help clarify police actions during any confrontation. If police in riot gear are present when protesters are blocking traffic, and violence breaks out, wouldn't you want a steady hand holding a video camera?

Both Public Citizen's Press Center and the International Media Center will host speakers and hold press events on a daily basis, orchestrating encounters between the mainstream media and speakers against the WTO. Public Citizen will host nationally broadcast progressive radio hosts Jim Hightower and Amy Goodman. Hightower is the author of *There's Nothing in the Middle of the Road*

but *Yellow Stripes and Dead Armadillos*; Goodman's "Democracy Now" show airs on Pacifica Radio. The International Media Center, run by the International Agriculture and Trade Policy group, will host press conferences and public forums on trade issues, with a special focus on Europe and Latin America. IATP has a contract with Real Networks to air audio and video on their website (www.iatp.org).

According to Perlstein, the need for a media center became clear at previous events where protesters planned direct action: "The seeds for the IMC were sown at the APEC summits in Vancouver ('96) and in New Zealand ('99), the Democratic Convention in Chicago ('96), and in Europe. There have been calls for this type of capacity for the national Democratic and Republican conventions in the coming year.

"The WTO, the Seattle Host Organization, and its corporate sponsors, are preparing their own heavily funded media center that would like to ensure that the dominance of their message is disseminated worldwide through mainstream media conglomerates," says Perlstein. "Our hope is that with these three centers up and running, we will have the opportunity to share another side of the story and to create a more politically and culturally diverse array of information for the public. It is a fundamental right for people to have access to a full range of political and social information."

Look for productions of the Independent Media Center on www.rewired.org/indymedia, in print and on the streets, and by microradio somewhere in your bandwidth.

"A media activist's material can tell a story free of corporate bias; it may also help clarify police actions during any confrontation. If police in riot gear are present when protesters are blocking traffic, and violence breaks out, wouldn't you want a steady hand holding a video camera?"

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Above the Law

The WTO: Trade agreement, or the end of democracy?

We are told the WTO is about trade. It is not. It is about power and the ability of corporations to use that power to dismantle any law that might decrease their profits. The record is clear. The WTO has the legal authority to overturn national law and prevent a nation from ever reenacting that law.

Sally Soriano

When the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was debated in the U.S. Congress, we were assured by the Clinton Administration that our nation's laws would stand. Because of this assurance, GATT passed Congress by a simple majority vote.

Yet, the record shows that the WTO's panels of "judges," who have presided over 100 cases to date, have always decided in favor of profit over national protective law. Here are a few of the more disturbing examples.

Precaution to the wind

The U.S. government, representing the U.S. beef industry (70% owned by Cargill), challenged a European Union (EU) ban on the sale of hormone-treated beef. This EU ban, originally voted on in 1989 by the European Parliament, was reaffirmed unanimously 366-0, in 1996. The ban applies to European beef farmers and foreign beef producers alike. The European Parliament cited scientific evidence showing the possibility of these hormones causing increasing cancer rates. In 1998, a WTO panel ruled against the EU law, saying that there was no scientific evidence that hormone-treated beef was detrimental to health. The U.S. has now placed retaliatory tariffs on imported European goods due to the EU's refusal to overturn their law.

This WTO ruling directly challenges a pillar of contemporary health policy — namely, the precautionary principle. Under this principle, potentially dangerous substances must be proven safe before they are put on the market. The principle, widely recognized in international and environmental law, is based on the fact that science does not always provide the information necessary for authorities to avert environmental or public health threats in a timely manner. Many areas of U.S. law, such as our system for approving new pharmaceuticals, are based on the precautionary principle. The WTO stood the precautionary principle on its head and shifted the burden of proof from the manufacturer of the product to the government seeking to regulate the product, in essence making guinea pigs out of the Europeans.

By rejecting a popular consumer safeguard, the WTO sent a powerful message about its priorities. The WTO is now on record as placing the ultimate authority of overruling national food safety laws in the hands of international bankers and trade economists — decisions they clearly lack the expertise or accountability to make.

Smoke gets in our eyes

On behalf of its oil industry, Venezuela challenged a U.S. Clean Air Act regulation that requires gas refiners to reduce the level of pollutants in gasoline they intend to sell in the United States. This regulation defines the starting point from which refineries will lower the amount of pollutants in their gasoline by using data collected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from U.S. oil refineries in 1990. Venezuela claimed this rule was biased against foreign refiners, and took this case to the WTO. The result was a WTO panel ruling against the U.S. law.

In 1997, the EPA changed the Clean Air rules, allowing foreign refiners to use their own starting point for measuring reductions of pollutants, thus allowing them to sell dirtier gasoline in the United States, which deteriorates air quality. These Clean Air rules have withstood all the challenges by domestic refineries. With this ruling, the WTO has given foreign refineries the right to operate under looser standards than we require for domestic refineries.

Banana Republicrats

For 20 years, the European Union has had an agreement to buy bananas from their former Caribbean colonies to redress its past history of exploitation. Recently, a WTO panel decided that the European Union should not be allowed to pay higher prices for Caribbean bananas because Central American bananas (produced by Chiquita, Dole, and Del Monte) could be sold in Europe at a cheaper price. The WTO's decision will result in massive unemployment of over 20,000 workers in a region already suffering 40% unemployment and wipe out a small independent farm economy. The Caribbean nations control only 3% of the worldwide banana production, the remaining 97% being under the direct corporate control of Chiquita, Dole, and Del Monte.

Why would the U.S. take this case to the WTO when it does not even produce any bananas? Chiquita CEO Carl Linder has poured over \$500,000 into both the Republican and Democratic parties. Greased by campaign money, the Clinton administration has chosen to make Carl Linder and

Chiquita synonymous with the national interest. This illustrates the flaws in the WTO-governed global trading system and in U.S. campaign finance rules.

Death to sea turtles

Sea turtles have lived in the oceans for 150 million years. They are now on the brink of extinction. A major cause of their near extinction is the shrimp nets that not only capture shrimp but also sea turtles. For seven years, from 1989 to 1996, under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, all U.S. shrimp fishermen were required to use nets with turtle-excluder devices. In 1996, a U.S. federal court ruled that this law applies to all shrimp imported into the U.S. as well.

In 1997, four Asian nations, representing their shrimp industries, challenged our law protecting sea turtles. In 1998, a WTO panel decided that while the U.S. is allowed to protect sea turtles, the specific way the U.S. tried to do so was not allowed under the WTO rules. The result is that the WTO ruling has gutted this section of our Endangered Species Act.

Now Americans cannot be assured that the shrimp they eat is not advancing the extinction of sea turtles. Last year alone, at least 13,000 sea turtles drowned in the Indian shrimp nets. With this as a precedent, we can expect that similar environmental protections will be overturned at the WTO.

WTO authority stems from the dispute resolution panel process and its powerful enforcement tools. The dispute resolution panels meet in secrecy. They rely on documents never made public and on anonymous "experts" to make decisions and issue reports that cannot be accessed by the public until the hearing is over and a binding judgement is handed down. It is disturbing that these decision-makers are trade advocates, not unbiased judges. Panelists have been known to file briefs on behalf of the parties they are supposed to be neutrally judging.

Once a final WTO ruling is issued, losing countries must implement one of just three choices: change their law,

pay permanent ongoing compensation, or face non-negotiated retaliatory tariffs. For example, when the U.S. Clean Air Act regulations were found to violate WTO rules, the U.S. was given three options: remove the offending provisions from its environmental statute, pay a yearly compensation to Venezuela of \$150 million of taxpayer's money, or have retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods going into Venezuela totaling \$150 million a year.

Fourteen-hundred organizations around the world are asking their governments to review the five-year record of the WTO and repair the damage done. It is time to demand that our elected officials prioritize the public interest first, and reverse the giveaway of democratic power to international corporate rule. ☐

Sally Soriano is an organizer for People for Fair Trade. She may be reached at (206) 782-8292, or sally@peopleforfairtrade.org

"The WTO is now on record as placing the ultimate authority of overruling national food safety laws in the hands of international bankers and trade economists — decisions they clearly lack the expertise or accountability to make."



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Everything you wanted to know about world trade but were afraid to ask

What is the WTO?

WTO stands for the World Trade Organization. Its headquarters were established in Geneva, Switzerland, on January 1, 1995, as the outcome of negotiations on GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) between some of the wealthiest countries in the world. Out of frustration with some countries not following their agreements, negotiators formed a centralized institution — the WTO — to enforce its rulings. Currently, there are 134 member nations with representatives who have agreed to follow the WTO decisions.

What does the WTO do?

In general, the WTO serves two purposes. First, they set trade policy for all member nations. Second, they hold judicial panels where WTO-appointed judges hand down rulings on disputes or claims of unfair practice.

What is the WTO's purpose?

As it says in its website, WTO's main function is to ensure that trade flows as smoothly, predictably, and freely as possible. (Translation: Buy, sell, and make money, regardless of consequences to environment and public health).

Who makes up the WTO?

Imagine a room full of suits. Each suit is a trade minister. His or her staff surrounds each trade minister. The U.S. trade minister in this case may wear a skirt, as her name is Charlene Barshefsky, and is appointed by the President. The trade ministers receive advisement from the Advisory Committee on Trade Policy and Negotiation and the Industry Functional Advisory Committee, making more than 800 members that include private industry reps and CEOs, including Monsanto and Chrysler. There are a handful of labor and environmental reps, but their concerns were documented in 1996 to no avail.

Where does the WTO get its power?

In part, the member countries have relinquished power to the WTO by agreeing to follow its policies and judicial panel rulings. So far, the WTO's judicial panels have sided with corporations. The judges of the panels are selected from a roster of recommended representatives of each country. As it turns out, the judges are a select group of elite business leaders from industry.

Why is the WTO coming to Seattle?

