

The *Official* **Challenger** *street newspaper*



A newspaper that matters



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PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735

A Free Press
Voice Of The People

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ART

BY RANA GHANA



JOIN OUR GANG

PHOTO BY
TRINITY
STAFF



PROFESSIONAL HOMELESS QUALIFICATIONS

BY PIRATE JOE

REPRINTED FROM FEB 2016 EDITED

Aside from being judged by the shallow, ignorant and blind, think about this a bit: who would be scared to hire anyone who puts homeless on a job application as a unique and extreme educational experience? It is more real than school, any school. This is fact, and not opinion. Example: if schools actually benefitted the community, poverty at best wouldn't exist, and at worst, poverty would be highly respected, approachable, and genuinely intriguing.

Did you know, Benjamin Franklin not only went through a homeless period in his youth, but throughout his life he also had a ritual practice of getting himself back in touch with poverty, in order to test his resolve before he made some of his decisions?

During Benjamin Franklin's printing press and journalist days, he not only printed but personally wrote both controversial and incendiary material. His frontline prototype practice of free press to facilitate free speech was radical for its time. Frequently, Mr. Franklin would come home with the worry of whether or not to take a specific article to print which might ruin him the following morning and how he would actually handle losing all he had. He drafted a self made man's practical approach to face the real prospect of destitution with resolve.

In one of the most pragmatic practices in practically facing possible destitution I've ever heard of (the only one I've ever heard of), on these particular evenings, whenever he was about to print something that "might cost him everything," Mr. Franklin would eat only bread, drink only water and sleep without a blanket on the wooden floor in his house. It never stopped him, only confirmed his resolve.

One of the most frequent and fearful side-mouthed sneers, "Get a job," not only immediately identifies those who would throw every laughing friend walking with them under the bus to save their own unfortunate and perpetual debt detention job (haha no bills on the street), but also identifies the one who hasn't yet developed the empathy to notice the individual in front of them as a noble and peaceful person who gave up everything. How progressive! It is physically



Homeless Qualifications can't pg 16

Our Mission: To empower people in need with economic opportunity and have their viewpoints heard. This paper uplifts and gives information to our most under-represented people. It encourages responsibility and freedoms necessary to enhance our everyday life. The people we serve have a wealth of information to share with society. The paper contributes, informs, and connects diverse people from all walks of life. The challenge is to end poverty.



Director and Editor:

Valerie Romness

Contributors:

Fred Pettit
John Curran
Marcilas
Rana Ghana
Indigo
Jeff Tydeman
Julian Reyes
Emmy Town Lake
Angel
Mari A. Psst
Pirate Joe
Scott Hoft
Dee
Rambo
The Gadfly
KoolAid
Sally Guevara
Kennilou Taylor
Courtney
Peter Cooper for
typing
Web Keeper: GrackleDesign.com
Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Trinity Center
Peter Cooper-Treasurer/Assnt Editor
Lori Renteria
Treasure City Thrift
Keep Austin Fed

Jenn Theone
Zebra
Austin ABC
TW-GHCE
Pastor Mark

Clip Art used
from MS Publisher
We use the
century gothic
font cause it
uses the least
amount of ink.

95% Street
Reporters
Leslie Queen of
Austin Cochran
wrote for the
Challenger it's
first 6 months.

THANKS TO ALL
OUR
ADVERTIZERS,
DONORS,
CONTRIBUTORS AND
DISTRIBUTORS
YOU MEAN A LOT!

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Editorial Policy

The material in this paper reflects the opinion of the author. Submissions determined to be libelous or that encourage discrimination, sexism, or violence will not be published. We ask you to proof read your article. Editor doesn't edit. Grammar is edited only for understanding. **Deadline is 2nd Sunday or the 15th.**

Is it time to work on mental health?

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS!

**We provide food and clothing, and promote dignity, to
our homeless brothers and sisters in need**

**Mobile Loaves & Fishes, Inc. is a social outreach
ministry for the homeless**

Join us in the feeding, the loving, and the helping of those among us in need.

SINCE 1998

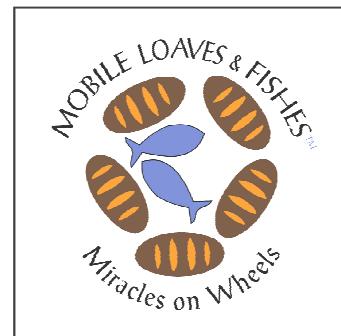
www.mlf.org**Chief Operating Officer:** Alan Graham

5524 Bee Caves Rd Austin, TX 78746

(512) 328-7299

alan@mlf.org

Mention this ad when you donate!

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DESIGN**

**Challenger Ad Rates**

Ad size	Approx	1X	3X	6X	12X
Full Page	7.5X10	230	220	210	200/mo
Half Page	7.5x 5	130	120	110	100/mo
Quarter page	3.5x 5	80	70	60	50/mo
Eighth page	3.5x 2.5	50	40	40	40/mo
Business card	3.5x 2	30	30	30	30/mo

If you're unhoused call for special rate

Pay per issue

or for a year

SUPPORT US WITH A BUSINESS AD
OUR READERS WILL SUPPORT YOU!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need you to bear witness of homeless street interactions
by filming the police.

Everyone is invited, it's your right to film police.

Contact Lizard King challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

There will be a social
worker and Austin Free-
net to assist people with
computer skills at 3 librar-
ies:

Tuesdays- ACE (Faulk Central
Library) 11:00-1:00.

Wednesday- ALW (Little Wal-
nut Creek) 2:00-4:00.

Thursdays-ATB (Terrazos)
11:30-1:30.

The **Information HelpLine** is an
information and referral service
which can be reached by calling
1 (800) 950-NAMI (6264), Mon-
day through Friday, 10 a.m.- 6
p.m., EST.

WANTED BAD COP STORIES

Were you or some one you know in Austin
intimidated, yelled at, assaulted or falsely
arrested by Austin Police Officer/s?
Bear witness, be your brother and sister's
keeper.

If not now, when?

If not you, whom?

Tell us your stories.

Contact Lizard King at the Challenger
Newspaper.

We meet twice a week, at 1pm. On Sun-
days at City Hall steps (Guadalupe and
Cesar Chavez) and on Wednesdays
across from the ARCH at Trinity Center (St.
David's Church, Trinity and E 7th St).

Come tell us your story or email us at chal-
lengernewspaper@yahoo.com
FaceBook: Challenger Street Newspaper

*Be safe, ya'll, report the police, keep the
police honest and lawful. Lizard King*

You can register to vote by October 11th. Online or text! Just list your address:
corner of ie: Ben Wht/So 1st or wherever you reside.

Our partner in Pen- Street Lit Writers Club:

Sat 1pm @ ARCH 2nd floor conference room A

www.StreetLit.org Coffee and snacks

As of now 160 police officers are trained to help with mental health
issues. C.I.T's (specially trained officers) Call 512-472-HELP
instead of 911. Ask again when they arrive, APD makes decision if you
need one or not.



The Terrazas Branch Library, 1105 East Cesar Chavez St., shows
movies every Thursday from 1 to 3pm. Coffee & water is served.

Oct. 6 Hotel Transylvania 2

Oct. 13 Mama

Oct. 20 Warm Bodies

Oct. 27 TBA (Halloween themed)

SAFE SLEEP

FOR WOMEN BY STAFF WRITERS

Safe Sleep was originally created in 2012 by in-
terested women of Austin, the City Council, Va-
lerie G., and Occupy Austin, to allow any wom-
an who did not want to sleep in the streets to
have a safe place at night.



The location now is:
At the Salvation Army
of Austin, located at
501 East Eighth Street.
Safe Sleep gives wom-
en (transgender men
may only apply to the
upstairs dorm) access

to showers, a cot, and a breakfast in the morn-
ing. Basic hygiene products are also available.
There is no storage of any kind offered. The line
forms at the side entrance (in the alleyway be-
tween the Salvation Army building and ARCH
building) at 6:30pm. Soda machine on first floor.
New rules: Sign-up @ 8 am, drawing @ 8:30 am
for a mat or a cot. There are no attendance
requirements (except a TB test) so you can show
up whenever you need a safe place to sleep. If
you miss the drawing, space may be available
on a case by case basis.

The manager on duty comes outside and asks
your name. They have room for about 25women.
Lights out is 9pm. The lights are turned on at 6 am
and women are served breakfast at 7:30 am.
They are asked to leave by 8:15 am.

DO NOT go upstairs into the dorm if you are not
able to work a job sufficient to rent an apart-
ment or qualify for the worker's dorm, because
you will most likely be **LIVING OUTSIDE IN THE
STREETS AFTER YOUR TIME IN THE DORMS ARE UP.**

You can still go to Safe Sleep. You cannot re-
enter the dorm for 90 days..

**THE SALVATION ARMY ALLOWS TRANSGENDER MEN TO
WOMEN INTO THE WOMEN'S DORM WHERE YOU MAY
SHARE SLEEPING ACCOMODATIONS, SHOWERS, AND
TOILETS. PREVIOUSLY TRANSGENDER WOMEN STAYED ON
THE GROUND FLOOR IN SAFE SLEEP WHERE SECURITY
WATCHES EVERYONE AND BEFORE HAD PRIVATE BATH-
ROOM ACCOMODATIONS SEPERATE FROM THE WOMEN.**

Subject to change at any time.



Visit our social medias
Challenger Street Newspaper

Capitol

An Austin History Part 8 Final

WHOLE SERIES PUBLISHED ON THRESHOLDMAG.ORG

BY SCOTT HOFT

In this series, I hope to demonstrate Austin's continual remaking in the service of capital and white supremacy and its evolving tools. This is in the interest of showing the hand of the city, the local manifestation of the State, as opposed to the "invisible hand" of the market. The city, in its planning and policing, clears the way and sets the terms for the movement of capital, declaring, dividing and redistributing property and assuring a certain social "peace".

