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TENANTS FIGHT BACK!

AGAINST SB827,
AGAINST
GENTRIFICATION

YIMBYS APOLOGIZE FOR
DROWNING OUT
TENANTS

STREET SHEET STAFF

SAN FRANCISCO, CA -- On Tuesday, April 3rd, community groups from around San Francisco hosted a rally against SB 827 outside City Hall, with dozens of people of color sharing stories of their own housing struggles in the city as well as their fears at the gentrifying impact the pro-development measure would have on their neighborhoods. But their voices were repeatedly drowned out by chants from a young, largely white group of YIMBY (Yes In My Backyard) affiliates, shouting slogans like "WE WANT HOMES".

SB 827 is a bill penned by State Sen. Scott Weiner that seeks to upzone California cities, allowing for taller developments around transit centers, a move that housing advocates say could incen-

tivize the displacement of low-income tenants near transit systems poor communities of color depend on for survival. YIMBYS claim they want to help these same communities, arguing that more development means lower housing prices over time that may trickle down to renters.

But it was renters from these very communities that YIMBY organizers like Laura Foote Clark, Executive Director of YIMBY Action, shouted down at this rally against SB 827. Trauss was escorted from the demonstration by police after aggressively penetrating the gathering and yelling in the faces of demonstrators. Wing Hoo Leung, president of the Chinatown-based Community Tenants Association, was quoted in the SF



SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE:

As of April 15 there are **1,095 people** on the shelter waitlist in San Francisco.

Examiner; “Our members were intimidated by YIMBY. They felt threatened. I think the YIMBY have no heart.” The paper also reported that one elderly Chinese woman was taken from the protest in an ambulance when she fainted after YIMBY agitators yelled in her face.

After days of pushback by community leaders who felt disrespected and marginalized by the behavior of YIMBY counter protestors, YIMBY Action issued a public apology. Laura Clarke herself wrote a letter acknowledging that “it was beyond insensitive to chant over speakers from Chinatown, the Mission, the Western Addition, and the Excelsior,” and promising to take a break from Twitter to re-evaluate her conduct. But other tweets undermined her apology, as she accused those she had supposedly apologized to of “gaslighting” and “white erasure” while implying that the people of color who organized the demonstra-

tion were puppets of white, wealthy homeowners.

Since the demonstration, Weiner has proposed amendments to the legislation, lowering the height allowances and increasing the number of “affordable” units required for new developments. But housing advocates say the changes will not prevent the displacement of long time residents. In Los Angeles, 50% of the stock of single-family homes would be affected by the upzoning legislation.

“If you pass any amendments they will be the sugar coating on the poison pills in the medicine that the state wants every community in California to swallow,” said Lorraine Petty member of Senior and Disability Action said on the steps of City Hall. ■

COHSF Bocce Ball Tournament 2018!

A benefit for Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco

Saturday, May 19 from 11am to 3pm

Aquatic Park Bocce Courts,
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ASK US ANYTHING

HAVE A QUESTION YOU WANT US TO ANSWER ABOUT HOMELESSNESS OR HOUSING IN THE BAY AREA? ASK US AT STREETSHEET@COHSF.ORG OR (415) 346-3740 AND IT COULD BE ANSWERED IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

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COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition’s work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: They bring their agenda to us.

STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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WORKGROUP MEETINGS

AT 468 TURK STREET

HOUSING JUSTICE WORK GROUP

Every Tuesday at noon
The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone!

HUMAN RIGHTS WORK GROUP

Every Wednesday at 12:30 p.m.
The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join!

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO OUR WORK GROUP MEETINGS.

To learn more about COH workgroup meetings, contact us at : 415-346-3740. or go at : www.cohsf.org

My leg has been giving me problems my whole life. It is my right leg. If you were facing me, it would be the left one you see, if we were facing each other. I have had stitches, and I have had a 3rd degree burn, (proudly not going to the doctors, healing it with homemade concoctions) and I have severely stabbed myself. All superficial. The ankle break. That's one of the reasons why I can't walk now. And it happened like this.

