

NON-CIRCULATING
Texas Youth Commission
Journal
News and information from throughout the agency.

September 1997, Fall Issue
4900 N. Lamar, Austin TX 78765

TYC honors youth who have excelled

97-370



FIFTEEN CURRENT AND FORMER TEXAS YOUTH COMMISSION YOUTH were recognized during the 1997 administrators' workshop July 2 for their accomplishments and achievements in becoming successful citizens. They are shown here with Executive Director Steve Robinson, back row center, and John Danielson, vice-president of Community Education Partners (CEP), a private organization dedicated to getting at-risk students an education and back on track. CEP sponsored the recognition program and provided funds for the youth to come to Austin for the event. They are (left to right, front row) Don Ackerson, George Fenton, Adrian Garcia, and Moises Briseno; (seated) Chris Waters, Iris Orozco, and Jose Luis Barron; (standing) Danielson, Eric Reavis, Steven Duncan, Robinson, Edward Bradfute and Melanie Wybro. Not pictured, but in attendance was Pedro Mendoza. (Three were unable to attend). (SEE PAGE 15)

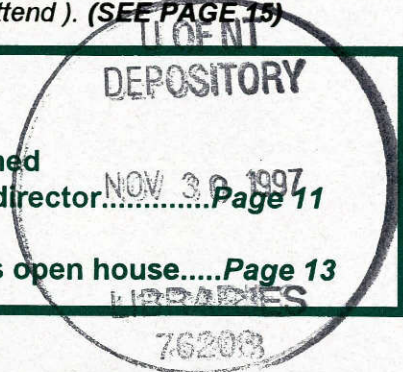
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Sexual harassment is everywhere!

Agency administrators hear information about harassment, hostile environment

"The most serious form of sexual harassment relates to what we call 'quid pro quo,'" said Curtis Polk Jr., presenter at the annual administrators' workshop July 1.

He translated the Latin to "this for that."

In other words, the result of sexual harassment can be *negative*: threats, loss of job, poor job evaluations, threat of transfer; or *positive*: rewards, raises, promotions, travel to exotic locations for conferences, etc.

Polk, the employee ombudsman and ethics advisor at the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI), went on to say that the most pervasive form of sexual harassment involves things which create a hostile environment, such as touching, leering, kissing, hugging, catcalls, foul or obscene language, pictures, posters, intimate revelations.

He described this type of sexual harassment as 'feeling uncomfortable about something someone does or says.'

"Women generally feel more at risk because they don't want to be abused from a 'power' level," he explained.

Polk said that sexual harassment "will affect employee morale, and can damage an organization's reputation. It can also affect the bottom line of an agency."

There are two ways to deal with sexual harassment, he said.

"We can wait for it to happen (and it WILL happen)," he pointed out. "Or we can train employees in a pro-active way how to handle it."

He said at TDI employees know where to go and how to deal with it. Clear policies are established and written, and as TDI ombudsman, he conducts a new employee orientation about those policies.

Since Polk was hired for that position there have been no TDI cases to go to the Human Relations Commission (HRC) or to the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC). The average number of cases before that were five per year.

"Usually an apology and acknowledgment that behavior was improper is all that is needed," he

explained. The situation can be dealt with quietly and confidentially when he handles it.

While few informal situations require that sexual harassment charges must be placed in an employee's file, the law requires that a third party who has knowledge of the harassment MUST report it.

However, Polk contended that third party reporting is generally a good thing.

Polk serves as the grievance coordinator at TDI, and said that no sexual

harassment-related grievances have been filed during his tenure. His job includes addressing employee issues and concerns, resolving workplace conflict, counseling, developing and conducting training to improve employee communications, conflict management and diversity awareness skills.

He has a BS in communications from the University of Texas at Austin and is currently completing course requirements for a master's degree in conflict resolution from St. Edward's University.

Apprehension specialists closing in on escapees

TYC currently employs two apprehension specialists and will soon be hiring a third to combat the growing problem of youth who escape from facilities or abscond from their parole placements.

There have already been 253 apprehensions made by the two officers this year, and they have participated in 300 cooperative apprehensions. Local law enforcement officers frequently accompany them.

In 1995 the agency was given authorization by the legislature for these employees to be commissioned as peace officers by executive director Steve Robinson. They were also given the approval to carry firearms.

Joe Reno, who serves Dallas/Fort Worth and West Texas, was the first to be hired in 1991; Arthur McBride, who operates in Houston and East Texas, was hired in 1992. Both men had many years of law enforcement experience prior to joining the agency. McBride is also a former outstanding TYC volunteer from Houston.

Both have taken 40 hours of training in the use of force, and have become certified in handcuffing techniques and the use of pepper spray. They also received 32 hours of firearm safety training.

While most peace officers are required to qualify annually with firearms training, TYC peace officers are required

to demonstrate proficiency twice a year. A third apprehension specialist is to be hired this fiscal year and will be stationed in San Antonio, and will serve that city, Austin and South Texas.

They are supervised by Dan Humeniuk, Brownwood superintendent.

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Outstanding TYC educators recognized at conference

TYC held its first education summer conference in over 20 years June 16-18 in Austin.

The conference was attended by 350 teachers, administrators, and teacher aides. Participants attended various workshops and programs with 37 different sessions.

A highlight of the conference was an awards banquet, at which many TYC educational staff members were recognized.

Carolyn Webb, Corsicana, was honored as the agency's outstanding principal. Felton Greer of Giddings was named the outstanding assistant principal.

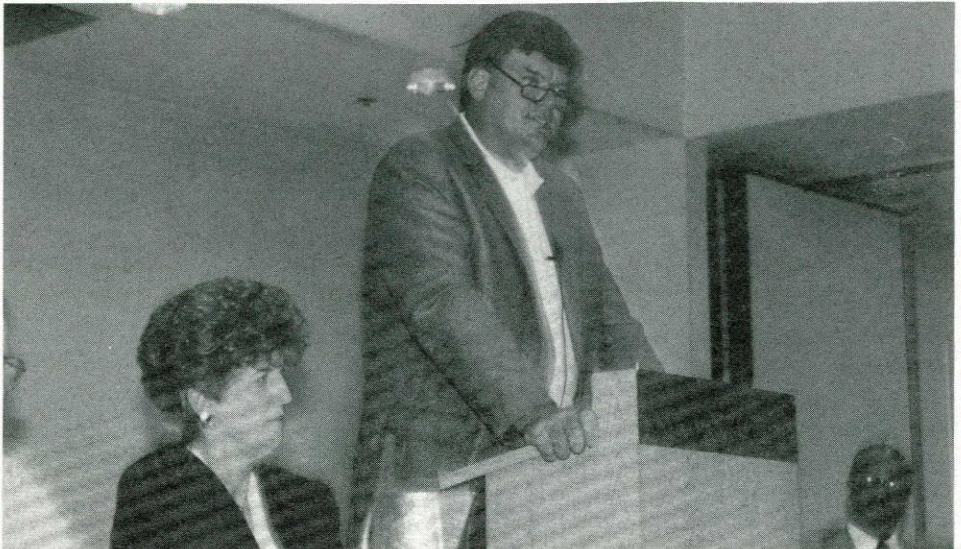
Marie Murdoch, superintendent of the Jefferson County State School, was recognized as the most supportive superintendent. Named the outstanding diagnostician was Joy Davis of Brownwood.

Outstanding educators were honored from each school in three categories: outstanding teacher of the year; outstanding teacher aide of the year; and outstanding newcomer of the year.

Those selected as the outstanding teachers from each academic school were: Bill Boswell, Brownwood; Brenda Ferguson, Sanction Unit; Bart Holder, Corsicana; William "Dale" Dykes, Crockett; Richard Jones, Gainesville; Glenn Treude, Giddings; Barbara Humphrey, Jefferson County; Kyle King, Marlin; Diana Glaze, San Saba; Lee Roy Rivera, West Texas; and Miguel Yzanaga, Evins.

Outstanding teacher aides were Ana Arredondo, Brownwood; Cleresa Martinez, Sanction Unit; Regina Edwards, Corsicana; Lela Wheeler, Crockett; Prudence Mack, Gainesville; Marilyn Alexander, Giddings; Diann Ardoin, Jefferson County; JoAnn Kirk, Marlin; Michael Torres, San Saba; Elizabeth Romo, West Texas; and Leonar Banda, Evins.

Outstanding newcomers of the year included: James Edinburgh, Brownwood; Riva Oston, Corsicana; Hiroko Hyman, Crockett; Rita Rainey, Gainesville; Tim Falke, Giddings; Nancy Bobs, Jefferson County; Joyce Dyer, Marlin; Jolene Whitehurst, San Saba; Pat Elkins, West Texas; Diane Sloss, Evins.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Steve Robinson speaks at education awards banquet, with education superintendent Judy Huffty at left and Dwight Harris, deputy executive director of juvenile corrections, at right.

A 1998 summer education conference has already been scheduled for June 15-17 at the Red Lion Hotel, according to TYC education superintendent Judy Huffty.

Members of the 1998 planning committee include Danny Bell, JCSS; Pat Benton, Gainesville; Dorothy Bird, Evins; Mary Ann Box, WTSS; Annie Chandler,

Giddings; Johnny Dela Rosa, SSSS; Gwen Foster, Marlin; Hiroko Hyman, Crockett; Bobby King, Vernon; Doug Mach, Giddings; John Robb and Bill Stanley, Hamilton; Carolyn Webb, Corsicana; and Judy Williford and Dan Humeniuk, Brownwood.

State classification system changes dramatically

Are you a "Group 17, Step 5?"

Well, not any longer. You're now a B9!

The Texas Legislature directed that the 36-year-old state classification system be overhauled, effective September 1, 1997.

And employees of the State Comptroller's office, as well as TYC's human resources division, has been thrown into thousands of hours of overtime to meet that deadline to reconfigure the classification system.

"Over the next couple of months, employees will be receiving all sorts of information regarding the monumental changes -- and how it will affect you," said HR director Eric Young.

A brochure prepared by the State Auditor's Office was included in every state employee's paycheck envelope Sept. 1 to begin answering some of your questions, Young pointed out.

The new classification plan created three salary schedules.

Salary Schedule A includes paraprofessional, administrative support, maintenance, service and technician positions.

Salary Schedule B includes professional and managerial positions.

Salary Schedule C is designation only for peace officers, including those employed

(Continued on Page 4)

Two staff certified to mediate disputes

TYC general counsel Neil Nichols and human resources management director Karen Collins have received their certification to mediate disputes in TYC, as well as in other agencies.

As a result, the Human Resource Department has entered into a new arena in resolving employee disputes, said Eric Young, HR director.

Collins recently received her certification from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, UT-Austin, after 40 classroom hours of mediation training.

Nichols received his certificate from the same institution in 1994.

The required training is in compliance with the Alternative Dispute Resolution Procedures Act, Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code.

State classifications...

(Continued from page 3)

by DPS, Parks and Wildlife, Alcoholic Beverage Commission and the Department of Criminal Justice.

