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VOTE 2010!

Holds Forum at Loaves & Fishes' Delaney Center

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The Homeless and Low-Income Candidate Forum and voter registration drive was held at Loaves & Fishes' Delaney Center on April 22. The forum was held to give District 1 candidates for Sacramento City Council and

the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors a chance to express their views to a large audience of people currently experiencing homelessness. Voter registration tables were set up outside in the parking lot to

encourage people to participate in the political process. At the beginning of the forum a Mayor's Aid presented a resolution to Shamus Roller, Executive Director of the Sacramento Housing Alliance, recognizing the day as officially "Vote 2010! Homeless & Low Income Tenants Voter Registration Week".

each audience member. The questions were: 1. What will you do to end and prevent homelessness, 2. What will you do to promote affordable housing, 3. What will you do to promote regional equity in economic development, and 4. What will you do to promote fair and equitable budget solutions to our continuing county budget crisis?



Shamus Roller receiving City Council Resolution

Participating in the forum were City Council candidates Angelique Ashby and Efren Gutierrez, and Board of Supervisor candidates Phil Serna and Keith Weber.

The first question was also asked orally by Moderator Tina Reynolds, "What will you do to end and prevent homelessness in the Sacramento region?"

They were given 4 questions before the forum and their written comments were provided to

Angelique said that Safe Ground is just one part of the need, along with such prob-

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Safe Ground Sacramento Enters New Phase

Safe Ground Sacramento had a press conference and demonstration April 17 outside the Crest Theater on K Street, right before the Premiere showing of Searching for Safe Ground's 1st Episode "3rd World America", a film about the 2009 tent city by filmmaker Costa Mantis.

The press conference and demonstration was to announce Safe Ground's new phase of development and for a new sense of urgency to get Safe Ground. Supporters stood out in front to make attention to Costa Mantis's film being shown at the Sacramento International Film Festival.

Costa has been with Safe Ground Sacramento since "Tent City" and has been filming a mini-series called "Searching for Safe Ground". Recently he showed Episode two at the Guild Theatre



Safe Ground Demonstrators outside the Crest Theater

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No Human Rights for 830 Million Slum Dwellers

www.streetnewsservice.org

By Babukar Kashka

NAIROBI, Kenya - The number of people residing in slums has climbed from 777 million in 2000 to almost 830 million in 2010 and will likely reach some 900 million by 2020. However, their life conditions are an open violation of all basic human rights.

This is the dire picture that the UN presented at the World Urban Forum, which took place in the last week of March in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro.

In fact, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon described "appalling living conditions in slums as a violation of human rights," saying that helping the urban poor reclaim their rights strengthened societies and stemmed environmental degradation.

"Conditions in slums are a violation of human rights," Ban said in a message to the Forum inaugural session on March 22.

"The children who have no clean water, the women who fear for their safety, the young people who have no chance to receive a decent education have a right to better, and we have a responsibility to do better to help them," he said.

The Forum was established by the United Nations to examine the effects of rapid urbanisation on communities, cities, economies and the climate. It held its first meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2002.

Ban noted that an estimated 22 million people in developing countries had managed to move out of slums each year during the past decade, "but that achievement was not enough to have the impact required to reduce urban poverty."

According to the Nairobi-based UN Human Settlements Programme (HABITAT), the number of people living in slums rose from 777 million in 2000 to almost 830 million in 2010.

"All people have the right to safe drinking water, sanitation, shelter and basic services. All people have the right to live with a sense of security. All people should have the opportunity to work for a better future," Ban stressed.

"Your plan to launch the World Urban Campaign will advance our work to reach these life-saving goals," he added.

The World Urban Campaign is a platform for public, private and civil society actors to discuss policies and share practical tools for sustainable urbanisation.

227 MILLION ESCAPED

While some 227 million slum-dwellers worldwide have escaped their condi-

tions in the past decade, the overall population of slums has swelled by nearly 60 million in the same period, a new United Nations report finds.

These 227 million people have moved out of slum conditions, largely due to slum upgrading, since 2000, more than double the target of improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020 set by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were agreed upon by world leaders.

"However, this achievement is not uniformly distributed across regions," Anna Tibaijuka, HABITAT executive director wrote in the introduction to the agency's biennial 'State of the World's Cities 2010/2011' report.

"Success is highly skewed towards the more advanced emerging economies, while poorer countries have not done as well," she says, stressing: "There is no room for complacency."

The report, which focuses on the theme 'Bridging the Urban Divide', characterises efforts to reduce the number of slum dwellers as "neither satisfactory nor adequate", especially given that just over half of the world's population - or nearly 3.5 billion - now lives in urban areas.

Short of drastic action, it warns, the world's slum population will likely increase by 6 million annually to reach nearly 900 million by 2020.

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to nearly two-thirds of the world's slum population, with 200 million people, with South Asia, East Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South-East Asia rounding out the top five regions with the largest number of slum dwellers.

