



A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997

HOMIEWARD

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What's Happening in the CA State Capitol: The "Housing is a Human Right" Bill Package

Reported by Cathleen Williams

Proposed Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10 (ACA 10) will recognize that every Californian has the fundamental human right to adequate housing on an equitable and non-discriminatory basis. Should the measure pass the legislature, California voters will have the opportunity to vote to add this right to the state's constitution, creating an obligation on the part of state and local governments to take meaningful action to fully realize the right.

Senate Bill 567 (SB 567), the Homelessness Prevention Act, is set to give

Californian renters greater housing stability and reduces the number of people on the brink of homelessness. This bill will end rampant abuse of no-fault causes of eviction, and close loopholes in existing tenant protections that limit rent increases and unjust evictions. The measure also calls for limiting allowable rent increases to a more reasonable cap while also providing mechanisms for accountability and enforcement.

Senate 225 (SB 225) creates the Community Anti-Displacement and Preservation Program (CAPP). CAPP will finance the acquisition and rehabilita-



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The Fight is Far From Over: Stopping Jail Expansion in Sacramento

Adapted from an Address by Liz Blum of Decarcerate Sacramento - Delivered on April 28, 2023

On December 7th, 2022, as part of a broad mobilization against jail expansion, over 140 people from the Sacramento community came out to the Board of Supervisors for more than seven hours to oppose the multi-million dollar expansion of the Sacramento jail. Over 70 organizations, businesses, and health professionals signed a letter exposing jail expansion. The Sacramento community really showed up with so much power, vulnerability, and truth through their presence and testimony. It was by far the largest mobilization against jail expansion that we've ever seen in Sacramento County.

Together we confronted the false narrative that decarceration is dangerous. We confronted, too, the false narrative that we ourselves are not survivors of

violence – many of us have become abolitionists, calling for the abolition of the prison-industrial complex, because of these experiences. We want real community safety, not more criminalization, cops, and cages.

Despite thousands of Sacramento County residents expressing strong opposition, on December 8th, 2022 the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors voted to restart plans to build an annex of the downtown jail. This project is slated to cost a minimum of \$450 million. It will be funded by a Bond (which is essentially a type of a loan made by private investors). This would be, by far, the largest source of debt that the county has ever taken on, with \$50 million in interest alone. Locking the county into this bond would make funding

the jail the number one priority when the budget gets tight, with disastrous consequences for essential community services.

Decarcerate Sacramento is working behind the scenes to gather information and to prepare to interject at key points along the county's timeline for this project. One example of this is that in August, the Board plans to approve a contract with a new architectural firm to design the jail expansion project. We plan to fight this: to research the firms being considered, and to remind decision-makers that this jail expansion will never be the solution to the medical, mental health, and ADA (Americans with Disability

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What can AI tell us about perceptions of homelessness?

With the rise of shockingly adept and adaptable AI, such as ChatGPT and other large language models, what can they tell us about images, stereotypes and the, hopefully, changing perceptions of homeless people? INSP asked it...

By Tony Inglis

Courtesy of International Network of Street Papers

Imbuing an AI chatbot with human characteristics doesn't seem so ridiculous in a time when such technology is showing uncanny steps forward in its ability to learn and adapt, with some reports of their sentience verging on the most pessimistic predictions of sci-fi. If you're aware of their existence, the progression shown by generative language models like ChatGPT seems to have come on leaps and bounds, as the Microsoft-backed OpenAI has released a version of its creation into the public domain and has been all the rage.

AI like this, in the most basic terms, consumes information it's been fed – mainly from the internet – and, via a complex algorithm, regurgitates an answer in response to a prompt. The AI uses the information at its disposal to essentially guess the most appropriate next word in a sequence. That process is why it is emerging as such a powerful tool, one that is even being integrated into online search systems that its creators hope may rival a behemoth like Google. But this is also a sign of the limits of this technology.

“Much evidence exists of the strong role that perception can play in shaping reality,” writes the Centre for Homelessness impact at the top of a report outlining its findings around public perceptions of homelessness earlier this year. The report goes on to highlight statistics that show public awareness of homelessness as an issue that needs addressed is high.

However, later it reads: “Of greatest concern are the continuing misconceptions highlighted by our surveys.