Blackout Books. The anarchist infoshop in 1999 was located on Avenue B, right next to the Krishnas. It was a late night, and we were all just occupying the space, as we frequently did, as the bookstore/ info shop was more of a meeting place than a business.. A very classy man had pulled out some very fancy vodka. Vodka which did not cause fire in the mouth and throat. Nope, this was fine medicine, and went down smoothly. I was pretty tolerant to the vodka drinking, actually vodka was my favorite. Okra and I made it a point to get a bit whenever we could, and here was some higher class vodka, a couple steps up from anything I can remember experiencing. And I kept going to the bottle that night for little nips. A lot of little nips.

It was late. Being that at Blackout the sense of 'shifts' after hours was lax, and the shop was kept open for hours after the suggested closing time, where whoever had the key was in charge of calling it a night, we were all sitting around on the very few chairs, and goofing off, reading a cool anarchist periodical, or using the computer, which what Okra was probably doing.

The topic came up on self defense. I felt like a know-it-all, and showed my fellow co-compadre, Rob J, how I could flip him over my back, if he were to try to choke me. Flipped over on the floor, he landed on my foot somehow -it wound up being underneath him, and giggly and vodka stupid he threw me across sideways on the floor. My foot was tight under him, and my ankle gave with only what can be described as an internal sound, and the sudden knowledge of 'OH NO!!!'..and while staving him off cause he still was trying to wrestle me, I immediately tried to get my boot off. Rob calmed down, and then there was the horror of looking at my ankle swelling up real fast. And even through a vodka haze, the pain was huge.

We were housesitting at Famous, Felix and Arrow's house at 7th street, and it wasn't far to get to. But I remember the classy gentleman closing Blackout for the night, cause after my ankle was fucked, the party was over, and he locked the rollgate, and handed me what was left of the bottle, in a 'you're gonna need it' kinda way. Rob had taken off real fast, on his fancy old blue bike, beating a hasty retreat.

I am sure the walk back was both ridiculous, cause of freely pouring

vodka, and painful, but probably it was real damaging to the ankle, walking and limping on it, cause the next day it was worse than I remembered it. Black and blue and ballooned and not working..

Okra suggested strongly that I go see Dr. David Ores, the closest doctor, and well, the awesomest. His office was on a corner storefront on Clinton street, it was painted all camo with a big red cross above the door. If there was ever a doc I should see, this would be that guy.

I remember him being brusque and very to the point. He did not want me to fuck around, and I needed to get an xray. He warned me that it could be a spiral fracture, and that would, if I didn't set it right, result in gangrene and amputation. So he scared me with his words, and it was Sunday so the place to go was Brighton Beach to a Jew xray. And this was a far trek.

Dr. Ores put a (very) heavy cast on my ankle. I think we got some crutches on loan. And because we needed to take

two subways there and two back, and even getting to the subway on Delancey was many many blocks, and I now begged Okra to hijack some homeless persons cart, or at least one that wasn't guarded. After walking slowly down some blocks, and Okra running around the area looking, the shopping cart was found, behind a building and in an abandoned lot, and I happily climbed in like a big baby, or a princess, your choice. And then of course the bumping around in there was almost worse than walking on the ankle.

I made it to get the X-ray, and brought it back to Dr. Ores, who said it WASN'T a spiral fracture, but I was lucky, on account of how it happened. The whole experience was a lot of work, lesson learned in combining hard alcohol and fake self defense training.

After walking back, hobbling on those crutches and then back up to Arrow's I remembered them coming home that night. I heard them pull up, and with dread, made myself presentable, cause I had been napping, and gave them back their keys. Then I hobbled down to ave B, made a left and

walked a few blocks to Blackout. Okra had secured a rooftop for us in Aresh's building, and there we went. A 5 story walk up, or in my case, crawl up, I did my best, and felt way better when I was reclining with my ankle up, and a roly in my fingers and the city lights allowing me to see the face of the guy who I was laughing with. Relief. Til tomorrow, or when I had to pee.

The unfortunate part was that the crawl up to the roof jammed the heavy cast in a shock like way with every step i crawled over, and I realized that I could not bear it anymore. Feeling particularly ambitious with my leatherman in hand, I sawed the cast off, right there in the tent that we had set up on the rooftop, and replaced it with an ace bandage and my boots. Tied up tight, it seemed to do the job, although my ankle was now a cankle and i'll be damned if I was going to wallow in misery and boredom on that roof in a tent while the whole city was going on. I didn't want to be helpless. I was very proactive in my own right. I still am, and hope to always be. ■

JOINING FORCES AGAINST POLICING & JAILS

Last Saturday, over 150 members of different campaigns, projects, and coalitions fighting against the violence of policing and imprisonment attended a half day summit at City College of SF Mission Campus titled Joining Forces Against Policing and Jails in San Francisco. The powerful gathering was organized by the No New SF Jail Coalition, and sought to strengthen connections between organizations to better address the interlocking impacts of imprisonment, policing, surveillance, courts, and prosecution in San Francisco.

