


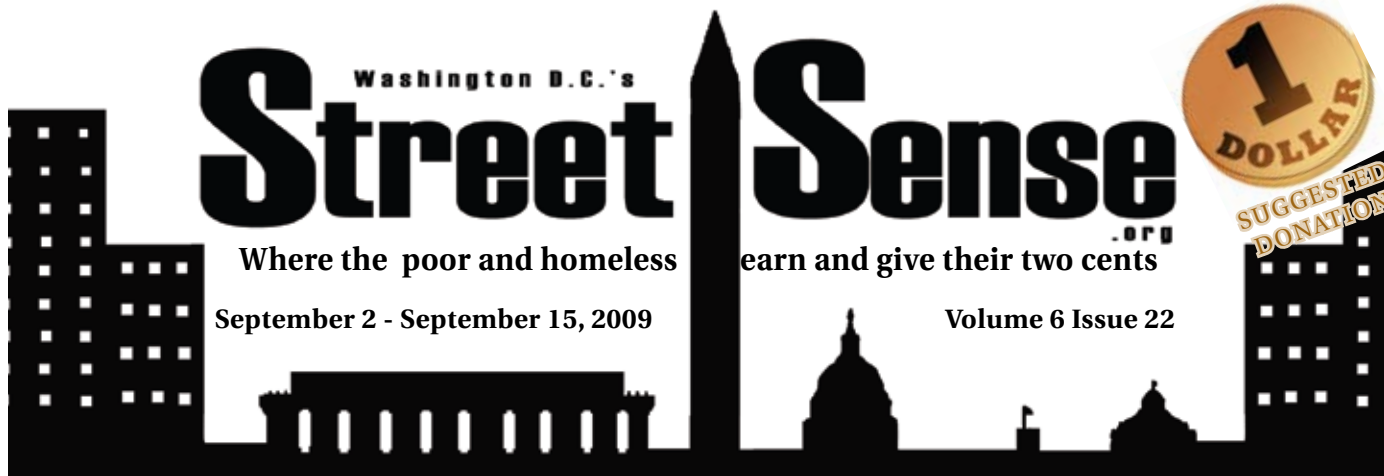
Washington D.C.'s

Street Sense

Where the poor and homeless learn and give their two cents

September 2 - September 15, 2009

Volume 6 Issue 22

Where Your Dollar Goes:



65 cents
for the Vendor

35 cents
for production
of the paper



The Web gets
some
Street Sense

See page 4



Street Sense prepares
for its auction

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Hip-hop artist Speech
speaks out
on homelessness

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Mohammed Yunus
addresses moder-day
money making

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StreetSense

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Our Mission

Street Sense aims to serve as a vehicle for elevating voices and public debate on issues relating to poverty while also creating economic opportunities for people who are experiencing homelessness in our community.

The Story of Street Sense

Street Sense began in August 2003 after two volunteers, Laura Thompson Osuri and Ted Henson, approached the National Coalition for the Homeless on separate occasions about starting a street newspaper in Washington, D.C.

A street paper is defined as a newspaper about poverty, homelessness and other social issues that provides an income to the homeless individuals who sell it. About 25 street papers operate in the United States and Canada in places like Seattle, Chicago, Montreal and Boston, and dozens more exist throughout the world.

After bringing together a core of dedicated volunteers and vendors, Street Sense came out with its first issue in November 2003, printing 5,000 copies. For the next three years the paper published on a monthly basis and greatly expanded its circulation and vendor network.

For the first year, Street Sense operated as a

project of the National Coalition for the Homeless, but in October 2004, the organization incorporated and moved into its own office space. In March 2005, Street Sense received 501(c)3 status, becoming a nonprofit organization.

In October 2005 Street Sense formed a full board of directors, and in November the organization hired its first employee, a fulltime executive director.

A year later in November 2006, the organization hired its first vendor coordinator, and began partnering with several service providers.

In February 2007, the paper started publishing twice a month and to support the increased production, Street Sense brought on its first fulltime editor-in-chief in April.

As of January 2009 the paper has 80 active vendors and prints about 30,000 issues a month.

We are proud members of:



North American Street Newspaper Association



International Network of Street Papers

Vendor Code of Conduct

1. *Street Sense* will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$1. I agree not to ask for more than a dollar or solicit donations for *Street Sense* by any other means.
2. I will only purchase the paper from *Street Sense* staff and will not sell papers to other vendors (outside of the office volunteers).
3. I agree to treat all others – customers, staff, other vendors – respectfully, and I will not “hard sell,” threaten or pressure customers.
4. I agree to stay off private property when selling *Street Sense*.
5. I understand that I am not a legal employee of *Street Sense* but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.
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7. I will not sell *Street Sense* under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
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A Special Thanks to:
Patrick T. Barnes and
Kenneth and Jacqueline

CVS Caremark to provide flu shots to unemployed

CVS Caremark, the largest provider of prescriptions in the nation, announced it will give 100,000 free flu shots (about \$3 million worth) to the unemployed.

CVS Caremark manages over 1 billion prescriptions each year and has over 6,900 locations nationwide. Nonetheless, the company has found that cost remains a major barrier to vaccinations and far fewer unemployed individuals vaccinate themselves against the flu.

Beginning September 1, the company will begin distributing vouchers at store locations nationwide. Beginning Sept. 15, more than 9,000 flu shot clinic events will be held at CVS stores nationwide.

"The number of people who did not get a flu shot last year is alarming," said Troyen A. Brennan, M.D., Chief Medical Officer for CVS Caremark in a press release. This "is part of our broader efforts to help prevent the spread of seasonal flu which can lead to more serious and costly health problems."

Hurricane Katrina survivor brings homecooking to Dallas homeless

Former Army cook Eugene Rouzan, who lost his home in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, now cooks 500-600 meals a day for Dallas' homeless.

Rouzan, who was an electric company worker,

felt called to help those who, like him, had lost their homes. He volunteers with the SoupMobile, which serves meals out of a van to south Dallas' poor.

Rouzan is one of the many Louisiana residents who settled in Texas after the flooding in New Orleans. Of nearly 66,000 evacuees in Texas' shelters and motels immediately after the storm, 22,600 households remained at the last count, in May 2006, almost a year after the hurricane. No one is sure how many resettled permanently.

Rouzan says his goal is to serve "a hearty meal that sticks to their rib."

Spy Diner Blends Good Food and a Good Cause

The D.C. Central Kitchen and the Spy Museum have teamed up to provide the homeless with job opportunities and extra training by launching the Spy Diner, a cart located just outside the museum.

The cart, which has been up and running for more than a month, employs workers graduate from the D.C. Central Kitchen's culinary training and job preparation program.

Although the Spy Diner's food is made fresh when customers order, D.C.'s Central Kitchen is a non-profit organization that recycles over one ton of surplus food everyday, providing 4,500 meals a day to the city's poor and offering valuable skills to the homeless student-chefs who prepare the meals. The program has already placed hundreds of graduates in jobs throughout D.C. and boasted a 95% job-

placement rate in 2007.

Don't expect standard street cart food from the Spy Diner, though. Breakfast sandwiches, daily soups, lamb sliders, and tomato and brie sandwiches are all on the menu and reasonably priced.

HUD funding to help homeless New York Veterans

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced it will provide the N.Y. State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR) with \$1.4 million to aid homeless veterans in finding housing and accessing clinical support services.

The DHCR says the funding will enable it to provide housing to 175 veterans.

"We are deeply grateful for the service and sacrifice by our nation's veterans and we must make every effort to help them as they struggle to avoid a life on the streets," said New York HUD Deputy Regional Director JoAnna Aniello in a press release. "This program is one opportunity to say, 'Thank You' and to make certain that we serve them as they once served us."

Although veterans live in poverty at lower rates than the average American, they are disproportionately homeless. According to HUD, roughly 25% of the nation's homeless are veterans.