GOOD FOR THE RICH, BUT...

The report also finds that "urbanisation benefits political leaders, public servants and the rich in Africa, Asia and Latin American and the Caribbean, leaving millions behind".

Urban planning and policies seem to favour the empowered, usually the local and regional economic elite, and in the developing world, this pattern is usually linked to historical and cultural hegemony.

"Achieving sustainable urban development is likely to prove impossible if the urban divide is allowed not only to persist, but to continue growing, opening up an enormous gap, even in some cities a gulf, an open wound, which can produce social instability or at least generate high social and economic costs not only for the urban poor, but for society at large," Tibaijuka stated.

The report calls on governments to implement inclusive policies "to

narrow inequalities dividing residents of many cities in developing nations and allow them access to decent housing, transport, education, recreation, communication, employment and the judiciary."

"In an inclusive city, residents take part in decision-making that ranges from the political to issues of daily life," it says. "Such participation injects a sense of belonging, identity, place into residents, and guarantees them a stake in the benefits of urban development."

In-depth reviews of cities' systems, structures and institutions, the document argues, are vital to kick-start real change.

In the space of a few short years, the World Urban Forum has turned into the world's premier conference on cities.

PRESSING PROBLEMS

The Forum was established by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing problems facing the world today: rapid urbanisation and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies.

Since the first meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in 2002, the Forum has grown in size and stature as it travelled to Barcelona in 2004, Vancouver 2006, and Nanjing in 2008.

With half of humanity already living in towns and cities, it is projected that in the next 50 years, two-thirds of humankind will be living in towns and cities.

A major challenge is to minimize burgeoning poverty in cities, improve access of the urban poor to basic facilities such as shelter, clean water and sanitation and to achieve environmentally friendly, sustainable urban growth and development.

UN-HABITAT and the government of Brazil sponsored the Rio de Janeiro Forum, held March 22-26, 2010.

The Forum brings together government leaders, ministers, mayors, diplomats, members of national, regional and international associations of local governments, NGOs and community organizations, professionals, academics, grassroots women's organizations, youth and slum dwellers groups as partners working for better cities.

The theme for Rio 2010, 'The Right to the City - Bridging the Urban Divide' is in harmony with UN-HABITAT's flagship report, State of the World's Cities 2010-2011.

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Controversy Erupts over US Deportation

Quotas

Street News
Service www.streetnewsservice.org

By William Fisher

NEW YORK, U.S.A - Immigrants' rights advocates are up in arms over an apparent gaffe by a senior government official suggesting that immigration authorities would use a "quota system" to determine the number of people it would deport - followed by a "clarification" from those higher-up that appeared to confirm the quota approach.

The reference to the quota approach was contained in a memorandum written by James M. Chaparro, the director of Detention and Removal Operations (DRO), part of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency within the Department of Homeland Security. It directed DRO officers nationwide to boost deportation numbers, make maximum use of detention and detain more people.

The American Civil Liberties Union and a number of immigration groups met earlier this week with ICE Assistant Secretary John Morton and his senior staff to discuss the reported quota policy and DRO priorities.

At the meeting, Morton reportedly denied the use of quotas, stated his commitment to work together in a "spirit of candour and transparency" and asked to be "judged on the record, not on rumours."

But when asked how ICE arrived at its goal of deporting at least 400,000 people this fiscal year, Morton reportedly said ICE had deported 387,000 individuals last fiscal year and needed to increase this number because Congress had given the agency increased resources.

And, in recent testimony before Congress, Morton said ICE intends to reduce the average length of stay of detainees in custody to allow ICE to remove a higher number of undocumented migrants.

"Recently, we have taken steps to reduce the average length of stay from 33.5 days as of January 2010 to 28 days by FY 2011. This efficiency is increasingly important as the Secure Communities programme leads to the identification of more criminal aliens," he said.

The American Civil Liberties Union said in a statement, "These enforcement priori-

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Deportation Quotes

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ties are in direct contradiction with those set forth by Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano and ICE Assistant Secretary John Morton who have both repeatedly testified, for much of the past year, that ICE's priority is the deportation of dangerous criminal offenders."

The group called on leaders in Congress and in ICE to establish transparent immigration enforcement and detention policies that respect the rule of law and constitutional values.

Mary Giovagnoli, director of the Immigration Policy Centre, an arm of the American Immigration Council, told IPS, "The idea of deportation by quota is disappointing. It is sad to see ICE falling into the trap of measuring success by the numbers of people detained and removed."

That sentiment was echoed by Judy Rabinovitz, deputy director of the ACLU Immigrants' Rights Project. She said, "ICE should not be arresting people just to fill detention beds."

Giovagnoli added, "DHS is operating on borrowed time. It is amassing a history of failed enforcement initiatives."

"This is unsound government policy and an imprudent use of American taxpayers' money that can very easily lead to civil liberties abuses," said Joanne Lin, ACLU legislative counsel, who attended the DHS meeting.

