

# COUNTERING THE SOCIETY OF THE

# SPECTACLE



7:00 – 9: 30PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2007

Grandview Calvary Baptist Church, 1803 East 1st Avenue

In today's world of media extravaganzas, sporting events, political scandals, and those attention grabbing occurrences that we call news, it is more true than ever that we are living in "the society of the spectacle." The concept of "the society of the spectacle," developed by Guy Debord and his comrades in the Situationist International, has had a major impact on contemporary theories of society and culture. It describes a media and consumer society organized around the production and consumption of images, commodities and staged events. We will be discussing how the world of the "the spectacle," with its glittering images and glossy surfaces, stupefies social beings and distracts them from the most urgent tasks of real life – recovering the full range of their human powers through creative practice. Our city faces a serious social crisis of homelessness and poverty, and yet most of us prefer to sit passively in front of our televisions and inertly observe "the spectacle" from within the privacy of our homes. It is time to turn our backs on the mediated world of the spectacle. We must begin to live our lives directly, using our human creativity and imagination to build a more just and compassionate society.