

# HOMeward

## Street Journal

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## Dignity Village: An Issue That Won't Go Away

**Clock winds down to Portland City Council's decision on Dignity Village**

By Israel Bayer

After more than three years of struggle, Dignity Village has attracted a groundswell of supporters, including church leaders, congregations, scholars, activists from all walks of life, politicians, philanthropists, school children, teachers, actors, architects, social-service workers and homeless advocates. It has also racked up dozens of critics and opponents, including neighborhoods, angry newspaper columnists, shelter providers, and a reluctant City Hall.

None is more vocal than Lars Larson, a talk-show radio host for 750 KXL. In November, Larson filed a building complaint about Dignity Village, forcing the city to act. The complaint-driven system on building codes requires City Hall to submit a plan to the state building code office about how Dignity Village could comply with state and local building codes. City Commissioner Erik Sten sponsored a resolution that declares the property Dignity Village now occupies as transitional housing.

"We are carrying on regardless of what's happening politically," said the village's vice chairman, Jack Tafari. "We're assuming we will be here for a decade. We would like to get this designation as a transitional zone and get on with building a transitional eco-village."

Larson stated in his complaint letter, "The city of Portland has incorrectly determined that, by declaring Dignity Village transitional housing, they have rectified the problem. Now that the city has effectively washed its hands of the issue, we look to the proper agencies of the state of Oregon to end the illegal and dangerous occupation."

The proposed resolution "Designate the property known as Sunderland Yard as a campground," by Sten, may not only decide the fate of Dignity Village, but may also decide the fate of

similar tent cities now under government review. Last week, the Denver City Commission approved a plan to create a tent city to house the homeless on a temporary basis. Key West, Fla., is reviewing a similar plan.

The resolution would declare Dignity Village a campground under a state law that was sponsored by Al King in 1999, a Democrat whose district happens to include the largest yurt manufacturer in Oregon.

Dignity Village's summary of the proposal given to the city on Oct. 22, states: "Dignity Village Inc. provides a safe, drug- and alcohol-free, alternative to the streets for 60 homeless adults every night. In addition to private temporary dwellings, the village provides basic services including toilets, showers, cooking facilities, telephone, mail, computer access, and access to health care. Dignity Village is an unprecedented and successful effort by individuals experiencing homelessness to create and govern a community in which they can support each other in the transition off the streets and into permanent housing."

The proposal goes on to say, the village will continue commitment providing services to homeless people, but to do so in a much-improved ecologically sustainable physical environment and in increased cooperation with other homeless services organizations. "Dignity Village proposes to enter into a long-term lease with the city of Portland for its current site. As consideration for this tenancy, Dignity Village will provide to the city of Portland and its residents a variety of services that meet the needs of Portland's homeless community with little or no expenditure of public funds."

One of the biggest obstacles, villagers say, is getting critics such as Lars Larson to visit the village and judge for themselves what people experiencing homelessness are doing for themselves.

see Decision page 4

**Dignity Village Officially Acknowledged as Viable Option for the Homeless**

by Keith Vann

With a shortage of nearly 15,000 affordable housing units and a shortfall of over 1500 shelter beds every night, Portland can ill afford to ignore any creative solution to its homelessness and housing crisis. That pretty much summarized the opinion expressed by Portland City Commissioners Eric Sten, Randy Leonard, and Mayor Veta Katz in the City's 4-1 decision on 2/26/04 to allow Dignity Village to persist as an interim authorized campground. Commissioner Jim Francesconi cast the sole dissenting vote.

Portland's fair and just decision sends a clear message across the country and around the world. Creative, grass roots endeavors aimed at resolving homelessness and poverty rightly belong in the same policy pot with conventional approaches.

Overwhelming testimony in support of Dignity Village from a broad spectrum of homeowners, business people, professionals, homeless service providers, students, and residents clearly impressed the City Council.

Since its inception in early 2000, Dignity Village has provided sanctuary from the perils of the streets to over 600 individuals (nearly 53,000 bed-nights). Currently, the Village is home to 60 people, many having resided there for over a year.

The Council's decision to renew support of Dignity Village openly defied its many detractors. The village's largely misinformed opponents have insisted upon the dissolution of Dignity Village on several grounds, all of which ultimately prove to have little or no real merit.

Dignity Village is not a solution to homelessness

Although tent cities, of which Dignity Village has been accused of being, are not in themselves solutions to homelessness, they can be vital short-term compo-

nents of more comprehensive solutions to the problem. Civic support of Dignity Village, and tent cities in general, is a humane and essential response to the immediate needs of homeless people obliged to live on the street. Until permanent affordable housing can be provided for all who need it, people need someplace to call home. Forcing people with no other housing option onto the streets, and then criminalizing them for being there is cruel, irrational, and destructive. No one is served

According to Jack Tafari, formerly the chairperson of Dignity Village, and currently its vice-chair, Dignity Village's destiny is to become a self-sustaining "eco-village" occupying its own piece of arable property. It is partially this goal that motivates so many "Villagers" to defend their right to remain. Although living conditions may sometimes be less than ideal, they are rapidly improving. Even so, current conditions are a huge improvement over what residents would face living on the street, the very state that the Village's opponents would cast them into.

Dignity Village is substandard and in violation of health and safety codes.

