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## Street Journal

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## City Evicts Homeless Community

Sacramento “campers” moved along to nowhere, two arrested for refusing to go.

Staff Report

After being threatened with citations from County Rangers when Safe Ground was located in the American River Parkway a couple months ago, they made their way to the south side of the American River to a strip of land surrounded on one side by the levee and on the other side by a chain link fence separating the area from Industrial zoned businesses.

This quiet, hidden strip of land, though next to the American River Parkway, was actually the jurisdiction of the City of Sacramento and patrolled by police or City park rangers.



Portion of Homeless Community before Eviction  
(all photos this story courtesy various SafeGround advocates)

**Continued on Page 4**

## Urban development & ‘Manhattization’ in Switzerland

by Surprise - Switzerland

Two years ago the residents of Weststrasse in Zurich breathed a sigh of relief. After decades of noise and emissions, the transit route got closed off from traffic. But the peace did not last long. As house prices were driven up by keen investors, low-income tenants were driven out in a process that has been called ‘Manhattization’ in other cities in the western world.

A motorbike casually rolls along at walking pace towards Wiedikon. Two children on scooters are doing figure of eights. A few steps further on, two women are chatting away on the doorstep. If it wasn’t for the noisy building work and the soot blackened façades, then Weststrasse would be a nice urban street in the middle of Zurich.

Soon that happy scene will become a reality. By the end of the year, the road works are supposed to be completed and in May the traffic-calmed Weststrasse will be officially opened. It could be really charming. However the children with the scooters and the chatting women are not likely to benefit from it. This is because the rent along Weststrasse is rising rapidly and removal vans can be seen almost as often as the concrete lorries on their way to building sites. Every second tenant here is losing their home.

Yet two years ago, the people on Weststrasse

had been looking forward to it. They could finally breathe a sigh of relief. This was because in the summer of 2009 the Western Bypass and the Uetliberg tunnel were opened. A year later, Weststrasse was closed to through traffic. Previously, the transit route was known as the ‘Exhaust of the Nation’.

Since 1971, the through traffic from Bern and Austria streamed over the Hardbrücke in District 4, where bumper to bumper traffic heaved along Weststrasse through Wiedikon to Sihl, in order to join the motorway towards Chur and the South. As part of what was known as the Western Bypass, Weststrasse was a de facto multi-lane urban motorway. More than 1000 cars and 100 lorries travelled over it per hour causing noise and air pollution to exceed all limit values.

Weststrasse was not an attractive area and for that reason low priced homes could be found there. According to the study ‘A Changing Weststrasse’ by the Zurich University of Applied Sciences, ZHAW, in 2007 there were 595 homes in the row of buildings along the street, in which 1181 people lived. Half of them were below the age of 30 and 52% of the tenants were foreigners from 61 different nations.

There were many single-occupancy households and an abundance of flat shares. Since 1995, the proportion of family households dropped from 50 per cent to three per cent and

many car traders and also several establishments from the red-light districts had taken up tenancies in the premises. According to this study, the average taxable income of the tenants amounted to 40,100 francs, with the city average at 61,900.

The tax revenues from Weststrasse are likely to rise in the near future. This July in the ‘Tages-Anzeiger’, an estate agent predicted that the composition of the future tenants would be: “Bankers, lawyers or people living off the wealth of their parents.”

The authorities were aware that there would be consequences to the closure of the thoroughfare. Günther Arber of Zurich’s Urban Development Department wrote in the aforementioned ZHAW study that Weststrasse is “virtually a perfect example, demonstrating how decisions and measures taken by the public authorities- in this case the establishment of a traffic regime and the improvement of the street itself- affect the parties involved in the private property market.”

The authors of the study described the anticipated effect more specifically: “The lower status population group of Weststrasse, which up to now has been strongly represented, will be driven out through renovation and higher rent, which is expected to increase further.”

**Continued Page 2**

Page 2

**Manhattization**  
continued

Page 3

**Gross  
Domestic  
Happiness**

Page 4

**Eviction**  
conclusion

Page 5

**Anti-camping  
Ordinance**  
commentary

**Occupy Arrests**  
update

**Hunger Up**

Page 6

**Chongo on  
Eisenhower's  
Speech**

Page 7

**Cartoons  
A Short Story  
Obituary**

Page 8

**Homeless  
Services  
Info**

## 'Manhattization' in Switzerland continued from Page 1

These predictions made in 2007 are gradually becoming reality. Many properties are undergoing renovations and the tenants are being driven away by the building noise or are being given their notice.

For quite some time, Weststrasse has been an important topic for the Zurich Tenants Association. Director Felicitas Huggenberger said the Tenants Association had given advice to over 100 people from Weststrasse and the surrounding area in recent years: "The whole of District 3 and part of District 4 are facing the pressure of appreciation. Appeal against initial rent is the issue in many consultations"

Huggenberger continues: "There are homes where prices have increased from 1500 to 3500 francs following a change in tenancy. Not much would have been done to the accommodation, yet the landlords are demanding this increased rent rather simply because they can for a flat in this location: nice and central and no more noise from the traffic."

