

R E S I D E N T S ,

Journal

A publication for and by the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority December 1999 /Volume 4/ Number 2

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The front page of this issue was designed by Sharon Farber, a student in Mouli Marur's "Advanced Digital Free Press" class at the Art Institute of Chicago. Other class members were Clarissa Jayakumara, Arjumund Mustafa, Sarah Carey, Jemal Diamond, Brad Taylor, Tim Van Kouvenberg, Nancy Horowitz, Alycen Rooke, Maria Elias and Matthew Grier.

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Residents' Journal is available in alternative formats, such as braille or large type, upon request.

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.

The Chicago Housing Authority will not censor this publication in any way and is committed to the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which protects the Freedom of the Press.

The views expressed in this publication do not reflect the views of the Chicago Housing Authority or its staff. All editorial decisions are made by the staff of Residents' Journal in conjunction with the editor-in-chief.

E d i t o r ' s B o x

by Ethan Michaeli



A new study has found that Chicago public housing residents continue to face both nasty old stereotypes and government programs that are based on political agendas rather than human realities.

The Mid-America Institute on Poverty studied the New Home/New Start program, which attempted to place 100 families in Section 8 apartments from late 1998 to 1999. Most of the families came from Chicago Housing Authority buildings that were in the process of being torn down.

City agencies including CHA, the Illinois Department of Human Services and CHAC Inc., the company which runs the Section 8 subsidized housing program, operated New Homes/New Start to try and combine welfare reform with public housing reform.

But the program hit major snags. After screening families for felonies, 'lease compliance,' and other issues, just 80 families were found eligible for the program.

There were worse results getting landlords to participate in the program. Out of 500 landlords the Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund recruited from September 1998 to January 1999, just seven landlords with 40 units agreed to offer apartments to the hand-picked families. Out of 1,820 landlords they tried to recruit from February 1999 to May 1999, just one landlord with one apartment agreed to participate.

Just 29 families found stable apartments

founder and president On Shore Inc., a New Media and technology firm, is secretary/treasurer. We The People Media's board includes three prominent resident leaders: Maner Jean Wiley, the president of the Hilliard Homes Local Advisory Council, has been our liaison with resident leaders since *Residents' Journal* started in 1996. Sandra Young, president of the Ida B. Wells Local Advisory Council, is also a member of the CHA Board of Commissioners. Francine Washington, a long-time resident activist and president of the Stateway Gardens Local Advisory Council, has helped us with her wisdom and her sharp insight.

We The People Media also includes: U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis, whose Seventh Congressional District includes the nation's largest number of public housing units; Jamie Kalven, an author and community activist; Dr. Sudhir Venkatesh, a professor at Columbia University in New York City who has done extensive research on Chicago public housing; Judith Kossy, an educator and expert on workforce development; and Nathaniel Deutsch, a professor at Swarthmore College and a scholar

We The People Media

by May 10, 1999.

The New Homes/New Start participants' experience shows that even a hand-picked group of public housing residents, helped by a concentration of government services, will have a hard time overcoming stereotypes and getting real choices. Anyone who learns about the New Homes/New Start experience should worry about the future for the tens of thousands of Chicago families whose homes will likely be demolished in the next few years.

Residents' Journal will play an important role in making sure that residents' experiences, perspectives and concerns are recorded, reported and accessible to all. And I am pleased to report that we have a formidable group of friends to help us.

We The People Media, a not for profit organization, will take over as the oversight body for *Residents' Journal* and the Urban Youth International Journalism Program after July 1, 2000. We The People Media is composed of a courageous group of journalists, political, resident and business leaders, scholars and writers dedicated to shattering stereotypes and creating opportunities for public housing residents.

We The People Media's president is Eugene Scott, publisher of the *Chicago Defender*, the institutional home of African American journalism. Stelios Valavanis,

of African American/Jewish relations.

This powerful collection of individuals is dedicated to helping residents communicate among themselves and with the rest of world. Moreover, We The People Media is committed to learning from residents and sharing residents' wisdom for our collective benefit.

We The People Media already has attracted some like-minded friends. The Wieboldt Foundation and its executive director, Regina McGraw, have become a major contributor and supporter with a substantial gift. The Chicago Reader's gifts from the past two years made it possible for us to get our start. The Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center and its executive director, Zenobia Johnson-Black, have agreed to shelter and nurture us in their vital facility.

Dozens of subscribers, advertisers and small contributors are assisting us with their dollars. CHA also has helped, mostly by respecting and supporting our editorial independence. The Jenner and Block law firm, and attorney Lisa Gates, have guided us.

Other foundations, private individuals and organizations will join us in the future. Their support reflects the righteous concern with the treatment of residents and a respect for residents' wisdom. We at *Residents' Journal* aim to justify their trust and the trust of our readers.

Thank You to Our Sponsors

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Transforming CHA Is CHA Lease Compliant?

by Mary C. Johns

Chicago Housing Authority officials are telling residents they must be "lease compliant" in order to remain in or come back to the developments after redevelopment. But CHA residents want agency officials to clearly define the term "lease compliant."

Residents want to know where the services are to help them become lease compliant. CHA promised these services during public hearings on their "Plan for Transformation."

Residents also want to know what CHA intends to do about getting itself lease compliant. CHA does not even know exactly how many residents are lease compliant. Despite repeated calls to CHA officials in various departments, the agency could not provide me with a count of how many residents are or are not lease compliant.

What is Lease Compliant?

CHA defines what a lease compliant resident is in their statements and in the draft of the CHA Leaseholder Housing Choice and Relocation Rights Contract currently under review and open to public comment.

These documents state that a resident is considered to be lease compliant if they are current with rent, or are current in a repayment agreement, have good credit history with utility companies and have a good history of paying excess utility charges to the CHA, and have no notices

Housing Program in the Metropolitan Tenants Organization (MTO), said the term "lease compliant" could be used as a tool for massive evictions.

"We're fearful of the term 'lease compliant,'" said Leflore.

"(The term 'lease compliant') could be a tool that helps create a standard but more than likely, this could also be a tool used to massively evict tenants, to simply make it easier to conduct demolition efforts and to conduct gentrification and the like."

According to LeFlore, there has been an increase in the numbers of calls to their hotline number from residents who have been notified of possible evictions.

LeFlore said residents often come to his office and tell MTO staff they're being evicted. When MTO staff investigate, they often find the evictions are being pushed through in an "informal process." LeFlore said CHA building managers often provide faulty information verbally to tenants.

"(The eviction) is on some basis that's not very well documented by the housing authority. Would you say that that falls under this issue of lease compliance?" LeFlore said.

"Part of the problem around this term of lease compliance is that the housing authority hasn't done very much to define what that means to folks."

"Will residents be evicted for non-payment of rent, which would seem to be a clear lease violation. Or will they be evicted for making simple alterations to their apartments?"

becoming lease compliant.

MTO's LeFlore was asked if he knew of any CHA programs or services available that help residents become lease compliant.

"We (MTO) don't know of any efforts under way by the housing authority that would ensure that every single current resident receives any assistance or the needed assistance to ensure that they're compliance status was intact," said LeFlore.

Cylenthia Hoyrd, CHA's chief of policy, services and programs, said services were available at Altgeld Gardens, Cabrini-Green, Dearborn Homes, Harold Ickes, Lathrop Homes, LeClaire Courts, Robert Taylor A & B, Stateway Gardens and Ida B.Wells.

Hoyrd said the service connectors are basically a referral source which provide assistance for job placement, child care and any general services, which in turn help residents become lease compliant.

"I think that they put them in places where there was a high need for job development," said Hoyrd. "A lot of times we assume that because somebody is not paying their rent, they choose not to pay their rent or they choose to deface their property."

But in fact, that's not the issue. It can be a lot of other underlying things and circumstances going on," she said.

Job placement and training for residents was CHA's number one priority for all incoming residents, Hoyrd said.

"Making sure that residents that come in are in some kind of training, in a work



This hole in the wall of a resident's kitchen in the Madden Park development was improperly repaired after months of complaints.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

reporting an emergency to CHA's 24-hour, toll-free, 1-800 emergency hotline number.

When trying to report a gas leak around my stove, I was left on hold for more than one hour before someone picked up.

Beverly Perry, a resident of the Madden Park development, said she waited between 30 to 45 minutes on the phone trying to report a toilet stoppage to the hotline.

"I had a flood in my bathroom and water kept coming out the toilet," Perry said.

CHA Operations Administrator Denise Richardson said the emergency hotline was not a 24-hour number and that the staff had been reduced because of a low percentage rate in emergency calls.

"A prior manager at customer support did an analysis of how many calls were coming in and found that not enough calls were coming in," Richardson said.

"There is no coverage between the hours of midnight and 7 a.m. during the weekend and 4:30 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. during the week."

Richardson said residents should call (312) 791-4747 for emergency purposes. She assured residents that someone would be at that number at all times.

Residents are also finding it difficult in getting a person removed from their lease who may cause them to be evicted under the One Strike policy. Under the One Strike policy, a leaseholder can be evicted if any person on their lease commits a crime on CHA property or in any other location.

I tried to remove from my lease two of my children who no longer live with me because I was worried that their behavior would cause me to be evicted under the One Strike policy. I was told by my property and housing managers that I needed addresses and phone numbers for these children before they could be removed.

(Continued on Page 5)

of lease violations in the resident's file that document a record of criminal activity or history of disturbances for them or others on the lease.

John LeFlore, program coordinator for the Family Access in Rental (FAIR)

Current Services Available

During the public hearings on their 5-year plan, CHA CEO Phillip Jackson said the agency would assist residents in

activity or that they're employed," she said.

Prior to being evicted, Hoyrd said the CHA property managers will have to notify the service connectors and provide them with the resident's information who they think are going to be non-lease compliant or the ones who've been non-lease compliant in the last couple of months.

"As they come through and find issues, they (the property managers) should be referring those residents to the service connector prior to initiating any kinds of sanctions against them or prior to them starting any eviction notices," she said.

Hoyrd said that residents are currently informed of the service connectors through flyers left at management offices or door-to-door notifications once or twice monthly by the service connectors.

CHA Service Deficiencies

Some residents said they're experiencing difficulty in reporting emergency situations.

I recently experienced trouble in

This sink and bathtub in a senior citizen's apartment in the Harold L. Ickes development has not been replaced in decades.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

Transforming CHA Churches, Schools Feel Relocation Tremors

by Beauty Turner

As I looked out of my window from the 10th floor of my building in Robert Taylor Homes recently, I focused on the five empty, isolated buildings that were closed down by the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) this past winter.

I looked across the street and I noticed the churches, schools and stores. With so many residents moving, I wondered how this exodus is affecting these neighborhood establishments. The questions burned brightly in my mind like a Roman candle. Is the redevelopment affecting enrollment in the schools? Is it affecting the local stores? Is it affecting the churches in the immediate areas? How? If this is on my mind, then maybe it just might be on others'

minds.

With these questions weighing heavy on my mind like a ship's anchor, I went out on my little quest, my journey to find the answers that I needed to know.

The first place that I went to was Neno Coleman Elementary School, 4655 S. Dearborn Ave. I raised the question concerning the enrollment to the principal, Booker Thomason.

Thomason replied, "The enrollment is slightly dropping due to the people moving out of the areas but not as much as one would think. Back in March, when there was trouble with the gangs' activities, it was down more due to the constant shooting. But that's understandable."

My next move was across the street to Omega Church, 4627 S. State St., where the Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Henry is the pastor. I posed this question to him, 'Is the

residents' move out of the community affecting your church?'

Henry said, "I'm all for the people moving out of CHA public housing for the betterment of their lives - as long as they have decent places for them to go. And if that is not the case, then I am against it.

"As a caring, loving person and a man of God, I want to see people's lives improved for the better and not the worse."

I journeyed a little bit farther down the road on 47th Street to Andy's restaurant, 6 E. 47th St. Andy is a Spanish American who owns the local restaurant, a wonderful human being that greets all of his customers with a smile and a handshake. Like he always does, he smiled at me when I came in and grabbed me by my hand.

"Senora, what can I do for you?" I politely asked to interview him. He said, "OK, shoot."

I asked, "Andy, how is business now that the people are moving out of the community?"

Andy said, "Well, I mostly deal with working people. So far, it's not affecting me very much. This is a nice place for business and besides, I don't have any penalties or violations. I do believe that 6 E. 47th St. will be here a long time after the redevelopment. I plan on remodeling and so far, business is beautiful and besides, the people like my specials and I like the people."

I thanked him for his answer



A worker at the Community Mart, a convenience store along 47th Street, greets a customer.

Photo by Beauty Turner

and walked down to a store called Finer Foods, 78 E. 47th St. A lot of the residents from Robert Taylor shop there. I asked the owner of Finer Foods, "Al," as he asked to be called, how his business was going since people started moving out of Robert Taylor.

Al said, "So far, the only effect that I'm seeing is more police officers, which to me is a good thing. The surroundings seem better, not a lot of people hanging out in front of the store anymore. But I have been noticing a lot of construction taking place, more than ever before, building condos, townhouses, lofts.

"In my opinion, business will become fewer as the people leave. But as long as the city issues Finer Foods a license, I will be right here. People just have to adjust to change and so will I."

I stepped right outside the door and noticed the newspaper stand and its owner, Andrew. So being curious like a good reporter

normally is, I asked him, "How's business?"

Andrew answered, "Business for me is down because a lot of my old customers are leaving the area. It's affecting my sales."

The churches, businesses and schools know all too well, somewhere along the line, the redevelopment will eventually affect their establishments. At this point in the redevelopment process, everyone is looking for improvement in their lives. The businesses are looking for people to come into the neighborhood with lots of money. The residents are looking for beautiful new homes. The churches are looking for new members and the schools are looking for big enrollment and more funding.

