A Voice for the Sacramento Area Homeless Community Since 1997

HOMEWARD

Street Journal

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— The United States has a Hostile Architecture Problem —

Is public space becoming private?

By Kaitlin Jock

Anti-homeless policy has been a staple in cities all over the world for decades, whether those policies be forthright, like loitering laws and sit-lie ordinances, or peppered into a city's infrastructure and public spaces. Hostile architecture, sometimes called "defensive architecture", a trend in urban design which discourages the use of spaces in any way other than the intention of the owner or designer, has existed all over the world in various ways, but the most harmful examples have come in the way of targeting the homeless community, an already marginalized group, many of whom look for a place to sleep or rest during the day. They are met with a lack of access to public space.

Specific and egregious examples of hostile architecture and defensive design are prevalent and visible in major American cities. New York City's long-famed Strand Bookstore installed sprinklers as part of their iconic awning, spraying people seeking shelter and sleeping under it. In early 2018, a homeless camp full of men, women, and children was cleared out by police action, only to be replaced by a set of 18 bicycle racks in an area where people do not frequently ride bicycles. A 7-Eleven store in Portland made headlines recently when it blared a high-pitch sound similar to an alarm outside the store to, according to the clerk, "keep homeless people away" [The store was subsequently informed that this may be in contravention of city code].

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Example of spikes used as hostile design in Sacramento. Photo Courtesy Paula Lomazzi

Life on the Streets: Sick with Nowhere to Go

By Helen Hill

For those who are housed, feeling the first tinges of a winter cold or flu means settling in on the couch with hot tea and soup, a warm comforter and a list of Netflix movies to watch. Rest, fluids and access to a warm shower and a clean toilet let the immune system eventually kick in, and after a week or two, or even a few days, most are healthy again and ready to return to work, the garden and the family.

For those who are living on the streets, a common cold can develop into a potentially life threatening illness. This year, serious cases of flu and pneumonia have been rampant among the *Street Roots* community and have landed several in the hospital. The seasonal cold, rain, wind and snow this February and March have taken a toll.

We talked to some of our vendors about what it's like being sick and on the streets.

"I stay healthy as long as I stay out on the streets," vendor John Smith said. "I get sick whenever I use the emergency shelters in extreme weather because we are all crowded in there, but when the nightly shelters don't open, that's hard too."

John agreed that chest colds that progress into pneumonia are the most dangerous illness on the streets. When I asked him what he does when he feels he is coming down with a cold, he said: "I just try to find a spot where I can curl up and rest during the day. If you go to the day shelter, it's a madhouse and you can't rest there. You can nod off, but you're not safe; you have to hold onto your bag. Yeah, it's tough being sick out there."

A vendor who wished to remain anonymous said his secret weapon is iodized salt.

"I flush my nostrils with iodized saltwater," he said. "If I have a cough or a scratchy throat, that helps me not get pneumonia and flushes out the bacteria. It doesn't allow the bacteria to enter the lungs."

He also addressed the danger of open wounds: "Cuts take longer to heal outside. If I cut myself recycling or if I have an open wound, it takes a long time to heal. Normally it might take a few days for a wound to heal, but on the streets, it can take weeks or months, and it can get infected. I use iodized salt on wounds. It's easy to get. I learned it from my grandmother. She put me in a bathtub with iodized salt when I got bit

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The United States has a Hostile Architecture Problem

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Tony Bernal, Senior Director of Public Policy and Funding for Transition Projects, a homeless organization in Portland which works to transition people out of homelessness and into housing, said of the design in their city: "The emergence of hostile architecture has compounded the moral crisis of our housing shortage. Too often we are leaving people experiencing homelessness with no place—indoors or outdoors—to rest or to be safe."

People facing homelessness in many cities throughout the United States often feel safer spending a night in open public space than they do in shelters, but design policy forces people to reevaluate where they will spend the night. Daytime services as well are not always easily accessible for everyone facing homelessness in these cities, and yet, cities continue to take away access to areas where those experiencing homelessness seek refuge throughout all hours of the day.

California, a state which is home to over 12 per cent of the population of the United States, is a particularly nasty offender in the game of hostile architecture, and it is an offense felt by the people who experience homelessness all over the state. In San Francisco, benches were removed in the middle of the night from Civic Central Plaza in the 1990s as well as United Nations Plaza in 2001, leaving nowhere to sit during the day for many of the plazas' daily visitors and nowhere to sleep at night for those seeking refuge in a formerly accessible space.



A Nota Bene vendor in Slovakia utlises large foam cushions to overcome anti-homeless bench design, working in the same way as artist Sarah Ross' 'Archisuit'. This photo was taken during a protest in Bratislava in solidarity with the homeless popualtion of Hungary who had recently been the subject of criminalisation tactics by the Hungarian government. [Credit: Nota Bene]

San Francisco also implemented the use of "pee-proof" paint in several places in the city - UV-treated paint which forces urine to bounce back on the person urinating. It is designed to discourage public urination, which can be, in some cases, the only option for some who experience homelessness. In other cases, "decorative" rocks have been added to areas where some might congregate to drive them away. Sacramento, the state capital, faces its own troubles with defensive architecture, and many seem to believe that these design choices affect all members of the public, not just homeless people.

"Our downtown has incorporated hostile designs and practices, such as removing benches outside the library, erecting fencing to keep people out of alcoves, turning off all the water faucets, turning on sprinklers odd hours at parks, just some examples, all to discourage homeless people and loitering," said Paula Lomazzi, the director of Sacramento's street paper *Homeward Street Journal.* "What they have done affects everyone, making downtown uncomfortable for everyone, including shoppers."



Hostile architecture from the Instagram page @defensivecity [Photos taken by Jordan Halsall]

Philadelphia's Love Park, located in the heart of the city, underwent a rather long, $26 million renovation, unveiled in 2018 and claiming to be designed as "more accessible and inclusive". The question then became: Who can access and be included? The new benches installed in the beloved attraction are curved and slotted, metal bars dividing them into sections. While there has been a public outcry against some of the redesign, as it looks to the eye to be designed for keeping homeless people out of the public eye, the city remains steadfast in its support for what it believes is a more inclusive design.