While Austin's urban core has drawn successful investment, suburban growth has not ebbed. Over the course of the late 90's, 00's and 10's the suburbs have continued to expand. They have also gotten poorer. Austin made the lists again, boasting the second fastest growing rate of suburban poverty; this population grew by more than 140 percent between the 2000 and 2010 US Census Reports. The need for free and reduced cost school lunch programs and suburban food banks has increased anywhere from fifteen to twenty percent. The dispersal of poor people from the city has pushed social service centers to follow their clients into the suburbs. Two providers in Austin are relocating or opening new offices in northeast Austin. In 2013, Travis County increased its spending on social services by several million dollars, the first increase in a decade.

Police also recognize this reorganization. Even ten years ago, the police would often escort homeless people to the central East Side. Today the preferred drop points are far north or south, away from the city's core. The police chief is a strong advocate for moving homeless and social services out of the central city altogether, allying with downtown business interests who would like to see the city's homeless shelter moved. A new moniker describes the part of East Austin downtown has not absorbed: "the Eastern Crescent." The "Crescent" overlaps the former dividing line of Interstate 35 at two points, north and south, but is primarily concentrated around the highway that skirts what was the eastern edge of the city.

Within the Crescent, police and community activists are teaming up to "Restore Rundberg," a largely working class people of color community in North Austin. Restore Rundberg is the latest in a string of police-driven programs to clean up the neighborhood at the northern point of the Crescent. With a grant from the Department of Justice, the program brings together the Austin Police Department, the UT School of Social Work and neighborhood groups to create sustainable "crime solutions" for the area.

The DOJ grant comes from the Obama administration's Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative to address "concentrated poverty" in cities across the US. This harkens back to "slum clearance," targeting areas by declaring them slums (though in more fashionable language). It identifies crime as an impediment to "redevelopment and economic growth." The city no longer has to clear entire neighborhoods, relying instead on the full array of public-private partnerships to transform social relationships that favor capital.

This is a striking example of how the bourgeoisie solves the housing question in practice. The breeding places of disease, the infamous holes and cellars in which the capitalist mode of production confines our workers night after night, are not abolished; they are merely shifted elsewhere! The same economic necessity which produced them in the first place, produces them in the next place also. As long as the capitalist mode of production continues to exist, it is folly to hope for an isolated solution of the housing question or of any other social question affecting the fate of the workers. The solution lies in the abolition of the capitalist mode of production and the appropriation of all the means of life and labor by the working class itself.

* Friedrich Engels, *The Housing Question*, 1872

The city is still growing at a rapid clip and is polarizing at the same rate. The working poor population is expanding, at once an effect of proliferating low wage service jobs and a rapidly climbing area-wide cost of living, the highest in the state. Renting an average two bedroom apartment in the city requires a 111-hour work week at a minimum wage job. Where will these workers live?

Organizers must face these questions as the city grows. People at the historic sites of struggle have fought long and hard, but new struggles emerge every day. The city has developed an impressive array of tools to keep its workers, some of whose ancestors were slaves, in remote ghettos. Economic segregation and the ordering of the city keep all workers transient. The most recent City Plan, titled "Imagine Austin," calls for two high density development zones: one through the central city along Interstate 35, and another far east of the "Crescent" along newly constructed toll road Highway 130. One can only imagine who will live amidst existing industrial and resource extraction sites by 2039, the City of Austin's bicentennial—the date Imagine Austin hopes to be completed.

In conclusion:

In the beginning of this story, (Part 1), the Comanches tried to destroy the nascent city. The slaves tried to burn it down. Fixes based on repression and removal have appeared to restore order but replace old crises with new ones. Where will these new struggles emerge? Will we recognize Engels' warning that the relocation of working class districts is constant and will not end until the capitalist mode of production is abolished? It is clear that white supremacy creates specific types of displacement in the service of capitalism. As long as planning and policing determine the city's contours of relocation, we can expect nothing more from Austin.



Demolition of this local pinata store caused community outcry. Photo from Texas Monthly.com

Please let the paper know if someone has passed; We want to remember them. Call 512-560-4735 or email challengernews-paper@yahoo.com. Of course a picture would be nice.

TO THOSE WHO DIED ON THE STREETS OF AUSTIN.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS THE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE THING INSTEAD OF JAIL, EXPENSIVE ER VISITS, WITH AMBULANCE RIDES & APD POLICING.
ALLOW US TO BE READY TO WORK AT A FAIR LIVING WAGE!**

When you didn't drink up I knew it was something bad
feels worse than pain worse than hunger than I get know you
weren't here no drink anymore you were too concerned to just
leave without saying good bye one of my first thoughts was, well
it was just a matter of time but honestly I didn't think it would be
this soon. We showed my whole system is shocked. I don't want to
believe it, but there's enough information to prove its true. So I said
no accept it and I don't want to.

to accept it and I don't want to.
You were a 'wild child' in a man's body. I was scared
of you in the beginning... who pokes all over their face? Not one
in the side of one ear, but lips, nose, mouth, temples... you definitely
made an impression and an appearance like no one else when you
walked into the room what a day you were. Truly one of a kind.

I wish I could cry past this, but I've been in the Soup Kitchen too long now and you are the second one we've lost that was part of my group. Billie just lost his life from a bike accident on the eve of the 4th of July. He was 19 while you were 31. Both of you were too young.

However, I spent enough time with you to know who you were. I never judged you, not even for anything you knew I had accepted you for who you were. And I did whatever I could for you. It never occurred when I asked you to wash my windshield and you gave me that famous smile of yours. You couldn't wait to ask me the next day what I thought. I said, "It was great. I can see now." And you left happy before I could give you anything.

You know I loved you like a mother loves her son. I was visiting the best for you always, that is a man who was trying to be as responsible as possible. I want to believe in you and hope that your circumstances would somehow change in your favor. You never spoke of your family to me. I find out that I didn't tell you it last time about them.

Now I see your parents are living, you have two siblings and even had a son somewhere along the line growing up without you. It's often a difficult thing to be in the middle, and exhibit all the ties with them or they might feel like they had to cut their ties with you. It's painful either way.

you gave me that Christmas. I don't guess you ever knew what it could have done for me. I've always known not to judge a book by its cover. And writing as I do it is hard not to do that especially when looking at the streets can turn people into a prison that's not so nice to be around at times. I never had that trouble w/you. Even when you smoked k-z and were not in the best mind, you still smiled at me; and I did not bother you, but if I saw you later... I got a big hug from you three times one priceless now.

Someone told me once, "you don't really know him, Dee. It's only like this in front of you. Here while we eat." Well, guess what? No doubt there was some truth to that. Living on the streets makes people not know who to trust. But it doesn't matter to me, you were all grown up & you got to make your decisions, and you did. When you came in to my place at the Soup Kitchen, you could try to relax a little and eat. I never once put myself in your shoes, although I did take you to water one time when it was over 102° and by the freeway no less.

I wish I could have given you something better in the way of words to bring only, but you had my respect for doing the best you could under the circumstances. I wish the end had not been tragic, but it seems up to me or you, your time was up and there was no way to make it be.

I will miss you. There's a hole in my heart now where you fit. One time, you made me realize I could live without expecting anything in return. I took that away with everyone but it was with you I'm grateful I didn't really know the extent of it. I'm going to pretend you didn't know what happened. You + was called and I'm glad to see you all.

May you rest in peace. But do you remember how he waited for the late to see his parents and children and them? Well guess what? I finally got to see them. I saw a big nest up top the last time and a young one stuck his head out. He squirmed a little, climbing up and down and then he came out and really sang a song then up there. I bet you saw it that too, didn't you? I was so happy. I got to see that. What a gift from Gods creation. We get sometimes. It made me think of you and the time you and Sarah walked with me down to see them. I'll always have that memory & then you went straight to the grass and fell asleep.

And that's what you are doing now. I'm glad I know you. I was blessed by you and you were truly one-of-a-kind and my friend.

Dec.

Christian lost his life @ 2:30 am Aug 13 on the Santa Fe Rd. @ I-35 and Flores between the Shell station to the East and the Union station to the West. He's buried in Mission. James He would have celebrated his 30th B-day on Oct. 30. He will be sadly and appreciably missed Good-bye Christian.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



What do I have to do short of committing a crime? What do I have to say? What insult can I possibly say that would make you crawl from beneath the fungus that gave birth to you and publically allow the world to see you for what you really are. An ignorant illiterate. One that has been charged with the administration and enforcement of our laws. Any institution that can justify putting cuffs on a dead person in order to display the human trophy they just murdered is a gaggle of cowardly bastards. I apologize to the word bastard. You make me sick. You and all you stand for. It is not justice. It is not serving a community of civilized people. You are all without exception beneath humanity. This is directed at all members of our legal and law enforcement establishment. And the institutions that produced them. Any graduate of any law school. Any administrator, faculty member, dean or president of any law school. Any member of law enforcement. Any capacity. Any agency. Any buffoon representing any police union. Not one of you knows a damn thing about the meaning of the oath used to give testimony in our courtrooms. You think it is nothing more than a Shakespearian soliloquy. You are all so badly mistaken. Colin Kaepernick. Thank you. I only regret that you will probably never read this. I regret also that the individuals to whom I refer do not have the guts or mental ability to publically challenge what I say. Not without hiding their actions. An act that so counter to the very oath that they use to execute innocent people daily. Just like the Nazis that they are.

SLAVERY BY ANY OTHER NAME...

BY MARCILAS

REPRINTED FROM DECEMBER 2015

Slave: someone who is legally owned by another person and is forced to work for that person. A person who is strongly influenced and controlled by something.

If you are reading this. You fall into one of two categories. You are a slave or you are a slave owner. I will explain. I once lived in Silver City, New Mexico. A beautiful town. A beautiful town of beautiful people. Much the same as Austin. A person who owed me some money asked me to meet them at a park so they could pay me. When I arrived, a woman whom I had never met, walked up to my truck and dropped a joint in my seat. I was flattered by the attention but that was not why I was there. I gave it back. I was paid. I left. I thought nothing more of it. I had three small children. I was currently going through a divorce. I was planning to leave the state. I had never in my life been involved with the law.

