

# STREET SHEET

Mandatory support fee: ONE Buck!

"To pardon the oppressor is to deal harshly with the oppressed."  
--Sa'di, Gulistan, (1258)

## POLICE HAUL OFF HOMELESS TABLE FOR 6TH TIME IN 2 MONTHS 'PUBLIC NUISANCE' CHARGE DISRUPTS VIGIL/SLEEPING BAN PROTEST

Stepping up the heat on homeless demonstrators near the downtown post office Friday afternoon (Jan. 26), Sgt. "Hobohunter" Hennig and Officers Raynor and Menz braved Channel 46 news cameras and an unsympathetic crowd to carry away Homeless Table #4, a pile of donated clothing, various loaves of bread, and anything else that was not nailed down. Hennig and his armed companions were returning after a warning 24 hours earlier that they would seize everything but the Homeless Table, several chairs, and political literature in order to "abate a public nuisance."

Making a curbside ruling that the homeless advocates and their campaign against the Sleeping Ban was an "eyesore," Hennig ultimately directed his minions to make off with Table #4 itself and everything on or around it. The three previous tables (#1, #2, and #3) had been arrested by Sleepbusting Santa Cruz bluecoats within the last five weeks. Hennig and his homeless hit team did allow Jay to keep his backpack, sleeping bag, and literature, while everything else was heisted as "evidence."

Linda the Lark Edwards lounged on a garden chair with a sign that urged defense of "our 1st Amendment right to symbolic speech." Homeless people, she explained, were making a visual statement by being at the corner of Pacific and Water Sts. with their bedding, signs, and food. Saying she would not move unless arrested, Linda was lured from her perch by Raynor's laconic reply that she was "going to jail." Then when Linda rose she was swiftly ticketed but denied arrest. She and Jabberwocky Jay received misdemeanor citations for "maintaining a public nuisance." Also cited were Omar the Magnificent and Grassroots Greg--both of whom had nothing to do with the Homeless Table, but happened to be in the area, defending the right of citizens to assemble and protest.

Earlier in the day, Jabberwocky Jay and other homeless debated Councilmember Gone Lame! in front of channel 46 cameras. Jay pointed out that the homeless had no place, other than their backs, to store their belongings, putting Lame's "move it elsewhere" suggestion in the "hide in the bushes/get out of town" category. Robespierre Robert called the latest police threat yet another in a long line of harassment tactics, designed to end homeless protest against the Sleeping Ban and the 10-week long 24-hour vigil outside the post office.



COURT SAYS BEGGING IS FREE SPEECH  
see p. 10.



India Joze chef Joseph Schultz arrived on the scene with two cups of soup, recreating his symbolic gesture of last March when he was arrested for sharing food with Backyard Brian Staley at the Town Clock (his false arrest suit against the city is still pending). Leather-lunged "No Guns" flooded the area with impromptu "anti-fascist" songs, urging citizens to resist police violations of homeless rights.

Arriving late was Andrew Morin, director of the Interfaith Satellite Shelter program, who had donated blankets to homeless sleeping outside in past weeks--blankets later seized and destroyed in December police seizures at the Homeless Table. Three days before, Morin had publicly urged the Gang of 7 at their Tuesday Council meeting to end the Sleeping Ban, set up a police abuse and policy review board, and recognize that his Satellite program was unable to meet existing shelter needs. The Mayor's languid response was to suggest Morin deposit any complaints in the Police Dept.'s circular file (garbage in, garbage out).

Doonesbury



**AUTHENTIC STEALTH NATION FEDORA**  
 Now at last the upper classes can go out for a stroll again without being bothered by annoying sights or unpleasant reminders of the results of their personal and group plundering.  
 His & hers sizes available.  
 One color fits all.  
 Priced at \$300 each  
 \$500 for the pair.  
 Bull whip also available in case you encounter vermin.

**HOMELESSNESS? HUNGER? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING!**

**ABSOLUTELY INVISIBLE HARBOR!**

FROM THE MIND OF MCGUIRE 12/29

or Don Lane, as he is more commonly known. Lane has put in time, effort, and regular food into Calamity's Cupboard--Jane Imler's nightly feeding program back of the River St. mini-Shelter. After many months of promises, however, he has not yet secured a certified kitchen for Imler--which prompted her to threaten suspension of the program earlier this week.

Since his one-time "sanctuary for sleepers" proposal of January 1989 was trashed by his "progressive" Gang of 7 colleagues, Lane has given no verbal support or encouragement to opponents of the Sleeping Ban during the Oral Communications period of City Council meetings.

Lane has also declined to publicly oppose the SCPD's policy of blankettheivery--the seizure of sleeping bags, bedding, and other homeless survival gear in the dead of night. His "behind-the-scenes" representations to Chief Javeljabber Jack Bassett apparently had little impact--witness Friday's raid. (cont. next page)

Lane's contribution was to urge police victims to hide their gear away somewhere else and present a bare table holding only literature to forestall the police seizure. Jabberwocky and the others insist on their right to survive as well as protest. They regard this latest round of police seizures as yet another pretext to break the spirits of the homeless, unrelated to any legitimate health or safety concern.

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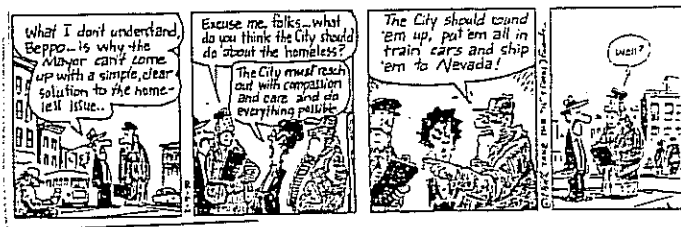
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COURT SAYS BEGGING IS FREE SPEECH

see p. 10.

Minus 47 in Montana  
Record Cold in 125 U.S. Cities

# As Tompkins Square Park Declines, Neighborhoods' Attitude Is Shifting

By JOHN KIFNER  
Special to The New York Times

NEW YORK, Dec. 6 — The ramshackle encampment of the homeless in Tompkins Square Park is drawing mounting criticism from residents of the Lower East Side, a community where rioting broke out last year when the police tried to sweep the homeless from the park.

Park and police officials plan to remove the tents and makeshift shelters that have given the park the look of a nomad encampment, probably next week. Under a plan worked out with neighborhood officials, a social service office has been opened in the park, with city, state and voluntary agencies trying to move some of the homeless people into shelters or detoxification programs.

"We were very surprised by the response," said Milton Friedlander, the City Council member from the Lower East Side, who helped set up the new center. "We've had about 60 direct referrals. It's been very helpful."

Residents' increasing complaints "The results so far have been extraordinarily positive," agreed Jack T. Lim, an assistant parks commissioner who is supervising the Tompkins Square operation. "This is the humane way of addressing the problem."

The park is a remarkable sight. Ringing huts and tents, many surrounded by garbage or piles of broken grocery carts or other odd and ends, dot the 10.5-acre park. Smoke drifts from fires set in trash barrels.

The other day a man who had built a lean-to around the park bench the sign on was grilling and selling kebabs from his perch.

There have been mounting complaints from residents near the park that it has become a center of drug abuse, prostitution and crime.

Although the area has a long leftist tradition, almost reflexively anti-authoritarian, it appears that any police action would take place in an atmosphere different from August 1988, when rioting was sparked by a police sweep to roust the homeless from the park.

Occupiers vs. intruders

"The initial sympathy many had for the plight of the homeless was sorely tested by the reality of an occupied park," Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern said. "We have been getting mail from people including very liberal

peers, we'll have to see." One indication of the changing attitude is the formation of an organization called the Tompkins Square Neighborhood Coalition to press for the removal of the tents and to fight what it sees as intimidation by a group of self-styled anarchists.

### Park Has Become Hostage

One of the leaders, Sam Turvey, said there was "increasing concern that the park be put on some kind of even footing, as a place that is usable to people." Before the August '88 riot, there were approximately 20 to 30 homeless people living in the park, he said. "While nobody likes this, it's a city-wide problem, and nobody was too upset."

But since the riot, the park has become hostage to a purported activist homeless group. "The entire park has been taken over. Sanitary conditions are deplorable; in some areas there's obvious drug use. It's a quantum leap. People in the neighborhood think this is too much."

Mr. Turvey and other neighborhood residents said the anarchist group had disrupted public meetings by throwing caltrops, smacking nonflamers, shouting abuse and, among other things, appearing with tires emblazoned with the names of local officials whom they said

should be "necklaced," a reference to the burning jugs put over the heads of those accused of Government collaboration in South Africa. The last Community Board meeting had held under tight police guard.

The names of four churches bordering the park who minister in the homeless, however, have objected to the city's plan to remove the tents. They have urged that the shelters not be re-located in the city-owned buildings in the neighborhood and help rehabilitate them for the homeless.

Chamish Groups of People. "They are there because of the crisis in housing," said the Rev. George Rubin of St. Bridget's Roman Catholic Church. "There is a certain amount of truth that the park is not a park for all the people. There is a problem in that it's not a pretty scene. But it's connected with the crisis of drugs. Because we have no housing, there is a park just is not pretty."

In the park, the other day, the incandescence was spotted with frozen puddles. "The homeless people were huddled in chamish groups in little clumps. One group of about 15 lay wrapped in blankets near the band-stand."

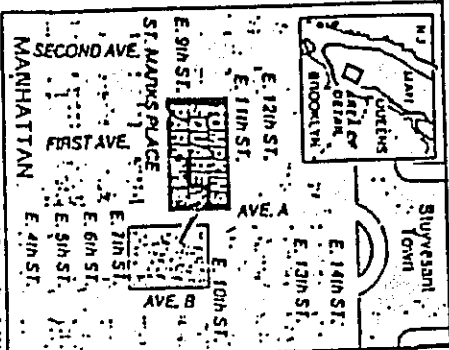
A man who gave his name as Tony And seemed to be a leader of the group said they all lived in the city-run shelters because "it's like living in a rat hole, a dog den."

The population of the park has fallen in recent days, in part because of the cold and the threat of eviction. Some longtime residents have departed because they do not get along with the newcomers. The police recently cleared the southeastern corner because it became a center of drug dealing and use.

Mr. Lim, the parks official, said the census taken early each morning showed 130 people living there on Nov. 20, the day the outreach center opened, and 80 last Friday.

But Robert M. Hayes of the Coalition for the Homeless warned, "Outreach is little help when there is nowhere to bring people after you've reached out."

The need is for alternative housing. This is not a solution. All it does is move the battleground from this park to that subway station, to that public plaza."



A social service office for the homeless has opened in Tompkins Square Park.

A-10 Thursday, January 25, 1990

## Fatal beating of homeless man stirs N.Y. debate

### Was it justifiable or are street people often victims, too?

EXAMINER NEWS SERVICE

NEW YORK — City officials are searching for the identity of a homeless man who spit once too often at strangers and was beaten to death on a subway platform as a result.

The incident has become the talk of the city, with the alleged assailant's lawyer saying it's all "a tempest in a teapot" and justifiable homicide at worst.

The homeless man died Sunday night after a fight on the 59th Street subway platform with Rodney Sumter, a 39-year-old plumber who was fired last week from a job teaching construction skills to homeless men. Sumter was returning home from seeing "Back to the Future II" with his 3-year-old son.

Sumter's lawyer, Lewis Tyson, blamed the other man for provoking the incident. He said the homeless man had spit at his client, said he could spit at anyone he chose and then assaulted Sumter.

Police said the homeless man took a swing and missed. A fight related and Sumter began pummeling the homeless man, believed to be in his 60s, police said.

After knocking the older man to the ground, Sumter—allegedly banged his head several times on the concrete platform, causing injuries that led to the man's death. "He was protecting himself and his son from an unprovoked attack that he tried to escape," Tyson said Tuesday as he and Sumter left the Manhattan Criminal Court building. Sumter pleaded innocent to

Harassed by the police?

File a complaint

Ask your local

homeless to file

for details!

Save a copy

for yourself and

for H.U.F.F.

Chumplets United

for friendship and

for a new

427-1205

think the homeless have been afraid of New Yorkers. I am a man in need," said Keith Sumner, advocacy director of the Coalition for the Homeless. Although there are no statistics on violence involving the homeless in the subway system, "there are more incidents now than compared

**'Occupiers' vs. 'Intruders'**  
"The initial sympathy many had for the plight of the homeless was sorely tested by the reality of an occupied park," Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern said. "We have been getting mail from people, including very liberal, very humane people who help the homeless."  
"As the occupiers became emboldened, they began to view themselves as the rightful occupants, and members of the public became intruders," Mr. Stern said.  
"The situation was deteriorating, the occupation had been increasing, the shelters were becoming more permanent, park underbrush and shrubbery were being used as firewood. Increasingly, neighborhood people felt intimidated when they tried to use the park."

**A Desire for Balance**  
Ms. Friedlander said public opinion "rings all the way from those who want the park immediately swept clean to those who want the park untouched."  
"A lot of people want the park back in balance," she said. "It was getting out of whack. Day-care centers could not go into the park because of the increase in drug trade, drugs were moving in under cover of the homeless. We want to make the park a full community park."

Both Mr. Stern and Ms. Friedlander emphasized that, in deference to community sentiment, Tompkins Square will continue to be the only park in the city without a curfew.  
**No Curfew Planned**  
"This community voted not to have a curfew," Ms. Friedlander said. "The homeless will still come and sleep in the park. But they will not be taking over the entire park."  
"There will be no curfew, but no intruders," Mr. Stern said. "We'll see how that works. If the structures reappear..."

A social service office for the homeless has opened in Tompkins Square Park.

little help when there is nowhere to bring people after you've reached out. "The need is for alternative housing. This is not a solution. All it does is move the battleground from this park to that subway station, to that public place."

The New York Times also (see p. 7)

"He was protecting himself and his son from an unprovoked attack that he tried to escape," Tyson said Tuesday as he and Sumter left the Manhattan Criminal Court building.  
Sumter pleaded innocent to first-degree manslaughter and was released without bail.

But an activist said the death was typical of the life-threatening horrors New York City's homeless face every day.  
"This has been portrayed to me as 'New Yorkers now have reason to be afraid of the homeless.' I

Register-Pajaronian Saturday, January 20, 1990

# State must pay for health care of poor

**SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)** - In a major blow to state health care cost cutting, a state appeal court Friday ruled California officials illegally shifted to counties as much as \$500 million a year in health costs for the poor.

The 1st District Court of Appeals ruled the costs of health care for medically indigent adults were illegally shifted to financially strapped counties in 1982. The medical costs had been paid by the state-funded MediCal program prior to 1982.  
"It means the Legislature and the Governor will have to assume some responsibility they have been shirking since 1982," said Lois Salisbury, attorney for Legal Aid Society of Alameda County. Deputy Attorney General Aster

from the MediCal system as a result in the funding shift to the counties.

Under terms of the 1980 Proposition 4, the Gann Initiative, spending limits were imposed on state and county governments.

The law also prevented the state from mandating that counties implement new programs without also providing funds to reimburse the state's 59 counties for the costs of the programs.

In 1982, the state eliminated the county responsibility to contribute to MediCal but in turn removed state coverage for the medically indigent adults.

It fell to counties to provide health care for an estimated 270,000 indigent people each year.

Salisbury said that action resulted in overwhelming county emergency room and trauma care centers with poor adults who had no other means of getting health care.

She said the ruling could greatly relieve pressure on trauma centers and the emergency room system throughout the state.

The court cited what it called the "mass of uncontradicted evidence" of the impact of the lost funds.

Justice J. Clinton Peterson wrote that in one instance a man with internal bleeding arrived at a county emergency room for care but due to delays from lack of resources and overextended personnel he waited eight hours for admission.

...the Park Still Benchless... Critics of the current hamburgerization of the once-public Scope Park are still at large. The mini-Park is due to be fed to the hungry Garage Grill for \$1/year once the Grill presents its architectural plan for Walling out non-customers. Concerned citizens might consider contacting both the City Council Hotline (429-3550) and the City's Parks and Rec. Dept. (429-3777) to demand the park be secured for all citizens, not just up-scale fleasheaters.

Also still missing: the park's public bench, spirited away one day by the Parks and Rec Dept. Councilmembers Lane and Beiers apparently forestalled the immediate Grill takeover of the Park in December, but the city has not seen fit to return the bench. While you're on the phone, ask them what sadistic clowns removed the plastic roof to the bicycle rack adjacent to the downtown post office. Now both bikes and homeless people who huddle there get the full benefit of winter weather.

.....Calamity's Cupboard Clammers On..... The ever-popular 4 PM daily meal back of the River St. mini-Shelter was apparently in trouble a few days back when Calamity Jane Imler announced she was being forced to suspend operations due to the failure of Lane, Bob Campbell (River St. mini-Shelter overlord), and others to provide a long-promised certified Kitchen for her use. Last minute improvements at the Supportive Outreach Services (S.O.S.)'s kitchen where Imler's crew usually does their cooking has persuaded the outspoken activist to continue on a day-by-day basis

# THE STRAIGHT DOPE



Disorderly conduct...  
er mean few in?

## STRAWS IN THE WIND

...Baribner Park Still Benchless... Critics of the current hamburgerization of the once-public Scope Park are still at the wind-park to be fed to the hungry Garage Grill

## THE DECADE BY THE NUMBERS

or many Americans, the basics of existence—health care, housing, education, safe neighborhoods—grew more costly, less available or simply inadequate during the 1980s, as the gap between rich and poor widened.

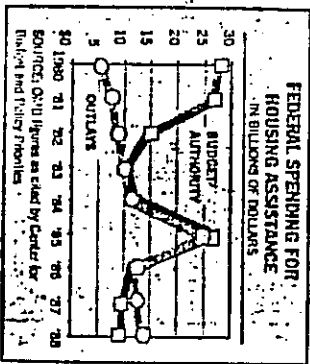
N.Y.T.

12/12/89

### HOUSING

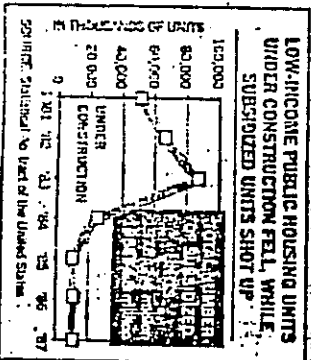
#### FEW ISSUES PRODUCED

such confusion during the 1980s. During the Reagan administration, the country changed course, phasing out aid for construction or major rehabilitation of low-income housing, shifting to assistance aimed more at individuals through rent vouchers or certificates. Critics decry the sharp decline in budgetary authority for housing assistance, the measure of the amount of money the government expects to spend over the life of a project. Administration supporters point to the increase in outlays—the amount the government actually spends in any year—to argue the other side:



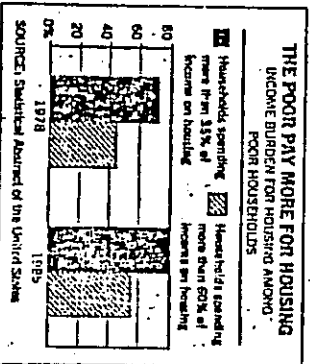
#### THE RESULT OF THIS

pattern is more evident when examining the number of public housing units under construction, which fell, and the number of people in subsidized housing units, which grew because of the vouchers and rent certificates:



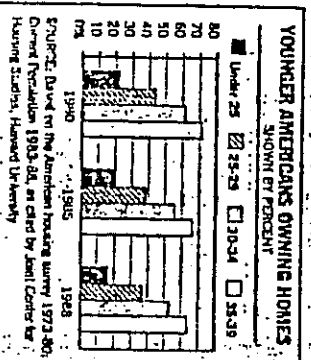
#### BUT, THE NUMBER OF

additional families assisted each year declined, from an average of 316,000 between 1977 and 1980 to an average of 82,000 between 1981 and 1988; the number of families without assistance grew from 4 million in 1979 to 5.4 million in 1987. Also, the availability of units renting for less than \$300 a month declined. As a result, poor households pay a larger share of their income for housing. Experts fear the problem will worsen because fewer low-income units are being built and because of potential losses of existing low-income units due to expiring contracts. Thus, it will take substantial spending just to stay even:



#### FOR MANY YOUNGER

Americans, owning a home became more difficult. Experts disagree on the reasons for this, citing changing living patterns, but even among younger married couples, home ownership dipped. The following figures are for all types of households:





for the next two weeks.

Those interested in supporting Imler's search for a certified kitchen at River St. might contact Campbell (459-0444) and urge him to grant occasional visiting privileges to Calamity's Cupboard. After all, it was Imler's 1985 and 1986 winter hunger strikes that got the mini-shelter operational in the first place. It now lodges 15 "mentally ill" and 15 homeless clients while Imler's Cupboard feeds over 100 homeless each afternoon.

Seems reasonable Campbell could allow Calamity in the kitchen from 1 PM to 3 P each afternoon to rustle up some grub. Particularly since it's only being used by the mini-shelter folks during those hours on Monday and Wednesday. We don't know if the rumors are true that some want to completely convert the shelter to a subdivision of the Mental illness industry, but hey, homeless helpers: more food, less foodfights!

....More Specious Charges Against Street Sleepers!...After the recent acquittal of Zolli Smith last week on charges of assault against PSI security guard Stroup, some old-timers are wondering if juries will also be able to detect fanciful testimony coming from full-fledged SCPD blueshirts. In yet another nighttime raid on the Homeless Table several weeks ago, Sgt. "Don't Fuck With Me" David St. Onge reportedly kicked a box of homeless clothing. Shoeless Joe Parker kicked the box back. And--shazaam! Shoeless Joe was suddenly in one of David's famous throatholds, Joe's head colliding with a lamppost, according to witness Jabberwocky Jay.

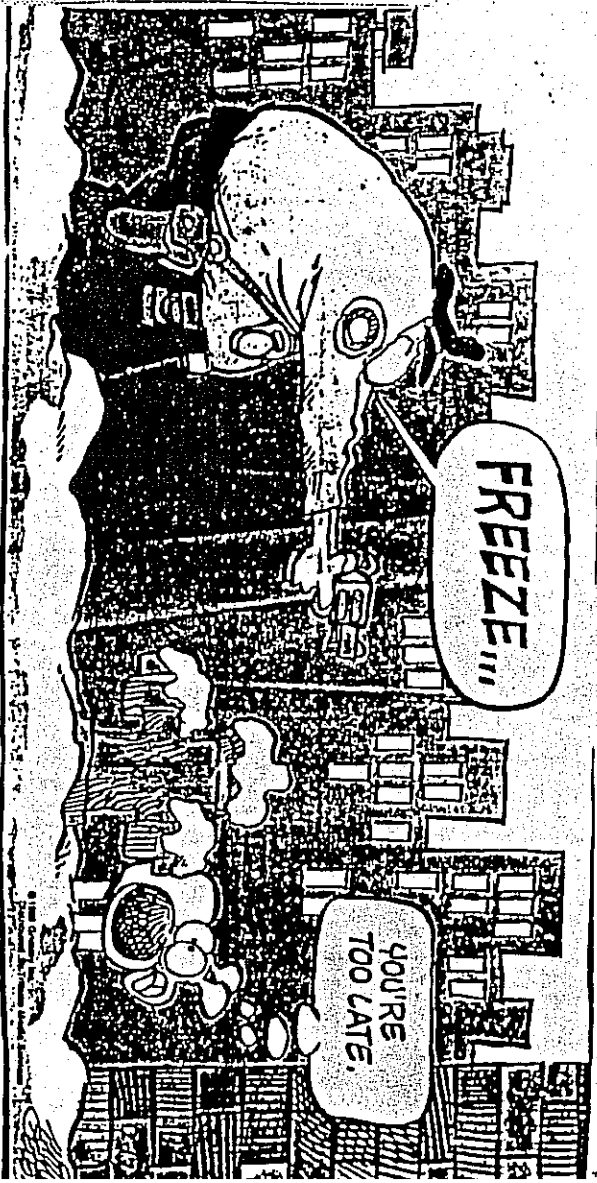
Sgt. Onge has become notorious among some observers for

W... J... lucky day.  
 St. Onge has become notorious among some observers for his assault-under-color-of-law last winter on Antoinette 'No Guns' Radici during the first soup arrests at City Hall and for his generous use of "come-along" choke holds during the UCSC/Homeless Mega-Sleep-In at the Town Clock last February.

Joe was charged with assault and, for good measure, the table (#3) and all other property were dragged off. What did St. Onge murmur to Joe as he throttled him? You guessed it--the four words that David has made his trademark. Language. David.



IT'S THE SEASON TO BE JOY! MY GOOD MAN! WE WON - DID YOU KNOW THAT? CAPITALISM IS TRIUMPHANT! COMMUNISM LIES IN RUINS! OUR SYSTEM PREVAILS! WE WON! SMILE!

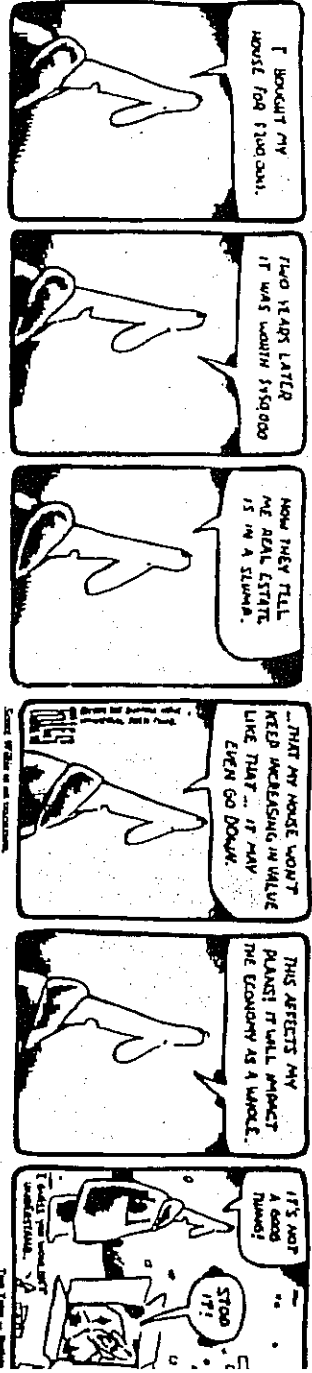


**Kudos to a good cop**

In all of our dealings with the police, both good and bad, one officer stands out and is made distinct by his fairness, professionalism, appearance and courteous style. Officer Black has shown us without compromising his own integrity that police action and political protests need not have hostile confrontations. His calm and understanding manner, combined with the human dignity he shows each person, has defused many situations and quelled even the most hot-headed camping ban protester. His knowledge of the law seems to be implicit as is his following of good police procedure. Black's humanity, understanding

S.C. Serfing  
 11/2/98

and priorities should be an example to us all.  
 Jay Green and 10 others  
 Santa Cruz



Saints salute sinners at  
 the Homeless Tribunal

### Feeding the Needy

Editor — As a homeless person who has eaten bread from the streets in order to survive, I cannot understand how a city such as San Francisco can tolerate the inhumane and anti-humanitarian action of arresting those who seek to feed the needy. Humanitarian efforts such as those provided by Food Not Bombs should be honored and applauded rather than outlawed and harassed.

BRIAN D. KOEPKE  
Homeless-Alliance  
Santa Cruz

1/11/90

### Homeless Toll

Editor — Last year on the streets of San Francisco 110 people died. Why? It's simple. The politicians are stealing the money meant to help such people. No politician can be trusted even with his or her own children's lives. Happy New Year. Come on, San Francisco . . .

GARY A. BLACKMAN  
San Rafael

At east end of Golden Gate Park, a police officer rousts a homeless man who was sleeping in tunnel.

# Cops getting tough with homeless

But those living in Golden Gate Park, Civic Center say they are harmless

By Andy Furillo  
OF THE CHRONICLE STAFF

The trees and bushes are cut back now around the eastern flank of Golden Gate Park, right where Haight Street dead-ends into Stanyan, the place where the homeless wander in each evening to spend the night.

No underbrush means no cover, and that makes the park's homeless population easy targets in the morning when cops begin work by rousting an estimated 130 street people a day from makeshift camp-

1/5/90

A recent letter writer incorrectly attributes to myself and the Haight Ashbury Neighborhood Council (HANC) proposals for "24-hour toilets" and "tent cities" for homeless people in Golden Gate Park.

It is neither my position nor that of HANC that tent cities and 24-hour toilets should be established or that they provide constructive solutions to homelessness. After working for over two years with neighborhood residents, merchants and homeless people, HANC's Homeless Outreach Committee believes that The City should provide equal protection under the law for all area residents, basic health and sanitation facilities coordinated with health and welfare outreach workers, and increased housing and employment opportunities for homeless people.

Most important, The City must assist, involve, and remain accessible to citizens who are working to alleviate homelessness.

ANTHONY VONDER MUHLL  
San Francisco



In the Tenderloin and Golden Gate Park, the homeless and everyone else living in the northern half of the City will be counted by my Census district. Each homeless man, woman, and child we count helps establish their numbers; their interests and needs are as real and painful as any other American's.

NORMAN P. ISHIMOTO  
Census Bureau, S.F.

The report in The Examiner of the manner in which this City is disposing of the only remaining property of homeless people is shocking. We learn that anything beyond the contents of one grocery cart is confiscated and destroyed. Likewise, Golden Gate Park gardeners are seizing and destroying property such as sleeping bags and warm clothing which they find in sheltered areas of the park.

If a car is towed for illegal parking the police do not destroy it, but store it until claimed. There is no reason that property found in the Civic Center or Golden Gate Park cannot be stored for a reasonable time at or near those locations until claimed.

S.F. EXAMINER  
MARIAN HALLEY  
San Francisco

### The Bedding Place

Editor — For several months, a displaced and hopelessly disoriented man found refuge under the eaves of a city utility building on the southwest corner of Washington and Drumm streets.

He asked for no alms but now and then a kind soul would leave a carton of food for him and some spare change.

The little spot where he slept soon became hardened by use. Eventually what was once a well kept plot of ivy soon became littered with heaps of old newspapers and other trash.

Now that the rain is here the ivy sparkles again and the little bedding place is beginning to give way to the new ivy shoots. This hapless man has been evicted and the city has taken occupancy again.

Yes, there were times when this unfortunate man found solace in a nip of whiskey as long as it lasted.

There is no conceivable moral to this story but where is this hapless

of the Examiner  
 Newsprint  
 The S.F. Examiner  
 The S.F. Examiner  
 The S.F. Examiner

WILLIAM D. SWASEY, 31, GOLDEN GATE PARK, SAN FRANCISCO

the night. No underbrush means no cover, and that makes the park's homeless population easy targets. In the morning when cops begin work by rousting an estimated 130 street people a day from makeshift campsites.

Over at Civic Center Plaza, the early-afternoon boredom of homelessness is broken up these days by the sound of a city trash truck slowly grinding up the concourse. Two police officers accompany the truck, assisting sanitation workers in disposing of sleeping bags, cardboard boxes and anything else left unattended by homeless campers.

Both in the park and at the plaza, San Francisco's homeless population is feeling increasingly unwelcome in face of a slow and steady squeeze being applied by city authorities.

Homeless-related arrests and citations have tripled at Golden Gate Park, and police have placed a "zero tolerance" enforcement policy at the Civic Center encampment.

#### Feeling the pressure

And the homeless harbor no illusions about why they are feeling the pressure. "We represent an undesirable element," Golden Gate Park resident Christopher Swasey, 30, said in an interview at the foot of Hippie Hill. "We're dirty. Wherever we choose to congregate, we're going to cause problems. People see us, and they're afraid. They're afraid of things they don't fully understand."

In fact, San Franciscans rank homeless people as The City's No. 1 problem, according to a recent Examiner poll. In a December survey of 401 city residents, nearly two-thirds cited homelessness. It was identified three times more often than any other issue — including drugs, affordable housing and AIDS.

Yes, there is garbage piled off to



Louis Williams, 47, is a transient from Dallas who is living in Civic Center Plaza and looking for work

the side of Golden Gate Park's hiking trails, and there is the ever-present sight of panhandlers at the Haight and Stanyan entrances, and there is the invasion of the "hubba monsters" dealing and smoking crack cocaine.

And there are speed freaks slamming methamphetamine into their arms across the street from City Hall, and there are rude tramps who direct insulting remarks toward those who walk by.

But Swasey and the other homeless people interviewed — those drunk and down-and-out, those who choose to live without commitments and others simply incapable of organizing their lives in a coherent fashion — insist they are essentially harmless.

#### Street life decision

Most of the homeless people at Civic Center Plaza, for instance, are not unlike Louis Williams, a 47-year-old transient just into town from Dallas. He is soft-spoken and articulate, hoping to find work, but plagued by years of unlucky circumstances and unwise personal decisions that periodically leave him on the street.

"I'm not a lazy person," Williams said. "I work if I can get it."

But whatever the reasoning behind the problem, pressure on The City's homeless population is building, in the form of tougher police policies.

At the park, Police Chief Frank Jordan said that officers had stepped up their patrols in early December when the number of campers ballooned from a previously manageable population of 75 to a post-earthquake total of 125.

Park Station Capt. Charles Hoernisch said that the department had responded by taking a black-and-white out of service and deploying it full-time in the park every day from 7 a.m. until 10 a.m. to protect joggers.

In addition, foot beat officers make regular checks in the Alwood Lake area near Stanyan and Haight, and dirt bike patrols scour hiking trails for illegal camp sites, dope smokers and open containers.

#### Arrests way up

From Dec. 3 to Jan. 3, Hoernisch said, Park Station police made 54 felony arrests, 74 misdemeanor arrests, 53 drunk arrests, 19 warrant arrests and issued 174 criminal citations, mostly for illegal camping. The figures, he said, are roughly three times the normal monthly totals.

Meanwhile, at City Hall, North Station Capt. Dennis Martel said his patrol officers were making 15 arrests a week in the plaza, a figure that has remained constant since homeless people dug in at the site a year ago.

Martel said police were not en-

forcing municipal ordinances prohibiting camping in public parks. But otherwise, he said his officers are enforcing a policy of "zero tolerance," and that means no boozing and no tents.

There is also the trash truck that, since Jan. 2, regularly rolls through the plaza, under police escort. Only one shopping cart is allowed per homeless person. Everything else is thrown out.

The homeless at Golden Gate Park are less passive about the shakedown. Dozens of hostile park residents turned out at a Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council meeting recently to charge officers with numerous cases of police brutality and with confiscating their unattended personal property.

The Haight meeting at times became unruly. At one point, a Haight Street female merchant peppered an angry homeless man with a flurry of slaps and punches after he pushed another man.

Police Commissioner Jose Medina tried to make sense of an evening, and a social issue, dissolving into chaos.

"We want homeless people treated with the same respect as the same dignity as anybody," Medina said. "But (sleeping in a park) is not permitted, and officers are charged to enforce the law. They would be delinquent in their if they didn't."

been evicted and the city has taken occupancy again.

Yes, there were times when this unfortunate man found solace in a nip of whiskey as long as it lasted.

There is no conceivable moral to this story but where is this hapless soul today?

Thoughts on a dreary rainy day.  
SYLVIA D. BRYANT  
San Francisco

Regarding the Dec. 12 letter. "The Haight's safety." I am surprised to find that the Haight Ashbury has its own female version of Ebenezer Scrooge. Really, how hard does your heart have to be at Christmas time? About 1,000 emergency shelter beds were lost due to the October earthquake, and I'm sure some of those people have taken refuge in Golden Gate Park.

As for the Haight Ashbury neighborhood being "over-saturated with social service agencies," let me remind everyone that the Haight has always been a neighborhood that is compassionate to the less fortunate. That is why many of us choose to live here. Urban poverty is a difficult issue, but please let us not lose sight of our humanity, especially during this holiday season when some of our brothers and sisters are without the amenities many of us enjoy.

JIM RHOADS  
San Francisco

S.F. 12/24/89

# Vet's hall flap will go to trial

By JAMIE S. CACKLER  
Special staff writer

SANTA CRUZ. — A long-standing dispute between veterans and the county government over access and control of the county-owned Veterans Memorial Hall will go to trial next month.

The United Veterans Council of Santa Cruz County is alleging that the county has violated a three-year-old court order which guaranteed veterans groups priority use of the building and reasonable access to it.

County officials say veterans groups are refusing to abide by reasonable building regulations and scheduling, which Superior Court Judge Tom Black's 1966 order allowed.

The controversy will be back in Judge Black's court Jan. 34.

"They are trying to get us out of the building," said Howard George, commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Bill Minton Post, which occupies many of the building's office rooms.

"I think the veterans deserve a little better break from the county and we should be able to interact and form our own policies in use of the building," George said.

George said the county has ignored the suggestions of the Veterans Advisory Committee, which was created after the 1964 court settlement.

Hendon Angove, director of the county Parks Department which manages the building, said the county is not trying to evict veterans and has tried to be flexible in scheduling its use.

Following a Santa Cruz Police complaint this summer that drug dealers were using the building for their business because of lax security, the Parks

Department hired a security guard, changed the locks and set hours of use of the building, Angove said.

In addition to the Bill Minton Post, Angove said the building is used by a number of organizations and committees, most connected with veterans groups.

"With all the volunteer organizations there, people were coming and going all hours, and we began to have problems -- people sleeping there, and allegations of drug dealing," he said.

Angove and police stress that veterans are not believed to have been involved in the drug trade, but that the lax building security created a perfect place for the business to go on.

The hours were set at 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays, plus 8 hours a day on Saturday and Sunday, with the weekend opening and closing times negotiable, according to whether the veterans preferred to have morning or evening activities, Angove said.

The county considered those hours reasonable, but the veterans have complained the hours are not long or flexible enough.

George said his group was accustomed to having meetings in the early morning hours, and to having meetings and activities run into the late night.

Robert Hall, a VFW member and assistant to George, said that veterans, because of their combat experiences, often need services at the hall at odd hours.

Without the refuge of the memorial building, Hall said, these veterans end up spending time on the streets.

Gary Patton, chairman of the county Board of Supervisors, said the board supports the Parks Department's attempts to regulate building use. "The

dilemma as I have seen it through the years is veterans don't feel they should have to follow rules. They feel they should not have any constraints.

"If they think of something they want to do at 10 p.m., they think they should be able to do that, not the way to manage a public building," Patton said.

In addition to the access and security issues, the veterans' suit alleges that the county has allowed the building to fall into a serious state of disrepair.

The boiler room was recently repaired, and money has been spent to spruce up an auditorium there. But tattered curtains, dark peeling paint, and battered floor surfaces bear witness to years of neglect.

Angove acknowledged the buildings sorry state, but said the county has started repairing it -- \$40,000 worth last year -- and plans to invest \$85,000 this year, mainly for repair of the electrical system and an upgrade of the hall's kitchen.

Now, the Citizens Committee for the Homeless would like something a little more specific from the city as it applies for state funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development. Money is available from Proposition 77 and 84 bond issues approved by voters. The department in October indicated it intends to provide a \$300,000 loan to the citizens committee as long as the project meets eligibility requirements.

The community house as envisioned by the citizens committee calls for 30 to 35 rooms with a



BN Lowrey/Sentinel photo

# City urged to support housing for homeless

By GUY LASMER  
Sentinel staff writer

SANTA CRUZ. — Proponents of a community house that would provide long-term, low-cost housing for the homeless are asking the city government for a more definite show of support.

Last month, the city council agreed to send a letter to the state supporting the project in general but chose not to include mention of the proposed site, property adjacent to the River Street Shelter. The city owns the property. Council members said they thought it would be a conflict of interest in lobbying for state money for an urbanization in use to buy a city owned piece of property.

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The community house as envisioned by the citizens committee calls for 30 to 35 rooms with a

common dining area and living long-term housing for older homeless people, homeless with mental and physical disabilities and women with children, according to a description in a letter from Page Smith of the committee to Mayor Marcell Wormhoudt.

The residents would be largely responsible for the operation of the facility. Most would pay rent from state and federal disability payments or Supplemental Social Security.

Smith said the project "looks promising" but several uncertainties remain. It is dependent on action by the city council, he said. The committee will ask the council for action at an upcoming meeting.

If the citizens committee is successful in buying the city land the other emergency housing. The city bought the one-acre property from the University of California for the present homeless shelter. A condition of state and federal housing funds that helped pay for the land was that they be used for low-income emergency housing.

If a portion of the land is sold, the proceeds would need to go for a similar program, Councilman Don Lane said.

# Homeless couple ponder next move near railroad tracks at Neary Lagoon.

By JOE ROJAS-BURKE  
Sentinel correspondent

SANTA CRUZ. — Police and park rangers surprised four illegal campers in the woods near Neary Lagoon during a city clean-up Friday morning of the swamp hide-away.

The sweep came in the wake of a recent string of violent attacks near the lagoon, police said. Police told two men and two women to leave their make-shift home, and gave them 10 minutes to gather their belongings, which included tents, sleeping bags and two bicycles. Park rangers doused a small campfire and looked for other campsites in the thick underbrush not far from Chestnut Street.

Police were clearing the way for city Parks Department crews in knee-high rubber boots and long gloves who began cleaning the soggy ground, strewn with discarded clothing, soiled blankets, old magazines, food wrappers, and large piles of liquor and beer bottles.

"I've been coming back in here for six years and it's just getting out of hand," said Patrolman Randy Harris. "There's been an attempted rape, a stabbing and a man beaten half to death and thrown in the swamp." All of the attacks have occurred within the last three weeks, according to Sgt. Bill Aluffi.

Police retrieved a car stereo and pressure here," said Hawk.

# Santa Cruz Police gave illegal campers 10 minutes to leave area.

Street Shelter, a 30-bed temporary home usually filled to capacity.

A shelter counselor who wished to remain anonymous said that most people who seek a bed there are accommodated after a short wait. But she said that many of the illegal campers prefer not to live in the shelter, though some show up for substance-abuse counseling.

Homeless advocate Jane Imler estimates that she and others serve meals to over 100 people a day at River Street Shelter.

Imler said the city should consider setting up a legal camping zone with sanitation service for people who won't move into shelters.

