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Budget Cuts Will Close 'C' Street Clinic

Sacramento County Supervisors cut \$6 million from the county's health and human services budget at their February 11th meeting. \$360,000 of those cuts include closing the Capitol Health Center on C Street and the North East Health Center on Auburn Blvd. These clinics serve more than 10,000 residents each year, many of those patients homeless and with chronic illnesses.

After the clinic closures, patients will have to go to the Primary Care Center at 4600 Broadway, the South City Health Center or the Del Paso Health Center. These remaining clinics are already overburdened. The Primary Care Center often has to turn away walk-in patients that are told to return the next day. The dental clinic and TB testing service located in the Capitol Health Center is expected to be provided

a new location before they are evicted from the Center. The special Saturday clinic may be allowed to stay longer than the weekday medical clinic closure.

Supervisors also voted (not unanimously) to cut illegal immigrants from the county's medically indigent program. There were concerns expressed that with this drastic cut, many illegal immigrants' health will deteriorate, communicable diseases may

flourish, and there will be a huge burden to hospital emergency rooms.

The supervisors cut a total of \$2.4 million to the Department of Health Serves and \$3.8 million from the Mental Health Division. With a total shortfall of \$55 million, the Board of Supervisors will discuss many more cuts to, or possible borrowing for, other departments on March 3, 2009.

Oregon Law Center Files Class Action Against Anti-camping Ordinance

Street News Service www.streetnewsservice.org

by Amanda Waldroupe
Street Roots, USA

PORTLAND, OR: The Oregon Law Center's class action lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Portland's camping ordinance follows in a long line of similar lawsuits filed across the country to vindicate the Constitutional rights of homeless individuals.

And because of prior lawsuits and the precedents they established, the lawsuit, *Anderson v. Portland*, has a strong chance of being successful. That would add Portland to a small list of cities whose camping ordinances have been declared unconstitutional.

"There is a solid basis for this

lawsuit," says Adam Arms, the civil rights lawyer who successfully challenged an unconstitutional version of the city's sidewalk obstructions ordinance in 2004.

Tulin Ozdeger, the National Law Center on Homeless and Poverty's civil rights program director agrees. "As shown by other successful cases across the country - there are a lot of Constitutional problems with these kinds of measures," says Ozdeger.

Anderson v. Portland, filed in federal court on December 12, 2008, argues that the camping ordinance is unconstitutional in two respects.

First, the illegalization of outdoor sleeping when there are not enough shelter beds

for homeless individuals cruelly and unusually punishes homeless people, violating the 8th Amendment of the Constitution.

"The Defendants' [the City of Portland and the Police Bureau] pattern of citing and threatening to arrest involuntarily homeless individuals such as Plaintiffs for illegal camping and other offenses when they are sleeping outdoors - based on their status as homeless persons - is cruel and unusual punishment in violation of the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution," the lawsuit reads.

A 2006 case, *Jones vs. Los Angeles*, challenged Los Angeles' camping ordinance, which made it illegal to camp

in public spaces at any time of the day.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the city of Los Angeles could not legally punish homeless individuals for sleeping outside when not enough shelter beds exist to provide night shelter to all the city's homeless.

"It was a huge victory," says Becky Dennison, co-director of the Los Angeles Community Action Network, which pursues community organizing efforts in Skid Row.

The precedent set by that case recognized that people have a right to sleep and perform other activities nec-

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Dollarisation of economy in Zimbabwe

Street News Service
www.streetnewsservice.org

by **Tonderai Kwidini**
Inter Press Service

HARARE, Jan 24 (IPS) - The collapse of the Zimbabwean economy has led to the "dollarisation" of the economy - and even to what some, who have still maintained some sense of tragicomedy, call the "petrolisation" of the economy because of the re-emergence of barter trade.

Lynette Sarimana works for an accounts firm in the capital Harare where she is being paid with fuel coupons. "For us it is the 'petrolisation' of the economy because we are paid with fuel coupons which we exchange for groceries," was her sardonic comment on the situation.

Zimbabwe is suffering world record inflation, which has made it even harder for many businesses to budget or plan ahead. The Central Statistical Office put the inflation figure at 231 million percent when it was last calculated in July 2008.

According to a recent report by the international civil society organisation Civicus, "most retailers are not accepting Zimbabwean currency. Goods are being sold mainly in US dollars and South African rand, which has pushed up the prices of basic food items, water, fuel and medicines, putting them out of reach for ordinary people."

