

# Beyond Borders

Continued  
from Page 23

nization, 14 million people die each year from communicable diseases. In fact, 97 percent of deaths from communicable diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, sleeping sickness and kala azar occur in developing countries, where the poor are disproportionately affected.

"This is largely because the people who suffer from diseases like sleeping sickness, malaria or kala azar are poor and do not constitute a 'lucrative' market for the pharmaceutical industry," Cohen says. "They do not consider that they will get an adequate 'return on investment' and so do not invest into research and development."

According to Cohen, the fault lies not entirely with the pharmaceutical industry but also with governments. "Public policy failure has compounded the failure of the market to produce needed medicines for diseases that affect the world's poorest people. Having left drug development to the

most profitable industry in the world, governments have essentially shirked their responsibility to meet the health needs that the market does not care about. Patents are granted with the aim of stimulating innovation, but a market monopoly is irrelevant when the market is non-existent."

Worse yet, the gap between health care in developing and Western countries has grown substantially in the past few decades. Of the 1,393 new drugs approved between 1975 and 1999, only 16—or just more than 1 percent—were specifically developed for tropical diseases and tuberculosis, which account for 11.4 percent of the global disease burden.

According to Cohen, for more than 20 years Doctors Without Borders volunteers "have been confronted with shocking situations in which they are often sole actors and witnesses. In the course of their work in the field...medical teams witness daily the ravages of communicable diseases and the human impact of the lack of medicines for these diseases. Old diseases are reappearing and drug resistance is spreading rapidly, rendering useless medicines that were once effective. Some of the medicines used today were invented decades ago and are highly toxic."



Poor people aren't considered a "lucrative" market for the pharmaceutical industry

Doctors Without Borders hopes that putting pressure on governments and pharmaceutical companies will improve public health policies for developing countries. "We think that a fundamental change in approach is needed to address the specific crisis in R & D for neglected diseases—one that capitalizes on the capacity of the private sector but demands public sector responsibility for defining priorities and coming up with the needed resources," Cohen says.

As the wealthiest nation on the planet—and home to the majority of the world's bio-

medical research—the United States has a unique opportunity to aid the research and development crisis for neglected diseases. "That is one of the key reasons that we are trying to educate the U.S. public about this crisis: We believe that once people are properly informed, they too will want to demand that the U.S. government take on a leadership role in focusing more resources on R & D for neglected diseases to help compensate for the failure of the private sector to do so."

The AccessEXPO traveling interactive

## ALBERTA ALBERTA

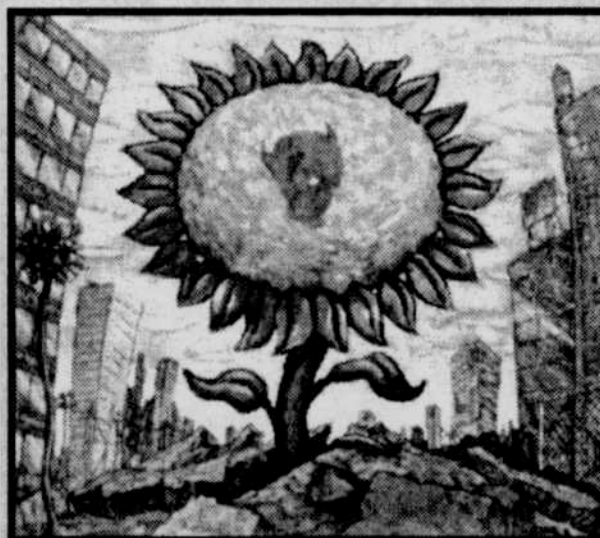


### GLASS ROOTS MOSAICS

STAINED GLASS MOSAIC STEPPING STONES

- drop-in class every Sat. 12-6
- over a hundred stones in stock

Wed-Sat 12-6 2921 NE Alberta (503) 460-3137



### Buffalo Gardens

Organic Supplies for the Urban Gardener

Wed-Sun 10-7  
3033 NE Alberta Street • 503.288.0220

## THE DECK IS OPEN!



### VITA CAFE

- + Serving fresh panini sandwiches.
- + Delicious homemade soups & bold salads.
- + Local hormone free beef burgers
- + Many specialty & breakfast items too!
- + Using local & organic ingredients.
- + Local organic beer, wine, & fresh juices.
- + Spacious booths for groups and always quick service.
- + Yummy kids menu!

3024 NE Alberta • 503-335-8233

Hours: Lunch - M-F 11-5

Supper - Tue-Sat 5-22 Sun & Mon 5-10

Breakfast - Sat & Sun 8-3



### W. Cris Williamson

Women's music pioneer

Friday  
September 27  
8 pm

at the  
St. John's Pub  
8203 N Ivanhoe St.

\$20-\$23

tickets available  
from St. John's Pub  
or Ticketmaster



Lounge now open 12pm-1am  
(Food always available)

### UNIQUE GARDEN ART & SPECIALTY GIFTS



### Living By The Garden

1829 NE Alberta  
Ph (503) 287-4144

NEWLY OPENED