



Celebrate the start of the holiday season with our special Arts issue!

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Street Sense



Where the Washington area's poor and homeless earn and give their two cents

November 28, 2007 – December 11, 2007 • Volume 5, Issue 2

www.streetsense.org

HOLIDAY FERVOR

Aw, Shucks, You Shouldn't Have!

By Brenda Karyl Lee-Wilson

The old saying, "It's the thought that counts," usually comes with the connotation that something is not quite right.

As a homeless human being for more than five years, I have discovered the holiday season for the homeless coincides with exactly the same time in department stores.

We are truly grateful for all that is bestowed upon us at this time of year, but seriously, it is too much at one time. We do not have the luxury of a home to contain the vast amount of goods the season showers abundantly upon us.

Contrary to public opinion, we are not "always on a holiday." You try carrying everything you need and own around with you 24/7 while keeping out of the elements that cause heat exhaustion or chills, and see if you can classify that as a vacation from reality.

We are homeless and in need 12 months out of the year. Yep, folks – please spread your two months of exuberant gift giving over 12 or just

See **Shucks**, page 13

Do you want to support "Four More Years" of Street Sense?

See Page 3 for more details.

ELECTIONS '08

Edwards: Wipe Out Poverty in 30 Years



COURTESY OF JOHN EDWARDS FOR PRESIDENT

John Edwards said he wants to reduce poverty by a third in 10 years and eradicate it in 30.

Street Sense asked major presidential candidates from both parties six questions to learn how they would combat poverty if elected president. Democrat John Edwards, the only candidate to respond by our deadline, explains.

What have you done to help people who are homeless or on the brink of becoming homeless in your community?

I have organized thousands of Americans in all 50 states to join One Corps, an organization connected to my campaign that gets people involved in helping make a difference and actually doing something and taking action. Earlier this year, for instance, One Corps sponsored a National Poverty Action Week to encourage members to volunteer at homeless shelters, soup kitchens, and other organizations that provide services to homeless people and to people whose housing situation is insecure. In my own community in North

Carolina, I served on the board of directors of Urban Ministries, an interfaith organization that supports a wide range of services and outreach – including food, shelter and counseling – to people in need.

What is the single most important thing you will do to end homelessness if you are elected president?

While the causes of homelessness are complex, many of them are tied to poverty. The fact that nearly 37 million Americans wake up every day in poverty – 5 million more than when George W. Bush took office – is a nation-

See **Edwards**, page 6

Public Perceptions Don't Match Reality

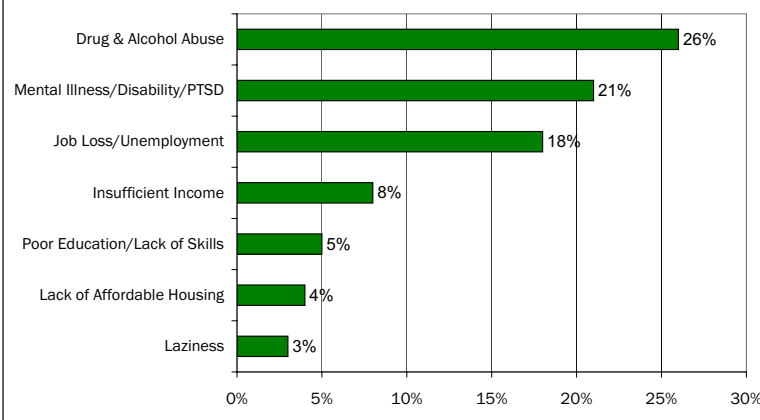
By Melanie Lidman

The American public's ideas about homelessness often fall short of actual realities, according to a recent survey that explores public perceptions of homelessness. Conducted by Gallup on behalf of Fannie Mae, the survey's findings are based on interviews with 5,000 Americans across the country about their attitudes and knowledge about the homeless community in America.

Fannie Mae is a federally chartered company created by Congress that aims to expand affordable housing. Its survey will help organizations tailor their public outreach programs in an effort to solve homelessness with public support, a Fannie Mae spokeswoman said.

Americans' perceptions of the

Public Perceptions of the Primary Causes of Homelessness in America



causes of homelessness were among the most surprising findings. A mere 4% of Americans thought that lack

of affordable housing was the primary cause of homelessness in the nation.

Many studies have highlighted the lack of affordable housing as the top reason for homelessness, said Michael Stoops, the acting executive director of the National Coalition for the Homelessness.

"Homelessness is a housing issue. Unless we deal with housing, homelessness will continue to grow unabated in this country," he said.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development figures show that federal support for low-income housing was slashed by almost 50% between 1980 and 2003. In 1995, there was a shortage of more than 4.4 million low income housing units, according to the Institute for Children and Poverty.

Eighty-five percent of survey par-

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SPECIAL INSERT Prison Art

A selection of art by prisoners around the country, insert

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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.

Our Editorial Policy

Editorials and features in Street Sense reflect the perspectives of the authors. We invite the submission of news, opinion, fiction and poetry, hoping to create a means in which a multitude of perspectives on poverty and homelessness can find expression. Street Sense reserves the right to edit any material.

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 consistently 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 an independent nonprofit organization.

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

A year later, in November 2006, the organization hired its first vendor coordinator.

In February 2007, the paper started publishing twice a month as the network of vendors expanded to more than 50 homeless men and women. And to support the increased production, Street Sense brought on its first full-time editor in chief in April.

We are proud members of



North American Street
Newspaper Association



International Network of
Street Papers

Street Sense

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.
6. I agree to sell no additional goods or products when selling the paper.
7. I will not sell *Street Sense* under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
8. There are no territories among vendors. I will respect the space of other vendors, particularly the space of vendors who have been at a spot longer.
9. I understand that my badge is the property of *Street Sense* and will not deface it. I will present my badge when purchasing the papers and display my badge when selling papers.
10. I understand that *Street Sense* strives to be a paper that covers homelessness and poverty issues while providing a source of income for the homeless. I will try to help in this effort and spread the word.

WANNA HELP?

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or have a great article or feature idea, please contact Koki Smith at 202-347-2006 or e-mail editor@streetsense.org

If you are interested in becoming a vendor, contact Jesse Smith Jr. at the same number or come to a vendor training session on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2 p.m. at our office (1317 G Street, NW - near Metro Center).

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and to all those
who donated in memory of
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Thank You!

PROVIDER PROFILE

Morning Program Gives Fledgling Artists a Place to Grow

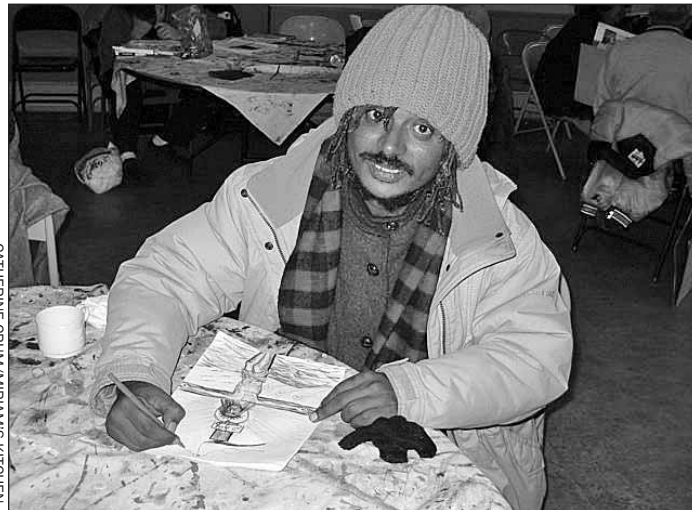
By Robert Blair

To visitors at a museum, art means objects to reflect upon and perhaps admire. But from the artist's perspective, art is also a process. For artists, creative effort can be a source of self-esteem and a respite from the stress of life's daily challenges. Miriam's Kitchen, located in the basement of the Western Presbyterian Church at the corner of 24th and G streets, NW, offers its homeless artists a chance to experience all these aspects of the artistic process.

Every weekday morning from 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m., the staff and volunteers at Miriam's Kitchen offer a hot breakfast to approximately 250 homeless clients, along with case management, legal, mental health, medical, and psychiatric services. When breakfast is over and the plates have been cleared, several of the large, circular dining tables are converted into what one of the participants, Eugene Talbert, calls "Miriam's University."

This morning, a Wednesday, the after-breakfast program has three tables devoted to visual arts activities and a fourth table set aside for a poetry workshop. The art tables are covered with decorated tablecloths, and six or seven participants are working at each table.

Some are painting, others are making collages, and others are drawing or working with pastels. Near the art tables is a bin that holds large folders containing many of the participants' finished works. Lauren Childs, a George Washington University art therapy graduate student, moves from table to table, talking with the artists about the pieces they are working on and encouraging their ef-



Berhanu-T-Berhanu, a Miriam's Kitchen client, sketches in pen and ink.

forts.

Catherine Crum, director of social services and the supervisor of the after-breakfast program, explains that the art activities are run as an "open" studio. Participants work on whatever they want, in whatever medium they choose. Some prefer acrylics, some prefer clay, and others favor woodwork. But everyone has to participate. No one is allowed to just hang out. "We have some amazing artists here," Crum notes.

The art program, which is in session from 8:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. on weekdays, has multiple benefits, Crum explains. "It's a way to let us [staff and volunteers] get to know the people we work with better. And for the participants, it's a way to express themselves in a different way, as well as a way to get outside their daily concerns."

Some prefer acrylics, some prefer clay, and others favor woodwork. But everyone has to participate.

In addition to the open studio approach, the staff and volunteers also offer a "directed" art option. They can provide basic instructions in media as various as printmaking, photography and origami. The art supplies are purchased out of the program's budget, and George Washington University's graduate program in art therapy provides an intern who works with Miriam's Kitchen's clients.

What becomes of the fruits of this creativity? Some of it decorates the walls of Miriam's Kitchen's dining hall, and some is on display and available for purchase at the second floor café at the Whole Foods Market at Tenley Circle in Northwest. The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless purchased eight paintings by Miriam's Kitchen's artists as awards at their annual volunteer recognition ceremonies in place of the more traditional commenda-

tion plaques. And, in some cases, the after-breakfast artists enter their works in juried shows. Recently, for example, 20 pieces were submitted for inclusion in the mid-October "Outsider Art, Inside the Beltway, 2007" show at The Gallery at Art Enables on New York Avenue in Northeast. Of those 20, seven were selected for inclusion in the show, and five were sold. Some artists' works, along with poems from the poetry workshop, are made into cards sold to raise funds for Miriam's Kitchen.

