

HOMeward

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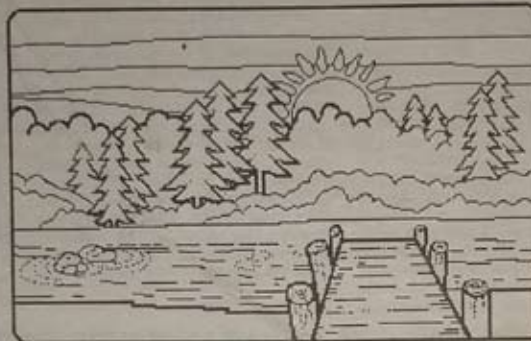
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Homeless
Resources

AMERICAN RIVER CLEANUP

Saturday, March 24, 2001



From 1 PM until we get tired

Join S.H.O.C. for an afternoon of picking up garbage along the American River Parkway. What the heck, it is our mess. Become an official volunteer land steward. Bring some music, dance while you work. It should be fun, with all of us doing it together.

Meet us around the 16th Street exit at the end of Northgate, east of the bridge near the bike trail.. Bags provided.

In the beginning was Hope & Freedom

A brief recollection of American River camping
by Lillian Hanson

camp.

In 1991 and 1992, the police were hounding the homeless: cutting up tents and throwing the camp gear, personal belongings, medicines, food, and sleeping bags into the river and taking ID's away without cause or citations. In short, the police were destroying whatever the homeless needed for survival, wherever they could find it, and in any fashion they could come up with.

It is important to understand that these very same campers whose survival gear was being destroyed were a very united community on the American River at that time. They all watched out for each other. There were families on the river, moms, dads and children as well as single adults and many veterans. The food was shared by all and no one went without. Many a happy night filled with fire-lit chats, laughter, guitars and singing lined the river in those days. Peace prevailed throughout the river

In 1992, there was a group of homeless camping out on the other side of the 'Snake Pit' behind Blue Diamond: Laura, Nate, see Hope & Freedom Page 3



Mikeal O'Toole at the Camp Freedom Memorial Stone in Friendship Park. Photo by Lydia Gans

The California Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project Oakland, California Meeting Report

Cliff Crooks, Paula Lomazzi and Lillian Hanson of SHOC attended CHCROP's (California Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project) second work group meeting held in Oakland, California on January 26, 2001. The meeting was called specifically to decide how we can work together to resolve issues of civil rights violations against the homeless and how to turn around the criminalization of the homeless.

Darren Noy, of B.O.S.S. (the official host), opened the meeting with introductions all around. He then pointed out the need for setting up some kind of ongoing communication between the different advocacy groups and the need for perseverance in continuing what we began even should the funding be cut off. This was met with a strong YES by all. Therefore, the immediate object at hand became to form a strong CHCROP group first, by coordinating amongst each other.

Mara Raider of the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness, facilitator, then explained how CHCROP works. The local groups and coalitions gather the information and priorities from their own homeless and then convey

this to the Regional CHCROP work groups, which in turn relay it to the state CHCROP, which then gives the information to NHCROP (National Homeless Civil Rights Organizing Project). Information is relayed from NHCROP down through that same path to the local homeless populations. Thus, CHCROP is formed through this interaction. B.O.S.S. and Housing California are the fiscal sponsors of CHCROP.

Pete White of the Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness, facilitator, then opened up the floor asking the different advocates for the common themes/trends throughout northern and southern California in the criminalization of the homeless. The following problems were shared by most: Business Improvement Districts (BID's) patrolling of public streets, loitering, vandalizing of camps, throwing away of sleeping bags and personal belongings, shopping cart tickets, jaywalking tickets, the harassment of homeless newspaper vendors, sleeping in vehicles, and the rise of homeless deaths. Adam Arms of the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness spoke of the success that the homeless have had in

getting back their personal belongings by suing in small claims court. Robert Norse of HUFF offered the issue of "sleeping in vehicles", (campers who sleep in their vehicles), as a focal point for CHCROP. In Santa Cruz, there were 19 homeless deaths in 1999 and 41 homeless deaths in the year 2000.

The Oakland advocates pointed out that the "no-cause" evictions are up 300% causing the seniors to be unable to pay the high rents and are forced to stay at St. Mary's emergency winter shelter. Oakland and Alameda Counties have declared a state of emergency on senior homelessness. Ken and Niki Lane reported that the officials of Stanislaus County do not even recognize a homeless problem and that their present task is one of education. Terry Messman of Street Spirit would like to see the homeless trained to write about what they see and experience on the streets. Cliff Crooks of SHOC believes that we need to make a statewide march on the Governor because we seem to be fighting a losing battle with the cities and counties. The organization also voted to educate the public about the plight of the homeless.

It was decided that CHCROP think about solutions concerning these common themes and to collect data on them as well, such as: what are the laws; the number of homeless deaths; the number of shelter beds; the number of homeless not in shelters and who are the groups involved with these issues between now and May 20, when all advocates will meet again during the Housing Conference in Sacramento.

On April 13, CHCROP will have its first conference call amongst the different statewide advocate groups from one to three o'clock in the afternoon. On March 19, 2001, the Northern regional CHCROP will meet in Santa Cruz in order to form some kind of work agenda. Finally, on May 20, 2001, CHCROP will have a statewide work-group meeting at the Housing California Conference.

