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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

HEADLINES YOU MIGHT HAVE MISSED

2

COMICS BY SETH CARUS

3

ABO COMIX ARTISTS SPEAK OUT AGAINST PRISON

4

THE "COMPASSIONATE" SFPD SWEEPS HOMELESS PEOPLE

6

COMIC BY DAVE LOEWENSTEIN

8



Art by Sirbrian Spease: "Love That We Share"
Submitted by ABO Comix

COMIC ISSUE 2019

Queer Prisoners Speak Out Through Comics

Casper Cendre's small apartment has stacks of letters, envelopes, and artwork in every corner. On their monitor is a spreadsheet with hundreds of names, a chronological record of every letter received and the order in which to respond. A decorated frame holds a brightly colored depiction of David Bowie, who looks on with twinkling eyes.

This is the home of ABO Comix, a prisoner solidarity collective and small press based in Oakland working to amplify the voices of LGBTQ prisoners throughout the US and to assist them with financial, legal, mental, emotional help and solidarity.

The project started in 2017 when a group of friends got together in a community garden to look through some comics, and the conversation moved toward prisoner solidarity work.

continued on page 5...

SHELTER WAITLIST UPDATE: As of April 1st NO ONE is on the waitlist for shelter in San Francisco!!!! (oh, err, uhh April Fools! There are 1,378 people waiting for shelter in SF)

NEWSFLASH

HOMELESSNESS HEADLINES YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

MAYOR BREED WANTS TO BUILD SHELTER AT EMBARCADERO

Mayor London Breed is proposing construction of a 200 bed navigation center on Pier 30/32 that would allow all-day access, pets, and partners to stay with guests. The Port Commission will be considering this plan in April.

SUPERVISORS ANNOUNCE OPPOSITION TO BRUTAL HOMELESS SWEEPS

Supervisors Matt Haney, Vallie Brown, Shamann Walton, Sandra Fewer, Hillary Ronen, Gordon Mar and Aaron Peskin all went on record to community advocates saying they oppose carrying out homeless sweeps during rainstorms.

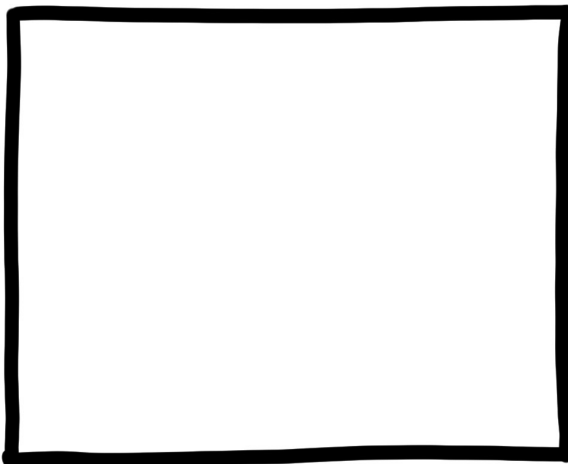
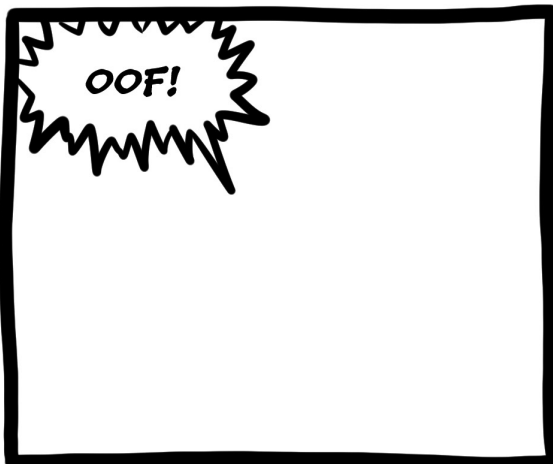
COP GETS JOB BACK AFTER GIVING HOMELESS PERSON A LITERAL SHIT SANDWICH

Cop put dog shit between two pieces of bread and left it in a sandwich bag next to a sleeping homeless man, who mistook it for relief from a social worker. The cop was originally dismissed from his job but was rehired on a technicality earlier this month, causing outrage.

