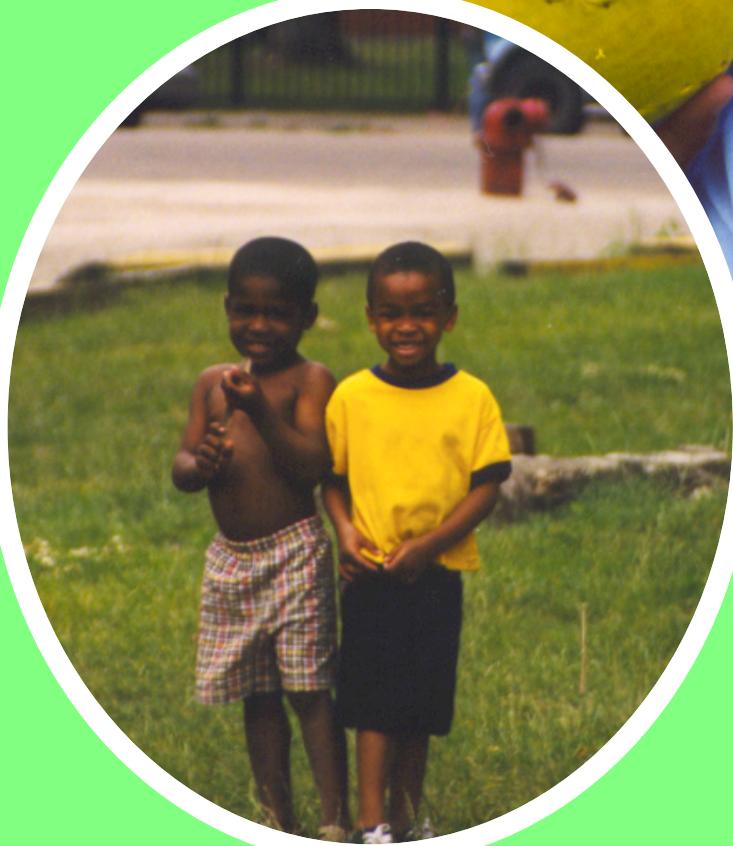


R E S I D E N T S '

Journal

A publication for and by the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority

August 1999 / Volume 3 / Number 6



***Urban Youth International Journalism
Program Pgs. 10-13
Welfare to Work Pgs. 14-17
Section 8 Program Pg. 21***

Haymarket House AD

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FRONT PAGE PHOTOS

Front Page Photos depict the 24th Annual AI Carter Summer Olympics (top left and center, photos by John "Popcorn" Sampson), youth participants in the Chicago Neighborhood Assembly (top right, photo by Mary C. Johns), Harold L. Ickes youth theatre performers (photo by Jacqueline Thompson), and residents of Rockwell Gardens (photo by Mary C. Johns)

BACK PAGE PHOTOS

Back page photos depict Urban Youth International Journalism participants with U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater (clockwise, from top right), with U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley, in front of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, at the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial and in front of the U.S. Capitol (center and background, All photos except top right by John Brooks).

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Our Mission

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.

The Chicago Housing Authority will not censor this publication in any way and 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 the Chicago Housing Authority or its staff. All editorial decisions are made by the staff of Residents' Journal in conjunction with the editor-in-chief.

Editor's Box

by Ethan Michaeli

man who had been sitting in the wheelchair explained matter-of-factly. "I don't have any ID."

Each of the young men signaled they were in a similar situation with nods of their heads. Incredulous, I asked them if anyone had a social security card or a school ID or anything. Only one young man could produce any type of ID; a bent but durable Job Corps card with his smiling picture on it. But the Job Corps ID had no social security number and no address – not useable to cash a check.

At first, I wondered if these young men weren't just continuing their suspicion of me as a representative of an 'official' society. I looked over their intelligent, articulate faces and realized that they were telling the truth. These young men simply lived tough lives in which constant movement, unstable homes and frequent interactions with law enforcement made it difficult and unattractive to keep identification.

It's common in our modern language to talk about a place to "stay" rather than a place



Missing Identity

bers of papers for their own edification. Often, when I would return to my vehicle, I would find the young men with their eyes glued to RJ's various articles. Sometimes they would ask me questions about particular articles or wonder aloud why we didn't have coverage of Lawndale Complex.

But in April, when the relocation of Lawndale Complex's residents already had begun, I arrived at the development and the young men informed me that the office had been closed. Management duties were being handled by an office in the main section of the Lawndale development, some 10 blocks away.

I needed a way to distribute the paper and these young men seemed a logical choice; I thought it would be a good way for them to earn a few extra dollars. I offered this deal to them and at first, they seemed interested. One young man who I always had seen sitting in wheelchair even got up from the chair and offered to participate.

When I explained to them, however, that I would have to send them a check, a look of disappointment shot across their faces.

"I can't cash a check, man," the young

to "live." For these young men and many others, the term "stay" is more accurate. Their homes are more temporary than anywhere I've ever lived. Their lives, indeed their identities, are more unstable than mine ever has been.

I handed the youths a few dozen papers and asked them to hand out those copies. They agreed and I got back in the vehicle and drove off.

Something struck me as I started listing all of the things these young men would be unable to do without identification: drive a car legally, buy anything worth more than a few hundred dollars, travel out of state, hold a career-type job, attend college.

I imagined Lawndale Complex closing and I imagined those young men sitting in front of the empty buildings, nowhere to go and nothing to do.

I felt sadder still that there was nothing I could do to help these young men. At least by giving them copies of RJ, I could offer them a source of news and information about their families and neighbors. Like their identification papers, these young men had no address for me to put into our mailing list.

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The Now CHA Board

by Mary C. Johns

With a new Board of Commissioners in place, Chicago Housing Authority residents can now voice their concerns, questions and opinions to three resident leaders and seven religious, business and community leaders.

Mayor Richard M. Daley selected the 10 members of the board after a public nomination process and submitted the names to the Chicago City Council. The City Council approved the commissioners this July.

The Role of the Board

The role of the board will be to set policy for the authority and provide oversight to the staff.

Board members will also serve on various committees such as the audit and finance committees. The term of a commissioner can be up to 5 years. CHA commissioners work primarily on a volunteer basis.

The Chairperson

Sharon Gist Gilliam is the chairperson of the CHA Board of Commissioners. She is currently the chief operating officer of Unison Consulting Group and has held numerous positions including chief operating officer for the City of Chicago, Chicago budget director and budget officer for the Department of Housing and Community Development of the District of Columbia.

RJ asked Gilliam during a recent interview how her background could help her help CHA residents. Gilliam said that her experience in government finance would be beneficial to the residents.

"What's helpful there is that I can read and understand budgets and federal regulations and how they relate to budgets," she said.

"So residents' lives can be improved only by as much as the board and management can improve the day-to-day operations for both the buildings and as much as we can improve through rehabilitation and extraordinary maintenance."

Gilliam told RJ that one of the major challenges the authority has faced and will continue to face is the amount of financial resources available for day-to-day operations and capital improvement.

Even though the CHA commissioners are volunteers, Gilliam said commissioners could receive reimbursement for their expenses. She added that according to the state statute, the chairman of the board can be paid some amount of money upon the vote of the board.

"Whether or not the chairman is privy to what that amount might be if the decision is made to pay the chair has not been arrived at yet," Gilliam said.

The Other Appointees

Below are the names along with comments of those appointed to sit on the board:

Mamie Bone has lived in public housing since 1956. She is currently

CHA's Central Advisory Council president and has been the Local Advisory Council president of Henry Horner Homes since 1971.

During a recent phone interview with Bone, she said that her first role as commissioner will be to represent the residents. Her secondary role will be to assist in the making and improvement of policies. She said that her 28 years of involvement in helping people in CHA communities will help her help the residents.

"I feel as a CHA commissioner I can still help people living in public housing," Bone said. "Because if issues come up that I don't feel will benefit residents, then I can not vote for it or I can discuss it and maybe change some people's minds."

Bone said her past and present experience with the various entities debating the redevelopment of Henry Horner Homes has given her strong negotiating skills. Bone said she can use these skills to persuade individuals to change their minds when she feels they are "going the wrong way."

"So critical as public housing is now, and the way they are trying to tear it down, I feel that I can at least speak up for my residents and ask them not to tear all the buildings down and try to renovate some of them so the people can have a place to live," Bone said.

Hallie Amey is the president of the Resident Management Corporation for the Wentworth Gardens development. She has lived in CHA since 1951. In the '60s, Amey said she was involved in an on-site child care program before the federal Head Start program was initiated. Amey has been very active in Wentworth Gardens since 1957. Amey said her role on the board will be to make "all communities a safe, sanitary, decent and healthy place for residents to live."

"That's what living is all about," she said.

Sandra Young has successfully and single-handedly raised three grown children in the Ida B. Wells development. She has been the active LAC president in Wells for the past year and currently is serving her first full term.

Young has been involved in the Wells community for the past 6 years doing outreach work, attending community meetings and informing residents of public housing matters as well as public assistance issues. She was also a family advocate to single mothers in her community.

Young considers herself a good role model and believes that being so will help her be a good commissioner.

"Being a role model, you have to be able to relate," she said. "I think with being part of this board, now we will begin to move forward."

Rahm Emmanuel is the vice chairman of the CHA Board of Commissioners and currently is the managing director of Wasserstein, Perella & Co. Inc. Among many other credits, Emmanuel served as senior advisor for policy and strategy and executive assistant chief of staff to President Bill Clinton.

Dr. Mildred Harris is a former

Advisory Board member under former executive director Joseph Shuldiner's administration. She is a minister and a former educator who taught school for more than 30 years. Harris was raised near Robert Taylor Homes and is a DuSable High School graduate.

Harris said she is an advocate for senior citizens and initiated CHA's Adopt A Senior Building Program. Harris said she will make sure that the conditions in CHA housing are proper and adequate and that the board complies with the government standards.

"My role is just making sure that we abide by the principles on which we say that we're going to adhere to," she said.

"Integrity is very important to me. For me it's like, am I my brother's keeper? Yes!"

Andrew Mooney was executive director of CHA from 1981-1983 under the administration of Mayor Jane Byrne. He currently is the senior program director of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC).

Mooney did not attend the first Board of Commissioners public meeting on July 20 at the Lower North Center Gym in Cabrini-Green. At the time, his confirmation by the Chicago City Council had been delayed because Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3) felt Mooney's actions as former CHA executive director did not benefit the residents.

Tillman's chief of staff, Robin Brown, said to RJ that the alderman was the sole reason why Mooney's appointment was not immediately confirmed.

Brown said Tillman and several CHA residents were arrested once during Mooney's administration for allegedly disturbing a board meeting. But Brown explained that the alderman's complaint against Mooney was "nothing personal but strictly due to his past history with CHA."

"Mr. Mooney's history dating



CHA Board of Commissioners Michael Darcey (from left), Wells LAC President Sandra Young, Board Chairperson Sharon Gist-Gilliam with CEO Phillip Jackson during the June 20 Board of Commissioners meeting at Cabrini-Green.

more than anything, because of the increasing number of people being displaced through demolitions of high-rises and other factors, Ald. Tillman is concerned that people who are sensitive to helping meet the need of these people be on that board.

"She was under the impression that to recycle him on the CHA board was not progress and not be moving forward for helping charter new directions for CHA and its residents," he said.

During the delay in Mooney's confirmation, Mayor Daley's press secretary, John Camper, told RJ the mayor still hoped to get Mooney approved.

"The mayor has not backed off his appointment. He still wants Andrew Mooney on the board," said Camper.

"His confirmation by the council has just been delayed. But the mayor hasn't changed his mind."

Mooney was subsequently confirmed to sit on the board. After the confirmation, Tillman's chief of staff Brown said, "Tillman will certainly do everything she can to work with him on the board to see that the resi-

Homes. Gates is founder and president of Earnest Gates Inc., a West Side trucking company. He also heads the Near West Side Community Development Corporation and serves on the board of the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority and the Advisory Council of Malcolm X College.

Board Meetings

Chairperson Gilliam said that a week before each CHA executive board meeting, she meets with CHA staff and goes over with them the items which they want placed on the agenda. The chairperson then questions the CHA personnel responsible for presenting the items, then determines what items are ready for review and discussion by commissioners. An agenda is then prepared and sent out to the other board members a week before the public meeting so they can review the material they are going to vote on.

At the public meeting, the members have the opportunity to engage in discussion and amend or defeat the

"Integrity is very important to me. For me it's like, am I my brother's keeper? Yes!"

-Dr. Mildred Harris, CHA Commissioner

back to the Jane Byrne administration clearly displays his insensitivity and disrespect for Black and poor people," Brown explained.

"She realized the background of the man, thought that it was proper that he be brought before the committee to ask some questions of his background and his past record with CHA."

Brown said one of the main things that lead to Mooney's resignation as CHA executive director was a charge that some \$50 million which should have been used for repairs and raising the standard of living for CHA residents "was idly sitting in a bank account while residents went without basic services."

Brown continued, "I think that

resolutions.

Prior to each Commissioners meeting, between the hours of 8:30 am and 10 am, there is a public participation session. Anyone wishing to speak to the commissioners must first register in person. They will then be allowed 2 minutes in which to be heard. Interpreters will also be provided for speakers wanting to make their remarks in a language other than English.

The First Meeting

During the July 20 meeting, residents voiced their concerns about living conditions and questioned the commissioners as to what they intended to do. Gilliam directed all those(Continued on Page 7)

Lawndale Complex Update

by Cenabeth Cross

The gangs from Lawndale Complex had a drive by on June 29, the first of the summer. The boys from Lawndale Complex shot at the people in nearby Ogden Courts, where I live. This is something that occurs on a regular basis when the gang members in Ogden Courts and Lawndale Complex are fighting over territory or drugs.

After the shooting, one of the young men at Ogden Courts started for Lawndale with a gun in his hand until someone shouted that the police had arrived. He then passed the gun to a young woman who put it in a bag and brought it back into our lobby.

The police blocked the street with four cars. They asked a few questions of a few people and

the LAC president of both Ogden Courts and Lawndale. Many of the rest of the units are open and the windows have been pulled out. Water is running into the other units because the pipes were taken apart in other units and recycled for cash. Homeless people, drug dealers and users hang in the halls. For the press conference, a quick clean-up had been done.

There were cameras from most of the news stations at the press conference.

The CHA officials there promised to get all of the people out of Lawndale by July 31 and they promised to find them decent places to stay. They promised to board up the remaining units so that the buildings would be safe. New CHA CEO Phillip Jackson even promised to put up a fence and plant some grass to make the property look better after the people are moved out.

now is the time to get the job done."

Jackson admitted that Lawndale Complex has been an eyesore and a crime haven for too long. Also at the press conference with Jackson was LAC President Bolden and Jay Canna, a vice president with nearby Mount Sinai Hospital.

There were many others concerned people including our congressman, U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7).

The people who still lived in the housing units and their neighbors came out. The children came to find out what their future life might be. They listened and asked me questions later.

Jackson went on to explain that CHA will submit an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to demolish the seven buildings. There are actually seven buildings on the lot but one has not been



An aerial view of the Lawndale Complex located at 1319 W. Washtenaw St.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

The CHA officials there promised to get all of the people out of Lawndale by July 31 and they promised to find them decent places to stay.

then they left. No one was killed.

