

# Homeless attend Clackamas, solution is needed

by Nolan Kidwell  
Features Editor

There are presently six million homeless in our country, give or take a few, and eight of these attend Clackamas Community College.

The issue of homelessness is something which is a growing problem in today's society, where people often find themselves without a place to stay at night because they either cannot find work or cannot afford housing because of low wages. However, most of the general population is removed from this problem, being that most of our society deal with the homeless only on a casual basis.

"It can happen to any of us," said Donna Eagle, a musician and biosynthesizer who has performed at CCC, has been homeless for quite some time.

Eagle does not feel that "homeless" is the best way to describe people in this situation.

"There is no such thing as homeless," said Eagle. "It is actually being houseless. We all live on this planet." Eagle feels that the world is mankind's home. The only difference is that the people in this situation do not have a place to go home at night.

'Brian,' 22 years old, who wished to keep his real name untold, has learned what being homeless is like in the last few months. Brian is a student here at Clackamas, but has found attending college is much more of a struggle

without a regular place to stay.

"It all started with my mom kicking me out," Brian explained. "I actually wanted to leave." He hadn't expected to be fending for himself before the holidays, though.

He has "missed a lot of classes" since his life among the homeless began. Every night is a challenge for him, finding his next place to spend an evening. Brian also finds a certain amount of trouble always getting back to the college at the time he would like, because often times the bus schedules do not mesh with where he needs to be for his classes and his evening lodging.

"You have to deal with a certain amount of fear," he said. "I think that you really become a whole person, because you have to look inside yourself. You have to make important decisions that wouldn't be important normally."

"Your decisions are more survival-based," said Brian.

For instance, Brian relates that often times he would like to go to one of the various clubs in Portland and meet new people, possibly someone he could date, but instead he is forced to check with his friends to see if there is somewhere that he can stay for the evening.

Most of the time Brian manages stay with different friends. He has stayed with friends at Lewis and Clark College in the dormitories there. Brian has stayed with some of his friends, in their apartments, who attend Portland State

University.

"I spent one night underneath a cedar tree. It was beautiful," Brian recalled. "It suits me well; I've always looked upon vagabonds as kind of being free."

Still he is looking for a place to live. "I dream of it," he said.

"I've met several people who are looking for houses," Brian hopes that he will be able to share housing with one of these people. "Until then it is a matter of finding benefactors."

Eagle expresses similar problems which she faced when she was living as homeless.

"I was always asking myself, where am I going to sleep tonight?" she said.

There is a large group of homeless, according to Eagle, who camp in our nation's forests. Eagle lived in one of these communities for a while, known as a Rainbow Gathering, in Vermont. The homeless are growing at an astronomical rate, she feels. Eagle feels that conditions cannot remain as they are.

"The homeless are about to revolt," in Eagle's opinion. "We all have the right to be here and walk freely."

Eagle feels that to solve the problem of the homeless everyone has to work together.

"It's not how many problems we have," she said. "It's how many solutions we have."



Photo by Nolan Kidwell

Donna Eagle has been homeless in New York, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Eugene. Eagle now has a home, but is always helping others in the same situation.

## The party is over, poverty waits at the door

by Robert A. Hibberd  
Staff Writer

The 1980's consisted of Ronald Reagan masking his cold war imperialistic attempt to drive the Soviet Union into poverty by providing the American public an idealistic delusion of a happiness which could be found through a gluttonous consumption of material wealth and military buildup.

The Yuppie revolution reached its pinnacle in the '80's with every American dreaming of a BMW and a Volvo in the garage, a lifetime Club Med membership, a closet full of Armani suits, a yacht on the bay and the possibility of retirement at the age of 40.

As parents rushed off to work in a valorous attempt to beat the rat race and climb the corporate ladder, children were given MTV, G.I. Joes and Nintendo to pacify their creative, infantile energy.

The 80's were an age of excess. It became fashionable to acquire, consume and act greedy. It was a party that Ronnie called for, and it was a party that he got.

The party came to a capitalist/imperialistic orgasm when George sent our courageous American freedom fighters into Kuwait to rescue the source of American joy, gasoline.

America watched in proud, mother-like joy as our highly trained 18-year-old mercenaries slaughtered the poorly prepared, illiterate army of that want-to-be Hitler, Saddam Hussein.

