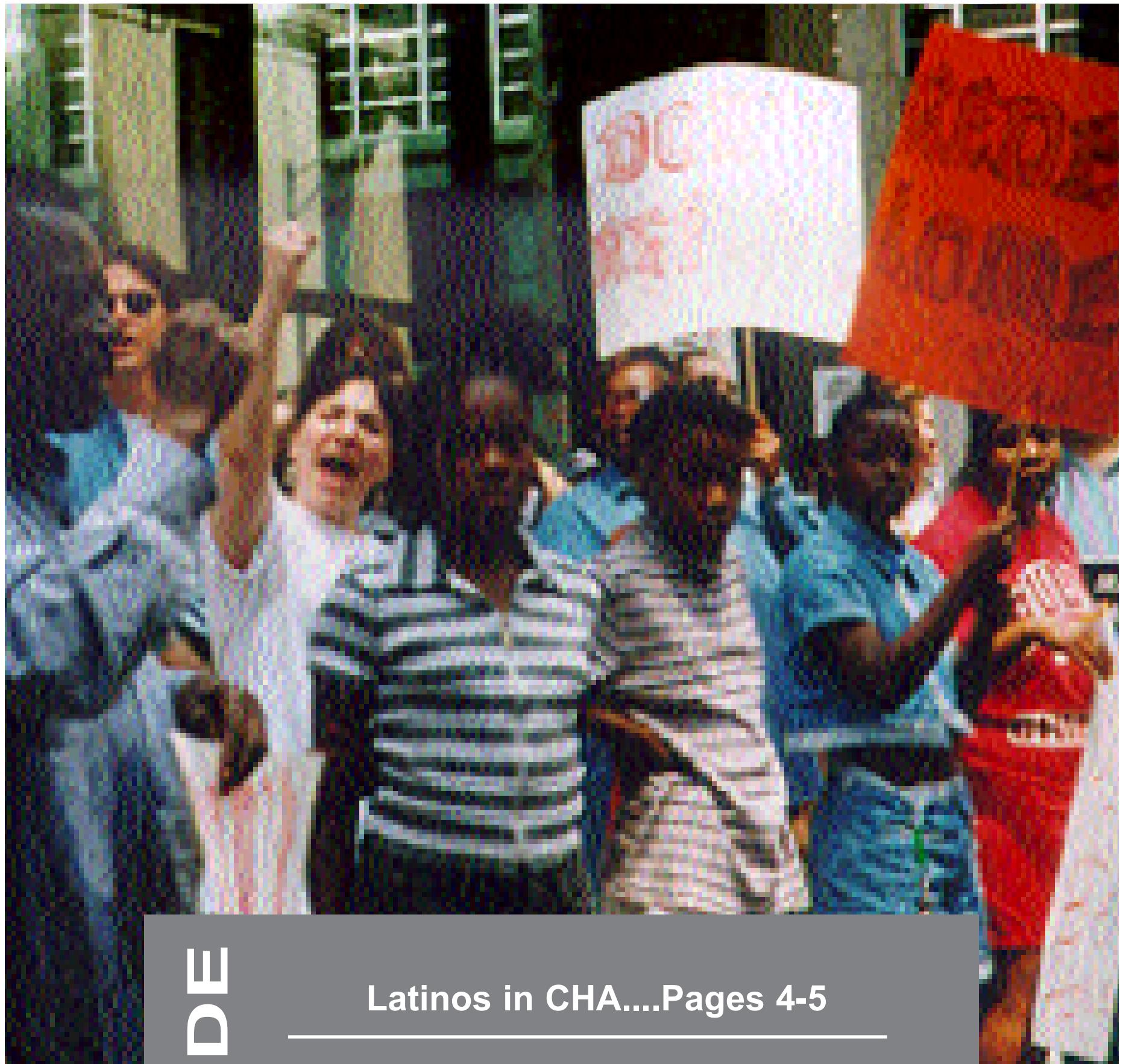


R E S I D E N T S '

Journal

A publication for and by the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority *Summer 1997 / Volume 1/ Number 4*



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Hope Has A Way

by Mary C. Johns

“Hope has a way of breaking through walls” is a verse from a Christian song that I listen to and so I thought it would be the appropriate title for this story. This story is about “Hope.” In the world today, you rarely hear about the successes of the “project people.” I hope that this story will encourage the readers and let them see and know that it is possible to get out of the “projects.” Contrary to popular belief, there are a lot of good, well-educated and tal-



ented people who live and have lived in the projects. I spoke to a few former CHA residents to help encourage those that remain:

CHA has an alumni association which is made-up of former CHA residents so I interviewed a few of them. I met some interesting people. Take for instance Denise Eligan, a former resident of 364 W. Oak St. in Cabrini Green, who lived there from her infancy until she was nine. Her mother and father worked hard in order for her and her siblings to go to private school. But because her family had two incomes, she was told that she had to move. So that's how she got out of CHA. Eligan is now the director of Grant Administration at CHA.

“Change starts with self,” Eligan said. “Dreams do come true but you have to take the steps to do all you can do.”

Loisteen Woods-Walker, mother of one, lived in Altgeld Gardens for 20 years. She got out with the help of subsidized housing. “First you need an education,” Woods-Walker said. “Then you need exposure to elements outside of your environment. CHA residents are no different from others. It’s not where you live; it’s where you want to go.”

Woods-Walker is currently personnel manager in the Chicago Department of Revenue and is also chairperson of the CHA’s Alumni Association.

Rose Williams lived in Ida B. Wells from 1959-60. Though it was a brief stay and she was too young to comment about her time there, she wanted to say a few words anyway to help encourage residents. “First have a dream and believe in that dream! Anything is possible, if you believe.”

Williams is owner and president of Williams Communications, a public relations and marketing firm.

Harriet M. Youngblood is a former resident of the 29th Street & Dearborn Avenue apartments and is a single parent of one. Youngblood and her son, Marchello, lived there for approximately 10 years. Gang related issues mainly motivated her to leave.

She recalled saying to herself, “My son needs a better place to live and so I felt that I’ve got to go!”

Breaking Through Walls

She is currently working for the U.S. Postal Service and has recently purchased her first house.

This May, she was chosen third-runner-up in the 1997 Glamour Girl International Beauty Pageant.

Youngblood said, “Don’t lose hope! Believe in God and I believe that He can help you.”

Elder Denon Culvar is the founder and pastor of True Holiness Apostolic Faith Church, which just so happens to be right across the street from where he grew up - a CHA building at 220 E. 63rd St. he called home for 16 years. His wife Tina was also a resident of 220 E. 63rd St. They moved out of the building when they married in 1979.

“We all should try to set goals for ourselves,” Culvar said. “Apply yourself. Be the best you want to be.”

Barbara Onyeali is a retired Chicago edu-

Above photo shows Roy Hobley, a resident of Francis Cabrini Homes, in 1952 shortly before his wedding to Barbara Onyeali. At lower right, Onyeali poses in her home today. At upper right, CHA alumni Loisteen Woods-Walker (from left), Rose Williams and Denise Eligan stand proud. (Photo at upper and bottom right by Mary C. Johns)

cator. She is a former resident of what is today called Cabrini Green but back in the ‘40s and ‘50s was called Francis Cabrini.

She lived there from 1942 until 1953 when she also married.

“I’ve always had a dream of having a big place and visions of being something,” Onyeali said.

She is the owner and president of “Black Images Unlimited” and, at the age of 62, a yoga instructor.

“If you are around people who are moving and going someplace and expanding your horizons, then your vision of what you’re going to do and where you’re going also expands. Get out, see and do things.”

OTHER FORMER CHA RESIDENTS

NICK MARTINO- consultant for CHA’s Purchasing Department; former ABLA resident.

JEROME BUTLER- General Counsel for CHA’s Legal Department; former Altgeld Gardens resident.

MARY MITCHELL- Chicago Sun-Times Columnist; former resident of the Darrow Homes.

T.C. CARSON- Actor; former resident of LeClaire Courts.

MR. T.- Actor; former resident of Robert Taylor Homes.

RAMSEY LEWIS- Famous jazz pianist; former Cabrini-Green resident.

MARTHA ALLEN- Chief of communications at the state Department of Children and Family Services; former Ida B. Wells resident.

GLORIA BROWN- business manager for news at WGN-TV and producer for “People to People”; former Cabrini-Green resident.



DELORES MEBAIN- director of station relations for WMAQ-TV; former Ida B. Wells resident.

FINAL THOUGHT

Remember that it is possible to accomplish your dreams. These are but a few that have experienced “the way of hope.” If you put your mind to it, then you too can be a performer, business person, journalist, educator and/or government leader. Belief in God, a good education, setting goals, outside exposure, putting forth an effort and hard work are the keys for breaking through walls.



“If you are around people who are moving and going someplace and expanding your horizons, then your vision of what you’re going to do and where you’re going also expands. Get out, see and do things.”

- Barbara Onyeali

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O u r M i s s i o n

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

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

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Editor's Box

by Ethan Michaeli

A radical, positive idea is taking shape in Chicago's public housing communities. As you read the pages of this issue of *RJ*, you will find that residents across the city are demanding the right to design their own communities. At *RJ*, the overall theme of each edition is decided collaboratively with the resident staff. With each edition, the resident staff - composed of individuals from developments in every corner of the city - has impressed me with their keen ability to pull out a unified set of concerns from the city's diverse public housing communities. For this edition, the resident staff had a clear consensus that we should devote major space to two issues: demolition and the Section 8 program.



rhetoric that came from the speakers and microphones at the event was more appropriate to decades long gone. But I saw something else happening at the march: The various groups at the event represented public housing residents, homeless groups, unions for low-wage workers and progressive intellectual groups with an urban agenda. These groups consciously came together around the idea that housing is a right. The foundation of this idea is the notion that community is a right. People should not just have their choice of apartment, these groups

The Right to Community

Both issues are factors of the nation's intellectual surrender when it comes to providing housing for poor Americans. With the U.S. Congress leading the charge, every entity in the nation seems to be calling for the wholesale demolition of public housing high-rises. Public housing as we know it today - particularly in Chicago - has failed, many people are convinced. The Section 8 program, meanwhile, is increasingly being touted as a default solution to the nation's affordable housing crisis. Section 8 certificates and vouchers are supposed to give people their choice of housing even as they create mixed-income communities in the process. But the *RJ* staff knows the theory differs from reality: The city's affordable housing shortage leaves Section 8 recipients scrambling for apartments near their friends and relatives. The demolition of public housing buildings, meanwhile, feeds into the concern of those who see their communities breaking apart. Those who live in public housing and those who need affordable housing are finding common ground in feeling that their choice often is between inadequate housing, isolation and homelessness. Fueled by these tense, confusing and often frustrating circumstances, public housing residents are asserting their right to decide their own fate. These assertions, in turn, have been noticed by the *RJ* staff.

The surest evidence of this emerging consensus could be seen at the rally in Grant Park on June 19.

Some people will dismiss the march, sponsored by the Coalition to Protect Public Housing, because of the number of people there, estimated between 1,000 and 2,000. Certainly that is a small percentage of the 125,000-plus residents who live in the CHA, not to mention the other groups that were represented there. True, internal politics, organizational difficulties and other problems kept the numbers low. Also true is that some of the

maintained. People have the right to choose their neighborhood and to work with their neighbors to forge a community.

In that sense, these groups are making an argument that public housing has not failed. Indeed, public housing has succeeded in giving human beings the opportunities to form relationships, develop friendships and be good neighbors.

The groups that came to Grant Park last month demanded that the nation's decision-makers respect their community-building accomplishments as they make changes to the nation's welfare and public housing systems. The dominant entities of our society have never been very good at listening to low-income people, particularly low-income African Americans. But in an era when government has run out of ideas on how to provide shelter for its neediest citizens, the deafening silence creates an opportunity for new voices. Public housing residents and their supporters could and should make their needs, desires and ideas the content of a new conversation about housing.

Inside CHA also, the debate at the executive level is how to find a new paradigm for public housing, a model that will build on the strengths of public housing while eliminating the failures. CHA's leaders are dedicated to proving to the nation that public housing can work.

All sides of the housing issue should take a close look at the three young women who grace our front page. Amid a sea of defiant, chanting adults, these three ladies have a look on their faces that is all worry. I'm not a mind reader but their expression seems to indicate real worry over the future of public housing, over where and how they will ultimately live. The debate over how to provide housing for low-income Americans should be tempered by these women's faces. Our decisions, after all, will soon affect them.

Latinos Avanzan en La Vivienda Pública

by Julio Martinez

La organización de el Sr. Carlos DeJesus, Latinos Unidos presentó una demanda contra La Autoridad de Vivienda de Chicago (CHA) y el Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD). Esta demanda fue hecha debido a que estas dos agencias del gobierno no incluyeron a la comunidad Latina en sus programas. La demanda resultó en un decreto de consentimiento en 1996 despues de un esfuerzo de 13 años.

Hoy en d'a las familias Latinas que son elegibles para viviendas pœblicas representan el 27 porciento en Chicago, aun as' somos el 2 porciento de los que vivimos en viviendas pœblicas.

"En verdad lo que queremos es que estas agencias abran sus puertas a la comunidad Latina y a sus programas y que eliminen las barreras del lenguaje," dice el Sr. De Jesus. Ademas añadó "Todo en esta agencia (CHA) era en ingles. Le exijimos a la agencia que brindara sus solicitudes para vivienda en español." Dice el Sr. De Jesus que se va a llevar a cabo un programa de información sobre vivienda pœblica y Sección 8 a traves de la radio, la television y los periodicos. "Este contrato nos fue otorgado a nosotros y a la Coalición Hispana Pro Vivienda ubicada en la 4035 West North Avenue." Estas agencias van a promover estos programas a la comunidad Latina.

