Coloring

By Joanna Nordness

I would cut through the reddest
Of red tape
I'd slice right on through so that
We could escape
I would chase the orange sun
Until we met
I promise I will never, ever
Let it set
I would bathe your soul
In yellow light
I would keep you burning golden
Through the night
Under the greenest canopy
I'll shelter you
Lay on the grass at dawn and
I'll kiss you with dew
And blue, that's simple
On a Summer day
The sky reflecting on the river
As I sweep you away
I'll feed you purple berries, right
Off the vine
So ripe that they're bursting
For you to be mine

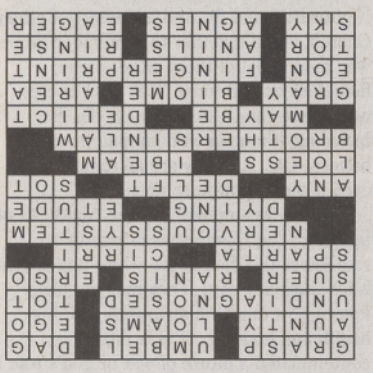
I'll love you in ultraviolet
I'll love you in infared
In black, white; that's right,
I know you heard what I said.

We
House
PDX

Transition Projects

Answers to puzzles on page 15

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



All optimism, no regrets, keep vendor's sales pitch genuine

BY ANN-DERRICK GAILLOT
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Glen Hansen sees himself as somewhat of a nomadic person, having lived all over the US, Canada and Europe (he is fluent in Danish) before settling in Portland last August.

"I don't grow roots well, so I migrate a lot," says Glen, whose travels have taken him far from his hometown of Detroit.

"I grew up listening to Motown, disco and KISS," he says. Glen admits he has found it hard to settle in one place, but he regrets nothing.

"I've lived in a lot of places, and I've met a lot of people, and I've seen a lot of different cultures and those to me are experiences that you can't buy. You know, I didn't have a two-week vacation here and there. I went to places and I lived there and met people and really became part of the culture."

VENDOR PROFILE
Glen Hansen

Despite his love of traveling, Glen has fallen in love with Portland and its people, and is now committed to building a life here. After advancing through a few different programs, he is now in vocational rehab, "trying to figure out where my strengths and weaknesses are and all that good stuff," as he puts it.

Glen has been looking hard for work, applying mostly to sales jobs, but his goal is to eventually have a job helping people in either the government or nonprofit sectors. "One of the things I've realized being on the street," he says, "Is that I'd really like something that would allow me to go to bed at night and think, 'You know what? I did good today.'"

He has been with Street Roots for the past few months and sells outside of the City Market at 21st and Johnson, a location he has stayed with because of its more easy-going atmosphere compared to other parts of downtown. He has made impressions on many a passerby with his big smile and genuine well wishes.

Glen, though, is not just a vendor, but also a huge fan of the paper itself.

"I don't sell anything I don't believe in, and I don't stand by anything I don't believe in, he says."

Indeed, Glen is working hard to find a job and eventually get into his own home.

But what this father of three is most excited about is for his daughter, whom he describes as his best friend, to be able to move up from Arizona and live with him. "Honestly," he shares with a big smile, "my ideal job would be stay-at-home dad."

Glen's genuine optimism and love for life and people are infectious, as is his determination to do good for the world. Wish him well if you see him, because if he achieves his dreams, indeed, only greater good will come from his success.

PHOTO BY COLE MERKEL

CORRECTIONS

In the April 26 edition of Street Roots, the name of Andrea Valderrama, the author of the Coalition of Communities of Color report, was mispelled.

Please report any errors to our managing editor, Joanne Zuhl, at 503-228-5657, or write to joanne@streetroots.org.

VENDOR WORK ADS

Work Wanted
Dog walker; House cleaner; Care giver. Dog lover who is honest, sober and reliable. Rate: Private treaty. Eileen V. (message) 503-228-5657

Need a worker? Can do almost anything, light or heavy. References supplied. $10 an hour. Ask for Cassidy Morse, 503-228-5657 (SR office), or 503-875-6504 (cell).

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