

R E S I D E N T S '

# Journal

*A publication for and by the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority* May 1998 /Volume 2/ Number 3



**Special Section pgs. 13-16**

**Youth journalists get the 'scoop' on  
Washington D.C. movers and shakers**

# **Haymarket House AD**

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## O u r M i s s i o n

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

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

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## E d i t o r ' s B o x

**by Ethan Michaeli**

Look carefully at the faces on the front cover of this edition of RJ. You are gazing at the future of journalism.

You can see the enthusiasm on the faces of these young people and, having accompanied them to the nation's capital, I can tell you that they are an energetic, intellectual bunch. The participants in the Urban Youth International Journalism program come from CHA neighborhoods around the city, from high-rises and low-rises, from the North Side and the South Side and the West Side. They are African American and Latino.

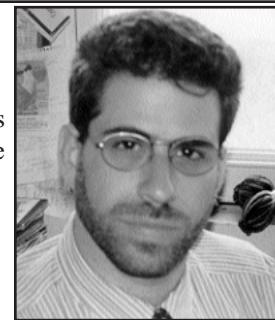
Although they faced some of the nation's most powerful people during our four days in Washington, D.C., these young people were far from intimidated. Indeed, they were tenacious with these powerful people, asking questions that were relevant to their families, neighbors and peers.

They were, of course, curious about the scandals of the day. But they were most concerned with the issues that affect them in their daily life: the conditions of their neighborhoods; threats to the safety of themselves and their families; and

At the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez arranged for the young people to conduct a press conference in the same area used by adult reporters. I watched as the young people asked questions about the redevelopment of public housing, the demolition of buildings and the relocation of families. Quite a number of HUD officials passing by the press conference paused to find out what was going on in public housing.

As the director of the program, I was of course thrilled with the youths' conduct.

But as a journalist, I cocked an eyebrow every time one of these young people demonstrated their keen insight. An



## The Future of Journalism

their own prospects for education and success.

In the face of these sincere questions, many of the politicians, officials and journalists that we met in Washington were forced to step beyond their own routine. Used to a barrage of questions on particular topics, the decision-makers we met had to set aside their usual verbal maneuvers and find real answers to these real questions. Unfortunately, they sometimes had very few answers to the questions put forward by these young people.

After months of answering questions about Monica Lewinsky, Presidential spokesperson Mike McCurry was asked what the world's most powerful leader was doing to stop gang violence and the flow of drugs in the cities.

One young man asked whether the President would support his efforts to find work to support his family.

McCurry didn't have all the answers for these questions and he had to sometimes admit that even President Bill Clinton doesn't have the power, the

entire generation of journalists was inspired by the Watergate scandal during the administration of President Richard Nixon to become White House investigators. The result has been intense scrutiny on the federal government that has legitimately raised the standards for the behavior of public officials.

But the stories with which these young people are concerned are those that affect the daily lives of millions of Americans throughout the country.

As the Urban Youth International Journalism students progress through their lives and careers, they may enter a variety of fields with different roles, including journalism.

But I am certain that regardless of which career track they choose, these young people will ask questions that will challenge our leaders to do more than change their own behavior.

These young people will ask questions that will change the nation for the better.

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# THE RUSSIANS ARE

by J. "Popcorn" Sampson

The Harry J. Schneider Building is an eye-catching red brick CHA development lording over the V point where eastbound Peterson Avenue and winding Ridge Boulevard go bounding over Paulina Avenue at 1700 west.

The thirteen-story, 179-unit structure was named to honor Harry J. Schneider, a man of high esteem who faithfully worked for CHA through the '30s and '40s. The beautiful building was initially planned and designed for people entering into the twilight zone of their lifetime. But as soon as news got around to the folks in the area of Ridge and Peterson, the people living in the neighborhood gathered together in a fit of rage. At the groundbreaking ceremony, they launched a mass protest against CHA's intention to build a public housing development in their lily white corner of the city. The crux of their argument was that public housing would be counterproductive to the welfare of the neighborhood and would most certainly cause property value to plummet to a value less than disgraceful.

But as those hard-hearted folks were to later learn, any and every attempt to stay the onward march of progress is the same as trying to pan the Mississippi dry with a teaspoon.

Early one Monday almost three years after the groundbreaking, at a moment when Zeus, lord of Illumination over all the celestial expanse, had entered the vernal equinox, the doors of Harry J. Schneider Building were flung open and four of the very first tenants were welcomed in.

Among the first four people to call the Schneider Apartments their home were Grace Brown, now 90 years old, Edith Goldstein, 87, Paul P. Dodd, 85, and Ruth Schimmel, age questionable.

Edith Goldstein and her faithful friend Grace Brown are two of the nicest, most honorable people that this sexagenarian has ever had the pleasure to know and this is something that I have never honestly thought about a white person, let alone said. But I have lived long enough to learn that a good person is a good person and their complexion is

timers who believed that a public housing building in their neighborhood would be devastating to the far North Side, the land has grown by leaps and bounds.

At the same time, our CHA development is alive and well and serving as a refuge for a multitude of strange-sounding names,

Translations of this story into Russian and Korean are printed on pages 10 and 11

waiting patiently, in numbers greater than the number of seeds in a Georgia watermelon, for the moment Uncle Sam will welcome them into their American homeland.

The person that is responsible for the care and the comfort of the 63 Russians, 61 Koreans, 5 Yugoslavians, 4 Iraqis, and a collection of Cubans, Puerto Ricans, Haitians, and others from different parts of the world is a petite, good-looking, highly intelligent young Russian woman of Jewish ancestry named Jennie Kabzarev.

Jennie was born and raised in Moscow, the capital of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics - I would guess about 1957. She attended the University of Moscow, where she earned a master's in mathematics along with a degree in the science of preparatory instructions. After having graduated from the university, Jennie joined the university staff as a professor of mathematics, and as an instructor of pedagogy. Jennie continued to teach both scientific subjects until she discovered that she was eligible to emigrate to the country in which she had longed to live all of her life. And so, in 1991, she moved to the United States of America and joined the Jane Adams Hull House Foundation as a managerial administrator.

When Jennie took over as manager of the Schneider Building, to her surprise, she was met by many unsolved problems. But being the problem solver that she is, Jennie rolled up her sleeves and went about the business of taking care of business! Jennie's first problem was to rid the development of a myriad of mice, ants and cockroaches that moved about the building in bold disregard. She resolved that dilemma by calling in a reputable exterminator who did a thorough and a complimentary job. That mission accomplished, Jennie went from floor to floor, where she systematically

removed all the time-worn rugs that to her seemed to be a threat to the safety of anyone with an arthritic impairment. She replaced them with brand new green carpets.

That done, Jennie went from one apartment to the next, removed all of the old antiquated ice boxes and replaced them with shiny white, frost-free refrigerators. Urged on by a burning desire to make the Harry J. Schneider a paragon for all future developments, Jennie adorned all the windows with crisp white venetian blinds. She also decorated all the

(Continued on Next Page)



Jennie Kabarev, manager of the Harry J. Schneider Apartments.  
Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

lost in the scenario.

Shortly after moving into the apartment building, Edith and Grace opened what later became "The Grace and Edith Gift Shop" in the building. Thereafter, for 21 successive years, through the good times and the bad times, the two friends continued, as the Black folks say, "to keep on keeping on" without receiving a single handout from any source of any kind from anyone.

But win or lose, a racehorse is a racehorse. At last, the sun came shining through and the Grace and Edith Shop began to show a profit. As business got better, so did Edith and Grace's popularity. And all because of the way in which the ladies went about spending the money they were earning.

The money gave Edith and Grace the opportunity to do what each of them wanted to do all along and that was to make the building as much of home, sweet home as they possibly could for their friends and neighbors.

By that I mean that Edith and Grace spent every penny above budget expenditure on such things as food and beverages for parties, a TV, a radio for the dining room and lamps for the hallways.

Then, in the fall of 1997, the two ladies retired and closed their shop due to Edith's ill health. That day brought an end 21 years of dedication to their friends. Now for the other two first-timers - Paul Dodd and Ruth Schimmel. Paul was previously a chef at the famous College Inn and later at the Edgewater Beach Hotel. He now heads the coffee shop that is housed in the space where Edith and Grace had their shop. Ruth once worked at Carson's but is now retired.

## TODAY

Twenty-one years after the bitter protest that was staged by a group of hate advocates, a new day is dawning. Contrary to the fears of those narrow-minded old-



62-year-old Valentine Agurkov

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson



L. Grace Brown, 90, and R. Edith Goldstine, 87  
Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

# THE RUSSIANS ARE

(Continued from Previous Page) hallways with a new coat of paint, placed chairs at the doors of each elevator and placed plants and flowers in both the smoking room and the reading room.

## SECURITY CUTS

What about the reduction, and in some developments, a complete liquidation of the security guards in this and other buildings Jennie?

"That is the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard in my life," said Jennie.

"How in the world could the housing authority think of doing such a dangerous undertaking? Especially with crime against senior citizens growing worse day by day. Why they might as well put a sign up saying here they are, come on down! I intend to fight this poppycock purposely with all my know how!"

## RESIDENTS' STORIES

Boris Gertsensktein is a 67-year-old refugee from Moldavia. Boris told me that his primary reason for coming to America and leaving his industrial employment in Moldavia was to enjoy a religious freedom that is unheard of in Moldavia.

According to Boris and other Jews I've talked to, bigotry and religious intolerance toward the Jewish population is widely prevalent throughout the Baltic and Slavic areas.

Valentine (pronounced Val-len-tee-na) Agurkov is also a Russian native of Jewish ancestry. Valentine is a 62-year-old mother of one son and a grandmother of one. She was born in Moscow in 1936, the daughter of Aron and Maya Agurkov.

Maya died in 1940 after a long bout with breast cancer. The death of his wife created a major problem for Aron, due to the fact that he was a soldier in the Russian army and could not devote full time to the needs of his baby. And so, he took advantage of the one and only alternative he had and that was to take the baby to his sister in Minsk.

Minsk, the capital of Belorussia, is located north of Ukraine and near the Polish border. In 1940, during the time that German dictator Adolf Hitler's army was marching through Poland, the Russians feared that Hitler could possibly try to extend his might by attacking Belorussia as a precautionary measure. This proved out to be one of the wisest



**Boris Gertsensktein, 67**  
Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

of wise decisions.

In June 1941, the German army did cross over the border into Russia and attack the Russian army.

The Russian troops fought one of the most courageous battles of any troops in the annals of history. But Belorussia was captured after a month of fighting. And in that history-making brawl, Aron Agurkov lost his life.

But as fate had preordained, Velva saved her life and the life of her niece Valentine by joining up with a legion of refugees on the march from Minsk to Kiev, the capital of Ukraine.

It turned out, however, that the stay in Kiev was a short one. When the word got around that Belorussia had fallen to the Germans, fear filled the hearts of the townspeople and marchers alike. Hundreds fled Kiev like rats on a sinking ship.

The assemblage with which Velva and Valentine had made the long journey from Minsk to Kiev stuck together in a sense of kinship and boarded an old supply train bound for Odessa Bay on the Black Sea.

The painful memories of the unending odyssey were more than Valentine could bear. From the first mention of it, her eyes filled with tears, her emotions were such that she could not speak.

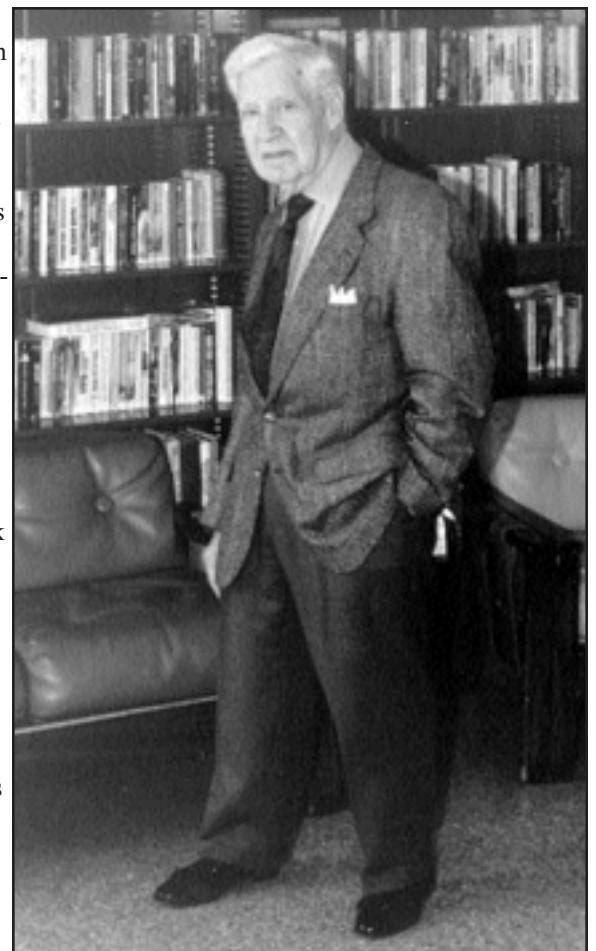
She trembled and in embarrassment, she turned away from me and said, "I'm sorry, Corn."

"Take your time", I said to her.

After a while, she composed her emotions and turned to me.

She said, "You Americans have been so blessed. You don't know what hardship is. You've never had to ride hundreds of miles in an overcrowded train with people who have messed on themselves, children crying for food, old people dying all around you, and you're way out in the middle of nowhere on an old train that you cannot be sure will get to its destination.

"You ride for days and days without a drop of water or food. Talk about hell on Earth! You Americans are blessed to be citizens of such a wonderful country. "I am going to school so that I will learn how to become a real American. I want to know how to read English so that I will earn the right to vote. The day that I can vote is the day that I shall feel as though I've become an American."



**Paul Dodd, 85**

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

## Chinese Residents Speak Out

### by Joseph S. Guan

Half of the residents in our building are Chinese. Since the beginning of this year, CHA has sent people to our building at 322 W. 28th Place to sponsor activities and find out about the daily needs of the senior residents. As a resident, I am grateful for their concern.

Currently, there are more than 100 households residing in our building and over half of them are Chinese. Because of the language barrier, there have been difficulties in interpersonal communications and management. Because of different cultural backgrounds, many seniors do not even know the meaning of some festivals. For example, when we learned that Valentine's Day and China's Lantern Festival together (Jan. 15 of the Chinese Lunar Calendar happens to be mid-February), we exchanged ideas about Eastern and Western customs, played games together and took turns singing songs, dancing and studying each other's language.

The activities sponsored by CHA received good feedback. Recently, Chinese seniors learned to play bingo for the first time. It's not so easy to get more residents involved in the activities. There are physical problems as well as different daily habits and interests.

**Translation of this article into Chinese appears on page 24**

For Chinese seniors, the most important issue is how to solve the problems they encounter in their daily lives. Because of the language barrier, they don't know how to handle problems. Even if they know how to handle them, they are unable to solve them. For example, Mr. Liu used to complain to me that the switch of his shower was broken. For a long time, he had to haul water from

the kitchen to the bathroom.

This is a pretty heavy burden for a senior citizen. However, he can't call the Maintenance Department of CHA because he doesn't speak English. Such cases occur frequently.

I called CHA, so I found out that there was someone there who spoke Chinese. However, you still have to speak English to whoever answers the phone before you can speak to the Chinese-speaking person. Furthermore, the Chinese-speaking person is not there all the time. Thus, the problem could remain unsolved for those that don't speak English. Currently, four foreign languages are being used at the Maintenance Department. For example, to speak English, you dial "1." I hope things will be made easier for Chinese-speaking residents in the future; for example, to speak Chinese, maybe you could dial "5" and if you need to save manpower or there isn't enough manpower, you could limit Chinese-language services to certain hours in the week.

