

# Activist Calendar

**Every Monday, 6 pm, Cafe Allegro:** UW Campus KIVA, non-profit online microloan group funding entrepreneurs in developing nations. [campkiva@uw.edu](mailto:campkiva@uw.edu)

**Every Monday, 6:30 pm, Parrington 106:** UW Student Labor Action Project meeting. SLAP is a student group campaigning for workers' rights and economic justice. 206-221-3327

**Every Wednesday, 1-3 pm:** Cascadia Now! is a forum for music and culture in the Pacific Northwest. [www.cascadianow.blogspot.com/](http://www.cascadianow.blogspot.com/)  
Listen on RainyDawg Radio: [www.rainydawg.org/listen.php](http://www.rainydawg.org/listen.php)

**Every Thursday, 6:30 pm, Smith 311:** UW Amnesty International meeting. An independent movement to defend prisoners of conscience, political prisoners and end torture. [melonhi@uw.edu](mailto:melonhi@uw.edu)

**Tuesday December 8, 4-5 pm HUB 304 F:** UW Ethical Endowment Campaign, Sierra Student Coalition. The UW endowment invests \$126 million in the coal & oil industries. Stop climate change, keep Washington green. [gaze@uw.edu](mailto:gaze@uw.edu)

**Tuesday December 8, 8 pm, Seattle Town Hall, 8th Ave & Seneca St:** Human Rights Day Celebration. Professor Adrien K. Wing will address international women's rights issues. [Felicia.Yearwood-Murrell@seattle.gov](mailto:Felicia.Yearwood-Murrell@seattle.gov)

**Wednesday December 9, 5:30 pm, School of Social Work B14:** UW Students Organizing for LGBT Equality. Hang out with the folks who brought you the UW Kiss-In. [sole@uw.edu](mailto:sole@uw.edu)

**Wednesday December 9, 7-9 pm, Communications 226:** "Seat of Empire" documentary, The Race/Knowledge Project. A film by Shaun Scott on Seattle's history since the AYP Expo of 1909 and the social struggles that followed. [k8boyd@uw.edu](mailto:k8boyd@uw.edu)

**Wednesday December 9, 7-9 pm, School of Social Work B14:** International Socialist Organization meeting. A discussion of the 1919 Seattle General Strike. [isouw@uw.edu](mailto:isouw@uw.edu)

**Wednesday December 9, 6:00 pm Community Potluck, 6:30-9:00 pm, Cascade People's Center, 309 Pontius Ave N.** Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites 2010 Kick-Off Meeting. <http://carw.org/>

**Thursday December 10, 3:30 pm, Seattle Central Community, College Plaza 1701 Broadway:** No Troop Surge to Afghanistan Protest, Iraq Veterans Against the War. Our demands are: bring all the troops home now; and prioritize government funding for jobs

and education, not war. [bryan.watson01@gmail.com](mailto:bryan.watson01@gmail.com)

**Thursday December 10, 6 pm, Suzzallo Cafe:** Democracy Insurgent community meeting. Meet with other concerned UW students to talk about the budget cuts, and discuss ways to fight back. [d.insurg@gmail.com](mailto:d.insurg@gmail.com)

**Thursday December 10, 6:30 pm, Art 229:** Burners Collective meeting. A community for experimental arts and activism. [burners@uw.edu](mailto:burners@uw.edu)

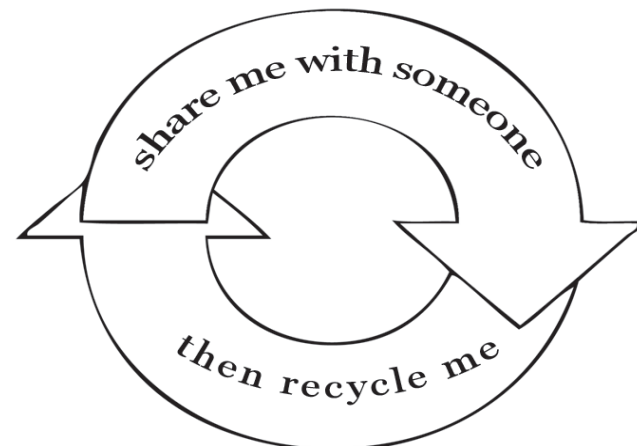
**Saturday December 12, 12-2 pm, Victrola Coffee House, 411 15th Ave E:** Human Rights Write-a-thon, Amnesty International. Join the world's largest letter writing event to promote human rights. [sofia.nazalya@gmail.com](mailto:sofia.nazalya@gmail.com)

