

Joshua Huston

Who you callin' a fascist?



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JP Gritton



Vendor of the Week

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\$1

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OCTOBER 24 - 30, 2007

REAL CHANGE

# Disasters Fuel the Economy

Intellectual and journalist Naomi Klein on hurricanes, tsunamis, terrorism...

and other tactics of economic rule.  
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Photo by Sherry Loeser



Fighting a global killer

Gates Foundation seeks malaria's end... p.3

Photo courtesy USDA



Out sick

Disease at shelters dissuades people in need... page 5

Photo by Terry Divyak

Mommie Dearest:

In the memoir, Circling My Mother, Mary Gordon takes the axe to her mom's character... p.8

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**Real Change** is published weekly and is sold by the poor and homeless of Seattle. Vendors receive 65¢ of the \$1.00 paid for this paper.

**Mission Statement:** *Real Change* exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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## An open letter to the Seattle City Council

# You've Got a Problem

**D**ear Councilmembers, You have a problem. You have to figure out what to do with all that extra tax money our strong economy has been producing over the last year. The Mayor proposed spending about \$70 million more for 2008 than what you endorsed for that year when you first wrote the budget last year. Wow. That's got to feel a little bit like winning the lottery.

O.K., we get that the Mayor did spend it all in his proposal. But remember that rhyme: the executive proposes, the legislature disposes. Here's another way to think about it: he is not the boss of you. So, we have some suggestions for you.

The Mayor wants to buy a \$9 million dollar phone number. 311. He thinks that it should be easier for people to reach the city. But there's already 684-CITY. There are phone books in most people's houses. There's a thing called the Internet. You can find a lot of city numbers on the Internet, we've checked. We also tested out 684-CITY, and it works. We called it for help with something that's not even a city issue. We said: "I want to pay my gas bill." The nice woman who answered said, "That's Puget Sound Energy" and immediately gave us the phone number. The whole thing took

**All that growth — the polite word for the rising rents and displacement that mark the widening gap between rich and poor — is part of the reason you councilmembers have this problem of extra money.**

less than 10 seconds. Another number, 211, already helps people find services like food or shelter. It's even toll-free from any payphone.

So we're pretty sure that getting ahold of you isn't really a big problem.



**Events this week have had me thinking about power and how issues get defined:** who sets the terms of debate and through that,

controls the outcome. Often, this power to define and control works invisibly. This is what makes it so powerful.

Anyone who's taken the time and trouble to analyze homelessness as a systemic issue knows it's about declining housing

affordability, structural unemployment, and the failure of wages to keep up with inflation. It's about the globalization of trade that expresses itself in America as our two-tiered, deindustrialized economy. On the one side are an inadequate number of low-wage service industry jobs, and on the other you have the well-compensated professionals who work within an expanding information economy.

But we are certain that the skyrocketing price of real estate *is* a problem. How about using that money to buy land for affordable housing?

**In construction and real estate**, business is booming. Developers are forming long lines for building permits to convert apartments to condos and put up high-rises for millionaires. All that growth — the polite word for the rising rents and displacement that mark the widening gap between rich and poor — is part of the reason you councilmembers have this problem of extra money. It's also part of the reason housing is so expensive.

If you invest \$12.5 million in loans so that nonprofits can get some of the land before it's all turned into condos and shopping centers, you'll help open up hundreds of new units for homeless people to live in every year. We're a ways behind on our goal of ending homelessness by 2014. (We didn't make that up; the Mayor's Office of Housing has the numbers to prove it — let us know if you'd like us to send you a copy.) There are a lot of things we need to do to meet that goal, but this would be one big step. When New York City started a fund like this, it grew more than 10 times bigger when banks and foundations started writing their own checks. We have banks and foundations here too.

Here's another idea. The Mayor wants to hire park rangers for downtown parks. We could totally understand if he was talking about naturalists leading bird tours at Discovery Park, but these rangers sound more like security guards who would spend their time telling homeless people to leave. (Granted, we might be a little distrustful, but still.) Instead of spending \$850,000 on that, how about spending it to make sure people's emergency needs are taken care of? For less than a million dollars, you could help the shelters and day centers downtown find new space when they have to move to make way for some big condo or something. You could add desperately needed hygiene services in downtown. And you could fund outreach workers so that when police make homeless camp-

ers move on, we can at least offer them somewhere else to move to.

**There are lots of other good ideas** that we know you've already heard. A clean and sober housing program designed by and for Native Americans, using Native

**The Mayor wants to hire park rangers for downtown parks. We could totally understand if he was talking about naturalists leading bird tours at Discovery Park, but these rangers sound more like security guards who would spend their time telling homeless people to leave.**

American traditions and values. Funds to buy baby formula for the foodbanks. (A measly \$30,000 for the hungry babies!) Replacing gang intervention services that were eliminated a few years ago so we don't lose more kids to violence.

The Mayor found \$70 million extra to spend. Everything on the list the Seattle Human Services Coalition gave you costs \$18.9 million. It's not an unreasonable request — in fact, it's really just common sense. We hope we solved your problem. We realize we didn't do all the math for you, but we thought you might enjoy that challenge yourselves. If you need some more help, just give us a call here at *Real Change*. We'll come right down with our calculators.

Much love,



Real Change

**[Take Action]**

**Bring your calculator** to the next City Budget hearing: Tues., Oct 30, 5:30 p.m. at City Hall, Fifth Avenue and James Street. If you can't make it, write your own letter to the City Council at [www.seattle.gov/council/](http://www.seattle.gov/council/)

## Director's Corner

its cost to society, and how we're going to "end homelessness" by getting the most visible homeless people into housing within 10 years. The other side of this "getting the numbers down" is the heightened policing of the urban poor. This, too, is often invisible.

This isn't ending homelessness. It's reducing the visible poverty that threatens the profits of developers who have, across the country, invested heavily in an urban condo boom for the winners in the new global economy. It is sweeping poverty, and its true causes, under the rug.

Follow the money. It won't win you any friends, but it might open your eyes.

## Just Heard...

### Stay...a little bit longer

The waiting game for Lt. Ehren Watada drags on, now that an area judge has extended the officer's court martial stay until Nov. 9. On Oct. 19, a U.S. District Judge in Tacoma ruled to delay proceedings until early next month, to provide time for a sufficient review of legal records.

Watada has been in limbo since June 2006, when he informed Army superiors he wanted to resign from the military due to his belief that the Iraq War was illegal and immoral. Instead of accepting his resignation, the Army held a court martial. That trial, which took place last February, resulted in a mistrial. Unwilling to discharge Watada after that ruling, the military initiated a second court martial, which some advocates see as a case of double jeopardy. The recently issued stay means the officer will be bound to his Ft. Lewis desk job for at least another three weeks.

— Rosette Royale

### Gone on short notice

A longtime North End secondhand store closed Sunday, Oct. 21 after just three days' notice, leaving tons of unsold goods and a handful of employees with unforeseen free time.

The ThriftKo was already in flight: it had moved to the Parkwood Plaza shopping complex on Aurora Ave. and 155th St. last year to make way for a mixed-use housing and retail development at its old location in the Greenwood neighborhood. It ran into problems at the new location, too; according to store workers, when the owner fell behind in rent landlord Panos Properties offered repayment terms he couldn't meet. Last Thursday came a three-day notice to pay the rent or get out.

Panos took possession of the 28-year-old store's estimated \$70,000 worth of used clothing, furniture, and housewares on Sunday.

Assistant manager Jean Morris, 57, says she doesn't know what she'll do for work now. She posits another reason for the business's demise: adjacent businesses expressed concern about the kind of people who were coming in. Ours, she says, "might not be the type of clientele they prefer to see in the shopping center," which also hosts a Shari's Restaurant and a Jo-Ann Fabrics store.