The motivation for organizing the summit was to respond to a growing trend over the last year: that while there is increased City and County attention to closing the jails at 850 Bryant and implementing bail reform, there are simultaneous efforts to increase the police targeting, arrest, and prosecution of San Francisco communities. Through interactive workshops, trainings, and panel discussions, participants discussed topics such as jail construction, gang injunctions, targeting of immigrants, justice for community members murdered by police, tasers, bail reform, increased policing on our streets, and the need for our struggles around these issues to be connected and united.

The day kicked off with an opening by members of Critical Resistance Oakland and the No New SF Jail Coalition. Organizer Nick DeRenzi noted that "Our struggles and resistance against the prison indus-

trial complex – jails, police, courts, surveillance, prosecution – is a fight for racial and economic justice in San Francisco." He called out San Francisco's policy of increased policing and gang injunctions which facilitate the massive displacement that poor, Black, and Brown San Franciscans are experiencing.

The opening was followed by a panel of organizers moderated by Woods Ervin of Transgender, Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project which has been working to close the jail at 850 Bryant and ensure no new jails are built. Panelists included Jose Bernal of Hospitality House and No Gang Injunctions coalition, Liz Kroboth from Do No Harm, a coalition of health workers organizing against police violence, and Gloria Esteva-Martinez, member-organizer at Causa Justa/Just Cause who spoke about immigrant justice organizing in San Francisco.

Saturday, April 7th was also the 2nd anniversary of the police murder of Luis Gongora Pat, who was homeless and a Mayan immigrant. At noon, family members and organizers with the Justice for Luis Gongora Pat committee led the group in honoring all those killed by SFPD, chanting "Upaytale," Mayan for "Yes we can" stop the violence of policing. The family is demanding justice and accountability by working through the current legal system, by asking for the prosecution of the officers that killed Luis or for District Attorney Gáscon to resign,

while also advocating for the abolition of policing.

Later in the day organizers from many different people's struggles got together to understand the overlapping issues of their campaigns. Through the discussion organizers determined it was time to create a city wide platform to address and fight back against the impacts of the prison industrial complex (PIC) and the misuse of city resources. Some in the room were student organizers looking to ensure free education, those fighting for a people's budget, folks fighting against the impacts of policing, and family members from those murdered by SFPD. It was determined we must work to dismantle the PIC in SF, while working to reallocate resources to community based programs and services.

To close out the day organizers Gloria Esteva-Martinez and Nick DeRenzi lead those in attendance in the Asata Shukur chant, "We have nothing to lose but our chains". The summit was just the next step in a people's struggle for community care that doesn't include policing or jails. Organizers hope to continue the momentum and inspiration from the day by continuing to struggle and build together. As Jose Bernal mentioned in the morning panel, "I really think... that we should start joining our forces as a coalition of coalitions and really take on this power, because we're the last ones here."

F, YES ON F!

FULFILLING SF'S RIGHT TO COUNSEL PROMISE



1. This June, San Franciscans will have an opportunity to vote on a ballot measure - Proposition F - which, if passed, would guarantee free legal counsel to any tenant served an eviction notice. This program, which would be the first of its kind in California, would represent a commitment to confronting the city's housing crunch in a real and immediate way.

In the past few years, we have seen displacement in San Francisco continue to accelerate. Since 2013, the Mayor's office of Housing estimates that there have been between 3 and 5 thousand evictions each year in San Francisco; in total, this represents as many as 40,000 San Franciscans faced with eviction in the past five years alone. As a recent New York Times story showed, eviction is a crisis that threatens poor communities across the country, and the threat is growing.