Harare-based economist Martin Tarusenga told IPS that, "the economy of Zimbabwe has collapsed. Hyperinflation has led in part to the unofficial dollarisation of the Zimbabwean economy, forcing

many people to resort to the use of foreign currency. The US dollar has become the de facto currency, along with the South African rand, and most goods are only available in foreign currency stores."

It has been illegal to buy or sell goods or services in any currency other than the Zimbabwean dollar. However, the government gradually loosened these restrictions and in November 2008, dollarisation became legal when the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe licensed selected businesses to sell goods in foreign currency.

Showing that he too has lost confidence in the Zimbabwean dollar, reserve bank governor Gideon Gono established government-sanctioned foreign currency shops and businesses in September 2008 as a means of capturing some of the foreign currency circulating in the country.

The creation of the "foreign exchange licensed warehouses and retail shops" - Foliwars for short, are seen by some analysts as negatively impacting not only on Zimbabwe's economy, but also on the rural poor and vulnerable populations who have no access to foreign currency.

Those without relatives abroad struggle. The Global Poverty Research Group (GPRG) estimates that in 2006, 50 percent of all households surveyed in Zimbabwean cities and towns were regular recipients of money, food, and other goods from relatives who are abroad. GPRG is attached to the universities of Oxford and Manchester in the UK.

"The dollarisation essentially means that all employers, including government, have to meet their salary requirements in forex (foreign exchange) as the Zimdollar cannot buy sufficient forex for their requirements. The January salary for a teacher is 23 trillion Zimbabwean dollars (46 dollars)," Harare-based economic commentator Hopewell Gumbo, who works for the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD), told IPS. ZIMCODD is a nongovernmental organisation working towards social justice regarding issues of debt and trade.

The money is only enough to buy a few bags of mealie-meal.

Today nearly every business accepts, if not prefers, foreign currency for payment, whether licensed or not. Even the most essential everyday basics, such as transport fares, hospital fees, bread, milk, water, cellphone cards and medicine are now being traded in foreign currency.

But 90 percent of Zimbabwean workers are still paid in Zimbabwean dollars, according to the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU).

It is advocating for the payment of salaries in dollars. "The ZCTU notes that the Zimbabwean market has been dollarised and most social services such as education, health, rental and transport, among other things, have been dollarised," Lovemore Matombo, ZCTU president, told IPS at the end of a recent meeting to discuss the dollarisation of the economy in Harare.

"The ZCTU general council has therefore resolved that, starting from January 1, all ZCTU affiliates and the general workforce should negotiate wages in terms of the United States dollar, failure of which the sector will withdraw its labour." The ZCTU is the largest representative labour body in Zimbabwe.

Gumbo said failure to pay workers in foreign currency will force them to find other ways to survive, such as migrating to neighbouring countries or engaging in the many informal dealings that now characterise the Zimbabwean economy. Many civil servants have taken to corruption as a means of survival.

"Service delivery by government will collapse further than what we are seeing at the moment. The civil service is in a tight corner. The next fiscal year's budget is going to be a nightmare but for now we continue to wait for the formation of a new government," argued Gumbo.

The Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) wants the total dollarisation of the economy. ZNCC president Obert Sibanda told IPS that dollarisation will help resuscitate the economy.

"We have to accept that the economy has been dollarised and that all companies should be registered to trade in hard currency to boost production," Sibanda demanded.

*Courtesy of Inter Press Service
Street News Service:
www.street-papers.org*

Dreams Deferred

Street News Service
www.streetnewsservice.org

by **Mitchell Terpstra**
The Jeepney, Philippines

At a free dinner in Cubao, put on by members of the Reformed Baptist Church, over rice and steaming bowls of beef, green bean, and pechay soup, we discuss dreams.

Sociable five-year-old Michael simply wishes to study, while his slightly older comrade is adamant against schooling; he just wants to work - oh, and no wife for him, he adds. Some other small, spurious boy dances up, must be about two, with matching blue shirt and shorts, dark, ruffled hair, and a dirt-smudged face. He has his fists raised, ready to spar. And as he jabs my kneecap, I take it he dreams of being a boxer - or believes he already is. Meanwhile, Teresa and Joseph, both Jeepney Magazine street vendors, are beaming as they show off their first child, one-year-old Jaurez. And what do they dream for him? "To finish high school and be a pastor of a church like this one."

