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# The Youth Advocate

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SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

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## Administrators Hold Meeting In Myrtle Beach

Some three dozen administrators of state juvenile delinquency programs met at North Myrtle Beach, S. C. in late October to hear leading authorities on juvenile behavior and to elect national officers.

State Director Grady A. Decell was named president of the National Association of State Juvenile Delinquency Program Administrators, succeeding Samuel W. Sublett Jr. of St. Charles, Illinois, Administrator of the Juvenile Division of the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Administrators heard from Harry C. (Pete) Dunagan, Willow Lane Unit Coordinator; the Hon. Margaret Driscoll, Judge of the Connecticut Juvenile Court in Bridgeport and president of the national Association of Juvenile Court Judges; Allen F. Breed, recently retired Director of the California Youth Authority; Consultant Joseph M. Leavey of Jamaica Plains, Mass.; S. C. Lieutenant Gov. Brantley Harvey and S. C. Rep. H. Parker Evatt, among others.

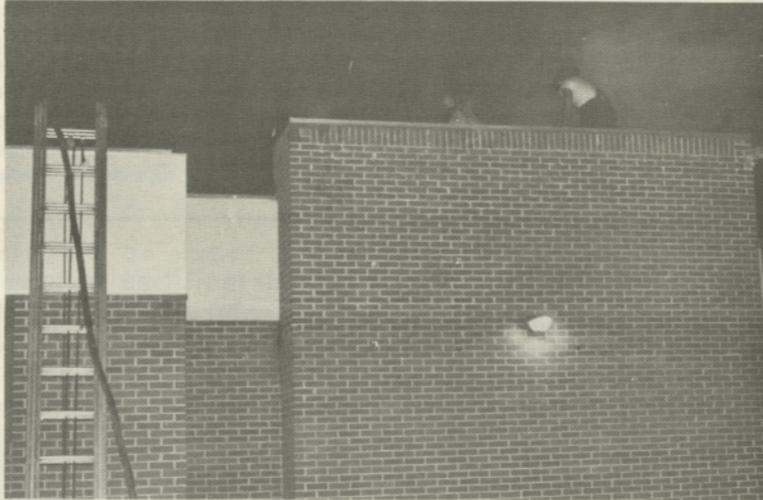
Judge Driscoll told NASJDPA delegates the American Bar Association's proposed standards for administration of juvenile justice were unrealistic.

"The ABA standards were written in secrecy," she said. "We had to ask people who wrote the proposed standards to come and talk with us about them."

The ABA, she said, would remove status offenders from the courts' jurisdiction and allow for fixed sentences for offenses. "Who will take over for the courts if status offenders are removed?" she asked. "Who will persuade the child and parent to go to the service agencies?"

In a later session, John Conrad, Senior Fellow at the Academy for Contemporary Problems

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### FIRE AT SCHOOL

Columbia firemen fought a \$75,000 blaze Dec. 26 at the Intake Building on Campus No. 3, caused when a mattress in a linen closet was deliberately set on fire.

Some 30 students in the building were evacuated to other dormitories. Six male students ran away, but all were apprehended.

Burn damage was confined to just one wing of the building. The other two wings suffered extensive water and smoke damage. The building was expected to be put back to complete use in February.

"The major thing," said Director Grady A. Decell, "is that none of the children were hurt. We're all thankful for that."

Investigation into the fire is continuing.



## Agency Asks For \$7.8 Million Budget

The S. C. Department of Youth Services has asked the State Budget and Control Board for almost \$7.87 million, the largest ever.

The agency's total budget—including employer contributions is \$10.85 million, up from an asked for \$9.9 million last year. Due to a decrease in state revenues, the agency was actually appropriated \$6.4 million. State Director Grady A. Decell said the funds are necessary if the agency is to meet its responsibilities. He indicated some programs might be curtailed if the agency's budget is cut.

"We provide a three-pronged program in juvenile delinquency in South Carolina utilizing funds allocated by the state legislature," he said. "This program includes a community-based delinquency prevention program; residential diagnostic and evaluation services; and residential programs for those children which institutional care is absolutely necessary."

The Youth Bureau portion of the budget is \$2.46 million, with \$1.3 million for 141 positions and the remaining \$1.15 million for operating expenses.