Nationally, about 90% of landlords have a lawyer in their eviction case. For tenants, that number is 10%. Having legal representation often gets tenants a better result in court, but in San Francisco, legal counsel in eviction cases is a right only on paper. In reality, 80% of San Francisco tenants don't have a lawyer in their eviction case, and while the city's recently-revamped tenant protections have restricted some of the ways landlords can displace renters, they have not come close to defanging real estate industry greed, which depends on the process being inherently unfair.

We need to level the playing field to ensure that eviction proceedings aren't just a formal-

ity for landlords to go through when they want to evict vulnerable tenants, and a real right to counsel would do that. The idea is proven: in New York City, a program guaranteeing legal counsel to lower-income tenants was expanded dramatically last year, leading to a 24% decrease in evictions.

A right to counsel won't stop every eviction or win every case. But it would end the era of impunity for the city's cruellest landlords - serial evictors, owner move-in fraudsters, and speculators, many of whom use bogus threats and scare tactics against tenants who don't know better or can't fight back. And that would have a real impact on the homelessness and displacement crises that San Francisco has been mired in. Most of our homeless community in San Francisco was housed here recently - the 2015 Homeless Point-In-Time survey found that 71% of homeless San Franciscans had been housed in the city within 3 years, which was an increase of 10% over the figure from 2013. The data is clear: San Franciscans are being forced out of their homes and into the streets.

Politicians and housing advocates like to discuss the housing crisis in terms of how many units are coming down the pipeline, and how increases in supply will shape demand in the coming years and decades. But for many San Franciscans, the crisis means the threat of losing their home is more serious than ever. It's time to stem the tide of evictions in San Francisco with a real right to counsel. Please support Proposition F in June.

2.

This June, San Franciscans will have an opportunity to vote on a ballot measure - Proposition F - which, if passed, would guarantee free legal counsel to any tenant served an eviction notice. This program, which would be the first of its kind in California if passed, would represent a commitment to confronting the city's housing crunch in a real and immediate way.

San Francisco is experiencing a serious housing crisis. Rents are astronomical, and thousands of tenants are evicted each year. When tenants are evicted, many end up homeless or leave the city. In fact, a recent study showed that 70% of those who are homeless in San Francisco were housed in San Francisco within the last three years. One of the reasons there are so many evictions is the fact that there is a substantial power imbalance between tenants and landlords. Nationally, 90% of landlords go into eviction proceedings with legal representation, while only 10% of tenants have a lawyer on their side. In San Francisco, about 80% of tenants don't have lawyers when facing eviction cases. And unfortunately, in our legal system, tenants who lack representation tend to lose their cases, even if they shouldn't. At a time when people are crying out for solutions to our displacement crisis, one simple and impactful step is to make sure any tenant facing eviction has a lawyer. We know that providing representation to tenants has been proven to reduce the overall rate of evictions as well. This is because landlords who bring

unfair, bogus eviction cases can drive out tenants who don't know the law and legal processes, but the situation is totally different when tenants are represented. Establishing a right to counsel will protect thousands of tenants from being unfairly evicted from their homes.

This is why a growing coalition is supporting Yes on F in June, sponsored by tenant advocate Dean Preston and the SF Right to Counsel Committee. If passed, this initiative would require the City to provide legal representation to all tenants in SF who are faced with eviction. This is a commonsense measure which would go a long way to leveling the playing field between landlords and tenants and stopping unfair evictions. We are really excited by the broad range of San Franciscans who are supporting this measure. Which includes community, labor, tenant, senior, and neighborhood groups as well as many of the Mayoral candidates. We had an incredible outpouring of support in gathering the signatures to place this on the ballot: our signature gathering efforts gained us over 20,000 signatures from voters around the city, more than double what we needed to qualify for the ballot.

This is an idea whose time has come. Just last year, New York City became the first city to guarantee tenants a right to counsel in eviction proceedings. Please join us in June by voting for measure F to make San Francisco the second city in the nation, and the first in California, to provide a right to counsel for tenants in eviction proceedings. ■