I was later called to the office of the District Attorney to clear up a matter concerning a hot check that had been given to me. After concluding the matter of the check. The District Attorney pulled out a baggie with a joint inside. His name was Chavez. I will never forget that moment. He proceeded to tell me that he had filmed me bringing this joint to a park where I attempted to sell it. I thought this was a joke. He was serious. Here was an elected official. A person who held a public trust, charging me with a crime that I did not commit. He knew for a fact that I did not commit it. The State of New Mexico charged and jailed me for a crime that was committed by the state. I could not believe that something like this was happening or even possible in a civilized society.

This same District Attorney ordered me to meet him at a clandestine location. He had in his possession a document. It was the most hideous document that I had ever read. It was beneath repugnant. The only thing lower than that document and the person who presented it was the institution that made the two of them possible. A law school. To this day. Nothing compares to it. It made *Paradise Lost* read like a nursery rhyme. Had I signed it I would have voluntarily given up every legal right I ever had. He could have legally pulled a weapon and killed me. I would have become his personal property. I would have become the property of the State of New Mexico. I would have become a slave.

It turned out that he wanted someone to infiltrate the local college and spy on the members of the football team. He wanted me to

become a C I. A confidential informant. A snitch. A slave to the people of The State of New Mexico. A slave to the people of the United States of America. He had help in this endeavor. A police department void of ethics. A law enforcement establishment not possessing the level of intelligence necessary to conceive the true meaning of the law as it is written or spoken. A court of no integrity. All products of an institution that prides itself in producing illiterates to the law. Spoken and written. In the history of any law school there is not one graduate who can tell you the specific and scientific definition and meaning of the oath used to give testimony. This is the cornerstone of justice. They are not even aware of it's existence. Two contradictions that allow you and me to be subjected to unspeakable horror on the part of our legal system. I was fortunate. There were two lawyers who knew what was happening. One of them was representing my soon to be ex-wife. With their help. I was set free.



Years later I was again confronted with the exact same recipe. It was in my hometown of Longview, Texas. A snitch (slave), an inept sheriff's dept., a DA void of integrity, a judge that spit on the Judicial code of conduct. Same antiquated legal system based on the same antiquated notions. Letter of the law and Miranda. This time I saw it coming. I took precautions. I added technology to the mix. But that's another story. I will say this. I welcome the opportunity to exonerate myself.

The uproar over the removal of the confederate flag and it alleged position as being a symbol of slavery, strikes me differently. That flag is not and never was a symbol of slavery. It was a battle flag. I may not agree with their politics. The brave men who fought under that flag have rights. They fought and died for them. They earned them.

It had become a scapegoat. It's removal will only serve as the removal of the only barrier between what has always been the true symbols of slavery. The symbols that we refuse to face. All fifty-one of them. Every state that recognizes the legality of the documentation that legalizes the enslavement of it's citizens to be used as confidential informants has it's own flag to now be considered as the new symbol of slavery. Each star on our national flag is turn is a representation of this fact. We are a slave nation. It is made legitimate by our supreme court. This is not questioned. Every citizen of The United States currently not a confidential informant(slave) is knowingly or unknowingly a slave owner. This acknowledgement might not come to pass during my lifetime or yours. Rest assured the day

THOUGHT EXPERIMENTS

BY RAMBO 9 9 16

Thought experiments make explicit our conception of the nature of properties and objects, testing the adequacy of our conception schemes and enabling us to consider what direction such schemes need to be enlarged, restricted, or abandoned altogether. They are helpful vehicles for philosophical exploration and discussion. They force one to clarify ideas by exploring how these ideas might be worked out in various imagined situations. They can reveal inconsistencies in ideas, avoid certain materialist presumptions present in scientific experiments, and engage our imagination. They serve more often to reveal one's existing presuppositions regarding human nature than they do to answer the question of what the correct understanding is.

KOOL AID'S DRAG UPDATE

They are being abused and hurt, they don't give the homeless a break. When they see a homeless person they think they are already committing a crime.

It has gotten worse since last semester. It was bad during the summer, they're on bikes and SUVs. They got so upset with him that if they see him in front of another business asking for money they're going to automatically arrest him.

Both UTPD and APD are harassing him. They harass him everytime he tries to use a business or go to the bathroom.

They told him they couldn't be on Guadalupe

Slavery con't from page 6

will come when it will. If we as a people are allowed to evolve to the point where we fully understand the true meaning of the words truth, whole truth, and nothing but the truth. We face a rude awakening. God help us when that day comes. According to the oath. It is scientific fact that each time you are read 'your Miranda rights' you are actually being told that in a court of law you will plead guilty simply by saying 'I do'. You are being verbally informed that your rights are being stripped from you. Harvard Law should know this. Their product should inform you of this. This fact applies to Texas law school graduates as well.

Let there be no misunderstanding. This applies as well to the FBI, supreme court, CIA, any graduate of any accredited law school. Past and presented. Any member of law enforcement. Any capacity. Any agency.

According to the oath used to give testimony, it is scientific fact. Collectively, their physical knowledge of the law, spoken and written, is incapable of giving rival to the same idea in the mind of a simian. They are all by definition, bullies. They all have in common, the four traits common to all bullies:

Truth: A bully knows only to bully.
Whole truth: A bully cannot read.
Nothing but the truth: A bully is unwilling to learn.
True: A bully is a coward.

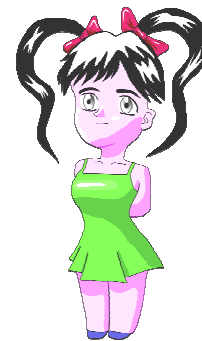
HOMELESS SOULMATE

BY EMMY TOWN LAKE ANGEL

I chose homelessness before I even knew what it was. I took off from home as a young teenager not knowing what life was like at all. Too young. But I wouldn't change anything if given that chance. Except a few bad choices that I still pay for every day.

However, I chose you. Together we were homeless but it didn't matter to me. I just wanted to be with you. I left everything and went with you. We were, still are, always will be soulmates. I felt like you loved me like that. You taught me how to make a fire, about the tide in the ocean, dig for horse clams, Indian tea leaves-about a lot of things – embedded in my mind.

Some things were not so pretty. Choices made not always mutually accepted. I left you asleep on the beach one morning, I was afraid of you... But I heard your footsteps outside the shelter window that night. You are near me now. Your eyes can't hide from mine. I am not afraid anymore. I want you to know I could never forget, but I forgive you.



JAIL MAIL PROGRAM

BY CHALLENGER STREET NEWSPAPER

We want you and anyone you know who is incarcerated, to write your voice in our paper. You should write legibly so we can type or send by email any writing, art or drawings. You may use a pen name if you prefer. We need voices from jail to round out our coverage.

Our address is: Challenger Newspaper PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715
Email: challengernewspaper@yahoo.com



LITERARY

BY JOHN CURRAN

Well first I decided, to intend, to really, like, no BS, to start jogging. Yeah. Jogging. That'll do it. I know if I do it enough it'll work. You don't see any fat Kenyans do ya? No. It works. It's just how much ya wanna suffer. And for you baby I'll suffer. I'll suffer. See, she don't give me the time of day now. Oh sure, when she absolutely can't get away from it she will talk to me. At least she used to. You know, at so called social gatherings & stuff. Places where, you know, everybody has to sorta be nice and like friendly. Or at least make some attempt. Everyone on kinda public display. It wouldn't do very well for her to all of a sudden pull out her book right then 'n there now would it? I mean with everybody there, all standing around, everybody else at least acting like they're all gonna try to do the, well, for lack of a better description, the Human Interaction Boogie. I mean, she sees me coming up. Probably gonna figure "Well he's gonna try and actually talk to me. All his dumb jokes & everything" (I was working on a stand up routine at the time. OK so sue me) Well can't very well whip out the old book then can she. Still I know, don't think I don't know. I'm very sensitive.

OK get jogging. The big belly gotta go. I gotta plan for this see. This buddy of mine he's got a rat farm out in the far ratlands and he's telling me he can do me a nice rat cover for my bald spot. Tells me he's got 'em in all colors as long as it's some shade of dirty gray. That would kind of match anyway. Call it the latest, the rat a tat tat style in men's toupees.

So, figure this, there I am, a full head of hair, me and a coupla' dead rats, and my new six pack set of abs to offset the twelve pack of Lone Stars constantly in my backpack, and check it Dogs and Hogs, I'm feeling ready to begin. I put the move on; "Hey there little cutie, 'bout thirty or forty years younger, you were so sexy other day on the bus reading your book and just trying to act like I wasn't there with my big gut bald head and freaky leering grin. The way you headed off my first bad joke at the pass like Comanches on Calvary just really got my old used up motor oil fluids a' boiling, and, well I just thought

that now, since I've sort of got you here now, captive audience that I know you are, at this delightful social gathering, well, maybe you'd like to rub your hot little baby fingers over my new furry topper, or maybe check out my new six pack, while I fish out a Lone Star or two, and then maybe baby hey, me and you & whaddya say Sweets?" Anyway, that had been my plan until, fast as that, she's back in her bag and up comes, would ya believe it, Tolstoys 'War and Peace', coming up between us, and I knew then that well, this could take some time. But ya know, I like that. Yes sir 'cause it's a challenge and well, when you're as old as I am, these days what else ya got? That and hopefully a decent fixed income check. Just call me Romeo though Baby, whenever ya feel like taking a break for a cup of tea, Russian style, or whatever. Yeah, please, just sock it to me one time, like a hello at least, or is that more like fools rush in. Huh?



ART

By Sally Guevara



Give this pullout directory away!

Distributors Wanted!

BE YOUR OWN BOSS CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!

