

R E S I D E N T S '

Journal

A publication for and by the residents of the Chicago Housing Authority June 1999 /Volume 3/ Number 5



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Welfare to Work Pgs. 19-21
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Haymarket House AD

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C r e d i t s

Editor-in-Chief
Ethan Michaeli

Assistant Publisher
Cynthia Morris

Assistant Editors
Mary C. Johns, Wateka Kleinpeter

Advertising Consultant
Jeff Davis

RJ Correspondents

Anita Baker, Earl Battles, Arminta Clark, Cecelia A. Clark, Cenabeth Cross, Sharon Fornizy, Patricia Johnson-Gordon, Ingrid Holt, Wateka Kleinpeter, Janelle Jones, Julio Martinez, Thomas L. Merriweather, Melvina Nunn, Karen Owens, Andre Robinson, John "Popcorn" Sampson, Marsha Smallwood, Annie R. Smith, Jacqueline Thompson, Bobby Watkins

RJ Designers

John Brooks, Mary C. Johns, Melvina Nunn

RJ Photographers

John Brooks, Arminta Clark, Cecelia A. Clark, Sharon Fornizy, Mary C. Johns, Patricia Johnson-Gordon, Wateka Kleinpeter, Karen Owens, James Rayfield, John "Popcorn" Sampson, Annie R. Smith, Jacqueline Thompson

Copy Editor
Samuel Stott

Residents' Journal is published by the Chicago Housing Authority-Resident Publications Department, 916 S. Wabash Ave., Suite 404, Chicago, IL 60605. All Chicago Public Housing Residents are welcome to contribute to Residents' Journal®. Please call (312)674-4218 or (312)427-8626 (TDD), fax us at (312)427-8614 or send us e-mail at emichaeli@thecha.org with your ideas, comments and concerns.

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

O u r M i s s i o n

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

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

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

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E d i t o r ' s B o x

by Ethan Michaeli

award from the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). In 1997, we started aggressively pursuing advertising and raised more than \$10,000 – proof that Chicago's public housing communities are a market that is both attractive and necessary. That year, we also started to sell subscriptions and soon had dozens of people dip into their wallets and express their interest in the thoughts, perspectives and opinions of public housing residents.



In each year afterward – with the assistance of consultants Anita Bailey and Jeff Davis – we have more than doubled our advertising and subscription revenue. In 1998, Residents' Journal became a bi-monthly publication. Also in that year, we started the Urban Youth International Journalism Program – a training program for CHA teens that culminated in a spring trip to Washington, D.C., and an 'adventure of a lifetime' journey to Ghana and Israel in the

As *RJ* rounds the bend of its third year, I thought it might be worthwhile to take a look back and recall what it took to put out our first paper in October 1996.

I started my job the first week of August 1996 in the midst of a typically hot Chicago summer. With no office or computers and a mandate to put out a paper by Oct. 15, I realized that the Bud Billiken Day Parade was going to be held at the end of the week. Having worked at the Chicago Defender – the parade's sponsor since it began in the first part of this century – for the five previous years, I knew that CHA residents play a vital role in the parade. I was already thinking that our front page should feature a resident at the parade.

The parade is the event at which residents showcase their accomplishments and expressed their joy as proud members of the Chicago community. On a personal level, coverage of the Billiken Parade represented a smooth transition from one community institution to the other.

And so, I called Annie R. Smith, a photographer and writer who still lives in Darrow Homes, and begged her to get her camera and some film and walk around the parade with me taking pictures of everyone and anyone that we could think of.

But Annie was by no means the only resi-

dent that was involved with the newspaper before there even was a newspaper.

Marshall Kandell, who had started a resident newspaper for the Los Angeles Housing Authority some years earlier, had spent the summer as a consultant to CHA recruiting residents who might be interested in writing, taking photographs or being involved in some way with the newspaper.

When I established my office in a converted apartment in Flannery Homes a few weeks later, we gathered a group of incredible residents from every corner of the city who set out to challenge the stereotypes of residents with verve, nerve and gusto.

Cecelia A. Clark, her son Kevin Clark and Patricia Johnson-Gordon from Cabrini-Green; Izora Davis and Michelle Davis from the Lakefront Properties and Lake Parc Place, respectively; along with Wentworth Gardens' Wateka Kleinpeter; North Side senior Anita Baker; LeClaire Courts' Andre Robinson; and Flannery Homes' Allen Minerbrook and Elizabeth Robinson all participated in our first issue and earned their roles as founders of *RJ*. Indeed, all of these residents were part of *RJ* before I was even interviewed for the job.

Thanks to them, the first edition hit the streets on time and found their way into the homes of CHA's 100,000+ residents.

Those individuals also paved the way for the last three years of incredible accomplishments. After just two issues, *RJ* won an

summer. Also in 1998, we received the generous support of two of our fellow journalism organizations: The Chicago Association of Black Journalists awarded Annie Smith's article on the Gautreaux Decree and the Chicago Reader awarded us our first grant.

Today, Residents' Journal boasts two full-time resident employees: Assistant Editor Mary Johns and Welfare-to-Work Correspondent Wateka Kleinpeter. Their dedication to the newspaper is continuing to demonstrate that public housing residents both need and want an objective, relevant news source.

But the residents who work on *RJ*, the sponsors you see listed below this column, our advertisers and supporters are not the only ones who are committed to the idea of *RJ*.

Along our way, CHA employees from top to bottom have supported the paper by developing or streamlining procedures to help us, providing us with their knowledge of resident programs, on occasion helping us to deliver the newspapers and – last but not least – by advertising in our pages.

The last three years have been a wonderful, fun, emotional, exhilarating, exhausting educational experience. Even on those nights when we are in our office until the early morning wrestling with the layout of the paper, we know that we are doing something important.

Thank You to our Sponsors

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Former Resident Heads CHA

by Mary C. Johns

What will Phillip Jackson do differently as the new head of the Chicago Housing Authority?

The Man

Mayor Richard M. Daley announced at a May 27 press conference that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) was giving control of CHA back to the city. Phillip Jackson, 48, is the mayor's choice to replace Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner.

Jackson, single with no children, was born in Altgeld Gardens and lived in Robert Taylor Homes at 5323 S. Federal St., Apt. 709, at age 11 for four years. He is the former chief of staff for the Chicago Public Schools and was a city budget analyst before that. He is the founder of four organizations, including the Black Star Project, a mentoring program in 130 public, Catholic and private schools all over Chicago.

In His Own Words

During a June 4 interview with *Residents' Journal*, I asked Jackson about a number of pledges that were made to residents during the City Hall press conference.

First, I asked Jackson what enhancements there would be in senior housing. He said he couldn't say because the city's new team is currently "assessing everything."

He did say, however, that the seniors deserve the best living conditions possible.

"Seniors are a special priority of mine," he said.

I also asked Jackson about the proposed

improvements in the Section 8 voucher program. He couldn't tell me what improvements there would be in that specific program but said that residents should watch for improvements in safety and services.

"Response for services and response to request for service; that is going to be the big difference," he said.

In terms of improvements for job training programs and social services, Jackson said that there are a lot of services available for residents that sometimes are not assessed or coordinated properly. "We don't communicate what those services are to the residents," said Jackson. He said that CHA will work to connect residents to effective services that are already existing before inventing new ones.

Jackson stressed the importance of having assessments first in order to address the problem areas so that improvements can be made.

"An assessment is not a passive sit back and wait process," he said. "An assessment is an active process where you evaluate and make improvements simultaneously."

Resident Outreach

Over the course of the Memorial Day weekend, Jackson visited with residents of several CHA developments. Without an escort or formal apparel, he met and spoke with residents one-on-one about their concerns.

I asked Jackson why he went to the developments alone:

"The Chicago housing developments are a part of Chicago," he replied. "Any resident of Chicago should be able to visit any of our developments alone by themselves any time they want."

Jackson said that he went to the developments to provide service to the residents.

"That's my job," he said. "I know that the people who know best what the problems are of public housing are the public housing residents. So what I did, I went to talk to the people who knew best about the problems and the solutions."

Jackson also said that CHA residents and employees should expect to see him at any time or place.

"I want every resident of CHA and

every employee of CHA to be aware that any time I may walk in the door."

"Whether it's 2 o'clock in the morning, 2 o'clock in the afternoon



Former Chicago Public Schools Chief of Staff Phillip Jackson speaks during a May 27 press conference at City Hall in which he was appointed the new Chief Executive Officer of the Chicago Housing Authority.

Sunday or a holiday, I'm going to be working for CHA," he said.

Purpose of Appointment

Confident that he was the best choice for the job, Jackson said he

a lot about the poor conditions of their units. The majority suggested that the first thing Jackson should do is to go inside occupied apartments and assess the conditions first hand.

"He should go to each apartment and see what needs to be done," said Madden Park's Carole Williams.

"That's the only way he's going to get a good idea of how we're living and what CHA is doing."

Regarding Jackson's experience as a resident, Williams said, "Sometimes that works and sometimes that doesn't," said Williams. "Because a lot of times people forget where they've come from."

"I feel that he's sincere," said Cabrini-Green Local Advisory Council (LAC) President Cora Moore immediately after the May 27 press conference announcing Jackson's appointment. "With the residents' input, I feel that he would be a good person to work with," she said.

"He's still not going to have enough power to turn over CHA like it should be," said 23-year-old Bruce Robinson, interviewed June 7 in front of his Ida B. Wells apartment. "The only change I feel is going to be here is us out the door."

Robinson suggested that CHA

"I'm just out here working for the residents and I'm not getting hung up in a lot of political stuff," she said.

Immediate Results

Jackson has already accomplished a few things at the Hilliard Homes, according to LAC President Manor Jean Wiley.

Wiley said that when Jackson saw the lobbies in her family buildings were painted "hot pink," he wasn't very pleased.

"He said, 'It looks like you're in a funeral home,'" Wiley said. Wiley recalled that Jackson wanted the development to "look like it was heaven," so he ordered white paint.

"Our lobbies in the family buildings have been repainted and glossed," she said.

Wiley said that the garbage dispensers that were out in front of the buildings were to be removed and placed in the rear of the buildings Saturday, June 12.

"They are being removed from the front of the building to the side where the germs and garbage smells will not come up into people's apartments," Wiley said.

She feels that she has benefited as a resident from just those few improvements.

"To me he did an excellent job," Wiley said. "More than I have ever seen one of them do before who came in as CEO."

"He should go to each apartment and see what needs to be done.

That's the only way he's going to get a good idea of how we're living and what CHA is doing."

- Carole Williams of Madden Park



CHA CEO Phillip Jackson with Senior North LAC President Shirley Hammond (left) and Senior North resident Otta Anderson at a June 1 meeting at the Sullivan Senior Apartment on 1633 W. Madison.

Photo by Julio Martinez

has been thinking of ways to improve CHA for a long time. "The mayor appointed me as CEO (Chief Executive Officer) because the mayor knows that Chicago will never be as great as it can be as long as it has low quality housing," he said. "Improving public housing has been my passion since I lived in the Robert Taylor Homes when I was 11-12 years old."

Jackson assured that improvements to CHA will come about through the active participation and cooperation of CHA residents and employees.

"Success in the Chicago public housing will not be by accident but by design," he added.

Will Being A Former Resident Have Any Bearing?

Residents' Journal spoke with residents of several CHA developments to ask them if they thought Jackson's experience as a former resident would equal CHA improvements.

There were mixed emotions but many residents I interviewed talked

should do a better job stopping drug dealing and other crimes as well as rule-breaking in the developments.

"They should enforce the laws. In everything," he said.

Harold Ickes LAC President Gloria Williams said she wouldn't prejudge Jackson.

"The things he's going to deal with at CHA, he didn't deal with at the Board. CHA is not a 9 to 3 job," she said after the May 27 press conference. "CHA is a 24 hour job. There is a whole lot of difference," she added.

One Wentworth Gardens resident who chose not to be identified said that experience living in a place and sharing concerns with neighbors still doesn't mean that things will get better.

"When they established resident management, I thought that would be pretty good," said the resident. "But that turned out to be another issue and it's not good at all."

Central Advisory Council Chairman Mamie Bone said during a recent telephone interview that she was just basically open-minded "to accept whatever."

Wiley also said that she called Jackson several times since he took over and he promptly returned her calls. "He has addressed anything that I've asked him," she said.

According to Wiley, Jackson has visited Hilliard Homes three times, including at night. "He has been on the property not only during the day but he comes out here at night," she said. "And I have never known no one else to do that unless there was a meeting and they had security and everyone was aware," she added.

The New CHA Board

Along with the city's takeover of CHA, a new CHA board is being established. The 10-member board will make sure CHA employees do what's required and expected of them. Local Advisory Councils, resident organizations and resident management organizations recently received a notice asking them to select two residents in their developments to sit as commissioners on the new board. Mayor Daley will choose 3 CHA residents and 7 others and the City Council will vote on the nominees in July 1999.

The Future of the CHAPD

by Annie R. Smith

When I ponder the functions of the Chicago Housing Authority Police Department (CHAPD), I go back to 1989 and think about when CHAPD came about and how it was structured to hire residents, past and present, for the positions of policing our communities. I know because I applied for the job of police officer. I received many answers as to why it didn't work out with the residents. But it seems like every time something is geared for resident participation in our communities, we are given answers as to why it didn't work out.

I can't help but to contemplate the CHAPD's power of authority. How strong is this force? Do we as residents take their existence in our community as something or nothing? Can we give cooperation to those whose very existence we question? Why do we have to be policed by a separate law enforcement agency? The only recourse one can take when questions need to be answered is to confer with the source and come up with our own analysis of what's going on with the CHAPD.

A 30-Year Sentence for the Acting Chief

The office of the CHAPD has been moved to the Illinois Institute of Technology at 10 W. 35th St. on the 16th floor. The phone number remains the same.

The man behind the desk has a lot of law enforcement background. Harvey Radney, until recently the commander of the Chicago Police Department's Gang Crimes Unit, was detailed to CHA by Mayor Richard M. Daley. Radney was once a detective working in Area One on violent crimes. He worked at the patrol office and was a lieutenant commander doing gang investigations, not to mention a variety of other duties which come with a 30-year history while working at the CPD. Acting Chief Radney should feel comfortable with his new position because his background makes him a prime candidate for the job.

I asked Radney several questions and I got a lot of the same answers



Former commander of the Chicago Police Department's Gang Crimes Unit Harvey Radney has been appointed acting director for the Chicago Housing Authority Police Department.

Photo by Annie R. Smith

thought-out plan. That's a trial and error effort.

I want all residents of the CHA to answer the question below. If your answer is like mine, then you know what is going to happen to the existence of the CHAPD:

Is it necessary to have a separate police force which, in turn, alienates CHA residents from city services?

I'm a Chicagoan and 911 is the only number I dial when an emergency arises. What about you? CHAPD's number should become 311. Then their existence would be justified.

Acting Chief Radney should feel comfortable with his new position because his background makes him a prime candidate for the job. He worked at the patrol office and was a lieutenant commander doing gang investigations.

unit had no door on the bedroom or closets, what am I to do?"

So first I went to and talked to some one at the management office and they gave some answers but they weren't at all what I wanted to hear. So then I got in touch with an attorney at the Legal Assistance Foundation who said they were already checking into this issue.

But then I called one of the regional managers, who sat down with me. We went over this list together and she explained to me that it was something that most residents were already paying for. She showed me how we were paying, for instance, in the case of refrigerators and stoves. They should be new when a resident moves in. If the resident causes damage to those items, then they would pay. This also applies to windows, doors, toilets, toilet seats, toilet bowls, bathroom sinks, etc.

But we must pay for own lock changes unless the lock or the door is defective. Residents also have to pay in the event that they put holes or scars in cabinets.

After getting this information from the general manager, I was able to put a clearer picture of what the flyer meant in the minds of some residents. Some of them were put a little more at ease, even though I think these charges would stop so many residents from destroying so many of the fixtures in the developments in which we live.

