

Kids Train in Arts

“What We Want the World to Look Forward To”

By Susan Block

If you happened to notice a bus full of screaming white-faced creatures cruising down the highway on your way to work, don't be alarmed. New Haven is not being invaded by the cast of *Star Wars*. What you saw were the Earth Beat Elements, the mime troupe sponsored by the Mayor's Committee of the Arts.

The Committee is part of the federally funded CETA (Comprehensive Training and Employment Act) Summer Youth Employment Program, designed to give disadvantaged youth the chance to develop skills and work experience.

Throughout the year, CETA has helped to eliminate the old notion that artists should be seen and not paid, by hiring New Haven artists to apply their creative talents for the benefit of the city. Last year the Mayor's Committee on the Arts was developed by Mayor Frank Logue and arts advisor Charles Brewer, to provide jobs, not only for professional artists, but also for economically disadvantaged youth. "The program is unique," says this year's coordinator Bill Brown, "because the professionals don't do the performances. The kids are paid to learn and then perform themselves. Being paid reinforces their confidence in themselves and their art."

The summer's arts program began July 7 and ends August 24. Bill Brown, himself a composer, has been working for three months designing the program, hiring artists and enrollees, planning a budget, obtaining work sites, and hearing out everybody's problems. All the planning is paying off

now that CETA enrollees are painting, acting, singing, dancing, and shooting up a storm (with cameras) all over the city. "The excellent response we're getting from the communities," says Bill, "tells me that people are pleased and interested in the program."

Mario Correa, an enrollee in the murals project, agrees that the public appreciates their artistic endeavors. "You can tell the people dig our murals," he says, "because nobody writes their names on them."

Terry Lennox and Ruth Resnick direct the murals program. "This is the finest group of muralists we've worked with," says Terry. "They've done murals before so they know what they're doing."

"The murals are "a form of dialogue about what's happening—a visible voice," adds Ruth, "We try to go beyond teaching people just to punch in, punch out and do as they're told so they can fit into the everyday world. We encourage the group to examine the everyday world and see how it might be changed."

Currently, enrollees at Lee High School are painting "Path of the World," a mural depicting the road from ignorance and violence to enlightenment. "What we paint on our walls," Mario explains, "is what we want the world to look forward to."

In another visual arts project, the photography program, the enrollees are now photographing other CETA job sites and performances, after spending a few weeks in basic training with the equipment. "I was amazed at how quickly these people caught on," says Director Richard Quirk. "Many want to stay late and work in the darkroom



Two Earth Beat Elements, participants in the CETA Summer Arts Program. (Virginia Blaisdell photo)

or help me out. They're interested, which is half the battle." Some of the enrollees would like to be professional photographers, and others are considering art as a career. "A photographer, like an artist, has to see things in a two dimensional way," says Santos Bonilla, an aspiring artist, "so it helps to learn both."

After the first few weeks of intensive training, enrollees in the performing arts "pay back" the city with free public shows at such places as neighborhood houses, convalescent homes, parks, beaches, summer camps, shopping centers and the New Haven Green. Each of the groups does at least one show for the mayor in front of City Hall. After the combined performance of the theater and mime groups, Logue thanked the actors for "your lessons and your stories," bravely communicated through the honking din of mid-day traffic.

The theater program is directed by Kelley O'Rourke, a member of the Long Wharf Theater staff. "This program really needs to

be shouted from the top of City Hall," Kelley feels. "We're learning more than job skills here. We're learning how to be performers and how to grow as people."

Currently the group is performing two pieces. The first, a family show entitled *A Story A Story*, incorporates three folktales, two African and one Afro-American. All of the blocking and dialogue was created through improvisation. "It's fun to take stories and turn them into a play," says enrollee Paul Hall.

The other show is a reader's theater piece based on poems by Langston Hughes. The last poem begins, "When I get to be a composer, I'm gonna write me some music about daybreak in Alabama." "That poem," Kelley says, "describes the feeling we've been working to create all summer."

