

Words to remember

Notable quotables from Street Roots interviews in 2008

Over the past year, many remarkable people have offered their particular brands of wisdom to our pages. Some are definitely worth repeating. Here are a few of the voices we've published in 2008.

"Oftentimes, homelessness is an invitation to police to use the institution of prisons to clean up the neighborhood. I don't think there is any city that has a really progressive policy around homelessness, because if there were a really progressive policy, then housing would be provided and we don't see that anywhere in the country."

— Former Black Panther and author Angela Davis on homelessness and jails (Jan. 11, "21st Century Abolitionist," Rosette Royal)

"Not enough physicians are being



Angela Davis
PHOTO BY ROSETTE ROYAL

trained and going into it. I mean, it's not an area of medicine where you are going to make a lot of money, number one. It's not encouraged by anybody in the medical community. Doctors who provide abortions, especially in the outlying areas, are pretty much marginalized. And [doctors] coming right out of medical school and then residency [have] a lot of student loans to pay back ... and are told by the anti-abortion people ahead of time: If you go into this ... we will expose you, we will harass you, we will harass your family, we will make your life miserable."

— Dr. Susan Wickland on the lack of new physicians taking on becoming abortion doctors (March 21, "Laying bare the common secret," Cydney Gillis)

"I think that's the difference between authentic journalism and mere alternative journalism: Authentic journalists embrace the credo that 'with great power comes great responsibility,' and that includes a duty to report more clearly, honestly, and effectively in a way that regular people can understand and which inspires all to act on that better understanding, to participate, to not let democracy atrophy and to wrestle it away from the special interests that today hold it hostage."

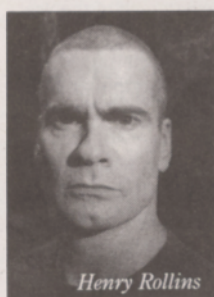
— NARCO News Founder Alberto Giordano on journalism. (April 18, "The Drug Issue," Joanne Zuhl)

"What do you need for a violent revolution? You need 500 hundred men with a good plan. You take the airport, the main roads, you put a bullet into the head of the Prime Minister, and then you pack up your things and go to the next country and do the same thing. Non-violent revolutions are all about numbers."

— Founding member of Otpor, the group credited with bringing down Slobodan Milosevic, Sedja Popovic, on revolution. (Sept. 22, Revolution, Israel Bayer)

"I was working on the docks for almost a year. Nobody knew who I was. I was working right alongside everyone else, not getting paid what we might feel like we were deserved. Working with guys who have families. All of those folks told me, take advantage of this experience. If you go on to college and the NBA, you don't want to come back to this. Of course, they didn't say it like it was a bad thing. It was more if you have a chance to do more, do more. I really took that advice to heart. So every day when I'm playing now, and when I get tired, I remember those days on the docks and it motivates me."

