

R E S I D E N T S '

# Journal

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Chicago, Illinois  
Permit No. 5398

*A publication for and by Chicago public housing residents March/April 2004 /Volume 7/ Number 5*



## Inside

*2004 Election Coverage Pgs. 5 - 8*

*Stateway Gardens Lawsuit Pg. 9*

*Urban Youth International Journalism Program Pgs. 14 - 17*

*Stop The Violence Pg. 23*

# **Haymarket House AD**

# Contents

PAGE 4:  
**Oops, They Did It Again...by Ethan Michaeli**

PAGE 5:  
**News Briefs...by Gabriel Piemonte**  
**The Sound of Silence...by Mary C. Johns**

PAGE 6:  
**U. S. Senate Candidate Barack Obama...by Michael Ibrahim**  
**U. S. Senate Candidate Blair Hull...by Michael Ibrahim**

PAGE 7:  
**U. S. Senate Candidate Daniel Hynes...by Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson**  
**U. S. Senate Candidate Gery Chico...by Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson**  
**U. S. Senate Candidate Joyce Washington...by Jacqueline Thompson**

PAGE 8:  
**2nd Congressional District Race...by Lorenzia Shelby**  
**Sixth District Race Makes History...by Beauty Turner**

PAGE 9:  
**A Championship Victory...by Mary C. Johns**

PAGE 10:  
**If the Suit Fits, Who Wears It?...by Beauty Turner**

PAGE 11:  
**Harold Ickes News...by Jacqueline Thompson**

PAGES 14-17:  
**Urban Youth International Journalism Program Section**

PAGE 19:  
**Positive People...by Crystal Medina**

PAGES 20-21:  
**The Sound of Silence...by Mary C. Johns**  
(in Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Russian and Korean)

PAGE 22:  
**Letters to the Editor**  
**Crystal Clear Views...by Crystal Medina**

PAGE 23:  
**Stop The Violence...by Cenabeth Cross**

## FRONT PAGE

The front page photo depicts students from Beasley Academy during the 2nd District Police Community African-American History Month Celebration for CHA youth at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center in February.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

# C r e d i t s

**Publisher**  
Ethan Michaeli

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Mary C. Johns

**Assistant Editor**   **Outreach Director**  
Beauty Turner      Gabriel Piemonte

**Editorial Assistant**  
Crystal Medina

### RJ Correspondents

Earl Battles, Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson, Deborah A. Britton, Cecilia A. Clark, Cenabeth Cross, Patricia Johnson-Gordon, Michael Ibrahim, Crystal Medina, Alicia McNeal, Cheryl Murphy, Karen Owens, Lorenzia Shelby, Jacqueline Thompson, Beauty Turner

### Photographers

Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson, John Brooks, Cenabeth Cross, Michael Ibrahim, Patricia Johnson-Gordon, Crystal Medina, Karen Owens, Jacqueline Thompson, Beauty Turner

*Residents' Journal is published by We The People Media, 4859 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60615. All Chicago Public Housing Residents are welcome to contribute to Residents' Journal©. Please call (312) 745-2682 or fax us at (773) 285-2853 with your ideas, comments and concerns.*

# O u r M i s s i o n

This publication is committed to the journalistic principles of fair representation and free speech. Above all else, this publication will strive to fairly and accurately represent all sides of the issues that the editorial staff chooses to investigate. In maintaining an unwavering guarantee of editorial independence, this publication will contribute to the American media's mission of faithfully providing balanced, truthful accounts and information.

*Residents' Journal* strives to be accessible to all communities, regardless of income, ethnicity or disability.

**We The People Media** is committed to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects the Freedom of the Press.

The views expressed in this publication do not reflect the views of **We The People Media** or its staff.

# O u r R e a d e r s h i p

In January 2001, Target Market News Service, national experts on African American media markets, conducted a readership study for **We The People Media** sponsored by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Below are findings of this study:

\* **Residents' Journal** is the unique source of critical information for Chicago public housing residents. Nearly every respondent (92 percent) said they wanted to see **Residents' Journal** printed more often.

\* **Residents' Journal** readers are actively involved in the transformation of their communities. Respondents ranked "Neighborhood News" (80 percent) and "CHA Stories" (75 percent) as their favorite sections, closely followed by "Citywide News" (61 percent) and "Health Stories" (52 percent).

\* **Residents' Journal**'s readers are

active citizens. 84 percent of the respondents voted in the last election while 67 percent attend religious services regularly.

\* **Residents' Journal**'s readers shop at large chain stores such as Walgreen's (73 percent), Jewel (70 percent) and Aldi's (67 percent). Readers also eat monthly at restaurants such as McDonald's (69 percent), Popeye's (39 percent), White Castle (34 percent) and KFC (39 percent).

\* Readers spend a large share of their income on groceries. Fifty-five (55) percent spend between \$100 and \$299 on groceries monthly; 22 percent spend between \$300 and \$499 on groceries monthly.

\* Readers are extremely interested in enhancing their skills: 52 percent are interested in computer training, 41 percent are interested in job training and 20 percent would like to receive nursing or health care training.

## We The People Media Board of Directors

**President**  
**Eugene Scott**, Publisher, **Chicago Defender**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Stelios Valavanis**, Founder/CEO, **On Shore**  
**Maner Jean Wiley**, LAC President **Hilliard Homes**  
**Sandra Young**, Commissioner, **Chicago Housing Authority**  
**Francine Washington**, LAC President, **Stateway Gardens**  
**Danny K. Davis**, U.S. Representative, **7th District/Illinois**  
**Judith Kossy**, Senior Consultant, **CAEL Associates**  
**Dr. Sudhir Venkatesh**, Columbia University  
**Dr. Nathaniel Deutsch**, Swarthmore College  
**Jamie Kalven**, Author,  
**Sunil Garg**, CEO, **IRT Inc.**  
**Izora Davis**, Lakefront Community Organization  
**Jonathan Rothstein**, Attorney at Law  
**Barbara Moore**, LAC Vice President, **Robert Taylor Homes**

## Thank You to Our Sponsors

**Julia Stasch**, Vice President of Human Community and Development, **MacArthur Foundation**  
**Massachusetts Institute of Technology Libraries**  
**Al McCowan**, Senior Vice President, **Habitat Company**  
**Kathryn Haines**  
**Rufus "Bud" Myers Jr.**, Executive Director, **Indianapolis Housing Authority**  
**Dorothy Brown**, Cook County Clerk, Circuit Court  
**Kathleen Clark**, Executive Director, **Lawyers Committee for Better Housing**  
**Peter Holsten**, President, **Holsten Real Estate Development Corp.**  
**Robert B. Lifton**, Jewish Council on Urban Affairs  
**Henry Morris**, Executive Director, **Joliet Housing Authority**  
**Mary Pattillo**, Associate Professor, Northwestern University  
**Stelios Valavanis**, On Shore Inc. **Media Technology Experts**  
**Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh**, Professor, Columbia University  
**Gregory Washington**, President, **Grand Boulevard Federation**  
**William Riley**, Executive Director, **CHAC**  
**Anne Knepler**  
**Richard Bradley**, Illinois State Rep., 40th District  
**Jessica Heineman Pieper**  
**Ann Woodward**, Vice President of Community Services, **Lakefront Supportive Housing**

*Residents' Journal and the Urban Youth International Journalism Program are supported by the Chicago Reader, the Open Society Institute, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Chicago Community Trust, the Albert Pick Fund, the Polk Brothers Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the Ford Foundation.*

# Oops, They Did It Again

by Ethan Michaeli  
Publisher

**B**ill Wilen thinks he's found a "smoking gun" in his current legal battle with the Chicago Housing Authority.

Wilen, an attorney with the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law who has been an advocate for residents for decades, recently received a package of documents related to the ongoing redevelopment of the Henry Horner Homes on the Near West Side. Among those documents was one that appeared strange.

The paper in question has a header that indicates it is the goals for the "Supportive Services for CHA Horner/West Haven Residents." To translate from CHA terminology, Supportive Services, also known as "Service Connectors," refers specifically to those private contractors whose job it is to connect residents with programs including jobs training and drug treatment.

The Service Connectors have been charged with a critical task in the ongoing process of demolishing CHA buildings and replacing them with so-called 'mixed-income communities' under CHA's Plan for Transformation.

The Service Connectors are supposed to prepare residents to return to the mixed-income communities which are planned to replace most CHA sites. For residents who have moved into the private market as well as those who are in other public housing units, the Service Connectors have the primary responsibility of fulfilling CHA's promise that any resident who follows the rules and wants to return to the developments will be able to do so.

But on the document that Wilen received in his package, one of the outcomes reads: "15% of families with a Right to Return meet site-specific criteria." To continue translating from CHA-speak, the former residents of the developments who have chosen to come back to the mixed-income communities are said to have a 'Right of Return.' 'Site-specific criteria,' meanwhile, refers to those standards that residents will have to meet to actually be accepted by the developers who run the mixed-income communities.

So to Wilen, the statement "15% of families with a Right to Return meet site-specific criteria" means that CHA only expects a tiny fraction of the residents who have chosen to return to actually make the developers' cut.

Worse yet, Wilen surmised that this statement really referred to the whole Plan for Transformation, since Horner is governed by a federal court decree that has nothing to do with the Plan for Transformation. In fact, the Horner redevelopment started almost five years before the plan. Though a mixed-income community is being built at Horner, the federal court decree has different terms and standards.

Wilen, who is also involved in a general lawsuit against CHA filed by a team of public advocates, recognized "Right of Return" and "site-specific criteria" as terms of the Plan for Transformation. He guessed the document that he received had been adapted from another document that referred to all the developments in the city, not just Horner.

He suspected, therefore, that the CHA is setting a goal that only a few residents will be able to return to the developments.

"If they're saying now that it's only 15 percent, that's their goal, then that tells me they don't expect many people to come back," Wilen told me recently.

"Why isn't the goal 90 percent?"

CHA confirmed Wilen's suspicions - kind of. In a telephone interview, CHA's Managing Director of Resident Services, Meghan Harte, explained that the document Wilen received was indeed sent to him in error, and she said that it had been a draft of goals for the Service Connectors for all the developments in the Plan for Transformation, not for Horner.

But Harte emphasized that the goal of having 15 percent of residents who have the Right to Return was just for one year - not for the overall Plan for Transformation. The

goal was set low, Harte explained, because the mixed-income communities are not built yet, and probably won't be built for a few more years. CHA will increase the goals for the service connectors in coming years, especially as the mixed-income communities come closer to completion.

"This is not CHA saying that we only think 15 percent of residents will return to public housing," she said.

Harte noted that 90 percent of residents have filled out surveys which indicate they would like to return to the mixed-income communities. To that end, Harte said the CHA will try to fulfill the residents' choices.

"I don't think that it would be an acceptable result for the CHA if the majority of families don't choose to return," Harte said.

"At the end of the day, it's individual residents' opinions that matter."

So the document does not appear to be a smoking gun, after all.

But Wilen may have a point anyway. Very few housing authorities which have torn down old developments and replaced them with mixed-income communities have been successful in getting residents to return.

In a 2002 report, the Urban Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank, studied HOPE VI, the federal program that funds the redevelopment process. The Urban Institute found that just 14 percent of residents returned to the mixed-income communities, while 37 percent went to other public housing developments and 35 percent used Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly known as Section 8s) to enter the private market.

Just a few months ago, the General Accounting Office, an arm of the federal government that does independent research, did its own report on HOPE VI. The GAO found that the results on HOPE VI developments varied greatly. Some had a high degree of resident involvement, some didn't. Some HOPE VI neighborhoods saw their property values rise, some didn't. Some HOPE VI sites saw many residents return and others did not.

GAO found one development that had high levels of resident involvement, rapidly rising property values and a high number of former residents returning.

That development was Henry Horner Homes in Chicago, the same development where Wilen is the lawyer for the residents. Here's what the GAO wrote about Horner's rising property values:

"Average housing values increased in 13 of the 20 HOPE VI neighborhoods, ranging from a minimum of 11 percent in Tucson to a maximum of 215 percent in Chicago (Henry Horner). It is generally accepted among researchers that housing values represent the best available index of expectations regarding future economic activity in an area."

Almost 15 years ago, Wilen started representing a group of Horner residents that sued the CHA for failing to maintain the buildings to the point that they needed to be demolished.

The case was settled in 1995, with all parties agreeing to the demolition of a number of Horner high-rises and the construction of a mixed-income community. Under the agreement, all the residents of Horner have an automatic right to return, unless they commit a serious felony or damage the property.

The settlement institutionalized the legal conflict. Every step of the process at Horner must be approved by all the parties - the resident leadership, the CHA and the property manager. A federal court judge oversees the whole process, and makes a decision when the parties don't agree.

By coordinating the building closures with the construction of the new housing, most of the residents don't even have to leave the neighborhood while they are waiting for their replacement housing. Wilen estimates that 95 percent of the residents who want to return to the new development, renamed West Haven, have returned.

"Families aren't returning. They are there already," Wilen explained.

Wilen, therefore, is on solid ground when he calls Horner a model for other redevelopment projects. And he is likewise on solid ground when he criticizes the CHA's plan to allow the developers to make the ultimate decision over who gets into the new mixed-income properties. Wilen noted that if the public housing residents who left the complexes don't meet the 'site-specific criteria,' the developer can fill the public housing units in the mixed-income communities with other families.

"When a family gets within striking distance of coming back, they're turned over to the developer," Wilen said.

"It seems like the CHA is very happy with the idea that most of the families are not coming back."

CHA's Harte disagreed with Wilen's criticism. She claimed that having the developers decide who can come back to the mixed-income communities is logical.

"The developer owns the units. We own the land but the developer will own the units," she said.

"Our goal is to assist the residents with getting services and helping them to present themselves in the best possible light."

**W**e haven't compared ourselves to other cities because we don't think we are other cities.

**-Meghan Harte, CHA's Managing Director of Resident Services**

But when she was asked whether they looked at other HOPE VI sites at other cities to see whether this approach was successful in terms of getting families to return, Harte said they haven't:

"We haven't compared ourselves to other cities because we don't think we are other cities."

That is a serious error. Other cities can offer valuable insights on how to make this system work, and can likewise point out how to avoid errors. The CHA staff should not try and re-invent the wheel. Even if the CHA staff can't or won't learn from other cities, the GAO report indicates they have models just a few blocks from their offices.

Failing to avoid the mistakes of the past will produce more mixed-income communities that have excluded the families whose sacrifice allowed their construction. Failing to ensure that families who want to return can return will only bolster those advocates and tenants who believe that the Plan for Transformation is an effort to steal attractive tracts of land from low-income African Americans.