There was a press conference on July 11 at the Lawndale Complex, a set of buildings based at 1319 W. Washtenaw St. Only 32 of the 187 units were occupied at the time, said Brenda Bolden,

Jackson said, "Many of these units have been vacant for years. Some families have been waiting for a year to move. The previous leadership began the process of shutting down these buildings and

occupied for the many years that I have lived in the area. The windows of that building have been filled with bricks.

Jackson did remark that demolition is not always the solu-

tion in every community and he would not be taking that route without the support of the residents and the community.

Jackson told us not to expect everything to happen overnight as he is new and millions of dollars have been put into this development over the years, even if residents are moving out.

The evening after the press conference, there was another shoot out at Lawndale Complex. When my son picked me up at 4 p.m., the police were still running around, chasing someone into Ogden Courts. We passed a short, chubby cop who was huffing and puffing trying to get his feet off the ground.

I asked my son if he had seen who the officer was chasing? My son replied that he had seen the boy he was chasing but he couldn't imagine the cop would catch him. The police were called to the Lawndale complex again Aug. 4 at 2:30 p.m. They blocked off the street as I walked to the bus stop.

All of the residents were not out by the deadline of July 31, as promised. They are being relocated. Some of the people who are still there are there by their own request. Some residents were relocated to places that were in worse condition than Lawndale and the rest decided to stay until they could find them better housing.

Moving

Day

by Wateka Kleinpeter

On July 30, the 12 or so residents left at the Lawndale Complex were scheduled to move out.

The movers were there as well as CHA Police and members of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing. Some

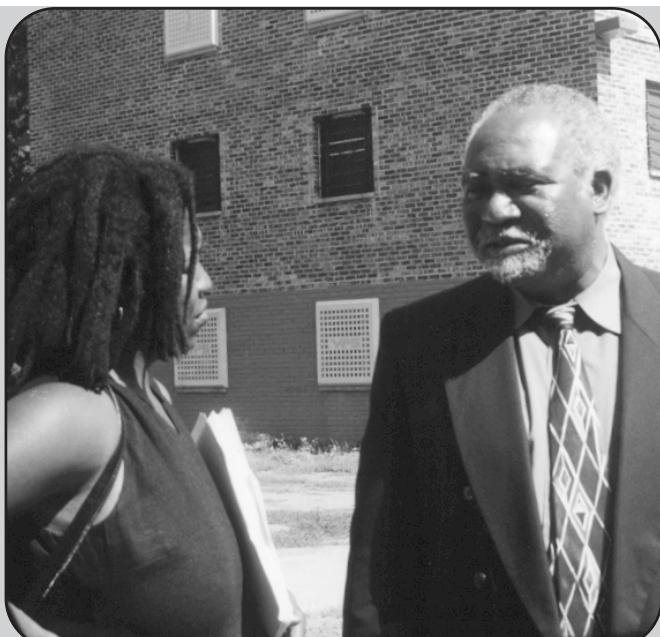
and later was told she had to go somewhere else.

New CHA Administration executives Teyonda Wertz and Shannon Dewith came and talked to the residents. They allowed the few people who wanted to stay to do so because some of them had legitimate concerns.

Dewith promised residents that they could see the units they were moving to and that the agency did not want the residents to go from "bad to worse." Some of the residents said that their replacement units did not have hot water and had other problems.

"We are going to do this right," Dewith said. "The people who want to stay can."

The young lady who said her grandmother had been promised an apartment said her grandmother had paid the first month's rent and had accepted the house they wanted to send her to. She had all of her documentation including the letter saying that the place was theirs. Then she displayed another letter which said that she could not have the house because it is a four bedroom. The woman noted



CHA executive Shannon Dewith converses with Congressman Danny K. Davis at the July 11 press conference in the Lawndale Complex.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

Several residents protested and some asked to see the court order that gave CHA the right to close down the units.

of the residents readily let the movers put their belongings on the trucks. Several residents protested and some asked to see the court order that gave CHA the right to close down the units. One young lady said that her 80-year-old grandmother was promised one unit that she agreed upon

that she occupies a four-bedroom apartment at Lawndale Complex.

Dewith said that since her grandmother was promised the house, had paid rent and transferred the mail, she should be allowed to have it and her next month's rent

would be waived for her trouble.

Dewith had an extensive talk with the Coalition to Protect Public Housing members, who insisted that residents stay and fight. It was extremely hot - about 99 degrees F - and someone threw water from one of the buildings on Harvey Radney, the acting director of the CHA Police.

SUMMER SLAM TURNS INTO GRAND SLAM

by Jacqueline Thompson

Anticipation reigned as rumors and facts floated around Ickes in whispers and gossip like so many pieces of a puzzle. The mayor, CHA and Midnight Basketball were all going to be involved, according to the rumors. Television stations and entertainment, food vendors and games were all going to be a part of this fabled event.

About a week after that conversation, I saw the front-page story of the June 22 *Chicago Defender* that heralded the plans for the Ickes Family Fun Day. It has been well known from its inception that the fabulous \$400,000 Outdoor Basketball Arena located at 2300 S. Federal St. would become a national sports showcase and jewel for the whole community. So it became a natural place for the Converse All Star shoe manufacturers to include in their Summer Slam National Basketball All Star Tour featuring local basketball legends. Chicago is one of five cities to host the "Summer Slam." Converse All Stars cooperated with the Chicago Housing Authority, the City of Chicago, the Chicago Transit Authority, Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Police Department to form a first time city-wide network of inner-city agencies to co-sponsor this Grand Slam event. Included in this array is Fox-TV, which televises the Big Jams across the country.

Once the news was really out, the whole area began to dress up to support the upcoming event. Nike flags with silhouettes of Michael Jordan in a variety of action poses adorned lamp posts along State Street from Cermak Avenue to 31st Street and beyond. These banners created an exciting display of things to come. The new outdoor basketball arena was meticulously swept, cleared of debris, watered down and neatly groomed for four weeks leading up to the big day by teenagers from public housing who are enrolled in the city's summer job programs. Even their uniform blue or red Planet Hollywood t-shirts lent an air of personal pride in the jobs they were doing. The local tenant patrol wore bright gold summer uniform shirts and discussed the special foods and vendors that would take part in making July 17 a day to remember.

Building council presidents held meetings to encourage residents to attend the upcoming event and to sign forms permitting their children to take part in a special basketball clinic to be run by members of the Chicago Bulls. They also announced that there would be other activities for all family members, regardless of age and interest. Neighbors shared tid-bits of information that were woven into conversations about all sorts of guests,

games, foods, entertainment, gifts, prizes and surprises as a mood of lightness and gaiety permeated the air around Harold L Ickes CHA homes.

The one aspect on the down side of all these goings on was the fear of conflict among the "restless teenagers" from the different developments whose families were to take part in the whole day's festivities. We were not to worry, though, because all too knowingly, when the Mayor is to be represented by anyone or any committee, the Chicago Police Department will be a large, visible addition to such an inner-city event.

More preparation for the day came from the Chicago Housing Authority Department of Streets and Sanitation. I talked to James Woods, head of this department, as he personally supervised the large job of making all grounds pristine and sanitary.

As part of the network of City



CHA spectators anxiously awaiting first tip off at the Converse All Stars "Summer Slam" basketball game at Harold Ickes on July 17.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

Dearborn Homes and Hilliard Homes.

The rain never even phased the workers who pumped up huge child-safe games of skill and the jumping jack ball house. The rain didn't stop the children who waited patiently in line for their turn. Expert outdoor stage handlers took the rain in their stride as they put up

ing lots and grounds.

The initial anticipation of this special day began to be fulfilled. There was plenty of food, including chocolate ice cream, fresh fruit and fruit drinks. I saw bags of food distributed, ribs on the outdoor grill, hot dogs and canned pop given away.

Something for everyone

And then again at time:

as many people as

the arena could possibly hold crowded in the open air court ready to enjoy a good game. At the gate, Converse gave away t-shirts and other items commemorating the day: Slam magazine souvenirs, large posters of basketball legends, Slam star stickers.

Norm Van Lier of the Bulls alumni co-hosted the televised ver-

CHA Ickes - Dearborn and Hilliard," said another resident.

Resident Ella Thrash: "Today's festivity was a progressive move for our community. It involved unity, sports, fun, food, entertainment and, most of all, love and peace.

Resident Christopher Carter: "I think the teams are good, real good. I liked the 'slam dunk' contest. The food was OK. I enjoyed chaperoning the small kids in the large jumping jack games and the other giant toys."

Resident Lavell Love: "It's beautiful. I'm really enjoying myself. Peaceful, calm, everybody enjoying themselves. Been down here 40 years, one of the best days to ever enjoy."

Resident Keshan Slaughter, 10, (the only youngster I could pin down for an interview): "I love it. I played on the big slide, ate food, saw the games. There goes R. Kelly. Bye."

Resident Roy Saunders: "I think it was a great event because it enabled kids to talk to professionals about where they could go to do the right thing and to stay away from doing the wrong thing. It's a great improvement on community events. Everybody had fun. Community people were allowed to work and that was especially good."

CHA Workers

Monroe Brewer, Public Housing Drug Elimination

Program: "It's a wonderful day. It illustrates how a collective community resident-based program networking with outside corporate sponsorship and employees of CHA can bring about a celebration of life in one community."

Alfredo Valle, Resident Organization employee: "It's just great having everybody all out at once enjoying all the events."

James Woods, Director, CHA Streets and Sanitation: "We arrived early to the grounds this morning before 6 am. None of this could have happened without all CHA staffers cooperating. It made a rousing success."

Derrick A Brown, janitor at Harold Ickes for 15 years: "I loved it. I had a good time but I loved to see the kids enjoy themselves, looking around and seeing young and old people having a good time together."

Fatina Lee, Henry Booth House employee: "The whole day has been great, except for the rain. Love the basketball game too. Would love to see more. The networking, the interaction of corporate sponsor representatives; CHA public housing employees, police department heads, LAC presidents, professional athletes, food vendors and participating residents truly came together. This is one fine day."



Fox News sports commentator Norman Van Lier emcees the Converse All Stars "Summer Slam" basketball game that was held at the Harold Ickes on July 1.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

Heat Wave

by Julio Martinez

On Friday, July 30, the heat wave caused a crisis at my building at 5040 N. Kenmore Ave. Every day of the week, the temperature had climbed above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, resulting in electric power system failures for most of the northern part of the city.

Our Chicago Housing Authority apartment building is managed by the Diversified Realty Group. With temperatures at 104 degrees, building manager Rhonda Russell was concerned about the safety of the resi-

themselves. This allowed the residents to feel comfortable and safe despite the heat and darkness in the building caused by a 7-hour power outage.

The manager also notified the Chicago Fire Department of the emergency situation and the Fire Department commenced to evacuate the building on grounds of hazardous internal temperatures. The Chicago Police and the CHA police jointly helped out by dispatching a team which arrived within minutes to assist disabled residents. Their task was made more difficult by the fact that the building was completely dark due to the power failure.

ComEd remarked that it was prepared for Year 2000 but the 104 degree heat of Friday, July 30, had taken it completely by surprise.

dents. She provided two air-conditioned buses for the residents in which to take refuge and refresh

The effect of the heat was aggravated by the lack of elevator service, meaning that residents - if

they were capable of using the stairs at all - and emergency personnel had to negotiate the 8 floors of the building by foot for the duration of the power emergency. A number of volunteers who were not residents of the area also came to help and brought some of the residents to the air-conditioned buses. The spirit of community shown by all was noteworthy.

The executive director of the CHA, Philip Jackson, sent a representative to take charge of the situation. That representative pitched in and worked very hard in terms of both sweat and professionalism.

Russell called Dominick's Supermarket to see if that firm might donate water and ice for the residents. The lack of electricity meant that tap water was unavailable as well. Dominick's complied without hesitation. The residents received these gifts like manna from Heaven. They told Russell that she had provided just what they needed in this emergency.

John Aycock of Apartment 616 remarked on Russell's calm and professional demeanor as she dealt with the series of problems.

The seven hours that we spent without electricity seemed like an eternity in the oppressive heat. Yet this was nothing compared to the

policía de la CHA cooperaron enviando un equipo que llegó al lugar en cuestión de minutos para ayudar a los residentes incapacitados. Su tarea se hizo más difícil por el hecho de que el edificio estaba completamente a oscuras debido a la suspensión del servicio eléctrico.

El efecto del calor se agravó al quedar el elevador fuera de servicio, lo que significaba que los residentes, si acaso estaban en condiciones de utilizar las escaleras, y el personal de emergencia tuvieron que salvar a pie los ocho pisos del edificio mientras duró la suspensión del servicio eléctrico. Un buen número de voluntarios que no eran residentes del área también acudieron a prestar su ayuda y llevaron a algunos de los residentes a los autobuses con aire acondicionado. El espíritu comunitario demostrado por todos fue digno de mención.

Philip Jackson, el director ejecu-



CHA Senior residents making their way off a CHA bus cooling station after heat emergency was over at 5040 N. Kenmore.

Photo by Julio Martinez

nearly 3 days that residents of the Addison area spent without power in buildings as high as 28 stories.

The electric utility, Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) sent water and ice. Also, portable toilets were set up across the street from the Addison buildings. Volunteer

workers from the Salvation Army were in attendance, along with numerous vehicles provided by the municipal emergency departments.

ComEd remarked that it was prepared for Year 2000 but the 104 degree heat of Friday, July 30, had taken it completely by surprise.

Las siete horas que pasamos sin electricidad parecieron una eternidad bajo aquel calor sofocante. Sin embargo, esto fue un paseo en comparación con los casi 3 días que los residentes del área de Addison pasaron sin electricidad en edificios que llegan hasta 28 pisos de altura.

La compañía de servicio eléctrico Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) envió hielo y agua. Además, se instalaron baños portátiles a lo largo de la calle frente a los edificios Addison. Los trabajadores voluntarios del Ejército de Salvación también acudieron a esta llamada de auxilio, junto con numerosos vehículos suministrados por los departamentos municipales de emergencia.

Los representantes de ComEd destacaron que estaban preparados para el año 2000 pero que la ola de calor de 38°C (104°F) de ese día viernes 30 de julio los había tomado completamente por sorpresa.

Ola de calor

por Julio Martínez

El viernes 30 de julio, la ola de calor provocó una crisis en mi edificio situado en 5040 N. Kenmore Ave. Todos los días de esa semana, la temperatura se había elevado por encima de los 38°C (100°F), ocasionando fallas en el sistema eléctrico en la mayor parte del norte de la ciudad.

Nuestro edificio de departamentos de la Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) es administrado por el Diversified Realty Group. Tomando en cuenta las temperaturas de 40°C (104°F), la administradora del edifi-

cio Rhonda Russell estaba preocupada por la seguridad de los residentes del edificio. Por tanto, ella les proporcionó dos autobuses con aire acondicionado donde encontraron refugio y una temperatura fresca. Esto permitió que los residentes se sintieran cómodos y seguros a pesar del calor y la oscuridad en el edificio causada por una suspensión del servicio eléctrico que duró 7 horas.

La administradora también avisó al Departamento de bomberos de Chicago acerca de la situación de emergencia y los bomberos comenzaron a evacuar el edificio en razón de las peligrosas temperaturas internas. La policía de Chicago y la

police de la CHA cooperaron enviando un equipo que llegó al lugar en cuestión de minutos para ayudar a los residentes incapacitados. Su tarea se hizo más difícil por el hecho de que el edificio estaba completamente a oscuras debido a la suspensión del servicio eléctrico.

