

Rapping with the 'Roots' on the street

By: Marlon Crump

Smile with a light. Stand.
Frown with darkness. Start walking.
Hand and Heart for you.
Stack of Roots on arm says "hi"
Eyes forward,
tongue saying I AM HERE!

Puddle in the Gutter

by Cassidy Morse

Some people like to use your life
I call it a Vulture's Reality
Well, let me say this to you
Wishing on a prayer
Is just a long-lost formality
Mumble some kind of madness
But what can you do
Pick up a stick and wave it round
Just a man chanting that voodoo
How can you care
It looks like
You're a dim witted disaster
Be a good flock
For a mindless master.

If you want to learn more about your favorite vendor, check out the past year of Street Roots profiles at news.streetroots.org

Vendor: proudly 'helping keep Portland weird'

BY ANN-DERRICK GAILLOT
STAFF WRITER

If you've shopped at the Lloyd Center Safeway during the past few months, you've probably seen George Burdine selling Street Roots outside, lifting the spirits of passersby and shoppers.

One of the first things one notices about George is his large spirit. Quick to jokes and laughter, George has made many friends, not only at the Lloyd Center Safeway, but among his fellow Street Roots colleagues as well.

VENDOR PROFILE George Burdine

Born and raised in a small coastal town in Washington, George has lived in Portland on and off for nearly a decade. "I'm helping keep Portland weird," he says with a smile.

A structural welder by trade, George has been out of work due to an injury and a competitive job market that favors technological skills.

"I don't know what I would do without Street Roots," he tells me. "I don't believe in entitlement, I want to work."

Throughout our conversation, a jovial George makes jokes about "being a homeless guy," but recounts in earnest just how differently strangers treat him since he has fallen on hard times. Despite the daily displays of prejudice, George still loves people.

"Homelessness is a day-to-day thing," he says. "That's just where I'm at right now, and I take it in stride."

