

R E S I D E N T S ,

Journal

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

CHA in Transition Pgs. 4 - 10
Youth International Journalism Pgs. 14 - 15
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Haymarket House AD

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FRONT PAGE

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

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Editor's Box

by Ethan Michaeli

who live in those developments if they don't have a Wateka Kleinpeter, Beatrice Harris, Betina Lee, Beauty Turner or any of the other strong women and men living next door to them?



I'll answer that question with another personal experience. Two weeks ago, during that spell of 90-degree days, I rushed out of the office for a quick bite to eat and drove to a nearby fast-food joint with a drive-through window. I waited in line, air conditioner and radio blasting, and watched as an adolescent boy walked from car to car, plaintively holding his bucket and windshield wiper up to the drivers ahead of me.

When he reached my car, I responded to his question almost before he finished asking it. "No, thanks," I told him, my frown less polite than my words.

"Well," he asked me, hopefully, innocently, "Could you buy me lunch then?"

"Not today, buddy," I answered him mechanically and started to reach for the window button again. But something about the boy's polite manner, his youthful energy and

An Award for Beauty

funded, dilapidated schools through streets controlled by street gangs. It is a testament to the women's creativity, determination and compassion that the vast majority of these kids grow up to be healthy, productive members of society.

This past weekend at the Wentworth Gardens Resident Management Corporation's Second Annual celebration of their control over their development, I sat for a while with Wateka Kleinpeter, RJ's assistant editor and a longtime resident of Wentworth, and Beatrice Harris, president of Wentworth's Local Advisory Council. With hundreds of children racing around the well-maintained square in the center of the development, these ladies told me stories about feeding, clothing and otherwise caring for all of the community's children.

CHA and HUD are moving to demolish all of the city's public housing developments. But I wonder what will happen to all the children

determination, made me stop.

"Hey kid," I waved at him. "Alright, I'll buy you lunch."

I bought him lunch and pulled over to the corner of the parking lot. He ran over to my car and I handed him the bag and the drink.

"What are you doing out here?" I asked him.

"I'm just out here until my mom gets out of the hospital," he answered, checking the bag for catsup and napkins. "My dad passed a few years ago."

He said he was 15 and would be a junior at a nearby high school. I didn't know what else I could do to help him and so I reluctantly let him walk away.

In a better world, we'd have super-efficient government agencies that could step in when families fall apart. But today, when families fall apart, it's community that steps in.

She works hard for the money indeed.

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Transforming CHA Jackson's Legacy: Slashed Services

by Mary C. Johns

The recent departure of Philip Jackson, the Chicago Housing Authority's former chief executive officer, comes as no surprise to residents of the public housing authority.

Residents are expressing little or no concern over Jackson's departure and many say there were little or no improvements in their daily living conditions during Jackson's 10-month reign, especially in the areas of security and the handling of work orders.

Residents' Observations

"I want my fence back," said one senior resident of the Ida B. Wells development when asked if she experienced any changes in her living conditions since the city took control of CHA back from the federal government 10 months ago.

The senior, who asked to remain anonymous, pointed to a small, muddy, junk-filled area directly under her front room window and explained, "I used to have a garden here. But now people walk all over it and do their drug business right by my window."

"I've been here since 1969 and never got a screen door."

Jackson and other CHA officials cited the lay-offs of hundreds of CHA employees as one of his regime's accomplishments. But residents **RJ** interviewed said that the lay-offs only made matters worse in the handling and carrying out

"The police won't come out into the neighborhood. They said they have to call for other squad cars to come and handle situations.

"If there is an emergency and (police stationed in CHA developments) can make a difference between someone getting hurt, why not come out? It's your job."

Lott and others in the Wells development consider the police presence there a waste of time and money. Lott said the mayor and aldermen of CHA wards could get the drug situation under control in public housing if they were forced. He strongly advised public housing residents to use their vote as a means to make change.

"I don't think it isn't anything that one person can do. No one person will make a difference. It's the political system," Lott said.

"Even when a good person comes in and wants to change things, his hands gets dirty. It's the mayor you've got to point the finger at.

"It all goes back to the politicians. Voting is our power source."

Changing of the Guard

Jackson said he will go on a "long overdue vacation" before fulfilling his "passion" in education as deputy mayor of education. 17th Ward Ald. Terry Peterson took over as the new head of CHA June 5.

In a short interview before his departure, Jackson discussed his accomplishments as chief of CHA, his future plans and new job, his

"I think that's the highest honor that a person can have. To actually have a position designed around what you want to do."

Jackson said his preference is to teach children, adults and young people in jail to make sure they get the best quality education possible.

Jackson said Peterson had consulted with him about different things regarding the CEO position and feels that he is a good choice for the position.

"If he needs my help, I will do anything that Terry Peterson asks," Jackson said.

"It has been a year of hope, progress and opportunity for the residents of public housing.

"It is my wish that the residents continue along the path of success."

City Hall Remarks

City Hall spokesperson Julian Green denied Jackson was removed.

"Philip Jackson was not removed. Philip Jackson went to the mayor several weeks ago before he (the mayor) went on vacation, and felt that he did a great job in getting the CHA to where it needed to be," Green said.

Private Management
Residents are still not getting through to CHA's (312) 791-4747 emergency hotline on weekends.

Maggie Stewart, CHA's Director of Asset Management, said at a June 13 press conference that private firms managing all of CHA's senior and family properties are now required to handle all emergency calls directly.

"The private firms have procured after-hours emergency services with telephone numbers as well as assigned staff to be on call 24-hours a day to handle emergencies as assigned," said Stewart.

"Residents are to call their property managers directly as well as the emergency numbers that the property managers provide them with."

Stewart said CHA's (312) 791-4747 24-hour hotline would still be in service for emergencies.

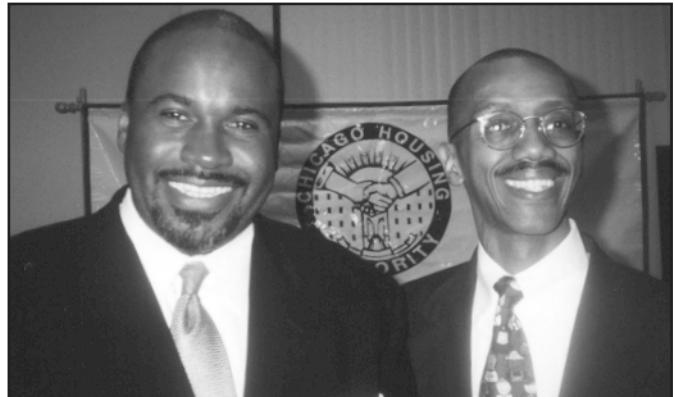
Stewart said that CHA would work with the firms to make sure that the emergency numbers for each development are available to every resident and posted throughout each site including LAC and building meetings.

Dr. Leon Finney, chairman of the Woodlawn Community Development Corporation, the private firm that manages Washington Park, Harold Ickes, and Trumbell/Lowden Homes, agreed with the changes.

"If we know directly what those complaints or issues are, that's the only way the residents can hold us accountable," said Finney.

"Because ultimately, what we want to do is be the most responsive to emergencies and issues that address the health and well being of our residents."

And the beat goes on...



New CHA CEO Terry Peterson (left) with former CHA Chief Philip Jackson.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Peterson.

"I'm no stranger to CHA. I've worked with a number of the leadership at CHA and I look forward to working with them."

Jackson told **RJ** that Peterson consulted with him prior to being appointed CEO but didn't go into much detail. So **RJ** asked Peterson what the consultation was about.

"It wasn't much as consulting. Philip and I have talked about some of the things he's worked on, some of the accomplishments that he's achieved during the time that he's been there. So that was basically it," Peterson said.

At the time of this report, Peterson said that it would be premature for him to talk about what his priority and focus would be once in office.

However, Peterson said CHA can be successful if all involved work together.

"Residents can expect a person who's going to come over, roll up his sleeves, who's going to work very hard to improve their quality of life," Peterson said.

When I asked (management) when the leak in my bedroom will get fixed, they said, 'I have to get the roofers.' They get my rent every month and I'm putting down buckets.

-Ida B. Wells resident, Bobbie Butler

of work orders.

Residents in several developments said they've experienced more difficulty in calling in work orders as well as getting the work done due to the lack of staff.

"It still remains the same in my unit," said Ida B. Wells resident Bobbie Butler.

"When I asked (management) when the leak in my bedroom will get fixed, they said, 'I have to get the roofers.' They get my rent every month and I'm putting down buckets," she said.

Butler said that effective management of any property requires staff with the necessary housing management skills and experience. Next, staff must have the willingness to get the job done and then be given the power and authority to do so. Butler and her neighbors in Ida B. Wells said they are tired of "lip service."

"If you're going to do the talk, do the walk," she said.

Residents also criticized the disbanding last fall of the Chicago Housing Authority Police Department. Unanimously, residents interviewed said the Chicago Police Department does no better at securing the developments against the illegal drug sales activity that continues to plague them.

Ida B. Wells resident Reginald Lott described a recent fight between two of his neighbors, a couple, that spilled into the street. The woman started breaking the man's car windows while he chased and struck her. Lott recalled that he and his neighbors ran to the police station in the development – the headquarters for the Chicago Police Department's Public Housing South unit. The officers on duty refused to come out and assist the residents, angering Lott and his neighbors.

"There is no such thing as security," said Lott.

consultation with Peterson, and gave some final words for CHA residents.

Jackson claimed he had accomplished more in 10 months than the previous administration accomplished in 10 years.

"CHA is in better shape today than in the past 30 years. When I came into CHA, it had a \$47 million budget shortfall. When I leave CHA, it has a \$1.5 billion commitment to revitalize public housing from HUD," said Jackson.

"I have accomplished everything I was asked to accomplish and more."

During the last months of Jackson's term in office, allegations surfaced that CHA Board Chairperson Sharon Gist-Gilliam and certain staff members played a part in Jackson's resignation.

Rumors were that Gist-Gilliam and some top CHA staffers did not respect Jackson's authority, which in turn made it difficult for him to function as the chief of Chicago's neglected public housing stock.

Jackson told **RJ** he doesn't answer to rumors and that he chose to leave for his one-year anniversary.

"At this point, I am choosing to do what I want to do. I reserve that option as a Black man to do what I want to do," he said.

"I am leaving for my one-year anniversary. It is my choice to leave and go and do the things that I love."

Jackson said he would be working with the mayor on education issues in the City of Chicago administration and that Mayor Richard M. Daley would create a position especially for him.

"The mayor asked me what I wanted to do. And when I told him, he said, 'I'll make a position around what you want to do,'" Jackson said.

"Philip from his own mouth says he is a 'fix it man' and so he felt he came in fixed the CHA and it was time to move on and fix something else."

As for Daley's new appointee, Green said the mayor is sure Peterson is a good choice to succeed Jackson.

"Terry has the full confidence of the mayor based on the wonderful job that he's done in the administration as well as the 17th Ward."

When asked to detail some of Peterson's accomplishments, Green did not provide any specifics.

"I don't live in the 17th Ward so I don't know specifically (what Peterson accomplished)," Green said. "But his constituents speak very highly of him."

Knight in Shining Armor?

RJ spoke with Peterson concerning his background, his past affiliations with CHA and his intentions for CHA and its residents.

Prior to being appointed 17th Ward alderman in 1996, Peterson served as deputy commissioner of the city's Department of Planning. In that job in 1995, Peterson said he worked with several CHA Local Advisory Council (LAC) members on a number of public housing initiatives. Peterson said those efforts had a lot to do with his appointment as CHA's new CEO.

"I worked with Ms. Deverra Beverly over at ABLA, I've worked with Ms. Mamie Bone about the redevelopment of the Henry Horner area. We worked on the Henry Horner Annex. I met with Ms. Cora Moore about the projects along Division Street around Cabrini-Green, and I worked with Ms. Izora Davis regarding the redevelopment of the property over on the lakefront and the high-rises over there," said

Transforming CHA A New Surprise for Taylor Homes

by Arminta Clark

Robert Taylor Homes residents got a new surprise May 16.

During a meeting they attended at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center, 4859 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago Housing Authority officials announced Robert Taylor residents relocated just last year would have to move again in another six months.

Residents from Robert Taylor, Ida B. Wells and other developments came to the meeting thinking they were going to see and hear the new CEO, Terry Peterson.

But instead, CHA Chief of Development John Roberson greeted them and announced the agency's new "Winterization" plan.

"We are mad as Hell. We are not going to take this lying down," shouted Barbara Moore.

Moore is no stranger to fighting with CHA officials. She fought last year's Winterization plan to stop the closing of 5266 S. State St., where she was president.

Many residents clapped and vocalized their agreement with Moore.

"You people think you can treat us like cattle. Move us here and there like we're nobody," Moore said with a cane in one hand and the microphone in the other hand. Standing in obvious pain due to arthritis plaguing her, Moore said, "We are going to fight you every step of the way."

As building president at 5266 S. State, Moore, other residents and members from St.

last two tenants to move out of 5266 S. State St., with Moore being the very last one to leave. 5266 was the last Robert Taylor Homes building to close on that great street, State Street, during last year's Winterization process. Moore and Williams are now residents in the adjacent building at 5247 S. Federal St.

Due for the Wrecking Ball

Like all of CHA's high-rises, all of the Robert Taylor Homes buildings are due for the wrecking ball.

Robert Taylor Homes, the world largest public housing development, is divided into two sections. The A section starts at 4037 S. State St. and runs up to 4555 S. State. The B section begins at 4844 S. State and extends to 5266 S. State.

Today, there are no buildings from the Robert Taylor developments open on South State Street. All occupied buildings are now on South Federal Street. There are three remaining buildings now on Federal: 5135, 5201 and 5247.

Moore said CHA officials told her residents of her building who wanted to stay in Robert Taylor would be moved into vacant apartments in other buildings that would be rehabbed. But when families were moving, Moore said some of the new units already were occupied. The confusion and hassle complicated many families' relocation, Moore said.

Residents who wanted to leave Robert Taylor had options to receive a Section 8

Cheeks library. The fish and worm farm has been located in the 5201 S. Federal building," she said.

Moore thought the fish and worm farm would be in the same building in which she resides.

"These are only a few of the changes that occurred with us," Moore said.

Moore is no longer building president. She said Local Advisory Council (LAC) President Mildred Dennis appointed a president of her new building three weeks prior to her arrival. Moore said she would run again during the next election term.

Moore added that former CHA CEO Philip Jackson paid \$500 out of his pocket to replace the fish and worm farm that was destroyed in the process of closing 5266 S. State.

"The rat problem seems to be under control at 5247 S. Federal. There was an enormous rat problem at the 5201 S. Federal building," Moore said.

Other Robert Taylor Homes buildings have been plagued with rats. After one young boy was bitten by a rat in the face last year, CHA officials vowed to stop the rat problem.



Robert Taylor "B" President Mildred Dennis during a May 16 CHA redevelopment meeting at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center.

Photo by Arminta Clark

Moorehead and Associates responded to the situation Sunday morning. Residents called the CHA emergency services number, (312) 791-4747, but were told they should not dial that number. The CHA official who answered contacted Moorehead and Associates and relayed the residents' complaints. Moore said residents were upset that they were not given the new management company's telephone number.