David Pirtle, an artist, writer and activist on D.C. homelessness issues, got started here. He originally went to Miriam's Kitchen for the meals and case service assistance. One day, because no one just gets to hang around during the after-breakfast program, Pirtle was cajoled to paint by Jackie Durham, a crafts volunteer. He found he enjoyed it and has since sold several of his works through shows at Whole Foods Market and The Gallery at Art Enables. A number of his mixed media works can be found at the deviantART Web site.

Pirtle credits much of his recovery to the program. "What they do there is incredible!" he said. "The painting helps reclaim a sense of self-expression, which is so often lost when you're caught up in the day-to-day struggle with your problems."

Pirtle helped the Martin Luther King Jr. Library establish a visual arts program for homeless library visitors based on Miriam's Kitchen's approach. It has since expanded to include a branch library.

To learn more about the after-breakfast program, visit www.miriamskitchen.org/artists/index.html.

Support "Four More Years" of Street Sense

As there is no president running for re-election this cycle, Street Sense has decided to start its own **re-election campaign**. So while Street Sense celebrates its first four years, we are making the familiar campaign call, asking the public for **"Four More Years."**

Like presidential candidates, Street Sense needs funding to make our re-election bid a success. And we are calling on readers to give what you can to help Street Sense to raise **\$24,000** to accomplish all our goals in the next term.

But unlike presidential candidates, Street Sense will uphold promises and truly help those who are poor and homeless.

So read the initiatives to the right and decide how you want to support Street Sense accomplish all our goals in **"Four More Years."**

My Information

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City/State/Zip: _____

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To Support "Four More Years," I Will Donate:

___ **\$44** because it's made up of two fours.

___ **\$60** to pay for one month's transportation for one vendor, expanding Street Sense's vendor network into the suburbs.

___ **\$100** to help pay for two public service announcements on Metro buses, increasing awareness about Street Sense.

___ **\$250** to pay for one week's salary for an editorial assistant, improving the paper's design and its investigative news coverage.

___ **\$500** to pay for the space rental for Street Sense community forums, raising more awareness about poverty issues.

___ **\$1,000** to pay for one vendor scholarship, helping Street Sense vendors further their education and start small businesses.

___ **\$1,200** to help pay for the printing of one issue, when Street Sense goes weekly in 2010.

___ Another amount of \$ _____

You can also donate via credit card and make recurring contributions online at www.streetsense.org.

Street Sense is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

A Family Photo Album For Those Who Have No Home

By Jane Cave

Earlier this month, a crowd gathered at the True Reformer Building on U Street, N.W., in support of the Homeless Children's Playtime Project, a nonprofit organization that provides opportunities for play to children living in District shelters and transitional housing.

The main attraction of the evening was a stunning exhibit of photographs featuring homeless children and their families. Pictured mostly in black and white, the kids gaze back at the camera, sometimes exuberant, more often pensive, and always beautiful.

The portrait exhibit is the brainchild of Playtime Project co-founder and president Jamila Larson and her friend Tony Brunswick. Talking one day about some of the things that home-owning families can take for granted but that are usually unavailable to the homeless, they came up with the family photo album.

For homeless parents, photographing their children as they develop from toddlers to teens is a luxury few can afford. Brunswick, who describes himself as a "passionate amateur photographer," volunteered his services. Over the last two years he has photographed 150 homeless D.C. families, each of which has received a framed photograph.

The Playtime Project was born in 2003, when Larson, a D.C. school social worker, got together a group of volunteers to fill what she saw as a gap in city services, where too often the needs of children are ignored by a system

For homeless parents, photographing their children as they develop from toddlers to teens is a luxury few can afford.

that caters primarily to the needs of adults. All children need to play, and as the project's Web site explains, children "caught in the storm of homelessness" need a space where they can "explore the limits of their imagination." By providing regular opportunities for supervised play and self-expression through art, music, reading, writing, sports and other activities, the Playtime Project aims to promote healthy child development and reduce the effects of trauma among children living in emergency family shelters.

Beginning with a weekly playgroup for children at the Community for Creative Non-Violence, the Playtime Project went on to organize kids' activities at D.C. Village and at Turning Point, a transitional housing project run by the Salvation Army. Once a week (twice a week at Turning Point), volunteers arrive with toys and games designed to engage kids of all ages in having fun. In addition to providing



TONY BRUNSWICK/FAMILY PORTRAIT PROJECT

Photographer Tony Brunswick is searching for a gallery to display his portraits of homeless families.

regular play activities, the organization holds four seasonal family parties each year and gives away books, coloring books, activity packs and school supplies.

Now that city authorities have closed D.C. Village, the Playtime Project is moving its activities to a number of new sites – including former D.C. General Hospital, where the city will operate an emergency hypothermia shelter for families, as well as the Community of

Hope in Southeast and the Northwest Family Church Network, both of which provide transitional housing.

The Playtime Project plans to take its portraits into these new sites, and Brunswick is currently looking for a gallery that will display the portraits for the general public – and help the project raise funds from their sale.

Visit www.playtimeproject.org for more information.

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Holiday Gift Ideas for the Socially Aware Bookworm

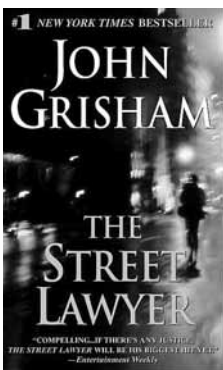
By Robert Blair

December is rich in religious and cultural holidays. There are the better known ones, like Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa, and the less well-known, at least in Washington D.C., like Eid El-Adha (celebrating Ibrahim's sacrifice) and Bodhi Day (celebrating the Buddha's enlightenment). Several of these diverse holidays involve a tradition of gift giving – whether food, coins, toys or more elaborate presents.

So, in the spirit of the season, here are brief reviews of four paperback books for Street Sense readers to consider for the bibliophiles on their holiday gift lists. All four books are in print and likely available on the shelves of your local bookstore. What they have in common is that each one depicts, whether through fiction, memoir or reportage, the lives, circumstances, and adventures of various homeless women and men.

“The Street Lawyer”

By John Grisham
Bantam Dell, \$7.99



When his second novel, “The Firm,” became such a bestseller that John Grisham could afford to give up his law work and become a full-time writer, he described himself as a “recovering lawyer.” Michael Brock, the hero of Grisham's ninth legal thriller, “The Street Lawyer,” is a different kind of recovering lawyer. In Brock's case, his change comes about as a reaction to being held hostage in the conference room of his upscale Washington, D.C., law firm by an armed and angry homeless man. In the aftermath, Brock

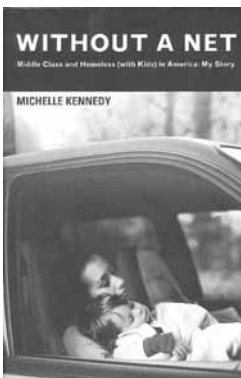
leaves his position as a highly paid, partner-track, antitrust attorney, his Georgetown apartment, and his failing marriage to join a struggling legal clinic that serves D.C.'s homeless population.

Brock's unorthodox downscaling of his lifestyle is initially treated by colleagues and family as a post-trauma, mid-life crisis that would, in time, blow over. But once his firm discovers that he has “borrowed” a colleague's files containing the details of a lucrative but questionable real estate transaction that could seriously endanger the firm's reputation and invite a major lawsuit, the top litigators at Drake & Sweeney go after their prodigal son with a vengeance.

The resulting David and Goliath battle between the 14th Street Legal Clinic and Drake & Sweeney is conducted against a backdrop of emergency homeless shelters, political demonstrations, jailhouse holding cells, and various court rooms and law offices. “The Street Lawyer” is a gripping enough story that the novel was adapted for a television series pilot that, unfortunately, was not picked up for a full season tryout. But it's perfect light reading for the lawyers on your holiday shopping list, or anyone who would enjoy an off-beat thriller set here in D.C.

“Without a Net”

By Michelle Kennedy
Penguin Books, \$14



Michelle Kennedy's memoir of her year of living homeless in Stone Harbor, Maine, is not a stereotypical tale of unemployment, emergency shelters, and soup kitchens. As she explains in the book's prologue: “At eighteen, I was a promising freshman at American University in Washington, D.C. At nineteen, I was married and pregnant with my first child. By the time I was twenty-five, I had three children and within a year, I was separated from my husband and living out of the backseat of my car, my three children all under the age of six.”

During the year that Kennedy and

her young children were housed in a late model Subaru, cooking on park grills, and showering at truck stops and camping grounds, she was working nights as a waitress in a local pub. Trying to save up enough to afford an apartment proved difficult both because of local housing prices and landlords who, when they saw the three children in tow, suddenly remembered a few more appointments they had scheduled.

Kennedy's writing style is simple, clear, and often witty as she describes experiences that range from the harrowing to the blissful, the challenges of daily survival, and emotional vacillations between hope and frustration, boredom and anger. For example:

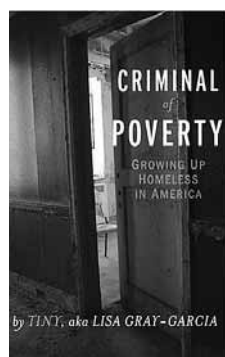
“During the day things weren't so bad. Because I waited tables, I had the day free to take the kids to the ocean, the library, the laundromat. We walked around town and people smiled at us. They didn't know how poor we were. They didn't know we lived in our car. I applied for food stamps, but I didn't qualify. I made too much money. Hah! I think it's more expensive to be poor than to be rich. I didn't have a refrigerator, so I couldn't buy things like concentrated juice for \$1 and make a pitcher to last for a couple of days. I had to buy individual servings at \$1 a piece. The kids developed a taste for water.”

Kennedy's tale is a record of the travails of an intelligent, competent, glass-half-full optimist who struggles valiantly to redeem herself and her two young sons and daughter from the consequences of a few earlier bad choices. It is also profoundly illustrative of the warning that homelessness can be just a paycheck or one bad break away.

“Without a Net” is a beautifully written love story about parental commitment, the kindness of friends and coworkers, and grace under pressure. It's hard to imagine any reader not thoroughly enjoying, and being affected by, Kennedy's memoir. “Without a Net” should please nearly anyone on your gift list.