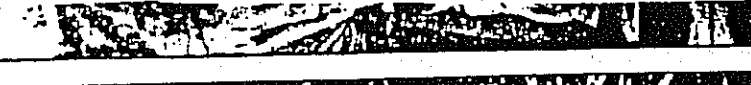
# Extend compassion

The Sentinel's declaration of war on Santa Cruz's long-term homeless and the mentally ill in its Nov. 15 editorial is the first sour note in the chorus of cooperation and goodwill that has rung out since the earthquake. The Sentinel calls the enemy drunks, panhandlers and drug dealers. While it may be true that some of the homeless fall into one or more of these categories, many do not.

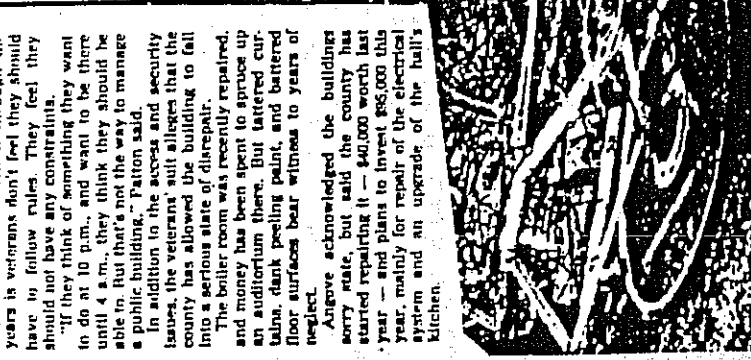
The message is clear enough. While help and compassion are extended to those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the earthquake, there are certain human beings to whom our help and compassion must not extend. These are the men, women and children who had no homes before the earthquake. They are beyond the pale. They must not be allowed to interfere with the economic recovery of the downtown business area. In fact, the earthquake victims should be used to squish them permanently.

It is a message which more intelligent and humane it would be to extend a hand to the long-term homeless since the earthquake has demonstrated so dramatically how desperate it is to be without a home or a roof over their heads.

Those who worked with the City Council to establish the River Street Shelter hoped that this shelter would be the last on which it stands could be used as a



Santa Cruz Sentinel



Santa Cruz Sentinel

Sunday, Jan. 21, 1990 — Santa Cruz Sentinel

man beaten half to death and thrown in the swamp." All of the attacks have occurred within the last three weeks, according to Sgt. Bill Aluffi.

Rangers retrieved a car stereo and a two-foot length of heavy chain that could be used as a weapon from one of the abandoned camps. The items were turned over to police.

In addition to the recent crimes, city authorities say they are concerned with pollution of the area from piles of garbage and human waste.

Superintendent of Parks Rudy

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Police say the swampy woods around Neary Lagoon have long been used as an illegal campsite. Now a wildlife preserve, the Neary Lagoon is not far from downtown and a popular place for birdwatchers.

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### Time for a new perspective

Wouldn't it be wonderful if the people of Santa Cruz could begin the '80s from a really different, creative and compassionate perspective?

If we recognized that asking the Army Corps of Engineers to compound its mistake with San Lorenzo River by building new and uglier dikes would not solve the fact that it also runs underground under our downtown area and needs long-term and artistic solutions?

If we understood that taking sleeping bags away from cold and tired homeless people in the middle of the night is a bitterly cruel act?

If we admitted that unless our merchants can reestablish themselves in a competitive market, our town has no economic basis?

If we agreed that paying minimum wages in an area where rents are so exorbitant creates more homelessness?

If we tried to solve our many problems such as migrant farm labor, nursing homes for the elderly, adequate educational facilities on a long-term basis instead of worrying about them in flashes of media publicity that fizzle out without resolution?

If we admitted that pressure against a clean camp with showers and cooking facilities for the families who live in trucks and cars in spite of the camping ban and pressure against low-income housing come from fears that we need to face in ourselves?

If we realized that spending more money on jails and fees on social programs will not solve the problems of crime or of drugs?

The list could go on indefinitely. Wouldn't it be nice if we rebuilt a beautiful mall that encompasses the needs of the rich and the poor and the vast majority of us who are neither. Wouldn't it be a miracle if the earthquake taught us to rethink our priorities and really care? S.C. Sentinel, 1/11/90

Elizabeth Glips and Paddy Long  
Santa Cruz

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In addition to the recent crimes, city authorities say they are concerned with pollution of the area from piles of garbage and human waste.

Superintendent of Parks Rudy

## Body is found in hollow tree

SANTA CRUZ. A man was found dead in a hollowed-out tree with his dog still fervently protecting him Wednesday afternoon on the Paganini property near Highway 9.

Police Sgt. Pat Reedy said that the cause of the man's death has not been determined, but that foul play is not suspected. The victim is a 42-year-old man who once lived in Aptos. His name was withheld pending notification of relatives.

Reedy said it appeared the man had been camping in the area. His body was found by a park ranger around 2:30 p.m. in a densely wooded area. The man's dog, an Afghan, was tied to the tree and would not let officers near the body. The dog was subdued by animal control officers and taken to the animal shelter.

It did not appear that the body had been there long, Reedy said. An autopsy will be held to determine the cause of death.

S.C. Sentinel 1/14/90

## 'Foul play' in homeless man's death

Three days into the new year and the first homeless death has already occurred. Initial police reports indicate no evidence of foul play. However, Webster's dictionary defines foul play as "morally objectionable conduct." Does confiscating the sleeping bags and blankets of homeless people in the dead of winter constitute foul play? If so, local police stand up and take a bow.

What about the policy of denying shelter to those of us who own a dog; or forcing people to nightly break the law because their bodies require sleep. Morally objectionable conduct? Perhaps we all share a degree of responsibility in this first homeless death of the year because we failed to challenge the foul play of our local officials.

There is a sick irony to all of this. Although a homeless man perished, his dog now has shelter.

Jane Imler  
Ben Lomond

1/11/90 SC Sentinel

Meanwhile back in Santa Cruz: the S.C. Sentinel pictures on ignores the homeless.

Imler said the city should consider setting up a legal camping zone with sanitation service for people who won't move into shelters.

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## An opportunity to serve

During the past four years, members of various local churches have been involved in providing an evening meal for homeless guests staying in their church facilities for the night. Last year, 24 churches provided over 8,200 meals from November through April. This act has not only provided nourishment for the homeless guests, but has also enriched the lives of those who provided and prepared the food.

Recently, a person who is not a member of one of our congregations participated in this action by providing salad for 30 of our guests and engaged some of them in conversation. Later, she said, "Everybody ought to have an opportunity to do what I did tonight. It is really rewarding."

Following up on her comment, I would like to invite anyone who would like to prepare a main dish, a salad, or dessert for 15 or more hungry people and help serve it, to call either 478-8862 or 424-7923.

Paul Protenbauer, chairman  
Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program

Some, however, write in...

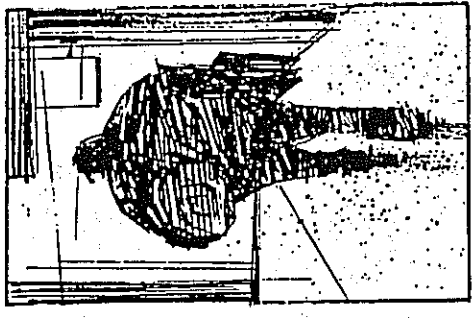
Page Smith  
Bonny Dixon  
12/4/89  
S.C. Sentinel

S.C. Sentinel  
1/26/90

Elizabeth Glips and Paddy Long  
Santa Cruz

Editor — Recently, I attended the annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges at the St. Francis Hotel. On Friday evening, January 12, as I was walking west on Post Street, a fellow in a Stanford Cardinal stocking cap, a down jacket, blue jeans, with a sleeping bag over his shoulder and pieces of cardboard boxes in his hands, fell in beside me. For several blocks, then, we had an interesting conversation.

He explained that the cardboard was to cover his sleeping bag, but, he said, "we needed the rain." He said he had been a painter in San Francisco for the past 26 years and until 3 or 4 years ago had been a representative of his union. He had,



however, become involved in the use of cocaine and, eventually, the union had fired him. Now he is, he said, unemployed and going through a divorce, though, in response to my question, he said, "I'm clean" — no longer on cocaine. He knew all the contractors in the area, he said, and they knew him, but no one would hire him because of his difficulties with the union. "I've lost my credibility," he said, "and it's hard starting over at 50 years of age."

Eventually, I turned off on Powell and went on to the Curran to see "Les Miserables." As I sat there in an expensive seat the irony of what I was doing struck me. Though I had wished the man "good luck," as we parted, I had not asked if he was hungry. He had never asked for any-

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

wanted shelter, and 3 percent said they wished to remain on the streets.  
PAUL BODEN  
San Francisco

The Bay Area housing crisis has finally reached an intolerable level. Something needs to be done to drive down the prices of local housing and commercial space. The corrosive effect of this hyper-inflation is now injuring every sector of Bay Area society except real estate brokers and land speculators.

At current rates of speculation-driven increases, a three-bedroom home in the Inner Mission (once a



©-RESIDUAL SCIENCE MONITOR

working-class neighborhood) may cost in the millions of dollars within 10 years, according to figures in The Examiner's real estate section.

Only a tiny, and shrinking, percentage of Bay Area people can afford to buy any form of housing. It is as if there were a...

## Help the homeless

"As a social worker in the Emergency Room at San Francisco General Hospital I am encouraged to see that San Franciscans consider homelessness our No. 1 problem.

However, I am troubled by the assertions that people are homeless because that is the lifestyle they chose. I see many homeless people who are seeking shelter. The majority are on the streets because they have run out of what resources were once available to them.

The longer they remain on the streets the more likely they are to be labeled by society as undesirable and shunned. A 23-year-old female patient told me, "It's much easier for me as a homeless person to get offered a piece of crack cocaine than to get a glass of water with ice in it." Far from seeing homelessness as a lifestyle choice, I see a downward spiral of misery, despair and hopelessness set in. Nowhere is this more clear than with those homeless who are ill.

Each evening I inform homeless patients that there is no place for them to go once they are discharged from the ER. Can you imagine having to walk the streets by day if you had the flu? Or a bad knee?

Most shelter situations are for night hours only, and often homeless people are roused at 5 or 6 in the morning and put on the street, so that the churches or other agencies can return their space to day use. The shelters that do provide indoor daytime space are frequently filled to overflow. In the months since the earthquake, the city took 800 emergency hotel rooms out of circulation (in addition to the 200 lost to earthquake damage), causing us to see homeless men and women in neighborhoods and parks where previously they did not go.

I fear that if our response to the proliferation of homeless people is to tell ourselves this is their lifestyle choice, then we will respond to the housing crisis not with low-cost housing but with, in effect, no response at all.

Friday, December 22, 1989

## 110 Homeless Died on S.F. Streets in '89

By Kathy Bodovitz  
Chronicle Staff Writer

At least 110 homeless people died on the streets of San Francisco this year — with about a third of the deaths linked to alcohol or drugs, according to the annual survey of coroner's records by the Tenderloin Times newspaper.

Most of the people who died were white men in their 30s, and 37 percent of the deaths were attributed to alcohol, drugs or both, the paper said.

"It's an incredible number of people to be dying on the streets of a California city," said Sara Colm, editor of the Times.

The Times began the survey in 1985 after two of its reporters found a man dead in a parking lot at Jones Street and Golden Gate Avenue and decided to find out how many people were dying in the streets.

The neighborhood newspaper compiled its numbers of dead by using coroner's records of people with no known address and records from two mortuaries that contract with the city to handle bodies of the homeless and indigent.

According to the paper, 17 homeless people died in a nine-month period in 1985, 54 in 1986, 69 in 1987 and 116 in 1988.

Bob Prentice, Mayor Agos' homeless coordinator, said the city's figures show a more constant picture of deaths of homeless people — approximately 100 in each of the past five years.

Prentice cited figures compiled by Dr. Daniel Wlodarczyk, medical director at the city-sponsored Health Care for the Homeless Program. Using the same method as the Times, Wlodarczyk found that 112 homeless people died in 1985, 92 in

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PAST FIVE YEARS.

Prentice cited figures compiled by Dr. Daniel Wiodarczyk, medical director at the city-sponsored Health Care for the Homeless Program. Using the same method as the Times, Wiodarczyk found that 112 homeless people died in 1985, 92 in 1986, 126 in 1987, 125 in 1988 and 91 in the first 10 months of 1989.

The city's figures also showed that alcohol contributed to about half the deaths. "It's pretty clear that a large part of what we're seeing is alcoholics who are homeless who are dying in the streets," Prntice said.

Descriptions culled from the coroner's records offer profiles of some of those who died on the streets this year:

■ Robert Decker, 55, was found wrapped in blankets under the awning of an abandoned Safeway in North Beach. He died of cirrhosis.

■ Ramon Salas, 41, was found in a flower box in front of an abandoned building on Buchanan Street. Clad in several layers of worn clothing, he was covered with a tarp, his head resting on a duffel bag. His body had begun to decompose.

■ Jerry Levaro, 51, died on a bench at Boeddeker Park. He had staggered and passed out earlier in the day and his cause of death was listed as acute and chronic alcoholism.

homeless and parks where previously they did not go.

I fear that if our response to the proliferation of homeless people is to tell ourselves this is their lifestyle choice, then we will respond to the housing crisis not with low-cost housing but with police to drive the homeless from our sight. We are a city known for compassion. Let's not blame the victim. Let's be willing to allocate the funds to provide permanent low-cost housing for the long run, and emergency housing until then.

NANCY VON BRETZEL  
San Francisco

The recent Examiner poll showing that San Francisco residents now consider homelessness the No. 1 problem may reflect a growing recognition that homelessness affects all members of society.

The Examiner article also quotes several people who confidently proclaim that homelessness is a "life-style choice," though it is not clear what the basis of their knowledge and expertise is. It is curious that the "choice" theorists are unable to explain why this supposed "choice" has become so widespread.

The choice theorists thus appear ignorant of the four major causes of rising homelessness cited by Mayor Agnos: the shortage of low-cost housing, decline of the manufacturing economy, reductions in entitlement assistance programs, and a retreat from the goal of a national health care program.

In a survey of over 325 homeless people conducted by the Homeless Task Force in 1989, 92 percent of the respondents said they wanted permanent housing, 5 percent said they

working-class neighborhood) may cost in the millions of dollars within 10 years, according to figures in The Examiner's real estate section.

Only a tiny, and shrinking, percentage of Bay Area people can afford to buy any form of housing. It is as if there were a governmental decree preventing middle-class people from buying homes.

My wife and I have done the "right things" to supposedly get ahead in this society. In our early 30s, we put off starting a family in order to economize. We both earned bachelor's degrees and I served three years in the Army. Despite working three jobs between us we are less able to buy a home than we were five years ago. We can't even afford a studio condo in a bad part of town.

Many talented and skilled people are simply giving up on trying to pay the "private tax" of rising living costs here. Natives of the Bay Area are being stripped of their birthright to remain here. As a result, we are losing the labor base. What will the Bay Area produce 20 years from now when only a tiny handful can afford housing and commercial space?

Despite a public relations campaign to the contrary, greed-driven land speculation is the root cause of the collapse of hundreds of savings and loans, and is a major contributor to the national debt. If the so-called "laws of supply and demand" cause a crash of land values, as they did in the U.S. South and Southwest, who will pay for the federal bail-out? The taxpayer, that's who. The taxpayers who cannot now buy a place to live.

ROBERT COUSE - BAKER  
San Francisco

It's small wonder that many of the,

Then, there is the 45-year-old writer living in the bowels of Pacific Heights who says we need a government basket in which to dispose of all the "losers." Ah, democracy, the class system is thriving and well.

What if the mayor got some money to set up the nonprofit shelters that he sees as the solution? How many of the people who are fouling the park would plucidly be led to shelters where they would be minimally policed by do-gooding social workers? For more and more people, the only way to "win" in this society is to "lose" and keep your freedom on the cold and filthy streets.

LUCINDA DUTCHER  
Berkeley

at 20 years of age. Eventually, I turned off on Powell and went on to the Curran to see "Les Miserables." As I sat there in an expensive seat the irony of what I was doing struck me. Though I had wished the man "good luck" as we parted, I had never asked if he was hungry. He had never asked for anything — and I had not offered. He had taken full responsibility for his plight and seemed not to have a victim mentality.

If the story he told me was true, I would like to rectify my error, in part, by suggesting that there might be a real human interest story here. And it strikes me that he is deserving of someone's help.

JIM E. TANNER  
Dean and Provost  
William Jewell College  
Liberty, Mo.

### Feed the hungry

S.F. 11/1/90  
Congratulations on your editorial, "Why don't we feed the hungry?" That should be our prime New Year's resolution.

As long as surplus food rots in warehouses and citizens have empty stomachs, we can't possibly call ourselves a civilized, compassionate nation.

MERLA ZELLERBACH  
San Francisco

### A Public Need

Editor — I find it difficult to understand why cities throughout this country cannot supply public restrooms.

Places like our San Francisco, teeming with visitors, crowded with shoppers and people on business, and supplied with so many homeless, does need some system of public toilets.

Throughout Britain, no matter whether it is a hamlet or a town or a city, there are always toilets available to the general public. This is one of the reasons tourists like to drive through that country. Relief is always provided for.

It would seem appropriate for those in charge of public health to prevent the growing stench so common in many areas of the city. To suggest that restaurants and large

S.F.C. 11/1/90



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Sad Tourists

Editor — As tourists to your city over many decades we really dislike visiting your city now.

The streets and sidewalks are filthy. Many homeless people are roaming in certain neighborhoods — rejected, aimless and uncared for. We hate walking through neighborhoods of drug users and panhandlers. Having to walk through these latter groups is bad enough but some are looking for trouble by uttering remarks to passers-by and this is very intimidating. It makes us very depressed and sad to try to attend plays, exhibits, shop, dine, etc., in San Francisco now.

Please clean up your once beautiful city or you will lose many of us who thought that a visit to San Francisco was a real holiday.

RALPH and DORAY VAIL  
Stockton

Now Is the Time

Editor — As a Bay Area resident, I am often in San Francisco and have recently noticed the seriousness of the homeless problem. While I used to see scattered homeless people in doorways or overhangs, I now see people sleeping in the middle of street corners and sidewalks. I am curious as to why no one seems to want to deal with this problem. The city has held walks and concerts to benefit earthquake relief, AIDS research and cancer research, but what has been done to aid the homeless? I don't think the problem can be made any more obvious than it already has. It would be beneficial to both the homeless and those of us who are fortunate enough to have homes to do anything in our power to get them off of the city streets. Now is the time for this problem to be dealt with!

AMY N. WILSON  
San Carlos

People's Tribune 12/15



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Trouble in Golden Gate Park

Camping in the Park

Editor — I am concerned with the problem with the homeless in Golden Gate Park. Recently I was walking through the park and I saw at least 10 homeless people practically camping out. It seems to me that no homeless person should be able to take a nap in the park when there's no camping allowed.

How hard could it be to get rid of them? Maybe stricter laws should be set out. Or better rehabilitation programs should be provided to help get a job and eventually low-cost housing could be available to them. But for the time being I don't think I should have to see homeless people camping out in the park.

DALLAS RIDLEY  
Redwood City

This Is Living

Editor — I sleep and live in Camp Agnos West (Golden Gate Park).

Where else in American can you have warm climate, plenty of drugs, legal camping and catered lunches? Why go anywhere else? Why slave away at a job? This is living. I'm free — you're not!

JOHN (SPEEDY) REEDY  
San Francisco

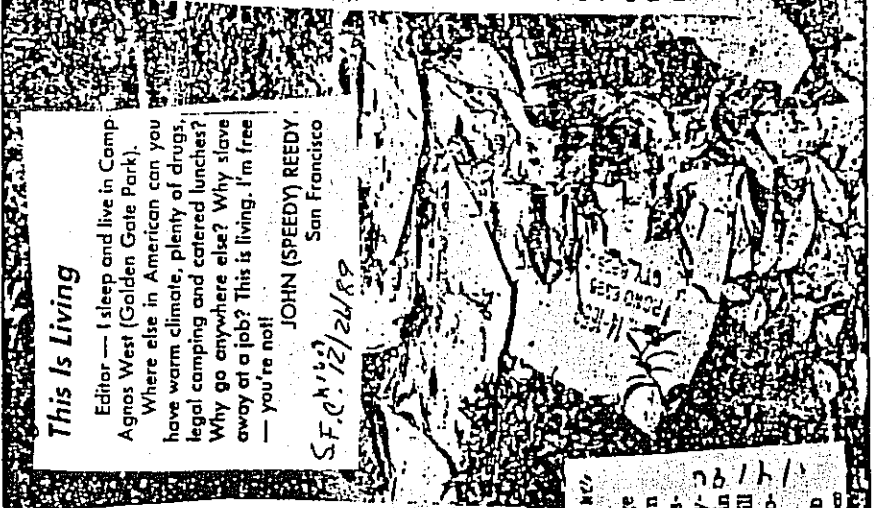
Haight patrols

Thanks so much for your coverage of the Haight Ashbury's problems and the increased patrols that are being employed to deal with them. We appreciate the increased beat patrol on Haight Street and advocate even more surveillance on the abusive and violent element that is harassing and terrorizing the area.

In the last several days, we have noticed increased arrests of some of the troublesome people that gradually turned our neighborhood into a haven for miscreants and itinerants.

We want to preserve the commercial and environmental character of the Haight Ashbury. Haight Street is primarily occupied by small, owner-operated businesses and residences occupied by families. The reduction in abusive panhandlers and active alcoholics and drug abusers is something that will aid in preservation and renewal of the area.

FEX FARRANCE  
San Francisco



BY MARTHA JANE STAMOND/THE CHRONICLE

Park, vagrants

Thank you for the recent coverage on the homeless people living in Golden Gate Park. It is a very disturbing problem, especially for anyone who visits the park or works in the area. Only very real pressure will get Mayor Agnos to take action toward cleaning up the mess.

WAYNE GOAD  
San Francisco

Gardeners say there are many of these encampments in the park, some littered with drug paraphernalia and other garbage

Gardeners Ask for Crackdown on Camping

S.F. Chron 12/2/89 ← Equal Time For Bigots ↑

A City Held Hostage

Editor — Now Golden Gate Park is just as bad as downtown.

The city is being held hostage by the country's homeless, alcoholic bums! They have taken over because our so-called leaders have offered no resistance. If we could just send them back to wherever they came from it would help. But we don't

Hunger activist arrested here for

Editor — Now Golden Gate Park is just as bad as downtown. The city is being held hostage by the country's homeless, alcoholic bums! They have taken over because our so-called leaders have offered no resistance. If we could just send them back to wherever they came from, it would help. But we don't want to upset those big-shot ACLU lawyers, do we? Now, at night, I hear these bums screaming and yelling from behind the Marina Library on Chestnut Street.

And you wonder why the Giants are leaving?

SAL COLOMBO  
San Francisco

### Life in the Haight

Editor — While I sympathize with those individuals who are forced to sleep in parks or doorways because they have been truly unfortunate, these people are by far the minority in the Haight-Ashbury.

I lived in the Haight for five years during the mid-1980s and saw the number of street people there grow larger each year. Most of these so-called victims of an uncaring society were healthy young males in their

Ford Not - Bombs  
Fights on  
dishing out  
daily meals  
past a line  
of police and  
a wall of bureaucracy.  
(More, next issue)

# Hunger activist arrested here for talking to press

by Jack Hirschman

I was witness on Dec. 20 (the day the U.S. armed forces invaded Panama) to a blatant attack on human rights by the San Francisco police department: Keith McHenry of Food Not Bombs, at a rally to support the right to feed the homeless in San Francisco, was arrested while talking to two media reporters in what was a flagrant act of censorship.

McHenry had committed no illegal act. He was 10 feet away from the table where other members of the group were beginning to serve food to the poor, when police shuffled aside the two reporters he was talking to and arrested him.

The arrest is especially flagrant in that KCBS radio had been broadcasting editorial support of Food Not Bombs' right to feed the hungry in the Civic Center area.

Police arrested eight other members of the group for serving food, though two of them were doing nothing more than carrying loaves of bread. Six were handcuffed to benches at the Northern Station for seven hours before being booked!

The incident points up the home- less situation; more and more people know that. The cops are there to keep that knowledge from spreading. But they can't, it's spreading all over the land. The relationship between homelessness and the rotten private-property war- machine that underlies this system cannot be censored. Nor can the jailed be jailed when the people's liberty is on their side.

You don't see many full bags of food for people these days as poverty gets worse.



PHOTO-MONDA

SF BOM 12/21/87

SF Chron 1/16/90

### Feeding the Needy

Editor — As a homeless person who has eaten bread from the streets in order to survive, I cannot understand how a city such as San Francisco can tolerate the inhumane and anti-humanitarian action of arresting those who seek to feed the needy. Humanitarian efforts such as those provided by Food Not Bombs should be honored and applauded rather than outlawed and harassed.

BRIAN D. KOEPKE  
Homeless Alliance  
Santa Cruz

Robuch Brown  
Speaks!

FOOD GIVEAWAY ARRESTS:  
Nine people were arrested Wednesday morning at United Nations Plaza in San Francisco for distributing food to homeless people without a permit, police said. Keith McHenry, 32, a Food Not Bombs activist, was among six people booked after the 11:15 a.m. food giveaway, a department spokesman said. Four of those arrested were charged with violating a restraining order against distributing food without a permit. The other two were charged for failing to sign their citations. The three others were only cited for distributing food without permits.

# Police Dismantle Tent City of the Homeless in Lower East Side Park



Police officers tore down the tent city of the homeless in Tompkins Square Park yesterday. A homeless woman carried a Christmas tree and a teddy bear through the debris.

By JOHN KIFNER  
Special to The New York Times

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 — The ramshackle tent city of the homeless in Tompkins Square Park was torn down today as scores of city and park police officers mounted a long-planned, long-announced operation of nearly military complexity.

The 10-acre park was aswarm with green-uniformed park officers wearing white riot helmets, police officers in blue, two fire engines and 15 big green Parks Department trucks hauling away the debris.

A small group of protesters set about 20 of the makeshift shelters on fire and by midmorning acrid smoke hung over the park.

The removal of the shelters came after increasing complaints from residents of the Lower East Side neighborhood that they could no longer use the park and that the encampment had become a center of drug use and prostitution.

Parks and police officials stressed that in accordance with community sentiment Tompkins Square would continue to be the only park in the city without a curfew and that homeless people would still be able to sleep there overnight.

"If they want, the homeless people can come back later with blankets and sleeping bags. They just won't have the structures," said Deputy Inspector Michael Julian, commander of the Ninth Precinct, as several protesters closed in around him, chanting "Slog, slog" and "New York City, you can't hide; we charge you with genocide."

At nightfall, about two dozen demonstrators were still clustered around the benches in the middle of the park, chanting "No housing, no peace." They were watched by about a dozen city police officers and two dozen park officers scattered around the park.

The demonstrators had a fire in a trash barrel to keep warm, but when they set another fire on the ground, the police doused it. There were about 90 homeless people and 45 shelters in the park when the operation began at 9 A.M.

Inspector Julian had spent part of Wednesday going through the park from shelter to shelter telling the inhabitants that the eviction was coming and that they should gather their possessions. Before the operation started park workers distributed plastic bags to hold belongings.

Assistant Parks Commissioner Jack T. Linn, who directed the operation, said the Department of Parks and Recreation had 80 of its peace officers, who are called the Parks Enforcement Patrol and dress like park rangers, on the scene, along with 50 maintenance workers eight of whom are still on duty.

The park was divided into six sections. Mr. Linn said, and a team was sent into each, backed by two city police officers. Each structure was in a photograph and the inhabitants told that if they had possessions too heavy to carry away, they could be recorded and stored by the Parks Department for 30 days.

Inspector Julian began with 20 uniformed police officers in the park, he said, quickly building up to 40. Another 30 officers were held in reserve on side streets. There were also a number of plainclothes officers, some of them readily distinguishable by their athletic builds, clean blue jeans and baseball hats.

A core group of about a score of homeless people and their supporters set fire to about a half-dozen tents and shelters in the center of the park and then moved about chanting slogans waving protest signs and beating a large drum. More fires were set later.

Huge piles of old clothing and debris mounted as the shelters were dismantled and the park workers shoveled them into trucks. The original five garbage trucks and five flatbed trucks could not hold it all, Mr. Linn said, and a call went out for more.

"At least we saved our trees," a woman who gave her name only as Barbara said as she carried a slimy decorated Christmas tree away.

"Many Left Behind"

Mark Timmer, who lives nearby and called himself a "quiet supporter," said: "The sickness of doing this for Christmas is despicable. It means that without shelters, some of these people will die."

"This is the military solution to homelessness," Mr. Timmer said, railing. Other supporters of the encampment around him, "We should look on this as the first official act of the Dick

Parks Commissioner Henry J. Stern said that in the three weeks that a social-service center had been operating in the park as a part of the plan to remove the shelters, some 127 people had been placed in shelters, detoxification programs or hospitals.

"It went very smoothly," Mr. Stern said of the clearance. "Many of the people left behind."

"The Lower East Side is a very liberal community," Mr. Stern said, "but they found they had lost their park and weren't willing to live with that."

Seventeen people were arrested during the day but there no major incidents, a police spokesman, Lieut. Raymond O'Donnell, said. Three people were arrested in and around the park during the clearing operation. Eleven others were arrested on charges of trespass, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest when the protesters left the park and tried to occupy a vacant apartment at 343 East 10th Street.

men were arrested on disorderly conduct charges when they crossed police lines to deliver food to protesters holed up since the weekend in an abandoned school at 271 East Fourth Street.

**A Park Bench Debate**

By afternoon, as a religious group set up its regular soup kitchen in a truck near the hand shell and the teams of park workers raked up the litter left from the encampment, two elderly women, both with cones and worn, heavy overcoats, took the thin sun on park benches.

They had each lived in the neighborhood for more than 50 years, they said, and they debated the day's events in East European accents.

"The park is beautiful," said one. "I hope it stays this way."

"But where's the humanity," asked the other. "They should be doing something to take care of these people." I don't think it's fair to throw these peo-

The New York Times/Neil Renshaw

T. Linn, who directed the operation, said the Department of Parks and Recreation had 80 of its peace officers, who are called the Parks Enforcement Patrol and dress like park rangers, on the scene, along with 90 maintenance workers, eight video and still photographers to record the event and three lawyers to advise about rights.

homeless people and their supporters set fire to about a half-dozen tents and shelters in the center of the park and then moved about chanting slogans and waving protest signs and beating a large drum. More fires were set later. The demonstrators and the parks officials videotaped and photographed each other.

people will die." "This is the military solution to homelessness," Mr. Timmer said, "rattling other supporters of the encampment around him." "We should look on this as the first official act of the Democrats' administration," J. Mayor-elect David N. Dinkins said Wednesday that he supported the clearance.

during the clearing operation. Eleven others were arrested on charges of trespassing, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest when the protesters left the park and tried to occupy a vacant apartment at 143 East 10th Street. In addition, the Rev. George Kubik, pastor of St. Bridget's Church, which faces the park, and two other clergy members were arrested.

"The park is beautiful," said one. "I hope it stays this way." "But where's the humanity," asked the other. "They should be doing something to take care of these people. I don't think it's fair to throw these people out on the street." "It was awful around here," came the response. "Who's she kidding?"

Driving Out The Homeless  
Clock familiar?  
SF Chron 1/17/90

# Panhandling Free-Speech Right

By William Glaberson  
New York Times

A federal judge in Manhattan, declaring that poor people have a constitutional right to beg, yesterday struck down the New York Metropolitan Transportation Authority's ban on panhandling in subways.

The decision is the first by a federal court to find that panhandling is a free-speech right protected

In Santa Cruz...  
Judges give out months of jail time for this "offense!"

From Page 1

Legal experts said it could include a sharp change in direction for a legal system that has for centuries monitored, regulated and sometimes entirely prohibited begging.

The judge, Leonard B. Sand, ruled that the transit agency could not enforce no-begging rules it hoped would bring order to a system that many riders had come to see as chaotic.

The decision also invalidated a no-begging policy of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

"A true test of one's commitment to constitutional principles," Sand said, "is the extent to which recognition is given to the rights of those in our midst who are the least affluent, least powerful and least welcome."

Lawyers for two homeless men who had challenged the no-begging policy said that begging amounted to nothing more than one person asking a question of another and should be protected by the First Amendment.

Sand adopted that approach. "The simple request for money by a beggar or a panhandler," he wrote, "cannot but remind the passer-by that people in the city live in poverty and often lack the essentials for survival. Even the beggar sitting in Grand Central Station

with a tin cup at his feet conveys the message that he and others like him are in need. While often disturbing and sometimes alarmingly graphic, begging is unmistakably informative and persuasive speech."

A few state courts have dealt with the issue of begging, including an appeals court in Florida that in 1984 recognized a free-speech right, but legal experts said no consensus has emerged on the issue.

They said Sand's ruling, from the influential U.S. District Court in Manhattan, could frame an issue that is very likely to become more pressing as attention to the problem of homelessness — and some people's anger at panhandlers — increases.

"In the face of the legions of homeless that face us in the streets," said Paul G. Chevigny, a law professor at New York University Law School, "the decision speaks well for the humanity of the federal judiciary that they're willing to recognize the right of the poor person to ask others to help."

Chevigny said the opinion was a sharp turn from a tradition of hostility toward begging that was deeply rooted in old English and early American law.

Sand also struck down a New York state law that made it illegal to loiter for the purpose of begging.

In addition, he invalidated a policy of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that denied

permits to people who said they wanted to beg in the World Trade Center and the Port Authority Bus Terminal.

Floyd Abrams, one of the nation's leading experts on First Amendment law and a legal consultant to the MTA, said he believed that Sand was wrong in ruling that begging was speech rather than merely conduct, which would not be protected by the Constitution.

He said he believes the ruling "stretches the First Amendment beyond its limits."

The MTA could continue to press Sand to overturn the preliminary injunction, could appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals or could adopt new rules that would ban begging selectively.

Under established First Amendment law, the government can regulate free speech in public places if it sets narrow rules that are deemed to be reasonable limits on the "time, place and manner" of speech.

Sand said the blanket ban was not a reasonable regulation.

# Too Many Homeless in Too Few Shelters

12/29/89 SF Chron

## Early Cold, Quake Make Crisis Worse

By Nanette Asimov  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Tattered and scoured, 67 men stood in the cold for up to 2½ hours to claim cots at San Francisco's new winter shelter on 14th Street. Some of the men were healthy. Others bore the painful lesions of AIDS.

The shelter let all the men in but locked its doors by 8 p.m.

Dozens, perhaps hundreds, of homeless never made it to a city shelter or to any of the single-room occupancy hotels in the city's South of Market and Tenderloin neighborhoods. More than 100 people died on city streets this year.

"You stay out here in this cold long enough, you're a dead man," said Little John. He warned his hands before a crackling fire in an oil drum on Jones Street the other night with "St. Louis," "Lleuclunant," "Cookie" and other homeless men.

### Even More Problems Than Usual

To deal with perennial homelessness, San Francisco and other cities and counties have turned to emergency shelter plans they have used regularly in recent years.

Unusually cold weather and the loss of low-income housing to October's earthquake have compounded the homeless crisis in many areas. In San Francisco, there is added disappointment among the homeless that Mayor Art Agnos' heralded homeless plan has yet to yield results.

"Like any other city, in spite of our best efforts, we don't have as much shelter as we have need for," said Bob Prentice, San Francisco's coordinator of programs for the homeless. About 14 percent of the city's estimated 7,000 homeless are believed to be earth-

months ago, said Robert Tobin, executive director of Hospitality House, a self-help center in the Tenderloin. "For many years, we operated one of the only all-day drop-in centers for homeless adults," he said. It provided bathrooms, cots, storage space, mailboxes and a mess-hall center.

Corporate donations favored earthquake relief this year, however, and Hospitality House lost more than \$100,000, Tobin said.

Anthony Von der Muhll, who heads the community group Coalition on Homelessness, says he is optimistic about the plan, a ballmark of which is to create 6,000 apartments affordable to people with very low incomes.

"I can thoroughly sympathize with homeless people who are impatient and cold," Von der Muhll said. "But I'm not disappointed with the pace of movement on the plan. It's proceeding as best as one could hope given the month of earthquake interruption."

### Armories Opened

Throughout the Bay Area most counties are relying on National Guard armories to provide winter shelter for the homeless. Armories that have opened since Christmas are in Petaluma, San Jose, Gilroy, Richmond, Pittsburg, San Mateo and San Rafael.

San Francisco has not used its



Homeless people camping along Jones Street warned themselves by a fire in an oil drum

In Oakland, the First Unitarian church has had a shelter open since early December, and the St. Francis Church shelter will open next week.

The county is also increasing the number of temporary motel vouchers it can supply to homeless families during the winter.

A new shelter for 30 families opened recently in Santa Rosa, said the Rev. Wayne Johnson, chairman of the Sonoma County Task Force on the Homeless.

armory at Fort Funston in years because it is too expensive to run, Prentice said.

Lura Halbert, who coordinates the cold-weather shelters in Santa Clara County, said the National Guard has relaxed its rule this year to allow the armories to stay open even when the daily temperature is above 40 degrees.

In Alameda County, Berkeley and Fremont are using rotating church shelters throughout the winter, said Zeqobia Emery-Nimner, director of the Emergency Services Network.

# People's Park Folks Say It's Cool

By Debra Leal Holtz  
Chronicle Correspondent

Like Berkeley itself, People's Park has an almost mystic appeal for seekers of a temperate climate, tolerance, camaraderie and social services they can find nowhere else.

Although the flower children have long since disappeared, many denizens still adhere to the ideals that helped create the park 21 years ago and vow to resist any attempt by the University of California at

sponded to requests by park regulars for rakes and cleaning tools.

Others say that people are drawn to the park three blocks south of the university campus by its abundance of free food and the easygoing lifestyle of collecting welfare checks, getting high on drugs and lounging in the sun.

### It's free-loading!

"It's a cool hangout," said Zig, who arrived from New York City six months ago and settled in. "It's so easy to make a living off of soci-

In the meantime, the community's patience for the free-wheeling lifestyle of the park dwellers is running out. Telegraph Avenue merchants and local residents have complained about the burgeoning number of homeless people in the south campus area and a sharp increase in street crime.

Health inspectors say human waste, garbage and open fires pose risks to people in and around the park.

# Police Patrols To Double on Telegraph Ave.

By Debra Leal Holtz  
Chronicle Correspondent

Berkeley will double its police foot patrols on Telegraph Avenue in response to complaints from merchants and residents along the carnival-like thoroughfare that panhandling has taken an ugly turn.

A few panhandlers on the street "spread the fear" by punching people who refuse to surrender spare change, City Manager Michael Brown said yesterday.

Brown, who recently met with a group of angry merchants, said the city plans to increase the number of police officers from two to four a day beginning on Sunday.

Trouble is not new to Telegraph Avenue. In recent years, there have been sporadic problems with aggressive panhandlers, large groups of teenagers who have accosted bystanders and riots that have caused extensive property damage to businesses.

But with an increasing number of homeless people competing for spare change from passer-by, even street people agree that the area has gotten more violent than ever before. "There's only a few people that are making it hard on the people who are trying to survive," said one Telegraph Avenue panhandler, who identified himself as Fast Buck Chuck.

Merchants are now demanding a quicker response by Berkeley police than they have received in the past. They say their businesses are being hurt by the recent increase in street crime, and some merchants have even threatened to withhold their business license taxes if something is not done.

Local residents and business

much shelter as we have need for shelter," said Bob Prentice, San Francisco's coordinator of programs for the homeless. About 14 percent of the city's estimated 7,000 homeless are believed to be earthquake victims.

In addition, the city's new winter shelter program is providing only 60 of the 100 beds it is supposed to offer men.

Little John is among those feeling the pinch. "If the city provided better housing without a whole bunch of rules, we'd go there," he said. "But the hotels, they're rat-infested, roach-infested, lice-infested. We'd rather stay here."

Even with their rules, the shelters fill up fast.

Throughout San Francisco, there are only 920 shelter beds for the city's thousands of homeless people, said Dr. Dan Wiodarczyk, medical director for Health Care or the Homeless, a program of the city's Department of Public Health.

#### Shortage of Cots

That includes the 130 cots that are part of the city's new shelter program, which rotates from place to place every two weeks in the cold

months from November through March.

There are supposed to be 30 cots for women and children and 100 cots for men, said Dorothy Enisman, the homeless coordinator for the Department of Social Services.

But at the men's shelter Tuesday night, the capacity was only 60, although seven more were allowed inside. Enisman said she could not explain the limited number of cots.

There are fewer services for the homeless now than there were when the mayor's \$4.6 million

#### It's Free-loading'

south campus area and a sharp increase in street crime.

Health inspectors say human waste, garbage and open fires pose risks to people in and around the park.

#### Nightly Sweep Planned

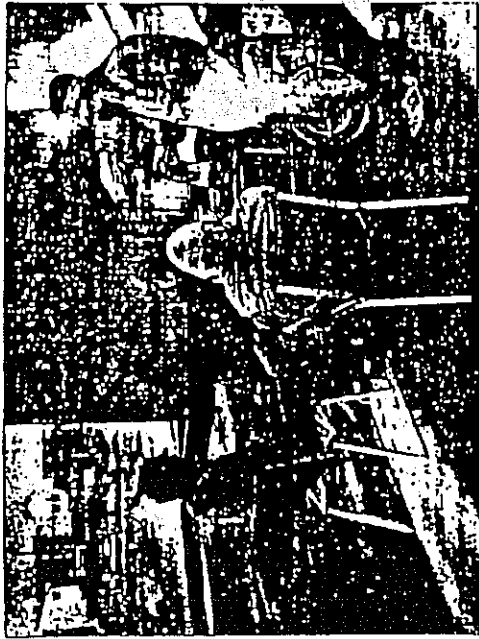
In response, university and city officials have announced that beginning next week they plan to sweep the park of its nightly lodgers and shopping carts brimming with personal belongings. They have also promised to increase police foot patrols to crack down on aggressive panhandlers and "rat pack" attacks by roving bands of teenagers.

Park inhabitants countered in a letter this week that the failure of the police to deal with violent alcoholics and a handful of hard-core drug dealers "is being used as an excuse to harass and victimize the entire community."

Most park dwellers acknowledge that marijuana and hallucinatory drugs are widely used in the park. But they say outside dealers are the ones who pose the danger.