(No TYC employees will be in Schedule C.)

"Years of thinking have to be changed --but there are no adverse effects to anyone's pay," Young said.

"If you have any questions, I would strongly suggest that you contact your local HR officer for clarification," he explained. "Or read the brochure which was in your pay envelope...many important questions are answered there."

All HR officers will be attending an intensive session this month for training and detailed information on all the changes that affect employees.

AROUND TYC

State employees being organized to contribute to charitable causes

This year's annual State Employee Charitable Campaign (SECC), which got underway September 1 for a two-month run, gives employees the opportunity to contribute to charitable causes in an easy, uncomplicated way.

The SECC is a combined workplace campaign for tax-deductible contributions to charities through payroll deductions or one-time donations.

Last year state employees gave a record \$3.4 million through payroll deductions. Nearly one in five participated with an average gift of \$81.

The Texas Youth Commission participated in the campaign only in a few locations last year, but has involved every TYC office/facility across the state in this year's campaign.

Joan Timmons, director of volunteer services, is the statewide campaign coordinator and is coordinating the activities of 20 local coordinators.

Local coordinators include: Tilford Pike, Central Office; Tammy Vega, Brownwood; Floyd Hall, Corsicana; Virginia Lewis, Crockett; Robyn Byars, Gainesville; Bill Bradbury, Giddings; Rose Chaisson, Jefferson County; Nancy Jo Kuder, Hamilton; Shannon Ford, Marlin; Buck Marlin, San Saba; Denise Kennedy, eastern service area; Raul Arredondo, Evins

Also Ed Edmister and Rachel Green, western district offices; Lena Fabella, Ayres House; Darrel Whitley, Dallas parole; Betty Smith, Willoughby House; Jean Bice, Vernon; Joyce Hines, Fort

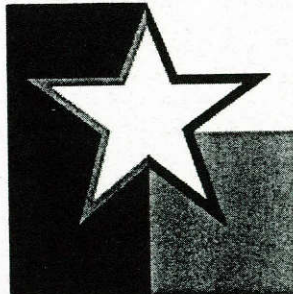
Worth district office; Mary Coots, Sheffield.

"The combined campaign involves many charities, offering broad choices in giving," said Executive Director Steve Robinson. "I am anxious that each individual TYC employee have the opportunity to make a contribution."

"Payroll deduction is really painless — and almost every TYC employee is better off than those who benefit from this charitable giving," he explained.

"Although the United Way coordinates the campaign, all employees may choose from numerous approved agencies in their local area," he added.

Those approved must provide direct or indirect health and human services consisting of human care, medical or other research in the field of health, education, social adjustment or rehabilitation; relief for victims of natural disaster or other emergencies, or assistance to impoverished individuals in need of food, shelter, clothing or other basic needs.



TOGETHER WE CARE
State Employee Charitable Campaign

Project RIO-Y up and running with new director

After a slow start, Project RIO-Y again is up and running with new coordinator, Lane Roos, who took on the task of restructuring the workforce development program last November.

Project RIO-Y, a program funded by the legislature, is a joint project with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and is designed to prepare TYC youth to enter the world of work when they leave TYC institutions.

The program also assists TYC youth in accessing educational/skills training opportunities while they are placed on parole and/or at a community based facility.

"We are pleased at this point to have a number of TYC youth who successfully completed Project RIO and who are now working in challenging and good paying jobs which they were able to obtain as a result of successfully completing the program," said Roos.

Participation in Project RIO-Y is voluntary and youth must be 16 years of age or older; be eligible for release within six months; and have completed or be in the process of completing high school requirements or the GED.

Tim Tyner, who completed Project RIO-Y at Giddings and who successfully completed program requirements at Ayres House in San Antonio, located employment with Maurice Phillips Construction Co.

"Project RIO-Y — a partnership between TYC and TWC — is a real opportunity for TYC youth to learn how to apply for a job, interview for a job and keep a job...so they can become productive citizens of Texas," said Dwight Harris, deputy executive director for juvenile corrections.

Among some of the youth who have already graduated from the program is Stephen Butler, who completed the building trades program at Giddings and is now earning \$6/hour as an employee of ARIAS Enterprises, a remodeling company in San Antonio.

Another RIO-Y graduate is Sergai Daigre who went through the program at Cottrell House and is currently in an independent living program in Dallas, where he has worked full-time as a grocery clerk at Krogers while

completing his first semester at Eastfield College.

The basic Project RIO-Y program services include:

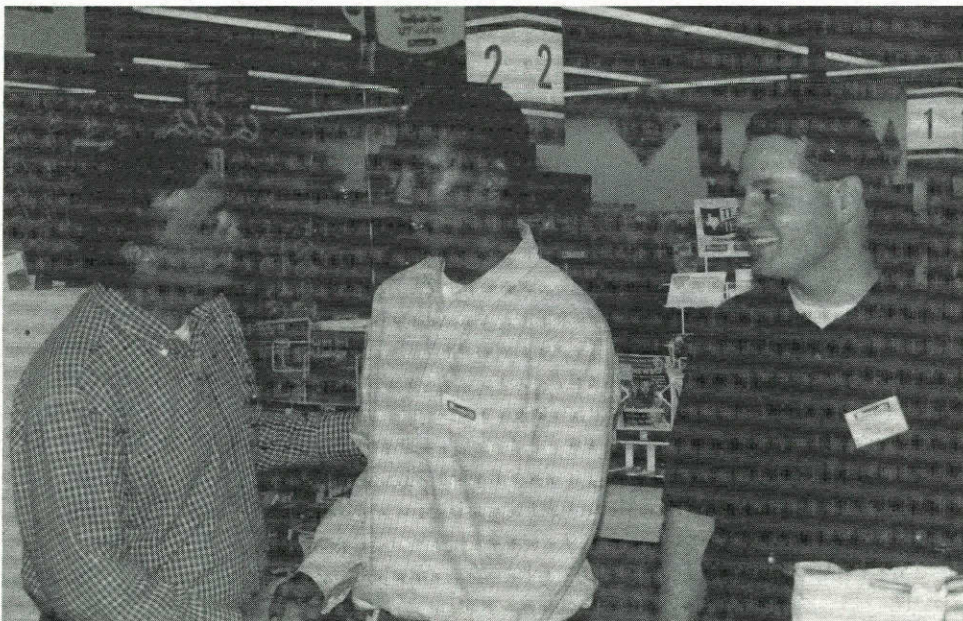
- An assessment of the youth's career interests and aptitudes and an interpretive report that suggests careers similar to the youths interests and abilities;
- Career exploration activities designed to expose the student to different occupations;
- Exposure to educational/skills training for TYC youth;
- An Employability Development Plan (EDP) which outlines the

program activities in which the youth will participate, in order to realize his/her goal; and

- Workforce development training, designed to prepare the student to locate, apply for, interview for and keep a job.

Currently RIO-Y is in all TYC institutions except Hamilton, Vernon, San Saba and Brownwood Sanctions Unit.

The project will be extended to all these locations this fall, and will also begin at the Wackenhut-contracted program in Bronte — Coke County Juvenile Justice Center — where most TYC female students are placed.



PROJECT RIO-Y COORDINATOR, Lane Roos, left, is shown with Jayson Peace, a RIO-Y grad from Evins Regional Juvenile Center now at Turman House, Austin, and working as a checker at Randall's, with assistant manager Tony Cooley, right, his supervisor at Randall's.

Eight halfway houses receive incentive funds

Eight of TYC's nine halfway houses maintained a 95 per cent compliance level with TYC case management standards during the past six months -- and received incentive funds through federal IV-E foster care dollars, said Nancy Emmert, administrator of federal funds for TYC.

Those include Beto, Valley, McFadden, Willoughby, Cottrell, Schaeffer, Turman and Ayres halfway houses.

Two new staff members have joined the central office IV-E program: Melvin Battle replaced Debbie Dick as case analyst for the southern service area; and Pam Barnes is the new administrative technician.

The agency receives nearly \$2 million annually in federal funds, based on compliance with case management practices for youth who qualify.

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Survey shows TYC low in response rate

The Survey of Organizational Excellence, which has been done every two years since 1979, provides a perspective on how employees view their organization, work and relationships within the organization's environment.

The Survey is intended to capture an in-depth view of the culture of an organization -- the attitudes, beliefs and values held by the employees.

Statewide, the response rate on the current survey was 42 per cent, with 30,318 surveys being returned. The Texas Youth Commission response rate was 29 per cent, with only 812 surveys being returned. (2,806 TYC staff members across the state received the survey.)

Employees were asked to indicate for 65 statements how strongly they agreed or disagreed that the statement describes the organization as a whole.

For the 65 primary questions, TYC's average score was higher than the average statewide score on 14 items (21.5%); the same on one item (1.5%) and lower than the statewide average on 49 items (75.4%).

The five highest results for TYC were these primary statements:

1. We know who our customers are;
2. The benefits and compensation packages were adequately explained to me when I was hired;
3. Changes in the benefits and compensation packages have been explained to me during the last two years;
4. Benefits can be selected to meet individual needs; and
5. Benefits are comparable to those offered in other jobs.

The five lowest results for TYC were the following statements:

61. Management knows whether an individual employee's life goals are compatible with organizational goals;
62. Promotion recommendations are made by a team of evaluators;
63. People who challenge the status quo are valued;
64. There is a basic trust among employees and management; and
65. Raises and promotions are designed to ensure that workers are

rewarded solely for their performance.

"On a more positive note, the average TYC scores from the current survey were higher on 46 of the 65 primary questions, and lower on 19, compared to the average TYC scores from the 1994-95 survey," said Dr. Chuck Jeffords, director of research and planning.

Each TYC facility has been asked to examine the highs and lows of their individual facility compared to the TYC average, and determine if there are underlying problems that they can rectify, Dr. Jeffords said.

Each facility will report to the human resources department by August 31 the efforts that have been made to create a forum for discussion of the issues addressed in the survey, he added.

News briefs from around TYC...

An intercultural library for staff and youth in the Houston office will be funded by a generous donation of \$2,400 from the Southwestern Bell Foundation, thanks to the work of the Houston volunteer council chair **Eva Burford** and other Bell employees who are members of the council...Monies were also allocated to fund other educational activities for eastern service area youth.

The TYC staff member who successfully trained five superintendents has retired. After 25 years of service, **Eloise Wooten**, superintendents' secretary at Crockett State School, was honored with a retirement luncheon Sept. 4. She also served as a houseparent and teacher aide earlier in her career.

She actually worked with six superintendents: Pete Harrell, Dann Barger, Jerry Day, Bob Drake, David Cocoros, and Rey Gomez.

The El Paso district parole office participated in the second annual state agencies fair in August, hosted by state senator **Eliot Shapeleigh**....Assisting with the TYC booth were Benny Martinez, Maria Ruiz, Jimmie Prince, Lewis Lohr, Linda Hendry and Christine Chavez.

Annual checks proposed for all TYC employees

The agency is considering conducting annual drivers license and criminal records checks on all TYC staff, according to Richard MaCuk, TYC risk manager.