A father, a grandfather, a creative, a

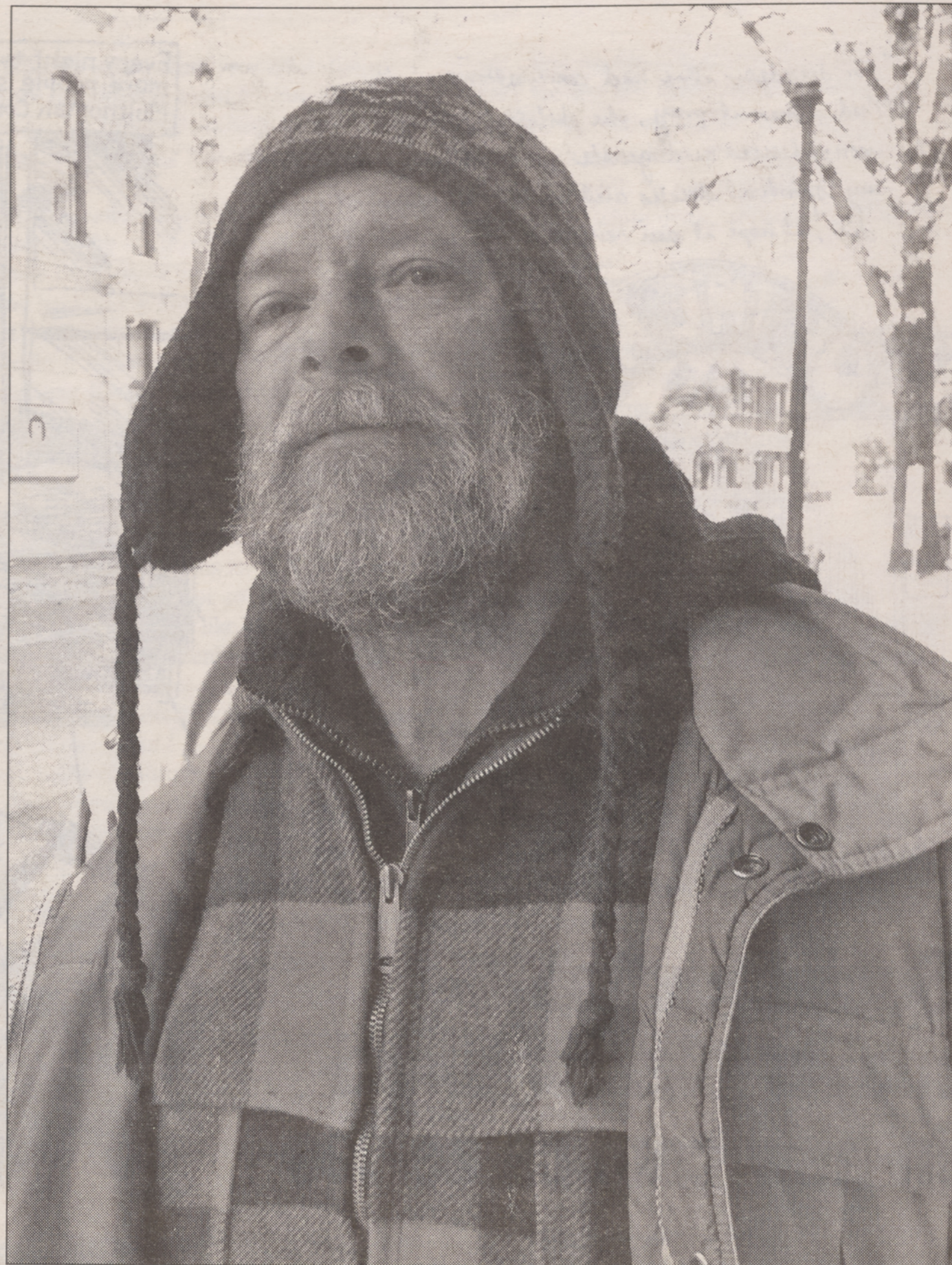


PHOTO BY COLE MERKEL

friend, George is so much more than the "homeless" label he is forced to laugh off, over and over again, every day. If you see George or any other vendor selling the paper, greeting customers as they pass by, take the chance to say hello and get to know the person behind the label. To all of his

supporters and those whom he has yet to meet, George says, "God bless everyone and make sure to buy Street Roots from a badged vendor!"

And to George I say, thank you for brightening the days of all those you meet and for all of the hard work that you do.



"CCC taught me that no one is a hopeless case. Everyone deserves a chance for recovery from addiction and homelessness... My life is now truly incredible."

Find us, and many other worthy non-profit organizations in this year's Give!Guide.



Campaign runs from November 6-December 31st.

