

Seattle City Council

**Housing, Human Services, Health and Culture Committee Meeting**

2 p.m. Wednesday, March 9th, 2011

**Words' Worth**

The Poetry Program of the Seattle City Council

Curated by **A K Mimi Allin**

Today's poet is **Monte Christopher Smith**

**Monte Christopher Smith** was born in the poor mountains of Appalachia, VA. A descendent of Noah Webster, Monte has traveled across the country climbing trees in some of our great national forests and eradicating cockroaches in the slums of Detroit. Monte was recently laid off as a CNC Machinist, which suffered in the death of Detroit, and moved to the Pacific Northwest where he makes friends with all the homeless he meets.

**Song of a Tent City**

by Monte Christopher Smith

Song of a Tent City

Song of a tent city  
song of a solution  
song of homelessness  
song of social justice  
song of civil rights

im elected  
I am homeless

An EC,  
of a homeless camp in Seattle, a tent city. there are 5 of us ec's (executive committee)  
there is a kitchen coordinator, a donation coordinator and a sometime as of lately a maintenance  
master that once a week the camp will elect. We have a weekly meeting in camp.

A camp of 100 of us strong, a sometimes larger then life group of homeless men and women and  
couples, who as homeless have decided to stay together for safety, for community.

We have a code of conduct, no drugs no alcohol, no violence.

We are empowered.

We are empowered because we are not the homeless that get raided in most cities around the  
county only because they are poor.. or they sleep in a city park, or underground, or on a bench..  
because we stand united and voice injustice

"do not criminalize us mr mayor" "mr state rep" "mr mr"

We realized we needed to be democratic, to hold each other accountable, we form committees based on our needs and help our community because we have a voice, we are people who stand for our civil rights. we are homeless.

We are a solution that can help solve homelessness. We are united. We are homeless. we are a tent city.

in life im a homeless advocate, i am homeless, I have found what I want to do w/ my life and have championed toward standing up for a sometimes people who cant, like most of my family on the streets.

-- *end* --