

R E S I D E N T S '

Journal

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SEASoN S GREETINGS



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Haymarket House AD

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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.

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Publisher's Box

by Ethan Michaeli



I know that the title of this article is strongly worded. I do not use the term 'poverty pimping' carelessly.

CHA is planning to spend \$1.5 billion on behalf of CHA residents over the next 10 years and I hope residents will stop for a moment and ask a few questions about that money:

Are CHA officials spending those dollars as the residents themselves would choose? Are CHA officials treating residents with the respect they are due as the individuals who leveraged that \$1.5 billion? Are residents actually getting better housing? Is too much of that \$1.5 billion going into the pockets of people who are not doing anything for residents?

If the answer to any of these questions is 'yes,' then that is exploitation of the worst kind – it is taking advantage of the poor and needy for the benefit of the rich and comfortable. And that is Poverty Pimping.

The Chicago Housing Authority is planning to spend at least \$1.5 billion under the stated goal of providing better housing for the city's public housing residents. In addition to the CHA dollars, mil-

lion are reparations for decades of mis-

management, uneven law enforcement and social experimentation. It's a bit like the proverbial child who murders his parents and then asks the court for mercy because he is an orphan.

So let's fantasize what would happen if residents had their own choice about how to spend that \$60,000. Seniors might choose to fix up their homes, install air conditioners and make other repairs. They might pool their resources to upgrade their common areas by buying new furnishings and entertainment systems.

Some of these changes already are in the CHA Plan for Transformation. But if the seniors were able to choose how to spend their \$60,000, I have no doubt that the CHA buildings soon would look as good as any of the finest senior buildings in the city. Indeed, most of the seniors would probably have enough money left

Poverty Pimping

lions more are being spent by foundations, other government agencies and universities each year on 'serving' residents with welfare-to-work programs, youth services, senior services and by studying public housing.

Is all this money really going to help the residents?

If you divide \$1.5 billion evenly by 25,000, about the number of current CHA households, you find that the figure comes to \$60,000 per household.

CHA, of course, has a different plan for how it wants to allocate these dollars. But they have raised those funds essentially by telling the federal government and the U.S. Congress that the \$1.5 bil-

over to spend at least some of their winters in warmer climates.

The families who live in CHA buildings have different needs and they would make different choices, if they had the chance to decide how this money should be spent.

Many of the families are headed by single mothers for whom poverty has been a vicious cycle. Some had children early and grew to depend on government programs that rapidly are being dismantled. Others have been trying to keep food on the table with low-paying jobs that haven't kept pace with growing needs.

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Transforming CHA

Section 8: Worth the Wait?

by Beauty Turner

Some residents are finding out that everything that glitters is not gold, especially when it comes to the Housing Choice Voucher Program, formerly known as the Section 8 program.

Take for instance a young single mother of four by the name of Arkita Gary, who moved happily out into the private market with her voucher over a year ago from the Robert Taylor Homes development.

Gary said, "I was happy about getting my Section 8 voucher. I knew in my heart that I'd have a chance to raise my children in a better environment - or so I thought."

"When I first went out to view the house, it was in the winter time. The community was nice and quiet. The neighborhood seemed to be beautiful. The houses were all in a row. The streets were lined with trees.

"No body was standing out in the Englewood area, unlike the community I came out of. So I agreed to take this house. The landlord told me that there were a few minor problems but he vowed to fix them later on after I moved in. He received my Section 8 Voucher and I didn't hardly see him any more."

RJ: "To your knowledge, did anyone come out to inspect your unit before you moved in?"

Gary: "Yes, CHAC (the private company which oversees the Voucher program) sent out an inspector and she passed this house with flying colors. I found out later on that the lady that they sent out was a good friend of the landlord."

RJ: "What is wrong with this house?"

Gary: "The door in my son's bedroom closet is off of the hinges. The windows have no locks. Plus, most of them are off track like a derailed train, which makes a lot of cold air come in the house. It takes a lot of money to

heat this house. My gas bill is over \$500. That's more than I have to pay for rent. With raising four children, it's kind of hard to get that type of money."

"This area is worse than the Robert Taylor development. This area is more infested with drugs and gangs. At least in the development, we at least knew each other."

"Now when I walk to the store, I see young men with their hats turned around on their heads, pants almost hanging down to their knees, saying 'Got that rock, nose candy or green monster.'

"They're selling drugs in this area like it's bubble gum. About 6 months after I moved here, my man's sister got shot in the face, not by a drive by but by a walk by."

RJ: "Did you think that life was going to be better after you received your Housing Choice Voucher?"

Gary: "Yes, I did. But so far, since I left Robert Taylor, it has been like jumping from the frying pan into hell's fire! I fear for my children's safety and my own. Otherwise, it's just like living in the developments except worse."

"Your relatives can't come visit you. If they are young men, they will be mistaken as rival gang members. The gangs shot up my elegant picture frame window and the bullets rippled through my house and came through the closet and almost shot my baby's father and one of my sons."

Gary ushered me down to her basement, where she showed me a big vast hole made like a sewer. The hole didn't have a top on it and it had dirty, nasty water in it with trash floating to the top.

Gary: "What if one of my babies falls in that hole?"

RJ: "Didn't you view this place before you took it?"

Gary: "Yes, I did. But I was so glad to get

my Section 8 that I just took the first thing that I saw. I just wanted to raise my children in a better environment than the projects - or so I thought."

Gary took me outside of the house, showed me bullet holes that had penetrated the aluminum siding in the front and on the side of her house.

She showed me siding that was peeling off the side of the wall like an orange that was being eaten on Christmas Day and a light meter that was hanging off the wall.

Gary said, "The man from the light company said that this is very dangerous. If this meter falls, it will send an electrical current all the way through this house and will blow this house and many others off this block."

After hearing Gary's story, I telephoned the landlord of the property that is located in Englewood:

RJ: "Hello. May I speak to Mr. Raymond Williams?"

Williams: "Yes, I'm speaking."

RJ: "My name is Ms. Beauty Turner and I'm a reporter for *Residents' Journal*. I'm calling you concerning a tenant of yours by the name of Arkita Gary."

Williams: "Yes."

RJ: "I was wondering, how did the property (in Englewood) get approved for Section 8?"

Williams: "Because before she moved in that house, it was in perfect shape. I put everything new in that place: new toilets, new faucets, everything."

"Her and her boyfriend and her children ruined it."

RJ: "I know you know about the bullet holes in the window, right?"

RJ: "Yes, I do."

Williams: "Well, she causes that to hap-



This unprotected sewer sits open in the basement of the house that Section 8 recipient Arkita Gary rents out with her four children.

Photo by Beauty Turner

pen, her and all of those friends that she has hanging around.

"I can't even go back to the house without a police escort. She has the gangs wanting to harm me."

"And besides, she has complained to CHAC, Family Diagnostics (a social service agency) and others but she never once called me and let me know what is wrong in the house."

