



MINIMUM SUGGESTED DONATION TWO DOLLARS.

STREET SHEET IS SOLD BY HOMELESS AND LOW-INCOME VENDORS WHO KEEP 100% OF THE PROCEEDS.

VENDORS RECEIVE UP TO 75 PAPERS PER DAY FOR FREE.

STREET SHEET IS READER SUPPORTED, ADVERTISING FREE, AND AIMS TO LIFT UP THE VOICES OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN SAN FRANCISCO.

STREET SHEET

NEWSFLASH
HOMELESS HEADLINES

2

HOMELESS WOMEN
ARE SURVIVORS

3

HOMELESS FAMILIES
AND SRO BLUES

4

ENDING VETERAN
HOMELESSNESS IS POSSIBLE

6

TENDERLOIN FOOD JUSTICE
A HISTORY

7

Sanctuary City?

Poster
Syndicate
San Francisco



INTERIM-MAYOR FARRELL AND CRONIES DISPLAY THEIR SWEEPING INHUMANITY

STOP THE SWEEPS!



SHELTER WAIT-LIST UPDATE:

As of May 15th there are **1,063 people** on the shelter waitlist in San Francisco.

SF STREETS HIT WITH SWEEPS

DAYTON ANDREWS

Last Month, Mayor Mark Farrell announced a new crackdown on unhoused people seeking shelter. Mayor Farrell declared, “The tents are a public safety hazard for the people living in them, and for the residents of San Francisco”.

Absent from this crackdown are any sensible solutions to the issues afflicting our city’s poorest residents. These crackdowns are nothing new; mayor after mayor has felt the need to push this false “tough love” doctrine and Farrell is no different. The mayor confidently stated during his announcement, “We have moved as a city from a position of compassion to enabling (unacceptable) street behavior, and as mayor I don’t stand for that.” However, none of these efforts have made a difference in decreasing the visibility of homeless people or have they changed “street behavior”.

CONT P. 3...

Image description: Mayor Mark Farrell, Homeless Department Director Jeff Kositsky, and DPW Director Mohammed Nuru sit atop a monster wearing a police hat that seems to be plucking people out of tents and stomping on an encampments

NEWSFLASH

HOMELESSNESS HEADLINES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

TENSIONS MOUNT AS SEATTLE DEBATES BUSINESS TAX FOR HOMELESS (New York Times)

Seattle has proposed a tax to raise money to fight homelessness that would be levied against companies making at least \$20 million annually in gross revenues. Amazon, which is headquartered in Seattle, has ceased construction of a new office building in retaliation.

L.A. BUDGETS \$430 MILLION TO HELP HOMELESS, MOST OF IT LONG-TERM DEBT (LA Times)

In Los Angeles, a new \$20 million program will fund 50 to 100 shelter beds in each of the city's 15 districts. This move is part of a larger budget program that will allocate money for housing, healthcare, and outreach for homeless communities.

In 83 MILLION EVICTION RECORDS, A SWEEPING AND INTIMATE NEW LOOK AT HOUSING IN AMERICA (New York Times)

In the 900,000 eviction judgements reviewed, landlords were allowed to evict 1 in 50 renters. The highest eviction rates were concentrated in poorer areas with low minimum wages.

AMERICA'S HOUSING CRISIS IS SPREADING TO SMALLER CITIES (Huffington Post)

The number of homeless children in Boise is currently twice as much as it was in 2005. HUD vouchers, recalculated every year, can't keep up with landlords who raise rents every 60 days.

NEWARK, NJ WANTS TO GUARANTEE A FREE LAWYER FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS FACING EVICTION (NJ.com)

Newark is following in the footsteps of New York City in providing legal representation for renters facing eviction. Currently, 9 out of 10 tenants undergoing eviction proceedings don't have representation.

DE BLASIO ADMINISTRATION ENDORSES 4 SUPERVISED INJECTION FACILITIES, PROVIDES NO TIME-LINE (Politico)

New York City could be the first city in the United State to open safe injection sites. The four sites would be in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and the Bronx, and would be part of a year-long pilot program.

ASK US ANY-

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!

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

PHOTOGRAPHERS
VIDEOGRAPHERS
TRANSLATORS
COMIC ARTISTS
NEWSPAPER LAYOUT
WEBSITE
MAINTENANCE
GRAPHIC
DESIGNERS
INTERNS
WRITERS

DONATE EQUIPMENT!