BERKELEY VOTES TO BAN RV DWELLING

In a move to further criminalize poor and homeless people in the East Bay, the City of Berkeley affirmed their ban on overnight RV parking, after hours of emotional public comment from families and students who rely on their vehicles to sleep safely every night.

Hey Kids! It's an INTERACTIVE COMIC! Fill in the blank panels to finish the story!



by _____ & Kane Lynch

How does this story end? That's up to YOU!
Grab another piece of paper and decide what happens next!

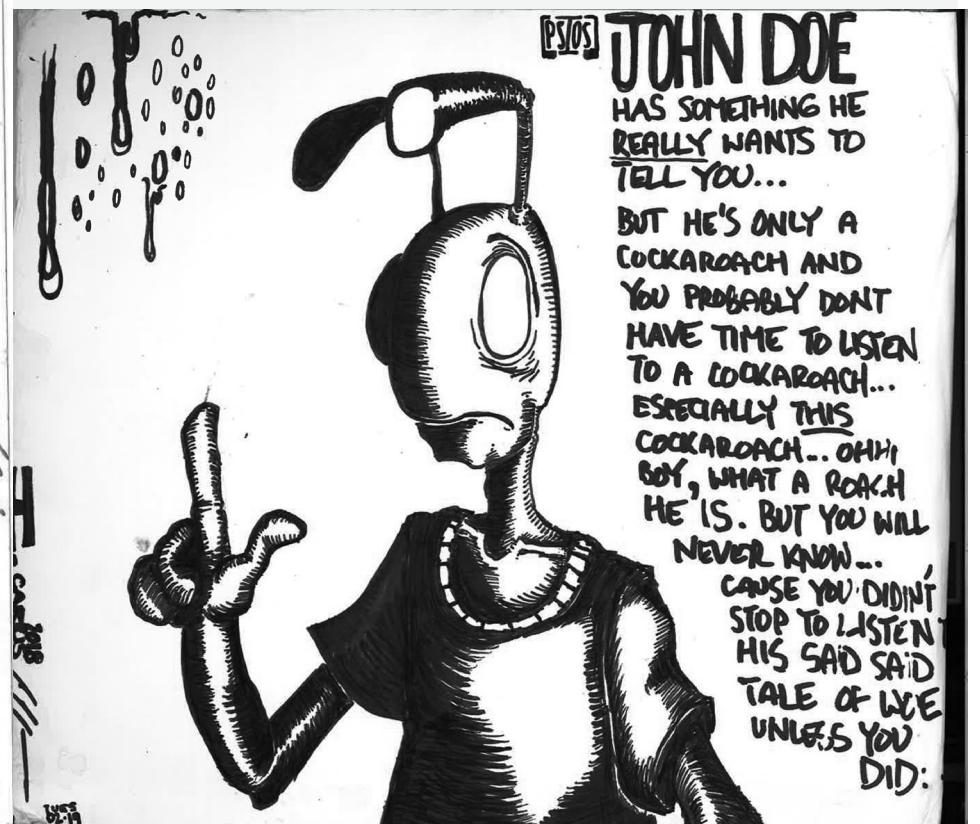
MAIL YOUR FILLED IN COMIC TO THE STREET SHEET AT 468 TURK STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 94102 OR EMAIL IT TO STREETSHEETSF@COHSF.ORG TO BE FEATURED IN THE PAPER!

SETH CARUS

This is the work of Carus, a homeless artist who sells his art at the exit/entrance of the Embarcadero BART station.

AT ETERNITY'S GATE

@8am, SF/CA
(EXIT - EMBARCADERO
STATION)
I, CARUS
POST SCRIPT, INK [SF/CA]