Asked about the characteristics of people experiencing homelessness, the average answer was that 53% are living with a drug or alcohol dependency. The actual figures are between 5% and 7%. Another mean answer was that 34% are immigrants to this country, which is more than twice the figure (14%) of people from outside the UK who apply for homeless assistance from a local authority.”

With this in mind, could AI divulge a more accurate perception of homelessness, with all of the power and tools at its disposal? Across numerous conversations with ChatGPT, it was clear that some of society's most entrenched prejudices persist within AI too.

With the prompt “draw a picture of a street paper vendor”, ChatGPT is quick to put you in your place – it is an AI language model, and therefore does not create images. But its description of a picture it would draw gets to the heart of the matter: “The street paper vendor is a homeless man or woman, standing on a busy street corner. They have a stack of newspapers in their hand and a worn expression on their face. They are wearing ragged clothes and a look of determination in their eyes.”

A “worn expression.” “Ragged clothes.” “A look of determination in their eyes.” It's a picture of struggle, devoid of nuance.

Asked “what does a homeless person look like?”, the AI promisingly replies that “there is no one specific ‘look’ of a homeless person”, but then goes on again to describe them as maybe being “dressed in dirty of worn clothes”, carrying “all their belongings in a backpack or shopping cart”, and might

be “sitting on a sidewalk with a cardboard sign asking for money.”

As the conversation continues, many of the chatbots initial observations are pushed back on. In response to the prompt “If not all homeless people beg or panhandle, why was it one of the first descriptors you used for a scene involving a homeless person?”, it replies: “I apologize if my previous response suggested that all homeless people panhandle. That is not accurate, and I apologize for any confusion. Panhandling is one way that some homeless individuals try to acquire resources to meet their basic needs, but it is not the only way, and not all homeless people panhandle.”

After some back and forth, it responds to the prompt “Could you describe a homeless person without using some of the common stereotypes of homeless people you refer to?”, replying: “A homeless person can be described as someone who lacks a permanent place to live, they may be staying in a shelter, transitional housing, sleeping on the street or in a makeshift shelter like a tent or a car. They could have lost their job, be facing mental health or addiction issues, or have experienced other events such as a natural disaster, domestic violence or a medical emergency, that have left them without a stable home. They may be trying to access services such as job training, mental health counselling, or substance abuse treatment, to improve their situation. It's worth noting that homelessness can happen to anyone, regardless of their background and it's a complex issue that requires multiple solutions.”

That spurs on a conversation about how hereditary privilege and the makeup of society is

weighted against certain people and community. By constantly drilling down, the AI is learning to delve further into its system to provide a more relevant response. It is not capable of opinion, and provides little pushback when it generates responses that play into common stereotypes.

Eventually, it is prompted with: “Having now had this discussion, how would you answer the question ‘what does a homeless person look like?’”

It replies: “It is important to remember that homelessness affects people from all walks of life and can happen to anyone. There is no one specific ‘look’ of a homeless person. People experiencing homelessness may come from diverse backgrounds and may have a wide range of appearances. They may be young or old, male or female, and may have a variety of physical and mental health conditions. They may be dressed in a range of clothing styles. It is not appropriate to make assumptions about a person's situation based on their appearance.

“It is important to focus on the underlying issues that lead to homelessness and not to stereotype or stigmatize people who are experiencing homelessness. Rather than asking what a homeless person looks like, it is more important to focus on understanding and addressing the systemic issues that contribute to homelessness, such as poverty, lack of affordable housing, and lack of access to healthcare and mental health services.”

Later it replies: “As an AI, I do not have personal experiences or emotions, and my knowledge is based on the text data that I have been trained on. My responses

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Remembering long-time Homeward Volunteer and Friend

Lee Parks (May 18, 1949 -- March 13, 2023)

We are sad to share a deep loss to SHOC and Homeward, that Lee Parks passed away unexpectedly on March 13th. Lee has volunteered with SHOC and Homeward Street Journal since 1997, and served as editor and layout person for Homeward, exclusively, since the early 2000's. He also volunteered in the office overseeing the distribution program. As a Homeward Street Journal reader we know you appreciated his steadfast and professional production of this paper over the years. We hope to continue to publish the paper but his style, precision and dedication can not be replaced..