But I'll leave you with a question: Will the CHA's 5-year plan Empower or Go Sour when it comes to the current residents and the communities involved?



Andy's Fast Food Carry Outs, one of the many area businesses on 47th Street that serve CHA residents.

Photo by Beauty Turner

(Continued from Page 4)

If one of my children committed a crime while still on my lease, I could have been evicted. But I was unable to get that information because once the children left my home, I no longer knew where they were.

One resident told me she was in a similar situation.

"One time I tried to get my 17-year-old off my lease because he was causing me trouble and the manager told me that he couldn't be removed until he was 18," she explained.

CHA Chief of Staff Greg Russ suggested that residents requesting a person's removal from off their lease should document that they've made a request to management and that the manager has heard their request in order to protect themselves from being evicted under the One Strike policy.

"That would offer some protection to the resident even though they might not have the forwarding address or telephone number which they might be able to provide at a later date. But that they've requested the removal is a significant action and should be documented in writing," Russ said.

CHA Responsibilities

Chicago's 1986 Residential Landlord

and Tenant Ordinance states that a landlord must maintain the property in compliance with the City of Chicago Municipal Code.

In order to comply with the city's code, a landlord needs proper supplies available, workmen to assist them, especially if it's a large property, and the will to maintain their property.

CHA residents and employees are complaining, however, that lay-offs and cutbacks at the agency have left them short staffed and without adequate supplies.

CHA Chief of Operations Jack O'Connell said the lay-offs hadn't interfered with the daily functions at family developments because employees at the family developments haven't been laid off yet. O'Connell said private managers will take over at all developments soon.

"Today (April 19), the employees that work in the family housing developments received notice that May 19 will be the last day of employment.

On May 20, the new management firms for the family developments will actually take over the developments," he said.

O'Connell acknowledged that some purchasing had stopped shortly after the city takeover of CHA last June and that he was purchasing only required items.

"I haven't been purchasing supplies that are requested on a limited basis," O'Connell said.

"I'm decreasing the supplies in the warehouse because I'm expecting the private managers to handle this on their own. I'm only stocking in the warehouse with what is required.

"We are not going to be the 'Home Depot' anymore," he said.

O'Connell said there is and always has been an ample amount of supplies at the CHA warehouse available upon request of the CHA property managers.

"If there aren't adequate supplies available at the developments, they are available in the warehouse," he said.

He said it's difficult to keep large quantities of stock at any one development.

"It's better to keep them at the warehouse. So if they (the managers) need them, they order them," he said.

Chicago's Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance also states that landlords are "to give new tenants or tenants renewing their rental agreement notice of building code citations issued by the City in the past 12 months.

O'Connell said that residents receive notice of code violations pertaining to their units. He said the statement in the ordinance meant the residents should receive notice of unit violations from CHA, not from the City, and not for the building, as the ordinance states.

"It's for their apartment, not the entire

building," said O'Connell. "So if I have a problem in the boiler room, every tenant does not receive common area violations."

O'Connell said CHA receives building code violations daily.

"These buildings are in such dire straits that right, we do in fact get code violations every day from the City of Chicago," he said.

O'Connell said CHA first handles "dangerous and hazardous conditions."

O'Connell added that CHA is trying to comply with the City of Chicago's Municipal Code.

"Our only cause is to improve these conditions of these properties. That's why with the new management contracts with the new management companies, I built into the contracts that I will provide the funding, give them the responsibility and hold them fully accountable for these properties," he said.

For Your Information

Chicago's Residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance Summary also states that "a landlord cannot take retaliatory action against a tenant because a tenant complains or testifies in good faith to governmental agencies or officials, media, community groups, tenant unions or the landlord."

Don't be afraid. If you have any complaints or gripes about the housing authority, call **Residents' Journal** and let us know.

Transforming CHA Church Aims for Economic Justice

by Cecelia A. Clark

It's enough to make you cry.

While sitting in the comfort of your warm and cozy home, condo or whatever applies, remember that not far away are African American women and children who are living in public housing now but with an uncertain destination in the near future. For years, these residents have struggled to survive in a country which states all Americans are created equal but doesn't say to what degree.

A small group of Catholics with concerns for the lack for affordable low-income housing in the Chicago area recently started Catholic Voices for Economic

Justice. The group was formed through the Archdiocesan Racism and Ethnic Sensitivity retreats coordinated by Father Tom Swade. The group said they were "awakened by this call to justice from the Gospels."

On April 1, Catholic Voices for Economic Justice and the Archdiocesan Office of Peace and Justice held their first open forum at Holy Family Church, 1080 W. Roosevelt Road. The event featured speakers Bishop Joseph Perry, Father John Egan, a long time activist, public housing residents and the Chicago Housing Authority CEO Phillip Jackson.

Catholic Voices for Economic Justice was formed by concerned lay Catholics who came together in the spirit of the pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All."

Bishop Perry was the first guest speaker of the morning. He talked about how the Catholic Church does not endorse any political candidate for public office but should help make sure there is "economic justice" for all. The bishop talked about "driving rents up \$6 million but certainly no alternatives have been set for the poor.

"The poor are expected to make it on their own or not at all," Perry said.

One public housing resident at the event wanted to know why the Catholic Church is not speaking out more on housing issues from the pulpit to their congregations.

"This is sure evil," the resident said.

Residents Speak Out

After Perry, three CHA residents took the platform. Izora Davis, a long-time activist from the Lake Front Properties, fought back tears as she began to address the forum. Davis talked about her long, hard battle with CHA that still has no end in sight.

Davis talked about the displaced residents of the Lake Front Properties, buildings from which people moved



CHA residents Deidre Matthews (from left) of Cabrini-Green, Barbara Moore of Robert Taylor-B and Izora Davis of Lake Parc Place during the public forum on housing issues at Holy Family Church.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

because they were promised replacement housing.

Davis talked about the "Residents who left with the intent of returning after replacement housing was built,

"The poor are expected to make it on their own or not at all."
-Bishop Joseph Perry

which never took place."

Davis said CHA has made no attempt to work with her.

Barbara Moore, a CHA resident from Robert Taylor Homes, said, "There are so many things wrong."

Moore talked about the One Strike policy, which states that residents can be evicted if they or anyone on their lease commits a crime.

"Take for instance this law that is for public housing residents only," Moore said.

"If this is America where everyone is supposed to be treated equal, how can Congress only set this law for public housing residents."

"In December 1999, CHA turned off the heat and hot water in our building. After that, they relocated the residents to another building at 5247 (S. State St.) in Robert Taylor. But there was no heat or hot water there."

"We tried to see the mayor on three different occasions, which never happened."

Moore talked about her effort to save her old building. She said police brought in dogs to frighten the residents. The

Department of Children and Family Services sent in workers who threatened to take the residents' children. The DCFS workers said the residents were endangering the lives of their children by living in a building that did not have heat.

At this point, a man from the floor said, "The only thing all of you have done here today is complain. I don't appreciate spending my whole morning listening to this. You are not talking about any solutions."

Diedra Matthews, a resident of the Cabrini Rowhouses, stood up to answer the remark.

"Before you talk about solutions, you have to first know what the problem is," Matthews said.

"Everyone's time is important. Our ancestors were slaves who were brought to this country against their will and their time was important too."

Matthews was asked about the new plan for the residents of public housing.

"The man named Phillip Jackson has a plan to relo-

cate, leaving CHA residents homeless," Matthews said.

"When I first met Bishop Perry, he told me, 'You know that you are dealing with some powerful people.' If you don't earn \$50,000 a year, you don't have a chance. There are no pros or cons about this plan but we as a people should hold them accountable for their actions."

Izora Davis said she found out about their relocation in the newspaper.

"The residents were told they could return after remodeling. People were even being murdered. Keeping a roof over our children's heads is more important to the residents of public housing," Davis said.

The Role of the Church

Father Egan addressed the forum after lunch.

"There's inadequate health care and when it comes to housing for a country like ours, this should not be happening," Egan said.

Janice Freeman, a Cabrini-Green resident, said: "The residents need legal council that will not sell out the residents to CHA. Maybe our prayers have been answered by the Catholic Church taking a stand to help the residents."

CHA CEO Responds

CHA CEO Jackson started by saying, "I've been called the devil and the mayor's puppet, among other things.

"There are currently 24,000 legal residents living in public housing. Residents can't continue to live in the deplorable conditions which

now exist."

Izora Davis asked Jackson about the relocatees who left Lake Front Properties with the intent to return.

Jackson said that "only those lease compliance residents living in public housing as of Oct. 1, 1999, will be returning. That's it. You have 30,000 people on the waiting list.

"The residents don't believe me because they have been lied to. I will not let anyone live in those hell holes but I will let them move into new housing."

Catholic Voices

Bill Bursell from Catholic Voices for Peace and Justice talked about things his group is doing to help public housing. The group has a program called New Home New Start which helps find housing for public

housing residents.

"It's called welcoming our neighbors," Bursell said.

Rene Maxwell, a member of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, closed the forum singing "Jesus Paid the Bill."



Bishop Joseph Perry speaks to a community activist after the public forum on public housing issues at Holy Family Church.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark



Former U.S. Housing And Urban Development Secretary Jack Kemp with CHA Central Advisory Council President Mamie Bone during a recent CHA retreat.

Photo by Julio Martinez

by Cenabeth Cross

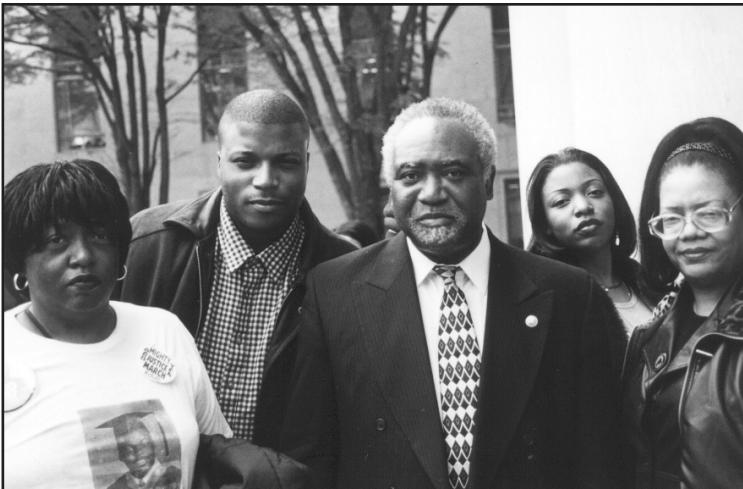
There are deep doubts among the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority that information collected by the U.S. Census will be kept secret from the police.

As the Census 2000 questionnaires were being put in people's mail, the Immigration and Naturalization Service said they will stop conducting raids to find illegal aliens. Brian Perryman, Chicago's INS district director, said border patrol and investigations regarding national security and public safety will go on as usual. Activists said the INS' actions will contribute to a more accurate count.

Well, police raids haven't stopped in CHA. On April 3, at about 4 a.m., someone was beating on my door like crazy. When I asked who it was, they replied that it was the police. If I didn't open the door, they said they would knock it open. I opened the door, half dressed, as a large officer pushed by me asking where was the boy who had just ran into my apartment.

I assured them that there was no one in my apartment but me. The officer then started to ask me a lot of personal questions. I reminded him that he was looking for some boy and that he could go on back and look and leave my apartment. This he did. He and the two officers with him went to the next apartment, knocked, and left laughing. They then left the 5th floor and went back through the

Stop the Violence



Protesters with U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis during a March and Rally for Justice this past March in Washington, D.C.

Photo by Beauty Turner

"The CHA Police knew my boys and they didn't mess with them. The new police assume all the boys are bad and that's the way they treat them."

- 'Nicee,' a Robert Taylor Homes resident



Protesters marching down a Chicago street during a recent RAINBOW/PUSH Coalition rally against police injustice.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

children playing in the playground to their cars. The children were trying to play basketball on a court full of potholes. We at Ogden Courts still have no vertical patrol.

State Street Fears

I interviewed a mother at Robert Taylor Homes about their vertical patrol in March, as she was relocating to another apartment in the same complex. She prefers to be anonymous, so I'll call her Nicee. Nicee talked about the changes since the CHA Police had been disbanded last year.

"I had to send my boys to a relative's house for a while since the regular police have taken over," Nicee said.

"The CHA Police knew my boys and they didn't mess with them. The new police assume all the boys are bad and that's the way they treat them. It was too much to move and watch out for them at the same time."

Nicee's boys are 13 and 17. Both are still in school.

"My oldest child is an honor student and I want it to stay that way," she explained.



These children were playing in an Ogden Courts playground before a recent Chicago Police raid.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

Residents Participate In National Crime Victims' Rights Week



CHA residents (left photo) hold candles to remember victims of violent crimes April 13.

Members of CHA Victims' Assistance Department (top photo) display awards they received during National Crime Victims' Rights Week Recognition Ceremonies at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center.

Photos by Mary C. Johns

Nicee said she has been locking her boys in their apartment unless they are in school since a 19-year-old man was shot by the police late last year.

Nicee was referring to Antione Thomas of 4101 S. State St. in Stateway Gardens. There are conflicting accounts of the case.

In the article written by Lorraine Forte in the Dec. 28 edition of the Chicago Sun-Times, Laurie Sanders, a police spokesperson, said Thomas was shot Dec. 27 at Stateway as plainclothes policemen went up the stairs in the building. The officers said they were jumped by 5 or 6 men on the 3rd floor. The gun went off accidentally during the scuffle, officers said. The officers were investigating complaints of drug dealing.

The Chicago Tribune on the same day reported that Thomas was with his brother, Lamar, in the Stateway Gardens building on the 7th floor visiting their aunt. Lamar said he was several feet behind his brother when he heard the shot. He then came around the stairwell corner to see his brother on the floor with a policeman standing over him with the gun in his hand.