Again and again, the pattern continues. The dreams of these street people are

simple, modest, respectable. No highfalutin desires to be the world's first astronaut to step on some previously unreachable planet or to be a ridiculously high-paid rock star or athlete. None of that far-fetched pretentiousness or groundless romanticism that comes with believing the world is your oyster. Just down-to-earth realism that clearly focuses on the next steps to a better, more fulfilling life. In fact, the most commonly held dreams among the underprivileged of Quezon City were to attend school all the way through high school, and if possible through college or university, and to attain a good job. Similar dreams are held by children outside the city. As University of the Philippines graduate student Sara Ma discovered while learning Tagalog by practicing with high-school students of the province of Batangas, south of Manila, the most popular response to her question "what is your dream?" (Ano ang iyong pangarap?) was to be a sari-sari (convenience store) owner.

And why not? Dreams are not an exclusive commodity of the affluent. Dreams in their mental format are impossible to hold

back. It is the progression from potential to actual that is so stinking tough.

One dreamer who's done so is Manuel Manarang. Manuel remembers having to skip school sometimes, even up to the age of 12, in order to scavenge to help his family who lived in the Smokey Mountain Village area. Today, instead of picking up recyclables for cash from the mountainous trash heap, he's helping the young children of Smokey Mountain Village pick up pencils and paper and textbooks for learning. As the manager of the Young Focus Student Center in Tondo, an after-school hangout that provides a library, homework areas, a computer lab, supplementary school lessons, and art and school supplies as well as a safe place for kids kindergarten to college-age to socialize and enjoy some recreation, Manuel is helping kids breakdown the barriers that stand between them and their dreams - especially some of those more inconspicuous barriers. "Poverty is a mindset - a mindset that says 'no'," informs Manuel. Most people think of poverty strictly in terms of material destitution; mental destitution, however, is the

easily overlooked twin devil born of poverty. A person who's lived his or her entire life lacking material necessities also often lacks mental necessities such as confidence, self-respect, and a certain amount of peacefulness as opposed to never-ending fear and worry, the latter two which make Manuel also say, "Poverty is a blindfold" - a blindfold that blacks out the avenues to achieved dreams.

As the dinnertime discussion about dreams gives way to the actual eating of dinner, I can't help thinking about Langston Hughes' famous poem, "A Dream Deferred," and which course of action these street people's dreams in waiting will take. I don't think their dreams are drying up, or festering, or rotting, or crusting over, or even getting fat and sagging from lack of use. I think Hughes' last question was prophetic in a way other than Hughes himself understood: I think these people's deferred dreams will explode - into something brilliant, if only given the smallest spark of a chance.

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essary to survive and live.

"There's no right more fundamental than the right to survive, the right to perform life sustaining activities," Arms says.

"It doesn't make a lot of sense to make it illegal to sleep outside at night particularly when people don't have a place to go," Ozdeger says.

Anderson v. Portland also claims that the camping ordinance violates homeless individuals' 14th Amendment rights to travel and have freedom of movement.

Rather than allowing homeless individuals to move and travel about freely, homeless individuals are in constant violation of the camping ordinance while living in Portland.

In August 2008, a federal judge in Fresno, California ruled against the city in the case Kincaid vs. Fresno for issuing citations to homeless individuals for camping.

The court ordered an injunction prohibiting the city from issuing citations and from seizing personal possessions found at camps without prior notice. The court also ruled that the city pay \$1.4 million to compensate homeless individuals for lost and destroyed personal possessions.

Anderson vs. Portland asks that the court find the camping ordinance unconstitutional and that enforcement be suspended. It also asks that damages be awarded for loss of personal property.

The prior successes of the L.A. and Fresno cases, sources say, only increase the chances of Anderson v. Portland being successful for homeless individuals constituting the plaintiffs of the case.

"These are similar factual situations which would lead to some similar legal claims," Ozdeger says.

"There's strong merit to the 8th Amendment argument,"

Arms says. "There's more than one very strong legal argument in this case. I think the law supports the lawsuit."

One of the many things at stake with the lawsuit is whether laws such as Portland's camping ordinance criminalize homeless individuals and the status of being homeless.

"When cities make it illegal to do things a homeless person must do to survive because they're homeless, it essentially criminalizes the status of being homeless," Ozdeger says.

What the success of the case hinges on, Arms and other civil rights attorneys say, are the facts.

The plaintiffs of the case are all involuntarily homeless, unable to find shelter or affordable housing, and have been given citations for violating the camping ordinance.

In the instances of plaintiffs Mary Chase and Matthew Bailey, a couple, their possessions were taken by the police and largely destroyed, including the ashes of Ms. Bailey's father.

