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# HOMeward

a street journal

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A Homeward Public Service Ad in support of Independent Recycling

canning is a  
necessary  
& honest  
occupation

## California State AB 804

Assembly Bill 804 (or "Amendment K") is a dangerous bill on its way to becoming another anti-poor law, according to welfare rights advocate and formerly homeless mother, Linda Lemaster.

Assemblyman Keeley's bill proposes penalties against children who are found to be "neglected" educationally. Analysts suggest the bill will be selectively enforced, at best, and may be to shore up Child Protective Services and the foster care system funding.

Linda Lemaster is a Santa Cruz, California activist who has run for City Council, been arrested in housing take-overs, and currently is a Commissioner on the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women. She also heads *Housing Now!* in Santa Cruz.

"This [bill] is authored by our (Santa Cruz area) Assemblyman Fred Keeley. Keeley normally is humane and environmentally sensitive. I don't understand why he would author this terrible augmentation to the

authority of our state's Child Protective Service. This piece of work was sponsored by child welfare service providers in Los Angeles County, including CPS," Lemaster said.

Home-schooling associations have pointed out that AB 804 has no "due process." They are seeking help from the ACLU.

"If AB 804 becomes a law, homeless and transitioning families will be especially vulnerable," Lemaster emphasized, "It is redundant since existing ordinances in both the Education code and other Welfare Institution codes address truancy and matters of school progress," she said, "I have known too many home-schooled children who have been extremely successful on entering college, to fail for this hype. It is unfair to our children, and it would criminalize children in low-income and transitioning families more than students."

## Santa Cruz: Go Ahead and Sleep; Pay a Smaller Fine!

released for publication

by Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom

Santa Cruz, CA,  
City Council  
Keeps the Beiers'  
Sleeping Ban

"I think we should  
interrupt the sleep of  
people who pass such  
laws."

— Howard Zinn  
10/25/97

speaking in response to the Santa Cruz Sleeping Ban at an event sponsored by the Resource Center for Nonviolence

On March 23, Mayor Katherine Beiers effectively excluded homeless residents and cut back testimony from supporters of Sleeping Ban Repeal. Beiers then led the City Council to retain MC 6.36, which specifies "sleeping" and "covering up with bedding" from 11:00 pm to 8:30 am as criminal offenses, punishable by fines of up to \$54 per slumber-crime. The 21-year old anti-hippie law was passed in 1978 to make it easier for police to "move along" so-

called "UTES"—undesirable transient elements.

The Mayor, who also sits on the Board of Directors of the Homeless Services Center, declined to facilitate arrangements that would allow over 100 homeless users of the Armory Winter Shelter to attend either of the two crucial City Council votes. She also scheduled the Council Public Hearing during the UCSC Spring break when students who hotly opposed arresting homeless people for "slumber without a permit" would be out of town.

An Initiative to Repeal the Sleeping Ban in non-residential areas of the City had received over 1550 signatures of permanent city resident voters in 1998 and was endorsed by the main organizations supporting the new City Council members Sugar,

see *Sleeping Ban*  
Page 2

# National Updates

from the National Coalition for the Homeless, Washington, D.C.

## HUD Program funds

Interagency Council on the Homeless  
Alert

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced the availability of approximately \$2.4 billion in HUD program funds covering 32 grant categories. The housing component of this SuperNOFA encompasses many of HUD's housing programs, including targeted housing and homeless assistance. Targeted housing programs include Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (\$22.2 million), Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly (\$434.8 million) and Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities (\$87.2 million).

\$750 million is available for Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance through the Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single-Room Occupancy programs. The application deadline for the Continuum of Care programs is June 2, 1999. The closing date for receipt

of applications under other programs in the SuperNOFA varies.

## Welfare-Medicaid Not Linked

Families USA Foundation flyer

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 cut the link between Medicaid and cash welfare for families. Families who are not eligible for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program may still qualify for Medicaid if they meet the eligibility standards for AFDC that were in place on July 16, 1996. This new category of eligibility is called Section 1931.

States are not allowed to divert families from Medicaid. The welfare agency should continue to process applications for Medicaid, even if there are up-front requirements for processing of applications for TANF, and families should be informed of their right to apply for Medicaid even

if they are diverted from TANF.