The CETA chorus and band programs are operated out of Lee High School. Both Lee Dunkle, director of the chorus, and William

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CETA Arts

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Freeman, band conductor, teach their subjects at Lee during the school year. "The things these young people are learning will stay with them all their lives," says Lee. "Any place that there's group singing they can sing." Some of the band members are just learning to read music, while others have been playing their instruments for years. This difference in experience tends to slow up rehearsals, but one of the goals of the program is to improve the abilities of less fortunate young people.

Down at Conte School, young people are being introduced to something new: the art of silent acting. "I never heard of mime before this," admits Linda Perry. "I thought you just spelled 'mind' wrong on the paper." Through learning the art many enrollees are discovering ways to move parts of their bodies that they'd never before considered. "It makes you more aware of yourself and the world around you," explains Linda Dickey. "Mime just freaks you out." The new mimes are eager to share their experience with family and friends. "We can teach our people what we've learned," says Patrick Graves. "I showed my baby sister how to mime the wall," adds Ricky Johnson, "then she mimed a whole room around me!"

David Brennan and Betsey Folsom of La Mer Mime Theater direct the mime and creative dramatics program. "The mime creates his own piece," explains David, "this gives him a chance to explore different characters, environments and modes of thinking. So he learns to perceive the world as others might." Mime student Marlene Carson agrees, "It's fun to become a new silent character that other people can understand." "When you wear the white make-up, its like you have an invisible face," adds Miguel Rivera.

The group, called the Earth Beat Elements, performs verbal as well as silent pieces, all of which are developed from improvisations. "We're trying to provide an outlet for channelling excess energy other than fighting and dope," explains Betsey, "it's an artistically pleasing and socially acceptable mode of releasing frustration." Some of the sketches are humorous, such as spoofs on old time melodramas and western movies. Others deal with serious problems like racial prejudice in the classroom and the injustices committed against rape victims. "In drama you can say important things without making trouble or getting people offended," says enrollee Kimberly Clark, "We could even tell the mayor how we feel about the lunches!"

Young people in the dance workshop are also encouraged to "express their struggles in ways they wouldn't normally have the

opportunity to do," says dance director Rachel Ellner. "When you first start out, you're vulnerable, so you need a place to experiment. This is like our womb here." Rachel considers the dancers' rapport with the audience to be a vital part of performance. "In affluent art, the audience is barely regarded with any respect at all," she points out, "I teach that we as performers owe something to the audience." As Rufus Nickens, the conga player, tells the dancers, "You have the same responsibility as a preacher—you have to lift people." In many performances, audience members are involved in the dancing. "It's a good feeling to teach others what you've learned," says enrollee Juanita White.

Future plans for the CETA arts program are indefinite but promising. "I'd like to see this become a year-round program where professional artists can work with the kids during school time," says Bill Brown. Most of the directors, supervisors and enrollees would be happy to continue this work all year. "A lot of people think that to make money you've got to do something you don't like," says Rachel Ellner. "Jobs should be created that people enjoy. This is an excellent example. It's important that the artist get paid like any other worker. How can art exist if it's not supported by our tax dollars in programs like this?"

If you want to get your tax dollar's worth, come to one of the multi-arts programs to be held at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 16 at the Dixwell Q House and Thursday, August 18 on the New Haven Green. All the CETA performing groups will join together to give their audience a taste of what they've been cooking up all summer. □

NOTICES

Communal Housing: There is a meeting for people looking for space in communal houses & members of households looking for new people every Wednesday eve. from 9 to 10 p.m. at 829 Orange St., N.H. Call 776-0451 for information.

The Deadline for applying for help with last winter's fuel bills is Aug. 30. Low-income families can apply for grants to help pay these bills through the Regional Rehabilitation Institute at 157 Church St., all U.I. and Southern Conn. Gas offices, and all neighborhood corporations.