LAPTOPS
DIGITAL CAMERAS
AUDIO RECORDERS
SOUND EQUIPMENT

CONTACT:
STREETSHEET@COHSF.ORG

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.

AT 468 TURK STREET

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.

Editor, Quiver Watts

Assistant Editor, TJ Johnston

Vendor Coordinator, Emmett House

Our contributors include:

Jennifer Friedenbach, Sam Lew, Jason Law, Jesus Perez, Miguel Carrera, Vlad K., Mike Russo, Scott Nelson, Julia D'Antonio, Chance Martin, Nicholas Kimura, Jim Beller, Robert Gumpert, Art Hazelwood, the Ghostlines Collective, Leo Schwartz, Dayton Andrews, Kelley Cutler, Raúl Fernández-Berriozabel, Jacquelyn Evans, Roni Diamant- Wilson, Julia Barzizza

COHSF Bocce Ball Tournament 2018!

A benefit for Coalition on Homelessness, San Francisco

Saturday, May 19 from 11am to 3pm

Aquatic Park Bocce Courts,

SF (Polk & Beach St.)

For tickets or to sponsor a low-income team, please email development@cohsf.org

Introducing

HOLLIE HOMELESS

Got a question about life in shelter or on the streets? Ask Hollie, a brand new advice columnist with the Street Sheet Street Paper.

Why is it so difficult to get into a shelter? How do you use the bathroom if you're homeless? Where can I get free tampons? Hollie has the answers to these questions and more!

Stay tuned for Hollie's first column, coming out in this very paper. Send your own questions to holliehomeless@cohsf.org

TONI EBY, OUTREACH & TRAINING MANAGER AT SAN FRANCISCO SAFEHOUSE

In the age of such movements as “MeToo” and “Times Up,” we have seen a shift in the national discourse around sexual violence. However, even with the forward progress of these movements there is still one population that has been largely ignored and distanced from the mainstream narrative. Homeless individuals, particularly homeless women, are one of the most vulnerable populations when it comes to sexual harm, yet their stories are largely ignored. It is important that as a society we start to center these stories and take a look at the prevalence of violence experienced by individuals who are homeless. While I focus on homeless women in this article, specifically sexual violence against those who identify as women, it is important to note that men living on the street are also at high risk of violence. It has been estimated that 14% to 21% of individuals who are homeless have experienced violence personally, and one-third of the homeless population has witnessed an attack on another homeless person. This is in comparison to the approximately 2% of the general population who have reported experiencing a violent crime.

With that in mind, homeless women are even more vulnerable to violence than their male counterparts. We lack the exact statistics of the

prevalence of sexual violence among homeless women; however, in one study of homeless shelter residents in New York, it was found that homeless women were 106 times more likely to experience sexual assault than poor women who were housed. In San Francisco, there is a need for additional research to get an accurate look on the exact percentage of homeless women who experience sexual harm; however, most service providers can agree that the number is high. It is also important to note that while rates of sexual violence are high for homeless women across the board, homeless women of color, transgender women, queer women, immigrant women, and disabled women are at even higher risk of sexual harm. San Francisco SafeHouse has been serving homeless women for over twenty years, and in that time we have found that in addition to sexual exploitation the women we serve have experienced high rates of sexual assault, sexual harassment, intimate partner violence, stalking, and hate crimes. These women raise their voices on a daily basis, yet their stories are ignored or discarded. So while it is important that women across the country are speaking out against sexual assault and sexual harassment, it is imperative that we start to listen when homeless women say #MeToo. ■



Credit: Leslie Dreyer
Image description: A painted banner reading Sweep Leave Note Lives displays a skull with two brooms crossed beneath it, resembling the Jolly Roger flag

ENCAMPMENT SWEEPS: UNNECESSARY RESPONSE TO POVERTY

...CONT FROM FRONT PAGE

For Mayor Farrell, just existing outside in poverty is something he will not stand for. Farrell elaborates his reasoning by claiming, “We have offered services time and time again and gotten many off the street, but there is a resistant population that remains, and their tents have to go.”

also hide that the great majority of the “resistant population” suffer from serious mental health issues and that for these demographics, a group living environment is not possible.