In allowing Dignity Village to persist, opponents claim that the City is setting a dangerous precedent by lowering its standards. First, the city is not lowering its standards. Dignity Village has agreed to come into full compliance with local building, health, and safety codes. This has always been Dignity's intention. By designating the Village as an interim campground, the city is merely granting the Village a temporary variance, much as it would do for any family seeking to occupy or renovate a substandard house. Lacking the financial resources of a developer or well-to-do homeowner, Villagers have opted to undertake the project themselves.

see Viable Option page 4

by R.V. Murphy, Patty Lane

Chicago panhandlers can receive as much as \$400 thanks to a class action lawsuit filed on behalf of 5,000 panhandlers who claimed their civil rights had been violated when they were arrested or ticketed while politely asking for money, according to the Chicago Tribune. The case, filed in federal court in 2001 and decided five days before Christmas, focused on a local disorderly conduct law that let police arrest people on public streets for drunkenness, lewdness, and panhandling. If arrested the person could be fined up to \$500. "Having a blanket prohibition like that isn't legal," says Mark Weinberg, one of the attorneys representing the panhandlers. "You can ask for help across the street, you can ask for the time, but if you asked me for a dollar the city could throw you in jail." Federal magistrate Jan Nolan approved a settlement that calls for Chicago to pay \$99,000 in damages. The city, which admits no wrongdoing, will also pay \$375,000 to cover attorney fees and the cost of distributing the money. Not all panhandlers qualify; people who were cited or arrested only for panhandling — and not other violations — are eligible. In addition, Chicago officials revoked the panhandling ordinance last year; a spokesman was quoted as saying that "the lawsuit helped us realize that [the ordinance] was too broad and wasn't going to be accepted legally."

There are more than 146,000 people on waiting lists for public housing in New York City and one of the largest homeless populations in the country. Therefore housing advocates are outraged at a new report from Assemblyman Scott Stringer (D-Manhattan), which shows there are more than 5,000 publicly owned apartments in New York stand vacant. According to the New York City Housing Authority, many of the vacant apartments are in buildings slated for repair. The city's Housing Authority says it's easier to renovate apartments when the buildings are vacant. A News 12 Report (<http://tinyurl.com/2gzfd>) says the average wait for public housing in the city is eight years. In the Bronx alone, there are over 1,000 publicly owned units vacant.

A federal class-action lawsuit filed on behalf of homeless children and their parents says that welfare

programs in Suffolk County, NY, move homeless children from school to school, and schools resist enrolling and busing them. The suit claims local schools are failing to provide homeless children with suitable clothing shoes, books, food, and transportation to enable them to attend school and is "depriving homeless children of a chance for a better future," according to the New York Times. The state receives millions of dollars in federal aid to educate the homeless, according to advocates. The suit also addresses a prerequisite for school requiring proof of a permanent address for school enrollment, which "results in children being turned away at the school house door," say the plaintiffs. The suit seeks compliance, not monetary damages.

Six police officers in Apopka, Florida, face charges for firing pepper balls into a homeless camp, according to Local6.com. An internal investigation completed last week showed the officers had violated a number of department regulations in the September incident at the camp. Former Apopka Officer Brian Davis, who is now an Orange County deputy sheriff, reportedly revealed the incident while applying for his current job. No transients in the camp were injured. Punishment for the officers has not been announced.

The health of some homeless workers in Florida may have been put at risk when the owner of a downtown St. Petersburg building hired them for a demolition job. The Tampa Bay Tribune reports that county officials may levy more than \$15,000 in penalties against the owner, who is accused of hiring a number of homeless to remove crumbling asbestos pipe insulation without proper safety precautions. Asbestos can cause life-threatening problems, including cancer or scarring in lung tissue. Regulations require that workers wear protective clothing and treat asbestos before stripping it off pipes. Officials discov-

ered the violations last year while inspecting the apartments.

A makeshift homeless encampment with tents made of blankets has been targeted by the city of Pittsburgh, according to PittsburghChannel.com (<http://thepittsburghchannel.com/news>). City crews are posting warnings telling the six people living under the Roberto Clemente Bridge that they have a week to remove their belongings before the city does it for them, says Public Works Director Guy Costa. The encampment was removed in November but the occupants moved back. Under terms of a settlement in a lawsuit brought on behalf of the homeless people, the city must give seven days' notice before clearing away an encampment, to give occupants time to move, and must store any personal belongings rather than discarding them. The bridge is a main thoroughfare to the new baseball stadium and is named for Roberto Clemente, Hall of Fame outfielder for the Pittsburgh Pirates. Clemente died on Jan. 1, 1973, in the crash of a cargo plane carrying relief supplies to those left homeless by an earthquake in Managua, Nicaragua.

Three 11-year-olds got caught up in a lie that sent a homeless man to jail for eight months. According to the Contra Costa Times, the girls didn't want to get in trouble for being late to school, so they covered it up by saying they were attacked by a homeless man in a park in Garden Grove, California. Eric Nordmark, a 36-year-old self-described nomad, was jailed for eight months on assault and child molestation charges before one of the girls finally came forward to say she and her friends made up the story. Nordmark maintained his innocence while in jail and recalls his incarceration as "very terrifying." While Nordmark says he doesn't hold a grudge against the girls, he has not

decided on whether he will sue them or the city. The girls are being referred to Juvenile Court.

Eight homeless veterans received full military honors at a special funeral service held outside San Diego. According to the San Diego Union Tribune, local Vietnam veterans, members of the 82nd Airborne, and even Pearl Harbor survivors came to show respect for their military "family" — some serving as honor guard, others as pallbearers. The number of homeless veterans dying in the region has increased, although no one knows why. The Homeless Veterans Burial Program gave more than 80 homeless veterans dignified services and funerals over the last several years. Other cities have similar programs. "I think we all fear dying alone," says Al Pavich, president of the Vietnam Veterans of San Diego. He attends many of these memorials and tells the Union-Tribune that his organization offers treatment, job training, and counseling to homeless veterans. An estimated 270,000 veterans are homeless.



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# Faces of Homelessness in Santa Cruz

by Becky Johnson and Robert Norse

## WHY CAN'T THESE KIDS COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS?

Santa Cruz, Ca. — When Stacie and Orley Jones arrived in their R V from Kentucky, they thought they were planning a better life for their four kids. They didn't know how hard it would be to get housing, and wound up living in their RV much longer than they had anticipated. One day in April, social workers from Child Protective Services showed up and took all their kids.