The WTO is arriving in Seattle to map out a plan called the "Millennium Round of Negotiations" — a plan that will ensure that buying and selling between countries is efficient. The Seattle WTO Host Committee has raised \$9.2 million in corporate donations to make them feel welcomed.

Who pays for the WTO?

Each member nation gives financial support. For 1999, the U.S. owes \$13.2 million, which makes 15.5% of the total WTO assessment. U.S. taxpayers are also helping to pay for the WTO, as U.S. Congress approved payments to the WTO through its appropriations legislation.

Who monitors the WTO?

No one as yet. The WTO operates outside of any one country's monitoring. They claim to come to consensus between all member nations, but one source explained that true consensus can't ever be reached by their current tactics of blocking opposition.

Why are people so upset about the WTO?

The WTO policies to promote free trade have made corporate profit Priority One. The WTO judicial panels have handed down ruling after ruling that have superseded democratically formed laws — such as environmental, labor, and public health — which citizens have constructed to protect themselves from corporate greed.

If the economy is doing so well, isn't the WTO a good thing?

The real winners of the economy have been the top 1 percent of the population. Even though unemployment is at an all-time low, average weekly wages for workers in 1998 were 12 percent lower than in 1973, adjusting for inflation. Meanwhile, corporations are marking record profits. In addition, the WTO declared that Massachusetts could not make a law that barred them from investing state money in Burma for its atrocious human rights record. Under this ruling, boycotts against South African apartheid would now be illegal.

Why should I care about the WTO?

Do you eat food? Then you should care that the WTO regulates how food is labeled to indicate genetically modified contents and farming practices. Do you work? Then you should care that the WTO sets the standards for corporations seeking cheaper labor in compromised labor conditions. Do you breathe? Then you should care that the WTO plans to sell off the world's remaining forests and has ruled against the U.S. Clean Air Act. Are you alive? Then you should care that people's protections against corporate greed may not be here tomorrow.

—Peter Bloch-Garcia

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REID, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

going to want to dance and some people are going to want to climb things. Some people are going to want to march and do their marches without any type of stoppage. I just hope that people are able to do what they feel comfortable doing. I know a lot of people are wanting to do blockades and wanting to hang banners and things like that. I hope nobody gets hurt in that process. I hope that we can show the world that we are willing to get out there and show up. I know other countries have done similar things, and I want us to make a good show for our country. I want the world to know that the U.S. didn't just sit at home and watch TV.

RC: What mobilized you to protest at the WTO?

REID: Well, the first thing I did was go to California with the union. We went down to Oakland, went to some rallies, protested at the Kaiser headquarters in Pleasanton. We also went to Schoa, the last company town in California, which I didn't understand until we got there. The company owned the whole town and the people that live in that town live in fear for their jobs. The workers up there know that with clear-cutting, they're working themselves out of a job. We went up there to help organize a union and let them know that they didn't have to be victims.

I didn't really understand a lot of what we were doing, until I saw a movie about Julia Butterfly and the Luna tree-sit. I asked a guy that was coordinating our trip, I said, "You know I'd sure like to take my wife and

kids down to support her up in that tree. I think what she is doing is right on." And he asked me later if I'd be willing to go up there. I said, "Sure."

Four of us took her a steel worker shirt, we all signed it, and we called her on a cellular phone. I wanted to go up and see her, but it was one of those things where her house wasn't clean and she wasn't ready for company. So, we just talked to her on the cell phone and then we walked up on a landing and she came up and stood at the top of the tree. It's about a 280 foot tree, she stood in the top of it and thanked us for coming and wished us good luck in our struggle. We left there with a definite change in our lives....

Back in Spokane, I got a call from someone at the union asking me to attend the Ruckus Action Camp. I didn't know what Ruckus was about. They just said it was a nonviolence training and that they would like me to go along with two other steel workers.

It definitely was a neat environment; we were out in the woods. They blocked out the time so you could, in a week's period, pretty much hit everything: four hours of nonviolence training, or you could go climb a tree for the four-hour period; or you could learn puppet-making; or you could learn street theater or something like that. That's when I learned about forming affinity groups. At first, I thought, "No way. I'm not going to get this stuff." And it started slowly trickling in. By the end of the camp, I was going, "Hey, I [have] power. I can take myself out of that 'victim' role. I can organize. I can go

back and get something going."

So, I got back to Spokane and I joined the WTO Roadshow with 'Art and Revolution.' It was going to be a three-week trip visiting 14 different locations and performing street theater. I got myself a planner and started writing down my goals and contact phone numbers. I also started forming affinity groups in the religious area because it just clicked to me that I knew a lot of people at St. Patrick's Church. And Reverend Jackson, from my department, was out there on the picket line. I thought I could definitely talk with these people and maybe they can form some affinity groups while I was gone. While I was down on the WTO Roadshow, I got a call from my wife that one of the women I had contacted at St. Patrick's had gotten a group of people together. They were planning a trip to Seattle during WTO. I thought, "Great! Things are working!"

Before I left with the WTO Roadshow, I finished a puppet depicting Ray Milchovich—my boss at Kaiser—with the help of my wife, three kids, and an artist friend. Then I headed off to Seattle with the WTO Roadshow. We went to Vancouver, Bellingham, Seattle, Olympia, Portland, Eugene, Salem, Ashland. Before

Ashland, we went out in the woods outside of Eugene. We went to a sky-camp for some Quakers during their annual meeting. We performed for the Quakers, and spent the night there. We then went to California—Arcata, San Francisco, and Santa Cruz.



DAVID REID HANGS OUT AT RUCKUS. PHOTO BY DANA SCHUERHOLZ

RC: Were there any inspiring moment for you on the WTO Roadshow?

REID: Yeah, it seemed like every time I turned around there was an inspiring moment. I was inspired one night by a woman who was on the trip with us. One evening in Portland she said, "Hey, Dave Reid, would you like to be inspired?" And I said, "Oh, inspiration. Definitely, I could use some inspiration." Evening was always the hardest for me. Things calmed down and I

realized I was away from my wife and kids. I missed them immensely. Those were really the down times. She came to me and read from a book called *A Long Haul*—the autobiography of Miles Horton. It was talking about foot soldiers who had done things in their life to help change things and it just clicked to me; "Hey, I could be turning into a foot soldier. Or maybe I am a foot soldier." I started

Continued to page 17

Mutual Interest The landlords to the rescue?

BY JIMMY SO

Renting a place to live can be tough, and coming up with the security deposit on top of first and last month's rent can be impossible for some. As a result, many low-income people are trapped in transitional housing, longing for a permanent place of their own. A solution for some may soon come from a surprising source.

Mutual Interest, a new, non-profit organization, will allow landlords to pool bank interest generated from security deposits to finance security deposits for low-income tenants. Landlord Jennifer Gee founded the organization to "do something good with this money," as opposed to simply letting the interest accrue to herself.

With the help of participating banks, voluntary landlords would transfer the security deposit accounts' interest to existing housing agencies, such as Salvation Army. Low-income tenants would then apply for the security deposit aid from these agencies, and if their request is granted, the full

security deposit amount will then be given on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Scott Nodland, Senior Project Manager of Kauri Investments and a member of Mutual Interest's Board of Directors, hopes the efforts will help people with no permanent housing settle down. He offers the example of female victims of domestic violence, who can't support their homes without their spouse or are temporarily settling in a domestic violence safehouse. "They can't stay there forever, but there's a big leap there," Nodland explained. Mutual Interest can be one way to assist these individuals and families to a permanent home.

"It's pretty clear that there's a hyper-under-supply of housing, and housing agencies like the Salvation Army run out of funding around three-quarters into the year." Nodland said. "There needs to be another way, and it seems that Mutual Interest can be an important means."

Gee, a technology consultant for online businesses, quit her job to or-

ganize the non-profit one year ago, and after receiving 501(c)(3) non-profit status last June, has recruited seven banks to participate. A number of landlords have also offered their support.

The group hopes to fund operating costs with foundation support, while keeping expenses to a minimum with a volunteer staff. "We want the money taken in from landlords to go 100 percent to the tenants," Gee said.

If all goes well they will start their first distributions within a year.

But one organization that might be the key to Mutual Interest's success has withheld judgement. The Apartment Association of Seattle and King County (AASK) has "no official position on it as of now," Executive Director Jim Nell said. AASK's Board of Directors studied the program at a meeting in September but had mixed feelings, said Nell. They have since

published an article about Mutual Interest in its newsletter but have yet to receive feedback from the 2,400 members. The landlord's lobby is concerned that the program may become legally mandated. Nell says that AASK "might reevaluate in a year."

Even without the official support of AASK, Gee has acquired powerful allies, among them Gov. Gary Locke, King County Executive Ron Sims, and Seattle Mayor Paul Schell, who have all praised the creativity of this new program that operates without public funding and legislation. Mutual Interest could help thousands in need, if enough landlords offer support. ☐

You can contact Mutual Interest at:
Mutual Interest / P.O. Box 65510 /
Seattle, WA 98145-1510 / Tel: (206)
641-5305 / Fax: (206) 956-2415 /
Email: info@mutualinterest.org /
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"It's pretty clear that there's a hyper-under-supply of housing. ... There needs to be another way, and it seems that Mutual Interest can be an important means."

Scott Nodland, Real Estate Developer

The Battle for Hearts and Minds

Will you wait until your kids ask you about WTO?

BY PETER BLOCH-GARCIA
AND GRETCHEN KING

What will our youth make of the 21st century? If you don't act quickly, the World Trade Organization will answer that question for you.

Like a Pied Piper of profit, the WTO has spread its tentacles out to high schools, influencing youth to follow an agenda for corporate greed. The tactics by which the WTO has quietly infiltrated our schools, colleges, and universities in Seattle lays the groundwork for a future with less opposition.

Much of the educational efforts aimed at convincing young people about the benefits of globalization stem from the Seattle Host Organization (SHO), the group which functions as a sort of "welcome wagon" for the WTO. SHO also has \$9.2 million in private donations from corporations such as Boeing, Weyerhaeuser, Proctor & Gamble, Preston, Gates & Ellis, and Starbucks — donations used to promote educational endeavors. SHO's educational outreach programs bring middle school, high school, and college students into the fold of the WTO globalization agenda.

