



**A VOICE FOR  
THE SACRAMENTO AREA  
HOMELESS COMMUNITY SINCE 1997**

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# HOMIEWARD

## Street Journal

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### A Visit to San Francisco's Project Homeless Connect

**Page 2**

**Vancouver: Clean Sweep & Burning Death**

**Page 3**

**Scotland: Home Made Housing & Urban Renewal**

**Page 4**

**D.C. Night Workers & Other News**

**Page 5**

**Connect Cont. & Ten Year Plan**

**Page 6**

**Chongo: Lucky Day on the Train**

**Page 7**

**Poetry  
Cartoon  
Obituary**

**Page 8**

**Homeless Resources  
Info**

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: A group from the Sacramento Homeless Connect planning committee took a trip to San Francisco to tour the city's 21st Project Homeless Connect (PHC) on February 27th. What better way to learn than from the experts who first conceptualized and founded Project Homeless Connect three and a half years ago. These one-day events bring disconnected services together for homeless and nearly homeless people at a central location.

Three and a half years ago, Alex Turk gathered some people together without a plan or a vision. They only had a goal to do something that helped homeless people. Alex got 250 city employees together to do outreach to see what were the needs of homeless people. Mayor Gavin Newsom has been involved since the beginning. They had their first event in a storefront offering only 4 services. 250 volunteers

brought in more volunteers to subsequent events, 500 volunteers then became 1,000. Now they don't have to recruit volunteers - they just come in-mass from all over the bay area. At first the private sector was not interested in being involved. Later over 100 companies joined the effort. Much of their success comes by listening to the clients and being able to change to best meet their needs. San Francisco's PHC's are held quarterly and have helped 22,000 with 15,000 volunteers so far. Now there are 160 Project Homeless Connects around the U.S. and three worldwide.

The Sacramento tourists started the day in the "Green Room" at the Billy Graham Civic Auditorium for an introduction to the event. Then, before the event started there was a volunteer rally in the auditorium's balcony. All the volunteers wore PHC T-shirts of

various colors depicting their roles for the day.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom welcomed the visitors and joined them on a tour of the event. A large room with many chairs and volunteers calling out numbers, held the intake operations where homeless people checked in and their needs were assessed (called Triage). After they checked in, they could go on their own to the various services or they could have a navigator help

them find the services that they needed.

There was a family area for child care and family related services. The main auditorium was a hubbub of activities. 250 providers and 300 corporations collaborate to put on the event. The number one service offered that day was Housing and Shelter counseling and referrals. Partitioned areas provided privacy for various health related and other services

*Continued Page 5*



San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom welcoming visitors

**Be Our Guest at the Sacramento Homeless Connect  
on Saturday, May 31, 2008, 10 am to 3 pm  
at the CalExpo VOA Winter Shelter.**

**SACRAMENTO**



**HOMELESS  
CONNECT**

Organized by the Ending Chronic Homelessness Initiative.

Services will include: Housing assistance • Legal assistance • GA and SSI eligibility • Medical assistance • Vision services • Mental health screenings • Dental screenings • Alcohol and drug recovery services • HIV testing and counseling • Homeless leadership opportunities • Acupuncture • Bike repair • Youth services • Veterans benefits • Haircuts • Free BBQ and Raffle.

**Entertainment by the Sacramento Blues Society.**

Feel free to safely store your belongings at Friendship Park for the day. Free transportation will be provided! Watch for shuttle routes coming soon. Questions? Call Susanna Curry at 916-447-7063 x334 or Roma Eisenstark at 916-447-7063 x311. Or visit our website at <http://www.sacconnect.org>.

# Vancouver's Clean Sweep in Preparation for 2010 Olympics

Street News Service  
www.streetnewsservice.org

by Daniel Johnson  
Edmonton Street News

VANCOUVER, CANADA: With all eyes on unceded Coast Salish territory (Vancouver-Whistler, B.C.) for the 2010 Olympics, corporate and government elites are hoping to project a positive image to the world. Not only will the 2010 games contribute to the destruction of territory that lawfully belongs to Coast Salish First Nations, Vancouver's homeless population have good reason to fear being swept up by Olympic fervor - literally, as the city conducts a "clean sweep" of public place dwellers, sex workers, and other marginalized people.

The newsletter of the Carnegie Community Centre, published in the Downtown Eastside, has reported that the three levels of government have "set aside \$500,000 to sweep homeless people off the streets." Carnegie board member Bob Sarti explains, "It's so foreign visitors won't have to look at homeless people."

The 2005 homeless count in Vancouver officially recorded 1105 people (the most recent count just took place on March 11, 2008). However, with predictions that the number of homeless people in the city could reach anywhere between 3,000 and 6,000 by the time of the Olympics, those who will profit from the games are seeking ways to hide the problem of homelessness amidst the lavish splendor and pageantry of the two week event.

As the number of affordable units in the city decreases, some community members fear Vancouver will continue forcibly removing and displacing the rising number of homeless people from high

profile areas, and similarly criminalize the lifestyles of people who inhabit public places. One former homeless person in Vancouver posted to the Homeless Nation website: "I am sure that the cops will be trying to do a 'clean sweep' ie: get rid of as many homeless as possible!" The Business Improvement Association and city council have proposed removing about 450 dumpsters from the downtown area, which would have an impact on the economy of homeless people who recycle or resell salvaged items.

The practice of cleaning up cities for international events is not new. In Australia during the 1982 Commonwealth Games, the Queensland government passed an act to keep Sydney clean of Aboriginal "dissidents" and gave the police power to seize persons and property. According to Professor Helen Jefferson Lenskyj, homeless people in Atlanta were increasingly targeted by police and governments when that city hosted the 1996 summer Olympics. The city of Atlanta targeted homeless people by attempting to pass a law that would make it illegal to remove any item from a county trash container (with a fine of \$100). According to Lenskyj, in 1995 and 1996 Atlanta instigated a clean sweep campaign, with police driving hundreds of homeless people out of town and threatening them with six month jail sentences if they returned. Vancouver's online magazine, The Tye, reports the Olympic games have displaced more than two million people during the past 20 years, according to a 2007 report by Geneva's Centre of Housing Rights and Evictions. The majority of these evictions were the result of speculative development in advance of the games themselves.