**The establishment of units for the mixed-income community that was supposed to begin in 2003 at the Madden Park Homes continues to be delayed.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

# 2004 U. S. Elections

## The Sound of Silence

### News Briefs

#### Advocates Seek On-Demand Treatment

A coalition led by Congressman Danny K. Davis and Treatment Assessment Screening Centers, Inc. is seeking to place a referendum on the November ballot that would push for on-demand substance abuse treatment, according to members of the group.

Advocates for the referendum are saying the move could position Illinois as a national leader in treatment policy and practice. The referendum calls for "adequate funding for comprehensive and appropriate substance abuse treatment for any Illinois state residents requesting service."

#### CPS Gets Tough on Students, Schools

A pair of initiatives announced recently by representatives of the Chicago Public Schools tighten restrictions for both students and schools, with a new parent consent dropout form and an increased "accountability standard" for "probation" schools.

Students who want to withdraw from school and their parent or guardian will have to complete a consent form, as well as reviewing a list of rights to educational services waived as a result of dropping out of school and statistics on possible consequences of dropping out.

Meanwhile, an elementary school will be placed on probation if less than 40 percent of its students meet standards on one of three tests, up from 25 percent. High schools similarly must meet an increased standard, with 30 percent of students required to meet state standards on the Prairie State Achievement Exam, up from 15 percent.

Chicago public schools placed on probation lose some control of discretion over budgets and have in the past been closed when performance has not improved significantly. More than one out of every 10 students in the Chicago Public School system will drop out of school.

#### HUD Appointment Under Fire

President George W. Bush's top pick as new secretary for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) drew fire on both sides of the aisle at a recent Senate committee meeting convened to review the choice.

Acting HUD secretary Alphonso Jackson fielded questions from Republican and Democratic members of the Senate Banking Committee on everything from recent cuts to Housing Choice Voucher funding to a rule change that would significantly increase potential profit for banks on mortgage deals.

If Jackson's nomination is approved, he will be the third African American in the president's Cabinet and the first HUD secretary to have run an urban housing authority.

#### Disability Housing Conference Set

A daylong conference to explore the accessibility of public and private housing for people with disabilities will take place on Tuesday, March 30 at the South Shore Branch of the Chicago Public Library.

Federal law mandates that a certain percentage of public housing units are accessible to tenants with disabilities, but getting the Chicago Housing Authority to comply with that mandate has sometimes been difficult, according to Access Living Claim and Settlements Housing Team Leader Alberto Barrera.

"It took them a while to say yes, they had made a mistake and they were going to correct it" Barrera told *RJ* last year of a recent settlement with CHA. "They started to negotiate in good faith because they knew we had the power and the proof that they were in violation and any court of law would side with us."

by Mary C. Johns  
Editor-in-Chief

What is going on? What happened to the people who believe in social justice? The poor of the nation want to know what the leading Democratic presidential candidates intend to do about the issues that concern them the most. But those same candidates' campaign staffs were tongue tied when they were given the opportunity to reach out to Chicago's low-income communities.

As of press time, the two Democratic front-runners, U.S. Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) and U.S. Sen. John Edwards (D-NC), continue to talk about their thoughts on the War with Iraq and what they intend to do about national security, health care, tax breaks and jobs for the middle-class, as well as environmental issues, during their national campaigns and debates.

The poor are certainly concerned with all of those issues. But when it comes to other issues that are of specific concern to the poor, the candidates aren't there. They talk very little or not at all on issues regarding poverty, welfare reform, affordable and public housing, ex-felons and the gang and drug activities that rage daily across the

n a t i o n - i n  
i n n e r - c i t y  
c o m m u n i t i e s ,  
r u r a l a n d s u b -  
u r b a n a r e a s  
a l i k e .

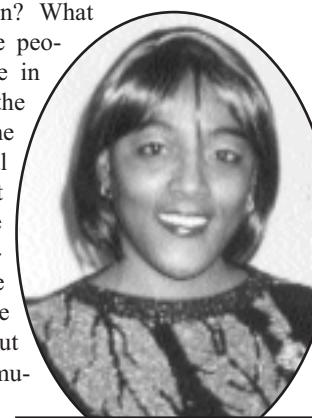
On his campaign web site, Kerry has some information about his plans to create more affordable housing. Edwards talks a lot about "two Americas" and mentions that his family struggled. But during this campaign, neither candidate has spoken much about the poor—period. In fact, I haven't heard any of them use the words "poor" or "low-income" in their speeches. As of late February, I hadn't even seen any of the candidates pictured, on TV or in the local newspapers, in low-income communities or with people identified as low-income.

#### Disregarded

Like their bosses, the senators' campaign staffs appear to have little interest in addressing the concerns of the poor. Once again, the poor have been disregarded.

None of the campaigns' local or national offices responded to *Residents' Journal's* questions. No one in Kerry or Edwards' campaign offices in Washington, D.C., Chicago, or Raleigh, N.C., was responsive. I had the same problem with the staff of former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean—before he dropped out of the race in mid-February.

At each of these offices, I gave each person with whom I spoke my questions regarding affordable and public housing, jobs and education for ex-felons, welfare reform and gang violence, street side drug sales and usage. I wanted to know what each can-



Mary C. Johns



U. S. presidential hopeful Sen. John Kerry speaks to the media at a press conference in Hartsfield International Airport in February.

Photo courtesy of John Kerry for President, Inc.

hat is going on? What happened to the people who believe in social justice?

diate intended to do in those areas.

These are the main problems for poor Americans but they affect all American families to a greater or lesser degree. I didn't think it would be too much of a challenge to get the candidates to comment on these issues.

I called for more than two weeks, and was constantly shuffled from one person to the next. Eventually, the people handling news affairs at all the campaign sites gave me the same answer: no one was authorized to speak on behalf of the senators or the former governor.

At first, I thought this was odd. All of the campaign staffers with whom I spoke were friendly and initially appeared interested in helping me.

After a while, it seemed as though they didn't want to be bothered, that they were too busy to address the concerns of the poor. They sure do find time to talk to journalists from other communities.

#### The Sound of Silence

What message is this silence sending?

All Americans have the right to know what the presidential hopefuls intend to do about housing the homeless, and providing housing to low-income people. Ignoring the problem in recent years created a general shortage of affordable housing, such that low-income families are now competing for housing with middle-class workers, college students, those with HIV/AIDS and those with disabilities, among others. A lot of people are having a hard time finding an affordable place to live.

Americans want to know what we can expect from either candidate, if they are elected President of the United States of America, regarding the cutbacks in the federal public assistance programs for the poor, and the people who continue to go hungry in our land of plenty, and about the hardships that ex-felons are having in obtaining jobs and housing. What are their intentions about getting rid of the gang and drug activities that plague our great land like a deadly disease?

The few low-income people who got the opportunity to speak with the candidates asked questions that are pertinent to everyone. At least 3,000 low-income voters showed up at a forum in South Carolina in late January and asked six of the seven Democratic presidential contenders some questions. They asked questions about education, the cost of health care and prescription drugs, citizenship for immigrants, and plans for getting the troops out of Iraq.

We all have the same concerns. Some are just more outstanding than others.

The poor are being ignored. But if the Democratic candidates running for the presidency hope to be elected, they should reach out more to these voters.

Ignorance could cost them the election.



U. S. Sen. John Edwards during a rally at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn. in Feb.  
Photo courtesy of Edwards for President, Inc.

# 2004 U. S. Elections

## U. S. Senate Candidate Barack Obama

by Michael Ibrahim

**S**enator Barack Obama represents Illinois' 13th State Senate District, which includes areas of Chicago's South Side. He was elected to a third term in 2002. Obama is the chairman of the Public Health and Welfare Committee. He credits himself with expansion of the KidCare and FamilyCare programs to provide insurance for 20,000 more children and 65,000 more families in Illinois. Obama received his BA in Political Science from Columbia University. He spent five years working as a community organizer, first in Harlem, then in Chicago. Obama served as Illinois Executive Director of PROJECT VOTE!, which added over 100,000 newly registered voters in Illinois. A Magna Cum Laude graduate of Harvard Law School, Obama was the first African-American Editor-in-Chief of the Harvard Law Review.

Obama was also a member of the Executive Board of the Black Law Students Association. Obama is a civil rights attorney and is currently a senior lecturer at the University of Chicago Law School, where he teaches constitutional law.

**Health Care:** "We've got a healthcare crisis in this country, and an Administration that's more concerned about protecting drug and insurance companies than in protecting the health of our families and children."

**Welfare Reform:** "Despite our failing economy and the pronounced loss of jobs, the Bush Administration is trying to increase work requirements, and divert over \$1 billion out of an already meager \$17 billion budget to marriage promotion instead of allocating additional funds for child care, which is crucial for parents to maintain steady jobs."

**Affordable Housing:** "There is a significant and growing shortage of affordable housing throughout the country. This is caused by the fact that inflation adjusted



Michael Ibrahim

income for the bottom two income quintiles has remained flat since 1975 while housing prices have increased, and that affordable housing units are disappearing due to condo conversions and the demolition of public housing.

"The most important step that must be taken immediately is to urge Congress to provide the funds necessary to support the thousands of Housing Choice Vouchers that have already been distributed, as well as to continue to support those families in the direst need. The Administration and Congress must either agree to provide more funds for the voucher program, or must identify additional funds already available at HUD from prior-year appropriations or other sources and direct that sufficient amounts of such funds be used to cover the vouchers that would otherwise be left unfunded. Failure to take one or both of these steps is likely to result in an unprecedented reduction in assistance under the voucher program."

**Crime and Violence:** "As a state senator, I have worked tirelessly on sponsoring key pieces of criminal justice legislation. I was the chief sponsor of the first in the nation law requiring the videotaping of interrogations and confessions in homicide cases. This was as a result of the 13 men exonerated from Death Row as a result of false or coerced confessions. I also sponsored racial profiling legislation, and a bill which removed the restriction against non-violent ex-offenders from obtaining a required state license for certain types of work, including barbers, cosmetologists, landscapers, etc. This bill was an important first step to curb recidivism and reintegrate ex-offenders back into society fully."

Obama relates poverty with joblessness in American society, saying "three million jobs have been lost on President Bush's watch, more than 200,000 in Illinois. Millions more are losing their health insurance with their jobs and poverty levels are increasing, particularly among children and African-Americans."



2004 U. S. Senate candidate Illinois state Senator Barack Obama

Photo by Michael Ibrahim

"We need a real jobs policy for this nation, and it starts with changing tax breaks for companies to move jobs overseas into tax incentives for them to site new plants and jobs here at home."

As a United States Senator, Obama promises "to lead the fight to protect pensions from corporate greed and corruption, provide affordable health coverage to all

he Administration and Congress must either agree to provide more funds for the voucher program, or must identify additional funds already available at HUD.

-Illinois state Sen. Barack Obama

Americans, make big drug companies reduce the cost of prescription drugs and relieve taxes for working families instead of the very rich."

Obama describes himself as a proud husband and father of two young daughters. He is also a member of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago.

## U. S. Senate Candidate Blair Hull

by Michael Ibrahim

**B**lair Hull has a record of being quite a successful businessman here in the state of Illinois, having built a business from scratch that created hundreds of jobs, "growing his company into one of the most successful trading firms in the country," according to James O'Connor, campaign manager for Hull.

After graduating high school, Hull went to work in a

roviding adequate housing and a stable living environment for all our citizens is necessary if we want to improve our urban areas.

-2004 U. S. Senate Candidate Blair Hull

cannery on an assembly line, O'Connor said, ultimately becoming a card-carrying union man, joining Union Local 679 at age 19. Subsequently, he joined the United States Army and served four years. Afterwards, he instructed young people in high school level math and physics "before becoming a student again himself and going on to higher education with the GI Bill, as his father had done before him," O'Connor said.

O'Connor tells us that Hull graduated from the University of California at Santa Barbara before receiving

an MBA from UC Santa Clara. Hull has been recognized by the Illinois General Assembly for his lifelong advocacy of women's rights and honored as a lifetime activist by Personal PAC, a pro-choice group.

Here is what Hull had to say concerning some of the issues we questioned him about.

**Affordable Housing:** "It is clear that we benefit as a society when we provide all our citizens with access to affordable housing. Providing adequate housing and a stable living environment for all our citizens is necessary if we want to improve our urban areas. I am an advocate for fair housing standards and mandating the inclusion of more affordable housing in new developments as well as the national affordable housing trust fund."

**Crime and Violence:** "I believe that real solutions to decreasing crime must include prevention programs, enforcement of existing laws and rehabilitation for offenders re-entering our communities. I also believe that we must be smart on crime not just tough on crime."

**Welfare Reform:** "I would support a temporary extension of welfare benefits beyond the five year deadline during this time of economic uncertainty, while at the same time developing a long term safety net for the most vulnerable. Under the Bush administration, we have seen more than three million jobs disappear. While I support the concept of welfare to work, I also understand that we need to make sure an adequate safety net is in place that



2004 U. S. Senate candidate millionaire businessman Blair Hull

Photo by Michael Ibrahim

includes affordable health-care and child care issues the Bush administration has failed to address."

**On Poverty:** "We need to support and strengthen the current safety net programs and work to improve the quality of living of all, by promoting a living wage and stimulating job creation. I will also work to expand on employment benefits and ensure that part time workers are included."

# 2004 U. S. Elections

## U. S. Senate Candidate Daniel Hynes

by Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson

Dan Hynes, 35, is currently serving a second term as Illinois state Comptroller, according to Mercedes Mallette, deputy campaign manager and spokesperson for Hynes. He is married to Christina Hynes, a physician at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. They have no children.

His experience as comptroller mandates him to pay the state's healthcare, nursing homes, Medicaid and hospital bills first, then to use discretion as to which other bills to pay, Mallette said. Last year during the financial crisis, he made a decision to pay the bills of agencies and organizations providing services for the public, which were the hardest hit by the budget crunch. Many of these organizations were not able to meet the obligations to pay their staff. He also wrote the bill that created the Illinois First rainy Day Fund, to



Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson

be used in the case of a financial crises, according to Mallette, who also said that, in Hynes' experience as comptroller, he is conservative when it comes to resources and urges the state of Illinois to live within the budget.

Among his supporters are Cook County Board President John Stroger, and Cook County Commissioner John Daley, chairman of the Cook County Finance Committee and brother of Mayor Richard M. Daley.

On health care, Mallette said he is very concerned about the quality of health care for all Americans and will work to see that every citizen has quality health care.

On crime and violence, Hynes is concerned that everyone is treated fairly, Mallette said; crime in urban areas is certainly different than that of some other areas, and Hynes will address it accordingly, throughout the state of Illinois.