SHO bestowed a grant on the World Affairs Council for writing a curriculum guide entitled, *Approaching WTO Education: How to Bring WTO into Your Classroom by Engaging Students in International Trade Disputes*. Although the guide includes two excerpts from WTO opposition groups, its pro-globalization bias scoffs at the opposition. Following the instruction, eighth- and ninth-grade students from five local area schools will participate in *WTO Live!* — a mock WTO Ministerial where they will debate trade disputes. *WTO Live!* is scheduled to take place November 22, 1999, at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center.

The World Affairs Council's Executive Director, Kathleen Corey, says it is difficult to say how many schools presently use the curriculum guide, as it is available on-line. "There has been a lot of national interest in the curriculum," commented Corey, "and I think it is safe to say that it will be used in most states." Corey expressed concern about presenting a whole picture to students. "The WTO is a powerful body. It is not too soon to have young people aware of the issues around the WTO," she said.

SHO has teamed up with Puget Sound community colleges to sponsor events that will provide a "legacy" to future generations. The community colleges have agreed to conduct a career expo where corporations engaged in international trade can speak to students about jobs in the free trade business. The legacy of this venture is "to encourage integration of the World Trade Organization into curriculum."

Another SHO educational effort is a joint venture with the University of Washington Business School Center for International Business Education (CIBER). The UW has developed what they are calling the "WTO Student Ambassador Program." This program will train university students to be 'mentors' on WTO-related issues. They will then be accredited as 'ambassadors' to go out to the junior high and high school classrooms across Western Washington to educate about 'the importance of trade in Washington State.' According to a representative of CIBER, one part of the presentation involves students simulating the roles of trade representatives and a judiciary panel attempting to resolve a trade dispute over apples. Currently, there are 20 ambassadors prepared to visit 40 schools.

Another point of view

While it may appear that pro-WTO groups have monopolized the WTO curriculum in area schools, many groups opposed to the WTO have also made their presence felt among students.

In conjunction with the Network Opposed to the WTO, the Direct Action Network, and other groups, student activists have been organizing their own events to educate other students in local colleges and high schools about the down side to the WTO record. Through each campus's student organizations, students have coalesced into their own groups.

Educational Outreach Coordinator for the Network Opposed to the WTO, Lydia Cabasco, has helped train student speakers in University of Washington student groups. Cabasco and other activists opposed to the WTO have done their own outreach to the middle school and high school student populations. They have been invited to speak at Marshall High School, South Lake, the Bush School, NOVA, Nathan Hale, and Kent Ridge. They have also spoken to area youth groups as well, including Earth Service Core on Bainbridge, Interlake

High School, and Seattle Central Community College. "Our group has set up some presentations around issues affected by the WTO," commented Cabasco. "We discuss issues such as sweatshop labor, sovereignty, economic institutionalized racism, and biotech issues."

And what has been the reaction of students?

"It depends on the presentation," replied Cabasco. "For sweatshop labor we present a slide show. It definitely gets students in the mind-set of what the conditions are like in sweatshops. The topic raises a response in students, and they start thinking, 'Wow, I would never work in those conditions.' We help illustrate what the conditions are like in sweatshops, and how free trade and the WTO contribute to those conditions."

Cabasco admits it's a difficult task to keep students engaged in heavy topics like free trade, globalization, and the WTO. "This is a global issue that affects everyone," said Cabasco.

"Yet there is a lot of technicality to it. Many students say, 'Free trade? What does that mean? What does it have to do with me?' It is difficult to systematically break down the bare bones of the WTO and its effects — and keep students involved."

And how does Cabasco discuss heavy topics such as free trade, globalization, and the WTO to teenagers?

"I just start out with questions," Cabasco replied. "One effective question is: 'What power do you think you have to influence the situation around you?' That's a good leading question for a lot of people, especially with advertising being geared toward young people, which is kind of the point of that question. A lot of people say we can boycott things or we can choose to buy some things vs. other things. One of the important points I present is that the WTO can affect your power in freedom of choice. Students have a sense of empowerment. They can effect change." □

Student Organizers

Alternative school embraces Art & Revolution

When the Art & Revolution Roadshow came to Seattle on October 5, 1999, students from NOVA — an "alternative-by-choice" public high school in Seattle — participated in the event. Some of the students arrived dressed in chains. Others wore rags. One student — donning lots of make-up, jewelry, and designer clothes — was carried on a platform to which she was chained, a representation that she was 'chained' to her consumer lifestyle.

One NOVA student named Jody helped organize her fellow students to join the Roadshow presentation downtown.

"These students care a lot about sweatshop labor," Jody observed. "They all care a lot about little children forced to work in sweatshops. We are all very, very frustrated with it. I told the students [attending the Roadshow] to learn more, and speak out against the WTO. Since the youth are so oppressed in our society and are so 'villianized,' the ability to speak out and actually have your voice heard — while not being labeled a 'reactionary teenager' — is an amazing chance for a lot of students. Especially students at NOVA."

NOVA empowers its students to teach others about the WTO. In many ways, it has an advantage over some of the other WTO programs. Whereas

the other programs mostly involve adults teaching young people about the WTO, NOVA's program is comprised of students discussing the same material with their peers.

"I just went to Shorecrest High School and spoke about the situation in East Timor, which is vaguely related to this entire issue," said Jody. "Students were very receptive

and the teachers were very intelligent and articulate. The teachers are trying to get students to learn more about

Continued on page 18



ART & REVOLUTION AT NOVA.
PHOTO BY GRETCHEN KING

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Your Real Change WTO Concierge

Tuesday, November 16
The National Lawyers Guild, UW Law School Chapter, presents **David Korten, author of "When Corporations Rule the World,"** one of the leading critics on globalization in an overview of globalization and the downsides of the WTO. 12:30 - 1:20 p.m., at UW Law School, Condon Hall, Room 109/129, 1100 Campus Parkway; info paulr@u.washington.edu, 206-988-8881 or enelsen@u.washington.edu

Sierra Club presents **WTO in the Pacific NW "What is the WTO and how does it affect the environment and jobs in the Pacific Northwest?"** with Speakers Patti Goldman, Managing Attorney Earth Justice Legal Defense; Ms. Goldman has made friend of the court submissions to WTO dispute settlement panels on challenges to U.S. fuel economy standards, a European Union hormone-treated beef ban, U.S. sea turtle protections and reformulated gasoline standards under the U.S. Clean Air Act, plus Ron Judd, King County Labor Council. 7 p.m., at Downtown REI store, 222 Yale Ave. N; info Kathleen Casey, 206-378-0114 x 306

Wednesday, November 17
North Seattle Neighborhood Group presents a **WTO forum with David Korton** at the Unitarian Church. Info: Scott Tennican 206-528-8067 or tennican@halcyon.com

"WTO or Democratic Alternatives?"
A talk by author and Alliance for Democracy speaker Ruth Caplan, with songs by the Raging Grannies and a discussion on how to participate during the WTO Ministerial. 7 p.m., University Unitarian Church, 6556 35th Ave; Info: 206-527-6625 or Sarah McElroy. People for Fair Trade, 206-522-3798 or 206-287-4385

Thursday, November 18
"Workers Rights, Labor Standards, and the WTO" Lectures and Discussions with Steve Marquart, Assistant Director of Research for the Center for Labor Studies and Lucy Jarocz, Assistant Professor of Geography, sponsored by UW Center for Labor Studies, 10:30 - 1:30 p.m., at University of Washington, 239 Savery; info Prof. Margaret Levi 206-543-7947 or mlevi@u.washington.edu

Whidbey Island People for Fair Trade / NO TO WTO is holding a benefit concert, info Jeff 360-678-9070 or jeffyb@hotmail.com.

Friday, November 19
Two representatives of AZACHIS, an organization of Zapotec Indians from southern Mexico, speaking on **Trade and Human Rights in Oaxaca** at the UW's

biweekly Human Rights and Education Research Network forum; 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., at University of Washington, Thompson Hall

November 20-28
Action/Street Theater Convergence, the Direct Action Network against corporate globalization plans nine days of giant street theater, giant puppet, dance and music making/performing, nonviolent direct action trainings and affinity (action) group formations and meetings to coordinate it all and prepare ourselves for the WTO; info 206-632-1656.

Saturday, November 20
An informational program on the WTO by opponents, **David Korten on "Who will rule?" and County Councilman Brian Derdowski,** hosted by the Sammamish Plateau Area Ministers. 1 p.m., at Mary Queen of Peace Parrish, 1121 228th Ave SE, Issaquah; info 425-391-1178

Sunday, November 21
Prepare for peaceful protests during WTO meetings; nonviolence training facilitated by Michael Siproth, info Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia 206-547-0952.

"Free Trade: What are the Hidden Costs?" Speakers include: Brian Derdowski (King County Council), Reverend Dr. Lucy Hitchcock (Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community), Michael Dolan (Public Citizen), Karen Coulter (Program on Corporations, Law, and Democracy), Steve Hoffman (Washington Federation of State Employees, Local 304, & Freedom Socialist Party (FSP)), Dr. Angela Gilliam (The Evergreen State College). Also includes Fair-Traded Handicrafts and workshops on Sign-Making & Giant Puppets, and Non-Violence Preparation, which require pre-registration. 1:00 pm at East Shore Unitarian Church, 12700 SE 32nd Street in Bellevue/Factoria, just off Richards Road near I-90; Info: Jess, (425) 747 3780 or esuadm@gzinc.com

Meeting of Seattle Chapter Fellowship of Reconciliation, with a training on nonviolence in preparation for peaceful protests of the WTO's erosion of human rights, environmental protections, and democracy, 5 p.m. potluck, 6 p.m. announcements, 6:30 program, at Woodland Park Presbyterian Church, 225 N 70th near Greenwood; info 206-789-5565

November 23-26
International Coalition of Free Trade Unions, sometimes known as the "AFL-CIO of the world" conference; ICFTU will debate and identify policies they want WTO to support or oppose, see Nov 30 - Dec 3

item below; topics of concern include freedom of association; the right to collective bargaining; no forced labor; no discrimination; and the elimination of child labour; in Seattle; info on WTO opposition events 877-STOP-WTO or 877-786-7986

Tuesday, November 23
Rally in Red Square, UW chapter of People for Fair Trade / Network Opposed to WTO; info 206-770-9044.