The lawsuit also says "Portland has far more homeless people than available housing or shelter space for them."

That fact will prove important. Being able to prove that the camping ordinance criminalizes homelessness will also be crucial.

"If you truly understand the state of homelessness, and the state of the criminalization of homelessness, you would understand the lawsuit, and see why it should win," says Arms.

However, Anderson v. Portland is not expected by Goracke to get to court for another year. A lot can change in that time period.

Lately, there has been a movement, chiefly spear-

headed by City Commissioner Randy Leonard and the police, to increase the number of shelter beds in Portland.

If that trend continues into next year, it could affect the lawsuit's 8th Amendment argument.

The filing of Anderson v. Portland comes on the heels of a number of dramatic events surrounding the existence of homeless camps.

"It wasn't one thing that was a tipping point," says Monica Goracke, an Oregon Law Center lawyer, when asked what led to her decision to file Anderson v. Portland.

In April and May of this year, over 100 homeless individuals and advocates protested in front of City Hall, calling for the repeal of the sit-lie and camping ordinances.

In October of this year, the Police Bureau announced new Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), or guidelines, for how the police conduct sweeps of homeless camps.

As reported by Street Roots in its November 28 issue, the new SOP includes enough exceptions to the 24 hours' posting requirement before camp sweeps to make giving that notice effectively unnecessary in any circumstance.

"The new SOP, in my view, seemed to allow more discretion to police and be the catalyst for more enforcement," Goracke says.

Finally, negotiations between Goracke and the City to reach a settlement regarding the camping ordinance proved ineffective. Those negotiations began as a result of a November 2007 letter by Goracke stating concerns about the constitutionality of the camping ordinance, and sought an out-of-court settlement.

"All of those things together made me feel like I couldn't stall or wait any longer,"

Goracke says.

If Anderson v. Portland is successful and the camping ordinance is overturned, homeless individuals who cannot get inside at night would have the legal right to sleep in public spaces. The camps they set up could not be swept by the police, and their possessions could not be confiscated.

"If they win, there's a big upside," says Paul Boden, executive director of the Western Regional Advocacy Project (WRAP), a consortium of West Coast advocacy organizations (including Street Roots).

A victory for homeless individuals would present a challenge to the police and city on a policy level, forcing the city to come up with an alternative to the ordinance, and possibly craft policies creating camps that can safely exist in public places.

The police, who consistently make it clear that they do not want to be involved with social service issues, view the camping ordinance as a tool necessary for public safety.

Seeing the ordinance as a tool for public safety is also the main impetus for the City Council's support for the ordinance. And the business community supports the ordinance for the sake of keeping the downtown business core amenable to its customers.

Sergeant Brian Schmutz, public information officer for the police, did not return a phone call seeking comment. The City Attorney has a policy of not commenting on

pending litigation.

"I am disappointed in the filing of this complaint, and had hoped that all parties would reach a resolution to this matter," said City Commissioner Nick Fish in a December 11 press release. Fish oversees the city's housing and homeless efforts and will also become commissioner of the Parks Bureau in January.

In Portland, interest in creating a "green zone" for campers has been banded about earlier this year (see "Making a Pitch for Tents," Street Roots, June 27, 2008.)

According to Dennison, after the camping ordinance was overturned in L.A., homeless individuals have been allowed to camp at night in public spaces throughout the city. However, she says, police aggression has ratcheted up during day-time hours.

"If it's a maximum enforcement day, they'll be going by and shaking folks tents and enforcing that 6AM thing to the letter of the law," Dennison says.

"The key to all of these efforts is that we get to a place to stop how government discriminates and actively pursues policies to remove people," Boden says. Or we'll see lawsuit after lawsuit after lawsuit."

"I am hopeful that [Anderson v. Portland] will be successful," Arms says. "A successful lawsuit is not the end. It's a shield to protect homeless people's rights. [But] it doesn't end homelessness in Portland."

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Advocates Support Admending Sacramento's Mixed Income Housing

On Tuesday, February 10th, the Sacramento City Council held a workshop on the city's Mixed Income Housing Ordinance. Many people spoke to support an ordinance amendment that would be city-wide and include homes for families making less than \$22,000 a year. The supporters included Loaves & Fishes who delivered print-outs of the over 500 people and organizations that have signed on to their open letter. The League of Women Voters, residents from Quinn Cottages, tenants of Riverview Plaza and members of St. John's Luther Church were among some of the others who also spoke in favor.