"When Love Park underwent its redesign, there was a focus on making it more accessible and inclusive for all Philadelphians. By removing the barrier walls and uneven terrain that once defined the park, the Department of Parks & Recreation was able to create a smooth, welcoming area that could better accommodate people with disabilities, families with small children, and others," city spokesperson Kelly Cofrancisco said when asked about the backlash. "The new benches reflect the standard design for seating installed across the city's park system, with dividers that are supposed to encourage people to share the space and allow multiple people to sit on the benches."

The rest of the city, known to all as 'The City of Brotherly Love', also houses spikes on the walls at Eight Penn Center, a famous curved "bench" in Eighth Street Station, and the world's most controversial Starbucks - after last year causing worldwide controversy when two black men were arrested for sitting for too long, seating sections were removed due to a number of homeless people spending time in the cafe during the day.

"Really, the bigger issue is why people are sleeping in parks in the first place and what we as a community are doing to address that," Cofrancisco stated. "We should be asking that question of American society, too, more than anything else. Here in Philadelphia, we're proud to say that there isn't an 'us versus them' mentality. Instead, we work together to ensure that people experiencing homelessness receive access to services as well as dignity and respect and that residents, workers, businesspeople, and visitors can enjoy Philadelphia as one of the best, most welcoming cities in the nation."

While the city of Philadelphia and many others in the United States might be looking towards bridging the gap between the homeless community and the services that may assist them, day and night, this does not address what goes on in public, shared spaces.

"I think [hostile architecture] sends the message that people who sleep outside are not part of the community, are not our

Continued Next Page

Hostile

Contined from Page 2

neighbors, and that it is alright to ostracize them," *The Contributor* executive director Cathy Jennings said. "This type of attitude hurts any community."

In the hands of so many cities right now is a question: who is welcome in public space? When the city builds an armrest in the middle of a park bench, it says to someone who needed to sleep there, "You are not welcome here". When the city adds spikes to the cement of an already hard and uncomfortable sidewalk that once laid flat, it says to the person who needed to sit there, "You are not welcome here". It makes the message rather clear. It does not need words on a sign, only metal and concrete instead.

To call much of this design work "defensive" architecture rather than "hostile" is inherently hostile in nature. The word implies that the public need defending from the sights and experiences of homelessness when they walk along the sidewalk or through a park for lunch, or walk home at night past someone sleeping under a store's awning to get away from the rain. It implies that public space needs to be defended from the presence of other members of the public. They just might not be the "public" that a city wants on display.

There are instances in which public organizing against this type of design has been successful. When anti-homeless spikes were installed in Montréal, the outcry was so loud that the city removed them almost instantly, reopening that sidewalk space to whoever may need it. In Iowa City, local organizers rallied around a call for the removal of benches with armrests in the center, allowing for several to be replaced with benches without armrests; benches where someone, who might need to, can lie down and sleep.

These changes in design remain in place because those who think themselves unaffected tend to not notice these things, which would explain recent social media campaigns to call out hostile architecture, like the one launched by UK artist Stuart Semple, as well as projects like that of artist Sarah Ross, creator of the 'Archisuit', a padded garment designed to make it easier to lie down or sit in places where it has been made nearly impossible, drawing attention to this type of architecture. In the midst of all this, people facing homelessness are sent out of sight, maybe as a means to keep them out of the minds of a city's residents and subsequent tourists, people who use those public spaces for leisure rather than out of necessity.

There are people who need this public space more than its audience desires it. More than someone needs a space on a divided bench to take their lunch break, there is someone who needs a place to spend their day, as other options for homeless people are limited during the daytime hours. Instead, those people are made to feel excluded, like they are not members of the deserving public at all.

Courtesy of INSP.ngo

Sick with Nowhere to Go

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by a cat when I was a kid."

Mark Herinek was blunt. "I am 59 years old," he said. "I spent three months on the street and got pneumonia." Mark was in a coma while his body healed.

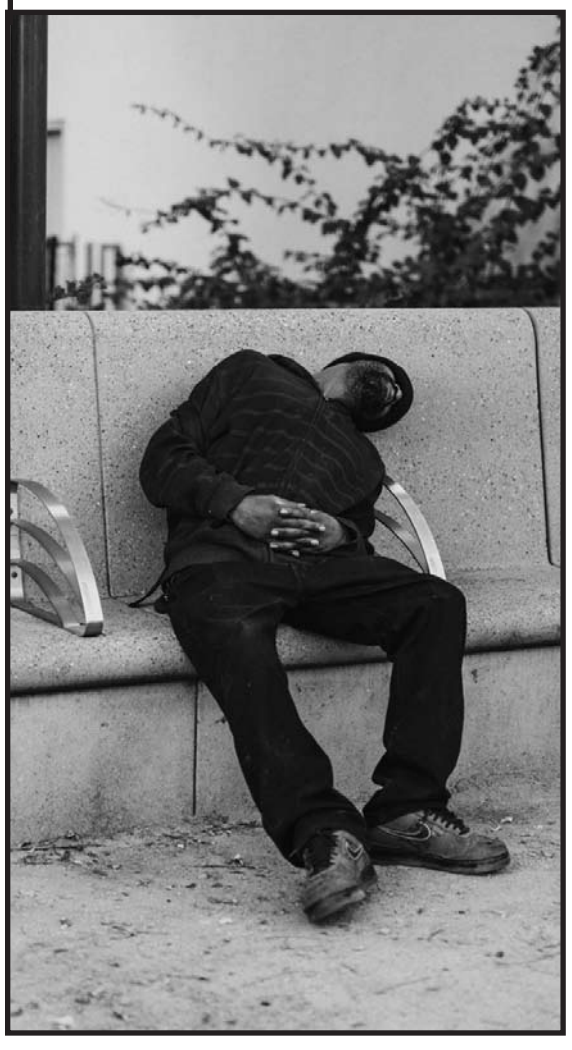
"You'll die eventually if you don't get housing or get off the streets," he said. "Now I'm in the missions."

Brian Lane said he hasn't been well since he "got caught out in the rain."