**Saturday December 12, 1:00 pm, Campus Parkway, near Schmitz Hall:** Seattle Food Not Bombs. Free vegetarian meals. [seattlefnb@riseup.net](mailto:seattlefnb@riseup.net)

**Monday December 14, 8:00 pm, AMC Pacific Place 11, 600 Pine St:** "Living in Emergency" documentary, Doctors Without Borders. Stories of this leading international medical emergency organization, documentary & discussion. Tickets: [www.FathomEvents.com/DoctorsWithoutBorders](http://www.FathomEvents.com/DoctorsWithoutBorders)

**Friday December 25, 5:00 pm, Red Square:** Seattle Critical Mass. Bike parade to assert cyclists' rights, to promote bikes and build community. [www.seattlecriticalmass.org](http://www.seattlecriticalmass.org)

**Friday January 8, 3:30 pm, Hogness Auditorium, Health Sciences 420A; Saturday January 9 2:20 pm, Communications 126:** Inequality Kills, Equality Heals, UW Population Health Forum. We die younger than we should despite living in the richest and most powerful nation in history and spending half the world's health care bill. Why? <http://depts.washington.edu/eqhlth/>



# RUCKUS

Volume 10, Issue 1. December 2009



free! a community journal at the University of Washington

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- F. J. C. Gaze
- Chaim Eliyah
- Ethan Boyles
- W. E. Damon



Ruckus is UW's student organized newspaper; we're focused on economic, ecological, social, cultural, and political issues connected to our on- and off-campus communities. We're open to participation from staff, students, faculty, & community members. If you'd like to write, illustrate, promote, distribute, advertise, rebel, or otherwise contribute, let us know!

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# Letter From a Recent Grad

Leela Yellestetty

A few years ago, I decided to go back to school for a professional degree in a field that has long been close to my heart: libraries. I was fortunate to be accepted into a masters program in Library & Information Science at the UW Information School. Thanks to the Graduate Opportunity-Minority Achievement Program (Go-Map), which seeks to diversity the graduate student body, I was offered a graduate Research Assistantship. In exchange for working 20 hours per week, I received a stipend, healthcare benefits and best of all free tuition - which means I graduated with no additional debt.

All in all I was extremely lucky in my career at UW. The trouble for me came when I happened to graduate on the eve of a global economic downturn. Unemployment for recent college graduates has nearly doubled in the past year to 4.7%--and it's only getting worse. According to the National Association of Colleges and Employers, employers expect to hire 22% fewer graduates from the class of 2009 than they hired from the class of 2008. If the staggering levels of student debt are factored in, this rate isn't much better than for those without a degree. "An 8% college inflation rate means that the

cost of college doubles every nine years," explains finaid.org, a website for student financial planning. "For a baby born today, this means that college costs will be more than three times current rates when the child matriculates in college."

Not to mention I clearly chose the wrong field to go into. Three UW libraries are closing, 30 staff positions will be eliminated, and hours of access will be reduced. The Information School itself now faces a 12% across the board cut. The \$1.48 million reduction to the annual library materials budget means a supposedly world-class research institution will deny scholars access to journals vital to research. The UW is now set to eliminate approximately 23 research assistantship quarter hours from Go-Map, enough funds to recruit about 9-12 new graduate students of color each year. Things aren't much better in public libraries. Everywhere it's the same story: budget cuts, hiring freezes, and layoffs. 22 states have cut library budgets. Ironically, libraries are needed now more than ever. Despite the lack of openings, friends of mine who work in public libraries complain that they are overworked and understaffed. When the economy sputters, library usage soars. People take advantage of the free books, movies and music, classes

