

# HOMeward

## Street Journal



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### No On War in the Name of the Poor!

Released through [IndyMedia.org](http://IndyMedia.org)

Paul Boden, Director of the Coalition on Homelessness in San Francisco, addresses large crowd at the *No On War in Iraq* Protest

SAN FRANCISCO, Saturday, October 26, 2002 - Sandwiched between a recorded address by Mumia Abu-Jamal announcing, "War is not inevitable. No to 'Blood For Oil'" and Pentagon Papers' Daniel Ellsberg, urging "If the bombing starts, the marching should not stop", Homeless Coalition Director Paul Boden delivered a vigorous address to an estimated 75,000 (by CNN) strong, enthusiastic, and colorful crowd gathered on the green lawns of Civic Center Plaza stretching out behind San Francisco's City Hall. He said:

"I want to welcome you all to my home. Fifteen years ago I was part of the group of people who have been sleeping out here on our streets across this country. We are the people that are funding this war that we are all here today to denounce.

"Over the past 20 years, \$145 billion dollars a year has been cut from the development of affordable housing for poor people in this country. It has been transferred over to a hundred billion dollars last year in mortgage interest tax credit deductions for households making \$135,000 dollars a year, on average, that is being subsidized by our tax dollars.

see War page 2

### Cast Away

released by the NASNA Street News Service ([www.streetnewsservice.org](http://www.streetnewsservice.org))

by Bess Dwyer  
December 18, 2002

Thousands of scared, small children took their most beloved belongings as they left the church-run homes where they lived. One by one, single file, arms filled with dolls and toys, they filled the ship. Ship after ship was loaded with children. They departed Britain thinking they were heading out for a nearby holiday.

They didn't know that the destination was Australia, halfway around the world. When they found out, they were told of fruit trees, loving families who wanted to adopt them, and kangaroos they could ride to school. But as they exited the ship onto Australian docks, siblings were torn from one another. Dolls and toys were ripped from their hands. Loving families turned out to be institutions.

Blooming fruit trees became shovels. Despair and pain, not kangaroos, were their companions.

This shipping of children was not new; the British government had been sending people off for years. But the difference was encompassed in the lies. These children were told they were orphans, their parents dead. For many, this was not the case. Single mothers, poor families, and bad health were more likely reasons for the kids to be dropped off in group homes. But when parents came back for their little ones, they were gone. Supposedly, the children had been adopted, were in America, or were still in Britain. And parental visits were not allowed.

The actual conditions for the children were horrendous. The most infamous institution was Bindoon, run by the

### Wellstone Death A Huge Loss to Homeless People

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

Cleveland Homeless Grapevine  
November 15, 2002

Homelessness is no longer front page news. Housing is too complicated a problem to tackle, especially in this era of small government and big defense. Homeless people, and those who realize that the housing crisis is a national disgrace, lost one of their few champions on Capitol Hill with the death of Senator Paul Wellstone.

Paul Wellstone was often the lone voice in the Senate to champion proposals that would benefit disenfranchised populations. The words "principled" and "deep convictions" were thrown around by the President and his Senate colleagues. Some of Wellstone's most strident opponents in the Senate seemed to be using those words to mean "wrong" and "deeply flawed."

He was one of the few Senators who used long forgotten and un-popular words like homelessness and affordable housing. He was one of the last elected officials to follow in the footsteps of Robert Kennedy and the idealism of Camelot and the 1960s. He even retraced the steps of Kennedy through Appalachia, Chicago, and Los Angeles public housing properties to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Kennedy poverty tour. While not receiving near the attention of American royalty walking among the peasants of 1967, he did call attention to lack of progress in addressing poverty

see Wellstone page 3

From 1947-1967, Britain shipped hundreds of have-not children to colonies as "orphans".

Christian Brothers. Here, boys were forced to work, erecting monumental buildings that still stand today. Numerous boys were abused, mentally, physically, and sexually, by the clergy that ran the home. Girls were sent off to work as indentured servants, also suffering abuse at the hands of their masters.

Now fast-forward. These children have grown; some have had children of their own. One woman, born in Britain and shipped to Australia as a young girl, started a search. Her letter reached a social worker in Nottingham, England. And that was the beginning of Margaret Humphreys' search.

Humphreys' work has been shown in a three-part series on 60 Minutes II. Books

see Child Migrants page 5

# North American News Digest

Street News Service

www.streetnewsservice.org

## Molly Rhodes

**Homeless people in San Francisco** will stop receiving most of their cash grants to pay for their needs, thanks to the Care Not Cash initiative that passed with 59 percent of the vote. The more than \$13 million, which had helped about 2,700 single adults, will instead go to pay for services like housing, food, and utilities, according to the San Francisco Examiner (www.examiner.com). The initiative faced a lot of controversy, especially from San Francisco and national homeless advocates who argued that many people who received up to \$390 each month had come to rely on the checks and now would be unable to meet their most basic needs. Even now that it passed, how it actually gets put into effect over the next nine months is being closely watched. Most of the \$13-million-plus is expected to go into a "master lease" program, in which the city leases single-room-occupancy - or SRO - hotels, renovates them, and then finds a nonprofit to run them. "The question is now, what's the plan going to be?" the Rev. John Hardin, executive director of the St. Anthony Foundation, which houses 200 men and women in shelters and drug recovery programs, told the Examiner. "That's what everyone's waiting for. Let the care begin."

