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# HOMeward

## STREET JOURNAL

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'I think of art, at its most  
significant, as a DEW line—  
a Distant Early Warning  
system that can always be  
relied on to tell the old  
culture what is beginning to  
happen to it.'  
Marshall McLuhan

## MARCHING TO SOLUTIONS

McClellan housing would help greatly to alleviate Sacramento County's homeless problem.

by Douglas Anderson

Drawing attention to the housing crisis, more than 70 demonstrators marched at the former McClellan Air Force Base to draw attention to the dispute over the property for affordable housing.

This public action was delayed as long as possible to give the County a chance for constructive action. But, thus far, the County has not responded to alternative proposals, mediation requests, or even informational inquiries. This action hoped to persuade the County to fulfill its promise to utilize facilities at McClellan Air Force Base (including McClellan Inn) to alleviate homelessness in Sacramento County.

Ariene Krause, Executive Director of the Sacramento



Ariene Krause, Director of the Sacramento Housing Alliance, and Tim Brown, Director of Loaves & Fishes at the rally. Photo courtesy Randy Dittmar

Housing Alliance, the organization spear-heading the march, called on the County to address the needs of the growing homeless population in Sacramento by providing hous-

ing at McClellan.

"I read in the paper today that rents are over \$800 a month in Sacramento. Who here can afford that?" she said. The rally participants overwhelmingly responded in the negative.

Sacramento County has thus far refused to release the available housing at McClellan AFB which they committed to providing at the beginning of this base conversion, claiming that they have fulfilled their legal obligation by providing 1% of their surplus land to homeless assistance.

According to the McKinry Act, a Federal Law on military base conversion, the needs of the homeless are to be balanced with economic develop-

see **McClellan** page 3

Representatives of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) and Homeward Street Journal attended the 6th Annual North American Street Newspaper Association (NASNA) Conference in San Francisco the last weekend of July. In all, there were representatives from 32 street-papers in the U.S. and Canada, plus several members of the INSP of England, & Europe, and a television crew from Canada doing an in-depth report. The four day event included workshops on networking and alternative journalism, as well as NASNA business and an action against the San Francisco Chronicle.

The featured speaker for the Conference was Ben H.



Bagdikian, author of *In the Midst of Plenty: The Poor in America* (Beacon Press, 1963), *The Media Monopoly* (6th Ed., 2000), and other books. He is also the former Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California at Berkeley.

Mr. Bagdikian began his speech with the words "It is a national disgrace that we have to be here...". He went on that no other industrialized country tolerates what is happening to the poor in recent American history. He said the policy makers won't see it, and the main stream media doesn't see what is right under their noses.

Mr. Bagdikian recalled how in the early 1960's, abuses in mental hospitals led to the closing of the hospitals on the theory that the ill could be better served at the community level. But once the money was saved by closing the hospitals, no money was appropriated for community treatment, leaving the mentally ill to languish on the streets.

see **2001 NASNA** page 5



## Association for Community Organizations for Reform Now - ACORN - Holds Action in Oakland

by Sundown

This commentator finds himself on the road to Oakland, Ca. with the community conscious organization ACORN. The objective of today's rally is to bring further scrutiny to the scourge of predatory lending - money to loan at exorbitant interest rates.

Although seemingly ridiculously high interest rates are currently "legal", there is an ever expanding tide of those disconcerted by these loan practices. Today's demonstrations, held before two separate offices of Household Beneficial in Oakland, were one hour in duration each, and fraught with signs and chants. There were testimonials by several injured parties, and various statements demanding reform were made by members of ACORN.

What is at contention is the percentage rate to be paid back for a given size loan. In this world of cash and credit, those of us living in the lower economic spectrum, not having the average where-with-all to gain much of a grasp on economics, usually hear of percentages in business talk as: 3% of the market did this, or 9% of the market did that. What is not generally fathomed is the fuller impact of what exactly is meant by: "your loan will be \$100,000 at 21.7%, for example.

Setting such high interest rates virtually assures that folks will be stuck paying (per payment) 2/3's interest, and 1/3 actual loan. This makes the lender much richer, and financially devastates 3/5's of the uninformed loan seekers.

"There can be no assumption that today's majority is 'right' and the Amish and others like them are 'wrong.' A way of life that is odd or even erratic but interferes with no rights or interests of others is not to be condemned because it is different."

Warren E. Burger,  
Chief Justice, U.S. Supreme  
Court



**Standdown**  
**September 14, 15, 16**  
Camp Pollock Northgate Blvd. at Del Paso Blvd.  
Registration at 8 am

## The Coldest Summer I Spent Was in San Francisco

Released by The Homeless Voice of Fort Lauderdale, FL

by Sean A. Cononie

In Broward County, we have a large homeless population. It's estimated that there are more than 6,800 homeless people living in Broward County alone - and it's expected to get worse with welfare cuts.

