

HOMeward

a street journal

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Homeless Rally at State Capitol

On November 11, 1999, the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee held a rally on the West Steps of the State Capitol. The group organized the rally to bring to the attention of the state government, and the public, of the anti-homeless campaign being pushed by local authorities.

CHANGE -
NOT JUST
SPARE
CHANGE!!

Original Photos by Curtis Hagen

This is the third year that SHOC has held a rally in the fall. The previous two years the rally was held to coincide with the National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week. Cliff Crooks, a long time SHOC supporter, made the arrangements for this year's rally, which happened to occur on Veterans Day. SHOC members did not think this would be a conflict of interest because it is estimated that one-third of the homeless are veterans.

see Rally page 3

SHOC members attend San Francisco Rally

by Susan Ducker

SHOC Officers and committee members were invited to San Francisco by the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness for a national conference to highlight the civil rights abuse of the homeless and poor throughout the United States.

The Rally was held in the United Nations Plaza in downtown San Francisco on October the 2nd, 1999. About 100 advocates from around the country came to tell their stories of how the homeless and poor were being abused by state and local

officials, and to make the public and the media aware of the injustices that are taking place. SHOC participated in all activities, learning the logistics in organizing a rally and comparing notes.

The San Francisco Coalition furnished accommodations where SHOC members spent hours discussing issues and brain storming ideas on how to best help the homeless. It was an enlightening experience for all.

Are Local Authorities Ignoring Constitutional Rights? *Max Biddle*

This is a transcript of the speech made at the Homeless Rally sponsored by SHOC in Sacramento at the State Capital on November 11, 1999.

I'm Max Biddle of Sacramento's Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC). A few weeks ago SHOC attended meetings and a rally in San Francisco to help launch the National Homeless Rights Campaign across the country. As we listen to reports of the abuse of homeless across the country, one realizes the urgent and crucial need for this movement.

We are here to focus on California and Sacramento's response to the homeless situation. Let me read you one report.

"On August 15, 1990, police officers in Santa Ana, California, arrested sixty-four homeless persons in the city civic center area. Police officers stationed atop buildings spotted homeless individuals with binoculars and radioed their location to officers on the ground. Officers on the ground arrested homeless individuals, handcuffed them and drove them to a nearby stadium for booking and fingerprinting. Police chained the homeless to benches for up to six hours without food or water. The police used markers to write numbers on the arms of the homeless that were arrested. At the conclusion of the six hours detention, the police loaded the homeless into vans and drove them to the edge of the central city and dumped them off."

This is a report that you would expect to read in your history books referring to how citizens were handled in Nazi Germany or the former Soviet Union or in South Africa during apartheid.

But it wasn't and isn't... this conduct by local authorities happened in California and similar conduct is occurring throughout the nation.

In the beginning of this country our Forefathers put forth in our Declaration of Independence that "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights..." that is God given rights. Although that goal and purpose was the aim of our Founding Fathers, it was never achieved right away. For over two hundred years of our history, the citizens of this country had to rally and support many movements and causes to bring about this moral purpose in our Declaration of Independence.

In the beginning, on average, only white males 25 years or older of age with property were allowed to participate in the political process.

It took legal action to end indentured servitude in the early part of the 19th century; it took a civil war to end slavery; it took the suffragette movement to include women in the political process. As reactionary forces tried to halt progress towards inclusion in our political progress, the civil

rights movement of the 50's, 60's, 70's, and the inspiration of the likes of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. drove us towards greater freedom and brought us closer to fulfilling our nation's declared goals that are expressed in our Declaration of Independence.

The homeless themselves have been disenfranchised of their rights as citizens and are treated as aliens or worse.

But now we come to our times of so-called economic prosperity and the obvious fact that distribution of this prosperity is not getting to many of our citizens. Reaction to this inequitable distribution of the economy has brought about another form of repression that repression is the way local authorities are dealing with the homeless.

The Sacramento County and the City authorities have fashioned programs that are failing to deal with these situations. Their programs under General Assistance and job programs usually end up with people back on the streets before they know what's happened to them.

Many people or almost all with any type of police record or on probation are doomed from the beginning—Most of these programs refuse to deal with these people even though they represent most of the homeless population. Also in the recent Standdown for Veterans in Sacramento they turned away homeless veterans because housing funds ran out.