# Robert Taylor Mail Blues

by Carla Greenwood

**M**aybe most of us never thought it possible that the postal service has and will suspend mail delivery to any one or any community if the life of a mail carrier seems to be in danger. Well, I hope reading this article informs residents everywhere, especially public housing/CHA residents, that if the crime in your community ever puts a postal worker at risk of any danger, maybe your or your community's mail service will be suspended.

The public housing development Robert Taylor Homes recently had its mail delivery suspended because of the crime activity in the buildings. I'm a Robert Taylor Homes resident and experiencing a mail suspension didn't seem fair or legal to any Robert Taylor residents I talked to. I set to investigate why and how our mail service had been stopped.

"When someone's life is on the line, there's no jumping the gun. Our first obligation is to protect our employees," said Postal Service spokeswoman Debra Hawkins during an RJ interview.

"We don't like suspending service of mail delivery. It's a last resort of all alternatives of the Postal Service, which is why it's rarely ever heard of. We've been at the bat on and on with CHA officials about the problems of delivering mail to all developments, not just the Robert Taylor Homes. It's just that there has been this frequency of occurrences at that development such as gang war outbreaks, fighting, stabbing and mail boxes being broken into and not getting repaired."

"There has also been damage of the mailbox frames being ripped out of the walls in two buildings in that development, which made it impossible for our mail carriers to place mail in the proper slots.

"That's just one of the many situations we didn't hold against residents. With the cooperation of CHA officials and the agreement with the Postal Service, we set up mail-rooms in the buildings for residents to receive

their mail. "The mail suspension at the Robert Taylor got a lot of attention. Residents as well as other gave serious support to the post office and the mail carriers. Strong support came from Chicago Housing Police and the Chicago Police Department. During the hours of the mail run, police of both departments showed a heavy presence in the areas, which residents liked as well because we felt safer.

*"When someone's life is on the line, there's no jumping the gun. Our first obligation is to protect our employees,"*  
- Postal Service spokesperson  
Debra Hawkins

"Even the mail rooms that are set up in those buildings, CHA police are present in those rooms providing security and they also escort the mail carriers back to their vehicles," Hawkins said.

Third Ward Ald. Dorothy Tillman put a lot of effort to ensuring the safety of mail carriers. She also took a stand for the residents concerning their rights to receive mail. "Residents should have a decent and manageable set-up to receiving mail. I have gotten complaints from residents of Robert Taylor about the mail of no keys to their boxes, mail arriving late or sometimes not at all, etc," Tillman said.

"As I made consultations with CHA officials, it was always told to me that the problem was in the works of being improved. Now that time has lapsed, this problem has gone so far as to risk the lives of postal carriers. Both ways, this situation is not fair."

"This is a problem that has to be solved from within by everyone," said District Postmaster Rufus Porter.

"The post office is trying and we do participate in

CHA programs. We even employ CHA residents through the CHA REDI Program. Even I, myself, have volunteered my time and services, sharing my skills and experiences with teens and children of CHA. The post office has to be part of the solution because we are daily present among the problems of such situations.

"What people sometimes don't see about criminal activities is that it's a form of genocide. We are killing one another and each other. It's going to take a whole lot of resource and capital to help residents make a positive change," Porter said.

The suspension also gave us the grand outlook that when push comes to shove, public housing residents stand up to be counted and will speak out. The residents' voice stopped the suspension after one day, not three days as Post Officials called for.

Residents weren't going to tolerate picking up our mail at the post office at 41st and Halsted in the parking lot. Robert Taylor B Tenant Council President Mildred Dennis, along with CHA officials, were at the Post Office during that morning meeting with postal officials. Dennis recalled that she explained that residents depend on the mail being delivered.

"Most and many of the residents receive their income through the mail or information about their income through the mail. Bills will be late coming to residents and with the new welfare reform laws, residents must keep track of policies and changes in these reform laws."

Dennis also was concerned with the set up that had residents picking up mail at the post office. She asked: "Is there a carfare plan in place for residents?" Which there wasn't. Her fight that morning ended because the suspension was called off.

There's a lesson to be learned in this situation: Any person or organization that enters any neighborhood to render a service to their residents should be taken into consideration and not be harmed by neighborhood violence.

# Wells Darrow Seniors

by Anita Baker

**T**he Wells Darrow Senior Citizen Club was organized in 1970 through the efforts of Alice Gueno, a Chicago Housing Authority community tenant relations aide. Gueno conducted ongoing outreach throughout Wells/Darrow Homes to senior and junior seniors. As a result, she recruited 49 senior participants from which the first senior club was formed.

The senior club flourished and strengthened through on-going meetings and activities under the leadership of three presidents. The presidents that served were Erma Nelson, Porter Willis and Sarah Stover, who all worked diligently and faithfully until their death. Mrs. Stover passed on in 1994 after a job well done.

The senior club received technical assistance from Lenora Anderson, a CHA community representative who worked very closely with previous presidents, including the vice president, Lurena Dent, who eventually became president after Stover's death.

Dent held the position until 1995, when she and other club members recognized the interest and dedication and the skills that Lee Esther Peebles brought to the table and strongly encouraged her to

join the senior club.

Peebles has lived and worked in the community since 1959. Peebles has raised four children. Peebles served as a volunteer for Little Brothers of the Poor. She organized a youth club and was designated editor of the Ida B. Wells Newsletter, block president for the rowhouses and walk up sections B-E. She also is a member of the Local Advisory Council.

Peebles retired from her job in 1994 after 24 years of service at Michael Reese Hospital. She then joined the senior club, as she promised.

And in 1995, she was elected to be the fifth president of the Wells Darrow Senior Club, which is now called the Ida B. Wells Sophisticated Seniors in honor of Mrs. Ida B. Wells, whom the development was named after.

The senior club now consists of 30 senior participants. Each member pays \$20

per year membership dues. The dues are used to raise additional funds, to pay for group activities and also to support the seniors who are sick. Seniors who are hospitalized receive \$25 once a year to assist them in their time of need.

In 1997, the Ida B. Wells Senior Club received technical assistance from program coordinator Cheryl Denton of CHA Social Service Delegate Agencies, a department managed by

**The Wells-Darrow Senior of the Year, Frances Tyler.**

Photo by Anita Baker

Dorothy Downer under the divisional leadership of Wanda White.

Denton has been instrumental in assisting seniors in all family housing developments with social service concerns, emergency assistance and senior activities.

One particular activity which the seniors seem to enjoy is the quarterly birthday celebrations where seniors from various developments come together for out-

ings to lunch and recognition and celebrations of all seniors whose birthdays fall in that quarter.

Laura Edwards, recently assigned to the Madden Park Field House, has also been assisting the senior club by providing on-site activities at the field house and having available transportation, if needed, for field trips.

The Madden Park Field House also provides a space designated for the seniors to have their meetings and gatherings.

As you can see, the Ida B. Wells Sophisticated Seniors are continuing to move along strong and they are not targeting specific seniors, but are open to all seniors of the development and continuing to recruit. So to all of the Ida B. Wells seniors that are interested, please feel free to join.

Peebles said that her desire is "To get the seniors away from home for a fun-filled day or evening. You can often see us being picked up at 454 East Pershing Road and when you do, you'll know that we are on the move and we will continue to stay busy because to me, this is good therapy for all of us."

"Every year, the Ida B. Wells Senior Club has a senior of the year. This year, our senior is Mrs. Frances Tyler.

"Come join us, even if it's just a visit."

# Flannery Homes News

## Budget Cuts Prompt Tenant Patrols

by Alan Minerbrook

Attention! Attention! May I have your attention please. Flannery Senior Patrol is now fully activated and on the job. All you crap-shooters, low-lifers, midnight ramblers, stumblers and bumbler, you'd better watch out!

At Flannery Towers beginning April 1, CHA began the tenant patrol program. Their duties are CHA's answer to security budget cuts though HUD.

All you do-badders and philanders, the seniors are ready to make you fly right. In 1507 N. Clybourn, they are led by their fiery leader, Captain Sylvester Scales, who is armed with a walkie talkie, and their co-captain, Dewey "Snoopy" Rust, and backed up by Inell "Lady Secretary" Maxwell and her partner, Margaret "Smiling Sister" Clark, and Hozie Williams. They patrol the entrance, lobby, community room and hallway corridors looking out for trash bags, blown-out ceiling light-bulbs and loud noises.

Vagrants, bums, and never do-wells don't stand a chance. They are distinctly attired in bright yellow T-shirts with their logo "Tenant Patrol" across the front. You cannot escape their collective penetrating gaze. From the moment you come into the building from outside or come downstairs on the building elevators, all their razor sharp eyes are focused on you. So please don't try anything funny like failing to sign in on the visitors log or they will pounce on your bootie. We tenants have got to love them.

The tenant patrol's duties consist of guarding the building's entrance doors to make certain all who enter the building, except tenants, show a picture ID, sign into the building visitors log book and state their destination and purpose for entering the building. They watch for ambulance arrivals in emergencies and notify the necessary tenant to get prepared. The members are on duty from 6 a.m. through 10 p.m. seven days a week. They are compensated for their duties by a \$50 rent deduction per month.

I attempted to interview a number of CHA officials who are responsible for the tenant patrol program, which is overseen by Preventive Programs Director Joe Smith. Preventive Programs staff suggested that I interview tenant patrollers at other buildings where the patrols were better established. My interest really was in interviewing those who were running the Flannery Homes' patrol and so I declined their suggestion.

Each of the two Flannery Senior Towers have separate offices and separate patrol members. At 1531 N. Clybourn, the tenant patrol offices are located on the second floor and at 1507 N. Clybourn, the offices are located on the 10th floor.

These are the names of the tenant patrol members of 1531

N. Clybourn: Captain JoAnn Brown; Co-Captain Ella Pryor; Secretary Susie Jones; Ernest Austin; Willie Culver; Layunice Dotson; Irwin Leeuw; and Leslie McCauley.

### CHA Budget Cuts

On May 7, Ann Harrison from East Lake Management was present at a management meeting to review management's position in view of CHA budget cuts in 1998. These budget cuts applied to all CHA, not just Flannery.

The first budget cut was announced that 6 percent of all funding with a second budget cut advisory of 4 percent for total funding.

CHA field supervisor Louis Jefferson presented the tenant patrols' function. He explained that security funding for CHA has been reduced by \$25.2 million, causing a reduction in security guard forces. Flannery has armed and uniform security only for 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. seven days per week.

East Lake has requested that voluntary tenant patrols fill the security gaps and save money. Jefferson detailed the responsibilities and parameters of these volunteer policemen and suggested that they have no real authority to take control of any situation other than to call police in an emergency.

Under no circumstances are these tenant patrol to initiate conflicts which might occur in the course of their security duties. East Lake allows these volunteer policemen \$50 per month allowance off their monthly rent.

### Resident Meeting

On May 4, the tenants of Flannery met

at 2 p.m.

The president of the Tenant Advisory Council, Ethel Henderson, gave information to the 20 tenants who attended.

Henderson gave an accounting of all vendor machine money income to all tenants present. She suggested the ground floor community room would be more livable with new chairs and color-coordinated tables to blend with the sofas and cocktail tables recently purchased.

It was agreed that other funds will be used for future upcoming outdoor cookouts and barbeques which will be held this summer when

**Flannery Homes residents board a bus for food super-store Moo and Oink.**

Photo by John Brooks



the weather permits. Funds will be available for food on the same occasions.

### Management News

A new assistant manager, Rita Sanchez, is assisting the management of Flannery since the departure of Rose Mary Colon on April 1.

At the Thursday, May 7, management meeting, Ms. Jones, the current manager, asked all Flannery residents to attend for information purposes. Attendance was light due to an all-day rain and Ms. Jones brought the attending residents up to date.

Jones discussed a number of matters that management is currently working on. She said the elevators are being serviced and maintained and the building intercoms and mailboxes are a concern since repairs and/or replacements are necessary, and management is currently seeking to have

these repairs made during the budget cuts.

There are new tenants moving into Flannery. Three new residents moved into building 1507 during April and five individuals moved into 1531.

The more vacancies being filled means increase in maintenance and services in both buildings, Jones said. New applications are being accepted from tenants age 55 and older and all applications are filled through CHA applications.

Jones continued that outside window washing services for both towers would begin in 1998. Blinds are being replaced at present and new stoves are slowly coming into units which have non-functioning stoves.

New paint is done every 5 years and work orders for painting and plaster repairs are being processed on schedule.

Jones said damages to plaster and paint will be henceforth charged to the tenants responsible.

Mary Ann Longstreet from the city's Department on Aging announced new program directives for senior residents with every Wednesday scheduled for senior birthday celebrations and trips are scheduled for the Botanical Gardens and Ravinia summer concerts.

Longstreet answered the concerns voiced by the tenants regarding violence in view of the CHA budget cuts in security. Longstreet said that fears of retaliations and violence are being currently addressed.

Manager Jones re-stated that the tenant patrol will be supported whole-heartedly by management with no exceptions. All residents, guests and tradesmen must sign the visitors log, register and show ID. One Strike will be adhered to in Flannery with no exceptions.

### Laundry Service

Laundry service at Flannery is much improved. Cards are on sale one day per month. The cards are adjusted for senior rates - \$.50 per wash/dry.

R E S I D E N T S '

# Journal

A d v e r t i s e

In the August '98

B a c k t o S c h o o l

E d i t i o n



# Latinos Move into Section 8

by Julio Martinez

The following is the first in a series of articles on Latinos and the CHA. This article deals with Latinos and their attempts to access the Section 8 program.

As a long-time resident of Chicago Housing Authority, I am often involved in situations where people want to know what Section 8 is about. To give everyone simple answers to these questions, I interviewed William Riley, executive director of CHAC, and three Latino advocates for Section 8: Hector Gamboa, program director of the Spanish Coalition for Housing; Ofelia Navarro, executive director of the Spanish Coalition for Housing; and Carlos De Jesus, executive director of Latinos United.

The Section 8 program allows low-income families to rent apartments in whatever neighborhood they choose because the government will help pay their rent. The Section 8 program does not apply to persons who already live in CHA housing.

The way Section 8 program works is that a family goes through an interview to see if they qualify for Section 8 housing. Once accepted, a Section 8 certificate is given out and a family has 60 days to find an apartment. If they do not find an apartment within 60 days, the certificate expires. However, in most cases the time can be extended.

When an owner of a building accepts Section 8, an inspector is immediately sent to the site to see if the building passes housing regulations.

"It is up to the family to decide whether to accept the apartment or not," De Jesus said. "It is not up to us or Section 8 to place a family in an apartment they don't like."

A family living in a Section 8 apartment is required to pay up to 30 percent of their income in rent. The apartment would be rented out for one year and a contract would be renewed each year.

If the owner, however, does not comply with housing regulations, the rent check is immediately stopped, according to Riley.

There are not enough landlords in Latino neigh-

borhoods participating in the Section 8 program. CHAC is creating a program to educate Latino landlords about Section 8. This program will be run by CHAC's new liaison to the Latino community, Marilyn Hurtado. Hurtado has a master's in political science and a bachelor's degree in education. She is very willing to help persons who want to participate in the Section 8 program.

