

# The Homeless: Survival In The Streets

For the homeless the serious question is survival and across the country and in Raleigh, the number is growing.

It is estimated that some three million people are living on park benches, doorways, alleys and vacant buildings. The majority of these homeless are black and between the ages of 20 and 40.

These people have virtually nothing as far as material possessions. Some are ignorant or mentally ill. Some received a bad break from life and from insensitive human beings who add the final straw to break the camel's back.

Reports carry a reminder that homeless males presently outnumber females, but caution that the latter group is increasing at an alarming rate, approximately 30 percent annually. Raleigh does not compare with

cities such as New York, Chicago and Houston with their large homeless populations. Many of these people have been left in the streets to survive as a result of declining job rates and the Reagan administration.

One young man who asked that his name not be used said he has seen the homeless in many cities as well as Raleigh. "I've noticed that these people do not hesitate to ask strangers for help. To me they seem like outcasts from family and friends. Some choose not to seek help from family or friends, feeling that they may be a burden to them."

In New York City, families constitute approximately 60 percent of the homeless population and children occupy the fastest-growing group at 11,000.

The "hidden population," as it is sometimes called, is not quite

so hidden in these large metropolitan cities, but in cities such as Winston-Salem and Raleigh if one does not look closely, he will think it does not exist. When one lives in North Raleigh and works in North Raleigh, they may miss this dilemma.

People who are homeless are not only the ignorant or mentally ill, they are people in the street who have the mentality to make an impact on society. They are those who could take either my job or yours.

One of the major causes for the homeless crisis has been a decline in low-income housing. Over one million units of single-room occupancy housing—representing 47 percent of the nation's total—were torn down between 1970 and 1980. It is reported that some 2.5 million people lose their homes every year through evic-

tions and other factors.

The Reagan administration's budget cuts which have sold out the public in exchange for "Star Wars" has reduced a \$31 billion budget in housing to \$9 billion in 1987. The construction of federal low-income housing units has fallen from 20,000 to 5,000. The aid to families with dependent children budget has been cut by \$36 billion, creating a situation where only 55 out of every 200 poor children received AFDC payments in 1984. The budget cuts have also affected the number of social workers across the country.

Here locally, some of the agencies that help the homeless and impoverished are Lydia Baptist Emergency Shelter, the Salvation Army, Urban Ministries, the Soup Kitchen, the Ark Shelter (See HOMELESS, P. 2)



HOMELESSNESS GROWS—The homeless and jobless in the city and across the country continue to increase.

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### Racist Attitude Polls Say Jackson Out

#### Little Or No Chance Of Winning

NEW YORK, N.Y.—The two front-runners for the Democratic presidential nomination have a common problem, in the view of some of the nation's top pollsters: Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson have virtually no chance of winning in the general election.

Republicans Alexander Haig and Pat Robertson, both with less support than the two Democrats, also are rated "unelectable" by the pollsters.

The reason is the same for all four: They are viewed unfavorably by such large segments of the electorate that it appears too few votes would be left for them to win in the White House, the public opinion experts said.

"It's dangerous to say. Expectations are frequently surprisingly altered on election night," said I.A. Lewis, the Los Angeles Times' polling chief. "But this is a projection, that none of these guys is going to be elected."

His assessment was shared to varying degrees by a half-dozen polling experts interviewed by the Associated Press. All gave Jackson, Haig and Robertson little or no chance; one held out some hope for Hart.

Such virtual epitaphs are infuriating for candidates and their backers, largely because they are so difficult to rebut. Jackson has said suggestions he cannot win are based on "race consciousness." Hart recently said, "I don't want to talk about polls. Polls are boring."



VIEWED UNFAVORABLY?—Poll experts give four presidential candidates little or no chance of winning the general election. They say the two front-runners for the Democratic nomination, Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson, have virtually no chance. Republicans Alexander Haig and Pat Robertson, both with less support than the two Democrats, are also rated "unelectable."

### Construction To Begin For New Public Housing

The Raleigh Housing Authority recently approved construction of a public housing community in North Raleigh, the first federally funded public housing construction in the city in two years.

Terrace Park Townhouses—20 duplexes and two triplexes—will be built on about 10 acres on Fox Road, a mostly unpaved road off Spring Forest Road near Mini City.