El Sr. De Jesus dice que la lista de espera general de la Sección 8 ha estado cerrada por mas de 12 años y que ahora estara abierta. Edwin Eisendrath, Presidente de la CHA dijo que esta es la señal mas segura de que la CHA esta saliendo del atolladero para convertirse en un organismo mas efectivo.

De acuerdo a un comunicado de prensa de la CHA aproximadamente 25,000 familias de los que llenaron solicitudes serán escogidas al y puestas en la lista de espera general. Sin embargo, de acuerdo a la CHA solo un número calculado de 2,500 familias obtendrán certificados este año. En diciembre de 1995, HUD asumio el programa de la Sección 8 de la CHA, privatizandolo y transfiriéndolo a

CHAC Inc. Gracias a la privatización del programa Sección 8, segun la CHA, este momento exitoso se debe a los Hispanos que se unieron contra las dos agencias por falta de Latinos en sus oficinas, en sus operaciones de oficina, y en sus operaciones administrativas.

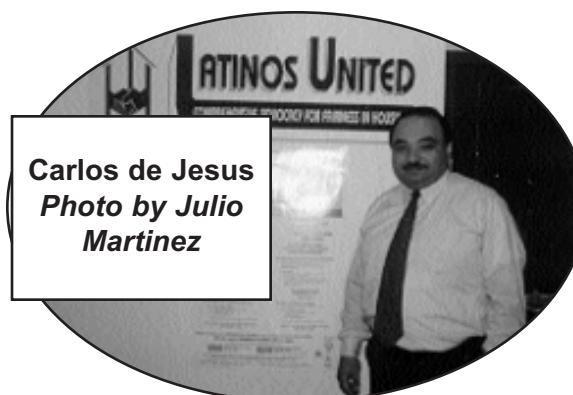
El Sr. Hipolito Roldan, Presidente de Hispanic Housing Development llamó esto '*long overdue*.' El Sr. Roldan dice que el Chicago Housing Authority es un organismo pœblico, encargado de proveer vivienda esequible a personas de ciertos niveles de ingreso. "El Chicago Housing Authority y HUD han ignorado por muchas

Para Asuntos Latinos de la CHA. "Los solicitantes deben demostrar que en ese tiempo estaban en los Estados Unidos, usando por ejemplo las facturas de pago de servicios, registros escolares, y tener ahora un ingreso elegible," dijo el Sr. Velazquez.

El Sr. Hector Gamboa, Coordinador de Programas de la Coalicion Hispana Pro Viviendas dijo que ha sido un problema encontrar propietarios de edificios que acepten la Sección 8. Con el estigma ligado a las familias que reciben certificados o vales de la Sección 8, el Sr. Gamboa espera que los propietarios Latinos le den una oportunidad a familias Latinas que reciben certificados y vales de la Sección 8. Estos certificados permiten a las familias pagar a lo sumo 30% de su ingreso mensual en renta y el resto es pagado con fondos federales. El Sr. Gamboa dijo que de los 18,000 certificados y vales de la Sección 8 usados en Chicago, solo cerca de 300 fueron para Latinos.

El Sr. Velazquez dijo que hay familias Latinas que pagan hasta 80% de sus ingresos en vivienda. Si una familia gasta tanto en rentar un apartamento, indudablemente esta sacrificando educación, vestido y alimentos.

Actualmente se está llevando a cabo una campaña de publicidad que espera inscribir a 15,000 solicitantes Latinos en los próximos seis meses. Dijo el Sr. Gamboa que ese número es solo un tercio de las 45,000 familias Latinas que se estiman son elegibles. Por otra parte, El Sr. Velazquez dijo que si por lo menos una persona de la familia es ciudadano americano, residente permanente legal, asilado o refugiado entonces la familia puede ser elegible si cumple con los requisitos de ingreso familiar. Dijo tambien que aunque verifican la condición de ciudadanía, no están obligados a dar información al Servicio de Inmigración y Naturalización (INS). Así mismo, segun el Sr. Velazquez la asistencia en la vivienda pœblica, no es un cargo contra alguien cuando trata de hacerse ciudadano.



decadas a la comunidad Latina," dice el Sr. Roldan. El Sr. De Jesus dice que una lista de espera especial de la Sección 8 para Latinos que hubieran llenado sus solicitudes entre 1974-1994 sera hecha hasta el 23 de diciembre. "Los Latinos elegibles para integrar la lista incluyen a los que fueron jefes de familia entre o madres que estaban embarazadas en los años 1974 a 1985, y personas cuyos fueron ancianos o incapacitados dentro los años 1974 a 1994 y quienes afirman que habr'an hecho solicitud para la vivienda de la Sección 8 si hubieran tenido conocimiento de ello," dijo William C.G. Velazquez, Asistente Especial

by Annie R. Smith

The CHAC Inc.'s Section 8 Housing Program is a rental assistance program which allows income-eligible households to rent housing on the private market.

The Section 8 program has given residents inside and outside of CHAC a chance to move into more peaceful and cleaner surroundings. The only initia-

and drug activity, roach and vermin infestation, broken appliances and fixtures and failed emergency items such as exposed wiring, gas and wire leaks.

Despite their warnings, when CHAC returned for follow-up inspections, they found little change.

Ald. Patrick O'Connor (40), in whose ward contains some of the properties, said at a July 8th press confer-

Today I'm here for my certificate. For the last four years, I've been living in senior housing but my apartment has no bathtub, only a shower." Louis wants a bathtub. Seniors deserve to live as they see fit. Even disabled seniors should have the chance to soak in the tub.

While roaming the Section 8 office, I became aware that it was not just the tenants who were seeking some sort of information but landlords as well were being serviced.

Truths

As Ken and I walked around the offices, he explained how and why Section 8 works. Ken began with a recent history lesson about what happened when CHAC, a private company, took over management of the Section 8 program from CHA. CHAC inherited a huge backlog on its waiting list and immediately began to cut it down.

"In December 1995, CHAC Inc. started with 47,000 names on the list. By

Focus on Section 8

tives are bringing in documents and finding your own apartment. Some residents have found their dream apartment while others have come face to face with a living nightmare.

For instance, four properties on the North Side were terminated from the Section 8 program as of July 13. That's \$618,000 per year in federal funds that was issued to the slumlords for years but finally stopped by CHA and HUD. People were living in deplorable conditions.

CHAC Inc., the private company that manages the Section 8 program for CHA, stopped approving new Section 8 leases for those properties in February 1997, after a number of failed inspections. CHAC's reports indicated serious code violations at the buildings, not to mention police calls surrounding gang

ence, "Let's not allow bad landlords to continue to have good tenants to live in squalor. We will build places for people to live in but we should not allow people to live in squalor."

Journey into the Section 8 Dimension

The horror stories are definitely out there. But I wanted to get the full story. So on a recent Wednesday afternoon, Kenneth Coles, ombudsman at CHAC Inc., and I walked through the recently redecorated offices of the Section 8 program, 1000 S. Wabash Ave. I took the opportunity to interview a number of landlords and tenants.

Eloise Louis, a senior who lives at a CHA building at 2720 N. Sheffield, said, "I've been waiting close to 15 years.

Johnny Houston, a landlord who is involved in the Section 8 program, said, "I'm a good landlord waiting for good people to rent apartments to. Not just for a year or two but for years to come. I must be doing something right because I got the IHDA (Illinois Housing Development Authority) loan and I've been in the program for 8 years."

Some people came with concerns about the Section 8 process. E.W. of Madden Park Homes conveyed her concerns about an apparent delay in the inspection of her chosen apartment. CHAC must complete an apartment inspection before a certificate-holder can move in. "I'm here to try and find out what's taking so long for inspection. I can't move until inspection is done. I've been waiting for two months."

Sept 2, 1996, 32,000 were purged from that list for non-compliance. Non-compliance that relates to inadequate income information, no birth certificates or social security cards or not responding to notification letters. The first three items are very important but people just don't turn them in. 15,000 remained as of Sept. 2, 1996. Previously no one was called in off the waiting list. Yearly inspections were not done but we are doing a much better job now."

By purging the waiting list, CHAC will be able to house all of the people on its old list by this August. With the old list virtually exhausted, CHA reopened its Section 8 waiting list for the first time since 1985. For two weeks, June 30 through July 17, CHAC accepted application for the 25,000 slots for families in need of (Continued on Page 5)

Latinos Gain Access to Public Housing

by Julio Martinez

Carlos DeJesus's agency, Latinos United, sued the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). This lawsuit came about because these two government agencies were not including the Latino community in their programs. The lawsuit resulted in a consent decree in 1996 after a 13-year effort.

Today, Latino families represent 27 percent of the Chicago population who are eligible for public housing yet they are only 2 percent of the current public housing population.

"In reality, what we want is for these agencies to open their doors to the Latino community as well as their programs and for them to eliminate the language barriers," said De Jesus.

He added, "Everything in the agency (CHA) was written in English. We asked the agency to provide public housing applications in Spanish."

De Jesus also says that there will be an informational campaign about public housing and the Section 8 program that will utilize radio, television and newspaper advertisements.

"The contract for this work was awarded to us and Spanish Coalition for Housing, located at 4035 W. North Ave." These two agencies will be promoting these programs to the Latino community.

De Jesus said that the Section 8 General Waiting List has been closed for over 12 years and that it will be reopened. Edwin Eisendrath, chairman of CHA, says that this is the surest sign that the CHA is overcoming its problems and becoming a more effective agency. According to a CHA press release, of all the persons who submitted applications, approximately 25,000 families will be chosen at random for placement on the General Section 8 Waiting List.

(Continued from Page 4) affordable housing. The 25,000 lucky families will be randomly selected from the waiting list. On July 8, CHAC had collected 45,000 applications and distributed more than 100,000 forms.

Ken said CHAC has accomplished these tasks by enforcing the rules for both tenants and landlords.

"It's not like we are here to stop people from getting subsidized but we do want the residents to realize they have responsibilities. Section 8 is not an entitlement program or anything like that. Tenants have to do what they are supposed to and landlords have to do what they are supposed to."

"On one hand, we're terminating people for non-compliance and on the other, we are bringing people in off the waiting list."

The Section 8 program is an entity of the federal government to help those who are financially impaired but want to live in decent and affordable housing outside the public housing sector. Both tenants and landlords have abused the program but Ken was confident those undesirables can be weeded out. CHA, HUD and Section 8 should not allow a few to spoil the livelihood of millions of people who can't afford rent at market rate.

From my random surveys, I have determined that the program on the whole is effective. It has given people a chance to live where they can feel safe and secure. It has helped tenants by allowing them to pay just 30 percent of

In December of 1995, HUD took over the Section 8 program from CHA, privatizing it and transferring it to CHAC Inc. Many of these developments are due to the privatization of the Section 8 program and as a result have led to an exciting opportunity with Hispanics uniting to take on the two agencies because of the lack of Latinos in the offices, supervisory and administration.

Hipolito Roldan, president of Hispanic Housing Development, calls this action "long overdue." Roldan says CHA is a public body in charge of providing affordable housing to low-income persons. "The Chicago Housing Authority and HUD have ignored the Latino community



for decades," said Roldan.

De Jesus said there will also be a special Section 8 waiting list open until Dec. 23 just for Latinos who would have applied for Section 8 between 1974-1994.

"Latinos who are eligible to be included on this list would be those persons who were heads of households or who were expectant mothers in the years between 1974 and 1985 or who were elderly, disabled or displaced between 1974 and 1994 and who would have applied for the Section 8 program if they would have

known about it," said William C.G. Velazquez, special assistant for Latino Relations at the CHA.

"The applicants will be asked to prove that they were in the U.S. using as proof, for example, utility bills or school records and they must also be currently income eligible," said Velazquez.

Hector Gamboa, program coordinator for the Spanish Coalition for Housing, said that it has been a problem finding landlords who will accept Section 8s. Given the stigma connected with families who hold Section 8 certificates and vouchers, Gamboa hopes that Latino landlords will give Latino families who receive certificates and vouchers a chance. Section 8 allows a family to pay a maximum of 30 percent of their monthly income in rent with the rest being paid with federal funds. Gamboa said that of the 18,000 Section 8 certificates and vouchers in use in Chicago, only 300 are being used by Latinos. Velazquez said there are Latino families that pay up to 80 percent of their income in rent. "If a family spends that much in rent, then undoubtedly there is a sacrifice in spending toward education, clothing and food." Currently there is a publicity campaign that has been launched to encourage 15,000 Latino applicants to apply for public housing in the next six months. Gamboa said this number is only a third of the estimated 45,000 Latino families that are eligible. On another note, Velazquez emphasized that if at least one member of a family is an American citizen, legal permanent resident, asylee or refugee, the whole family may be eligible for public housing if they meet the income guidelines. He also said that although the citizenship status of applicants is verified, the CHA is not obligated to share this information with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Receiving public housing assistance does not count as a public charge and therefore does not count against one's citizenship

their income in rent while landlords have obtained a steady income while charging the federal government regular rent (I need to buy a building).

The Chicago Section 8 program pays out \$9 million monthly in Housing Assistance Payments to nearly 10,000 landlords in Chicagoland. WOW! (I need to buy a building)

Both certificates and vouchers may now be used across the entire United States. Although there are certain expectations, a family now has the ability to move across the country as they see fit and continue to receive Section 8 rental assistance.

Fallacy

CHAC, Inc. can screen a family with respect to behavior or suitability.

Property owners are allowed to collect money to be applied to the last month's rent.

Getting it straight



What gets me is when I'm attending a meeting at the LAC, or other places involving CHA residents, and Section 8 is mentioned. It never fails that someone in the crowd hollers out, "And that damn Section 8 is only good for two years. What you gonna do then when your two years is up? You know you can't afford to pay \$500 or \$600 dollars for rent. The government must think we're stupid."