There has been a misconception of Latinos not wanting to participate in public housing because of the dangers in many complexes. In 1996, Latino agencies led by Latinos United signed a consent decree to improve the accessibility of Latinos to public housing. William Velázquez, CHAC's special assistant for Latino Relations, is in charge of improving the conditions in public housing for Latinos.

"We translate many materials into Spanish and have hired many people who speak Spanish to work in the CHA," said Velázquez. "Now we have to help Latinos get into public housing."

Latinos could be confusing the Section 8 program with CHA housing, with many thinking that these two agencies are the same. In reality, they are very different with entirely different budgets and administrations. This confusion may have had a negative impact on the Section 8 recruitment effort last summer.

In June 1997, CHAC reopened their Section 8 waiting list for two weeks because they were running out of applicants. As a result, 104,000 applications were received for Section 8, a program designed to provide families with an option for entrance to apartments that are not in public housing.

"Out of those 104,000, we finished with 84,000 that were placed in a lottery, which was supervised by a consulting firm who chose 35,000 from the waiting list," said Riley. Unfortunately, only 451 Latino families applied during the two-week registration period, with only 178 families making it onto the list of 35,000. This equals only one-half of one percent of all applicants.

Latinos United felt that CHAC could have done more to promote the Section 8 program in the Latino community. Latinos United launched their campaign to educate and to let the community know how the Section



**CHAC Executive Director Bill Riley and Latino liaison Marylin Hurtado.**

Photo by Julio Martinez

8 program works. It was called *Vivienda Al Alcance* and it used radio, television and newspaper advertisements and community meetings in Spanish to explain the program.

After nine months of hard work, the results were obvious: more than 15,000 Latino families applied for Section 8 and more than 10,000 applied for CHA housing. "When we had reached an agreement with CHA, we barely had 300 people who participated in Section 8," said De Jesus.

However, according to Hector Gamboa, many people took notice of the program as a result of the *Vivienda Al Alcance* program and began to apply. The necessity was there but the information had not been.

Gamboa said, "The question has not always been whether Latinos want to live in public housing. It has been shown (through this program) that it is not a matter of wanting because no one wants to live in conditions where dependency exists, but it is a necessity."

As a result of all of these efforts, there is a need to provide much more information about the Section 8 program to the Latino community. One thing that CHAC could benefit from is more native Spanish-speaking personnel.

"We do have Hispanics prepared for these cases and we're progressing a lot more," said Riley. However, there will be a need to significantly increase the number of staff from those currently at CHAC. Although the process may be slow, CHAC is interviewing 600 to 800 people a month.

In the end, Latinos must be willing to participate in this program because for many, this may be the only way to get a decent place to live.

## Rockwell Gardens News

by Melinda Robinson

My name is Melinda Robinson, better known as "Shorty," and I am your roving reporter for Rockwell Gardens.

This is a special notice to let you know that eventually, I will get around to including everyone in our paper. There are so many positive things going on in Rockwell, it is impossible for me to include it all in one or two editions. But hold on and I'll get to you soon, and if you see me flying past you with a smile on my face, don't be alarmed because it's on like a pit of neckbones!

### Positive Things About Our Community

There are a lot of activities going on in Rockwell, First, there is LAC President Mary Baldwin. Specifically,



**A view of Rockwell Gardens.**

Photo by Melinda Robinson

she helps the residents such as myself who may have problems.

Second, there is the Combating Alcohol and Drugs

through Rehabilitation and Education (CADRE) program. Specifically, they help children learn about drugs, also talk about gangs and gang activity.

Third, there is an organization called "Mama Said." Specifically, they help young teenagers with babies get their GED and child care. Fourth, there's the police. Specifically, they patrol night and day. They have decreased the crime rate.

Fifth, there are the teachers at Grant Elementary School. They are dedicated to the children, not for the money but for the children's future.

Sixth, there is an organization called the Parent Teacher Association. They help children cross the street and help them in class.

**After former CHA Chairperson Edwin Eisendrath resigned last year, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Official Karen Newton was appointed interim chairperson. RJ Correspondent Anita Baker interviewed Newton. Below is an edited transcript.**

contracts approved and any contracts over \$100,000 the chair or the board has to approve.

So as you can well imagine, if you have for about two months no one acting in that position, then what hap-



What you need to know about a secretary's representative is that they are appointed positions. They are political positions. These decisions are not easily done.

Looking at the situation, HUD felt like they needed to appoint an interim chair to

Authority who actually lives in Chicago and someone who could respond very quickly to the needs of the residents. Imagine doing it long distance. The best way to have it happen is to have somebody actually here in Chicago.

Reaching all of the residents will be a difficult question because I'm just coming to the point where I'm starting to meet with the Central Advisory Council and it is very good.

I've also been at the Executive Advisory Council meetings. There were residents there.

The one thing that I have said to all of the residents is that if they want me to

# Welcome, Karen Newton

## How long will you be in Chicago?

I can't say how long my stay will be here at the Chicago Housing Authority.

After Mr. Edwin Eisendrath resigned, the Chicago Housing Authority needed someone to approve their contracts and oversee the agency much the way Edwin Eisendrath did.

They were without a chairman for a couple of months but it became crucial because public housing authority the size of the Chicago Housing Authority can go just so long without having a \$100,000

pens is that your business starts to get backed up.

Mr. Edwin Eisendrath was the (HUD) Secretary's Representative for this area. They need a new secretary's representative for this area. This can take a little bit of time in determining who that person is going to be and along with that decision would be a decision whether or not the secretary's representative would once again also be the chair of the Chicago Housing Authority because Edwin Eisendrath served both of those roles. I think that perhaps they would be but who knows.

handle the business here in the Chicago Housing Authority in the meantime and not just to leave out.

## How do you plan to communicate with all the residents?

So far, I've been interim chair for four months. However, I have a job with HUD. I am the deputy assistant secretary for troubled agencies in recovery.

The difference is that when you start talking about the Chicago Housing Authority, it is good to have someone as the chair of the Chicago Housing

meet with them or resident groups, than I would be more than happy to meet with them.

They can get in touch with me by calling Lee Chuc. She keeps a calendar for me.

Reaching out to the residents is very difficult no matter what we do. But Chicago has probably the most sophisticated systems of resident representation I've seen. With the Central Advisory Council and the Local Advisory Councils, it's really substantial and a good piece but also you have far more residents that need outreach and service.

## Con Julio Martinez

El siguiente es el primero de una serie de artículos sobre Latinos en la CHA. Este artículo trata sobre los intentos de Latinos para tener acceso al programa de Sección 8.

Como un antiguo residente de la Autoridad de Vivienda de Chicago, continuamente estoy envuelto en situaciones donde la gente quiere saber de que se trata la Sección 8. Para darle a todo mundo respuestas simples a sus preguntas, entrevisté a William Riley, Director Ejecutivo de CHAC, y a tres Latinos que luchan por la Sección 8: Hector Gamboa, Director de Programas de Spanish Coalition for Housing; Ofelia Navarro, Directora Ejecutiva de Spanish Coalition for Housing y Carlos De Jesus, Director Ejecutivo de Latinos United.

El programa de la Sección 8 permite a que las familias pobres renten apartamentos en el barrio que ellos eligan ya que el gobierno les ayudará a pagar la renta. El programa de la Sección 8 no aplica para aquellas personas que ya viven en viviendas de la CHA.

La forma en que el programa Sección 8 trabaja es que una familia va a una entrevista para ver si califican para una vivienda de Sección 8. Una vez que son aceptados, se les entrega un certificado y ellos tienen 60 días para encontrar un apartamento. Si ellos no encuentran un apartamento dentro de 60 días, el certificado expira, aunque en la mayoría de los casos el periodo puede ser extendido.

Cuando un propietario de un edificio acepta la Sección 8, un inspector es enviado inmediatamente al lugar para verificar si el edificio pasa las regulaciones de vivienda.

"Es decisión de la familia si aceptan o no el apartamento" dijo el señor De Jesus. "No es decisión nuestra o de la Sección 8 en asignar a una familia a un apartamento que no les gusta."

A las familias que viven en apartamentos de la Sección 8 se les requiere pagar hasta 30 porciento de su ingreso en renta. El apartamento sería rentado por un año y el contrato sería renovado cada año.

Sin embargo, si el dueño, no cumple con las regulaciones de vivienda, el cheque es detenido inmediatamente,

de acuerdo al Sr. Riley.

No hay suficientes arrendatarios en los barrios Latinos participando en el programa de Sección 8. CHAC está creando un programa para educar a los arrendatarios Latinos acerca de la Sección 8. Este programa será administrado por la nueva representante de CHAC para la comunidad hispana Marilyn Hurtado. La señorita Hurtado tiene una maestría en Ciencias Políticas y una licenciatura en Educación. Ella está más que dispuesta para ayudar a las personas que quieren participar en el programa Sección 8.

Ha habido el malentendido de que los Latinos no quieren participar en la vivienda pública debido a los peligros en muchos complejos multifamiliares. En 1996, varias agencias Latinas encabezadas por Latinos United firmaron un decreto de consentimiento para mejorar la accesibilidad de los Latinos a la vivienda pública. William Velázquez, Asistente Especial de Relaciones Latinas de la CHA, está a cargo de mejorar las condiciones en la vivienda pública para los Latinos. "Nosotros hemos traducido al español muchos de los materiales escritos y hemos contratado muchas personas que hablan español para que trabajen en la CHA," dice el Sr. Velázquez. "Ahora tenemos que ayudar a los Latinos a entrar a la vivienda pública."

Los Latinos pueden estar confundiendo el programa Sección 8 con la vivienda de la CHA y que muchos piensan que estas dos agencias son la misma. En realidad, son muy diferentes, con presupuestos y administraciones enteramente diferentes. Esta confusión puede haber tenido un impacto negativo en los esfuerzos de reclutamiento para la Sección 8 el pasado verano.

En junio 1997, CHAC reabrió su lista de espera del programa Sección 8 por dos semanas porque se les estaban terminando los solicitantes. Como resultado, 104,000 solicitantes fueron recibidos por la Sección 8, un programa diseñado para proveerle a las familias la opción de entrar a apartamentos que no están en vivienda pública.

"De los 104,000, terminamos con 84,000 que fueron puestos en una lotería, que fue supervisada por una firma consultante que escogió 35,000 de la lista de espera," dijo el Sr. Riley. Desafortunadamente, solo 451 familias Latinas solicitaron durante el periodo de registración de dos sema-

nas, y solo 178 familias pasaron a la lista de 35,000. Esto es igual a la mitad del uno porciento de todos los solicitantes.

Latinos United pensó que CHAC pudo haber hecho más para promover el programa Sección 8 en la comunidad Latina. Latinos United iniciaron su propia campaña para educar y hacerle saber a la comunidad de como trabaja el programa Sección 8. La campaña se llamó Vivienda al Alcance y utilizó radio, televisión y anuncios en los periódicos y juntas comunitarias en español para explicar el programa.

Luego de nueve meses de duro trabajo, los resultados fueron obvios: más de 15,000 familias Latinas solicitaron para Sección 8 y más de 10,000 solicitaron vivienda de la CHA. "Cuando llegamos a un acuerdo con la CHA, teníamos escasamente 300 personas quienes participaban en la Sección 8," dijo el Sr. De Jesús.

Sin embargo, de acuerdo a Hector Gamboa, muchas personas se dieron cuenta del programa como resultado del programa Vivienda al Alcance y comenzaron a solicitarlo. La necesidad estaba ahí, pero la información no lo estaba. El Sr. Gamboa dice que "La pregunta nunca ha sido si los Latinos quieren vivir en vivienda pública. Se ha demostrado (a través de este programa) que no es cuestión de querer, porque nadie quiere vivir en condiciones donde la dependencia existe, pero es una necesidad."

Como resultado de estos esfuerzos, hay una necesidad de proveer mucha más información acerca del programa Sección 8 a la comunidad Latina. Una cosa que puede beneficiar a CHAC es el tener más personal cuya lengua nativa sea el español. "Tenemos Hispanos listos para estos casos y estamos progresando mucho más," dijo el Sr. Riley. Sin embargo, habrá la necesidad de incrementar significativamente el número de personal existente. Aunque el progreso es lento, CHAC, está entrevistando de 600 a 800 familias Latinas por mes.

Al final, los Latinos deben estar dispuestos a participar en este programa porque para muchos, esta puede ser la única manera de tener un lugar decente donde vivir.

# Russian

# Korean

# Schools CEO Vallas Focuses on CHA

by Mary C. Johns

**W**hen inquiring minds want to know something, it's always best to go straight to the source for any and all information.

There have been various things going on in and around the Chicago Public Schools recently.

Since CHA residents usually hear only tidbits of information through various sources, I went to the head man, Chicago Public Schools Chief Executive Officer Paul Vallas, on May 4 to inquire about things involving CPS and CHA communities, in hope of giving residents a clear understanding of these happenings.

I chose five topics that I felt were important to discuss with Vallas: safety, health, grants, programs/events and the progress of the seven reconstituted high schools.

## SAFETY

**M**uch effort has been made recently by the CPS and other organizations to improve safety for CHA students. As part of the Safe Passage program, CPS started a bus shuttle for the CHA students attending Wendell Phillips High School. In Altgeld Gardens, some members of the CPS Interfaith Partnership recently started escorting home some of the students who live in that development. In Cabrini-Green and Ida B. Wells, residents held various rallies to stop violence.

I asked Vallas how effective the Safe Passage initiative and other activities had been thus far in improving safety for CHA youths who are CPS students. Vallas said the safety efforts improved attendance and the morale of the students also is better.

"Clearly the schools themselves are safer, given the level of activity from the walking man's interfaith to the parent and tenant officers to just a greater visibility of the police," Vallas said.

"With less children being affected by violence in and around school grounds, I think children feel safe going to and from school. I think this feeling of greater safety and security is translating into better attendance and enrollment."

## HEALTH

**I**n all of the years since I have had children attending school, I haven't as yet heard of any studies on how the children are benefiting from free hearing and eye tests, and immunizations in the schools. I asked Vallas how effective the free services have been in getting the children the health care they need.

"Many of these expanded services are just picking up now, so I think it's going to be another year for us to see the effect of these expanded services," he said.

I asked Vallas if a plan could be implemented to have an on-site clinic at high schools. A lot of CHA high school students use Medicaid and any student who wants to participate in any school sports is required to get a physical examination. Getting a physical sometimes means missing school or, if a parent is unable to take off from work, a student may not be able to participate in the sport.

"That's something that we're looking at," Vallas responded.

"We'd like to get health clinics in every one of our high schools."

Vallas said some high schools presently have school-based health clinics like Amundsen and Dunbar, and he has plans to open clinics in other schools, including Near North High School, DuSable and Phillips.

But as to question of having on-site physical examinations for students, he said: "And a lot of times you're limited to a number of providers you can go to in order to get eligible reimbursement (under Medicaid)."

"It is a distinctive possibility at some selected high schools, particularly in the areas that have had poor attendance and poor enrollment."

However, Vallas said it would be possible to have mobile clinics come to the high schools to provide on-site health care.

## GRANTS

**L**ast year, the federal government gave a \$5.6 million grant to the Neighborhood Network Alliance - which consists of the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Housing Authority, the Chicago Catholic Schools and the Chicago Urban League - to be shared over a five-year period to improve technology in classrooms and communities. I didn't remember hearing about the grant or of any new computers or other improvements in CHA communities so I decided to question Vallas.

"Right off the top of my head, I'm not sure right now. All the schools have technology plans to upgrade their technology and the money that has been made available to the CPS is only a small portion of what's needed to upgrade the school technology."

