

LIVING OVERLOOKED

POLITICS IN THE EYES OF THE HOMELESS

By Brittany Lopez, Jackie Wright, and Stephany Gaona-Perez

LOCALS

attend Richmond Library on a regular basis to de-stress from the hectic city life of Columbia, SC. Many of the individuals who attend the library are homeless. While they come from different backgrounds and ideologies Cameron Brown and David Jefferson share a common hope for future government: stronger support for the homeless.

Brown, an Austrian native, moved to the U.S. as a 6-year-old boy. Now as a man in his late 60s, he spends his days at his local

“SOME OF [THE HOMELESS] NEED EDUCATION. SOME OF THEM NEED JOBS. SOME NEED PLACES TO STAY.”
DAVID JEFFERSON

library and his nights at Oliver Gospel Mission, a homeless ministry.

Brown supports Donald Trump and is a lifelong Republican.

“I’m a [Donald] Trump man. I want Trump to win [the election]

again. He scares other countries. We need someone to scare these people straight, he’ll do that,” Brown said.

However, Brown holds progressive views when it comes to public funding.

“I want to raise social security,” said Brown. This would allow him to stabilize his financial situation.

Despite contrasting parties, David Jefferson shares some of the same political views as Brown. Jefferson is registered as a Democrat but voted for Trump last election.

“I support his war task,” Jefferson said.

Jefferson, a Marine Corps veteran from New York, came to South Carolina from Atlanta, GA recently. According to the 63-year-old, he has worked as a police officer in New Jersey and a head chef in the

HOPING FOR A HOME: Cameron Brown, a resident of Oliver Gospel Mission, visits Richland library. Relying on social security checks, Brown is currently saving money to rent out a home to share with his girlfriend. “I’m building up my check once a month, I need three or four months to get a place,” Brown said. Photo by Jackie Wright.

PEACE AND QUIET: David Jefferson visits the Richland library often to escape the city. He comes to clear his mind and learn skills from the different programs offered at Richland library. “It’s where I come to think and get away from everybody,” Jefferson said. Photo by Jackie Wright.

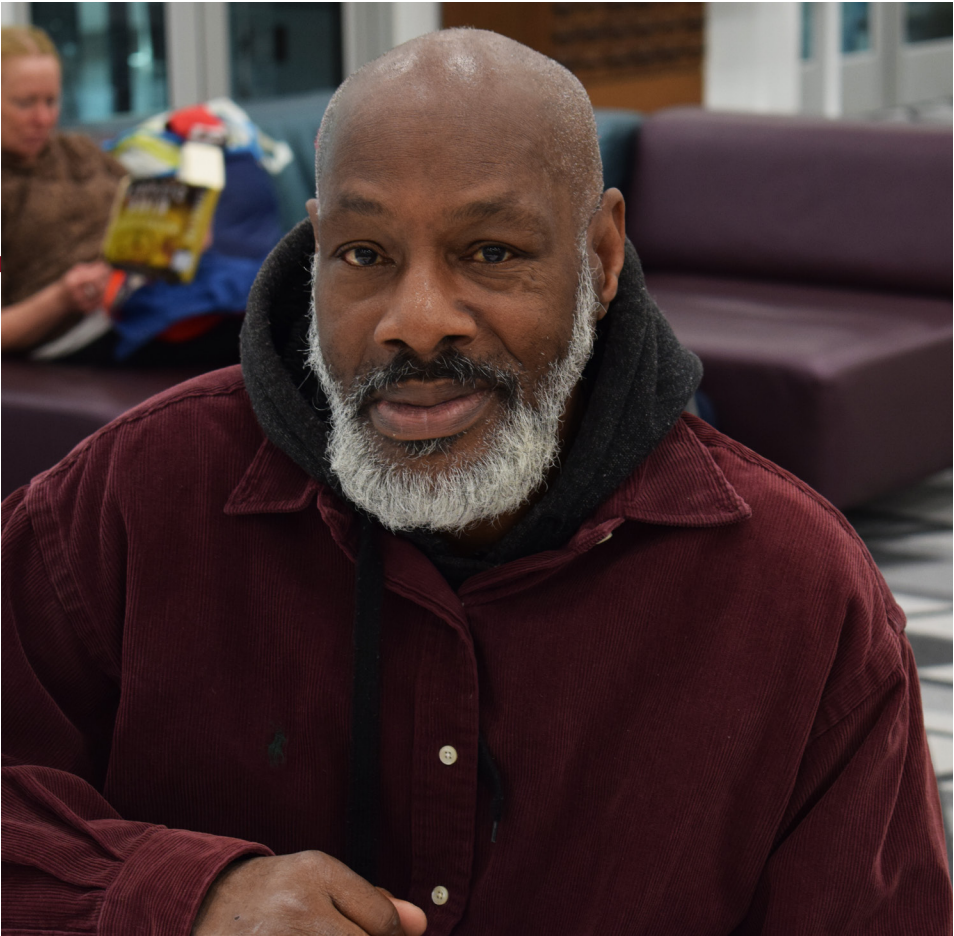
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

Despite working his whole life, today he struggles financially.

“The housing situation is flooding in Georgia so I came to South Carolina to get better housing,” Jefferson said.

Jefferson became homeless after he left his girlfriend, having spent much of his money on her and her son. He’s currently staying at Oliver Gospel Mission and living on disability checks.

Brown’s and Jefferson’s current living situations have caused them to want to see improvement in dif-



ferent topics concerning public aid and economic development in the upcoming election.

“I want better healthcare, better housing, more jobs and to straighten out the economy,” Jefferson said.

Like Brown, Jefferson wants to see policies that address the homeless population.

“Some of [the homeless] need education. Some of them need jobs. Some need places to stay,” Jefferson said.

A PLACE TO STAY: Oliver Gospel Mission offers emergency shelter for homeless men. The shelter is currently one of the few located in the area that is accessible by walking. “They have two [shelter options] one at the Oliver Gospel Mission and the Transitions [Homeless Shelter]. That’s it.” Jefferson said. Photo by Jackie Wright.