Benefit concert for People for Fair Trade/ Network Opposed to the WTO at Tractor Tavern, Ballard; info: (206) 770-9044, toll free (877) STOPWTO

November 26-28
November Film Series: "Pressure Point" about the Montreal blockade of the MAI; tickets and info 206-763-9611

2 films on the harm caused by economic globalization, "Our Friends at the Bank" about talks between Uganda and the World Bank, and "Coffee Is the Gold of the Future", the WTO and Colombia, at the Little Theatre, 609 19th E at Mercer; info 206-675-2055

November 26-28
International Forum on Globalization (IFG) Teach-In with focus on the problems of economic globalization and, specifically, on the activities of the WTO and other international agreements and institutions; Fri: 7 - 10 pm and Sat: 8:30 - 6:30 pm / 8:00 - 11:00 pm at Benaroya Symphony Hall, 200 University St. (downtown Seattle); info: 415-771-3394

Nonviolence trainings for WTO protesters including general introduction to nonviolence, NV Direct Action, and civil disobedience training; sessions running throughout the day, at University Friends Meeting; info Paty Lyman 206 323-5295 or plyman@aol.com

General schedule, every day: 8:30 a.m. Press briefings / 10:30 a.m. Panels on daily issues by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) / 12:00 Pressworthy public events, demonstrations, rallies, marches, etc. / 2:00 p.m.: Strategy sessions / 4:30 Report-backs / 5:15 Adjourn for evening meetings, parties, caucuses, etc.

Week long Fair Trade Fair at Seattle Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave., Seattle (8th & Seneca); info: Deborah James, Global Exchange (415) 255 7296 x245

November 28-30
People's Assembly / March - Rally, Filipino Community Center, 5740 ML King Jr. Way; info: (206) 763-9611, passembly@yahoo.com

Wednesday, November 28
All day Alternatives Conference, with Ronnie Dugger, sponsored by the Alliance for Democracy at the Labor Temple, 2800 First Ave. Info: Dave Lewitt, Alliance For Democracy (617) 266 8687

The WTO and the Global War System. Sponsored by the NorthWest Disarmament Committee (USA) and End The Arms Race (Canada), 2:30-5:00pm at Hildebrand Hall, Plymouth Congregational Church, 1212 6th Ave. Seattle; info: (206) 547-0952 or ssstaples@randomlink.com

People's Tribunal; Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave; Info: Ward Morehouse, Council on Int'l Public Affairs (212) 972-9877

Jubilee 2000 Prayer Service; 7:30 pm at St. James Cathedral, 9th & Marion; info: (206) 625-9790

Monday, November 29
8:30 am-12 noon: **Environment & Health,** 1st United Methodist Church, 811 5th Ave, Seattle, more info: Dan Seligman (environment), Sierra Club, (202) 675 2387, dan.seligman@sierraclub.org. Mary Bottari (health) mbottari@citizen.org.

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **European Union Trade Forum,** Space Needle, Seattle Host Organization, more info: (206) 352-9020, northwest@wtravellers.com

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. **Time to Talk: Forums on Race Series,** Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Sponsored by Seattle Chamber of Commerce, more info: hermann@seattlechamber.com

12:00-1:00 p.m. **Seattle Tea Party**
2:45 p.m.: **United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Plenary:** Strategies for Global Trade Unionism

5:30 p.m.: **USWA/Labor march to WTO Cocktail party**

4:30-6:30 p.m. **Interfaith Gathering, Procession, and "Human Chain"** to call for the definitive cancellation of the debt of the world's poorest countries. Begins at First United Methodist Ch., 5th & Columbia, Seattle; procession to join hands around Exhibition Center, S. Royal Brougham St., site of WTO opening gala, WA Association of Churches. Info: (206) 625-9790

5:00-8:00 p.m. **Health Care Forum,** sponsored by several chapters of the Labor Party, IBEW Hall 2700 1st Ave. Info: Diane Radischat (206) 937-1100

6:00-10:00 p.m. **International Solidarity Night,** Filipino Community Center Hall, ML King Jr. Way S., Seattle. Songs of Struggle, Words of Action and Dance of Resistance against WTO and imperialist globalization

7:00 p.m. **People's Gala**
7:00-10:00 p.m. **African Day Business Forum** reception, Piggott Hall, Seattle Univ. Info: (206) 956-3181, pgishuru@aol.com

Tuesday, November 30
7:00 a.m. **Mass nonviolent direct action.** Meeting places: Victor Steinbrueck Park (just north of Pike Place Market) and Seattle Central Community College (Pine & Broadway, in Capitol Hill) Info: Direct Action Network, (206) 632-1656

8:00 am **Youth Caucus Assembly/March-Rally,** Filipino Community Center, Corner MLK Jr. Way S. and Orcas St., Seattle

8:30 am-12:00 p.m. **Labor Rights & Living Standards/NGO Panels,** 1st United Methodist Church, 811 5th Ave., Seattle. Info: marianne@citizen.org.

10:00 am **People's Assembly/March-Rally,** Meet at the Filipino Community Center, Corner of MLK Jr. Way S. and Orcas St., Seattle. March 4.5 miles to downtown Seattle at 10:30 am

Day-long Teach-In on Human Rights and the WTO, First United Methodist Church, 811 Fifth Ave. Sponsored by Peoples Decade of Human Rights Education (PDHRE) pdhre@aol.com OR visit web site for full programme and registration form: www.pdhre.org

10 am-12:30 pm **The Big Rally,** Memorial Stadium, sponsored by AFL-CIO, others

12:30-3 pm **THE BIG MARCH,** Join tens of thousands of your closest friends from labor unions, environmental organizations, student groups, nations around the world, and other concerned citizens in a march against corporate globalization! Leaves Memorial Stadium, circles through downtown

Immediately after The Big March ends United Steelworkers of America (USWA) **benefit for locked-out Kaiser Aluminum workers** at Mercer Arena

7-8:30 pm Debate: Sponsored by Public Citizen, Int'l Forum on Globalization and The Nation, Seattle Town Hall, 1119 8th Ave, Seattle. Info: Jerry Mander, IFG (415) 771 3394; Peter Rothberg @ The Nation.

Wednesday, December 1
7:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Press breakfast on resolving tensions between trade & environment Sponsored by Global Environment & Trade Study, at Renaissance Hotel. Info: Susan Wuoste, susan.wuoste@yale.edu

8:00-10:00 a.m. **African Day Business Forum.** Info: (206) 956-3181, pgishuru@aol.com

8:30 am-5:30 pm **Women, Democracy, Sovereignty, and Development,** United Methodist Church, Info: Alexandra Spieldoch, aspieldoch@coc.org

8:30 am— **No Patents on Life: Biotech in the Global Economy.** All day forum on patents on life forms. Sponsored by Council for Responsible Genetics, Inst. for Ag. and Trade Policy, Plymouth Congregational Church. Info: Phil Bereano (206) 543-9037, phil@uwrc.washington.edu;

10:00 am-12:30pm **Science and the Precautionary Principle** in the Trading System sponsored by Inst. for Sustainable Development, Royal Inst. for Int'l Affairs, NGO Center, North Room (at the World Trade Center)

10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. NGO discussion of TRIPS, Madison Hotel. Info: James Love, love@cptech.org. (202) 387-8030

12:30-2:00 p.m. **Panel Debate on Human Rights** and the WTO, Madison Renaissance Hotel. Sponsored by Peoples Decade of Human Rights Education (PDHRE). Info: Malini Mehra, email: pdhre@aol.com or www.pdhre.org

3:00-5:00 p.m. **"Selling the Story: Taking the WTO Back to Your Campus."** Info: 728-1563, cecnw@envirocitizen.org

7:00 p.m. **Voices from the South:** Building cross-border resistance from the south to the north. Public forum for speakers from the "global south," and discussion to highlight impact of organizing to confront globalization. CISPEs. Info: Heather Day, (206) 725-6180 and 325-5494

Thursday, December 2
12:30-1:30 **Workers Rights, Labor Standards, and the WTO:** Series of Lectures and Discussions. Sponsored by Pol Sci 249 and 499. Location: 239 Savery Hall, UW Info: Prof. Levi 543-7947

1:30-4:30 p.m. **The Impact of Globalization on Food Safety,** United Methodist. Sponsored by Inst. for Ag. and Trade Policy. Info: (612) 870-0453.

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. **European Union Trade Forum**

Friday, December 3
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. **Corporate Accountability: "Who Rules?"** Gethsemane Lutheran Ch. Info: Mike Dolan, (202) 454-5122

Saturday, December 4
Women Workers in the Global Economy. Sponsored by Northwest Labor and Employment Law Office (LELO). Info: (206) 860-1400

The Raging Granny Songbook

The Raging Grannies first formed in the winter of 1986-87 in Victoria, British Columbia. Several peace activists who had been doing street theater began dressing up in outrageous hats and singing satirical songs to protest against nuclear submarines, uranium mining, nuclear power, militarism, racism, clear-cut logging, and corporate greed. They were sometimes arrested but never taken to court. Raging Grannies groups quickly sprang up clear across Canada, all the way to Halifax, Nova Scotia. Each group changes the words of familiar tunes to suit their particular circumstances. In the tradition of wise women elders, the mission of the Seattle Raging Grannies is to promote global peace, justice, and social and economic equality by raising public awareness through the medium of song and humor. You can visit the Raging Grannies at <http://www.raginggrannies.com>



Gaggle Against WTO

Oh, we're a gaggle of Grannies,
Urging you off of your fannies,
We're raising our voice,
We want a new choice,
No WTO.