Some residents told me the police officers' story is wrong but they don't want to give any statements for fear of retaliation from the police.

Lee Henderson did speak to the press. He said, "Ain't no way you can shoot someone accidentally in the head." Henderson lives in Robert Taylor Homes.

State Funds Ignored Developments

by Andre Robinson

Twenty-three years after they last received funding, the Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) City/State Properties will be getting some long-overdue financial support.

An infusion of funds from the State of Illinois in coming weeks means that 1,400 public housing families and seniors can stay in their homes. But city officials are seeking a total of \$15 million from the state because their own resources are stretched thin by other public housing redevelopment projects and CHA communities will not benefit from Tax Increment

\$15,315,000.00. State Reps. Shirley Jones, Art Turner, Howard Kenner and John Fritchey pushed for the funds.

CHA officials said recently that they expect to receive \$7.5 million from the state for six of the City/State developments. They were not sure when an additional \$7.5 million would be delivered. CHA last made extensive capital improvements to all the City/State properties under the Section 8 Substantial Rehabilitation Housing Assistance Payment Program in 1977. CHA cannot use HUD money to rehabilitate these properties because they are not funded with public housing operating subsidies.

The City of Chicago has committed resources to redevelop two of the City/State properties: Archer Courts with 147 units, and Prairie Courts with 326 units. The City has committed an additional \$15 million of City controlled resources for both of these projects.

Residents that are aware of the City/State funding effort are anxiously awaiting the funding stream.

Craig Gordon, building president at Loomis Courts, said, "We have the understanding by CHA that

we (the residents) will have major input in how the money will be spent in each development so that proper repair and rehabs will be done appropriately and thoroughly."

City officials claim they need the state funds because their resources are devoted to public housing redevelopment projects at ABLA, Cabrini-Green and other developments over the next few years, reducing

ation of \$15 million for infrastructure improvements to six low-income housing properties in Chicago. These properties were created in the late 1940s with a State appropriation of \$10 million, as well as matching City funds, to benefit low-income families in blighted areas. Today, these properties are now referred to as 'City/State' properties.

"The City/State properties operate essentially as 'Project-based Section 8' buildings and are ineligible for federal capital improvement dollars. Due to the significant infrastructure improvements that are needed at City/State properties, 1,400 public housing families and seniors may need to be relocated if repairs are not begun immediately. The City has committed resources to redevelop 147 of these units and is reviewing a proposal for another 326 units. This is in addition to the efforts being made at major redevelopment projects such as Cabrini Green and ABLA."

In 1947, the State of Illinois and the City of Chicago committed money to create the City/State properties. These properties were built between 1950 and 1954 primarily to provide relocation housing for families displaced by federally funded Urban Renewal projects such as the construction of the Eisenhower Expressway, hospital expansion, the construction of the University of Illinois and slum clearance

the amount of resources available to City/State properties.

The City/State properties will not benefit from other city funding mechanisms. At present, Midway Airport is expanding with the help of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district. Though LeClaire Courts is located in that area, no money will be used directly for LeClaire, according to CHA official Mark McCann. McCann said residents will benefit from jobs that are brought into the area as well as infrastructure improvements.

This is what makes the state's participation so important, McCann said. With City/State properties not eligible for HUD money, the properties could close without state assistance.

In a letter to Gov. George H. Ryan, Mayor Richard M. Daley stated, "An initiative has recently been introduced in the State legislature that calls for an appropri-

dized by a project-based Section 8 contract. Like all other CHA housing, tenants pay 30 percent of their income toward rent. In City/State Properties, Section 8 certificates pay the difference between the 30 percent of the tenant's income and the 'market' rent.

The City/State properties had a 20-year contract through the Section 8 certificates. The contract expired on Sept. 30, 1999. On this date, HUD split the contract into individual Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) contracts for each property at CHA's request. Contracts will be renewed on an annual basis from now on. If the City/State properties close down, HUD will end the contracts and tenants will be issued Section 8 vouchers.

Over the years, City/State properties started deteriorating due to age, which is the main reason they need such a large investment, according to a CHA report.

These properties are approximately 50 years old and the CHA and its private and resident managers have extended the viability of the buildings.

Elevator controls, plumbing lines, boilers and electrical wires in most of the properties are original and have reached or exceeded their expected life span. Full replacement, while costly, is the necessary and unavoidable solution, the CHA report concludes.

If the City/State properties close down, HUD will end the contracts and tenants will be issued Section 8 vouchers.



Craig Gordon, building president at Loomis Courts, a West Side City/State development.

Photo by Andre Robinson



Prairie Courts, a South Side CHA development.

Photo by Andre Robinson

Financing districts or other funding mechanisms.

CHA currently runs eight City/State properties: Harrison Courts, Maplewood Courts, Loomis Courts, Ogden Courts, Archer Courts, Prairie Courts, LeClaire Courts and the Lathrop Senior Building. As of today, there are approximately 1,392 units under the City/State properties.

The City/State properties have not received funding to revitalize their developments since 1977, according to CHA officials. Today, the City/State buildings are in dire need of new capital and security investments. Some of the major infrastructure problems include inefficient windows, loose mortar, crumbling concrete, deteriorating sidewalks and asphalt parking lots, wet walls from deteriorating plumbing, and inadequate security systems.

Since the City/State properties were not developed with federal public housing funds, they are not eligible for funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Public Housing program. That means the City/State developments will not receive any of the funds from CHA's \$1.5 billion redevelopment plan.

One resident from Harrison Courts said, "CHA did not make it clear that our development was not involved with the \$1.5 billion plan. Myself and others around here assumed that we were included."

CHA and state legislators recently introduced state bills for money for security and infrastructure improvements to six of the City/State properties. The estimated cost of these critical improvements needed for City/State properties is

also to house veterans from both World War II and the Korean War.

The City/State properties are subsi-

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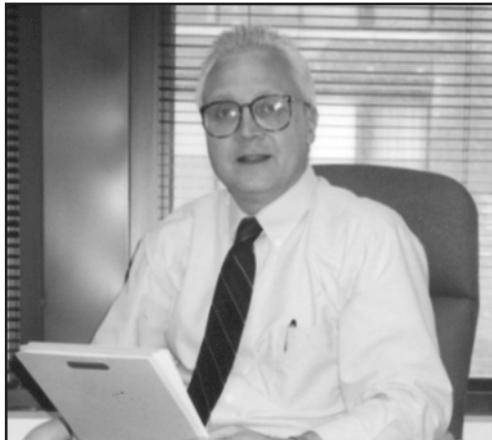
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Flannery Homes Residents Sue

by Julio Martinez

On Friday, Oct. 30, 1998, at 11:30 am, the operator of a ditching machine working near the building at 1507 N. Clybourn Ave., one of the two buildings that makes up the Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) Flannery Homes senior development, wandered from the line laid out for his digging and made contact with the gas line that supplies these buildings, thus causing the gas line to catch fire and cause a scramble of emergency equipment. No one was injured in this fire but the building had so much damage that the engineers are inspecting the building to determine if it



**CHA Risk Management
Department Claim Manager
Timothy M. Fox.**

Photo by Julio Martinez

can be rehabbed.

The professional ability of all the agencies which immediately responded to control this fire was noteworthy. There was fear that leaking gas would build up in the underground subway lines that run across from this building. But on investigation, no buildup was found.

I had the chance to speak with the new supervisor at CHA's Department of Risk Management, Timothy M. Fox, at his office at 200 W. Adams St. I asked Fox for information about the suit that the residents of this building brought because of the damages and loss of personal property and financial loss caused by this fire.

Fox said the suit brought by the Flannery Homes residents has "nothing to do with the CHA. Our building was just located there."

Mike Lustig, an architect hired by CHA's insurance company, is inspecting the building and will be the one to decide whether the cost of repairing the building will be higher than rehabbing it.

"It is like a car," Fox explained. "You have to decide if it is a total loss. I want all this to be resolved by July 4, 2000. It is not unusual for these cases to take a year and a half to settle."

Fox commented that the administrative transition last spring caused a delay in these investigations. He said he has been working in the insurance industry for 25 years.

"The Flannery building is in a complicated situation because there are a number of different parties involved, including the contractor, the gas company and the insurance companies. In this case, there are five parties potentially responsible."

Fox said CHA is not responsible for damages to this building. Fox said CHA will bring suit later against the parties responsible, once the insurance companies pay them. North American Specialty is CHA's insurance company. CHA has a \$1 million deductible in the Flannery Homes policy.

North American Specialty plans to sue the parties responsible for between \$3 and \$10 million. Then CHA will join the suit to recover its \$1 million deductible. But its suit will be different from the suit of the residents.

Fox said if the building has to be torn down, he does not know if a new building will be built on the same site.

"The insurance companies will have to thoroughly review their own policies and appropriate state laws," Fox remarked.

A Hero

On Tuesday, Feb. 15, at 11:30 a.m., Kings Bell was doing his work as a janitor in a North Side CHA building when he saw that someone was dangling from the manual door lock at apartment #607. When he



A TTD Connection janitor, King S. Bell, points to the apartment where he saved a 78-year-old man from hanging himself in February.

Photo by Julio Martinez

went to see what was going on, he found that the resident of that apartment had hung himself by the neck with a line of tied clothing.

Bell, a stout man, did not hesitate. He took the cord from the neck of this 78-year-old man of Korean descent. He immediately called the office in the building to call 911 to take the tenant to the hospital immediately. Although the old man died three weeks later, many residents feel Bell should be recognized for his humanitarian effort. Bell works for the TTD Connection, based in the Senior North Local Advisory Council. Many thanks.

Una Demanda Legal

Por Julio
Martínez

El viernes 30 de octubre de 1998 a las 11:30 a.m., el operador de una máquina zanjadora que trabajaba cerca del edificio en 1507 N. Clybourn Ave., uno de los dos edificios que integran la urbanización de viviendas Flannery Homes para personas de la tercera edad de la Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), traspasó la línea trazada para sus trabajos de excavación e hizo contacto con la tubería de gas que alimenta esos edificios, provocando el incendio de la tubería de gas y desencadenando una gran alarma entre los equipos de emergencia. Nadie resultó lesionado en este incendio, pero el edificio sufrió tantos daños que los ingenieros están ahora inspeccionando el edificio para determinar si es posible rehabilitarlo.

Fue notable la capacidad profesional de todas las agencias que respondieron inmediatamente para controlar este incendio. Cundió el temor de que los gases podrían filtrarse hasta las líneas del metro subterráneo que pasan frente a este edificio; pero luego de las correspondientes investigaciones, no se detectó ninguna acumulación de gases.

Tuve la oportunidad de hablar con Timothy M. Fox, el nuevo supervisor en el Departamento de Administración de

Riesgos de la CHA, en su oficina situada en 200 W. Adams St. Le pedí a Fox información acerca de la demanda que los residentes de este edificio entablaron debido a los daños y las pérdidas materiales personales y financieras causados por este incendio. Fox señaló que la demanda introducida por los residentes de los Flannery Homes "no tiene nada que ver con la CHA. Nuestro edificio simplemente estaba situado allí".

Mike Lustig, un arquitecto contratado por la compañía aseguradora de la CHA, está inspeccionando el edificio y tendrá la responsabilidad de decidir si el costo de reparar este edificio es más alto que el costo de rehabilitarlo.

"Es como un vehículo", explica Fox. "Hay que decidir si se trata de una pérdida total. Yo quiero que todo esto esté resuelto antes del 4 de julio del año en curso. No es raro que estos casos tarden un año y medio para resolverse."

Fox comentó que la transición administrativa la pasada primavera causó una demora en estas investigaciones. Él señaló que ha estado trabajando en la industria de los seguros durante 25 años.

"El edificio Flannery está en medio de una situación complicada porque hay un buen número de diferentes personas y compañías involucradas, incluyendo el contratista, la compañía de gas y las compañías aseguradoras. En este caso, hay cinco posibles culpables de los daños."

Fox declaró que la CHA no es respon-

sable de los daños causados a este edificio y añadió que la CHA presentará más adelante su propia demanda legal contra los responsables, una vez que las compañías aseguradoras les paguen. North American Specialty es la compañía aseguradora de la CHA. La CHA tiene un deducible de \$1 millón en la póliza de seguros por los Flannery Homes.

North American Specialty tiene previsto demandar a los responsables por una cantidad estimada entre \$3 y \$10 millones. Seguidamente la CHA se unirá a esa demanda para recuperar su deducible de \$1 millón; pero esta demanda será diferente de la demanda de los residentes.

Fox señaló que si es preciso demoler este edificio, no sabe si se construirá un nuevo edificio en el mismo sitio.

"Las compañías aseguradoras tendrán que revisar detenidamente sus propias pólizas y las leyes estatales pertinentes", advirtió Fox.

Un héroe

El martes 15 de febrero a las 11:30 a.m., Kings Bell estaba realizando su trabajo como portero en un edificio de la CHA en el Lado Norte cuando vio que alguien estaba colgando del cerrojo de la puerta manual en el apartamento #607. Cuando fue a ver lo que estaba pasando, se dio cuenta que el residente de ese apartamento se había colgado por el cuello con una cuerda hecha con ropa.

Bell, un hombre robusto, no titubeó ni



This badly damaged CHA Flannery Homes senior building may be beyond repair.

Photo by Julio Martinez

por un instante. Le quitó la cuerda del cuello a este anciano de 78 años de edad de origen coreano. Inmediatamente llamó a la oficina en el edificio para que se comunicaran con el 911 y llevasen de inmediato al residente al hospital. Aunque el anciano murió tres semanas después, muchos residentes consideran que Bell debe recibir un reconocimiento por sus esfuerzos humanitarios. Bell trabaja para la Conexión TTD, con sede en el Consejo Asesor Norte Local para personas de la tercera edad. Muchas gracias.