Some states have opted to terminate Medicaid (for non-pregnant adults) when they cut off TANF recipients for "refusal to work." However, it is illegal for states to stop Medicaid for a non-work related offense (such as falling behind in children's immunizations or failing to assist with the collection of child support), nor can a state cut off Medicaid for pregnant women or children. It is important that families in states that choose to cut off Medicaid know that they are still entitled to Medicaid if they were kicked off TANF for a non-work related violation, and that pregnant women and children may not lose Medicaid if their family is denied for any reason.

Nor do TANF time limits apply in Medicaid. Families cut off TANF because they have hit a time limit should still receive Medicaid as long as they qualify under Section 1931.

In most states, pregnant women and infants are eligible for Medicaid

with incomes up to 185% of poverty, and in all states kids ages 1-5 are eligible at 133% of poverty, and kids ages 6-15 are eligible at 100% of poverty. New health insurance expansions have brought eligibility levels up to 200% of poverty in many states. While parents are entitled to Transitional Medicaid after increasing their earnings above Medicaid eligibility levels, kids in families moving from welfare to work are likely to continue to be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP.

For more information see:  
Families USA's Medicaid Clearinghouse at <http://www.familiesusa.org/medicaid>;

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, "Assuring That Eligible Families Receive Medicaid When TANF Assistance is Denied or Terminated," November, 1998: <http://www.cbpp.org/11-5-98mcaid.htm>.

## Sleeping Ban

cont. from Page 1

Fitzmaurice, and Krohn last November. Yet the crucial issue of whether homeless people would be allowed to sleep at night somewhere, and where that somewhere might be was never discussed, much less solidified into a concrete proposal.

Adding insult to injury, Mayor Beiers revealed on March 23rd that two weeks into the Task Force process, she had concluded there could be no significant changes in the 20-year Sleeping Ban since the community was "not yet ready to have a dialogue" on allowing homeless people to sleep at night. On February 1st, she had announced "there's really nowhere [for homeless people to sleep]".

"It would have been nice of the Empress to tell the community and the homeless earlier" said Robert Norse of HUFF (Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom).



we could stop spinning our wheels." Beiers' Task Force included no homeless people on staff, and scheduled meetings at the time of homeless meals and shelter pick-ups.

Councilmember Christopher Krohn tried to extend the Public Hearing times and moved to allow residents to be allowed to use their own driveways to shelter one vehicle, but both motions were voted down. Krohn read eloquent letters urging that homeless people be allowed to sleep somewhere - an appeal that, if made earlier and more frequently, might have swayed the Council.

Councilmember Keith Sugar reported not one piece of substantiation of Councilmember Mike Rotkin's claim that restoring homeless sleeping rights would produce a "magnet" effect. Sugar disappointed supporters by failing to reintroduce a resolution calling for the suspension of all ticketing unless and until shelter were available for the 500-1500 city homeless (less than 5% of whom have legal shelter eight months of the year). The Winter Shelter program ended March 31st.

Councilmember Tim Fitzmaurice upset supporters by expressing more

concern for the right of hate crime advocates to call homeless people criminals and child molesters without cat-calls, than to propose anything substantive to shelter the poor. The measure passed 7-0 with no changes other than lowering the fine from \$162 to \$54 for sleepers and those who huddle in blankets.

Mainstream print media (the Santa Cruz County Sentinel, Metro Santa Cruz, Good Times) largely blacked-out or misrepresented the key issue of the debate: how can Santa Cruz criminalize a basic human function, "sleeping" when the City's own agencies acknowledge there is shelter for less than 20% of the homeless in winter and less than 5% the rest of the year. Legal activist Ray Glock-Grueneich summed it up: "The issue is the right to sleep, not the implementation of the right to sleep."

Students Against the Sleeping Ban, Homeless United for Friendship & Freedom, Lawyers Against the Sleeping Ban, the Community Action Board, the Peace & Freedom Party, and the Green Party all spoke to end the Sleeping Ban. The World Homeless Union has called for a Global Boycott of Santa Cruz, Ca, until this human rights issue is resolved.

### SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# RALLY

Friday, April 23  
at

Cesar Chavez Plaza,  
starting at 3:00 P.M.

The Homeless Artisans will be protesting the way that Overflow was run this last winter. There will be petitions to sign.