With the starving wages they're paying
To workers sweating and slaving,
The owners all thrive,
Will workers survive?
No WTO

With their worldwide domination,
They will do the planet in,
We have got to stop them,
We must not let them win.

So join this gaggle of grannies,
Get up off of your fannies,
We're telling you now,
We're angry and how,
No WTO.

We really mean it, No WTO,
We mean precisely, No WTO
We'll say it very nicely, No WTO.
—The Raging Grannies

Whose Welfare?

(sung to the tune of 'They'll be Coming 'Round the Mountain')

If you're rich and ask for welfare,
They will come, they will come,
If you're rich and ask for welfare,
They will come, they will come.
They will grant a new exemption
From state and local taxes,
They will grant a new exemption when they come.

If you're poor and ask for welfare,
They will come, they will come.
If you're poor and ask for welfare,
They will come, they will come.
They will tell you there's a limit,
And you have reached that limit,
They will tell you there's NO welfare when they come.

If you're poor and cold and homeless,
They will come, they will come,
If you're poor and cold and homeless,
They will come, they will come.
They will kick you off the sidewalk,
And say you're bad for business,
They will kick you off the sidewalk when they come.

So it's time to build a movement,
Yes it is, yes it is,
Oh, it's time to build a movement, yes it is,
That will help the poor and needy,
Not the corporate greedy,
Oh, it's time to build a movement that helps all.
—Kay Thode

The System

(sung to the tune of 'My Bonnie Lies over the Ocean')

They've sent our jobs out of the country,
They've sent our jobs over the sea,
It's time that we made a commotion,
Oh, get rid of NAFTA for me.
NAFTA, NAFTA, oh, get rid of NAFTA for me.

They've downsized the wages, not profits,
They're managing all of our health,
It's time for a new distribution,
Give workers their share of the wealth.
Wealth, wealth, give workers their share of the wealth.

The bosses get millions in bonus,
The workers get minimum wage,
It's time for a different system,
Let's write a brand new page,
Page, page, let's write a brand new page.
—Kay Thode

Monsanto's Chemical Restaurant

They won't say what they're cooking today
At the chemical restaurant.
Maybe it's beans with monkey genes,
At the chemical restaurant.
You get one sore breast or maybe two,
Maybe the milk is full of bovine growth,
They won't say what they're cooking today,
At the chemical restaurant.

They won't say what they're zapping today
At the chemical restaurant,
They can't wait to irradiate,
At the chemical restaurant,
Thanks to Monsanto it looks so good,
We mustn't bitch if it tastes like wood,
They won't say what they're zapping today
At the chemical restaurant.

They won't say what they're cooking today
At the chemical restaurant,
The almighty sods are playing God,
At the chemical restaurant,
They're patenting seeds, you know what's next,
If we don't stop them they'll be patenting sex,
They won't say what they're cooking today,
At the chemical restaurant.
—by the Salt Spring Island Canadian Granny group

Free Market Trot

Market shares have risen, honey, ain't it great,
10,000 workers were laid off,
But that's their fate,
Oh, free markets are so nice,
But the workers pay the price.

Jobs have been exported to across the seas,
Wages there are so much lower, if you please,
Who cares if wages are down,
In your old home town.
Oh, when the workers lose the markets rise and rise,
Profits are the only thing to maximize,
Oh, oh, don't you agree, that this shouldn't be.

Wake up, workers, now it's time to rise and fight,
NAFTA, APEC, MAI with all your might,
Oh, free markets are so nice,
But the workers pay the price.
So if you want the workers to have their fair share,
Join exploited workers here and everywhere,
Fight for what is your due, it is up to you.
—Kay Thode

LETTERS, CONT. FROM PAGE 1
 people over a period of 2000 years has demonstrated that this therapy is effective and taught its practitioners how to treat people safely. Doesn't it seem rather unlikely (and reflect a bit of intellectual arrogance) to assume that all those people have been fooling themselves all this time, just because Western science hasn't yet proved acupuncture's worth beyond a shadow of a doubt?

I think that there is good and bad in both alternative and conventional medicine. I would suggest that it's in our best interest to take the best from both worlds as we struggle to perfect the art and science of healing.

Kris Weber, Volunteer
 Alternative Healthcare
 Access Campaign

Out of Hand

Dear *Real Change*,

I am writing to respond to an article aired last Friday morning (October 24), on Morning Edition regarding the Seattle mayor's office refusing to support a tent city for the homeless during the upcoming WTO Conference. I believe the attention given was insufficient and therefore misrepresented this issue.

It is not an unusual practice to sweep key areas of host cities tempo-

rarily clean of street people, in anticipation of large conventions, sports events, and the arrival of dignitaries, because poor people don't look pretty on the television screen. Seattle already has in place convenient anti-loitering laws that have been enforced before to keep key areas presentable. This was done during the APEC conference, doubling the jail population for a few days.

WHEEL/SHARE, Seattle area homeless advocacy and organizing groups (and not mentioned in the article) initiated the idea of a temporary tent city. They feel, and I agree, that this provide a safer option than jail-

ing people for 'loitering'. Probably it also would be a more economical solution than overflowing the city jail. Better yet, a permanent tent city could provide continuity and security that most homeless people don't usually have.

Deputy Byers, from the mayor's office, explained the decision, saying "it just wouldn't work" and "might get out of hand." Homelessness is out of hand. And the mayor's office is out of line. I suggest the city be bold enough to try the idea. WHEEL/SHARE are well organized and strongly committed, self-run organizations that could probably create and

monitor a tent city with energy, grace, and competence. Why not take a chance that it might work?

Sincerely,
 Cecilia Erin Walsh

Thanksgiving Dinner

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 Break at 3:15 with satire by *United for a Fair Economy*



WHEN: Sunday, Nov. 28, 1-5:30 pm
 WHERE: Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave, Seattle
 Free-- organized by Alliance for Democracy
 Call for info. (206) 770-9044

Rally and March

for Fair Trade

Tuesday, November 30th
10:00 A.M.

**Memorial Stadium,
 Seattle Center**

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Tenant Talk

Legal Action Center

By Mark Chattin and David W. Friedman



Buyer Beware: Each individual tenant situation involves factors that cannot be addressed and people who may react differently. My responses are based on a general application of the law to the questions raised, and it cannot be assumed that following these responses will resolve the issues in the way that the law would seem to indicate. Hopefully the responses will give you an idea of how to proceed to protect your rights.

Dear Tenant Talk,

I have been fighting with my landlord for months and need help. Two months ago, when the landlord was out of town, the bathroom upstairs started leaking through the ceiling. The water traveled through our apartment and into our storage area below — ruining many of the belongings that we had stored there. When the landlord returned from vacation we showed her the damage. We had not removed our destroyed property so she could see for herself the extent of the damage. The landlord took weeks to fix the damaged storage area. Before she started she gave us a 10-day notice to clean up the storage area. The reason it was a mess was because she had not fixed the leak. Well, we took pictures of our damaged items, then threw the items out. The landlord gave us another 10-day notice to clean out the storage area. We had cleaned the destroyed property but she wants us to empty the storage area even though it is part of our lease. How do we get paid for our damaged property, and what do we do about the 10-day notices?

Peggy

Dear Peggy,

A landlord is not responsible for damages to a tenant's property unless the landlord is aware of the condition that caused the damages, and did not warn the tenant of the condition. The landlord would also be liable if he failed to fix the condition if it was one of the enumerated responsibilities under the Residential Landlord Tenant Act. In your situation, the leak and the damages occurred while the landlord was away and apparently the landlord had no prior notice of this defect in the building. If the landlord knew that the bathroom upstairs had a defect and failed to fix it, you would have a claim against the landlord for the damages to your property. Once you notified the landlord of the defect, any subsequent damages may be the landlord's responsibility.

The fact that the landlord took so long to repair the leak may give you some claim for damages, however, the law also requires a damaged party to 'mitigate' their damages. Essentially, you may not be able to recover any money for your losses if you left your property in the storage area and that contributed to your losses. The law would require you to take the damaged goods from the storage unit and attempt to store them in a dry place. If it involved clothing, you may be expected to get the items professionally cleaned. Any expenses you incurred in this process would be the responsibility of the landlord if the landlord was responsible for the initial damages.

It is best to have renter's insurance if you can afford it. Under most policies, your losses would have been covered. Moreover, if the insurance company felt your landlord was responsible, they would pursue those claims.

As for the 10-day notices, you should write your landlord and dispute that you are responsible for the condition of the storage units, or that you breached the rental agreement. You may want to explain that you left the storage unit in its damaged condition to demonstrate the state of the unit when you discovered it. The importance of disputing these 10-day notices is that in the Seattle City limits, the issuance of three 10-day notices within one year

constitutes 'just cause' to evict a tenant. By disputing the validity of the notices, you begin to prepare your defense if the landlord ultimately tries to evict you for these alleged violations.

Dear Tenant Talk:

Me and my landlord have been going back and forth about some repairs in my home. The drain in the bathtub is blocked, and we have to drain it with a bucket. Also, the oven does not work. Finally I got fed up and just told him that until he made the repairs I was not going to pay rent. The landlord waited about a week and then handed my son a 3-day notice when I was at work. I got worried so I decided to pay the rent. It was just two days later when I took the rent to the manager's office. The manager said the owner just wanted me to move and refused to take my money. I still have the money order but the landlord says he is going to evict me. What should I do?