Welfare to Work: People in Transition

Roadblocks on Jobs Highway

by Wateka Kleinpeter

The Welfare to Work highway has many roadblocks.

Angela (not her real name) lives in Wentworth Gardens and works a third shift job in the Loop. In case you don't know where Wentworth is, it is located just south of White Sox Park, at 39th Street and the Dan Ryan Expressway.

After 9 p.m. daily and on Saturdays and Sundays, there is no public transportation close to Wentworth Gardens. The Wentworth Avenue bus and 39th/Pershing busses both stop running by 9 p.m. weekdays.

The nearest public transportation to Wentworth Gardens is blocks away. Angela can choose either the unreliable State Street bus or the 35th Street elevated train stop.

Angela works as a data entry clerk nights and weekends, when there is no public transportation to Wentworth. She has a long, cold walk to the 'El' train late at night or she has to arrange for a ride.

"They cut our service for nights and weekends about three years ago," Angela recalled. "It is so inconvenient. We (Wentworth residents) were glad to hear local politicians say they wanted to restore our service. We would have voted for anyone who we thought would do it."

The politicians never came through. Angela continues to complain but she notes that as the only supporter of her two young children, she has to do whatever it takes to get to work.

The demand for citizens to get a job and off the system threw a lot of people into the job market. Jobs are available right now but where are they located? How does the average Joe get

Angela works as a data entry clerk nights and weekends, when there is no public transportation to Wentworth. She has a long, cold walk to the 'El' train late at night or she has to arrange for a ride.

there?

Transportation is a common problem for those trying to move from welfare to work. Many people rely on the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) or Regional Transit Authority (RTA). Many of the jobs for which welfare recipients qualify are in suburban or outlying areas. Jobs in factories and warehouses that require minimal skills and/or will hire entry-level workers are generally not located near public transportation.

Some jobs are accessible to public transportation but the bus and train lines have limited service hours. Many people find it difficult to work a second or third shift job. And working overtime is almost impossible.

Traveling to work can require a long commute involving a number of transfers to get to some job locations. Let's not forget the cost of various transit lines.

Since many workers are also parents, often they have to drop children off and proceed to work. Although many people do own cars, most welfare recipients don't have a vehicle reliable enough to travel long distances.

Those who try to improve their transportation situation by moving to the suburbs don't always have an easier time.

Kathryn (not her real name) works third shift at a downtown Chicago bank. She lives in the South Suburbs and commutes by Metra train. Kathryn drives her 1986 Escort to the train station and parks it in the secure lot. Her car does not run very well but for now, she cannot afford another one.

"As long as I can make it the three blocks to my children's school and the four blocks to the train station, I'm OK," Kathryn said.

Kathryn says she enjoys the 45-minute train ride. She reads a lot and always has a book with her. She said it is nothing like the ride she had on the Chicago Transportation Authority (CTA) Red Line, when she was living in the city.

"Every day was an adventure," she remembered. "I don't miss the pickpockets, the big dogs, recordings telling you to stay alert and watching out for pickpockets and the nightly show."

Kathryn said that until she started working nights, she did not know how many "fools, clowns and other undesirables are on the CTA at night."

Kathryn's life is complicated by the weekend train schedule. The train runs infrequently and stops early on Saturday and

her house and does not offer a parking lot.

A Trickle of Solutions

With the passage of the 1996 Welfare Reform Act, many companies began to address transportation issues with local transit authorities.

Some companies which need a large number of personnel but have no access to public transportation are able to convince transit agencies to start or extend routes.

Other private firms are taking advantage of government funds offered to those helping people move from welfare to work. Omni Transportation is a private company that has been operating for the past two years with a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation.

Omni President Mike Stinson said that Omni transports clients in the Transitional Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) federal welfare program to work in areas where there is no nearby public transportation or where buses stop running at a certain time. Many people who have entered the work force as a result of the Welfare to Work Act were able to get employment in manufacturing and light industrial jobs.

According to Stinson, companies often need people at times when no public transportation is available.

"We transport people on first, second and third shifts. Many of them work in industrial corridors or outlying areas where public transportation is either too far away or not accessible at various times," Stinson said.

Omni works with the local office of the Department of Human Services (DHS) and social service agencies with TANF clients. Stinson said that after they find out the number of hires, given locations and distance, they then plan their routes.

On the average day, Stinson said he transports between 50 and 75 people. Omni has a fleet of 15- and 7-passenger vans. The people they transport go to Franklin Park, Oakbrook, Skokie, Evanston and Blue Island.

Stinson said he has a background in job placement and counseling. Omni is in the process of acquiring new funding and planning to expand their services. The success of his business demonstrates the huge need for transportation services for individuals moving from welfare to work.

"We will be offering services to reach an even larger number of individuals who need transportation to work," Stinson said.

"Our main focus is to provide a reasonable, affordable and safe mode of transportation to community residents looking for work in outlying areas."

Lathrop Asks: What About our Homes?

by Bobby Watkins

We've all been aware of the talk of transformation and relocation for a while and now it's a reality.

People are being moved from their homes. Some are offered Section 8 certificates or vouchers, which has the new name of Housing Opportunity Voucher. But some residents worry about taking this voucher because they have been given a lot of information about the program and its changes.

A lot of residents in developments that are undergoing rehab are concerned about getting their old unit back or being able to come back to their home development. We are hearing that the rehabbed developments will be mixed-income developments and we know some of the units now occupied will have to go to working families in order to have the mix.

So where will this leave residents who are currently living there? I spoke with a few residents in Lathrop and these are their opinions.

Rudy Mann

In the midst of all this uncertainty concerning the renovation of CHA, we as a family and community must realize that the change is a very powerful one and a very scary and uncertain one. To protect our future, we must hold those that serve us accountable.

I firmly believe that 'If you don't stand for something, you will fall.' The loving, unique and diverse family that we have

worked so hard to become must unite, get involved and support our neighbors, friends and children. Remember, you have within the power to become your own village. Let's do whatever is in our power to make this change a chain of support that is too strong to break and too unique to duplicate.

It's not only going to affect my family but your family too.

DM

I think that they should not move out. I don't think that it is right to force people to move out if they have been living here for a lot of years. Some of the children do not want to move away from their friends and the school they go to. I would also miss the people at the Cotter Boys and Girls Club, where I go after school.

I have been living here for nine years. Moving means missing my teachers at Schneider School too. I'm in the sixth grade now and 13 years old.

I think that CHA is just trying to run people's lives. That is how I interpret what they are doing to the residents at Lathrop Homes. It is not right to have people in another place to live and take away their stable homes. We are used to each other in this community and we all are friends.

Liala Beukema

There is no doubt. The renovation of Lathrop is long over due. Plumbing problems, falling plaster, out-of-date electrical systems and general disrepair due to neglect, inadequate monies

and services have made living in a Lathrop apartment challenging at best and unhealthy as a rule.

Lathrop Homes has the potential for being a beautiful and functioning housing complex which provides quality living conditions for its residents. It is about time these crucial needs are addressed.

But one other thing is also sure. We will support renovation without displacement of our most important asset: the people. Lathrop residents have endured many years of hardship and been faithful to this community even though it was not always kind or accepting. Now that the community is growing and resources are available, these residents must be secure of their place in this neighborhood.

To have what we want - safe clean, healthy living conditions - asks one critical thing of a community: Commitment to working together to ensure that we have not only a place but a voice in the redevelopment of our homes.

If we do what we do and work together for justice, then the renovation of Lathrop will add immeasurably to the quality of our life and community.

Dennis Archilla

I think that the renovation is a great decision because the Lathrop Homes apartments will improve. The environment will be better suited and maybe this neighborhood will be safer place to live in. Sometimes change is good.

RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS

CHINESE TRANSLATIONS

Special Health Section

Confidential STD Treatment

by Sabrina R. Kendricks, MD

Director, Core Center Screening Clinic

One of the nation's most modern clinics for the diagnosis, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases (called STDs) - including Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, Genital Herpes and HIV, the virus that causes AIDS - is located on Chicago's West Side at the CORE Center.

The screening clinic is a walk-in facility where appointments are not necessary. It is located in the CORE Center for Infectious Diseases, a five-story facility operated by the Cook County Bureau of Health Services. Patients at the Clinic are seen on a first-come, first-served basis and the testing is confidential.

If a local resident, whether city or subur-

ban, wants testing and/or treatment for an STD, the clinic is available to everyone.

Here are some commonly asked questions:

Q: What is an STD?

A: STD stands for Sexually Transmitted Disease. These include diseases you probably have heard of such as Syphilis, Gonorrhea, Genital Herpes and HIV, plus others whose names may be new to you such as Chlamydia, Chancroid and Genital Warts.

Q: What are the symptoms of an STD?

A: Some people have mild or no symptoms at all. The most common symptoms, however, are burning when urinating, vaginal or penile discharge, or a sore in the genital area. If a person has any of these symptoms or suspects that they have been exposed to someone with these complaints, they should come in to be tested.

Q: Why should anyone come in for a test?

A: If a person has a new partner or several partners, that person might want to be tested. If you just have a few questions, you may call the screening clinic at (312) 572-4700 and ask to speak to one of the health care providers or just

come to the clinic for a visit. If you or a loved one thinks you may have a problem, you should come in.

Q: What happens next if I do have an STD?

A: The clinic provides immediate treatment for an STD in addition to counseling and information on how to avoid or decrease the risk of getting another STD.

Q: Will my visit be confidential?

A: Yes. You and the reason for your visit will be completely confidential.

Q: What if I don't have money to be tested?

A: In the tradition of Cook County, we provide medical care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay. We also accept all major forms of insurance.

Over 600 patients visit the Screening Clinic each month, including first-time visitors and others who are back for a follow-up visit. STDs are quite common in the United States because starting in the 1960 and 1970s, the so-called "sexual revolution" caused people to have multiple partners and these related dis-

eases began to spread among the population.

For example, some STDs involve genital sores which leave an open wound which can get infected by one of the other STDs or HIV/AIDS.



**Dr. Sabrina R. Kendricks,
Director of the
Core Center
Screening Clinic
at Cook County**

The Screening Clinic is located in the CORE Center at 2020 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL 60612. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Protect Your Baby

by Sheila Lyne, RSM
Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health.

Nothing is more precious than a baby and nothing more tragic than the death of a baby. But it happens. Every year, African American babies continue to die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) at a rate four times as high as in the white community.

This is one of the more glaring examples of health disparities between racial and ethnic groups. It is just unacceptable.

While no one knows what causes SIDS, there are things that can be done to make a baby safer. They are simple:

"Back to sleep" means you put your baby to sleep on its back. We know fewer babies die if they sleep on their backs. In the first five years of the national "Back to Sleep" campaign, the SIDS rate went down 43 percent.

Babies should sleep on a firm mattress. Remove any

fluffy blankets or stuffed animals from the crib.

Don't allow anyone to smoke around your baby.

If you are pregnant, see a doctor or visit a clinic. Early prenatal care is important.

Spread the word. Tell your friends. If you know another parent, tell them about SIDS and what can prevent it.

The Chicago Department of Public Health has Neighborhood Health Centers across the city that can give you information as well as prenatal care and education. Call (312) 747-9884 to find the Neighborhood Health Center nearest you.

Controlling Asthma

by Barbara Shaw
Clinical Director and Family Nurse Practitioner

Did you know that Chicago is one of the cities with the highest rates of asthma in the country? Did you also know that with education and the right medication, those who suffer with asthma and their families do not have to live with a constant fear of a sudden, maybe fatal, asthma attack?

People with asthma can live more comfortably and avoid going to the emergency room for breathing treatments if they take the right steps.

Asthma is a chronic illness that affects the lungs. In people with asthma, the lining of the lungs become irritated and swollen. In people with

an asthma attack, the lungs also produce more mucus. This makes it harder for air to get through and causes the wheezing sound.

People with asthma can have periodic attacks of wheezing and difficulty breathing, alternating with periods of relatively normal breathing. Asthma can develop at any age but asthma is more common in children.

Usually, there is no specific cause for a person having asthma. Sometimes, several family members may have asthma. Having family members with asthma increases the risk of developing it.

Certain problems can be linked to asthma. For example, some allergies (to mold, dander and dust, among others) can make people with asthma worse. Sometimes, asthma can be made worse by respiratory infections (colds and flu), exercise, cold air, cigarette smoke, pollution, stress, or anxiety, food allergies or drug allergies.

How is asthma controlled?

them to really get a handle on life. They were supposed to be my back up.

When things got too tough to put up with, then the drugs were supposed to be there to give me a little relief. Yeah, that's it, just some relief.

But somehow, they gained control of my life when I wasn't looking. It was a sneaky thing that they did. Now I feel like such a failure. I can't tell anybody because they will see me as a fool for having gotten myself into this. How do I get out when I feel so trapped? How can I possibly admit what's happened?

You know, I used to think that I could control my life. I was not going to be like everyone else. I was going to

First, people with asthma need to understand their disease. Education is the key!

Second, people with asthma need to avoid things that set the asthma off. Don't smoke and don't smoke in the same house as people who suffer with asthma: if you have asthma, don't leave the house on days that are really hot or when the pollution is really bad.

Third, people with asthma can work together with a health care provider (doctor, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant) to control the asthma. They can learn how to use "peak flow meters," easy-to-use devices that let people with asthma know when they need medicine or need to call their health care provider and control their asthma – and avoid that long wait in the emergency room.