If you were arrested on a misdemeanor and put into the misdemeanor jail, come and sign our petition.

If you have a gripe, write it on a picket sign and join a picket line.

We will also rally against the anti-sleep laws. If you are as angry at these laws as we are, bring your sleeping bag and join us in this most important protest.

Hot chicken dinners between 5 and 6 p.m.

Come early and stay late

(If you have warrants, come early and leave early.)

You don't have to be homeless to join our rally, you just need to feel strongly about human causes.

If you would like to volunteer for one of the many jobs come to the SHOC meeting every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. in Friendship Park at Loaves & Fishes. Ask at the information desk for the location of the meeting.

**Welcome to  
HOMEWARD:**  
Please help us make a  
difference!



"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.

The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily the Sacramento Housing Alliance or SHOC or Homeward.

SHOC meets every Tuesday at 10:30 am to discuss political issues, and the Homeward editorial committee meets on Thursdays at 10:30am. All meetings are held at Loaves & Fishes' Friendship Park.

**Submissions and Editorial Policy**

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted to the Sacramento Housing Alliance or given to Brie in the library at Loaves & Fishes.

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.

Subscriptions are available with a \$15 contribution. Make checks out to SHA. All correspondence can be sent to Homeward, c/o SHA, 2125 19th St., Suite 101, Sac, CA 95818.

For information call 442-1198.

The paper may also be E-mailed at [Homewardnews@geocities.com](mailto:Homewardnews@geocities.com)

excerpts from the paper are published on the web at [www.geocities.com/rainforest/andea/4086](http://www.geocities.com/rainforest/andea/4086)

# Niceness Works by Art Clay

In Melrose, Massachusetts, the new mayor initiated a new policy which seems to be working. He said he did not want the evil that has been moving across the country to take over his town, so he began a niceness policy. It started with the police and business owners, trickled down through the populous, and into the schools, where the students are practicing niceness—and it's working.

I can personally testify to this fact through my own experiences. Kindness and consideration for your fellow man works in every

level of life. On the streets, out in public, and even with the police. We all know how to be kind to each other.

Let's start with the police. When a police officer approaches you, whether it be on the streets, in the parks, or in your camp, be polite. Even if the officer is behaving like an ass, respond with politeness and courtesy. It will be returned to you, if only in that the handcuffs are put on a little looser this time.

Along that same line, I'm sure most of you know some of the campers out there

have been in the same camp spot for some time without being run off. What is their secret? Well, they have a few things in common: Their camp sites are clean with no trash around; their camps are out of sight from the public's eye; and when approached by the cops, they state their case without starting an argument with the cops.

Niceness works. It is working right now in that Massachusetts town, we could make it work here as well.

∞

## ATTENTION!

All persons who were in jail for camping, light-rail, or other misdemeanor tickets. John Foley wants to talk to you about the circumstances of your incarceration.

Contact John Foley at Friendship Park or call  
**444-8216**

## Homeward Associates

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**Special Thanks to Contributors and Volunteers:**  
Paula  
Billeen Pruitt  
Art Clay



### Name Correction

Last issue's article, **Campers' Viewpoint**, was written by Michael Nettles, not Michael Nesbit.

Mr. Nettles was unaware of the mistake until after the story had been published. Homeward wishes to express regret for the error.

## Wish List

Thanks to the generous people of SHA, Homeward will be able to move to an office. We will need office furniture and things that go with it.

Especially needed are desks and chairs, and a table for meetings and such.

Anyone wanting to get rid of some old office stuff, we can use it. (As long as it is usable, please.)

Everything donated is tax deductible.

## 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, \$36;  
Low-income, \$15

**Organizations:**  
Full, 0.1% agency budget;  
Associate, \$100

**Send donations to:**  
Sacramento Housing Alliance  
2125 19th St., Suite 101  
Sacramento, CA 95818

# Public Forum: views and opinions

## Thoughts on Our Human Rights by Rev. Marvin Jensen Ph.D.

At the present time there is growing international concern over the unseemly fact that the Government of the United States of America continues to be unwilling to sign an international accord on Human Rights.