Compiled by Dianna Heitz, from published reports

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I will donate:

\$50 for two vendor awards each month

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\$200 for the vests of 15 new vendors

\$500 for rent for vendor office

\$1,200 for the printing of one issue

Another amount of \$ _____

Another amount of \$ _____ for vendor: _____

In Kind Donations Needed

* Messenger and tote bags and backpacks for vendors

* Bottled water to hand out to vendors

* Food for vendor meetings

* Laptop computers with at least Windows 2000

and 10 GB of storage space

* Laser color printer

Street Sense Takes on the Web

Juggling street and online presence with a new website

By Marcus Williams

Street Sense is proud to announce its new website launch, offering new content for customers, supporters and vendors. The website is available at www.streetsense.org.

Reader responses to the website launch have been mostly positive. "The site looks great! I signed up for the feed," said an anonymous commenter on the news blog, DCist.com.

In addition to an RSS feed that allows readers to get regular updates on new stories, the website features a map of locations where vendors sell the paper edition, a page of writing exclusively by the homeless and information about how to volunteer and support the newspaper.

Street Sense began developing its new website several months ago by brainstorming features that would help the paper accomplish its many missions: raising awareness about poverty, giving the homeless a voice and providing them with resources and a source of income.

Street Sense vendors are also excited about the new online visibility.

"We want to build community," says Reginald Black, a vendor who leads the Street Sense Writer's Group, "it will actually put [vendors] in touch with them, not just electronically, but through how they write."

Black hopes that linking the website to Street Sense's Facebook and Twitter accounts will enable readers and vendors to connect more directly.

"Looking at some of the vendors involved, they may recognize a face or two," says Black.

The new website also enables online readers to make comments on articles view profiles of their local vendors and search for any recent articles by the vendors they know.

Putting the profiles online "shows the human aspect of homelessness," says Osuri, "people love the vendor profiles. It is always people's favorite part."

Street Sense hopes to continue to add features to its new website. One feature, already in development, is a 'Hire A Vendor' feature that would list vendors' qualifications, experience and job backgrounds.

Through the website, Street Sense hopes to enable visitors to hire vendors for one-time jobs or full-time employment.

"Having them post their resumes and stuff up there, that would be great," continues Osuri.

The website launch was accomplished with the help of Community IT Innovators (CITI), who partnered with Street Sense to design and develop the website. It would not have been possible were it not for a former volunteer's generosity.

Matt Impett, a former CITI employee, passed away in late 2008. After receiving a donation from his estate and family, CITI decided to use it to help Street Sense, where he gave some of his free time to benefit the homeless.

"This is an opportunity for your readers to better get to know the work that you all do, and to better get to know your vendors and hear their stories," says David Deal, President and Founder of CITI. Before founding CITI, Deal worked at a service provider for the homeless.

"We have a lot of staff who buy from the vendors," says Deal, "this is exactly the type of social mission that we as individuals, and Community IT, as a company exist to support."

CITI helps organizations with positive social missions harness the latest technology in their work.

Street Sense interns Liane Schmersahl and Marcus Williams also contributed to the effort, helping develop content for the website.

For Street Sense, a new website was long overdue. Sommer Mathis, a blogger for DCist.com, speculates that many Street

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Tuesday September 1, 2009

Staying in School, Homeless

By Karen Thomas
Homeless children struggle to stay in school while parents ponder what to do

With child homelessness on the rise, students and families face dual challenges of maintaining academic performance while coping with poverty between classes.

"It is always a hardship to make sure that the kids have all the materials they need for school," said [...]

Current Edition

The entire new edition can be purchased from a vendor.

Editorial: Gun Control

News in Brief

Sounds of Hope Ring for Street Sense

Street Papers: Surviving on a Shoestring

The Father McKenna Center: More Than a Soup Kitchen

Crossing the Digital Divide

Writer's Group

Featured Vendor

Richard Embden

Richard usually sells at 8th and Hst NW, by the Calvary Baptist Church.

Click Here to view Richard's resume.

By Robert Blair
Richard Embden grew up in Queens, N.Y. He spent four years at Atlantic Union College in Lancaster, Mass., studying theology and

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Vendors

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Silent Auction

Announcing Street Sense's Fourth Annual Silent Auction and Reception:

Bidding for Change
Thursday October 8, 2009
7pm to 10pm
WVSA Arts Connection
Grand Room
1100 18th Street, NW

Join us for food, drink, fun and lots of great auction items to celebrate the mounting change at Street Sense -- in all forms. There will be great auction items to bid on including restaurant gift certificates, sporting event tickets and artwork and handmade pottery.

Purchase a ticket below today and it will be mailed to you within 24 hours. Tickets at the door will be \$40.

Liberty Nickel Ticket \$30 -Entry into the auction and reception -Name in thank you page of program Add to Cart	Silver Dollar Ticket \$60 -Entry into the auction and reception -Name in thank you page of program Add to Cart	Double Eagle Ticket \$100 -Entry into the auction and reception -Name in thank you page of program -Name in thank you ad in Oct. 15 issue Add to Cart
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Sense readers might have "been frustrated over the years with its lackluster online offerings."

Some question if it is a good idea to offer Street Sense's news content for free online. "Won't this regularly updated content site defeat the purpose now of having the vendors on the streets?" wonders an online commenter.

Anyone can access older content online and a few recent stories, but to access all the latest new customers will have to purchase directly from a vendor or sign up for a subscription. Street Sense hopes that readers will use the website to learn more about Street Sense and the vendors, rather than replace their regular newspaper purchase.

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New Executive Director Broadens Thrive DC's Scope

By Jessica Harper

Thrive DC Executive Director Alicia Horton applies a powerful logic to her new position: with a clear vision, hope, and dedication, a venture can alleviate poverty and save lives.

Horton hopes to use this logic to propel her organization to greater heights, but she has more than a positive message, she has 20 years of experience in community-based executive and program development.

At an organization that already helps over 300 men and women each day, Horton sees room for growth. "My vision is to continue to grow Thrive DC," Horton said. "I want to expand our services and extend our reach to serve even more of the growing number of individuals affected by homelessness."

Thrive is a nonprofit that offers a broad range of services: crisis assistance, referrals, peer support, intensive employment training and self-esteem workshops. It started in 1979 as the Dinner Program for Homeless Women, but began to serve men as well.

Horton took over leadership in early June. She is a graduate of Howard, Tulane and Catholic Universities as well as an alum of the Columbus School of Law.

Her background resembles a dinner platter of selfless service and hands-on experience, encompassing community rehabilitation, crisis response and social justice.

She has always been drawn to the concept of "justice-for-all."

"Injustice has always made me angry," Horton said. "I



Alicia Horton

think that combating it has been the single most motivating element of all my professional endeavors."

This same, fight-for-right attitude led her to found Health Education and Enrichment Resources in 1990, an organization she referred to as, "an experimental program."

"I was doing some work for Covenant House and Catholic Charities in New Orleans at that time and be-

came painfully aware of the number of young people who were homeless and living with HIV," she said.

Health Education and Enrichment Resources was one of the first organizations to receive direct funding from the Centers for Disease Control for HIV-AIDS prevention in New Orleans, a city, Horton said, "where young people flocked" because of its never-ending, Mardi-Gras spirit.

"People were still very frightened about AIDS during that time," she said. "I remember Phil Donahue doing a show on it and all his audience members walking out because there was just a huge amount of ignorance about it. Many people didn't understand the physiology of it."

Approximately 80% of Thrive DC's female clients battle HIV-AIDS in addition to homelessness. Nonetheless, Horton believes that Thrive should not solely focus on

the plight of women with the virus.

"The reason why the numbers within the male population are significant to me is because it shapes our response," she said.

"We can't direct our public health edu-

cation strategies just toward women. It really has to be a combined campaign that looks to involve men as well."

Though she has received several awards throughout her career, Horton considers them "political" accoutrements, not the driving forces behind her work as a luminary among service providers.

She said that if her time at Howard University taught her anything, it was the importance of community involvement.

"It gave me a different sense of self," Horton said, "and a sense of my responsibility to the world at large."

