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# HOMeward

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## Friendship Park Dedicates Memorial

A commemoration of the personalities & legacies that are no longer with us—

by Douglas Anderson

For over a decade, thousands upon thousands of people have come to Friendship Park, (aka, Loaves & Fishes) and continue to come here even to this day, and shared their spirits of joy and their gifts of life with each other on a daily basis. But, almost just as peacefully as they came, so do they depart, leaving with us their legacies and their spirits to remember. Also, throughout this past decade, Friendship Park has dedicated

itself to providing a safe and harmonious environment for their guest both past & present.

As a token of their appreciation to these many different personalities for making Friendship Park what it is today, the staff and volunteers here at "Loaves" decided to commemorate these personalities with a memorial wall. This wall symbolizes a river which bears the spirits and gifts they've left behind for everyone to cherish. So, as the rocks and the stones were hurled in and put into place, and the stones were



being encarved with the names of these guests, this memorial arose. 10am here at Friendship Park, (corner of North C St. and 12th St.)



Tim Brown, Director of Loaves & Fishes, being interviewed during memorial dedication ceremony.

The main idea for this memorial wall was to bring into play the memories of past guest so that their amazing spirits will not be forgotten. The idea for this project was formed several years ago by Mr. Leroy Chatfield and Mr. David Moss, (former employees of Loaves & Fishes)

This project was also an inspiration to other staff and volunteers here at Friendship Park, "Loaves," to continue with this project. Putting forth the effort of dedication and hard work, Loaves & Fishes planned a "Memorial Dedication on All Souls Day" that was held on Thursday, November 2nd at

A sincere appreciation from the guests of Friendship Park goes out to the entire memorial committee, (Tim, Sister Judy, John, George, April, and Blite), for their brain-storming the idea for this project, also to April & Blite for their bit in designing this project, and to Mike Lopez, George Papotto, Robert Papotto, and Butch Hay for their labor in the construction of this project

Also, a very special thank you goes out to the many volunteers and staff who worked on this project and that did not wish not to have their names published in this article.

## Area Advocates Participate in Human Rights Bus Tour

Fighting the injustice of homelessness and poverty

The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign Bus Tour started out strong, says one young woman who volunteered to go on the tour. Sinking deeper and deeper into the background of America's agenda, homeless people have found a way to bring the spotlight back to poverty.

At 12:30pm on Thursday, 11-8-00, a bus full of homeless people and working poor, approx. 25 men, women, and children, began the tour, leaving Oakland, Ca. covering the northern and southern counties of California. The bus driver, Nate, volunteered to drive the bus, making this tour possible. Some of the key emphases of this tour are about protesting, educating, and documenting the economic human rights abuses happening

right here in our state, and on discussing the right to health care for every person, homeless and non-homeless, in America.

Why a bus tour? What is the purpose for this? one might ask. Well, this tour is an effort to create and build ties with people all over the state who are working for the same vision, and to educate those who do not know about this growing movement. Even though the bus tour cre-

ates a way for the homeless and the working poor from all over the state to get together in unity to share their experiences and their company with each other, the main focus of this tour is to shed light on poverty and document human rights. This tour will signify to all of the homeless people and to all of the working poor

see  
**Freedom Bus Tour**  
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# Homeless Defendants Overcome Albany's Attack

(Originally published in the February 2000 issue of *Street Spirit*, a Bay Area homeless paper, reprinted here with permission)

## Editorial by Terry Messman

The City of Albany has suffered its second courtroom defeat in as many months, losing a legal ruling that may make it next to impossible to prosecute any more homeless people arrested under Albany's sweeping anti-camping ordinance.

This latest attempt to prosecute the people expelled from the Albany landfill was lost before the trial even got under way. On January 10, two groups of homeless defendants triumphed over criminal charges of illegal lodging and curfew, violations filed by the City of Albany in Alameda County Superior Court.

The prosecution's case fell apart when Judge Ron Greenberg ruled in favor of a motion by Attorney Jon Sternberg that defendants were entitled to present a necessity defense—the same defense that led a jury to unanimously find Albany landfill resident Michael Smith not guilty on December 15, 1999. In that trial, Smith, represented by Attorney David Ritchie, was acquitted on all three counts of violating the Albany camping ban.

Smith's acquittal should have sent a clear message to Albany officials to give up their vindictive efforts to further punish homeless people who had already lost their homes, their possessions, and, in some cases, their freedom when officials ordered a full-scale police raid to demolish their encampment last September.

Rather than learn from Smith's trial that a jury found the behavior of Albany officials to be indefensible, the Albany City Attorney evidently was still driven by an obsessive desire to punish and jail the homeless people who had already been sent on a "forced march to nowhere," followed by months of homelessness after being expelled out of Albany.

The behavior of Albany officials, from the police to the City Council to the City Manager's office, has been a disgrace. For two decades as homelessness increased, they refused to develop a single homeless shelter; instead, Albany police directed homeless people to the Albany landfill as the only refuge where the unsheltered would not be arrested. Then, when they found other uses for the former garbage dump, the Albany City Council passed a quick-and-dirty anti-camping law, and ordered the police to drive scores of penniless people out of their tents and shacks.

Last September was the end-game: the entire encampment was destroyed, truckloads of people's belongings were trashed, and the camp dwellers were driven out by police sweeps or arrested.

As unfair as the eviction was, what came next was worse: a vengeful effort to prosecute people who had already lost nearly everything—their homes, their possessions, their right to sleep. Now, Albany officials insisted, they must be stripped of the few things remaining: their freedom and dignity. They must be paraded into court like pariahs and prosecuted as public enemies for the unpardonable sin of not having the money to afford housing.