In August, the Homeless Emergency Management team, sponsored by the Homeless Voice, went out to California to examine their severe, large homeless population. The plan was to see why California's problem is so out of control and to use the research to prevent the same situation from occurring here in Broward County. The teams also did outreach and tried to get help for as many people as possible in the short amount of time they were there.

Our presence was not welcomed in San Francisco. However, in Los Angeles, we met with the top administration from the Sheriff's department. In fact, the deputies took us on a tour of the encampments, better known as "slat row."

Every night in Los Angeles, there are an estimated 2,000 available beds at the shelters. Why? If there are so many homeless, why aren't they going to shelters?

According to experts on the Sheriff's Committee and our team, it was discovered that the chronic homeless population can't make it in programs with structured environments. The Sheriff has gone way above the call of duty by starting the process of opening his own homeless safe haven that will be ran by a unknown social service provider.

The next part of our teams trip was to attend the North American Street Newspaper Association conference (NASNA). This conference was held in San Francisco. More than 50 street newspapers in North America and representatives of the International Street Newspaper Association, which has over 30 street newspapers worldwide, were there. A combination of both associations gives our voice to 28 million readers.

The second phase of our trip in San Francisco was to do street outreach and evaluate the homeless problem. Let me tell you, the word "problem" does not even come close to explain what is wrong in San Francisco. One day, we followed a 63-year-old woman named Kaji for three hours. We followed her in a Jeep with tinted windows and video equipment. Why were we so sneaky? I wanted to know who would pass this woman up. I wanted to see what the police did when they came into contact with her, and I wanted to see Joe Citizen try to

help this person

I wanted to see if this old, tired, crippled, and sick lady had any guardian angels. We also wanted to see if any body attempted to rob or hurt this frail woman. The surveillance was supposed to last six hours, but we just couldn't stomach it any longer. We counted more than 150 people who passed her every five minutes, and not one stopped to even ask if she was OK. Not one person smiled at her, 18 times a police officer on a bicycle rode passed her, 43 times a police car passed her. Nobody helped this woman.

We couldn't take it anymore. Two of our team members jumped into traffic while the video crew stay behind to film our new adventure. We asked her why she was severely bent over after taking only 10 steps. Every time she took 10 steps, she'd be bent over at 90 degrees. I thought maybe it would be cardiac problems and a lack of oxygen, but it was later revealed as osteoporosis. After talking to her for about 10 minutes, I decided it was time for this woman to go to the hospital.

I stopped the same cop who rode past her and asked him to call an ambulance. I asked to borrow some rubber gloves so I could examine this woman. I explained to her I wasn't a doctor but I have a lot of experience working with the homeless on the streets.

## UN Plaza Park Benches Removed

by Greg Paroff

(San Francisco) On April 29, visitors to San Francisco's UN Plaza noticed something had changed. All the park benches had been sawed off at their bases and removed by the Public Works Department.

SF Mayor Willie Brown's Press Secretary, P.J. Johnston, told Street Forum: "UN Plaza is getting a complete face-lift and cleanup/ removal of benches was one of the stages in the clean-up."

But, according to Adam Arms, staff attorney for the SF Coalition on Homelessness, this action creates an "inhospitable space where neither homeless people, residents, tourists nor visitors can comfortably sit."

"The mayor's approach is nothing new," Arms writes in an email to Street Forum. "The Willie Brown 'solution' to homelessness has always involved the police and the Department of Public Works sweeping people and their property out of sight."

Mayor Brown, during his weekly radio show on San Francisco's ABC affiliate, KGO 810 A.M., claimed, "Because you're adversely effected, you can't develop that into a lifestyle and effect everyone else."

"The mayor's belief," writes

Arms, "that people are choosing not to avail themselves of services is misinformed and flat out wrong." Arms added that the mayor has chosen to ignore the lack of facilities available and "there is only one shelter bed for every nine homeless people in San Francisco."

Replying for the mayor, Johnston said, "Either they're misinformed or flat-out lying - the fact is, on any given night there are dozens of beds available at shelters." He added, "The city ought to provide a wide array of services to help people transition out of homelessness. And that's exactly what it does."

Johnston pointed out, "[The] mayor does not agree with some homeless advocates who say the only answer is to make it more convenient to live in squalor on the streets of San Francisco." UN Plaza is not being cleaned up of the homeless, claims Johnston, but those dealing drugs and urinating and defecating in and around the fountain. "The mayor does not plan to tolerate criminal acts on the streets of San Francisco which may or may not be related to homelessness-[Homeless] people shouldn't have to coexist with people engaging in this behavior either."

According to Johnston, after meetings with area merchants and residents the city decided to remove the benches. And for now, they have the final word.