On housing, Mallette said he is a strong advocate of

affordable housing for all citizens and will work to bring federal housing dollars to Illinois.

On welfare reform, he will examine how welfare recipient are faring after being integrated into the work force. He wants to help mothers move from welfare to work, Mallette said.

On his agenda is getting people back to work and out of poverty, reported Mallette. Hynes plans to address poverty-related issues by focusing on education—the lack of it—and health care. He also will promote the idea of women as entrepreneurs, and plans to crack down on dead beat dads, Mallette said.



Illinois state Comptroller  
Dan Hynes  
Photo by Beauty Turner

## U. S. Senate Candidate Gery Chico

by Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson

Gery Chico, 47 and a lawyer, is married to Sunny Chico. They have five children, ages 12 to 20. He lives a block and a half from the CHA ABLA homes. His experience with government includes overseeing the Chicago Public Schools budget, which he reports was \$1.2 billion in the red when he started and \$345 million in surplus when he left his position as President of the Board of Education.

He oversaw the provision of services to three million people as chief of staff for the mayor, and practiced law for 18 years. Supporting him is an array of ethnic organizations, including African American, Gay and Lesbian, Hispanic, and Korean groups.

He has the support of mayors from towns and cities around the state, as well as 250 West Side churches, and members of the Board of Education. He has a statewide campaign and hundreds of volunteers who he says "are people who

believe in the campaign and want results for Illinois." The campaign is financed through donations of over 4000 donors. Concerning health care, he said, "if Congress did nothing more for one session but concentrate on the American health care crises, it would be the single greatest contribution in the last three generations."

Concerning crime and violence, he said he understands what's required, and that the federal government's role can be most effective by, first, providing resources to help our police and outreach efforts that provide alternatives to a life of crime, such as Boys and Girls Clubs.

Secondly, Chico advocates the strategic prosecution of certain crimes that affect the nation on an organized basis, such as drugs sales. But he also believes the government has a role to play in giving people a second chance by providing a path toward education that makes it easier for people to get jobs and avoid going back to jail. On housing, he said he will go to Washington to fight for the rights of the common people living in our cities to have programs such as the voucher program.

He also commends the Hope VI grant program that provides demolition grants for public housing developments to be

replaced with mixed-income communities but said "we need additional services on site to help people to understand what it means to take care of housing.

"And we need to look at doing more of that and not less of that," he said. On welfare reform, he said, "One day we'll look back and see that this was a phase in our history.

"We are on the right path provided that our government and society look with sympathy and with compassion on the needs to move the people from pure welfare conditions to working.

"People are going to need transitional employment opportunities to get started." On poverty, he said "Poverty can be licked through education."



Former CPS Board President Gery Chico  
Photo by Mary C. Johns

## U. S. Senate Candidate Joyce Washington

by Jacqueline Thompson

During the early days of her education, Joyce Washington said she had to struggle through purposely segregated schooling which strengthened her resolve to become more than what society expected of her.

First a nurse and later a health care administrator, Washington said her experience has made her skilled in the areas of medical consulting, research and creative management solutions to health care clients such as hospitals, ambulatory/outpatients centers and other related providers. Presently, she is the president and the CEO of Washington Group Healthcare Consulting of Chicago.

After deciding to run for office, Washington developed a concise list of issues that can be picked up at her campaign office headquarters at 1323 South State Street.

However, I asked the questions most likely to be of individual interest to the voters.

**RJ:** As a U.S. Senatorial candidate, what are your views



Jacqueline Thompson

on health care coverage through social security?

**JW:** It's a huge issue. There are not enough voices in the Senate who know what it's all about and there need to be a fight for better health care for not only seniors, but for families and children. It's true politics are local and healthcare is too, but when legislatures affect the local arena, legislatures should never forget this is a people business.

**RJ:** What are your views on mental health and do you think that it ties in with the overwhelming instance of homelessness?

**JW:** I have read where over 40% of all veterans are experiencing homelessness. I am prepared to initiate a way to set our priorities straight and begin to solve problems for individuals. If I'm elected, I can be in a better position to carry more weight in helping to solve the mental health homeless issues.

**RJ:** What are your views on crime and violence?

**JW:** My views are that health care education supports crime prevention methods. I recognize that most crime is engineered by mental illness and lack of family inclusion.

(We) need to bring back family. Where people live in communities, where they care about each other, they are living well. Model areas should be supported and emulated.

However, if and when crime is punishable and the pun-

ishment is incarcerated, I believe in upholding the law to the fullest extent.

**RJ:** How is your campaign being financed?

**JW:** We are raising money through telephone calls and asking for donations.

I'm also using my own money.

**RJ:** Who are some of your endorsers?

**JW:** Reverend Gerald Dew of Antioch Baptist Church, Reverend Stephen Thurston, Bishop Phillip Cousins of CGCI, the National Women Campaign Fund and the Black Nurses Association."

For two weeks I tried to interview with Maria Pappas candidate for U.S Senate. Each time I spoke to someone at her office, they promised to return my calls.

They never did call. I hope the voters can understand she could not be reached.



Joyce Washington  
Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

# 2004 U. S. Elections

## 2nd U. S. Congressional District Race

by Lorenzia Shelby

**O**n March 16, 2004, an election will be held for the 2nd U.S. Congressional District in Illinois. There are four candidates bidding for the election. The hopefuls are Jessie Louis Jackson, Jr., the incumbent; the Rev. Anthony William; former congressman Mel Reynolds and Everett Shumpert.

### Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Jackson was elected in 1995, according to his biography flier. Jackson was born March 11, 1965, in Greenville South Carolina. Prior to his stint in Congress, he worked for the National Rainbow Coalition. It is stated in his biography that Jackson was put in jail on his twenty-first birthday in Washington, D.C. for taking part in a protest against apartheid at the South African Embassy. In 1987, Jackson graduated Magna Cum Laude from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business management. Three years later, he earned a master's degree in theology from the Chicago Theological Seminary, and in 1993, received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Illinois College of Law. He has also been awarded several honorary degrees. He sits on the House Appropriations Committee and the subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services and Education.

Jackson was not available for comments. Rick Bryant, his press person, provided the answers to these questions

**RJ:** What is Congressman Jackson's feeling on health care and housing?

**RB:** He feels that all American should have access to health care. Housing is a necessity



Lorenzia E. Shelby

ty. He is working tirelessly promoting affordable housing programs.

**RJ:** How does the Congressman feel about welfare reform?

**RB:** He opposed welfare reform. He voted against it.

### Anthony Williams

**A**nother candidate hoping to become the representative of the 2nd U.S. Congressional District is the Rev. Anthony Williams. Born and reared in the Englewood Community in Chicago Illinois, Williams is a product of the Chicago public school system. He attended Williams Harper High School and Bishop College in Dallas Texas and the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago. Williams is married and he's the father of four children, according to his biography flier.

This isn't the minister's first attempt running for the 2nd Congressional District of Illinois.

He ran for Congress in 2002. On February 4, RJ interviewed Williams.

### RJ: Are you a native of Chicago?

**AW:** I'm a native of Chicago, born here in Englewood. Both my parents worked for the city. For thirty years, my father worked for Streets and Sanitation, and my mother was a nurse [and] she worked for the Board of Health.

**RJ:** When did you decide to run in the 2nd Congressional District? Who are your backers; who's backing you up?

**AW:** Basically this is my second time running...it's the citizens and the residents of the 2nd district that encourage me to run...

I do have a history fighting for the people's causes, right here in the first congressional district where this church sits. I'm on the community negotiation team to make sure that contract-

ing jobs are given to legitimate African American contractors and the residents are getting the jobs with proper training. I've done more in this area as a private citizen than the entire country is doing.

In relation to my jobs, we have gotten hundreds of people employed. Currently, we are negotiating with a major corporations to bring about good corporate partnerships, to make sure African American contractors are involved in the process with \$6 billion dollars of economical developments and revitalization [planned for] Englewood. So I have an extensive history of community service, an extensive history of public service, and I don't get paid for it.

**RJ:** Where do you get your volunteer workers?

**AW:** They come from all over the 2nd Congressional District.

### RJ: The campaign financing?

**AW:** Well it comes from common people. There's no particular source or individual that's giving money. I put in my personal money, because what people don't understand is you don't need a lot of money to do this. You just have to understand the process.

**RJ:** What type of advertising are you doing, like radio advertising or T.V. advertising?

**AW:** That's a waste of money. It's best to go people to people, door to door. We have a bus tour coming up, we are going through out the district, we may do some radio spots toward the end - you want to get the most bang out of your bucks. A mass mailing is what we are focused on right now.

**RJ:** If you are elected, what would your health care program be?

**AW:** First of all, I believe in universal health care. Every American should have the right to prompt, professional medical care.

**RJ:** What about the problems in Englewood? There's a lot of crime going on there.

**AW:** You are talking about the issue of public safety. When people are working, crime is down. If you go to Wilmette or Rogers Park, you don't see

people standing on the corners, because people are working. We have enough resources out here to be creative; you just can't look to the federal government to solve all your problems.

**RJ:**



IL 2nd District Congressional candidate Anthony Williams

Photo courtesy of Anthony for U. S. Congress

Welfare reform, will you comment on that?

**AW:** I think it is a program that needs a lot of fine tuning. Where are the jobs? You have to have someone in Congress who is going to make the system work, and unfortunately you have 435 congressmen in the United States - half of them don't read the legislation in front of them.

### Mel Reynolds

Mel Reynolds is a former Representative of the 2nd Congressional District of Illinois.

He is a candidate for the March 16, 2004 election. Reynolds was not available for an interview or comments about his bid for the congressional position, despite repeated interview requests.

Reynolds resigned in 1995 after being convicted of having sex with an underage campaign worker. He served 2 1/2 years in prison.

In 1997, he was convicted of fraudulently obtaining bank loans and diverting money intended for voter registration drives into his campaign fund.

### Everett Shumpert

RJ was unable to arrange an interview with Everett Shumpert by press time.

## Sixth District Race Makes History

by Beauty Turner  
Assistant Editor

**F**or perhaps the first time in this country's history, an ex-offender, who was recently pardoned after 17 years on death row, is challenging the powers that be and running for a state political office.

Aaron Patterson is the challenger against state Rep. Patricia Bailey (D-6), who is also a probation officer. Many people are wondering who will lock down the 6th District seat.

To many of the people, this is an historic event.

Despite repeated requests, state Rep. Bailey was unavailable for comment. But here are Patterson's comments.

### Aaron Patterson

**RJ:** Could you tell our readers a little bit about you?

**AP:** I'm 39 years old. I spent 17 years on death row; I was exonerated on January 10, 2003. My clemency was base on actual innocence; I was pardoned by former Governor George Ryan.

I'm also currently a candidate for Illinois state Representative for the 6th District which incorporates Englewood, Mid South, Back of the



Beauty Turner

Yards, Canaryville [and the] Bridgeport area from 66th to 25th Street and west of the Dan Ryan.

**RJ:** How do you think that you are going to do in the Bridgeport area?

**AP:** I'm going to do real good in the Bridgeport area. A lot of the whites, and the Latino people that live in Bridgeport, I went to school (De LaSalle Institute) with most of them. I have contacts over there.

**RJ:** Did being incarcerated make you bitter to society?

**AP:** Of course it did. I can't really explain it in details; it's just a human emotion that if you are locked up for something that you didn't do, you're supposed to have a chip on your shoulder.

One of the main reasons I have a chip on my shoulder is because none of the people involved who conspired to execute me have admitted their wrong-doing; including the Mayor-Mayor Richard M. Daley-Gangster Daley-and Dickey Devine, current State's Attorney. Neither one of them have admitted that they made a mistake, or that they were over-zealous in their prosecution. They made no attempt to open my case to review

it.

Upon my release, I have heard a lot of negative response from Dick Devine.

That's why I'm pushing hard for Tommy Brewer to become the next States Attorney for Cook County.

**RJ:** If you are elected as state representative, what would be your first official act?

**AP:** I would submit the African American Anti Terrorist Bill to the General Assembly to vote, because I feel that Black people, people of color are being terrorized in our own city and state. That would be my first step to correct the injustices that have been done to the Blacks in this country, this state and especially this city!

### RJ: What is your platform?

**AP:** My platform will consist of several issues, such as public education.

We want some new creative ways for our children in the public schools to learn or to be educated; we want the resources that have been held out against most of our schools, especially in Englewood.

We want jobs, we don't want excuses... point blank!

Any businesses that are coming into our areas, construction sites or others, we want them to employ people in and from our community.

**RJ:** What do you think should be done to bring awareness to the ex-offender's plight?

**AP:** For those who are in power, they

should take time out to employ the ex-offenders as consultants in order to get a clearer vision on what the ex-offenders need. They should work closely with the P.O.C.C.-

IL Sixth District Candidate for state Representative Aaron Patterson.

Photo by Beauty Turner

Prisoners Of Conscience Committee Chairman Fred Hampton Jr.'s organization, use him in some type of office, because he's familiar with the ex-offenders, and he will make sure that the funds will not be misappropriated.

**RJ:** So why did you chose to run for office?

**AP:** Well, by me being a victim of the system for so many years, and the laws that held me hostage came from the General Assembly of Illinois; as a strategy, it would be best for me to go down there and change those very laws so that innocent people presently locked up as well as those in the future can get out sooner than later.

# A Championship Victory

by Mary C. Johns  
Editor-in-Chief

Public housing residents of the Stateway Gardens complex recently scored a slam-dunk victory over the Chicago Police Department in a one-half million dollar over illegal police searches at a basketball game in February 2001.

## The Lawsuit

On Feb. 4, 2003, in the case of *Williams v. Brown*, the City of Chicago and attorneys representing residents of Stateway Gardens entered into a written agreement to settle a federal civil rights lawsuit against the Chicago Police Department. The attorneys for the residents from the Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic of the University of Chicago Law School settled with the city for the amount of roughly \$500,000.

On the night of February 22, 2001, as players and spectators from across public housing communities on the city's South Side cheered and rooted for their teams playing basketball in a local tournament, more than 40 police officers allegedly raided the field house. The officers then blocked off exits to stop people from leaving the area, according to the suit. They then searched approximately 300 men and women with children, including babies in diapers, the suit said. The police officers were hired by the Chicago Housing Authority, according to the class action lawsuit against the city.

The night-time basketball tournaments that ran each winter for two months every year were part of a anti-violence strategy that was designed "To reduce violence and crime in the community by getting youth off of the street and engaging them in constructive, organized recreational activities," according to information provided by the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic.

CHA is currently paying the Chicago Police Department \$13.6 million to provide security and "above baseline services" to its public housing tenants, as reported by *Residents' Journal* in Nov. /Dec. 2002 ["Residents Deny Security Improvement Reports," pg. 7].