“ The reason why the numbers within the male population are significant to me is because it shapes our response...we can't just direct education toward women ”

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Speech speaks to homelessness then and now

By Josh Miller

Hip-hop artist, record label owner, and ordained minister Speech, whose offstage name is Todd Thomas, believes that people are receptive to a message if it is in music.

Perhaps that's why, seventeen years after his hip-hop group Arrested Development released its Grammy Award-winning debut album, *3 years, 5 months and 2*

days in the life of..., Speech is continuing his solo career with a new album and some new subject matter.

"Hip-hop music started in the mid-1970s and now these people who loved it are growing up and still appreciate the art," he said.

This September he'll show the hip-hop world *The Grown Folks Table*, his new album.

"This allows us to now talk about different things, like having kids," said Speech, and "makes you think about various things that we have to deal with in our lives and our community."

Homelessness and poverty have been persistent themes in Speech's life and community.

One song on their debut album, *Mr. Wendal*, added a beat to Arrested Development's lyrics about beating homelessness: "To give him money isn't charity/ He gives me some knowledge/ I buy him some shoes."

The track challenged listeners to rethink their perceptions of people living on the streets. The artists donated proceeds from the single, which climbed to sixth on the Billboard Hot 100 in 1993, to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

"The song took on a life of its own. It moved a lot of people and continues to move people," Speech said, "I feel it was a blessing to have had the privilege of writing it."

Mr. Wendal tells the story of "a man with no clothes, no money, no plate" and the disregard with which society views people living on the streets.

A series of experiences Speech had with the homeless community in Atlanta, rather than any one person, formed the basis for the song.

"We just sat down and had good con-

'Homelessness still puzzles a lot of people. I think it's so important to keep educating people because it seems like beating this is doable'

versations — real casual," Speech said. "After years of doing that, the song just came to me."

In 1993, the group invited a number of homeless individuals on stage while they performed the song at the Soul Train awards, where the group won Best Rap Album.

"A lot of people saw [the homeless] as if they were pieces of cardboard or city decorations," he said. "But to me they were real people with real pasts and real stories to tell."

Music made for an ideal conduit for his message.

"Homelessness is a very touchy subject, especially in America and there's a lot of guilt involved," he said, "music helps to break down the walls and the tension that develops when people want to address an issue."

Songs, he explains, can abate the uneasiness.

Seeing predecessors achieve success making iconoclastic music empowered Arrested Development to put forth the trenchant messages heard on *3 years, 5 months and 2 days in the life of...*

"Public Enemy was one of the groups that inspired me to write music with more of a purpose, because I identified with the message and also liked the music," Speech said.

"There's so many writers that would love to put out a record on various topics, but they are subconsciously deterred because they don't see that out there. They have to see something that makes it first."

Speech also feels obliged to support the artists he sees carrying forward that legacy, such as Common, K'Naan and Braille.

"These are artists that have a message to reach people that's relatable," he said,

"when you start having artists that talk about things then people feel that the culture of dialogue becomes cool again and that's important for the mass of people to get involved."

Aside from the fresh generation of lyricists, the veteran rapper and songwriter holds out hope that President Barack Obama could drastically change public perceptions of social ills such as homelessness.

"I think having the mindset — and I believe that he has it — a community activist understands the intricacies that are involved with solving the problem instead of just throwing money at the problem," he said.

The Grown Folks Table features no follow-ups or counterparts to *Mr. Wendal*. Still, Speech promises a "clean and awesomely entertaining" return to similar insights, over the solid musical foundations that made him a hit 17 years ago.

"This is a hip-hop album, so I am going back to my roots," he said, "it talks about various issues that I've encountered growing up in this world."

The Grown Folks Table also samples sounds Speech has encountered traveling— from Europe and the Middle East to Africa and Australia — and welcomes

guests he's met along the way, such as Chali 2na of Jurassic 5 and former partners Za' and JJ Boogie of Arrested Development. Artists from France, Denmark, and New Zealand have also contributed beats to the 20-track album.

Speech is releasing *The Grown Folks Table* on his own label, Vagabond Record & Tapes, and a preview of the CD is available on his website (www.speechmusic.com).

"Everything has changed," he said. "It's a very different landscape. Almost totally different. So much so that major labels are playing catch-up. Everyone is striving to learn."

Some things remain constant, however, such as Speech's commitment to combating homelessness.

He continues to volunteer in the Atlanta area through Hosea Feed the Hungry and Homeless.

"I think homelessness in general still puzzles a lot of people. Why can't we correct this problem? Why can't we make this history with as much money as we and many other countries have? What is the breakdown?" he asks, "I think it's so important to keep educating people because it seems like beating this is doable."



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Students Take the Lead in Thailand

By Marwaan Macan-Markar

BANGKOK, Thailand - Having shaken up the conventions of banking by arguing that credit is a fundamental right to help the poor in his native Bangladesh get loans for small business ventures, Muhammad Yunus has set his sights on another shake-up: university education.

"Education needs to be integrated with life, with real experiences, action," says the man who became known as the 'banker to the poor' for pioneering the idea of microcredit for the economically marginalised and establishing the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh in 1983. It is a microfinance organization and community development bank that extends small loans to the rural poor without requiring collateral.

Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his ground-breaking concept.

To pursue his new goal, the 69-year-old banker and economist launched the Yunus Centre this week at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), a centre of learning dedicated to an array of development programmes located on the outskirts of the Thai capital. Yunus has had a long-standing relationship with AIT, firmly believing in its mission as a regional university of promoting sustainable development.

Seed funding for the Centre will come from AIT while foundations and development organizations like the Swedish International Development Agency will also help finance the newly set up educational

students but to get to know more.

IPS: What inspired you to go down this road?

MY: I have always thought about this model of learning. Young people should not be sitting in classrooms. They have tremendous capacity to make change; they have tremendous energy. They should go out and deal with problems directly and try to solve them.

IPS: Could it be that what you are doing here is to follow your own story of working directly with the poor although you were trained to be a professional economist, got a PhD and then taught in a conventional university setting?

MY: Well, that is how my work began with Grameen Bank. True, that is what I did after I came out of the university and



Professor Muhammad Yunus is the founder of Grameen Bank, which has made more than \$4 billion in tiny loans to poor Bangladeshis, providing a lifeline for millions and a banking model that has been copied in more than 100 nations from the United States to Uganda. REUTERS/Rafiqur Rahman

'Young people should not be sitting in classrooms'

facility.

Set to open later this year, the Centre's declared mission is to lift rural folk out of poverty by encouraging them to "handle and be in control of improving their own livelihoods through their own farming and agriculture-related business."

"We want to attract students who are interested in making an impact in their societies through unique programmes that they can implement," he told IPS in an interview that followed the launch of the Yunus Centre on August 19.

Excerpts from the interview follow.

IPS: You have just set up an education centre to look at issues like food security, agriculture and lifting the poor out of poverty. What is so unique about your centre since there are others that have the same mission?

Muhammad Yunus: It will be more than a research centre. It is going to be an action centre. We are not going to produce papers, have the students write thesis. We want the students to design their own programmes to help local communities. The aim is to have it driven by experience and engagement in life. The students can take one or two years or a little more to finish their programmes. That is how they will get their degree.

IPS: So you have in mind a new way of education?

MY: Yes. It is learning by doing and challenging other people about what they have done and what needs to be done. The teachers in this setting will be backbenchers. The students will take the lead. They will tell their teachers about the plans they have, why they were chosen and how they hope to implement them. And the teachers are not there to criticise the

started a grassroots bank by working with the poor in the village next door. So, I am saying, enough of thesis writing; there are enough people to do that. But some people have to get out and identify social problems in poor communities—whether it is about the environment, problems of poverty, agriculture, poor health, housing—and solve them directly. And if it is excellent work, these students will become an example for their whole country.

IPS: Does it mean that universities and the traditional academic community have failed in solving some areas that you are concerned about, like agriculture or food security?

