

R E S I D E N T S '

Journal

A publication for and by the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority August 1998 /Volume 2/Number 4



**Special Section
CHA Youths Visit Israel, Ghana**

Haymarket House AD

Index

PAGES 4:

Robert Taylor: The Man, The Homes....by Marsha Smallwood

PAGE 5:

Cabrini Cliffhanger....by Cecelia A. Clark

PAGE 6:

All Things Old and New at Harold Ickes Homes...by Jacqueline Thompson

PAGE 7:

RJ Visits the Miami/Dade Housing Authority (Spanish)....Con Julio Martinez

PAGE 8:

HUD Head: CHA off Troubled List....by Andre Robinson

PAGE 9:

Hi Ho Dobbin Away....by John "Popcorn" Sampson

PAGE 10:

Ida B. Wells Reunion....by Mary C. Johns

PAGE 11:

ABLA Homes Update...by Karen Owens

PAGE 13-14:

Urban Youth International Journalism Section Youths Tour Israel

PAGE 15-18:

A Special Advertising Section about CHA's Resident Programs Division

PAGE 19-20:

Urban Youth International Journalism Program Youths Tour Ghana

PAGE 21:

Altgeld Gardens News....by Sharon Fornizy

PAGE 22:

Access Report....by Thomas Merriweather Healing Time in Rockwell...by Melinda Robinson

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O u r M i s s i o n

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

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

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.

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Editor's Box

by Ethan Michaeli

sure articles did not incite violence against Israelis.

Today, after years of the Middle East Peace Process, *Al Quds* goes through the same kind of review as any publication in Israel, including the *Jerusalem Report*.



Dr. Abu Zalaf emphasized to us

that his reporters work side-by-side with reporters in Israel's extremely active print media. Like journalists everywhere, they try to scoop each other when possible and cooperate when it's practical.

The publication which moved me the most, however, was the *Daily Graphic*, the largest newspaper in Ghana. Before I first toured the *Graphic's* offices in downtown Accra, I bought a copy from the numerous street vendors who sell a wide variety of independent newspapers curbside. Indeed, I later learned that is how the vast majority of the daily copies of the

The Daily Graphic

Graphic reach their readers.

Part of the goal of the Urban Youth International Journalism Program was to overcome stereotypes, be they about Israelis, Palestinians or Africans. But I must admit that I brought my own preconceptions to the door of the *Graphic*.

I expected a publication struggling with old equipment and a staff inexperienced in the realities of the modern Free Press. Instead, I found a modern, well-run operation that uses state-of-art equipment, even if it is buried under the piles of paper that typify any newsroom. The reporters and editors that I met were likewise tough-nosed reporters who were used to asking tough questions, digging out the truth and churning out their articles with just minutes to spare before deadline.

The *Jerusalem Report* covers the Arab side of the Middle East peace process, however, with Palestinian and Arab writers who risk their reputations and sometimes their safety to bring the news to the *Report's* mostly Jewish, North American readers.

Two days later, we visited *Al Quds*, a renowned Palestinian newspaper that is read throughout the Arabic-speaking Middle East. Dr. Marwan Abu Zalaf, the editor of *Al Quds* told us about the difficulties of running a Palestinian newspaper under the Israeli government. In the past, each issue of *Al Quds* had to be reviewed by Israeli military before publication to make

If anything, the *Graphic* is an excellent example of the relationship any publication should have with its readership. Ghana is a nation where television has not really taken over the way it has in the United States. The street vendors sell hundreds of thousands of copies every day and it is not unusual to see a passerby purchase two or three competing papers. People count on their newspapers to get the news that will affect their lives.

Ican only promise that we at **RJ** will

strive to have that relationship with our readers.

Thank you to our Sponsors

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Robert Taylor: The Homes/The Man

by Marsha Smallwood

By the end of summer, three more high rises in the Robert Taylor Homes will be just a thing of the past. 3919 S. Federal Street was number one to make demolition history. Next is the infamous "Hole," 5326 and 5322 S. State streets and 5323 S. Federal.

Based at the Robert Taylor Boys and Girls Club, 5120 S. Federal, the Local Advisory Council (LAC) is responsible for assisting residents with various activities. CHA and U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) officials worked with the LAC to create a strategic plan for the redevelopment of the Robert Taylor Homes. The plan is posted above the Xerox machine for public information. Also, there's a CHA Executive Summary released by Wendell Campbell Associates Inc. that goes into further detail about the redevelopment project.

CHA and HUD's plan is to demolish all the buildings in Robert Taylor within a 5-year period. The overall plan is to redevelop all the high-rise projects for the new millennium: Cabrini Green, Robert Taylor and Stateway Gardens. The dates are not etched in stone, however. The goal is to have mixed-income communities in all these areas.

The History

About 50 years before the high-rise projects were thought of or constructed, there was a man who fought tooth and nail against massive, racially segregated high-rise projects. His name was Robert Rochon Taylor. Taylor was appointed vice chairman of the CHA Board of Commissioners in 1938. Taylor built housing



Closeup view of Robert Taylor building being demolished.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

during and after World War II for wartime workers and veterans. He also helped manage a large housing project established by Julius Rosenwald (a famous architect) for African Americans and was secretary/treasurer of a savings and loan association.

Taylor believed that if African Americans saved and invested enough money, they could solve their own housing problems.

As the executive, he helped finance homes outside all Black segregated areas. He wanted to keep public housing small and integrated.

In 1946, the county was confronted with the idea of racial integration in public housing. CHA provided Black veterans and their families units in the temporary housing projects in white areas of the city whose alderman swore publicly to never let any Blacks in. Taylor met the

opposition of Mayor Martin Kennelly and the aldermen who would accept only a small number of African Americans.

"I put up a big fuss about the idea to any quota at all. I talked a lot about freedom and so forth. But I was not too worried. I knew what had happened in those projects that were supposed to be 50-50; the whites had never moved in and so they had become all-Negro projects. I figured that more than 30 percent Black wouldn't work but between 10 and 30 would work all right. More than 30 percent would tip it over." - Robert R. Taylor

Taylor Resigns

The Housing Act of 1949 provided great funding for public housing construction but site selection was limited by controversy.

In 1953, the spread of displaced African Americans alarmed the politicians. The Planning Commission passed a resolution urging that the redevelopment of slum areas be discontinued. The council accepted City Hall's compromise and Taylor resigned from the board. CHA constructed the high rise projects in spite of Taylor's knowledge, dedication, loyalty and hard work. Robert Taylor died in 1957, three years before construction of the development that was named in his honor.

Robert Taylor Homes Today

The Robert Taylor Homes are currently the single largest development of public housing in the world. There are 12,645 residents who are predominantly Black. The average household size of families living there is 3.8, the largest of any CHA development. Nearly 60 percent of the residents are children 14 years of age and younger.

According to age and gender statistics from CHA's 1995 Statistical Profile, about 50 percent of these female children are ages 0-14. Almost 80 percent of residents ages 15 and over are single Black females.

Isn't it Ironical?

Isn't it ironic? Taylor predicted that buildings with more than 30 percent African Americans would become all Black and destitute. The majority of the residents do not qualify for jobs in the community. Most of the businesses in the neighborhood are owned and operated by people from other neighborhoods. Residents have limited resources and assets. An estimated 93 percent of all children in Robert Taylor live in deep poverty. Nearly three quarters of all households rely on Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), now called Transitional Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), as a source of income. Overall, 98 percent of Taylor households receive some form of public assistance.

Save Public Housing

On June 10, the Coalition to Save Public Housing rallied downtown in front of HUD headquarters on Jackson Boulevard and Dearborn Street.

I went expecting to see thousands of people flooding the streets and stopping traffic. To my surprise, only a few hundred participated. More disappointing, I didn't see enough residents of public housing or those on Section 8.

Do we as residents feel that it's a "done deal" or that our voices are not heard and that our votes don't count? Believe me, if one of you thinks like this, there are a thousand more with this same negative thinking.

What happened to that "ain't no stopping us now" spirit Mayor Harold Washington instilled in us? Some of you may feel comfortable with Section 8 certificates but what are you going to do if the certificate expires and you can't afford to pay rent? There is power in numbers and we all must unite. United we stand, divided we fall. The rally was not just about public housing. It was about affordable housing and a desire for a long-term plan for the future.

We owe it to Dr. Martin Luther King and all the Civil Rights workers who died for our constitutional rights. But we mostly owe it to ourselves. Personally, I



A Demolition Truck hauls away debris from Robert Taylor building.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

think we owe it to Robert R. Taylor who fought against building high rise projects in the beginning. Let's not let his hard work go in vain or forget him and what he stood for.

Other Opinions

I asked a couple of people what they thought about the demolition project and what Robert Taylor stood for. The following comments came from a resident who wants to remain anonymous. She raised her children and grandchildren in Robert Taylor Homes and is respected by everyone who knows her. As a matter of fact, all children in her building call her "Gra-Ma":

"It's good because the crime has deterred. There are no more gang wars and the heavy drug traffic stopped."

"As the relocation is concerned, the people were satisfied with their placement. Some were placed out of state and over east."

"The people whose rent was not up to par were transferred to 4848 S. State because CHA couldn't put them out and the landlords wouldn't take them."

This resident agreed with Mr. Taylor that they shouldn't build the buildings in the first place and put all these people on top of each other. I asked her if she thought that the new apartment complexes that will be built on the site of Robert Taylor Homes should be renamed the new Robert Taylor Homes.

"No," she replied.

"You and I both know that once all these buildings on the State Street corridor are torn down, all the rich white people will move in. If you don't have a decent job and cannot afford to pay the rent, you can forget it."

Joseph Saunders, a community organizer of the Youth Task Force, said: "As much as I know about the annihilation of the Robert Taylor Homes, all in all, I believe it will do more destruction than construction. The cancellation of welfare recipients, the Bronzeville redevelopment, the beautification of King Drive and State – this was a beautification not for the good of the community but only for the convention in August.

"There's enough money to invest in flowerpots on the sidewalks rather than homeless in vacant lots. Now this with the Taylor Homes," Saunders said.

"It seems from a long-term point of view that as others move in, a people are being pushed out. In one word or less, it's all bogus. Yes, the crime will cease and drugs will decrease but only in that area. It will only be moved elsewhere."

Saunders concluded, "From the physical eye, everything seems righteously done but from the spiritual, everything is crookedly compounded."

(Sources: Bowly, the Poorhouse: Subsidized Housing in Chicago, 1895-1976, 1978: Chicago Housing Authority 1995 Statistical Profile, July 1996; Chicago Department of Health, The Robert Taylor Initiative Working Paper, August 1995; Banfield-Myerson, Politics, Planning & Public Interest.)

Cabrini Cliffhanger

ate in July, CHA and the Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council signed an agreement that would allow for the demolition of six more public housing high-rises in exchange for resident control

Lover the redevelopment. Under the agreement, residents would get 51 percent interest in the general partnership that would redevelop a large part of Cabrini. That partnership plans to build more than 2,000 units, of which 900 would go to people who qualify for public housing.

But the agreement was blocked on July 30 when federal Judge Marvin Aspen said the Habitat Company must agree to all public housing redevelopment. The legal battles continue.

In the following article, RJ correspondent Cecelia A. Clark covers one presentation of what a portion of the Near North community could look like in the near future and how these plans will affect residents.



This building at 1150 - 1160 N. Sedgwick may come down under the agreement reached by residents and CHA.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

Near North Redevelopment Halsted North in Cabrini

The plans to redevelop Cabrini-Green could benefit a lot of residents. But in my surveys and conversations, I found that very few residents know anything about the redevelopment. I stopped many residents at random on the south end of Cabrini-Green and asked them about RMCs (resident management corporations), new jobs in the community and private management. Nobody was certain what was going to happen, who it was going to happen to or when.

At the beginning of this month, I attended a meeting for Cabrini-Green residents about a small fraction of what lies ahead for the community.

The Steppenwolf Theater, 1650 N. Halsted St., was the setting for an early morning community meeting Aug. 8 with Cabrini-Green residents, including Local Advisory Council members. We attended the community meeting to hear presentations by two development companies.

The currently-vacant Halsted North area is bounded by Division on the south and North Avenue on the north along Halsted Street on the west and the line which used to be Ogden Avenue on the east.

Visual plans for the redevelopment were on display in a reception area for everyone to view.

City Housing Commissioner Julia Stasch gave opening remarks and explained that the theater was chosen because it was a comfortable, available space.

Ald. Walter Burnett (27) explained his support for the redevelopment: "I had to block out all emotions to do what was best for the community."

Burnett also talked about how Cook County Recorder of Deeds Jessie White approved of what he was doing.

"I want to thank all of you for coming because your input is very important," Burnett told the 60 or so people who came to the event.

"This has always been a mixed community with people from all nationalities and economical backgrounds."

Cora Moore, Cabrini-Green's Local Advisory Council president, said, "I'm glad to see the residents here today. This is a great day and opportunity. Great experiences are about to happen around Cabrini-Green."

Moore also asked the residents to pay attention because their input was very important.

The Presenters

Southwest Old Town Development Associates included Chicago-based firms MCL Companies, Dan McLean, principal; LR Development Company, Bruce Abrams, principal; Granite Development Corporation, Joseph Williams and Larry Huggins, principals; Wrightwood Development, Mickey Brown, principal; S&Z Development Co, Michael Supera and Richard Zisook, principals; and Roy H. Kruse & Associates, Roy Kruse, principal.

Southwest Old Town's proposal called for the construction of 270 units, 50 percent (or 134 units) of which would be market rate. Twenty percent (or 55 units) would be affordable rentals and 30 percent (or 81 units) would be reserved for CHA residents. After the presentation, the floor was opened for questions and comments.

Residents wanted to know why Dan McLean wasn't at the meeting? McLean is a developer who built Mayor Richard M. Daley's home in South Loop a few years ago. More recently, he has been heavily involved in the redevelopment directly around Cabrini-Green and he has made numerous proposals about tearing down Cabrini buildings and replacing them with a mixed-income community.

Though many of the residents at the meeting had heard of McLean, they never learned why he wasn't at the meeting.

Margo Crawford, a former principal of Depaul University Alternative High School, which was housed at Near North High School until it closed, had this to say: "Dan McLean, along with others, was instrumental in closing this program." Crawford added, "The school was honoring and respecting the community's wishes when Depaul told me, 'There is no community and you don't have to respect anything in Cabrini. This is only in your mind.'"

Crawford warned everyone in attendance to be watchful of anyone connected to Depaul University.

Al Carter of the Al Carter Youth Foundation had this to say: "With all the deception going on, I don't see Dan McLean getting this contract."

Up next was the Holsten-Kenard Redevelopment Plan. The Holsten Real Estate Development Corporation and the Kenard Corporation have more than 20 years of experience building housing in various neighborhoods throughout the city, according to their literature.

Their proposal called for the construction of 271 units, with 82 units of public housing, 54 units of affordable housing and 135 units of market-rate housing. The units would be in mid-rise and four-story buildings as well as six flats, townhomes and single family units.

The residents' concerns were jobs, accessible units as well as public housing units and the size of these units. After the meeting, there were breakout sessions for more input on issues of: Architectural Design and Site Planning; Housing Cost and Affordability; Chicago Housing Authority issues; General Near North Redevelopment; and Community Job Training and Economic Development.

Input from breakout sessions was evaluated by the panel. The hosts of the event said the outcome of the breakout sessions would be shared at a later date and time.

A Word of Advice

RJ will keep bringing you the 'scoops' from Cabrini-Green.

But residents: you need to start holding everyone accountable. Start attending meetings. Ask your Local Advisory Council for information about all of these new ideas coming into the community.

During this meeting, one of the developers told me they already had residents lined up for construction jobs. That was the first I had heard about new jobs for residents.

Very few residents know how or when private management is taking over. This is also important information that every resident needs to have.

At the end of a TV series, there is always an exciting cliffhanger which has the viewers on the edge of their seats. Who shall it be? The Southwest Old Town Development or the Holsten-Kenard redevelopment for Halsted North? What will the judge's final decision for Cabrini be? Will each and every resident of Cabrini ever be informed as these events unfold or shall they have to obtain it at the beginning of next year's fall series?

by Jacqueline Thompson

THE BEFORE TURNS TO...

In the fall of 1997, all of the security guard houses in each of the nine seven-story buildings of Harold L. Ickes Homes were abandoned. Some of the security stations, which had been constructed in the middle of the first floor lobbies, were boarded up while others were wide open to any and all possible dangers. Many of us felt that we were held hostage by the abandoned security posts.

scene.

I personally appreciate the new manicured landscape conversion because it is in keeping with the overall new housing building boom that is adjacent to our public housing property.

The revitalization continued well into portions of each building. The lobbies were completely renovated with new floor tiles, light fixtures, grilled metal doorways and windows. All fire lanes and parking areas were leveled and re-paved.

The final piece of the revitalization took place on June 30, opening day for the Midnight Basketball Stadium. Mayor Richard



Mayor Daley greeting residents at the Harold Ickes opening.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

All Things Old and New



Harold Ickes Homes' new basketball court.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

Vanessa Battle: "The beautification of the grounds is a good thing. However, if the tenants do not show appreciation by showing the children how to treat the new surroundings with care, within a short time it will look crummy again."

Kat Johnson: "The kids needed something. They had no playground. It's a whole lot better than it was."

JoAnn Williams: "It's OK. I could care less. It doesn't seem to make any difference. They're still shooting when they want to. Crime is still rampant."

Gladys Richman: "The manicure of the grounds is good but we need our apartments revitalized. After 40 years, I would welcome new fixtures in my place."

