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Serving the Sacramento area homeless community

Volume Two, No. 1

January 1998

1998 resolution: Get a checkup

Trip to the clinic can help make the new year a healthier year

By Ellen Fraizer
Homeward staff writer

The New Year is here and everyone should be prepared for what's ahead. Healthcare is one of the best places to start. Winter is here and as most can tell temperatures have gotten colder. Not everyone has the luxury of being in a warm and cozy place that provides protection from harsh weather conditions. There are many who are directly exposed to the environment with hardly anything to keep them warm. Some people sleep out on the street and some in cars. Aside from hypothermia, these people are prone to colds, coughs, and other types of sickness that result from inadequate resources. Adequate precautions should be taken in maintaining good

health and disease prevention.

Sacramento County Medical Clinics offer medical services to those who need help. The clinics never turn anyone away without at least giving them the proper referrals or resources. Because they sometimes get more patients than they have staff, you may experience a delay in getting seen, but you will be seen. Although you may want to bring a lunch, a thick book, or something to keep you busy, many clinics are available for the uninsured in Sacramento County. Sacramento County provides primary and public medical services for those who do not have Medi-Cal or other health care insurance.

Under the County of Sacramento Medically Indigent Program (CMISP) medically necessary primary health care is provided to qualified non-insured, low-income, residents of Sacramento County. Primary care services include: cardiac heart disease, diabetes, hypertension, ear infection, upper respiratory infection, fever, sore throat, seizures, poison ivy, etc. The County is aware that homeless people may not have the documents required to process the paperwork (for example: driver's license or social security card) but there are ways around this. "Eligibility Workers can assist the homeless in filling out the forms required even without the necessary documents," says Sherry Mosley, Clinic Manager.



Capital Health Center is located at 1500 C Street.



Photos/Christina Stock
Cold, wet weather makes staying healthy more difficult in winter.

Please see CLINICS, page 2

Mather Community Campus: Job training and employment

Mather Community Campus currently has openings for single individuals and couples without children who are ready for a structured program of job training and employment. Openings will be available throughout the spring of 1998. (Families with children who are interested in the Campus should call 228-3100 for current information on vacancies.)

Mather Community Campus is located just off Highway 50 in the Rancho Cordova area of Sacramento County. Tours of the Campus facilities and services are held every Monday and Friday. The Campus provides a van which stops at several shelters to pick up tour participants. A free lunch is included in the tour. Call 228-3107 to make a reservation for the tour.

Services. The program at Mather Community Campus (MCC) provides opportunities for students to gain valuable life skills, become self-sufficient, and to develop job skills directly related to the demands of the current local labor market. Case Managers and Employment Specialists work in coordination to provide services on campus; while educational, employment and training opportunities are located throughout the Sacramento area.

This structured program requires the students to participate in classes.



Photos/Christina Stock

Drug testing is used at Mather Community Campus to maintain safety and integrity in programs.

Please see CAMPUS, page 2

County opens winter shelter after hearing

In early December the County Board of Supervisors heard over three hours of testimony about the need to open a Winter Overflow Shelter and directed staff to establish a shelter at the previous detox center on Front Street as well as provide motel vouchers during the interim.

Shelter providers, advocates, religious officials, and homeless individuals, including members of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, stated that contrary to the county's assumption that there were enough beds available with recently opened transitional housing programs, overflow was greatly needed.

On Jan. 20, a subsequent report was presented to the Board of Supervisors, with data collected on those who use the overflow shelter system, as well as

Please see SHELTER, page 2



Senior volunteer John George and resident Kanika Gaye at the skills center.



Clinics

Continued from page 1

at South City Health Center.

Unlike primary care services, public health care services do not require eligibility for the CMISP and there are no charges for most services (may vary when it comes to immunizations). Public health care services include diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted disease (STD), well-child examinations, immunizations, pregnancy testing, TB testing, and AIDS (HIV antibody) testing, headache check (medication provided), scabies, family planning (with the exception of abortion and adoption but resources are available).

Mosley says, "The county recognizes the best of their ability that the opportunity to see the homeless for medical follow-ups may not be there

later. Their medical needs are prioritized." The clinics are available in various areas of Sacramento: SSCH in the south area, CHC in the downtown area, PCC in the midtown area, and DPHC and NEHC in north Sacramento. These clinics (with the exception of NEHC) provide primary care and public health services.

In addition to the primary and public health care, it may be useful to know that The Dental Clinic, the only county emergency dental clinic, offers short term dental services. Under the CMISP extractions and fillings only are provided. "If a patient needs other specialty services like root canals they are given referrals," says Nita Damore, a Senior/Supervisor Office Worker at The Dental Clinic. Unfortunately, referrals are out of their own expense. Medi-Cal or other types of insurance are not accepted at the Dental Clinic.

Mental health services and drug and alcohol abuse treatment is also offered

by County services. Treatment is available at designated county facilities, and information can be acquired through the county clinics.

How to be seen in county clinics:

1. Call and make an appointment or walk in early during clinic hours.
2. Fill out CMISP form and speak w/eligibility worker if primary care service is needed.
3. Fill out registration forms.
4. Waiting time can take 30 minutes or longer, so the earlier you get there, the better.

Where:

Capital Health Center (CHC)
1500 C Street
874-5302
8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon., Wed., Thurs.

Primary Care Center (PCC)
2921 Stockton Blvd
874-9595

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Del Paso Health Center (DPHC)
3950 Research Dr.
648-0970

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

South City Health Center (SSHC)
7222 24th Street/Florin
875-0824

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon-Fri

Northeast Health Center (NEHC)
7805 Auburn Blvd.
969-2724

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Mon and Fri; 8-5, Wed

Oak Park Health Center (OPHC)
3415 Martin Luther King Jr.
875-2995

Call for appt. or walk-in hours

Ellen Fraizer is a psychology student at CSUS, currently doing her internship at U.C. Davis.

