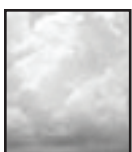


Saturday
partly sunny
high 26°F



Sunday
mostly cloudy
high 32°F



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Homelessness at home

When the holidays don't always bring good cheer

by **Patricia Morrison**
chief copy editor

As students huddle in warm coats, rushing from class to library holding steaming cups of coffee and cocoa, many forget those outside the ivory-covered halls of campus who do not have a warm coat to wear, nor spare dollars to spend at Starbucks. To those who are down on their luck, the holiday season doesn't bring the stress of finals, but neither does it bring the joys of shopping for presents for loved ones and gathering with family and friends to decorate a tree, light a menorah or make other memories to be cherished in future years.

Kenny Reed, a Cincinnati native, came to Columbus nine years ago. He left his family there and is no longer in touch with any of his relatives. His reason for leaving Cincinnati is heartbreaking in its simplicity. "It was real rough down there," Reed said. "I knew if I stayed I was going to die. So I figured if I was going to die, if I was going to starve, I'd go to the Capital and die on the Capital lawn."

Reed has been homeless off and on for many years; he's not sure how many years it's been. As a younger man, he was a skilled landscaper but the heavy work that profession required took its toll on his body and left him with permanent knee and back damage. After landscaping, Reed took a long-term job as a security guard at a motorcycle junkyard. When the junkyard closed, Reed was out of work and nearly out of luck.

Some years ago, Reed had a string of minor legal offenses against him. He was caught trespassing and incurred significant legal fees to stay out of jail, was charged with possession of marijuana three times and was proven guilty of a DUI. "The DUI changed my life" for the worse, Reed said. It has been difficult for Reed to live and work under the restrictions these offenses carry. "My license was suspended and I'm not allowed to own the tools I need for landscaping," Reed said.

The chronic injuries in his knees and back coupled with minor offenses on his permanent legal record have made it impossible for Reed to find permanent work since then. His longest stint without work or a place to stay was nine months. He goes to local homeless shelters to eat the meager meals provided but rarely stays overnight. If the winter winds get too cold, Reed tries to stay with friends. He will stay in shelters as a last resort. "I wish I could have my life back," Reed said. "But I know it's more than I can put together by myself. So I just try to be happy the way I am."

photos by Sarah Wills



photos by Sarah Wills

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Open Shelter
125 E. Broad

Quick fact: Open Shelter has already seen a rise in the amount of need this season due to the poor economic conditions, Kent Beittel, CEO, said.

Needed donations: money, white socks, toboggan hats, gloves, winter coats, long johns, hooded sweat-shirts, disposable razors, shaving cream, sleeping bags

Volunteer: call Harry Yepref, Development Coordinator (614) 222-6701

Needed donations: pots, pans, paper and cleaning products, personal products, and food

Volunteer: Carrie, (614) 461-9247
homelessfamiliesfoundation.org

Quick fact: The Homeless Families Foundation's 46 housing units are almost always filled to capacity, Adrienne Corbett, Executive Director, said.

Homeless Families Foundation
651 W. Broad

Choral Ensembles ring in the holiday season with 'There Shall A Star'

by **Patricia Morrison**
chief copy editor

Clad in white robes and clutching burning candles, the Chapel Choir opened the annual Christmas Festival, There Shall a Star, with a crisp, reverent rendition of "My Song in the Night."

Chapel Choir moved away from traditional arrangements of Christmas carols with their third selection, "Keep Your Lamps!" Katie Thompson accompanied the choir on a trio of conga drums.

Members of Chapel Choir began the song in the aisles of Mess Hall and moved onstage to the beat of the music.

Capital's other choirs were also major parts of the program. The Women's Chorus began their part of the festival with "Joy to the World."

The Choral Union, Chordsmen and Philomel also contributed song and spectacle to There Shall a Star.

The choirs began preparing some selections for this program at the beginning of the semester, but rehearsals began in earnest "about mid-way through the semester," Tim Feick, member of the Chordsmen, said.

What makes singing

Christmas selections beginning in September worth it?

"When Dr. Hasseler says good job," Emily Riggan, member of the Chapel Choir, said, all of her hard work has paid off.

Lynda Hasseler, Riggan's Dr. Hasseler, conducts Chapel Choir, Choral Union, and Philomel. There Shall a Star is her twentieth Christmas Festival.

The students are what keep Hasseler coming back year after year. "I get to stand in front of beauty every day," Hasseler said, "That's a good job. The students are funny, smart, loving and so talented."

Bev Pettit, narrator, added Biblical and seasonal readings throughout the program.

Members of the sold-out audiences were invited to join in singing some of the traditional carols.

Continuing a tradition, alumni of the Chapel Choir were invited to join the current choir in singing two traditional selections, "Beautiful Savior" and "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" at the conclusion of the program.

Two such alumni Friday evening were Bob and Joyce Avers, classes of 1957 and 1959 respectively, have



photo by Sarah Wills

Members of the Choral Union sing at this year's Christmas Festival.

attended about 50 Capital Christmas Festivals. They have attended the festival every year since singing in it as students. Bob also worked for Capital for 45 years, retiring as Personnel Director.

The Avers look forward to the festival to begin the "real Christmas season," Bob said.

Riggan and Seth agree that the energy of the audience is a big part of what makes the Christmas Festival so successful and exciting year after year.

"One of my favorite parts is smiling at the audience while singing the carols," Seth said.

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