“Criminal of Poverty”

By Lisa Gray-Garcia
City Lights Foundation, \$15.95



Lisa Garcia's homeless experience is a study in contrast to Michelle Kennedy's. Kennedy was a 25-year old whose homelessness lasted for one year. Garcia experienced year after year of serial evictions, auto housing, and associated legal problems, beginning when she was 14. Kennedy struggled to provide for herself and her three kids on a decent but inadequate wage from a steady job while Garcia struggled to provide emotional and financial support for a depressed, anxiety-ridden, and increasingly disturbed artist mother.

Garcia and her mother survived the trials and tribulations of urban poverty while making and selling clothing they designed and performing art pieces (street theater), based on their own lives, that they wrote and produced.

Kennedy's memoir is apolitical. Garcia recounts how she came to take a political perspective on her situation and that of the other street people among whom she lived and worked. Kennedy's supportive community was her co-workers at the pub. Garcia was a sometimes homeless and always poor street vendor who developed a talent for writing and organized the publication and funding of an arts magazine called POOR, writing workshops for other low- and no-income adults and youth, and various anti-poverty media campaigns.

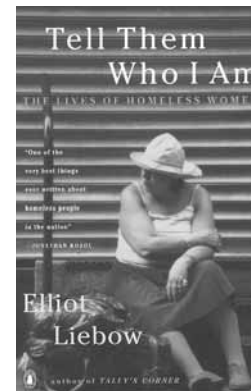
Garcia's tale of growing up streetwise in urban Oakland and San Francisco is marked by irony, abundant black humor and a sharp sense of outrage at what she sees as the systematic criminalization of the poor and homeless. What she says about her writing workshops holds true for her memoir: “Everyone needed to try their best to write well. Not just write, but write well. Also, they were encouraged to write about their truths from a first person perspective: ‘I’ not ‘they’ or ‘them.’ And finally, it was stipulated that there should be no table-pounding, preaching

or editorializing, that the same power can be communicated by a good metaphor.” Well, maybe a little preaching, but lots of lively writing as well.

Garcia's combination of countercultural resistance, sardonic humor and intense idealism has a strong 1960s flavor – no doubted accented by its setting in the San Francisco Bay area. The fact that she has a fascinating life story, and tells it with flair, makes “Criminal of Poverty” a solid choice for any social liberals, political activists, writers or artists on your seasonal shopping list.

“Tell Them Who I Am”

By Elliot Liebow
Penguin Books, \$16



“The Street Lawyer” is exciting. “Without a Net” is graceful. “Criminal of Poverty” is raw and enthralling. But “Tell Them Who I Am” is profound. The first three stories are carried swiftly along by their narratives. “Tell Them Who I Am” is the fruit of participant observer research among single homeless women in a small emergency shelter in the D.C. suburbs. It is the work of a deeply thoughtful and compassionate social scientist, Elliot Liebow, whose influential 1967 ethnographic study of black urban street-corner life, “Tally's Corner,” is a sociology classic still taught today.

In 1984, Liebow, then the fifty-eight year old chief of the Center for the Study of Work and Mental Health at the National Institute of Mental Health and a professor at Catholic University, learned that he had cancer and a very limited life expectancy. As he put it: “I did not want to spend my last months on the twelfth floor of a government office building,” so he took disability retirement and became a volunteer in a newly opened suburban soup kitchen and later at a local emergency shelter for homeless women. His experiences at that shelter, and his interaction with the women he got to know there, were the basis for his final work.

In “Tell Them Who I Am,” Liebow combines intimate portraits of the lives and struggles of over a dozen of the women he came to know at the shelter. It is a careful and compassionate analysis of their relationships with their families, the shelter staff, and each other. In the hands of this conscientious and sharply observant social anthropologist, the trials, disappointments, achievements and challenges that these women face are carefully reviewed and reflected on. Liebow manages to capture the individuality of his friends and provide insight into the institutional and social environments with which they have to cope. He even allows the women to add footnoted comments in the book to the observations he makes about their activities and situations.

“Tell Them Who I Am” is divided into sections on daily living, work and jobs, family, shelter life, the shelter staff, friendships and religion, and social solidarity. Liebow also includes chapters on his own thoughts on homelessness and on what became of these women after they left the shelter. In short, this book is a 328-page education on what homelessness can mean in suburban Washington, D.C. Like “Tally's Corner,” it is a minor masterpiece.

While Liebow's study may lack the easy flow of a memoir or fictional narrative, his presentation more than makes up for it in the richness of the insights it provides into these women's circumstances – frequently in their own words. For example: “For the great majority of homeless women, the power of staff simply to ask questions about one's life and thoughts, along with the degree to which they exercised that power, was the single most important quality of a given shelter.”

Over and over, when women compared shelters, The Refuge was almost always cited as among the very best. “They don't ask questions.” “You have privacy there.” “They leave you alone.”

Street Politics

By
David S. Hammond



Bringing Health Care – And Connectedness – Down Home

Even as America's rural areas lose population and jobs, life in a small town or on the family farm is still seen as offering independence and a friendly atmosphere. But it can also be harder to connect with employment, education, health care and mass communications. Sparse population and geographic isolation can mean gaps in those systems, and closing them – or finding alternatives – will take creativity and hard work.

And those gaps have been getting wider. According to the National Rural Health Association, about 500 rural hospitals have closed in the last 30 years – a trend that has only recently slowed. And only about 10% of the nation's doctors practice in rural areas, although about 20% of the population lives there.

So while the affordability of health care presents the same challenges in rural America as it does elsewhere, access to health care is a problem for rural Americans at every income level, according to Leroy Watson, legislative director for the Grange, a membership group that has advocated for rural America since 1867.

The Grange calls for clinics and incentives to bring doctors to rural areas, but those only address the need for primary care. Watson explained that “a new surgical technique can take years to work its way through the medical schools” and become available at smaller hospitals. And he said the lower demand in rural areas is unlikely to bring the more expensive medical machinery out of the major population centers.

“But pharmaceutical technologies are not restricted by scale,” Watson said. So when a new drug comes on the market, “Two days later, you can have it Fed-Exed to you. ... The pharmaceutical technologies are so important to rural areas, because they can get to rural areas.”

That's why access to prescription drugs was on the agenda at the Grange's annual convention in November. The group supports efforts to make them affordable, including closely regulated pilot programs for re-importing Canadian prescription drugs, and allowing Medicare to negotiate the price paid for prescription drugs.

Unlike prescription drugs, specialized expertise, equipment, and surgery can't reach every remote community. So transportation options for those who need them are one way to help close that gap, according to Dr. Louis Sullivan, a former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services who spoke at the Grange convention. And where meeting in person is not needed, Sullivan said “telemedicine” – video conferences with health care professionals – promises to improve consultation and guidance, easily and affordably.

And in the area of telecommunications, rural America is equally worried about being left behind. While health-care teleconferencing might ultimately be available at clinics and other facilities, cell coverage and rural broadband for individual use are by no means guaranteed. It's expensive, and sometimes technically difficult, to get remote households connected. That raises tough questions about the cost of community sustainability that rural advocates and the telecommunications industry have not yet settled.

D.C.'s Gun Control Law – Part of a Bigger Puzzle

A challenge to D.C.'s gun control laws is going to the Supreme Court, and city leaders aren't happy.

Meanwhile, street crime continues to blight both neighborhoods and individual lives. One homeless man I know, who lives in a shelter, refused the offer of an apartment a few years back. Why? Because it was on such a dangerous street that the shelter looked like a better option.

His choice didn't surprise me. Over 20 years ago, I saw an elderly couple reject a new place to live – on the same block as an open-air drug market. When they saw the dealers and customers, they said “Those people will kill us!” and went back to the cramped, handicap-inaccessible rooms they called home.

When people pass up good apartments, it looks like we have a crisis on our hands. And the people who have to live with the bloodshed say it feels like one, too, despite mixed crime trends nationwide.

There's no easy resolution for the complex issues of public safety, community well-being, and individual rights. But as D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray said recently on NewsChannel 8, when asked about the gun control case and related problems D.C. faces, “I have great respect for the Founding Fathers ... but I can't imagine they envisioned this.”

What's on your mind? E-mail StreetPoliticsDC@aol.com.

Edwards, from page 1

al disgrace. I believe that what we do about this issue says everything about our character as a nation. That's why I have challenged America to set an ambitious goal that could fundamentally change our country: eliminate poverty within 30 years and reduce it by one-third within a decade. To do this, we will need to make significant investments to reward work, expand opportunity and strengthen families. Because the issue of homelessness is too often related to mental illness, I will also create a universal health care system that treats mental illnesses every bit as seriously as physical illnesses.

What other legislative steps will you take to increase access to job training, health care, mental health care, case management and other social services for vulnerable populations?

I am proud to be the first major presidential candidate to propose a specific plan to transform America's health care system and guarantee quality affordable health care for every man, woman and child in America. Under my plan, new “Health Care Markets” will give families and businesses purchasing power and a choice of quality plans, including one public plan based on Medicare. Families without insurance will get coverage – that includes mental health treatment – at an affordable price. Families that have insurance today will pay less and get more security and choices. Employers will find it cheaper and easier to insure their workers, and will be required to do so. Under my health care plan, mental health treatment and substance abuse treatment will be fully covered.

Every American should have the chance to work their way out of poverty, but some willing workers cannot find jobs because of where they live, a lack of experience or skills, or other obstacles like a criminal record. I will create 1 million Stepping Stone Jobs to help people struggling to find jobs gain skills and work experience. And no job should pay poverty wages – I will raise the minimum wage to \$9.50 an hour by 2012, and then index it.

The federal government's investment in training and employment services has dropped nearly in half over the past 20 years to only \$35 per worker. I support the expansion of America's workforce development and training programs. Career counselors and training programs that draw on businesses, unions and local community colleges have been shown to be effective. For example, my Green Collar Jobs Training Program will create workforce development partnerships like these, training and employing up to 150,000 workers a year in the new energy economy.

Far too many homeless people in America are also veterans. Once our service members become veterans, we have to make sure the system doesn't fail them. As president, I will fully fund veteran's care and create a new national chain of care to ensure that no veteran falls through the cracks. I will also ensure that returning troops have access to the educational and economic opportunities to succeed in civilian life.