Asthma is a large and growing problem, especially in Chicago. Get the facts and control your asthma. Don't let it control you.

be different. I was not going to let anyone else control my life. My experience has taught me to trust no one. "If you want it done right, you have to do it yourself" has been the saying that has guided me. And I've tried hard to live by that, too. But here I sit today, having tried my best and look at my life. What can I do? How can I go on? I don't think that I have much more energy to continue the struggle. I'm quickly coming to the end of my rope and I don't know what to do. I feel so trapped....

Have you ever felt like this? Are you feeling like that right now? We understand. Call Haymarket Center at 312-CAN-HELP and let us help you find freedom from feeling trapped.

Preventing Domestic Violence

by Pierre Watkins
DO Chairman, Provident Hospital Department of Emergency Medicine

Violence in the home is one of the community's most devastating problems. Unfortunately, it continues to grow to epidemic proportions.

Domestic violence is the leading cause of injury to women in the United States. It is more common than car accidents, rapes and muggings combined. It is a problem which often leads to depression, anxiety, chronic pain syndrome, transmission of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), alcoholism, drug addiction, suicide, juvenile delinquency and run-away children.

Domestic violence is

defined as violent acts that an intimate adult inflicts upon another. Usually, it takes place in the home setting, involving ex-partners (spouses, mates, boyfriends). Thus, the key aspect of domestic violence is the intimate relationship between the abused and the abuser.

Domestic violence incorporates three forms of abuse: psychological, physical and sexual abuse. The abusers may use various methods to gain control. They may become verbally or emotionally abusive. They may use their economic status to their advantage, making their victim seem as though they could not survive without them.

The abuser may also maintain control through physical and sexual acts. The degree of violence and abuse is exacerbated by alcohol and drug use.

Individuals that are exposed to any form of abuse usually find comfort in the nearest emergency department. The emergency department must assure the patients that their safety comes first.

In our emergency depart-

ment at Provident Hospital of Cook County, we have a patient advocate on site who often brings comfort to the victims. This advocate also assists in facilitating the victim's medical treatment and or social workers and rape advocates as needed.

Many abused people fear that their abuser will attempt to take revenge on them. They are often ashamed and humiliated or feel responsible for such acts of violence. However, in order to get the necessary help, patients must discuss clearly and openly their abuse with their nurses and physicians.

Compassion and understanding are essential in assessing the risks of abused individuals and in the decision for their return home. Victims of domestic violence must learn that they are not alone and that help is readily available.

Our goal is to identify and link victims to services which may help prevent future, life-threatening abuse.

Trapped by Dr. Feel Good

by Bill Miller
Haymarket Center

Here I sit wondering what to do next. I never thought that I would get to this place in my life. I was going to be smarter than all the others. I just knew that I was going to be smarter. Where did it all go wrong?

You know that I never intended for this to happen. My plan was to outsmart the drugs. I was going to use

Parking Lot or Playground?

by Jacqueline Thompson

In 1998, after many years of neglect and decay, the huge, vacant space at the rear of 2240 and 2250 S. State St. and in front of 2233 S. Federal was completely ripped up, expertly resurfaced and laid out like a downtown parking lot as part of the surprising revitalization of Harold L. Ickes Homes grounds.

Before the revitalization of the area, there stood a broken-down baseball back stop in the South East corner. It had been there since 1978 and was put there for our children to play baseball on a cracked, uneven, weather-worn, concrete baseball diamond.

Can you believe it? Who in the world plays baseball on concrete? Nobody. So the children didn't play there. Even though it was designed as a play area, it was not.

The children didn't and couldn't play on the treacherous surface. They were safe from the parking cars. Residents from 2240 and 2250 S. State began parking their cars there shortly after the baseball back stop went up. The many workers and outside tradesman began to park there to complete a work day at Central Maintenance.

The comfort and convenience of parking in that area was realized by more and more residents. Their cars were ticketed time and time again by city police. However, the workers from Central Maintenance were never ticketed on their side.

This difference was too evident to go ignored. This is when our LAC president, Gloria Williams, stepped in and used her influence to have the ticketing stopped. She also insisted that residents get more respect in general.

The new parking area was made available to all who came to park there in designated space line separations. Comfort and convenience for residents at last.

February 2000 brought a blow to the tranquility of parking close to home on the huge lot. A flyer was placed on every car found there early one morning.

"The large parking lot south of 2233 S Federal will be out of service until further notice. All vehicles must be removed by Friday, Feb. 25, 2000." We were even thanked in advance for our cooperation and also received an apology for the inconvenience.

Of course, this didn't set too well with my neighbors. I asked residents how they felt about the instructions for removing cars from the parking lot?

Earl Smith said, "I don't know. We sure can't bring it (the car) in the house. I remember when we used to get tickets."

I also spoke to another resident and asked the same question.

Roy Saunders said, "It's not fair. Where are we going to park? State Street is out. It's just a messed up situation. The small lot will not hold up to 60 cars." Many others declined to answer. They were either too frustrated or used to being shifted about.

Seeking answers for the future of parking in our area, I called the mayor's office. I was unable to talk to anyone before this deadline. Ward Committeeman Bob Anderson was more helpful but he too was unable to meet my deadline with information.

Ickes LAC President Williams explained, "The spot is still designated for the children's playground. Even after the new school is erected, it will be a playground for the children who attend the new school."

So here we are, displaced again without choice or priority.



This rear parking lot in Harold Ickes development is subject for excavation to make way for new school.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

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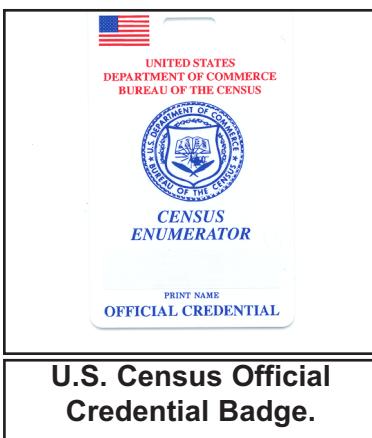
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U.S. Census: The Count Begins

by Jacqueline Thompson

Every known medium is being used to inform us all just how important it is that each person gets counted in the U.S. Census. But now that the Census forms have been mailed out, there are still questions about the questions on the minds of many people. The simple forms are just that: simple. However, the long forms seem to be throwing some people off the task of completing this important document.

The situation has come to the attention of the Chicago Committee of Lawyers for Civil Rights under the Law. I interviewed Sharon Legenza of the



U.S. Census Official Credential Badge.

Committee of Lawyers and she was fruitful in terms of providing information that will enlighten our readers.

Many of the questions on the Census long form seem unnecessary, such as "Do you have an indoor toilet?"

Legenza explained, "This question is important to the government because still in some rural areas and counties there is a need for government assistance and dollars to improve the quality of life for whole sections of the country where citizens can answer 'no' to this question of indoor plumbing."

Legenza continued, "Another good example of a questionable question is 'How do you get to work?' Well, if the government knows from the collection of answers to this question that there is not nearly enough public transportation and there are not enough bike paths, they can give this information to the Department of Transportation and they can allocate funds to make sure more transportation is available for a given area. The census bureau is looking for raw numbers to work with, not names and histories."

I also interviewed Legenza about the census workers who soon will be collecting information door-to-door.

RJ: Ms. Legenza, can you give me any answers as to who the census workers are and why you should let them into your home?

SL: It is my understanding that the bureau has tried to hire persons from the community who will not necessarily be a stranger. The thought is that, living in the city, obviously one does not want to open their door for just anybody. They will probably be your neighbor.

RJ: How will the residents know that the neighbor is a census worker?

SL: Their title is 'Enumerator' and they will be wearing official government employee badges.

I also interviewed Beverly Moore, a spokesperson for the Census Bureau, to talk about the census workers' upcoming visits to their homes:

RJ: How will the process of entry into a resident's apartment go?

BM: The enumerators will identify themselves by first



Madden Park resident Demitta Collins (top row, from left), CHA Youth Director Dorian Figgers, Collins' daughter Terrishana (bottom row, from left), neighbor Shanay Brown and daughter Aallah, at the March 31 U.S. Census Rally at the Abraham Lincoln Center.

Photos by Mary C. Johns

showing an official identification badge with a photo on it. They will then present the resident with a slip of paper informing them that answers are confidential.

We specially recruited mem-

bers from their community to make sure an enumerator is not a stranger. We have had a good response from residents who will be working for the bureau.

1/2 PG. Horizontal Space For
United Health Care

KOREAN Translation

Perception

A Rap by Kareem Lewis

Yo! Through knowledge I expand through the open land
Consider the chosen man
Freestyle freely hold the mic without the stand
Don't consider myself Black just a species of this land
Don't accept any nationality just think it's a bunch of categorizing and labeling that holds us as people under the table, man
Confused about the existence of GOD
Don't accept any religion so most consider me odd
Just because I challenge things that don't make sense, they say
I'm stressing
Just because I search for the truth in life's lesson and spread the message instead
Of believing everything I hear and second guessing
I'd rather ask questions
Religion is just a false front to divert people.
Reality is my perception
People believe in things so much it becomes real
So, what happens when the belief is dead? What creeps through your head?
Lies, deceptions, you've all been misled
But you all can't see from the lies that have been pumped through your head constantly
Fed, poisoning your insides like lead
Living your lives off other people, saying you ask for forgiveness and

then you go
Back and do the same thing so what's the purpose of praying?
And then you ask me questions like how was the world created and how was
Us as man generated just a thought process of contemplating a group of man
Concepts that made it GOD related
You never saw it, you never even heard it make a sound and then if you despise it

Now you're just applying to a place under ground
And you speak on hell and heaven
Say we're supposed to give back but it really goes to the reverend
How can we love and praise an entity that watches our people die

That watches us suffer and doesn't help us to get by
You need to stop looking in the sky and look within yourselves
Yea! It's probably a life after death but I don't know if it's heaven or hell

Just take your mind beyond church to a life after death living spiritually on Earth
Questions like what happens during the process of birth like when the baby is forming
Is he or she just coming in this world or are they born again
You people tell me what I should read and what knowledge I should get

But the majority of you all that goes to church are hypocrites.

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Youth Issues



Eating Disorders: 1 Girl's Story

by Crystal Medina

"I had been fat ever since I could remember. I decided to go on a very strict diet, only vegetables and fruit. When I started losing weight, I thought, maybe I should eat even less. The next thing I knew, I was eating an apple a day and exercising all the time. One day, my parents took me out to eat and made me eat in front of them because they were suspicious of my weight loss. I was down to being 5'2" and

weighing 102 lbs. That night, I went home and vomited. After that night, I kept vomiting because it was so much easier. I did not stop until the day I threw up blood and my

These days, girls are so obsessed with looking "perfect" that I doubt these diseases will stop any time soon.

insides started to hurt. Food became my worst enemy."

This is the story of a real teenager who has recovered from an eating disorder. She is not alone. Many teenage girls are suffering from this disease and nobody knows a lot of times because people around them don't take the time to notice when they are giving hints and signs to their loved ones that they are crying out for help.

Anorexia is when a person refuses to eat and deprives their bodies of the nutrients they need. Bulimia is when a person binges then purges (vomits) to get rid of food they have

person I selected was Stone Cold Steve Austin. But I could not get enough information on him so I decided to do Mankind.

According to the information posted on his Web site, www.mankind.com, Mankind was born Michael "Mick" Francis Foley on June 7, 1965, on East Setauket, Long Island, N.Y. He is the son of an athletic director and a teacher who became a full-time mom. Mick Foley is 35 years old and has two kids and a wife. On Feb. 20, 1992, he became a father to a son named Dewey Francis Foley.

Mick Foley graduated from Ward Melville High School. Afterward, Foley enrolled at the State University of New York at Cortland in Upstate New York. He started liking wrestling for many reasons. One reason was his father. His father was the host of the county wrestling championships when he was in high school.

In his autobiography, he wrote, "Wrestling gave us a common bond. My dad used to look up from his papers and be amazed at some of the things he saw. Eventually, it reached a point where he would not look at the paper at all and we watched the hot World Wrestling Federation action as father and son."

In September 1985, Mick met former WWF Tag Team Champion Dominic DeNucci through a Long Island wrestling promoter. Still in college, Mick in early 1986 began driving 400 miles from Cortland to Freedom, Pa., every weekend to train at DeNucci's school. He would sleep in the

back of his car and eat peanut butter sandwiches to save money. Through his contact with DeNucci, he eventually worked his way to becoming a wrestling star.

The signs of acute anorexia, according to Peggy Viadcede-Pierre, author of "The Secret Language of Eating Disorders," are a low heart rate and irregular heartbeats, tissue swelling from water retention, potential kidney failure, and extreme fluctuations in body pressure.

The signs of bulimia are esophageal scarring and dental decay from excessive vomiting, intestinal rupture, bruises on back of the hands and swollen glands. With both, the person may develop insomnia and an irregular menstrual cycle because of the stress that is put on the body.

These days, girls are so obsessed with looking "perfect" that I doubt these diseases will stop any time soon. So even if there have been a lot of discoveries in the medical field for every physical disorder to mental and emotional disorders, the only thing we can count on are each other and professional counseling.

back of his car and eat peanut butter sandwiches to save money. Through his contact with DeNucci, he eventually worked his way to becoming a wrestling star.

Mick Foley has many wrestling names, "Mankind," "Cactus Jack" and "Dude Love." The Cactus Jack character has been around for years. In his best selling book, "Have A Nice Day," Foley explains how he first got the name.

"I wanted to be 'Dude Love,'" writes Foley, "but I knew that I didn't have the experience or talent to be Dude Love yet."

Mick Foley feels that Cactus Jack represents the most sick, twisted, and delusional side of his wrestling personality.

Many people feel that Mankind is a good wrestler. "I think Mankind is a good wrestler. He can fight," said Ivory Lloyd, a 15-year-old student in the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center's Teen Reach Program.