She trusted me, and I asked her to take off her shoes. She had the worst fungus infection (a.k.a. athlete's feet) I have ever seen while working in outreach. She had edema bilaterally in her ankles, either from circulation problems or a condition called Cellulites, which is common in homeless people.

I took a quick street triage, I looked at her mouth and tongue to see if she was dehydrated, which she was. I also observed her wearing several emergency room identification wrist bracelets. This could only mean one thing. The hospitals in San Francisco have no idea what they are doing. They haven't figured out that it's cheaper to intake a homeless person and not discharge them back to the streets. It's estimated that when hospitals don't have a good discharge plan for a homeless person, and release the homeless person back to the streets, the homeless person becomes a frequent flyer and has many repeated trips to the Emergency Room - costing thousands more dollars.

In fact, it's much cheaper for the hospital to pay for a deposit and two months' worth of rent for the person then to have five ER workups. We plan to change that in San Francisco. Our plan is to force the hospitals

see Coldest Summer page 7

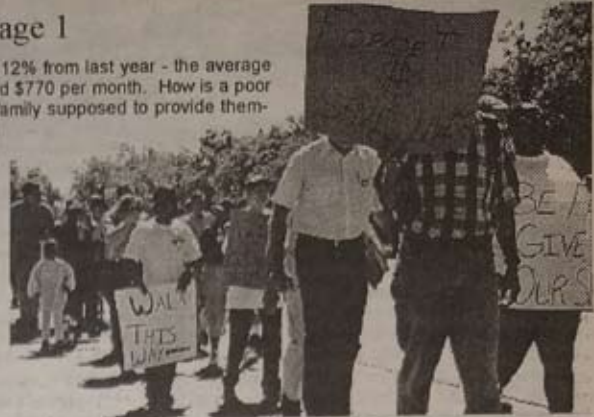
# McClellan cont. from page 1

ment when planning for reuse of closed military bases. Across the nation, government cutbacks on construction, maintenance, and subsidies for low-income housing, combined with the booming economy's overheated real-estate market, have created what many experts are calling an affordable housing crisis. And now, Sacramento County finds itself on the defensive in an escalating battle for property for homeless assistance. In this county alone, Sacramento has lost 1,671 units of affordable housing, not including the 118 unit hotel promised in the base conversion process. In 2000, the number of homeless women was up by 15% from the previous year, and the number of homeless children was up 33%, causing a substantial increase in the number of women and children now living on the streets.

Cutbacks in subsidized housing and the strong economy have also created a housing squeeze here over the past year.

Rents in Sacramento rose 12% from last year - the average rent climbed \$83 to a record \$770 per month. How is a poor or homeless individual or family supposed to provide themselves with shelter in a society with such high rent? Along with food, shelter is perhaps the most basic human need.

For more information or ways to get involved, please call the Sacramento Housing Alliance at 442-1198 or 446-2541 or sha@tomatoweb.com



Scenes from the McClellan March. All photos courtesy of Randy Dittmar

## Literary Scholarships Available for POOR writers!!!

Do you have a voice? Do you want to be heard?

POOR Magazine has a limited number of scholarships to pay for travel expenses (limited bus or gas costs only, unfortunately) for low and no income adults and youth to attend

POOR Magazine's upcoming Creative Writing Workshops and New Journalism/Media Studies Program.

Stipends are also paid for a finished piece of writing on an assigned subject.

Please contact POOR Magazine for more info by e-mail: poormag@sirius.com or by phone: (415)863-6306. Or contact Paula at the SHOC office in the Loaves & Fishes complex

"In individuals, insanity is rare; but in groups, parties, nations, and epochs it is the rule." Friedrich Nietzsche, German philosopher

## No One Gets Arrested for This...

Poor News Network staff writer Ken Moshesh wins a precedent setting ruling for homeless citizens.

by Fiona Gow and Ken Moshesh,

Reprinted with permission of the Poor News Network at [www.poornewsnetwork.org](http://www.poornewsnetwork.org)

Thursday, July 12, 2001, Berkeley, CA.

Activists and advocates from Berkeley's Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), the Homeless Action Center, and POOR Magazine gathered at the Berkeley Municipal Court, hoping to witness a long-awaited ruling. They were there to see if California Code 647(j), the law that makes "lodging" on property without the owner's permission illegal, would be found unconstitutional.

Judge Brosnahan ruled that in Ken Moshesh's case, use of Code 647(j) was unconstitutional and that it could not be applied to him. She stated that she "did not find the code facially invalid, but that it was sufficiently ambiguous and as it applied to Ken's conduct, the statute was not constitutional."

It had been no short battle for Moshesh to get to the point where his case was actually being heard. In October, 2000, Moshesh was issued a citation for sleeping outside, which police said violated Code 647(j). On January 16, 2001, he was arrested because his citation had gone to warrant. He decided to petition for a revocation of probation and to challenge the constitutionality of the code.