Affordable housing has been cited as one of the main ways to prevent homelessness.

What specific actions will you take to create more affordable housing? How do you define “affordable?”

To address the crisis of affordable housing and to give low-income families the freedom and choice that wealthier families enjoy, I have proposed creating 1 million new housing vouchers over five years. We should also expand the supply of affordable housing that is economically integrated with other communities.

My plan to provide 1 million housing vouchers for low-income families is based on the idea that economically integrated neighborhoods will serve all Americans better. Research has shown that vouchers are effective in combating homelessness and housing insecurity. Currently, more than 8 million Americans live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty. Growing up in such a high-poverty environment greatly limits one's opportunities, and undermines people's chances for escaping poverty. Increasing the number of mixed income neighborhoods can give more people the opportunity to benefit from good jobs and schools.

While I believe that we must break up areas of concentrated poverty if we are to build One America of economic opportunity for all, we must also make sure to create a net expansion in the supply of affordable housing. I will also work to revitalize dilapidated neighborhoods through HOPEVI, while ensuring that current residents share in the gains.

What kinds of interactions have you had with the homeless community?

Through my work as the director of the University of North Carolina's Center on Poverty and Opportunity and through my presidential campaign, I have traveled to numerous homeless shelters to speak with the people who provide and use the shelters' services.

Most recently, I traveled to the Beatitude House for homeless women and children in Youngstown, Ohio. I also worked with agencies that provide shelter and other assistance as an Urban Ministries board member.

Street papers are found in most major cities and aim to increase awareness of poverty and homelessness across the United States. Please add anything else you think our readers should know about your priorities as president.

I am running for president to make sure all Americans have the same kinds of opportunities that I have had. No matter where you live, no matter how much money your family has, no matter what the color your skin is, in America you should have the opportunity to work hard and get ahead.

I grew up in a small town in rural North Carolina, but I had incredible opportunities all my life. I was blessed to go to good public schools and be the first person in my family to go to college. For my whole career, I have fought for ordinary working families against powerful special interests. As a lawyer, I stood with kids and families against big insurance companies. Since I entered public service, I have stood up for the working people whose labor made this country great. As president, I will continue to fight for good jobs, stronger unions, universal health care, and the other building blocks of the American Dream.

IN OTHER NEWS *By Mandy McAnally***Arizona: Officials Ask for Donations for Homeless**

Phoenix's Human Services Department is asking residents for donations to help protect the homeless as temperatures drop and the days get shorter. Clean blankets are the highest priority, followed by warm clothing and shoes, and hygiene items. They are also asking for children's clothing, baby food or formula, diapers and children's blankets (*Arizona Republic*, 11/21).

Louisiana: Group Moves Homeless into Hotel Rooms

A homeless advocacy group in New Orleans recently moved more than 60 residents of a local homeless encampment into hotel rooms. About 200 others remained in the camp. An estimated 12,000 people are homeless in New Orleans, up from 6,300 before Hurricane Katrina, according to the group (AP/Google.com, 11/22).

New York: Homeless Groups to Share \$38M in Grants

Gov. Eliot Spitzer recently announced \$38 million in grants to 16 community groups to help fund housing for the homeless. The money will also go toward complementary support services to ensure independent living for individuals and families. It includes \$3.5 million for housing for persons living with HIV/AIDS. The funds are provided through the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance's Homeless Housing and Assistance Program (*North County Gazette*, 11/18).

Oregon: Homeless Camps Spreading in Portland

Southwest Portland has become home to an increasing number of homeless camps in recent months. The Services Director for Portland said the city has arranged for 220 to 250 more spaces in local homeless shelters during the winter months. She said if the camp has become too big or a source of criminal activity, then police should intervene (*Northfield*, KGW.com, 11/20).

Texas: Cell Phone Usage Growing Among Homeless

Workers at homeless shelters in Ft. Worth say the number of clients with cell phones is increasing rapidly. Many homeless consider cell phones a vital way of getting off the street because they can provide a phone number to potential employers. Tracphones or other cheap phones with pre-paid minutes run about \$10 to \$15. They don't require credit checks or contracts, and cards for additional minutes sell for \$10 and \$20 dollars at convenience stores (Branch, *Ft. Worth Star-Telegram*, 11/25).

Utah: County Building Housing for Older Homeless

Salt Lake County's Housing Authority recently broke ground on Utah's first permanent housing for older homeless adults, ages 55 and older. The \$8 million project, which is expected to be done by the end of 2008, includes four apartment complexes. It will provide more than 450 people with supported, permanent housing, access to social work, mental health care, job placement and property-maintenance services. The complex is part of the governor's 10-year plan to end homelessness (Winters, *Salt Lake City Tribune*, 11/19).

Pennsylvania: Bon Jovi Works for Homeless Organization

Rocker Bon Jovi is working as a spokesman for a Philadelphia organization with a mission to eradicate homelessness. Bon Jovi met Sister Mary Scullion and Joan Dawson McConnon about three years ago and has been using his rock star Rolodex to woo high-profile supporters and garner attention for Project H.O.M.E. H.O.M.E. stands for Housing, Opportunities for Employment, Medical Care and Education. "They to me are what heroes can and should be," Bon Jovi said. "Ordinary people taking on an extraordinary cause and making a huge difference in that community." Since 1989, through a combination of street outreach, housing, health care, education and employment, Project H.O.M.E. has helped thousands of people break the cycle of homelessness and poverty. (Brown and Ely, CNN, 11/26)

Perceptions, from page 1

Participants said drug and alcohol abuse was a major reason for homelessness. While addiction is something many homeless people struggle with, it is not usually the initial cause of homelessness.

"Americans who believe wrongly that homeless people are on streets because of alcohol and drugs are further reinforcing stereotypes, and we need to work on changing that," Stoops said. Americans also listed domestic violence and changes in family, including divorce or death, at the bottom of their list of major reasons for homelessness, the study found. A tiny fraction, 3%, believes the primary cause of homelessness is laziness.

More than three quarters of the survey participants perceived homeless people as adult individuals, the survey reported. But in 2003, children under the age of 18 accounted for almost 40% of the homeless population, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless.

In fact, the U.S. Conference of Mayors reported that families with children are the fastest growing section of the homeless community. "When Americans think of the homelessness, the image that comes to mind is the bearded man rattling a cup in front of CVS pharmacy or on a freeway ramp," Stoops said. "That's the tip of the iceberg – for every homeless person you see, there are nine people you don't see, children and families and elderly."

The disparities show the public needs more information about the solutions to homelessness and the reasons people become homeless, Fannie Mae spokeswoman Chrissie McHenry said. But she believes the information in the survey will be helpful to organizations who work with the homeless. "Understanding how Americans think is crucial to solving homelessness," she said.

"There were a couple of areas where we felt very optimistic," McHenry said. One of the positive findings in the survey was that four out of every five adults said they would be willing to volunteer their time at an organization that assists homeless people, and nearly nine in 10 said they would make donations to these types of organizations.

Adams Morgan Advisory Neighborhood Commission (1C) Business and Committee Meeting Information

Monthly ANC 1C Business Meeting

Meets 1st Wednesday of each month
Next Meeting: Dec 5 at 7 p.m.
 Mary's Center (The Pink Building)
 2355 Ontario Road, NW

ANC 1C Contact List

email: anc1c@yahoogroups.com
web: www.anc1c.org
phone: 202-332-2630
mail: ANC 1C
 PO Box 21009
 Washington, DC 20009



ANC 1C Committee Meetings

ABC and Public Safety

Meets 2nd Tuesday this month
Next Meeting: Dec. 11
 Kalorama Park Recreation Center
 Columbia Rd. and Belmont Rd., NW
 (concurrent with PSA 303 meeting)

Planning, Zoning, and Transportation

Meets 3rd Wednesday each month
Next Meeting: Dec. 19
 3rd District Police Station
 17th St and V St., NW (Snyder Room)

Public Services

Meets 4th Wednesday each month
Next Meeting: Dec. 26
 Kalorama Park Recreation Center
 Columbia Rd. and Belmont Rd., NW

Fenty Announces Affordable Housing Projects

By Desiree Perez

Mayor Adrian Fenty and his administration recently announced new measures aimed at District residents struggling to afford a home, including creating and preserving affordable housing and building permanent housing with support services for the homeless.

"We are facing a real crisis of affordability in this city," Fenty said. "We need to address the housing needs for all residents – at all levels of need – from the chronically homeless, to those struggling with monthly rent payments, to those scrimping to come up with a down payment for their first house."

The city will preserve 500 units of affordable housing in District neighborhoods where the demand is high. The preservation will take place in the Brightwood, Columbia Heights, Deanwood Heights and Washington Heights neighborhoods within the next two years.

Fenty has also announced securing 2,500 units of permanent housing with support services for the chronically homeless. This would be a move toward fulfilling the goal of creating 6,000 net permanent supportive housing units under the Homeless No More plan, a 10-year plan to end homelessness in the District.

Sean Madigan, spokesman for the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, said support services including job training, job placement, credit counseling and substance abuse counseling would be available to help people who are homeless stabilize their lives in their new housing units.

While permanent supportive housing is the first step to easing homelessness in the District, Madigan explained the significance of preserving and creating housing for low-income earners.

"There is a lot of pressure on landlords...to make their buildings market rate or redevelop. There's a lot of pressure to 'go

condo' and cash out," Madigan said. "[We're] not creating it, [we're] keeping the housing that's there safe and affordable."

The city's high housing costs largely influence the definition of "affordable" housing, Madigan said. Even though the average median income for District residents is approximately \$90,000, the annual income for residents in "affordable" housing could range from less than \$30,000 to \$120,000 annually.

The affordable housing created by the mayor's new initiatives will only benefit low-income earners. Persons unable to meet the minimum required salary for certain housing projects would not qualify.

"If somebody doesn't have an income at all...the subsidies just wouldn't cover it," Madigan said.

Overall, Fenty's proposals have been met with mixed feelings.

On Nov. 14, community members and organizers showed public support for Fenty's work with developing Parcel 42 in the Shaw neighborhood. Selecting a developer is one of the first steps the administration has taken to fulfill the neighborhood's housing goals.

The property, which was abandoned for several years, is being converted into a nine-story affordable housing building with ground floor retail and underground parking.