Start working any Sunday or Wednesday and get paid the same day and every day you work.

The Challenger Newspaper is written and published by homeless people and allies about their thoughts and experiences. It is offered for a suggested donation of \$2 per paper. Since the Challenger Newspaper is a Not for Profit organization, it is not panhandling and you can offer it just about anywhere.

YOU KEEP ALL DONATIONS.

Orientation and training is every Wednesday at the Trinity Center at 7th and Trinity from 1-3 PM. You will receive an ID badge as well as a starter kit with 20 papers for you to offer for donations. The kit costs just \$2 and extra papers are .50 for a current issue and .25 for a previous issue. We also meet on Sundays at City Hall at 1PM. Lunch!

If you write an article, poem, or other for the paper or submit a picture or piece of artwork, **YOU RECEIVE 10 FREE PAPERS** of the issue in which you are published.

In jail? Write for our paper,,, IT WORKS! KEEP COMING BACK!

Challenger Newspaper PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735 Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com



The Challenger Laptop Program

By J.R.C.

helps get computers into the hands of our writers, distributors, and participating members to help inspire, educate, and empower.

Some of the things we are looking for:

Laptops

Netbooks

Chromebooks

Tablets

USB flash drives

Windows 7 or greater install disks

We have a preference for, but are not limited to, computers that are 5 years old or newer, so as to keep up with current software and operating systems.

If you would like to make a donation or have questions please feel free to call or email us at:

512-560-4735

challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

URGENT!

TENT CITY CODE OF CONDUCT

- ⇒ Respect the rules with decency. No troublemakers.
- ⇒ No display of products or substances that are socially unacceptable. (If you come back in a socially unacceptable state - Go to bed or leave! No talking!)
- ⇒ No display of weapons.
- ⇒ Self-monitor behavior or you get probation or 24 hrs out or 1 week out. (can be left up to group)
- ⇒ Pets if allowed must be controlled (with or without leash)
- ⇒ Watch out for children!
- ⇒ Volunteer 10 hours/week or what group consensus.
- ⇒ No isms (sexism, classism, racism, religiousism, no bad isms)
- ⇒ No frenzy (rushing) allowed. (No monopolizing)
- ⇒ Use composting toilets or cardboard at night
- ⇒ No fires. Cook with a small campstove
- ⇒ Clean up after yourself! Take your trash out every day/week



- ⇒ Listen to each other.
- ⇒ Respect quiet time.
- ⇒ Bring water to camp every time you come in; take empty jugs with you when you go out.
- ⇒ Be cautious that people don't see you as you go in & out of camp.
- ⇒ Use consensus to be fair; do a gather in to deal with baggage.
- ⇒ Tent City is Tent City. It is not a part of any other group. Not required to join Occupy or Challenger Newspaper or any other group to stay in Tent City. It is supported by many groups and individuals.
- ⇒ Each is responsible for their own belongings
- ⇒ Everyone needs to meet before gaining access to camp
- ⇒ Check your ego at the street!
- ⇒ Amend as needed

Tent City Rises on Facebook for details or text or call Peter 512-924-7561



RESOURCE DIRECTORY

UPDATED 7/16

REFERRALS

First Call for Help: 211 or 512-973-9203

A free, bilingual information and referral service that provides information about food, clothing, housing, child and youth services, job placement assistance, education, recreation, support groups and other programs and services.

VETERANS

VA 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744 512-823-4100

Outpatient Clinic: For primary healthcare, specialty care and hospitalization Contact Andrew Miller

Transitional housing for single veterans.

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35

Housing First- Transitional, affordable, permanent housing.

Strike Force Help with VA benefit claim, denial or appeal, call 254-299-9950. See www.tvc.state.tx.us for even more resources and links. 877-4AID-VET

Center Point Texas Veterans Program 512-297-2990 outreach, assessment of needs, vocational readiness training, housing assistance, job placement and referrals to job skills training programs for homeless Veterans . 2101 S. Interstate 35 Suite 219 Austin, TX 78741

SHELTER

Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH) 500 E 7th St. 512-305-4100 This day resource center/night shelter provides bathrooms, showers, bus tickets, coffee, emergency clothing, first aid and hygiene supplies, laundry facilities, lockers, mailboxes, message posting, referrals and telephone.

Salvation Army 501 E. 8th St., 512-476-1111

The Downtown Shelter and Social Service Center is a 242-bed multi-population shelter accommodating single women, single men and families with children.

Also Safe Sleep for Single Women Program. 5:30pm Sleep on a mat. See pg 3.

Trinity Center 304 E. 7th St, Front desk: 512-610-3542 Case Management: 512-610-3553 Day resource center, phone, computers, breakfast and coffee, women's clothing closet, direct assistance, reading glasses, I.D., long distance calls. Sunday Worship followed by meal.

Hrs: Mon & Tues 9:30-1 (women only); W - F 9:30-1 PM; Sunday 2:45 - 4:30. Every other Sunday: C.D. Doyle Free Healthcare Clinic 2-5PM, side entrance. Wednesday 9am-Bus pass lottery. Wed 1-3PM Challenger Paper meeting-Please knock. Tues and Thurs - Art Class

Foundation for the Homeless Call for locations, 512-453-6570 Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) offers a 90-day shelter stay to homeless families with children as they work toward self-sufficiency. Long-term case management services are offered to all families residing in IHN. Supportive services are offered through the Passages case management program.

Community Partnership for the Homeless

Call for locations, 512-469-9130 Transitional housing for single male and female veterans. Affordable rental housing for homeless disabled single parents & their children. .

Casa Marianella 821 Gunter St., 512-385-5571

shelter, food & programs for recently arrived immigrants from all foreign countries. English class, legal services & potential housing.

Safe Haven 500 East 7th Street 512-305-4129

MHMR shelter for homeless mentally ill. Must go through ACCESS; call or visit during walk-in hours at the ARCH, 9am - 10:30am Wed & Fri

Family Eldercare Call for locations, 512-450-0844

Outreach and in-home care for those over 60 years old.

Safe Place Call for locations, 512-267-SAFE (7233) Emergency shelter, counseling, transitional housing and case managers for women escaping domestic & sexual violence. children & men also accepted.

Victory Temple (Outcry in the Barrio) 2300 Canterbury, 512-480-9628 Pastor: David Perez 6 mo housing program focused around bible study. Food, lodging & clothing offered. The first 5 mo are centered around religious education/participants are not assisted in getting jobs or outside housing.

STREET YOUTH DROP-IN Micah 6 Sun. 2-6 PM U.B.C. 23th & San Antonio For 30 & younger Computers, games, just a place outside of the weather. Great meal 4:30 PM

MEDICAL, DENTAL, MENTAL HEALTH

Brackenridge Hospital 512-324-7000 601 E. 15th St., 911 Emergency care.

ARCH Clinic-Health Care for the Homeless Project 500 E. 7th St., 512-972-4850, Open Monday - Friday 8-12 and 1-5 pm. Appts only Mon - Thurs from 1-5pm. Friday's are by appt only. Women's Morning every Wednesday

MAP cards 512-978-8130 1213 N IH35

Mon. - Fri. 8am or 1 pm Homeless get right in. Screening and enrollment done on a walk in basis. appts preferred. Full coverage medical services with reduced or no copay. Must meet a set criteria.

Rosewood-Zaragosa Clinic (main office)

2802 Weberville Road, 512-978-9400

1111 E. Cesar Chavez (downtown area)

www.ci.austin.tx.us/health/ms_map.htm

VA Outpatient Clinic

7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744 ? 512-389-7104

For primary healthcare, specialty care and hospitalization Contact Andrew Miller

RBJ Dental Clinic

15 Waller St., 512-978-9895 You must go through MAP (Medical Assistance Program) to find out your eligibility - there is a sliding scale for emergency services.

Tuberculosis Elimination Clinic 15 Waller St., TB testing.

FIGHTING CANCER ALONE? THE CARE COMMUNITIES. Fighting a serious illness without a strong support system? You don't have to be alone. The Care Communities recruits and trains volunteers to provide emotional and domestic support to those affected by serious illness, including cancer and HIV. 512-459-5883 info@thecarecommunities.org

Manos de Cristo Dental Clinic (wait in line or appt)

4911 Harmon Av 78751 512-477-2319

Emergency dental care for people who are working and don't qualify for city, state, or federal programs.

STD Clinic 15 Waller St., 512-972-5430

not anonymous but confidential STD testing. Must have photo ID.

AIDS Services of Austin 7215 Cameron Rd., 512-458-2437 case management, testing, & a variety of financial services available. The Jack Sansing Dental Clinic is a part of AIDS services of Austin and operates on a sliding scale for all HIV positive clients.

ACCESS

ARCH 500 East 7th St., 512-478-5644

For homeless mentally ill. Walk-in hours are 9am -

10:30am Wed & Fri; or you may call them and an outreach worker will come to you.

Hotline to Help

Call for locations, 512-472-4357 (HELP)

This MHMR hotline will deal with any mental health crisis, including suicide prevention, 24 hours per day.

Psychiatric Emergency Service

56 East Ave., Bldg. 633, 512-472-HELP (4357)

Call if you or someone you know is about to harm themselves or someone else.

FOOD STAMPS, HUMAN SERVICES, MEDICAID

Texas Dept. of Human Services

Moved to Capital Plaza 512-929-7330

Women, infants & Children (WIC)

Call for closest location, 1-800-942-3678

HOUSING

VA 7901 Metroplis Dr) 78744 ? 512-389-7104

Transitional housing for single veterans.

Blackland Community Development Corp.

2005 Salina St., ? 512-972-7595

Transitional housing for families and single persons.

American Youth Works 216 E. 4th St. ? 512-472-3395

High School Diploma Program, ages 16-20 Also has a first-time home buyer program.

Green Doors 512-469-9130 1503 So IH35

Housing First-Transitional, affordable, permanent housing.

Austin Housing Authority 1124 S. IH-35 ATX, 78704.