Speaking with Doreather E. Washington, deputy director of CHA's Modernization Department, I was overwhelmed with her sincerity and love for her job and the people who worked with her. She explained to me that the renovation was a real challenge: she received only five weeks notice before the initial ground breaking.

at Harold Ickes Homes

On either side were the in and out dark passages where the residents were at risk day or night every time they used them.

Broken door jams and broken light fixtures created a hazard for young children trying to go outside to play on broken swings, dilapidated monkey bars, sliding boards and busted up toddler barrels. Even the grounds were uneven and treacherous.

Revitalization began in spring 1998. The guard houses were sledge-hammered down, the old floor tile was ripped up, useless security screens and metal detectors were trashed. The ball was pitched; change and improvement started to roll.

Mixed Feelings

Mixed feelings from residents mar the beauty and serenity of the well-laid plans that converted patches of unused and misused vacant areas into a bright picture of urban revitalization.

Brick pillars mark the lengths of heavy wrought iron fencing and gateways. Berry-laden trees are lined just behind the fencing and serve as a background for low-lying rows of blooming yellow flowering plants.

New concrete terraces spread out in front of clean double tee buildings. In the center of each is a multi-function tot lot boasting multi-colored frames above soft wood chips spread for safety.

Adjacent to the tot lot is a single permanent basketball hoop with backboard and curved safety post to complete the recreational area.

Sturdy but comfortable benches dot the ample terrace where parents can watch their children play. New sod enhances the whole area and completes an engaging

M. Daley, CHA Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner and others cut the ribbons to open the new Midnight Basketball Stadium. It was a great celebration to mark the completion of the outdoor revitalization program and to open the only facility of its kind in America.

Residents' Statements

Here's what the Local Advisory Council President and some of the other residents said about the revitalization:

Gloria Williams, LAC President: "I'm so happy they finally chose Ickes to put the Midnight Basketball stadium in. We had been promised a lot of material things but seldom were they sent."

Khaliq (Shaky) Battle, 16: "It's a good place to meet new people. It will bring other developments together socially and friendly."

Nolan Birden, 26: "I grew up in Ickes. I'm glad for the change. It was needed. The whole area: playgrounds, park terraces and parking lot. The changes are much better. It makes the community look better. It makes the passersby look at us with new thoughts:

Perhaps we did something to deserve this. I just hope the adults help the children take care of the new surroundings."

Her face became a glow of happiness as she poured out the joy, energy and commitment to professionalism that took hold of each foreman and each laborer as they worked long and unusual hours to complete such a massive undertaking in just three weeks.

Washington also revealed in our conversation her affection for the residents of public housing and the pride that was felt in being in position to work to effect a change to improve the quality of life for them. She also said: "I believe that our people must rise to the occasion to accept change and to know that it's good, even though it's painful."



The renovation of Harold Ickes Homes included the construction of a new playlot.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

la Agencia de Vivienda Pública de Miami/Dade

Con Julio A. Martinez

A fines del mes de junio, el personal del periódico Residents' Journal de la CHA asistió a la Convención Nacional de Periodistas Hispanos en Miami y aprovechó la oportunidad para visitar a la autoridad de vivienda pública para Miami, la Agencia de Vivienda de Miami/Dade. Entre los participantes se encontraban el editor del Journal, Ethan Michaeli, la interna del Journal Brenda Alvarez, el Representante de la CHA para los Asuntos de la Comunidad Latina, William Velázquez, y su servidor.

Fuimos recibidos muy cordialmente por los ejecutivos de esta agencia. Tuvimos el gusto de reunirnos con el personal ejecutivo, entre ellos se encontraba Rene Rodriguez, director ejecutivo de la Agencia de Vivienda de Miami/Dade, William Calderin, especialista en recur-

vo de los residentes Latinos con esta agencia. Yo me quedé sorprendido de ver a estos residentes tan alegres y orgullosos de sus viviendas y pude notar la hermandad que conllevan todos ellos y lo bonito y limpio que mantienen su comunidad. El Sr. Rodriguez nos dijo que la meta de ellos es la de atraer a diferentes razas a la vivienda pública aparte de los afro-americanos.

"Nosotros damos mucha información a las personas mayores de edad a través de la radio y dicha información nos dió un resultado muy positivo," dijo Sra. Thompson. "Tenemos 10,888 unidades de viviendas públicas y el programa Sección 8 tiene 15,000 unidades." Dice el Sr. Rodriguez que a él le gustaría tener un periódico como el de los residentes de la CHA pero que sus residentes no son tan sofisticados como los



Palm trees complete the tropical landscape at Miami's Haley Sofge Senior Housing Development.

altos en la Agencia de Vivienda Miami/Dade son de 13 pisos y que en las comunidades de vivienda pública administradas por la agencia el 90% son afro-americanos. La comunidad que participa en el programa Sección 8 es más de un 50% Latina, y el 80% de esa comunidad son cubanos y el resto nicaraguenses, dominicanos y puertorriqueños. Pero actualmente el programa está cambiando porque la gente está resolviendo su estatus, resultando en que el número de años de las familias en la vivienda pública sea de 10 a 15 años. La reducción del 45% de crímenes relacionados con drogas se debe a la póliza de "Un Strike y Estas Fuera".

Estos residentes de la comunidad Haley Sofge tienen un salón de belleza muy bonito y



RJ intern Brenda Alvaraz (from left), RJ correspondent Julio Martinez, Alicia Diaz, President of Haley Sofge Resident Association, Jose A. Echevarria, President of Miami's Three Round Towers Resident Association, William Calderin, Metro-Dade Housing Agency Community Resource Specialist, Rosa Castro, Treasurer of the Haley Sofge Resident Association and Chicago Housing Authority Special Assistant in Latinos Relations William Velazquez.

sos para la comunidad de personas mayores de edad, Tawana Thompson, encargada del desarrollo económico de los residentes, Alvin Moore, encargado del programa de Auto-suficiencia Familiar, Sara Mc Leod, oficial de información pública, Alicia Díaz, presidenta de la Asociación de Residentes del Complejo Haley Sofge. El propósito de nuestra visita fue buscar algunas ideas y ver como trabajan los programas de la Agencia de Vivienda de Miami/Dade y compararlos con los programas de la CHA.

Sr. Bill Velázquez les comentó a los ejecutivos de Miami/Dade de la demanda legal que los líderes comunitarios hispanos en Chicago pusieron en contra HUD y de la CHA para que la comunidad hispana tuviera más información sobre las actividades de estas agencias y estás que tuvieran personal bilingüe en sus oficinas. Sr. Alvin Moore nos habló del envolvimiento posi-

de Chicago porque el problema mayor que se presenta es el del analfabetismo.

"El estado de la Florida había aprobado el programa de 'Welfare to Work' un año antes que el gobierno federal y como resultado de ello la gente que sabe leer se ha estado mudando de la vivienda pública. Otra cosa que la gente no ve es que las personas mayores de edad levantan una segunda y tercera generación familiar y que son ellos los únicos que están dispuestos a trabajar."

Sr. Velázquez comentó que Miami se está preparando para

enfrentar el mismo problema de discriminación que Chicago, pero con un punto de vista diferente. En Miami la discriminación fue contra afro-americanos y en Chicago fue contra Latinos.

Dice el Sr. Velázquez que hay un decreto de consentimiento con la comunidad Latina en Chicago que requiere la creación de una lista remedial exclusivamente para Latinos para el programa Sección 8. Los 15,000

solicitantes en esta lista contiene los nombres de personas que fueron elegibles para el programa desde 1974, estas personas recibirán vales y certificados para el programa en los siguientes

4 años. El Sr. Velázquez explicó que ahora la barrera que la CHA necesita superar es la falta de información dirigida a los dueños de edificios, ya que estos tienen miedo rentarle a personas de este programa. Pero ahora el programa va a funcionar mejor y más rápido gracias al nuevo personal del programa Sección 8 que se dedica a informar a los dueños de propiedades.

El Sr. Rodriguez comentó que los edificios más

por lo que vimos tienen una buena clientela y también tienen un pequeño supermercado en su propia comunidad, así es que todo está a su alcance y no tienen que salir a comprar fuera de su comunidad. Fuimos al comedor donde había una concurrencia de personas mayores de edad. Muy bien vestidos y contentos, quizás porque rara vez tienen visitas de otros estados, yo también me sentí contento de verlos disfrutando de nuestra visita. Cuando yo les estaba dando mi pequeño discurso, pude notar lo atento y respetuosos que son todos ellos. Cuando terminé de hablarles, me dirigí a una ancianita, que me miró directamente a los ojos y yo dije mentalmente "Esa mente debe de ser una enciclopedia que encierra años de experiencia y se ve que podría utilizarse muy bien en los tiempos actuales."

No sabíamos los que somos fanáticos de los Chicago Bulls que en Miami tiene muchos seguidores. Esta gente son fanáticos de los Bulls. Bueno, cuando nos fuimos a despedir, les estreché la mano en amistad y cariño pero me dijeron "Así no. Usted nos tiene que dar un beso." Y así nos despedimos de estas personas tan amables. Gracias amigas y amigos de Miami. El Residents' Journal y La Autoridad de Vivienda de Chicago les dice "¡Adios!"



Miami resident Nery Mezerene, manager of the Beauty Parlor which is located within the Miami Haley Sofge Senior Housing Development takes time out to pose.

English version
of this story on page 27

HUD Head: CHA off Troubled List

by Andre Robinson

U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Andrew Cuomo came into Chicago Aug. 1 to announce that HUD has removed the Chicago Housing Authority from the list of Troubled Housing Authorities and will return control of the CHA to the City of Chicago within eight months.

The transition back to local control began in mid-August and a new Housing Authority Board of Commissioners will be appointed in seven to eight months, Cuomo said during a visit to Henry Horner Homes.

"For the first time since we began the current rating system for housing authorities in 1979, the Chicago Housing Authority is not on HUD's list of trouble public housing authorities," Cuomo said. "This major achievement shows that the partnership HUD formed with Mayor Daley and with CHA residents and staff to turn around the Authority has succeeded. Together, we've improved living conditions for residents and created new opportunities for them to get education, training and jobs that will help more become self-sufficient."

"This isn't the end of the process, it's the beginning," Cuomo said. "The tenants, the new, hard-working management and the people of Chicago don't think this is as good as it gets and neither do I. Now that the CHA is no longer on HUD's list of trouble housing authorities, we can move forward to begin

returning control of the CHA where it belongs - to the people of Chicago. This city has earned the right to run its own housing authority."

The federal government took control of CHA in May 1995. Joseph Shuldiner, then the second in command at HUD, was charged with administering the day-to-day affairs at CHA while Edwin Eisendrath, then the HUD Secretary's regional representative, took the role of a one-man board. CHA scored 64.69 out of a possible 100 points on HUD's new Public Housing Management Assessment Program. When HUD took control of CHA in 1995, CHA's score was just 51. Under the rating system, which measures performance by public housing authorities in eight areas, any authority scoring below 60 is classified as troubled. HUD classifies only 51 of the nation's 3,400 public and Indian housing authorities as troubled. The Public Housing Management Assessment Program measures the performance of public housing authorities in the following areas: 1) Percentage of vacant apartments and the time it takes to fill vacant apartments. 2) Management of the modernization program to upgrade apartments. 3) The success of rent collection efforts. 4) Performance of repairs and general maintenance on apartments. 5) Adequacy of physical inspections of apartments performed by a housing authority. 6) Overall financial management. 7) Programs to help residents become self-sufficient by providing such things as education, job training and child care. 8) Anti-crime efforts, including use of HUD's Drug Elimination



Hilliard Improvements: CHA Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner (from left), Mayor Richard M. Daley and Hilliard Homes Local Advisory Council President Maner Jean Wiley inspect improvements to landscape and other external conditions during a June 13 event.

Photo by John Brooks

Grants, working with local police and carrying out the One Strike program to keep criminals out of public housing and remove those already there. HUD is providing operating subsidies of almost \$184 million to the CHA this year.

Cuomo's other major announcement Aug. 1 was that Rosanna Marquez has been appointed the Secretary's Representative for the Midwest Region, replacing Edwin Eisendrath.

"Rosanna Marquez brings a wealth of experience and dynamic leadership skills to the position of Secretary's Representative for the Midwest," Cuomo said. "In this position, Rosanna will assure that HUD works as an active partner with local government, the private sector and non-profit groups to tackle the many challenges facing the region."

Marquez is a native Chicagoan with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors. She most recently worked as a Cabinet-level senior advisor to Mayor Richard M. Daley. Cuomo said Marquez spearheaded several initiatives, including efforts that lead to Chicago's designation by the Clinton Administration as one of six federal Empowerment Zones. She also served for the last three years as Mayor Daley's representative on CHA's five-member Executive Committee.

"I am very grateful to Secretary Cuomo and President Clinton for giving me the opportunity to serve the people of this six state region," Marquez said.

"These are very exciting times for our Department, with many challenges ahead. I will work to deliver on the Secretary's efforts to make HUD a results-driven agency that works proactively with state and local governments, community groups and the real estate industry at large."

Marquez lives in Chicago with her husband. She is a graduate with honors from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and of the Harvard Law School.

Cuomo became Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in January 1997. During his tenure, Cuomo has cracked down on landlords who collect money improperly from HUD. As a result, the amount of HUD money recovered from landlords rose from \$18 million in 1996 to \$25 million in 1997. Cuomo produced a study in 1998 of "worst-case" housing needs that found about 12.5 million very low income people pay over half their incomes for rent or live in severely substandard housing. Cuomo has made it a priority to strengthen HUD's partnerships.

These are some of the programs that have poured out HUD in the last year and a half. But as Cuomo said after visiting Robert Taylor Homes, there is still a lot more to clean up. As long as people are still living in filth and fear, our job is not even close to being complete.

WASHBURN

DAWSON

Hi Ho Dobbin Away

by John "Popcorn" Sampson

onday, May 18, was far and away the most delightful day that Chicago citizens had seen in a barrel of Sundays. At just past seven in the morning, the temperature dilly dallied around 70 degrees, a glowing warm morning sun gave the early risers a sense of new birth and an aura of joy without end. All the while, a docile Southern breeze waltzed along the sandy shores of an azure Lake Michigan.

I scrambled out of bed an hour or so before the proverbial cock could crow, fumbled my way into my humble kitchen, put a pot of coffee on, a serving of grits, prepared a breakfast of sausages and eggs. After my morning meal, I made my way by bus to our point of departure. I disembarked at Lawrence and Damen and - to my nonplus - I was one of the very first ones at the Levy Center that was going on the safari.

The Joseph and Sarah Levy Center was so named by a grateful city Department on Aging in appreciation for their humanitarian generosity. Ever since it opened in 1980, the Levy Center has been a source of hope and a guiding light for Chicago's weary, wayward and ailing senior citizens.

The Levy Center has been a Mecca of care and comfort for an untold number of elderly people searching for a place to meet and greet folks who in all probability have had a similar kismet in life.

At noon every day in the center's huge dinning room, the staff rolls out the welcome mat and serves its guests well-rounded, nutritious meals for \$1. The food is given freely if a person cannot pay.

Once the midday meal is over, the dinning room often becomes a theater. A play is presented or there are card games of many flavors or chess games and/or

cream and cake! But then, our picnic was foiled and spoiled by what seemed to be an unending stretch of highway that was under construction. That decelerated our expeditious velocity down to a tortoise promenade. However, with a bit of patience and fortitude, Smokey made it to Lake Forest Oasis, our first rest stop. Our stay was a short one; we had just enough time to run to the bathroom, grab a sandwich at Wendy's and then saddle up for a ride into the Western horizon. It was near high noon when Smokey veered off I-94 onto Illinois 173 and went rolling merrily along through a dreamlike scenario of hills, dales and rabbit trails. I had been in this neck of the woods many times, not merely because it is my favorite fishing sector but because this portion of Illinois is the most picturesque in the magnificent "Land of Lincoln." For my two cents,



70 year old senior housing resident Lia Fink taking it easy, enjoying the horse ride.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

the area has an August splendor that rivals the hue and cry of Wisconsin, the beautiful, awesome and beloved land of dreams and streams.

The Chain O' Lakes State Park is located in Lake County. Lake County, by the way, lies on the extreme Northeast corner of Northwestern Illinois, bounded on the north by Wisconsin, on the east by Lake Michigan, on the south by Cook County and on the west by McHenry County. Lake County boasts 40 inland lakes as well as an array of rivers and lesser waterways. The county is 23 ½ miles long and encompasses 475 square miles.

It was just a tad past noon when we turned off Wilmont Road and into the State Park. I was surprised to see so many other seniors that had arrived ahead of us lined up at the office window filling out papers. I saw Arlene Mudrack, a fellow resident of my building and one of the most active, nicest persons in this or any other city. The supervisor of the riding stable was a Lilliputian woman of advanced age with a tendency for giving orders named Carol Adams.

The Chain O' Lakes State Park is open year round. It has 220 campsites, some with electric hookups, showers, boat rental, fishing and playgrounds. One can go hunting from November to mid-December and horseback riding from May to October. Winter-sports minded folks can go snow-mobiling and cross county skiing during the winter months.

Each of the seniors received a number and the name of the horse they were going to ride. When the name of their dobbin (workhorse), mare (female) or gelding (castrated) was called, the senior entered into a diminutive corral, climbed on a table and was hoisted, sometimes after several tries, onto the horse's back by two buxom young women. You would have laughed till you cried tears watching those big girls get the seniors onto the horse's backs.