In short, the advocates will be organizing to collect data on the statewide level with the aim of effecting public perception in order to change the law in the courts and in legislation.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT.
BRING US YOUR COMPLAINTS.

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GOOD NEWS FROM OREGON: Judge Rules Against Camping Ban

BY BRIDGET REILLY

During the first month that my partner John and I were living in our new home in Oakridge, Oregon, we saw an item of good news in the paper entitled "Camping ordinance struck down", which appeared courtesy of the Associated Press. It stated that Portland's camping ban had finally been declared unconstitutional by Multnomah County Circuit Court Judge Stephen L. Gallagher.

As I know from plenty of firsthand experience, the homeless population has been continually throttled by a legal system that pretends the solution to homelessness is to punish its victims and try to "correct" their adaptive lifestyles and behaviors. The laws that punish them are always illogical because homelessness is not a willful criminal act. It is totally ridiculous and unworkable to expect people to "comply" with laws that make their existence illegal.

Yet there is always resistance against any efforts to overturn such brutal laws as camping bans, no matter how convincing our arguments that such laws are unconstitutional. That's why the Portland decision is such a milestone, setting a new precedent, and Judge Gallagher should be commended for having had the courage to go against the tide of anti-homeless sentiment and do what was right.

I remember all too well my own painful experience with Portland's camping ban, from the time my former partner Rick and I lived there from November 1991 to March 1992. We had moved to Oregon from Boston, traveling across the country in our little Honda station wagon, hoping to find work and a new place to live. We'd both

been homeless for several months prior to this as a result of the wiped-out Massachusetts economy. Rick had been in Portland for a while in 1988, and he reported that the economy was much better there, jobs were more plentiful, the people were friendlier, and there was every reason why we should move to Oregon together to start a new life. So we did.

We hadn't figured on Oregon's economy also going downhill, at least not as much as it had in a mere four years, but when we arrived there we found a very different Portland from the one Rick remembered. The employment market was much worse, the landlords had much tighter restrictions on whom they would rent to, and there was a general atmosphere of hostility and intolerance toward the homeless that hadn't been there before. These were clearly more conservative times in which the homeless segment of the population was being viewed with increasing suspicion by those more fortunate—or at least as an eyesore, an aberration—an extra limb that could bear to be amputated.

Because of this we had a much harder time getting established than we had ever imagined. We were still living in the car months after we'd hoped to be in an apartment, and engaged in an uphill struggle to put a few hundred dollars together to save for that elusive abode. There didn't seem to be any light at the end of the tunnel. Not only was our homeless condition lasting much longer than we'd hoped, but we also were not getting the support and encouragement we were entitled to for trying to change it. Instead, we were getting every manner of discriminatory treatment from cops and others who assumed us to be dope dealers or burglars or some kind of troublemakers. Plus, we were from out-of-

state, and Oregon was generally hostile to newcomers trying to settle here.

But we weren't about to leave Oregon like they were always trying to scare us into doing. We had burned too many bridges to get there, the car wouldn't have stood another cross-country trip back east, and we didn't see any better prospects anywhere else.

Upon our arrival in November, we had jumped right in with the homeless crowd that ate at the St. Francis dining hall every day. This also naturally meant parking adjacent to the building earlier in the day while waiting for dinner, as we saw numerous other car-campers also doing. The part of 11th Avenue next to St. Francis Park seemed a pleasant and safe place to be, there were no parking meters and no one seemed to care how long we parked there, day or night. So it seemed logical that we should also sleep there while we had only the back of the car for a bed. Since this was one place where the cops never bothered us, we had the impression that the priests at St. Francis were exemplifying the old-fashioned spirit of Christian mercy toward the poor and needy, the ancient tradition of a church being a sanctuary for people who have nowhere else to go. The priests may not have liked us all that much, but they tolerated our presence because they seemed to know how desperately we needed this refuge.

After four months of living in this naive illusion, suddenly it all changed. We were just settling down to sleep on the night of March 2 when there was a blinding light shining on the back window of the car, then a tap on the window and an ominous voice announcing that "Camping is prohibited in the city of Portland!"

While this pair of cops was checking our IDs, we got into a conversation with them and found that they were actually somewhat human, especially after one of them said, "We know you're no ax-murderers..." So we did our best to explain that we were here looking for work but had encountered nothing but discrimination since we'd been in Portland. No landlord would rent to us when our only source of income was Rick's unemployment checks and we had no local references. It was also very hard to find an employer who would hire us for more than a few days' work because we were homeless. And no bank would even let us open an account without a local residence and Oregon ID.

The cops seemed sympathetic to all of this, saying, "We can't pretend to have all the answers." But they also asked the eternal ignorant question, "Can't you go to a shelter?"

We tried to explain that it was insane to expect us, a couple in our forties, to give up the relative privacy of our car, where at least we could sleep together as a couple and opt for a quiet place to do it in, and instead go to a noisy crowded shelter where we'd have to sleep in separate dorms with a lot of strangers and have no privacy nor any control of the conditions.

Again they nodded and said they didn't want to do this, but the orders had come down from "above", that there was a new crackdown going on against illegal homeless camps. They wished us luck as they handed us our citations.

