

editorial

Helping Raleigh's Homeless

"Can you spare a dollar?" An unshaven man around 60 years old in faded blue jeans, a blue wind breaker, with a red, tattered cap asked a group of college students gathered at a picnic table at Char-Grill on Hillsborough St. The downtown eatery was crowded with students, a family, and several people who appeared just to have gotten off from night shifts all enjoying their hamburgers and fries or eagerly waiting for their orders to be ready.

The man staggered away from the tables to the other side of the building constantly aiding customers for a dollar. One middle-age man asked what he needed the dollar for - Was he hungry? The man hesitated then said, "I need the money for a bus ticket to Charlotte. I gotta get to Charlotte. You got a dollar?" The middle-aged man in khaki pants and a blue oxford button-down shirt looked away from the solicitor and answered saying "Sorry, I don't have any change."

The manager of the restaurant now had noticed the man, banged on the window, and pointed down the street. The man looked up and nodded as if he and the manager had played this scene many times before. As the old man staggered away from the restaurant, he continued his plea for a dollar often mumbling to himself.

After the scratchy voice of the old man could no longer be heard, the patrons of Char-Grill quickly resumed their eating and conversations.

Have you ever wondered how to help people like the old man I saw one night? You want to do something but you don't know what to do or what needs to be done. Well, the students and faculty involved in the "Help for the Homeless" project can help you out. All you have to do is bring back old clothes when you go home for fall break and donate the items to the project; they will get the clothes to the Wake County Drop In Center for the Homeless. What an easy way to help the hundreds of people living on the streets here in Raleigh.

Please consider donating items, old or new, to the project. Just think if it was you and your family on the streets; wouldn't you want to have someone help you out?

For further information, contact Stephanie Turner at 829-7868 or go by 202 Barefoot.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago my brother and sister-in-law came to visit me at Meredith, and I decided to give them a tour of the campus. We didn't have much time so I decided to pick the thing they would enjoy seeing the most. I chose to show them the lake, because I had considered it to be one of the

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The opinions expressed on the editorial page do not necessarily reflect those of the college administration, faculty, or student body.

The Herald welcomes criticism and will respond promptly to any submitted in writing and signed by the writer.