

# HOMIEWARD

## Street Journal

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## You Don't Need a Home to Vote



**The Strength  
To End Homelessness**

Lies in the Power of Your  
**VOTE!**

You don't have to have a home to vote. In fact, if you are homeless or low-income, it is even more important that you vote this coming November 2. Federal and state legislative bodies continue to cut vital programs for housing, health care, child welfare and education. Educate yourself on the issues and candidates and participate in this important election.

If you are not registered to vote or have changed your address or name since you last registered, you need to register and have it in the Registrar of fice by October 18. If you are homeless, on the line reading "Address Where You Live", you write "homeless". On the next line, "If No Street Address, Describe Where You Live" enter description of where you most often sleep, for instance, the nearest cross street. You must have a mailing address. If someone helps you register and tells you you can't vote because you're homeless, inform them that they are mistaken. Many people are not educated about this important voting right.

September 26 through October 2 is the National Homeless and Low Income Voter Registration Week, organized by the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Low Income Housing Coalition. Homeless service organizations and concerned citizens are encouraged to participate in this event to help get people registered. For more information and to request campaign tools, email Michael Stoops (NCH) at [mstoops@nationalhomeless.org](mailto:mstoops@nationalhomeless.org) or phone 202-737-6444 ext 19. Or visit the website [www.nationalhomeless.org/vote2004](http://www.nationalhomeless.org/vote2004).

## Victory for Portland Homeless Against "Overbroad" Ordinance

Released by Street News Service ([www.streetnews-service.org](http://www.streetnews-service.org))

by Israel Bayer

Members of the Portland Peace Encampment are taking a wait and see approach with the city following a circuit court ruling in their favor that declared the city's sit-lie law unconstitutional.

The group of peace activists who held a peace vigil in front of City Hall for more than six months last year triumphed in the court ruling handed down June 22.

"We'll be looking at what the city does in response," said Todd Kurylowicz, one of the defendants in the case. "As of now the ruling isn't legally binding, but because it's a 16-

page ruling on the ordinance being unconstitutional, it's a persuasive document. If they rewrite the ordinance there will be a response."

The law had allowed for the enforcement of people blocking a pedestrian free zone on the sidewalk, but in August the city made new guideline changes without a public process that allowed for enforcement on the entire sidewalk and during expressive events lasting longer than eight hours within the central precinct downtown.

Critics suggested that this was a violation of free speech and that people's right to assemble would be violated. And that's exactly what Judge Litzberger expressed in her ruling.

"First, the ordinance is overbroad in that it reaches conduct that the Oregon and United States constitutions declare can not be prohibited, the right to assembly peacefully," Litzberger wrote. The ordinance did not "have sufficient definiteness that an ordinary person can understand what conduct is prohibited..."

"It's an appropriate ruling and it's what we were looking for — the law to be taken off the books," said Kurylowicz. "It's a very harmful tool used to suppress First Amendment rights and to criminalize people experiencing homelessness."

"It's a good win, the only thing that is disappointing is that this wasn't resolved through a community process with the

communities input," said Adam Arms, the attorney representing the three defendants.

"I believe it will have a legal impact, because it was a facial challenge," said Arms. "The judge did not even look at any of the facts in this case, she made her decision based upon the way the law was written."

Scott Ferris, spokesman for Mayor Vera Katz, said that the city attorney is looking at the court's decision and deciding whether they should appeal the decision or rewrite the ordinance and bring it before city council in the future. Ferris estimated that something would be done within the next several weeks.

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# NASNA

NORTH AMERICAN NEWSBRIEFS  
WWW.STREETNEWSERVICE.ORG

Compiled by Patty Lane

The Salvation Army in Flatbush, New York, want to help house the homeless by building them a place to live. According to the New York Times, the Army wants to build a nine-story, 117-unit shelter but residents groups have been protesting the project for months. Their biggest argument: the facility is too big for the area and fear it would unfairly tax local resources. The neighborhood is now dominated by one- and two-family houses. "There isn't a nine-story building in the community. So the largest building in our community is going to be a homeless shelter," State Senator Kevin Parker tells the Times. He says he has received hundreds of letters from angry residents. In June he sent a letter to Mayor Bloomberg to oppose the shelter. Alfred Peck, the Salvation Army's director, describes Flatbush as an ideal location for the shelter. "The reality is that this is a family shelter, providing services for other New Yorkers who have fallen on hard times," he says. The plan calls for the Salvation Army to occupy the shelter under a nine-year lease. Opponents are calling for a moratorium on shelter construction and a focus on low-income housing.