The Coroner said he died of heart disease and likely passed quickly and unexpectedly in his apartment.



Lee and his friend Ray were commissioned to paint several murals. This mural was in Greg Bunkers office at Francis House, that encompassed all four walls in bright cheery colors.



Lee and Paula - late '90's on K Street Downtown Sacramento.
I first met Lee when we started the paper in 1997. We were both homeless at the time and spent a lot of time at a coffee shop's patio. He could be seen most days doing artwork in his sketch pad. We remained close friends and business partners throughout the years. Paula



Dispatches from the Front: Why Is There A Right To Housing? Reflections On Social Rights and Wrongs

by Cathleen Williams

The Question of Entitlements

Let's start with this question: Why should someone be "entitled" to a house?

"Entitlement," of course, has a pejorative slant because – I think at least as far back as Reagan – the term is used to suggest that everyone should have to *earn* – i.e. work – for any "social benefit." Without that ability or inclination to work, you should not have access to resources – including access to water or housing or medical care.

To put it plainly: everything that you need for your survival is private and belongs to someone else. It has to be paid for, and to pay for it you have to work. Republicans are bringing back work requirements for Food Stamps and Medicaid.

Which brings us to the question of work. Wage labor is an essential component of capitalism. It guarantees the distribution of wealth (to the workers) and is beneficial for lots of other reasons, including, from the point of view of the capitalists, that it serves as a major source of profit.

Without enough jobs to sustain the working population, however, all sorts of problems arise in society. Automation, robotics, digitalization, and now AI are wreaking havoc on society's *ability to distribute wealth through work*. The rise of technology is forcing people to compete with robots in efficiency and cost.

If you doubt this, look at workforce participation data, which accounts for people who are working or just looking for a job, excluding from the calculation those who can't or don't work because they are otherwise occupied, like prisoners, students, or disabled, for example. You'd expect that the workforce participation rate would be high,

since it's only the available and able-bodied people who are being counted.

But wait. Because jobs are disappearing, the overall rate has been declining steadily for years, especially among youth. Only 66% of millennials work full time; this leaves out of the full-time, self-sustaining workforce 24 million people. One third of millennials live at home. As to Gen Z (those 20 to 24 years old) their workforce participation has dropped from 72.1% in 2019 to 70.8% in 2022.

The advance of technology and the elimination of workers is objective and cumulative. Yes, there are skilled people who get good jobs, most readily if they have privileges (especially white privilege) and inherited advantages like access to education. Yes, there are job openings. But for most part wages are low, and it's expensive to work, given all the things you need to keep a job, like transportation, housing, child care. (Though plenty of unhoused people work.)

No one seems to dispute the impact of technology on the number of jobs and the rate of pay, yet acknowledgement of the impact of this fundamental change in the economy is hard to find. Indeed, very few admit or explain that the transition from an industrially based society to an electronically based society is causing social dislocation, to put it mildly. Look at the rising deaths from despair, a demographic phenomenon especially of the rust belt. The opioid epidemic. Violence. Mass incarceration. Homelessness. Poverty.

Yet there is abundance because of this technology, reflected in the rise of the corporate billionaires. And what are they doing with their money and their political power? They are dragging us forward into war and environmental devastation. They are trying to convince that this is the only *imaginable* future.

Just as a side note -- it's odd that as



a child I grew up in the relative (and perhaps illusory) Eden of the Bay Area -- what I now call, "billionaire Berkeley." A place no one can afford today. (Privilege was available to us then, and we didn't even know it. How could a single mother, a social worker, support 3 children? But I digress.)

Now let's focus on this issue of entitlements. At a fundamental level, the charge of un-entitlement or unworthiness for social rights is really holding the refugees created by this transformation responsible for their impoverished condition. People who are impacted by this new paradigm are trying to deal with it as best they can. Families are unable to shelter their own. People go off the rails from stress and don't get health care. Systemic white supremacy targets Black and Indigenous people of color as the most unworthy poor, but the attack is felt by the low-income and low-wealth population as a whole.