By the time our trial date came around see Oregon next page

ATTENTION LOAVES & FISHES GUESTS TB WARNING

Loaves & Fishes is asking their guests to be tested for TB because Sacramento has had several cases of active TB over the last couple of months.

For your own health and safety and for that of others, they are asking for your cooperation in having a TB test.

After you take the test, you MUST have it read TWO DAYS after it is given. You will then be given a BLUE CARD which will be good for one year.

If you know that you ALWAYS TEST POSITIVE, please report to the nurse at Loaves & Fishes and she will arrange for you to have a chest x-ray at the Primary Care Chest Clinic, and if that is OK, you will be given your BLUE CARD.

The TB test is now being required for all shelter services, so if you have not received a card elsewhere, please be cooperative. Loaves & Fishes may not be able to provide services if their guests and staff are not tested!

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN
THIS VERY IMPORTANT MATTER!!**

Oregon cont. from page 2

four months later, we were in the process of re-locating to Lane County. So the judge didn't charge us a fine, though she did enter the "conviction" on our record. Thus the desired objective was obtained, of chasing us out of Portland.

Because of all this I know how appropriate the "right to travel" argument is as one of the constitutional challenges to camping bans. This is one point that Judge Gallagher saw as valid. It is also one that has been raised in numerous other camping cases in the past.

My more recent experience with an anti-camping law has been in Eugene. And once again I am going to quote from legal briefs for two such cases. Danielle Smith's unsuccessful challenge to Eugene's camping ban, and my own successful attempt to get a camping citation thrown out of court. The one in Danielle's case reveals the class bias of a judge whose interest is in preserving the status quo, while mine shows that of a progressive lawyer who wish-

es to improve the lot of the poor. Here is what they both had to say about the "right to travel" arguments.

Judge Henry wrote, "What defendant argues is that as Eugene enforces the ordinance, the city discriminates against homeless persons by encroaching on their constitutionally protected right to travel.

"Defendant cites a number of cases for the proposition that the freedom of travel is a right constitutionally secured by the 14th Amendment.

"If the Eugene ordinance discourages travel, it does so indirectly, for that is not its stated purpose.

"...The right to travel free from direct burdens or restrictions cannot be equated with the freedom to travel unfettered by the operation of local laws and restrictions which may have an indirect consequence of discouraging travel..."

Compare this to the word of

Hope & Freedom cont. from page 1

Freddy Johnson, Richard Todd, Mike Hauser, Michael O'Toole and others who called themselves the "Highlanders", sharing food, taking out their garbage, and policing themselves, they were a tight family. Blue Diamond decided to sell the parcel of land that was their home and so hired a man to bulldoze the camps. At the sight of the bulldozer one of the Highlanders commenced to wrap himself in an American flag and sat in front of the bulldozer, refusing to move. The driver could not find it within himself to destroy the camp and left. A few days later, the mayor, Ann Rudin told the Highlanders that they had to move and gave them permission to camp on the American River. Out of this was born Camp Hope and Camp Freedom.

Various homeless advocates were able to negotiate a nine month trial camping arrangement on the American River with the understanding that they would clean up their own camps and self-police. There would be no drugs or alcohol. Mayor Ann Rudin agreed not to interfere with the camps as long as the campers kept their part of the verbal agreement. The two camps were located on the American River between the bicycle bridge and the 16th St. bridge, (with a good distance between them). Both camps were well dug in with some wooden structures. They took out their own garbage, took care of their own and were completely self-policed. Camp Hope consisted of approximately 75-100 campers with several families. The children were taken to Mustard Seed School. The sick were taken to the clinics and cared for. Camp Freedom had a lot of Veterans. Many of them recall the "Apartment" on the river, complete with four rooms, glass windows, patios all around, and steps leading to a dock. It belonged to Sonny Drummond. Some river homes had electricity ran by car batteries. The cooking facilities consisted of barbecue pits made of cinder bricks. The make shift toilets were dug out of the dirt, filled with lime, and filled up with dirt. The showers consisted of wooden pallets on the dirt floor with canvas draped around the pallets. With two gallons of water in hand, the shower commenced. Mikeal O'Toole had a cell phone and two pagers as a member of HOP, (Homeless Outreach Program), because HOP had a policy of being available 24 hours a day for people on the river who needed help. Anyone could call Mike free of charge at any time.

The homeless advocates decided to hold a vigil on the lawn of the State Capitol in order to bring attention to the plight of the homeless. The MadHousers built a small wooden building to house a homeless family and set it on the lawn of the State Capitol in plain view for the public to see. A couple, Chuck and Sarah, volunteered to live in the shack and moved in shortly after Thanksgiving Day of 1992. Sarah recalls all the support and well wishes that she and Chuck received from the passer-byers. Lawyers and secretaries who worked at the State Capitol, the state police, the nightclubs, even groups of children would visit them continually, encouraging their efforts and even helping them. The surrounding restaurants brought hot coffee. Friends brought food and other people brought donations of all kinds. Sarah and Chuck remembered those days with happiness and a feeling of something wonderful accomplished.

One day, shortly after Christmas, Sarah and Chuck returned home to find themselves locked out of their house. Upon request, the State officials opened up their shack and returned their belongings and they moved back in. On March 1, 1993, Sarah and Chuck returned home again to find themselves locked out. The State officials gave them a motel room for a month, yet they never got their belongings back. The shack was moved to Loaves and Fishes sometime between March 1 and March 15, 1993.