I've heard that rambling over and over again. Am I lying? So for you misinformed residents, keep reading.

I phoned Kenneth Coles and got the answer. "How long is the certificate good for?" I asked him.

"Technically speaking, a certificate is funded for two years. Congress has always renewed the funding. So as long as there's a Section 8 program and Congress renews the funding, your certificate can last a lifetime. The portion that's blind to the client is the renewal of funding."

"The only time it is not true is when

The Lucky Ones
These people were waiting for information about their Section 8 certificates. Some 25,000 new families will be on a new waiting list. Photo by Annie R. Smith

you are coming on the program. You have 120 days to get housed. Once you are housed and your 120 days have elapsed, then your Section 8 certificate becomes active. The actual certificate has always been re-funded and renewed. As long as it's a Section 8 program, (the certificate) is good." Ken replied.

An Amusing Comment

What I found amusing is the comment made by CHA Chairman Edwin Eisendrath at the July 8 press conference relating to the Section 8 slumlords..

"The CHA is living up to its commitment to change and accountability by cracking down on landlords who get rich off of federal housing subsidies while their tenants live in slums," Eisendrath said.

"The residents, taxpayers and surrounding communities deserve better than to pay for poor management or live in squalid conditions."

Watch out CHA high-rise dwellers! The wrecking ball must be on the way because nine out of every 10 buildings is mismanaged and we do live in squalid conditions. And yes, former CHA landlords have gotten rich off the CHA tenants.

Whether he knows it or not, Edwin Eisendrath seems to have been relating to the patriarchy of the Chicago Housing Authority. The resemblance between Section 8 slumlords and the previous CHA administrators is uncanny.

Hosted by the CADRE office at HABA, I joined residents from that development and we left the complex at 6:30 p.m. We arrived at the New Rosemont Theater at 8 p.m. on June 9. The event was the last night of the series of women's lectures hosted by Janet Davies, entertainment reporter for ABC Channel 7 News. Tonight was an evening with Maya Angelou, the world-renowned poet. The series was called "Unique Lives And Experiences," North America's foremost women's lecture tour. The series had featured Laura Bacall, author of "My Life, My Career," Mary Tyler Moore, in a lecture entitled "Thoroughly Modern Mary," Linda Ellerbee and Sara Ferguson, the Duchess Of York. But tonight was Maya's night.

Maya Angelou is hailed as one of the greatest speakers of our time the world over. Her words have been an inspiring, comforting, encouraging and strengthening for millions. She is a poet, playwright, director, producer and best-selling author. She is also a social activist. She does not claim any single profession but she excels in all the jobs she undertakes. She puts fire in her spoken word. She is spiritual earthy, dramatic and genuine. She is a brave and bold woman.

She came out on stage, in her sunshine yellow evening suit. She had on gold pumps, which only added to her impressiveness because she is 6 feet tall. She is a cocoa brown woman and she has an air about herself. She has that deep, clear voice I enjoy so much. The first time I became aware of Maya she was on the college channel hosting Humanities Thru The Arts. I was taking college courses to get my degree and the course she hosted was one of my classes. I didn't miss any because I loved listening to her poems and her voice.

The Magnificent Maya Angelou

by Cenabeth Cross

She began to speak: She was born in St. Louis but was sent to her grandmother's in Alabama. Her grandmother raised her and her brother who was 2 years older. She had learned to read by reading the Bible for her grandma. She would sing in the church too, although she never had any training in that art form either. She would read to her brother at night after grandma had gone to bed.

When she was 6 years old and she and her brother returned from school one afternoon, their bags had been packed by grandma. They were told that their father would be there soon to take them to California to be with their mother. They were left with their mother. One day, one of her mother's boyfriends raped her. She didn't tell anyone at first. But her brother kept asking her what had happened because he could see a change in her. After

much probing on his part, she finally told her brother, who then told the elders. The man was put in jail for one day. After that day, he was released from jail. They found him in an alley later with his head kicked in; he was dead. When Maya found out, she stopped speaking. She never spoke another word until she was 13. She believed that if she opened her mouth, people got hurt and hurt bad. People thought she was mentally ill and shied away from her all the time. Her mother gave up and sent her back to live with her grandmother. During the time when she wouldn't utter a sound, she would be alone somewhere with a book or something else to read. She studied every piece of literature she could find. She especially loved to read poetry. Her favorite was Langston Hughes, the dean of Black literature. She says she enjoyed Shakespeare too. During her silent period, she studied them all. Her grandmother had told her that she would always be there for her so, before it was time for her to graduate from school, she finally began to talk. During her silence, she had also written some prose of her own, which she wanted to read at the ceremony held in the church to which her grandmother belonged.

There was much protest but granny was a big wheel in the community, so they allowed it. After that, there was no stopping her. She has written many small books of her poetry and she has written many biographies; her fourth was "The Heart of a Woman," which began with the line, "I know why a caged bird sings," which is also the title of one of her smaller books of poetry. She also wrote, "I Shall Not Be Moved." In 1975, she became the North region coordinator of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the group founded by Dr. Martin Luther King.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Remember when summertime was a part of the year that all youngsters were looking forward to? That time of the year where Little League baseball, summer basketball and trips to the amusement park were commonplace throughout Chicagoland. But the last few years have seen long hot summers, especially in the Chicago Housing Authority. With residents living in developments that are being torn down and wondering what the future holds, gang crime and drug dealing getting completely out of hand, the youth of CHA are at a loss.

But it seems as though CHA, with the help of other corporations throughout Chicago, is trying to bring summer back to the people of public housing with a program called Safe Summer 97. The program was created to entertain and educate the people in public housing, according to Darlene Cocco, manager of Safe Summer 97, and Ron Carter, CHA's director of Economic Development. Incorporating CHA's usual array of summer programs with a number of new efforts, Safe Summer will help all residents ages 1 to 100. Nobody will be left out.

Donations are pouring in, in particular from the employees of the Chicago Housing Authority who are taking payroll deductions totaling more than \$100,000 to help improve playgrounds and recreation areas in both family and senior housing. Some parts of Safe Summer have included the Inner City Games, held in Washington Park on July 17, in McGuane Park on July 21, the Mayor's Cup on July 19-20 and the popular Midnight Basketball League held throughout CHA. There's also the Biddy Basketball and Biddy Baseball

Safe Summer

97

by Andre Robinson

tournaments for the pre-teens to enjoy.

Another program that CHA is high on is Reach For Tomorrow, where selected students from 25 Chicago high schools and one supervisor under Safe Summer 97 will work in some defined capacity during the summer for five four-hour periods each week. The ages of these counselors will be between 17 and 21. RFT will select 250 students who will be divided into 25 separate teams of 10 along with an adult chaperone from the local community. From Aug. 12-16, students and chaperones will attend a program at the U.S. Air Force Academy. From Aug 26-30, another group of 90 students will be at the U.S. Naval Academy. Students must complete a minimum of 10 hours of community service before they are qualified for any of the RFT summer trips. RFT will coordinate with local Naval Academy personnel to provide training space at the Naval ROTC facilities at

the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) or at a local high school. Monthly training on mentoring, college opportunities and careers will be conducted at this facility.

Other opportunities for residents will include 1000 summer jobs offered through the Mayor's office along with 1000 jobs offered to residents by residents who own businesses. There will also be a program called Adopt a Senior, in which funds from different companies will sponsor various programs in senior buildings throughout CHA. In the family developments, money will be spent on improving playgrounds in various areas throughout housing. Already there have been donations from basketball stars Juwan Howard, who gave \$100,000 to Lowden Homes, and Dennis Rodman, who gave \$52,000 to Cabrini-Green. Their donations will help to create better playing areas for young people. If there are any

developments that are in desperate need of better playground facilities, they should contact the organizers of Safe Summer and let them know your needs.

This focus on better playground facilities probably would not have happened if it wasn't for a poem sent to the president by a young girl named Natalie Howard, a resident of Cabrini Green Homes. Her poem brought to light all the troubles that our young people are going through. With high rates of crime and poverty against young people, they should at least not have to worry about a place to play. Which is why I am recommending that the next playground built in Cabrini should be named Natalie's Playground.

Safe Summer 97 will conclude with a three-day extravaganza that will begin Aug. 22 with a black tie affair at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. That event will feature a presentation reflecting on Safe Summer 97 and what it has brought to the residents. On Aug. 23 in the morning, there will be free basketball clinics throughout CHA held by professional ballplayers in which they will not only talk about basketball but the importance of education in your community.

Later that day will be a playground dedication at Cabrini Green followed by Safe Summer Jam 3, which will be an outdoor concert. Then on Aug. 24, there will be a concert at the House of Blues located in Marina City which will feature another major artist. CHA has given us the tools to make the most of the summer of 1997. Let's grab on to this opportunity and ride it as far as it will take us. Enjoy and have a great Safe Summer.



Cabrini-Green resident Natalie Howard (left) smiles amid a sea of contributions to Safe Summer 97. Photo by Cynthia Morris
Entertainer Dawn Lewis (right) wows the city's largest eighth grade graduation party, sponsored by Safe Summer 97 and Inner City Games. Photo by Annie R. Smith



The Magnificent Maya Angelou

(Continued from page 6)

Also in 1975, she received the Woman of the Year award from *Ladies Home Journal*. She is on the board of trustees of the American Film Institute and has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey show several times.

As she strutted across the stage, she told us that we could all be writers, that we are all unique in our own way. She convinced me that I am the funniest person I know and that I am phenomenal. She said, "Men are phenomenal too but no one has written a poem to them" as she began to recite her poem, "Phenomenal Woman":

Pretty woman wonder where my secret lies...
I'm not cute or built to suit a fashion model size,
But when I start to tell them
They think I'm telling lies, I say
It's in the reach of my arms
The span of my hips
The stride of my steps...
The curl of my lips
I'm a woman, phenomenally
Phenomenal woman, that's me.

I walk into a room
Just as cool as you please
And to a man
The fellows stand, or

Fall down on their knees
Then they swarm around me
A hive of honey bees
I say
It's the fire in my eyes
And the flash of my teeth
The swing of my waist
And the joy in my feet
I'm a woman, phenomenally
Phenomenal woman, that's me.

Men them selves have wondered
What they see in me
They try so much
But they can't touch
My inner mystery
When I try to show them

They say they still can't see
I say
It's in the arch of my back
The sun of my smile
The ride of my Breast
The grace of my style
I'm a woman, phenomenally
Phenomenal woman,
That's me

The show is also produced in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Winnipeg, Minneapolis and New York. You can visit the website at: www.uniquelives.com.

A March, A First Step

The following is a commentary from Carol Steele & Wardell Yotaghan, co-founders of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing

For the first time in the history of the Chicago Housing Authority, 2,000 public housing residents and our supporters came together to march and demonstrate against the oppressive practices and policies being forced upon us, the residents of public housing.

Hundreds of residents from all the developments across the city, except for Altgeld Gardens due to a bus mix-up, converged on downtown Chicago leaving letters with Mayor Richard M. Daley, Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner, and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Andrew Cuomo. The march, which stretched several city blocks, brought traffic to a halt in front of the HUD offices. Chants of "We will not be moved" and "housing for the needy, not the greedy" could be heard for blocks as the group made its way to Grant Park for a rally. The marchers were welcomed at Grant Park by the beat of drums and the cheering of hundreds of supporters waiting for their arrival. Also joining in the day's activities were groups from St. Louis, Washington, D.C., San Francisco and Boston.

At the march - held on June 19th in the spirit of Juneteenth day, the historic

day when Texas slaves learned of their freedom - we demanded to be recognized as full citizens by our government and be heard. We demanded that our communities be redeveloped and that housing be guaranteed for current residents. We protested the history of disrespect for public housing residents and the systematic neglect of our buildings.

The march, organized by the

Coalition to Protect Public Housing (CPPH), marks the beginning of CPPH's campaign to assist residents in planning for their own future and the future of our communities. Made up of public

housing residents and nearly 70 supporting organizations, CPPH was founded by residents in late 1996 because we became concerned about the actions the City of Chicago, CHA and HUD were taking in redeveloping public housing communities. They are working to bring in middle- and upper-income development and demolish 20,000 units of public housing in

Chicago. With an affordable housing shortage of nearly 2 low-income renters for each available unit, we knew that the homelessness problem would only get worse. CPPH believes that public housing communities should be redeveloped, not to attract tourists and people of higher incomes back to the city, but to improve the quality of public housing residents and to alleviate

the premise of CPPH. Whether we live in public housing or Beverly Hills, we are all God's children. As public housing residents, we have the same right as anyone else to determine the future of our housing.

It is time for all people of this city to work together for the redevelopment of housing for those who need it most. We appeal to all public housing residents, citizens of Chicago, and religious communities to recognize the value of human life by joining CPPH and helping public housing residents rebuild their communities. In the coming months, CPPH will be organizing public events and rallies, and providing fact sheets and other information to the residents in the various developments and the general public. For more information, contact CPPH at 312/226-4132, pager: 312/280-2298.



Marchers from developments around the city as well as their supporters pour into Grant Park for the march sponsored by the Coalition to Protect Public Housing. Photos by Cenabeth Cross



by Don Adams

The replacement housing that is now being built in the West Haven community is not without a wide range of concerns by some of the people who are supposed to acquire these new units. These people I refer to are the displaced families of Henry Horner Homes. There have been a number of families displaced due to the demolition of three buildings that once stood on the strip of land from Damen Avenue and Lake Street to Hoyne Avenue and Lake Street. Many of these families received Section 8 certificates while others received housing vouchers allowing them to move back on site once the new units had been built. Some of the new units have been built and occupied by Horner residents on Hoyne. For those occupants, there have been complaints about their new units.

