

HOROSCOPE

BY SOUP
CAN SAM
STAFF
PSYCHIC

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Hope over fear, unity over discord, but no socks over pants. That's tacky. Inaugurate a new style this week, Aquarius.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." This week, grab a hammer and help the universe along.

Aries (March 21-April 19) Really? Do I have to tell you again? Come on, Aries, you should have paid better attention last time.

Taurus (April 20-May 21) Put on your running shoes. Go after what you want. If you can't catch up to it, at least you'll get some rockin' views along the way.

Gemini (May 22-June 22) Scandals? Don't mind 'em. Wait until the dust settles to pass judgment, and maybe the world will do the same for you one day. We all have our fifteen minutes of shame.

Cancer (June 23-July 23) Life, like soup, can take many forms. Grab a spoon and dig in — maybe you'll discover something you enjoy. But no fair picking around the celery.

Leo (July 24-Aug. 23) I don't know. What do you think will happen?

Virgo (Aug. 24-Sept. 23) If you piled every living thing on Earth on a giant scale, 10 percent of the total weight would be ants. Seriously. Don't underestimate the little guy.

Libra (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) You may hit a roadblock this week. Don't panic, gather your strength and summon your inner bulldozer. Vrrrrroooooom!

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Don't be a whiner. It's not as bad as you think. That's not to say you shouldn't consider Plan B soon, or hiring a new PR rep to smooth over the mojo. Just sayin', nobody likes a whiner.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 22) Soup Can keeps hearing birds chirping outside. Is it springtime, or are they just confused? Take some time to consider your motivations.

Capricorn (Dec. 23-Jan. 19) "You will become an honored leader in your community." Borrowed that one from a fortune cookie. Hey, even Soup Can has off days.

Palmer taking it one day at a time

BY ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Three-fourths of the way through our interview, Ted Palmer stopped talking, looked at me, and then changed the topic. "I want to interview someone and get it in the paper!"

Ted says he dropped out of high school in the 10th grade when his grandfather became seriously ill and needed someone to help take care of him. The young man said that he has passed all his GED tests except the essay, which he failed. I told Ted that if he were able to get an interview with Brandon Roy, I'd help him write it. "Maybe the practice would help you finally get that GED," I told him.

Aside from the "big three," (baseball, football, and basketball,) Ted loves to talk about his children. They are the reason he sells *Street Roots* and has been sober three years. "They are the center of my life." The 17-month-old girl and 3-year-old boy are currently in the foster care system and probably soon will be sent to Ukiah, Calif., to live with their uncle, who should be able to provide the children with a stable home. Ted plans to follow them south so that he can continue to visit them regularly.

Ukiah does not have a newspaper similar to *Street Roots*, so Ted will need to find other stable employment when he moves. He has done a little landscaping in the past and worked at restaurants such as Denny's and Taco Bell washing dishes, busing, and prepping. He clearly would like custody of his children, but that would require a steady income and a place to live. He is currently homeless.

Street Roots sales helped Ted pay for a motel room during the cold weather this winter. He shares a room with two other



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH SCHWARTZ

Ted Palmer displays his *Street Roots* badge on break from vending the paper.

vendors. We were talking on a rare sunny January day, so I asked if the men are still spending their money on the motel room. It seems that they enjoy the luxuries of a bed, heat, television, and a shower. A big improvement over sleeping under a bridge. They are reluctant to go back out into the cold, so they continue paying for the motel room. Each man must earn at least \$20 per day for his share of the room. If the three of them are unable to pull together \$60, they are back out in the elements for the night. They start over again the next day. One day at a time.

Ted said that he typically sells his papers in front of REI on NW 14th and Johnson but frequently migrates between that store, down 14th past the Urban Grind, and over to the new Safeway on

Lovejoy. He and his two friends that share the motel room share the sales area with each other, so you can never be sure which of the three will be greeting you with "Street Roots?" when you walk past a vendor.

The walking sometimes helps reduce Ted's chronic lower back pain from an injury when he was 4 years old. Ted said that's when he was run over by a car. He was riding his Big Wheel down a steep street, lost control, and couldn't stop. Although the injury clearly continues to cause him significant pain, he has not applied for disability.

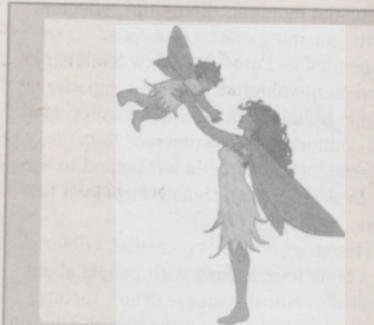
He broke his lower back when the car hit him. He recognizes his culpability. "I'll never let my kids ride a Big Wheel."

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Although the match is over, we did not meet our overall goals for November and December, and we still need your help. To support Sisters Of The Road and the vital work we do all year long, you can donate online at www.sistersoftheroad.org, or by calling (503) 222-5694, or by mailing gifts to 133 NW Sixth Ave., Portland OR 97209.

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