512-477-4488 6 month to 2 year; waiting list depends heavily on individual circumstance.

Travis County Housing Authority 2200 E. MLK Jr. Blvd.

512-480-8245 Similar to Austin Housing Authority.

Foundation Communities

3036 South First, Suite 200, 78704, 512-447-2026 Affordable housing for families of low to moderate income.

Texas Low-Income Housing Information Service

1100 E. 8th St., ?512-469-9802 This is not a housing program, but rather an information service. They may be able to answer your questions about other operations.

ReENTRY PROGRAMS

ReEntry of Caritas 611 Neches St. 512-479-4610 ext. 240

Case management for single adult homeless individuals. Housing and other supportive services available for motivated individuals.

SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS, DISABILITY BENEFITS

Social Security 1029 Camino LaCosta 1-866-627-6991

1-800-772-1213

LEGAL AID for the Homeless 500 E. 7th

Street Richard R. Troxell

512-374-2742 Civil legal advice. Sign-up Thurs 1PM at ARCH

UT Criminal Defense 512-232-1300 for misdemeanor or offenses in Travis County. Income requirements.

VETS: Help with VA benefit claim, denial or appeal, call the Strike Force at 254-299-9950. See www.tvc.state.tx.us for even more resources and links. 877-4AID-VET

RESOURCE DIRECTORY CONTINUED

UPDATED 7/16

TX Pie Kitchen.org is open again

MEALS

Austin Baptist Chapel (Angel House) 908 Cesar Chavez
Every day 11 am - 12:30 pm Coffee, 9:30 am; Sunday
services

Caritas of Austin 501 E. 7th St., 512-472-4135

M - F 11 am - 12:30 pm Sat 11 am - 1 pm Sunday
3:30 pm

Foundation for the Homeless

1301 Lavaca St. (First United Methodist-Family Life
Center) Feed My People, . Hot breakfast every Tuesday
and Thursday; doors open at 5:15 am, food is served at
6:00 am. Other services include showers and hygiene
products, haircuts (most Tuesdays), and eye glass refer-
als (most Tuesdays).

Salvation Army 501 E. 8th St. 512-476-1111 Daily meal
4:30-4:45pm The Downtown Shelter and Social Service
Center is a 242-bed multi-population shelter accommo-
dating single women, single men and families with chil-
dren.

University Baptist Church 405 W. 22nd St., 512-478-
8559 God's Family Dinner in sanctuary building 2130
Guadalupe St, enter through alley entrance.

Food pantry: Thurs 5:30 - 6:30 pm, Sat from 10:30 -
11:30 am. Sundays at 2 PM Micah 6 Street Youth Drop-
in Center 2107 San Antonio St (right behind the sanctu-
ary building).

University United Methodist Church 2409 Guadalupe
Saturday 11 am - 12 pm Clothing closet: 9:30 am - 11:00
am

Food Not Bombs Sat 4-6 pm, at A.R.C.H. Vegan menu

University Ave. Church of Christ University Ave. @
MLK
512-476-6088 Temporally closed

TEXAS ID'S & BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Dept. of Public Safety 1500 No. Congress
Renewals & duplicates only

Bureau of Vital Statistics 1111 E. Cesar Chavez, 512-
972-5400 Austin/Travis County Health Department -
Texas birth certificates

CLOTHING

****Really Really Free Market - free clothing!
Last Sunday of every month, 1-3 p.m.,

Chestnut Community Park 2207 E. 16th St.
1000's of free clothes! All styles, sizes and sea-
sons.

Donate men's dress clothes to

Victory Outreach men's home. You can call David
Escalera at 512-762-6251 78744

DISABILITY RIGHTS TEXAS

Central Tx Regional Office 2222 West Braker Lane
Austin, TX 78758 (512) 454-4816 (formerly Advo-
cacy, Inc) QNB Savings for help with electricity.
(800) 252-9108

H.A.N.D. 1640 B East 2nd, Ste 200, Austin, TX
78702 512.477.3796 info@handaustin.org

HUMAN TRAFFICKING <http://stopthetrafficking.org>

NEEDLE EXCHANGE Austin Harm Reduction
Coalition P.O. Box 13482 Austin, Texas 78711
Email: shootclean@gmail.com Voicemail: 512-374-
4470

MEALS CLOTHES

Father Joe's has a food bank every 2 weeks, at the
Parsonage on Euclid behind St Ignatius Church at
Congress & Oltorf. Open Mon - Thurs 9am to 1pm

FreeStore Austin

1717 E. 12th Street Austin, TX 78702

FreeStore provides Clothing & Household Goods
Requirements: A Name

Shopping days: Tues, Thurs & Sat 10 am. - 1pm

Loaves and Fishes 27th & Whitis St. Tues 7-10 am
Breakfast. Assistance with rent, utilities, ID's, bus
passes, HEB cards. Get in line at 6 am

FREE HAIRCUTS

at the **Feed My People Breakfast** on Tuesday and
Thursday mornings. The breakfast is at First United
Methodist Church downtown at 13th and Lavaca. It
is held upstairs in the Family Life Center. Doors
open at 5am and haircuts are available as long as a
volunteer is there to do them.

Supercuts Training Academy

7801 N. Lamar Blvd 512 481-8900

Free haircuts by trainees Call ahead for days/times.
Generally Tues-Fri

Ron King Academy

512-596-5000 Free haircut but tips expected. Call
ahead for days/times

WANNA SPEAK AT CITY COUNCIL?

Citizen communication
3 MIN Thursdays
512-974-2210

NAT'L SEX ASSAULT HOT- LINE 1-800-656-HOPE

Free Health Screenings
Every Tuesday from 11am-
1pm at Terrazas Branch
Library. Tests relating to
blood pressure, cholesterol,
glucose are being conduct-
ed and referrals to other
services as needed.

Don't Freeze Nite Shelter

Call ARCH 350-ICEE

Below 32" or Wet & 40'. By
5pm at ARCH

Ages 10-23 Call 735-2300

Micah6austin.org

Help us keep this directory
up to date - tell us of any
changes or additions.

512-560-4735

Challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

**These are good
places to volunteer!**

Free swim &
shower

Barton Springs
Pool

5-8 am

9-10 PM

Code of Conduct

1. Distributors must wear their badges in a clear and visible way when pitching the paper.
2. Distributors must be sober and drug free when they pitch the paper.
3. Distributors are responsible for their papers once they purchase them.
4. Distributors are not permitted to fight over territory, use abusive language, or exhibit aggressive behavior.
5. Distributors can't pitch in doorways, directly in front of businesses, or near ATM machines.
6. Distributors must not give the "hard sell" to customers.
7. Stepping off the curb may get you a ticket.
8. Stay back 20 ft from marked crosswalks.

Distributors who violate this code will be warned and then suspended if future offenses occur. We need to police ourselves or the police will.



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paper every issue.
You will be taking the challenge to end poverty!

TIME TO RENEW?

**Thanks to St David's Episcopal
Trinity Center for letting us meet
(5 yrs) in their space on
Wednesdays 1-3 PM!**

CRITICAL THINKING BY THE GADFLY MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

JAIL MAIL 9 9 16

BY KENNILOU TAYLOR

1 The Critical Thinker is flexible yet maintains a healthy skepticism.

Critical Thinkers are open to new information, ideas, and claims. They genuinely consider alternative explanations and possibilities. However, this open mindedness is tempered by a healthy sense of skepticism.

2 The Critical Thinker scrutinizes the evidence before drawing conclusions

In evaluating evidence, critical thinkers distinguish between empirical evidence versus opinions.

3 The Critical Thinker can assume other perspectives

Critical Thinkers are not imprisoned by their own points of view. Nor are they limited in their capacity to imagine perspectives that are fundamentally different than their own.

4 The Critical Thinker is aware of biases and assumptions

Critical thinkers strive to identify the biases and assumptions that are inherent in any argument, and minimize the influence of their own.

5 The Critical Thinker engages in reflective thinking

Critical Thinkers avoid knee jerk responses and resist the temptation to sidestep complexity. The critical thinker expects complexity.

Critical thinking does not follow a rigid formula. The critical thinker must never profess himself to be wise.

Taken from Discovering Psychology by The Gadfly

I am an offender incarcerated in the Caldwell County Jail. I've only been here a little bit more than one month. I am indigent and get no visitors. Just for today I'm clean and sober. I got an eviction notice since I've been here and lost my car because I couldn't pay the towing and storage fees. The only material possessions remaining are what I have in my cell (Bible, Alcoholics Anonymous Big Book and two devotional booklets). These were all gifts from the jail.

In the Big Book it states that "we will know a new freedom and new happiness" if we are rigorously honest and work the twelve steps of AA. My spiritual experience has given me new freedom, inner peace and joy just to name a few. I wanted to share a few words about being happy, joyous and free from a card I received in church last Sunday.

"A joy that overflows during the good time of life, a joy that carries us through the difficult valleys as well. A joy that does not depend on people, possessions or circumstance; a joy that showcases the majesty of God to this world and brings glory to his beautiful name. This is what God readily offers us. It is part of our birthright as his children. But are we willing to claim it?"

Hi Jennifer Geschel

Peace and Love, Kennilou Taylor

When Your Friends Live Outside

By Courtney

When your friends live Outside, there's a lot you don't say. There's so much you can't say.

First, you can't complain about the weather.

Second, you can't tell them about your most recent, thrown-together, left-over re-con, hot meal.

You certainly can't tell them that you only have 3 trash bags in the cupboard, and half-a tank of gas in your van.

And by all means, you can't tell them that you're hoping to get \$2500 selling your truck, but you'd be happy to get \$1500. And by God, you sure-as-hell can't tell them that your kids' ritzy school didn't plant the crocus bulbs on-time this school year.

(So springtime in Tarrytown will be just dismal!)

You really can't even tell them much about built-up dryer lint in the ducts, or old air filters, or how you're running out of nail polish remover and overnight eye serum.