Clogged Drain

Dear Clogged Drain,

NEVER WITHHOLD RENT UNLESS YOU CONSULT AN ATTORNEY FIRST. The law in Washington only allows the withholding of rent under very limited circumstances, and if you don't strictly comply with those requirements you can end up receiving a 3-day pay or vacate. If you do receive a 3-day, as you did in this case, you need to offer the full amount of the rent within the three days. The landlord is obligated to accept the money within that time frame. In your situation, your landlord was required to accept the money but refused to do so. Hopefully, you had a witness who could verify that you went to the manager with the money order, offered the money order, and the manager refused to accept it. If you did not have a witness, you should write the manager immediately and reiterate the situation, insist that you made the offer of the rent within the three days, and make the offer of the rent again. At least this way, you have something in writing that indicates you tried to pay the rent, and the manager received the letter. If he does not dispute your letter in writing, you may be able to convince a judge that this is what happened and that the manager did not dispute your version of the facts prior to the lawsuit.

The reality is that you are now on the defensive and the landlord may be able to evict you, even though your intentions were to enforce your legitimate rights. That is why a tenant should NEVER withhold rent until they know exactly the circumstances required to be met before it is legal to do so. ☞

Got a Tenant Problem? Get Help

Seattle CSOs (police matters only)	684-4790
Legal Action Center (low income only)	324-6890
Tenants' Union	723-0500

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BY PERFESS'R HARRIS

Anyone who has read Homer can attest that the heroic appetite knows no bounds. Nowhere in either *The Iliad* or *The Odyssey* does anyone ever utter the words, "No thanks, I'm stuffed."

When Ajax, Nestor, and Odysseus visit the tent of sulking Achilles, Patroclus prepares a meal from the backs of sheep, fat goats, and a full grown pig, marbled with lard. This is served with "bread in ample wicker baskets" and, of course, endlessly flowing watered down wine. It seems a bit much for five people.

No one mentions a word about their full meal, only a few hours before, in the lodge of Agamemnon.

In *The Odyssey*, the world's eating epic, Penelope's 108 suitors "feast themselves sick" on cattle, sheep, and goats. More moderate eaters, like the elderly King Nestor, slaughter a heifer to feast Telemachus and his crew.

I wondered whether all this feasting was humanly possible. Naturally, I turned to the internet for an answer.

According to the University of Minnesota website, an average 300-pound side of beef is about 30 percent fat and bone (this part is sacrificed to the Gods) leaving about 420 pounds of digestible beef, assuming a two-sided heifer. The Greeks would have made a snack of the internal organs as well, but we won't concern ourselves with that here.

The next question that arises is the size of your average Greek hero. There are numerous references to the super-human strength of men in the time of Troy. For example, Hector at one point lifts a boulder to his shoulders that "no two men ... weak as men are now," could have even levered onto a wagon.

So, I figured these guys had to be at least as big as your typical Seattle Seahawk, which is about 243 pounds. Interestingly, the average Denver Bronco weighs just 236.5 pounds, a full six and a half pounds less, proving the adage that size isn't everything.

Next I consulted the Calorie Control Council at www.caloriecontrol.com. Their handy exercise calculator allowed me to approximate how many calories a Seahawk-sized hero might burn on a typical day.

War, I think, is like an unusually vicious game of rugby. Our hero would burn 11,491 calories over 10 hours of such activity. Two hours of marching around in gear, or "backpacking," would burn another 1,312. And even heroes need to relax, so two hours of playing cards is 379 calories, and two hours of "kissing" is another 333. I noticed that kissing, according to the Calorie Control Council, is on a par with "watching TV." This struck me as unheroic, so, assuming greater vigor, I doubled those calories. Toss in eight hours of sleep at 720 calories, and you have a full heroic day, burning 14,568 calories.

According to our previously consulted calorie police, a three-and-a-half-ounce piece of steak, barely an appetizer to a Greek hero, contains 201 calories. So, $14,568 \div 201 \text{ calories} \times 3.5 \div 16 =$ almost 16 pounds of beef per day that a hero could theoretically eat before starting to get all puffy-faced like a decadent Roman. At this rate, a standard-sized heifer is a meal for 26.

What, classics fans, does this tell us? This Thanksgiving, we should turn off the Seahawks game, drag our distended bellies and fat asses off the couch, and instead go sack a small city, like maybe Issaquah. Our waistlines will thank us for it.

Join us next time, when Classics Corner celebrates National Bible Week (November 21-28).

Be an armchair classicist. The Northwest Society for Classical Studies seeks fellow freaks. Call 325-1787 or email NSCS@home.com for information.

TENTS, CONT. FROM PAGE 1

Activists for the homeless are concerned that "some who are embarrassed by the dramatic disparities in wealth and living standards in Seattle will attempt to use law enforcement measures to make these disparities less visible during the WTO conference." Translation: Activists are worried about homeless sweeps.

Alan Painter, Manager of Community Services at the Department of Human Services (DHS), has been an integral part of the dialogue between SHARE/WHEEL and the Mayor's Office, police, and other city officials. Painter sees alternatives other than tent city. "There are other ways to house the homeless during WTO," Painter commented. He cited area churches that would open their doors during WTO.

Painter indicated that the city's hands are tied. "Parks are for use by all city residents," he commented. "The city was not able to support overnight tents at parks because there is a flat prohibition of overnight camping in parks. The city was not in a position to change that."

Yet exceptions are being made elsewhere, namely a "snow schedule" for Metro on November 30, 1999 — when a large anti-WTO march is expected to draw 50,000 protesters.

When asked about these exceptions, and why the city is not making an exception for a tent city, Painter reiterated that the Parks Department has been clear that overnight camping in city parks is not allowed. Inviting a tent city during WTO would set a precedent for future tent cities, according to Painter. If the city designates a tent city for homeless during WTO, Painter added, then it must open a tent city in the future for other events.

Fujiwara at the Mayor's office was more direct. "WTO is not a reason to set up a tent city."

But a tent city in Seattle is nothing new. During the 1990 Goodwill Games in Seattle, activists for the homeless formed a tent city at the Kingdome.

Painter feels that the city and DHS are doing their best to work with SHARE/WHEEL. He supports SHARE/WHEEL's efforts in bringing

needs for homeless people to the spotlight. "Homelessness is an important issue," Painter said, "and SHARE/WHEEL has done a good job highlighting issues of concern."

Doing what they have to do

Despite the setback, SHARE/WHEEL will move forward to take the necessary steps to erect a tent city, according to Randall. SHARE/WHEEL has asked other homeless activist groups for support. According to Randall at SHARE/WHEEL, a tent city during WTO is not an issue of politics. "It's a matter of life and death," said Randall. "We can't afford more people dying for lack of shelter. This is not about politics. This is about safety and human rights."

Rick Reynolds at the Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) is baffled and frustrated by the city's decision. "Because the city has decided to do nothing," Reynolds said, "the city is essentially saying they want a disorganized, unregulated, and unsupervised tent city. It doesn't make any sense to me."

What's truly interesting about the tent city conflict is this: The entire disagreement might prove to be moot. SHARE/WHEEL's next move is to establish a tent city during WTO — despite the decision from the Mayor's office. And the Mayor's office has indicated that the Seattle Police Department (SPD) would "respond normally" to any overnight camp in one of its parks. But what if the SPD — saddled and overworked with WTO concerns — is without the resources to crack down on a tent city? Fujiwara indicated that the police would respond to incidents based on the urgency of each incident. According to one agency spokesperson, a group of homeless people sleeping in a park is hardly an urgent threat to public safety.

SPD spokesperson Pam McKammon indicated that the police would respond to a tent city based on the level of threat it posed. If the tent city were housed in a location that created an inconvenience for Seattle residents and visitors, and if assaults were taking place at the tent city and laws were being broken, then the police would most likely respond in an urgent manner.

Reynolds at DESC believes a tent city during WTO would most likely foster the fewest complaints from Seattle residents and visitors. "In the whole array of things for people to complain about," Reynolds said, "tent city is not a big deal compared to the number of protesters who will be here."

Dialogue between SHARE/WHEEL and city officials has ceased.

What's the next step?

SHARE/WHEEL is determined to organize a tent city, despite the city's opposition. Are they concerned about police cracking down on a tent city? "Of course there are concerns that police will tear down a tent city," commented SHARE/WHEEL's Randall. "It renders their argument moot when police say they don't have the manpower to respond to emergencies at tent city. Yet, they will have the power to tear down the tents if homeless people put them up? That just doesn't make sense." ☐



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ecce homo

let's go hug them,
let's hold them close
before their crisp bodies
crumble like old char
so light
and delicate like
a limp
boy

remember how just before the explosion
they were swimming in the river
half gasoline
half laughter
how happy they were!

and after, how
they ran up the hill, home
their clothes fell away
in glittering flakes across the green grass
and billowing sky?

the brother was afraid
to let them see each other.
he separated them
put one burned boy in one room,
his friend in the other

isolation did not save them.
they were black and red
except for the soles of their feet
and gummy eyes.

their skin was so hot they
flapped and hopped like
flightless geese
one foot
the next
arms pulling eden on fire

in every church now
throw out the crucifix
hang in its place a child
hang it over the mantle in your living room
around your slender neck
above your sleeping angel's bed
hold them tight while you can

corporate negligence be damned,
any mother could still suffer like this

they just got caught
accidental
on the wrong hillside sloping
misdirected currents
a homeless wind
a furnace with no doors

it could be any of us
standing in the yard right now,
in the street
running towards
you
with our bodies burned off

let's go hug them,
let's hold them close
before their crisp bodies crumble

—Bob Redmond

Drowning On Dry Land

amidst the sea of people
unseen
unheard
invisible
drowning on dry land

amidst the sea of people
cold
scared
hungry
drowning on dry land

amidst the sea of people
lost
alone
afraid
drowning on dry land

amidst the sea of people
fearful
hiding
homeless
drowning on dry land

—Paula Rozner

R.S.V.P.

I have come out of hiding,
pot-washer, sandwich picker,
birth child of a factory age.
I was the one who fed
the production line.

A child of no particular famine,
I learned from poor relations.
My mother worked in a laundry,
my father a gambler who learned
he couldn't win.

