

"Housing Now" March and Homelessness Discussed by Occhetti-Klohr

by:Jeannine Manning

Judy Occhetti-Klohr of Catholic Social Services was the guest speaker for the October 11th meeting of the Sociology club.

Occhetti-Klohr spoke about the recent "Housing Now" march in Washington, DC and the Triangle's participation in it. She described the march as a "national effort to show broad based support to say we need a national policy that every citizen has safe, affordable housing."

Some North Carolina participants also lobbied on Oct. 5 and 6 in Washington, DC presenting letters to Congressman David Price and Senator Terry Sanford, but were unable to see Senator Jesse Helms. Rep. Price endorses a first-time home-buyer's bill.

Over 500 people from Raleigh participated in the march, including at least nine from Meredith. Most of

the national participants were from churches or charity organizations and these groups fund the projects across the country to help the homeless. These groups feel that the government needs to become more involved in the homeless situation in the US and provide more funding to address the issue.

The government funds for Housing and Urban Development (HUD) dropped to \$9 billion for the 1988-89 year from \$32 billion in 1982. Also, it is important to remember that of the \$9 billion; \$6 billion disappeared in the HUD scandal. With Jack Kemp as the new director of HUD, Occhetti-Klohr said that there is hope there will be improvements in the management of the funds.

Occhetti-Klohr also stated the figures for the homeless in Raleigh. In 1987 1,900 families were waiting for public housing and 2,000 families were in need of rental help.

Today in Raleigh there are at least 500 people that are homeless; of this number 30 percent are employed, 25 percent are veterans, and two-thirds are parents. In the Raleigh area there are 200 beds for homeless people.

Occhetti-Klohr also described the terribly sad situation of seeing parents and children separated. She explained that parents become immobile while the children are in foster care. She said that usually within three weeks a family (not separated) can get a hold on their situation while living in transient housing.

Occhetti-Klohr ended in saying that she hoped the march would improve conditions for the homeless in the nation and in Raleigh.

One student participant from Meredith said that through the march "homelessness became real to me."

McCarthy Urges Students to Study Peace

by:Kelly Massey

At fall convocation on Monday, October, 9, Coleman McCarthy urged Meredith students to band together to get classes in the teaching of peace.

McCarthy, a columnist for The Washington Post, said "I am a journalist because I use whatever skills I have to ease suffering in the world." A teacher of peace at two colleges and one high school, he believes

that "every college should have a few courses in peace if not a degree."

During a slide show, the violence in our world was represented through vivid scenes. While some of the world's peaceful leaders, such as Ghandi, Mother Teresa and Martin Luther King, were shown with their feelings on nonviolence.

McCarthy said that peace was not only about war, but also about things as simple as getting along with

friends, roommates and family. "Conflicts will arise, [and] that's healthy," he said. "They (conflicts) will either be solved by violent or nonviolent forces."

McCarthy ended convocation by saying that at graduation, students always hear that they should go out and change the world. His belief instead was to "keep the world from changing you."