Farrell hopes to paint vulnerable people in crisis as lawbreakers who must be swept away like refuse rather than offered assistance. With over a thousand people waiting to get into a shelter at the time of this publication, there are not adequate resources within our current system. Why are unhoused people expected to accept inadequate resources and then face criminalization when unable to abide by unrealistic standards?

Furthermore, these sweeps only aggravate the deep issues experienced by folks on the street; being displaced with no alternative, often at the cost of whatever valuables you can carry, is a violent and traumatic experience. People can and often do lose precious survival gear; blankets, jackets, Identification, and memorabilia and have to start over from literally nothing in some cases as one can lose everything in a sweep without proper resources. One well known San Francisco artist Ronnie Goodman, lost his irreplaceable archive wood blocks and lino cut sheets in the sweep, while another homeless woman was sliced after police cut her tent with her inside.

The lack of permanent housing or even dignified alternatives to camping damages the trust between unhoused people and local government and makes it tremendously more difficult to connect folks with what scant resources actually are available. ■

THE HOMECOMING

by Josef Norris



END

A ROOM FOR A HOME

ANDREW DERTIEN, AUTHOR OF UBER DICK

I work seven days a week. I barely get by. I have no health insurance. I didn't bother paying income taxes last year. For many of us, life inside America's broken economic system is slavery. If that term seems exaggerated to you I'd venture to guess you haven't been where I've been.

My two young children live with me three nights a week in a residential hotel in a high crime area in San Francisco. We occupy 180 square feet of space and share a toilet and shower with other occupants of the building. Yet, my children's other home is a spacious apartment inside a Victorian mansion in Lower Pacific Heights owned by my ex-wife's parents. Poverty, in all its forms, is highly complicated. Lack of affordable housing, the decades-long stagnation in earnings for the American worker as well as my own choices have led me to where I am at today.

Before living at the SRO I was without a home. Unhoused. Homeless. I refused to leave the city where my kids live exorbitant rent be damned. I couch surfed. I slept in my car. I used my old key to access the side passageway of my former home and slept outside, sheltered by the fort my older brother and I

built for my son.

The raised fort stands eleven feet tall with a 6' by 6' footprint (ground area). A wooden ladder I bolted to the inside of the fort leads to the trap door entrance. I open the trap door and make my way down. It's about 4:30 a.m. The birds woke me up. Dire warnings to back off claimed territory. My territory is a Prius. I am grounded behind the wheel for most of my time here on earth. I am barely a man. Just an entity who gives rides, drinks coffee and pays bills.

That morning I received a text with some good news that made me feel anxious and defeated. I've been on the waiting list at a homeless shelter, a mere nine blocks from my former apartment in San Francisco's Lower Pacific Heights. Four hundred people were ahead of me when I got on the list over two months ago. The text is from the city letting me know my number has come up, and if I don't check in by 4:30 p.m., I lose my bed.

Around 2 p.m. I leave my car parked in Low Pac Heights. Parking near the shelter is mostly metered. My residential sticker is still good, and I pause to acknowledge this small victory. I walk a few blocks and cross Van Ness Avenue, the north-south thoroughfare that runs from Market Street to the Bay. Once across Van Ness, I am in the Polk Gulch, which runs along the

edge of Russian Hill and Nob Hill, two upper crust neighborhoods. The shelter borders the Tenderloin and the Polk Gulch. The Tenderloin, also known as the TL or the L's, is a neighborhood with high crime and heavy drug use, though there are many positive community services there: renovated playgrounds, a local art revival scene, soup kitchens, outpatient clinics with free or low-cost acupuncture and chair massage, a writing and tutoring program for under-resourced students. These gems situated among the underprivileged community give the neighborhood a sense of pride and hope.

A dead-end alley that once stored dumpsters and attracted dumpster divers is now home to the Tenderloin National Forest. The Tenderloin National Forest, or TNF, has about a dozen mature trees, including a redwood, and provides a safe, healthy spot for residents of this gritty section of the city. The urban forest is surrounded by residential buildings and hotels that house homeless youth with mental health issues, low-income seniors, and other disenfranchised populations.