### Code for industry

With a public hearing on Monday, Oct. 22, legislation restricting non-industrial uses in parts of Ballard, Interbay, and Sodo is still drawing attention before Seattle City Council. On Friday the Port of Seattle issued a letter stating that its taxpayer-financed investments in rails, roadways, cranes, and docks on Seattle's waterfront, from Salmon to Elliott bays, merited greater land-use protection in those areas. Now, either councilmember Peter Steinbrueck makes rapid changes to the land-use code before his tenure is up, or a revised slate of councilmembers takes up the issue next year.

—Adam Hyla

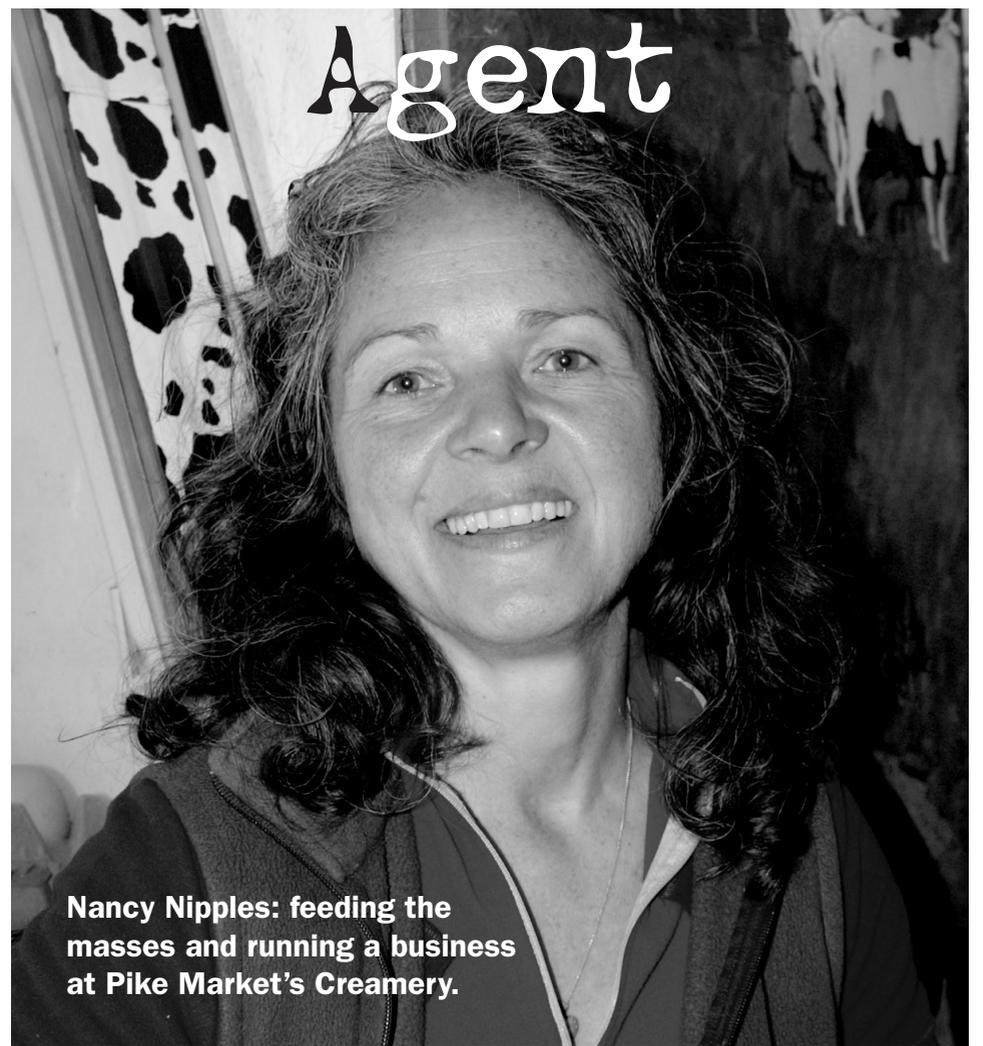
# Change

**B**usiness owner, volunteer, and all-around Good Samaritan Nancy Nipples embodies a spirit of sharing that impacts people from all walks of life.

Through a series of happy accidents, Nipples went from new arrival to Seattle in 1973 who took a job at the Pike Market on a friend's advice to own the Creamery, a mercantile for fresh eggs, whole foods, and dairy. She also helped establish the board of the Pike Market Medical Clinic board, volunteered in an AIDS hospice, and is currently raising funds for market singer Jeannie Townsend to pay for cancer treatment. The list of people she quietly helps is longer.

From free hugs to free food available for those in need, as well as a no-credit-cards resolve to keep costs down and food affordable, her support for people trying to get by is obvious. "I decided I loved people more than money," she says. What else could she do?

—Revel Smith



**Nancy Nipples: feeding the masses and running a business at Pike Market's Creamery.**

Photo by Revel Nt

## Ending a killer's reign

**H**ere, in this part of the globe, a mosquito is a summertime nuisance, a six-legged visitor whose search for blood leaves an itchy reminder on the skin. But in other parts of the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, the insect's arrival can be a harbinger of death. For housed in the saliva of innumerable *Anopheles* mosquitoes resides the parasite that causes malaria, a disease that infects up to half a billion people a year, killing close to a million, the majority being African children under five.

Malaria has no cure. At least not yet. But if the Gates Foundation has anything to do with it, one day, there will be.

For years the foundation, based in Seattle, has donated more than a billion

dollars toward seeing malaria's end. And last week, during the foundation's Oct. 17-20 Malaria Forum, Bill and Melinda asked 300 scientists and policymakers to embrace what was declared to be an "audacious" goal: a day when no one in the world has malaria.

"We will not stop working until malaria is eradicated," Bill Gates said.

Both short range and long-term actions are viewed as important. Considered one of the simplest strategies is the introduction, into many impoverished households, of mosquito nets. Domes of cheesecloth-like material that hang over sleeping areas, they can stop mosquitoes from reaching their human target.

Seen as a far-off goal, but considered no less important, is the creation of a malaria vaccine, even one that is partially effective. Involved in the pursuit for that vaccine's creation is the locally based nonprofit, PATH. Through its Malaria Vaccine Initiative, PATH has received \$287 million from the Gates Foundation.

But eradicating malaria is dependent not only on money from this part of the world, but also those places hardest hit.

Meg Deronghe, director of advocacy and communication for PATH's Malaria Control and Evaluation partnership in Africa, asserts that malaria is both preventable and curable. "But

the biggest issues are access and affordability," Deronghe says.

In the case of mosquito netting, she says that in the countries where the governments can afford to, there are programs where pregnant women and mothers with children are given free nets. But in places where such governmental practices aren't financially viable, she says "[a net] can cost the equivalent of anywhere from 50 cents to five dollars."

In Zambia, with its annual per capital income of \$360, that puts such prevention out of the reach of most.

"As with many things," Deronghe says, "malaria is intertwined with poverty in the strongest sense."

—Rosette Royale



Customers look over the wares of local artists and craftspeople at the 2007 Fall Thing Craft Fair at Phinney Neighborhood Center Oct. 20. Photo by Andrea Lee.

Leftist professors promote “sympathy for the enemy,” national campaign charges

## Many Faiths Turn Out to Counter “Islamofascism Awareness Week”

By CYDNEY GILLIS,  
Staff Reporter

The rubble was still being cleared at Ground Zero in October 2001 when Lynne Cheney, wife of Vice President Dick Cheney, issued a report singling out more than 40 U.S. professors for making “unpatriotic” statements.

Among them were the words of University of Washington psychology professor David Barash, an author of two textbooks on peace studies. He was quoted as saying: “[M]any people consider the United States to be a terrorist state.”

It wasn't long before Barash got a call from the vice provost about the pressure that Lynne Cheney's group, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, was putting on the UW regarding Barash.

