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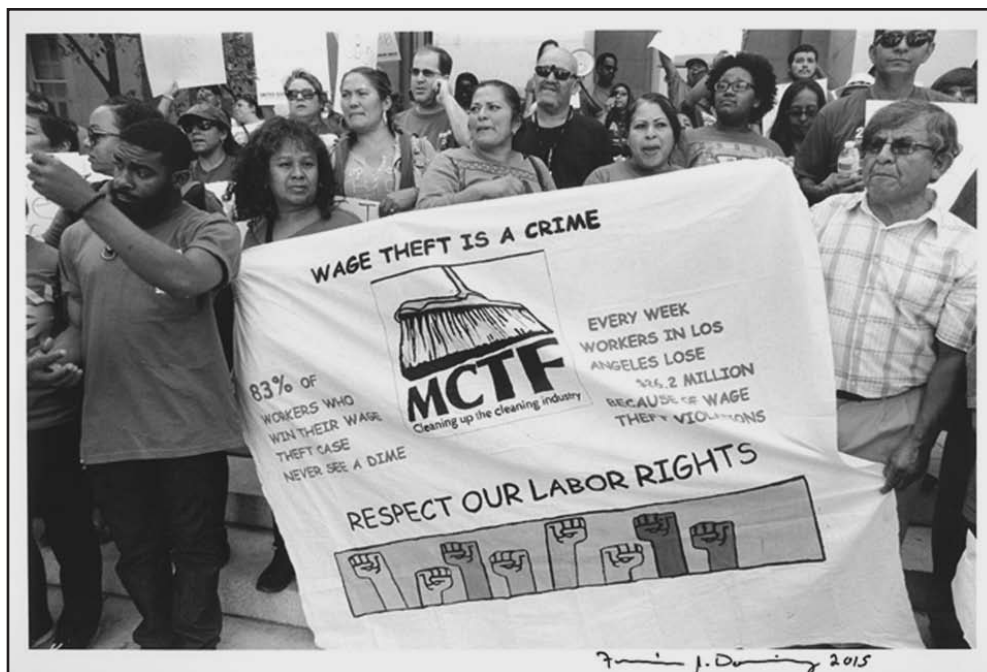
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FIGHTING FOR FIFTEEN

By Cathleen Williams

She's twenty two years old, she's a mom, and she's on fire -- a leader in the local Fight For \$15, part of the nationwide campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour, in graduated steps, by 2020. "We stand up, we fight, and we don't give up," she explains, "we march together, we wear our red t-shirts, and we link arms. You can't break us up. We've won in Seattle, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and for fast food workers in New York City. Look, if you don't raise the wage, and you keep raising the cost of living -- of housing especially -- you're going to have a lot more homeless people. In fact, some homeless work, and then sleep in their cars."



Workers from Los Angeles rally at the California State Capitol on September 1, 2015 in support of Senate Bill 588 "Fair Day's Pay Act," which is intended to prevent wage theft by employers; signed into law by Governor Brown.
Photo: Francisco Dominguez 2015 Copyright

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BROKEN WINDOWS, BROKEN PEOPLE, BROKEN CITY

by Tracie Rice-Bailey

Broken Windows Theory--the title of a 1982 article by criminologists James Q. Wilson and George L. Kelling--suggested that a broken window in a neighborhood, if left unrepaired, will soon invite vandals to break all the remaining windows and cause uncivil behavior.

The theory was aimed at preventing crime in neighborhoods by keeping up the properties and cracking down on petty crimes such as kids hanging out on street corners, panhandling, public drinking, street prostitution, unsolicited windshield washing etc.... in order to keep out big crimes like robbery, rape and murder.

This article has been a subject of great debate in both the social sciences and the public sphere and had been motivation for reforms in criminal policy, and is directly responsible, under the direction of Police Commissioner William Bratton, for the controversial mass use of the "Stop, question and frisk" style of policing by the New York City Police Department. In 2011 there were about 684,000 people stopped under this policy, most of whom were African American or Latino.

Today, homeless people are routinely moved along, treated like the "Broken Window". Public restrooms are often closed, water fountains are dry or removed completely, especially in areas of concentrated homeless. There are very few places for a homeless person to be.

This leads us to the recent Panel held in San Francisco, "BROKEN WINDOWS BREAK LIVES". The Panelists brought to light the recent "Broken Windows" style of policing toward the homeless by members of Business Improvement Districts, commonly known as BID's.

One of the panelists was Jojo Smith, current resident of 'Skid Row' and leader of LA CAN cop watch. said that when someone from one of the BID's came to tell them to take down their tents, they would resist and tell them that they did not own the sidewalk and that they would need a real policeman. When L.A.P.D. would arrive they would all drop their tents. This was done in solidarity with the entire block of Skid Row participating. Soon several other blocks joined in because they were showed how they could resist the BID's. "Today several of us live in the community and have a 24 hour cop watch. We need to constantly document the police actions and what we do. Documentation is very important!!!" Jojo said.

Benjamin Donlon, with Denver Homeless Out Loud, is hoping to end criminalization of homelessness. Ben got his start around homeless advocacy in Occupy Denver. They had a large encampment that lasted about 8 months. The encampment was destroyed by the BIDs - specifically the Downtown Denver Partnership - which lobbied with prewritten legislation for a camping ordinance. The ordinance was passed within a month with very little community input. Ben said "They immediately started harassing us and successfully disseminated the camp - then they started harassing the homeless on a wide scale throughout the city. It's a pretty big problem because they are taking over the whole city. Ideally, we can do something to stop it."