and internet access. The American Library Association recently reported that libraries across the country are filling up with job seekers, waiting in long lines to use a computer. With adequate funding to hire more librarians, patrons would have more support and guidance in utilizing these resources. Numerous studies have shown that investing in libraries actually improves the economic health of the whole community, some estimating as much as a \$5 return for every dollar in investment in libraries. Clearly there is a great need for more library funding and polls have shown consistent public support for it.

We're told there is no alternative to these cuts in a time of economic crisis, but we can't accept that answer. We have to ask why no one is proposing a progressive income tax to solve the budget crisis in Washington state. We have to ask why there is still plenty of money for wars and for bankers who caused the crisis in the first place, but none for students and working people. We are the majority; it's time we use our collective power to demand that education and free access to public resources be the priority.

*Leela Yellestetty received an MLIS in 2008. She is a writer for Socialist Worker and an ISO activist.*

## Just Undo It

Pamela Santiago

In January of 2009 two factories situated in Honduras that produce collegiate apparel for Nike, Hugger de Honduras and Vision Tex, were suddenly shut down. Nike got away from the failing factories without paying workers a severance package that amounts to \$2,176,265.36.

Because these factories produced apparel for UW, Nike has violated our Code of Conduct which states, "licensees shall pay employees... and shall provide legally mandated benefits." Nike is thus contractually responsible for assuring that the production of University of Washington apparel follows the Code

of Conduct, as well as "comply(ing) with all applicable legal requirements of the countries of manufacture," which in this case means the laws of Honduras. Nike must ensure that the workers of Hugger and Vision Tex receive their legally mandated severance.

In response to pressure on campus, the President Emmert formed the Advisory Committee for Trademarks and Licensing (ACTL) to discuss and resolve the issue of confrontation with Nike, but no action had been taken until this past Tuesday, when the ACTL finally voted to put Nike on notice.

Yet, UW's future relationship with Nike remains solid, which is a disturbing occurrence. If the Code of Conduct can be foregone today in such a tasteless manner, nothing stops it from being ignored in the

future. A broad coalition of student organizations including the Student Labor Action Project have demanded multiple times that Nike be put on notice for violations, but President Emmert has taken no action.

In a recent development, UW Provost Phyllis Wise has been appointed to the Nike Board of Directors, sending a wave of shock throughout the UW campus. The conflict of interest has become even more tense and ASUW representative Andrew Schwartz presented a plan of resolution to the ASUW Senate December 1 with demands that Provost Wise step down from her recent appointment and that both Provost Wise and President Emmert present statements demanding that the Nike Corporation remedy said violations.

# Solidarity in Seattle

Ethan Boyles

“Whose streets? Our streets! Whose Streets? Our streets!” This chant succinctly captured the mood of the demonstrators that flooded the streets of downtown Seattle between November 30th and December 3rd, 1999. The World Trade Organization (WTO) held its final ministerial meeting of the millennium and over 50,000 protesters voiced their opinion; defenders of corporate-led globalization were not welcome in Seattle. Two opposing visions collided that week: one driven by an ideology that the free-reign of global capitalism was paramount, one led by the grassroots-democratic inspiration: “another world is

possible,” a collision we continue to reconcile today.

What was especially striking about the “Battle of Seattle” was the diversity of the crowds. Labor unionists, environmentalists, artists, professors, students, feminists, and faith-based groups joined in the protests. Teamsters and Turtles marched together, united against a common enemy that exploits human and natural resources. Union members participating in the more subdued labor rally at the docks joined the militant throngs of protesters practicing civil disobedience in the heart of downtown. Thousands flocked to the county jail to show their support of the 600 people arrested. Demonstrators in other countries

around the world rallied in support of those in Seattle. The whole world was watching. The result was a snapshot of the many voices being shutout and marginalized by global capitalism, voices that finally found a space in Seattle to break through. Solidarity was ubiquitous. The conclusion reached by thousands of people, voting with their feet, was that the whole was greater than the sum of its parts.