Moore said she and many residents are planning for the march on Juneteenth, on June 19, a day set aside in honor of slaves who learned of their emancipation after the Civil War.

"We are fighting because poor people have no justice in America today," Moore said.

A New Generation

Geneva Kindle and Cassandra Waller are both 18. They are the third-generation public housing residents. Both young ladies have high ambitions: Kindle said she wants to be a doctor and Waller wants to own a hair salon. Waller said she enjoys creating different hair styles.

"I always wanted to be a beautician," she said.

"We want to be billionaires," they both laughed out loud.

They both were relocated from 4848 S. State St. and were disappointed with the move.

"We're frustrated and sad over the closing of our old home. I was born here," Kindle recalled.

"We shared many good times at this address. My grandmother raised her family here. My mother's family has been a resident with our family for 18 years now. My age."

Kindle said there seemed to be gang-related conflicts near their new building "all the time."

"Neither one of us belongs to a gang. You are automatically assumed that you belong to a gang simply because we used to live, which is silly," Kindle explained.

Kindle and Waller said they feel unsafe since the CHA Police Department was eliminated last fall.

"Yes, we have the Chicago Police Department within this development," Kindle said. "(But) we can never find one if we need to be escorted closer to our own building when gunfire is being blasted. To us, the CHA security patrol was more visible than the Chicago Police was."

Kindle and Waller both have high expectations for themselves.

"We want to own our own home, car and have a business. It's time for a new generation to make a change."

Chicago Housing Authority officials announced Robert Taylor residents relocated just last year would have to move again in another six months.

Mary A.M.E. Church organized different programs for the community. Her organization, God's Gang, created the Mother Cupboard Food Pantry and library titled Greene and Cheeks, both of which were housed in 5266 S. State. God's Gang also boasted a fish and worm farm for the children to learn vermiculture.

Moore was unable to stop her building from closing. She and Gloria Williams were the

voucher, scattered site housing or select another development in which to reside.

Moore said CHA cut off the heat and water on December 18, 1999 while she and Williams were still living in their apartments. Moore said her decision to move was a practical one. All the residents had moved and there was no way she could hold the building by herself. The Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade and Coalition to Protect Public Housing stood with Moore to the bitter end.

"We understand why the rest of the residents moved," Moore said.

"There were scare tactics pushed on the residents by telling them that their children would be placed in the Department of Children and Family Services if they didn't move.

Moore said she moved into an unheated apartment and none of the electrical outlets were working.

"It was very cold," Moore recalled.

The Jewish Council on Urban Affairs brought her electric heaters and an electric blanket to stay warm in her new apartment.

She admitted the CHA quickly corrected that problem.

"But for CHA officials to think that everything was fine is ridiculous," Moore said of her new building.

"The elevators seldom work. The elevators go down at least 3 or 4 times a day.

"It would be difficult right now for my feelings to be the same for this building compared to the other building. We were like a community within that development."

A New Life?

Moore said they still have the fish and worm farm along with the food pantry.

"We no longer have the Greene and



More buildings like this 5001 S. Federal building in the Robert Taylor development are schedule for future demolition.

Photo by Arminta Clark

Transforming CHA

ABLA News: The Order of Return?

by Karen Owens

ABLA Homes, composed of the Jane Addams, Robert Brooks, Loomis Courts and Grace Abbott developments on the Near West Side, has seen many changes since the first brick was laid. Historically, various ethnic groups settled in ABLA with their families.

It's gone from being the city's first public housing development (Jane Addams) to tough times to a showcased development, as demonstrated by the newly rehabbed Brooks Homes.

Many persons from all over the world and from all walks of life have come to admire the new Brooks Homes and celebrate the hard work and dedication of those involved in the rehab - ABLA's residents, their Local Advisory Council and various other entities. Their efforts represent the ever changing nature of the Near West Side.

The second set of rehabbed Brooks Homes units - known as Phase II - will soon be ready for occupancy.



**CHAC Deputy Director Jennifer O'Neil.
CHAC runs the Section 8 program.**

Photo by Beauty Turner

Original Brooks families will start returning at the end of June until all 197 units are filled.

How Will They Return?

According to an agreement with all parties involved, the LAC, CHA, City agencies, the Habitat Company and the attorneys for the Gautreaux Decree, the original Brooks Homes residents who reside in the relocation building, 1440 W. 13th St., will return first.

They will be followed by other residents of ABLA in the Jane Addams and Brooks Extension areas who wish to move into the new units. All residents, however, must be lease compliant. The units in Phase II will be the same as in Phase I except the bedrooms will be larger.

Residents' Response

Tenants who are waiting to return have been very patient. They are satisfied to be moving to new, safe and sanitary units. They welcome the fact that they will be returning to well-manicured lawns, play areas for children, off-the-street parking and other amenities that resemble upscale housing units in the city.

One long time ABLA resident hopes she can be fortunate enough to secure one of the units. She said, "I love the design of the units. I've had friends who were former ABLA residents who describe the new Brooks Homes as breathtaking.

"More open space, brightly colored and a low rise unit, all different than what I presently reside in. These are my reasons to look forward to a new unit."

One young ABLA resident said she would look forward to playground spaces and a cool, air-conditioned



AFL/CIO President John J. Sweeney with members of the National Campaign for Jobs and Income Support Coalition during a May 6 rally.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

unit.

A New Community Center

Soon to be added to ABLA will be a new community center. It will be located between 13th and 14th streets at Racine Avenue. Many activities and services will be offered to our youth, adults and senior residents. The community center will be beneficial and welcomed by all who choose to participate in the various programs.

Residents were given the opportunity to make suggestions as to what services they would like to see offered. Residents made suggestions on the overall design of the building as well.

The many ideas for programs included music, arts and crafts and computer training classes as well as after-

Relocated Residents Fear Eviction

by Mary C. Johns

Claiming CHA broke its promise to them, Barbara Moore and other relocated Robert Taylor Homes residents are afraid they will soon be evicted.

Moore, other Robert Taylor Homes residents and Coalition to Protect Public Housing members protested June 8 at City Hall. Moore and the others said CHA is threatening them with eviction for non-payment of rent because the agency has not lived up to the promise of providing them with 2 months of free rent.

Philip Jackson, the former chief of CHA, promised the two-month rent abatement to relocatees of seven high-rise buildings that were closed during the 1999 Winterization plan at Robert Taylor.

Moore said that she, her daughter and a son, who are also leaseholders of the development, were given 14-day notices for 2 months of past due rent.

"On May 30, management brought me, my son and my daughter a 14-day notice stating that we had not paid 2 months rent. This is the rent they're talking about that Phil Jackson promised to give us and did give us but it seems to be no record kept on that two-months rent that they promised us," Moore said.

"This is another way of getting us out of our homes where we live."

"I don't owe them no rent."

Wendy Stasell of the National Center on Poverty Law said the promise was made as an incentive to get the residents out of the building and that nobody at CHA kept track of the fact.

"The 2 months (free) rent was an incentive that was offered to residents to encourage them to move out of the building without additional hassles and arguments. And apparently, at CHA, one hand doesn't know what the other one is doing or their intention to use this (14-day rent notices) to evict people," said Stasell.

"Because now they're coming back to the same people who agreed to move and saying that they owe these 2-months' rent."

Moore said she and the other relocated residents were promised the rent abatement "verbally by Phil Jackson. It was all over the papers and everywhere."

Broken Promises?

In the fall of 1999, approximately one month after moving, many Robert Taylor relocatees complained the 2-month abatement had not appeared on their rent statements.

As reported in the December 1999 edition of RJ, Jackson acknowledged his promise and said residents relocated within their developments or into other CHA developments during the 1999

Winterization Plan would see the free rent reflected on their rent statements within the next few months, depending on where they were relocated.

Moore said although the promise was verbally given to the residents being relocated, it was also written and documented in the mayor's office.

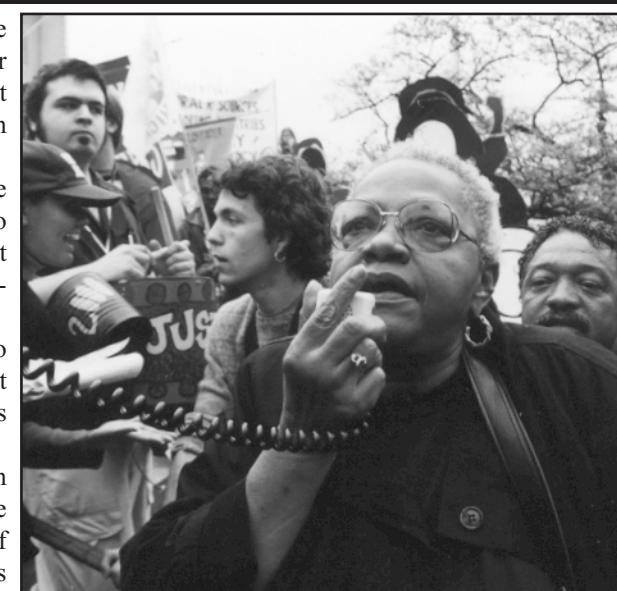
"It wasn't given directly to us individually in writing, but it was in writing in the mayor's office," Moore said.

Moore told RJ that upon receipt of the 14-day notice, she called former CHA Chief of Operations John O'Connell's office to inquire about the notice but was told that he no longer worked for CHA.

Moore said she then tried to reach CHA official Ralph Jordan, who, at the time of her relocation, "encouraged her to take the free rent offer." But Moore was unable to reach Jordan.

Moore said she didn't try to get in touch with CHA Board of Commissioners Chairman Sharon Gist-Gilliam.

"I don't believe anything Sharon tells me," Moore said. "Why didn't they let the private managers know? (CHA) should have put (the promise) in all the books."



Robert Taylor resident Barbara Moore speaks to protesters during the May 1 "Housing for the People" rally on Balbo Drive and Michigan Avenue.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Sources said that the development's management records showed that residents did receive the free rent abatement.

RJ made several inquiries to Robert Taylor's new private management firm, William Moorehead and Associates. Despite repeated efforts, Moorehead and Associates officials declined the opportunity to comment by RJ deadline.

Transforming CHA Seniors Worry about Rehab Plan

by Julio Martinez

The plan for the reorganization of the Chicago Housing Authority promises us that all the apartments whose residents are elderly will be completely remodeled. In other words, they will be new. But many seniors tell me they are going to have a problem with the way this plan is implemented.

Seniors will have to move to an apartment while their homes are being rehabbed. Many seniors are worried that once they move to another apartment, they

will not go back to where they lived before. Many seniors are talking about finding a notary public or an attorney to make sure that we go back to our own apartments and not be scattered all over the city. Those of us who are senior citizens are not ready to be treated like yoyos.

We also have the problem that most of the managers who came to our buildings do not have the least idea of how to work with the residents or with the committee of the Local Advisory Council for the buildings that they manage. Now, almost all the

buildings are designated for seniors only. Many seniors want to work with the new managers but neither want nor desire this poor relationship with the new managers.

I asked the manager of my building, 5040 N. Kenmore, when the 24-hour security police would come on. Jerry Macke, site manager for the Urban Development Corporation, answered me that he did not know if this

was up to him or even if he is the one responsible for security monitoring for this building. I wasn't satisfied with that answer and other residents I spoke with said they weren't satisfied either.

One senior said of Macke, "This manager has done nothing, I mean nothing, for this building. I would like to tell this person, if he is the one trying not to fulfill his obligations, that a happy building is cheaper than a building that has problems with the staff."

Previously, we had a manager who identified with us as a real person who knew what he was doing and he won the love and affection of all the residents from the first day he arrived. But, as with all good things, it did not last. Now we will have to wait for this graduate to learn. We hope it is soon.

Again, a contented resident is cheaper than a discontented resident. All the seniors hope that our relationship with our managers is good and lasting and that we can agree for the good of the residents and the staff of the building. We do enjoy a janitorial crew that is honest and who are good, professional workers, and many residents are thankful for this.

Many senior residents also want to thank Anthony Todd from Edgewater Hospital for having invited us to his



CHA Flannery Homes senior resident Rosie L. Dochery wants to return to 1531 N. Clybourn, the building that was closed due to a fire in October 1998.

Photo by Julio Martinez



Universal Geriatric Services worker Mike Meed (left), CHA LAC president Mary Wiggins, CHA Board Commissioner Hallie Amey and Lockie Sain, secretary of UGS, receive awards for their services.

Photo by Julio Martinez

famous retreat. This retreat was the tenth devoted to residents of the Chicago Housing Authority. We had the chance to learn more about how we should live a healthy life free from disease. We did not waste our time. We learned a lot and we ate besides. Your sacrifice is not in vain.

Year after year, you invite us to your retreats and we thank you from our hearts.

Ancianos se preocupan por rehabilitación

por Julio Martínez

El plan para la reorganización de la Chicago Housing Authority nos promete que serán remodelados completamente todos los apartamentos cuyos residentes sean ancianos. En otras palabras, estos apartamentos quedarán como nuevos. Sin embargo, muchos ciudadanos de la tercera edad me informan que van a tener problemas con la forma como se implemente este plan.

Los ancianos tendrán que mudarse a otro apartamento mientras se estén remodelando sus apartamentos. Muchos ancianos están preocupados porque temen que una vez que se muden a otro apartamento provisionalmente, no podrán regresar a los apartamentos donde vivían antes. Muchos ancianos están hablando de que van a dirigirse a un notario público o un abogado para asegurarse de que podrán regresar a su propio apartamento y no se les disperse por toda la ciudad. En efecto, los ciudadanos de la tercera edad no estamos dispuestos a que se nos trate como marionetas ni yoyos.

También tenemos el problema de que la mayoría de los administradores que vinieron a visitar nuestros edificios no tienen la más mínima idea acerca de cómo

cooperar con los residentes o con el comité del Consejo Asesor Local (Local Advisory Council) correspondiente a los edificios manejados por esos administradores. Ahora, casi todos los edificios están designados para ancianos únicamente. Muchos ancianos quieren cooperar con los nuevos administradores, pero ninguno quiere ni desea esta pobre relación con ellos.

Yo le pregunté al administrador de mi edificio situado en 5040 N. Kenmore cuándo se pondría en marcha la policía de vigilancia las 24 horas del día. Jerry Macke, administrador en el sitio para la Urban Development Corporation, respondió que no sabía si ésta era parte de sus atribuciones y ni siquiera sabía si él era el funcionario responsable de la supervisión de la vigilancia para este edificio. Yo no me sentí satisfecho con esa respuesta del Sr. Macke y los demás residentes con quienes hablé tampoco estaban satisfechos.

Refiriéndose a Macke uno de esos residentes afirmó: "Este administrador no ha hecho nada, pero que nada de nada por este edificio. Me gustaría decirle a Macke, si él pretende faltar a sus obligaciones, que un edificio con residentes contentos es más económico que un edificio en los que haya problemas con el personal."