Ibrahim Bilal Murbarak, current leader in Right To Dream, also co-founder of Dignity Village and Right to Survive in Portland Oregon said the new shelters are becoming the prisons and the jails. The first thing a houseless person looks for is rest, a safe place to sleep where they won't be arrested or criminalized for exercising a human right! Ibrahim believes the general public has no real understanding of the situation until they find themselves affected by non-affordable

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Winnemen Wintu Chief Leads Rally and March Against Mt. Shasta Crystal Geyser Plant

By Dan Bacher

Small cascades of cold, pristine water rush out of the hillside at Big Springs, the headwaters of the Sacramento River, as they converge in a clear and shallow pool located in the Mount Shasta City Park.

Adults and children fill their jugs and bottles with the pristine water that takes 50 years to make it from snow and rain on Mount Shasta down through the volcanic aquifer to where the torrents converge in the park.

Even in a record drought year like this one, the icy water rushes from the hillside to make its way to Lake Siskiyou, then Lake Shasta and then to the Delta and the ocean. People from throughout the world walk along the creek and hike along shaded trails and footpaths that cross through hedges of horsetail fern and willow and across small bridges.

As people hiked to and relaxed besides Big Springs, Caleen Sisk, Chief and Spiritual Leader of the Winnemem Wintu Tribe, and hundreds of environmentalists and activists from all over California and Oregon held a rally, the “Water Every Drop Sacred” event, in this scenic park at the Sacramento River headwaters. After the rally ended, Sisk and tribal members led a march and protest of 160 people to the plant.

The Tribe is opposed to the planned opening of the plant, closed after it was operated by the Coca-Cola Bottling Company and other corporations for years, in accordance with its commitment to protect and preserve the Headwaters of the river, the Mount Shasta watershed and sacred tribal lands.

Otsuka Holding Co, a Japanese pharmaceutical conglomerate, owns Crystal Geyser.

The event began with a performance of Iroha, a traditional Japanese Taiko drum group

Performances by Sawako Ama, Rieko Ivaska and Mao highlighted the fact that Japanese residents and tourists are not pleased about the plans to open another bottling plant just 2000 feet from the headwaters, according to Vicki Gold, of Water Flows Free in a news release.

“Crystal Geyser is already entrenched in Weed, CA, just 8 miles north of Mt. Shasta, reportedly extracting 1.5 million gallons of water daily, much of it headed for Japan in single use plastic bottles with a huge carbon footprint,” said Gold. “Meanwhile, Japan has abundant water of its own.”

Signs at the rally proclaimed, “Want water?, Tap Mt. Fuji!,” “The Truth Is...No one owns water!,” “No Dam Raise,” “Water Is Life” and “Help Protect Mt Shasta Sacred Waters 4 Next 7 Generations.”

Chief Caleen Sisk, the keynote speaker, spoke movingly about the sacredness of water and the threat to the environment and people posed by controversial plans to raise the Shasta Dam and build Jerry Brown’s Delta Tunnels.

“This spring, the headwaters of the Sacramento, is sacred to us,” said Chief Sisk. “Archeologists once said they couldn’t find

any evidence of indigenous people around this spring. That’s because our ancestors believe the site was so sacred that they would leave nothing behind when they prayed there. It is for the sacred beings – it is not for us to use.”

“Mount Shasta (where the Sacramento and McCloud and other rivers come from) is sacred. The sacred being brings us a message that the plant can’t be here. And if we’re not successful here, the mountain may take care of it instead,” emphasized Sisk.

She emphasized that the pending plan to open the Crystal Geyser plant in Mount Shasta is part of a large water grab by corporate interests, including the federal plan to raise Shasta Dam and the Brown administration scheme to ship water to agribusiness interests and Southern California water agencies.

“The twin tunnels will be built to transfer water from the headwaters to agribusiness farming in a desert. They are large enough to divert the entire Sacramento River in them,” said Chief Sisk.

She said that if the tunnels were built it would destroy the largest estuary on the West Coast of the Americas, a nursery for Chinook salmon, steelhead, green and white sturgeon, Delta and longfin smelt and numerous other fish species.

“If they kill the estuary, what will it mean? When the estuary is cut off from the fresh water, the estuary will disappear and no longer be a nursery,” said Chief Sisk.

Sisk also discussed the Tribe’s long struggle to bring the original run of winter run Chinook salmon back to the McCloud River above Shasta Dam. Sisk and Tribal Members journeyed to New Zealand in 2009 to conduct ceremonies with the Maori on the Rakaira River, where the descendents of the original winter run chinook salmon from the McCloud, transplanted from the Livingston Stone Fish hatchery over 100 years ago, now thrive.

“The Maori are ready – they said they have 400,000 eyed eggs ready to be planted in the McCloud... But the scientists from the Bureau of Reclamation said they are not sure whether these are the same fish because they have no DNA from the McCloud River winter Chinooks to match the DNA of the New Zealand fish. Yet all of the records show that these fish came from this river!”

Chief Sisk has often said, referring to the essential role of water to life itself. “People can live without oil, they can live without gold, but nothing can live without water.”

When the march arrived at the plant, Sisk appealed to Otsuka Pharmaceuticals in Japan to reconsider their plans and not open the facility. She also suggested that opponents of the plant make a trip to Japan to convince the company’s owners to not open the plant in a manner similar to how members of the Hoopa Valley, Yurok and Karuk Tribes went to Scotland to convince Scottish Power, the owner of the Klamath River Dams, to decommission the dams in order to restore fish to the headwaters.

Gold estimated that 500 people attended the event throughout the day, with 200 present at any one time.

The speakers addressed the threats posed to our food sources, potable water supply, and ecosystem posed by water bottling and other water commodification schemes.

In addition to rallying against Crystal Geyser’s pending plant in Mt. Shasta, speakers at the event discussed their opposition to Calpine’s proposed industrial geothermal plant in the Medicine Lake Highlands that the Pit River Tribe has been fighting for many years. Both of these industrial developments threaten water quantity and quality in the area and have been the target of grassroots campaigns.