Philip Jackson, el director ejecu-

is set aside to winterize buildings and would largely be used for new boilers, new piping and steam-lines.

"CHA buildings in each development are being looked at and private engineering firms will come in and double check CHA's work to make sure that we have all the buildings in order," said Agazzi.

"We're not going to be able to fix every building if there's a really bad cold snap but what we're also going to do is provide a rapid response so that no tenant has to stay overnight again in buildings where they have burst pipes," he added.

Although not yet approved, Agazzi said that the funding will come out of this year's operating and capital budgets.

Jackson also met with reporters after the meeting and confirmed that major cuts would take place but he didn't at that time know where. "We don't know yet what areas will be making the cuts," he said.

Jackson continued to say that

CHA is in the process of completing assessments and evaluations of every program, department and employee. Jackson said he had found overlap and duplication throughout the agency.

"Every CHA program is not a great program or essential program," Jackson said.

"What we have found is that there are people that we can cut and it will not affect the service to the residents. And those are the first positions that we are going to cut."

Jackson said that even as the cuts are happening, CHA will be working hard to improve the services and programs that the residents are getting.

Jackson said everything could be cut, including his salary and Agazzi agreed.

"There are no scared cows," Agazzi said.

Cabrini-Green Concerns

During the conversation with

reporters, a former resident of Cabrini-Green complained to Jackson about rehabbed apartments in Cabrini that were not being leased out. She said that she was homeless with two children living in someone else's apartment and that she knew of other single parent women with children that were also homeless and living in some of the vacant apartments. She questioned Jackson as to why apartments weren't being leased out.

Jackson said that there is a vacancy reduction program in place to try and reduce the amount of empty units in CHA developments.

"My goal is to have no ready apartment sitting vacant for more than a week," Jackson told the woman.

"I can't promise you anything except right now you are going to receive normal service and that may mean bad for right now. But we're working right now to improve the level of service."

New CHA Board

(Continued from Page 4) who asked for assistance in one way or another to various CHA directors so that they could meet after the meeting.

At the board meeting, Chief Executive Officer Phillip Jackson talked about the previous CHA administration's mismanagement of funds and the "unused and unnecessary" items that were presented during a press conference at the CHA warehouse. Included among the items were police mountain bikes and uniforms; laptop and desktop computers; fax machines and air conditioners; a \$63,000 Silk Screening Machine; and a \$35,000 Ford Expedition.

All of these items totaled \$714,480, according to information released by CHA.

Jackson also announced that there is a \$47 million gap in the 1999 budget due to money spent to winterize certain developments - including

Robert Taylor Homes - last year.

The meeting continued with a budget overview by David Agazzi, CHA's new chief financial officer. Because of the \$47 million deficit, Agazzi said CHA will end the year with a balanced budget through cuts in administration over the next two months.

"We'll focus first on cutting administration," said Agazzi.

The meeting concluded with the board's approval of various contracts and authorization requests.

After the Meeting

After the board meeting adjourned, Agazzi explained further to reporters on the issue of cutbacks:

"We've taken a look at other housing authorities and we spend on average throughout the system of peer-group cities, such as New York, New Orleans, Baltimore and Detroit, 20 percent more than them on administration."

Agazzi added that \$6.8 million

Children Wait for Playground

by Andre Robinson

It all started with a remarkably simple essay written by Natalie Howard of Cabrini-Green. Howard, a nine-year-old resident, won a national essay contest on playground safety for her essay titled "The Playground." When Natalie entered the contest, she had no idea that her essay would be the inspiration for a large initiative throughout CHA.

Started in 1997, the Safe Summer program raised money to fund programs for residents and build playgrounds and basketball courts throughout the city. But two years after Howard's essay started the program, she and other Cabrini-Green residents are still waiting for their playground.

In the essay, Natalie asked to have a playground built similar to Oz Park in the Lincoln Park area.

In her essay, Natalie states, "I wish our playgrounds were like the one in Oz Park. In Oz Park, you won't hurt yourself if you fall because the ground is soft. I think we should not fight or litter at the playground or anywhere else. This summer, I would like to enjoy my own playground for once."

As of today, Natalie is still waiting for that playground.

Natalie's mother Pam said she couldn't understand why CHA went to the trouble of showcasing Natalie around the city to the mayor's office, the Safe Summer Jam at Planet Hollywood, the Jackie Taylor

Extravaganza at Navy Pier and in write-ups in the Chicago Defender and the Chicago Sun-Times. "They (CHA) even asked the principal at the Jenner School on three different occasions if Natalie could be excused for a couple of hours to promote her essay," said Pam Howard.

"Though I wasn't told directly that they were going to build a new playground, their actions indicated that they were seriously considering it."

According to promotional materials produced by CHA, Safe Summer was designed as a multi-faceted community initiative aimed at restoring safe, clean, nurturing and supportive recreational areas and activities to residents living in and around Chicago public housing. As part of Safe Summer, playgrounds throughout the Authority were to be upgraded to give CHA youths new places to play and have fun.

CHA employees even got into the act by participating in the Safe Summer Payroll Deduction Plan, a program that was to help chip away at a projected \$5 million price tag for shoring up the forgotten playlots at public housing developments across the city.

Safe Summer also was to expand services to include new youth programs, educational scholarships as well as services to seniors and at-risk populations. In addition, Safe Summer was to provide for facility improvements like playgrounds in all of the family developments over the next five years and the expansion of computer facilities throughout the Authority. The computer facilities

would give kids valuable skills for the future.

The CHA had envisioned establishing a \$3.5 million merit-based college scholarship fund for CHA residents; \$1 million to upgrade facilities at senior housing complexes; and \$2.5 million for sports and recreation programs.

Washington Wizards star Juwan Howard gave \$26,969.19 toward new playgrounds with the stipulation that a basketball court be built in Lowden Homes, his old neighborhood. Former Chicago Bulls star Dennis Rodman gave \$52,000 to Cabrini-Green. Safe Summer also attracted corporate sponsors like the Chicago Marriott, Hilton Hotels, WGCI Radio, United Airlines, Planet Hollywood and the National Basketball Association.

Safe Summer was to make major changes in the look of both the neighborhoods and residents in CHA. On Aug. 22, 1997, in a video presentation at a gala affair sponsored by CHA at the Chicago Hilton and Towers, Ron Carter, then CHA's director of economic development, said, "We have four basic objectives: We want to rebuild the playgrounds in our CHA communities and other communities across the city of Chicago. We want to provide college scholarships through our educational endowment fund. We want to provide funding for youth programs well into the year 2000 so that our kids and our communities will have programs for kids for many years to come, regardless of federal funding. And then lastly, we want to support our senior citizens." But that was the summer of 1997 and this is the summer of 1999. Lowden Homes has their new basketball court. Playgrounds and basketball courts also have been completed at Hilliard Homes, Lathrop Homes and Bridgeport Homes. College scholarships went to Constance Johnson of Ida B. Wells Homes, JoAnn Lawson of Harold L. Ickes Homes, Siobhan Penter of Robert Taylor Homes, Aishia Strickland of Altgeld Gardens and Anthony Youngblood of Prairie Courts, among many others.

Many of the residents in Cabrini-Green want to know when they will see their playground. A resident who chose to remain anonymous said, "They made a big deal out of this in the beginning with the different activities promoting Cabrini to receive a new playground. But all of a sudden, we were forgotten. Meetings were held but there was no talk of the playground. When we would ask a CHA official, he would say, 'We'll get back to you on it.' They never would. We are simply tired of being lied to constantly."



Natalie Howard stands in a desolate playground in Cabrini-Green.

Photo by Andre Robinson

the development really needs a new playground.

A resident who asked not to be identified said, "I see nothing wrong with the present playground (Dorsco Park) that we have and its probably no different than playgrounds in other CHA developments. It looks pretty clean to me. I see no danger."

This writer observed that there are playground areas in Cabrini Green smaller than Dorsco Park that have swing sets without swings and metal poles broken off in the ground that could cause serious injury. These playgrounds would need to be rebuilt or torn down completely to prevent accidents.

When Safe Summer first started, Joseph Shuldiner was executive director, Ed Moses was deputy executive director over CHA programs and Ron Carter headed the Safe Summer program. But in May 1999, the City of Chicago took back control of CHA and Phillip Jackson became the new CEO.

The new staff was not able to supply RJ with an update of the Safe Summer program by print time.

There are other people within Cabrini-Green who question whether

residents began to trust the police officers and were able to share information with them. Along with that, it brings interaction with residents and police. I want the COPS and CAPS program to be a safe haven for our youth so they will know that if they are in trouble and see law officers, they can feel comfortable talking to them about the problem.

"The police would reassure them that they are going to be safe and that's why we need community policing back into our community."

Leroy Square, Empowerment Zone Committee member and a resident of Ida B. Wells Homes: "More foot patrols in the communities, more visibility in community activities and at community meetings. Just more participation in community activities."

Note: The above photos were taken Aug. 10 at the King Center, located at 43rd Street and Cottage Grove Avenue. The agenda was the revitalization of Ida B. Wells and Madden Park Homes under Hope VI funding. The grant could bring \$35 million for the project. Three developers presented their plans for revitalization to the above mentioned communities. A panel of nine will evaluate the three presenters and a master developer will be chosen.

In Your Own Opinion by Annie R. Smith

Question Posed to Respondents:

In your own opinion, as a resident of public housing, what services would you like to see rendered by the Chicago Housing Authority Police Department (CHAPD) and why?

Mary Wiggins, Central Advisory Council Vice President and Local Advisory Council President at Washington Park:

"I would like to see them work more closely with the residents. Not always saying they don't have enough manpower to do the job. It seems to me that the CHA Police never answer the calls from residents in high-rises or in a community where there are a lot of rowhouses and walkups.

"There are not enough foot patrols in the buildings, especially the high-rises. Condensed row houses need help from the CHAPD as well as from Chicago Police Department."

Eunice Crosby, Local Advisory Council President of Madden Park Homes:

"I would like to see more foot patrol with police interaction in the community as good neighbors, as good



Leroy Square (from left), Eunice Crosby, Mary Wiggins and Sandra Young.

Photos by Annie R. Smith

Advisory Council President of Ida B. Wells Homes:

"One of the things I would like to see is for community policing to come back to Wells. Because with community policing, we began to bond with each other and

Got On the Bus

by Cecelia A. Clark

On July 29, 75 members of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing along and their supporters descended on the State of Illinois Building at Clark and Randolph streets demanding that Gov. George Ryan veto two bills that would enhance the One Strike provisions in public housing leases.

Specifically, the Coalition was asking Ryan to veto House Bills 2042 and 2103. According to the Coalition, House Bill 2042 will give housing

enforcement agencies and the Department of Corrections to notify the Chicago Housing Authority and other public housing authorities when an ex-offender gives an address that is owned, managed or leased by the housing authority.

While waiting to board the bus, the resident protestors exchanged personal greetings. Many senior residents were in attendance despite the hot weather.

Many of the residents there displayed a special enthusiasm for the event. They said they were "taking a firm stand for justice."

Once on the bus, the protest leaders discussed last minute plans

fication process.

House Bill 2103 will make it harder for ex-offenders to receive access to public housing, the Coalition said. The bill requires law

nor but his assistant, Dennis Cullerton, said "Gov. Ryan is out of town."

Residents presented Cullerton with over 250 signed letters as well as cards asking Ryan to veto House Bills 2042 and 2103 waiting for the governor's approval.

Rabbi Philip Lefkowitz of the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, a member of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, said, "If these two bills are supposed to protect public housing residents, why are there so many protesting these two bills? Did the Governor ask public housing residents what the residents needed to protect their homes and families, make their communities safe, beautiful and a nice place to live?"

Carol Steele, co-founder of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing and a Cabrini-Green resident, asked Cullerton to set up a meeting with Ryan as soon as possible.

Steele went on to say, "We know that Gov. Ryan will make his decision on these two bills by Aug. 14, 1999. That's why we want to meet with him before this takes



CHA residents turn out at the James Thompson Center despite the hot weather. Many residents said the issue at hand was hotter.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

City Council to the verbal disputes among residents that could result in eviction if the bills become law.

Cheryl Russom, a Cabrini-Green resident, was asked by a reporter, "Don't you think these two laws will protect public housing residents against arsons and murders in your community?"

Russom replied, "Will they protect you?"

Russom said that serial killers John Gacy and Jeffery Dahmer didn't live in public housing and therefore wouldn't have been stopped by the laws being proposed. Getting killers out of public housing will not protect people, she argued.

"You may have arsonists and

murderers in your community," Russom said. "You have murderers in your community who kill up a whole school and kill their entire families and they don't live in public housing. For all you know, your mother may be a criminal."

The reporter seemed upset with the answers she received.

An Update

Coalition co-founder Carol Steele said in mid-August that Ryan removed the language about verbal conflict from House Bill 2042. Steele said the Coalition is continuing to negotiate with the governor about the bills.

Cabrini-Green



Cabrini-Green LAC Vice President Carol Steele (left) with concerned public housing residents and supporters outside Gov. George Ryan's office on July 29.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

authorities the power to evict a tenant for something as simple as a verbal conflict with a neighbor. The bill would also shorten the eviction noti-

for the arrival at Ryan's office.

The group gathered on the 16th floor waiting to talk with the gover-

place."

Cullerton said, "I give you my word I will make the Governor aware of your concerns and issues."

Deidre Matthews, another Cabrini-Green resident who is a member of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, said, "The two House bills should be vetoed because they are morally wrong and unjust when 42,000 residents will become homeless."

Beauty Turner, a resident of Robert Taylor Homes, said, "The laws are unconstitutional when these laws will displace residents. These bills are un-American and unethical. Hillary and Bill Clinton had verbal conflicts and still remain in public housing."

Some members of the Coalition at the protest compared the verbal disputes in the Chicago

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Hayes Center News

The Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center, 4859 S. Wabash Ave., the new home of Residents' Journal, is holding its first annual celebration and fundraiser Oct. 16, 1999.

Billed as the Original Times Square Reunion, the event will feature a Steppers Set with host Herb Kent, 'da Cool Gent.' Honorary



Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center Executive Director speaks recently on the Technology Gap in low-income communities.

Photo by Wateka Kleinpeter

co-chairs of the event are former U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun, Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Chairperson Sharon Gist Gilliam and Chicago Housing Authority CEO Phillip Jackson.

Tickets are available for \$35. For more information or to order your ticket, call (773) 285-0200 extension 0.



Washington D.C.



From June 20-24, a team of Urban Youth International Journalism Program participants traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet top federal officials and journalists and tour

government and media facilities. In this issue, UYIJP participants recount what they learned in the nation's capital and investigate what the federal government is doing in Chicago.

Criminals Beware

by Antonio Arnold

On June 24, 1999, me and my classmates in the Urban Youth International Journalism Program got a tour of the FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and interviewed Myron Marlin, the spokesperson of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Most people don't know about the Department of Justice and what it does in the country and their community. For example, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) of the Department of Justice is responsible for stopping drugs from entering the country.

The Justice Department's Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is a police organization but it deals with bigger crimes than the local police. Some of the crimes they deal with are spying, stopping drugs from coming into the country and stopping drug dealers.

I asked Marlin how does the FBI



UYIJP participants interview Myron Marlin, the spokesperson for the U.S. Department of Justice, in Washington, D.C.

