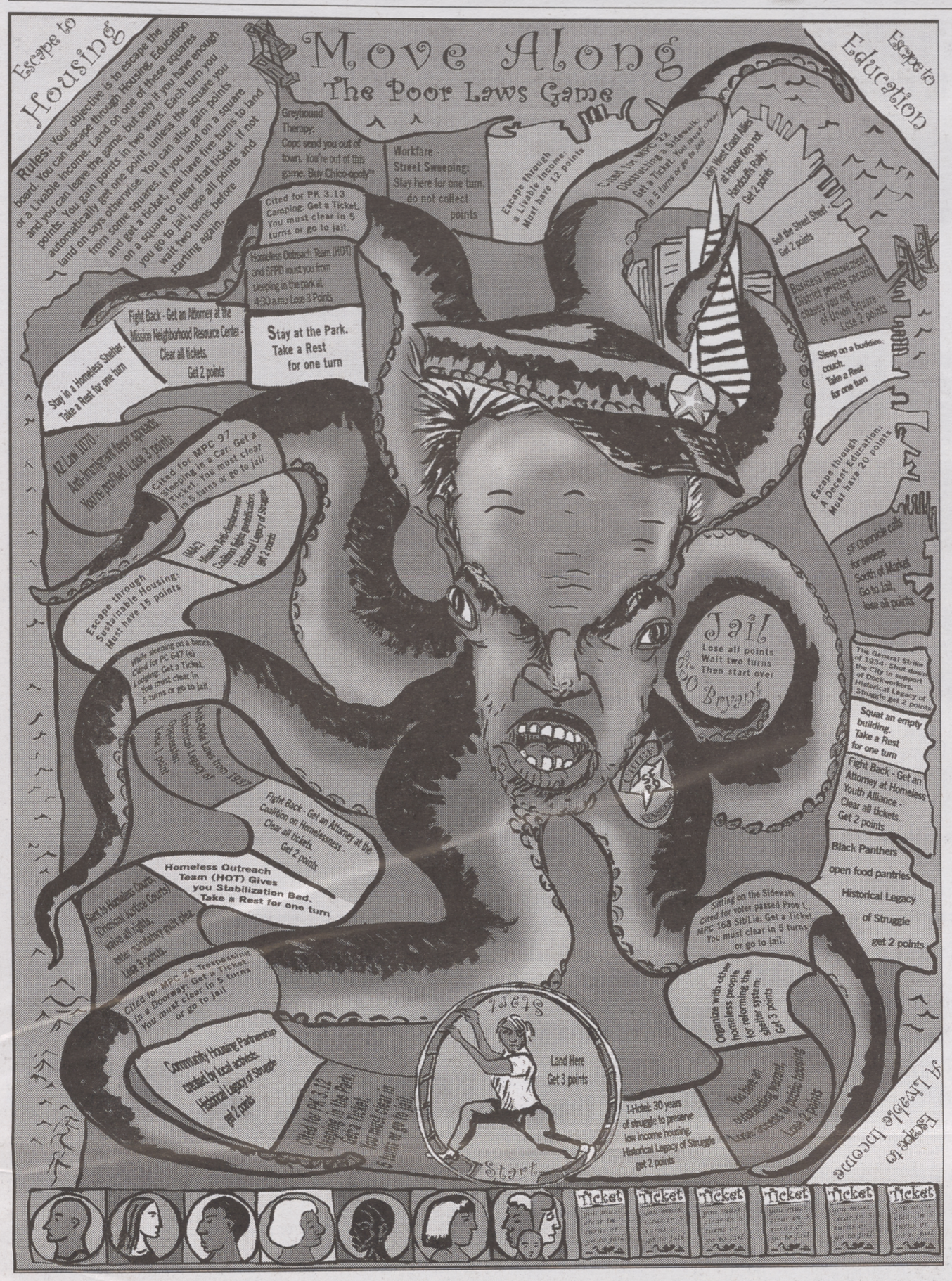


BY SOLARA MCFARLAND
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

I still remember the bridge that we used to sleep under. It had a bunch of large boulders on one side and a steep incline that led up to a small flat spot under the overpass that we could sleep under and stay out of the rain and drizzle. Most people don't know that even in the fall and spring when it is not raining there is still cold mist at night and everything gets wet.

I remember the cold that would creep up from the cement and rise up into my bones and I would feel so weary and shaky. I swore up and down that that concrete made my bones hard and brittle far before their time. It is the worst right around 4 o'clock in the morning when you wake up praying for the sun to come up just so your bones stop hurting so bad. I was a skinny little thing and would shake and tremble all night long, my teeth chattering in my skull and my stomach in knots. I would roll up in pieces of discarded carpet as insulation. People look at you with mean eyes when you live on the street. Like they wish you were never born – like they're embarrassed for you. I learned to keep my eyes down so as not to cause people embarrassment by meeting them eye to eye as they walked by wearing slacks and carrying briefcases. When you learn to keep your eyes down you learn shame. This is how I learned shame. I was 17 years old.