Lucas RossMerz, of Sacramento River Preservation Trust, addressed the importance of keeping the water in the river to all those who use it for recreation, residential use and farming.

He cited the aphorism, “I have Pessimism of the intellect and optimism of the will,” as his philosophy in addressing the many problems of the Sacramento River watershed.

“No matter how bad the numbers of fish and habitat get, my heart won’t let me quit,” he said. “So I show up to work every day and do my best!”

Reverend Amanda Ford, M.A., of the Environmental Justice Coalition for Water, who addressed human rights issues surrounding water, told the story about how she found Crystal Geyser bottled water in her mom’s refrigerator when she went home to Michigan recently. “Our message has to reach people like my mom, who view water as a commodity,” Ford said.

Mauro Oliveira, of SOL Communications, emphasized, “The Sierra Nevada and Mount Shasta snowpacks are the lowest in 500 years. Our mission is to protect our water, our watersheds, oceans, all beings and their habitat. The oceans, rivers and all life forms are suffering from plastic pollution and consequent endocrine disruption. We have to change our habits and question every action of polluting industry.”

Gold pointed out the importance of people uniting to stop the opening of the Crystal Geyser plant.

“It’s time to join forces in an alliance to protect our local water,” she said. “We must continue to put pressure on Crystal Geyser, Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors, the City Council of Mt. Shasta and other public agencies. We are making a stand here, now, on Mount Shasta.”

“Our friends in Oregon at Cascade Locks are facing Nestle; British Columbia is facing new exploitation by Nestle,” Gold explained. “The plastic pollution is choking our oceans, our landfills, our rivers. Single use plastic water bottles is an idea whose time has clearly passed. Boycott bottled water.”

She also urged people to ask Calpers (the California Public Employee Retirement System, largest in the world), to divest its holdings in Otsuka, Nestle, CocaCola and Pepsi.

“We must vote with our pocket books. This is time for the voice of the public, speaking for our fragile planetary ecosystem, to be heard,” she concluded.

The speakers at the five hour event also included Sherry Ackerman, PhD., who revealed why multinational conglomerates head for California and New York in search of water, “blue gold,” at the pristine mountain source; Phoenix Lawhon Isler of the Mount Shasta Bioregional Ecology Center (MSBEC); Konrad Fisher, Klamath Riverkeeper; Bob McFarland, California Guild (formerly California State Grange); Geneva Omann and Roslyn McCoy of W.A.T.E.R.; Elaine Hsiao, PhD. candidate; Matt Isler, Sacred Economics; Bob Saunders of the Crunch Nestle Alliance; and Dan Axelrod, PhD, Professor Emeritus, University of Michigan on the EIR.

Entertainers featured Saratone, Diane Patterson, Al Torre, Jenn Rogar, Sawako Ama and Rieko Ivaska with Iroha, Jenn Rogar who performed songs about love and respect for water.

This event followed the lawsuit filed on August 23 by the environmental group “We Advocate Thorough Environmental Review” (W.A.T.E.R.) against Siskiyou County and Crystal Geyser Water Company, whose corporate offices are in Napa County. The group has demanded an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for 2 years. The lawsuit requests that Crystal Geyser Water Company meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

On September 16, Crystal Geyser, through their PR Firm, Burson-Marsteller, stated it will comply with the EIR process.

“However, EIR’s don’t always present the entire picture of the effects of an industry’s environmental impact,” said Gold. “Our event shed light on the issues of water bottling overall, plastic waste resulting from bottling, the overall effects and impact on the environment, and the irrationality of bottling water during the time of the worst drought in California’s history.”



Caleen Sisk speaking.
Photo Courtesy Dan Bacher

Interview with Sacramento State student Chiitaanibah Johnson, Navajo/Maidu

By Francisco Dominguez
and Dan Bacher

Note: This interview was done in the spirit of indigenous people working together and supporting our youth, in accordance with traditional native cultural values. - Francisco Dominguez, Tarahumara.

Q: Explain the events that led to a part time adjunct history teacher, Maury Wiseman, disenrolling you from his class, American History 17A, a requirement at Sacramento State University. This is a controversy that has gained national media attention.

A: Wednesday was the second class of the Semester with Professor Wiseman. Wiseman said to the class, "I don't like to use the word genocide because it implies that [the decimation of American Indians] was on purpose, and most natives were wiped out by European diseases."

(See Johnson's opinion piece in the State Hornet: http://www.statehornet.com/opinion/editorials/native-american-student-at-sac-state-shares-her-story/article_80b5aef2-7891-11e5-b761-3b3a72e543b9.html)

I didn't respond at that time because I knew I was too mad and emotional about his comments. I took notes of what he said - and I had to prepare something factual to respond to his comments.

One the second day of the class, Wiseman made the point that native people had full agency over their land and were fighting one another over resources, including requickening other Tribes' children, before Europeans arrived. He said the Europeans didn't introduce violent relationships - they only just changed the relationships.

He was very careful to say that they weren't savages - that they had intrinsic cultures and societies. This was almost worse - that they were intelligent and were doing this.

Q: So when did you speak out in class?

A: It was when he talked about, in the context of European exploration, how the Portuguese were "poor, hungry and decimated and how they through ambition, bravery and innovation" made friends on their way along the coast of Africa, down to the Cape and then to India and became of the wealthiest populations.

He glossed over slavery, and at this point, I was thinking that I should raise my hand, since he left the slave trade out of the discussion, instead moving on to talking about the Lateen sails of the Portuguese.

I then raised my hand and said I understand the context of exploration and don't feel that the Portuguese were "brave starving souls with ambition" - and pointed out that he omitted talking about the active decimation they were engaged in in order to attain that wealth.

