

## PAPERS, CONT. FROM PAGE 5

## The INSP 1997 Program

The INSP, which represents 16 of the 60 papers in Europe, Australia, and South Africa, was founded in July of 1994 and regards itself as the "voice of the European street paper movement." INSP member publications have a combined circulation of over one million copies per month.

While the European network has until recently been funded by the

European Community, an initiative by the governments of the United Kingdom and Germany to eliminate EC funding for anti-poverty work has frozen the relevant line item in the EC budget until the matter is resolved. INSP staff are optimistic that other means of funding for the network will be found.

The network of papers provides support for its members, assists in new start-ups, promotes the exchange of information, and provides an agreed upon ethical framework for the operation of street newspapers. Member publications must commit to "financial transparency," and to spend any post-investment profits on social support for the vendors. The INSP committed to continuing a social audit process initiated last year.

The INSP hopes to continue expansion throughout Europe and to other continents, and committed to establishing a "concrete working relationship with NASNA, through information and article exchange, linking up through the internet, and attending conferences."

Timothy Harris, Director of Seattle's *Real Change*, reported that a Steering Committee has been formed to organize a second North American conference of street papers, at which it is hoped a



NASNA Charter will be adopted.

One concrete way the INSP has strengthened the European street paper movement is through staff exchanges. INSP Coordinator Tessa Swithenbank reported that twenty-one exchanges have taken place within the network since last May, allowing for the exchange of ideas and skills between papers.

The INSP also committed to continue representing street papers at conferences and in international organizations. Last year the INSP attended the Madrid Homeless Confer-

ence and the Habitat II conference in Istanbul. The INSP is also a member of the European Anti-poverty Network. A third INSP General Assembly is planned for late 1997.

INSP General Assembly delegates were *Das Megaphone*, Graz, Australia; *La Rue*, France; *BISS*, Munich; *TagesSatz*, Kassel, Germany; *Terre di Mezzo*, Milan; *Straatnieuws*, Utrecht, Netherlands; *De Rotterdamse Straatkrant*, Rotterdam; *CAIS*, Portugal; *The Depths*, St. Petersburg; *Situation Sthlm*, Stockholm; *The Big Issue*, UK; *Big Issue Cymru*, Wales; *Big Issue Scotland*; and *Big Issue*,



# Storm

## Gallery Provides Calm Space for Local Poet

**B**elinda Springer, better known to her friends as "Storm," has been a regular at Belltown's Street Life Gallery for more than two years now, writing poetry at the gallery's mac, sketching naturalist scenes, and making abstract drip paintings, all of which helps Storm cope with the

turbulent emotions she feels every day.

The 31-year-old artist was born in Seattle and has always lived in Washington State. The Street Life Gallery has been a place of friendship and stability during tough times. "If I didn't have the Gallery," confided Storm, "I'd probably be walking around a lot looking for a place to be."

away all at the same time," she explained. "I wound up on the streets."

"The gallery gives me a way to reach out and be in touch with people," she said. "It beats my four lonely walls."