"All the violence is caused by crack dealers who come down here from Oakland," said park regular Harry Marsh. "It's not the hippies, the gypsies and the Deadheads."

Others come to the park just to eat breakfast and mingle in the People's Cafe, a trailer brought onto the site by members of the Berkeley Catholic Worker organization eight months ago without the permission of the university. Most people say that the cafe has attracted more transients to the park since the earthquake on October 17 displaced hundreds of people in Alameda County.



"Fritz" (in wheelchair) and other residents of People's Park, near the UC Berkeley campus, talked and listened to music outside the People's Cafe, a trailer where free breakfasts are dispensed

street crime, and some merchants have even threatened to withhold their business license taxes if something is not done.

Local residents and business owners say that increased foot patrols are a step in the right direction. But Ralph Sklar, owner of Uncle Ralph's Stereo on Telegraph Avenue, said that is not enough. He said better leadership is necessary because police officers receive mixed messages from city officials when they try to crack down on panhandlers.

#### 'I'd Starve to Death'

Stephanie Stephens, who said her Oakland apartment building was declared uninhabitable after the earthquake, sleeps in the wood-ed Berkeley Hills and comes down to the cafe for free coffee, doughnuts and oatmeal.

"If it weren't for this place, I'd starve to death," said Stephens, who is pregnant and saving up money for an apartment. She earns \$4.25 an hour from her job at a local sandwich shop.

"You don't hang out in Oakland, period," she said. "I like Berkeley because the people are cool. They accept you just the way you are."

# The Homeless Editor

## New newspaper is written by and for street people

BY SHANN NIX  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

When her relatives turned her out of their house in 1987, Myrnatene Nabih decided to leave Chicago and start over. She counted herself lucky to find a job driving a car one way to San Francisco. Alone in a strange city, she paid \$22 a day for a room in the Embarcadero YMCA, settled her few belongings, looked for work and waited for money from Chicago that never came.

She landed a telemarketing job and struggled to stay afloat until she could collect her first check. The day before pay day, she came home to find the door to her room locked. She was homeless.

"I was stunned," said Nabih, who is in her 40s. "Everything I owned was in that room. Even my toothbrush. I didn't know anyone. I just wanted the streets, until dark."

### Countless Homeless

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that between 6,000 and 10,000 homeless people live in San Francisco, and all 2,500 emergency beds are filled almost every night.

But it is impossible, officials say, to know exactly how many people sleep on the streets, in parks, in cars, in abandoned buildings, with friends, in garages or in hotels.

"The homeless used to be hoods, never do wells," says Nabih. "Today there are whole families on the streets. The problem is more and more evident. There's

got to be a reason. We can't accept this."

So Nabih started the Homeless Times, a newspaper written by and for the homeless people of San Francisco.

"The yuppies have turned in to yuppies," she says. "They talk all the time and do nothing. We've heard all the platitudes."

The Homeless Times' objectives are creating jobs for homeless people, providing a forum for the homeless to express their opinions, busting stereotypes, presenting personal profiles and statistics to the uninformed, seeking solutions to the homeless problem, linking the San Francisco homeless to refugees all over the world, and like Thomas Jefferson, expressing "eternal hostility against every form of tyranny over the mind of man."

### Big Goals, Little Paper

Big goals for a new paper with no budget, no advertising staff, no computers, no printing press and no offices. But Nabih is resolute.

"We're small. And we're poor. But we can try to bring some sanity into the world."

The Homeless Times was born last November in a subsidized four-room apartment not far from the Tenderloin. It's the home of Salima Hashida Raheem, Nabih's friend, a performance artist and a staff writer for the Homeless Times. The two women met at the

See Page B4, Col. 5



Editor Myrnatene Nabih was on the streets of the city for almost nine months and only recently was taken in by a friend in subsidized housing. The first issue of the Homeless Times features typewritten articles and hand-drawn graphics.

## Mixed Reaction to Gripes By Gate Park Gardeners

By Nonette Asimov  
Chronicle Staff Writer

From Page B3

Tenderloin Women Writers Workshop, and an offer of temporary help turned into a stable roommate arrangement.

The spotless room contains a bed, a couch covered with a sheet, piles of Nabih's vivid paintings and charcoal drawings, two battered desks, bookshelves, stacks of corded Homeless Times, and a small gray Smith-Corona typewriter on which Nabih types most of the copy for the newspaper.

Nabih, a handsome dark-skinned woman with piercing eyes, describes herself as "ageless." She walks awkwardly, dragging one leg as a result of an old unexplained accident. Her voice is slow and gravelly, her speech deliberate. She wears dark glasses.

Raheem, 51, is a vigorous woman with short-cropped hair and shadowed eyes. She has been clean and sober for two years, she says, after 30 years of heroin addiction.

### Difficult Past

The two women are veterans of a lifestyle best described as marginal. Both were born in Mississippi and grew up in Chicago. Both came to San Francisco to escape a difficult past. Neither has a family in the city or a paying job.

Their life stories are difficult to follow, wrapped loosely as they are around tales of drifting from city to city, of getting jobs and losing them, a downward spiral of missed opportunities, lost possibilities, mishaps, irate landlords, locked doors, shelters.

Nabih's bitterness is not surprising. What is surprising is her desperate, tenacious belief in the basic trustworthiness of human nature.

"I think that if people are confronted with the truth they'll take responsibility," she says. "They can't help but put an end to foolishness, get rid of foolish people making policies, foolish rulers who sit and wait for doom."

"A small percentage of men are causing a great amount of suffering. People are sick of it."

Nabih is uniquely qualified for her self-created position as editor, and only recently was taken in by a friend in subsidized housing.

### TO SUBSCRIBE

To subscribe to the Homeless Times, send a tax-deductible donation of \$15 a year (\$20 for organizations) to the Homeless Times, 890 Geary Street, No. 45, San Francisco 94109.

editorials from the homeless, bits of news, personal stories and reports with headlines like "Down and Out in the South of Market" and "The New Myth About the Black Poor."

"One of the worst things about being homeless is not having control," reads one of the editorials. "No place to stop, rest, put down your heavy load. No place to urinate. No place to be where you don't have to be a spectacle."

The paper offers information on crack babies, AIDS, pork worms, lice, police brutality, sweet wines, vitamin B and herbal remedies accessible to the homeless. Nabih has reprinted the Bill of Rights and gives advice on how to get free legal assistance.

Ads in the paper announce help for the homeless — food, shelter, clothing, laundry, haircuts and showers. One ad reads, "Remember having a job? Having a place? Being lonely? You can get it back again!"

Nabih is now at work on the second issue and hopes eventually to publish twice a month. One of her most important tasks, she says, is correcting mistaken assumptions about the homeless.

"I'm always amazed — the people who are supposed to be the best educated hold the most shallow prejudices. They think the homeless are lazy, or that they want to be out there."

"Our polls show that 20 percent of the homeless are mentally ill and don't know why they're out there. Twenty percent are drug abusers. The rest are homeless because of some kind of societal distortion."

"And almost everyone polls said they would like a job or a business. They want to work."

Much of the paper deals with the problems of the homeless pre-

THE HOMELESS TIMES 50c

NO. 1

editorial

# By Gate Park Gardeners

Tip Nappite Ashmoo  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Neighbors around Golden Gate Park responded with a mixture of outrage and sympathy yesterday to city gardeners who say that escalating crime in the park has made them afraid to go to work.

Many neighbors support the more than 200 park employees who have signed a petition calling for help from city government, but others fear that the petition is little more than a call to arms against the homeless who populate parks around the city.

Several community groups said the city needs compassionate alternatives to having the police roust the homeless from the park.

Their solutions include providing 24-hour bathrooms and showers at the east end of Golden Gate Park, where problems of litter, drugs and violence are most acute. They also suggest bringing health-care workers into the park and establishing a formal "tent city" for transients.

"Homeless people are a resource and not a problem," said Anthony Von der Muhl, who works with the Coalition on Homelessness and is vice president of the Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council. "The city and the private sector need to be more creative in finding ways to employ homeless people so they can contribute to society."

What city gardeners see as a

workplace issue — their petition to the state Occupational Safety and Health Administration is still circulating — is a social problem that has polarized neighborhood groups near Golden Gate Park into two distinct camps: those who see the problem as one of crime and those who believe it centers on homelessness.

Only a small number of the people living in the park are "the legitimate homeless, those people that need shelter and require social aid," said Lillianne Milgrom, who has collected a number of like-thinking neighbors into the Committee of Concerned Park Neighbors.

Milgrom and neighborhood associations from Cole Valley, Buena Vista and Twin Peaks oppose placing bathrooms in city parks because it "legitimizes the illegal sleeping and camping in the park." It is the city's job to find permanent homes for transients, said Milgrom, and not "have them live in my back yard."

But groups such as the Haight-Ashbury Neighborhood Council cringe at such words.

"A shower facility would make a lot of people who look and smell scary a lot less scary," said Von der Muhl. "Opening up the toilets would go a long way toward solving the problem of people urinating and defecating in the park — and that would make it more pleasant for gardeners."

A small percentage of men are causing a great amount of suffering. People are sick of it."

Nabih is uniquely qualified for her self-created position as editor. Besides spending time on the streets herself, she did a stint as editor of the Homeless Link, a newsletter put out by the North of Market Planning Coalition. She split from the Link over editorial differences in September and struck out on her own.

Since the first issue was published last month, KPPIX-TV (channel 5) invited Nabih to speak on "People are Talking," and honored her with an "Unsung Hero of 1989" award. Editor and Publisher magazine expressed interest in her story, and a retired journalist from Hayward volunteered his services to make the paper more professional.

### Pathwork Production

She shows the paste-up boards for the newspaper with pride. "It's patchwork now, but we hope it will grow to be better."

Much of the paper is typed or handwritten and illustrated with graphics drawn by Nabih or other artists. She has cut headlines from other publications to save on typesetting costs, and painstakingly pasted the pieces together on one of the desks in the room.

Donations from homeless advocates allowed the 24-page paper to be printed with an initial run of 3,000. Homeless people can buy the paper for 20 cents a copy, then resell it for 50 cents and keep the proceeds.

The paper contains letters and

some kind of societal distortion. "And almost everyone polles said they would like a job or a business. They want to work."

Much of the paper deals with the problems of the homeless programs provided by the city and charitable institutions. Complaints include unsanitary conditions, pocketed funds, sexual harassment and drug use by drug counselors who are supposed to be offering help and advice.

"As a homeless person, I lived in a cardboard box in the Financial District rather than sleep in any of the shelters," reads a letter from Leon Z. "Even though I could have gotten preferential treatment by being on Mayor Feinstein's Task Force on the Homeless. Why? Because my cardboard box was cleaner, safer and less hassle than the shelters."

"I think if people know what was going on, people would object," says Nabih. "Lives are at stake here."





Wally Trabing S.O.S. 12/1/69

## A citizen's view on transients

PART OF rebuilding downtown is re-establishing an image, an ambience. A lot of people think loitering around the mall is not conducive to improving an image the town needs. It is not against the law to loiter if one does not obstruct the free movement of people in a public area. So we have a kind of stalemate.

Reader Dr. Lewis Keizer, who with his wife, Tess Popper, operate The Popper-Keizer School for Gifted Children, maintains that "By creating fair and effective programs for homeless unemployed, either transient or resident (without residence), we gain control over a whole spectrum of social problems in the county that are reflected on the mall."

Here are some of his proposals:

1. Build and maintain an overnight sleeping facility (to double as an emergency shelter) with 200 tent or auto sites, a basic food preparation area, bathrooms with a maximum stay of one week. No user fee.
2. Enforce laws prohibiting camping or sleeping in undesignated areas. Those who violate these laws should be routed to the campgrounds facility. Repeat violators would be expelled from the county, and finally jailed.
3. The mall should be designed to accommodate licensed street musicians in small enclaves with benches, but each day they must be authorized to perform, based on talent and compatibility of performance.
4. A city park be built adjacent to the mall where loiterers can meet, sit and socialize in one controlled place under police protection to prevent drug trafficking and begging. There should be strict enforcement against loitering and begging on the mall.
5. Those successfully prosecuted for drug use could be expelled from county rather than jailed, and lose privileges for transient.

-13- NYT  
12/11/69  
How about it,  
Santa Cruz?

First, police  
forgot last Cheryl  
contract, the all-mile  
sanctuary, and a land  
Mcie, the landlord  
has been pers coded  
to pull Judith  
lease!

Judith Heinec  
711 3rd St. #1  
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Dear Judith,  
Enclosed is a 30 day notice to vacate the apt. at 711 3rd St. Santa Cruz, Ca. I am so tired of seeing all those kids hanging out in and around your apt., and I have talked to both you and Victor several times about the problem. Also, the other tenants are complaining.  
I want you to understand that you cannot use the apt. for homeless homeless people. I am prepared to take any necessary action to stop this, including calling the police, the public health dept., and all other public utilities. Both the manager and I have talked to Victor, and he agrees to put a stop to all these people hanging out in the apt. We have agreed to call the police any time that people are coming and going from your apt. without either you or Victor present.  
This notice is effective as of this date and your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

## Blame Lack of Toilets, Not Moral Decay, for Public Urination

To the Editor:  
"To many New Yorkers a person urinating in public is an increasingly familiar sight, and a problem that even longtime residents accustomed to the peculiarities of city life find hard to accept" (news story, Nov. 25). There is nothing like a European vacation to make one realize how limited public amenities in New York are — particularly, public bathrooms. In England and Scotland a couple of months ago, I could not get over the prevalence of clean, well-maintained facilities. As a pregnant woman, I can say that these amenities helped make my vacation relaxed and pleasant. There are so few public bathrooms — let alone clean ones — in New York that I can understand the frustration which a natural biological function causes. During the Koch administration, 74 percent of commercial office buildings constructed between 1948 and 1958 Streets were built on the site of single room occupancy business. One reason the developers did not want to put in public bathrooms was the fear of attracting the very people they had just dispossessed. I hope that during the "Dinkins" administration, New Yorkers, who pay incredibly high taxes for services, demand a solution to this problem that doesn't blame the victim. JACET MARKOFF  
New York, Nov. 29, 1969

To the Editor:  
Your Nov. 25 report on public urination in New York City alludes to "homelessness, immigrants with a "tradition" of public urination and just when you gotta pee you gotta pee."

So in, the poor cabbie, I'm a cabbie and a seventh generation English-speaking New Yorker. The new cab-leasing setup means you work five to six hours for the cab company to pay for the lease of the cab, gas and extras, and only after that do you work for yourself. That leaves little time for finding a parking space near a tavern or coffee shop, locking and securing the cab, taking the guff from owners for using the facilities, all of which can take up to 15 minutes. That can mean losing a fare, perhaps a biggie in one of the airports.  
Fargo, the phantom, stop for relief. Maybe it's time to bring back the old-fashioned pistor.  
TED DEACH  
New York, Nov. 27, 1969

To the Editor:  
Civics have brought the problem of public urination on themselves by not

**NYT**  
**The New York Times Company**  
229 West 43rd St., N.Y. 10018

ARTHUR OCHS BUSHNBERG, Chairman  
WALTER E. MATTHEWS, President  
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DAVID L. LINDHOLM, Sr. VP, Treasurer  
and Chief Financial Officer  
BENJAMIN HANDELMAN, Senior Vice President  
MICHAEL I. HYMAN, Senior Vice President

providing for a basic human need. We have public phones in many places, but how many truly public restrooms? I understand that some facilities have been closed because they became places for soliciting for or acts of homosexuality or crime.  
But what about setting up portable one-person toilets (like those at construction sites) about every four blocks and seeing that they are serviced regularly? MARTIN METZGER  
Alexandria, Va., Nov. 29, 1969

To the Editor:  
More on the lack of restrooms and increase in public urination on New York City streets (news story, Nov. 25). Some years ago, I and several other lawyers, having grown disgusted with the "employees only" policy for restrooms in the public hallways at the Immigration and Naturalization Service, sued in Federal Court in "liberate" the restrooms. After more than a year of litigation, during which the case reached the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, a settlement was finally reached.  
However, our research showed that lack of public facilities in New York has a long history, complained of by Sigmund Freud on one of his early trips to this country. Policies of subjecting the public to long lines and undignified searches before they can enter public buildings, such as formerly freely accessible courthouses, exacerbate the lack of access to the few remaining supposedly public restrooms.  
PETER HIRSCH  
New York, Nov. 26, 1969

100-15-1937  
Enclosed is a 30 day notice to vacate the apt. at 711 3rd St. Santa Cruz, Ca. I am so tired of seeing all those kids hanging out in and around your apt., and I have talked to both you and Victor several times about the problem. Also, the other tenants are complaining.  
I want you to understand that you cannot use the apt. for homeless homeless people. I am prepared to take any necessary action to stop this, including calling the police, the public health dept., and all other public utilities. Both the manager and I have talked to Victor, and he agrees to put a stop to all these people hanging out in the apt. We have agreed to call the police any time that people are coming and going from your apt. without either you or Victor present.  
This notice is effective as of this date and your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

to prevent drug trafficking and begging. There should be strict enforcement against loitering and begging on the mall.  
5. Those successfully prosecuted for drug use could be expelled from county rather than jailed, and lose privileges for transient overnight facilities.

Dr. Keizer has thoughts for the homeless unemployed non-residents wanting to become residents.  
1. The county would build a transitional housing facility of 100 apartments, shared sanitary and cooking facilities, with a social-services office.

Admission would be by waiting list. Personal and vocational counseling would be available, with a maximum of one-year residency.  
The homeless unemployed would enter a mandatory two-months manual work-service for the county.

Drug abusers, psychological cripples, etc., would be weeded out according to a fair criteria.  
Successful probationers would be transitioned into apprenticeships, community college programs, and as soon as they are employable, transferred into private rented rooms.

The goals are to become employed, drug-free, and self-esteemed.  
2. Obtain commitments from county employers, both profit-making and non-profit businesses, to accept one transition person for training into a regular-track employee position every four or five years.

For example, San Jose needs 1000 new carpenters as soon as possible.  
Santa Cruz County needs manual labor, inside and outside carpenters for rebuilding work. Trade unions would train people in high-demand manual jobs.

3. The county would build and maintain low-cost housing, rental apartments and condominiums of 1 to 3 bedrooms for successful graduates of transitional housing facilities and low-income families.  
They would pay rent, be encouraged to register to vote and continue counselling, if needed, concludes Keizer.

This notice is effective as of this date and will be greatly appreciated.

Truly,  
Victor  
Victor

30 DAYS NOTICE TERMINATING TENANCY

To: Ted Hill Tenant in Possession  
YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the tenancy under which you hold possession of the property under tenancy from month to month, situate in the City of San Jose County of San Jose State of California, and described as follows, to-wit: 711

Designated and known by the No. 11 is by this notice terminated and you are hereby notified to remove from said premises on or before the 11 day of September 19 71

Owner  
Agents

Revised 10-70

Courtesy Form No. 780 - 30 Day Notice

There are jobs galore.  
Many positions require high skills and specialized education, but there are also jobs which can be had with minimal training.  
Here are some I am reading from Tuesday's classified section.  
Hotel housekeeper, motel room cleaner, motel assistant manager, desk clerk, night custodian, gardener, mail processor, motel room work, maintenance and mechanical work.

Driver, dishwasher, service station work of all kind, warehouse work and on and on.  
There are pages of job offers for those with special skills.  
It is good for citizens to get involved in community problems.  
The more a city depends on the small cadre of those in government, the narrower is the scope of social involvement.  
The more ideas that are cast about, the richer the eventual plan.  
Wally Trabing's column appears in the Sentinel Tuesday through Friday and Sunday.

Even Wally suggests a camp -  
Gordon W. Wally  
will be progressively  
catch up with him

....Meetings...Meetings...Meetings...Meetings...Meetings

>>>>Housing Now!--delegates who went to Washington, D.C. back in October, and folks just interested in problems of housing and homelessness, might check in on this meeting. It's February 1 from 3-5 PM at the Aptos Library. Dangerous Dan Green may provide some free transportation from the downtown S.C. post office (the site of the new Homeless non-Table). Call Robert at 427-1205 on the morning of the 1st if you want a ride.

Under discussion: what's next for Housing Now? Some restless locals have suggested that homeless delegates confer with the more upscale liberals in Housing Now! (such as Councilmember Don Lane and Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt) and press for some kind of local police ceasefire. Bring your ideas and backpacks!

>>>>Homeless Rights Coalition--chaired by Bubbah Brian Koepke--continues to chew the fat each Friday afternoon from 2 PM to 4 PM. Topics include correspondence with the bigwigs, Jabberwocky Jay's Homeless update, new legal defenses against blueshirt blanketbusting, out-of-town reports, etc. Sometimes long-winded, usually informative--bring your own edibles. The Coalition meets at 509 Broadway courtesy of the Welfare Parents Support Group. (WPSG, incidentally meets Thursday night Feb 1 at 7:30 PM for folks struggling with welfare rights.)

>>>>Does the Psych Ward Want You? Fight back against 72-hour holds, 14-day certifications, temporary conservatorships, and other modern-day medievalisms by contacting Patient's Right Advocate Beverly Basic at 429-1913. Beverly reports that folks that get locked up in Dominican Hospital's Psych Unit have a better chance to beat back the voodoo docs in an on-site certification hearing before a Hearing Examiner than in Superior Court at a writ hearing before one of the blackrobes. What does all this mean? Call Beverly and find out if you're unlucky enough to need her!



COMING NEXT ISSUE!! Food-Not-Bombs arrests in San Francisco, Berkeley's crackdown on People's Park, Scott B.'s "Peace of Mind" survey on the Sleeping Ban, fragments of articles still buried on the damaged disc that held the original STREET SHIT SHEET #66....and, as a special bonus, Michael Kamber's March on Washington with the homeless and Housing Now!--shamelessly cribbed from the November and December issues of Z magazine. PLUS Terrible Tom S.'s radical rejoinder to Kamber's portrayal of the march as Homeless Horribles on Dope! Be there!





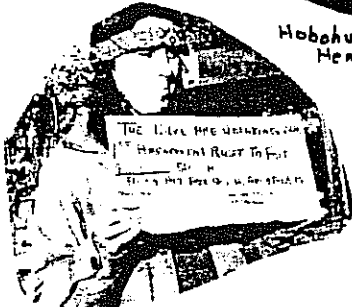
Hobohunter and Toblerockn Toy Mensig

# STREET SHEET

"I met at eve the Prince of Sleep.  
 His was a still and lovely face.  
 He wandered through a valley steep.  
 Lovely in a lonely place."

--Walter de la Mare, I Met at Eve

Camryn Menz confiscates homeless bench Jan. 26.



Linda the Lark holds up sign for slow SCPD learners.

Mandatory Support Fee: One Buck

LATE FLASHES      LATE FLASHES      LATE FLASHES      LATE FLASHES

## HOUSING NOW! VOTES FOR CALAMITY'S CUPBOARD, AGAINST SLEEPING BAN!

####Santa Cruz Housing Now! sent over 20-30 homeless locals and advocates to Washington, D.C. in October in a national march to restore low income housing funding. At that time, following the lead of D.C. homeless activist Mitch Snyder, SCHN downplayed local issues of homelessness and police harassment, in an attempt to unite lead-livered liberals and street people in the national demo.

But Snyder, on his first visit to Santa Cruz in April, had bitterly denounced both the city's 11 PM-8:30 AM Sleeping Ban and its arrests of soupserver at the Town Clock. During the Housing Now! rally in October, local activists had their plans to launch a weekend sympathy Tent City in San Lorenzo Park squelched by Jim Lang's Parks and Rec. Dept., which demanded deposits, fees, and insurance costs totaling more than \$1300. And more recently, Snyder has released a letter giving personal approval to sleep-ins on behalf of the homeless, preferably near a federal building.

On Thursday afternoon (Feb. 1) in their first meeting since the national march, SC Housing Now! passed two significant resolutions tacitly attacking the Gang of 7 (City Council) and directly opposing SCPD policy towards homeless demonstrators. The meeting of nearly 20 delegates and sympathizers unanimously resolved that the city end its sleeping ban, cease harassment of homeless activists at the downtown Homeless Tables, and return of blankets from the homeless, and restore to the homeless their right to speak and their right to sleep. They urged their members to contact Gangmembers individually and express their feelings on the issues.

A resolution was also passed supporting Calamity Jane Imler's demand for the use of the River St. mini-Sheiter's certified kitchen to prepare meals in the afternoon for the average 100 homeless fed on the backlot at 4 PM. Further, if Calamity's is forced to close down, SC Housing Now voted to support the efforts of private individuals to feed the homeless (tacitly supporting an effort such as last winter's SWAP (Soup Without A Permit) Team at the Town Clock.

NOT IN S.C.!

### Keeping warm shouldn't be a crime

Every night homeless people are demonstrating nonviolently outside the post office. All they want is a legal place to sleep in town after 11 p.m. Police have responded with tickets and arrest. They have also seized blankets.

I am not yet homeless, though I soon will be. Because I agree with these people, I joined them on a bitterly cold Sunday night (Jan. 28). Police arrested the two homeless people there and left me with a warning that if I wrapped a blanket around myself to keep warm, I, too, would be arrested. Is it now illegal to try to keep warm on the streets at night if the police take a disliking to you?

Judith Benert SC Sentinel 2/1/90 Santa Cruz

Jail: we Judith to Santa Cruz

PHOENIX (AP) — Some homeless people here are testing portable cardboard shelters made for people who live on the streets.

Three of the prototype Porta-Sleeper Shelters were given to homeless people by the Rev. Gerald Roseberry, who operates a ministry for the homeless.

The 14-pound, tentlike shelters are about 3 feet high and 3 feet wide and are coated to be water-resistant. The one-person shelters fold up and can be carried with a built-in handle.

The maker, Gaylord Container Corp. of Deerfield, Ill., hopes to mass-produce them, but has yet to set a price, a spokesman said. One of those testing the shelters, Leah Wilson, 21, approved of the sleeping box. "So far it's all right. No problem."

San Jose Mercury News • Friday, February 2, 1990

Leah Wilson, left and Alan Harrington shelter

### Cardboard box to call a home



Two squeeze into the prototype Porta-Sleeper Shelter, designed for one

MORE LATE FLASHES.....MORE LATE FLASHES.....MORE LATE FLASHES

HOMELESS ALLIANCE TO MEET WITH RIVER ST. MINI-SHELTER ON KITCHEN  
ACTIVIST GROUP VOTES TO SUPPORT CALAMITY CUPBOARD DEMOS TUESDAY

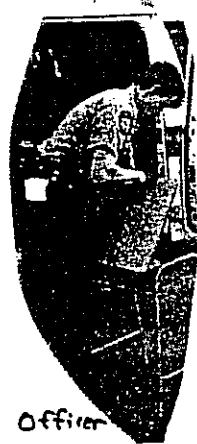
#####A small but spirited group of activists comprising the Friday afternoon meeting of the S.C. Homeless Alliance put their heads together with mini-Shelter overlord Bob Campbell to save Calamity's Cupboard. The nightly feeding program, which offers unconditional food to any and all, is threatened with closure. Calamity Jane Imler, chef cook and organizer, has given a Tuesday ultimatum to the city and county to come up with its long-promised certified kitchen. She explained to the Alliance that her first choice would be the River St. mini-Shelter's kitchen, which is within 150' of the Cupboard itself. But she is willing to accept any other certified kitchen including Portuguese Hall, the County Building, the Civic Center, the Salvation Army, or the soon-to-be closed S.C. Hotel. The Alliance's Bogtrotter Bill and Kindred Kim will present a formal proposal Tuesday to the River St. staff that Jane be allowed the kitchen for a trial period, perhaps for a fee, if necessary.

Imler told the Alliance she could not continue preparing safe and healthful food in the Pioneer House kitchen where facilities must be shared with a "mental health" day care center in a situation "where we cannot maintain control of the food preparation" and Pioneer's clients cannot use their own kitchen facilities. For more than nine months they have had no certified kitchen, Imler noted, though one was promised at the outset of the negotiations with the city and county that began in the wake of the Town Clock soup arrests last winter.

Calamity's goal was to train a homeless person as a chef in a certified kitchen, pay for the chef's services, and then continue to support the program. The sub-lease for Calamity's Cupboard is up on Feb. 17, when it must be renewed by the city. Other alternatives for a certified kitchen had so far proved unusable, Imler noted. She and Keystone Karen, the full-time volunteers who had carried the nightly program for 4 1/2 months, were determined that the program continue in the hands of the homeless and their advocates and not be turned over to mental health bureaucrats.

Alliance members concluded that there was no coherent reason not to use the mini-Shelter's kitchen. [see *Cupboard Kitchen Foodfight Still a Tossup*, p. 13] They agreed to have Bogtrotter Bill and Keenkarma Kim present a compromise proposal to Campbell and his staff next Tuesday. The kitchen would be made available to Jane on a temporary basis until either a portable site facility or a certified kitchen became available. There would be a definite cut-off date so that if the mini-Shelter started their own programs, they could use the kitchen themselves.

In the event that the mini-shelter personnel turned down the plan and no certified kitchen was available by the Tuesday meal, the Alliance agreed to demonstrate with picket and pamphlet to assure the continuing flow of Calamity's true-and-tried munchables. Folks interested in demonstrating can get further information through H.U.F.F. (Homeless United for Friendship and Freedom) at 427-1205. Crack the wall of bureaucratic indifference and hostility with a call to Bob Campbell at 459-0444, asking him to support at least a trial period of River St. Shelter kitchen use for the Cupboard.



Officer  
men =  
disassemble  
deadly Homeless  
Table #4.  
(Jan 26)

#67

Hobohunter and Tollwacker Toy  
Hennig

February 5, 1990

Monday



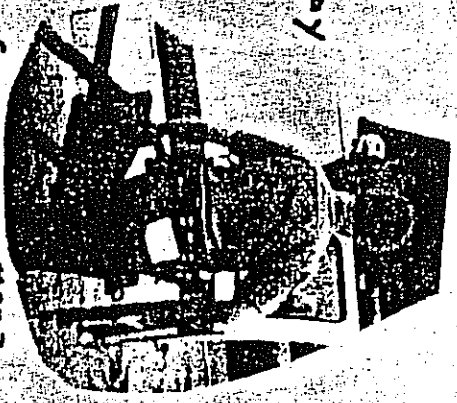
Linda holds  
Lark sign for  
up sign for  
slow scpd  
learners.

Mandatory Support Fee: One Buck

# STREET STREET

"I met at eve the Prince of Sleep.  
His was a still and lovely face.  
He wandered through a valley steep.  
Lovely in a lonely place."  
--Walter de la Mare, I Met at Eve

Camera shy homeless men  
confiscated on bench  
Jan. 26.



LATE FLASHES LATE FLASHES LATE FLASHES LATE FLASHES

## HOUSING NOW! VOTES FOR CALAMITY'S CUPBOARD, AGAINST SLEEPING BAN!

### Santa Cruz Housing Now! sent over 20-30 homeless locals and advocates to Washington, D.C. in October in a national march to restore low income housing funding. At that time, following the lead of D.C. homeless activist Mitch Snyder, SCHN downplayed local issues of homelessness and police harassment, in an attempt to unite lead-livered liberals and street people in the national demo.

But Snyder, on his first visit to Santa Cruz in April, had bitterly denounced both the city's 11 PM-8:30 AM Sleeping Ban and its arrests of soupserver at the Town Clock. During the Housing Now! rally in October, local activists had their plans to launch a weekend sympathy Tent City in Santa Cruz.

But Snyder, on his first visit to Santa Cruz in April, had bitterly denounced both the city's 11 PM-8:30 AM Sleeping Ban and its arrests of soupserver at the Town Clock. During the Housing Now! rally in October, local activists had their plans to launch a weekend sympathy Tent City in San Lorenzo Park squelched by Jim Lang's Parks and Rec. Dept., which demanded deposits, fees, and insurance costs totaling more than \$1300. And more recently, Snyder has released a letter giving personal approval to sleep-ins on behalf of the homeless, preferably near a federal building.

On Thursday afternoon (Feb. 1) in their first meeting since the national march, SC Housing Now! passed two significant resolutions tacitly attacking the Gang of 7 (City Council) and directly opposing SCPD policy towards homeless demonstrators. The meeting of nearly 20 delegates and sympathizers unanimously resolved that the city end its sleeping ban, cease harassment of homeless activists at the downtown Homeless Tables and set up a right to speak and their right to sleep. They urged their members to contact Gangmembers individually and express their feelings on the issues.

A resolution was also passed supporting Calamity Jane Imler's demand for the use of the River St. mini-Shelter's certified kitchen to prepare meals in the afternoon for the average 100 homeless fed on the backlot at 4 PM. Further, if Calamity's is forced to close down, SC Housing Now! voted to support the efforts of private individuals to feed the homeless (tacitly supporting an effort such as last winter's SWAP (Soup Without A Permit) Team at the Town Clock.

**Keeping warm shouldn't be a crime**

Every night homeless people are demonstrating nonviolently outside the post office. All they want is a legal place to sleep in town after 11 p.m. Police have responded with tickets and arrest. They have also seized blankets.

I am not yet homeless, though I soon will be. Because I agree with these people, I joined them on a bitterly cold Sunday night (Jan. 28). Police arrested the two homeless people there and left me with a warning that if I wrapped a blanket around myself to keep warm, I, too, would be arrested. Is it now illegal to try to keep warm on the streets at night if the police take a disliking to you?

Judith Belmont SC Sentinel/ 2/1/90  
Santa Cruz

Jail: me  
Judith  
to Santa Cruz  
→

**PHOENIX (AP) —** Some homeless people here are testing portable cardboard shelters made for people who live on the streets.

Three of the prototype Porta-Sleeper Shelters were given to homeless people by the Rev. Gene and Roseberry, who operates a ministry for the homeless.

The 4-foot-tall, tentlike shelters are about 3 feet high and 3 feet wide and are coated to be water-resistant. The one-person shelters fold up and can be carried with a built-in handle.

The maker, Gaylord Container Corp. of Deerfield, Ill., hopes to make produce them, but has yet to set a price, a spokesman said. One of those testing the shelters, Leah Wilson, 31, approved of the sleeping box. "So far it's all right. No problem."

NOT IN S.C. ↓

San Jose Mercury News, Friday, February 2, 1990  
Leah Wilson, left, and Alan Harrington shelter to call a home



Two squeeze into the prototype Porta-Sleeper Shelter, designed for one  
JEC P. 3.



HARDY HARDLINERS RESUME SLEEP-OUT NEAR HOMELESS TABLE #6 FRIDAY  
TABLETS STILL WANTED TO CONTINUE DAYTIME LEAFLETING

###After a weekend of tickets, arrests, and continued police harassment, Jabberwocky Jay and Shoeless Joe were persuaded by their friends to make a strategic withdrawal in their months-long protest outside the main post office to end the city's Sleeping Ban. For three nights and three days (Tue-Fri), the windswept corner was vacant of demonstrators for the first time since Nov. 13. Activists were also occupied with helping jailtime Judith vacate the apartment from which, under pressure from the police, she'd been evicted for putting up homeless youth and sick alcoholics.

But early Saturday morning (Feb. 3), Judith, Jay, Joe, and Linda the Lark were joined by newcomers Topside Tom and Standin Steve to present Officer Vogel with a row of sleeping bags when the Santa Cruz Sleepbuster arrived at 3 AM. Warned to leave, Jay, Joe, Linda, and Judith held their ground with Steve and Tom standing nearby as witnesses when Vogel returned an hour later with Sgt. Hobohunter Hennig to disperse the sleepy sixsome with citations (for the fearless four) and "menacing looks."

Jay pointed out a medium sized cardboard box to the uniformed pistoleers and informed them, "we've been forced to come up with a disposable Homeless Table [#6]. "That's because you're a public nuisance," shot back the stiff-necked Hennig. "You're a worse public nuisance," trumped Jabberwocky. "Coming and waking people in the middle of the night. We have no other recourse against fascism than mass protest." "Leave," commanded Hennig. And with four more sleeping tickets in hand, the six trudged off.

Will CALAMITY  
CUPBOARD  
CLOSE

a public nuisance," shot back the stiff-necked Hennig. "You're a CRAZY SOB!"

Worse public nuisance," trumped Jaberwocky. "Coming and waking recourse CUBS E people in the middle of the night. We have no other recourse off CLOS E against fascism than mass protest." "Leave." commanded Hennig. "The six trudge off of CLOS E And with four more sleeping tickets in hand, the six trudged off of CLOS E to share Jailtime Judith's last night in her apartment."

END LATE FLASHES      END LATE FLASHES      EN

# More homeless, more meals

Soup kitchen seeing lots of new faces

By JOE ROJAS-BURKE  
Special correspondent

SANTA CRUZ — They have the best soup in town, said Lee Loboa of St. Francis Catholic Kitchen, but that alone doesn't explain the surge in demand for hot meals for the homeless.

St. Francis has more than doubled the number of daily meals served in recent weeks.

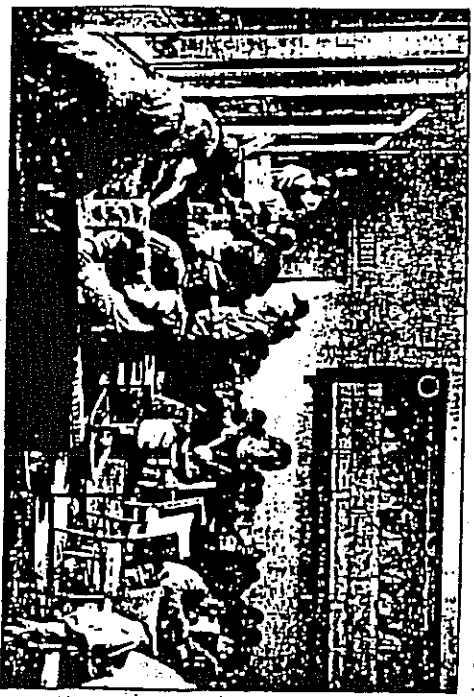
Another soup kitchen, started by homeless activist Jane Imler, doubled its service in the months after the earthquake and has increased steadily since then, according to Imler.

"We've had such astronomical numbers lately," said Imler, who speculated that the cold and rainy weather is driving people to the soup kitchens. "As it gets colder and rainier we get more of the hard-core campers coming out of the Pogorup." Pogorup is the undeveloped area bordered by Highway 9, Harvey West Park and UC Santa Cruz.

"It just seems like there are more poor people out there," said St. Francis's Loboa, while lading bean and zucchini soup from a 20-gallon cauldron. "I'd say we went up to 150 people today. We served over 200 a day all last week."

"I think a lot of people after the earthquake ran away in terror and now they're coming back again, but that's pure speculation," said John Hoyt of St. Francis.

The Catholic Kitchen on Mora Street had been serving about 80 people a day before the Oct. 17 earthquake. Numbers plummeted after the quake, then many of the homeless apparently died.



St. Francis Catholic Kitchen has more than doubled in recent weeks the number of hot meals served.

"There are a lot of new faces," said Jim, a tall man with sun-darkened features. He's a regular guest at the Catholic Kitchen who said he's been living "all over" in camps, in the woods.

Jim said that many newcomers are homeless refugees from Berkeley and San Francisco who find food a little easier to obtain and the police a little less menacing in Santa Cruz.

"It's utopia, here compared to San Francisco," said a friend, a heavy, older woman named Barbara, also homeless.

The St. Francis kitchen opens each day at noon. Some of the homeless guests are mentally ill, or substance abusers. Some are older people living on social security benefits, and some admittedly have chosen to live on the streets.

Scotty Hagar, a Santa Cruz native, said he's been living in his van, by choice, "for as long as he could remember." His friend Shayne Webb of Los Angeles said he has been living in

AP—Santa Cruz Sentinel — Tuesday, Jan. 23, 1982

## 5-C. Sentinel 1/24 Activist cancels meal program

SANTA CRUZ — A nightly meal program for the homeless started by activist Jane Imler will halt after Wednesday. The closing comes at a time when relief workers say demand for food for the homeless is at a high point due to the cold weather and the aftermath of the Oct. 17 earthquake.

Imler decided to close because she was unhappy with the program's current kitchen arrangement.

Imler said her group, Calmarly's Cupboard, has no permanent kitchen and uses the kitchen at Pioneer House, a day center for the mentally ill. Imler said that Pioneer House facilities are unsuitable because clients at the day center had been dipping unwashed hands and silverware in the food, and had even spit in the food prepared there.

"We're not willing to continue under these circumstances due to the possibility that we might contribute to an outbreak of hepatitis," said Imler.

Calmarly's Cupboard serves over 1,000 meals a week on a city-owned lot behind the River Street Shelter, according to Imler. She said demand for the meals doubled after the Oct. 17 earthquake, so her group had to supplement restaurant-donated food with food prepared in the kitchens of Calvary Church and Pioneer House.

"We just need a certified kitchen we can operate out of," said Imler. Imler and three others, who are rested in March after setting up a soup kitchen without a permit in violation of Health Department regulations, Imler began feeding the homeless at the River Street site in September, with the approval of the city.

Calmarly's Cupboard is funded by private donations and is not affiliated with the River Street Shelter.

# Firm's little boxes shelter homeless

PHOENIX (AP) — Portable cardboard shelters may be the answer to the problem of shelter for the homeless, say officials of a Deerfield, Ill., firm which wants three "Porrta-Sleeper Shelters" built this week for a field test.

A Porrta-Sleeper is a one-person, 14-pound, cardboard tent, about 3 feet in height and width and coated for water resistance, that can be folded up and carried with a built-in handle.

Robert Silvert, a Gaylord Container Corp. sales representative, said the idea came from his travels. "I've been in New York and in Los Angeles, and ... seen the different methods people were using to take care of themselves in the street, and I kept seeing boxes being used, like refrigerator pack-

ing boxes." Silvert said in a telephone interview.

He later saw the plans of a San Francisco architect for a portable, personal shelter made out of plywood and decided that his company could come up with something better out of cardboard.

The Rev. Gerald Roseberry, who operates a ministry to the homeless, handed out the three prototypes this week.

Leah Wilson, one of the testers, said the sleeping box got her approval.

"So far it's all right. No problem," the 21-year-old said.

