

**Ghetto**

other ethnic groups or rival gangs. A probation officer said further problems are caused by youths with severe mental problems that are too violent for state mental hospital and are continually returned to Juvenile Hall.

Many of the Hall's 362 single rooms lack any plumbing at all. Bare except for a metal desk and cot, they reek of sweat and urine. Without toilets, some youths have been forced to relieve themselves through the heavily-screened windows, staining outside walls.

"You bang and bang on the door, but a lot of times they (the night staff) don't come, so you gotta go out the window or under the door," said one youth.

The more hardened youth, being members of minorities, tend to be victims of poverty, broken homes and brutally poor education. These youths view their lot in life with despair and hopelessness. When they get into the Juvenile Hall, according to Allen F. Breed, state Youth Authority director, for the first time in their lives they see themselves in power roles and "their hatred bubbles over."

They have been told they're in there because they're poor, black and oppressed, and their crimes were not crimes but acts to demonstrate the whole class struggle."

Chicanos, unlike the whites, are rarely bothered by racial attacks, mainly because they are also present in large numbers and because they tend to stick together. However, the Chicanos do tend to fight one another, mostly due to street gang rivalries that are carryovers from the outside.

Another problem has been the lack of training that counselors receive before they are sent to Juvenile Hall. Jerry W. Cooks, supervisor of counselor training, said counselors are supposed to have three weeks of intensive training, but more often they have to fill the jobs right away.

While she disagreed with the severity of most of the reports, Juvenile Hall Administrator Jeanne Sides admitted that a lot of things were wrong. She blamed the problems on a substandard facility, overcrowding and a high turnover of personnel, which pits inexperienced, unarmed counselors against highly sophisticated street-wise young criminals. (Girls at the facility are separated from the boys and live in generally better facilities.)

But lately, much has been done to change the conditions at Central Juvenile Hall, the nation's largest. After the April inspection by the state Youth Authority, the facility, which is rated for 552 inmates, had gotten rid of enough juveniles a month later to have 31 unused spaces.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors also recently ordered immediate and adequate temporary care units for mentally disturbed youngsters. And efforts were being made to insure the separation of hardcore criminals from the less serious offenders, as well as upgrade the training of counselors.

But some observers wonder if the changes go far enough, and nearly everyone agrees that they have been too long in coming.

**Crime Course Set At UNLV**

Crime and police problems will be examined in a three-credit course "Introduction to Criminal Justice" beginning this week at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Sponsored by the Law Enforcement Program of the UNLV sociology department and the Division of Continuing Education, the course will

meet from 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays thru Jan. 20.

Instructor Eugene Altschewich will cover the philosophy and history of law enforcement; an overview of crime and police problems; organization and jurisdiction of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies; and a survey of professional career opportunities and required qualifications.

For more information concerning the course contact the Division of Continuing Education, Frazier Hall 109, UNLV.

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