The vice provost made “no effort to shut me up or intimidate me,” says Barash, who gave the vice provost some of his articles and heard nothing more about it. “But if I was an [untentured] professor, I might have taken that as a shot across the bow” at academic freedom.

That's how some instructors might feel during Islamofascism Awareness Week, a national event that kicks off at the UW on Oct. 24 with the screening of the film *Suicide Killers* and continues Oct. 25 with a talk by conservative commentator Michael Medved.

**“A dialogue about radicalism and extremists is really important, but there are radical Christians and radical Jews and radical Muslims,” says Hala Dillsi, a member of the Muslim Student Association.**

Author David Horowitz — whose 2006 book *The Professors: The 101 Most Dangerous Academics in America* also targets Barash — is sponsoring the event at dozens of college campuses across the nation in order to confront “the sympathy for the enemy” created by the academic left, according to a student organizing guide from the David Horowitz Freedom Center in Los Angeles.

Tom Walker, president of the UW College Republicans, which is hosting the local events, declined to discuss whether his group considers any UW professors a problem. “Our goal is raising awareness about an extreme brand of Islam growing around the world,” Walker says.

Barash says he isn't all that concerned about the event, noting that there is at least “a grain of truth” in calling Muslim extremists fascist. But members of a multifaith coalition that has formed to picket the events say that, by associating all Muslims with extremists, the organizers of Islamofascism Awareness Week are merely fanning the flames of bigotry and hatred.

“A dialogue about radicalism and extremists is really important, but there are radical Christians and radical Jews and radical Muslims,” says Hala Dillsi, a member of the Muslim Student Association and organizer of the Anti-Islamophobia and Racism Coalition. “They're trying to paint all Muslims with one brush.”

Not so, says Walker. “We're no more saying that all Muslims are fascists than we were saying in World War II that all Italians were fascists,” he says.

The term Islamofascism, he adds, was coined in the 1990s by moderate Algerian Muslims — advocates of democracy who were themselves killed by militant extremists.

The danger is real, Barash says, but is easily lost in the rhetoric of an event that has less to do with terrorism, he says, than with the right wing pointing fingers to create more leverage for itself on college campuses.

“The people in Al-Qaeda really are very dangerous and troubled and, if they came to power, they'd probably come after me and my ilk first,” Barash says.

“The irony is that people like the Bush Administration and David Horowitz have been so despicable in their policies that it's really tempting for people like me to see them as the bad guys,” he says. ■



Zak Dehlawi is helping organize a counter event and picketing to protest Islamofascism Awareness Week, hosted at UW by the College Republicans. Photo by Joshua Huston.

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### [Events]

The film *Suicide Killers* is scheduled Oct. 24 in Room 205 of Smith Hall. Michael Medved's talk on Oct. 25 has been moved to Kane Hall. Both events start at 7 p.m., with pickets planned at 6:30 p.m. The Anti-Islamophobia Coalition plans its own public forum on religious extremism on Mon., Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m., at a location to be announced. For information, call (206)274-6275 or email [officers@uw.msanw.org](mailto:officers@uw.msanw.org).

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## Officers, onlooker disagree about scuffle

# Accounts of Arrest Differ

By *CYDNEY GILLIS*,  
Staff Reporter

The parking lot at Memorial Stadium was clogged with people and cars trying to leave a football game between Seattle high school rivals Franklin and Garfield. A fight had already broken out when Officer Daina Boggs says she found herself in a dangerous situation.

She and another officer, David Blackmer, were suddenly outnumbered by a concerned father and two teenage girls smaller than her. But, to Boggs, anyone is a threat.

"I've seen four-year-olds assault officers before," the officer said in court last week, so, when it comes to assessing threats, "size doesn't matter."

That was part of Boggs' testimony in the trial that started Oct. 17 for Toby Campbell, who is accused of assaulting Boggs on Sept. 15, 2006 — an incident in which Campbell, a Black DJ whose stage name is DV One, says it was he, not Boggs, who got jumped by police, who Tased and stomped on him.

In testimony before the jury, it was hard to tell why the scuffle started or who did the grabbing. In questioning, Boggs wasn't clear on certain facts. Others were directly contradicted by a 15-year-old witness and friend of Campbell's daughter.

Boggs, Blackmer and another member of the the police department's Anti-Crime Team testified they were assigned

**In testimony before the jury, it was hard to tell why the scuffle started or who did the grabbing.**

to last year's Franklin-Garfield game because of past violence between the rivals. While directing traffic out of an exit near the Experience Music Project, Boggs and Blackmer said that Andrea Campbell responded with a sarcastic "I'm sorry" to a request to get out of traffic.

After two more requests, Blackmer said he then grabbed the girls by their backpacks, taking the 14-year-old Campbell over to one of the police team's SUV. "There was an escalating voice and some swearing," Boggs testified, but "I don't recall if I heard actual words."

When she saw a man running in the direction of Blackmer and the girl, she said she stepped in his path and put her arm up to stop him as he slowed to a walk. At that point, Campbell has said he told Boggs he was the girl's father, but that the officer refused to let him pass.

On the stand Wednesday, Boggs said there was no conversation, but later testified, "I said something, but I don't recall what I said."

Campbell shoved her and hit her in the face three or four times with an open hand, she said. She grabbed his shirt or jacket with her right hand, then pulled her body close to Campbell's to avoid fur-

ther blows. After that, she said, Campbell got her in a bear hug from behind and the two somehow fell to the ground.

During the struggle, Boggs said

**"From what I could see, they were stomping on his face."**

— *Jasmine Ortega, witness*

she engaged her radio and called for backup. Campbell has said she did that prior to the struggle — which he says started after Boggs raised a flashlight to strike him and he threw up his hands to block her.

On the ground, the officer said the two were facing each other with Campbell on top — the position in which Blackmer testified earlier that he Tased Campbell once for 11 seconds. After that, Boggs said, she crawled out from under Campbell.

Franklin sophomore Jasmine Ortega later contradicted Boggs, saying it



Toby Campbell was picking up his daughter after a football game last September when he was arrested for assaulting a Seattle police officer under circumstances that have been contested. Campbell's trial began Oct. 17. Photo by Justin Mills

was Boggs who put Campbell in a bear hug from behind and that Blackmer used the Taser while Campbell was on his feet, causing him to fall to his knees.

The officers called for backup, Ortega said, then Blackmer Tased Campbell again. Other officers arrived and, through their feet, the girl said she could see one of them stomp on Campbell's face and

kick him. Ortega said she never saw Officer Boggs on the ground.

The red raspberry of Campbell's face in photographs taken after the incident were the result of Campbell's fall to the asphalt, Blackmer testified. But, "from what I could see," Ortega said, "they were stomping on his face."

A verdict in the trial could come as early as Wed., Oct. 31. ■

**Staying healthy a problem for those who "live in public places"**

## Bugs a Threat at Hospitals, Shelters

By *PATRICK REIS*,  
Editorial Intern

When Donald Morehead first came to Seattle in February, he needed a safe place to spend the night. He found one at a bed in a local homeless shelter, but he got more than he bargained for. During his stay, he contracted a flu-like illness that made him sick for more than two weeks and sent him to the hospital twice.

The next time, Morehead says, he'll think twice before staying in a shelter.

"You hear people coughing all night," he says. "I don't think I'll go back."

But shelters aren't the only service facilities where low-income and homeless people are at risk of contracting disease; the evidence is mounting that hospitals and clinics are dangerous places to be. A recent government study detailed how one bacteria, Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus (MRSA), killed more than 18,000 people in 2005, a quarter of whom became infected while in the hospital.

MRSA (pronounced mer-sah), like other drug-resistant bacteria, is believed to have been created by the improper prescription and misuse of antibiotics. When antibiotics are prescribed for viral infections, against which they are ineffective,

they kill some, but not all, of the germs with which they come into contact, leaving alive those germs that are drug-resistant. A similar process occurs when patients fail to take the entire course of an antibiotic prescription.

