SCOHAH Hunger and Homelessness Week raises campus awareness at HC

By Rabia Nizamani

To celebrate National Hunger and Homelessness Week, the Holy Cross Student Coalition on Hunger and Homelessness (SCOHAH) organized events aimed at raising awareness about the problems of hunger and homelessness in the United States and around the world.

The week began on Monday, Nov. 13, with a clothing drive. Old clothes were collected from each dorm and also from students living in off campus apartments. The donated items were then given to a local shelter for distribution to those who most need them.

Tuesday saw students participate in the Hunger Banquet at Kimball. The Banquet was designed to display the effects of poverty to the student body and faculty. The event was meant to be an eye opener for students who have never really thought about the effects of poverty.

The week ended with a large event, the Idarity Sleepout. Howev-er, the final and most populous group was given a third world meal, represented by a normal Kimball meal. A second, larger group was served plain rice with some vegetables. This meal represented the food avai-lability of the participants were randomly chosen to receive a first world meal, represented by a normal Kimball meal. A second, larger group was served plain rice with some vegetables. This meal represented the food available to the second world. However, the final and most populous group was given a third world meal consisting of brood and bread.

The enormity of the food allocation crisis was spotlighted by SCOHAH co-chair Bill Schrader, '03: "Think about the injustice that's going on in this world: billions live on less than a dollar a day," says Schrader. "People die of starvation every few seconds. Even here in America, 31 million people are hungry every year. Let's change that."

On Wednesday evening, many students crowded the Hogan Campus Center lawn for the Homeless Solidarity Sleepout. However, this was a camping trip without tents, as students spent the night under the stars in sleeping bags, blankets, and cardboard boxes kindly provided by SCOHAH. The event was designed to promote unity with America's 750,000 homeless. The comments of Courtney Paquette, '03, were typical of the response organizers hoped for from both the sleepout and the week as a whole. "I realized I was largely ignorant of the problems of hunger and homelessness not only worldwide, but in our own country," says Paquette. "It is our problem and we are responsible for doing something about it."

Thursday was highlighted by a panel discussion entitled "The First World, the Second World, the Third World" with Janine Shertzer, associate professor of sociology, as the moderator. The panelists included: Downey Hogan,有多 del 

Holocaust survivor; Lorraine Tovar, research assistant; and Donald H. Lewis, professor of history.

By Sarah O'Connor

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