VENDOR WORK ADS

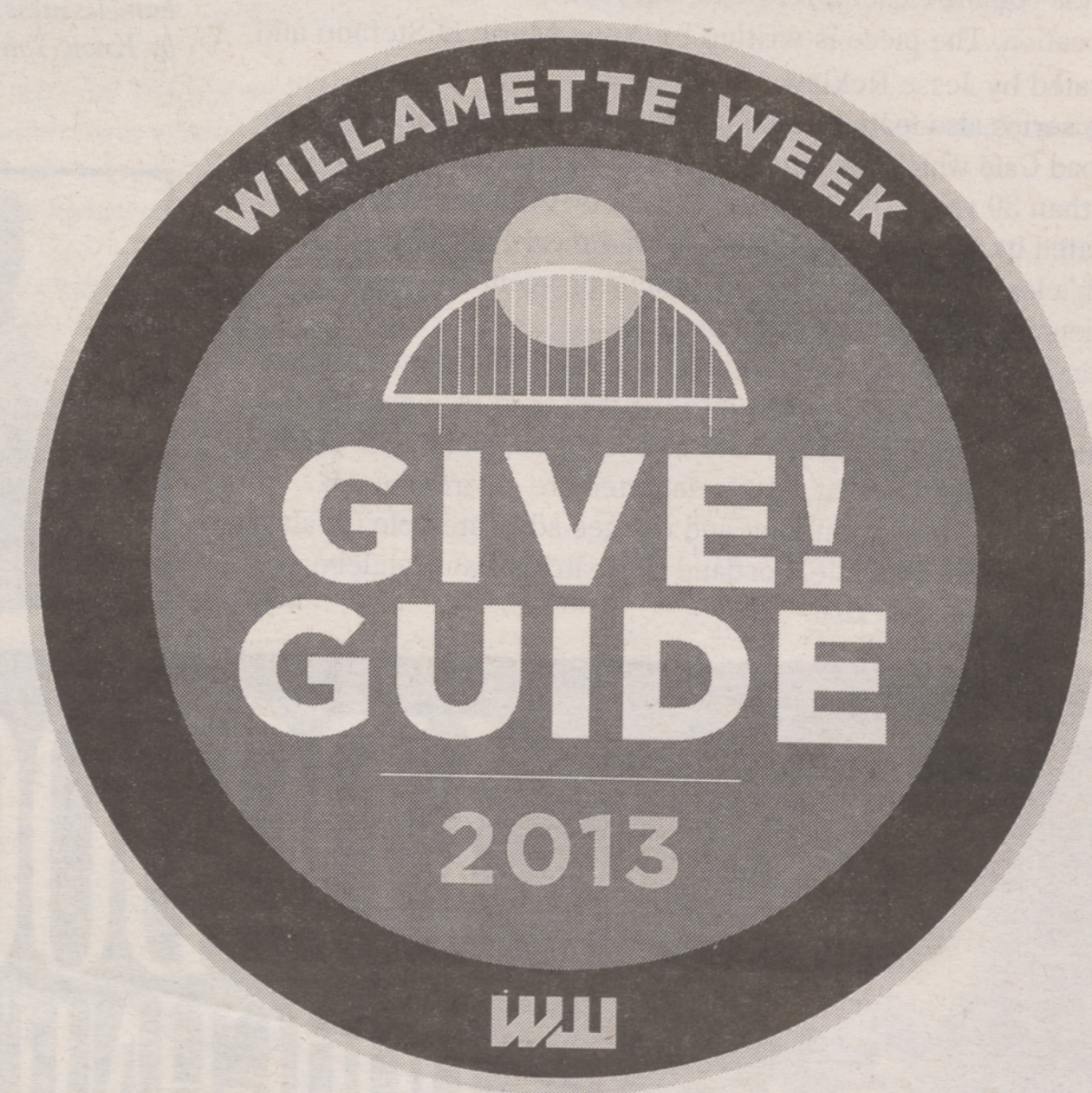
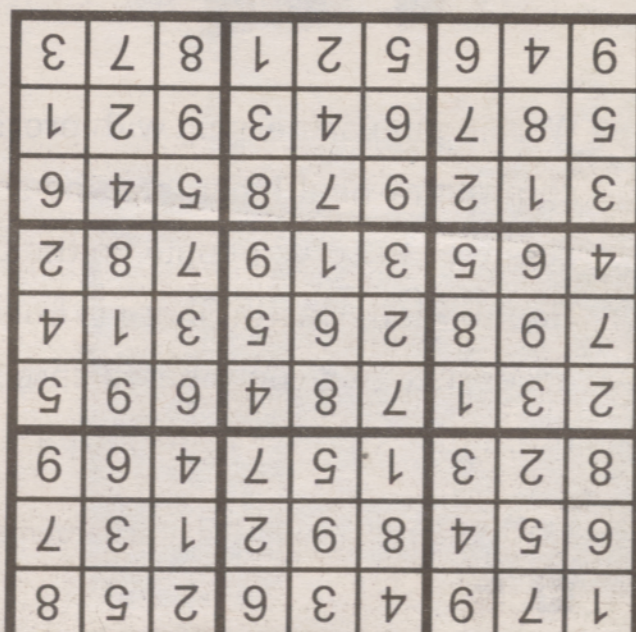
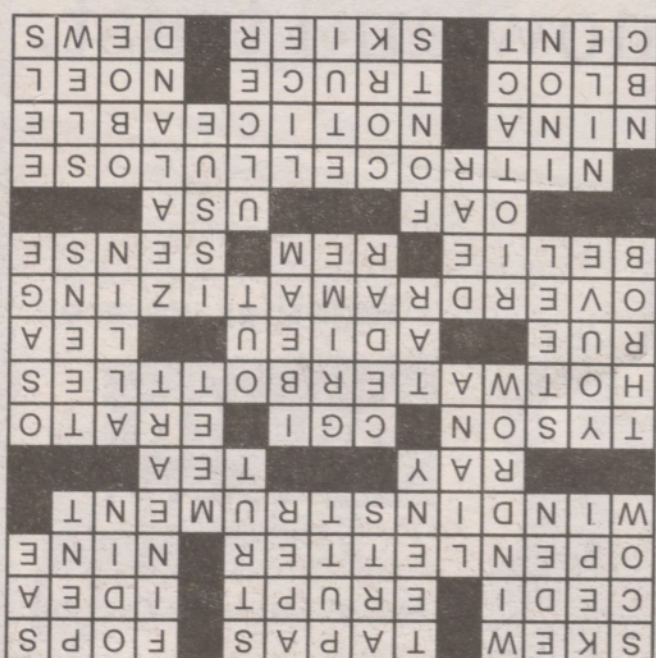
A helping hand, inside or out, reasonable rates. Larry Montgomery. 503-875-6487

Dog walker, House cleaner, caregiver. 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, four-hour min. Ask for Cassidy Morse, 503-228-5657 (SR office), or 503-875-6504 (cell).

Missed a back issue? Check with your vendor, or visit us online at news.streetroots.org

Answers to puzzles on page 15



Help Street Roots go weekly! When you give through the Give!Guide this year — you'll receive some great incentives in return, including an advanced digital copy of I Am Not a Poet, a 15-year poetry anthology that will be published in February.

Give at www.give!guide.com