MRSA's initial symptoms, small red bumps, seem fairly innocuous. If left untreated, the bumps become deep, painful abscesses. The bacteria can also burrow deep into the body and

**Donald Morehead contracted a flu-like illness at a local shelter. "You hear people coughing all night," he says. "I don't think I'll go back."**

create life-threatening infections in the bones, joints, and lungs.

The emergence of drug-resistant bacterial infections is particularly distressing for the homeless, who often lack the proper sleep and nutrition to maintain a well-functioning immune system. And a shelter, a crowded room full of surfaces that come into contact with dozens of

hands nightly, is a good incubator of disease.

"The best way to avoid getting sick is to wash your hands a lot, especially before you eat, go to the bathroom, or come in from a public place," says Heather Barr, a public health nurse. "Of course, homeless people don't always have that option. They live in public places, and there aren't enough public bathrooms."

Of course, for Morehead and many others in his circumstance, the alternative to shelters is spending the night on the street, an option with health risks of its own. After one night on the street, Morehead says, he woke up with his back and shoulders burning and was covered with red bumps that, after two visits to the emergency room, he discovered to be bug bites.

Shelters are well aware of the limited choices for the homeless and are taking steps to reduce the incidence of infection. Barr advises that any frequently touched services, such as counters, doorknobs, keyboards or sinks be wiped down with a bleach and cool water solution once every four hours. "One of the best things to

MRSA, Continued on Page 10

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# Naomi Klein shows how the United States now uses other countries' moments of crisis to enrich corporations

## Absorbing the Shock Doctrine

By JP GRITTON,  
Contributing Writer

A week to the day after I interviewed journalist/author/filmmaker/activist Naomi Klein, the Justice Department revealed that a private legal opinion, authored shortly after the swearing-in of Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, advocated the use of torture during interrogation procedures. It seemed appropriate; the opinion, which sanctioned the use of "simulated drowning," head-slapping, and frigid temperatures during interrogation, exemplifies the rise of what Klein calls a "shadow state" — one that operates with total impunity under the public radar.

Klein's most recent book, *The Shock Doctrine* (Metropolitan Books, 576 pages), is more than the latest dispatch from hell — it places the post-9/11 world within a historical pattern, the roots of which are in the callous laissez-faireism of the economist Milton Friedman, a man whose logic birthed the modern world's most repressive regimes. Klein explains in detail how shock — economic and military — became the vehicle of Milton Friedman's "Free Trade" policies in the aftermath of World War II. The breadth and depth of her summary — which covers Asia, Europe, the Americas, the pre- and post-Cold War world — is pretty incredible. Most importantly, though, Klein contextualizes the occupation of Iraq within a globalized, corporatized world — the book's real strength, in other words, lies in its ability to make sense of a senseless war.

**Who was Milton Friedman and what does his brand of shock therapy entail?**

Milton Friedman was the guru of the stage of radical, unrestrained, gloves-off capitalism that we've been living with since Reagan and Thatcher. Friedman wrote a book in the 1950s called *Capitalism and Freedom*, and it was a manifesto for a world in which the only acceptable role for government was to enforce business contracts and police borders. He acted as an economic advisor to Nixon, to [Chilean dictator] Augusto Pinochet, and to the Chinese government as it transitioned from a

**The mandate of the War on Terror could not be more expansive. As a military strategy, it is unwinnable. But, as I argue in the book, as an economic strategy it's unbeatable.**

Communist economy to a corporatist economy. Friedman popularized, essentially, a corporate world.

Friedman also understood that his policies were unpopular. He understood that if you ran in an election and said, "Okay, I am going to eliminate the post office, privatize water, and do away with welfare," that you wouldn't get elected. He experienced this firsthand when Nixon, who had been very much in line with Friedman ideologically, went in the opposite direction politically and was rewarded [with re-election].

Because Friedman understood that his policies were incompatible with democracy, he developed this theory, which I am calling "the shock doctrine." In an essay from 1982, Friedman said, "Only a crisis, actual or perceived, produces real change. When the crisis occurs the actions that are taken depend on the ideas that are lying around."

He's saying there that you push through



Naomi Klein visited Seattle Sept. 27 to read from her new book *The Shock Doctrine* and talk about the privatization and opportunistic bullying by the United States under cover of the post-9/11 War on Terror. The Canadian journalist also wrote the anti-globalization exposé *No Logo* (Knopf, 2000). Photo by Sherry Loeser.

this "extreme country makeover" by doing it all at once... after there has been some kind of shock or crisis.

In the book, I prove [Friedman] right. And by proving him right, it's really a challenge to the story that we have been told for so long: that this brand of radical capitalism triumphed around the world democratically because people wanted it and because it is synonymous with freedom.

I do that by looking at the key laboratories where his ideas were adopted...

I saw, in each case in which there was a major crisis that disorientated the population, a laying of the foundation for economic "shock therapy." I show how each of these regimes used the power of crisis, whether a manufactured crisis or one that happened spontaneously, to push through [Friedman's] polices.

And I also show that when people resist they often are subjected to a third shock, which is the shock of the police truncheon.

**How was it employed in Iraq?**

In Iraq it was employed so nakedly that we can all see it — the war itself was called "Shock and Awe." It was a military strategy that was based on the power of shock. If you read the Shock and Awe military manual, it talks about targeting the society at large so that they go into a state of mass disorientation and fear.

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# Mommie Dearest

## ■ Circling My Mother

By Mary Gordon, Pantheon Books, Hardcover, 2007, 254 pages, \$24

Book review by Bonnie Olson, Contributing Writer

Usually when I read a memoir, I look forward to deep insights that come from reflection and a retrospective view. Often the writer integrates lessons long suffered and shares wisps of melancholy, tenderness, or nostalgia. A good memoir brings the reader into the world of another, gestalt pictures of complex relationships and patterns over time, sometimes over generations. There is little of this in Mary Gordon's book, *Circling My Mother*. The best part of the book is the title, which aptly describes the writer's attempt to understand her mother, circling around her life and never penetrating it.

Mary Gordon approaches her subject by stacking up one-dimensional views, each chapter viewing one angle of her mother's life; as if you could add up single dimensions to get a whole person. Her inability to access her mother, Anna Gagliano Gordon, can be understood in part by how quickly each chapter moves from a few paragraphs describing her mother to many pages about herself. A narcissist writing a book about another's life. No wonder it falls flat.

Ms. Gordon seems to inhabit a world of pure physicality. People are to be understood by a peculiar physical characteristic, what clothes they wore, or how ugly their furniture was. In the author's construct, adornment and beauty are inextricably linked with happiness. Caring about yourself means you wear beautiful, expensive clothes. She cannot understand her mother, so she researches her mother's perfume.

A most pitiful passage illustrates the author's profound limitations. After first stating that she was mortified and mildly enraged to see her parents kiss each other passionately, she then wonders, "How did my father react with passion to my mother's misshapen body, misshapen to the point of being distressful to look at, perhaps even grotesque?" (Her mother was a polio survivor).

The author unrelentingly looks down on her mother. "She had an excellent ear

**The result of *Circling My Mother* is a view, not of the mother, but of the author through shards of a broken mirror: an accomplished writer still whining that everyone had a normal childhood except her.**

for speech that was false, a cover-up." She complains that singing is inefficient (her mother loved to sing), while whining that her mother didn't know how to have flowing conversations about things like food. Mary Gordon is disgusted by her mother's deterioration in old age: her rot, as she put it. How difficult it was for Ms. Gordon to spend 30 minutes each week in urine-infused air of the nursing home where her mother lived the last 11 years of her life.