Photo by John Brooks

stop spies from coming into the country. But he did not answer that question because he did not want to give away important secrets. The FBI also started a program three years ago to keep gang-bangers off the street.

On our tour of the FBI building, they took pictures of everyone and they put it on key chains that said, "Wanted, a Drug Free America."

We saw an exhibit on how drug dealers get drugs in the country. We saw some of the things that drug dealers bought with their money. We saw a motorcycle and a fur coat.

Criminals need to beware of the FBI because they have the equipment needed to catch them. I was surprised to learn how they can get hair off the part of your body and can identify who you are. I did

What Should Be Done

by Shannita Childs

There should be more after-school programs, clubs and other activities in the high-rises. There should be more job opportunities and programs for kids. Maybe that will stop people from doing bad things in the community and maybe then we all will think our communities are good places to live in.

Guys are selling drugs on the ground floor of the buildings and sometimes in the hallways. The drug dealing has been going on for years, not only in high-rises but in other places, too.

Public housing residents feel afraid and unsafe in their communities. They talk and complain about it every time something goes wrong and in their regular conversations. I am thinking we could do something about it, if only there were things that were good in the community.

Children living in the high-rises know and see that this country has problems with illegal drugs. Children, residents and other people want more positive clubs and programs to keep our minds positive.

The police act like they don't care about what is bad. That needs to change. Almost everybody is tired of seeing the same things. Guys sell drugs and go to jail. But there are many people who want to have positive minds and join things that can make them better people.

Guys sell drugs on the ground floors of the buildings and in

the hallways. But people need access to the staircases because sometimes the elevators don't work. They get tired of being afraid and going the long way to get to the place they want.

If there would be more training programs and jobs, then maybe there wouldn't be so many problems and maybe kids and residents would feel better about their environment. If the police and CHA had more positive things, then maybe people would stop doing bad things. The police aren't doing much about the bad things in the community so why not try to put jobs and other things in the community.

Some people do want to be around good things like beautiful flowers in the summer. We don't want to be around when police aren't doing their jobs and when some people are doing bad things.

Residents are not feeling safe or good about our communities. If there would be more things to be in or to join and participate in like training programs and after-school programs, maybe there would be a change. Maybe we wouldn't need the police as much or complain that they aren't doing their jobs.

I used to be in a club in the community and the staff voiced their thoughts. They said they were tired of not having enough positive things to do. They said that they sometimes volunteer, do fundraisers and protests to stop the violence but they don't get much support.

Sometimes they didn't have money or a lot of materials for their programs so some kids didn't join or stopped going after a while.

The program didn't have much but it had a good staff who cared. But I stopped going because they didn't have much fun stuff to do or trips to go on. There wasn't that much in the program to keep a kid coming on an everyday basis. If there were better programs and more things to do, some more kids would join.

not know that they could get so much information from one piece of hair. Also, they had cameras the size of an ink pen to take pictures to gather information on spies, criminals and drug dealers.

They have over 5,000 different guns that they took from criminals. One of their guns is made like a walking cane but it can shoot a bullet from the bottom of it.

I don't think many criminals are aware that the FBI has these things to catch criminals because if the criminals knew, they would not be committing the crimes. They would know that the FBI can easily catch them.

I really enjoyed learning about the Justice Department and the FBI. I feel they have a lot of responsibility and they are doing a great job. But they could do a better job fighting against street gangs.

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The Future of Public Housing

by Alicia DeBerry

Upon arrival at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) headquarters in Washington, D.C., we spoke with Harold Lucas, the Assistant Secretary of HUD. He revealed to us the future of HUD and the relationship between HUD and the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA).

CHA is the largest supplier of affordable housing in Chicago. A lot of the housing developments in Chicago are being demolished. Thousands of people have been removed from their homes. Some people were

not able to find places to live.

Lucas said, "It is the housing authority's decision to knock down buildings. HUD does not have a hand in the decision. HUD's role is to make sure there is a relocation plan."

I asked the question that is on the minds of many residents: Why do the CHA buildings have to be knocked down?

Lucas said, "Some of the buildings need to be demolished."

One of the reasons he gave for the buildings needing to be demolished was because of the unsanitary conditions. Unsanitary conditions are related to the inefficiency of management. Residents do most of the damages.

The state of high rise living is going to change, Lucas said. Most housing authorities want to tear down most or all of the developments and change them into subsidized homes for low-income people.



UYIJP participants interview U.S. Housing and Urban Development Assistant Secretary Harold Lucas in Washington, D.C.

Photo by John Brooks

The FBI: Friend or Foe?

by Shenika Brown

As a child, I remember being awakened by the sound of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) kicking down our door. They entered our home.

I remember them all wearing black as they entered our door. Everyone in our home, equally startled, ran to the door inquiring about what was going on. As we all approached the door, one of the agents questioned my mother about a known gang member by the name of "June Bug."

As my mother explained to the agents that she was not aware of the whereabouts of this suspect, they began to go through our apartment violently tossing and throwing around everything that meant anything to us.

At the time of this event, I was about 6 years of age and I was a resident of Henry Horner Homes. I had feelings of fear and confusion growing inside of me. As I looked over towards my mother, I could see feelings of fear and anger on her face. The feelings of my brother and sisters were only a reflection of what mine were. This event is a product of what the FBI does in our neighborhood.

I decided to interview people in my neighborhood on the FBI and this aspect of the government because of my personal experience on this subject. I expected some of the responses from others in my neighborhood would be other negative FBI stories. I expected to hear of many innocent families similar to my own story of being violated by the FBI.

I learned that my family was unfortunate enough to end up in a situation where we were in fact innocent. However, I learned that not everyone is in fact innocent of crimes that they are being accused of. One person I interviewed said they were familiar with someone who was in fact guilty of a crime they were being accused of. So now I realize that not everyone in our neighborhood is in fact innocent.

However, I realize that innocent families in fact exist but the majority in my neighborhood are guilty families who should be punished by law. I also feel that all families, including guilty families, should be treated with respect and should not be violated under any circumstances.

They are officers who wear their badges outside their plain clothes, one man said. They are officers who normally arrive on the scene to investigate when a serious crime has taken place, one lady said. They are the cops who take no mess, another lady said.

So, this led me to ask one basic question. When was the last time the FBI conducted an investigation around

here? And to my surprise, the response was the same.

"I have never seen them around here," said Jane Johnson, who stood on the front porch with three generations of her family, including her mother and niece. Around the neighborhood, people said they cannot recall ever seeing the FBI around Hermitage Manor Homes.

So, this led me to ask another question. How did you learn about the FBI? And all of them responded that they learned how the FBI conducts an investigation from programs in school or by watching them on television.

I walked along the streets near my home interviewing anyone who would answer my questions. To my surprise, many of the people took time to talk to me even though I was nervous. My journalism instructor, Jerry Thomas, joined me. He wanted to monitor how I asked questions and took notes. He also stressed that I keep eye contact with the people I interviewed, because once I lost their attention, I would lose control of the interview.

Hermitage Homes, which is located on Chicago's West Side and just a few blocks east of the United Center where the world famous Chicago Bulls basketball team plays, looks like a relatively safe neighborhood. The streets are lined with neat, brick row houses. On this warm sunny day in July, some residents sat on their porches. Mothers sat in the shade with babies. Kids played on the sidewalk and a man waxed his car parked on the street in front of his house.

But sometimes the peace turns to violence. And too often, police are called onto the scene. The residents refer to these officers as "blue and whites," because they are in their uniforms. They see them here all the time. But they are normally just passing through, chasing down some criminal. They don't take their time talking to the residents, or launching a full investigation, like the FBI. And that is what is needed to address the crime around here and to improve the relationships between police and residents, neighbors say.

One of reasons why everyone has an opinion about the FBI is because they often get them confused with other undercover investigators.

"I saw them chasing someone down the street about a month ago," said Latrice Haynes, who sat on the porch with her new-

born baby. She would later learn from neighbors that the officers were Chicago drug detectives.

But the main reason everyone has something to say about the FBI is because they like the way they investigate crime and they wish Chicago police would investigate crime the same way.

CHA Child Care services offers Head Start, Day Care and School-age Services

Site Locations

ABLA Day Care/Head Start/ School Age
1342 S. Racine Blvd.
Deborah Rowe - Site Director
(312) 733-5993

Bernard Gentry Day Care/Head Start
2326 S. Dearborn St.
Earnestine Brooks - Site Director
(312) 842-8557

Horizon House Head Start
3542-3544 S. Statte St.
Sharon Collins - Site Director
(312) 624-5200

Lake Parc Day Care
3939 S. Lake Park Ave.
Faye McDonald - Site Director
(312) 538-4999

Henry Horner Day Care/Head Start/ School Age
123N. Hoyne St.
Sandra Burks - Site Director
(312) 243-9346

Rockwell Day Care/ School Age
150 S. Western Ave.
Cynthia Wright - Asst. Director
(312) 243-6730

Robert Taylor Head Start
4331 S. Federal St.
Evelyn Richardson - Site Director

Transportation Safety

by Corey Nunn

I don't wear a seatbelt every time I get in a car because I think the people I ride with are not likely to crash or get hit by an oncoming car.

If I told this to Rodney Slater, he would be a little upset. He would be upset because he would feel like he is not reaching enough people on seatbelt safety.

I know because I met him on June 26 at the U.S. Department of Transportation headquarters in Washington, D.C. Rodney Slater is the Secretary of Transportation.

I and other students in the Urban Youth International Journalism Program met with Slater to learn what he had to say and to get the message he was giving on seatbelt safety and the awareness on the rate of drunk driving.

I found out that he is responsible for the transportation around the United States. He puts taxpayers' money into public transportation systems and the expressways.

Slater grew up in Arkansas, the same state that President Bill Clinton is from. Slater worked for Clinton when he was the Governor of Arkansas. When Clinton became president, he appointed Slater Secretary of Transportation.

Slater also works on the railroads and safety. He also works on lowering the rate of teens driving drunk, car crashes and fatalities,

and improving the rate of seat belt safety use.

This is the reason why he would be upset if I told him I don't always wear a seat belt. He might think he is not reaching out to enough people and quit his job and get into something else. I would not like to see that because he came a long way to get where he is and I think he is doing a really good job. I liked his appearance and the speech he gave to the group. He looked like he was a nice, honest person.

Trust the Weather Man?

by Crystal Medina

(UYIJP participants who traveled to Washington, D.C., this June met with U.S. Commerce Secretary Bill Daley. Among his many duties, Daley oversees the National Weather Service. Reporter Crystal Medina conducted the survey below on Aug. 4 to gauge the local impact of the National Weather Service)

What impact does the National Weather Service have on your daily lives?

Carmelo Camadro, 16, senior at Lane Tech: Well, I try to watch the weather man every day so I can know what is going on.

Lisette Medina, 17, Aspira High School: The only effect it has on me is when I watch the news in the morning, I know what I can wear and what I can't.

Lorena De Avida, 17, Cosmopolitan High School: It does not have such an impact because I don't really rely on the weather man except once in a while.

Gabriel Ortiz, 17 Amundsen High School: I try to watch the weather forecast as much as possible so I can know what kind of plans to make.

When an ozone day is declared, how many people obey? Do you?
Camadro: Hardly any obey. Everyone still drives their cars and does all that stuff.

Medina: I don't think a lot of people obey. About 10 percent. No, I never obey anything.

De Avida: Not a lot of people obey because everyone is still out doing their own thing. I guess you can say I obeyed because I tried to stay indoors as much as possible.

Ortiz: Not many people obeyed. A few, I guess. It depends on what I had planned for the day.

How accurate is the weather man in your opinion? Do you rely on him?

Camadro: He has a 50 percent chance of being accurate. I rely on him once in a while.

Medina: It is hard to rely on all the time because he is hardly ever accurate.

De Avida: Sometimes he's accurate. Sometimes he is not. That is why I don't pay much attention to him.

Ortiz: I try to listen to the weather man a lot but sometimes he's kind of off.

Last week was very hot. How did it affect you? What did you do? How did you cool yourself off?

Camadro: Because of it being so hot, I barely had the energy to do anything. I pretty much tried to stay in an air-conditioned place, like my house and the movie theaters.

Medina: I hate the heat. It makes me sick. I have not been able to do much. I try to take as many baths as I can.

Ortiz: When it gets hot, I try to keep myself cool by staying in air-conditioned places and going to the beach and to the pool.

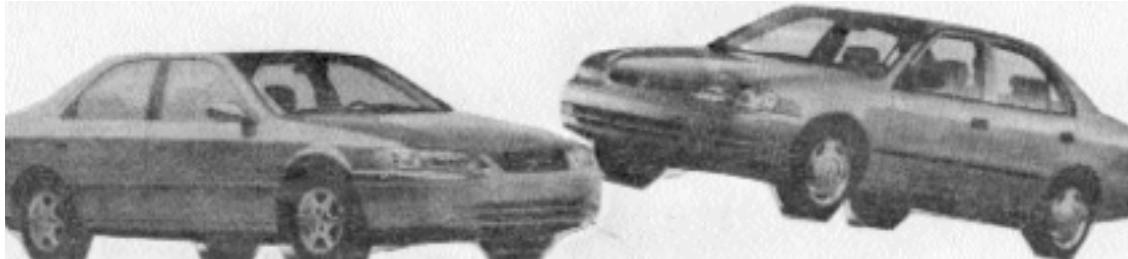


UYIJP participants learn how stories are broadcast around the nation from the Tribune Company's Washington, D.C. bureau.

Photo by John Brooks

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Africans Not Stereotypes

by Carly Hodges

For many people who live in Chicago public housing, the image they have of Africa is what they see on television. The Africans are poor and skinny men, women and children who live in some remote village or jungle. They normally compete with flies and other insects for food, or some missionary or relief worker is feeding them some kind of grain or meal.

But that is not the image Tavonna McRoberts, who lives in the Lathrop Homes housing complex on Chicago's North Side, has about Africans.

McRoberts, a young lady in her early 20s, befriended an African woman, who is intelligent, middle-class, Americanized and full-figured.

"She has more than I do," said McRoberts as she stood outside her apartment one recent Saturday afternoon in July. "She always dresses nice and she probably makes enough money that she can give me some."

The students in the Urban Youth International Journalism Program were scheduled to travel to Africa this summer to experience what life is really like on that continent. But since the trip was canceled, we have shifted our focus to another area and that is getting residents in public housing to share how their first impressions of Africans have changed since meeting Africans in America.

Residents were also asked several other questions: Where did they learn most of their information about Africa? Do they feel any attachment to Africa? Do they have any African friends or colleagues? And what are those Africans in America really like?

Like McRoberts, all of the people interviewed either worked with or had a friend from Africa.

Most of them said they learned most of their information about Africa from television. But they later learned that most of that information only stereotyped Africans. While the average African is poorer than the average American, many of them are well-educated and earn enough money to provide for their families. And while there are many tribal families in Africa, many of them, away from traditional ceremonies, do not live a primitive lifestyle.

John Finley said the television image of Africans would make some people believe that they were uneducated and living in the jungle, like in the Tarzan era. But the African he works with is hard-working and is very eager to learn American culture.

"This guy is smart and definitely not lazy," said Finley as he sat outside his front door. "A lot of Africans I know drive taxis and that is what he did for a living. This is hard work but they make a pretty good dollar driving those taxis."