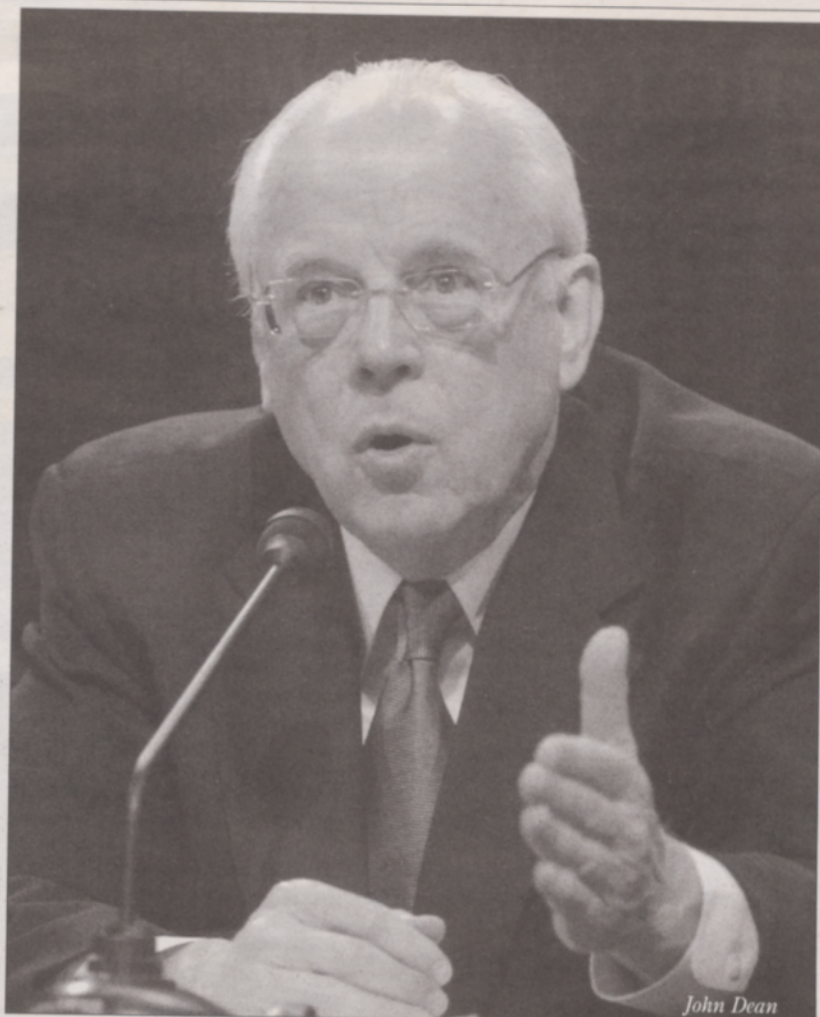
— Portland Trail Blazer, Brandon Roy, on working on the docks in Seattle before college. (Oct. 21, "Blazing a new trail," Israel Bayer)



Henry Rollins

"All I know is there's work to be done — I like what Barack Obama is saying. I like to see a bunch of people getting together and saying, 'yeah, we can change stuff,' because I'm one of those people."

I can just see the long road ahead. The job



John Dean

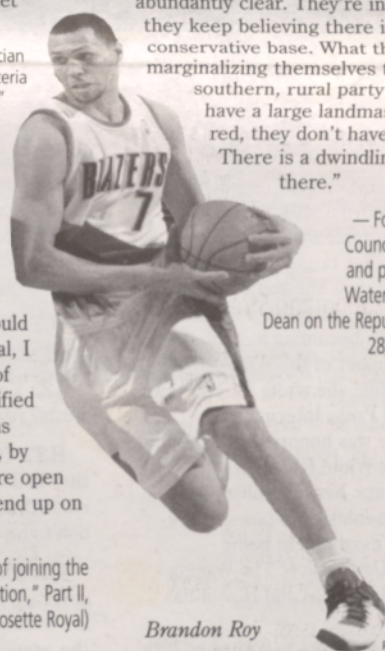
PHOTO BY REUTERS/LARRY DOWNING

ahead is pushing a car with no gas from L.A. to Cleveland. You can do it, but it's going to be hard. I can't do the euphoria. I just want the bottom line. Give me my numbers, get out of my way and let me get to work."

— Spoken word artist and musician Henry Rollins on the Obama hysteria (Sept. 5, "Rage against the regime," Joanne Zuhl.)

"I walked into an Army recruiting station to find out what the process was for serving in Iraq. And the process was so welcoming, so rational, so supportive. I could have applied on-line, someone would hold my hand through the physical, I could pick out a career path out of all the many jobs I would be qualified for. The guy who talked to me was available by cell phone, by phone, by email. It could not have been more open and inviting avenue to take, and end up on the front lines of a bloody war."

— Author Naomi Wolf on the process of joining the Army. (Oct. 17, "The American Revolution," Part II, Rosette Royal)



Brandon Roy

PHOTO COURTESY THE TRAIL BLAZERS

"They insist that the country is center right. Anybody who sifts carefully through the data knows that is just baloney. And the election returns just make it abundantly clear. They're in denial when they keep believing there is this growing conservative base. What they're doing is marginalizing themselves to this white, southern, rural party and while they have a large landmass that turns red, they don't have many people. There is a dwindling supply in there."

— Former White House Council to Richard Nixon and pivotal player in the Watergate scandal, John Dean on the Republican Party. (Nov. 28, "Whither, GOP?" Joanne Zuhl)

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