

**Addict**

By Jason

Your not the same person  
 How much have we fought  
 Your not the person you sold  
 Not the same one that I bought  
 You were fine at first  
 Then you turned sour  
 You gave your soul to the devil  
 Your soul he will devour  
 Your personality has changed  
 You steal from friends and family  
 You used to be funny  
 You are your own worst enemy  
 Dreams have turned to nightmares  
 Your destiny awaits  
 But be prepared to suffer  
 A most undesirable fate  
 But I'm here to tell you  
 There still is a chance  
 To set yourself free  
 With the devil you don't have to dance  
 It's your time to flourish  
 But don't be late  
 You have the key  
 Now go open the gate

## Dancing on Belmont with the hottest news in town

BY KAISA MCCROW  
 CONTRIBUTING WRITER

The Walgreen's on Southeast Belmont sits on the east side of 39th. The busy road becomes a heavily car-trafficked cut-off from the bars, shops, and foot traffic west of there. It's quiet in the warm morning sun, and Street Roots vendor Jeffrey McCall steps in and out of the sun, taking shade under the covered area of the store entrance. After six months of working this spot, he has built a comfortable relationship with Walgreen's, so standing on the property is permitted in his case, a nice relief for summer days. He shifts his weight back and forth, foot-to-foot, bouncing in and out of the shade in a slow, repetitive rhythm. One of his regulars dubbed him "the dancer," because of this constant motion, an unconscious habit formed to alleviate the strain of a life spent working on his feet. On this hot summer morning, he seems to be swaying to the pace of the July day.

He says that he doesn't feel all that removed from the crowds on Belmont and Hawthorne on this side of 39th. In fact, he has pretty steady business, a slew of regular