I deeply believe that all this

dysfunction and suffering could be dealt with and made less likely and wide-spread if it weren't for the dominance of the billionaires over our collective social wealth (resources, infrastructure, means of production) all of which they have made their *private property*, their ownership established historically by our legal and political system, along with the police force and military system, that guarantees it. Don't worry – I'm not advocating that personal property and homes that individuals possess is going to be taken away. I'm talking about the big stuff that corporations use to make their profits.

The Question of Rights

The other side of entitlement, of course, is the idea that you have, and have to have, certain rights as a member of society. What if one had no rights as a member of

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Why is there a right to housing? Continued from page 4

society? What would that be like? Can we even imagine a state of affairs where there are no entitlements?

It is undeniable that society is full of entitlements. When you see a green light, you are entitled to go forward. Generally, the entitlements relate to commercial and property relationships; other regulated areas, like marriage or criminal law, are mostly devoted to the protection of private property rights and interests.

The problem is that private property rights dominate social rights. This is the nature of capitalism. It's all about the drive to exploit resources and labor, to compete in the marketplace, and to accumulate private property (as capital). What, after all, is the meaning of the widespread urge to "privatize"?

The corporate masters of the state have concentrated political power in their own hands to protect and expand their private property (like buying up housing as an investment strategy, but in lots of other ways too) and it's damaging the very fabric of our society.

We see a harsh and polarized gap. The middle is being wiped out. People are plunging into lives where they won't EVER be able to afford housing, buy a house.

Why do we need social rights like the right to

housing? Here's why: Society has cut us off from a state of nature. We are not living on a continent where land is for the taking, where we have unfettered access to nature's wealth. Of course, the myth of the American as a self-reliant small holder – like Abraham Lincoln – still expresses the ideology of many people in this country. (*Nothing is said, of course, about whom the land was taken from.*)

The division of society into those who are entitled to survive, and those who are not, is usually justified and explained as a just punishment for people who are just not working hard enough, especially for folks who are homeless. What are we to make of this? The "fault," the moral deficiency, the shiftlessness, the inferiority, all seem to involve an unwillingness to work. But are over a hundred million people (47% of the country) just consistently and fatally lazy, and therefore poor? Perhaps we should walk in their shoes for a while...

Can it possibly be that poverty is evidence that there is a class in society that doesn't own any source of wealth and sustenance – other than their own labor power? And that their labor power is worth less and less as robots set the standard for profitability, as labor-intensive small businesses shrink, as monopolies and chains take over the marketplace, as banks and hedge funds buy up land and housing, as companies search the world for cheap and exploitable workers... and as billionaires rise?

I leave you with these questions...

What's Happening in the CA State Capitol: Continued from page 1

tion of existing unsubsidized housing in order to preserve it as affordable for low-income residents. It will convert this housing into long-term affordable housing which will provide immediate relief to low-income families. CAPP will prevent displacement and homelessness by stabilizing low-income families in their communities, while also investing in the supply of affordable homes for the future.

Senate Bill 555, the Social Stable Affordable Housing Act of 2023, would declare a 10-year goal of creating 1.2 million units of social housing through a mix of acquisition and new production. Also, it would declare a 5-year goal of creating 600,000 units of

social housing; 200,000 of these units must be affordable to extremely low and very low-income households.

The Social Housing Fund established by this bill, once appropriated by the Legislature, would be made available to the Department of Housing and Community Development. No later than January 1, 2025, the Department would be responsible for submitting a "Social Housing Plan" for achieving these goals.

For more information and how to support: www.HousingNowCa.org

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Mercy Pedalers
Organize Sacramento
Uptown Studios Inc.



A Book Review - by Muriel Strand

Poverty, by America -- Book by Matthew Desmond

Milton Friedman's idea that maximizing financial returns to shareholders would increase economic efficiency and optimize resource allocation is denied by the realities of modern American poverty that Professor Matthew Desmond describes with vivid anecdotes and telling statistics about inconvenient socioeconomic data.

"Every year: over \$11 billion in overdraft fees, \$1.6 billion in check cashing fees, and up to \$9.8 billion in payday loan fees. That's over \$61 million in fees collected predominately from low-income Americans each day—not even counting the annual revenue collected by pawnshops and title loan services and rent-to-own schemes. When James Baldwin remarked in 1971 how 'extremely expensive it is to be poor,' he couldn't have imagined these receipts."