*Ethan Boyles is an undergraduate in the Geography and Economics departments, and a member of the UW International Socialist Organization (ISO). You can reach him via isouw@uw.edu.*

## N30 Gone Global: Positive Results

a. a. roesch-knapp

Ten years after Seattle’s declaration for independence, are we where we hoped to be?

Look around the city; you may not notice the profound implications the riots had. Walk through downtown and you won’t see the change. Instead of vibrant communities of care, resourcefulness, and autonomy, brands sparkle- symbols of a cultural idolatry of wealth and material consumption. Instead of citizens working together, divide and disparity inform our relationships with each other. Our values are still pushed aside in a world structured to serve the interests of a mass consumer culture, of the WTO.

However, though seemingly uneventful, the Seattle ‘99 riots effectively challenged the morality of current social and economic systems. The world became aware. An alternative displaced the belief that a bigger economy is better no matter what the cost. A critical dialogue and analysis of free trade began, rather than the blind, faithful worship of world trade.

Not only authoritative political and economic powers gather worldwide

anymore, as the global summit style was applied to grassroots activism. Out of the WTO riots, the World Social Forum (WSF) was born. Attendees from many countries and movements gathered in Brazil in 2001 and collaborated to bring forward a positive agenda for our world. The next WSF summit is planned for June 2010 in Detroit. The riots in Seattle came about through people empowering and organizing themselves to speak and act against the harsh force of “free” trade markets designed to favor corporations. The WSF brings together our collective visions and political agenda, laying out active plans for bringing a new world forward. [www.ussf2010.org](http://www.ussf2010.org)

Since N30 in 1999, independent media centers around the world have expanded substantially to inform and gather activists together. Amy Goodman spoke for The People’s Summit, a conference commemorating the 10 years and invigorating the spirit of civil disobedience and community-based solutions. As founder of Democracy Now!, Goodman has taught the world about the power of the media. In digital and print form, we can choose what information we share

with other people. Ruckus joins with other newsmidia projects to translate events, stories, and ideologies into a meaningful publication. The Independent Media Center has spread worldwide through automous, grassroots organizing, enabling reports on important issues. [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org)

On the 10th Anniversary of the WTO-Seattle conference, the world began to watch, gathering across the world in a mass mobilization for climate action and social equity. In anticipation of the upcoming climate change summit in Copenhagen, civil disobedience, street theater, and rallies ignited in the streets. The question now is whether political leaders, gathering to represent the citizens of their nations, will move toward a declaration mitigating the disastrous effects of climate change. The WTO protests of 1999 and the Copenhagen conference today are pivotal in the fight for a just and sustainable world. People will continue to work toward a world they believe in, and it will continue to change because of it. [en.cop15.dk](http://en.cop15.dk)

# The Wonk Revolution

The Ruckus Collective

In 1997, Seattle was booming: Starbucks, Microsoft, Boeing, America, the Superpower. Neoliberalism and free markets were conventional wisdom. But the system left many Americans in poverty, trampled labor rights, and trashed the environment. A movement was forming to question that conventional wisdom, and resist the auctioning off of the planet. Seattle would soon be at its epicenter. Among all this, UW campus activists and former Daily staffers teamed up and started Ruckus.

Columns was once a critical alternative (March 1921: “What of the Daily? To Emphasize Social Life and Minimize Intellectual Attainments is Traditional Fault of Student Paper”), as was Helix in the sixties, as was the first incarnation of Ruckus in the nineties.

Ruckus published activist calendars and handbooks, and ASUW voting guides. Students used these pages to raise awareness of human rights abuses, workers’ struggles, and the ecological crisis. They called out corporate encroachment, colonial exploitation, obedient media, and obfuscating administrations. They covered Zapatistas in Chiapas, mounting evidence of climate change, unionization of UW grad students and tuition fights. We are humbled by this long tradition of fighting for social justice.

