



GRANT AWARDED FOR BICENTENNIAL POSTERS — Three North Carolina Central University students have been awarded a \$2,500 grant for a Bicentennial Poster project. The grant, made by the North Carolina Internship Office for the state's Bicentennial Commission, will support the design of original posters intended to bring life to traditional North Carolina chiches. The student artists are shown here with their faculty advisor, Charles Joyner of the art department's Visual Communications Program, and a representative of the North Carolina Internship Office. From left to right are Janice Reavis, Larry Lovett, Nancy Mayer of the NCIO, Alvin Lester, and Joyner.

North Carolina Among Six States Without Funded Programs For Juvenile Offenders

RALEIGH — North Carolina is one of only six states in the nation without state funded community programs for its juvenile offenders, according to a report released this week from the University of Michigan.

The report — Juvenile Corrections in the States: Residential Programs and Deinstitutionalization — was prepared by social researchers who surveyed programs in fifty states

during 1974.

Other states having no state funded community programs were Alaska, Indiana, Louisiana, New Hampshire and New Mexico.

In 1967 a Presidential Commission recommended the development of extensive community programs as alternatives to committing children to training schools. At that time, the commission said that traditional state institutions were failing in rehabilitating young offenders.

But seven years later, despite the recommendations, only four states — Massachusetts, South Dakota, Minnesota and Utah — were sending more than 50 per cent of their juvenile offenders to community programs or training school alternatives, the report said.

The report was prepared by three University of Michigan social researchers as part of a federally financed project.

Their findings, after surveying juvenile programs in the 50 states during 1974 were:

— States vary as much as twenty times in their rates of committing juvenile offenders to training schools. Wyoming had 41 juveniles in such facilities for every 100,000 residents; New York had two; North Carolina had 19. The national average was 18.

— State supported community-based programs average 4.3

persons for every 100,000 residents. North Carolina had 0.0.

— Nationwide, it costs an average of \$11,660 a year to keep a juvenile in a training school. By comparison, group homes cost an average \$5,500 a year per offenders — Seventy-eight per cent of the heads of state juvenile agencies agreed that most delinquents don't belong in institutions at all; 54

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per cent said community-based programs are better than even the best training schools.

Despite the potential savings of community programs and the support such programs have among

juvenile administrators, the report concluded that only a "handful of states assign significant proportions of their young offenders to these facilities."

During the fiscal year 1974, the authors found, states spent more than \$300 million running institutions for juvenile offenders; only about one-tenth as much was spent on community-based programs such as group homes.

"Nothing we learned in this study challenges the criticism leveled against traditional institutions for the handling of juvenile offenders," the author wrote, "or the argument that community-based corrections are more economical and probably at least as effective."

On an "average day" in 1974, the report said, there were 28,001 juvenile offenders reported in state-run institutions; only 5,663 in community-based residential programs. Even fewer were in day programs.

In 1972 the Penal System Study Community of the North Carolina Bar Association issued a report on the state's juvenile corrections system.

It recommended that the state develop community-based alternatives to training school so that fewer children need to be institutionalized in North Carolina. While a few areas of the state implemented the recommendation, other areas give their judges no real alternatives for delinquents other than probation or commitment to training school.

In 1975 the General Assembly clarified the state-level responsibility for helping local communities to develop local youth services by establishing a 14-team Technical Advisory Committee on Delinquency Prevention and Youth Services within the Department of Human Resources.

This committee asked county commissioners to