"Immigration enforcement practices should be tied to the needs and demands of America, not driven by arbitrary numerical goals set by ICE. The preoccupation with reaching the number 400,000 has placed intense pressure on all corners of ICE to step up immigration enforcement operations," she said.

"The ACLU is very concerned that ICE agents, in the name of meeting specific numerical goals, will feel pressured to cut corners and improperly target people who look 'foreign' for stops and interrogations."

Another immigrants' advocate, Ali Noorani, executive director of the National Immigration Forum and chair of the Reform Immigration for America campaign, said, "ICE has a serious credibility problem as they continue to say one thing while doing another."

"ICE Assistant Secretary John Morton cannot effectively lead an agency when he doesn't know what his field representatives are doing or when his subordinates are delivering messages directly at odds with the purported goals of the organisation and the president," he said.

The Chaparro memo, he said, "is only the latest in a series of agency mishaps that have undermined the administration's credibility on immigration enforcement policy."

And in Washington, a coalition of immigrant rights groups has demanded the ouster of the nation's top immigration official, charging that underlings at Immigration and Customs Enforcement were thwarting Obama administration policy by setting a quota on deportations.

"The reality is that ICE has gone rogue and needs to be reined in with dramatic action," said Deepak Bhargava, executive director of the Washington-based Centre for Community Change. "The agency charged with enforcing the nation's immigration laws is systematically deceiving the president and the American public."

*Courtesy of InterPress Service
Street News Service:
www.street-papers.org*

Man in the Van

Street News Service www.streetnewsservice.org

By Dwayne Pride

Denver VOICE (USA) - Artprize is a national contest for fine artists and emerging artists from all around the world. It is said to be one of the largest prizes that an artist can hope to win to get recognized for his or her craft. All of the winners are chosen by the public. The top prize is \$250,000. For most, when they think of somebody that would be part of a contest like this they would not think of a poor man, a homeless man, as one of its participants. Artist/ driver Aaron Heideman aka "The Man in the Van" proves this theory wrong.

"I don't want to panhandle," reiterates Aaron Heideman.

After losing jobs during the recession his life was more than just a struggle. He hit rock bottom. But he took a creative angle on his situation and found some freedom from a 9 to 5 with a road trip that would eventually take him through at least 30 States in America. His mission: to make an enormous tapestry of people's experience of the recession. State by state, city by city, he collected words.

His project started out in Medford, which he calls home. Driving through places like Portland, Fresno, Las Vegas, Phoenix and Denver, he met all types of people and had them share their experiences from a sagging economy and what it has done to their lives.

People wrote their individual stories on rolls of 50-foot waterproof, tear-proof white tyvek paper. All he asked them was, "How has the recession affected you?"

"There is No Recession"

As people pass by he hands them cards that say: "Help A Homeless Guy Make Art. History." The card is how he starts every meeting with individuals before they write their stories on the van. TELL ME YOUR STORY, is written boldly on the side of the van to entice the public to partic-

ipate in what he is offering them, a way to vent their feelings. People stop with a variety of comments.

"There is no recession, that's a myth," one man says as he refuses to take a card. "The only reason people think there is a recession is because they say there is one."

Heideman says he is amazed by how many people blame Obama for all of the country's problems. Despite his views, though, he has tried to keep his project open to everyone. "I'm not a Republican. I am not trying to be political. It is not about what I have to say, it's about what Americans have to say. I would like to have as many perspectives as possible. The object is to stay neutral," he says.

About five percent of the people that walk by the van take the card from him and disagree and keep on moving. By the end of his stay in Denver, he came up with approximately 137 stories from people that just wrote what they felt as he stopped them, or they stopped to see what all of the commotion around 'the van' was all about.

Some guy named VonHellFire '09 on MySpace writes, "Thug Life" hoping all of his criminal endeavours will pay off. One man writes, "I sold my body!" Another person after responding to an onlooker's comment of "get a job" writes, "Give me one."

A New Stage

The project is putting Heideman in a new stage in his life. A better understanding. He has never made a living at art before, but has been doing it since he was 18 years old. Most of his work has been two-dimensional oil paintings. Some galleries in Seattle have displayed the paintings. He was supposedly the youngest artist to ever display his work in the Woodside Braseth Gallery.

Before starting "The Man in The Van" project, Aaron was working on a screenplay. He

eventually scrapped it, deciding that "The Man in the Van" project was a more motivating way to express himself. He wants to try to build relationships again, so why not just start with the general public. "I wanted to be less selfish. I have empathy," he said. By letting others write he thought that he could reach out more to people. "This is much more rewarding. I don't want to become a preacher. I don't want to be political. The real goal is to get people out of their rut."

Since his visit to Denver, he has travelled the country in the van experiencing setbacks along the way. Sometimes he thought that he would not make it. But he never gave up. After reaching his destination of Grand Rapids, Mich. to be part of the Artprize competition, things did not end up quite as he had planned. "The Man in The Van" did not even place in the top 100.

