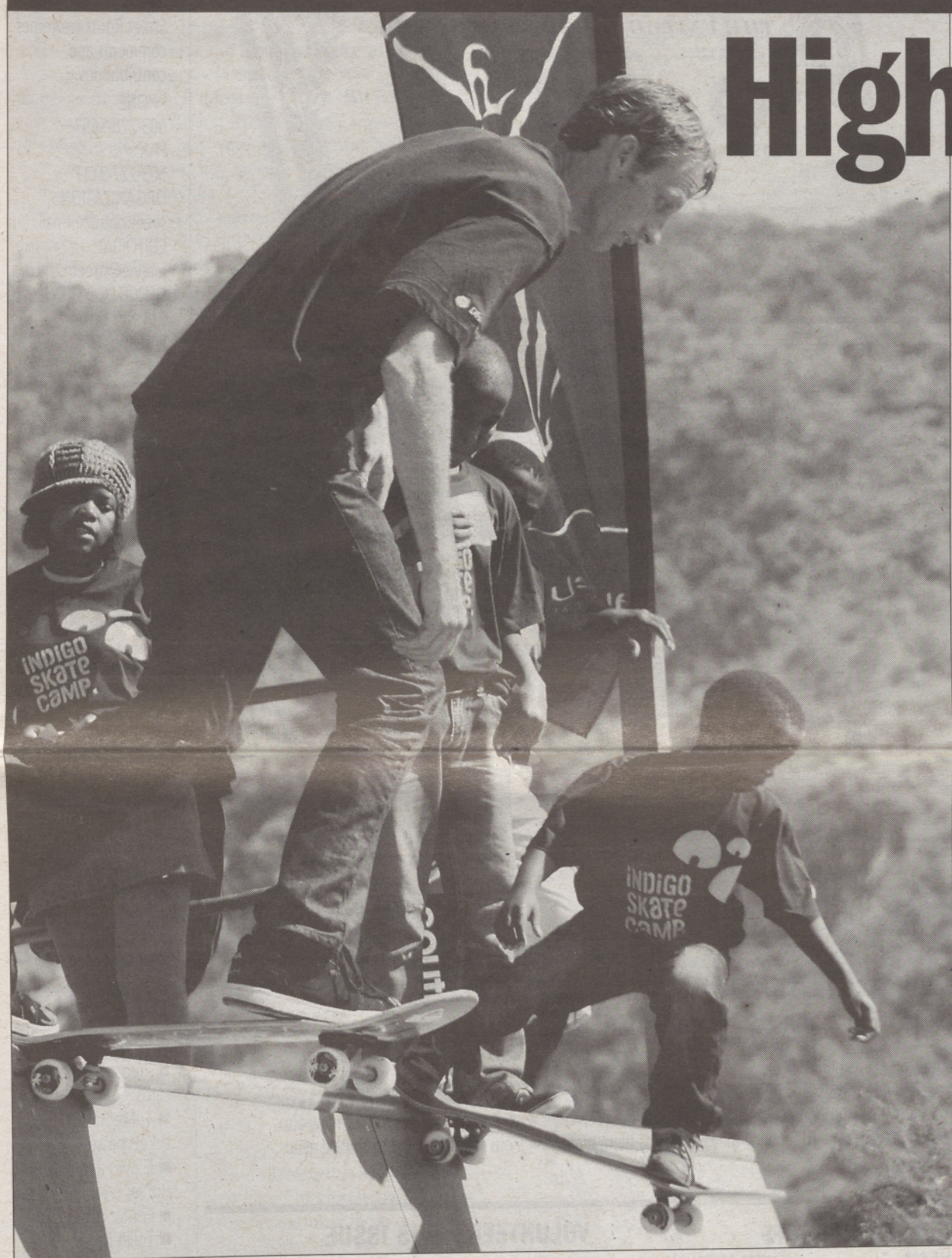
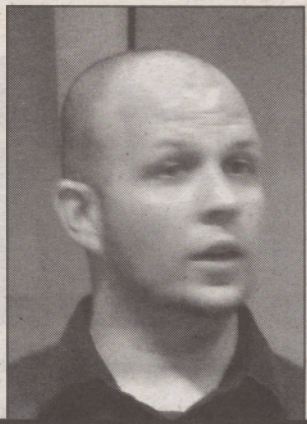