Campus: Drug/alcohol free

Continued from page 1

support groups, meetings, and other program activities. The students also participate in recreational activities, and neighborhood projects. MCC is a drug and alcohol-free campus with mandatory drug testing. To maintain the safety and integrity of this program, students are expected to follow the MCC rules and regulations. Ultimately, MCC is a dynamic campus dedicated to enriching the lives and futures of its students, staff and community partners.

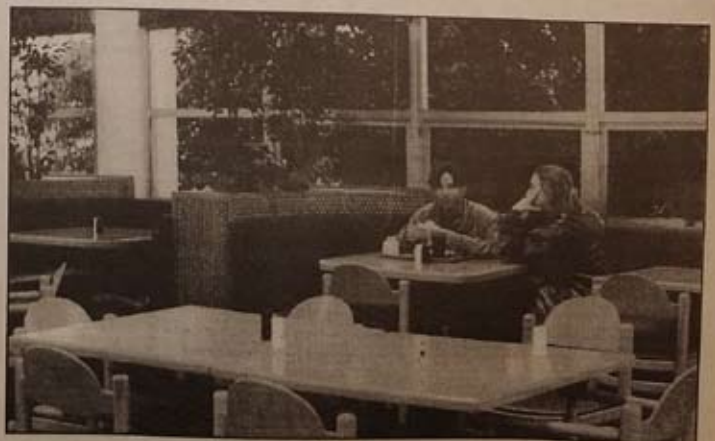
How to apply: A single person or couple without children must be staying in an emergency shelter, transitional housing program, inpatient recovery program, or other residential program to apply to MCC. Housing coordinators at each shelter have been trained to assist

people who are interested in applying to MCC.

Families with children must be referred by a case manager, social worker, teacher, or other professional. For additional information and assistance in applying, families with children should contact Bill Shaner, housing resource specialist, at 457-5760.

The housing coordinator/specialist will give application packets to interested persons and will review the program services and requirements. Application packets are also given out during the Campus tour described above.

After the campus receives a completed application, an interview and drug test will be scheduled. Most often, persons who are accepted into MCC move in 2-3 weeks after their completed application is received.



Photo/Christina Stock
Mather residents Terry Ivey and Elaine have lunch in the dining hall. Says Ivey, "It's a good opportunity for you if you come out here. Everything's here for you..."

Cleveland court decision threatens street papers

In the two decades leading up to the United States Revolution, there were rumblings of change. The literature of change was the pamphlet. It was cheap to construct, and easy to print. This form of literature carried words of Thomas Paine, Philip Livingston, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson. Many pamphlets were sold on the streets, usually for two shillings. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Bernard Bailyn called it the "literature of revolution." John Adams said that pamphlets and newspapers were the vehicle for "enlightening" public opinion about the authority England had over the colonies.

Today we are seeing the beginning of a movement to return power to disenfranchised individuals. This

Guest commentary

By Brian Davis

movement is uniting races and regions of the country in a struggle for equality. The literature of this movement is the street newspaper. Newspapers written by homeless and low income people give a voice to the voiceless, and enlighten the public about the authority of corporations over our life. They are cheap to produce, and provide an avenue for some financial benefit to homeless people from the sale of the papers. What the media ignore or obscure with sports, entertainment, and business, the street newspapers explore, investigate, and evaluate.

While we no longer respect the power of the media, it still exists. Pamphleteers

in the 1770's ignited a revolution. In the late twentieth century, the media had the ability to change the verdict of a jury, end the career of a politician, and even end a war. Street newspapers attempt the push forward solutions and change public opinion in a peaceful manner.

Jello Biafra, leader of the rock group Lard and the Dead Kennedys, said, "Do not hate the media, become the media." In 40 cities across North America, this is being done. Street newspapers act as the mouthpiece for a movement, and are just beginning to educate our communities.

The Homeless Grapevine in Cleveland was started to give homeless people a voice. It is organized by people on the streets, and has assisted in getting many people off the streets. It is

distributed by homeless vendors who buy the paper for \$.15 and sell it on the streets for \$1.00. The paper is a viable alternative to panhandling, providing hope for a better future. Many vendors successfully make the transition to a permanent place and a job with benefits. We provide a forum for poor people to express themselves, and we have made an impact in Cleveland by breaking some of the stereotypes.

But last month, the Homeless Grapevine realized a major setback in getting the words of the homeless people to the public when the United States Supreme Court rejected our request for a reversal of the City of Cleveland's policy of requiring our vendors to pay \$50 for a license to

Please see THREAT, page 4

Successful show at Shasta

The Homeless Artisans had a successful show in December at the Shasta Hotel, sponsored by the Sacramento Housing Alliance. The Housing Alliance also supplied those great snacks. We had a better variety of art for this show, with Lee Parks, Ernie, Nancy and "Pockets," using pastels and colored pencils, and Anthony with pen and ink. Razor had his wood carvings there and Peter LaRue with glass sculpture. Marie Patton had a wall hanging and Cliff Crooks showed metal fishermen sculptures. All the artists sold some of their work. Poetry was recited by Peter LaRue and Eddie Harris. This is the first time poetry was read at a homeless artisan show, and it went over real well.

The Homeless Artists are showing their work at Cafe Metro (11th & K) for the month of January. Stop by when you're in the area.

A wood carving class, taught by Razor, a master wood carver, will

Artists' update

By Art Clay

be held in the Loaves and Fishes library. You can join Razor, Monday through Friday between 8:00 and 11:00 am. If you have your own tools, it might be helpful to bring them.

A pottery class will begin in February, taught by Art Clay. For more information leave a message for Art at 492-1115 from 8 a.m.-2p.m.

Several people have asked for leather to make medicine bags. Any donations of leather would be greatly appreciated and we are always in need of any art supplies, including mat board and picture frames. Your donations keep this project going. If you have a donation, leave a message for Art at 492-1115. I'll come over and pick it up, or you can deliver it to the Loaves and Fishes library.