Police and homeless advocates are hitting the streets and back alleys of Oakland, California after a series of vicious beatings of local homeless people, one fatal on those living on the streets. KTVU reports a 52-year-old victim died after a weekend beating. He may have been sleeping when a group of unidentified men assaulted him at a makeshift campsite. Other homeless people witnessed the attack. "It is pretty cowardly for a group of people to viciously attack an obviously defenseless person," Sgt. Bruce Brock tells KTVU. "He was a completely innocent victim." The man died from a blunt force trauma. Two weeks ago, three local teenagers were arrested for severely beating a homeless man with a board. At least two other victims have been hospitalized from recent attacks. Witnesses told police that the suspects in the most recent death were between 16 and 20 years old and did not live at the encampment.

Boredom was the reason given by three teens who

beat a homeless man to death in California. Joseph Brown was attacked while he slept near an abandoned building in West Oakland. Brown was the 44th of 48 people killed in Oakland so far this year. His badly beaten body and the age of his alleged killers is shocking to Chief Richard Word. "This was such a brutal and senseless crime," he says. "I cannot understand how three young boys could be so cold and callous." The three teens remain in custody at juvenile hall. It's expected they will be charged with murder. None had prior criminal records.

As the city of Calgary grows, so does the number of people living on its streets. An in-depth survey of the Canadian city revealed a total of 127 people on the street. The street count was taken in May by more than 100 volunteers over 46 geographic areas. Research shows overall growth is at 49-percent (for a total of 2,597 people). Of those, 77 percent were male, 23 percent female, and there were more than 100 families. Lack of affordable housing is a problem, and so is government funding cuts, according to Alderman Bob Hawkesworth. "The fact that the province canceled housing programs in the early nineties in my view has been a contributing factor to the growth of homelessness," he tells CFMN. Homeless agencies are calling on the government to step up funding for low-cost housing, increase the assured income program, and raise Alberta's minimum wage.

Palm Beach County will open a 12-bed assessment center in October allowing homeless people in need of emergency assistance to receive care right away. The emergency assessment plan will provide them with medical care, diagnoses, and referrals to other programs for additional help. Of the estimated 4,000 homeless in Palm Beach County, close to 500 live on the streets and 263 need emergency housing. The rest have temporary housing, according to the Palm Beach Post. "It will provide same-day access to a bed," Sheila Smith, executive director of the Palm Beach County Homeless Coalition, tells the Post. "Often times, it takes days to get a bed, and by that time it's too late for some people. They get lost." Members from the group presented their plan to county commissioners recently. "Once the county commission sees the success of it and the county sees the success of it, a lot of people are going to step up to the plate and we'll be able to build a facility like the one in Miami," says County Commissioner Addle Greene, who led the effort to open the center. But not everyone is convinced this will solve the homeless problem. "It's not a perfect solution," says Lisa Lickstein, a volunteer coordinator for the project. "It's a comprehensive program with broad-based support. It's a nice start."

Advocates are worried that the homeless population in Los Angeles could be hit hard by the West Nile virus. They are issuing a call for extra safety measures for those who sleep in parks and alongside rivers where mosquitoes carrying the disease thrive. While many know the warning signs and notice an increase in dead birds possibly infected with the virus, they are reluctant to leave the parks. "A lot of them are staying by the rivers and the water because that's where people won't complain about them," Jenny Arevalo, a response team member tells the Mercury News. "But they're putting themselves at higher risk," she says. A city council member has asked a team from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to pass out information about the disease and talk with people camping near water and in parks. Advocates are advising people sleeping outdoors to cover up at night and visit an emergency room if they experience any symptoms, like a fever and stiff neck. They're also trying to obtain insect repellent. A study done in Houston found that 10 percent of West Nile encephalitis cases in 2002 were homeless men and women. But homeless people living in the parks say they'll stay. "I won't leave," says Kevin Snow. "I am concerned about it, but worry? It doesn't do any good to worry. There's no known cure anyway."

Free bus service in Houston, Texas, is getting homeless men and women to clinics, shelters and social service agencies. Project Access is one of few like it in the country. The Associated Press reports it was developed by Healthcare for the Homeless-Houston, which is a consortium of 28 agencies and organizations. It was launched a year ago after an annual survey found the biggest barrier for homeless people to get health care was transportation. A \$120,000 city grant allowed the group to charter a bus company and run a route each weekday.

A school district in California is gathering school supplies to help homeless children have equal access to education. The Hollister School District is starting a school supply drive called the "Backpack Project." The district's goal is to gather school supplies and backpacks for homeless and needy children in the community. "All of these children have to deal with special circumstances like hunger and fatigue, along with trying to stay in school," Diane Ortiz of the HSD tells the Hollister Freelance News. There are more than 80 homeless children in the district. We really want to try and make sure they have equal access to education," she says. With many homeless families moving from shelter to shelter, roughly 23 percent of homeless children drop out of school nationwide. "When you have 80 children living in a shelter in a small community, there is obviously a problem," she said. "Our goal is to reduce the barriers for these students and their families and let them know the schools support them. This is not something we can cross our fingers and try to ignore." The district hopes to have 50 backpacks stuffed with pencils, crayons, notebooks and other school supplies ready to go by the beginning of the school year. Since there is no state or federal grand funding, they are counting on the community to help out. The HSD hopes to continue supporting students in need by providing help with free lunches and afterschool programs.