Camp Hope fell on January 25, 1993. The stone that had been engraved at the camp by the Snake Pit with the words "Freedom Camp, home of the Highlanders" was carried by the Highlanders to Loaves and Fishes as a permanent memorial to Camp Hope and Camp Freedom.

It is important to note that as these advances were being made and that the homeless community had the direct support and involvement of important community leaders such as David Moss, a Methodist Minister of Loaves and Fishes, Tim Brown of the County Mental Health (now Director of Loaves & Fishes), Ann Rudin, Mayor of Sacramento, Bishop Quinn, Archbishop of the Sacramento Catholic Diocese, Greg Bunker of Francis House and the Sacramento Housing Alliance. The homeless community itself stood solidly behind these accomplishments. =

attorney Brian Michaels in my case. Here he pulls no punches. "The City Attorney...tries each and every camping 'violation' when levied against someone unable to pay the fine, maintaining the harassment which will get the result desired, namely, to chase the homeless out of town. That practice is violative of the citizen's constitutional right to travel...The Eugene ordinance impinges on that right by, in effect, denying those unable to afford the rental or purchase of fixed real estate dwellings the right to live in Eugene.

"...Eugene cannot isolate itself from the economic hardships that befall so many of the people of this country, forcing homelessness on so many millions. Using the camping ban exclusively as a measure targeting the indigent and, by the imposition of fines, forcing those unable to pay the

lines to 'get out of town', clearly limits those persons' constitutional right to travel and to live in this city."

So there you have it. Let us hope that Judge Gallagher's long-overdue and welcome ruling will set a new precedent, encouraging other cities to re-examine their own camping bans which unfairly punish the homeless for being homeless. =

Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign: Bus Tour Update

By: Douglas Anderson

As reported in our November 2000 issue of Homeward, there was a 16 day tour that ran across the state of California by the Poor Peoples Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC) to educate the homeless and working-poor about the organization's mission to bring public attention to the poverty, abuses, and economic injustice happening right here in our state.

Heartfelt story after heartfelt story was shared amongst each other on that tour. Some bringing sorrow, some bringing laughter, but most bringing tears. It's hard trying to imagine the adverse conditions that our homeless and working-poor are sometimes forced to endure.

In the efforts to reconstruct the economic and human rights policies of our state, PPEHRC hopes to strengthen its alliance with the National Coalition on Homelessness in an endeavor to build and maintain a proactive agenda which will put an end to civil rights abuses, economic injustices, and homelessness. Therefore, the homeless and the working-poor, working together under the umbrella

of this growing movement, shall endeavor to do something about these horrifying legal abuses and injustices.

Although many human rights violations were documented and recorded with the appropriate political authorities, the organization's primary mission is to follow up on these violations, big and small. They will collect and present human rights complaints to the United Nations to show where the U.S. is in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, signed by U.N. members, including the U.S.. The violations are not in the poor's best interest to allow to continue. PPEHRC shall continue to educate people on this growing movement, and shall continue to work towards bringing a "brighter" spotlight back to poverty.

The Civil Rights Legal Division (CRLD) of the Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco, is already working to defend the civil and human rights of homeless people, primarily those who are forced to live on the streets and in shelters. PPEHRC in Sacramento is working to create and maintain ties with CRLD to help reshape institutions and local policies relevant to poor individuals and families by creating political alliances for the home-

less and low income. PPEHRC will be working with the Women's Economic Agenda Project, (WEAP), because of that organization's primary focus on repairing the economic injustices of the working-poor in this state.

As it stands, we hope that these missions, with their strength and unity, will ensure that homelessness will be alleviated with intensive outreach, support, training, and organizing, which will allow homeless persons to participate in planning and advocacy efforts and in the formation of government and social practices, programs, and policies.

In order to be heard, PPEHRC needs voices. In order to have voices, PPEHRC needs the homeless and working-poor all across the United States to step up to the microphone and tell the world of America's abuses and injustices. PPEHRC needs you to tell the world that these actions are unacceptable within all homeless communities and that the disadvantaged want the abuses to stop. Your energy and your time are invaluable to this cause! So please, join PPEHRC in this campaign to alleviate homelessness in the most humane way possible. *

DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP ACCUSED OF PANHANDLING

by Paula

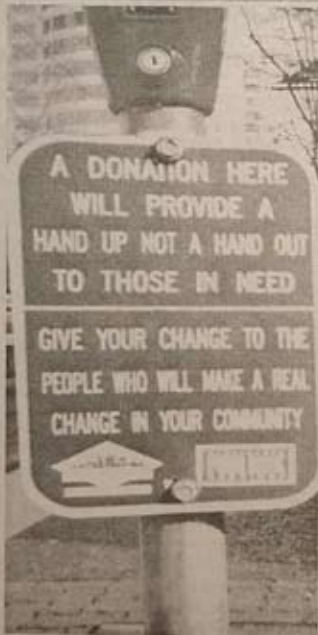
I've heard the Downtown Partnership (managers of downtown Sacramento's business improvement district) and downtown merchants try to discourage panhandling in the downtown area. They say that the panhandlers will discourage potential shoppers from shopping downtown. They've been trying for years.