Once a group of 8 or 10 was assembled, the party hit the trail. The third group - the one that Arlene



Carol Adams (far right) with Senior North Housing residents at Chain O'Lakes retreat.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

checkers.

The Levy Center also affords the seniors with four pool tables and a large room called the 1,2,3 room, where one can sit back and board a magic carpet to the land of nod. Last but not least, one can visit the exercise room, and place that flagging body in the capable hands of my man Larry Haliburton, the Levy Center's fitness connoisseur.

At 9 a.m., Brookie Harcrow, the mother hen for our trip, directed bus driver Kenneth "Smokey" Rahn to the Copernicus Senior Center, 3160 N. Milwaukee Ave., where we picked up a group of 15 additional seniors. After Rahn was sure that everyone was seated safely and securely, he guided the huge brown and yellow vehicle onto the Eden Expressway.

The first 15 miles outside the city limits was ice

Mudrack went out with, met with misfortune. An 84-year-old great grandmother was thrown off the back of the horse she was riding.

When the news of the calamity reached the rest of us, it permeated our hearts and minds of every man and woman with lament and called into question the judgment of those who prescribed this tightrope itinerary for people of such namby pamby viability. I've been told that there is a time and a place for everything under the roof of heaven. With that in mind, common sense dictated, even to a fool like me, that the back of a horse is no place for 84-year-old great grandmother to sit at any time.

God Bless You!

THIS LAND

by John "Popcorn" Sampson

What a sublime, and a most divine, feeling of gratitude,

Accompanied by a profound sense of humility, comes from

Deep within the heart, and the very soul of me, whenever

I take a backward look at the days, and the times, when

Lived them old black grandparents of mine.

How proud I am, so very proud I am, to be the great grandson

Of an old kitchen maid, a cotton field hand, and an old black slave,

A slave who never once forgot that often times great rivers are born of a tiny stream, and monuments are fashioned

from the seams of dreams.

Then, all around, and all about, the whole world can clearly

see what a grand, and glorious reality faith wroughted from

The shreds of a humble fantasy in creating a plot of land

widely known as the promised land.

And the glory of this land fashioned by the labor strong

black hands shall forever, and ever, stand as a monument to

stalwart black hands. So long as the ageless old oak tree

hovers over a grassy leaf, just as long a drop of water

remains in the deep blue sea, so long as heavenly



Senior North residents riding along a path trail at Chain O' Lakes retreat.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

Ida B. Wells Reunion

by Mary C. Johns

The Life Center Church of God in Christ, 5500 S. Indiana Ave., was the place to be Saturday, July 18. The Chicago Housing Authority Alumni Association's Ida B. Wells/Darrow Homes chapter hosted a free Gospel Celebration featuring the Grammy Award-winning gospel singer Albertina Walker, international gospel recording artist Kim Stratton, the CHA Law & Order Band, the New Life Performance Company and the Crumble Sisters. Pastor T.L. Barrett Jr., Sandra Hall, WMAQ-TV NBC 5 Station Relations Director Delores McBain,



CHAAA President, Loistene Woods-Walker, Co-chairpersons Cecelia Peeler, and Pastor T. L. Barret, gospel-award winning singer Albertina Walker, with Co-chairpersons Sandra Hall and Delores McBain.

Photo by Mary C. Johns



The Chicago Housing Authority's Law & Order Band.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Cecelia Peeler and CHA Alumni Association President Loistene Woods-Walker co-chaired the event.

WHO ARE THE CHAAA?

The CHA Alumni Association was founded in 1984 by the late Bernadine C. Washington. The CHAAA is made up of former residents who give back to the community by awarding college scholarships to CHA youths. For seven or eight years following the death of Ms. Washington, the CHAAA had been dormant. But the

"It's good that people don't forget where they came from"
- CHA Alumni Association President Loistene Woods-Walker

growing needs of the residents of public housing sparked the revitalization of the CHAAA in 1995.

According to McBain, the event at Ida B. Wells was a public relations effort.

"The purpose for this event is to draw attention to the Alumni Association," said McBain.

The turnout was low but the people in attendance were having a glorious time. You could see and feel it.

During the celebration, the co-chairpersons took turns speaking and introducing the guests.

SPIRITS SOAR

The first guests were the Crumble Sisters, a gospel group consisting of a mother and three daughters. They sang "What if God is Unhappy with our Praise" a capella.

The emotional expressions on their faces at the song's crescendo really moved me. They were in perfect harmony and it sounded so smooth and clear that I began to meditate on the Lord.

Next came the dancers of the New Life Performance Company. Two young ladies dressed in

ballerina apparel danced elegantly to an instrumental praise and worship song. Not a sound was made during the dance.

In between performances, people were invited to join the CHAAA and scholarship applications were given out.

"It's good that people don't forget where they came from," said Woods-Walker.

Former Ida B. Wells resident McBain talked about the old days when people used to be proud to live in the developments and how some tried to get in, like NBC 5 news anchorman Warner Saunders.

Up next were the CHA Law & Order Band, made up of men and women from the CHA Police Department. They threw down on the song, "I Believe." I was in the center front row and could see and hear every word very clearly, which made me move with praise and adoration. I tell you truly, with just a few in attendance, the whole concert was a sight to behold, especially when the one and only Albertina Walker started. She talked a little bit about how grateful she was to the CHAAA for having her and that she was glad just for the mere fact that the Lord had woken her up another day and blessed her over the years.

She briefly said a few words about the low turn-out: "If the doctors and lawyers that have come from Cabrini alone would acknowledge that fact, this place would be



Sandra Hall, former Ida B. Wells resident, LeClaire Courts resident and gospel recording artist Kim Stratton and Delores McBain, former Ida B. Wells resident.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

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ABLA Homes Update

by Karen Owens

The 9th annual ABLA Family Fun Day was held recently at Addams Park, 15th Street and Loomis Avenue (aka Deverra Beverly Street). The event was sponsored by ABLA's Local Advisory Council and was an official part of Mayor Richard M. Daley's Neighborhood Summer Festivals. The beautiful, warm and sunny weather helped make it a well-received occasion. Thousands of ABLA residents from 2 to 92 years old came out and enjoyed. First-class entertainment was provided: The CHA Ambassador Choir's inspirational up-tempo songs had the crowd in a hand clapping, sing-along mood. The CHA Safe Summer Tour featured spectacular multi-talented youths from ABLA and other developments singing

R&B and rap, performing amazing feats of gymnastics and well-choreographed dance steps. Rappin' Tate, the emcee of the show, did an excellent job of keeping the crowd pumped up. A surprise came when a young man named Enrico gave an exceptional impersonation of superstar Michael Jackson, which left the residents screaming for more.

Free food was served to satisfy

every discerning palate by summer food site workers from CHA's Resident Organizations Department. Give-aways from Community Alternative Policing Strategies (CAPS) and West Side Future programs were very useful as well as balloon art by Coco the Clown, ice-cream treats and on-site registration for Head Start at the Eisenberg Boys and Girls Club.

To culminate the festivities, a free raffle was held for the youths and adults. Bicycles, TVs, VCRs, portable radios, electric fans and various other gifts were all given away. The music kept the crowd delighted as they existed in the park. It truly was an ABLA Family Day.



ABLA LAC Dancers performing for residents at the ABLA Family Day celebration.

Photo by Karen Owens

HARMONY HEALTH CARE

The Joseph Medill Intermediate and Upper Grade Center, 1326 W. 14th Place, closed its doors due to declining enrollment. Medill had the capacity to hold at least 1,300 students but over the years the number of students has dwindled down to a little over 200. The remaining students will have the option of attending Thomas Jefferson School, 1522 W. Filmore St., Jacob A. Riis School, 1018 S. Lytle Ave., or John M. Smyth School, 1059 W. 13th St.

Medill has quite an esteemed and well established history dating back to 1895, when it first opened as a high school. The school was named after the late Joseph Medill (1823-1899), a very scholarly man.

Medill held many important positions within his life. He was a practicing attorney at age 23, backed Abraham Lincoln's presidency, served as a member of the Illinois Constitutional Convention and U.S. Civil Service Commission. More locally, he was mayor of Chicago and editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. Medill believed that hard work, determination and education were the keys to success.

Due to expanding population, Medill became a grammar school in 1946. In 1959, the Medill name was stamped on a new primary school.

The teachers and other staff members traditionally kept up the dedication to hard work that make up the true "Medill Spirit." Medill continued to graduate many students who themselves became successful in their chosen careers.

The Joseph Medill building will continue on in a new function serving as a Chicago Board of Education Central Office Annex, which will house a payroll satellite and training center for its employees starting in October.

CPS



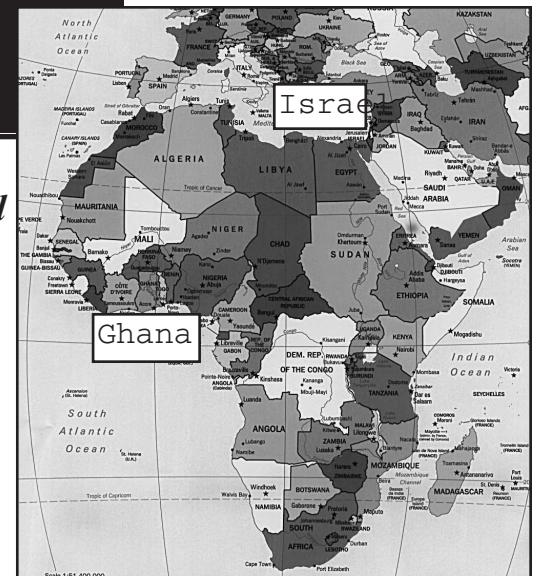
The Trip of a Lifetime



On Saturday, July 18, 16 Chicago Housing Authority teenagers left Chicago to visit Israel and Ghana for 16 days as the culmination of the Urban Youth International Journalism Program, a CHA initiative operated in conjunction with Residents' Journal. Earlier this year, in April, the students took a five day trip to Washington, D.C. Prior to their departure, the youths had gone through seven months of training in the basics of journalism.

While in both Israel and Ghana, the students had an opportunity to interact with youths their own age as well as working journalists, government officials and community activists. They visited many historical sights most people only read about in school or see on television.

The following are the youths' accounts of their journey, which many referred to as "the trip of a lifetime."



Week 1: Israel



A view of the market near the Damascus Gate in Jerusalem.

Photo by John Brooks



Tina Davis (left) and Cassandra Farrow in front of the Wailing Wall.

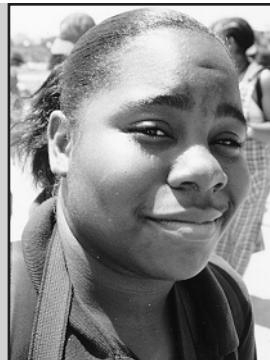
Photo by John Brooks

A Wonderful Experience by Carly Hodges, Age 14

We, my fellow students reporters and myself, left Chicago Saturday, July 18, only on what I can describe or call the trip of a lifetime. First we went to Israel and then to Ghana. It was a wonderful experience for me.

Soon after arriving in Israel we traveled to Jerusalem. There we visited the *Jerusalem Report*, an international magazine, and talked to a man named David Horwitz who told us that cable TV was being stolen from America and is now very popular in Israel. By stolen he meant that the concept of cable television has become popular in this country.

We then visited the Original Holocaust Museum along with program director Ethan Michaeli's mother, who lives in Israel. She told us of her friends who died in the Holocaust. The guide who was showing us around the museum said that the Jews who experienced



the Holocaust "deserved to die because that was their punishment but no one deserves to die in such a cruel way."

Our group visited the Black Hebrew Israelite community in Dimona. We met so many friendly people that it made us feel good. I met a young girl in Dimona named Armonah. She said she heard a lot about the U.S. but had never been there. So we had a conversation about it.

While in Dimona we had an opportunity to observe a Shabbat. The Shabbat is a Jewish religious ceremony beginning sun down Friday to sundown Saturday. Their ceremony included discussion, story telling, reflections of self and the week's past events and eating. We also visited the Dead Sea. This was a very interesting experience. The Dead Sea causes everything that gets in

it to float. The floating is created by the water's high mineral content. Many of us were sad to leave Dimona because we all had become good friends. I'll miss them. We left Israel and flew to Ghana.

Ghana was so beautiful. My first encounter with a Ghanaian was with local journalist. The journalist from Ghana really made me angry. They were talking very bad about America and had never been here. They were basing every thing they said on things they heard and really didn't know if they were true or not.

But just like I heard things about Africa, how people live, act, etc. all the stereotypes, I have now learned are not true. The people of Ghana are just like us.

They are not lying on the streets crying, begging for food and waiting to die like Africans are portrayed on television. Ghana is a wonderful place and I would love to revisit it in the future. Both Ghana and Israel are very educational for anyone young or old. And I feel that everyone who went on this trip has learned something about themselves and others.

Five days from JaToyia's Journal

by JaToyia Alford, Age 17

July 19

The airplane ride was super long. It took 10 hours to get from Chicago to Rome. As hard as I tried to go to sleep, I couldn't. For the 10-hour trip, I sat with my sisters Bonnita (2 Ns for attitude) and Carly; we slept for about an hour. After about an hour of sleep for me and Bonnita, we woke to "The Blues Brothers 2000" playing on the screen ahead of us. It was funny but stupid.

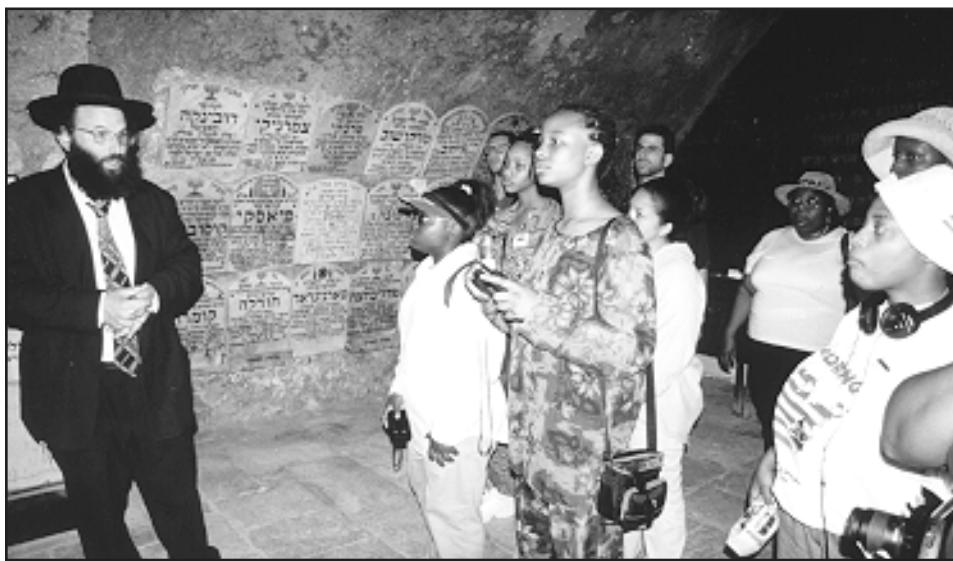
Finally, we arrived in Rome. Things looked a little different. As we stepped off the plane, the warm air just slapped me in the face. We took a bus ride to our connecting flight from Rome to Israel. In the airport, we saw soldiers with huge guns. We checked in at the Jerusalem Tower Hotel in Jerusalem. The elevators are very small and Tina and Cassandra got stuck on one with a lot of their luggage.

About a half an hour later, we went downstairs for dinner and briefing in the hotel. Well it's time to sleep now so I guess that's it until tomorrow.

July 20: Shalom: Sentimental and Holy

Today we went to the Holy City. We saw many wonderful sites. We saw all of the tombstones and temples of kings and queens. I was really amazed. **(Continued on pg. 14)**

A Special Section produced by the Urban Youth International Journalism Program



UYIJP Participants tour the Original Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem.
Photo by John Brooks

Different Means Great

by Crystal Medina, Age 16

Different is the general word to describe my trip overseas to Israel and Ghana. Different in the best sense of the word. Israel was great! The atmosphere, the culture and the food were very different but good.

Our group visited many religious sites. They were beautiful. We visited the Mount of Olives, Dome of the Rock, Damascus Gate, etc.

We also visited two newspapers. At one, the representative talked about what the paper was all about, its readers and some of its most important stories. At the other newspapers, they also talked about all of the above but they also showed us how the paper is printed. The most memorable moment was not exactly the happiest. The one memory that will never be erased from my mind was when we visited the Holocaust Museum and Mrs. Michaeli (RJ Editor-in-Chief Ethan Michaeli's mother) talked to us about her personal experiences during the Holocaust.

We also had the opportunity to meet and interact with kids our age that lived in Dimona, Israel. We shared our culture and they shared theirs.

In Ghana, we had a week to experience its culture. During this time, we visited the Botanical gardens, met with local journalists, shopped in the open air market and toured the countryside by bus. I became very sad while visiting the slave castles. I was standing in the very spot where millions and millions of Africans were shipped from their land like cattle to never return. In the castle, we saw the inhuman shackles the slavers chained the slaves with. Overall, the country of Ghana is very beautiful was a lot of fun.



Crystal Medina
Photo by John Brooks

JaToyia's Journal (Continued from Page 13)

I never thought that I would actually see things that I've read about in the Bible or just heard on television. We saw the Wailing Wall. That's where the Jewish people go and pray. There is one side for women and another side for men. The women have to cover their heads but only if they're married. At the wall, people pray. They write their wishes and prayers on a piece of paper and stick them in the wall. On the men's side, they were having bar mitzvahs for teenage boys. The women would throw candy to them and make clapping rhythms.