Other requests include:

\* \$1.2 million for total administrative costs, down \$8,000 from last year (personnel costs are also down \$8,000. The estimated total fund for personnel is \$998,651).

\* Other operating expenses—office supplies, contractual services, motor vehicle supplies, etc.—are \$3.9 million, up from \$3.82 million last year, and \$3.6 million from the 1975-76 fiscal year.

\* Supportive Services is decreased from \$1.995 million to \$1.992 million. Through judicious management practices, the

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# Director's Dialogue . . .

by  
Grady A. Decell



## THE AGENCY MOVE

There seems to be a continuing misunderstanding as to the purpose of the intercampus moves that took place in September and October (and part of November).

The transfer of staff and students from John G. Richards to the Reception and Evaluation Center and the closing of the S. C. School for Boys in Florence is the culmination of a dream.

Children who have not been sentenced should be kept apart from those who are already committed to our agency. If their problems can be solved within the community, they will most probably return there. Thus, they should not associate with children who are undergoing rehabilitative programs in an institutional environment. Secondly, such children should be isolated for a short period of time until we can determine if they are carrying a communicable disease such as hepatitis.

A third reason is our rehabilitative program with children who are committed to us. The Willow Lane campus, the campus that formerly housed the Reception and Evaluation Center, and the New Campus are within a stone's throw of each other.

## AN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATION

They are small enough—about 200 children each—to have an effective administration. And yet they are diversified enough to provide services for the other two campuses. For example, food, for the children who live on the New Campus is provided by the former R & E campus Food Service Staff. The New Campus provides the high school and vocational facilities for the children of all three campuses. Willow Lane provides educa-

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Mrs. Lucy T. Davis . . . . . Chairman  
Grady A. Decell . . . . . Director  
Edward B. Borden . . . . . Editor

## Budget, continued

agency is able to maintain costs of only 70 cents per meal per student, Decell noted.

"One of our greatest efforts," said Decell, "has been spent in attempting to develop appropriate services to meet the needs of different children. We feel children who have run away from home, show disrespect for parents, are truant from school or violate curfews should not be jailed or committed to institutions with adolescents who commit crimes." "The cost of devel-

oping methods to deinstitutionalize so-called status offenders, the creation of a wide variety of community programs and special institutionalized projects was originally funded by federal dollars. Unless the state is able to provide additional funds to absorb terminating federal projects in the near future, we'll be faced with the serious decision to stop successful projects. This will result in a major backward step in the rehabilitation of delinquent children in South Carolina."

tional facilities for junior high school and those on elementary levels. And so it goes.

We are finally in a position where we can perform treatment on a professional basis. In my editorial last month, I mentioned that the reorganization would allow professionals to work in their disciplines while allowing each unit coordinator to act as the child's advocate, much as a parent does. This system would have been impossible had the Florence campus existed, as the professional staff would have been seventy miles away.

We moved from some of the oldest buildings in our agency (Florence). We are now in the process of remodeling the others (the old John G. Richards campus), which has housed delinquent boys since the turn of the century. Which brings me to my final point: much of the complaints seem to be directed to the fact we moved John G. Richards boys onto the old R & E campus and moved R & E students to the former John G. Richards campus.

## A TERRIBLE CONNOTATION

The name, "John G. Richards," seems to have a terrible connotation. It was all right to have institutionalized students there, but we can't put, it seems, children who are adjudicated delinquent but not sentenced, without being criticized.

Where have these criticisms been for seventy years? Where is the concern for all those youth who sweltered in non-airconditioned barracks and whose minds slumbered from lack of adequate physical and mental activity (brought about by a shortage of appropriated funds)?

The proof is in the pudding. I have promised that within six months, sooner if possible, dramatic changes on the old John G. Richards campus will occur to make it one of the best facilities anywhere. The plans are going forward. The dreams, the ideas, the beliefs we've shared for the last several years are about to blossom. The beneficiaries will be the children, who come to us now, and in the future.



### Cleaning Up

Firemen clean up the mess created by the fire at the Intake Dorm, campus No. 3, the night after Christmas. Later that eve-

ning staff members met in special session with Director Grady A. Decell (center) to

discuss emergency procedures. "We don't want this to happen again," said Decell.

