

# Summertime Alternatives

by Harris Levon McRae

"Heh, did you see a bunch of kids run by here with some stereo equipment!"

"No - what happened?"  
"My friend's house just got robbed and he said he saw them running in this direction."

The economy is in a slump, job competition is fierce, the unemployment rate has skyrocketed and national unemployment among black teenagers - the hardest hit group is dangerously close to 50 percent. Social scientists and other concerned citizens are uneasy as they talk about "a long hot summer."

Not only must business and government agencies join in a cooperative effort to find summer employment for the areas youth - parents, teachers, and other adults have a responsibility to guide young people towards positive ways to spend the summer months.

1. Employment - Many of the most promising summer jobs may be in fields that most youngsters have not even considered.

Margaret McCrea, owner of the Garden Variety Produce, located at 1030 S.E. 10th is trying to help youth earn money by assisting them in starting their own produce stand.

"It doesn't take much money to get started, or a lot of equipment. I am willing to show people around and extend a little credit to help them get started. With a little money and some energy, some money can be made," Margaret said. For more information phone 231-2992.

"I know alot of people that need to have their grass cut on a regular basis but they can't find anyone to do it all the time," said one woman.

In addition to whatever private jobs that are available this summer, one of the main ways for finding employment this summer will be through each county's federally funded Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program (CETA).

The Northwest Youth Service Center at 4815 N.E. 7th has casual labor and business placement for ages 10-18. Their phone number is 288-6708.

A couple of other good places to check out are the Youth Progress Association located at 1314 S.E. Taylor and the North Portland Youth Service Center at 7704 N. Hereford street.

Young folks should also apply at fast food outlets and in tourist related areas.

2. Travel - Although there may not be anyplace like home, there is nothing like travel to give a fresh outlook on life. A teen-ager's newly acquired independence while traveling could be a very rewarding and exciting way to spend the summer.

For some young travelers "hosteling" may be the way to go. According to American Youth Hostels (AYH) hosteling is a very special experience. It is traveling the high road to adventure on a low budget.

American Youth Hostels is a non-profit organization offering, among other things, study, travel for college credit, AYH sponsored trips to North America and Europe, Eurail-pass, Brit Rail Pass, and international student I. D. For information write: American Youth Hostels, 500 Third Avenue West, American P.O. Box C-34057, Seattle, Wa., 98124.

If you are an admirer of the art of acting, Catlin Gabel is sponsoring a summer theater on campus for six weeks, June 21 through August 2nd. The first three weeks are spent on campus auditioning for parts, creating costumes, etc. The last three weeks will be spent on a tour along the Oregon coast and through the Cascade Mountains presenting the production to communities. Half-way through the tour, the play is put aside for three days to attend the Oregon Shakespearean Festival in Ashland. Call 297-1894 for details.

3. Vocational Training - "Pro-



Marcus Cunningham, 4, plans to spend many summer days in the park. (Photo: Richard J. Brown)

grams should be developed to assure that all students leave the system with entry-level skills for the next level of career involvement: college or university, apprenticeship or direct entry into the world of work," said Bill Kendrick, superintendent of Salem Public Schools in a recent *Observer* interview.

This is so true. Without marketable skills it is next to impossible to find employment in today's economy.

"Benson prepared me more for the working world than I would have been in other schools. I've got a job lined up for the summer and so do most of my friends," said Kevin Payne, graduating this week from Benson High School with electronics as a major.

Western Forestry Center teaches participants to appreciate forests and to understand forestry. It is located at Magness Memorial Tree Farm, west of Wilsonville. It is open to students ages 12 through 17. Scholarships are available. Call 228-1367.

Another agency assisting in the vocational training of youth is the Portland Job Corp Center. Phone 224-0190 for details.

Multnomah County is hoping for funds to develop a "job sampling" program similar to the one they have in Clackamas County.

Participating youths will be paid \$3.35 an hour while they observe and do odd jobs in various occupations during the weekly "sample" periods.

4. Camps - Camping is another way to make for an exciting and enriching summer experience. Camping allows time and space and instruction to enable young people to be spontaneous, creative, and to develop a sense of self-confidence. A properly chosen camp program can provide the kind of environment that will prove to be a satisfying

adventure.

Several different programs are offered at YWCA camp this year. Youth camp sessions for girls 2nd - 12th grades, and boys 2nd - 10th grades, begin June 27th and run through August 15. Camp Westwind will be the setting. Register through the YWCA, 111 S.W. 10th Ave., Portland, Ore., 97205.

The Salvation Army is sponsoring week-long recreational camps for kids, for budding musicians, for mothers accompanying their children, and for children of incarcerated persons, throughout the state, between June 21st and September 6th. Pre-registration is suggested. Phone 234-0825.

For those of you interested in athletics, Portland Trail Blazer basketball coach Jack Ramsey is holding a basketball camp for boys and girls ages 12-17. The camp will be located at George Fox College, Newberg.

10 Star Soccer Camp will be held at Pacific University in Forest Grove for both boys and girls.

Portland State University, Oregon State University, and the University of Oregon are offering basketball, wrestling, and volleyball camps as well as several others.

City and County recreation departments can also be quite helpful in supplying information on summer camps.

5. Volunteer - Another way to be involved in the mainstream of summer activities is to become a volunteer.

Local Boy and Girl Scout Councils, YMCA's, YWCA's, and religious organizations are all good sources of referral.

There are a multitude of ways for young people to have a positive summer. They must choose a path according to their own needs and talents.

## MARIJUANA (YEAH!!)

By Harris Levon McRae

500 helium balloons were released yesterday in Terry Shrunken plaza in downtown Portland yesterday by supporters of the initiative feel is "Floating away from the state."

According to John Sajo, Portland coordinator for the Oregon Marijuana Initiative, "There are 30 days left till the July 2nd deadline for submitting petitions. We are working to place a measure on the November 2nd ballot which would legalize the personal use of marijuana. Passing our proposed law will have a dramatic impact on Oregon's economy."

"Oregonians are currently spending upwards of \$500 million on marijuana. If adults were allowed to grow their own marijuana the money they are now giving to organized crime could be spent on goods and services in Oregon's legitimate economy."

The balloon release took place simultaneously in Portland, Salem, Eugene, Roseburg, and the Dalles.

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