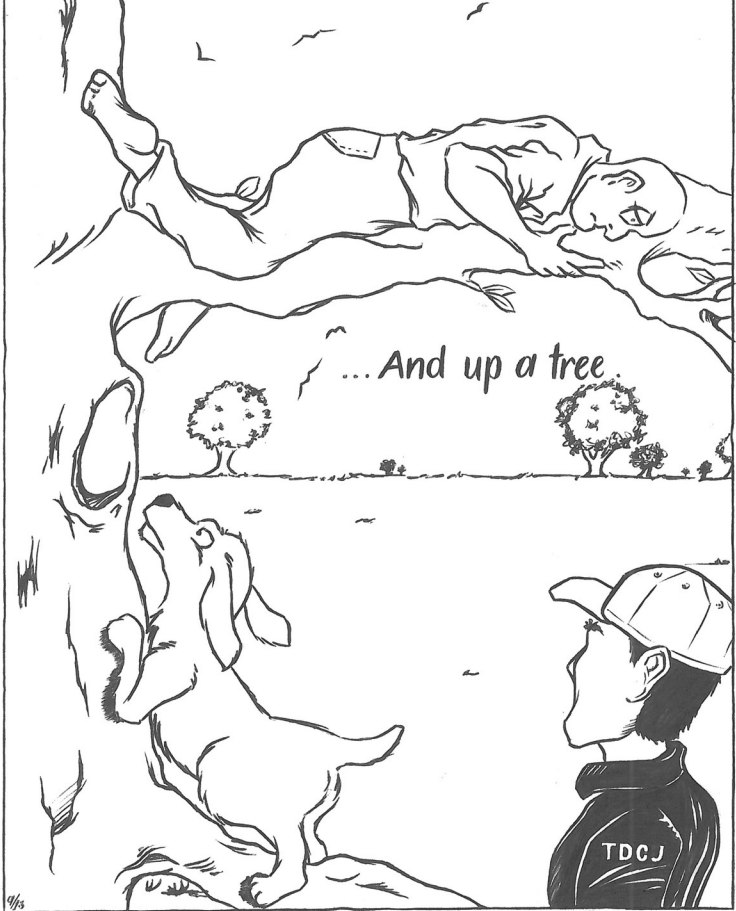
IT CAN'T GET MORE THAN I AM WHO YOU COULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN WAS HERE - BUT YOU FELT ME
SIMPLE THIS... I AM THE ARTIST YOU'VE BEEN EXPECTING. I AM THAT MAN YOU FINALLY SEE FOR THAT WHICH I AM AND HAVE ALWAYS BEEN.
I HAVE A STORY TO TELL
I HAVE A VISION TO LET YOU SEE THROUGH
I HAVE A VOICE YOU MUST LISTEN TO
MUSIC THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN PLAYING BUT ONLY I CAN HELP YOU FINALLY LEARN TO BEGIN TO LISTEN TO - TO HEAR - TO DANCE TO... BUT YOU MUST ACCEPT IT...
I AM THE ENTERTAINER... THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN. (POSTHUMASLY) I AM PASSED... I AM FOREVER. ALIVE. IMMORTAL. Again!