So you out there will know, keep a copy of this tenant charge schedule around or get one from management. But for now, all maintenance charges have been put on hold.

Maintenance Charges Furor

by Bobby Watkins

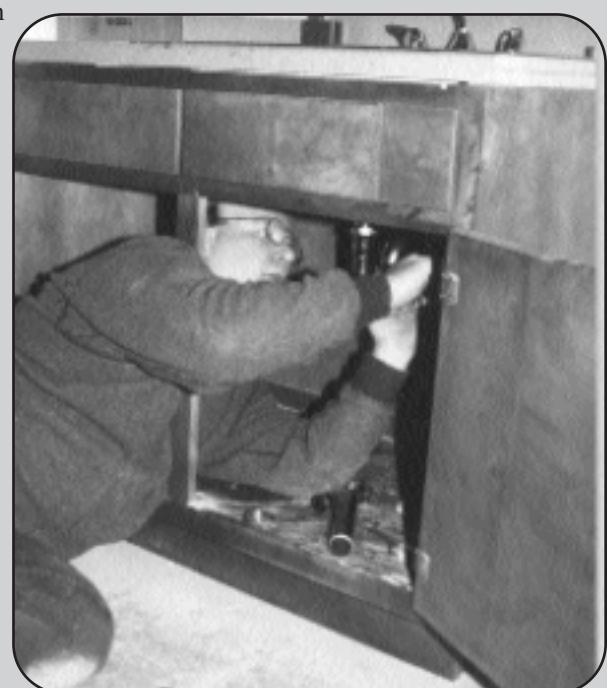
In the last part of April, a letter was slipped under the doors of CHA residents stating "This is an official notice of new maintenance charges for repairs and replacement of dwelling unit items such as doors, locks, windows and other items that may be assessed to residents' accounts." The notice listed charges for things like unstopping a toilet (\$37), replacing a deadbolt lock (\$105), and repairing a cabinet door (\$35). The notice said those were minimum charges based on one hour of labor. Any additional time would require more charges, like \$18.76/hour for a janitor and \$36.72/hour for a plumber.

Being the Local Advisory Council vice president in Lathrop Homes, I had first-hand experience with residents who were very angry about this notice. "What are they going to do?" "How can CHA do this to us when many are on fixed incomes?" I heard those questions all day. Some of the seniors were concerned with how are they going to pay.

Then came, "Well, can I buy the sink of my choice if I'm going to have to pay CHA the minimum charge of \$36.80 per hour."

This really put the thought in some residents that this is just another way to get us out of CHA. Some even asked if they would get into trouble if they called to find out if this was legal?

My office was full of residents with questions like, "Will I have to pay the whole amount at one time?" "What if my unit had plaster problems when I came?" or "If the



Will residents be charged \$36.72 per hour for services such as the one pictured here?

Photo by Arminta Clark

Lawndale Complex: Now You See It. Soon You Won't

by Cenabeth Cross

The Lawndale Complex is located on Washtenaw Avenue and 13th Street. All of a sudden, the tenants began moving out and I mean fast. In a couple of months, the five buildings have been almost completely emptied.

The complex is made up of two high-rises and three low-rise buildings. The manager is Shirley Wright. Until a year ago, Wright was the manager of Ogden Courts, the housing complex directly in front of Lawndale and the place where I live. This is how I became aware of the fast sweep being made. I walk by Lawndale Complex on the way to catch the bus when shooting isn't going on. Last year, I interviewed CHA Police officials, along with the Chicago Police, and asked them about clearing out the gangbangers at Lawndale Complex, because officials at the nearby Mt. Sinai Hospital were concerned for their patients and staff.

I wasn't able to get in touch with Lawndale Local Advisory Council President Brenda Bolden, but I did interview some of the tenants, who were left.

John lives at one of the three-story buildings, the last three-story building before Roosevelt. The building directly across from where John lives was closed even before the rest even got started. John said the residents were told that it had termites. John said the first they heard of the move was back in April and they were told that it was because of the shootings, drive-by's and shoot-outs with the police. Then they were told that the land was being purchased by Mt. Sinai Hospital and everyone had to go.

The move was going along smoothly at first, John said, and then it was stopped to finish placing the people who were displaced by the crisis in Robert Taylor Homes.

John took me on a tour of his building. He said he is afraid for his children and he has to stay up all night to watch everything. The buildings are visited nightly by whoever wants to come in.

Some of the windows used to have bars on them and plywood too. But now the bars have been removed along with the aluminum window frames. Vandals sell them along with the pipes and anything else they can get a buck from.



An inside view of the Lawndale Complex scheduled for demolition.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross



Very few occupied units left in this building at the Lawndale Complex that is scheduled for demolition.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

There are only three families left in John's building, two on his floor, the third, and one on the first. He took me into apartment 303 to show me how apartment 302 had been entered when the woman who lived there was away. Her VCR and other items were stolen. The police were called and a report was made. The thieves had busted through the wall from the empty apartment. It only took a hammer because they just had to burst through two layers of plaster board. The empty apartments are used for all types of happenings.

John said CHA officials told him they ran out of plywood but would continue to secure the apartments as soon as possible.

Linette lives in the first high-rise building. She said that she didn't want to get into any trouble talking to me and that the management had been taking her around to look at other sites finally. She said she just wants to get out and go anywhere now that Lawndale Complex has become so dangerous for her and her children.

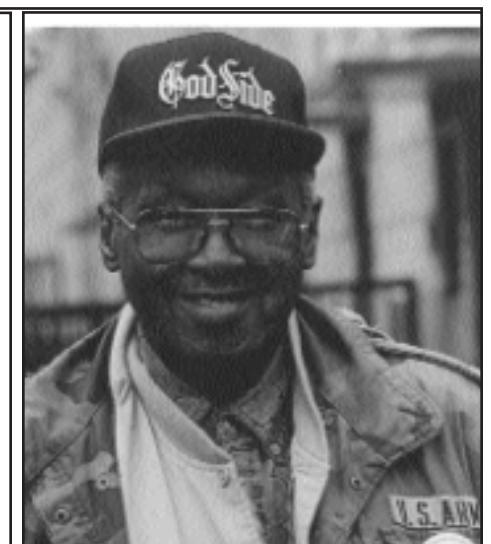
There are only seven families in Linette's building. She believes that gang members who have never lived in Lawndale Complex are hanging out there now. She has to keep her children close to her 24 hours a day. She was told that she would be placed in a new apartment by September.

The maintenance workers have stopped cleaning the halls or boarding the doors to the apartments so that the children will be safe. The police don't patrol the grounds except when they're trying to make a bust. There has never been grass on the lawns so now any place would be better than the Lawndale site. The people left in the apartments are living in fear and filth.

Condolences

RJ wishes to express condolences to the family and friends of Wardell Yotaghan. Mr. Yotaghan died on June 15, 1999.

At the time of his death, Mr. Yotaghan served as President of the 2450 West Monroe Resident Management Corporation, Chair of the Chicago Association of Resident Management Corporations, and Co-Chair of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing. Condolences may be sent to Marie Yotaghan c/o 2450 West Monroe Resident Management Corporation, Unit #108, 2450 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60612 (312) 455-9207.



Clarification

In an article in the April edition titled "Showdown at Cabrini-Green," Rene Maxwell was identified as a member of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing and a member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade. In fact, Maxwell is not a member of the Revolutionary Communist Youth Brigade and is an organizer of the Coalition to Protect Public Housing. RJ regrets any confusion this may have caused.

Access Report

by Thomas L. Merriweather

The mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became effective in 1990 but the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) continues to be deficient in compliance.

On Thursday, May 20, 1999, I interviewed a very articulate CHA resident of Lathrop Homes and was able to gain some additional, valuable insight on what has been abject failure in the nearly decade-old ADA accessibility mandates.

Margaret Kraft is a 59-year-old woman who uses a motorized wheelchair. The interview was conducted at 2800 N. Leavitt Street outside of a building in Lathrop Homes without an accessible entrance where a ramp could easily be provided at low expense. The resident lives on the first floor at 2606 N. Hoyne Avenue and was previously located in another first-floor unit where she had to be literally carried up and down the stairs from the ground level in order to gain access to her apartment. This was very unreliable since she could not always depend on the availability of individuals to assist her in this way.

Kraft has lived in the Lathrop Homes development for more than 15 years, became physically disabled 5 years ago and began to use a wheelchair 2 years ago. She regularly experiences difficulty in entering her unit because of the size of her wheelchair, which is 27 inches at its widest point. The door to her apartment is 29 inches at its narrowest point. The resident is unable to walk because of a herniated disk in her back and sciatica, also known as nerve damage. She is also arthritic and has gained 150-160 pounds, mostly in the past 2 years, a fact she attributes to a general lack of exercise. She said that walking was her main source of exercise previously and not being able to do this has resulted in excessive weight gain.

Kraft has hypertension and she is a diabetic, conditions which she believes may be eliminated or placed under good control with substantial weight loss. She is unable to use her wheelchair in her unit because of the narrow dimensions and she cannot use her bedroom for sleeping because the window is too narrow to accommodate an air conditioner, which is essential because of her condition. The kitchen sink, cabinets and stove are all too high in order for her to gain reasonable access and she must use a cabinet on a table in the kitchen in order to access needed items.

Her bathroom is equipped with a bathtub and shower

within a bathtub which she can only get into with great difficulty if at all.

Kraft described a porch at the entrance of her apartment which is dangerous because of a lack of any railing, a needed modification especially for a wheelchair user. With the weight of this resident's wheelchair, about 120 pounds including the battery, the danger is even greater.

When Kraft arrived at the place where I conducted the interview in her wheelchair, she complained of difficulty in traveling the sidewalk and street crossings from her apartment. I confirmed these difficulties in my manual wheelchair. I should note that the pavement of many streets and sidewalks in Chicago are in poor condition. A person with a disability in a motorized wheelchair traveling at 4 miles per hour has undue difficulty in traveling such streets and sidewalks.

Kraft suggested something that I have thought of many times over the years of my disability. She suggested that the city's authority figures should be placed in a wheelchair with their legs tied to the footrest so they can experience what a disabled individual must routinely go through. The general lack of sensitivity in this area is undoubtedly a contributing factor in the failure of enforcement of ADA and Section 504 mandates.

Kraft was previously employed as an office manager for a silk screening firm for T-shirts and was forced to leave this job because it had become a strain on her because of her disability. She has been active in various volunteer works of an advocacy nature, including mentoring services for residents of nursing homes in order to prepare them for independent living after they are discharged from these facilities.

She has also volunteered in food pantries and performed such social work activity as telephoning for individuals requiring assistance of some kind and acting on behalf of Lathrop residents by calling the police when it is needed because residents are reluctant or fearful of calling on their own.

The interview reached its conclusion when Kraft related the difficulty she experienced during the snowstorm at

The general lack of sensitivity in this area is undoubtedly a contributing factor in the failure of enforcement of ADA and Section 504 mandates.



**Residents' Journal correspondent interview
Lathrop Homes senior resident Margaret Kraft.**

Photo by James Rayfield

cial for all people whether or not a disability may exist. At this time 6 years ago, from the very early morning of Tuesday, April 20, 1993, through Friday, July 16, 1993, a period of 86 days, I was in Chicago's Mercy Hospital. When I had entered the emergency room at the hospital in the afternoon of Monday, April 19, 1993, I was walking, although very painfully. When I was discharged after that period of nearly 3 months, I could not bear any weight on my then surgically reconstructed right heel and because I did not have a wheelchair at that time. I had to use a walker as a crutch, hopping on my left foot and just putting my right toes down with the walker. I obtained a wheelchair 5 days later.

I did not anticipate becoming disabled in 1993 at age 60 and retirement was not in my plans at all. But I had actually anticipated being able to walk within months of my initial hospital discharge and had definitely not anticipated becoming a below-the-knee amputee during an operation which occurred on Dec. 17, 1996, after I had been a resident of CHA senior housing for 8 1/2 months. We should all consider what may happen in the lives of family members or friends when ADA regulations are neglected or given low priority. Margaret Kraft and I are excellent examples for strong compliance with this federal law.

Coalition Protests CHA Bills

by Julio Martinez

On Thursday, March 25, CHA residents and their supporters in the Coalition to Protect Public Housing met in front of CHA headquarters, 626 W. Jackson Blvd., to protest recent proposed state legislation that would allow CHA to evict residents who have been in prison.

One of the proposed laws, Bill 2103, would make it illegal for people who have been in prison to live in CHA units even though they have already paid their debt to society. Families of ex-convicts may be

evicted from their housing if CHA decides that family members who have been in prison are living in their homes.

House Bill 2042 will limit residents' ability to defend themselves against allegations brought under the One Strike provision. Under this bill, CHA could see that an entire family is evicted from its apartments due to actions that the owner of the apartment has no control over nor has any knowledge of, according to the Coalition. In addition, this bill would be expanded to include crimes covered under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) One Strike rule. This would make it so that in some situations, a verbal confrontation is grounds for immediate eviction, the Coalition said.

If passed, this legislation would continue to keep housing opportunities from people who most need them, the Coalition said. Carol Steele, co-chair of the Coalition, said, "Since the Chicago housing crisis is becoming more severe, the CHA should not be in the business

of increasing evictions or preventing families most in need of housing from being able to obtain it."

This bill has already been passed in the Illinois House and is expected to be sent to the Senate.

The Coalition is asking that CHA withdraw its support from these amendments. In addition, the Coalition asks that any future legislation be reviewed and approved by a residents committee. The Coalition also is seeking the support of the state senate. State Sens. Walter Dudycz and Antonio Munoz are going to withhold support for this legislation, said Steele.

During an interview, John Le Flore of the Metropolitan Tenants Organization said, "Not only was this legislation requested by the Chicago Housing Authority amended such that it diminishes the opportunities for the less fortunate to obtain housing, but it also penalizes family members of ex-convicts for merely offering their home to these brothers, who have already paid their debt to society, when they leave prison.

"This is clearly going beyond

what the CHA can do."

LeFlore added, "Any politician who has had problems with the law and has already paid his debt to society does not have to sell his house, does not have to find another place to live. So why do our family members have to be treated differently? This is why we are against this legal mandate, particularly [Bill] 2103. What we are trying to say is that if a person has already paid his debt to society, regardless of what type of offense he committed back then, he should not be denied the chance to try to put his life back in order.

"That is to say, a family member should not be penalized for trying to help a person who is trying to be a useful member of society.

"The legislation is the same for men and women. Specifically, what the legislation states is that the Department of Corrections or other legal agencies are obligated to notify the CHA when a resident is set free. Thus, this continues to punish ex-convicts and their families.

"We at the Metropolitan



The Coalition to Protect Public Housing protesting in front of CHA Headquarters on March 16.

Photo by Julio Martinez

Tenants Organization, as members participating in this organization, are working in support of the rights of the residents of the City of Chicago, and all of us around this table are connected with this cause in one way or another, to help solve the residents' problems. What we see in our daily work is that public housing residents are no different from residents who live in private market housing."

In our last issue, writer/photographer John "Popcorn" Sampson began his story of his visit to the Negro Baseball League Hall of Fame in Kansas City, the town where - in 1937 when he was a 15-year-old cab driver - "Popcorn" met many of history's greatest African American baseball players. In this conclusion to the story, excerpted from Popcorn's memoirs, he takes us on a tour of the Kansas City he once knew before taking us on a tour of the Negro Baseball League Hall of Fame.

The Monarch Cabstand at the time was set above the ever popular Elnora's Restaurant, soul food's celebrated avant-garde location, the place to see and be seen, on the south side of 18th street, just a pace or two from the renowned corner of 18th and Vine streets.

Here is a retrogression back to the corner of 18th and Vine in those sparkling, rhetorical days of the '30s and the '40s, a simpler, more primitive, unsophisticated time gone but not forgotten. Eighteenth Street runs east and west while Vine runs north and south. On the northeast corner running from 18th to the alley, a distance of 35 yards more or less, was Matlaw's, a fashionable boutique for the best dressed players, pimps and vogue rogues. Directly behind Matlaw's Men's Store was another popular stop, a squat and chop soul food palace known as Porter Davis'.