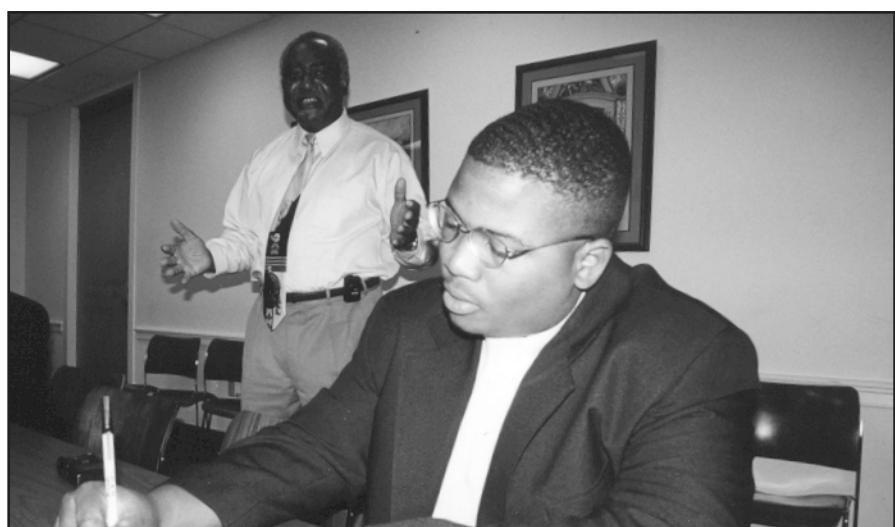
One of the things that really impressed Finley about Africans is how they easily adjust to the American lifestyle. They might drive cabs and do work that some Americans might refuse to do but they pursue their education and they seek good schools for their children.

"They work real hard and they are willing to learn new things about America," he said.

None of the handful of people interviewed on this day has ever traveled to Africa but all of them would like to visit Africa one day.

Tracy Finley, a 25-year-old woman who lives in public housing, views Africa as a very positive place. From an historical perspective, it is a place where Blacks rule the land and where Blacks serve as kings and queens. It is also a land rich with many natural resources, she said.

She said she is proud of her African heritage and prays for the day that she can share some of its riches.



During an Illinois Congressional Delegation breakfast sponsored by Commonwealth Edison and U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7), UYIJP participants heard from Davis (above) and U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (below) as well as other legislators.

Photos by John Brooks



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Welfare to Work: People In Transition

Welfare to Work: A Historical Perspective

by Thomas L.
Merriweather

As the country begins a push to move people from welfare to work, I thought it would be good to take a look back at similar efforts in the past.

I have a comprehensive background in the area of employment and training, including programs geared to address and solve the problems currently so prevalent with welfare-to-work.

I completed 12 years at varying levels of expertise in welfare-to-work programs, an experience which began with the Illinois Bureau of Employment Security (1967-1974), the Chicago Urban League (1974-1975),

and training specialists assigned to provide technical direction to employees in the Chicago area in the development of comprehensive training contract proposals for individuals in the "hard core," later called the "disadvantaged" category and now called the "welfare-to-work" category.

I participated in several pilot demonstration efforts which have become the training criteria for students of higher education in such degree-granting curricula as social work.

My post-degree professional career began as a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools in 1960. In my second semester beginning in February 1961, I was assigned to McKinley Upper Grade Center on Chicago's West Side. I had graduated from the old McKinley High School in the very same building in 1951 so I was teaching in the same area where I

was born and grew up. Most of my students were residents of the Henry Horner Homes of CHA, a public housing development which was built in the 1950s. From the time of my birth in November 1932, I lived in a 2-flat building owned by my grandfather until CHA acquired all of the property west of Damen Avenue in order to extend the Henry Horner development to just east of Western Avenue. I was in my mid 20s in late October 1955 when my family moved from the West Side.

After resigning from the Chicago Public Schools in June 1966, I eventually became employed by the old Cook County Department of Public Aid in September 1966. Some of the same students from my 7th and 8th grade teaching years were then Public Aid AFDC recipients. After entering service with the Illinois Bureau of Employment Security in November 1967, I had clients who were also on Public Aid and I experienced a real challenge in referring them to available employment opportunities. I was later further challenged when the War on Poverty program of President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1965 initiated the Job

Opportunities in the Business Sector (JOBS) and the National Alliance of Business Sector (NAB) initiatives. NAB experienced a slight name change to the National Alliance of Business in the mid-1970s when the federal Manpower Development and Training Act (MDTA) was passed. These efforts were superceded by new revenue sharing legislation for cities and counties to create the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA).

When NAB was established, companies loaned out executives who were committed to obtaining pledges for job opportunities in companies, many of whom had been

very reluctant to hire minorities and others in the original "hard-core unemployed" category. The federal government developed training contracts in certain companies in order to prepare unskilled individuals for employment opportunities. Such contracts paid much of the cost for employment opportunities and on-the-job training as well as classroom training in basic education or job-related education, orientation, special counseling, medical-dental care and child care in addition to such items as transportation assistance.

Contract service representatives worked with com-

Government has invested millions of dollars in social programs in order to bring about the elimination of dependence upon such programs and to render self sufficiency in those individuals they serve. A sound, effective partnership with the business sector must be in force.

panies in developing the various components of such contracts. Consortiums - contracts involving a number of companies working together - were developed. Monitoring was done by contracts service representatives and diligent referral efforts were made by the Bureau of Employment Security. Under CETA, these efforts were extended to community organizations and other agencies with employment components such as the Chicago Urban League, TWO, the YMCA and others.

The primary program directed to Public Aid recipients was the work incentive program known as WIN. This program failed much of the time because of either extreme bureaucratic influences or because of the lack of adequate training on the part of those employees given the responsibility of working with clients. Under CETA, political motivation often resulted in the expected results of training contract components not being fulfilled. These failures resulted in the phase-out of CETA in the early 1980s. It was replaced by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), which also had some serious problems because of a lack of total commitment of employers, selection and referral agencies as well as government agencies.

The basic concepts of MDTA and CETA, including basic on-the-job Training (OJT) programs, comprehensive training programs with good supportive services components and classroom training programs. Each enrollee received a weekly or bi-weekly allowance and many success stories may be related. But unfortunately, those employers who were forgotten and the strong amalgamation between business and government which exited with NAB was disregarded. The proven formulas for success were discarded as one program was superceded by another. Much of the federal funding was misused or wasted. Welfare became a revolving door for many individuals because of a general failure of those who should have been advocates not providing the necessary services for their clients.

Government has invested millions of dollars in social programs in order to bring about the elimination of dependence upon such programs and to render self sufficiency in those individuals they serve. A sound, effective partnership with the business sector must be in force. This partnership has become dissipated because of several unfortunate factors but a thoughtful coordination of available funding and resources should be able to overcome the deficiencies to make welfare-to-work a viable effort. These partnerships have already existed with success. Therefore, I believe there is no reason they should not be effective again.



**Director of Resident Organization Bobbie Bolden (front row, from left)
CHA CEO Phillip Jackson, Wells LAC President and CHA
Commissioner Sandra Young, Bernard Clark (back row, from left), Ida
B. Wells CADRE Coordinator, Stateway Gardens LAC president
Francine Washington and CHA participants in the Summer Jobs
Program at Ida B. Wells.**

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

The Woodlawn Organization (TWO) (1976-1980) and my own Creative Career Associates (1979-1980.) My job duties included being supervisor of the WGN Jobmobile and assistant manager of recruiting and government programs while I was on loan to the Chicago Metro Office of the National Alliance of Business (1968-71). I was an employer relations representative, contact service representative, occupational analyst and methods and procedures advisor with an extensive background as an employment, vocational training and career counselor.

I was a member of the first group of employment

Welfare to Work: People In Transition

Child Care Issues and Answers

by Karen Owens

With the changes to public benefits due to welfare reform, many low- to moderate-income families are now faced with the dilemma of finding quality and affordable child care as they pursue jobs and/or job training or return to school. This article will point out some of the issues, answer some questions and offer help in finding and obtaining the necessary home-away-from-home atmosphere for the health, safety and well being of our children.

Parents' Views

A parent in a welfare-to-work program (name withheld by request) said that she uses an at-home provider for her children ages 1, 2 and 3. She receives her payments on time. She also works 30 hours a week and her job-training program supplies her transportation. So far, she has no complaints.

Another low-income parent who has a child with special needs as well as two teenagers said things are changing slowly.

"Things are a little different from when I first looked for services for my child," she said.

"There seems to be just a little more services for a child with special needs. However, when I do enter a job-training program or seek employment, I hope there will be more services for teen-agers."

Most parents agree that locating services takes quite a bit of time and effort. I once heard a friend say, "Finding good quality child care is like trying to find a good mate. It's not something that can be done in a day."

Barriers

Are there organizations that offer child care along with job training? Why are there so few services for infants and children with disabilities? What about after-hours child care? Will any of these things happen in the near future? Is it possible for more funding for after-school programs for older youth 13-15? What about sub-

Many parents are getting jobs but are earning wages that are not enough to meet their needs. Many parents are working jobs that do not offer benefits.

-Dan Lessar, an attorney from the National Center on Poverty Law

sides for children without disabilities? Are more companies offering on-site child care or is it about the same? What is the trend toward child care in the future?

To get answers to some of these questions, I contacted Kathy Stohr, policy assistant for the Daycare Action Council. Stohr said meeting these needs proves to be quite expensive to organizations and the pay to providers is very low. This is why there are fewer services for infants and children with special needs as well as after-hours day care. More funding is also needed to service the teenage population who also need services, Stohr said.

Stohr added that the number of companies offering on-site child care has remained about the same in the city

in recent years but there is more on-site child care in the suburbs. Stohr said the trend in the child care industry is to make child care services more "family friendly" as companies are beginning to realize most parents need and require these services in order to function in today's society.

Work vs. Child Care: The Domino Effect

Finding full-time child care takes a monumental effort from parents who have to seek work at the same time. What effect will parents' needs to find work have on child care programs that require parent involvement?

To answer this question, I went to the Child Parent Centers (CPC), an organization that has been in existence for a number of years. Lots of parents have utilized their services. But the number of parents going to work, school and job training has changed the way CPC does business.

I contacted Pamela Stevenson, a facilitator for CPC:

RJ: Are CPCs affected by the welfare to work programs? If so, how?

Stevenson: Some parents are not able to accommodate half-day programs due to current work schedules. Employment makes them unavailable for the number of hours to interact with child/parent activities. They also need basic care for a longer amount of hours, 8 or more.

RJ: What can be done to solve the problem?

Stevenson: In the design stage, we can reach out to neighborhood agencies to link with day care instructions. We can help with at-home providers half-a-day at CPCs and other providers.

Self-Sufficiency

Can wages that parents earn moving from welfare to work keep up with the cost of finding good quality child care? Some parents can make it and some can't.

According to Dan Lessar, an attorney from the National Center on Poverty Law, many parents are getting jobs but are earning wages that are not enough to meet their needs. Many parents are working jobs that do not offer benefits.

Lessar said, more policies should be in place that will provide more job training or jobs that will provide not just a job but a career.

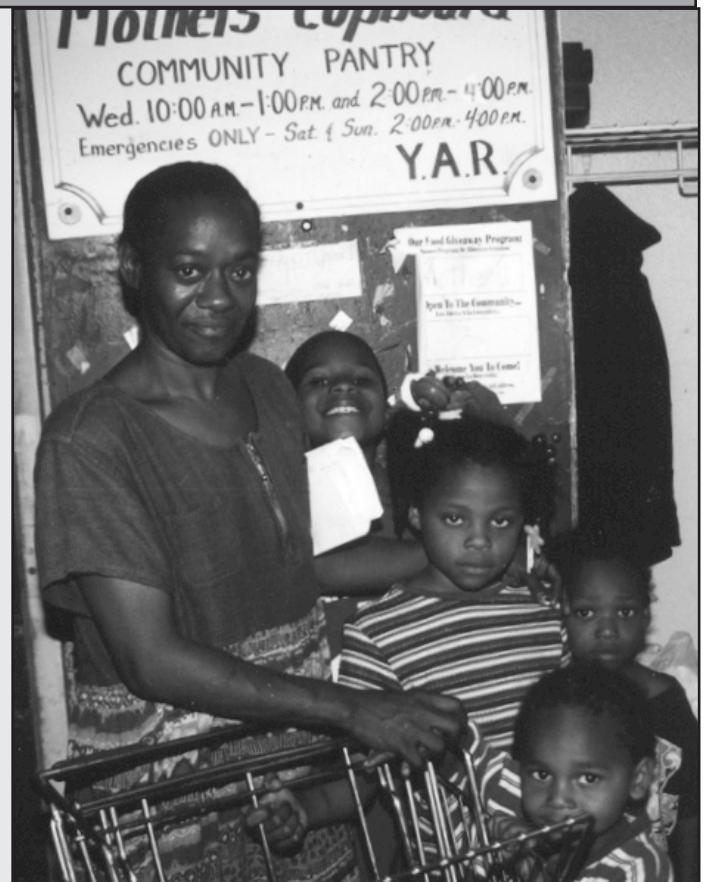
Emily B. Friedman from the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago Public Benefits Hotline said that parents should be aware that if they are applying for subsidies, they must make sure the forms are filled out properly and the originals are submitted.

Friedman said improperly filled-out forms can sometimes delay payments to day care agencies or care givers. Friedman added that persons in the Transitional Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program must be approved by their case workers to receive child care.

Where Can You Turn for Help

Various child care providers and home caregivers around the Chicagoland area offer a lot of different services. One way to get help securing these services is through agencies known as the Cook County Childcare Resource and Referral Day Care Action Council of Illinois. Since 1969, these groups have been offering referrals to child care and home caregivers, relatives included, and providing subsidies which are funded through the Illinois Department of Human Services according to your income and family size.

Parents are required to pay co-payments, which are also based on income, family size and the number of children requiring service. Also offered are services to low-



A woman with her children waits in line to receive food from the Mother Cupboard Community Pantry located in the 5226 S. State St. building at the Robert Taylor development.

Photo by Arminta Clark

and moderate-income families (not persons in Transitional Assistance to Needy Families - TANF), based on income as of July 1, 1999. Payments take about 6-8 weeks once the necessary paperwork is completed and arrive monthly thereafter to chosen day care or other care-givers.

Checklist for Parents

When you find child care that meets your needs and your child or children look comfortable, ask or do the following so that your child/children can make a smooth transition:

- Are there fees for late payment?
- What is the policy for drop-off and pickup?
- Does the parent have to put in writing who is to pick up the child/children?
- What is the ratio of children or infants per adult?
- What services are available for a sick child?
- Is the child care provider licensed by the state?
- Who are the other parents who use the child care providers' services?
- Make periodical visits during hours in session to see a typical day.
- If it's not offered, ask for a tour of the facilities.
- If the child care provider services children with special needs, find out if the staff is trained to do this.

More Information

For night-time child care, call the Dawson Child Development Center at (773) 451-2132 or 2133 and ask for Donna Blake or Lana Deaner-Lewis.

Need help paying for child care or locating a Cook County child care resource and referral center? Call (773) 769-8000.

For subsidies, call the Day Care Action Council of Illinois at (773) 564-8800.

If you have any problems with TANF, call the Childcare Public Benefits Hotline at 1-888-893-5327 and (312) 431-1206 for TTY Monday - Friday.