SFPD DOES NOT NEED ELECTROSHOCK WEAPONS

INALEIGH JOHNSON

San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) is known both locally, and nationally for killing unarmed people of color. Discourse about arming SFPD with tasers has been filled with persistent battles between affected communities and SFPD for the past 13 years. Despite decades of protests, the San Francisco police association has written an initiative to arm San Francisco police with tasers. This initiative is Proposition H, which will be put on the ballot in the June election. San Francisco voters must be informed of the facts about tasers and the truths about the brutality of the San Francisco Police Department to understand the potential danger of San Francisco police officers with tasers. There are many myths on the subject of tasers. One myth is that

tasers are not lethal, that they are a safer alternative weapon police can use. But Tasers, a brand of electroshock weapons, are known internationally to be lethal if used on a person. During roughly a 10 year period, Amnesty International collected data saying in the United States at least 500 people died during arrest or while already incarcerated from lethal use of an electroshock weapon (taser), and 90% of those victims were unarmed. This is disproportionately puts homeless people at risk, as individuals with mental health problems or individuals who use substances have a higher chance of dying from exposure to electroshock weapons. This is extremely relevant to the residents of San Francisco in voting for policies that will shape the way police are permitted to respond

to complaint calls about homeless people..

In order to support SFPD acquiring tasers, one must first support the San Francisco Police Department. SFPD have harassed our communities for decades, but in the recent deaths of Luis Góngora Pat, Mario Woods, Alex Nieto, Jessica Williams, and most recently, a 19 year old Jesus Delgado-Duarte, we are able to list specific incidents of San Francisco police using excessive force resulting in the unnecessary deaths of black and brown people. How can the residents of San Francisco trust a police department who has a history of using excessive force in murdering

the people in our communities? SFPD does not need to be further armed. They do not need another weapon in their arsenal to harass and kill us with. What SFPD needs is to be disarmed. There are no “safe” weapons that could be used by an organization with a history of such systematic violence and use of excessive force, such as SFPD. Voting against Proposition H will keep tasers out of the already militarized arsenal of San Francisco police, which will keep lower income, and homeless communities safer from police violence. ■

HELL NO ON H!

WHY THE US KEEPS FAILING HOMELESSNESS

VLAD K

ODD REQUEST.

I was sitting by the famous fountain on the UN plaza enjoying a warm day of the San Franciscan spring and great Internet reception when a person whom I would call Mark approached me with a very unusual request. Shaven, clean and stylishly dressed gentleman in his 40's Mark looked anything but homeless, but many years of experience with street personalities taught me that they are no less diverse than a society which created them and can be dressed in any way or style. The only reason I supposed that Mark could have been homeless is that regular "lay" people usually don't feel comfortable around street people in their hub on the UN plaza.

Mark was attracted by my notebook moving with the speed of light between pages of the sites thanks to free city-provided wireless. The question which or request of Mark was to explore most common reasons for the incarceration. Assuming that Mark is trying to find his lost friend which commonly happens to street people who are commonly arrested for violating of one of the myriad city regulations prohibiting to sit, eat, lay in the public places as well as regulating dozens of other activities which normal person couldn't even think being regulated.

Do you want to look through arrests or new inmates to look for you friend? - I asked.
My friend can't get into prison, but he wants to, answered Mark.

I heard a few times from people exhausted by the street life that they consider staying in prison to take a break, but those who considered that prison is more acceptable were usually confused and uncertain. Mark's calm acceptance of the situation together with his appearance made his words unusual in context. Yes, Mark was absolutely serious. The question he asked was not a burning issue for him or his friends, but he considered that information he asked for may become important and useful someday.

I started an article with this conversation because it illustrates the desperate futility and wastefulness of the American approach of dealing with homelessness. Sometime in the

first part of the last century some part of population became absolutely convinced of the million times disproved idea that force and severe punitive measures are the best way of solving social problems. In the case of homelessness the uselessness and even counter-productivity of such approach was many times exacerbated by Reagan's campaign to blame the victim to absolve the government from providing help. It seemed that there is no stigma which he didn't try to pin on homeless people. Homelessness was declared a matter of choice and explained by the lack of effort, laziness, stupidity and other barely related phenomena.

DIFFERENT FACES OF HOMELESSNESS

The difficulties of comparing homelessness in different countries lies in the absence of a commonly accepted definition, unreliable statistics and huge variations in the situations and challenges unhoused people face. For example New Zealand considers people who are unable to rent or buy home and live in the government provided housing homeless. The situation of homeless people is also impacted by the cultural and economic situation of the country, but without any surveys I would not dare to suggest that life on the street is hardly that intolerable anywhere in the world that people seriously consider prison a better alternative.