MY: There are a lot of gaps. Professors have no practical knowledge. They live in ivory towers. Life has to be integrated into education because life is changing, but education is lagging behind. Education should be far ahead and not sharing old knowledge for the people. Education means trying to bring future knowledge to the people so that they can go there.

IPS: But what about scientific contributions that were made through the Green Revolution that researchers have been taking credit for to solve hunger in this region?

MY: The best technological change for agriculture took place in the 1960s through the Green Revolution. There was a sudden increase in the yield of agriculture, rice. But after that it seems to have stayed there. We have not seen a big jump in agriculture since then. In the meantime, the world has changed, but the changes in agriculture have been slow. The food supply is growing slower while the market is expanding.

IPS: Why do you think the scientific contributions to agriculture have not kept pace with the world's changes?

MY: Because there are more exciting areas where science can concentrate on and where the money is going, like communication technology and mobile phones. There is a big market for them; they are drawing the attention of millions of people who want to have mobile phones in their hands. The big money calculations went in that direction, but agriculture was not seen as an exciting, moneymaking area. So it has to come as a social business – this is the idea that I am promoting through this new centre. It is about making an impact in society than making money.

IPS: But you are up against demographic trends, where young people in rural areas are moving to the city because of the jobs and the excitement it offers. How do you make a life in agriculture happy for young people?

MY: Today, the way the moneymaking economy is built, everybody is trying to find where the money is, and they may not want to sit in a village because there is no money there. But when you break out of that paradigm that that is how life should be and say, "I can be happy making an impact by solving people's problems and their lives," you see things differently. The focus then becomes about social impact. A commitment. A dedication. It is something that comes from their own heart and not because somebody is paying them money to do so.

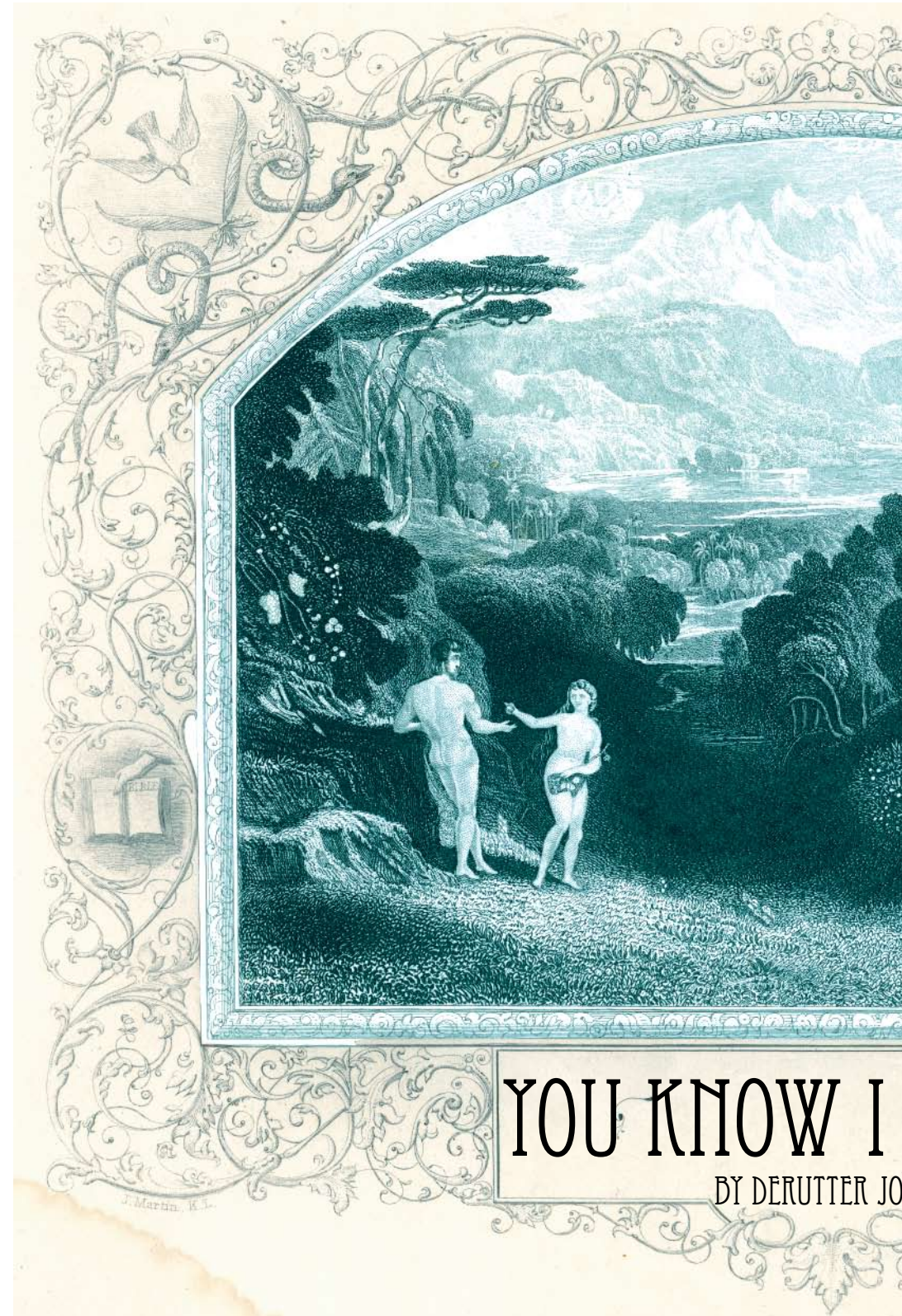
Courtesy of Street News Service: www.street-papers.org

Why can't we be like the owls or cats?
 See the full light spectrum
 Walk around with really huge eyes
 Retinas wide as saucers
 Always cranked
 Heavenward to meet the descending wavelengths?
 Never-ending rainbows
 Everywhere
 Even at night?
 I'm thinking we lost it in the Garden of Eden.

Eve idle one day—trouble right then and there,
 as we know what idle time can lead to.
 "Whatsup Shorty
 You know I see you,
 splashing around in that swimming hole.
 Come, come.
 Step up out of there so we can talk
 about that Operating Manual of yours, where it says,
 'All except the fruit of that one tree.'
 That's right, the one that will bring you a vision
 of your own eventual demise.
 Eat it and you will know the sorrow of the World.
 The part about killing --
 you'll know all that as well.
 No longer live in the eternal present,
 instead find out where babies come from --
 you will surely know that."

[theatrical stop here as the serpent punches up the
 mocking,
 the taunting]

"Go ahead and follow orders.
 No Aristotle for you.
 No Rembrandt or Shakespeare.
 No Voltaire or Dostoevsky.
 No Dickens or Dickinson.
 No 'Art of War' or 'I Have A Dream.'
 No 'Wealth of Nations' or Magna Carta.
 No Sojourner Truth or Gettysburg Address.
 No colossal egos striding across the Earth
 (destroying and building)
 No Attila, Alexander or Khan.
 (or all the nameless fabulists, muses and
 consorts so fecklessly exalting their demigods
 finally to be entombed alongside them
 close to their masters forever)
 No Albert Einstein.
 No knowledge for you.
 Is this what you want?
 Just the two of you
 living in your enchanted, gated community
 like magical unicorns
 forever infantile



YOU KNOW I

BY DERUTTER JO

basking in the love shining down from the heart
 of the master toymaker to his toys?"

[pauses to sink it in—on cue, Eve feels a twinge
 in her extra rib]

"Had enough yet? Here. Bite."
 Then on to Adam
 All naïve, hapless industry
 (but at least he works)

The fruit, now mottled and soft, thrust forward

"Fo
 the

Aft
 leav

Bet
 to b
 The

"Yo



SEE YOU

NES

forget the rule. C'mon," she teases, "try this," adding, "feel love."

(for the deceiving begins here also)

erwards see how the fruit crumbles from his hand
ving on his fingers sticky pulp and squalid seeds.

(seeds that can never germinate in the Garden)

ter put on the pathetic leaves hoping
bury your newfound folly.