"I don't know that, in the last three years that I've been on the council, Mr. Mayor, that I've been to a ceremony like this where so many of the residents are not protesting, but they're also holding signs that say 'Thank you, thank you, thank you,'" Councilman Kwame Brown said at the announcement of Parcel 42's development team.

Still, other community members feel that their full needs are not being met.

Alexander Padro, an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Ward 2 C notes that, even though the administration is providing affordable housing, it just isn't providing enough to meet

demands.

"We're only [generating] one fourth of the affordable housing that's needed on a yearly basis," Padro said. "We should be generating about 4,000 units a year and we're doing a little over 1,000."

Padro expressed hope, but also realism in his reaction to Fenty's endeavors.

"It seems like the administration is off to a good start," Padro said, "but because the need is so great, only time will tell."

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PORTRAIT) by Anthony
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colored pencil, 13" by 9",
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Anita Winston (mother of prisoner), DC (#P30)



Ras Mosi, Evans State Prison, SC (#P37)



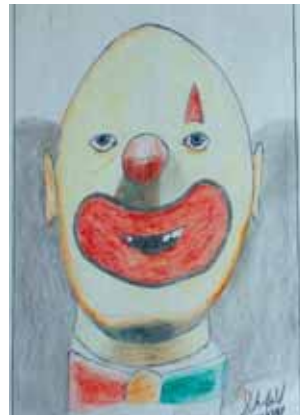
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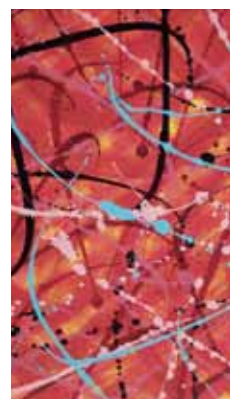
Brian Cole, Rivers Prison, Winton, NC (#P5)



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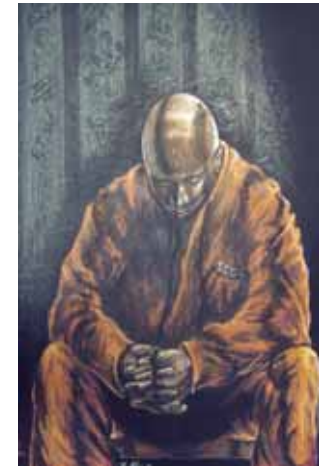
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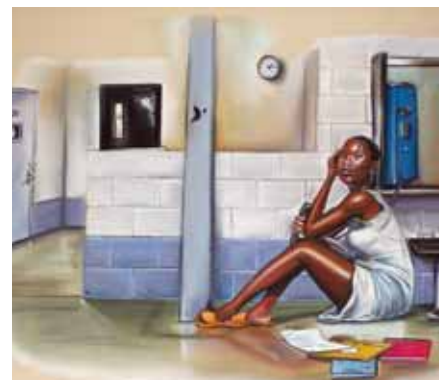
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Unknown Person

My mother has only seen me one time

But she thinks my name is **handsome**

My grandmother thinks my name is **smart young man**

My judge thinks my name is **criminal**

People on the street think my name is **Mack**

The other guys on the unit think my name is **Chillbuck**

I don't know who I am anymore.

—M.

My Nice Meal

I just got out
 I'm anxious to see my family
 And I'm hungry for a good meal
 My daughter looks like an angel in her high chair
 Looking like her father
 My mother's in the kitchen
 Opening the oven, checking on the food
 I walk up to her and give her a kiss
 My girl is there too
 I left her for six months
 I laugh and cry at the same time
 Because it feels so good
 Mom cooks like it's Thanksgiving
 I smell macaroni & cheese, ham, candied yams,
 corn, greens and cornbread smothered in butter
 We all pray and give thanks to God for the food
 We sit down and just chat for a long time

That will be a nice day of my life
 Coming home for my special meal

—K.

Christmas in the City

Every so often,
 you hear your heart pound
 above the pulse of the city
 as you stop to watch a sunrise
 and see the ardent flare of trees
 against the sky.

Just for a time,
 a window of memory
 becomes visible in that morning light,
 and you see straight into the eyes of those
 who have ever held you
 with a look of kindness,
 revealing a measure of eternity there before you,
 silently, close enough to touch.

Like roses in the snow
 or the colors of a rainbow,
 the things you see bring such peace of mind
 you wonder that they're so easily remembered
 with the warmth of Christmas
 yet recede into the distance
 as the heart surrenders
 to time and circumstance.

The angels ache for you
 to remember it all every day,
 for they will tell you
 that even kings desire to see what you see,
 and that since the first Christmas,
 there's been no cause for surrender.

—Rick Dahnke

The Dollars and “Sense” of Holiday Budgeting

By Linda Stroman



Can you believe that 2007 is rapidly coming to an end? For many of us, this is a favorite time of year. The holiday season can bring joy and wonderful memories; but if you're not careful, it can also take a toll on your financial

health. Poor financial planning can lead to overspending and deeper debt. Don't let the holidays undo all the good work you've done to stay within your budget for the year.

Here are some holiday tips and strategies to help you stay on track:

- **Consider giving a “priceless” gift.** The giving of time and services is much more valuable than something with a pre-determined price tag.

- **Draw names and give fewer, nicer gifts.** This works well, particularly in the workplace.

- **Shop online.** The beauty of this is that it can be done at any time of the day and can possibly spare you of the holiday “hustle and bustle” – including long lines. Window-shop online to determine the websites that can offer the best deals (including free shipping). For more advice on saving money online, read our previous column on online shopping: <http://caab.org/news-events/street-sense/getting-more-for-less.php>. Best of all, most things can be delivered directly to a

home or work address!

- **Avoid last-minute shopping.** Shopping under stress can lead to poor purchasing decisions. If the plan is to visit or see someone after the holiday season is over, wait to purchase gifts or even supplies.

- **Give to a cause.** If someone has a charitable organization or event that is near and dear to them, making a donation in their name or in general could be a nice gift. You may also benefit by getting the tax break for the donation.

- **Don't “shop until you drop.”** Maintaining good financial health also means maintaining good mental, physical and emotional health.

And if you want to get a jump on holiday planning for next year, it is never too early to plan and evaluate spending desires for the holiday season. Some people like to get a head start and shop throughout the year, purchasing gifts as they travel or finding items that are on sale.

In any event, it is best to draft a plan of action and take the time to determine a “true” holiday spending guideline. Some financial planners recommend putting no more than 1.5% of your annual income (\$375 per \$25,000 of annual income) toward holiday spending.

Keep in mind that holiday spending can be divided into several areas: gift giving, charity, cards, postage stamps, decorations, baking supplies, specialty foods, gift wrapping and bags, party supplies, travel arrangements and flowers. With more time to plan, you can compare income and savings to credit card debt, living expenses and other financial obligations. This

can help you determine how to prioritize your spending plan in anticipation of your holiday needs and wants.

The Internet is a fabulous tool, and websites like <http://www.betterbudgeting.com> and <http://www.practicalmoneyskills.com> offer tips that can help you breathe easier during and after the holiday season.

Many financial institutions can also help determine the best means for starting a holiday spending account. In previous columns, we discussed options for opening no monthly or minimum-balance fee savings accounts; visit <http://dcsaves.org/resources/accounts.asp> for more information.

Planning ahead could also keep you from having to supplement your income to cover excess spending by taking on part-time employment or trying to secure overtime hours at work. Working extra hours could add stress and limit time for proper holiday season enjoyment. Using cash or ensuring that enough funds are available for “wiping out” credit card purchases should be part of any plan and can keep you from overspending.

By minding your financial health, you can focus on the joys that the holiday season can bring—and stay on track to achieve your financial goals!

This regular financial column is presented by Capital Area Asset Building Corp. (www.caab.org), which provides financial counseling, housing and small business assistance to low-income individuals. Send your questions on this topic or ideas for future topics to saving@caab.org.

ABOUT TOWN By Patricia Jefferson

A Coffee Break Around Every Corner



DESIREE PEREZ/STREET SENSE

One of my favorite ways to entertain myself is by visiting coffee shops. I have been to a variety of coffee shops in the downtown area and I might have become a connoisseur of coffee. I enjoy drinking coffee anytime and I believe it

boosts both a person's energy and spirits.

Starbucks has a variety of rich and strong coffees. No other coffee shop can compete and it's known around the world. Starbucks, as stated on its Web site, originally started in Seattle in 1971. That was the first and only store until the 1990s when Starbucks expanded to the rest of the country.

Now you can find a Starbucks on nearly every corner in downtown D.C., and they all have long lines extending out the door.

Starbucks has an atmosphere that is conducive to reading and working on your laptop. You can relax and listen to music while enjoying your coffee and perhaps charging your cell phone, too.

After visiting several Starbucks in the area, there is one that appeals to me the most. It is located in Chinatown at 7th and H streets, NW. It has an upper level where there are several windows for viewing the downtown shoppers in the picturesque environment of Chinatown.

When you walk up the stairs, you will find an array of seats available. The atmosphere is usually serene and you can have a quiet conversation

When I visit a Starbucks, I usually order the coffee of

the day – the house blend, which is well-balanced, or the Estima blend, which is smooth and velvety, or the Serena blend, which is a medium-bodied coffee, or the Yukon blend, which has a bold taste imported from Latin America.

On a hot day, the blended beverages such as orange cream or mocha and caramel cream frappuccinos are delicious and refreshing. During the Christmas season, take a break from your Christmas shopping, and enjoy the seasonal Christmas blend, a mixture of sweet and spice that is a soothing delight for your holiday spirits.

For this season, however, Starbucks has fall festive drinks on the menu such as pumpkin spice latte. The food is made to match. Among the pastries, you will find pumpkin scones, pumpkin loaf and more.

At a Starbucks at 13th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Joe Clark, the assistant manager, said Starbucks creates a “third environment for its customers – a relaxing [place] away from home and work.”

After speaking to customers about their opinions of Starbucks coffee, most customers prefer the taste over the many competitors. “There are so many Starbucks, similar to McDonald's,” one customer told me recently, “but I enjoy Starbucks every day for the taste.”

Two men walking out of the store had the same opinion about Starbucks. “It's strong and keeps us awake,” one said.

I spoke to a customer who was sitting and waiting for a friend. After she purchased a Street Sense newspaper from me, she told me she was visiting from Memphis, Tenn., and was in the District attending a forum on homelessness.

