

WHOLE
WIDE
WORLD



The Golden Gate Gap

A spotlight on homelessness in San Francisco

Ever since the gold rush, it's known that in San Francisco money is to be made. Today, the city's riches mostly stem from finance and high technology rather than from digging up gold. Still, a few nuggets sure couldn't hurt when one walks down Market Street, San Francisco's primary shopping street and home to a great variety of overly expensive clothing stores. The shops, the buildings, the cost of living – everything in San Francisco screams big money!

And in second place

That Fog City is no place for the poor is obvious. The cost of living has gone through the roof and is as high as the growing skyscrapers of the Financial District. San Francisco ranks second on the list of the most expensive places to live in the US – right behind Manhattan. Renting a one bedroom apartment or even just a bedroom in a shared flat can cost you between 1,500 and 2,500 US Dollars. In the big banks and tech companies based in San Francisco, people are earning six figure salaries and they also like to spend them in San Fran. One good store to spend money is the super exclusive Supreme store selling skate wear. To be allowed into the shop customers have to sign up online to be assigned a spot in the line in front of the store where they wait until they're invited in.

Around the corner

Right around the corner from Supreme on Market Street is 6th Street, which, according to a quick google search, is one of the places to avoid in San Francisco. What makes the street, let's say, less attractive is the high number of homeless people who sleep and socialise on the sidewalks and corners of the alleys off 6th Street. This street is their bed and living room so to speak. They spend all their time there, listening to loud music, wheeling around in half broken wheelchairs, chatting to friends, or eating two minute

noodles. Literally 5 meters from people willing to wait for a considerable amount of time to spend 700 Dollars on a black t-shirt with the Supreme brand logo on it, others are barely getting by.

This street belongs to us

Homelessness is a major issue in San Francisco, mostly because of the extremely high rents and the lack of a social security system. The streets of the city are "home" to around 10,000 people, who have lost their housing. The city's support facilities are nowhere near sufficient. The shelters can only house 3,000 people each night. Women with children are prioritised, others are being rotated in and out of the shelters. The rest of the people have to sleep outside with nowhere to shower, cook or any privacy of some sort. Most of them stay close to the city centre because it's flat, unlike the rest of San Francisco, which creates hubs where they seem to take over, such as 6th Street.

The glass wall

In contrast to that, other areas of the city are essentially inaccessible to homeless people, because they're unwanted there. These are, for example, the majority of the stores on Market Street, shopping malls and public parks or rooftop gardens. The territories are strictly divided even though they're right next to each other. And this is what makes the issue so visible in San Francisco: it's all so close together. Extreme poverty and extreme wealth are only metres, or rather inches apart. The other world can be just around the corner, as in the case of Supreme and 6th Street. Yet, they never touch. It's like they're separated by a glass wall. You can see the other side but you don't really bother connecting to the people you see there. They can't hear you anyway, or can they?

Meet my best friend

...who lives 7.379 km away

I have a best friend. She knows everything about me. She's always there when I need her. She's the first person I share good or bad news with. She also lives more than 7,000 kilometres away, and we've never met.

Our backstory

I found my best friend on twitter. If I recall correctly, we were on the same side in an argument - what the argument was about is a whole other can of worms. I'm not actually sure how we came to start talking outside of that argument, but I'm so glad we did. She says I started replying to her tweets and that's how we started interacting more. We've been through good and bad times together, like when she got published in an anthology last fall, or when I was hospitalised for half a year; we're basically inseparable now, and I truly couldn't wish for a better friend.

The challenges

Of course, it isn't always easy to be friends with someone who lives so far away. For one thing, there's the time zones - her time zone is seven to eight hours behind mine, depending on whether it's Daylight Saving Time, which means that she goes to bed when I get up in the morning, and doesn't get up again until it's afternoon for me. It also sucks to not be able

to do what we call "meatspace" (that is, offline) things together - like going out for coffee or even just hugging when one of us is down. And then there's the fact that I don't have Wi-Fi at home, which doesn't exactly make it easier to communicate.

How we make it work

Despite all that, we're making it work; the alternative would be unthinkable. We're hoping to live together one day, but there's still a ton of fun we can have together before that happens. We help each other with our writing and share goofy in-jokes, and on Friday nights, we watch movies together. We are also hosting a reading challenge together for the fourth year in a row this year - it's like an online book club, and it's a fun way to spend the summer. Sure, there are some challenges, but I think we're a great example of how online friends can be real friends, despite what people say. What's important is that we care about each other, and that means that none of the obstacles in our way matter.

Winter Term 2019/20



Tobias Lorenz
Editor in Chief



Martina Sonn
Deputy



Günter Jehle
Professor

Media Team



Jessica Wolf
Team Leader



**Carolin
Bruckert**



**Lena
Dickert**



**Milena
Kolzem**



**Sean
Langer**

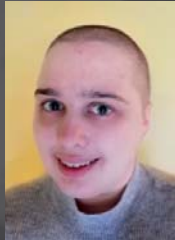


**Teresa
Schneider**



**Dietmar
Zombori**

Layout Team



Lucia Dröll
Team Leader



Emely
Sauter



Cansu
Sungur



Deniz
Özdedeoglu



Jasmin
Kiechle



Julia
Edelmann



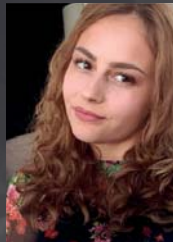
Laura
Mayer



Lea
Meerkamp



Marie
Leinweber



Melissa
Ursu



Selin
Bekar



Tim
Kuhlins



Vanessa
Straub

Writing Support



Noemi
Hehl



Conor
Schiffer

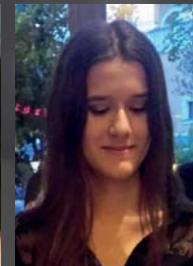


Niklas
Schmidt

Ads



Mélanie
Fournier



Melani
Cifric

An orange tabby cat with blue eyes is lying in green grass with some brown leaves. The cat is holding a small, white and orange stuffed cat toy in its mouth. A grey metal pole is visible in the background to the right.

Die CampusCat empfiehlt:

„Mein Mini-Me
gibt's im Uni-Shop!“

Den Uni-Shop findet ihr im
Erdgeschoss des **A-Gebäudes** (Infopoint)
oder unter www.uni-augsburg.de/shop

UNIA Universität
Augsburg
University