The Lee High School Annex, a privately funded alternative education program is seeking community instructors in diverse study areas for the fall quarter. Contact Stephen Broker at 387-0798 or Paul Dwyer at 387-6752 for further information.

Connecticut Audubon Society is looking for volunteers to act as instructors and sanctuary guides. The Society will train you if you volunteer and give you full use of its facilities, including its library. Contact David Emerson at 259-6305 for further info.

Cancer Information Services is looking for volunteers to answer phone calls about cancer, they will run an orientation and training session for volunteers in Sept. Contact Ms. Theoria Boyd at the Yale Comprehensive Cancer Center, 436-8712, if interested.

11, 1977

-Day Gravediggers' Strike ler Sought For Burials

for burial. He said he knew of no funeral cortege being blocked from entering a cemetery by pickets.

Some of the 25 affected cemeteries serve Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury and New Britain, four of the state's six largest cities.

The gravediggers have asked for a

45-cents-an-hour increase and improved pension and medical benefits. The cemeteries association has offered a 40-cent increase spread over 18 months.

The association says gravediggers are now paid \$5.65 an hour and fringe benefits worth another \$2.50 an hour.

*Journal
corner* N.H. Register August 11, 1977



City Paradise

Elsie Montanez, a participant in the CETA Youth Summer Program, works on mural "Waking Up to Paradise in the City" at McQueeney Towers lobby Wednesday. Under the direction of supervisor Peter Siegel, seven young people are creating the colorful wall painting. (Staff Photo by Lorenzo Evans)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 16, 1977

Murals Portray Inner-City Dreams

By JOANNE MITCHELL
Staff Reporter

A mural may be more than just a picture on the wall. It could be an expression of the values, hopes and dreams of a community.

With this in mind, seven New Haven residents hired as mural supervisors for seven weeks under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) Summer Arts Program, on July 5 began working with 80 inner-city youths hired by CETA to work in mural crews.

The supervisors began coordinating their projects by asking their crews for suggestions, then asked neighbors for their opinions.

The mural crew at the gameroom at the Dixwell Community Q House, supervised by Sosivu Caldwell, is painting a mural which symbolizes the African culture of many of the youths. Such well-known black heroes as Martin Luther

King and Mohammed Ali appear on the mural.

Another mural crew at the Diwell Community Q House, supervised by Miss Caldwell, is more decorative, with bright, swirling designs. The artistry depicts some of the history of the 57-year old community house.

Miss Caldwell said many community residents make daily stops to see the progress of the mural, noting that many of the neighborhood people are "armchair artists," offering comments on what colors should go here or there.

"Everyone has an opinion of how the mural should look," she said with a smile.

A project at the park on Front and Lewis streets, supervised by Paula Bronski, incorporates much of Fair Haven's traditions, she said.

Miss Bronski's group had some trouble with community graffiti artists who were slipping into the park to inject their

unwanted scribbles on the mural and peel the paint off when her crew wasn't around.

Miss Bronski invited the youths to join the group but they refused. They have since left the mural alone, she said, however, some of the best graffiti was allowed to remain as a symbol of the community.

Andy Kleffer's mural group at the Hill-West Rock Health Care Center is painting a mural called "Health Care." It illustrates hospital scenes such doctors, nurses and medical equipment with West Rockin the background.

At Hillhouse High School, Dina Lewin's group painted an eagle and a cross to represent "keeping the faith in America, with promise in the future," she said. Other figures show people graduating from school, classrooms and microscopes.

Journal Courier 8/16/77

Colin Thompson's crew adopted the title "Fight Back - Education Is The Way" for its mural, which also illustrates school scenes, such as basketball players and teachers at a blackboard.