Kamel White, 13, another Teen Reach student, agreed. "I feel he is a good wrestler."

I agree with them. He is cool even though he does crazy things. I know some people regret that he is retiring. Ivory said, "I feel bad about his retiring because he was a good wrestler."

Kamel felt the same. "That's not right. He was a good wrestler."

Personally, I feel that after 15 years of wrestling, Mankind needed to retire.

Teen Reach has a dedicated staff like Arnold J. Monroe, who likes to work with the students. Monroe, who is 27 years old and has three children, has been working in the program for one year.

"I enjoy working with kids and teenagers," Monroe said. "I enjoy having the opportunity to give back to the students what was given to me when I was their age. Yes, I like to work with kids."

The students like the program also. Ivory Lloyd, who has been in the program for one year, said, "Yes, I like this program because we go on educational trips and we take computer class and reading classes. I like learning new things that I haven't learned and participating in programs like sports and recreation and the Urban Youth International Journalism Program."

I would like to continue in the program until I finish high school because I like the program and it is fun to be here. The program is preparing me for the future.

I asked Zenobia Johnson-Black what did she hope the students would get out of being in the program. She said, "I hope the students in our Teen Reach Program take full advantage of all the technology training we have to offer. It is also my hope that as these participants go off to college, they will come back to the Hayes Center to help others."

I plan to do just that. I hope you will also.

We started Teen Reach because we did not want to see any kids join gangs
- Zenobia Johnson-Black, CEO, Hayes Family Investment Center

the Teen Reach mission is to "provide services and support to youth from 12-17 years of age, primarily during off-school hours. Teen Reach services are delivered in a safe environment and incorporate adult-to-youth and youth-to-youth mentoring."

The purposes of Teen Reach are to "promote positive growth and development, create opportunities to develop positive expectations for future success, and encourage youths to avoid and/or reduce their negative, risk-taking behavior. Teen Reach gives students responsibility, education, achievement, caring and hope."

Teens Reach for Success

by Ramsey Pahrue

I see a lot of young people who have nothing to do after school. A lot of you are at home playing video games or hanging outside or just being bored. Sometimes some of you are getting into trouble because you don't have anything to do. That's why I am writing this article. I want you join the Teen Reach Cyber Youth Development After-School Program to have a lot of fun.

The Teen Reach program started in 1998. I came into the program in September of 1998. My English teacher put me in the program to learn things, like working on and fixing computers, learning how to write articles for the Residents' Journal, and going on educational trips. All the first activities were held in DuSable High School. The program focused on providing activities like arts, dance classes, computer training, sports and recreation, and life skills classes.

"We started the program because we did not want to see

Life Directions

by Ramondo Walker

What do you think your life will be in the next 10 years? What kind of work do you plan to do? Do you plan to be a lawyer, a nurse, a famous basketball player or someone who does nothing? Do you plan to be successful and achieve your goals, or a failure? I think this is an important question for teenagers to stop and consider. Most young people like myself will be graduating out of high school soon and they should determine how they want their lives to be in the next 10 years. This article is to help young people realize the importance of living a successful life by thinking about their future and planning their lives.

Many young people don't have any idea of where their life is going.

When I asked Veronica Williams, a ninth grade student at Dunbar Vocational Career Academy, where would her life end up in the next 10 years, she told me in an honest way, "I don't know where my life will be in the next 10 years."

But Williams did know she wants to be a Registered Nurse. She also has a back-up plan. "If I don't become a nurse, I want to be a technician."

Though Williams is not completely clear about where she wants to be in the next 10 years, she is working hard to fulfill her plans of becoming a nurse. She says she is taking some classes to help her become a nurse and in her sophomore year, she plans to

take nursing classes. Williams is a nice, educated, young Black woman and I hope the best for her in the near future.

There are other teenagers going in the wrong direction because they are so busy on the street selling drug, stealing cars, robbing stores and other negative things to mess up their lives.

Dontae Walker, a sophomore at Chicago State University, is an example of people who start out going in the wrong direction in life. I asked him if he knew where his life will be in the next 10 years and he told me he planned on trying to make a career at being a professional basketball player.

"I started out playing basketball at Chicago State but I had to quit because of my grades," Walker said.

I asked him if he has a back-up plan if he doesn't make it to the pros. He told me that he plans on majoring in film. He told me how he used to live in a bad environment during the time he was young.

"There were people who influenced me to do things that were not right," Walker said.

Later on in life, Walker said he has been on the ball about his schoolwork. He plans on getting an apartment in Alabama with his soon-to-be-wife Yolanda Wentworth, a 19-



CHA Youth Basketball Association participants show off their skills before the Chicago Public League Basketball Game at the United Center on March 14.

Photo by Andre Robinson

year-old student at Northwestern University. They plan on getting married after he graduates out of college, two years from now.

These two people I've talked to have a good future ahead of them. I wish the both of them the best of luck in life and everybody else who is keeping their lives on track. For the people who are living a difficult life, keep working at it and some day you will become as good as everybody else.

I am definitely thinking about where I want to be in the next 10 years. Right now I am in a stump with my grades but I plan on making a change on that in the fourth quarter. I would like to go to college and major in architecture because I know how to draw real well.

I recommend that everyone look ahead and see what is good in front of them. Go down the right direction. Have a plan and put some effort into it.

Young Men's Perspectives

by Veronica Williams

The following article will discuss teen relationships, looking from a male's point of view. The reason for me writing this article is because so many young ladies like myself have to suffer through tough and "mind-game playing" relationships.

I want to prove to all girls, young ladies and women that there are relationships worth waiting for. I talked to a host of men and interviewed them about the relationships they are in now or the most recent relationship they were in. I only interviewed males because I wanted to see what they thought relationships were based on and what they wanted out of relationships. Although you won't see their real names, you still will get the picture. I think this will help young women like me know what to do and what not to do, and the kind of males to look out for. It will help us better evaluate the kinds of men we get involved with.

Keith, 17, an 11th grade student at DuSable High School, has been dating his partner for a little over seven months. When asked why he and his partner were dating, he replied, "She was feeling my vibes and I was feeling hers."

Knight says the strengths of their relationship are that they are able to listen to each other, solve problems, and are both intelligent. Their weaknesses are not being able to see each other on a regular basis because of parental issues.

The only thing he feels will break them up is "frustrations we both have because we have that wanting feeling of each other (sex) and can't see each other because of the distance."

They met at his brother's wedding and she was "peeping" him. They do have a sexual relationship, are happy, and

both feel trust is a great basis for a relationship. He plans to get married one day.

Chuck, 20, who works as a mentor with youths, has been dating his girlfriend for about a year. They met on the street and she offered to take him out. Chuck says, "We are dating because we are attracted to each other."

The strengths of their relationship are the support and communication they share. Their weaknesses are the nagging and the arguing. Chuck says that the only things that will keep him away from "baby girl" is if she steals, disrespects him, or cheats on him. They are also in a sexual relationship, are very happy, and say that without trust, you have no relationship. He also plans to get married one day.

Ronald, 17, an 11th grade student at DuSable High School, has been dating his partner for one month. He and his partner hooked up over a slight conversation. When asked why he is dating now, he replied "to maintain a relationship and gain trust."

The strength of their relationship is that they were friends long before they were a couple. The weaknesses are just the way they carry themselves. They are not in a sexual relationship but feel trust is the strength of their relationship.

Anthony has been married to Janice for almost five years. They were married because they both agreed upon it, but are now separated for personal reasons. They have three beautiful children. They met from a hook-up at work, had a sexual relationship, and felt trust was a good basis for a relationship.

But it doesn't work out for every one. The strengths of their relationship were family participation and teamwork. The weaknesses of the relationship were communication and trust.

William, 15, has been dating his partner for 6 months.



Artist, poet and Innocent Rage Foundation Founder R.L. "Kweisi" Dunlap Jr. with Raymond Elementary School 6th and 8th graders during Operation Snowflake 2000 on March 22.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

They met through some friends. They are dating because he

wants to understand what he's looking for in life. The strength of their relationship is working together. The weakness of their relationship is not spending enough time together. They aren't in a sexual relationship but strongly believe that trust is a very good basis for a relationship. He said he plans to get married.

From my research, I have concluded that the males I interviewed are in relationships with girls where they can listen to each other, support each other and have a lot of trust.

This made me realize that there are males who are seeking more than just sex, which is what most girls think. These were guys who wanted to stay with their girlfriends. They were not just looking for a one-time thing.

By reading my article, I hope you young ladies and women don't give up hope for the relationships you are in or the ones you are attempting to enter, because there are men out there for you who care about having positive relationships. Just keep your head up, mind clear, thoughts clean, and legs closed until that appropriate person comes along.

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The main reason some people are failing is because they say they want to do something but don't put the right effort into it. They think they will be successful right off the bat. Having a back-up plan is the most important thing because sometimes the things you plan on doing, you don't end up doing.

Seniors Challenge their 'Disabilities'

by Jacqueline Thompson

Physically challenged in my mind congers up a picture of someone fighting against a foe. Webster's New World Dictionary gives these definitions for challenge: (3) a call to a dual (4) anything that calls for special effort.

Leslie Anderson is a physically "challenged" resident of 116 W. Elm St., a CHA senior building that also is home to many residents with disabilities from different ages. The living conditions in her apartment building initiated a dual with some very powerful figures and a call for special effort.

Anderson's first challenge was to gain access to the rear patio from the first-floor recreation room during the hot summer months in her wheelchair. That was just the tip of the iceberg. Her struggles continued: to get on and off elevators without fear of premature door closings; no automatic doors at the front entryway for residents who use wheelchairs; no screens in apartment windows for



CHA senior resident Leslie Anderson, a physically "challenged" resident of 116 W. Elm St., took charge and got things done in her building.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

that lead to the entrance way piled high with snow and left wheel chair-using residents snow-bound and shut-in for 10 or 12 days," said Anderson.

"You couldn't get services in and you couldn't get out. It was terrible because when we complained to management and the janitors they said, 'We don't have the heavy equipment to remove the snow.' We asked, 'CHA has no snow removal equipment?'"

During the rest of the year, many of the residents who use wheelchairs were excluded from the mayor's picnic and other civic because of the lack of proper transportation.

"Three buses came (to one of the events) but none of them was handicapped accessible," Anderson reported.

"Too many instances of disappointment of this kind created repeated frustrations for those who could have and

should have been regular participants in civic affairs."

Seeking to relieve the frustration of the instances of challenge and rejection, Anderson called a meeting of all residents who use wheelchairs.

"At the meeting, we drew up a petition to present to management," Anderson remembered. Signed copies were sent to the mayor's office, CHA head Phillip Jackson and 42nd Ward Ald. Burton Naturus. Two months later, no actions had been taken.

With the first efforts to change things still fresh, Anderson talked to one of her neighbors, Gladys Jefferson, who was a member of the CHA Americans with Disabilities Act Association. Anderson showed her a copy of the residents' petition and Jefferson in turn took it to a meeting of the association. From that small beginning, CHA officials agreed that the grievance list of complaints could be addressed and also accepted the list for further action.

Jefferson, who has been a member of the association for the past three years, also reported that "Since the initial petition was accepted, improvements have been made."

Anderson called CHA CEO Jackson's office and Jackson promised to further the cause. A concrete path has been made for residents who use wheelchairs so they can have access to the rear patio in the summer. In February, workmen came out to measure the elevator to replace the ineffective doors. However, the date for installation has been pushed back to August 2000.

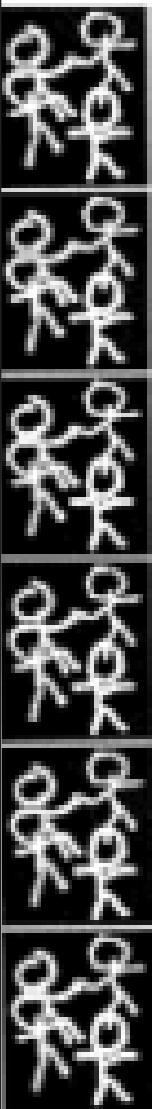
Jefferson and Anderson have continued to work together to keep the ball rolling and lately have been working to find resident leaders who are sympathetic to their cause. Jefferson and Anderson are looking for leaders who will use their clout to assist the residents in getting accessibility that already is written into law.

Jefferson and Anderson are looking for leaders who will use their clout to assist the residents in getting accessibility that already is written into law.

many residents; washers that only load from the top, requiring those who use wheelchairs to struggle to stand and load.

One of the most insensitive building conditions took place during the winter of December 1997 and January 1998.

"A serious blizzard left the parking lot and sidewalk



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by Thomas L.
Merriweather

Accessibility issues involve others than those of us with mobility impairments. The term "handicapped" is used far too frequently to describe us. "Handicapped" doesn't comply with the proper etiquette in referring to us. People with or a person with disabilities or a disability is the proper designation.

On Feb. 16, a training session for the Americans with Disabilities Act Equal Access Tenant Advisory Committee was conducted at the Chicago Department on Aging and Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities site at 2101 W. Ogden to address the proper manner of addressing and referring to individuals with disabilities.

The participants discussed proper ways to talk about those with: **Mobility Impairments** - those who use wheelchairs, walkers or canes; **Visual Impairments** - those who are blind; **Hearing Impairments** - those who are deaf or hard of hearing; **Developmental Disabilities** - those who previously were referred to as retarded; and **Mental Illnesses**.

Because a large percent of our elderly population have disabilities to some extent, other issues which affect seniors should be given special consideration and this has been severely lacking in many instances. With renovation of all 58 senior buildings to be undertaken in the CHA's "Plan for Transformation," special consideration must be given in such areas as a lack of heat and/or hot water or inconsistencies in important health issues. Special attention also must be given to poor or inconsistent mail service, both by the U.S. Postal Service and United Parcel Service (UPS).