However, she wanted to come to Starbucks after attending the forum. I asked her opinion of Starbucks. She said she only drinks coffee on occasion, but she likes espresso versus coffee, because it is stronger.

“It's all in the bean,” she said.

Patricia Jefferson loves to write and has been a Street Sense vendor for 15 months.

Need Help with Moving, Yard Work, or Home Repairs?

Then contact veteran Street Sense vendor Jake Ashford!

Jake has years of experience in construction and is an all around jack-of-all-trades with reasonable rates. He is available seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. but can only work at places that are accessible by public transportation.

For more info or to line up an appointment, contact Jake at hjashford2001@hotmail.com or 202-427-5733.

References available through Laura Osuri at Street Sense: laura@streetsense.org or 202-347-2006.

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Marvin Hammerman

A mystery novel in parts

BOOK 4, PART 11

By August Mallory

At police headquarters, Hammerman, Hoffman and Jamison were interviewing an assault victim. They discovered the suspect had been identified and could possibly be an illegal immigrant from Central America called Eduardo Gonzales.

“An unidentified caller just called in to give us the name of the suspect. The caller refused to leave his or her name but did give us a good description of the person who matches the artist’s sketch,” Hammerman said.

Suddenly another call came in. Eduardo Gonzales had been spotted fighting with another homeless man on Union Street in downtown Seattle.

“Hammerman!” shouted Detective Weller. “We have a location on the suspect. He was just spotted on Union Street fighting with a guy. Okay, let’s go.”

Hammerman and his team, along with the police, raced to Union Street. Eduardo Gonzales has just stabbed his opponent three times in the back and has made off down Union Street toward 9th Avenue.

As Hammerman and the police arrived, they found the victim laying face down in the street in a pool of blood, just barely alive. The police worked desperately to administer first aid.

While an EMS team was en route, someone pointed in the direction Eduardo Gonzales had run.

“Hammerman, I have to stop this guy, and I have to stop him now. Jamison, we’ll take my car,” Weller said.

“Perfect,” Jamison replied. As the two detectives headed in the direction of 9th and Union streets, they suddenly spotted Gonzales.

Weller shouted, “Gonzales, stop, you’re under arrest!”

Gonzales led Weller and Jamison on a wild chase through alleyways, down sidestreets, over fences, across intersections, and between houses and buildings. He appeared to outsmart the detectives as he ducked and dodged around corners.

Jamison, now in hot pursuit on foot, was hot on the heels of Gonzales and eventually caught up to and tackled him. Both men began to slug it out. Weller caught up to them and Gonzales pulled out his knife and advanced toward Jamison.

At the same time, Weller pulled his service revolver but stopped short of firing it. Jamison landed a spin-kick, knocking the knife out of Gonzales’ hand. Jamison then landed a kung-fu kick in Gonzales’ midsection, sending him reeling backwards.

Gonzales got up and charged at Jamison again – this time with a scissors kick to the chin, knocking Gonzales backward. Gonzales made another attempt to charge Jamison, who in turn double-spun-kicked Gonzales in the head.

Gonzales soon staggered back and forth, his coordination off. He could no longer tell one direction from the other. Suddenly, he stopped in his tracks and fell backwards, crashing hard on the ground. Gonzales was out like a light.

Weller was amazed by Jamison’s martial arts ability. Weller slapped the handcuffs on Gonzales and radioed for a vehicle.

Word got back to Hammerman that Gonzales was now in custody. The next thing that needed to be done was to put Gonzales on trial and find out if he’s an illegal immigrant. If Gonzales was found guilty of murder, he would serve his time in jail and be deported after his release.

Jamison rejoined his party. “You know, Marvin, I often wonder what makes people take advantage of others who are in the same situation,” Jamison said.

“I have been asking myself that very same question for a long time, and I can never figure it out. I guess I never will,” Hammerman said.

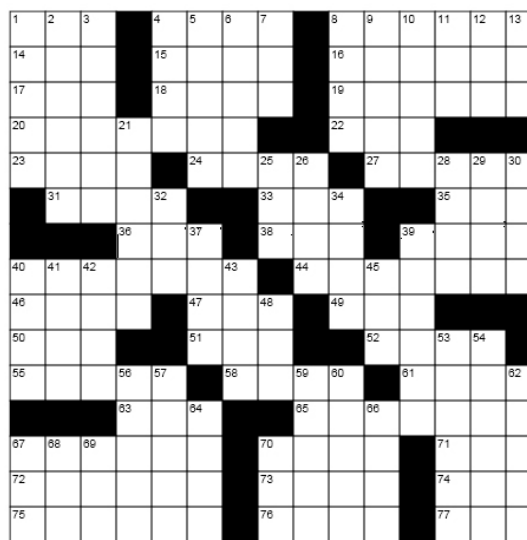
“But at least Darlene Richards Johnson now has some closure. She now knows who murdered her brother. It may be some time before Gonzales goes to trial,” Hammerman said.

He continued, “I cannot prosecute Gonzales. I have no jurisdiction here in the state of Washington. It is up to the state prosecutor and immigration officials whether Gonzales is an illegal alien.”

“Well, I guess it’s time to head back to Minnesota,” Hammerman said. “Ed, give Anna a call, we’re going home.”

August was the first vendor for Street Sense and was with the organization for three years. He now lives in Seattle, and is on the editorial board of the street paper there. You can reach August at: carriergroup2009@yahoo.com.

November Crossword



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 1 Precedes an alias
- 4 Not ins
- 8 Arched passageway
- 14 Outlaw
- 15 Vexation
- 16 Textile
- 17 ___ of the covenant
- 18 Spring flower
- 19 What is governed
- 20 Caviar
- 22 BB association
- 23 Super Man
- 24 Not far
- 27 Holy messenger
- 31 Artist Chagall
- 33 Droop
- 35 Marvel
- 36 Fannie _____
- 38 Killed in action
- 39 Supplication
- 40 Convicts
- 44 Bruce Willis movie
- 46 Foot wear
- 47 Limited (abbr.)
- 49 li
- 50 Wall plant
- 51 Allege
- 52 Gas burner
- 55 Passes judgement
- 58 Swain
- 61 Boat movers
- 63 American College of Physicians (abbr.)

DOWN

- 65 Severe
- 67 Whine
- 70 Scoff
- 71 United States of America
- 72 Vendor Patricia Jefferson enjoys this medium-bodied coffee
- 73 52 weeks
- 74 Radioactivity unit
- 75 There have been this many Help the Homeless Walks to date
- 76 Runty
- 77 Clairvoyance

- 21 Arrange
- 25 Vendor Emily Bowe learned that you should always do this
- 26 Bust
- 28 Joyful
- 29 Vessel
- 30 Usher
- 32 Jaguar
- 34 Lilt
- 37 Snaky fish
- 39 Having these of their children is a luxury for homeless parents
- 40 As previously cited
- 41 De ___ (from the beginning)
- 42 This vendor grew up in Nigeria and England
- 43 Jab
- 45 Ram’s mate
- 48 Henna
- 53 Mother _____
- 54 Stands up
- 56 Expert
- 57 Odor
- 59 Adios
- 60 Lisa Garcia struggled with this type of poverty
- 62 Monkey
- 64 The HCPP provides opportunities for children to do this
- 66 Airy
- 67 Fast plane
- 68 Fresh
- 69 Anger
- 70 Swindle

November’s Answer Key



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A Fair Hearing

By David Pirtle



When I was homeless in Washington, D.C., one of my favorite pastimes was sitting on Capitol Hill and listening to C-SPAN radio. I know that sounds boring, but this is coming from a guy whose earliest childhood memories revolve around the Reagan/Carter election of 1980. Politics is the best-written and worst-acted soap opera in America. I love it.

So when I was asked by Mike O'Neill of the National

Coalition for the Homeless to attend the congressional committee hearings last month on the recertification of the McKinney-Vento Act, I jumped at the opportunity. As a board member of NCH, I had participated in several discussions revolving around this legislation and looked forward to watching our democratic process at work.

Now that I have had time to reflect upon the hearings, I find myself somewhat dismayed at the measure of detachment that the so-called experts on homelessness have demonstrated from the reality of life on the streets. Among the most contentious issues discussed at the hearings were the legal definition of homelessness, set-asides for supportive housing and the demographic breakdown of the homeless.

The word "homeless" conjures up a pretty clear image in the minds of most people: usually a middle-aged male, most likely a minority, with unkempt hair and clothing, panhandling on the side of the road.

While this is the most visible stereotype of homelessness in America, it fails to encompass most of the men, women and children who lack housing security. The Housing and Urban Development Department definition of homelessness includes individuals residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing or on the street. Both versions of legislation reauthorizing McKinney-Vento would expand this definition, though the House version goes much farther than its counterpart in the Senate.

Unfortunately, many of the people testifying on behalf of the current administration are against this expansion on the grounds that it would dilute the funds available for emergency services. While this is certainly true, the answer would seem to be to increase funding rather than to exclude those who need assistance.

However, when it comes to set-asides for supportive housing, the administration seems perfectly willing to dilute the funding it was previously defending. Don't get me wrong. I am a huge supporter of supportive housing. It is one of the most effective tools for assisting the chronically homeless. I myself secured housing late last year through such a program, and it has helped me immensely in my recovery from the chronic mental illness that landed me on the street.

But McKinney-Vento was never intended to be housing legislation. Rather, it was supposed to fund the emergency programs that are the entry point into the system for most individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Placing a proposed 30% set-aside on McKinney-Vento funds for

supportive housing would not only tie the hands of local communities, it would also let the government off the hook when it comes to fully funding the existing, currently neglected programs that were put in place to provide housing for those who need it.

Indeed, the only non-governmental entity asking for this supportive housing set-aside at the hearings was, unsurprisingly, the Corporation for Supportive Housing.

One issue brought up several times by committee members at the second hearing, and the most troubling point of contention as far as I was concerned, was the question of who makes up the homeless population in America. Witnesses testifying for the current administration seemed to have some erroneous information regarding this.

For instance, Rep. Albio Sires (D-N.J.) asked about the apparent rise in the number of women and families in the homeless population, and was taken aback by government witnesses who told him that, as a percentage of the overall homeless population, the number of families remained unchanged.