**Capital Station Auto Sales**

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# Victory

Continued from page 1

"Obviously, there will be a public process for any ordinance brought before the council," Ferris said. "How broad the process will be or to what degree will probably be determined down the road."

This is the first victory for the fledgling civil rights watchdog, the Northwest Constitutional Rights Center.

"We're sending a message to the city that we're serious and we have the resources that it takes to monitor the actions of police and the city council," said Alan Graf, executive director of the Center. "Government has never provided the oversight needed to ensure people's right to dissent. We are stepping in to be that group. We are here to stay."

Graf also added that his group has a lot of problems with private security downtown. "I have concerns that they won't get word about the court decision, but we are going to be monitoring private security downtown, along with the police, to make sure people's civil rights aren't being violated. Dozens of cities nationwide have ordinances similar to Portland's sit-lie law. In Los Angeles, a similar case is going to the 9th Circuit Courts.

"This decision has been distributed nationwide," said Graf. "Every lawyer's guild in the country has a copy of this decision."

"We hope that this sets a precedent," said Donald Whitehead, executive director with the National Coalition for the Homeless. "When there has been a ruling sent down in similar cases, it has helped in other parts of the country. We hope this ruling can do the same."

## Secrecy

The sit-lie ordinance on its face has always concerned people experiencing homelessness and their advocates for its potential to shuffle people around the city. A year before the new guidelines went into effect, several rallies had been held by crossroads and later the Right

to Sleep Alliance, denouncing any such move to shuffle people experiencing homelessness out of the downtown region with the sit-lie ordinance.

"The mayor took a law that was too vague to use, and instead of re-writing the law, which would have involved a more public process, the mayor issued new enforcement guidelines that narrowed the law and made it enforceable," said Jamie Manuel of crossroads, a homeless people's organization. "That's how we got a de facto 'sit-lie' law.

She did it that way to avoid a public process, since there was strong public opposition to such a law."

About a week before the new guideline changes were made by the city, *Street Roots* was given an e-mail sent out by City Attorney David Woboril, stating that the new enforcement guidelines were going to be added to the ordinance.

Sources at City Hall had told *Street Roots* that the new guidelines were in direct response to the Portland Peace Encampment, although Tommy Brooks, the former spokesperson for Mayor Katz, repeatedly denied those allegations.

The new guidelines went into effect at midnight, Aug. 13. Eight hours later, the camp was swept by eight Portland police officers. Three people were arrested.

Peace camp members organized a protest in front of City Hall that was declared an event later on that day. Eight hours after the protest, more arrests occurred.

During the following three days, 11 people were arrested, including Kurylowicz, who was arrested three times.

(City Commissioner) Randy Leonard came across the street in July, before the guideline changes, telling us that police involvement was going to escalate and we got in a pretty heated discussion about our rights," said Kurylowicz. "That evolved into meetings with the mayor

and the city attorney. They told us they were in agreement to change the enforcement guidelines to put a time, place and matter of restrictions on events through the ordinance, and that's exactly what they did a few weeks later."

"Given the nature of the incident and how the city responded with changing the ordinance of the guidelines to arrest us - the whole process was quite juvenile," said Kurylowicz. "The mayor and the attorney should repay the court costs for the group. This was their legislation that led to all of this. People should be held accountable - it's public servants' jobs to uphold the Constitution and they should be held accountable all the way to the top. It was fiscally irresponsible."

## How this effects people on the streets

*Street Roots* has been told by dozens of people sleeping on the streets or panhandling that the Portland police and other private security agencies, including Clean and Safe and the Portland Patrol, use the sit-lie ordinance to move people out of key locations downtown. As reported last month in *Street Roots* ("Changin' Spangin"), very rarely are actual tickets ever issued by the authorities. Many advocates believe the reason for not handing out tickets is because the authorities realize that the ordinance is unconstitutional.

"People should realize that this ruling does not remove the law from the books. It provides a strong precedent for anyone who wants to challenge a sit-lie ticket, and I wouldn't expect the police to hand out any sit-lie tickets at protests anytime soon," said Manuel.

Cheryl Robinson, spokeswoman for the Portland Police Bureau, said they were not enforcing the ordinance. "Once the judge made a decision we no longer enforce the law until the city attorney makes a decision," said Robinson.

Asked if the ruling hurt officers on the streets, Robinson said, "It's certainly a tool we've used that we no longer

have."

"I'm sure they will find other ways to move us along," said Gary, a homeless veteran who spars changes downtown. "Sometimes we are just fine and then other times we seem to be a thorn in people's side. I just do my thing. I don't block the sidewalk when I'm panhandling and I'm not up in people's faces."