After the Old Holocaust Museum, we went back to the hotel and I fell asleep even though I had many distractions. We had dinner and a briefing at the hotel and some action afterwards. We went to the market. There were so many different items to buy. The vendors were so aggressive but I understand it's how some of them make their living and feed their families.

I felt proud of myself for bargaining a man down to 25 shekels from 80 for a ring I bought for my mother.

July 21: "Give me shekel, give me something!"

Today was a pretty interesting day. I did something I thought I never would; I rode a camel. It looked like so much fun but when I saw how high in the air I got, I was shocked. I felt like I was falling. The bogus thing was the man pulling the camel knew I was afraid and tried to make it run.

While conversing and riding, these little boys on donkeys approached us. Everyone thought it was so cute and began tak-



JaToyia Alford
Photo by John Brooks

ing pictures. No one knew that was how these little boys earned their keeps. So one little boy began poking and pushing Carly and Raven. He tried to mess with Tina. He began chanting "Give me shekels, give me something, give me candy, give ice cream."

Afterwards, we went to the Damascus Gate in the Old City. We had to walk through a pathway to get to the Church of the Holy Sepulture. As we walked through the pathway, we saw many different stores. It was a bigger market than the one from the previous evening. Although it was outside, it had a roof and a majority of all the spaces were closed in.

The market looked kind of like an alley and in some areas, it smelled like one. Some of the stores sold candy, chips and drinks or clothes, shoes and jewelry.

Believe it or not, they had a butcher shop right out there too. They had butchered lambs hanging up. Talk about gross! Finally, we reached the Church of the Holy Sepulture. The first thing we saw when we entered was the "slab" where Jesus was placed after he was crucified. Everyone kneeled to touch it and took pictures of it. One man took the liquids between the cracks and began to apply it to his body. I guess it was like ointment. As we walked through, we saw many different things from the days of Christ and a little bit after Christ.

After all of that, we went back to the hotel and ended our day; we still had a long journey to Tiberias tomorrow.

July 22: Long But Satisfying

Today, we took a trip to Tiberias. Now that was a long drive. How about five hours? For most of the trip, everyone slept but we still had our fun. When we arrived in Tiberias, it was so hot. The best thing was that we stayed in a hotel right on the Sea of Galilee. It was so wonderful to see.

We rushed to get in our swimsuits so we could swim in

Israel Journal

Excerpts from
the journal of
Kamari
Thompson,
Age 14

July 18/19

On the first day, we left from 626 W. Jackson Blvd. at about 2:30 p.m. and I experienced the longest plane rides of my life. We were on the plane for 10 hours and finally we arrived at our pre-destination (Rome, Italy) and soon departed for Tel Aviv, Israel.

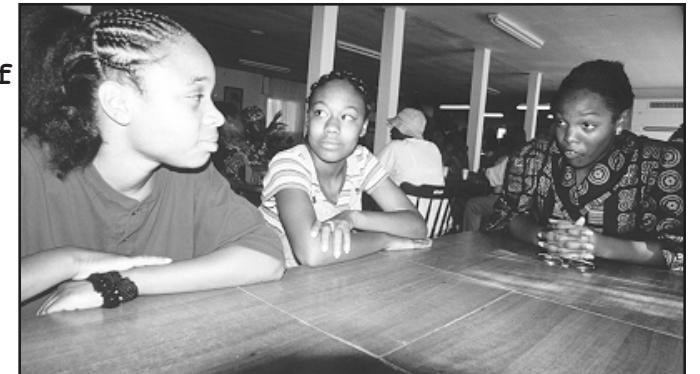
When we arrived, we were greeted by our tour guides and program consultant Eric Payne. After a brief discussion, the group took a bus ride to hotel. We made it to the hotel, which was named the Jerusalem Tower Hotel. After dinner and a briefing, we went to bed.

July 20

Today I woke up at 7 a.m. and I took a bath and got dressed. The group met downstairs for breakfast. After breakfast, we went to the *Jerusalem Report* and had a tour of the office. Later, we toured some of Jerusalem and visited the Wailing Wall and the Old Holocaust Museum. I really enjoyed myself.

July 21

We went to the Foreign Ministry and talked to three men. After the meeting was over, the group got back on the bus and went to lunch. Some of the kids toured sites in Jerusalem. We went to the marketplace and got hustled by a little boy. We saw the stone that Jesus laid on after his crucifixion. Later on we visited a Palestinian newspaper and also got a tour of their office. We went to the



UYIJP Participants Monica Emmons (from left) Kamari Thompson converse with a member of the Hebrew Israelite Village of Peace in Dimona, Israel.

Photo by John Brooks

Mount of Olives and rode camels and Tina almost got jumped on by a little boy on a donkey.

July 23

This morning, I was awakened in our hotel near the Sea of Galilee by a loud knock at the door. After I had gotten up and took a bath and got dressed, I went to breakfast. At first, I had a hard time finding the right dining room but someone soon came and showed me where to go. After breakfast, I went back to my room and prepared to go to the Jordan River.

When we got to the river, we waded in the water and took pictures. After that, we went to the hotel to check out. The next four hours were spent on a bus to Dimona, where we were greeted by some of the residents of the Hebrew Israelite community. We ate dinner and had a tour of the community and their food factory. We came to the hotel and checked in. We lounged for a while and then went to bed.

the sea. When we got to the beach, we were expecting maybe some soft sand but no, we got small rocks. Afterwards, everyone got changed and went to dinner.

July 23: Another Long, but Satisfying Trip

Another long trip. It was cool though. Most of the ride everyone slept. We awoke to see the Dead Sea. A real salty sea. But we kept going until we reached Dimona, where we went immediately to the Hebrew Israelite community. When we got off the bus, everyone was so excited to see us. They had a meal prepared for us after our long bus ride. We all walked to the cafeteria and immediately mingled. I guess I was expecting them to be really different but the saying "never judge a book by its cover" really took action.

I thought they would all have accents and not speak English well. It was amazing to hear them speak and say things just like us. A cool 19-year-old girl named Nahveet sat with us as well as Zoey. Soon they began to serve us.

Our main course; some soul food. That was good. After we ate, we went for a tour of the village. They make their own food and clothes. They are very resourceful.

Afterwards, we went and settled into the dorm-like rooms at the youth hostel. There I took a nice long nap. When I got up, everyone wanted their hair braided and began taking their braids down.

To our surprise, our peers in the community were having a show. So with horrible, half-taken down hair, we went to the show all in hats.

The show was real nice. There was singing and dancing. And to our surprise, our friend Zoey was singing and dancing; she even had a solo.

After the show, we went to the cafeteria for a snack. Everyone just talked and that's when we all just clicked. We all were thinking this was the beginning of many wonderful relationships.

The Division of Resident Programs

Gil Walker is a man who wears many hats and holds many positions but has just one goal: serving Chicago Housing Authority and other city residents. As director of CHA's Resident Programs Division, Walker oversees a staff of hundreds in six departments and a budget of \$22 million in the largest section in the Office of Community Relations and Involvement under CHA Deputy Executive Director Ed Moses.

As commissioner of the National Association of Midnight Basketball Leagues, Walker helps to promote one of the nation's most effective alternatives to street violence. As executive director of the Chicago Inner-City Games, Walker oversees a citywide series of competitive, athletic and educational events in conjunction with Mayor Richard M. Daley and cinema superstar Arnold Schwarzenegger. In each of these roles, Walker is responsible for administering diverse services from child care to drug counseling, summer food distribution to youth sports. For Walker, each of these activities is an effort to prevent the tragedies that so often befall Chicago communities.

"Something very mystical and spiritual happens when you work with residents of the Chicago Housing Authority," Walker said in a recent interview.

"The whole point of programs such as these is to cut down on the number of the incidents that can happen." From his start as a substitute teacher almost three decades ago, Walker has been committed to finding innovative approaches to delivering the services that are so badly needed across Chicago. Indeed, in all of his efforts, Walker crosses borders in an effort to unite all Chicagoans around



providing services to the city's communities.

"I feel like I work for the entire city," Walker explained.

"It's incumbent on all of us - haves and have nots - to reinvest."

A key element in Walker's delivery of services to city residents has been his role as executive director of the Chicago Inner-City Games.

Founded seven years ago in Los Angeles by Daniel Hernandez and Arnold Schwarzenegger in an effort to redirect the negative influences that face urban youth, Inner-City Games activities are supported by a collaborative partnership of city and youth service agencies. In Chicago, that includes the Chicago Park District, the Metropolitan Chicago YMCA, the Chicago Public Schools and Library,

"I feel like I work for the entire city."
- Gil Walker

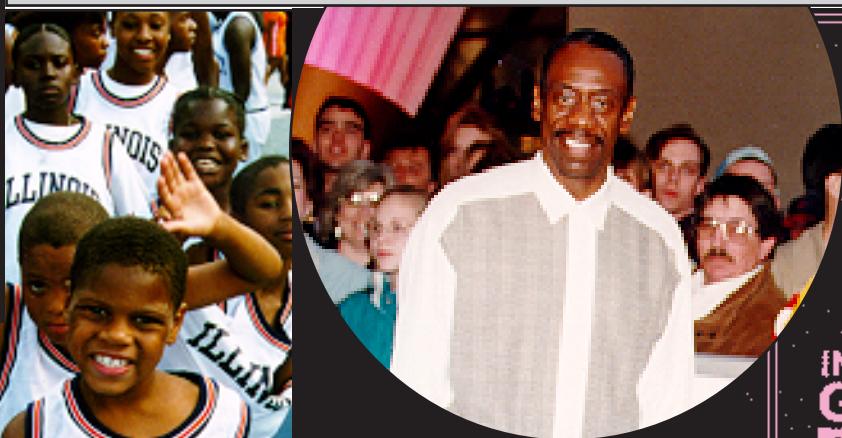


Photo Guide: Gil Walker (above), director of Resident Programs at CHA, commissioner of Midnight Basketball and executive director of the Inner-City Games Chicago. Young members of the Biddy Basketball League (left) pose at the opening of the Harold Ickes recreational center June 30.

the Chicago Department of Human Services, the Chicago Youth Nets and the Boys & Girls Clubs as well as the Chicago Housing Authority. The Inner-City Games sponsor sports events, educational efforts, cultural awareness activities and other services for Chicago youth.

For a variety of reasons, Walker sees the Inner-City Games as a "natural fit" with his other roles.

"The Inner City Games started in Los Angeles when (Current CHA Executive Director) Joe Shuldiner and (Current CHA Deputy Executive Director) Ed Moses were running the L.A. Housing Authority," Walker noted. "The Inner-City Games are an opportunity to support existing programs."

A Salute to Sponsors

Below the companies and/or organizations that sponsored the 1998 Chicago Inner-City Games:

METAL MANAGEMENT, INC.
T. Benjamin Jennings
Chairman of the Board of

Chicago Inner-City Games
ELLER MEDIA GROUP
Tanya Globke
CHICAGO MARRIOTT DOWNTOWN
Bob Pierce
Director of Marketing
CHICAGO YOUTHNETS

Kimberly Murray
Project Director

FOX SPORTS CHICAGO
James Corno

NICOLE SHOUSE

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YMCA/METROPOLITAN CHICAGO
Tino Mantella
President

CHICAGO STATE UNIVERSITY
Sheila Dotts

Get Involved!

Call 567-7758 Today

CHA Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner (from left), Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, Metal Management President and Inner-City Games Chairman Ben Jennings, CHA Deputy Executive Director Ed Moses and Walker pose during a recent fundraiser

A Special Advertising Section Produced by the staff of *Residents' Journal*

Sports and Recreation



Speaking contest participants with CBS weatherman Steve Baskerville and Fox-News sports anchor, Corey McPherrin.



Resident Programs Director Gil Walker (left) and Sports & Recreation Senior Manager Henry Clark.



Girls in the 15-17 division battle it out for the championship at the Chicago Inner City Games/Safe Summer 1998.



Boys division battling it out for the championship at the CHASE Cup.



Sport & Recreation Supervisor Dorian Figgers (left) and friend.

Youth Services

hen watching a young girl or boy recite the scout pledge, you see sincerity and innocence in their faces. That is what the Youth Services Department is all about, keeping young people preoccupied with positive yet satisfying activities.

The Department of Youth Services focuses on education, training, employment and cultural enrichment programs for youth residents of CHA, Section 8 and Scattered Sites.

Being the newest department in the Resident Programs Division, Youth Services is building up to full capacity. Under the leadership of Senior Manager Frank Burks, Youth Services works with outside agencies such as Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of Chicago, MacTemps



Girls pose at last year's Scoutreach

and the Variety Club, providing training and programs to CHA youth.

The Scouting Program serves 15 out of 19 developments. In all, over 500 boys and girls 7 to 20 years old as well as 150 volunteers participate in scouting activities. The culmination of the scouting program is Scoutreach, a two-week program consisting of two camps, a Day Camp and Resident Camp for youths 10-17 years. At the camps, young people can go hiking, swimming and horseback riding, not to mention sleeping under the

moon, roasting marshmallows by the campfire, telling spooky stories and much more. The Daycamp session for this year was from Aug. 3-17 and the Resident Camp was from Aug. 10-15, 1998. The program is currently funded through the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP). If you're tired of doing the same old thing every summer and you want to enjoy the great outdoors or just want to volunteer, call Myron Ford, Program Coordinator at (312) 567-7758. With an eye on the 21st Century, the Youth Services Department is preparing our youth with Computer Camp, a five-week program sponsored by MacTemps. The camp introduces teens to basic computer skills. In 1997, 15 participants were recognized at a Completion of Program Ceremony. Thirty youths ages 12 to 19 from developments all over CHA make up the Ambassador Choir. Participants must make two rehearsals per week and complete after-school homework assignments.



Youth Services Senior Manager Frank Burks

Education & Culture

"Without Culture, A People Perish"

The CHA's Department of Education and Culture works to broaden residents' horizons through educational and cultural experiences. The Department aims to provide CHA residents access to education and cultural opportunities through traditional and non-traditional methods that will ensure progress toward self-sufficiency.

Under Senior Manager Lynell Hemphill and acting Senior Manager Mitchell Butler, all of the department's programs are geared toward helping residents help themselves.

For over 10 years, the Department has provided educational and cultural services to public housing residents. The primary goal is to aid the transition of residents from welfare to work. The Department recruits out-of-school public housing youth and re-engages them in the education process.

Education and Culture staff is on track and well-positioned to support all efforts toward helping CHA residents achieve self-sufficiency:

The MAMA SAID PROGRAM teaches teenage mothers how to address life's problems through educational goal setting. The Mama Said Program had its going on this year with a Mama Said Graduation held at the Chicago Celebration in June where 80 or so residents were in attendance. The Mama Said Picnic that was held at the South Shore Culture Center on July 26

was full of events such as music by Ramonski Luv, "Welfare to Work Presentations," plenty of food, ponies, a petting zoo, the clowns Co-Co & Rocco, face painting and balloon shaping, games, raffles and a jumping jack.

The Mama Said

Program also went on retreat this summer.

The TEEN PARENT INITIATIVE aids pregnant or parenting teens ages 18 and under in getting a high school, alternative high school diploma or GED certificate.

This program is particularly important because the new welfare laws require that all residents who receive public assistance must not only attend school but must eventually graduate from high school. The SCIENCE LINKAGES IN THE COMMUNITY program is located in Dearborn Homes. Third through eighth grade students participate in science and math-related activities. Sponsors including the Chicago Academy of Science teach the youth in monthly weekend activities throughout the year.

The grant-funded QUANTUM OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM enables high school students to take "giant steps" during their high school years. The students learn to enhance their educational skills for success in higher education and employment.



**Senior Manager
Lynell Hemphill**

The ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY AND PARENTING PROGRAM is another grant-funded initiative that provides teens who live in Rockwell Gardens and Henry Horner Homes with parenting skills. The Illinois Department of Public Aid, local schools and other community agencies refer teens to the program who are determined to be at risk or already parents.

The COPS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROGRAM is a grant-funded program designed to reduce if not eliminate cases of violence throughout CHA developments. This program teaches community police officers how to identify domestic violence and how to give support to public housing women caught up in domestic violence situations. Substance abuse treatment is provided for both offender and victims in need of such services.

The COLLEGE BOUND program catered to CHA juniors and seniors in high school. A large group of youths toured historically Black colleges throughout the south.

TRASH CAN ART was a new program this year. On July 28 and Aug. 11, CHA youth 8 years and older decorated trash cans for the House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St.

The Chicago Housing Authority is recruiting participants for the CHICAGO

MULTI-CULTURAL DANCE CENTER'S "DANCING OFF THE STREET PROGRAM." Private foundations and businesses have committed to paying the program's \$2,800 per child tuition for this exciting program.

"I feel this program is significant because CHA was given the choice to select five targeted areas," said acting Senior Manager Mitchell Butler.

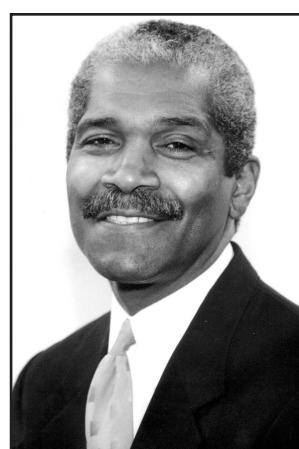
CMDC is a two-year program designed for boys and girls 7-15. CMDC will require commitment, concentration and motivation and will provide tuition, dance attire and transportation. For further information, please contact Samella Brannon at (312) 567-7758.