No.

So?

Your internet is slow.

Your ice maker is on the fritz.

You can't find your passport, and the dry cleaner couldn't get

the Zin stain out of your linen Tahari suit.

Wow. Think....

This is a life without air conditioning, gas stoves, secure storage, reliable and independent transportation, good education, access to water and electricity, regular hygiene, and valid identification.

(And certainly, no Tahari suits.)

Yupper.

So, you just talk about the real stuff a lot more. The things that matter, and the things that connect you to one another.

The things that make you real.

But sometimes, you don't talk.

Sometimes, you just sit and enjoy the relief of an evening breeze, following the mockingbirds and horned lizards together, with your eyes, together, and sharing a moment of peace. Together.

As friends.

Henry David Thoreau may have gone into the woods to "live life more deliberately," and I may have followed that crazy dream, too, but coming out of the woods and into the open has brought me far "more deliberately" than I ever thought I'd realize.

I think so, anyway.

And I kind of believe it, now, too.

LET US GET MORE STARTED

By JENNIFER THEONE

In my experience, the first few hundred steps of a journey are as hopeful, motivated, and naïve as it gets. The challenge for me is keeping my motivation after losing my ignorance. I'm easily excited and also easily discouraged.

In a search for meaning, I walked down 6th street looking for someone homeless that would share their story with me. Then I passed Freeman Chambers. He was perched on a low windowsill raising a Styrofoam cup. After our twenty minute discussion, I felt less empowered and more bogged down than I expected. I realized my enthusiasm and sense of opportunity were what put me on the streets that day and losing that feeling felt like losing the prospect of change. I had to find a way to become more informed and more involved without feeling that the loss of my naïveté was a pit of despair. I decided I would have to grow stronger to stay motivated and hopeful in the face of reality.

Over and over, I listened to our conversation. I felt happy and heroic, but I had hardly done anything. I was sitting inside, looking out the window, just listening to a recording. I was frozen in my journey, afraid and nervous of tipping over the edge towards real change.

I still don't know what to make of the conversation we had. I can't change or fix anything external, but I can ask myself to lean further into the unknown. Despite feeling futile, I can ask myself to keep reaching to the center of the issue of homelessness. Because it isn't about me exactly, it's about the lives and circumstances of other's merging with mine to better understand the bigger picture.

During our conversation, Freeman and I had one moment where we were on the exact same page. I asked him what he thought about being interviewed on his state of homelessness. He replied,

"People are getting curious, they're wantin' to know what's going on around the world and I want to tell them that. That's where I wanna be. I wish I had clean clothes and that type of stuff. I wish I had acting gear I wish you had a camera crew. I wish we could get started. That's really what I wish. That's what's going on through my head. I wish we could get more started".

Let's get more started so that all of us can be closer to what's really happening, closer to the truth.



Freeman Chambers
Photo By Jennifer Theone

ART By ZEBRA MARSH HARE



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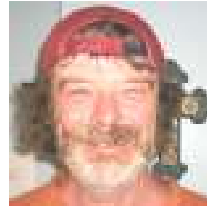
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Angel House Tray Keeper
Photo by Val Romness



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UT Art Coop
Photo by Val Romness



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So 1st / Wm Cannon Dr
Photo by Val Romness



Jesse G.
Badge # 165
Art Wall & Door to Door
Photo by Val Romness



Joe Nichols
Badge # 267
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Lone Spanger
Badge # 203
California
Photo by Val Romness



Tom F.
Badge # 303
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Mouse
Badge # 313
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Chicago
Badge # 182
Cesar Chavez / IH35
Photo by Val Romness



Rambo
Badge # 286
Photo by Val Romness

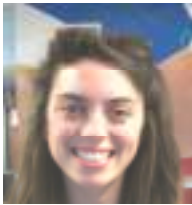


Snap
Badge # 205
UT/So 1ST ST
Photo by Val Romness



Julian Reyes
Badge # 117
UT/6TH ST
Photo by Val Romness

Your
Name
Here?



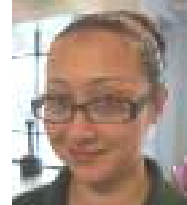
Jenn Theone
Badge # 334
Downtown
Photo by Val Romness



Thom
Badge #
Photo by Val Romness



Matthew
Badge # 326
Downtown
Photo by Val Romness



Indigo
Badge # 248
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Rick B.
Badge # 265
Around town
Photo by Val Romness



Chris Carr
Badge # 317
AROUND TOWN
Photo by Val Romness

A
R
T

BY RANA GHANA



ASK A HOMELESS

BY JEFF TYDEMAN

The doorbell ringing means the friendly postman has passed and left a big bag of mail from our readers

Dear Homeless: Are homeless people crazy? --Curious in Austin

Mr Curious: Yes and no. First of all, we're people, and every person is different, even when they belong to a bigger group. Some homeless are clinically diagnosable with various mental health problems, primarily schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. They have prescriptions which they may forget to take or decide not to.

Depression is also prevalent. In some cases it is something they were born with, or had it triggered by an extreme stress event. And of course, there is 'situational' depression, which is a logical reaction to sleeping on a thin plastic mat five inches away from a smelly bum.

Dear Homeless: Where do you get money? Why do I see you on the buses all day? --Nosy Parker

Dear Nosy: Some of us work, hard as that may be to believe. We have temporary or part-time gigs that allow us walking-around money but not enough to afford a regular apartment. A few of us sell our plasma or food stamps. Some of us sell The Challenger or 'fly a sign' by the side of the road.

We get bus passes from case workers to assist us in going to job training, interviews, or health care appointments, or, sadly, court. Since CapMetro has an affordable 24-hour pass many of us just want an air-conditioned or warm place to sit quietly for a few hours and watch the world spool past.

Dear Homeless: Why do you go to the bathroom in alleys? --Yuk

Dear Yuk: Ah yes, the bathroom situation. It's a real problem in society; everyone wants to sell you food and drink, but no one expects you to expel urine or feces. Even yuppies can find it hard to sneak a place to pee—just ask Ryan Lochte! Shop owners don't want you in their store johns and the library and ARCH close their bathrooms frequently for 'cleaning'. And, yet, oddly, those bathrooms are always disgusting. So go figure.

Dear Homeless: Why are you guys always drunk or wasted on something? --The Judge

Dear Judge: It's a chicken-and-egg thing. Being on the street is scary and you sometimes need a pop or two to keep your confidence up. Then you wind up getting drunk, and/or using, and then you wake up broke, sick, and still on the street. Also, it is hard to sleep outdoors with mosquitoes or a room full of snoring guys, so you drink to pass out. And a few of us are just drunks!

Dear Homeless: Are you ashamed? --Just Askin'

Dear Just: When I slept in parks or train stations in Europe, everyone said I was this cool, romantic, adventure-seeker living life to its fullest. When I did it in Austin, people thought I'd sunk to the depths of humanity and was going to die any minute. The truth is somewhere in between.

Dear Homeless: Who is your favorite street person? --Random in the Eastside

Dear Random: There is one guy who dresses in a clean track suit and \$75 Nikes and carries around a soccer ball or tennis racket, like he's just swinging through Caritas to socialize. I have never spoken to him but I think his approach is really cool, and it is but one of the many little joys of street life. I'd rather be 'normal' but the 'homeless experience' has enriched my life. In a weird way I feel more alive when I'm suffering.



IT WAS A PARTY!

BY JENN THEONE

Wednesday the 20th of September, Treasure City Thrift hosted an event for the Challenger. All purchases were donations made to the paper and over \$200 were raised! Treasure City has also been kind enough to donate 1% of all their September sales to the Challenger Street Paper.

The Challenger's documentary, *Voices from the Street*, was shown twice at the event. The documentary makes light of how their project has given people self-esteem and a sense of community.



Challenger: *Voices From the Street* Produced By Gregg Baethge Photo by Gregg Baethge

Thanks you Treasure City and everyone who participated in the event!

Stay tuned for more events and screenings of Challenger: *Voices from the Street*.

DOING THE MOST GOOD

BY MARI A. PSST

The Salvation Army where "they are doing the most good" housing the homeless fixed the broken air conditioning at the "Swelter Shelter" this month. The AC is up to seventy percent now, and fans add to the chill out solution. As summer ended, a few months seemed like an eternity "Fan-tastic!"

Both the Salvation Army and the Trinity Center need donated clothing. Suddenly, October is looking cool. No kidding! And the Art on the Streets has the art show in November at the Convention Center.

REPORT BACK FROM PRISON STRIKE IN TEXAS, WEEK 2: BY AUSTIN ABC

"Today, September 17, I visited friends in the Alfred Hughes Unit in Gatesville, TX. While I was waiting for them to be brought to the visitation booth, a woman sitting next to me mentioned inmates being retaliated against. She was visiting a woman from Hobby, who had been transferred to the medical building at Hughes due to overpopulation. I asked if I could join the conversation and ask some questions. The incarcerated woman explained that she overheard on a guards radio that inmates in building 8 were striking. She later learned that these inmates had rigged their doors to open at the same time for the nationwide strike. Guards in riot gear showed up and blasted tear gas, physically restrained, and assaulted several inmates. The visitor pointed out a latino family she overheard talking about the strike as well. I approached them and with their permission, got on the phone with their loved one who only wanted to talk briefly and didn't have a lot of details to share, but did confirm that building 8 went on strike and was brutalized by guards as a result. Finally, my friends showed up for our visit. They also confirmed all of this information, and included the use of pellet guns. They also said that they overheard on a radio that 13 units were on lockdown. They said that a notice had been posted to all inmates that told them "any information on the strike was forbidden and would be denied."

To all Families, Friends or Loved Ones of People Incarcerated in TDCJ:

This is just one of many stories of resistance since the start of the Nationwide Prison Strike on September 9th, 2016, as told by one of our members who visited a loved one in TDCJ. We are waiting to hear back from contacts in other units, but due to continuing lockdowns and censorship, word is coming slowly.