However, there are a number of residents who are scheduled to move into some of the new units in the area who say that they are having problems moving in. One problem consists of residents not being allowed to move in because their families are larger than expected and they have been told that they have to take smaller units or wait until larger units are constructed, which may never happen. Another problem residents are having is with the process of which families get to move into the units first.

The families that move into the units are determined by a lottery. This lottery is only necessary when there are not enough units available for families who desire the same size apartment: for example, there are 30 families that desire a 3-bedroom apartment but there are only 16 units available. This is when the lottery comes into effect. The families are then selected by the

Replacement Housing or Replacing People?

Horner Resident Committee(HRC) according to the building next in line to receive units mandated by the consent decree.

One problem with choosing families by lottery is that many residents feel that the buildings may become too empty, leaving a small percentage of families in a building that once was full of families. Some view this as very unsafe. Some residents say that if you leave a building with two or more families left in it, then eventually those families would be overlooked. Security would no longer be a big concern because you wouldn't have a number of people to look after. Repairs would no longer get done because housing would no longer allow their maintenance staff to perform their normal duties, etc.

Another major problem that now looms over Horner residents is that some units are now being withheld from transfer to Horner residents by Ernest Gates, the president of the Near West Development Corporation. Near West Development is a partner with

MCL Development and both firms are now building some of the units for Horner residents as well as working-class families that desire to move into the new units, thus creating a mixed community called West Haven with people of different economic backgrounds and lifestyles.

Some residents of Horner feel that Gates is not trying to create a mixed community but rather trying to replace residents that now reside in the area with more affluent people whose presence in the community may somehow transform it into something that he alone wants. The Horner residents who are suspicious of Gates feel that he does not want a community of people who rent but just people who own homes.

Would this be a fair assumption or Gates' goals? Only he can answer that question. I have not spoken with Gates on this matter but certainly I am not opposed to getting his response for a follow-up to this story. There seems to be a division within the community of people who should consider themselves neighbors. Instead, they view themselves as homeowners and Horner residents. This so-called haven is turning out to be everything but a haven. It's turning out to be a community of segregation and separatism. If we want this community to thrive and become productive once again, we need to find ways where we can work together on issues that do not affect one-half of the community because they reside in public housing. We need to work together so we can improve upon current conditions to better our community as true neighbors.

If we can accomplish that one task, then the community that has been named West Haven will indeed show the world that it is just that, a haven where people are proud to call it their home.

A version of this story by the same author appeared in a recent edition of Our Voices, a newsletter for and by the residents of the West Haven community.

Cleaning Day on Recycling Road

by Earl Battles

It's a great Saturday morning before Mothers Day. The weather's been awful for spring and in housing, cabin fever can run rabid. Let's go outside, shed our winter-thickened skin and maybe get some cleaning done. This is the time of the year when a neighborhood puts on the shine.

Certainly that's what Lathrop residents thought as we came together for cleaning and greening our area on this year's Clean-Up Day. With all this cleaning, one has to consider there will be trash and there will be recycling. Well, it couldn't be a better day for the recycling program - known as the Buy Back initiative - held every Saturday at Lathrop. And what would be a greater jewel in this crown but to have Bill Abolt, assistant commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Environment, come to Lathrop on such a busy-body of a day. Bill rode his bike over to Lathrop with his young daughter in her harness and had the chance to walk the very grounds that birthed the Buy-Back Recycling Program that's being implemented throughout public housing neighborhoods.

Bill said he was glad to see all the "community involvement." So while walking, we were talking on how the Buy-Back Program got its humble start right in Lathrop.

With the implementation of the Blue Bag Recycling program, the City of Chicago came to the landlords of public housing and instructed them that they too must recycle. So with a study financed by the State of Illinois, CHA took a resident survey study from the Lathrop site. Through the help of Ellen Gantz, a previous director of the Lathrop Homes Boys and Girl Club, Waste Management, the Blue Bag program's contractor, and the Resource Center, the Department of Environment took this survey information and tried to spread the word among our residents to start recycling.

This did not take very well with our residents nor did it help Lathrop clean away the garbage that overflowed from the dumpsters and littered the mid-courts at the center of the development. Residents didn't want to chance keeping items for recycling for the

fear of pests, already bad, becoming worse. Furthermore, residents couldn't see themselves separating trash for recycling when they know the city paid sorting centers for sifting through garbage.

This was not a good start of the city's Blue Bag idea among housing residents. Without recycling, CHA would be paying through the nose to private collectors of trash. Of course, we all know where the bill would be forwarded.

This presented an opportunity to Bill Abolt, who had just got his city position in April 1993. With the help of the National Resource Division of the Open Land Project and the information those surveys provided, the Department of Environment, Waste Management and the Resource Center began a dialogue with Lathrop's Resident Management Corporation (RMC) and the Local Advisory Council (LAC). Thus began the Lathrop Homes Resident Double Buy-Back Recycling Program.

About a half-hour into our discussion of the program's start, resident Bobby Watkins wandered into our walking path and I introduced him to Bill.

Bobbie told Bill that he helped organize this year's Clean and Green Day along with the LAC (thanks to Ethel Hedges) and Vanessa Dorsey, manager of Lathrop. After exchanging pleasantries, Bobby promised to keep in touch and went on to prove the

Bill Abolt, assistant commissioner of the Department of Environment, explained that the Double Buy-Back Program is not just the first of its programs but that Lathrop was particularly chosen to kick-start the program.

clean-up was working by grabbing a broom.

Bill, his daughter and I kept walking and continued with our talk. He noticed that Lathrop has profited greatly from the landscaping, numerous tree planting and the grassing of our open areas through the Open Land Project. But Lathrop always had a large tree-scape. And being located on the north branch of the Chicago River, you'll find yourself admiring how green it is around the development.

Bill explained that the Double Buy-Back Program is not just the first of its programs but that Lathrop was particularly chosen to kick-start the program. That's great considering the whole idea of the program is to pay residents full market value of the recyclable materials and to match that payment with funds to train and hire residents to eventually run the business of recycling at the site.

Lathrop residents bought into the Buy Back program because of the promise of training money. Well, to use the good but overused phrase from the film "Jerry McGuire," RMC officials Titus Kirby, Grace Moss and LAC President Juanita Stevenson are hollering, "Show me the money." They say that Waste Management and the Resource Center aren't holding to their end of the agreement for using Lathrop to make the program a success.

Bill said the money from the program goes into buying the trucks and paying the wages of VISTA workers who graduate into permanent employees.



The Resource Center's Kathleen McGhee explains the Double Buy-Back program to a number of young Lathrop Homes recyclers. (Photo by Earl Battles)

But regardless of the controversy, Bill admired again how residents are coming out to support the neighborhood Clean and Green Day. He noticed the

yard raking, the trash recycling and our young people painting large boulders that are part of our landscape.

The children are having fun doing the work and getting snacks of hot dogs, chips and cans of soft drinks for their efforts. Thanks to all who donated when our community specialist came calling.

Bill expressed his hope that the residents' enthusiasm will go into filling the recycling truck so that it could make multiple runs instead of coming just once a week. That could create more positions for residents.

Working with what they have, a few residents have been hired on the truck and a couple of residents have graduated to become VISTA workers.

The Department of Environment has started placing recycling programs in many CHA developments. But Bill said the Department of Environment and CHA are working to identify and eliminate "institutional problems" so that the program will work throughout CHA.

Perhaps if we put this program in the hands of resident-owned businesses, maybe those "institutional problems" will fade. The idea has Ron Carter, CHA's director of Economic Development, working with Bill Abolt on the expansion. Carter operates the Resident Employment Development Initiative, which helps residents create their own businesses. Could this be the end of those "institutional obstacles?"

Meanwhile, Lathrop continues cleaning, greening, gleaming and recycling. I can look around and see the land profiting. Now it's overdue for the residents to profit and not just by the tonnage of a truck that needs to be filled.

Maliszewski of NPK Associates for their contribution to our Lathrop office

The young achievers were awarded 23 blue and 16 red ribbons. The Grand Prize winners were Tyresha Coleman, Loretta Harris, Michael Harris and Carly Hodges.

The Lathrop Advisory Council is having its annual summer festival Aug. 30 from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. All are invited. For more information, call 791-8740.



Lathrop Homes residents Bobbie Watkins, Margaret Kessler (far right) and an unidentified resident paint a rock as part of Lathrop's Clean and Green Day. (Photo by Earl Battles)

Lathrop Homes News

Warm condolences to the family of Lachew Silas, who left this world and Lathrop Homes recently. He'll be missed by his family and friends. Mr. Silas had been known to say "Right plan, wrong man." We say godspeed.

All at Lathrop say to the CTA that we will not stand by and let you take the Clybourn/Elston/Union Station bus. All along its route should support its continued run and ask to discuss also Saturday/Sunday runs for the elderly and disabled.

From Bobby Watkins:

Congratulations to the young achievers of the 4-h club of Lathrop Homes on their recent achievements for their participation in the 4-h club and the grantees of visual arts champions receiving an award of a trip to the 1997 Illinois State Fair in Springfield, IL.

Bobby Watkins, 4-H leader at the Lathrop unit offers thanks to all parents who participated as well.

Also a heartfelt thanks to Mr. Michael

Horner Annex Reborn

by Stacy Springfield

You are in the way!" Those words angered many residents like myself who live at the Henry Horner Homes Annex. We sat and listened to former Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) Chairman Vince Lane boast that the residents of the Annex wouldn't have a choice of where they would live. He intended for the Horner Annex to become a parking lot for the new United Center just across the street. The Annex is swallowed up in parking lots. I am sure that to the owners of the United Center and the yuppies that generally attend games, our building was an eyesore. But fortunately, Lane is no longer here and the Annex is. The Annex is still standing because of the consent decree resulting from a lawsuit against CHA and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) being won.

The consent decree gave the Annex residents a choice between revitalization or demolition. The residents were shown scattered site plans and a model of what the apartments could look like if the Annex was rebuilt.

The residents voted by secret ballot and although the vote to stay wasn't unanimous, enough voted for reconstruction that the rehab started last spring. Those who did not choose to stay were given Section 8 vouchers. Because of the remaining distrust of CHA, residents stayed in the Annex while construction was under way.

The noise at times seemed endless; the stench of tar would make me feel sick and the pathway leading to and from the building was either dusty or muddy.

But the people of Walsh Construction have tried very hard to make the transition go smoothly until the project is completed.

I have lived at the Annex for five years and even though that isn't nearly as long as most residents, I still know

what it was like to live in a one-bedroom apartment with three children.

I was by myself when I applied for public housing. But by the time I received my keys, I was pregnant. I had my oldest son, Kristopherr, a month after I moved in.

And the other two sons that I have, Krischaun and Ke'andre, came shortly after. Yes, we were cramped: us, the roaches and the rats! The Annex's managers told me that if I wanted a larger apartment, I would be transferred to the Henry Horner high-rises. So I refused.

There wasn't too much around the Annex. I have often wondered why there isn't a laundromat around - at least closer than the one on Western. Coming from Madison and Ashland on down to Madison and Damen, there were four stores, three of which were liquor stores. I entertained that question a lot as I bent over in the tub washing my kids' clothes.

But finally, I began to see light at the end of this dark tunnel. Because recently, the first phase of the Annex was completed and some of the residents moved into their condo-like apartments. They are much brighter and roomy with two restrooms, central air and heating, a modern kitchen and brand-name stoves, refrigerators, washers and dryers.

I know because I recently moved into a three-bedroom apartment. My friends and family are as amazed as I. But my children telling me how much they love their new place is what makes me elated.

I am a clean-aholic and afraid for my children to breath (but they do). I trained them to keep their hands off of

the walls and to clean up behind themselves. But that training started in the old apartment.

There is much talk of rescreening the remaining residents who have not moved into their new units. CHA constantly did inspections of the old apartments and kept records. Anyone who didn't keep up their old apartments should have been evaluated before being given a new unit. Many view this as a tactic to keep CHA residents out of what easily could be market-rate apartments. There was no rescreening when

the revitalization project, like the Step-Up program, which allows residents to be trained and to work, possibly helping them remain off welfare. The Homewatch program is also being used. Homewatch provides security in units whose renovation is not complete by letting homeless adults live there temporarily.

But plans are not going to stop at renovation. There is a vision for more programs like senior citizens activities, youth and summer programs, a computer lab and day care for residents of

Horner/West Haven.

I have learned through all of this that there really are people who care about their surroundings, like Sarah Ruffin, an Annex resident who says she can't remember a time when there weren't roaches to contend with. But because of profes-

sional exterminators coming to the Annex, roaches are a pest of the past. And to help it remain that way, Ruffin has applied boric acid in between the walls of 30 new apartments. She says this was not an easy task when the apartments ranged from one to four bedrooms and no pay was involved.

I wonder if people really believe that vandals, gang bangers and drug addicts are all that reside in CHA. Crime, vandalism and drug addiction is a problem even in the suburbs. CHA residents made this revitalization happen, not just Earnest Gates.

I think it is only fair to let the naysayers and non-believers think what they want. After all, who really cares what they think. They don't live here anyway.

A version of this story by the same author appeared in a recent edition of Our Voices, a newsletter for and by the residents of the West Haven community.



With feet moving at a blinding speed, a contestant in the June 21 Jump Rope competition strives for the gold. Photo by Cenabeth Cross.

SAFE SUMMER '97

Tuesday, August 19, 1997

Showtime: 7:00 pm

SKYLINE THEATRE AT NAVY PIER

SHOW: 'A Jackie Taylor Extravaganza'

The CHA, in collaboration with the CHA Alumni invites residents, former residents, friends, family, and everybody to participate in an evening of music, theatre, and fireworks in celebration of Safe Summer '97.

The Chicago Housing Authority in collaboration with the CHA Alumni is hosting 'A Jackie Taylor Extravaganza' at the Skyline Theatre on Navy Pier. The CHA and the CHA Alumni are working collaboratively to raise funds to support Safe Summer scholarships for CHA youths.