The city's dismantling of single resident occupancy (SROs) is forcing people of limited income back on the streets.

City after city is limiting affordable housing which is creating a new transient population that will eventually remind us of the Great Depression. Campsite communities made out of shacks and tents will erupt everywhere.

The combination of no housing; pressure from illegal camping laws; private industries determined not to hire people with police records; drug laws that are making criminals out of large segments of our young population; jobs that the not-so-educated could do in small factories that are sent overseas for cheap labor; lack of education in the high-tech fields that really only employ a small part of the working force; ALL these pressures are creating the increase in homelessness.

But the real problem is how local governments are responding to this situation. In the County of Sacramento there are public officials who have stated they have a "0" tolerance towards the homeless and are bound to force them into repressive programs that treat them like criminals, or

drive them out of town if they don't subscribe to the county's plan for them.

They are denied legitimate camping facilities to exist the only way they can. People living in cars, vans or buses because their incomes are too low for housing are not permitted parking facilities. The homeless themselves have been disenfranchised of their rights as citizens and are treated as aliens or worse.

The results of all this is that local authorities are laying waste to our Constitution. First, the 14th Amendment which guarantees due process under law, equal enforcement of the law, rights to personal property, and protection against unlawful search and seizure, does not exist for the homeless. Enforcement of local misdemeanor laws by the local authorities are using racial profiling and social economic profiling to target the homeless. The end result is what we call the economic cleansing going on across America.

But it is not enough for local authorities to deprive homeless of their Constitutional rights. In their fierce desire to rid the community of the poor and homeless they are harassing the religious and the spiritual community who are providing food, clothing and other services.

...you must realize that in a society that listens only to Money, or large blocks of voting power, you must participate in the political process.

It is not enough to do damage to our Declaration of Independence or the 14th Amendment and in many instances the Bill of Rights; local communities are also depriving our religious and spiritual communities their 1st Amendment rights to carry out their scriptural obligations to the poor. The use of permits and codes to harass the churches across the country clearly borders on 1st Amendment violations. Local governments throughout California are depriving churches of permits to dispense food, clothing and other services. Ministers and Clerics are facing criminal and misdemeanor prosecution in the exercise of their 1st Amendment right of Freedom of Religion.

At the time of the Great Depression and the collapse of the farming communities in the South which brought about the mass movement of Americans to the West, they were greeted by local authorities with guns, billy clubs and road blocks determined to keep the poor and homeless out of their communities.

The failure of Americans to regard themselves as part of one large community led to violence, repression and human rights violations on a massive scale.

The Federal Government had to step in to create camping grounds to protect American citizens from other Americans. It seems the time is coming when the Federal or the State Government may need to step in to protect American citizens from local authorities bent on repressing homeless citizens.

In a recent article, one of the Sacramento Supervisors referred to the creation of a multi-disciplinary center. The word multi-disciplinary should be a frightening and disturbing statement. It implies another form of detention center for criminals. The arrangement of local authorities to formulate programs that will have the end result of creating what one can only call concentration camps for the homeless should raise a profound fear among a people who live in a free society.

On this day we commemorate the service of our veterans. It is a day to remember that they gave their lives to preserve a free society in this country. But many homeless veterans, who are constantly being harassed and deprived of services or subjected to programs that treat them as less than human, may wonder about their sacrifices to preserve this country's freedoms.

I know that the homeless have been turned off from voting, but you must realize that in a society that listens only to Money, or large blocks of voting power, you must participate in the political process. It may turn out that the homeless and their voting power may be the vital beginnings in restoring our Constitution to all its people.

America is losing its soul to materialism, and the poor have a greater responsibility to remind America that the Face of God can only be seen in their faces. The poor remind the community at large that bankrupt souls are running the community. Its only concern is about creating a tourist trap out of Sacramento.

Their desire not to want to look upon the face of the poor implies they do not or would not look upon the Face of Christ. The Scriptures are very clear about this and the role of the poor in our society. Surrendering the community at large to the money lenders builds a society that exists upon a foundation of sand that Scripture reminds us is spiritually bankrupt and doomed to failure.

In my final observation I would like to say if our public officials cannot solve public policy within the bounds of our Constitutional Rights and within the Declaration of Independence's clear statement that all men are created equal with inalienable rights that cannot be violated, then I suggest these public officials seek another vocation that will better suit their limited abilities.