As in other urban centers, homeless people in Vancouver refer to the lack of affordable housing and the inadequacy of shelters as temporary housing. According to one homeless interview respondent to a survey by the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy: "Going into a shelter before getting into housing is just the stupidest thing I ever heard - like the government is just trying to put us somewhere." Another interviewee said, "People don't want to be 'throwaway' people. People want their own safe, affordable housing." It would seem these individuals already feel as though the B.C. government views homeless people as problems to be hidden away or simply discarded and expelled from their communities. If we continue to see homelessness as a mess to be cleanly swept up, we will never understand and address the root causes of poverty and marginalization amidst the plenty and profit.

Vancouver's rental vacancy rate is 0.7 percent, meanwhile those putting on the Olympics are willing to spend \$150 million to upgrade the roof at the BC Place stadium. Other expenditures include \$5 million for downtown party zones with live TV coverage of Olympic events and at least \$175 million for security during the games. Downtown party zones would most certainly displace people who usually live in this part of the city. Despite the huge expenditure of hosting the Olympics (estimated to be \$1.6 billion, including \$580 million to build venues) only a few individuals will benefit, while tens of thousands live in poverty. According to Vancouver anti-poverty advocate David Eby, the \$78.5 million set aside for the opening, closing and medal ceremonies represents the cost of creating 392

housing units or almost 800 if mortgage financed.

However, Vancouver's "civic city" plan is to increase the presence and visibility of police; to allocate more funding for by-law enforcement and the improvement of police response to complaints; to analyze the current levels of "aggressive panhandling" and homelessness; and to improve the effectiveness of measures aimed at "countering public disorder." It would appear the city's plan is to continue criminalizing homeless people without addressing the causes of homelessness and poverty (for example, the rapid decrease in the number of affordable Single Room Occupancy units in favour of hotels, condos and standard rental units).

The other option for Vancouver is, of course, the clean sweep. Last October, Vancouver's police chief suggested providing out-of-province "criminals" with one-way tickets back home: "We are actually talking to Crown counsel and we're going to get some legal advice on this," Chief Constable Jim Chu told the Canadian Press. At the same time, as the future Olympic village is built to house athletes, the city's most desperate homeless people are taking refuge beneath the nearby World Of Science - originally built as part of another global circus: Expo 86. It will be up to the public to monitor the government, police and corporations, to ensure they do not further violate the human rights of Vancouver's marginalized populations.

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## Is a Homeless Man's Death due to Vancouver's High Rents?

Street News Service www.streetnewsservice.org

by Linda Dumont  
Edmonton Street News

VANCOUVER, CANADA: Marge Michasko of Edmonton recently returned from Vancouver where she attended the memorial service for her son Darrell, who died from burns to 95% of his body on January 31, 2008.

While there, Marge visited Darrell's girl-friend, Pam, in the hospital where she is slowly recovering from burns to more than 40% of her body. Marge also was able to locate the spot where he son slept that last night on the street. She said, "The papers got it wrong. They didn't pull up a dumpster in front of the doorway. They had a sheet of plywood tied across the entrance."

Darrell, 47, and Pam, 38, were burned when a one-burner Coleman Stove ignited their sleeping bags and clothing while they were trying to keep warm sleeping in an Vancouver alley in freezing temperatures. The couple had tied the piece of plywood across

the entrance to a doorway alcove where they sought shelter for the night, and that trapped them in the flames. Darrell tried to kick it down, then finally untied it, and they ran, in flames, to the street. The two badly burned people were taken to the hospital in serious condition.

Pivot Legal Association of Vancouver has demanded a coroner's inquest into Darrell's plight, insisting that Darrell would not have died if housing were available to him. They also want to determine whether there was a bed available to Darrell when he died on the street.

"The mandate of the coroner's service of British Columbia is to ensure that no death is ignored or overlooked, and to attempt to prevent similar deaths from taking place in the future," said Pivot lawyer David Eby. "Darrell's death was entirely preventable and we don't want the circumstances of his passing to be overlooked. This man died of homelessness."

Darrell was well known to Eby, and had stored his belongings for weeks in the parking garage below Eby's office while he searched for a place to live. He had been in and out of housing in the year before his death.

"This wasn't a case of someone who wanted to stay out on the streets," said Eby. "I saw Darrell two weeks ago and he had saved up enough money for a damage deposit but couldn't find a place to live. He was actively looking for a home."

Marge said her son's death was due to homelessness brought on by the high cost of housing - her son had been forced into homelessness because his government medical assistance payments were not enough to cover the cost of his rent. "He was living on the street because he was sick and the rents went sky high and his disability money wasn't enough. He was looking for a place but couldn't find one," she said.

There was a homeless shelter within three blocks of where the couple was

sleeping, but it was full that night. Even if there had been shelter available, Darrell may have chosen to stay with Pam rather than leave her to fend for herself. In a letter to Marge Michasko, Darrell's physician, Mark McLean, wrote, "In the last year or so, he (Darrell) was with his girlfriend Pam. He was very protective of her and I know that part of the reason he stayed on the streets was that Pam was on the street. I think he would not have gone into a shelter without her if it meant she would have been alone and unprotected on the streets."

Pivot Legal Association has written to the Chief Coroner of the Coroner's Service of British Columbia requesting that they hold a public inquest into Mr. Michasko's death. Eby said, "The question is: Was there a bed available to Darrell when he died? When the coroner investigates, inevitably they'll look at whether he had to be out on the street that night."

