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Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention



jail removal public education catalogue

materials from the national student
communications competition and
the national media campaign

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U.S. Department of Justice
National Institute of Justice

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JAIL REMOVAL PUBLIC EDUCATION CATALOGUE
A CATALOGUE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS FROM THE
NATIONAL STUDENT COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION AND
THE NATIONAL AD COUNCIL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

PREPARED FOR
United States Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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COMMUNITY RESEARCH FORUM

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

August, 1981

FOREWORD

The issue of juveniles in adult jails is one which has long suffered from a cloak of myth and misunderstanding. Not until recently was there a good understanding of how many juveniles were in jail and why they were being held. During the past few years a great deal has been learned about this practice and the destructive effects on juveniles. Significant progress has been made in a few states and many local communities to eliminate the jailing of juveniles. For instance, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has eliminated the practice through a unique blend of youth advocacy, legislation, program development, and monitoring.

In spite of these successes and strong national and local support, the jailing of juveniles continues to prevail in virtually every state and territory. Recent survey statistics estimate 479,000 juveniles were admitted to over 17,000 county jails and police lockups. In addition to the physical and emotional abuse often endured by juveniles in adult facilities, the jail environment causes juveniles to kill themselves at a rate eight times higher than those in separate juvenile detention facilities and the general youth population. Further, the confinement of juveniles in adult jails and lockups aggravates already serious overcrowding problems and increased levels of legal liability.

Recent research indicates that the issue of jailing is one which local citizens are unaware, but one which they would eliminate once they understand the situation of their own community. Significantly, this willingness to act extends to voting, use of tax dollars, and volunteer work. The Jail Removal Public Education Catalogue pro-

vides materials which can be used at the state and local level to enhance the public and official awareness of this continuing national tragedy. The materials, representing the work of college students and of a prestigious national advertising agency, outline a creative and imaginative approach which can be tailored to the unique needs of a local public education campaign.

The public education materials appearing in this catalogue were developed by the award-winning entrants from the Competition and the staff of the advertising firm of Kenyon and Eckhardt. Many people, however, have been involved in this jail removal public education effort. Special thanks are due David Gilman, Thomas Ockerse, Norman Perman, and Flora Rothman who served as jurors for the national competition; Dick Streckfuss, of the Department of Communications at the University of Illinois, Jim Collier, Director of Public Affairs at the University of Illinois, Gordon Kinney, Senior Vice-President of Campaign Administration and Norma Kramer, Director of Campaign Analysis for the Advertising Council for their insightful assistance and support through the national media campaign; and Cheryl Driscoll, David West and Doyle Wood of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, without whose continuing support and guidance the public education effort would not have achieved the high level of success it currently enjoys.

James W. Brown
Director
Community Research Forum

CONTENTS

TO INFORM THE PEOPLE.....	1
THE COMPETITION.....	2
USING THESE MATERIALS.....	3
THE PROJECTS.....	5
THE AD COUNCIL MEDIA CAMPAIGN.....	29

I. TO INFORM THE PEOPLE

"This ain't no place for a kid, man."

Statement of a 15-year-old boy
in jail for 41 days.

Every day more than 1,000 children across the country are arrested by police and detained in adult jails. Conditions in the nation's jails have been decried for years. Jails have been characterized as "old, badly designed, poorly

equipped, and in most instances in need of urgent repairs...Filth, homosexuality, and degeneracy are rampant, and are the rule rather than the exception." A young child's vulnerability in such conditions is underscored by the fact that most children in jails have not been charged with serious offenses. The lack of suitable placement alternatives in many communities means that children charged with misdemeanors, running away, "beyond parental control," or other minor offenses are often jailed for days, even weeks. It seems incomprehensible that pervasive jailing of children continues more than 16 years after John Kennedy called children "our most precious national resource."

It is suspected that the absence of information and the low visibility of children in jails allow juvenile jailing to continue with limited exposure by the news media or general public. For example, children are still jailed in one Western state even though a state law passed over 23 years ago supposedly prohibits this practice. An effective approach to changing these long-standing practices requires a concentrated public education effort geared toward lay citizens, as well as to officials who plan or operate the current juvenile justice system.

For this reason, the National Student Communications Competition, sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, was conducted. Its purpose has been to harness the creativity and skills of students in the broadcasting, graphics, and journalism fields to enhance public and official awareness of children's plights in the nation's adult jails. This text presents the results of that competition.

2. THE COMPETITION

This competition was divided into three separate categories: journalism, radio/television, and graphics. Students were required in the journalism category to submit a news story or documentary series describing actual juvenile jailing practices in a state or locality. The radio and television entries required 30-second public service announcements for television and for radio broadcast. Graphics students submitted a series of three magazine advertisements, a poster, and a bumper sticker depicting different themes concerning the issue of children in adult jails. The competition period was from November 1, 1979 through February 29, 1980. The entries were judged by a jury of renowned representatives from the communications and the juvenile justice fields. The jury awarded a total of \$2,900 in prize money to the two best entries received in each category.

The first goal of the competition--to involve young people in research about an issue which affects their peers--was clearly achieved. Over 80 entries from approximately 200 university and high school students nationwide were submitted. As this booklet later demonstrates, their research into the juvenile jailing issue was superlative. Moreover, comments attached to several entries described the concern which many students felt after they learned the details of the juvenile jailing issue. Students wrote to express their empathy with the problem and their eager-

ness to educate the public:

"I found myself becoming very concerned during my short exposure to children's justice...and would like to help in any way I can."

"I have learned a great deal from this opportunity to work on such an important campaign."

"Thank you for stirring our interest in this subject. We plan to use some of the things we have learned to help remedy the juvenile justice situation in (our town)."

"The knowledge gained from researching the subject of children in adult jails has been informative and stimulating. We feel a strong empathy to the problem and wish to help in any way possible."

The second goal of the competition was to develop public education materials for use in local and national media campaigns. Such materials, many of exceptional caliber which can be used by interested groups, have now been produced by many talented students. The next section of this text describes how these materials can be used for a public education campaign about the plights of children in adult jails.

3. USING THESE MATERIALS

"Informed public opinion is the most potent of all restraints upon misgovernment..."

George Sutherland, Supreme Court Justice, 1936

This booklet has been prepared for you--the juvenile justice professional or citizen advocate--to highlight the competition entries which are now available for your use in a state or local public education campaign. Each of the entries shown in this booklet may be borrowed through the Community Research Forum to be duplicated and distributed in your jurisdiction.

The experiences of other states and localities suggests the wide range of public education campaigns that can be developed with these materials. For example, a Colorado foster parent recruitment center is using posters from this competition to advertise their program throughout Denver. The Alston Wilkes Society in South Carolina has very effectively used bumper stickers to promote the concept that "Runaway Children Don't Belong in Jail." The Iowa State Advisory Group sponsored a series of radio and television public service announcements discussing the problems and alternatives to jailing juveniles. The Nebraska State Planning Agency helped a University of Nebraska journalism class investigate the state's criminal justice system. A student journalism project focusing

on children in adult jails could also be conducted.