Civil Rights attorney Osha Neuman, of Community Defense Incorporated, said this was a very exciting ruling. "Since this law is only applied to homeless people, it means that it can't be used to criminalize them." He went on to say that, "if the prosecution appeals the case and the decision is upheld in appeals, then the decision would apply throughout Berkeley, Oakland, and Alameda and could set a precedent for the state." If the decision is appealed, it would also be an opportunity for the defense to argue the constitutionality of the code.

Syren said he didn't think the DA would appeal the decision, since the judge did not rule that the code was unconstitutional on its face, which would have had more resounding consequences. But, in effect it will make it illegal for police to cite any homeless people for violating Code 647(j). According to Syren, "There was nothing unusual in its application in Ken's case, and therefore others who are in similar situations will find protection from the ruling in Moshesh's case. "Though the judge didn't technically say this in her ruling." Syren said another reason for the judgment was the question of equal protection for homeless people, since "No one else gets arrested for this."

Moshesh's case was originally placed on the Consent Calendar for cases to be heard on April 17, 2001, but was continued. In response to the postponement, 100 homeless people and advocates stormed the Berkeley City

Council, demanding that Berkeley de-prioritize enforcing Code 647(j). Ken, along with Lisa Gray-Garcia of POOR Magazine, led the fight that resulted in the courts de-prioritizing the enforcement of Code 647(j). Since this ruling, Syren said that he had noticed a dramatic decline in the number of people booked and charged with violating 647(j). He was not willing to say if this was a direct cause of the de-prioritization decision, but he said it could well be.

Syren's arguments in Ken's defense included an impassioned statement criticizing Code 647(j). Syren argued that the law was vague facially and on application, because it was unclear what the term "lodging" really meant. He asked, "Did the legislature really mean putting a sleeping bag down for one night was 'lodging', or did they mean something more permanent?" He made the comment that if they did mean one night of resting your body, then the literary legend Jack Kerouac would have found himself in violation of the code on many occasions. He said such a code makes homelessness and poverty a crime.

Deputy District Attorney Lance Kubo then made his very professional argument in defense of Code 647(j). He claimed that the law had been on the books since 1872 and was not written with the intent of invidiously going after homeless people. He went on to say that the fact that this law was impacting homeless

see 647(j) page 6

# JUST CAUSE

by Paula

These days, the City of Sacramento seems to be working hard on the homeless problem—working hard on ensuring the problem continues and gets worse. Closure of McClellan Air Force Base has presented a great opportunity to alleviate the excessive lack of shelter beds for homeless people. The Federal Government has stipulated all base conversion plans are to balance usage for homeless services. The City agreed to the stipulation and has gained control of the base because of that original agreement. There's the 118 room hotel, already built that would be good for a shelter. Well, the City thinks, maybe it would be better used as convention center lodging, considering the other businesses ready to locate there. Then there's the many base houses, two bedroom houses ready to move into. The City says, well, no, there are other plans for that.

Okay, skip the base for now. There's a large amount of funds set aside in the city budget for affordable housing. Will we see affordable housing projects grow out of that? Well, no, the city has been using that money for market-rate housing projects.

What about the homeless people and the SRO's being scheduled to be torn down left and right (the future homeless population)? The city may think they have that situation handled—the police department works for them. Though its known by the police, the citizens and especially those on the streets that there is no place for them to go, homeless people are being harassed and cited and jailed, pressured to migrate to other areas and other cities. And though just recently the amount of people you see sleeping outdoors has greatly increased, I suspect the police will be cracking down on them, until the police, themselves, say to themselves "Why am I doing this?"

If a person is told to leave a spot because it is illegal

to sleep there, they may move to a spot equally illegal. What about leaving this unfriendly city? I recently met with homeless advocates from throughout North America at the North American Street Newspaper Association Conference in San Francisco. Most U.S. cities represented at the conference have been experiencing the same kind of problems with the lack of affordable housing and inadequate shelter space and a city government dealing with the resulting homeless problem in similarly inept ways.

What is being done to solve this problem? There are many, many advocacy organizations and concerned citizens with resources, expertise and passion, who are fighting what may appear to be a losing battle. But they are gaining allies by the minute, voting allies and allies within the systems we protest. There is some great headway in changing of minds, though the trends that cause homelessness continue to escalate.