"In 2020 the federal government spent more than \$193 billion on homeowner subsidies, a figure that far exceeded the amount spent on direct housing assistance for low-income families (\$53 billion). Most families who enjoy those subsidies have six-figure incomes and are white. Poor families lucky enough to live in government-owned apartments often have to deal with mold and even lead paint, while rich families are claiming the mortgage interest deduction on first and second homes. The lifetime limit for cash welfare to poor parents is five years, but families claiming the mortgage interest deduction may do so for the length of the mortgage, typically thirty years."

So, the meme about 'makers and takers' is baloney. "We are all on the dole."

Unfortunately, putting profits first too often leads to putting real economic results last. Yes, staying in the black is important, but that's about calculating things right. Accounting can't tell you what are the right things to calculate. So, measures like GDP and market returns are no good at evaluating whether everyone has their basic needs met - clean air and water, healthy food, cooking, and plenty of sleep and exercise - and the rational expectation that one will have access to those necessities for the foreseeable future.

Historically, farmers, villagers and city folk have cooperated to furnish their common human needs. And prehistorically, so have hunter-gatherers. But various factors such as fossil fuel addiction, racism, classism, sexism, overpopulation, etc., have been causing lots of socioeconomic problems.

"America's obsession with incarceration has removed scores of poor people from their families, strictly controlling when they can call their children, spouses, and loved ones, and then releasing them back into society with a criminal record that impedes their already dim job and housing prospects. In the history of the nation, there has only been one other state-sponsored initiative more antifamily than mass incarceration, and that was slavery."

Now, rich and poor alike confront climate chaos. Getting back to basics, the whole planet has been powered by the giant fusion reactor in the sky for several billion years up until the last few centuries. Meanwhile, technologies such as mining and pavement continue to reduce our ecological carrying capacity. So, we need to redesign our real economy.

A Book Review - by Muriel Strand

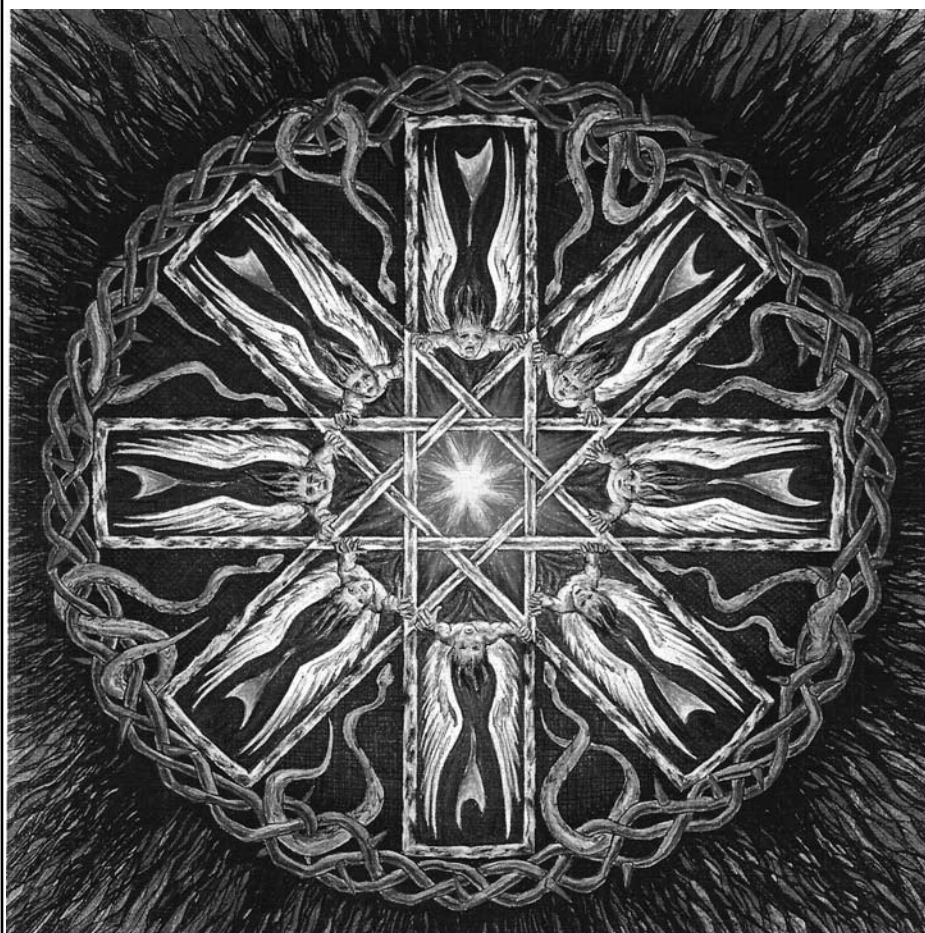
Permanent Distortion:

How Financial Markets Abandoned the Real Economy Forever -- Book by Nomi Prins

Wall Street survivor and observer Nomi Prins analyzes the severe market distortions created by the bailout policies that were followed in the wake of 2008 and also with the failures of SVB and Signature Bank. The financial market she writes about is basically Wall Street, and the real economy is Main Street. Unfortunately, what's good for Wall Street tends to impoverish Main Street.

Recently, former FDIC chair William Isaac pointed out that in neither case were standard FDIC procedures used. The traditional and prescribed procedure would be to first pay the FDIC insurance claims (\$250,000 max and mostly for Main Street folks) and then put the rest of the deflated assets in receivership where they would be sold off gradually so as to maximize the residual value that could be realized, typically 80% or so of the nominal amount prior to its deflation. Instead, the Wall Street people, whose assets should have gone into receivership because they should have known what they were doing, got a slap on the wrist and no haircut.

FDR's leadership made capitalism safe for democracy. Now we need to redo that and make it safe for Mother Earth too.



A Mandala with color pencils by Lee Parks

Stopping Jail Expansion continued from Page 1

Act) requirements of the Mays v. Sacramento lawsuit.

We know that if ADA was truly the county’s priority, they would be using the \$11 million already allocated for renovating the current jail for ADA compliance, but they’re not. If medical and mental health care improvement were truly a priority for the county, they would not have canceled their labor contract with UC Davis, which is forcing seasoned medical staff to find alternative work, and shifting the county’s reliance on new, temporary and inexperienced nurses and “mental health workers” who are unable to provide the care that people need inside.

Moving forward, let’s remember that in April of 2020, the Board of Supervisors approved an architecture contract with Nacht & Lewis, the firm that built the current jail in 1989, to design the jail expansion. On March 10th, 2021 the Board voted to cancel the project. Our mobilization to oppose this step was key to this reversal of policy. Remember that there will be many opportunities to mobilize and push our electeds to reverse course.

This summer you can also look forward to us launching our official Decarceration Campaign platform. The current jail population has decreased 10% in the first quarter of 2023. While the county’s first instinct has been to minimize this significant reduction in the jail population – blaming the storms and claiming this won’t be sustained – we know this reduction is showing us that decarceration is possible and within reach. It is reasonable and realistic to expect and demand that Sac County reduce its jail population by 50% in one year! We’ve already seen how a rapid 30% reduction in incarceration in 2020 due

to COVID releases did not have a significant impact on crime rates, and likely improved public health for everyone in Sacramento County.

We know that Decarceration is the first step to preventing jail expansion. 83% of our jail population is pre-trial, and has not been convicted of any crime. Over 60% of jail inhabitants have diagnosed mental illness. And it’s estimated that a majority of people being admitted to the jail for misdemeanors are homeless. This is not just a crisis within the walls of our jails; this is a crisis of inadequate care for those who need it and a clear risk to public safety.

There are currently plans to shift the Public Defender’s pretrial probation program over to the Probation Department, combining our Public Defender’s pretrial program with the Probation Department’s pretrial program. This is extremely dangerous because law enforcement agencies should not be involved in pre-trial systems period. For more information on this and Preserving the Presumption of Innocence please visit carefirstca.org.

Decarcerate Sacramento is a coalition working to build power among Sacramento County residents. Our goal is to drastically reduce jail populations, prevent jail expansions, and to shift county funds away from policing and incarceration towards community based systems of care that promote community safety and health.