City Council was clearly moved by the testimony and showed some support for amending the ordinance. However, they continue to waffle and provide weak advice to staff. The Council finally decided to pass the issue to a stakeholder group put together by the Housing and Redevelopment Agency, who will return with a report for the council.

A Mixed Income Housing ordinance requires that new housing developments include a percentage of homes that are affordable to lower income and working families. The programs differ in who they serve, but in California, over 170 different jurisdictions have these kinds of housing ordinances. Mixed income housing produces more affordable homes and mixes in affordable housing into different neighborhoods.

Currently the City of Sacramento's Mixed Income Housing ordinance only covers "new growth" areas. Also, it only requires that new developments include 10% of the homes for those with very low incomes and 5% for low income. There is no housing dedicated for those with extremely low incomes. Affordable homes are designed for people making less than 80%

of the median income for a given area. In the Sacramento area, the median income for a family of four is \$71,000. The different affordability levels are defined as a percentage of this number:

- "Low Income" is 80% of the median income, or \$56,800 per year:

- "Very Low Income" is 50% of the median income, or \$35,500 per year:

- "Extremely Low Income" is 30% of the median income, or \$21,300 per year for a family of four.

For a one person household, an income of \$14,900 per year would be considered; which is still more than some retirees living on Social Security receive.

Market rate housing serves people with median income. The old rule-of-thumb is that people should pay roughly 30% of their income to housing. But the way the market has been the last few years, to get housing many families and individuals have had to pay a higher percentage than that.

The Sacramento Housing Alliance has been leading advocacy efforts towards changing the current ordinance. Sandra Hamameh, Sacramento Housing Alliance Program Director explained, "We need people in the City of Sacramento to continue to urge the Mayor and City Council to do the right thing: To apply the ordinance city-wide and include housing for the poorest of the poor."

The Sacramento Housing Alliance asks advocates and supporters to continue to send letters, e-mails or make phone calls to the Mayor and City Council to urge them to adopt an ordinance that applies to the entire city and includes housing for families making less than \$22,000 for a family of four.

News about the Homeless News

Oprah Winfrey's film crew has been filming in Sacramento recently. They are doing a show that focuses on home foreclosures and the results for families and homelessness. They did quite a bit of filming out at the "Wasteland" (an area where many homeless people live in tents south of the American River). The show should air within the first couple weeks of March.

Also, in the news has been some great support from our local mass print media for tent cities. The Sacramento Bee printed a front page article on Sunday, December 10, 2008, called "Sacramento Seeks Solutions for its Wandering Army of Homeless", by Cynthia Hubert. On their website page of that story, they had a link to a forum page where they asked what readers thought about tent cities, and if the Sacramento Bee should endorse the idea. Very soon afterwards (December 14), the Sacramento Bee published an editorial by their editorial board, titled "Give the homeless legal places to sleep" which endorsed legal camping areas for homeless people. Then on December 22 they printed an op-ed by Mark Merin, attorney with the homeless civil rights lawsuit, titled "Tent Cities can offer answer to homelessness". Bee reporter Cynthia Hubert wrote another great article that appeared in the Bee January 23, titled "Homeless/Tent communities possible, Cycle of Frustration Spurs a Plan for action, Locations studied for legal campsites". Then yet another

endorsement by the Sacramento Bee Editorial "Give tent city a try" appeared in the Bee on January 25, 2009.

And not to be left out, our most popular weekly publication Sacramento News & Review printed an endorsement for tent cities on February 5, 2009, titled, "A legal tent town". This is not too late to be a tent city hero because they had endorsed tent cities many years ago when SHOC was organizing for a tent city. "It takes a different village" was their previous editorial printed in the Sacramento News & Review on January 16, 2008.

There has been a great deal of other news about homelessness covered in the Bee and on local TV stations. Many missed covering the big Safe Ground March and Rally because the Grant High School Celebration March and Rally was the same day and almost the same place (across the street from the Safe Ground Rally). But Homeward Street Journal, your local homeless news source, was on the scene and did a great front page article about the event.



Max's View: A New Pragmatism

by Max Biddle

The new year brings a change in America not seen since the great depression. In Washington our leaders are faced with a set of disasters that their own failures have brought about. The actions of Wall Street financial institutions, banking, credit, and other financial entities, has been like a visit to Alice in Wonderland. We realize that there was little coordination, intelligent planning or understanding of the economy as there was at the Mad Hatter's tea party.