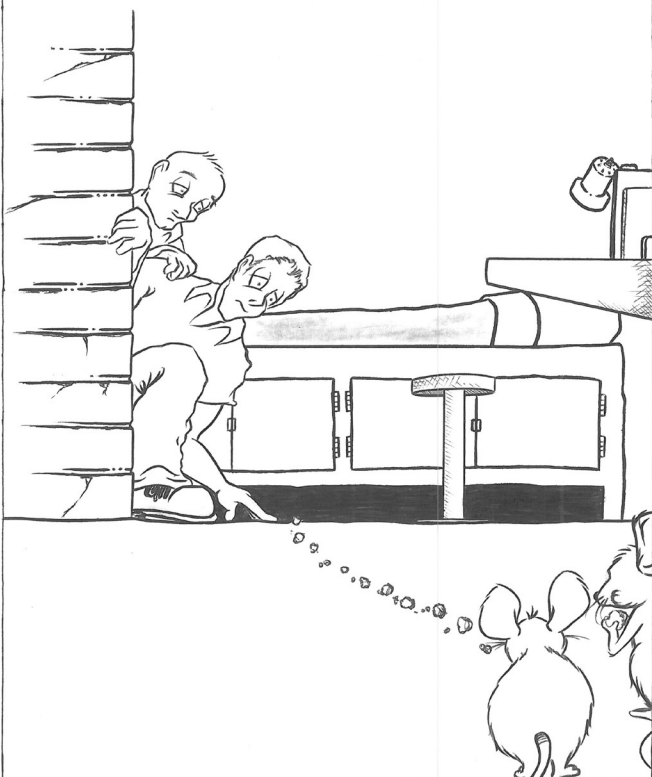
SCARY MOVIE
CON·NECTIONS

Con·nections

Con·found

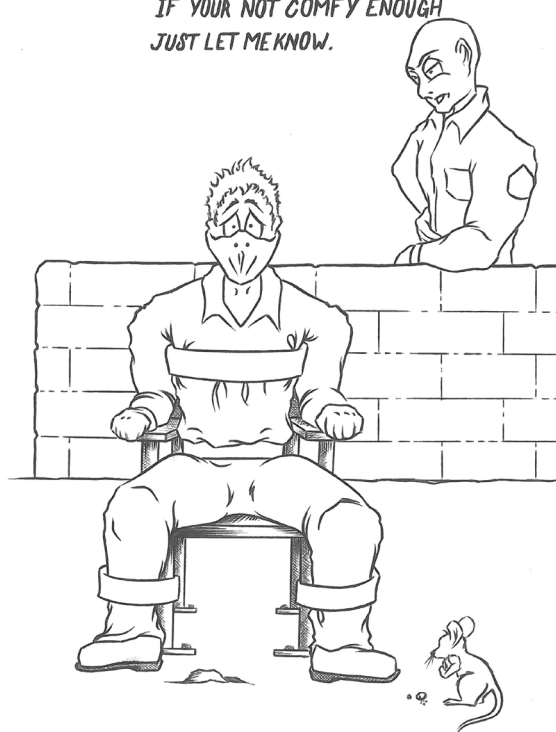


Con·trail

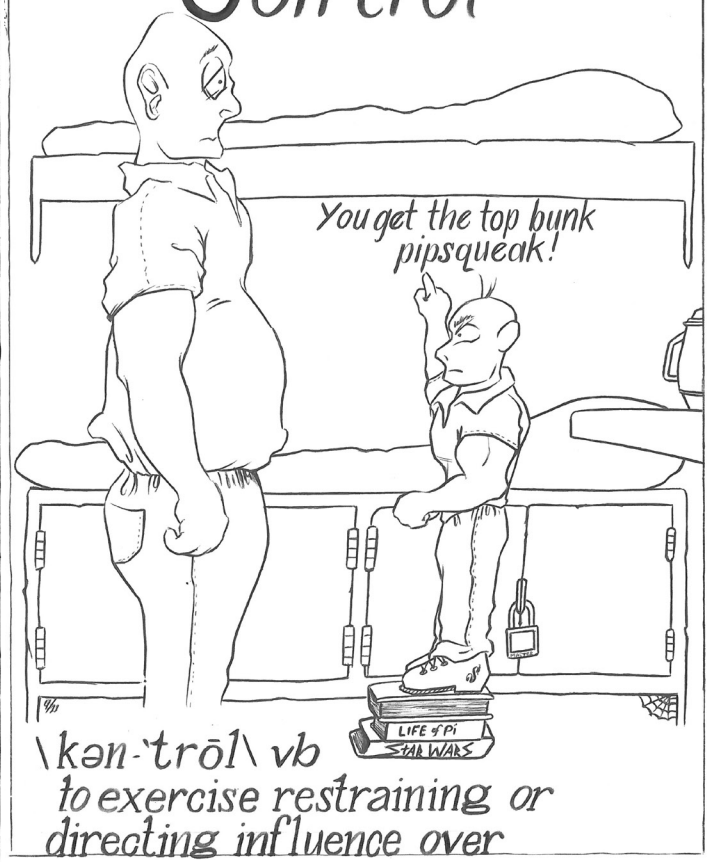


Con·straint

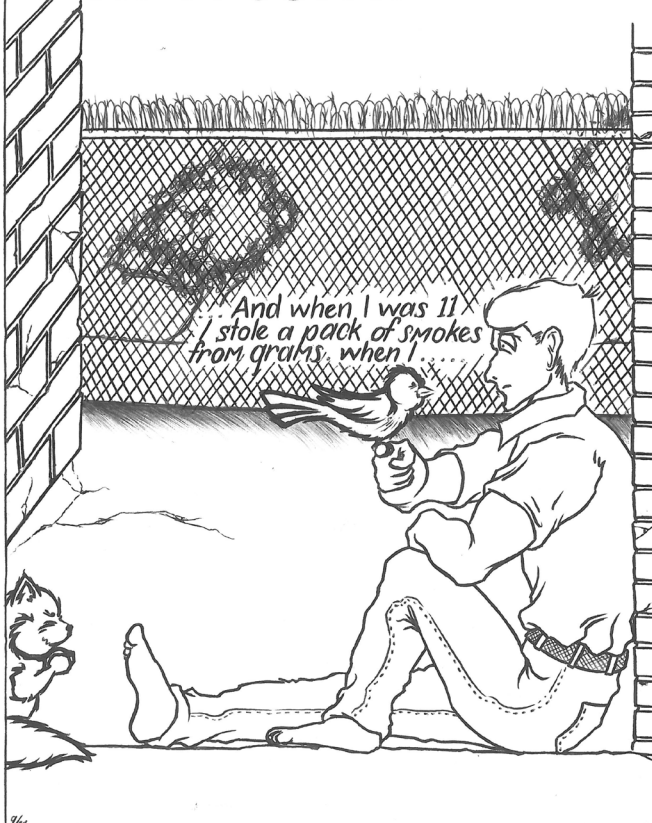
IF YOUR NOT COMFY ENOUGH
JUST LET ME KNOW.