Huggenberger observed a multitude of renovations: "To some extent living space is being created in the luxury segment, for example through condominium ownership." No average earner can afford that, let alone the socially disadvantaged who are being particularly hard hit by the change on Weststrasse: "Some residences were real holes, which had seen no investment in decades. The residents have endured these miserable conditions because of the low rent and are now struggling to find something new due to their low budgets."

The nation invests, private parties cash in

With such hardship in mind, the people who were interviewed for this article refer time and time again to a letter, which the city council had aimed at the landlords. According to Felicitas Huggenberger, the story goes as follows: The authorities requested that the proprietors give notice in the most socially acceptable way. Consideration should however be given in particular to the elderly. In addition, the city council sent the landlords a leaflet, which they could pass on to their tenants, with tips on looking for accommodation.

The leaflet in turn referred them to a website which provided a tip: Search outside of the city.

It is reminiscent of the by now infamous statement of the Association of Home Owners: There is no human right to live in the city of Zurich. "The letter was indeed well intentioned, however it had an unintended effect: They had shown the property

fordable living space. In many cases, if complete renovation is planned, then the rent is becoming far more expensive. Even co-operatives or the Zurich city council cannot build very cost-effectively. The middle class are therefore moving to these new



Weststrasse before - photo courtesy Suprise/ Michael Schilliger

owners how to get the tenants out," commented Felicitas Huggenberger, who thinks the city council has done too little.

After all, the bypass, which lead to the appreciation, was financed by tax payers' money. In contrast, the profits are being pocketed by private parties. Some cantons levy the so called property appreciation tax: When a property increases in value without the owner having made any investment in it (for instance rezoning from agricultural to buildable land), a tax will be levied. The canton of Zurich does not do that. The city of Zurich could however actively intervene in the property market with its Foundation for the Preservation of Affordable Housing and Commercial Space (PWG).

For example over the last few years, the foundation purchased properties in the Langstrasse area to withdraw them from the milieu. But the PWG has not been actively involved in Weststrasse. The city council says it has not been able to compete with private investors because of the horrendous rise in prices.

For Huggenberger the incidents on Weststrasse are symbolic of how intense the pressure on the Zurich housing market is: "People from the middle classes are also having trouble finding af-

fordable living space. In many cases, if complete renovation is planned, then the rent is becoming far more expensive. Even co-operatives or the Zurich city council cannot build very cost-effectively. The middle class are therefore moving to these new

developments. However, in order for the city to remain lively and mixed, people with a yearly income of under 60000 francs also need an abode which they can afford."

Scaffolding masks deception

On Weststrasse there are a multitude of home owners, most of them private. Many buildings

belong to individuals or joint ownerships. Hence the position is not clear cut and each proprietor will react to the situation in their own way.

Many sell up while others renovate their property in order to demand higher rent afterwards. Only a few withstand the lure of money, for example an elderly landlady or a student flat share who live in the same property.

The students, who wish to remain anonymous, explain "As long as she lives here, we are sure to be allowed to stay." Yet the students are also experiencing the transformations close by: "It is unbelievable the speed at which lofts are being renovated, façades painted, windows replaced, yes, whole houses are being gutted and rebuilt." The traffic has gone, but one thing remains: "The floors vibrate- before it was because of the lorries, now it's because of the construction machinery."

In addition, the students are witnessing the methods in which property owners are embellishing their properties. There is a house in their neighbourhood where the occupants received their notice because of upcoming renovation. After the tenants moved out, scaffolding was erected. That was obviously a diversionary tactic: "Nobody saw any builders. Nothing was built. Nothing was painted. No windows were replaced. Then suddenly the scaffolding was taken down. Now new tenants are living there."

The students were not aware of

any commitment on the part of the city council in support of the Weststrasse residents. Similarly they are not aware of any protest action by the tenants. "Many tenants here are neither adequately networked nor have they enough time to get involved in any kind of action." In addition, many Weststrasse residents would hardly have any knowledge about tenants' rights.

With a lack of knowledge and no solidarity, it leaves long standing tenants to work out where they stand whilst the city council looks on as new living space for wealthy people arises. Welcome to the open market. The losers leave the city, the winners rub their hands with glee.

Felicitas Huggenberger of the tenants association says: "According to the interest reference rate, a landlord must not achieve any more than 3.25 per cent net yield. But every estate agent laughs when they hear that."

"Lowest of the low"

Franco Sesa lived for 13 years in Weststrasse. Last year the house in which he was living was sold. Here he explains how he surrendered to the imposing appreciation of his home.

"Until this September I lived in a two-room flat for 900 Swiss francs. Since I only work part time and in addition to this I am doing an apprenticeship, it fell

**Continued Page 7**



Weststrasse after - photo courtesy Suprise/Sophie Stieger

# Gross Domestic Happiness in Times of Recession

By Surprise - Switzerland

According to politicians and the media, our well-being is directly dependant on the Gross Domestic Product and its growth. Although it has been proven that this belief is in fact false, we nevertheless continue to desperately cling on to it and, in doing so, destroy the very foundations of our happiness.