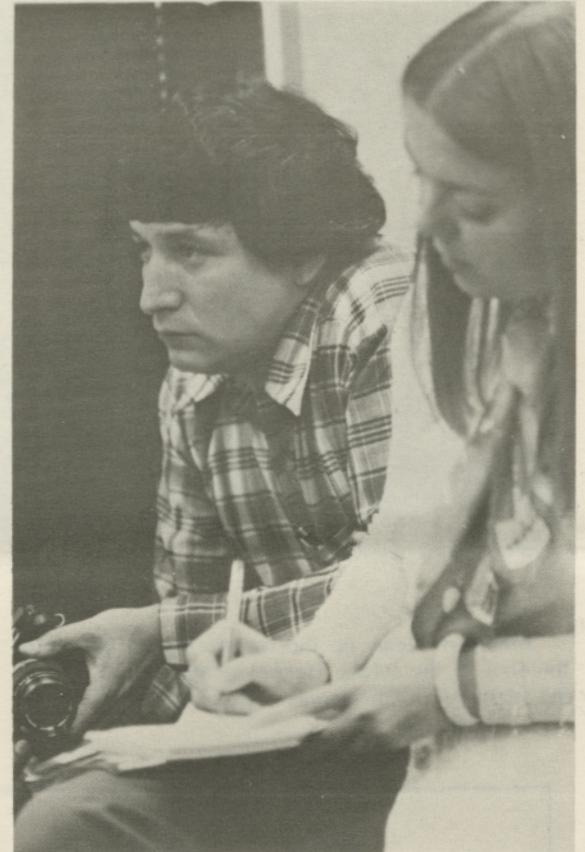
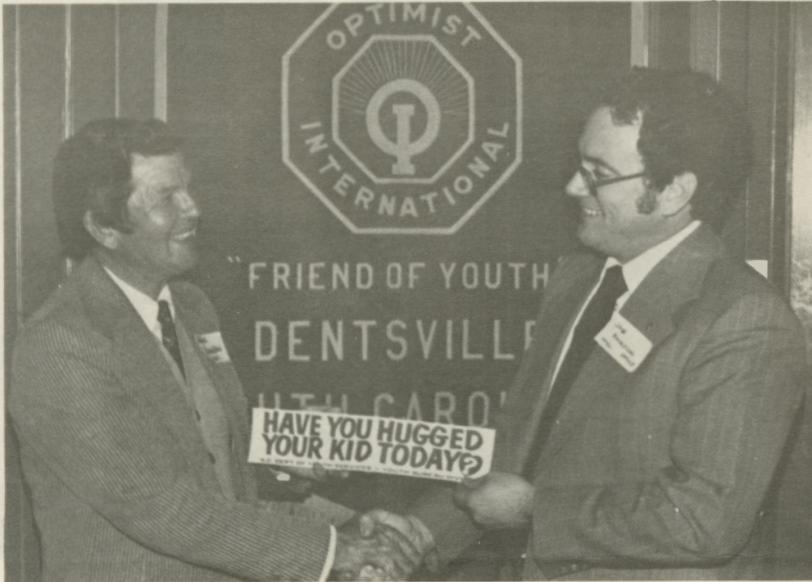
# The Youth Advocate Scene



### Santa Comes; Chairman Tagged

Santa Claus came to the agency's three campuses this year dressed in a floppy hat and pulling a wagon of toys and gifts. Some say he's Frankie-San, Librarian at Central Correctional Institution, but Mr. San vehemently main-

tains he's only a helper. Earlier in the month, former Board Chairman E. Perry Palmer presented the No. 1 S. C. license tag to newly elected Chairman, Mrs. Lucy T. Davis of Florence.



### Optimists Recognized; Agency Interviewed

The Rev. Horace Youngblood, Chief of Chaplains, presents a bumper sticker and the agency's goodwill to Jon Anderson, president of the Dentsville Optimist Club, for its financial support the past two years. The agency was the subject of an article (above) written by Celeste Loucks and photographed by Paul Obrégon of the Baptist Home Mission Board. The article is to come out March in the national publication, *Home Missions Magazine*.