Vine was a tavern called For Tavern, while the northeast corner was possessed by a drug store the name of which I've forgotten. Next to that was a gambling house called The Jockey Club.

And across the street from The J.C. was an establishment that not even the inattentive squalls of time could put to rest. The place I'm talking about is none other than the grand and beautiful Streets Blue Room. Streets Blue Room was the favorite watering hole of many Monarch ball-hustlers, especially the titanic Satchel Page.

This legendary corner was the place where my boss, a Mr. Jolson, first drove me down to the Monarch Cabstand located above the corner at 18th and Vine. Then, the two of us went up to his office, where he explained the rate of pay to me, handed me a Kansas City street guide, and gave me my assignments for the day.

Seated at the far right of the back seat was Jackie Robinson, the sheriff of iniquity and immorality, and next to Jackie sat the king of the homerun swing, His Eminence Josh Gibson. And seated next to Josh was the finest and most accurate stoop and chuck catcher since David's chuck felled Goliath, the ever popular Roy Campanella. Seated directly behind the driver's seat was Mr. Shortenend Bread, the second baseman that not only made the double-play a thing of beauty but a rule of thumb, my man, his Honor John "Buck" O'Neil.

The Five above mentioned major leaguers represent nothing more than a mere spark from a bonfire when to the evaluation or the vastness of the Negro American, and the Negro National Leagues, a set of twins that were the Black man's greatest loss!

The Negro League was the absolute vainglory of every Black man, woman and child from the streets of Harlem to the slums of Harvey. From Chicago to Fargo, they came by busloads lugging basketfuls of barbecued chicken, sweet potatoes and potato salads.

But the most unusual practice that prevailed at each and every single game played by the Negro American and the National leagues was the way in which the Black fans dressed.

Why, you would think that these people were going to church instead of a baseball game. The fans came to the game dressed in their very best Sunday clothes. Not one of them ever came to a game barefoot or without a shirt.

And that brings me to the modern day, to my return visit to Kaycee just a few months ago. At the end of our last installment, I was on my way to the Negro Baseball League Hall of Fame. After I got out of the cab, paid my fare and gave the driver a \$2 tip, I stood across the street from the museum and took a long slow look at my surroundings with the care and the curiosity of a cat checking out a fish market.

To my utter dismay, nothing at all was as I remembered it. Elnora's Café was gone, there was no more Matlaw's Haberdashery, nor was there an Ol' Kentucky Barbecue, and the Monarch and the Paseo cab stands were gone. Why, the whole area from Virginia Street to Highland Avenue had undergone a complete facelift. Finally, with a feeling of deprivation tugging at my heart, I found my way into the Negro Baseball League Museum.

I soon met Bob Kendrick, the director of marketing for the Negro Baseball League Museum. Bob was seated at an oval table fingering through a stack of papers when I entered. The young fellow quickly rose to his feet, extended his right hand to me and with a broad, friendly smile across his dark brown face he greeted me in a clear, crisp voice.

My first introduction was to Don B. Motley, the executive director of the NLBM since 1992. However, I had the misfortune of missing one of the greatest greats in the history of baseball, the magnificent, remarkable and renowned John "Buck" O'Neil.

Since the day so long ago that he rode in my cab, Buck had served as a player and then a manager and coach in the Negro League and then became the first African American coach in the Major Leagues, with Chicago Cubs Hall of Famer Ernie Banks,



Statue of Rube Foster, founder of the Negro Baseball League Hall of Fame in Kansas City, MO. Foster founded the NBLHF and the Paseo YMCA in 1920.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

Billy Williams and Lou Brock.

In 1958, Buck returned to Kansas City as a scout for the Kansas City Royals. In addition to scouting, Buck serves on the veterans committee at the national Hall of Fame.

The NLBM Board president since 1997 is Randall C. Ferguson Jr. Ferguson, who was named one of Kansas City's 100 most influential African Americans, serves as an executive for the multi-million dollar business unit of IBM.

I was taken on a tour of the 50,000 square foot complex that houses the NLBM and the Kansas City Jazz Museum. The Negro League Baseball Museum features a \$2 million, 10,000 square foot multi-media exhibit. It features two film exhibits, two video exhibits and 15 computer interactive stations, while several hundred photographs and artifacts take up the majority of the space.

The centerpiece is the field of legends, which features life-size bronze cast sculptures of the most important players in Negro League history. The gallery is arranged on a time line of African American and baseball history from the 1860s-1950s. Then there is the 75-seat theatre with ballpark bleachers for viewing a 15-minute film on the Negro Leagues' history. The film, "They Were All Stars," is narrated by acclaimed actor James Earl Jones, and features vintage film footage and photographs of Black baseball stars from the Civil War through the 1960s.

Believe me, the NLBM is a place that has many features on and about great stars of color and will prove to you one and all that the color of greatness is Black. Come on down and see for yourself and you will feel a surge of pride never before felt.

God Bless, and Shalom.
I'm Popcorn



Kansas City's Negro Baseball League Hall of Fame staff members , Don Motley from left, Kenya Meyers, Tessie Murphy, Regina Grayes and Bob Kendrick, Director of Marketing.

Photo by John "Popcorn" Sampson

North on Vine between 18th and 19th streets, about a half block from Porter Davis', was the east side's best known hotel: The Booker T. Hotel. The Booker T. was by no strain of the imagination a portrait of all that is grand and glorious but it was an acceptable place to stop and flop.

Across the street from the Booker T., in the middle of the west side of Vine, was the most far-famed night spot in either of the two Kaycees. It was the club that hurled one of America's greatest musicians into fame and immortality. I am talking about the "Bird," Charlie Parker. And the place that the Bird was discovered was the ever-popular Chez Paree, the starting point on the road of fame for such notables as Count Basie, Earl Hines, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Walter Brown, Fay Terrell, and many, many others.

On the northwest corner of 18th and

Just a short time later, I was in front of the Monarch Hotel when five brothers – Black brothers I mean – came out of the hotel. As they got in my cab, one patted me on my shoulder and said, "Municipal Park, Colored boy, and don't spare the gas!"

I did not know it at the time but I was hauling some of the greatest of the greatest ballplayers that this land or any other land shall ever, and/or will ever play the game of hit and run.

Seated beside me in the front seat was the all-time superlative lord master of chuck and sling, Bullet Joe Rogan. Rogan was a pitcher who threw the ball with such speed that the third best hitter of all time, Babe Herman, said that Bullet Joe's curve ball moved as if it were alive. And more than that, Bullet Joe was so great a hitter that even at the declining age of 48, he got three hits in four times at bat off hall-of-famer Bob Feller.

**by Karen
Owens**

As redevelopment continues in ABLA with the one-year anniversary of the opening of the New Brooks Homes (Phase I) and the beginning of Phase II underway, the residents of the Grace Abbott Homes are beginning to wonder, "When will our turn come?"

Completed in 1955, the Grace Abbott Homes were named after Grace Abbott, who served as the director of the Immigrants Protective League from 1908 to 1917.

Abbott Homes once consisted of seven high-rise buildings - bordered by Roosevelt Road on the north, Ashland Avenue on the west and Loomis Avenue on the east - and row house dwellings with a total of over 1,000 families. Due to the deterioration of some of the high-rise buildings, three of them were shut down and the building at 1440 W. 13th St. was rehabbed as a relocation building. As a result, the number of families in Abbott has decreased.

As to when the redevelopment will take place, the following questions were asked of Donna Pilot, project manager from CHA's Redevelopment Division.

RJ: When will the redevelopment of Abbott start?

CHA: The redevelopment of ABLA will start once a development manager will plan and implement a mixed income residential development at ABLA.

RJ: How will Abbott be constructed?

CHA: This will be determined by the proposal of the development manager with the final approval by the ABLA LAC (Local Advisory Council), the City of Chicago, CHA, Habitat, the court appointed receiver, plaintiff's counsel in Gautreaux and others.

RJ: Will residents who want to remain in Abbott be moved to relocation buildings and given first choice of housing?

ABLA NEWS

CHA: This is subject to the final relocation and development planning.

Residents' Responses

Adults as well as the youths of Abbott have comments concerning the future of Abbott Homes. All of these residents interviewed asked that their names not be used.

A 12-year-old in the Abbott high rise: "I feel sad in a way that things are changing. Some of my old friends may leave but I'll be willing to make new ones."

An 8-year-old in an Abbott high-rise: "I'll look forward to the change, a nice backyard and a front and back door hopefully."

An adult in an Abbott high-rise used the redevelopment of Brooks Homes as a model of what might happen at Abbott: "I think the redevelopment is fine as long as the families who want to remain can. The overall view is so far beautiful."

An ABLA Museum?

Museum: (myoo ze' 2m)n A building or room for keeping and showing objects that are in history, art, or

science.

According to the definition found in Webster's Dictionary, the residents of ABLA, along with their LAC, are looking to showcase the history of the place that many current and former residents of ABLA called home for many years.

The museum will point out many treasures that may or may not have been known to many of our youths and some of our adults as well as future residents that will call ABLA home.

What will make it happen? Again the questions were asked of the CHA Redevelopment Division's Donna Pilot:

RJ: What will it take for a museum to be located within ABLA?

CHA: The residents through the ABLA LAC have expressed a preference. The discussion now is for an interpretive exhibit. Once a development manager has been chosen, more discussion will need to occur about whether it will be a museum or an interpretive exhibit.

"I think the redevelopment is fine as long as the families who want to remain can."

-Abbott Homes Resident

RJ: Where will the museum be located?

CHA: A final site selection has not been determined at this time.

Local Advisory Council President Deverra Beverly said a site for the future museum has been located within the Jane Addams Homes. Beverly said the Jane Addams Homes were selected because of their long history. They were first constructed in 1938.

CPS AD

Cabrini-Green News

by Cecelia A. Clark

RMC Board Members Speak Out

The newly elected board members of the It's Time for a Change Resident Management Corporation in the Cabrini-Green Extensions also are representatives of the Local Advisory Council. They were happy to share their hopes, wishes and dreams for Cabrini-Green.

RMC President Ruby Givens, a long-time resident of Cabrini-Green, said:

"I started working with the building I live in to organize the residents of 364 W. Oak. I know that if I could turn my building around, maybe I could also organize 365 W. Oak."

But her task is just starting. Givens talked about her wishes to get all of the residents in the community working together.

She worked for five years to make a difference. "Somewhere along the way, the people gave up and lost hope," Givens said, remembering how beautiful life in Cabrini-Green used to be. Givens also expressed the importance of finding employment for the residents.

"Working together in a neighborly way, we can recapture this dream," she said.

RMC Vice President Gwendolyn Merritt has been a resident of Cabrini-Green since 1962. She is also captain of the tenant patrol, a member of the Byrd School Board and is the Central Advisory Council's committee chairman on safety and security.

Merritt provided one reason why she ran for the RMC: "I felt residents weren't being treated or informed on programs and other things in the community.

Residents were not being helped as they are classified as low-income persons.

"There's a lack of jobs. The residents had a host of problems with CHA. I ran for the RMC board to help the residents."

Merritt said there are many agencies in Cabrini-Green that are not fulfilling their obligations. Merritt described them as "here one month and gone six months later."

"There was one contractor who promised jobs to residents but after the job in the community was over, so were (the residents') jobs, so they only became unemployed again."

"If the RMC is really what it's supposed to be, it will know the residents and adhere to their concerns."

RMC Treasurer Sadie Hall has been a resident of Cabrini-Green since 1970 but has lived in the surrounding area for a long time. She talked about three well-known ladies who were also residents of Cabrini-Green and how they helped her with training and support as did Gussie Savage and Gladys Childs, both of whom worked with a social services agency known as Community Economic Development Assistance (CEDA). and Lillian Swope really



Cabrini-Green resident Terri Thomas hosts the prize booth at the May 1 St. Joseph's Family Jam.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark



Cabrini-Green Extension Resident Management Corporation personnel. From left to right, Gwendolyn Merritt, Vice President; Sadie Hall, Treasurer; Ruby Givens, President; Henry Johns, Juanita Long and Cynthia Parker.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

helped Hall.

Hall has often volunteered her time and talent and always put God first in her life. She said, "There have been people who said they were working for the best interests of the residents when in fact they betrayed them by not bringing back information.

"As an RMC board member, I know I can make a difference because I'm on a journey."

RMC Board Member Henry Johns has been a resident of Cabrini-Green since 1957. She talked about the differences and changes from one generation to the other: "Years ago, if an adult told a parent they saw their child doing something wrong, the child would be disciplined by the parents.

"We need to be careful of the things our children hear us as adults say. I told the children if they want someone in another building, don't scream over to that building: just walk to the next building and knock on the door. Because if they move somewhere else, they can't act this way."

"I ran for RMC to make sure the housing in

the area would be for residents because we need a place to live and Cabrini re-developed is that place."

RMC Board Member Cynthia Parker has been a resident of Cabrini-Green since 1994. Also building president for 911 N. Hudson and a member on the executive committee of the local advisory council, Parker said, "All I've ever wanted was just to fit in, to help where ever help was needed." Parker has worked with the youths in the community. She also attends Depaul University to further her education.

She expressed how important it is for each board member to read contracts, by-laws and the memorandum of agreement. "This can be a board that works smart. If we as a board put our plan into action, it will bring programs for youth and all residents in our community."

RMC Board Member Josephine Trotter wasn't available at press time.

The newly elected board is still in RMC training but still finds the time to help the residents with their concerns.

Fun in the Sun

On May 22, St. Joseph's School, 1065 N. Orleans St., was the setting for an afternoon of fun. The streets

"There's a lack of jobs. The residents had a host of problems with CHA. I ran for the RMC board to help the residents."
-RMC Vice President Gwendolyn Merritt

were blocked off from Division to Oak streets and parts of Hill Street. This was a gala event with music, games, prizes, food and fun for the whole family. Volunteers from the school and church helped to make the event run in an orderly fashion.

Picture a giant slide which made the children say "wow" as each one reached the bottom. The gladiator event resembled a scene from the television show, where two opponents try to keep their balance while trying to knock each other off the pedestal. The last one standing won the game. The Jessie White Tumbling Team added to the excitement.

At the prize booth based on Hill Street, winners could trade in tickets for prizes after playing different games at the event. If you missed the event this year, you'll have to get in line next year.



A child receives a prize from one of the workers at the St. Joseph's Family Jam held in Cabrini-Green on May 1, 1999.

Photo by Cecelia A. Clark

Planes antes de la llegada del calor

Por Julio Martínez

John Roberson, coordinador de emergencias para la Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), anunció en una rueda de prensa el 8 de junio que "para proteger a los ciudadanos de Chicago de la ola de calor en este verano, nosotros en la Municipalidad de Chicago y la Chicago Housing Authority no vamos a esperar hasta que nuestros residentes comiencen a tener problemas este verano cuando la temperatura aumente a treinta o cuarenta grados centígrados (80-99°F). Es decir, este plan va dirigido a prevenir tragedias relacionadas con el aumento de la temperatura".

John Wilhem, comisionado del Departamento de Salud de la Municipalidad de Chicago afirmó que incluso si la temperatura no supera los 32 grados centígrados (89°F) y la humedad es moderada, esas condiciones

climáticas pueden causar dificultades a las personas con problemas de salud.

En la rueda de prensa, los funcionarios de CHA ordenaron la apertura de centros del refugio contra el calor en los 58 edificios para ciudadanos de la tercera edad; además de los centros de refugio contra el calor de la ciudad que ya están en operación. Los oficiales de policía de CHA también garantizarán que estos centros se mantengan abiertos y sean inspeccionados regularmente. Los funcionarios de CHA aseguraron que contratarán a jóvenes residentes de Chicago para que comprueben que todos los apartamentos de los ancianos y personas incapacitadas sean objeto de la correspondiente inspección. Esta campaña se llevará a cabo mientras duren las altas temperaturas.