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# A Case of Necessity

Street News Service  
www.streetnewsservice.org

By Adam Forrest  
The Big Issue in Scotland

DUMFRIES, SCOTLAND: Steve James, a 52-year-old software engineer, is now enjoying life in his tiny, rusticated fairytale cottage just outside of Dumfries, after building the one-person home for less than the price of a flat-screen television.

James started the Galloway project four years ago, but only took 10 months to construct the building with his own hands using leftover doors and windows, rocks from nearby fields, and wood from a Govan public baths' cubicle doors.

"It's lovely, and once I get the water-wheel going it'll be the final piece of the jigsaw," he enthused, speaking from his warm and cosy living space. "It's all working really well and I'm proud of it."

He believes his self-made success makes property prices look "insane", and hopes to show anyone resourceful enough to go it alone that costs can be kept at a minimum. "I've never understood why inflation in house prices is considered a good thing, but

a bad thing with everything else" said James. "Land prices are artificially created because the scarcity problem over land is artificially created. There's easily enough room in Scotland. Planning controls only serve the big developers now; they don't serve the public."

James added: "We came out the caves without architects and developers and planners. People have built their own homes for millennia. It's only in the last 150 years that people stopped doing it."

While his example has caused excitement among housing groups in highlighting the limitations of an unrestricted and inflated property market, not everyone believes hobbit homes are the answer to the nation's affordable housing crisis.

"It's great to see such innovation and this case proves that necessity is the mother of invention," said James Jopling, Head of Campaigns at Shelter Scotland. "While this is a great achievement and a fantastic idea it's not an option open to everyone. Unfortunately one or two houses like this won't solve Scotland's affordable

housing crisis." A spokesman for ASBA, an architecture firm specialising in self-build, said that even the shabbiest plots of land could cost £15,000 to £30,000, and most people had to hire a contractor to build. "Unless you're getting all the materials for nothing and build with your own hands, there's no way it could be a realistic option for most people," he claimed.

But James hopes to inspire more people to expand their DIY horizons, and believes thousands of people could benefit by grouping together to build a small community of homes. He thinks a three-bedroom family home could be done for as little as £10,000. "I want to make people think; - 'why can't I do that?' I think everyone should be entitled to one home, and if they want to buy it or make it themselves, it should be up to them. Mine is not the only way; there's hundreds of different ways of doing things."

At last estimate the average house price in Scotland stood at about £158,000, but the idea of building many more cheaper, sustainable eco-homes is gathering momentum. The

Findhorn Ecovillage has already shown how adopting materials such as local stone and straw bales, and utilising small-scale sewage and turbine systems can sustain a thriving community of several hundred.

Islanders from the Housing Initiative for Arran Residents are hoping for government support for a program of affordable and sustainable house building based on log cabin and black-house-style designs. They hope house prices can be protected for at least 20 years to prevent speculators from inflating cost beyond locals.

Scottish MSPs are also considering plans for the country's first full-scale eco-town after Hamilton-based property developers Banks Developments expressed an interest in building 5,000 sustainable houses in Fife. Yet one man in Dumfries has shown that waiting for the wheels of such huge projects to start turning is not the only option.

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## A Matter of Priority: The struggle to tackle Britain's housing crisis.

Street News Service www.streetnewsservice.org

by Wayne Hemingway  
The Big Issue in Scotland

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND: We are replacing tower blocks with three- or two-story townhouses with a few sustainable features, make it well-insulated, and think everything's solved.

But we are not thinking about place-making. I've never, ever gone home to my house and thought, 'I'm so pleased I live in this house I don't care about anything else around it.'

You go home because you love a place, it's about belonging to somewhere and being able to do things like kick a football around with your mates, get a pint of milk and some groceries easily; the kids having the independence to be able to go to school on their own.

It's not just a house that doesn't leak energy and keeps us dry. That is not all we are capable of - but generally we are rubbish.

Most housing developments, all over the UK, not just in Scotland or England or Wales, fit that bill: they keep you dry and tick boxes of town planning, sustainable targets that government have currently set.

But we ended up building short-term properties, very similar to what was happening in the 60s. In construction terms, anything that lasts 30 to 40

years is temporary accommodation; we are replacing the temporary housing of the 60s with more of the same.

The Victorians didn't build things to be temporary. All we are doing is replacing tower blocks with three- or four-story rabbit hutches.

The concept of building for 50 years, as they have done on Glasgow's waterfront, is crackers.

If you look at the embedded energy of building, you are much better slowing down and working out a way to do things that are built to last.

It is not just how they are built. It's a fact that a lot of those expensive apartments at Leith in Edinburgh and Glasgow Harbour are aimed at the investor market. In some of them, you might get only 20 per cent owner-occupied and 80 per cent bought as investment and leased, or - even worse - sitting empty.

In Leith, I saw blocks where they were 80 per cent 'buy-to-leave', people let them sit empty until property prices go up. You have companies buying them up as investments for pension schemes. This is happening all over the place.

You can't blame the house-builders. Their job is to return value for the shareholders in these pension

company investments.

Town planners are not creative, they are working to templates. Planning is not attracting the creative minds it attracted in the past, especially in the 40s and 50s. Planning is a dirty word to young creative people now.

The space around houses is as important as the houses. One thing we do very badly right now in this country is design housing first, and the space around it as an afterthought. In Europe, they are good at designing place and space first, and then architecture within it.

In Vancouver they have unbelievably high-density new house building in the Central Business District, and you walk around and it feels like any normal street, you feel safe and it's a place you would feel safe bringing your kids to. A lot of Australian cities are redeveloping central areas, and manage to make home feel like wonderful, inclusive places.

Good quality design doesn't have to cost more. But sometimes it does.