"That's okay. It wasn't about winning a big prize. I've been able to inspire a lot of people, and spread a message of empathy and compassion," Heideman says about his trip.

Now, after a long road, Heideman is trying to get on with other parts of his life. He is moving to Seattle after a new found sense of adventure. He has had a few offers from movie producers to discuss "possibilities."

Aaron says, "I'm also hoping to write a book about the whole experience (including actual transcribed stories), but that's tough right now because things are a little stressful. I've been living in a van for over one year now, and I'm ready to move on with my life."

He goes on to say, "It's amazing what kind of rewards come when you have the courage to serve others."

I guess that winning is not everything.

*Reprinted from DenverVOICE
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A Dollar Made – A Generation Lost

by Michael Brooks

Recently I saw a situation on HLN (Headline News Network) television about a young 15 year old girl named Alyssa Bustamante in Florida who was arrested for the first degree murder of Elizabeth Olten, a young girl of 9 and a neighbor of the suspect.

The suspect had lured the victim into the woods behind their homes in Florida where she had previously excavated two shallow graves with plans of killing the victim as the victim returned home.

Once in the woods the suspect attempted to kill the victim by strangulation to no avail. She then stabbed the victim in the chest but this too proved futile. The suspect eventually slit the throat of the victim to finally achieve her goal of ending the life of the victim.

During the subsequent investigation the suspect confessed to the police her reasoning for doing this heinous crime - she..."wanted to see what it was like to kill someone."

Just 48 hours later, on the same station in Florida, another 9 year old girl with a 15 year old boyfriend doused her mother's bedroom with gasoline and set it ablaze as her mother slept.

While I could go on and on with these cases, which number in the thousands and grow daily, these two cases cited are just a couple of many occurring throughout the country and in every state.

My earliest remembrances of these types of crimes were of a young 14 year old boy in South Florida named Ronald Zamora in the early '70's. He, too, was arrested for murder and tried as an adult and thrown away in the adult penal system.

Years before while I attended college where my major was macro economics, we were taught about "Rosie the Riveter". During WWII, while most young men were off fighting for their country there was a vast shortage of men to work in the factories building the planes and ships needed to support the war effort. America called upon women to come forward and fill the vacancies, and many patriotic young women answered the call. Some were married and some were not but they all came forward.

After the war when the young men returned, many of the women decided to continue working as their soldier husbands had also

continued working as well. This created a society of the proverbial "Joneses". The Joneses had the extra income afforded anyone working two jobs and this began an inflationary trend that has continued and worsened to this day. Any family not working as a two paycheck family found it increasingly hard to afford the many things the two paycheck families were buying into.

As time, greed, and human nature would have it, today we are at a two and a half paycheck family. This need for money produced added inflationary pressures and meant the teenage children of many families today must work in fast food restaurants during the summers to provide for their own school clothes for the next school year. This at a time when children are being raised in various institutions such as daycare centers, private schools, and the like so that they are deprived of the bonding and nurturing only a mother can provide and the structuring required to instilling a good moral upbringing.

More often than not today's children feel they are being short-changed as a family member and in many ways they are! Often, this can surface in a form of anger and rebellion for the child, with a sense of guilt for the mother who may later consider her young daughter as her "best friend" and not her child who needs structure, guidance with the setting of limits to instill a proper upbringing.

If anyone reading this ever watched such programs as Oprah or Maury on TV they have seen situations where the problems within a family structure came about because a parent felt the need to consider their child their best friend and confident as opposed to their child. This often was shown as being the mother of the child.

This, at a time in history when the internet, private cell phones and television, not to mention the lyrics of modern music, often play an important part in the influence and developmental thought processes of the teenager. This all becomes easily exploitable by the perverts and advertisers alike that prey on the innocent or the unaware.

The only way out of this dilemma for the children and parents alike will be to stop the crazy way things are done and have any married woman with children stop working and become a stay at home mom. Only then will the price of things be within the reach of the average American family. Only then will the life of the American family be

improved upon.

The entire economic system is based upon supply and demand and the only way for the American family to win and finally reach true happiness is to say "enough is enough" and stop the insane thinking that anyone can outrun supply and demand because no one can, nor was anyone, all the time, ever supposed to.

The faster anyone runs, the faster the adjustments are made to demand more just to be able to compete and afford things which initially only affected a person's wants, but now are affecting a person's true basic needs just to survive.

This does not mean everyone is doomed to be impoverished or a failure in life, it simply means people need to learn to live within their means and re-think their priorities as well.

In today's market there are more needs for jobs then there are jobs available. If women, who have children and a working husband quit and decide to be a "stay at home mom" the jobs they leave could put more men back to work. Then anyone with a business to sell a service or product would either readjust their prices downward to sell them or the people working would have to be compensated more to make these items affordable.

Either way society, the American family and working individuals would fair better. Trying to live beyond a one paycheck is leading this country to a third world economy because inflationary pressures will cause several families to live in one home and share expenses just to survive.