Jackie Taylor, Founder and Director of the Black Ensemble Theatre and a former resident of Cabrini-Green, will be producing excerpts from five of her biggest hits.

Tickets are now on sale for \$25, \$50, \$100, and \$300.

For more information contact:

Sharon Denton, Program Coordinator

Department of Grant Administration

626 W. Jackson, Suite 613

(312) 791-8500 ext. 4427

GET READY!

IT'S GONNA BE A PARTY!

Full Page Ad City Department of Environment

Inaccessibility of CHA Developments

by Thomas Merriweather

The Americans With Disabilities Act was established to address a problem which affects 19.4 percent of the U.S. population. The act attempts to create accessibility and opportunities for this disabled community, to level the playing field and therefore eliminate those barriers which exist and which have become glaring in the light of multiple negative factors to be considered in our society. I have learned during my preparation for this story that there are several problems which are difficult to address and factors of inaccessibility which are difficult to overcome.

I interviewed two key officials of the City of Chicago in order to obtain some answers to what I had earlier encountered as some serious problems of accessibility. On June 4, I interviewed Donald R. Smith, Commissioner of the Chicago Department on Aging, and a week later, on June 11, I interviewed Lawrence J. Gorski, director of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities.

Smith has had a wealth of experience in public service. Prior to his current position, he served as director of finance administration and assistant director for his current depart-

to integrate individuals with mental or behavioral disabilities into public housing, a situation which generally involved senior housing developments.

Bringing individuals with mental or behavioral disabilities into senior citizen public housing complexes generally created some serious problems but it was the easy way out for HUD because of the lack of accessible housing for individuals with physical disabilities. The mandates of ADA are that all government-funded housing comply with accessibility regulations and that all public accommodations be accessible and with no exceptions.

Let me now discuss some of the inconsistencies which relate to the availability of accessibility in some public accommodation. I first became aware of this when I had wanted to ride a bus provided by HOME, a company that transports the residents of senior housing developments to a store for grocery shopping. I had inquired of other residents of my senior housing development as to whether the HOME vehicle was equipped with a wheelchair lift and I was informed that the bus was equipped as such. The bus was parked in an area between the two buildings which comprise the Eckhart Park Senior Housing development with the passenger entrance facing the Noble

Street building. (I reside in the Greenview Ave. building.)

But when I went around to board the bus, I was confronted with the fact that the vehicle was not equipped with a wheelchair lift. I had earlier phoned the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities and when I was asked my age and replied that I am 64, I was immediately transferred to the Chicago Department on Aging, who advised me that all the vehicles in use were wheelchair accessible. After discovering that the HOME bus was not accessible, I telephoned the

Department of Aging and the person I talked to this time advised me that I had been given inaccurate information. Since the HOME service is not related to City of Chicago services, the department has no responsibility.

In addition to discovering the HOME shopping service was inaccessible, I also discovered upon going around to the passenger entrance side of the vehicle that a ramp was missing from the pavement between the two buildings. I brought this matter up with Larry Gorski, who said that the CHA has the responsibility of installing permanent curb ramps to replace what was obviously a temporary accommodation. I also discussed with Gorski other matters that made it difficult for people with disabilities to get around: street and sidewalk pavement irregularities, erosion and damaged or missing curb ramps. Gorski said the City Department of Transportation has



**AGE
IS NOTHING BUT A
NUMBER!**

**On May 16, 1997, Hilliard Homes
Resident Gertrude Elizabeth Fredd
turned a wonderful 100 years
young.**

responsibility for the management of street pavement accommodations.

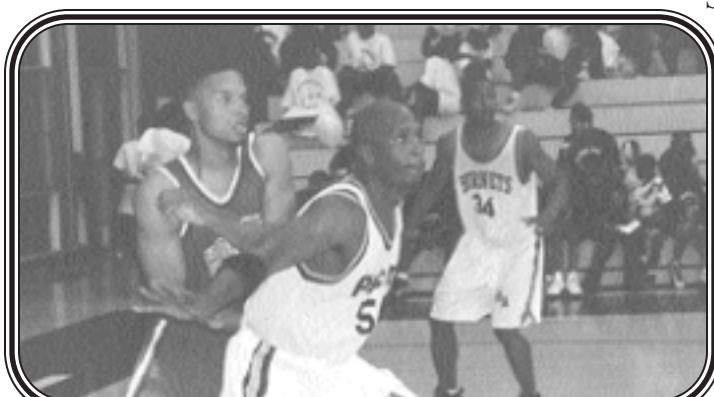
In discussing the matter of accessible transportation, I discovered that it is not clear whether or not certain types of these services may be equipped with wheelchair lifts. I contacted the HOME company via telephone and was advised that the company did not have any vehicles with wheelchair lifts because of current limitations in their budget.

This led me to contact the Chicago Department on Aging again and I was first advised that the only available accessible vehicles supplied on a routine basis are used for medical purposes, most specifically for dialysis patients. The Department on Aging officials later clarified that the vehicles were supposed to be used on a temporary basis until such patients have established certification for accessibility via CTA Paratransit Operations.

The Chicago Department on Aging, in providing trips and other activities for seniors, especially during the summer months when there are so many activities, will provide transportation including accessible vehicles but these are school busses that are made available by the companies who own them. Accessible vehicles are generally more expensive and the problem has been that disabled individuals are not always available for use of these vehicles.

Another problem with the accessibility is Taxi Access Program (TAP), a component of RTA and CTA Special Services. Such taxi drivers may use discretion as to whether or not they choose to carry a disabled passenger who is not able to walk because of liability criteria.

The last problem I would like to discuss involves transportation carriers who provide services voluntarily and without charge or contractual obligation, such as the HOME service. Judging from my experience and the information I collected from the city agencies, inaccessibility will remain a problem until more mandates are provided.



Midnight All Stars

**A scene from the CHA Midnight Basketball
All Star Game in June.**

ment and in such City of Chicago agencies as Model Cities, the anti-poverty program, and the Urban Renewal Project. Before serving with the City of Chicago, Smith served with the U.S. Peace Corps.

Gorski has been in his current position for seven years. He previously owned and operated his own public relations business and served for seven years as a legislative aide to Illinois State Rep. Art Berman, now a state senator.

The Chicago Department on Aging serves a population aged 60 and over and this age factor itself renders a high percentage of this population as disabled to one extent or another. When the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was established, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had the responsibility of mandating accessibility regulations for federally funded housing such as CHA and a decision was quickly made

Journal

All CHA/Section 8 Residents Are Welcome

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Heating/cooling	Construction	Environment	Installing fences, Windows, Security gates
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This is the first week of a 6 week orientation to qualify for a 16 week Entrepreneurial training class.

Come to the Orientation

When: Aug 2, 1997

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Call to register: Diane Timberlake (312) 791-8500 ext.4652

Bring a copy of your lease agreement.

Eligible participants are CHA residents, Section 8 and subsidized housing on a lease.

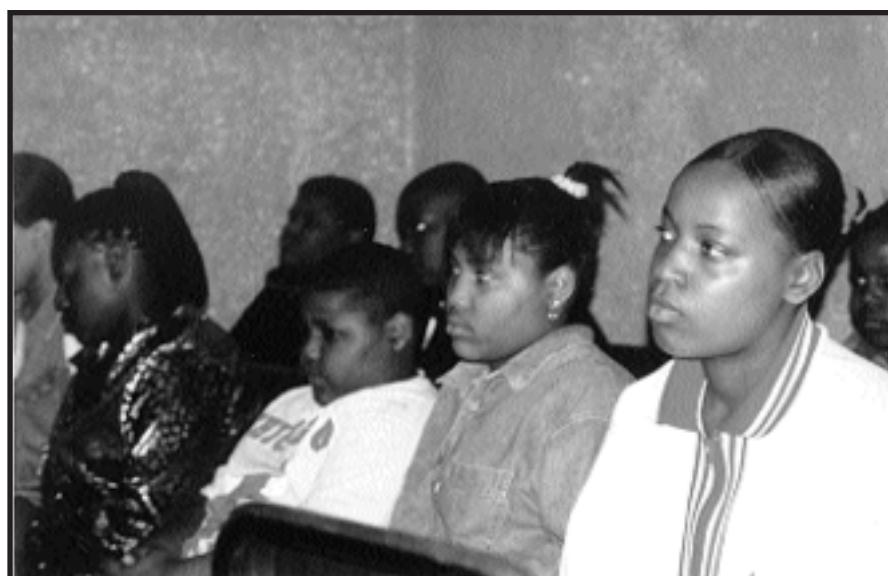
There are presently 83 resident owned businesses that have contracts totaling over \$200,000,000. Don't be left out!

Come learn how to start your own business in CHA and take control of your own destiny.

by Cenabeth Cross

Stop the Violence

The organization is planning to go to Geneva, Switzerland, to present the United Nations with the National Black United Front's Declaration of Genocide by U.S. Government against the Black population in the United States.



Sitting in Judgement

Jury members listen attentively as prosecution and defense teams make their cases at the Mock Trial, held June 14 at the University of Chicago Law School. The event is sponsored each year by CHA's Resident Organization Department.

The Altgeld Update

by Sharon Fornizy

The Management Office

There are many wonderful things about the management office. To begin with, I like the new way they are handling the rent. Also, I like how they work with you and explain things to you.

We also have a good maintenance office. First, we have workers that are outside every day helping to clean up Altgeld Gardens. We have great workers coming to your home and making sure that everything is in working order. They have a 1-800-number (1-800-544-1604) that you can call if you are having any problems.

Trina Mobley-Block Representative of Block 17, is a former staff worker who thoroughly enjoys working with the residents of the Altgeld community. Mobley believes that this can be an affluent neighborhood if residents and management work together. Mobley also commends the Local Advisory Council for choosing a visionary such as Barbara Chandler for talking Altgeld to its ultimate height in community living. "I look forward to working with everyone," Mobley said.

Also, we have more staff working with the Altgeld community. In charge of many of these wonderful employees is the office manager, Barbara Chandler. And oh boy, does she get the job done!

ALTGELD GARDENS CLEAN-UP WEEK

Altgeld Gardens had a clean-up and it was fantastic. Residents young and old were working together. Oh boy! Did they clean. All the blocks were out cleaning. These are some of the pictures I took of the cleanup.

I haven't forgotten about you. I'll be around.

Your Roving Reporter
Sharon Fornizy

Our prayers and sympathy go out to the families of Frank Lowe and Ophelia Watkins. We are thinking of you. Meatman, Rosie Love, Damien Figures, Vayne Augusta Wheeler. If I have forgotten anyone, my apologies



Barbara Chandler, manager of Altgeld Gardens. Photo by Sharon Fornizy

Lady Altgeld **by Robert Bonner**

There are those who do, and can still recall
When this "Lady Altgeld" truly had it all
A place and space, for our children's play
with a sense of security, both night and day.

There was baseball, swimming, yes and even bingo
There was always a place for young and old to go.
A beauty shop, currency exchange, a laundromat too,
So many constructive ventures one could pursue.

Can you remember the old grocery store, you know

*The one with all the sawdust on the floor
Midnight rambles in the old "Catholic" gym*

We all stuck together, it was us and them.

Once each block valued cleanliness and pride

and you didn't mind being called "Gardenized"

Oh, can't you remember, fun at the old "Arcade"

The joy of watching "The Old Timers" parade.

Remember the benches, and flowers, in every yard

How each family wanted to, and did their part.

*True that lady we loved once now is gone
But we still have resources we can build*

ties.

From your reporter,
Sharon Fornizy

Altgeld Contributors:

CYC Altgeld/Murray Branch

January 1997

Highlights

The following is an index of highlights that took place during the month of January and are sponsored by the Altgeld/Murray Branch: The Esther Wheeler Basketball Tournament, which began in November, concluded in January. There were eight teams consisting of approximately 80 players and coaches from Altgeld Gardens. Games took place twice a week and were held at the CYC Center and at the Our Lady of the Garden Gym. The CYC team, coached by group



er Ken Benson, was crowned as champions with an unblemished record of 10 wins and no losses. We also collected 60 new members from the program.

On Jan 9, over 90 volunteers from a Bible school in Michigan volunteered their services at the Altgeld/Murray Center. They cleaned the facility, reorganized files, tutored after-school participants, painted murals and sang for children. It was a wonderful experience for everyone.

Our Explorers program began in January involving 10 teens from Altgeld Gardens. Participants are given the opportunity to work with professionals and learn the objectives of a particular chosen career. The careers featured are legal, law enforcement and private businesses such as Xerox as well as the Carter G. Woodson Library and local churches.

HEALTH FAIR IN ALTGELD GARDENS

We had a beautiful Health Fair at the community building (CYC) of Altgeld. We had three schools at Altgeld participate, including Aldridge Elementary, Carver Primary and Our Lady of the Gardens.



Cleaning supplies were trucked around the community. Photo by Sharon Fornizy

Lisa Davis is the outreach coordinator. These are some of the activities that they had and the people who organized them:

Breakaway Game - Misty Walker
Choose not to Lose - Arlene Jones
Refreshments - Karen Walton and Geneva Lanier
Post Advisor - Girl Scout Leader
Violence Prevention - Stacey Lawrence and Queen Parker
Safety - Roberta Reaves, Roxanne Murdo, CHA Police Officers Lee, Jackson and Robinson

THE GOSPEL REVELATIONS

Lead- Albert Allen
Bass- Robert Bonner
First Tenor- Rueben Allen 3rd
Billy Brown- Music Director(Carver Park)

REGISTER FOR YOUR GED!