The difference between planting mature trees and planting twigs is that it costs more money, but the difference is coming home to a new development that feels great from day one. What price can you put on that? It's not the job of the house-builders to create great places, it has to be the

planning system and we have to be more demanding. We're not very demanding.

When dealing with the housing shortage, the emphasis is getting a roof over people's heads. But life is about more than that - that shouldn't be the basic aspiration. That isn't solving the problem. If you build places thinking 'we've got a roof over their head,' but that building is sat in the middle of nowhere or becomes unloved because it's so horrible, it will have a short life-span. They build hostels in soulless red-brick, they look like prisons, and we're told this is the answer.

But people have more ambition than that. We have got to go further than just putting a roof over people's heads; we need to give them the chance to lift themselves out, and a roof is only part of that.

Giving people a great place to enjoy their life is more important to me.

*Wayne Hemingway is chair of Building for Life, established in 2001 as a partnership between the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE), the House Builders Federation and the Civic Trust.*

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# The Graveyard Shift: Not Enough Shelters Help Night Workers

Street News Service: [www.street-papers.org](http://www.street-papers.org)

by Carolyn Cosmos  
Street Sense, USA

WASHINGTON, D.C.: Donna is trying.

She works as an inserter at The Washington Post in College Park, Md., from 11 p.m. to 4:30 a.m., the so-called graveyard shift. As for her belongings, she says, "Everything goes with me."

Donna, who didn't want her last name used, stays at a downtown shelter on her two days off. The rest of the week, she says, "I catnap here and there during the day."

Donna is among many homeless residents in the D.C. area who work nighttime hours but find it difficult to find a shelter where they can sleep during the day. Most shelters accept clients only for overnight stays from 7 p.m. to about 7 a.m., although a few are beginning to accommodate night workers.

Michelle Durham, program director at Rachael's Day Center for homeless women, says that there are more job opportunities at night for her clients. But a lot of shelters still stick to their traditional evening timings, which don't meet clients' needs, she said.

Durham estimated that about 10 of the clients who come to her day center work nights as home health aides, child care workers or as cleaners for small companies while spending their days sleeping on the streets or staying temporarily with friends.

Ruth Cummings, homeless and working night shifts, is one of the lucky

ones. A graduate of DC Central Kitchen and New Course Catering, Cummings gets kitchen jobs through the Food Team employment agency and has a bed waiting for her at a northwest D.C. shelter for women when she leaves work.

"At John Young, they allow you to sleep there [during the day] if you show a pay stub. They'll keep your bed," Cummings said. Once she finds a room she can afford, she'll move out of the shelter, she said.

Donna, the woman who works nights at The Post, also wants to find a place of her own. "I'm saving money," she said.

"But D.C. needs to come up with more affordable housing, not only for families, which are a priority, and that's good, but also for those of us who are single."

And then there's a woman who was sleeping in Union Station. "I heard of a night job at a book store doing inventory, but I didn't apply because I had no place to stay during the day," she said. She doesn't want to be identified.

Michael Stoops, acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless, puts it bluntly. "Most shelters are not 24 hours a day, but homelessness is," he said. "Agencies who kick people out during the daytime are preventing them from getting off the street."

Some overnight shelters allow employed residents to claim a bed after curfew but still require them to

leave early in the morning. For example, the 90-bed La Casa Men's Shelter, open from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., can sometimes accommodate "regulars" who get a job and come in late, according to a staff member.

However, the 350-bed overnight shelter for men at St. Elizabeths Hospital doesn't do that, said Charles McCrimmon, the program manager there.

The 25-bed Calvary Women's Shelter will sometimes "hold dinner and a bed" past curfew, Durham said, and the N Street Village women's night shelter, with 31 beds and a 10 p.m. curfew, "works with employed residents on an individual basis," according to Kristyn Carrillo, night shelter manager.

"Shelters are beginning to accommodate the working poor who are homeless, and most shelter operators try to be supportive," Stoops said. "However, historically, most have done shelter and food, and not that many have taken on an employment focus."

Catholic Charities' programs like the John L. Young women's shelter support night employment, Michelle Durham said.

"If a woman is working, I accommodate her. There's no difference between night jobs and day jobs," said John Young's senior program manager, Kenyatta T. Brunson.

Open Door is another pioneer that offers support for night workers, Durham said. "It's a trend I'd like to

see continue, but some don't have the capacity or staff."

The Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) shelter does.

It has a 2 a.m. curfew and bed check, and residents can remain inside during the daytime. With case worker approval and proof of employment, a graveyard-shift worker is welcome, said David Mincey, program director for the men's floor.

"You want to give residents hope," Mincey said. "Suppose that's the only job they can get? You tell them they can't work at night, you break their spirit."

"Every shelter should loosen up its rules so all its homeless are able to both work and stay in the facility," Stoops said.

"A janitor, a security guard could oversee daytime sleepers, or a volunteer, a formerly homeless person. If we are ever going to end homelessness, we need to help those able to find work," he said.

Transitional housing programs, as opposed to overnight shelters, usually take homeless people with night jobs. Such programs include the Emery House work program for 100 men, the 25-slot work program at New York Avenue's 360-bed men's shelter, an 18-bed program for women at Open Door, and N Street Village's shared apartments for 20 women.

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## ... In Other News from Street Sense

Street News Service [www.streetnewsservice.org](http://www.streetnewsservice.org)

by Mandy McAnally

### Alabama: Report Finds 5,000 Homeless Statewide Each Night

The first statewide survey of homelessness in Alabama shows that on an average night there are 5,391 homeless people on the streets or in shelters. The report shows that 2,177 of the homeless are substance users, 1,077 are in families with children, 1,494 are severely mentally ill and 974 are military veterans. The survey also found that 70% of Alabama's homeless are men, about 65% of the homeless are black and 34% are white (Johnson, AP/Birmingham News, 3/25).