Ms. Gordon complains bitterly about the awful women in her family without realizing she is of course one of them. She seems proud of the fact that she hates most of the people she describes, as if her disdain elevates her above it

all, making sure the reader knows that she didn't attend their funerals. "If I think of her as a type, a character in history, a character in fiction, I can become sympathetic." But, alas, these are real relatives and there is no compassion. She holds on to her hatreds and resentments. She takes revenge, reflecting the same pathos that she so despises: resentful, judgmental, spiteful. She saves her most unforgiving bitterness for her aunt, Rita, whose cruelty is shockingly revealed: she made the author spend every Saturday cleaning the apartment! Wow, call child protective services!

The reader suffers through startlingly narcissistic passages such as Mary's recall of one of her mother's close friends whom she sees as more like herself – the opposite of her mother. She has no inkling of how these women could be good friends and proposes that perhaps her mother's close friend really hung around to be friends with her, the daughter. This same woman, one of the few characters that Mary Gordon likes, also becomes an enemy never to be forgiven.

The result of all this is a view, not of the mother, but of the author through shards of a broken mirror: an accomplished writer still whining that everyone had a normal childhood except her and her birthright was supposed to be perpetual comfort and beauty. It's too bad,



No, she didn't have to contend with a mother screaming, "No more wire hangers. Ever!!" but in *Circling My Mother*, author Mary Gordon says she had to put up with a lot: like having to listen to her mother sing. Photo by Emma Dodge Hanson

because her mother does seem like a fascinating woman: daughter of Italian and Irish immigrants, a fervent Catholic who married a converted Jew, a crippled polio survivor who was a financially self-sufficient working woman from the 30's onward. But we can only circle around the mother ourselves, trying to get an authentic whiff. The following passage offers a rare gem of disclosure: "Was her funeral my last theft, my last withholding? My last refusal to allow her to be who she was, instead of a citizen of the world I inhabited..."

No, this book is. ■

## ■ The Exception

By Christian Jungersen, Nan A. Talese/Doubleday, Hardcover, 500 Pages, \$26

By Austin Walters, Contributing Writer

Across between a taut political thriller and a less-than-believable action flick, *The Exception* moves between the historical landscape on which genocide occurs and the confines of office life. Detailed articles on genocide are interspersed throughout the story and reference studies that were conducted over the past century in an attempt to understand the source and motivation behind true evil. From Stanley Milgram's experimental work on the "parameters of obedience to authority," to intricate reports on Nazism, Stalinism and the genocides in Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda, the articles give shape to the unfolding drama.

The four central characters of Christian Jungersen's novel *The Exception* work at the Danish Center for Information on Genocide, (the DCIG), researching and disseminating information on genocidal atrocities around the world. While an out-

sider may expect that an office concerned with the "crime of crimes" would be sanitized from real world trivialities, the environment is much the same jumble of coffee mugs, gossip, and lingering insecurities as any office anywhere.

The characters appear to be mundane individuals. Iben and Malene are two young researchers and have been friends since college. Anne-Lise and Camilla are older managers who are married with children. Anne-Lise is the newest employee and has always struggled to fit in, and Iben and Malene spend so much time together that they no longer recognize how competitive they are with each other.

On what seems to be just another ordinary day, Iben and Malene receive anonymous death threats by email. Iben is accused of being "self-righteous among humans," while Malene is said to have "pledged to evil and the superiors appointed by evil." Both messages close with the writer claiming it will be a "joy" and a "pleasure" to bring about their deaths.

## Don't Open that Email

Given the range of their various investigations and projects at the DCIG, it is initially believed that a dangerous underground criminal may be threatening them. But when suspicions shift to the coworkers themselves, the office begins to simmer with tension and paranoia.

Starting with Iben and alternating viewpoints among the characters, Jungersen allows us to see inside the minds of each woman as they attempt to trace the sender of the e-mail messages. Accusations fly around the office as the women tear each other to pieces. Alliances are broken down by new suspicions just as soon as a character feels comfortable in her innocence.

Iben is jealous of Malene's beauty and success with men: might she want to destroy her confidence by exposing her prejudices? Anne-Lise is seeing a doctor for depression, could she be

developing a personality disorder that would compel her to threaten her office-mates? Quietly falling apart, Anne-Lise sobs to her husband "I don't want to be like this...I'm evil."

Unfortunately, the story falls short when the thoughtful drama becomes an action thriller and characters roll off rooftops, are pushed through stained glass windows, and escape from high security lock-down facilities on foot. Readers will most likely yearn for the stifling office tension a few pages back.

*The Exception* is entertaining, but it's far from incredible. Jungersen writes convincingly from a female perspective and effectively brings to light the fluctuating motivations that drive each character from innocence, through accusation and guilt. He skillfully depicts the texture of office life, showing how quickly petty office politics can become a witch-hunt. And how a workplace can become a microcosm of much larger worldly conflicts. ■

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Adventures  
in Irony

©Dr. Wes Browning

## ©Dr. Wes: Oppress Me in a Friendly Manner, Please

Well, it's been a slow week here in Lake Weerooldewurld. All that happened was our Vice President said this weekend that another sovereign country would NOT get a bomb such as ones we've waved about for 62 years. We wonder how he could be so sure, given that our army is stretched to the breaking point, Iran has an ally next door (north of it) whose army isn't currently stretched, and who has bigger bunker busters than we do and easier targets (a stretched army conveniently nearby).

The important thing is, if Dick Cheney says Iran won't get nukes, then Iran won't get nukes, because Dick Cheney is the new Caesar. He's bigger than Caesar. Just like every successor to Caesar had to be a Caesar, every successor to Dick Cheney will have to be a Dick. Whether it's Hillary Dick, Barack Dick, Mitt Dick, or Rudy Dick, the one sure thing is it'll be a Dick. Just like the ancient Romans knew they'd always be Caesared in the end, we can be sure that we'll always be Dicked.

But I won't dwell on parallels between our current empire and that of the ancient Romans. That's ancient history. Instead, I'll dwell on the Fifties.

Recently I was reminiscing and remembered a cute thing that happened right here in 1955, when I was 6. I was at Third and Pine on the corner that now has the city's most interesting

McDonald's (in the sense that bloody highway wrecks are interesting) waiting to cross to the Bon. A man in a blue and green flannel shirt stepped off the curb into the street while the light was still red. Immediately a voice boomed out, "You! In the blue and green flannel shirt! Yes, you! Please get back on the curb so I don't have to send my two friends over there!" Or words to that effect.

It was a plainclothes Seattle Police Officer (also wearing a flannel shirt by the way!) watching pedestrians in that intersection from a perch above the Bon Marché's awning. He had a bullhorn and two "friends"—beat cops on the ground.

You may be thinking, "Wow, and I

### The cop over the awning in 1955 shows you can have fun-loving repression!

thought cops today made too much of jaywalking! They were REALLY medieval back in the Fifties! I'm glad I'm not old enough to remember that! Poor Dr. Wes! He's so old!"

If that's what you're thinking, we are not on the same "wavelength." Here's the important thing to note about the incident I just related: The man in the flannel shirt did NOT get a ticket.

Whereas, today, there wouldn't be a cop with a bullhorn warning him to get

back on the curb. A motorcycle cop in full storm-trooper gear would sweep down on him, then push him back on the sidewalk, then pin him to the wall, then write him a ticket.

I'm putting all this together. Apparently, as a nation, we are entering into a long period of decline. If we are lucky enough to survive so long, we will be ruled by Dicks for as long as Rome was ruled by Caesars. Like the Caesars, our Dicks will maintain themselves in power by delivering spoils of endless wars to the powerful rich who will in turn be increasingly allowed to bypass our republican institutions, consolidating their own power as well.

It's not for nothing that the symbol of Mussolini's party was a fasces; a bundle of sticks IS stronger than one. It's a great metaphor for the collaboration between corporate interests and the administration: the government is the ax, the corporations the sticks bound together. When the corporations own the government, our turn to fascism will be complete.