"Most of the time when I went over, I discovered something was wrong and I fixed it right away."

"How am I supposed to know what goes wrong in the house unless she tells me? I'm not a mind reader."

CHAC spokesperson Michelle Arrington said, "There's a whole process when it comes to the Section 8 housing choice voucher inspection."

CHAC did not respond to any other questions concerning this matter.

Poverty Pimping

(Continued from Page 4)

Still other CHA families are just on the verge of crossing the threshold into the middle class.

For all of these families, even a one-time payment of \$60,000 would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Some would use the funds to buy a home, others to start a business or to further their education.

Some families in CHA have needs too great to afford any of these opportunities. For those families, that \$60,000 would go a long way toward purchasing adequate health care, including psychological care and drug counseling.

CHA claims that they are going to use the \$1.5 billion to build, rehabilitate or otherwise provide housing for all current residents who are "lease compliant."

But as we've documented in this and previous issues of Residents' Journal, CHA has lied to residents and violated its own rules in relocating families and redeveloping properties (see article, page 8). Also in this issue, Managing Editor Wateka Kleinpeter finds disturbing evidence of how many residents are being evicted and why (see article, page 7). Correspondent Beauty Turner finds that at least some of those who have moved out of CHA are finding the new housing they are securing using the Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8s) to be far worse than where they left (see article, page 4).

Now comes word in a Chicago Tribune article that the Chicago Rehab Network testified Dec. 7 before the City Council that CHA simply does not have enough money to build all of the units it has promised.

Just by way of background, the Rehab Network is a respected, independent, not-for-profit organization that wrote an affordable housing plan that was largely adopted by Mayor Richard M. Daley years ago. The Rehab Network has built their reputation on accurate analysis of the need for housing for low-income Chicagoans.

But CHA CEO Terry Peterson denied the Rehab Network's analysis in a strongly worded letter to the Tribune just one week

later. Under the headline, "Improving CHA housing for all," Peterson wrote that the Rehab Network made "misleading and irresponsible statements" and was making a "self-serving attempt to assert itself at the 11th hour...."

Peterson rejected the Rehab Network's charge that CHA was using evictions and other tactics to cut down the number of residents for whom it must build housing. Strong language from a powerful city agency against a relatively small not-for-profit organization is often a sign of anxiety.

Peterson may be nervous because the funding that he claimed in his letter is guaranteed is not. The \$1.5 billion was pledged by a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Department that will soon see major changes as a result of a new presidential administration under a different political party. The U.S. Congress can change its collective mind about the CHA Plan for Transformation at any time.

Moreover, Peterson himself admitted in a previous Tribune article that the success of the Plan for Transformation will depend on a complicated bond issue that has not yet occurred. That was the same article in which Peterson doubled the plan's time frame; originally, CHA pledged to HUD and the residents that the 25,000 units would be built in 5 years. Now, they say the housing will be built in 10 years, a whole generation later.

Far from being placed in a lock box or an escrow account, the \$1.5 billion is vulnerable. A few negative media reports, some protests from residents or a federal lawsuit, and that money might just disappear.

So far, though, that \$1.5 billion figure is attracting quite a few business owners to the business of serving residents. According to a CHA press release, some 350 business owners came to a Dec. 5 vendors fair at the South Shore Cultural Center.

I went to the vendors fair and interviewed a few of those business owners who had set up booths. I met individuals who work for janitorial supply firms, construction companies, demolition companies, bankers and paint supply companies. I met a number of minority business owners, a few resident business owners, and even a few ex-CHA employees now working for private businesses. The whole crowd spent the day schmoozing, listening to the speeches, eating at the buffet and grooving to the

jazz band.

Most of the firms said they didn't expect to hire any residents, often because they had their headquarters in the suburbs, weren't planning on doing any hiring soon, or had technical positions that require a lot of expensive training.

The real reason the vendors were there was to get a share of that \$1.5 billion. Elias Abubeker, a project manager at the Walsh Construction Company, said that his firm does \$1 billion a year of business. Even though that figure made Walsh one of the giants at the vendors fair, Abubeker said getting a piece of CHA's \$1.5 billion was a huge opportunity for Walsh.

"CHA is an important client because they have the business," Abubeker said. "They have the projects. \$1.5 billion is a lot of business."

"If we get \$100 million with CHA, that's a big part of our business – 10 percent of our annual budget."

Abubeker is not necessarily taking advantage of CHA residents. After all, he is a business man trying to make money. Likewise, I do not claim to know the hearts of the overwhelming majority of CHA employees or of those individuals who work with CHA. Many of those who work with residents believe they are helping residents and some are.

But many individuals and many companies are getting rich by 'serving' residents. And many politicians have built successful careers by doling out jobs and contracts by 'serving' residents. In fact, the names of some of the city's wealthiest, best-known builders, architects and financiers can be found on the keystones, designs and bank records of the very same high-rise public housing buildings that someone is now making money demolishing. Some of the city's best-known political families are continuing to broker the deals to build the new public housing.

Although the powers that be will deny it, residents have power over the dollars being spent in their names. In fact, the powers that be use negligence, social experimentation and mis-enforcement of the law to keep residents from realizing the truth about that \$1.5 billion.

Through the ballot box, the protest sign and the lawsuit, residents can demand a greater share or a better deal from those sums being spent to 'serve' them.

Transforming CHA Their Brothers' Keepers

by Mary C. Johns
Editor-in-Chief

Everyone knows Cain's famous question from the Genesis chapter in the Bible, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

For 10 former Robert Taylor Homes families, the answer to this question was "yes."

It is commonly said that people who live in public housing are lazy, unfit welfare mothers who have boyfriends that are drug dealers or bums.

But residents know CHA developments are communities within communities. Residents are ordinary people who care about and look out for one another. They help each other out in every way that people in other communities do.

Residents are caring, loving, law-abiding citizens who give of themselves daily through the sharing of information to one another about meetings, food-giveaways, medical assistance, computer classes and the availability of subsidized housing.

Such is the case of these 10 families who – over the course of two years - took it upon themselves to help themselves and each other find housing and stay together after being told they had to relocate for a second time from a CHA building in the Robert Taylor development.

What is of interest to me is do they pass my screening criteria...And by law, that's all anyone should be interested in.

-Peter Levavi, vice president of Brinshore Development

Beginnings

In early 1998, CHA informed the residents of 5100 S. State their building would soon close. The residents were given the choice of relocating into another development, moving into a rehabbed unit in another Robert Taylor building, or searching for housing with a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8).

Janice Patton was the building president for 5100 S. State where she and her mother lived for more than 30 years. Patton and many others in the building decided they wanted the vouchers.