This is the way it is already being done by many immigrants, legal and illegal, in this country today. This would produce the eventual collapse of a nation within itself, as what happened in the past with the fall of the Roman Empire just to name one but there are others.

It was said the children of today represent where we are headed tomorrow, thus they are our future. Judging by the many problems we are facing today where do you think that puts us now?

Telling the truth sometimes produces a "bitter pill" to swallow but that never changes the fact that it is the truth.

Today Americans everywhere have a decision to make and I hope they choose as if their lives depend on it because it does. The choice is yours!

One Day to Prevent Homelessness Campaign

The 1 Day to Prevent Homelessness event and campaign was an outstanding effort by Faith based congregations and other community groups to fund Sacramento's matching money for qualifying for Federal TANF-ECF stimulus funds on a 4 to 1 basis. The "1 Day" referred to the amount of money a person would have to pay for one day's worth of their own rent or mortgage payment - if they could give just that it would help a great deal to prevent many people from becoming homeless and provide housing for some currently homeless people. The goal of the campaign was to raise \$400,000 that would qualify Sacramento for four times that amount in federal funding.

Fred Teichert provided the original leadership for this exciting campaign and he soon brought in the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Pastor Cole came up with the idea of the "1 Day's" worth of rent or mortgage payments and Mayor Johnson helped spearhead the campaign.

On March 21, over 8 faith-based groups asked their congregations to participate. Bishop Carthen and over 80 faith congregations signed on to participate and the 1 Day to Prevent Homelessness broadened into a community wide event with the Sacramento News & Review running an 8 page insert and on March 22, KCRA hosted a 15 hour telethon on Channel 3, where \$225,000 was pledged. Capitol Christian Center, alone pledged \$53,000 during the telethon. As of April 19, the total raised was \$290,000 with only 10 of the 80 congregations reporting in with their results.

This money will help fund three Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Programs-Salvation Army, Lutheran Social Services, and Volunteers of America. They will make sure up to 2,000 eligible families and individuals are served through the HPRP, with a Housing First policy.

There is still more support needed to reach the \$400,000 goal. Figure out your day's worth of rent by dividing your monthly payment by 30, or just send some money, whatever you can afford. You can make a donation online at:

www.onedaytopreventhomelessness.org

or send a check to:

Sacramento Region Community Foundation
740 University Ave., Ste. 110
Sacramento, CA 95825.

Write "Preventing Homelessness Fund" in the memo line.

Vote 2010 Forum

Continued from Page 1

lems as transportation, food, pets and such and we need to look at those needs as well. Efen spoke of a regional approach, building housing and that people should not have to live outdoors. Phil stressed people should have more than a tent or shack, they should have housing with comprehensive services, advocacy and support. Keith stressed that people should be treated individually, that reducing codes and laws could help the problem.

Most of the forum was an open Q & A session, where audience members lined up and asked, neither rehearsed or pre-approved, how the candidate would be able to help them and District 1. In summary, here are some of the candidates' responses to the audience questions:

Angelique Ashby (City) - She said she has a strong voice with the police and fire department and is endorsed by both. She suggested her and other advocates meet with the police and ask them to start sensitivity training. She thinks parole agents should work with parolees before they are released to make sure they are set up with needed services. [A lot of parolees are dumped into the

shelter system when they first get out of prison - editor.] She is in favor of Safe Ground. She pointed out that by showing up to this forum, the four candidates showed that they are ready to listen to the homeless population.

Efen Gutierrez (City)- He is a member of Justice Reform Coalition and the Sheriff's Advisory Board. He thinks we don't need more police to make us safer, but law enforcement needs more training for dealing with different types of people. He is

in favor of Safe Ground and thinks the city and county should talk to each other, forming partnerships in order to accomplish that. He would include learning opportunities as a part of any safe ground. Questioned what he could do for the Latino community, he answered bilingually, how he is a strong voice for the Latino community.

Phil Serna (County) - He mentioned that with the

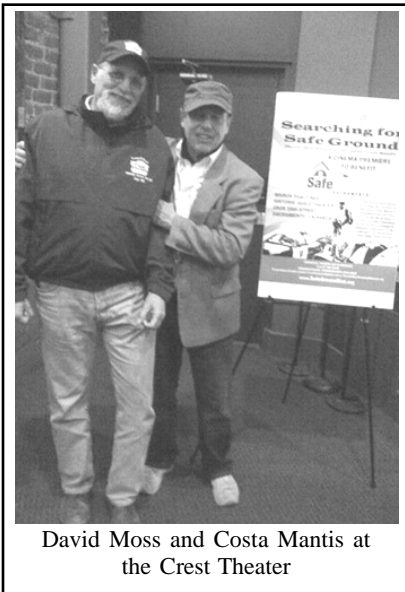
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Candidates at Table, L to R: Keith Weber, Phil Serna, Efen Gutierrez, Angelique Ashley

Safe Ground Update

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David Moss and Costa Mantis at the Crest Theater

that was a fundraiser for Safe Ground, with performances by poet Jovi Radtke (see poem "Safe Ground" page 7) and singer, song writer G.P. Bailey. G.P. Bailey also performed several of his songs in 3rd World America.