The authority will also build four duplexes on Ellington Street in Southeast Raleigh. The Ellington housing will fulfill a commitment made in 1980 to replace rental proper-

ty demolished in that area with community development block grants, said Rodney A. Lorbacher, the authority's director of development.

Construction of the two communities will cost \$2.3 million, including land acquisition, construction and utilities. The money will come from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the federal agency that oversees public housing. Construction will start by Feb. 22 and is scheduled for completion by Jan. 1, 1989.

Raleigh has managed to build new units periodically despite a near-halt in federal funding for low-income housing.

The new housing was approved in 1985. The location of Terrace Park Townhouses drew protests from some residents of nearby Will-O-Dean subdivision who said it would undermine their quality of life. Others criticized the site as being too isolated.

But the remoteness is disappearing as construction moves in. A new elementary school is scheduled to open on Fox Road in 1989. The area is not on a city bus route, however, and only residents with cars or car pool (See HOUSING, P. 2)

### Community Colleges Urged To Establish Monitoring Policies

The State Board of Community Colleges directed its colleges to establish policies monitoring minimum class size and limiting the number of times a student can repeat a course.

The directive, issued at the board's meeting recently, responds to a legislative mandate to set system-wide standards for class size and course repetition in curriculum and extension programs. The board deemed local colleges better positioned to decide individual class size, stating that a statewide policy could hamper effective instruction.

The board will review the need for systemwide standards next January, giving the colleges a year to implement their policies.

"Waiting a year will allow us to more fully examine and review the issue instead of making a snap judgment and perhaps implementing rules that have undesirable consequences," said Edward H. Wilson, Jr., department executive vice president.

The 1987 session of the General Assembly mandated the board either adopt a systemwide policy or explain why it could not. The mandate followed a 1986 state audit that found administrators and instructors at several institutions had defrauded the system by padding enrollments and creating "ghost" classes. The auditor's report recommended tightening state-level control of the 58-member system.

Variations in class size are a function of many factors, including school location, subject matter and program enrollment, Sanford C. Shugart, department vice president for programs, told the board. Because of the number and complexity of those factors, "simple class size standards are likely to encourage poor management as often as they encourage good management," he said.

"By adopting this recommendation, we are saying to local boards and institutions that we really expect this to happen," said Robert W. Scott, president of the community college system. "Because if the problem is not corrected, a systemwide policy may come down."

"From an overall perspective, monitoring class size and course repetition is a very important management decision at the local level and we feel it's best made at that level," Wilson added.

In other matters, the board reaffirmed its dedication to increase the number of blacks and other minorities employed and taught in the community college system.

"It's time for this board and this state to recommit to the goal of equal access and equal opportunity for all," Leigh H. Hammond, department vice president for research and informa-

tion, said in presenting the board a report on his division's duties. The report asks the board to pursue more aggressive ways to balance the racial equation at the department and throughout the system.

System officials have employed a number of plans to reach desegregation goals federally mandated for the system in 1978. U.S. Department of Education report published last year found the system had achieved uneven success in meeting those objectives.

Board member Edward J. High of (See COMMUNITY, P. 2)

### High School Students To Compete For Honors

Twenty high schools in Wake, Durham and Franklin counties have been invited to select their best senior business education student, one of whom will be named Outstanding Business Education Student.

This is a project of the Research Triangle Chapter of the Administrative Management Society.

"The purpose of this program is to recognize high school students who have excelled in preparing themselves for a career in business," said Jack Beaman, president of the chapter and a vice president of Duham Life Insurance Co.

All 21 business education students will be honored by the AMS at its annual Education Night on March 15 in Raleigh. One among them will be named the outstanding student and will receive a \$200 savings bond. Two other students will receive \$50 bonds for achieving honorable mention.

"Each senior student selected must have taken at least three business courses," said L.E. Forrest, chairman of the Education Committee and a retired executive. "Judging will be on scholarship, leadership qualities, service activities, and total preparation for a business career."