There is also some great headway coming from some homeless people who have probably given up on resolution from the above stated avenues and are taking matters into their own adept hands. There is Camp Paradise in Santa Cruz, Tent City in Seattle and Dignity Village in Portland (formerly known as Camp Dignity). These efforts are organized and maintained by homeless people who have arranged their outdoor living situations as a community. They have chosen to live together, support each other in a safe environment, pool resources and encouragement. The City of Santa Cruz is threatening to evict Camp Paradise residents, even though those residents have improved the community at large by performing a massive cleanup of the riverbanks and have committed themselves to a clean, sober and crime free environment (an immense improvement in an area where residents were, at one time, afraid to walk). Great news for Portland's Dignity Village is that the City of Portland has condoned the village as a pilot project,

with negotiations in progress to move the village to another suitable site and to possibly limit the number of outdoor residents to 40. Seattle's tent city (maximum population 100) has been a mobile camp, moving from one compassionate organization's property to another since March 31, 2000. Compassionate organization after another has been fined by the city for zoning ordinance noncompliance, until most recently the city made the big mistake of fining the current host of the village-The United Methodist Church. Community support for these three groups of determined campers has been outstanding.

A day will come when all who wish to live indoors will have a place. Meanwhile, we have a forced-on-us opportunity to strive for a freedom we may have otherwise taken for granted - the right to exist, (even though one does not have money to pay a landlord). It's unacceptable that if we can't pay a landlord we must live in a jail cell. The situation of this era's housing crisis screams for Freedom and Justice for all. And all who find themselves without a home can consider themselves (no matter how reluctantly) instrumental in the movement to overcome oppression and in making a stand for the Freedom to Be, the first Right anyone should be afforded.

## Among Loaves & Fishes

Hello Everyone;

As the saying goes, "It takes an entire community to raise a child", and it takes a lot of special people to make a world. The special people who make up the staff at Loaves & Fishes put a lot of dedication and time into meeting the everyday issues our homeless face.

Where there is no hope... Loaves and Fishes fulfills these concerns. Where there is no hope? You'll find love and plenty of spirit here at Friendship Park. Where the city has rejected us, there is acceptance here at Friendship Park. Friendship Park provides a safe haven for those of us who seek peace and refuge during a day where you and I find it had to make it through just one day at a time, where we may find insurmountable opposition and many questions not answered by the powers that be.

It is hard not to be judged by who or what we wear or look like, but underneath we are still people with feelings, hurts, and hopes in moving forward to a brighter day. We look to those who are in power and who are supposed to represent us voters. We wonder why there are more laws to contradict the very ones we are put under, to comply with what violates our rights.

We are citizens of America! We are by the Constitution of these United States to have rights to vote, bear arms, serve our country, work, buy cars, houses, raise a family and live without fear. Yet because of circumstances beyond our control, we are persecuted for just being without a place to live.

We need more rights to achieve the things we need to get life going again. We don't need more laws taking away our rights to push us farther down. Who of you attended the rally for the Homeless? The Stand-downs, for you vets? Think about it - OK?

The reason many of us are homeless is because of layoffs, disabilities, physical and otherwise, loss of spouse or escape from abusiveness, the crushing rental market where more upscale housing is going in and more low income housing is being demolished than built. Think about it! Nearly 1 to 2 percent of the families in this country are without housing of any kind! Noboe I said FAMILIES. Yes, families, nearly twenty percent of the homeless are families. That means a mother and at least one child, sometimes the father as well.

Major developers don't want to build housing for the low income and homeless. Why? Because they don't make as much profit on low income houses as they do the rich ones. This makes it doubly hard to get off the streets and into a place, so we can be acceptable members of the community. So what that many make millions of dollars per year. For far too many, if they lost their job tomorrow, they would be out here and find out how hard it really is. Heather Fargo, why don't you try being homeless for one week to see how hard it really is and what is available to us to help us off the streets, especially those of us who are married. We will gladly show you around and fill you in on the do's and don'ts of this life.

We homeless do work hard to preserve the rights we do have, or should have. You would see a lot of good people



out here who would be a respectable and respected part in the community given the chance. Young couples trying to make it on their own who lose their children, not because of drugs or violence, but only because they have no home at present. People who can hardly get around and are in constant pain trying to survive every day. You can't convalesce out here for even a few hours, much less for days to recover from even a lowly cold.

Don't crab about us being lazy and shiftless until you learn that a large portion of us work every day and wash your cars, work in carnivals, entertain your kids.

We don't need to play Russian roulette with those in high places. Take time to ask us questions. How do we manage to survive out here? You would be amazed at how we work together for the good of all. The homeless do a lot of good for the community of Sacramento, but how often do we get the recognition or reward for so doing?

Next time you want to criticize something or someone, crab about the ones who oppose and unfairly judge the homeless who work hard to protect and save the community as a whole. To those of you in power here in this beautiful city, take another look at the ones you call tramps, thieves and other foul names.

Love and Peace  
John and Terri Tigner

About fifteen years ago, he continued, the government subsidized over 200,000 low-income units a year. That amount has been cut by 92% since then, mostly because low-cost units are not a builders priority - they do not make sufficient profit.

He talked about how the cold war was over, yet the President wants to spend \$100 billion on a treaty breaking, anti-missile defense system which has failed every practical test given it. How the government spends \$2.3 billion for every stealth bomber, yet it cannot even be flown in snow, and was not used in the gulf war. "Money for [such] weapons," he said, "is theft from the poor."