What does this foreshadow for citizens like you and me? At a time when our nation is building prison units faster than any other nation on earth, and turning them into revenue producing corporate ventures? Is this not the same thing we have been scolding China for and brought such condemnation on the Soviets? Profiting from dissident citizens stripped of their rights and thrown into locked work camps with armed guards and being heavily coerced to work and pay tribute! What kind of Sickness did the government say that one was? Wasn't it something like— Totalitarianism?!!!

At this point in time our cities, and in some instances our counties, are claiming to have discovered legal means with which to accomplish similar ends by carefully selecting the words with which they write our laws. Laws that make it a crime to engage in activities necessary to human life, such as resting and sleeping. Sleeping is dubbed camping and resting becomes loitering and both are made crimes!

They claim that by changing the names of these activities, they can legally deprive a person of the ability to engage in them, without infringing on their civil rights! Bullshit!!! What good are Civil Rights that do not ensure the individual the meager necessities of survival?

What about our Human Rights? Our government has been pointing it's finger at China and most recently chiding India, with regard to Human Rights issues, while with the other hand it is busily denying many American citizens their primary rights to survival! No matter how dismal conditions within those nations may be, their governments will not have to liberalize to any great extent to be as generous as ours is so rapidly becoming!

While the agents of our government are hooting about China, or shaking their finger at India, concerning "Human Rights", let us not become too mesmerized, lest while in their thrall we are stripped of our Freedoms by that vague "sleight of word" called legalese! "Awake, awake! fear! fire! foes!" These are issues that effect every one of us from cradle to grave, without regard to religion, color or any other jargon invented to create division.

es, to make ourselves heard. Time to advise our elected Officials that we are disquieted with a government of and by special interest groups for special interest groups, and to heck with the rest of us! A government of elected and appointed functionaries who too easily forget their campaign promises when cunningly tempted by the smooth talk of the wily Lobbyist!

Would you sign a copy of the Constitution? Do you think it is worth retaining? I do, so come on America, let's get this show on the road! May I suggest a Y2K proclamation from We the People, stating our demand that our Government better align our laws to the Constitution, and signifying that we as Americans desire and intend to retain such of our Human Rights that are therein named as Certain Inalienable Rights granted by our Creator.

There is more than enough disgruntled Citizens in this Country to make the difference. So let us join in determining just where our great Uncle Sam stands when it comes to allowing We the People our Life, Liberty and pursuit of Happiness, and the Freedom to Embrace our Human Rights!!

It is time for We the People to raise our voice.

## Sleeping Somewhere Does Not Mean Anywhere!

by Becky Johnson and Robert Norse

Response to a *San Jose Mercury News* editorial

**Santa Cruz's MC 6.36.010 - the Sleeping Ban sections of the city's broader Camping Ordinance punishes those who have no choice but to sleep outside or in a vehicle. What homeless person who cannot afford \$40 for a motel room can pay the \$54 fine for the simple act of sleeping?**

Last year, the Committee to Repeal the Sleeping Ban wrote an initiative decriminalizing sleeping and covering up with blankets at night (the Blanket Ban section of the Camping Ban). Our initiative exempted residential and beach front areas, leaving approximately 40% of the city legal for sleeping at night. It would cost no money to implement. We collected between 2000 and 3000 signatures from registered voters in Santa Cruz, far more than those have gone on record opposed to making sleeping legal.

Affordable housing and increased shelter options are better than sleeping outside. Until then, let's not make life-sustaining behavior like sleep illegal. Santa Cruz could only shelter all of its 500-1500 homeless by increasing spending five-fold in

winter, and 95% the remaining 8 months of the year. No city in the United States has done so at this point in time and it is unreasonable to ask homeless people to stay awake until this is accomplished.

In "Who Gets a Bed in Santa Cruz?", published in the *San Jose Mercury News* on 2/2/99, the writer tells us that allowing the homeless to sleep at night will invite campers from all over to Santa Cruz. But the writer fails to provide any examples where this has happened. In fact, a noticeable homeless migration did not happen in Santa Barbara from 1986 - 89 when their sleeping ban was lifted. It didn't happen in Florida after the federal Pottinger decision forced cities to provide "safe zones" for the homeless to sleep.

Nor did these safe zones produce a backlash against service-providers and "compassion fatigue." Rather, the visibility of previously hidden homeless people prompted a significant upsurge in facilities by those communities. When Eugene, Oregon legalized sleeping in its industrial areas last year, the first effect was a migration of vehicularly-housed

people from the residential areas to the legal areas.