I said I don't think it's fair to label the Portuguese as ambitious and brave when they were notorious for their brutality, and

he regarded the Iroquois Confederacy as not ambitious and brave. He said that in the course he wasn't talking yet about the depopulation of the Americas, and began raising his voice.

Q: When did he kick you out of the class?

A: After the class, Wiseman said, "We're not going to talk about this. You hijacked my lesson and we're not going to talk about this."

I then pointed out that many of the diseases were weaponized, including the introduction of smallpox to native populations in blankets. I said what happened to native people is NOT an accident.

He said, "I appreciate your argument, but you hijacked the last 10 minutes of my class. You made me feel like I was some sort of bigot and racist while I was talking about the Portuguese. This is an argument that people make. I'm not going to tolerate you doing this. I don't care what scholarship you have. I'm evicting you from this class today." (I'm not on scholarship.)

I said that you can this do this but you have to tell the truth. I then put six packets of articles on the classroom table (for him to read.) I also read to him the United Nations definition of genocide, which includes (1) the deliberate killing of members of a group, (2) causing deliberate harm to members of a group and (3) forced relocation of a group.

He said I "won't tolerate you hijacking my classroom."

He said I was expelled and that he was disenrolling me from the course. This was so immature, in my opinion.

Q: How did your story get picked up by the media and how did you respond?

A: It was shortly after I was kicked out of his class that Indian Country Today reached out to me. They interviewed me and Frederika (Fraka) Harmsen. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, for a story they published on line on September 6. (<http://indiancountrytodaymedianetwork.com/2015/09/06/history-professor-denies-native-genocide-native-student-disagrees-gets-expelled-course>)

I did not know what I was supposed to do at this time. My mom, dad and Cindy Lamarr of Capitol Area Indian Resources met with University President Robert S. Nelsen. His response to us was that he didn't know what he could do about it. He said his hands were tied. He said he would look into it.

After that, I submitted a letter of complaint and I asked multiple times whether it was sufficient to file an investigation. The provost said it was sufficient for filing an investigation. She said I didn't need do more. (I was later told that I hadn't filled out the proper documents to file a complaint).

The Sacramento Bee then published a story. (<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article35151201.html>) During this time, we wanted to take the high road.

Martina Johnson, Navajo/Dine, Chiitaanibah Johnson's mother: The Sacramento State President said he would convene some panels in response to this. He asked community Natives at the last minute. The second panel was thrown together at the last minute and there was no plan for it. It was held at the University Multicultural Center.

Chiitaanibah: In response to my complaint, the administration said they would appoint a full time ethnic studies professor and one full time Native professor in the History Department. They also said they would set up a Genocide/Holocaust studies minor in the Ethnic Studies Department.

(The Sacramento Bee reported on the administration's response in this article: <http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/education/article38147970.html>)

Q: Has the issue been resolved, in your opinion?

A: Wiseman has never apologized for his actions that day.

I do appreciate the creation of the Genocide/Holocaust minor. However, nothing was done to hold the professor responsible for his actions toward me. He was not held accountable for his racist statements. Also, the minor should be taught in the History Department, not Ethnic Studies.

The administration did hold a panel on "Native American myths and misconceptions," including Native American professor Brian Baker. We asked if Cindy LaMarr and I could be included, but we weren't. People who were on the panel were contacted the night before the panel.

In the panel, they talked how genocide was happening all over the world. And they made it clear that they weren't going to talk about Wiseman and the student he disenrolled.

A Navajo student who was on the panel claimed the issue was "divisive and we want to be over it."

At the panel, I did not feel like I was being supported, and it wasn't until a woman in the back stood up and asked about what happened before we briefly touched on the subject.

When I stood up to assert my story into the panel discussion, Brian Baker asked me, "is this going to be quick? We are trying to go to lunch." He was referring to the lunch provided by the university for this event.

Q: What has been the reaction of other teachers and students to this issue?

A: I have received support from both Native and non-Native students in my battle. For example, a biology professor said he was sorry it happened - and that the professor's conduct was really unprofessional.

However, my dance professors said that they were told that they were not allowed to comment on this issue. At the same time, there are professors who are telling students to write about it in their classes!

In spite of all this, I still have to go to class every day and I live in the dorms. I'm studying to be a lawyer. I still don't like how the professor treated me and how CSUS dealt with it. I felt ostracized.

Note: Here is the opinion piece from Professor Maury Wiseman explaining his use of the word "genocide" in the same edition of the State Hornet where Chiitaanibah Johnson's op-ed was published: http://www.statehornet.com/opinion/editorials/sac-state-professor-explains-his-use-of-word-genocide/article_43f2af0c-7895-11e5-a432-cf9948e5a680.html

<http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2015/10/27/18779324.php>



CSUS students rally in support of Chiitaanibah Johnson on Indigenous Peoples Day October 12, 2015. Photo: Francisco Dominguez 2015 Copyright

MERCED VIGIL AGAINST LOCAL AND GLOBAL ACTS OF POLICE VIOLENCE

By Jennifer Morales

“Think global, act local” – these were the sentiments expressed at a candlelight vigil held in Merced, Califas in late September, honoring and mourning the lives lost around the world due to police violence, just days before October 3, when Governor Brown signed AB 953, The Racial and Identity Profiling Act of 2015, into law. Merced, a small town in the Central Valley, has a powerful history of farmworker organizing.

The local action was in solidarity with communities across California who pushed Governor Brown to sign AB 953. Authored by Assemblymember Shirley Weber, the law creates a system for collecting basic information on police-community interactions and ensures community members accessibility to the information. The law also creates an advisory board that would analyze the data collected from police stops and make recommendations to ensure proper training for officers. This new law allows communities to use evidence-based solutions that address racial profiling and work towards better community-policing practices.

