

## Homelessness in the USA: The Cat People

Annselm L.N.V. Morpurgo

*Homelessness* is a global human condition far too complex to be analyzed under one pair of spectacles. Discounting catastrophic Homelessness, *i.e.*, brought on by upheavals due to wars, famines, environmental disasters, hard-core poverty and unemployment, population explosions, genuine mental illness, there are some causes of Homelessness that may ultimately be found to be genetic, or at least hormonal in type.

Usually labelled 'eccentrics' or 'hobos', hard as it may be for the rest of us to understand them, some people are naturally footloose, feral possibly, even by birth and preference. Unlike Romani People and Native Americans, both of whom are distinct ethnic nomadic groups, these have no distinct ethnic ties or ancestral lines. Their only common denominators are that they are too nonconformist to be gainfully employable and eventually become urbanely displaced. Many, though not all, end up in prisons or mental hospitals or drug-rehab facilities and eventually, for those fortunate among them, end up living out the rest of their lives over-medicated and undernourished in half-way houses because no assisted-living or Section 8 housing facility will admit them.

But not all extreme nonconformist urbanely displaced footloose ferals are sociopaths, schizophrenics, or substance abusers. Some are very highly creative and successful over-achievers, and others are likewise brilliant but unrealized – and for lack of any economic rescue programs available to them, they are often mislabeled and misdiagnosed by psychiatric and social worker personnel in order to make them eligible under whatever procrustean rehabilitational category will keep them off the street. Then, falling victim to the system, these brilliant-but-unrealized ferals (often called 'artists') eventually become their pigeon-hole avatars.

One of the present programs of our seriously underfunded 'savant garde workshop,' through its 501 (c) (3) educational analogue, THE SAVANT GARDE INSTITUTE, is to seek out, identify, and work 'between-the-cracks' to house and recycle some of this discarded genius. Billions are sought, not only for this work but for the larger work of finding creative 'between-the-cracks' solutions to global homelessness.

*The Savant Garde* began in the 1940's as a grass-roots community of holocaust-displaced artists and scientists struggling to rebuild their careers in the USA. Many from this original group, as well as their 1960's membership, made it to stardom. Its fundraising site, linked to eBay Charity Auctions, may be accessed directly at <http://www.TheHamptons.org>

CONTACT: Prof. Anselm L.N.V. Morpurgo, C.E.O.

THE SAVANT GARDE INSTITUTE, POB 1650 SAG HARBOR , NY 11963

TEL: 1-631-725-1414 [morpurgo@msn.com](mailto:morpurgo@msn.com)