I remember many years ago a campaign where the area merchants were asked to pass out cards to their customers, with a list of homeless services on them. The customers were instructed to give the card to panhandlers instead of giving them money.

More recently, the Downtown Partnership has come up with another brilliant plan—get this—They have installed meters (that look like parking meters) at various pedestrian locations throughout the downtown area. They may hope to coax those who feel like being charitable into donating money into the meter, instead of giving it to the panhandlers.

The sign says the money will go "to the people who will make a real change in your community". There are two names, "Downtown Partnership" and "Sacramento Food Bank Services". So, the Downtown Partnership, who in the past has always disapproved of panhandling on the mall, has broke down and taken to panhandling, themselves. Well, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em', as the saying goes.

And they aren't even panhandling with good manners, like the people who have the common courtesy to ask for money in person so they can tell the giver a "thank you", "God Bless You", a smile. Instead, you get the meters, cold and metal, strategically placed so they can hit several of the better spots at once, without having to



stand out there, braving the elements.

And to make matters worse—all the meters are painted red. We all know Red is an aggressive color. That means the Downtown Partnership is engaged in "aggressive panhandling".

There used to be a meter on the corner of 10th and J that would threaten pedestrians as they walked by. It had to be forcibly removed from the sidewalk before someone coming around the corner too fast ran into it and got seriously injured.

Oh, and the meter on the corner of 10th and L is so unkempt, its a real eyesore, with paint chipping off. I think it smells like dog urine, too.

And who really knows how they're going to spend their share of the money after you give it to them? Maybe they'll just spend it on beer (the Downtown Partnership sponsors the Downtown Concert Series, coming up this summer and they do have a beer garden there). It's possible your generosity will just enable them to buy beer.

Actually, I'm just having fun. I really don't know if the Downtown Partnership keeps any of the money for themselves. They may give it all to the Sacramento Food Bank, I hope so. The food bank is a worthy organization and does a lot of good for the poor. Put some change in the meter, or just to be safe, write them a check and send it to the food bank directly.

Or save your change for a real live panhandler. Don't be afraid of them. When one approaches you, think of it as an opportunity to meet another member of your community. Give to them, don't give to them, tell them to get a job, stop and talk, whichever response you choose is your right, as it is their right of freedom of speech to ask. And, hey, they just might need a cup of coffee. =

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 Birtle in the library at Leaves & 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 she 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 web page 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, Leaves & Fishes, PO Box 2161, Sacramento, CA 95812.

For information call 442-2156

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

excerpts from the paper are published on the web at www.geocities.yahoo.com

Homeward Volunteers

A Special Thanks to our volunteers:

Paula; Art; Douglas; Mikeal; Lee; Christine; Sunshine; David; J.; Lillian

Can you believe it? Loaves and Fishes required everyone to have a TB test before they'd feed you lunch! I don't like being treated that way! I'm hungry and in order to eat I had to get a TB test! What could be worse?

*** worse is when you are exposed to TB and have to take drugs, (that's hard on your liver), for 6 months. They give you vitamin B-6 to counter-act the harm to your liver. But you wouldn't be able to drink alcohol with it for 6 months!

***and worse than that—you could catch it! Get TB and you take medication for 1 to 2 years! And you have to wear a mask for awhile when you're out in public or are around people.

*** and what could even be worse than that? What if you had TB, didn't know it, and gave it to others?

GET TESTED

(*& enjoy your lunch*)



TO THE POLICEMAN WHO WENT TO CHURCH ON SUNDAY

I was hungry
and you took away my ID
I couldn't go to a food locker

I was cold
and you took away my warm clothes and blankets

I was weary
and you wouldn't let me rest

I was broken hearted
and instead of giving me comfort you showed your contempt

I was lonely
and you wouldn't give me a kind word

I was frightened
and you terrorized and threatened me

I had had love and compassion
and you showed me hate

I showed you respect
and you treated me as WORTHLESS

I was homeless and you didn't care

Is this really the way you
want to live your life?

Sunshine/AKA Billeen Pruett

P.S. Not all officers are like this—but for the ones who are _____

The Racial Justice Coalition

By Douglas Anderson

"The ultimate test of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy," said Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963.

A multi-ethnic, multi-racial coalition of individuals and organizations has formed The Racial Justice Coalition, following Governor Gray Davis' veto of SB 1389, (the California Traffic Stops Statistics Act), a bill that was a modest first step towards dealing with the serious problem of racial profiling. Governor Gray Davis claimed that there was not enough "evidence" to prove that racial profiling was a problem statewide, or that it even exists. * But studies have shown that the vast majority of people who are stopped, interrogated, and searched by police are people of color and are innocent. The California Highway Patrol, (CHP), reported that in one year alone (1997), a drug interdiction canine unit stopped more than 34,000 people of color in the hope of finding drugs, yet less than 2% of those people stopped were actually carrying drugs or other contraband in their vehicles. This study strongly implies discrimination against motorists of color and therefore this profiling policy must be stopped.