For services to special needs children ages 0-18 years, contact Gi Gi Vaugh of the Grassroots Organization at (773) 651-3055.

Welfare to Work: People In Transition

Resident Management Empowering Residents

by Wateka Kleinpeter

The passing of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act motivated and even forced a lot of people to get a job. Some of them have done well and others not so good.

Many groups and community organizations have been involved in the welfare-to-work process helping people obtain work through training, education and outreach. In other communities, aid recipients are growing their own initiatives to move themselves from welfare to work.

In some public housing communities, resident management corporations are engaged in training and counseling residents even as they employ residents themselves.

The Resident Management Corporation (RMC) at Wentworth Gardens struggled for years to get a contract from the Chicago Housing Authority to manage the property where they live. They have since hired 15 residents out of their 19 employees. Most of the residents hired were unemployed or were involved in other welfare to work programs. The RMC's employees include 12 full-time janitors and three full-time office workers.



Wentworth Gardens RMC Office.

Photo by Wateka Kleinpeter

Wentworth Gardens is a 420-unit CHA development consisting of rowhouses and three-story walk-ups located just south of White Sox Park from 37th Street to Pershing Road and from Wentworth Avenue to Princeton Avenue. The development is just over 50 years old and some of the first residents or their descendants still live there.

The residents of Wentworth do not move as fast as people in other developments. The overall pride and stability of this small community can be clearly seen now that it is managed by the people, most of them long-term residents, who live there.

The president of the Wentworth Gardens RMC is Hallie Amey, a resident for over 50 years. Amey also is one of the three residents recently appointed to the board of commissioners of the Chicago Housing Authority. The Local Advisory Council (LAC) and RMC in Wentworth work hand in hand.

Amey said they heard about the RMC concept in 1989 from Dorothy Driver, the LAC president. They submitted an application to establish an RMC with assistance from CHA's Research and Program Development Department (now Resident Management and Opportunities).

Amey said she and other residents interested in resident management did a lot of organizing. They circulated

petitions and questionnaires and held community meetings in order to inform other Wentworth residents and invite them to be a part of the RMC.

"We were very excited about the idea," said Amey.

Many residents joined the RMC through this notification process. Susan Donald, now the executive administrative assistant of the RMC, joined in this way. Donald expected



Hallie Amey, Wentworth RMC President

Photo by Wateka Kleinpeter

Wentworth to be transitional housing when she and her daughter moved there in 1985. Before the notification process, Donald said she lived in Wentworth but wasn't really involved in the community.

"When I became involved in the RMC, I didn't know much about it or the LAC," she explained.

The application was approved on the day Driver died in 1989. Then came the training. The RMC identified residents that they wanted for staff and then those residents entered an On the Job Training program. The Wentworth residents

Wentworth Gardens

received classroom training and hands-on experience at other CHA developments in areas such as maintenance, processing work orders, leasing, rent calculations, housing inspections, emergencies, and other day-to-day functions of a housing manager.

The RMC received its first contract to manage Wentworth in 1998 and the second one in 1999, which is up for renewal in 2000.

Donald was a member of the board of directors for the Wentworth RMC and also a volunteer for a number of years. Even as the RMC gained knowledge and experience, Donald built up her own skills. In 1993, she attended Dawson Skills Center and obtained a GED and proceeded to the Office Information Program.

Donald worked for CHA as a site coordinator for about five months at Bridgeport Homes in 1995 until site coordinators were phased out of the agency.

She has been part of the RMC staff since 1996. Donald has been a licensed real estate salesperson since 1997 and currently is working on certification as a registered housing manager from the National Center for Housing Management.

Donald plans to upgrade her skills in real estate and property management to help the RMC. She said that she would like to see Wentworth prosper and is very interested in the strategic planning that Wentworth has been engaged in.

In those sessions, Donald said plans were drawn up and discussed that would support the idea of homeownership for interested residents. The townhouses and walk-ups would be remodeled, Wells Street opened up to drive straight through and fencing would make Wentworth a gated community. The strategic plans also contain other elements to help maintain the new community, such as jobs, job preparation and health care.

If Wentworth does go home ownership, the RMC would become a condominium or cooperative association, Donald explained. Donald would also like to see more programs and jobs for residents.

She said she would also like to see more interactions with the residents. She would like them to come to all the community meetings, feel free to ask questions about resident management and be more involved.

"The attendance is good but not 100 percent yet," Donald

said of the community meetings. "But we are working on it."

RMC President Amey said there are a lot of things she would like to see done at Wentworth. The development needs major improvements such as repairs to leaking roofs in the three story walk-ups. Some of these residents have had to deal with water and mildew.

"Another issue is security. We have had some acts of vandalism," said Amey.

"However, Wentworth is still a good place to live."

The RMC regularly finds space for programs important to Wentworth residents. Wentworth is about to have training for licensed day care providers and a GED class. There is a lot of interest in computer classes for which the RMC is working with the LAC and other groups to find new computers.

Wentworth had a chapter of Narcotics Anonymous but attendance has fallen off recently. There is also a Mama Said program and a Boys and Girls Club.

Resident Reviews

Residents of Wentworth have varying opinions of the performance of the RMC. One young lady I talked to said that it takes them too long to repair or replace things in her apartment.

"Maybe it's because they don't have a manager," this resident said. "I get a lot of promises."

Another resident had a similar gripe but said she will give the RMC some time.

"But if they don't improve soon, CHA management could have stayed," this resident said.

The RMC Responds

Curtis James, the executive director of the Wentworth RMC, is not a resident but has an extensive background in economic development and entrepreneur training.

A former business owner, James established the entrepreneur program in 1987 at Chicago State University. He is also a consultant for Northeastern University's Center for Inner City Studies and the Northeastern University Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development. James is also a working on his certification to become a registered housing manager.

James said he sees the RMC as a "start-up business venture" and attributed many of the problems at Wentworth to the heavy amount of open work orders and code violations inherited from CHA.

James said that the RMC is in the process of obtaining a manager. However, the reason for the delay in closing work orders is that the RMC inherited 2,000 open work orders and a tremendous number of code violations when they took over management from CHA.

Also, James said the level of funding the RMC receives from CHA makes it difficult to do a lot of things. But according to James, in less than a year, the RMC has begun to catch



Susan M. Donald Executive Administrative Assistant of the Wentworth Gardens RMC.

Photo by Wateka Kleinpeter

up because they are now down to 800 work orders.

There currently is no manager but Andrea Henley is the development clerk who is in the management office. She was a volunteer for the RMC, director of the Boys and Girls Club for five years and a youth coordinator for Chicago Area Project. Her late father was supervisor of the maintenance staff at Wentworth during the '60s and early '70s.

Welfare to Work: People In Transition

Earnfare Issues

by Bobby Watkins

As the vice president of the Lathrop Homes Local Advisory Council, I have worked with Chicago Housing Authority residents and others who do not live in CHA but work for Earnfare as a means of support. For many, this has been the only means of support they have had for a long time.

Some have really begun to get frustrated with this program. They work for six months and then have six months off. As the time starts to run out, many of the Earnfare workers told me they don't know what to do during the next six months because few employers hire the Earnfare employee after the program ends. Many of these men and women had been out there before trying to join the

work force with little or no success. The question I am constantly asked by these workers is: "If they can hire us for the 6 months, then why can't we be kept on permanently."

One young man nearing the end of his 6 months was told that he was a good worker and that the company was looking to keep him. He was asked to fill out an application for employment and was hired at a fairly decent wage.

He was feeling very good about himself because he was finally off the welfare rolls. But after two weeks of working, he was told that he was no longer needed but if anything else came through, he would be called.

Unemployed again, he came back to the Local Advisory Council office to see if there were any jobs available or any training programs he could be a part of. I contacted the people at the Comprehensive Earnfare office but they could only suggest that if a job fair came up, they would let us know.

I hated to see such a good worker - someone who really wanted to work - go to waste. So I tried a few more calls. I got no

help from the Illinois Department of Human Services office but luckily, I found this young man a permanent job in our development at an on-site agency.

I would like to thank the Mary Crane Day Care Centers and Mary Beltran for being there.

That's only one story and some of the others aren't so lucky. Rose Garden and some of the other social agencies responsible for placing Earnfare workers told me they don't want to send workers to CHA developments because there is little chance they get hired permanently by the agency.

I had to explain to the Comprehensive Earnfare office that we have no way at the development level of choosing who CHA hires. We have sent people to the employment office to fill out applications with little success.

I also have heard from some sources at CHA that a number of workers that fill out the applications can't pass the drug screening. These Earnfare workers complained that they didn't need to pass a drug test to get the Earnfare position.

The workers told me the Earnfare program needs a greater commitment from the companies these workers are sent to. If only one person were to be hired at each company, it would mean so much, these workers said. The workers also asked for more training because many of these jobs don't provide any training.

We have had some very good workers and hope we may in the future be a part of strengthening this program as CHA is in the process of getting a contract with the Earnfare program and DHS.

I also have worked with the Services Employment Redevelopment (SER), an agency that works with young mothers who are Transitional Aid to Needy Families (TANF) recipients. One young mother who worked with us for a few months encountered many problems and became very discouraged. Her checks never came on time after her hours were completed. She also said she was supposed to get help finding a job but she was never sent on an interview.

Give Me Your Retired

by John "Popcorn" Sampson

Today, **RJ** is going to take a close and careful look at where, how and who a senior citizen must go see in order to get a job with the City of Chicago, Cook County or the State of Illinois.

Two weeks ago on Thursday, July 8, **RJ** sent its oldest reporter/photographer (me) to 510 N. Peshtigo Court for an interview with Lynn Roberson. Roberson is the very capable manager of the Employment Program. She has been an employee of the Department on Aging for 22 years. Roberson is a native of Chicago. She was born and raised on the South Side, where she went to DuSable High School, after which she attended Catherine Scott College, where she studied business administration for two years.

Roberson supervises four programs:

The Job Training Partnership ACT or (JTPA). This program comes under the heading of vocation classroom training for individuals 55 or older who reside in Chicago and meet federal income guidelines for economically disadvantaged persons. Training will prepare older individuals for jobs as security officers, nursing assistants, medical billing assistants, janitors, computer operators, copier repair technicians, general office clerks and more. Training classes range from four to 16 weeks, depending on the topic.

Title V Program: This is an employment program designed to assist the mature worker to re-enter the job

market. The program places eligible individuals usually for 20 hours a week at minimum wages in community service or in non-profit agencies. Individuals must be 55 years of age or older, reside in the City of Chicago, have a limited income and be capable of performing the tasks involved in the community service assignment.

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP): This program brings older adults into the lives of children who need care and attention in hospitals, day care centers and residential facilities for children with disabilities. A small number of foster grandparents assist special needs for children in private homes. Foster grandparents volunteer four hours a day, five days a week and receive a stipend of \$ 2.55 per hour, carfare, reimbursement for lunch every day of service and a uniform. Individuals must be at least 60 years old, have no other employment and have a love for children.

The Senior Companion Volunteer Program: SCV helps chronically impaired older adults and frail elderly people who are in need of companionship, personalized care and or care for caregivers. Most serve in homes. They lend the kind of compassion and understanding that make the difference between being institutionalized and remaining at home. To terminally ill clients, they offer the comfort of a helping hand and a listening ear. Senior Companion Volunteers work four hours a day, five days per week, receive a stipend of \$ 2.50 per hour, carfare reimbursement and lunch reimbursement.

Individuals must be at least 60 years old, have no other employment, reside in Chicago, live on a limited income and have an interest in helping others.

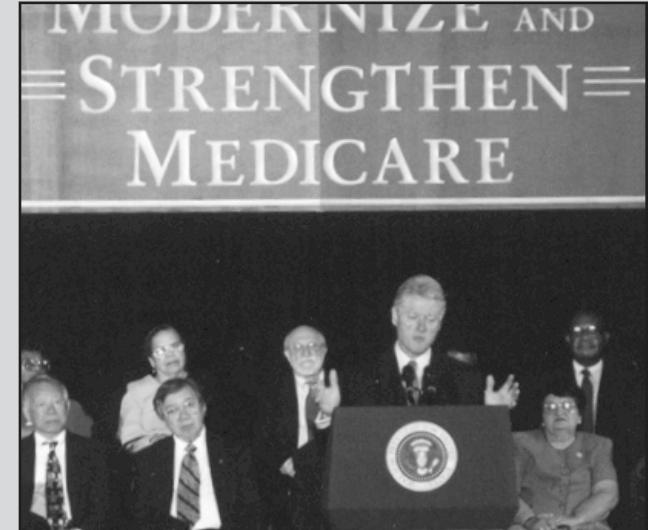
When applying for employment, bring the following documents:

Proof of age: birth certificate, driver's license, state ID card, passport.

Proof of Chicago residency: driver's license, voter registration card, state ID card or tax bill, public aid medical card or an immigration document for new citizens.

Proof of income: two current paychecks stubs, unemployment insurance letters or a social security income verification form.

Seniors interested in getting jobs should bring from one to the three of the above mentioned documents to the Chicago Department on Aging, 510 Peshtigo Court, Suite



President William Jefferson Clinton makes a speech on Medicare issues to seniors at the Chicago Cultural Center on June 30, 1999.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

300 Chicago, IL 60611.

Training Programs

For those who would like to apply for the training programs funded by the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and offered through the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, there are six agencies at six different training sites:

American Security, 2415 S. Michigan Ave: Call (312) 225-7844. Ask for Lauren Fuentes for registration.

Career Academy, 200 N Michigan: Call (312) 372-7737 and ask for Pauline Zanetakos regarding training as a nursing assistant.

Korean American Senior Center, 4750 N. Sheridan Road, Suite 407: Call (773) 878-7272 and contact Natalie Yancy for computer literacy training.

Medical Academy of Business Technology, 13005 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406: Call (708) 824-0225 and ask for James Murray for training as a medical billing officer.

Operation ABLE, 180 N. Wabash Ave., 8th floor: Call (312) 580-0371 and ask for Julia Green for training as a computer service worker.

Shalom and God be with you.
I'm Popcorn.

Altgeld Gardens Report

by Sharon Fornizy

Hello. This is Sharon Fornizy once again coming back with you. If you have a good story idea, please know that I have not forgotten you. I will be around. If you need to get in contact with me, please call (773) 535-5613 or fax me at (773) 535-5223.

Block Clean-Up

In May, we had a block clean up project to better the community. The head of the effort was T. Hernal. Many workers and residents contributed their personal time to the effort. Also, there were children who helped by cleaning and cutting the grass and by planting flowers. Other block residents were in other blocks and areas.



Children of the Altgeld Gardens community participating in the Block Clean-up project that took place in May.

Photo by Sharon Forinzy

Food and cold drinks were provided for the ones who participated in the clean up. It was a success.

Christmas in July

We had a Christmas in July where the children came out and received prizes and played games in Carver Park. But the event ended at the community building because of rain. The organizers didn't expect bad weather. We had food, games and prizes and the kids really enjoyed the day.

Sympathies

From Sheila Naylor:

Sympathies for the bereaved in Altgeld Gardens. To the families of the loved ones who have left us here, the ones that we know and the ones that we don't, we know Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal. Please feel free to call me any time that the Angel of Death visits. My number is (773) 201-7678. May God bless you in your sorrows and keep you in His care and our prayers.