I delay checking in at the shelter by going to the convenience store for a cup of coffee. I am feeling anxious. I was briefly a resident at this same shelter over a decade ago when I was struggling with heroin and crack addiction and wound up

on the streets. Earlier this year, just before winter break, my son's Kindergarten class made care packages for the folks at this shelter. We contributed socks for the care packages. I know from experience the warm, comforting feeling of new socks on cold, lonely feet.

Now, over ten years later, the same Middle-Eastern guy is behind the counter at the coffee shop. A little heavier, hair and beard beginning to grey, but still gregarious and wearing the same type of get-up—a sky blue Adidas track and field outfit. He is telling a hard-looking woman his uncle won't let him do credit on alcohol anymore. "Sorry, Mama, new rules from the boss."

I pour myself a cup of coffee and bring it to the counter.

"That it, boss?" he says.

"Yep, that'll do it." I give him two bucks. He gives me fifty cents change. I smile.

"Nice to see not everyone has raised their prices."

"Best deal in the Loin."

"Cheers!"

I walk up the block and see the shelter residents across the street smoking and congregating in front of the building. I lag again and Google my soon-to-be resting place. The shelter is run by Episcopal

Community Services. Breakfast and dinner is served. Un-housed adults can access case management and mental health services. I make a mental note to inquire about case management, hoping they can help me land permanent housing. I read about their sister shelter, The Sanctuary. The website reads: "Many of those who stay at Next Door are addressing substance abuse problems, and some are coping with mental health issues and chronic medical conditions." They forgot "working class adults who can no longer afford rent in San Francisco." Whatever sanctuary I can find will have to come from within myself. ■

This is Part 1 of this piece. For more from Andrew Dertien you can visit his blog at <https://sfsrofamilies.wordpress.com/>

Image description: Andrew Dertien sits with his two children by the window, and appears to be reading aloud from a kids book. Each child holds a book as well.



MOTHERS TAKE ACTION

JENNIFER FRIEDENBACH

Many of us honored our mothers this past mother’s day by acknowledging the sacrifices they made raising us, how much work they put in to ensure that their children had the best lives possible. Mothers of homeless children feel a special pain worrying that their children will not flourish. In the daily struggle to survive, motherhood requires strength and bravery that those who live inside cannot begin to imagine.

In light of an astonishing upswing in the number of homeless children experiencing homelessness, the Coalition on Homelessness, along with homeless parent members, gathered on the steps of City Hall to demand housing and shelter on May 10th, which is Mother’s Day in Mexico. In San Francisco, 1 in 25 SFUSD children are experiencing homelessness and they have had enough.

San Francisco is at a critical juncture, where financial pressures are pushing low-income and impoverished San Franciscans out of their homes and communi-



ties. As rents are skyrocket more and more families are at risk of homelessness. San Francisco has an estimated 3,300 homeless children in San Francisco, based on SFUSD data.

“I am a homeless mother and I am tired.” said Patricia Alonzo. “It’s affecting my children—they going to school and not being able to focus on just school, they’re focused on moving, and on having a place to call home.”

Homeless children have lower academic achievement overall, and less than half met state proficiency standards last fiscal year. In addition, over half are held back for one grade – 22% for multiple grades. Homeless youth are also 87% more likely to drop

out of school. The group gathered in front of city hall and demanded that the Mayor fund an infusion of \$14.8 million in new and base-line funding for each FY 2018-19 and \$15.7 million in FY 2019-20 to assist an additional 2,500 homeless people and households. This budget proposal attempts to both prevent homelessness and create exits out of homelessness through almost 300 new housing subsidies, while ensuring an adequate emergency services system for those forced to remain on the streets.

After the protest, the group went inside to visit elected officials. Their first stop was the Mayor’s office. Instead of welcoming the

families and their children, the Mayor’s office quickly locked the doors all the way down the hallway so no one could enter. They didn’t even bother to send out a representative.

At the different Supervisor’s offices, many offices sent out Legislative Aides, but some did not even bother to do that. Overall the spirit of the action was upbeat, after homeless leaders stepped up and spoke directly to power, they were never discouraged but buoyed to fight for more housing.

One young man, named Daniel, spoke about how he is suffering with his mother in a place with no bathroom. Another young woman, named Carien spoke about how wrong it is that the Bayview does not have a full service shelter, and how challenging the lack of adequate bathrooms were in her own shelter. ■



photo credit: Thea Kristin Halsnes Johannessen

Image descriptions
Left: A group of advocates and homeless parents hold a banner that reads “Every Child Needs A Home”. One holds a sign reading “PLEASE LISTEN” and another holds a sign saying “Our Children & mothers MATTER”. The crowd is gathered on the steps of City Hall.