Now, Ruckus Collective is back and at your service. We will fight to keep this public university public, because we are students, we are workers, and we are citizens. Our

planet, our cultures, and our university are not for sale.

We want nothing to do with the culture war soap opera, Conservative/Liberal binaries, anachronistic labels, or 1960s counter-culture. (Fuck nostalgia, act now!) Our goal is to understand the complexities of systems of power, to shut them down and take back our world. Equipped with community solutions, we can heal ourselves and our planet.

This paper exists for the robust critique of the status quo, to transform the stirrings of youthful discontent into a position of informed, active dissent. Ruckus exists not for preaching ideology or conspiracy, but to tease out from the complexities of power the means to effect change. This paper is for those who partied in the streets and launched fireworks in Red Square on November 4, 2008, and are starting to wake up with nothing to show for it but a “Yes We Can” hangover.

In any society, it is up to the youth to change social conditions. So youth dialog is as old as humanity. Ruckus exists for those young voices, for your voice.

As the Ruckus Collective wrote in November 1997, “We don’t know everything, but we do know this: there is no change without action, and there can be no action without expression. We’ve got to speak up, speak out, talk to each other, tell our classmates we’re angry, tell ourselves what we really want.

“So join us --- or fight us --- but, in any case, do something. We won’t tell you to ‘Sit down, and shut up.’ More like, ‘Stand up, and make yourself heard!’ “



FROM INSIDE WHEELER HALL, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY

# The Daily Life Means War

Statler & Waldorf

"We have a world of pleasures to win, and nothing to lose but boredom...  
You want to fuck around with us? Not for long."  
--Raoul Vaneigem

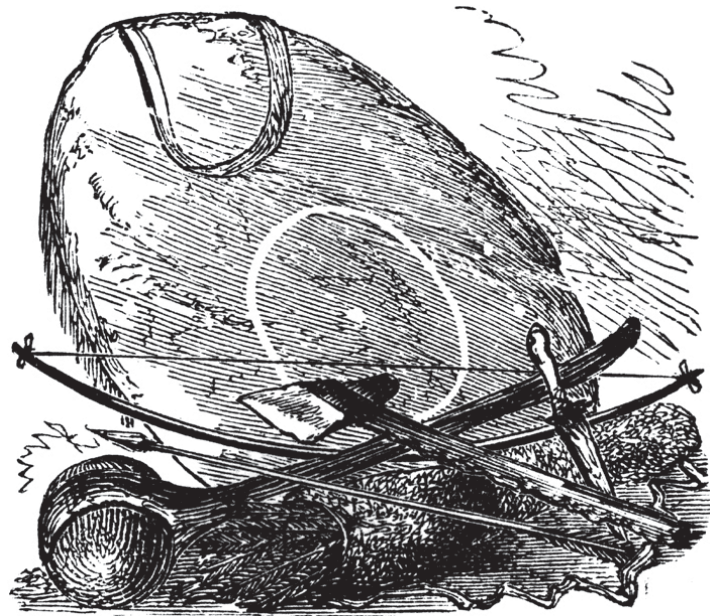
We declare war! We declare a war without compromise upon all that is moderate, unspectacular, ordinary— a war that sends the yawning head of boredom to the guillotine; a war that serves to cut the tongue that writhes in noxious deceit, and cauterizes the torpid voice of the tamed whose weary journalism is but a feeble masquerade.  
We declare war upon a rag whose only worth is its flammability.

We bear the burden of an inert culture - The Daily is but one facet of such normative mediocrity. It is simply not enough to assert that The Daily fails to represent us accurately; our concern is that it feigns to. It is an entity perpetuating a toxic identity, "the student". It presents the most mundane of all endeavors as the pale undertakings of "student life". The Daily is both product and perpetuator of a culture that leaves us blind — a culture in which we find our desires and frustrations dictated and mediated, fed back to us in journalistic sound bytes so bland as to sterilize the mind. It is no small wonder that our "student life" echoes this farce in true Stockholm syndrome fashion - escapism and the banal gestures of the hopeless set the routine.