### California: Thousands Homeless in Los Angeles County

There are 3,000 to 4,000 older homeless adults living in Los Angeles County on

any given night and 60% have a disability, a new report has found. Homeless adults age 62 and older are among the fastest growing and most at-risk homeless populations in Los Angeles. The majority of disabilities reported were dental problems, eye problems and hypertension. Others included arthritis, back problems, diabetes, heart problems and depression (United Press International, 3/21).

### Oregon: Portland Shelters Open for Severe Weather

Winter shelters in Portland are opening their doors for the homeless in preparation for an unusual bout of cold and snow. City officials are working with shelters, hotels and the Red Cross to provide an additional 200 to 300 spaces for homeless people without shelter. Several shelters are providing overflow spaces and

hotels are giving vouchers to homeless families and the disabled. The Red Cross also has opened temporary warming centers. Advocates say that no one seeking shelter during severe weather would be turned away (Waldroupe, Willamette Week, 3/27).

### North Carolina: Homeless Numbers on the Rise

The number of homeless people in South Carolina's Wake, Durham and Orange counties increased to at least 1,929 this year, a report says. The figure has increased in each of the past three years from 1,720 in 2006 to 1,806 in 2007 to this year's figure. The survey counted chronically homeless, veterans and those living without shelter assistance. The counties are part of a 10-year plan to end homelessness. Advocates say there has been success in moving families with chil-

dren and other at-risk groups into permanent housing (Triangle Business Journal, 3/27).

### Massachusetts: Economy Causing Long Waiting Lists for Shelters

The downturn in the economy, high living expenses and a national crisis of home foreclosures has increased the waits to stay at family shelters to more than a month. The state Transitional Assistance Department said its caseload of homeless families has increased from about 1,160 in fiscal year 2005 to more than 1,900 by last month. The agency has about 2,900 beds for people, plus nearly 1,900 housing units for homeless families, at a cost of \$120 million annually (Hillard, Millford Daily News, 3/22).

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## San Francisco Connect continued from page 1

Cal Pacific Medical Center and Sutter Health provided volunteers and medical equipment.

African American Breast Health provided mammograms and follow up care such as chemotherapy. HIV and other testing took place. Delta Dental provided dental services in a van outside. Sprint provided free phone calls and 1,000 prepaid cards. Google provided free voice mail for every homeless person with their own phone number. FedEx and Kinko's printed all the materials for the event. San Francisco Conservative of Music provided piano music. CPMC provided facials and clothing. There was wheelchair repair and wheelchairs to use for the day. Hearing tests were given. MediCal, food stamps and SSI orientation was offered. Substance abuse services were there and they even provided methadone that

day. The Story Project was one of the more popular services, where their photos were taken and their stories were written down by a volunteer. Payee services were offered. Starbucks and Safeway sponsored a dining area. Santa comes when the events fall near Christmas time. Chiropractic, foot care, haircuts, free books and even more services were offered.

Outside the main area there was a place for their carts. Outdoors, veterinary services were offered to pets and the animals could stay there while their people were inside. When the guests leave they would get a goody bag and more prizes if they filled out a feedback form.

Before Project Homeless Connect, many San

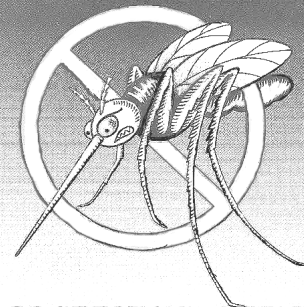
Francisco businesses pooled their money to spend \$100,000 on banners trying to shame the city regarding homelessness. Now those very businesses are enthu-

siastically participating in the solutions. The event has not only benefited the homeless people of San Francisco, it has brought out the best in everyone else.



Sacramento Team Outside Bily Graham Civic Center

# FIGHT THE BITE!



**PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM WEST NILE VIRUS**

**Fight the Bite by using the District 7D's:**

- DRAIN** any standing water
  - DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors
  - DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants
  - DEFEND** yourself from mosquitoes by using repellent
  - DOOR** and window screens should be working
  - DISTRICT** personnel are available to help with mosquito problems by calling 1-800-429-1022
- Website: [www.FIGHTtheBITE.net](http://www.FIGHTtheBITE.net)

## Year One of Sacramento's Ten Year Plan

Sacramento's Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness was adopted unanimously by Sacramento's City Council and Board of Supervisors in January of 2007. "Chronic homelessness" is defined as those that have a disabling condition and have been homeless for more than a year or have experienced homeless more than three times in the past three years. Historically, this population was pretty much left out of permanent and transitional housing opportunities, even though they were most in need of housing and use a higher percentage of community resources. It has been hard for many to qualify for housing programs because of strict qualification standards. And studies across the county have shown it less costly to provide housing than to allow them to remain homeless. There has been documented cost savings as much as \$10,000 to \$16,000 per year per person due to less visits to hospital emergency rooms, the criminal justice system, mental health services, and homeless services.

The premise is that if this chronic homeless population can be moved directly to permanent supportive housing, then the homeless continuum of care system will have more resources to provide services to the

people temporarily caught in homelessness..

The 10 year plan set out to provide permanent supportive housing for 1,600 individuals that fit the definition of chronically homeless within 10 years. The Housing First philosophy was adopted, where housing is provided to a homeless person without requiring them to meet any qualifications other than in keeping a standard landlord-tenant agreement. The first few years were to focus on scattered-site leased housing. Later on would come construction of permanent supportive housing developments. The permanent housing developments would be less expensive to operate in the long term, while the leased units were something that could be implemented more immediately.

The 10 year plan has a goal of providing leased housing for 218 chronically homeless individuals in the first three years. So far, 171 leased housing have been provided. There are 140 more leased units expected to be implemented by 2008-2009.

The plan says that 280 new permanent supportive housing units will be built within five years. A total of 139 units in three projects are expected

to be completed at the end of 2008. Five more projects, totaling 162 units for chronically homeless people are in the financing pipeline at SHRA.