Arrival soon after

(turn your saucer eyes away)

u know I see you,

amidst the shadows and the shade.

Come, come.

You've got to leave now.

Don't try to come back 'cause

I've got security guarding the rear entrance.

Here, put these on

those fig leaves will not be enough.

See if you can fashion some sandals out of that bark --

you're going to need them.

Take the animals with you --

you're going to need them too."

Now they're all on the trail of tears.

A sad parade --

Hungry --

Can't seem to grow anything in this place.

(observe our Adam and Eve

observe them fruitlessly till

the barren mud and clay)

"Come over here, pig.

That's right, you with the cloven hoofs.

Do you recall how we used to be friends?

You have no doubt noticed we've been experiencing some
problems lately.

Now only one of us can live.

(observe Elohim's signature creation

diminished and dwindled

observe Man)

The loincloths aren't working anymore.

Come over here, you with the warm fur coat.

You know I see you.

Do you recall how you used to lay down at my feet,

along with the lion and the lamb?

Unfortunately things have changed since we were evicted.

Now only one of us can live.

(soon there will be plans for the lamb)

But you'll go down in history,

paving the way for all winter coats to come."

So today, shielded within one of these as you absorb

the snowy air and navigate the urban green

noticing the clouds seem smeary and unfinished

hastily mounted like one of those painted

1950s Technicolor backdrops,

and wondering how even the sky could occasionally

offer up such mediocrity,

remember you're missing

the complete wavelengths of light

reserved in spectral glory now for the owls, the cats and the

others.

The rainbows will always elude you.

It's not your fault

that Eve robbed you of your sight

while her husband draped you

with his animal hides.

A's Wordmatch

by Patrick Azarius

See if you can match these historical events with their inventors

- A. Iktinos ___
 B. Mikhail Kalashnikov ___
 C. Richard Gurley Drew ___
 D. Dennis Diderot ___
 E. Laszlo Biro ___

1. I designed the ak-47
2. I invented the waterbed
3. I invented the ballpoint pen with my brother who was a chemist
4. I invented masking tape
5. I was one of the architects of the Parthenon
6. I wrote the novel "Jacques le fataliste et son maître"

Last Week's Answers

- A. Robert Hare 2
 B. Joesph Nicephore Niepce 4
 C. Christoph Scheiner 1
 D. Vincenzo Cascariolo 3
 E. Johannes Kepler 5

1. Built the Pantograph
2. Invented the Hydrogen Blowlamp
3. Italian Shoe Maker and chemist who came upon Barium Sulphide
4. Took what is believed to be the first photographs
5. Coined the term "Camera Obscura"

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StreetSenseDC**

You will have access to "Today in Street Sense" daily updates, new issue reminders, fundraisers announcements and vendor successes postings.

Need Help?

The *Next Step* Program is a self-help approach offering:

- Help finding a job
- Resume writing
- Assistance applying for benefits
- Computer mentoring
- Referrals to other community agencies
- HIV/AIDS services including bereavement support, burial assistance and a retreat program

Changing Your Life...One Step at a Time

If you are interested in participating in the *Next Step* Program, visit one of our offices between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. any weekday morning.

1616 Hamilton St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20011, 202-722-2280
 1345 U St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20020, 202-889-7702

**SAMARITAN
MINISTRY**
 of Greater Washington
www.samaritanministry.org

Samaritan Ministry's Next Step Program helps people who are homeless, have HIV/AIDS, and others in need make changes for a better life. Program participants meet with staff members to set goals in employment, housing, health care and other areas. Goals are reached one step at a time with staff providing resources and offering encouragement and support. There are no religious requirements for participation.

Project Superstar

By Jeffery McNeill

All of life is a struggle; success depends on hard work, character and discipline. For every Michael Jordan there is a Project Superstar. Lots of talent, dreams and aspirations but little self-will, discipline and character.

The streets are the ultimate playground where bad decisions can lead to jail, institutionalization or death.

Project was one such story. Project was born in Rahway, N. J., and never knew his father. His dad left his mother for another woman and got caught in a drug deal that went bad. He is now serving 30 years in Rahway State Prison. Project's mother was a heroin addict who fueled her addiction by being a prostitute to the businessmen in Newark. She would feed her four kids with the money she made prostituting. Project was an unexpected birth by a john she turned tricks for.

Project's mother got tired of her addictions so she applied for public housing and relocated to a safer neighborhood in Jersey City, N.J., to raise Project and his siblings. Even though she was a prostitute, she tried to give her kids a safe life she didn't have. She instilled manners and education and told them there was a life out there better than the projects they were living in.

At five, Project received a memorable gift for his birthday - a basketball. At first Project's hands were small, so he clumsily dribbled. But soon he started becoming skilled at dribbling; he was dribbling between his legs and palming the basketball. His uncle, who was a former high school star, saw talent in Project. He would play one-on-one with Project and he would play rough so Project would grow tough. He taught Project the fundamentals of basketball, such as passing, looking for the open man, rebounding and defense.

As the years went by, Project grew taller than most of his classmates and by the seventh grade he had incredible jumping ability. He could dunk a basketball at 14, and was beating adults in their 20s at one-on-one basketball. His dunks were special 360 windmills, rim shaking back breaking board busters. The stuff of legends.

Project arrived on the New York basketball scene when he was 16. He would take the PATH Train from Linden, N.J., to Manhattan and take the New York City bus to Rucker Park at 155th Street. This was a Harlem playground where many legends played,

including Connie Hawkins, Kareem Abdul Jabbar, and Julius Erving. There were also many Rucker players who were playground legends but who got gobbled by the streets before the big time.

Everyone who saw Project on the court realized the treasure he was. He got the nickname, The Truth, he was Michael Jackson of the slam dunk.

There was the lure of temptation all around Project from the drug dealers to the pimps to the hustlers. They all wanted to put Project under their wing and show him the street life.

However, Project's love was basketball.

His uncle showed him

all the junkies and the homeless guys and told Project, "That's what you'll be like if you don't learn and use common sense."

Still, Project was arrogant; he was smitten by the lure of money, cars and beautiful women.

At Rucker someone finally picked little Project for their team, and Project's first game was a memorable one. His shots went swoosh, and his last shot was a thunderous rim shacking dunk where the crowd went wild.

Project never got used to the attention. Girls were giving him phone numbers, scouts were telling him he could be pro. Project was high on the adulation he received and forgot about his education. He thought he was going to be a basketball star. The scouts told him, "Forget college. You make millions as a pro."

The pro scouts enticed Project's

mother with fancy cars, cash and a million dollar home. This lifestyle was attractive for someone who only knew welfare housing in Newark. However, Project's family didn't know about taxes, accountants and lawyers, and they were uneducated in the world of high finance. They wanted the dream, and Project was their lottery ticket.

Project also attracted a lot of undesirable people in the streets, parasites that didn't have Project's best interest. They only were with Project because he was a superstar and they wanted what Project had. Some were really jealous of Project and wanted to hurt him.

One day Project was at a Kentucky Fried Chicken with his girlfriend when a couple of young thugs approached him. They tried to draw Project into a fight. These thugs were jealous of Project who was a basketball superstar and had a beautiful bronze skinned woman by his side.

They tried to grab his girlfriend and assault her. As Project went to protect her, a pop, pop, pop sound erupted and Project slumped to the ground. He was shot in the thigh. There was blood everywhere. The ambulance came, but Project lost circulation in his hip and passed out.

When Project woke up, he asked, "When can I play basketball again?" The doctors told him his career was over. He would have to walk with crutches.

Project was depressed as he went to therapy. His circle of friends got smaller, and then they stopped calling. The scouts stopped coming. Project hit bottom, he thought. He got addicted to Percocet and Oxycontin that his doctor prescribed.

Project only had a G.E.D. because

“ Project was arrogant; he was smitten by the lure of money, cars and beautiful women. ”

he wasn't big on education. He also was so illiterate that he couldn't fill out an application for a job. But he was still with the same girl and had a baby on the way, so he was desperate for any work.