A simpleton spends his nights diligently searching for his lost wallet under the light of a street lantern when a helpful passer-by informs him that his wallet is lying 100 m down the road. So why on earth was he desperately looking in this particular spot? "Well there's no light over there!" he replies. Making fun of slow people has stopped being a source for laughter for many years now and this is indeed an old joke. But to this day, it seems we are unable to fully recognize his mistake. Indeed, when it comes to the search for happiness and well-being, we behave exactly like the simpleton in the joke. Furthermore, our behavior is having increasingly catastrophic consequences for the most vulnerable members of society, the environment, and last but not least, for ourselves.

For governments looking to be (re-) elected, the irrefutable words of wisdom remain: "It's the economy, stupid." These were the very words his campaign strategist repeatedly used when Bill Clinton was running for the US presidential elections in 1992. And with these words, Clinton successfully unseated his presumed-unbeatable opposing candidate, George Bush, who had just put an end to the Gulf War and the Cold War. The motto was simple: if the economy runs smoothly, the citizens are happy.

News presenters, today's messengers of ill-omen, can dramatize the situation all they like, there is no news that the growth prospects of the economy have been deteriorating. Since the Industrial Revolution, there has been a general consensus between citizens, governments and the media: when the economy is going well, so are we.

A country's economic performance is measured by its GDP (Gross Domestic Product). This measure was implemented after the Great Depression of the 1920s as a thermometer for economic development. The GDP objectively assesses the value of all goods and services produced in a country in a given year. Spending 1,500 Swiss francs on a bicycle: that's worth one good point for the GDP. Falling off the bike and breaking your leg: that's worth a couple of points for

the GDP. And a collision with a car and a consequent auto body repair is ideal for bumping up those GDP points. This would bring a total contribution of 4,500 Swiss francs to the GDP and represents a three-fold increase in economic growth that would not have occurred had the cyclist happily pedaled along accident-free.

The GDP, an indicator of actual annual increase estimates (nobody wants to even think of a stagnation, far less a decrease), and economic growth have a big advantage: They are both easy to measure and to understand and provide a bright light in our search for happiness. But their disadvantage is to lead us into confusion. Indeed, they do not measure what we are actually looking for.

Money only makes poor people happy

In a recent article, Jeffrey D Sachs, professor of Economics at Columbia University in New York and UN advisor, summed up the point very simply: "Economic growth increases in rich countries - happiness does not." On average, the GDP of industrialized countries has tripled over the last 30 years. However according to various surveys, the world's level of happiness over this same period has not evolved; except in the US where a decrease was registered. Economic progress only brings happiness to places where poverty reigns. Once poverty has been eradicated, as it has been for the major part here in Switzerland, other factors are taken into account such as culture, health, a clean environment, compassion, and a sense of community. The more a country focuses its attention on its GDP and economic growth, the more the other factors feel the strain. As studies have also shown, social inequality and environmental destruction have a negative influence on the well-being of citizens.

In the late 1970s, the early 1980s and again at the beginning of the 1990s, the global economy went into crisis and growth slumped. Incidentally, these same time periods were a golden age for the environment: pollution levels decreased and reductions in CO2 emissions, for example, were noticed. Even the financial crisis of 2008 and 2009 brought a short period of rest to the environment. But now, economic analysts (at least those who focus on the short-term) are optimistic again: the economic situation is picking up. During the last quarter of 2011, the Swiss economy grew by 2.4% compared to the same period last year.

But setting up a steady rising GDP has another twist to it: it is simply impossible. Since growth has always been based on the consumption of resources that we take from the earth, even a consistent focus on creating renewable energies and the internet would not change this fact. These technologies and an efficient management might provide more yields from fewer resources but even if we were to stand on our own heads, one thing is clear: the Earth is not going to grow.

This notion was also taken into consideration in Urs P. Gasche and Hanspeter Guggenbühl's book "Stop with the Growth Illusion" (Schluss mit dem Wachstumswahn), published in 2010. The authors demonstrated that if our economy were to grow by 2% each year (the minimum target upon which politicians agree on), in 35 years we would have to consume, build, and fly twice as much as we do today. As we learnt in school, percentage growth is exponential. Consequently, over the next 70 years, our economy would have to grow fourfold. We would have to build four times more and sell four times as much. Or to go back to our cyclist, we would need to have four times as many accidents as we do today.

The New Economics Foundation in London adopted another approach (their slogan is: "Economics as if people and the planet mattered"). In 2009 they calculate the Happy Planet Index (HPI), an index of human well-being and environmental impact established through surveys. Even if the notion of well-being is hard to determine through surveys, the HPI nevertheless pushes us to search outside the area lit by our simpleton's street lantern. A clear trend was recognized and the results in the developed countries were crushing: the three countries that made the top of the HPI international ranking were Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, a country that suffers one of the highest crime rates in the world. Switzerland stood at number 52. This is primarily due to the enormous amount of resources we consume.

