

Counseling Centers, Emergency Homes Seek To Aid Growing Numbers Of Runaways

By Liz Skillen
The door slammed. "You never listen to me," Sheila screamed over her shoulder. Her parents, used to the screaming by now, didn't answer. They figured she'd come back. She didn't. In 1940, white suburban teenagers on the run numbered less than 100,000. Last year, the same U. S. runaway estimates bordered on one million. And today, at least half of them

are girls. State and national runaway centers, shelters, counselors and hotlines are cropping up to meet the needs of this mobile generation. Why do they run? William Springs, psychologist for the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, says the majority of runners take off because they are unable to verbalize feelings in their home situation. "As the ability to verbalize

decreases," Springs said, "the need to act out one's feelings increases." According to the psychologist, individuals have one of three basic predispositions—a child can react to a problem by fighting back, or he might decide to throw a monkeywrench into the home or school system, or he will escape. "The psychologist's word for running is psycho motor-acceleration," Springs explained. "Actually, this form of flight is no different from escaping through drugs, sex or drinking.

"But there are different kinds of runaways," he added. "Not all of them desire to escape." Mike Lantz, graduate student in social work at the University of North Carolina, agrees. In completing his thesis, "A Typology of Runaways," Lantz breaks runners into four categories: driftaways, marginal runners, non-runners and the crisis kids. The driftaway, Lantz explains, is the child with no close family ties; he just gradually moves out. The marginal runner is the youngster who takes his bike to the corner and waits for someone to come get him. The child who runs into himself, who withdraws from those around him, is the non-runner. The crisis kid puts distance between himself and home.

The National Runaway Switchboard in Chicago adds to the list. Funded by the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare's Office of Youth Development, the hotline received 200 calls last year from "throwaways." Kicked out of the house by his parents the throwaway is cut off. His only alternative is to start moving. Lantz's crisis kid, then, is the one who actually takes off with a purpose. The purpose, however, can be confusing. Is he running from something or to something? "I don't think

any child wants to disappear from the face of the earth," Springs said. "But I think in a lot of cases, the child runs to get out of an intolerable situation at home." Perhaps, also, the psychologist adds, the runner has a fantasy about the place he's going to. Springs cites as an example the heyday of the hippie, when hundreds of young people congregated in places like San Francisco. They were simply moving into another society, he says, hoping for the love and acceptance they couldn't find at home.

Lantz supports this. "Running is a fad," he stated. "It's the cool thing to tell your friends that you took off one day. It's also becoming a culture. I think a whole underground runaway society has developed. How else can a North Carolina child, inexperienced and without money, disappear for months and be living in California undetected?"

There is surprisingly little information about runaways available in North Carolina. Robert Stump, coordinator of social work for the Children's Homes, notes that numbers are hard to collect. "Any runaway figures that you see are shaky estimates at best," he said. "However, there was an area study done showing three pockets in North Carolina that runners frequent." According to

Stump, the coastal area, especially around Cherry Point and Camp Lejeune, hold a number of female runaways. The piedmont college area, Durham and Orange counties, is also a favorite stopover for teenagers on the run. And a few months ago runaways could be found in and around Morganton and Shelby.

The NRS toll-free number serves 48 continental states. Last year North Carolina ranked 14 in number of calls from runaways to the switchboard. Sixty-two per cent of the N. C. callers were from somewhere in the state. Only eight other states had a higher percentage of internal runners.

Reaching these teenagers is not easy. The Baptist Children's Homes operates four emergency homes where a runaway can check in for the night. However, the child must agree to let a BCH social worker get in touch with his parents within the next 24 hours. After that, with his parent's consent, the child may stay at the home up to ninety days while a plan is worked out for his future care.

Andee Gable, supervisor of the Charlotte Emergency Youth Care Center, notes that the majority of children staying at their home have had a history of running. In these cases and in the cases of the runners that have signed themselves in for a night, the home situation has been poor. "Generally,

things haven't been going well at home or at school," Gable noted. "Their parents don't know good ways to handle them, so when the pressure is on, an argument blows. That's when the child splits; he can't communicate, so he leaves."

Gwen Phillips, house-mother at the Burlington Emergency Care Home, remembers teenagers that have come to their door. Two runaways signed themselves in. The police brought three or four more. "Most of the time they are scared inside," Phillips said. "But the majority of them are willing to talk about themselves and their lives." In one situation, the runaway's mother came and signed her in for a few weeks. "She didn't want to," the housemother noted, "but the girl wouldn't stay home so there wasn't much else for her to do.