Above: a group of people, including a young child, gather inside City Hall as they visit politicians offices to demand housing and services for homeless families.

ENDING VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

AMITA SHARMA, KPBS

Army veteran Bill Bruick spent his last night homeless lying on a tiny patch of dirt, now festooned with a pink flowering shrub behind a Food 4 Less grocery store in Riverside.

"There were no bushes," Bruick said, pointing to the exact spot still remembering the lump in the ground. "I slept right here. I liked it because nobody could really see me back here. Nobody ever parked back here. I got lucky you know."

That night in 2013 capped 10 years of living outside a shopping center for the 51-year-old Bruick who resembles a young Charlton Heston.

There are around 40,000 homeless veterans in the United States, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. More than 11,000 of them live in California. The state has seen a 17 percent rise in homeless vets since 2016.

The city of Riverside is the only city in California to end veteran homelessness, according to the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. It is one of 62 communities in 32 states to do so.

Many homeless vets suffer from substance abuse and mental illness.

Bruick said depression and alcoholism had hobbled him since leaving the Army in 1996. He filled his days drinking beer and vodka. He started early.

"As soon as the liquor store opened at 6 a.m.," Bruick said. "I'd pass out during the day. Normally, around midnight, I'd stop. Even when I was sick, I'd still force alcohol down me because I would be shaking real bad."

Seven stints of rehab did nothing for Bruick. But one bout of alcohol poisoning and a letter from his two daughters in Germany expressing a desire to visit inspired change.

"I was like, 'Wow, I've got to do something,'" Bruick said. "I don't want them seeing me in this state."

Around the same time, Riverside was in the midst of embracing then-President Barack Obama's push to the country's mayors to end veteran homelessness.

"As a veteran myself, it was easy to for me to accept that challenge," said Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey.

He had also seen his two family friends' anguished descent into homelessness. And he said when he was in the ninth grade, his church would feed the homeless on Sunday nights.

"I walked in one night, I'm pass-

ing out food, taking a tray and there's a classmate of mine, you could see....," said Bailey as he choked up recalling the encounter. "Sorry I get so emotional about this. It's personal."

Bailey said he wanted the city's outreach workers to get personal with homeless vets, by knowing their names and repeated visits, sometimes as many as 50. Then came offers of a place to live. It is an approach called Housing First. The idea is to get vets off the street or out of shelters and into permanent housing before addressing substance abuse or mental health issues.

"We have the success stories to prove that Housing First is the right policy for ending homelessness," Bailey said.

Through the project, veterans had access to VA housing vouchers. But Bailey still had to convince apartment owners to rent to people coming off the streets.

"I pounded on the table and said it's inexcusable to have veterans in our city who don't have homes," Bailey said. "Landlords, where are you at? And many of them stepped up."

Once they got a place to live, vets were paired up with social services, from mental health to substance abuse to job training.

By the end of 2016, Riverside had housed all 89 of its vets. The city's share of the feat was \$348,000.

Bruick was one of the Riverside program's early beneficiaries. He went to rehab for the eighth time. Today, he lives in a one-bedroom apartment in Riverside with his fiancée.

And he works at a facility that houses vets until they're placed in permanent homes.

"I love it," Bruick said. "I can explain to them what my situation was. I say I was like you. I had nothing. Now I have a car and a place to live. A lot of the vets have had a hard time on the streets and they don't trust anyone and we have to get them to trust us."

Mayor Bailey is now applying what the city learned through housing veterans to Riverside's 400 chronically homeless people. The Riverside City Council backed a plan in March that would place them in housing before offering them social services.

"I see what we've done and I'm proud of that," Bailey said. "But I also see what we need to do and that worries me because it's easy to support veterans. It's hard to support ex-cons or the mentally ill individuals or substance abusers shooting up in the parking lot."

Another challenge is the chroni-

cally homeless also do not have access to the the same well-financed federal housing vouchers and social services as veterans.

But Gordon Walker, who heads San Diego's Regional Task Force on the Homeless, is still optimistic.

