

**Insight**

Kareem Ali

She could see  
 The corners coming  
 Knew the spaces  
 Knew the slinking words  
 Between words

She know worlds  
 All spread out  
 And awfully neat  
 Like a Christmas picnic  
 In July

She knew  
 The adjectives and verbs  
 And silence  
 That could cover Alaska  
 Or Wyoming

She knew  
 Why a dog wags  
 His tail  
 In anger  
 Why between dusk  
 And twilight  
 There are many moons  
 And stars too  
 And wonder.  
 Wonder.

**The Urban Gypsy**

*Julie McCurdy resides in Portland and is experiencing homelessness with her Italian greyhound, Maggie. She is a regular contributor to Street Roots.*

I'm sitting here, looking around my city, hard pressed. I still feel that Portland is full of potential and possibilities.

I wait with the patience of a newly awakened predator. For people's smiles to fade at the sheer numbers of the newly homeless. It breaks my heart to see the innocence leak out of eyes and faces that shouldn't be here on the street.

Pardon me if I begin to snarl in frustration. I am speaking directly of the mentally challenged that our overloaded system has tossed to the street.

There are several people in my mind's eye causing this strain of thought. One in particular who is not new to the streets, but was on the day she got there 30 years ago. Let me show you what I saw. First of all, I would have missed her totally without that second glance at the enclave next to the alley. Up close I recognized what caused the strange hesitation in my approach. However, caught in her gaze, I couldn't very well back up. So we stood for a moment frozen, sizing each other up. There was a

surprising strength to her fragility, which was momentarily reassuring. Her story tumbled out in a sing-song voice, in between bites of stale bagel. Thirty years outside in this heaven and this hell. Her eyes were eerily innocent and detached as she spoke of sodomy and rape, of laughter and love, like they were the same thing. She crackled but didn't cry, even when telling me about things that I have only seen in horror movies.

I, on the other hand, wept like a newly widowed woman. Later that night, safe in my solitude, it made me think that maybe sometimes insanity is a mercy. I wept for the woman she was now because the world would never get to see her specific genius, it having been scattered over the concrete streets of Portland's potential.

I ask you, isn't there some thing or a place we can make safe for people like her who no longer have a way to protect themselves? Or do we merely stand aside and watch them waste away?

**Police seek help in identifying female body**

**STAFF REPORTS**

On May 31, the remains of an unidentified female were discovered in the Willamette River. Detectives with the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office are working with the State Medical Examiner's Office in attempt to identify this person.

The sheriff's office is requesting the public's help in identifying this person: female, possibly Caucasian; age approximately 50-60; height approximately 5'3"; graying hair with 12" braid in back of head

She was wearing a blue hooded sweat shirt with white and light-blue ribbing at the neck and sleeves.

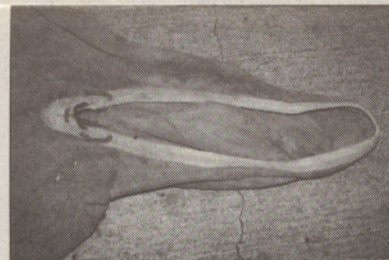
The woman was also wearing identifying jewelry, shown at right.

This person had been in the river for at least six months and could have been in the river for up to a year or more.

If you have information concerning the identify of this person call the TIP Line, 503 261-2847, and reference MCSO Case #09-403791.



Above and right, personal items from a body found in the Willamette River. The police are hoping someone can identify the person to whom the items belong.




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Kevin Bynum: Street Roots vendor and guitarist seeks to exchange an honest days work for a decent-playing, acoustic guitar. Call Street Roots at 503-228-5657 or Kevin at 206-888-9336.

Bill Atkinson: Yard work, moving, misc. Four-hour minimum, \$10 an hour. Call Street Roots office at 503-228-5657.

Vicki Sittinghawk: House cleaning, very thorough. References. Call 503-287-4174.

Bruce Heino: Available for yard work, general assistance, four-hour minimum, wage negotiable. Please call the Street Roots office or contact New Seasons at 33rd and Killingsworth.

Dan & Donna: Need odd jobs? Can do painting, yardwork, miscellaneous labor. Very dependable. Call the Street Roots office at 503-228-5657, 503 267-4794.

Handy man needs work: moving, painting, yard work, clean-up. If I can sweat and you can be doing something else, please call me at 503-803-2533.

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