"You just have to suck it up," he said. "There's nothing you can do if you don't get enough sleep. Sleep is important. It gives you a mental and physical morale boost. I'm usually so tired I can't tell if I'm sick or not."
Brian recently went to the hospital after waking up on the streets vomiting violently. He called an ambulance and was treated for flu at a local hospital. When he was released at 2am, he had nowhere to go.

"I was dog tired. I went down under the pier out of the wind to sleep. When I woke up, my new boots were gone," he said.

Brian eventually made it back to Street Roots, where another vendor gave him an extra pair of shoes from his storage unit.



A homeless man tries to sleep on a hostile design bench in downtown LA [Photo by Tyler Nix on Unsplash]

Mark Rodriguez knows exactly when he got sick.

"I had to sleep in the snow. It was freezing. Thankfully they had the Portland Rescue Mission open all the next day, and I could sleep inside in a chair where it was warm," he said. "You just do what you can do. Sleep is the main thing. I would just like to rest right now, but I have to keep moving, sell papers, make money."

Jason Scheer agreed that the worst part of staying healthy is lack of sleep.

"To find somewhere to rest takes skilled planning. You can stay in an unused doorway or inside some churches, but you have to know where it's safe to go. Some pastors let you sleep inside," he said.

Rex has frequent bouts with diarrhea due to a pancreatic condition.

"I will always have problems," Rex said. "I crap my pants all the time, and my self-esteem is so bad. That's why I come here to *Street Roots*, because I can use the bathroom.

"People in stores look at you when you need to use the bathroom like you're going to steal something. Places where they feed you don't have bathrooms, and we have trouble washing our hands. Look at my hands; would you eat with these?" Rex asked.

"If you go to a mission for a clean pair of pants, they borderline humiliate you. I have had to sit in my shit for 12 hours. I was told they don't give out pants till 9 a.m.," he said. "A lot of people like me, we shouldn't have to be humiliated to take care of our own health. They make you feel like you're not human if you have health problems.

"There's a five-minute limit on most bathrooms, but a lot of times you have to clean it before you use it, and that takes up practically the whole time," he said. "Yesterday I was at McDonald's, and one of the employees was trying to film me through the cracks in the door to see if I was shooting up in there."

Vendor George McCarthy was resting in the office with an obvious fever.

"There's a psychological aspect to being sick," he said. "You feel vulnerable, nervous and depressed. If you get a horrible flu, you have nowhere to go; you have nowhere to be. You have to keep going around here or there, get on a bus, get off. It brings into focus a lot of things about homelessness. You are depressed already. You're outside in the cold. It's noisy. Inside, you're always in an institutional environment with no ability to have influence over that environment. You are sick, vomiting, and you are well aware you have nowhere to go, no way to get well. It's wretched. You feel like any social bond you had with society is broken."

Courtesy of Street Roots / INSP.ngo

Expulsions and the Rise of a New Class of People

by Cathleen Williams

Introduction

When the most devastating wild fire in California's history tore through Paradise and other mountain towns in northern California last fall, thousands of residents – most of them low-income renters and seniors – were scattered across the country. Those without resources or places to go – their number currently unknown – joined the region's homeless residents as the winter rains gathered force.

No plans or proposals by the various agencies responsible for addressing the problem of housing in this context have advocated for the urgent and massive investment in new, affordable, permanent housing. Instead, according to the new consensus among policy makers, funds are being directed to "emergency shelters," providing a few hundred "beds," usually in barrack-like living arrangements that are inappropriate for the many houseless people who are not in good mental or physical health.

For the fire victims of Paradise, the non-profit North Valley Community Foundation collected $43 million in donations. When confronted by a local activist pushing for rapid construction of new, low-cost units – envisioned as an ecological intentional community – NVCP responded, "We need to have more people leave the area before we commit money."

This response starkly reveals a broader policy trend: to force out the people who can't pay the cost of housing. As New York's Mayor Bloomberg stated, "…if they can't afford to live here, they are the kind of people we don't want."

Six million low-income people left California between 2007 and 2016. Fifty percent of residents can't afford housing. Homelessness is epidemic. The state needs 1.3 million units of affordable housing. Yet California has cut housing funds to one third of the amount spent as recently as 2012. (California Housing Partnership, "California's Housing Emergency Update," 2019.)

Expulsion of the New Class

To understand this ongoing dynamic, we have to look at the new class, part of the working class, that has been brought into being by the forces of electronic production. For the first time in history, the economic system no longer depends on human labor – our labor. Instead, increasingly intelligent robots dominate the production of goods and services. There are, of course, jobs for tech workers but many of these jobs are also insecure "contract" positions. In any case, tech jobs are concentrated in selected areas of the globe (like California's Silicon Valley and its "megaregion" of 21 Northern California counties) where they employ about 10% of the workforce.

The new class, excluded from the world of technology, consists of many millions of people across the globe, from subsistence farmers to unemployed or barely employed workers in California. People of color, historically exploited, are especially vulnerable. These millions of people have been driven to the margins of the economy: Companies today view labor "…as akin to staplers: something to be procured at the time and place needed for the lowest price possible." (New York Times 9/3/17 "To Understand Rising Inequality, Consider the Janitors at Two Top Companies, Then and Now.")

Generally, if not unemployed, the new class does insecure, low wage work – service work, for example – which, because it's cheap, is not worth automating. This, too, is changing. For example, strawberry picking, now in the process of being automated, will soon be performed by robots in the fields; this has been spurred by the loss of cheap labor, as migrant workers from across the border are forced out. (The New Yorker, 4/8/19, "The Age of Robot Farmers.")

As the new class emerges, as in Paradise, it is being driven from communities and neighborhoods by the deliberate policies of the ruling elites -- the billionaires who command the new economy and control the government. This ruling class refuses to fund basic necessities for those who have become a "surplus population." In Paradise, vulnerable people were forced to flee because of fires fueled by the crisis of global warming and climate change. This is now a brutal global reality. "Migrants Flee New Threat: Climate Change," the headlines in the New York Times blared recently. As they migrate, these people, too, join this vast new class.