THE BEGGARS GO TO THE OPERA

Stephen Marc Beaudoin
weaves Portland's rich tapestry
into a classic musical

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High-flying Hawk

Skateboard phenom Tony Hawk twists, turns and soars with South African youths

BY JEREMY SAMSON
STREET NEWS SERVICE

CAPE TOWN, South Africa —

The 900 is an amazing maneuver that involves two-and-a-half full rotations while completely airborne off the edge of a vertical ramp.

A few select skaters had done the 720, but the next step — the 900 — remained frustratingly unattainable. Either the skaters failed to complete the rotations or they landed with the board shooting out from underneath them. Some argued that the move was impossible.

The 1999 X Games changed that.

A lanky professional skater, with time remaining in his repertoire, decided to give it one more try.

Building up speed by sweeping up and down the ramp, he took to the air. Tucking in his body and grabbing his knees, he swiftly spun around as he had attempted many times before. But this time something was different—he executed it perfectly and with absolute precision. A roar erupted from the packed stadium as he landed and skated away with his arms raised. Skating had a new master: Tony Hawk, and this was his — and the sport's — defining moment.

Some people view skateboarding as a fringe sport practiced by teenagers who, unable to conform to society's norms, seek entertainment by harassing pedestrians in the urban landscape they use as a prop for their reckless activity. Nothing could be further from the truth and no person better contradicts that outdated view than Tony Hawk — skating's best ambassador and known to many as the "Birdman."

Clean-cut and unassuming, his humble

See HAWK, page 11

With winter coming, the city explores where people can sleep - legally

While the city conducts talks on alternatives for people on the streets, campers converge outside

BY AMANDA WALDROUPE
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Just as the city of Portland, service providers and advocates are seeking ways to allow homeless individuals without access to shelter get a decent night's sleep, a group of individuals has begun camping outside of City Hall, reminiscent of a three-week protest in May 2008.

Gathering outside of Mercy Corps' Action Center near Skidmore Fountain on Sept. 28, a group of 20 homeless individuals signed a code of conduct, agreeing to not use drugs or alcohol, pick up after themselves and to respect others. Once they were all signed, they took the MAX to City Hall and set up their camping gear to sleep there during the night.

Organized by Art Rios, who was formerly homeless and has been involved with Sisters of the Road's Civic Action Group, the group is camping outside of City Hall during the night for the same

reasons, Rio says, that homeless people protested for three weeks outside of City Hall in 2008.

"Get the anti-camping ordinance suspended," he says. "It's about coming to a safe place to sleep for eight hours. We just want a campsite that's safe."

A statement released by Rios calls for the creation of safe places for tent cities, campsites and shelter before the weather turns cold.

"They (the city) need to open up more shelters and they know that, but we can show them they need to move it a little quicker," says Chris Shields, 47, a homeless person who was part of the group sleeping outside of City Hall.

In the last few months, the Portland Housing Bureau and members of the Coordinating Committee to End Homelessness, the committee of Portland Housing Bureau members, advocates, and nonprofit service providers that oversee and implement the City's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness have been considering ways that

might address Rios' and the camper's concerns.

An informal committee calling itself the Alternative Workgroup, convened by Sally Erickson, the manager of the Portland Housing Bureau's Ending Homelessness Initiative, has met three times during the past two months, with a narrow focus: think of ways that homeless people who camp outside, either willfully or because they cannot get into shelter, can sleep through the night safely. The work group includes representatives from Sisters of the Road, Street Roots, and several people experiencing homelessness, including Street Roots' vendor Leo Rhodes.

"It's in all of our interests that everyone is able to stay warm and healthy," says Marc Jolin, the executive director of the outreach agency JOIN, who is a member of the Coordinating Committee and the Alternatives Workgroup. "If they can't get

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