Rep. Sires's perceptions were correct and the government's assertions, sadly, were not. The U.S. Council of Mayors has found, in repeated surveys, a significant increase in the percentage of families living on the streets in America. In New York City alone, in February of this year, the number of families sleeping in municipal shelters reached an all-time high of 9,300, including over 14,000 children.

In another exchange, Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) was told, after inquiring why none of the government witnesses had mentioned the problem of homelessness among il-

legal immigrants in the U.S., that the problem was insignificant and irrelevant. Shays, who has slept in shelters in his home district in order to learn firsthand about the struggles faced by the homeless, didn't seem to be buying it.

Again, the congressman's instincts were better than the administration's numbers. Anyone who has worked with the homeless in D.C. knows that, while the exact number of undocumented homeless in shelters is impossible to pin down, the number is quite significant.

Indeed, legal status is often a barrier for men attempting to receive homeless services. I have had to personally assure men sleeping in the park outside of Franklin School Shelter that they could not be denied admittance based on their lack of a green card.

In the end, while I was dismayed at how out of touch government officials seemed to be, I have to somewhat begrudgingly admit that I was impressed with the insight, savvy and compassion demonstrated by members of the House subcommittee.

Their willingness to ask tough questions and their refusal to accept easy answers gave me at least a little hope about the future of this legislation, as well as the prospects for finally ending the modern day scourge of homelessness in America.

Of course, hope is all that the homeless community has ever had on our side. The recertification of McKinney-Vento is just the beginning of what is needed to accomplish this task. Let's hope that our elected representatives can and will move to finish the job.

David Pirtle is formerly homeless and is the president of Until We're Home, which works to preserve shelters space and give shelter residents their rights.

I have to somewhat begrudgingly admit that I was impressed with the insight, savvy and compassion demonstrated by members of the House subcommittee.

Walk the Walk

By Eugene Versluysen

Sponsored, as always, by Fannie Mae, the 20th Help the Homeless Walkathon took place on Nov. 17. The turnout was huge: while the front of the march was approaching the finish line opposite the Smithsonian Castle, the tail had barely reached the Tidal Basin. There were 30,000 marchers.

There were other walkathons across the country on the same day, from Atlanta to Denver and San Francisco.

The rally began before 8 a.m. in dank, chilly weather. The sun was nowhere in sight, the sky was leaden, and the day didn't look promising. Thousands of early arrivals did their best to keep warm, stamping their feet and jumping up and down. Some were wrapped in blankets, and others were wearing down jackets.

Only a few optimists turned up in running shorts and t-shirts. But nothing could dampen the spirits of the participants; there was much laughter and cheering in the long queues in front of the registration stands, where we were given colorful t-shirts and big smiles.

In the background, close to the start line, was a huge stage from which mega-decibel music enveloped the crowd. The music was followed by speeches that were, fortunately, short and to the point.

To my surprise and delight, one speaker urged the assembled crowd to buy Street Sense, lauding our work and mission; it must have boosted the morale – and sales – of the many vendors who were milling among the marchers.

Speakers included the chairman of the board of Fannie Mae, Delegate Eleanor Holmes-Norton, and Mayor Adrian Fenty. They made a point to remind us that, while we had all slept well in warm beds, many of the District's 12,000 homeless people had spent cold sleepless nights and were facing a bleak day ahead. That is indeed why we were there: to raise awareness of the plight of homelessness and, I hope, to bring an end to it.

Right on schedule, the march set out shortly after 9 a.m., snaking its way along Independence Avenue and 14th Street and around the Tidal Basin.

It turned out to be a joyful day, especially when the clouds gave way to bright sunshine; the optimists in shorts were right after all. The crowd was truly mixed, containing people young and old, black, white and Asian, and countless families with babies and young children. Many marchers were associated with local agencies and charities that deal with homelessness, as well as with the corporate sponsors of the event, all carrying bright banners and placards.

Along the way there was entertainment by various groups of singers, musicians and dancers, and at the finish line we were greeted by a high school marching band from Clinton, Md. That put a cheerful end note on a spectacular event.

More surprising still, whereas the Mall is usually full of litter after big marches, on that day there wasn't a scrap of paper or discarded bottle in sight; the trash cans, however, were full to the rim. It shows that people with a social conscience also respect their environment.

Eugene Versluysen volunteers at the Street Sense office on Tuesday mornings. An international development consultant, he was a principal economist at the World Bank for 16 years.

The A to Z of Addiction

By Moyo Onibuje



This article is on addiction from a personal and professional perspective. As a recovering addict, I have learned that everything you do in the dark will come into the light. I had the desire to stop using drugs, but I denied my addiction for a long time precisely because I didn't have the tools to deal with it.

Thoughts of being afflicted with a form of insanity really

bothered me, since I continued using drugs even though the consequences were dire. The first drug counselor I ever met in recovery told me that my best thinking got me there. I had to stop rationalizing. Essentially, I used to avoid my feelings. It is like you create one feeling and then put some more over some of those feelings, until you are overwhelmed.

That's why the good counselors do a feeling check on a scale of 1 to 10 every morning for each person, before group starts.

One of the worst things about my addiction was the effect it had on my memory. I engaged in a number of activities to get drugs. I have been told by various people that if anybody did to me what I did to myself, I would have killed them.

I am happy to put the guilt and shame to rest and reverse the relationship I have with society. When you have multiple illusions about your life, you have reached the point of no return. I have learned to play the biographical tape as often as possible as a deterrent. There is power in powerlessness. Addiction is the canopy under which all the different manifestations of the flesh co-exist. A life lived with broken promises – that's me.

The first step in the recovery process is the desire to stop using and a willingness to change ideas and attitudes. Twelve-step meetings can complement professional treatment, but should not be a replacement.

The first step of the medical detoxification process involves

the patient receiving medication relevant to stabilization, assessment and referral. Your treatment program is dictated by what type of drugs you're addicted to. The most important professionals you'll come into contact with in the treatment field are social workers, nurses, psychologists, physicians and certified drug abuse counselors.

In dealing with addiction, which affects a great number of the poor and homeless, you have the general category of treatment programs; outpatient and in-patient divisions. The scientifically based approach to drug treatment refers to modules usually designed around an individual or group, depending on the addiction and needs being treated.

Treatment plans are developed and followed through with referrals for medical, psychiatric and social services. The goal is to return the person to a productive role in the family, workplace and community.

A successful outcome obviously depends on retaining the person long enough to achieve the full benefits, so strategies for keeping the person in the program are critical.

Within the therapeutic environment of residential treatment centers, there is great structure, with activities designed to help residents examine damaging beliefs, self concepts and patterns of behavior and to adopt new ways to interact with others.

One avenue of entry to individuals with substance abuse problems who are within the criminal system is to request drug court from the pre-trial services agency. This, of course, depends on the severity of your charge. Your public defender will request a hearing in front of the judge who handles the court-based sanction program. This usually requires a referral from the original judge.

If you don't have health insurance, you can get help from your local government. Start by contacting "community connections," a core service agency which, along with mental health officials, will provide appropriate treatment and support for the issues drug-afflicted members of society face.

Street Sense vendor Moyo Onibuje grew up in Nigeria and England and loves to read.

I am happy to put the guilt and shame to rest and reverse the relationship I have with society.

You Should Always Ask

By Emily Bowe



There were quite a few cold days last week. Getting up around 6 a.m. to be on the streets by 7 a.m., looking for a place to warm up and get a cup of coffee. After the coffee break, standing on the sidewalk, asking passersby to buy Street Sense, to help eradicate homelessness.

People responded okay. I saw three people walking my way and decided I wouldn't ask them to buy the paper and turned my back to them. One of the three, a lady, was looking for her money. She found her purse, pulled out a dollar and gave it to me. I handed her the paper.

"I thought you wouldn't buy the paper so I didn't ask," I said.

"You should always ask," she said. "They can only say no."

I responded, "Oh, yes."

I moved on down to 7th and H streets, another Metro stop, presenting Street Sense the way I do. I asked a gentleman to buy a paper. He said no.

But he didn't move far off. So I continued to talk about the great art in the issue.

"Okay, I'll get it, since you're such a great salesman," he said.

I wanted to say, "You mean, a salesperson," but I didn't. I thanked him.

Emily Bowe recently started selling Street Sense. She likes to write and attends the Street Sense writers group meetings every week.

Shucks, from page 1

include a pack mule for us to haul all the material goods given to us in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

A lot of us do have storage units and I would venture to say that more than half the storage facilities in the District and the surrounding areas are rented by the homeless. However, these are usually filled with what little possessions we managed to save from the homes we once had. There is, sadly, "no room at the inn."

Even shelters that do have room for goods are forced to discard brand new clothing and other household items, as I and other clients witnessed first hand at Calvary Women's Shelter early in January this year.

The staff's director placed numerous boxes of Champion brand sweat tops with matching pants along with other boxes filled with women's cotton panties outside the shelter after we clients were forced out at our regular 8 a.m.

This event set off a feeding frenzy like a school of piranhas attacking. Eight feet from the shelter's three-inch steel door is a very busy substance abuse facility. The shelter also has a bus stop in front of it, a liquor store next to it and a topless bar across the street. Heck, one guy lifted the biggest box and carried it away. His needs must have been big.

When we clients asked why we could not have the items that had been donated for us, we were told we had received our allotted portion and we could not store the extras due to

us being homeless.

Now y'all givers need to get together and do some networking and put to work a delivery system by setting up a Web site that helps you find appropriate things to give us at the right time. That is, March through May, depending on the weather, some of us could use another pair or two of gloves. Some items we can't have enough of all year around are socks, t-shirts, panties for girls and drawers for guys.

I suspect a lot of what we receive 'new,' including the men's winter boots that the hypothermia van distributed the last two Christmases, is given under the assumption that we all for the most part don't mind wearing men's clothing.

It's true that the men's long johns and socks I got last year at the Dinner Program for Homeless Women are simply marvelous, and the extra fabric helps to keep me warm and cozy. But most guys won't wear girls' clothes whereas we gals will wear men's, although we sure don't prefer it.

If not knowing our gender makes it easier to give, press on, but how much more would it mean if we were considered individuals and remembered all year long.

I hope you understand now that less is more for later and so it goes.

Have yourselves a jolly time of year and thank you on behalf on all my brothers, sisters and me.

Brenda Karyl Lee-Wilson has been a Street Sense vendor since March 2005. She loves dogs and loves to organize anything.