Have a good new year, Art Clay



Photo/Christina Stock

Art Clay will be teaching pottery classes in February.

Tasting benefits homeless teens

The WIND Youth Center, a non-profit agency which provides basic needs and counseling to homeless teens in the greater Sacramento area is having a beer tasting event at the Sacramento Brewing Company in Town & Country Village, Thursday, February 26. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For reservations call 492-8255. All proceeds go directly to the center.

Joining SHA

Annual Membership dues:
Individuals, \$35;
Standard, \$15;
Low income organizations:
non-profit, \$50;
for-profit, \$100.
Send donations to:
Sacramento Housing
Alliance, 2125 19th St., No.
101, Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 442-1198

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Welcome to Homeward: Please feel free to make a contribution

'Homeward' is a publication of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC), which is a part of the Sacramento Housing Alliance. Homeward's mission is to publish a newspaper for the homeless so that communication and concerns of and about the homeless are presented in a way that increases public awareness through education, involvement, and encouragement of our

community about this segment of our population. It hopes to alleviate miscommunication by providing a dialogue between disparate communities. It also serves as a creative outlet for homeless people.

Our committee meets at 10 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at Loaves and Fishes. We welcome any participation or contributions.

Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted to the Sacramento Housing Alliance or given to Birte in the library

at Loaves and Fishes.

We would like to thank the Vanguard Foundation for the grant that funds the committee.

Introductory subscriptions to Homeward are available with a \$10 contribution. A one-year subscription is offered with a \$50 annual membership to the Sacramento Housing Alliance. Make checks out to SHA.

All correspondence can be sent to Homeward, 2125 19th St., suite 101, Sacramento, CA 95818.

For information call 442-1198.



On slacking; or, reviewing a book from first three pages

Oh, Dear! Today (in about an hour) is the deadline for turning in this book review and I've only read three pages of the book I'm reviewing. You may say I've been slacking lately, and you're right. I've gotten indoors for these cold, winter months and I've just been laying around, mostly reading sci-fi. What can I say about any good sci-fi? If you're a fan, just choose a book with a cool looking cover. (Just another author's opinion of what reality would be like if it were different.)

Well, let me get down to business here. Three pages aren't much, but those three pages say a lot, and may be able to change some of our realities.

Erich From is a psychologist who wrote "On Disobedience." The first three pages discuss how man (or woman) as an individual experiences an aloneness, an isolation from those around him. He states, "The necessity to unite with other living beings, to be related to them, is an imperative need on which fulfillment of

Book review

By Paula

man's sanity depends." There are several ways in which this union can be sought and achieved. The first is by submission, by becoming a part of somebody or something bigger than himself to then experience his identity in connection with the power to which he has submitted. The other method lies in the opposite direction. By domination — by having power over others, it makes others apart of oneself.

In both submission and domination, both persons involved have lost their integrity and freedom. The result of these passions is defeat. Instead of developing his own individual being, he is dependent on those whom he submits to or whom he dominates.

(Please, please read on.)

I quote, (It's a good one,) "There is only

Three pages aren't much, but those three pages say a lot, and may be able to change some of our realities.

one passion which satisfies man's need to unite himself with the world and to acquire at the same time a sense of integrity and individuality and this is love. Love is union with somebody or something outside one's self under the condition of retaining the separateness and integrity of one's own self. It is an experience of sharing, of communion, which permits the full unfolding of one's

own inner activity. The experience of love does away with the necessity of illusions. There is no need to inflate the image of the other person, or of myself, since the reality of active sharing and loving permits me to transcend my individualized existence and at the same time to experience myself as the bearer of the active powers which constitute the act of loving. What matters is the particular quality of loving, not the object."

I could go on, but I haven't read past page 3 yet.

I suppose the book can be found in our public library, but I've been reading the one copy in the Loaves & Fishes library. I guess I'm bringing on some competition for the book. I may find someone else has the book next time I look for it. But, that's okay. We can share, eh? And besides, those first three pages say some things that needs a lot of practice. Be yourself, with Love, Paula.

Origin of human rights can be found in human nature

Human life begins at birth. Therefore, human rights originate from the first breath of life, and continue until the last regardless if one is born of royalty, of status and power, or simply born homeless.

Human rights by design are meant for all. That is not to say that human rights by design are a guarantee. We as people, as individuals, are the owners of human rights, but these rights can only be assured if they are claimed.

Human nature is what brought human rights into existence. The infliction, of unjust cruelties and torture and the atrocities of war brought the need for human rights. Poverty, hunger

Essay

By Jimmy Baca

and homelessness do not give birth to war or tomorrow's atrocities, but world governments do, and world governments are also the caretakers of human rights, be they democratic or non-democratic. Some would say that poverty, hunger and homelessness are atrocities in themselves. If so, then it's time to put it into language and political reality. But most of all as a people, as individuals, we must claim our birthrights.

Here we are, homeless in Sacramento,

and our discussions of late have been centered on human rights. Two issues have come to a great concern: The right to property and the right to survival. These rights are often violated by the Anti-Camping Ordinance and police harassment, especially while enforcing the anti-camping ordinance.

Ask what are the homeless issues in any city USA, and be not surprised that the Anti-camping Ordinance is within the top three. Our view is this: "We are not campers, we are survivors." Camping is defined as going out for a weekend for a pleasure trip, like a picnic. Camping is something you do in the heat of summer, not knee deep in

snow homeless in Portland, Oregon. Nor does a homeless person in Sacramento camp knee deep in water in the middle of February. It's true we are beyond knee deep in anger to police harassment also.

Nothing new, it has been going on now for over a decade or so.

Bronco Billy, I've been told has been coming around. Perhaps you saw him today or yesterday. There are no Bronco Billys in Washington D.C, or Denver, Colorado, just in Sacramento. Bronco Billy is a generic name that was given to a Sacramento Police officer in 1994.