Because homeless people had dared to remain in Albany, for a few weeks after the City Council had voted to criminalize their presence, city officials must have their pound of flesh.

Albany's attempts to bully the homeless defendants failed due to the decency of a jury of Berkeley and Albany citizens and the rulings of Judge Greenberg. Albany officials suffered an ignominious and richly deserved defeat. As Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, the moral reach of the universe is long but it bends towards justice.

Albany officials have been knocked out of the ring twice now by lawyers Jon Sternberg and David Ritchie.

These officials should now return to their corner, lick their wounds, and try to return to a semblance of decency and civic responsibility. They should restrain themselves from prosecuting any more homeless people until they have joined the rest of modern society and begun to provide housing.

## The Eichorn ruling makes "necessity" a possible defense against camping ordinances.

Ritchie said, "I would say this ruling absolutely will affect future prosecutions in Albany. The District Attorney has concluded, and I imagine has passed on to the City of Albany, that they're not going to get any convictions under this ordinance."

### THE POOR GET THEIR DAY IN COURT

Ann Nadig, Christopher Moses, Paula Johnson, Eric Baker and Awilda Alcalla were charged with violating the 10 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. curfew passed by the Albany City Council as part of the municipal ordinances aimed at banning camping on the Albany waterfront. In a related case, Ann Nadig, Awilda Alcalla, Marvin Reese, and Ricky Young were charged with illegal lodging along the Albany railroad tracks on September 9, 1999, shortly after encampment was demolished.

Judge Greenberg ruled that under the precedent set by the Eichorn decision in Santa Ana, the defendants must be allowed to present a necessity defense to show that it was necessary for the homeless to break the curfew laws and sleep outdoors because Albany had not provided adequate shelter or housing. As soon as Greenberg issued that ruling, Deputy District Attorney David Lim's case crumpled and he withdrew all charges.

Jon Sternberg, the court-appointed attorney for defendant Ann Nadig, said "The District Attorney dismissed the charges because the DA's office knew the jury will find for the defense, especially if we can use the necessity defense."

Sternberg criticized the decision by Albany City Attorney Robert Zweben to prosecute homeless defendants who were essentially forced to camp outdoors by Albany's failure to provide any shelter beds or homeless services, whatsoever.

"Albany's City Attorney attempted to deny that Albany had any responsibility to provide homeless services," Sternberg said. "He attempted to wash his hands of that responsibility. The City Attorney is trying to help Albany escape responsibility for its own homeless citizens."

"The City of Albany attempted to rid itself of its homeless citizens without incurring the expense or bother of providing services within its own city, instead directing them to Berkeley. This directly contradicts the Eichorn case which says a city cannot solve its problems by dumping its homeless people onto a nearby jurisdiction."

### THE FAR REACH OF EICHORN

In a motion that failed, Deputy DA Lim asked Judge Greenberg to not allow the necessity defense, arguing that since the camp dwellers were charged with curfew violations, rather than camping, the Eichorn case should not apply.

Sternberg said, "We countered that whether a client is charged under curfew or camping laws, the intent of Eichorn is the same. A homeless person should not have the burden of traveling from jurisdiction to jurisdiction to be able to sleep."

In *Re: James Warner Eichorn*, the Fourth Appellate District Court ruled that necessity is a valid defense to the charge of violating a city ordinance banning sleep in public areas.

James Eichorn was a homeless man cited by police for violating Santa Ana's anti-camping ordinance on January 25, 1993. Eichorn had offered to prove that on the night he was cited, every shelter bed in Santa Ana was occupied and that he was involuntarily homeless. At the time, Santa Ana had about 1500 homeless people with 118 shelter beds available for single men. The Armory could accommodate an additional 125.

The Fourth Appellate Court ruled: "Neither trespassing on private property nor walking to a different city are adequate alternatives. Simply put, Santa Ana may not 'solve' its social problems by foisting them onto nearby localities; an individual who has no reasonable alternative to sleeping in a public place in Santa Ana need not travel in search of streets and other public places where he can catch his 40 winks."

The Eichorn ruling may be used in defending homeless people in any city in California that fails to provide adequate shelter for all of its homeless residents—and not just in those cities (like Albany) which utterly fail to provide any essential services or shelter. All the defendant should have to prove is that there were not sufficient shelter beds available in a given city that night.

Attorney Ritchie said, "Eichorn definitely applies to other cities. In the case with Albany, it was easier to show because they obviously didn't provide anything—any sort of services or shelter. But Santa Ana actually had a homeless shelter. The problem is they didn't have enough beds so there were always homeless people who couldn't get in."

Sternberg said, "We shouldn't assume that Eichorn only applies to backward places like Albany that don't provide any services. We may very well be able to use it in cities which do provide services but they are inadequate, insufficient."

Bringing it all back home, Berkeley, Oakland and San Francisco all provide shelter beds, but cannot claim to provide nearly enough to house all their homeless citizens. San Francisco has a little more than 2,000 shelter beds for an estimated 12,000 to 14,000 homeless. Thousands are unable to find a bed in this inadequate shelter system every night, and, if arrested under Willie Brown's anti-homeless laws, could enter a defense of necessity that they had nowhere else to sleep.

One thing is certain. Attorneys David Ritchie and Jon Sternberg have provided an exceptional service to homeless people. They have shown us that the goal of the homeless movement is to overcome the outrageous injustices that are the daily lot of the "meek of the earth." Here's hoping that lawyers everywhere consult their work in the Albany landfill trials.