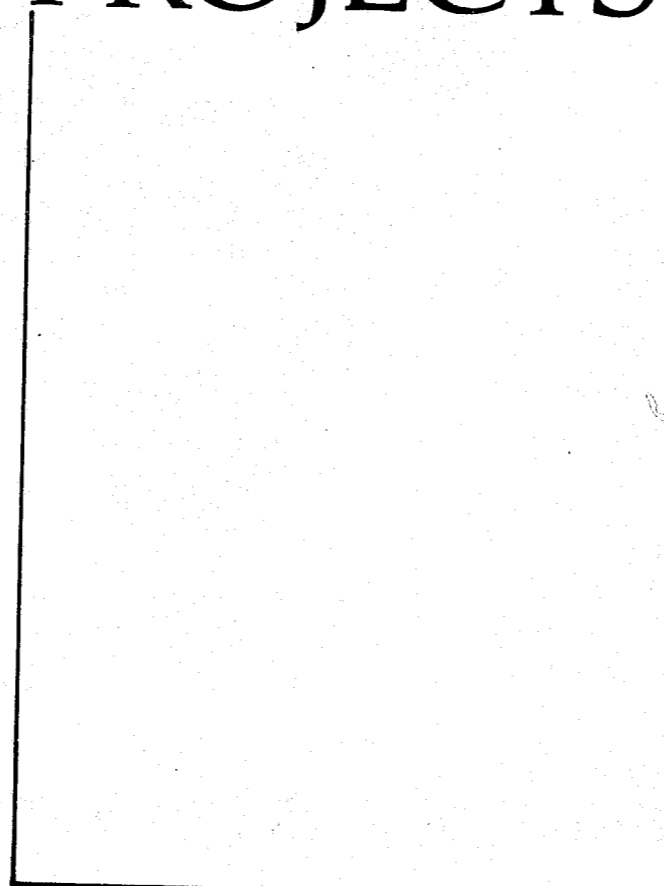
To obtain the entries shown in this booklet, simply contact the Community Research Forum and ask for a specific entry. In most cases, the entry will be mailed to you for a 2-3 week loan period at which time duplicates can be produced by your local printer or photographic service. The entries should then be mailed back, in original condition, to the Community Research Forum by the end of the loan period.

In addition to the student competition entries illustrated in this text, we have also included information regarding the jail removal materials which have been distributed as part of the national media campaign produced in conjunction with the national Advertising Council and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Many of these materials including television, radio, and newspaper public service messages, can be acquired by interested groups.

The remainder of this booklet presents the award winners and other notable entries from the national student competition, many of them quite professional in character. Most can be used "as is" or with slight modification and/or additions of text. We hope that they will be of interest and will encourage further citizen participation in the effort to remove juveniles from adult jails and lockups.

For further information regarding how concerned individuals can initiate change by taking an active part in this jail removal effort, read It's Your Move: The Un-Jailing of Juveniles in America which may be obtained from the Community Research Forum.

4. THE PROJECTS



**You Could Read This Ad
And Save A Child's Life...**

Or You Could Turn The Page



IT'S A CRIME

to jail a kid when there's a choice

There are many examples of successful alternatives to placing children in adult jails. Yet this year more than 50,000 children in the U.S. will spend part of their time in adult jails. Most of these children will not be charged with a criminal offense but will be placed in the physical conditions of a jail and be demoralized because of the physical conditions of a jail and the demoralizing nature of the physical conditions of a jail.

This is a crime when there are more effective, humane and less costly alternatives to placing children in adult jails. Alternative programs and emergency foster care programs are just a few of the many successful alternatives to locking children up in adult jails.

The indiscriminate jailing of children must be stopped. Community groups can become a powerful force in keeping children from adult jails. For further information write: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 555 Indiana N.W., Washington D.C. 20531.

**Save the Children
National Center for
Child Abuse Prevention
BAR NONE**

FIRST AWARD GRAPHICS

Gregory Thomas, Mark Williams, Susan Farb

Brigham Young University

IT'S A CRIME to jail a kid

Putting Children
Behind Bars Is An
Adult Delinquency

BAR NONE

IT'S A CRIME to jail a kid



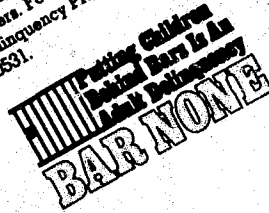
For further information write: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 633 Indiana, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20531.

IT'S A CRIME NOT TO CARE about a kid in jail


Citizens can help remove children from adult jails: children who are tragically and needlessly detained behind bars. This year alone, more than 500,000 children in the U.S. were confined in adult jails. Ironically enough, a nine state study by the Children's Defense Fund found that only 12 percent of the children jailed were charged with serious offenses against persons. A full 88 percent were charged with property or minor offenses. A disproportionate number were minority children; 34 percent were 14 and 15 years old, and over nine percent were 13 years old or younger.

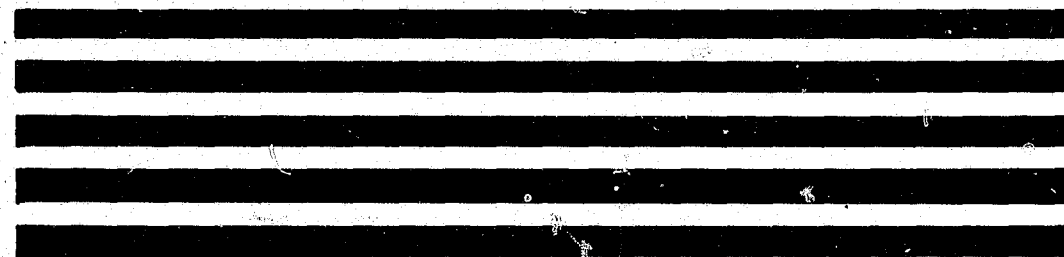
The tragedy of these statistics is that many of these children learn from adults new ways to strike back at society. As a result of this practice some children commit suicide, while many others are physically and verbally abused.

This indiscriminate jailing of children must be stopped. You can help. Citizens can press for more effective, humane and less costly alternatives to secure detention. They can participate in state and local planning efforts to remove juveniles from inappropriate confinement, or volunteer to work on programs for juveniles which present alternatives to jails and detention centers. For further information write: Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 633 Indiana N.W., Washington D.C. 20531.