Please see RIGHTS, page 5

Threat

Continued from page 3

distribute the paper.

Earlier, the U.S. Appeals Court in the Sixth Circuit declared that our paper is no different than a hot dog. The three Reagan/Bush-appointed judges said that the City of Cleveland could impose the same restrictions on our vendors as they impose on hot dog vendors. Cleveland is relying on the ordinance governing hot dog vendors and commercial sales. This decision says that the words of poor people have no more value than a hot dog.

The Homeless Grapevine has in the past criticized local officials for a lack of attention to reversing poverty and homelessness. Hot dogs are not a vehicle for social change, nor do they carry any political message, nor are there any First Amendment rights at stake when hot dogs are sold from a pushcart. The only lasting impact that a hot dog has is increasing an individual's cholesterol level, leading to future heart problems.

So now each vendor pays a yearly \$50 license fee to sell the Homeless

Grapevine. Before a vendor makes \$1, we must send our homeless and former panhandlers down to City Hall with two picture IDs to get a \$50 license or tax. Then, after they are issued a license, they have to choose where they are going to sell. So not only do they have to submit to the exorbitant filing fee, but all the sidewalks are no longer available to them. We still have not figured out the purpose for the license. We are not selling food which could be poisonous. All our vendors are badged, so they are distinguished from others on the streets. All our vendors only sell newspapers on the streets and nothing else. All our vendors sign a code of conduct. We wonder if the city is worried that the people will receive a tainted Grapevine.

The Homeless Grapevine exhausted its appeals through the judicial system when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear our case. Despite forty years of previous rulings to the contrary, the Supreme Court let stand the U.S. Court of Appeals ruling that licenses did not violate our vendor's First Amendment rights. We are in a strange time in our judiciary when all previous decisions are up for rehearing.

Justice Douglas wrote in *Murdock v Pennsylvania* (1943): "It is true that the First Amendment like the Commerce Clause draws no distinction between licensed taxes, fixed sum taxes and other kinds of taxes. But that is no reason why we should shut our eyes to the nature of the tax and its destructive influences. The power of censorship which this Court has repeatedly struck down."

Now we are pursuing local Executive and Legislative avenues for relief from this ordinance. At the same time, we are coordinating national legislation to protect street newspapers across the country from the dictates of the local mayor or city council. Currently, there are 22 "poverty issue" papers in the United States sold on the street, whose vendors could potentially be forced to buy a license as happened in Cleveland. Seven emerging papers may be subject to a license fee if the newspapers happen to confront or alienate the local administration.

We hope that supporters of street newspapers and supporters of free speech will contact their local US Representative and urge them to support a national ban on licensing street

newspapers. This is not a Democratic or Republican issue. Democrats usually support free speech issues and Republicans want "to get government off your back," especially entrepreneurs who are making the transition back into the work force. A license restricts free speech and brings government into areas where it has never treaded.

The right to speak to the public is a cornerstone of the Bill of Rights. Poor people are ignored by the television and have only limited access to radio. Major newspapers are too busy covering sports, business and entertainment to worry about poverty. Street newspapers are the last avenue in which to read the voices of the poor. Without some protection we risk alienating and keeping the voices of the poor out of the debate. Without the input of the poor, we get some of the horrible decisions that have been made over the last 30 years.

Freedom of speech is worth preserving. For more information on the effort to protect free speech contact the Homeless Grapevine at 216/241-1104 or e-mail at neoch@bb2.nmrc.net

Brian Davis is editor of the *Homeless Grapevine* in Cleveland.

Possible solutions to the homeless situation

One thing that is very much needed by the homeless person both male and female is the one thing that is hardest to find

A Safe Place To Rest the year around. This is a problem of our society which is not new and according to documentation has yet to be effectively dealt with!

It is one of those problems for which no one wants to take responsibility. It is someone else's problem, fault, etc.

Yet under biblical law, God saw fit to build into his law a means whereby the poor and disabled were provided for.

Yet in our society today, it is fashionable to simply criminalize the poor and by that means blame the problems of the poor on the poor themselves, thus creating yet more problems for the entire society, in what would appear to be a never ending cycle.

I would like to suggest a plan that would at least provide the basic human rights to eat and rest in shelter.

These basics could be afforded and managed by a poverty trust, in tax exempt facilities, which ideally would be comprised of two campus like centers, one for shelter and living. The other for education, work training, as well as actual profit earning businesses, with those realized profits going back into the trust, to be used in the maintenance of the various programs. Programs should include long term (18 to 24 months) living skills practice with help in all aspects of management required for independent living. These would be in-house programs in which the persons involved would be required to seek work obtain jobs. During a person's stay in one of

Essay

By Marvin Jensen

Each participant accrues what amounts to the proverbial nest egg.

these programs, they would be required to contribute 25 percent of their net income to the trust. However, upon their graduation they would receive from the trust an award equal to 90 percent of the total amount in individual had paid in. Thus, each participant accrues what amounts to the proverbial nest egg, needed to commence an independent living arrangement.

In a greater sense, the poverty trust's primary purpose is to support charities within the area it is designed to serve, with augmentation of existing services as it deems proper to meet existing needs.

It would further be a service of said trust to keep a running estimate of the numbers of people within its area living below poverty level. Money for the expenses of operating such, would be gathered by the means outlined by the I.R.S. and within the limits of the law.

Such trusts would be a more effective way of providing a better, more comprehensive array of services within any urban area, which would mean less



Homeward illustration: Lee Parks

duplication of some services within areas, while providing real, needed, but non-existent services.

Any area which has more than 20 persons living in sub-poverty is in need of such a trust. It appears as a fault of the society which we have constructed for ourselves that such a large oversight as this exists, and the ugly truth is that not only does our society not provide for these unfortunate souls, but actually impinges quite heavily upon them, with the homeless being the most heavily taxed portion of our entire population, hounded with fines, the frequent need to shop at small stores where prices are higher, and the added cost of confiscated belongings which must be replaced.