La Municipalidad de Chicago y los funcionarios de CHA afirmaron que no quieren que ocurra lo que sucedió en el verano de 1995 cuando 735 residentes de la ciudad y 73 personas en los suburbios perdieron la vida. Los funcionarios señalaron que hay avisos de advertencia en todos los edificios de CHA para que todos los ciudadanos tomen las precauciones necesarias. También alertaron a los residentes respecto a la prohibición de que un número excesivo de personas entren en los ascensores a la misma vez y advirtieron a los residentes que deben limitar sus actividades diarias durante los días sumamente calurosos.

Planning for the Heat

by Julio Martinez

John Roberson, emergency coordinator for the Chicago Housing Authority, said at a June 8 press conference, "To protect residents from the heat wave this summer, we at the City of Chicago and the Chicago Housing Authority are not going to wait for our residents to have problems this summer when the temperature begins to rise to the 80s or 90s. That is to say, this plan is to prevent tragedies related to the temperature."

John Wilhem, commissioner of the City of Chicago Department of Health, said that even if the temperature remains in the 80s and the humidity is moderate, this can cause problems for people with health conditions.

At the press conference, CHA officials ordered that cool-off centers be opened in the 58 senior citizens buildings, in addition to the city oper-

ating cool-off centers that the city will have in operation. CHA Police officers also will ensure that these centers stay open and are inspected routinely. CHA officials said they will hire young people who are residents to see that all the apartments of the elderly and disabled are inspected. This campaign will be carried out while the temperature is high.

City of Chicago and CHA officials said they do not want to happen what happened in the summer of 1995, when 735 residents of the city and 73 people in the suburbs died. In all CHA buildings, the officials noted that there are warning notices for all residents to take the necessary precautions. They also alerted residents that it is not permitted for a lot of people to get into the elevators together and they warned residents to limit their daily activities during hot weather.



Senior North public housing residents find solace from the summer heat in the cooling center at 4945 N. Sheridan Road.

Photo by Julio Martinez

CHINESE TRANSLATIONS



Rights & Safety



Midnight Basketball Packs the House

by Duvall Harden, Ramsey Pahrue, Teresa Prince and Chiquita Taylor

David McCool has been the program director of the James Major Adams Center on Chicago's West Side for about 25 years. He has hosted talent shows, bake sales and community meetings, but nothing packs the house on a humid, spring night like Midnight Basketball.

"They are all on the sidelines cheering," said McCool, pointing at the area in the gymnasium where some 500 people would be standing during the games. "They are packed in like pancakes and sardines."

For about eight years, the Midnight Basketball Program has been held inside this small, brown, brick, one-story building located at 1832 W. Washington Blvd.

Midnight Basketball is a federally funded program that was put together for teens that live in the Chicago Housing Authority. The program was created to mainly help keep males out of the streets and away from drugs and gangs.

Although it is aimed at teens and young adults, the program also offers peewee basketball for kids between the ages of 8 and 15.

The program has been successful in meeting its goals. It has attracted a large number of participants. It has never been canceled due to lack of funds or problems with the youths.

The program receives a lot of community support. The evidence is on the banners and on the glass of the trophy case. The

banner promotes those who give money to the program and on the trophy case are pictures of news anchors who participated

was standing. She asked McCool was there an "open court." McCool said there was no available space in the gymnasium,

see trophies in the display cases, banners hanging on the walls of the gymnasium and the shiny wood floors and modern fiber-

"They are all on the sidelines cheering." David McCool, program director, James Major Adams Family Center

in a recent charity basketball game. But the newspeople soon learned that they are better behind the camera than on the

because the gym was occupied around-the-clock by participants in the midnight basketball program.

The lady then asked McCool about midnight basketball for women. She wanted to know if there was going to

glass basketball hoops. But the people are most impressive thing about the center. People come here to relax and have fun. There is a sense of friendliness in the place. The boys who practiced on this day were really focused on their game and appeared committed to learning the sport.

They took their time before shooting the ball. They ran hard up and down the court. They played aggressively, jumping

For the past few years, he was a football coach at Crane High School but he is now full time for the midnight basketball program, even though it pays him less money. He coaches about 80 players. They practice on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. There are eight teams with 10 players. The best team, he said, goes on to play the champions at other CHA complexes. The Chicago champion then competes with teams from other cities across the nation. The teams have come close but no Chicago team has won on the national level.

Sanders hopes to fare better this season or sometime in the future. The future is in the hands of players, like 14-year-old



Midnight Basketball players from teams across CHA compete in recent games.



court because they were beaten by the workers at the center.

One of the major reasons why midnight basketball is successful has nothing to do with sports. The staffers hold workshops that teach the participants about life.

Participants learned job skills and tutors assist with students with their schoolwork.

Unfortunately, the program cannot reach everybody. Some kids have been known to drop out of the program, according to McCool.

Those who dropout, however, simply make way for the long list of young people who want to play midnight basketball. As we were standing in the hallway of the center, a young, short lady in her mid-20s walked up to the receptionist desk where McCool

be a league for women. The center, McCool said, would like to offer basketball for ladies, but more women would have to show interest in the program for the program. That was no problem for the woman, who volunteered to get some women players to participate. He said he would work on it and the lady exited the building smiling.

The center is located in the middle of the Henry Horner Homes housing complex, just a few blocks east of the United Center, where the world famous Chicago Bulls play. It is a place that looks small in size, because it sits in the middle of the tall apartment buildings, but it is big in appeal.

When you walked inside the small recreational facility, you

high to get a rebound. They played strong defense, trying to steal the ball from each other. Everyone seemed joyful and happy to be there. People were talking, smiling and joking around and. There were no harsh words at each other or hard feelings.

The program keeps running uninterrupted because of committed staffers and coaches.

Keith Sanders, 33, played midnight basketball as a youth growing up in public housing. Now he has returned to coach it. He is not your typical coach. He is young, athletically built and he wears trendy clothing, a jogging suit with one leg pulled up to his knees.

Williams Holmes. He has been playing midnight basketball since he was six years old. Holmes is driven by the motivation and unity that the team provides.

William has big dreams. He wants to one day play for the midnight basketball team, Westinghouse High School and for a professional sports team.

McCool tells them that dream can come true. Folks around the center still brag about the player who got a chance to play for the Bulls.

"He lasted 12 days," said McCool before breaking into laughter.

Wells CADRE Making a Difference

Travel through the hard shell of the ghetto,
you will find a heart full of love

by Jermaine Bracey

Traveling through Ida B. Wells, my mind tended to wander, taking me through a roller coaster of memories of Cabrini Green. There were potholes, broken glass, no grass and tattered buildings, but not as full.

Even though it appears bad, looks can be deceiving. Seeing is believing and experience is a virtue. Do not knock it until you have dwelled in it.

Travel through the hard shell of the ghetto and you will find a heart burning full of love - a heart called Combating Alcohol and Other Drugs through Rehabilitation and Education (CADRE) and the Just Say Know club. CADRE has been around for

at least 10 years.

CADRE/Wells' success has been greatly appreciated and measured by the opening of two other CADRE-like programs. CADRE/Wells Just Say Know club is presently supervised by Bernard Clark.

These anti-drug and violence prevention programs should become more worldwide. Dr. Carroll Adams started the program. She was the previous director of CHA's Residents Programs. CADRE holds classes for children up to the age of 10.

Clark said, "Wells/CADRE, as far as the students are concerned, is a very successful program; with programs like Just Say Know.

"They all have different yet similar experiences with drugs, alcohol and pressure. Youth Power, one of our programs, goes around and leads by positive examples like fundraisers, tutoring, education and consequences." Clark said.

Wells CADRE has an Adopt A Grandparent Day. In this program, senior citizens are linked with children of the development and tracked for a year.

"This is so the old will not be scared and the young will gain wisdom. And all will benefit." Clark said.

Last year, Wells/CADRE serviced 361 children. Clark added, "If you are a CHA resident in need and want help call (312) 674-3968."

Taking the Quantum Leap

Job program helps CHA residents get back on their feet

by Quintana Woodridge

Quantum Opportunity is a program for young men and women between the ages of 16-24 who have dropped out of school, have children and need help to get on their feet.

Lucinda Griggs is director of this program located in the Ida B. Wells Housing Development. Griggs' job is to help these young adults get jobs, get in school and keep reports on their progress.

Many of the participants of Quantum are single mothers and have no one to look after their children while they pursue a job or school.

Griggs said, "These young people can benefit from this program because it gives them a sense of pride. The program can benefit from these young adults because the mayor and other important people can see the good that Quantum has brought about."

Another program designed to help CHA residents is the Wells Combating Alcohol and other Drugs through Rehabilitation and Education



Bernard Clark (top left) Ida B. Wells CADRE director, poses with some of the many children of the development that participate in its programs.

Photo by John Brooks

(CADRE) programs.

Bernard Clark, coordinator of CADRE-Wells, runs various programs from his center: Youth Power, baseball, basketball and football. Clark is the Youth Power advisor and the coach for all the teams.

Being a member of Youth Power for 2 years, I've learned the meaning of teamwork and helping others.

Youth Power's purpose is for older youths to help younger children with homework, planning activities, fund raisers and community service projects. Youth Power is run by

youths and for youths with the help of the advisor. Youth Power gives teens a chance to work with and in the community.

Clark coaches the football, baseball and basketball teams. For the last three years, all the teams have won championships under Clark's coaching.

"Coaching all these sport teams is challenging but they're worth doing to keep the children off the streets," Clark said.

Urban Youth International Journalism Program

Editor-in-Chief
Ethan Michaeli

Program Director
Andre McClerkin

Journalism Instructors
Michael Brown, Jerry Thomas

Participants

Antonio Arnold, Delano Braboy, Shanika Brown, Jeremy Collins, Tiffany Cook, Davenport, Tiffany, Gerald Day, Alicia DeBerry, Earnisha Edmond, Monica Emmons, Duval Harden, Carly Hodges, Tahkisha Hodge, Aysa Jenkins, Nature Lawrence, Kareem Lewis, James Lockahrt, Crystal Medina, Crystal Mullen, Corey Nunn, Ramsey Pahrue, Teresa Prince, Raynard Seymore, Chiquita Taylor, Kamari Thompson, Cortez Tiner, Tequella Tolston, Tahanni Walls, Jerome Woodridge, Quintana Woodridge, Michael Wright, Jatoya Alford, Shaunita Childs, Christiana Kizer

Special Advertising Section

Welfare to Work Success Stories

Katherine Kelley

Katherine Kelley is a receptionist for the Department of Resident Employment and Training located at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center, (FIC), 4859 S. Wabash. Her job is an extension of work she's done with the public all her life first as a VISTA volunteer, then as a Tenant Patroller, then as a volunteer in the Preventive Programs Department after VISTA ran out. It gives her the opportunity to do something she loves doing: talk to people. She even started a club for girls age 8-13.

It was while she was a VISTA volunteer that she met Michael Hill, now manager of the CHA's Resident Employment and Training Department.



Programs because I just loved to work with people. It didn't matter that I had been a great support during getting paid. Michael thought I had a good candidate to help work the supervisor at Preventive Programs, 544-JOBS hotline for the Department of the people she works with now. I Resident Employment and Training. I love the people here, she says. They said this is the type of person we need; nice and courteous and they don't people who are devoted to helping and helping you. Now I'm noticing that everyone here gives me a lift. They never feel down.

Kelley describes herself as the kind of person that just goes for it. When Kelley has a simple message for CHA residents: take advantage of the programs. A lot of people in public housing have a brother to make money, she recalls. My live around are kind of scared to mother was on welfare, and back then we took advantage and step out, she welfare was welfare and you could do anything. So we shined shoes. Get involved with the programs that will help you get a job.

the ABLA Homes. When VISTA ran out, biggest difference in her life since before you're willing to take a step, being employed by CHA is her own growth where's someone waiting to help you help yourself. and I'm 51 years old, but it's beyond myself.

Toni Talbert

It took three years of getting training and working for \$7 an hour without benefits, but Toni Talbert, it was time spent. The skills she learned as a participant in two Resident Employment and Training Department (RET) programs lead to her first job paying more than \$7 an hour plus benefits as a program specialist for the Department of Resident Employment and Training located at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center.



let them know what's available.

progress.

Talbert, a resident of the Cabrini Extension, Talbert's people skills served her well when she from experience. It was someone reaching out because an outreach worker recruiting residents to participate in the department's programs. We were very successful without any type of training, she notes. training program (now CHA goal was 400 500 people: we recruited 750 new clients). I am real grateful we went door to door, made phone calls, paid home visits that someone reached out to us whatever was needed, we did it. me, she says. I saw that welfare wasn't for me, wasn't the key to her outreach success was simple. Other than helping me improve things than just being on the phone, you need to go out and speak with my children. I give special thanks to Jackie Jackson (CHA Works manager) for explaining the importance of working and basically getting me the opportunity to succeed.

After completing the 12-month program, Talbert says, is that it feels good taking a

ized that construction was toward independence. There's no silver platter you

one word she doesn't use: can't. It's not in her dictionary and never surfaces when she's talking about the education and training opportunities available through the Department of Resident Employment and Training. Talbert wanted to learn new skills. And when she still in her five children ages 18 to 13

I really wanted to work whether I was getting them to look at me as a role model, or not, she says; I really wanted to show them that no one is going to hand them anything. Her eagerness to learn and work attracted attention and them to become independent on their

help. Her name was drawn in a lottery held to fill slots in a computer training class at the Dantrell Davis Center. Although Talbert's family likes the idea of seeing her in the program, they sometimes caution her to

That's how I did it. It takes time, but it can be done. During that 12-month program she gained skills to go to work, they sometimes caution her to

She is the first contact many residents have with the Department's job services programs. She does intake and assessment the first step toward matching residents with the training and other services they need to achieve their goals. I like to offer help to anyone who wants to be helped, she says. You just have to reach out some times all a person needs is for someone to reach out and with it. The skills that I was able to obtain helped me. And sometimes, that instead they

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Senate debates Juvenile Justice Bill

10 year olds could be charged as adults

by Carly Hodges

(Editor's note: This article was written prior to the Senate and House under took the date of the Juvenile Justice Bill)

The U.S. Senate is debating if it should pass a bill that people as young as 10 years old should be tried as adults for committing a crime.

Also, if passed, this bill will take money from crime prevention programs such as CADRE, Midnight Basketball, after school programs etc. The money for these programs is used to keep children off the streets but the legislators want to use this money to build more prisons.

The specific bill is called "Juvenile Justice SB254; Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offenders Act." The Senate debates are sponsored by Senator Orren Hatch (R-Utah). According to Heather Field Grenéé, high school project director for the American Civil Liberties Union, this bill was given the title of the

The money for these programs is used to keep children off the streets but the legislators want to use this money to build more prisons.

'Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offenders Act' and was sent directly to the Senate floor without the benefit of a committee hearing.

SB254 abandons prevention as an option for dealing with youthful offenders, Grenéé said. Instead, it focuses on measures that are tough on crime, like urging the states to prosecute offenders as young as 10 years of age as adults and allowing states to build facilities that would house children in adult jails.

Grenéé said that in reality, these provisions are dangerous and undercut the premise in which our juvenile justice system is grounded that children are children and can be rehabilitated.

Grenéé said that this bill would not follow the regular

process.

"They won't make it known to the public. It won't go to the committee. There will not be public hearing and it will go straight to vote."

She went on to say as citizens we should be concerned about this process because it may be violating our constitutional rights.

Jesse Jackson Honored for Rescuing Soldiers

by Alicia DeBerry

The Rev. Jesse Jackson was recently honored by the Rainbow Push Coalition for his efforts in the freeing of three United States Soldiers. The soldiers were held captive by President Slobodon Milosevic in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, after being captured while the United Nations bombed Kosovo.

According to Jackson, his goal was to open up the lines of diplomacy to Milosevic and plea for the freeing of the United States soldiers.