IT'S A CRIME to jail a kid

 Putting Children
Behind Bars Is An
Adult Delinquency
BAR NONE



Juveniles In Adult Jails
It's Not Child's Play

SECOND AWARD

GRAPHICS

Wayne Lloyd, Lori Mitchell, Sharon Cook

Brigham Young University

Simon Says... It's Not Child's Play

Are we training new criminals? When children are placed in adult jails they may be physically and verbally abused. The game "Simon says" may be enforced by adult intimidation and many children will learn new ways to strike back at society when released. Although a 1974 Juvenile Justice Act seeks eventually to remove children from adult jails, several studies have found that in many areas limitations of jail facilities and staffing either make it impossible to separate chil-

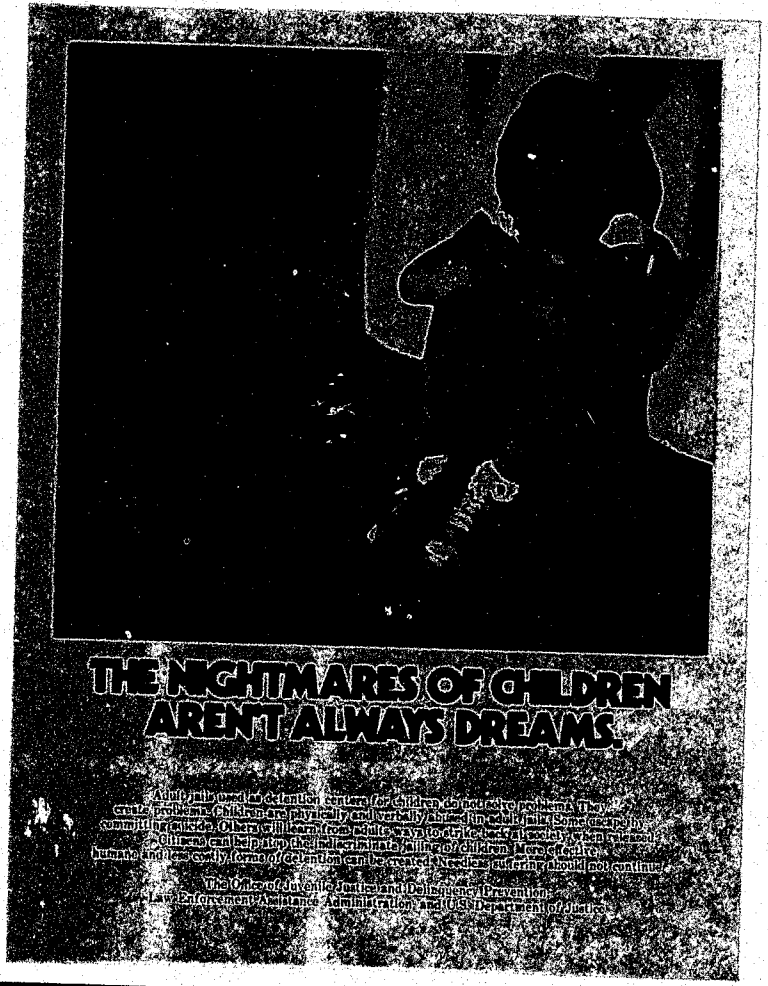
dren from adults or result in children being held in isolation without supervision. Some children even commit suicide and for many others the jail experience becomes a living nightmare. These children need your help. They need your time and concern. Find out about the juvenile and rehabilitation centers in your area. Talk to officials in charge of them. We need you because placing children in adult jails is not child's play.



The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, U.S. Department of Justice.

JAIL IS NO PLACE TO RAISE A KID.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, and U.S. Department of Justice

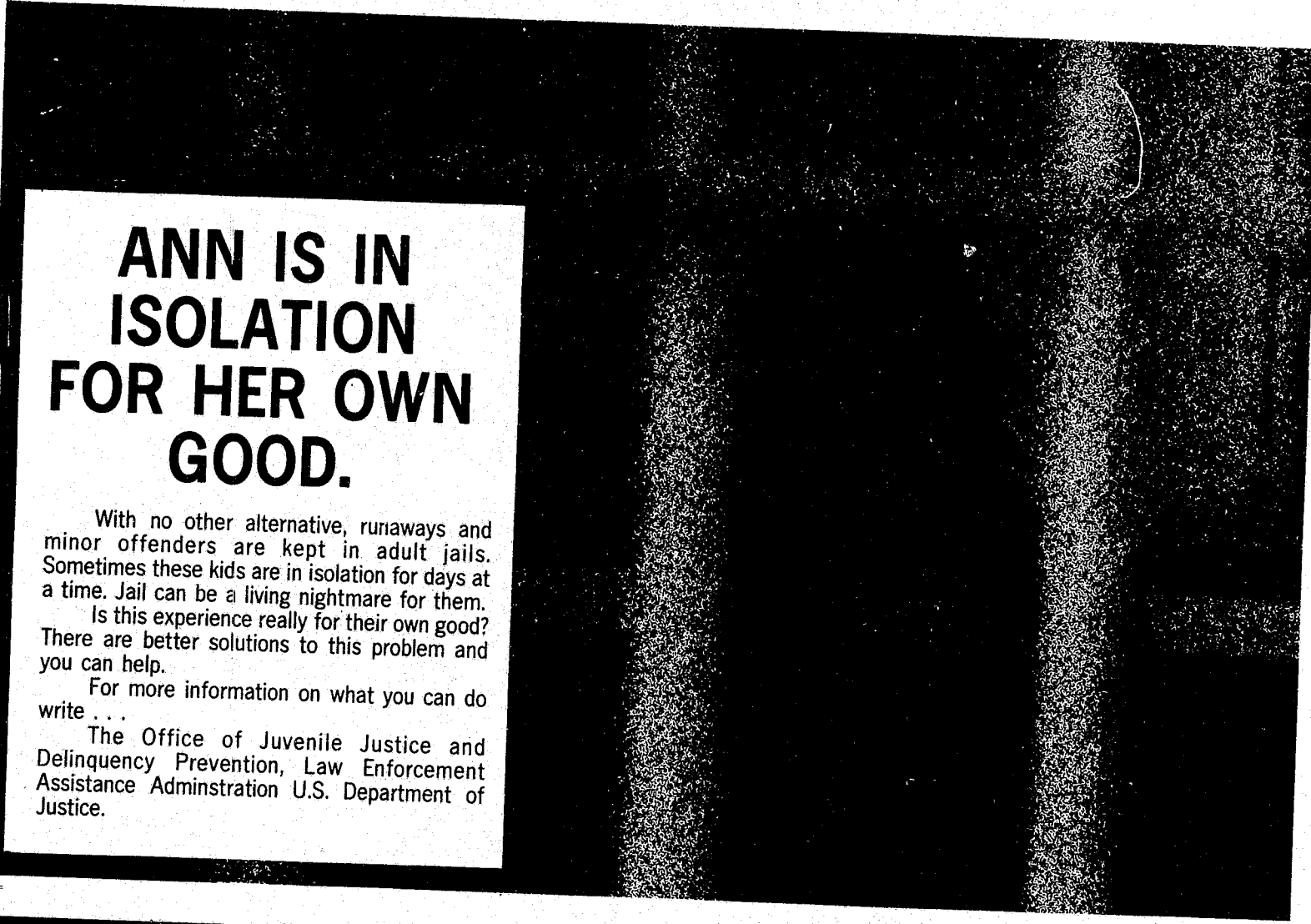


SPECIAL MENTIONS

GRAPHICS

Kerry Gonzales

University of Utah



ANN IS IN ISOLATION FOR HER OWN GOOD.