The proposal, recommended by the risk management administration board, was made in the belief it would assist in minimizing the agency's risks.

MaCuk adds that adequate notice will be given if and when the policy change goes into effect.

The executive staff also approved a board recommendation that mock disaster exercises be conducted at TYC facilities, including improving written plans, conducting exercises and meeting and planning with local emergency personnel.

The San Saba student council and the volunteer council sponsored a food booth during the annual community Cow Camp Cookoff. They sold nachos and drinks at the event, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce.

Three Brownwood administrators and several members of the volunteer council joined the 21st cavalry brigade at Fort Hood for "Brownwood Day." **Gaylon Garrison**, **Dan Humeniuk** and **Eddie Hernandez** were flown to the army base on Black Hawk helicopters and escorted by Apache attack helicopters.

Two Eastern Service Area staff

(Continued on Page 18)

San Saba staff appreciation picnic features games, awards

San Saba State School employees held their second annual staff appreciation picnic with a barbecue dinner, door prizes, and games for children and adults.

Plaques were presented to the outstanding staff member from each department. Festivities concluded with a dance that night.

Awards presented to outstanding TYC employees

Texas Youth Commission Employees of the Year from institutions, halfway houses, parole and quality assurance were recognized and honored at this year's agencywide administrators' workshop in Austin.

INSTITUTIONS WINNERS

GAIL ROBERTS, Brownwood State School

Secretary Gail Roberts received the 1997 Employee of the Year Award from the Brownwood State School. She exhibits great interest, care and concern for the students at the state school, where she has worked for over four years.

Since she supports the training specialist, chaplain and youth rights specialist, she feels that she has a personal stake in making sure that students' rights are not abused.

She has focused on the mission of TYC by providing the necessary support services for operation of the treatment program. Roberts is known for her positive attitude at all times and has a most pleasant personality that is reflected in her dealings with staff and students.

NASHEED DALLEH, Brownwood Sanction Unit

The 1997 outstanding staff member for the Brownwood Sanction Unit is Nasheed Dalleh, described as a very positive person who is courteous, respectful and dependable.

He is always willing to assist others in any way he can and gets along well with staff and students. He is fair with youth and is concerned about their welfare. He is known for maintaining order in a calm and soft spoken manner.

Dalleh's dedication to the mandates, philosophy and mission of TYC has been continually demonstrated by over 21 years of commitment to ensuring youth understand program expectations and are taught the basic skills necessary for successful readjustment into the community.

KELVIN POWERS, Corsicana State Home

YAS IV Kelvin Powers is the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member from Corsicana.

Change is inevitable and Powers takes change in stride as he implements the mandates, philosophy and mission of the Youth Commission. He works well with all staff and is good at disseminating information whether it is to staff he supervises, peers or administrators.

Powers is dependable, consistent, outgoing and has a positive personality. In his two and one-half years of employment with the agency, he has rarely taken any time off, including sick leave. He is often at work early and frequently takes the place of other staff who are absent. Powers gives 110% of himself to the youth of Texas and his community.

STEVE MACIAS, Crockett State School

Steve Macias, youth rights specialist, received the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member award from the Crockett State School.

Macias knows what it takes to prepare youth as they move

from institutional to community living. During his five and one-half years of tenure with the Youth Commission, he has been directly involved in the rehabilitation, public protection and prevention aspect by serving as caseworker.

His current position of youth rights specialist allows him to play an even larger role by impacting the whole campus. He teaches youth and staff to be honest in their dealings and to be accountable for their actions.

PAMELA WIEBE, Gainesville State School

Assistant Chaplain Pamela Wiebe was named the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member from the Gainesville State School. She displays a strong personal commitment to the success of Youth Commission youth. She is consistent, dependable and excels in recognizing the needs of youth.

She is recognized as having a strong moral character and projects energy and enthusiasm to those with whom she has daily contact.

She started her involvement with TYC as a volunteer while at the University of North Texas. It was evident from the beginning of her work with youth that she exhibited extraordinary care, compassion and concern. She always gives her best and is an encourager, active listener, and a motivating kind of person.

MARTIN RANGEL, Giddings State School

Martin Rangel, buildings trades teacher, received the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member award for Giddings during the annual awards ceremony.

He has been a central figure in the development, modifications, and success of the highly intense Building Trades Program. He has done this while maintaining the highest level of compliance with agency policies and treatment objectives.

Rangel handles himself and relates to the students better than most employees and is considered an "ambassador" for the program wherever he goes. Through his positive outlook, calm demeanor and high expectations, he instills the same values in co-workers as well as his students. He is known by staff and students as a man who doesn't expect any more of others than he does of himself.

DAVID A. MORRISON, Hamilton State School

David A. Morrison was named Hamilton State School's 1997 Outstanding Staff Member.

He has been employed with the Youth Commission for 16 years and has held the positions of YAS I, II, III and IV for 7 1/2 years and has held his current position for the past 8 1/2 years. Morrison is known as a hardworking, dependable individual who is willing to help out his fellow workers and is fair with the students of the state school. He continually strives to provide a balance of common sense with one that adheres to the requirements of policy and maintains a professional attitude in his work. His reputation in the agency is that of a person who is totally dedicated to what TYC is all about.

(Continued on Page 8)

Institution outstanding employees.....(Continued from Page 7)

SHIRLEY FORD

Jefferson County State School, Beaumont

The 1997 Outstanding Staff Member for Jefferson County State School is Shirley Ford, food service manager. Her utmost concern is the safety, health and nutrition of TYC youth.

Regardless of the reason why each student is in the state school, her philosophy is the same as TYC's -- meeting basic needs. She strives not only to meet youths' needs, but to meet all their needs in a personal and team effort.

Ford is constantly volunteering to be on any task force or committee that will better TYC as well as the state school. She always speaks highly of others. In her words, "We don't have bad staff, students, programs or situations .. just big challenges to conquer."

ALAN WALTERS

San Saba State School

Alan Walters, director of security, was named the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member for the San Saba State School. If one could describe Walters or sum him up, one could say that he is "Mr. TYC."

For over 11 years, he has advocated the mission and philosophy of the agency as well as modeled the "guiding principles." As director of security, he ensures the safety and security not only for students and staff, but the community as well. He is known to constantly make rounds correcting problems that he sees and reporting any safety and security breaches.

Under his leadership, the security unit is active and functions as a well oiled team. Staff and student assaults are minimal and can be attributed to Walters' constantly reminding all to be aware and remain proactive. He serves as a role model and mentor and is a reminder that "discipline with caring" can and will change the lives of youth.

PAMELA CROUCH

West Texas State School, Pyote

Pamela Crouch, system support specialist, was named the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member for the West Texas State School during the agency's annual workshop.

Crouch recognizes that staff are TYC's most valuable resource and is dedicated to ensuring that they have the technology and information they need to perform their jobs in an efficient and cost effective manner.

She provides training for three TYC facilities -- the state school, Sheffield Boot Camp and Schaeffer House in El Paso. She strives to keep the staff informed and skilled in using computer software and programming. Her outstanding contributions to youth of the state school include her involvement in the stock show, Christmas parties, community advisory council luncheons, and other special activities.

RAUL ARREDONDO

Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg

Evins Regional Juvenile Center's 1997 Outstanding Staff Member is volunteer coordinator Raul Arredondo.

He represents TYC in the community as a positive role model and exercises great pride in how our agency strives to protect the community while maintaining the highest level of professionalism.

Besides his regular duties as volunteer coordinator, Arredondo goes beyond what is expected of him by cooking special meals, working the garden project and taking food to local food kitchens. He also makes recordings, videos and photographs of GED graduation ceremonies.

His overall interest, concern and positive responses from the parents of the youth are frequent sources of encouragement. Arredondo supports community service activities to improve the life of youth, as well as to provide programs designed to develop mature productive citizens.

SHIRLEY GRAHAM

Sheffield Boot Camp

Shirley T. Graham was named the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member for the Sheffield Boot Camp.

As the human resource/purchasing clerk for the facility, Graham maintains the highest degree of efficiency when processing every purchase voucher, time card or personnel action request.

No matter how busy she is, Graham will stop whatever she is doing and provide instant service to any staff member who has questions or concerns. She believes that a well informed employee can maintain a positive attitude, and in turn be a better person in working with youth.

Graham is actively involved in fund raising activities such as selling caps, car washes, selling baked goods and volunteering with the advisory council to raise money for Christmas presents -- to benefit TYC youth.

KELLY CONTELLA

Marlin Orientation & Assessment Unit

The first person you see at Marlin is receptionist Kelly Contella, who was named the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member from Marlin. She is professional, both in personal and business relationships and in her job performance.

She is a genuinely caring, friendly and outgoing individual whose willingness to respond to questions about TYC from both parents and employees alike enable her to be knowledgeable of all functions of the Youth Commission. As receptionist, Contella must know every employee and be able to locate them under conditions that can be trying. She calmly and professionally performs this task.

Art Hinojosa recognized as top administrator for 1997; Robinson gives executive director awards to all field supervisors

Art Hinojosa, TYC director of maintenance and operations, was presented the 1997 administrator of the year award during the agency workshop in July. The award is given to the administrator who receives the most votes from fellow top administrators based on

awareness of the importance of teamwork and effective communications.

Hinojosa is also an effective negotiator, tactfully utilizing skills and resources to obtain acceptance and commitment from his peers.

In a surprise decision, Executive

Director Steve Robinson named all 35 top field supervisors as winners of the annual Executive Director's Award, including institutional superintendents, halfway house superintendents, parole supervisors, quality assurance administrators and quality assurance supervisors.

BILLIE FLIPPEN, 1997 Outstanding Central Office Employee

Billie Flippen, director of curriculum and instruction in the education department, was named the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member in Central Office during the annual agency workshop.

Flippen, who has been with the agency over eight years, was nominated because "her work ethic exceeds any statements found in a job description."

She arrives early, stays late, works through lunch, weekends and holidays, whatever it takes to meet the ever-changing needs of the agency.

"Flippen is known for her positive attitude about life and work. She builds staff morale through encouraging us to make the best of every situation and is a positive and diplomatic role model," according to the nomination.

1997 Halfway House Employees of the Year

CHARLES WILBORN, Resource Specialist, received the Employee of the Year Award from Ayres House (San Antonio) for his dedication and contributions to the youth and mission of TYC, as well as the community. He is a leader among his co-workers and acts as a role-model for youth.

Beto House (McAllen) awarded secretary **MARIE HALE MORA** for going the extra mile, and for treating every project and assignment as a number one priority.

Secretary **DIANE IRVIN** was the recipient from Cottrell House (Dallas). Irvin has gone above and beyond the call of duty helping other staff with special

projects, helping with 'extra-curricular' events, and working beyond her normal schedule.

The employee of the year at McFadden Ranch (Roanoke) was **SUSAN CALVERT**, fiscal coordinator, awarded for her pride and enthusiasm in the facility, as well as her friendly and positive attitude.