What new is with Safe Ground Sacramento?

They are searching earnestly for land. It has been one year since Tent City was evicted, dismantled and fenced in. A recent murder of a homeless woman, Beatrice Nickson, has saddened and also motivated organizers who are reminded that it is dangerous sleeping outdoors and that having Safe Ground could save lives. Parcels are being sought in a County-wide search. Safe Ground Sacramento is asking for 1 to 5 acres, preferable near services or public transportation. They are asking to lease or buy the property,

or would gladly accept a donation of a suitable vacant lot. The aim is to create communities where residents can feel a sense of belonging and dignity, while creating a safe and affordable place to live, put their lives together and establish a path back to traditional housing. A Safe Ground development would house 50 to 100 semi-permanent cabin/sleeping cottage structures with centralized/common eating, community service, and sanitary facilities.

The organization has recently become a non-profit organization and they have formed a new board. They have hired a part-time Executive Director, Tamie Dramer, who has been involved since the beginning of the Safe Ground movement, and doing much of the work voluntarily, already. The new Board membership includes: Somewhat famous "homeless advocate" John Krantz as President,

SHOC's Paula Lomazzi (Treasurer), Steve Watters (Secretary), Trinity Episcopal Cathedral's Reverend Brian Baker, Jack Burges, Temple B'nai Israel's Rabbi Mona Alfie, Attorney Mark Merin, Greg Bunker from Francis House, Sr. Libby Fernandez and Joan Burke from Loaves & Fishes, Tina Reynolds from Uptown Studios, Greg Sparks and Landers Stewart (aka Porkchop) who was a recent Safe Ground Elder. This is a begin-

ning board and may change as it becomes more developed. Also, Safe Ground Sacramento support has grown to include many Religious groups and congregations.

The Safe Ground Sacramento organizers continue to meet at a steering committee once a week, homeless Safe Ground residents and elders meet once a week, also, and many are involved in Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee's Homeless Leadership Project and meet once a week with that group and attend monthly Leadership Training. The homeless residents have their own office right next to the SHOC office and it is bustling with activities and behind the scenes organizing of events and speaking engagements. They have also been helping SHOC collect incident reports.

Safe Ground Homeless members have

been taking Sacramento by storm. For about a year Safe Ground homeless residents have attended City Council meetings every week and speak out to the council and mayor for a moratorium on the anti-camping ordinance and for Safe Ground. They have begun a great river cleanup campaign were every month they have an organized cleanup along the river. April 17 they helped the American River Parkway Foundation in their annual spring cleanup at Discovery Park. Homeless residents had a car wash in April for a fundraiser. Homeless members have speaking engagements and set up informational tables at other organization's events. They started a voter registration drive and are working with other organizations on a voter forum. Its hard to keep up with all their activities, but Sacramento is becoming a better place to live because of them.



Safe Ground team and volunteers for the River Parkway Cleanup

2012: The Myth and the Scientific Reality

www.chongonation.com

by the homeless science writer,

Chongo

While visiting a friend in the Sheriff's work release facility, known to those in the homeless community as "detox" (for alcohol recovery), I had occasion to do something that I only rarely do, which is, watch a movie. Ordinarily, I prefer interesting science programs, that is to say, shows that explore the facts about nature, over those that exploit the fantasy of non-factual fiction. Nonetheless, there I was, watching a purely fictional movie named "2012," which is a non-factual science fiction movie that was released, I believe, just this year.

"2012" is an action movie filled with scenes of the main characters narrowly escaping death in a series of fantastic escapes from monumental disasters. Except for a calm before the storm, throughout the course of the film, one monumental disaster follows another in a series of catastrophes that spell doom for nearly all life on earth; there are so many that they are far too numerous to mention individually.

Although the content is very reminiscent of a television movie, the special effects are colossal. For example, the action begins with the California coast actually falling into the ocean (a physical impossibility) just as the sensational weekly rags at the grocery checkout lines once predicted would happen years ago. Even more amazing is that, in the movie, the axis of the earth magically moves thousands of miles (a flat contradiction to the conservation of momentum), placing the North Pole somewhere in Wisconsin. Again, this is another physical impossibility (the laws of physics, most significantly, the conservation of momentum, flatly prohibits such a thing).

"2012" is wrought with metaphysical fantasy. Appropriately, even the Dali Lama (or someone who looks exactly like him) has a speaking role. And, being metaphysical in nature, events in the film are also rife with physical impossibilities and scientific inaccuracy - that is, except for a single, very accurate point we should all heed, that will be mentioned again at the end of this article.