In India being on the street is practically a part of the ancient culture, so that some of the spiritual teachers of the past recommended spending some time in life without any worldly possessions as a spiritual practice. Such cultural specifics impact public attitude, but what is probably even more important is that it affects how homeless people see themselves, leaving place for dignity and self-respect.

In Israel where people sleeping in public places only started to appear at last 10-15 years, general public compassion toward people in desperate conditions makes environment radically different in that sense. It is hard to imagine Israelis sleeping in public places being robbed and harassed. Not only do they not have to worry about their documents and meager possessions at night, but there is a

good chance that waking up in the morning they can find food or even money left for them by other people.

What makes Mark's friend's situation "worse than prison" is for the large part stigma, which as I concluded mostly from reading is incomparable with any other country. Social conditions make restful six hour night sleep beyond any wildest dreams while hygiene and diet are part of the constant daily struggle for survival. Having rest in the public place in most of the areas of San Francisco is impossible due to vigilant residents who immediately call police on anyone who seemingly "not belong" to the area according to the way person looks or behaves. On the street, Mark needs to protect himself from virtually everybody - from police observing the residents not violating do-not-sit, do-not-drink regulations to young addicts who may conclude due to his disguise that he has money.

Being on the street in the US is permanent struggle for survival hardly giving a moments of break. Some people start matching the worst stereotypes after being homeless for just a few months, others find energy and strength to stay afloat, but in any case it is a severe emotional and psychological trauma which could have been prevented in case of different social attitude. Just in case somebody never heard it, I wanted to remind readers of the fact that regular sleep deprivations experienced by many American homeless people on the regular basis fit commonly accepted definition of torture.

SISU.
Informing our readers about some general facts about homeless in other countries, I have mentioned in the previous articles on this theme that due to global economic trends, presently renting a place becomes a serious challenge for many people all over the world, but despite everything there are some countries where homelessness in the most strict definition is barely existing. One of such countries calls itself Suomi and is known to the outside world as Finland.

If you ask about the secret behind the Finland's success story, my take is it is Suomi spirit which is called Sisu in Finnish. Yes, Finns actively follow

housing first approach, but has been accepted now as the only way to come closer to solution by most of the first world countries. Nothing they do is looks revolutionary and radically different from many other countries. Like many other countries, Finns help people by providing counselling and housing. So do many other countries. The difference should be not in what they do, but HOW they do it, and to come closer to understanding we need to explore the word sisu, meaning Suomi spirit in Finnish.

According to Wikipedia the words sisu has no any English equivalent and devotes a long article to its description. "Sisu is a grim, gritty, white-knuckle form of courage that is typically presented in situations where success is against the odds. It expresses itself in taking action against the odds and displaying courage and resoluteness in the face of adversity, in other words, deciding on a course of action and then sticking to that decision even despite repeated failures. It is in some ways similar to equanimity, with the addition of a grim kind of stress management." - writes Wikipedia.

For me the best illustration of sisu is the Finnish history of the WWII period. Unfortunately, average American does not much about the Winter War - the unique show of heroism when three and half million Finns with 32 tanks faced on the battlefield the empire of over two hundred million citizens moving over the border over five thousand tanks. Finns decided to fight in situation when other countries like Latvia and Estonia having a comparable population size decided that armed resistance is futile, and Finns stopped the advance of the Soviet army inflicting it incredible loses. Even according to the official, Stalin manipulated statistics, Soviet losses were almost ten times higher than Finnish. Catastrophic defeats of the Soviet army made many soldiers (one of whom was my grandfather) started doubting the Stalin's propaganda which told them that Finnish working class is waiting for the Soviet liberators. Disillusioned soldiers left their units en mass which forced Stalin to end the military campaign.

To protect itself from further Russian provocations during the war, Finland entered into formal union of coopera-

Since 1989, the STREET SHEET has been an independent media organization that provides a powerful platform to homeless people to reclaim and shift narratives about homelessness in San Francisco. visit www.cohsf.org and click "Donate Now" to help keep it that way!

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT QUIVER WATTS AT QWATTS@COHSF.ORG

STREET SHEET THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING US!