"They'd gotten an anonymous complaint that we were having sex in front of our kids and that I was smoking marijuana in front of my kids," said Orley. "It wasn't true, of course," said Stacie. No such charge was ever filed against the couple and no witness ever came forward to testify against them. But their children were not returned.

"CPS is trying desperately to find something to pin on this couple to justify the seizure," reports Roxanne Acquistapace who founded "Independent Advocacy" to help people like Stacie and Orley who are caught up in a system which divides and sometimes destroys families under the guise of protecting them.

During court ordered counseling, Stacie was asked to report intimate details of her sexual life with her husband, and chastised when she failed to be forthcoming. The counselor also intimated that she should leave her husband. Acquistapace was outraged. "They have no business pressuring people to make those kind of decisions with their lives, but then they are homeless and living in an RV. They feel they have some kind of right to pass judgement on them."

Judge Robert Yonts, perhaps under pressure from nervous CPS officials, issued a gag order on the couple and the attorneys, banning them from talking about the case. (The Jones had been appearing on a local radio show.) When in court, the couple are not allowed to speak, but must do so only through a court-appointed attorney, who, they claim misrepresents them. They are not allowed to bring friends and supporters into the courtroom. They are not allowed to record the proceedings or say specifically what went on.

## 4-DAY JURY TRIAL FOR A DOG ON THE BEACH

When John Golder took his dog onto its beach, he didn't think he was doing anything wrong. "There were two other people with dogs on the beach, too." Yet when Officer Eric Seilly ordered him off the beach, only Golder was cited. "They ran my license and a warrant for my arrest came back that I knew shouldn't have been there," said Golder between one of the hearings for his jury trial. "They charged me with resisting arrest and with assault on a police officer, both misdemeanors, so I qualified for both a public defender and a jury trial."

The jury found Golder innocent on the assault charge but guilty on the resisting arrest charge. The jury also was told that the original arrest warrant had been reported in error just as Golder claimed. Golder was sentenced to 60 days in County Jail/54 days suspended, 120 community service hours, \$120 restitution and two years probation. The original "dog on the beach after 10 AM" charge was never prosecuted.

## CITY SELLS OUT SENIORS

Homelessness in Santa Cruz is a direct result of the lack of affordable housing in the City. The DeAnza Senior Mobile Home Park on the cliff fs overlooking Natural Bridges State Beach was one of the few such places that provide at least 198 senior households with affordable housing and rent control.

But when MHC, the owner of the park, sued the City for denying them a reasonable return from their asset (they bought the park in 1994 for \$8.4 million knowing full well that all residents were protected by a rent control ordinance) they claimed the park was really worth as much as \$80 million.

The City spent about \$500,000 in legal bills fighting the suits, but in August suddenly settled and on August 23rd, they voted 6-1 to gut the rent control ordinance. This also affected another 67 units in Clear View Court where tenants also had their rents protected by rent control.

Critics argued that the City could win the suit if they continued. But Mayor Emily Reilly claimed she couldn't "bankrupt" the City by defending the seniors assets.

"That is highly unlikely," argued Attorney Michael Constantine who wrote the San Mateo mobile home rent control ordinance. "At best they could get the differences in the back rent — a sum of about \$1.5 million, if they could win at all." The City cited budget woes as the sole reason for the settlement. Two months later (Nov. 25, '03) City Council voted to spend \$300,000 on golf course improvements.

## MOVE-ALONG ORDINANCE TO BE TESTED AT TRIAL

Steve Argue and Matt Hartough both refused to move a political table after one hour's time from a location in front of the Pacific Trading Company that both men were boycotting. City Council passed a Move-Along Every Hour law along with other anti-homeless laws last January to please merchants against the recommendations of its own advisory committee.

Pacific Trading Company owners not only supported these laws but played an active role in lobbying the City to spend \$7000+ to move a planter railing out 8', eliminating 20+ seating spaces to discourage street musicians, youth, and homeless. Under complaint from the PTC, both Argue and Hartough were arrested and jailed for failing to comply with the new law, enacted in January of 2003. The

cash-strapped City—supposedly unable to find money to support its rent control law at De Anza, is finding the money to continue the prosecution.

## BLUE LAGOON WINS POLICE HARASSMENT TRIAL

In federal court, the owners of the Gay-friendly "Blue Lagoon" won a lawsuit against the Santa Cruz Police Department for harassment when they sent uniformed officers into the bar with a german shepard police dog to sniff the customers and hang out for hours at a time. Other testimony the jury heard was of police cars shining headlights into the bar for hours. And of a police officer in full uniform standing out at the front entrance with a police dog. The city's attorney, Vince Hurley of Aptos, argued the police did nothing unusual.

Wells said "The City has denied any wrongdoing but the jury has already awarded \$116,000 in damages and court costs and legal fees. The combined legal costs for both the plaintiffs and the defense will run over a million dollars." Homeless activists are hopeful this victory will rein in the police department. City Council—which abolished the Citizens Police Review Board last January—is prone to rubberstamp every police request for increased funding and authority.

## MORE HOMELESS DEATHS

Patches died late this summer when she sought treatment for an infected arm four times at Dominican Hospital. Night after night she was turned away. On her fourth trip to the emergency ward she was admitted and scheduled for an amputation of her infected arm. Two days later—the day before surgery—she died. Her husband Chico, claimed they kept turning her away because they were homeless and had no insurance.

On November 14th, Linda Sipos was taken to the emergency room, suffering two seizures in the ambulance. The ER personnel were able to treat a third seizure she had in the ER ward. Yet Linda was released in a wheelchair in the rain later that evening when a blood test showed a trace of alcohol in her system. C.J., her common-law husband, begged the staff to admit her. "If she goes into another seizure, she may die," he had pleaded.