Groupleader **JOSE ALAMILLO** was the award winner from Schaeffer House (El Paso). Alamillo is a role-model to both youth and staff alike, and he continuously demonstrates a commitment to the protection of the people of Texas.

The Turman House (Austin) employee of the year was cook **RUBY**

PATTERSON. Patterson works to improve cost-savings for the agency, and volunteers her personal time to make sure that food services are consistent and nutritious at the halfway house.

Valley House (Harlingen) awarded **REBECCA BARRERA** employee of the year. She exceeds her job duties as fiscal coordinator to include devoting time to the residents of Valley House as well. She demonstrates how valuable any employee can be to our youth.

Secretary **LUPE GIBSON** was awarded by Willoughby House (Fort Worth). In addition to her job duties, she has been a staff volunteer for the past 8 years, dedicating many hours to the girls who reside there.

1997 Outstanding Contract Care Programs

For the Eastern Service Area, Byrd's **Foster Group Home** was awarded outstanding contract care program of the year. The group home has been in full compliance in all areas monitored this year.

They have performed at an outstanding level throughout the year, and have provided many innovative opportunities for TYC youth to grow through education, job and vocational skills, volunteer opportunities, and positive social events.

The **Holmes Street Foundation** received the award from the Northern Service Area.

The Holmes Street Foundation has gone to great lengths to ensure that the best and latest techniques in substance abuse treatment are used for its residents. They have consistently been rated as above average on performance measures, and have made extensive use of community programs and volunteers to benefit TYC youth

The Southern Service Area awarded the **Southwest Key San Antonio Hard to Place** program. The program has consistently met or exceeded its performance measures this year. Southwest Key operates a model educational program for TYC youth, providing outstanding curriculum geared towards each student's individual ability and academic needs. Innovative methods have been developed for establishing positive community relations, including neighborhood open houses and bi-weekly summer car washes.

Three receive outstanding parole awards

An outstanding parole officer was recognized from each of the three service areas during the agencywide administrators' workshop in Austin June 30. They are

JODAN PIERCE, Amarillo

Northern Service Area

The 1997 Outstanding Staff Member in Parole from the Northern Services Area is Jodan Pierce, secretary in the Amarillo District Office.

Pierce, a three-year employee, is the first point of contact at that district office. She fully understands the unique position that TYC holds in the community and the delicate balance that has to be maintained between providing needed services and rehabilitation to the youth while holding the youth accountable and providing a safer community and being accountable to the public.

Pierce is a perfect role model for all to emulate. Her cheerful disposition, dedication and "can do" attitude is an inspiration for all. She is never too busy to lend a helping hand, give sage advice or serve as a sounding board. She has earned the admiration and respect she is accorded.

BOBBY DAVIS, Corpus Christi

Southern Service Area

Bobby Davis, parole officer in the Corpus Christi District Office, was named the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member in Parole from the Southern Service Area.

Davis has been with the agency for over 11 years. He is sensitive to the rights and safety of the community, youth and staff. He is a firm believer in holding youth accountable for their actions and for ensuring that youth utilize the services that are provided for them.

He is involved and participates in several committees in the community including the Mayor's Gang Task Force, the Coastal Bend Alliance for Youth, and the Coastal Bend Coalition for Crime Victim Services.

Davis builds staff morale by greeting staff with a smile and continuously reminding staff that they can accomplish more if they work together as a team. He

leads by example and encouragement and can be counted on to do whatever it takes to complete all assigned tasks and encourage others to do the same.

DOLORES MILLER, Houston

Eastern Service Area

Dolores Miller, a parole service technician in the Houston district office, was named the 1997 Outstanding Staff Member in Parole from the Eastern Service Area.

She has been with the Youth Commission for one and one-half years. She believes in servicing the

customer but she also understands her role as "protector" of the community.

Miller is good at making judgment calls in crisis situations and handles the customer with courtesy and professionalism. Her dedication in keeping staff, youth and visitors safe makes the whole office feel better knowing that she is around. She is constantly volunteering her time and renders services wherever and whenever they are needed. She's a constant morale booster and provides tremendous support to the Houston District Office.

QA staff members receive top awards

CHARLOTTE ROBINSON

Houston

Eastern Service Area

The 1997 Outstanding quality assurance staff member from the eastern service area is Charlotte Robinson, a quality assurance specialist in the Houston district office. She has been with the Youth Commission for over four years.

Her pursuit to make a difference in the lives of youth by developing relationships is not restricted to the hours of 8-5. She meets with youth more often than required to assist with their adjustment and stays on top of the issues and problems.

She is known to nurture every youth who crosses her path by making special trips to the hospital when the youth are there; she visits programs on weekends and evenings to enhance interventions; and helps provide adjustments for youth, and supports staff. In her unique communication style, Robinson has been positive in motivating staff and youth. She always presents a smile and has a positive attitude.

JIM HUMPHREY, Austin

Southern Service Area

James (Jim) Humphrey, contract specialist in the Austin district office, was named the outstanding quality

Three Quality Assurance staff members, one from each service area, were honored at the outstanding 1997 staff members during the agencywide workshop June 30 in Austin. They are:

MYRNA MARGOWSKI

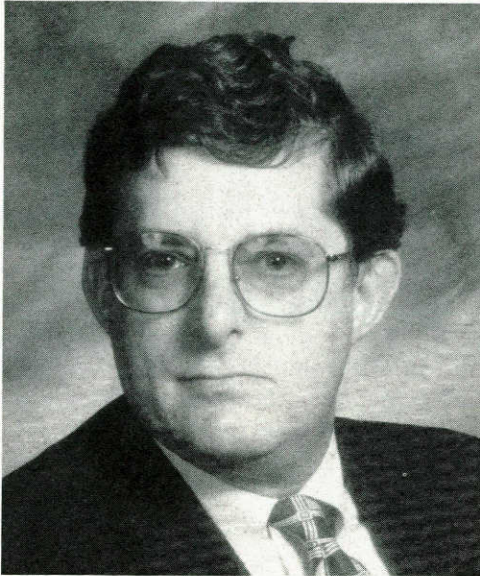
Fort Worth

Northern Service Area

Myrna Margowski, quality assurance supervisor in the Fort Worth district office, was named the Outstanding Quality Assurance Staff Member for 1997 from the Northern Service Area.

Margowski, who has been with TYC five years, strives daily to operate over and above what the Youth Commission mandates in the guiding principles and mission statement of the agency. Her "open door" management style allows staff to feel that they are more than just a valuable resource.

She provides support and supervision and never forgets the need for employee advocacy. She responds to staff in a professional manner and her sense of "team" is very important: Margowski is always part of the team. She never asks anyone to do anything that she would not do herself.



Terry Graham

HUMAN RESOURCES

Employees receive promotions; new administrators selected

TERRY GRAHAM has been named assistant deputy executive director for finance/construction. He replaces John Franks, who left the agency May 31 following his retirement.

Graham has been with TYC 24 years, most recently as director of finance, where his duties included supervising the budget, accounting, payroll and federal funds for the agency. He has been active in developing TYC's strategic plan and linking it to the budget process.

His testimony before the Legislative Budget Board and subcommittees of the 75th Legislature contributed to TYC's success in obtaining requested funds for the next biennium.

Graham holds a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Texas, Austin.

PAMELA WARD, who has been a reporter at the *Austin American-Statesman* for the past eight years, began work Aug. 15 as public information officer for the Texas Youth Commission -- a position which has not been filled since 1985.

Ward, who holds a BS in journalism from the University of Tulsa, has been a reporter for newspapers in Tulsa, Washington D.C. and Miami.

DAN HUMENIUK has been named

superintendent of both the Brownwood State School and the Brownwood Sanction Unit, in a move which has combined administration of both Brownwood facilities.

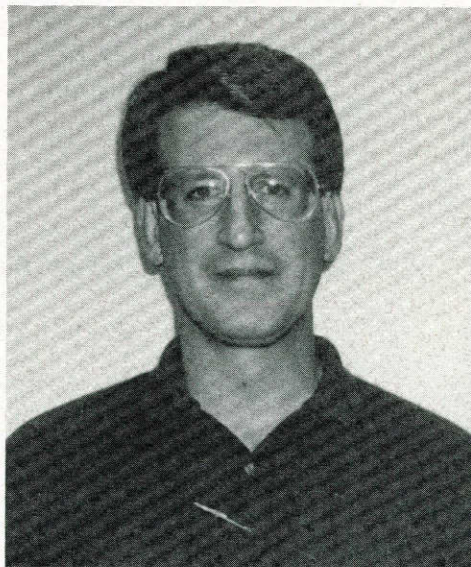
Humeniuk formerly served as superintendent of the sanction unit, and was named to head the Brownwood State School also after former superintendent **GAYLON GARRISON** transferred to Central Office to serve as project coordinator doing start-up work toward building a new 330-bed institution, funded by the Texas Legislature, expected to come on line in October of 1999. Garrison will be doing design and

development for the project -- its location yet to be determined.

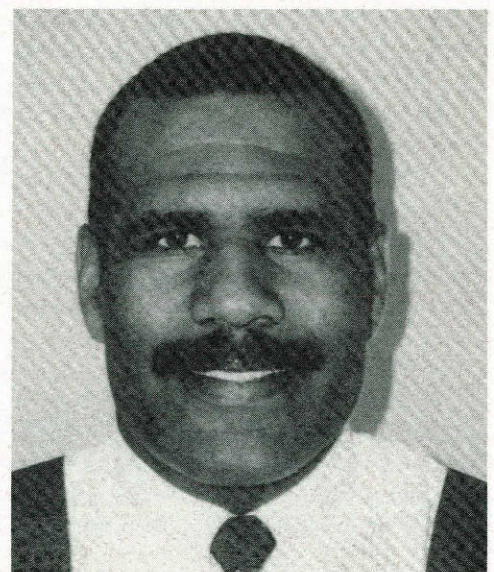
Humeniuk has also served as assistant superintendent at West Texas State School, and as superintendent of two halfway houses. Garrison began his tenure with TYC as superintendent at Brownwood in 1994.

JAY SVINICKI, formerly a research associate in the research and planning department in central office, has been named network applications manager in the information resources division (IRD) in central office, replacing Kathy Bremner

(Continued on Page 23)



Dan Humeniuk



Gaylon Garrison

TYC youth 'Walk for Families' to benefit Parents Anonymous

Six TYC programs joined in an agencywide project to "Walk for Families" during the month of June -- to raise awareness of child abuse and raise money for the Parents Anonymous (PA) organization.

A total of 3,020 miles was walked by TYC youth, staff and volunteers during the campaign, and more than \$2,800 was raised for PA.

BROWNWOOD

In Brownwood, 1,309 miles were walked and \$700 in donations was collected.

The event involved 320 students from both the state school and the Sanction Unit. Students walked an average of four miles each.

KOXE-FM radio station broadcast the walk live and emphasized the restitution projects performed by the students. The volunteer council provided cookies and candy for participants.

This was the second year for the Brownwood campuses to be involved. Last year they served as a "pilot project" for the agency.