But it doesn't have to be all bad. The cop over the awning in 1955 shows you can have fun-loving repression! The guy DIDN'T get a ticket, only a cheerful warning.

Let's make sure our next Dick can say Iran won't get nukes with a real smile on his face, instead of that nasty smirk! ■

Sound off and read more:  
[drwesb.blogspot.com](http://drwesb.blogspot.com)



Mon., Oct. 15, 8:26 p.m., N. 36th St.

Police received a call from the manager of Roxy's Deli on N. 36th St reporting that the suspect, a transient male aged 42, was trespassing in front of her business. She reported that he had been previously trespassed from the area. Officer arrived and recognized the man from previous contacts, and knew he had been previously trespassed. Due to the suspect's intoxicated state, the officer offered to take the man to the hospital to sober up instead of taking him to jail. Suspect yelled, "Take me to jail!" in response. Officer placed him under arrest and gathered up his items. He had to place most of them in Police Safekeeping, as there were too many items to fit into jail storage. The officer noticed that the crate the suspect had been sitting on, and had been using for several weeks, was not a regular crate but was the kind vendors use to distribute their wares. He found it was labeled 'Coca-Cola,' and took it as evidence of possible stolen property. At the precinct the suspect asked what he was being arrested for, and when he was told replied something to the effect of "I'm going to spend the rest of my life in jail" as he was not going to stop going to the business. He was transported to King County Jail and booked for criminal trespass.

Wed., Oct. 17, 6:02 a.m., 800 Block of S. Main St.

An off-duty officer who was working security patrol in the downtown corridor contacted a transient white male aged 33. Suspect was sleeping in the doorway of a business. A records check showed the suspect to be active with the Department of Corrections (DOC) and they contacted his DOC officer. They were advised to place the suspect under arrest for failing to report on Oct. 16. Suspect was arrested and transported to the precinct where he was turned over to the DOC for placement on a work crew.

Wed., Oct. 17, 10:17 a.m., 800 Block of Canal St.

Officer was dispatched to a report of a possible jumper from the Aurora Bridge. He arrived to find the subject, a white male aged 24, standing on the outside of the railing, holding on with one hand. He was obviously upset, and told the officer not to come closer. Subject stated he was on DOC Escape Status, was a level-three sex offender and was homeless and unemployed. The officer attempted to talk the man back onto the other side of the railing, but he was unresponsive. Subject had his cell phone to his ear during the entire time of the encounter. Subject then took a look around him, mumbled something, let go of the railing and leapt. Officer conducted an area check of the bridge, looking for any personal belongings or a note, but found nothing. He then went to the 800 block of Canal St where the subject had landed, and searched his person for ID. He found nothing. Seattle Fire also responded to the scene, and pronounced the subject deceased. Officer was told that two people had called 911 to report that a friend of theirs had threatened to kill himself, and was on Aurora Bridge, thereby giving a possible identity to the deceased male.

Compiled from incident reports of the Seattle Police Department by Emma Quinn. Got your own experience to relate? Call us at (206)441-3247 ext. 207 and we'll get the scoop.

## Were My Words on Fire

Were my words on fire tonight  
I would fetch water  
so as not to explain.

A candle's rhythmic intensity  
magnified by darkened reflections  
caught in the movements  
of people cheering an evening's ambiance  
with lazy comments and tapioca.  
Yes, a candle is enough fire for me right now.  
Is it not true that books grow on trees?  
I wish sometimes i could chew them  
become nourished with meaning that way,  
for I feel a need for knowledge in my body  
of which I do not have to be held to aware.

Were my words on fire tonight  
I would fetch water  
so as not to explain.

Instead may I flute  
like an amateur saxophone  
through riffs as careless as tired children  
lines pulling us back from limitless bounds  
where wisdom surges  
like the tempest of lovers in a crucible.  
Were my words on fire tonight  
I would fetch water  
so as not to explain.

—Mac Crary

## Letters

editor@realchangenews.org

### Sales Tax for Highways Unfair

Dear *Real Change*,

Thank you for Patrick Reis' coverage of the Transportation Choices Coalition Friday forum on Proposition One at the downtown YMCA ["Enviros Split on Roads and Transit Vote," Oct. 10]. I sat next to him.

The key aspect of revenue was not addressed much. Note that both the Regional Transportation Investment District and Sound Transit 2 rely on increases in sales tax. The one-tenth for the RTID represents one-third of its revenue stream. Use of the sales tax to expand highways is unprecedented in this state. Use of the sales tax for highway expansion is unfair, regressive, and inefficient, as it would not send a price signal to roadway users. The RTID had authority to use more tolling or the local option gas tax, both of which would have been more equitable.

The Futurewise representative is paraphrased to state that transit measures that have failed have not been brought back very quickly. Historically, this is not true; consider the short length of time between the first and second votes on Forward Thrust (1968 and 1970), Metro, and RTA measures (1995 and 1996).

Jack Whisner

36th District Precinct Committee Officer

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### MRSA, Continued from Page 5

do, and one that a lot of shelters have done, is to put hand sanitizer near the entrance. That way, people leave their germs at the door," says Barr.

"Hand washing is important not just for yourselves, but for others as well," Barr says. "Health

is communal, and when you take care of your own health you help the people around you."

But for Morehead, health conditions in shelters aren't so much a matter of what happens inside, but out. "We can't get to the doctor, we don't get health care," he says. "Without that, of course we're going to get sick and get each other sick." ■



Close quarters: It's a challenge to keep emergency shelters like this one free of germs like the antibiotic-resistant bacteria MRSA, which killed more than 18,000 people in 2005. Photo by Sherry Loeser.

## CALL TO ACTION

### Support Underfunded Treatment for Mental Illness and Addiction

**Issue:** Right now, the King County Council has the opportunity to take a significant step toward ending homelessness. Council members will have the option to raise the sales tax by one-tenth of one percent to provide a new source of funding in the 2008 budget. This small tax will raise \$50 million a year for urgently needed mental health and substance abuse programs, and will cost the average household just \$25 yearly.

**Mental health** and substance abuse problems affect people from all backgrounds; they do not discriminate by race, ethnicity, gender, or class. But, unless one can afford to pay for private care, treatment is very hard to find. This tax would provide money for desperately needed services that will get more people off the street and into a bed.

**Background:** Most people who are chronically homeless, including veterans, are either dealing with mental health issues, substance abuse, or both. This tax increase would provide facilities that offer a more humane, and even cost-effective, solution to this growing social dilemma. These funds could provide programs to facilitate treatment, recovery, and permanent housing. Long-term recovery eliminates the high cost (financially and socially) of emergency shelter services and incarceration.

**Mental health** and substance abuse treatment works, and saves money further down the road:

- According to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, treatment reduces short-term incidence of mental illness by 22 percent, alcohol addiction by 15 percent, and drug dependency by 22 percent.

- Nationally, 24 percent of youth in jails have mental illness, while 60 to 80 percent have chemical dependencies.
- For every dollar spent on treatment of mental illness and substance abuse, approximately two tax dollars are saved in jails, hospitals, and other emergency costs.

In the midst of Seattle's transition into a major metropolitan city we cannot allow a gap in our social services. The services that could be funded by the tax would be a huge asset to our community. King County Executive Ron Sims already supports the tax and has included it in the 2008 budget proposal. The final vote is Nov. 7.

**Action:** Email, call or write your county councilmember and ask him or her to support the Mental Health Substance Abuse Sales Tax. If you are unsure which councilmember represents you, go to [www.metrokc.gov/council](http://www.metrokc.gov/council) to find out.