Needless to say, the Mayan calendar was involved in the origin of this film. In fact, "2012" is based upon the Mayan calendar, which places the end of the current epoch at December 21, 2012, hence the title of the movie. On December 21, 2012, the Mayan calendar ends! That is to say that it measures nothing beyond the end of December 2012. Because of this, it is easy to see how the destruction of the world could easily be implied by the calendar ending, especially for anyone unfamiliar with science and so who sees nature wrought with unexplainable (not to be confused with the scientific term "yet unexplained") mystery.

Now, it should be pointed out that, contrary to popular belief, Mayans had nothing to do with the development of the calendar, nor did any New World people, like the Olmecs, who preceded the Mayans, providing them with it. The Mayan calendar arrived in the New World from China about two thousand years ago. In those days China had huge wooden ships four hundred feet long, longer than the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria (the ships constituting Christopher Columbus's first small armada to the New World) together, placed end to end. Proof of the Mayan calendar's Chinese origins comes in the form of another more ancient calendar found in China that coincides with the Mayan (which again, was first the Olmec calendar).

As stated, the New World beneficiaries of the Old World Chinese calendar (which presumably included too the sophisticated mathematics that came with the calendar) were the Olmec people, predecessors of the Mayas. The Mayan culture would not emerge until hundreds of years later, after the Olmecs disappeared. Nonetheless, despite their removal from its origins and although the Mayans had little else to do with the calendar other than inherit it, it is their name that will probably from now on be associated with the scientific marvel that the calendar is. Moreover, the Aztec calendar too, is simply a copy of the Mayan, or more fundamentally, a copy of the original Chinese version. All versions recognize the year 2012 as being very special.

What is important about the calendar for us here is this: that the year 2012,

again, the end of this current epoch and the date the calendar ends, happens to correspond to the year that the earth, the sun, and the center of our galaxy — a super massive black hole — align along a straight line.

One might say of this alignment, "what a coincidence." Or is it? Maybe there is a very practical reason that the calendar ends on the exact year of such a significant alignment, especially when one considers just how colossal and how very unique such an alignment as this is, regardless of how trivial or how significant its effects might actually be for us here on Earth. There is hardly an alignment of anything more unique, which may explain the calendars calibration to such a thing.

Imagine that you are one of the ancient Chinese astronomers whose job it is to make a calendar charting the motion of the heavens with respect to time. Here you sit on a planet orbiting a star, among many other stars, in a somewhat disorganized grand orbit that includes the entire galaxy. Where would your starting point be? What would you use to initiate counting time's passage? Since, as such an astronomer, your science and math skills would surely be very sophisticated were you to find yourself embarking upon such a challenging undertaking, you just might consider the fact that all rotating systems, just like all gyroscopes or all solar systems, are subject to wobble.

Solar systems, being somewhat asymmetrical in nature by virtue of the uneven distribution of mass within them, flatly wobble. Indeed ours must, or the alignment of the sun, the earth, and the center of the galaxy would be an annual event, with the center of the galaxy in constant alignment with the plane of earth's orbit. But clearly, it is not, as the alignment marks a much longer interval, one thousands of years displaced from any others. This alignment has not occurred for millennium. And now, finally, it is upon us, slightly more two years away. In light of the infrequency of such an alignment, the wobble of our solar system is reaching a very, very unique moment indeed.

Returning to the Chinese astronomer seeking an index point for the cal-

endar, it might now begin to seem clear why the unique moment of an alignment with the center of the galaxy might be such an ideal point from which measurement might be made. In the seemingly chaotic motion of the stars populating the galaxy, the black hole at the galaxy's center, about which all the stars in the galaxy orbit, would surely be a very stable point and very predictable index from which to calculate the motion of all other, "lesser," things, like that of any other heavenly body. Surely that is the sensible choice any insightful astronomer would make. And surely that is the choice that was made back when the calendar was invented.

So, with respect to calculating the next epoch succeeding the year 2012: maybe after a lifetime career of calculating several thousand years of upcoming motion leading up to 2012, a thoughtful and now much older Chinese astronomer might leave the task of calculating astronomical events to astronomers yet unborn, when they emerge from that long distant epoch still to come.

Lastly, it should be stated that the alignment that will be upon us in two years will have none of the effects described in the movie. Though as a coincidence, the world may and indeed probably will face an unparalleled financial crisis by the time the ominous date December 21, 2012 finally arrives. It may prove equally challenging.