## The City Defends its Actions

Advocates in the case said that not only were babies' pampers removed by police officers, but pregnant women were also among those searched and detained.

I asked City of Chicago Law Department spokesperson Jennifer Hoyle if the city thinks that the searches and detention was an infringement of the residents' civil rights.

"That was the basis for the lawsuit, and we didn't concede that there was any wrongdoing on the part of the police officers or the police department as a whole," she said during an interview in mid-February.

Hoyle said that the police officers had due cause to search all the people at the basketball game.

"We disagree that there was not undue cause. There was a credible tip that there would be a violent altercation between rival

gang members, and they dispatched police officers to the scene to respond to that," she said.

Hoyle said the police officers were just looking for secret weapons that could be even hidden in the babies' pampers.

"Well, they were looking for places where guns might be hidden."

"The officers did recover two loaded semi-automatic guns at the field house," Hoyle declared.

Hoyle said the only reason why the city settled was purely because the case was too costly.

"From our standpoint, the lawsuit was protracted and it was expensive to defend against. There were a large number of plaintiffs, and a large number of defendants named, which necessitated a very lengthy and expensive discovery. We had to hire outside counsel because of the large number of parties involved. That was the only reason," she said.

Hoyle added that the city agreed to pay close to \$500,000 in total to resolve the civil rights class action lawsuit. She said \$99,000 will be divided between the people who filed the case and those claiming to be searched and detained at the basketball tournament. The remaining \$400,000 will go towards the attorneys' fees.

"The named plaintiffs will get \$2,000 a piece, and then after that it really just depends on how many other people file claims for this case," she said.

## Stateway Gardens Residents Speak Out

Andre Williams, a Stateway Gardens resident, was the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit.

Williams said he sued the city's police department for two reasons. First, because their civil rights were violated, and secondly, to bring about police reform.

"If you think about it, it was a violation of our civil rights. This has been a tournament that has been going on 10 or 12 years without incident. And to have the police come in and destroy that sense of community by violating everybody's civil rights, takes the sense of community away from them," said Williams during an interview at the Local Advisory Council office in February.

"We won't tolerate this kind of madness in our community. And if it happens again, we will definitely bring this lawsuit about again," he declared.

Williams, an African-American man, who has been a member of the resident leadership council for the past 2 years, said being searched and detained against his will was a very unsettling experience for him.

"It's definitely disturbing. I have never really been in trouble but I have been searched by police before. And to have that done publicly in a place where there's close to 300 people is definitely disturbing," he said.

Williams added that money he will receive from the case settlement does not really matter to him. It's the principle that matters.

"It's just the fact that we were able to bring something back to the Stateway community. It's not about the money. It's about

doing what is right," he said.

The city said that the police raided the basketball game because of a tip that something was about to go down between rival gang members.

Francine Washington, the Local Advisory Council president for Stateway Gardens, who was on her way home from the movies while the incident was in progress, said the police rarely come out to the public housing site when she calls to inform them of gang and drug activity.

"[The police] are talking about they went because they had a suspicious phone call. I give them phone calls every day talking about suspicious activities that I know are going on and they never come. Talking about they can't come without a warrant. But yet and still, they can go raid a whole tenement full of people," she exclaimed.

There were seven occupied high-rise buildings at the time of the raid. Six have since been demolished under the CHA's Plan for Transformation.

Washington, who currently lives in the last building remaining at 3651-53 S. Federal St., said the police should consider respecting the rights of public housing residents as well as any other citizen of Chicago.

"One thing that they'll learn is that they just can't be gun-toting, coming in doing what they want to do, when they want to. Because they're licensed to kill, they've got to respect us, our rights and our property," she said.

[The police] are talking about they went because they had a suspicious phone call. I give them phone calls every day talking about suspicious activities that I know are going on and they never come.

-Francine Washington, LAC President of Stateway Gardens

## The Lead Attorney's Response

Craig Futterman, an associate clinical professor of law at the U of C Law School and the lead counsel for the Stateway Gardens residents, said the settlement made history.

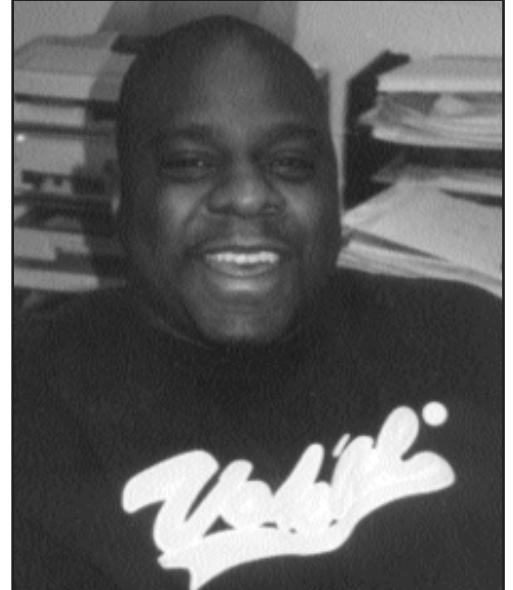
"It certainly makes history in the Stateway community," he said during an interview on Feb. 6.

"And it's an important victory. It was residents that started this. It was residents that brought us in, that brought us down and that started documenting and reporting what's going on in their own community with the eye of 'we need to change this,'" said Futterman.

The so-called "Stateway Roundball Classic" basketball tournament that was held annually at the public housing site for thirteen years before the raid has been dormant since the raid. Futterman said a portion of the money will assist in getting the sports game started up and running again.

"We hope that one of the results that come out of this is a way to keep people connected to the community through the field house that has been an important institution. And we're going to keep things going in the field house. We're going to keep those positive programs that have existed for many years that have been great for people," he said.

The "final fairness" hearing date for the



Stateway Gardens resident Andre Williams was the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit against the city of Chicago's police force.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

city to pay out is scheduled for April 22. And most of the money to the Mandel Clinic will support the provision of free legal services to indigent people who otherwise would lack access to counsel, according to Futterman.

In addition, the Mandel Clinic will make a donation of \$85,000 to the Stateway Civil Rights Project—formally known as the Neighborhood Conservation Council—to assist the organization with continual moni-

toring of the police activities at the public housing site. The organization is based at the public housing site and run and overseen by Jamie Kalven, a long-time community activist for the residents of Stateway Gardens and We The People Media board member.

The basketball Tournament was in the process of establishing a relationship with Mandel Legal Aid Clinic for a police accountability project when the incident happened.

Futterman added that claims will be processed at the Stateway Gardens Park for all those involved to determine who will be able to get a part of the settlement agreement.

## A Sad Note

Brenda Williams—no association to Andre Williams—one of the lead plaintiffs, who brought about the case, did not get the opportunity to participate in the victory celebration. Williams died in July 2003 of breast cancer.

According to the lawsuit, police searched Williams, her diaper bag, and her then 1-year-old daughter in the Field House.

Futterman said that \$4,000 will be given to the beneficiary of her children for her and her child who was searched and detained at the basketball tournament.

# If the Suit Fits, Who Wears It?

by Beauty Turner  
Assistant Editor

**T**here have been numerous suits in the world of Chicago public housing. Some hang around like old suits in a thrift shop, and some new ones are tailor made just for the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and the Chicago Police Department (CPD) by the residents of public housing.

The suits that I'm talking about are not clothes but lawsuits. But these suits are clinging to CHA all the same. Class action lawsuits are what I'm talking about - many of them are being hung out there to air dry, while some of them were considered form fitting.

In some cases, they were tailor made for the residents, and the residents won. Or did they?

Most residents are saying the suits that have been designed for them often come up short or too tight. Either way,

ost residents are saying the suit that was designed for them came up short or too tight.

the suits have not covered or protected the residents from the elements.

I can't help but find a few rips and

tears in the way justice is handed down to the poor versus the way it is handed down to the well-to-do.

Residents complain that, out of all the lawsuits that have been recently won for them, the end result has been that the lawyers and CHA come out well dressed and looking good. The residents still end up without.

Take for instance the lawsuit concerning the 20-years-old contaminated waste in the public housing development

them as up front or back rent, the residents didn't even get to see the emerald green color on the dollar bill.

Many of the residents are now saying, "Show me the money!"

Many residents feel as if CHA and the lawyers are treating them like little children by issuing their money out to CHA as if they don't have sense enough to know how to manage money and if they did that they would give it to CHA before using it for anything else – even if

group occupied the same office space and, while employees say they were promised at the time they could keep working, they have been shut out of the office

"CHA just came in out of nowhere. They knew that we were not with William Green Homes management RMC," Brenda Sanders said.

"[CHA Director of Operations] Duwaine Bailey took me to the back of the office on the day that they came in to oust the other RMC, he said to me that this didn't have anything to do with the RMC that I am president of," Sanders added.

"But yet they put pad locks and chains on the door and now VPS doors cover the place where we were managing from," Sanders said, her voice rising slightly as she spoke.

CHA spokesperson Derek Hill said both RMCs had been fired.

"Both of the RMCs were ousted. We asked them to correct some things; they refused to do that. That's about all I could tell you since it is now in litigation," Hill said.

Sanders' lawyer could not be reached by press time.

## Commentary

called Altgeld Gardens. (Read Clemolyn Brinson, *Residents' Journal*, Jan/Feb 04-pg. 9.)

The lawyers said the residents won but yet the lawyer got half and CHA reaps the rest of the rewards in the form of back rent. The residents who sued

they are up to date in rent payments.

But those previous law suits didn't detour employees of a Cabrini Green Resident Management Corporation (RMC) from cutting their law suit against CHA from whole cloth when they felt that their rights was violated. Their lawsuit is in regard to the unannounced entry of CHA representatives and police officers in the wee hours of the morning before the birds got up to chirp roughly four months ago. The police and CHA officials locked a resident management company out of their on-site offices, alleging incompetence. But a second resident management

M

won't get money. CHA gets the money and gives the residents credit for rent payment. Of the money coming back to



**In the News**

**Top photo depicts Chicago public housing senior residents singing old spiritual songs during the 2nd District Police Community's "African-American History Month Celebration" for CHA residents at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center in February. Photo by Mary C. Johns**

**In the bottom left photo, students from various Chicago public and charter schools display their talents of acting, singing, and dancing in the play "The Wiz 'Remix'" by Cornerstone Productions. The play took place at the Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts in January and February. Photo by Clemolyn "Pennie" Brinson**

**In the bottom right photo, Ald. Manny Flores (1) interacts with children at the Erie House Center, after speaking at a press conference on Mayor Daley's "Born Learning" Early Childhood Initiative at the center in February. Photo by Mary C. Johns**



# Harold Ickes News

by Jacqueline Thompson

**T**here's one thing for sure you can always count on in Harold Ickes Homes. Common conveniences such as a public laundry room, an elevator that works and work orders being filled in a timely manner are things you will never get.

For years, our Local Advisory Council President, Gloria Williams, has been urging each management group that replaces the last one to simply supply the residents with clean, safe, essential laundry facilities.

To this date, we have no such facility, which causes residents to own and operate their own personal washers that, while in use, spinning away dirty water, flood other residents' apartments, hallways and stairwells.

This causes a decay of the floor tiles and cement stairwell steps and damage to pipes and flooded bathroom walls, not to mention destruction of personal belongings. Ickes residents want CHA to take a look at this picture and fix it.

**Residents' Journal** discussed the laundry room with Williams.

GW: "[Management] learned that something was wrong with the pipes and they are trying to get estimates to fix them from some of the outside companies but to date have not been successful."

Meanwhile, there are still thousands

of dollars worth of laundry equipment on the premises steadily depreciating.

Moving right along, **RJ** inquired about the recent release of all trade workers, such as plumbers, carpenters and electricians. Williams said that "Management let this work force go as of December 31, 2003. They did tell me in advance."

**RJ:** Were the residents informed?

**GW:** I don't know.

**RJ:** It was a surprise to me and other residents who were chatting about it.

What do we do now? Who will do their work?

**GW:** The gentlemen who have been selected to do them.

**RJ:** What qualifies them to do these work orders?

**GW:** Well, I understand that they won't be able to do major jobs.

**RJ** then discussed with Williams future redevelopment plans for the complex.

**RJ:** Are there plans to tear down Ickes?

**GW:** I know of no plans to tear down Ickes.

"If they have plans they have not revealed them to me. If the people down here are so worried about it, we need to take responsibility and do something about it.

"Someone who knows that they live next door to squatters and other residents living rent free, this is a problem."

## A Special Tour at N.T.A.

**O**n January 23, **Residents' Journal**, along with several others, toured the National Teachers' Academy, the newest building located in the Harold L. Ickes development boundaries. Many residents see the school as the fulfillment of the promise of quality education in public schools.

A state of the art school is to be built in Ickes, Ald. Madeline Haithcock (2nd) told the residents of that family housing development in 1998, and she was right on target. The architect, De Stefano and Partner sLTD, upon completion of the building, described it as unique within the Chicago public school system, a 162,000-square-foot elementary school complex designed to function as a showcase of state-of-the-art technology for video observation, tele-conferences and distance learning, among other things.

Principal Linda Ford gave us a verbal overview of the development of this innovative education complex while we enjoyed coffee and donuts.

Outside the classrooms were students' art work on exhibit. Huge bulletins boards situated by the room reflected the main theme the classroom teachers are using to connect the curriculum to eager students' minds.

In a special teachers resources room, the group was treated to a special presentation by a first grader who fluently read a selected passage for us. It gave us a taste of

the kind of education available to our young children—accomplishments underway within the walls of N.T.A.

Speaking of walls, on the third floor there are rocks, trees and hut roofs that are intended to convey the feeling of being in an African village. When one steps from the elevator onto the third floor, one encounters a huge sign reading "welcome to our third floor village." All around the school, there are shapes of the African continent with small feet on the edges. Everywhere we went, children and teachers were busy maintaining an even level of teacher-student interaction.

Additional sites visited included the swimming pool with organized swim lessons and the art class with an extensive array of materials and students' art work.

The room that houses the television studio, where students learn every part of production of a television show, captured four of our entourage and we couldn't find them for a while and when we did, they were simply star struck.

It was truly an adventure in the inspection of a unique educational setting well worth the trip. Thank you Principal Ford!

Since then, I've learned that many of the parents who live in Ickes have not toured the school. I think maybe, just maybe, it can be done again.

## In The News

In the left photo, Landon Nathan Turner shows off his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business shortly after graduating from Elmhurst College in February. Landon is the son of **Residents' Journal** Assistant Editor Beauty Turner. Congratulations!