Rally

cont. from page 1

This year's Rally was also the most successful to date. Although the regular news media reported only around a hundred persons attending, this was a conservative estimate of the number of homeless and supporters who remained the whole period, and did not estimate the numbers of passers-by who stayed and listened for a while.

The Family Christian Center's Young Adult and Business Ministries of Orangevale, CA., provided a sound system and arranged for the band Ground Zero to play at the rally. Also playing at the rally was Sally's Backdoor Boogie Band.

Darryl Seaton of the Family Christian Center became the announcer for the rally. In his remarks he referred to a statement by Mother Teresa that "It is popular to talk about the poor, but, unfortunately, it is not popular to talk with them." He said the homeless need to be heard. That those making decisions about the poor have no understanding of the lives of the homeless. That the solution would not be found until the real issues were understood. That the atmosphere of this city will change if everyone will embrace the heart of God in the equality of all people. Each person deserves to be treated with respect and dignity, he said.

Also speaking was Julie Padilla, candidate for

Mayor, who expressed concern that so many of the homeless were veterans.

"If we want to solve homelessness we need to start by getting people into homes," she said, "Homeless people are just that— people. And they want the same thing all people want, homes and a little dignity."

Ms. Padilla said that our city officials seem to have forgotten that when they decided to sweep the homeless off the streets and into jail.

"We need more affordable housing: We need more shelter beds. Everyone needs a place to rest their head." she said, "A city is not about developers— it is about people. Priority

belongs to the people— if Sacramento truly wants to be a world class city" she concluded.

Also speaking was Max Biddle, Treasurer of SHOC. Max spoke about the history of Rights in this nation, and the many movements that have continued to improve our democracy.

"The Sacramento County and the City authorities have fashioned programs that are failing to deal with these situations." he said, "Their programs under General Assistance and job programs usually end up with people back on the streets before they know what's happened to them."

"On this day we commemorate the service of our veterans. It is a day to remember that they gave their lives to preserve a free society in this country. But many homeless veterans, who are constantly being harassed and deprived of services or subjected to programs that treat them as less than human, may wonder about their sacrifices to preserve this country's freedoms," he said. The full text of Max's speech is printed on page 2.

After all the speeches and music, many who participated moved as a group to Cesar Chavez Plaza where dinners were handed out and the rally concluded.

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Original Photo by Curtie Hagen



Julie Padilla
Original Photo by Curtie Hagen



Original Photo by Curtie Hagen



Original Photo by Curtie Hagen

Photo to left:
Sally's Back Door Boogie Band
members left to right:
Eddie, Larry, Scott,
Robert and James not shown



Original Photo by Curtie Hagen

Accountability

by Susan Ducker, Secretary of SHOC

A report on meetings with local authorities to address complaints by the homeless filed with SHOC

In this great land, there is still the opportunity to have a check and balance system, which was put forth by our forefathers, making the government accountable for their actions.

It is truly nice to have had the meetings with Mr. Don Casimere, in charge of the Office of Accountability. A man of character in a public office is rare.

Mr. Casimere met with SHOC staff members and took complaints collected by SHOC members about the mistreatment of the homeless. Mr. Casimere went to Friendship Park and listened to complaints from homeless persons there as well. He stated that "camping gear" is personal belongings and not trash, and it was not proper procedure for it to be thrown away.

Mr. Casimere then arranged for a meeting between SHOC staff members and members of the police department and the

Downtown Partnership. This was an official meeting to discuss concerns and find workable solutions. Agreements were made to work and help each other, that brutality was not going to be tolerated, that throwing away personal property and medicine was not proper. We discussed policies that would improve the attitudes of all involved so the homeless would be treated better.

Mr. Casimere suggested we have more meetings to resolve the problems.

SHOC has also had meetings with County officials and members of the Salvation Army about addressing concerns over this year's Overflow.

The Overflow is no longer considered merely an emergency drop-in center by the

County and has been put under rules and regulations designed for year-round operation, including extensive requirements for the homeless to get in *and to stay in*. The fourteen day time limit will remain in effect. SHOC members are concerned that this will leave anyone who does not qualify to get into Overflow without any emergency shelter at all—except the jail or detox.

Also addressed at the meetings were concerns about those in the shelter with medical problems such as diabetes, and treating clients with respect.