Each of us tend to see our own needs as paramount, and even though others nearby face the same, if not in fact, more

dire needs than our own.

In order to create a program that begins to effectively ease the pain of need for not one, but all those who suffer the plight of the depression that poverty causes.

The people must first in their hearts find the humanitarian desire and goodness to assemble and forge those means whereby such vehicles as a poverty trust and the realized work-job providing facilities, are put in place.

I place my faith in God in hope that the goodness within the hearts of human kind might be brightened to the magnitude which would increase the overall mass consciousness as to inspire action in this area of need.

This piece concludes a series of four essays regarding the plight of the homeless and those who dwell in poverty.

Rights

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Never mind the graphics. One thing for certain is that the name stuck. The homeless in any city USA are harassed beyond the call of duty. They're persistently tormented and persecuted by repeated attacks by the police.

Alright, let's swing into the issue of the right to property.

Property laws protect those who own homes, and the United States government cannot arbitrarily take one's home. The homeless do not own a home, nor would they be homeless if they did. Homeless shelters may be classified as temporary homes, including SRO's, or single occupancy rooms. Recreational vehicles are homes on wheels which are often temporary. Yet, if a homeless person lives in a van or other vehicle it is not permitted by law to be used as a temporary or permanent home. Even jail is considered a temporary home depending on one's perspective. Some call it Motel Six.

So then, the argument is this. The bedroll that a homeless person carries

on their back is a home, be it temporary or otherwise. If one chooses to live outdoors in the elements and refuses to take refuge in the shelter system, regardless of reasons of refusal, one has made a conscious choice. We are speaking of two issues here. One is to classify the bedroll as temporary or permanent home. Two, the right not to be confined if one has made a choice to find a site and remain outdoors in the elements. Homeless folks in Santa Cruz, California who remain outdoors are known as "Star People."

Home is where one secures safety and peace. Safety and peace has a broad definition. For example, you may argue that the emergency winter overflow shelter is lacking in safety and peace. Choices are made, you secure and take measures into your own hands to provide safety and peace. Away into the night. Never mind the shelter system. This homeless person is sleeping heavenly in a bedroll and declaring a site and home. Thank you, and good night.

Bronco Billy makes a visit to your site, not your camp. You learn that Bronco Billy threw your bedroll and all of your belongings into the river,

Bedrolls are not only a home away from home, but they also protect us when temperatures drop in the middle of the night.

realizing also that you forgot your medication inside your bedroll. Now you're out of a home and the much needed medication. Like so many others, your property has gone down the river. But no way are you going to enter the mission or the shelter for the night! You'd rather go to jail. It's one and the same. It's a jungle out there, and no one's bedroll is secure from thief or Bronco Billy. Bronco Billy will say that a transient passing through town took it. Perhaps Bronco Billy threw theirs in the river too.

Nevertheless, your property needs to

be protected. So you rent a storage unit; that will work. Not everybody can afford a storage unit. Leave "Buddy" the dog at the site to protect it. Now you just found out that Bronco Billy threw "Buddy" in the river.

Now your P—!

Out of a home, the much needed medication, and now "Buddy" the dog also went down the American River. You're so damn mad that your brown eyes turned blue. You ask, what's next, my identification? ... yep!

When Bronco Billy comes around throwing away everything you own, he or she is also tossing into the river your right to survive. When bedrolls come up missing, the right to self-preservation is at stake. Bedrolls are not only a home away from home, but they also protect us when temperatures drop in the middle of the night.

Remember Randy Harper? He died of pneumonia. He died Thanksgiving Eve in the chill of cold rain and wind. Bronco Billy made a visit at Randy's site and took his bedroll twice within a week. Randy's life came to an end because his mechanisms to survive were taken. If food is absent to sustain

Please see TRUTH, page 6

Poetry

Untitled

Wasn't just the
time or way
All was wrapped
in facts, they say,
Dreams may die
In sleep we lay,
Still future's rise
at break of day!

— by Ricochet

A Garden of Paradise

Upon the meadow up above
ahead
the sun shined down below
Caps on top of mountains like
snow
Trees surround me and the
green grass that grows
Soft moss beneath my feet
Like the wind drifting lifting
and carrying me away like
leaves
The rushing sound of water
that flows
Like beautiful flowers the
color of a rainbow
Animals, the birds that sing
Butterflies flapping their
wings

— by Julie Ann Gibbons

Crack poem

The real story is
that smokin crack is
like facing the dragon with a
whip
the more you whip him
he never dies
he cracks a smile
and you crack the whip
cause you think you'll get him
with one more hit
and he cracks another smile
and you crack another hit
on his ass and again
he laughs at you because all of
it
was a pipe dream that you
would win and beat the
dragon

Truth

Continued from page 5

the body, the body dies. This is a case of a
bedroll being absent and a life came to an
end. Pneumonia, a heavy rain chilled with
wind, temperatures dropped in the mid 30
or 40 degrees and the result was fatal.

Let's be clear, we don't want a repeat on
this one. A life was lost. We have no
intentions of suing, but we are going to let
the world community know when a life is
lost. Perhaps it will have more of an impact
than an actual lawsuit.

The Sacramento Homeless Organizing
Committee (SHOC), is taking a human
rights approach to address the ugliness of
police harassment. We have decided to
document all incidents of police violence

Untitled

I am black,
When I was born,
I was black.
When I get cold,
I am black.
When I go out in the sun,
I am black.
When I get sick,
I am black.
When I grow up,
I am black.
When I die
I will be black.

Untitled

You...
When you were born,
you were pink,
When you get cold,
you turn blue.
When you get in the sun,
you turn red.
When you get sick,
You turn green.
When you grown up,
you are white.
When you die,
You turn purple.

And you have the nerve
to call me colored?

— anonymous

Life

My body
is going to get old.

I'm not!