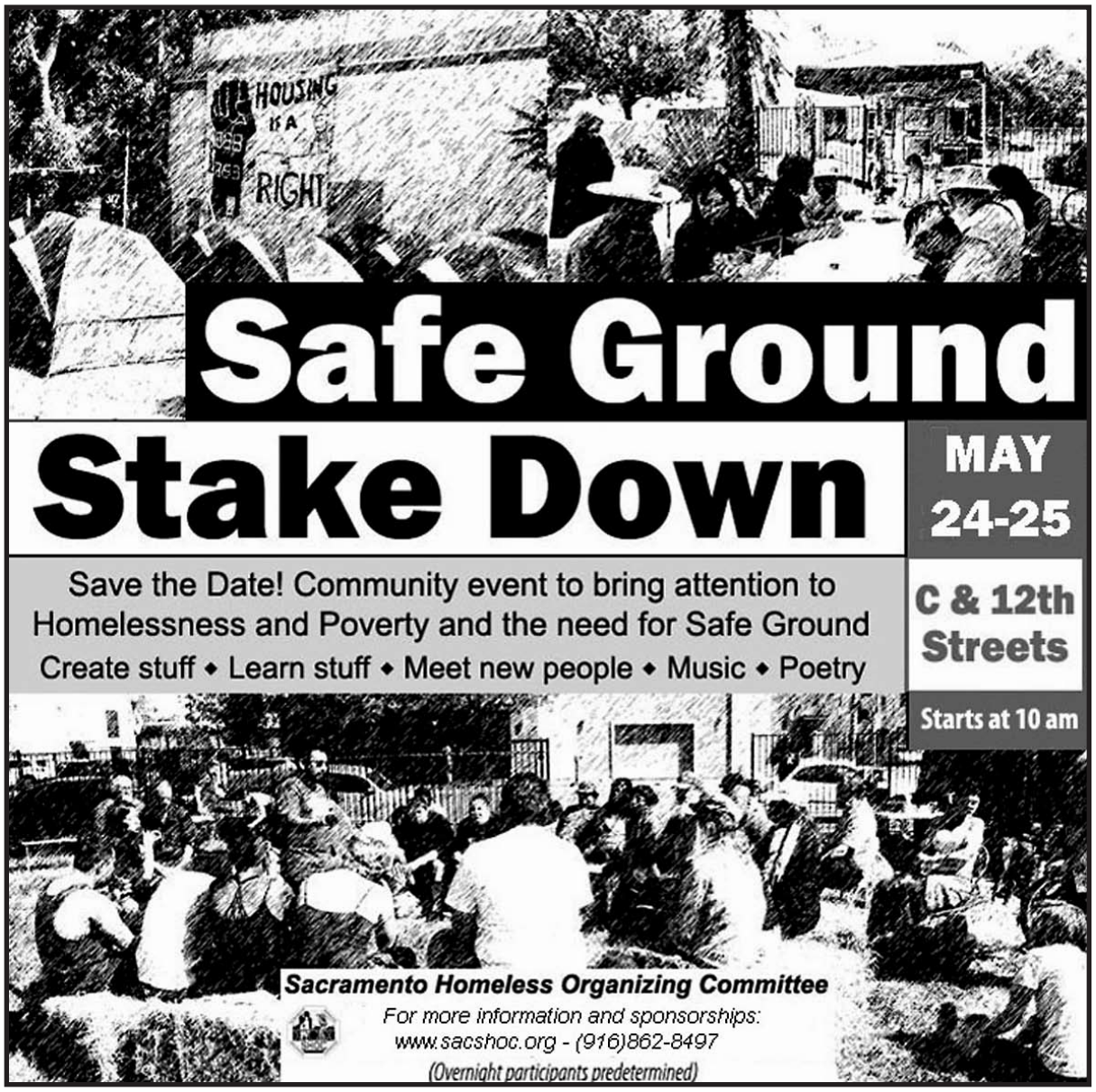
The scholar Saskia Sassen has developed the concept of "expulsion" to describe the moment when "unsuspecting people suddenly find themselves thrown out – deprived not only of jobs and homes but also of their dignity." (Sassen, Saskia. (2016). Expulsions: Brutality and Complexity in the Global Economy. Trajectories. ASA.Vol 27.No3. Spring 2016.) Expulsion is systemic and is driven by the rise of corporate and financial profitability – the extreme concentration of wealth and power in the new economy. To the billionaire global ruling class which claims the unimaginable wealth and abundance produced by automation, the new class is expendable and disposable as staplers.

Housing Policy Is Expulsion

Natural disasters are not the only process bringing about the expulsion of the new class. Housing policy has also spurred expulsion from formerly stable neighborhoods. As the billionaire tech companies locate their global financial, logistical, and administrative headquarters in selected urban areas, they have reshaped the urban landscape with mega-projects and luxury housing affordable only to the few. In Phoenix, Arizona, low wage jobs have multiplied; at the same time, there's a "small island of highly educated professionals making good wages at corporations like Intel or Boeing, which reap hundreds of thousands of dollars in profit per employee." (New York Times 2/4/2019, "Tech Is Splitting The American Workforce in Two.")

Cities as a whole have become gated communities, as these billionaires destroy the historically woven fabric of urban life, expelling its diverse, rooted communities and its small scale businesses. In the Bay Area, more than 1.1 million workers, over 1/3 of the total workforce, earn less than $18 per hour; most of these earn less than $12 per hour. Housing is simply beyond the reach of these workers in the new class. (Bay Area Economic Institute, "Continuing Growth and Unparalled Innovation, 7/18.)

As activists, we must attack these housing policies at their root; we must expose the systemic and brutal expulsion of the new class and take back our democracy from the predatory oligarchy that now controls it.



Arts Advocacy Day at the Capitol

An Interview with photographer Kirti Bassendine

By Crystal Sanchez

Crystal Sanchez, of SHOC and Reckless Charities Entertainment, attended Californians for the Arts Advocacy Day and Rally at the State Capitol on April 23 as part of "Arts, Culture & Creativity Month". The event featured legislative and other speakers, performances, legislative visits, art making and an exhibit of Kirti Bassendine's photography. Kirti displayed a collection of large portraits and captions about the regional homeless community. Crystal Sanchez got a chance to interview Kirti Bassendine at the event.

