



**Above:** On Sundays, their single day off from selling papers, Melissa and Sean often go to the Ananda Temple and Teaching Center for prayer and meditation. "We literally live on prayer," says Melissa, who considers herself a Taoist Christian.



**Above:** Into yoga, tai chi and martial arts, Melissa is drawn to the beauty of their techniques. Also passionate about knitting, Sean and Melissa love the meditative quality of the craft and long to make sweaters now that the leaves are changing.

**Right:** Waiting for her Social Security Disability benefits to be approved, Melissa spends her days dreaming of bike shopping, shoes that fit and a trip to the San Juan Islands. "When you are homeless, you have nothing but time."

**Below:** After leaving their first apartment, the couple find themselves at a makeshift homeless shelter on 39 acres in Cornelius. Tenants are asked to pay \$300 per month or do chores to rent a room in a privately owned home.



**About the Artist**

Leah Nash is a Portland-based photographer with a passion for documenting the everyday and the extreme, which she often finds are one and the same. She holds a master's degree in photojournalism from the University of Missouri and in 2004 was awarded a Fulbright Grant to photograph the AIDS crisis in India.

Throughout the years, she has received the Marty Forscher Fellowship for Humanistic Photography, the NPPA Kit C.

King Scholarship and has been honored by PDN, the Magenta Foundation, the Eddie Adams Workshop and by CPOYi.

Her clients include Newsweek, Mother Jones, GEO Magazine, The Fader, The New York Times, Der Spiegel, Stern, The Washington Post and local publications including Street Roots, The Oregonian, Oregon Business Magazine and Portland Monthly.

More of her work can be viewed at [www.LeahNash.com](http://www.LeahNash.com).