This summer, CHA and the Goodman Theatre hosted the third annual CHA/GOODMAN THEATRE YOUTH DRAMA WORKSHOP. The workshop is a three-week class in which two groups of Dearborn Homes residents - 10-14 years old and 14-17 years - write stories, scripts and screenplays. The youths then put on a show at a nearby church. This July, the Youth Drama Workshop received a NAHRO Award.

The Department also sponsored a DRUM WORKSHOP for young people 10-13 years old.

Residents of all ages participated in the SUMMER BLUES FESTIVAL that was held Friday, July 31, 1998 at 1447 S. Ashland. There was a barbecue menu, a dance contest and live entertainment that featured former Ida B. Wells resident "Twine Time" singer Alvin Cash.

The URBAN GATEWAY DUSABLE PROGRAM was an event that was held at the Dusable Museum where residents from Robert Taylor, Washington Park and the Stamps/Lowden developments attended.



Acting Senior Manager Mitchell Butler

CADRE

Anthony Lowery is the Senior Manager over the CADRE (Combating Alcohol and Drugs through Rehabilitation and Education) program.

CADRE works in conjunction with public housing residents and cooperating organizations to create drug-free public housing communities.

The dictionary defines a Cadre as: (1) A nucleus of trained personnel around which a larger organization can be built and trained. (2) A framework.

This definition represents exactly what CADRE is all about. Trained professionals training others, a solution around a constant problem in CHA communities. CADRE provides a vital safety net in the developments.

Through education awareness about drug elimination and prevention, CHA youths can focus on continuing their lives with a drug-free base.

In 1997, CADRE referred 970 residents to detox/inpatient treatment facilities.

CADRE also conducts public awareness campaigns. Through crusades on such topics as HIV/AIDS, Alcoholism, Substance Abuse, CHA youths know the truth about those

immoralities. CADRE's Just Say Know clubs have helped countless youths stay focused on their future.

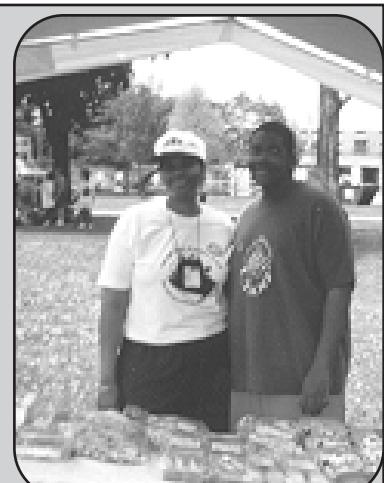
CADRE staff members go through developmental training, enabling them to deal with providing quality service. All key staff members are mandated to seek state certification for prevention and/or substance abuse counseling. CADRE's list of positive alternatives includes employment opportunity fairs, toys for tots drives and other events. This summer, CADRE sponsored essay contests for 20 elementary schools and developed other activities for 800 youths from 12 developments.

A great example of CADRE's accomplishments could be seen at the Taste of CADRE II. The Taste of CADRE II took place on June 22, one of the same days as the Taste of Chicago was being held in Grant Park. But the food prices at the Taste of CADRE, ranging from 50 cents to \$3, were far more reasonable.

The event featured nine booths, each representing one development. Ida B. Wells sold cakes, cookies, candy and pop. Robert Taylor B sold cakes and chips. Altgeld Gardens sold barbecue rib-tips and chicken, cake, chips and pop. Henry Horner sold sno-balls, Spanish corn, cupcakes and photos. Rockwell Gardens' booth sold Puerto Rican stew, Spanish rice, potato salad and fried chicken. LeClaire Courts sold beads and ID holders with matching bracelets, buffalo wings and peach cobbler. Stateway Gardens sold

jerk chicken, cake, salmon croquet patties and barbecue turkey drumsticks. Harold Ickes sold honey mustard wing flings, fruit salad, lemonade, cookies and chicken nuggets.

There Taste of CADRE featured live entertainment from the "Slick Boys," the CHA Law & Order Band and winners from the Youth Power on the Move Talent Showcase. Among the activities for the day were face painting, raffles, balloons, a kiddie jumping jack and give-a-ways.



Prevention Specialist Lakecra Jackson and Youth Power Clubman Ulysses Jefferson selling cakes, cookies, candy and pops at the Ida B. Wells booth of Taste of CADRE II this summer.

Child Care

Under acting Senior Manager Dorothy Carpenter, Child Care Services provides high quality, affordable and available child care opportunities to support families working toward self-sufficiency.

Every mother who has a child wants quality child care. They want to feel that when they leave their child they don't have to worry whether the child is getting mother's love away from home.

At CHA, parents can be sure that the

quality child care is provided by qualified, licensed providers who are certified with the state after undergoing criminal background records.

Mothers who are going from welfare to work or are going to school full time are worried about being able to leave their child for more than four hours. Education, nutrition, health and disabilities are all components that are addressed through Child Care Services.



The department provides child care services for resident families of public housing and others through Head Start, Employment Related Day Care, After School programs and

Home-Based Infant/Toddler Child Care. All those program names mean that residents are getting the best services that meet a variety of needs. Children between the ages of six months and 13 years can participate in such programs. The combined enrollment of the four programs is approximately 700

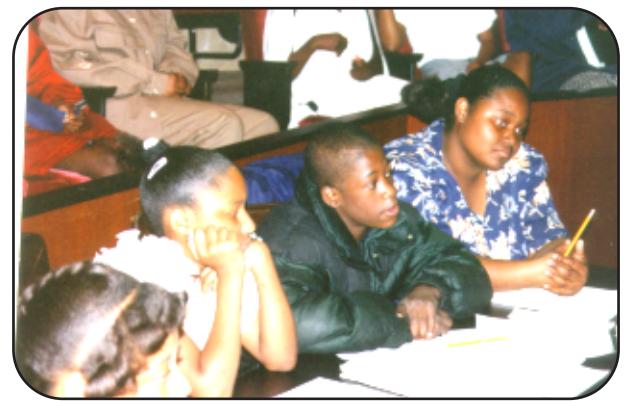
children.

In 1997, approximately \$480,000 in grants were given to various developments for renovations and improvements.

In 1998, the challenge for Child Care Services in the shift from welfare to work for public housing residents is to remain fully enrolled in the subsidized day care centers.

The Department depends on funds from grants and other private sector involvement. Without the aid of Child Care Services, parents who go from welfare to work would have a difficult time and children would suffer.

Resident Organizations



Mock Trial participants make their case.



**Bobbie Bolden,
longtime head of
CHA Resident
Organizations**



**Seminar Director, Michael Seay
instructs youth on baking preparations
in the YCC Baking Seminar Series I.**

Resident Programs: The Human Side

Bolden, Senior Manager of Resident Organization has a heart just right for the job. She helps whenever she finds out there is a need for help. Last winter, a young man in his last year of high school was wearing a blue-jean jacket to school. He walked in freezing temperatures from the Ickes Homes to school. Determined to get his education, he didn't let the cold



**Public Housing Drug
Elimination Manager
Monroe Brewer and
award-winning essay
writer Natalie Howard.**

weather stop him. Bobbie got wind of this dilemma. She went into the Resident Programs office and told other Senior Managers of this. Everybody chipped in and got the young man a plush, down-filled coat for the rest of the winter.

The first week of August, a summer food truck was robbed as the driver made his rounds. The driver refused to drive the truck. Assistant Manager Francine Washington took charge. She drove the trucks to the designated routes without hesitation. Francine knew that some children depend on those meals for their breakfast and lunch. She knew that some children would not eat a meal without the summer food program. She bravely took hold of the reigns and kept the flow of things steady.

Photographs, annual reports, financial reports, plaques or awards don't begin to represent the human side of Gil Walker and his staff of professional Senior Managers. They are the unsung heroes of the CHA. You can't see the day-to-day operations but you can feel the appreciation as it flows through the young man from Ickes Homes. You can see the smile on the children's face as they walk through the doors of the summer food rooms. Resident Programs needs to bottled and marketed. Then everyone would have access to the product to drink at their

1998 National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Organizations Award Winners from CHA Resident Programs:

**Scoutreach- Myron Ford, Program
Coordinator**

**Altgeld Youth Development Program-
Bobbie Bolden, Resident
Organizations**

**Flag Football- Henry Clark, Senior
Manager**

**Goodman Youth Drama Workshop-
Lynell Hemphill, Senior Manager**

MET Program- Bobbie Bolden

Midnight Basketball- Henry Clark,

Project Peace- Bobbie Bolden

Summer Food- Bobbie Bolden

**Take Our Daughters to Work- Dorothy
Carpenter, Child Care Services**

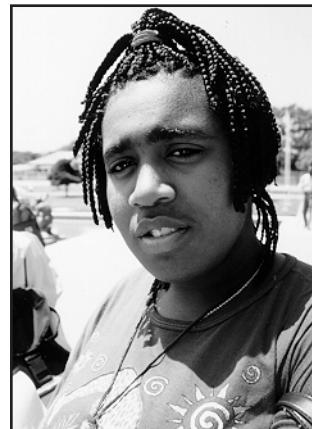
Congratulations to all!!!

From Israel to Ghana

Excerpts from the journal of Tiffany Cook, Age 14

24 July 1998

Today when I woke up I had to go straight to the shower so we could go to the Dead Sea. In the Dead Sea, there are a lot of minerals, over one hundred. The funniest part is you automatically float; you can't sink. But I had a burn on my hand so the water stung a lot. But our guides told me that the water will help my burn heal so I really didn't worry about it. After we left the sea, we went back to the hotel and took a shower and after that we went back to the Hebrew Israelite community. We ate lunch then went back to the hotel. At the hotel, many of the girls from our group got their hair braided by the girls from Dimona. Later on, many of the people in our group went to observe the Shabbat service at the community while others went to the movies. We saw "Titanic." The movie was very touching and it made most of us shed a few tears. When we returned, it was late so I went to bed.



Tiffany Cook
Photo by John Brooks

25 July 1998

We left Dimona today and went to Tel Aviv, which was a long drive, and I was happy when we finally reached the hotel. We went to our favorite Israeli restaurant for lunch, McDonald's. After that, some people went swimming in the Mediterranean but I stayed at the hotel and rested. When they returned, we had to leave to go check in our bags. There, they asked us so many questions - some were uncalled for. Later on, we met with some children from a group called Children of the Dream which are Black Jews from Ethiopia. I got a little out of that but I was tired so when the meeting was over, I came upstairs and tried to go to sleep. Unfortunately, Cassandra wanted to have a pillow fight. After everything was calmed down, I finally got to sleep.

26 July 1998

Today the group had to wake up at 5 a.m. because we were leaving Israel to go to Ghana. Since we checked in our bags yesterday, we only had to put on our clothes and get on the bus. Once we got to the airport, we went through security and walked around the airport because we were early. Once we got on the plane, it was a 3-hour-and-10-minute flight to Rome. We stopped in Rome for about two hours and then got on a seven-hour flight to Ghana. When we finished our journey to Ghana, we finally arrived at the hotel. Everyone was past tired but we couldn't go to sleep yet because we had to take our malaria pills and we had to eat to do that. So we waited for the people to prepare our food and then we ate. I ate french fries and drank a 7-up. After that, I went to my room and went straight to bed.

27 July 1998

Today was a good day, I guess. We went to the Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum. Nkrumah was the first president of Ghana. His memorial is very beautiful. It has a lot of pictures of him doing different things during his term as president. It also contained his coffin in which he was first buried. He is not buried in this coffin any more because 4 months after he was buried in it, his body was shipped back to the place where he was born. His body stayed there for 20 years and then it was shipped back to Accra, the capital city of Ghana.

By then, his body was starting to deteriorate. It was placed in another coffin and buried at the memorial.

After we left the memorial, we went to exchange our money. When I received my money, I really didn't think anything of it because the money does not seem real. It seems more like Monopoly money. But of course I won't treat it like that.

After everyone got their money, we went to lunch at the beautiful Aburi Gardens. The food was OK but I really didn't have a taste for what they served. But what I did love was the pretty flowers and trees. The grass was so green and the flowers so bright in color. I just loved it.

We then returned to the hotel. We rested for about 30 minutes and then went to a group discussion between us and the students from the Ghana Institute of Journalism.

When the first speaker went up, many of us were offended by his speech, including myself. He made America seem like dirt but I realized that was how he saw America. As the discussion went on, I came to believe that everyone was on the same foot. What I got out of the discussion was that the media stereotypes not only the African Americans in Chicago but the Africans everywhere. In class, when the journalists came and told us that the only way to change this problem was to grow up and become a journalist, I really didn't believe them but now I believe it with all my heart and don't see any other solution.



UYIJP students learn the fine points of production at the Daily Graphic, Ghana's largest circulation newspaper.

Photo by John Brooks

Week 2 : Ghana



UYIJP students participate in Emancipation Day activities in Cape Coast, Ghana.

Photo by John Brooks

Africa is Bright and Beautiful

by Tanisha Riley, Age 16

My trip to Africa was very interesting. My entire life I have heard so many bad and terrible things about the "dark continent." These were either told to me by teachers in school, friends just talking, adults who did not know or news reports I seen on television.

I thought I was going to see hunger, children running around naked, starving and flies flying around their face and mouth; police beating people and persons being killed and poverty everywhere. To be truthful, I really was not sure whether or not I

wanted to go to Africa because of my thoughts.

My experience there turned out to be totally different than what I had expected. I didn't see much hunger. No more than I see every day in Chicago or on the news in America. The police weren't beating up anyone and there were no killings.

While in Ghana, I visited a market place much like Chicago's old Maxwell Street Market. People were selling food, wood carvings and other artifacts, all to support their families.

Now that I have been to Africa, my thoughts have totally changed. This trip has shown me that Africa is beautiful and always will be a beautiful place in my heart.

Our Two-Week Adventure

by Monica Emmons, Age 15

On July 18, the Urban Youth International Journalism Program students left for Israel

We were on our way for a two-week adventure, one week in Israel and one week in Africa (Ghana). During our trip to Israel we visited different places. We went to Jerusalem, Jericho, Dimona and Tel Aviv. We just stopped in Jericho for lunch and a little shopping.

One interesting thing we learned was that the people in Israel can't whip their children. The food in Israel is much like Chicago. The only thing that was really different was that the Hebrew Israelite community in Dimona. Due to religious constrictions, we couldn't eat meat.

While in Dimona, we got to observe a Shabbat service, meet some teenagers that were our age and get in the Dead Sea. Many of us now have pen pals.

While in Jerusalem, we went to its newspaper and magazine offices. We learned about all the people who made peace with Israel.

When we went to Tiberius, we got to swim in the Sea of Galilee where Jesus walked on the water. We also got in the

Jordan River and prayed for our families.

We

went to the

Holocaust

Museum

while in

Israel. We

visited

where Jesus

had his Last

Supper and

Judas

betrayed

him. I am

very thankful

for getting to go to Israel because I know this is one place where some people may never get to visit.

While in Ghana, we visited the slave dungeons and saw the "Door of No Return." This is where slaves being shipped to America and other parts of the world were kept. The door is named such because once a slave went through it, he or she would never return home again.

In Ghana, we had an opportunity to experience its culture, land and people. Many of us literally traded for goods and wares. We traded our t-shirts, rings and even a broken CD player. This is called bartering.



Monica Emmons
Photo by John Brooks

Just Like the Movies

by Quintana Woodridge,
Age 17



Quintana Woodridge
Photo by John Brooks

Jesus once turned over the tables in the same place and people were still doing the same thing.

We visited the Holocaust Museum where RJ Editor-in-Chief Ethan Michaeli's mother, who lives in Israel, told us her touching story of how she survived the Holocaust.

In Dimona, a Hebrew Israeli community, we met our pen pals we now have. There we learned that they don't eat

anything that comes from animals so they eat products made from wheat and soybean. There we learned that the Sabbath Day begins at sundown Friday and ends sundown Saturday.

While there, some of us observed their Sabbath service where we ended up shedding tears. Then it was the day of our departure. Everyone was sad, crying and depressed. But we got over it.

In Ghana, we visited the Cape Coast slave castle. It was so upsetting. I was angry and too heartbroken to learn we African Americans were treated so mean, like animals.

We visited the memorial of the first president of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah.

The people in Ghana were so welcoming and glad to see Americans. However, they thought that

trip to Israel and Ghana was fun. The sights were too beautiful; it was like nothing I ever seen. It was like dreaming and being in the movies at the same time. The streets of Israel looked like the streets of Paris in the late '60s like the movies that come on TV. We met with two main newspapers in Israel where we learned the government was trying to make peace with the Palestinians. At stake is a piece of land. According to the Israelis, the Palestinians will not make peace unless the government gives them the land.

We visited the place where Jesus was laid.

People were selling things in front of the Church of the Holy Sepulture. This made me mad because

The World According to Joey

Excerpts from the journal of Joey Roberts, Age 17

July 19

The team's first day in Israel and first day in Jerusalem. The weather is hot and sunny. But it's OK. Long bus ride to the hotel.

This is a very peaceful place. It is quite different from Chicago and Washington, D.C.

July 20

We had a nice breakfast. We saw and toured the Old City, which was so unreal for me. The Old City is something you have to experience. To try and describe it would be an injustice. We met Jewish Knesset members and other government officials. The Knesset is equivalent to our Congress. What is so astonishing about this meeting was that the members of the Knesset are very emotional. More so than the government officials I met in Washington, D.C.

July 21

The class took a tour of the Holocaust Museum. For most of us, this was a saddening experience. Our meeting with the Parliament members and Foreign Ministry Personnel was great.

