

Former street kid runs hot chocolate ministry

PORTLAND (AP) — Walter W. Geiger, who describes himself as a former street kid, tells why he began his hot chocolate ministry. It was in September 1987.

"I went to Pioneer Square, and it was cold, and there was this kid just shivering, and I went over to him and asked, 'Do you want anything?'"

"And he said, 'Yeah, a glass of hot chocolate would be great.'"

"So I went to Arctic Circle across the street and bought him a glass of hot chocolate. And I asked him if there was anything else he wanted, and he said: 'Yeah. It'd be great if you could bring it down here all the time.' So I told him I'd see him next week with some more hot chocolate."

Since then, Geiger, now 27, has served about 10 gallons of self-purchased hot chocolate every wintertime Monday night in the downtown area.

He used to be a fixture in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square. Then he moved the urn to the top of his car for a while, but that left a circular stain. These days, he sets up Mondays at about 8:30 p.m. in O'Bryant Square, a brick-paved gathering place downtown.

Patrons filter in. They hold their cups of free hot chocolate. Steam curls over the cups. These people are mostly young, in their teens and early 20s. Beyond that, Geiger tries not to generalize

except to say that many have the same kinds of personal problems — drugs, terrible family life and so forth — that he says he had while growing up.

"They should be treated as individuals instead of as a group," he always says. "They're special. They each have a unique personality."

They stand around and talk. One of them dribbles a ball. Geiger — an unpretentious person who earns a living as a hotel security officer — tells about his early life.

He was born in Hollywood, Calif. His childhood was hazy. His parents were always out, and his life was filled with babysitters. Geiger tried to run away, the first time, at about the age of 5. His stuffed animals came along.

When police brought him home, he recalls, his father told him: "If you want to run away, we'll give you a bigger suitcase."

A few years later, Geiger started drinking and later, he periodically left home for weeks at a time. One day, he says, he asked his father whether he could start to go to church.

"You could be any religion you want. Just don't bring it into the house," Geiger says his father replied. "So I thought religion was like a stray dog."

Geiger now calls himself a Christian, and he says he makes his hot chocolate

runs to show others on the streets that someone cares for them.

On this particular Monday night, about 20 show up at the urn. They come and go for a while. A couple tell some stories.

One of them, who identifies himself as "Spaz," 18, says he used to steal bicycles and deal drugs.

"I'd stay up until about one in the morning, then go outside, and I'd go through the streets in a pattern. I'd ride my own bike looking for a bike, and when I'd find one, I'd grab it by the handlebar and ghostride the bike home. I'd ride mine and hold the handlebars on the other one.

"I'd bring in about three a night, and then I'd switch parts. I'd strip them down and switch parts and then I'd take them to school the next morning and sell them really cheap. And then I'd go buy dope with the money."

Now he says he has quit all that. What he did was wrong, he says, but not necessarily because of something called morality.

He says, for example, that he has never considered how the bike owners might have felt. But he does accept that he could have been caught, so he is

learning to work instead. He is learning how to weld. "Now I realize, if you just work, it's easier."

He adds, "I'd like to get the word around to street people to get up and do something instead of dealing drugs and stuff like that."

Another young man named "Auto" appears. He says he is a Christian, but after the fashion of Geiger, he says he tries not to press it on others.

At the hot chocolate stand, Auto tells why pushing does not pay. Once, he says, in another place, a man was preaching loudly. The man pointed into Auto's face. And then he shouted at Auto, "You're a sinner!"

Because the man's finger was there, Auto tried to bite it off. The preacher convulsed and screamed. Auto held on like a dog.

"The next week," Auto says, "he came back, and he said he'd learned his lesson."

Auto describes the lesson. "Don't point." Street justice. It was free. It was a lesson.

At the steaming urn in the streets, there are some lessons to learn.

CLASSIFIEDS

Visa and MasterCard gladly accepted.

686-4343

100 CONNECTIONS

FREE CONNECTIONS
YES, IT'S TRUE

FREE CONNECTIONS
From now until the end of February you can place a

FREE
Connections ad, as long as it is 25 words or less. Send a note to that special someone you would like to get to know better or meet face-to-face for the first time, or even if you want to find someone with the same interests as your own.

GO AHEAD WHY NOT? REMEMBER, IT'S FREE

All advertisements covered under this promotion must be placed in person at the Oregon Daily Emerald Office, Suite 300 EMU. These ads will not be accepted at the EMU Main Desk or the U of O Bookstore.



Recycle this paper.

105 PERSONALS

HEY BIG BRO!
Good luck in '91
Hang in there, babe!
I love you, Doodle

S. BUMSTEAD
Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
February 10 is
Dad's Weekend, too!
Sorry, Dustin, Joel, & Rob
P.S. Who do you really want?

PRIVATE HELP FROM FRIENDS
Free Pregnancy Testing
BIRTHRIGHT 687-8651

FREE PERSONALS
Each week the Oregon Daily Emerald will offer free personal advertisements to certain groups of U of O students including dorm residents, Greeks, off-campus students, foreign students, law students, etc.

FEB 5 thru FEB 9
Anyone living in a dorm can place a free personal of 15 words or less if they mention the name of their dorm.

All ads must be placed in person at the Oregon Daily Emerald office, suite 300 EMU.

FREE PERSONALS

105 PERSONALS

DELTA ZETA
Congratulates its new Executive Board President Kim C.
V.P. Pledge Ed. Chrissie V.
V.P. Rush Maie N.
Treasurer Kristin S.
Corresponding Secretary Sara Y.
Recording Secretary Debby H.