Had the writer attended any of the City Council's 11 task force meetings or talked to even one of the Sleeping Ban opponents before the paper printed the article, s/he would have learned we are not asking that people be allowed to camp anywhere they please. We are not even asking that people in vehicles be allowed to sleep at night in neighborhoods. We are just asking that the poor be allowed to sleep somewhere. Outlawing sleep does not stop the homeless from sleeping. It only moves them around and increases disrespect for all laws. It also increases danger for women, children (the most rapidly growing part of the homeless population), and the elderly.

Nine vicious assaults on sleeping homeless people in Santa Cruz have placed several in the hospital. One older woman was attacked twice. These came in the midst of Mayor Beiers' failure to advocate for Sleeping Ban reform, which she mislabeled "Camping Ordinance revision." This controversial language sparked fears among some merchants and neighborhoods and prompted an

outpouring of letters encouraging her to "don't change anything". Instead of creating several safe sleeping zones in industrial areas as many of us had wanted, these NIMBY (Not In My Back Yard) voices provided the Mayor with the justification she apparently wanted to retain the current "go to sleep, go to jail" law. Did her failure to speak-up for the homeless prompt the "trollbuster" brutality which now stalks the night?

Public urination and defecation problem? How about public restrooms instead of endless vague smears scapegoating the homeless for what drunks en route to their homes and Boardwalk tourists do and the city accepts as part of the cost of doing business? Litter and trash? One weekend at the Boardwalk produces more waste than a year of homeless survival sleeping city-wide. Let's get real here folks. The need to sleep is basic. The right to sleep even more so. Our own need to sleep at night and live with our own consciences is perhaps the most important reason to act quickly to end a decades old injustice.

# A Review "The Street Lawyer"

of John Grisham's by Stacie Clary

The Street Lawyer by John Grisham, best-selling author of legal thrillers, has been promoted and discussed as a novel that exposes the cruel realities in the lives of homeless people and that tugs at the consciences of the housed. The book hit #1 on the Publishers Weekly Best-Seller list, staying on the list for twenty-nine weeks. This means millions of Americans read this novel about life on the streets, the politics around homelessness, and the people who help our country's most disenfranchised population. Many of Grisham's novels have been made into a movie, broadening the audience who will be exposed to the experiences of homeless people. Because of the potential impact of this widely read story, Homeward asked me to have a few people – both homeless and housed – read the book to comment on its accuracy about street life and the impact the book made on them.

The main character is Michael Brock, an attorney on track to become a partner in a mammoth legal firm in Washington, D.C.. Brock hasn't given much notice or thought to the homeless people around him. In the first chapter a homeless man in tattered clothing follows Brock into the elevator, and Brock tells the secretary as he disembarks, "Watch the elevator . . . Street bum . . . You may want to call security. Get some disinfectant, too."

Later the homeless man, DeVon Hardy, takes nine lawyers, including Brock, hostage. Brock discovers that Hardy and others were illegally evicted and sent to the streets by attorneys at Brock's firm to ensure the success of a development project.

This stormy episode, and the knowledge of the harsh consequences for poor households by his firm's illegal and greedy actions, drives Brock to give up his posi-

tion at the law firm and go to work at a non-profit legal clinic. This decision results in the loss of a marriage and friends, his large income, status and plush apartment. Brock also goes after the firm to get justice for the victims of the illegal evictions, leading to legal entanglements and embarrassment in the media for himself.

During the course of just a few weeks, Brock changes from a man worried about disinfecting an elevator that contained a homeless person, to a man working at shelters and spending his free time assisting a woman in kicking a crack addiction. "You're now a radical," said Mordecai Green, an attorney with the legal clinic that hired Brock, on his first day there.

The novel is not subtle. At times I felt I was reading a propaganda piece, not a fictional novel. It appeared to me as if Grisham is using his fame as a writer to bring about social change and prick the consciences of those who haven't given a thought to homelessness. The ending is too pat and predictable, and the radical change in Brock in such a short time appeared unrealistic. The descriptions of mental illness, poverty, drug addiction, crime, racism, police harassment, and the inadequate shelter system will not be new to anyone who has ever been homeless or worked with homeless people. However, the descriptions probably were new to millions of his readers, and the concept of changing the track of one's life to fight for others' rights is one many are unaccustomed to. As one person wrote on a Grisham related website, "The novel has had a great impact on me and I believe it will also have a great impact on anyone who reads it."

