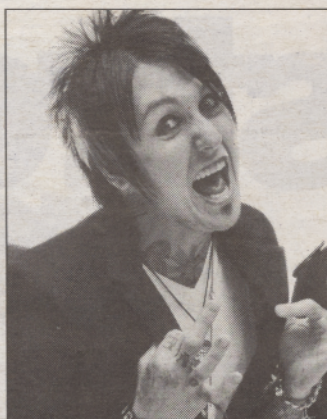


'NORMAL BLUE-COLLAR AMERICANS'

*Papa Roach and the Sacramento
 homeless experience*
 Page 5



Where the grass is always greener

*World travel host Rick Steves talks
 about traveling as a political act
 and how it reflects on his views of
 the country he calls home*

BY ROSETTE ROYALE
 STREET NEWS SERVICE

"I've been to paradise," a line from an '80s pop song goes, "but I've never been to me." In a strange way, travel guru Rick Steves has been to a paradise, too, but he's found that the best places to visit, the ones where you learn the most about yourself, are those where you connect with the locals.

Steves should know. For decades, he's been bopping around the globe — Spain, Italy, France, Turkey — having adventures that have led him outside the bubble of resort hotels and into a deeper understanding of the world we inhabit. And while most people know him through his PBS show, "Rick Steves: Europe through the Back Door," his globetrotting isn't merely Euro-centric. He's not afraid to step foot in non-touristy, non-Western locales, such as El Salvador or Nicaragua. He ventures to these destinations — the ones that travel companies rarely recommend — because he believes that within the travel experience, there exists a chance to become politically engaged with the world. It's a notion reflected on his blog, "Travel as a Political Act."

His political side extends past the borders of international travel. An unrepentant social activist, Steves, who was born in Edmonds, Wash., has worked to bring attention to homelessness and is an outspoken proponent of marijuana reform. All of which means he's a busy man with a lot of opinions,