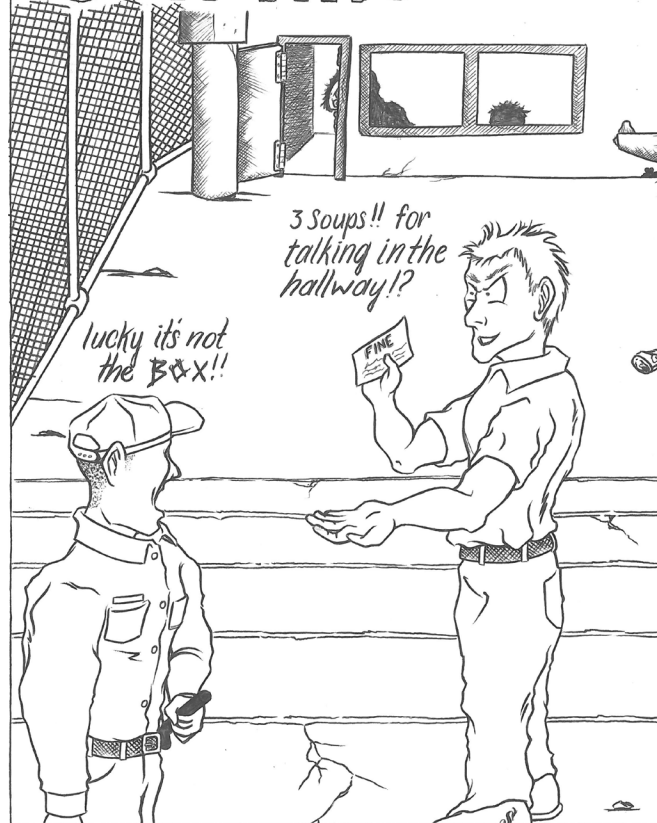
Con·trol



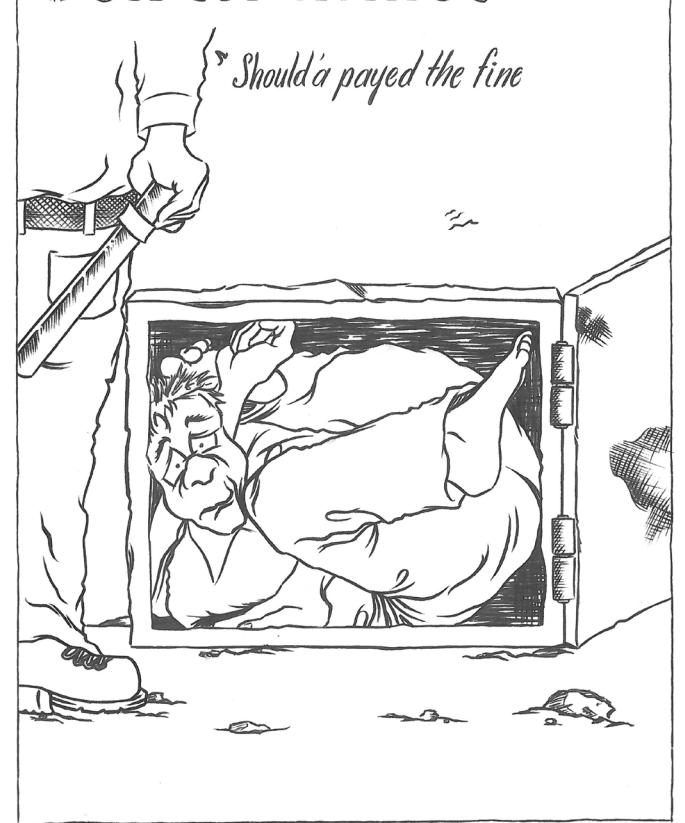
Con·fession



Con·fine



Con·tortionist



ABO COMIX



continued from page 1...

"I've been working with prisoners for about a decade, and Io and Woof had been working on comic projects for about as long," said Casper. "And we thought it would be cool to kinda just bridge the two things."

They took out ads in papers that were distributed in prison across the nation inviting submissions of comics and stories, not knowing if they would hear back from anyone. They received hundreds of letters in response from people who were really excited about it.

"We went from thinking 'maybe someone will submit a comic to us' to having just like, so much mail and so much art and like, tons of new friends."

Over the next year they worked with a few dozen artists to refine their work and eventually raised enough funds to publish their first LGBTQ+ comic anthology. Once the book was published they paid out all of the artists who had been part of the collection, sending money into the commissary accounts of more than twenty comic artists. All the funds from book sales go to assisting queer people in prison.

"Because our mail load is so overwhelming and the need is so overwhelming, we receive hundreds and hundreds of letters, and generally it's just me writing back to people," says Casper. "I've thought about like, yeah I need to create some boundaries. But I haven't, because you get really emotionally invested in people, and they generally don't have anyone else on the outside. So when you get letters from people saying you're the only contact person they've had their whole length of incarceration, it's really hard to just say no."

The need is very clear, as queer incarcerated folks have so little support, and often face serious bigotry while in prison. Casper tells me that his friend Joseph Oguntodu, a queer man of color who has been writing to him since 2017, was recently killed by his cellmate in Texas. ABO Comix will be hosting a service for him on April 7th at the Oakland LGBTQ Community Center from 6-8pm.