If it weren't so tragic, one could compare the beginning of the Reagan years of uncontrolled spending, deregulation, greed, and bankrupting of the nation like following the White Rabbit down the hole into chaos.

The economic system we in the U.S. have been trying to sell the rest of the world over the past few decades has proven to be the house of cards ruled over by the Queen of Hearts in Wonderland. I remember when President Jimmy Carter warned us of our lack of moral compass, our dependence on foreign oil, and the need to address our priorities with reason. His call to common sense went unheeded.

We had to choose, in the 1980s, between responsible policies, or a philosophy of you can have it all - and you don't have to pay for it. In the 80's we sank all our assets into the military industrial complex. We deregulated our economy, which led to the savings and loan debacle, then to Enron. Wall Street became a massive Las Vegas on the East Coast. Wall Street and Congress both stood by while con-artists, Ponzi schemers and manipulators became the policy makers of our economy.

With a new administration coming to power, will this new group have the courage to stand up to those who committed these acts of bad judgment and acts of criminality? Will President Obama have the fortitude to stand up to the former Clinton advisors who were just as culpable? Already he has appointed past Clinton advisors who are part of the original problems they helped promote. And will the Republican Party, as it loses power, stop trying to destroy the country on its way out?

In California, Senator Pro Tempore Darrell Steinberg outlined in his inaugural address a program that offers real progress. But until the state constitution changes it's required 2/3 vote to pass a budget, nothing will get done when a handful of Legislatures can block the majority will.

Will Governor Schwarzenegger continue trying to solve our budget problems on the back of the poor? Or will he seek real reform and seek tax increases where possible?

We have seen the failure of Communism and Capitalism to solve the world's economic problems over the last century. Both systems failed to solve poverty or provide a distribution system that reached the world's populations. It's time to take a fresh look at a new economic model. One that will provide a solid safety-net and still allow the innovation of individual initiative that will keep alive a genuine competitive free market system. We have seen the failure of state controlled economies and deregulated capitalism. It's time for ideologues to step aside and let economic pragmatism reign free.

An Open Letter to Senator Steinberg

Senator Steinberg, please help homeless victims of crime! Homeless people become crime victims much more often than most people do.

Living and sleeping in the open and in shelters leaves them vulnerable to thefts, sexual assaults, and crimes of all kinds. About half of homeless people have intellectual or physical disabilities that make them more vulnerable crime targets. Their disabilities sometimes also lead hate-filled people to commit violence against them.

Police often don't take these crimes seriously. Officers sometimes even confiscate homeless people's property and allow it to be thrown away.

Now there's a bill in the Legislature that would help. It is Senate Bill 110, called the Crime Victims with Disabilities Act.

Loaves & Fishes, the Sacramento Housing Alliance, Resources for Independent Living, and The Arc of California have appealed for help to Sacramento's Senator, Darrell Steinberg. Senator Steinberg is the leader of the Senate and is in a powerful position to help get the bill through the upper house and send it on to the Assembly, and he has shown in the past that he cares about homeless people who are crime victims.

In a letter to Senator Steinberg, Loaves & Fishes and the Sacramento Housing Alliance said that Senate Bill 110 requires the Department of Justice to immediately inform every police chief and sheriff in California of each the following:

1. The fact that current law generally requires law enforcement agencies to train their officers using the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training's excellent telecourse on law enforcement response to homelessness.
2. The Legislature's strong encouragement that local law enforcement agencies provide the training in conjunction with homeless and formerly homeless people and their advocates and service providers.
3. The Legislature's strong encouragement that each local law enforcement agency adopt a formal policy on law enforcement response to homelessness based on the Commission's telecourse and the California Department of Justice report and recommendations.

In addition, SB 110's other provisions, designed to help victims with disabilities, will also help many homeless people.

Senator Steinberg has tried to help in the past by supporting legislation to make crimes against homeless people hate crimes, but those efforts didn't succeed. So we encourage Senator Steinberg to please continue to help homeless people by working to pass Senate Bill 110!

Crisis in Boom Town

Street News Service
www.streetnewsservice.org

by J. Fisher
Victoria Street Newz

CALGARY, CANADA: You could fall in love with this city at a quarter to 5am on a cold December morning. Dark, bleak and silent, it is the only remaining time of the day that permits a peek at the way this city used to be, at around 8 at night, just 10 short years ago (nothing short about them). It stands to remind one that this is still a young, provincial city, where the streets roll up and don't unroll too much before the coming of the sun (apologies to the bakers, the pigs, the cabbies, and the newspaper hacks). I was wandering these same streets back when the boom was just a wet towel hung over tomorrow's chair, and any job was a job worth having. It's all gone over and become something to forget, but it's still awful gorgeous at a quarter to 5 am.