"Gross Domestic Happiness" in Bhutan

Many people throughout Europe have recognized the mistake and have moved their business strategies away from a growth-based, profit-driven orientation. Like the German journalist Annette Jensen has observed, green political parties and autonomous spheres are no longer the only ones who believe that a shift in orientation is neces-

sary. Her latest book, "We are increasing Gross Social Happiness", talks about a shoe-maker, who puts employee satisfaction, ecological safety, and regional development before profit. And with all this in consideration, he is able to successfully employ 90 staff and produce shoes that do not cost much more than those sold by Nike or Adidas. Jensen also talks about a village who decided to shut the door on a large corporation and take charge of their energy supply for themselves.

At a government level, the only country that puts more emphasis on providing its citizens the greatest possible well-being rather than economic growth is the small Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan. Nearly 40 years ago, the small kingdom lodged in the Himalayas decided it would strive for "Gross Domestic Happiness". Based on surveys, about 70 happiness indicators -most of which are intangible assets- have been developed since. It is upon these very indicators that the country's politics are founded. Ecuador and Bolivia pursue a similar approach called "good living" which supports the lifestyle of indigenous communities. But at the same time, Ecuador has committed itself to promoting economic growth and as Werner Hörtner, an expert on Latin America mentions, conflicts between economic growth and the

preservation and respect for nature are inevitable. Despite various targeted government efforts to try and define a more sensible global approach, life goes on for the rest of the world just like it did 50 years ago: with the GDP as the principal measurement for everything.

In the song Color Photo, Swiss singer Mani Matter sings about an advertising poster that features a couple sitting in a carriage at sunset. The objective behind the poster was to convince him that "I see happiness as a glass full of liqueur, I don't know how I'm feeling anymore." (ds Glück sigi das, un es Glas vom ne Liqueur, i weiss nümme, wie me n ihm seit) The lyrics to the song end on an ironic note: "Our life on Earth, you have to admit it, it's pretty rotten. And those who know where to find happiness know not to ask for a price". (Üses mönchliche Läben uf Ärde, das müesst Ihr doch zugäh isch mies/ Und weme weiss, wo me ds Glück cha ga finde, de fragt me doch nid nach em Priis) Maybe now, after 40 years of rapid economic growth, is the time to ask ourselves this very question.

*Translated from German into English by Olivia Fuller*

[www.streetnewsservice.org/](http://www.streetnewsservice.org/)  
Surprise - Switzerland

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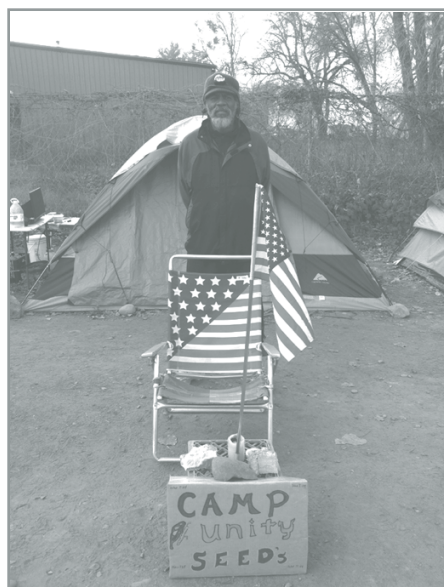
**THE BIG ISSUE**

# Eviction

continued from Page 1

Although it is illegal to camp anywhere in Sacramento, law enforcement may have been tolerant since the area was kept clean, sanitation concerns were addressed, and Safe Ground members signed a covenant to keep drugs, alcohol and violence out of the camp. Plus there was nowhere more out of the way and hidden than this place.

Soon other homeless people migrated to the area, both individuals and communal groups, probably finding it attractive for its suitability and a place to escape the County Ranger's relentless crackdown along the American River Parkway.



Eli in Front of Tent

By the beginning of December, there were about 25 to 30 tents in the Safe Ground camp, with one or two people per tent. Surrounding their camp were approximately 70 or 80 tents belonging to people not members of Safe Ground. Leaders from all the camps met regularly to coordinate activities, resolve problems, and to make decisions.

Early in December, police came in and gave many of the community notices that they would have to leave the area. There was no date on the notice but the residents expected eviction by citations or arrests to occur within days. All the camp leaders met and decided they would all stand in solidarity, refusing to leave. Safe Ground Sacramento called a press conference at the camping area on December 2, which attracted TV and newspaper reporters. Media presence may have staved off the evictions, or it may have been the announcement that civil disobedience would ensue upon eviction that preserved this community until after Christmas. Rumor had it that the police sweep wouldn't happen until January 2nd or 3rd.

It was the morning of December 28 that they did finally come in, and they came in force with around 40 police, including a paddy wagon and CSI photographers.

According to a document titled "Safe Ground Incident Action Plan" that was found on the scene, there was a detailed plan that included at least 30 named police officers and several volunteers. The 10 page document laid out a plan to try to get homeless campers to voluntarily pack up and leave, and for officers to work in teams assigned to sections of the camp grounds. This seemed to be the way the day played out. Most homeless campers peacefully packed their belongings and left, either on their own or with the help of volunteers. The police's supply of pepper balls were left unused.