### Career Day; Move Completed

Mrs. Daisy Dunn Johnson, center above, Director of Career Development at S. C. State College and a former agency Board Member, chats with Robert Green, Youth Bureau, and Ed Boyd, Reception and Evaluation Center, during the college's Ninth Annual Career Day. Boxes notwithstanding, Bernard R. Sandick, right, Director of the Division of Research, Planning and Grants conducts business with Analyst Angela Gullotta, following the move into the William J. Goldsmith Building in November.



# Horizon House Helps Children With School Problems

CHARLESTON—Some seventy Charleston children, categorized as poor learners, have an alternative to the streets: a comprehensive educational project known as Horizon House.

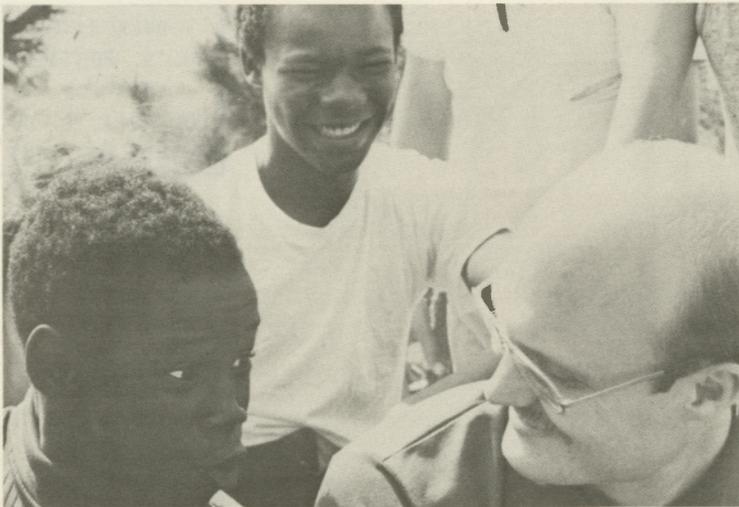
Originally funded by the Charleston Junior League, the project has helped hundreds of youngsters troubled by a regimented school system. Horizon House is actually two programs. Each holds 35 students. The "downtown" branch is in a park within a stone's throw of the Ashley River. The "north area" branch is in Oak Grove.

"It's an alternative education program," says Director Edward E. Ledford. "We help over a hundred children a year with all kinds of academic and behavioral problems. They're almost always caused by personal troubles, so we work on these, too."

Most of the children that come into the program are either delinquents or pre-delinquents. Using a mixture of concern, excellent teachers, a small teacher-student ratio, a nourishing noon meal and a wholesome atmosphere, Horizon House has been able to bring phenomenal changes to its charges.



Horizon House Director Ed Ledford, right, maintains a busy schedule. Miss Harriet Likes, English teacher, has a rapt student during a morning class. Rapport between staff and students is shown in this photo with Program Director James Hutcheson, whose salary is paid by the Department of Youth Services.



"Seventy per cent of those who came through last year didn't repeat a delinquent act," says Ledford. "They'd failed an average of two years' work and were some four years behind."

"The typical student," says Ledford, "can't read well. Some have to be taught their alphabet." Horizon House brings an average one to three year's improvement in grade for each year in the program. The math class is higher than that.

Students are broken into five groups. Four groups are in class at any particular time. The fifth is in recreational class. There are a maximum of seven students in each group. A teacher and a teacher's aide try to give the students "a lot better hold on what they're doing. We stress communication skills and learning."

"The emphasis," says Ledford, "is on what kind of skills are involved, such as getting along with groups or stopping to solve problems. Learning is a reward in itself."

One graduate, who went on to graduate from the Opportunity School in Columbia, returned to help rewire Horizon House's facility in the North Area. Another is a corporal in the police department. A third has attended college for more than two years. Most of the students, says Ledford, come back to visit after leaving the program.

Horizon House got its start in 1964 through efforts by the Junior League and the Charleston County Family Court. Its \$250,000 budget is currently being picked up by the Charleston County Council, the United Way, the Department of Social Services, the Manpower Department (CETA), among others.

Ledford, director since 1964, has a BA degree from Wake Forest and a Master's degree in Social Work from Tulane University. The first director was Lorenz (Ted) Villeponteau, now with the Medical University in Charleston.

Children come from all sections of the city, says Ledford, and they're referred by many agencies. The Department of Youth Services is a prime supporter of Horizon House. James Hutcheson,



program director for the downtown facility, is a staff member for the Charleston Youth Bureau, a division of the state agency.