Scott Frates, SHOC Vice-president, was appointed to an oversite advisory committee formed to monitor Overflow, so that the homeless would have a representative.

∞

OOOPS!

by Scott Frates
Vice-president of SHOC

Recently in Los Angeles the ACLU initiated a class action law suit on behalf of twelve homeless residents of downtown Los Angeles who state they have been harassed, beaten, handcuffed, and falsely arrested by security guards employed by area Business Improvement Districts. The ACLU sees this as a violation of their civil rights—me too.

Los Angeles has several BIDs (Business Improvement Districts), Sacramento has two that I know of: The Downtown Partnership is a Business Improvement District and so is the Richards Boulevard Business Association.

The Downtown Partnership employs the Community Service Guides, supposedly to help with lost tourists, but their own literature describes providing security as part of their job. Guess what? They don't have a license to operate as a Security Patrol. SHOC contacted the Department of Consumer Affairs Enforcement Division and spoke with Enforcement Officer Ernest L. Chard. Any organization defined as Security falls under the jurisdiction of the State of California's Bureau of Consumer Affairs Security and Investigative Services, which requires both the agency and its employees to meet various qualifications to be licensed to operate. The Bureau will be investigating whether or not the activities of the Guides violate state regulations. A case number has even been assigned—CP1999906.

One Down, one to go.

That other one is the Richards Blvd. BID, which employs N.S.A. Security, those cute little (can't say what I really mean) uniformed ah, ah, ah—well you know what I'm trying to say.

I am currently taking complaints alleging that N.S.A. has been harassing private citizens on public streets, using excessive force, intimidation and arresting people on private property when they have the owner's permission to be there. SHOC will be forwarding these complaints to Mr. Chard of Consumer Affairs Enforcement. Security Patrols in the State of California do not have police powers and are subject to the same laws as you and I.

My brothers and sisters, I don't have any money to help, but I have a lot of energy and I know the law and if I can stop them from mistreating you, you can count on it. So if any of you have been treated unfairly please see me.

We can stop this injustice. Remember that the state licenses security companies and its guards and just maybe it will be your report that stops any abuse of authority.

You are a citizen of the United States of America, protected by its Constitution. You are also a citizen of the State of California which also has a Constitution which includes protections for all its citizens. Public property belongs to us all, rich or poor. Let's stop the harassment now! I love you all, Scott

PS: Al Rasmussen pleaded Not Guilty to a camping citation on October 16th and demanded a jury trial. His case was dismissed!

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Oops! will be a regular opinion piece by Scott, directed toward keeping our readers informed on what is happening on the street - HW ed.

NASNA FUND

If you like this paper, if you like the idea of helping homeless people become self-sufficient, please help us to continue publishing papers across North America like Homeward.

Give to
The North American Street Newspaper Association (NASNA).
We're making a difference one paper at a time.

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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.

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 Birta at the library in Friendship Park.

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. All correspondence can be sent to:

Homeward
926 'J' Street,
Suite 1406
Sacramento, CA
95814

For information call (916) 442-2156.

The paper may also be E-mailed at Homewardnews@geocities.com

excerpts from the paper are published on the web at www.geocities.com/rainforest/andee/4065

Cans for Cuts

This year Hair by Daniel is having a can drive for Sacramento's homeless. He is giving away a FREE haircut in return for donated can goods!!!

From now until Christmas Eve you can bring in canned goods and schedule your haircut for the 22nd or 23rd of December. Daniel is using his skills to assist in helping the homeless and to put a little Holiday Spirit in the hearts of those hardened by the world.

Daniel is a skilled stylist who has been trained in both Sassoon and Toni & Guy techniques. He is also a color technician for Framest and Schwarzkopf. Daniel has worked in Sacramento and San Francisco for Di Petro Todd and Joseph Cozza's hair salons.

Please bring your donation to
June's Hair & Nail Co. 1110 8th Street (between 'K' and 'L' downtown)
or call (916) 447-2852 and ask for Daniel.

LETTERS

to the Editor

An Open letter to Sacramento Residents

To the residents of Sacramento:

I feel that you misunderstand what it means to be homeless. It means 1) that you are at the mercy of the elements, unless you live in your car. 2) It means that people believe that you're hooked on drugs or alcohol, which isn't always true. Some simply use to temporarily escape their particular circumstances, because they don't see a way out. 3) It means that most people consider you to be riff-raff, who will break, steal, or otherwise harm given any opportunity. Yet those who do know could tell you that only a small percentage are responsible for most of those problems. 4) It also means that if you don't fit in any of the first three categories, then you must be mentally unstable. To these people I say "bologna".