(This text is from no science book that Chongo has ever written. However, to see the books that Chongo has written - in collaboration with Jose - on nature [physical science], go to the web site 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.com provides books that allow such opportunity, in lay terms, and most significantly, without any math whatsoever. Simply go to the www.chongonation.com home page and click on either 'Books on Nature' [Conceptual Physics] or 'Products & Prices' to see just how many books are available. To see the other science essays, simply click on 'articles' or 'science articles')

“Safe Ground”

This isn't who I am
 This is what I've been handed
 Now branded the cancer of society
 In this cliched, cliquey suffering from social sobriety
 In a community blindingly deciding
 to write me off as a nuisance
 So let me instill the reality I feel
 I am a human
 Born to the same day, night and sun
 So why is it I feel this struggle
 of mine can't be felt by everyone
 Yesterday I was you
 I had my 9-5 to keep me in good supply
 of all the necessities to get by
 I had clean clothes to wear
 Those same mundane problems to bear
 And people behind me to care
 So now as I strive to stay alive
 I arrive at this road alone
 Those memories of yesterday I hold deep
 I try to keep safely unknown
 Because it seems
 I can't speak appropriately of how quickly it took
 for me to call some ground my home
 My head lies down on this open possible street
 Where once I found peace and sanity
 Within this vast open blanket of humanity
 This same place that kept my sleep safe
 Is now irreversibly moved from place to place
 And while I lay cold
 Still without a face to conjure recognition
 From the eyes of political persistence
 That can only envision a way
 To pave the roads toward their own recognition
 So this time
 I'll write my own headline
 And it reads:
 Please hear this
 I am homeless
 Not hopeless
 My focus is not to impede or cause strife
 I just want that normal back in life
 But I can never know this
 If I can't get through
 One safe night

by Jovi Radtke



“The Captain” cleaning out another Safe Ground

Forum

Continued from Page 5

budget so low, there would be fewer Rangers patrolling the River Parkway. They will need to change their priorities on enforcement; perhaps they will need more oversight. He has made a special effort to learn about services and has gone on patrol ride-alongs. However, he is concerned that cutting social services could exasperate the need for law enforcement. About Safe Ground, he said he wants real roofs to be over-head, not tents or shacks. He would advocate for Safe Ground to be located inside vacant buildings. He is worried about institutionalizing tent cities.

Keith Weber (County) - He wants to keep an open dialog with the community, including “open vision” meetings. Redevelopment practices should have a socio-economic component that empathizes employing local residents, instead of importing workers. He reminded us that with fewer resources, the Sheriffs Department must prioritize addressing real crimes instead of hassling homeless people. He stressed respect for individuals, helping individuals according to their individual circumstance and not treating anyone as less than an individual. There should be a safe ground for everyone, whatever is available. He is an advocate for Serna Village.



Garren Bratcher asking a question

After the forum each candidate was asked separately about what they thought of the City's anti-camping ordinance.

Angelique used to work in the Public Defenders Office with Tommy Clinkenbeard defending homeless people against camping citations; she said it should only be used if there is a danger involved in a situation. Efren is straight out against the anti-camping ordinance.

Although County Supervisors would not be able to affect the camping ordinance, Phil said that homeless people should not sleep outside in tents and should have shelter or housing. Keith referred to his publication “Commerce & Community” where he wrote about his parents and grandparents living in tents while working on the Hoover and Shasta Dam projects. He had earlier said that people should be allowed to sleep someplace until they can get housing.

The event was organized by Sacramento Housing Alliance, Loaves & Fishes, Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, Safe Ground, Cottage Housing, Women's Empowerment and Resources for Independent Living, with a total of 16 homeless advocacy and service organizations that

formed a voter alliance for getting homeless people registered to vote.

Bob Erlenbusch, one of the organizers, sent the four forum members a special thank you “Each of you showed your compassion and understanding of a very complex issue and we appreciate you taking the time out of your busy campaign schedule to have a dialogue with people that are all too often invisible, forgotten and disenfranchised. All the best to each of you in your efforts to represent District 1”

Obituary

Victoria Rose Engelbert

d. 3/9/2010 aged 56

cause pending

Eva Ciccine

d. 3/23/2010 age 57

cause pending

Bernice Nickson

d. 4/10/2010 age 68

Stabbed to death by stranger
 while sleeping on a RT bench.



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.

Please mail my copies to:

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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. 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: For homeless adults, children: Nurse's office in Friendship park 7:30am & 12:30pm. **446-3345**

Sacramento Dental Clinic: 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Bldg) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm **874-8300**

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**

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 Youth Center: 701 Dixieanne Ave. Serves youth ages 12-20. Breakfast and Lunch; Clothing; Laundry and Showers; Case Management. Drop-in Hours: M - F from 8:00am to 4:30pm and Sat 10am to 2pm. **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**

Harm Reduction Services: 3640 40th St.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. **456-4849**

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

Legal Aid

Disability Rights, CA: Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY: **(800)776-5746**

Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic: 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center) Free legal assistance and advocacy for problems related to homelessness. **446-0368**

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, plus motel vouchers for qualified families. **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

Individual Membership dues:
Standard: \$50;
Low-income, Student: \$10

Organizations:
\$200 - \$1,000
Dues based on organization budget, please call to get estimate.

Send donations to:
Sacramento Housing Alliance
1800 21st St. Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

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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
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Sac, CA 95812

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

Infoline is now:
211 Sacramento
Dial 211
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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 homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also informs homeless persons 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).

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

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