A few months after the shooting, a man approached him and asked, "Would you like to make some cash?" The man said he needed a person to run a package around the corner for a couple hundred dollars.

Project was desperate, and needed the money so he grabbed the package which was a bundle of heroine. When he delivered it, the police surrounded him and arrested him. They interrogated him and told him they were going to send Project away for a long time.

Poor Project, how the street life turned him. You can be ghetto fabulous one day then be on cell block number 28 the next.

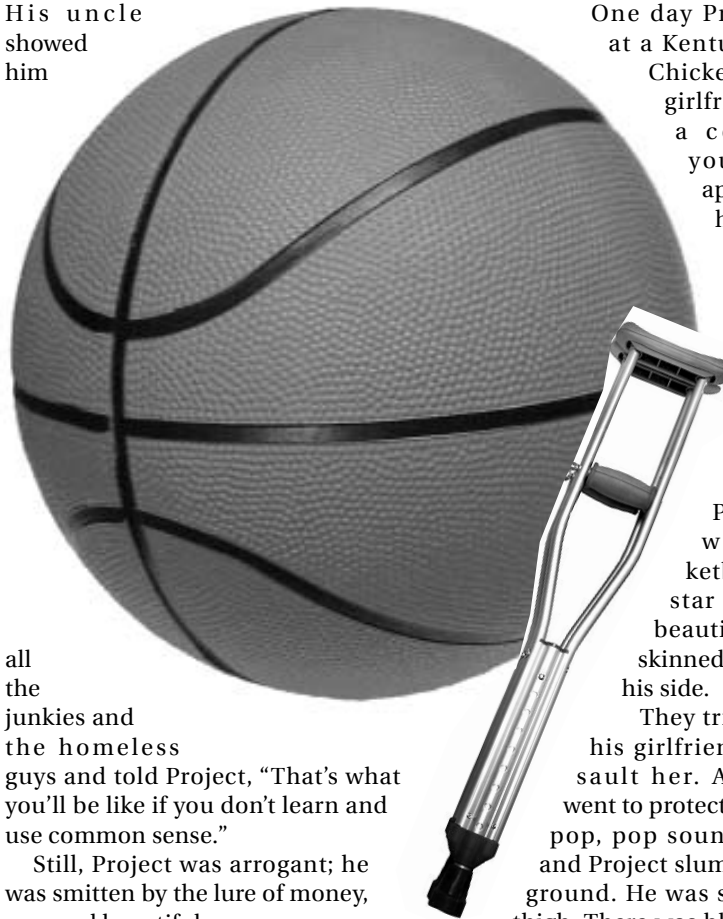
His girl finally left with his son and married a lawyer. Project wanted to kill himself. He didn't believe in God anymore and cursed God for leaving him.

Project sat depressed in jail for two years of a seven-year sentence. Then one day a short man told Project, "Get up and stop feeling sorry for yourself. Read a dictionary and the Bible."

Project had nothing to do so he started reading the dictionary from beginning to end, he started writing and memorizing the Bible. Soon he started waking up not sad but hopeful. Every day got better for Project. He was not bitter and resentful but hopeful.

Then one day the prison released Project, and now Project gives his testimony to anyone who wants to hear it.

Jeffery is one of the top sellers at Street Sense and recently got a job with the Census Bureau.



Technology Has Taken Over

By Sean Christopher Riley



The 21st century has begun with many changes in technology. As citizens and majority world populous, we should consider the affect of technology on human rights. Human rights are defined in the American Heritage Dictionary as, "the basic rights and freedoms to which all humans are entitled, often held to include the right to life and liberty, freedom of thought and expression, and equality before the law."

Computers have gone from impersonal to personal adaptation in our lives. We, the "technologically challenged" have seen, heard, and felt the intruding effects of all aspects of technology in our lives. Almost every life essential task besides

the injection of food and beverage is computerized.

Anything and just about everything that is purchased is handled through automated apparatus. I wonder if the math I learned in school will ever be used in a practical manner when cash registers, ATM machines, computer generated payroll checks, and payment plans are all calibrated to add taxes and user fees, which are seldom questioned by the users, automatically. Phone services, be they corporate, essential, or cellular are computer generated to perform with little if any human back-up assistance. Even lost pets, children, and stolen cars, can be located with the use of technology.

Are we selling our souls to and for a soulless entity called technology?

Humanitarianism is defined as, "the belief that sole moral obligation of humankind is the improvement of human welfare." When I look at the way "technology" is governing policies worldwide, I wonder how we as a people, conceded to disenfranchise ourselves from the tenants, ascribed to our democracy by the Constitution. The Declaration of Independence ascribed to our basic rights of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Humanism is defined as, "a system of thought that centers on humans and their values, capacities, and worth. Concern with the interest, needs, and welfare of humans." When I dial 411, or government offices, a computer answers, and categorizes my inquiry into a numbered response code. It implores me to press 1 if your question is this? Press 2 if this is your need? and finally it says press 0 for the operator, during office hours.

Then there is the driving scenario. If there is an emergency, and you drive through a yellow light, you may save a life, and at the same time, receive a ticket through the mail, to appear in court. When applying for a career to feed your family/ Then the new wave of technology is computerized to receive your application and your resume.

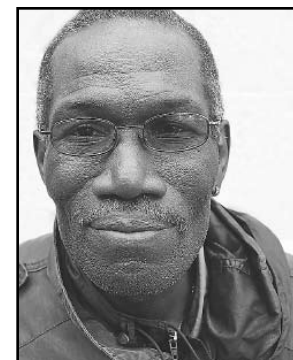
I would like to be able to speak to a human resources representative to even know if the position has been filled that day. I believe there can be a happy medium met when the "people" are included in the role of technology's influence in the aspects of Life's essentials for existence on Earth.

Sean lives in Montgomery County and is a leading member of the Street Sense Writers Group.

Hell Hole 32

By Tommy Bennett

I've been at the 801 shelter for almost two years. The place hasn't changed yet; it's getting worse. There are 400 and something people in there; I have to deal with 400 something personalities each day. I found out since I've been there that there are three parts to the shelter: there's the part with people from St. Anthony's, the part for people on parole or getting out of jail, and then there's the shelter. A lot of the guys are gangsters. What I do when I go in there, I don't really mess with too many people. I just watch them to see what they be doing.



There's still more drugs and alcohol in there. It is too hard for the staff to try to stop them; they be barred for a month and then they come right back. There are a lot of fights. There's a lot of stealing. For me, I stay to myself because I'm in AA. There's a rule in AA about staying away from people, places, and things that might get you back drinking. I don't socialize with the ones who are drinking and drugging. Christina has been helping me stay sober. By God's grace I am still holding my sobriety and I'm going on seven year's clean.

For me, I know I have got to be very careful because I have to watch my stuff. The staff in there, that run the shelter, they run it like it is a jail. Once we go in, they are supposed to search you.

You just are waiting in the hot sun and then once you get in, you have to sign your name. From the list you go eat, and then you can go pick up your sheets. You stand in line all the time. That is just like jail. The food is lousy and the bathroom is not sanitary. By God's grace, I just deal with it.

If you've never lived in a shelter, you've never been homeless; you never know what it's like. By God's grace, he gives me the strength to go on.

Tommy has been a vendor for Street Sense for more than five years and grew up in Washington, D.C.

**Your thoughts and editorials
are welcome.**

Now you can go online to
www.streetsense.org
and leave a comment at the
end of any story.

*Or you can still comment the old way
through e-mail to editor@streetsense.org or
the really old way through mail to 1317 G
Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.*

VENDOR NOTES

Interim Editor, Lisa Gillespie

Street Sense vendors, staff and volunteers want to formally welcome **Lisa Gillespie** who will be filling in as interim editor-in-chief until Street Sense finds a new executive director and I take over as editor. She was an intern for Street Sense in the winter of 2008 and graduated in December 2008 from University of North Carolina, Asheville, with a degree in Mass Communications.

