

Editorials

N.C. Homeless

Problem needs to be acknowledged

During the recent inclement weather, many of us took for granted the warm, protected shelter that we had to shield us from the elements. There was an ample amount of food around to keep us fed while we lounged in front of the television. We only had to brave the cold if we wanted to, perhaps to participate in a neighborhood snowball fight or two. But, we always knew that we could get warm and dry at any time. This was not the case, however, for many of N.C.'s homeless. What can be done to improve the living conditions for these unfortunate people?

"Over the years I have learned more about the problems of the homeless. Cold is not their only enemy. Fear is always present, summer and winter, when you sleep on the streets," said Ann Hensel, director of the Samaritan Soup Kitchen in Winston Salem, in a recent article in the *North Carolina Forum*.

Hensel said that most chronically homeless persons suffer from either an emotional, intellectual or psychiatric problem. Some end up on the streets after an emotional trauma. Others are the mentally ill whom the state feels no longer need hospitalization.

Many of the homeless are undereducated, placing them in the unskilled labor workforce. However, this market is quickly being replaced by machines and jobs are becoming more and more scarce.

What we need to realize is that the homeless are people, not just cold statistics. We must find people who can be kind and patient in working with them.

Hensel suggests that more permanent shelters are needed. "There simply are not enough empty beds for the hundreds of homeless people in North Carolina," she said. For example, there are approximately 150-300 people on the streets in Winston Salem. The Salvation Army provides 40 beds to augment the 65 that the churches shelter during the winter. Also, other "special purpose" shelters help.

Many people seem to be concerned with the problem of helping N.C.'s homeless. Now we must convert this concern into action. It is easy to "forget" this problem in the warmth of our own homes, but we as human beings must acknowledge those around us who are less fortunate.

By Michele Lashley

Frankly Speaking

by Phil Frank

WE'RE ONE OF THE FEW SCHOOLS LEFT THAT MAINTAINS A CERTAIN FORMALITY BETWEEN STUDENTS AND FACULTY.



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BLOOM COUNTY



DRINKING AND DRIVING CAN KILL A FRIENDSHIP.

by Berke Breathed

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