**St. Alban's Episcopal Church** in Southern California, has decided to take on the city of El Cajon rather than give up a Tent City on its property. The city wants the makeshift encampment removed from the church parking lot, and is threatening to fine the church for various municipal code violations, according to the San Diego Union Tribune (signonsandiego.com). The church countered that there are no other places for the people living in the camp to go. The rector of St. Alban's, the Rev. John Conrad, approached the city council about the lack of homeless services in the area this summer, in response to which the council passed a non-binding resolution to build two shelters. Nothing has been done to create these shelters since then. "The very moment there is alternative shelter, I will direct (the homeless) there," Conrad told the Union Tribune, "and physically move them myself if I have to."

**Homeless people living near** University of Southern California will no longer get food through the recently defunct program that had allowed USC students to use unused meal points at campus eateries to buy non-perishable food for local Los

Angeles shelters. Students who had formerly worked with the three-year-old Feed with Flex program balked at the idea that USC's Hospitality Services, which runs the flexible meal point system, was trying to control how students spent their points, even if it was on food for needy people. According to the on-campus newspaper the Daily Trojan (www.dailytrojan.com), the money will now go to fund other Hospitality Services areas, such as overhead costs and keeping products in stock.

**Yet while L.A.-area homeless** are losing a collegiate source of food, New Haven-area homeless are poised to gain one through local Yale University. According to the Yale Daily News (www.yaledailynews.com), the Yale College Council recently created the Bringing Relief Every Day program, or BRED, designed to give leftover dining hall food to the inhabitants of a Tent City that has sprung up on New Haven Green next to campus. Sophomore Leila Rastegar believes giving the unused food to homeless people would be a better use for the food than to chuck it all away. The food will be picked up seven days a week by different meal programs throughout the city, including the Yale Hunger and Homelessness Action Project pantry and the Harmony Place Community Center.

**Business owners in downtown** Philadelphia took their anti-homeless campaign to the streets last month with an advertising blitz aimed at stopping people from giving money to panhandlers. Business owners say they fear the panhandlers are deterring potential customers from their area. Philadelphia city officials claim there are enough homeless shelters and free meals so that people shouldn't have to panhandle; the ads include cards people can give out instead of money, which list addresses and phone numbers of places homeless people can go. The idea has already caught the eye of other cities who find putting up billboards and handing out cards a better bang for their buck than putting up new housing, like San Francisco and Key West, Florida.

**'Tis the season for cold weather** shelters, as cities around the country scramble to find overflow accommodations for homeless people who would otherwise run the risk of freezing to death on the streets. In Kansas, the colder weather struck early this year, and officials and homeless advocates expected to open their special shelters a month earlier than usual, according to the Wichita Eagle (www.kansas.com). Normal tempera-

tures in Wichita for mid-fall are in the low 60's; temperatures are already down around freezing with chances of snow. In Wichita, there are 280 beds for an approximate 600 homeless people. The problem is compounded by an economy that has severely cut back on the number of jobs available for people looking to find other ways to afford a warm place to sleep. In addition, donations for homeless people have dropped significantly since this time last year, as some of the area's biggest employers, like Boeing, have laid off thousands.

**Human services officials in** Portland, ME, don't think they can carry on like they are much longer. Because the city offers the only homeless shelters and an emergency overflow plan in the state, their shelters are frequently filled to capacity with people who come from outside the city. City officials are looking to other neighborhoods in the state to pick up some of the slack. The city's primary shelter has reached capacity 12 times since September, and the Preble Street Resource's soup kitchen has seen the number of people it services every morning climb from 240 to more than 300.

**Another homeless man died in a** confrontation with a police officer, this time in Tampa, Florida, even though witnesses pleaded with the officer not to shoot the unarmed man. Luis Rafael Obijo, 45, began yelling at Officer Greg Caulley on the street as Caulley walked by. Caulley reported to his superiors that Obijo got up and came towards him with a shiny metal object in his hand, prompting Caulley to fire his gun within five feet of Obijo, according to the Tampa Tribune (www.tampatrib.com). However, other witnesses, who were familiar with Obijo on the street corner, said the man had never harmed anyone. Nora Melton, owner of the Prince Grocery store, said Obijo helped her open up each morning, and that morning he reacted to aggressive behavior from Officer Caulley. Another nearby business owner saw Obijo back away from Officer Caulley right before he was shot. Both business owners ran towards the confrontation, yelling "Please don't shoot." The weapon in Obijo's hands turned out to be a putty knife.

**A one-night count of the homeless** people this month in Edmonton, Canada, revealed there are more people living on the streets than in any other time in the city's history, according to edmonton.cbc.ca. The preliminary results from the work of almost 200 volunteers showed the

greatest increase in the number of children who call the streets home. The total figure is expected to be more than 5,000.

**Dignity Village is looking for a** permanent home. Portland, Oregon, residents of the two-year-old self-run encampment for homeless people want to raise money to buy a site for a long-term homeless community, according to the Oregonian. They have been looking for more than a year — and have even put together a glossy brochure to help boost their efforts — but have yet to find a site where neighbors don't see their potential presence as a threat to their existing community. Its biggest supporter — retired transportation magnate Lee Larson — has agreed to pay the city \$2,000 a month to rent the land where they are now. Residents have raised about \$12,000 in cash, and have the support of a retired transportation bigwig, not to mention hundreds of volunteers, but it's still not nearly enough to purchase land. And until the city starts adding new services and improving access to other forms of permanent housing, the Village is the best option for many of the people who live there.