Antes teníamos un administrador que se identificaba con nosotros como personas de carne y hueso y sabía lo que estan-

ba haciendo y se ganó las simpatías y el afecto de todos los residentes desde el día que llegó; pero, como ocurre con todas las cosas buenas, no nos duró mucho tiempo. Ahora tenemos que esperar que este recién graduado aprenda su oficio. Esperamos que aprenda pronto.

Como dije antes, un residente contento resulta más económico que un residente descontento. Todos los ancianos esperan que nuestra relación con nuestros administradores sea buena y duradera y que podamos estar de acuerdo con ellos para el bien de los residentes y el personal administrativo del edificio. Tenemos verdaderamente un personal de conserjería integrado por gente honesta y profesional y muchos residentes agradecen contar con gente así.

Muchos residentes de la tercera edad también quieren expresar su agradecimiento a Anthony Todd del Edgewater Hospital por su invitación a su famoso retiro. Éste fue el décimo retiro dedicado a los residentes de la Chicago Housing Authority. Allí tuvimos la oportunidad de aprender más acerca de cómo



CHA Local Advisory Presidents Francine Washington, Stateway Gardens and Theresa Ricks of the Dearborn Homes during the April 1 Chicago Neighborhoods Alive Assembly at the Hyatt Hotel.

Photo by Julio Martinez

podemos vivir una vida saludable sin enfermedades. No desperdiciamos nuestro tiempo en ese retiro: aprendimos mucho y comimos muy bien, además. Los esfuerzos y el sacrificio de Anthony Todd no fueron en vano. Año tras año, Todd nos invita a sus retiros y nosotros se lo agradecemos de corazón.

KOREAN Translation



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Dep. of Public Health
Sheila Lyne, RSM Commissioner

Public Health Services



Comprehensive Clinics

All telephone area codes are 312, except where indicated.

Comprehensive Clinics

Englewood	641 West 63rd Street	747-7831
Lower West Side	1713 South Ashland	746-5157
Roseland	200 East 115th Street	747-9500
Uptown	845 West Wilson	744-1938
West Town	2418 West Division	744-0943

Maternal/Child Clinics

Grand Boulevard	4410 South State	747-0005
South Chicago	2938 East 89th Street	747-5285
South Lawndale	3059 West 26th Street	747-0066

Public Health Clinic

Sexually Transmitted Disease/HIV	530 East 31st Street	747-0102
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Affiliated Clinics

Circle Family Care	4909 West Division	(773) 921-8100
Komed Health Clinic	4230 South Greenwood	(773) 268-7600
Lakeview Neighborhood Health Center	2849 North Clark	(773) 528-1188
Lawndale Christian Health Center	3860 West Ogden	(773) 521-5006
Mile Square	2045 West Washington	996-9000
Woodlawn Adult Health	6337 South Woodlawn	(773) 747-7700



Key Public Health Telephone Numbers

All telephone area codes are 312, except where indicated

CDPH General Information	747-9884
TTY	744-8599
Addictions Services	(773) 476-0622
Outpatient Program	850-0080
Residential (Women/Girls)	(773) 737-4600
Residential (Men)	747-9825
Prevention	744-3796
Birth Certificates of Newborns	747-9875
Board of Health	1-800-4-CANCER
Cancer Information	747-8816
Case Management	746-5380
Communicable Disease Reporting	744-3800
Death Certificates	747-9810
Epidemiology	747-FOOD
Food and Dairy Protection	747-9726
Health Surveillance	747-8820
Hispanic Affairs	747-AIDS
HIV/AIDS	1-800-243-AIDS
Statewide Hotline	746-5380
Immunization	746-6122
Chicago CareVan Program	http://www.ci.chi.il.us
Internet Address	747-LEAD
Lead Poisoning	747-9768
Mental Health	747-9140
Nutrition Services/WIC Program	747-9822
Public Health Nursing	747-9805
Public Information/News Media Requests	747-5400
Sexually Transmitted Disease	746-5380
Tuberculosis	747-8787
Violence Prevention	1-800-603-HELP
Crisis Hotline	747-9569
Volunteer Services	157298-11-5

May 1999

We Serve With Pride, We Treat With Compassion.

by Thomas L.
Merriweather

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has now been in existence for 10 years.

ADA is very important to those of us who are people with disabilities because those areas of compliance with this law have been neglected or ignored for far too long and this is resulting in some hardships or inconveniences in our lives.

ACCESS Report

Transit Authority (CTA) and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). RTA is the oversight agency with the responsibility of certifying or recertifying those of us who must rely on the door-to-door Special Service under CTA or Pace Paratransit Operations.

The new contract took effect this year but most of the previous problems continue. The barriers to efficient operations include frequent lack of on-time service, difficulties in telephoning to schedule trips despite a new queuing system in existence, and problems relating to a reduction from four to three carriers.

under CTA, Pace and Metra. The period of certification is for three years and those of us requiring recertification at the end of a three-year period are now subject to some restrictions based on information provided in the recertification application.

I was recertified on Nov. 11, 1999, on a transitional/conditional basis which would allow for my use of the door-to-door service only during the winter months from Nov. 15 through March 15. I appealed this decision. On Feb. 22, 2000, my appeal at an RTA hearing was upheld based on the deplorable condition of streets and sidewalks in my neighborhood and many other Chicago areas.

My conditional certification continues. All of my trips must be approved by CTA Paratransit. If my trips originate from a downtown area or other location where the pavement is in good condition to allow for safe use of my manual wheelchair, I will be required to use a fixed route bus-stop or train station equipped with an

elevator.

That said, my situation is better than others. Many individuals were removed from the RTA certification rolls because of their inability or decision not to file a formal appeal request, which is not a simple process. The appeal requires writing a letter that explains in detail the reason for requesting a hearing.

Since people are removed from certification at the point of renewal, it is difficult to zero in on what may be civil rights violations. But it is obvious that they do exist.

Elevators

The most critical area of accessibility for those of us who are seniors are elevators. Elevators are deemed to be items of convenience in family housing but of absolute necessity in senior housing.

Paratransit

A new contract recently went into effect between CTA and the carriers which provide the special services under Paratransit Operations. Many improvements were to be implemented and I interviewed James Payne, then acting General Manager for CTA Paratransit Operations, for our October, 1999 edition of RJ.

Between 4,000 and 4,500 trips are available each day but over 7,000 clients are certified for the service by RTA.

In 1999, RTA instituted some new certification requirements. Newly certified individuals are now required to submit to certain physical testing procedures to determine their need to use the door-to-door service rather than the fixed route buses and trains

2000 Graduates



Congratulations
Robin L. Merritt
Cosmopolitan Prep.
High School
Love, Mom



Congratulations
Alana Ramona Bell
George T. Donoghue
Graduate
Love, Mom



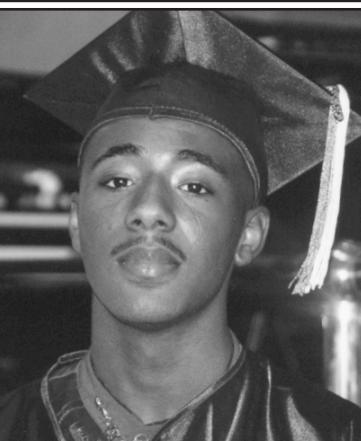
Congratulations
Aja Johnson
The First of Many
Graduations
Love, Grandma



Congratulations
Paris Fulton
Best Practice HS
Continued Success!
Love, Cynthia



Congratulations
Tahanni Walls
Queen of Peace
Continued Success!
Love, Cynthia



Congratulations
Antonio Johns
Englewood Prep. Tech.
Academy Graduate
Love, Mom

RESIDENTS

Journal Needs You!!

All Public Housing Residents and Participants in the Section 8 Program are eligible for free training as a reporter, editor, designer, photographer and/or ad salesperson. Residents are paid as freelance writers and photographers for their work in Residents' Journal.

Call our office at (773) 285-0050 x3374 today to sign up for our program.

by Cenabeth Cross

The issue now is gun control.

Too many people are being killed with handguns, assault weapons and rifles. Too many children are able to get their hands on these weapons and are using them to kill with no more thought of what they are doing than they feel when they play video games. But in the video games, once you end the game and start over, the people come alive again.

On Mother's Day, May 14th, we took the issue to the man in Washington, D.C., with the Million Mom March. The survivors of people who have been killed or hurt because of gun violence met at the Mall near Capitol Hill in Washington and told the lawmakers just how they felt.

The emcee for the program which followed the march was talk show host Rosie O'Donnell, who had had a couple of encounters with Charlton Heston, president of the National Rifle Association, on her show.

We started with a prayer that went like this: "Enough blood has been shed to turn all the rivers red. No more, no more. Hear our cry. We want changes so no more children will die. They ask the question, 'Why?' Let not another tear drop from an eye. We want safe playgrounds and neighborhoods, not miniature coffins made of wood. On this day and all the days ahead, we are uniting to have our mandates read. We want safer communities for us all. United we stand, divided our children fall."

Cenabeth's Story

My story started just a few years ago on Nov. 19 around 10 p.m., when my oldest son came to me and told me that David, my second son, had been shot. My first question was "Is he alive and where is he?"

My eldest son said, "At the hospital" and we started the search for the hospital they had taken him to. Before I got to Cook County Hospital, where they transferred him because he didn't have any insurance, he had died.

The pain, the endless pain, started that night. Benjamin David, my second son, was dead. For a long time, it was a hard thing for me to believe.

Every morning when I woke up, I had to remember. And every morning, it's still the first thing I remember. I sit up on the side of the bed and decide that the scream I have in my throat will have to be silent. Then I get ready to face the day.

Benjamin David had survived high school and now he was in college. I thought the danger for him was over, at least the danger of this type, which we hear of on a daily basis happening to mostly children of color. With the gangs going crazy on crack, this type of thing happens every day. You just pray every day that it won't be one of yours.

One Million Moms

The march on Washington is where I met a million people who were in the same boat I was. The media estimated that the numbers were about 750,000 but that was only on the Mall.

There were people everywhere. They were on the steps of the buildings. They were on the streets where the vendors were

Stop the Violence

selling everything you could want, including trucks that only sold film. There was a lot of hurt and anger expressed against the legislative people in power. There were sincere promises of change from here on. We decided to make the change through our votes, to give the old U.S. Congress "the boot."

The last line of our prayer was as follows: "Today, today dear God we pray, remove the legislation that stands in the way. We want safety for our children every day. Unity for safe communities. We stand together, no matter what the weather."

Reagan's press secretary who was wounded during a 1981 attack on the president, was introduced by his wife, Sara. Brady became an advocate for gun control legislation after the shooting and worked hard to pass the Brady Bill, which requires mandatory checks on people who want to buy firearms.

Patty Wilson, a teacher from Columbine High School, spoke about the horrible day, April 19, 1999. She was on hall duty when the shots rang out.

U.S. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy (D-N.Y.) started by thanking us for making



Mothers gather together on May 14 to protest gun violence during the Million Mom March in Washington, D.C.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

This prayer was written by Barbara McKee, the co-coordinator for the trip, sponsored by the NAACP in Chicago.

The Speakers

There was a rabbi who spoke for the religious leaders of America. Of guns, he said, "Maybe Daniel Boone needed them but we don't."

The rabbi blamed media violence but he said, "There are children in Japan who see the same type of movies and play the same video games but they don't kill each other."

He talked about the "prevalence of guns" and the "cowardice of our politicians."

He said, "The voice of the NRA is cast and the voice of the people has also been cast. We are ready for a no-holds-barred fight with the NRA."

Sara Cuomo, the wife of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Andrew Cuomo and the daughter of the late Robert Kennedy, spoke after a rendition of the song, "Knocking on Heaven's Door." She began by saying, "There are more gun shops than there are McDonald's and guns are as easy to purchase as a hamburger."

She went on to say, "All here share the vision: America free from guns."

She said her father's death leaves the work of love undone to her and the rest of her family. Her final words were, "Go home, organize, get in touch with us (gun control organizations) and write your congressman, your senator and local officials. Demand their support because enough is enough."

James Brady, President Ronald

this the best Mother's Day of her life. We usually don't get involved, she said.

"We are here to make sure our children are protected. I will say again and again: Don't mess with no mother who has lost a child. This is mom power. Every mother that's been there, we are going to make a difference. Before long, we'll have a mom in the White House."

She talked about the day that Colin Ferguson fired shots on a Long Island that killed her husband and injured her son.

"On Dec. 7, 1993, I became a victim. That's the day I almost lost my son. 19 were seriously injured. My son was one of them. But after days, my son Kevin opened his eyes.

"I work in the building behind us. I've only been on the job for three and one half years and I'm here to tell anyone and everyone, we'll do anything to protect our children. We must make Congress understand something must be done."

McCarthy added, "We hear a lot about political responsibility. There is a moral responsibility to give us child safety laws. That is my job but I need all of you and my coworkers to help. I'm a believer that moms around this country will make a difference."

"Tomorrow we will march on the White House," which they did.

Susan Serandon, the actress and activist, spoke next. She explained that she was there simply because she is a mom.

"Mothering means taking care and I will take care," Serandon said.

"There are neighborhoods of guns because of racism and economic inequality. Women on welfare love their children just as much. We must teach right and

wrong. We must protect our children.

"It was a mom who led the protest of the Vietnam War. It must be mothers who stop the gun violence. We'll write letters, write checks, and make calls. We want to know who gets the funds and who's supporting them and we're going to vote for the other guy."

One of the last speakers was our Chicago congressman, Bobby Rush. Rush lost his son back in March. He thanked everyone for being there and went on to say, "I am one of your congressmen but I am not a coward. Charlton Heston is a phony and a fake. Today, 12 children will die. Tomorrow, 12 will die. This must stop.

"We must tear down the walls of ignorance. Violence of bullets don't discriminate and this will go on if we allow it. In November and January, this country won't be the same because of us."

Before he finished, Rush thanked the president and his wife for their support. I was glad we were represented by our own.

This was the major march but everywhere in the country, there were marches being held locally, including Chicago. Women held a march in downtown Chicago and other cities nationwide.

A Mood of Love

The mood was one of love for strangers that you had never seen before and would never see again. Death doesn't care what color you are. This affair made us forget the unnecessary. We were all people who had this common bond between us. Men wished all the women Happy Mother's Day and gave us their sympathies for our lost loved ones.

When it was over, I went and sat under a tree and cried. This time, when it was over, I felt different, more peaceful, stronger than I had felt since that terrible night. I got up and decided to get on back to Chicago and do what I have to do. I can volunteer with organizations that support sensible laws. I can include my family and friends by asking them to join in to support the ones who have already started their campaigns for gun licensing and registration. And I can vote.

You can too. Something else you can do is keep your kids safe, let them know that you're there and that they are loved.

Deon, a nine year old who spoke at the rally for his grieving mother, recited a poem for all the mothers present. He also suggested that a woman should be in the White House. Out of the mouths of babes....

Children are a Miracle

I read somewhere that the children in your care do not belong to you. We all belong to the Maker, our creator. The child is a loan, a test to see how you handle the miracle you have been trusted with. I also believe that no one who has died is feeling any pain. They are now in their Father's house.