We also owe a debt of gratitude to homeless defendants Michael Smith, Ann Nadig, Ricky Young and all the others who took a stand on a bitterly contested patch of dirt at the Albany landfill. For months, they refused to buckle under the enormous pressures brought to bear against them by police and city officials.

They resisted it all to the very end—the raids on their encampment, the constant police intimidation, the lies and bad faith of the Albany City Manager's office. They took a stand for their basic rights as citizens to be free of discriminatory laws and to have some place on this earth to call home. In doing so, they showed all of us



## ACORN Holds Forum on Poverty and Economic Justice

The Sacramento Forum on Poverty and Economic Justice was held November 18, 2000 at the 24th and L Streets First Baptist Church. The auditorium was filled to capacity by prominent and concerned citizens, elected officials and community organization representatives.

ACORN, a coalition of progressive organizations, sponsored the gathering. It was chaired by Diane Brown of ACORN and Manny Gale of the Progressive Agenda.

The forum's purpose was to address the issues of the working poor unable to make ends meet and for closing the gap between the rich and the poor by promoting a Livable Wage Campaign.

### First on the agenda- Testimonies from the working poor.

Lola Young, a homemaker, working below minimum wage, mentioned animal care takers at the zoo get \$11 an hour, deserving every cent, but are animals more important than our aged and disabled people?

David Walker, earning a minimum wage of \$5.75 an hour would have to work over 100 hours a week to afford a market rate apartment. He is homeless.

Chris Jones pointed out that the ones who really get hurt by

low wages, are the children.

Rosalina Garcia, a janitor and single parent, used to work for lower wages and un dependable hours before she was represented by a labor union. She still doesn't make enough.

Joe Lopez, a security guard and nursing home worker, said low wages are a problem, especially when you have health problems.

Chris Garrett, a restaurant worker from Philadelphia, said there's no wages in this city. There's free services, low taxes, etc., but no benefits. It's hard to have pride in your job when your job doesn't pay enough to live on. He urged us to vote.

### Manny Gale demonstrated important statistics with an overhead projector.

At \$5.75 an hour, a person would make \$975 monthly. HUD recommends that only 30% of a person's income should be spent on housing. A minimum wage earner would need to find rental for \$299 a month.

The minimum wage will go up to \$6.25 in January of 2000 and to \$6.75 in January of 2002.

The Poverty line has been determined at \$19,005 annually for a family of four. That's \$9.37 an hour.

In 1968 the minimum wage

was at 86% of a livable wage. In 1979, minimum wage was 80% of a livable wage. In 1998, with a booming economy, the minimum wage fell to 64% of a livable wage.

1999 HUD data showed Sacramento's median income for a family of four at \$51,900. 47% of Sacramentans receive low and very low income. 83% receiving very low income, pay more than 30% for rent.

CEO's pay increased 535%. Average workers pay increased 32% during the same period. If the average workers receiving \$23,753 annually increased by 535% they would now be getting \$114,034 annually.

The top 20% increased income considerable. The bottom and next to the bottom 20% have decreased income. Manny asked, "If the economy is booming, why aren't we benefiting?". Wages are generally lower in Sacramento than in the rest of California.

A 'Living wage' is the wage it takes for a person to live on. It has been determined that it takes \$2,765 a month to live in Sacramento. That's \$33,000 a year or \$15.95 an hour (working 40 hour weeks).

There are Living Wage ordinances in Los Angeles, Oakland, San Francisco, Baltimore and 25 other U.S.

cities.

### The panel was asked to respond to testimonies and statistics.

Sacramento's Vice Mayor Lauren Hammond believes local government needs to step in. We need to fight the argument that a livable wage ordinance will hurt businesses. If you have more money, you'll spend more money.

Sacramento City Councilman Dave Jones says things are only going to get worse. Businesses with high paid executives relocating in Sacramento will drive up housing costs. Pay needs to increase for Sacramento and for cities in the region. He supports organized labor. He introduced the mixed income housing element that was adopted last month by City Council (10% new development must be for very low income renters and 5% for low income renters). We must also address healthcare, childcare, transportation, drug treatment. He urges us to attend council meeting. Also, Folsom is now negotiating for thousands of acres of development. He pointed out that Folsom hasn't taken into account affordable housing, transportation, homeless shelters, etc.

California Senator Debra

Ortiz supports a living wage at the local level and will support state legislation. She chairs the Senate Health and Human Service Committee Safety Net Program, which is working on the child care problems (Average preschool costs \$600 to \$800 per month). Rental vacancy rate is decreasing as rentals are going for as high or higher than it should cost to buy a house. She would like more people to know that CAL Grants will subsidize mid-career welfare to work citizens for going to community colleges.

Ruth Holbrook, Sacramento Central Labor Council, says that union cities build coalition. Unions represent working class as a whole. Unions are strongly behind livable wages.

The Very Reverend Don Brown of Trinity Cathedral heard the testimonies of those sleeping outdoors and wished everyone to know that the overflow shelter will be opening Wednesday, November 22.

District 2 Sacramento City Councilwoman Sandy Sheedy was on the Planning

see Forum page 7

During this season of the Winter Solstice may you and yours have a:

Warm Yule

Reuniting  
Kwanzaa

Bright  
Hanukkah

and not least....

Enlightened Ramadan

from all the volunteers here at SHOC

## Freedom Bus Tour

cont. from page 1



that they are not alone in the every day street life and poverty stricken conditions they endure on a daily basis.

On day one of this tour, the Freedom Bus riders were allowed to share with each other their experiences of the day-to-day struggles to house, feed, and clothe their children, sometimes unsuccessfully. Some of them share their desire to live independently while others share their experiences of living under bridges and in abandoned vehicles and buildings. As the microphone was passed from person to person, people began to realize that the "working poor" and the "homeless" were both sharing the same common trend-economic injustice!