I'm going to let
my kid out to play.

My spirit runs free,
dances in the sunlight

And is in awe
Of the Moon,

Starlight
Flowers

Love

and Joy

Come play with me,
my friend,

and sing
and love.

— by Billeen Pruitt

If only you could silence
the body

You and I came from anger.
We are young and we became
victims.

We ask ourselves why these
things happen? We don't
understand, so we make the
best of it.

We are victims.
It is not us who committed the
violence. We are raised to
understand that there is a right
and a wrong. So I looked into
the eyes of my Indian ancestry,
and I ask:

What is it that you want me
to become when I become a man
like you?

The intoxicated eyes of my
Indian ancestry raises me to his
face and embraces me. The
cutting hairs of an unshaven
face. The smell of wine, I never
forget.

From the lips of intoxication a
blessing comes. "My son I want
you to become like the wind. For
no one knows where the wind
comes from. No one knows what
makes it blow in a cool silence.
Which direction it shall follow,
no one knows. No one can stop,
nor capture it. Become my son
like the wind. When you have
become like the wind, then you
have become my son. No one
can destroy the wind. No matter
where you go my son, no one can
destroy you."

The wind can cool any anger.
Every time, my friend, I see
your face, everything I like. I see
the anger and I see the wind.
I see both.

I see my ancestry in your face.

Can we agree that there are two
angers. One is constructive, the
other destructive. One can
rebuild you anew, the other is
you worst enemy.

The magic of course is to
recognize the two. To know
which one is your friend, and
which is your enemy. Many
times it's hard to distinguish.
Like the wind, anger is
invisible. Naked to the eye,
forever teasing us into insanity.

But the soul is deep. In the
soul, the wind waits. Knowing
that the enemy is coming to
destroy.

The wind, the wind so
incredibly powerful. Sometimes
a cool gentle breeze can destroy
a thousand enemies.

In many sizes and shapes,
they all fear the wind. The
enemy is wise. Let us not fool
ourselves. We cannot destroy
the enemy by ourselves. The
armor we have is child's play.

If you believe in suicide, then
march forward.

So then into battle we go, like
a warrior. One will win, and one
will lose. One will stand, and
one will fall.

Like David and Goliath.
There is no in between.

There comes a time this
feeling to be a human again.

The animal in man must go.
The stormy eyes of the wind
blows into your nostrils. The
feeling to be human again
repeats itself over and over
again in your brain. Bones ache
and muscles tire. If only I can
make it till tomorrow I can be
human again.

And you know it's the wind
that's causing this sensation.
But you say, "Hey, how about
happiness. Doesn't happiness
count for something?"

Say that it is so
Tell me no Lies.
Say that it is so.
I was born for it. I have a

Please see POETRY, page 7

CLASSIFIEDS

Submit your classified to
the Housing Alliance or put
in the black and white can
in the Loaves and Fishes
Library.

One ad free to private
parties and non-profit
organizations per issue. Try
to keep it under 25 words.

Lost: Blue "ISE" cap with
feathers. If found, just stuff
it in the want ad can in the
Loaves and Fishes Library.
(It is not being used much
 lately).

Loaves & Fishes Retail
Store, 1225 N. B Street,
open 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday thru Saturday.
Donations of unwanted
items appreciated.

• WANTED: Harm
Reduction Services, HRS, is
looking for the women who
took the HIV test at
Maryhouse in July. Please
come back for your results.
Some of you asked HRS to
find specific services and we
now have more information for
you. YOU KNOW WHO
YOU ARE. Please call HRS
at 456-4849 Monday
through Friday between 9
a.m. and 2 p.m. or else come
in to the office. Thank You.
Dee Cullen.

• Give hope and
happiness. Give a job —
such as moving, yardwork
— to a homeless worker.
Call Loaves and Fishes job
phone: 446-9316 Ask for
Marie or Margaret Mary, or
mail to: Loaves and Fishes,
Jobs for Homeless, P.O. Box
2161, Sacramento, 95812.

Human rights
symposium
set for Jan. 28

The Sacramento
Homeless Organizing
Committee will host a
Human Rights Symposium,
from a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Jan
28 in Guest House at
Loaves and Fishes. This is
to be a dialogue among
homeless individuals to
discuss human rights issues
and violations.
Refreshments will be
provided to attendees.

The symposium is open to
all homeless people
interested in learning more
about their human rights.

Poetry

Continued from page 6

right to it. But the absence of it makes us
intoxicate our brains till we have no
brains. And we dance with the enemy,
flying into fantasy land.

Here we escape the wind,— our
friend. We dance instead with the enemy.
We say to the loyal friend it's your fault.
Go away and leave me alone. I can take
care of myself, thank you.

Besides,— all I know is anger.
Anger is where I came from. I walk
and talk, breathe and live this anger.

When I die I will take this anger with
me. And so what; who gives a damn.

Seriously, who gives a damn. I am a
victim and I have no rights. All I want is
a gentle hand, a kind heart, and an
acceptance with no conditions. Is that too
much to ask?

If you silence the body, not the mind,
for just a minute you can hear the wind.
An intoxicated mind is not the problem,
nor at fault.

If you could only silence the body. The
mind has a chance to be restored. The
rebirthing of the heart is a beauty.

Sometimes painful but necessary.

And yes the wind will blow from
behind you, in front of you, from all
directions.

The enemy has no choice but to
surrender.

This feeling of being human again will
cause your eyes to tear. You have the
right to be happy for you are born for it.
The restoration of the mind takes time.
The rebirthing of your heart is your
strength.

If only you could silence the body.
— James William Baca
Jaime Guillermo Baca

February 10, 1994

From "In Here There Are No
Strangers..." an anthology of poetry, art
and prose from Sisters of the Road Cafe,
Portland, Ore.

Spirit

Oh, Great Spirit
whose voice I hear in the winds,
whose breath gives life to the world,
hear me...