**What'll it take the people of** Northern Oklahoma to recognize the plight of the homeless? How about a trip for two to Las Vegas! Or tickets to see Tony Orlando! In an effort to help raise money for a new youth shelter and family service center in Ponca City, OK, local country radio personality Ryan Diamond has started living on a downtown street corner, according to the Ponca City News. The broadcast of his "homeless" life encourages people to come on by and donate to his cause, as well as learn about what it's like to live on the streets. As an extra incentive, everyone who comes by and registers at his "homeless shopping cart" will automatically be entered to win the Vegas trip or the coffee or other fabulous prizes. Those who actually give money — not a prerequisite for winning a prize — will get a yellow ribbon for their troubles and for their car antenna. And Diamond will get to go home and rest up before his 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. "homeless" shift the very next day.

**How long do homeless advocates** and Atlanta city officials think it will take to house the city's estimated 10,000 to 15,000 homeless people? Well, Atlanta's mayor Shirley Franklin is giving a 19-member commission three months to come up with a plan, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. In this time, the commission must analyze the homeless

# Digest

continued

population, rate the effectiveness of the various local and national organizations that serve them, and find enough money to cover their plan. They are starting with approximately 5,000 current shelter beds — less than half the total number needed — and 672 beds for people suffering long-term problems, when the estimated number of long-term beds needed is at least 3,500. There are also the immediate needs for laundry services, blankets, and job training that are not diminishing as the city waits for the commission's report.

**Key West, Florida,** city officials are so tired of talking about "chronic public nuisances" that they have shortened the name to CPNs and started filming them. City workers will spend their days in beaches and parks and their nights in homeless encampments — the destinations of choice for CPNs — recording whatever activities they see and then handing over their findings to city commissioners and the general public. The hope is to use the video to build enough support for a shelter, the first on the island, without which local police cannot arrest someone simply for being homeless. Once there is a shelter, CPNs and all other homeless people can finally be arrested for sleeping anywhere else.

**In his war against** panhandlers tarnishing the image of downtown Cincinnati businesses and turning away tourists, Mayor Charlie Luken is going after almost anyone who sells anything on city streets, including the local street newspaper, Street Vibes. The Greater Cincinnati Coalition for the Homeless puts out the paper, which is then sold by vendors as an alternative, legal means to get enough money to help get them back on their feet. Mayor Luken counters that it's just another form of panhandling that only gives people money to buy more drugs and alcohol. Apparently preventing homeless people from making money legally is a vital step towards alleviating Cincinnati's homeless problem.

# Wellstone

continued from page 1

in America in the last thirty years. Senator Wellstone did not just have a fond recollection of Kennedy, but lived those values and pushed his idealism into his legislation.

He was an outcast even within his own party, much as homeless people are often outcasts in their own neighborhoods. Wellstone's was one of the few voices of dissent against the war resolution against Iraq. He was a leader of the Progressive Caucus, and often told audiences that we need to focus on "good education, good health care, and good jobs in America." He was the only Senator up for re-election coming off his "no" vote on welfare reform. He was a critic of President Bill Clinton for talking about high-minded social justice issues, but providing little money to back his rhetoric.

Senator Wellstone did not always follow the progressive vote, having voted for the Defense of Marriage Act and the terrorism bill that was passed in the days after the September 11 attack on the United States. His importance to homeless people was not that he voted the liberal party line, but that he was one of the few Senators that even spoke about the issues of poverty. Homeless people and housing activists could take comfort in the fact that he was there acting in our interests. We all could feel that at least someone in the Senate cared about our issues, and it was not hopeless. We felt that maybe the lack of affordable housing would be taken up by our government if at least someone was talking about the issues.

The sad reality is that most homeless people and most

low income people do not vote. They do not see anyone serving their interests, and so they see little point in exercising their collective right to vote. Paul Wellstone was the exception to a reality that we have all grown to accept: politicians are beholden to big business and corporate interests.

Wellstone gave us all hope that someday our issues would be heard and we could realize the visions of Martin Luther King Jr., Robert Kennedy, and George McGovern. He proved that a radical grassroots organizer could be elected. He was the counterbalance to the hate-filled rhetoric and scapegoating that so often marks elections these days. He stood in stark contrast to the Clinton mantra of moving toward the center in order to attract voters.

We all hope for another decent politician to come forward into the most exclusive club in the United States, one who will talk about issues like homelessness and affordable housing. We hope that the people of Minnesota send forth another son or daughter to be a leading voice on progressive issues in the United States Senate. And we hope that the improvement of education, universal health care, universal living wage, and a right to safe decent housing becomes a reality. Senator Paul Wellstone ever remain in our memory as a founding father of this progressive agenda.

*Reprinted from the November 2002 edition of Cleveland's Homeless Grapevine*

## How the Americans with Disabilities Act Applies to People with Psychiatric Disabilities

Released by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

On March 28, 1997, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) released a policy guidance concerning application of the Americans with Disabilities Act to individuals with psychiatric disabilities. The comprehensive document answers some of the most common questions about psychiatric disabilities and the ADA.