Today, the silence is being broken and our voices will be heard as the people on this Freedom Bus Campaign makes a stand against economic injustice. As it stands right now, there are two kinds of voices that we, (the poor), can use. Either we can have a voice that's spoken with eloquent words, or a voice that speaks from the heart and moves people. Here is a prime example of a voice that speaks from the heart, "If you don't get on that bus, I will!" says one nine-year-old child talking to his mother. A voice that speaks plain and straight forward is used by this child. His statement is a statement that sparks the need for poor people to be the architects of

the new movement that works to eliminate poverty. "What the rich have, we should have. What the children of the rich have, our children should have!" says Ethel Long-Scott, presenter of the Freedom Bus Tour.

The United States is supposed to be the land of milk-n-honey, but to the working poor and to the homeless, it seems to be the land of stress-n-struggles.

"In a land of such economic plenty, it should be a crime that so many people should go without," says Dave Jones, Sacramento City Councilman, and supporter of the Freedom Bus Tour, at the presentation meeting here in Sacramento.

A bittersweet journey, thus far, is the word for some of the riders. Seeing a host of challenges and hearing of experiences they never had before, has made it sort of depressing trip. Even though there is hospitality on every one of our stops, there still were some heartfelt stories that were told by homeless and working-poor individuals. Nevertheless, the mission's focus remains sharp and intact. Teaching about the goals and the mission remains the number one priority. Forming a local Poor People's Economic Human Rights Committee, (PPEHR), in every city in California appears possible now that "we who believe in freedom will not rest until it

comes!" It's the motto that gives each bus tour rider the inspiration, the strength, and the courage to keep pushing forward in all adversity.

Through the rain, the sickness, and the depression, the Freedom Bus Tour riders continue to teach, and to share, and to learn about the mission and about each other. Teamwork describes the overall feeling of each day for each rider because they now realize that no one group, or no one person can do this alone.

The bus tour sparks the beginning of our "fight back" from poverty and abuse, and the most adverse of conditions that we as homeless and working-poor men and women have been programmed to live under for many years.

To those who've made this tour possible: Ethel Long-Scott, executive director of WEAP; Blanche Mackey, Social Justice Organizer; Andre Dawkins, Labor Party Organizer and co-chair of Oakland's branch of the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, (PPEHR); Nate, the driver; Carolyn Milligan, and all of the Freedom Bus riders, a very deeply heart-felt thankyou goes to you from all of the homeless and the working-poor here in California.





## The Streets Will Suck You In!

By Jeremy Ness

It doesn't matter how strong, mentally or spiritually, a person is, when living out on the streets, it becomes a whole new ball game! You could sometimes get involved with the wrong people. People who seem to have a very negative attitude towards other people and towards life in general. You could be setting yourself up for a whole new world of stresses and problems, a whole new world of trials and tribulations. As long as you let some of the people who're in the same boat see how stressed and miserable you are, they'll just keep trying to break you down until you get to the point where you feel like you're trapped with no way out...

Sometimes, if you let those people keep telling you what to do, they'll attempt to try and control you. They'll try and tell you who you can/cannot befriend, what you can/cannot do for yourself, what you can/cannot say in public, and most importantly, how you can/cannot feel. From my personal experience in dealing with these kinds of people, I find that they feed off of your weakness. Anything that they can do to keep you feeling inferior to themselves, they will try and do it.

If there's any kind of a gift that I could give to anyone who lives on the streets, it'll be this; remember always, that misery loves company! No matter how much you care about an individual, remember always that they might not love you back! No matter where you want to go in life, there will always be people there to try and stop you! Keep in mind that if you display any signs of a trusting attitude or weakness, most people who live on the streets now-a-days, will try to take everything they can get from you, forcefully, if that be the case.

So, if you can, try and not come to the streets thinking that you can have these streets licked, because the streets can and will turn you out. These streets will suck you in!

## Let's "Nip-It-In-The-Bud!"

Getting down to the causes & conditions

by Douglas Anderson

Every year, hundreds of complaints are filed against our local law enforcement agencies from our homeless communities. People of most every gender, age, and race file complaints concerning being abused, harassed, and mistreated by these agencies, but few complaints are followed through with. WHY? Do people consider these complaints valid, or are they just complaining? Are people striving to better the adverse conditions they live in, or do they just want to be left alone to live their lives as they please? These complaints are about the treatment that homeless people have been receiving, about the abuse they've been suffering, and about the difficulties they've been enduring while living on the streets.

Is complaining about any of the problems that the homeless people encounter now-a-days a problem? No! It shouldn't be, unless we consider the fact that it's all that people have been doing about the problem. We as homeless people need to ask ourselves, is that all that most homeless people have been doing is complaining-complaining, complaining, complaining? If so, what's up with that? Aren't we aware that just complaining about anything, big or small, is not the solution unless we follow through with that complaint!

For example, has anyone ever heard of the phrase, "all talk and no action?" or, "all bark and no bite?" What are these expressions trying to say to us? I believe they are telling us that in most cases we're spending far too much energy on complaining about the problem and not enough energy on trying to come up with a solution for that problem. It seems that we're always ready to discuss things that are wrong rather than discussing ways to make them right.

Well, in some cases, this is true! The more we just simply complain about a problem, the bigger that problem gets. But, the more we act within a reasonable and acceptable manner to try and rid ourselves of the problem, the better our chances are of solving that problem.