One camper, though, was arrested early in the day for saying that he wasn't leaving since he had nowhere else to go. Eli was previously interviewed by Mark Horvath from [www.invisiblepeople.tv](http://www.invisiblepeople.tv), where he shared that he used to be a carpenter who lost his paying customers due to the economic downturn and then became homeless. When asked about his future he didn't feel hopeful about getting a job because he was too old, and at the same time too young to get social security, but he said, "My future's great because God's given me a dream that we will have some stable place that we can live."

Another person, Leo, was also given a citation because he said he wouldn't leave. He was not arrested.



Jeannie Waiting

Jeannie, a Safe Ground Elder, decided she was not going to leave either. She kept her tent erected and waited, not alone, but with many supporters who stayed with her late into the night.

At 7 PM the police got in their vehicles and left. The next morning they came back and arrested her for violation of the camping ordinance. She was released around 3PM that same day and has been given a January 19 court date.

Where did everyone go?

The day of the police sweep there were approximately 150 people displaced from their meager shelters. Many went to one of Safe Ground's Pilgrimage Churches, which are churches that allow homeless people to stay inside their doors just for one night, usually during severe weather.



Property Being Removed

Some people went to the Winter Sanctuary program, a county program where churches, on a rotating basis, open their doors to homeless people, allowing up to 100 people to sleep on their floors (*floors not beds*). The Winter Sanctuary has been generally filled to capacity since it opened early in December 2011, but they did add a few spots for the roused campers.

Some were able to get into the Union Gospel Mission, a shelter just for men. Some went back to the other side of the river to sleep in the American River Parkway. And Central City business owners may have noticed an increase of

homeless people sleeping in alleys and doorways.

Before the sweep, shelter beds and other homeless housing programs have been filled to capacity with long waiting lists, leaving over 1,200 homeless people unable to access shelter on any given night. The American River area is not the only place homeless people congregate.

In Ginger Rutland's Sacramento Bee editorial she wrote "...it's hard for me at this season not to think of the Biblical Mary and Joseph looking for shelter. If they had not found that stable and had slept on a riverbank instead, would the cops at Bethlehem have roused them?"

## SEARCHING FOR SAFEGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

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**OCT 8** Episode 1 - "Third World America"

**NOV 12** Episode 2 - "Outside In"

**DEC 10** Episode 3 - "Where Will I Stay Tonight?"

**JAN 14** Episode 4 - "It Is What It Is"

**FEB 11** Episode 5 - "Now What?"

# Sacramento's Anti-Camping Ordinance Debunked

By Paula Lomazzi

There are over 1,200 people who find that it is illegal for them to live because they must live outdoors. Well, legally they could probably sleep if they didn't use a blanket or sleeping bag to keep themselves warm, and didn't use a tarp or tent to protect them from the rain.

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee first formed in 1987 in response to the City of Sacramento's adoption of a new anti-camping ordinance. In response, SHOC organized protests and eventually participated in a legal challenge to that ordinance, which was then struck down as unconstitutional by the appellate court. The City followed up by enacting a new anti-camping ordinance that took into consideration when shelters were full.

Today we have another incarnation of that anti-camping ordinance, that provides no moratorium when the shelters are full. And the shelters are always full with long waiting lists.

Title 12 deals with camping under Chapter 12.52. Under Section 12.52.020, some of the terms used in the ordinance are defined, such as: "Camp" means to place, pitch or occupy camp facilities; to live temporarily in a camp facility or outdoors; to use camp paraphernalia; 'Camp facilities' include, but are not limited to, tents, huts, vehicles, vehicle camping outfits or temporary shelter; 'Camp paraphernalia' includes, but is not limited to, bedrolls, tarpaulins, cots,

beds, sleeping bags, hammocks or cooking facilities and similar equipment." So "camping" basically entails living outdoors. But it also can be defined as using camp paraphernalia. What? Paraphernalia? Paraphernalia is defined as your usual conception of camping equipment, but "is not limited to". I knew of a fellow that got a camping citation many years ago for setting his backpack on a park table. The backpack fell under that "not limited to" category.

The meat of the ordinance, 12.52.030, makes the following a misdemeanor offense, "It is unlawful and a public nuisance for any person to camp, occupy camp facilities, or use camp paraphernalia in the following areas: A. Any public property; or B. Any private property."

Trying to sound like it's not really infringing on constitutional property rights (which the constitution is strong on) it states, "1. It is not intended by this section to prohibit overnight camping on private residential property by friends or family of the property owner, so long as the owner consents and the overnight camping is limited to not more than one consecutive night."

It goes on in #2 to further talk the reader into believing that they aren't trying to mess with property owner's rights, and in #3 says that the city manager can issue a permit in relation to a special event.