Rosie O'Donnell adopted a couple of children. One of the children has reached the age where he has to go to school. Her child has to be escorted by body guards because of the threats she has been receiving because of the stand she has taken against the NRA. This was the news of the day on May 21 and May 22 on the WGN Channel 9.



Youth Focus



The Benefits of Welfare

by Adrienne Stigler

"When you are up against the wall, you do what you have to do. Welfare provides health care and food stamps. It's better than nothing."

Why are so many Blacks on welfare? According to Illinois Department of Human Services statistics, 74 percent of the people on welfare in Illinois are Black. In Cook County, 80.4 percent of the people on welfare are Black.

I wanted to write this article because I wanted to know what Blacks saw as the benefits of being on welfare. I found different opinions about people being on welfare. The above quote is from Doug Dobmeyer, publisher of *Poverty Issues...Dateline Illinois*, a biweekly electronic magazine. He used to be director of the Public Welfare Coalition, representing people on public assistance from 1986-94. Dobmeyer said that the biggest factor for people getting on welfare is "they don't have any money or jobs."

Dobmeyer is one of the five people I interviewed for this story.

Three of the people I interviewed got on welfare for the medical benefits. Latonya, 19, was in her last year of high school and found out she was pregnant. So she went to apply for a Transitional Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) application and got approved.

"It was just a way for me to pay for having my baby," Latonya said.

Rochell, 28, got on welfare for the same reason:

"I was young and I got pregnant, so I needed some assistance until I got on my feet. So I turned to welfare."

Other people, like Sheila, ended up on welfare because they don't have any money and need help. Sheila had nine kids that she was taking care of by herself.

"I didn't have no help with them so I turned to welfare," Sheila said.

Sheila feels that welfare is a great benefit to people who don't have a job. "If they have people out here that don't know anything and don't have any job skills, then they should be able to take care of us. I feel this way because they never should have had people out here without job skills and the proper education."

Most of the people I interviewed are mad about the cutbacks in the welfare program. They feel that it is wrong for the government to cut welfare out because there are a lot of people out here that really need the assistance.

Sheila said, "I really feel that welfare shouldn't come to an end because there are a lot of people out here just like me that have little education and the system got us like this. So I feel that they should continue taking care of us. They should have never

started something they can't finish."

Tanya is also mad at the cutbacks: "I don't like it because I have four kids and they only give me assistance for two of my kids. The other two were born after the deadline. So therefore, I have to try to take care of all four with \$181. Just imagine buying clothes and shoes for four kids with that amount of income for one month. Also, it's taxpayers' money and (government officials) spend it on unnecessary stuff any way. So what better way than to spend it than on taking care of people who need it."

Not everyone is against the cutbacks. Latonya said that it was time for welfare to come to an end because too many people are taking advantage of it. She did not feel that she would be affected by the cutbacks. "It doesn't affect me and my family because I only have one child and I will be attending college and be getting a job," she said.

Sheila does not want to get off of welfare. "I got used to being on welfare and it is very hard for me because I'm addicted to someone else taking care of me and my family."

I think that the other people I talked to do not really want to be on welfare. Latanya said, "I don't want to be on welfare because I'm a real smart person and I graduated from high school in the top 10 and I know I can get a job. I just got caught up in the moment and welfare was something I had to turn too."

Tanya also has plans to get off welfare: "My plan is to go back to college and take up nursing classes and become a nurse."

I feel that if the people need to be on welfare, why not get them the help they need? But in the future, they need to have something else to fall back on besides welfare.

Should Teens Have Sex?

by Ramondo Walker

I am doing this article on why teens are actively involved in having sex. I think this is an important subject because more teens should know what the value is of having sex. Also, I want to promote less sexual activity among teenagers.

According to information I found on the Internet, most people start having sex during their teenage years. A Centers for Disease Control report states,

"The average age of first intercourse in the United States is 16, and 66 percent of high school seniors have intercourse before they graduate."

Another report by Planned Parenthood states, "In the last several decades, there have been substantial increases in the proportion of adolescents who report sexual activity at each year of age. Increases have been great among females, especially among young females. Thus, more than twice as many females ages 14, 15, 16 are sexually active now, compared with young women of the same age just 15 years ago." Both reports said that more students need information on sexual behavior and sexual activity, and how to avoid unhealthy sexual activity.

There are several reasons why teens could be having sex at an early age. It could be lack of self-esteem, emotional stress, peer pressure, or it can be because that they just want to do it for pleasure. I interviewed some teens about their first experiences of having sex to see what their opinions are and how they feel about these experiences. None of the persons mentioned wanted to give their real names.

Donna is a freshman at Dunbar Vocational High school. I asked her what does she think about teens having sex? She told me, "They shouldn't because someone could end up having a baby and it could be a major upset in their lives. It's best to have sex when you are at an appropriate age or when you get married. Sex is not a bad thing but there are people who use sex as a joke."

I talked to one girl from Englewood High School named Sarah. I asked her why she decided to start having sex? She told me that she decided to have sex because her boyfriend told her that he loved her.

So I asked her why she would have sex with a person just because of what they said? She said that she knows that she will be with her boyfriend for a long time.

I interviewed another person named James. The first time James experienced sex was when he was 15. He said, "When I first experienced sex, it felt like it was taking something away from me."

He felt that he had sex with the wrong person. After that experience, he told me, "I quit being in so much of a rush to have sex because I felt that I was not giving myself to the right person."

Tamala was 16 when she first had sex. She waited a year for

her and her boyfriend to have sex because they said they both knew that if the other person didn't want to do it, they were at a point of their relationship that they could say, "No, I'm not ready."

I think that everybody's expectation is that the first time is going to be wonderful. In all the movies, people are having sex on the beach and it's the best thing in their life. The movies and television make having sex seem so physically pleasurable. For many teens, their first time wasn't like that.

Some teens I know were close enough to tell each other what they did and didn't like and that made a big difference. I know guys expect it to be more pleasurable and physical and I know that girls expect to get a lot closer to that person and be able to talk to that person a whole lot better.

Three of the teens that I talked to said it is a positive experience for them to have sex. They said that it had given them extra strength that they never had before.

What I can say about sex is that you can wait for it. Rushing is not the thing because it can get you to a point that you cannot handle and I don't think that's good for many teenagers. It's best that you wait until you are ready to take responsibility for any situations that come around, like pregnancy.

I sometimes think about having sex myself. I am with this girl now. She is a nice, beautiful girl and I care about her a lot. She told me that she wants to wait for the right time because she doesn't want to give her self to the wrong person. And I agree with her. I am willing to wait until she is ready.

So, for all the teens that are listening to people who think sex is good to rush into, it's not. Think again because rushing into having sex could hurt you in the future.

8th Graders vs. Schools

by Latonya Wolfe

Simple enough. You go to eighth grade; you make the score and you graduate to high school. And right before high school, you get out for the summer and have a good time just relaxing and having fun, or whatever you decide to do.

But not in Chicago. Some Chicago public schools have been notified by Chicago Public Schools CEO Paul Vallas about a new summer program.

The Summer Bridge Program prepares eighth grade students for high school. Students who do not meet the established promotion criteria in June are required to attend the Summer Bridge Program. Basic skills such as reading, math and computer technology are studied.

The percentage of 8th grade students going to summer school increased over last year. According to a Chicago Public Schools news release for May, the number of students required to attend the Summer Bridge program in reading and math this year - 25,072 - is almost identical to last year's enrollment of 25,039, even though the criteria for promotion was raised in 6th and 8th grades.

"These figures demonstrate that our students continue to improve their academic performance every year," declared Vallas.

"While we continue to raise the bar, more and more students are succeeding in meeting the criteria for promotion."

Vallas said that the program was important because most of the participants needed "a little extra time and help to improve their reading and math skills."

Some eighth grade students don't think this program is fair. Hertis Mullins, an eighth grade student at John Farren Elementary School, said, "I think this is a bunch of crap. How can anyone make someone go to summer school if they don't have to? Maybe some people had plans for the summer. Maybe they had a summer job waiting for them."

Mullins, like a lot of other students, believes that the Summer Bridge Program is not the best thing for her.

(Continued on Next Page)

Teenage Pregnancy

by Joanna White

I decided to write this article because I have a friend that is pregnant. She is 15, living with her father and mother and she is five months pregnant. The baby is due this August.

I think that is she is too young to be having a baby. I told her that she is too young since she is only a freshman in high school. I think she should have finished high school first but she said, "I want to have a baby now."

There are many problems that I think she is going to face. She is probably going to have to drop of school. Also, how is she going to take care of the child? Another issue she may have to deal with is giving up her free time.

Young teens face these typical problems when they become young parents. In this article, I wanted to provide young teens with information about teen pregnancy. I hope that those who read this article will have a better awareness about how teen pregnancy affects teenagers.

The U.S. has the highest number of teen pregnancies in the world. According to information found on the Planned Parenthood web page, the U.S. teenage birth rate is twice as high as England's, three times as high as Australia's,

four times high as Germany's, six times as high as France's, eight times as high as the Netherlands' and 15 times as high as Japan's. Even though the number of teen pregnancies went down, 40 percent of American teens still get pregnant.

The following statistics give a clear picture about teen pregnancies:

- Each year, approximately 1 million U.S. teenagers become pregnant
- About 40 percent of American women become pregnant before the age of 20
- About 78 percent of teenage pregnancies are unintended, accounting for one-quarter of all accidental pregnancies per year
- Among sexually experienced teens, approximately 8 percent of 14 year olds, 18 percent of 15-17 year olds, and 22 percent of 18-19 year olds become pregnant each year
- Each year, approximately 19 percent of Black women, 13 percent of Hispanic women, and eight percent of white women aged 15-19 become pregnant
- Among teenage pregnancies in 1994, 55 percent resulted in birth, 31 percent in abortion, and 14 percent in miscarriage

All together, teenage mothers do not turn out as well as their friends who don't have children:

- Their family incomes are lower and they are more likely to be poor and receive welfare. Nearly 80 percent will eventually go on welfare. According to one study, more than 75 percent of all teenage single moth-

ers will start getting welfare in at least five years.

- They are less educated. About 64 percent of teen mothers graduate from high school versus 94 percent of those who don't get pregnant.
- They are less likely to be married.
- Their children lag in standards of early development.
- Their children are less likely to graduate.
- Their children are more likely to become teen parents themselves.

I think that based on these statistics, teen mothers make it harder for society and themselves. I think that teens should wait until they are married or financially stable to have kids. I think that teens should take birth control, use condoms or not have sex at all. Also, I think there needs to be more sex education for teenagers.

According to the Planned Parenthood Web site, "Balanced and realistic sexuality education programs that encourage students to postpone sex until they are older and also promote safer sex practices have been proven effective at delaying first intercourse and increasing use of contraception among sexually active youth."

For more information on this subject, teens can call Planned Parenthood at 773 252-2240, or visit their Web site at <http://www.plannedparenthood.com>. Even with more education, teens must take responsibility for their own actions.

your friends.

Say Ladies! Remember that you don't have to do anything you don't want to do.

Not even if you've kissed him before. Not even if you've had sex with him before. Not even if you've been with him for a long time.

You don't owe anybody sex. Not even if you've been dating him for a long time. Not even if he buys you really nice things or takes you to nice places. Not even if you think you'll lose him otherwise.

Speak clearly and up front about what your sexual limits are and stick with them.

Do not send mixed messages. If your mouth is saying no, your hands, lips and the rest of your body should be saying no, too.

Trust your feelings

If you are raped, don't keep quiet about it. It wasn't your fault.

What women can do?

Know your sexual desires and limits.

State your desires and limits clearly.

Be assertive. Be aware that your non-verbal actions may send messages that you do not intend to send.

Trust your intuition. If you feel afraid, say no and get out of the situation.

What can men do?

Assume she means what she says.

Listen to her and accept her limits.

Do not assume that previous permission for sexual contact means she wants to have sex with you again.

If you need someone to talk to because you or someone you know has been a victim of date or acquaintance rape, or if you would like more information, call the YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Women's Services Loop District at (312) 372- 6600. You can also call Women's Services at the YWCA Harris Center, (773) 955- 3100, or the Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline at 1-888-293-2080.

Remember that it could happen to anyone. It could happen to you.

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Rape: A Woman's View

by Monica Williams

Every 2-3 minutes, a rape is being committed. Out of every 10 rapes, only 1 is reported. FBI statistics show that 1 out of every 10 girls will be raped before the age of 18. Statistics also show that 95 percent of all rapes are planned. The rapist has it in mind to rape the person.

I feel that this is an important subject for teenagers for many reasons. In 50 percent of all rapes reported, the victim, the offender, or both were teen-agers, according to the Acquaintance Rape Crisis Center. In the following article, I will discuss what teens should know about being raped.

It's not unusual to find teenage girls who never thought about being raped and who don't believe it could happen to them. I asked 16-year-old Jasmine Harris (not her real name), "Do you think it could ever happen to you?"

She replied, "No. Ain't nobody going to ever touch me."

Sheila, 15, did not think it could happen to her either. But it did. "I did not think something like this could ever happen to me. I was scared and shocked when it did." The reason why rapists catch many young girls off guard is because of the false ideas of who a typical rapist is. Most teen-age girls weren't raped by a weird stranger who attacked them on the street. Most of the teenage boys accused of rape weren't found in a dark alley waiting for their victim. No, most rapes in which teen-agers are involved occur:

- In an empty bedroom during a party (in 29 percent of rapes reported, drugs and

alcohol were involved)

- In the back seat of a really nice guy's car
- On your living room sofa while your parents are gone. (Many of all rapes occur in a house and by a person you know)
- In any private place where couples go on dates

Most teenage victims of rape knew the person who raped them. This is called "acquaintance rape." A lot of rapes happen on dates. This form of acquaintance rape is called "date rape."

Some of the teenagers I talked to, like Jasmine, said they have never known any one who has been raped. One reason for this is because 95 percent of girls who are raped don't tell because they are ashamed and they think it was their fault that they were raped. But it is not their fault.

Sheila said she felt horrible after it happened. "I was sacred to tell because I thought that everyone would think it was my fault and overreact."

This keeps a lot of rape cases from going to trial. Statistics show that after girls are raped, 96.5 percent of the time they go and wash up because they are so ashamed and feel guilty. They don't realize they are washing away all the evidence.

To help young teens avoid being involved in a rape as a victim or offender, I want to offer some tips from the book, "Acquaintance Rape – When the Rapist is Someone You Know," published by the Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault (CASA).

Yo fellas! Remember:

It's never OK to force a girl to do something she doesn't want to do. Not even if she teases you, dresses provocatively or leads you on.

A girl never owes you sex, not even if you just paid for a really expensive dinner or gift. Not even if you've had sex with her before. Not even if you've been dating for a long time.

Although it happens most often to girls, acquaintance rape can happen to you, too. If it does, don't keep quiet about it. It was not your fault. Report it so it does not happen to one of

8th Graders

(Continued from Previous Page)

Brittani Jackson, also from John Farren, agreed: "I don't think it's fair. If people in your family are in a correctional facility, then the summer is the best time for you to spend time with your family. I also think that the only reason they are trying to make us go to school in the summer is so they can start us to going to school all year around. If they start making kids go to school all year around, it may make some kids want to drop out. A lot of students have been complaining about this program."