Locally, it is important to understand the significance of legislation aimed at reducing racial profiling. Many community members at the vigil tied unfair immigration practices to the personal experiences of Merced residents who feel as if they are living in a state of crisis because they feel they cannot talk to the Police Department.

For the second year in a row, the public safety budget for the city of Merced has increased. At \$57.6 million, it is almost 4 percent larger than last year’s plan, which means it receives the largest share of discretionary funding.

At the vigil, students voiced their desire to see a shift from city focus on policing to programs that will help support future generations in Merced. More investment in police means more incarceration, less money towards preventative programs.

A young woman from the Merced Drum Core invited residents to Tuesday night drum practice to encourage this community dialogue to continue. MDC was started by Merced volunteers to bring music to local children, with the goal of using music to engage youth in creative interaction. Through their own resources, MDC is able to provide drums, lessons, and fun to kids at MacNamara Park. MacNamara Park has been in the spotlight with many residents this past year due to lack of funding. Last year a coalition of local non-profits convinced the city to reopen the center. However, there are still not enough funds to provide a full time program schedule.

Globally, the militarization of governments has been created by U.S. foreign policy. The Merida Initiative, aka Plan Mexico, or Plan Merida, was defined as a “new security cooperation initiative” between Mexico and the U.S. to combat drug trafficking and organized crime. While the stated goals are to “produce a safer and more secure

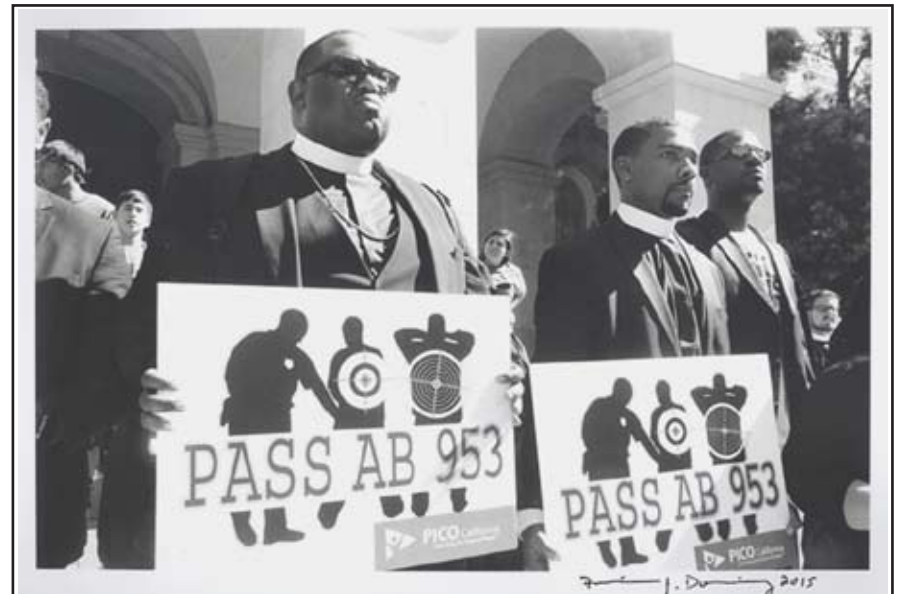
hemisphere and prevent the spread of illicit drugs and transnational threats,” the reality of the initiative for the Mexican people tells a different story. It allocated over \$1.5 billion to Mexico for military aircraft and training for the Mexican military and police, without any enforcement of human rights protections and prohibition of torture.

The Merida Initiative continues to hurt communities across borders. Testimonies also tied in the disappearance of the 43 Normalista students (Ayotzinapa 43) from Iguala, Mexico. Longtime community leaders at the vigil explained “Plan Merida” and how such policies are used to murder thousands of Mexicans

per year.

Local Deacon José Morales, shared his testimony as an immigrant and formerly incarcerated man. During his many journeys to the U.S., José was detained by “la migra” and taken to prison to await deportation. He asked the community to see each other as brothers and sisters. As he blessed the group of protesters before their procession, he asked that everyone remain safe. “An injustice anywhere is an injustice everywhere,” was the phrase that rang through the night of the vigil.

Jennifer Morales is a young activist and writer living in Merced, California.



Black ministers from Los Angeles speak at State Capitol rally in support of AB 953 on September 2nd, 2015. This statewide rally brought 500 people to rally and lobby in Sacramento. Photo: Francisco Dominguez 2015 Copyright

FIGHTING FOR FIFTEEN

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Shellby Lippencott of Sacramento works two jobs – two hours daily at a fast food outlet, and 4 hours at a discount store (or more – her schedule changes). She makes \$9.00 an hour – California’s current minimum wage – and can’t afford rent. Neither can her long-term boyfriend, who makes \$9.40 an hour at Walmart, sometimes working eleven hours a day for almost two weeks at a stretch. Both are grateful their parents can offer them refuge, and as well, for Shellby, child-care and transportation to work.

“I need to put food on the table and I need housing – I just can’t afford both. Everyone is worried that if wages go up, then prices will go up. But this has already happened. Milk and eggs – the basics – cost more this year. I say, if prices go up, then wages have to go up,” she adds.

Shellby is active with the Western Workers Organizing Committee. There are 10 million restaurant workers nationwide – one in every ten workers. Gender and race discrimination in wages

is endemic: nationwide, workers of color receive 56% lower earnings compared to white workers, and women of color earn 71% of what white men earn. (ROC The Bay.)

As Shellby explains, “as a member of WWOC, I go out to Taco Bell and Burger King – I introduce myself to workers when they are on a break. I ask them about their story, whether they have kids, whether they want to go to school. ‘With \$15 an hour, you’ll be able to go to school,’ I tell them. I also let them know they can earn one hour of pre-paid sick leave for every thirty hours of work. A lot of people don’t know about this new law that came into effect in July.

