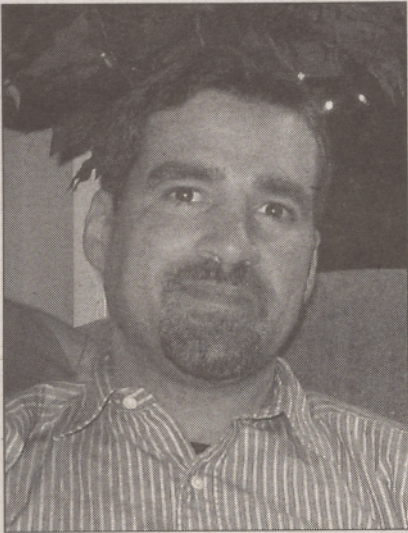


OBITUARY

**Nick Gefroh**

Nov. 4, 1969-Feb. 22, 2011

Nicholas Allen Gefroh, 41, a former vendor and volunteer with Street Roots, passed away on Feb. 22.

Nick grew up in Estacada and went on to attend LaSalle High School in Milwaukie where he was active in sports, including football, basketball and baseball. He graduated in 1988 and later moved to Eugene where he attended Lane Community College. Nick grew to become an avid fan of the Oregon Ducks, the Trail Blazers and the New York Mets.

He was a Street Roots vendor for many years and an occasional contributor to its content. In 2007, Nick met Treana Remillard and moved with her to the Cannon Beach area, where they lived until his death resulting from a longtime struggle with substance abuse.

Survivors include his mother Susan and her husband Jack Folliard; father Paul Gefroh and his wife, Madeline; brother Brian Gefroh (Julie Pitts); sister Kate Gefroh (Paul Ater); nephews Peter and Dominic Gefroh; niece Alison Ater; nine step-siblings from the Hasibar and Folliard families; 10 step-nieces and -nephews; and companion Treana Remillard. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 3, 2011, in St. Ignatius Catholic Church, 3400 S.E. 43rd Ave. (at Powell Blvd.) In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Street Roots, www.streetroots.org, or the Downtown Chapel, www.downtownchapel.org.

A special thanks to Walgreens on 39th and Belmont

I would really like to thank the management and staff of the Walgreens store at 39th and Belmont for letting me sell my papers there. And to all the customers for their continued support of the Street Roots paper.

The helpfulness and kindness from everybody is very much appreciated. I look forward to seeing you all every day.

I hope that I've helped put smiles on all your faces, because you've certainly put one on mine. It makes my day brighter. Thank you again for all your support.

Your Street Roots vendor,
Jeffery Mc.

If you've missed a copy of Street Roots, check with your local vendor or stop by the Street Roots office at 211 NW Davis St. Or read up on past stories and comments at www.streetroots.wordpress.com.

No frills, but an honest pitch

BY KAISA MCCROW
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Jeremy, more often known as Ogre, sells Street Roots outside of Powell's City of Books during the day. His name doesn't immediately seem to fit him, he is neither loud, aggressive, or in any typical sense "Ogre-like." The name originated in a different time of life in New Orleans, when

