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PHOTO BY PEDRO OLIVEIRA

Sandra
Street Roots Vendor
Downtown Portland

Sandra is a Street Roots' vendor who I met a couple of months ago. Always very polite and upbeat, what called my attention to Sandra was her sense of style. She is often in my neighborhood and every time I see her, she is wearing a different stylish dress.

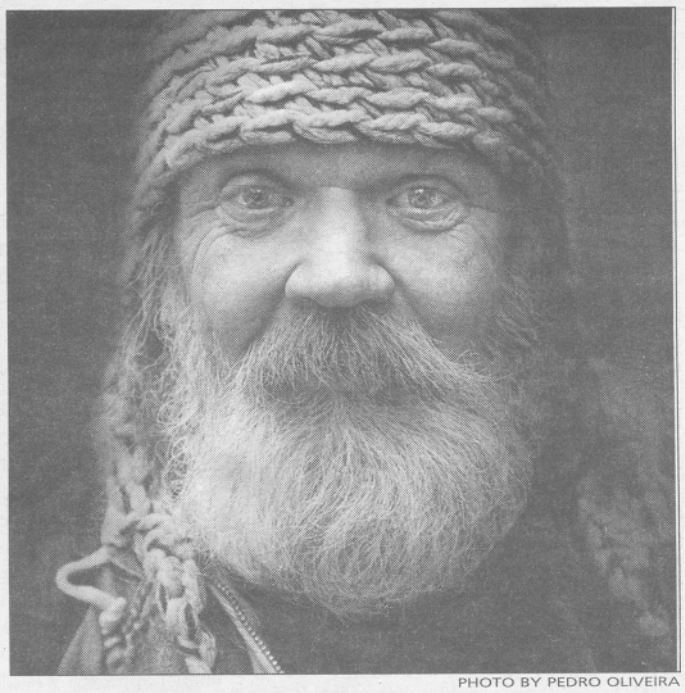

PHOTO BY PEDRO OLIVEIRA

Doug
Street Roots vendor
Downtown Starbucks

I promised myself that I would never leave home without my camera because I used to constantly miss the most interesting scenes. Doug just made me remember why. It was a rainy day and I was just walking around downtown, looking for a place to get a cup of coffee, when Doug literally appeared in front of me, with the biggest smile I've seen and said, "Here – why don't you shoot this," while making a big silly face and holding an edition of the Street Roots. The perfect guy in front of me, and I didn't even have to get over my shyness. I had a blast photographing this wonderful man.

Mark, now Phillipe
Downtown Portland, Burnside Street

I was passing through a park in the rain when I spotted Phillipe lying under this tiny space which could barely fit his body. He looked at me and smiled, and greeted me with a warm "Good afternoon." He was sharp, quick, wise, but there was something else. Let's just say he was a heavy dreamer.

I approached and asked his name. "It was Mark, now it's changing for Phillipe. You know, there are bad guys after me. But I am a good guy so I would rather give up my name than my life." Fair enough. I thought.

Phillipe is 65 years old, and has been all over, including Vietnam, and is "sort of" a war veteran, he said. We talked for a little while. I normally would have asked him to tell me more of his story but the rain got strong again, and now I am the one who needs to look for shelter.

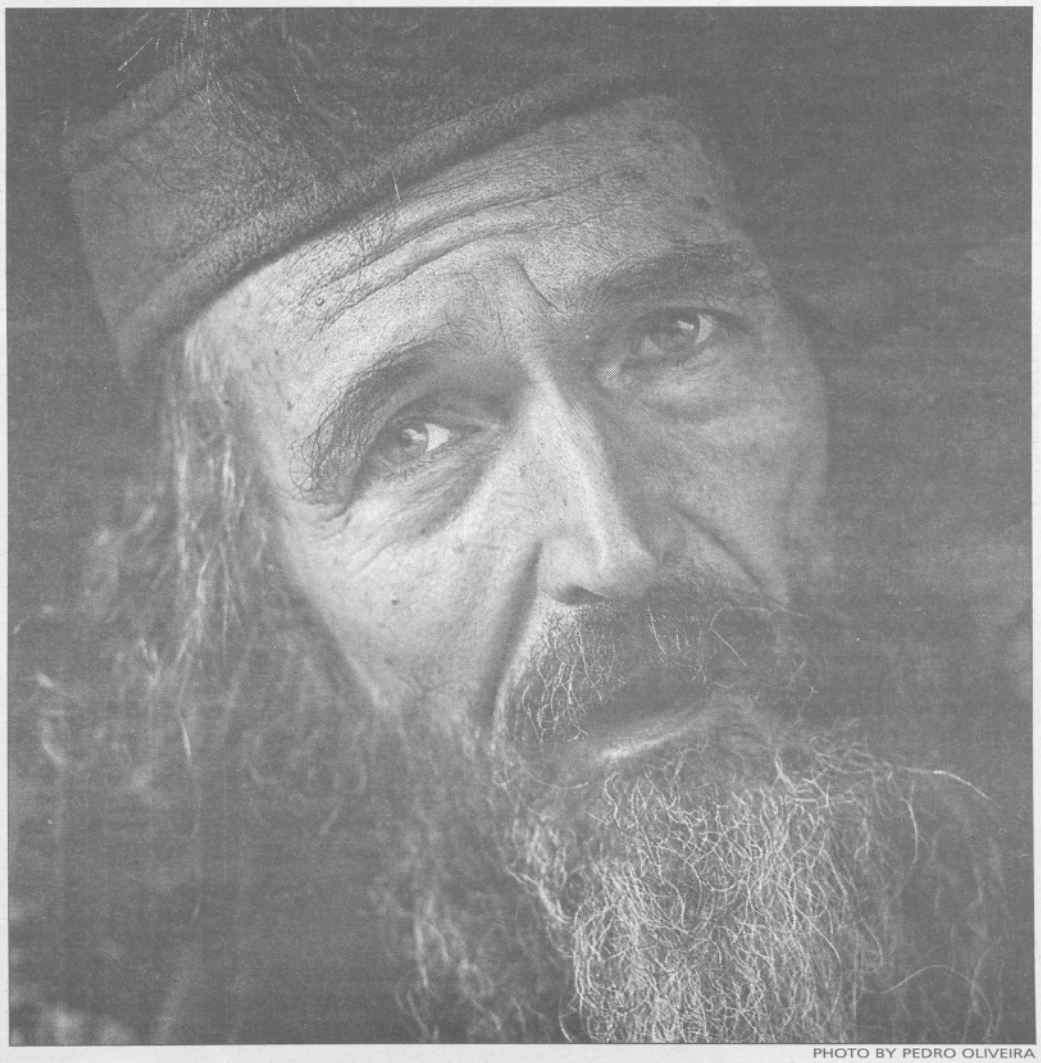

PHOTO BY PEDRO OLIVEIRA

Pedro Oliveira is a Portland State University student. You can veiw more of his award-winning series of portraits at www.viewbug.com/member/pedrontheworld.