Yes, Americans certainly have enjoyed themselves over the past decade, it was quite a party.

The sad thing about good parties, though, is that good parties must eventually come to an end

and with the end of a good party comes a hellacious hangover.

We are well into the '90's, recession is really depression, savings and loan scandals are on the rise, every day another company files for bankruptcy, unemployment is a household word, schools are crack houses and a large percentage of Americans are poor and homeless.

Domestic issues are all the rage among political parties as they scramble to increase their electability and seize offices in order to proliferate their campaign contributor's corporate financial endeavors.

The American public is being bombarded with schemes and plans that are somehow going to fix the problem of poverty and deprivation in America.

Politicians are saying that they hold the key to open the door to the American dream but how realistic is the American dream if the public keeps electing members of powerful political parties into office, when it seems that the political parties, and government in general, is to blame for our financial difficulties.

Three-fourths of this country's money is now in the hands of one-fourth of the population and that portion of the population is in control of the government via campaign donations and under-the-table exchanges of cash.

The rich keep getting richer and the poor keep getting poorer. Upper-class society is wetting its greedy lips on excess, while the poor and homeless are forced to bear the burden.

To quote a couple of popular bands, The Who, "We won't be fooled again," and The Rolling

Stones, "The time is right for a violent revolution."

America faces tough times when we create a society in which violence is commonplace and conquest is something that we instill in one another.

With the USSR no longer in existence, our victory-minded society no longer has a clear-cut enemy that can scare it into unity. We are searching for an "us versus them" scenario.

Guess what? The "us versus them" is now the rich versus the poor.

As is the case during most situations in which the government is

oppressing its people, certain types of messiahs emerge to unify the people who are being oppressed in order to fight its oppressor, the establishment.

As poverty and deprivation increases, the homeless and the people who are killing each other in the drug war might decide, "Hey, we are tired of living like this. Maybe, instead of killing each other, we should take out the dudes that are doing this to us."

Then America will see an increased escalation in the war between social classes, in which the rich figures will make more and more laws and make it harder for

the poor to rise up, while the poor will be exercising Malcolm X's theory of "any means necessary" in order to get their point across.

As we enter a new election year, I must instill a sense of urgency into the mostly corrupt politicians of the country to get their domestic act together because if they don't, someone or some group might do it for them.

This is America and America will not stand for a bunch of aristocratic, power-minded individuals abusing their governmental power so as to keep the populace weak, in debt and thus, more manageable.

## ASG working for student lockers

by Robert A. Hibberd  
Staff Writer

Recently, the CCC Budget Committee turned down funding to supply students with lockers.

CCC students have been complaining to the Student Activity Office about the insufficient number of student lockers on campus.

"The primary reason was that the council thought it could be bought through fees," said Dean of Student Services, Dian Connert. "The assumption was that it would happen a different way."

Associated Student Government President Lauri Mayfield has been working to provide lockers to students.

"I know for a fact that lockers have been requested for the past five years, by Student Activities, and have been denied continuously," said Mayfield.

The president of student government cited the large amount of

students who want lockers as her primary reason for pursuing the issue.

"There has always been a waiting list (of students wanting lockers) that is twice as long as the amount of available lockers," Mayfield states.

The ASG Assistant to the President, Shauna Barnett, also tells of student locker difficulty.

"The waiting list, at times, has reached well over the 100 person mark" mentions Barnett, "and that number is inaccurate due to the fact that when students inquire about getting a locker, they become discouraged at the size of the waiting list and do not bother to add their name to the list."

The CCC Budget Committee, which consists of the Board of Education and seven laypersons, appropriated no money towards the funding of the student lockers.

The committee did, however,

give several thousands of dollars to other purposes, such as faculty robes.

"People come into the Student Activity Office complaining of backaches due to the fact that they have to carry a large amount of books around campus all day," said ASG Promotions Coordinator Tony Halford.

The cost of one five-tier unit of lockers is \$650.

Although there is an apparent discrepancy between the students and the administration over the matter of funding for student lockers, the two parties have begun working together in attempt to solve the problem.

"Currently, I am working with Dian Connert, dean of student services, in hopes that we will be able to rectify the locker problem," commented Mayfield.

The CCC Budget Committee will meet again in February.