A spokesman at Gaylord's headquarters said the field tests would be followed by design revisions and possibly mass production. No price has been set.

### Cupboard Needs Kitchen

In a surprising move, homeless activist Jane Imler announced Monday that Calamity's Cupboard, a city/county sponsored feeding program that offers free meals to those in need, would close on January 24. Imler attributed the closure to the lack of a suitable kitchen, although the city-sponsored River Street Shelter kitchen is just a hundred feet away from the feeding site.

The use of the Shelter's kitchen has been discussed since April. The Santa Cruz City Council failed to contract the kitchen when it implemented the program in the fall. Shelter Director Bob Campbell has so far denied Calamity's Cupboard use of the kitchen. Imler said Campbell gave no reason for the denial, and was "asking his staff to come up with one."

Imler and volunteers currently use the kitchens of both the Calvary Church and the Pioneer House, a city-sponsored mental health day center. Unfortunately, the Calvary Church kitchen is only available two days a

week. The Pioneer House kitchen suffers from a constant flow of foot traffic in an already small space which presents a serious health threat to Calamity's Cupboard diners, according to Imler.

"Sometimes the [Pioneer House] clients would stick their fingers or spoons in the food, and we heard that someone got mad and spit in it," explained Karen Gillette, a Calamity Cupboard volunteer. "We don't want to close it down but there's no way we can risk a hepatitis outbreak."

Fifty to 150 persons depend on the Cupboard meal service nightly, up from the 25 to 50 before the earthquake. Local restaurants and bakers donate most of the food, and volunteers collect, refrigerate, cook and serve it. "It's backbreaking," said Imler, "particularly when there's a kitchen 100 feet away."

Despite the Cupboard's announced closing, those who rely on the nightly meal service can breathe a sigh of temporary relief. Councilmember Don Lane convinced Imler to stave off closure while he taps other city and

county resources.

"I'm optimistic," said Lane. "There's a chance that we'll work it out with the River Street Shelter but I'm also looking at other possibilities. I think the drama of the Cupboard's closing has brought on a lot of attention." Lane said he is researching city, state, and commercial kitchens.

In the meantime, Pioneer House has attempted to block off their kitchen for Imler with tape, strings, and a "no admittance" sign. Imler, however, said she does not like keeping Pioneer House clients out of their own kitchen, even for a few hours. "Today was okay, but it was also slow. An influx of clients could bring us back to where we were before," she said Tuesday.

If a solution isn't found, Imler may close down Calamity's Cupboard, or more likely, set up an "illegal operation" for serving food this winter. Last winter, the unlawful soup giveaways at the Town Clock led to the arrests of several homeless activists.

From City on A Hill 1/25/90

## KEEP THE CUPBOARD OPEN!

## GET JANE A CERTIFIED KITCHEN!

### NEW POLICE SEIZURE OF HOMELESS TABLE #5, BLANKETS AS STORMS HIT

### MISDEMEANOR SLEEPING ARRESTS IN RAIN; STREET SHEETS DESTROYED

The last weekend in January was a hard one for rock-ribbed homeless activists Jabberwocky Jay Green and Shoeless Joe Parker. After a weekend of bed checks from passing squad cars and a barrage of fruit from trolibusters on bikes, Jay and Joe faded arrest early Monday morning. Lying beside low-slung Homeless Table #5 in their sleeping bags, the two vigilers were carrying the public campaign against the city's 11 PM-8:30 AM Sleeping Ban into its eleventh week with what appeared to be dwindling support among the homeless.

"We need some help out here," agreed Jay, noting that with only two demonstrators there, communications with

### 1/27/90 R-P Stern measures

To the editor:

The Santa Cruz Police Department has recently adopted stern measures to discourage homeless people from "camping" in Santa Cruz. Homeless advocates find this law cruel and discriminatory. Since mid-November, they have been sleeping out nightly in front of the downtown post office to press city authorities to reconsider the law, particularly under post-earthquake conditions. FEMA four-ups have put numerous quake homeless in a position of sleeping illegally outdoors because they haven't got the funding to find a motel room, when and if they can find it.)

In response to this nightly vigil at their homeless table, the Santa Cruz City Council has studiously ignored the issue, the mayor has declared she will never discuss the issue because her mind is made up, and the local police have taken to creative deprivations on homeless sleepers. In mid-December, cops began to seize homeless bedding, blankets, and clothing as "evidence" of "illegal camping," even when those cited for sleeping were not themselves arrested. This grotesque transport technique for running a whole class of people out of town apparently embarrassed some city officials. So several weeks later, the confiscated survival gear was released.

Your editor  
invaders the  
dailies!

No sooner had this happened than police returned to the homeless table to seize more bedding and property as well as the table itself with all its literature under the dual pretext of "satekeeping" and "evidence of a public nuisance."

When the homeless refuse to hide in the bushes and instead stand their ground against vicious laws and police abuse, they face conditions that the rest of us need to know about. There has already been one homeless death this year after the Satellite Shelter program turned down a man because he would not enter without his dog. Must there be more before decent people speak out?

ROBERT NORSE  
Santa Cruz

Register-Pojoromion  
1/27/90

dwindling support among the homeless.

"We need some help out here," agreed Jay, noting that with only two demonstrators there, communications with sympathizers were hampered since police had shown a willingness to seize Table; backpack, and bedding as "abandoned". If it were left unattended. If one person were being arrested, the other could not make a phone call without risking police seizure of everything. In November, several large Rainbow/deadhead-supported pickets at the Town Club presented the police with as many as 70 sleepers at a time. In December, 5-10 homeless activists regularly stayed overnight at the table.

But following the police seizure of Homeless Table #4 as "a public nuisance" Friday afternoon (Jan 26): Jay and Joe have been maintaining a lonely vigil each night as police pressure has steadily increased. (See All Through The Night, P. 91) Joined by Jailtime Judith on Saturday night (Jan. 27), the two fearless Table guardians were arrested at 4 AM Sunday morning (Jan 28) on charges of misdemeanor camping.

so-called because some heartless hobo stole his shoes one night when Joe was in a sound slumber near the Homeless Table. Later uniformed officers repeated the crime when they arrested Joe for sleeping without a house and then refused to return them. When Jabberwocky Jay subsequently visited the Salvation Army in search of a replacement pair for Joe, Jay was told that the Army had shoes "only for students and their families."

Annoyed with the superior and hostile manner of "three new sarcastic smart-ass punks" in police uniforms, Judith demanded to know where the real cops were "who used to be here?" She was told, as her companions were led off to jail, that if she covered up with the blanket she'd brought along in the cold night, she too would be taken in. Cardboard placed under a person sitting on the ground was also *verboten*. After two hours of regular checks every few minutes by park rangers and PSI guards to see that she had not violated the regulations of Stalag Santa Cruz, Judith's shivering was brought to a cold by the arrival of Vanguard Vic and his prolonged hugs.

The following night, Jay and Joe were again confronted with police power--armed and dangerous--as they lay in the rain, soaked, but covered with blue tarps. Officer "Lukewarm"<sup>2</sup> Ludden confronted the soggy lie-abeds in the wee hours of Monday morning (Jan. 29) and arrested them both. The Gang of 7 gunman tackled Jay and flung him to the sidewalk in the process as the elfin activist attempted to walk away from the scene of the sleepcrime. Apparently seized by a malicious or lethargic spirit, Ludden apparently threw away some \$10-15 worth of political literature (including 8 issues of *Street Shit Sheet #66*), a blanket, and Homeless Table #5, because when Joe and Jay wearily trooped to Sleepbuster Central later that morning to pick up their filched belongings, the property man had no record of any of the missing stuff. But then, they only belonged to homeless people--and antic protesters at that--so who's going to listen to their complaints?

Indeed, Jailtime Judith approached Sgt. Pat Reedy in search of guidance: was the "take it off/no coverup" policy enforced on Judith Sunday morning the law of the town, or just the perversion of a few jolly cops? (After all, had not the authoritative Deputy Chief Belcher assured Jabberwocky Jay just three weeks before that blanketburgling was not SCPD policy?!) The poccourante<sup>3</sup> policewoman was apparently too busy to reply, for she declined to speak with Judith and did not return her calls.

The only "good news" to come out of the weekend was the unexpected arrival of Jabberwocky Jay in the courtroom cafeteria Monday morning. released by his warders, even though the jail had told concerned callers that he was being held without bail for trying to sleep, or was it, trying to walk to a dry spot out of the rain and away from the blue blanketsnatcher?

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<sup>2</sup> *so-christened because of his alleged antipathy to stealing homeless tables; this is his second such seizure; the first was in mid-December during the Xmas season when Lukewarm dutifully hauled off a donated Xmas tree along with Homeless Table #1 as well as arresting Moonrise Mike for sleeping without bothering to buy or rent a house.*

<sup>3</sup> *poccourante (poh koh kooch RAM tee) easy-going, nonchalant, caring little. A generous way of describing Reedy, whose mild-mannered courtroom manner contrasts markedly with her stoney Clint Eastwood persona on the job--on those occasions when she can be found on the job. (Sgt. Reedy, please call home!)*



# ment suspect opts o save trial costs

...CORRECTIONS...CORRECTIONS...CORRECTIONS...CORRECTIONS...

>>>> Last issue we wrote that Sgt. "Don't Fuck With Me" David St. Onge administered a little curbside justice to Shoeless Joe Parker. Largely true. However, according to witness Jabberwocky Jay, it was Joe's back, not his head, that was slammed into the nearby lamppost; Joe was throttled about the throat, but from the front not the back (and thus not one of St. Onge's famous "come-along" holds).

And Joe was booked on charges of battery, not assault (for lightly kicking an empty box which the Sgt. had set in motion with an earlier kick). Our apologies to Joe and Sgt. St. Onge for these errors. (Keep those corrections coming in, folks.)

>>>> Bubbah Brian K. reminds us once and for all that it's not the "Homeless Rights Coalition" but the "Homeless Alliance" that meets weekly each Friday 2 PM - 4 PM at 509 Broadway. Sorry, Bubbah, all these homeless look alike to us.

Baltimore Sun

WALDORF, Md. — Marilyn Louise Harrell, dubbed "Robin HUD" for taking millions of dollars of federal housing funds and purportedly turning them over to the poor, said Friday that she had decided to plead guilty to the charges against her so lawyers will be spared the cost of a trial.

The Prince George's real estate agent, who has publicly admitted she took millions in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development money, said she would reverse her not-guilty



and failing to report income for taxes. She said the agreement will be finalized after she reviews it with her attorney today.

Prosecutors will drop two other tax counts, two counts of lying to HUD officials and one count of lying to a bank on a loan application, Harrell said.

She was scheduled to go to trial on those charges Monday before U.S. District Judge Herbert F. Murray.

If convicted of all counts, she would have faced a maximum of 31 years in prison and more than \$1 million in fines.

The two charges she says she will admit to Monday carry a maximum sentence of 13 years

"I never did have a problem with pleading guilty on No. 1 (the embezzlement charge)," Harrell said from her Waldorf home Friday. "Obviously, that's something that's known nationwide."

How much money she took, what she did with it and why she took it will be addressed at the sentencing hearing, a knowledgeable source said. Harrell said she expects to be sentenced in late February or early March.

Prosecutors say she took \$3.67 million or more from HUD, money generated by sales of HUD properties she handled as a private escrow agent for the agency. Prosecutors ac-

# HUD embezzlement su to plead guilty to save

charges against her so lawyers will be spared the cost of a trial.

The Prince George's real estate agent, who has publicly admitted she took millions in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development money, said she would reverse her not-guilty plea when she appears in U.S. District Court in Baltimore on Monday.

Harrrell said she has prepared herself for imprisonment since 1985, when she first diverted HUD funds.

She said she hoped to be sentenced to community service but regarded prison as a chance to get a college degree.



Harrrell

Harrrell said she was scheduled to go to trial on these charges Monday before U.S. District Judge Herbert F. Murray.

If convicted of all counts, she would have faced a maximum of 31 years in prison and more than \$1 million in fines.

The two charges she says she will admit to Monday carry a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison. The final determination will be made by Judge Murray, who could mete out a longer or lighter sentence after reviewing evidence of what is expected to be a lengthy sentencing hearing.

She said she expects to sign the agreement today or Monday morning, before her return to court.

It and why she took it will be addressed at the sentencing hearing, a knowledgeable source said. Harrrell said she expects to be sentenced in late February or early March.

Prosecutors say she took \$5.67 million or more from HUD money generated by sales of HUD properties she handled as a private contractor for the agency. Prosecutors acknowledge that some of the money went to charities, but they say much of it went to Harrrell and her family.

In announcing the federal indictments last November, Maryland's U.S. Attorney Brockbridge L. Wilcox said: "The single largest charity by far was herself."

San Jose Mercury News, Sunday, January 28, 1990

## HOMELESS FORUM by Contrary Mary

*(If you've been homeless at any time in your life, had to live in a car or van, had to camp on the floor of yourself stuck in acquaintances for any period, or actually found yourself stuck in a campground on the streets for weeks at a time, we'd like to hear how it changed you. Funny stories, sad stories, serious stories, crazy stories: you write 'em, we'll print 'em.)*

"Homelessness does alter you. You begin to reflect and internalize the devaluation you see all around you; the way society sees or doesn't see the homeless. I began to feel that I didn't matter. If the larger society believes the risks of weather, uncertain meals, the streets, and the rest are an acceptable and natural part of things, then the message is very clear: they don't care what happens to you. And I began to feel likewise.

"But homelessness also has had other effects on me. It has made me less afraid, more willing to oppose the system, more willing to take risks (moving where I want, going back to school), more clear on what are my strengths and what are my weaknesses."

*(Mary is a formerly homeless woman in her 40s who works for the county, goes to school, has brought up four children, and will soon be homeless again.)*



2/1/90 SF Chron

GEORGE WILLE

# Begging, Free Speech And Civilization

JUST WHEN you think no new folly can make city life more menacing, some moral exhibitionist, wielding judicial power and reeking of liberal self-approval, makes matters worse. Meet Judge Leonard Sand.

He recently ruled that New York City's ban on panhandling in subway stations violates the First Amendment because begging is "informative and persuasive speech." This latest trauma to the First Amendment suggests that any peaceful (although intrusive, annoying and even coercive) conduct that is accompanied by speech is constitutionally protected. This is especially so, says Sand with a flourish of sentimentality, if the speaker is among the (literally) unwashed.

## First Amendment Rights

"A true test of one's commitment to constitutional principles," says Sand, "is the extent to which recognition is given to the rights of those in our midst who are the least affluent, least powerful and least welcome."

First Amendment rights do not vary inversely with the affluence of individuals. There is nothing novel about "time, place and manner" restrictions on speech. Yet the city's attempt to limit one of the alarming experiences of subway travel is deemed unconstitutional. Sand says that the "unsettling" nature of beggars and their "message" is what turns their "conduct" into constitutional "protected expression."

The question of what society owes in compassionate help to street people is, surely, unresolvable from the



# BILL MANDEL

- 7 -

## The alms race in The City accelerates



A woman was buying coffee the other day at a cafe in the San Francisco Centre at 5th and Market streets. She asked for a dollar of her change in quarters.

"I hope four quarters is enough to get me where I'm going," she told the clerk as the change was rendered. "I've got to walk up to Macy's at Union Square. They're pretty thick today."

"Tell me about it," said the array young woman making change. "The best way to get around the streets down here, if you can afford it, is to hold a roll of quarters in each hand and just buy your way through the crowds."

A man working the espresso machine heard the conversation and came over.

"All I try to do," he said, "is load my pockets with quarters, keep giving them out until they're gone and hope no one gets ugly with me."

Anyone who has tried to move through San Francisco's downtown lately knows what these people are talking about. It's hard to walk 25 feet in any direction without being approached by street people demanding payment of ad hoc walking tolls. Even those inclined to be generous eventually run out of change or patience.

Chandler White, a reader who lives in San Francisco's Tenderloin, notes in a recent letter that panhandlers have adopted a new tactic — hanging around automated teller machines.

A T.M. users' mob probably won't bring to hand in

Berkeley, California • Slingshot October 1989 • Page 1

# Cher Doesn't Know a Fucking Thing About the Homeless

Housing Now is organizing a march in Washington D.C. on October 7. Thousands will be taking their discontent to the slopes to demand affordable housing for the homeless. That's right, only a housing demand for this march fails to remember that.

The National Union of the Homeless realizes that demanding affordable housing won't meet the long neglected needs of the poor. Our movement needs to be a broad based social movement in which poor people rise up in militant forms of resistance," says Terry Messman, organizer with Oakland Union of the Homeless, whose members are all homeless. The National Union of the Homeless links the issue of homelessness with the fight for a minimum wage that is raised to levels that can support human life and for raising welfare benefits so that people don't fall into the dead end life of hideable poverty. It also joins with labor unions to fight the current wave of union busting tactics.

Messman adds that it is crucial for the Union to fight racism. "To speak against homelessness in this country we have to be sensitive at how racism has pushed the black community into poverty and keeps it there as prisoners of poverty. But to speak against racism in this country means we also have to speak against apartheid in South Africa." He concludes, "We fix all those issues and realize that's not anything new. Martin Luther King was gunned down when he was trying to organize a poor people's campaign. The three issues he was trying to link were racism, militarism and poverty. He was fighting against the Vietnam War and nuclear weapons, against racism and for jobs and housing for the poor. It saddens me that Housing Now is not willing to make those connections more consciously."

If you've been to any large mobilizations lately, and there have been many, most of the attention is focused on the "rockwood stars" rather than the issue. According to Messman, "That's why the National Union of the Homeless is participating in the Housing Now march. We want to make sure that this

additional activities in D.C. to spice up the Housing Now march. They are planning a homeless Convention on October 4 and 5 where poor people will first a platform of demands. The Convention will be in the shadow of the Pentagon, across the freeway on vacant Navy property. Which, I might add, is an ideal for low income housing. Billions of dollars are dumped into that dumb shaped building and used to kill third world people and poor people. The Union is very clear that the money being devoted to the homeless is given to power machines like the Pentagon to keep poor people from having too much."

When Reagan came to office (a big mistake, but that's another article) the federal housing budget was \$32 billion a year. When the actor left office the funding was down to \$7 billion. At the same time the knee cleric looked like battle grounds and the homeless looked like war victims that had been bombed out of their homes.

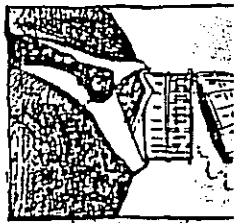
"The reality is that the lives of poor people in this country weren't worth a damn to Reagan. It was a premeditated direct act of assault on the poor to cut the budget," says Messman.

Direct action is what the Oakland Union of the Homeless and their friend do quite effectively. "We know that our platform has to be bought for and won in the streets with direct action," states Messman. When they travel to D.C. to confront the power hungry, their tactics will be no different.

On October 8, the National Union of the Homeless will erect a tent city in front of HUD. These homeless people will be demanding more funding for affordable housing and condemning HUD, Reagan and the Republican (p-o-l) scam artists, while color criminals and embelzlers steal money from the poorest of the poor. Messman says hoards of homeless people will be sleeping out for two days "locked outside the door of HUD, people who are there because HUD locked the doors in their faces all around the country. We think that this is a period

constitutionally "protected expression."

The question of what society owes in compassionate help to street people is, surely, severable from the question of what right the community has to protect a minimally-civilized ambience in public spaces. However, that second question is rarely reached because all today's controversies are cast as conflicts between individual rights and government. This is the mentality of severely individualistic liberalism. But conservatives, with their mindless execrations of government, also are blameworthy.



The community deteriorates through the "broken window" dynamic. James Q. Wilson of UCLA says that if a broken window in a building goes unrepaired, the remaining windows will be broken, because an unrepaired window sends a message that no one cares. Disorder and crime are linked in a developmental sequence. Disorder atomizes communities, dissolving the sense of mutual regard and obligations of civility.

John Leo, a columnist who lives in New York, has described the process, by which street people begin the destabilization process, that ends in "dead parks." Sandboxes become urinals. Swings are broken. Every park bench seems to be owned by a dozing alcoholic or perhaps a street schizophrenic. When the cycle is complete, the community withdraws, serious drugies and criminals move in....

Beggars — many of them deranged by alcohol or other drugs or mental illness and dangerous in fact or appearance — are human "broken windows." But in the social analysis spawned by liberalism, the individual is the only reality and the community is an abstraction without claim. This leads to the dehumanization of so-called "victimless behavior." Next comes some community-wrecking judge to discover that some of that behavior is a fundamental constitutional right.

### Loosing Anarchic Impulses

Judges like Sand are dangerous because their actions feed the anarchic impulse toward violent self-help. Harried, frightened citizens have begun assaulting, in one instance killing, beggars who, in an atmosphere of pervasive menace, are, or appear to nervous people as, dangerous.

Dangerous, maybe. Litigious, certainly. A news report reads: "Lawyers for the two homeless men who had challenged the no begging policy said...."

Not every American has a home but — first things first — everyone has a lawyer.

*Jail them  
... before they piss again!*

Chandler White, a reader who lives in San Francisco's Tenderloin, notes in a recent letter that panhandlers have adopted a new tactic — hanging around automated teller machines.

ATM users probably aren't going to hand an extruded \$20 bill to a street beggar, but there's a potent mixture of fear and guilt at work. Will the panhandler make a scene while I'm trying to put \$100 into my pocket? How can I beguile him a quarter when I'm collecting a wage?

"Yesterday I noticed a drunk telling people at an ATM on Post Street near Union Square to give him money." White said in his letter. "He was holding on to the sleeve of a woman in line and wouldn't let go, so I went into a store and called the SFPD. About 10 minutes later, after the bun had cut out, a patrol car showed up. I said I was the one who'd called them. 'You didn't call us,' one of the cops said. 'They were just there to use the ATM.'"

(Now that a federal appeals court in New York City has struck down a ban on begging at that city's bus terminal, ruling that panhandling is a form of speech protected by the First Amendment, there's little hope that local police can do anything about constant street harassment.)

I often use the Bank of America ATM on the corner of Eddy and Cyril Magnin streets, at the edge of humanity-infested Hallidie Plaza. The other evening a ragged man was standing next to the machine, saying to every person approaching the ATM: "I have AIDS. I need something to eat. Can you help me?"

Each customer faced the choice of giving the man money or having him stand there and beg while the customer used the ATM. There was also the implied danger that the man would grab all the money as the machine spit it out.

Like other banks, BofA has installed bright lights at ATMs to discourage thievery lurking, but the bright lights at this ATM just gave everyone a better look at the drama.

Social behavior at ATMs is strange even in normal times. People avoid eye contact as they wait in a public line for an essentially private experience: intercourse with their money. The addition of an aggressive beggar made this scene bizarre and uncomfortable.

There are those who'd say that being obliged to carry quarters to be dispensed every few yards, on demand, is a good lesson in sharing. There are those who'd say that anyone who can afford to milk \$100 from a wall can afford a quarter for the less fortunate. There are those who'd say it's a beneficial social lesson to be rendered uncomfortable by a beggar working the ATM.

and there have been many, most of the attention is focused on the "hollywood star" rather than the real issue. According to Massner, "That's why the National Union of the Homeless is participating in the Housing Now march. We want to make sure that the poorest of the poor..."



and just a colorful snowflake march in Westport. Tuesday, October 19, when the HUD employees left over the fate of the homeless. She doesn't go back to work after a busy day...  
The National Union of the Homeless is planning...  
Sara Sengata

### A critical view of Housing Now!

Let those who'd say these things spend a few days trying to make their way through the underrow of needy humans along Market Street, Union Square or lower Powell and see how their liberal opinions hold up.

Those who work and shop in these areas have felt an ominous change in tone. As White says in his letter: "It used to be enough to say in a respectful voice, 'Sorry.' But now the beggars have started to yell obscenities at that reply to their demands."

With the number of homeless people increasing and the tempers of extorted pedestrians fraying, frustration may soon lead to confrontation. As the ATM gambit illustrates, there are no polite rules of engagement in the begging game.

*The view from the  
ATM users Liberation front!*

*Let  
eat  
editors!  
-see-  
columnist  
Mondel*

"PEACE OF MIND" by Scott Goodloe Baquie

(Scott is a Cabrillo student and sometime homeless activist who presented this paper to a recent class.)

I have been homeless in Santa Cruz. Late this spring, I ended up out the streets of Santa Cruz for about a week. I had been backpacking around the country and was just passing through. Then from early August until early November, I lived in my van, feeling blessed, at least, to have my own space.

In the spring when I was homeless, I would typically wake in a well-hidden spot under a tree or some bushes, somewhat damp from the sea mist covering Natural Bridges State Park. I would strap on my backpack and start walking downtown, thinking about food. Definitely hungry by the time I got downtown, sometimes I would go "dumpster diving" or panhandle some change. Most of the day would be spent hanging out on the mall talking with other homeless and transients, under the scrutiny of the police and mall shoppers.

As sunset approached, hopefully, I would find someone with cooking gear or a camp in the nearby woods just North of town and have a group meal. Otherwise I would make a peanut butter, jelly, and cheese sandwich, munch a carrot or two, and head back to make my camp, dodging the police and park rangers and the \$130+ fine for being caught sleeping in the city limits.

The City of Santa Cruz should modify its present Sleeping Ban. Ordinance 6.36.010, created in 1978, makes it a crime to sleep outside, in vehicles, or in "inappropriate structures" between the hours of 11 PM and 8:30 AM on public and, in some instances private property. In an increasingly militant effort by the City Council and the police to drive the

12/11/88

# STEPHANIE SALTER

## A death at Seventh and Market

The City of Santa Cruz should modify its present Sleeping Ban. Ordinance 6.36.010, created in 1978, makes it a crime to sleep outside, in vehicles, or in "inappropriate structures" between the hours of 11 PM and 8:30 AM on public and, in some instances private property. In an increasingly militant effort by the City Council and the police to drive the "undesirable" poor, homeless, and transient element out of this resort town, numerous people have been ticketed.

And many have been arrested and jailed in Santa Cruz for trying to sleep. According to Mike Rotkin, former City Council member and Political Science professor at UCSC, the initial reason for the ban was "to keep college kids from sleeping on the beaches...and trashing the town." (Rotkin interviewed 12/3/89)

Now, however, the ban is being used for a twisted purpose: to deny the homeless the basic human necessity of sleep.

**T**ROUBLING ironies and conclusions have come with the death of Joseph Emerson Eaton, a tortured soul who died at 38, alone and broken on the cold bricks of Market Street. A child of wealth, education and opportunity, Eaton has become in death a symbol for a disparate group of disadvantaged people who often are lumped together under the generic label of "homeless."

Erratic and ineffectual for much of his life, in death he has inspired discussion in a city.

With the early morning discovery of Eaton's body, outside a fast-food restaurant at Seventh and Market, came finger-pointing, scapegoating and soul-searching. Pronouncements about "the plight of the homeless" were made as well as denunciations of the "inhumanity" of society in general.

Frustrated and confused by a complex set of multi-source problems that refuse to go away, San Francisco became a city of righteously angry attackers and the guilt-ridden, defensive. Any "average citizen," who does not call 911 at the sight of a presumed drunk lying on the sidewalk, became uncaring and insensitive. Any person

lying on the sidewalk, regardless of the circumstances that got him or her there, became a victim, abandoned and sentenced to death.

Except this isn't that simple. Despite the accusation that Eaton's death clearly demonstrates the "invisibility" of the poor and disenfranchised, there are other elements of his life and death that must be taken into account before judgment is pronounced.

Just as there is danger and deception in showing so many different societal ills under the heading of "homeless," so is there danger and deception in drawing sweeping conclusions from the death of one individual, then indicting the morality of a populace because of it.

Did Eaton die because no one cared enough to call 911 or did he die because he had been moving toward that inescapable fate most of his life — and because so many tortured souls before him have worn that sorry path in public?

Because no one who passed by the unconscious Eaton — during the hours of midnight to 5 a.m., on a Saturday morning at Seventh and Market Streets — called 911, have all the down-and-out become invisible to a hardened citizenry?

Out of a population of 679,000 and an estimated 8,500 homeless, 69 apparent homeless people died of various causes last year on the city's streets, under its highways and in its doorways and plazas.

According to a study by Dr. Daniel Wlodarczyk, medical director of Health Care for the Homeless, of 80 homeless people who died here from July 1986 to June 1987, two died from hypothermia. And 73 percent of the 80 showed evidence of drug or alcohol abuse.

When Eaton fell unconscious on a table at Carl's Jr. and was dragged outside by a security guard, it was not because his clothes were shabby or because he had been ravaging himself and then collapsed. The security guard, who has seen a few drunk people in the 3 1/2 years he has worked at Seventh and Market, determined that Eaton was drunk.

As any city-dweller knows, there are people who drink or intravenously shoot themselves into a stupor on the streets and wake up again and again, where they passed out. As their families or the health care workers who treat them will attest, a depressing number of these people are sobered up or detoxed by a few days off the street, then go back and begin the sad, self-destructive process all over.

In the end, there is just so much "help" that a person who is committed to killing himself the slow hard way will accept.

The death of Joseph Eaton is indisputably a tragedy, most of all for his family who struggled for years to help him overcome his alcoholism. If a mistake was made, it was by the restaurant's security guard or night cleaner who ordered Eaton's removal, then let him lie on Market Street for five hours. Even so, let those who would condemn either of these men first work a few all-night shifts at a Seventh and Market fast-food restaurant.

No one deserves to die on a city street, especially in the City of San Francisco. No one deserves to die from the effects of alcohol or drugs either, especially at the age of 38. That some people do, however, is not incontrovertible evidence of man's inhumanity to man.

*Salter is an Examiner columnist.*

from Nov 12/88 Exam 1

Do you remember this case: a novelty: homeless death publicized

SF

Mayor Mardi Wormhoudt (*Street Sheet* #60) contends that there is room enough in the existing shelters in Santa Cruz, of which there are three. The first--and only city-funded shelter--the River St. Shelter, present has a total of 30 beds, 15 of them for "the mentally ill" and 15 for the homeless. The second is the St. Francis Catholic Kitchen off of River St., which has between 15 and 20 beds, priority given to the disabled, then to the homeless.

Finally, the Interfaith Satellite Shelter program has access to 65-80 floorspaces (including the National Guard Armory), and is partially funded by the county, relying on private support for the backbone of its operation. Even so, in past years, the Satellite program has only been able to remain open during the winter (*Morin interview, 12/5/89*).

Robert Norse, editor of Santa Cruz's *Street Sheet*, a compilation of street issues and happenings, contends that these shelters are not adequate, noting that the first two are almost always filled, with long waiting lists, while the Satellite program requires an early 5:30 PM check-in, making it inaccessible to newly arrived homeless, those with jobs that run later, and those who wish to participate in normal evening social and political life. If the homeless can't make it into a shelter, or chose not to try, then they are left outside to deal with the streets and the police.

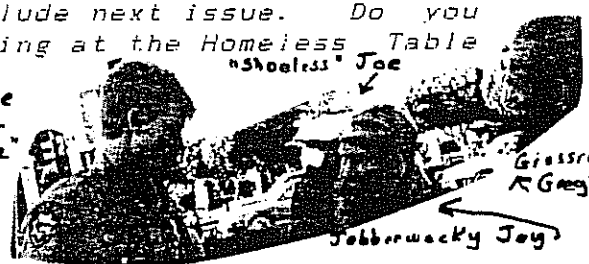
For many homeless people, sleeping outside is preferable to being overseen in the strict official environment that the shelters offer. Many would rather be outside, free to provide for themselves, and free to live as they choose as our national Constitution guarantees. Better to sleep in the woods than be classified and treated as the "undesirable problem cases" that the local government--infused with a Resort mentality and a Christian work-ethic--chooses to label them.

I contend that this attitude comes from the failure to distinguish between people who do not want to be homeless and those who choose to live alternately. According to Mike Carreiro, a homeless activist, who claims he has been made homeless himself by the earthquake, "most homeless folks just want to be left alone." (*Interview 12/1/89*). In early December, Carreiro was arrested and thrown into jail for sleeping at a protest table adjacent to the main post office. If the charges are not dropped or modified, he faces a maximum fine of \$1000 and six months in jail for the crime of sleeping twice within 48 hours in Santa Cruz.

Meanwhile, the city continues to be blind to the fact that there is a homeless problem and that people want and are trying to do something about it. Mayor Wormhoudt has refused to meet with any homeless advocates on the Sleeping Ban issue since her tenure began in November of 1988, insisting last winter that there was adequate room for the homeless in the Satellite program. But according to Norse, there wasn't, even while the program was running, and it had to close in April because funds ran out. (*Street Sheet* #60)

(Bacque's editorial will conclude next issue. Do you take a different view? Leave your writing at the Homeless Table and we'll try and fit it in too.)

Public Menace  
"Officer Menz"





.....ALL THROUGH THE NIGHT : HARD TIMES AT THE HOMELESS TABLE(S)

(Rain-spattered and shell-shocked under stepped up police harassment, demonstrators are compiling a log of incidents. They HHS to secure an injunction halting the frantic free frolics such as seizing bedding, destroying property, and muzzling free speech. An edited page from the log they are presenting to their latest attorney follows.)

1 AM Friday January 26 : Terrible Dave Townsend conducts weapons searches on sleepers, rifling through teddy bears and pajamas in search of contraband. Finding none, Townsend awards Jay a camping ticket as a consolation prize.

4 PM Friday January 26 : Grassroots Greg, Omar the Magnificent, Linda the Lark, and Jabberwocky Jay ticketed for "maintaining a public nuisance," (6 months in jail/\$1000 fine max) Homeless Table #4 and everything around it hauled off to jail. Homeless Tablers placed a placard on the ground announcing "the Homeless Non-Table. For some critics who want to separate "free speech" from "the camping issues, one wit suggests setting up two tables: a Homeless Rights Table and a Public Nuisance Rights Table.

Late PN Friday Night : Sour-pussed squadcar drivers nail Shoeless Joe for dropping one (1) cigarette butt. The charge is littering. Jay collects another "nuisance" ticket.

Late PN Friday Night : Sour-pussed squadcar drivers nail Shoeless Joe for dropping one (1) cigarette butt. The charge! Littering. Jay collects another "camping" ticket.

3:30 AM Saturday January 27 : More roaming anti-homeless hit teams harass Jay, Shoeless Joe, and two others at Homeless Table #5, then ticket them for camping. Jay also receives an "open container" ticket for warming himself with a beer (or two). Weather cold. Jay's spirits declining.

Daylight Hours Saturday : Jay is warned by police not to allow free clothing drop-offs. He passes on that warning to at least one person seeking to leave off clothes for the homeless: no no clothing gets left.

(For the rest of the weekend see Hardy Hardliner's Resume Sleepout, p. 3.)

Register - *Rojersonion* Santa Cruz County Edition, Monday, December 12, 1988

# Holiday streets ring with pleas from beggars

By BILL WALKER  
McCLATCHY NEWS SERVICE

**SAN FRANCISCO** — He was no run-of-the-mill beggar, not one of those bleary-eyed, boozy-breath mumbblers who can hardly stand up straight to cadge your change. He was a pro, and to play in this league — Union Square at Christmastime — he had honed his skills to perfection.

"Can't you share a little of your blessing to help a guy get on his feet?" he asked in the round tones and smooth rhythms of a radio host. "Your kindness will return to you many times

over. Can't you spare \$1 so a man can get a bite to eat? You'll spend so much more on gifts and alcohol. Can't you share your blessing today?"

Most people crossing the square in San Francisco's downtown shopping district looked away from the man in the stocking cap. One offered him a lecture on the virtues of honest work. But every 10 or 15 minutes, someone gave in and gave him a buck or two, which was working out more profitably than selling his own blood — until he got busted.

One minute he was telling some nosy guy with a notebook he didn't want to

talk — "Hey, man, I'm busy" — and the next minute two cops were asking him questions he couldn't answer and hustling him into the back of a police van.

It was hardly out of sight when a kid with a backpack claimed the spot and began his pitch: "Spare some change for a cup of coffee?"

A cup of coffee, a bite to eat, bus fare: The pleas are endless — and so is the gauntlet city-dwellers must run these days to go shopping, get to work or just take a walk. Authorities and advocates for street people agree it is a proliferation of panhandlers not seen

since the Great Depression, and it is forcing cities and their citizens to reconsider their responses to the old question: Buddy, can you spare a dime?

"You're confronted with it every single day," said Nikki Williams, who works in downtown Berkeley as director of a crime-prevention program. "You want to help, but you can't carry enough quarters for all the people with their hands out."

In San Francisco, where some sections of Market Street have half-a-dozen beggars per block, police have increased foot patrols around Union

Square and a nearby mall to discourage panhandlers from hitting Christmas shoppers. Some beggars have even asked for money from the pots of Salvation Army bell-ringers.

Across the bay in Berkeley, the chans on Telegraph Avenue — one the last outpost of hippiedom — have posted signs asking shoppers not to give to "aggressive" panhandlers. "It would be better, the signs say, to make a contribution to a homeless shelter soup kitchen."

That seems clear enough. But there's one more sign that's not so clear: See BEGGING page 11

From our "Spare Change" file...



# BEGGING

From page 10

is no law against simply standing on the street, and asking for money is protected as free speech. The legal problem is deciding when asking becomes begging — or what has become known as aggressive panhandling.

"It's a fine line," said John Crew, an American Civil Liberties Union attorney in San Francisco. "Standing there with a paper cup and a sign saying 'please help me' obviously is not aggressive. The other extreme is standing in the path of pedestrians and grabbing them by the arm. But there's a huge middle ground. Who's going to define it?"

The question is being asked all over America, especially in cities with large populations of homeless people.

Last year Seattle made aggressive begging punishable by up to 90 days in jail and Portland, Ore., outlawed "pedestrian interference." Minneapolis has barred street "conduct which reasonably tends to arouse alarm or anger." And New York Mayor Ed Koch has made the issue a personal crusade.

"You are making a mistake in most cases ... If you are simply handing coins to panhandlers," Koch said earlier this fall. He urged New Yorkers to give instead to charities to make sure "the money would be used for people in need and not go simply for booze and drugs."

Like Koch, most people con-

Sunday, January 28, 1990 ■ San Jose Mercury News

## Give the homeless a lock and a key

**W**HEN ELLEN BAR-ter was working on a report about the homeless people of New York City, she went into shelters and subway stations and parks to talk to them about their lives.

The problem was enormous, but her conclusion was simple. "It was so obvious to me that what they wanted was a place to live," she says.

They wanted a key and a door where they could lock the door.

That was 10 years ago, and in that time the number of homeless people has multiplied and the patience of the public has worn thin.

It seems the homeless have always been with us, and it's begun to occur to us that lots of them are people we don't like very much.

Ten years ago some of the homeless were older people, disenchanted by mistreatment or fire or expensive building re-habilitation.

Some were former mental patients sent to the streets by government policy that said large institutions were an affront to humanity but provided few small ones in their place.

New companions



Anna Oquinden

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Some were former mental patients sent to the streets by government policy that said large institutions were an affront to humanity but provided few small ones in their place.

Snyder sez:  
don't register,  
don't convert

### The Census

Editor — The Chronicle's article on the Census Bureau's efforts conveyed the spirit and methods that each of the urban census districts will follow in counting the homeless.

Any district includes the Tenderloin and Golden Gate Park, and other areas having homeless people. We will hire the homeless to count the homeless, just as in April, we will hire people to conduct the census count in their own neighborhoods.

Every one of our employees must meet the same job and security standards, homeless or otherwise. Also, the homeless can be hired for any census operation besides the homeless count.

The two census districts in San Francisco expect to hire "at least 800 workers" throughout our eight months in operation. We will need many bilingual workers. We are presently testing and hiring for many of these positions. For homeless night, we will hire a total of approximately 100 or more canvassers.

Individuals interested in census jobs, and agencies wishing to help us achieve a complete count, can call my office at (415) 597-7520.

NORMAN P. ISHIMOTO  
Census Bureau  
San Francisco

### Deep Trouble

Editor — While Traci Scully is correct in her assertion (letters, January 23) that the city's decline pales in comparison to our Eastern counterparts, I am troubled by downtown's rapid deterioration. The city is in deep trouble if it does not mind business people.

NY "Begging"  
decision vs.  
Berkeley bigot ↓

### Speech and Conduct

Editor — Last Friday evening, I went out to a restaurant on Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley to enjoy a quiet end to a busy workweek.

On Saturday morning, I read that a New York federal judge ruled that begging and panhandling are "free speech" matters and local ordinances against such are unlawful.

In my attempt to enjoy a night out, I was accosted by several panhandlers, walked by noticeable amounts of human waste and garbage on the sidewalks and was confronted by a group of roving teenagers arguing where they could get drugs around "the park." It was not a pleasant night.

The issue that is killing Berkeley is not free speech but conduct. Such conduct can and should be legally restricted to protect all members of society. I hope the Berkeley and UC police forces are successful in returning the streets to "the people" of Berkeley who pay and work for them.

Homelessness is a serious problem that should not be ignored. But protesting freeboorders in the name of free speech is ridiculously incongruous.

JOHN MONTGOMERY  
Berkeley  
2/2/90  
SF Cloro

panhandlers. Aocn said earlier this fall. He urged New Yorkers to give instead to charities to make sure "the money would be used for people in need and not go simply for booze and drugs."

Like Koch, most people confronted by an outstretched palm think less about the legal questions than the moral ones.

Even people who never growl "Get a job" at a panhandler agonize over whether the down-and-out is really needy, what the money is going to go for, or if a few coins will make any real difference. When faced with those questions so often and not so politely, many choose to tune all panhandlers out.

"I never give money," said one of the shoppers who ignored the Union Square beggar. The young woman was new to San Francisco, and said she was shocked by the number of panhandlers and their aggressiveness. "It pains me to see all the people on the street, but I don't see what I can do about it."

Robert Hays, chairman of the National Coalition for the Homeless in Washington, D.C., said he understands why people feel that way.

"Americans are willing to tolerate poverty so long as we don't have to look at it," Hays said, "and panhandlers tend to be irritatingly visible."

"There are two possible responses to that. One is to look for something you can do. The other is to look for someone to blame." Crackdowns on begging, he said, exploit public irritation with the problem of homelessness by fixing blame on the panhandlers — not the conditions that put them on the street in the first place.