I am small and weak.
I need your strength and wisdom.
May I walk in beauty,

Make my eyes behold the red and
purple sunset
Make my hands respect the things you
have made,
and my ears sharp to your voice.
Make me wise so that I may know
the things you have taught your
children,
the lessons you have written
in every leaf and rock.

Make me strong, not to be superior
to my brothers,
but to fight my greatest enemy—
myself.

Make me ready to come to you
with straight eyes
So that when life fades as the fading
sunset

My spirit may come to you without
shame.

Chief Yellow Lark, Sioux. 1887
c Janet Casey 1981

The Taking

Not for a second
Did my eyes see
For he was my son
Little Johnathan Diego

Diego the middle name
They came and
Did the taking

The mother native
Native children they want
Black children return
Natives are number one

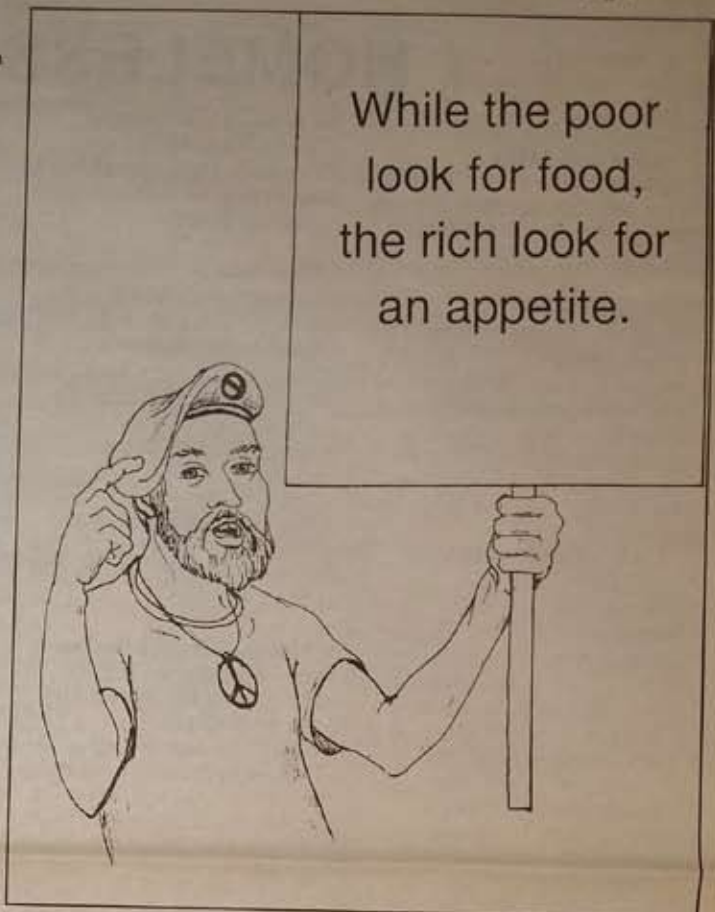
First they supply
The need
Arrested and dejected
Then they come
And did the taking

Premiums in motion
Twenty-five hundred
Little Johnathan
Sold on the market
For gratitude and reward

Little Johnathan Diego
Came from my seed
God knows
And they

Absent of nation
Absent of home
And power
For they
Are omnipresent

Baby ring



Homeward illustration/Leo Parks

They come thieving
In hospitals
For they
Know the second
Little Johnathan Diego
Is born

In the taking
Violating the ultimate
The endless journey
Of Human Rights
The endless agony
But the morning cometh

Mothers in silence
Wait for the clamor
And the sentence
For the morning cometh
To end the darkness

For I
For her
The mother native
Born of absent power
Of nation and home
Little Johnathan Diego
Is gone

Less than 24 hours
For he was our son
Not for a second
Did our eyes see

They came you see
And did
The taking

— by Jimmy Baca
12/30/97

County's welfare recipient proposal approved by state

By Scott Decker
Homeward staff writer
Sacramento County
Department of Human
Assistance (DHA) has received
state approval for its welfare
reform proposal, submitted on
Dec. 3, nearly a month ahead of
the Jan. 10 deadline. DHA's
plan addresses how
Sacramento County will treat
its welfare recipients under the

new federal and state
guidelines. Many of the
specifics of how welfare will be
reformed are yet unclear. In
general, the federal guidelines
of work requirements and time
limits have been passed down
intact through the state to the
counties. In Sacramento, the
DHA plan appears to have
little that is new to it, other
than the neighborhood "one

stop" eligibility centers.

One bright point amidst the
chaos and gloom is the
County's flexibility. DHA staff
does seem to be working
diligently to implement this
plan, slated to take effect Jan.
12. Resources seem especially
lacking in child care and
transportation. DHA, however,
seems to be aware of the
weaknesses and is actively

seeking input from the
community, from both
recipients and social service
providers.

For instance, the Human
Services Coordinating Council
is hosting meetings of the
Welfare Reform Task Force, a
coalition of service providers
and DHA officials, and appears
genuinely concerned in
addressing as best it can the

issues that are brought to the
table.

If you receive benefits, or
know or work with anyone
receiving benefits, and if you
have housing concerns that
you'd like to have addressed,
please contact Scott Decker,
MSW intern, at the Housing
Alliance (442-1198). The
County can address only those
concerns that it hears about.

HOMELESS SERVICES

Overnight shelters

Salvation Army
(30 day) 12th & North B St.
1pm bed sign up. Men/Women.
Dinner, breakfast & clothing
for residents. 442-0331

St. John's Shelter
301 12th Street (at North C
Street.) Women/Children, 14
day max stay. 4:30 pm to 7:15
am. Weekdays-Intakes
anytime at door or call.
Weekends-Intakes 4:30 pm.
Dinner provided for guests.
448-0701

Union Gospel Mission
400 Bannon St. Men Only.
6:30 pm bed sign up.
Newcomers/Referrals have
priority. 7:30 pm Chapel
Service with meal afterward. 6
am breakfast for residents.
Showers/shaves 9-11 am &
1:00-2:45 pm. 447-3268

Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center

4516 Parker Avenue. 24
hours. Family Shelter-
Families, single adults with
children. Women's Refuge-
Single women, no children.
Call for screening/space
availability. 455-2160

Day Shelters

Francis House
1214 17th St., coffee and
donuts 8-10 a.m. M-F; walk-in
or referrals provides resource
counseling, advocacy,
emergency vouchers and
referrals 1-3 p.m.; weekdays.
443-2646.

