

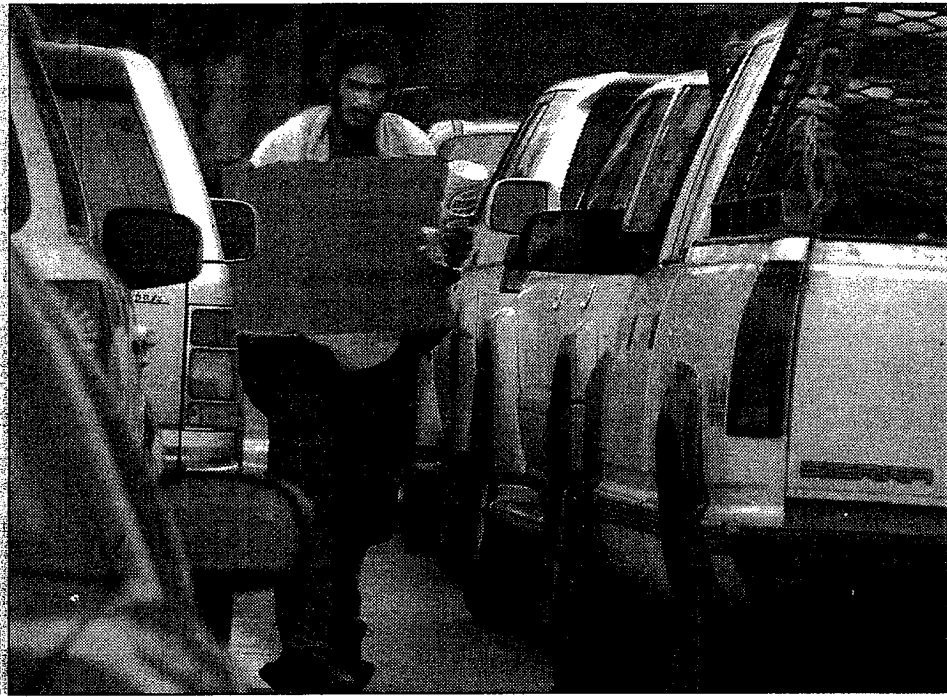
Saturday, September 3, 2005

# The San Juan Star

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THE ONLY PULITZER PRIZE-WINNING PUBLICATION IN PUERTO RICO

## The San Juan Star Viewpoint



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A concerned reader points out that there are several agencies available that cater to the island's less fortunate.

### Outlets available for the needy

Orestes Ramos' disjointed column in the Aug. 29 STAR, wherein he accuses organized religion as well as the government of turning a blind eye toward aiding the myriad of drug addicts that populate our streets, strikes me as coming from someone who is blind in both eyes.

As a former legislator he is aware that each and every addict he mentioned has civil rights provided to them by law, which neither government nor church dare infringe.

As long as these citizens break no law, they are free to act as they see fit.

The Catholic Church worldwide supports numerous homes designed to enhance the life of drug addicts.

In San Juan, one is the Fondita de Jesús in Santurce. Camillus House on the main-

land helps thousands of needy.

La Fondita welcomes all, provides all with shelter, baths, clean clothes, food and counseling. Their rehabilitation record is impressive.

But La Fondita is not a prison. The addict must want to seek help.

The ones that Ramos has befriended, two of whom I also know personally, prefer to live on the street and consume harmful drugs.

Ramos can better use his energy by working with one of the many agencies that attempt to work with the less fortunate.

They need all the help they can get.

**William Butler Salazar  
Santurce**