The guidance should be helpful to consumers, advocates and employers alike. It discusses how to determine whether a condition is covered under ADA, disclosure of a disability, requesting reasonable accommodations, examples of reasonable accommodations, when an employer can discipline a worker for misconduct resulting from a disability, direct threat and professional licensing.

A guidance is an addition to the EEOC compliance manual and is used by the agency's investigators in determining whether a complainant's ADA rights have been violated. Although EEOC guidelines are not regulations, they can inform courts about the official position of the agency responsible for ADA enforcement in the employment area. Advocates should be aware, however, that recent Supreme Court decisions have overruled parts of the guidelines. Several of the EEOC positions in the new guidance are especially important to consumers and advocates:

- The guidance expands the list of major life activities to include those relevant to psychiatric disability. An employee wishing to establish that he or she has

a covered disability must show substantial limitation of a major life activity. The guidance includes such activities as "learning, thinking, concentrating, interacting with others, caring for oneself, speaking, performing manual tasks, or working. Sleeping is also a major life activity..." This expansion should enable people with psychiatric disabilities to get past the first hurdle under the ADA: whether the employee has a covered disability.

- The agency affirms that "chronic, episodic conditions may constitute substantially limiting impairments if they are substantially limiting when active or have a high likelihood of recurrence in substantially limiting forms." The guidance mentions bipolar disorder, major depression and schizophrenia as examples of disabilities that may be episodic over the course of months or years. Accordingly, even if a disability is not currently active, an employee who needs an accommodation to continue controlling symptoms can be covered by the ADA.

- The guidance again notes that an employer cannot ask a job applicant whether he or she has a disability or needs a reasonable accommodation. This is a particularly useful protection for people with disabilities that are not visible.

- The Commission clarifies that an employer requesting information from an employee seeking an accommodation may only ask for information that is necessary to verify the existence of a disability and the need for accommodation. This provision means an employee or applicant may refuse broad employer requests, such as for all of a consumer's

therapy notes. However, employees should be aware that the guidance allows the employer to insist that the employee see a professional of the employer's choice if the initial information given the employer is insufficient to prove that the employee has a disability and needs an accommodation.

- The EEOC also takes the position that an employee can use plain English to request an accommodation and need not use the specific terms "reasonable accommodation" and "ADA." This should make it easier for employees who are not familiar with the legal terms.

- The guidance gives several examples of potential accommodations, including modifications to work schedules or policies, physical changes to the workplace, adjusting supervisory methods, providing a job coach, and reassignment to a different position. The guidance also makes clear that medication monitoring is not a reasonable accommodation, so employees cannot be forced to take medication under the employer's directive.

- Importantly, the guidance provides that an employer can only discipline an employee with a disability for misconduct related to the disability if the workplace standard is job-related to the employee's position and consistent with business necessity. If the misconduct has no relation to the person's ability to do the job in question, the employee cannot be disciplined.

The full text of the guidance is available on the EEOC's web-site at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov) or from the Commission's publication distribution center (1-800-669-3362).

# Homeless Again

Lynda Willis

After seven months of being homeless, we went indoors! We never thought it would be near that long, then in the last week of July a man, who comes to "Friendship Park", offered to rent us a room. This was not only to help us, but him, too, as he is a single father, between jobs, and on aid. We thanked "God", and thought we would get our lives back again!

In August, we moved in. Everything went along OK for the first ten to fifteen days, or so we assumed. Come to find out our new roommate used the money we paid to finance his habit - and not a legal one, either.

When the money ran out, he came down hard. He started yelling at me. My husband heard us arguing and told him we would be out on the first, as we were not going to be around any of that.

A week or so went by, we were looking in the papers for another place, but had not yet found one. The roommate asked us if we could talk, to try and work things out, and asked us to stay. Well, assuming everything is going to be the way it is supposed to be, we agreed to stay.

Before the first of the month even arrives, he needs extra help with the electric bill and groceries. So we help out, get some groceries for him and his kids, and give him \$50.00 towards the electric bill. Which was not too much to us, we still had a roof over our heads!

On September first, we paid \$100 of our \$350 rent, plus another \$50 for utilities, leaving a balance of \$300. My husband's payday fell after that by a couple of days, because of the holiday. We had planned to pay the balance then. But before three days, our roommate had smoked it all up again. Well, we just told him the \$100 was about a weeks rent out of a month, so we would just be moving out!

Now it is going on the third month this time outside. When someone says homeless due to a drug problem, it is automatically assumed it

is their drug problem, not someone else's!

Also this warning - "Some people are nice and helpful, to aide themselves!" - at anyone's cost, even if it is using, scamming a homeless couple or individual.

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Most people think they understand and know about the homeless and homelessness. Yet the reality is that unless someone lives or experiences it first hand, they really don't know.

They assume homeless people are alcoholics, drug addicts, convicts, or just plain lazy! That is not all together true, either. Yes, there are those among the homeless, but then there are those in houses with the same problems, too. Those kind of problems exist anywhere, at any level of society.

Some people were hurt on a job and couldn't afford the bills that piled up. Some lost their employment or other income. Some just had a landlord who demanded possession of their rental property and had not the money to move.