As for CPS's goals for improvement, Vallas said:

"Our goal is to have all the schools on the wire, network and Internet within 18 months and to have at least one state-of-the-art computer technology lab in all of our schools."

Some schools are already wired state of the art schools, also known as 21st Century schools. Cockrell CPC, Einstein, Beethoven, Terrell, Nixon, Mays Academy and Doolittle East and West all are 21st Century schools.

Also on April 13, CPS received a \$3 million welfare grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services to help CPS' welfare to work initiative.



**7/8 grade students of Albert Einstein working on state-of-art computers in their classroom as teacher Sterling Bolden looks on.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Published sources quoted Vallas as saying that 500 more parents would be trained with the grant. I asked Vallas what training programs had been put in place since receiving the welfare grant.

"First of all, we just got the grant. We have hired 1,200 parents in the last two years and we've hired them to work in early childhood."

He talked in detail about what the parents do in the Parents Are Teachers First Program, like working as truant officers, pre-school and regular classroom assistants.

"We have been very aggressive at hiring parents to work in the system, not to mention encouraging companies that do private work with the schools, construction

companies, to try to hire from the community and you can expect more of that."

As to the question of what will be done in the future with the \$3 million welfare grant, Vallas said:

"The welfare to work grant will allow us to come in and to train parents and prepare them for job interviews and for job placement."

Vallas said CPS would probably hire over 1,200 more within the next couple years.

"We're going to try to use a good portion of the money to help subsidize our actual employment programs that will put welfare recipients to work and provide them with jobs that will transition them to full-time employment."

Vallas said that many of the positions would be part-time but that the transfer from welfare to work has to begin somewhere and a part-time job is better than no job at all.



**Gil Walker, CHA Director of Resident Programs, Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Bears member Otis Wilson at Whitney Young High School.**

Photo by Mary C. Johns

## PROGRAMS/EVENTS

**T**here have been a lot of programs and events happening in CHA communities involving CPS and the CPS Interfaith Partnership as well as other organizations. Black History Month events were held in different CHA communities in February and Arnold Schwarzenegger appeared at Whitney Young Magnet High School and afterwards visited children from ABLA Homes. Last April, NBC co-sponsored a free children's read-a-thon in honor of late Mayor Harold Washington at the James Jordan Boys and Girls Club, 2102 W. Monroe. A lot of children from CHA's Prairie Courts attended. Jackie Robinson's daughter visited the Jackie Robinson Elementary School, which is in the vicinity of Madden Park Homes and Lake Parc Place.

I wanted to know what expectations the CPS had for CHA students and their communities by having these events, so I asked Vallas.

"Our expectations for those students (CHA) are the same expectations we have for all the students."

He expounded, "By bringing in those individuals and organizations, what we're basically saying is that we are responsible for all children in the system and we need to be promoting events and exposing children to role models that are really going to make a difference."

## THE PROGRESS OF THE SEVEN RECONSTITUTED HIGH SCHOOLS

**I**hadn't heard much, if anything, about the 109 Schools, including 39 high schools, that were put on probation, or about the seven high schools that were reconstituted in August of last year. I wanted to know what effect, if any, the reconstitution had on the enrollment, attendance, safety and test scores in those schools.

Vallas commented: "It's too early to draw any conclusions and it will take a few years to determine how effective it has been."

Although that was basically what he had to say on the matter, Vallas said the enrollment, morale and attendance had improved at these schools.



# CHA Youths Tour D.C.



## My trip to Washington, D.C. was 'the bomb'

by Jatoiya Alford  
*Reporter, Urban International Youth  
Journalism Program*

My trip to Washington, D.C., was an overall great experience. Reporters of the Urban Youth International Journalism Program left for our trip on Sunday, April 19, and returned Chicago on Wednesday, April 22, 1998.

Who could have known these four days would change our lives. We met with Congressmen, Senators and Cabinet Secretaries.

We never really understood how government decisions affect us until we met people like U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, U.S. Rep. Danny Davis (D-7), U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, Presidential Press Secretary and spokesman Mike McCurry, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Saul Ramirez, Rahm Emanuel, the senior advisor to the president, and others.

We got to do something a lot of other people our age are not able to do. Just being in D.C. in conferences asking all of these important people questions that affect our lives was astounding.

We went to many wonderful restaurants and tried dishes we never ate before. Some of it was OK, I guess, but thank God for pizza, Subway and Burger King. My personal favorite was the remarkable Georgia Brown's. Phillip's restaurant was alright; although I'm not much of a seafood person, the dessert was great. We took a boat trip on the beautiful Potomac River. While on the freezing river, we saw many monuments like the Washington Memorial and the White House. And oh, we had pizza on the boat trip.

We visited the Washington, D.C., Housing Authority and met with teens that



**U.S. Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater answers UYIJP participants' questions during a press conference in his office.**

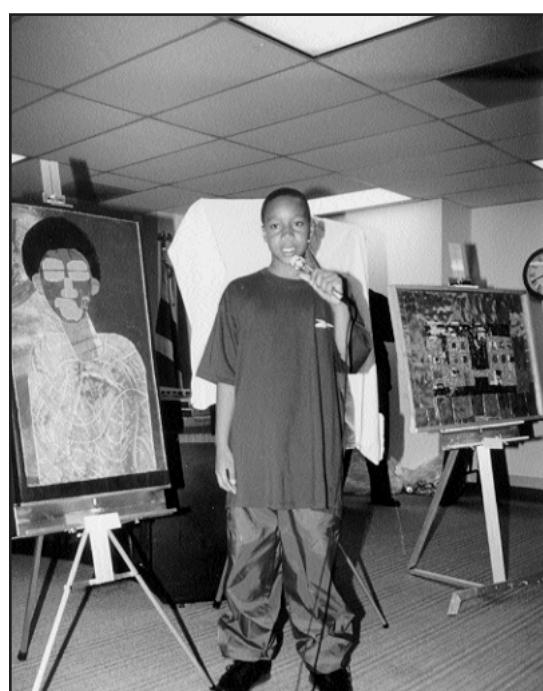
*Photo by John Brooks*

live in their developments. They did presentations. The most astonishing of them all was a group called Life Pieces to Masterpieces.

The group consisted of males ranging in ages from seven to 17. They expressed themselves through art. They had several commendable pieces or should I say masterpieces.

The works of art were stories of things that go on in everyday life. And every story they told turned into masterpieces. It was an honorable group of young men learning to get the positive from the negative environment they live in.

In closing, I would like to say thank Ethan Michaeli for allowing us to have this wonderful experience.



**A D.C. Housing Authority youth presents artwork he created under the Life Pieces to Masterpieces program**

*Photo by John Brooks*

## Youth reporters meet with senators, congressmen, Cabinet secretaries, White House spokesmen

by Trina Wash  
*Reporter, Urban Youth International  
Journalism Program*

On April 20, 24 youth who are students in the Urban Youth International Journalism Program were privileged to take a trip to Washington, D.C., to meet with Cabinet secretaries, federal officials, senators, congressmen and other elected officials.

I was one of the youths that were fortunate enough to attend this informative adventure. We spoke with people who are influential decision-makers who we might not have met if we were average tourists or journalists.

The young journalists met with: Presidential White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry, Rahm Emanuel, senior advisor to President Bill Clinton, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez, who runs the daily operations of HUD, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala, who is responsible for setting and administering the health policies for the country, and U.S. Surgeon General David Satcher, who is responsible for setting

and administering the health policies for the country.

He is also responsible for the health warning labels on cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, etc.

We attended a dinner forum with teens who lived in Washington, D.C. Housing Authority developments. The D.C. Housing Authority youth shared their artistic talents with artwork from the Life Pieces to Masterpieces program as well as poetry and song.

We also went on a tour of the White House, which was not too thrilling but it was an experience. Our group was also honored with the chance to meet different U.S. senators and house members in the Capitol Building during a breakfast hosted by Sens. Carol Moseley-Braun and Dick Durbin and U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7). U.S. Reps. Rod Blagojevich (D-5), Ray LaHood (R-19) and Glenn Poschard, also the Democratic nominee for governor.

The Illinois legislators talked with us about their positions in the Senate and House of Representatives. After the breakfast we toured where the Senate and House of Representatives hold their sessions.

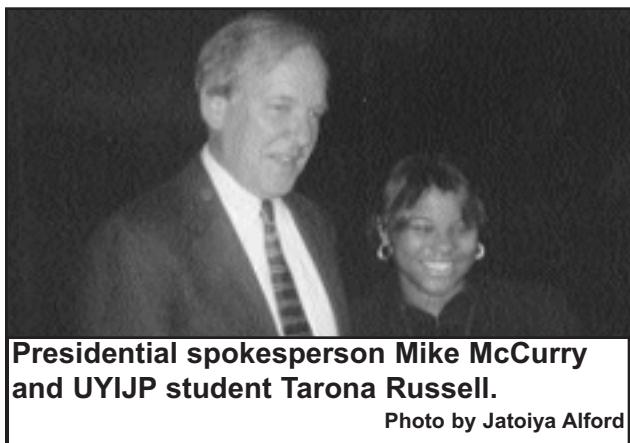
For fun, we saw Alvin Ailey at the Kennedy Center.

# **McCurry leads youth journalists on tour of White House**

**by Crystal Medina  
Reporter, Urban International  
Youth Journalism Program**

On Wednesday, April 21, our journalism class had the privilege to visit and tour the White House and have a press conference with Mike McCurry, the spokesperson for the White House.

While touring the White House, we got to see the East Room which is the largest room in the White House. It is used for events such as bill-signing ceremonies. It was beautiful with paintings, large windows and hard, wood floors.



**Presidential spokesperson Mike McCurry and UYIJP student Tarona Russell.**

Photo by Jatoiya Alford

We saw the Red Room. The color scheme was inspired by the Gilbert Stuart portrait of Dolly Madison that hangs on the wall. This painting hangs in the Red Room because this is where she held fashionable Wednesday night receptions.

Our class also visited the Green Room. The Green Room as originally intended to be a "common dining room." The painted green canvas floor cloth was placed in this room by President Thomas Jefferson and the green silks were added by President James Monroe.

There were many other rooms we did not get to look at but, all in all, the White House is an exquisite home. A home for all Americans whether in the First Family or not.



**U.S. Reps. Danny K. Davis (D-7, from left), Glenn Poshard (D-19), also the Democratic nominee for governor, Ray LaHood (R-18) and CHA Deputy Executive Director Ed Moses look on while U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin addresses UYIJP participants.**

Photo by John Brooks

## **My adventurous trip to Washington D.C.**

**by Cassandra Farrow  
Reporter, Urban Youth International Journalism Program**

My adventurous trip to Washington, D.C. started on Sunday, April 19. That morning, the teens from the RJ Urban Youth International Journalism Program started arriving at the farewell party at the Central Advisory Council with their luggage, teddy bears and headphones. The chaperones had a hearty breakfast ready to start us off and they greeted us at the door.

All the teens were getting ready for their four-day trip to Washington. As all the teens arrived, they gathered around to talk about how adventurous and educational this trip would be for us young people from the Chicago Housing Authority. We also talked about how exciting it would be for us to get out and meet so many important people in our life that have an impact on our projects and lives.

The teens' job while we were in Washington was to interview the important people we met, such as Secretary Rodney Slater from the Department of Transportation. We asked him several questions regarding public transportation in Chicago. Some of the questions were why certain buses stop running at certain times and why the majority of the main buses are being cut out on weekends or their route is being changed.

The youth journalism class also met with U.S. Secretary of the Health and Human Services Donna Shalala to talk about several topics such as the things she and the department are going to do to reduce the number of young girls from having so many babies and what they are going to do to help those young girls that already have children.

We met with several other people too, including Washington Post columnist Warren Brown and U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun (D-IL). While in Washington, we toured the White House and the D.C. Housing Authority headquarters. We also went on a boat tour of Washington, D.C., and we chilled. While in the White House, we saw the Red Room and the Green Room.

By Wednesday, everybody was ready to head on from this very educational trip. The teens from the Youth Journalism class would like to thank Ed Moses, Michael Brown and Ethan Michaeli.



**UYIJP participant Crystal Medina poses near the Washington Monument.**

Photo by John Brooks

## **My Trip to Washington, D.C. was fun**

**by Monica Emmons  
Reporter, Urban Youth International Journalism Program**

Our trip to Washington D.C. was fun except that we had too many meetings and had to get up too early. When we asked questions of the many politicians and people we interviewed, they took us seriously when answering.

One event we attended especially for us was a Congressional Breakfast hosted by the Illinois delegation. There we met U.S. Rep. Danny Davis (D-7), U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun, U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin and other congressional members.

At the breakfast, which began promptly at 9 a.m., we were served eggs, bacon and sausages, grits, biscuits and orange or apple juice. After we ate, Danny Davis welcomed us, explained what he and the others do and then allowed us to ask questions.

Congressman Davis and the other congressional members talked a lot about education and the importance of schools. Congressman Davis was a nice gentleman and he treated us with much respect and gave us some good food. After the breakfast, we took a tour of the Capital Building. This is the same building where the U.S. House and U.S. Senate meet.

The trip was very interesting and exciting. We went on a tour of the White House, a boat tour of Washington, saw the Supreme Court building, met with officials from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, met with Rodney Slater, secretary of the Department of Transportation, saw Monica Lewinsky's apartment in the Watergate building, took a tour of the Chicago Tribune's Washington Bureau newsroom and went to the Kennedy Center to attend the performance of the Alvin Ailey Dance Company.

# HUD exec gives low-down on high rises



UYIJP student Bonita Jones (right, standing) questions U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez.

Photo by John Brooks

## Congressmen, senators are people, too

by Tiffany Cook  
Reporter, Urban International Youth Journalism Program

On Wednesday the last day of our four-day trip in Washington, I did something not many people get to do. I had breakfast with the Illinois Congressional Delegation.

At the breakfast, we listened to U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun (D-IL), U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7), U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and U.S. Reps. Rod Blagojevich (D-5), Ray LaHood (R-19) and Glenn Poshard (D-18) talk about their life as senators and congressmen.

By listening to them, I found out that none of them had it easy growing up. All of them had some type of obstacle they had to overcome and it was not an easy road getting where they are. But not only did we listen to them, they listened to us.

When one of our reporters asked, "Why is it that when you go into low-income housing, the living conditions get worse?" Danny Davis didn't hesitate to answer it. He said the living conditions get worse because in low-income housing, people are more crowded together. They don't have the space they need. Congressman Davis and the rest of the congressmen and senators were all very nice and willing to answer any questions. They all concluded their speeches with words of encouragement to our group.

I really enjoyed the breakfast. It was a great experience.



## Deputy Secretary Ramirez gives youths insight on agency

by Tanisha Riley  
Reporter, Urban International Youth Journalism Program

On April 20, during our press tour of Washington D.C., we visited the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), where we met Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez, the right-hand man of Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of HUD.

He gave us an overview of HUD and that included how it came into existence and what it does. Ramirez said that

HUD is responsible for providing safe, livable housing for people and their families.

He also said that when different cities conduct research of their housing developments, they report the data back to the local HUD offices and as well as to the main office in Washington.

Ramirez mentioned how HUD is demolishing high-rises because they were not made for 10,000 people to live in. He said HUD was going to relocate the people in the high-rises by giving them Section 8 vouchers or giving them a place to live until they find somewhere else to stay.