CORSICANA

The Corsicana walk raised \$1,228 for Parents Anonymous, with 32 youth, staff and volunteers walking 126 miles.

Team captains were Chester Clay, Pedro Cohen, Don Freeman, Glenda Brown and Vickie White, who led teams of youth and volunteers.

Organizations lending support included the Corsicana Kiwanis Club, the Community Advisory Council, Corsicana National Bank, Super KMart, Collin Street Bakery, Corsicana Daily Sun, KAND radio, Northland Cable TV and Charles Barnaby.

During the week prior to the event PA officials Mark Hudgins and Elizabeth Hart presented programs to various campus cottage groups concerning child abuse and the cycle of criminal violence it engenders.

SAN SABA

All students at San Saba State School participated in the PA walk June 13 with two students from each dorm serving as the representative walkers/runners. The laps of those students were counted in an inter-dorm competition.

The sixteen student dorm reps ran 68

miles in 45 minutes.

Funds raised for Parents Anonymous totaled \$217.

GAINESVILLE

Gainesville State School's "First Annual Walk for Families" was coordinated by Karen Bates, acting volunteer coordinator.

Twelve students participated and walked a total of 60 miles.

The activity resulted in a donation of \$164.

GIDDINGS

More than 200 students walked or ran in the Giddings "Walk for Families" over a three-day period, for a total of 1,049 miles.

The volunteer council furnished drinks and refreshments and sponsored the event and raised several hundred dollars through contributions from local individuals and businesses.

CROCKETT

Crockett students, staff and volunteers walked 373 miles and raised \$500 in pledges in support of the TYC "Walk For Families 97."

In connection with the walk, students presented a program to the community advisory council titled "Imagine...A World Without Abuse," using the letters from the word 'abuse', starting with the "A", which stood for

alarming, anguish, aware, aggressive, and alcohol.

The council donated \$100 for the project.

TURMAN HOUSE

Youth residing at Turman halfway house in Austin participated in the "Walk for Families" campaign at Reagan High School. They walked 35 miles.

Art show, auction support campaign

In conjunction with the Parents Anonymous "Walk for Families," facilities were also invited to encourage students to produce art work for the PA art auction to be held this fall.

At Corsicana, youth created drawings in pencil and pastels and writings for a campus juried art show.

Five categories were designated with first, second, third place and honorable mention ribbons awarded in each category. A campus program was held to present the art work and awards.

Winning entries will be sent to Austin for the PA art auction.



AMONG THE VERNON supporters who worked diligently more than a year ago to assure that TYC would locate a facility there are, left to right, Earl Joy, executive director of the Vernon Business Development Corporation (BDC); Gary Compton, former TYC board chair; Jean Bice, Gene Heatly and Dr. Susan Couch, BDC governmental affairs committee members. Bice is now volunteer coordinator at the facility.



MORE THAN 400 local residents and TYC staff officials attended the open house/dedication and ribbon-cutting activities for TYC's Victory Field Leadership Academy in Vernon August 21.



TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE Charles Finnell was a guest speaker at the dedication and open house for new TYC facility in Vernon

New TYC facility at Vernon holds open house Aug. 21

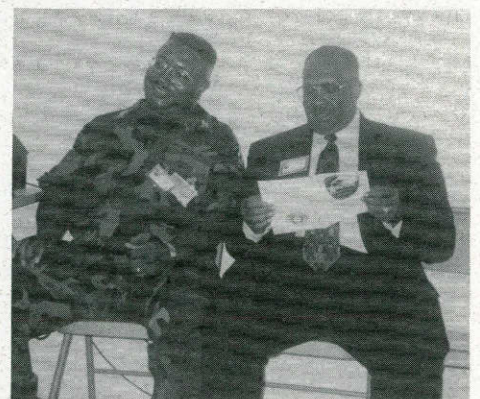


SENATOR TOM HAYWOOD was a featured speaker during the open house/dedication program August 21 for new TYC Victory Field Leadership Academy in Vernon.



TYC BOARD, which met prior to open house program, included Edna Tamayo, vice chair, and Lisa Teschner, seated; (standing) Pete Alfaro, John Odam, Dr. Leonard Lawrence, chair, Executive Director Steve Robinson, and Pete Harrell.

RIBBON-CUTTING ceremony included TYC and state officials and many local officials.



TYC BOARD CHAIR Dr. Leonard Lawrence, right, who served as master of ceremonies, goes over dedication program with Vernon commandant Chip Harrison.



Tenure plaques presented

Brownwood State School

15 Years

Jackie D. Burks
Robert D. James
Hope McClung
James Lloyd Byrd

20 years

Darvin C. Roberts, Jr.

25 years

Eddie D. Hardy

Brownwood Sanction Unit

15 years

Robert Williams

Giddings

15 years

April Washington

Joe Woods

Velma Duvall

Terence Gregory

David McDonald

Beiankalynn Harris

Jeanette McKinney

Lester Ward

Earline Sims

Gerald Jones

Lawrence Thomas, Sr.

Willie Taylor

Anthony J. King, Sr

Narciss Mayes

20 years

Phyllis Urban

Annetta Shepard

Carolyn Brown

Donna Whitman

Charlene Davenport

Juanita Sheppard

25 years

Marilyn Baca

James H. Tate

Corsicana

15 years

Floyd Hall, Jr.

Paul Gillen

Ginger Mullenix

20 years

Gloria Gee

Catherine Wright

Dorcas Purdy

25 years

Harvey Elmore

Vergie Brown

Ronald L. Hartis

Lucy Humbert

Crockett

15 years

William McCullough

Bill Platt

Dorothy Shorter

Phillip Watson

20 years

David W. Williamson

Fredia Hutcherson

Reynaldo Gomez

Harold Brown

Janet Kennedy

Barbara Holland

25 years

Elouise Wooten

Virginia Lewis

Helen Mask

Evins

15 years

Steven C. Spilman

Gainesville

15 years

Verdia L. Kemp

Sharon L. Fugett

Cathy L. Farquhar

John W. Turner

Henry R. Kessler, Jr.

Mary E. Riddle

Jerry D. Tatum

Philip Cogan

20 years

Nell L. Bryant

Maurice C. Warren

Rodriquez Johnson

Bonna C. Burr

30 years

Jane Dudley

Marlin

15 years

Kenneth E. Murray

Willie F. Williams

Service Areas

15 years

Patricia A. Carter,

Turman House

Debra J. Ennis, Dallas

Elizabeth T. Compean,

El Paso

Lisa Cooke, Denton

Carl Q. Fretwell II,

Fort Worth

Rita S. Hughes, Houston

Terence A. Reynolds,

Willoughby

35 years

Lenard O. Holmes, Waco

Hamilton

15 years

Doris Roberson

Charles Barton

25 years

Joe R. Franks

Sheffield Boot Camp

15 years

"Al" D. Elizondo

San Saba

15 years

Helen Winkfield

20 years

Patrick May

West Texas

15 years

Patricia Barton

Sharon A. Brown

Randal Chance

Mary Thompson

Loretta Marlin

20 years

Allan B. Spearman

Central Office

15 years

Sylvia Perez

Elaine D. Smith

Jean Story

Edward P. White

Karen Wooding McKnight

20 years

Nancy W. Emmert

Carolyn A. Jackson

Six safety awards presented by MaCuk

Six safety awards were presented during this year's annual administrators' workshop

Evins Regional Juvenile Center was the winner in the institutions category, with an injury frequency rate of 5.22%.

Four halfway houses, Ayres, Beto, Cottrell and Willoughby, shared the halfway house safety awards with an injury frequency rate of 0%.

Rex Hudspeth, TYC transportation coordinator, was presented with a plaque in recognition of the statewide transportation unit for driving over 2.8 million miles transporting youth without an accident.

Richard MaCuk, TYC risk manager, made the safety award presentations.

QA awards

(Cont. from page 10)

assurance staff member for 1997 from the southern service area.

As a 14-years employee, Humphrey started his career with youth as a teacher for the Austin ISD stationed at Turman House for three years before joining the staff of the Youth Commission. In his position as a contract specialist he builds in requirements for safe and secure environments as well as promoting programs which utilize sound juvenile correctional techniques and philosophy.

Humphrey's "can do" attitude and his willingness to go wherever and do whatever is needed is a positive influence on all staff. He is a "team" player who is often called upon by Central Office or other agency contract specialists throughout the state to provide his expert technical assistance. He is frequently asked to serve on task forces and work groups dealing with special issues to produce quality results in a rapidly changing and evolving agency.

Youth accomplishments, successes recognized

The Texas Youth Commission recognized fifteen current and former TYC youth for outstanding achievement at the concluding session of the annual administrators' conference July 2, 1997.

Twelve of the fifteen young people were present to accept their awards. More than 30 youth were nominated by TYC staff from around the state, and a selection committee determined the youth to be honored.

The event was underwritten by Community Education Partners (CEP), a private organization dedicated to getting at-risk students an education and back on track.

CEP Vice-President John Danielson who spoke at the ceremony, said that the point of the ceremony was to "find the good and praise it".

Ron Oliveira, from Austin's local KNVA Channel 54, was master of ceremonies. Austin public relations firm MEM/Hubble Communications, Inc. wrote the awards ceremony script and the inscriptions on the award plaques. TYC's Patti Hayes coordinated the ceremony.

"This was a very touching program for everyone in attendance, because the young men and women honored have overcome so much adversity to prove they can be contributing members of society," said Danielson.

Youth awards were presented to Don Ackerson, Jose Luis Barron, Edward Bradfute, Moises Briseno, Nick Camarillo, Steven Duncan, George Fenton, Adrian Garcia, Quran L. Johnson, Pedro Mendoza, Iris Orozco, Eric Reavis, Cindy Rodriguez, Chris Waters, and Melanie Wybro.

DON ACKERSON Dallas

Don was nominated by R.L. Session, SouthWest Key staff member, because he is on the SWKey "Dallas Morning News Stock Market Game" team, which competes against 306 other schools nationwide by buying and trading phantom stock during a 10-week period.

He works part-time and maintains a B+ average. Don was also selected to accompany his church youth group on a college tour.

JOSE LUIS BARRON Corpus Christi

Jose was nominated by Manuel Lopez, Corpus parole officer, because he has overcome such daunting obstacles with no family support.

He took advantage of TYC programs and became employed full-time at Dairy Queen -- walking 16 miles round-trip every day to and from the job until he received his first paycheck. And he was on time!

His supervisor reports that his job performance is excellent.

EDWARD BRADFUTE San Antonio

Edward, nominated by Ayres House staff, left TYC in 1993, married and attended the Southern Careers Institute in San Antonio, earning a degree in word processing and administrative assistance.

He currently manages a San Antonio Burger King -- and actively tries to help TYC youth by hiring them to work there.

MOISES BRISENO El Paso

Margie Soto of Giddings, nominated Moises because of the positive personal changes he has made at Giddings State School.

He earned his high school diploma at Giddings, worked in the administration building, and in 1995, secured a job at a fast food restaurant.