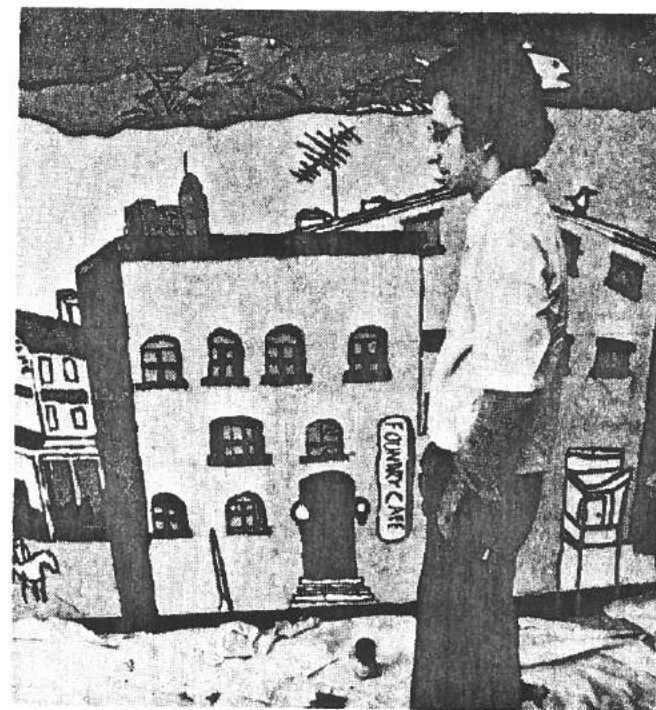
The mural crew at McQueeney Towers, supervised by Peter Siegel, painted "Waking Up The Paradise In The City," symbolizing old New Haven with trolley cars and the present New Haven with the Foundry Cafe. This crew insisted on bright colors and Siegel encouraged them to stretch their imaginations.

Michael Roff, who supervised the largest mural crew, helped his group "put themselves into the mural," by using photographs of the youths and an opaque projector.

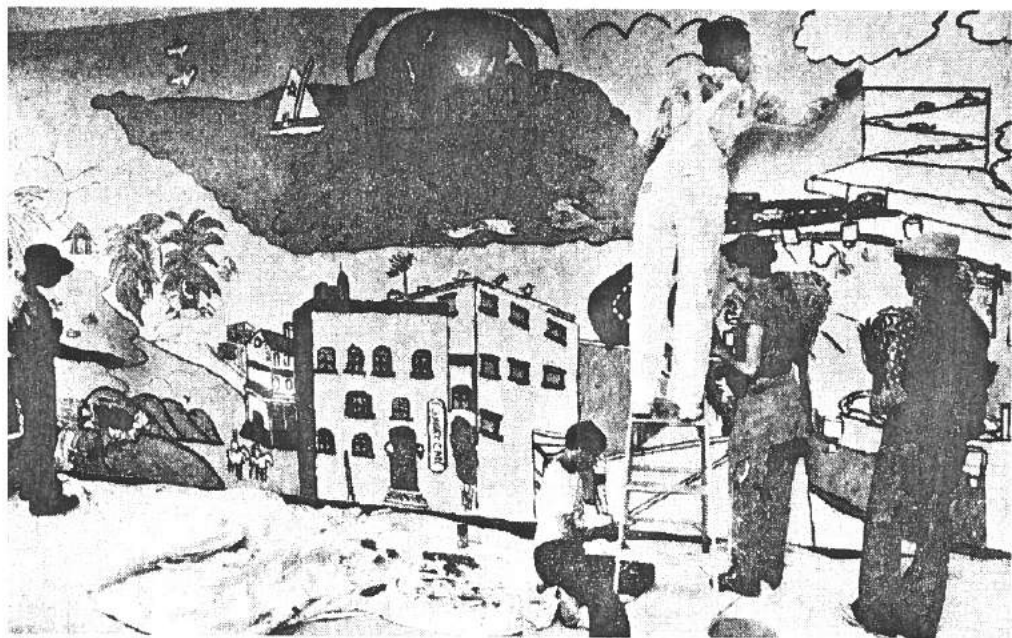
Roff had asked his crew to list things they feel are "positive" in society and the "negative" aspects. Segregation and racism were noted as negative, but equal opportunities for jobs and going beyond what they see in their community as positive.