There are some parents who agree with Brittani and other eighth graders. One parent, Tonda Wolfe said, "Some kids have planned vacations with their families. So how are they supposed to go out of town or go wherever when they have to go to summer school? But I also understand that my child's education is more important."

Some parents think the program is a good idea. Lenard Wright, the parent of an eighth grader at John Farren, said, "This is a good idea because it helps the children improve their education and prepare them for high school. But I do think it's unfair for not allowing students to know about this program ahead of time or at the beginning of the school year. I think this program won't get its proper understanding by doing it this way."

I think the Summer Bridge Program is a good idea because the score we had to make on the standardized test to be able to go on to the next grade was a 7.7 or higher. If you go into high school reading class at a 7.7, you will have problems. You will be just like a 7th grader in high school. That can make some students lose interest and want to drop out.

Welfare to Work: People in Transition

Digital Divide: Yay or Nay?

by Wateka Kleinpeter

Is there really a Digital Divide? When it comes to Chicago public housing residents and low-income African Americans and Latinos, it all depends on who you ask.

Technology experts from the federal government define the Digital Divide as a gap in access to the use of computers and the Internet by low-income minorities.

Most potential employers are interested in the computer skills a potential applicant has. Not having these skills can be the reason the applicant is not hired.

Many people face this dilemma during their quest to go from welfare to work. Although there are a considerable number of industrial jobs, most of them require a long commute. Many of the welfare to work agencies to which the Department of Human Services (DHS) refers their clients have tutoring in various office skills, including computer skills.

According to reports from the U.S. Department of Commerce, high-income whites and even low-income whites have more access to computers than low-income African Americans.

There are several factors that could have caused the gap in technology, according to the Commerce Department. Living in rural areas as compared to cities can make a difference. In rural areas where there is no phone service, there can be no access to the Internet. Low-income families are also less likely to own a phone. In households earning less than \$5,000 a year, only one in four has a telephone.

According to the study, there also is a significant division along racial lines when it comes to telephone usage. Latinos and African Americans lag far behind the national average in both phone usage, ownership of Personal Computers (PCs) and on-line access. If someone doesn't have phone service, they likely will not have a computer and can't get on-line.

The next important factor is age. The study states that households most likely to own a PC are 35-44 years old. Lastly, people with a college education are more likely to have a phone, PC and a modem than those with a lower level of education.

"The greater the education the greater the likelihood that

person has PC, modem and the Internet," the study states.

People who live in urban areas with incomes over \$75,000 have the highest ownership of PCs, 76 percent, and the highest rate of online access, 50.3 percent. The more income and education you have, the more likely you are to have a computer and get on line.

In contrast, just 9.2 percent of households headed by women had on-line access. Just 17.1 percent of African Americans in cities owned a computer and just 5.8 percent of African American urban households had access to the Internet.

President Bill Clinton has discussed the Digital Divide publicly and is trying to find ways to close it. In a visit to Chicago in April at the Comdex computer trade show, he called on the nation to do its part in helping all Americans obtain access to technology. He asked people who have resources to help the "havenots."

"A 13-year-old girl won a computer but she had no phone at home, so she can't get access to the Internet," Clinton said.

In his speech, Clinton bragged about the strong economy and the lowest number of welfare recipients in 30 years. But people who do not have computers or access to computers will be missing out on a wealth of information, knowledge and resources. Clinton said that the neighborhood technology centers in churches, schools and community centers are vitally important to closing the Digital Divide.

"No one should be left behind in this phenomenal new economy," Clinton said.

"Everyone should be given a

chance to participate."

Community Technology Centers

Many neighborhoods have community technology centers already. The Grand Boulevard area on the near South Side has several centers that offer high technology classes that are in high demand. But other neighborhood-based technology centers offer only limited computer classes and Internet access. Still other centers have closed down recently or have out-of-date equipment that does not allow access to the Internet.

The Charles Hayes Family Investment Center, 4859 South Wabash Ave., offers basic computer classes and computerized preparation for the GED. On the more advanced level, they offer a high-tech class in the Cisco Networking Systems. The Cisco class teaches configuration of routers for access to the Internet. Graduates who pass the certification can get a high-paying job. The Cisco class currently has a waiting list of over 100 people.

The Hayes Center's computer lab, named after the late resident leader Artensa Randolph, boasts 50 computers that were built by public housing residents when the center opened almost two years ago.

Down the street from the Hayes Center, the New Galilee Church at the corner of 50th Street and Wabash Avenue is a church-based community technology center. New Galilee offers basic computer classes and the GED class also. They are affiliated with two City Colleges, Malcolm X and Kennedy-King



Chicago community residents learning how to design a Local Area Network and configure routers during a Cisco Systems computer class at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center. Cisco is the leading edge for the Internet Technology of today.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

College. New Galilee is currently offering the A-Plus class, which can lead to certification as a computer repair technician. The classes are free but there is a placement test required, according to center director Douglas Thompson.

Upon completion of the A-Plus class, Thompson said each student will be given a computer. New Galilee received a \$25,000 grant from Ameritech-SBC to help run their computer center.

Many of those working to provide low-income African American communities with access to computers and the Internet challenge the results of

the Commerce Department's Digital Divide study. New Galilee's Thompson said, "The gap in technology does exist but it's not as big as has been reported. It all depends on where you get your research from."

Sandra Bevins, a technical adviser for several public housing groups, said the Digital Divide study is correct in that many low-income households do not have computers in their homes. Many people who do not have computers at home do often still have access to computer usage at community centers.

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Welfare to Work: People in Transition

Deadbeat Dads or Dead-Broke Dads?

by Andre Robinson

Let's suppose you are 16 years old. You work part-time to help support your mother, brothers and sisters. Your 16-year-old girlfriend just told you she is pregnant...

Or perhaps you recently got married. Your wife found a good paying job. You rented a tiny studio apartment for the two of you and you are looking forward to starting college. She just came home and told you she is pregnant...

Or you and your girlfriend were planning to marry but you did not expect the news that she was pregnant. You are both together on this and it may turn out OK. But right now, there are lots of problems to solve. She may have to go on welfare for medical care; something neither of you wants. Her family wants her to have the baby, live with them, and let them take care of the baby when she goes back to work. You want your own place with her and the baby, but the price may be more than you can afford...

These stories show that although the act of getting a woman pregnant can often be fairly simple, what you do after she becomes pregnant is not so simple.

Does that frightened teenage boy really want to start a family? Does he want all the responsibilities of a child that he has heard about from the men he hangs with? What about his needs and dreams? Does it mean he can't finish high school or go to college? What about his mother, who depends on his financial help to support his younger brothers and sisters?

Many young men face issues like these during their sexually active years of adolescence and young manhood. Even when a couple has engaged in sexual activity responsibly by practicing "safe sex" in a monogamous relationship, unplanned pregnancies can occur. Then the complex decisions about fatherhood have to be faced.

What are some options open to the young father-to-be? He can decide to deny any responsibility for the pregnancy and say it isn't his child. He can reluctantly admit being the father but offer absolutely no additional help or interest. He and the baby's mother can come to some agreement about what role and responsibility he will have in this relationship. He can assume all the responsibilities of fatherhood, including marriage, should that be the decision he and the baby's mother choose.

Dead Beat or Dead Broke

Waldo Johnson, an assistant professor at the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration, is one of the researchers involved in a study of "Fragile Families." He is interviewing fathers to determine what makes them become involved with their children.

Johnson said most fathers are involved in their children's lives initially and even give money to the mothers under the table. Men had to provide this support covertly because welfare rules require women to report any gifts or additional income they receive.

New regulations require mothers who receive welfare benefits to tell state officials the names of the fathers of their children. The states are trying to recoup the costs of welfare by forcing men to pay child support.

But the poor among these men usually wind up falling behind in payments and owing thousands of dollars in back child support. Advocates for poor fathers say that unlike the popular image of affluent "deadbeat dads" who refuse to pay child support, these men have no money to give. These are "dead-broke dads."

"The relationships between these parents is very tenuous and now we have a set of laws that doesn't enable them to sustain these families," Johnson said, noting that poor fathers who pay child support are not guaranteed visitation.

"Many of these men are not willing to spend money on kids they can't see. Many young men want to visit their children but find they cannot do so."

According to Johnson's research, many of the young mothers still live with their mothers and grandmothers.

"These older women often don't want the young fathers to visit. These men are not just hit and run victimizers," Johnson said.

"Some of them do want to see their children."

Fatherhood and Welfare to Work

Many states are including men in their welfare-to-work programs and several programs have been created across the nation to teach fathers how to be better parents to their children. President Bill Clinton wants to spend \$150 million on welfare-to-work initiatives that put an emphasis on fatherhood programs. Even congressional Republicans, under the leadership of conservative U.S. Rep. Clay Shaw, want to spend \$2.2 billion on a "Fathers Count" bill that would help poor, unwed fathers.

This renewed attention to single Black fathers is part of a growing recognition among policy-makers that fathers play a much larger role in children's lives than as breadwinners. The issue has been pushed to the forefront by white men who are alarmed by the growing number of white children who are being born to parents who are not married, according to Johnson and other researchers.

But while there is widespread agreement that something must be done to help fathers get the job training and parenting skills they need, many in the field are miles apart on the strategies necessary to accomplish this goal.

Marriage is advocated among those who promote "responsible fatherhood." On the other side, advocates of the so-called "fragile families" concept are more likely to push for solutions that help parents work together to improve the lives of their children.

Dr. Ronald B. Mincy Sr., architect of the Ford foundation's "Strengthening Fragile Families Initiative" said, "There was all this talk about welfare reform but it had nothing to do with men. There was a cognitive dissonance."

Mincy said policy-makers were not crafting any solutions to help young Black men who suffered from high employment, incarceration, murder, and dropout rates.

"The social policies designed in the 1970s were set up to address the needs of divorced, middle-class white women because their husbands wouldn't pay child support. The system was set up for poor women, except most of these women were never married in the first place."

Invisible Men

They are the nation's invisible men: three million poor fathers, who hold low paying jobs, if they hold jobs at all. They have long been considered trifling and irresponsible, transferring the burden of raising their children to the mothers and taxpayers.

These men are not "deadbeat dads." They are "dead-broke dads." They are racially diverse, under 34 years of age, and have limited education. Most come from poverty-stricken families. Forty three percent did not finish high school and most have no access to employment and training services.



Proud dad Chris Moore spends quality time with his sons.

Photo by Andre Robinson

Dead-broke dads have incomes so low that they could qualify for food stamps. They simply don't have the resources to pay child support. Nonetheless, 29 percent of dead-broke dads still manage to pay some child support and many work hard to involve themselves in the lives of their kids.

One young father from Robert Taylor Homes said, "The mother, she's been having problems, so I've had my daughter for about six months now. And I went down to Public Aid, with my baby girl so they could really see I had her and said, 'Look, I have her. Can I get on aid?'

"They said no. I don't care. I don't need them." Another father from ABLA said, "I got my girlfriend pregnant, you see, and we were still in high school. We were a good couple, so I wasn't too pressed about it. I was 18 and she was 17. I graduated from high school but couldn't find any work."

"We moved in together when she got on welfare and I was working at a fast food place. I didn't want her to lie but we couldn't afford it otherwise, you know, rent and other stuff. I know it was wrong, her lying about it and all but what was I supposed to do?"

"She's been good about it. She hasn't gave them nothing on me and she's been on welfare for four years."

Moving to Self-Sufficiency

U.S. Secretary of Labor Alexis Herman discussed fathers' roles in welfare to work efforts during a visit to Chicago a month ago.

"If we are to help move people from public assistance to self-sufficiency, we are going to have to include fathers. But it's hard to pay child support if you don't have a job."

"And many fathers have told me that if they can't be involved financially, it's hard to be involved emotionally. If you can't afford to give your kids shoes, you don't feel worthy to give them advice."

"That is why programs which focus on non-custodial fathers are so important. By partnering together, by investing in common sense solutions, we can help give fathers the skills they need, communities the role models they need and, most importantly, children the fathers they need."

The Illinois Fatherhood Initiative is the country's first statewide, non-profit fatherhood organization whose mission is connecting children and fathers by promoting responsible fathering and helping equip men to become better fathers and father figures. The group is starting to organize programs and events for fathers.

"This is no easy task," said David Hirsch, president and founder of IFI.

"Consider the fact that most men won't pull the car over and ask for directions when they're lost. What in the world will cause dads to reach out for help as it relates to getting direction on their fathering?"



Black Rodeo Cowboys during the May 27 Memorial Day Parade.

Photo by Andre Robinson

Facelift for Englewood

by Arminta Clark

The dark cloud that once huddled over Englewood may finally be moving on.

Many Englewood residents have been devastated by the murders of nine-year-old Ryan Harris and the many African American women that have been killed in this community in recent years.

But last October, Englewood also got a chance to see something that doesn't normally happen when President Bill Clinton landed his helicopter on the track field at Englewood High School. Clinton announced a grant for Englewood of \$256 million to revitalize and rebuild the community for the new century.

Community residents like Karen and Kenny Smith will be key in making sure that money is well spent. The Smiths are a young couple that have set roots in Englewood. They have formed a not-for-profit housing development organization called the Chicago Better Association. Kenny Smith is the founder and president.

Smith plans to build 200 homes in Englewood in the next few years. He plans to begin building affordable homes between 59th Street and 63rd Street in the area where Yale Street runs into the Dan Ryan Expressway.

"Our goal is to build a combination of two-flats in the price range of \$210,000 with a maximum of \$40,000 off, depending on your salary. There will also be single-family homes priced at \$135,000 and a maximum of \$20,000 off with the purchase of a home. We are also working with banks and other financial institutions where a 3 to 5 percent fixed interest rate for 30 years would be a benefit for a new homeowner," Smith said.

Smith did a market survey and determined that Englewood needs more young, working families like his own.

"(The survey) indicated to us that in order to turn the area around, it would have to be an influx of working class African Americans. Right now, the homeowners are 98 percent seniors in the Englewood area. And the rest are rental units," Smith said.

Smith first presented his vision for Englewood to city officials in 1995 and has been working to make it a reality ever since.

"We are excited about this venture and have been working closely with the Department of Housing to get grants for the seniors. They have worked hard all their lives and most now are on a fixed income. We realize too that the seniors aren't about to take out a second mortgage on their homes because they can't afford to," Smith said. The Smiths have been working very hard with the city's Empowerment Zone

and Enterprise Community programs to get additional dollars to the senior residents. Thirty-five senior homeowners have benefited from the Smiths' efforts with redeveloped homes upgraded to city code standards. The money is enabling the seniors to enhance their life styles by paying for porches and roof repairs and the purchase of new furnaces.

Peggy and Oscar Lewis, one of Englewood's older couples, will contribute to the future of their community by providing quality rental housing to public housing residents and others who will be moving in. The Lewises watched the news and found out that there is a shortage of affordable housing for the thousands of families who will be moving out of the Chicago Housing Authority in coming years. The Lewises decided to become landlords participating in the Section 8 housing programs for the first time.