For people on the streets, many questions still remain. "People experiencing homelessness have often been legally marginalized, and many are likely to allow their case to be handled by community court where they can't challenge the ticket," said Manuel. "The police know this. They also know that if they tell people they are in violation of this law and tell them that they need to leave the area or they will be given a ticket, the person will probably leave the area. I think this type of passive enforcement is likely to be the policy the mayor hands down to the police. This is largely how they have handled the Gallagher ruling on the anti-

camping ordinance."

The Gallagher ruling in 2000 declared the camping ban unconstitutional as it applied to people experiencing homelessness.

Critics in the business community say that there is no sidewalk law and that people can do anything they want on the sidewalk now, but according to Arms that's not the case. "There still a local law to prevent people from purposely blocking the sidewalk, City 14A05035 - titled 'Pedestrians'," said Arms.

When asked how this ruling will affect people experiencing homelessness, Arms said "I hope the police will stop relying on the law to roust folks. Before, the law allowed them to do almost anything they wanted to do with people on the sidewalk no matter what they were doing."

From the city's perspective, "It's harder to make an argument that the police can

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# Hot, Dry, Dangerous

Released by  
Street News Service  
(www.streetnewsservice.org)

by Will Parry

Last summer's heat wave in Europe left between 14,000 and 15,000 people dead in France alone. Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom also experienced record death tolls from the searing temperatures.

In Rome, the mean average temperature during June, July, and August of last year was 95 degrees Fahrenheit, a full 7 degrees above the mean average for the same summer months between 1995 and 2002. Deaths shot up in Rome along with the temperatures. An estimated 1,094 more people died than might have been predicted from the mortality data of the previous years. The highest increase in deaths occurred among people over 75, living in the most impoverished areas of the city.

In France, hospitals and morgues were overwhelmed. Most of the victims were elderly. Most lived in isolation from family and community. Most were poor. Rich folk don't die of heat waves.

Fred Brock wrote a deeply affecting commentary on this mass tragedy in the *New York Times*. Brock quoted Dr. Eric Klinenberg, a *New York University* sociology professor who has studied heat-related deaths. Dr. Klinenberg says the toll in France exposes a major social change: the emergence of an older, vulnerable population that lives and dies in isolation.

The ranks of this population are growing in the U.S., as well as in Europe. Children and grandchildren move away, leaving their aging elders to cope as best they can. Communities have become atomized. Neighbors are less likely to look after one another than in earlier times. And heat waves cruelly reveal this fraying social fabric.

"Heat waves are silent and invisible killers of silent and invisible people," says Dr.

Klinenberg.

He reminds us that the severe heat wave of 1995 in our own Midwest left 700 people dead in Chicago alone. This tragedy has faded from the national memory, "a non-event in American history," he says. "If 700 people had been killed by a tornado, we'd still be hearing about it."

In fact, says Dr. Klinenberg, heat waves kill many more Americans each year than tornadoes, hurricanes, and earthquakes combined.

In 1995, Chicago officials suppressed the terrible toll, but the scale of last year's calamity in France was simply too vast for cover-ups. The French even considered the cancellation of one national holiday to provide funds for the elderly.

This summer, Italy is implementing a massive intervention program. In Rome, for example, city officials have established a plan, focused on the elderly, involving health and social services, emergency medical services, health care professionals, and volunteers. A 24-hour telephone assistance line is prepared to link callers to available resources.

But here in the U.S., says Dr. Klinenberg, heat-related deaths are seen as "an act of God" or as "the failure of individuals to care for themselves." In 1995, Chicago's commissioner of human services blamed the 700 victims. "We're talking about people who die because they neglect themselves," he said.

International Herald Tribune Columnist William Pfaff found last year's heat waves a blessing. The victims, wrote Pfaff, "were not, most of them, killed by the heat. The time had come for them to die, and the heat eased their way... we should be grateful to pneumonia, broken hips, and heat waves that can take us gracefully to where we all most go."

Indeed, the infirmities of old age are real, and indeed we all must go. But a society that values human life will not

permit the elderly to perish in a heat wave.

As Fred Brock notes, there is nothing graceful "about dying a slow, agonizing death alone; of being discovered only when neighbors or passersby report a strong odor; or of being buried in a cheap wooden casket in a common grave...."

Society, says Dr. Klinenberg, must come to terms with the broader issue of old people living in isolation. "When massive numbers of people die alone, it's a social embarrassment," he says. "It's the sign of a sweeping social breakdown. Everyone is implicated."

Those charged with environmental protection under George W. Bush should confront the implications of last summer's thousands of deaths across Europe. The sweltering temperatures there corresponded to the forecasts of climate scientists. British meteorologists predicted that as a result of climate change, 2003 would be the warmest year on record.