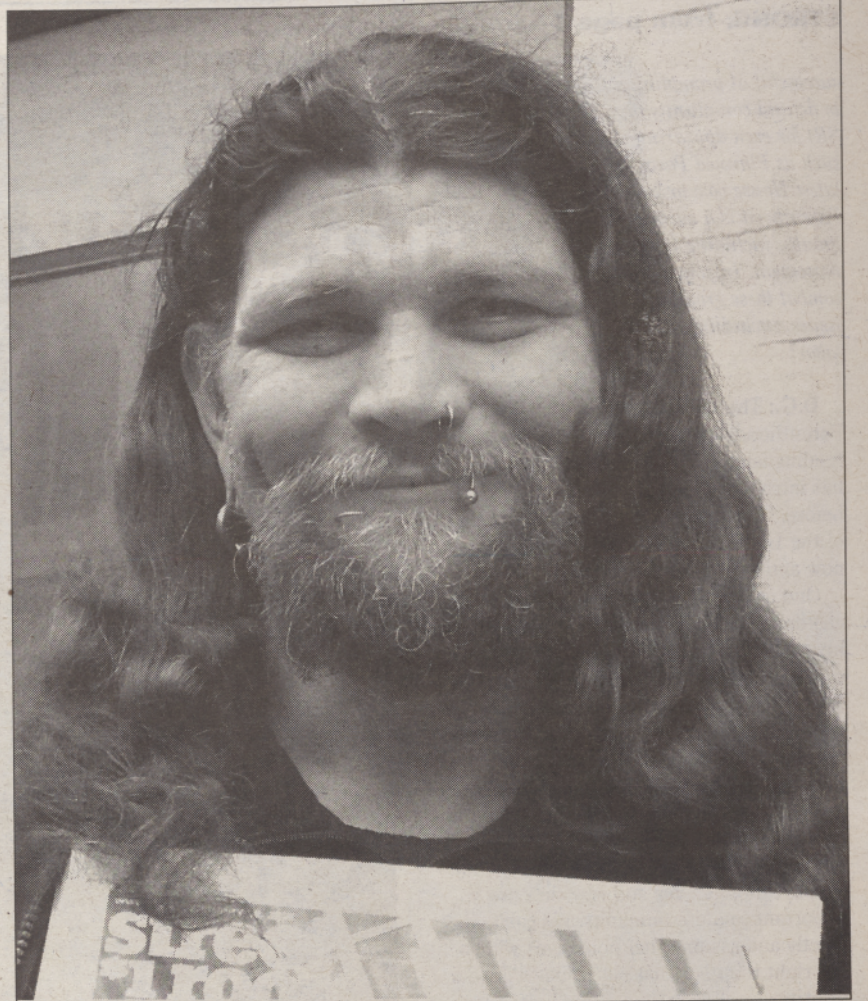
VENDOR PROFILE *Jeremy*

he weighed 180 lbs more than he does now and was more likely to find himself in a confrontation. That life may be behind him, but the nickname has adapted. Possibly it is because he grew up within a biker culture, where nicknames were typical. He is comfortable with both his given name and the name he has acquired. It is, in fact, "Ogre" printed on his vendor badge.

Working outside of Powell's is a great location — heavily trafficked, and with a diverse population moving in and out of the bookstore and potentially buying papers. More than that, for Jeremy, it is home. With his backpack in tow, he spends most of his time in the downtown core. Prior to becoming a vendor, this is where Jeremy stood to panhandle. Originally, he butted heads with other vendors at the location, but eventually took an if-you-can't-beat-'em, join-'em approach and became a vendor himself.

It's a move that's paid off.

"People tend to actually want to talk to me more since I've been selling Street Roots. They are more likely to interact with me than when I was panhandling. Part of it is that they can see that I am actually trying to make something better of myself. I am actually trying to take the steps ... to get a job, to get indoors."



Jeremy isn't all that concerned with what other people think. His motto is more of the "live and let live" variety, which isn't a negative ambivalence, but more of a rationale learned from experience. At this point in his life he stays busy taking care of himself and keeping out of trouble. His formula is simple: idle time is a recipe for trouble and keeping busy and dedicated is the best medicine.

Having grown up with a lot of physical and emotional abuse, he reflects that for much of his early adult life he was conditioned to view himself and treat himself just as abusively. The recognition that he will only be as successful as he believes himself to be took years to realize, but now he makes it his practice.

Jeremy left his home in Texas at 17, hitchhiking and living in different parts of the country. For the past few years, he has lived in Portland. Now 34, Jeremy dons long hair, facial piercings, and the look of someone who has been a few places in this life and has some good stories.

Like the stories of his piercings. The way he describes the metal adornments that he wears on his face and ears is deeply personal — a physical representation of healing. He describes needlework, both

piercings and tattoos, as an outlet. Significant to the experience is both the acute pain of the needle as well as the physical healing that takes place afterwards. It is an intense and deliberate process, both experiencing the act and the necessity to care for oneself through the bodily repair that comes next. He says it serves as a reminder to take care of himself both physically and emotionally in multiple parts of his life.

When Jeremy sells Street Roots, he offers it to his patrons with no frills. He hates a scam. Of the various jobs he has held, he had the most disregard for his time as a telemarketer, which he felt was a scam to the core. As a result, he takes a straightforward approach to selling papers. He values the honesty that results from a candid method. His take is that he's offering people an option to read and learn something valuable, as well as a chance to help someone make a living. If people are into that, great, if not, no worries. He's had enough of people forcing their opinions and beliefs on him in his lifetime and that is the last thing that he wants to do to anyone else. He's done his part by being honest about what he has to offer.

VENDOR WORK ADS

Cassidy Morse: Looking for work. Will do most anything, light and heavy. \$10 an hour, four hour minimum. References supplied. Please call 503-224-5398 or Street Roots at 503-228-5657.

Pete Marshall W. and Julie W.: Pleasant mannered and experienced at labor. Odd jobs. Yard work speciality. Repairing household losses. Pay back huge debts.

Leave call back number and detailed message: 503-946-3959, or Street Roots, 503-228-5657.

Vincent Bartlett: Laborer for hire, any type of work — painting, yardwork, moving, handyman, light or heavy. Honest and dependable. Call Street Roots at 503-228-5657 and leave message for Vincent.

**Changing Lives****Building Communities****Creating Opportunities**

www.centralcityconcern.org
503-294-1681



For just \$5 a month, you can help support Portland's only street paper and homeless and low-income vendor program. Learn how to set up an easy and safe recurring donation at www.streetroots.com.