Locally another reader, Dan Hiebert, found that regardless of the amount of knowledge about street life the reader may have,

the novel allows the reader to imagine, even in a small way, what it may be like to be homeless.

"Further along in the story, the main character's marriage fails, and he finds himself in an apartment of much lower expense than where he originally lived," said Dan. "He suffers through some of the pain of sleeping on a hard floor. The character's body suffers through the experience. From my own experience of sleeping on the floor with only a single blanket, my back hurt from the hard floor of that single night. It is not hard to imagine how you would feel if this was over multiple nights."

Dan found this to be a strength of the novel – to make people identify with someone living on the streets. Not everyone has to give up worldly possessions as Brock did, but everyone can help with simple actions. Descriptions of food lines, emergency shelters in winter storms, the hassles of getting a Social Security check without an address, and children sleeping in cars "evoke the knowledge that there are simple things that could be done to help the homeless," he concluded.

Another reader, Marvin Jensen, minister, advocate, writer and someone who has spent years living and working on the streets and in shelters, also found the novel entertaining but unrealistic. He thought the idea of a homeless man taking hostages and wrapping himself in dynamite to be "grossly exaggerated": Homeless people do have a frustration due to not being heard, but typically do not act it out in such a violent manner towards others.

While Grisham portrays homeless people in a sympathetic light, I found Grisham's character development overall to be fairly poor. The homeless characters appear to be passive victims,

without any depth, merely shuffling from one shelter to another. He misses the diversity, talents, and wide-range of experiences found among the homeless community, as well as the friendship and strong bonds that are often formed among people living on the streets.

We can't ignore the importance of a novel read by millions who, maybe for the first time, began thinking about the lives of homeless people and how they could get involved politically, financially, or socially in changing the situation.

The question for those who want to improve the lives of the homeless community is – will "mainstream" Americans only respond to the descriptions of poor people written by "mainstream" authors? Or can we bridge the gap by keeping communication open between people with different lives? Will the hero of any "homeless" story need to be a white, upper class, well educated man who gives up everything to fight for what's right and just, or will readers respond as readily to the stories, poems, and art of those who have experienced life on the streets?

It may have been unrealistic for a person like DeVon Hardy to hold lawyers hostage solely to be heard, but the feeling of frustration at not being heard is very common to homeless people. Street newspapers such as Homeward and groups such as the Homeless Artisans, who do gallery art shows, fill a vital need in both giving a voice to disenfranchised individuals and providing information to housed people that gives them a chance to see the world as it truly is for those not part of the "mainstream", and to make a choice to begin advocating for change.



## Taylor's Campaign

Narrated by Martin Sheen and directed by Richard Cohen, Taylor's Campaign is a verite documentary about unforgettable hardworking people living in cardboard lean-tos in luxurious Santa Monica, California. When new laws threaten their freedom and existence a penniless truck driver, Bon Taylor, runs for Santa Monica city council as a voice of protest. "Excellent... cuts right to the heart of the plight of the homeless." Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times

Purchase Price:  
Individuals \$45  
Organizations \$105

Purchase of these tapes is restricted to personal, campus and educational use only. They cannot be rented out, loaned, copied in any way, shown to the public, advertised, broadcast on television, cable, or closed circuit TV without the express written permission of Richard Cohen and Richard Cohen Films.

SEND CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS TO:

Richard Cohen Films, PO Box 1012, Venice, CA 90291

The video will be mailed to you by priority insured mail.  
For more info call (310) 395-3549 or E-mail  
rbc23@juno.com

Taylor's Campaign is a production of Raindog Films in association with  
Film Arts Foundation of San Francisco

# Homeless Poet Contest Winners

## 1st place winners: Nutcracker Trio by Bob Gibson and Ventura Mario

### Nutcrackers

No nutcracker handy?  
 (Then) just talk t'him like candy:  
 "1. Wrap a nut in a towel;  
 now ready it for the bowels;  
 pound it with rock music  
 —that 'cuts' it no matter how you  
 chews it;  
 hammer or mallet — if you've a valet.