He had faith that he could bring the soldiers back. Many people believe that Jackson risked his life traveling to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, during the bombing to plea for the soldiers to be set free.

Jackson gave a speech. Within this speech, he criticized his critics.

He gave a comparison of a lion and a lamb sitting together. Neither one trusted the other but because they both found similar ground as in not wanting to get caught on fire in a forest and not wanting acid rain on their back, they are able to put their differences aside.

This is what he wants the United States and Kosovo to do. He wants the United States to stop bombing and Kosovo to end ethnic cleansing.

Jackson said, "Bombing not stopping cleansing. Cleansing not stopping bombing. We have showed we have the power to fight. Now we must have the strength to negotiate."

Jackson told of his reasons for traveling to Belgrade, Yugoslavia, risking his life to save the soldiers. He went to try to reach out to both sides. He said, "We want to be used to sacrifice our bodies for our boys."

Jackson gave a sermon preaching from II Samuel 7:4-9 and John 9:1-25. He related John 9:1-25 to his audience. John 9:1-25 told the tale of Jesus helping a blind man and giving him the gift of sight. By traveling to Yugoslavia and freeing the three soldiers, Jackson said he opened Milosevic's eyes. He reached out to him showing that it was wrong to keep the men.

Jackson referred to the newspapers that went back and forth saying "He won. No, he lost."

Then after he brought the soldiers back, the newspapers asked, "By what authority did we free them?" Jackson responded, "God gives us authority. Authority comes from God."

He also said, "All I know is they once been jailed and now they are home."

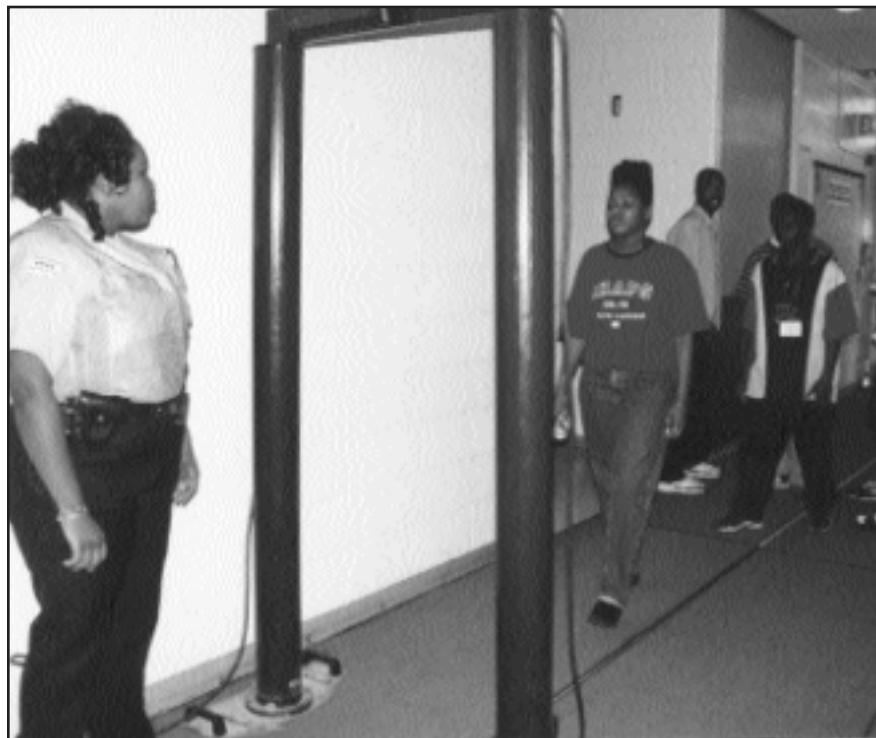


Young residents of CHA developments serve and enjoy food during the agency's Children Can Cook event held recently at Rockwell Gardens.

Photos by John Brooks



Students Have Rights Too



A security guard at Martin Luther King High school watches as students prepare to walk through a metal detector. Are students' rights being violated by searches such as these? What is the law when it comes to young people? Read below to find out the answers to these questions.

Photo by John Brooks

Get a 'Bust Card' Before You are Busted

by Tahkisha Hodge

As of April 6, 1999, the law permits police officers to search passengers as well as drivers when a vehicle is stopped. Before this law was passed, a police officer was only allowed to search the driver, according to Heather Fields Grenéé of the American Civil Liberty Union (ACLU).

The ACLU helps observe the constitutional rights of citizens of the United States. Grenéé's job is to visit high schools and talk to students about their rights.

One method Grenéé uses to teach students is the "Bust Card." The Bust Card is yellow and when folded, fits in your pocket. It advises students what to do if stopped by the police. A few excerpts from the Bust Card:

If the police stop you, you are to be polite and respectful.

Never badmouth a police officer because what ever you say can be used against you.

If the police come to your home, knock and ask to enter your home, you do not have to admit them unless they have a warrant signed by a judge, known as a search warrant. It only takes the police officer about twenty minutes to get a search warrant from the judge.

If you are stopped in your car and given a ticket, you should sign it; otherwise you can be arrested. You can always fight the case in court later. The officer who gave you the ticket may say that you refused to take the ticket.

If you are stopped for questioning, ask if you are under arrest. If you are, you have a right to know why because they may charge you with something you did not do.

If you are arrested or taken to a police station, do not say anything without a lawyer because the police may try to confuse you.

ACLU Teaches Students about their Rights

by Crystal Medina

On Wednesday, May 8, Heather Fields Grenéé, high school project director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), led a discussion among students on students rights. The students were residents of Chicago Housing Authority and members of its Urban Youth Journalism International Program.

The ACLU is the largest law firm in the country. According to Grenéé, employees of the ACLU observe and work to help protect the constitutional rights of American citizens. Grenéé gave a summary of rights the constitution provides Illinois public high school students as well as the rights we have when we come in contact with police officials.

When it comes to our rights as teens, some of them are:

- 1) You have the right to express yourself.
- 2) You have the right to practice your religion or no religion.
- 3) When subject to search and seizure, you have certain rights.
- 4) Be free from discrimination.
- 5) Right to a fair, quality public education.

Grenéé's presentation included

information for students about their rights. She stated that when it comes to freedom of speech and expression, teens' most important rights are to have the right to express ideas and political viewpoints in class or in school activities. But she warned that the school could limit your speech if it disrupts an educational activity.

A student is free to express disagreement with school policy but the school can punish you for using vulgar or offensive speech not constant with the values of public school education

Students have the right to exercise their freedom to learn. School boards may not remove a book (s) from the library or schools because they dislike the ideas the book contain. On the other hand, the school may use wide discretion about books it selects and remove from its library and the school may choose texts and curricula in line with its task of teaching community values.

On the issue of your rights to religious freedom:

You are free to practice and express your religious beliefs without interference as long as you do not disrupt the educational activities.

You are free to pray whenever and however you wish while in school as

long as your prayer does not disrupt school activity.

Under the federal equal access act, students religious groups can meet before or after on school grounds provided that certain conditions are met.

The very important rights that we all have when we are subject to search and seizure are:

The school has the right to search your property if there are reasonable grounds to believe that the search will provide evidence that you have violated either the law or school rules. These searches may not be excessively intrusive and must be related to the objectives of the search.

If there is suspicion and that a student is hiding drugs and or has broken a law or school rule, a search that is not excessively intrusive and takes into account your age, sex and the nature of the alleged offense can be done.

The person who searches you depends on your sex. If you are a girl, you will be searched by a female and if you are a boy, you are only to be searched by a male.

If an incident occurs which results in your being searched by a police officer or security personnel, a school official must be present.

Grenéé emphasized that all

Americans have the right to be free from discrimination. This means a student cannot be discriminated against for any reason, including gender, race or religion

As a student, you are entitled to fair procedures when accused of doing wrong. Suspension may last for no more than 10 days. Longer suspensions can be imposed in cases regarding bus safety. A suspension may take effect before your parents or guardians are notified. Your parents must be given notice of the reason for suspension and they have the right to have your suspension reviewed by the school board.

Expulsions may last up to two calendar years and can only be issued by the school board. Expulsions can take place only after parents are notified and given the opportunity for a hearing.

By law, you also have the right to have access to your student records. You can check them at any time.

It is important that you know what is in you your school records and who put it there. These records will follow you around to college; the military and some employers may want to look at them.

Finally, you are entitled to a free, quality, public school education.

Lathrop News

by Bobby Watkins

Congratulations to all the graduates of the class of 1999 and best wishes and continued success in the future.

Fun Day

The Lathrop Resident Management Corporation would like to extend an invitation to the residents of Lathrop Homes to the RMC's Safe Summer Kick Off Fun Day on June 26 to be held behind the food site at 2942 N. Clybourn Ave.

Summer Safety

As summer begins, we would like to ask that all residents as well as the



Lathrop Homes Next Generation 4-H Club members Faye Patterson (back row, from left), CAPS member, Bonnie Brown, Lathrop Tenant Patrol Coordinator, Jermaine Weatherspoon, Domique Weatherspoon (middle row, from left), Charmaine Weatherspoon, Carvis Johnson, Ebony Brown and Eddie Patterson (front).

Photo by James Rayfield

tenant patrol check in on our seniors to see if they are all right during the hot weather. Not just the seniors but anyone you know that might be disabled and in need of help.

Safe Summer

Summer is upon us and we are looking forward to working with the Safe Summer Staff to have one of the best summers ever.

Thank You

Speaking of summer, we know you have seen the landscaping behind Hoyne Avenue. Thanks to Mayor Richard M. Daley and Chris Kent. We are asking everyone to please help keep it up.

Thanks to Kevin Carroll and the Green Corps for finally making the Jimmy Thomas Nature Trail complete. The job you guys did was really wonderful and the dedication date has been set for Aug. 7. I hope to see you there.

Also special thanks to Jane Lillenfield for working with Lathrop's next generation, the 4-H Club, on their ceramics projects. We're sure we have some Illinois State Fair winners out of the group. Thanks to the 4-H group for their help in the Clean and Green Day. You did a great job. Maybe next time some adults can be as helpful.

Let me express my appreciation to DePaul University for their help in brightening up some of Lathrop Homes hallways on DePaul's Centennial Service Day.

Congratulations to all the parent Mentor Graduates.

Senior Retreat

We had such a wonderful time at the Artensa Randolph Senior retreat in Bloomington, IL. It was hosted by Edgewater Hospital and this was the ninth annual retreat. We would like to thank Edgewater Hospital, Anthony Todd and the Universal Geriatrics Staff.

1999 Graduates



Congratulations
Alonzo Johns

Donoghue Graduate
Continued Success
Love You, Mom



Congratulations
Lloyd Newman

From the **RJ** staff and
Soundportraits



Congratulations
Elijah Newby

Continued Success
Love Mom & John

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Congratulations
Jamie Fallon Davis
6-4-99 from CVS
Love, Mother & Father

Welfare to Work: People In Transition

The Road to Self-Sufficiency

In the next two years, RJ will be examining various issues related to moving people into employment in a series of articles called "Welfare to Work: People in Transition" funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. In the following article, Welfare to Work Correspondent Wateka Kleinpeter outlines the laws, procedures and perceptions surrounding welfare to work, interviews a welfare to work success story and lists the obstacles to successful transition.

by Wateka Kleinpeter

The media, government and industry establishments are all talking about Welfare to Work. But the average worker, consumer and even those who are involved in the movement of people from welfare to work are confused as to what that means. Many of those receiving government assistance know that welfare is ending and that they have to get a job. The concepts of welfare to work are being applied but no one understands fully the long-term effects.

In 1996, President Bill Clinton signed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act - also known as the Welfare Reform Act - which defined Welfare to Work. All of those Americans who were receiving Aid to Families with Dependant Children (AFDC) were moved into Transitional Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

According to a recent study done by the United States General Accounting Office, the number of cash-assisted households in 1994 reached 5 million families. After the Welfare Reform Act was signed, the federal government allowed each state to design and implement their own plan to help as many people as they could get a job and not a hand out. By the end of June 1998, the number of cash-assisted households had decreased by 40 percent to 3 million families.

The media, government and industry establishments are crediting the Welfare Reform Act with success because of the number of people who are no longer receiving assistance.

A Success Story

One welfare-to-work success story is a young lady we will call Betty who works at a local state Department of Human Services office. She is a divorced mother of seven children ages 7-16 and a high school dropout. Her transition from welfare to work was through a job club at the local DHS office.

In Illinois, the Department of Human Services conducts their own in-house, four-week training. Once a week, a mostly female group participates by coming to the sessions prepared to work. They must be dressed as though they were going out on an interview.

Each week, the welfare recipients must participate in activities such as mock interviews, writing resumes, cover letters, follow-up letters and completing sample job applications. The DHS facilitator grades the participants.

DHS also contracts with outside agencies that are supposed to train participants for job seeking and working.

Betty did not succeed her first time at job club. She did get a job but problems at home forced her to quit after a few months. Typical of many people moving from welfare to work, Betty has had just a few, mostly menial jobs and with little or no help from her ex-husband. Also typical, she had to deal with her 16-year-old son who was enjoying the freedom he experienced while mom worked.

Betty's job club coordinator, Regina Berry, stressed during the June 8 orientation for the newest job club that the welfare to work laws are being enforced.

"This is very serious," Berry said. "If you don't complete the requirements, you have to repeat the program."

In her orientation, Berry explained the rules and regulations thoroughly according to the law. She was very explicit in explaining the required forms and record keeping that the recipient has to fill out.

During the session, many of the participants displayed

long faces and attitudes. Berry explained to them, "If you go to work, you don't have to come here."

Berry went on to explain that DHS is there to help the participants before and after they get employed. They help with job leads, child care, bus fare and uniforms if they are required by the job.

Berry assured her participants that they will be asked to leave if they are not prepared. Then, the 4-week process starts all over again.

One former job club participant said that Berry's "bark is worse than her bite. She is very fair and will try her best as long as you (participant) do what is required of you."

Her first time in the job club, Betty enrolled in the GED class at Dawson Technical Institute. She scored so well on the placement exam that school officials suggested she take the GED first. She passed the test the first time. Betty is now a student at Dawson, where she will complete her studies to be an LPN in about five months.

Betty works part time as a cashier and on Tuesdays and Thursdays works with Berry in her job club sessions. She is responsible for distributing, photocopying and collecting the required forms. During the job club sessions, Betty answers participants' questions. After all, she's sat in their seat before.

Berry said she noticed Betty during her second time in the job club. Berry described Betty as a "remarkable person," an example of how welfare to work can work.

Obstacles

Change is often hard to take and many recipients are reluctant to conform to the new rules. Many take the opportunity and run with it. Others have to be forced or threatened to be cut off completely. Some people decide they don't want to participate and will just fend for themselves.

The overall success or failure of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program is hard to judge. There are always some people that fall into the gaps. In coming months, RJ will examine each of the following issues in our general investigation of the world of welfare to work.

Job Readiness

Many people are not ready to work and may not be for a long time. These people have no GED or high school diploma, have little work experience, no skills, probably two or more children and nothing really to offer a potential employer.

Also, some of the agencies charged with preparing people for work are not measuring up. Of course, all agencies want to get paid but some just send people out that they know are not prepared. Those disreputable welfare-to-work agencies know that the participants will be back again and again.

Other welfare-to-work agencies and services are inefficient and hold up needed benefits with slow paperwork or bureaucratic methods.

Jobs Available

In order for everyone to work, there must be enough jobs available. Right now, the nation is experiencing a strong economy and jobs are plentiful. But what happens if the economy enters a recession? What happens if a large corporation downsizes and lays off hundreds or thousands? Do the jobs pay enough and do they offer the chance for advancement?

Day Care

Since most of those moving from welfare to work are women, day care is a critical issue. Although some subsidized day care is available, paperwork and availability are often problems.

Transportation

Many jobs are in suburban areas not accessible to public transportation. Recipients, meanwhile, most often live in inner-city areas. Even in places where public transportation is available, buses and trains may not run at night to service night shift workers.