If you want to get involved just send an email to ABOcomix@gmail.com. They need volunteers to help with letter writing, curating submissions, inDesign work, etc, and there is a ton of work to do! Also a huge way people can help is to donate, because basically all the funding coming in goes right back out into commissary accounts, or buying books for people, or other resources. They need all the help they can get to sustain this critical work and

support LGBTQ+ folks in prison.

The best way to make an impact is to make a recurring donation to ABO through Patreon, which allows them to focus on their prisoner support work rather than fundraising to cover the costs of printing, stamps, and resources for their friends inside. Scan your phone here to donate through Patreon, or visit them online to make a donation through GoFundMe, PayPal, or Venmo.



Scan me

Artwork by Roman Gaylord
"Queer Crusader"



POLICE RESPOND WITH COMPASSION

From time to time, the Street Sheet offers local officials a guest column. As the San Francisco Controller's Office has just released a review of the city's response to homelessness,¹ we decided to invite the man who oversees those efforts:

My name is "Commander David Lazar", and I'm from the San Francisco Police Department. I run the Healthy Streets Operations Center - or 'HSOC' - which coordinates the city's efforts to criminalize homelessness and hide it from public view. You probably don't recognise me unless you subscribe to High & Tight Haircut Quarterly, but if you happen to be homeless, you already know many of my uniformed henchmen-officers.

They're the ones f***ing with you on a daily basis - compassionately harassing you, forcing you to move, threatening to arrest you, arresting you, and, last but not least, working with DPW to confiscate your belongings and survival gear so they can be lost, destroyed, or stolen. It's all part of Mayor Breed's master plan to eliminate visual signs of homelessness in San Francisco.

Let me explain. There are 7,500 homeless people in San Francisco, and we see them everyday, all over the city. And that's the problem. If they would just go away - and believe me, we ask them all the time - it would be so much easier for City Hall, because SF won't offer enough resources, let alone housing to help most of them. But they won't go away, and the city has to do something to make it look like they're solving the problem. San Francisco may not be able to reduce homelessness, but it can definitely reduce tents, and at least make homelessness harder to see.