Crystal: What is it exactly that you do in your own words?

Kirti: As a Fine Art photographer and storyteller, my work weaves still photography, videography and virtual tours together to tell cultural and social stories. As an artist I have always been intrigued by human relationships and how they interweave with different social and cultural contexts, especially how these complexities impact the discovery of one's sense of identity and belonging within one's culture and in the wider world--Finding one's identity. Homeless Voices - how homelessness is perceived, breaking down barriers to restore common humanity. Focus on marginalized community. Humanizing the face and giving a voice to them; Mother Daughter Cultural Roots - the role of immigrant women in passing on indigenous culture from one generation to the next, especially mother-daughter relationships; Women's sense of identity and belonging within their culture and the wider world; Nomadic ways of life, and how its subcultures integrate or conflict with modern society; My Homeless Voices project exploring the stories of homeless community, is focusing on marginalized communities.

Crystal: What triggered you to use your degree to do this type of work?

Kirti: After graduating with a BA (Hons) in Fine Art Photography from Derby University, my first body of work Voiceless examined the expected role of a young Indian girl growing up in the Western world, surrounded by two cultures, with my own struggle to conform and search for personal identity. The exhibition toured for three years across England. As an artist I use a camera as my paint brush to tell stories. Since graduating 30+ years, I live and breath photography. It is who I am, and what I am passionate about.

Crystal: What is it that you are trying to get the community to see about the unhomed population? What is the biggest misconception regarding homelessness in your opinion?

Kirti: As we carry out our day to day lives we are oblivious to the struggles of those individuals we encounter. The grocery store cashier, the fast food clerk, the student in the library: anyone of them could be homeless. A medical emergency, financial crisis or natural disaster means any one of us could be facing homelessness in the near future. The reality of the world we live in is that any one of us is just one day, one moment, one tragedy away from homelessness and so many people out there are one pay check away from being homeless, one car repair bill, one accident, any unexpected event can cause homelessness.

Through awareness and compassion I would like people to understand that each story is unique as to why someone is homeless, take time to listen and learn. There are too many misconceptions about homelessness. There is a number that are bad and ruin it for others who are homeless, people who are working but income isn't sufficient for the rising cost of housing, or an illness has occurred, a hospital bil, or the ones that have had plain bad luck or made a mistake and are looking for a second chance.



Kirti Bassendine
Photo Courtesy Crystal Sanchez



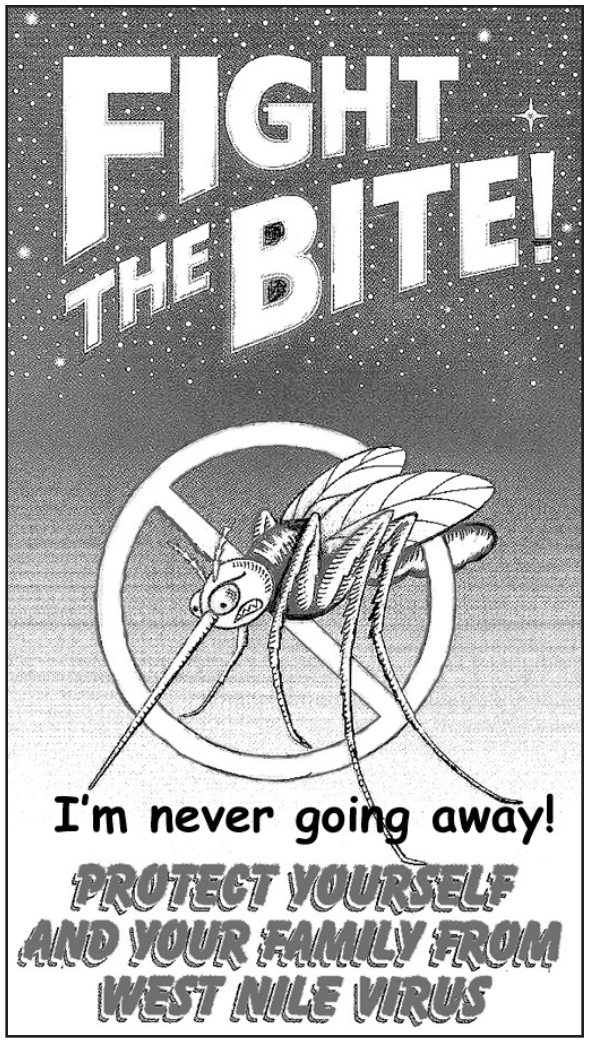
Capitol Exhibit - Photo Courtesy Crystal Sanchez

Crystal: If you could come up with a solution for homelessness in California what would it be?

Kirti: I honestly don't know what is the right solution for homelessness--that's for the politicians and experts. My goal is to bring attention to this growing issue with compassion for the people that cuts through all this desensitization that people and politicians have towards homelessness and humanize them and put a name to the face.

I do know its growing not only here in California but across US and other parts of the world, the divide is getting larger. Basic Human care, simple sanitation would be a good start, water, showers, toilets and then somewhere people can sleep, cook food. Shelters where women and families are in separate areas--it's not safe for women and children out there. Some of these women are professionals or working day time jobs. Medical facilities--as spreading of illness with lack of sanitation and ill health is occurring. All this needs to be acknowledged while low income housing solutions are created.

You can find out more about Kirti Bassendine and her projects at kirtibassendine.com





I know the world isn't fair, but why isn't it ever unfair in my favor?
– Bill Watterson

A Special Thanks to Our Homeward Underwriters:

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Uptown Studios Inc.
Los Rios College Federation of Teachers
Safe Ground Sacramento
Mercy Pedalers

Chico Orange Street Shelter Proposal

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and public safety concerns is reaching new heights post Camp Fire. Adding 100-120 additional beds will complement the work of other shelters. Although best practices encourage a rapid exit to permanent housing, Butte County's current housing situation will not accommodate the needs of Camp Fire survivors and those struggling from homelessness from other causes. Shelter is our best chance to seek stabilization and ready the most vulnerable to obtain and retain adequate housing, in some cases out of our area.