So I'm walking and I have the downtown core to myself. Almost. Every 5 minutes another person asks me for change, (I haven't a pot to piss in) for a smoke (I haven't smoked in the day-time for years), some even try to sell me coupons, but to no avail. This can happen in broad daylight here, the main difference being the reaction I get for my denials. Every single one is pleasant, contrite, and sorry they bothered me. I guess this early they haven't been subjected to the onslaught of personal abuse they are guaranteed to receive.

Were there this many broke and broken people ten years ago? Was I too self-involved to notice?

20 minutes of pure frozen hustle and I make the temp agency offices. 5 minutes after

5 and I'm 20th in line. (In the old days, I'd be here alone for at least an hour). I sign in, fill the forms and hide in my cross-words. The people are pouring in. Twenty turns to thirty, thirty to forty. The room grows dank with morning breath and stale coffee. The stale coffee starts to work and the fidgeting begins. So do the bathroom runs (the bathroom here shares the same four walls as the waiting room, so the odor soon becomes unbearable), the return trips to the coffee machine, the noise levels leap. My arm is bashed, I'm hit up for smokes, my bag is repeatedly kicked, and there is no escape from the din. I'm pulled up out of my salvation and forced to address the obvious around me.

When I was a regular temp years ago, the crowd was almost always thin and always in rougher condition than I was. No matter my spot in line, I always got work. My apparent sobriety (which, often, was just thinly disguised functional alcoholism) and clean clothing guaranteed it. I suppose my youth didn't hurt my chances either. One real look around the room told me things here had changed as much as the streets I just came in on.

The overwhelming majority of the people sharing that room with me were clean cut, middle aged blue collar Joes, fully sober and equipped for the day's labours (visi-vests, hard-hats, safety boots, cell phones, etc). Most fingered resume files while they waited for their names to be called. Some phoned home to tell partners that there may be no work again today. The only dirt these folks had on was the residuals of dry-wall

dust or engine grease from the previous days work. This was not the image most Calgarians have of the temp labour pool.

I've sat without work for weeks now, and I never thought I'd be down here, hustling for day labor again. I guess none of these people did, either. Like me, they've washed out through the boom grate as the weather goes foul and the outdoor jobs dry up. This is the real face of the recession. It's not about who can afford lattes at break, or SUVs when the lease runs out. It's about looking these people in the face, at 8 am, when they've sat for three hours, and telling them there'll be no work again today.

At least I can write about it to dull the hunger and the fear that this day has wrought upon me.

...

J. Fisher lives and works in Calgary's downtown core. He is busy writer and a prolific submitter. New pieces are currently running in *Inscribed*, Germany's *Blue Print Review*, and, as always, the back pages of the *Street Newz*. His first two collections, *Death Day Erection* (2004) and *bulletin from the low light* (2006) are available on Frontenac House.

Reprinted from *Victoria Street Newz*
Street News Service:
www.street-papers.org

Bob & Spencer

The HAPPY Homeless Guys



by Scott Valentine & Mike Diaz

Save The Date

The Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee is holding a fund raiser near downtown Sacramento on April 16, 2009

***Dinner & Music
Fun For All!***

Please R.S.V.P.

For more info call the office at 442-2156 or visit SHOC's Wiki at <http://shoc.wikispaces.com>



I Am the Wind

I am the wind, gently blowing your hair -
you cannot see me, but I am there.
I will take your kite high in the sky -
through drafts in a house you can hear me sigh.
Times I will blow softly and whisper to the trees -
the flowers gently beckon to the bees.
I will rustle them lightly, my sigh is low -
and the autumn leaves shining their red and gold.
I am the wind, and will push your sails far out to sea -
like a gracefull swan, the ocean waves, you and me.
Like an angry stranger I can turn on you -
your sailboat suddenly thrown askew.
The waves will rise with sudden force -
and the little boat will loose its course.
Then the rage I feel will be calm once more -
and I will guide your boat back to shore.