1999 graduates of the DePaul University/Northwestern Hospital Program. What future will these and other Welfare to Work program participants face?

Culture and Language

Many of the people who were affected by the mandatory requirement of self-sufficiency are immigrants or people who speak little or poor English.

Disabilities

The wide variety of physical or mental disabilities experienced by some recipients can be another obstacle along the Welfare to Work highway. A large number of people are blind, use wheelchairs for mobility, have a mental illness or some other disability work on a daily basis. But others require special training, accessible vehicles and facilities or medical care in order to go from welfare to work.

Incarceration

Ex-offenders returning to society need jobs immediately to prevent them from returning to prison. Many of them are parents with children either in foster care or with relatives and need employment in order to resume a parental role. Yet, potential employers often won't hire someone with a criminal background.

Health Care

A recent report by Families USA Foundation, "Losing Health Insurance: The Unintended Consequences of Welfare Reform," found that as a result of welfare reform, 675,000 people became uninsured in 1997. More than 62 percent of them were children. Welfare recipients are afraid that when they go to work, their family will lose the health insurance that they receive as part of government assistance.

Homelessness

Homelessness complicates a return to self-sufficiency. Those experiencing homelessness sometimes suffer from mental illnesses or substance abuse issues and often must find adequate housing – as well as clothing and personal materials – before a job search even begins.

Job Stability and Retention

No one really knows how many welfare recipients who are hired for jobs work a few months and then lose or leave that job. These people may go back to welfare or disappear from the system, sometimes slipping into homelessness or worse.

Welfare to Work: People In Transition

Job Searching Tips

by Andre Robinson

Graduation is here for both high school and college students. That means there will be more people looking for work this summer. You will have lots of company during this process: at any given time, more than 40 million Americans are looking for jobs, according to government statistics. Looking for a job is hard work. Most jobs do not just fall into your lap. You must figure out what work you can and are willing to do, hunt for job openings, apply for the job, and convince the employer to hire you. A job search can take weeks or even months.

However, finding the right job is always worth the effort. A job will give you money to pay for the basics: food, clothes and a place to live. It can help you reach your goals, such as furthering your education, buying a home, or visiting family members who live far away. It can help make your family secure. A paycheck is one reward for working. But a good job can offer other rewards, too: pride in a job well done, a place to meet new people and learn new skills, a chance to be creative. You'll know when you have a good job because you will look forward to going to work each day.

Of course, there will be problems and barriers when looking for work. There will be times when you may throw your hands in the air and say, "Why bother?" Or "I don't have the skills or educational background that will give me a job."

Then there is also the stories of companies conducting massive layoffs, so there lies the fear that once you get your foot in the door within a couple of months, you will be back in the unemployment line. But remember this: it is not the most qualified person who always gets the job, it is the person who is best prepared with the most determination.



The correct way to dress during job interviews.

Photo by Arminta Clark

Job Seekers

At a recent job fair held June 2 at the Chicago Hilton, thousands of potential employees scouted around various employers like the City of Chicago, Ameritech, Lenscrafters, United Airlines, Jewel Foods and Dayton Hudson (Marshall Fields).

Some of the people attending were already employed but searching for a career change. Others were going into the workforce for the first time. Their ages ranged from the late teens to the mid-50s. There were young adults who were still attending college looking for a possible part-time job or evening job, mothers who are trying to get off government assistance to make their life easier and young men who are refusing to let the street swallow them up with drugs and gangs.

Marcus, 23, a high school graduate from the South Side, said, "I want a job because I have a girlfriend and son who I want to take care of where they won't have to depend on the government to take care of them."

Darius, 26, also a South Sider, said, "I'd rather have a job than sell drugs and not know if I will see tomorrow."

Shamika, 24, was a little embarrassed about the way she was dressed:

"I hope they don't judge me by the way I'm dressed because I don't own any business clothes but if they give me a job, that will be the first thing I will go and buy."

Melanie, 36, said, "I've been working since I was 16 and my goal is to establish a career in the social work field because that is what I went to school for."

Getting the First Job

For most people, the first job is the hardest to get. You have no experience and no references. Volunteering is one way to get experience. You will learn new skills and get a chance to use them. You also can meet people who may help you find a good job. Be sure to list the skills that you used in volunteer jobs when you apply for a paying job. If you do agree to volunteer, treat this job just like a paying job. Show up on time, be reliable and work steadily.

Do you need more job training? You may need to go back to school. Is there a vocational-technical school nearby or a community college? These schools usually charge less for their classes. If your income is very low, tell the school. The price of your courses may be lowered to an amount you can afford. If the class will directly help your work on the job, an employer may help pay for it. Or, your company may provide the training itself at no cost to you. You want to make yourself employable. Do you have skills an employer wants? Can you accept a job offer when it comes?

How will you get to work? Do you own a car? Can you share a ride with someone else? Can you ride the bus? Or can you ride a bike? If you need to buy a car, a used car would be a better value. Add in the cost of using the car: insurance, license plate, emission test, gasoline, parking and repairs.

And what about children? Who will care for your children while you are at work? You must think about how much child care will cost; whether your children will get good, safe care; and how easy it is to get your children there. Visit each child care center or child care worker you think about using. Is the person or center licensed by the state? Do you know anyone who has used the service?

Trust your instincts. Do you feel comfortable there? Take your child. How does he or she react? Think about cost, of course, and the time it takes to get there by driving or public transportation. If child care is near your work, or at least on the way, you will spend more time with your child and less time getting to the child-care provider. Save your receipts for the cost of child care. Part of the cost of child care may be deductible on your income tax return.

The Resume

Next comes preparing your resume. A resume is a more formal way of listing your jobs and your education. It works best if you have held some jobs. However, anyone can write a resume that focuses on skills. You may have learned those skills at home, at school, or in the military.

No matter where they came from, all skills can go on your resume. Many reference books explain how to write resumes that will really show off your talents. Look for them at the local library.

You want to keep your resume short. One page is the best; a second page if you must, but no more. Most employers spend only 15 to 30 seconds reading a resume. You need to get the important information on the first page in a way that is easy to read. At the very top, put your name, home address

and telephone number. Now the employer knows how to get in touch with you. Do not give your age or say whether you are married or have children. List your education, such as years of high school, high school diploma, a general education diploma (GED), college work and technical training. Do not list references but offer to supply them. End by asking for an interview. Remember to stress the skills that you can use on the job that you are applying for. When you send a resume, you need to write a short cover letter to send with it. Say what job you are applying for and why you want it. Your cover letter should be concise, preferably one page only.

Dress for Success

Now it's time to dress to impress. As unfair as it may seem, appearances count. How you look is the basis of most people's first impression of you. Here are some tips to help improve your interview appearance:

If your haircut or style has hit the shaggy stage, get a fresh one. Wear clothes that are clean and neat. Avoid loud colors or bold patterns. Try to dress similar to the people who work in the same office or at the same job for which you are applying.

Can you stop by the building or job site to take a look? If you are not sure what to wear, it's better to dress up, as though you were attending church, rather than to dress down. Don't wear perfume or cologne; some people are allergic to them. Wear clothes that are free of cigarette smoke. And don't smoke on the way to your interview; the smell will cling to your clothes.

Remember about first impressions. Simple things, such as bad breath or body odor, dandruff, chewing gum, cat hair on your dark clothes, a run in nylon stockings or dirty fingernails can ruin that first impression. Check yourself carefully.

I spoke with Hugh Price, president of the National Urban League, who was present at the Job Fair at the Chicago Hilton. Price said, "The way one presents themselves when applying for a job is very important because that usually states what type of person they are in the office world, someone who dresses and handles themselves professionally usually is the same way in the workplace. And usually, most people in the human resource area look for that type of person."

Some businesses want to get an early look at the people who are applying for work. That's one reason why some employers want workers to apply in person, instead of mailing in an application or resume. If you apply in person, be neat, courteous, confident and knowledgeable. All employers are looking for people who know the job, are able to work steadily, can learn quickly, and can get along with supervisors and other workers.

At some point, you will be interviewing for a job. Most interviews are face to face but sometimes, companies talk to you on the telephone first. The interview helps both you and the employer. When going to an interview, make sure you arrive 15 minutes early so you can get yourself settled. There may be forms to fill out before the interview.

When greeting the interviewer, shake hands firmly (but not hard enough to hurt). Use the interviewer's last name from time to time (such as "Ms. Johnson"). Smile. Speak clearly and use good grammar. Say "yes" instead of "yeah" and avoid phrases like "um," "like" and "you know." Be enthusiastic about the job for which you are applying. The more you know about the company, the easier it will be to show enthusiasm. Answer all questions honestly. Covering up problems such as having been fired, a felony conviction or health concerns can cause your job offer to be withdrawn.

Most employers look at each person individually. If there was a problem in the past, they will consider the nature of the problem: how long since it occurred and your more recent work history. You will have a better chance at this job if you are honest with the interviewer and explain your situation.

Try to have at least five questions ready before the interview and ask more during the interview. Show your curiosity and willingness to learn by asking questions. At the end of the interview, shake hands again and thank the interviewer for his or her time. Ask when you can expect to find out the interviewer's decision.

Conclusion

Getting the right job will not be easy and at times you will not be in the field you are pursuing. There have been many doctors, lawyers, bank presidents and CEOs of major corporations that started off by working at McDonald's flipping burgers or as a cashier at Dominick's Foods or Burlington Coats. But it was that experience that got them jump-started in the workforce in which they eventually climbed the corporate ladder. So hang in there, be persistent and stay focused. And of course, Good Luck.

Welfare to Work: People In Transition

Titus Kerby: On the Way to Success

by Ingrid Holt

Editor's Note: Titus Kerby has never received public assistance, though he is a longtime resident of Lathrop Homes. We thought the story of his resident-owned business would inspire other residents.

RJ: Mr. Kerby, what is the name of your business and how long have you been in business?

Kerby: The name of my company is the Exodus Community Development Corporation. I have been in business since 1996.

RJ: What are the procedures one must go through to become a resident-owned business?

Kerby: First, you must be a resident of the Chicago Housing Authority, Section 8 participant, or a Scattered Site resident. Secondly, you must have a desire to own your own business. Then you must register with the Economic Development Department or the Resident Enterprise Office, where you must attend a 26-week entrepreneurship training class. The classes you go through are very informative ones which teach you how to start your business, use the proper protocol to incorporate your business and prepare your business plan. The classes also instruct you how to obtain your business licenses, do networking in order to acquire your business contacts and inform you about the importance of having insurance. These are just some of the things you must look at before you even can think about drawing a dollar. There is a lot of time and effort put into being a business owner. Some of your own money up front may have to be invested before you will see any type of returns. Normally, returns do not come with a new business for about 3 years.

RJ: Was the CHA supportive when you first started your business?

Kerby: Yes. That is where I actually got my first start...I went to Resident Enterprises. At that time, Mr. Phillip Fairweather was manager and Mr. Ron Carter was director of economic development. I enrolled in the entrepreneur training. This was the very first class that CHA held. As I mentioned before, the process of the training class was: after completing the class and receiving my certificate, I had to incorporate with the State of Illinois. I had to secure a business license, a business plan and those things I accepted and went out and found a joint venture partner. My first articles of incorporation came from a gentleman by the name of Mr. Nathaniel Boe. He was at that time an attorney for the CHA. There were some changes that needed to be made to my articles of incorporation when I was informed that Mr. Boewasn't with the CHA anymore.

I met Mr. Cornelius Shogule, a good guy; he sent the papers to Ms. Debra Osborne, who is a pro-bono attorney CHA hired to work with the new resident-owned businesses. With the assistance of Ms. Osborne and Cornelius, I was able to make the proper changes to my incorporation papers. I went back to the CHA and they gave me my first start-up funds. I then went to City Hall and that is where I secured my first business license. From there, I worked with my personal joint venture partner, Cornelius. Then I started to learn the in-depth things that I have to do in order to start my new development company. Of course, it was not easy at all. You truly need the desire

and have to meet the right people. I can't stress this enough: all your essential paperwork must be in order and together before you can start anything!

RJ: Did CHA make sure that you received a contract under the alternative procurement process, which allows resident-owned business to have a competitive advantage for federally funded contracts through CHA?

Kerby: I can not speak for any other resident-owned businesses. I can only speak for me. No. Exodus didn't. Alternative procurement means that a resident-owned business can receive a contract up to \$1 million without bidding for the contract. No, that didn't happen. I didn't receive a contract under the alternative procurement.

RJ: Do you feel that the alternative procurement process is fair to all the resident-owned businesses?

Kerby: The concept and idea of alternative procurement is fair. But if it hasn't been initiated with the resident-owned businesses, I don't know. All I can say is that I haven't. Also, I can't really say if any resident-owned business has benefited from alternative procurement. What I did was that I went down to the CHA and got bid packets and I bid on small jobs. Like one bid was for \$25,000; the other was for \$27,000; another was for \$58,000. From there, I went and met with a group out of Massachusetts to do the heating decentralization. That wasn't done under the alternative procurement. Far as the alternative procurement goes, I didn't wait for alternative procurement. It is what it says - an alternative. I went out and got what I thought I could get. In other words, I'm not looking for any special favors. Titus Kerby is a contractor; I'm a businessman. If there are other ways out there to get it I am going to get it.

RJ: Mr. Kerby what does it take to be successful in your opinion?

Kerby: For some people, it takes different things. For me, it takes a lot of tenacity, a strong will and a lot of work. It takes many hours. For me, it takes not hearing 'no.' The door of success says push. That is the way I have became successful. I haven't succeeded to the level that I know I will succeed. Success comes with knowing what you want. Going after it. Don't let anything get in your way. Nor am I saying be a bulldozer and run over people. It is about networking. Treating people fair, sitting back listening and learning to accept the help.

If you need a partner, get a partner. This is a big game out here. If you don't know what you are doing, you will lose. I am not in the business to lose. I'm in the business to grow to help those who are coming behind me. In my opinion, success is growing, stopping and slowing down when you need to, reacting when you need to, and, most of all, surrounding yourself with people. Above all, don't be greedy. Take a little bit and do a little bit at a time. Wait for it. It's not easy. Success is not always measured in dollars. Success is measured in what you can accomplish.

RJ: Mr. Kerby, what training did CHA provide you with, and what training did you seek on your own to be successful in your business?

Kerby: The CHA had a lot of seminars and training programs such as how to deal with the insurance companies, how to network with contractors, how to market your business etc., just to name a few. That was made available for the benefit of the resident owned businesses. All of us needed the training. Fortunately, I had a joint venture partner. I had also received some of the training that CHA was providing. I started training in the construction trade in 1989, with the Coalition for United Community Action - the Chicago Plan. My instructor was at that time Mr. Carl Latameir, who now today is my business partner 10 years later.

We are now trying to make an impact in the CHA as a community as a whole. The programs, seminar conferences and the classes the CHA provided were greatly needed. I know some of the resident-owned businesses will become very successful by taking advantage of those opportunities as they were presented. Because they were provided.

R E S I D E N T S ,

J o u r n a l

A d v e r t i s e
In Our August '99

Back to School Edition

Stop the Violence

by Cenabeth Cross

Children and Violence

In Kosovo, Yugoslavia, the shooting still hasn't ceased even though the Serbs have accepted the peace plan and are pulling out.

Meanwhile, back in the States, the children are going berserk. The killing has gone from the streets to inside the schools. In Littleton, Colorado, at Columbine High School, 15 children - including the two killers - were killed. Actually, the two killers committed suicide.

Exactly one month later, a shoot-out occurred in Georgia. No one was killed but 6 children were wounded. The media and the world are blaming society, instead of the mothers.