The frequent breakdown of elevators also remains a serious problem.

In the two-building Eckhart Park Senior Housing Complex where I have been a resident of 847 N. Greenview Ave. building for four years, tenant morale has

Eight instances of elevator breakdown occurred over a two-month period.

been very low because of the deficiencies as noted above. Some residents are complaining that the Hispanic Housing Development Corporation, the private management firm which has been on board for more than three years, is not concerned with the well being of most of its residents.

The residents complain that while much attention is given to the exteriors of the two buildings - 847 N. Greeview and 838 N. Noble Blvd., the interior conditions which directly affect the residents are not being given the proper care.

Access Report

Residents are complaining that management does not care about the concerns we have and serious consequences are the result. For a continuous period of several weeks, there were glaring inconsistencies in the distribution of heat and hot water to the building. Some residents received insufficient heat. Others received insufficient hot



Firemen and paramedics urgently attend to the wounds of an electrician that was badly burned during an implosion from an electrical outlet at the CHA Robert Taylor development earlier this month.

Photo by George Johnson

water. Some received a combination of deficiencies in these areas. One tenant reported that she would receive continuous hot water but no heat.

Another continuous problem has been the frequent breakdown of elevators in both buildings. On occasion, both of the elevators in the two buildings have not been working. In the Greenview building, a total of 8 instances of elevator breakdown occurred over a two-month period. In one incident, I was stuck in an elevator when the door would not open for about 25 minutes. This incident occurred about two hours following the servicing of that elevator on March 20.

Mail Service Complaints

The problem with mail service was demonstrated to me when I became a resident of the Greenview building. I would receive notices in my mailbox of an attempted delivery of a package when I was supposedly not at home. During my first year in the building, and especially during my first few months

R E S I D E N T S ,

Journal

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

**Residents' Journal
4859 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60615**

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

For more information or to send us a fax, please call (773) 285-0200 x3372 or fax (773) 285-2853

of residency, about the only time I was away from home was for medical appointments and Sunday church attendance.

The problem with package delivery was only solved after Hispanic Housing assumed management of the two buildings and began to accept packages from both the U.S. Postal Service and UPS in the office.

During March, however, Hispanic Housing decided that it would no longer accept packages either from the Postal Service or UPS. This decision has brought back the original problem because notices are continued to be deposited in mailboxes with no attempt to ring the doorbell/intercom system in order to deliver packages. I contacted the Wicker Park station of the Postal Service. A supervisor advised me that he had no knowledge of the discrepancies in the mail delivery procedures.

Several residents voiced their concerns of problems in mail delivery during the March 2 meeting of the Local Advisory Council, of which I am president.

The residents' concerns led me to contact Eloise Murphy, manager of the Wicker Park Postal Station. Murphy was surprised by the management office's decision to no longer accept packages. Now it would be necessary for our elderly residents to come to the Postal Station and stand in line in order to receive their packages.

The postal procedures call for the mail carrier to attempt delivery of any parcels too large to be deposited into the mailbox by ringing the doorbell or gaining access to effect delivery in some other manner. This procedure has not been followed, according to a former mail carrier, because of the time required to deliver such items to residents in a building with a large number of units. Such items are then left in a building mailroom - for postal employee access only - and for delivery on a subsequent day.

But the problem is that mail is not delivered at the same time each day. Therefore, the resident cannot know when delivery will occur so that he or she may be present at the mailroom when such subsequent delivery will be attempted.

Transportation Issues

Transportation continues as a serious problem with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA), the certifying agency for those of us who mostly use door-to-door service, beginning to purge the rolls of many because of more stringent qualifying procedure. I was placed in a transitional certification because of my ability to use my manual wheelchair.

I appeared at an appeal hearing on Feb. 22. Because of the deplorable condition of many streets and sidewalks in Chicago, making use of fixed route buses and trains is impractical. My appeal was upheld. But many others are being removed who do not have the ability to appeal.

Last Name	First Name	
Title		
Organization		
Address		
City	State	Zip Code
Work Phone	Fax	

Altgeld Gardens News

by Sharon Forinzy

Hello this is Sharon again. I am still waiting on old and new news. Please give me information on what is going on in Altgeld Gardens. Please call my pager, (773) 201-7678, or at my school number, (773) 535-5223.

CHA Commissioners Meeting

Altgeld Gardens Local Advisory Council President Esther Wheeler hosted the monthly CHA commissioners meeting here in Altgeld Gardens on March 21. It drew a large number of residents and visitors.

Wheeler conducted the meeting with all her skills and talents. Many residents feel she is an outstanding person who tries to help everyone in the community the best way that she can. The Local Advisory Council also tries to be understanding and help the community in many different ways.

The Board of Commissioners discussed a number of important issues and much needed information was given. The meeting was attended by several community members of

the CHA administrators.

Obituaries

The Altgeld Gardens community's deepest sympathies go to the families of the deceased:

For the families of Donald Cohen Reed, Ronald Lee, Ronald Macon, Caretta Denise McCarter, Ralph Smith, Margaret Louise Blocker and others, you have our prayers and I am sorry. But God is with you.

Aldridge News

The Ira F. Aldridge Elementary School cheerleaders recently won some awards:

The Varsity Cheerleaders earned 3rd place in the regional competition. Congratulations, Coach Fatimah Khan.

The Junior Varsity Cheerleaders earned 2nd place in the regional competition and placed in the citywide competition. Congratulations, Coach L. Williams.

The Pee Wee Cheerleaders earned 3rd place in the citywide competition. Congratulations, Coach J. Contrell.

Aldridge School is very proud to announce that Isaiah Cooper received the Jewel-Osco Scholarship. As one of the 12 finalists of the Jewel-Osco scholarship, Cooper will receive high school mentorship, a Jewel-Osco internship and a college scholarship. Cooper was among 50 semifinalists for the scholarship, including Jeanine Harris and Kenneth Smith, also from Aldridge School.

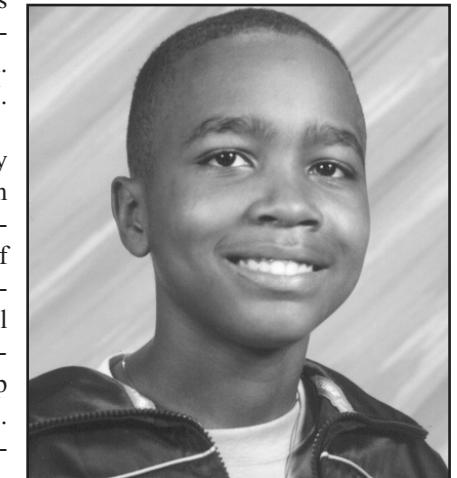
To be considered eligible for the eighth grade scholarship, students had to meet rigid criteria, including an overall elementary school grade point average of 3.0, a 95 percent attendance rate in grades six, seven and eight and completion of two writing samples.

Fifty semifinalists went on to participate in a personal interview conducted at the Jewel-Osco corporate offices in Melrose Park on April 1, 2000. These interviews helped identify the 12 scholarship finalists.



Altgeld Gardens Local Advisory Council President Esther Wheeler, speaks during a CHA Board of Commissioners meeting.

Photo by Sharon Forinzy



Jewel/Osco Scholarship recipient Isaiah Cooper.

1/2 Vertical Space For Chicago Department of Health Ad



Altgeld Gardens residents listen attentively during a Chicago Housing Authority Board of Commissioners' meeting.

Photo by Sharon Forinzy

South Park Way the Beautiful

by John "Popcorn" Sampson

I believe with every beat of my heart and every fiber of my soul that the only dreams worth being tucked away in the bosom of memory are the dreams amassed in the days of boyhood; that miraculous period when life is almost perfect and yet all too short. It is a time for Mardi Gras and living as carefree as a stroll in the moonlight while making everything in life as sweet as a green jelly bean. Such are the dreams of old men as they take that final, backward look at the joy and the devil-may-care pleasure that life shall be nevermore.

And now, please grant me the privilege and the pleasure to do the one thing that an old man does best - talk about the long ago and the used to be.

Southern Origins

I was 14 years old when I came to Chicago in 1933, having run off from my home town, a small, French-speaking place in the Southeastern bayou area in Louisiana named Mansura. Mansura and the surrounding area are populated by Creoles and Cajuns, whose primary livelihood came from farming cotton, sugar cane and corn.

I rode "The Blinds" into Chicago. The Blinds is a doorway between the engine and the mail car on a passenger train such as the Super Chief that ran from Chicago to LA and from Kansas City to Chicago. The Century of Progress World Fair was in full bloom when I arrived at the Dearborn Station on Polk and Dearborn Streets.

But before I could go to the Fair, when the train had barely stopped, a railroad policeman snatched me off the train and took me into custody. I was taken into a small room in the station, where I was questioned as to where I was from and how old I was. Afterwards, I was taken to the YMCA at 826 S. Wabash and given a bed in one of the few rooms reserved for Black boys on the fourth floor.

The next morning, I was driven to 48th Street and Evans Avenue on the South Side to a Black couple's home. I lived there for a couple of years, until I got fed up with their regimental methods and their taskmaster approach. I folded my tent and made my get-away.

Thereafter, I scuttled from pillow to post in a desperate attempt to feed, house, clothe, and school myself. With the Hand and Love of a merciful God, coupled with the loving care of people who religiously adhered to an age old African Proverb, "It takes a whole village to raise one child." (This wonderful proverb that might well be mistaken for the wise words of a president's wife is beyond all doubts none other than those of a sagacious old African, spoken many, many, years ago in deepest Africa.)

Wandering

I survived my many errors, stupid bungles and bad choices until I reached the lofty plateau of manhood. Then, I was suddenly smitten by the wanderlust.

For years on end, I wandered here, there and everywhere. I tried this and that kind of employment - doorman, hotel worker and cab driver. I even went so far as to go to school, where I learned welding. I even taught some photography, on a Polaroid level, to a group of senior citizens.

None of those jobs fondled my fancy because none of those colored folks' jobs filled my wants and needs. I had no taste for humble pie, which is what was required of a Black person in the way back when. What I wanted and had always wanted was to be called an author, doing what an author does.

I realized what I needed most, first and foremost was to get more education. And so, I wiggled my way into Columbia College, where I was taught step one on how to be a writer. Pray God it is not too late for me to earn the name I so desperately want to be called.

I had a heart-breaking interruption of my photography education at Columbia College due to a minor discrepancy. Columbia demanded I make things right but as far as I was concerned, they couldn't get blood out a turnip.

Lady Luck Smiles

I took my little red wagon to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where Lady Luck took me by the hand and introduced me to a fox who owned a restaurant and was alone, lonely and looking for a good dog (a good dog meaning a good friend. This is another axiom used by the brothers on the stem).

It was through her popularity that for the very first time in my life, I became self-employed as a photographer. I did weddings, took photos in night clubs and church affairs and, in my spare time, I worked my fingers to the bone in my girl friend's restaurant punching the cash register keys.

Inglorious Episode

The likelihood of a fool taking advantage of a golden opportunity oftentimes is as slim as a sinner going to heaven in a jet or a womanizer becoming a one-woman man. Such a phenomenal transition finds it difficult, indeed, to enter the realm of probability.

As soon as my gal friend found out that she was dealing with a player, the kind who played the field and talked that talk, I was asked by my true love to let the door knob hit me where the good Lord split me, walk that walk, and don't come back never, no more, no more.

And so, it was then to my chagrin that I discovered that I had become a guest of the wandering wind, able to live the free life of a grasshopper. Free at last, free at last, Great God Almighty, don't let this freedom last.

Section 1.01, my pride was wounded, to say nothing of my demolished ego. And Section 1.02, to think that this was the woman who I believed loved me more than she did her mother, to say nothing of her life itself, had thrown me, "Popcorn," out as if I were an old pair of shoes. I felt like a blue ribbon dog that had been

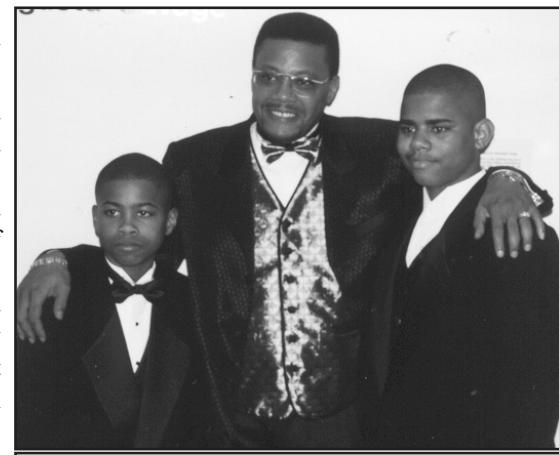
replaced by an alley cat.

I decided that I would tuck my tail and make it on back to Chicago, where none of my friends had heard of this scandalous, shocking and inglorious episode of mine.

About two hours after I arrived in Chicago, the would-be home of the Blues, I boarded the Number 3 bus on Michigan Avenue and headed for the South Side. I suspended my bus ride on the corner of 47th Street and the newly named Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Return to the Corner

My two feet hit the ground and I took a slow look around. I was utterly shocked clean out of my socks to see the dregs and the scattered bottles, paper and beer cans that littered the Parkway from here to yon like autumn leaves spread over a deserted lawn.



Judge Greg Mathis poses with youths during the "Night of 100 Stars" affair at the DuSable Museum.

Photo by Andre Robinson

Pine to 19th and Vine, from Beverly Hills to Pill Hill, and never, ever, could there be found one single plot of ground that would compare to the corner.

I stood there in a tormented dream,

I never could have fantasized, even if I was hypnotized, that the popular corner of 47th Street and South Parkway... could ever have fallen into such a deplorable condition.