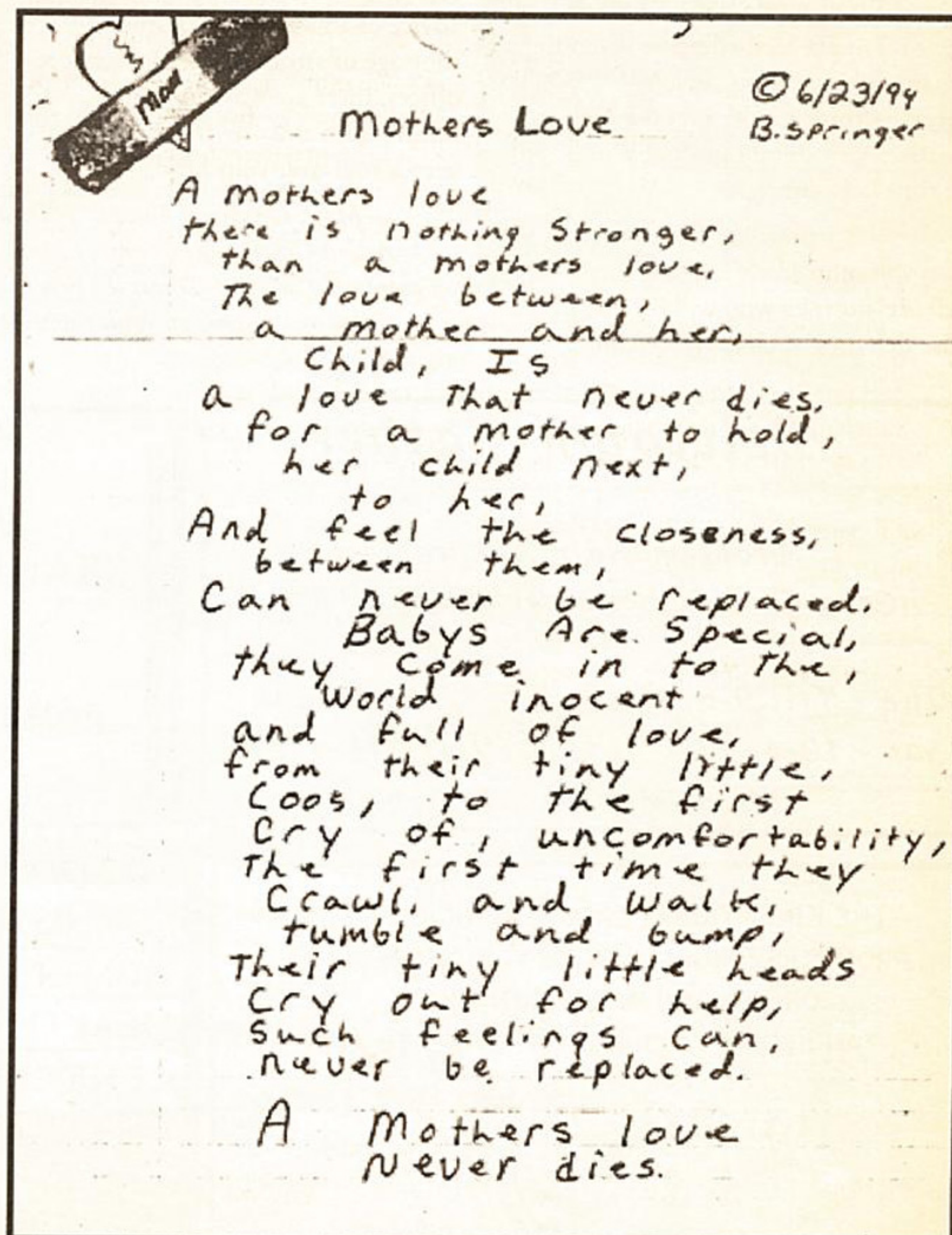
"My story isn't that great, but it's getting better."



STORM'S GALLERY WORK SPACE. PHOTO BY JOHN MOSTROM

"My art's just a way to release my pain. My real thing is my writing. Lately I've been getting in touch with my poetry a lot," said Storm. "It's great to have a computer to work with, because it helps with my spelling. I never had a chance to go to school. When I was a kid I was always running from Child Protective Services, and never had a chance to settle down."

While Storm has been off the streets for about a year, she had been homeless on and off for four years. "I lost my unemployment, was evicted, and had my kids taken



Mothers Love ©6/23/94 B. Springer

A mothers love  
there is nothing stronger,  
than a mothers love,  
The love between,  
a mother and her  
child, is  
a love that never dies,  
for a mother to hold,  
her child next,  
to her,  
And feel the closeness,  
between them,  
Can never be replaced.  
Babys Are Special,  
they come in to the,  
world innocent  
and full of love,  
from their tiny little,  
coos, to the first  
cry of, uncomfortability,  
The first time they  
crawl, and walk,  
tumble and bump,  
their tiny little heads  
cry out for help,  
such feelings can,  
never be replaced.

A Mothers love  
Never dies.