In the *Guardian* of Great Britain, George Monbiot writes that "the consensus among climatologists is that temperatures will rise in the 21st century by between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees Centigrade [34 to 42 degrees Fahrenheit]; by up to 10 times, in other words, the increase we have suffered so far..."

"We are not," writes Monbiot, "contemplating the end of holidays in Seville. We are contemplating the end of circumstances which permit most beings to remain on earth."

The more than 14,000 French elderly are, in some sense, the canaries in the mine shaft. The air is foul. The canaries are dying.

*Will Parry is director of the Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans. Reprinted from the August 5, 2004 issue of Real Change, Seattle, WA.*

# SECTION 8 PROGRAM THREATENED

Major Financial Cuts Proposed to Voucher Program

Originally published in *Safety Network*, newsletter of the National Coalition for the Homeless

For the second year in a row, the President is proposing deep financial cuts as well as large programmatic changes to the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program. This program is one of the most successful housing programs in the country. It is a public-private partnership where the government and private landlords work together to provide housing opportunities for working families, the elderly, and the disabled. Each year the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program helps approximately 2 million families to live in safe and stable housing. Now the program is under attack.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, President Bush's budget proposal for the Housing Voucher Program is \$1.6 billion short of what is needed to fund all existing vouchers for next year. In addition to the budget cuts, the proposal would also convert the Housing Voucher Program into a block grant to state and local housing agencies thereby eliminating basic protections for low-income families. The protections that would be eliminated include: a certain percentage of vouchers must go to extremely low-income people, tenants are required to pay 30% of their income, and current voucher holders must continue to be served.

The elimination of these protections along with the financial cuts

would lead to some very serious consequences. Up to 250,000 households or one-eighth of voucher-holders could lose their vouchers and be forced out of their homes. Local public housing authorities would be forced to raise rents by an average of \$650 per family in 2005 and \$2,000 more per family in 2009. Further, voucher could be shifted away from low-income households towards those that have higher incomes because a voucher-holder with a higher income requires less contribution from the public housing authority. Last year, the Bush Administration made a similar proposal that would have forced more than 100,000 families out of their homes. When Congress voted down the plan, the Administration decided to take matters into their own hands through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). HUD changed the funding formula for the Voucher Program; this resulted in local public housing authorities receiving much less money than they were expecting and much less money than Congress meant for them to receive. These funding changes were announced at the end of April, but are retroactive to January 1st. This is leaving housing authorities unprepared for these budget shortages. If these new rules, which are against the intent of Congress, are not repealed, thousands of households will lose their vouchers and face the very real possibility of homelessness.

In addition to threatening the stability of families, these administrative changes threaten the stability of the whole Voucher Program. If landlords lose voucher funding in the middle of a lease year with little notice, they will be less likely to rent to tenants with vouchers in the future. Developers are already putting building projects on hold while they wait to see what happens to this program. This program relies heavily on the partnership and buy-in of the private sector. If landlords will not rent to voucher holders, it does not matter how many vouchers Congress will agree to fund. If the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program and other social programs are to be successful, it is critical that the Administration implement the programs that Congress decides to fund.

## Victory cont. from page 3

enforce this law, because the judge's decision on the law Arms said.

"Wanted man in Kansas City," said George, a homeless man downtown. "Wanted man in Buffalo, wanted man wherever I go. Isn't that what Johnny Cash sang? It doesn't matter what we do. If we don't have roofs over our heads, we are wanted men."

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

# Max's View

by Max Biddle

What can you say about Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's first year in office? After promising a new type of government that would be open and less secretive he proceeded to just the opposite. He settled into politics as usual with such rapidity as to make your head spin. After criticizing Gray Davis for his special interest fund raising, he proceeded to out do him by raising nearly double the amount. The secrecy he has instituted would make the Bush Administration proud. Although he differs with conservatives on some social issues, he typically approached budget problems the way most Republicans do.

When faced with fiscal problems Republicans go after programs that benefit the poor, the disabled and those least able to take care of themselves.

Schwarzenegger raised education fees so that the poorest of our population will be excluded. And as a typical Republican he is making sure the more affluent in our society need not carry their fair share of responsibilities.

Although he backed down on some of his harsher cuts to the disabled because of the public outcry, it none the less revealed that on social policies he is right in step with the Bush Administration

What is even worse, he is now preparing to bring back another form of energy deregulation that will put us back at the mercy of energy companies that robbed us blind recently. He is opposing Assembly Bill AB 2006 that will prevent price gouging and secure a regulatory system that will protect us from more Enrons. No where I see it

he pressuring the federal government to help California in recovering the nearly nine billion dollars that energy users were cheated out of.

Even though California has the largest population of any state, the Gov. imported Gov. Jeb Bush's finance director to run our state finances. Isn't there a Californian capable of managing our own fiscal affairs? Considering that the Government of Florida was instrumental in aiding a questionable election in 2000, I feel apprehensive about letting any government of fiscal associated with the Bush family run affairs in California.