The right photo depicts members of the Central Advisory Council's Executive Committee, Rockwell Gardens Local Advisory Council President Mary Baldwin (from left), Ida B. Wells LAC President Sandra Young, Washington Park LAC president and CAC Chairperson Mary Wiggins, Robert Taylor "B" LAC President Mildred Dennis, ABLA Homes LAC President Deverra Beverly and resident volunteer Carl Polk, posing in front of items they donated to a Robert Taylor Homes family which suffered a tragedy. Dennis reached out to other CAC members after a 15-year-old girl from the development was struck and injured in a traffic accident. Polk helped rehab a larger apartment in Robert Taylor Homes for the family.



right to life ad

# **Blair Hull Full page AD**

# **Blair Hull Full page AD**



# From the Mouths of Babes



## Things You Should Know About Black History Month

**by Jovan Gathings**

Black History Month is important for everyone, especially African-Americans. But a question we must think about is what is the purpose of Black History Month? When did it all begin? I thought you would like to know some of these things.

It all starts with a man named Carter G. Woodson. Woodson, whose parents were slaves, found ways to learn how to read and write. Woodson and his family lived in poverty, but Woodson still had a love for education. At the age of 20, he enrolled at Frederick Douglas High School, the only all-Black school in his area around Harrington, West Virginia. After completing a four-year graduation term in two years, he worked the remaining two years to pay off his college tuition. He obtained a teaching occupation in Winona, West Virginia, but in 1901, Woodson returned to his old high school to teach and then served as principal. As his next step, he enrolled at Berea College, a school established by abolitionists in the state of Kentucky; he then graduated in 1903.

He traveled to teach English to students that spoke Spanish in the Phillipines.

He was hired by the U.S. War Department. He returned to the United States and studied European history at the University of Chicago in 1908, earning his B.A. Degree and M.A. Degree. Then, he started a ten-year career in teaching at Dunbar High School.

Before that, he entered the doctoral program at Harvard University. He received his Ph.D. in 1912 being the second African American to do so.

In the year 1915, Woodson established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. The purpose was to raise funds to support research about Black heritage. Then he founded of the Journal of Negro History (1916), the Associated Publishers (1921) and the Negro History Bulletin (1937).

One of Woodson's greatest achievements finally came in 1926, when he established Negro History Week. During the second week, it was a week when Black achievement was celebrated. His goal was to encourage people to celebrate Negro History Week, passing out kits containing information about Black History.

Negro History Week was changed to Black History Month in the 1960s.

Woodson wanted to omit myths about

African-Americans stating, "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes negligible factor in the thought of the world and it stands in danger of being exterminated."

I also think Black people have a great past going back to slavery days with legends like Frederick Douglas, starting a way for education for Blacks. Crispus Attucks was a Black man who escaped from slavery and fought in the Boston Massacre. Jean Baptiste Pointe DuSable was a French Black man who settled a trading post over Lake Michigan to form Chicago. Benjamin Banneker invented the first almanac and built the first wooden clock. Eli Whitney and his cotton gin, athletes like Jesse Owens, Jackie Robinson, Muhammad Ali and Hank Aaron made their mark in history. Civil Rights leaders like Malcolm X, Rosa Parks and the great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fought for our rights. Also, women like Florence Griffith

Joyner, the first woman to win four track and field medals, Jackie Joyner Kerse was the Olympic Heptathlon champion and Mae C. Jamison was the first Black woman in space. There are only so many I can name.

Why is it there are so many I can name? It's because we have a great history - even a great present and future. I interviewed two busy adults on the South Side of Chicago. One was Mr. Morris, 47, who works at Progressive Baptist Church.

"It's our heritage as Black folks and our roots. It's old school traditions, morals, where our ancestors came from. We should be proud as Black people; we build this country on our backs."

The next person I interviewed is named Dorothy Alexander, 60, who said about the importance of Black History Month, "It celebrates our great past and heritage like slavery and the people who made a path for us."

There was a time that we African-Americans couldn't be anything. We were trapped in chains doing dirty work. Now we can be anything we want, teachers, doctors, astronauts, athletes; there's so many to name. Thanks to Carter G. Woodson, this month can help us accomplish a lot.

**There was a time we African-Americans couldn't be anything, we were trapped in chains doing dirty work. Now we can be anything we want....**

**Can We Stop It?**  
**by Rashawnda Sistrunk**

In 2003, Chicago led the country in murders, ahead of even New York City. There were 599 homicides in Chicago in 2003, according to the Chicago Police Department, and many of them were gang-related.

Gang violence has touched my life and my friends' and relatives' lives.

A relative of mine named "Shorty C" (not his real name) was 12 years old when he shot himself in the hand this summer. I don't know if he is in a gang. His birthday was right around the corner. When he made 13 years old, some boy shot him in the back. He stayed in the hospital about four or five days. The doctor told him that he was blessed because the bullet was two inches from paralyzing him. He came home from the hospital and in two or three weeks, he was outside when the police arrested him and his friend. Shorty had a gun on him and the police

took them to the police station.

There were about six people there saying that Shorty and his friend had shot at them. Shorty's relatives went to the station but the police wouldn't tell them anything. One of the witnesses told Shorty's mother, "Your son shot me," and he told her he was in a gang.

So they took Shorty in a room and they still didn't tell his mother what was going on.

His mother went in the room, and one of the detectives in there told her Shorty was going to the Audey Home juvenile detention center.

When Shorty went to court, I don't think they wanted to know his story. They were just going off the stories of other people. I think he was just trying to protect himself by having a gun, because he knew what had happened to him earlier, when he was shot in the back.

I asked Shorty why he thought they shot him. He said they thought he was in a gang. I asked if he was in one. He said no. I asked why he took the gun outside. He said, "I was protecting myself. You never know what's going to happen so you have to be ready for whatever. You know what I'm talking about?"

I interviewed Serrita Douglas, 17, about her thoughts on the situation.

"I feel very happy for him because he's still alive, even though he got shot in the back," she said. "I think the boys shot him because they might have seen him with some boys from a different gang and thought he was part of it."

Kenneth Watts, 20, said that the whole situation shows how messed up the city is, "where kids have to wear bullet proof vests just to go to school."

"Also the police who are supposed to serve and protect aren't doing anything," Watts said. "They're just making the situation worse by planting guns and drugs and doing brutality, discrimination and racial profiling. The world is crazy."

Watts added that, "Gang violence is a big problem in Chicago, the murder capitol of the world. It puts innocent lives at risk. Something really needs to be done."

I asked Todd Campbell, a teacher at Howard Alternative High School, if he thinks gang violence is a big problem in Chicago.

"Yes, so many people lose their lives to gang violence," he

said. "For example, on average once a week the news broadcasts that someone was shot because of mistaken identity. Gangs have a way of creating a false relationship with youth. Young people look to gangs and gang members for relationships they don't have at home."

I asked if he thinks police often arrest the wrong person for gang crimes. He said, "No, because in our system you are innocent until proven guilty."

I asked how the community could help prevent this violence. He said, "The community can help regulate gang violence if and when parents accept responsibility for their child's behavior. Also when the community shows a vested interest in their children and others."

I think violence is a big problem in Chicago because there are so many innocent people getting killed. I don't think police arrest the wrong person often. Sometimes the people they arrest need to go to jail. I also don't think the community can come together to end gang violence because the people don't listen to what they need to do to stop it. They just keep doing what they are doing.

### Urban Youth International Journalism Program

**Publisher**  
*Ethan Michaeli*

**Assistant Directors**  
*Satin Crable*  
*Kari Lydersen*

### Participants

*Ebony Adams, Velouria Brimmer, Tieara Brown, Rashawn Coleman, Alexis Castleberry, Yolanda Cathey, Roberto Del Toro, Mia Dunlap, Nemayah Evans, Antoinette Franklin, Corey Gathings, Jovan Gathings, Clarivel Gonzalez, Iesha Griffin, LaMonica Hicks, Anquella Jackson, Tyrone Jarvis, Dimitri Juste, Bryant Larkins Jr., Darius Lewis, Lois Lewis, LaKendra McKay, Nick Minor, Andre Murphy, Mary Pickens, Sheena Rhodes, Alexis Salgado, Laura Salgado, Frederick Scott, Antione Shaw,*

## Stereotyping: What Does it Mean? by Sheena Rhodes

There are several different kinds of stereotypes. No one can honestly say they don't make stereotypes. I know I do.

More than likely, if you interact with the world in some kind of way you are going to stereotype something or someone. Stereotyping can involve good or bad reactions. One type of stereotype is when we see a person and we don't like how they look. You might just say this to yourself in your head or you might say it out loud.

We also stereotype people by what clothes they wear or what cars they drive. And there are stereotypes about how a male can date more than one female but a

female can't date more than one guy or she is considered a "slut, skud or hoe." Why aren't males called all these horrible names? The stereotype only applies to

[C]ombating stereotypes includes respecting other people's opinions

women; females are supposed to carry

themselves a certain way but a male doesn't have to do the same.

There is also a stereotype that guys have to pay for drinks and buy roses and all that for women. But it should also be the other way around.

There are lots of stereotypes about race and culture, like that Black people live in certain places and white people live in certain places and Mexicans in other places. The stereotype is that people only want to live with their own culture, but that's not necessarily true. Everyone just wants to live somewhere they feel comfortable and safe. But there is some truth to

the stereotype, because people do want to live with people they can relate to and not feel like an oddball. We are all human, nothing more and nothing less. We all go through life with ups and downs and need to figure the meaning of them out.

I asked several Chicago residents, at random, what the word stereotype means to them.

Jessica Williams, 27, said, "I don't think stereotypes are a good thing. There are too many people being stereotyped. Famous people are always stereotyped."

Standley Barkson, 34, said, "There are all types of stereotypes today. Some are good; they don't have to be bad." He said that combating stereotypes includes respecting other people's opinions.

"We all have different perspectives," he said. "One person might be glad Bush is president and others might think he's not the right person because he played the votes. There are always several ways to look at any situation."

A man named James said all his life he

has been stereotyped because he's albino.

"Everyone always has discussions about whether they think I'm Black or white," he said. "But as I grew up, I learned it doesn't really matter what color you are, it's what's inside that counts. I also learned to grow and just look over the people who stereotype because it really doesn't matter. They just don't know any better because they have ignorant minds. My mother always taught me just to pray for those people."

Maria Garcia, 18, said, "I think stereotyping is wrong because God said, 'Thou shalt not judge.' Everyone likes to stereotype because for some reason it makes them feel better about themselves."

Joanne Ryan, 39, said, "Everyone is stereotyped every day, and it's not always a bad thing. Sometimes it can be a good thing. There are some people who rely on stereotypes to make a living."

It's true stereotyping can be a positive and negative thing. It depends on the situation. But it can hurt people's feelings and so it's best to keep your thoughts to yourself.

## Premature Babies - Take It From Me, Don't Give Up Hope!

### by Serrita Douglas

My mom was 31 years old when she had me on Oct. 25, 1985. My mom had a very difficult pregnancy where she could not carry me to full term. So there I came, 24 weeks early and weighing 1.5 pounds. It was very hard for my mom seeing me not even fully developed. I had a long stay at UIC Hospital for one whole year.

My mom told me the story about the things I had to go through. She said my skin would rip and get infected. The first month of my life I was on a breathing machine. That was because I could not breathe on my own. Soon my lungs collapsed, and the doctors had to do emergency surgery.

The doctors came and told my mother I was not going to make it. My mom, being a believer in God, gave me the will. She prayed and prayed for my health and strength. The next day of my tiny little life, doctors watched me around the clock. My life was so critical the doctors were trying to prevent infections. One month passed and I weighed a little more, and my mom was still pumping her milk for me to be put in a tube.

I was unable to suck from a bottle because I needed a machine to keep breathing for me. Christmas had come and I was still at a small weight, 1.7 pounds. My mother was always by my side. She

did not trust the doctors so she never went home. She slept in chairs in the lobby of the hospital, or sometimes the parent room.

My mom lost her job and her apartment because she said nothing else mattered to her but me. She always said, "I know God did not give me this baby so she can die. God gave her to me for strength and faith and love in the Lord. That's why I never believed what the doctors were saying."

The doctors had no hope for me. By January, my arteries had opened up in my heart, and they had to prepare me for more surgery so they could close them.

At that time, my mother was right by my side as always and praying for a new heart for me. It seems like everything was happening for me all at once. My mom's milk in her breast was empty, and that's what they needed to give me all my proteins and keep me surviving. But my mother never gave up. She just kept on believing her baby would be OK.

One day in the chapel of the hospital, my mother was praying, and she said she did not know she was praying so loud but someone came by and heard her. Later that day, this woman came up to my mom and told her not to cry. The woman told her, "You are so lucky all you need is breast milk for your baby. I had my son full term and he lived for one week and a half and died suddenly. I still have milk I would

love to pump for you so your daughter can have her proteins to live."

My mother said she knew all the time there is a God. My mom also told me you treat people the way you want to be treated no matter what race or color they are. Because she felt this way, she had found someone who felt the same way she did. Because my mother is Black and the woman who came every day to pump milk for me was white.

By March of 1986, I had other problems occurring. But my weight was up to 2.1 pounds, which was good news to my mother's ears.

At the end of March my brain started to bleed, which was really bad. The doctors told her that if I lived, I would be retarded for the rest of my life. My mother told the doctors that, "Whatever turns out, I am still going to have my daughter and love her regardless." The doctors always thought my mother had lost it because she was holding on so strongly!

I made it. This is my story. This shows you should never give up hope even if you find out you are going to have a premature baby.

I also interviewed Nativesha Jackson, 19, whose aunt had a premature baby named Marissa in February 2003.

"She was really worried. She had had three miscarriages," Jackson said. "It was hard for her to pay the bills and it was her first baby, so it was really difficult."

Her aunt's baby was in an incubator and had to eat from a tube. But she made it. Today she gets sick a lot and gets respiratory viruses, but overall she said she's "doing good."

Her advice to other mothers of premature babies is, "Just enjoy the moment and pray to the Lord, and everything will be okay."

Julie Ashley, an English teacher at Howard Area Alternative High School, said she had friends who had a premature baby in the Czech Republic in 1997. She said she "wouldn't believe what the doctors say, because my friend's baby survived."

I asked if the birth affected their life. "It affected her life completely because they lived in the hospital for two months," she said.

She said the baby needed a lot of surgery and physical therapy.

"The baby was so small that it was amazing they could do surgery," she said. The baby ended up having speaking problems and hearing problems but he survived.

"They called it a miracle baby," she said.

Her advice to mothers is, "Don't lose hope in modern medicine, but you have to be very patient."

"He's doing great and is very healthy," she said. "And now he has a little brother."