Moises was named the agency's outstanding student volunteer in 1996.

NICK CAMARILLO San Antonio

Nick, who currently attends the 9th grade at Memorial High School in San Antonio, was nominated by Gracie Salazar-Nerios, San Antonio parole officer.

He won first place in a citywide speech contest on "making your dreams come true." Nick also excels in art and won special recognition in his school district for a still life done in pencil for a recent contest. The work now hangs at

the Texas Department of Health office in San Antonio.

STEVEN DUNCAN Sulphur Springs

Steve recently took the ACT college entrance exam and is expected to attend Texas A&M University in Commerce. He was nominated by Barbara Hardeman and Jimmy Flinn.

While at San Saba State School, Steven ranked in the 93.0 percentile nationally on his GED exam, and has tutored others to prepare them for the test. He has also earned 14 credits toward his high school diploma.

He is also enrolled in the Rio-Y program.

GEORGE FENTON Nacogdoches

Nominated by Corsicana volunteer coordinator Lucy Humbert, George left TYC in 1989 at age 17 and married Paula, who already had a child.

The couple subsequently had a baby with serious medical problems requiring many trips and hospitalizations in Houston.

He has completed a course in diesel mechanics and works for Sparks Concrete Works.

George attributes his ability to get through the difficult times to the staff and volunteers at Corsicana -- particularly volunteer Charles Barnaby.

ADRIAN GARCIA Sweeny

Nominated by Aaron Williams, QA specialist, Houston, Adrian was selected by Gulf Coast Trades Center, a TYC contract program, to accompany them to Washington D.C. to appear before a Congressional subcommittee.

He completed his GED, obtained a driver's license and a vocational trade certificate.

He now lives independently, has a job and is enrolled in college.

(Continued on Page 16)

Outstanding youth recognized...*(Continued from Page 15)*

QURAN L. JOHNSON **Temple**

Quran, who obtained his GED and completed the independent living program, was nominated by parole supervisor Murray Smith.

After leaving TYC he worked at Whataburger and completed his studies at Temple High School, graduating in June 1996. He received an NAACP scholarship based on his academic accomplishments and his participation in activities at Mount Zion Baptist Church.

He enrolled in Temple Junior College and worked at Scott and White Clinic, but decided to take advantage of career opportunities in the U.S. Army. He is currently in basic training.

PEDRO MENDOZA **San Juan**

Nominated by Beto House superintendent Sheila Reeves, Pedro served as the teacher's assistant at Beto House and served as a role model for other youth.

He also works full-time for the recycling center and is enrolled in South Texas Community College.

Pedro has continued to visit TYC youth and encourage them.

IRIS OROZCO **Dallas**

Luann Pelletier, Willoughby House superintendent, nominated Iris, who attended Western Hills High School in Benbrook while residing in the TYC halfway house in Fort Worth. She has consistently made high marks in academics and in citizenship. She also joined the ROTC program.

Iris has been a mentor to new students, and participates in weekly counseling with her mother.

ERIC REAVIS **Washington, D.C.**

Eric Reavis was nominated by Cottrell House superintendent Travis Wortham and staff member Robert Louis. He attends the University of D.C. and is founder of "The Alliance of Concerned Men," a Washington-area youth mentoring organization.

He was appointed to the Mayor's Task Force on Youth Crime and is in constant demand in the Washington area to give insight concerning youth problems.

He still consults with Cottrell House and Gainesville State School staff. He has received numerous awards for his work in the D.C. area.

Eric is employed full-time with the Kaiser-Permanente Firm in Washington.

He attributes his success to 'God first; Cottrell and Gainesville staff; and his aunt.'

CINDY RODRIGUEZ **Harlingen**

Cindy, nominated by parole supervisor Luis Lopez, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Southwest Key program in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement and program participation.

She works at Marshall's department store in Harlingen and is a full-time student at TSTC where she maintains an "A" average.

Cindy recently put a down payment on a home with her sister. She wants to pursue a career in the medical field.

CHRIS WATERS **Anton**

Dale Richardson, Lubbock parole officer, nominated Chris, who returned to Anton High School and maintained an A/B average. He went to work for A&J Millworks there.

Chris was elected school mascot, and was a member of the golf team. He was also on the judging team for FFA and participated in UIL school plays.

Chris plans to continue his education and enlist in the Air Force.

He attributes his success to the loving support of his grandparents.

MELANIE WYBRO **Houston**

Melanie, nominated by Melva Scruggs, Houston parole officer, graduated from San Jacinto Junior College in 1996 and is working on a 4-year degree plan at St. Thomas University in Houston.

She has obtained her LVN license and is now working in that field, while continuing to work toward her bachelor's degree.

Giddings 25th anniversary set Sept. 19

Festivities celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Giddings State School will get underway Friday, September 19, with a program at 10:30 a.m., according to Superintendent Stan DeGerolami.

Former staff members will be recognized during the event, including four former superintendents.

All TYC staff members and volunteers are invited for the anniversary program, and afterwards for a free luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Also on the agenda are tours of the facility, a photo and video gallery of the past 25 years, and drawings for \$1,400 in raffle gifts.

Federal funds...*(Continued from P. 5)*

The random movement time survey conducted by central office staff also has resulted in \$800,000 of federal funds through Title IV-E.

"We would like to thank all of the staff in parole, quality assurance, institutions and the central placement unit for their continued participation in this study," Emmert said.

Giddings chapel receives new Bibles

The generosity of two benefactors has resulted in new Bibles being purchased for the Giddings State School chapel, according to chaplain Jerry Reeves.

The latest translation of the Bible—the Contemporary English Version (CEV) from the American Bible Society, first introduced in 1995 -- was intended to be easily read and accurate to the original languages.

Mrs. Gladys Tharp, one of the benefactors of the chapel ministry, has given funds from a prison grant fund that she and her mother established. During the past ten years, Giddings has received more than \$3,000 for new sanctuary Bibles and to help upgrade the sound system in the chapel.

A new benefactor at Giddings is Sam Pack, who established Cross Advantage Ministries to work with TYC youth. He has helped purchase paperback Bibles to be distributed to students, and has placed Bibles at several other TYC institutions.

Pack and a team of men come from San Antonio monthly to lead an hourlong Bible study for 35-50 youth. "His group gave in excess of \$400 to upgrade the quality of worship and study time at Giddings," said Reeves.

Other Bible study sessions are led by Ministry of Challenge from Austin, twice monthly; and First Baptist Church, Giddings, and Rising Star Baptist Church, Dime Box, once monthly.

Reeves added that the sanctuary Bibles which were formerly in the Giddings chapel were donated by the First Baptist Church of Plainview. They have been sent to TYC's new institution in Bryan.

VOLUNTEERS

1998 volunteer conference slated in College Station

The 1998 TYC statewide volunteer conference has been scheduled May 1-3 at the Hilton Hotel in College Station.

Preliminary planning includes a tour of the new TYC institution in Bryan, Hamilton State School, and a tour of the new George Bush Presidential Library, which is scheduled to open in November, 1997.

Nancy Jo Kuder, volunteer coordinator at Hamilton, is assembling community citizens to form a volunteer council at the new facility -- just in time to assist in planning for workshops, speakers, special events, displays and awards.

El Paso volunteers hold picnic at state park

The El Paso Community Resource Council held its annual picnic for Schaeffer House in June at Franklin Mountain State Park, where residents have performed community service work.

National Park Service Ranger Wanda Olszewsk thanked residents for their work, which she said will have a lasting impact for those who hike the mountains. She also gave an overview of the park's terrain, and information on the plant and animal life that inhabit the park.

Council members Linda Hendry, Christine Chavez, Henry and Gloria Drake were instrumental in setting up for the annual picnic.

Dallas council plans buffet

The Pomodoro/Arcodoro Italian restaurant in Dallas will host a Dallas Community Advisory Council fund raiser/informational session October 14 with a buffet. Tickets are being sold to council members, prospective volunteers and residents interested in helping solve the problems of juvenile delinquency.

Funds raised will help support auxiliary needs for parenting programs being implemented at Cottrell House and Dallas parole.

Co-chairing the event is Lisa Saemann-Teschner, TYC Board member and Dallas Council member; and Dr. Janet Coplin, juvenile justice liaison for the Dallas public schools.

Changes through the years noted by retiring fiscal director

About the time long-time fiscal director John Franks retired in May, he participated in a central office intercultural awareness committee program which related some of the many changes in the agency over the past 30 years.

Franks noted that TYC's appropriations in 1965 (his first year with the agency) totaled \$5.85 million. In contrast, the 1997 budget was \$174.7 million

Commitments in 1970 were 1,233; in 1977— 2,785.

In 1965 there were a mere 994 TYC employees throughout the state -- with only 12 in central office. By 1997 we had grown to 3,604 employees -- and central office had expanded to 219.

There were only 17 parole officers in 1965. Today there are 87.

Cost per day for a student in a TYC institution in 1965 was \$5.14; today that cost per day is averaging \$85.81.

Halfway house cost per day in 1980 (the first year they were reported) was \$34.41. In 1997 the comparable cost is \$79.53.

Contract care cost per day in 1980 was \$28.17; compared to an average cost per day in 1997 of \$96.94.

Parole cost per day was \$1.74 in 1975; in 1997 the cost is \$6.50 per day.

The cost of meals in institutions and halfway houses has decreased.

The average institutional cost per meal in 1990 (the all-time high) was \$1.30; that cost today averages 20 cents less -- \$1.10.

Food costs in halfway houses in 1990 were \$1.38 per meal, whereas today they average \$1.20.

Other long-time central office staff members who took part in the program included: deputy director Sandy Burnam; accreditations manager Gail Graham; parole administrator Christi Mallette; director of volunteers Joan Timmons; and general counsel Neil Nichols.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Intercultural awareness awards given

The winner of the *Best Local Intercultural Awareness Committee (IAC)* award was the Eastern Service Area (parole and quality assurance).

Additionally, Sharon Hambrick, statewide IAC chair, announced that two additional awards were given: the Central Office IAC and San Saba IAC tied for *Most Improved Local Committee*, and West Texas State School IAC was awarded for hosting the *Best Local Event*.

Juneteenth program held at Schaeffer House

The El Paso intercultural awareness task force hosted a program celebrating Emancipation Day at Schaeffer House on June 20, with guest speakers Dr. Maceo C. Dailey, director of African-American studies at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP), and Willie Cager, former member of the 1966 NCAA national basketball championship team from Texas Western College (now UTEP).

Both speakers encouraged those in attendance to continue with their education and challenged residents to look beyond their current situation/s which placed them with TYC.

The El Paso Community Resource Council provided refreshments.

Cinco de Mayo celebrated at San Saba

A Cinco de Mayo celebration at San Saba State School was sponsored by the intercultural awareness committee.

Students presented speeches and skits on the meaning and history of the celebration, and music was provided by students, staff and a volunteer.

Students design float

Crockett State School entered a float in the county's annual Juneteenth celebration parade, with participating students being required to research black American history makers to design the float around the characters they chose.