The circumstances that result in homelessness are far more varied, like 1) Helping out a friend financially only to be left in the lurch when you need it to pay your bills. 2) Personality conflicts with the owners or the managers. 3) Moving into the area without having a job already lined up. 4) Leaving the family home, for whatever reason, and getting no help. 5) Condemned housing. 6) A lack of knowledge of how to milk the system. 7) Bad financial advice. 8) A real lack of affordable, appropriate housing.

Now I don't pretend that these are all of the reasons, in either of these categories. I'm simply

saying something that your grandparents knew "You can't judge a book by its cover."

I hear a lot of complaining about the problem, but I don't see the complainers doing anything about it. What I do see, aside from the normally concerned people, i.e., Loaves and Fishes, the Salvation Army, the Mission, and a few others, are the police criminalizing homelessness, the politicians looking for a way to increase revenue from the problem, and concerned citizens driving miles out of their way to chip in some help. Especially after the articles in the Bee the last Sunday in October.

In my humble homeless opinion a lot more could be done to alleviate the problem. For example, hire homeless. Yes, some would abuse such a situation, but far more would take advantage of it to get their lives restarted. Unlock those Dumpsters, There is food that, though it has reached its expiration date, is still good to eat. Also, the volume would decrease without the plastic, glass and aluminum. Grant us a place to camp. With many around the camp ground the incidents of theft and camp trashing would decrease.

Homelessness is a major problem in this country whether the establishment admits it or not. Unless we intend to go the way of places like India, and start marking out plots on the sidewalk with chalk, or not depends on the people who have the means to change some part of it. I'm quite sure that those good Christian people out there, properly informed and motivated, could work wonders and help to give the homeless the chances they need to step up and off the streets. Don't hide your heads in the sand. Open your hearts and eyes and this problem will be lessened if not completely eliminated.

C.L. Giesey

Homeward Associates

SHA Director:
Cecilia Escamilla

Graphic Design:
Lee Parks

Special Thanks to Volunteers:

- Scott Frates
- Paula
- Art Clay
- Susan Ducker
- Curtis Hagen
- Marvin Jensen
- Max Biddle

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.

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
926 'J' Street
Suite 1406
Sacramento, CA 95814

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

Poetry

special thanks to the poets of Friendship Park

Homelessness

You see them in the alleys
sometimes at the park.

They're always in the shadows,
and always in the dark.

Some of them are dangerous,
some of them are kind.

Some stand along the road,
holding their little signs.

Who are they these shadows of
mankind?
Homeless that's what they call them.

Got a nickel?
Spare a dime?

Nancy Kaplan, 1999

What is Free?

In Amerika, nothing is free.
We are not free to build our own home.
We can't fish or hunt without a license.
We can't sell things on the corner.
Soon, even homeless will be illegal.

At least in Russia, people know
they're not free.
So they become friends —
like you do in jail.

Steve Serdahely, 1994

I Am

I am the closed cathedral door,
locked for fear of thieves

I am the late light-rail train
dodging bums

I am the empty Kessler bottle
that made 3 men drunk

I am roadside detritus
discarded by the poor

I am tacks on
teacher's chair
put there
by a mischievous imp

I am a dog
with a 3-legged limp

I am a pustule
you'd rather not see

Jim Wiard

Untitled

Puffy-faced cider-drinking gluttons
represent the burgeoning middle class
picnicking in publicly-financed parks.

When we are ferried across the river
we shall be alone.

Will it be picture postcard pretty there?
Or molten lake of fire?

Shall I experience a quiet Fall scene
Hear angelic choirs
And see souls playing harps?

Are there trees in Heaven?
Is there Fall in Hell?

Jim Wiard, 1995

Remembering a Man

Why are you a loner, I asked,
as I reached to take his hand?
Why are you gregarious, he said,
but I failed to understand.
You know some men live for pleasure,
some men live for pain,
some men watch the world go by,
some men ride the train

Your question needs an answer
so I'll try to make it brief.
I'm just a soldier of fortune boy
and somewhat of a thief.
I just try to keep to myself
and I hope you understand,
me being this way saves a lot of grief.