While waiting for her voucher, Patton began searching for housing. As part of this search, she attended several Empowerment Zone meetings. Patton said she knew that the Empowerment Zone money was to be used for helping low-income city residents. So she spoke to former Empowerment Zone Executive Director Ron Carter during a meeting. After explaining her situation to Carter, Patton said he agreed to help the families.

Janice's mother, Ethel Washington, a former Local Advisory Council president for Robert Taylor A, spoke to a local activist after she found out 5100 was going to close. Cecelia Butler of the Washington

Park Community Development Coalition, a long-time community activist, agreed to assist the families in seeking housing.

At the time, Butler and others were protesting against a new housing development at 55th Street and Prairie Avenue being built by Brinshore Development and the Church of the Good Shepherd. Butler had no way of knowing that she would soon be helping the residents of 5100 S. State move into that development.

Patton said Butler, development officials and Empowerment Zone employees began working closely with the families. She said they even tried to buy a building from CHA for the families.

A Stay Together Group

Soon after the residents were told they had to vacate 5100 S. State, Patton began organizing a "Stay Together Group" which consisted of 25 families.

Tamera Williams, who heads one of the families in the "Stay Together" group, said Patton as well as others constantly assisted one another with information about social services and activities, including the provision of food and clothing.

"We always have looked out for each other," said Williams.

In November 1999, those selecting the vouchers moved into another Robert Taylor building while they waited to find apartments. Those families moved into



Prairie Park Apartments located at 55th Street and Prairie Avenue. These buildings house 10 families formerly of Robert Taylor Homes who formed the "Stay Together" group.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

vey conducted by CHA in the summer of 1999.

In the late summer of 2000, Patton said the Empowerment Zone's Carter referred her to the Rev. Jesse Knox, assistant pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, co-owners with Brinshore Development of the Prairie Park Apartments. Prairie Park consists of 67 newly built units at 55th Street and Prairie

5201 S. Federal. They paid a \$15 fee for a criminal and finance background check. They finally were approved for occupancy.

Their information was then given to CHAC, the private firm that manages the Housing Choice Voucher program for CHA. CHAC did a housing inspection of the Prairie Park Apartments, approved them and negotiated the lease agreement with Brinshore. The 10 families then began their move into the new units.

Patton said she and the other former residents of 5100 S. Federal finally received vouchers in August and September of 2000 – more than one year after they first selected the Vouchers as their relocation option.

CHA officials did not respond to numerous requests to explain why it took over a year for some of the residents to receive their housing vouchers.

Resident Remarks

Because Prairie Park Apartments are new units, Patton said she feels secure the units will pass any inspections from CHAC.

"We're moving into brand new units. We're not moving from one disaster to another," she explained.

Tamera Williams said she was stunned when she heard that she and the others had been accepted for the new units.

"My first thought was that it was a pipe dream. Some things happen and it doesn't work for you. But I knew that God would provide a way for us," Williams said.

Obstacles

CHA contracts with social service agencies that are supposed to assist residents when they have to move.

(Continued on Page 10)

Transforming CHA

by Cenabeth Cross

US. Rep. Bobby L. Rush (D-1) announced Nov. 20 an anti-violence advertising campaign that calls on young people to end the senseless violence that is affecting African American communities.

The congressman was joined by representatives from Soft-Sheen Products, Ameritech, ComEd and Jewel. The announcement was made at the Harris YWCA, 6200 S. Drexel Blvd. There will be 40,000 posters, 20,000 buttons and 18 billboards put up around the city. The billboards will be placed at 73rd Street and Racine Avenue, 51st and State streets and 66th Street and Cottage Grove Avenue, to name some of the strategic spots where the people will see them.

The Cease Fire Now campaign, as Rush and his partners have named it, is a result of the Emergency Black Leadership Summit this summer. That anti-violence campaign was designed for young people from the input of other young people at the Summit, according to Rush.

"One suggestion made at the July 22 summit was that various approaches and resources should be used to address the problem. Use of advertising is certainly an effective tool," stated Rush at the meeting.

"The commitment and generosity of these businesses will take us one step closer to ending the violence that cuts short the lives of our youth."

I interviewed Robyn Wheeler, the spokesperson for U.S. Rep. Rush, about the advertising campaign.

RJ: "I read that the information on the billboards but it doesn't contain any information on how to get involved or who to see, or where to go. How will the youths get in touch?"

Wheeler: "The billboards and buttons are only the start of the program. There will be radio stations and other ways of getting the word out."

"I have heard one of the slogans on WGCI radio. It asks the youths, 'Are you playing a game or is the game playing you?' I have heard others slogans on the same station."

RJ: "How will I be able to get this information in order to help get the word out? Can I get you to fax this information as soon as you know?"

Wheeler: "Yes."

RJ: "How will the youths go about getting in contact with mentors?"

Wheeler: "First, it was decided that we get the adults and the young people together

Stop the Violence

through dialogue and begin to learn about one another. Second was to get the word out and we've done that. There are a number of different things that have to be done and no solutions will come overnight.

"It didn't take a day for the violence and the conditions to be as they are and it will take more than a day to solve the problem."

RJ: "The congressman used to be a Black Panther back in the '60s. Now he is a politician and has the means by which he can help. How will he bring the gangs into the fight willingly? I believe there are a lot of young people who would rather do it the right way. How will he include them?"

Wheeler: "Back in the '60s he was at one place in his life and now, he's at a different place. But he has always been trying to help the community. When he was in his 20s, he did things differently. And now that he is in his 50s, he will have to handle the situation differently. There is more violence today. Today he is older and wiser and the circumstances are such that he knows how to get the help he needs."

"At all times, his mission has always been about the empowerment of his people. The creation of jobs will be one way."

The Summit

The Summit last summer started when Rush held a press conference on July 16 to call African American leaders, business men, activists, clergy, government and elected officials to join him in finding ways to end the killings. The deaths of children like 12-year-old Tsarina Powell, 11-year-old Ryan Harris and 8-year-old Dantrell Davis seem to have broken the camel's back.

Rush tried to deal with the violence alone but he decided that results could be found through collaboration and continued dialogue about collective problems. Results had to be found to change our violent past into a safe and peaceful future.

On July 22, 627 African Americans came together at Chicago State University. The meeting was heated. It began with a plenary session that included the Rev. Dr. Leon Finney as moderator.

Summit participants broke into 16 small groups and were asked to answer five questions: 1. What are the five major causes of gun violence? 2. What are the five actions which, if taken, will stop the killing/maiming through gun violence? 3. What are four resources which can help reduce and eventually end killing/maiming through gun violence? 4. What are three actions you/your organization will contribute to help stop the killing/maiming of gun violence? 5. List one immediate action that we must take to end the killing/maiming through gun violence?