With no other alternative, runaways and minor offenders are kept in adult jails. Sometimes these kids are in isolation for days at a time. Jail can be a living nightmare for them. Is this experience really for their own good? There are better solutions to this problem and you can help.

For more information on what you can do write . . .

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration U.S. Department of Justice.

Dave Campbell, Steve Keele, Karen Thurman

Brigham Young University

BAIL OUT OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

remove children from adult jails before they're "part of the gang"



BAIL OUT OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

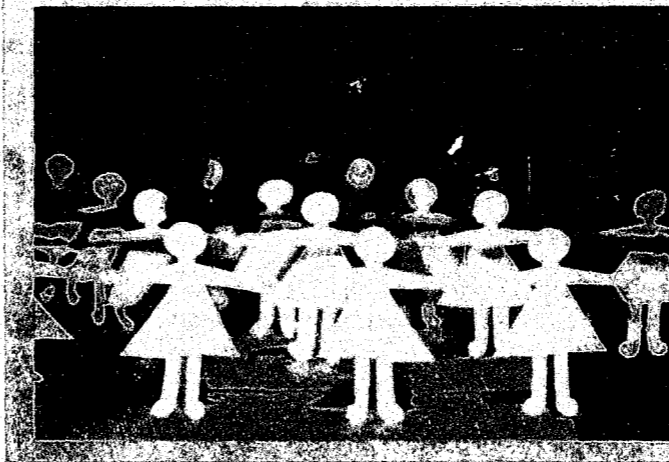


Remove children from adult jails
Subjecting children to the horrors of adult jails is a cruel and inhumane practice. Yet 500,000 children are placed in adult jails each year. We can protect our children from this situation by securing juvenile justice reform legislation in your state. Contact your state or regional juvenile justice agency for more information. Help see that justice is done.

BAIL OUT OUR NATION'S CHILDREN

Stop adult punishment for children's crime

People often repeat the old adage, "the punishment should fit the crime." Yet over 500,000 children are placed in adult jails each year, 440,000 of whom commit only property or minor offenses. Children placed in adult jails often experience physical and verbal abuse, emotional trauma, and some even commit suicide. We need to protect these children by developing alternative facilities and programs suited to their needs. For information on how you can help, contact your state or regional juvenile justice agency. Help see that justice is done.



Cindy Roberts

University of Utah

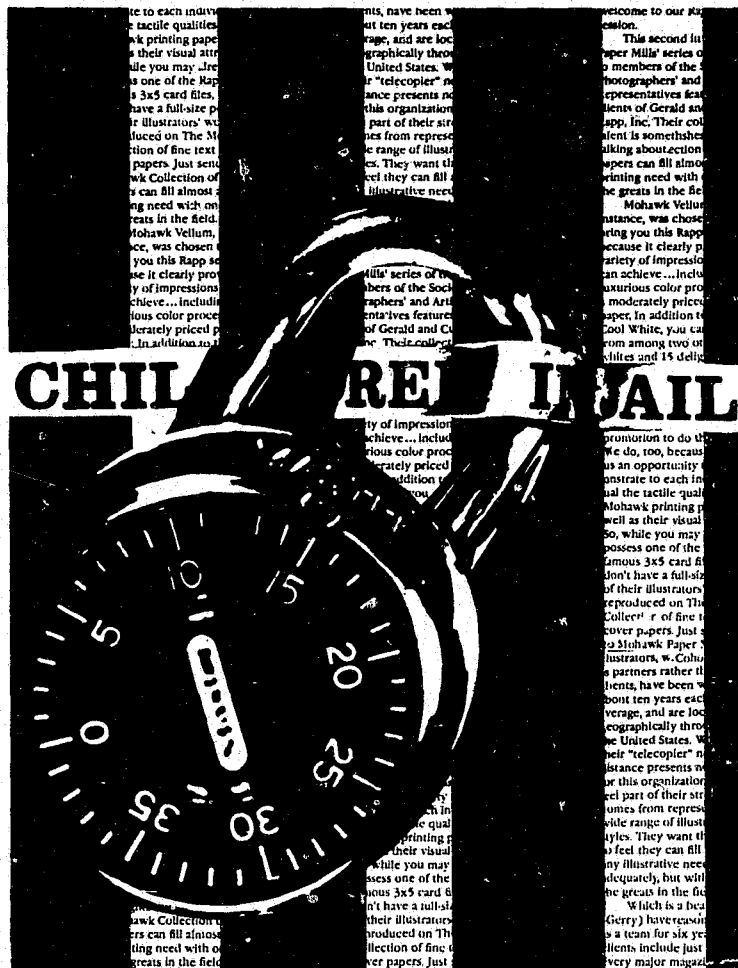
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CHILDREN IN JAIL



**DON'T
 JAIL
 JUVENILES**

Joann M. Koharchuck

Pennsylvania State University



KIDS IN JAIL: IT'S NOT CHILDS PLAY


Crime and delinquency among our young children have steadily risen, according to statistics and reports, over the past years. Concerned over the serious and widespread nature of this problem, many adults are calling for harsher and more severe punishments for juveniles who commit crimes or acts of delinquency. Most adults, however, are not aware of the punishment already given to many of our juvenile offenders—time spent in adult lock-ups and jails.

Of the youth that are locked up only 12% are charged with serious offenses against persons, and the remaining 88% are charged with property and minor offenses. There are better ways to rehabilitate youth.

Other alternatives are available, but they need you as a concerned citizen to develop and implement constructive ways in which youth can deal with their families and communities. Find out what the alternatives are, then inform your community that something can and will be done.

For information on how you can help contact:
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
633 Indiana Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20531