Low-barrier shelters accept people as they are and provide a safe, warm place of shelter for those who may have no other option. There are no requirements for sobriety nor testing for substance use. Instead, they focus on addressing disruptive or dangerous behaviors, rather than compliance to rules. They create flexible and predictable access for people seeking shelter, and the intake process and housing navigation services coordinate closely with community-based outreach services and coordinated entry to move people into housing. Research demonstrates that communities that embrace a low-barrier shelter approach with accountability measures make great strides in moving those who are with a home from the streets to housing. This is accomplished by providing individual case management and wrap-around services to address the fundamental causes of each person's homelessness.

As in shelters of this type, the Orange Street Shelter will manage expectations with an explicit Code of Conduct. Expectations become centered around promoting safety not control**.** Behaviors dictate the success of an individual's time at the shelter, rather than sobriety levels or other barriers. The Code of Conduct will include expectations such as:

- No violence or threats of violence, or damaging property
- Respect for others
- Respect for the neighborhood
- No use or possession of controlled substances and/or alcohol on-site in or within our neighborhood
- Personal property must be checked-in and stored upon arrival

A violation of this Code of Conduct could result in a behavior contract and/or interrupted services at the Orange Street Shelter.

Services Offered

Day services at Orange Street Shelter will provide a resource lab with computers to support employment, education and housing searches and with resource Staff to navigate needs and referral sources for one-on- one services including a "warm hand-off' to better ensure success for the individual. An outreach desk will bring outside agencies in such as Butte County Social Services, Behavioral Health, Payee Services, Veteran's Services. Residents will have access to housing and employment listings, mail and messaging services, case management, life skills classes, vocational training/service work opportunities, and substance use services including counseling and therapeutic groups.

The Orange Street Shelter will provide safe shelter, evening and morning meals, and sleeping quarters for specialized populations (e.g., single women and families).

Admission to the Orange Street Shelter will be by referral only (no drop-in will be allowed) following an intake process conducted by one of the professional staff. All residents will be entered into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) database prior to accessing services. The Service Card will record attendance, services used and record key resident demographics. With this data, The Orange Street Shelter will develop more individualized services and programs, using a strategic, client-centered approach.

To help secure the neighborhood, the shelter will have a safety team on site. In addition, we will work closely with local law-enforcement to ensure that the impacts to the neighborhood are minimized- this process has already begun. We will also work closely with Chico State University to ensure that students understand our processes and are kept safe.

There will also be a hotline available for people who are concerned or experiencing issues with the homeless to call the shelter. Quite often, we will be able to send someone out to assess the situation and if our services are appropriate for the person in question.

For further questions, please contact Laura Cootsona (The Jesus Center Executive Director) at laura@iesuscenter.org or Angela McLaughlin (Board President of Safe Space) at angela@nctcs.com. The entire Chico City Council presentation can be accessed at tinyurl.com/OrangeStreetShelter

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Enclosed find my donation of $20 for a one year subscription.
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City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Make checks payable to the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee (SHOC) and mail to: PO Box 952 Sacramento, CA 95812

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Resources List

Night Shelters

Salvation Army: 12th and North B St. Sheltar spaces are limited, call for availability. 916-442-0331

St. John's Shelter: Women and Children. 4410 Power Inn Rd. Call between 10am & 3pm for space availability. 916-453-1482

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Beds for Men Only, sign up 6:30pm at mission, Newcomers/Referrals have priority. 7:30pm Chapel Service with meal afterwards, 6am breakfast for residents. Showers / shaves 9-11am & 1-2:45pm. open to all homeless men: 916-447-3268

Next Move (formerly SAEHC) 24 hr Family Shelter; Families, single adults with children who have no other resource: Women's Refuge; single women, no children: Call for screening/space availability 916-455-2160

Volunteers of America Family Shelter: Adults w/children only. Apply Tues.-Thurs. 1-3 pm 1490 Blding B, N. "A" St. 916-443-4688

Day Shelters

Friendship Park: Between 12th St. & Ahern on North C: Weekdays 7am - 2:30pm: open to anyone: Many services

Meals

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St.: 7 days, Evening meal, Men/Women: Church service 7:00pm required, dinner following 8:30-9:15pm. Sunday 11am service, lunch at noon. 916-447-3268

Loaves & Fishes: 1321 N. 'C' St.: Lunch every day 11:30am-1pm. Tickets available 7 am- 12:30 pm at Friendship Park weekdays: at 8 am on Saturday and 10am on Sundays.

Women's Civic Improvement Center: Seniors Only: 3555 3rd Ave. 11:30-12:30 lunch M-F 916-452-2866

Food-not-Bombs: serves free food in Cesear Chavez Plaza, 9th & J St., every Sunday 1:30 pm. All Welcome.

Foundation of Faith Ministries 2721 Dawes St. Rancho Cordova. Every 4th Sat. 3-5 pm All Welcome.

Glory Bound Street Ministry 4527 Parker Ave. Sundays; breakfast 11:30 am after 10 am church service; dinner 6:30 pm after 5 pm church service: Fridays; dinner 7 pm after 6 pm church service. Must attend services. 916-452-7078

Safe Haven Calvery Christan Center: 1300 North C St. 8 am Sun, Coffee, Women's clothing, Service 9am: Wed. 6 pm bible study.

Women & Children

Maryhouse: 1321 N. 'C' St. suite 32: Breakfast for Women and children 8am-9am. Day shelter 8am-3pm weekdays for women and families.