"They told her to get a bus in the rain in a wheelchair," C.J. cried, sobs catching in his throat. "I woke up the next morning (in their campsite) and she lay dead beside me." C.J. is a well-known street musician in Santa Cruz who helped start the recent street performers union SAFE (Society for Artistic Freedom and Expression). "For the past 5 1/2 years I woke up every morning with Linda and told her I loved her. I don't know how I am going to go on without her."

## DRIVING FOOD SERVERS AWAY FROM DOWNTOWN PACIFIC AVENUE

As the weather turns colder, HUFF

activists have growing concerns about a joint effort by the Downtown Association, the City Manager's Office, neighborhood NIMBYS, Julie Hendee of the RDA and the Police Department to ban those serving free food to the hungry from the downtown area. Groups like The Potters Hand and Food Not Bombs that serve hungry people directly on the street report increased harassment.

Pastor Adams of The Potters Hand has publicly advised his clients he can no longer serve downtown because of the risks of harassment from police and city officials. The City Manager's office called an invitation-only meeting with some food servers in October, at which, Adams reports, it became clear the city is drawing up laws to criminalize food serving.

Food Not Bombs reports being newly closely watched by police and health officials. Sgt. Loren Baker arrested FNB activist Crissy for improper identification and for a fix-it ticket as she pedaled the Food Not Bombs bike cart supplied with food down to the meal in mid-October.

## FIRST OFFICIAL DEATH BY EXPOSURE REPORTED

"Crazy Jimmy" who many knew on Pacific Ave. died on November 23, 2003 in the Pogonip. Coroners are labeling the death of James Cline Jr., age 57, as at least partially due to exposure.

Cline, due to his tendency to burst out suddenly and sometimes using expletives, was not allowed in the Santa Cruz ISSP shelter program. Instead, he froze to death on a hill nearby.

Jessica, a friend of Jimmy's, and who was born and raised in Santa Cruz but is now a homeless panhandler on Pacific Ave., confirmed that Dominican Hospital turns away homeless people. "I blame the Satellite program and the armory program for his death. I've known Jimmy all my life and I'm 25 years old. It was cold Sunday, all day. I know Jimmy well enough to know he went to see if he could get on at the armory that night," she said.

See also [www.huffsantacruz.org](http://www.huffsantacruz.org) or call the HUFFline at (831) 423-HUFF

## HIV Services Forum

The HIV Health Services Planning Council is hosting an Affected Communities Forum on

Monday, May 3, 2004.

The forum, to gather the HIV/AIDS community's input on funding decisions, will be held from 6-8 pm at 909 12th Street, Sacramento (near 12th & I St.

For more information, call 916-447-7063 x311

## Decision continued from page 1

"We need to build relationships everywhere we go," said Genny Nelson, director of Crossroads and a Dignity Village supporter.

In Key West, city and county officials proposed building a small tent city by the end of the year. Until then, they are working on creating a temporary version of their plan. Over the years, the city has proposed various ways to deal with the influx, including a failed plan to send transients 150 miles north to shelters in Miami.

In Denver, a proposed tent city is envisioned as a transitional housing unit residents can get back on their feet. It would house up to 200 people and be self-governed by residents. A survey by an advocacy group estimates the homeless population in Denver at about 9,700. The number of shelter beds has remained at about 1,000 since the early 1990s.

Aurora, Ill., is home to one of the nation's oldest continuing tent cities, dating back about 15 years. It is not autonomous, but an extension of the PADS emergency overnight shelter program. But like every tent city, it is a mechanism of community and survival created by the homeless, for the

homeless. "There's a lot of homelessness here," said Sister Rose Marie Lorentzen, executive director of PADS and Hesed House, the non-profit organization through which PADS operates. "We're an old industrial town with a lot of steel producers, and then the bottom fell out."

PADS operates a shelter during the winter months, but during the summer, when Hesed House wasn't open, a tent city began taking shape in the property's backyard for people who didn't have any other options. As years passed, more and more tents appeared and were donated to the residents. By 1989, the tent city was formalized as a summer program, tucked back behind Hesed House, complete with membership identification cards and a structure for civility. The tent city sets up every year in June and continues until October. Last summer, 95 people called the city home.

Lorentzen has strong words for the notion that a tent city for the homeless undermines efforts to get people into affordable housing. "It's just crap," Lorentzen said. "There's nothing about it that's got any honesty. For people to be so completely committed to advocacy that they are not willing to spend effort on the Band-aid, I think

that's crap."

Cold weather takes its toll on rising populations of homeless. Ice, snow and subfreezing temperatures settled in over much of the eastern half of the country this last winter, brutally exposing a deepening social crisis of poverty and unemployment that has left record numbers homeless.

In New York City, the homeless population has set new records, with more than 38,000 people seeking aid from the city. In Omaha, Neb., a homeless shelter administrator told KETV Channel 7 News that it was feeding as many as 1,000 homeless and poor people a night as temperatures fell below zero.

An administrator at the homeless shelter in the town of Salisbury on the eastern shore of Maryland told the local paper, *The Daily Times*, "We turn a lot of people away—about 200 to 250 a month." Of those denied shelter, he added, 60 percent had come with their children. He attributed the growth in the homeless population to recent layoffs at a Tyson Foods plant and the shutdown of a Black & Decker factory.

In Chicago, a homeless man became the eighth known victim of hypothermia in the city since

October. In Milwaukee, Wis., two homeless men died in the cold. Four homeless men are known to have frozen to death in New York City.

Many organizations working with the homeless and affordable housing around the country continue to denounce groups of people who organize a democratic movement on the front lines of what may be the choice between life and death. Life being that of a group of people sleeping together in open spaces to protect themselves. Death being sleeping alone in an empty doorway or tucked away under a bridge somewhere. A homeless person sleeping alone is much more prone to violence, sexual assaults, police harassment and acts of hate crimes. To put it bluntly, it is deadly, if not to the body, then to the soul.