Similarly, the ordinance makes it against the law under 12.52.040 for the "Storage of personal property on public and pri-

rate property". It states, "It is unlawful and a public nuisance for any person to store personal property, including camp paraphernalia, in the following areas, except as otherwise provided by resolution of the city council: A. Any public property; or B. Any private property without the written consent of the owner." The rest of the ordinance talks about special event permits, and the city manager and other technicalities. But wait! Let's go back. What did it say? That you can't store personal property on private property without the written consent of the owner? Now if I wanted to store my bicycle in my daughter's garage would I need to carry around her written consent or else I could be in violation of the camping ordinance, a misdemeanor offense?

I hope no one is planning on enforcing that anytime soon. It recently cost Sacramento \$408,000 to enforce a park curfew against a few dozen Occupy Sacramentans--can you imagine the City trying to ensure that everyone storing property on other people's property have written permission? And can you image the reams of paper required for all those permission slips? Similarly disturbing is the wording "any public property" which in actuality forbids homeless people or people that just went shopping at a sporting goods store from setting any of their camping equipment on the ground, if public property. Wait a second there: Anyone with any kind of personal property is hereby forbidden from setting down anything on the ground or on any public property.

Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee continues to work around this inhumane ordinance, taking incident reports, referring "offenders" of the ordinance to attorneys or other legal avenues, protesting formally and informally, etc.. Several years ago we were even involved in a lawsuit against the City and County of Sacramento to try to overturn the camping ordinance through the courts, in conjunction with protection of people's property that had been taken by law enforcement while they were homeless. The court threw out the part of the lawsuit that tried to address the ordinance itself, but allowed the property protection portion to continue, which resulted in a win for the homeless plaintiffs. As I said, the constitution is big on property rights.

Though this ordinance on its face is cruel and uncaring toward those without property or the income to pay rent to a property owner, would things be much different if it were overturned? Would the City just come up with another ordinance? Or would they just use the similarly cruel and uncaring anti-lodging State Law 647j to try to eliminate homeless people from their site? It is the real motives and intent behind the ordinance, not the stated motives, of the people that support this legislation, that needs to be changed -- HEARTS AND MINDS.

*Disclaimer: This is in no way a legal analysis and is actually more an opinion piece by a very discouraged homeless advocate.*

## Update: Occupy Arrestees Not Prosecuted

by Tracie Rice-Bailey

I am one of the nine Occupy arrestees who did NOT have to appear in court for trial. ALL the cases were dropped just the day before we were to appear in Court to be tried on curfew charges.

How much money did our City waste to arrest and attempt to prosecute Sacramento Occupiers? The Sacramento Bee reported that so far it has cost the City \$408,000. This includes 83 people going to court only to have charges, which should have never been made in the first place, dismissed.

A quick look into the chain of events.

Peaceful Protesters, attempting to exercise their First Amendment Right, which is the right to peacefully assemble, were arrested on curfew violations for remaining in a City park after hours. We were actually arrested for remaining in a posted riot zone also, but, that charge was immediately dropped as there was no riot other than

Police in full riot gear. We spent several hours in jail and were released in the morning with a notice to appear in court.

I personally appeared in Court on two occasions, as did many other protesters. This has a huge price tag also, and for the City to drag it out just to drop charges the day before trial started clearly shows that the people in charge of our fine City should not be.

It is not cheap for real - this money could have better been spent on winter Sanctuary or other social service programs to help our poor.

What it does show is that our City Counsel would rather throw away major amounts of tax dollars, in a very broke economy, than allow their constituents the First Amendment right of the Freedom to Peacefully assemble.

I am glad that I did not have to spend any real time in jail - but - I was ready either way because I believe in what I did. I did nothing wrong.

## Hunger up in U.S. Cities, More to Come

Reuters

A survey of 29 cities shows hunger has risen in most of them in the last year and is largely expected to increase in 2012 as the United States faces a sluggish economy, the U.S. Conference of Mayors said last week.

Homelessness also rose an average of 6 percent for the surveyed cities, with the increase in homeless families far outpacing the number for individuals.

Mayors said the figures showed the depth of problems facing poor and low-income families as the United States slowly recovers from a deep economic downturn and joblessness that was at 8.6 percent last month.

They urged that food and housing programs be defended as the government moved closer to \$1.2 trillion in mandatory cuts aimed at reducing a ballooning federal deficit.

The survey "should be a wakeup call for cities involved and the country," Kansas City Mayor Sly James said in a conference call

with reporters.

"Here in the richest country of the world we have people who cannot find a place to live and we are failing to address it such that the numbers are increasing, not decreasing."

Eighty-six percent of the cities reported requests for emergency food aid had increased in the last year, the survey by the mayors' group said.

Kansas City showed the sharpest increase, at 40 percent. It was followed by Boston and Salt Lake City, both at 35 percent.

Unemployment led the list of causes of hunger, followed by poverty, low wages and high housing costs.

No survey city expected requests for emergency food aid to drop over the next year, and 93 percent expected a rise.