Rosanna 9/24/08

Obituary

Jesus "Jesse" Reyes

d. 1/5/09 aged 72
pending

Alonzo King

d. 1/20/09 aged 72
of Pneumonia

Jennifer Doyle

d. 1/26/09 aged 35
of injury during siezure

Dane Plunger

d. 2/16/09 aged 51
Hit by Amtrak train

Steve "Stretch" Arnold

d. 2/18/09 aged 40
of natural causes

A Final Thought

For about the last week or so I have been without money and have had no place to stay so I sleep where ever seems safe. It's against the law to do this in populated areas in the US as far as I know. Sometimes there are no beds available and so it shall be the homeless person sleeps outside some place. If this is you be professional don't disturb anything

or anyone. Don't sleep in plain view of the general public if you don't like being disturbed. Don't sleep in dirty places, stay warm and be nice to yourself whenever possible, it's the least you can do it's tuff out on the street - and don't forget to spit on the sidewalk once in a while...

Adam Moore



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

Please mail my copies to:

Name: _____

Street & Apt: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Make checks payable to the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC)
and mail to: PO Box 952 • Sacramento, CA 95812

3.2

Office
Use
only

received

mail list

clip & mail coupon

HOMELESS RESOURCES

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. John's Shelter: Women and
Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call
between 10am & 3pm for space avail-
ability. **453-1482**

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon
St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 6:30pm at
mission, Newcomers/Referrals have prior-
ity. 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**

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

Women's Civic Improvement Center:
Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30
lunch M-F **452-2866**

Helping Hands: 3526 5th Ave.
Sundays, 8-11 breakfast, sack lunch,
clothing

Food-not-Bombs: serves free food in
Cesar Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every
Sunday 1:30 pm. and at James McClatchy
Park on Wed. 4 pm. All Welcome.

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 *Wind in 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: Wed. only. Call for
appointment to go in at 11am, 1 or 1:30pm,
or attend Bible study at 9:15am and get
clothing at 10am **447-3268**

Medical

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

Capital Health Clinic: 1500 C St. (near
15th) Adults 8-5 M-F: **874-5302**.

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

Mental Health

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

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

**Consumer Self-Help: Currently
Closed**

Genesis: Professional Counseling for
life problems. Referrals. Next to
Friendship Park gate. **699-1536**

Youth Services

Diogenes: youth 16-21 yrs old. Hot
Line call **1-800-339-7177**

Wind Youth Center: 701 Dixieanne
Ave. Serves youth ages 12-20. Breakfast
and Lunch; Clothing; Laundry and
Showers; Case Management. Drop-in
Hours: M - F from 8:00am to 4:30pm and
Sat 10am to 2pm. **443-8333**

Crisis Intervention

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

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

facility, drop-in. **732-3637**

AIDS / HIV

AIDS Housing Alliance provides res-
idential care, transitional housing & per-
manent housing services to homeless
persons living with aids. **979-0897** week-
days.

**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: 3640 40th
St.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing;
case management for HIV; free medical
clinic, needle exchange. **456-4849**

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

Legal Aid

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

**Legal Services of Northern
California, Inc:** 515 12th St. (at E ST.)
M-F 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Problems
with public benefits, landlord / tenant,
divorce clinic. Call for appt. **551-2150**

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

Miscellaneous

Francis House: 1422 C st. 9:30-11:30
am M-W & 1-3 pm M-F: walk-in or refer-
ral providing resource counseling, advoca-
cy, vouchers for IDs, Dvr Licenses, Birth
Certificates, plus motel vouchers for qual-
ified families. **443-2646**

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

About SHA

The Sacramento Housing
Alliance is a network of
concerned citizens which pro-
motes decent affordable housing
for low income households and
homeless people through advoca-
cy and participation in public
discourse.

**The SHA does not
itself provide or
manage housing.**

You may call for info:
(916) 455-4900

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

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

Send donations to:

Sacramento Housing Alliance
1800 21st St. Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

CLASSIFIED

Mail or bring your ad to the
Homeward office. Try to keep
it under 25 words.

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
832-5510;

Or mail to
Loaves & Fishes,
Jobs for Homeless,
PO Box 2161,
Sac, CA 95812

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

Infoline:
Tele-info & referral service:
498-1000

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

Health Rights Hotline:
551-2100

VA Outreach:
1-800-827-1000
Homeless VA Coordinator:
(916) 364-6547

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 occu-
pational assistance, and acts as a cre-
ative self-help opportunity for those indi-
viduals who wish to participate.

The opinions expressed in Homeward
are those of the authors, and not nec-
essarily the Sacramento Housing Alliance
or SHOC or Homeward.

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All writing submitted for publication
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respect for the authors' intent. The
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however, the paper will go to print with
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All Letters to the Editor must be signed
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