Another revelation that has been made public recently is the fact that state government jobs are now being sent overseas. As long as there are Californians in need of employment there is no excuse for sending state government jobs overseas. Even saving money is a poor excuse if a Californian needs work, especially those on welfare.

One can only conclude that since our new governor followed almost the same policies that Gray Davis would have done to manage our fiscal problems, except for the car tax, what good was the recall? Overnight he became the typical politician he criticized during the campaign.

It simply is not enough to seek public office just because you grew up admiring people with power. As he stands by and allows the typical business interests to put together his reform package, the average California, like the average American, will be left out of consideration - just as the Bush Administration left out most of the American people in their policy considerations.

# Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign at Republican National Convention

As New York City prepared for the Republican National Convention by clearing Central Park and other areas of poor and homeless people, the Kensington Welfare Rights Union and other Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign organizers established a mobile "Bushville" tent city that welcomed the poor and homeless from across the country in preparation for the March for Our Lives: Stop the War at Home rally and march scheduled for the opening day of the RNC on August 30.

Bushville began in Jersey City, NJ on July 19 as the first stop on a tour of many poor communities, ending up in Brooklyn, NY on August 24. At each stop PPEHRC members gathered documentation of human rights violations, and educated and organized poor people around the vision of a society where all people have the right to health care, housing, living wage jobs and access to quality education. At Bushville, there are daily trainings for human rights monitors, teach-ins, panels, workshops, spoken word and hip-hop performances. Bushville was also the departure site for PPEHRC Reality Tours, where members of the national and international media, human rights community, religious people and others were taken on a tour of poverty stricken locations.

PPEHRC went to Central Park on August 13 to educate the public about the March for Our Lives. Four members were arrested for exercising their 1st amendment rights at 8:30 that evening and were handcuffed to a pole until 1 AM. They were released the next day.

The March for Our Lives Rally at the UN had many great speakers and a crowd of over 1,000 people. They had gotten a permit for the rally but not for the march. The march started around 5:30 PM with estimates of

1,000 to 3,000 people. Slogans such as "Billions for the War, Nothing for the Poor" and "What do we want?" "Healthcare" "Housing" "Living Wage Jobs", resounded the streets. People came out to join them.

The police followed, then lined the parade, then rerouted it, then blocked and separated marchers. Though the protest was non-violent, there were arrests and pepper-spray used at one point. The marchers continued into midnight and did not make it to Madison Square Gardens that had been cordoned off by many blocks.

PPEHRC members have struggled for many years to organize around the economic human rights articles of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights by exposing violations to help build a broad movement to end poverty forever.

Quoting from KWRU website, "When the Republican National Convention descends upon New York City, we will be marching to demand an end to the war at home that has left many of us homeless, hungry, unemployed and without healthcare. As poor and working people of this country, we cannot afford to suffer silently as our lives are threatened by political and economic policies that deny us our basic human rights. Both parties - Republican & Democrats - have abandoned the poor and working families of this nation, and so it is up to us to take our country in a new direction." For more information or to join the effort, visit the websites [www.kwru.org](http://www.kwru.org) and [www.weap.org](http://www.weap.org) (the California PPEHRC headquarters). SHOC at (916) 442-2156 has documentation forms if you'd like to report economic human rights violations or have more questions.