Is this about 60 people who sleep out near the airport in what we know as Dignity Village? No, it's about civil and human rights. It's about 3.5 million people now experiencing homelessness across our nation. It's about millions more being unemployed and on the verge of homelessness. We shouldn't support Dignity Village based on politics or ideology, pity or fear. We should support Dignity Village because it is the right thing to do.

able person. So why is this what so many Portland citizens and business people seem to be demanding? Have we become so self-serving and cruel that anyone who does not share our privileges clearly deserves to be condemned?

That is the question I pose to every Portlander. Do we rise to the occasion to find viable solutions to the plight of our homeless neighbors or do we continue to blame and punish them for being an embarrassment to our alleged prosperity?

It is in the spirit of creating viable solutions that Dignity Village proudly raises its head, and proclaims to the world, "We are still here!"

## How Living With Hate Gave Me an Attitude

by Teresa

They call us homeless, but we are not. Our home is the United States of America. We live here, we work here (when we're allowed to); and we die here.

They call us lazy because we won't work ourselves to death for \$3 – \$5 per hour. They have laws in place that make it illegal for us to be entrepreneurs; i.e., we cannot acquire a tax ID number and business license without an address to do our paperwork. However, we cannot acquire an address without work.

They use our perceived 'laziness' as an excuse to commit violence against us. They assault, batter, rape, rob and murder us. We have been beaten with baseball bats, steel-toed boots, even swords. They have run us over. They have set us on fire. They have dumped us in rivers in the dead of winter. Almost all of these assertions are well documented in a study by the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) that took place between 1999 and 2002. The others I can attest to personally.

I was in Colorado Springs, CO, late in the summer of 2000. J.P. came into the park one day bruised and swollen. His eyes were swollen nearly shut. We weren't as afraid as we should have been, but we were mad, sad, and worried about our friend. The next day Smoky got it even worse. He was in the hospital for awhile with broken bones, concussion, etc. We heard he almost died several times. When we heard about Smoky, we got scared. By the time we realized it was just a big joke to the police, we were mad. Two people were killed. Beaten to death for the unpardonable sin of sleeping outside. One of the victims was a 14 year old girl sleeping behind the Labor Ready.

So I developed an attitude. Every time the police came into the park to check up on and generally harass the homeless, I would start shouting my mantra of the moment: "The cops don't have any killers to catch. They have come to bother us." This happened quite frequently. It didn't take long for others to pick it up. It only took a couple of days of that treatment for the cops to be embarrassed. Of course, that did coincide with the murder of the teenager. Maybe they were embarrassed over the fact they couldn't find her alive. They had her poster all over the homeless community.

Four people left Colorado Springs the first week in September; I was one of them. We felt like we were running for our lives. Two of us drove into the Springs a year or so later. We learned that those bashers had been caught that fall. J.P. healed up, for the most part. He got a little forgetful afterwards. Smoky moved indoors.

In my travels since, I've met wannabe revolutionaries, wannabe politicians, photographers, poets and a lot of crazy people. I helped get a rogue cop fired. (Score one for us – you just don't threaten someone's life on camera just for staying out of the way and out of the rain.)

If the politicians want to do something about the "homeless problem", protected status under hate crime legislation is a good start. However, if you want to do something real and lasting, allow us to work... allow us to beg. Remember, if we're begging, we're not stealing. If we're working, we're not begging.

## Viable Option continued from page 1

By calling for the dissolution of Dignity Village due to code violations, opponents are effectively demanding the displacement of over 50,000 other people onto the streets. This is what would happen if Portland were to uniformly condemn every residence that is currently in violation of health and safety codes, as would only be fair.

Dignity Village is a shameful waste of precious City funding.

This perception is simply wrong. Dignity Village neither accepts nor receives any city funding whatsoever. Dignity Village does not cost Portland tax payers a single dime. No tax payer should feel exploited or

deceived on account of Dignity Village.

Dignity Village is an eyesore and a civic embarrassment.

Granted, Dignity Village may not be one of Portland's most attractive residential communities. Not yet, at least. Yet, Dignity is a far cry from some of the shabbier trailer parks and transient residences that the City allows to operate within its limits. For most taxpayers, a stable self-sufficient community committed to cleaning up after itself would seem to be a far more attractive alternative than innumerable fly-by-night crash sites awash in garbage and excrement that require public funds to restore.

Yet, many people can't seem to grasp this.

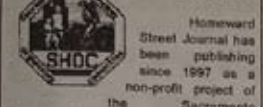
Many people feel that if the homeless can't be forced to leave Portland, perhaps it would be better if they stayed hidden. That way their unseen presence would no longer be an eyesore. Were the homeless simply to keep themselves out of sight, Portland's precious tourists and suburban visitors could be guaranteed a "pristine" shopping experience. Portland's reputation as a "clean and safe" city could ostensibly be preserved.

Demanding that the homeless not be here and criminalizing any who dare to show their faces should not be the response of any reason-

able person. So why is this what so many Portland citizens and business people seem to be demanding? Have we become so self-serving and cruel that anyone who does not share our privileges clearly deserves to be condemned?

# 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 Leaves & 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, 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 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.

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**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.

## Why the Working Poor and Homeless Have a Big Stake in This Year's Election.

by Max Biddle

In the upcoming elections there is a change in the political wind that should encourage the homeless and working poor to go to the polls. For the first time in a couple of decades the Democratic Party is moving back to the working people and rediscovering its liberal traditions. The reason for the changes in the Democratic Party is a grass roots movement by its rank and file members to take an active roll in the policies of this country. The reality is that the trade and economic policies of this country over the last few decades has not produced the benefits for working Americans that were promised by both political parties. I will try to list the reasons I feel should motivate non-voting citizens to vote in November.