SIGMA PHI EPSILON
congratulate its newest members
Jim P. Bruce C.
Noel K. Jared W.
Blake N. Kyle B.
George W. Tim M.
Max W. Brian N.
Jason D. Tom C.
Charles H. Brian C.
Curtis L. Matt P.
Travis C.
ΣΦΕ

ΦΔΩ CONGRATULATES
JENN & CHRIS
on the pinning!
ΑΧΩ
sure knows how to celebrate!
ΣΑΕ
Initiation wouldn't have been the same without you. Let's do it again, without the extra decorations!! Fusty and Jim since you were here, please come back and clean up the mess.
Love, Delta Gamma

To the members, old and new, of
ΚΚΓ
Saturday night was Heavenly and Sunday morning was Hell, but we all had a great time! Thank you, love.
ΦΔΩ

GREEKS! Today is the day to turn in your order envelopes from last week's party. **WALLY.**

105 PERSONALS

PLANNED PARENTHOOD for Pap smears, infection checks, birth control & counseling. Days & evenings. Call 344-9411

110 LOST & FOUND
COAT LOST - Sat night at Max's Blue and black North Face. Reward \$75. Call 342-2273.

115 TYPING SERVICES
JEN'S TYPING/Wordprocessing. Legal secretary now new mom at home. Fast professional type, edit. 485-3768

LASER WORD PROCESSING
19 years experience. Editing, IBM. Grad school approved. Near campus. Robin 344-0759.

PROFESSIONAL TYPING
Also word processing, editing. Free pickup/delivery. Ronda, 935-1892.

TEXT CONVERSION
Convert printed text (English and foreign) to Mac/IBM files. Fast and inexpensive!

SCANNERS
FRANKLIN PARK PLAZA #3
5120 FRANKLIN BLVD. EUGENE
747-4589

Word Processing, Minn. 342-7056, 8am-10pm, Grad approved.

THE WORD SPECIALISTS
* Graduate School Approved
* Dissertations/Theses/Papers
* IBM Comp./Disk Conversions
* Laser Printing/Graphics
* Resumes/Editing

CINDY 484-5454 **CAROLYN** 344-5287 & 484-4177

115 TYPING SERVICES

TYPING UNLIMITED
IBM Compatible
Grad School Approved
Guaranteed

485-0890
Barbara Land
BIJOU THEATRE BUILDING
492 E. 13th No. 101
Serving the U of O area since 1981

CYA TYPING SERVICES
High Quality Typing and Editing. Fast 24-Hour Service. Call Ann 345-9947.

TPOS
WORD PROCESSING
343-0969

System/Software Conversions
APPLE-CP/M-IBM-MACINTOSH
LASER PRINTING
132 E. Broadway
Suite 102

125 INSTRUCTION
LIFE DRAWING
Learn techniques that will help you visualize and simplify the human form. Saturday, 9:30-5, Feb 3. Register now at the EMU Craft Center \$23 members/\$25 non-members, 686-4361. Materials included.

130 FOR SALE
FOR SALE: Bang and Olufson 2400 series receiver with remote control, \$225. Call 344-5849.

19" COLOR TV. Cable compatible. Good condition. Only \$70/OBO. 344-7858

130 FOR SALE

FUTONS!
for the student,
by the student

BEST PRICES IN TOWN
CHECK US OUT
ROCK SOFT FUTON CO.
Call Amelie
345-5678, eves

STEREO FIXTURES, wood and laminate design, adjustable shelves, 2 styles, good condition \$50 each. Quantity discount available. See at UO Bookstore, 895 E. 13th or call 686-4331.

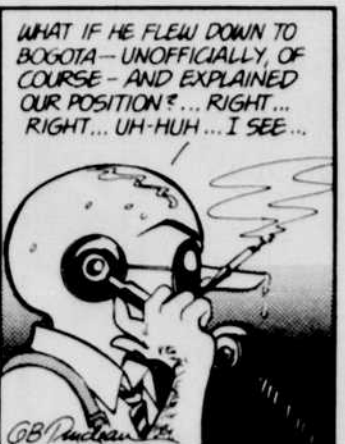
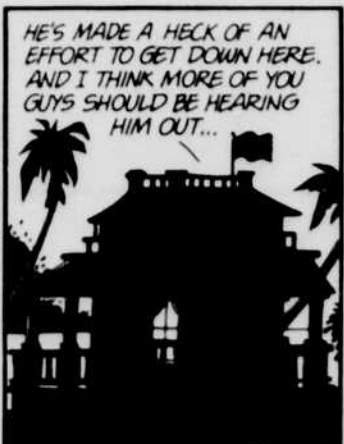
WOMEN'S PUEGOT bike. Bought in '70's. Used 4 times. \$150. Full length shearing coat from Norm Thompson's. Used 10 times. Bargain \$275. Call 484-9678.

145 CARS-CYCLES-SCOOTERS
GOVERNMENT SEIZED Vehicles from \$100. Fords, Mercedes, Corvettes, Chevys. Surplus. Buyers Guide (1) 805-687-6000 Ext. 59642.

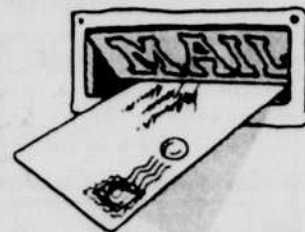
81 COROLLA SEDAN 2 dr NADA book value \$1500, make offer. 726-4987.

150 BICYCLES
UO AUCTION: 91 Bicycles. Saturday, February 3, 1990. Inspection 9:30 A.M. Auction 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. EMU Breezeway, 13th and University Streets. Cash Information: 686-3149.

Doonesbury



BY GARRY TRUDEAU



You can find stamps & envelopes at the UO Bookstore.