We refuse to allow our vibrant and creative idiosyncrasies to be replaced with emptiness, with stones where our hearts once beat. We refuse to suffocate under the static identity of "the student", or be forced to live on its fringes - theirs is a culture we do not wish to own, much less have forced upon us. Theirs is a culture so processed and pasteurized one cannot hope to dream in its shadow.

Thus, we must wake from this cultural coma and put our atrophied bodies into motion lest these bedsores turn with infection. Pick one another up from out the dust and cough up the stale phlegm that chokes our collective voice. Sing out a war cry to cast this inert culture out.

We declare a war we cannot lose — beating hearts are our war drums, shattering the suffocating silence of mediocrity.



mountiscariot@gmail.com

# Rally for Referendum 71

Sam Bernstein

On Saturday, November 14th, two hundred people gathered in Westlake Plaza in downtown Seattle to celebrate the historic victory of Referendum 71, which was approved a few weeks ago. With a majority in Maine voting to repeal marriage equality, Referendum 71 marks the first time that same-sex couples have gained or maintained rights that were put up for a popular vote anywhere in the United States.

Referendum 71 was a ballot initiative asking voters to reaffirm or repeal state domestic partnership legislation (Bill 5688) signed into law last May by Governor Christine Gregoire. Domestic partnerships grant same-sex partners the same legal rights and obligations as granted under civil marriage.

Thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and activists, Referendum 71 was approved 53% to 47%. Support for domestic partnerships was strongest in the urban areas around Seattle and the Puget Sound but weakest in rural areas and Eastern Washington. A full 80% of voters in Seattle voted to approve.

While supporters at the rally celebrated this victory for LGBT rights, it is clear that LGBT people still face legal discrimination.

As Stuart Wilber, who is 71 years old and has been with his partner for 32 years, said, "This election is over and we won! But now it's time to have a conversation about human rights, equal rights, and civil rights -- rights that are guaranteed to everyone by the 14th Amendment of the US constitution."

"I'm tired of waiting," he continued from the rally stage. "I've been waiting my whole life and I don't have much more time to wait."



LIEUTENANT DAN CHOI SPEAKS AT THE REFERENDUM 71 VICTORY RALLY; PHOTO BY ANDY BODIES

He was joined on stage by his partner and dozens of other couples who can now receive domestic partnership rights like sharing health benefits, insurance benefits, and hospital visitation rights.

Lt. Dan Choi -- a West Point graduate, combat veteran, and Arab linguist who was fired from the National Guard under the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy after coming out on The Rachel Maddow Show -- was the rally's featured speaker.

Choi addressed those who would tell LGBT people to wait for their rights. "Some people tell us to be good little gays. You have domestic partnerships now. Can't you just be happy?" To which the crowd responded with a resounding, "No!" "I am not satisfied," Choi roared. "We are not satisfied. The era of asking is over! Now is the time to fight...In the face of discrimination, silence is not a strategy -- waiting is not a plan."

Other speakers at the rally included Ann Levinson and Josh

Friedes, leaders of the Approve 71 campaign; Steve Williamson, Community Affairs Director for UFCW Local 21; Marsha Botzer, co-chair of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and a member of the National Equality March steering committee; Emily Juhre of University of Washington Students Organizing for LGBT Equality (UW SOLE); Carmen Rivera of the Seattle University Triangle Club; and Eduardo Brambila of SeattleOUTProtest.

The rally was organized by SeattleOUTProtest, Seattle Gay News, UW SOLE, SU Triangle Club, Pride at Work, Join the Impact, Washington Marriage Alliance, and the International Socialist Organization and MC'd by Aleksa Manila, a local drag queen celebrity.

Article first published at [socialistworker.org](http://socialistworker.org).

Ruckus is brought to you by the letter U,  
the number of radicals in the streets,  
and our volunteers and supporters. Donate today!