First is that the Bush Administration's economic policies only consider the concerns of the investment community with trade policies that benefit the multi-national and corporate structure, excluding all other members of the community. Workers, consumers, the working poor, those lacking in health insurance, homeless and workers whose jobs are now being sent overseas get just enough attention to stifle criticism of the Bush policies. There is no serious attempt to address these concerns, in fact, President Bush insists they hardly exist.

One of the most crucial and critical reasons is to save Social Security. The government is over-stating a funding problem that does not exist. There is no severe shortage for the baby boomer generation. This is only propaganda by commissions put together by the Administration and Wall Street Financiers who want to get their hands on the trust fund to play around with, i.e., to gamble.

### Earned Income Tax Credit

Single people earning money are eligible.

Earned Income Tax Credit is not just for people who have children. If you are between the ages of 25 and 64 and you work and earn less than \$11,230 you may be eligible for the credit. The maximum amount of credit you can receive if you are single and have no children is \$382. Not every single person who qualifies gets that much money because the amount of credit is determined by your earned income. The credit can be money in your pocket even if you had no withholding.

The following requirements must be met:

1. Your adjusted gross income and your earned income must be less than \$11,230.
2. You must have a valid social security number.
3. Your filing status cannot be married filing separately.
4. You must be a U.S. Citizen or resident alien all year.
5. You cannot file Form 2555 or Form 2555E2, relating to foreign earned income.
6. Your investment income, such as interest, dividends, etc., must be \$2,600 or less.
7. You must have earned income.
8. You must be at least age 25 but under age 65.
9. You cannot be a dependent of another person.
10. You cannot be a qualifying child of another person.
11. You must have lived in the United States more than half of the year.

There are additional requirements if you have children and want to claim the credit based on those children.

If you have not filed for the last three years because you didn't think you had earned enough money to be required to file a tax return, you can still file for the least three years and possibly receive the Earned Income Credit.

**The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.**  
You may call for info: (916) 442-1198  
Annual Membership dues: Standard, \$35; Low-income, \$15  
**Organizations:** Full, 0.1% agency budget; Associate, \$100  
**Send donations to:** Sacramento Housing Alliance PO Box 2430 Sacramento, CA 95812

# Max's View

Another reason is Jobs. The "downsizing" - eliminating of jobs - and "outsourcing" - sending jobs overseas, is not only a problem Republicans ignore, they offer legislation that has protected and even encouraged companies to send jobs overseas.

The schedule made public by many companies who plan to outsource their jobs to other countries could reach as many as 14 million workers over the next decade. These are not menial jobs, these are high paying technical jobs the government assured us we would not lose if we approved all the trade agreements foisted upon us over the last ten years. The Republicans have no vested interest in concerning themselves about lost jobs or the declining wage scale. Profits soar when wages are low and health benefits can be eliminated. The very survival of a working middle class is at stake in this election.

We are entering upon one of the dirtiest campaigns in recent times. This time the Democrats must be ever watchful of another Florida debacle. Americans should be more aware of Republican tactics to divert attention from real issues by using the so-called wedge issues to stir our passions, rather than focusing on issues that truly effect our well-being.

The politicians will use distorted character issues and lies about their opponents so you won't worry about huge deficits and tax policies that will bankrupt Social Security. They will use any type of distraction to divert attention from their lack of care for the homeless. They don't want the American people to know that there are Republican house members who want to eliminate all minimum wage laws. They don't want you to focus on their repeated failure to provide enough unemployment compensation to those longest out of work.

Average American voters must force the political process to address the real issues. That's why the non-voter, the homeless voter, the unemployed voter, must join to overcome the voters who go to the polls to return to power people who couldn't care less about your jobs, health care, affordable housing, or all the other issues effecting your lives.

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# "Buy Me Love"

Street News Service www.streetnewsservice.org

by Hannah Kane

The Beatles proclaimed in 1964 that money can't buy me love. J-Lo echoed that sentiment in 2001 when she argued that love don't cost a thing. In 40 years, pop music has maintained its belief in the sacredness of love. Love is something that shouldn't be purchased. It should remain untainted despite our culture of capitalism and commodification.

But love has fallen victim to the same consumer culture that turned religion into glow-in-the-dark Jesus keychains and major department store sales that commemorate formerly religious holidays. Love is the final frontier in the war between what we hold sacred and what we are willing to manufacture, brand, and bargain for. And the truth is, it's a losing battle. In a world of internet dating and television marriages, love is becoming decidedly less romantic. But we first took the heart out of love long ago. In 1948, De Beers told us that a diamond is forever and we, blinded by the 14 sparkly carats of a history-making PR campaign, agreed.

In 1888, De Beers Consolidated Mines, Ltd. was created to capitalize on the enormous diamond mines that had recently been discovered in South Africa. Before 1870, diamonds were truly a rare commodity; the only known sources were in the riverbeds in India and the jungles of Brazil. After the South African mines were discovered, De Beers quickly monopolized the global industry and organized a massive advertising campaign in an effort to maintain the now mythical perception that diamonds are precious and scarce, and thus maintain a high market value.

Much has been written about "conflict diamonds" or "blood diamonds," detailing the horrific labor and human rights abuses that characterize the diamond industry. Despite the controversy, 85 percent of American women own a piece of diamond jewelry. The industry's advertising campaigns consistently and effectively portray the diamond as the most meaningful expression of love and devotion. Considering the fact that diamonds serve an entirely utilitarian purpose (industrial precision-cutting) and have little intrinsic monetary value, and that the diamond industry has managed to maintain its extraordinarily high prices all these years, it's almost

bizarre that we have allocated an entirely manufactured romantic symbolism to these objects.