Please stay posted for further developments. Sign up for our email list on our website at decarceratesac.org and follow us on social media to stay up to date with calls to action.

What can AI tell us continued from Page 2

are generated based on patterns in this data, and while I can provide information and answer questions, I don’t have the same level of understanding and empathy as a person who has directly interacted with or experienced homelessness.”

Conversations with AI chatbots may be a current at the moment, and many of its uses seem frivolous. However, its potential practical uses in homeless outreach and activism – predictive modelling, automation, as learning and reporting tools, language processing and data analysis – may have an impact on public perceptions of homeless people and their communities that will ultimately feed back into AI language models and make their outputs more informed and accurate.

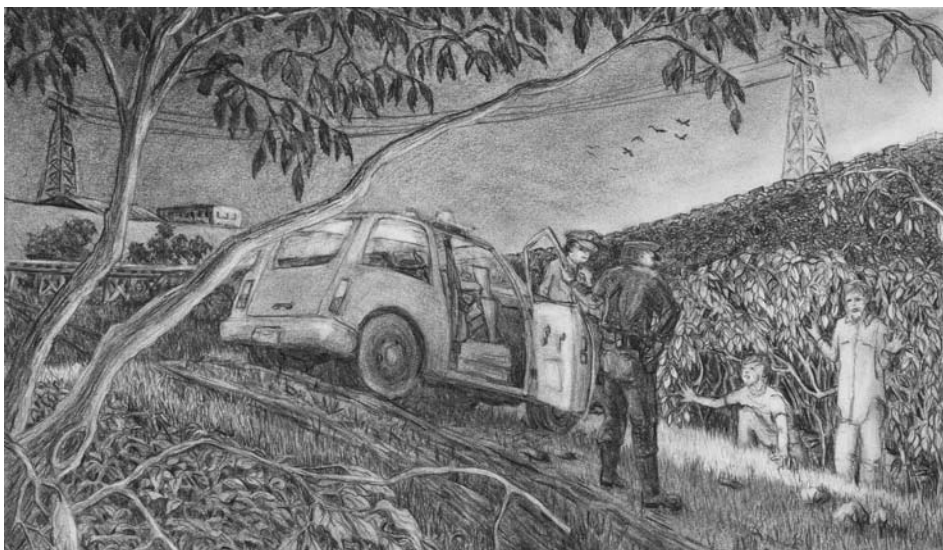
But, with its current capabilities, AI can give us little insight into how people experiencing homelessness are perceived beyond parroting back known and ingrained stigmas that we as human beings have of them. In fact, it is disheartening to read the frenzied reporting around AI that seems quick to humanise these machines – perhaps more willingly than many are to see humanity in people on the streets.

*Courtesy of the International Network of Street Papers
insp.ngo*



“Overflow” by Lee Parks

Dawn Patrol
by
Lee Parks



Resources List

Sacramento Loaves & Fishes.

1351 North C Street - www.sacloaves.org – (916)446-0874
 On Campus Programs:
 Friendship Park – Day center for homeless adults. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2:45PM
 Welcoming Center – Donation drop-off and admin. Mon-Fri, 7AM-3PM
 Dining Room – Lunch served. Get tickets in Friendship Park. Mon-Fri. 11:30AM-1PM. Sat-Sun 11AM to 12:30PM
 Maryhouse – Women & family services. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2PM. (916)446-4961
 Mustard Seed School – For children ages 3-15. (916)-447-3626
 Men's Wash House – showers and laundry for men. Mon-Fri, 7-11AM, 11:30AM-1:30PM
 Anneke's Haven – Kennel for spayed & neutered animals. Mon-Fri, 7AM-2PM, Sat-Sun 8:30AM-1:30PM
 Guest Advocate office. Mon-Fri, 8-11AM
 Library – Reading room, computers & glasses. Mon-Fri, 7:30-11AM, 11:30AM-1:30PM
 Jail Visitation – For individuals in custody or recently released. Mon-Thurs, 8AM-12PM. (916)447-9472
 Genesis – Mental health counseling. Mon-Fri, 7:30AM-12PM, 1PM-2:45PM, (916)669-1536
 Mercy Clinic – TB tests and General medical assistance. 8-11:30AM
 Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic. Mon-Thurs, 8AM-12PM. (916)446-0368
 Miscellaneous on campus services: Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, El Hogar Mental Health, DHA, Mercer Clinic for veterinary services, Harm Reduction Services.