The Administrative Management Society is a professional manage-

ment association with some 12,000 members nationally, and more than 60 in the Research Triangle Chapter. Its purpose is to promote the exchange of technical knowledge, management information, and the development of individual careers. (See SCHOOLS, P. 2)

### Ms. Garrett Appointed

Athens Drive High School teacher Alice J. Garrett of Raleigh has been appointed to the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching Board of Trustees.

Garrett, an 18-year veteran teacher, was named to the post Friday at a meeting of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Josephine Clement of Durham. Clement resigned due to health reasons. Garrett's appointment extends through November 1989. She is the second public school teacher to be named to the 15-member board.

A native of Rose Hill, Garrett teaches social studies in grades 11 and 12 at Athens Drive High School in Raleigh. She has been at Athens Drive for five years and with the school system for a total of 11 years.



PROTESTING VIOLENCE—Boston—Over 100 demonstrators protest political violence in Haiti during rally at City Hall Plaza Jan. 16 as voters in Haiti go to the polls. (UPI)

### Greater Efficiency To Greet Lenoir Voters At The Polls

Voting machines may be in the near future for Lenoir County voters after an overcrowded commissioners' room of precinct workers, counters, registrars and other interested people appeared before the Lenoir County Commissioners Tuesday to make the request.

After Robert "Bobby" Waller, Democratic member of the Lenoir County Board of Elections, made a presentation concerning the need for the machines, Commissioner George Graham moved that the commissioners go on record supporting the concept of voting machines. He also

moved that the commissioners render a decision in 30 to 60 days.

Permission was also granted to acquire one of the voting machines being considered at no cost to the county to use in one of the precincts March 8 as a test, a step required by law before machines can be purchased.

Waller said without the machines, the March 8 election will cost the county \$25,000. The May 3 primary will cost approximately \$50,000 and if a runoff primary is needed May 30, it will cost \$90,000. "That's \$75,000 and we're not to the general election," he said.

Currently, 80 counties have voting machines, 40 of those counties smaller than Lenoir County. "We like to see our county grow. We have more people registered and more people voting," Waller said.

He said the machines can be lease-purchased. "The cost of the machines is \$279,000. Sixty machines are needed."

Waller pointed out that the board of elections had made the voting machine request in May 1987. "You saw them. You saw them in operation. You looked at the Shouptron (See LENOIR VOTERS, P. 2)

### Trying To Improve Things

## Polk Says More Blacks Appointed

BY MARC LEE  
Staff Writer

James K. Polk, director of minority affairs for the governor of North Carolina, recently discussed some of his goals and the governor's accomplishments as they relate to the minority community.

Polk said, "One of the first things I hope to accomplish, as it relates to the minority community, is getting out to them some of the accomplishments of this administration as it relates to minority affairs. I want to talk to them about the governor's appointment of minorities to jobs in state government, jobs on boards and in agencies, jobs on both the so-called lower level and in executive positions."

"And, I want to talk to them about the other kind of things that the governor and this administration has done in a beneficial and helpful way for the black and minority communities. This governor and his

administration has worked with neighborhoods and communities to try and improve things such as streets, roads, and parks."

He added, "The governor has worked to make sure that minority communities get those kind of amenities, if you will, to make a better living situation."

Polk said, "One of the advantages of knowing the governor for a long time is that I know he does not toot his own horn. He does things with a genuine sense of sincerity. He does things because he believes them to be right." Polk pointed out that Gov. Martin participated in a hunger march in Charlotte that was part of the March on Washington in 1963.

"When we arrived at the steps of Park Center, there was one other white elected official there. In all fairness, if they were there, I didn't see them. And I knew all of them at that time. If that march was not symbolic in showing where you stood,

there was no need to have the march."

Polk also pointed with pride at the way various agencies within the state government were working on addressing the issues of poverty. He said the Department of Natural Resources is working with the Job Training Partnership Act and that the Department of Human Resources was addressing a lot of problems with Aid to Families with Dependent Children.

He also pointed out that the Governor's Council of Minority Executives has an initiative signed by the governor on self-sufficiency which puts emphasis on finding jobs and training for people on welfare.

Polk, who has been in office since Nov. 2, 1987, said, "I will be looking at situations, assessing situations, and making recommendations. But without careful study, it is premature to do it now."

(See JAMES POLK, P. 2)



JAMES K. POLK