“I’ve learned a lot in the campaign. Like in Brazil, they are starting to make kids work as soon as they are tall enough to reach over the counter. I’ve learned about unions. I want to join a union. The state workers here in Sacramento are fighting for us. And other unions too. It’s huge.”

Shellby Lippencott is a member of a

huge new class in this country -- a class of low paid, temporary, part time, and contingent labor who hover at the edge of survival. *Forty two percent of all workers now make less than \$15 an hour.* Sixty percent of these workers say they would have a better chance of making \$15 an hour and being able to support their families if they could join a union. (Huffington Post, 10/7/15.)

A big reason for the rising percentage of low wage workers is the loss of stable manufacturing jobs in this country – and as these jobs are eliminated due to technology and globalization, the people who once held those jobs are now competing for work in low wage jobs as janitors and food preparers, bringing wages down even further. (Brookings Institute 2015.) In fact, more than *fifty percent* of workers in low wage industries – such as food preparation and serving, sales, moving and transportation, office support, personal care and service, janitors and landscapers, healthcare workers and farmworkers – make less than a \$15 an hour wage. *Many of these*

occupations are projected to add the most jobs in coming years. (Employment Law Project, 2015.)

In Sacramento, on October 27, the Fight for Fifteen campaign gathered, their red shirts flashing, at the sleek new City Hall to protest at the City Council’s plan to implement a \$12.50 minimum wage by 2020, which could be reduced up to \$2.00 an hour to reflect the cost of health care provided by the employer. One councilman openly stated that he wanted to head off a “brutal initiative battle” around the issue. But partial measures designed to undermine support for a \$15 wage will not put out the fire, according to Tamie Dramer, who represents the local group, Organize Sacramento. “Tens of thousands need to be lifted out of poverty in California. State by state, city by city – the fight for survival is underway.”

Cathleen Williams is a board member of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, a civil rights lawyer, writer, and poet.

An Urgent Note On The Migrant Crisis

By Cathleen Williams

We too arrive as migrants from the round world before birth. Once here, our curled hands grab whatever brushes close, tighten and feel for the ancient thread that binds us in a promise. If threatened, we hang on as hard as any other little primate to whatever comes near. There is no composure that equals the absolute calm of a new born, no trust in the future that matches a newborn's, no alarm as frantic and instantaneous as a newborn's whose arms fly up at the slightest loosening of touch.

In return for this newborn instinct, we are promised that we will be held tight against the body. Someday, even when we are old enough to walk, we will carried if we cannot go on. To act otherwise is not to be fully human. Migrating to Europe, the mothers stretch their arms above their heads to hold the babies high, so the border police can hear their wordless cries.

This is the promise. We will not be let go, not be let fall.

On the U.S. border, 70,000 migrants from Central America, and thousands more from Mexico, were apprehended at the U.S. Border in the 2015 fiscal year – in the most recent spike, last month, over 10,000 migrant children were caught struggling across the border illegally and detained by the U.S.

At the same time, “in the last 15 months, at the request of President Obama, Mexico has carried out a ferocious crackdown on refugees fleeing violence in Central America. The United States has given Mexico tens of millions of dollars for the fiscal year that ended September 30 to stop these migrants from reaching the U.S. border to request asylum.” Over ninety thousand Central Americans have been arrested, held, and sent back to their deaths from southern Mexico by hundreds of Mexican border agents, paid for by these U.S. dollars. Twenty thousand freight trains carrying migrants have

been attacked, barriers and walls have been built along the route to sweep migrants off as they crowd and cling to the outside and roof. (New York Times 10/11/15.)

Especially children have been targeted. “Mexico has been particularly zealous in beating back children traveling alone. In the first seven months of this year, Mexico had already apprehended 18, 310 minors, up nearly a third from a year ago.” (New York Times 10/11/15.)

Why this crisis, why now? Certainly there are deep trends -- something no baby or child could possibly know as each is swept up in the tide, carried or pulled along by a desperate mother and father. Or is bravely starting out alone for an imagined destination.

We need to avoid a global economy where money moves freely and invests at will, but people lose their legal status – their right to legally exist – once they cross a border, becoming a cheap precarious work force in the shadows, a legion of homeless, hunted residents.

We need to avoid a global economy where self sufficient and relatively isolated local communities can no longer survive or compete against cheap products, produced on vast automated farms and industries. A global economy where failed states are convulsed by conflicts driven by the demand for control of resources like oil or drugs – Syria, Iraq, Libya, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Congo, Mexico, Honduras.

Still, our babies remind us, hold to the promise. We are all migrants on the face of this beloved earth.

Cathleen Williams is a board member of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing conflict, a civil rights lawyer, writer, and poet.

Local Action For Immigrant Kids and “Dreamers”

The struggle for immigrant kids and students here in this country – and the young immigrants who call themselves “Dreamers” – has never been more intense, according to Rhonda Rios Kravitz, Dean Emeritus of Sacramento City College and Board Member of Alianza.

Established in 2012, Alianza is a collective of active college students, educators, and community activists from the Sacramento area personally committed to issues related to immigration reform, especially those involving DREAM students – resident undocumented youth who came to the U.S. before reaching their 16th birthday.



Photo: “US/Mexico BorderWall, San Isidro, California”
Francisco Dominguez 2010 copyright

To be a Dreamer eligible for “deferred action” from deportation for a (renewable) period of two years, as well as work authorization, young immigrants must meet rigorous requirements, provide extensive information, pay significant fees, and possibly put themselves and their families at risk for deportation.