## CHOWIN' DOWN IN D.C.

### From home-cooked soul food...

by Carly Hodges  
Reporter, Urban International Youth Journalism Program

On the third day of our trip, we visited the famous restaurant Georgia Brown's, a place with the taste of old-fashioned home-cooked soul food.

We had to dress smart casual. Our group had to make reservations for 25 people. The restaurant was clean and classy, a good place for fine dining. They offered a variety of foods on the menu. The most popular dish among our group was the southern fried chicken. It tasted like it came straight from our grandmother's kitchen. They also had great drinks such as virgin daiquiris, which are beverages similar to smoothies. They had Pina Coladas without alcohol. For dessert, they had the most delicious fruit berry dessert. This dessert contained mixed berries and whipped cream on a sweet crust. Not only was the food tasty but it was also reasonably priced.

I personally would recommend Georgia Brown's to anyone in or planning to visit Washington, D.C.

### ...to scrumptious seafood

by Kamari Thompson  
Reporter, Urban International Youth Journalism Program

My most enjoyed part of the trip was lunch at an all-you-can-eat seafood restaurant called Phillips, located on the banks of the Potomac River. The view from the restaurant was beautiful and the food was delicious. It was set up buffet style and consisted of fried shrimp, fish patties, macaroni and cheese, broccoli and cheese, spiced shrimp, gumbo jambalaya, fried chicken, various kinds of salad, lamb chops, various kinds of rice, desserts and beverages, chocolate and vanilla ice cream, fresh strawberries, cheese, chocolate and angel food cake. We drank Shirley Temples, virgin daiquiris and assorted pops. Though these are the things our group had, there was much more to choose from.

But this was not a suit and tie restaurant. Common everyday people come to this restaurant as well as politicians to enjoy a scrumptious seafood meal. On opinion of the group, we really enjoyed the restaurant and we all used our very best table manners.

In conclusion, I would like to say to anyone who will be visiting Washington, D.C., in the future, to stop by Phillips' restaurant. I'm sure you will enjoy.

### Meeting with the Surgeon General

Kamari Thompson (front row, from left), Crystal Medina, Cassandra Farrow, Tina Davis, Carly Hodges, Tarona Russell, Surgeon General David Satcher, Monica Emmons, Paloma Jimenez, Marie Madison, Kenesha Basemore, Cynthia Morris, Felipe Garcia (second row, from left), Raven Lightsey, Jatoiya Alford, Tiffany Cook, Ethan Michaeli, Alana Matthews, Trina Wash, Joey Roberts, Tanisha Riley, Raynard Seymour, Bonita Jones, James Lockhart, Arthur Muldrow.

Photo by John Brooks

# Youths hear 'write stuff' from Brown

by James Lockhart  
*Reporter, Urban Youth International Journalism Program*

On Monday, April 20, reporters of the Urban Youth International Journalism Program interviewed Warren Brown, a reporter for the Washington Post and former reporter from Jet/Ebony magazines. Brown spoke to us in a meeting room of the hotel we stayed in, the Radisson Barcelow, located in Washington's famed DuPont Circle.

Brown said that as aspiring journalists and minorities, we have to begin to excel at what we do and learn as much as we possibly can. He went on to say that we must master the "King's English" better than the king himself.

As a result of Brown's experience in the field of journalism, he had plenty of advice for us future journalists. He said that education is the key to every lock. He also mentioned that his parents invested time and money in his education instead of material objects like cars, fancy clothes, etc.

He said that many people see aggressiveness as a negative. However, he sees it as a plus and a necessity for the job of a reporter.

Brown went on to tell us that we should expect and want to be paid well. We should not only shoot to be the top in the field but shoot for the top pay as well. He said there is nothing unethical about making a whole lot



**UYIJP student Joey Roberts makes a point to Mike McCurry, President Bill Clinton's spokesperson, and Rahm Emmanuel, the President's senior advisor.**

Photo by John Brooks

of money.

Brown talked about the current sex scandal plaguing President Bill Clinton. He said that the reporting of it in the media has taken the field to an all-time low. Brown went on to say that the media in essence has manufactured a news story and is exploiting it and the American public. Brown accused the mainstream media of 'tabloid journalism' relative to the Monica Lewinsky

story.

Brown graduated from Xavier University in New Orleans, La. He received a scholarship because his mother worked at the university and he maintained a B average.

He has written two books: "Cars, Trucks, Sex and Poetry" and "All-American Cars."

## Memories of Washington, D.C. will live on

by Tina Davis  
*Reporter, Urban Youth International Journalism Program*

First and foremost, I would like to say it was an honor and a privilege to be chosen to go to Washington, D.C. There are many things I can say about my trip to Washington but I wouldn't know where to begin.

When asked to write about my trip, my most memorable experiences came to mind.

For instance, we were on an all-work, no-play schedule which wasn't too bad. Every day we got a chance to meet, greet and ask questions of some of the people who make decisions that could affect me as well as others.

Mike McCurry, the president's spokesperson, Rodney Slater, the Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Saul Ramirez from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD), Surgeon General David Satcher, along with Secretary Donna Shalala and Marsha Martin from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are some of the people we had an opportunity to meet and talk to. Besides meeting all those important White House officials, we went to the Kennedy Center for the opening night of the Alvin Ailey theater company.

We also saw a lot that would be interesting to tourists such as the White House.

Last but not least we dined at different restaurants, tasting different foods that some of us had never tasted or ever heard of before. Some of these restaurants most remembered would be Georgia Brown's and Philip's. Overall, the trip was full of things to do, people to see and places to go. It was a trip I wouldn't mind doing again.



**Carly Hodges (top photo, left) and Jatoiya Alford pose in front of the Potomac River while Paloma Jimenez (bottom photo) gazes toward shore.**

Photos by John Brooks



## Boat tour reveals Washington

by Joey Roberts  
*Reporter, Urban Youth International Journalism Program*

On Monday, May 20, the RJ class took a boat tour of Washington D.C.'s famous sites, like the Kennedy Center and the Washington Monument. We saw President Bill Clinton's helicopter in the air. It was very educational. We even saw the Lincoln Memorial and the Watergate Hotel, plus the Ronald Reagan National Airport.

I loved the boat tour. It was very fun and wet.



**U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and special assistant Marsha Martin to speak to UYIJP participants.**

Photo by John Brooks

# From the Frying Pan to the Fire

by Cecelia A. Clark

In the last issue of **Residents' Journal**, Sharon's story received the attention of many residents.

The horror continues. A CHA resident of Henry Horner for 24 years was transferred to Scattered Site managed by Lutheran Social Services in 1992.

Ann (her name, like Sharon's, has been changed to protect her privacy) said, "There were only two Black families on the block in which I moved to and the other family moved out right away."

Ann went on to talk about her experiences living in Humboldt Park: "It was worse than Henry Horner, Rockwell, Cabrini and Robert Taylor all together. Eighteen different gangs on one block. A gang banger got killed in front of my door.

"Two days later, my family was visiting and they were saying how happy they were and I was saying how glad I was to have made it out of Horner. The house was brand new and inside the house, it felt like 110 degrees from the heat. So my brother, who was on crutches and had just been released from the hospital, decided to sit on the stairs for some air and two Hispanic girls walked by. My brother only spoke to them. A minute later, up came about 30 men with guns. They beat up my brother and threatened to shoot up the house. They even talked about throwing a bomb to blow up our house.

"They asked, 'How do n—s out of the neighborhood just move in and get a new

## A Relocation Story

house and we live here all our lives?' They said this was their turf; any trouble from us they would bomb our house."

Ann and her family, like any other African Americans, just wanted a peaceful place to raise her children. Ann and her family left Henry Horner because their building was going to be demolished. The apartment

five years. At school, her children were told they weren't good enough.

"For Black History Month, they totally would disrespect them by calling them slaves and 'darky.' They were called other names as well."

Her children never played outside like children often do.

*Ann said she learned "the only place you can live is where you now live, especially when residents haven't been armed with information."*

in Humboldt Park was brand new and looked very nice. But after she moved, Ann said her vision of beauty turned into fright night.

While in a neighborhood store, Ann noticed that the store owner waited on other customers when she was there first.

Ann was harassed by another neighbor who allegedly broke her family car's windows and wrote racial messages on the vehicle. Ann made out some 30 police reports and wrote letters to management. She became suspicious that her new manager didn't like African Americans.

Ann was stuck in Humboldt Park for

Ann said, "The gangbangers are waiting to see if any guys from Henry Horner or Cabrini try to move into their community so they can kill them. There are strange things happening to other families who have been relocated that you will never hear about. For one reason or another, they are scared to speak out because there's no one to help or listen."

Ann said that when she lived at Henry Horner, she thought her development was a horrible place to live. But after she moved to Humboldt Park, Ann said she realized that

life at Henry Horner wasn't as bad as she thought it was. At least at Horner, she knew residents there and they knew her and her family.

Ann said she learned "the only place you can live is where you now live, especially when residents haven't been armed with information.

"Information is knowledge and without it we become limited. When you think about relocation, Section 8 and Scattered Sites housing, ask questions, visit these places more than one time, tour at night and weekends, talk to residents who live in the community you are planning to move to."

Ann, along with her husband and four children ages 3, 7, 8 and 9, were "discriminated against. I nearly suffered a nervous breakdown. Gang members even camped out on her step at night. Her car windows were shot out after filing discrimination charges with the Human Relations Commission and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Finally, Ann moved to the West Side with a subsidized housing certificate.

Ann said, "I received my Section 8 from CHAC and with God's help, we were able to escape alive. We have moved and this place is peaceful. Now I can return to raising my family and living life again."

# by Thomas L. Merriweather

## Transportation Woes

The problem of public transportation is one which is critical to individuals with disabilities. In the Chicago area, public transit for individuals with disabilities is provided by CTA Paratransit Operations, also known as CTA Special Services.

To use CTA Paratransit, an individual must call the of carriers who are under contract per A.D.A. mandates to provide this service. I and many other people have been having some difficulty in telephoning in order to schedule trips because of what has appeared to be some puzzling inconsistencies in this area and an apparent lack of efficiency on the part of the carriers.

Often I have to wake up extremely early just to telephone the carriers and schedule a trip for the following day.

I usually start calling at 4:45 a.m. weekdays or 5:45 a.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Even at that hour, I always receive a busy signal, hang up and start the pattern of activating the automatic redial button on my phone until finally an operator comes on the line about 30 minutes later. On other occasions, the phone will ring unanswered for stretches of time. Reaching an operator usually means that I am put on hold for another length of time. Even this effort does not guarantee that my ride will arrive on time or at all.

In Chicago and some suburban environs, there are four carriers providing this service, Arts Transportation, Cook-Dupage Transportation (CDT), which provides 24 hour service daily, SCR Transportation, and Simtran Medical Transportation.

On April 23, I talked to CTA spokesperson Jeff Stern and

## by Janelle Jones

When is there a right time for grieving? A true time for mourning?

Does it come with the forfeiture of one's home? One's wealth, or the capability to maintain the stability of one's mind? It is most frequently associated with the tragic loss or the untimely death of a loved one.

For some people living betwixt the cross-fire of gang violence, the mourning is that of the inability of walking through their own neighborhood. Not being able to allow their children to go off to play with their mates without the fear of having to hear that your son or your daughter has been shot!

Get it together people! When will we realize that no one will help us if we do not try to help ourselves? There has to be an end to this madness. Life cannot go on with such malice and animosity towards our neighbors. If not, the end result will be that of no life at all for anyone. Rather it's being caged behind bars, or caged deep in the ground. We have already been confined to the places in which we live.

Our children are where our future lies. We cannot expect them to want to do better for themselves, education wise, when all that they see is how the gang members live and how

# Access Report

we discussed the problems I had with the paratransit carriers' phone systems. Stern advised me that the new contract of CTA Paratransit called for an improved telephone system and that CDT - the carrier I always use - was planning to initiate an improved system under the current contract. Stern referred me to James Payne, a Paratransit official, for some clarification.

On April 24, I had a telephone conversation with Payne, who said the telephone improvements under the new contract will include a new cueing system, a first called-first served system and other refinements to make calling easier and more efficient.

In the meantime, the existing system has proved even less efficient. On a recent occasion, I began calling at 4:44 a.m. and after many phone maneuvers, spoke with an operator at about 5:25 a.m.

## Taking Action

In my continuing coverage on the subject of accessibility, which is mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act

(ADA), I have attempted to enlighten **RJ's** readers on the importance of compliance with this law and how it affects those of us who benefit by its existence.

ADA became federal law on July 26, 1990. But after nearly 8 years since it became law, there remain some severe problems relating to compliance. For those of us who must use wheelchairs or have impaired mobility, these issues include residential and business building access, streets and sidewalks and transportation, including vans, busses and other vehicles.

It is impossible to consider the matter of access without relating to members of our elderly population, which includes this reporter. Because of my continuing coverage and the other activities in which I have been involved since becoming a resident of a CHA senior housing development two years ago, I have been asked to serve on a tenant advisory committee to address concerns relating to seniors with disabilities.

I met for the first time as a member of this committee at the Gladys L. Reed Senior Program Division office at 3245 S. Prairie Avenue on Thursday, April 16, at 11a.m.

At this meeting, chaired by Harriette B. Johns, a senior specialist at CHA, we discussed matters pertaining to increasing the number of participants on this committee, which should be representative of our 58 senior housing buildings. We also said some emphasis should also be given to younger CHA residents with disabilities requiring accessible measures.

Since problems of health are concerns of our elderly population, this is a matter to be dealt with. We decided to arrange for mobile units such as a mammography testing team to visit senior housing developments. The annual summer health expo is also being planned. That event will include entertainment by jazz performer Ramsey Lewis and TV newsman Warner Saunders.

it if you believe that it will get out of hand. Teach them what you'd wish someone would have taught you. Even though we all have to make mistakes to grow, the world is tough and we don't want our kids making our mistakes.

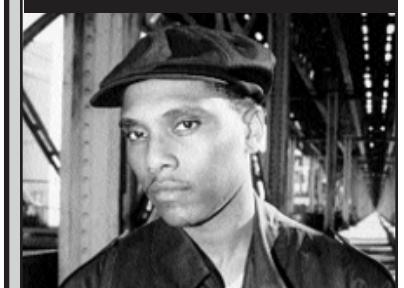
Show them a love that no one else can give but you. If they feel that security and strength in their domain, there will be no reason for them to go search for that false nurturing and understanding in the streets. They have this and so much more in you. If your children watch television or play video games for recreation, watch with them. Three or four times a week. That's quality time. Something that they will always stick in their heads.

Also anything that your child shows interest in, get involved. Support them, let them know that you are behind what they are doing. They won't forget that either.

See, family is the strongest structure in this world. Tougher than leather. Stronger than steel. Nothing and no one can penetrate its force field as long as there is stability at home.

It does consist of a tremendous amount of work to keep the solidarity of this structure intact. But if you consider the consequences of the downfall of the family structure, the time spent in keeping its daily balance will be well worth it.

## Local Talent



BRUCE TATE'S CD SINGLE,  
"I THINK IM IN LOVE"  
TO BE RELEASED NATIONALLY  
6-16-98 BY NORTHPORT RECORDS  
PERFORMING SPOKEN WORD  
POETRY AT THE CHICAGO CULTURAL CENTER 6-18-98 WITH THE  
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EARN THOUSANDS STUFFING  
ENVELOPES  
The company that pays me needs more mailers.  
For complete information send SASE to:  
In Your Best Interest  
1507 E. 53 rd St.  
Suite 630  
Chicago, IL 60615

# Altgeld Gardens Report

by Sharon Fornizy

Hey this is Ms. Fornizy again:

I need to get with you, but I have not forgotten you. I will be around for all good information. If you need to get in contact with me, please feel free to call me at (773) 535-5614 or send me a fax at (773) 535-5613.