A large black figure holding back the evil dominates this illustration.

Roff said young people, apart from the artists, are just as proud of the mural as the mural crew, and have volunteered to "patrol" the area to ward off graffiti artists.



Siegel, mural director, surveys a day's work.



Mural-makers set to work at McQueeney Towers. (Staff Photos by James Meehan)

The Journal-Courier

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 1977



'Path Of The World'

The mural entitled "Path Of The World" was dedicated Thursday at Lee High School to former principal Robert Schreck. The work was done during a seven-week period by 25 CETA program enrollees under the direction of Ruth Resnick and Terry Lennox. Just to the left of center, one of the 25, Darryl Smith, stands against the mural and seems to blend in.

(Staff Photo by Steve Silk)

Arts-Travel

SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1977

Summer Program

(Continued from Page D1)
members of the La Mer Mime Theater, a professional performing and workshop group, head the mime and creative dramatics division, meeting at Conte School.

Kelly O'Rourke, who is on the staff of the Long Wharf Theater, directs the theater project at the East Rock Community School. Lee Dunkle, on the faculty of Lee High School, heads the chorus, and William Freeman, also at Lee, directs the band.

Richard Quirk, a former news photographer, heads the photography program out of the Troup School dark room, and local muralists Terry Lennox and Ruth Resnick direct the visual arts project — all over the place.

While all the programs are basically involved in training, the directors urge the enrollees to instigate their own projects — whether it be a mime or drama improvisation or a thematic mural reflecting the tastes and concerns of a neighborhood and its inhabitants.

The photography program has a special thrust all its own. Its members chronicle the workshop and public activities of the entire Summer Arts Program.

But there's another way to get a picture of the Summer Arts Program — when it all comes together Aug. 16 at 8 p.m. with a Block Buster Festival at the Dixwell Community House. And again on Aug. 18 at 8 p.m. with the CETA Summer Arts Festival on the Green.

Brown feels the Summer Arts Program is particularly useful in that it gives the artistically talented youth an opportunity to maintain his interests over the summer.

"There are so many talented young people in New Haven. And many of them have no place to channel that talent, and they can't afford to channel that talent. This program gives them a chance to continue their work in the arts, and at the same time it helps meet the artistic needs of all the people in the city. The kids are very receptive to the program, and the public — the audience — is very receptive to seeing what the kids can do."

dance

JACOB'S PILLOW
The Ohio Ballet Company will make its first appearance at the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, August 9-14, following a spectacular success at the Spoleto Festival U.S.A. a few weeks ago. The company's program at Jacob's Pillow in Lee, Mass. will include the highly-acclaimed works performed at the Spoleto Festival.

A column devoted entirely to Spoleto will appear in the July 8th issue of "Saturday Evening Post" called the

How To Turn A Summer Job Into A Life Career In The Arts

MF Register
8/7/77

By JOHN ROBERTS

It's that time of the year when a lot of people take off on vacation. But for a group of local artists and young future artists, the dog-days of August are precisely the time they get down to work in earnest.

They are the directors, the supervisors, and the "enrollees" of the Mayor's Committee on the Arts CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) Summer Arts Program, which began July 7 and runs through Aug. 24.

Started last year under Mayor Frank Logue and his advisor on the arts, Charles Brewer, the program is one of the few CETA projects in the nation providing a full arts agenda. It hires arts professionals to train young artists in an employment situation.

But there's more to the program than just hiring young people to learn their art. In return for their pay, they funnel their talents back into the community with free public performances of theater, dance, mime, band and choral concerts and the creation of neighborhood murals. It's summer employment, training, and a community arts festival all tied up in one bright package.