Here in Chicago, a week later, there was a incident at Fenger High School, 11300 S. Parnell Ave. Children were spraying some type of chemicals in the hallways. It caused many to be taken to Roseland Hospital. Ronald Woods went to the hospital to visit his friend when the police brought the alleged delinquent to the hospital to be identified, as some of the children were sprayed up close. Jason Allen and Ronald explained to me that it was a mixture of ammonia, bleach, and mace, which the boys made from some things they found in their fathers' garages. Two children were taken into custody for the disturbance. The next day, the children returned to school as usual. The boys reportedly admitted that it didn't scare them and they were glad to get a day off.

Anti-Gang Ordinance Struck Down

In an article by Chinta Strausberg in the *Chicago Defender* dated Saturday, June 12, I found that the U.S. Supreme Court killed the city's Anti-Gang loitering ordinance. This is the third court ruling to shoot down Mayor Richard M. Daley's unconstitutional legislation. Harvey Grossman, ACLU legal director, was quoted as saying, "We're grateful the justices of the Supreme Court understand what escaped the political leaders of Chicago; that it is not a criminal activity simply to be a young man of color gathered with friends on the streets of Chicago."

Breaking the Cycle

I attended a conference titled "Incarceration: Breaking the Cycle, Saving our Children" held at Harold Washington College on Wednesday, May 26, 1999. This was a free conference put together by Harold Washington College's Justice Studies and Criminal Justice Club and an organization known as Chicago Legal Aid to Incarcerated Mothers (CLAIM). This is the second annual conference as last year's enabled agencies around the city to develop further help for women who have served their prison sentences make the transition back into their communities and their families. They



Fenger High School students Jason Allen and Ronald Woods the day after incident at Fenger High School in which several students were taken to the hospital after being sprayed with a chemical solution by other students.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

addressed topics such as education and family preservation as a preventive measure.

The organization is located at 205 W. Randolph, #830, Chicago, IL 60606. The telephone number is (312) 332-5537, fax number is (312) 332-2570 and they can be reached on the Internet at www.c-l-a-i-m.org.

I learned at the conference that the United States has the highest incarceration rate in any democratic country. In the past decade, the number of women in prison has grown faster than the men. Women are more likely to be there for non-violent crimes or for drug offenses. Prisons are mostly male-dominated so there is a lack of services and programs designed for the prisoners.

and child custody issues.

Rochelle Perry, advocacy coordinator and representative for CLAIM, spoke on how there is a need to care more about our children. The mother is usually a single parent and if her children cannot find some relatives to care for them, they must be placed in foster homes.

"This can make criminals out of many who are not naturally so," Perry said.

Speaker Steven Drizin represents children in court. He says the state has the moral responsibility for the child in the courts but they are not taking it. "This resulted in the Ryan Harris case being mishandled by our adults in our society," Drizin said, talking about the murder of 11-year-old Ryan Harris and the two



Chicago Police Superintendent, Terry Hilliard being question about the death of Officer John Camp at his funeral on March 15, 1999. Hilliard is under fire about the recent death of 20 -year- old Latanya Haggerty and Robert Russ.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

CLAIM is a non-profit agency founded in 1985 to help women prisoners and their families to stay in touch. They provide legal services in order for the prisoner to regain custody after they have done their time. They also work with fathers on request. CLAIM has a Saturday volunteer project in the Cook County Jail to teach women about the criminal court system

young boys who were accused of the crime.

"Delinquents are now called criminals," Drizin said. "The language change puts fear into people and causes emotional harm to children. Children have less protection in the police stations and no attorney or youth officers."

Drizin said the decisions made about

youths should be put into the judges' hands, not those of the prosecutors. He said, "the 7 and 8-year-old in the Ryan Harris case were ground up like grist in a mill."

Drizin said children shouldn't be treated like adults in the courts because he believes that a 15 or 16-year-old can be rehabilitated.

The next speaker was Gwendolyn Hogan Jackson, an ex-con. She said the "pain that never goes away" is the one she saw in her children's eyes when they would tell her to come home with them during visitation. She promised to be a better mother and that she will never go back. She ended by saying, "When they (society) give up on us, we give up and everybody loses."

A support and advocacy group called Visible Voices, run by and for the imprisoned, provides support and empowerment. The speakers bureau provides information on the issues. They promote family unity programs and community-based residential centers where non-violent offenders can live with their children. They feel denying children access to their mothers needlessly punishes the child.

War

Rainbow PUSH's theme on June 12 was titled, "Police Brutality at Home and Civil War in Yugoslavia and Sierra Leone." This event was held at Dr. King's Workshop, 930 East 50th St. The Rev. Jesse L. Jackson was the keynote speaker.

While Clinton and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) were doing their bombing, Jackson went to Yugoslavia to secure the release of three imprisoned American soldiers: Staff Sgt. Andrew A. Ramirez, 24, of Los Angeles; Staff Sgt. Christopher J. Stone, 25, of Smiths Creek, Mich.; and Specialist Steven M. Gonzales, 22, of Huntsville, Texas.

During the PUSH meeting, Jackson expressed his concern for the refugees in the war-torn area who will still need the United States' help. He spoke of the people of Africa who need our help.

Jackson talked about 20-year-old Latanya Haggerty, who was shot multiple times as she was having a seizure because the police thought the mobile phone in her hand was a gun, and Robert Russ, the boy from Northwestern University, whom the police claimed tried to take the policeman's gun. Both were killed after being stopped for traffic violations.

The Rev. Jackson says he wants the most thorough investigation possible, leaving no stone unturned. "We want equal protection," he said. Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hillard was under fire at the PUSH headquarters on Thursday June 10. He had already had a private counsel with the Black clergy.

Rev. Jackson said that no child is born shooting guns. They are bred into violence. They imitate what they see the grown-ups do. He said, "We must stop the violence and keep hope alive."

Altgeld Gardens Report

by Sharon Fornizy

Hello. This is Sharon Fornizy, once again coming back with old news and good news. I need to get with you but I have not forgotten you and I will be around for all good information. I will be around. If you need to get in contact please feel free to call or fax me at (773) 535-5613 or (773) 535-5223.

Graduates

Some good news: all the kids going to high school from grammar school have graduated. They looked so nice. I had a chance to talk with some of them from high school and grammar school.

From Aldridge Elementary School, I talked to Gary Harris, Cetika Cox and Syrita Nutall. From Carver High School, I also talked to Charles Williams and a few others. All of them said they will continue to move on and that they won't stop.

Carver Musical

At the Carver Park District, they had a musical festival on May 22 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Mr. T. Brown and the AMAP Choir were the main group featured in the musical. Timothy Hooper is the overseer and Ulondia Johnson is the choir director. Hooper can be reached at (773) 568-2716. Ulondia Johnson can be reached at (773) 333-2805.

Kindergarten Graduation

The Aldridge Kindergarten graduation was beautiful. All of the kids looked great but I can only remember a few. For instance, Ashley White said she wanted to be a teacher. These 5 and 6-year-olds are remarkable. They are so young but have so many goals that they want to achieve.

Also, Aldridge had a fun week. It was such a success. First, we had pajama day. So many of the children participated. We also had a checkers contest and an art contest. Our winners were Isaiah Cooper for the art contest and Lakeisha Walker for the checkers tournament. Both of our winners were from room 227.

Summer Camp

Some more good news: we have started summer camp on 111th Street from ages 7-14 years. We need kids who will love to be in summer camp. The time to be there is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are interested, please contact me by paging me at (773) 201-767. You can find out more information when you call if you are interested in your child being in the summer program. Thank You.

Condolences

Our deepest sympathies go out to the families of the deceased: Mrs. Emily Bailey, Janice McGinnes, Gene Thomas, Susie Lowe, Michael Colepeper. And I am so sorry but God is with you.



Altgeld Gardens Midnight Basketball participant with Father John Smith Left, Actor Judge Rhinehold and Joshua Bardney of the Our Lady of the Gardens parish. The game was held June 3.

Photo by Sharon Forinzy

Parent Aids

From Mrs. Kristine Rios, Teacher: The parent aids at Aldridge Elementary School, Carver Middle School and DeBois School are some of the most hard-working, dedicated individuals I know. I have the utmost respect for each one of them - for the children and the teachers within the school as well as the community. I would like to give thanks to all the parent aids for their assistance throughout the school year.

The parent workers at Aldridge School are very concerned and dedicated. The parents go beyond the call of duty. Most of the parents are at the school come rain or shine. My parent, Ms. Sharon Forinzy, is the best I could ask for. She has been with me for the past 4 years. She is not only my assistant but she is also my friend.

Sports

Also we have baseball games going on. The team managers are Dwayne "Bird" Wright and Chellos Delaney of the football game. The game turned out to be real nice at Altgeld Park. There was a nice crowd. Sometimes if you feel like it or are free, come and check it out.

On Thursday, June 3, I went to a night basketball game. It was a success. I was watching the game. The guys were playing ball so hard. Chellos' team was a success at Our Lady of the Gardens. Also, I saw a movie star there: Judge Rhinehold. I felt so good when I saw this man. He was sitting there with the priest of our lady of the gardens.

Hey, Hey, Hey.... Youth Organizations and Boys & Girls Clubs What does recycling mean to you and your community? Enter the Chicago Public Housing Recycling Program Logo Contest

Logo Contest
Coming
Your Way!!!!!!



Create a logo that represents the recycling program in your community.
Win exciting prizes for your youth group!

Winner will be announced Friday, August 20, 1999
Washington Park
Recycling Summer Picnic



Youth Organization Prizes:

1 st Prize	\$250
2 nd Prize	\$150
3 rd Prize	\$100



Winning Logo Designs:

Top 3 designs displayed on the recycling truck
First place design featured on all of the Recycling Program's promotional materials

All logo designs should be submitted on an 8½" by 11" sheet of paper. Designs are limited to two colors only. The design should represent the Chicago Public Housing Buy-Back Recycling Program. Let your creativity flow.

Contest ends July 23, 1999

For contest details and to arrange pick-up of your group's application
Call (773) 821-9230

Sponsored by:

Chicago Housing Authority*Chicago Department of Environment
Resource Center*Waste Management



Altgeld Gardens youth sporting wigs play dress-up for Aldridge Elementary School's Fun Week, which was held from June 7 to 11.

Photo by Sharon Forinzy

Section 8: The New Millennium

RJ Correspondent Arminta Clark, a participant in the Section 8 subsidized housing program, recently caught up with U.S. Rep. Danny K. Davis (D-7) regarding the future of the program. Below is an edited transcript of their conversation.

RJ What is the prospective goal for the Section 8 housing program as we move into a new millennium?

Davis: The Public Housing Act was actually passed as a part of new, progressive legislation - the purpose of it being to bridge a gap between how wealthy people live and how poor people live. That was the purpose of the beginning of public housing in this country. It came at a time when the mood of the people was to do something in the area of social welfare, something progressive, something good. These were the years that saw the New Deal legislation, with FDR (President Franklin Delano Roosevelt), the advent of Social Security, later on Civil Rights legislation, the Fair Deal, the Great Society programs.

There has been an effort to kill off the poverty programs, as people call them, ever since the poverty programs started.

Many people right now feel

that the problem is with being poor or that problems in this nation exist because government does far too much for poor people. People like myself who disagree with that theory are called social liberals or people who have a liberal position, or a liberal point of view.

Last year, Section 8 was an entity on its own. Section 8 was part of the overall housing and urban development program and was pretty much able to hold its own, in terms of there not being a severe reduction in the numbers of Section 8 slots that would be funded.

But Section 8 - as well as other social welfare programs as we move into the new millennium - all of them are in precarious predicament.

We have seen as a result of the Clinton Administration's Balanced Budget Act some of the budget cuts in activities. But now, there has become a little bit of surplus monies, meaning that we were actually taking in more money than we were spending. The question now is whether or not it makes sense to take that money to pay down the debt or take that money and meet some of the social needs that exist or cut taxes. Many Republicans and probably some Democrats would like to see a tax cut as a result of the

surplus monies that are being generated. But then the war came in Kosovo with the Serbs in the Balkans area. The war is eating up that money because we have to pay for the war. I hope the war will end soon. The sooner the better the prognosis for Section 8 programs.

RJ Why aren't landlords renewing their contracts with HUD?

Davis: Landlords are determined that they can make as much money with Section 8 and they can without Section 8. They feel they can deal with a different type of tenant without Section 8 and they can eliminate having to deal with the paperwork that's involved along with the code violations that they would face if they were under the Section 8 federal housing program.

RJ What can be done to encourage new and old landlords to stay in the Section 8 housing program?

Davis: We can obviously appeal to them on the basis of a certain kind of business morality; maybe be a little more considerate than what we normally would be and maybe earn a little less money. Another solution might very well be to try and convince HUD (the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development) to make it in the landlords' best interests by making sure they can make as much money through Section 8 as they can make on the open market. Or try and create an atmosphere and an environment where negotiations can take place between the government and the landlord so that common ground can be reached. Or the other option would be to put more money into

the Section 8 program. All of those are options.

RJ What is your view on the city taking over CHA?

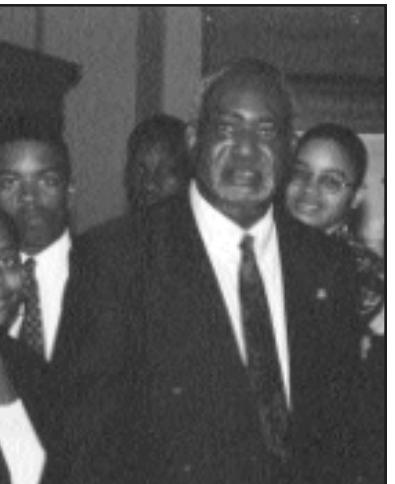
Davis: It's not so much that the city is taking over the Chicago Housing Authority. HUD is giving it back to the city because the laws says the city should have had it all the time. Period. But it was in such terrible condition until HUD put it in receivership. HUD said, 'We don't have faith in your ability to handle this locally. Now we're going to take it, clean it up and get it in shape. Then, after we get it in shape, when we think you're ready to handle it, then we'll give it back to you.'

So I think the city will manage it well and I think Phil Jackson will do an excellent job of managing CHA.

But the city government will run CHA. Phil Jackson will not be running CHA because he doesn't have the power. The mayor has the power. The mayor will run CHA because the voters gave it to him. Phil Jackson has the delegate authority. So anybody running CHA thinking they've got power because they got a job better think again. You only have delegate authority. Phil Jackson is one of the finest people I know.

RJ: What can Section 8 participants do to support the continuance of this program that's very well needed?

Davis: Section 8 participants



U. S. Rep. Danny K. Davis poses with participants in the 1998 Urban Youth International Journalism Program.

Photo by John Brooks

need to organize, need to educate and they need to activate their certificates as prudently as they can. They need to make good use of the program. They need to live in such a way that they are decent tenants. They need to help demonstrate that this program can work. Let each person with a Section 8 voucher or certificate that's renting an apartment or renting a house treat the property like it's yours. Don't tear it up. Be considerate of your neighbors by not playing your stereo up loud all times of night. That can be irritating.

Section 8 tenants can register to vote, know for whom and what they are voting for and vote often.

Let's stop repeating the cycle of deprivation, degradation and poverty.

La Coalición protesta los proyectos de ley de la CHA

Por Julio Martínez

El jueves 25 de marzo los residentes de CHA y sus defensores en la Coalición de protección de la vivienda pública se reunieron frente a la sede de la CHA situada en 626 W. Jackson Boulevard para protestar contra la reciente propuesta de legislación estatal que permitiría que la CHA desaloje de sus viviendas a los residentes que han estado en prisión.

Una de las leyes propuestas, el Proyecto de Ley 2103, haría ilegal que las personas que hayan estado en prisión vivan en viviendas de CHA aun cuando ya hayan pagado su deuda con la sociedad. Las familias de los ex presidiarios también pueden ser desalojadas de sus viviendas si CHA determina que hay alguna persona miembro de esa familia que haya estado en prisión viviendo con esa familia en su vivienda.