WHAT OUR READERS ARE SAYING...

Dear Street Sense,

Charlie Mayfield is a very pleasant person who exudes gentleness and kindness. I always look forward to receiving the paper from him. He is a hardworking and dedicated person. I am glad he has chosen Union Station as his place to work.

– Irma Echeverria

Your thoughts and editorials are welcome. Please e-mail content to editor@streetsense.org or mail to 1317 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005.

VendorNotes

By Jesse Smith Jr.

Street Sense at the Walkathon



Vendor Francine Triplett had a great time selling at the Walkathon.

On Saturday, Nov. 17, we had the privilege to be present at the annual **Fannie Mae Walkathon for the Homeless**. I believe there were more participants in this event than last year. This time I chose another vantage point from which to observe the proceedings, which gave me a much better perception as to the nature of the events.

What caught my attention was the presence of Street Sense vendors who were involved in the march. I spotted **Jeffery McNeil** and **Moyo Onibuje** marching alongside many people who were representing organizations such as **Friendship Place**, **DC Central Kitchen**, and the **National Coalition for the Homeless**.

Many of the vendors I spoke to said that, in addition to making sales, they had a good time. Every time I saw vendors and board members **James Davis** and **Francine Triplett**, both spoke about what a great time they were having and the public's demand for our paper.

Vendor **Martin Walker** came prepared for the long haul with a TV tray and a folding chair. He said when he was done here he planned to go to some of his other locations and continue selling the paper. For the most part I believe it was a very successful event for the organizations, our vendors, and the homeless community.

Jubilee Jobs

I was recently invited to an informal luncheon held by **Jubilee Jobs** which has given us an excellent opportunity to network with an organization with the skills to provide job prospects for many in the homeless community and is of

particular interest for our Street Sense vendors. **Terry Flood** and **Lawrence Taylor**, officers at the facility, gave an impressive impromptu orientation about the mission, history, and operation of Jubilee Jobs.

This organization is well-structured and has a proven track record; since its inception, it claims to have helped more than 15,000 persons find jobs, most with benefits that are sorely needed. Vendor **Ivory Wilson** said that he has registered with the program and has great hopes for his future. I hope that our vendors take advantage of this opportunity. If you are interested, please contact me at Street Sense at 202-347-2006 or call Jubilee Jobs at 202-677-8833.

Friends at Friendship Place

Thanks to **Jean-Michel Giraud** and **Bill Long** of the **Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place** for their invitation to the open house and orientation in late October. This is another organization we recommend highly for its work in the community and for the solid structure of its program to help people find a way out of homelessness.

Services that are provided include outreach, medical services (they are teamed with **Unity Health Care**), job counseling, and shelters. A couple of our vendors have already visited Friendship Place and have signed on to the program. For more information, please contact me at Street Sense or call the **Community Council for the Homeless at Friendship Place**, (202) 364-1419.

Top Paper Sales: October

Conrad Cheek Jr.	926
Jeffery McNeil	922
Jake Ashford	686
Bobby G. Buggs	569
James Davis	569
Mark Jones	561
Bernard Dean	390
Moyo Onibuje	371
Phillip Howard	360
Leonard Cannady	330



Congrats, Conrad!

DIRECTOR'S NOTE by Laura Thompson Osuri

Too Much of a Good Thing



With Thanksgiving over and Christmas close at hand, the holiday season is definitely upon us. Like every year, with the holidays comes what we around the Street Sense office like to call "homeless season."

"Homeless season" is the time of the year when everybody suddenly seems to take

notice of those less fortunate, notably homeless individuals. Newspapers run more stories about homelessness, particularly on children and families; volunteers flood organizations that serve the homeless hoping to get at least one day in making sandwiches or handing out hygiene supplies; and donations upon donations of clothing come pouring in to all human service nonprofits, regardless of if they can even accommodate such items.

The reason for this sudden recognition of homeless individuals is quite obvious: the holidays are a time of giving and sharing happiness, so people want to give to those who have the least. Also the holidays fall conveniently at the end of the year when the forthcoming tax exemptions from charitable donations are at the top of many people's minds.

But while all this attention to the homeless population is encouraging, it's simply far too much of a good thing. Our vendors report becoming overweight because of all the donated food during the holidays. Also during the holidays, I have seen many vendors just throw out sweaters and hats instead of cleaning them because of their abundance at this time. Soup kitchens also throw out and turn away more food than ever during this time. And other service providers say their volunteer rosters for the holiday season are booked months in advance.

All this giving, unfortunately, is also fleeting. Inevitably, at the end of January, when people pack up their holiday decorations for the next year, so, too, do they pack up their giving spirit. Donations of cash and goods suddenly dry up and the volunteer numbers dwindle. And the media coverage of the homeless strangely stops for another 10 months.

Unlike the Christmas lights and holly wreaths, homeless individuals cannot be packed up for next season; they are with us all year long. On any given night – even outside the holiday season – in the D.C. area there are about 12,000 homeless individuals, a little under half of whom are in the District alone.

So as you consider giving your time, goods or funds this holiday season, consider holding off on that gift until another time in the year. Contribute a little extra money in April when you get your tax refund; donate bottled water, t-shirts and fans in July when the hyperthermia season is at its peak; take an extra day of vacation during the summer and spend it serving the homeless. Or better yet, sustain your giving throughout the year. Volunteer to tutor a homeless child once a week, help teach a skills training course once a month, or during your bi-weekly grocery store trip, buy a little extra to donate to the food pantry.

And most nonprofits, including Street Sense, offer automatically recurring deductions when you donate online with a credit card.

Thanks to everyone for thinking of homeless individuals this holiday season. But please, please, keep them in your thoughts, prayers and donations more than just six weeks out of the year.

If you need more information on volunteer opportunities, look at the directory on page 15. You can also contact D.C. Cares for other volunteer opportunities at www.dc-cares.org.

If you would like to volunteer for Street Sense throughout the year, please email Koki Smith at editor@streetsense.org for more info. Or if you want to set up recurring donations to Street Sense please visit www.streetsense.org and click on "donate."

Get Twice as Much Street Sense Each Month Delivered Right to Your Door!

Do you want to continue to support Street Sense throughout the year?

Order a subscription today.

Not only will you receive 24 issues packed with all our latest news, poetry and photography, you will also help raise awareness about poverty in the D.C. area.

YES! I want to subscribe to Street Sense for just \$40 a year for 24 issues.

YES! I want to give half of the cost of a subscription to my favorite vendor: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please make checks payable to Street Sense.
Mail to: Street Sense, 1317 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20005.

Thanks for your support!

Community Service Index

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

DC Village (Family)
2-A DC Village Lane, SW
(202) 561-8090
www.dccfh.org/DCVillage.html

Franklin School (Men)
13th and K streets, NW
(202) 638-7424

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

John Young Center (Women)
117 D Street, NW
(202) 639-8469
http://www.ccs-dc.org/find/services/

La Casa Bilingual Shelter (Men)
1436 Irving Street, NW
(202) 673-3592

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

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

New York Ave Shelter (Men)
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
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

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

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

Miriam's Kitchen
2401 Virginia Avenue, NW
(202) 452-8926
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

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 and 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 activities

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

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 of D.C.
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

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 available

Shelter Hotline: 1-800-535-7252

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
national emergency travel assistance

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

MARYLAND

SHELTER

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

The Samaritan Group
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 Church, 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) 493-8553
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 supportiveservices

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

Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless
3103 Ninth 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, Ste. 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, Ste. 500
(703) 778-6800
www.lsnv.org
civil legal services

Samaritan Ministry
2924 Columbia Pike, Arlington
(703) 271-0938
www.samaritanministry.com
social services, employment services, HIV/AIDS services

PHOTO FINISH

Walkathon Sell-a-thon

By Laura Thompson Osuri



LAURA THOMPSON OSURI/STREET SENSE

Vendor manager Jesse Smith and vendors Martin Walker and Francine Triplet share a laugh at the Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walkathon Nov. 17. About 30,000 walkers attended and about 25 Street Sense vendors distributed more than 1,500 issues in a few short hours. For more information on the Walkathon, see the editorial on page 12.

VENDOR PROFILE

Jermale Anthony McKnight

By Melanie Lidman

Jermale Anthony McKnight was born Jan. 5, 1984. A Washington, D.C., resident his entire life and the oldest of three boys, Jermale is an aspiring rapper who dreams of becoming a pharmacist.

He graduated from H.D. Woodson High School in 2002 and received a full ride to Morgan State University in Baltimore. When trying to decide on a major, someone asked him what he was good at. Jermale didn't stop to think for a minute. "I'm good at talking," he said. They suggested Jermale consider talk shows or television, so he started studying broadcast journalism.

Jermale's love for the spoken word is evident in his raps, which he writes himself. He has been writing poetry and reciting songs since 1997, way back when he was in junior high. "Some raps are about the way I see things, or I try to line it up with what other people are singing about and make it unique," he said. His favorite song that he has written is called "The Spirit of Washington." Jermale's musical influences for his raps are Jay-Z, Tupac and Biggie Smalls.

Jermale faced homelessness while still in high school because of a shaky relationship with his mother. He stayed with friends during his last year of high school when not living at home.

In his first year of college, Jermale consistently received As and Bs in his classes. He was struggling with some mental issues, which were later diagnosed as a combination of schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. One day in class he just snapped, and dropped out in his first year.

Since then, Jermale has held a variety of jobs, including jobs at AMC movie theaters, Ann Taylor, a t-shirt business and Quiznos.



DESIREE PEREZ/STREET SENSE

How did you become homeless?

I had messed-up priorities. I chose having fun over building a future. I was suffering from undiagnosed mental problems and started drinking, smoking. I got hospitalized, and started getting some medications.

Why do you sell Street Sense?

I sell Street Sense to start giving myself a challenge. The working class are the hardest people in the world, you gotta do something amazing to get them to give you any money.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Hopefully graduated from college with a bachelor's in medicine.

Favorite music?

Gnarls Barkley, that stuff makes you go "wow." It's something different.

Favorite food?

Grilled chicken and rice.

Favorite movie?

Malcolm X

Favorite author?

Alex Haley

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

StreetFact

In the past 30 years, about 500 rural hospitals have been shut down. That's more than one hospital every month.

SOURCE: NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION

Street Sense now comes out every other Wednesday. Look for the next issue December 12.

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Street Sense
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