## Mother's Day Wishes

Happy belated Mother's Day to all the mothers and especially to my mother, Johnnie Mae Bills. Also to Lucille Brownlow and Mattie B. Hollins.



**CHA employees Ivan Lee and Derrick Winn**

Photo by  
Sharon Fornizy

## New Summer Program

I have some good news. SHARON'S summer program is about to start up at the YMCA. If you are interested, contact me at (773) 535-5614. If your child is in school, please get a copy of the medical form and I will get back with you about the application.

## Sympathies

Our deepest sympathy goes out to the families of the deceased.

"Mrs. Pear's mother and Fullof love's mother, I am so sorry. But God is with you." Mr. Bob Merrit!

Also, to the loved ones of Stephony Smith.

Mrs. Jackson, you have our prayers for the loss of your father Joe Spivey, from Aldridge Elementary School.

## MOO & OINK

## One of Our Own

On April 5 and 6, I had the pleasure of participating in the D-Orum Hair Show.

D-Orum is a company which was started in 1981 by Ernest Daurham Jr. from block 17. The show was an array of spectacular hair designs. I, along with Martha Kindred from block 3, Rene Wilkins from block 17 and Latoya Jones of the South Side were the hair models.

Special kudos to Kim Polk, Gideon Exeter, Ernest Daurham Jr. and to the stylists who worked so hard, Jeanine Blount, Pamela Wallington, Barbara Brownlow and Muff Daurham.

To those of you not mentioned, you are appreciated also.

## Repairs

Housing authority employees in Altgeld Gardens are really working out. Ivan Lee and Derrick Winn came to my apartment and did a beautiful job. CHA works and they did wonders.

## Aldridge Elementary School News

Aldridge 5th and 6th grade cheerleaders took 3rd place in Region 6 and 4th place in the City Cheer Competition. They were coached by Lawanda Williams.

The varsity girls were in the top ten of the Region 6 finals that was coached by Fatinch Kha. The Pee Wees were 7th in the City Competition.

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

This article originally started to tell a story about an event that took place on Saturday, March 14, at St. Joseph's Catholic School, 1107 N Orleans St. St. Joseph's Church and School is located just across from Cabrini-Green and serves as a place of worship and education for many Cabrini-Green families.

The CHA-sponsored event was held to beckon former residents to "Come Back To Cabrini," according to the press release, to serve as positive role models and mentors.

Many current and former residents were at St. Joseph's. Most notably in attendance were

Jessie White and the Jessie White Tumblers, Alderman Walter Burnett (27), CHA Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner, Deputy Executive Director Ed Moses, gospel singer and LeClaire Courts resident Kim Stratton and, most notably for me, Gwen Cantrell, a classmate whom I have not seen in years.

The event was catered by John Hill, a former Cabrini-Green resident.

CHA Alumni Association founders Loisteen Woods-Walker, a former Altgeld Gardens resident, and Mattie Hunter, a former Robert Taylor Homes resident, were also in attendance.

According to the press release, "CHAAA was formed in 1984 with a mission to expand educational opportunities for CHA residents seeking higher education. CHAAA realizes that now more than ever before, the residents of CHA need positive role models, mentors and educational opportunities. CHAAA members, by example can offer the encouragement to pursue the opportunities that education, hard work and commitment offer."

"Come Back to Cabrini" is one of five such events to be held throughout CHA neighborhoods.

As a result of the hard work of Woods, Hunter and other CHAAA members, 10 college scholarships were awarded to students residing in CHA who had applied

## Congratulations

Altgeld CADRE staff would like to say congratulations to Jacinta Allen, the Black History Essay Contest winner. Schools from all over the Chicago area participated in this event. Allen has also been named as the 1st place winner of all the CHA participants.

Hey, Hey, Hey!

## Protecting Our Children

On Thursday, April 9, the Chicago Public Schools Interfaith Community Partnership sponsored a walk to protect our children from the continual violence that the children face walking home daily.

The walk was organized in response to the increase in violence in the area. More than 40 persons from the police and community organizations participated in the event, including local firefighters escorting students from Carver Elementary School home at dismissal time.



**Poll watchers hard at work at Aldridge Elementary School.**

Photo by Sharon Fornizy

## Easter at Altgeld

We had an exciting Easter in Altgeld. The kids had ponies, trains, sliding boards and a jumping bean and it was a success. Cynthia Knox, Rowonda Williams, Jaxqueline Knox and Guiale Smith prepared 55 Easter baskets for the Aldridge kindergarten class with generous donations from students, parents and Betty Cotton, a sixth grade teacher, and her son.

## HOPE

and were accepted by a college or university last year. Information regarding the scholarship is made available to high schools through the Chicago Public Schools.

I strongly urge all CHA graduating seniors who plan on going on to college to contact their high school counselor about the CHAAA scholarships. If no information is available, contact CHAAA directly. Scholarships are awarded in April/May of each year. A CHAAA membership is \$25. And all funds raised by CHAAA go to the scholarship fund.

But as I interviewed one person after another, asking "What do you want to tell the residents?" the resounding message was the same: "There's hope."

Their response struck me very cliché at first. And then I began to think about it and desired a more definitive answer. The phrase, "there's hope,"

is thrown about as if hope is plentiful and one but has to stand and wait with open arms to receive it.

I began to feel as though we were Charlie Brown and instead of hope, all we ever got was a rock.

I needed to know what hope looked like.

Perhaps it had been there but we didn't recognize it. Or even worse, hope was like Santa Claus and just didn't come to the ghetto. So I called Woods and asked her to speak more to her response, "there's hope."

Woods said many of the same things I say and have heard others say before. But after even more thought, it occurred to me that the hope they bring is a scholarship, but you can't recognize it if you don't finish high school. And Woods, Hunter and CHAAA do come to Cabrini.

But hoping alone is not enough. In addition to hope, we have to prepare ourselves so that when opportunities do come, we will be able to take advantage of them.

CHAAA is working hard to provide more hope through scholarship opportunities.

CHA students: work hard, keep your eye on the goal and finish high school – "there's hope."



**Mattie Hunter and Loisteen Woods-Walker.**

Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

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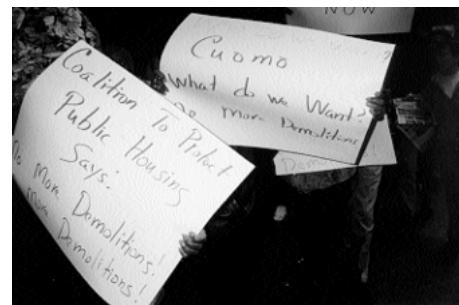
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# Cabrini-Green News

by Cecelia A. Clark

On March 25, the Coalition to Protect Public Housing held a meeting in Cabrini-Green at the Lower North Center demanding that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) take a "time out" from demolition. The protestors said 42,000 men, women, children and persons with disabilities in low-income public housing would be forced out of their homes if HUD



Protestors at the Coalition to Protect Public Housing rally.

by Cecelia A. Clark

plans are carried out.

The coalition challenged the strategic plans which CHA recently submitted to HUD. The strategic plans were put together by CHA staff and residents and submitted to HUD to show what residents want their neighborhoods to look like. But the coalition said the plans did not involve enough residents and did not plan for unit-for-unit replacement housing.

The coalition said the HUD plans would leave many people homeless. There's not enough low-income housing in Chicago, at least not to accommodate all the public housing residents that would be moved out. The coalition said 50 percent of Section 8 vouchers and certificates are returned unused because of racial discrimination. None of the replacement units have access for people with disabilities.

More than 300 public housing residents joined with religious leaders to march to HUD's office in downtown Chicago, where they delivered demands. The Rev. Yvonne Delk, along with Pam Alphonso of the Metropolitan Tenant Organization, John Donahue, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Jane Ramsey Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, Rabbi Herman Schaalmann of the Congregation of Emmanuel, Wardell Yotaghan of the Chicago Association of Resident Management Corporations, Carol Steele of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, Cora Moore, president of the Cabrini Green Local Advisory Council, and Karen Tamley of Access Living all spoke at the event.

The marchers carried signs asking HUD for a "time out" on demolition of buildings and displacement of residents. They chanted, "Fix them up, don't tear them down."

## TIME OUT

On Thursday, April 16, the Coalition to Protect Public Housing met with officials from HUD, including Karen Newton, the



Students at Jenner School during Colin Powell's visit.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

acting chairperson of CHA, Debora Vincent, Gloria Cowser and Father Joe Hacala. Also at the meeting were Joseph Shuldiner, executive director of the Chicago Housing Authority, and others to discuss the concerns and demands.

Ed Sherman of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing said, "We want a market study for Section 8 vouchers. We want Chicago treated as a unique case and the coalition is expecting a response of Secretary Cuomo in a matter of days."

In a telephone conversation, Jim Fields, also a member of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, said the developments are looking for one-for-one replacement of public housing units.

## St. Joseph's Children's Choir

The award-winning St. Joseph's Children's Choir

Former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Colin Powell.

by Cecelia A. Clark



under the direction of Music Director John Fisher along with 15 adult chaperones and 30 children will leave Chicago on May 28 to go on tour at churches in Northern Tennessee and Southern Illinois.

The churches the youths will visit are the victims of race-related arson. The children will participate in the dedication service of Salem Missionary Baptist Church in northern Tennessee.

The children's choir recently performed at the Chicago Gospel Fest in Grant Park and Hilary Clinton's 50th birthday party.

The children need \$10,000 to make the trip. Thus far, they have been selling candy and raffle tickets but much more money is needed. They will accept donations large or small.

## POWELL AT JENNER

On April 14, Colin Powell, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Jenner Academy of the Arts in Cabrini-Green. Powell commanded Operation Desert Storm during the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

Powell's journey is now taking a different shift; from a professional soldier of 35 years to chairman of America's Promise - the Alliance for Youth. America's Promise is designed and committed to enhancing our youths with the resources needed to succeed in life.

First, Powell was greeted by men and women from Working in the Schools (WITS) and the Everen Capital Corporation workers who serve as volunteers at Jenner.

Powell then made a short visit to Pauline E. Ferguson's second grade classroom. Ferguson is a reading specialist. As Powell entered the classroom, the children had very interesting details about what they were learning.

In the main auditorium, seventh grader Mark Sumrall, eighth grader Darrah Walker and eighth grader Lukes Richard introduced Powell to the student body. The 400 students listened as Powell spoke.

"Children can master all things with help from teachers, tutors and adult volunteers. Every child present in this auditorium can be successful," Powell said.

Powell shared with the children about the troops, the Gulf War and his medals. "Who would have ever thought a kid from the South Bronx would have accomplished all these things. That's why, like myself, you too can be whatever you want to be," Powell said.

The students presented Powell with a beautiful quilt they made. The Everen Capital Corporation presented the students with two Power Mac G3 computers for the school.

# STOP THE VIOLENCE

by Cenabeth Cross

In the quest to find ways, people and resources to stop the violence, I covered a few events where they were discussing the very same issue.

The first convention was held on April 20 at the James Jordan, 2102 W. Monroe St. The National Crime Victims Day Event started at 10am. The speakers and others explained the meanings and functions and how we tenants can become involved in our own safety. The subject was tenant patrols or resident patrols.

Resident patrols share goals that are similar to the organization called Community Alternative Policing Strategies (CAPS), which I wrote about in an earlier article. Resident patrols started in New York City more than 20 years ago, according to the fact sheets passed out at the meeting. The New York Housing Authority then developed a training program for learning the necessary skills needed for the program to succeed.

Some of the subjects covered were child abuse and victimization, where children have been beaten or attacked in some way without a weapon but with the intent to cause bodily harm or to kill. The event also covered juvenile crime and victimization, where persons between 12 and 25 commit serious crimes such as murder, rape, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault.

We also discussed crime and education. How do the children learn with gunfire all around them? During a recent outbreak of violence in the Robert Taylor Homes, Chicago Board of Education executives considered closing a nearby school. Maybe we should have some type of paramedic in the schools. We need counselors. We discussed the fact that most crimes happen in dense urban areas as opposed to the less populated parts of the city.

We discussed drunk driving, where the person often doesn't remember committing the act. We talked about homicide and stalking, where a person you know and have said no to just doesn't want to accept it.

We talked about domestic violence, elder abuse and neglect, victims with disabilities, substance abuse and related crimes, rape and assault, hate and bias crimes, workplace violence and violence-related injuries that are treated in emergency rooms.

We talked about economic crimes, where people turn to crime because they're poor; everybody, regardless of your class status, will find a way to eat.

The cost of crime was also mentioned. The cost of tenant services were disclosed. The tenant who volunteers will be paid \$50 for 32 hours work each month. The amount will be deducted from the tenant's rent. The organizers passed out pamphlets which explained what tenant patrol really means:

T is for tenants of our building  
E is for equality each one has  
N is for the nice neighbors we have in our buildings  
A is for the ability to receive a Noble Prize  
N is to never give up on the neighborhood  
T is for the triumph which we share towards one another  
P is for the protection of our residents  
A is for the authority we CHA residents share  
T is for the rough times we go through  
R is for the renewal of our buildings  
O is for the opportunity we have to express ourselves  
L is for the love of all people



Mr. Lovely.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE

On April 27-29, I joined the members of the tenant patrol at the National Conference on Resident Involvement in Crime Prevention. The conference was at the Arlington Park Hilton and Conference Center in Arlington Heights, IL..

The first day was for registration. The various workshops began on the following day. CHA buses picked us up for the ride to Arlington Heights. I must thank Barbara McCoy, the person responsible for getting me the bus schedule so that I wouldn't miss the ride. I had first met Barbara at the festivities held at the James Jordan center. She is on the tenant patrol in my building.

Around the middle of the evening on April 28, there was an older woman, a tenant patrol member, who passed out and had to have an ambulance take her to the nearest hospital. Other than that, the conference was enjoyable and we were well fed.

During the two days of the conference, the tenant patrol participants were different because the tenant patrol members from each building had to get a turn. At the finish of the meeting, we were introduced to three ladies who started Moms Against Violence. These are women who have lost their children. Their purpose is to help keep other children alive because they feel they are worth it. These are my sentiments also, being that I, too, have lost a son through violence and would like to see it stopped. These women were from the B.W.Cooper Housing Development in New Orleans.

Moms Against Violence serves as a citywide network which responds to the special needs of the victims' families. They plan to provide an environment where high-risk children live that will reduce the incidence of violent behavior and associated social and medical accidents. They identify, coordinate and educate high-risk youth. They use the education and they provide recreation to find and then address the problems the children have. The staff and volunteers all live in public housing. We should have a similar organization in Chicago. This I will check out.

On May 1, attended the public hearing for residents where the Comprehensive Grant program and the CHA budget were discussed. CHA Executive Director Joe Shuldiner was there. The meeting was held at the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, 2102 W. Ogden Ave.



Easter in Ogden Courts

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

## THE SHOOTING RETURNS

On May 14 at 10:30 p.m., the shooting started again. This was the third time in two weeks. Well, that night they had to take two teen-agers to the Mount Sinai Hospital just across the street from our building.

They reportedly had been shot by the occupants of a passing green car. The policeman took the information and left, as did the 12 or 13 police cars that were still in front. I went to Mount Sinai myself to find out if the children were dead.