## Being a Teen Mom by Jacqueline Scott

I'm a teenage mother who got pregnant at the age of 16. When I found out, I told my sister. The first thing she said was, "You are too young to have a baby. You have not even finished school yet."

Then I told the father and he really did not say much about it. So I was thinking "How can you do this? I did not have sex alone, and it hurt because I was pregnant and young and so many people were trying to bring me down. I didn't know what I was going to do. I thought about it and decided to keep the baby. It was a hard decision but I

made the right one. When I went into labor, I had to have a Cesarean because the baby didn't want to come out. When I first held my son, I couldn't help but cry because I had brought a little baby into this world and it felt good. Now I'm back in school and getting ready to graduate in June 2004. When I sit down to look at my son I know I will do what I have to do to give him a good life. His father is in his life and he loves being around our son. My son, Elijah, loves his father very much.

I interviewed two other young women to see what they went through being teen mothers. One woman is named Lakora. She had problems with her baby's father because he didn't want to hang out. "He didn't understand how hard it was for me to raise two kids," she said. "So I

forced him to pay child support."

Hope, 16, is getting ready to have a baby.

"My mother is thinking about putting me out," she said. "I really don't know what to do because I have nowhere to go, so I have to think long and hard about what to do with my baby."

That's why it's important to think about what you do before you decide to have a baby or have sex. Think about all the fun things you like to do like partying, because once you have your baby, you have to put your baby before anything else. My advice to you is think before you act. Being a parent at a young age is not easy. You can get mad really easily. If you do, just ask someone to help you or give you a break. Thanks for reading.

## **How the Media Influences Domestic Violence**

**by Selby Holland**

As a young person I see more domestic violence now involving young women and older women in the media. This is a problem to me because I don't think anyone should ever get that mad to put their hands on you and harm you even if they say they love you. I think they should have a program in high school that talks about domestic violence so that it could later teach teens not to commit domestic violence even if they see it on TV.

How the media influences domestic violence is that if a man sees another man on TV killing and beating his wife or girlfriend, he might get the thought in his mind that he could do it too and get away with it. There are many men out there who have done it and have also gotten away with it. But there also some who go to jail. They have many types of examples in TV shows such as "The Sopranos." They contribute to domestic violence because most of the people in the show abuse their wives and girlfriends and think it's OK or they have the authority to do so because they are the husbands or boyfriends.

I also think talk shows have a big influence on domestic violence in the media because they have all these women coming up and talking about their problems at home with their loved ones and how they treat them and no one does a thing about it. Shows like "Ricki Lake," "Jenny Jones," "Dr. Phil" and many more discuss domestic violence and controlling husbands to show you it's not just you - the viewers at home - it's also super stars and celebrities who are the victims of domestic violence.

I think music also has a big influence on domestic violence. Artists such as Eminem are a big influence, and in one of his songs, "Bonnie and Clyde," he talks about beating his wife and slitting her throat and putting her in the trunk and dumping her body. In another one of his songs

he sings about raping and beating his own mother. Some men get hyped off these songs and want to go out and kill and fight.

Movies also show a lot of domestic violence. For example, the movie "What's Love Got to Do With It" shows a lot about how controlling a man can be toward a woman. In that movie, Ike Turner beats and rapes his wife (Tina Turner) and also tells her what to wear and how to sing her songs. He would beat her if she didn't sing how he wanted her to or if she put her own comment in on something.

Another movie with domestic violence is "Domestic Dispute," where a woman tries to tell her new husband not to talk to her son that way and he slaps her to the ground while she is pregnant. One more movie that portrays domestic violence well is "Enough," where a man is sleeping with another woman and his wife knows about it and he slaps her to the floor and starts beating her and tells her she has to accept him sleeping with the other woman.

After analyzing the media, movies, music and TV shows, I really don't think the media shows domestic violence the right way. They always show it as the women getting hurt really bad and ending up not being able to walk or having something really wrong with them.

I interviewed several people about how the media portrays domestic violence. I interviewed Lamonica Hicks, 19, a student; Mr. Oal, 36, a teacher, and Sara Skow, 23, a teacher.

**RJ:** Do you think the media influences men to commit more domestic violence?

**Hicks:** I feel the media influences men because I see how they disrespect women in music and the movies. They also see it in their homes and everyday life, so when they want to do the same it becomes part of a cycle. The next thing you know, they will be disrespecting girls in school

and calling them bad names just because of what they've seen in the media.

**Skow:** I think it's possible. I think a lot of people today see what's on TV as being real. When young men see that kind of violence without consequences, then that can lead them to being more violent. It creates a culture where violence is accepted.

**RJ:** Have you or someone you know ever experienced domestic violence?

**Hicks:** My friend has been with her guy for two years and she says she loves him but she said that about the last guy she was with who was 54 years old. The guy she is dating now, she changed her whole life for, even becoming a Muslim. She stopped eating meat and started preaching that everything is bad. He beats her and she works to take care of him. I have pictures of the abusive acts. The pictures show scratches on her neck and a busted lip. She left her friends and family to be with this abusive man. No one is allowed to call her house and he keeps her locked away. She married him last September.

**Oal:** I have witnessed acts of domestic violence. I was walking through the park the other day and I saw a woman with a black eye sitting on the park bench.

**Skow:** I had a friend whose boyfriend was physically abusive toward her.

**RJ:** Do you think TV shows influence domestic violence?

**Skow:** Yes, I think it makes violence something to laugh at. So then the audience forgets the violent behavior is something serious. These shows sometimes make criminals look like kings.

**Oal:** No, I think the shows are one way of preventing domestic violence—shows like "Oprah," "Montell Williams" and "Ricki Lake."

shoot a weapon.

**Q:** What did your family think about you being a soldier?

**A:** My family is extremely proud of me for being a soldier. They are very, very supportive!

**Q:** Would you go on a mission again if you had the choice?

**A:** Yes, absolutely.

**Q:** Was Iraq a lot different than the U.S.? How?

**A:** I was in Diego Garcia for five months during the war, which is a tiny island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. It was extremely different from the U.S. because it was so small and it was also very hot and humid. There were wild roosters and chickens running everywhere, and lots of palm trees and hundreds of crabs on the beach.

**Q:** What advice would you give to the family of other soldiers?

**A:** The advice I would give is be supportive and proud of what your daughter or son is doing. Write them and keep in touch with them every day. Send them packages with food and magazines from the U.S., because little things like that you do not have overseas. Just love them and let them know how proud of them you are!

## **The Heart of a Soldier**

**by Alexis Salgado**

My story is about a soldier's heart. If I had a girlfriend with a baby and they sent me to war, that would affect my whole life. It would because my life is like no other person's. I mean I would be scared, disappointed, nervous, sad.

But if I have to go to war, well, that's life. It's like the saying that the way the cookie crumbles is the way it is. If God gave me the strength to survive in the war, I would turn my life into being a better person than I was before. I would respect people and care for people. But life is not a dream, life is what you have to accomplish before you die. My life would be different if I was a soldier. My question is, what is it like to be a soldier? What is in a soldier's heart?

I interviewed Rachel Tukey, a soldier in the U.S. Air Force, over email. Rachel served during the war in Iraq.

**Q:** What was your mission?

**A:** My mission was to fly and give gas, while we were

flying, to other planes so that they would have enough gas to get over to Iraq and back. I am a flying gas station! On the plane that I fly there is enough gas to drive your car for 100 years.

**Q:** Were you scared at the moment you had to accomplish the mission?

**A:** I was not scared at all. Being a soldier is something very special and it makes me feel good to know that I am serving my country. I know every night when I go to sleep that I am doing something very important, and that is to protect the freedoms of American citizens. With this in mind, it is easy to not be scared because you know how important your job is and how much it means to everyone back in America. It was very sad during the war because as a pilot, I fly a big plane that gives gas to other planes. I had to give gas to a plane, the B-52, that was going to drop lots of bombs on Iraq. I was sad because I knew that those bombs would probably hurt a lot of people.

**Q:** What kind of weapons did you use for the war? Were they heavy to use? Was it your first time?

**A:** The first time I had to use a weapon was in basic training about 10 years ago, and I had to shoot an M-9 and then an M-16. The M-9 is not heavy at all, it is a tiny pistol, but the M-16 is. Now that I am a pilot I do not have to

## **CONGRATULATIONS JOVAN**

**Jovan Gathings, 14, a UYIJP reporter, was awarded the "Student of the Month" for January 2004 at Robeson High School. We're proud of you! Keep Up The Good Work!**



## Football for Dummies by Roberto Del Toro

Football is an American sport. It was created in the 19th century from soccer. American football may have been played by the ancient Greeks, called *hatpaston*. In this game, there was no limit to the number of players on the field. In the middle of the 19th century, football split off into two different sports—soccer and rugby.

The football field is shaped like a rectangle which measures 100 yards long and 53.5 yards wide. At both sides of the field there is a 10-yard zone that is called the end zone. The team with the ball has to get the ball into the end zone to score a touchdown. Sidelines run along both sides of the field. The sidelines are 70 feet, 9 inches long. In the end zones, there is a goal post that the ball has to go through to get a field goal.

A football game is divided into four periods also called quarters. Each quarter is 15 minutes long. The first time period is the first half and the last two are the second half. Between the two halves there is a 15-minute period that is called half time in

which players can rest. On each team there are 11 players. On the offense is the center, the tackle and the guard. They have to block and can't go out for passes or run with the ball. The quarterback who has to throw the ball to a player out in the field passes the ball to someone near him so they can run with the ball. Wide receivers go out in the field and try to catch the ball and make a touchdown while another player is trying to stop them. The running back is the one that the quarterbacks pass the ball to and they run with the ball. On the defense, the defenses' linemen have to stop quarterbacks and stop the opponents' rushing attack.

The linebackers have to stop the runners with the ball. Quarterbacks cover the wide receivers and the safeties cover receivers and put pressure on the quarterback.

The object of football is to get the ball in the opponent's end zone and score touchdowns. A touchdown is worth six points. After a touchdown, a team can go for one or two point conversions. For a one-point conversion, the kickers of the team have to kick the football through the goal post. For a two-point conversion the player has to run or catch the ball in the end zone. A team can also go for a field goal and it counts for three points.

I interviewed a couple of people and here is what they said.

Dan Topping, 30, said that he does like football because he likes the exciting competition, the spectacular plays, the teamwork, the community and the support. "My favorite player is Derrick Brooks, and he is linebacker on the Tampa Bay Buccaneers," he said.

He said that he first learned about football in grade school, on TV, in video games, from friends, family and books. He said football is the biggest American sport—the Super Bowl is the most watched TV event," he said.

Osvaldo Del Toro, 19, said that he likes football because it is challenging and fun.

"Brian Urcuhes is my favorite player," he said. "He is linebacker on the Chicago Bears." He said that the most important thing about football is, "the actual football because without the football you can't play." He said he learned about football in grammar school, "because I would play with my friends."

"I don't think football is the biggest American sport because I like baseball better and more people like baseball—Go Cubs."

Norm Ellingsen, 25, said that he loves football and likes the hitting the best. He said that Dan Marina is his favorite player and he plays quarterback but he retired a few years ago.

"Teamwork is the most important

thing because everyone has to work together or else you will lose every game," he said. "I first learned about football by watching it on TV and my parents both liked to watch football," he said. "So I started watching it."

He said he thinks football is the biggest American sport, "Because it is so action-packed that it only stops for short breaks. Baseball used to be the American sport but because it is so slow, people lose interest." Tim Jasutis, 27, said that even though football is not his favorite sport, he enjoys the strategies used to maintain possession of the ball and improve field positions.

"My favorite player is Mike Vandervagt, a kicker for the Indianapolis Colts," he said. "Mike is one of the most reliable kickers in the NFL history. I personally believe the importance of kickers is often overlooked and taken for granted."

He added that, "The most important thing about football is that it teaches teamwork and discipline to the players. This is important because the players experiences off the field."

He played football recreationally as a child and only started watching it recently. He advises that the two best ways to learn about football are to actually playing it or watching it with others who are knowledgeable.

## by Anonymous

This article is about my experience in Cook County jail. In this article I'm not trying to offend or scare anyone, but keep it real and try to get you to feel how I felt, imagine what I've seen and hopefully make you not want to take the trip to County.

Even though I can't share all 90 days with you, I can give you enough to remember. Enough of the intro. Let's get into the story. The winter had just gotten over with. It was early spring and a school day. I was on my way to school but wanted to take a trip through the block to try to make a couple of bucks. Making my first sell [of drugs] for 30 bucks; I felt good and wanted to "post up" [stand on the corner and wait for another customer] a little longer. On the inside something was telling me to go to school. But I stayed on the block a little longer and made a couple more sells, and started off to school. As I got half way up the block the police came from everywhere

with their guns out telling me to get on my knees. My first thought was to run but then I thought they're going to kill me or give me a number of years I can't do, so I gave in, dropped to my knees and let them handcuff me.

All the way to the station I blanked out, just thinking, and before I knew it I was in the process.

In jail, I met a lot of people, smart ones, young and old. One person I met was some dude about 24 years old who went by the name Babyface. He had to be one of the craziest people in jail at the time but the dude was smart, you could tell by his conversation. He was my cell mate, and we were playing a game of chess when he asked me what I was in for. I told him selling dope. Then he asked me why I'm so quiet. I told him I didn't know nobody on the deck and wasn't trying to know nobody. He asked why. My reply was that I didn't want any new friends or enemies. He said cool, and we finished playing chess. I lost

because it was my first time playing. I smoked a roll up and read the paper. We were on the way to dinner when a fight broke out -- two Mexicans were boxing and they were getting down too until the sheriffs broke it up.

After dinner, I lay there thinking about how my cousins and brothers talked about how this was the place to be. But I don't care what anybody says, I couldn't get used to being in a jail.

Going through the process on day one was not fun.

I was trapped in a long cold hallway naked waiting to be searched and see the so-called "dick doctor." Waiting to be locked in a cell is not how I planned to spend my Saturday. All the treacherous tales I'd heard about jail, and now I was waiting to go through it. I finally reached my cell -- I called it my cage. I'm gang-related so my fellow gang members came to talk to me and let me know what's going on on this deck.

understanding.

"I think she just wanted to trap me," he said. "Lil man is still my lil man but man it's hard because he thinks I'm his daddy. My girlfriend really likes him, she buys him everything from pampers to shoes. Her and the mama are real cool with each other, it's hard to believe it but it's true." I asked how that all makes him feel.

"It's all cool as long as Shorty (the mother) gets the support for Lil Man," he said. "She (the mother) doesn't have support from the father or her mother. All she has is us. We're good friends, nothing more."

I asked the 17-year-old father what it feels like to be a father so young.

"It's hard, especially when he's at my house."