Through calling units to see if retaliation is happening, we have learned there was/is a lockdown, and/or a partial lockdown, or many inmates are on suspension in the following 10 units (see below).

We fear that the state is trying to cover up retaliation. We have confirmed that resistance is happening, and we believe these stories need to be told. We will act as facilitators to make sure that information is spread to media contacts, loved ones, and fellow organizers.

If you have any information that you feel comfortable sharing with us, please let us know. What is the current state of resistance? How many people are/were involved? How are inmates feeling at this point? Has any retaliation happened? Have you been denied communication with a loved one? Are you willing to speak with media? We would like to hear anything that has potential to help us gain a better understanding of what is going on inside. We will keep you anonymous unless asked otherwise.

Though we understand that these issues will not be resolved overnight, please know that you are not alone and there are people who deeply care for you and these issues. Please let us know how we can further assist you, bearing in mind that we cannot give legal advice. However, we will do everything in our power to make sure your loved one's voice is heard, and this movement is noticed by the world.

Confirmed units on lockdown, partial lockdown, or "suspension": Barry Telford, Beto, Clements, Conally, Ferguson, Gib Lewis, Jordan, Smith, Torres, William Hobby*

Unit directory: http://tdcj.state.tx.us/unit_directory/

Please call the above units and question why these lockdowns are taking place - to let them know we are watching.

Our thoughts are with you. In Struggle and Solidarity, Austin ABC

Homeless Qualifications can't from front pg

easier to blame the powerless feeling people for their plight than to face the powerful with competent reflection of accountability. This can only start with a continual and currently practicing sense of *self* reflection and accountability. Tough or pleasant, it's always lots of push-ups for one's character to accomplish. I've met many on these streets who have lost everything, and knowingly opted for the path of poverty instead of selling out for 30 pieces of silver and a first class ticket in the front of the low road's private jet.

Allow me to clarify a very large part of the homeless demographic into a financial powerhouse paradigm: unfazed investment resistance. True and understandably, there are many hired from the frightful side of the starving streets that will always make the safe money move, while the nightmare of the street still lingers. I'm not insulting, just defining, and to those who are haunted still: sleep well. Pragmatism is a vital tactic too; judgment is fortified by all experience. It takes all types to advise the tribe.

If, however, you hire someone who has weathered their time in the woods well, you will have someone who knows how to handle high stress intimidation the same way most people eat popcorn, with butter and eyebrow smiles. Any person with a solid street family that keeps each other fed, whose foraging skills and sense of tribal commitment makes getting 'housed up' more of a cultural hassle than to satisfy some desperate desire to play dress up and domesticate back into the soft silver towers lifestyle of daydreams, these folk are largely immune to the white knuckle, possible-life-without-Starbucks stress of the board room, as long as Angel House is still serving soup. These adventurers find more reward in walking a path than amassing barely used possessions.

I'm not trying to say, to be fair, that this type of real grit can't be found in a board room, or even that this kind of wild card doesn't get recruited from the street. This is still America. There are many examples. What I am trying to *ask* is: Does your company have one of these aces up its sleeve? Do you have that person who settles down when the sweater vests get squirrely when they smell anything other than the model of masticated success their dinosaur, pre-internet colleges teach? Tenure cannot be upgraded. Tenure is an endgame.

Do you have that person on your side with that streak of steel in their spine that can only be found tempered in a veteran of the street? Do you have that person who can smile in the face of a sales shark's toothy grin, while pulling out a dirty earflap cap from a five star briefcase while honestly chuckling, saying, "There ain't no better brainstorming session than being hungry in the streets...kid. Screw your derivative insurance! I say we jump head first into this train wreck. Did you know the word for problem, in the Japanese language, is the same word for opportunity? Or, did you just get by in college drinking all your parents' hard earned money?"

There's nothing quite like getting your butt chewed out by someone who sharpened their wits on the streets (except maybe a combat tested Marine Corps drill instructor). To the street savvy, the grandest Wall Street con is as transparent as someone trying to sell baking soda as fine white china. Fool, pleeeeeease. How many street hustlers come from Harvard? Those con artists only work on the hopeful, soft and the ignorantly ambitious. You know; trust fund brats and politicians. Oh, yeah, their marks have to be rich too...well that explains that. Never mind.

The street teaches, with little mercy and less miracle, the best scientific trait the human mind has to hone: skepticism. It's on us in the street whether or not this lesson jades us or liberates us. Stay sharp, it pays.

WHY SHOULD I PAY FOR YOU ?

AN OBSERVATION

By T.W. -GHCE © 2016, SEPTEMBER 13

There are multiple angles in which this question could be thought out. Many of those scenarios may be legitimate as well. For this instance, one of many fundamental observations will be examined in bringing light to this broad subject. Some of the components being reviewed are the wealthy, the working class, tax dollars, supplemental income, corporate policy, drug distribution, theft, foreign policy and poverty. Remember, abstaining from political input or state and community policy making will result in unfavored results as seen by the wealthy and the working class and felt devastatingly by the poor.

While there is an enormous amount of money in the world, not everyone is given the opportunity to earn their share or at least earn a livable wage. Some form of redistribution of economics is inevitable whether it occurs in the form of wages, taxes, drug distribution, corporate policy, supplemental income, foreign policy, or theft. Those who do not have the means to earn adequate income must still eat and live. A counter to this otherwise offensive concepts lays within the awareness of general public policy. Knowing the platform of an elected representative and communicating practical policy ideas to promote economic stimulation (job creation) for all in order to avert undesired perception in opinions and outcomes is paramount.

Then there are decisions made by the corporate world, being as long as no known laws are being broken, corporates can enact decisions which will affect the American society as a whole. A couple of weeks ago, Ford Motor Company announced that it will be moving the assembly of all smaller cars out of the United States. The employees of the company who once earned their paycheck will be forced into a new path of income. There is an umbrella of part suppliers which will be displaced for each automobile affected by such decisions. Each employing dozens of people.

It is also very well known that the people within every country in poverty ten years ago is even more impoverished today. Through foreign, policy America has lined the pockets of foreign governments. The citizens of those country's will receive very little if any, of these contributions courtesy of the American wealthy and working class. Another hole in the economic pipeline.

Finally, K2 is a front-line news topic so this substance will be used use this in reference. K2 is a synthetic drug that is cheap to make, easy to distribute though it does have a very low profit margin. On the other side, because of the toxicity of the not very well understood "spice" as known by a street name, a random single day occurrence of up to 40 people plus tie up emergency responders, emergency rooms, and tally upwards of \$50,000 (boom) in health care bills for taxpayers resulting from using the drug K2. Similar examples of various other drug classifications can be substituted in this instance.

Crime blemishes everyone and everything it's path crosses though the truth is that every community has a faction which operates as smooth as the working class, paycheck and all. Law enforcement, courts, and detention centers are tax funded to meet community needs. Individuals on the lower end of poverty tend to find themselves in violation of the law thus accounting for much of these needed community services.

Strategic planning is a preemptive measure that can be exercised in every community in America to better align with the expectations of the wealthy and the working class who might think, "Why Should I Pay For You?". Being involved with the shaping of governmental policy will assure that these expectations aren't a wishful afterthought. Effective dialog and commutation essential in today's busy world. Appropriately, everyone should ask of their elected officials, "Why Should I Pay For You?".

Challenger Financials

August

2016

Expenses Paid by Val

5.00	text
55.00	milage avg (14+12 mi x .50/mi x 4 wk)
100.00	elect/rent printers @ Val's
	phone free
2.75	Parking Wed Trinity Cntr
128.18	Black toner 2
2.98	Tea bags
23.73	Lunch Randalls
3.25	Cups
8.78	H2O,paper towels, 6 books
186.99	Paper 15 reams 11x17 24#
5.39	6 comp books
3.00	Parking Wed Trinity Cntr
8.52	storage bin/6 comp books
1.00	parkingUT delivery Val
1.50	parking UT delivery L King

536.07

Supplies paid by Val

400.00

July layout

936.07

Total owed Val

30.00

Peter gas for KAF milage x .50

13.00

Julian R deliver papers to UT + 5 papers

979.07

Total cost to run paper

Wish list: mugs \$300 Pens approx \$300,
toner ink \$250, 5 reams paper 11 x 17" \$65
Bumper stickers \$300



You can register to vote by October 11th. Online or text! Just list your address: corner of ie: Ben Wht/So 1st or wherever you reside.

Poster By TW-GHCE



Top Distributor August



Fred Pettit Badge # 101
W. 5th/6th & No. Lamar
Photo by Jacqueline RR

Support our distributors as
they strive for self-sufficiency!

Texas Transportation Code, Sec. 552.007. SOLICITA- TION BY PEDESTRIANS.

(a) A person may not stand in a roadway to solicit a ride, contribution, employment, or business from an occupant of a vehicle, except that a person may stand in a roadway to solicit a charitable contribution if authorized to do so by the local authority having jurisdiction over the roadway.

(b) A person may not stand on or near a highway to solicit the watching or guarding of a vehicle parked or to be parked on the highway.

(c) In this section, "charitable contribution" means a contribution to an organization defined as charitable by the standards of the United States Internal Revenue Service.

Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 165, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1995.

Challenger Non profit
501C-3 number:
2605343430002055

DETAINED ON THE DRAG

BY FRED PETTIT

Waking up a few weeks ago on a Saturday morning after a restful sleep I decided to go for a bicycle ride. Even though I'm older now I still enjoy riding, it's good exercise and saves a lot of time in a day. There's a church that serves a nutritious more than one person can eat breakfast on that day around 9:00. Because my last bike was stolen I decided to park a few blocks from there in front of a drug store and cafe. I locked it twice as I have recently decided would be more of a deterrent to theft. The next part is ironic.