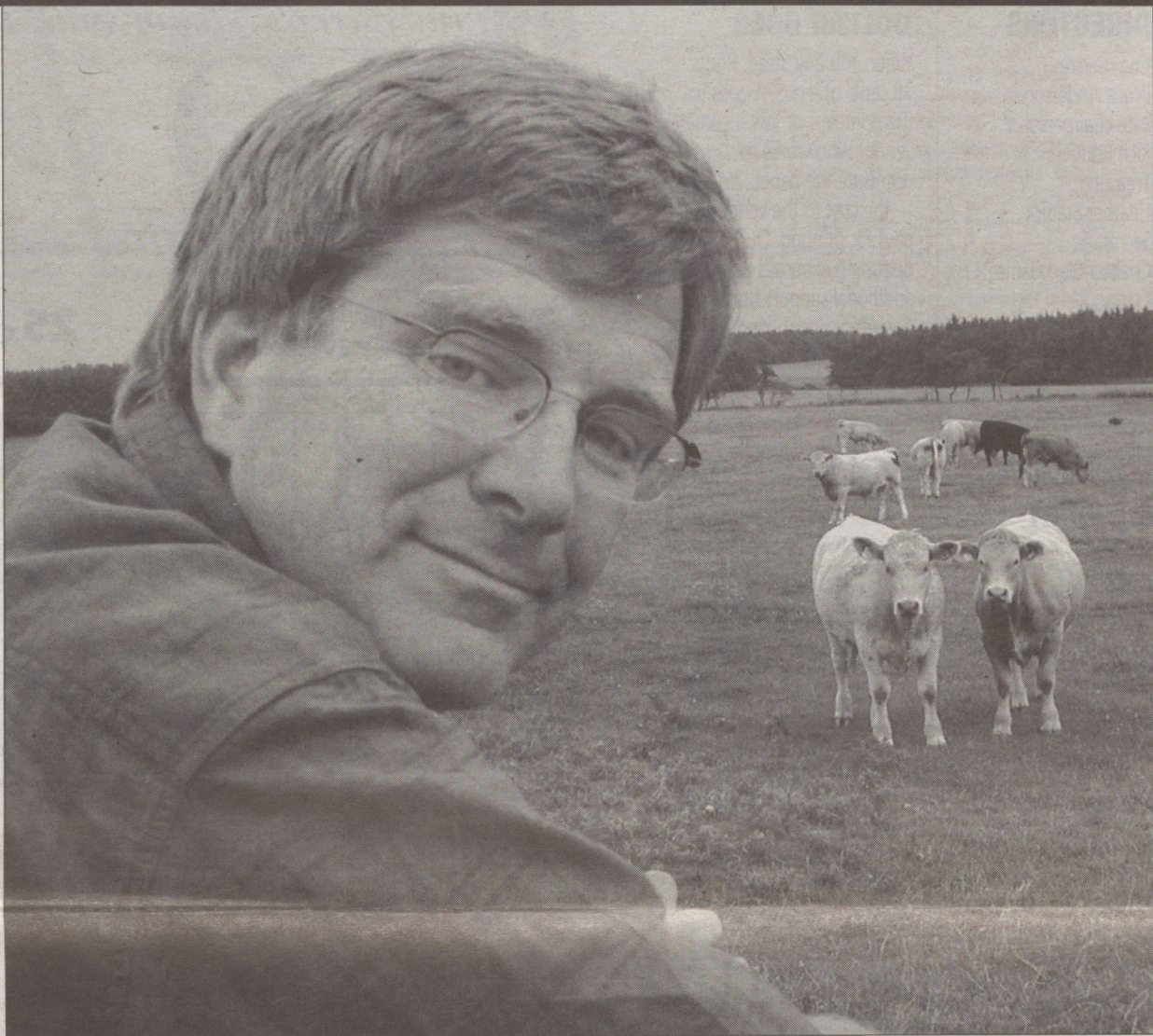


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Rick Steves, shown here in Great Britain, has documented his travels for 30 years with both entertainment and political intentions.

Steves, in between travels, spoke about what travel can offer, his observations of some Iranian girls, the rise of the megalopolis, his very first trip and the first time he got high.

Rosette Royale: First question, really basic: Why do people travel?

Rick Steves: Well, the famous quote is: "Living on this planet and not traveling is like having a great book and never turning the page." Travel carbonates your life; it challenges truths you were raised thinking were God-given; it lets you empathize better with people's struggles; and it lets you know there are other ways of thinking, so you're less self-assured in the way you look at life. And I find that

humbling and exciting.

R.R.: Do you think it's the same to travel across town or across the state, as opposed to going to another country?

R.S.: Well, in a sense, traveling is meeting people. So you can travel around the world and not meet people and you haven't done much traveling. Or you can travel across town and talk to people you wouldn't otherwise, and you could argue that that's valuable travel. I just really like the people aspect of travel.

R.R.: I guess it's a Western perception that you

"I like to travel in a way that makes me a better citizen of the planet."

See GRASS, page 12

Two honored for work to end domestic violence

*City moves
 closer to
 consolidating
 victim services
 into one-stop
 center*

BY AMANDA WALDROUPE
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

When the City Council meets Oct. 21, it is expected to approve an agreement with Multnomah County that will be one of the last hurdles to creating a "one stop" center for victims of domestic violence.

The City Council is expected to approve an intergovernmental agreement between the city and Multnomah County to lease a building owned by Multnomah County that will be the location for the center.

Now being dubbed "the Gateway Center" by domestic-violence service workers and advocates, because it will be located near 122nd Avenue and East Burnside, the center will offer an array of services, including shelter, emergency food and clothing, child care and legal resources.

"It's the realization of a long vision," says Kris Billhardt, the director of Volunteers of America's Home Free program, which provides emergency

Read the interview with Janet Buckmaster, one of two recipients of the Judge Herrell Award for Outstanding Collaborative Efforts to End Family Violence, on page 7.

and transitional services for victims of domestic violence.

On Oct. 9, during the awarding of the Judge Herrell Award for Outstanding Collaborative Efforts to End Family Violence, Billhardt looked forward to the opening of the Gateway Center in 2010, while also not forgetting the effect the recession has had on people who try to stop domestic violence, as well as those who suffer from it.

"How many stayed in abusive homes because they lost their jobs? How many experienced an escalation of violence because the abuser lost his

job?" Billhardt asked during her keynote speech.

According to figures collected by the Portland Police Bureau, the city received 5,378 incident reports related to domestic violence this year. In 2006, there were a total of 6,000. Domestic violence accounts for 49 percent of all simple assaults in Portland.

The Judge Herrell Award is named in honor of Judge Herrell, who was a family-law judge in Multnomah County in the 1980s and an advocate for victims of domestic violence and their children.

This year, the award was given to Rachel Payton, an advocacy coordinator with Volunteer of America's Home Free program, and Janet Buckmaster, a paralegal at Legal Aid Services of Portland, and the Safe Start Team, a Gresham-based multidisciplinary group working directly with the Gresham Child Welfare Office.

Street Roots talked to Payton and Buckmaster

See TWO HONORED, page 3