The tone of the crowd in the room was exciting as well as heated. We had come for a purpose and it was time to get on the case. There were representatives from several funeral homes, including A.R. Leak and Sons, who talked about how they feel about the increase in their work. There was a representative from the U.S. Attorney's office who spoke of the problem on a national level. During the last part of the meeting, we had words from U.S. Reps. Danny K. Davis (D-7) and Jesse Jackson Jr. (D-2) and Chicago Housing Authority CEO Terry Peterson. New visions and new action was what is needed. The themes demanded action right away. The entire body of the people suggested a few solutions: Establish a task force or advisory committee and continue to work on solving the problems; have an intergenerational conference between

older and younger people to break down the barriers of mistrust and gain common ground; have further meetings in the troubled homes and communities in order to learn what is taking place on the streets; leadership must stay involved with each other individually and collectively and leaders need to embrace each other in the process.

Also at the Summit, Rush agreed to facilitate the formation of rapid response teams that will go into troubled areas and offer support and training to the residents.

I got the results of the proceedings of the July 22nd summit, entitled "Divided We Die, United We Live: A Report on the Proceedings of the Emergency Black Leadership Summit on Violence in our Community."

I got the report by mail. It was prepared for summit participants. The report gave a summary of the responses for each question:

The groups mentioned the lack of economic development and jobs; the combination of drugs and gangs; the breakdown of the family, where the parents are aiding the gangs and encouraging criminal behavior; the lack of good education; the way guns are easily obtained; the lack of a belief in God; the lack of community involvement and leadership; and police prejudice and police brutality.

The groups also talked about problems among young people, such as self-hate, fear of adults, a lack of recreation and self-control, hopelessness, parents in jail, and the presentation of violence through the media. The groups also said there is a need for cultural enrichment and the need for mentoring.

The groups talked about the need to create jobs, opportunities and training, better community policing and involvement with each other, improved education and the availability of the GED programs, having faith-based organizations to help, fairer law enforcement, better gun control laws and policies, such as raising the cost of ammunition. They also said that parents should be accountable for their children and politicians and government leaders should be held accountable to the community. They talked about the need for drug rehabilitation and education programs, along with gun violence education and mentoring by strong Black men.

The group said we should have more faith in our young people, resolve traumatic experiences right away, promote self-image and set standards for the all the youths, including the gangs.

Financial help should come from the legislative branch of government and churches, the groups said. We must have help from the educational system, the media, private business and corporate sectors also. Community councils should form for public safety and any efforts also should include the CTA and Metra, when possible, to help get the word out.

The groups also mentioned providing global and grassroots alternatives, marching on gangs, closing drug houses and setting up anti-gang education in the Cook County Temporary Juvenile Detention Center.

Others said we should include the gangs and walk the streets, adopt children at risk, support the Million Family March and write to the media about the issue of violence on the tube.

The groups often talked about the Boston Model of gun control. The Boston Model was the topic of the convention I attended at Loyola University in 1998. The program was started with Operation Cease Fire with the aim of getting the gangs and guns off the street. That was followed by Operation Night Lite, which

included the parole officers working directly with the police.

The convention included social workers, parole officers, parents and children. There were many children who had been bused to the college site. The convention lasted all day just as the meeting U.S. Rep. Rush's Summit and had similar goals but I never heard anything else after the meeting was over. The program still continues in Boston. The report on the sta-



An official from the U.S. Attorney's office converses with others at the Emergency Summit meeting at Chicago State University this past summer.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross

tus was published in a book given out at the summit which also reported on the programs being initiated nationwide.

Rush said of the Summit, "We spent an entire day working on these issues and we have produced something important. Some say that we couldn't do this but they were mistaken. They were wrong. We are all together here. Communities can come up with solutions to the problems we face and in so doing, can better direct those who have the responsibility for the public welfare."

A History Lesson

Back in the '60s, the media had the people thinking the way they wanted the people to. The media called groups of young people gangs. The media gave the name gangster to the mobs.

I met Bobby Rush on Oct. 19, 1970. I was attending the funeral of a friend. The friend was Gene Lewis, who had been shot over 20 times by the police. He was attempting an escape during his trial hearing. This took place in the hall of the old courthouse building at 2600 S. California Ave.

At the same time, I also met Brother Lukeman, one of the top men in the Nation of Islam. He later became godfather to my third son, Omar Jacob.

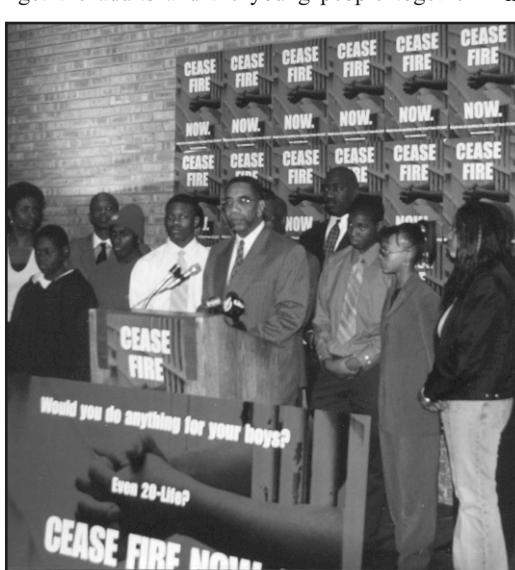
In 1996, Omar co-starred in a made-for-television movie called "To Sir With Love, Part II." It was a movie showing how the children were able to get guns into the schools. The star was Sidney Portier. It was filmed here in Chicago at one of our local high schools.

I lived in the Englewood neighborhood at the time I met Rush. Some people were calling for the Blacks to return to Africa and others wanted to stay and fight. After the death of Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, who was ambushed and killed by the police, Bobby Rush left town.

I would send my two sons to their father's house on the far South Side to keep them out of the gangs' way. When they were at home, I walked my sons to school.

This is a time for love and joy. Instead, the season only brings more violence. Let us start now, this holiday, to be a little kinder to everyone around us.

Peace.



U.S. Rep. Bobby L. Rush and others during the initiation ceremony for the Cease Fire Now Campaign at the Harris YWCA.

Photo by Cenabeth Cross.

Transforming CHA

by Wateka Kleinpeter
Managing Editor

Since CHA's Plan for Transformation was started, the agency is evicting residents on the notion they are enforcing the leases.

Residents are noticing that CHA is becoming stricter about enforcing lease provisions. But is there a pattern of more evictions? Is CHA eliminating people so they don't have to relocate them?

There are a number of lease violations that can result in a CHA resident's lease being terminated. A resident can be evicted for being charged with serious offenses such as drug-related crimes and violence such as murder.

A young man who is a resident of a South

CHA Evictions

from gallery high rises if they are not in lease compliance. They will not receive a new lease or continued occupancy or might be evicted.

When the City of Chicago regained control of the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) in 1999, many changes were made. The CHA Police force was eliminated after existing for nine years. Programs serving residents that consisted of assistance for victims of violent crimes, alcohol and substance abuse, scouting and several excellent day care programs.