Wellspring 3414 4th St.: T&Th full breakfast: M-W-F continental breakfast for women and children. 916-454-9688

Youth Services

Wind Youth Services: Drop-In Center for youth (ages 12-24) experiencing homelessness: 1722 J Street, M-F 9am-6pm, S-S 10am-2pm: Emergency shelter for ages 12-17, call **1-800-339-7177:** Emergency shelter for ages 18-24, call **916-561-4900**. Services also include: street outreach, case management, mental health

Free Clothing

Sacramento Food Bank: 3333 3rd Ave. (at Broadway) 10am-2pm Mon - Fri. 916-456-1980

Union Gospel Mission: 400 Bannon St. Men: M-Sat 9-11am or 1-2:45pm: Women and Children: Thurs. 9 am signup, 9:30-10am bible study, 10 am - 12 pm shop. 916-447-3268

Glory Bound Street Ministry 4527 Parker Ave. Clothes Closet, Sundays 11:30 am all welcome. 916-452-7078

Medical

Mercy Clinic: For homeless adults, children: 1300 block of N. 'C' Street next to fire station. 916-446-3345

Sacramento Dental Clinic: 4600 Broadway (Primary Care Blding) Walk-ins 8 am - 12:30 pm 916-874-8300

Mental Health

Guest House, 600 Bercut Drive.: Homeless Mental Health Clinic. Mental Health evaluation, medication if needed. Housing referrals for mentally ill, GA refs, SSI aps, refs to A & D counseling: 916-440-1500

Hope Co-operative (formerly TLCS): 1400 N.'A' St. Blding. A; Adults 18 yrs & up; Refferrals to transitional living programs, independant living, mental health support services; SSI/SSDI application assistance; Walk-ins 8-11am M-F 440-1500

Genesis: Professional Counseling for life problems. Referrels. 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center). 916-699-1536

Crisis Intervention

WEAVE: Services for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault and their children. Referrals to court mandated battery intervention programs, Safe house, 24 hr. crisis line: 916-920-2952

AIDS / HIV

AIDS Housing Alliance provides residential care, transitional housing & permanent housing services to homeless persons living with aids. 916-329-1093 weekdays.

CARES (Center for AIDS Research, Education and Service): 1500 21st ST. Serves people with HIV and AIDS. Medical care, mental health, case mgmt, health ed and regional prevention/ed classes. 916-443-3299

Breaking Barriers: Homeless Outreach Program provides direct services to people living with AIDS and HIV. Transportation to social services, medical appointments, job interviews, and housing assistance. 916-447-2437

Harm Reduction Services: 40001 12 Ave.; High risk outreach; HIV, Hep-C testing; case management for HIV; free medical clinic, needle exchange. 916-456-4849

Alternative Test Site: Free anonymous HIV testing, Wed /Thurs. Call for appt. 916-874-7720.

Legal Aid

Disability Rights, CA: Free legal services for people with disabilities. Call for appt. toll free: TTY:(800)776-5746

Tommy Clinkenbeard Legal Clinic: 401 12th St. (DeLaney Center) Free legal assistance and advocacy for problems related to homelessness. 916-446-0368

Legal Services of Northern California, Inc: 515 12th St. (at E ST.) M-F 8:30am-12pm, 1pm-5pm. Problems with public benefits, landlord / tenant, divorce clinic. Call for appt. 916-551-2150

Welfare Rights: 1901 Alhambra Blvd. (2nd floor) M-F 9am-5pm: AFDC, Food Stamps, Workfare and Medical rep at hearings. 916-736-0616

Social Security Disability / SSI Lawyer Free Consultation (916) 658-1880

Veterans

VA Outreach: 1-800-827-1000

Homeless VA Coordinator: (916) 364-6547

Mather VA Social Works: help getting DD-214, any vet. (916) 843-7064

Sacramento Veterans Resource Center 7270 East Southgate Dr. 916-393-8387

Miscellaneous

Francis House Center 1422 C St. Must get a lottery number 9am. M,Tu,Th,F for Direct Services: ID vouchers, transp. assistance; In depth resource coaching by apt.; Veteran's advocate; Notary services Thurs. call for apt.; Job Development Center M,Tu,Th,F 9:30am – 1pm. Family Rescue motel vouchers for qualified families Mon. 1pm. **(916) 443-2646**

Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services: 3333 3rd Ave. (south of Broadway) Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-1:30pm, and Wed 4pm-7pm. 916-456-1980.

Social Services: 28th & R ST. M-F 7:30am-5pm. Call for asst. 916-874-2072

Employment Development Department (EDD): 2901 50th St. (at Broadway) M-F 8am-5pm. Unemployment, job services.
916-227-0300

Medi-Cal: 1-800-773-6467,1-888-747-1222. Or see DHA eligibility workers 1725 28th St. 916-874-2256

Social Security Office: 8581 Folsom Blvd (East of College Greens Lite-rail stop, past the flea market) M-F 9am-4:30pm
916-381-9410: Natl line 1-800-772-1213

211 Sacramento
Dial 211
for tele-info & referral service

Californa Youth Crisis Line:
1-800-843-5200

Health Rights Hotline:
551-2100

Narcotics Anonymous Hotline
1-877-NA-6363

About SHA

The Sacramento Housing Alliance is a network of concerned citizens who promote decent affordable housing for low income households and homeless people through advocacy and participation in public discourse.

For more info, or if you would like to participate, please call:

(916) 455-4900
http://sachousingalliance.org

909 12th Street, Suite 114
Sacramento, CA 95814

The SHA does not itself provide or manage housing.

Welcome to Homeward:

Please help us make a differance!

Homeward Street Journal has been publishing since 1997 as a non-profit project of the Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee, a 501c3. The paper's mission is to alleviate miscommunication between communities by educating the public about housing and poverty issues, and by giving homeless people a voice in the public forum. Homeward also informs homeless persons of shelter and occupational assistance, and acts as a creative self-help opportunity for those individuals who wish to participate.

The opinions expressed in Homeward are those of the authors, and not necessarily of SHOC or Homeward.

Submissions and Editorial Policy

We welcome any participation or contributions: Articles, poems and other writing can be submitted at our office in Friendship Park, or mailed to the address below.

All writing submitted for publication will be edited as necessary, with due respect for the author's intent. The editors will attempt to consult with an author if changes are necessary, however, the paper will go to print with the story as edited if the author is unavailable.

All Letters to the Editor must be signed to be published. If the writer wishes to remain anonymous s/he should so state, but the letter must still be signed .

Poetry and graphics will not be edited, either the paper will publish the submission or not.

In submitting articles to the paper, authors give their permission to print their submissions in accordance with the above stipulations, as well as possible reprinting in INSP member papers, with due byline. Any requests for stories outside the above three will be referred to the author.

Subscriptions are available with a $20 contribution. Make checks out to SHOC (Sacramento Homeless Organizing Committee).