With the help of voter passed Mental Health Services Act, and County Mental Health partnerships with state and local housing finance agencies, nonprofit housing developers and mental health service providers, the County has committed more than \$5.4 million to create new permanent supportive housing for homeless and chronically homeless individuals and families. This represents 93 dedicated units with 10-20 to be finalized soon, for homeless individuals with mental health conditions. Turning Point's new program "Pathways" is expecting to house up to 250 disabled homeless people in the future. Sacramento Mutual Housing Association will soon have 33 units dedicated for MHSA clients. All these units will be dedicated to homeless individuals with mental health disabilities, but they won't all necessary fit the definition of "chronically homeless".

Governor Schwarzenegger vetoed AB2034, which had provided funding for a successful program that provided housing and services to homeless people with mental health diffi-

culties. Though the county has been trying to retain the mental health services, as of January 2008 50% of 300 slots have been lost.

A new leadership structure was implemented, consisting of The Policy Board to End Homelessness, the Interagency Council to End Homelessness, ten committees, and a new office for staff and director. Diane Luther was the director for the first year, and just recently Tim Brown has filled the position.

The plan had a goal of opening a central intake system to screen people to get into housing. The intake system opened for awhile but was closed after being overwhelmed by people who qualified for the housing that was not available.

Financing for most of the 10 year plan has been identified and is feasible, except there needs to be new funding sources found for enough case management. A committee has been formed to address this deficiency and they have made good progress. Other progress has occurred in the last year with new partnerships and efforts towards helping the homeless population.

# A Lucky Day on the Train

by the homeless science writer, Chongo

The first science article of the year described the straight lines of "special" relativity, the simplest form of relativity that there is, the relativity of space and time, distances and angles, for 'uniform' motion, motion that does not change speed or direction. It explained how relativity can be readily understood by using a simpler reality of flat, rising two-dimensional surfaces inhabited by two-dimensional creatures in a three-dimensional universe (adding the third dimension of time) with room enough to rise forever. Flat surfaces were "stacked" upon each other, across time, as a series of consecutive moments, creating stacks of momentary surfaces 'in' - or rather 'across' - a third dimension, time. This simpler universe was used to make the concept of relativity easier to grasp. In our universe, instead of stacks of two-dimensional surfaces tilting with respect to each other, stacks of three-dimensional 'spaces' tilt with respect to each other across time, in a universe with an additional 'fourth' dimension, instead of just three.

The next science article complicated this simple picture of flat, tilting surfaces (and spaces) by recognizing that not all motion is uniform, but instead, is non-uniform, because so much motion changes in a "non-uniform," changing either speed or direction or both. This complicated the image of "straight" stacks of flat surfaces (or spaces) into curved stacks of curved surfaces (or spaces), because bending is really never anything more than a progression of tilts. Then, because the effects of non-uniform motion are absolutely "indistinguishable" from the effects of gravity, the two being wholly 'equivalent,' its description works perfectly for gravity. The outcome of this more "generalized" form of relativity is General relativity. General Relativity is, unquestionably, a brilliantly stunning example of natural truth's expression and of the marvels that such an expression can accurately reveal

about nature's amazing phenomena.

The preceding two articles explained the 'how' of relativity. Although they touched upon the idea, neither of the two articles explained the 'whys' behind this brilliant idea. This article does, by describing the straightforward, simple-minded, yet monumentally insightful thinking that led to the best working description of gravity ever conceived by anyone.

We begin with what were at the time relativity was first imagined, the "laws of physics" for energy, which were a set of statements called Maxwell's equations. These equations "unified" electricity and magnetism into a single description, into a single force, "electromagnetism." Amazingly, these equations ultimately led to the discovery of relativity and the best description of gravity ever conceived, and this is how. It is remarkably straightforward.

Today, physics recognizes that there are four forces: electromagnetism, gravity, the strong force and the weak force. At the time of Maxwell's equations however, the last two were unknown (they simply were accommodated by means of a measure called 'mass'). The atom had yet to be discovered as an element of nature, so these last two forces (the strong and weak forces), restricted to the internal structure of atoms, were completely unknown at the time. This left only Maxwell's equations for electromagnetism and Newton's equations for gravity and motion as the extent of the "laws" for describing nature.

Maxwell's equations for electromagnetism and Newton's laws for gravity and motion were, again at the time, what could be termed, the 'laws of physics'. Notwithstanding errors predicting the orbit of the planet Mercury, these 'laws' worked "well enough," except for a single, slight, insurmountable detail. According to the equations of Maxwell, the speed of light never changed, which was a stark contradiction to con-

ventional thinking - or looking at it another way, an absolutely stunning opportunity for the proper insight to discover.

In those days, science, along with everyone else, was convinced that space and time measures were absolute; that is, that space and time, distances and angles never changed for any reason ever. In those days, science was mistakenly incorrect in so assuming, the absoluteness of space and time measures being one of its most fundamental assumptions in science. Light's speed never changing was a direct contradiction to this notion, as an insightful young thinker recognized.

Enter Albert Einstein, an inquisitive young man who happened to be sitting on a train one day, contemplating the speed of light never changing. For what was very probably the first time in human history, someone recognized just what this meant.

Sitting in the seat located at the very center point of the train (the same distance from the caboose as from the engine), a passenger looks at a light that flashes just outside their window. Naturally, the light from this flash, traveling at the same speed in every direction, reaches the caboose at the exact same moment that it reaches the engine.