There were two tenant patrol people there also. This kind of job isn't for a bunch of untrained people to do. The last time, the shooting took place at 9:30 a.m. The lady on patrol that day got behind the iron door with me. The police will have to take their jobs back for real when summer gets here. The tenant patrol was promised a lot of help from the police but even with the walkie-talkie connection, the police do not respond fast enough. They never have.

On May 16, the police raided the building I live in. First I heard shots, three of them. After about 15 minutes, I peeked out of the window to see if they were headed for Mount Sinai again. I saw three policemen on the front grass looking for something. There were unmarked cars on the sidewalk.

When I went to the lobby, they were searching a young man's apartment while two police kept them, him, his lady and his child in the hall. I showed them my ID and asked if I could stand against the wall and watch. They found nothing in the young man's apartment, nothing in the alley and no one but they wanted to arrest the child anyway.

I asked why, and where were the CHA police who were supposed to be there along with them for these types of arrests. The policemen replied that they don't cooperate with them. I then asked if I could accompany the boy, since they wouldn't allow their relatives to come along. They went to the side and talked it over and quietly left.

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U.S. GOVERNMENT

# The War on Public Housing

by Annie R. Smith

I recently got a call from U.S. Rep. Danny Davis' (D-7) office inviting me to a town hall meeting concerning public housing issues. The caller asked if I would consider taking photographs and writing an article for RJ. I agreed but told them that I don't have final say-so as to what gets printed into the paper (no matter how popular I am).

I was the first one there and I believe I witnessed history being made right in the basement of Homan Square. Eight LAC presidents were there: Ruth Todd from LeClaire Courts, Mamie Bone from Henry Horner Homes, Cora Moore from Cabrini-Green, Deverra Beverly from ABLA Homes, Louis Brown from Lawndale development, Mary Baldwin from Rockwell Gardens, Mary Wiggins from Washington Park Homes, Martha Marshall from Senior Housing Central and Joyce Morgan from the Central Advisory Council.

Representing CHA staff were Deputy Executive Director Ed Moses and Development Initiatives Director Wanda White. The meeting was pulled together by Hassan Muhammad, a new staff member of the 7th Congressional District. Muhammad is a former public housing resident.

## The Purpose

After many years of deliberate neglect towards the families of public housing, we are being told that we must pack up our bags because we are the cause for the drugs, crime, fatherless children and the abuse of public aid.

So what are we as residents of public housing to do about this plight we are facing.

Danny Davis gave us a start. His staff members, like constituent service representative Hassan Muhammad, cared enough about the issues of public housing residents to structure the town hall meeting.

Key figures like Wardell Yotaghan from the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, State Sen. Rickey Hendon (D-Chicago) and Judge Dorothy Jones from housing court all came to give their support. Now it's up to us to keep it alive.

## An Absence

One person who was not there was Alexander

Polikoff, the attorney who oversees the federal court case known as the Gautreaux decree. Polikoff was invited but he turned the invitation down because of a prior engagement.

Gautreaux is a 30-year-old federal court case which restricts where and how new public housing can be built



**U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7, from left), CHA Deputy Executive Director Ed Moses and Coalition to Protect Public Housing representative Wardell Yotaghan.**

Photo by Annie R. Smith

in Chicago.

Polikoff reportedly was asked to send one of his staff people to address the issues but he told the event's organizers that all his staff people had prior commitments as well. My sentiments are if Polikoff is too busy to address those issues that help him win the Gautreaux case, maybe its time for the residents to start thinking like corporate America.

If Polikoff was the attorney representing Microsoft or Dupont, he would have been at the meeting the same time I got there, an hour early.

## A Conspiracy Theory

A conspiracy theory was presented to the audience by St. Louis public housing leader Bertha Gilkey. All the angles Gilkey gave made it seem like the government is as diabolical as it is portrayed in the movies and in print. By the time Gilkey was finished speaking, I was ready to march on Washington.

Gilkey asked the question: why, after so many years of neglect, is government now paying attention to what they have neglected for 30 years. Is it possible that developers have given the government an offer they can't refuse. By no means are they concerned for public housing residents.

If that was true, the concern would have developed 30 years ago.

When you size it up to history, Gilkey said the same thing happened to the Indians. Their land was focused on by greedy developers and the government allowed the annihilation of a people. Cruel means just to get land but it was done.

Now 200 years later we are the target of a land grab, Gilkey said. But once it's gone, ain't no coming back except the offer of 25 to 30 percent set aside for the housing residents. That's to stop us from focusing on what has happened to our community.

## Let's Do the Math

CHA's Ed Moses gave us something to think about in numbers. 19,000 units within the authority are being impacted by new laws coming from the U.S. Congress. 11,000 units will be demolished, 6,200 will be rehabbed and 4,200 new units will be built.

"Where do you stand in those numbers," Moses asked. "Will your unit be torn down, rehabbed or under new construction?"

## The Heart of the Matter

Senior Central Local Advisory Council President Martha Marshall summed it up when she quoted a line from Billie Holiday's song, "God Bless the Child who got his own."

Marshall said we have put Danny Davis out to fight our battles and he standing there butt naked. We haven't given him the armor that's needed for him to fight our battles.

The armor Marshall was talking about is voting power. Our voices will be heard if we get out and vote collectively. The issues of jobs, education, public housing and welfare would be addressed with our voices and votes to back us up.

## Who is to Blame

We live in a economical and political society. We must adhere to both of those realities. If you lived in Spain, wouldn't you learn how to speak Spanish.

Regardless of how much of a neglect the government was to the developments, they never came over here and asked us to piss in the elevators, stairwells and every corner of our dwelling place. The government didn't come into our community and give a marker or spray can to our people and tell them to defile our walls and elevators and break out windows and rob our neighbors.

No matter how much the drug infiltration was perpetrated in our community, they didn't make us sell the drugs or indulge in them. No matter how high the drop-out rate is in our community, they didn't stop us from going to school to better ourselves.

I listened to those who were at the podium that night. I looked at the way they were dressed, the way they enunciated. Not one of them was dressed poorly or spoke with broken English and I bet every person in that room voted at every election.

My question is: how do we get those who don't understand? They are the ones who won't read this arti-



**St. Louis public housing activist Bertha Gilkey (left)**

Photo by Annie R. Smith

cle and won't vote in the next election. They don't care if their children go to school and probably don't even own a Bible or have ever set foot inside of any house of prayer.

Until we can get to the masses, the problem will always be there. New houses and new schools with caring teachers won't solve a thing.

If I've offended anyone, it was you that I was talking about.

True there are some success stories with a very small percentage of developments but if rules and regulations aren't implemented, they too shall fall.

At some point, at some time, we are our brother's keeper. If you don't believe it, you are a lost soul without love. So let's help those who are fighting for us on the political front. Let's armor our allies with votes and support their efforts so they can support ours.

Stop blaming others for your misfortunes and join us in our fight to save and protect public housing.

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# ILLINOIS PRO BONO

## by Karen Owens

**A**s redevelopment continues here at ABLA homes, the focus this month is on the Jane Addams Homes, the Robert Brooks extensions and the nearby Liberty Shopping Center.

### THE JANE ADDAMS HOMES

The Addams Homes, which range from Roosevelt Boulevard on the south, Cabrini Avenue on the north, Racine on the east and Loomis on the west, consists of three- and four-story walk-ups and row houses.

Completed in 1938, Addams was the city's first public housing development. Over the years, age and deterioration have taken their toll on the units to the point where some residents have been relocated



**An ABLA high-rise. These buildings will be demolished in coming months to make way for a low-rsie, mixed-income community.**

Photo by Karen Owens

# ABLA Homes Update

already.

The Addams Homes are slated for redevelopment to look as trendy and upscale as the "New Brooks Homes."

The new units also will fit in with the many ethnic food establishments along Taylor Street and the many new market rate units around Addams Homes.

One unique feature about the Jane Addams Homes is that it's one of six public housing units in the city to become eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Because of this, there is no definite date as to when redevelopment will take place. As of this writing, the Jane Addams Planning Committee - made up of Addams residents, members of ABLA's Local Advisory Council, consultant Dawn Archibald Hendon and CHA officials - is still hoping to find developers who are interested in preserving some of the units.

### BROOKS HOMES EXTENSION

The Brooks Extension, completed in 1961, consists of three 16-story high-rise units at 1239 S. Racine, 1209 S. Racine and 1111W. Roosevelt Road. These buildings will be razed to make way for mixed income units. 1239 S. Racine already has come down.

All three buildings once held 456 units. There are now 218 families left in the two remaining buildings. All residents who live or lived in those buildings will get a choice of a Section 8 voucher, a scattered site unit, a CHA unit in another development or a replacement unit on site. The original Brooks Extension families who want to stay within ABLA will get first choice of the new housing and will be temporarily placed in ABLA until the new housing is built.

For answers as to what will happen to the residents of Brooks Extension, the following questions were presented to Deverra Beverly, president of ABLA's LAC, and consultant Dawn Archibald Hendon:

#### Why are the Brooks Extension and Liberty Shopping Center being demolished?

To provide building space for new housing units for

Robert Brooks extension. The new housing will consist of 216 townhouses and include more green space as well. 108 of these units will be for families from 0 to 50 percent of the area median income and the other 108 units will be for families within 50 to 80 percent of the area median income.

The creation of these mixed-income new housing structures will provide for a less dense community as instructed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

#### What is the HOPE VI plan and how does it affect the Brooks Extension? Is it following the rules of the Gautreaux federal court decree?

The HUD HOPE VI program provides funding for new development plans such as the Robert Brooks Extension plan. The plan has been created through input and direction from the ABLA LAC and the Brooks Extension Strategic Planning Committee (BESPC), made up of Brooks Extension residents and members of ABLA LAC.

An architectural inspector, selected by the BESPC and the ABLA LAC, will be provided throughout the construction phases of the new housing and green space. As to how the plan is affected by Gautreaux, that has yet to be determined via court.

#### Where will the people go?

Families currently in Brooks Extension are given four choices. Those selecting replacement housing will be temporarily relocated in vacant units throughout ABLA.

#### What are the four businesses affected by the redevelopment? Where will they go?

These four businesses are currently seeking retail space in the community with the support of the BESPC and the ABLA LAC. They are: Home Boys Restaurant, Liberty Pharmacy, Liberty Laundromat and Dr. DeLeon Medical Center.

#### When will the construction start?

Construction of the new 216 new townhouses and two- and three story walk-up units is scheduled to begin in late summer of this year. Demolition of one building has already taken place.

### THE LIBERTY SHOPPING CENTER

Located adjacent to the Brooks Extension is the Liberty Shopping Center at 14th Street and Racine Avenue. The shopping center over the years has been home to many businesses that provided



**These low rises in the ABLA complex may be demolished to make way for a new mixed-income development.**

Photo by Karen Owens

services to a vast amount of ABLA residents. In order to accommodate the expansion of the Brooks Extension, the four remaining businesses will have to be moved once the center's land is purchased by CHA.

Petitions were circulated by ABLA's LAC and residents within the community gathered nearly 2,000 signatures to keep the businesses within ABLA.

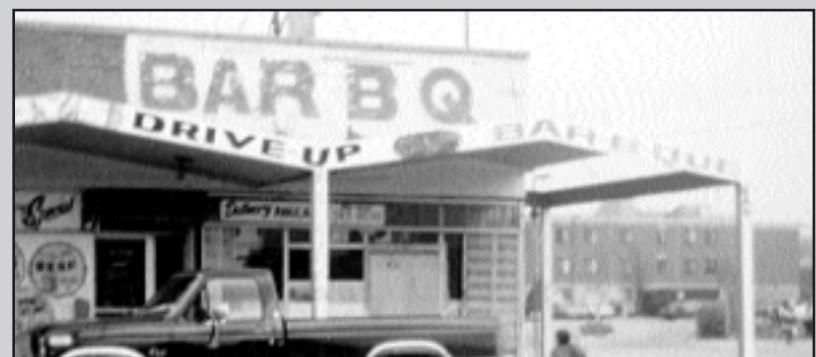
Two of the proprietors, Paul Hutchins, a registered pharmacist of Liberty Pharmacy, and Homer Lyons Jr. of Home Boys Restaurant, have maintained their individual businesses for many years. Both businessmen are former residents of ABLA and attended school here. Both express a sense of community pride in that they always saw African American youths willing to

work for the betterment of ABLA, which inspired both to run successful businesses.

With a degree in sociology from Chicago State University, Lyons is a very people-oriented person. He worked at the nearby Newberry Center, 1059 W. Maxwell, in the evening hours for 18 years. There he offered guidance to the area youths, teens and adults by being a positive role model on all levels of self and motivational improvement.

Hutchins and Lyons feel dismayed at having to leave their "roots," which they worked so diligently to establish.

With petitions and the support of the ABLA LAC



**One of the businesses near ABLA Homes that may be affected by upcoming redevelopment.**

Photo by Karen Owens

and its community, Home Boys and Liberty Drugstore and the other two businesses hope they will be able to be a part of the new and viable ABLA community.

Lyons said he would like to continue serving people "we have known for years along with the new people that are coming into our community."

### Renaming proposed

A proposal is being submitted to CHA's Executive Advisory Board by ABLA's LAC to rename the "New Brooks Homes" the "Artena Randolph Homes." Randolph, who died last summer, was the president of the Central Advisory Council, the executive branch of resident leadership. In her position, she fought tirelessly for the residents of public housing.

### Congratulations

I and many other residents of ABLA would like to congratulate Deverra Beverly, president of ABLA's LAC and former treasurer of CAC on being elected the vice president of the CAC. Good luck and much success in this endeavor.

# **Chinese**

# Resident fights CHA rent policy

by Deborah Johnson

I'm a CHA resident and willing to go the extra mile for the residents in CHA. When I found out about CHA's rent policy, I got mad. Under the policy, people in CHA's Resident Employment Development Initiative (REDI) program got a special "income disregard." If they got a job and their income rose, their rent wouldn't go up for 18 months. The benefit is called the "income disregard" because CHA "disregards" the increase in income for 18 months when determining rent.

I wanted to know why we, as working CHA residents, couldn't get help just because we hadn't joined REDI.

I asked, "What's the difference between REDI and programs like West Haven Project Match?" They both get people jobs. I felt that CHA residents should be able to choose the job training program they want and get the same benefits as REDI participants. It is a blessing that CHA residents have more opportunities than REDI to choose from. I believed that if CHA made the income disregard available to more CHA residents, it would encourage them to work. CHA would be

## A Henry Horner resident challenges CHA policy over the income disregard for rent.

happy because, with more working residents, they would get more money for rent in the long run. I also believed that CHA residents who work would stop drugs and gang banging and this would help to build a new community.

The people who brought West Haven Project Match to the community worked hard to help CHA residents find jobs and become working-class citizens. Was CHA for the people or against the people?

I decided to fight by bringing the story to *Our Voices*. Together, we found a state law that says that anyone who has been unemployed for six months or more is entitled to the 18-month income disregard. There was nothing in the state law that said you first had to participate in REDI. *Our Voices* started pressuring CHA to explain their position. It seemed to us that their rent policy violated state law.

On April 7, CHA spokesperson

Vivian Potter told *Our Voices* that CHA would change its policy: "CHA will not require residents to register with REDI to get the income disregard."

*Our Voices* announced CHA's decision in an article in its April edition and distributed 5,000 copies throughout Henry Horner Homes and the West Side. Then, in late April, CHA backed off. In an April 30 letter to *Our Voices*, CHA Public Affairs Director Wynona Redmond wrote, "For any CHA residents who want to apply for the income disregard, the internal process is registration through the Resident Employment Development Initiative (REDI)."