"The deeper issue is the high cost and low availability of housing in America," said Mike Neely, a former street person who now heads the Homeless Outreach Project in Los Angeles. "But we don't see the deeper issue. We only see the result, and the result is a guy who hasn't had a bath saying, 'Give me some money.'"

out of a welter of entitlement programs and, in some cases, their own wages.

They still may not be people we like very much. That shouldn't matter, but it does. We like to like the people we help, to have a poster child. It is time to grow up about this.

Public policy cannot be determined by our collective warm fuzzies.

We may have one of two motives in this matter, vastly different but leading us to the same place.

The right thing to do We demand that government finance more small permanent residences, like The Heights because that is the right thing to do.

There is another reason to demand that government support those groups that have found humane and permanent solutions.

The Heights costs about \$15 per person per day.

The armory, that vast expanse of temporary beds, costs at least twice that.

Look at it from a purely selfish point of view as well.

You want the sidewalks and the parts to be clear again. You want to be left alone and not importuned for a dollar a dozen times a day.

And up in Washington Heights, and in other quietly compassionate places all over this city, there are people who can help make that happen in a way that will not shame us as human beings. ■

Anna Quindlen writes the "Public and Private" column for the New York Times.

Editor: While Fred Scully is correct in her criticism (Letters, January 23) that the city's decline points in comparison to our Eastern counterparts, I am troubled by downtown's rapid deterioration. The city is in deep trouble if it does not need business people stopping around the parkhanders who beg on Montgomery Street. Where is San Francisco's pride? Homeless worth helping in our Decland novel, not on the World Street of the West.

GRACE BASHAM  
SF Chron  
1/25/90  
San Francisco

12/7/90 2-1  
1/25/90

# Judge says begging is protected speech

Register - Pajaronia  
on important court case 2

NEW YORK (UPI) — In an unprecedented ruling, a federal judge Friday overturned a ban on begging in the New York City subway system, saying panhandlers were protected by the Constitution.

Some times, disturbing and sometimes alarmingly graphic begging is unmistakably informative and persuasive speech. U.S. District Judge Leonard Sand wrote in his 42-page ruling.

"The simple request for money cannot but remind the passer-by that people in the city live in poverty and often lack the essentials for survival," the judge added.

The ruling was hailed by lawyers for two homeless men who brought the class action suit against the Transit Authority, which is the agency that operates the city's subways and began the crackdown on panhandlers last fall.

"This is the first time a federal court has ruled that begging is protected by the First Amendment," said one of the lawyers, George Sommers.

In his ruling the judge said laws exist in 25 other states banning begging. It was unclear what effect his decision would have in those jurisdictions and

whether any appeals of those laws would follow.

In overturning the ban, on panhandling in the subway, the judge ruled other restrictions were permissible in the Transit Authority's highly publicized crackdown, dubbed "Operation Enforcement," including bans on drinking alcohol, amplified music and sleeping in the subway.

"It is the total prohibition of all (begging) facilities which is constitutionally impermissible. The existing provisions banning conduct which harasses, menaces, impedes traffic or otherwise causes harm are not challenged in this case and remain in force," the judge said.

Douglas Laddon, executive director of the Legal Action Center for the Homeless, one of the plaintiffs, hailed the judge's ruling as an important victory for the downtrodden.

"It reaffirms the principle that in this country you can not solve a social problem by silencing poor people," Laddon said.

"We hope the decision focuses attention on the reasons people are forced to beg — on the inadequate systems available to help homeless people," he added.

...HISTORICAL NOTES...

~~~~~It Can't Happen Here!~~~~~ Sacramento outdoorsman Roger S. told the last Homeless Alliance meeting that last May in Sacramento, local cops swarmed over the riverside, shooting dogs and destroying tents and sleeping bags in their attempt to encourage transients to visit Somewhere Else. (Source: Dale Makeridge, reporter for the Sacramento Bee and author of three books on the homeless).

~~~~~Terror in 1972~~~~~ Longtime local Debra tells us of meaner times nearly 20 years ago at Henry Cowell State Park. 19 at the time, she, her husband, their baby, and the family dog came in late one night and set up camp there--without money. Come morning a ranger arrived, seized all their gear and threatened to jail the couple, put the baby in a foster home, and impound the dog if they didn't cough up \$3. Somehow they did.

Costs are higher now (\$10 a site) and times are better (until mid-November, Henry Cowell was allowing free camping in the wake of the earthquake). But not that much better (We hear the park has half its campsites closed for the winter instead of open to the homeless indigents who need and could be using them--at little inconvenience to the park and none to the public.)

...line homeless indigents who need and could be using them at little inconvenience to the park and none to the public.

UCSC Homeless Studies Available at Main Library  
A brief glance at the city library's homeless collection revealed a touch of quality but not much quantity last week. Street People and Straight People is a massive, dry, and somewhat biased study of the street community down on the mall back in 1984, but interesting nonetheless. "I'm Not a Troll: I'm Free" by Kathie Jacobsen, done a year later, is much more readable. Interesting, and sympathetic (but it's kept in the locked book case and you have to surrender your driver's license to get at it).  
Also available in the reference section is a stuffed folder of S.C. Urinal' clippings and several pamphlets. And if you request other stuff, the library may order it. Last but not least--encouraging news!--the library may soon be acquiring a complete collection of back issues of your favorite Pillsbury reading, the Street Shit Sheet! Let's treat those back issues with care.

# ROB MORSE

## Streets made for milling



...but only for 49ers fans w/homers, right?

more mundanely called the Santa Cruz Sentinel, our local newspaper; also known as the Senile, the Resentantull, and the Scent Anal. Its fearless reporters are constantly exposing abuses like police blanketburgling and mayoral marshal jaw when they're not pal-ing around with city bureaucrats and SCPD highrups.

NEW ORLEANS -- There is only one sensible thing to do about future Super Bowl. They all should be played in New Orleans, and the 49ers should be in every one of them. This friendly little piece of riverbank in America's party town, where the bars never close and the music never stops. The music of the Neville Brothers just isn't as good anywhere else as it is at Tipitina's, and the oysters aren't as luscious any place other than the Acme Oyster House. And the streets of New

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Jan 26: Homeless  
Table-

RUMORS AND RUSTLINGS

\*\*\*\*CALAMITY JANE'S NEW YEAR'S PREDICTION\*\*\*\* Recently returned to the world of down-and-dirty activism herself, Cupboard Boss Jane Imler predicts the city will act against Homeless Table activists by getting an injunction against them. Angry at Shelter Overlord Bob Campbell's resistance to lending her the kitchen at the River St. mini-Shelter, Jane has threatened to hang up her chef's hat in early February if the current arrangements don't change.

Dismissed last fall by some homeless activists as an Auntie Tom for her low profile in the ongoing campaign against the Sleeping Ban in recent months, Jane did lead an impromptu sit-in in head D.A. Art Danner's office in mid-January to secure the release of blankets, bedding, and Homeless Table #3. A successful coup--until the city sleepbusters showed up three days later and hauled away #4. (#3, once reclaimed from the police station, had been withdrawn from circulation by its owner, anxious that his table would be branded "a public nuisance.")

\*\*\*\*CUPBOARD KITCHEN FOOD FIGHT STILL A TOSSUP!\*\*\*\* What's the fate of the nightly Calamity's Cupboard meal? Still in doubt at presstime. Interfaith Satellite Shelter director Andrew Morin now sides with Calamity Jane in urging she be let into River St.'s kitchen to whip up the victuals. Campbell reportedly worries that Jane's access to the kitchen might lead to sit-ins, chow-downs, and anarchic homeless invasion. In the fall of 1988, Imler did support a 10-day encampment on the site of what is now Calamity's Cupboard. But since then and the Soup Wars last year, Jane has been playing pattycake with authorities and turning out nightly grub at no cost to the downtown bureaucrats. What is Bob worried about?

Perhaps he wants to take over the food program himself and administer it in a more "orderly" manner? (Though, truth is, we have heard nothing but good reports about Bob's Pioneer Rd. S.O.S. day treatment program: lots of freedom and free coffee if you're "mentally ill." Well, one bad report: Linda the Lark reported that you have to be declared crazy to shower there.) Still rumors abound that Bob would prefer to take over both the food program and the mini-Shelter's 15 remaining homeless beds for his county-funded "mental health" program.

Maybe he's nervous about homeless demonstrators? A month or two ago, Bob contacted Bathrobespierre Robert twice in one afternoon, anxious to know if demonstrations were planned near the mini-Shelter. Ironically, it would be Bob's refusal to let Jane use the mini-Shelter kitchen that would be far more likely to provoke demonstrations. Some say that Bob is merely covering for workers at River St. who are nervous about Calamity's Cupboard? What's happening, Bob?! So far the good-natured Mini-Shelter Master has not returned our calls.

\*\*\*\*\*BUTTHEADS STRIKE AGAIN\*\*\*\*\* We ran into Jawboning Jeff down at the new Muni Court Clerk's window (3 of 'em now, instead of 2 for all you courtcrawlerers). Seems he just bailed himself out for a warrant. Some months back he'd been asked for a cigarette downtown and without a thought given it over. Not without consequences! The next voice he heard was that of Officer Menz, arresting him for "furnishing tobacco to a minor."



Bottomline Bill, Jeff's companion, confirmed that a half dozen of his friends--street minors--had received similar citations, and claimed that more than 20 had been given out in the past few months. We hope to receive a more detailed report from Jeff and Bill on the weird ways of the local constabulary in a future Street Shift Sheet.

\*\*\*\*NEW STIRRINGS FROM CAMPUS?\*\*\*\* We got a call from Bogrotter Bill Siye, one of the UCSC students, who organized Flugtack, a homeless concert that got rained out in June. Bill informs us that the Student Alliance for the Homeless is back again after a semester of hibernation to press for homeless services. Most recently Bill has been confering with Gang of 7 bandsman Gone Lame, in search of the magical Homeless Campground; Bill solicits your suggests and participation at their weekly Wednesday night meeting 7 PM at the Student Affairs Bldg, Rm #1. Their first mini-meeting Jan 31st only had four participants, but plans are underfoot for two benefit concerts for the homeless and exploration of a homeless campground proposal for the Gang of 7 to chew on and spit out.

Speaking of campgrounds, it also seems interesting to us that there are 40+ Agriculture students who camp out nightly in tents on UCSC (which is mostly within city limits and so under the evil sway of the S.C. Sleeping Ban). What special amulet do these student campers have that protects them from the armed S.C. Sleepslayers? Maybe they'll share it with some of the real homeless UCSC students (more than 40 last year) who pass their

evil sway of the S.C. Sleeping Ban). What special amenities do these student campers have that protects them from the aimed S.C. Sleepslayers? Maybe they'll share it with some of the real homeless UCSC students (more than 40 last year) who pass their evenings wondering if their van or campsite will get a midnight visit?

Also purring a little more loudly than usual -- UCSC's own house publication, the weekly Kitty on a Hill. One of its reporters promises a full-page article on homeless going on in the next (Feb 9) issue. Call Fay at 459-4384 if you have any tales of homeless adventure or misadventure.

# Church shelter program still going strong

By CATHERINE SHAW  
CORRESPONDENT

What started five years ago as an emergency project to handle the overflow of homeless people from the Cedar Street Shelter in Santa Cruz has grown into an organization of 35 churches throughout the county that nightly offer shelter and a meal to about 45 people.

The program began in 1985 when a handful of churches opened their doors to between 10 and 15 homeless people a night during the cold winter months.

By the spring of 1987, when the acquisition of the River Street Shelter did not materialize and other plans to house the homeless failed, more local churches started to provide food

and shelter on an ad hoc basis. By the end of 1987, 10 churches were involved.

Sprung on by two men with a deep concern for the homeless, the churches assumed responsibility for helping these people in a more organized way, and in May 1987 the Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program was born. The two instigators were Paul Lee, a UC-Santa Cruz professor, and Page Smith, a past provost at the university.

According to the Rev. Paul Potenhauer, chairman of the shelter program, 17 churches were involved when the program started up again in the fall of 1989; the number grew to two dozen by the end of 1989.

The homeless are picked up early in the evening by van at a location on River Street in

Santa Cruz and taken to whichever churches are serving as the designated shelters on that night. There they are served a meal prepared by church members and provided with a mat and blanket for the night. Normally between two and four churches are open each night.

"Everyone is welcome," said Potenhauer, who has served for 24 years as pastor of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Soquel, "unless, of course, they are too drunk and belligerent."

He said there have been only minor disruptive incidents over the years, and since the program began, the police have never been called.

Potenhauer attributes much of the program's success to the fact that there is a great deal of

peer pressure involved.

"That I think makes it work as well as it has," Potenhauer said, "is that the monitors are all homeless people, and the van drivers have been homeless."

He feels their ability to relate to each other helps make the operation run smoothly, with a minimum of resistance.

According to Potenhauer, it takes between \$4 and \$4.50 to cover the cost of each person per night, which consists of compensation for transportation, vans, and the monitors. The cost does not include the food and shelter that the churches provide.

The Interfaith Satellite Shelter Program, now operating under the umbrella of the Citizens Committee for the Homeless, received its first gov-

ernmental financial help in the fall of 1987 in the form of a \$5,000 gift from the county.

During that same time local churches contributed between \$17,000 and \$18,000. It is now receiving federal funding in the amount of \$108,000 for the period of 1989 through 1991.

Potenhauer says this funding has enabled the program to hire a full-time director, and he hopes it will allow them to keep the shelters operating for a longer period of time each year.

Up to now, the churches have been serving the homeless only from October to April. This is partly due to lack of funds, he said, and partly because of the warmer weather, which enables people to remain out-of-doors.

"Some homeless families prefer to be in their cars," he said.

Seven churches in Watsonville are now operating a program to help the homeless in the South County. They are baking, buying and supplying meals to people housed in the National Guard Armory at the airport.

Potenhauer said the Watsonville participation brings the local of churches involved in Santa Cruz County to 35.

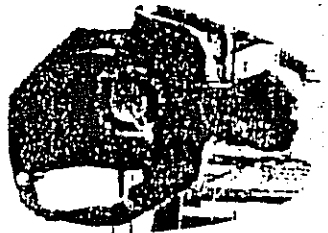
"No church as of this date has left the program," he said.

Potenhauer says caring for the homeless is one of his concerns because it is one of the mandates of his service as a pastor.

His devotion to this mandate is evidenced by the fact that two out of three of the Saturday nights that his church serves as a shelter he can be found there.

\* known to most as City Councilperson "Don Lane" is so called because of its tame and feeble reaction to local Gang of 7 post-earthquake escapades and its outback of information on the homeless rights struggles downtown. Kitty calls itself on a Hill, of course.

Timid but talkative Council guy O. Lane (who urged the police seize blankets + literature "with sensitivity.")





# Some Homeless Settle Down In Lush Suburbs

By Dean Campbell  
Chronicle Staff Writer

Near the tidy cul-de-sacs and pricey boutiques of the Bay Area's more affluent suburbs, a growing number of homeless are struggling to survive.

Far from San Francisco's Tenderloin and the streets of downtown Oakland, homeless people are settling on freeway embankments and in gutters in such unlikely locales as Orinda, Tiburon and Hillsborough.

"It's kind of incredible," said Marty Fleetwood, executive director of HomeBase, a support center based in San Francisco that develops policies for helping the homeless in the Bay Area. "It's bad enough that in the inner cities, people are eating out of trash cans in the affluent areas."

people are homeless and having a hard time, too."

Nobody knows exactly how many of the homeless live in the Bay Area's wealthiest cities, but social service experts say up to 5 percent of the region's 48,000 homeless are in towns that most people regard as the insulated preserve of the well-to-do.

Life is no less hard for the homeless in these communities of million-dollar homes and gleaming BMWs. There are few facilities for the displaced — shelters, bread lines and holiday meals in the parks are in short supply.

"The people in Walnut Creek and Danville, they don't

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A-1—Santa Cruz Sentinel—Sunday, Jan. 28, 1990

# Police clean up homeless protest

# Down and Out in the Suburbs

## Homeless Like Clean Streets, Lack of Crime

From Page 1

like to see us around," said Karen, who has been camping out along Interstate 680 in Walnut Creek for the past year with her fiance, Jeff Northcutt. They were evicted from their home in Alamo after she lost her job.

The couple live near the neighborhood of \$400,000 homes where Northcutt grew up. They stash their sleeping bags and plastic trash bags full of clothes under a pile of lumber.

"These people, they have pride in their communities," said Karen, 29, who did not want her last name printed. "To them, it's appalling that homeless people like us are so close to their nice homes."

About a month ago, she said, she was sitting in a quiet Walnut Creek neighborhood reading when a group of boys rode past on their bicycles. Seeing her disheveled attire, they sneered at her and yelled, "Do you want some money?"

They then threw about a dollar in change at her. "It was so embarrassing," she said. "I just had to wonder what they talked about at dinner that night — that lady in the bushes."

The homeless are unwelcome sights in the otherwise neat and tidy



Jeff Northcutt camps near Interstate 680 in Walnut Creek and stores his clothes under a woodpile

ough and Millbrae because "they're safe places."

"If you're homeless and on the street in East Palo Alto, you're more vulnerable than if you were in Burlingame," Sutherland said.

This observation was also made by Karen, who said: "You always hear about people getting mugged in Oakland. We don't have to worry about that here."

"It's home for them," Harris said. "But when they stay there, in some of these communities that are renowned as almost exclusively affluent, people get very surprised."

Marty, who did not want her last name used, has been homeless for five years. She lost her \$550-a-month apartment in Walnut Creek after she was fired from her job selling shoes in San Francisco.

bunch of trees. It was beautiful and quiet. Now I'm living like this. I can't stand this."

Besides being safer than in urban centers, there is also less competition in the affluent suburbs for food and other scarce items. One homeless woman, who did not want to be identified, said that many homeless like to go to dumpsters at "all those filthy restaurants that have very good food."

# Police clean up homeless protest

By MARIA GAURA  
Specialist staff writer

SANTA CRUZ — Police officers carted off furniture and boxes piled near the downtown post office Friday and issued a half-dozen citations to homeless protesters who refused to clear away the clutter.

Officers said they have received hundreds of citizen complaints about the growing encampment at an information table near the post office since the Oct. 17 earthquake. Police officials said the information table may remain, but warned homeless protesters to stop cluttering the area with furniture and other items.

Homeless advocates loudly protested Friday's police action, saying it violated their right to freedom of speech. A loosely organized group of homeless advocates is protesting the city's camping ban, which makes it illegal to sleep in cars or camp in public parks.

Three officers converged on the area at 3:30 p.m. and spent half an hour discussing the problem with protesters before they began writing tickets. A woman dressed in white shook a gourd rattle and sang about police oppression, while post-office customers paused to take in the scene.

"You can sit here and hand out your literature, you can even have your singer," Police Sgt. Robert Hennig told the protesters. "But you can't have the rest of this stuff here. Next time we won't give you a 24-hour warning."

Officers loaded a school desk, shelves, a breakfast cart, benches, several boxes of clothes and a pink stuffed animal into a waiting van. Linda Edwards, a slight woman in hiking boots and an Indian print skirt, initially refused to rise from a green plastic lounge chair.

**'It's a little cluttered, but they have a right to be here.'**

— Robert Norse, protester

"This is a symbolic statement," she said. "The food, the clothes, this is all part of our freedom of speech. They say we're a public nuisance, but we'll take it to court. I guess I'll go to jail if that's what it takes."

But Edwards rose reluctantly when asked by an officer, and signed a citation instead of going to jail.

Hennig said the Police Department, the post office and nearby businesses have received "hundreds" of complaints about the clutter blocking the sidewalks and a nearby bicycle parking lot. After legal research, the District Attorney's Office concluded that removing furniture from a public walkway is not an infringement on freedom of speech, Hennig said.

"It's a little cluttered," conceded protester Robert Norse. "But they have a right to be here. The police have been seizing blankets and bedding from people late at night. In this cold weather that's incredible cruelty."

When City Councilman Don Lane heard about the plan to remove the encampment, he approached the police and asked that it be done with sensitivity.

"I was concerned that they not take any more bedding than was absolutely necessary, and that they give ample warning so people could remove their things if they needed to," Lane said. "But if people refuse to move, there's not much you can do. Then it becomes a civil-disobedience choice."

The Sentinel finally covers a homeless protest!

They then threw about a dollar in change at her. "It was so embarrassing," she said. "I just had to wonder what they talked about at dinner that night — that lady in the bushes."

The homeless are unwelcome sights in the otherwise neat and tidy upscale suburb, where it is "not socially acceptable" to be living on the streets, said Steve Backman, executive director of the Volunteers of America in Contra Costa County.

So they hide. Unlike homeless people in crowded, urban areas, those in suburban communities do not sleep in doorways. Nor do they try to sleep in public parks, because the police will drive them out.

"We just keep moving around," said Northcutt, 25. "It's really screwed."

The homeless are attracted to upscale communities for many of the same reasons that professionals settle there. The neighborhoods are well-maintained, there are no crowds and there is less crime.

Christina Sutherland, executive director of the Shelter Network of San Mateo County, said some homeless people stay in such communities as Burlingame, Hillsborough and Redwood City.

"If you're homeless and on the street in East Palo Alto, you're more vulnerable than if you were in Burlingame," Sutherland said.

This observation was also made by Karen, who said, "You always hear about people getting mugged in Oakland. We don't have to worry about that here."

In many cases, the towns are familiar to the homeless who inhabit them. For some, the places where they unroll their sleeping bags at night are within eyeshot of their old homes.

"When you fall out of a house, you don't feel necessarily like you're cut off from that world," said Bert Grossman, an associate professor at the School of Social Welfare of the University of California at Berkeley.

"You still have a relationship with the community that you consider home," he said. "Maybe you don't have a house there anymore, but that shouldn't mean that you shouldn't be there."

Chris Harris, director of housing programs at the Martin Housing Center, said that many homeless people stay in their old communities because they feel comfortable here.

Ernest Hirose, director of San Mateo County's Department of Social Services, said that homeless people in the upscale suburbs are the most difficult to help because they usually do not want assistance.

Like Karen and Northcutt, they rely on friends and family on the church. "But that only lasts so long," Fleetwood, of Homeless said.

She believes that affluent suburbs should work with neighborhood communities to provide emergency shelters in church basements or through motel vouchers.

Karen and Northcutt don't care about all that. All they want are jobs so they can get an apartment. He is looking for work as a dry-wall finisher; she wants a cleaning or maintenance job.

"I'm getting sick of all this Northcutt said. "You want to anything just to get out of all of it. We just don't know how we gonna do it," Karen said.

## A deal on the rent

Watsonville has devised a fair way to limit rents charged by some landlords

ESPIRTE its emotional appeal, rent control almost never works. But Watsonville City Council, struggling with a housing crisis in the wake of the Loma Prieta earthquake, has come up with a plan worthy of Solomon. The council avoided the pitfalls of blanket rent control. Instead, council members decided that if landlords receive city money to help them recover from the earthquake, then they must agree to keep their rents down for up to five years.

That's fair to landlords — nobody's forcing them to accept city help — and it's consistent with the council's goal to keep Watsonville's poor from becoming permanent victims of the earthquake.

Even before the quake Watsonville had a desperate housing shortage, with three

and four families often crammed into tiny homes and apartments. Then Loma Prieta destroyed 10 percent of the city's housing stock. And the only families eligible for federal help were the families whose names were on the leases, not the relatives and friends who had moved in with them.

Poor residents feared that landlords, after fixing up their quake-damaged buildings, would raise rents to recover their investment. So they pressured the city council for rent control. The new, responsive council, the first one chosen by district and not at large, has become an advocate for the city's poor and arrived at this compromise on limited control.

Permanent, strict rent control discourages developers from building new rental units and dissuades landlords from maintaining existing ones. Two trends that Watsonville cannot afford. The council is fighting to tread lightly. But its action should reassure residents that if stronger measures prove necessary to get the city through its housing crisis, then the council will find more ways to help.

renowned as almost exclusively affluent, people get very surprised. Besides being sicker than in urban centers, there is also less competition in other scarce items. One homeless woman, who did not want to be identified, said that many homeless live to go to dumpsters at all those fifty restaurants that have very good food.

One Lafayette Street, who also did not want to be identified, said that two homeless people — he had a heavy winter coat, sweaters and hats — peep through the restaurant's dumpster about twice a week.

"Once the sun comes up, they're gone," he said.

Friends said, charged supplies food to Northcutt and Karen. Spurned peanut butter had a long time to go bad. They also like to drink — especially Schlitz beer or Kalua and Crown. Northcutt had a rumbling stomach at a Walnut Creek bistro.

When regrettably necessary, he occasionally takes a bath in Danville and parks in the hills.

"You can't make \$100, there's just a few hours — easy," he said smiling.

"Yeah, rich people," Karen said.

Ernest Hirose, director of San Mateo County's Department of Social Services, said that homeless people in the upscale suburbs are the most difficult to help because they usually do not want assistance.

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Watsonville has devised a fair way to limit rents charged by some landlords

11/30/90 R.P.

What about it, Sonto Cup Progressives?