I asked why he took a DNA test.

"The reason I took one was because she (the mother) said it was someone else's to a friend of hers, and it got back to me," he said. "Females don't understand how men feel when you say a child is theirs and then turn it around

and that gets them hurt. Some people don't care but I do."

How did you feel when you found out what she said, I asked.

"I wanted to beat her up, but I didn't do anything. It stressed me out!"

I asked a 19-year-old woman named Chanel, who didn't want her last name used, why she thinks women sometimes lie about their baby's father.

"Well, from my experience, I think females do it because they find themselves in so much love that they think if they have a baby for him, he'll stay with them," she said. "But that doesn't work. He could leave at any time."

Would you ever tell your boyfriend it's his when it's a lie?

"I can't really give you a straight answer on this," she said. "I think any female knows that if she's being taken good care of (by one boy) and the father doesn't have any means (to make a living), if she can't support the baby, she will just go with the best situation. That's my opinion."

## Baby Daddies

### by Shacara Hudson

You often hear about the experience of teen mothers. I decided to interview some teen fathers to get their point of view. They said that sometimes girls do things like wanting to get pregnant to keep a boy, but that doesn't always work. Sometimes girls say a boy is the father when he's not. I interviewed a 17-year-old father and a 20-year-old father, who didn't want their full names used.

Anthony, 20, who didn't want his last name used, said a girl tried to tell him she was having his baby, though later a DNA test showed it was not true. He said by the time they found out the baby wasn't his, he had already developed a relationship with the baby and he continued to spend time with him. He said it was hard to explain the situation to his current girlfriend, but she ended up being

hitting punching slapping kicking name calling hair pulling breaking objects intimidating stalking

**It's late at night.** You hear loud angry voices.

# Glass breaking. Children crying.

The voices get louder. You hear a sharp slap, and a few seconds later, what sounds like a body hitting the floor.

# What Would You Do... What if it was You??

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN DANGER CALL 911**

For a referral to an agency that provides shelter, counseling or legal advocacy, you can contact the City of Chicago Domestic Violence Help Line:

**1-877-863-6338**

**1-877-863-6339 (TTY)**

# **THERE IS HELP AVAILABLE**

For more information about domestic violence, obtaining an Order of Protection or how to get involved in your community, call the Chicago Police Department Domestic Violence Program.

312-745-6340

or your local Community Policing Office.



**Chicago Police Department:  
Philip J. Cline, Superintendent**



**City of Chicago**  
**Richard M. Daley, Mayor**

This project is supported by Grant #99-WF-VX-0017 awarded by VAWA, ICJIA

# Positive People

by Crystal Medina Editorial Assistant

## Janice Patton

**J**anice Patton was a resident of the Robert Taylor Homes for 29 years and was relocated to the Prairie Parks Apartments with a Housing Choice Voucher. She's resided there for four years.

Patton first moved to the development from Meridian, Mississippi. She describes the move as going from middle income to the ghetto and says it was a culture shock to see the way people lived. She says CHA tried but there was always a different commissioner.

"It got worse every time a different commissioner came. It got more crooked. People were pocketing money, taking payoffs and no one kept up the buildings. It stayed a slum."

Janice stepped into her mother's footsteps who was building council president for 29 years and who was very active in the community. She became building council president in 1998. She has also stayed productive by doing different things in the community.

In the past, she has worked in the breakfast and lunch programs in the summers, and was a side supervisor with the MET (Mayor's Office of Employment Training) program for four years working with youth aged 14 to 17. She has also worked as an HIV Health Educator. She gave out condoms, talked about STDs, and was involved in different workshops, where she talked to people about how to protect themselves.

These days, Janice is still certainly busy. She is involved with the Washington Park Advisory Council. She explained to me how some people from Woodlawn got in touch with people from Washington Park and this was the beginning of the credit union that she is involved with. It is located in the mall at 55th Street and the Dan Ryan Expressway. The credit union is just like a bank, Janice explained. It is supposed to help low-income people. It provides

loans to low-income people who might be otherwise rejected or be charged high rates of interest. They do not charge high fees for money orders or to cash checks. It opened in late November.

Patton is also part of the Save the Dan Ryan Committee. They are against the tearing down of the Dan Ryan exits. Part of the reason she is against the reconstruction is because the Illinois Department Of Transportation does not have safety precautions with regards to health in their plans. The fumes that come from construction and the trucks that are driving on the expressway are going to affect the residents because they are going to have to take the streets. Asthma is a very big problem in the city because of the pollution.

"They thought they couldn't be stopped but they got stopped by a group of people who are going to fight!" Janice exclaimed, "We're not going to be pushed around."

In regards to the people living in public housing, she feels that the peoples' attitude "is living for that day.

"They want the same thing other people want," explained Patton. "They want the American dream, but because they are poor it's harder for them."

## Olecia Kyle

**O**lecia Kyle is a former resident of Wentworth Gardens and has been relocated with a temporary housing choice voucher. She says she just might stay in the subsidized housing because of her family. In the future, she would like to own her own home. This friendly, outgoing woman is a proud single mother of three girls, a freshman, fifth grader and fourth grader.

She has been active in the National Organization for Women for three years. She joined the organization through her sister, Joanne Kyle, who happens to be an activist. With the organization, she marched in Washington for women's rights.

"It was lots of fun. It was new for me – the first time getting out of Chicago for such a good cause," Olecia says. She also attended the Million Women March.

Olecia works as an administrative assistant and mentor for the Teen Reach program at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center. The program has 25 kids ranging in age from 11 to 17. With this program, the kids get to go on lots of fieldtrips such as the auto show or a UIC sporting event. They have their first teen summit coming up soon that

will be hosted by different celebrities. She gets the children involved in topics that they call life skills; this could mean anything from teen pregnancy to troubles at school. She helps them with their homework and they do arts and crafts. She has relationships with some of their teachers and with parents.

In addition to her job and taking care of her family, Olecia decided to go back to school at Harold Washington College to further her education in child development. In the future she would like to use her skills to one day have her own Teen Reach program.

She tries to be as positive as she can and tries to watch what she says and does because of her girls.

Olecia said, "Hold your head up at all times through the trials and tribulations. Live life and learn

in a positive man-

ner."



**Relocated Robert Taylor Homes resident Janice Patton.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

# Barack Obama AD



**Relocated Wentworth Gardens Homes resident Olecia Kyle**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

# El sonido del silencio

por Mary C. Johns

(Comentarios sobre los aspirantes a la candidatura presidencial del Partido Demócrata)

¿Qué ocurre? ¿Qué les pasó a las personas que creen en la justicia social? Los pobres de este país quieren saber lo que se proponen hacer los principales aspirantes a la candidatura presidencial del Partido Demócrata respecto a los problemas que más afectan a la población de bajos ingresos, pero las personas que organizan las campañas de esos mismos candidatos enmudecieron cuando se les dio la oportunidad de establecer un diálogo con las comunidades de bajos ingresos de Chicago.

Durante sus campañas y debates a escala nacional, los dos candidatos demócratas que van a la cabeza de esta contienda, el senador John Kerry (Massachusetts) y el senador John Edwards (Carolina del Norte), siguen hablando acerca de sus opiniones sobre la guerra con Irak y lo que piensan hacer respecto a la seguridad nacional, la atención médica, las medidas fiscales y los empleos para la clase media, así como respecto a la protección del medio ambiente.

Sin duda los pobres se preocupan también por todas estas cuestiones, pero cuando se trata de otros problemas que son una preocupación específica de las personas con bajos ingresos, los candidatos simplemente desaparecen. Hablan muy poco o nada sobre los problemas relacionados con la pobreza, la reforma al sistema de prestaciones sociales, las viviendas a precios asequibles y las viviendas públicas, los ex delincuentes y las actividades derivadas de la presencia de bandas y traficantes de drogas que estremecen diariamente a todo el país, a las

comunidades de los centros de las ciudades y también a las áreas rurales y suburbanas por igual.

En la página de Internet de su campaña, Kerry ofrece cierta información acerca de sus planes para crear viviendas a precios más asequibles. Edwards habla mucho acerca de las "dos naciones" ("two Americas") y menciona todo lo que tuvo que sufrir su familia para salir adelante. No obstante, durante esta campaña ninguno de los candidatos ha tenido mucho que decir acerca de los pobres concretamente. De hecho, no hemos escuchado las palabras "pobres" o "personas de bajos ingresos" en los discursos de ninguno de ellos. Hasta finales de febrero no hemos visto a ninguno de los candidatos en fotografías o en la televisión o los periódicos locales visitando comunidades de bajos ingresos o en compañía de personas identificadas como personas de bajos ingresos.

## Dejados de lado

**A** igual que sus jefes, el personal que organiza las campañas de estos senadores parece tener muy poco interés en abordar las preocupaciones de los pobres. Una vez más, se ha dejado de lado a los pobres.

Ninguna de las oficinas nacionales o locales de estas campañas respondió a las preguntas de Residents' Journal. Nadie en las oficinas de los centros de campaña de Kerry o Edwards en Washington, D.C., Chicago, o Raleigh en Carolina del Norte atendió nuestras preguntas. Me encontré con esta misma contrariedad al dirigirme al personal de Howard Dean, ex gobernador de Vermont, antes de que abandonara sus aspiraciones a la candidatura demócrata a mediados de febrero.

En cada una de estas oficinas yo le entregué a cada persona con la que hablé un

cuestionario respecto a las viviendas a precios asequibles y las viviendas públicas, el empleo y la educación para ex delincuentes, la reforma al sistema de prestaciones sociales y la violencia de las bandas, así como la venta y el consumo de drogas en la calle. Yo quería saber lo que cada candidato se proponía hacer en esas áreas.

Éstos son los principales problemas para los estadounidenses pobres, pero son problemas que también afectan a todas las familias estadounidenses en menor o mayor grado. No creo que sea demasiado pedir que los candidatos expresen sus opiniones acerca de estos temas.

Dediqué más de dos semanas a llamarles continuamente por teléfono y ellos me pasaban una y otra vez de una persona a otra sin darme ninguna información concreta. Al final, las personas que manejaban estos asuntos en los centros de campaña me daban la misma respuesta: nadie estaba autorizado para hablar en nombre de los senadores o en nombre del ex gobernador.

Al principio creí que esto era algo extraño. Todos los miembros de las organizaciones de campaña con los cuales conversé se comportaban con amabilidad y parecían estar interesados en ayudarme en los primeros momentos de nuestra charla.

Después de un rato, me daba la impresión de que no querían ser molestados con estas preguntas o estaban demasiado atareados para atender las preocupaciones de los pobres. En cambio, por supuesto que tienen tiempo de sobra para hablar con los periodistas de otras comunidades o grupos sociales.

## El sonido del silencio

¿Cuál es el mensaje que nos transmite este silencio?

Todos los estadounidenses tenemos el derecho de saber lo que se proponen hacer los candidatos presidenciales acerca de las viviendas para las personas sin casa y las viviendas para personas de bajos ingresos. En años recientes, ignorar este problema ha creado una

escasez general de viviendas económicas, de tal manera que las familias con bajos ingresos ahora compiten por viviendas con los trabajadores de clase media, los estudiantes universitarios, las personas infectadas con el VIH o con SIDA y las personas con discapacidades, entre otros grupos de la población. Muchas personas tienen enormes dificultades para encontrar un lugar de precio asequible donde vivir.

Los estadounidenses queremos saber lo que podemos esperar de cada candidato, si llegase a ser elegido presidente de los Estados Unidos, respecto a los recortes en los programas de asistencia pública para los pobres a nivel federal y respecto a la gente que sigue pasando hambre en este país de abundancia y acerca de los obstáculos que tienen los ex delincuentes para conseguir empleo y vivienda. ¿Cuáles son sus intenciones para acabar con las actividades de bandas y traficantes de drogas que atormentan a nuestro gran país como una enfermedad mortal?

Las pocas personas de bajos ingresos que tuvieron oportunidad de hablar con los candidatos les hicieron preguntas que son importantes para todos. Al menos 3000 votantes de bajos ingresos se presentaron en un foro en Carolina del Sur a finales de enero y dirigieron sus preguntas a seis de los siete aspirantes a la candidatura demócrata. Las preguntas fueron sobre educación, el costo de la atención médica y los medicamentos con receta, la ciudadanía para los inmigrantes y los planes para sacar las tropas estadounidenses de Irak.

Todos tenemos las mismas inquietudes. Simplemente algunas son más apremiantes que otras.

Están ignorando a los pobres, pero si los candidatos demócratas que aspiran a la presidencia desean ser elegidos deben hacer un mayor esfuerzo para llegar a estos votantes.

Esta ignorancia podría costarles la elección.

## CHINESE TRANSLATION

**KOREAN TRANSLATION**

**RUSSIAN TRANSLATION**

# Letters to the Editor

## To Whom It May Concern

Dear Editor:

If jobs and housing are needed, why wait for a "drop in the bucket," "business as usual" or junior communist strategies to come to fruition? Unless the real purpose is for leaders to only feel good about themselves while they "fight the good fight," faster action is warranted.

Displaced public housing residents could serve as caretakers for foreclosed properties, until the buildings could be sold. Not only would residents have a place to live, but they would be preventing the crime that vacant buildings attract. Grants or loans should be used to enroll the unemployed or under-employed in truck driving school. Then they could have high-

paying, recession-proof, union jobs.

AIDS could be prevented by greater testing. We already have a free, no stigma HIV test— it's called blood donation. Donating blood on a regular basis would provide a constantly updated status of the donor's condition. Not to mention ending the chronic blood shortage we currently have.

All these simple steps could make a profound change in just a few months. I'm sure you can think of many more. If you don't like the choices offered you, make new choices.

-James Reyes

## Crystal Clear Views

### Happy Election Time, Readers!

It's that time of year people: break out the whistles and banners, a new sheriff's coming to town! No. Not really. We may be getting a new president. Is everybody ready? For what you ask? Ready for the big changes that everyone is advertising. Are we ready for big changes in the school? Yeah! Are we ready for big changes in the economy? Yeah! Are we ready to make life better for the poor? Yeah!

Hmmm...this all feels so familiar. You probably remember when you would sit in the school auditorium and listen to the student council promise better food in the school cafeteria. The last I checked, the menu hasn't changed.

I am surprised at myself. I have figured it out. For people like me who really don't care for politics, even elections, we don't really have to get engrossed. I have been the victim of lunch time debates plenty of times—check please! Just don't be ignorant to what is going on in our nation. After all, do we really want to hand over our country to careless hands? As an American, I will not sit back anymore. I still kick myself over the last elections because it was the first year I was old enough to vote, and I didn't. You see, I'm a very opinionated person, and when things go wrong, I speak my mind. I've had a lot to say in the last four years, but I have to shut my mouth after someone politely asks, "Did you vote?" You can't complain if you didn't vote in the first place.