Now, we're back where we started. *Our Voices* is still fighting to make sure that every CHA resident who is entitled to this legal benefit is compensated.

From looking at the state law, the *Our Voices* staff believes that working CHA residents have been entitled to an

income disregard since January 1, 1994, when the law took effect.

But in an April 7 letter to *Our Voices*, CHA spokesperson Vivian Potter wrote that CHA would only offer income disregards to people who found jobs after Jan. 1, 1998. This was the date CHA passed its income disregard policy.

We as residents that live in CHA need to know our rights on any issue so that we can represent ourselves in the future. If you're unemployed for six months in a row and then you start working, your new income should not make your rent go up for 18 months. This will help the old and the young living in CHA for years to come.

*Our Voices* and *Residents' Journal* will continue to investigate this issue. If you think that you or someone you know is being unjustly denied the income disregard, please call Deborah Johnson or Adam Gross at Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI) at (312) 641-5570.

(A version of this article appeared in *Our Voices*, a publication for and by the residents of the West Haven community.)

# Lathrop Homes News

by Bobby Watkins

## Remembering Jimmy

On the first Saturday of April, a group of Lathrop Homes residents, along with David Jones and Jayne Lilienfeld from Friends of the River, and Raul Velez from CHA Resident Organization, came to lay out stakes and prepare what will become the Jimmy Thomas Nature Trail in Lathrop Homes.

This be a beautiful site to just explore wild flowers, fish, go canoeing and just see the beauty of the river. We hope to make it a project Jimmy, an extremely active Lathrop resident who also worked at *RJ*, would really be proud of.

Before Jimmy's passing last November, we took a trip to Naperville and St. Charles. But one site which Jimmy really admired was at Berteau, close to Western and Rockwell avenues.

We felt that we could do some of the same things here at Lathrop Homes. We also hope this will give our 4-H Group, along with other youngsters as well as adults, to have a place to just go and relax peacefully. I think that Jimmy would really be proud of the way things are going.

We welcome anyone who would like to come any Saturday and work with us. We really would like to thank Ora Milsap, Earl Battles, Luanne Ratke and Sandra Cornwell for their help.

We really, really want to see this dream come true for Jimmy. He was a resident who worked very hard in the community, especially with the river project, and upon completion, everyone will be invited to the dedication.

## Special Thanks

A special thanks to Mr. Belmont and the Alto Reform Church group, Waupun, Wis., that came out to help with

the beautification of Lathrop. Their work looks absolutely beautiful. Thanks again for a wonderful job.

## Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers and grandmothers of Lathrop Homes.

## Resident Managers

Congratulations to the Lathrop Resident Management Corporation for signing off on their dual management contract with CHA. Keep up the good



**Lathrop resident Bobby Watkins poses on the future Jimmy Thomas trail.**

Photo by James Rayfield

work.

Lathrop Resident Management Corporation has trainees in training to do the property management, which means Lathrop will not go private but will go resident management. The eminent date for the residents to take over is in the first quarter of 1999.

This is an opportunity for the RMC to prove to all those that doubt that CHA residents can do the things we



**Lathrop residents and members of Friends of the River tour the future Jimmy Thomas trail along the Chicago River.**

Photo by James Rayfield

know that we can do.

Also, congratulations to Titus Kerby, president of Exodus Community Development Corporation, for a job well done.

Mr Kerby rehabbed a four-bedroom unit at S.W. Scattered Site for the Chicago Housing Authority. The management was so pleased that a family moved in while Exodus was still mopping the floors. Keep up the good work.

Lathrop Resident Management Corporation is having its second annual Safe Summer Fun Day. This event is a fun-filled day to kick off the beginning of a safe summer. There will be plenty of food, music, entertainment, raffles and give-aways. The fun day will kick off at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and everyone is invited. This festival is to promote a safe summer for our young children at the end of the school year. It will be held at Lathrop behind Mary Crane daycare, 2915 N. Leavitt.

# Letters To The Editor

## Here Comes The Judge

At one time when many people thought of a judge, they only thought of someone with the power to send a person to jail. After watching Judge Wapner, Judge Judy, other television personalities and media events, the public has become more aware of some of the other kinds of cases that judges must decide.

You may be surprised to know that the majority of the 400 judges in Cook County do not make decisions about criminal matter at all. Most of us hear quasi criminal cases (where people may be fined if convicted) and civil matters (where some person wants the court to make another person do something or pay money for something.)

At one time when many people thought of how a judge looks, they thought of a middle aged, white man with graying hair.

Fortunately, that is no longer the true. If you visit the Cook County courts, for an example, you will see that there are young judges and female judges, African American and Hispanic judges, an Asiatic American judge and an Arab American judge as well.

One African American and one woman are also included among the seven Justices of the Illinois Supreme Court, (the highest court in the state.)

It is desirable that we increase the number of

judges from minority groups. Diversity in the judiciary allows the system of justice to be more understanding of and more responsive to the needs of the different racial and other minority groups for whom important decisions must be made.

Too often there are special situations of concern involving the rights of minority workers, whether they are judges, factory workers, doctors, salespeople, plumbers or whatever.

With this in mind, some years ago the African-American judges of Cook County formed the Illinois Judicial Council (IJC). Judge Sidney A. Jones III, Supervising Judge of the First Municipal District, is the IJC 1998 chairperson.

The IJC organized to address issues that primarily concern African American judges. All Illinois judges, hearing officers and administrative law judges, however, are free to join the IJC and become active members.

Partly because of the IJC's concern for members of the entire Cook County minority community, it developed an outreach program with a speaker's bureau. IJC members speak to various groups and provide them with information about the court system and the system of justice as a whole. Judges may not discuss any particular case that is active in the courts but they may provide

information and discuss general judicial and court related matters.

If you belong to a group that would like to arrange for an IJC speaker, please give me the details. We need the group's name and contact person, date, time and place where a speaker is desired and the topic you have chosen. We can also assist in selecting an appropriate topic if necessary.



Judge Llwelyn "Lynn" Greene-Thapedi

Judge Llwelyn "Lynn" Greene-Thapedi

Write Judge Llwelyn "Lynn" Greene-Thapedi,  
Room 1573 Daley Center, Chicago, Illinois 60602 or tele-

## Lawyers offer help to children

Dear Editor:

A coalition of bar associations and legal services providers has worked diligently for several months to help Illinois' disabled children, who were found to be no longer eligible to receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, appeal their cases.

Unfortunately, far too few parents and guardians of these children, number 12,287 in all, have responded, thereby denying themselves and their children proper benefits.

Hundreds of lawyers throughout Illinois have volunteered to handle the appeals of disabled children at no charge. Yet, less than 20 percent of the cases have sought legal assistance to pursue their appeal.

The Social Security Administration will soon be mailing out another notice to families of disabled children who did not file an appeal. However, anyone who has not yet appealed their case can do so immediately. Furthermore, parents need to know that they can request to have their benefits continue during the appeals process.

The Illinois Pro Bono Center has established a hotline and can provide further information as well as recommend volunteer lawyers to these families. The number to call is 1-800-471-9300.

Sincerely,

Todd A. Smith  
President  
Illinois State Bar Association

## Youth learn of Fred Hampton

by Artra Thomas

On March 21, 1998, while everyone else was doing their own thing, Community Specialist, Artra Michelle Thomas accompanied 18 residents from (Cabrini) William Green Homes to the Pegasus Theater located at Truman College at 1121 N. Wilson Ave.

Special acknowledgement goes out to Cecelia Hudson, Senior/Disabled Tour and Mainstage Outreach for the free tickets.

Three residents from Cabrini William Green Homes who cared enough about their history too attend were asked to elaborate on the impact of the play:

### What I Thought About the Play, the Execution of Fred Hampton

*Because I'm a young brother and really didn't know about our history then, I really truly believe that this was an interesting story about our black activist Fred Hampton. I was petrified to learn and to see how Fred Hampton was killed, how he*

*lived and how I was motivated by his speeches and idolized by the man. He inspired me by wanting to learn more, about our other Black Panther leaders who lived and who survived. The play moved me in more ways than one. I'm glad I did go because if I didn't I would have never known, the more you learn the more you know. Thanks Artra Michelle Thomas.*

Sincerely,

Reginald Hillard (Jabo)

*"The Execution of Fred Hampton" was very emotional and exciting. I enjoyed the play very well. It was daring. It told how a brave man stood up for his beliefs and rights. It told how you shouldn't trust anyone. It tells about a sad death of a righteous man. It helps us realize what men are like in the times then and now.*

Joi' Hiner

*I attend the play of the Execution of Fred Hampton with Artra Thomas, Community Specialist for William Green-Cabrini Homes. I really enjoyed the experience. I never knew some of the things that happened. I was really surprised at the events that occurred. This events should be told to more young people. I really enjoyed the play.*

Debra Macon

## Stateway Gardens' 'Safe Summer' Fun Fest

by the disease of 'Community Division'."

Stateway Gardens 'Safe Summer' FunFest will be held from July 2, 1998 thru July 5, 1998. The FunFest will be providing entertainment for the children, including carnival; there will be a three-day education and job fair; and a host of vendors. In addition, the residents will have the opportunity to set up their own booths to sell their wares. "I am thrilled about putting up my own booth, I can sell some of the knitting work that my

church make. Plus the floor that I live on, 12th, my neighbor and I will be putting up a booth. This is the best thing that has happen to Stateway Gardens history," said Arlene Thompson.

We, the residents of Stateway Gardens, invite the entire City of Chicago to come and enjoy the hospitality of Stateway Gardens.

Sincerely,

The Residents of Stateway Gardens

# *Dear Resident*

*by Patricia Johnson-Gordon*

As always, welcome. Welcome to the May 1998 edition of **RJ**. As a rule, I am not one given to the celebration of holidays. For the most part, they have become empty, commercial gestures which often result in hurt feelings when the expectation of giving and/or receiving a gift is not met. And between the end of one article and the beginning of another, the topic of **Dear Resident** changes many times. Only when I sit down and put pencil to paper and heart to words does the subject of Dear Resident become clear to me.

But you can't say "May" without thinking about Mother's Day. I consider it an honor to address my peers, my community and others through Dear Resident. I love my community and my people, especially the children.

Loving the children is easy. Not because I am a mother and grandmother. Loving the children is easy because I have a mother and had a grandmother who were warm, loving and nurturing as was the whole community when I was a child.

There is no greater joy than having a child, no greater sadness than wanting a child that you cannot have, no greater grief than losing a child and no greater responsibility than raising a child.

Ideally, a child is raised within the confines of a family with both a mother and father. And this family is part of a larger family - the community.

We have seen our community and its families undergo enormous change over the past three decades. The largest percentage of our heads of households are single females without a high school education, receiving some type of state or federal monetary grant on which she raises her family. The largest percentage of our young men have fathered one or more children, head no household, have not completed high school and their strongest family tie is with an "all male social peer group" within the community.

But one thing has not changed. And that's the beauty and potential of our young Black children. And as with all beautiful things, great loving care must be given them if their beauty is to be maintained and flourish. Such maintenance can be difficult, especially for young parents. Unfortunately, the majority of the parents in our community, at least the last two generations, have been young.

I was a young, very young, parent myself but blessed to have a wise and wonderful mother and grandmother. For me to be half the woman that my mother is would still make me a good woman.

Over the years, I have found that our most revealing "mirror" is our children. One day you will stare at your child and you will stare back. I am my mother, my grandmother and the mother before her. And in addition to these women, I was fortunate to have in my life other strong Black women who also loved and mothered me as well: E. Rodgers, L. Toney, L. Williams and my aunts, Lottie Mae, Nancy and Mable. But that was what Black women did when I was a child. They loved and mothered us all. All the children were welcomed in all the homes, especially Mrs. Savage's home. They loved, they cherished, they nurtured a community. They set an example for us to follow. If they lied, cheated or stole - we didn't know it. If there was anything wrong - we didn't know it. If they were lacking - we didn't know it. No matter what, they continued loving and mothering us all. When they stare at me, I hope they stare back.

Until recently, I thought that much of the community's loving and nurturing was gone. Then I had, as all mothers will, an experience where I could not do what needed to be done for my child. But there was another Black mother there and she did for my child what I could not do. A special "thank you" to Ms. Robinson from Joyce and myself.

To love your own is no great feat. To love others is. To those Women who perform this great feat: "Thank You."

To the young mothers, our hearts go out to you. The responsibility of raising your children today is far more challenging than ours. More important than anything will be the choices that you make. Because as a parent, the choices that you make for you, you make for your children.

Just like a pebble thrown in to the water causes it to ripple, the choices and decisions that you make will ripple through your family for generations to come. Truly, unless someone commits a heinous act or crime against you, the worst things that will happen to you will be the results of your bad choices, snap decisions and poor judgment. And while you may say, "Oh well, I don't care" now, some day you will care.

I didn't care either. But today I find myself thinking, 'What will my grandchildren think of me and the things that I've done?'

The last thing that my grandmother said to me was "Pat, take care of yourself." And every day, the meaning of her words becomes more clear.

In order to take care of your children, you must take care of yourself. If you want better children, make yourself better. The only thing that I can imagine that could possibly be worse than losing a child or grandchild who has had a good life is watching a child suffer a bad life, day after day, unable to make it better. Because when a mother cries and another mother hears, her heart cries too.

To my mom, "I Love You."

To my sisters, Janet and Betty, my cousin Cecelia, our daughters and son and their children, I love you, take care of yourselves and please, **stop yelling at those kids**.

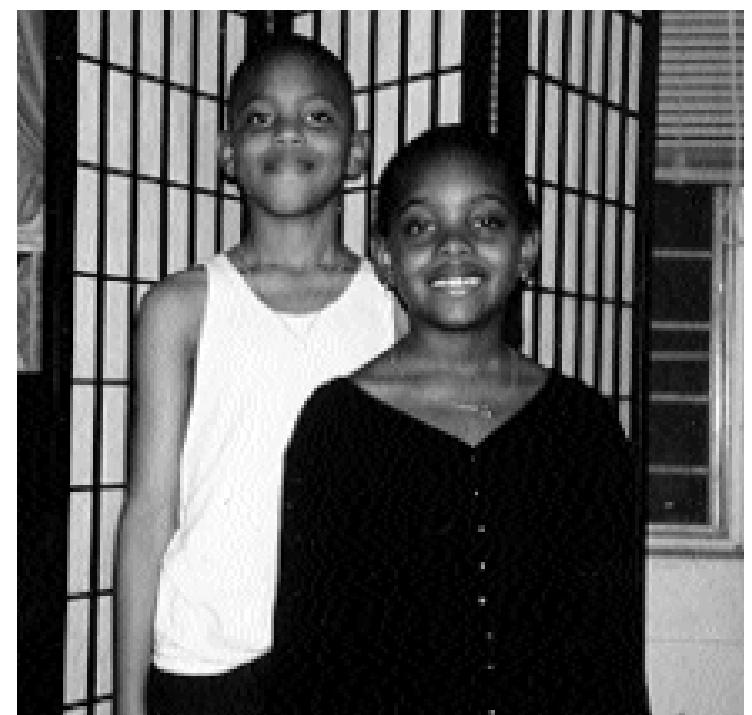
To my friends, peers and community, especially the young parents and children, much love.

Take care of yourselves and each other and you too, please, **stop yelling at those kids**.

As always - with love,

Your daughter, mother, sister, niece, aunt, cousin, friend and neighbor,

Pat.



**Grandchildren make it all worthwhile.**

Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