CHA no longer manages any property but chose private management firms from all over the country to manage all their property. Included under the private managers are sever-

ident is in trouble."

Tate added that she is more likely to enforce other provisions in the lease.

"So far, I have had very few One Strike Cases. Most of my cases have been for non-payment of rent or non-compliance," such as not providing necessary documentation like income verification and birth certificates.

I went to Forcible Entry and Detainer court - or eviction court as it is commonly known - for a few days in late November. I observed a lot of people getting dates for continuances. Many of the cases had been resolved by court time, especially those in which someone owes back rent. Some of the

cases involved CHA residents but it is harder to identify the public housing cases these days because all of CHA is privately managed. The CHA private managers also have a lot of non-public housing units.

The 'old' CHA didn't strictly enforce many of its lease provisions and took a long time with each case. It often took a long time for a case to enter court and each case got a number of continuances.

Now the process is much faster. When I went to eviction court, I found out that CHA is no longer dragging its feet. The private managers have their own lawyers and they don't allow you to get too far behind in your rent. Managing property is how they make their money. Many residents are reporting that the private managers are issuing 14-day notices quickly and are following up on them.

Attorneys from various legal organizations that often represent CHA and other low-income residents say they don't see an increase in the number of evictions. However, these attorneys are worried that evictions might be a convenient legal tool that can be used to reduce the numbers of people who

must be relocated.

Wendy Stassel from the National Center on Poverty Law mentioned amendments made to the City of Chicago Residential Landlord Tenant Ordinance that were passed in August 2000. The amendments state that an eviction can occur if there is concern that the tenant has engaged in illegal drug violations. The violations have to have occurred on two or more separate days, within the same dwelling unit and within a six-month period. In this case, violations mean the unlawful possession, delivery, distribution, manufacture or cultivation of a controlled substance.

Once the charges have been proven, an eviction order is issued and the landlord can enter the unit and remove the tenant's belongings. Within 30 days of the date of the order, the tenant is said to have abandoned the unit.

Then the landlord has the right to enter the premises. He no longer has to hire the Cook County Sheriff's Department. He can do it himself.

Landlords have the right to enter the unit and remove tenants and their belongings. Cases that go to court for non-payment of rent will still be located at the Daley center. But the hearings for the drug-related/One Strike cases will not necessarily be held in a courtroom. The tenant will receive a written notification of when and where to come.

Attorneys from various law associations that represent these tenants are worried about the abuse of the ordinance.

Stassel, the attorney from the National Center on Poverty Law, said, "We (attorneys representing the residents) are all in favor of eliminating people who are breaking the law. But we are worried that it may affect some innocent people.

"In the administrative hearing, hearsay can now be admitted as evidence. The problem with that is if someone has a grudge against another person, he or she can say they saw that person engaging in some illegal activity."

Residents of public housing do have a process that will keep them from being put out in the streets. CHA must give a written notice stating the reasons for the planned eviction. HUD regulations state that the tenant has the opportunity to have their case resolved through the CHA grievance process. If not, there will be a hearing by an administrative law hearing officer.

Remove anyone from your lease that is not living with you. If they are arrested and have the resident's address on their identification, the resident is in trouble.

-Doris Tate, Manager of Wentworth Gardens

Side housing development said, "My mother is moving in two days because CHA is harassing her already because of the crime I was charged with."

Although the charges against this young man were dropped, his mother can still be evicted under the One Strike provision of the 1996 Housing Opportunities Extension Act. One Strike and You're Out comes from a law signed by President Bill Clinton in 1996. The law states that a public housing resident can be evicted if the leaseholder or anyone on the lease or their guest is caught participating in drug-related activities or serious crimes. Other lease provisions already in place such as the policy against certain kinds of pets and dangerous animals are now being strictly enforced.

The CHA Plan for Transformation, initiated by former CEO Phillip Jackson, calls for all high-rise open gallery buildings to be torn down. Mid-rise and row house developments are to be rebuilt or remodeled.

But a tenant of CHA will not get a new unit in a remodeled development, will not receive a Section 8 certificate, or be relocated

al Resident Management Corporations, which include Dearborn Homes, 1230 N. Burling Ave. in Cabrini-Green and Wentworth Gardens. Now all of the properties can be categorized under the City of Chicago eviction process.

CHA's property managers are stressing to residents that CHA is serious about eliminating trouble-makers and anyone who is not in compliance with the lease. Stricter lease enforcement in public housing started with President Clinton in the White House and the U.S. Congress and has gone to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and now down to the development-level.

Doris Tate, manager of Wentworth Gardens, stressed to leaseholders that they can be evicted because of the illegal activity of someone who is on their lease or who visits.

Tate said, "Remove anyone from your lease that is not living with you. Many residents have sons, daughters, nieces and nephews who may have resided with them at one time. If they are arrested and have the resident's address on their identification, the res-

idents grew suspicious that funds were being handled inappropriately and that Betts was leaving RMC officials and members in the dark.

One former board member said, "Mr. Betts made every single decision with either little or no input on our part. The way he was operating made us very suspicious. There were times he would not allow us to see the books. That's when we asked for an investigation."

During the late summer, LeClaire residents voted to see if the residents wanted an RMC back in Le Claire.

The residents came out and voted back the RMC to LeClaire Courts. Next came an election of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and seven board members.

The turn out of candidates was high, with four residents running in each official category and 15 candidates to fill the seven board members' positions.

To be eligible, you had to be living in LeClaire and be on an official lease for two years. You had to be at least 18 years of age, your rent must have been current and you could have no negative activity at your residence. You then sent your application to the Citizens Information Service, which checked and made sure candidates met all the criteria.

After everyone was approved, there was an event in which residents could meet the candidates, hear them speak and find out their views about various concerns in LeClaire. The candidates had five minutes to speak and Reggie Winfrey of CIS facilitated the meeting.

After the "Meet the Candidates" event, the campaigning started. Candidates mailed out flyers which described them and the position they were running for.

On the day of the election, candidates were asked to keep their campaigning 30 feet outside the voting precinct. And while inside the building, no one was allowed to talk to one another.

Voters checked in with the judges, produced a photo ID with a current address on it for verification and then were directed to the voters booth. After the voting was done on a

by Andre Robinson

Citizen's Information

Service. Remember that name. George W. Bush, Al Gore and the United States Supreme Court: When the year 2004 comes around, when we will have our next presidential election, keep Reggie Winfrey's card in your wallet.

Reggie Winfrey oversees the Citizen's Information Service (CIS). CIS was the organization that handled the Le Claire Courts Resident Management Corporation (RMC) election after a few years absence.

During the summer of 1996, the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), then headed by Executive Director Joseph Shuldiner and Deputy Executive Director Ed Moses, came in and placed padlocks on the RMC's doors.

Steven Betts, who had been executive director of the RMC until that time, was suspected by many residents and CHA officials of mismanagement of funds.