All homeless do not leave messes, garbage or litter. Yes, some do, but what about the so-called normal citizens? They dump appliances, furniture, and garbage by the river or side of the road as well. But that doesn't mean that all of them do it! Unfortunately, there are those who litter, leave a mess, or live like pigs. But some people, many who have places to live, do those things, too!

We are not "you people". We may be homeless, but we are still individuals! So assuming because one did this or that, all do this or that, is WRONG! There are good, bad, neat, sloppy people at all levels of society. We are all individuals!

# HOMELESSNESS AND THE BIGGER PICTURE

Elizabeth Halloway

When first homeless you are in shock and fear. A lot of us ask, "How did this happen? What do I do?" Then you muster courage and say, "I'll get myself out of this soon." If that doesn't happen you're depressed and discouraged. Afterwards you get angry and investigate new possibilities. When that doesn't pan out, you become unmotivated and can slip into substance abuse, spiral down into deeper poverty, apathy and suicidal thoughts. You may dissociate from reality, do things you wouldn't ordinarily do for money, wander and search, and wander and wait for...who knows? Sometimes it takes an amazing act of grace or synchronicity to come out okay on the other side.

Senator Barbara Boxer sits on the Foreign Relations Committee and fights for the ratification of a treaty called CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), adopted by the U.N. in 1979 (Human Rights magazine, Summer '02). How can she look in her mirror when homeless women suffer and are arrested for sleeping outside in Sacramento?

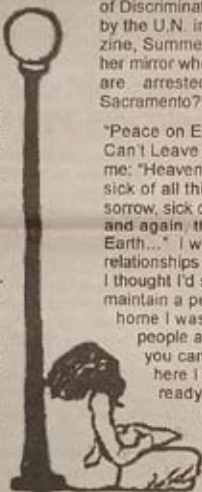
"Peace on Earth," from U2's All That You Can't Leave Behind album sums it up for me: "Heaven on Earth, we need it now. I'm sick of all this hanging around—sick of sorrow, sick of the pain; sick of hearing again and again, there's gonna be peace on Earth..." I was reclusive for 15 years after relationships failed and politics left me ill. So I thought I'd simply work, keep a home and maintain a peaceful life. But when I lost my home I was suddenly out with the street people again, and all it taught me is that you can run but you can't hide. Now here I am, banner held up, t-shirt on, ready for round number I-can't-remember. I think people like me should get the salaries politicians do for our services. At least we try to actually BE of service. They mostly provide lip-service.

Homelessness is, of course, intertwined with abortion rights, euthanasia, legalization of drugs, the warehousing of people in prisons, unjust wars, child pornography, censorship, unemployment, living wages, religious persecution, environmental pollution, high incidence of cancer in certain neighborhoods, the rape of natural resources, exploitation of immigrants, neglect of the elderly, corporate fraud—YOU name it. If we cannot comprehend this, we understand nothing. Until all are honored, NONE are honored. To fight for fairness, equality and compassion is a humanist movement. It is another choice. Paulo Freire, a brilliant Brazilian educator, says in Pedagogy of the Oppressed, "It is not the unloved who initiate disaffection, but those who cannot love because they love only themselves...It is only the oppressed who, by freeing themselves can free their oppressors...Acts which prevent the restoration of the oppressive regime cannot be compared...with those by which a few men deny

the majority their right to be human." Further, from an ontological level, he adds, "The radical, committed to human liberation, does not become the prisoner of a 'circle of certainty' within which he imprisons reality. On the contrary, the more radical he is, the more fully he enters into reality, so that knowing it better, he can transform it. He is not afraid to meet the people or to enter into dialogue with them. He does not consider himself the proprietor of history or of men...but he does commit himself, within history to fight at their side." This speaks to our place in an evolving Divine Order.

Abandon the myths that this is a free society, that there are foreign tyrants we need to conquer (so the U.S. can be World Cop), that our government doesn't lie and that rebellion is a sin. Stop denying that the fabric of our civil rights has completely deteriorated. Ignore the Christian platitude that God will take care of everything. That anesthetizes us. It keeps us slaves of the elite, like domesticated animals, walking masses of living death. God helps those who help themselves. We can't emulate our oppressors, rather we need to be our own examples. We must be bold, defiant, and accept that revolution is permanent risk. We need to acknowledge what we see on the street every day and then act on it. They can't arrest us all, they can't afford to prosecute us all, and much as they wish, they can't make us all disappear. We are only somewhat expendable because they need us to keep their sadistic games going. It's your right to observe how police treat citizens. It's your right not to have your picture taken. It's your right to be spoken to respectfully (and your obligation to reciprocate). It's also your right to name what you see, i.e., hypocrisy, bullying, discrimination, deceit, etc..

In all of this, let's not forget love. Most of us already know more than we need to know. It's our hearts that must open. Che Guevara said, "Let me say, at the risk of appearing ridiculous, that the true revolutionary is guided by feelings of love." Bell Hooks in All About Love says, "When love is present the desire to dominate...cannot rule the day. All the great social movements for freedom and justice...have promoted a love ethic...if all public policy was created in the spirit of love, we wouldn't have to worry about unemployment, homelessness, schools failing to teach...or addiction." Try to be creative and constructive with your anger, often using humor. Let's have some fun out here! I don't call my enemies, if you will, bastards or pigs at protests. I don't want to think like them. I want to help them see another way. Another line I like from that U2 song is, "...that which you mock shall surely overtake you..." There is a strong and growing political voice of the poor in Sacramento and this state. One way or another we will eventually get the correct results—not from the false, conscience-easing generosity of the "haves," which has been shaped by the pathological status quo, nor from the crumbs of the fading powers that be, but from the inescapable Truth, which can never be fully destroyed.