## 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.

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

You may call for info: (916) 442-1198

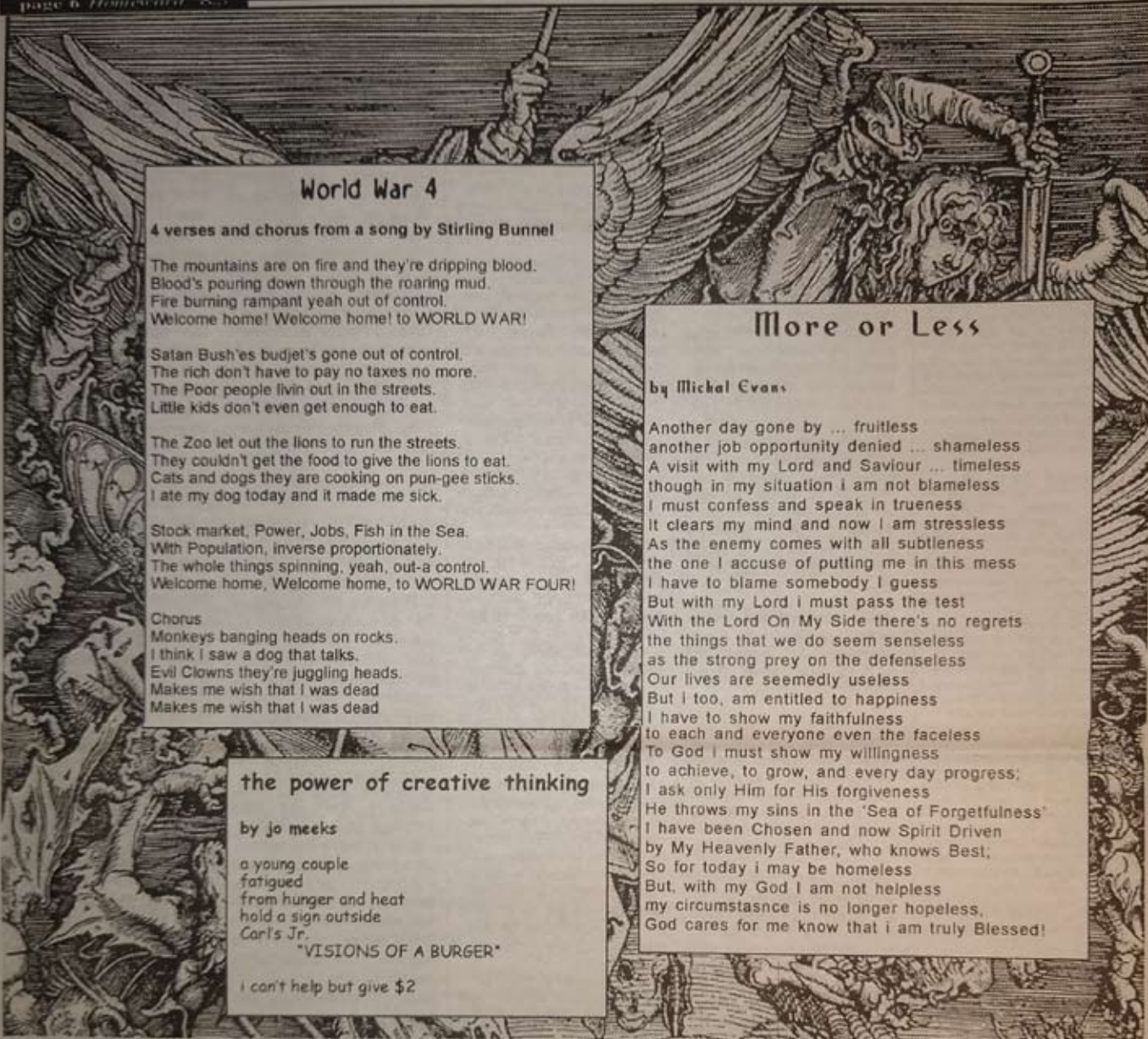
Annual Membership dues: Standard, \$35, Low-income, \$15

### Organizations:

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

### Send donations to:

Sacramento Housing Alliance PO Box 2430 Sacramento, CA 95812



### World War 4

4 verses and chorus from a song by Stirling Bunnell

The mountains are on fire and they're dripping blood.  
Blood's pouring down through the roaring mud.  
Fire burning rampant yeah out of control.  
Welcome home! Welcome home! to WORLD WAR!

Satan Bush'es budget's gone out of control.  
The rich don't have to pay no taxes no more.  
The Poor people livin out in the streets.  
Little kids don't even get enough to eat.

The Zoo let out the lions to run the streets.  
They couldn't get the food to give the lions to eat.  
Cats and dogs they are cooking on pun-gee sticks.  
I ate my dog today and it made me sick.

Stock market, Power, Jobs, Fish in the Sea.  
With Population, inverse proportionately.  
The whole things spinning, yeah, out-a control.  
Welcome home, Welcome home, to WORLD WAR FOUR!

Chorus  
Monkeys banging heads on rocks.  
I think I saw a dog that talks.  
Evil Clowns they're juggling heads.  
Makes me wish that I was dead  
Makes me wish that I was dead

### the power of creative thinking

by jo meeks

a young couple  
fatigued  
from hunger and heat  
hold a sign outside  
Carl's Jr.

"VISIONS OF A BURGER"

i can't help but give \$2

### More or Less

by Michal Evans

Another day gone by ... fruitless  
another job opportunity denied ... shameless  
A visit with my Lord and Saviour ... timeless  
though in my situation I am not blameless  
I must confess and speak in trueness  
It clears my mind and now I am stressless  
As the enemy comes with all subtleness  
the one I accuse of putting me in this mess  
I have to blame somebody I guess  
But with my Lord I must pass the test  
With the Lord On My Side there's no regrets  
the things that we do seem senseless  
as the strong prey on the defenseless  
Our lives are seemedly useless  
But I too, am entitled to happiness  
I have to show my faithfulness  
to each and everyone even the faceless  
To God I must show my willingness  
to achieve, to grow, and every day progress;  
I ask only Him for His forgiveness  
He throws my sins in the 'Sea of Forgetfulness'  
I have been Chosen and now Spirit Driven  
by My Heavenly Father, who knows Best;  
So for today I may be homeless  
But, with my God I am not helpless  
my circumstanace is no longer hopeless,  
God cares for me know that I am truly Blessed!