I never could have fantasized, even if I was hypnotized, that the popular corner of 47th Street and South Parkway, the pride of every Black, brown and tan male and female on the South Side, could ever have fallen into such a deplorable condition.

My heart and soul is overcome with rapture and glee at the very thought of the wonderful joys that were mine in the spring time of my youth when I whiled away the day in laughter and play here amid the elation and the jubilation of 47th Street and the fashionable South Parkway during its hey day.

The brothers and sisters were taking any and every possible way out of the bowels of Dixie Land in a scurry to escape the injustice of a down home red neck and go in search of the Promised Land up North. By the droves and the bus loads, they came to the City of Chicago, lugging their boogie woogie and dragging their black bottom and Lindy Hopp. They made the corner of 47th and South Parkway the Mecca of Rock 'N Roll and Rhythm and Blues.

The corner was a sacred gathering place where all the adherents of jazz, jive and jitterbug came together to show off their unique blessing of rhythm while lending to the kaleidoscope of Black talents still another reflection of Black artistry.

Those were the good old days when 47th and South Parkway's popularity was not even rivaled by Harlem's famed corner. One could journey across the reach and stretch of this beloved land, from Lenox Avenue to Central Avenue, from Canal Street to Beal Street, from 3rd and



Andy's Carryout restaurant owner and an assistant. The restaurant is located at 6 E. 47th Street.

Photo by Beauty Turner

Letters to the Editor

Good News for Working Families

Dear Editor:

I have good news for working families in Illinois. Thanks to the hard work of advocates and a bi-partisan group of concerned legislators of the Make Work Pay in Illinois Coalition, low-income workers in Illinois will finally get some sorely needed tax relief.

This past session, the state legislature passed a non-refundable Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) set at 5 percent of the very successful federal EITC. Although the coalition had lobbied for a refundable credit at 20 percent of the fed-

eral EITC, the victory is still significant.

By passing a state EITC, the Illinois legislature has acknowledged the higher tax burden that it places on lower-income families and has taken an important step in making the tax system more equitable.

Illinois has long ranked among the worst in the country in taxing low-income families. On average, families earning less than \$30,000 per year paid approximately 13.6 percent of their income in taxes. Families earning wages in the top 20 percent of

the economy, meanwhile, paid 7.4 percent of their income in taxes.

These differences are largely due to the myriad of tax deductions available to higher income groups and the reality that lower income people spend much of their income on consumables

and are therefore disproportionately impacted by sales taxes.

The impact of the 5 percent non-refundable credit varies among households. For some families, it will completely erase their state tax liability and

for others, it will significantly reduce it.

Although this is far short of the 20 percent refundable credit that we had hoped for, it does provide many working families with needed tax relief and provides advocates with an opportunity to grow it over time now that it is on the books.

-Lauren Coletta
Make Work Pay in
Illinois
Campaign
Coordinator

Comments from the

Dear Editor:

On Wednesday, April 12, the Coalition to Protect Public Housing held our 1st Annual Briefing at the University of Illinois Circle Campus' Great Cities Institute. We presented our analysis of the CHA's "Plan for Transformation" to over 40 supporters with a special appearance by Janet Smith of UIC, the professor who is the principal author of the Rental Market Study.

CHA's analysis shows that there are serious flaws in the transformation plan that puts thousands of families in jeopardy of losing housing.

CHA's plan focuses on demolition without guarantees of replacement. CHA will go from 38,776 units to 24,773 units, a net loss

of 14,000 units, when there are 60,000 people on waiting lists for housing. CHA admits that in order for their plan to work, more than 6,000 families must be relocated into the private market.

CHA refuses to acknowledge that the Rental Market Study they helped fund shows that the market lacks at least 153,300 units for people making \$0-\$20,000 annually. Not only are 95 percent of CHA's residents making \$0-20,000 annually but CHA refuses to heed the study's warning that the private market has little desire to accept residents moved from CHA with rent vouchers (Section 8).

In fact, CHA experimented with a relocation program in

1999 that attracted a small number of landlords. Only 8 out of 2,300 landlords contacted were willing to accept residents using rent vouchers.

CHA assures the public that they will take care of the poor public housing residents. CHA counts on the public to not to want to look closely or examine the facts and see that they are cleverly and intentionally removing people from the only housing they can afford.

Several organizations and periodicals have examined the numbers: The National Center on Poverty Law, the Chicago Reporter and the Coalition to Protect Public Housing

families after CHA finishes the transformation plan.

The Coalition to Protect Public Housing calls for a moratorium on all demolition and relocation until a viable plan is reached. The plan must give assurances of pre-identified housing to residents where they will not be isolated from their communities, neighbors and support organizations.

Finally, at a time when there is a documented housing shortage, the amount of housing for people in the \$0-20,000 income range should be maintained with more built instead of demolishing housing.

-The Coalition to Protect Public Housing

Know Your Rights

Dear Editor:

Here is some information that may benefit some of your readers:

The Women's Law Project of the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago and the Child Care Advocacy Group are presenting a course on "Your Rights as a TANF Recipient and Working." The course will be held on May 1,2,3, 8 and 9 from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. at the New City LEED Council, 755 W. North

Ave., 2nd Floor. The New City LEED Council is located off the Red Line stop at Clybourn and North avenues.

The course is designed specially for women. At the course, you will learn about: Time clocks, resources and sanctions; Child care assistance, transportation assistance; health insurance for your children; Employment law protections, including wages and hours of work, discrimination and sexual harassment

laws, time off work; Access to other forms of monetary aid, including the Earned Income Tax Credit, Unemployment Compensation and Social Security.

To reserve a place in the free course, call Da Toya Burtin at (312) 431-2119.

-Emily Friedman
The Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago

A Common Quest

Dear Editor:

Seeing *RJ* in my mailbox is always uplifting. The paper has come a long way and continues to improve. I'm also impressed by the quality of work done by the staff—young and older.

RJ is unique in a number of ways; most importantly, it is one of the few truly vital publications to come across my desk regularly.

And this month's front page/cover is sensational in every way, from color to layout to design to copy. It's an award winner!

My only gripe is nit picky: why do you call the "contents" portion of page 1 "index" and not "contents"? Also on page 1, I think you should kill the term "credits" and replace it with the banner "Residents"

Journal and the two lines of sub-text exactly as it appears on your letterhead. Finally, have you considered commissioning someone on staff to design a *RJ* logo?

Well, I told you I was picking nits. Keep up the great work.

-Larry Moffi
Managing Editor,
CommonQuest
Magazine

Organ Transplants

Dear Editor:

I'd like to share with you my following interview with Riley Davis, 53 and the oldest of six children. Davis represents the third generation of family members suffering from kidney disease. His story is one of hereditary disease and successful organ transplantation.

JW: What is the nature of your disease and how has it affected your family?

Riley: I was diagnosed with poly cystic kidney disease. Both of my kidneys are bad. I have a family history of kidney disease running as far back as my mother's mother, who is my grandmother. She died of the disease in 1953. Mom had the disease and so did her two brothers. They are all deceased now. Mom did have a chance to have a kidney transplant. But she gave the chance to her youngest brother because he had two small kids. My older sister also has the disease. She got a transplant in 1994 and she is fine. My younger sister has the disease and has kidney problems now but is not yet on dialysis.

I've had this since I was 18. Today I'm on the dialysis machine and get dialysis 3 times a week for 4 hours each time.

There is no one in my family who can donate from within the family. I have one brother who does not have the disease but we

don't match so he cannot help me out. My other brother has heart problems so he can't donate and another brother has Krone's disease, so he can't donate either.

I have two children, ages 21 and 28. So far, neither of them has the disease. I've seen other people worse off than me. So, I'm thankful that all I have are my kidney problems and that I have the health that I do have.

My wife would donate a kidney to me but we decided against it because our daughter has a learning disability and cannot take care of herself. So, we've decided to always make certain one of us is here to take care of her.

JW: What do you want people to know who are still fearful of becoming organ donors?

Riley: Well, sometimes it takes a drastic event for people to wake up. People usually have a change of mind when it comes to their own family. If someone in the family is facing death, that may make them wake up to being an organ donor.

There are lots of people out there suffering. I realize that some have health problems they have done to themselves because of their lifestyle – alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. But there are lots of people who do need a transplant so they can go back to work and support their families.

-Jesse White
Illinois Secretary of State

Residents' Journal welcomes submissions from all of our readers and especially from public housing residents.

Please send all letters to our new address:

4859 S. Wabash Chicago, IL 60615.
You may also call our office
at (773) 285-0200 x 3372 to
discuss your ideas for submission.

Dear Resident

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

"Peace be unto you." This is a greeting that I've heard many times, in many settings, some religious. I took this greeting to be of no more value than "hello", "good-bye" or "what's up" But as of late, I find myself in a state without peace and a greater understanding of the greeting, "Peace be unto you."

By now those of you who read my column regularly must know that I have an affinity (an attraction to or liking for someone or something) for the dictionary and definition (the action or the power of describing, explaining or making definite and clear.) So of course, the definition of peace is about to follow: Peace - freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions, harmony in personal relations, a state of security or order within a community provided for by law or custom, freedom from civil disturbance, to ask for silence or calm or as a greeting or farewell.

If you read my August, 1999 column, you may recall that I declared April 2000 National Black Sister Month. The following is an excerpt from that column: "I am officially declaring April 2000 National Black Sister Month, to be symbolized by the wearing of a metallic gold ribbon, understanding that every Sister is not Black and that every Black woman is not a Sister. And the new millennium? It's the millennium of Family and Community Renewal. Together we can make a difference. It is my hope to have a great celebration of women

interests).

When something needs to be said, I am a firm believer that one must just open their mouth and say it. But say it respectfully and I will. Short of someone being sacrilegious (a disrespect for God or Godly things), I have encountered nothing more disrespectful than some Black women. The disrespect and anger running through our community is home grown. We pass our anger and disrespect onto our children and they pass it on to each other. Seldom will you find disrespectful children who have a respectful mother.

Most of our children come from non-traditional one-parent families. It's



Most of me. All the ribbon.

Photo by Cecelia Clark

a great responsibility, a heavy load and a 24 hour job, if done properly. While we may have every right to be angry with the Black Man who has not

assumed his responsibility as man, mate or parent and a society who seems to think that we

ought to be able to work an 8 hour job (10 hours if you include travel) for minimal wages, shop, cook, clean, comfort, care for and be there for our children (with work that's a 34 hour a day job) under burdens that those who make these judgments neither bear nor understand, we still have no right to disrespect them. Most importantly, you cannot disrespect anyone else without disrespecting yourself and your family.

Disrespect is so prevalent in our community that it has become part of our normal behavior and what we expect. Respect has become abnormal behavior for us. We seem to take pleasure in being disrespectful toward one another. Disrespect has almost become an art form for our children. Sadly, this disrespect hinders our ability to live, work and raise our families together. Truth be known, we almost hate to see each other coming

in business or in pleasure. In business, its almost a guarantee that we will give each other a harder time as possible. In pleasure, if we belong to the same sorority, club or click its okay. If we don't, there's a mechanism that with just one look determines whether or not we like another woman that we've never seen or spoken to before.

We are fierce (marked by unrestrained zeal [an ardent interest in pursuing something] or vehemence [marked by forceful energy, deeply expressed, intensely emotional, bitterly antagonistic [one that contends with or opposes another]. Can you imagine what our lives, our children's lives and our community life would be like if respect was promoted by all? If we did whatever we could to be helpful to one another? To welcome the sight of one another, knowing therein lies respect for self, family and community?

I don't have to imagine, because I know and would like to take this opportunity to celebrate these women for their respect, care and concern for self, family and community.

A special "Thank You" to Cora Moore, Cabrini LAC President; Carol Steele, Cabrini Rowhouse RMC, and Loretta Lacy, Cabrini Extension RMC

Management for their help and support.

I hope that you will have an opportunity to see the ribbon on one of the women to whom they will be presented. But most importantly, I hope that we will rethink our behavior with respect to family and community and adopt a sense of service towards one another because whenever we help someone else, in someway we always help ourselves.

May 2000 hails the celebration of Mother's Day (the 2nd Sunday in May appointed for the honoring of mothers.) Honor, Homage, Reverence, Deference mean respect and esteem shown to another. Honor may apply to the recognition of one's right to great respect... Homage adds the implication of accompanying praise... Reverence implies profound respect mingled with love, devotion... Deference implies a yielding or submitting to another's judgement or preference out of respect or reverence. As mother or child, may we receive and give the honor due because while we are fierce, we are also fragile; while we protect, we need to be protected; and while we take care, we need care too. A mother's heart is her family and a family's heart is its mother. Be very careful with both heart and family.

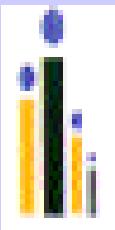
Peace be unto you!

Pat

Can you imagine what our lives, our children's lives and our community life would be like if respect was promoted by all?

or a small celebration of great women."

It's April 2000. It's National Black Sister Month. It's a small, very small, heartfelt celebration. And the women are great. The ribbon? A double ribbon, metallic gold and silver. Gold to symbolize respect and silver representing family and community. Everything should begin with respect, family should be everything and community should prosper as a result of the two. RESPECT - (an act of giving particular attention to: consideration - concern; to have high or special regard for someone or something; to refrain from interfering with) FAMILY- (the basic unit in society traditionally consisting of two parents rearing their own or adopted children) COMMUNITY - (a body of persons or nations having a common history or common social and economic



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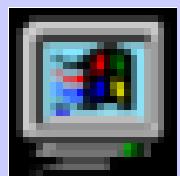
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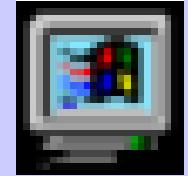
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