The float was decorated in red, white and blue and students dressed in costumes representing the character they portrayed in three categories: education, sports and music.

Leaders they selected were Thurgood Marshall, first black Supreme Court justice; Frederick Douglas, U.S. marshal; Jackie Robinson, baseball star; and the Rev. Martin Luther King.

Also during June, five Crockett students attended the summer arts and crafts workshop sponsored by the Piney Woods Fine Arts Association.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Crockett students develop reading skills through tutoring program

Dr. George Beto, former Texas prison director and former chairman of the TYC Board, frequently observed that "education can eliminate incarceration."

The staff and volunteers at Crockett State School believe Dr. Beto was right, said John Thomas, assistant superintendent.

Every Monday and Tuesday evening the chaplain, staff volunteers and community volunteers tutor youth who have been identified by the education department and the treatment teams as needing extra help in their studies.

One of the students in the program recently told Thomas, "Now I can read and write my own letters; I don't have to depend on someone else to do it for me."

Another youth discovered he had a gift for reading; one of the tutors added that was a gift no one could ever take away from him.

While Crockett's tutoring program is still in its infancy, they are half-way through the second reading tutorial.

"However, for the first test group every student who completed tutoring showed a significant improvement in his reading scores," said Thomas.

Dr. Willia Wooten, principal, and Chaplain Bill Phillips have tried to make learning fun for the youth. "Everyone has an easier time learning in a relaxed atmosphere," says Dr. Wooten.

"I'm not sure who gets more out of this, the volunteers or the youth," said Phillips. During the sessions the youth are taught the rules of language in a playful sort of way that reinforces the desired learning objectives while building reading skills, he explained.

During a small surprise party thrown by the volunteers to celebrate the half-way point in the program, the youth had the opportunity to show off their new skills for Thomas and Dr. Wooten.

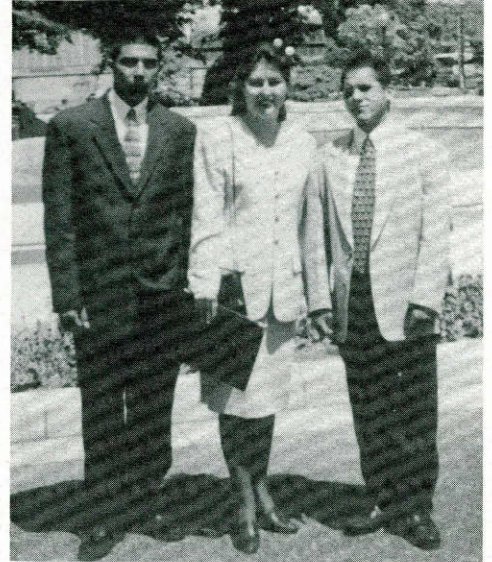
Students who participated in tutoring gained a new-found sense of accomplishment, said Thomas, while discovering in the volunteers, positive prosocial people who model human empathy and caring, one of the target goals of resocialization.

San Saba students beautifying downtown

Students from San Saba State School have been active in community service projects this summer. One project included assisting with the city beautification project by attaching silk flower arrangements to utility poles along the main street of town.

The arrangements were prepared by women at the senior citizens center.

Their current project is remodeling an outdoor amphitheater in a local park to be used for community activities and concerts.



GAINESVILLE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR Pamela Wiebe and two students, Juan Vertura, left, and Vincent Acuna, right, attended Washington D.C. committee sessions addressing gang-related problems.

News briefs....

(Continued from Page 6)

members are serving on groups who assist youth: **Helen George**, quality assurance administrator, has been appointed to the Texas Department of Health State Adolescent Advisory Committee; and **Rita Hughes**, quality assurance supervisor, has been elected chair of the Harris County Community Management Team.

Concerts have been presented by "C-3" and "Souls Afire," contemporary Christian music groups, at Marlin -- sponsored by volunteers and **Don Dennis Ministries**.

An honor roll award luncheon sponsored by the San Saba Rotary Club was held for 18 honor roll students at the state school. President **John Bannister** presented medals to the students.

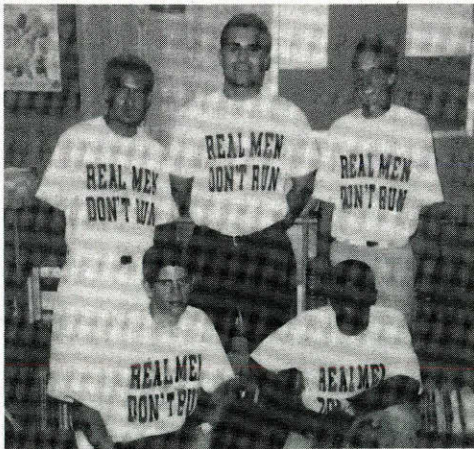
Gaylene Styve and Angela Gover, researchers from the University of Maryland, visited **Sheffield Boot Camp** August 25 as part of the National Boot Camp Study funded by the National Institute of Justice, as well as **Brownwood**, which served as the control group.

On a positive note

BOBBY CARTER completed all necessary high school credits to receive his high school diploma from Brownwood State School and 50 other students completed the requirements for GED certificates. All were honored during commencement exercises at which Executive Director Steve Robinson was keynote speaker.

JAMES MITCHELL, TYC student at the Holmes Street Foundation, Dallas, was selected to participate in the Mobile Green Team trip to several Texas cities due to his work performance and excellence in school, according to his QA specialist, Ron Session.

Two Brownwood students, **ABRAM MONCIVAIS** and **MICHAEL GRIFFIN**, were treated to an awards breakfast during Northwest Elementary's volunteer appreciation breakfast. They donated many hours of community service tutoring four elementary school children. Also recognized was security director Reagan Moss for his assistance with the program.



'REAL MEN DON'T RUN' is the motto of the Ayres Halfway House independent living program in San Antonio. The motto addresses the positive roles and responsibilities that men should represent in their homes and communities -- fatherhood and leadership. David Calderon, front left, and James English, right, attended parenting programs and received high honors on completion of the program. Also in the program are, back, left to right, Samuel Besa, Daniel Perez and Steve Butler.

SCOTT NOLET, TYC student at Mel Matthews Boys Ranch, Cisco, earned his high school diploma from Cisco High School. He enlisted with the armed forces and will receive a \$12,000 signing bonus after he completes his specialized training, according to his QA specialist Louis Laster, Fort Worth.

McFadden Ranch resident

FERNANDO GARZA, concerned that his gang "tag" would affect his ability to progress positively when he is released from TYC, requested financial assistance from the volunteer council to have the tag removed from his hand. Former council chair Melanie Bullock located a physician and laser company to donate their time to remove the tattoo -- and estimated value of \$10,000.



ONE OF THE MANY FAMILIES who traveled to Texarkana for the Bowie County Juvenile Justice Center family day was the family of Gregory Evans and his dad, Butler White (center back), his grandparents Creola and Wesley Scott, also standing at back; and his sisters and brother, all of Houston.

Texarkana program attracts 150 for family day activities

The Bowie County Juvenile Justice Center, a TYC contracted boot camp program operated by Corrections Corporation Inc. in Texarkana, recently sponsored a "Family Day" for youth and their families.

More than 250 family members attended and were familiarized with the program and staff during the event.

The drill team showed its marching skills in a half-hour ceremony -- with parents flashing cameras.

Barbecue with all the trimmings was served to the families, staff and 100 youth placed there by TYC.

Although heavy rains interrupted the day-long event and forced a move inside for visitation, the event continued.

The next similar event is scheduled at Christmas time, said CCI administrator Jeff Prowell. He and assistant administrator Pete Asher were in charge of arrangements.

McFadden garden has 'second harvest'

McFadden Ranch has really been blessed with a "blooming" garden. The youth, staff and volunteers have been enthusiastic and the pay-off has been showing up on the lunch menu.

While the garden has yielded an abundance of tomatoes, radishes, onions, okra, peas, corn, zucchini, crook neck and white squash, youth were patiently waiting for the ripening of the cantaloupe and watermelon. This is the second year McFadden has planted a garden. Special additions to the garden this year are three life-sized scarecrows that were made by the youth.

"They used their own clothes, so the scarecrows could be in dress code," laughed Superintendent Lynne Parra.

"The garden is a great responsibility that the youth seem to love. It helps them

learn that hard work does pay off," she added. "The best thing about the garden is seeing them brag that they are eating what they have grown."

Career day held at San Saba

Community volunteers representing various professions spoke to students at San Saba State School during a career day program.

Each described their job duties, education required and salary, and answered questions from youth.

Presenters included a registered nurse, county judge, army recruiter, radio station owner, auto parts employee, auto repair shop foreman, and small engine repair shop owner.



TWO CORSICANA STUDENTS received high school diplomas during graduation ceremonies this summer. Shown is graduate Traci Betty, who now resides at Willoughby House in Fort Worth, receiving her diploma from Corsicana superintendent Chester Clay.

Houston education banquet held



TYC YOUTH IN THE HOUSTON AREA were honored for their educational achievements at a May banquet at the Holiday Inn Select. Shown is student James McPherson receiving a plaque from TYC education superintendent Judy Huffty, left, and Houston volunteer council chair Eva Burford, in recognition of his accomplishments.

Twenty-five students were honored with awards and prizes at the fourth annual education banquet sponsored by the Houston volunteer council May 8 at the Holiday Inn Select Hotel.

The banquet is part of the Unlimited Potential Project (UP) sponsored by the Community Volunteer Youth Council to promote and celebrate the academic and vocational successes of TYC youth in TYC's eastern service area.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Al Powell, vice-president of Academy Sports Inc., one of the largest sport retailers in the country.

Powell encouraged the students to continue their education and to become good citizens in the process. Along with the other prizes awarded, each student was given \$10 gift certificate to Academy Sports, and \$20 gift certificates from Fiesta Stores.

MC for the event was Channel 26 anchorman Jose Grinan. In addition to students, families, staff and volunteers, Dr. Judy Huffty and Rodger Wiley of Central Office education department were in attendance.

Corsicana honors high school grads

Two students walked across the stage as the "first ever" high school graduates of the campus-based Corsicana academic school, since that facility became a residential treatment center.

TYC Executive Director Steve Robinson was guest speaker for the combined high school/GED graduation. Superintendent Chester Clay and assistant superintendent Pedro Cohen gave the diplomas out.

Receiving high school diplomas were Rusty Higginbotham and Traci Betty. Sixteen other students, in addition to Rusty and Traci, received GED diplomas.

All students received monetary gifts from the Corsicana volunteer council. The council also provided graduates cakes and flowers to be presented to a family member or other significant person.

Principal Carolyn Webb directed a campus youth choir. Guests from central office included Tom Tye, director of juvenile corrections and halfway houses; Judy Huffty, superintendent of education; and Billy Joe Galbraith, director of technology training.

McFadden youth take teen court seriously

TYC youth at McFadden Ranch, in collaboration with the Denton County Courts, participate in Teen Court twice a month.