**Continued Page 7**

# PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S SPEECH ON SCIENCE AND WAR - FIFTY YEARS LATER

[www.chongonation.com](http://www.chongonation.com)

by the homeless science writer

## Chongo

I still remember, as a child, listening to the only American president I had ever known for all of my then short life give his farewell speech to his fellow countrymen, delivered to what is left of an aging baby boom generation just recovering from the McCarthy era through millions upon millions of black and white televisions. It left me with an impression that has lasted ever since, for my entire life: what has now become decades, indeed half a century, which how long the memory has persisted.

Surprisingly, the president's speech was no so much a goodbye, but a warning, surely intended as much for the young who were listening as for the adult public who were, about science, and its application to the industrialization and consequential albeit unspoken institutionalization of modern warfare. Eisenhower put this idea in much simpler terms.

Before becoming president, Eisenhower was a general, during the Second World War. He commanded the successful Allied forces in the Normandy invasion of 1944, a calculated risk the Allied forces took that could have resulted in disaster instead of victory, changing history dramatically.

The year 2011 marked the fiftieth anniversary of that speech. 2011 has ended, but what he had to say in his farewell speech should be remembered, now and for as long as there is war and for as long as it threatens civil coexistence on this planet (i.e. the peace of civilization), which is the purpose that the subject of this article serves. What follows are excerpts from Eisenhower's speech.

(The reader is advised not to confuse Eisenhower with the McCarthy era and the disgrace upon our cultural heritage that was any more than it should be confused that this article, by choosing Eisenhower, is any kind of endorsement of the modern republican party. To be clear, it flatly is not. Joseph McCarthy was long gone by the time this speech was made, victim of acute alcoholism, and the only war hero that the modern republican party has fielded since then was not a general, in command of all western allied forces.)

January 17, 1961; Excerpts from President Eisenhower's farewell address to the American people:

"We now stand ten years past the midpoint of a century that has witnessed four major wars, among great nations. Until the latest of our world conflicts, the United States had

no armaments industry. American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords, as well. But we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense.

"We have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions. Add to this three and a half million men and women directly engaged in the defense establishment.

"Now, this conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American [historical] experience. The total influence, economic, political, and even spiritual, is felt in every city, every state house, [and] every office of the federal government.

"We recognize the imperative need for this development, yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources, and livelihood are all involved. So is the very structure of our society.

"In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist.

"We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted.

"Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together.

"Akin to and widely responsible for the sweeping changes in our industrial-military posture has been the technological revolution during recent decades. In this revolution, research has become central. It also becomes more formalized, complex, and costly. A steadily increasing share is conducted for, by, or at the direction of the federal government.

"Today, the solitary inventor, tinkering in his shop, has been overshadowed by task forces of scientists in laboratories and testing fields. In the same fashion, the free university, historically the fountainhead of free ideas and scientific discovery, has experienced a revolution in the conduct of research. Partly because of the huge costs involved, a government contract becomes virtually, a substitute for intellectual curi-

osity.

"For every old blackboard, there are now hundreds of new electronic computers. The prospect of domination of the nations scholars by federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present, and gravely to be regarded." (end of excerpt from Eisenhower's address)

Over fifty years have now elapsed since these words were uttered. In my opinion, they have clearly proven themselves to be prophetic. Most significantly, now, again, fifty years later, science understands nature better than it ever has ever understood it. Sadly, the reverse of what is true for science seems true for individual Americans themselves. That is to say, that although "science" (meaning, at its heart, the group empowered with and benefiting materially from a formalized description and understanding of nature), now understands nature better than it has ever been understood, individual Americans, in general, understand science and hence understand nature less well than they did fifty years ago, at the time when this speech was made by the then president of our nation.

Yet in stark contrast to how things were then, Americans in general, themselves now, seem to have less of an understanding of science, and correspondingly, less of an understanding of the natural world in which they live, than they did fifty years ago - yes, that is now over half a century ago - in a world where information has never been easier to obtain. There was no public internet access then, yet the public was, in general, more educated; and education in science better appreciated by the public then as well. It is this final fact that most threatens our individual security and liberty in the face of environmental realities that individual security and liberty must soon inescapably confront during the upcoming century. A public educated in science will be required to escape the very thing that Eisenhower warned us of over half a century ago.

*Videos pertinent to the subject of this article can be seen by clicking on "Education" from the <http://www.chongonation.com> home page. Some browsers, like Internet Explorer, for example, will not work. Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox will. To see the books that Chongo has written on nature in collaboration with Jose, go to the web site [www.chongonation.com](http://www.chongonation.com). Chongonation.com is a web site dedicated to educating those who have least opportunity for learning the scientific foundations that describe nature more accurately than any other body of ideas ever conceived. Chongonation.com has books and free videos that provide such opportunity, in lay terms, and most significantly, without any math whatsoever. Simply go to the [www.chongonation.com](http://www.chongonation.com) home page and click on either 'Books' [Conceptual Physics] or 'Products' to see what is available.*

# Hunger Up continued from page 5

## HOMELESSNESS UP

Forty-two percent of the survey cities reported an increase in homelessness and 19 percent said the number stayed the same.

The number of homeless families was up an average of 16 percent, but the number of unaccompanied homeless people was up less than 1 percent.