2. Squeeze the nut with a vice;  
 if not, try to wrench  
 that candy: use pliers but be nice.

3. Now put it on the hinge side of a door  
 and shut the door slowly.  
 This is how all business treats us  
 — dictators believe we're lowly.

4. Haven't broken it open yet?  
 Hold the nut at the top of an edge;  
 and slam that drawer shut real hard.  
 This keep away the retard!"  
 ...But watch out for your fingers.

### Nuts

1. Mature nuts usually fall by themselves...  
 you needn't bring out your elves.  
 If necessary, however,  
 gently shake their tree  
 ...it's still free,  
 but protect yo' haid.

Gather no more,  
 Gather no more than you need,  
 or the nuts will swarm around  
 and upon thee they shall feed.  
 So, leave some for the will

2. "Eat or freeze, butternut!  
 For thou hast surely only recently  
 fallen."  
 Turnest thou rancid quickly,  
 for this be thy way upon this earth.

Nuts dry up in 21 daze,  
 in a shady place like  
 indoors of a nut house.  
 Therein they be safe from all animals  
 but whom the state appoints to shut

those doors.

3. Nuts will crack more easily  
 when reminded of who they are:  
 Wingnuts won't break up as much if  
 you heat them in a covered  
 glass dish of water  
 in a microwave oven.  
 After 2 minutes in the rubber room,  
 drain, cool, crush.

### Nuts and Bolts

If perceived of as nutty, BOLT!  
 Run like hell until you find a lock  
 with no key;  
 Then play Loki, and lock

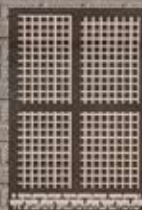
I can't rhyme: I've no time when  
 misunderstood.

Moral to these stories:  
 to hell with communication  
 when there are Culture Warz

## 2nd place winner

### Paint the Sky with Stars by Keith Weaver

Suddenly, before my eyes,  
 Hues of indigo arise  
 With an Ah my spirit sighs  
 Paint the sky with stars  
 Only night will ever know  
 Why the heavens never show  
 All the dreams there are to know  
 Paint the sky with stars  
 Who has placed the midnight sky  
 So a spirit has to fly  
 As the heavens seem so far,  
 Now who will paint the midnight star  
 Night has brought to those who sleep  
 Only dreams they cannot keep  
 I have legends in the deep  
 Paint the sky with stars  
 Place a name upon the night  
 One to set your heart alight  
 Home to make the darkness bright  
 Paint the sky with stars.



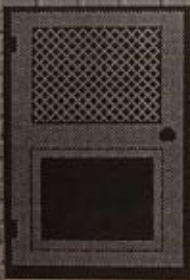
## 3rd place winner

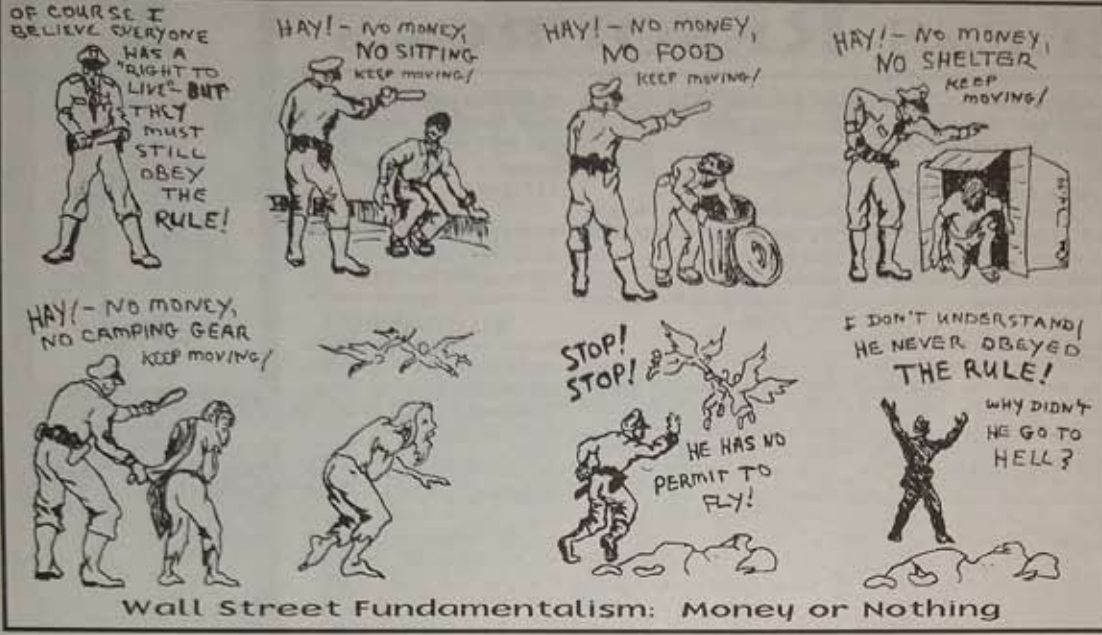
### A Dreamer within a Person by Gerald H.