Teen Court members, who act as prosecution or jury in the court, are assisted by Craig Collier, McFadden Ranch YAS III. McFadden Ranch also assists Denton County Courts by allowing local youth with misdemeanor law violations to serve a portion of their assigned community service hours at the Ranch.

The assigned violators, accompanied by a parent, are oriented to the program by the facility's Teen Court youth. Then the youth and his parent work side by side with TYC youth participating in community service, major clean-up, huddle-ups, groups, CD education and learning about problems which could result in commitment to the Youth Commission.

LAZARUS SEVERANCE, Brownwood State School student from Freedom Dorm, poses in front of the cultural arts mural he helped create. Theme of the mural, which is painted across the top, reads "Pride in Succeeding Through Life." Student artists were assisted by teacher B.J. Phillips and volunteer Coley Rushing, artist.



THREE GIDDINGS STATE SCHOOL STUDENTS painted 200 fire hydrants for the City of Giddings in community service activity which saved the city \$5,000.

Giddings students 'paint the town red'

At the request of Giddings city manager D.E. Sosa, Giddings State School students painted nearly 200 fire hydrants in and around the city.

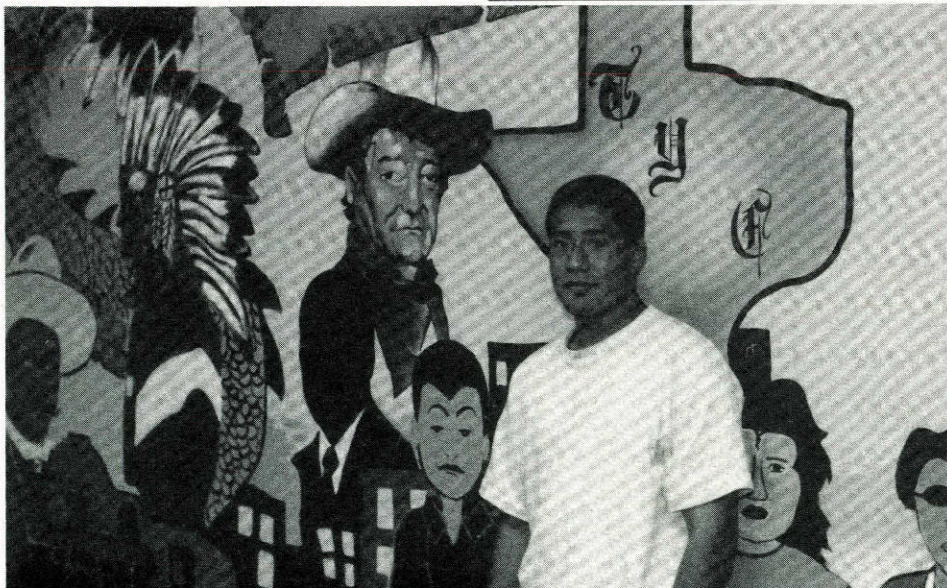
Sosa explained that, over the years, the hydrants had lost their shine, had rust spots and were so discolored that they had become eyesores for visitors and residents.

Now every hydrant in the city is a bright red example of pride. Students spent six days, 150 work hours and 24 paint brushes to complete the task.

Sosa estimated that the work has saved the city \$5,000 in time and effort it would have taken for the city maintenance crews to complete the job.

Student and staff participants were treated to an appreciation supper at the local Pizza Hut, hosted by the city manager.

"GSS will continue to look for ways to help the City of Giddings and, at the same time, give our students a chance to give back to the community," said assistant superintendent Lynda Smith.



Physical fitness winners announced at Jefferson

Jefferson County State School recently held physical fitness tryouts in eight categories -- pushups, 40-yard-run; 60-meter run; 100 meter-run, standing long jump, situps, bocat sprint and mile run.

Winners were Marvin Lockridge, 144 pushups; Tramane Hooks, 4.37, 40-yard run; Leon Handy, 7.66 in the 60-meter run; Curley Hicks, 14.18 100-meter run; Tommy Armstead, 9'4", standing long jump; Anthony Cruz, 83 situps; Vincent Jones, 18.03, Bocat sprint; and Tommy Armstead, 5.20, mile run.

New administrators... (Continued from Page 11)

who resigned recently.

Svinicki has been active in developing TYC's strategic plan-- the agency's performance measure reporting system linking performance measure tracking to the budget process, and the caseload status report. He will be leading the development of network software and automated information processes.

DR. WILLARD L. LaGRONE Jr. has been selected as principal of the academic school at Gainesville State School. He has served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal and district superintendent in the public schools system. He has been with TYC 16 years as a youth activity supervisor, caseworker, teacher and assistant principal.

Dr. LaGrone received a bachelor's degree in special education, a master's in secondary education; and a doctorate in administration leadership from the University of North Texas.

TONY SANCHEZ, formerly a principal with the Windham School District of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, has been selected as principal of the Brownwood State School academic department. He holds a master's degree in school administration from Texas A&I University in Kingsville.

STEVE SPILMAN has been selected as assistant superintendent at the Evins Regional Juvenile Center, Edinburg. Steve has over 15 years with TYC, beginning as a caseworker at Brownwood. He also served as assistant superintendent at Brownwood State School, director of the diagnostic unit at Evins, and as a program administrator at Evins.

Steve holds a bachelor's degree in religious education from Howard Payne, a master's in counseling from Boston University, and a master of social work from the Worden School at Our Lady of the Lake.

KEN SWIRCZYNSKI has been named business manager at Gainesville State School, replacing Dwain Young, who retired in May.

Swirczynski served as senior drilling supervisor for Mobil Oil Co. for 14 years. He also served four years as plant manager at CSR Poly Pipe Co. in Gainesville. He received a BBA in management from the University of North Texas and an MS in natural sciences and statistics from Stephen F. Austin University.

WESLEY RICHARDSON has been named business manager for the Brownwood facilities, replacing longtime business manager Dale Courtright, who has retired. He formerly served as chief financial officer for the Central Texas MHMR Center in Brownwood. Richardson holds a BBA from Angelo State University.

New diagnostician in the academic department at San Saba State School is **SANDRA GEISE**, who holds a bachelor's degree from Southwest Texas State University and a master's from Corpus Christi State University. She has 26 years experience in the field of education.

FRANCIE ADCOCK, formerly the lead chemical dependency caseworker at McFadden Ranch, has been selected as

the new assistant superintendent of the TYC facility at Roanoke.

She holds a bachelors degree in psychology from Texas Tech and spent four years in the private sector working with adolescents in psychiatric hospitals before beginning her tenure with TYC as a caseworker at Gainesville.

LT. JOHN RODRIGUEZ has been selected as captain of the Sheffield Boot Camp. A retired sergeant first class with 22 years of active duty in the U.S. Army, he began his tenure with TYC in 1994 as a youth activity supervisor at Cottrell House, TYC's halfway house in Dallas.

He transferred to Victory Field Correctional Academy, Vernon, in March as a lieutenant, and returned to Sheffield in June.

MICHAEL BRATCHER, formerly human resources officer at Victory Field, Vernon, has been named a program administrator. He has worked in the field of education and juvenile corrections for more than 25 years. Bratcher received his bachelor's degree in sociology and his master of education in rehabilitation at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock.

New employees and staff transfers in central office include **STACY McDONALD**, transferred from the research and planning department to the information resources division (IRD). McDonald previously served four years in the interstate compact office....**GLEN McKENZIE** has transferred from ten years as a program administrator in the juvenile corrections department to the accreditation department as coordinator for the ACA accreditation process....**JOE FRANKS**, former business manager at Hamilton State School, Bryan, has transferred to a new position in central office -- business manager for contract administration. He will also be working with cost analyses for contract care programs....**JEANNETTE BURKE**, who helped implement new contract programs to assist in eliminating overcrowding in institutions, has been named program administrator for the contract care programs, replacing Cindy Ximenes...

ALAN WALTERS, who has been with the agency 12 years, has been selected as a program administrator at San Saba State School. He formerly served as director of security there. Previously he served at Giddings and Corsicana. Walters holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Southwest Texas State University and is working on a master's degree in criminal justice at the University of Central Texas.

NANCY JO KUDER, formerly with the Texas Workforce Commission, is the new volunteer coordinator at Hamilton State School, Bryan.

FRANK VEGA, formerly a caseworker, has been promoted to program administrator over the new 96-bed dormitory at Brownwood State School. He holds a master's in family psychology from Hardin-Simmons University and previously was employed with a number of private child care agencies.

Corsicana art programs line up with education goals

Five summer arts workshops brought a myriad of creative expression and a variety of learning experiences in which Corsicana youth learned English, math and other academic areas.

Youth studied poetry and made analogies between the expressions in the writings. They used math in counting the beats and writing lines of music. As they studied Shakespeare they "acted" the lines they recited, bringing understanding to these Olde English writings as well as learning the history of this period in England.

The projects were funded by Texas Youth Commission Wende Trust and sponsored by the Navarro Council of The Arts.

Among the artists were Grady Hillman, returning for his tenth year; Monica Gomez, vocalist and musician; visual artist Julio Suarez; Troupe D' Jour, Hal Evans and Sara Falconer; musicians Tina Marsh and James Polk; and the Don Harms Marionettes performing "Aladdin."

Writings from workshops were incorporated into a campus juried art show and exhibit, and works were sent to Parents Anonymous, Austin, for their auction.

In July, Chester Clay, Jr., superintendent, and Lucy Humbert, volunteer coordinator, met with a TYC board committee to report on the success and impact of these programs on the youth and to propose funding requests for fiscal year 1998.

Research supports benefits of presentations

For the past 13 years, select students from Giddings State School have been presenting programs to literally thousands of students (including elementary, junior high, high school, college and graduate school level) in Central Texas.

Three or four low risk, high level students, accompanied by a YAS staff member and volunteer coordinator Bill Bradbury, have traveled to area schools and universities speaking to classes.

The youth share portions of their life stories and discuss how they feel they have improved themselves by taking advantage of the treatment programs at Giddings.

They frequently reflect on the poor decisions they made growing up, said Bradbury.

"They always encourage listeners to think for themselves and stay in school," he added. Giddings students also explain the daily routine at the TYC institutions in Giddings and answer questions afterwards.

Over the years, professors at the universities have incorporated these presentations into their lesson plans.

Dr. Arnold LeUnis of Texas A&M published an articles in The Journal of Social Psychology focusing on these presentations. He stated, "Attendance at a talk given by juvenile delinquents significantly improved undergraduate students' attitudes toward juvenile delinquents, correctional facilities, and staff."

He concluded that the findings "strongly support the incorporation of these types of activities into undergraduate courses such as psychology, sociology and criminal justice."



YOUTH LEARN ROPES COURSE

SAN SABA STATE SCHOOL youth participated in the city-county sponsored Wilderness Challenge program ropes course during the summer. Shown here, upper level students, who were allowed to participate with county probationers, work together to tie a safety knot before facing a new element in the course. SSSS recreation director Chris Guerin worked with the program.

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