# 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 part 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 the Loaves & Fishes complex, 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 after 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 publishing excerpts on Homeward's webpage and 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.

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For information please call: 442-2156

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

excepts from the paper are published on the web at <http://users.comcast.com/shocome>

## Joining 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.

# Child Migrants

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like *Empty Cradles*, her best-seller, tell the story. Above all, her work is reflected in the lives of the people she has helped. Her story is one of driven compassion.

**Real Change: Who were these children?**

Margaret Humphreys: They're now called British Child Migrants. You know that Britain migrated quite a lot of people before all this. Britain had a history of migrating children for quite a while, but the time period we're dealing with is post-World War II, from 1947 on through about 1967. They were moved all over the Empire, but mostly to Australia. Some of these poor children were as young as four years of age.

**RC: Why did the government send them to Australia?**

Humphreys: At that time, after World War II, the Australian government feared the growing Asian population. They wanted to populate the country with what was then called "good White British stock." They called upon Britain, and Britain sent them children.

**RC: How did the children come to live in these group homes in England?**

Humphreys: Many of them were children of single mothers. At that time, being a single mother carried a certain stigma. Some of the children were not in good health, and poor families couldn't afford their children. And some were from families that just weren't able to raise their children.

**RC: How did you discover these children?**

Humphreys: I was working in child protection services in Nottingham. One day, I received a letter from a woman, Mary, in Australia. She was from Nottingham,

which is also my hometown. She said that she came to Australia on a boat as a very young girl, sent there by the British government. She had no passport, no birth certificate. She said she was an orphan, and wanted to find out more information about herself and her family.

I wrote her and told her that there must have been a mistake; children did not just get on a boat and go to Australia on their own. Neither I nor my colleagues had heard of anything like it. She promptly wrote right back and said that there were others in her situation.

When I looked into it I found that she was not an orphan. Her parents were still alive. Then, it was about 15 years ago, I put an ad in an Australian newspaper. It said that if there was anyone who was brought over as a child from Britain at that time, to contact me. At that time when I placed the ad, I didn't even know if anyone would respond, but very quickly I got hundreds of responses. Thousands of children thought that they were orphans. And into all this, some parents tried to come back for their children. They were told that the children had been adopted and were in England. Some were told that they were dead. They were all lied to.

**RC: What was the response from the British and Australian governments?**

Humphreys: Denial. That was the response. Any time something like this is revealed, things of this scale, the governments' response is to deny it. This was exposing extreme abuse at quite a midable levels. It took 1 1 years for a full inquiry.

What you're doing is exposing historic things from the past. Most historic exposures bring a response of denial.

Many people, especially of my generation, walk around with a sense of guilt, but not feeling anything can be done. Most exposures happen so long after the fact that people can't do anything about it.

There was resistance as well. The governments were just waiting for the clock to run out on this. Of course, the parents are getting older, and the child migrants are too. Had this not been revealed, many of these people would have died not knowing the truth. Many of them did. And really, that's why I'm doing some work in America. I've found some of the single mothers have migrated here. There are also some of the child migrants here too, who have moved as adults.

**RC: There is now a trust that was set up for the child migrants. How is that funded?**

Humphreys: Well, it's a trust that was started about 15 years ago to see that these child migrants could return home to meet family. It's funded by the government, but the funding is wholly inadequate. I'm now the director of the trust.

**RC: How much more work do you think is needed regarding the British Child Migrants?**

Humphreys: I would say another decade of work is ahead of us.

Now working in the U.S., Mrs. Humphreys continues to search out former British Child Migrants and their family members. She and her staff are also working to increase funding for the Trust, so families can afford to be reunited. For more information, please visit the Child Migrant Trust website: [http://www.nottscc.gov.uk/child\\_migrants](http://www.nottscc.gov.uk/child_migrants). Stories of these children inspired the novel *Trust Me*, by Lesley Pearce. There are also a number of non-fiction books available, including Philip Bean's *Lost Children of the Empire* and Perry Snow's *Neither Wait nor Stray: the Search for a Stolen Identity*.

Reprinted from the Dec 12-25 issue of *Seattle's Real Change News*.

# War

continued from page 1

"That \$355 billion dollar a year military budget you were all so disgusted about - that is money that is coming directly from the fact that poor and homeless people are dying in our streets, that poor and homeless people are being cut out of welfare, denied education, denied treatment, denied mental health / substance abuse treatment, disability treatment. All that is being cut.

"Seven hundred families in San Francisco alone in December are going to lose either a portion or all of their welfare benefits because the United States Government wants to put that shit into military spending to kill people in other countries.

"Every time we allow the San Francisco Police Department to shoot and kill mentally ill young men in our movie theaters in this town, [referring to Idriss Stelly, 23, fatally shot 27 times by the SFPD during a psychiatric crisis in the Metreon Theater complex,] we are promoting George Bush's agenda to shoot and kill poor people in South America, and Iraq, and throughout the world...