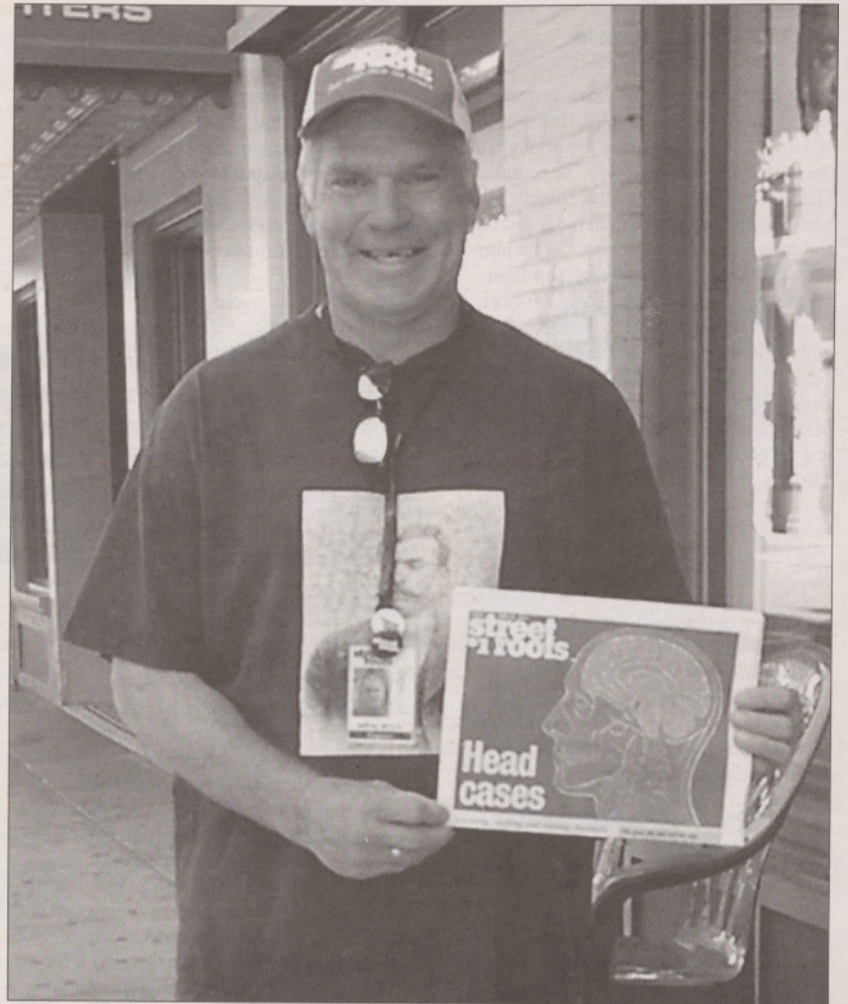


PHOTO BY BECKY MULLINS

**VENDOR PROFILE***Jeffrey McCall*

cliente, and a great relationship with the staff and management at Walgreen's. He has friends in this part of southeast, and the area has grown into something of a niche for him and others. In the course of our conversation, two Street Roots vendors stop by, (one of them is the vendor who first connected Jeffrey to Street Roots) and invites him to a 4th of July barbecue. We also chat at length with Steve, a regular from the neighborhood, who regaled us with jokes and stories of his military days.

Regulars have routinely approached Jeffrey to ask what his story is. Many are simply curious, but others are looking for someone with whom to share their own experiences, for someone to relate to them. It seems that folks everywhere have fallen on hard times, and Jeffrey looks like just the kind of guy to approach to chat about it.

With his Street Roots baseball cap and tan from standing in the sun, Jeffrey has the look of a baseball coach or some other easily approachable community figure.

He is happy to share his story to those that ask. He enjoys the constant interaction with people that this work affords him, and says that he would still come out on the weekends to sell Street Roots were he to find a full time job; he likes the people that much.

Born and raised in Canby, Jeffrey made his way to Portland through his time playing college baseball at Clackamas Community College. He played shortstop and center field. Eventually he began working in ship repair yards, and spent 20 years with a sandblasting and painting company. It was job-to-job style work, but consistent, and a good living. In 2008, like so many other jobs in the nation, work began to dry up. Jeffrey eventually joined one of the common narratives of the recession and found himself jobless. Nearing 50, he found it hard to get new work when most companies were hiring younger workers in their early 20s to do the jobs that were still available. For a

while he lived back in Canby, then Gresham, eventually moving back to Portland and starting his Street Roots gig. He says it was Street Roots that began to pull him out of the "stupor" that he lived in for the first years immediately following his job loss.

It isn't hard to observe the years of hard work that are worn on Jeffrey's body. His foot-to-foot shuffle, the tan from hours in the sun, the fact that he's still out working everyday. "Everybody's gotta hustle," he declares. He seems to respect the hustle, the will to do whatever it takes. "I've got friends that are doing cans and bottles every night. They are doing it 7 days a week. That's their gig." Reflecting on the last six months, he challenges the idea that falling on hard times necessarily equals doom. "I may be homeless," he argues, "but I'm still surviving."

For now, he's found himself in a routine that works. Recently he took a few weeks off from selling the paper for a landscaping job, and was surprised by the response: People missed him. They worried he wasn't coming back and they didn't like it. It was a positive affirmation of his place in the community.

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Want to know a little more about your vendor? Check out [www.streetroots.wordpress.com](http://www.streetroots.wordpress.com) for past articles about the men and women selling Street Roots!

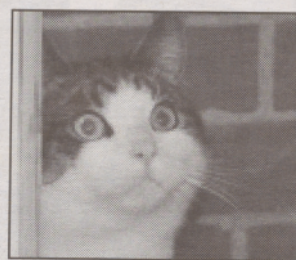
**VENDOR WORK ADS**

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.

Chelsea Benedict: Painting service, interior/exterior house painting. Also specializing in custom mural artwork. Please e-mail at [crbenedictmurals@gmail.com](mailto:crbenedictmurals@gmail.com) or by phone

at 971-255-0440 to speak with Chelsea Benedict. Two-person team also available for hire for general labor (moving, house cleaning, yardwork, small home repairs). Ready to work immediately.

Laura Owens: Dog walker, \$5 per half-hour walk. Downtown and Northeast area. Please call Street Roots, 503-228-5657 and leave a message for Laura.



Office Cat Rooty sends a big thank you to all the folks who made special donations toward gear for the vendors. Look for the bright red jackets and hats throughout Portland!