I became a belly-acher, left home
rather than face up to laundry.
I roamed back alleys, prowled docks,
passed hand to hand
like a fever.

Too young to know better,
old enough to remember, I was
the one who avoided the military,
I have yet to answer
all those letters.

—Michael Magee

Beautiful Loser

She lets Mexican boys sing her songs
their earthy words change
with her flowery
moods.

She haunts abandoned buildings,
she said in broken Spanish:
I let them travel south
with love-making
whispers.

Help me in the darkened doorway
past detritus of stylized, spray-painted walls,
empty bottle and metal containers, condoms,
discarded orange needle-caps
and on the street I pick her a dandelion.

With this—I gather like leaves
this paganized pile of words,
tuning my guitar in mottled tones
and sing in the other
room.

She lets Mexican boys sing her songs
their earthy words change
with her flowery
moods.

—Earle Thompson / 13:V:99—05:56:37,

Untitled

1.
this is no way to start a poem
with no flashy come-on line
only a vague transparent reference
poems should grab you by the throat
and shake the living daylights out of you
these purple fingers which constrict
are making you delirious
thinking, "what a fabulous opening"
when really it is a shallow attempt
to fabricate something out of nothing

2.
this poem was meant to rise and rise
and then dive with great velocity
there should be screaming
like the kind when violence hits the cinema wall
there should be laughter
like when the clown drops his drawers
and moons the passing dignitaries
there should be an arrest
the kind that has a suspect
fleeing the police
only to have patrols swarm in like thieves
to steal his freedom

3.
who among us quarrel with authority?
and who have shone like ocean beaches?
glisten and froth
that so each wave which glides upon
me like sugars on ice
though it taste as brine
which spilled
from the barrels to the shore
and what of all these pickles of the sea
what of them know the courage of being free?
much much pickle
pickle the blood
pickle the brain
pickled for a quiet day
all and all the pickled marionettes
salute the bastard chemist
every one of them and their purple lips
every one of them on the vinegar slips
every one of them gone wild
salute, salute
with my solemn oath, I shall

—Patrick Bissell

REID, CONT. FROM PAGE 8
reading the book a little bit, but haven't been able to do much reading, especially being on the road like that.

RC: What was it like to be with environmentalists and other people you normally wouldn't work with?

REID: When I first started working for Kaiser, I understood what people were talking about. "Oh the darn environmentalists! They're screwing with the company!" Environmentalists were pushing for clean air. They were complaining about pollution at Kaiser. But it didn't take long for me to think, "Hey, wait a minute, they're trying to protect the environment I'm living in."

I live in this town, Spokane, and the pollution that comes from Kaiser is affecting me and my friends. Cyanide gases leaked down into the water table. Many of my friends have to drink bottled water. Kaiser is compensating them for that. But how do you compensate somebody for poisoning their body or their system or whatever. You can compensate them with money, but that doesn't help them in the long run when they're going to suffer these effects maybe down the road.

So I'm an environmentalist now. And I've talked with a lot of people who didn't realize they were also environmentalists. They agreed that we need to save our ecosystem;

we don't need to cut every tree down. We *do* need jobs, but we don't need to sacrifice the quality of life in the process.

RC: What do you tell people about the WTO? You said that you went to your local religious community. How did you approach them?

REID: Well, I approached people that I wouldn't have to persuade into my way of thinking. Actually, I didn't want to persuade *anybody* into my way of thinking. I just wanted to educate them enough for it to click inside them. That what I was saying wasn't crap. You know, the same old thing they had been hearing about the environment or whatever. I went to the Religious Director who helped me become a Catholic. We had a good rapport. I talked with a Reverend to see if he was able to do anything. I went to a retired priest. I tried to explain the WTO to him because he didn't really know what the WTO was about. He really didn't know what Ruckus was about. I gave him a lot of information to read.

He wasn't too sure about where I was headed, or whatever, so I looked him straight in the eye and said, "I guess what I am really here for is to ask you to support me. I would like to see you come to Seattle, if you possibly can." As far as I know, the church has always told me that you need to take action to right the wrongs in our community and our world. I

put the call to them. They always put the call to us as a congregation — as a community — to stand up and do something, so I guess I'm putting it in their court now.

RC: Can you describe the upcoming trek from Spokane to Seattle? In early October, you said there would be two bus loads of union people and their families coming to Seattle to demonstrate at the WTO Ministerial.

REID: Yeah, I think I have to change that now. It's 10 buses that are coming out of the Spokane area. They are planning to be there for the Tuesday, November 30, International Day of Action. We have 10 buses of union people from the Spokane area.

RC: Have you had any interesting reactions to the puppet that you made of Ray Milchovich — your boss at Kaiser?

REID: The union didn't bring the puppet out until the one-year anniversary of the lock-out. I was on the road at that time. I can tell you that my boy, who is 15 years old, wore it, and he got kicked in the butt and cussed out by *steel workers*.

RC: What would you say to working people in Seattle who feel that they will be inconvenienced by the WTO protest, especially on the International Day of Resistance on November 30?

REID: I'd say that the demonstrations will not really be an inconvenience. The threat of the World Trade Organization continuing their agenda is a greater inconvenience.

RC: So you're planning all of these different things and helping to mobilize people to come to Seattle. How does your family feel about your activities?

REID: Well, they noticed that I was different when I came back from the Redwoods. My daughter said, "You know, dad, you've changed." I noticed that I still have my outbursts — I think that was passed down from my dad, and now I still have trouble controlling and channeling my anger when things aren't going right. But I've noticed it has gotten a lot better. I listen to my children more. I've gotten away from the television. I am more structured. I'm not as destructive as I was before. I was going on strike, feeling bummed out, feeling depressed. It was hurtful. It was causing me to sit around and feel like I was a victim.

RC: You're forty-two. Not to call you an "old dog," but you sure are learning a lot of new tricks.

REID: Yeah, and I felt like when I was at the Ruckus Action Camp, at the end of that week, I felt like I had just pecked a hole in my egg and I was seeing things for the first time. ☐

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Public housing is our source of pride.

After the North Vietnamese Government took control of South Vietnam, my family's lives changed forever.

I am a former Vietnamese Air Force Captain and was a political prisoner of war for five years. Living in continual fear and instability in my home country was very difficult for my family but fortunately today we live in freedom, with food and shelter. We are very lucky to now live in the United States. Fortunately, my family, including myself, Tu Dinh Hoang, my wife, Gioi Thi Nguyen, and my two children, immigrated to America in 1992 as refugees under the Orderly Departure Program (ODP).

Our life really began once we arrived in the US. When we arrived in 1992, we received help from a social worker at the Department of Social and Health Services who encouraged us to apply for public housing. We moved into Holly Park in 1994.

One of the most important realizations I have had since living in public housing is the pride I share with my neighbors at Holly Park. I am so proud to live there. I share similar life stories with many of my neighbors; we are one family among many who are doing our part to survive in a society that sometimes does not recognize public housing families as productive citizens. My children are now grown and take care of themselves. We are proud of this, too.

Living in public housing means having access to resources from several different social service programs. At Holly Park, South Seattle Community College, Center for Career Alternatives, and the Holly Park Family Center provide services for us. The Family Center has helped me learn English and take classes to become a citizen. I am now a "naturalized" citizen of the United States of America. This is one of my greatest achievements since arriving in this country.

One of the biggest privileges I feel I have living in public housing is that I can give back and contribute to my community. My wife and I are on the Holly Park Community Council and help residents deal with their concerns about maintaining strong family relationships. We take great pride in this important role.

Our experiences living in public housing have always been positive. We have always had affordable rent and have had opportunities to participate in different programs.

We want to continue helping others raise healthy children, build strong families, and keep our Holly Park community safe. I am always concerned about crime in my neighborhood. It can happen at anytime. We must contribute time to help prevent crime. We must also develop a "safe house" program for latch key kids. I will continue to do my part as a community member of Holly Park and help keep it safe.

I thank the Seattle Housing Authority for giving my family the opportunity to have a home in public housing and a place we call our own.

We have come a long way.

Note from SHA: The stories that appear in these advertisements are volunteered by SHA residents living in a variety of SHA facilities.



SCHOOLS, CONT. FROM PAGE 9

what's actually going on in the world. Because we live in such a closed society, we don't hear about other countries or about the world. We hear about the Mariners game or whatever. We don't have a global media. I don't know about other high schools, but our school, NOVA, has a class dedicated to learning more about the WTO and especially the bad things that they're doing — in what I feel is a fairly evenhanded manner."

"I really do believe drama is a way to make issues come alive and be real for people," commented Bobby Morrison, one of two teachers at NOVA coordinating the WTO class. The curriculum at NOVA is impressive and creative — encompassing everything from art to theater to debate. On a recent visit to NOVA, a group of students worked on street theater puppets.

Another group discussed an article by Ralph Nader. In that article, Nader offered members of Congress a \$10,000 donation to the charity of their choice if they would take a quiz and sign an affidavit saying they read the entire 700-page document that created the WTO. It was Nader's contention that Congress had passed the WTO legislation in 1994 without ever reading the document. One congressman did take Nader's challenge and later changed his mind.

NOVA students are planning to make a similar challenge to representatives in this state — representatives who favor the WTO. According to Joe Swaw, a teacher at NOVA also working with the WTO class, even if none of the representatives agree to the students' challenge, at least the students will have read sections of the document — which is more than can be said of most representatives in favor of the WTO.

"NOVA is engaging," argues Morrison, "because we use the students' imaginations. We have had presenters come and talk about the WTO. We've read articles and gone on field trips. Now we are doing street theater. Students learn how to engage people, how to engage strangers in the street. They are learning how to use their voices. We're teaching them how to use their bodies and their voices to project an image larger than themselves, trying to attract attention to whatever cause they are trying to get across."