Summer Camp

To the crew at the 111th Street YMCA: We would like to thank you for letting our children participate in your summer camp program. The children really enjoyed the summer activities. The children that went are Carla Fullilove, Andrea Kid,

Ladonna Hall and Ciera Arandor. They were very enlightened and glad to participate in the swimming, arts and crafts, and the trips to the parks and libraries. Also the Carver Park District of Altgeld had a summer camp for the children and it was a success.

Back to School

Some of the children are happy because school is about to begin in late August. They are really ready to go back to their new grades. To the children that had to go to summer school: I wish them good luck. Also good luck to the ones who had to take the Iowa Test on July 26. May God bless you.

Youth Corps '99

There is an organization called Hope Youth Corps '99. The group is made up of teenagers from different countries that get together and do shows and help the community. Some of their activities are traveling and performing to kids about staying away from gangs, alcohol and drugs. While they were here in Altgeld Gardens recently, they did shows like "Cinderella" and the "Prince of Bel-Air." The children really enjoyed the shows.

Sports

The basketball teams have been doing fine in their games. The men's team, the



Altgeld Gardens kids with participants of the HOPE Youth Corps '99.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Strong Arms, has been winning a lot. Also we have a women's basketball team. They have been trying to do better since they lost several games.

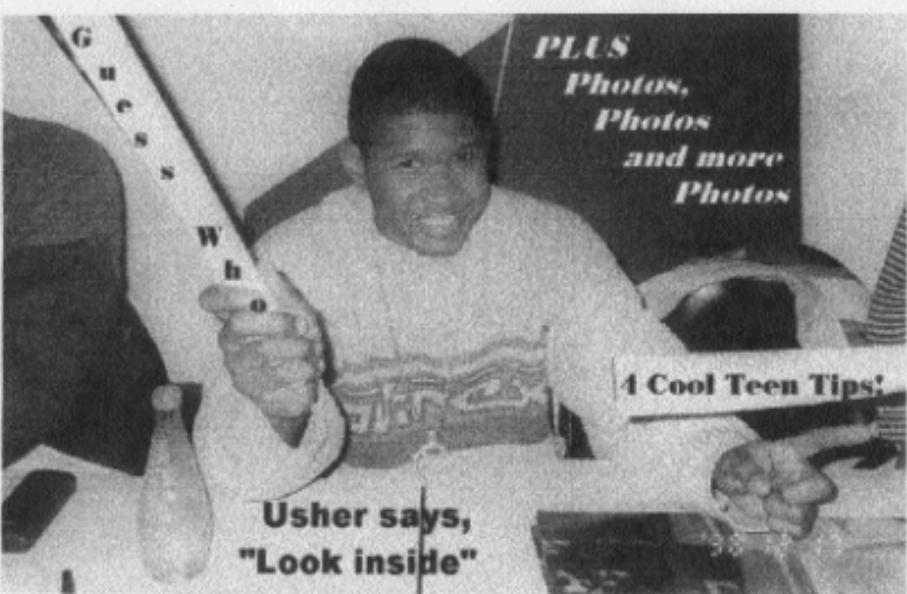
CHA Maintenance

The CHA maintenance office is doing much better on work orders for apartments. They also are working on the closed apartments and are keeping the blocks clean. They are cutting the grass for the senior citizens that are not able to keep their yards clean.

UPBeat

Inside this issue:
Why A Youth Newspaper?
PHASE One Youth Photography
Workshop
Mini-Magazine

A Photo Magazine by Young Urban Photographers of the
Chicago Housing Authority



USHER

Plus

CADRE Kids Define LOVE

Summer Photos by the Youth's from the
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Sister Muhammad

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CHA PRIVATE MANAGEMENT

by Julio Martinez

On July 23, I interviewed Debra Hunter, president of the Diversified Realty Group Inc., at the company's headquarters at #439 E. 31st St., suite #216.

"We have several buildings in our company that we provide management services for and the only one that is not private is located at 5040 North Kenmore Ave. and it belongs to the Chicago Housing Authority," Hunter said. Diversified took over management of 5040 N. Kenmore in late 1998.

"When we agreed to manage this building, they (CHA) gave us less than 30 days to inspect the building, to assess the repairs that it needed, to inspect the vacant

units to see what condition they were in, and to inspect it from the bottom to the top floor. We know that 30 days is not enough time.

"The first thing we did was to remove the rugs from the floors because they were already hard and smelled bad, which was a health problem for the residents. We then laid new tile and we painted the entire building and, when we finished painting it, we installed railings on all the floors. Now the residents say that they can invite their family members and friends because the building is very nice."

Hunter said she meets weekly with her property managers to find out what activities they are involved in, such as financial problems, repairs and learning the concerns of the residents.

But the main problem this summer is moderating the effects of the heat. Patricia Reskey, senior manager for CHA's modernization division, informed me that air conditioning units would be installed in 5040 N. Kenmore very soon. But the engineers visited us on July 26 and we had a chance to talk with Ike Khan, also from the modernization division. Khan told us that the air-conditioning units could not be installed because there are problems with the building's electrical system.

I asked Rhonda Russell, the property manager at 5040 N. Kenmore Ave., what can be done to help the senior residents at the building during the hot weather.

"When the temperature is going to be very high, I, as proper-

ty manager, let the residents know that they can come to cool off to the two cooling rooms - one is the social room and the other is the community room, which are controlled by the Chicago Housing Authority and we supervise them," Russell said.

Russell added that Diversified bought 20-inch electric fans and distributed them to the residents who didn't have fans.

I asked Russell about her experience in housing and she told me that she has been lucky to be surrounded by professional, experienced housing supervisors during her career. Russell said she once worked for the Chicago Housing Authority. Russell's professionalism can be seen in the work that has been done to date on 5040 N. Kenmore, which had been abandoned for so many years. New tiles, new paint, new lights and new railings are just some of the improvements residents have seen lately.

"What is important for us is that the



Debra Hunter, President of Diversified Realty Group Inc.

Photo by Julio Martinez

soon. We will have a person bilingual in Korean so that he or she can be in charge of giving service to the Korean residents and

"What is important for us is that the residents are comfortable and safe in their dwellings in a clean, decent environment and that they feel pride in living here."

-Rhonda Russell, Property Manager of 5040 N. Kenmore Avenue

residents are comfortable and safe in their dwellings in a clean, decent environment and that they feel pride in living here. We still have a lot to do and we hope to finish

we are thankful for the kindness that has been shown during this restoration of the building," Russell said.

ADMINISTRACIÓN UN EDIFICIO DE LA CHA

por Julio Martínez

El 23 de julio entrevisté a Debra Hunter, presidenta de Diversified Realty Group Inc., en las oficinas centrales de la compañía situadas en #439 E. 31st St., suite #216.

"En nuestra compañía prestamos servicios de administración a varios edificios y el único que no es privado está ubicado en 5040 North Kenmore Ave. y pertenece a la Chicago Housing Authority", afirmó Hunter. Diversified se hizo cargo de la administración del edificio situado en 5040 N. Kenmore a finales de 1998.

"Cuando nos comprometimos a administrar este edificio, ellos (CHA) nos dieron menos de 30 días para inspeccionar el edificio, evaluar las reparaciones necesarias, inspeccionar las unidades vacantes de vivienda con el fin de verificar en qué condiciones se encontraban e inspeccionar el edificio desde el sótano hasta el último piso. Nosotros sabemos que 30 días no es tiempo suficiente para estas tareas."

"Lo primero que hicimos fue retirar

las alfombras de los pisos debido a que ya se habían endurecido y despedían un olor desagradable, lo que era un problema de salud para los residentes. Seguidamente colocamos nuevas baldosas y pintamos el edificio entero, y cuando terminamos de pintarlo, instalamos barandillas en todos los pisos. Ahora los residentes aseguran que pueden invitar a los miembros de su familia y amigos porque la apariencia del edificio es muy agradable."

Hunter manifestó que se reúne semanalmente con los administradores de la propiedad para enterarse de las actividades en las que están participando como, por ejemplo, la resolución de los problemas financieros y las reparaciones y la determinación de las preocupaciones de los residentes.

No obstante, este verano la principal tarea consiste en suavizar los efectos del calor. Patricia Reskey, gerente principal de la división de modernización de CHA, me informó que las unidades de aire acondicionado se instalarían muy pronto en el edificio de 5040 N. Kenmore; pero los ingenieros nos visitaron el 26 de julio y tuvimos la oportunidad de conversar con Ike Khan, quien pertenece también a la

división de modernización. Khan nos informó que las unidades de aire acondicionado no podrían instalarse debido a que hay problemas con el sistema eléctrico del edificio.

Le pregunté a Rhonda Russell, la administradora de la propiedad situada en 5040 N. Kenmore Ave., qué medidas pueden tomarse durante los días calurosos para ayudar a las personas de la tercera edad que residen en el edificio.

"Cuando la temperatura aumenta demasiado, yo, como administradora de la propiedad, hago saber a los residentes que pueden venir a refrescarse en las dos salas de temperatura acondicionada, una de ellas es la sala de actividades sociales y la otra es la sala comunitaria, que están controladas por la Chicago Housing Authority y son supervisadas por nuestra compañía", señaló Russell.

Russell agregó que Diversified compró ventiladores eléctricos de 20 pulgadas (50.8 cm) y los distribuyó entre los residentes que no tenían ventiladores.

También le pregunté a Russell acerca de su experiencia en el campo de las

viviendas y ella afirmó que se sentía muy afortunada porque durante toda su carrera había estado rodeada de supervisores profesionales y experimentados de viviendas. Russell comentó que una vez trabajó para la Chicago Housing Authority. El profesionalismo de Russell puede apreciarse en las obras que se han hecho hasta la fecha para mejorar el edificio situado en 5040 N. Kenmore, que había estado abandonado durante muchos años. Nuevas baldosas, nueva pintura, nuevas luces y nuevas barandillas son sólo algunas de las mejoras que los residentes han visto últimamente.

"Lo que es importante para nosotros es que los residentes estén cómodos y seguros en sus viviendas en un ambiente limpio, decente y que se sientan orgullosos de vivir aquí. Aún tenemos muchas cosas que hacer y esperamos terminar pronto. Tendremos una persona bilingüe que domine el idioma inglés y el coreano, de forma que él o ella pueda encargarse de prestar servicio a los residentes coreanos y estamos agradecidos por la amabilidad que han mostrado durante las labores de restauración de este edificio", concluyó Russell.

KOREAN TRANSLATIONS

RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS

by Cenabeth Cross

The entire world started grieving because the prince had died. John F. Kennedy Jr., the son of the late President John F. Kennedy Sr., died on July 17, after his plane took a nose dive into the Atlantic Ocean.

The younger Kennedy's death brought back memories of my own son's death. My son, Benjamin David, was killed, shot in the back by some gang bangers who thought that he should join their group. He was my prince.

Benjamin was enrolled in Olive Harvey College and was finishing his second year when he was killed. He had been employed by White Castle since his high school graduation. His birthday was Aug. 8. His father died when he was three years old.

I believe that there is a divine plan for our lives. That must be why John's mother, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, died first. As a mother who has been through it, I believe her son's death would have made her lose her cool.

Responding to Hate

On July 15, I attended a meeting given by the American Jewish Committee, the Center for New Community and the Illinois

Ethnic Coalition.

The meeting was to acknowledge and respond to the hate groups that are in existence today by uniting minorities together to fight against these groups.

Led by 27-year-old Matthew Hale, the Church of the Creator is one of the fastest growing hate groups of the '90s, according to numerous groups at the meeting.

Benjamin Smith belonged to the World Church of the Creator. He is a white man who traveled from Illinois to Indiana during the Independence Day weekend and shot a number of people from several minority groups.

One of the victims was the former basketball coach of Northwestern University, Ricky Byrdsong. A former public housing resident in Atlanta, Byrdsong was 43 and had a wife and two children who were jogging with him at the time of his murder in Skokie.

The other person killed was Won Joon

around Bloomington, Ind.

Smith's rampage was part of his own war against the "mud people" - Jews, Blacks and Asians.

At the conference, the speakers said members of these kind of hate groups are not people who have any unusual characteristics. They go to church just like you and I. Most are said to be loners.

In the early '90s, the speakers said the Church of the Creator emerged as one of the most violent hate groups on the radical right, attracting the neo-nazi skinheads and other white supremacists around the world. They are connected to at least one Florida murder and an attempt to start a race war on the West Coast, according to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith.

The World Church of the Creator is based in Peoria, Illinois, and is a racial reli-

Yoon, a graduate student at the University of Indiana. This was one year after Smith first distributed World Church literature

gion whose primary goal is to advance the white race, create an all-white nation and ultimately an all-white world. The World Church operates on 22 web sites and is interested in recruiting the young and women.

The meeting's organizers passed out literature, including the booklet, "What to do When the Militia Comes to Town." People spoke who had studied the movements and the people that belong to them. The resource experts included Devin Burghart from the Center for New Community, Kathleen Blee from the University of Pittsburgh, Marlene Hines from the Northwest Coalition, Michael Kotzin of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Jonathan Levine of the American Jewish Committee, Karen Narasaki of the National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium and William Yoshino of the Japanese American Citizens League.

The speakers said the greatest way to stop any type of violence is to join with others and put up a united front. They suggested citizens create a moral barrier to hate by speaking out. The speakers said the clergy should get involved and use their positions to encourage leadership and assistance from local and state officials, and address the frustrations, fears and alienation of the people that lead them to the far-right groups.

by Arminta Clark

The Chicago Housing Authority is staying on schedule continuing to raze more high-rise buildings and paving the way for mixed income housing.

Tenants that once occupied these dwellings are being offered a Section 8 certificate to relocate housing in the private rental market, an available unit in a CHA building with or scattered site housing. Many residents are very reluctant to accept Section 8 certificates and are choosing to decline it.

Buildings are steadily being demolished at Robert Taylor Homes. A recent survey of residents in Robert Taylor Homes showed that 50 percent of the residents are looking forward to receiving Section 8 certificates and 50 percent aren't interested in Section 8.

This article will describe residents' plight with Section 8 and find out why many residents are declining to accept Section 8.

Carolyn Acker has resided in public housing for 20 years. The building in which she once resided no longer exists. Acker now resides at 5135 S. Federal St.

"I have been here since Jan. 26 of this year," Acker said.

Acker recalled many memories of her old apartment building at 5041 S. Federal:

"Coming from that building, we feel very, very sad."

We lost a lot of memories with that building. There were families that moved in that were individual families. Then, as other families moved in, we got to know each other. We started loving each other as whole families. But now we're all broken apart.

"We lost a lot of things in our lives. I lived at 5041 S. Federal for 20 years. A lot of things were going on at that building. The water pipes burst

and that made the winter cold more intense than year. With the flooding and water running along with no heat, it was like living in an ice city. We moved like in Exodus."

Acker and her neighbors had to immediately evacuate due to the extreme weather conditions during the winter of '98. Acker said she and other senior citizens were offered a Section 8 certificate that would include all utilities.

Acker informed me that she declined to accept Section 8. After viewing many apartments under the Section 8 housing program, she and her family were quite disappointed.

"I felt that I would be exchanging one slum apartment and landlord for another," Acker said.

"Many of the apartments were no better than my original one. And landlords generally stereotyped me when they found out my previous residential area. I am not really satisfied with my new apartment. But the benefits are a little better for me. Being right at the bus stop is a big convenience and we're 20 minutes from the Loop."