**District 1:** Bob Ferguson (206)296-1001 [bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov](mailto:bob.ferguson@metrokc.gov)

**District 2:** Larry Gossett (206)296-1002, [larry.gossett@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.gossett@metrokc.gov)

**District 3:** Kathy Lambert (206)296-1003 [kathy.lambert@metrokc.gov](mailto:kathy.lambert@metrokc.gov)

**District 4:** Larry Phillips (206)296-1004 [larry.phillips@metrokc.gov](mailto:larry.phillips@metrokc.gov)

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**District 9:** Reagan Dunn (206)296-1009 [reagan.dunn@metrokc.gov](mailto:reagan.dunn@metrokc.gov)

**Mailing Address:** 516 Third Ave., Room 1200, Seattle, WA 98104-3272

For more info, contact King County Alliance for Human Services at (206)325-7105 or [kcahs@shscoalition.org](mailto:kcahs@shscoalition.org).

## SHOCK, Continued from Page 7

Immediately after Baghdad fell, Paul Bremer was sent to Iraq. Paul Bremer... proceeded to push through the most radical dose of economic shock therapy that anyone had ever seen anywhere. First of all, he annihilated the public service sector. This was called “deBaathification,” and it involved the firing of hundreds of thousands of public employees in one go. He eliminated the Iraqi army and essentially handed security over to [private security firm] Blackwater USA. He made Iraq the most wide-open free trade zone in the world, with absolutely no restrictions on the flow of goods in and out. He allowed foreign companies to come in and own 100 percent of Iraqi assets and take 100 percent of profits.... Economists called it the “Wish List For Foreign Investors.”

When people started to rebel in Iraq, it was in direct response to these economic policies, which were seen as pillage.... In response to that uprising, you saw the emergence of the systematic use of that third form of shock, the shock of torture.

**So when we hear that the Iraqi government isn't meeting its benchmarks, that's the point, in a sense: the Iraqi government was not made to function.**

It's certainly made to be weak. The biggest reason why Saddam was ousted was because he was no longer as pliant as he used to be. There's no doubt that the goal was to install a pliant regime. That was clear with this sort of Plan A of getting [former interim prime minister Ahmed] Chalabi in there. Iraqi politicians don't have control over intelligence in the country; they don't even have control over reconstruction funds. They are barely in control of the Green Zone. It's not a functional government — it's not really a government at all.

You know, it's interesting that one of the key [Iraqi government] benchmarks is adopting an oil law... I really see the Iraq oil law as the most shameless example of what I'm calling “disaster capitalism.” It was the harnessing of a moment of disintegration to push through a law so deeply contentious that not even Paul Bremer had the guts to push it through.

**Could you talk about America's domestic “shock treatment,” which you argue was 9/11?**

That's certainly one of them. I think there have been other moments, for instance the ('90s) debt crisis.... It's worth remembering that Clinton's welfare “reform” took place in the context of the debt crisis. I think that the most dramatic course of economic shock therapy took place during the aftermath of September 11, but it was a little bit hard to see. It wasn't the sort of classic privatization program that I describe in the book. It wasn't like, for instance, Central America after Hurricane Mitch, where countries were told that, in exchange for aid money, they had to sell off all their state assets: water, electricity, roads, and so on.

The Bush Administration did things very differently — it didn't sell off existing

arms of the state; rather, it created a new framework for a vastly expanded state. That framework is the War on Terror, and it vastly increases the reach, power, and mandate of the state: [it allows the government] to engage in surveillance, to build a sort of fortress continent, to wage preemptive wars abroad. So you have this neverending war against evil, everywhere. The mandate of the War on Terror could not be more expansive. As a military strategy, it is unwinnable. But, as I argue in the book, as an economic strategy it's unbeatable.

First, you expand the region of the security state.... Secondly, you privatize and outsource it all. So the War on Terror becomes, then, a new economy—you have hundreds of new companies emerge

**The War on Terror is a new economy, not a war.... The only threat to this economy is a massive paradigm shift in thinking about what security means, what the proper response to terrorism is. That is why many of the key Homeland Security firms are investing in think tanks, in policy institutes, in media.**

that are feeding this security state economy. They do the data-mining, interrogate prisoners, perform privatized surveillance, and create the no-fly lists. [They also build] the virtual border with unmanned drones and whatever other gadgets they can think of.

The War on Terror is a new economy, not a war. It makes a lot more sense as an economy. I think it's an evolution of [economic] shock therapy — but because the Bush Administration has done all of this under the cover of the War on Terror and in the name of security, the privatization aspect is less clear, less visible.

**You've written a little about a “disaster-capitalism complex.” This is a hard idea for me to get my head around — when I hear about investment in the wake of disaster, I am inclined to assume that those investments, because of their very nature, are speculative, risky. How did disaster get so profitable?**

Oil companies, it's clear, right? Every disaster sends the price of oil soaring.... In terms of something like the Homeland Security sector, you can see it in the way our cities are being transformed... how much more security we are facing, even though there hasn't been another major terrorist attack in the United States. But the Homeland Security [is] no longer just selling it to the government— companies are selling [security infrastructure] to each other.

The only threat to this economy isn't risk; the only threat to this economy is a

massive paradigm shift in thinking about what security means, what the proper response to terrorism is. That is why many of the key Homeland Security firms are investing in think tanks, in policy institutes, in media. [Homeland Security firms determine] the parameters of this war on terror and its fundamental founding premises. The idea that you can't negotiate [with terrorists is] left unchallenged. The idea that they only want our total annihilation [is left unchallenged]. If you did have a major challenge to some of those basic ideas, then these become risky investments.

**In layman's terms, what does the rise of this “disaster-capitalism complex” translate into for the world's working poor?**

I think it translates into a world of included and excluded people, one in which survival is the luxury item. This is already the case in the American health care system. [The American health care system] is a slow-motion disaster, and what I'm talking about is extending that into a fast-forward disaster, as well. Who can afford to escape from climate change, from a crumbling infrastructure?

We'll start to see the emergence of these “bubble zones” that are highly functional but privatized, with private security guarding them. In fact, much of the Third World works this way. In a country like Indonesia, say, you never really had a functional infrastructure.... But what you have are these sprawling, gated communities. Everything is privatized within those gated communities, including the water system and the electricity grids.... That's the way the Green Zone works in Iraq.

What it means for the poor is increasingly structured demarcations between the haves and have-nots: more fortressing for the haves, both at borders of countries and also at the borders of neighborhoods, more fences, more walls, more surveillance.... There is going to be more and more monitoring of so-called “illegals,” and it will become easier and easier to get sucked into this privatized security infrastructure for some mild transgression. ■

### [Video]

Check out Klein's short film produced in conjunction with the book online at [www.naomiklein.org](http://www.naomiklein.org).

## Vendor of the Week



The air is heavy with the stink of vegetable oil. A line extends from the register to the soda fountain, loops around a banister, continues past the fake plants on the condiment stand and through the double glass doors. Customers have the bug-eyed look that precedes an MSG fix. They seem upset about something. The grease burn you got yesterday is still biting at you. You want to hoist a black flag above your head and toss a grenade in the fryer. Most of all, you want to quit. This is called “working in a fast-food restaurant.”

Sharon Soocey worked in the fast food industry for 10 years before she became a *Real Change* vendor.

“I'd come in and the dishes would be piled up. We wouldn't have time to do prep work... I'd be ready to pull some hairs out,” she now remembers with only a laugh.

One day, though, Soocey's roommate told her about *Real Change*.

“I decided I was tired of just collecting one paycheck a month.”

As of last June, Soocey had been selling the paper for a year and is one of the paper's top vendors. You can find her between 3 p.m. and 9 p.m. at the QFC on 15th Avenue and Harrison Street.

“I don't push anybody to buy the paper... and I still give a smile when customers don't,” says Soocey. She likes the job she's got now.