Then he offered me his hand,
I never forgot those words
from that man who lay in bed,
for it wasn't soon after
I got the letter
that said my Dad was dead.

Rod Russell

10 Favorite Reasons Countdown by Paula

Wow!

It seems to me that we may be entering a new era of growing acceptance of the homeless as valuable members of the community. Us at SHOC have been making all sorts of new friends, lately, from all walks of life. You may be thinking, "How could homeless people possibly be an asset to the community?" Well, let me list some possible reasons for your tolerance:

10. Free security outside your business at night.
9. There's somebody else for the police to pick on besides you.
8. When you come to visit one of us you can sit around and watch nature—without turning on the TV.
7. Some of us will give you the shirt off our backs (you may want to wash it, first, before wearing it).
6. No matter how eccentric you are, the homeless community will accept you (well, make sure you dress down—you know, like casual day at work.)
5. If you happen to be into the new 'Voluntary Simplicity' movement, well, we kind of are, too. We didn't volunteer for it, though.
4. The homeless will help reuse and recycle your trash—if you let them.
3. We can't beat you out of an Affordable Housing situation. None of us could afford it!
2. When we finally begin missing the domestic pleasures of cleaning a house (and still don't have one), we may start cleaning the city.
1. We're the same as you — if your truck broke down, your dog died, you lost your job, your wife kicked you out....

In Memory of Debbie Lirette



Debbie Lirette passed away on October 2nd after nearly a year long fight with cancer.

Debbie was a vivacious Spirit no matter the difficulties of her life. These difficulties were the inspiration for Paula's 'Ms. Nobody' cartoons, which depicted a few of Debbie's experiences with the local authorities.

Some two years ago, while telling me of one such incident the night before, Debbie told me, and I quote as best as memory serves:

"I raised children here, I owned a home here; I owned a business here! And now that I have nothing they have the

audacity to tell me to get out of town? Well, this is my home and I'm not going to leave!"

It was her profound optimism based on a tenacious love of life that I found most inspiring when around her.

Those of us who knew her will miss her. But she did not believe in death, and in whatever Heaven she is now in, I'm sure she is still rejoicing in life.

Lee Parks

November Health Fair by Wes Cole

On November 18th there was a Health Fair at Loaves & Fishes that was sponsored by the Sacramento Department of Health and Human Services. They offered HIV tests, flu shots, blood pressure checks, and tests for sexually transmitted diseases.

Adrienne, the nurse at Loaves & Fishes, estimated about 300 people attended. After all the medical staff was finished, they gave out clothing and had a raffle.

The Health Fair is done three times a year. The next one will be on March 17th in 2000.

Christmas Meals 1999

This is a list of dinners for Christmas week. This list was distributed early, so please call the sites listed if there are any questions.

Tuesday, Dec 21

6 to 7 pm
St. Philomene's Church
2320 El Camino Ave.
Sacramento
485-2211

Wednesday, Dec. 22

6 to 7 pm
St. Ignatius Parish
3235 Arden Way
Sacramento
482-9666

4:30 to 6 pm
(Santa)
Holy Family Church
7817 Old Auburn Rd.
Sacramento
723-2494

Friday, Dec. 24

11 am to 2 pm
Salvation Army
1200 North B St.
Sacramento
442-0331

12 Noon
1st United Methodist Church
21st and J St.
Sacramento

7:30 pm Mandatory Service
8:30 pm Dinner
Union Gospel Mission
400 Bannon St.
Sacramento
447-3268

Saturday, Dec. 25

11 am to 1 pm
Loaves & Fishes
1321 North C St.
Sacramento
446-0874

Sunday, Dec. 26

11 am to 3 pm
Cathedral of the Blessed
Sacrament by St. John's
11th and K St., lower level
Sacramento

CLASSIFIED

Mail your classified to the Housing Alliance or submit it at the SHOC meeting every Wednesday at 10:30 am in Friendship Park. 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

Dart Board Wanted

Some of the guys at the SHOC office are dart players, and if anyone has a board to spare the donation would be greatly appreciated. 442-2156



"Affordable Housing" by Paula received an Honorable Mention in the Comic Press' 1999 Cartoon Contest

Taylor's Campaign

Narrated by Martin Sheen and directed by Richard Cohen, Taylor's Campaign is 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, Ron 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