I want to know what's going on. I want the best for all of us.

Gosh Darn it, I want to exercise my right to open up my

trap, whenever I feel it's necessary! Often, may I add. I am going to vote.

Where do I start?

Register to vote.

Second?

Follow the elections.

The primary elections for 2004 are going to be held on March 16th.

A primary is a vote in a political party to select a contestant for position or political office. Primaries cover offices at all levels of government. There are twenty offices on the 2004 Primary Election Ballot that people will vote for such as President, U.S. House of Representatives, State Senate, State House of Representatives, Supreme Court, Court of Criminal Appeals, State board of Education, etc. In the process of voting in the primary elections, a secret ballot is used to vote like in a regular election. Some primary elections are closed, meaning that they are only open to registered members of a certain political party. Open primaries are for people from any party, or even none at all. Each party's primary election winner then goes on to the general elections which will be held Nov. 2nd this year.

In this primary election for the President of the United States, you will have to elect a candidate to represent your political party to run for president. The nominee for president has to select a running mate, who will be a vice presidential candidate. The two winning candidates from the primary election

will have to face off, debating at least twice, before the general election. They will argue the views and plans that they have for the nation. This year, it will be a Democratic candidate running against President George Bush because he is up for re-election. The twenty-second amendment of the constitution limits the President to two terms.



**Crystal Medina**

R E S I D E N T S '

## J o u r n a l

**Residents' Journal** is distributed free to all Chicago public housing residents and participants in the Section 8 subsidized housing program. But if you are not a public housing resident, and would like to support **Residents' Journal**'s plan to become a financially self-sufficient entity, or would like to subscribe, please fill out the attached subscription form and mail a check or money order to:

**Residents' Journal/We The People Media**

4859 S. Wabash Ave.

Chicago, IL 60615

A personal subscription costs \$20 per year. Sponsor subscribers, whose names appear on page 3 of each issue, pay just \$100 per year.

For more information or to send us a fax, please call (312) 745-2682 or fax (773) 285-2853.

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

## Prescription Drugs Concerns

Dear Editor:

What can one do about the rise of prescription medicines? Until late last year, I was covered under my husband's Teamxr4 insurance. They paid 80 percent of the cost of the medicines.

He is no longer covered because he had turned 65 last September. He has to take multiple medicines plus the insurance went up per person a month.

I had called in a prescription of mine which I have been taking since 1975.

To my amazement the Walgreens employee told me my medicine was \$300. I am like, "What

are you talking about? I am still covered by my husband's insurance until I reach the famous age of 65."

"Oh," I am told, "there has been a changeover that had just started in Feb '04." I was not notified of this change, and I cannot take the generic alternative to my medication. I had tried that a long time ago and became ill. So I feel screwed.

I call the new insurance company, explaining the situation.

"Sorry," was the reply, "New ruling."

Then I told the person whom I was speaking to that I guess my body will go into shock and I will be a very sick person.

That remark got his attention and he asked for my phone number to see what can be done.

Hopefully they will pay like the other insurance coverage.

I would imagine you receive many letters like mine. I never thought that I would someday be on this end of the stick—and I do mean stick because that is what these so-called health providers do to you—stick it to you. The "golden years" should be the best time of your life.

-Carol Chambers

## Watch Residents' Journal Television

Monday nights beginning April 5 thru June 24 on Channel 21 (Cable Access Network CAN-TV) the staff of **Residents' Journal** will host a live call-in show from 6:30 p.m. - 6:55 p.m. Topics will include housing, welfare reform, security, Medicare and a range of other issues that we cover. We encourage all viewers but particularly Chicago public housing residents to tune in and call our hotline number at (312) 738-1060.

**Residents' Journal** welcomes submissions from all of our readers and especially from public housing residents. Please send all letters to our new address: 4859 S. Wabash Chicago, IL 60615. You may also call our office at (312) 745-2682 to discuss your ideas for submission.

# Stop the Violence

by Cenabeth Cross

The recent activities of a famously named young man have reminded me of the tough times of a bygone era. I was watching the tube when I saw a youth named Fred Hampton, Jr. interrupt a gun-control meeting being held by Mayor Richard M. Daley. Hampton asked Daley what was going to be done about the killing of 18-year-old Darryl Hamilton.

This is certainly not the first time a young man by the name of Fred Hampton shook things up in Chicago. According to the book



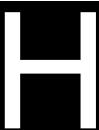
Cenabeth Cross

raid. Both Fred Hampton and party member Mark Clark were killed. One was still in bed.

Hampton, Jr. was accompanied in his televised interrogation of Daley by Aaron Patterson, a Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 6th district who was incarcerated for 17 years before being released and exonerated for a crime he had not committed.

RJ contacted Hampton for

hampton describes POCC as an organization founded to help the youth of Chicago.



Community activist  
Fred Hampton Jr.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

"Clout," written in 1975 by television commentator Len O'Connor, the Chicago Black Panther Party leader was assassinated on Dec. 4, 1969 when police officers burst into his home.

The order came from Mayor Richard J. Daley, the book claims, and the deed was carried out by Edward V. Hanrahan, then Cook County states attorney.

Hanrahan was acquitted of conspiring to obstruct justice under a cloud of controversy following the

an interview. He is chairman of the Prisoners of Consciousness Committee, or POCC. Hampton describes POCC as an organization founded to help the youth of Chicago.

"While I was captive inside, we formed the POCC. Since being released I define myself as being recharged instead of being rehabilitated. The more I do this work, the more passionate I become, with my people in general."

Right now he is helping to draw attention to the shooting of a youth gunned down on December 2, by the name of Darryl Hamilton.

Hamilton was shot in the back several times as well as in the head, according to Hampton, who also said that after shooting the youth he was dragged, face down across a playground, which caused his face to be mutilated.

Fred Hampton described himself as a freedom

IF YOU WERE IN THE STATEWAY GARDENS FIELD HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 22, 2001 AND YOU WERE SEARCHED, DETAINED, OR SEIZED BY A CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER, YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO MONETARY COMPENSATION.

\*\*PLEASE READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY\*\*

TO: ALL PERSONS WHO WERE SEARCHED, DETAINED, OR SEIZED BY CHICAGO POLICE OFFICERS IN THE STATEWAY GARDENS FIELD HOUSE ON FEBRUARY 22, 2001, DURING THE STATEWAY ROUND BALL CLASSIC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT. YOU ARE A MEMBER OF A CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT.

A settlement (the "Settlement") has been proposed in the case of *Williams v. Brown*, No. 01 C 3228, a class action lawsuit (the "Lawsuit") pending in the Northern District of Illinois, before the Honorable Judge Sidney I. Schenkier, relating to the police action in the Stateway Gardens Field House on February 22, 2001. Under the terms of the proposed Settlement, the Defendant City of Chicago will pay a total of \$99,000.00 to all Class Members, of which a total of \$14,000.00 will be awarded to the seven named Plaintiffs who prosecuted the Lawsuit on behalf of the Class, in equal shares of \$2,000.00 per person. \$85,000.00 shall be distributed in equal shares to the remaining Class Members who file valid and timely Proofs of

Claim. In addition, the City of Chicago shall pay a stipulated judgment of \$400,000.00 in fees and costs to Class Counsel. Out of its legal fees, the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic will give \$85,000.00 to the Stateway Civil Rights Project of the Invisible Institute.

If you are a Member of the Class described above, your rights will be affected by the Settlement and you may be entitled to share in the Settlement funds. To request monetary compensation from the Settlement, you must file a valid Proof of Claim. You do NOT need to appear in Court. If you did not receive the Notice of Proposed Class Action Settlement in the mail and your status as a Class Member was not approved by Class Counsel before December 17, 2003, you must file your Proof of Claim along with the required supporting documentation in person with Class Counsel at the Stateway Gardens Field House, 3658 South State Street, Chicago, on March 4 or 8, 2004 or April 7, 2004, between the hours of 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Proof of Claim forms with instructions are available during regular business hours from Class Counsel at:

**Craig B. Futterman, Class Council**  
**Williams v. Brown Settlement**  
**Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic**  
**6020 South University Avenue**  
**Chicago, IL 60637**  
**(773) 702-9611**

Proof of Claim forms may also be obtained during

regular business hours from the offices of the **Stateway Local Advisory Council, 3653 South Federal, #103, Chicago, (312) 791-8887**. If there are exceptional circumstances that prevent you from filing the Proof of Claim in person, you must contact Class Counsel at the number and address listed below before March 24, 2004 to make alternative arrangements to file your Proof of Claim.

If you want to exclude yourself from the Class, you must send a letter or postcard requesting exclusion from the Class addressed to Class Counsel at the address listed above. Your request must be received no later than April 16, 2004. Your request for exclusion must include the name of this Lawsuit (*Williams v. Brown*, No. 01 C 3228), your name and address, and the words "I do not want to be a Member of the Class." If you are a Class Member and do not exclude yourself from the Class, you will be bound by the Settlement and the Order and Final Judgment of the Court.

A hearing will be held in the United States District Court, Northern District of Illinois, 219 South Dearborn, Room 1700, Chicago, Illinois, before the Honorable Judge Sidney I. Schenkier on April 22, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. to determine whether the proposed Settlement should be approved by the Court as fair, reasonable and adequate to all Class Members. You have the right to be heard and/or object at the hearing in person or

through an attorney of your own choosing. To be heard, you must file written notice of your intent to appear and any objections with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 219 South Dearborn, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, IL 60604, no later than April 16, 2004, along with proof that you delivered a copy to Class Counsel and attorneys for the Defendants on or before the same date. If you do not object to the terms of the Settlement, you do NOT need to appear in Court.

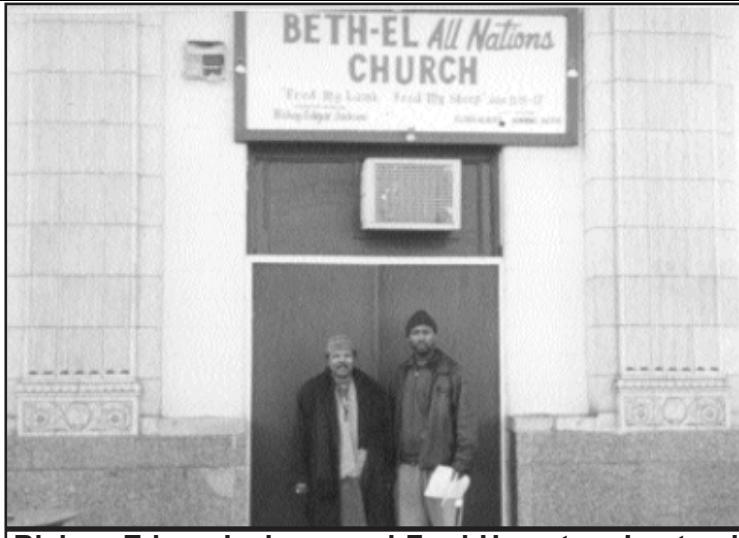
You may obtain or review a copy of the Settlement Agreement and all other pleadings and papers filed in this Lawsuit during normal business hours from the:

**Office of the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, 219 South Dearborn, 20<sup>th</sup> Floor Chicago, IL 60604**

Please contact Class Counsel if you have any questions about the Settlement, your class membership, the Claims Process, or any other questions about the Lawsuit at the phone number or address listed below.

**Craig B. Futterman, Class Counsel**  
**Williams v. Brown Settlement**  
**Edwin F. Mandel Legal Aid Clinic**  
**6020 South University Avenue**  
**Chicago, IL 60637**  
**(773) 702-9611**

**DATED: February 6, 2004.**



Bishop Edgar Jackson and Fred Hampton Jr. stand in front of the door of Beth-el All Nations Church. The church provides a safe haven for youth in the area and food to the needy and is struggling to remain open.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

fighter.

"But in the eyes of the government," he added, "I'm just a three-time offender."

Hampton is also fighting to save The Beth-El All Nations Church, 6250 S. Justine, with Bishop Edgar Jackson as state overseer. The Church addresses many community concerns, according to Hampton, and is currently in a state of financial hardship.

"If the church is lost," Hampton said, "the people will have no where to turn."

"Many more youth will be sitting on the corner, where there is nothing lurking but trouble."

**Attention: ALL CHICAGO PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS**



# **FREE!!!**

## **COMPUTER CLASSES**

**SIGN UP NOW ...FIRST COME FIRST SERVED. HOURS M-F 9A-12P; 1P-4P; 6P-9P**

The Hayes Center is now accepting students into the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Technology Program. Through the WIA YouthTech Program, young people can receive training to become a Telecommunications Technician (Voice and Data Cabling) or a Microsoft Office Specialist. Classes are now forming. You must be between the ages of 18 - 21, have a high school diploma or GED and a valid driver's license to enroll. Call Davalla Stovall today at: (312) 745-2661.

Free meals are available to children enrolled in the Cyber Youth Development Program at the FIC. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250. The meals are provided by the Child and Adult Care Food Program. For further information about this non-profit program, please contact Ms. Karen Bozeman Gross at (312) 745-2674.



**Hayes Center Hosts Youth Day for 2004 Black Family Technology Week**

These Carpenter Elementary School students are attentive to the demonstrations on how to build a computer and how to receive an A+ Certificate or Certification, during Black Family Technology Week at the FIC in February.

### **OTHER CLASSES** **FOR ALL AGE GROUPS**

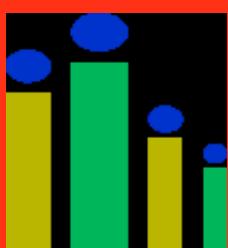
**GED PREPARATION CLASSES  
(OPEN ENROLLMENT, SIGN UP TODAY)**

**"HOW-TO" WORKSHOPS  
CISCO CLASSES**

**MICROSOFT OFFICE SPECIALIST  
MICROSOFT WORD, EXCEL,  
POWERPOINT AND ACCESS  
(MONTHLY CLASSES)**

**1P - 4P  
6P - 9P**

**INTERNET ACCESS AND  
FREE EMAIL**

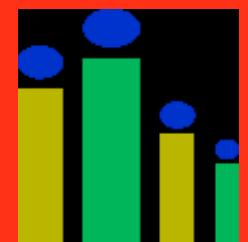


**CHARLES A. HAYES  
FAMILY INVESTMENT CENTER  
4859 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60615**

**(312) 745-2700**

**A Technology  
Learning Center**

**Zenobia Johnson-Black, President & CEO  
Web Site: [www.thefic.org](http://www.thefic.org)**



**A Technology  
Learning Center**