"Our reason for participating in the program is that Section 8 gives (landlords) the security and they have their own sets of rules governing tenants. Another reason is to provide decent housing for some of these tenants," Oscar Lewis said.

The Lewises have just renovated an eight-unit building they own at 851-857 W. Marquette Road. The units include four three-bedroom apartments and four two-bedroom apartments.

Lewis said, "We want to provide better than average housing to the tenants."

Lewis said he would rent to large groups of families coming out of public housing that want to stay together.

"I came from a large family like that. Families make the community and family is a very important infrastructure that is needed today."

Peggy Lewis is a retired public elementary school-teacher who worked in Englewood for 18 years. Oscar Lewis has worked with the Quaker Oats Company for 11 years. The Lewises are concerned and interested in the improvement of living conditions for Englewood's citizens.

"We applaud Mayor Richard M. Daley and we applaud the Section 8 housing program for its role and its contribution to the betterment of life for many families, regardless of race," Peggy Lewis said.

The city will do its part in Englewood by upgrading schools and improving infrastructure. Department of Planning project manager Judy Jackson is assigned to southwest side of Englewood from 55th street to 75th Street and from the Dan Ryan to Western Avenue.

Jackson noted that Englewood is a large community with six different aldermen and that each alderman supports the city's efforts.

Jackson said the city is taking a "holistic approach." There are several schools in the Englewood area that will benefit from the city's efforts. Lindblom is a magnet high school that is about to be upgraded. Nicholson Elementary School and at least one other elementary school will be getting new campus parks.

A new fire and police station are in the plans for the Englewood community.

Jackson said the holistic approach is "dealing with every component to make a neighborhood safer and much more sustainable."

As part of that "holistic approach," Kennedy-King College will be relocated to 63rd and Halsted streets. It would begin at 63rd and go to 66th St., extend east to Lowe Street and go west to Green Street.

Kennedy-King College will be a 635,000-square-foot facility. It would have a retail component on the southeast corner of 63rd and Halsted streets, where the Culinary Art Institute would be housed on the second floor. It would also include a first-floor, sit-down restaurant run by Culinary Institute students.

There will also be a performing arts center at the Gateway on 65th and Halsted streets that would house the WYCC Channel 20 television station, a radio station and a community center.

"This will bring in new programs," Jackson said. "This would be a really beautiful prototype campus."

Jackson said the Kennedy-King College relocation and other commercial retail developments, along with new housing being built, will provide temporary and permanent jobs for Englewood residents.

The Mayor's Office of Workforce Development would like to set up an office in the Pullman Bank building, Jackson



This landmark building at 6565 S. Yale is being rehabbed into low-income housing for seniors.

Photo by Arminta Clark

said. That office would be "a one-stop office to assist the residents in the community in finding training avenues and becoming aware of the different employment opportunities that would be available in the community," Jackson said.

Jackson added that the city wants to include all developers and contractors – "anybody that's going to be involved in rebuilding the community. The city wants them to come to the community so that one would be afforded the opportunity to make a presentation to the community residents."

The presentations will give residents the chance to hear and see for themselves as developers present their plans. Residents also will have a role in selecting contractors for development projects.

Jackson said, "The city wouldn't select a contractor or a developer for a project period."

Jackson also mentioned two programs geared for residents of communities including Englewood. The city Department of Housing has created a program for residents to receive forgivable loans for property repairs up to \$10,000 if they stay on their properties for two years. Jackson added that there are limited programs for absentee landlords.

The city also is supporting developers who are building affordable, low income and market rate housing in Englewood.

St. Bernard Hospital is building 90 for-sale, single-family homes along with two flats. The development will include a new grocery store so residents will have a place to shop in their own neighborhood.

Renovation will start this summer at the Yale, a landmark building at 6565 S. Yale.

Another group is going to build a 24-unit building for individual families with physical disabilities at 630-632 West 61st St., currently a vacant lot.

Some Section 8 housing will be built. Antioch Missionary Baptist Church, 63rd Street and Stewart Avenue, has a housing development corporation and they are going to build 59 units of multi-family rental townhouses.

Residents that have concerns and questions should come out to community meetings. The next community meeting will be held at Kennedy-King College 6800 S. Wentworth Ave. June 15, 2000 at 6 p.m.

"We want residents to be very much involved in the rebuilding project of Englewood so that their concerns are addressed," Jackson said.

Many residents have been expressing concern about these redevelopment efforts. They are wondering if they will be displaced like families in public housing.

Jackson said, "It's not our intention to gentrify the community. Residents won't be displaced during this transition for re-building the community. Seven families will have to be relocated for the new Kennedy-King College campus. The city will buy the property at market value and pay for the relocation cost of any residents to move."



Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Lewis rehabbed this apartment in the Englewood Community for participants in the Section 8 program.

Photo by Arminta Clark

Rosenwald To Close

by Beauty Turner

The hundreds of residents of the Michigan Garden Apartments may all have to leave the South Side development very soon because the building is falling apart and many residents have had no gas service for months, according to tenants and their supporters.

With the housing market very tight and thousands of residents from nearby public housing developments also being moved out, many of the Michigan Garden Apartments residents are wondering where they will go.

The Protests Begin

On May 10, over 100 protesters converged on CHAC Inc., the company that manages the Section 8 program, located at 1000 S. Wabash Ave. They chanted, "Good service is the word. United tenants will be heard."

The Michigan Garden Apartments, previously known as the Rosenwald subsidized housing units, spreads out from 47th Street to 46th Street from Michigan Avenue to Wabash. A lot of the Michigan Garden Apartments' tenants previously lived in CHA and now use Section 8 vouchers to live in the Michigan Garden Apartments. Some Michigan Garden Apartments tenants do not have government subsidies and pay market rate rent.

The protesters said over 12 apartment buildings had been without gas for over 15 days. They demanded to speak to CHAC Deputy Director Jennifer O'Neil.

Regina Johnson, a mother of 5, said she has a son with disabilities and a daughter with asthma.

Johnson said, "I need my gas. CHAC is providing us with a \$5 coupon per person per day for a fast food restaurant called Jim's in the middle of our block on 47th Street. But my children are on a special diet. They can't eat that type of food. It will kill them."

Oliver Gavin, a resident leader, said, "They only give us one coupon per day. What will we do for the other two meals? Plus they don't even bother to tell us nothing concerning the gas. We can't survive without our gas. They act like we don't count. We are here to let them know that we do."

The Michigan Garden Apartments addresses that still had no gas as of June 15 are 4609 S. Wabash and 4611 S. Wabash, 4627 S. Wabash, 4629 S. Wabash, 4631 S. Wabash, 4633 S. Wabash, 4635 S. Wabash, 53 E. 46th St., 55 E. 46th, 57 E. 46th, 59 E. Wabash and 61 E. 46th. 190 units and 368 families are affected by the lack of gas, according to leaders of Michigan Garden Apartments tenants. The tenants said they have been unable to contact the building's owner.

The residents said they were upset by the lack of respect that CHAC is showing them. One of the residents said, "They are disrespecting us like this because we are letting them. Once we say no more, then and only then there will be no more disrespect. They might as well bring us a bucket of chicken wings and cut us a piece of watermelon and hand it out to us in the community."

This resident asked not to be named because he feared that he may be targeted for eviction.

A number of supporting organizations are backing the tenants' words, such as the Metropolitan Tenants Organization's John Leflore.

Leflore said CHAC should have had an ombudsman in their organization so that the tenants could have someone to whom they could take their concerns.

Other organizations showed up at the May 10 protest for morale support such as Coalition to Protect Public Housing and the Coalition for the Homeless.

CHAC's O'Neil came out of her office and spoke to the tenants' representatives, including community leaders Joyce Walker, Regina Johnson, Oliver Gavin and Ruth Antonelly.

O'Neil was compassionate and sympathetic to the residents' issues. She expressed her concerns and agreed to their demands to another meeting the very next day. O'Neil said that she was sorry for the inconvenience.

"Maybe by talking to the residents, we can both come

up with some solution to this crisis," O'Neil told the protesters.

A Very Temporary Solution

At the second meeting with O'Neil, the residents were told that at least 6 of the units would have gas on the following day. That did occur but the residents complained about a strong, foul odor of gas. The gas was turned back off.

The residents also were told that if they did not have gas by May 26, most of them would be issued vouchers to move.

CHAC also strategized to work with the residents concerning the food coupons. They discussed issuing the tenants a certificate for a local supermarket to help those tenants with special diets.

One Month Later

After about a month, the situation stood very much the same.

So, Rene Maxwell, a community activist and a member of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, and I joined about one dozen tenants from the Michigan Garden Apartments and went to Third Ward Alderman Dorothy Tillman's office.

We relayed a message about the conditions of the buildings and the lack of gas, and the treatment of the tenants being fed with a \$5 coupon for a neighborhood restaurant. The tenants received a coupon for a local supermarket just once.

Tillman went out to the site and brought in many inspectors. The gas was back on for about a week for the 368 families in the 190 units. But then the gas went back off.

On June 5, another meeting was held concerning the loss of gas services, health concerns and the lack of other services. Nothing came of that meeting and afterwards, community activists said the Michigan Garden Apartments is due to be closed down by November 2000.

Congressman Davis Visits

On June 10, a very concerned U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7) flew down from Washington on the weekend, bright and early before the birds got up to chirp.

Davis said he wanted to see with his own eyes "what the problem is in the 3rd Ward concerning the residents in the Michigan Garden Apartments."

Davis talked to many of the residents in the courtyard in the middle of a dust storm. As the wind began to blow, dust and debris began to scatter to the west winds all the way around the buildings.

Many of the residents expressed great concerns about the dust being a health hazard to their children and themselves.

Resident leader Regina Johnson told Davis about her main concern, her 5 children. She talked about her disabled son, who has undergone numerous surgeries. The living conditions at the Rosenwald aren't helping his condition any, she said. She also talked about her daughter, who has a severe asthma problem due to this dust constantly flying around.

She said, "I want to leave and give my children a chance for a quality life style. Can you help me, Congressman Davis?"

Monica Hewitt, a resident for 15 years, said her son lost his hearing due to the dust that flares up at a moment's notice.

Davis listened very closely and patiently to the residents' concerns and told them they would have to work "in a unified method and make a collected decision together as a unit for whatever they wanted as a whole,



U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7) and residents of the Rosenwald building discuss the residents' living conditions on Saturday, June 10.

Photo by Beauty Turner

whether it's to stay or to go."

Davis added, "Nobody wants to see improvement more than me. I would love to see Rosenwald fixed up because, for one thing, it has a long history. But the people need to take pride in it. It could be real nice if adults would monitor not only their children but also others' too."

"This could be like a real community but it's up to the people."

Terrible Conditions

Davis then went on a tour in the Rosenwald development.

Novilla White, a resident for 10 years, showed him her apartment, where paint was chipping, cracks were in the ceiling, the door was missing a lining, no door knobs, and the floor was caving in. White complained about not being able to keep her kitchen counter clean due to the roaches and rat feces all around.

White is one of the few Michigan Garden Apartments residents who pays market rate rent of \$560 a month.

The tenants were all too happy to show the congressman the piles of trash and debris that are overflowing in a line of dumpsters outside many of their windows.

One of the residents who wished not to be identified said, "You can smell the garbage for miles around on a hot summer day. The smell is real bad."

Some of the residents ushered me over to two vast holes in the corner of the courtyard next to the children's playlot. The holes are not too far from each other. One was so big and so deep, it looked like if anyone was to fall in there, they would end up in China.

These holes were filled with trash, oil and muddy, dirty and very smelly deep water.

Hewitt said, "If we could easily move these boards and bricks, so could the children, I'm afraid that one of our children is going to fall into these holes. This is very dangerous."

Davis expressed his concerns and went away.

Barbara White, a resident of Rosenwald for over 20 years, said, "Hopefully, the Congressman will take all this in and we finally will get some help."

Words of Inspiration

The tenants of the Michigan Garden Apartments, keep on punching back and keep on fighting for their rights.

One community activist said, "City none, work undone, tenants two and too few. I believe that these problems can be solved if the people get involved. Otherwise, the saga concerning the housing crisis will continue throughout the city of Chicago."

(Continued from Page 14)

The quality of those community centers, however, varies greatly. Bevins said computers are not working in many Chicago Public Libraries, for example.

Another Grand Boulevard computer center closed down recently. It was located in a Robert Taylor Homes building at 4844 South State, the same building that the Chicago Police Public Housing South was located. That computer center was established by the late Commander Michael Tolliver. The lab was closed because the building was closed down by CHA last winter.

New Commander Ernest Brown said the lab will reopen soon at 770 East 37th St., where the Chicago Police took over from the disbanded CHA Police. Brown is contacting various schools and organizations such as City Colleges, Chicago State and the Hayes Center about teaching and staffing the computer lab. Formerly, some of the police officers assisted in the instruction in the computer labs. Brown said his officers should do what they were trained for.

"It makes no sense to teach your child how to use a computer and he is not safe leaving the building," Brown said.

Internet Attitudes

Many African Americans have a problem with the Internet. They are afraid their personal information – addresses, phone numbers, social security numbers – will fall into the hands of government agencies, unscrupulous businesses or criminals. Many African Americans limit their usage because of these fears.

Ann (not her real name) said there was a lot of good information on the Internet but was worried about the crimes associated with the Internet. Ann, a single mother with two young girls, does not have Internet access in her home. Ann is afraid that her children will access the Internet and will be approached by online pedophiles when she is not home.

Valerie said she was enrolled in GED classes at the Hayes Center but stopped going because she did not want to work on the computer. She prefers the traditional classroom teacher and not the self-paced, computerized instruction. Valerie may be one of the millions of Americans who are not yet comfortable with working on a computer.

"I thought there would be more of a classroom teacher," Valerie said. "I didn't like working on my own on the computer."

Many low-income, African

American city residents don't feel comfortable working on a computer because the public schools in which they are educated are not equipped with modern equipment.

When Mayor Richard M. Daley announced a \$1.1 billion plan in April, he pointed out that many of the school buildings are old and the wiring needs to be updated.

The plan also will include the replacement of old computers and the training of teachers.

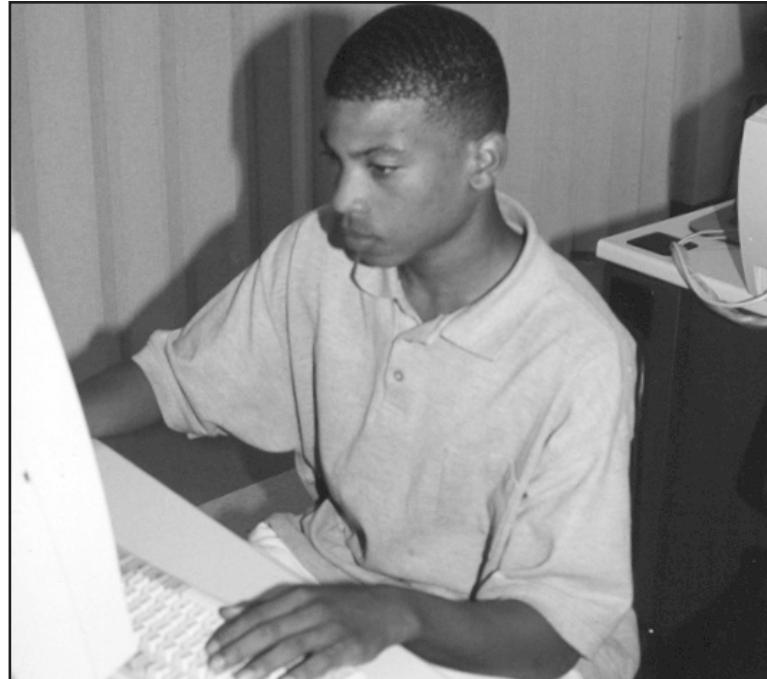
In over 200 schools, the current computers are old Macintoshes, Apples and 486s, which are not capable of running current software programs and cannot get on the Internet.