So far Lisa led production of a fabulous Aug. 19 issue and we are looking forward to some more great editing, writing and design from her over the next month. If you want to contact her directly, you can reach her at editor@street-sense.org.

Jobs, Jobs, Jobs

We also want to congratulate two vendors who recently secured employment outside of Street Sense. Vendor and writer **Jeffery McNeill** just started a job with the Census Bureau. He will be helping to prepare for the 2010 count and attempt to track down those not counting, come next year.

In August, new vendor **Charles Wood** started working security at concerts and sporting events for CSC, and we hear he's doing a great job so far.

Street Sense congratulates Jeffery and Charles and looks forward to others following them in his footsteps.

Housing Wanted

Many of the Street Sense vendors earn enough money selling Street Sense to afford a small apartment or room of their own, but most have trouble securing housing due to lack of recent rental history or shaky credit.

We have a handful of vendors who are currently looking for housing and one in particular, **Kenneth Belkosky**, wanted us to ask readers to see if they could help. Ken is looking for a room for under \$500 a month, preferably in Northwest D.C. If you can offer such a place or have any leads, please e-mail Ken directly at kenbelkosky@hotmail.com.

Potter's House Pottery

We want to put a plug in for the Potter's House Open Mic Night held the last Friday of every month. Two of our vendors, **Reginald Black** and **Warren Stevens**, regularly participate, and at the latest Open Mic, vendor **Lawless Watson** joined the crew. On Friday Aug. 28, Lawless sang some folk gospel music, and Reggie read two original poems including an amazing poem about being homeless and riding the bus each morning.

The next Open Mic Night is Sept. 25 at 7pm at the Potter's House, 1658 Columbia Road, and we encourage all readers to attend.

BIDDING FOR CHANGE

**STREET SENSE'S FOURTH ANNUAL
SILENT AUCTION AND RECEPTION
OCTOBER 8, 2009, 7PM
WVSA ARTS CONNECTION
GREAT ROOM
1100 16TH STREET, NW**

Join us for food, drink, fun and lots great auction items to celebrate the mounting change at Street Sense - in all forms.

TICKET PRICES

LIBERTY NICKEL: \$30
Entry into the auction and reception

SILVER DOLLAR: \$60
Entry into the auction and reception
Name in thank you page of program

DOUBLE EAGLE: \$100
Entry into the auction and reception
Name in thank you page of program
Name in thank you ad in Oct. 15 issue

**TO PURCHASE TICKETS IN ADVANCE:**

Mail a check for the appropriate amount (indicating the number of tickets you want) to 1317 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005 or purchase them online at www.streetsense.org and clicking on the auction link.

Tickets will be mailed or e-mailed, and you will be added to our guest list.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR FOR \$40.

Street Sense Needs Advertising

Does your **business** want to place an ad in Street Sense?

Are you an **advertising professional** who can mentor one of our vendor sales representatives?

Do you have **sales skills** and want to put them to use for a good cause and earn a commission?

.....then we want to hear from you!

If you are interested in helping Street Sense increase advertising through these or any other means, please contact executive director Laura Thompson Osuri at 202-347-2006 or info@streetsense.org.

**WASHINGTON,
D.C.****SHELTER**

Calvary Women's Services
928 5th Street, NW
(202) 783-6651
www.calvaryservices.org

Central Union Mission (Men)
1350 R Street, NW
(202) 745-7118
www.missiondc.org

CCNV (Men and Women)
425 2nd Street, NW
(202) 393-1909
users.erols.com/ccnv/

Community of Hope (Family)
1413 Girard Street, NW
(202) 232-7356
www.communityofhopedc.org

Covenant House Washington
(Youth)

2001 Mississippi Ave SE
(202) 610-9600
www.covenanthousedc.org
Housing, education, job prep

Gospel Rescue Ministries (Men)
810 5th Street, NW
(202) 842-1731
www.grm.org

John Young Center (Women)
119 D Street, NW
(202) 639-8469
www.catholiccharitiesdc.org

My Sister's Place
PO Box 29596
Washington, DC 20017
office (202) 529-5261
24-hour hotline (202)-529-5991
shelter and other services for
domestic violence victims

N Street Village (Women)
1333 N Street, NW
(202) 939-2060
www.nstreetvillage.org

801 East, St. Elizabeths Hospital
(Men)
2700 MLK Avenue, SE
(202) 561-4014

New York Ave Shelter (Men 18+)
1355-57 New York Avenue, NE
(202) 832-2359

Open Door Shelter (Women)
425 Mitch Snyder Place, NW
(202) 639-8093

FOOD

Charlie's Place
1830 Connecticut Avenue, NW
(202) 232-3066
www.stmargaretsdc.org/charliesplace

Church of the Pilgrims (Sundays only)
2201 P Street, NW

(202) 387-6612
www.churchofthepilgrims.org

Dinner Program for Homeless Women
AND the "9:30 Club" Breakfast
309 E Street, NW
(202) 737-9311
www.dphw.org

Food and Friends
219 Riggs Road, NE
(202) 269-2277
www.foodandfriends.org

Miriam's Kitchen
2401 Virginia Avenue, NW
(202) 452-8089
www.miriamskitchen.org

The Welcome Table
Church of the Epiphany
1317 G Street, NW
(202) 347-2635
http://www.epiphanydc.org/ministry/welcometbl.htm

MEDICAL RESOURCES

Christ House
1717 Columbia Road, NW
(202) 328-1100
www.christhouse.org

Unity Health Care, Inc.
3020 14th Street, NW
(202) 745-4300
www.unityhealthcare.org

Whitman-Walker Clinic
1407 S Street, NW
(202) 797-3500; www.wwc.org

OUTREACH CENTERS

Bread for the City
1525 Seventh Street, NW
(202) 265-2400 AND
1640 Good Hope Road, SE
(202) 561-8587
www.breadforthecity.org
food pantry, clothing, legal and social services, medical clinic

Community Council for the Homeless
at Friendship Place
4713 Wisconsin Avenue NW
(202) 364-1419; www.cchfp.org
housing, medical and psych care, substance abuse and job counseling

Bethany Women's Center
1333 N Street, NW
(202) 939-2060
http://www.nstreetvillage.org

meals, hygiene, laundry, social activities, substance abuse treatment

Father McKenna Center
19 Eye Street, NW
(202) 842-1112

Green Door
(202) 464-9200
1221 Taylor Street NW
www.greendoor.org

housing, job training, supportive mental health services

Friendship House
619 D Street, SE
(202) 675-9050
www.friendshiphouse.net
counseling, mentoring, education, youth services, clothing

Georgetown Ministry Center
1041 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
(202) 338-8301
www.georgetownministrycenter.org
laundry, counseling, psych care

Martha's Table
2114 14th Street, NW
(202) 328-6608
www.marthastable.org
dinner, education, recreation, clothing, child and family services

Rachel's Women's Center
1222 11th Street, NW
(202) 682-1005
http://www.ccdsd.org/howorwc.php
hygiene, laundry, lunch, phone and mail, clothing, social events

Sasha Bruce Youthwork
741 8th Street, SE
(202) 675-9340
www.sashabruce.org
counseling, housing, family services

So Others Might Eat (SOME)
71 "O" Street, NW
(202) 797-8806; www.some.org
lunch, medical and dental, job and housing counseling

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Academy of Hope GED Center
601 Edgewood St NE
202-269-6623
www.aohdc.org

Bright Beginnings Inc.
128 M Street NW, Suite 150
Washington DC 20001
(202) 842-9090
www.brightbeginningsinc.org
Child care, family services

Catholic Community Services
924 G Street, NW
(202) 772-4300
www.ccs-dc.org
umbrella for a variety of services

D.C. Coalition for the Homeless
1234 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
(202) 347-8870; www.dccfh.org
housing, substance abuse treatment, employment assistance

DC Food Finder
Interactive online map of free and low cost resources.
www.dcfoodfinder.org