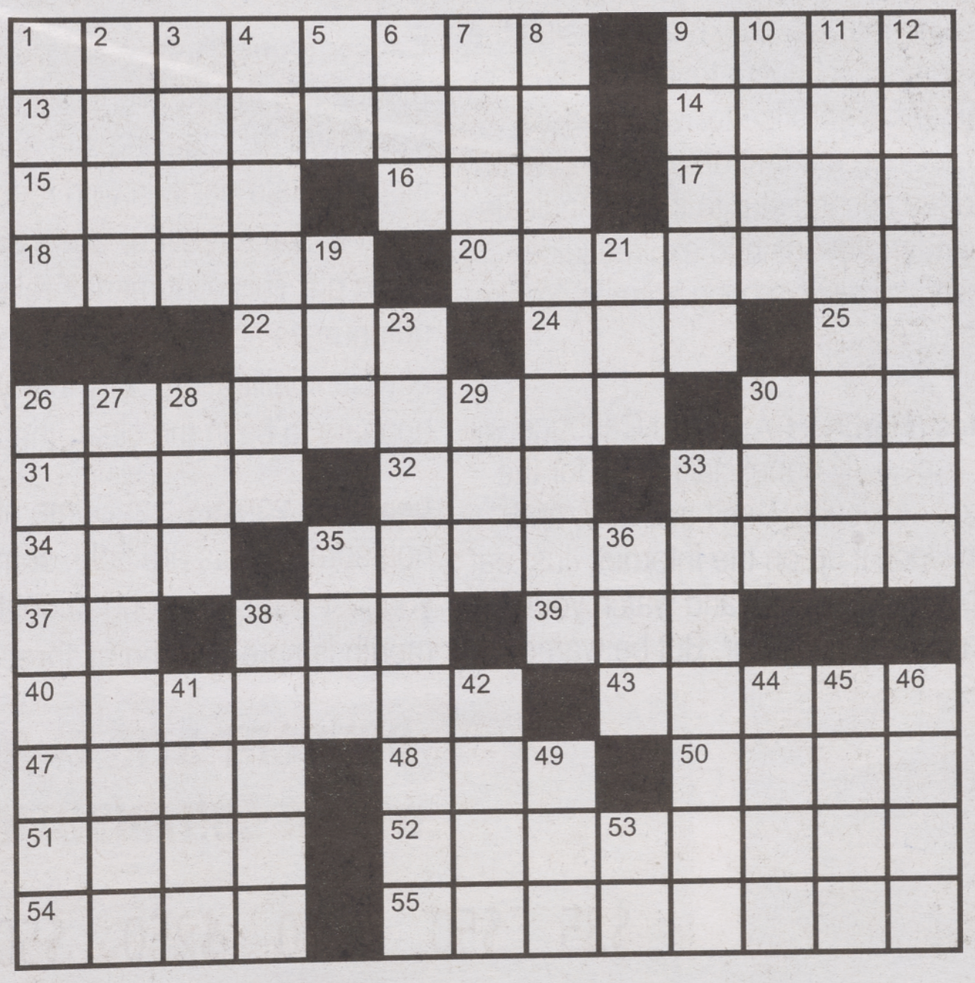
Here I am now. 33 years old, wearing heels and slacks, and walking toward my office where I work in Southeast Portland. I stop and talk to folks on the street, and I smile with my eyes and my mouth so maybe they are surprised enough to forget that bitterness and shame for a minute. They are happy when they are reminded that they too are worthy human beings. I buy bagels and tea for people and sometimes sit down on the sidewalk and chat with my fellow human beings. I like to hear people's stories. The concrete feels good when it's hot outside. I forgot about that.

PUZZLES

By Kara Dimitruk

Answers on page 6

Crossword



Across

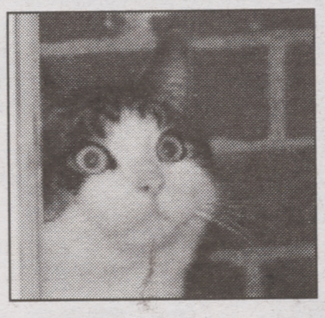
1. Epithet for male singers from the 1920s to the 1960s
9. Concert array
13. Sensible
14. Copter's forerunner
15. Seed coat
16. It's spotted in casinos
17. Salacious glance
18. Not well-groomed
20. Self or civil ender
22. Boy toy?
24. Hobby shop buy
25. Unit of measurement, abbr.
26. Ancient technique for decorating metalwork objects
30. Pop-ups, e.g.
31. Like some meat
32. Observe
33. Cracker topper
34. Appear
35. Sockeye or blueback
37. Department in an office, abbr.
38. Employment
39. Health resort
40. Prone to frequent change
43. Emperor of Russia until 1917
47. Saudi, e.g.
48. Baseball stat
50. Twelfth month of the Jewish civil year
51. Adopted son of Claudius
52. To preserve or cherish as something sacred
54. Gait between walk and canter
55. Ceased and _____

Down
1. Study for finals
2. Pink, as a steak
3. Singer Redding
4. Waterproofed cloth often worn by sailors
5. Nay
6. It may be living or dead
7. Police action
8. The quality of being well-groomed and neatly tailored
9. Lace tip
10. Demeanor
11. A fortified base in Santa Barbara
12. President John F. Kennedy's special counsel, adviser and speechwriter Ted
19. "Indeed"
21. Giant syllable
23. Seats high in the bleachers
26. Plaintiff
27. Person who gives public speeches
28. Bran source
29. Beatty of "Deliverance"
30. Chair part
33. Portland's basketball team, sans Trail
35. Mug
36. Appropriate
38. Neckwear of frilling or ruffles
41. Tropical root
42. Sea eagle
44. Dismounted
45. Ancient alphabetic character
46. Musher's transport
49. Nincompoop
53. Pineapple state abbrv.

Sudoku

	4	8			6	3		
	6	2				5		
	9							
			3			4	6	
							5	7
			8	7				9
9	5	6		2				
								2
7							1	

The objective of Sudoku is to fill in all the blank squares with the correct numbers, from 1 to 9. Every row, column and square must include all digits, 1 through 9, in any order.



Office Cat Rooty sends a big thank you to the folks who donated hygiene items for our vendors. It makes a world of difference to start the day off with every hair in its place!