Some time back Mr. Bagdikian was doing research for a book. In doing so he would go live with the poor. He would take a taxi to the train station, go into the restroom, and change from his suit into old clothes. The

It is this "not seeing what is under their noses" of the main-stream media that led to the action at the Chronicle. The so-called objective form of journalism by the main stream media, considered an absolute norm today, is actually only about a hundred-fifty years old, made popular by the founder of the New York Times, among others. It was a response to the abuses of the time, where opinion would overtly replace facts. It is the contention of many alternative journalists in the street-paper movement that the main-stream media today has come full circle. The compulsion to appear neutral has led to covertly ignoring facts on one side of an issue or another by not sending reporters to investigate, while accepting what the status quo says as fact without question. The general public is deceived into backing policies intended to keep those in power, at whatever cost to the rights and well being of any particular individual.

The Justice Journalism workshop was oriented toward reporting for the alternative press in a manner to counter-act this perceived bias in the main-stream media.

Terry Messman of Street Spirit discussed how modern news has



slavery.

Paul Boden of Street Sheet discussed the importance of documenting everything concerning a story, then not just publishing it, but to repeat the facts over and over to people, in the paper and in legislative meetings or where ever there is an opportunity. It is necessary in order to make people think about the issue and to convince them of the truth. He also discussed the importance of sharing data among the street papers. Since most of the members have little money, the sharing of information is the best way to build a power base.

Ken Moshesh, staff writer for the Poor News Network, recounted how he received a ticket for "lodging" on property without the owners consent (Calif. Code 647(j)), and subsequently decided, with his attorney, to appeal the constitutionality of the law. His

ly white organizations need to discuss the problem in meetings to change the wrong attitudes members may have (not attacking the person having the wrong attitude). To help end racism, a white person must first realize that the liberation of all races (including white) depends on the liberation of people of color.

Civil rights of vendors, incident documentation, legal and legislative responses were the focus of an another workshop that stressed "Know the laws better than the cops". Vendors of street papers of non-profitable organizations have the right to collect donations under the 1st Amendment right of free speech. The San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness engages in witnessing police activities against homeless people, and they collect documentation of the incidents.

This years conference was hosted by Street Sheet. Founded in 1989, it has become a strong advocacy street-paper that has successfully used the Freedom of Information Act to do investigative reporting on the political mechanizations behind San Francisco's anti-homeless policies. Also hosting the event were Street Spirit, an East Bay advocacy street paper, Poor Magazine, a quality literary magazine that publishes art and poetry by the poor, and the Independent Media Alliance, a web-based training and resource for media workers, activists, and community organizations. The New College of San Francisco, dedicated to educating and training students for careers in sustainable economies, provided meeting space on their campus. Food-not-Bombs assisted with meals.



thing he noticed most about the situation was what he called "invisibility". Going into the station in his suit, businessmen would recognize him and nod in greeting. Coming out in his old clothes, no one would even look at him. It was the reverse when returning from his research. He said the most dangerous thing about this was that the longer such behavior persisted, the more socially acceptable it would become. Even he was put off by the reaction of others because "we all react to how we are seen by others" he said.

Mr. Bagdikian pointed out that the street-paper movement has the opportunity and the responsibility to resist this "invisible" treatment of the poor, by printing the truth and persisting in it until the general public admits to what is happening. He said the papers could also help by giving vision to the homeless so that they would not despair and not accept such treatment.

become info-tainment, and how large corporations are homogenizing what stories are reported. He said that historically, muckraking, or advocacy journalism, has always existed in America. He talked about how Thomas Paine, the "pamphleteer" of the American Revolution, was also the publisher of a magazine in Philadelphia. His favorite journalist, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, founded the Liberator Magazine and for 30 years used it to campaign against



ing, or advocacy journalism, has always existed in America. He talked about how Thomas Paine, the "pamphleteer" of the American Revolution, was also the publisher of a magazine in Philadelphia. His favorite journalist, abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison, founded the Liberator Magazine and for 30 years used it to campaign against

position as a journalist, though having nothing to do with the court case, enabled him to bring to homeless readers his experiences in the court system. There is more about Ken Moshesh's case on page 3.

Another workshop, News Writing, explained the particulars of news journalism and the methods of research and documentation to uncover the truth of an issue.

During the workshop periods throughout the entire conference, the SF-Independent Media Center held an on line workshop for participants to learn how to network stories and create and publish live media.

A workshop on combating racism stressed the necessity of white people being involved in the effort to solve this problem. Since white-supremacists are white, predominant-



Pictures top to bottom, L to R  
Participates outside New College  
Paula speaking in meeting  
Art talking to another member  
Meeting for the rally  
March to the Chronicle  
New Executive Committee Members  
Bottom two: blocking the Chronicle's door  
Photo on page 1: The New Collage Building



### 647(j)

cont. from page 3

people was incidental. The judge contradicted him strongly on this last point.