GO TO

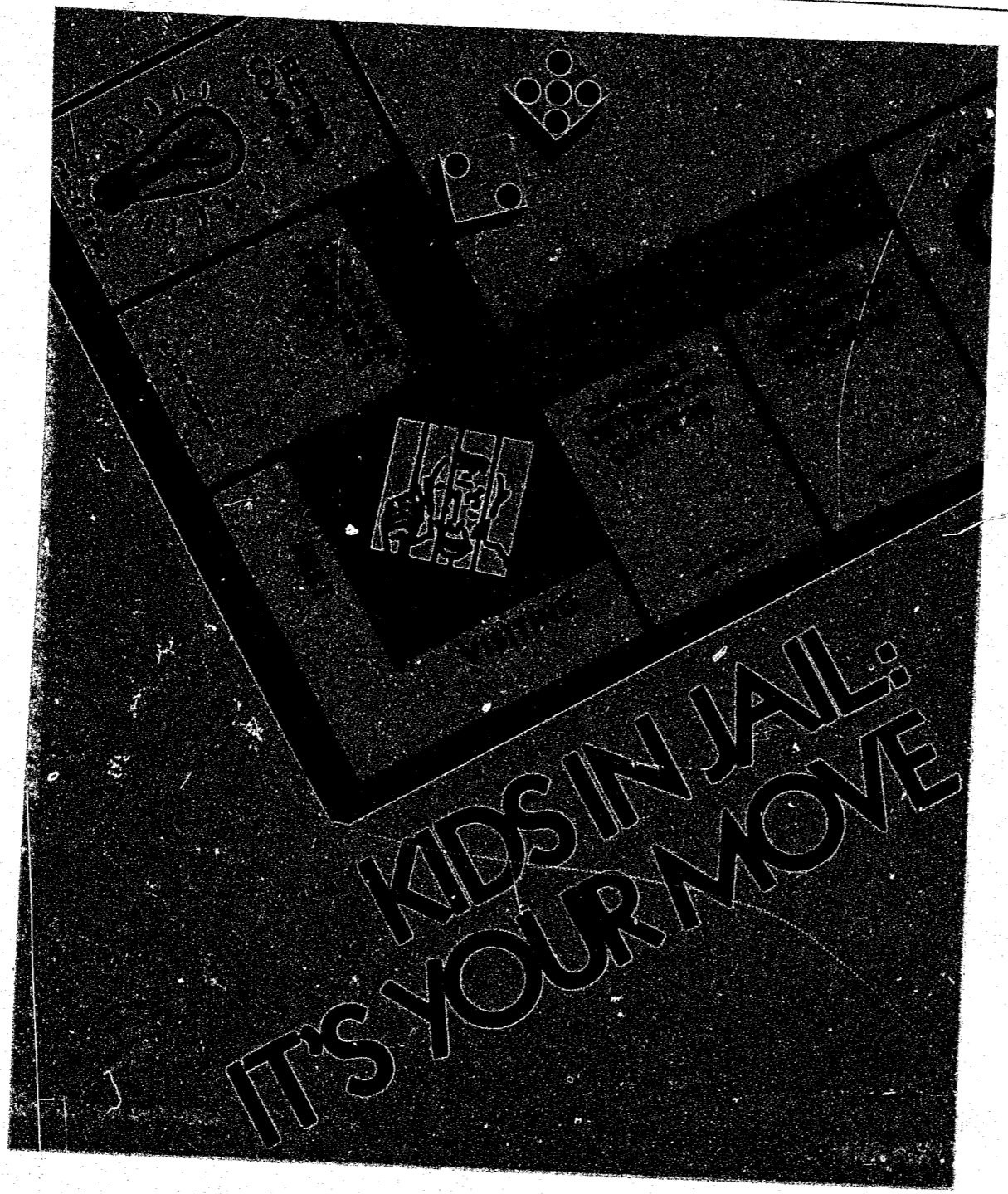


JAIL

KIDS IN JAIL: THERE ARE OTHER ALTERNATIVES

Julie Larson, Jolene Taylor, Reed Miller

Brigham Young University



KIDS IN JAIL:
IT'S YOUR MOVE

...forgive
us
our
trespasses...

...deliver
us
from
evil...

Beth Mead

read 'em and weep:

1. Of the children in adult jails, 88%
are charged with minor offenses.

2. 34% of them are 14 and 15 years old.

3. Over 9% of them are 13 years old
or younger.

4. A disproportionate number are
minority children.

5. All of them are vulnerable to adult
offenders.

save your children.

FIRST AWARD

JOURNALISM

Barbara Milligan

CHILDREN IN JAIL: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GEORGIA —excerpt

The first thing that catches your attention as you walk into the room is the seats. They look like old church pews, but this isn't a church. It is a courtroom. Not just any old courtroom where justice is dispensed like aspirin: "Take two sentences and go to jail." This is a juvenile courtroom, and the alleged offenders here are all under 17 years of age...for them treatment, instead of justice, is not so easily dispensed.

One of these "juvenile offenders" is sitting behind one of the two rectangular tables set in front of the pews. He keeps looking over at the long-haired young woman sitting next to him, his questioning glances ricocheting off her averted face. His dark hands nervously stroke the worn table. He is wearing faded jeans; his scuffed tennis shoes have no laces. He is hunched tensely in the wooden chair, his skinny legs stretched out rigidly in front of him. His mother scowls from the front pew behind him, her arms crossed tightly across her still body.

Georgia State University

His name is Billy and he is 15 years old. Billy has entered Georgia's juvenile justice system. According to experts, the deeper a child gets into this system the less chance he has of getting out. Indeed, his chances of some day ending up in an adult courtroom are alarmingly increased. Billy's case is an illustration of what happens once a child is caught in this system.

...Billy is in juvenile court for a dispositional hearing. At Billy's preliminary detention hearing the judge decided he needed to be kept in secure detention instead of staying at home while waiting for the investigation of his delinquency petition. The petition alleged Billy was guilty of shoplifting and was in need of "supervision, treatment and rehabilitation." Billy was found delinquent at the adjudicatory hearing. He was to remain in the detention center while a social history was compiled and a date was set for the dispositional hearing.

But Billy broke out of the detention center two months ago while waiting for his hearing. He remained missing until he was taken into custody by police in a small town in a rural county northeast of Atlanta.

Billy had broken into a small grocery store and was in the middle of eating a ham sandwich when he was surprised by police, who were alerted by a silent burglar alarm. The police almost shot Billy because, in the shadows, the package of chips in his hand looked like a gun. It was a

Sunday afternoon and there was no place to take him except to jail. The area court service worker checked with a superior court judge and got approval to hold Billy in the jail until the next morning, when he could be transported to a juvenile detention center.

At first Billy was handcuffed to a sprung black vinyl couch in the office of the jail. Later he was taken into a back room. The concrete walls and floor of the cavernous room were painted gray. Something was set in the middle that looked like a giant bird cage. The cage was divided into four cells, two facing front and two back, with steel walls between and four long metal trays attached to the sides in each as bunks. Each tray held a skinny pallet covered by a thin brown blanket. In the center of each cell a raised box supported a toilet and a sink. The ceiling loomed far away through the bars. There was no protection from curious or prying eyes, no privacy possible while using the squat, stained toilet. Billy was locked in a cell in this cage.

Billy lay down on a pallet. He remembers how dark it was. Then he heard a click. Suddenly music blared out in the darkness. There was someone in the cell on the opposite corner. He heard a man's voice cursing and mumbling above the music. It was that alcoholic, the one he had heard the officers joke about. He was a trustee and he might have keys to the cells. All the stories Billy had heard about rape in places like this came back to him.

It began to get very cold in the unheated room but Billy didn't dare crawl over to a bunk for a blanket. He was too scared to move until an officer came to get him in the morning. It had

been a long night for Billy but Billy was lucky: there are still jails in Georgia where children are not even separated by walls.

The detention of 15-year-old Billy in an adult jail is not an unusual situation in Georgia during the 1979 International Year of the Child. The State Crime Commission, in its jail monitoring report, found that 688 juveniles were detained in 73 of Georgia's 295 jails in 1979.