And that's where HSOC and I come in. My heavily-armed highly trained police officers, along with DPW crews, go wherever anyone complains about seeing poor people with tents. We make them move, and we take their tents. If someone has left their tent to, say, go to the bathroom or run an errand, we take their tent. If someone doesn't want to give us their tent, we arrest them, and then we take their tent. Over and over again, day or night, rain or shine, we're taking tents and making people move. As long as the people who complained don't have to look at a tent or a poor person anymore, I've done my job, and Mayor Breed can say she's been successful at reducing homelessness.

You may be saying to yourself, 'WTF??? Isn't this inhumane, unconstitutional, and kind of fascist?' I can assure you it isn't, because we don't use those words. Instead, I use ones like "compassionate" and "respectful" whenever I lie describe HSOC to the public. As anyone who's ever been forced to give up their tent and been offered a 7-day shelter bed by my goon-squad team of outreach officers knows, those words are the kind of horseshit that requires a shovel. At HSOC, we also like to talk about how we connect unhoused San Franciscans to "a safe place where they can begin their individual journeys out of homelessness."² Back at the precinct, we laughed so hard we nearly wet our pants when they came up with that!

In fact, most of what I tell the public, the media, and local politicians is total horseshit. The only 'safe place' for homeless folks is anywhere far away from the donut patrol police and DPW. Preferably, outside of San Francisco.

Anyway, back to your comics,

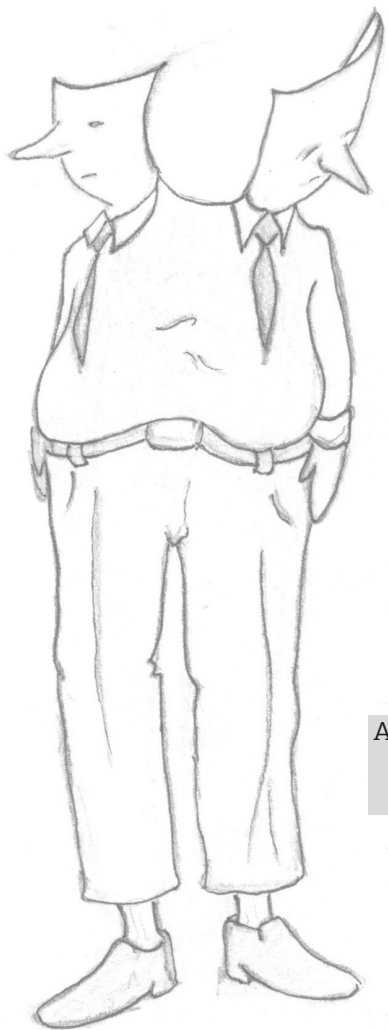
David

¹ <https://sfcontroller.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Auditing/Review%20of%20the%20Healthy%20Streets%20Operations%20Center.pdf>

² Seriously. The SF Controller's Review of HSOC actually said that. Page 35 - check that shit out. The whole thing is a gas.

In case it wasn't obvious, this piece is satire, not actually written by Commander Lazar himself, though it might as well have been!

THE COMPASSIONATE CMDR. LAZAR
By: Olivia Glowacki



Artwork by Diana Arambula
"Double"

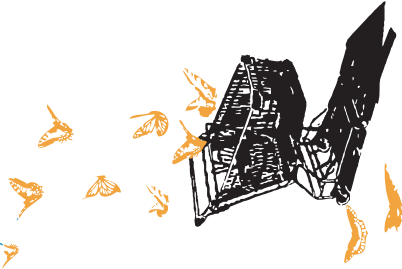
SUBMIT YOUR WRITING

STREET SHEET publishes news and perspective stories about poverty and homelessness. We prioritize submissions from currently or formerly homeless writers but gratefully accept all submissions.

send submission to qwatts@cohsf.org

Coalition On Homelessness
468 Turk Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-346.3740
www.cohsf.org
streetsheetsf@cohssf.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