Charleston, South Carolina, had by far the biggest increase in homelessness, at 150 percent. Los Angeles was second at 39 percent.

Officials in 64 percent of the cities expected the number of homeless families to increase, and 55 percent of them expected the number of homeless individuals to rise.

The report of rising numbers of hungry and homeless American came after the Census Bureau reported last month that about 48 percent of Americans, or 146 million, were

living in poverty or considered low income.

Based on a new supplemental measure designed to provide a fuller portrait of poverty, the Census Bureau said about 97.3 million Americans fell into the low-income category. Another 49.1 million are considered poor.

In another indicator of hunger, the U.S. Department of Agriculture reported that 15 percent of the U.S. population, or almost 43.6 million people, took part in its main food program, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, in September. The figure is up almost 8 percent from the year before, and up 77 percent in five years.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors groups mayors from 1,139 cities with populations of 30,000 or more.

[www.streetnewsservice.org/](http://www.streetnewsservice.org/)  
Reuters



## A Short Story by Paula Lomazzi

1% move to bunker to escape a civilization destroying event. They emerge one year later to find an utopian society, able to form because of their absence.

# Switzerland Continued from Page 2

just within my budget. Many creative people and workers in the hospitality industry lived in the neighbourhood. In addition there were students, foreigners and people receiving welfare support. We had informal contact. Nobody whinged when you showered late at night or did the washing. Of course it wasn't a great residential area, since you constantly had noise and dirt as a result of the traffic. But on the other hand the area offered living space for people who weren't all about the money. The cultural diversity that the city is so proud of came about because of people who lived in places like Weststrasse. The new bars, clubs and galleries which originated in the nineties are only there because it was possible for these people to get by on little money. They have brought Zurich to life and now they are being driven out of the city.

"Last winter our home was sold to a large real estate firm. Then the scrap-of-paper-

policies started. Correspondence arrived in the letterbox in the style of: 'I am the new owner and I want to carry out modifications, in two weeks the lofts must be vacated'. Unfriendly blokes constantly snuck through the house. At a flat viewing the new owner showed up. He didn't greet me, instead he called our house the eyesore of Zurich. I got the feeling he regarded me as undesirable and worthless.

"He was simply bullying. Around the house you heard construction noise all day long. There was not even a moment of tranquillity over the lunch hour. At the start of summer scaffolding was erected on the façade. I have never seen a worker on it. Instead every drunk at night could climb up it and piss on the balcony. We never received written notice. Instead the new proprietor advised that we could move out without notice and so I did. Now at 41 years of age, I live with a colleague in a flat share after having lived alone for 10

years.

"I was most annoyed by the tone of communication, which was the lowest of the low. We are respectable people. We are workers, tax payers, citizens of this city, who are entitled to a minimum amount of respect. But they didn't deem it necessary to communicate with us, to discuss or to offer us anything. We simply received letters: Dear Weststrasse resident, the bypass is built, now you can breathe a sigh of relief. Yes, exactly a summer long. The authorities are hiding behind the open market and saying they are not able to do anything. But I see it like this: What is called forced relocation in China is called property appreciation in Zurich."

*Translated from German into English by Rachael Ward*

[www.streetnewsservice.org/](http://www.streetnewsservice.org/)  
Surprise - Switzerland



This bears repeating: Wealth covets Power, and Power covets Wealth. It's Tweedledum & Tweedledee.

# Obituary

## Natalie Jeanne Griffin

d. 11-10-11 aged 44  
Died suddenly on Fair Oaks Blvd  
cause unknown

## Stephen Dimas

d. 11-10-11 aged 48  
Found under Garden Hwy. Bridge  
cause unknown

**Yes!**

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:

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City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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 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

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

**Day Shelters**

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

**Meals**

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St.: 7 days, Evening meal, Men/Women: Church service 7:00pm 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. All Welcome.

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

also 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: Thursday. Signups start at 9am attend Bible study at 9:30am and get clothing at 10am 447-3268

**Medical**

Mercy Clinic: For homeless adults, children: Next to Fire Station on N. C St. 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, 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, independent living, mental health support services: SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F 440-1500

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 Dixie 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 domestic 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 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 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: 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 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

**Miscellaneous**

Francis House Center: 1422 C St. 9:00-noon walk-in - direct services resource counseling, vouchers for IDs, Dvr Licenses, Birth Certs, Transp Assistance; noon-3:00 - appts for in-depth resource counseling; by appt: Senior/Disability/Veteran's advocacy, notary service. Job Development Center open 9am-3pm M-Tu-W-F and noon-3pm Th. Motel vouchers for qualified 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. 800-300-5616

**About SHA**

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

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

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

Individual Membership dues:  
Standard: \$50;  
Low-income, Student: \$10

**Organizations:**  
\$200 - \$1,000  
Dues based on organization budget, please call to get estimate.

**Send donations to:**  
Sacramento Housing Alliance  
1800 21st St. Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**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

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

211 Sacramento  
**Dial 211**  
for tele-info & referral service

**Califorina 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 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 \$15 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

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