"Once you have the political will, the money tends to appear," Walker said.

He is not involved in the Riverside program but he believes it could show the way forward for other California cities like Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco.

"Those cities are some of the richest in the country," Walker said. "It's how the money is committed and how the citizens want their cities to be."

Or as Bruick said, it is about cities having faith in all of their citizens.

Bruick has been sober now for 5 years. He has still not seen his daughters. But he is hoping for a visit with them and his five grandchildren this summer. ■

The California Dream series is a statewide media collaboration of CALmatters, KPBS, KPCC, KQED and Capital Public Radio with support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the James Irvine Foundation.



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

MAY 16	MAY 17	MAY 19	MAY 20
STREET SPITS OPEN MIC WHERE: ADOBE BOOKS WHAT: Street Spits is an open mic that encourages anyone and everyone, especially unhoused and poor artists, to share poetry, songs, performance, whatever is in their heart. This is a fundraiser for the Street Sheet newspaper. ACCESS: \$1-20 NOTAFLOF. For accomodations contact qwatts@cohsf.org	HOSPITALITY HOUSE’S 33RD ANNUAL ART AUCTION WHERE: MINNESOTA STREET PROJECT 1275 MINNESOTA ST, SAN FRANCISCO WHAT: The Annual Art Auction raises crucial funding for Hospitality House’s six programs including our Community Arts Program, the only art studio and gallery available for artists who otherwise do not have access to art materials and resources to learn, create, develop, exhibit, and sell their artwork — all free-of-charge! ACCESS: Tickets are \$50 in advance and \$75 at the door. The venue is ADA compliant and offers wheelchair accessible bathrooms.	BOCCE BALL WHERE: AQUATIC PARK @11-3PM WHAT: Come play with the Coalition on Homelessness! ACCESS: \$25/person, \$100 team of four, NOTAFLOF. Parking will be available close at the edge of the courts but the courts themselves are sandy and surrounded by grass. Bathrooms are down a slope in the Maritime Museum, which has a ramp and wheelchair accessible bathrooms. The event is not scent free. For accomodations contact jrice@cohsf.org	OUR CITY OUR HOME SIGNATURE GATHERING KICKOFF! WHERE: GLIDE, 330 ELLIS ST WHAT: We’re gathering signatures to put the “Our City, Our Home” measure on the ballot in November. This measure would provide \$300 million dollars of resources for affordable housing, mental health care, and other services needed to get everyone in our City indoors and protect all of us who are vulnerable to losing our housing. ACCESS: Email slew@cohsf.org for access information
MAY 22	MAY 25	JUNE 1	JUNE 2
HARVEY MILK DAY: FREE ADMISSION AT THE GLBT HISTORY MUSEUM WHERE: 4127 18TH STREET WHAT: The State of California annually marks Harvey Milk’s birthday, May 22, as a statewide day of significance. ACCESS: Free admission all day The museum is on the ground level with no steps and with a slight right turn to enter the main space. There is one gender-neutral, ADA-compliant restroom. The museum is not scent free.	SEX WORKER ISSUE SUBMISSION DEADLINE! Submit stories, articles, poems, comics, artwork, ETC to qwatts@cohsf.org or in person at 468 Turk Street ACCESS: Our office is up a flight of stairs and in not scent-free	INTRODUCING THE DYKE MARCH ORAL HISTORY PROJECT WHERE: THE GLBT MUSEUM 4127 18TH STREET WHAT: The Dyke March Oral History Project is a newly created audiovisual collaboration that aims to capture and preserve the diverse experiences of dykes and queer folks from all communities at the Dyke March. ACCESS: \$5 – \$20 NOTAFLOF The museum is on the ground level with no steps and with a slight turn to enter the main space. There is one gender-neutral, ADA-compliant restroom. The museum is not scent free.	SEX WORKER JUSTICE NOW! WHERE: OSCAR GRANT PLAZA, OAKLAND WHAT: On Saturday, June 2, SWers and our allies ill be standing up for justice all over the country. Join us at Oscar Grant Plaza in Downtown Oakland, CA to make the voices & needs of our Bay Area communities loud & visible: Sex Worker Justice Now! (Allies wanted & welcome) ACCESS: Will be updated on the facebook event page ASAP:

SANTA ROSA HOMELESS SHUT DOWN CITY HALL ON MAY DAY

“WORKERS STRUGGLE HAS NO BORDERS”

International Workers Day kicked off in Santa Rosa behind the Dollar Tree store which had been home to 140 homeless campers until a massive eviction hit two weeks prior. The camp had originally been a sanctioned campsite, but had swelled since horrific fires forced many from their homes and former camps.