Stranger still is the fact that we buy into the diamond industry's messages about the relationships between men and women and money. The diamond industry's advertising is unabashedly sexist, heterosexist, and materialistic. Feminist, GLBT, and anti-consumerism movements, however, have failed to prevent diamonds, a frivolous luxury, from somehow glittering their way into mainstream consciousness. Perhaps the true irony of the diamond industry is the fact that, despite claims that "a diamond is forever," diamonds can in fact be shattered, chipped, discolored, or destroyed.

There's more to peddling love than just diamonds. Before you even consider giving or wearing a ring, you have to find the right person. And the masterminds behind internet dating want to help you. For a fee, services like match.com and love.com will allow you to enter your specifications and find the perfect mate. If you're the type of person who already knows what you're looking for (no taller than 6'2", no shorter than 5'10"; brown eyes, please; smokers need not apply; wanting to adopt children), then you might as well speed up the Darwinian process and get on with the virtual matchmaking. This is more than a niche market—some people are getting rich off of other people's desire for romance. Singles looking for love spent over \$300 million on online personal ads in 2002.

Why are people so willing to put themselves on sale in cyberspace? Why are we so accepting of this marketplace of human product? According to one study, conducted by Andrea Baker of Ohio University, Lancaster, the average commitment time for couples who meet online is accelerated—they tend to fall in love and marry within a year to a year and a half. As is the case with many other new technologies, we can't get enough of those gadgets, inventions, and innovations that help us to maximize our time. Why should it be any different regarding our quest for love?

An even more recent addition to the love industry arrived with the reality television boom of the past several television seasons. Picking up where "Love Connection" and "The Dating Game" left off, hit shows like "The

Bachelor," "The Bachelorette," "Joe Millionaire," "A verage Joe," "Blind Date," "Elimidate," "Who Wants to Marry a Multi-Millionaire?," "Who Wants to Marry My Dad?," (are you exhausted yet?) are changing the way America dates. Dating is no longer a private affair between two people, as millions of viewers tune in each week and discuss around the water cooler the next day. Dating is no longer a personal matter as some shows give the viewing audience the power to determine the romantic fates of the lovelorn. Dating is no longer romantic as cameras zoom in on first kisses and microphones amplify the sweet nothings. No, dating is not what it used to be. Reality television has made it weird, perverted, voyeuristic, cynical, cliché, and profitable.

People question the reality of "reality" television, but the profits are undeniable. Television networks don't have to pay enormous salaries to reality television "stars," and advertisers are anxious to get the attention of the young demographic that has latched onto the genre. In fact, the popularity of these shows have caused executives to rethink the way television is made. Reruns are out, new "casts" are in. And this means there will be no shortage of "real" television love stories for us to gossip about, or to participate in for those who are inclined.

So, if anyone is looking to prove the Beatles wrong, there is a wealth of evidence to point to that supports the theory that love is indeed for sale. Nowadays, one can buy love via romance novels, love song compilation albums, dating services, personal ads, lingerie, romantic comedy films, sex toys, magazines, and more. And that doesn't include the abundance of e-solicitations that appear in our inboxes every day, inviting us to grow, augment, join, and other less-than-pure verbs, all of which will make us more attractive to others. For those of us looking for a more conventional form of love, perhaps we can find comfort in J-Lo's heartfelt lyrics—provided, of course, we can get past the glint from her \$3 million 6.1 carat Harry Winston pink diamond engagement ring.

Hannah is a senior at Emerson College, and doesn't watch as much TV as one might assume. Reprinted from the February 2004 issue of *What's Up, Boston*.

## Homeless

by Laughing Tree 2-1-97

The birds are singing  
The sun is rising  
Another day dawns.

No places to go.  
Nobody to be.  
One more day goes by.

Do you know my name?  
No, probably not.  
My name is Terese.

I once was like you.  
I drove to my work  
In my brand new car.

I had blinders on!  
I couldn't see you.  
I couldn't see me.

The birds are singing.  
The sun is rising.  
Another day dawns.

## The Travelers Code

by Laughing Tree 9-20-03

From state to state  
And town to town,  
Life on the rode  
Don't bring me down.  
Just when you think  
Your life's a mess,  
It's then you know  
That God does bless.  
This life is not  
For everyone.  
You bust your hump  
Then day is done.

You meet someone:  
A friend for life  
It's then you ask  
Please be my wife.  
It takes some guts.  
It takes some brains.  
Sometimes this life  
Drives men insane.  
Then she tells you  
Of course I will.  
I don't need that  
House on the hill.  
You share your life  
Out on the road  
According to  
The traveler's code.

## THE STREETS

by Vaughn Erik Baker

Many of us live on the streets  
Trying so hard to make ends meet  
We live in shelters, camps and missions  
Or even on a dock somewhere fishing  
People often have the wrong idea about us  
Most of us don't want to make a fuss  
We just want to discuss  
How to make things easier for all of us  
If we're seen in a garbage can  
We're making things easy for the garbage man  
By recycling whatever we can  
If we're seen on the street  
We can be the friendliest people to meet  
Because most of us are clean and neat  
Only a small few of us  
Are really dirty and rude  
But the general population  
Has us highly misconstrued

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## When I last saw You

by Jerry Smith 1-12-04

When I last saw you I cried  
Because when I wiked away  
I know it would be a while  
Before I would lay eyes upon you again.

I knew I would have to bide time to heal inside  
Because I cried alone, and it would be a while  
Before I could open my heart inside.  
So I stay wide  
Of things that hurt inside.

## Therefore I cried

by Jerry Smith 1-12-04

When I last saw you I cried  
Because I knew we were not tied inside.  
And knowing I did not lie to my inside,  
Then all the sudden I did not know why ,  
But I tried to hold it in - inside.  
Felt like I could die,  
I tried to put it together inside before I died.  
Then I cried and then it was good-bye.  
Then the only reason I could find  
for the pain inside,  
Was that I did not try before I cried!