July 22

We depart for Tiberius and check into a resort hotel on the Sea of Galilee. It is real hot.

July 23

We depart to Dimona and the people there were so nice and kind. The cultural celebration was different.

July 24

A trip to the Salt Sea. One thing about this sea: you can't sink.

July 25

Bus ride to Tel Aviv and a trip to the Mediterranean Sea. We had a nice swim.



Joey Roberts contemplates a meeting with Israeli Foreign Ministry officials.

Photo by John Brooks

July 26

Time to go to Ghana. It was hard to say goodbye.

July 27

Bus tour of Accra including stops at Kwame Nkrumah Mausoleum and Accra Arts and Crafts Center. Kwame Nkrumah was the democratically elected president of Ghana. He was deposed in the late 60s. We attended an evening lecture with Ghana youth journalism.

July 28

Depart to Volta Region for a nice cruise on the Volta River.

July 29

Back to Accra to visit daily newspaper plus depart to Ashanti Region.

July 30

Today exchange ceremony at local school to include participation of local chief's African dancing and drumming festivities. And depart to Cape Coast.

July 31

A visit to the slave forts and dungeons and a nature park tour.

August 1

Depart back to Accra, what a ride.

August 2

Fifteenth and last day. Today, back to Chicago.



UYIJP participants at the Door of No Return, the point from where hundreds of thousands were transported to North America as slaves.

Photo by John Brooks

My View of Africa

by Cassandra Farrow, Age 16

y view of Africa was wrong. I thought Africa was going to be a bad scene. Because I didn't know what to look for, all I could go by was what I had heard from the media. And this was all wrong. Africa is a beautiful and marvelous place to be. It is amazing to see our people, Africans, and to know that they are just like us. Visiting Africa was like a dream come true. Just to see where my ancestors came from—to see what they were like. It was a good feeling to be treated like a real sister by people greeting and welcoming us wherever we went. To see the slave castles and actually stand in the places where our ancestors and parents were beaten, etc. this was an honor for me. This is my view of Africa.

Goodbye Old, Hello New World

by Shenika Brown, Age 14

ur trip to Israel and Ghana began when we said goodbye to our "old world" and entered a world which we had never seen before. In case you are curious, it means that many of us were forced to take the stereotypes that were portrayed of both cultures and place them into a little box for safekeeping. But shortly, we would return and compare our data with new facts we had learned. Our first stop was Jerusalem, where we got the opportunity to meet the editor of a magazine. We also visited various religious sites.



Shenika Brown waves goodbye to Israel.

Photo by John Brooks

their opinions of America and African Americans. During this exchange, we shared our experience and thoughts of Africa with them. We also met village chiefs as well as other journalism students.

While in Jerusalem, our group learned more about the Holocaust from an individual that survived this event.

We traveled to Dimona, where we were introduced to African

Overall, our journey was pretty exciting and I hope that more students get the once-in-a-lifetime chance to become international journalists.

Altgeld Gardens Report

by Sharon Fornizy

Hey this is Ms. Fornizy again: I have not forgotten anyone and I will be around for all good information. I promise.

Summer Fun

These are all the recent events at Altgeld Gardens: We had a Christmas in July. All the kids were happy to have prizes, food and games. That event was sponsored by the Local Advisory Council (LAC). We had another event – a carnival which was a real success. Also, block 17 had a second annual block party for all the kids. And now it being the end of the summer, all the kids are going back to school. They look so nice in all their uniforms. I also want to send best wishes to a lovely person, Mrs. R. Garner, a young lady at heart at 98 years old and going on 99.



RJ's own Sharon Fornizy poses in front of a block party banner.

Remember, we all love you. The Altgeld Gardens Baseball Team is a success. They are playing other baseball teams all over the city and having a lot of fun. The coach, whose nickname is "Bird," is doing a wonderful job.

Also, I have a men's team that's called Bruce's Family and the games are coming out real. Also I'm trying to get something for the young ladies to do for the summer.

Summer Program

I have some good news: Sharon's Summer Program is going strong at the YMCA. If you are interested, get in touch with me at (773) 535-5614. If your child is in school, please get a copy of the medical form and I will get back with you with an application. I'd like to thank the YMCA for letting the children participate. They are having swimming trips every Friday and they go to

the library, play basketball, football, baseball, soccer and go to the park. They also have nice free lunches. Mr. Sanders, we thank you.

A Poem

This is a poem for everyone:

Bloom where you are planted!!!!

As we try and fail and try again, we must discover that if we are to flourish as creative beings, if we are to grow into wholeness, we must bloom wherever we are planted. We may not have perfect careers, homes or relationships. Few of us do. However, TODAY you've got another chance to re-create your circumstances and make them as perfect as it is to do with the resources you have get it right as you can make it what more could you desire?



After-school fun at Aldridge School.

Photo by Sharon Fornizy

their problems. She is a good person.

The Local School Council candidate forum at Altgeld turned out to be nice. It took place July 8. They will decide who is going to be on the LSC board at Aldridge School.

I attended some of Aldridge's after-school programs. I was surprised to see all of the

wonderful things that were going on there. It was very nice.

I was stuck in room 128. They had checkers, Nintendo and other games just for the kids to have something to do after school. Keep up the good work.

Ride-A-Thon

On Thursday, July 23, at 10 a.m., Altgeld Gardens held an event called the ALT-GELD RIDE-A-THON. This event was presented by the CHA Police Department Police Activity League. The Ride-A-Thon departed at 11 a.m. and the partici-

pants returned at 3 p.m. Everyone loved it. Starting Tuesday, July 28, the CHA Police Department will present the Altgeld Reading Club. This club meets every Tuesday and Thursday. We have field trips for children, which consist of trips to the DuSable museum, the Black Ensemble Theater, Chicago Art Institute and the Harold Washington Library.



Mrs. Lyles, the Aldridge School community representative.

Photo by Sharon Fornizy

Sympathy

The sympathy for this month goes out to the bereaved families in Altgeld Gardens. The three families are Delores Shppard's, Mrs. Glay's Wiseman's (My aunt), and Daisey from Fornizy's family.

May God bless all of you.

CHA Maintenance

The CHA maintenance workers are doing much better. They have been coming out on time and also the main office is improving. Thanks. P.S. You don't have to keep calling on the phone. They come right out.

Local Politics

The Local Advisory Council (LAC) is doing a wonderful job. Esther Wheeler, Gail Reed and all the representatives are very helpful.

Schools News

Mrs. Lyles, the schools community representative is a good, hard-working person. She really works for the children in this school. She takes the children to basketball games. She is a wonderful and understanding person. She's very concerned about the children's needs. The children speak highly of her. She takes time to listen to

MT. SINAI HEALTH CENTER

by Thomas L. Merriweather

In my continuing story line on problems of accessibility relating to those of us with disabilities, specifically of a physical nature, I have devoted much coverage to the matter of transportation. Through my personal involvement along with the information I have gained by talking to others who are also seniors and/or people with disabilities, I have learned that transportation is a complex problem without a simple solution. I will first address a problem that occasionally exists with our own CHA transportation system: the availability of busses and other vehicles with wheelchair lifts to transport those of us who are residents of senior housing developments to various activities. I will use as examples two occasions within one month - on Saturday, June 21, when some residents of my Eckhart Park senior housing development attended a performance of the gospel play "Perilous Times" at the Arie Crown Theatre in McCormick Place, and on Wednesday, July 8, when the Eckhart Park Traveling Club attended its monthly lunch outing at the Country Buffet restaurant in Vernon Hills. On both occasions, I had to get out of my wheelchair and maneuver the steps on the regular school bus which transported us. I am able to accomplish this maneuver but with great difficulty. During the lunch outing, I was scheduled to provide entertainment to the group as a singer.

CTA Paratransit Operations and many other services providing transportation for seniors or those with disabilities are having difficulties finding enough drivers to operate their accessible vehicles and other problems. Over a period of less than 2 months, I experienced 4 pick-ups in which the driver was more than 1 hour.

In letters to Nancy Isaac, General Manager of CTA Paratransit Operations, I

ACCESS REPORT

related all of these plus other failings of the carrier I use, Cook-Dupage Transportation (CDT). I wrote to Isaac about how often CDT had failed to pick me up within 30 minutes of the scheduled pick-up time. After each incident of extreme lateness, I telephoned Nora Mitchner of CTA Paratransit, who has been given the responsibility along with CDT head Chris Jans of

utes late and receive the maximum penalty for pick-ups that arrive 60 minutes or more late. Leon said the amount of this maximum penalty is \$150. Since CTA Paratransit receives funding through the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in order to operate its transportation system, penalties for lateness are deducted from the amount of total funding for each carrier. For just my

CTA Paratransit is able to schedule a total of 4,200 trips per day per its operating budget and the number of requests received unfortunately exceeds this amount.

monitoring my trips.

Each time I wrote to Isaac, I received a reply in which she provided important information. Along with my telephone conversations with Mitchner, I was also contacted by telephone by Jason Houston of CDT on July 14 and by Josh Leon of CTA Paratransit on July 20. So it has become obvious to me that some attention is being given to the deficiencies I have experienced.

Leon's contact was most interesting. He advised me that CTA Paratransit carriers are penalized for any pick-ups over 30 min-

four trips which were late by 60 minutes each, CDT suffered a loss of \$600. This loss must be considered very serious, especially because my cost for each of these trips was just \$1.35, the price of a CTA token. For all 45 trips which I took from May 1 through July 19 (which totals and of my cost), my total cost was \$60.75.

I was first required to use vehicles with wheelchair lifts or ramps in July 1993 after being discharged from nearly 3 months of hospitalization. For my second medical outpatient visit on July 30, 1993, I first used a

medical transportation service which regular insurance plans will not cover but I was able to use because I had temporary medical coverage through the Illinois Department of Public Aid. I began using CTA Paratransit in December, 1993, after becoming certified by the Regional Transportation Authority.

When I reached age 65 last November, I began to be contacted by insurance companies who work with Medicare.

A little more than 2 months ago, I began to use a medical transportation service through an insurance company under the provisions of Medicare. Through my use of this service, I discovered that they have difficulty in obtaining drivers. It was conveyed to me as a problem confronted by CDT Paratransit. In my conversations with an analyst with the Illinois Department of Employment Security, she told me that the problem is that drivers and other transportation personnel are not being paid enough and with our outstanding economy, competent drivers are able to obtain higher paying employment with minimal difficulty. In discussing this problem with others, I have learned that many who need the service will quickly give up and call a taxi cab or use an alternative service. Many others have become complacent and accept the existing service as is, using it only for emergencies.

With the number of seniors who receive Medicaid benefits through Public Aid and who will only use transit services for medical purposes, the problems of the service are not as obvious per total usage. CTA Paratransit is able to schedule a total of 4200 trips per day per its operating budget and the number of requests received unfortunately exceeds this amount.

Obviously, the complexity of the problem requires more study and hopefully more viable solutions will be reached.

Healing in Rockwell by Melinda Robinson

In my July article, I didn't get a chance to talk about the new security we have here in Rockwell and the Marcy Newberry Center, 2450 W. Jackson Blvd. So I'm going to start talking about the Conflict Resolution team which is here. If there is a problem with a different gang, they try to settle the matter without fighting. They also try to keep the children safe at all times and build programs for the community, especially for the children. They try to keep the community clean and prosperous and get us all involved. They also try to make sure that the elderly are OK. Also they came out with this program No More Funerals in Rockwell. The program aims to establish peace in the West Side community and provide Rockwell's adult residents and children with a sense of pride, unity, and hope to actively demonstrate within and outside the community a level of understanding that life exists.

Commentary

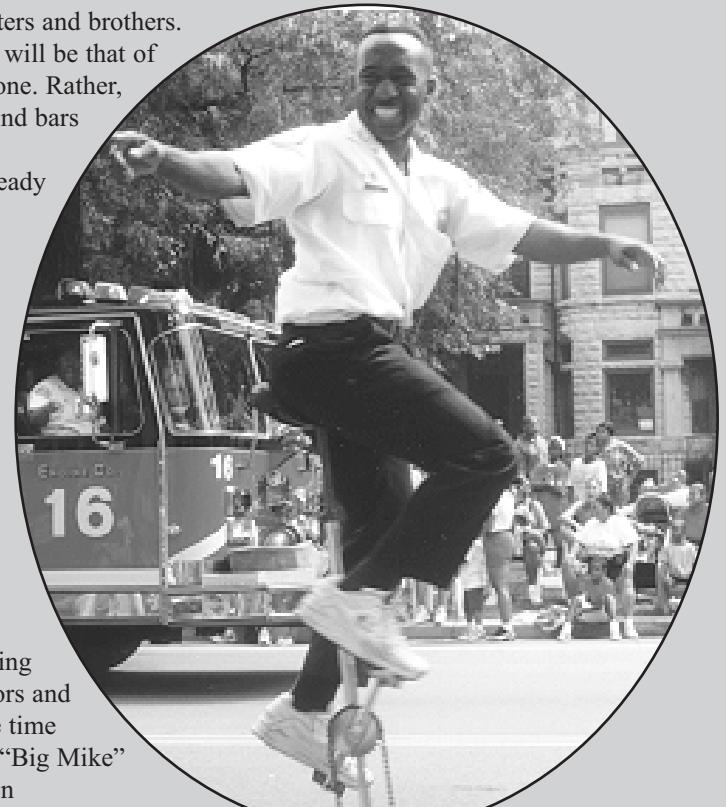
When is there a right time for grieving? A true time for mourning? Does it come with one's wealth or the capability to maintain the stability of one's mind? It is most frequently associated with the tragic loss or the untimely death of love ones. For some people living between the crossfire of gang violence, the mourning comes from the inability to walk through their own neighborhood, not being able to allow children to go play with friends without the fear of having to hear that your son or daughter has been shot.

Rockwell: let's get together! When will we realize that no one will help us if we do not try to help ourselves? There has to be an end to this madness. Life cannot go on with such animosity

toward our black sisters and brothers. If not, the end result will be that of no life at all for anyone. Rather, it's being caged behind bars or caged deep in the ground. We have already been confined to the places in which we live. We cannot expect them to want to do better for themselves, education wise, when all that they see is how the gang members live and how fast they can make it without going to school.

At one time, they dreamt about becoming police officers, doctors and lawyers. Now all the time they want to be like "Big Mike" or "LLC" standing on the corner making that big money that they make, driving those big cars like they do, having all the girls.

We as parents must instill the notion in our kids that the right ideals and the right goals are the way to make it in life. Slacking off in school or running from the police are not the convenient ways to the big, easy life that they want. The only thing that may become easy or convenient is a little cell in a great big jail. There are no babies born into the world insensitive, filled with hate or unappreciative. Children only copy what they see or hear. So for our kids' sake, be aware.



Man riding a unicycle at the Back to School Bud Billiken Parade.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross



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Stop The Violence

by Cenabeth Cross

CHA Police

I recently interviewed Richard Smiley, the director of the CHA Police Department. Smiley expressed his concern for all CHA communities.

He said, "As we approach the 21st century, police enforcement will have to be different."

He explained that 60 percent of crimes are drug related but that we will have to treat the problem as an



Richard Smiley, director of the CHA Police Department.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

illness. We must deal with the cause before we can initiate a cure.

Smiley said he is starting classes for residents who need GEDs and classes for children who need to learn how to keep the weight off. Smiley noted that overweight people suffer from depression and ridicule and the class to help them is called Overeaters Anonymous and is open to all residents. The children with eating disorders will need professional help and help developing their self-esteem to conquer some of their problems.

Smiley, a former resident of Altgeld Gardens, said locking people up is not always the answer. The CHA police want to serve and protect and make the quality of life better for our people.

Smiley mentioned that CHA Police recently had suc-

cessfully raided the Lawndale complex just behind where I live. He was right. I have to go to Roosevelt Road to get a bus since the service has been cut back and I was always scared because the streets are full of young men standing outside on every corner. They aren't there anymore and I breath easier as I go home at night.

Smiley explained how the lock down of many complexes will force the drugs out: "The residents are our clients," he said. Smiley's vision is to turn would-be law breakers into law enforcers.

Part of Smiley's program is a partnership with Harold Washington College offering residents, police officers and CHA employees programs where they can earn certificates and degrees in addictions studies. The goal of the program is to produce CHA Police officers and CHA employees who are state-certified substance abuse counselors.

Residents who go through the course will become more marketable for employment. Police officers and employees who go through the course will increase their knowledge in criminal justice and the human sciences.

Interested parties can contact the Applied Science Department at Harold Washington College (312) 553-6989.

Erasing Criminal Records

On Aug. 5, I went to the Fernwood United Methodist Church, 10057 S. Wallace St. Pastor the Rev. Al Sampson and his lawyers are promising to help with erasing criminal records. This effort is called Operation Clean Slate and is sponsored by the Million Man March-Metropolitan Area Planning Committee and the Chicago chapter of Men Against Destruction-Defending Against Drugs and Social-Disorder (MAD DADS) and can be reached at (773) 287-1960. I interviewed lawyer Rose E.

Joshua, who wanted to spread the word of this program throughout the city. If turnout is heavy enough, Joshua said they may take the idea to the state legislature and get more done for people who made silly

mistakes in their youth. Those records often kill their chances for finding gainful employment. Joshua wants people who have served their time and been clear of any criminal acts for a number of years to be able to just write no on the employment application.

CAPS March

Also on Aug. 5, 25 neighborhood marches for the Community Alternative Policing Strategies (CAPS) were held throughout the city. Mayor Richard M. Daley led the one in his neighborhood. These marches involve people



Jason Allen and his aunt pose at a recent youth awards ceremony.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

taking to the streets to tell the gangs that they will call the police in the event a crime is committed. They also get to know the police in their neighborhoods one on one.