Barbara Moore has resided in public housing for 33 years now. Asked if she wants a Section 8, she said "No!"

Moore is a grandmother and the president of her building at 5266 S. State St. This building is slated for demolition also. Moore doesn't trust the Chicago Housing Authority.

"We were promised 15 years to stay on this property. Later, it went down to five years now we have until Oct. 15, 1999. We have accomplished a lot in our community."

For the last three years, Moore and other residents have been involved with a fish and worm farm and a food pantry along with running a library right in Robert Taylor.

Their organization, titled "God

Section 8 Complaints

Gangs," has about 54 children in it. They're taught about worms.

"We have established over 100 beds red wiggles worms and have 10 beds of African worms. We're teaching our children how to be entrepreneurs and self-sufficient, along with teaching them community service.

"Our children are very much involved. Many have graduated from high school and are going on to college. The older children act as mentors for our younger children.

"As far as Strategic Planning, I am willing to take a lie-detector test. I was never invited to attend a meeting. Strategic Planning decided which buildings will stay and which will be demolished.

"I knew nothing until the other residents were informed. Being the building president, we're supposed to be involved regarding this matter. If this property is good enough to build townhouses that would eventually cost \$200,000, then it's worth fighting for.

"I want to make sure the residents aren't given a bum deal where they would have to hurry up and gather their belongings to relocate housing in a short period.

"Furthermore, I don't believe there is enough Section 8 housing to accommodate everybody. This would leave a lot of families homeless. My plight is enormous but there is no struggle without a fight.

"On Aug. 3, we had our tenant services meeting that is held once a month where (CHA's) new CEO, Philip Jackson, comes out to talk to

the LAC (Local Advisory Council), CAC (Central Advisory Council) and residents.

"Right now, our building is on hold. According to Phil Jackson, another viability test will be given and they're supposed to do another strategic planning."

(Editor's note: CHA CEO Phillip Jackson said recently that his team is indeed reviewing all strategic plans and decisions made by the previous administration regarding 5266 S. Federal St. and other buildings slated for closure. Jackson said his top priority was to ensure that residents stay "safe and warm" during the upcoming winter.

"What happened last year in Robert Taylor was a national disgrace. We cannot let it happen again."

Jackson added that residents will be involved in any decision regarding building closure and that residents who do have to move will receive advance notice and a choice of replacement housing.

"Some people will have to move but anyone who has to move will have the full support of CHA."

S. — a resident who asked that her name not be used — was one of the residents from 5001 S. Federal. She lived there for nine years until the building was demolished. S. decided to accept the Section 8 certificate. But she said moving was like a "nightmare."

"I was homeless for 2 months before I could find housing for my family. We stayed with different family members. A lot of times, it was very difficult to assure landlords that you would be an ideal tenant. Many landlords wanted to see your previous apartment to see what type of tenant you were, especially coming from public housing.

"Automatically, when they saw

a Section 8 certificate, they would think that I didn't have a job. Not so!"

S. recalled a situation where she handed a landlord a \$25 dollar money order. After coming to examine her old apartment, she received the same money order back after three days. The landlord said he had completed a credit check.

"It's no way he checked it out. Eventually, I found a three-bedroom in the Washington Park area. I'm not satisfied but it's better than being homeless.

"I have to stay in this apartment for at least one year in order to continue using the Section 8 certificate." S. said that over 200 hundred families had to be placed in motels last winter because of the horrible conditions when the water pipes burst in some Robert Taylor Homes buildings.

"The furniture was completely ruined. The CHA movers were just as bad. They broke furniture and handled our personal belongings without care," S. said.

Section 8 Discrimination

Chicago Commission on Human Relations Chairman Clarence N. Wood's adjudication report for 1998 indicated that they received 559 discrimination cases in all categories. The categories are employment, public accommodation, housing and credit. Housing was the most active with 241 housing complaints. That was a new record, according to Commission staff. In fact, that is an 11 per cent increase over the number received in 1997, 217, which was itself a record.

"Source of income" was the type of discrimination accounted for over 40 percent of the housing cases for the second straight year. Most of the cases involved claims that landlords would not accept Section 8 from applicants.

Letters to the Editor

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Dear Editor:

Playgrounds, Playgrounds. Everyone wants to go to the playgrounds. The first words out of little kids' mouths are, "Can I go to the playground?" But is the playground really safe? Parents, is your child really safe at the playground by him or herself? Well I'm here to tell you a thing or two about playground safety.

First of all, when your child or children are at the playground, make sure that they are supervised.

When your children are supervised, there is a less chance of them

getting kidnapped. At least an older brother or sister should supervise your child or children. Another thing about playground safety is to talk to your kids about when they are at the playground, make sure that they do not talk to strangers. Not talking to strangers at the playground can prevent rape, kidnapping and a lot of other things too.

Another thing about playground safety is to make sure that your child or children play on the playground

equipment right. If your child or children play on the equipment right, this can prevent your child or children from getting hurt in the playground. One of the most important rules that your

child or children must follow in the playground is not to climb up on the same thing they can't climb down off. Another one of the most important rules your child or children must follow on the playground is to never leave with someone they didn't come with unless the person they came

with knows!

Now that you've read this commentary, I hope you will be more careful. Please follow these tips. Supervise your child. We wouldn't want anything to happen, now would we. Just be more careful. Please!

**-Sierra Wallace - Grade 4
6217 S. Calumet Ave.
Apartment 506**

Editor's Note: Wallace's essay is a national award winner.

Legitimate Concerns

Dear Editor:

We are the residents of Judge Green Homes Apartments, 4030 S. Lake Park. Our concern is we are enduring a lack of hot water day after day. We can not shower.

Our home makers cannot clean our apartments. In the meantime, the health of our residency mandates is being compromised and

our lease, which calls for the provision of hot water is being violated. We need some help over here fast.

Thank you for reading our legitimate concerns.

Sincerely,

-The senior and disabled residents of 4030 So. Lake Park

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your kind letter of July 1st. I also appreciate your adding me to your mailing list for the Chicago Housing Authority's Residents' Journal. I look forward to reading it.

I am delighted to support the Urban Youth International Journalism Program. You are to be

commended for providing such a worthwhile program for our youth.

Very truly yours,

**-Peter G. Fitzgerald
U.S. Senator from Illinois**

kind of personal satisfaction that comes from such collaborative efforts.

RJ Remembered

And I can't tell you how exciting it is to learn that Mary Johns and Wateka Kleinpeter are full-time employees! I remember my first meetings with each of these women. My first visit to Chicago was to explore the possibility of developing a resident newspaper and to put together an action plan. I made a short presentation at a resident conference, after which Wateka

introduced herself and shared her background and energy with me. I thought then that she would be a fine recruit and, although there have been rough spots in the road, I am very happy to see how she has hung in there and won both your confidence and a professional position on the paper.

Mary, I remember, had

come to our orientation at Wentworth Gardens (coming,

as I remember, by bus and a

long walk on a hot day). She was one of the first at the meeting

and we had a chance to chat a little.

As I remember, she said she liked to write, especially poetry. If Wateka makes a "strong" first impression, Mary seemed to be on the quiet, shy side. I would love to watch them working together as a team!

Please pass on my congratulations to Mary and Wateka...and to all the others

on the staff who I remember so well (and who, I hope, still have some pleasurable memories of my visits).

Best regards,

-Marshall Kandell
(Editor's note: Mr. Kandell started the nation's first public housing resident publication during his tenure at the Los Angeles Housing Authority. He recruited and trained dozens of Chicago Housing Authority residents and helped to develop the framework for Residents' Journal.)

HUD Salutes RJ

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your letter of July 1, 1999, to the Department of Housing and Urban Development describing the successful issues in your publication that contain information for and about the public housing residents.

We are pleased to learn about the transition of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) from federal to city

control, CHA's new CEO, and the future of the CHA Police Department. Since this is the first of a series of "Welfare-to-Work: People in Transition," I hope that the other issues continue to be just as informative. We applaud your efforts in keeping the residents informed and thank you for sharing the July 1999 edition of Residents' Journal with us.

We wish you much continued success in your

Sincerely,

**-Sonia L. Burgos
Director of Community Safety and Conservation Division
U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**

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 (773) 285-0200 x 3372 to discuss your ideas for submission.

Dear Resident

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

I hope this edition of **RJ** finds you and your family in the best of health this summer. Each and every day that we live is truly a blessing. If all that leave home return at the end of the day, no matter what else may happen, you've had a good day.

Currently, the redevelopment of Chicago has changed the face of our public housing communities. The barriers that kept others away are coming down. People have come to live on the very border of areas they once avoided.

For some of us, this change has resulted in a larger community as the redevelopment has brought job opportunities and allowed families to move out of public housing. Some families have gone from the burden of living in public housing to the unspeakable, always-hoped-for-but-never-thought-possible joy of moving into newly developed housing in the same community with their new neighbors.

Unfortunately, for others, it has resulted in a smaller community as the redevelopment has shut down and demolished many businesses and buildings. And their new neighbors restrict their ability to move about and posture in areas where they once did so freely.

We have always been a curiosity (to be avoided at all costs) to people outside of public housing, especially to people of other races. Today, we are still a curiosity but people of

other races have come closer.

Most recently, I had the pleasure of being invited to the screening of two documentaries featuring Cabrini-Green and its residents:

"Halsted Street, USA," by David E. Simpson, traces Halsted Street from beginning to end with a prominent section on Cabrini-Green at Division and Halsted streets. "Voices of Cabrini (Remaking Chicago's Public Housing)," by Ronit Bezalel, details the history of residents and the struggle imposed by the redevelopment of Cabrini-Green.

Both are outstanding films and a refreshing change from the negative sensationalism used to attract viewers on commercial television. These films are subject- rather than director-driven. Both films are available for loan at the Near North Branch of the Chicago Public Library located just east of Division and Orleans streets. Or you may contact Panacea Pictures at (773) 761-8855 for "Halsted Street, USA" and Ronit Bezalel Productions at (773) 728-1879 for "Voices of Cabrini."

A new millennium is dawning with boundless technology and a One World concept is seeking to break down social, racial, economic and geographical barriers throughout the world to literally create one world and one

society. People are planning to live even closer to each other.

All of this brings me to the question, "What are we planning for?" Are we planning for the new millennium? Or are we planning to continue in public housing as we have for the past four decades? Are we joining society or will we struggle to remain socially, racially, economically and geographically isolated?

Some residents see this dawn as an opportunity and others see it as oppression. As a woman, mother and grandmother, I am more afraid of things remaining the same than I am of things changing. As things stand in public housing today, too few of our children and grandchildren are successful in love, money and health, which seem to

be three key elements of a happy life. I work very hard to help the people around me be happy.

I've said it before and I am saying it again: The Black woman is the nucleus of our community. Everything revolves around us. We are the driving force. We are the center of our family and community universe. If we don't do it, it don't get done. Simply put, it ain't going get no better until we

Are we joining society or will we struggle to remain socially, racially, economically and geographically isolated?

get better! We must become physically, mentally, emotionally, financially and spiritually whole, together, collectively, one at a time and at the same time.

And I've always hoped and dreamed that we could. But I always thought it impossible because of the lack of respect and sincere concern that Black women have for each other. I've often said that we'll be waiting until the cows come home (and we don't have any cows) before Black women pull together for the benefit of every man, woman and child in public housing.

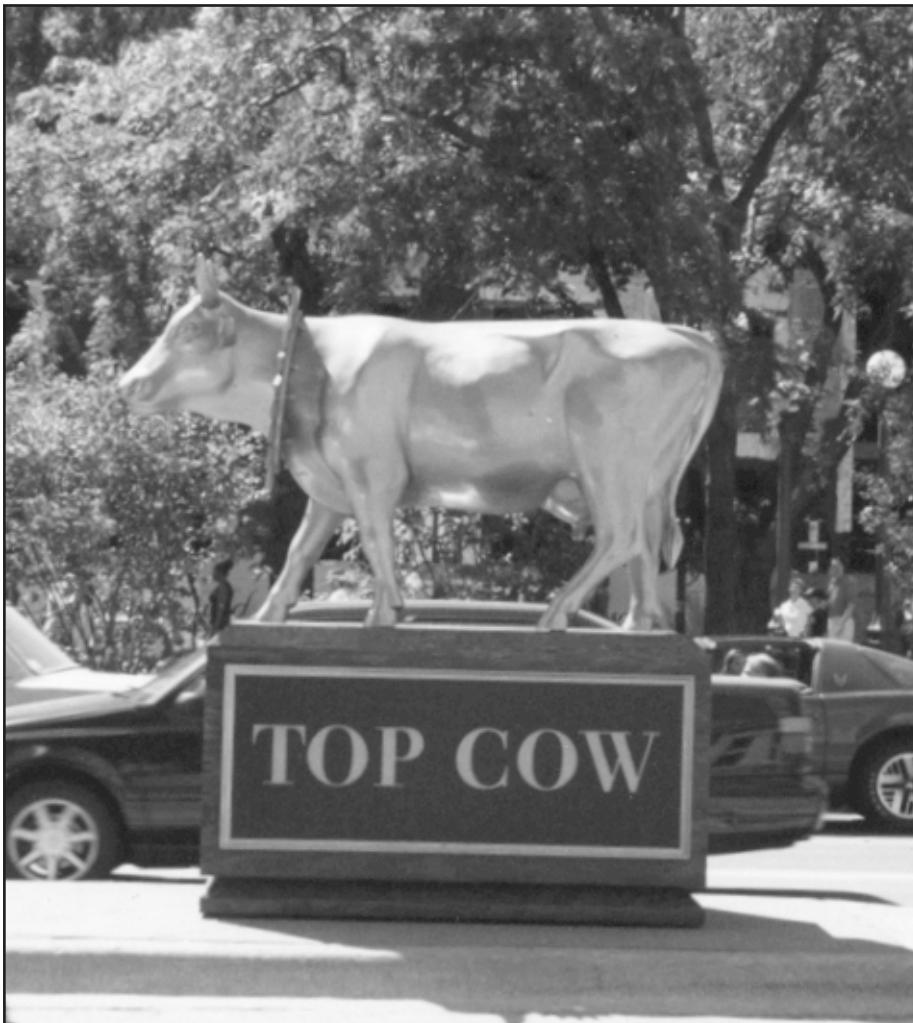
Well, I don't know about anywhere else but if you look around Chicago, you will see that the cows have come home. Over the past year, I have had the extreme pleasure of meeting other Black women who have the same hopes and dreams and a sincere concern for their neighbors and community. It's time. It's time to change the perception, definition and direction of Black women in public housing in the future for the future of every man, woman and child.

I am officially declaring April 2000 National Black Sister Month, to be symbolized by the wearing of a metallic gold ribbon, understanding that every Sister is not Black and that every Black woman is not a Sister. And the new millennium? It's the Millennium of Family and Community Renewal. Together we can make a difference. It is my hope to have a great celebration of women or a small celebration of great women. If you have the same hopes and dreams for yourself, your family and your future, I invite you to join us.

At this point, we are in the preliminary stages of planning. It is hopeful that general contact information will available by the next edition of **RJ**. However, those who wish to contact me now, please feel free to do so.

For now and the future, Sister, stay strong.

Love,
Pat



The cows have come home.

Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

Urban Youth International Journalism Program Washington D. C. Scrapbook



With Best Wishes 