In loving dedication to Mothers and Fathers  
 of the addicted...love never fails

At night we lay our lonely head  
 and sleep upon our lonely bed.  
 We dream of things of which we thought  
 we might have said.  
 We awaken abruptly, and put our pillow  
 upon our head,  
 and dream of things of which we wish  
 we might have said.  
 We close our eyes in sorrow  
 and dream about tomorrow,  
 but tomorrow never comes.  
 So, the dreamer stays within a person.  
 We walk our Nations streets,  
 lonely and depraved,  
 and wish in early years,  
 we maybe couldbe shouldbe saved,  
 for something better,  
 we just close our deprived eyes,  
 and dream of things of which,  
 we wish we could have done.

Now we dream of things like hope,  
 and wish we hadn't done so much dope,  
 now we think of things like these  
 and wish we didn't have  
 this incurable disease.  
 We just close our eyes in sorrow  
 and dream about tomorrow  
 but tomorrow never comes,  
 so the dreamer stays within a person.  
 At night we lay our lonely head  
 and dream upon our lonely bed  
 We dream of things  
 we really should have said,  
 for things now we dearly dread  
 for the person we were dreaming  
 now is really dead.  
 Our children just  
 close their eyes in sorrow,  
 and dream about tomorrow  
 The dreamer is now  
 a Person within a dream.





Wall Street Fundamentalism: Money or Nothing

### CLASSIFIED

Mail your classified to the Housing Alliance or submit it at the paper meeting every Thursday at 10:30 am at Loaves & Fishes. One ad free to private parties and non-profits. Try to keep it under 25 words.

### Donations Wanted

Loaves & Fishes  
Retail Store,  
1225 N. 'B' St.,  
Open 10 am to 3 pm  
Mon-Sat.  
Donations of unwanted items appreciated.

### Jobs Wanted

Give hope and happiness. Give a job, such as moving or yard work, to a homeless worker.  
Call  
Loaves & Fishes  
job phone at  
446-9316;  
or mail to  
Loaves & Fishes,  
Jobs for Homeless,  
PO Box 2161,  
Sac, CA 95812

## What was the Homeless Poet Contest?

In late February, Michael Nettles organized a contest for homeless poets to enter. He arraigned for the poems to be numbered and judged by an outside party, whom nobody knows but him. SHA provided a small prize for the top three chosen. Congratulations to the winners!

## More Poetry

### Be Strong

by Lenore Mathews

When things go wrong  
you must be strong.  
When agencies fail  
you must prevail  
so that over troubled  
waters  
justice will sail.

### Seeking Justice

by Lenore Mathews

It comes as no surprise  
The homeless shattered and worn  
from the river banks arise seeking justice.

Isolated, hungry, feeling abandoned  
tents slashed, possessions taken,  
What's more evil  
than a cop  
playing the devil?

### A Rap for Overflow

by Eddie Harris

Feelin' the cold  
on this fools day  
Be livin' inside  
if I had my way.

It's now the end  
of the Overflow  
Where the ..... am I  
expected to go?

Back to the river  
n' police sweeps  
Nabors work project  
what they finds,  
they keeps.

All I really want(s)  
to be left alone  
camp out in peace, but  
those days are  
gone.

I'll do what I must  
alive, out of jail  
I'll keep on prawn  
I cannot fail.

Until we obtain  
proper shelter  
Our life is  
halter skalter.