Betts came to head the LeClaire Courts RMC while CHA was under the leadership of Vince Lane. During Betts' tenure, many resi-

LeClaire Courts' RMC

Saturday evening, Winfrey and the voting judges sat down and tallied up the votes. Candidates were allowed to sit in on the count.

The results of the outcome were: for President, Rose Garrett; Vice President, Ruth Todd; Secretary, Antoinette Patterson; and treasurer, Maxine Horton.

Garrett is also vice president of the LAC and has previously served on the RMC board. Garrett fought vigorously to get the RMC back in LeClaire.

Garrett said that her goal for LeClaire is to make the residents' needs her top priority. Hyde Park, Rogers Park, Chatham and the Gold Coast will be the role models for how LeClaire Courts will be run, Garrett explained.

Garrett pointed to the fact that many residents of LeClaire are proud of the turn out in this election; it showed that the residents in LeClaire are very concerned with the future of the development.

Over 30 residents ran for an office position, which is a credit to the people of Le Claire who want to contribute to the neighborhood and be assured that what happened in 1996 will not happen this time.

Transforming CHA

Relocation: Emergencies or Sabotage? Update

by Mary C. Johns
Editor-in-Chief

Residents of two buildings in the Madden Park development were told recently their buildings were no longer under emergency status and would not close by Dec. 15.

The residents were told that the buildings would still close and all those wanting to stay over the holidays could do so.

But at their own risk.

At a Nov. 15 meeting, the private management company hired by the Chicago Housing Authority to manage Madden Park and Ida B. Wells Homes told the residents of 3863 S. Cottage Grove and 820 E. Pershing Road that the buildings were no longer under "emergency" status.

Some residents were overjoyed at the prospect of celebrating the Christmas season in their homes, while others were skeptical about the sudden change of plans.

If there is going to be an emergency, then I would have to declare that.

- Duwain Bailey, CHA chief of operations

Total Recall

In the article titled "Relocations: Emergencies or Sabotage" that appeared in the October 2000 issue of **RJ**, I wrote that residents of the two Madden Park buildings were told they had to move out by Dec. 15 because of the buildings' "severe structural and plumbing" problems.

I also wrote about the options given the residents on where they could move. Residents were told they could relocate into the Ida B. Wells development located across the street from Madden Park, get a Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8) or relocate on their own.

However, neither CHA nor McCormack and Baron Services, the private management company, could provide **RJ** with copies of an engineers' report that could prove the buildings needed to be closed immediately.

CHA also did not provide documentation of the buildings' conditions to Tom Finerty, a consultant to the elected resident leadership. CHA's failure to provide Finerty with proof of the buildings' conditions prompted him to say that CHA was deliberately neglecting its properties to create emergencies to close down buildings.

"It's something that CHA is doing as a deliberate policy. It's wrong, it's immoral and it's improper," Finerty said that time.

A Change of Heart?

RJ spoke to CHA's Chief of Operations Duwain Bailey concerning the buildings' scheduled closings on Nov. 14. One day later, at a Nov. 15 meeting, McClinton Nunn, the area manager for Madden Park and Ida B. Wells, informed

the residents of both buildings that the buildings were no longer under "emergency" status.

He said those wanting to remain in the buildings could do so during the holiday seasons but at their own risk.

"Those families that would like to stick it out until after the holidays and after the zero degree weather goes away, if they want to stay, we're prepared to deal with that," said Nunn.

Nunn said that he wanted to make those who chose to stay as comfortable as possible. He said a team of workers would be sent to the two buildings to find out who wanted to stay. The workers would then inspect the units to make repairs and do maintenance, including extermination.

"We are going to do what you want us to do," Nunn said.

I am a resident of 3863 S. Cottage Grove, and as of this report (Dec. 18), I have not received any notice or phone call as to when someone would come out and ask me if I wanted to stay or to inspect my

unit for repairs.

Nunn told the residents that when they made their choice of where they wanted to move on the housing choice survey, they should keep in mind their selection was only for a temporary move. He said the residents weren't being moved because of redevelopment.

"This is not a redevelopment move. This move is based on the winter," Nunn said.

Nunn said the residents of both buildings should still make preparations to move out some time after the new year.

"Some time after the first of the year, before spring, we are going to have to start emptying those buildings out," Nunn said.

What's going on?

Following the Nov. 14 public hearing comment session on the CHA's "Plan for Transformation" at the Harold Washington Library, I spoke to CHA's Chief of Operations Duwain Bailey concerning the buildings' scheduled closings.

Bailey said he knew nothing of the buildings being closed as an "emergency," asked me where the term "emergency" came from and asked me who ordered the buildings to be closed by Dec. 15.

I told him that the residents of both buildings - including myself - were informed of the emergency closure by the private management firm and by Local Advisory Council President Eunice Crosby at several meetings.

I told him the residents even received a letter documenting that they had to be out of the two buildings by Dec. 15 due to an emergency, and that the term "emergency" was even highlighted on the document.

He then asked me to provide him with a copy of the letter so I faxed it to him, which he later told me he received.

Bailey said the CHA Operations Department was the only CHA department that could give an order to deem buildings emergencies. He said he never gave the order for the two Madden Park buildings to be closed as emergencies nor did residents have to move out by Dec. 15.

"That date would have to come from me. I have not given any dates or any times," Bailey said.

"If there is going to be an emergency, then I would have to declare that."

Bailey said that some buildings were scheduled to close but it did not include the two Madden Park buildings.

"I have a couple of buildings that I'm trying to empty this year and those aren't the buildings," he said.

Bailey said he was aware that the two buildings in Madden Park had structural and plumbing issues and said that the residents were ready to move out.

"I was aware that these buildings had some problems and it was my understanding that residents were ready to move," he said.

Bailey said a lot of residents in buildings that were scheduled for demolition were being surveyed. Residents of those buildings were being given the opportunity to move "even though they might not move until the first or second quarter of next year."

Bailey explained, "In your case, what's driving (the housing choice surveys) is the redevelopment. What's driving it for the gallery-style high-rises is the plan for the demolition schedule."

Residents Deny CHA Accounts

Bailey said that residents of the two Madden Park buildings requested to move during the August inspections. So I asked my neighbors in both buildings during the week of Dec. 4 who among them had asked to be moved and to whom they made the statement at the time of the inspections.

Since being told Nov. 14 they could stay, I also asked the residents who wanted to leave, who wanted to stay and the reasons why.

None of the residents said they told CHA or anyone else they wanted to move during the August inspections. And only three residents of both buildings said they wanted to move since being told they would have to at a Sept. 28 community meeting.

Each 3-story building has 18 units and a boiler room. At the time of this report, there were 4 unoccupied units in 3863 S. Cottage Grove and 3 unoccupied units at 820 S. Pershing Road.



