

For several years, Dan has been printing these gorgeous little books that are like drawn diaries of his adventures traveling and observing. Infatuated with the hobo lifestyle, he hops trains and camps in secret nooks and refuses to sell his soul to corporate America. Beginning with issue 32 he's been documenting his "Great American Trike Tour" in which he rides a recumbent bicycle across America, and his zine possesses the quiet humor and friendly acceptance of Steinbeck along with the wide-eyed enthusiasm of Kerouac. His intricate line drawings show the faces and buildings and scenery of America, and his tidy handwriting describes with unbelievable cheer what it's like to pedal through storms, up mountains, along narrow streets, and into town after town where people are kind, rude, curious, and bizarre. We get to hear about the high spots (generous strangers and forgiving weather), the low spots (trike breakdowns, family problems), and everything in between—it's completely, utterly satisfying. Take one of these brown-papered issues outside, sit under a tree, and laugh, sigh, and doodle what's around you — I swear after reading it you'll grow a new eye.

TRACE OF THE HAND (ISSUE # "ORGANIC PIZZA PLEASE")

by DSAME, PO Box 3405, Portland OR 97208; www.DSAME.com
digest, \$10 (includes price of mailing, a tape, and something to eat), 110 pages
This is a very kind-hearted publication, full of information on how to help the "have-nots" — the disabled, elderly, minorities, homeless, and people of extremely low income. While rather long-winded and scambly-looking, it is absolutely bursting with details of what you can do to change the bleakness of society and provides addresses and photos of various stores, restaurants, and organizations in the Portland area that are generously doing what they can to contribute. \$10 sounds like a lot (um—I got it free from Davida), but here's what you get: the zine, an 8 1/2 X 17" poster, an audio tape (poetry, songs), a tiny bit of community-

supportive food and a community-supportive aromatic item (*Ed.- There were a few other food items that didn't make it out of XD headquarters — very good vegan mints and chocolate.*). They call their zine an "All 5 Senses Zine Experience" because "it is meant to engage all the senses: sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch...in a very personal way." The handwritten portions are punctuated by calligraphy, little hearts, smiley faces, and it's dotted with circles — at first I assumed this was the work of a crazy person, but it turned out to be very well-written and coherent and most of all, sincere. These are people who really don't have much money or food, who often don't have places to live, but they're doing everything they can to give something to the world with absolutely zero whining or judgment. Maybe it's a little corny and on the Christian side, but it's astoundingly sweet and upbeat, and really does inspire you to think of the world as a community, rather than as a bunch of selfish individuals only out to satisfy themselves.

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ASCENSION (PAMPHLET #4 IN THE CAMELOPARD SERIES - A COURSE OF STUDY FOR ASPIRING MENTALISTS)

Stuff like this fascinates me. I've always been interested in the idea of mental powers and being able to travel to other planes of existence. But I've also always been afraid of trying to do it, or worse, finding out that I can't, that I don't have enough strength or "will" or whatever you want to call it, to accomplish such things. The basic idea behind this series is that everything is composed of "aether", and by practicing certain mental exercises we can learn to manipulate our own "personal aether," allowing us to achieve astral flight, and communicate with other "aetheric beings." After reading this one I really