KANGEROO COURT CALVALCADE

~~~~~NEW DEAL IS RAW DEAL ON CAMPING TICKETS.... Sleeping Ban tickets or "camping infractions" used to be handled in the Municipal Courts (B, C, D, and G). A few weeks after you got your ticket, you'd go to the Muni Court clerk anytime during business hours and set up an arraignment date. Then you'd show up on that day and make your plea. Not any more. Now there's a New Deal!

Since November, Sleeping Ban cases have been rerouted to Courtroom F or Traffic Court, to be found in the basement of the 5-story County Building. Instead of being able to come in any time during the day to set up an arraignment, you must show up at 12:30 PM Mon, 7:30 AM on Tu-Th, or 6 PM Th to "sign up" for an arraignment. You can only sign up during a 15 minute period on any of these days. [See p. 17 for a reprint \*\* of the official sign-up rules] And you have to wait in line for at least forty-five minutes to do so!

Why shouldn't the clerks be willing to deal with citizens throughout the day in search of a future arraignment time? Why have this incredible grid-lock early in the morning? After all, the traffic court windows are open all day anyway. "It's best to get people in line in the mornings and then make them go to court the same day so they keep their appointments." confided one of the clerks knowingly. Aren't you glad that local government is doing all it can to organize your day and keep you

confided one of the clerks knowingly. Aren't you glad that local government is doing all it can to organize your day and keep you punctual? If you find this system as asinine and inconvenient as we do, drop off a note of complaint with Court Administrator Paul Ahern in Room 120 one floor up, or call him at 425-2067.

If you can stomach the unnecessary wait, a helpful notwithstanding clerk (and they really are helpful, dopey procedures notwithstanding) will put you on the day's calendar (you have to appear that day). She will then direct you to the adjacent courtroom F, where you get to wait for another 1-3 hours to make your plea. We urge you to plead "not guilty" when they finally call your name. [See Fight Your Ticket, available at the Homeless Table, if and when you can find it]

You then get a court date for a trial before a judge Tuesday or Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 PM some weeks later. When you reappear for that date, you need not wait in the traffic window line, but can go directly into court and wait 1-3 hours for your trial. You probably judge Mulligan.

# Homeless writers bridging society's gap

Los Angeles Times Sunday, January 28, 1990 ■ San Jose Mercury News

**LOS ANGELES** — Under the fierce fluorescent glow of a winter morning's sun, a ragged knot of homeless people rest against a skid row wall. Around them are bundles and grocery carts, and, in their midst, a figure sits in a wheelchair. From down the street a police car swings up, leveling a microphone blast at the motley bunch.

"You're gonna get in front of the mission or get off the street," a woman's voice shrills.

A group on the opposite curb merely shrugs. They are homeless writers and this is part of their daily existence — the stuff they use to stir their muse.

From a wellspring of bitterness and love, they write of drugs and crime, of God and their mothers, of standing in a line waiting for food, living in cardboard, keeping on the move with no place to rest.

In recent months, Los Angeles skid row poets and writers have formed the Homeless Writers Coalition. Their goal is to rent a neighborhood storefront office where they can write and keep their manuscripts from anybody else.

More transcendently, they want to bridge the gap between homeless people and the society to which some aspire to belong. Their message, told over and over in their work, is that they are no different from anybody else.

For those who would listen, they voice possible solutions to their plight. For one who wants to look behind their verses, they



Writers Dino, left, and Southern Comfort live on skid row

offer an informal odyssey through their lives on "The Row."

In a booth at nearby Gorty's Cafe, a slender man of 42 spreads the counter with papers. He reads from some of them to the meek voice that recalls his Louisiana upbringing.

Born Willy Lewis, he goes by the name Dino. He is a sometimes-homeless writer and driving force behind the Homeless Writers Coalition.

In the quiet after a poem, Dino nods at a compliment and allows, "The only bad thing about it is you tell too much about

yourself when you talk from the heart."

Nonetheless, poetry from the heart by the homeless is beginning to make its way from The Row into the mainstream in a rash of events.

Under the auspices of municipally and privately sponsored programs, homeless writers are reading for audiences ranging from the hungry in skid row soup lines to bookstore patrons around Southern California.

Dino is mobilizing the grass-roots Los Angeles group Artists Against Homelessness to sponsor another fund-raising event for his organization. He has also written a skill for a homeless event at the Afro-American Museum in Los Angeles and, along with another homeless writer who calls himself Southern Comfort, has his work printed in a booklet at the University of Southern California.

Dino pulls all of this material out of a brown nylon briefcase that he carries wherever he goes. His companion, Jackie, has an address book filled with the names of the people and agencies she hopes will work with the coalition.

"We don't want handouts," Dino says. "Good jobs and affordable housing are what we need."

"They say the only people on the streets are the ones who want to be there," he says, waving toward the wall of skyscrapers. "How can they say that when they live in their big \$250,000 homes? They send you a food lure and some used clothes."

Dino is picking poetically at the lettuce leaves of a salad he has finally consented to eat.

"I only need two meals a day," he says, putting his flat belly. He and Jackie were up at 5:30 a.m. to line up for 8 a.m. breakfast at the Midnight Mission.

It is afternoon now, and, after lunch, Dino and Jackie have places to go and people to organize.

"It's hard to catch up with homeless people," Dino says.

Two days later, Dino and Jackie are waiting in front of what is grandly called the San Julian Hotel, a flophouse of about 30 rooms, one of which they have lived in for several months.

The rent is \$112, the equivalent of a month's general relief check. For this they are usually allowed no visitors, no cooking in the room, no telephone, no private bathroom. A sink greets with a leak, a piece of sheet covers a small window that will not shut and a naked light bulb glimmers from the ceiling shadow. In preparation for a visitor, Jackie has dressed the bed in a bright flowered spread that speaks of a former suburban existence.

Dino writes on a doctored typewriter, set on a wood crate pulled up to the bed.

For most of the year that they have been together, Jackie and Dino have lived "in cardboard."

"I refused to believe. I was on the streets," says Jackie. "I pretended I was on a camping trip."

TRUE TALES FROM THE COURT OF MADDOG MULLIGAN

.....MILD-MANNERED MECHANIC GETS MULLIGAN MUGGING...Benign Brian L. got the business end of blackrobe Mulligan's bullying Tuesday afternoon when he asserted his right to a trial before that jaundiced jurist. Accused of dropping a lit cigarette but out of his car window at a city stoplight, Brian presented a witness who testified that he hadn't been smoking on the afternoon in question and confirmed that the hiway patrol officer had held Brian outside his car on a cold day for 30-45 minutes while she put him through harassment "drunk tests." after the testimony of the defendant and his friend, but Mulligan summarily found Brian guilty and imposed a \$326 fine! This, Mulligan was told, would result in the suspension of Brian's license and the loss of his job. Brian asked for the right to appeal and was referred to the traffic court clerks. He then returned to his seat and quietly spoke to a spectator in the nearly deserted courtroom.

"Come up here," roared the judge. "What did you say to that man?" "I told him 'this is no justice,' replied Brian. For this offense, Brian was detained "in contempt of court" for half an hour and told that if he ever said anything similar again, he would be sent to jail. He finally left with the odor of judicial guilt and institutional intimidation hanging

similar again, he would be sent to jail. He finally left with the odor of judicial guilt and institutional intimidation hanging in the air.

So get ready to bare your soul to Father Mulligan if any private words pass between you and a companion that he suspects might reflect badly on the starchamber procedures there. In most local courts, the armed bailiffs will demand you remove your hat on entering; in Mulligan's, you are directed to check your tongue, your dignity and possibly your head at the door. Brian is considering a letter to the Bar Association about Mulligan's conversion of Courtroom F into his own little Albania. And we suggest you consider respectfully but firmly resisting such illegitimate judicial intrusions on your basic rights of speech and privacy. It might focus a little grand jury light on Mulligan's pit if a few brave souls went to jail in protest.

IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
SANTA CRUZ BRANCH - COURT SCHEDULE INFORMATION

# Report from Santa Cruz You may lose your shoes

Santa Cruz, Calif. — On Jan. 18 four homeless activists sat in at District Attorney Art Danner's office to protest police theft of homeless people's property. One man had been left barefoot after police seized his shoes as "evidence" for a public nuisance trial.

Robert Norse, a Santa Cruz homeless activist described the situation to the *People's Tribune*:  
"Frustrated with a ten-week-

old vigil by homeless people at the downtown post office, police began seizing bedding, blankets and personal possessions — the basic survival necessities of the homeless. They also confiscated political and religious literature, homeless newsletters and other first amendment materials which the homeless have been using to challenge Santa Cruz's infamous "outdoor sleeping ban law."

From 215190 People's Tribune

TRAFFIC AND ADULT CRIMINAL INFRACTION CASES: (WALK-IN COURT) In order to be heard on a scheduled traffic calendar, you must appear at the traffic counter, 701 Ocean Street, Room 060, promptly during the 15 minute sign-up period to allow the staff to adequately assist you. You must bring in information containing your Case Number, Docket Number or any DMV correspondence. WE SHALL NOT ACCEPT SIGN-UPS AFTER THE TIME SPECIFIED. Traffic and Adult Criminal Infraction Arraignment Court is held on the following days of the week:

MONDAY at 1:30 PM Sign-up between 1:00 PM and 1:15 PM  
TUESDAY/EDUCATION COURT at 8:30 AM Sign-up between 8:00 AM and 8:15 AM  
THURSDAY NIGHT COURT at 6:30 PM Sign-ups between 6-00 PM and 8:15 PM  
S:30

TRAFFIC COURT TRIALS: If you wish to contest the citation:  
(a) You must appear at the traffic counter, 701 Ocean Street, Room 060, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, post the bail listed and file a written plea of NOT GUILTY. The Clerk will schedule you for a court trial date within 45 days.  
OR  
(b) You may first appear in walk-in court and plead not guilty and the Traffic Referee will schedule you for a second court appearance for a Court Trial.

Accident court trials are heard at 10:30 AM on Wednesdays, all other adult court trials are heard at 1:30 PM on Tuesdays and Wednesdays except if a holiday.

MC 526 (Rev 11/89)

New hoops to jump thru at courthouse  
for impoverished sleepers

MULLIGAN PREEMPTS PROSECUTION IN LARGEST-EVER TOWN CLOCK SLEEP-IN  
TRAFFIC COURT TOADY REWRITES FACTS TO CONVICT JAILTIME JUDITH

In the first full-scale court trial before Judge Mulligan, Grinning Ray Grueneich, mouthpiece for the homeless, unloaded familiar but still impressive constitutional and legal arguments in defense of the 75-odd demonstrators who protested the city Sleeping Ban in late November. Grueneich faced long-time SCPD Sleepbuster Black, complaining witness and prosecutor, since the city attorney seemed uninterested in defending the city's right to bust up late-night demonstrations.

Black testified first as a witness that Judith had been found prone on the ground wrapped in bedding, though not asleep. Judith agreed. Grueneich drew from Black that a demonstration was in progress with signs and speeches in the wee hours of Monday, Nov. 20 when 11 were arrested. Judith noted that many got up and stood about in order to continue the demonstration and act as witnesses. Black confirmed that people had been told not only to wake up and get up, but to leave the area, even though the only illegalities in question were Sleeping Ban violations. Grinning Ray then pointed out that lying on top of bedding was a form of symbolic speech. But was it constitutionally protected symbolic speech? Yes! claimed the persistent phalaethist. Budding lawyers take note:

(1) The connection between the symbolic speech used-- lying on bedding--and the issue addressed--the ban on sleeping--

legally somewhat--was very clear.

...ultimately protected symbolic speech? Yes! claimed the persistent Philalethist. Budding lawyers take note!

(1) The connection between the symbolic speech used lying on bedding--and the issue addressed--the ban on sleeping--legally somewhere--was very close, closer than Creative Community for Non-Violence v. Clark (1984), where even the general "homelessness" problem at issue was found to be significantly related to the demonstrator's right to lay out bedding for symbolic purposes (though not to sleep).

(2) There was nowhere anywhere in Santa Cruz at all for demonstrators to legally do this sort of protest. If the Sleeping Ban were found to ban guerrilla theatre sleeping demonstrations.

(3) Other legitimate health and safety concerns were not sufficiently heavy to outweigh the free speech rights of homeless protesters.

(4) The CCNV v. Clark decision left in place a lower court decision that even sleeping itself in the context of a 1984 demonstration across from the White House in a "Reaganville" tent City was protected symbolic speech. In the Belnet demonstration, both sides agreed Judith was not even sleeping, just lying on bedding with a protest sign.

**No minimum wage required for live-in helpers for elderly**

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) - A divided federal appeals court Friday ruled live-in attendants for elderly and disabled Oregon residents are essentially baby sitters under federal labor law and therefore are excluded from minimum wage protection.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling is a blow to hundreds of domestic service workers in Oregon who provide critical care around the clock and live with their clients at near poverty level, according to Gayle Troutwine, Portland attorney for 247 attendants.

Troutwine said she intends to appeal the ruling.

The workers in the Oregon case average 82 cents an hour, Troutwine said.

Minimum wage in Oregon rose to \$4.85 an hour Jan. 1, the highest rate in the nation.

The 247 workers sued the Oregon Senior Services Division and other state offices in 1983 over the wage question. Hundreds more live-in attendants work in Oregon.

By a 2-1 vote, the appeals court ruled the domestic service workers were exempt from minimum wage coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act because they performed "companion services."

Troutwine said the attendants often live in miserable conditions, provide services that include bedpan duty, catheterization, meal preparation and house cleaning.

She said the same work they perform would require minimum wage if it was done in a nursing home.

*Trying to work well paye. your way off again! Think*

Philalethist [fill eh lee' thist] A lover of truth. Grueneich is notorious for refusing to hide or bend the facts, even to the extent of occasionally helping the prosecution with arcane legal tips.



In a highly irregular interruption before Officer Black could give his closing arguments, the judge announced that Beinert was guilty. He rejected the facts that both defense and prosecution had agreed upon: that Beinert was in an ongoing demonstration, and drew out of the blue the new claim that the demonstration had conveniently ended at 11 PM (when the Sleeping Ban's forbidden period begins).

Grueneich protested that no one had presented any testimony at all about what had happened before midnight. Mulligan simply slithered about on his high chair a bit and found Beinert guilty and announced since she had already served a few hours in jail, her sentence of \$69 was suspended.

Skeptical activists noted that Judith had declared previous to trial that she would refuse to pay any fine and refuse to do "community service," stemming from a Sleeping Ban conviction. Instead she would go directly to jail--a considerable hardship since she was due to be evicted from her Beach Flats apartment within twenty-four hours for lodging homeless people.

Uninterested in provoking the bad publicity such a jailing might provoke, Mulligan acted to suspend the sentence. Unfortunately his rationale--that there was an encampment but not a demonstration--was completely contradicted by the facts, as agreed to by both police and demonstrators. The obvious explanation was that Mulligan feared the political waves of an honest decision might create Gang of 7 frowns of disapproval and cantankerous clucking among Mulligan and his cosy coterie of fellow judicial myrmidons.<sup>1</sup>

The jurist's clumsy and contrived manner of avoiding constitutional issues, however, surprised even seasoned cynics familiar with the avoidance tactics of Muni Court judges. Sleeping Ban opponents agreed that they would move to disqualify the tainted blackrobe in future demonstration cases--a procedure that requires giving the court five days notice.

Jabberwocky Jay and Loudmouth Leith had their own bones to pick with Maddog last week. The craven courtjester dismissed one of Jay's misdemeanor sleeping tickets for which he'd been arrested with the phrase, "time served," and reduced a second to an infraction. Misdemeanor offenses entitle a defendant to a jury trial and a public defender; Mulligan's actions denied Jay both. "Time served," objected Jay, is credit for jailtime once one has been found guilty, not when charges were dismissed. But then guilty was apparently Mulligan's verdict on the homeless sleepers before they even entered the courtroom.

Loudmouth Leith Austin has returned to Santa Cruz to defend himself against Chief of Police Bassett's "panhandling" arrest for the request of one cigarette (and the retort, "die, yuppie scum") last November. Maddog quickly accepted the prosecution's request that the misdemeanor charge be changed to "unreasonable disturbing noise" separating Leith from trial rights and an attorney.

Seems to us like the abusive noise is coming from the business end of the police department and the local courts, but see for yourself next Friday, Feb. 9 at 10 AM when Leith squares off with the top cop in yet another pointless judicial circus. [Leith will also star in sleeping trials in Dept. F, Feb 6 and Feb 13, at 1:30 PM].

<sup>1</sup> *myrmidon* (mur' mi don) a hireling who will do anything asked by the boss; a mindless pitiless flunky.



## FEDERAL COURT TO COMBINE \$2 MILLION AND \$5 MILLION LAWSUITS

### SF'S FOOD-NOT-BOMBS HIT WITH NEW PERMIT DEMANDS, NEW ARRESTS

Two suits filed last year by the San Francisco chapter of Food-Not-Bombs may be joined together, now that separate district court judges have ruled there is sufficient evidence for them to proceed to trial. When police jumped and thrashed foodserver Keith McHenry in 1988 at a Presidio demonstration, the incident was captured on videotape and McHenry sued for \$2 million. When S.F. police continued arresting FNB members and busting up their meals at Civic Center, UN Plaza, and elsewhere, FNB sued for \$5 million.

Nearly 10 years old since its birth in Boston in 1980, FNB has served literally millions of meals and feeds thousands of people weekly in the S.F. Bay Area. Because it serves unconditional food with a political message (Grub, not Guns!), McHenry's group has served as a lightning rod for homeless-hating groups like the Cole Valley Improvement Association in the Haight-Ashbury. The CVIA has mobilized its stiff-necked troops in a massive letter-writing campaign to the San Francisco Chronicle and the S.F. Examiner to drum up hostility against "bums, panhandlers, illegal campers, and winos," against the homeless, in other words. (Bums with homes get government grants; panhandlers with homes solicit by phone and tv; campers with homes have weenie roasts; and winos with homes are known as people with alcohol problems.)

A hate campaign against deadheads, hippies, and transients camping in Golden Gate Park has glutted the letters column of the establishment press. "Liberal" SF mayor Art Agnos has apparently given his cops the green light to "clean out" the park--this only four short months after an earthquake destroyed or removed thousands of low-income rooms.

FNB has been fighting a permit war with city bureaucrats to legalize its guerrilla grubgiving as well its regular daily meals at Golden Gate Park, at UN Plaza, at the downtown Civic Center, and elsewhere in the Bay Area. Coleslaw Carol has been arrested four times since mid-December for felonious food-serving. The city claims FNB needs health, park, and (the latest twist) vendor permits to hand out tofu sandwiches around town. Cops arrest food servers, seize food, confiscate equipment, and then drop charges. In the hundreds of arrests since summer 1988, no one has ever been tried for a crime.

These harassment antics have led to FNB's \$50 million lawsuit; Federal District Judge Swartzler ordered the city to come up with a specific plan that would allow FNB to become legal. Supervisor Kennedy has agreed to seek a "state of emergency" declaration from Mayor Agnos that would legalize sleeping in the Civic Center and other designated areas and okay the distribution of free food. City officials have chosen rather to unleash the police each Tuesday at Civic Center when FNB serves openly and to unravel new red tape for the long-suffering organization. FNB invites any who have been harassed by the SFPD in connection with serving food to join in their class-action suit.

Between the illegal arrests and the legal monkeyshines, FNB continues to provide swift-and-secret fooddrops to the 50-100 homeless camped at the downtown Civic Center every evening. Storm warnings however loom. FNB's merry chefster McHenry reports that the "trash the tents" policy adopted by Mayor Agnos last summer to attack the homeless encamped across the street from his office is being carefully copied in other



# in East Bay

jurisdictions. The strategy was repeated in New York in December at Tompkins Square, in January at SF's Golden Gate Park, and now in Berkeley at People's Park.

A recognizable format was followed in each case: first, a letter was issued to the homeless in the area telling them they could store their stuff somewhere across town, that they can't have tents, and that they gotta clear out. Homeless property is then seized and their right to survival ignored, while liberals pat themselves on the back for being so "legal" and compassionate. Why don't the homeless go to the 400 cityrun shelter spaces, asked SF homeless bureaucrat Bob Prentice. Could be because complicated and restrictive procedures have allowed only 86 to qualify as of mid-December, according to McHenry, citing Prentice's own report to the Coalition on Homelessness.

For those who love to stuff their neighbors, FNB organizational meetings are Thursday 6:30 PM at Civic Center. For more detailed information on these suits and on helping to spread free food, write Food-Not-Bombs, 3145 Geary, Apt. #12, San Francisco, CA. Or phone 415-330-5030. More tales of bureaucratic bouillabaisse next issue, if we hear enough interest from our readers!

Police  
Corruption  
in  
Oakland

Fig. Lower Judgement

On what could be the largest review of criminal convictions in Bay Area legal history, more than two dozen people serving time in state prison on arrests by Oakland Housing Authority police may have their cases re-

The demand for such a review has "never happened on this scale," Gastill said yesterday.

The inmates were arrested by Housing Authority police in the past three years, said an investigator for the public defender's office. The cases represent the first wave of

probes of alleged misconduct by housing police who patrol the city's 12 major public housing developments — the home for some 13,000 people.

The agency's police force, he came the target of a corruption and brutally probe last year by the Al-

Housing Police Chief William Smith could not be reached for comment yesterday, but he has denied any knowledge of wrongdoing by members of his department.

Since the investigations became public, four housing police officers have been fired for not meet-

# Retrials Urged in East

3F Examiner A-9  
2/17/88

## Police panel settles suit for \$17,500

### Excessive force allegedly used

By Seth Rosenfeld  
OF THE EXAMINER STAFF

The San Francisco Police Commission, ending a four-year-old disciplinary case, has declined to punish an officer accused of giving a karate chop to a handcuffed man during a parking-ticket dispute.

But the commission also voted Wednesday to settle alleged victim Carlos Jones' civil lawsuit over the alleged incident with a \$17,500 payment.

The panel also said it would consider a new plan to speed its handling of police discipline cases.

After several closed hearings earlier this month, the commission voted not to discipline Park Station officer Roland Wing, 31, for allegedly using excessive force against Jones outside his Haight-Ashbury home on Feb. 5, 1986.

review of criminal convictions in Bay Area legal history, more than two dozen people serving time in state prison on arrests by Oakland Housing Authority police may have their cases retried in court, officials said yesterday.

Alameda County Public Defender Jay Gaskill said his office will file petitions for new trials in Alameda County Superior Court early next week as a result of federal, state and local probes that have exposed numerous allegations of false arrests and faulty investigations by housing police.

The inmates were arrested by Housing Authority police in the past three years, said an investigator for the public defender's office. The cases represent the first wave of demands for new trials, Gaskill said.

Gaskill's staff is checking a list of 6,000 state prison inmates arrested by police agencies throughout Alameda County since 1977 to determine whether other convicts arrested by housing police are eligible to seek new trials.

The violence was said to have occurred after Wing ticketed Jones for parking in his apartment building driveway and arrested him for not producing his driver's license, said Jones' attorney, Ann Menasche.

The charges against Jones, 30, then a university guard, were dropped and he filed a complaint with the Office of Citizen Complaints, Menasche said.

The OCC concluded that Wing had used excessive force against Jones and had improperly arrested him, and in February 1987 sent the case to Police Chief Frank M. Jordan.

Jordan referred it to the commission for a hearing in December 1987, said police department attorney Jeff Barker.

Meanwhile, Jones separately sued The City in Superior Court for personal injuries and violations of his civil rights. The City offered to settle the case with the payment, but denied any wrongdoing.

But the commission did not hear his disciplinary case until this month because of its crowded calendar and delays requested by Wing, Barker said.

Menasche said delays had made it impossible to locate key witnesses and had dimmed the memories of others.

The demand for the reviews is the latest development in the

people. The agency's police force became the target of a corruption and brutality probe last year by the Alameda County district attorney's office and the Oakland Police Department. The joint probe was revealed in December when investigators raided the housing police office in search of documents and possible evidence.

The FBI has since begun its own investigation into allegations of civil rights violations by housing police. Sources say that probe has broadened to include allegations of theft and misappropriation of federal funds by top housing police officials.

aided any knowledge of wrongdoing by members of his department. Since the investigations began, four housing police officers have been fired for not meeting department standards. Before the firings, the force had 24 officers, including three sergeants and the chief.

# UC officials planning nightly sweeps targeting homeless

## Move is response to complaints about aggressive behavior

By Chris O'Sullivan  
SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

BERKELEY — University of California officials say they will begin nightly sweeps of People's Park to remove the homeless and their belongings.

The news comes as UC and the city of Berkeley are planning to step up police presence in People's Park and Telegraph Avenue areas in response to increased complaints about aggressive panhandling and the sharp increase in the number of homeless in the south campus neighborhood.

City Manager Michael Brown said Wednesday that the city and the university planned to double the number of police officers on patrol on Telegraph Avenue in the evening to eight. Increased city patrols will begin Sunday, while the

university will add officers once funding is available. Brown said the city wouldn't disturb homeless people who were not causing problems, but that aggressive street people would be arrested if they persisted in harassing merchants and residents. Such statements are further evidence that this traditionally tolerant city is becoming tougher on aggressive panhandlers in the south campus area.

"I see a sharp increase in aggressiveness," said Pat Romani, who works on Telegraph Avenue, at a recent Police Review Commission meeting. "The merchants are seriously thinking about taking action themselves."

Rumors that the university would use force in sweeping People's Park or evicting the Berkeley Catholic Worker on the park, have made many who work and live in the area nervous. "The tension level here is pretty high right now," said Carla Woodworth, a member of the city's Police Review Commission and a

Keep those police complaints coming in. Time for a local police review board.

People's Park, Berkeley.

LEMASTER'S WORLD

Linda Lemaster is long-time co-ordinator for the Welfare Parents Support Group, works on the Community Action Board on behalf of the poor, and went to Washington, D.C. in October with Housing Now!, whose local chapter she supports.)

What health problems have you been having lately?

I would like to hear "immediately if not sooner" from folks who have unmet medical needs. Please get in touch via 458-9070 (Welfare Parents Support Group) or via the Homeless Alliance meetings on Friday afternoons (2-4 PM 509 Broadway) if you have experiences about not getting the basic health care you need in Santa Cruz County.

This County is preparing a plan for spending some new money on care for indigent people. We want to help influence their decisions as to how this money (AB 75) will be spent. You may also want to contact Gary McNeil, Legal Aid Society (888-8538) with your ideas/needs/wish list. I plan to be at Calamity's Cupboard on Tuesday (around 5 PM), or will respond to whatever message you leave at WPSG in the event I'm not in when you call. If you want to share your stories with me I will protect your identity and try to translate your needs to the bureaucracy.

\* \* \* Sunday, November 6, 1988 B-3

**Filthy cells**

SANTA ANA — A judge says the Orange County jail insulted human decency by housing naked inmates in unsanitary padded cells, but the sheriff's department says

1/26/90 SF Chronicle

**Agnos Attacks**

**Red Cross at**

**Mayors' Meeting**

that he shares Agnos' concern about whether the Bay Area was getting all of the Red Cross assistance that was intended by those who answered his post-earthquake appeals for funds. "We have been trying to get an accounting of where the money

cross spokeswoman in Washington, argued that her agency pools its funds to meet whatever disasters may arrive. "Red Cross has never done services based on how much money is raised," she said. "It's a standardized system across the country. We give what it takes. We meet the needs that are disaster-

# Filthy cells called insult to decency

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Have things changed since 1988? Are the phones working in the S.C. Jail holding cells?

## Police, demonstrators

Granted, the San Francisco Police Department handled the Jan. 23 protest (against U.S. involvement in El Salvador) at the Federal Building with physical restraint. However, the SFPD version of events reported in The Examiner reflects an alarming lack of verbal restraint.

According to the article: "A police spokesman said about 15 protesters were booked for refusing to identify themselves." Rubbish.

Speaking as one of these 15 or 20, none were booked because of refusing identification. Rather, each of us simply lacked the proper ID (driver's license) necessary for quick release.

Also, the article cited Police Commander Michael Lannon's apology that the large number of officers present was "necessary when protest organizers declined to answer police requests for crowd estimates."

This shallow apology does not explain the continued presence of those large numbers — in my count, one for every two or three arrested — throughout the demonstration. Nor does it explain the police trotting in formation up and down Turk Street with no intent to arrest.

1/30/90 CHUCK BOOKER  
SF FROM.  
San Anselmo

**SANTA ANA** — A judge says the Orange County jail insulted human decency by housing naked inmates in unsanitary padded cells, but the sheriff's department says the dozen padded cells are necessary and used properly.

"Our philosophy is to treat inmates with dignity," Assistant Sheriff John Hewitt said Friday at a press conference. "The cells are always clean and they are properly used. We provide the finest care we can for them."

U.S. District Judge William Gray has ordered that inmates put into the cells be given bedding, cloth gowns, toilet paper and access to washing facilities.

Gray issued the order Wednesday in a suit filed Oct. 8 by the American Civil Liberties Union. He said housing naked inmates in unsanitary conditions was an insult to human decency.

The lawsuit claimed the padded cells were unfit to live in and were used to improperly punish inmates.

"They are the best alternative for the unfortunate who are suffering mental disturbances (and) are dangerous to themselves or other people," Hewitt said.

The judge's order reaffirmed existing policies for the cells, said Dr. Eugene Dorsey, director of the psychiatric unit. He said inmates put in the cells receive medical evaluations and approval is sought from a psychiatrist.

"We have no quarrel with Gray's order," Dorsey said. "More clothing and amenities are something we can comply with. But I think it's sometimes safer not to give the individual something they could strangle themselves with."

A different picture was described by a doctor who worked in the jail from April 1987 to August 1988.

"Every time I walked into one of those cells there was vomit, urine and filth on the floor," Dr. Manuel Perez-Rabon said. He testified that the cells were "something out of a detention-camp movie."

## Agnos Attacks

### Red Cross at

### Moyors' Meeting

By Larry Liebert

Chronicle Washington Bureau Chief  
Washington

In a surprising assault on an American institution, San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos urged his fellow mayors yesterday to set up their own "fund-raising mechanisms" after disasters instead of depending on the Red Cross.

Otherwise, Agnos told a convention of the U.S. Conference of Mayors, "someone else may come in and do it — and you may not get all the money that's raised in your name."

Appearing on a panel to discuss how mayors should handle natural disasters such as last year's Bay Area earthquake, Agnos did not expand on his provocative advice, but he urged his fellow mayors to see him "privately" for more details about fund-raising problems.

In an interview with The Chronicle, the mayor confirmed that his attack was aimed at the post-quake performance of the American Red Cross, the renowned disaster relief agency.

"Millions and millions of dollars are being raised in the name of earthquake relief by the Red Cross," Agnos said. "We have been in negotiations with the Red Cross to make sure that the money that was raised in the name of earthquake relief stays in the Bay Area, with an appropriate amount obviously going to the Red Cross for administrative overhead."

Instead of helping to promote the Red Cross' toll-free fund-raising effort, Agnos said, "Next time, my disaster plan will have its own \$60 million that will raise money directly that can be spent directly for the people of San Francisco."

Agnos' proposal to short-circuit the Red Cross, which he called an "American institution," comes after months of less-public squabbling between the mayor and the charity over allocations of funds.

Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, who was also at the mayor's conference, said in a separate interview

whether the Bay Area was getting all of the Red Cross assistance that was intended by those who answered his post-earthquake appeals for funds.

"We have been trying to get an accounting of where the money went in order to try to effectively determine just how much did go into the earthquake area," Wilson said.

### Surprised Red Cross

Red Cross officials expressed surprise and chagrin when informed of Agnos' criticism.

"Certainly I'm disappointed by the remarks," said Sue Richter, Western regional vice president of the Red Cross in Burlingame. "We've had several conversations with the mayor regarding Red Cross policies. I know he's not in total agreement on that."

"We provide assistance for all the disasters around the country and the world," she said. "You know, I think we do a real good job. I am intended to help quake victims, people in the Bay Area since the earthquake occurred, and we're going to be here until all the needs are met."

Despite Agnos' criticism of the Red Cross, he was upbeat and friendly toward the federal effort to help the Bay Area recover from the quake.

"The Bush administration has done a good job," Agnos said. "That's hard for a liberal Democrat to say."

Agnos and Wilson, traveling together to demonstrate regional unity, met Wednesday and yesterday with congressional leaders and federal officials responsible for transit, housing and other long-term assistance.

Agnos even made an impromptu courtesy call on Vice President Dan Quayle, whom he had lambasted for visiting San Francisco but not his mayor the day after the quake.

### Broad Principles

Some of Agnos' dispute with the Red Cross is on broad principles. Agnos argues that those who responded to pleas from the Red Cross after the earthquake intended their contributions to go to the Bay Area residents who endured it.

But Barbara Lohman, a Red

argument that her agency pools its funds to meet whatever disasters may arrive. "Red Cross has never done services based on how much money is raised," she said. "It's a standardized system across the country. We give what it takes. We meet the needs that are disaster-related."

### Dollars and Cents

The dispute is also about dollars and cents. The Red Cross has estimated that it raised \$25 million in Northern California after the quake and that it will disburse \$12 million to \$16 million in direct aid plus \$10 million for a special fund to meet long-range housing problems caused by the quake.

The Red Cross has reported providing more than 500,000 meals and sheltering 4,000 people in the weeks after the earthquake with the help of more than 6,000 volunteers and staff.

Agnos said his agency has failed to consider all the contributions that came from outside the Bay Area. He intended to help quake victims. Lohman of the Red Cross said the agency has collected a total of \$129 million in a continuing fund-raising appeal that began after Hurricane Hugo in September.

She said the bulk of that money, \$72 million, has gone to areas devastated by Hugo, from the Carolinas to the Caribbean.

### Housing the Homeless

Finally, the dispute is about housing the homeless. Agnos wants the Red Cross to contribute \$10 million toward buying an old auto showroom at the corner of Geary and Polk streets as a permanent shelter for those who were made homeless by the quake.

"The Red Cross has an old-fashioned idea of relief as setting up tents and giving out coffee and doughnuts," Agnos said. "We're saying, 'Excuse me. That's not enough.'"

Richter responded that the Red Cross wants to help finance the homeless center, perhaps through a long-term lease, but does not want to establish a precedent of buying permanent facilities in disaster areas.

"We believe our donors would have a problem with us making a purchase and making a gift of it to the city — San Francisco or any other city," she said.



DRIPS, DROPS, NOTES, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*&&\*Homeless Mail Braves Weather, Police Blockade...For the third time in two and a half months of vigiling, mail addressed to "The Homeless Table" has reached its destination. Back in late November, Moonrise Mike presented a letter to the Gang of 7, urging them to follow the example of the U.S. Postal Service and acknowledge the rights and realities of homeless people in Santa Cruz. No such luck, but at least the post office continues to forward your cards and letters. How about a few more of them, folks?

\*&&\*Sharada of Sunlight from the mini-Shelter...River St. Overseer Bob Campbell announced Friday that showers (with free towels and soap) would be available 12-3:30 PM Mondays and Wednesdays at the mini-Shelter for anyone. Refreshing news to the grubby among us, unable up-to-now to find any city facilities to hose down. UCSC apparently has instituted a locked-door zero-tolerance policy for homeless seeking to use their facilities. (Bubbah Brian K. remarked recently you had to have specific "business" on campus or face trespass arrest.)

Campbell also noted he was actively looking into installing outdoor lockers near the mini-Shelter for general homeless use. Bob's bizarre decision to ban Calamity's Guppard from the mini-Shelter kitchen notwithstanding, we salute the showers, the lockers, and the homeless beds the mini-Shelter provides to those lucky enough to get into his program. Now, come on! Bob, take another step and share the showers!

Homeless use... from the mini-shelter... the showers, the lockers, and the homeless provided to those lucky enough to get into his program. Now, come on, Bob, take another step and share the stove!

Veterans Building

sc News 2/11/90

## Differences Settled

by Dick Little

Veterans groups and the County have settled their differences over use of the Santa Cruz Veterans building on Front Street at the prodding of Superior Court Judge Tom Black.

The Judge said future conflicts between the parties will be submitted to the Veterans Memorial Commission. The Director of

Vets attorney, Ray Scott, said following the session with the judge "...there is an excellent chance of working out a program that should work."

The ruling says "veterans organizations shall be provided priority use of the Santa Cruz County Veterans Memorial Building, but the County shall make the building available for the use of non-veterans groups

Parks, Open Space, and Cultural Services will then meet with the President of the United Veterans Council to resolve the dispute.

If that doesn't happen, the issue is submitted to the Commission in writing, and the Commission can take evidence at their next meeting. The Commission would make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. They would have the final authority.

Veterans have complained bitterly for the past several years of alleged abuses of power by County Parks officials, which eventually led to the law suit being filed. Judge Black forced the final decision after telling attorneys for both sides to work out a solution under parameters he outlined.

"ripping them off" for excessive costs for fund raising activities.

The second story of the building is to be used by vets and non vets alike, but rooms on the second floor are to be dedicated to the memory of veterans who have honorably served their country.

As for hours of access, the first and second floor can be more severely regulated than the basement, which will eventually be totally controlled by veterans organizations, with several exceptions. The Board of Supervisors will have the final say on hours of use.

The claims against Tidwell as well as San Bernardino County will be pursued in the second phase of the trial, scheduled to begin March 1.

Earlier this week, three of the five Mexicans won nearly \$1 million in damages against three deputies accused of brutality in arresting the men at an all-night party June 30, 1988 in Victorville.

Tashima ruled Friday that the two plaintiffs who were not awarded damages against the deputies would nevertheless be allowed to pursue claims against the county and Tidwell.

Register - Pajaronian 1/27/90  
Judge: Sheriff can be liable for brutality

LOS ANGELES (UPI) - A federal judge ruled Friday that five Mexicans whose civil rights were found to have been violated by San Bernardino sheriff's deputies can seek damages against Sheriff Floyd Tidwell.

Moreover, U.S. District Judge Wallace Tashima said, Tidwell can be held personally liable for the damages if the jury determines that he has perpetuated a policy of misconduct among his deputies.

The claims against Tidwell as well as San Bernardino County will be pursued in the second phase of the trial, scheduled to begin March 1.

Earlier this week, three of the five Mexicans won nearly \$1 million in damages against three deputies accused of brutality in arresting the men at an all-night party June 30, 1988 in Victorville.

Tashima ruled Friday that the two plaintiffs who were not awarded damages against the deputies would nevertheless be allowed to pursue claims against the county and Tidwell.

The jury did not award the pair monetary damages, however, because it found the deputies acted in good faith" and were entitled to qualified immunity.

The three Mexicans who prevailed - Arvo Ruiz, Efran Serrano and his son, Victor - will not be allowed to pursue further claims against the county, the judge ruled. The trio won compensatory and punitive damages against Deputy Mark Swagger and sergeants John Gooke and Tim Miller.

Two other deputies, Paul Schmidt and Joe Lee Phillips, were absolved and attorneys for all five deputies claim the lawmen violated no civil rights and used only the force necessary to subdue combative me

Open the hall to homeless vets. Support the Vets. of dollars and dozens of months

Father Thomas Flower, 57, finds his mission in preparing quality meals for The City's down-and-out

# Priest offers hot meals, hope to S.F. homeless

## 'Street people are the ambassadors of Christ,' he says

By Paul Avery  
OF THE EXAMINER

It's just past 4 a.m., a cold rain is falling, and Father Thomas — who has already been up for three hours — is at his post at United Nations Plaza. He ladles out cups of steaming lentil soup and words of love to a steady stream of The City's hungry homeless.

"A good morning to you, sister — have some hot soup," he says to a young down-and-outter who has patiently worked her way to the head of a line that stretches into darkness behind the 18-year-old Volkswagen van that serves as mobile kitchen. "Maybe a nice bagel to go along with it, or some whole-grain bread. And here, here's a vitamin pill."

"Thank," murmurs the woman, who spent the night curled up in a blanket in a Tenderloin doorway.

When the panhandling ends, the shopping begins. He drives out to Farmers Market for vegetables, fresh fruit. Next he goes to a couple of bakeries where he gets free day-old bagels and bread — sometimes even sweet rolls — and then on to a store for more of the Styrofoam cups in which he serves the soup.

It's well into the afternoon before Father Thomas arrives at the Good Samaritan Community Center on Potrero Avenue. There, with the help of two volunteers, he prepares the next morning's soup, a task that takes good ingredients and lots of time.

"My philosophy is that people on the streets are the ambassadors of Christ," Father Thomas says. "We shouldn't feed the ambassadors of Christ anything less than we would feed ourselves."

**"An average sort of life"**

Thomas Flower, as he was born, traveled a lot of roads before becoming a priest. After attending the University of Texas, he sold for a major pharmaceutical firm, married and had four children.

"It was a very average sort of life," he says. "It was not enough for me. There were things I felt I had to do."

to understand what that is like," he said. "One thing I quickly realized is that during the middle of the night there is no place for hungry people without money to get something to eat. Places like St. Anthony's and Glide and the Osmond Center don't begin serving until the morning. That's why I'm out here at 4 a.m. every day, serving up hot soup."

He has been feeding impoverished men and women — and some children — at United Nations Plaza since last Jan. 6.

"He's a great man; he isn't into preaching, he's into helping, and there's a lot of us that need help," says Wesley Schmitt, 42, who before he moved onto the streets was a newspaper vendor in the Mission.

Father Thomas, who lives in his van, isn't sure how long he can confine the mission by himself. "My health isn't the best," he says. "I've got arthritic problems, and last summer I was bitten by a tick and got Lyme disease, which is still causing me some problems."

"I'm hoping, by praying, to find someone else who wants to do this as a vocation, somebody with a commitment, if I have to give it up."

2/11/89 2/90 SF Examiner A-3  
WARREN  
HINCKLE

## A budget fraught with flim-flam



**NEW YORK** — The temperature was in the 40s, balm for winter on the Eastern seaboard, and some of the homeless had gathered on the sidewalk in front of a discount appliance store

to watch the president deliver the State of the Union address. George Bush was talking points of light from 17 TV sets in the window. Not once did he mention that he had cut money for heating oil to the poor by 25 percent in his 1991 budget.

The homeless knew this the way the tongue knows where the cavity is. Fuel aid to the poor began in the optimistic 1970s after an elderly couple froze to death in upstate New York in their unheated home. Along came shoeless Jimmy Carter, who said that part of a windfall tax on oil profits should go to fuel for the poor. By fiscal 1980, \$1.5 billion was allocated to keep the poor warm in winter. Ronald Reagan took a little whack

at that, but George Bush took a bigger one, allocating barely \$1 billion for what has been generally recognized as a life-saving program. Bush, cut in the final aid program was the biggest

"We recognize the need for a clean environment," Bush said last night to an applauding and thumped Congress. Yet Bush's Nuclear Regulatory Commission is pushing ahead with a wacky plan to deregulate the dumping of almost one-third of the nuclear waste from atomic plants. Under the new plan radioactive waste deemed "beyond regulatory concern" would go straight to local dumps along with the baby's Pampers. Since it's deregulated, no one will know what the nuclear industry is dumping that it deems "safe." Some of the atomic waste will become part of the sludge that is spread over farmlands; nuclear fertilizer.

Bush's 1989 inaugural address had at least the benefit of honesty. He continued to repeat the unvarnished claim in his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention that the "brilliant diversity" of private charity and voluntarism would take care of the deep-pocket problems of the homeless that the Reagan-Bush administration had created by stripping away the safety net that kept beggars out of your face. Bush's honesty in last January's inaugural address was in admitting that "we have more will than wallo" to solve social problems.

The commander-in-chief who invaded Panama because a tinhorn general declared "war" on the United States has apparently learned the disadvantages of honesty. Monday night he claimed that the money had been appropriated to take care of things that counted. How bogus. As everyone with a fairpole's good sense knows in the

EXAMINER

Volkswagen van that serves as mobile kitchen. "Maybe a nice bagel to go along with it, or some whole-grain bread. And here, here's a vitamin (pill)."

"Thanks," murmurs the woman who spent the night curled up in a blanket in a Tenderloin doorway. "And God bless."

She walks a few feet away, stands and wolf down the meager meal, then gets back in line.

It's a tasty soup that Father Thomas has prepared: hearty, full of vegetables and "other nutritious ingredients." Best of all, there's no limit on how much of it someone can have.

By a little past 6 a.m., when the two 10-gallon galvanized soup pots have been emptied and the last bagel and chunk of bread are gone, Father Thomas, a 57-year-old Eastern Orthodox Church priest, will have fed 300 of San Francisco's estimated 8,000 homeless people.

**Parhandling for a purpose**

To feed them again, he'll spend part of the day parhandling for donations at the busy Union Square intersection of Post and Powell streets. He's there every day from 9 a.m. through the noon hour.

"Help feed the hungry homeless," he bellows out. "Help share bread with San Francisco's hungry homeless. Leave a little gift of love in San Francisco."

A well-dressed man pulls a crumpled \$1 bill from his pocket and places it in a box on the card table Father Thomas has set up in front of United Athletes' office. Others drop in coins. Tuesday, they leave \$60 in all.

"You know, it's strange," he says, "but every day I get just about what I need to keep this thing go-

ing. I'm hoping I'm paying to find someone else who wants to do this as a vocation, somebody with a commitment, if I have to give it up."

"It was a very average sort of life," he says. "It was not enough for me. There were things I felt I had to do."

One of those was to loudly oppose the Vietnam War, which he says cost him his job. He went to work for the American Friends Service Committee, joined the War

After Vietnam ceased to be a political issue, Thomas Flower worked against the death penalty and championed the cause of migrant farmworkers.

He said his activism was a factor in the eventual breakup of his marriage. "My ex-wife and I remain good friends."

Then, at 50, he experienced "a mid-life crisis" that took him to Christ of the Hills monastery in Blanco, Texas, where he studied for the priesthood. He became a deacon, then a monk and finally, earlier this year, a priest of the Eastern Orthodox Church.

"For a while I didn't have any idea of what direction my ministering would take," he says. "So I just opened myself up to the will of the Holy Spirit. And then I knew that I wanted to minister to the homeless and to street people, because I feel a very close association with them."

Because he had lived in San Francisco for a time in the 1970s, he decided to make it the site of his ministry.

**S.F. Exonerator**  
1/23/88 ↑



**KMST-TV ASKS**  
Linda the Look  
is she really a public  
nuisance?

**Next Issue: delayed reprints from** magazine on the Housing Now! march; further demos in support of Calamity's Cupboard (if necessary); part 2 of Scott B's Peace of Mind, word from Berkeley on the remains of People's Park, Jabberwocky Jay's long delayed letter to the President, and maybe--just maybe, Terrible Tom's on-the-spot Housing Now! critique from the far left.

and last summer I was struck by a tick and got Lyme disease, which is still causing me some problems. "I'm hoping I'm paying to find someone else who wants to do this as a vocation, somebody with a commitment, if I have to give it up."

unheated home. Along came shoeless Jimmy Carter who said that part of a windfall tax on oil profits should go to fuel for the poor. By fiscal 1980, \$1.5 billion was allocated to keep the poor warm in winter. Ronald Reagan took a little whack at that, but George Bush took a bigger one, allocating barely \$1 billion for what has been generally recognized as a life-saving program. Bush's cut in the fuel-aid program was the biggest percentage cut in the budget of the Department of Health and Human Services. "Someone at the department apparently doesn't understand that freezing is hazardous to your health," said Republican Rep. Silvio Conte of Massachusetts.

Heating oil was just for openers in Bush's assault on the poor in his budget. The Bush administration wants \$8.5 billion less next year than what is required to maintain the current Medicare services to low-income families. This will add to the plight of 15 million Americans who have inadequate health coverage. This is after eight socially regressive years of the Reagan-Bush administration that left an additional 37 million Americans — one-third of them children — with no health insurance at all.

Yet George Bush goes on television to tell the nation that he cares about children. His State of the Union address Wednesday night was the most consummately hypocritical and low-bellied sham performance of any American president since Richard Nixon on the Watergate tapes.



**Housing Now! march;**

**(if necessary);**

**word from Berkeley on the**

**remains of People's Park,**

**Terrible Tom's on-the-spot**

**Housing Now! critique from the far left.**

"We're sort of running out of things to say," T Koppel said on "Nightline" to his ace panel of journalists who could find little to fault in Bush's State of the Union address. "With press commentary like that it is small wonder Bush enjoys an almost 80 percent approval rate in the all-knowing polls."

George Bush was kind and gentle in his words, but in his budget he was kind and gentle only to the military. He has proposed a classic "damn the torpedoes" Cold War military budget, cut by only percent at a time when peace is breaking out all over. The Soviet threat that propelled lunatic Pentagon spending has faded into a flowering of democracy that has somehow convinced Bush more than ever of the necessity of spending more billions on Reagan's ultimate fantasy, Star Wars.

Because a tinhorn general declared "war" on the United States has apparently learned the disadvantages of honesty, Monday night he claimed that the money had been appropriated to take care of things that counted. How bogus. As everyone with a tadpole's good sense knows in the Federal City, the Bush budget is a textbook example of fiscal dishonesty and film-farm invoking the fanciful accounting used in the snuff bait of the savings and loan industry: looting the Social Security "trust fund," siphoning funds set aside for other purposes, lacking missing them onto last year's budget deficit.

George Bush was kind and gentle in his words, but in his budget he was kind and gentle only to the military. He has proposed a classic "damn the torpedoes" Cold War military budget, cut by only percent at a time when peace is breaking out all over. The Soviet threat that propelled lunatic Pentagon spending has faded into a flowering of democracy that has somehow convinced Bush more than ever of the necessity of spending more billions on Reagan's ultimate fantasy, Star Wars.

S.C. Urinal 3/15/70

# Activists who move in the wrong way

**P**OPLE OF Santa Cruz County were offered yet another example Tuesday that those who label themselves activists for the help-the-homeless cause are really not much more than publicly hounded who are never satisfied.

The county, which regularly has extended a helping hand as long as health and safety criteria are met on this subject, agreed Tuesday to stock a kitchen so volunteers could feed the homeless.

The activists' response: We're going someplace else and do it our own way. And, now that one branch of local government has met or thought it had met some of the activists' demands, we can expect those same activists to shift their emphasis on the city's camping ban, or to call for an open-courthouse law.

You know, keep stirring up the pot, never really brewing a recipe that will help feed, house, care for and employ people in the long run.

Those who are legitimately homeless have our vote, and we're sure the votes from people of every political bent in this compassionate county of ours. But those able-bodied individuals who have chosen public streets and parks as their abode have a different ballot counting.

If the activists who profess to care so much about the homeless are really interested in being constructive, they should work with local governments to re-instate state funds to help the mentally ill, which Gov. George Deukmejian so graciously vetoed last week. They should work through channels to expand governmental housing opportunities instead of pushing for the primitive concept of allowing people to sleep only where they desire, or press for programs to assist public institutions.

Then let us of disrupting City Council or Board of Supervisors' meetings, crowding the courts or interfering traffic isn't getting them anywhere that what's more important, and of much more concern, is that the ways of the activists aren't working in the best interests of the homeless, who really need and deserve attention.

3/8/70 S.C. Urinal

# Kitchen protesters arrested

By MARK BERGSTROM  
Special staff writer

**SANTA CRUZ** — Two people were arrested and two more cited Wednesday for refusing to leave the downtown food pavilion, where they had staged a demonstration over serving food to street people.

Judy Beinert, one of those arrested, said the protest was prompted by the city's refusal to provide a proper kitchen where food can be prepared for transients.

The food pavilion was set up after the Oct. 17 earthquake to house a group of small restaurants whose buildings were heavily damaged or destroyed.

Food served in the pavilion is cooked in the Civic Auditorium kitchen, which the restaurants lease from the city.

Beinert said other demonstrators had tried to gain Wednesday to get restaurant owners to share space in that kitchen.

Two weeks ago, demonstrators swarmed into the Civic Auditorium



Don Corry, Springfield

Police Sgt. Bob Henning tells protesters to 'hit the trail' before arrests begin.

kitchen and began cooking a pot of soup until police arrived.

One of the restaurant owners, A.C. Smith, told police to remove the demonstrators from the pavilion area Wednesday. He said

he was unable to solve the demonstrators' problem.

"We (the restaurants) are all homeless businesses. My place was at the Clumber House," Smith told reporters. "The protesters had alerted the press in advance."

The demonstration at the pavilion followed a protest to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday. Six people were arrested when they

refused to leave the building Tuesday night after a meeting with county officials.

Supervisors had directed several officials, including County Administrator Susan Abaturkhan, to talk with the protesters.

Jane Inler said the protesters "got nowhere" in their demand that the county help find a suitable kitchen.

# Register - Cajaleroan County kitchen called into use for homeless

3/23/70

An old county hospital kitchen will be reopened to provide hot meals for Santa Cruz's homeless.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors this morning approved an agreement with the William James Association to use the kitchen in one of the old hospital buildings daily to prepare 10 gallons of hot soup and a pot of pasta each day.

The program will be run by Karen Gillette, a county computer programmer who is volunteering her after-work time to oversee the operation.

Gillette said she hopes to have the homeless feeding program in operation by Friday. The food will be prepared at the Emeline Street kitchen, then trucked to

# Register - Cajaleroan Motel voucher program running out of money

3/23/70

will be distributed, Gillette said this morning that using money from one grant, the program has hired two homeless people as cooks and is now looking for additional support.

The William James Association's food plan is an outgrowth of a controversy several weeks ago when representatives of California's Kitchen, another homeless-food group, occupied the Board of Supervisors' chambers and hired a hall to the supervisors' weekly meeting.

They wanted supervisors to allow them to use a kitchen at the River Street Shelter to prepare hot meals for the Santa Cruz homeless. County officials, as a compromise, offered them use of the Emeline Street kitchen — an

months after the earthquake. Some money might be forthcoming from FEMA as a result of a lawsuit brought against the agency by a group of 20 community-service organizations. Brindel said, but he's not counting on it. Because of the amount of money needed to keep the program in operation — about \$21,000 a week — Brindel said CAB's options for funding sources are slim.

Of the 185 people currently using the voucher program, 85 percent are families with children and most are from

If the activists who pruned to cater, they would about the homeless, are really interested in being constructive, they should work with local governments to re-instate state funds to help the mentally ill, which Gov. George Deukmejian so foolishly vetoed last week. They should work through channels to expand conventional housing opportunities instead of pushing for the primitive concept of allowing people to sleep only where they desire, or press for programs to assist public in-  
 viduals.

Then tactics of disrupting City Council or Board of Supervisors' meetings, crowding the centers or interrupting traffic isn't getting them anywhere. But what's more important, and of much more concern, is that the ways of the activists aren't working in the best interests of the homeless, who really need and deserve attention.

Letters to the Editor  
 Santa Cruz Sentinel  
 207 Church St.  
 Santa Cruz, CA

The recent bally-hoo around Kitchenquest Santa Cruz--our attempt to find a kitchen for Calamity's Cupboard--needs to be clarified. That feeding program ended in February because the city and county defaulted on its year-long promise to provide access to a suitable certified kitchen to prepare food daily.

We're not looking to have anybody give us a kitchen. We just want access to what already exists--the River St. Shelter kitchen. It sits one hundred feet from the feeding site and is available during our hours of preparation from 12 to 3 PM. It was built to serve hundreds, not just the thirty shelter residents who make use of it in the evening.

The initial money for River St. came from people interested in seeing the shelter used for the homeless not the bureaucrats. Now we hear that a variety of bureaucrats are using the building for meetings and office space during the day. Their vague plans for future expansion are what they tell us prevents them from letting us cook for hungry people now.

We have met many times with Bob Campbell, who oversees the shelter, and with his superiors in the Mental Health Dept. They have many excuses but no good reasons, other than bureaucratic privilege, why their vacant kitchen cannot be used for its original purpose: to feed the homeless.

Demonstrations at the Board of Supervisors and elsewhere have been concerned with one simple fact: a homeless kitchen is being held hostage by an arrogant bureaucracy and needs to be made available for use.

Thank you,

meals for Santa Cruz's homeless. front one grant the program has hired two homeless people as cooks and is now looking for additional support.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors this morning approved an agreement with the William James Association to use the kitchen in one of the old hospital buildings daily to prepare 10 gallons of hot soup and a pot of pasta each day.

The program will be run by Karen Gillette, a county computer programmer who is volunteering her after-work time to reverse the operation.

Gillette said she hopes to have the homeless feeding program in operation by Friday. The food will be prepared at the Emeline Street kitchen, then trucked to the River Street Shelter where it

Jane Inlar  
 Ocean St.  
 Santa Cruz, CA  
 (429-8819)

The William James Association's food plan is an outgrowth of a controversy several weeks ago when representatives of Calamity's Kitchen, another homeless-food group, occupied the Board of Supervisors' chambers and forced a halt to the supervisors' weekly meeting.

They wanted supervisors to allow them to use a kitchen at the River Street Shelter to prepare hot meals for the Santa Cruz homeless. County officials, as a compromise, offered them use of the Emeline Street kitchen if offer they rejected. --Bob Smith

**WINNING OUT WINNING**

By CHELA ZABIN  
 12-24-78

The Community Action Board's Motel Voucher Program, which has provided motel and hotel vouchers to 1,460 people left homeless by the Oct. 17 earthquake, is running out of money and may check out permanently at the end of April unless new funding sources are found.

The program has been operating on a grant from the State Department of Housing and Community Development, which is due to run out by April 25. Since the earthquake, it has spent \$523,183 on motel vouchers. This week 185 people were housed in local hotels and motels.

Other contributions are dwindling and "we think we have for the most part maxed out the donations" from other sources, said Paul Brindel, director of the project.

The program has submitted a proposal to the Red Cross for \$1 million dollars in the hope of being able to continue the program through April of next year.

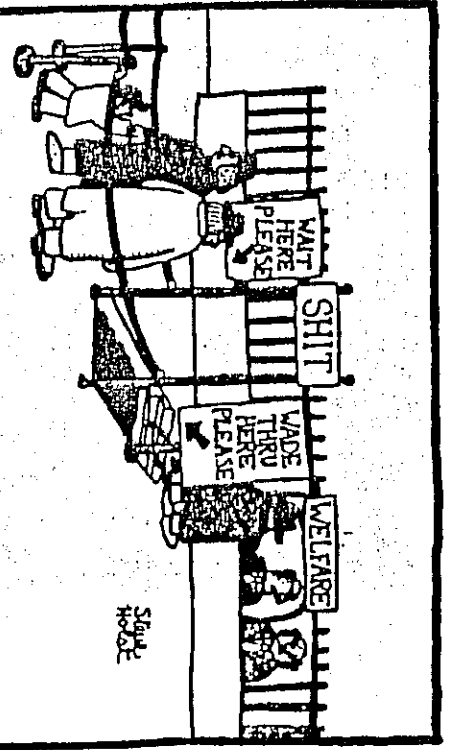
Brindel explained that the program is trying to give people the equivalent of what they would have gotten from FEMA -- housing assistance for up to 18 months after the earthquake.

Some money might be forthcoming from FEMA as a result of a lawsuit brought against the agency by a group of 20 community-service organizations. Brindel said, but he's not counting on it. Because of the amount of money needed to keep the program in operation -- about \$21,000 a week -- Brindel said CAB's options for funding sources are slim.

Of the 123 people currently using the voucher program, 85 percent are families with children, and most are from Watsonville, Brindel said. Many are people who have been denied aid by FEMA or who are in the process of appealing denials or applying for aid, he said.

Although some may eventually get the help they need and leave the program, Brindel said CAB is expecting another influx of people who need shelter when people who left the area after the quake -- mostly migrant workers -- return.

The program has also taken in people who found temporary shelter with friends or relatives immediately after the quake but who had nowhere to go later on. Brindel said he expects that need to continue as time passes.



We think it cuts down on a lot of mad rage.

The Bah! Erronian takes a stab at the Kitchenguest activists! At press time, they had not yet printed Gathobespierres's retort

-3b-

814 Hanover St.  
Santa Cruz, CA  
95062

March 16, 1980

# REGISTER-PAJARONIAN

3/14/80  
Mike Wallace, editor  
Fred Skill, general manager

## Who really speaks for the homeless?

NO ONE CAN ARGUE that the number of people without shelter in America is anything but a national scandal. The exact figures are a subject of controversy, but we could probably all agree that even the lowest figures thrown about are unacceptable for a nation as affluent as ours.

Unfortunately, there has been a tendency in some quarters, and particularly among those who see themselves as advocates for the homeless, to present this as a single issue with a single root cause, which it is not. This has to be kept in mind, because no problem can be successfully attacked unless it is correctly understood.

What the homeless have in common is that they lack a home, but the differentiation is in how that came to happen, and hence how the situation could be reversed. As a number of observers have noted, there are several causes. Some people have fallen through what remains of the nation's economic safety net after the Reagan years, and, once out of their housing, lack the money to get back in. Others became homeless as a consequence of drug or alcohol abuse. A fair number of people are on the streets because of callous policies that closed mental institutions without providing the necessary local support to care for former patients who can't care for themselves. And finally, as has been the case throughout history, there are certain individuals who prefer the freedom of living on the street, with all its attendant risks and hardships, to the responsibility of holding a job and paying rent.

Those in the latter category tend to gravitate to areas that are tolerant of diverse lifestyles, and that makes the city of Santa Cruz an obvious mecca. The county seat now has a group of one or two dozen citizens who, for lack of better terminology, might be characterized as professional homeless people, and who have adopted a style of confrontational politics that makes the typical Operation Rescue demonstration look like a church picnic by comparison. Indeed, one of the homeless people arrested after last week's protests at the

Editor: Register-Pajaronian  
Dear Editor,

Your March 14th editorial "Who Speaks for the Homeless?" was an inaccurate, unfair, and uninformed blast at homeless activists. Our demonstrations and civil disobedience finally got an indifferent Board of Supervisors to get up off its collective ass and secure a certified kitchen for the suspended homeless leading program. Before dismissing us as "confrontational professionals" and "stubborn, scornful ultimatium-givers," you might take care to brief readers on the issues involved.

Arguably, that might be difficult, since you have scrupulously avoided reporting Santa Cruz homeless news since last summer's fall-for-soup trials. If you did more reporting and less complaining, we might not need to demonstrate--sometimes necessary to thrust an issue into public view--past the roadblocks set up by entrenched bureaucrats and indifferent news media.

For months activists here have been picketing, leafleting, and kneeling arrested in a determined campaign of high-profile civil disobedience to challenge the cruel city law that prescribes tickets and jail for sleeping outdoors at night anywhere inside city limits (bridges, parks, one's own front yard, and one's own vehicle included). Dozens of activists have been arrested in vigils and protests downtown; police have upped the ante by seizing homeless blankets and sleeping bags in freezing weather.

In the work of the ~~Northwest~~ ~~reconciliation~~ ~~with~~ ~~nuclear~~ ~~cowboys~~ ~~Herminia~~ ~~Althe~~ ~~Mayor~~ ~~praches~~ ~~reconciliation~~ ~~with~~ ~~nuclear~~ ~~cowboys~~ ~~but~~ ~~refuses~~ ~~to~~ ~~discuss~~ ~~basic~~ ~~issues~~ ~~of~~ ~~sleep~~ ~~and~~ ~~shelter~~ ~~with~~ ~~her~~ ~~own~~ ~~homeless~~. The D.A.'s office vigorously prosecutes "criminal sleepers" and "trespassers on vacant property" but turns a blind eye to local restaurants and motels that refuse the money of local homeless customers. The Postmaster of Santa Cruz defends the practice of driving homeless men away from the protection of the Post Office overhang into the pouring rain, and candidly admits he's done his own share of driving off "undesireables" when he's been in a bad mood.

Presumably well-paid County chairpersons have been spending tax payer dollars on unusual projects. CAO Susan Mauriella first proposed activist and cook Jane Imler take her homeless meal back into the unsanitary and unsuitable Pioneer House kitchen, which later had left the month before as a health hazard. Then Mauriella proposed spending thousands of dollars and weeks of time renovating a small kitchen at Emeline St.'s Mental Health building miles away from Imler's feeding site than a vacant certified kitchen was sitting across the road from the meal. Finally she arranged a secret meeting with another woman, gave her access to a third kitchen (also at Emeline St.) previously unmentioned in all negotiations with Imler, and set up a feeding program behind Imler's back.

...but the differentiation is not how that came to happen, and hence how the situation could be reversed. As a number of observers have noted, there are several causes. Some people have fallen through what remains of the nation's economic safety net after the Reagan years, and, once out of their housing, lack the money to get back in. Others became homeless as a consequence of drug or alcohol abuse. A fair number of people are on the streets because of callous policies that closed mental institutions without providing the necessary local support to care for former patients who can't care for themselves. And finally, as has been the case throughout history, there are certain individuals who prefer the freedom of living on the street with all its attendant risks and hardships, to the responsibility of holding a job and paying rent.

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Last week's disruption of the supervisors' meeting was not atypical of what Santa Cruz has seen in the past few years. About a dozen people, wearing chefs' hats, came before the board to demand a kitchen for cooking and distributing meals to the homeless. When one of the speakers refused to relinquish the microphone, Chairman Kobley Levy closed the meeting.

The supervisors ordered County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello to meet with the group later in the day. The activists insisted on the use of a kitchen in a shelter on River Street. Officials refused on the grounds that it was too small and offered two alternatives, which were scornfully rejected.

This was pretty much par for the course. The homeless activists in Santa Cruz have a tendency to issue ultimatums and accept no compromise. As citizens, they have every right to petition the government for redress of grievances, and they have every right to reject what the government offers in response. It's fair to ask, however, whether in this instance the interests of the many homeless people who didn't attend the supervisors' meeting might have been better served by accepting a compromise on the location of the kitchen.

The stubbornness of the Santa Cruz activists is beginning to get across the skin of even those with the most impeccable liberal credentials. Supervisor Gary Patton gave voice to that frustration last Thursday when he told homeless activist Jane [Name] "The reason you have such a problem finding a kitchen is that you are so hard to work with." That said it in a

...and shelter with her... but I guess it discusses best issues of... gun homeless. The D.A.'s office vigorously prosecuted... sleepers" and restaurants on vacant property but the money of eye to local customers. The folkmaster of Santa Cruz defends the practice of driving homeless men away from the protection of the post office overhead into the pouring rain, and candidly admits he's done his own share of driving off "undesirables" when he's been in a bad mood.

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Why did the CAD take these unusual actions? Haurlella was supporting Bob Campbell, overseer of the \$1.3 million River St. Shelter, which has a vacant certified kitchen, established with funding for the homeless, but as usual made available instead to the bureaucrats. Ignoring the 100-150 homeless Imler had been feeding each night, Campbell chose to lock up "his" kitchen and than rely on the support of powerful pals in the County building, who rattled his arbitrary intranigilence.

Arbitrary to your editorial claim. According to County Health Inspector Cynthia Miller and former River St. Shelter manager Fred Gray, the kitchen was specifically designed to serve hundreds and was not (even Campbell ultimately agreed) "too small." It is certainly larger than the unsafe one at Pioneer House also under Campbell's control.

Activists came to the County seeking justice and common sense, or at the very least, some kind of cost consciousness, and found orgonism. This was the same County that approved spending tens of thousands of dollars prosecuting homeless chefs because they didn't have a certified kitchen last spring. The same County that promised a certified kitchen to Imler last April and then sat on its hands for months until loud voices from the street suddenly recalled them to their responsibilities. Let your readers decide who are really trying to serve the homeless and who are the intranigilant who refuse to compromise because they prefer to protect their buddies' bad decisions.

Just let us have the facts.

Sincerely,  
Robert Drake  
(427-1205)