El Proyecto de ley 2042 limitaría la capacidad de los residentes de defenderse contra acusaciones presentadas bajo las estipulaciones de la regla One Strike. Según este proyecto de ley, la CHA podría desalojar a toda una familia de su apartamento debido a actos sobre los cuales el propietario del apartamento no tiene ningún control ni conocimiento, según las palabras de los representantes de la Coalición. Además, este proyecto de ley se extendería para incluir a delitos cubiertos bajo la regla One Strike del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos. Esto podría causar que en algunas situaciones, un simple altercado verbal fuese motivo para el desalojo inmediato, afirmó el vocero de la Coalición. De ser aprobado, este proyecto de ley continuaría manteniendo las oportunidades de vivienda fuera del alcance de las personas que más las necesitan, señala la Coalición. Carol Steele, copresidenta de la Coalición declaró que "considerando que la crisis de vivienda en Chicago se está haciendo cada vez más severa, la CHA no debería dedicarse a aumentar el número de desalojos ni impedir que las familias que más necesitan vivienda estén incapacitadas de obtenerla".

Este proyecto de ley ya ha sido aprobado en la Cámara de Representantes de Illinois

y se espera su envío al Senado del estado.

La Coalición le está pidiendo a CHA que retire su apoyo a estos proyectos de ley. Además, la Coalición exige que cualquier proyecto futuro de ley sea revisado y aprobado por un comité de residentes. La Coalición también está intentando lograr el apoyo del Senado del estado. En efecto, los Senadores del estado Walter Dudyez y Antonio Muñoz están comprometidos a retirar el apoyo a este proyecto de ley, señaló Steele.

Durante una entrevista, John LeFlore de la Organización Metropolitana de Inquilinos sostuvo que no sólo este proyecto de ley propuesto por la Chicago Housing Authority disminuye las oportunidades de los más necesitados de obtener vivienda, sino que también castiga a los miembros de familias de ex presidiarios simplemente por ofrecer un hogar a sus padres o hermanos que ya han pagado su deuda con la sociedad al salir de prisión.

"Esto supera claramente los límites de la jurisdicción de la CHA".

LeFlore añadió "ningún político que haya tenido problemas con la ley y ya haya pagado su condena tiene que vender su casa ni tampoco tiene que buscar otro lugar para vivir. Por lo tanto, ¿por qué los miembros de nuestras familias deben ser tratados de forma diferente? Por esta razón estamos en contra de este proyecto de ley, en particular contra el Proyecto de ley 2103. Lo que estamos tratando de decir es que si una persona ha cumplido su condena en la cárcel, independientemente del tipo de delito que haya cometido, a esa persona se le debe dar la oportunidad de tratar de rehacer su vida.

"Es decir, no se debe castigar a un miembro de la familia por tratar de ayudar a uno de sus parientes que intente ser un miembro útil de la sociedad.

"La ley es la misma para hombres y mujeres. Específicamente, lo que el proyecto de ley estipula es que el Departamento de Correcciones u otras agencias legales tendrían la obligación de notificar a CHA cuando cualquiera de sus residentes sea puesto en libertad al cumplir su condena. De este modo, el proyecto de ley va dirigido a castigar a los ex presidiarios y a sus familias.

"Nosotros en la Organización Metropolitana de Inquilinos, en nuestra calidad de miembros que participan en esta organización estamos trabajando en defensa de los derechos de los residentes en la ciudad de Chicago y todos nosotros en esta mesa estamos comprometidos con esta causa de una forma o de otra para contribuir a resolver los problemas de los residentes. Lo que apreciamos en nuestro trabajo diario es que los residentes de viviendas públicas no son en modo alguno diferentes a los residentes de viviendas privadas".

KOREAN TRANSLATIONS

RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS

Letters to the Editor

Census 2000 Must Count Every Chicagoan

Dear Editor:

To our detriment, 68,000 citizens of Chicago went uncounted in the last census. This made Chicago's undercount the third highest among major U.S. cities. On the national level, the 1990 census undercount was just as severe, with 8.4 million people missed and 4.4 million others double counted. Furthermore, a disproportionate number of those missed were minorities.

The impact of an inaccurate count should not be minimized because census data is used to reapportion congressional seats, allocate substantial federal funds to states and cities, redistrict state legislative bodies and administer various federal programs. So, for those undercounted communities, an inaccurate census can have a devastating effect.

Many of the social factors that

made it difficult to count everyone in the 1990 Census exist to an even greater extent today. For example, in more American families, both parents work, making it difficult to find anyone at home. Transient lifestyles are on the rise. People are busy. More people live in irregular housing. Greater numbers of people are linguistically isolated. Large immigrant populations avoid government officials. Census forms must compete with huge flows of junk mail. And more

persons are cynical about or actively hostile to any of the works of government. Taking into account all of these variables, it would seem a near impossibility to expect that accurate data could be collected.

Nonetheless, U.S. Census officials believe that by employing the use of the statistical sampling method, Census 2000 can provide

the country with the level of accuracy that U.S. citizens expect. In addition to the traditional head count that includes questionnaire

accurate count. Their bill gives local governments the opportunity to check census numbers for nine weeks before they become final.

Although the bill's provision sounds good, the problem is this extra step will significantly slow down the count process and increase the likelihood of the Census bureau missing its deadline.

For Republicans, who want to keep their majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, using the inaccurate 1990 Census numbers that exclude millions of minorities would not be so bad.

Politics must not be permitted to enter this process. Tainting the census procedure will once again lead to millions of U.S. citizens being

ignored. I believe local governments should play a role in the census count but not at the expense of slowing down the process.

As we rapidly approach the new millennium, we have an opportunity to correct the gross errors made in the 1990 U.S. Census. Every U.S. citizen, Black and white, old and young, rich and poor, city dweller and rural resident, is important to the very fabric of our nation and deserves to be counted...not ignored. I would encourage you to make sure you participate in the U.S. census. Also, write every member of the Illinois Congressional delegation so your voice is heard on this major issue that will shape our city, state and nation for years to come.

Sincerely,

- U.S. Rep. Bobby L. Rush
(D-IL)

Dear Editor:

Thank you for running our LEAD TIPS piece in the April issue of *Residents' Journal*. The following is prevention tip #2, which continues to share LEAD TIPS (Lead Education Awareness DO'S To Increase Prevention Strategies) with the residents to help families reduce their children's exposure to lead.

Prevention Tip#2: Never Play in Bare Soil and Dirt/Leave Your Shoes at the Door.

As the summer temperature rises, so do children's blood lead

levels. The exposure to lead dust increases in the summer because children spend more time outside. Windows are often open during the warm months, which allows dust to blow into our homes.

Lead residue from leaded gasoline used in cars settles in the soil. Leaded gasoline was banned in 1982 but was slowly phased out in the United States. Industrial sources such as incinerators can be an additional source for lead in soil. This makes bare soil and dirt a

potential high source of lead exposure to these outside sources of lead.

Practice the following tips to help reduce your child's exposure to these outside sources of lead:
Plant grass or put down sod, rocks or wood chips. Cover bare areas in your yard or common play areas. By covering bare areas, you place a barrier between your child

and the potentially contaminated dirt. For this purpose, this spring grass seed was made available to family developments courtesy of the Green Summit Program and the Environmental Unit. Contact your local LAC office for more information.

Take your shoes off at the door. It will reduce the amount of dust and dirt from outside being tracked into your home.

Place a door mat inside your door. This will help your family and friends to remember to leave

their shoes at the door before entering your home.

Wash window sills and wells weekly. This will reduce the lead dust that blows in from outside and settles inside the base of windows.

If you have questions, contact the CHA Environmental Unit at (312) 567-7775

Sincerely,

-Maurci Jackson
CHA Environmental Unit

Dear Editor:

We are the residents of the Eckhart Park senior building located at 847 North Greenview Ave. and 838 N. Noble St. Our 2-building complex is located in the West Town neighborhood on Chicago's Near Northwest Side.

We have some concerns which need to be addressed. Some of these represent a lack of full understanding or sensitivity on the part of CHA or of political figures who represent us in City Council, most specifically First Ward Ald. Jesse D. Granato, even though he has voiced a commitment to effectively serve our interests.

For a long time, we have had a serious prob-

lem of heat and hot water in our building and the heat deficiencies seem to have corrected. But there is

still a lack of hot water for at least half of the units in our resident population of more than 200. This is something we must endure day after day and for 2 mornings (as of writing of this letter) on Wednesday, June 2, and Friday, June 4, the hot water tap only produced cold water until nearly 10 am, when it became barely lukewarm.

Our private management is addressing the

Eckhart Park Residents Speak Out

problem and a contractor will be on the premises to make

the needed repairs, provide replacement parts, etc. The work is to be completed by about the first week in July. In the meantime, the matter of "health and safety" per our residency mandates is being compromised and our lease, which calls for the regular provision of hot water, is being violated.

At the beginning of this year, we were sud-

denly deprived of a grocery store in our immediate area and this has caused a hardship on our elderly population as well with promises by alderman of the opening of a new store. It has been nearly 6 months since the store closed and we are patiently waiting. But that does not eliminate the hardship and frustration of seniors with most of us with some form of mobility impairment.

Thank you for reading our legitimate concerns.

Sincerely,

-The residents of 847 North Greenview Avenue and 838 North Noble Street

Letter of Appreciation

Dear Editor:

Just a note to tell you and the staff how much I appreciate the excellent work you are doing with the Residents' Journal.

Keep up the good work.

-Warner Saunders
Anchorman, NBC Channel 5 News

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

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

Dear Resident

Patricia Johnson-Gordon

Most people do not consider their dwelling their home unless they actually own it. But this three-bedroom public housing unit in Cabrini-Green on the Near North Side of Chicago is my home.

It is my home because it is where I keep my most precious possessions, my hopes and dreams, my past and my present. It's my family base, my stronghold. It's where we keep our love, settle our arguments, renew ourselves, find peace and look forward to returning together at the end of the day.

The struggle to adapt and overcome negative circumstances in and outside public housing makes it more of a home. One develops a sense of ownership that increases every time another obstacle is overcome.

Besides, I wouldn't do anything differently if I lived on the Gold Coast instead of Cabrini-Green, AKA the Gold Coast Ghetto. And I treat it like it's mine, inside and out. If I wouldn't do it inside of my apartment, I don't do it outside of my apartment.

Once again, there has been a changing of the guard at CHA. Remember, the only thing that remains the same is change.

As this issue is being printed in June I would be remiss if I did not congratulate our high school graduates and say Happy Father's Day to the men in public housing who assume and execute the role of father in a child's life each and every day. Oddly enough, the two are probably more closely linked than we realize. If we were to look at the students who graduate, we would probably find that the majority of them have a father figure in their life. Just as it takes a male and female to successfully conceive a child, it takes a male and female to raise a child to become a successful adult. Not successful in terms of dollars and cents but successful in the development of qualities essential to living independently.

Men and women have clearly defined roles and purposes in the life of a child. Mothers are generally the ones who love and physically nurture a child, especially when they're young. But today, there are many young men who have assumed the role of mom in her absence. Men generally support women in their role by increasing that child's sense of love and security. It is the love and support between a man and a woman that is given to the child. A child's sense of self is established by its mother, father and extended family. When a man or woman is raising a child alone, the child has and receives less love.

And while it is a woman that cares for the home, it is usually the father who sets the tone of a home; the standard for how a girl expects to be treated by the men in her life. The father/daughter relationship is and should be the first male/female relationship for a girl.

Every girl should be her father's princess and expect every man to treat her as well as her father. The father also sets the standard for how a boy should conduct himself as a man. Years ago, it was possible for a woman to raise a man, but it is extremely difficult for a woman to do so today. When I was a child, we were told "don't do as I do, do as I say!" and we did.

But today, as parents, you have to "do as you say" because today, children will do as you do. While most parents will deny it, most children learn to lie, cheat and steal and even do drugs at home because they see their parents do it.

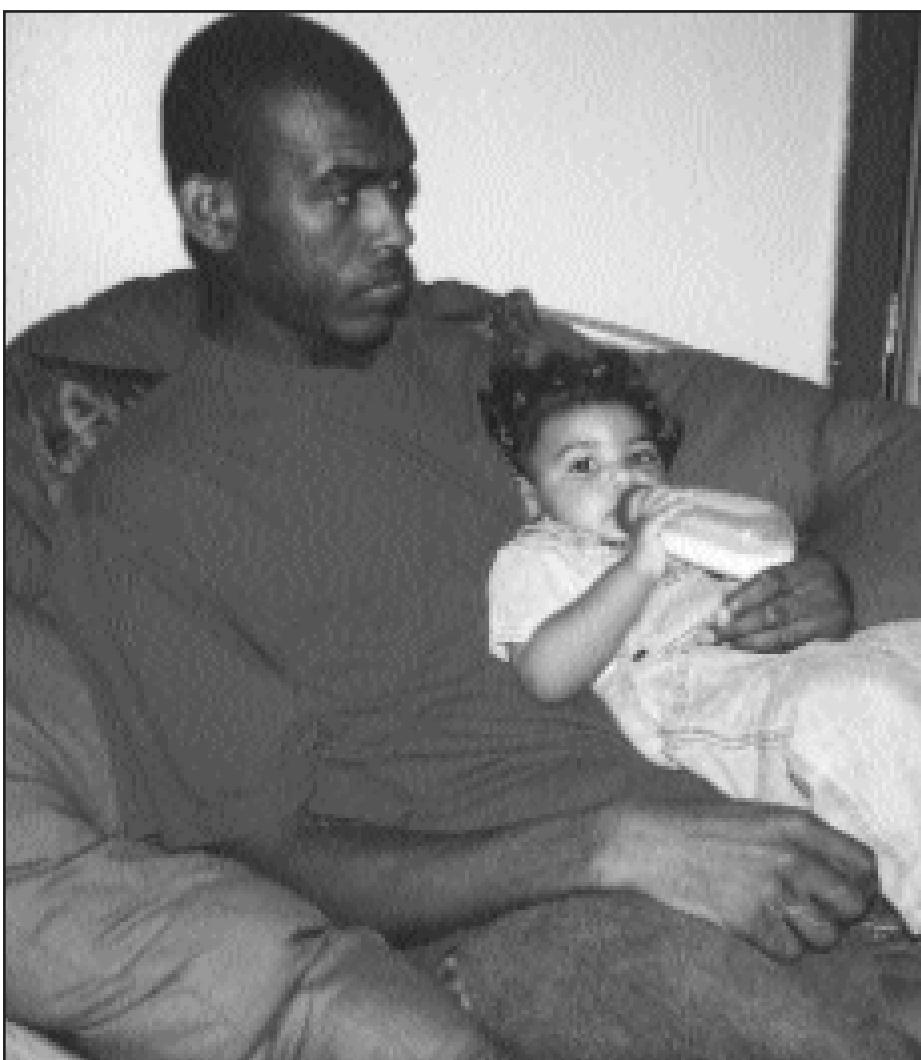
There is no acceptable lie, no justifiable cheat and no reason to steal and too many of our children seek to find whatever their parents found in drugs and alcohol. Today, many of our babies have grown up to be angry children instead of independent adults because they were not given what they needed to grow and mature to adulthood.

They were not given what they needed to become who they could have been instead of who they are. They're angry and we live with that anger in our community every day.

We all need, want and deserve love. If we cannot get it at home, we seek to find it in other places. If we don't have a strong family group, we join other groups.

My father, LeRoy Johnson, died over 10 years ago, but the love he gave me is still with me today. I cannot imagine having grown up without him and all of the other men in my family and extended family. They were by no means perfect but they were there, doing their best and expecting us to do the same. To the greatest extent possible, we should all be there supporting our children and cheering them on working hard, helping them to become the best possible men and women. Giving them the tools and opportunity to finish high school, get a job, get an apartment of their own and someday, be the best mother or father that any child could want.

And a very special Happy Father's Day to Kevin L. Clark. We're all very proud of the man and father that you have become.



Cabrini-Green resident Cornelius "Cornbread" Bolar spends quality time at home with his daughter.

photo by John Brooks

The father also sets the standard for how a boy should conduct himself as a man.



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