This summer there are performances at such places as convalescent homes, public libraries, neighborhood corporations, summer camps, the YMCA, in front of City Hall, at the Dixwell Community House and on the Green.

And, if you've kept your eyes open, you've probably already seen murals being painted on Lewis Street in Fair Haven, at Hillhouse and Lee High Schools, the McQueeney Apartments on Orange Street, the Dixwell Community House on Dixwell Avenue and at the Hill West Rock Health Center on Level Street.

According to Summer Arts Program Coordinator William Brown, who along with artist Terry Lennox designed the program, "Most of the young people are chosen through the city's junior and senior high schools. Some of our directors work



The CETA Chorus in concert in front of New Haven City Hall. (Photos by Richard Quirk)

in the school system and see the students throughout the year. Other of our directors work as 'floating artists' in the system, and know the students from that experience. Some young people we find studying at places like the Neighborhood Music School and the Educational Center for the Arts. So we're able to find the talented young people in New Haven, and if they qualify for the CETA program (a minimum family income) we ask them to join the program.

One of the main features of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act," says Brown, "is to instill discipline in the young people as workers, and to build their confidence as workers. And in this specific program, we're also involved with instilling discipline and self-confidence in them as future artists in their fields."

Those fields include dance, mime and creative dramatics, theater, chorus, band, photography and visual arts. Each

group meets every day for five hours of classes, training, rehearsal and performances at locations scattered about the city.

The dance program, under the direction of Rachel Eliner, who has worked with the Dance Alliance, meets at the Yale School of Drama for a program of exercises and techniques culminating in the creation of their own works.

David Brennan and Betsy Folsom, (Continued on Page D4)



Muralists working at Lee High School.

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1977



Worthwhile Youth Jobs Programs

Some useful and inspiring work was accomplished by youths employed this summer under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act and high school work-study programs here in New Haven. Both the city and the youngsters were the beneficiaries of programs that provided vocational training and supplies for schools.

An especially outstanding project was the mural entitled, "Path of the World," at Lee High School and dedicated to former principal Robert Schreck. This work, executed by 25 CETA program enrollees over a seven-week period, features a theme of universality through depiction of people from many different parts of the globe.

A work of art that will lift the spirit of the Lee students, even as it inspired those who created it, surely is a worthwhile endeavor. It contrasts so sharply with the leaf-raking work that too often results when government money is made available for job training.

There is evidence of hard work of value by other youngsters enrolled in CETA this summer. Furniture, printed forms and handbooks for the city's schools were turned out by some 80 inner-city youths. To do this, use was made of the excellent industrial and vocational training centers at Wilbur Cross and Hillhouse High Schools. The supplies were produced in substantial quantities — enough to save the school system some money and thus, in an indirect manner, help the taxpayers who pay for CETA.

The industrial and vocational facilities at Cross and Hillhouse are among the finest in New England. It makes sense to use these facilities as much as possible to equip youngsters with skills needed for employment. Let's realize that in some respects the New Haven school system does possess superior facilities that open up opportunities.

The accounting given by City Manpower Director Thomas Corso on CETA programs is impressive. This summer, 2,680 inner-city youths worked for many non-profit agencies in New Haven. Corso contends that many in the program worked hard and that about 70 per cent of the youths in the CETA summer program were from families collecting Aid to Families with Dependent Children welfare benefits. Thus, money was earned by young people who came from homes where it was desperately needed.

We note that Corso is concerned about the possibility that the proposed minimum wage increase would decrease job slots for next year's CETA program. If the minimum wage is raised and the same amount of money is appropriated, jobs will be lost to the disadvantage of youngsters who urgently need constructive work experience.

If young people cannot find jobs in the private sector, and have to take jobs created with public funds, it's especially important that they be given meaningful jobs for the sake of training and for the sake of society. We're glad that New Haven has made an effort to do this.