Danny Davis Meeting

On Aug. 12, I met U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7) at a meeting at Mt. Sinai Hospital. Davis said he will host meetings throughout the city.

Davis tried to address all the complaints made by the participants. There were questions on health care for children and for seniors. There was the usual concern of what is being done about the gangs. The meeting lasted for 3 hours and many other issues were discussed. Also attending the meeting was Michael A. Robbins, director of the Handgun Epidemic Lowering Plan (HELP). Robbins spoke for all of those who have lost a loved one through gun violence, such as myself.

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Artensa Randolph Honored

Current Central Advisory Council President Mamie Bone, ABLA Homes Local Advisory Council President Deverra Beverly, U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush (D-1), CHA officials and other dignitaries Aug. 20 watch as Prairie Avenue is renamed in honor of Artensa Randolph, the longtime resident leader who died last year.

by Julio Martinez

ispanic Housing Development Corporation opened **H**

its new offices for the Scattered Sites North Central program, 1402 N. Kedzie, on May 1.

The director of this agency is Hipolito "Paul" Roldan. In an interview with him, I asked if it was difficult to manage this agency:

"In life, nothing is easy," he responded. "It all depends on how one works to reach their objective; if everything is accomplished positively, you can see the difference accomplished in struggle." "Also," he added, "the problems are not as important as the work that we do to resolve the problems of the community and its needs."

"Here [at HHDC] we don't distinguish people. Here we interview all types of people without giving importance to race, color or economic situation. Our job is to serve the community and until now,

New Facility for Scattered Sites

we have accomplished that. We are completely satisfied because we have united to serve the people of our community.

"Ninety-five percent of the families that we serve are decent people of different religions and races who live an exemplary life. But there are always people with different ideologies and then we have to intervene to resolve those cases. Our purpose is for everyone to live like brothers and enjoy their homes."

I asked Roldan if he knew about the new "One Strike" Policy. He told me that this new law is sending a very important and powerful message to persons who do not want to understand that they have a commitment to the community and that they have to be part of it.

"Our objective is to make residents feel like united families and enjoy their new homes," said Roldan.

I also spoke with state Sen. Miguel del Valle (D-Chicago), who was also invited and enjoying the company of his *compatriotas*. He said, "This scattered sites program is very important because it ensures that low-income residents have a decent place to live. But for this program to work well, the residents need to be organized. We have to ensure that the people that are going to reside in these units are responsible people, that they are not going to allow gangs or drug activities in these units or around the community.

"It is very important," continued del

Con Julio Martinez

1 de mayo de 1998, se inauguraron en el 1402 N. Kedzie **E** nuevas oficinas del programa Scattered Site North Central (Viviendas Dispersas), administradas por la agencia Hispanic Housing Development

Corporation. El director de esta agencia es el Sr. Hipolito "Paul" Roldan. En una entrevista con él, le pregunté si era difícil manejar esa agencia. El me contestó que "En la vida nada es fácil, todo depende como uno trabaja para lograr su objetivo, que todo se logre positivamente y que se vea la diferencia lograda en la lucha."

"Además", agregó "los problemas no son importantes, sino el trabajo que hacemos para resolver los problemas de la Comunidad y las necesidades que esta tiene.

"Aquí no hacemos distinción de personas. Aquí entrevistamos a toda clase de personas sin importar su raza, color o situación económica. Nuestra labor es servirle a la comunidad y hasta ahora lo hemos logrado. Estamos completamente satisfechos porque nos hemos unido para servirle a la gente de esta comunidad.

Nuevas Oficinas Para Viviendas Dispersas

"El 95% de las familias que atendemos son personas decentes de diferentes religiones y razas y que tienen una vida ejemplar. Pero siempre hay personas que tienen diferentes ideologías, y entonces tenemos que intervenir para resolver esos casos. Nuestro propósito es que todos convivan como hermanos y disfruten de sus hogares."

Le pregunté al Sr. Roldan si él tiene conocimiento de la nueva ley de "Un Strike y Estas Fuera" (One Strike Policy). El me dijo que esta nueva ley manda un mensaje muy importante y poderoso a las personas que no quieren entender que tienen un compromiso con la comunidad y que tienen que ser parte de ella. "El objetivo de nosotros es hacer que los residentes se sientan como familias unidas y disfruten de sus nuevos hogares que es el objetivo de nosotros," nos dijo Sr.

Roldan.

Tambien hablamos con el senador estatal Miquel del Valle, que estaba tambien de invitado y disfrutando de la compania de sus compatriotas. Dice el que "Este programa de viviendas dispersas es un componente muy importante porque asegura de que residentes de bajo recursos tengan un lugar decente donde vivir. Pero para que este programa pueda funcionar bien se necesita organizar a los residentes. "Tenemos que asegurar que las personas que van a residir en estas unidades sean personas responsables, que no van a permitir pandillas o actividades de drogas en sus viviendas ni alrededor de la comunidad.

"Es muy importante," dice Sr. del Valle, "que los residentes se unan como hermanos para que disfruten en paz y harmonia sus nuevos hogares. "Estamos

Valle, "that the residents unite like brothers to enjoy their new homes in peace and harmony. We are creating a Latin museum that is being constructed in the park that will be a source of pride in the community, like our library and our vocational center. The streets are being repaired and you can see the positive change in our community and there is still much to do but the progress is within sight of the whole community," said del Valle.

I asked Mrs. Magdalena Martinez, "Why are you so happy?" and she told me, "We are a group of residents in the community and also members of the Federation of Block Clubs since 1993 or 1994. We fought to have this building constructed for scattered site offices but also so that it could be a community center to serve the community and so it could be constructed for the residents, children and youth to better their economic and social situation. This is the purpose of these activities and we feel very happy for the accomplishment reached today," said Martinez.

viendo el progreso social en la comunidad y un cambio positivo. Estamos creando el museo latino que se está construyendo en el parque y que será un orgullo en la comunidad, como lo es nuestra biblioteca y nuestro centro vocacional. Las calles se están reparando y se esta viendo el cambio positivo en toda nuestra comunidad y todavía hay mucho más que hacer pero el progreso está a la vista de toda la comunidad," nos dice el Sr. del Valle.

Le pregunto a la Sra. Magdalena Martinez "¿Porque se siente tan alegre?" y me dice "Nosotros somos un grupo de residentes de la comunidad y tambien miembros de la federación del club de cuadra desde 1993 y 1994. Nosotros estábamos luchando para que se construyera este edificio para las oficinas de viviendas dispersas, pero que tambien fuera un centro comunitario para servir a la comunidad y que se construyera para los residentes, niños y jóvenes para mejorar su situación educacional y social. Es este el propósito de estas actividades y nos sentimos muy alegres por el logro obtenido hoy," nos comenta la Sra. Martinez.

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The Merchants association salutes the editor and staff of this residential community publication for its promotion of youth through the words of the newspaper. We encourage all youth to stay in school. The future of our business world is in your hands. Education is not only a must, but it is a very valuable tool for your future careers.

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THE RITZ HOTEL



FRAU-LYN'S BEAUTY SHOPPE



Russian

Korean

RJ visits Miami/Dade Housing Authority

by Julio Martinez

At the end of June, personnel from *RJ* and the CHA attended the convention of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists in Miami and took the opportunity to visit the public housing authority for Miami, the Miami/Dade Housing Agency. The attendees were *RJ* Editor-In-Chief Ethan Michaeli, *RJ* Intern Brenda Alvarez, the CHA representative to the Latino Community, William Velázquez, and myself.

We were cordially received by the executives of this agency. We had the pleasure of meeting with the executive personnel, who included Miami/Dade Housing Agency Executive Director Rene Rodriguez; William Calderin, resources specialist for the elderly community; Tawana Thompson, in charge of the Family Self Sufficiency program; Sara McLeod, Public Information Official; and Alicia Diaz, President of the Residents Association of Haley Sofge Complex.

The purpose of our visit was to look for some new ideas, to see the programs of the Miami/Dade Housing Agency at work and to compare them to with the programs of the Chicago Housing Authority.

Bill Velázquez spoke to the executives of Miami/Dade about the lawsuit that the Hispanic community leaders in Chicago made against HUD and the CHA so that the Hispanic community would have more information about the activities of the agencies and that they would have bilingual personnel in their offices.

Alvin Moore spoke with us about the positive involvement of the Latino residents in his agency. I was surprised to see these residents so happy and proud of their housing and I could see the brotherhood that they have and how nice and clean they keep their community.

Rodriguez told us that their goal is to attract different races to public housing other than African Americans.

"We give a lot of information to elderly people through the radio and the same information gives us a positive outcome," said Thompson. "We have 10,888 units of public housing and the Section 8 Program has 15,000 units."

Rodriguez said that he would like to have a newspaper like the one for the CHA residents but that their residents are not as sophisticated like the ones in Chicago because their major problem is illiteracy.

"The State of Florida had approved the 'Welfare to Work' program a year before the federal government and as a result of this, people that can read have been moving out of public housing. Another thing that people do not see is that sometimes elderly residents are raising a second or third generation family member and they are often times the only ones that are willing to work."

Velazquez said that there is a consent decree with the Latino Community of Chicago that requires the creation of a list exclusively for Latinos for the Section 8 Program. The 15,000 applications on the list contain the names of people who would have been eligible for the program since 1974; these people should receive certificates for the program in the next four years. Velázquez explained that now the barrier that the CHA needs to overcome is the need for information directed towards the owners of the buildings, since these people are sometimes afraid to rent to people in these programs. This program should work better and faster now thanks to the new personnel of the Section 8 Program who are dedicating themselves to informing building owners.

Rodriguez commented that the tallest building of the Miami/Dade Housing Authority is 13 floors and that in the family public housing communities administered by the agency, 90 percent are African-American.

Fifty percent of the community participants in the Section 8 Program are Latino, and 80 percent of this community is Cuban; the rest are from Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico. The program is currently changing because people are resolving their status, resulting in the number of years for families in public housing is 10 to 15 years. The 45 percent reduction in crimes related to drugs is due to the "One Strike Policy."

The Haley Sofge Community

The residents of the Haley Sofge community have a very nice beauty salon and from what we saw, they have good clientele. They also have a small supermarket in their own community, so that everything is at hand and they do not have to buy out of the community.

We went to the lunch room where they had a gathering of elderly people. They were very well dressed and happy, maybe because it is rare that they have visitors from out of state. I too felt happy to see them enjoy our visit. When I was giving them my short speech, I could see how attentive and respectful they all were. When I finished speaking, I turned my attention to one of the elderly audience members who was looking directly in my eyes and I thought: That mind must be an encyclopedia that holds years of experience and I know it could be utilized in our time. We did not know, as fans of the Chicago Bulls, how many followers they have in

Miami. These people are Bulls Fans. When we went to say good-bye, I stretched a hand in friendship and cariño but they said "not like that, you have to give us a

Spanish version of this story on page 7

kiss." That was how we said good-bye to these wonderful people.

Thank you our Miami friends. The *Residents' Journal* and the Chicago Housing Authority say "¡Adios!"



RJ correspondent Julio Martinez interviewing Alicia Diaz, President of Haley Sofge Resident Association, Rosa Castro, Treasurer of the Haley Sofge Resident Association and William Calderin, Metro-Dade Housing Agency Community Resource specialist.

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Flannery Homes/Orchard Park Update

by Alan Minerbrook

"Age is a question of mind over matter! If you don't mind it really doesn't matter" - Legendary baseball pitcher Satchel Paige

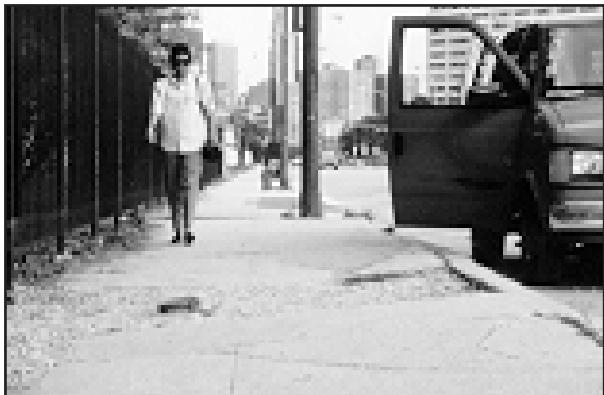
Changes at Orchard Park, the for-sale, market-rate town homes built around the Flannery Homes Senior Towers continued at an accelerated pace over the summer.

Cement foundations for new town houses are all completed and building is now in progress. The cement foundations are water barrier-sealed, under the guidance of a new town-house contractor/ developer Tropic Construction. Superintendents David Graf and Mark Hawkins as well as foreman Carey Overstreet are showing they definitely know what building is all about. Anita Scheer, sales manager for Garrison Partners, is handling the marketing of the new town homes.

New Sidewalks Needed

Flannery and Orchard Park are indeed one community with the same needs and desires for decent living conditions.

Town house resident Rafael Ramirez began a peti-



Broken sidewalk on the east side of Clybourn Avenue. Photo by Alan Minerbrook

tion drive for a new sidewalk recently. He asked the residents of Flannery for signatures directed to Mayor Richard M. Daley and Ald. Walter Burnett (27) for new sidewalks along the East Side of Clybourn Avenue between Larabee and Halsted streets.

The sidewalks have been in terrible condition for the past 3 years, according to long-time Flannery residents. Many Flannery residents are forced to walk off the walkway and into Clybourn Avenue itself, which, due to parking along the east side of Clybourn from Ogden to Halsted, is very, very hazardous.

There are many residents with disabilities who negotiate the journey to the North/Halsted subway stop and the various bus lines at the six-way intersection in wheelchairs and with walking canes.

Ramirez asked the Local Advisory Council for support in getting signatures on petitions to the city for a new sidewalk.

Susie Jones, the building president of 1531 Clybourn Ave., wholeheartedly supported the petition drive and obtained 50 signatures from 1531 residents over-night. Thirty residents from 1507 N. Clybourn signed the petition as well and the whole package was submitted to the mayor and the alderman.

Ramirez is a high school teacher and many of his students have been invited to some of the Flannery's social functions given by Mary Anne Longstreet-Madison, the senior services coordinator for Flannery. A few of Ramirez's college-bound honor students were invited to view the Chicago Air and Water Show

Aug. 22 and 23 from the 9th floor gallery.

Tenant Meeting

On Monday, June 1, at 10:30 a.m. a tenant meeting of the 1507 residents was held in the recreational area of the ground floor. We discussed the just-past Memorial Day dinner. Everyone was happy with the menu and the quantity.

At the same meeting, plans were made for an outdoor July 4th bar-b-que to be held outside the adjoining yard. The menu of hotdogs and potato chips was well



Broken sidewalk on Clybourn Avenue between Larabee and Halsted Streets.

Photo by Alan Minerbrook

planned and agreed upon by all residents in attendance. The 1507 community room has a new VCR and is at the disposal of all tenants to use to show their movies. A floor model large screen TV is to be purchased for 1507 building tenants to use.

LAC President Ethel Henderson said fresh flowers will be constantly replanted.

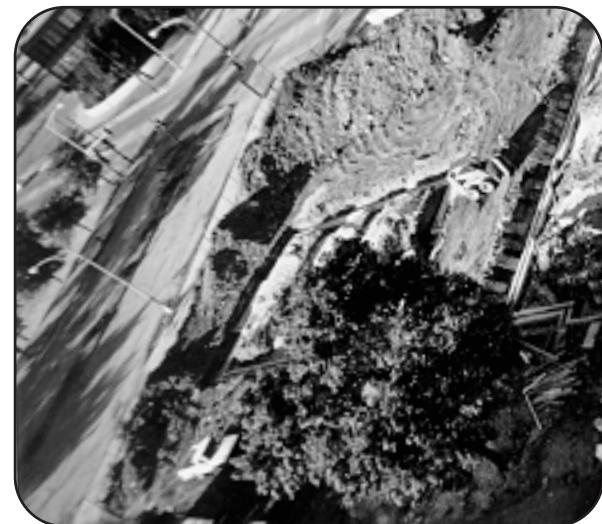
Landscape changes

Trees on the east side of the town house residences were chopped down during the twilight and evening hours.

The town house lot is being extended to give the first occupants of the town houses bigger backyard spaces. Christine Oliver, president of the Chicago Dwellings Association, the primary developer of Orchard Park, promised this expansion of backyard space to the six townhouse residents a year ago.

Activities

Flannery Residents were treated by management to a play presented by Magmation Theatre on Tuesday June



Foundation bed for Orchard Park's new townhouses.

Photo by Alan Minerbrook

9, at 11:30 a.m. on the 16th floor recreational room in 1507 N. Clybourn. On that day, both building elevators in the 1507 building were out of service until 8 a.m., when elevator maintenance restored operations. Management supplied dinners, sodas and cup cakes. On Wednesday, June 17, in the early, early hours, a number of tenants went fishing in Lake Michigan. We all wished them good luck. Mary Ann Longstreet-Madison offered a number of

interesting activities during June. Residents were treated to a gospel play, "Perilous Times," at the Arie Crown Theatre on Friday, June 19.

Fathers Day came early for Flannery seniors at 1507. Longstreet-Madison and her 78-year-old father gave all the seniors a big dinner with turkey, potato salad, cake and pop.

On June 26, interested tenants of Flannery Towers went by charter bus to the Ravinia Festival to hear jazz by Wynton Marsalis and the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra. It was free to us all and it was indeed a deeply enjoyable evening under the stars and trees with people of all walks of life. All attentively listened to Marsalis' musical compositions, which are largely based upon the roots of jazz and the old masters, Duke Ellington and Count Basie.