Kudo continued his defense of code 647(j) by saying that if its constitutionality was to be questioned, then it would have to go through the strict process of being challenged, either as it was applied or facially. It could not be challenged as applied he said, because there had to be a conviction first. A facial challenge would rest on examining the text of the statute according to previous or current authority. The judge did not seem swayed by Kudo's arguments and challenged him on several occasions, displaying an obvious interest in seeing that the DA defended his opinions.

Unfortunately, the judge, in her decision stated that there were other options for prosecuting cases like Ken's. Code 602(i) is a law which states that if a person goes onto property that is clearly marked with a 'No Trespassing' sign then it would constitute a violation. Syren said the thing to be on the lookout for now would be increased bookings of people under the 602(i) trespassing law.

The judge's ruling was a great success for Ken and all of his supporters and opens the doors for further challenging laws that unfairly target homeless people. "What this case shows us is that the challenge was worthy of a decision, either way." When asked if he thought he was a visionary, Ken Moshesh replied, "NO, this has always been the vision of people who have come to this country, all of whom were homeless." His main hope is that this decision will, "help other homeless people to live with themselves and their situation to the point where they are able to protest and have expectations."

A Place To Home

OH SAY CAN YOU SEE  
SPARKLES  
FLARES  
BOMBS BURSTING AT NIGHT

GLEAMS OF GLEE  
BUT NONE INSIDE FOR ME

STARING UP  
PRICED OUT.....SIDE  
SCARRED BY STARLIGHT  
SEARCHED BY FLASHLIGHT  
ARRESTED SLEEP  
DETAINED  
DEFAMED  
CLAIMS TO FREEDOMS  
TO BLAME?

JUDGE CALLS MY NAME  
LAWYERS REFRAIN  
VERBIAGE RAINS  
ON MY SLEEP-SEEKING BAG  
ALREADY WET, WITH YEARS OF TEARS  
OF STRUGGLE  
FOR PLACES TO GO  
NOT INSANE  
BUT INSIDE  
ON AT LEAST NOT IN VIEW  
JUST TO SLEEP

JUDGE DISMISSES THEIR CLAIM  
PERHAPS, NO MORE  
MAYBE SOON  
A PLACE TO HOME

(Ken Moshesh 7/01)

### My Love's Soul

Billeen "Sunshine" Pruitt

You two-eyed devil - come hit my veins  
Come coursing thru me, unleashing the lack, black rage and pain  
They have a life of their own and I feed them with you  
My dark and lovely friend, I have to keep chasing you;  
you are an unfaithful bitch  
But when I get you and set you free within me the coupling is oh so good  
For a moment, a-hour or a day  
You are so greedy - I have to keep feeding you.  
You never stop being hungry and wanting more. You whore!  
But I'll keep feeding you - I cannot stop, and my black rage and hate  
will keep growing and growing and consume me until they hit the top.  
And then you will have killed me, my lover, the least good gone  
My life defeated...

### To My #1

This is dedicated to my #1  
I love you, Mom, from your son  
You brought me up the best you could  
And just to please you, I tried to be good  
You always taught me right from wrong  
To hold my head up and always stay strong  
You always know when I was down  
And like magic, you made a smile from a frown  
No one could ever take the place  
Of a mother's gentle, warm embrace  
Now, as the years pass on by...  
Who knew that life would serve me this piece of pie  
Now I sit here, behind these bars  
Looking up through my window and out to the stars  
Forgive me Mother, for ruining your plans...  
Of being that doctor, lawyer, or family man  
Mother, all I ask is that you have faith in me  
Someday I'll be that good man you expect me to be

I Love You Mom,  
Jaime, Sr.

### Untitled

Laurier J. Richards 7/10/01

I like to find marbles marbles real old  
As I search search for gold  
The smell of the pines and the water so cold  
And my new found friend is better than gold  
The stars at night when you turn out the light  
Oh what a beautiful sight  
Oh what a beautiful day  
Oh what a beautiful night

"He who would make his own liberty  
secure must guard even his enemy  
from oppression; for if he violates  
this duty he establishes a precedent  
that will reach to himself."  
Thomas Paine

Background:  
Women's Building Mural, San Francisco

## CLASSIFIED

Mail your classified to the Homeward office or submit it at the paper meeting every Wednesday 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

## "Sacramento Streets by Streetpeople"

the traveling exhibit of poetry and photography about our city, can be seen at the following venues:

### August 27

Special Event: "Celebrate the Streets", Monday 7pm, view the exhibit; 7:30pm, Poets read about the streets of the city.  
Sacramento Poetry Center  
Ballet Building, 17th St at 'K' St.  
tel. 441-7395

### September:

Espresso Metro  
2104 11th Avenue at Freeport, north of the Sac City College campus.  
Open 7 days a week, 7 am to 11 pm.  
444-6130

### October:

Espresso Metro Downtown  
11th and 'K' St.  
Open Mon - Fri, 6:30 am to 5 pm,  
Sat-Sun 7:30am-5pm  
444-6129

For more information about this exhibit, call

**(916)453-1174**

Funded in part by the New Works Awards Program of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission with support from the City and County of Sacramento.