**PROFILE: Samuel Sublett Jr. Administrator, Juvenile Division Illinois Department of Corrections**



*Editor's Note: Sublett is immediate past president of the National Association of State Juvenile Delinquency Program Administrators. He was succeeded by S. C. Youth Services Director Grady A. Decell. PROFILE was interested in Sublett's views on juvenile justice.*

**PROFILE:** What changes do you see in the immediate future for juvenile justice?

**SUBLETT:** None, I'm sorry to say. I see no changes with respect to the concern for due process and the public's current attitudes towards juvenile behavior.

**PROFILE:** What is the "public" attitude?

**SUBLETT:** We're in a period in which juvenile behavior is largely viewed as negative and there is a strong public reaction to that behavior. I hope public policy will not continue to shift in the present direction.

**PROFILE:** Is this a shift away from treatment?

**SUBLETT:** Yes. We're moving away from it much more so than ten years ago. What really bothers me is the idea that juvenile justice is often viewed as punishment for wrongdoing and that punishment is the appropriate reaction to the behavior of children. This is certainly not consistent with our cultural heritage.

**PROFILE:** Then this shift of public policy—

**SUBLETT:** —is to one based on punishment. Those concerned with the ethics of government are not speaking up.

**PROFILE:** What's caused this change?

**SUBLETT:** The barrage of media concern for negative juvenile behavior and shortsighted research projects designed to capitalize on such exposure. The popular notion is that juvenile crime is increasing by leaps and bounds when basic research indicates that there is no significant change in adolescent behavior.

**PROFILE:** Are we—nationwide—doing a good job in treatment?

**SUBLETT:** Yes and no. We're doing as well as any institutional service is—such as the public schools in education and hospitals in medical services. In juvenile corrections, failures make headlines. But we also do a number of good things that go unheralded.

**PROFILE:** Please expand.

**SUBLETT:** Some children participate in the juvenile justice system

**Administrators Meet, continued**

in Columbus, Ohio, questioned the nation's commitment to the treatment of the violent juvenile offender.

"It's a reflection on the way we pass laws and create penal institutions," Conrad said. He cited the case of "George Clancy," a 14-year-old Indiana youth convicted of armed robbery and rape, who was transferred to a juvenile institution in Ohio because of a lack of secure facilities.

When Clancy reaches 21, Conrad said, "Someone will have to decide whether to keep him where he is or return him to an Indiana facility, or he can be released to the streets.

"This is an age in which criminal justice thinkers are hypnotized by bad statistics, a focus on systems rather than people, and a history of many failures and few successes. . . . We don't know how many of them there are, and we have no facilities to deal with them. Worse, we seem to be collecting no infor-

mation about the impact of the decisions we have to make on these individuals."

Lt. Gov. Harvey said in South Carolina delinquent children "are being treated as children with problems. They're flawed human beings and nothing more.

"Some of the problems are very complex and some of the crimes these children have committed are horrendous. But you don't solve anything, we've learned, by taking a child and beating him until he bleeds. The minute you quit beating him he's going to pick up his former attitude.

"Only genuine human concern for children," he said, "will make changes permanent."

Other officers elected were Pat Mack, Minnesota, vice president; Mike Morrello, New Hampshire, secretary-treasurer; and to the executive board, Robert Hilson, Maryland; Frank Maloney, Connecticut; John Moran, Arizona; and Sublett.

and fail despite our best efforts. They make headlines. Most, however, respond and function as well as others in the general population. We don't have all the answers. But somehow there is a growing belief that punishment is the answer to problems in the juvenile justice field. I'm not for coddling wrongdoers. I'm for being as firm as necessary, but not for crucifying young people who err.

**PROFILE:** What do you recommend, then?  
**SUBLETT:** I recommend a public policy that addresses itself to a concern for the individual youth conditioned by a regard for public safety. Not every youth needs to have treatment. Some just need to have their liberty curtailed for a period of time—which varies with the needs of the individual.

There are extremes in the juvenile justice field, and we need someone to articulate a sensible approach to governmental efforts to control delinquent behavior. I'm concerned about a justice system that excludes charity and mercy and a genuine concern for human needs.

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