Madden Park residents feasting together at the "New Beginnings" Thanksgiving Day Luncheon on Nov. 18.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

Bailey referred to the resident who occupies the first floor apartment of 3863 S. Cottage Grove, where a car struck the building a few years ago, as being a resident who requested to move during the August inspections.

But Brenda Williams, who occupies that first-floor apartment, said she never told any CHA official touring the development in August that she wanted to move.

"They told me I had to move. They told me to pack and I haven't heard from them since," said Williams.

Since being told she had to move, Williams said she wants to move because of the unit's conditions.

"I can't live like this," Williams said on Dec. 9 as she, her son Antwain and a niece were sweeping out water from a backed up toilet that flooded her apartment.

"The cracks (from the car that crashed into the side of the building) are starting to spread."

A woman from the 820 S. Pershing Road building, who requested to remain anonymous, said that although she never told CHA she wanted to move in August, she was now ready.

"I want to move," she said.

Diane Scott, a resident of 3863 S. Cottage Grove, said: "I didn't tell housing anything."

Scott said that she wouldn't have requested to move in the winter, especially since her son is an asthmatic.

"Why would I ask to move in the winter time? I don't have time to move him in the cold," she said.

The heating system at 3863 is such that some people may get heat while others don't. Scott said as long as heat was provided she would remain there.

"I told management, 'I hope my heat is on.'

"If I got some heat and the building doesn't fall down, then I guess I'll be here."

Cynthia Harris, also of 3863, said she never told CHA that she wanted to move as well. She said that CHA is trying to make it appear as though the residents requested the move.

(Continued on Page 9)

by Thomas L.
Merriweather

The subject of accessible transportation is a continuing issue which I have addressed in several editions of *RJ*.

The availability of needed transportation has been an ongoing problem for many years. I have been aware of the need for accessible transportation since my years as an employment and training specialist. I worked for the Illinois Bureau (now Department) of Employment Security from 1967-1974, the Chicago Urban League from 1974-1976 and the Woodlawn Organization (TWO) from 1976 - 1980. In each of those jobs, we developed comprehensive on-the-job type contracts with employers. Each contract had a transportation component as part of the supportive services in the contract.

Welfare-to-work programs continue to be faced with such problems and transportation aid is being sought to solve these problems. One such effort was the Transportation to Work bill, which passed in the Illinois House of Representatives in 1999 but failed in the state senate.

Transportation was not addressed in the recent national election. But it was addressed at the Nov. 17 meeting of Welfare and Family, a statewide coalition of human services providers, at the DePaul

Access Report

denied because of an error by a CTA official who is responsible for assessing my trip requests and providing what should be routine approval.

In addition to these issues, many new drivers have been hired. On a single day, Sunday, Nov. 12, I received pick-ups by two new drivers. The second driver, on the return trip, failed to properly secure my wheelchair within the vehicle and didn't secure the seatbelt, which could have resulted in a serious injury to me when he suddenly applied his brakes at an intersection. A lack of adequate training and/or a lack of competence of drivers, trip dispatchers and customer service representatives remain constant problems.

CTA is trying to reduce the rolls of patrons who use its paratransit Operations through a mandate of the Regional Transit Authority, the certifying agency. But CTA continues to fail to address the problems that exist in the fixed route busses and trains. These problems affect mostly seniors, whether they have obvious mobility impairments and use a wheelchair or a walker, or those with other disabilities.

Worst of all, nothing is being done to address the deplorable condition of pavements, streets and sidewalks that are

next morning.

There was only one period in my life, even as a professional, that I had regular access to an automobile. That was during



U.S. Vice President Al Gore shakes the hand of singer Stevie Wonder at a campaign appearance in Chicago this November at Daley Plaza. Other government officials cheer him on.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

the time when my late wife of 8 years was alive and the car was for her use because we had a child and she needed the vehicle for transportation.

I thrived on using public transportation and did most of my reading, much of my studying - both as an undergraduate and graduate student -

while riding the bus. As a teacher in the Chicago Public Schools from 1960-1966, I would grade papers on the bus. As a music instructor, I wrote a musical play in 1964 and other dramatic material from 1962-1965 for my junior high level students all while riding the bus. I was also working part-time at the Chicago Post Office after school and also taught in the after-school remedial reading program.

Thus, I did not have time to perform these special activities for my students at home. With my full teaching schedule, I could not perform these functions at school. I would write scripts and perform basic melodic composition and orchestrations on the bus.

And even on those occasions when I did not have a seat and had to stand on a crowded bus or train, I still was able to use

the travel time efficiently in doing memory exercises or engaging in conversation with other riders who were coworkers, fellow students friends, etc.

During my years with lyric opera or as a concert artist and entertainer, I would go over mentally the music and lyrics of required repertoire. When I first began to

These problems affect mostly seniors, whether they have obvious mobility impairments and use a wheelchair or a walker, or those with other disabilities.

Egan Center, 234 S. Wabash Ave. Transportation also came up in the comments of keynote speaker Cornelia Grumman of the *Chicago Tribune* editorial board.

I've written extensively about the problems of the door-to-door special Services of the Chicago Transit Authority's (CTA) Paratransit Operations. The problems I've cited in earlier articles continue to exist. If anything, conditions have become worse.

In a period of less than one week in November, I was confronted with more instances of poor service. Customer service representatives of Cook-DuPage Transportation (CDT), the carrier I use, failed to give their names even after being asked. A trip reservation was not accurately entered in the computer. And a trip was

afflicted with severe erosion, poorly constructed surfaces, missing, poorly constructed or crumbling curb cuts. This is the situation in widespread existence in this, "the most accessible city in the world," to quote Mayor Richard M. Daley in a statement released on Nov. 6, on the death of Larry Gorski, director of Mayor's office for people with disabilities.

To sight my use of CTA fixed route busses and trains, I was born and grew up in Chicago and used CTA and its predecessor companies all of my life before I became a person with a disability in the spring of 1993. I rode a CTA fixed route bus for the last time on Sunday, April 18, 1993. The next afternoon, I was rushed to the emergency room at Mercy Hospital and was admitted for nearly 3 months of initial hospitalization at about 1a.m. the

bursting caused by the radiators not being bled.

"If they go down in that basement, let that water run out, insulate and wrap those pipes, they will not burst," she said.

"That's what's going to get us this winter if they do not bleed these radiators."

In December, I called McCormick and Baron area manager McClinton Nunn several times informing him of the sound of water rushing though the radiators. I told him I've lived there three years and never heard the sound before and informed him that others were hearing the sound as well. On one occasion, he said he had "emergencies" to deal with at the Ida B. Wells development and that he couldn't spare staff to go to Madden Park.

Finally, Nunn said he would send someone out. But the sound continued.

I also called the Madden Park management office to have someone check out the situation. A woman answering the phone said she would send someone to check it out.

As of this report, the sound of water rushing through the radiators can still be heard.