Saturday, September 18  
9 a.m. - 12 noon

Volunteers of all ages: Come help us clean the American River Parkway and River at the end of the summer! Just go to one of the sites listed below on the morning of Sept. 18th. Wear a hat, long pants, sturdy shoes and work gloves, and bring sunscreen and water. You may join in at any of the following locations:

- |                                |                                  |  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Discovery Park              | 7. Howe Ave. South               | 13. Rossmoor Bar (Eimanto Dr.)         |
| 2. Del Paso & Northgate Blvds. | 8. Watt Ave. (La Riviera access) | 14. Sacramento Bar (Pennsylvania Ave.) |
| 3. 20th Street Connection      | 9. Gristmill                     | 15. Lower Sunrise                      |
| 4. Paradise Beach              | 10. William Pond Recreation Area | 16. Sailor Bar (Illinois Ave.)         |
| 5. Alumni Grove (CSUS)         | 11. Goethe Park                  | 17. Nimbus Fish Hatchery               |
| 6. Cal Expo                    | 12. Ancil Hoffman Park           |  |

Groups of 5 or more, divers, rafters and boaters: Please call the Parkway Foundation to register

## On the Death of Friends

by Lee

Ed Spencer was his own man. He did not want to live in a welfare system that was constantly telling him how to behave. After hanging around the office for a while, he started the Homeward distribution program, though I think his main interest was the tent city petition. He was always looking for ways that a person could survive on the street. To him it only made common sense that those who couldn't or wouldn't get inside should have a safe area to sleep in. He served briefly as president of SHOC, but after the tent city movement fell apart, he moved on. For a while he stayed in West Sac, said he'd found a bit of land that some deceased person had willed to the homeless to live on. The West Sac authorities eventually heard about the place and shut it down. Around that time he got a puppy. When it got too big to carry in his pack, so he couldn't hide it from the green hats (they would have made him put it in the kennel, and the kennel would have made him neuter it), he quit coming around, except infrequently to pick up some papers.

One morning at the office a social worker from 29th street called, asking if Ed had any family who could "be responsible". Ed was in intensive care at the hospital. The only person I knew of was his sister, Marion, so I went looking. Didn't find her but left messages all over the place - I heard she got one of them a day or so later. Ed had lung cancer, and it had spread into his spine. From the hospital they put him in a nursing home.

While Ed was in the nursing home, Marion herself had an asthma attack, or something - she couldn't breathe. Her friends brought her up off the river and she ended up spending about a week in the hospital.

Marion Fisher was also a free spirit. She loved animals and she loved nature. She was one of the most consistent helpers on the river cleanup project. It seems that she spent most of her time helping others do their thing, for better or worse. We never knew where she would be staying, inside or outside, except that where ever she was, her

dogs were with her- they were her children she would not part with.

A week or so after Marion got out of the hospital, a hospital worker called looking for her. I took the number, so I was watching for her one Tuesday afternoon and waved her over. It was then we learned from her that Ed had died the previous Thursday, August 5th. Marion spent the rest of the afternoon on our phone calling, calling, calling, trying to find out what they had done with Ed's remains, but all she got was the run-around. She didn't look good; she had trouble breathing, sometimes she'd be so confused she couldn't dial a number, she sat on the floor and would practically go to sleep while on hold. Then time was up. The park closed. The office closed. As we were leaving I saw her standing outside the fence in the shade. I gave her a half wave, a see-you-later wave. But I wasn't to see her again.

Thursday, August 12th, two days later, I came in and opened the office. Vera came up and asked me if I knew where Ed was. Marion had been found dead, alone with her dogs, down by the river that morning. Vera needed to find her brother. I had to tell her that Ed had died exactly a week before.

I am not suprised that they died so young. Family, health, homes, possessions, pets, loves, dreams and desires are considered by the workfare shelter system to be privileges of having money.

Those who say "I'm a free adult, why should I give up my wife, or children, or car, or pets, or possessions, or freedom of choice, just for a bunk to sleep in at night?" are branded as undeserving of help, and are cast on the street, where they lose everything anyway, and have a miserable life being harassed and driven from here to there until violence or disease takes them from this world.

Marion Fisher was 42, Ed about the same age. Hardly a week goes by now without another name going up on Friendship Park's Memorial Wall. It is a very high price the poor pay when they value something more than money, when they choose freedom over security.

## Obituaries

### Woodie Wright

d. August 3 or 4, 2004  
of cancer

### Joel Mason

d. August 9, 2004  
cause pending

### Dehaven "Wink" Barnes

d. August 19, 2004  
38 yrs. old  
cause pending



### Marion Fisher

Born Marion Crawford  
on  
Sept. 5, 1961  
Died  
Aug. 12, 2004

She suffered respiratory problems but exact cause of death unknown



### Ed Spencer

d. August 5, 2004  
of cancer