## Death Notices

The Homeward Street Journal staff has decided that it would be appropriate to inform our readers of the deaths of any Loaves & Fishes guests. This first list is from the first of the year, January - July, 2001. After this, we will be publishing any names as they are provided to us..

**Robert Milsap - Died 1/18/01**  
Ran in front of car.

**Leslie Ann McFarland - Died 1/21/01**  
of Lung Cancer.

**Theresa Chacon - Died 1/23/01**  
of heart failure in Las Vegas.

**Rita Frost - Died 1/25/01**, cause unknown, in L.A. hospital.

**Glenn "Shaggy" Wall - Died 3/25/01**, beaten to death.

**Charles Hurlbert - Died 4/1/01**  
of a heart attack.

**Frederick Thompson "One Eyed Fred",** aged 72, died 4/05/01 at UCD from multiple organ failure.

**William Southwick - Died 4/19/01**  
of cancer.

**Monica Henderson - Died 6/02/01**  
from a gunshot wound to chest.

**Mark Chase - Died 6/04/01**  
of cancer

**Charles Liles - Died 6/9/01** in a fire. Exact cause of death pending.

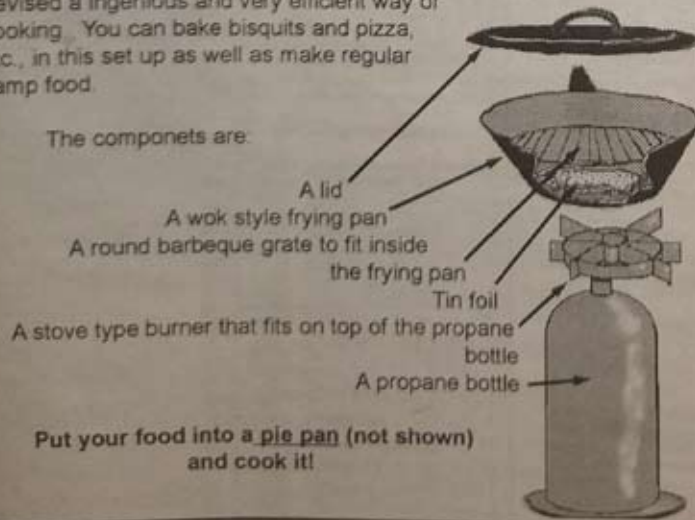
**Cory Gisey - Died 6/26/01** by suicide in Fremont Park

**Kathleen Joiner - Died 7/07/01**, of complications from a spider bite.

## Sunshine's Survival Skills

A friend of mine, Art Clay, lives in his van. He has devised a ingenious and very efficient way of cooking. You can bake bisquits and pizza, etc., in this set up as well as make regular camp food.

The componets are:



## Coldest Summer

cont. from page 2

to do the correct thing in name of humanity. And if they don't do that, they'll be spending a large amount of money for legal bills.

The next day, I was filled with a tremendous amount of hate towards the leaders of San Francisco. As the day got older, my hate towards the city grew worse. I observed a young white female in her early 20s laying on the ground in the middle of a busy downtown sidewalk. She had scabs all on her body and was talking to her self in a psychotic way. Any person with a third-grade education should have known this woman needed mental-health treatment and medication.

We counted more than 200 people in 16 minutes who passed her without any person offering anything. It was like she was a stray dog that people ignored - wait a minute, a stray dog would have gotten more attention then she did. I stopped a cop and asked him to do a mental-health act on the girl. He stated plainly that she "was not in need

of help because she was not going to hurt herself or others." I laughed and said, "What about self neglect?" He just rode off and ignored me. No matter what street we worked, the harsh reality was that the people of San Francisco and its city of officials have failed to correct this social injustice.

Some people may argue that the homeless caused this themselves. Yes, it may be true for some of the homeless. If a drunk driver ran into a telephone pole, do we say, "It's their own fault, let them die"? Or do we call an ambulance? Does the hospital accept them? Is there follow-up for medical care? The answers are "yes."

San Francisco's city officials should be proud of themselves for starting a third-class race in America. They should be proud that they have supported the poor by keeping them poor. They should be proud that they have senior citizens sleeping in the cold San Francisco streets.

"Ten people who speak make more noise than ten thousand who are silent." - Napoleon Bonaparte