

Youth service agency designs programs to help delinquents

By Andy Riggs

The Youth Service System (YSS) of Lincoln and Lancaster County has grown noticeably, but some work needs to be done to develop the system more, according to Delbert Elliot, director of behavioral research and evaluation.

"The program philosophy we would like to have is that there are no overlapping services. We would like to see the youth agencies of Lincoln work together instead of competing against each other," he said.

The YSS developed out of the Juvenile Justice System to divert youth out of the courts and into integrated, comprehensive, community-based programs designed to meet the needs of youth.

The police and courts are responding well to the program as the number of juveniles referred to YSS has increased from 10 to 100 in a year's time, he said.

The YSS staff have five full-time members and seven part-time field placement students from UNL and Nebraska Wesleyan University. The staff will increase when six VISTA volunteers start in October and four more start

in January to help coordinate the juvenile referrals with other community agencies.

According to James Arnot, director of YSS, the future of the program in Lincoln and Lancaster County is looking up.

"Elliot evaluated our program last year and recommended that we become a separate organization as we were affiliated with YMCA. This was accomplished Aug. 1," he said.

The YSS operating funds presently come from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Law Enforcement Assistance Assoc. and the Nebraska Drug Commission. This year's budget is \$36,540.

Arnot said the YSS board of directors will ask for a budget of more than \$85,000 for 1974.

Elliot said a big problem is "selling the other agencies on a comprehensive system. They don't realize how much it would help."

He also recommended that a youth survey in the community be taken to find out what the "kids think they need," and to find out what services are needed for them.

ASUN...

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a request from Chancellor James H. Zumberge dated July 13, 1972.

"CSL decided that this year it would be easier to get eight names rather than 10 with the understanding that in future years we would ask for 10," Freudenburg said.

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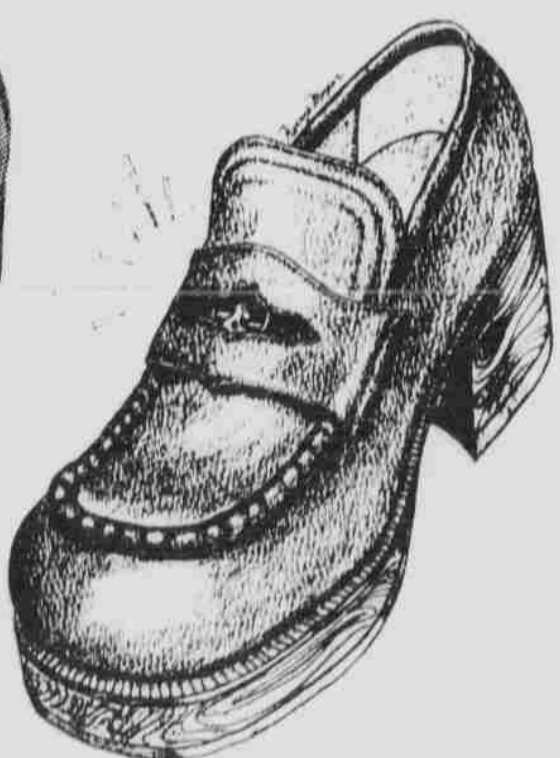
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