The goals of the Racial Justice Coalition are to put an end to this States' treatment towards people of color by means of signatures that would strongly encourage Governor Davis to sign the bill that would mandate a statewide data collection for every police agency in California to keep track of all traffic stops on our roads and highways. SB 1389 would require law enforcement, for the first time, to collect data regarding the race and ethnicity of the motorist stopped so that it would be possible to determine whether and to what extent law enforcement agencies were violating the civil rights of people of color.

The Racial Justice Coalition invites anyone interested and who wants to share in their commitment to fairness, equality, and compassion to join them as they build a new movement for racial justice in California. Through unity, positive action, and strategic campaigns, the Coalition is committed to moving public policy in the direction of fairness, equality, and compassion for all.

For further information, please contact the racial justice Coalition at (415) 621-2493, or: the American Civil Liberties Union, (ACLU); Asian Law Caucus; Ella Baker Center for Human Rights (EBC); California League of United Latin-American Citizens (LULAC); California State Conference of NAACP Branches (NAACP); Hearts and Minds Collaborative; La Raza Centro Legal; Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the Bay Area (LCCR); Northern California Coalition for Immigrant Rights (NCCIR); or the United Farm workers (UFW).

*For further information on SB 1389 or on the study of the CHP stopping, searching and interrogating people of color, please contact the Racial Justice Coalition, Michelle Alexander at (415) 621-2492, or e-mail them at: malexander@acluinc.org.

Joining SHA

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

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

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

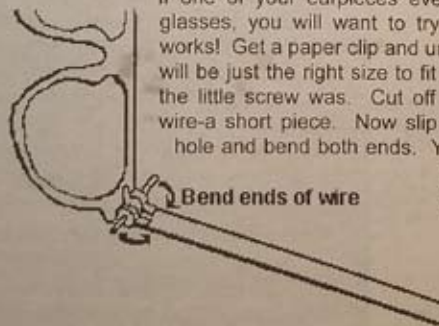
Annual Membership dues:
Standard, \$35;
Low-income, \$15
Organizations:

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

Send donations to:

Sacramento Housing Alliance
PO Box 2430
Sacramento, CA 95812

SUNSHINE'S SURVIVAL SKILLS



If one of your earpieces ever falls off your glasses, you will want to try this. It really works! Get a paper clip and unbend it a bit. It will be just the right size to fit the hole where the little screw was. Cut off the end of the wire—a short piece. Now slip it in the screw hole and bend both ends. You now have a good pair of glasses again.

If anyone has suggestions or ideas for workable or unique survival skills, please submit them to me so I can share them with others. To do that, write and/or draw your idea and leave it at the SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee) office and ask for it to be put in my file. Credit will be given to the people whose ideas are used in this column. One thing I am interested in getting is bike trailers, homeless style. The SHOC office is located on the corner of North C and Ahern Street at the end of the Loaves and Fishes complex.

With A Bible In Our Hands

by The Rev. Jeffrey and Bonnie Wallender

We have wondered many times, why we were born
and if there was a reason people died?
Then when it finally came to us, we wondered why?
People kill people lie!

With a bible in our hands, a memory of a man,
We wondered- why?

We have wondered many times, why people hate?
When there's so much love to be found,
So much mistrust and deceiving going on,
forgetting about right and
worrying about wrong.

With a bible in our Hands, A memory of a man,
We wondered- why?

Now we both know and believed in what we're reading,
People everywhere, they say it's true
We can't understand after reading about this man,
Why people can't get it together
And live that perfect life! Not even lie!

With A Bible In Our Hands, A memory of a man
We wondered- why?

VIETNAM STORY

Honoring Howard L. Hoover And All Vietnam Veterans

By C.E. Conley

THIS IS TO TELL YOUR STORY,
HOW YOU FOUGHT FOR OLD GLORY
17 AND 18, OFF TO WAR YOU GO
TO WHERE, YOU DO NOT KNOW
DRESSED FOR WAR - IN COMBAT GEAR
WILL THE WAR LAST MORE THAN A YEAR,
OVER FOREIGN LAND YOU FLY
NEVER MIND THE QUESTION WHY
LANDING ON FOREIGN SOIL, TRAINED AND READY TO GO
SEARCHING FOR ENEMIES, HIGH AND LOW
PARATROOPERS FILLED THE SKY
SHOT DOWN BY ENEMIES NEAR BY
YOU SEE YOUR BUDDIES DROP LEFT AND RIGHT
BUT YOU KNOW YOU MUST CONTINUE THE FIGHT
THE WOUNDED LAY ON THE GROUND
MEDICS HELPING OVER MORTER SOUND
TO THE STATES THE WOUNDED WENT
IN A HUEY THEY WERE SENT
MISSING IN ACTION, WE MUST NOT FORGET
YOU FOUGHT FOR US WITHOUT REGRET
PRISONERS OF WAR PLEASE LET US PRAY
THAT YOU'LL COME HOME TO US SOMEDAY
LET'S NOT FORGET THE HOMELESS VETS
YOU WERE REJECTED BUT HAVE NO REGRETS
NO FLAGS, NO CHEERS, NO WELCOME HOME
MADE YOU FEEL ALL ALONE
GLORY TO ALL WOMEN AND MEN WHO FOUGHT TO KEEP US
FREE
WHO WOULD GO TO WAR AGAIN WITH ME
IN THE AIR, LAND AND SEA
YOU FOUGHT TO KEEP AMERICA FREE
BLESS THE MEDICS, DOCTORS AND NURSES ALL
AND THOSE WHO HELPED BUILD "THE VIETNAM WALL"
ALL THOSE WHO HELPED MAKE AMERICA FREE
PLEASE! VISIT THOSE AT THE VIETNAM WALL FOR ME
GOD BLESS AMERICA.