Next, let us imagine the same set of events, same passenger seated at the same location with respect to the engine and caboose, same flash of light just outside passenger's window, only this time the train is 'moving' instead of 'stationary'. At this point it is important to recognize that with the train, and in particular, with the engine and caboose 'moving', instead of the light from the flash hitting the engine and caboose at the same time (the light moving at the same speed in both directions), this light strikes the caboose BEFORE it strikes the engine. This is because while the light travels, the caboose moves toward it, reducing the distance that it must travel and hence reducing the time

that must be spent to do so, thus the light strikes the caboose sooner than it would strike the engine. Meanwhile, the engine, racing away from the light, increases the distance that the light must travel to strike it and hence increases the time required for the light to reach the engine, thus the light strikes the engine later than it strikes the caboose. BUT, this is all assuming that it is the train that moves and that the surroundings do not. This is what our innate, intuitive construction of reality automatically imagines, without giving it a second thought. Automatically, it fails to imagine differently, or to imagine more complexly - unless, of course, we decide to choose truth over tradition, as a young Mister Einstein once did.

Now remember, these two different moments for the observer watching the train pass are the exact same moment for the seated passenger riding on the train. Stating the same fact another way, 'when' varies according to whether you are on the train 'moving' or 'stationary', just as the 'unmoving' surroundings are. The 'truth', however, is that 'stationary' and 'moving' are flatly NOT absolute, but always a matter of perspective, because were the ride smooth enough, it would seem to the seated passenger that the train remained stationary while the surroundings moved (provided speed or direction remains unchanging: uniform).

For the laws of physics of the passenger to provide the same results for a different set of 'whens' (likewise, a different set of 'wheres' are correspondingly required), either the laws of physics must change, or the measures for the elements subject to those laws must. Because the laws of physics clearly do not change with motion, then, to make the 'whens' (and again, not to mention 'wheres' also) for the passenger and observer to correspond to measures appropriate for the same physical laws, the distances, angles, and the pace of time itself had to be adjusted, in order to make

the erroneous context (again, the tradition of the day) of an all-encompassing present-moment 'now' for the universe "work." To make an erroneous idea 'work', instead of changing the laws of physics, science (specifically, physics) changed the measures, remarkably, in a way that really did work, by corresponding to observation. They did this by means of a set of adjustments termed the Lorentz transformations. Until Einstein explained otherwise, science itself perpetuated a long-standing yet completely inaccurate cultural tradition.

Einstein saw the folly of this point of view, explaining the changes in space and time measures in a logically consistent way (tilting and bending spaces), impeccably. He did so using the Lorentz transformations in a way that worked and still continues to work today.

Relativity is true, a stunning example of nature's truth, as true as time, space, and gravity are, as true as our individual existence is. Moreover, it is a clear example of just how much richer nature actually is, than our stark and simple cultural constructions of it could ever provide and proof positive that a little luck in the most common of places can lead to great discoveries..

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*(From RELATIVITY IN A NUTSHELL, by Chongo in collaboration with Jose. To see all the books that Chongo has written on nature (physical theory), go to [chongonation.com](http://chongonation.com), which is a web site dedicated to educating those who have least opportunity for learning the scientific foundations that describe nature (accurately). Chongonation provides books that allow such opportunity, in lay terms, without any math. Simply go to the [www.chongonation.com](http://www.chongonation.com) home page and click on either 'Nature' or 'Products & Prices' to see just how many books are available.)*

Bob & Spencer

HAPPY  
The Homeless Guys



by Scott & Mike

## A Million Years or More

by Stephen Richards

Everything I learned about business  
I learned in a dentist's office.  
Ten floors up on the side of a wall  
inside a skyscraper.  
One small glass pane window  
ten feet top to bottom.  
'Round the edges white cement  
a million years had already gone by.  
Inside the dentist's office one small lamp  
lit brown vinyl chairs.  
One light lit by the dentist's stare  
and a brush with the paste it did wear.  
A million years or more had already gone by.  
What was a business for?

## Wheel Chair

by Stephen Richards

She got away in a wheel chair.  
She left the grips of the men who stare.  
She didn't have a pass to ride the rail,  
But she wasn't gonna go to jail.

She rode the rail a hundred times or more.  
Each time she rode the rail she had a pass before,  
but that one morning she was out of dough  
and there was one thing she did know.

She got away in a wheel chair,  
She left the grips of the men who stare.  
She didn't have a pass to ride the rail,  
But she wasn't gonna go to jail.

# Obituary

**Michelle Pickens**

d. 3/16/08 Age 44  
of an aneurysm

**Diana Johnson**

d. 3/21/08 Age 53  
Hit and Run Accident

**Donald Corona**

d. 3/22/08 Age 34  
Hit by Train

**Wendy Sheldon**

d. 4/2/08 Age 50  
Natural Causes in  
convalescent home

**Teresa Johnson**

d. 4/5/08 Age 39  
In apartment, cause pending

## Janet Lou Nichols Darghty

10/6/1934 to 3/23/2008



Janet Darghty was a social worker most of her working career. She worked for the Yolo Wayfarer Center and Volunteers of America. In later life she worked at the Loaves & Fishes' library, and then for Sister Nora's. A member of the Church of Nazarene, she participated in their prison ministry for over 25 years. She passed away of natural causes on March 23, 2008 at 73 years old.



I want to see **HOMeward**, a newspaper produced by homeless people, expand in Sacramento. Enclosed find my donation of \$15 for a one year subscription.

12.3

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Please mail my copies to:

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State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

received

mail list

Make checks payable to the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) and mail to: PO Box 952 • Sacramento, CA 95812

clip & mail coupon

HOMELESS RESOURCES

Night Shelters

Salvation Army: 12th and North B St. 30 days per year: Dormitory living, C&S: Dinner, breakfast clothing for residents: Men/Women: Sign-up SA patio weekdays at 1PM. 442-0331

St. John's Shelter: Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. 453-1482

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 6:30pm at mission, Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 7:30pm Chapel Service with meal afterwards, 6am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm. open to all homeless men: 447-3268

SAEHC, Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center: 4516 Parker Ave. 24 hrs: Family Shelter: Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Women's Refuge, single women, no children: Call for screening/space availability 455-2160

Day Shelters

Friendship Park: 12th St. & North C: Weekdays 7am - 2:30pm: open to anyone: Many services

Meals

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St.: 7 days, Evening meal, Men/Women: Church service 7:00pm required, dinner following 8:30-9:15pm. Sunday 11am service, lunch at noon. 447-3268

Loaves & Fishes: 1321 No. C St.: Lunch every day 11:30am-1pm. Tickets available 7 am- 12:30 pm at Friendship Park weekdays: at 8 am on Saturday and 10am on Sundays .