Contact: Sharon Davis
Carver Middle School
801 E. 133rd Place
Chicago, IL. 60627
(773) 535-5655

Nordy Wilkins (below) cleans a long-neglected basement while another Altgeld resident (above right) reassembles his kitchen. Photos by Sharon Fornizy



*Then we can bring the good old days back again
When neighbors were neighbors and truly friends.
It's time to come back to God and each other
and it's not so hard, we can do it my brother.
We need not remain in the state we're in
We can pick each other up and start over again.
Let us all come together and change our faith,
Build a community filled with love, not hate.
Where the young and old can again walk free
And each of us can live in true harmony.
Let there be peace and love for you and me,
'cause Brother and Sister, ain't nothing we can't do.*

Wells on the Rise

by Annie R. Smith

"We howl about discrimination exercised by other races. Unmindful, that we are guilty of the same thing. The spirit that keeps the Negro out of the colleges and places him by himself is the same (spirit)that makes a colored man run excursions with a separate car for our white friends. Provides separate seats for them when they visit our concerts, exhibitions, etc. Prompts the colored barber, hotel keeper and the like to refuse accommodations to their own color."

That quote was given by Ida B. Wells when she was 24 years old in the late 1880s. It was true then and, to some degree, that truth still holds. That quote was also recited at the first Ida B. Wells Day on June 14, 1997, in the Madden Park Field House, 3800 S. Rhodes Ave.

Old and new faces marched through the community chanting, "What day is it? WELL'S DAY." They sang old marching tunes of the '60s, new tunes with a rap beat and asked people to come out and join us.

Ald. Toni Preckwinkle (4), state Rep. Lou Jones (D-Chicago), CHA Economic Development Director Ron Carter, Central Advisory Council President Artensa Randolph, Wells CADRE director Bernard Clark and Wells LAC President Sandra Young as well as CHA Police Department officers and staff members from Sustainable Communities were just a few who helped us celebrate Wells Day.

Coal shiny black fur, standing five feet from the top of the head to the ground, eyes that glowed bright red, and a tail at least four feet long. A giant black panther was stalking me.

NIGHTMARE AT 37TH AND LANGLEY

Looking at my watch for the third time within a matter of seconds made my journey seem to be everlasting. It's 1 a.m. Sunday.

Walking up to the water fountain at 37th Street in Ellis Park was a well-lit area. But what scared me was that the lights across the street in the Wells development were out. Every single one of them. Not even a light came from the moon nor anyone's apartment. How could this be true? No moonlight. How was I to see where I was going. Ahhh! I found a light. Just as I was approaching the lit area, I noticed that the light was the same light above the water fountain. I had traveled in a circle. I hadn't gone anywhere.

I looked at my watch and found it to be the same time as it was the last time I looked at my watch. 1 a.m. I figured I shouldn't go toward the light.

I wanted to go home, 706 E. Pershing Road. How am I supposed to get out of this darkness? I'll feel my way out. I've been through this part of Wells thousands of times. I know I can do it. As I proceeded into the darkness, I heard heavy breathing. More of a panting than a breathing. I began to quicken my steps going in and out of back yards. As I walked through the gloom and darkness, I heard three sets of footsteps. Two sets of those footsteps were not mine. What I thought to be a passing stranger was now following me. I stopped and ducked into a vacant hallway. The footsteps passed by where I was hiding and all I saw was a shadow with what looked like a long black tale. What could that be? I became frightened and I wanted to hide but I knew that I wouldn't be able to hide without my assailant coming back to find me draped in fear.

I waited 'til the shadow passed and I began my homeward journey. As I thought about who could be following me, I noticed a light. Slowly I tip-toed toward the welcome sight. I can't believe that I'm in the same area I started out in. Listening for my predators, I noticed faint footsteps in the distance.

This time, I decided to use a little strategy. I watched and waited in hiding to see my stalker. I positioned myself as to give who or whatever the opportunity to be seen.

"What the hell is that?" I asked myself.

Coal shiny black fur, standing five feet from the top of the head to the ground, eyes that glowed bright red, and a tail at least four feet long. A giant black panther was stalking me. Not two people but one big kitty. I stood in the shadow area hoping the black panther couldn't see me or smell the fear that leaked from every pore in my body. The cat passed the area where I was standing. He whisked by me with such speed that I was slightly pulled out of my inconspicuous hiding spot. I was in disbelief as the fat cat hurried by. I knew he was coming back and HE would truly find me shaking with fear. I decided to make a run for it. Which way would I go? Certainly not toward the light but I know whatever path I take, I'll wind up in this same area.

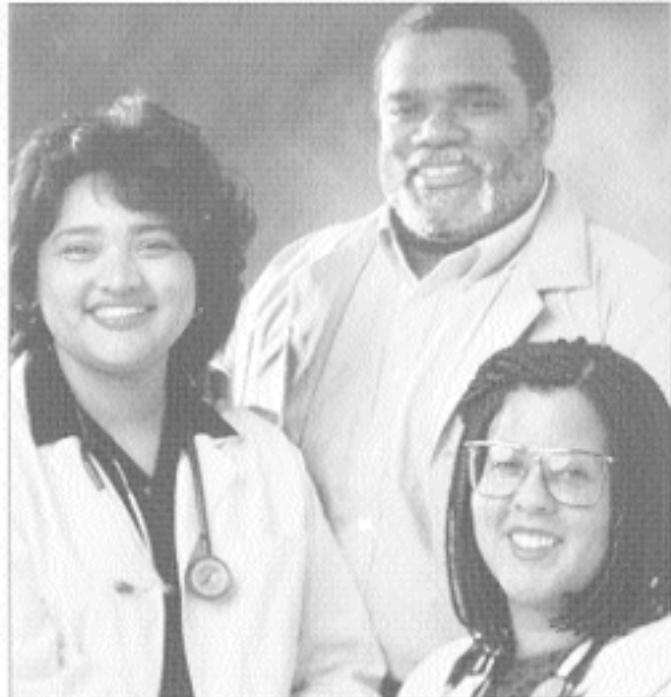
I began to make a break for my freedom. Just as I felt like I was getting somewhere, there came the light. I thought, "Maybe I should go across the street to the well-lit area." So I cautiously left my shadowy area and approached the curb. Just as I walked up to the curb, the panting and footsteps were now on me. I turned around and came face-to-face with a black panther whose head was the size of a male lion with a full-grown mane. The huge cat stood on his hind legs and made a leap for me. I froze. I couldn't move. But I screamed and just as I let out my wail, I was awakened by fright. Sweaty and breathing hard. That dream came to me time and time again.

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW DAY

But today, as we marched past that location where the nightmare took place, I wasn't afraid. **(Continued on page 17)**



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Wells on the

(Continued from page 16) In fact, I chanted with a resounding voice as I passed the area, as if to say I've confronted my fears. For the first time, I finally found out that where the light was, I was supposed to be. And today, with pride I walked the path that was ever so often pitch black in my dreams. For the nightmare was now over. Today I had with me a group of people who were not afraid and were ready for battle. Today, not even a big cat could defeat the Wells community in their fight to reclaim their community.

WHO FANNED THE FLAME

People who had at one time lived in the community came back just to help us celebrate Wells Day. Bonnie Clark, an evangelist and singer, came out with her daughter and both sang songs of inspiration. (She is not a resident of Wells.)

Artensa Randolph had a previous engagement at Operation PUSH but she felt that our ceremony was more important, so she marched with us. Even though she stayed in the van, she was there to give the Wells community support.

We walked to Ida B. Wells' home, 3624 S. King Drive, and stood on the very steps where Ida B. lived. We thanked Lou Palmer, whose house is on the same block as the Wells Mansion, for having some of the residents of Wells on his radio talk show on June 9. The show got many responses from the listening audience.

Singers, dancers, recitals, vision statements, motivational speakers and concerned citizens participated whether they lived in Wells or not. That made all our efforts worthwhile.

The Strategic Planning Committee put Wells Day

together. They are a group of residents who have made it up in their minds that they are going to reclaim the community. Taking it back one day at a time and taking back what once belonged to them.

Yes, Wells does belong to the residents. Not the

drug dealers, organized crime lords, winos, Public Aid Department or CHA but to us, the residents that care. Our community can only be a representation of its residents. And we in the Wells community feel it's time to make a change.

We are the first housing development in Chicago to recognize and honor the person that our complex was named after. We know we have a fight on our hands and we are ready for battle.

Just like Ida B. Wells, who called the middle class to task upon occasion for refusing to help those who are less fortunate. We have that same call but it's not just with

the middle class. It's with all walks of life. Yes, we need help from the residents of Wells, CHA, PUSH, Mayor Daley, Gov. Edgar, the U.S. Congress, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the like are all welcome to fight with us.

Regardless of the size and color of the fight, we are geared for battle. We will not fail. We know that in the Wells community, justice and tranquillity will once again prevail.

We know that GOD is on our side and through Him, all things are possible, even delivering the Wells community out of the dismal state of iniquity and bringing about morality, goodness and strength. We have the power. We must keep the faith and keep working toward a better tomorrow. For in the end, those who fought a good fight and stood tall will be victorious and the community will reap many benefits from their bravery.



A youthful protester urges Wells residents to unify during a recent march in that community.

CHA Environmental Unit Lead Awareness Ad

I recently interviewed Artensa Randolph, who has been the chairperson of the Central Advisory Council for two decades. I talked to Randolph, 81, about H.R. 2, a new congressional bill that would require residents to volunteer 8 hours every month and would make other changes in residents' lives.

"I don't care for this H.R. 2 at all. We had meetings with some of the congressmen and I felt real elated to have the congressmen come to us. Which was Congressman Danny Davis, Congressman Bobby Rush, and Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr."

"The congressmen came to us to explain this H.R. 2. Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr. said he was going to add some amendments."

Randolph said her staff had examined H.R. 2 and also did not like it. Randolph said that we residents have been volunteers all of our life.

"I don't know what they mean about volunteering," Randolph said. "They will not take me back into slavery. We couldn't do anything, but do what - I hate to say it - the white folks told us to do but that day is out."

"I'm not going backwards and to volunteer to live in public housing, and we don't have the luxury or anything that we need or want. Then they have people working in public housing."

Randolph also was worried about what will happen to CHA employees.

"Then what will we do, knock them out of their jobs. Then everyone will be homeless and I'm not going to do it. If the residents want to follow me, we are not going to volunteer because I don't have to stay here. That's nothing more than a sophisticated depression and I'm not going for it."

Randolph said there are many role models in public housing, including Henry Horner Local Advisory Council President Mamie Bone, former Ida B. Wells LAC President Helen Finner and ABLA LAC President Deverra Beverly. Randolph said these role models and many other residents already volunteer much of their time but it would be wrong to force them to volunteer.

"They can't make me get up and volunteer doing the people's jobs that they have hired. I'm not going over there taking people's jobs."

"So I'll volunteer on my own time. Whatever I want to do, but they can't make me do anything."

"About the jobs for this program,

Protecting CHA Residents: An Interview with Artensa Randolph

by Anita L. Baker

no one has come out and said this is what we want you to volunteer for."

Randolph said she's very happy with the confidence residents have in her and the CAC. But Randolph said she was upset with the current heads of CHA, who took over the agency in 1995.

"Under this new regime, these are the worst times that we have ever had. We have no one that really listens to our complaints."

Randolph said she wants a new board of commissioners. The old board oversaw the operations of CHA but was dissolved before the current regime came in.

"We don't have anyone to go to and help us resolve some of these problems. So this is what I'm fighting for is to get a commissioners board back. When this happens, I'm going to resign and go into something else."

Randolph does sit on the Executive Advisory Council but she feels it doesn't

really help residents.

"We do have what we call an Advisory Council...but this Advisory Council to me, and I say it all the time, it's for the birds."

Randolph blamed the mayor for not stepping in to stop the board of commissioners from being dissolved.

"I don't know what happened to Mayor Daley. I don't know what he's afraid of for he has not come out like he should."

I asked Randolph whether there was any affordable housing available for residents displaced by demolition.

"About the affordable housing, today they say one thing and tomorrow it's another."

"(Former CHA Executive Director) Vince Lane said that some of the developments have got to come down. But the only thing I hate is there won't be any replacement housing and this is what I'm fighting



"Under this new regime, these are the worst times that we have ever had. We have no one that really listens to our complaints."
- Central Advisory Council President Artensa Randolph (Shown here in file photo)

First Strike

The wrecking ball knocked the first bricks out of the Robert Taylor Homes on May 23, when CHA started the demolition of the 16-story building at 3919 S. Federal St. the building had been vacant for almost a year. CHA has not yet determined what will be built on the site. View at left shows Comiskey Park in the background.



for. But it seems like some of the members of the Central Advisory Council have forgotten what he (Vince Lane) said to the council.

"Sometimes, they (CHA and the residents) just let the buildings run down. They had a foresight; they didn't try to do anything to fix them up. So they had to get in bad condition and then they tell me so much money...was needed to do the units. But I don't know if it's true or not. No one has come to me to say this is how much money it takes to do a unit. So now they're tearing down but not rebuilding.

"Mr. Lane said that there is land all around where you could build these homes and then let the people move in, then demolish where you were living, because everyone wants to remain in their own neighborhood. No one wants to go out in the suburbs where the water is destroying everything.

"They think that we don't have sense enough to see all of this but they want to put us out there. No one wants us out there so I don't feel comfortable going where I'm not wanted."

"Affordable housing is our right. Some people think we live here and don't pay any rent. We're paying our just dues. While living in public housing, it should be decent and sanitary and a safe place to live. It was when they were just built in 1937 but now it's different. It's not safe, it's not decent, It's just a place to live."

Again I say it's not like it used to be but through the years, I don't know what happened.

In general, Randolph said conditions are worse for residents than in the past.

"It's bad living for us now. We're afraid for our lives. We don't have enough security. Gangs have just taken over but I remember when Mayor Daley was the (Cook County) state's attorney. We met with him and he said, 'You all better get yourselves together because eventually the gangs are going to take over your apartment.'"