Being a homeless person myself, I've sometimes had to force myself to sleep in some of the most adverse conditions I've ever endured in my life. My biggest questions to myself during those times was—why? Why couldn't I find a clean and comfortable place that was located somewhere on the outside of the glass windows to rest? Why was it so trashy everywhere I wanted to camp? Why couldn't people clean up after themselves? Why do I have to be the one to do the dirty work? Oh why?, oh why?, oh why? While I was asking myself these questions, I began to notice something about myself I began to notice that my attitude was changing for the worst. Instead of trying to clean up a spot where I wanted to lay my head and sleep, I found myself getting angry from the trash I saw all around the area and starting to take it out on other people. I found myself talking downwardly, (degrading), about the people who were leaving the trash laying around. I found myself saying such things as; "I don't want those "trashy" people as friends!" and "these are some junkie people-how can they live like this?"

Somewhere in the back of my mind, I knew that the other people were not responsible for how I felt about being forced to sleep in those adverse conditions, but still, that offered me no comfort. It wasn't until I began to understand just how those adverse conditions were affecting my self-esteem, my personal hygiene, and my

spirit that I began to look at my situation from a different angle. Boy! What a difference that made in my life. I began to change my questions, I began to change my attitude. I began to look at myself and where I was going wrong instead of looking at others.

Once I started looking at myself, I began to realize that those non-homeless communities were almost justified in how they viewed our homeless communities. I began to understand why, to some extent, our local law enforcement agencies were harassing us. Look at where and how I was living. It was awful. It was a "sore-sight-for-sore-eyes." It was no wonder why our non-homeless communities wanted us out of sight and out of mind.

One of the main reasons why we as homeless people are being harassed by our non-homeless communities is because of the adverse conditions we are allowing ourselves to become adjusted to. I began to realize, while performing my soul searching task, that our non-homeless communities may have actually had a valid complaint, even though they were stigmatizing our homeless communities based upon what they were looking at. For what they saw, I saw also.

We as homeless people must start to ask ourselves; is this a fair judgment? Is it fair to consider all camping sites as an in-humane living condition? We can only start to answer these questions by taking a good look at our own camping areas and how they appear to the rest of our communities.

In order for us to put a stop to the harassment, especially that which is given by our local law enforcement agencies, (i.e., Sacramento Police Department, Highway Patrol, Park Rangers, Sacramento Sheriffs Department, etc.), then we must quit complaining about what these communities are putting us through and, at best, take a look at and start changing our living conditions.

One way this can be accomplished is by taking a real good look at our temporary shelters, "camp sites", and how we're presenting ourselves to our non-homeless communities. Are we showing them that we really don't care about our lives and our living conditions anymore? Or, are we showing them that we are people who deserve a chance to show them that we can present ourselves as responsible and clean people who care about ourselves no matter what our present condition is?

Another way to accomplish this task is by not giving anyone any reason to harass our homeless societies. Let's change the stigmata that these communities have put on us. Let's change our living conditions, our actions, and/or our attitudes—which ever one fits our present lifestyles. Let's look at our campsites and ask ourselves; is this how I want my children to live for the rest of their lives? Is this how I want to live for the rest of my life? The answer will probably be...Not!

So let us find it within ourselves to make that life altering change, if we need to, and put a stop to the stigmatizing that these non-homeless communities are putting upon us. Let's adopt the plan that our parents tried for so many years to instill in us, "clean up after yourself!" Let's "nip the harassment, the mistreatment, and the abuse in the bud!" Take a real good look at your living conditions and make a change, if necessary!

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



"Homeward" is a publication of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC).

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 opinion of SHOC or Homeward.

#### Submissions and Editorial Policy

We welcome any participation or contributions. Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at the SHOC office or given to Birle 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 SHOC. All correspondence can be sent to Homeward c/o SHOC, Loaves & Fishes, PO Box 2161, Sacramento, CA 95812

For information call 442-2156.

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

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Associates**

Special Thanks to  
Volunteers

Doug  
Paula  
Art  
Chris  
Jay  
Sundown



## DEMAND A JURY TRIAL

by Lillian Hanson

Did you know that if you demand a jury trial from the judge for a camping ticket that the judge may dismiss the camping ticket?

Why is that, you may ask? Well, because of the Eichorn decision. In the James Warner Eichorn decision, the Fourth Appellate District Court ruled that necessity is a valid defense to the charge of violating a city ordinance banning sleep in public areas. This is why some attorneys in the Public Defender's office believe that the Sacramento courts will be reluctant to take camping tickets to court. So Demand a jury trial!

The article "Homeless Defendants Overcome Albany's Attacks", on page 2, has more information

## NEW SURVEY ON SACRAMENTO'S HOMELESS HIGHLIGHTS NEEDS AND CHARACTERISTICS

Originally published in the Sacramento Housing Alliance Newsletter, Sep/Oct 2000

by Nikole Satelmajer

Results of the Sacramento County Human Assistance Field Survey conducted on September 12, 1999 were released in August. The survey studied the demographics, characteristics, needs, and barriers of the homeless population in Sacramento. The study was conducted by International Quality Network and sponsored by the County Department of Human Assistance. Five-hundred and one surveys were administered to people who were homeless, in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and single-room occupancy (SRO) hotels.

Housing Services greatest need - 71.9% of those surveyed listed housing services as their greatest need. At 53.3%, transportation was the second greatest need reported.

Long Term Residents of Sacramento - This study found that 59% of those surveyed have been residents of Sacramento for 6 or more years. In fact, 25% surveyed have lived in this area for over 25 years. This data disproved the common myth that homeless individuals are not area residents, and come to Sacramento only for services that may not be available elsewhere.