This report also revealed that six of the 73 jails lacked adequate separation of juveniles and adults while detaining 50 children, 10 for more than 18 hours. However, this represents a drastic improvement over previous years. In 1975, at least, 1,769 juveniles were detained for more than 24 hours in county jails alone.

This reduction in jail detention came about because of a Senate bill that was enacted into law effective January 1, 1978. The law limits jail detention of any juvenile offender to under 18 hours and prohibits jail detention of status offenders. By keeping these children away from contact with criminals, experts feel the chances of their later becoming delinquent is greatly reduced.

The bill, Senate Bill 100, was Georgia's reply to the 1974 Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act passed by Congress in response to what was termed "the crisis of delinquency," caused by the "countless abandoned and dependent children, who, because of the failure to provide effective services, may become delinquent." Particular emphasis was placed on the prevention of juvenile delinquency

through the "development of programs and services which will encourage increased diversion of juveniles from the traditional juvenile justice...and provide critically needed alternatives to institutionalization." In order to receive federal financial assistance, each state has to conform with the federal juvenile justice guidelines. In 1978, the State Crime Commission disbursed more than \$8.28 million in federal funds to Georgia's criminal justice system. Over \$1.51 million of this was JJDP funding with the primary goal of getting juveniles out of jails and institutions.

As part of this program, an adequate system for monitoring jails, detention and correctional facilities is required to insure that the jailing limits of the JJDP Act and the law are met. In Georgia, this monitoring is done by a "detention consultant," Fred W. ("Butch") Streetman.

"I can't go into these rural counties and tell those sheriffs and judges how to run things. It would be like going into a rattlesnake's cage and telling him he can't bite people. I know the problems, so I don't cram the law down their throats. I just show them how to conform," Streetman says.

Streetman claims an average of 40 to 50 children a month are detained statewide in adult jails. "In most cases they're in separate cells, but frequently with inadequate separation or with separation in shocking makeshift areas," he says. Streetman describes one jail where the separated area is downstairs in the basement, the dirtiest and roughest place in the whole jail with no supervision; in another jail the separated area used to be the gallows chamber; in a third, children are kept in a tiny, windowless room that used to be a broom closet.

Streetman reports that it is becoming more frequent for rural police and sheriffs to add delinquent charges to status offenses so they can bypass the strict limitations of jailing status offenders. "I never saw a charge of disorderly conduct until this rule. Now instead of unruly charges, I frequently see charges of disorderly conduct or simply assault," he says. These are adult misdemeanors punishable by up to 12 months in jail.

Streetman points to last month's jail report from a rural Georgia jail where an unruly charge for a 16-year-old female had been crossed out and "simple battery" written in its place. "As a status offender she could not have been placed in jail," he says.

...Less than one-fourth of Georgia's 159 counties are served by juvenile court judges. One of Georgia's juvenile court judges is Judge Romae T. Powell of Fulton County. Judge Powell has been a juvenile court judge since 1973 and was the 1978 president of the Georgia Council of Juvenile Court Judges. Judge Powell's extensive credentials include offices and positions held in the adult justice system as well as the juvenile system.

...Judge Powell says she would support a bill prohibiting the detention of a child under 17 in jail for any reason. She cites jailing as a contributing factor in delinquency: "Jails are overcrowded people-warehouses, causing children to lose so much out of the learning process of growing up."

...The judge finishes reading through Billy's file, then looks at him: "Billy, I'm going to give you a chance to show me. You are to go

back to the detention center and obey all the rules and do very well in school while you are there. Until you can show me you can follow rules I cannot allow you to leave."

The judge then turns to Billy and explains his alternatives: "If you are not able to follow the rules while in detention, I will have no choice but to commit you to the Department of Human Resources, Division of Youth Services, to be placed in Youth Development Center at Milledgeville. However, if you can follow the rules and the court can find a satisfactory placement for you, there is the possibility you could be put on probation. If you stay out of trouble with the courts for two years after you turn 17, your file will be permanently sealed and you will have no record. However, if you come back into this court while on probation and have committed a felony, I will probably decide to bind you over to the superior court.

...Good luck, Billy."

...Billy is one of the lucky ones. He landed in a juvenile court with a judge trained to treat juveniles, not punish them. Too many children in Georgia are not so lucky. The cost of an adequate juvenile justice system does not compare to the cost of maintaining adult prison inmates and repairing the damage they have inflicted on society. If we don't pay the price of an adequate juvenile justice system, the experts say, all of us will eventually have to pay another price: higher taxes to maintain even more inmates in a deadend penal system, more loss of property and maybe even the loss of life at the hands of a scared, bitter kid, who can't deal with his despair and frustration any more.

**JUVENILE JAILING PRACTICES
IN ABILENE, TEXAS -excerpt**

More children than ever before are finding their way into juvenile justice systems of the 50 states. Paradoxically, during 1979, which was designated officially the International Year of the Child, more than 500,000 children spent time in our nation's jails, juvenile officials estimate.

...The Abilene Police Department, like other metropolitan areas, has a unit trained to handle juvenile cases. Incorporated in the City Hall with the police offices is a temporary holding facility where juveniles are separated from adult prisoners.

The Program Director of Taylor County Child Welfare, Beula Love, recently talked about the role of Abilene policemen. There are some "cracker-jack" people among the officers in the youth division, she said. They really work to help kids.

SECOND AWARD
JOURNALISM

Nancy Rhodes, Frank Estes

Abilene Christian University

Love, a veteran of 28 years in the child welfare office, was less optimistic about the city and county facilities for detaining juveniles. Calling the facilities "real poor," she said she had seen times when toilet paper was all that was available for a bath towel.

The city jail, which is designed as a temporary holding facility, is 13 years old. It contains two cells for juveniles with each cell designed for six youths. The jail also has two locked rooms with non-institutional furniture for children who have committed "status" offenses, or crimes that would not be against the law if the children were adults. None of these cells and rooms have windows, and the locked rooms are seldom used because there are usually no officers on duty who are easily accessible to this area of the police station.

In fact, the city jail, which is much newer than the county jail, plays only a minor role in the detention of a juvenile. State law has charged county officials with detention and supervision of any juvenile following his arrest. Consequently, juveniles are usually transferred to the Taylor County Jail within a matter of hours.

State law requires that a child under ten years old be released to his parents. The law also specifies that any youth from age 10 to 17 who is taken into custody is under the authority of the Juvenile Probation Office.

If the probation office decides a child needs to be detained, a detention hearing must be held no later than the second working day after the child is taken into custody. Additional detention hearings must be held every ten days until the case is disposed of.

What does jail for a child taken into custody in Taylor County, Texas really mean?

A youth enters through large glass doors into a modern-looking office area. But, the modern, orderly appearance soon fades as the child steps into the heart of the 48-year old facility designed to house 111 men, eight women, four girls, and eight boys. All touch with the world he has known since birth, including even the light of day, disappears as he climbs the steps to the second floor. As he enters his cells, a barren dungeon-like room in the heart of the old jail, the seventh locked door clangs shut behind him. He is left to spend his time in the dim electric light without recreation, rehabilitation or education.