2 Finance Board Members On Projected Surplus

By STANLEY J. VENOIT
Staff Reporter

Two members of the Board of Finance — Alderman William Jones, D-22, and Marvin C. Gold — today presented strongly opposing views of the \$2.9 million surplus and promised two to four-mill tax cut announced Thursday.

Controller Kennedy Mitchell, in a report for the fiscal year ending June 30, said that when all anticipated revenue is received, the city would show a final surplus of \$2.9 million. Mayor Frank Logue then pledged, "On July 1, 1978, the tax rate in New Haven will be reduced an additional two to four mills with no reduction in services."

Jones is Democratic town chairman and is a candidate for the Democratic nomination for city-town clerk. He is allied with former Police Chief Biagio DiLieto, who is challenging Logue for the mayor nomination in the Sept. 15 primary. Jones was elected aldermanic representative to the finance board in January.

Gold, a Democrat, was appointed to the board two years ago by Mayor Bartholomew F. Guida, to complete the term of Orest T. (Tom) Dubno, who was named deputy state tax commissioner. Gold was ap-

pointed to a two-year term by Logue.

Gold credited the fiscal year's surplus to the contributions of the city employees and the improvement of the city employment service during the last year.

"The concern of the Board of Finance is to move to zero-based budgeting to increase the productivity of each department and to continue in securing what appears to be a surplus for the next two years."

Gold noted the reorganization of the assessor's office directed by Mayor Logue's naming of David George Musgrove to key position in the up-grading of the city's financial system and strengthening of the assessment factors.

He said the Board of Finance for the next year would concentrate on the areas of service which will affect further service units of service vital to the city.

Jones said it was "in the city's best financial surplus" when there are no major problems."



Tribute To The Principal

John Belle, right, explains the concept of the mural, "Path to the World," behind him. The mural, which was painted by 25 CETA summer enrollees under the direction of Ruth Resnick and Terry Lennox, was dedicated Thursday night to former Lee High School Principal Dr. Robert Schreck. As part of the seven-week program the CETA enrollees painted several murals in an around Lee High School. (Staff Photo by Steve Silk)

Muralists Brightening Up Lee High

By BOB GREENLEE
Staff Reporter

"Why can't the papers print anything positive about high school students, rather than always pointing up the negative side?" asked Ruth Resnick, muralist and instructor in one of the city's after-school programs at Lee High School.

Ms. Resnick, a tall, thin young woman, directs the mural painting program at Lee, where the students hope to finish several murals to give the school "a touch of brightness."

Since Dec. 6, a group of students have been giving up their "free time without receiving credit" to stay after school working on the mural project.

The Lee after-school program is one of many sponsored by the city's Human Resources Administration and the school system.

Some 11 city youth planning teams were involved in the planning stages, designing the various programs to be operated in their neighborhoods and operating out of the schools in those same communities.

The program is designed for students from nine to 18 years old, to give them a chance to master skills in a variety of areas.

Most of the programs operate for six-week sessions with the possibility of being renewed, once the first session is ended.

At Lee, Ms. Resnick and Terry Lenox have organized two teams of students, involved in painting murals in the school, who attend the Monday through Thursday weekly sessions from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