Arlene, 35, said she never thought she would need a computer. Lately, her employer – an agency that works with mentally challenged individuals – has been providing her with basic computer training.

Arlene said working on a computer was not as hard as it looked because she already knew how to type. Now she does her reports on the computer and her notes for her job because they must be typed. She has no interest or need to get on the Internet, however.

"It's easier than a typewriter," Arlene said. "You can go back and correct your mistakes."

Mary Wiggins, president of



A Bronzeville youth works on one of the 50 computers available at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center, 4859 S. Wabash.

Photo by Arminta Clark

the Washington Park Homes Local Advisory Council and part of the Chicago Housing Authority resident leadership, has no problem with computers and uses the Internet frequently. Wiggins said her staff and personnel in Resident Management Corporation offices also have no problem using computers and getting on the Internet.

There is a Digital Divide but it's more subtle than the statistics might indicate. There is a shortage in the availability of comput-

er technology and training in low-income, African American neighborhoods. Computer literacy and Internet access are a necessity in many jobs but many people are intimidated by computers.

According to community-based experts, more community computer centers will help but they need trained staff, outreach and effective programs to bridge the gap. For those that are afraid, don't worry: it won't blow up on you!



Tracy's Health Corner

Walk Your Way To Fitness

The weather's getting warmer, summer's around the corner, and before you know it, "shorts" season will be upon us.

It's time to get serious about exercising and getting fit.

If you're like me, you'll come up with every excuse in the book why you can't exercise: "I'm too tired", "I have no time", "I can't afford the equipment", or "the gym's too far away".

Well I have an answer that will combat all these excuses. Just walk your way to fitness.

It's easy, it's cheap, you can do it anywhere, and most importantly it's good for your health. Besides helping you fit back into your summer shorts, walking cuts your risk of heart disease and improves your mental fitness.

For best results you should walk 30 minutes a day, 6-7 days a week. And, the good news is, you can break-up your walking routine. Walking 3 times a day for 10 minute is just as good as a 30 minute session.

You can exercise while following your daily routine — walk to the

store, walk with your kids, walk to church, walk with your friends.

To get the most out of your walk remember to stand tall (back straight), take short quick steps and swing those arms. For an extra burn of calories walk faster and walk uphill.

A few trips around the block and you'll be looking fine in no time. Not to mention being de-stressed and heart--healthy.

Keep track of your total fitness, and make sure to schedule a yearly physical with your doctor.

• • •

Hey y'all, don't forget this week's **Health Education Events**. A few to note are:

- 6/2 PUSH Health Fair
- 6/11-12 Back of the Yards Fest
- 6/21-24 Puerto Rican Fest
- 7/21 Fiesta del Sol

To get the low-down on times and places along with a complete listing of this week's events give me a call at (312) 424-4482.

Until Next Time,

Tracy

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The above material is for informational purposes. It is not intended for diagnosis.

Interested In ...

... This week's listing of **Health Education Events?** Call 1-312-424-4482

... Better health care choices for families on Medicaid? Call **FREE 1-877-WE DO HELP ext. 203**
(1-877-933-6435 ext. 203)

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An Eagle Emerges Unscathed

by Jacqueline Thompson

Emanuel Eugene Lawrence is an extraordinary Boy Scout.

On March 15, he became the first to be awarded the rank of Eagle Scout from among over 700 other Boy Scouts who all joined troops that were specifically placed within public housing developments in March 1993.

It all began when the Boy Scouts launched a citywide campaign to recruit children who lived in the developments to form Girl and Boy Scout troops. The funding came from a federal government grant for preventive programs. The Scouting program would be a positive avenue to take to strengthen families and communities by engaging youth in character building activities and structured experiences.

In order to carry out this plan, CHA Police Sgt. Leon Abram began to recruit men and women security officers to become troop leaders. Abram placed the officers in the vicinity of their jobs and gave them an opportunity to become positive role models for the community.

In Harold L. Ickes Homes, the campaign to recruit Boy Scouts was endorsed by Michael Jordan himself. He allowed an action photo to be on the first invitational flyers, promising all who joined a gift from "His Airness."

Jordan followed through with the gifts, as promised. As a result, 100 boys signed up for picture and a gift. One of them was Emanuel E. Lawrence.

Members of the security force came forward and joined the collective effort to become dedicated scout leaders and

engage the youth in the widely recognized scouting program for girls and boys. CHA is to be credited for pulling together different departments to support the success of the recruitment drive. As a long-term resident who had expressed a desire to start a troop for boys, I personally recruited and became assistant master to Frank Hernandez, who worked at the CHA's main warehouse on 115th Street. He stayed with the troop one year. Before he left, he arranged for Sport Mart to donate to the troop enough tents, rain gear, individual first aid kits, stoves and mess kits for 10 boys.

Emanuel took many cues from Hernandez and quickly became patrol leader with a strong interest in earning his merit badges, rank and place in the Boy Scout program. CHA did not take the newly formed units lightly. Each new leader was trained at the beginning of their positions as scout masters. Once we were all trained, an adult scout council was formed. Windows of Opportunity, a not-for-profit affiliated with CHA, assisted with fundraising.

Sgt. Abram became our adviser and financial administrator. CHA CEO Vince Lane kept a close watch on the growth and development of each unit and was present at each awards dinner held in honor of the hard work and accomplishments each adult and scout had accomplished.

As a troops flourished, one would think that a good thing would last forever. However, the ever-present crime and parental neglect in the development undermined the future for the troops.

Where you had a good troop with faithful leaders, the absence of parental participation drove

leaders to rethink their involvement. For example, a youth we'll call "Jimmy" would come to a meeting and use profanity, disrupting the other young people. When he was reprimanded and told to return only with a parent, he would always come back alone, apologize profusely and bring two or three other undisciplined boys with him. My decision was always to give a child another chance.

Unfortunately, those youngsters truly interested in scouting were not tolerant of bad behavior from peers and left the troop. Emmanuel was one of them.

It became harder and harder for me, a Black woman, to continue teaching merit badge skills and good conduct. In March 1996, Sandy Williams, one of the security guards, knew our troop needed help and joined up. Williams set the troop back on its course. Emmanuel returned to the troop.

Williams' high standards for excellence and my persistence in building troop spirit were just what Emmanuel needed to protect him from the discouragement and frustration he experienced in the past.

In the latter part of 1996, CHA began to change in terms of dedicated leaders. The agency cut back funding and a CHA employee who was a sports enthusiast and had new funding charmed some of the boys who were scouts into spending more time with basketball and baseball games in new, more acceptable uniforms.

This did not deter Emmanuel. He stood his ground in scouting. He attended the first Checkahgaw Challenge Junior Leaders Training Conference for scouts, where he found the trail to Eagle and never looked back.

In Spring 1998, rather than have the community without Cub Scouts, Emanuel convinced his mother, Belinda Lawrence, to become Cub Master in order to fulfill his duty to his community. He maintained a high royal standard, never missing a troop meeting or Cub Pack meeting.

Emmanuel went out of his way to acquire supplies, training materials and educational materials for both units. He has worked to aid his mother's effort to keep the opportunity open for the children of our community to become part of the Boy Scouts of America at an early age.

On May 27, despite all the obstacles and distractions, a Court of Honor was held at Hartzell United Methodist Church for Emmanuel. His village of adult supporters enclosed him with care, direction, love and



Harold Ickes resident Emmanuel Eugene Lawrence giving a "Thank You" speech during a June 7 Eagle Scout celebration.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

loyalty.

There he was presented with his hard-earned award of Eagle Scout.

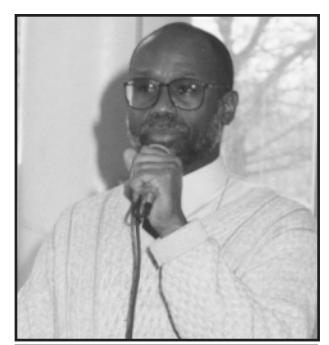
With his mother and grandmother present, Emmanuel thanked God, his village of loyal supporters, his scout master,

assistant scout master and others and moved into an exclusive club. Only 2 percent of all scouts ever reach the rank of Eagle Scout. Congratulations, Emmanuel! From your scout master.

Cook County Hospital Men's Health Program

Project Brotherhood:

Provides men an opportunity to discuss topics that affect their well being. Also offer medical care, and Social Services, Jobs Skills Development, Resume Services, Legal Counseling and Free Hair Cuts.



Dr. Lester Wright

Men also take part in a Rites of Passage class that focuses on accepting male responsibility, culminating in a graduating ceremony.

Project Brotherhood: Black Men's Clinic meets from every Thursday from 4-7 p.m. at: Woodlawn Health Center of Cook County, 6337 S. Woodlawn, Chicago, IL . Call (312) 747-7700

4 MEN Only: Offers a different setting - discussion groups on men's health and well being issues. Dr. Wright says, "We talk about specific illnesses such as hypertension or diabetes and other times about employment issues." 4 Men Only discussion groups include such topics as smoking cessation, substance abuse, mental health,, spirituality, relationships , the role of the black man in the community and becoming parents too soon.

4 Men Only: meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. Provident is located at 500 E. 51st., Call (312) 572-2657.

Project Brotherhood: A Black Men's Clinic and 4 Men Only are both programs of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services.



Congratulations to Robert Taylor resident and Residents' Journal reporter Beauty Turner. Turner is this year's Chicago Association of Black Journalists Media Award recipient for best photography.

RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS

CHINESE TRANSLATIONS

Special Health Section

Prevention: The Shortest path to Good Health

by Crystal Cash, M.D.

Department of Family Medicine
Provident Hospital of Cook County

Many people do not go to the doctor unless it is an emergency. The philosophy is, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." The truth is, most people don't want to know if something is wrong.

Prevention can identify risk factors for disease. A primary care physician or PCP can work with an individual and identify lifestyle, family characteristics, environmental and psychological factors that may put them at risk for illness and disease.

Lifestyle issues can include eating habits, exercise, smoking or drinking. Family characteristics can include a family history of diseases such as diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and sickle cell disease. Environmental characteristics would be lead poisoning, domestic and street violence, asthma triggers and chemical exposures in the work place. Psychological factors include depression, life stresses, mental illness and nervous conditions.

There are three types of prevention:

Primary- Identify risk before any disease has taken place and make changes to prevent disease from starting.

Secondary- Early detection of disease to

treat and prevent or limit damage caused to target organs.

Tertiary- After the disease has affected organs, minimize the impact on the ability to function normally and prolong life.

The Earlier the Better

All of these things can be assessed by your Primary Care Physician. The screening tests that are done depend on your age and sex.

Children commonly are screened for low blood counts or anemia, lead poisoning and problems with growth and development. They also receive immunizations to prevent infections (Polio, Measles, German Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Chicken Pox and Hemophilus Influenza). Questions about school problems, bed wetting and age appropriate discipline can be answered during these visits.

Women are screened for breast, colon, and

cervical cancers. They may also take this opportunity to discuss female problems such as birth control and menopause symptoms. All sexually active females are screened for sexually transmitted infections if they are at risk. Anemia is also common in women.

Men who are the least likely population to come in for regular checkups are screened for prostate and colon cancer. This is a good opportunity to ask questions about all the little things that are bothering you.

All adults can benefit from immunizations against Tetanus. At risk populations may need flu shots and pneumonia vaccines.

In addition to all of these things, a Primary Care Physician can answer your phone questions and save you a visit to the emergency room. You have someone to rely on for your health care needs who cares. If you don't already have a doctor, call Provident Hospital and ask for a Primary Care Physician.

Focus on Men's Health

from Cook County Health Services

The life expectancy of Black men in America is far lower than that of other men in the United States. According to the most recent statistics, Black men in Chicago live about 60 years compared to about 70 years for white men. The life expectancy of African American males has actually dropped 1.8 years over the last 20 years, says Dr. Lester Wright, senior physician for the Department of Internal Medicine at Provident Hospital of Cook County.

Contrary to popular myth, homicide is not the leading cause of death among African American men ages 15 through 34. It is 5th. The top four leading causes – heart attack, cancer, HIV/AIDS and stroke – are all medical and all respond to treatment, says Dr. Erick Whittaker, a young African American doc-

tor who heads Project Brotherhood: A Black Men's Clinic, operated from the Woodlawn Health Center of Cook County.

Dr. Whittaker and Dr. Wright, who coordinate 4 Men Only, a discussion group at Provident Hospital of Cook County that focuses on Black men's health issues and concerns, realize that too often, Black men ignore their health because they feel less masculine if they complain about not feeling well or because they are uncomfortable with the traditional health care settings.

"We created a different setting," said Dr. Whittaker. "Our setting is a little like the neighborhood barber shop. The men may initially come in just for a haircut but later on another day, they may go to the clinic for treatment of a particular health problem and on a third day, go to a discussion group on employment or fathering."

Men of all ages and backgrounds participate in both programs, from the homeless to neighborhood businessmen, allowing for a wide variety of ideas and a broad base of experience. Participation is free.



Cook County's Dr. Eric Whittaker examines one of the participants in the Project Brotherhood program.

Eat Right, Keep Moving

by Barbara Shaw

Clinical Director and Family Nurse Practitioner
Ounce of Prevention Hayes Family Clinic

With summer around the corner, many of us are looking in the mirror and wondering how we can shed the weight we gained during the winter. Many of us want to trim down for a lot of different reasons—some related to health, others related to how we feel about ourselves and our bodies.

Of course, every person has a different body type and there is no "ideal" weight that fits all people. But falling outside the range of a healthy weight for your height and body type can lead to a host of different, serious health problems. Experts agree that if you are more than 20 pounds overweight, you run a much greater risk of potentially deadly conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, coronary heart disease, breast and endometrial cancer. And, if you are overweight, you are more likely not to want to exercise—making it even more likely that you will develop problems like high cholesterol and heart disease.

Many people who want to lose weight have a hard time sticking to a healthy diet. They may have eating habits or make shopping decisions that lead them to eat too many calorie-rich foods. Add these unhealthy habits to a lifestyle that does not include any physical activity and you have a recipe for trouble.

The first step in shedding unwanted pounds is to have a strategy for food control in your life. This means making a decision to change your relationship to food and eating. It can be done with a few simple changes and support from the people you live with:

When food cravings hit, do something else!

Be the slowest eater.

Serve your food on smaller plates.

