



# Editorials

The Columns introduces a series of articles on Public Awareness designed to bring to the attention of the readers the problems in the community and possible solutions. The Columns encourages its readers to respond to the articles. Address comments to William Warren, Box 947.

## Poverty: the Elderly

By WILLIAM WARREN

In this country there are more than twenty two million people over the age of 65. This is ten percent of the population. Around four thousand people turn 65 every day. In economic terms one out of five of our nation's elderly live below the line of poverty. This situation is even more frequent among black elderly. In their case two out of five live at the minimum income level. The statistics are even worse in urban areas.

The cost of all aging programs equals about five percent of the GNP. Even with medicare our elderly pay out more for health care than do younger people. The nation's income-tested program, SSI, discourages family care of disabled elderly by reducing benefits when the elderly live with the family.

Doctors and social workers say that malnutrition and its devastating effects on the aged are a growing problem. They blame this problem on social security inadequacy, deceptiveness of pension, and unexpected retirement poverty. "Meals On Wheels" is a shining light for some of our starving elderly. Another such program that has attempted to help out, but instead has been greatly abused, is the food stamp program.

Housing for some of the elderly is sickening. There are just no other words to describe it. Their homes are old and usually very run down. Many have their life savings tied up in them. Sometimes these poor and innocent people are trapped by having a home located in the older part of a city around the central core of the "SLUMS". Home accidents are frequent. Poor electrical wiring, outdated plumbing and other factors contribute to poor health conditions.

Picture this:

You're walking down a dark and dank hallway of a decrepit hotel, a boarded-up jalousie door creaks open slowly. Lovingly, faded blue eyes peer out from an old

woman's tiny "L" shaped world. Found in just one room is: A single bed, a 1950's type kitchennette pushed under the only window, a humming Frigidare refrigerator, (which is seen arm's length from the bed), a stove, a dripping sink, and a dresser.

These are landmarks found in an 8' by 10' room known as her existence."

Poverty is a major contribution to mental and physical deterioration. To me, the one word that sums this up is "why?" Why and how can we let this type of living hell happen to our elderly?

There is no group of people in America today that has suffered more from the problems of inflation than these, our elderly. They have seen their small checks and meager savings buy less and less. They have trodded about in cold and wet weather because public transits have failed and because their cars have become too costly to maintain and too difficult to handle. Can you only imagine the humiliating dependency they feel as the doors of progress have been slammed in their faces? They have been promised less costly housing only to see their dreams go up in the smog and smoke. They have waited at a depot for a train that hasn't come or might not run at all. You're probably saying to yourself, "what about their checks?" Those checks are too small to help with anything except their loss of pride. These people deserve more.



By CARLA A. JOYNER

Phi Theta Kappa is a national character-scholarship fraternity that holds the same rank in the junior college that Phi Beta Kappa holds in the four-year college. The Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa was chartered and organized at Louisburg College in 1939. To be eligible for membership in Phi Theta Kappa, a student must be enrolled in a two-year college, have earned the proper number of quality points to designate full-time status, and have achieved a grade-point average equivalent to no less than a "B". In addition, the student must have established academic excellence as judged by the faculty, be of good moral character, and

## Senate Meeting

September 8, 1983  
7:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by President, Jennifer Kirschner. Since this was the first meeting and all of the officers had not been elected, this meeting was informal, however, it was voted that there will be a dress code. The men will wear dress pants and dress shirts, but do not have to wear jackets or ties. The women must wear dress pants or dresses.

Jennifer Kirschner reported that the Entertainment Committee under the leadership of William Warren is already at work. Dwight Dixon said that Freshman and Sophomore class officers will be elected on September 22 and the last day to file for office would be September 15.

Jennifer Kirschner said the SGA meetings would probably be held in the Conference Room but the time has not been set. It is traditional that the head of the disciplinary committee is Parliamentarian. Therefore, Jennifer Kirschner appointed Brad Johnson Parliamentarian.

Sam Suggs made a motion that this meeting be adjourned. Jennifer Kirschner seconded this motion. The meeting was adjourned.

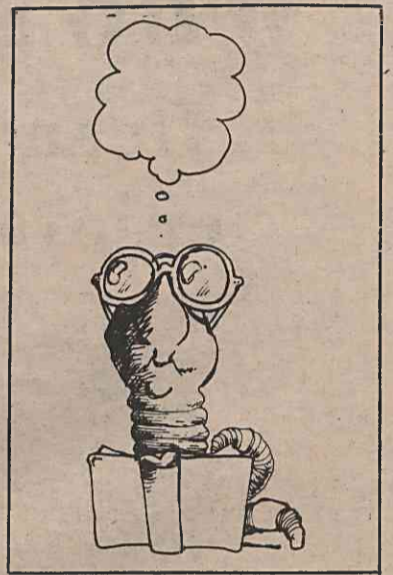
## Phi Theta Kappa

possess qualities of citizenship.

Phi Theta Kappa was founded due to the need to recognize and encourage scholarships among students in community and junior colleges. The fraternity seeks to provide opportunity for the development of leadership, an intellectual atmosphere for academic stimulation, and personal enrichment of the student through educational experiences and fellowship with other scholars.

Like most clubs, Phi Theta Kappa has certain symbols. The emblem of Phi Theta Kappa is a golden key. On this key is a black band, which houses the Greek letters "Phi," "Theta", and "Kappa" Behind the band is a wreath of laurel and oak leaves, representing leadership and strength; above it is the head of Athena, a Greek goddess, denoting wisdom. Beneath the band are three letters symbolizing the Greek words "phronimon," "theumos", and "katharotes", which mean wisdom, aspiration and purity.

In years past, the involvement of Phi Theta Kappa at Louisburg College has been to some extent nonexistent. Therefore, present members of Phi Theta Kappa, under the direction of advisor Grady K. Synder, hope to change the tradition and become one of the most active organizations on campus. Tentative plans are now underway for a faculty reception and sponsorship of a guest speaker to the student body.



## Columns

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