Sheriff Landrum, a man who is sympathetic to the problems of youth, has spoken out against this kind of detention for juveniles. He believes it is wrong to put juveniles in an antiquated facility like the Taylor County Jail regardless of their crime. In most cases, the children deserve to be helped, said Landrum.

Abilene citizens and, particularly the Taylor County Probation Officers have been seeking alternatives to the jailing of youngsters.

...Abilene, Texas has been seeking alternatives to sending children to jail. The state legislature in 1973 opened the doors to reform on both the state and local levels by passing a new Family Code, which insures protection of the constitutional rights of the child and seeks to offer the child a program of rehabilitation.

A juvenile in Abilene is placed under the guidance of the Juvenile Probation Office shortly after he is taken into custody. The role of the probation

office is not to prosecute or punish the child, says an Abilene probation officer. This sometimes difficult for law enforcement officers who have arrested a juvenile committing an unlawful act to understand.

...Meanwhile, a committee of the Abilene Chamber of Commerce had been looking into conditions at the 45-year old county jail, where juveniles are detained. The committee found the juvenile area of the facility had two cells housing a total of four girls and four cells designed for a total of eight boys. There were no windows, and no educational, rehabilitation, counseling or recreation programs.

In January, 1977, the committee presented a written report which included the following recommendations regarding juveniles: "A juvenile facility should be established totally separate and apart from the adult facilities." The report also noted that it is a state priority to have community facilities rather than sending juveniles to state institutions.

The plight of children in jail came to public attention in Abilene in November, 1977 when the Taylor County Juvenile Board composed of district and county judges refused to re-certify the county jail for the detention of juveniles. In a flurry of charges and countercharges, the Board called the facility a dungeon and firetrap, and accused the Commissioners' Court of failing to bring the jail up to minimum standards required by the state. The Commissioners retorted that adequate funds were not available for renovation of the ancient facility.

The Juvenile Board temporarily certified the city jail for short-term juvenile detention, and the

county fathers began minor renovations of the jail. At this point, a concerned citizen, Abilene oil man Bill Davis, appeared before the Commissioners' Court with a plan to start a juvenile home. Davis was willing to provide the original funds to back the search for a state grant, and the Commissioners accepted his help.

The committee of the Chamber of Commerce, which investigated jail conditions, did not stop with a report to the Chamber. They presented their report along with a proposal for a juvenile justice center and program to the County Commissioners and Juvenile Board.

The plan proposed a facility which included 12 rooms for minimum detention, two rooms for maximum detention and areas for recreation, counseling, medication and school. Proposed personnel included a director, two caseworkers, houseparents and relief houseparents.

In March, 1979, the Commissioners voted to make a more in-depth study of the need for a juvenile justice center. They charged Wakefield with investigating the cost and development of a more comprehensive plan.

The County Juvenile Board added their support in November by choosing a 15-member committee to assist Wakefield. After many meetings and tours of other Texas detention facilities, Wakefield and the advisory committee report to the county fathers in February, 1980.

The Ector County Youth Center in Odessa, Texas surfaced again and again as a model worth following. Wakefield describes it this way: "...You see a complete department, removed from the central courthouse to an area separate and apart. The

Youth Center houses the Juvenile Probation Department, the courtroom and (the) detention facility."

...Workers in volunteer agencies are adding their support to the call for a center. Sue Stucky, head of the YMCA supervision and education program for juvenile offenders, is typical of many Abilenians who are involved in services for juveniles. She says a lot of children need a place where they can be detained, but it needs to be the kind of place where volunteers can continue to support the child's educational, physical and social development. "This one thing is missing and could be used to tie the system together, so that the kid sees that there is an ultimate consequence to illegal behavior," she says.

Abilene's elected officials are also joining the outcry for a juvenile justice center. County Judge James McMillon, who hears most of the juvenile cases in Taylor County, says the county jail was designed for adults and is unsuitable for youths.

In July, 1978, he talked about the need for a center and said, "With an expected continued growth of population in the county, and with an accelerated increase in crimes committed by juveniles, the problem of handling youth who are in trouble cannot be even approached unless immediate corrective action is undertaken."

In 1975, the Head of the National Institute for Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, John Greacen, talked about the need to help children in trouble. He reported on a Harvard study of youth gangs in 12 cities. He said researchers found police in those cities saying, "...There

are some really bad kids out there, but most of the kids don't need to go to jail. They've got problems; they've got crummy families. Somebody needs to help them with these problems."

The Abilene newspaper reported on November 9, 1979, that a four-year old boy had slashed a canvas car top causing more than \$100 of damage. What does the future hold for this child and many others who are already started on a path that may lead to delinquency?

What will happen to the troubled youth of Abilene, Texas depends on the citizens of this city. A juvenile justice center with a comprehensive program that coordinates existing services and closes the gap between services will cost money. Will Abilenians be willing to bear the expense so the four-year old boy and countless other children can have a better chance of becoming responsible and productive citizens?

5. THE AD COUNCIL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

During the past year, a national campaign designed to increase public awareness of the abuses suffered by juveniles placed in adult jails has been conducted. Co-sponsored by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the National Advertising Council and the Community Research Forum, this campaign aims to refute the myths which support the continuing incarceration


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of young people in adult jails and lockups. It also encourages citizens to learn about effective alternatives and urges their participation in efforts toward eliminating this practice.

Public service messages and other advertising materials have already been distributed to over 9,000 radio and television stations during the first phase of this campaign. Newspaper and magazine ads, along with transit system posters, have also been distributed nationally. Continued and growing coverage is anticipated during the second phase of this media campaign.

The response, so far, has been gratifying. Hundreds of letters and postcards from concerned citizens in every state, the District of Columbia and Canada have been received. Almost without exception, the question is raised: "What can I do to help solve the problem?" In response to these and other requests for information, a free booklet, It's Your Move - The Unjailing Of Juveniles In America, has been prepared and is now being offered. In this publication, the problems are reviewed, alternatives are discussed, and specific suggestions for citizen action are provided. Listings of concerned citizens are also being compiled on a state-by-state basis for distribution to state agencies and selected advocacy groups. It is hoped that these lists will form the nucleus of a voluntary advocacy network to further promote national jail removal efforts.

The materials shown on the following pages illustrate the types of public service messages which were available as part of the national campaign. Inquiries about these and future distributions should be addressed to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, or the Community Research Forum.



**PUTTING CHILDREN IN
ADULT JAILS IS CRIMINAL.**

Find out how you can get them out
before it's too late Write:

JAIL
Station A
P.O. Box 2580
Champaign, IL 61820

A Public Service Message on Behalf of
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Community Research Center

*Magazine Ad
4 5/8" x 4 7/8", B/W*

*Text from Public Service Message • Radio
10, 30 and 60 seconds*

"Behind Bars"

SFX: STEEL DOOR SHUTS.

ANNCR: Some people think that a night in jail
would teach any kid a good lesson.