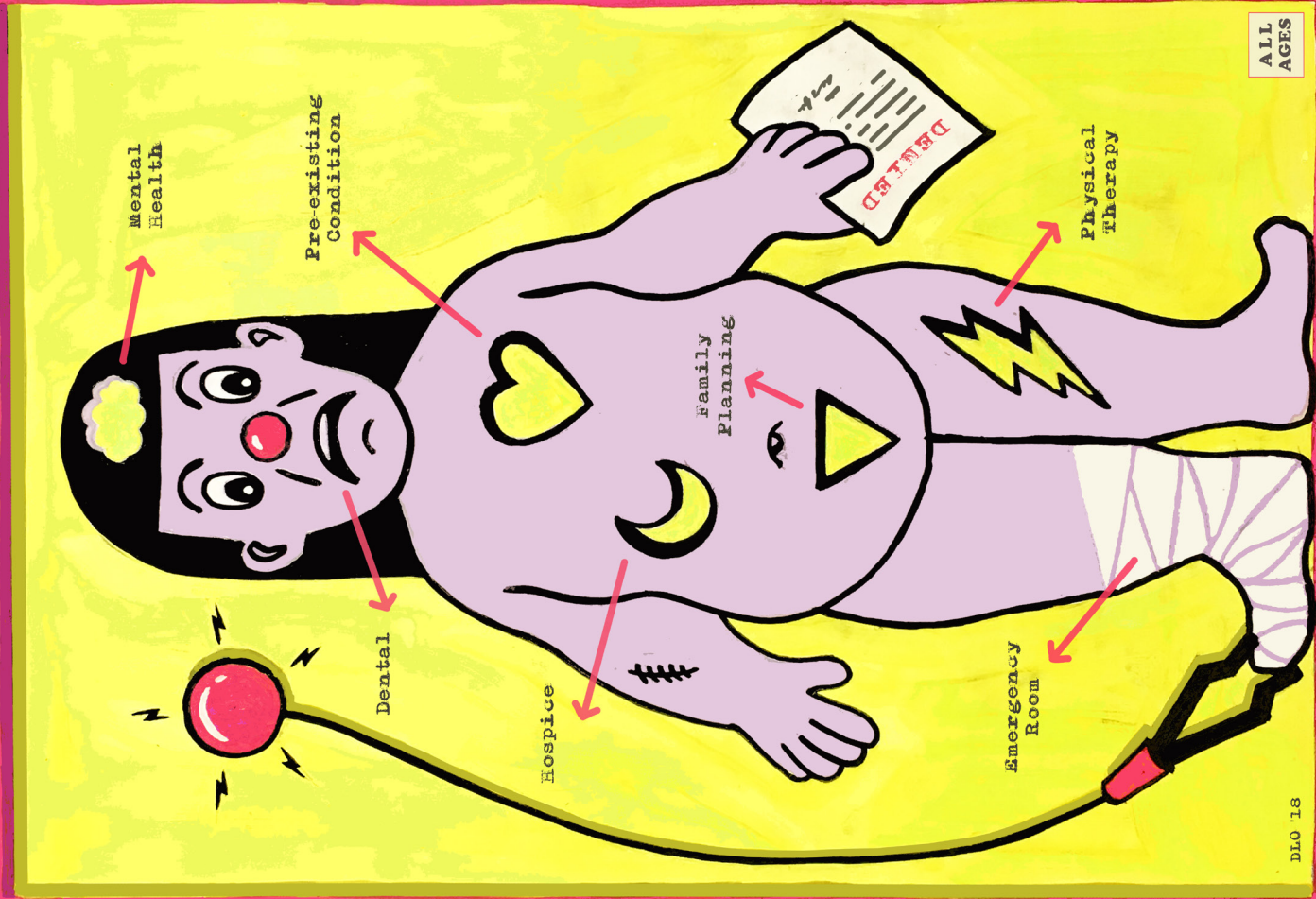


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Homelessness
San Francisco

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OR JUST NOT COVERED ?



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You're cordially invited
to the *Coalition on Homelessness'*
Annual Bocce Fundraiser!

Saturday May 18, 2019
from 11am to 3pm
at the
Aquatic Park Bocce Courts
(Beach St. & Van Ness Ave., SF)

Visit cohssf.org/bocce
to register or to sponsor
a low-income team!

FOOD!

DRINK!

KID-FRIENDLY!

RAFFLE!

PRIZES!