2001: AN ODYSSEY IN OUR MENTAL SPACES

BY FRED SABOLOVIC

Like fat dogs, workers are chained to the building. They look at me, I know them and they know me not. A cup of Carl's Jr coffee drops to the ground. I would not touch it with a stick! Why the watery sludge when, for the same effort, one can have a shot of life giving espresso? A dirty paper opens with a bad band name on it, "Broken Windshield." Why can't we write a hit song? It's very simple, nothing interesting happens in their life.

She avoids victims! They carry a disease and the disease is DEFEAT! Eh, she walks fast past by and turns the corner. I have seen her before. Not that she's in any great hurry. Fast walking is fashionable downtown. She meditates in her car, hands upturned. Not that she cares about Buddhism or anything, half of it is for the control of the masses and of environment anyway. She can't care less! Status quo is her world. Eternal present. She joins the well groomed slaves. They are in a hurry, not different that the Fat Dogs having their greasy lunch down there. These are Poodles, we groomed indeed, on a fake silver chain. Fast walking is effective in productivity, and now my dear your humble narrator has to slow down and take it all in. Her is her, and their, Owner. Yes their owner my dear ones and now is what happened next. Rewind!

He is dressed in elegant tailored of course French mega expensive suit. He Walks Toward Me In Small Steps His Feet In Slipper Fine Shoes, At His Side Is His Italian Wife At Least Part Italian Roman Geisha She Dislikes Us Cold Peasant Types And Is Bored. What is he doing Here. None of my Business. They are members of that expensive Hollywood club where he undresses her himself and then watches. She looks at our time tower and its black eye, smiling now for the first time in years. He inquires whether I know a place where they serve decent Espresso. Oh do I know. I take them to that more light benighted Star Bucks.

Conversationists are of course the poodles, their important official conversation ends and he allows them to be at ease. They began to chatter like boys in the sandpit. A couple of females really heat up seeing me in such illustrious company. He hitches her short dress up and I warn that I will write them a ticket for indecent exposure in our small rural town. He softens up considerable, just as at A.A. meetings. He claims to be free. Maybe. He used to puff coke in his office's marble bathroom. I say that I will write this up. He springs up a twenty and throws it at the table. For Overnight Express when I do write them up. I know the address, how could I ever forget that building on Wilshire. I used to go there to pick up checks, machine signed by one of his underlings. I may dislike the underling but I really do not dislike him. How will he use me this time? I do not know. Yet I am sure he will make two more million out of these twenty bucks. How? I have no clue. I think about that philosopher in the barrel. Anyway I pick them up and walk to the Carl's Junior. I did not say I didn't like their food. I order two spicy chicken, one new dollar burger and a very large French fries. I haven't had fries in a month. With all due respect, but the ones we serve are entirely cholesterol free. Adieu



Shelter

by Leonore Mathews

<p>Who would know or care that I needed shelter as the wind and rain played games on the roof of my old "Chevy"</p> <p>Winter brought rain drops from a leaky roof</p>	<p>dripping slowly on the front seat Nesting in a sleeping bag usually warm and comfy</p> <p>Who would know or care that me of all creatures needed shelter.</p>
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Early Dawn

by Lenore Mathews

Bring back the dawn soon
but not too late
so dancing black shadows
will fade
as glossy sunbeams kiss
our faces
and we can once more
join the human race
forgetting we are homeless.

Where Do The Homeless Go?

by The Rev. Jeffrey and
Bonnie Wallender

Can you hear the sound of the
rain?
Can you hear the lightning
strike again?
Where do the homeless go?
Only the homeless know!

All the poor are in despair.
The growing desolates are
everywhere!
And the rich grow old to do
what they want.
To live as they want...to say
what they want!

You can't sleep, it's against the
law!

You can't stop, or you'll lose it
all!
Oh, God, what's it all about?
Oh, God is there no way out?

You better wake up, you better
be afraid!
You'd better hurry, before it's
too late!
And, you're lost without a home.

Can you hear the sound of the
rain?
Can you hear the lightning
strike again?
Where do the Homeless go?
Only the Homeless know!



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 2161,
Sac, CA 95812

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

HOMELESS RESOURCES

Overnight Shelters

Salvation Army: 12th and North B St. 30 days per year. Dormitory living, C&S: Dinner, breakfast clothing for residents. Men/Women: Sign-up SA patio weekdays at 1PM. 442-0331

St. John's Shelter: 12th & No. C Sts. Women/Children, 14 day max stay: 3:00pm to 7:30am. Weekday signups anytime at door. Weekend signups 3:00pm: Dinner & showers provided for guests. call 448-0701.