SOCIAL JUSTICE CALENDAR

<div>APRIL 17</div> <div>COLOMBIA: THE STRUGGLE FOR LASTING PEACE</div> <div>WHERE: 2969 MISSION ST @7PM</div> <div>A tour featuring Nidia Quintero, General Secretary of FENSUAGRO, Colombia’s largest federation of agricultural workers unions. \$5 to \$20 donation requested. No one turned away for lack of funds. Wheelchair accessible</div>	<div>APRIL 17</div> <div>KAYLA MOORE’S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION AT PROVO PARK!</div> <div>WHERE: 2151 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAY, BERKELEY @6-9PM</div> <div>This year marks the five year anniversary of Kayla’s death, so let’s throw Kayla a great big party and keep her memory alive!</div>	<div>APRIL 21</div> <div>THE OFFICIAL SAN FRANCISCO DYKE MARCH BENEFIT!</div> <div>WHERE: FOLSOM STREET FOUNDRY, 1425 FOLSOM ST @3-8PM</div> <div>The mission of the San Francisco Dyke March is to bring the dyke community together to celebrate our unity, raise our consciousness and be visible.</div>	<div>APRIL 21</div> <div>STILL SMOKIN’ ZION I, BAMBU, EQUIPTO, MONK HTS, BRYCON, HOSTED BY RICH IYALA</div> <div>WHERE: BRICK & MORTAR @9PM</div> <div>Fundraiser for inmates in the Bay Area incarcerated for marijuana. \$15 ADV / \$20 DOS / Age 18 And Up</div>
<div>APRIL 25</div> <div>FIGHTING BACK: QUEERS & THE CLASS DIVIDE</div> <div>WHERE: THE GLBT HISTORICAL SOCIETY 4127 18TH ST @7-9PM</div> <div>A panel of historians, veteran organizers and younger activists will discuss the history of economic inequality in the Bay Area and the United States, the impact of wealth and poverty on LGBTQ community and politics, and how this history can help inform today’s resistance movements.</div>	<div>APRIL 26</div> <div>SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET HEARING ON HOMELESSNESS</div> <div>WHERE: CITY HALL ROOM 250 @1PM</div>	<div>MAY 1</div> <div>INTERNATIONAL WORKERS DAY</div>	<div>MAY 19</div> <div>BOCCE BALL</div> <div>WHERE: AQUATIC PARK BOCCE COURTS, SAN FRANCISCO</div> <div>Annual COH fundraiser. Stay tuned for more information</div>

WHAT IS SO SPECIAL ABOUT FINLAND?

tion with Germany. However, when Hitler demanded from Finland to join other coalition countries in their effort to achieve “a final solution” of the Jewish problem, Finns responded with resolute refusal. Finns didn’t differentiated between citizens of the country. They considered big Swedish community, Russian minority, Jews and other different ethnicities living on their territory to be Suomi whom they are ready to protect, and Hitler decided not to mess with Finns.

FINNS AND AMERICANS?

To formulate the difference of between the Finnish and American approaches to homelessness it would be safe to conclude that Americans are desperately making an effort to reduce the number of the homeless people while Finns help their unfortunate compatriots who are unable to rent. It is logical that with present approach no any miraculous legal or financial initiative will be able to resolve the issue. Waiting for it is like expecting that market and right laws will transform the cannibalist tribe into prosperous Western-type society.

Unfortunately, we have inherited from the 20th century a poisonous and destructive belief that social problems are resolved with strict

laws - the severe punishment the better and no amount of social experience, logic and common sense is capable of making the followers of this worldview to question it, especially considering the fact that such values became fundamental for the Republican party. What makes this myth especially destructive is the fact that it relies on the punitive measures at the sake of socio-political maturity.

Following the rules of civilized society and law-obedience are achieved much more due to the political consciousness of the citizens than to preventive power of the law. Similar to such qualities as good driving manners and respect of the opposite sex are existing much more because of the education and upbringing than due to fear of punishment. Criminals find the ways of violating laws without being punished and many of their simple scams are common knowledge. Despite that relatively law amount of people involved in criminal activities.

Punishment does not have to be severe, it has to be reasonable and just to maintain the respect of law in population. Unreasonable severe punishment is counterproductive like electroshocking schoolkids for not prepared homework. It was

proved million times in history of different countries. People stop reporting crimes and cooperate with the law enforcement. People do not want their neighbours to be executed or their hands being cut for the stealing of pen, so they stop cooperating with the law-enforcement. Such was the situation in post-revolutionary Russia, islamic countries which tried to introduce the strictest literal understanding of the Sharia laws and many other countries.

