Feature

'Over 21' group works hard

students set individual educational goals

by Carolyn Clinkingbeard Reporting II Class

laughingly themselves the "over 21 group," but they are very serious about obtaining their GED, General Educational Development Certificate. Buster Dutton, 66, Janice McAllister, 46, Alice Lawson, 44 and Ha Thi Eaglin, 39, are students in Jim Meiser's GED Preparation class.

Each one had different circumstances which prevented the completion of high school, but now they all feel the need to complete their educational goals.

Buster Dutton left school after eighth grade graduation. "There was no junior high then," Dutton said. "My step-dad couldn't get a job, so I went to work picking up logs in Astoria two weeks before my graduation. I was working on graduation day, but I had completed my studies so they let me graduate."

Dutton has lived mostly in Oregon. "I worked all my life on the river...on tugboats, except when I was in the army," he said. He retired last August after working 20 years for Knappton Corp. After receiving his GED he plans to "tour the U.S. and Canada on my motorcycle, but

Alice Lawson

wife go with go with him? "No. my wife is younger and she'll keep on working," Dutton said. "She'll help pay the bills."

Alice Lawson's problem is dyslexia. She is now receiving special help with her reading

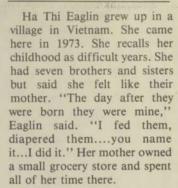
"I have the comprehension but when I read it comes out different," she said. She plans also not all at once," he said. Will his to enroll in the displaced you how to dress, to write a resume, and conduct an interview," Lawson said. "How to put your best foot forward."

Lawson is married, and doesn't have to work right now. "But if anything happens I want to be able to go out and look for a job," she explained.

Janice McAllister attended a California high school until she was a sophomore. "I was an avid reader but math was a problem," she said. She related that her teacher told her she was stupid. He said she should get married. "So I took his advice," McAllister said. "I left school and got married. Now, 30 years later, I'm back."

She and her husband used to own a restaurant, but when he died she had to sell it because she couldn't do the paper work. She will also take the displaced homemaker class. "It's to put you back in the world...to organize your marketable skills... to utilize things at your disposal," McAllister said.

"When I came to school here, it's like a teacher opened a door... like putting light in a tunnel"



Ealin said when she was 14 she decided to get a job and pay someone to take care of the children. Soon she moved to the city, opened a wholesale grocery business, and returned home only once a month, to pay the bills. "I couldn't read or write but I could talk good and they, the customers, didn't know," Eaglin said. "I figured faster than they could on paper."



Janice McAllister

could support the whole family and her mother quit working in the store. At 17 she bought them a house with eight hired a chauffeur, a cook and a housekeeper. She also employed four in her business.

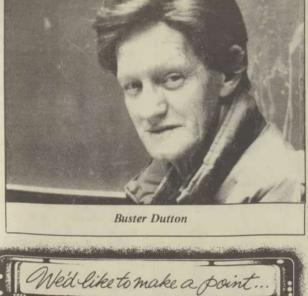
"It's not like here," Eaglin said. "Over there, if you're smart and have the energy, you can really make it. I wanted to open a restaurant here but there is too much red tape.'

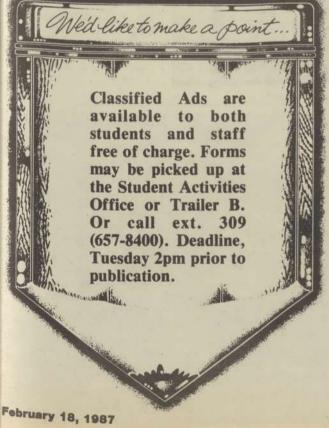
Eaglin has a low opinion of Vietnamese men. She said it's always the women who work in the fields. "The men go to war the women," she said. "All

By the time she was 16 Eaglin they can do is make babies." She said it will take two more years, "but I'm not going to let that hold me back." She plans to go on to college. She hasn't bedrooms and four baths. She yet decided on her major but said she is interested in counseling "because I like to help people."

She said most American children don't seem to appreciate their opportunity to

"I never had a chance to go to school in my country," Eaglin said. "When I come to school here, it's like a teacher opened a door...like putting light in a tunnel. When I can write really well but they can't work hard like I'm going to write an article







I can drive when I drink Can drive when I drink Can bruve when I druk. Can dring 1 00. 7 drinks in all The more you drink, the more coordination you lose. That's a fact, plain and simple.

It's also a fact that 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine and 194 ounces of spirits all have the same alcohol content. And consumed in excess, all can affect you. Still, people drink too much and then go out and expect to handle a car. When you drink too much, you can't handle a can. You can't even handle a pen. . . A public service message from Will Roget's Institute