Disabilities - Over half of the people surveyed (52%) reported having a physical or mental disability, or both. Of those living in SROs, 75% reported either physical or mental disability. Proximity to area services, including health care, was seen as very important to these individuals and families.

Alcohol & Drug Use - Over half (54%) of the total number surveyed considered their use of alcohol or drugs a problem. Access to treatment is important to those struggling with alcohol and drug use.

Ability to Afford Current Market Rate Apartments - Over half of the individuals surveyed (57.8%) have a total monthly income of \$600 or less, and 84% have a total monthly income of \$800 or less. This low income prevents them from being able to afford a market rate apartment in Sacramento.

This survey was done to support the efforts of the Sacramento County & City Board on Homelessness (SC&CBoH), and was not intended to provide a total count of Sacramento's homeless population. The SC&CBoH, formed in October 1998, is composed of business and neighborhood representatives, formerly homeless individuals, and elected officials.

The board is developing a five-year plan to decrease homelessness and related problems in our community. The Board has nine focus teams, all of which are finding that the stability provided by housing is important for success in other areas, such as employment and health.

Tim Brown, Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes, works with the Housing & Neighborhood Impact focus team. This team has two tentative recommendations. First, it notes the importance of increasing Sacramento's supply of permanent affordable housing with supportive services. Second, it feels it is important to maintain the affordable housing (like SROs) currently available in our community.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the survey, contact the Department of Human Assistance at 916-875-3819. If you would like more information about the SC&CBoH and its resource library on the issue of homelessness, contact 916-874-3752. SC&CBoH's monthly meetings are open to the public.

## GREAT AMERICAN RIVER CLEAN UP



Blivds. We picked up a great deal of garbage in a couple hours.

We received our lunch tickets and went to the Riverfest for the rest of the afternoon. We had a great time eating, mingling, and enjoying the rest of the afternoon at the Riverfest. Volunteers received free T-shirts.

If you missed out on this one, you can join us next September. Before then, S.H.O.C. will be sponsoring several organized clean-up efforts

BY PAULA

The Great American River Clean-up and Riverfest was a great success. On September 23, 2000 Sacramento community members joined the effort to clean up the American River Parkway. There were stations all up and down the Parkway where people signed up and picked up garbage bags. They were given recycle bags, also. Special instructions were given to not mess with the homeless camps, and to be polite to any homeless campers. I hope everyone complied.

There were at least 10 of us from Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee and Loaves and Fishes guests who volunteered to clean the river area near Northgate and Del Paso

## Parvo Warning

FOR OUR FOUR LEGGED FRIENDS - AND THEIR PET PEOPLE

By Christyne Welsh



This is to inform you about Parvo. The symptoms are vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, and no energy. Please have your favorite person take you to the Vet, or the Vet Clinic at Loaves & Fishes to see if you have it. The Vet Clinic at Loaves & Fishes is on the 2nd Saturday of the month, starting at 7:30 am. Parvo can stay in the ground for up to 10 years. You can kill it with pouring Bleach on the ground. I want to thank you for being so patient with your Pet Human while they had Distemper during the 100 degree days this summer.

## MY IDEAS ON HOMELESSNESS

By Derrick McGrew

- It's a learning experience that helps you to learn more about who you are.
- You learn how to independently take care of yourself.
- You learn to communicate better with others.
- It makes you think about which way you want your life to go.
- You learn to become more conservative with every day things, (ie, hygiene items, food, money, clothes, utensils, ect.) that involve every day use.
- It helps you to learn more about those around you, about those who are your friends, about those who are trying to bring you down, and about those who really care about you.
- It can either make you mentally stronger or put you in a great state of depression. You can not be weak minded and be on the streets.
- It can change some of your beliefs about life. It also opens you up to the realities in the world that you may not see while living in a sheltered life. You learn to adjust to the changes in life—as they happen, not how you want them to happen!
- You learn to start caring about yourself while realizing that sometimes nobody is going to help you but you. So you learn to over come those depression and get your life going whether for better or worse.
- You learn to read people and what they're all about, whether they care for you or if it's about what you can do for them. These are some of the things you have to watch for because misery enjoys company. So those who your way of life, your ideals, and your friends carefully.

## Joining SHA

The Sacramento Housing Alliance is a network of concerned citizens which promotes decent, affordable housing for low income households and homeless people through advocacy and participation in public discourse.

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing

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

Annual Membership dues:

Standard, \$35;  
Low-income, \$15

Organizations:

Full, 0.1%  
agency budget;

Associate, \$10.0

Send donations to:

Sacramento Housing Alliance

P.O. 2430  
Sacramento, CA  
95812



# VISITING WITH DON JUAN

a short story ...

by Fred Sabelovic

Los Angeles, August 2000

I am at my computer, I am writing and I am happy.

No, I am not at my computer. I am on the Skid Row and I am writing onto a spare page in my notebook. This early in the morning most of us do not believe we will look out of our own window ever again. Somebody offers me a muffin and so acknowledges the fact that the people know I do not patronize the missions and I feel encouraged. They may also believe that the pen is stronger than the banishments of the false prophets after all. However, most of the people are back from feeding pens of the Missions and they look thoroughly beaten. Do these religious poor sense that this is a protestant segment of hell? I must not doubt it. Yet, sometimes I feel profoundly alone, so profoundly alone in fact that I begin to believe that I can reach out and touch you, the normal people, in case you still exist out there somewhere.

But I am not a focus here. There are others whose strength reaches way beyond the faculties of reason and intuition. The ones that may help us unchain the state of our mind from the Church.

I exhale and let my skull rest on no muscles but rather I let it seek support of the neck bones alone in a holy balance with the gravity. *Há takúo* it for a nod.