~~~~~FLASHBACKS~~~~~FLASHBACKS~~~~~FLASHBACKS~~~~~

~~~~~EARTHQUAKE ARRESTS SPARKED BY FASHION-CONSCIOUS MAYOR?

Ardent Arlin, President of the Cabrillo Homeless Alliance, and local African-American activist Abdullah Hassan, both members of the Imler/Wormhoudt-led Housing Now! coalition that went to Washington in October, released a bombshell at the Dec. 15 meeting of Bubbah Brian Koepke's Homeless Alliance. Both claimed direct knowledge that Mayor Wormhoudt was instrumental in the police crackdown at the Civic Center Auditorium homeless shelter the night of Oct. 21.

Abdullah, a chef at the shelter during the quake, and Arlin, visiting at the time, stated that around 10 PM on that Saturday night, they clearly overheard Wormhoudt demanding that security guards "clear away the eyesore" in front of the Civic Auditorium. The "eyesore" was 4 tents that were housing families and others homeless in the wake of the quake.

As recounted afterwards in *City on a Hill* and *Street Sheet #60*, the homeless campers were anxious about sleeping indoors so soon after an earthquake. (Ironically, within two days the Civic was temporarily red-tagged because of roof problems and all residents evacuated to Portuguese Hall and elsewhere.) Further they were told by the Red Cross that the shelter was full (and a sign saying so was placed on the door of Civic). (See *Street Sheet #60, p. 4 "Red Cross Surrenders to Police Bullying, Downs Homeless Tents" for details*)

The ensuing roust boasted a platoon of pistol-packing plug-uglies from three jurisdictions. Angry Red Cross workers argued with the 8-10 militiamen, urging them to leave the homeless unmolested outside, but the city's determination to keep poor relations in the closet and out of sight prevailed. The justification? As ever, the city's 6.36.010 Sleeping Ban.

Houndlover Helen Langley, the homeless local seized for camping outside, claimed bones had been fractured in her wrist when police cinched up her handcuffs in transit (see p. 19.) Charges against her and against Linda the Lark Edwards and Jailtime Judith Beinert, who flung down sleeping bags in solidarity with her, were thrown out of court in mid-December with the annoyed judge wondering what the authorities were doing calling in the Fashion Police during an emergency.

3/21/90 SF Chron  
**N.Y.-Based Paper for Homeless  
Considers Expanding to S.F.**

San Francisco's fledgling Homeless Times may soon face competition from the New York-based Street News, a tabloid sold by homeless distributors. At a New York news conference announcing plans to expand circulation to San Francisco and Washington, Street News editor-in-chief Hutchinson Persons said the move was designed to give the homeless in those cities a chance to help themselves. New York City Street Aid, the organization that publishes the paper, also provides apartment referral services and psychological counseling for the homeless distributors. About 1,200 homeless vendors of Street News purchase

the papers at two Manhattan distribution offices and keep 45 cents of the tabloid's 75-cent cover price, Persons said. In a telephone interview after the press conference, Persons' assistant, Sharmila Voorakkara, said the newspaper is looking for a San Francisco distribution center. Meanwhile, the Homeless Times, which put out its first edition in November, is preparing for its second press run "very soon," said Salima Rashida, a Times staffer. The Homeless Times, which sells for 50 cents, focuses on homeless issues and seeks to provide a forum for the homeless to express their views.



NEW ECHOES FROM THE ALLEYWAYS...

\*\*\*\*\*IS THE YUPPIE TIDE RECEDING? Maybe yes, maybe no, but an encouraging sign seems to be the disappearance of the huge ugly Garage Grill planters that were littering the lower end of Scope Park for the last three months. Our confidential informant, confirmed by on-the-spot check, tells us that by last Friday (March 30), the Green Meanies had unaccountably vanished. What's happening? Springtime for sanity in Santa Cruz? Unfortunately the Grill itself is closed for vacation, so conclusive info must wait until *Street Sheet #71*.

Now all they gotta do is stop suspending the Constitution in the seal-off-the-park, search-and-arrest, dragnet raids our local grassgrabbing gumshoes have been staging against street people. Such actions are nicely timed to lure Federal Nark monies as well as drive up the price and profits of Syndicate Drugs, but don't fit in too well with the 200th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Priorities, boys, priorities!

\*\*\*\*\*CAMPOUT AT CATHERINE'S? Hats off to Councilmember Catherine Beiers, for revealing at Paul Lee's "Let's Talk at the Homeless" Forum last Sunday night that her house was built on property originally deeded to the poor and homeless of Santa Cruz. Beiers, the newest and probably the best of the Gang of 7 (City Council), is one of the few who actually appears to be listening to the bi-weekly homeless speakers who try without success to give the Gang a taste of the real streetworld beyond their soundproof doors.

\*\*\*\*\*"MORE SALT!, MORE SUPPORTERS!" roared Stormin' Norman, whose loud voice and louder complaints provoked some friction among his co-vigilers last Wednesday. With Jailtime Judith grounded by health and job problems, the nightly SWAP II/Homeless Hunger Project meal has been suspended until Monday when Judith will announce her new priorities.

Once a nightly meal resumed back of the River St. mini-Shelter (around 5 p.m.), the HHP meal was intended to support demonstrations, such as the on-going Vigil against the Sleeping Ban at the Homeless Table. A second HHP goal was to journey to far corners of Santa Cruz (the Beach Flats, the railroad tracks) where no cook has gone before in search of hungry folks unlikely to make it to Keystone's Cupboard.

In the meantime, Stormin' Norman, a long-time Santa Cruz resident, homeless demonstrator since last November, and a Table commandante since February, has been circulating a hand-written Petition to the Gang of 7 to end their Sleeping Ban. He is asking supporters:

- (1) sign the petition at the Table,
- (2) call the City Council (429-3550) and ask them to change the law;
- (3) share coffee and company with the vigilers on your way home;
- (4) haul your sleeping bag out of the closet and join the vigil for a night or two. The worst you'll get will be a ticket.

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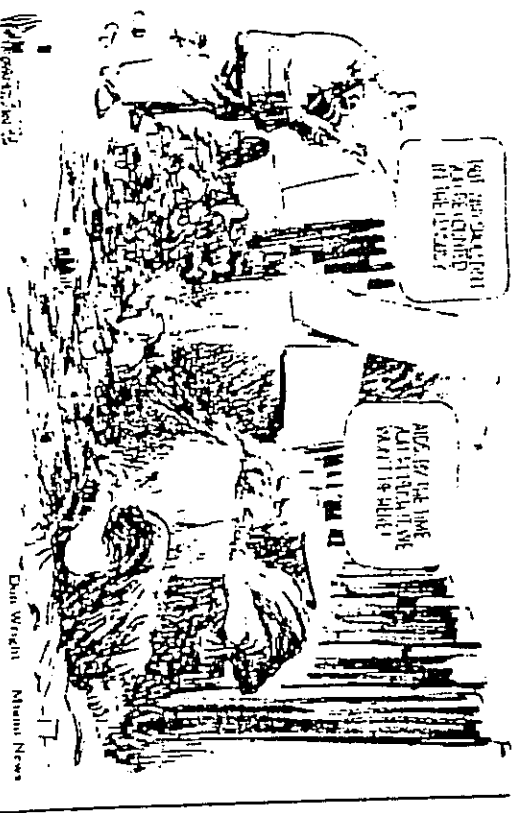
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Don Wright Miami News

!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!UPDATES!!!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*CALAMITY'S CUPBOARD: POST-MORTEM: At presstime, there were two meals nightly for the coinless--the Homeless Hunger Project, serving at 4 p.m. near the main post office at Water and Front Sts. And Free Food or Keystone's Cupboard at 4:45 p.m., operating for a week at the back of the River St. mini-Shelter at the old Calamity's Cupboard site. Both hot and tasty. So far, lots of food at both, though HHP was getting more anxious and uncertain as to how long it would be continuing.

As noted in *Street Shit Sheet #69* Kitchenquest SantaCruz cases have been largely dropped, except those of Calamity Jane, Loudmouth Leith, and Marinade Mary. The D.A. has been muttering about disinterring cases that Commissioner "Whiff o' Hope" Watts unceremoniously dumped with one-day "time-served" sentences, but that still looks unlikely.

The County, the CAO(chief administrative officer), and the local media did succeed in conveying the widespread misimpression that Calamity Jane was some kind of tantrum-throwing malcontent. By falsely reporting that she had refused the kitchen that was offered Keystone Karen Gilette, they left everyone with the impression that she was being loud, unreasonable, and pointless in her month of protest.

We pointed out last issue that the Kitchenquest protests did eventually get a kitchen for a homeless meal--though not the same one led by Calamity. After Jane's latest peace powwow with "Can't Cook in My Kitchen" Campbell, she gave the River St. shelter boss a backhanded complement. Campbell's determination to keep the mini-Shelter kitchen closed ironically became a key element in pressuring the County into opening up another kitchen for Karen--with a little help from the Kitchenquest protesters.

Campbell himself revealed that he fully expected CAO Susan Mauriello to direct him to open the forbidden kitchen to Calamity's Cupboard at the final showdown Tuesday March 6. Instead, the Godmother Mauriello blandly supported the lockdown and had Calamity and five others arrested for trespass at the County building.

Campbell's real reasons for creating such dissension in the homeless community are still unknown. but Calamity suggested that Campbell, like Mauriello did for him, may have simply been showing loyalty to the unwise but public decisions of certain subordinates at the mini-Shelter.

Some felt the resumption of meals out back of the mini-Shelter was most timely, as SWAP II and HHP protest cooks were running out of steam and seasonings. Jailtime Judith still has pneumonia; Bathrobespierre Robert has sworn off soups; and Freebart Fran has unplugged her phone. Robespierre Robert continued to refer sarcastically to Keystone's Cupboard as "Karen's Cop-Out," "Calamity's Cupboard, Jr.," and "Calamity's Crematorium" but even that sourpuss was seen at a backtable there feeding his face, complements of Keystone Karen, Paddywagon Pete, and other homeless chefs.

\*\*\*\*\*HOMELESS TABLE RESISTANCE WAS ON THE RISE LAST WEEK as was sleepslasher truculence as one sleeper after another was carted off to the overcrowded jail to be stripped, held, fingerprinted, photographed, and then released O.R. Loudmouth Leith and Paddywagon Pete made jailbird-of-the-night status by refusing to sign their harassment sleeping tickets (no citizen had complained--the police just decided "time to bust!").

Stormin' Norman was relentlessly pursued by Officer "Tramp-waker" Baker, who stalked the ebullient activist throughout the city early Monday morning (April 1). Baker actually gave Norman three sleeping tickets within the space of seven hours and finally took him off to jail as a habitual snorer. (For which Stormin' now faces a maximum of 6 months in jail and \$1000 fine.)

Meanwhile Jabberwocky Jay may call for a court hearing to determine if the police department acted legally in arresting him twice in as many days because of the hitlist of Pretty X Bizarre<sup>2</sup>. That list was used by the city's nutty nightcrawlers to jail Jay for two minor tickets in spite of his offer to sign them (see *Street Sheet* #69). Bazar claims that judges were specifically contacted on both occasions to okay the legalized kidnappings, but skepticism persists that even harsh-hearted blackrobes would issue arrest warrants for a camping offense on a weekend. Think up another one, guys. You're gonna need that police review and policy board just to keep your stories straight.



A Oomsbury Retrospective: Back in 1986 Santa Barbara homeless fought successfully to change their Sleeping Ban. It happened there and will happen here.

2 P.B. is more commonly known as district attorney Patty Bazar, misdemeanor queen of the courts, who frequently uses the cast-iron-fist-in-the-velvet-glove routine to charm the unwary. In the past she's lulled demonstrators with gentle hopes then sprung full-blown jury trials on them.

On the same day Sgt. Hobohunter Hennig was seen entering the D.A.'s office, Patty assured Calamity Jane and Bathrobespierre Robert that the police were "pleased" with the neat condition of the Homeless Table. The next day Hennig initiated Public Nuisance citations against the homeless as part of the city's new Beautification Campaign.

Bazar did clarify that the famous Hit List she'd forwarded to the police was meant to give the police the option to seek immediate jail and cash bail for those doing further Kitchenquest Santa Cruz actions. It was not intended to be used to give the police a pretext for jailing them on unrelated petty infractions (like camping and open container). This, of course, is how it was used.



\*\*\*\*\*POSTCARD TO THE POST OFFICE?...Perhaps you've heard how the postmaster jovially okayed the practice of forcing homeless standing under the eaves out into the February rains? Perhaps you've heard that they've declared they'll prosecute if homeless sit on their wall, use their faucet, or drop trash in their dumpster? Yes, this is the same post office that flies an American flag from its pole.

They claim they've been getting complaints from customers who find the Homeless Table unsightly, unmannerly, or unkempt. Do you feel differently? Perhaps, you feel the post office should be commended for its willingness to accommodate all classes of citizens? Maybe they should be praised for accommodating the American tradition of protest? What if they were patted on the back for not letting bigotry and prejudice influence their objectivity in disputes between the homeless and the police? Maybe they should be saluted for their sensitivity to people who have no home, only a sleeping bag that is likely as not to be stolen by a passing police officer?

Complaint/commendation forms can be had inside the post office for the asking. They can also be found at the Homeless Table. Use them. Fight back against bigotry.



CATCALLS FROM THE COPSHOP

#### ROUGH STUFF FROM SGT. "SPEAK ENGLISH!" ALUFFI some weeks back, according to Doeskin Dolores, who went to the good constable on the advice of a security guard. The guard was shocked to see her bruised wrists, some hours after one of Officer "Lock-'em-Up" Lunnen's Sleepcrime arrests, and suggested she file a complaint. When Doeskin spoke to Aluffi, explaining her native language was Spanish, the English-loving lawman refused to take her complaint in Spanish, and added, Dolores reports, "the next time I see you around, I'm going to have you arrested!" Surely Doeskin is dozin' again--that doesn't sound like our SCPD!

#### "THEY CHAINSAWED MY CAMPSITE," growled Dogwatch<sup>3</sup> Dave, recently returned from a ramble around the country. Now serving as one of the Satellite Shelter monitors in the waning days of that winter program, Dave tells us that SCPD tracked down a Neary Lagoon camp-on-stilts, demolished the place, and hauled away possessions in county trucks several months ago in one of the periodic "Drive 'em out of town " campaigns by officially-sanctioned trollbusters. Urban renewal Santa Cruz-style? Or making middle-class Neary Lagoon "affordable housing" project-boosters a little more comfortable in yet another step to create a sterile dead "safety zone" between the Right People and the Rest of Us. Another noxious case of "Not in our neighborhood!"

#### OFFICIAL POLICE POLICY ON THE TICKETING TREADMILL was clarified last week by Police Patriarch, Jack Bassett. In a huddle with Interfaith Satellite Shelter head Andrew Morin some days back, Jack stated he directed his bindlestiff-busters "there was no reason to push 'em around just because they're ugly or you don't like 'em." On the other hand, "enforcing infractions is high priority." Apparently admitting that individual cops do harry the homeless, the blueshirt boss insisted that his policy is "don't harass, but enforce." No mention was made of his department's response to such harassment (other than the unsigned form letter that uniformly greets all complaints to the dept.)

But sharp-eared listeners might have found a clue in Bassett's admission that his boys were trying to keep "social undesirables" out of the downtown area. Fair enough for you, Jack. But for the rest of us it's time to pass the SCAN-endorsed civilian police-review-and-policy board that Don Lane spoke for at Professor Lee's seminar on homelessness April 1st. Maybe then we could rein in or remove some of the "moral undesireables" downtown launching "high priority" assaults on the homeless from their city-funded sniper nests.



3 dogwatch any of the night shifts, especially the last shift.



# A budget fraught with flim-flam

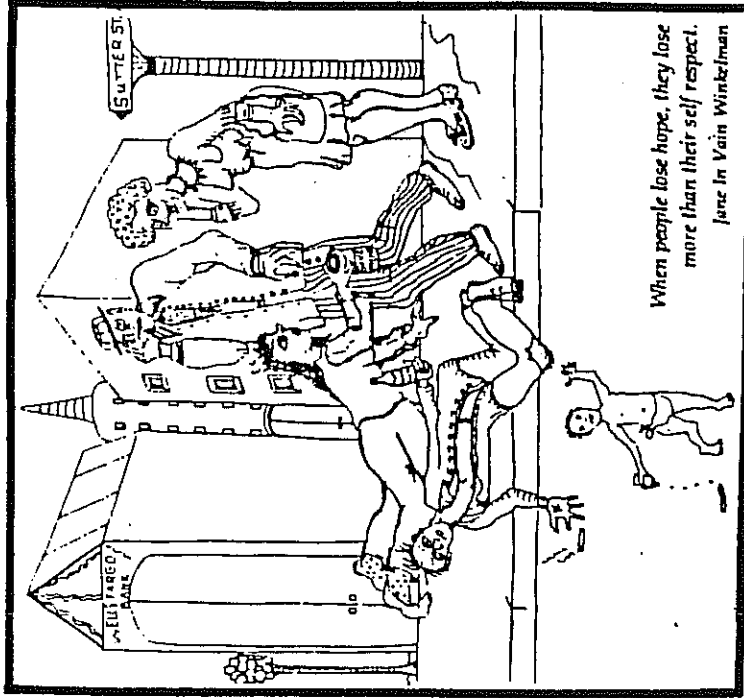


**NEW YORK** — The temperature was in the 40s, balmy for winter on the Eastern seaboard, and some of the homeless had gathered on the sidewalk in front of a discount appliance store to watch the president deliver the State of the Union address. George Bush was talking points of light from 17 TV sets in the window. Not once did he mention that he had cut money for heating oil to the poor by 25 percent in his 1991 budget.

The homeless knew this the way the tongue knows where the cavity is. Fuel aid to the poor began in the optimistic 1970s after an elderly couple froze to death in upstate New York in their unheated home. Along came shoeless Jimmy Carter, who said that part of a windfall tax on oil profits should go to fuel for the poor. By fiscal 1980, \$1.5 billion was allocated to keep the poor warm in winter. Ronald Reagan took a little whack at that, but George Bush took a bigger one, allocating barely \$1 billion for what has been generally recognized as a life-saving program. Bush's cut in the fuel-aid program was the biggest percentage cut in the budget of the Department of Health and Human Services. "Someone at the department apparently doesn't understand that freezing is hazardous to your health," said Republican Rep. Silvio Conte of Massachusetts.

Heating oil was just for openers in Bush's assault on the poor in his budget. The Bush administration wants \$8.5 billion less next year than what is required to maintain the current Medicare services to low-income families. This will add to the plight of 15 million Americans who have inadequate health coverage. This is after eight socially regressive years of the Reagan-Bush administration that left an additional 37 million Americans — one-third of them children — with no health insurance at all.

Yet George Bush goes on television to tell the nation that he cares about children. His State of the Union address Wednesday night was the most consummately hypocritical and low-bellied sham performance of any American president since



When people lose hope, they lose more than their self respect.

June In Vain Winterman

2/22/90

# Census of the heart: Kids, bunnies count



**THE CENSUS** takers were out counting the homeless Tuesday night and I wonder if any were in the Financial District looking under the bush at the corner of Sanson and Pine. If not, their count is low by two. But a young woman who works in the Financial District was driving by on her scooter that morning and she didn't miss them, although in scooting by she misidentified them. She called to say that there was a homeless family with a rabbit and a wheelchair-bound boy about 10 or 11 years old. "When I saw the pet rabbit, I couldn't help but cry," she said. "This is a handicapped child. How do we let this happen?"

A handicapped child with a rabbit living on the streets? Without really knowing what I would do when I got there (take the family to Mayor Agnos office?), I ran right over to Sansome and Pine. They were still there, but instead of a family with handicapped kid and a rabbit I found a couple, 29-year-old Alonzo Davis and 27-year-old Barbara Oron, the latter a small woman in a wheelchair, and two pet hamsters, David and Baby.

I admit it. I probably wouldn't have dashed over to Sansome and Pine if I had known it was to talk to a hamster-owning couple who had been out on the street for more than half a decade rather than a handicapped kid with a rabbit. That's what we've come to. Being a homeless couple, even if the woman has plastic pins in her legs and can't walk, isn't enough. To push society's sympathy button, to get someone to dash out of a newsroom, you've got to have a hat trick: a kid with a wheelchair and a rabbit.

The couple had been together for a year and a half, and each had been on the streets since before Ronald Reagan's re-election. The hamsters had been part of their family for only five days, and

# City's homeless SF Examiner 4/2/90

In response to Guy Wright's March 23 column regarding Mayor Agnos' homeless policy: Bravo!

It is about time someone spoke up for the average person's rights. Agnos wishes to put homeless shelters in the downtown area. Sure. That would solve the problem. He would make so many people working in the downtown area very happy. Everyday they could look forward to going to work and being harassed three times as much as they already are. And if they are unhappy about it, well, who cares? They don't vote here anyway.

What could the mayor be thinking of? And what happened to the rights of the average person? Being insulted, threatened, and frightened by

# People's Cafe SF Examiner 2/10/90

The demise of the People's Cafe in People's Park, Berkeley, is a sad statement on the homeless situation in the East Bay.

Despite the assurances that University of California's vice Chancellor Daniel Boggan gives that UC is intent upon developing a permanent facility, I am not encouraged by the callous actions we've seen. The breakfast that UC served from a van in a parking garage consisted of coffee and donuts. This hardly constitutes a meal, and one hour of standing in a parking garage with a hot cup of coffee is not the same as being able to converse, read the paper or just sit in the People's Cafe.

On a social level, the cafe fostered a sense of community which combats any sense of isolation.

department apparently doesn't understand that freezing is hazardous to your health," said Republican Rep. Silvio Conte of Massachusetts.

Heating oil was just for openers in Bush's assault on the poor in his budget. The Bush administration wants \$8.5 billion less next year than what is required to maintain the current Medicare services to low-income families. This will add to the plight of 15 million Americans who have inadequate health coverage. This is after eight socially regressive years of the Reagan-Bush administration that left an additional 37 million Americans — one-third of them children — with no health insurance at all.

Yet George Bush goes on television to tell the nation that he cares about children. His State of the Union address Wednesday night was the most consummately hypocritical and low-bellied sham performance of any American president since Richard Nixon on the Watergate tapes.

"We recognize the need for a clean environment," Bush said last night to an applauding and stupefied Congress. Yet Bush's Nuclear Regulatory Commission is pushing ahead with a wacky plan to deregulate the dumping of almost one-third of the nuclear waste from atomic plants. Under the new plan radioactive waste deemed "beyond regulatory concern" would go straight to local dumps along with the baby's Pampers. Since it's deregulated, no one will know what the nuclear industry is dumping that it deems "safe." Some of the atomic waste will become part of the sludge that is spread over farmland: nuclear fertilizer.

Bush's 1989 inaugural address had at least the benefit of honesty. He continued to repeat the unrel claim in his acceptance speech at the Republican Convention that the "brilliant diversity" of private charity and voluntarism would take care of the deep-pocket problems of the homeless that the Reagan-Bush administration had created by stripping away the safety net that kept beggars out of your face. Bush's honesty in last January's inaugural address was in admitting that "we have more will than wallet" to solve social problems.

The commander-in-chief who invaded Panama because a tinhorn general declared "war" on the United States has apparently learned the disadvantages of honesty. Monday night he claimed that the money had been appropriated to take care of things that counted. How bogus. As everyone with a tadpole's good sense knows in the Federal City, the Bush budget is a textbook example of fiscal dishonesty and flim-flam invoking the fanciful accounting used in the sinful bailout of the savings and loan industry: looting the Social Security "trust fund," siphoning funds set aside for other purposes, tacking missing items

People's Park, Berkeley, is a sad statement on the homeless situation in the East Bay.

Despite the assurances that University of California's vice Chancellor Daniel Boggan gives that UC is intent upon developing a permanent facility, I am not encouraged by the callous actions we've seen. The breakfast that UC served from a van in a parking garage consisted of coffee and donuts. This hardly constitutes a meal, and one hour of standing in a parking garage with a hot cup of coffee is not the same as being able to converse, read the paper or just sit in the People's Cafe.

On a social level, the cafe fostered a sense of community which combats any unsafe circumstances. The fact that there was a somewhat official presence, where people knew they would be accepted no matter what, gave everyone a sense of security. Sanitation was not a problem: the kitchen was scrubbed daily. Just because we didn't have the convenience of hot running water (we heated it on a propane stove), didn't mean the place was unsanitary.

The People's Cafe was more than just a place to get food. It was a place to settle down and feel a part of humanity.

MIKE STANI  
Oakland

## More on People's Cafe next time.

(George Bush was kind and gentle in his words, but in his budget he was kind and gentle only to the military. He has proposed a classic "damn the torpedoes" Cold War military budget, cut by only 2 percent at a time when peace is breaking out all over. The Soviet threat that propelled lunatic Pentagon spending has faded into a flowering of democracy that has somehow convinced Bush more than ever of the necessity of spending more billions on Reagan's ultimate fantasy, Star Wars.

"We're sort of running out of things to say," Ted Koppel said on "Nightline" to his ace panel of journalists who could find little to fault in Bush's State of the Union address. With press commentary like that, it is small wonder Bush enjoys an almost 80 percent approval rate in the all-knowing polls.

In response to Guy Wright's March 23 column regarding Mayor Aguirre's homeless policy: Bravo!

It is about time someone spoke up for the average person's rights. Aguirre wishes to put homeless shelters in the downtown area. Sure. That would solve the problem.

He would make as many people working in the downtown area very happy. Everyday they could look forward to going to work and being harassed three times as much as they already are. And if they are unhappy about it, well, who cares? They don't vote here anyway.

What could the mayor be thinking of? And what happened to the rights of the average person? Being insulted, threatened, and frightened by street people every day is stressful. Having to watch your back, crossing the street to avoid hoodlums, huns, people in a drunk condition is not the way to encourage tourists or businesses to invest and spend money.

DEAN CAROTHERS  
Berkeley

I would like to invite columnist Guy Wright, who disapproves of homeless shelters in the "solid gold" San Francisco downtown and Dean Carothers, who's tired of hearing about the "poor homeless people" (letters, March 23), to play the "homeless game."

No equipment necessary. To play, lock yourself out of your house on a cold winter evening. You have no idea when your roommates are coming home, if at all, your upstairs neighbors are not home, and your nearest friend lives 10 miles away.

You have no jacket and no money. Just making a phone call becomes a dilemma, until you remember your calling card number (this is the only part where you get to cheat). You desperately need to use the bathroom, but your request at the local fast food restaurant is met with the blank stare you have yourself given to panhandlers.

You go back to your porch to freeze in the dark and look enviously at the lighted windows in the houses around you. Until your friend arrives an hour later, you know something of what it feels like to be homeless.

ELIZABETH OZBURN  
San Francisco

Oron, the latter a small woman in a wheelchair, and two pet hamsters, David and Baby.

I admit it. I probably wouldn't have dashed over to Sursome and Pine if I had known it was to talk to a hamster-owning couple who had been out on the street for more than half a decade rather than a handicapped kid with a rabbit. That's what we've come to. Being a homeless couple, even if the woman has plastic pins in her legs and can't walk, isn't enough. To push society's sympathy button, to get someone to dash out of a newsroom, you've got to have a hat trick: a kid with a wheelchair and a rabbit.

The couple had been together for a year and a half, and each had been on the streets since before Ronald Reagan's re-election. The hamsters had been part of their family for only five days, and looked quite content sleeping in their cage. Oron and Davis were less content with their sleeping arrangements. They hadn't had a room to sleep in or wash in for two-and-a-half months. "Things are much worse since the earthquake," said Oron. "We lost our hot-line hotels."

"We can't take this cold at night," said Alonzo Davis. "We need some kind of indoors."

It was interesting to see who stopped to respond to their sign asking for money for food and shelter for them and their hamsters. During my 15-minute chat with the couple, about 100 financial types walked by, but only two proffered finances. Both were young working women dressed in inexpensive clothes. One had a nice word to say, lit Oron's cigarette and dropped some coins in her cup. The other gave her four cigarettes and also said something kind.

Must people walked by and gave "that kind of look," as Alonzo Davis calls it. "They look like we're an abcess. Sometimes they call us names and tell us to get a job and wash up. Last night a guy came by and shook a stack of 20- and 100-dollar bills at us, then dropped a quarter in the cup and laughed. They think they're better than us because they have a home and a job. What if they were in this situation. Could they face it?"

Barbara Oron was holding the hamsters, who were still sleeping innocent of the knowledge that they didn't have an indoors. "I'll take a shirt off for them if I have to," she said. "See, nobody will take their shirts off for us."

At least not until they get a handicapped kid and a rabbit. That's the sympathy ante for the homeless this census year.

DATES WITH THE DEVIL

&&&& APRIL 7 8:30 A.M. MORPHEUS MIKE HOBSON to be arraigned for "trespass" at World Savings April 6. He was sitting on the steps of the bank and not permitted to leave by armed officers intent on harassing him.

&&&& APRIL 10 8:30 A.M. JABBERWOCKY JAY GREEN, GRASSROOTS GREG, OMAR THE MAGNIFICENT, AND LINDA THE LARK will learn from Muni Court Kelly in Courtroom C. whether the Homeless Table protest is a misdemeanor "Public Nuisance," as charged by Hobohunter Hennig and Mattress-masher Maragonda. Kelly will rule on a defense motion to throw the case out of court ably argued by barebacked barristers Moxie Margaret M., Joshin' Jeff T., Stupefyin' Steve, and Longshot Lane G. Even Grinning Ray Grueneich clucked his tongue in admiration after hearing the Fantastic Four attacked the trumped up Nuisance charge as blatant censorship, instant harassment, and unconstitutionally vague drivel in an April 6 hearing.

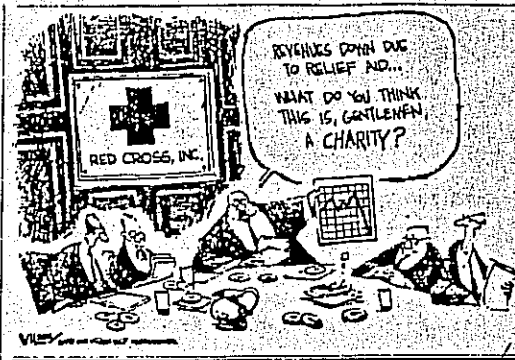
&&&& APRIL 11 10 A.M. JAILTIME JUDITH BEINERT faces yet another sleeping inquisition (JUDGE-ONLY TRIAL) overseen by Whiff-o'-Hope Watts in modular courtroom G--that dumpy brown trailer on the south side of the county courthouse at Ocean and Water.

&&&& APRIL 13 10 A.M. BEINERT gets jacked-up for sleeping again (JUDGE-ONLY TRIAL), once more under the judicial patina of Watts in G. Judith has vowed to go to jail rather than take so-called "community service" time for the "crime" of sleeping.

&&&& APRIL 20 10 A.M. Master sleeper BEINERT goes toe-to-toe with the feds and the D.A. in the long-delayed "trespass on the post office steps" case from last November. This is yet another of the interminable PRE-TRIALS, at which a trial date will be set. She was found there with her felonious bedroll and caught in with her pants down and her p.j.s on. Some witnesses suggest that a mysterious teddybear was lurking somewhere in the background.

&&&& APRIL 20 1:30 P.M. Judge Kelly rules on the discovery motion filed by the Fantastic Four on behalf of JABBERWOCKY, OMAR, GREG, AND LINDA in the January Public Nuisance police harassment case. The attorneys are demanding that the D.A.'s office cough up documents that might show selective prosecution, homeless harassment, etc.

-----  
4 Paul Maragonda, the lustrous lad of D.A.-land, came from San Francisco where he was involved in legal action against Food-Not-Bombs, a much-hassled homeless feeding group. Several weeks ago, he turned the state's guns against Jabberwocky Jay for crying foul in the face of police abuse, but found no ammunition to attack the SCPD sleepgear-stealing that Jay was protesting. Now, the pert paperpusher is turning his talents to defining human beings as disposable trash heaps in this latest Public Nuisance case. Wow, Paul, what's next? Maybe a few of those "one cigarette butt" littering cases? Stylin', man! How low can you go?!



APRIL 20 AFTER 1:30 P.M. PRETRIAL HEARING for JABBERWOCKY, COLESLAW CARL, AND DEADWEIGHT DAVE in first Kitchenquest "trespass" case, at Calamity's/Keystone's Cupboard.\*

APRIL 24 10 A.M. JURY TRIAL FOR RAUCOUS ROCKY STONE\*

APRIL 26 8:30 A.M. and 10 A.M. PRE-TRIALS for KITCHENQUESTERS MARINADE MARY LINCOLN, CALAMITY JANE IMLER, AND LOUDMOUTH LEITH AUSTIN\*

APRIL 26 10:30 A.M. STORMIN' NORMAN GROSS arraigned on misdemeanor Sleeping charges (6.36.050) for trying to rest three times in one night without a house on 4/3/90.

APRIL 27 8:30 A.M. MIDNIGHT MIKE WADDEL arraigned for "trespass" at World Savings April 7 (602(L)), and "false information"(148.9)--or giving a name the police didn't like.

MAY 1 10 A.M. MOONRISE MIKE CARREIRO faces blue-noses and blackrobes for "possessing" herb and/or acid back in December. His TRIAL (jury or judge, not certain at presstime) will be in Courtroom B. Moonrise, currently in jail for sampling psychedelics without a government grant, also has five sleeping trials coming down the road, which he promises to contest, before or after he emerges from the jail catacombs on May 3.

MAY 7 8:30 A.M. PADDYWAGON PETE COULTER gets arraigned for "Public Nuisance" (actually Public Service) at the Homeless Table in an April 7th bust.

MAY 7 10:00 A.M. Tentative JURY TRIAL date for LOUDMOUTH LEITH AUSTIN.\*

Advice to courtroom newcomers: Arraignments may take hours before they come up, and are very brief: they involve taking a plea and setting bail if any. Pre-trials may involve debate on interesting motions, but are often postponed. Actual jury trials are the most important, with the initial hours spent on jury selection. All parts of the process are public. Warning: As an introduction to the local Just-Us system, the bailiff may demand you find a house to store your backpacks or leave them in the hall outside the courtroom. Our response is often to ignore such ignorant demands and stack them in a neat heap within view inside the courtroom.

\* For details see Street Shit Sheet #69, p. 14.

## Homeless suggestion an outrage

In response to Ted Foster's Feb. 11 commentary, I would like to express my deep shock and anger that I felt after reading his suggestion to implement a "new method of incarceration" to force homeless people to live in former military bases, under the control of former military personnel. He says "the military have the skill necessary to operate these facilities." He makes no mention of whether they are qualified to provide care for people.

His use of the word "incarceration" and the generalizations he makes later either suggests that all homeless people are criminals or that the state should incarcerate people who have committed no crime. Is it a crime to be unemployed? Is it a crime to be unable to afford a place to live? I find this a totally outrageous suggestion, based on selfishness and a deep lack of understanding of our society's problem of homelessness. He chooses to ignore the question of why people become homeless in the first place.

I agree that the number of homeless people in the United States is a national disgrace and that it affects everyone. However, the extent to which it affects people varies quite a bit, depending largely on one's financial status. Those who are wealthy enough to live in the suburbs are usually not affected on a daily basis. They usually do not have to confront their guilt while they're shopping, as do the people in larger cities.

Foster states that certain "instances in Santa Cruz of unreliable behavior...have made citizens reluctant to visit areas the street people inhabit, namely the central shopping area and city parks." Who does he think omitted the "unreliable behavior"? Weren't they citizens? Aren't they supposedly equal to the citizens who are reluctant to go shopping?

What he is implying by suggesting incarceration is that some citizens should have more rights than others, reducing freedom to mere economic freedom. Those who can afford it, ought to be incarcerated.

Susanah J. Copi  
Santa Cruz  
3/6/90

## FLYERS FOR THE FREEDOM-FIGHTERS!

For those of you who have been faithfully reading the *Street Shit Sheet* (and those who haven't), here's a listing of *Street Shit* and flyers that we've turned out since the earthquake. A copy can be had, free to borrow, if you call 427-1205. We also hope to have a complete set of them in the Santa Cruz Library, Main Branch, once we finish xeroxing.

November: 11/5: *Street Sheet* #60 (12 pp) 11/7: "Lie Down and Be Counted"/A Letter to the Community 11/20: *Street Sheet* #61 (16 pp) 11/22: *Street Sheet* #62 (6 pp) 11/26: *Street Shet* #63 (16 pp)  
December: 12/6: *Street Sheet* #64 (20 pp) 12/10: *Street Sheet* #65 (16 pp)

-13-

## SF Chronicle 3/24/90 No Charges in Killing Of Homeless John Doe

A New York City grand jury declined yesterday to indict a construction worker who said he had acted in self-defense when he killed a homeless man by slugging his head onto a subway platform in Manhattan in January.

Rodney J. Sumter, who faced a charge of first-degree manslaughter, said, "I never meant to hurt that unfortunate man who attacked me."

Sumter said he was forced to defend himself when the man spat at him and attacked him and his 3-year-old son twice without provocation.

The homeless man, described as a person who had often harassed people at the station, has not been identified.

D.P. 3/13/90

## Activists for homeless promise more protests

By BOB SMITH  
SANTA CRUZ WRITER

A group of homeless activists served notice this morning to Santa Cruz County officials that they will again take to the streets, demanding new rights for the county's street people.

Activist Jane Imler and about a half-dozen supporters quietly left the supervisors' chambers this morning after she made her statement to the board.

"We are now going to return to the original aims of the program — to empower the homeless and to reassert basic human rights," Imler told the supervisors.

"We must all have the right to sleep unmolested, the right to feed ourselves without harassment, the right to live day-to-day without fear of sudden violence or incarceration.

"We are shifting our efforts back to ending oppressive city and county laws and practices that make homeless people second-class citizens."

Today's statements came a week after a group of about a dozen protesters closed the supervisors' meeting. At issue is the kitchen at the River Street

Shelter in Santa Cruz, which Imler wants to use to prepare food to give away. Imler has rejected the offer of a county-owned kitchen at the Emeline Street health center.

The county-owned kitchen was one of several offered to Imler by County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello at a meeting following last week's demonstration. A half-dozen activists were arrested after that meeting when they refused to leave the county government center after closing time.

