

The Sacred and the Profane

By Grace Badik

The sacred and the profane
 What an accurate description for 211 NW Davis
 The sacredness that happens there—
 Community, connection, coffee, conversation, laughter
 and tears
 And the profanity
 Ugly faces, smells and words at times
 Subsurface hostility, anger, pain
 Both exist — side by side — a complimentary duality,
 Even a microcosm of life
 I am buoyed by what I witness as well as disgusted
 It expands beyond the office into the streets of Old Town
 The sacredness of the natural world alongside the
 profanity of the human one
 On one corner, a young child and her mother,
 And on the other, a prostitute and her pimp
 Drug fueled anger producing a cleansing torrent of truth
 Somehow amongst the haze of booze and meth
 Comes moments of lucidity and light
 “Let’s share a drink.” “Can I have a smoke?” are vessels
 for something less sinister and destructive
 Street friends become street families
 A lack of bed becomes something else entirely
 Material poverty does not beget poverty of spirit
 Confluences of light and darkness
 Thin places, thin spaces
 Vulnerability
 Transformation
 Souls pouring out
 Truths released into the world
 A certain sense of pilgrimage



By Allan Ostermann



... to the
 health care you
 know and trust.

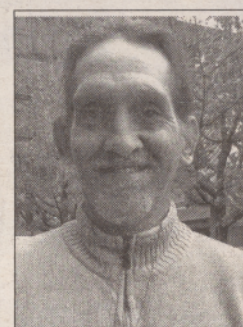
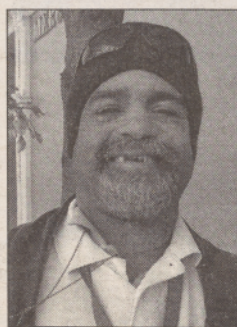
Working in partnership with providers,
 community health centers and social service
 agencies to serve people on the Oregon
 Health Plan, Health Share is building a more
 accessible and coordinated care system
 throughout the Tri County area.

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