# Obituary

Timothy Nutile  
d. 11/17/03-he fell and died

Wayne "Irish" Coombs  
d. 11/19/03-of cancer.  
Taken off the streets and cared for by Noni & David

Eddie Alexander  
d. 12/17/03-liver disease

James Cook  
d. 1/19/04-respiratory failure

Elliot Dawkins  
d. 2/3/04-head trauma from beating

Bobi Carboni  
d. 2/14/04-of cancer

Dawn Lester  
d. 2/20/04-cause pending

"Savannah"  
Dorcus Johnson-Davis  
d. 2/28/04-nine years old - of pneumonia

Robert Nystrom  
d. 3/5/04-cause pending

Lori Sheffield  
d. 3/11/04-died in sleep, cause pending

## I Want to Scream

by A.

I want to scream but no one will care.  
I am getting over-welmed with despair.  
I am trying to stay positive but it is so hard,  
When your feeling they disregard.

They look at me as if I am trash,  
Because I am homeless and have no cash.  
But I have worked for sixteen years,  
Sweating blood, shedding tears.

Not one dime of child support I have received.  
My little children depend on me.  
So when I got hurt and then  
lost my job, my home and cars.  
The lucky man balked at my poverty .

You're collecting welfare for free.  
But it doesn't get a house for we three.  
But I had less work making more cash.

Free \$ my ass.  
I jump all the hoops and get nowhere.  
Do you hear my scream or do you care.

## Rain

by Jerry Smith 1-12-04

Here I sit in the mist of morning  
Wondering where this time  
Will take me in time.

As I wait my turn it begins to rain  
It's wet & cold, so I'm told.  
As I wait so bold the rain  
I feel is soft and wonderful,  
Because here noboby tells me so.  
Now I will no longer wonder where to go,  
Because the cool rain in my face  
has told me so.

**Yes!**

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:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Make checks payable to the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC)  
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clip & mail coupon

# HOMELESS RESOURCES

## Night Shelters

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

**Volunteers of America:** 1400 No. A St. Women & Children only.

**St. John's Shelter:** 12th & No. C Sts. Women/Children. 14 day max stay. 3:00pm to 7:30am. Weekday signups anytime at door. Weekend signups 3:00pm. Dinner & showers provided for guests. call 445-0701.

**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. 8am breakfast for residents. Showers / showers 9-11am & 1-2-45pm. open to all homeless men. 447-3258

**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:** 3505 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 lunch. M-F 452-2866

## 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. 454-9683

see **Wind in Youth Services** for young adults

**Food-not-Bombs:** serves free food in Caesar Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm, and Wed. 4 pm. All Welcome.

**Food Closet: Cross & Crown Ministries:** 705 Del Paso Rd. behind Jura City. 7pm Church service required, food following service

## 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 appointment to sign in 11am, 1st floor, or attend Bible study at 9:15am and get clothing at 10am. 447-3258

## Medical

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

**Capital Health Clinic:** 1500 C St. (near 15th) Adults 8-9 M-F also child's vaccinations & well-visit. 874-5302

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

## Mental Health

**Guest House, 1400 N. A St. Homeless Mental Health Clinic:** M,W,Th,Fri. 5-11:30am Tues. 8-11:30am only. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, CA refs. SSI app, refs to A & D counseling. 443-6972

**TLC5 Intake Offices:** 1400 N/A St. Bldg. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independent living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8am-12pm M-F; Office hours 8am-4pm M-F

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

**Genesis:** Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrals. Next to Friendship Park gate

## Youth Services

**Diogenes:** youth 16-21 yrs old. Hut Line call 1-800-309-7177

**Wind Youth Center:** 300 Ahern St. Serves youth ages 12-19. Serves breakfast and lunch, offers clothing, case mgmt, and access to emergency shelter. Open six days: M - F from 8:30am to 1pm and Sat 11am to 12:30pm. Youth outreach.

## Crisis Intervention

**WEAVE:** Services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Referrals to court mandated batterer intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: 920-2953

**Sacramento Mental Health Center (County):** 2150 Stockton Blvd (at T St.) 24hr. Will evaluate anyone for suitability of involuntary psychiatric care due to mental illness. Please bring ID and health insurance. 733-7623

## AIDS / HIV

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

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

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

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

## Legal Aid

**Protection & Advocacy Inc:** Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5748

**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. 444-6760

**Welfare Rights:** 1901 Ahambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 8am-5pm. AFDC, Food Stamps, Welfare and Medical top at hearings. 736-0616

**Health Rights Hotline:** 551-2100

## Miscellaneous

**Francis House:** 1422 C st. 9:30-11:30

## CLASSIFIED

Mail or bring your ad to the Homeward office. One ad free to private parties and non-profits. 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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Or mail to  
**Loaves & Fishes, Jobs for Homeless,**  
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## Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer

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am M-F, walk-in or referrals provides resource, counseling, advocacy, emergency vouchers and referrals 1-3 pm weekdays 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) or 8930 Big Horn Blvd. M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 227-0300

**Medi-Cal:** 4575 Broadway M-F 8am-5pm 732-3490; 7220 24th St. (at Florin) M-Th 8-11am, 1-3pm Fri 8-11am. Phone ap OK. ID needed 395-4551

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

**TSH Advocacy Group:** asst. with service providers & legal advocacy. 247-5502

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

**Californina Youth Crisis Line:** 1-800-843-5200

**VA Outreach:** 923-9787



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**Tony's Deli and Meat**  
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**Open Book**  
910 21st St.

**Lunan**  
1414 16th St.

**Weatherstone Coffee**  
813 21st St.

**The Book Collector**  
1008 24th St.

**Noah's NY Bagels**  
1901 J St.

**Peers Books**  
19th and L St.

**F.D. Coffee Shop**

**Italian Importing Co.**  
1827 J St.

**Sacramento Public Library**  
828 J St.

**Senior Citizens Center**  
J and 27th St.

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