Imler made it clear to the supervisors this morning that the only kitchen they would use was at the River Street Shelter. They contend that they should be allowed to use the shelter's kitchen, which is unused for about three hours daily, to prepare their meals. County officials have supported shelter managers in not allowing the double use of the shelter kitchen.

Other matters Imler promised to protest include a ban on sleeping outdoors between 11 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and the county's refusal to prosecute hotels and restaurants that refuse service to the homeless.

## FLYERS FOR THE FREEDOM-FIGHTERS!

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December: 12/6: Street Sheet #64 (20 pp) 12/10: Street Sheet #65 (22 pp) 12/? : "When is Stealing Blankets from Shivering Sleepers Not a Crime?" 12/? : "Fight Your Sleeping Ticket"  
January: 1/22: Sentinel/Register-Pajaronian letter-reprints 1/23: The specifics of the blanketsnatching, city council speech, 1/? : Public Nuisance or Public Menace 1/27: Street Sheet #66 (14 pp)

February: 2/5: Street Sheet #67 (24 pp) 2/6: "Calamity's Cupboard Closes!" 2/7?: "SWAP TEAM II--The Sequel--('We're Back!') 2/13: City Council Speech 2/24: "How UCSC Students can Really Help the Homeless Downtown" 2/28: "They're At It Again: Denny's Dunks Homeless"

March: 3/5: "River St. Shelter: Stop Playing Politics!" 3/? : "999 Points of Light" 3/8: "The Issue is a Certified Kitchen not the Food Pavilion" 3/10: Street Sheet #68 (2 pp) 3/12: "...Selling out to Bigotry..." 3/13: Jane Imler's Press Statement 3/13: "Protest Police & City Hall Oppression of the Homeless" 3/16: Reprint, R-P letter, reply to "Who Speaks for the Homeless?" editorial 3/16: Judith Beinert's Hunger Strike Press Statement 3/17: "Everything you always wanted to know about the Homeless Table..." 3/21?: "What do civil liberties mean in America if they mean nothing for the homeless in Santa Cruz?" 3/27: Speech at City Council 3/30: Street Sheet #69 (26 pp).

(Next Issue: An updating of this list + a listing of newspaper clippings on homeless issues.)

EDITOR EATS CROW: PUBLIC APOLOGY TO POLICE VICTIMS:

Last issue, the Street Shit Sheet aggravated the apprehensions of at least one long-time homeless activist by mentioning the slumberniches of sleepseekers driven from the Homeless Table. On the early morning of April 3 (see story below) sleepers were ticketed for the first time at one of these sites. The angry activist suggested that the bedroll-busting bluebellies learned of their whereabouts through these pages.

In the past we have chided this activist for hot personal attacks masked as policy disputes. When personal needs for power and/or support explode as hostility towards other activists, we've headed for the nearest door muttering and growling.

This time we must admit this activist was right. Though noone else (other than the activist) has complained to the Street Sheet about the issue, facts are facts, and innocent sleepers were harassed and ticketed, probably because of our lack of caution and consideration.

We thought that the places we mentioned were relatively well-known and visible already to the city's armed sleep-rapists. We thought further that the city was interested in ticketing mainly "high-visibility protest sleepers," and not in beating the bushes for folks. Finally, we believed that the activists who have been getting tickets and getting arrested night-after-night next to the post office, didn't mind our mentioning their alternate sleeping spots.

We were at least partially wrong on all counts. Additionally we apparently have led Basset's Hounds to other lower-profile "non-protesting" sleepers who were also using these areas. All we can say is: we're sorry. And it won't happen again. Future sleeping spots will remain a matter of privacy for those fortunate enough to find a bit of sanctuary from Santa Cruz's misguided keystone cops. To the angry activist, we say: we apologize for our error in judgement and hope that you and others do not suffer further because of it.

spots.

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3 20-90 5C 575 11-21  
**Democracy is as simple as a meal**

The cooperation, good will and hard work of Santa Cruz citizens in their efforts to plan the rebuilding of downtown give me cause to feel proud to be a member of this city. We have shown that, when united for a common goal, we can put aside our differences and cooperate effectively. Yet despite our unification in the desire to rebuild the mall, we are not a community. By definition, a community is a group of people who share with one another. There are over 300 people in our city with whom we are sharing. I'm talking about the homeless situation in Santa Cruz.

For the past seven months, I've been a volunteer at a shelter for the homeless downtown. I took for people, eat with them, attend Narcotics Anonymous meetings with them. Before working at the shelter, I had no idea of the complexity of the homeless situation in this city. There are hundreds of people who have no place to live and nothing to eat in Santa Cruz, yet only a few facilities to house and feed them. This isn't to say there are no facilities available in town. There are many concerned and active volunteers and even a kitchen that could feed up to 200 people a day. Yet that kitchen in the River Street Shelter remains closed due to a mess of bureaucratic red tape.

Depriving a person of the sustenance of life is not democratic. Santa Cruz citizens have demanded a democratic approach to rebuilding the city. Well, democracy and justice can be as grand as having a

voice in the future of a city and as simple as a free cup of hot soup.

Maureen O'Leary  
Santa Cruz

**A need was filled**

The recent article in the Sentinel did not really explain what Valley Churches United is hoping to resolve, regarding the Red Cross response in north Santa Cruz County following the Oct 17 earthquake.

Many Red Cross dedicated volunteers were on the scene immediately. Because the quake hit so many areas, no one organization could possibly have responded better. Our debate with the Red Cross stems because in north Santa Cruz County where 185 homes were either totally destroyed or seriously damaged. Red Cross was able to offer shelter and meals at St. Michaels in Boulder Creek but the people were seeking immediate medical help, food, emergency repairs, camp gear, rain gear, water and money for lodging.

All these things Red Cross publicizes they give immediately but could not. So we did. We billed them for the period from Oct 18 to Oct 28. Before donations came in to Valley Churches United we had to make a decision to expend our food pantry funds to help the victims of this disaster. Our dedicated volunteers and community volunteers were able to meet this immediate need.

At a meeting with the Red Cross on Oct 29, I told them we intended to bill the Red Cross. With millions of dollars donated to help the victims of this quake, we felt that we deserved to be reimbursed.

Our goal for north Santa Cruz County is to have a Red Cross outpost right here at Valley Churches United in times of disaster where 943 families and 3,042 people came for assistance and where we received and distributed in kind and cash donations of \$465,000. We thank all organizations who helped in any way.

Annette Marcum, volunteer director  
Don Lamont

**NOTICE TO NEWSMAKERS:** The Street Shit Sheet is eager to correct any errors it may have made and will print replies to any item appearing here. We attempt to confirm our stories through a number of sources, but our limited resources cramp our style. Police officers, who feel they have been unfairly treated, will receive equal rebuttal space and free coffee at the Homeless Table.



# Homeless find rich new haven: Marin County

## But residents oppose shelters

By Morrison Shafrath  
SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

**SAN RAFAEL** — Time was, you could walk down the suburban streets of San Rafael and not be asked for a quarter, or stroll along Sausalito's promenade and see no panhandlers. But times have changed in Marin County.

On the eve of the U.S. Census Bureau's effort to count the nation's street people, it appears that California's wealthiest county may be a new haven for the homeless. It's estimated that Marin County's homeless population increased four-fold in the last year to 2,000.

The county's homeless numbers, while still much smaller than San Francisco's, have jumped because of people coming from The City and other Bay Area cities. A debate has arisen over how to care for these new arrivals.

### Problem could worsen

Over the last year, the county has been deluged with studies and proposals to shelter and rehabilitate the homeless. About \$350,000 has been raised to build a permanent shelter. But the outpouring of humanity has been tempered by other concerns: that construction of homeless shelters would lower property values and attract more street people to Marin.

"Nobody wants them in their neighborhood," said Ron Moresco, owner of a grocery store near the county's temporary shelter in San Rafael. "As long as you don't have to see them or deal with them, fine, but my business went down every time they were panhandling around here."

Other neighbors of the 90-bed shelter in the Santa Venetia neighborhood share Moresco's views.

"There's been a lot of anxiety, especially on the part of the general public, over the reality of homelessness right here in Marin," said the Rev. Bill Wilms of the Marin Lutheran Church in Corte Madera.

Wilms headed a 10-member citizens commission, appointed last October, to find long-term solutions to homelessness and determine where to build a shelter with \$350,000 in donations.

After five months of community meetings, the commission, which included two homeless members, recommended that several community-based shelters be built throughout Marin County. Wilms said. The commission will issue a final report to the Marin

"Different parts of the county have totally different needs, and we've got to do all we can to meet them," he said. "You can't do that with one shelter."

The commission study arose after Marin County supervisors failed to find a suitable home for a permanent shelter.

They had studied two options — erecting a citrus-type tent that would serve as a temporary shelter and using the abandoned Hamilton Field barracks in Novato as a permanent homeless shelter — but in both cases, residents opposed having a shelter built in their neighborhood, and the plans were scrapped.

### Attempt to lessen opposition

The community shelter proposal may have as much difficulty winning citizen approval, but backers think that by dispersing shelters throughout the county, the impact will be lessened.

"Nobody's going to want a homeless shelter next door, but if everybody participated, it won't be so hard," said Barbara Thunen, county administrative analyst.

"The homeless population is not a threat; the shelter is not a threat," said Ron Pasquanello, executive director of the Marin Housing Center, which operates four shelters in San Rafael. "We can build shelters so they don't destroy property values and safety."

Fears that homeless people are migrating to Marin County have made some residents cautious about building a shelter.

At community hearings, Wilms said, there have been people who voiced concern that "if we do too much, then Marin will become a haven for the homeless."

But Wilms said that on balance, Marin "exports more homeless than it imports," because people are forced out by the county's high cost of living.

The county's 90-bed temporary shelter at the National Guard Armory in San Rafael operates from December to April.

It serves hot meals prepared by Project Open Hand of San Francisco, and offers showers, coats, health care, job counseling, and a TV and VCR. Homeless people are brought to the shelter by vans that pick them up at four bus stops.



### Homeless focus of discrimination

As an activist and student at UCSC, I find myself both aware and concerned about the alarming situation of the homeless people in our country. Laws exist in our community that affect the homeless adversely and both law enforcement officials and business owners have been acting in a prejudiced manner that directly attacks the human rights of these people. This I find rather alarming, just as I am alarmed when anyone's human rights are threatened.

With the issue of human rights fresh in my mind, I wish to raise a question. When a person is homeless, whether they have chosen that lifestyle or have been forced to accept it, do they truly differ from those individuals who have homes and live in this manner? Does anyone have the right to place judgement on any person based on the state of their residence, whether it be the street, the dormitories, or the house in the hills?

Many people are under the assumption that all homeless people are failures, are suffering from mental illness, or are some sort of victim. Obviously, a stereotype is at play here, just as people stereotype women, homosexuals, people of color and the handicapped in our society as being inferior or the victim of our society. Though I do not deny that many of the homeless do need help and would surely appreciate a roof over their heads, there actually do exist women and men who have willingly chosen a homeless lifestyle. What we're talking about is a conscious and rational decision to adopt this way of life.

I am outraged that homeless people are penalized and ticketed by police officers for sleeping outside of buildings and on the streets. This is blatant and unwarranted prejudice and it deserves the same amount of attention that we see at the protests at Lockheed and on the UCSC campus concerning the democratic rights of students.

Suzanna Goldenstein  
Santa Cruz

## DISASTER OF THE WEEK

MATERIAL COLLECTED BY...  
...being used to support the...  
...agents to blame demonstra...  
...for an act of...  
...violence. And demonstrators...  
...who hoped that federal...  
...agents would investigate...  
...charges — based on...  
...evidence that those...  
...revelations.

Just weeks after a federal grand jury announced that the San Francisco Police Commission...  
...had over-voiced charges made...  
...the Office of Citizen Com...  
...plaints at 3...  
...Bureau.

At some time now the...  
...demonstrations if any...  
...violence occurs, and I...  
...charges are...  
...Police officers...  
...provide a...  
...the events...  
...have identified advocates...  
...have supported the...  
...a means of protecting the

Condensed version



actual--that seek to outlaw begging and sleeping in public are another kick in the head that the homeless do not deserve.

In Berkeley, the number of police patrolling the Telegraph Ave. area has doubled. The latest attack was from the U.C. Berkeley police in the dead of night. They removed a kitchen run by Catholic Workers from People's Park, which had been feeding many homeless in that area.

In New York, a vagrant was killed on a subway platform when he allegedly menaced a commuter. A law banning panhandling in the subways failed only due to the intervention of a U.S. District Judge, Leonard Sand, who struck it down as unconstitutional.

There are those in our community trying to depict the homeless as teen runaways, ex-convicts, cocaine addicts, and thieves. Homeless are tagged as sick people suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction, physical ailments, and mental disorders. Critics claim that those who want to be helped are already being cared for in city-sponsored shelters and welfare hotels. Those left on the streets and parks; it is claimed, are the undesirable with erratic behavior who "could be dangerous." Many who seek harsher enforcement of restrictive laws claim the homeless are so incapacitated by addiction or illness that they simply will not make it or seek aid voluntarily.

These reactionaries, who call for more aggressive police action against panhandlers and homeless generally, are calling for "benign incarceration." They seek to lock people up in treatment centers, work farms, and jails. They want to repeal the Lantermann-Petris-Short Act, which makes it illegal to involuntarily incarcerate the mentally ill.<sup>5</sup>

Quoting a recent

Rand corporation study that claims 30% of the homeless have severe mental disorders, these critics say there's no use in methods that rely exclusively on voluntary acceptance of help. Using these and other outrageous statistics, they reason and prepare for a greater stranglehold on those already oppressed.

I'm calling on all vets and any concerned to speak out.

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I'm calling on all vets and any concerned to speak out. Contact those in the community whose responsibility it is to serve the needs of all citizens. Stop the oppression. Stop the rejection. If you are a vet, and would like to get involved, please call me at 427-4533.

### CALIFORNIA WALK

Note

The Walk across America started with 12 walkers and about \$200.00, 1 support vehicle and some cooking utensils. All the way across the country, the Walk received enough support from local people to continue the journey. The media, (Press and Television) was abundant and overwhelmingly favorable, keeping the issues of homelessness and poverty in America on the front burner of Election Year Dialogue. We feel a California Walk can help accomplish much the same with State and Regional issues, especially by having the Walk after building momentum and miles to arrive in Sacramento for the governor's election. At which time we can list our agenda and seek answers from the new administration.

For those who go on the Walk, there is the added plus of being a part of something unique and immensely satisfying. We hope you will join us!  
The Walk is set to leave Santa Barbara on April 20th, 1990.  
Call or write to:

Santa Barbara Homeless Coalition  
P.O. Box 41304  
Santa Barbara, California  
93140  
(805) 564-1109

5 Unless they are "a danger to themselves, a danger to others, or gravely disabled" (Editor's note).



- Mon., 4/9 - 2:00 — Board of Supervisors, City Hall
- Tues., 4/10 - Health Commission, 101 Grove St., Room 300, call 554-2666 for times
- Tues., 4/10 - 2:00 — Administration & Oversight Committee (Board of Supervisors), 228 City Hall
- Tues., 4/10 - 4:00 — Redevelopment Agency, 7th floor, 939 Ellis
- Wed., 4/11 - 10:00 — Port Commission, Ferry Bldg, Room 3100
- Wed., 4/11 - 2:00 — Finance Committee (Board of Supervisors), 228 City Hall
- Wed., 4/11 - 5:30 — Police Commission, 551 Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant
- Thurs., 4/12 - 1:30 — Planning Commission, 282 City Hall
- Thurs., 4/12 - 2:00 — Economic & Social Policy Committee (Board of Supervisors), 228 City Hall
- Thurs., 4/12 - 4:00 — Housing Authority, 440 Turk
- Mon., 4/16 - 2:00 — Board of Supervisors, City Hall
- Tues., 4/17 - Health Commission, 101 Grove St., Room 300, call 554-2666 for

the from  
 FRANCISCO  
 STREET  
 one of our  
 competitors  
 to the market  
 these are  
 these are  
 S. F. DATA'S

WELCOME NEWCOMERS TO THE HOMELESS POPULATION

If the drought has caused you to be laid off and you are not eligible for unemployment benefits, and you can only cover one or two more months rent, you are ready to join the ranks of the homeless. Now as a non-citizen of Santa Barbara you have two basic choices..

- 1) is to leave town and ~~find~~ America endlessly and be labelled a transient bum without roots.
- 2) is to stay in town and go hungry and get arrested for sleeping, the police will confiscate all your possessions and throw them away and label you a transient bum without roots.

If neither of these choices sound good to you then you can understand the frustration and plight of being homeless and living on the streets of America. If these facts bring fear into your heart, GOOD, because fear is something you will have to live with your whole homeless life both while your awake and asleep.

You, on the fringes of homelessness can help stop this degradation of human beings. Call or write your elected officials and relay your fears to them. Call the HOMELESS COALITION at 564-1109 and find out what you can do at the grass roots level.. Act now and help before it's too late.....|!!!!|

Colin's a Santa Barbara COLIN ATHERTON  
 Knight-of-the-road, who was at homeless American

the Sacramento Housing 1990 Coalition meet that  
 endorsed a July 4 sleep-in, rally in Santa Cruz.

Every day without adequate shelter was a day of chaos and confusion. My personal belongings were scattered in three separate locations throughout town. The basic functions of bathing, dressing, and going to the bathroom became overly complicated tasks. On one cold night I awoke at Jam, my body shivering with fever and my toes totally numb. An hour later I was again awoken, this time by officer James Lunnen, who so kindly wrote me my second ticket and informed me that if I did not move on he would take me to jail. Throughout all of this I was looking for a new job and a place to live. I can not overemphasize how psychologically destructive it is to be homeless. Every day became an ordeal and by the end of the week I was mentally exhausted and physically sick. How much more of this could I have taken before I lost my sanity and my job?

I do not expect life on a silver platter, but I do not expect to be ticketed or jailed either. Homeless people need to wear warm sleeping bags, not carrot suits. I do not ask to be pitied, merely to be treated with dignity and compassion. Failing this, you could have at least ignored me.

I am a human being. I have a birthright to a safe, secure place to sleep. Why is it illegal for me to sleep in this town where I live, work, vote, and pay city taxes?

Mardi Wormhoudt, Mayor  
 809 Center Street  
 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Ms. Wormhoudt:

This is an open letter to you, the Vice Mayor, the council members, and the police officers of Santa Cruz.

In early February I had an argument with a girlfriend who was living in the same house that I was. During the course of our argument I threatened her with violence. We both agreed that the only right thing for me to do was to move out. She felt frightened and did not want me living in the same house as her. I was shocked myself and decided to treat her in the way I would want to be treated if I were in her shoes.

I posted a one-month notice and walked out the next morning. After feeling suicidal and spending the night in the Dominican Mental Health Unit, I went to the house of some friends, who agreed that I could stay for a week. After this I stayed with some other friends for two weeks.

I was employed part time as a delivery person for...

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I was employed part time as a driver for Care-A-Van. I had been grossing 500.00 per month. After taxes, rent, utilities, food, and a little pocket money for the weekends, there was scarcely anything left to save. When I moved out of my home I had almost no savings.

After using up my stays with friends, I borrowed a tent and began camping in the woods at UCSC. But less than a week later I was, busted by the nightwatch and forced to leave by the police.

I then called every single shelter that exists in Santa Cruz, all to no avail: River Street Shelter? Sorry, full. New Life Center? Sorry, full. First Step Family Shelter? Sorry, full. St. Francis' shelter? Sorry, full. I called the Shelter Project but they could not help me. Nor could my crisis counselor at Emeline.

There is a Satellite Shelter Program which I used one weekend. I was taken in a van, along with other homeless people, to a church in Aptos. The next morning we were returned to Santa Cruz. But ironically, I could not use this service because I held a job. I had to be at work by 6:30am, and as many of the participating churches were located out of town, I was not guaranteed a return trip this early.

Having exhausted all possible legal avenues, I was left with only one recourse: to sleep on public property - i.e. the sidewalk- and risk being ticketed and jailed. I was ticketed twice in one week. I am told that the standard fine is 138.00 per ticket, not to be less than 50.00 per ticket. Ticketing the homeless for sleeping is illogical and ludicrous! Explain to me, Ms. Wormhoudt, how you intend one to save up for first, last, and deposit if one is paying off ticket after ticket?

A week ago I was fortunate to become employed as a live-in care provider for six developmentally disabled men. At last I have a room of my own! Since my confrontation I have been regularly seeing an excellent counselor and participating in meetings of Men's Alternatives To Violence. This therapy has been helpful, and I feel much healthier now than I did a month ago. But my weeklong experience on the streets has left me feeling angry and resentful.

I do not expect life on a silver platter, but I do not expect to be ticketed or jailed either. Homeless people need to wear warm sleeping bags, not carrot suits. I do not ask to be pitied, merely to be treated with dignity and compassion. Failing this, you could have at least ignored me.

I am a human being. I have a birthright to a safe, secure place to sleep. Why is it illegal for me to sleep in this town where I live, work, vote, and pay city taxes?

To officer Lunnen and my other brothers and sisters of the law I say this: if your hearts are so imprisoned by the metal badges that you wear overtop of them, if you truly believe that you can in good conscience fulfill your obligations to "protect and serve" by making the lives of homeless citizens more complicated, chaotic, and difficult than they already are, go ahead and write your tickets. In doing so you serve neither the homeless nor the housed: you only exacerbate our crisis.

Mardi Wormhoudt, Jane Yokoyama, Joseph Chio, John Laird, Don Lane, John Mahaney, and Katherine Belers; each of you support the camping ban. I have this to say to each of you: Your positions are callous and rude. Your support of the camping ban demonstrates a lack of compassion that makes you unfit for public office. I voted for many of you. I feel hurt and betrayed that you and your laws are against me. I promise you, I will not forget my experience. Some of you are up for re-election this November. Unless you move to repeal the camping ban, or to create some viable alternative - such as a land sanctuary - I will see you in the voting booth and I will cast my votes against you. Furthermore, if I am ever again without shelter I will exercise my human right to sleep in any safe public place that I damn please.

You elected officials are responsible and accountable for the legislation that is behind the two tickets I received. I will contest your tickets in court. I have committed no crime, and thus I refuse to pay your tickets or perform any community service in lieu of payment. Having been sufficiently radicalized by my experience, I want you to know that my only community service will be to fight your outrageously idiotic laws.

To live without a home is to live in a state of emergency. REPEAL THE CAMPING BAN NOW!

Sincerely,

Yahsahweh  
133 Hammond Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
March 26, 1990

MORE JABBERINGS FROM JABBERWOCKY JAY

(Jay Green is a puckish activist who once lived in a long cardboard box at the Homeless Table near the post office until it was seized by Officer Lunnen, in mid-December when he was arrested for criminal sleeping. Since then Green has become the Senator of Slumberprotest, amassing more than 40 citations, in his persistent campaign to legalize homeless sleeping. It may be through his eloquence in Sacramento that the Sleeping Ban will be overturned. [story in Street Sheet #71] Back in the winter, Jay was circulating the following letter for all interested citizens to sign. The letter has been edited but not abridged.)

Dear President Bush,

Please be advised that in Santa Cruz California a harsh and cruel form of local government has taken hold. It has been carrying out a program of oppression designed to drive homeless people out of town in order to enhance the city's image as a wealthy, upscale, and aloof tourist town. This program, though directed mostly against the homeless people themselves, is also extended towards the charitable people and organizations seeking to help the destitute, effectively snuffing out many of the points of light that you have described to the American people

Human rights violations have become police policy, and unconstitutional civil ordinances are rigorously and brutally enforced against homeless persons. Our protests have met with the kind of opposition typical of a fascist police state. Many of us are more than concerned that this is the direction our local government has taken.

Since it is your sworn duty to uphold and enforce the constitution of the United States, I desperately urge you to investigate the situation developing in Santa Cruz. The homeless citizens here are being pushed beyond the breaking point by abusive police action and unreasonable administrative runarounds, fines, and jailings. Please demonstrate to us that the federal government won't allow local authorities to take priority and place themselves over the constitution of the United States. Act swiftly as Santa Cruz is not unique in having this problem, and the protests that begin to could have national and even international implications.

I am,

Jay Green  
c/o 614 Hanover St.  
Santa Cruz CA 95062

P.S. Protect our rights because yours do follow.

-----  
6 arbitrary jailings, some brutality, silence from responsible city officials--Street Shit Sheet editor





# SANTA BARBARA HOMELESS COALITION

P.O. Box 41304 Santa Barbara, CA 93140 803-564-1109 803-683-3369 = 2nd H.

DEDICATED TO EFFECTIVE ACTIVISM

Below you will find a "sampling" of our Actions and Activities in the last 5 years.

- 1) Through demonstrations and legal work, we were able to get homeless people the right to vote in the State of California.
- 2) We have done numerous walks, protests, and encampments at Ronald Reagan's ranch over issues both local and national and international.
- 3) GO TO SIERP IN SANTA BARBARA AND GO TO JATI NATIONAL Campaign against laws and ordinances that TARGET the homeless.
- 4) A 6 month siege of City Hall steps and grounds DAY and NIGHT to rescind Anti-Sleep laws.
- 5) An election year (1988) WALK ACROSS AMERICA FOR THE HOMELESS AND POOR (Santa Barbara to Washington D.C.)
- 6) Participants in the National Homeless Coalition Convention in Chicago, Illinois.
- 7) Participants in the West Coast Caravan to Housing Now (Oct 7-1989) Rally. Also helped with National Coalition protest of H.U.D. Practices and Policies.
- 8) Local Sleepout/Protest of the serious undercount by the local Census Bureau on the homeless.
- 9) Effective jobbing for Emergency Shelters and Medical Care for the Homeless and Poor.
- 10) Constant Monitoring of Government; City-State- and Federal.
- 11) We have successfully run the National Guard Armory of Santa Barbara Emergency Shelter 3 years in a row (87-90) as the most Cost Efficient in the State!

records showing Helen's medical records showing wrist injury.

Houndlover Helen's medical records showing wrist injury.

*Wrist Pain*

|         |          |                       |             |
|---------|----------|-----------------------|-------------|
| DATE    | TIME     | LOCATION              | DESCRIPTION |
| 1/20/87 | 10:00 AM | ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL | Wrist Pain  |
| 1/20/87 | 10:00 AM | ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL | Wrist Pain  |

5 F SCIENCE 3/21/90

## Undercount of The Homeless

THE CENSUS BUREAU began its efforts last night to count the nation's homeless, but a massive undercount is inevitable and San Francisco and other major cities face losing a fair share of federal funds unless there are compensatory adjustments in the final population figures.

The bureau's "Street and Shelter Night" represents the first formal attempt by the federal government to tabulate the homeless population. Across the country, estimates of the homeless range from a few hundred thousand to 3 million or more. In San Francisco, where the guess is from 8,000 to 15,000, the task of finding and counting them was undertaken by 250 census workers.

**The Census Bureau will never be able to find everyone**

A leading spokesman for the homeless here, Josh Brandon, told Chronicle staff writer Ramon G. McLeod that the Census Bureau's efforts are well-intentioned, "but they are now acknowledging that they won't find everyone."

The national canvass on April 1 is expected to miss thousands of minority members and poor people in inner cities, which means that these metropolitan areas will be deprived of political representation and hundreds of millions of dollars in federal aid. Statistical techniques exist for calculating adjustments to the original census figures and it becomes the duty of Secretary of Commerce Robert Mosbacher to order a correction for any significant inequities.

Back in Berkeley

→

3/2/90 Gay Suvada  
**ALL HELL  
 BREAKS LOOSE  
 AT BERKELEYS  
 BARRINGTON HALL**

THE BERKELEY police raid at Barrington Hall last Friday has set off a legal and political furor that could have serious repercussions for the Berkeley Police Department.

What started out as a poetry reading at Berkeley's most notorious student residence hall ended up with at least 30 police officers arriving to oust the estimated 65 people gathered there. Some witnesses refer to the incident as a police riot, charging the police used more force

we have successfully run the National Guard Armory of Santa Barbara Emergency Shelter 3 years in a row (R7-90) as the most Cost Efficient in the State!

Houndlover Helen's medical records showing wrist injury. Her doctor? None other than Gang of 7 member John Mahoney!

American Red Cross

| LAST NAME | FIRST NAME | RELATIONSHIP | ADDRESS              | CITY          | STATE | ZIP   |
|-----------|------------|--------------|----------------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| Larley    | Helen      |              | Civic Center Shelter | San Francisco | CA    | 94102 |
| Larley    | Helen      |              | Civic Center Shelter | San Francisco | CA    | 94102 |

PATIENT'S RECORD

Wrist Pain - 10-23-89  
 Rx ASA - 10-23-89  
 Wrist Pain - 10-23-89  
 Wrist Pain - 10-23-89

13-89 Incident happened 2 days ago. Was handcuffed by Police - "Houndluffs" too tight causing bony prominences in R wrist pain. Incident was reported immediately and Helen now requests icepack & A.S.A. A.S.A for R icepack to R wrist applied. Albiston for

Tylenol  
 100 mg. po. E. Brown  
 po. E. Brown  
 700 mg. Tylenol  
 100 mg. Tylenol  
 100 mg. Tylenol  
 100 mg. Tylenol

THE BERKELEY police raid at Barrington Hall last Friday has set off a legal and political furor that could have serious repercussions for the Berkeley Police Department.

What started out as a poetry reading at Berkeley's most notorious student residence hall ended up with at least 30 police officers arriving to clear the estimated 65 people gathered there. Some witnesses refer to the incident as a police riot, charging the police used more force than was necessary. The police report blames the riot on the protesters for the violence they encountered.

The Berkeley police claimed that the poetry reading and party attended by the hall's residents and their invited guests was a violation of a court-ordered injunction banning public gatherings there, and declared it an unlawful assembly.

When the Barringtonians argued that it was a private gathering, not a public party, and refused to leave, police in riot gear quickly moved in with clubs and mace.

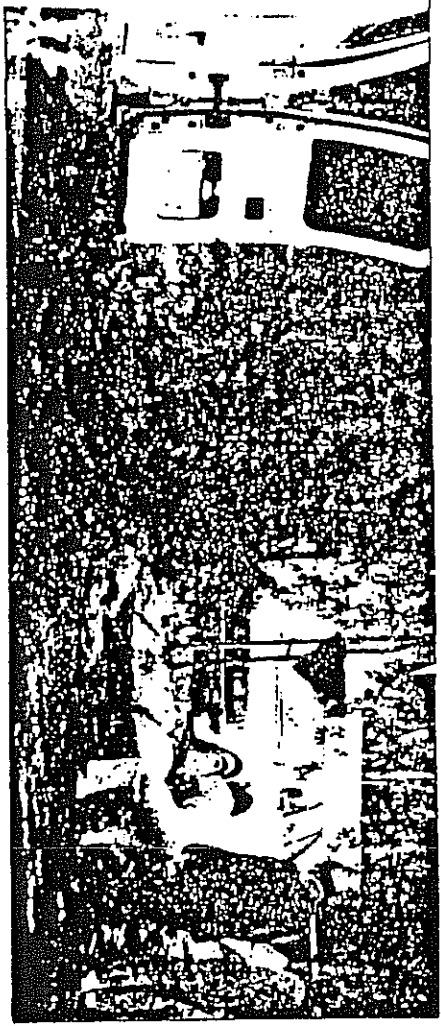
Barrington Hall, one of 18 student residence halls affiliated with the Berkeley-based University Students Cooperative Association (USCA), has long had a reputation for being a center of campus activism. But in recent years, allegations of drug use, loud parties and legal disputes with neighbors led to a vote last November to close down Barrington. Most of the residents left over the Christmas break, but a core of about 15 have remained, challenging the legitimacy of the vote. The USCA is trying to evict the remaining residents and their landlord-tenant dispute is pending in court.

USCA General Manager George Propper, who backed the hall's closing and obtained the injunction, had asked police to enforce the prohibition against public parties. When police intervened, the violent incident lasted nearly three hours. The police report speaks of the wedge line and jabbing baton techniques the officers used and highlights the bottles and bricks thrown at them. But it has no mention of the incidents that Barringtonians describe, including severe beatings, kicked-in doors and smashed computer and stereo equipment. The residents show off their bruises, broken bones and gashes in indignant disbelief.

Barrington residents told the Bay Guardian they refused to disperse because they felt that as legal tenants the police had no right to throw them out of their own homes. Tenant attorney Sam Trosow, who is representing the residents in their legal dispute, said their rights were violated when the police forcibly ejected them for

# Homeless woman found dead

The body of a woman was discovered Monday near the on-ramp to northbound Interstate 880 from North First Street in San Jose. People arriving at work in a nearby First Street building spotted the body through a fence near their parking lot, said detective Lt. Richard Arca. Arca's investigators identified the woman as Lucia Rothwell, 63, Rothwell, who was homeless, did not have any visible wounds, according to homicide detectives sent to the scene.



Workers remove the body of Lucia Rothwell, who was found dead Monday

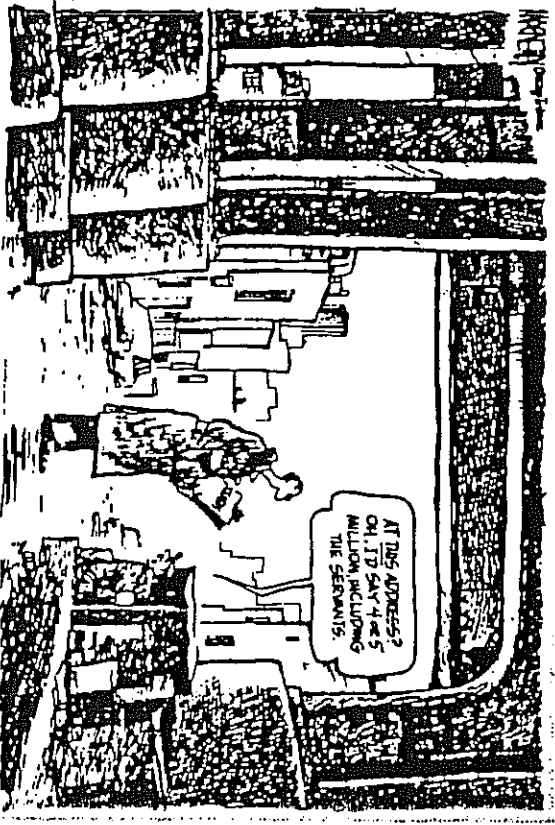
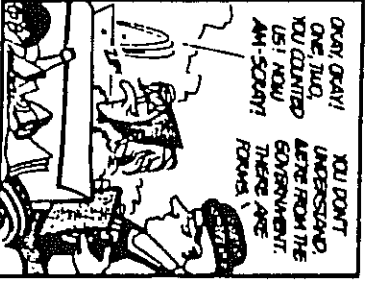
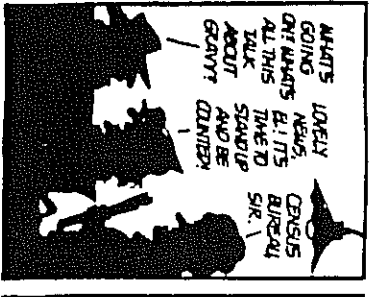
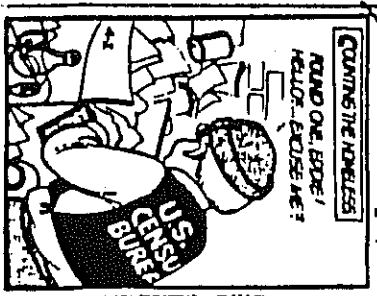
Richard Whittam Mercury News

## Keep the mall; give us business

I deplore your large-type statement that "People want their mall back... What people? Merchants? Hotels? Shoppers?" Most women I know (over 50) say they have not shopped on the downtown mall in years. They have been driven away because the mall is dirty. There are too many people just hanging out or not moving purposely to conduct business. They are afraid of being "hassled" for money.

I commend the excellent progressive suggestions of the committee of outside planners that was supported in the March 18 editorial of the Sentinel. Particularly, I approve of the idea of an esplanade along the San Lorenzo River, similar to the renovated riverway in San Antonio, Texas. Downtown should be a business area if Santa Cruz is to survive, not a hang-out. Flora Louise Provis Santa Cruz

SC 354 Tne1 4/1/78



Parading down the pike Next Issue: there's more stuff than you can shake a stick at: ...Erik's Deli ousts homeless patrons; Cops arrest Midnight

Parading down the pike Next Issue: there's more stuff than you can shake a stick at:

....Erik's Dell ousts homeless patrons; Cops arrest Midnight Mike for sitting on World Savings steps; Linda the Lark to go to trial on Denny's "trespass-for-a-cup-of-coffee;" protests loom!

....Santa Barbara Homeless Rights Coalition to begin Sleeping ban Stomp April 21--a state-wide walk to investigate and challenge anti-homeless camping bans in counties up and down the coast. + an update on the Dodds decision and their Sleeping ban. Join up when they come through!

....Details on the Jabberwocky Jay firestorm at the Sacramento Housing California 1990 Conference and the forthcoming July 4th SLEEP-IN AT SANTA CRUZ. Help organize!

....People's Park Cafe reopens illegally in Berkeley!...the struggle continues...

....Housing Now!'s Proposition 107 update.

....More updates, court shenanigans, more flashbacks, more cartoons, poems, and stories, .

**WATCH FOR THESE THRILLING HEADLINES AND MORE IN OUR NEXT ISSUE:**

JABBERWOCKY JAY MAKES HIT AT SACRAMENTO HOMELESS TALK-A-THON

CALIF COALITION BACKS SLEEP DEMO FOR JULY 4; JACKSON MAY COME!

D.A. MISDEMEANOR CHIEF DENIES SLEEP CRIME BLACKLIST

COUNTY CRIMEBUSTER MAY SEEK TO RETRY KITCHENQUESTERS