Consumer self-help (south)

3031 Franklin Blvd. Drop-in
day shelter operated by
Mental Health Consumers.
737-7100.

Food

Union Gospel Mission
400 Bannon St. (North B St
at 12th.) 7 days, Church
Service 7:30 pm (required.)
Dinner following 8:30-9:15 pm,
Sunday: Service 11 am, lunch
at noon. 447-3268

Loaves & Fishes
1321 North C St. Lunch,

every day, 11:30-1:00 pm
(Tickets 7 am-12:30 pm at
Friendship Park.) Breakfast at
MaryHouse for women and
children. 444-9626

Maryhouse.
1321 North C Street, suite
32. Serves women and
children. Day shelter hour of
operation 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Monday through Friday for
women and families. Also,
breakfast 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Free clothing
Sacramento Food Bank
3333 3rd Avenue (at
Broadway.) 8 a.m.-4 p.m. 456-
1980

Union Gospel Mission
400 Bannon St. (B St &
12th.) Men: Mon-Sat 9-11 am,
or 1:00-2:45 pm.
Women/Children: Wed. only.
Call for appointment to go in
at 11 am, 1:00 or 1:30 pm, or
attend Bible study at 9:15 am
and get free clothing at 10 am.
447-3268

Medical

Mercy Clinic
Loaves & Fishes. Adults,
children: General Health Care.
M-F 8 a.m.-noon, 1 p.m.-4:30
p.m. Sign ups in Friendship
Park, 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
446-3345.

Capital Health Clinic
1500 C St. (at 15th.) Adults
8-5 M, W and Th. 440-5302.

Dental

Sacramento Dental Clinic
1500 C St. (at 15th.) Adults-
Emergency Dental. Call for
Appt. M-F 7:40 a.m.-5 p.m.
Walk-ins screened. 552-8300.

Mental health

Guest House
Loaves & Fishes. Homeless
Mental Health Clinic. M, W,
Th, Fri. 8-11:30 a.m. Tues 8-
11:30 am only. Mental health
evaluation, medication if
needed. Housing referrals for
mentally ill, GA referrals, SSI
applications, referrals to
alcohol and drug counseling.
443-6972.

TLCS Emergency Outreach

470 Bannon St. (Trailer at
North B St.) 24 hr answering
machine, adults, no
requirements. Counseling,
referrals, help w/SSI
applications, housing. Mon-Fri
9:00 am-4:00 pm. 443-2996.

Crisis intervention Wind Youth Center

300 Ahern Street. Serves
youth ages 12-19. Serves
breakfast and lunch, offers
clothing and case mgmt. Open
six days a week: M-W and Fri.
from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.,
Thurs. from 8:30 a.m. to 1
p.m., and Sat. 11 a.m. to 12:30
p.m. Youth outreach.

WEAVE

24 hour. Battered women
and children. Victims of rape,
domestic abuse. Crisis
counseling, long-term anger
counseling for men, safe
houses, children's program.
920-2952.

**Sacramento Mental
Health Center (County)**
2150 Stockton Blvd. (at T St.)
24 hour. Will evaluate anyone
for voluntary or involuntary
psychiatric care. In-Patient
Care Facility, Drop-in, 24 hour.
732-3637

Horizon Project:

Transitional living and
support services for women
and children who have become
homeless due to domestic
violence. Will do assessment
for mental illness and
chemical dependency. Contact
Delita 448-2951

Miscellaneous

Social Services (Welfare)
28th & R St. Mon-Fri 7:30
am-5 pm. Call for assistance
and location. 732-3156. AFDC
732-3456. GA 732-3459. Food
Stamps 732-3500.

**Employment
Development Department**
2901 50th St. (at Broadway.)
8930 Big Horn Blvd. Mon-Fri
8 am-5 pm. Unemployment,
job services. 227-0300

**Legal Services of
Northern California, Inc**
515 12th St. (at E St.) Mon-
Fri 8:30 am-12 pm, 1 pm-5
pm. Problems with public
benefits, landlord/tenant,
divorce clinic. Call for appt.
444-6760.

Medi-Cal
4875 Broadway. Mon-Fri 8
am-5 pm. 732-3490.
7220 24th St (at Florin.)
Mon-Thur 8-11 am, 1-3 pm,
Fri 8-11am. Phone application
OK. ID needed. 395-4551.

Social Security Office
8351 Folsom Blvd. M-F 9
a.m.-4:30 pm. 381-9410.
National Line 1-800-772-1213.

Welfare Rights

1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd
floor.) Mon-Fri 9 am-5 pm.
AFDC, Food Stamps, Work
Fare and medical rep. at
hearings. 736-0616.

Alcoholics Anonymous
454-1100

Runaway Hotline
1-800-843-5200

Infoline Sacramento
Telephone Information and
referral service. 498-1000

VA Outreach
923-9787

AIDS/HIV CARES

(Center for AIDS Research,
Education and Service.) 1500
21st Street. Serves people
with HIV and AIDS. Medical
care, mental health, case
management, health
education and regional
prevention/education classes.
443-3299

Breaking Barriers

Provides direct services to
people living with AIDS and
HIV. HIV Testing at Loaves &
Fishes every Wednesday.
447-2437.

Alternative Test Site. Free
anonymous testing by appt.
Wed/Thurs. Call for appt.
440-7720. 1500 C Street.