Right now, Dreamers are holding their breath – waiting for the U.S. courts to resolve whether President Obama’s recent executive actions can go into effect. These new regulations would expand eligibility for youth and also extend protection to their parents. These new programs could benefit as many as 5.2 million people – nearly half of the unauthorized immigrants living in the United States.

There are 65,000 undocumented residents in the Sacramento region – 10,000 under the age of nineteen. Meanwhile, the Sacramento Sheriff is allotted 5-6 million dollars per year to support the detention of undocumented in preparation for their deportation.

Alianza is determined to change the conversation about immigration, or migration, as it is called in the current European crisis – to support migrants here who face intolerable risks and hardships, and to support Dreamers in their quest to attend college, to obtain licenses and to contribute to the society they are so much a part of.

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BROKEN WINDOWS

continued from page 1

housing. He said "We had problems with the camping bans. So we started calling our tent cities "villages" or "rest areas" as there are no bans on them."

Ibrahim says that after many successful protests, demonstrations and direct actions in Portland, they started educating the houseless community on how to fight back. He said "I don't care how hard you try to outdo God and stop people from falling asleep - that's a human right. You cannot stop people from using the restroom - that's a human right. Each time a houseless person does that, they have been criminalized, so we have to educate our people, our community, our brothers and sisters on their rights and that's why we go to different cities and states throughout this country consulting them on building rest areas, villages and tent cities." He ends with: "Our government, with the BID's have a God complex and are saying, 'You can't sleep because you don't live in a house. You can't use the restroom because you don't live in a house.' That's so absurd and ridiculous!!!"

Sheila Myers is an Attorney with Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles with a primary focus on housing, civil rights

and criminalization of homelessness. Sheila has been with Legal Aid for about a year and a half and is currently suing a BID in L.A. for their treatment of the homeless on Skid Row by illegally taking and destroying homeless people's property. She says it is because of the work of people collecting documentation of the abusive practices of the BID in Skid Row that the lawsuit is possible. She said this is exciting work for her, "kind of a dream come true".

Sulaiman Hyatt, from Black Lives Matter Bay Area Chapter, currently works with black organizations in Oakland. He contends that the police function as a mechanism in society when you have a split between haves and have nots.

Sulaiman said he was at a City Council meeting in Oakland when the Police Chief said they discovered a problem when they arrest people under 16 as there is an 80% chance they will be rearrested before they are 18. When the bread winner is arrested then the next person in line will be the child. When the family unit is disrupted by taking out the bread winner and the next in

line bread winner, then we begin to chip away at the community, we begin to destroy the community. Why? Because we create a cycle of incarceration in the family. We've broken the family, we've broken the community. Sulaiman wonders if the Police Chief actually knew what line of work he was in....

Liz Brown is an associate Professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Studies at S.F. State and director of School of Public Affairs and Civic Engagement. "Many of you probably know this", she said, "but of course broken windows is not a new tactic of police, it's kind of a historical tactic of the role that police have played in the communities, playing the role, as Suleman said, of the arbitrator of the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.'" At the beginning of the article, both Wilson and Kelling point out that broken windows is not meant to solve crime, It's actually meant to decrease peoples fear of others that they find disorderly. Not violent people or criminals, but loiterers, gang members or homeless people. Liz said it seems very clear to her that the

logic of broken windows is not meant to decrease crime. It's not meant to make us safer, but it is actually meant to exclude people that are dispossessed by a capitalist society.

In writing this article, we decided that though Sacramento did not have a speaker on the panel, we wished to share with our readers the costly practice Sacramento has of chasing the homeless from City to County - to County to City - to City to County in an endless circle. Some do get housed - but many more just get chased, and sought out to be told to move on anywhere but here - just go over there - but then there becomes here - and you can't be here!

John Krainatz, a member of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, summed it up; "When we have a broken window, we simply fix it - but when we have broken people, we simply push them off on our neighbors!"

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Email: transitions.drfllynn@gmail.com

Dr. Neil Flynn, MD; Medical Director

This is a Buprenorphine & Suboxone Clinic.
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Resources List

Night 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. Johnis Shelter: Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. 453-1482

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, 6am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm. open to all homeless men: 447-3268

Next Move (formerly SAEHC) 24 hr Family Shelter; Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Womenis 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 7:00pm 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: at 8 am on Saturday and 10am on Sundays .

WomenisCivic Improvement Center: Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 lunch M-F 452-2866

Food-not-Bombs: serves free food in Cesear Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. All Welcome.

Foundation of Faith Ministries 2721 Dawes St. Rancho Cordova. Every 4th Sat. 3-5 pm All Welcome.

Glory Bound Street Ministry 4527 Parker Ave. Sundays; breakfast 11:30 am after 10 am church service; dinner 6:30 pm after 5 pm church service: Fridays; dinner 7 pm after 6 pm church service. Must attend services. 452-7078

Women & Children

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

Wellspring 3414 4th St.: T&Th full breakfast: M-W-F continental breakfast for women and children. 454-9688

see Youth Services for young adults

Free Clothing

Sacramento Food Bank: 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 456-1980

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Thurs. 9 am signup, 9:30-10am bible study, 10 am - 12 pm shop. 447-3268

Glory Bound Street Ministry 4527 Parker Ave. Clothes Closet, Sundays 11:30 am all welcome. 452-7078

Medical

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

Sacramento Dental Clinic: 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Bldg) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm 874-8300

Mental Health

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

TLCS Intake Offices: 1400 N. A St. Bldg. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Referrals to transitional living programs, independant living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F 440-1500

Genesis: Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrals. 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center). 699-1536

Youth Services

Wind Youth Services: Drop-In Center for youth (ages 12-24) experiencing homelessness: 1722 J Street, M-F 9am-6pm, S-S 10am-2pm: Emergency shelter for ages 12-17, call 1-800-339-7177:

Emergency shelter for ages 18-24, call 916-561-4900. Services also include: street outreach, case management, mental health

Crisis Intervention

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

AIDS / HIV

AIDS Housing Alliance provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 329-1093 weekdays.