"If we can't make the connection between Prop N and George Bush, we are living in a delusional world. The only reason that the City and County of San Francisco thinks that taking away money from poor people is good for poor people in an initiative being run by a millionaire is because they have seen the Federal Government get away with it; they have seen the State Government get away with it. They have watched us not have 80,000 and 100,000 people like we need to have every time they screw any of us.

"We should all be here for each other. We should be here, and we should be strong, and we should tell them, 'An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!'

# It Ain't Camping, and it Ain't Fun

Released through the NASNA Street News Service ([www.streetnewsservice.org](http://www.streetnewsservice.org))

## Cindy Carlson

With an invitation for a visit and forty pounds of good bananas donated from a local grocery store, I drove out to the campground. On the way I reflected on my own experiences in summers of difficult times, when I was forced to live homeless at various campgrounds with my kids. In times when we didn't own traditional campers, no one knew that we had no home to go to at the end of the season. I remembered how my kids would whine once the traditional camping period had ended, and they were done having "their" little vacation; remembering the questions: "But why can't we have our own place?" and "How come I can't go to my old school?" as the summer ended. It seems so long ago, but the memories remain fresh. My heart sunk, wondering where all these families now without housing will go when the weather turns cold.

I drove to the owner's house in the front of the grounds. S, the lady who invited me out, was standing in the front yard with another woman, herself disabled and a mother. I had met S's friend and her friend's husband over a year ago; she now tells me that they have now been homeless for fifteen months. We chatted for a little while in the office. The owner wanted to charge me a four-dollar visitor's fee, until we convinced him that I wasn't going to stay too long.

They jumped up into the van and we crawled down the dirt road at five miles per hour. As we got near the back of the grounds, I wasn't prepared for what I saw. S began pointing out tents and campers of people she knew who were without permanent housing. Some had very large tents; others had pup tents and tarps strung up the best way they could. Still a few more had older model campers and pop-up trailers.

We stopped at one tent and two young ladies were sitting at a picnic table under a tarp. S called out, "Where's your mom?" The girl responded quickly about her mother's whereabouts, and then said, "I can't talk now, I'm trying to get my homework done before it gets dark." Their heads went back down to their work, and we continued to travel slowly down the road.

We passed another site where someone was breaking camp. S yelled over and the woman came to the van. I handed her a flyer on the Gimme Shelter program and then realized I knew this woman too. She had been working at a corner store in my neighborhood, but I hadn't seen her lately. She said they were moving away from the campground because the trailer they had been borrowing had to be returned to their friend, who uses it for hunting season. They didn't know where they were going to go yet; they just knew they had to leave. She was waiting for her son to get home and then they were off. I asked her to call me when she lands, and gave her an Under the Bridge brochure. I wished her good luck, and we continued down the road.

Finally we near the latrine, and I am told to pull over and park. Three children immediately run out from the tent, wanting attention from their mother; Dad had apparently just brought them back from

school in the city. The normal after-school chatter begins, and papers are handed over. The oldest is looking for markers so she can make a poster for homework. No one has any markers, including me, though I turn the van upside down looking for one.

Dad hauls out the bananas and the girls immediately take one and then two. The youngest comes back two more times until her mother tells her, "Enough, you're going to get sick." Another child questions, "What's for supper?" Her mom replies sadly, "I don't even know."

A child comes to tell Mom that she has a fundraiser for school. Mom looks at it and tosses it into the fire pit, explaining to the child why it isn't possible for them to contribute. Then another child cries about a school project, due yesterday, which requires pipe cleaners, a Styrofoam ball, and some beads. I inquire about which schools they attend and make note of it. Mom pulls out a little booklet from NLCHP on the McKinney-Vento Act, explaining that she knows that the schools are supposed to help her with transportation but no one is helping. The kids go off to do their other homework; the smallest of the three runs down to the water to throw rocks in it.

Now two of the dads are sitting at the table with us three women. Both just got out of work. One is a painter, and the other works on the hot top crew at the airport. They express their frustration about who they see getting housing and who isn't. They are frustrated at not being able to care for their families. One gentleman said that his family is being denied help at town welfare because they didn't meet the requirement of having all their receipts. He stated that they are being sanctioned because of the loss of a twenty-five-cent receipt and a two-dollar lottery ticket. He said he wants to win the lottery, just like everybody else, so he can buy a home for his family.

The guys walk off to finish loading the truck with the things that their neighbors are taking to storage. The moving family is going to a hotel because the mother is disabled and can't take the cold anymore. They will be paying \$800 a month for the hotel and paying an additional \$208 for their storage. Mom explains, leaving them with \$34 in cash for the month for gas, laundry, and other non-foods. She said it is a good deal, because the hotel will give them clean towels, toilet paper, and hot showers.

Meanwhile, S begins telling me that the campground is closing for the season on October 15th, and most of the families (including hers) still don't have a place to go. She lists the agencies she has contacted since the beginning of the summer and states her outcomes:

- Security deposit application—pending.
- State welfare—Her food stamps are ending soon because they make too much money. Her kids will retain Healthy Kids insurance, but she and her husband are without medical insurance.
- Town welfare—denied. S was told to go to city welfare, as they are looking for housing in city and the kids go to school there.
- City welfare—S was told to come back when the camps close, because the shelters are all full and the hotels won't take any more homeless families.

