

Census shows average street teen to be 16-year-old male dropout

A just-completed census of teenagers who visit The Salvation Army's Greenhouse Center — a downtown drop-in facility for street youth — shows that nearly half of the kids surveyed have been living on their own for at least two years.

Forty-five percent of the respondents, age 14 to 21, said they had been completely "independent" of their families for two or more years.

But roughly a quarter of the 285 total kids responding to the survey said they had been on the streets two months or less.

And three of the older teenagers said they left home ten years ago.

The census, conducted by staff of the Greenhouse Center, which is co-sponsored by the Rotary Club of Portland, was prompted by the fact that no other similar study existed.

"We intend this as a service for other helping groups and for the public," said Lt. Col. David P. Riley, commander of The Salvation Army's

Cascade Division.

The census shows a typical street teen to be a 16-year-old boy who has worked the streets of downtown Portland for the past three years. Reared by his mother in a Portland suburb, he dropped out of school before running away to the streets.

He occasionally shares an apartment with several other street youths, but will often sleep in doorways or low-cost hotels in the downtown core.

Other findings of the census include:

- Twenty-four percent of those surveyed, a slight majority, indicated that they are 19 years old. Most of the kids fall into the 16-19 year age group. Riley cautioned, however, that many street kids routinely lie to inflate their ages. The youngest child ever to seek help at Greenhouse was an eight-year-old runaway.

- Thirty-four percent of those responding were female — a high figure that surprised Salvation Army work-

ers. Previously, female teens were thought to have comprised 25 percent of the total population.

- A great gap exists between "new" and veteran street kids. While 29 percent of those surveyed said they had been on the streets between two and

four years, 23 percent indicated they came to the streets less than two months ago.

- An overwhelming 81 percent of street teens who participated in the census study are white. Minorities represented include nine percent

Black, six percent Native American, three percent Hispanic and one percent Asian.

Riley noted that Portland's street teen population is highly transitory so that the census will soon be outdated.

"Many times we'll see seasonal fluctuations, three times of the year when more kids leave home," Riley said. "That coupled with the fact that these teens are always on the move gives our census a very limited lifespan."

Teachers from Central America to visit

Five leaders of the Federation of Central American Teacher's Organizations (FOMCA) will visit Portland April 16-21.

They will be at King Neighborhood Facility, 4815 N.E. 7th, at 9 a.m., April 17. They will meet with teachers, students and the general public. They plan to visit classrooms in both public and private schools, colleges and churches in an effort to exchange ideas on education and increase our understanding of the social, political and economic conditions that affect the region.

The tour will present an opportunity for the public to hear first hand the effects of U.S. foreign policy on the region's educational systems, as well as accounts of the real living conditions in each country. These educators have had a wide range of experiences and hold a variety of political views.

The teachers are:
Maria del Socorro Rodriguez Lagos, the current President of FOMCA and

a member of the National Executive Committee of the National Association of Nicaraguan Educators (ANDEN);

Dionisia Cossio Vasquez, the secretary general of the Reformist Front of Panamanian Teachers (FREP);

Carlos Octavio Escobar, Representative of the National Association of Salvadoran Educators (ANDES 21 de JUNIO);

Carlos Zuniga, the current president of the Honduran Professional Teachers' Training Guild (COLPRO-SUMAH); and

Walter Oswaldo Valencia Garcia, the international representative of the National Teachers Front of Guatemala (FNM).

FOMCA represents over half of the teachers in Central America.

The Portland leg of the month-long west coast tour of Central American teachers is sponsored by the Portland Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean.

Prophet to receive award

EVANSTON, IL — Matthew W. Prophet, superintendent of schools in Portland, will receive a 1985 Alumni Merit Award from Northwestern University during its Alumni Awards Banquet on April 13.

Prophet, a graduate of the School of Education with a doctorate in 1972, is one of 10 winners of the annual award.

Prophet joined the Portland Public Schools in 1982, after serving for four years as superintendent of the Lansing (Michigan) School District. He served as deputy superintendent of the Lansing District from 1972 to 1978.

He also has been an adjunct professor at Michigan State's College of education, and coordinator of the Education Policy Fellowship Pro-

gram (Michigan component), Institute for Educational Leadership, under the auspices of George Washington University.

A former officer in the U.S. Army, Prophet has received eight civic and 17 military awards, including the Legion of Merit Medal.

Prophet and his wife, Freddie (Adams), live in Portland. Their children are Michael, 29; Matthew III, 26; Tony, 25; and Michelle, 22.

The Alumni Merit Award is presented to alumni who have distinguished themselves in their particular professions or fields of endeavor in such a way as to reflect credit upon their alma mater. One Merit Award winner is chosen from each of Northwestern's 10 schools by award committees appointed within the schools.



White promoted at bank

Valerie L. White has been promoted to vice president and manager of U.S. Bancorp's employee services department.

Valerie most recently was assistant vice president and manager of U.S. Bancorp's employee relations department. She joined the bank in 1975 and was appointed employee relations officer in 1981.

She graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington.

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