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 6:30pm at mission, Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 7:30pm Chapel Service with meal afterwards. 8am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm. open to all homeless men. 447-3268

SAEHC, Sacramento Area Emergency Housing Center: 4516 Parker Ave. 24 hrs. Family Shelter: Families, single adults with children who have no other resource. Women's Refuge, single women, no children. Call for screening/space availability 455-2160

Day Shelters

Friendship Park: 12th St. & North C. Weekdays 7am - 2:30pm: open to anyone. Many services

Meals

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. 7 days, Evening meal. Men/Women: Church service 7:30pm required, dinner following 8:30-9:15pm. Sunday 11am service, lunch at noon. 447-3268

Loaves & Fishes: 1321 No. C St. Lunch every day 11:30am-1pm. Tickets available 7 am-12:30 pm at Friendship Park weekdays. Inquire on C street on weekends 8-11am.

Maryhouse: 1321 No. C St. suite 32: Breakfast for Women and children 8am-9am. Day shelter 8am-3pm weekdays for women and families.

Free Clothing

Sacramento Food Bank: 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 8am-4pm 456-1980

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm. Women and Children: Wed. only. Call for appointment to go in at 11am, 1 or 1:30pm, or attend Bible study at 9:15am and get clothing at 10am 447-3268

Medical

Mercy Clinic: Adults, children. Nurse's office in Friendship park 7:30am & 12:30pm. 446-3345

Capital Health Clinic: 1500 C St. (near 15th) Adults 8-5 M, W, and Th... also child's vaccinations & well-clinic. 440-5302.

Sacramento Dental Clinic: 1500 C St. (near 15th) Adults-Emergency Dental Call for Appt. M-F 7:40am-5pm. Walk-ins screened for eligibility. 552-8300

Mental Health

Guest House, 1400 N. A St.: Homeless Mental Health Clinic, M,W,Th,Fri., 8-11:30am Tues 8-11:30am only. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 443-6972

TLC's Emergency Outreach: 1400 No. A St. 24hr answering machines; adults; referrals to clinics; help w/SSI aps, housing. M-F 9am-4pm 443-2996

Consumer Self-Help (South): 3031 Franklin Blvd. or 4972 Date Ave. A daytime mental

health self-help program with activities and groups for mental health consumers. Referrals to mental health and other services available. 737-7100

Crisis Intervention

Wind Youth Center: 300 Ahern St. Serves youth ages 12-19. Serves breakfast and lunch, offers clothing, case mgmt. and access to emergency shelter. Open six days: M-W & F from 8:30am to 1pm and Sat 11am to 12:30pm. Youth outreach.

WEAVE: Services for victims of domestic violence and their children. Referrals to court mandated battery intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: 920-2952

Sacramento Mental Health Center (County): 2150 Stockton Blvd (at T St.) 24hr. Will evaluate anyone for voluntary or involuntary psychiatric care due to danger to self or others. In-patient care facility, drop-in. 732-3637

AIDS / HIV

CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Service): 1500 21st St. Serves people with HIV and AIDS. Medical care, mental health, case mgmt, health ed and regional prevention/ed classes. 443-3299

Breaking Barriers: Homeless Outreach Program provides direct services to people living with AIDS and HIV. Transportation to social services, medical appointments, job interviews, and housing assistance. 447-2437

Alternative Test Site: Free anonymous testing. Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. 874-7720.

Legal Aid

Protection & Advocacy Inc: Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5746

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

Welfare Rights: 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm. AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 736-0616

Health Rights Hotline: 551-2100

Miscellaneous

Francis House: 1422 C st. 9:30-11:30 am M-F: walk-in or referrals provides resource counseling, advocacy, emergency vouchers and referrals 1-3 pm weekdays 443-2646

Social Services (Welfare): 28th & R St. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst & location, 732-3156; TANF 732-3456; GA 732-3459. Food stamps, 732-3500

Employment Development Department (EDD): 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) or 8930 Big Horn Blvd. M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services. 227-0300

Medi-Cal: 4875 Broadway M-F 8am-5pm 732-3490; 7220 24th St. (at Florin) M-Th 8-11am, 1-3pm Fri 8-11am. Phone ap OK, ID needed 395-4551

Social Security Office: 8351 Folsom Blvd (College Greens Lite-rail stop) M-F 9am-4:30pm 381-9410; Natl line 1-800-772-1213

Infoline Sacramento: Tele-info & referral service:

498-1000

California Youth Crisis Line:

1-800-843-5200

VA Outreach: 923-9787



Avid Reader
1003 L St.

The Metro
11th and K St.

8th Street Cafe
700 H St.

Bakery and Donuts
1122 11th St.

Tony's Deli and Mart
1131 J St.

Open Book
910 21st St.

Lunas
1414 16th St.

Weatherstone Coffee
813 21st St.

The Book Collector
1008 24th St.

Fluff & Fold
21st and H St.

CitySuds
19th and L St.

F.D. Coffee Shop
19th and L St.

Greta Coffee Shop
19th and Capitol

Noah's NY Bagels
1901 J St.

Beers Books
15th and L St.

Italian Importing Co.
1827 J St.

Sacramento Public Library
828 J St.

Senior Citizens Center
J and 27th St.

Yes!

I want to see **HOMEWARD**,
a newspaper written by homeless people,
expand in Sacramento. Enclosed find my donation of \$15
for a one year subscription.

Please mail my copies to:

Name: _____
Street & Apt: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip: _____

Make checks payable to the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) and mail to:
SHOC, Loaves & Fishes, PO Box 2161, Sacramento, CA 95812

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mail list

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