When she's not selling papers, Soocey reads Ann Rule, plays cards, and visits with her mom on Capitol Hill. In fact, Soocey has plans to move to Capitol Hill from her studio in Georgetown, partly in order to be closer to her mother. But that's not the only reason she wants to leave the neighborhood she lives in now.

“I don't like Georgetown,” she says. “All you've got are fast-food joints.”

To her faithful customers, Soocey says, “Keep on smiling.”

—Story and photo by JP Gritton



While videos of people offering “Free Hugs” abound on YouTube, those hugs are person-to-person. **But what if an embrace were between, say, a human and some half-cuddly, half-creepy critter? That’s just one of the scenarios artist Patricia Piccinini presents in her current exhibit, “Hug,” at the Frye Museum.** Through the use of sculpture, photo, and video, Piccinini asks us to ponder — and maybe even cozy up to — the world we’re creating through genetic research, biotechnology, and medical enhancement. Frye Museum, 704 Terry Ave. Free. Daily hours vary; closed Mondays. Exhibit runs through Jan. 8, 2008. (206) 622-9250. [www.fryemuseum.org](http://www.fryemuseum.org).

Photo courtesy Frye Museum

# Calendar

## This Week's Top Picks

### Friday 10/26

There’s nothing like kicking someone when he’s down, especially when the someone is George Bush and the kickers are the walking dead. **In the film, *Homecoming (aka Zombies Attack George Bush)*, the soulless work their maggoty butts off to get Dubya outta office.** Made for TV by gory cineaste Joe Dante, Znet says the film “praises the troops in Iraq while offering up the politicians and pundits who sent them there as finger food for the undead.” Ouch... Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Pl. 7 p.m. Free, but donations — and costumes — appreciated. [www.meaningfulmovies.org](http://www.meaningfulmovies.org)

### Saturday 10/27

Forget Thor Heyerdahl and his rickety Kon-Tiki. Full props should be given to **Helen Thayer, adventurer extraordinaire.** Named as one of the “Great Explorers of the 20th Century” by *National Geographic*, Thayer was the first woman to trek solo to the North Pole — without dogsled or snowmobile. In her new book, ***Walking the Gobi, she chronicles her and her husband’s journey across the 1,600-mile desert.*** With no radio contact or support team. You go, girl. Northgate Branch, Seattle Public Library, 10548 Fifth Ave. N.E. 2 p.m. Free. (206) 386-4636. [www.spl.org](http://www.spl.org).

Sometimes people get it wrong; sometimes they get it right. In the “wrong” camp was the Brits’ calling the denizens of northwest India “gypsies.” In the “right” camp, is the music created by those wrongfully named residents of the Thar Desert. **Now’s your chance to tune in to some right-on tunes during *Musafir: Music of Rajasthan*, where musicians will perform on a variety of string, wind, and percussion instruments.** And there’ll be singing and dancing, too. Town Hall, Eighth & Seneca. Advance tix, Brown Paper Tickets: \$19, \$22. 1 (800) 838-3006. [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

### Sunday 10/28

Everybody loves a birthday party, so here’s one for ya: **Rumi, the Sufi mystic poet, was born 800 years ago and today, the festival, *Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi, commemorates his birth.*** Along with a program that includes recitations of Rumi poetry in Persian and music, you can also enjoy the Whirling Dervishes

of the Mevlevi Order of America. University Congregational United Church of Christ, 4515 16th Ave NE. 3-5 p.m. Free will “Love Offering” appreciated. For more info, contact Karen, (206) 297-8651.

Objections in the courtroom are the bread-and-butter of TV drama. But **for real-life turmoil, little rivals the conscientious objection of a soldier, who’s been asked to kill, refuses to do so.** Stories of eight U.S. soldiers who have done just that make up ***Soldiers of Conscience*, a film that shines a light on the moral dilemma deadly combat presents those who truly want to protect their country.** And believe it or not, the U.S. Army gave permission for the movie to be made. St. Mark’s Cathedral, Bloedel Hall, 1245 10th Ave. E. 6: 30 p.m. Free, but, due to graphic imagery, is not recommended for those under 13.

### Monday 10/29

Sammy Davis Jr. notwithstanding, when most folks imagine those of the Jewish faith, people of color don’t immediately come to mind. But **Melanie Kaye/Kantowitz** suggests maybe they should. **In her new book, *The Color of Jews: Racial Politics and Radical Diasporism*, she tackles assumptions of Judaism and race by detailing the lives of Jews from the Iberian Peninsula, Asia, Africa, and India.** Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 Main St. 7:30 p.m. (206) 624-6600. [www.elliottbaybook.com](http://www.elliottbaybook.com).

### Wednesday 10/31

Well, it’s Halloween. And stuffing tons of sugar in your gob-hole ain’t your only option. You can participate in **Reverse Trick-or-Treating, when all kinds of witches and goblins will join together to distribute info about abusive child labor in the cocoa industry while promoting Free Trade.** Still want that Three Musketeers bar? It’s a U.S.-Canadian effort, so check out this site: [www.reversetrickortreating.org](http://www.reversetrickortreating.org).

Calendar compiled by Rosette Royale.  
Have a suggestion for an event?  
Email it to [calendar@realchangenews](mailto:calendar@realchangenews).



**YOU’RE INVITED!**  
LIHI has nearly completed construction on the expanded Urban Rest Stop! We now have twice the number of washers and dryers, and a new women’s rest room!

The URS will be hosting a grand opening and open house on **October 25 from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon.** Please join us as we thank our sponsors and patrons, celebrate our increased capacity and rejoice at the end of this long process.

Urban Rest Stop  
A program of the Low Income Housing Institute  
1924 Ninth Ave.  
Seattle, WA  
[www.urbanreststop.org](http://www.urbanreststop.org)



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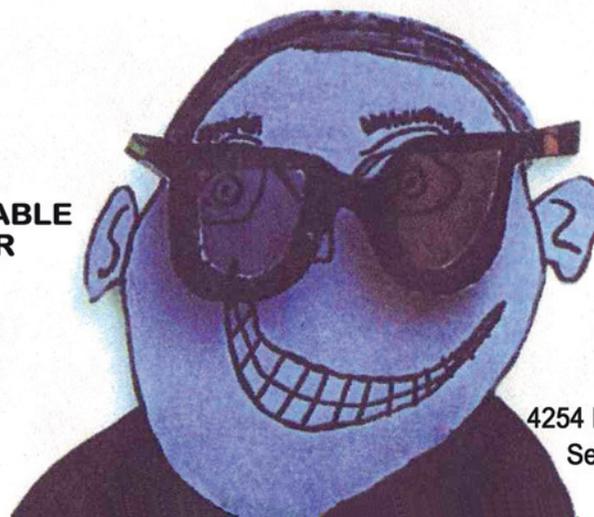
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## Youth Forum (YoFo) on Foster Care

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007

6:00PM—8:00 PM

Miller Community Center  
330 19th Ave E.  
Seattle, WA 98112

There are currently 11,000 youth in foster care on a given day.

What can you do to help?

Come and listen to stories of foster care youth and be inspired to take action.

RSVP: Alexis Suib @ (206) 957-4779  
x113 or [alexiss@solid-ground.org](mailto:alexiss@solid-ground.org)

Presented by:

**Penny Harvest**

a program of **solid ground**



to APPLY:

Attend our weekly orientation held on Tuesdays at 9:30am at FareStart (7th & Virginia)

LEARN a SKILL  
START a CAREER  
BETTER your LIFE

WHAT is FARESTART?

- A 16-week **HANDS-ON TRAINING PROGRAM** in the Culinary Arts (cooking, knife skills, food preparation, and food safety)
- Services to help you **FIND HOUSING**
- Services to help you **FIND A JOB**
- Other **SUPPORT SERVICES**, including transportation, meals, clothing, health & hygiene, and others.
- A **SAVINGS PROGRAM**, after employment, that is matched 2 to 1 for use in obtaining permanent housing.