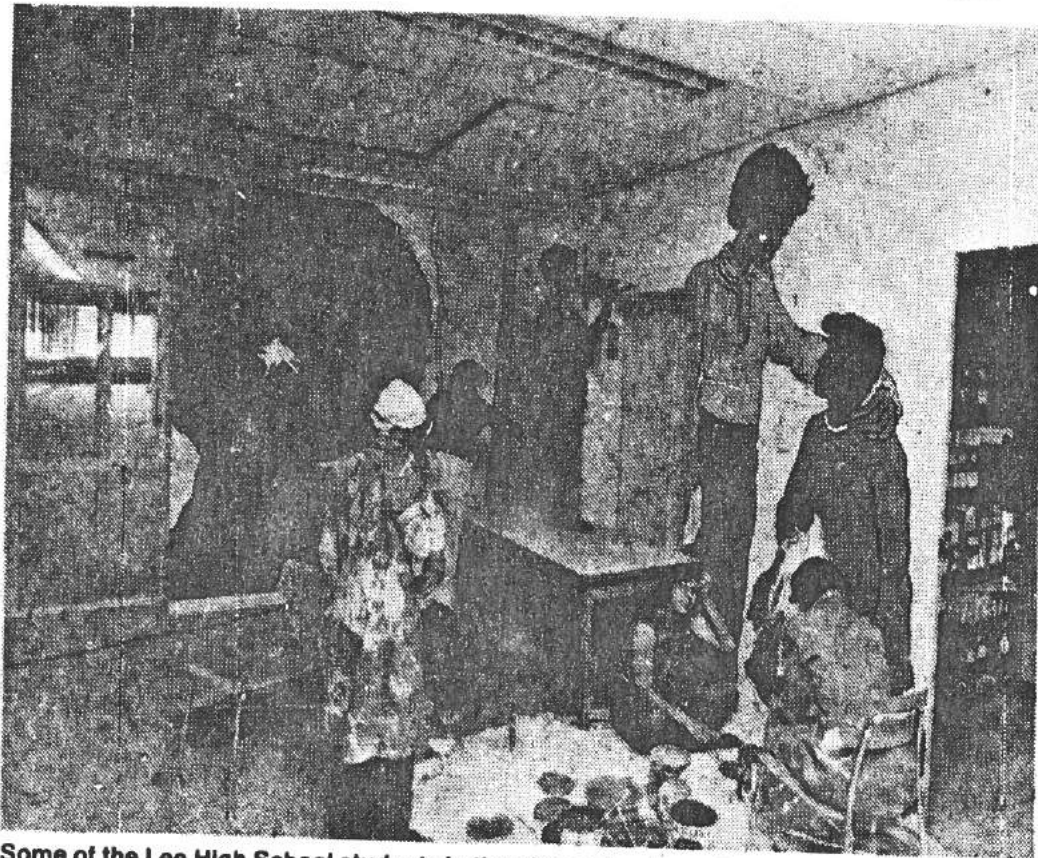
According to Ms. Resnick, not only do the students receive instruction in painting but they also learn "how to become part of a team, working with each other to accomplish a goal."

In addition to their daily sessions at Lee, the students also visit art galleries, receive talks from guest lecturers and a general exposure to the world of art.

However, it is in the area of "group dynamics" that Ms. Resnick feels the real benefits of the program show through.

"This," she says, "can't be captured in the papers. You have to be here to see it happening and to get an idea about how they feel because of their involvement in this project."

The Lee students are working on a mural de-



Some of the Lee High School students in the after-school mural painting project at work on a mural, depicting scenes from recording star Stevie Wonder's song, "I Wish." (Staff Photo by Kirby Kennedy)

... picting Stevie Wonder, the recording star, and scenes from his song, "I Wish," which is about growing up.

That mural can be seen across from the library at Lee on the second floor.

A second mural depicts another Stevie Wonder song, "Living in the City," and it can be viewed in Lee's cafeteria.

Who are these budding muralists?

Ms. Resnick notes that while the two teams are comprised of 16 regulars, "other students drop in on an infrequent basis."

The 16 Lee muralists include: Lance Birt,

Caleb Roderiguez, Milton Papzo, Curtis Nichols, Elena Terry, Freddy Johnson, Kevin Hill, Ronnie Johnson, Rose McCloud, Brenda Faye Counsel, Debra Dimbo, Kenny Johnson, Anthony Johnson, Herbert Gripper, Mario Correa and a student named Santana.

Watching the students work, while they listen to the sounds of Stevie Wonder blaring from the record player, you understand what Ms. Resnick means when she says, "This is what is positive about the high schools . . . The majority are good kids, and they want others in the community to understand that they are."

New Haven Register