- Social worker at one child's school—S saw no outcome from this.
- Church—She was told that since they don't live in that city, the program is unable to help.

S states that the kids have no clothes, and they can't afford to do the laundry they do have. At the campground they have to pay for showers, laundry, and firewood, as well as their space. Add in gas for driving back and forth to work and school, food, ice, and paper products. They don't have refrigeration, so food goes bad quickly. Worst of all, they have been unable to save any money with three growing kids.

S is desperate for a home. She stated that "it all happened so fast: we were doubled up with a friend first, and then we ended up out here. It's hard mentally because when I first got divorced, I told my children that no matter what happened I would always make sure they had a roof over their heads, clothes on their backs, and food in their tummies. Then I met my new husband. He is a good hard worker and we still aren't making it."

In total S knows of fourteen adults and eleven children that are homeless, but she states there are other families on the other side of the campground that she suspects are also homeless. Though S doesn't know them, she explains that she has seen the same kids all summer and now into the fall. As I was leaving, a limousine with Vermont plates pulls into a campsite. S states that it is all that is left of the man's business. And the only car they have.

S was just about to introduce me to another family when up pulled the campground's maintenance man. He asked me if I was going to stay much longer, I told him I would get going. He said the owner is worried that I might disclose the location of the campground, because it will wreck his business. I told him I would not, and made my way back home.

## Untitled

by Timot

I made the mistake of believing  
In God

one day;  
Prayed to Him  
Cried to Him  
Questioned Him  
Sang to Him;

Then,  
Amidst ford and chevy,  
ibm and apple,  
superbowl and worldseries  
new york and vietnam  
the wizard of oz and sixty minutes  
f.d.r. and j.f.k.,  
phyliss diller and lady di,  
lizards and giraffes,  
you and me -

He answered.



What does "free press" really mean? It costs nothing?

## Fall

by Lee

The first leaves of summer  
surrender to an incessant wind.  
Pale green and brown, they are  
promise of a fiery autumn.  
The soft melodies of summer chimes  
disintegrate into a discordant clamor.  
A biting air stalks shade and shadow,  
patiently waiting on the waning sun.  
The light flees the spreading arms of darkness,  
while the weary grieve the loss of day  
Without hearth or kin, they weigh how much  
they can carry - armor against the ravaging night.  
For they are the prey of nocturnal marauders  
in a cold-blooded game with death.

## dark days by Morgan W. Brown

hard, lonely and long  
moments happen  
when eyes  
fail to fall  
upon anything much  
more than what darkened  
cloudy, colder, days allow

during the most difficult  
times, such dark  
chills, are found  
far too despairing  
faced alone

seconds quickly  
slow down,  
becoming years,  
while nothing  
good or promising  
appears possible  
any longer

unless one has enough  
light, strength and warmth  
stored within themselves,  
or is otherwise shown these  
from others, it ends up being  
far easier to stop hoping,  
trying and moving beyond

yet, no time gets worst endured,  
except that spent with the soul  
going untouched by thoughts,  
feelings, words or deeds  
blessed of a gentler,  
kinder nature

not a brighter star or sun  
does shine, which can so  
deeply and plentifully  
inspire, nurture and rekindle  
aching, ailing or dying  
spirits better; than those gifts  
offered from compassion,  
understanding and listening;  
freely given and openly welcomed

## A Prayer of a Poor Man's House

by Adrian

O'Lord; - What chance have I  
When ignorance is all I have  
To protect myself and my family.

It has been said - that a poor man  
is an honest man's friend  
- or -  
is it - a rich man's friend?

O'well - be it true or not  
I have - a hard time -  
When trying to understand this.  
I believe, because there is little,  
to know the truth, to this saying.  
For ignorance is by no means friend  
- Rich or Poor.

For I awaken - during the coldness of the night  
And - I become very aware of that - of which I am without.  
For the room - that I have awakened to - is without warmth.  
For this is - but a poor man's house.

For here I live - by choice, a poor man's choice.  
The only choice - it would seem - I have.  
For - I have chosen the hardest way - to understand  
The ignorance of - a poor man's way!



Illustration: Lee

## Obituary

**Ivory King**  
September 1, 2002  
homicide

**Ernest Gearhart**  
date uncertain  
homicide  
found beaten to death

**Jusabio Pete Rincon**  
"Dreamer"  
October 2, 2002  
liver failure due to Hep C

**Shalle Helena Valarie Williams**  
October 11, 2002  
cause unknown

**Jeffery Barnett**  
October 13, 2002  
heart attack

**Richard Green**  
October 13, 2002  
at UCD of congestive heart failure

**Warren Price**  
October 18, 2002  
of cancer

**David Dexter**  
November 29, 2002  
cause uncertain

**Danny Helton**  
December 7, 2002  
cause uncertain

**Bobby Veal**  
December 8, 2002  
cause not known

**Cova Strandberg**  
December 17, 2002  
cause uncertain  
at St. Francis Parish

**Herbert Cucak**  
December 17, 2002  
struck and killed by car  
on Richards Blvd.

**Clyde Keppler "Corkle"**  
December 28, 2002  
found near Discovery Park off  
Garden Hwy - cause unknown