The Black Joker and the Red Joker step aside and Our Don Juan fixes his eyes at the fingertips of his left hand that he clutches before his face. His sharp black beard outlines the face of quite a granite will. I, myself, would like to have a rational communication with him right now. However, that is unavailable. While he fixes his stare at the fingertips, I hear his call. I inhale. In fact he is a cross between Odysseus and Hernan' Cortez, down to that hideous hyacinth beard. Our Don Juan now begins to step in extreme compulsion with his left foot. I exhale.

Across the way they have a laughing contest that is not based on words but a faint scent of excrement wafts through the air. Am I beginning to be happy here at the Drop In Center? I inhale. My heart gently pushes against belly muscles and my thought begins to stream more freely.

Can we alone bless our coffee lady for she is the only one with the real mercy, can we alone expel the worshippers of the golden calf while they rape-feed us, can we be human at least for a moment here in the open air of the Drop In Center? One can never tell. Our Don Juan may continue to step like this throughout the day and night without any result at all. I exhale.

As for the next chakra point of this meditation I do feel the points of electricity on the crowd. Everybody is subdued in expectation and everybody minds their own business just like this is a family secret that no one else is supposed to notice, but they watch us. They, the worshippers of the golden calf. To me, on a good day, they are insignificant enough. However, to make our case just, I reach up and seek the contact with the prophet they so shamelessly turned into a calf, to make them obsolete so Our Don Juan can do his thing.

Our metafrontman moved! I inhale. One look at his face and I am unburied for a moment in time and for a stretch of space on the paper page that rests in the dust, you are my witness and I am his scribe. With that I slowly recover my composure and I look at his face again. His eyeball penetrates his compulsion and he reaches out to me. He wants me to call your undivided attention to our Dolly Dollar Strawberry, her hair is tied in a messy bun, her breast belongs to Venus herself. Our young blond woman steps into view very proud at all this attention.

Our Don Juan wants you and your attention alone. I get up slowly and move into the line for the bathroom. While he adjusts himself and begins to step again I begin to feel transported into a space where I can smell a different air maybe even the ocean air.

Besides Our Don Juan, our Dolly is the only other creature with truly noble features that graces the Skid Row these days. Unlike Our Don Juan she can speak, but prefers not to. Instead she summons males with a high pitched cackle. Our Don Juan now looks at me and the bitter-sweet breath

of the Deja Vu penetrates up into my consciousness. Just as an aside something tells me that this direction does not necessarily have to be up or down. With that The black railings appear, they are empty at first but in the next sequence our Dolly is on the railings, she could not have been more than eleven or twelve at the time. Black iron railings by the Blue Pacific. Dolly speaks in that electric Yorba Linda speech of hers but the words carry no meaning. She perches herself up like a little monkey and I wonder what it all means. Orange County school railings by the blue Pacific, fresh morning air, Dolly is dressed in white. All out of nowhere I begin to fear sin. My censor cuts in and Don Juan Exerts his will to pull me back with him and Dolly. He is with the Psyche of the man that Dolly talks to. I realize that that is the man I encountered for a second there as well. Crucified by a more sweet compulsion Our Don Juan now breaks his step once more and fixes his eyes at his fingertips again. The Crown Man fondles her titles over and over again. Then Our Don Juan resumes his step. Praxitelles chieles her, Don Juan stomps and our Dolly dances in the fresh morning sun. Telepathic curtain drops. As a parting shot we learn that our Dolly takes crack cocaine regularly in order to live this moment over and over again. Any other sexual act does not really appeal to her.

While all this is happening Our Don Juan does not break his step, but he does break out of his compulsion for a few precious seconds. He enters our reality long enough for him to utter his benediction in a parched and a loud voice. He remembers but a couple of words but is once native tongue and as always it is those few words in Spanish that are not even spanish any more. -Fiestal Viennia, Fiestal Viennia Viennal - He yells.

-Off the ground! -Goes our Dolly now. But playfully and not harsh. She is evidently satisfied beyond anything that drugs and dealers could offer.

Our Don Juan now stomps, the Black shaman and the Red shaman come back into view, we've recorded something.

A pair of dark eyes survey their domain. He glances at the blond Dolly and she bares her breasts for nobody in particular. He looks over his estate and he watches us, his retainers from a corner of his eye. He is Odysseus and he is Hernan' Cortez. We look at each other for a moment but he then retreats from my greed for knowledge. All the joy forgotten he shakes his rage and moves into the shadow, dazed. I on my part enter the bathroom to relieve myself. As the door swings shut the mirror shows me that I can indeed be scarred by other people's memories. Oh, Freud my Father in Vienna, why let your will be done on the Skid Row as it is in the Hills. And oh, lead us not into temptation but deliver us from ill. I flush...

## No Man Should Judge Another Man.

by Jeffrey and Bonnie Wallender

You say, that you love Him, With your Heart, Mind and Soul.

You say, that you'll follow Him to where ever He goes.

Then you say, Repent, change your evil ways

and no matter who they are, you judge them anyway

Just like they did to Him.

Thats why it is Written,

'No Man should judge, another Man!'

You say, that He saved you, when he died on the Cross.

So you say, let Him save you now, so your soul won't be lost

Then you say, that you're a sinner! But what does that make you?

The right to tell your Neighbor, they're sinners, too!

'Uh, Uh' thats what they did to Him.

Thats why it is Written,

'No Man should judge, another Man.'

We know, that you love Him. We know that you care?

We know that you're trying to do good everywhere.

But you say repent, change your evil ways

and no matter who they are. You judge them anyway.

Just like they did to Him.