This presentation was simulcast on WGN-TV (Channel 9).

Manager's update

On Tuesday, June 23, at 10 a.m., a management meeting was announced for all leaseholders and building representatives. Donna Jones, manager of Flannery, announced that all outside balconies are to be cleared of chairs, bicycles, barbecue grills and the storage rooms must be used for tenant-owned items. Jones said sitting on the buildings' front stoops, sides, rear and garden areas is prohibited.

Jones said that cigarette butts, urine, spit and litter accumulate overnight and when the cleaning crews begin work at 8 a.m., the elevators are very dirty. Jones said tenants must be aware of this problem and try to improve



A downward view of the foundations for the new Orchard Park townhouses.

Photo by Alan Minerbrook

this mess.

On Sunday July 5, there was a heavy flood at 1507 N Clybourn. Water leaked from the upper floors and poured into the ground lobby floor and the water affected both elevators at 1507.

A local news station sent a mobile TV truck and obtained pictures for the evening news report. Manager Jones was immediately on the scene to correct the problem. The elevators remained out of service for 3 hours. On July 6, LAC President Henderson served the residents barbecue pork ribs and cold pop at noon. "It was finger-licking good," said one senior who observed the event.

On Thursday, July 9, CHA's Gladys L. Reed Senior Programs Division provided residents and guests of both Senior Flannery buildings with free bus transportation to the splendid musical dance sensation, "Bring in da Noise Bring in da Funk" at the Schubert Theater. The presentation was spectacular and loads of fun for all of us seniors.

Lathrop Homes News

by Bobby Watkins

Lathrop Homes has a new playground due to the construction of the Damen Avenue Bridge. The Chicago Department of Transportation, along with Walsh Construction, hired Lathrop residents to help with the project.

A dedication ceremony will be happening soon. Look for further details on the Lathrop Homes improvement in the next issue of **RJ**.

Thanks to Avery Patillo for your help with the Jimmy Thomas Nature Trail. Also, special thanks to all of our young people who have been coming out on Saturday. Keep up the good work!

Congratulations Arlando Adamson, a Robert Taylor Homes resident-owned-business owner, for getting the contract to finish the Jimmy Thomas Trail.

To a Special Person

Most times we make the mistake of giving a person their flowers after they have departed this life but I say give them their due while the person can smell them. The same goes for letting a person know that they have done a wonderful job. That is why I wanted to write about this one particular lady. When I was a younger person living with my aunt and uncle in Robert Taylor Homes, I heard my aunt and some of her friends speak of Bobbie Bolden and the Summer Food Program and how she cares about feeding "those babies," as she calls the children of CHA.

As I got older and began living on my own in CHA, I began to volunteer and I found out about Resident Organizations. And guess who was heading this organization, none other than Bobbie Bolden.

I just want to say that her programs bring so many opportunities to our young people that they may never have been able to take advantage of without Bolden and her outstanding staff. She has brought such programs as Youth Expression at Fuller Park, where young people from all housing developments had a chance to strut their stuff; and the Youth Can Cook programs throughout the developments.

My favorite Resident Organizations activity was when I had a chance to participate in the sleepover along with many other volunteers and the fine RO staff on the night of the Chicago Bulls playoff game, when everyone wanted the city to be safe. Bolden and her staff came with the idea of the sleepover. Just to see the look on Bolden's face when you looked at the kids made one know just how much she cares for her babies. In closing, I just want to say that we need more people



Bobby Watkins and a few young Lathrop Homes residents at this year's all-night shut-in, sponsored by CHA Resident Organizations.

like Bolden and her staff to tell our young people to keep on keeping on. Not only is Ms. Bolden head of Resident Organization but she is also a CHA resident. So it makes it all the greater to know that someone who has had some of the same blows as the rest of us is helping to make the dreams of some of our young people come true.

Employment Rights

by the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago

Employees who have problems on the job need to know their legal options, and residents of CHA are **E**xception. In addition, CHA residents may have additional concerns about their rent going up and their public benefits going down when they start working.

Your Legal Rights on the Job

Employment rights is a complex area, since each employer can set its own rules, as long as they do not violate the law. If you have a written contract of employment, or are a member of a union, your rights depend on the exact wording of the contract.

There are some basic rules that apply to almost all jobs.

Non-discrimination

It is illegal for an employer to discriminate in hiring, firing, pay, or promotion, because of the employee's age, race, sex, pregnancy, color, national origin, or religion. It is

also illegal to discriminate against an employee with a dis-

ability who can perform the job with reasonable accommodations by the employer. In the City of Chicago and Cook County, it is illegal to discriminate based on marital status, parental status, and source of income or sexual orientation.

Family and medical leave

If your employer has at least 50 employees, and you have been on the job at least a year, you are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a new child, if you are seriously ill, or if a parent, spouse, or child is very ill and you need to care for him or her. You must request leave in advance if possible, and provide verification if your employer asks for it.

Occupational health and safety Employees have a right to a safe work place. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets rules for work-

Commentary

place health and safety, and responds to complaints about unsafe

working conditions.

If you think that your employer has violated your rights under the above laws, you should consult with a lawyer as soon as possible to determine your best course of action, before taking any irreversible action.

However, some employers are exempt from the following some of these rules- for example, if there are less than 15 employees, the employer is not covered by some of the nondiscrimination laws.

Reporting a New Job

The lease requires all residents to promptly report a new job to CHA. If the new job is part of a qualified training program, the income from the job is not counted when calculating rent for 18 months. Also, if the resident reports the new job, any delay by CHA in adjusting the rent cannot be held against the resident.

Residents who are receiving TANF have

several reasons to report their new job promptly. Once a new job is reported to DHS, TANF recipients are in the Work Pays program and only \$1 is deducted for every \$3 earned. Until the job has been reported, all money earned is deducted from the grant. DHS may also provide help with childcare once they are informed of your new job.

The Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago (LAFC) provides free legal services in civil cases for low-income residents of the City of Chicago in many areas including, consumer, family, employment, housing and public benefits. We plan on having a regular column to provide legal information to the CHA community. Please send suggestions and / or questions for future columns to the Residents' Journal. LAFC cannot give legal advice about specific cases through the column and any information in this or any other column should not be considered legal advice. LAFC has three neighborhood offices and a downtown office. If you think you may need legal advice or representation call 1-312-341-1070 and you will be directed to the most convenient office.

Thank
You



On behalf of the students and staff of the Urban Youth International Journalism Program, Residents' Journal would like to thank the following individuals for their critical help in making this year's program a success:

Joseph Shuldiner
Ed Moses
U.S. Sen. Carol Moseley Braun
U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin
U.S. Rep. Rod Blagojevich
U.S. Rep. Ray LaHood
U.S. Rep. Glenn Poshard
U.S. Rep. Danny Davis
Ms. Perry
State Representative Coy Pugh
U.S. HUD Deputy Secretary Saul Ramirez
U.S. HHS Secretary
Donna Shalala
U.S. Surgeon General
David Satcher
U.S. Transportation Secretary
Rodney Slater
Barbara Fletcher
Sandra Durley

Janice Muhammad
Flynn McRoberts
Mary Mitchell
Eugene Scott
Natalie Pardo
Cheryl Richardson
Salim Muwakil
Audarshia Townsend
Deloris McBain
Edie Rubinowitz
Rose Economo
Ann Werner
Scott Rieffert
Belaynish Zevadiah
Sharon Cruz-Boyd
Ken Nix
Mary Rose
Jana Harris
Ghanaian Embassy
Chicago Public Schools
Support A Child International
Prince Asiel Ben Israel
Seclinda Banks

Edenic Tours and Travel
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Mike Dorning
The DC Housing Authority
Karen Booker
Raven Lightsey
Cynthia Morris
John Brooks
Moriel Asiel
Michael Brown
Eric Payne
Wynona Redmond
Denise Eligan
Nathaniel Deutsch
Frankie Sanders

Letters to the Editor

A Real Celebrity

Dear Editor:

I would like to let the residents of CHA know about a senior celebrity living in our midst. Eugene A. Jaroch was born on July 8, 1922, in Chicago. Jaroch attended St. John Centius Elementary School, from which he graduated in June 1937, and continued with his education at Wells High School. After completing his four years at "Wells High" in 1941, he then furthered his educational career at the University of Wisconsin, where he received his B.S. degree in Physical Education.

His Accomplishments

Mr. Jaroch was a renowned pitcher for the Wisconsin Badgers professional baseball team from 1944 – 1947. In 1946, Jaroch set the Big Ten record in games won in a season, 6 in 1946 with a 6-0 record. He won major "W" awards in the 1944, 1945,

1946 and 1947 seasons.

In 1946, he led his team in winning the Big Ten title with a 9-2 record, striking out 52 batters and giving up 29 hits in 46 1/3 innings. Also in 1946, he set the Big Ten record with 16 strikeouts in a 7-0 win over Chicago. His posted career record is 14-6 (13-2 in the Big Ten Play).

On September 11, 1998, Eugene A. Jaroch will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. We the residents of 1845 N. Larrabee CHA Senior Housing are very proud to know and have such an accomplished and distinguished person as our friend and neighbor, especially since he's "One of Our Very Own."

Sincerely yours,
Barbara Philips and the residents of 1845 N. Larrabee

CHA Workers Save Resident

Dear Editor:

I would like the CHA community to know about two very special CHA employees. These two staff persons showed courage and intelligence when they administered first aid to a resident and saved his life.

On May 26, Environmental Case Specialists Theresa Moore and Quentin Stampley were at 2710 W. Ogden Ave. in unit 503 conducting a home visit in response to a report of child with an elevated blood lead level.

Here is what happened: A resident fell on a mirror. The mirror broke and cut the resident's leg down to the bone. He was bleeding profusely. The other resident ran out of the house screaming, leaving Theresa and Quentin alone with the injured man in the apartment. Quentin grabbed a towel and applied direct pressure to the leg. He directed

Theresa on how to be of assistance. Theresa assisted Quentin, called the police and treated the injured for shock. The paramedics came and commended both Theresa and Quentin for saving this man's life.

I am very proud of these two employees and feel they are an example of the compassion that many CHA workers feel for our clients – the residents of CHA.

Sincerely yours,
Margaret Garner
Director of Modernization
Chicago Housing Authority

Jump Rope-A-Thon

Dear Editor:

I would like to inform the CHA community about a great event that was held this summer. The Department of Resident Organizations held their 2nd Annual Jump Rope Competition at the Robert Taylor Boys & Girls Club, 5120 S. Federal St., on Saturday, June 27. Also, the 2nd Annual Jump Rope Competition Awards Ceremony was held on Monday, June 29, at Annie Tiques Banquet Hall, 8200 S. Cicero Ave. in Burbank.

The Jump Rope committee is thankful to Wanda Jefferson, coordinator for the vision; Bobbie Bolden, director of Resident Organizations for pushing to make the competition come to fruition; Gil Walker, director of Resident Programs, for the faith, commitment and dedication; Ed Moses, CHA's Deputy Executive Director for the Office of Community Relations and Involvement,



Jump Rope-A-Thon competitors.
Photo Provided by Artra Michelle Thomas

for his support; and especially Joseph Shuldiner, Executive Director of CHA, for the resources.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Wanda Jefferson, Jump Rope Coordinator
Artra Michelle Thomas, Jump Rope Assistant Coordinator
Ava Powell, Administrative Coordinator
DePriest McCary, Fiscal Director

Lori Williams
Queen Tramble
Lakithia Shannon
Deborah Michael
Marzette Henderson

THE WINNERS

1st Place Winners 13-17 age group

Cabrini/William Green Homes
Lovely Thomas, 1230 N. Burling
Angelia Nolen, 534 W. Division
Joy Buford, 1230 N. Burling
Ericca E. Caffie, 1230 N. Burling
Gianni Calvin, 660 W. Division

1st Place Winners, 8-12 age group Washington Park Homes

Latatia Carter, 4414 S. Cottage Grove
Shamia McFulson, 4414 S. Cottage Grove
Dominique Williams, 4120 S. Prairie
Ashley Bell, 4120 S. Prairie
April Bell, 4120 S. Prairie
Lateshia Bloomingberg, 4414 S. Cottage



The First-Place Winner.
Photo Provided by Artra Michelle Thomas

Grove
Special thanks to Monroe Brewer, manager of the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program, and Lynell Hemphill, senior manager of Education and Culture, for gifts and awards for the youth.

Sincerely yours,
Artra Michelle Thomas

Residents' Journal welcomes submissions from all of our readers and especially from public housing residents. Please send all letters to our new address:

916 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 404, Chicago, IL 60605. You may also call our office at (312) 674-4218 to discuss your ideas for submission.

Dear Resident

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

Welcome to the first "Back-to-School" edition of **RJ**. This is the first edition of **RJ** to be published prior to the opening of school and I would be remiss in my efforts and commitment to **RJ's** readership if I did not take this opportunity to address you on the subject of education.

I once read "The purpose of education is to guarantee a successful adult life." And to that I would like to add, "Without education, you are left to life's other, less desirable devices."

And our community lives with the results of these less desirable devices every day. I read this over 15 years ago in an education manual and it has stuck with me ever since.

For all intents and purposes, everything that we see and hear would lead us to believe that education is an American Priority...NOT! One has but to observe - not watch - observe the daily news shows which chronicle the day-to-day life of America, telling Americans what they need and want to know. Unless there is an event of catastrophic proportions, there is only one subject that gets more airtime and coverage than any other: SPORTS. Daily newspapers come equipped with a Sports Section. Sports, that's the American Priority.

And sports stars command millions of dollars in salary each year. Not for educating children, building homes or saving lives. They command millions for bouncing, kicking, striking or throwing a big, small, round or sphere-shaped ball, other object or sometimes other person. And America loves it. We set aside special time to support and cheer them on. We dress like them, no matter the cost. We hang their pictures on our walls and hang on their every word. Can you imagine how well educated our children would be given the same kind of attention and support that sports command? In countries where students excel, sports stars are paid much, much less money than they are in America and understandably so.

Before I continue, I must tell you that in addition to writing for **RJ**, I am an employee of the Chicago Public Schools. My children and I also are products of the Chicago Public Schools. I like to think of myself as an advocate for children and education. Here in Chicago, over the past few years, it would appear that children and education are receiving more priority at the city level.

Chicago, however, is a conglomeration of varied communities, usually based on economic levels and race or the lack thereof which usually results in melting pots such as the Uptown Area, where I lived at one time. In Chicago, education has always been either a community priority or not a priority at all.

Communities that work together for the benefit of all of its members generally prosper in all areas, especially education. The Options for Knowledge Program, allowing children to attend school outside of their community, proved to be a great educational opportunity for my family.

But in addition to education being a community priority, education must also prove to be a home priority if our children are to be successful in school, resulting in a high school diploma.

I would ask that each household in our community examine itself to find its priorities. If education is not a priority, it should be. If education is a priority, it should be one of the top two.

There is only one other Entity that can have a more profound effect than education in shaping our minds, our lives, our future. Education is a foundation on which to build.

The Board of Education, with new testing guidelines and bridge programs designed to ensure that a student arrives in high school with the skills necessary to succeed, is only a third of the equation. Most of our students complete eighth grade successfully.

High School is where we start to loose ground. Students need a great deal of support in high school. Parents have to watch more closely and check more often to make sure that their student is on time, on task and on target. Students must come to school each day on time with the necessary tools (completed homework assignments, books, paper, etc.) prepared to listen, learn and participate in class. Parents must make sure that students arrive on time each day, with the necessary tools and a loud and clear expectation from parents that they are to listen, learn and participate in class. Parents must support students, their school and the educational process if their student is to be successful. This is what they do in the homes of communities where education is a priority.

In communities like ours, there are many other things that can factor into whether or not a student can/will successfully complete high school. One such factor is family history, which actually affects every area of a child's life. A student's chances of completing high school are less when their parents, older siblings, extended family and past generations have not completed high school. It quietly says that education is neither important nor necessary to the family and no one is expected to finish high school. Another factor is family and economic problems which can impact a student's ability to get to school and perform well when they do. Student socialization is also a factor. High school students, especially freshmen, can suffer more than they benefit from the freedom to socialize that high school provides.

First-time high school parents: your student should have more work in high school than elementary school, not less. They will have homework every night. There are no study periods, so they didn't do it in school. If you don't see them with books, doing homework, there's something wrong. And actually ask to see their work. And actually read it and ask questions about it. It can educate you too. Make sure that your words are not the only thing that says you expect your student to do well in school.

If you say you expect your child to do well in school and you let them stay out late at night, you don't mean it. If you'll pay for a pair of the "new" Jordan gym shoes but complain about a class fee, you don't mean it. It's not so much what you say as it is what you do.

For students and families that need help and support, there are many sources. But you must seek them out. More importantly, you must help yourself first. There are some things that only you can do for yourself. If you have any questions or concerns, do not wait. Contact your student's school immediately. It is easier to keep up than it is to catch up. And while your student may not be a genius in school, I am always amazed by the things a student can get their parent to believe. If it does not sound believable, it probably is not true. Parents, the truth is only a phone call away. Human nature does one of two things: It does what it has to do. Or it does what it can get away with. Don't let your student get away with anything. A student who knows that their parent will check on them is more likely to be where they should be, doing what they should be doing.



As the school year approaches, we take a final look at summer freedom.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

Residents' Journal/August 1998 p.31



Residents' Journal/ August 1998 p.32