"We never heard that so we just didn't believe him (Mayor Daley) but I swear he told the truth. Gangs have just taken over. Senior housing and family but it's more in family housing but I don't think that senior housing has enough security. They are still cutting back. So it will be only one security officer for two buildings."

Randolph doesn't agree with H.R. 2 and she is really trying to protect the residents.

Cabrini-Green Update

by Cecelia A. Clark

MAY 15 - UNITY

Al Carter of Al Carter Youth Foundation, 880 N.Hudson, Dr. Nehemiah Russell of P.E.A.C.E. and Elder Mary Bartley of St. Luke Church, 914 N.Orleans St., were the key leaders in a march of more than 200 Black men of all ages.

The Black men came to Cabrini-Green from various communities across the city to show unity and to oppose demolition at Cabrini-Green.

The men talked about their concerns that African American families will be displaced by the demolition. Russell said this problem is affecting Black families throughout the country.

Another of the marchers' major concerns is the need for jobs for residents.

The march started at the front entrance of 911 N.Hudson Ave. I spoke to Mary Coleman, a resident of Cabrini for 45 years.

"They're coming into the development tearing down and rebuilding but they refuse to hire the Black Men from the development," she said.

As we were marching, one young man told me, "We're all related to someone. We're your sons brothers, uncles even fathers. Everyone should be given a chance to prove himself."

"This march is to show that even with differences of opinion, we can stand and come together to make sure our African American women and children don't become homeless."

The march proceeded to a construction site on Sedgwick Street where market-rate housing is being built. As we approached the site, someone shouted, "Where are the Black Men?"

After standing there for a short time, finally this one Black worker appeared. The workers began shouting for the marchers to get out of there.

The marchers shouted back, "Put us out."

The marchers started to head back to Cabrini-



American General Insurance Company representative Elijah Blackamore presents Zater Bolhar, Girl X's grandmother, with a \$1,000 check. Photo by Cecelia A. Clark.

Green. About six police cars showed up and stationed themselves at various points along the march route. But the police officers didn't come to march. People from the buildings joined the march as they proceeded down Cabrini-Green streets. Dr. Russell said, "They will build more

prisons instead of housing for poor families."

I asked Al Carter if other community leaders were invited. "Yes," he said. "The alderman and other community leaders (were invited) but declined. We plan to march once a month until there's no more displacement and jobs for the community."

MAY 20 - SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Students at St. Joseph's School, 1065 N. Orleans

St., one of the schools servicing families of Cabrini-Green, had six students who were involved in the Corporate Arts program. This program is designed for schools where there is no art teacher. Students worked in this program

for five years. They learned how to lay and break tile. The hard work paid off; the students received a donation of \$1,500.00 and they produced a Mosaic Mural.

today. This mid-rise building, which stands seven stories high, will

become one of the new security pilot program buildings along with 624 W. Division, a 16-story white building. The Rowhouses, low-rise two-story duplex apartments, are also included in this program.

With this plan, the entire building will be enclosed by black iron gates around the entire building with the two playgrounds at both exits in the rear



The mosaic created by students at the St. Joseph's School. Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

The students are:

1. Arron Armstrong
2. Terran Russell
3. Bennie Sisson
4. Herbert Smith
5. Derrick Warren
6. Temtest Wessley

So take some time and walk over or drive by the school to see this beautiful mural on the school's outside wall facing Orleans Street.

JUNE 30 - GIRL X

The Local Advisory Council office was the setting for the presentation of a \$1,000 check to Zater Bolhar, Girl X's grandmother.

The check was donated by the American General Insurance Company. American General's representative in Cabrini-Green, Elijah Blackamore, said the check will be deposited into the Wordsong Girl X Fund, Illinois Service Federal Bank, 4619 S. Martin Luther King Drive.

I also asked Girl X's grandmother how the little girl is doing.

"She is out of the hospital. She's been home for a while. She will be going to a rehabilitation facility where she will be staying," Zater said. "She will also be attending school in the near future."

Zater expressed her appreciation of the check on behalf of Girl X.

I had a telephone conversation with Marv Dyson, president of WGCI Radio. I asked Marv to give me an update on the Girl X Fund.

He said, "There's about \$400,000."

PATRICK SYKES

The person accused in the attack on Girl X appeared in court on June 20 and his next court appearance is on Sept. 2, according to a spokesperson for the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

Sykes' attorney asked the court for this long continuance and the judge granted the request.

JUNE 30 - NEW SECURITY PROGRAM

A meeting was held at 862 N. Sedgwick on the south end of Cabrini

of the building also included.

Residents who attended the meeting wanted to know why their building was chosen. Chicago Housing Authority Police Department Commander Franklin Tykes and Lionel Gordon presented the plans for this program. (Continued on page 20)

The Chicago Department on Aging and The Chicago Park District invite Chicago residents age 50 years and older to



EVENTS:

- Aquatics ▪ Basketball ▪ Bocce
- Bowling ▪ Golf ▪ Horseshoes
- Softball ▪ Shuffleboard ▪ Table tennis
- Tennis ▪ Track & Field
- Volleyball ▪ Walking



For information or to receive a registration packet call Chicago Department on Aging (312) 744-4016 Chicago Park District (312) 747-0792

Flannery Homes Update

by Alan Minerbrook

The residents of the Senior Twin-Towers Flannery Apartments and the surrounding single-family Town Houses of Orchard Park send out warm greetings to the closely neighboring CHA Cabrini Complex and all CHA communities throughout Chicago. We are still very much in here; alive and kicking, growing our veggies, Bar-B-Queing our slabs and living it up in our Golden Years as we have all our lives, as we have taught all you young ones to follow in our footsteps. Just as the CHA is attempting to bring rapid improvement and change in our important environment, so are we too caught up in striving to upgrade and improve. The Golden Years past retirement are supposedly guaranteed and insured to be forthcoming to us since the New Deal of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration in the 1930s. In reality, we residents of Flannery are not turning the magic page at age 62 into a splendid time of comfort and ease. To the contrary, we are still finding we still have to scrap HARD to get and hold onto what we manage to get. We do indeed welcome the help along the way. The CHA help toward the improvement started with private management in February 1997. Our last quarterly issue of the **Residents' Journal** detailed the positive steps which private management began here at Flannery. The phases of improvement are continuing in somewhat dra-

this meeting are the people below the age of 62. All others above age 62 may leave." The representatives then announced, "You will be moved (all S.S.I. recipients) out of Flannery. You S.S.I. recipients have the option of: 1.) Taking a

Section 8 and moving to other residences or 2.) You will be moved to Cabrini Green within 1 month"

The representatives continued, "Make your decision NOW because you will be out of the two Flannery buildings within 1 month."

On Thursday, May 14, the site manager of Flannery, Maria Reyes, called a meeting of all residents of both buildings in the larger meeting room at 1531 N. Clybourn on the 10th floor. Reyes introduced to all the tenants her newly appointed assistant manager, Rosemary Colon, and informed all present of the renewed emphasis on tightened security measures and the admittance of guests. Security guards henceforth will sign in all visitors upon entry both night and day. The resident host is responsible for the visitor until the visitor leaves the premises and the host will not permit the guest visitor to wander around the building, going from apartment to apartment. All tenants are requested to take their monthly rent payments directly to the building management office - preferably in money orders - together with the monthly rent form sent by mail to the occupant.

Work orders for needed maintenance and repairs are to be telephoned to the CHA Customer Support Center whereupon a work order number is provided the tenant. The tenant's work order number and request is then submitted to the management office. All outside balconies on each floor of each of the buildings are to be completely cleared of all items. All barbecue pits, grills, lawn-chairs, etc., are to be stored in a storage room on the 2nd floor. The fine for violating this Fire Ordinance is \$500 per day to the building owners.

The tenants' laundry rooms hours are established as 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, excluding Sundays and holidays. The managers' longtime request is that no one begin a wash cycle after 5 p.m. because the doors are locked shut and any clothing left in the rooms will be locked up overnight. This situation still applies to all laundry room users. No guests are allowed to use the laundry room machines.

Reyes again informed us that all tenants under age 62 will be transferred out of Flannery, which is now intended for senior citizens only. She also restated that the One-Strike Rule for CHA will be enforced (see articles in the Spring edition of **Residents' Journal**) and tenant eviction will result for

violations. Reyes made it very clear that only Elzie Higgenbottom, CEO of East Lake Management Company, can approve "catch-up" rent arrangements and payment plans. Court costs will be assessed in all evictions, Reyes explained.

Venetian blinds and casement windows have proved defective in many tenants' apartments and replacement blinds and window replacements are being supplied, where needed. Contractors involved have been notified and replacements are being supplied and installed ASAP.

Annual renewal leases are out for re-certification and tenants are being called into the office

for the process and signatures. In apartment units where stove burner units are defective and cannot be overhauled, the devices are being replaced on a "most urgent" first basis.

A request was made by Grenadier Realty/Eastlake Management to transfer site manager Maria Reyes to the Henry Horner Homes development, a family housing complex on the Near West Side. A petition was circulated to the residents of Flannery and signed by 70 Flannery tenants to request CHA not to effect her transfer because of her outstanding services to Flannery residents. The request submitted to CHA Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner was acted upon and the result is that Flannery retains its management under the direction of Reyes and her staff. She has won recognition of her merit by being promoted to senior site manager and former site manager Stormee Cohen has assumed new management duties.

As the summer months arrive, we are truly taking enjoyment of the newly installed and re-sodded lawns and garden spaces and truly thankful for the continuing lawn maintenance, watering and lighted care being provided the enclosed gardens and the trees bushes and parking areas of the buildings. Maintenance crews are working hard to keep the halls, stair landings and lobby areas cleaned, waxed, polished and well lighted at all times. The elevators of the 1507 building are seriously malfunctioning and need replacement. Several times during June, tenants have been forced to walk up and down the stairways due to serious elevator breakdowns at sudden and unexpected times. This imposes serious consequences for the many residents of Flannery who are blind and/or use wheelchairs. Most certainly, this situation should demand urgent priority in all respects before a catastrophe occurs.



A Flannery resident inspects the garden.
Photo by Alan Minerbrook.

matic circumstances. On Thursday morning, April 24, a general meeting of all Flannery residents was announced. Those interested residents of both buildings gathered in the community day room of 1507 N. Clybourn where representatives of the CHA announced, "The only people who need to stay for

All residents will have to use the front entrance, even families who live on the first floor who until now did not have to use the main entrances. Residents told Tykes that they don't want CHA police officers stationed in their building because they don't have respect for the residents.

Gertie Smith, CHA Area Manager for the Cabrini-Green area, said, "CHA Police will be attending a training program for those purposes."

One resident wanted to know what the policy will be for visitors. Smith said, "Anyone visiting longer

than two weeks needs to let CHA know."

Another resident wanted to know what they could do to stop this plan. Tykes told this resident, "This is not a choice but a reality." Tykes said that residents at other developments where the security plan has been installed are happy with it.

**TAKE TIME TO READ YOUR LEASE
BECAUSE ONE STRIKE IS NO JOKE. WELCOME
TO THE REAL WORLD!**



Flannery Apartments' beautiful new Garden. Photo by Alan Minerbrook

Letters to the Editor

Section 8 Concerns

June 3, 1997

Dear Editor,

Thank you for publishing my articles. It's a giant step in a long battle. You made me more confident and gave me more foundation to stand on. It's so many people struggling just as I am. It's even people out there that's worse off. Behind every Section 8 certificate/voucher holder, there's a face and for many hopelessness. They have voices and stories that should and need to be heard. I went through rental cost issues. Most Section 8 holders are single women with kids trying to make it and raise our children decently. We often sacrifice our pride and self-worth. All respect is totally taken and lost. I know a person that had to trade sex to keep her Section 8 apartment to her landlord. She wasn't given any option. The landlord threatened to file untrue complaints against her and cause her to lose her Section 8 voucher. The landlord knew she was on fixed income. Section 8 is her only chance to raise her daughter in decent housing. She's an AFDC client so I don't have to tell how much she gets a month.

Another incident just occurred involving me: regarding this last apartment that I was going to take, the property manager charged me \$35 application fee. I was told that a brand new stove and refrigerator would come with the apartment and that wall-to-wall carpeting would be laid throughout the unit. She completed my moving papers and I returned them to Section 8 for the

unit inspection.

After about two weeks, she called me to inform that the unit passed. I asked her about the stove and refrigerator. She then replied that she changed her mind and that I had to furnish my own stove and refrigerator. Then I asked her about the carpet and then she replied by saying, "Oh, I forgot to tell you. I decided not to install carpet either."

Then she demanded the full \$850 at once and I hadn't signed a lease yet. When she stated that \$850 at once, she got very irate and started screaming at me about the \$850. Where do the guidelines come in? Why is there no penalty for falsely promising a stove and refrigerator. Those appliances are very important and homes need those two major appliances.

These landlords don't just hurt the mothers on Section 8. Most of all, the kids are also affected by all this deceit. Section 8 landlords believe that what we feel and go through doesn't matter. They are under the impression that they hold the key to your livelihood and as far as clients are concerned, we have no say so.

For so many, they hold the key to our lives. There's no security within our complaints. Many have just given up and become the prey of the landlords. We as CHAC clients must follow the CHAC guidelines or risk losing our Section 8. We have very few options when landlords have all the options on their side. Many landlords use Section

8 holders as a tool of their desire to control others. CHAC is a business when you sum it up. They pay landlords for the servicing of a residence for the low-income part of the city and in return, the landlord offers their rental units for the monthly shelter of low-income and elderly people. But it's often used as a power tool over people that have Section 8. It's not just mental abuse. Many times it is both mentally and sexually.