Thats Why, it is written,

'No Man should judge, another Man.'

Couple seeking Live-in Job for elderly. Cook, clean, companion.  
Inquire at S.H.O.C.. Jeff & Bonnie Wallender - (916) 442-2156.



# Forum cont. from page 3

for the workers.

Reverend Bryant Wyatt of Mount Calvary Baptist Church wondered when we will finally going to get sick and tired of the situation. When tired of it, folks do something. We should hold political officials accountable. Let's get organized, let's get ready and lets make a difference in our community.

Hach Yasamura said minimum wage will be a crisis in our town before workers are homeless. Emigrants, documented and undocumented, are experiencing exploitation from their employers. Workers don't know their rights. Piece work has been exploitive. AFL-CIO is looking into that problem and also toward getting public benefits reinstated for the emigrants.

Faye Kennedy of the Sacramento Central Labor Council says that our public officials are going to need our support. Email, write or call council person of your district and tell them to support the living wage campaign. Request a meeting with them. (To find out who represents your district, call (916) 264-5442. Send letter to the editors of the Bee, the News and Review and Because People Matter.

The mike was opened for comments from the audience.

Patsy Stevens lives under a freeway bridge and was just on the Freedom Bus Tour. They got lots of media coverage, so far.

Dominic Chan, Community Organizer for the Service Employees International Union says the nursing home industry will soon be transformed.

Andrea Segagh from the Sacramento Activists for Democratic Trade (called SacAct) that formed after the Seattle protest of the WTO. There is a connection between the living wage and economic globalization through the WTO and NAFTA who claim 'freeing our trade'. Actually, they are allowing wages to go down in the U.S. and in other countries and allowing the cost of living to go up. SacAct supports the living wage. Send a letter to Target who are employing workers from Nicaragua that are getting fired for unionizing.

Barbara Raney commutes to the bay area to afford to live but it's becoming a losing battle. She grew up always in situations where she was a part of the oppressed.

Donald Clark urged us to be committed and form a task force on how to bring a living wage ordinance into effect.

A Democratic Socialist told us to stop using euphemisms for the health care situation, such as 'Health Care for All' and 'Universal Health Care'. Say what it is, 'Socialized Health Care'.

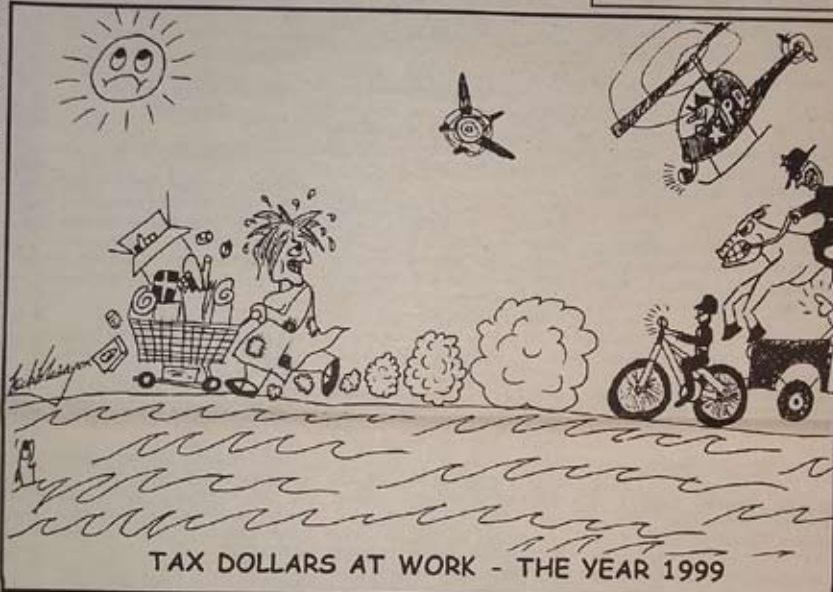
An intern from Sacramento State works with the homeless and mentally ill. They are helping some go to school. They are being required to pull more people off the streets and at the same time, their funding is being cut.

Mr. Ramirez, Organizer with International Longshore Warehouse Workers knows of a

company with a 20 year contract with the city whose employees are getting minimum wage handling, sometimes, dangerous garbage.

The Green Party supports a livable wage, not just for city workers but for all workers. They support rent control here in Sacramento.

If you have any questions about the Living Wage Campaign or would like to get involved, you may contact Jessica or Brian of ACORN at (916) 455-1795.



TAX DOLLARS AT WORK - THE YEAR 1999

## Have Any Extra Blankets?

The homeless sure could use them. It's going to be a cold, cold winter.

Please give to your church or favorite charity, or donations will be accepted at the SHOC office, 1351 North "C" St.

## CLASSIFIED

Mail your classified to the Homeward office 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 2181,  
Sac, CA 95812

## BACKPACKING BASICS - A Book Review

by Paula

You know how you can browse through a book, get what you need out of it, skip all the pages that didn't catch your attention, and you end up a more intelligent person, anyway. You may gain some more excellent information if you read the whole book, took notes, even, but then you may not have the time to skim another book for cool stuff. Needless to say, I skimmed over this book. I didn't read it. If you're planning a hiking trip in the mountains—you read the book. I don't have the time. I'm too busy writing book reviews.

The book is called 'Backpacking Basics', written by Thomas Winnett with Melanie Findling. Read it! It's probably an excellent book. We have a copy in the S.H.O.C./Homeward office if you want to skim through it.

Here's some good stuff I found. Tarping methods. To avoid copyright infringements, I asked our resident (I mean transient) artist Eric, to draw his own version of the book's illustration of tarping methods.