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

Harm Reduction Services: 40001 12 Ave.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. 456-4849

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

Legal Aid

Disability Rights, CA: Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5746

Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic: 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center) Free legal assistance and advocacy for problems related to homelessness. 446-0368

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. 551-2150

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

Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation (916) 658-1880

About SHA



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

For more info, or if you would like to participate, please call:

(916) 455-4900
<http://sachousingalliance.org>

1800 21st Street Suite 100
 Sacramento, CA 95811

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

Veterans

VA Outreach: 1-800-827-1000

Homeless VA Coordinator:
 (916) 364-6547

Mather VA Social Works: help getting DD-214, any vet. (916) 843-7064

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center
 7270 East Southgate Dr. 393-8387

Miscellaneous

Francis House Center 1422 C St. Must get a lottery number 9am. M,Tu,Th,F for Direct Services: ID vouchers, transp. assistance; In depth resource coaching by apt.; Veteran's advocac., Notary services Thurs. call for apt.; Job Development Center M,Tu,Th,F 9:30am - 1pm. Family Rescue motel vouchers for qualified families Mon. 1pm. (916) 443-2646

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services: 3333 3rd Ave. (south of Broadway) Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-1:30pm, and Wed 4pm-7pm. 456-1980.

Social Services: 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 874-2072

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

Medi-Cal: 1-800-773-6467, 1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. 916-874-2256

Social Security Office: 8581 Folsom Blvd (East of College Greens Lite-rail stop, past the flea market) M-F 9am-4:30pm 381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213

211 Sacramento
 Dial 211
 for tele-info & referral service

Californina Youth Crisis Line:
 1-800-843-5200

Health Rights Hotline:
 551-2100

Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a difference!



Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless

Organizing Committee, which is a member of the Sacramento Housing Alliance. The paper's mission is to alleviate miscommunication between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also informs homeless persons of shelter and occupational assistance, and acts as a creative self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate.

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 at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the author's intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed .

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as 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 \$20 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

Loaves & Fishes is not affiliated with the Homeward Street Journal in any way. Participants with the paper are not allowed to solicit for donations for L&F, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.

All correspondence can be sent to: Homeward Street Journal
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The paper may be reached at:
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The paper may also be E-mailed at
homeward2@yahoo.com

On the web at:
<http://homeward.wikispaces.com>

Poems by Sarah Menefee

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| everything | flame | happy new year spare change |
| I am reminded again as though I didn't know down in the broken homeless camps down in the street | last year this time sleeping out there he was so cold he dreamed he'd spontaneously combusted at 4am | his sign in paper and ink give to the king |
| down by the Bryant St shelter under the overpass where people chase away the water-torture trucks | jumped up in flame and walked around the rest of the night to keep from freezing he said | they had spray-painted near where you and I got arrested at the bank |
| at the foot of the condo of the latest ambitious scapegoater aiming for higher office and we are down here mighty in the gutter | McStarving her dog's sign says | GIVE GIVE |
| playing the fools of liberation because they stole all our chains | in a Chinatown alley on a bed of a red blanket in a niche | occupy and turn yourself inside out forever |
| he said it was all those occupy drunks who tossed the tea into the Bay | I heard you call my name you looked like death so young you said you were hungry | my people have always been the snipers of cigarette ends for the higher purpose |
| and the crackbrained who sit outside everything backs to the wall writing our manifestos | do you remember when they called a blanket and a piece of cardboard a structure? | they make laws to demonize the children who will take this earth from the jaws of destruction and build a paradise on it |
| in every layer of meaning the same cry and call we are hearing | according to the law | welcome back Mad Matt these streets were dumb without your shouts and rants and laughs your fury at harassing cops |
| out of what is arising out of this cracking heard round the world | all night we lay there without a single structure arms around each other | your sidewalk works of art made of the copper and silver coins of a debased state |
| it is we who have nothing at all who are simply everything | I was gone twenty minutes to an appointment says Boomer | I see they can't stamp out the street artist Matt |
| a black homeless man with crutches was harassed pinned to Market St by fourteen cops | when I got back they were throwing my drum set and other stuff into the garbage truck I barely got it back | your eyes are drunk with sad and deep |
| they stepped on his leg and his artificial leg as he lay on the cement | he blows on his conch shell horn the saddest tune of his evicted waterfront | |
| outside Twitter HQ and that's the way they gentrify in St Francis city these days | call me 'just another John' he said a fisherman and crabber playing his lugubrious horn | |
| | we bailed them out when they screwed us that's what this demonstration is about says 'just another John' | |

Sarah Menefee, a founding member of the Revolutionary Poets Brigade in San Francisco, has been writing poetry for many years and is widely published in books, magazines, and periodicals. As a political activist, she has been deeply engaged in working with the homeless residents of the City.

Porous

by
Todd (Tove) Lissner

poor us
The pockets of your silk Italian suits
may be lined with money,
while ours are riddled with holes.
But, everyone knows;
no pocket
can hold
a soul
made of gold.
Anyway,
we know how to stitch a pocket hole.
But,
I never knew,
what it is you do,
to mend those gaping holes
in your porous soul.

Blvd. Dreams

by
Todd (Tove) Lissner

Boulevard dreams.
I sleep on park benches.
Long and lonely is the night,
down here, dug deep in the
trenches of experience.
Waste not, want some.
Can I have a cup of coffee?
I need a cigarette.
Have you one?
Things stolen by the scores of
thieving whores.
Things gone, never to be seen no
more.
Things in a box, labeled:
The Lost & the Profound
The dead end relationship,
A romance with junk.