Several hundred demonstrators gathered to show their solidarity with homeless campers before marching to the Hilton Hotel where the unionized hotel workers were demonstrating. The march then continued on to Santa Rosa City Hall, where demonstrators gathered on the steps and the official rally concluded. An announcement was then made that people were inside City Hall requesting reinforcements, and about 30 to 50 people surged into the building, disrupting the city council meeting in progress.

“When we got inside there were several advocates holding space up front in the podium area, and everyone was chanting and demanding that the city council return come out and talk to the people,”

said Jordan Torres, a demonstrator and union activist.

Demonstrators held the space for nearly an hour before police began to arrive. The cops issued a dispersal order then moved in to arrest those who remained, pulling people apart and dragging one protestor by their hair. Police then cleared the halls, arresting an elderly woman who refused to leave. Six people were arrested, including one person who was taken out on a stretcher after being injured in the altercation with police.■

image description: people gather in Santa Rosa carrying a banner that says North Bay Rapid Response Network



PIGEONS

I see them sitting at the food court, the donut shop, the American café. They are alone with their canvas bags and their dust-colored clothes. They have little packets of sugar and stacks of napkins on their tables. They wander around sometimes, and when they think no one’s watching, they pick up food that’s left behind. There’s an old man I see reading newspapers at the bus stop everyday. He likes to mutter to himself while nibbling on something crumbly wrapped in foil. Today he wasn’t there. He must have lost his feathers.

UNDERNEATH THE OVERPASS

There’s something wooden that looks like a small house. Next to it are large black garbage bags filled with clothes and shopping carts. There are tents, pit bulls, and the musty smell of fromage. The sky is gray. It’s been raining and there are a lot more of them today—tents, dogs, droop-shouldered men, with old coats and dreds, walking together, doing the scoot along thing. A man on a bicycle appears and wanders off with a bearded guy. The dogs start to bark. Two men call out to one another from inside the tents.

“I ain’t got no teeth!”

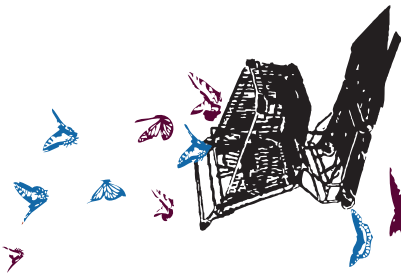
“Me neither!”

MIRA MARTIN-PARKER

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 3481
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94188

Coalition On Homelessness
468 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415.346.3740
www.cohsf.org
streetsheetsf@cohsf.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Coalition on
Homelessness
San Francisco




NAME: Joshua Andrew Donohoe
PLACE: 13th Street just west of Folsom, San Francisco
TIME WITHOUT A HOME: Just over 4 years
AGE: 28

WHAT DOES HOME MEAN? Where the heart is. Wherever you are willing and feel comfortable enough to lay your head or relax a little bit, take the backpack off, set-up a tent and chill for a minute. Even if it’s for 5 minutes and you get roused right after that – anywhere you want it to be really.

WILL YOU EVER GO BACK TO LIVING INSIDE? Yes and no. If there’s a way to incorporate both (living inside and out) I would do it in a heart beat. I like the Navigation idea except that it’s way too much like jail, and they try to regulate too much. They’re wardens. That completely takes away the whole freedom aspect of being out here, the independence. If SROs didn’t cost 80 bucks a night and were bigger than an SRO, it’d be interesting.

WHAT DOES FAMILY MEAN TO YOU? To me if I’m a family member to let’s say people who are not part of my blood family I do my best to help them out, to drop everything, whatever I’m doing because I know I’m going to choose family members who would do the same for me. I don’t ask too much from people. People are going through their own shit. Everybody has a sob story, everybody has an origin; something happens and now they’re here. And so everybody is going through it, so I try not to burden people with that. But when it comes down to it, if I need somebody I can call upon a brother, or the family out here to help me out. Or get through it.



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