Loaves & Fishes is not affiliated with the Homeward Street Journal in any way. Participants with the paper are not allowed to solicit for donations for L&F, nor make any reference regarding the relationship between Loaves & Fishes and this newspaper whatsoever.

All correspondence can be sent to:
Homeward Street Journal
PO Box 952
Sacramento, CA 95812

The paper may be reached at:
(916) 442-2156

The paper may also be e-mailed at
homeward2@yahoo.com

On the web at:
https://sacshoc.org/homeward

News & Opinion for Chico, CA — Presented by Bill Mash of *Without A Roof*

Help on the Way

by Bill Mash (as read during public comments at the April 9th Chico City Council Meeting)

Action News ran a TV broadcast hit piece[1] on April 8th intended to raise fear within our community by conjuring dangers to local schools with having a low-barrier shelter near downtown. Meanwhile every location mentioned to "alarm residents" is located in the midst of low-barrier frat houses, dormitories and residential housing.

This was a thinly guised mob attack on community members based on economic status and the disabilities many of them endure. Plain and simple.

You see, when a mob sends it's people they are not sending their best. They're sending people with lots of xenophobia and rhetoric and they're bringing those callous, unclean and unsafe, views with them. They're bringing lies, they're bringing innuendos. They're pawns. And some, I assume, thought they were do gooders.

I'm reminded of the *Poseidon Adventure* where well intended people angrily dismissed the heroes who had calmly and accurately figured a way to safety. The way forward and off the sinking post Camp Fire ship is the Orange Street Shelter. Thank you Safe Space, the Jesus Center and the City of Chico for leading the way.

[1] Due to overwhelming public outcry Action News pulled the April 8th report from their late evening broadcasts and sanitized the one-sided and cruelly slanted piece online. Which, as broadcast, ended with a call for people to voice their opposition to the shelter by attending the Chico City Council meeting on April 9th.



The proposed Orange Street Shelter site -- photo by Bill Mash

Chico Orange Street Shelter Proposal

Transforming our community through empowerment of our most vulnerable members

The Orange Street Shelter is a partnership comprised of the Jesus Center and Safe Space Winter Shelter, both established, experienced community organizations which currently offer services and sheltering to those suffering from homelessness, are proposing to establish the Orange Street Shelter. We request that the Chico City Council approve this proposal and direct city staff to prepare a report in accordance with Chico City Ordinances that will allow us to establish these services as soon as possible

In November 2018, the Walmart Foundation, drawn to Chico after the Camp Fire, extended a $1 million grant to help start a low-barrier shelter as a collaboration among service providers including the Jesus Center and Safe Space Winter Shelter. Immediately the search was under taken for a location to shelter and provide day services for folks who are experiencing homelessness. During our planning, we agreed to release a portion of the funds to facilitate the Torres Community Shelter's transition to a 24/7 shelter.

After vetting several locations to mitigate impact on the community and best serve the desired clientele, we have executed a letter of intent with the owner of 388 Orange Street, a 15,000 square foot building suitable for these purposes with minimal tenant improvements and adjustments. The proposed commencement date is June 15, 2019.

The collaborative effort will provide a pilot for our future programming at the site of the Renewal Center. Orange Street Shelter partners include Butte/Glenn 211 and Butte County Department of Behavioral Health. Other parties may include Elijah House (expanding services into Chico), Butte County Employment and Social Services, and the Torres Community Shelter. Those who will be engaged in services will require multiple interventions for mental health, substance use disorders, trauma, housing, education, job readiness. Having a single place where they will be sheltered and offered day services, helps our partners rally to give more appropriate and effective aid and support. For example, Butte County Department of Behavioral Health will bring in substance use specialists to work in this environment.

Addressing System Gaps

Chico does not have enough shelter beds to allow people experiencing homelessness to sleep inside and receive necessary services in a safe, stable environment. The resulting impact in camping, refuse, unsafe lodging,

Continued Page 6 Inside

The
CHICO VIBE
Made possible by our supporters...
Chico Housing Action Team
Bob Woods, Ed Mayer, Lucy Gould
Friends of Tyler Rushing & Chico350

Writing for Donuts

Inside the Fire

Trembling in a sea of shadows,
Unseen fingers slowly trailing over my skin.
Darkness washes over me...
Voices shouting, the sound of metal tearing.
Heat scalding flesh as it seeks life.
My eyes open - everything is burning.
Door handles hot to the skin.
Black smoke rising...
Deaf roaring as scared feet flee.
Still breathing... Choking.
Safe but feeling alone when surrounded by others.
Help is everywhere, but so many hoops.
Feelings of circus bears...
Getting so tired, but then... Hope!
Slowly rebuilding, not easy.
-Kyrstal

My Name

My name is like the star that stands out the most in the night sky - I'm different than everybody. People look at me one way but you can't judge a book by its cover! My name is like a cold ocean breeze blowing through the misty hot air of Santa Cruz. My mom says my name is like an open window waiting to be shut. Secretly, I know my name is about going for your dreams and never giving up on anything, even if you're at rock bottom because you will always come up and things will get better!
-Anonymous

Being Free

One night, one of my friends told me that the day you can accept the world just how it is and also accept yourself for who you are is the moment you will be free. I did that and it was like all my worries went away. I have not felt this way in a long time. I just told myself that I am a happy and strong person who cares and loves all. I accepted how things are right now and suddenly I was better.
-Raymond

Smile

Let your smile shine, no matter your situation - Don't let drama waste your time,
Cloudy day? Smile at what they say,
Proudly smile while you stay good for a while,
Stay free as their problems turn into a troublesome pile,
But remember to smile.
-Mykell

Cordless

Missing 12 days like I'm ditching time, messing up with this mind of mine
I'm too intoxicated, like this is a sign
It's just me when I choose to ignore it, crashing into a wall but still driving forward
This is a verse, not the same as a chorus
My life feels meaningless like I don't have a porpoise
Wake up drunk as a skunk at 3 in the morning
Weakened like a warrior, naked and sword-less
In life I wanted happiness but couldn't afford it
I crash through obstacles with the strength of a Taurus
Going through life adaptable like I'm cordless
-Sonny