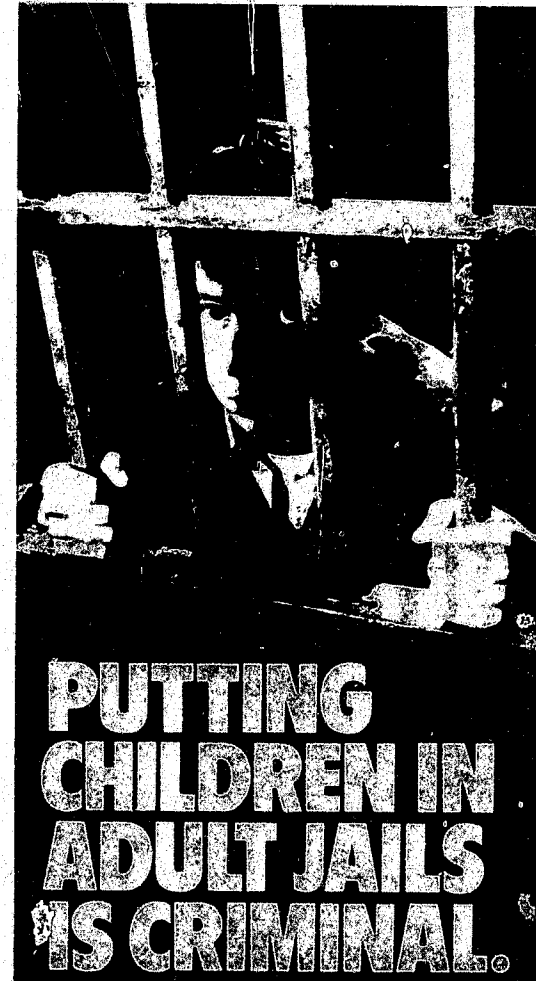
Or maybe, we should lock up all the kids
who get into trouble -- and throw away
the key.

But what most people don't know is, that
about 90 percent of children put in jail
have not committed a serious crime. Many
of them have run away from home or com-
mitted property offenses. But all too
often, children are placed side by side
-- or often in the same cells -- with
adult murderers, rapists, drug abusers,
burglars and other criminals, although
that's illegal in most states. There are
better ways to help children in trouble.
But government can't solve the problem
alone. Putting children in adult jails
is criminal.

SFX: STEEL DOOR SHUTS.

ANNCR: Help solve the problem. Write:
JAIL
Post Office Box 2580
Champaign, Illinois, 61820

A message from the U.S. Department of
Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice.



About 90 percent of children put in jail have not committed a serious crime. Many of them have run away from home or committed property offenses. But all too often, children are placed side by side—or even in the same cells—with adult criminals, although that's illegal in most states. But government can't solve the problem alone. Find out how you can help get children out of jail before it's too late. Write:

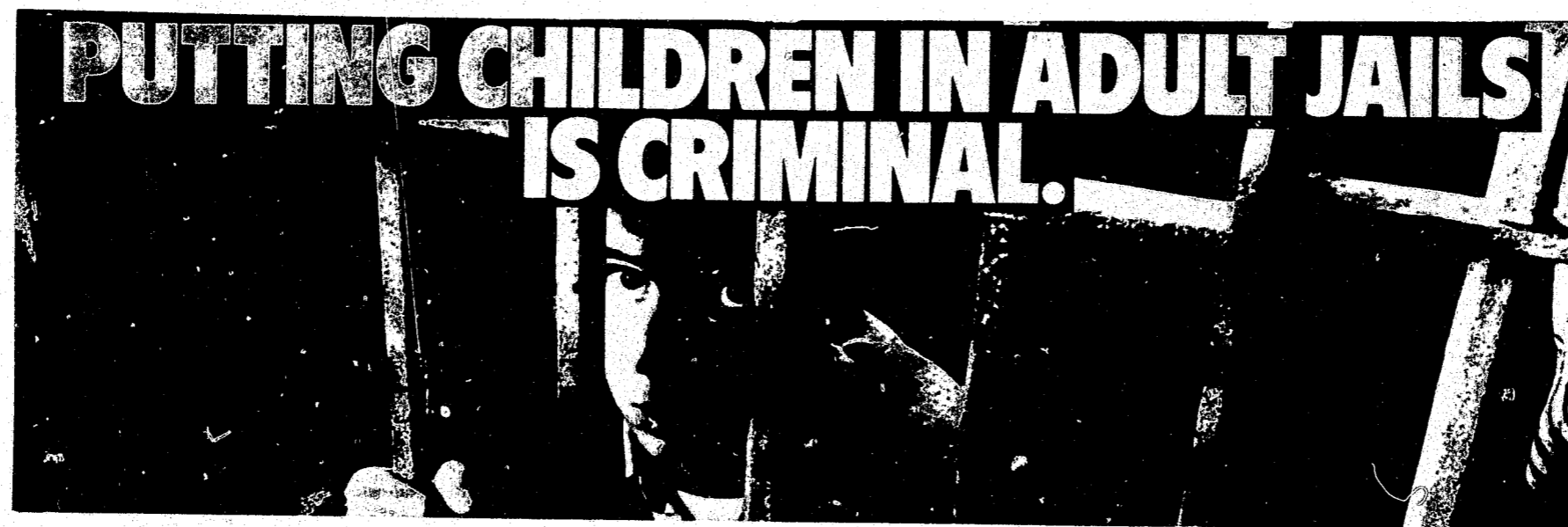
JAIL

Station A
P.O. Box 2580
Champaign, IL 61820

A Public Service Message on Behalf of
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
Community Research Center

Newspaper Ad
3 column (4 5/16" x 150 lines), 450 lines, B/W
4 column (6 5/16" x 200 lines) 800 lines, B/W

Transit Poster



**PUTTING CHILDREN IN ADULT JAILS
IS CRIMINAL.**

Find out how you can help them out before it's too late. Write:

JAIL
Station A
PO Box 2580
Champaign, IL 61820

A Public Service Message on Behalf of
U.S. Department of Justice
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Community Research Center

"Behind Bars"

SFX: HEAR DOOR UNLOCKING -- FOOTSTEPS.
SOUND OF DOOR OPENING -- FOOTSTEPS.
FOOTSTEPS ECHO.

ANNCR: Suspicion of rape. Suspicion of Murder.
Suspicion of narcotics.

SFX: (FOOTSTEPS CONTINUE)

ANNCR: Suspicion of...running away.
About 90 percent of children put in adult
jails have not committed a serious crime.
But all too often, children are placed side
by side -- or even in the same cells --
with adult murderers, rapists and other
criminals, although that's illegal in most
states. There are better ways to help chil-
dren in trouble. But government can't solve
the problem alone. Putting children in
adult jails is criminal.

SFX: (STEEL DOOR SHUTS)

ANNCR: You can help. Write:
JAIL
Post Office Box 2580
Champaign, Illinois, 61820

Television Ad
10, 30, and 60 seconds

END