Liza is one of two artists-in-residence at NOVA, and part of the "Cry of the Rooster" street theater troupe. She has been directing NOVA students in their street theater production. "One thing that I think is important is that the kids aren't just learning skills about mask-making, using their bodies and voices, or the WTO," Liza commented, "but they are also learning how to participate in the culture, participate in a democracy by having an opinion, feeling that it has value, and learning how to put it out there."

Liza also thinks it's important for stu-

dents to learn to use the street as a public forum. "For students to feel that they have a claim to that public space and that it's a community space is important," Liza said. "One of the things that kept coming up was that they don't feel like they have a sense of power in the global economy, in that it's bigger than them. They don't feel that they have any options to represent their interests. I think that the street is dominated by cars, businesses, and advertising. The streets tend to represent the business interests in the global economy, rather than a place that people feel safe and comfortable — a place where people can exchange ideas and where culture is alive.

"If the students in this class go out into the streets and the show is a flop and our audience is distracted because people are getting arrested or whatever, they will feel empowered when they take that space in the street and do something really beautiful."

It is indeed interesting to see so much attention placed on educating teenagers about the WTO. Whether the pro-WTO groups such as SHO, the World Affairs Council, and the UW Ambassador's program are reaching more students than anti-WTO groups like the Direct Action Network and Network Opposed to the WTO remains to be seen. The anti-WTO groups

clearly have the momentum, as their planned November 30, 1999, march can attest — a march that is expected to include 50,000 activists and protestors.


Jody, a student at NOVA, summed up well the students' reaction to the WTO Ministerial: "Students are definitely going to mobilize because nothing this big has ever happened. We were raised in a culture that is very, very cynical — a culture that says you cannot make a difference because you are reactionary teenagers and anything you do is going to be viewed as such. But this is a movement that all of us are into and that all of us know is right because it's a clear definition of right and wrong, oppression and freedom. So we are going to be there so that once in our lives we can have a voice." □

—story by grethchen king and Peter Bloch Garcia


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NOVEMBER

NOTABLES

Feminist author Jean Kilbourne will speak, she has a book coming out "Killing us Softly: Romance and Rebellion in Advertising" at Shoreline Community College **11/16**

Send off for those going to Fort Benning Georgia to protest the School of Americas, "School of Assassins" and rally, followed by March to Federal Building, 4 p.m., Westlake Park, 4th & Pine, downtown; info Sheila 206-367-3567

Women's Programs Noon Lecture Series **11/17** presents **Anna Balint on Images of Women in Literature**, discussion of popular novels from a feminist perspective; noon, at Seattle Central Community College, room BE 1110, Broadway just north of Pine;

WHEEL, Women's Housing, Equality, and Enhancement League, a grassroots organization of homeless and formerly homeless women, sponsors its **5th annual Homeless Women's Forum 1999**, Circle of Unity, free lunch, registration 11:30 a.m., noon - 1:30 p.m., at Dome Room, Arctic Building, 700 3rd Ave at Cherry; RSVP 206-956-0334 or fax 206-448-2389

Meeting of Seattle Displacement Coalition with special post election assessment, updates on various issues of low income housing and homelessness, 7 p.m., at Pilgrim Church, 509 10th Ave E at Republican, one block east of Broadway; info 206-632-0668

Alki Neighborhood Fair, 7 - 9 p.m., at Alki Elementary School, West Seattle; info Liesa 206-938-5578 or liesa_rose@yahoo.com

American Civil Liberty Union 1999 Bill of Rights Celebration Dinner, featuring speaker Barbara Ehrenreich, columnist and feminist author, and honoring Bill Wassmuth, Robert Killian, and Jane Jervis, 6 p.m. reception, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. program, Cavanaugh's Inn, 1415 Fifth Ave between Pike and Union; \$40, limited free seating for program only; info 206-624-2184

A special benefit screening of the movie TRUE written & directed by jay j. koh, Starring Jesse Wine Alda K. Yu, Chil Kong, Bonnie Warner; 8 p.m., at University of Washington, Kane Hall room 120; \$5 - 10, benefits Korean Students Union of UW, reservations j.koh@gte.net

Alternative Christmas Bazaar, a fair trade sale with many crafts from cooperatives, including Guatemalan Woven Goods from El Quetzal; 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., at St. Joseph's Church, 732 18th Ave at Republican

The Committee Against Repression and for Democracy in Mexico **11/22** **monthly protest** against the low intensity war in Southern Mexico and to support the Zapatistas, noon - 1 p.m., in front of the Mexican Consule 3rd and Blanchard; info Ryan 425-235-7180 or ryjudge@u.washington.edu

National Day of Mourning; for over **11/25** 500 years, from Columbus to the murders at Whiteclay, there have been continuous acts of outright murder against people of the First Nations; on the day in which the colonialists give thanks for their ill-gotten gains we will be honoring the sacrifices of the past and building for the future; info Northwest Leonard Peltier Support Network calling for freedom for imprisoned Native American activist Leonard Peltier, bayou@blarg.net or NWLPSN Advisor Susan Morales 253-627-8435

Buy Nothing Day! during the shop-till-you drop season a worldwide celebration of consumer awareness that draws more than a million participants from an ever-expanding list of countries, followed closely by the World Trade Organization Conference in Seattle where policy makers will gamble with our social and environmental future; take this chance to tell shoppers about the joy of simple living and responsible consumption and get first world consumers to take a critical look at the impact of this "global economy" we're fueling with every purchase, info jammers@adbusters.org or http://www.adbusters.org

Critical Mass, an organized coincidence of bicyclists who ride around the streets of Seattle en masse. It happens when a lot of cyclists happen to be in the same place at the same time and decide to cycle the same way together for a while. Come join the fun! 5:30 p.m., at Westlake Park, downtown, 4th & Pine; More info http://www.oz.net/~nic/cm.html **11/26**

Crusty Pancake Breakfast, all-ages benefit for Peace for the Streets by Kids from the Streets. Raffle tickets & silent auction. Music by Bloodhag & Valentine Killers. Eat pancakes at 10 a.m., music at 1:00 p.m. Info: Elaine, 206-568-6915. **11/28**

Alternatives Conference, 1 - 4 p.m., at Labor Temple, 2800 1st Ave; info Dave Lewitt, Alliance For Democracy 617-266 8687

Meeting of Interfaith Network Concerned for the People of Iraq, working to end the inhumane economic sanctions killing thousands of children and others. Also meets subsequent 4th Sundays. 3 - 5 p.m., at University Temple United Methodist Church, 15th Ave NE at NE 43rd, use north entrance; info Dick Blakney 206-522-4934

"Yes!" Magazine / POSITIVE FUTURES Private Reception, 7 - 10 p.m., at Elliot Bay Bookstore, 1st S & S Main, info Fran Korten, Yes! Magazine, 206-842-0216

Ecumenical Worship and Prayer Service focusing on Jubilee 2000, part of the worldwide movement to cancel the crushing debt owed by the poorest countries in the world, Jim Wallis of Sojourners Magazine will participate, partici-

pating organizations include WorldVision, Church Council of Greater Seattle, Washington Association of Churches, Jubilee 2000 Northwest Coalition, and others; 7:30 p.m., at St James Cathedral, 9th & Marion; info 206-297-0311 or http://www.ustawi.org or 206-625-9790 or Alice Woldt 206-525-1213

A night welcoming Activists to Celebrate And Resist, featuring Reggae, Hip-Hop, Hard Core, and Subversive Theater. Activists admitted free; all others pay \$10 at the door. Hosted by the Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia. 8 - 12 p.m., at The Museum of History and Industry; info 206 547-0952

See Centerfold, Page 10-11, for WTO event listings.



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WHEN: DEC. 11th 7pm

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Mexican ecologist jailed for speaking up

Issue: The wrongful arrest and violent treatment of Rodolfo Montiel Flores, Teodoro Cabrera Garcia and other campesino/ecologists in Guerrero, Mexico.

Background: In the spring of 1995, one of America's largest wood products companies, Boise Cascade, signed a contract with a group of *ejidos* in Guerrero, Mexico, to supply 20-million board feet of softwood timber every year for the next five years. Then-governor Ruben Figueroa facilitated the deal but was soon forced to resign after covering up a human rights scandal that saw his state police ambush and kill 17 small farmers who were protesting logging in the area.

The contractual arrangement allowed the company to avoid liability for any violations of local laws, which are rarely enforced. Workers would earn \$4.75 a day (one-thirtieth of what they would pay workers in the US) to cut and deliver logs to Boise Cascade.

Many Guerrero farmers opposed signing the logging contract out of fear for their access to water. One of the problems with the contract was the impact of logging on local water supplies. The region's poor farmers — *campesinos* — depend on the availability of water, which requires healthy forests upstream in the hills above their fields.

Once water supplies began to diminish, people found themselves with less and less water for growing food, cooking, washing clothes, dishes and

themselves. As a result, community opposition became more visible, and so did the government's repression.

One of the people singled out for repression, Rodolfo Montiel Flores, united other campesinos together with ecologists from along the coast to form a local organization to protest the logging contract, and the impacts that contract had on their community.

After being arrested in early May of 1999, tortured during interrogation and forced to sign confessions of gun-running, Flores and his peers remain in solitary confinement, and are being denied adequate food, water, and medical treatment, according to activists.

Action Needed: On Thursday, November 4, 1999, activists stormed the Seattle offices of the Consulate General of Mexico, to protest the arrest and violent treatment of Flores and his peers. While the Consulate General of Mexico, Mariano Lemus, listened to the activists and agreed to discuss the matter with Mexican government, it is imperative that Consulate General Lemus understand the urgency of this matter.

Letters protesting the logging contract and its impacts on the Guerrero environment and campesinos should be sent to Consulate General of Mexico / Mr. Mariano Lemus / 2132 Third Avenue / Seattle, WA 98121. Also, for more information about the crisis in Guerrero, please contact American Lands Alliance / Pat Rasmussen / 726 7th Street SE / Washington DC 20003.

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