CHANGE? YES, WE CAN!

So, one of the most important conditions for eradicating homelessness is changing a public attitude. In order to stress the importance of the paradigm change, Educating people about the realities of the street life and its financial impact is a long time overdue not just because it is needed to resolve a problem, but simply because it is a truth which voters need to know. No human or artificial intelligence can make correct decisions based on lies and falsifications, and all the US homelessness policy is based on perverted views indoctrinated by several Republican administrations pursuing their need of the moment.

I devoted several paragraph in the beginning of the article to my recent “weird” conversation because it is

clearly demonstrating the stupidity of belief in combating homelessness by criminalization. You cannot punish people not having their homes any more than they are already punished by being on the street.

Homelessness destroys people morally, psychologically and physically. Countries investing considerable human and financial resources in homelessness prevention know that every dollar spent for these purposes is a great investment into well-being of the country. Being a street-smart person who is capable of surviving outdoors requires developing traits which are exactly opposite to those needed for the success in the civilized society like not trusting people or know how violate the laws without being punished. Canadian doctor Gabor Mate describes an incident when one of the clients stole a parker pen from his office. When Dr. Mate found this client, he apologized explaining that he did it absolutely automatically and if he didn’t learn how to do such acts without even thinking, he wouldn’t have been alive. Considering serious psychological trauma, losing social skills health and other problems caused by homelessness, social rehab is costing tens or maybe even a hundred times more than prevention. ■



THE MISSION OF THE ST. JAMES INFIRMARY is to provide free, compassionate and nonjudgmental healthcare and social services for sex workers (current or former) of all genders and sexual orientations while preventing occupational illnesses and injuries through a comprehensive continuum of services.

MONDAY

10am-2pm: Case Management, By Appointment

TUESDAY

11AM-1PM: Therapy, By Appointment

2-4PM: Case Management, By Appointment

WEDNESDAY

10AM-2PM: Case Management, By Appointment

10AM-2PM: Therapy, By Appointment

6-8:45PM: Drop-In Clinic: Primary Medical Care, HIV/STI Testing, Acupuncture/Massage, Peer Counseling, Food, Clothing. Appointments also available.

THURSDAY

10AM-4PM: Therapy and Case Management, by Appointment

12-3PM: Fashion Design Class

1-4PM: STRIDE Clinic, by Appointment: Primary Medical Care, HIV/STI Testing, Acupuncture/Massage, Peer Counseling, Food, Clothing.

4:30-6PM: Mujeres Latinas en Accion

5-8PM: Needle Exchange, HIV Testing, Acupuncture and Drop-In case management

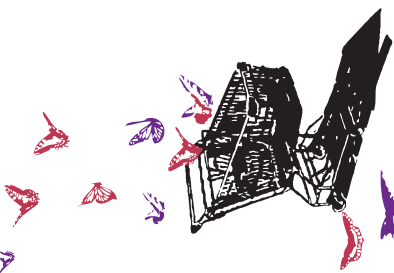
FRIDAY

5-8PM: Needle exchange

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco



NAME: Casper

DATE: 12 June 2017

PLACE: Vermont Street between Alameda and 15th Street

TIME WITHOUT A HOME: About 19 years, all in San Francisco

AGE: 39

“When I first came out here I thought I had a place already arranged for me and then I got out here and found out it wasn’t so.”

HAVING A HOUSE MEANS:

“A place where I can wake up and go to sleep everyday without being asked to move, being told I can’t stay where I’m at.”

WHAT DO YOU WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT:

“That I’m not some piece of shit, that I didn’t choose this, that if I had other options that I would choose them over this.”

“(I won’t go to the Navigation Center because) I’ve been to prison many times and it’d be like going back to prison. It’s dorm areas with multiple people living in a little ass area. You don’t really have any control over anything that happens around you, or to you there. The food you get are the little square packages that are pre-made, you can only have one or two of them and it like no difference than being in prison.”

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STREET SHEET IS
NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS
OF POEMS, ARTWORK, ARTICLES, ETC
FROM CURRENT AND FORMER
SEX WORKERS
FOR OUR JUNE 1ST
STREET SHEET ISSUE

DEADLINE: MAY 25TH SUBMIT TO QWATTS@COHSF.ORG