Community Family Life Services
305 E Street, NW

(202) 347-0511
www.cflsdc.org
housing, job and substance abuse counseling, clothes closet

Foundry Methodist Church
1500 16th Street, NW
(202) 332-4010
www.foundryumc.org
ESL, lunch, clothing, IDs

Hermano Pedro Day Center
3211 Sacred Heart Way, NW
(202) 332-2874
http://www.ccs-dc.org/find/services/
meals, hygiene, laundry, clothing

JHP, Inc.
1526 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
(202) 544-9126
www.jobshavepriority.org
training and employment

Jubilee Jobs
1640 Columbia Road, NW
(202) 667-8970
www.jubileejobs.org
job preparation and placement

National Coalition for the Homeless
2201 P Street, NW
(202) 462-4822
www.nationalhomeless.org
activists, speakers bureau

National Student Partnerships (NSP)
128 M Street NW, Suite 320
(202) 289-2525
washingtondc@nspnet.org
Job resource and referral agency

Samaritan Ministry
1345 U Street, SE, AND
1516 Hamilton Street, NW
(202) 889-7702
www.samaritanministry.org
HIV support, employment, drug/alcohol addiction, healthcare

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1514 15th Street, NW
(202) 667-4394
http://stlukesdc.edow.org
food, counseling

St. Matthew's Cathedral
1725 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
(202) 347-3215 ext. 552
breakfast, clothing, hygiene

Travelers Aid, Union Station
50 Mass. Avenue, NE
(202) 371-1937
www.travelersaid.org/ta/dc.html
emergency travel assistance

Wash. Legal Clinic for the Homeless
1200 U Street, NW
(202) 328-5500
www.legalclinic.org

MARYLAND**SHELTER**

Comm. Ministry of Montgomery Co.
114 W. Montgomery Avenue, Rockville
(301) 762-8682
www.communityministrymc.org

The Samaritan Group Inc.
P.O. Box 934, Chestertown
(443) 480-3564

Warm Night Shelter
311 68th Place, Seat Pleasant
(301) 499-2319
www.cmpgc.org

FOOD

Bethesda Cares
7728 Woodmont Avenue, Bethesda
(301) 907-9244
www.bethesdacares.com

Community Place Café
311 68th Place, Seat Pleasant
(301) 499-2319
www.cmpgc.org

Manna Food Center
614-618 Lofstrand Lane, Rockville
(301) 424-1130
www.mannafood.org

MEDICAL RESOURCES

Community Clinic, Inc.
8210 Colonial Lane, Silver Spring
(301) 585-1250
www.cciweb.org

Mobile Medical Care, Inc.
9309 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda
(301) 493-2400
www.mobilemedicalcare.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Catholic Charities, Maryland
12247 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring
(301) 942-1790
www.catholiccharitiesdc.org
shelter, substance abuse treatment, variety of other services

Mission of Love
6180 Old Central Avenue, Capitol Heights
(301) 333-4440
www.molinc.org
life skills classes, clothing, housewares

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless
600-B East Gude Drive, Rockville
(301) 217-0314; www.mcch.net
emergency shelter, transitional

housing, and supportive services

VIRGINIA**SHELTER**

Alexandria Community Shelter
2355 B-Mill Road, Alexandria
(703) 838-4239

Carpenter's Shelter
930 N. Henry Street, Alexandria
(703) 548-7500
www.carpentersshelter.org

The Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless
3103 9th Road, North, Arlington
(703) 525-7177
www.aachhomeless.org

FOOD

ALIVE!, Inc.
2723 King Street, Alexandria
(703) 836-2723
www.alive-inc.org

Our Daily Bread
10777 Main Street #320, Fairfax
(703) 273-8829
www.our-daily-bread.org

MEDICAL RESOURCES

Arlington Free Clinic
3833 N Fairfax Drive, #400, Arlington
(703) 979-1400
www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Abundant Life Christian Outreach,
5154 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria
(703) 823-4100
www.anchor-of-hope.net

food, clothing, youth development, and medicines

David's Place Day Shelter
930 North Henry Street, Alexandria
(703) 548-7500
www.carpentersshelter.org
laundry, shower, workshops, hypothermia shelter

Legal Services of Northern Virginia
6066 Leesburg Pike, Suite 500, Falls Church
(703) 778-6800; www.lsnv.org
civil legal services only

**Shelter
Hotline:
1-800-
535-7252**

VENDOR PROFILE

David Ger

THE LAST WORD

By Marcus Williams

David grew up in Nairobi, Kenya, where he lived until 1997, when he moved to Delaware. He attended university in Kenya, where he studied banking and finance, eventually working as a clearinghouse agent for Barclay's, where he worked until he moved to the US. His father was an immigration agent and his mother was a legal aid to Kenya's Attorney General; he has not been able to contact them since he came to the United States. He celebrated his 34th birthday on August 22.

Why did you come to the U.S.?

I came to pursue medical school. I was enrolled in a post-baccalaureate program at Goldey-Beacom College, where I got my pre-med requirements done, and worked as an x-ray technician.

What was the most dramatic difference after you moved?

The weather surprised me. I never thought it would be so cold. I've never seen so much snow and the jacket I came with wasn't even close to enough. I developed pneumonia and couldn't do much for a while. I was also shocked by how cheap the chicken and cheese are here. In Kenya chicken was for special occasions or holidays. We used to just eat a lot of beef.

How did you end up homeless in the District?

I took a Kaplan course to get ready for the MCAT, but my student visa expired and I had trouble getting new paperwork. As a result, my job fell through. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 made it even harder for me to get a valid green card or visa, so I couldn't get work, housing, or anything. I came to D.C. in 2004 and was staying at the Gales shelter until it closed, when I moved to the Center for Creative Non-Violence. I had no idea how



large an issue homelessness was before I became homeless.

What do you do when you aren't selling Street Sense?

I volunteer at GW Hospital two days a week. Volunteering takes up a lot of my free time. I'm also writing a book; it is about the war in Iraq and homeland security, since those things affected my life.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

In medical school, hopefully in California. California med schools take older students like me. I want to interface my medical degree and financial background to help lower the costs of healthcare, but I have to get my immigration paperwork settled first. I'll keep trying.

What are your favorite foods and movies?

Definitely Indian food, chicken curries. As for a movie, I like Papillon. It is a film with Dustin Hoffman about escaping from an island prison.

By Talia Roth

At the beginning of my internship I struggled to balance my two lives. One was here at Street Sense, meeting and talking to vendors, working my butt off, and becoming close with people so much more mature than I. My other life took place in McLean, Virginia. I was a lifeguard at my community pool, went to fancy dinners with my friends and acted like the biggest travesty in the world was that we still hadn't signed each other's yearbooks. I took a twenty-minute metro ride each day to transport me between these two lives, these two people, but they seemed to be so much farther apart.

It did not take much time before I realized how wrong I was. I began talking with one vendor about how, when he sells fewer papers certain days, he gets low self-esteem; he feels worthless. I explained to him about how my stay-at-home mother

confessed to suffering from a similar feeling after being out of work for 10 years. I began recognizing enormous similarities in my two lives. I watched as one vendor didn't make the street soccer team he was hoping to make, it seemed like he felt just like I felt after getting cut from my high school varsity team. We both worked so hard, only to be faced with disappointment.

We are all one in the same. We hurt, we love, we win and we lose. You can easily look at your feet or try to cross the street in the other direction, thinking that you are better than the person behind the vest. I know I've done it, Starbucks in hand. But, it's cowardly. The difficult thing to do is look them in the eye, and consider the possibility that they might not be exactly who you judge them to be. Next time you see that green vest, take the time to talk to a vendor; learn from them. It could change your life, I know it changed mine.

MORE VENDOR PROFILES ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.STREETSENSE.ORG

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Street Sense
1317 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Nonprofit Org
US Postage Paid
Washington, DC
Permit #568

Mail

David reminds customers to only buy from badged vendors and not to give to those panhandling with one paper.

Interested in a subscription? Go to page 2 for more information.