Don't eat while you watch TV

Exercise before meals. Dance to your favorite music. Take a walk with a friend.

Eat before you go out to party or to barbecues and family get-togethers.

Avoid alcoholic beverages, artificial fruit drinks and pop. They are high in calories.

Learn different cooking styles. A fried egg has twice the calories of a boiled egg.

Store junk food out of sight in hard-to-reach places. Better yet, don't buy any junk food!

Go food shopping after you eat—not while you are hungry.

Buy fresh foods whenever you can; plain frozen

vegetables can be a good substitute.

Aside from changing what, when and how you eat, there are other things you can do to stop gaining weight or to lose weight:

Get to know your emotions. Be aware of what stresses in your life make you want to eat more.

See a slimmer you. Close your eyes and breathe deeply. Imagine yourself at a healthy weight. Notice how you feel. Take time to practice this exercise every time you sit down to eat.

Draw courage from encouragement. Join together with friends who want to eat right. Involve the people you live with in your plan to eat more healthily.

Finally, remember to keep moving! The more you get off the couch and move, the more successful you will be at taking—and keeping—the weight off. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. Get together with family, neighbors and friends to walk. Walk to the next bus stop instead of catching the bus closer to your home.

Staying at a healthy weight means a making a commitment and having a positive attitude about yourself and your ability to change. There is no quick fix or instant pill for successful weight loss. In fact, a lot of the fad diets and pills can be dangerous. With the right attitude and support (including talking to your health care provider), eating right and staying active, you can get to a weight you are comfortable with and stay there!

Character

by Dr. Bill Miller

Haymarket Center

There is an old saying that goes, "We are weaving character every day and the way we weave the best character is to be kind and to be useful. Think right, act right; it is what we think and do that makes us what we are."

A growing number of people today dismiss the value of character in the life of each person. They are dead wrong! The only thing of real value

each of us has is our character. Character may be defined as those qualities, traits, attributes, nature, individuality and distinctiveness that define who we are.

Our character tells everything important about who we are. It shows what we are made of: our nature or make-up. It accurately predicts who will react and function in any given situation. It is the sum of how our experience has shaped us. A good character is the most valuable thing we can possess.

Therefore, the worst thing that has happened to the clients we serve, as a result of their addiction, is the deterioration of their character. Their lives have declined to simply living a lie. That is exactly what happened as we

descend into the depths of addiction. We are changed for the worse. It is when our life is controlled by self that the damage is done.

Character is everything, not *image* as the ads proclaim. This is God's opinion, too. God focuses on who we are. He knows that what we do flows out of who we are as a person. He is not content to merely rearrange our behavior. Genuine, permanent change is the goal.

God is willing to remove the defects that have resulted from self-will running riot in our life. He will then replace those defective characteristics with qualities that reflect his own, qualities that will please us, qualities that will cause us to be pleasing. This is what true recovery is all about!



Ald. Madeline Haithcock (2) chats with WVON radio personality Cliff Kelly recently.

Photo by Andre Robinson

Letters to the Editor

CHA Former Chief's Parting Words

Dear Editor:

On June 1, I will have been at the Chicago Housing Authority for one year. It has only been a year but it has been a year of hope, progress and opportunity for the residents of public housing and the City of Chicago.

Public housing has changed more in 10 months than it had in the previous 10 years. Numerous unsafe, inefficient buildings and developments were closed down. We disbanded the CHA Police force and gave the residents of CHA the same police service as all other Chicagoans.

We didn't just survive the winter of 1999-2000. We "aced" it with no major heating problems! We did this after the disastrous winter of 1998-1999 that saw thousands of CHA residents on buses looking for hotels.

Additionally, we successfully navigated the sweltering summer of 1999, when the heat

index reached over 120 degrees. We protected all of our seniors. Between January and April 2000, CHA improved the safety and quality of life in our senior buildings more in those four months than had been done over the previous 12 years. We recently negotiated a new Section 8 contract that will improve an already good Section 8 program and provide for our residents with quality housing units while helping to build strong communities.

CHA privatized the management of all of its properties in February. And those buildings are now evolving as showcase properties in many of our communities. Additionally, all of the family properties have recently been privatized and we expect improvement in their operations as well.

Financially, we have a resident-approved and HUD-approved plan for moving forward. It is called the Plan for Transformation. This plan

will rehab or build new units of public housing for every current lease-complaint resident in CHA.

The spirit of change is in the air in CHA. This summer, we expect over 1,000 of our youth to venture out of public housing for the first time for jobs in greater Chicago. We have completed a comprehensive community planning process and a Hope VI application for the Wells and Madden Park developments that will totally revitalize those communities. The residents are ready for change. The city is ready for change.

Quite simply, CHA is in better shape than it's been in the past 30 years. When I started on June 1, 1999, CHA had a \$47 million budget shortfall; now CHA has a \$1.5 billion commitment from HUD and is poised to be a public housing leader in the country. I did the job I was brought in to do. I believe I did that job

well.

My critics have called me an educator. That is a label I wear with pride. I have been accused of caring too much about the children who live in public housing. I am guilty as charged. And finally, it has been said that I have listened to and learned from the residents over these past 12 months. That too is true. They have been my greatest teachers.

I know Terry Peterson, the new CEO of the CHA, to be a great man and an outstanding leader. He has the skills necessary to carry the Plan for Transformation to its next level. I wish him, the staff, the Board and the residents of CHA much success.

And I will go back to my passion-education!

-Philip Jackson
former CHA Chief

Private Firm Comments on CHA Plan

Dear Editor:

Recently, we watched as Philip Jackson stepped down from the CHA following a tumultuous year culminating in the approval of the 5-year, \$1.5 billion Transformation Plan.

Philip Jackson, a product himself of a childhood in the Chicago Housing Authority, appears to have been brought over to CHA to make the "selling" of the plan more palatable to the Local Advisory Council presidents, Central Advisory Council President Mamie Bone and the thousands of residents to be affected by the plan. Mr. Jackson was certainly "trustworthy" to the residents, having been one of them for a significant part of his life.

Under Philip Jackson's administration, CHA has effectively been dismantled. The majority of CHA employees are no longer on the payroll, both a positive and a negative.

But in cleaning house, the baby was thrown out with the bath water. The many dedicated employees committed to improvement of living standards for the residents were cut; in order to make way for the "Sweetheart" contracts with firms lacking solid experience with public housing. Among the firms

awarded million-dollar contracts were newly established firms, out-of-state firms with poor performance history within CHA, and ultimately firms with the "right connections."

And now the big push is on to convert the developments into mixed-income communities. Integrate the CHA 'projects' and move the folks out. Communities - as they exist today surrounding the developments - will not look the same 5 years from now.

No one argues that the condition of these buildings warrants major redevelopment. But allow the residents input and do not sell them down the river, as has happened at portions of Cabrini-Green and all of Hilliard.

Will these communities have an entirely different political base in 5 years? You bet! Ald. Dorothy Tillman (3) and others in the "hot" locations will be fighting for their political survival. The same political machine which rounded up African Americans some 40 years ago to move them into new developments - Stateway, Robert Taylor, Cabrini-Green, Hilliard - will now disperse and dilute the strength of this voting group.

I watch all this from the sidelines and with great sadness in

my heart. A certain *déjà vu* surrounds this grand 5-year transformation plan. \$1.5 billion for whom? Historically, it most replicates the treaties made by the white man with the Native Americans in the 19th Century. We all know how that turned out!

Some would argue that CHA residents don't own public housing - the same way the white man defends that the Native American did not own his land. But it also appears similar to another disgraceful period in American history; where African Americans waited while the white man decided which 'community' he was going to spend the rest of his life and the quality of life.

Yes, I truly watch from the sidelines on this issue. You see I am not an African American. I am white of European descent. May God bless all the residents in CHA who have come into my life these past few years and I wish you all the best.

-Debra Hunter
President
Diversified Realty

Motherhood's Meaning

Dear Editor:

I want to share my thoughts on what motherhood is to me.

I believe that a mom is someone who had the experience of conceiving, delivering and nurturing a child. In this world, you have two types of moms, a single mom and a married mom.

A single mom is one who, after allowing a man to take her through the process of having the baby, either leaves her alone with the duty or she kicks out of their life for whatever reason. Single moms have the feeling of having to care for the baby in the middle of the night, bearing the financial burden of clothing, feeding, schooling, nurturing and healing the child, be it emotionally, spiritually or socially.

A married woman has the pleasure of getting father up to feed baby in the middle of the night, when the mommy has a headache, backache, toothache or whatever else comes to plague womanhood. Father usually will be able to take care of baby because he works or runs his own business.

I would like to believe that women have babies because they want to, not because they got "caught up" in the situation. If a woman chooses to be a mom, it will manifest itself in how she cares for her child. She will exemplify joy in the duties put upon her concern-

ing financial challenges, nurturing and caring for the emotional growth and development of the child.

However, when the mom has a child by accident, she will demand that the father help out in duties of caring for the welfare of the child, be it financial, social, developmental or whatever. She usually has complaints about the fact that she did not have the baby alone so why won't he take care of his child?

To alleviate the problem in the future, I believe that the government should enforce laws that will curtail the problem of overpopulation of children who are being born out of wedlock and are under the age of maturity. That will alleviate overpopulation like the people of China did. If we do not find a way to motivate young women not to have babies before they are married, we will have a surplus of children struggling to have the essentials they need throughout life.

Oh, don't mention the young women who have not completed high school and wish to have babies. These ladies often will depend on their moms to take the responsibility of caring of their grandchildren.

The schools are supposed to be teaching young women how to protect themselves against unwanted pregnancy but the schools are not teaching the

ladies as they should. The church should let women know how they should conduct themselves. The teaching will help women maintain "lady-like" behavior.

I had all three of my children while I was married. And I was in church where I was taught how to be a mom.

First, by the word of God and by the church mother and older sisters who are married. I knew from the word that marriage was honorable and the bed was undefiled and that children were the blessing of the Lord. Because of that, I was not bothered with my husband not getting up in the middle of the night to feed or change my child because I breast-fed all of them anyway. Also, he worked while I took care of the household. I did not have to work. Father took pride in taking care of his family by working by the sweat of his brow.

I am not with my husband now but he still takes care of his children. They graduated from high school on his income. They go to college on his income. They enjoy the comforts of home with him and his wife of the past 15 years.

That is the advantage of married motherhood: Having someone to help carry the load.

-Cynthia Parker

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

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You may also call our office

at (773) 285-0200 x

3372 to

discuss your ideas for submission.

Dear Resident

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

Dear Resident,

Good morning, afternoon or evening, depending upon the time of day that you find yourself reading this article. Whether we realize it or not, consciously, or unconsciously, we plan our days based on the needs and desires of ourselves or someone else.

If my day goes as planned, my alarm clock awakens me at 5:30 a.m. to the sound of news radio. Usually, I passively listen to the news as I dread getting out of bed while being thankful that I am able to do so.

One morning, a few weeks ago, the news that awakened drew me out of my passive state earlier than usual. The story was about a woman arrested for shoplifting at a Dominick's Food Store on the far North Side. While being detained by the police, she pulled a shunt (tube-like device for kidney dialysis) from her body before the police could stop her, causing her to bleed to death.

But what really caught my attention was her name, which I recognized as one possibly belonging to a former resident with two daughters. I can't be sure that it was the same person but sadly, I feel that it is so.

First, I thought about her two daughters and the last time that I had seen them. Then, I thought surely, this is not what she had planned for herself, her life, her children or her children's lives.

These thoughts led me to ask myself, "Is this what I had planned for myself, my life, my children and my children's lives?" And did I even have a plan when I started out ever so long ago? Because, believe it or not, we're all following someone's plan. If not our own, then someone else's.

The question then becomes "whose?" And given further thought, the concept of planning (idea or thought) becomes as large as the universe. From the Creator to the one that opposes Him and everyone in between, what we have are the results of someone's plan. What we are, where we live and what we do are the results of someone's plan.

What we need to realize is that while we may or may not plan for ourselves, there are definitely other people out there devising (creating or plotting) plans for us based on their needs, wants and desires. Some plans

are optional: they offer us choices. Some plans are imposed (forced) upon us: they leave us with consequences (the result of an action).

As a rule, our parents plan or should plan for us until we become adults or decide (most often against

wealthy at your expense. No one makes themselves rich unless they print their own money. But there are also plans that we need to be AWARE of (know about) that offer you an opportunity to plan for and benefit from your own life.

Over the past few years, Chicago has become a City of Opportunity for those who are aware. But I fear that this new prosperity may be too late for many of us here in public housing.

For decades, public housing has been so far removed and isolated from mainstream Chicago that we don't give attention to Chicago any more. We're not aware of the city or what it has to offer.

And while we all know that the past can affect the future, what we don't know is that the future can affect the past by allowing us to break free from the past.

Mayor Daley has a plan and a commitment to improve the quality of life for every citizen in Chicago. To implement that plan, he has put educational, employment and housing programs in place.

The Mayor has a plan for you. But to benefit, you must have a plan, too. You must plan to make yourself aware of these programs. You must make yourself available to benefit from these programs by getting a GED, getting clean or just getting serious about your life.

As for your children, the Chicago Public Schools have put programs in place that have opened doors to every conceivable job opportunity.

our parents' wishes) to follow our own plan. But beyond that, everything that we do is the result of someone's plan.

The Phillip Morris Tobacco Company has a plan for us to smoke. Anheuser Busch has a plan for us to drink. McDonald's has a plan for us to buy burgers. Nike has a plan for us to pay

This.....or That?

too much money for their shoes (you should have at least as much money in your pocket as you have on your feet). The Columbian drug lords have a plan for us to sell their drugs or become addicted.

The girlfriend or boyfriend down the street and around the corner has a plan for you to fulfill their needs or to make what's yours theirs. The point of the plan is to help them get what they need, want or desire and usually at your expense. These kinds of plans are the ones that you have to BEWARE of (to be on one's guard against). Oh, and we must not forget those money-sucking Casinos.

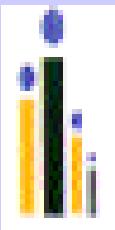
If you think that things like these are created and maintained for your pleasure, think again. These things were devised based on someone else's needs, wants and desires to become

Curie High School has a program that will graduate you as a certified licensed practical nurse (LPN) upon successful completion of the program. There are programs that will take you directly into the Chicago Police or Fire department academies upon graduation from high school. At Gallery 37, if you like to clown around, there's a course for those who wish to become clowns.

But you must help your children plan for these opportunities. Make them aware, help them stay the course, help them to benefit from their lives! Help them. Help them because there are county, state and federal programs in place for those who don't have a plan, fall prey to the wrong plan or just have a bad plan. It's called PRISON!

Do you have a plan?

Pat



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Robert H. Williams (from left) of the International Sons & Daughters of Slave Ancestry, Hayes Center Executive Director Zenobia Johnson Black and Patricia Bearden, president of the group, hold a recently displayed quilt.



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Hayes Center Executive Assistant Janice Kissner with Operation Hope founder John Bryant and Ron Carter, director of the One Stop Capital Shop after a May 24 meeting at the FIC.

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