As I was headed to the church, a neighborhood cop stepped in front of me accusing me of stealing my own bike, as he said he saw me locking a blue bicycle up that matched the description of one just reported stolen. It was so ridiculous since mine was visible just a half block away or less. I turned to walk around him when he started yelling and coming closer. I stopped, and tried to reason, why would I lock up a stolen bike. I then reached and grabbed my phone from a holster on my belt. He then yelled for me to put my phone up, I was going to call someone to verify that I had a blue bicycle.

Everything happened so fast, he wrestled me to the ground nearly breaking my arm. I remember him yelling in his phone "I got him I need some assistance." Soon I was handcuffed, standing up again and very bewildered. He and other cops were surrounding me like I was a desperado.

Soon a young muscular guy came up and told them that I wasn't the one, without any hesitation. They detained me handcuffed for another 45 minutes according to a friend of mine that was watching across the street. They said they were waiting on their supervisor and that it would be his call. They were unsure if he would charge me for resisting arrest or not. The E.M.S. stayed there until they UN-cuffed me. My heart rate was 116 beats a minute every time they checked it, which was about every 10 minutes.

When the supervisor finally showed up

they talked it over about a hundred yards away or so. He then gave the OK for them to take the restraints off. they ordered me to stay perfectly still as they unlocked the CUFFS. The initial cop that detained me was nowhere in my line of vision at this time. Then they preceded to school me about what to do when an officer questions you. I told them that I had answered what I was asked. I was still very upset but knew it would be a good idea to listen and say very little, which I probably failed, for I knew I had did nothing wrong.

My injuries were slight- A bruised arm, a cut on my face, (bleeding a little) skinned elbows, and a heart rate of 116 beats a minute. The EMS guys offered to take me to the hospital then or later, all I had to do was call. I declined. By their presence at the scene for almost the entire time, I believe that's one reason they decided not to charge me with resisting arrest, which is a very serious charge.

There's a little more to the story: I signed something but I'm not sure what it was, they asked

for my phone number and E-Mail which I confusingly gave. Before they completely let me go they had me to stand by the squad car while they asked me more questions. I knew that this was being taped. At the church; Quite a few people that I knew asked what happened with some concern and a lot of contempt. Most said in their own words that I'd be crazy if I didn't talk to a lawyer. I'm not sure what or if I'll do anything about the altercation. It happened the 10TH of September. A couple of people took pictures of the bruises and cut, but you can't take the mental ones.

Oh! I did get to eat at the church after all this happened, and it was very good,

THANKS! Happy Trails



Fred with his BLUE bike
Photo by Val Romness

THE MESSAGES IN WATER

FROM BOOK BY MASARU EMOTO SUBMITTED BY INDIGO

Dr. Masaru Emoto became terribly interested in the molecular structure of water and what affects it. Now water is the most receptive of the four elements. Mr. Emoto thought perhaps it would respond to nonphysical events. So he set up a series of studies, applied mental stimuli and photographed it with a dark field microscope.

The first picture is a picture of water from the Fujiwara Dam. The next picture is the same water after receiving a blessing from a zen buddhist monk.

Throughout the 1990's he performed a series of experiments observing the physical effect of words, prayers, music and environment on the crystalline structure of water. He hired photographers to take pictures of water after being exposed to the different variables and subsequently frozen so that they would form crystalline structures. The results were nothing short of remarkable.

With the next few pictures, Mr. Emoto printed out words, taped them to bottles of distilled water and left them out overnight. The next photograph is a picture of pure distilled water, thus the essence of itself. As you can see, the subsequent photographs are each different. There is the "Chi of Love" followed by "Thank You".

As you can tell, the water stamped with positive words is far more symmetrical and aesthetically pleasing than that stamped with dark, negative phrases.

The last picture was taken after being exposed to the song "Imagine" by John Lennon. Have you ever listened to music and felt angry, sad, or really joyful?

Mr. Emoto speaks of the thought, or intent, being the driving force in all of this. The science of how that actually affects the molecules is unknown, except to the water molecules of course. And it's really fascinating when you keep in mind that between 70 to 90 percent of our bodies are water. It makes you wonder, doesn't it: if thoughts can do that to water, imagine what our thoughts can do to us. If you are reading this, you probably already knew that positive and negative thinking have a major impact on the surrounding environment. That concept is relatively easy to grasp, but this extremely tangible evidence of it is astounding. If the words and thoughts that come out of us have this effect on water crystals, it's amazing to think of what kind of effect they have on the people and events that come into our lives.

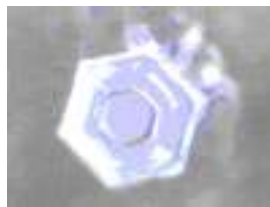
There is no religion in the world that says your prayer, your thought or intention, should not be answered. -Joseph Dispenza



Fujiwara Dam



After offering a prayer
From a Zen Buddhist monk



Distilled Water



Chi of Love



Chi of Love



You Fool



You make me sick
I will kill you



"Imagine" by John Lennon

TENT CITY BY ?

Tired of getting left out in the cold? Homeless people are not immune to freezing weather. This includes the elderly, disabled, veterans, and children. Every year the shelters in our city go into overflow, with people having to lineup for hours in the cold to get bussed to places willing to take them in. These busses sometimes don't arrive until midnight. Compounded with the before 6am wake-up times, it's a dehumanizing situation for the already suffering who have to go to their jobs, medical appointments, and send their children to school in such polarizing conditions. How much longer will we ignore the over 2,000 chronically homeless people in Austin until the last minute? Just a few years ago, our city had an over \$14 million budget surplus. It would take a fraction of that to build or renovate an area by this winter for a new homeless shelter close to the Central/downtown district. The average price for a new home here is a 1/3 of a million dollars. Renting an apartment means having to meet the 2X or 3X rent to budget ratio our city practices, which requires your gross income to be 2-3 times the monthly rent rate of the unit. With our minimum wage still at \$7.25/hour, living in the highest rent rate of any city in Texas poses a difficulty for anyone in Austin. Meaning that, the homeless population is in no way going to disappear and waiting for the freezing weather and holiday cheer of winter-time to decide to step in and help is an insulting last-minute option we need to deal with. Getting a new shelter in place before emergency conditions hit is the only reasonable solution. Stand in solidarity with those who suffer on the streets by helping raise awareness for the need of a new shelter immediately. We can get this done; let your voice be heard. Don't wait for another cold snap to start thinking about where you will spend the winter. If you know anyone who can help us get the city to build a new shelter or you would like to be more proactive in this, get in touch with us through the websites below or at the Challenger newspaper meetings. Thanks for reading this!

Challengernewspaper.org

*Facebook: Tent City Rises, Occupy Austin Open Mic

*Challenger meeting times:
Wednesdays, 1pm-3pm at Trinity Center (304 E. 7th St.)

Sundays, 1pm-3pm at City Hall steps (301 W. 2nd St.)

Challenger Newspaper

PO Box 151574

Austin, TX 78715

512-560-4735

challengernewspaper@yahoo.com

Read online!

challengernewspaper.org

Web Design by

GrackleDesign.com

"It's alright to say people lift yourselves up by your own boot straps. But, it's cruel to say to a bootless man that he must lift himself up by his own boot straps."

Martin Luther King Jr. 

August 13, 1967



At the newspaper we're mending bootstraps & lending a hand up, not giving a hand out!

NON PROFIT 501C-3 #
2605343430002055

TX NON-PROFIT #
801503380

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our laser printer
in **color!** by

Challenger
Street Newspaper

Thanks to our generous
laser printer donors!

HUMANIZING OUR ENEMIES

BY PASTOR MARK

On a warm evening in late May of this year, I experienced something surreal. In the midst of a neighborhood versus homeless versus police battle in South Austin, my church, Sunrise Community Church, was asked by APD to organize a meeting between the police officers who patrol our area and the homeless men and women who are a part of our community. At first, I was skeptical, even fearful – I know how these people talk about each other when the other isn't in the room. But as the night unfolded, I realized that was the very problem: they weren't in the room with each other. They hadn't yet had to walk in each other's shoes. The most commonly used expression that night by both sides went along the lines of "I'm a human, too!" Sort of obvious, right? But not always in how we act. During arrests. During cleanups. During protests. During elections. We are trained to villainize the other side for our own convenience. But what happens when you humanize the other side.



Photo By Emily Grace Clark.

Homeless people are people. Cops are people. Strange as it is to think we need to be told that, we do. Because when we can make the other side into a "them" rather than humans like us in our own minds, any word or action is fair game. What came out of the meeting that night were practical steps, practical compromises, concerns heard and actions taken. This past Sunday night, we had a potluck and music jam with the same two groups – cops & homeless & even churchfolk - coexisting like old pals. What happens when we humanize others instead of villainize? They are not any more human than they ever were. But perhaps we ourselves are more human – living in the gray, working together on fixing what's broken, not denying each other's reality but instead living into it.

Please read our paper with an open heart and open mind!



The **Challenger**

Street Newspaper

**BE YOUR OWN BOSS
CHOOSE YOUR HOURS!**

**Start working any Sunday or Wednesday and get paid
the same day and every day you work.**

The Challenger Newspaper is written and published by homeless people and allies about their thoughts and experiences. It is offered for a suggested donation of \$2 per paper. Since the Challenger Newspaper is a Not for Profit organization, it is not panhandling and you can offer it just about anywhere. YOU KEEP ALL DONATIONS.

Orientation and training is every Wednesday at the Trinity Center at 7th and Trinity from 1-3 PM You will receive an ID badge as well as a starter kit with 20 papers for you to offer for donations. The kit costs just \$2 and extra papers are .50 for a current issue and .25 for a previous issue. We also meet on Sundays at City Hall at 1PM. Lunch!

If you write an article, poem, or other for the paper or submit a picture or piece of artwork, YOU RECEIVE 10 FREE PAPERS of the issue in which you are published.

IT WORKS! KEEP COMING BACK!

Challenger Newspaper PO Box 151574 Austin, TX 78715
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www.Challengernewspaper.org

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