River City Food Bank

(916) 446-2627. Food Distribution
 Hours: Midtown, 1800 28th Street – Tuesday-Thursday, 10:30am to 1:30pm. Arden Arcade, 2300 Edison Ave - Friday-Saturday, 10:30am to 1:30pm.

Food search by zip code: www.sacramentofoodbank.org/find-food

Sacramento Safe Space for Unhomed Youth –

Tuesdays, 9am to noon, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 1430 J Street. Temporary sanctuary for ages 18-30. Breakfast, hygiene items and other supplies when available. For more information: www.engage.us.org

Pilgrimage Program –

Rotating support from congregations in Midtown Sacramento. Overnights temporarily canceled. Clothing, Meals, and mobile showers one or two days a week at:
 Bayside Midtown (19th & W) (916) 706-2337;
 First United Methodist (21st & J) (916) 446-5025;
 St. John's Lutheran (17th & L) (916) 444-0874;
 Trinity Episcopal (25th & Capitol) (916) 446-2513;
 First Church of Nazarene (28th & S) (916) 452-6171
 See @PilgrimageSac on Facebook for the calendar. or call in advance for place and times.

Midtown HART Respite Centers –

Tuesdays: St. John's Lutheran Church, 1701 L Street, 9:30AM-12:30PM.
 Fridays: Trinity Cathedral, 2620 Capitol Ave, 9:30AM-12:30PM

Sacramento Self Help Housing

offers housing counseling and lists, and shared and supportive housing. sacselfhelp.org - (916) 341-0593

Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic

provides free legal services to homeless people relating infractions and misdemeanors in Sacramento County. Also manages court-ordered community service sentences. (916) 446-0368

Legal Services of Northern California:

Helps with cases about Housing, public benefits, including CalWorks, CalFresh (food stamps), Medi-Cal, General Assistance (GA), Social Security, SSI, unemployment insurance benefits (UIB), and state disability insurance (SDI). lsnc.net – (916) 551-2150

Sacramento Tenants Union

– Advocacy support for tenants: sactenantsunion@gmail.com

Department of Human Assistance(welfare)

Mail – use drop boxes outside office, or submit documents online through mybenefitscalwin.org, or mail them to: P.O. Box 487, Sacramento, CA 95812
 Apply for Benefits – apply online at www.mybenefitscalwin.org

General Assistance, call (916) 874-3100
 EBT – new or replacements, call (877) 328-9677

Harm Reduction Service:

2800 Stockton Blvd. Open from 4-6PM weekdays. Call for

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee



<https://sacshoc.org>
 (916) 442-2156

SHOC office hours Mondays and Thursdays, 10:30AM-12PM @Friendship Park. SHOC open meetings are temporarily being held Zoom and in person on Tuesdays at 10am. Email for Zoom link--shoc_1@yahoo.com

outreach schedule or supplies. (916) 456-4849

City of Sacramento:

For general information or questions about Sacramento City's, shelters, safe camping and safe parking facilities, and COVID-19 in Sacramento, please call 211 or 1-800-500-4931 or 916-498-1000. You also can email info@211sacramento.org

City services: 311

Community Resources: 211

Sacramento Covered
 (916) 874-9670

Elica Health Centers
 (916) 454-2345

WellSpace Health
 (916) 737-5555

Sacramento County Health Center
 (916) 874-9670

Sacramento County Department of Health Services: www.saccounty.net/COVID-19

National Call Center for Homeless Veterans:
 (877) 424-3838
 Healthcare & Program Referrals



Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a difference!

Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee.

The paper's mission is to lessen misunderstandings between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also provides a financial self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate by being a Homeward Distributor.

The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily of SHOC or Homeward.

Submissions and Editorial Policy

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the author's intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed.

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as possible reprinting in INSP member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$20 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

Loaves & Fishes is not affiliated with the Homeward Street Journal in any way. Participants with the paper are not allowed to solicit for donations for L&F, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.

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The paper may be reached at:
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