In situations like these the Baptist Children's Homes encourages family counseling. To get the child and his parents or parent living together in an improved

situation is always our goal," Psychologist Springs stated. "It may take some time to work this out, but I've seen it happen and I know it's a realistic goal."

Jones Picked For Training

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Airman Lonnie W. Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. Braxton L. Jones, Route 1, Tyner, has been selected for technical training at Sheppard AFB, Tex., in the Air Force missile electronics field.

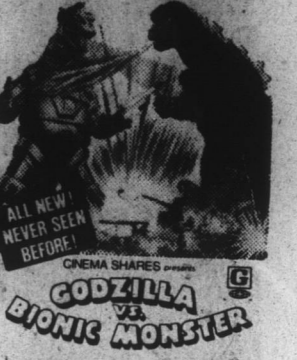
The airman recently completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex., and studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special instruction in human relations.

Airman Jones is a 1976 graduate of Chowan High School.

Eight of every 10 veterans enrolled in apprentice or on-the-job training programs under the GI Bill, normally complete courses of instruction, the Veterans Administration reported.

More than half of college-level trainees under the GI Bill received bachelor's degrees, the Veterans Administration reported.

SEE THE MIGHTY GODZILLA IN A FIGHT TO THE DEATH WITH HIS BIONIC DOUBLE!



GODZILLA IS BACK! Now Trying to Cops With a World of Bionics

NOW SHOWING Thru Tuesday, Nov. 30th Special Matinee Thanksgiving Day The Fun Starts at 2:00 P. M.

PARON OUR DUST During our remodeling soon we will present an entirely new theater to You . . .

Jaylor



A FAMILIAR SCENE—This mock picture of a young lad alongside a road is a growing scene. He could be a runaway.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

- Certified Watchmakers
- Clock Repairs
- Jewelry Repairs
- Diamond Mounting
- Baby Shoes Bronzed, Silvered
- Razor Service
- Silver Replating
- Refinishing
- Engraving Wedding Invitations

G. T. Davis & Company
Edenton, N. C. NEXT TO TAYLOR THEATER

New Process Gives Products Extra Shelf Life

You may have noticed recently that half-and-half and some other cream products have later expiration dates stamped on their containers.

A new process called "ultra pasteurization" has made this extra shelf life possible, according to Rachel Kinlaw, extension food specialist, North Carolina State University.

With this technique, dairy products are heated to 280 degrees Fahrenheit for two seconds, producing an almost sterile product.

As a result, cream and half-and-half may be sold in stores for 15 days after the time of pasteurization.

Promoted

Marine Sgt. Henry C. Moring, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Moring of Route 3, Edenton has been promoted to present rank while serving with Forces Troops at Camp Lejeune. A 1973 graduate of John A. Holmes High School, he joined the Marine Corps in July, 1976.

For Appointment Call (804) 423-0561

JANICE H. WAITSMAN
CERTIFIED ELECTROLOGIST

UNWANTED HAIR PERMANENTLY REMOVED

7727 Sheryl Drive
Norfolk, Va. 23505
Vicki Villa Motel

Room 244, Elizabeth City, N. C.

At Today's Prices... It Pays to IMPROVE! DON'T MOVE!

- FOUNDATIONS STRAIGHTENED
- DRY WALL
- PAINTING
- PLASTERING
- ALUMINUM SIDING
- STEEL SIDING
- VINYL SIDING
- ROOFING
- GUTTERING

ADD-A-ROOM
ALL TYPES OF REMODELING

LIBERTY BUILDERS 9x11 Room Addition Shell Only \$995

LIBERTY BUILDERS
ON CALL 24 HRS. 435-6536 ASK FOR DICK Financing Available

Worried About Your Nest Egg In The Present Market?

Is it safe, insured, readily available and earning a good return? If the answer is "yes", it is probably in our care right now. And if the answer is "no", perhaps it's time for your money to enjoy the security and earning power that it deserves. Stop in!

EDENTON SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION
A Safe Place To Save Since 1905
322 S. Broad St. - Edenton, N. C.

PERDUE

A GROWING PART OF A GROWING COMMUNITY

Perdue is an industry leader that attributes its success to quality consciousness. Quality comes first in Perdue's products, personnel, and equipment. In Murfreesboro, Perdue's new hatchery is one of the most modern and efficient in the world. That means the little fellows pictured here are the best to be found anywhere. Perdue growers know they're getting top quality birds.

For Information Call:
Ahoskie Sales Office 332-8111
Tommy Lowe 332-5201
John Best 332-4866
Randy Whitley 398-3073
Bob Newsome 332-2374
Harold Holloman 345-6121

Grow with Perdue