Women's Civic Improvement Center: Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 lunch M-F 452-2866

Helping Hands: 3526 5th Ave. Sundays, 8-11 breakfast, sack lunch, clothing

Food-not-Bombs: serves free food in Cesear Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. and at James McClatchy Park on Wed. 4 pm. All Welcome.

Women & Children

Maryhouse: 1321 No. C St. suite 32: Breakfast for Women and children 8am-9am. Day shelter 8am-3pm weekdays for women and families.

Wellspring 3414 4th St.: T&Th full breakfast: M-W-F continental breakfast for women and children. 454-9688

see Wind in Youth Services for young adults

Free Clothing

Sacramento Food Bank: 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 456-1980

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Wed. only. Call for appointment to go in at 11am, 1 or 1:30pm, or attend Bible study at 9:15am and get clothing at 10am 447-3268

Medical

Mercy Clinic: Adults, children: Nurse's office in Friendship park 7:30am & 12:30pm. 446-3345

Capital Health Clinic: 1500 C St. (near 15th) Adults 8-5 M-F: 874-5302.

Sacramento Dental Clinic: 1500 C St. (near 15th) Adults- Emergency Dental Call for Appt. M-F 7:40am-5pm. Walk-ins screened for eligibility. 552-8300

Mental Health

Guest House, 1400 N. A St.: Homeless Mental Health Clinic, M,W,Th,Fri., 8-11:30am Tues 8-11:30am only. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 443-6972

TLCS Intake Offices: 1400 N.'A' St. Blding. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independent living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F 440-1500

Consumer Self-Help (South): 3031 Franklin Blvd. or 4972 Date Ave. A daytime mental health self-help program with activities and groups for mental health consumers. Referrals to mental health and other services available. 737-7100

Genesis: Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrals. Next to Friendship Park gate. 699-1536

Youth Services

Diogenes: youth 16-21 yrs old. Hot Line call 1-800-339-7177

Wind Teen Drop-in Center: 1400 No. C St. Serves youth ages 12-19. Serves breakfast and lunch, offers clothing, case mgmt. and access to emergency shelter. Open six days: M - F from 8:30am to 4pm and Sat 10am to 12 noon. 443-8333

Crisis Intervention

WEAVE: Services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Referrals to court mandated battery intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: 920-2952

Sacramento Mental Health Center (County): 2150 Stockton Blvd (at T St.)

24hr. Will evaluate anyone for voluntary or involuntary psychiatric care due to danger to self or others. In-patient care facility, drop-in. 732-3637

AIDS / HIV

AIDS Housing Alliance provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 979-0897 weekdays.

CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Service): 1500 21st St. Serves people with HIV and AIDS. Medical care, mental health, case mgmt, health ed and regional prevention/ed classes. 443-3299

Breaking Barriers: Homeless Outreach Program provides direct services to people living with AIDS and HIV. Transportation to social services, medical appointments, job interviews, and housing assistance. 447-2437

Alternative Test Site: Free anonymous testing, Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. 874-7720.

Legal Aid

Protection & Advocacy Inc: Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5746

Legal Services of Northern California, Inc: 515 12th St. (at E ST.) M-F 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Problems with public benefits, landlord / tenant, divorce clinic. Call for appt. 551-2150

Welfare Rights: 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 736-0616

Miscellaneous

Francis House: 1422 C st. 9:30-11:30 am M-W & 1-3 pm M-F: walk-in or referral providing resource counseling, advocacy, vouchers for IDs, Dvr Licenses, Birth Certificates, gas for any who qualify, plus motel vouchers for families only. 443-2646

Social Services: 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 874-2072

Employment Development Department (EDD): 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 227-0300

Medi-Cal: 1-800-773-6467, 1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. 916-874-2256

Social Security Office: 8351 Folsom Blvd (College Greens Lite-rail stop) M-F 9am-4:30pm 381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213

About SHA

The Sacramento Housing Alliance is a network of concerned citizens which promotes decent affordable housing for low income households and homeless people through advocacy and participation in public discourse.

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

You may call for info: (916) 455-4900

Annual Membership dues: Standard, \$35; Low-income, \$15

Organizations:

Full, 0.1% agency budget; Associate, \$100

Send donations to:

Sacramento Housing Alliance 1800 21st St. Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95814

CLASSIFIED

Mail or bring your ad to the Homeward office. Try to keep it under 25 words.

Jobs Wanted

Give hope and happiness. Give a job, such as moving or yard work, to a homeless worker.

Call

Loaves & Fishes job phone at 832-5510;

Or mail to Loaves & Fishes, Jobs for Homeless, PO Box 2161, Sac, CA 95812

Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation (916) 658-1880

Infoline: Tele-info & referral service: 498-1000

California Youth Crisis Line: 1-800-843-5200

Health Rights Hotline: 551-2100

VA Outreach: 1-800-827-1000 Homeless VA Coordinator: (916) 364-6547

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,

which is a member of the Sacramento Housing Alliance. The paper's mission is to alleviate miscommunication between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving the homeless a voice in the public forum. Homeward also informs the homeless of shelter and occupational assistance, and acts as a creative self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate.

The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily the Sacramento Housing Alliance or 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 authors' 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 NASNA member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a \$15 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

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The paper may be reached at: (916) 442-2156

The paper may also be E-mailed at Homeward2@yahoo.com