Let's stop these crude acts and open the doors for those that have had them shut in their faces. Greed is more important for landlords. The families that it affects are let hopeless. I've woken up many times during the last year feeling hopeless and concerned about my kids' well being with no options left. Section 8 is a business not a power freak's tool nor a call girl service for landlords that accept Section 8. Dig a little deeper and open the door and watch how many stories with skeletons fall out. I have some stories that you wouldn't believe. I would love to join the paper and open a column of complaints from the Section 8 clients and find more options or rather bring the options straight to the top so many will understand that they have rights. We need this. I'm enclosing one of my poems so that you can understand my struggle along with other Section 8 clients.

Sincerely,
Artice Mundane

Pathway

*The beating of my heart
seems to pitter patter to
Past darkness of my gloom
I pray this will be over soon*

*As I opened my eyes I
Asked myself the reasons why?
Never got an answer just
The tears of my cry
Reaching out even though I
Couldn't see, guess who I
found? Me.*

*My darkness turned to laughter
and I heard this soft
voice that said you have to*

*Still I had no idea of
what was ahead I knew was
what the voice said*

*I began to travel down this
road with only my children's
hands to hold*

*As I walk through each door
I found myself wanting more*

*The words I say to myself
loud and clear, you my dear
shall caring no more fear
you are unique one of a
kind God made you one of
Sound body and mind*

Time-honored recipe

Dear Editor,

As a young girl growing up in Mississippi (Pace) and coming from a large family, my mother didn't have money to spend on store-bought sweets such as cookies and candy. So my mother and aunt baked homemade treats for us. One of my favorites was Tea Cakes, a moist sweet biscuit cake very good with tea, coffee or milk.

Ms. Cotton Batch Tea Cakes

4 cups flour
2 ½ cup sugar
1 ½ stick butter
1 teaspoon vanilla flavor

1 teaspoon lemon flavor
1 tablespoon nutmeg
4 eggs
2 cups milk

In a bowl, mix together flour, sugar, butter, flavor, nutmeg, eggs and milk to form dough.
Roll out with rolling pin.
Cut with biscuit cutter, cup or drinking glass.
Place on cookie sheet.
Bake at 300-degree oven for about 40-45 minutes.

Serve cool.

Sincerely,
Mary Cotton
Washington Park Homes

Tenants' rights

Dear Editor,

As a resident, ask the question: Do you understand your civil and legal rights? Sholla Hines, a resident of the Ickes Homes, asked me what happened to the guards that once were at the Ickes as part of the Ickes lockdown that happened a little while back. The guards may have done some good but they went away all too soon.

"Where are all the activities at the Ickes?" This question was asked to me by Vickie Moore, another Ickes resident. It seems like all the focus is on Cabrini-Green. In regards to my original question, however, I spoke to someone at the CHA Legal Department and she said that there is no clear-cut explanation of the rules so

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN! She said the rules were created in Washington, DC, and that management should explain the rules to the residents. But I ask you, do you understand the rules even after they have been explained to you? If the answer is NO, you're probably like some, if not all of the residents in CHA. In some cases, how do you even know if management is even telling you the truth? The residents of public housing have never been told how important they are because they don't think they have any legal and civil rights because THEY LIVE IN PUBLIC HOUSING! So is this America or where are we?

Michael Norfleet

Residents' Journal invites all of our readers to write letters to the editor. Please keep letters under 400 words; longer letters may have to be cut. Send your thoughts, praise and criticism to: 1531 N. Clybourn Ave. #1106 Chicago, IL 60610 or fax us at: (773) 266-0965 or e-mail us at: emichael@thecha.org

Let me first begin by saying that, as the mother of six children, I am concerned about them in every way, including their education. So I thought it would be a good idea to write about what is happening with Chicago's Public School Reform. I attended the April 9 march on Springfield. There were many marchers as well as speakers, all trying to be heard. Among the speakers were James W. Compton, president/CEO of the Chicago Urban League.

"Funding based on property taxes cannot support a fair equitable system," Compton said. "We must move to a fair system of funding education, one increasingly based on income tax." Jesse Jackson Sr. led the marchers in a chant, "Keep hope alive! Equal opportunity now! Save the children!" But in the end, Gov. Edgar didn't get the state Senate votes he needed for his school reform bill to pass. Now the focus of school funding reform has shifted to "how politically damaged Edgar has become," according to many news articles. What about school funding reform? So much for nothing. By the way, the state of Michigan had its own school funding reform in 1994. They increased their sales and cigarette taxes and established a tax on the transfer of real estate rather than raising their income tax. According to Michigan Treasurer Douglas Roberts, so far the plan has drastically reduced the role of the property tax as a means of funding schools. This was a move that cut property taxes for schools by an average of 45 percent. Michigan also dropped their state's income tax from 4.6 percent to 4.4 percent and limited growth in assessed value of property to the rate of inflation; or 5 percent. "The reform plan is doing exactly what we said it would do," said Roberts.

UNDERSTANDING THE FUNDING SYSTEM

With all of the lobbying and proposals for school reform, I learned a lot about the schools funding system and other information that I didn't know or understand before. According to a pamphlet prepared by the League of Women Voters of Chicago, schools and other government services are funded by three kind of taxes: the property tax (on what we own), income tax (on what we earn) and the sales tax (on what we buy). The property tax is local and the sales and income tax are state taxes. The school's funding comes from the Common School Fund, which is made up largely by the property tax, and some of the sales tax money. Unlike the sales tax, the income tax goes directly into the state General Revenue pot, along with 75 percent balance of sales tax and other state revenues. The general revenue funds provide the money to meet the basic school formula requirements which also include Chapter 1 - federal poverty impact funds - and the state's share of special education funds. Contrary to what many believe, the lottery funds - which raise over \$1 billion a year have dedicated amounts that go directly into the Common School Fund. Half of the money raised by the Lottery goes to the winners and most of the other half goes into the Common School Fund but not actually as additional funds. The Lottery money replaces funds that would have had to come out of the general revenue funds.

According to Chi-town Lowdown's investigative report, more than \$82 million in property taxes which would have gone to the Board of Education has instead gone to developers and banks. More than \$224 million of property taxes which would have gone to the Board, the city colleges, the Park District and other city services have instead been diverted through a tax break device called Tax Increment Financing or TIF. TIFs are special districts created by the city which freeze the amount of property taxes that can be collected by the various taxing districts other than the

in reading or math. Rather, they just tell parents and teachers where the child is in relation to other children around the country who also took the Iowa test. The new tests will be developed this year and in 1998 and will be available for school systems in the spring of 1999. The federal government will pay for the first year's cost and, after that, systems will have to pay \$5 per student, a cost that is less than the current cost of administering the Iowa test. Each school system will grade their own tests but the U.S. Department of Education will put the entire test, answers, scoring

School Reform: Which Tax?

by Mary C. Johns

municipality which passes the law. All other taxes collected above that mark go directly to a special fund created by the city, which then goes to aid developers within the TIF district.

A CALL FOR NEW SCHOOL STANDARDS

A civic organization, the Council on Standards in Education and the Community (COSEC), pressed the Board of Education in March for new academic standards and demanded that parents receive explanations



Parents, activists and others concerned with state school reform gather in front of the state capital during a recent march to Springfield. Photo by Mary C. Johns

of these standards, both verbally at special workshops and in written form. Chicago Public Schools CEO Paul Vallas said that the new standards were to be made available in April or May of this year and that the board would ensure that explanations, orientation and training are made available to parents.

THE NEW NATIONAL TEST

President Bill Clinton established a new national test in reading and math and is calling every state to adopt high national standards by 1999. Clinton is proposing the two national tests to meet the new national and international standards in reading and math to measure individual student knowledge of subject areas, rather than how students in one system are doing vs. students in another school system. The tests themselves will be based on content criteria already established through national and international consensus. Currently, many systems - such as Chicago - use national tests such as the Iowa which never tell exactly how much the student really knows

guides and other related material on the Internet each year after the test in an attempt to help parents evaluate their child's score.

Many states have already committed themselves to Clinton's new national test: Michigan, Maryland, North Carolina and Massachusetts. The majority of states are expected to sign on.

PROGRESS REPORT

The Board of Education was to develop a modified School Improvement Plan (SIP) to give to Chicago's probation schools to correct deficiencies and raise student achievement. I wanted to know how well the probation elementary schools were doing,

since the progress report was already publicly done for some of the probation high schools. So I spoke with Margaret Tolson, the principal at George T. Donoghue Elementary School on the South Side.

"We recently did the modified plan that will go into action, if approved, some time in September," Tolson explained. "What we did prior to that plan was what's known as a corrective action plan. Everything a school could do has been put into action in terms of the corrective action plan. And that included things such as the after-school reading program and some changes in our special education department organization. It involved bringing in parents to assist with the after-school programs and doing a training session with them so that they could become assistants in the classroom. All of that took place. We feel that the program was successful."

I asked Tolson whether the changes would allow Donoghue to be removed from probation.

Tolson replied, "No. The removal from probation comes when 50 percent or more of your school population is on grade level. That is a process which will take some time."

I also spoke with the Albert Einstein School's principal, Dr. Phyllis Tate. "We weren't given a modified SIP but we were given an example of a modified SIP and asked to create our own that followed the guidelines. I think we've been very successful in implementing our corrective action plan."

Tate said her school is on probation because of low test scores in reading. "We're one point away now from the 15 percent that we need to be off probation and I'm positive that we're going to get off probation next year. If we continue doing what we're doing, I know we'll be successful!"

From: Patricia Johnson-Gordon

Columnist

Residents' Journal

To: All Residents

Chicago Housing Authority

Dear Resident

Welcome back, welcome back to us all. I say "to us all" because since the last edition of **Residents' Journal** I had quit resolving never to write for **RJ** again. I quit because I had become disillusioned with **RJ** and the direction which it seemed to be taking. For me, **RJ** began in a small room, with a small group of residents with big visions for **RJ**. **Residents' Journal**, "a publication for and by the residents of Chicago Housing Authority." I must have been euphoric to the point of being naive to believe that **RJ** would be a resident driven publication, without many of the same problems as the other CHA programs, projects and proposals of the past which seem to benefit the people outside of public housing more than the people in public housing. The most disillusioning thing for me is that while **RJ** reaches individuals across the city, state, country and even overseas, it is not reaching what I consider to be a reasonable majority of CHA residents. In my development, Cabrini-Green, only people who walked into the management office and noticed the papers or those to whom I gave copies actually had seen it.

I feel that the **RJ** staff - residents included - the resident leadership of the Local Advisory Councils (LACs) and CHA staff could do more to ensure that **RJ** reaches a reasonable majority of CHA residents. **RJ** has even won an award from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). The recognition of **RJ** by anyone could never mean more to me than the recognition of **RJ** by my peers, neighbors and fellow CHA residents across Chicago. Today more than ever before, the residents of CHA need information, direction and support. I had hoped that **RJ** would serve as a tool to provide such to the residents.

Please know that the above statement in no way seeks to lay the blame of inadequate or poor distribution of **RJ** at the feet of those responsible for the distribution of **RJ**. Certainly, we realize that due to the configuration and circumstances of public housing that the distribution of anything would be difficult at best. And although the first edition of **RJ** was delivered by CHA staff, CHA is not solely responsible for the delivery of **RJ**. But if **RJ** is to be successful in the delivery of information to CHA residents, everyone involved, even residents, must do what they can to that end. And as **RJ** soars, growing and taking new directions with resident distribution as an old but ever constant priority, you should know that **RJ** is delivered to various entities in your development for door-to-door distribution. In some developments, Boy and Girl Scouts are doing an excellent job of getting the paper to their neighbors. In others, individual residents and groups of residents also are doing a good job. But if you do not have one delivered to your door, you should be able to get a copy at your management office. If not, please call **RJ** at 312-674-4218 to find out where you can get a copy in your development.

And with all of that, I have returned to **RJ** because I consider myself to be a mature person. And one sign of maturity is the ability to adjust and re-adjust your thinking, views, decisions and actions when appropriate and necessary. In addition, a conversation with a long-time peer and neighbor helped to realize that the issues of health, education, welfare and housing within CHA continue and need to be told. My original feelings have not changed; neither have the reasons that I came to **RJ**. So, I will govern myself accordingly, re-adjust my actions and continue to write in **RJ** not for **RJ** but for my fellow residents. And I ask that you re-adjust making delivery of **RJ** to your home your responsibility too. If you want it, and it is not delivered to your home, please go to your management office and pick one up there. And if you have a mind to, take one for your neighbors. I wish I could say something noble like if **RJ** reaches just one resident than that is enough. But the best that I can do is that one is better than none and may we all be that one. So, in closing, I am back and surprisingly glad to be here. Please let me hear from you, whether you are in or out of public housing. I can use some fuel for thought and to keep me going. I only have one regret. Before my departure from **RJ**, I had hoped to do a Father's Day article on the Black Man in our community. This is an idea that I got from a Black, female Sun-Times columnist, Mary Mitchell. She wrote a column about her sons in which she asks the question, who sings love songs to the Black Man? I could not fully appreciate what she meant until a Black cab driver sang me a song, telling me how proud he is of the Black Woman and how we were out front taking the lead in our homes and communities. I responded, "Thank you. But please realize that by design, society has made it, to some extent, easy for us and difficult for you."

So ladies, to whatever extent possible, love, cherish and support the Black Man in your life. Your husband, lover or friend. Father, grandfather, brother, son, grandson. Uncle, nephew or cousin. When appropriate, sing them a "love song" because if we don't, who will? We all know that nobody can tear a Black Man down like a Black Woman. It's time to see if we can't build them up the same way - like nobody else can. Remember, it's not the big things or the little things... it's all things. And when dealing with each other Man to Woman or Woman to Man, in all things, do it with peace, love and a "song" to the upbuilding of the men, women and children in our homes and communities...Sing you later. And that's all she wrote.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Johnson-Gordon

