

WHY Parents Kick Their Kids Out

Ours is a "throwaway society." We discard everything from soda bottles to automobiles when their usefulness or novelty has ended. Some parents even discard their kids. Here's a report on these kicked-out youngsters and what can be done to help them.

Teenage Throwaways:
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Parents

By Melinda Biau

George's parents locked him out of the house in their New England suburb when he was fifteen, but emotionally they had kicked him out years before: "I wasn't allowed to go to the refrigerator, turn on the TV, sit on the couch. Whenever they left the house, I had to also." At thirteen, George started smoking marijuana constantly—"from the moment I got up"—and staying away from home as much as possible. He eventually got into trouble with the law. He hasn't been home in three years and never expects to again.

When Andy's parents sent her to a private board-

Melinda Biau is a free-lance writer based in New York City who specializes in child-related subjects.

ing school, they may not have thought they kicked her out: she was only seven at the time. Her parents separated; soon afterward, her father committed suicide and her mother took much of her unhappiness out on Andy. "I was rarely physically abused, but constantly put down," she says. "My mother once told me, 'You should have died in my womb!'" At one point, Andy's mother placed her in a state-run institution; another time she took out a PINS ("Person in Need of Supervision") petition on her, a legal action to have her declared "incorrigible." At fifteen, after a series of runaway incidents, Andy finally left home for good—and became a prostitute in one of New York's more expensive neighborhoods.

Maria wasn't kicked out—she was driven out. To Maria's father, originally from Eastern Europe,