Relocation Update

(Continued from Page 8)

"No. And it doesn't look like the building is falling down to me. They know what they're doing.

They are trying to switch it and make it seem like we said we're ready to go, like we're ready to move because of the conditions of the building. But we never even knew the conditions of the building. So how are we going to go down and ask to move?"

These residents were worried because they did not see replacement housing on site and have heard that units available for the Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) are scarce.

These residents were worried by the sound of rushing water in the walls. To them, that sound meant that pipes have not been bled; and unbled pipes might freeze and break.

Harris speculated that if the residents had to move during the winter months, it would be because of pipes

Miscommunication or Disorganization?

I asked Tom Finerty, a consultant to the Central Advisory Council (CAC) - which consists of elected resident representatives - to speculate why CHA changed their minds on closing the two Madden Park buildings by Dec. 15.

"They had to back off," Finerty said. "They didn't have a court order to close the buildings down."

Finerty said the situation regarding the Madden Park buildings was typical of how these matters are being handled at CHA. Finerty referred to CHA Operations Chief Bailey's lack of knowledge that the management company had declared an emergency without informing him.

"It was just another case of one arm that wasn't talking to the other," Finerty said.

During the time of this interview, Finerty said the CAC was hiring a pool of architects and planners to do independent assessments of CHA building conditions to prevent this situation from happening in the future.

The Circle of Friends

by Jacqueline Thompson

For the people who live in Harold L. Ickes Homes, Thanksgiving 2000 was a reward for the hard work and caring for the true Circle of Friends who never forget the needy among them.

It is true that everyone does not need a healthy, hot, full meal given to them but the facts are that there are many, many people who do. There are many families who would include the less fortunate at their dinner tables. However, they may be able to just barely feed themselves.

Giving thanks in the traditional and most fulfilling way could not be done without the

food items. Turkey, dressing and gravy, ham, sweet potatoes, macaroni and cheese, greens, spaghetti, potato salad, hot rolls, cranberry sauce, apple pie, angel food cake and soda pop.

Chris Carter, a Circle member, opened the doors to the Bernard Gentry Center, where space was provided by the Local Advisory Council (LAC), at about 10:30 a.m. From then on, the flow of happenings moved swiftly.

Pam Wright, Donald Hollins and Carter laid out pumpkin pie,



Apostle H.D. Wilson (middle) spends some time with two guests during the Circle of Friends Thanksgiving celebration at Harold Ickes on Nov. 23.

Photo by Jacqueline Thompson

dedicated workers was satisfied as the hungry came out in a steady stream to receive spiritual and physical nourishment.

Ella Jordan of the New Members Ministries of Valley Kingdom Ministries and Apostle Wilson took their willingness to become involved to another step. They not only brought food and hands-on spiritual stimulation but they also brought eight young people who got first hand experience in giving to the community.

The love and attention that these young people exhibited is a testimony to their church and their sponsors. They were truly appreciated as they saw to it that the 75 to 100 or more guests were well taken care of.

A few residents were eager to express themselves in kind words, especially Charles Perry, who has two children and whose wife is away.

RJ: Did you want to say something about this experience?

C.P.: It's a blessing. Many people don't realize there are a lot of different reasons people can't have a dinner at home, including temporary homelessness.

RJ: Will your wife be coming to dinner?

C.P.: No. Just myself and Isaiha. I have a beautiful wife who is away and should be home soon. All this helps me out very much.

Val Young: I was going to help a friend and another friend stopped me and told me to come over here to eat. I told him I was still going where my other friend was and get him to come hear the word and get something to eat, too.

Doris Morgan: I remember from last year how wonderful things were and so I brought my son, Jamal Simms, with me to enjoy the food and the word.

Carl Jordan: I am thankful to all the people and the Lord for the food. They threw down.

I spoke to Donald Hollins and asked him about the people we contacted:

RJ: How many do you think we reached?

D.H.: I'm sure we reached at least 30 to 40 so-called squatters. But I enjoy helping out the people who need it. I like going out and getting the people.

We even were about to find one person who literally lives out of doors under a nearby viaduct. I sincerely hope that next year, the Circle of Friends will still be intact so that our community can come alive with friendship, caring, spirituality and love.

I am thankful to all the people and the Lord for the food. They threw down.

-Carl Jordan, commenting on the meal

inclusion of members from the Valley Kingdom Ministries International. In the first year of the birth of the "Circle of Friends," they provided a third of the food, manpower and, of course, 90 percent of the open spiritual activities.

This year, Valley Kingdom Ministries International provided 200 individual turkey dinners that consisted of 13 different

sweet potato pie, strawberry cheese, lemon, raspberry and plain iced bunt cakes that were supplied by our property managers under the direction of Debra Mallory. These goodies included five cases of assorted cold drinks, paper products such as cups, dessert plates, eating utensils and mixed nuts in the shell.

Even though Apostle H.D.

who is a resident janitor, took to the streets and literally went from building to building. We knocked on the doors of the unfortunate squatters who would otherwise be left out in the cold without the benefit of a blessed meal, lovingly prepared just for persons in their particularly fragile circumstances.

Once we began to spread the word, the fulfillment of the

"It was an uphill battle with different people. Power playing with people's lives."

Patton said she appreciated the efforts of the JCUA and Empowerment Zone officials who spoke to CHAC and Brinshore on the families' behalf.

"I'm thankful for Teri and Brian for saying, 'Well, I'm not CHA so will you work with me?'" she said.

Stereotypes

CHA residents moving into private housing units experience not only difficulty in finding housing but often come in contact with people who perceive them as "trouble makers."

For some of the families, the move into Prairie Park was not a smooth transition.

Patton said one day, while she and other members of the Stay Together group were looking over the Prairie Park complex, a construction worker told them they should reconsider moving in because "some project people" were moving there.

The Developer's Comments

Some landlords don't like the idea of renting to one CHA family, not to mention multiple families.

At the "Changing Chicago" conference, Peter Levavi, vice president of Brinshore Development, said that just

because people may come from CHA does not play a part in Brinshore's decision to rent units.

"People that are public housing residents are renters," said Levavi.

He expressed having no concerns about renting to the 10 families.

"What is of interest to me is do they pass my screening criteria. If they have a good housekeeping record, do they have good credit? And if they do, that's all I'm interested in. And by law, that's all anyone should be interested in," Levavi said.

Moving Woes

Over the years, residents being moved by companies that CHA contracts with during the relocation process have complained of damaged or missing items.

CHA residents often suffer the loss of their belongings in the process of being moved during relocation and receive little or no reimbursement for them, according to members of the Stay Together group and others.

Residents being moved from the Robert Taylor development this year told **RJ** that people who cannot provide CHA with a receipt showing the proof of purchase for the damaged or missing items suffer not only the loss of their belongings but receive no payment to replace them.

The residents said that the damaged or missing items are sometimes things that

they have had for a period of time and that they no longer have the receipts.

For the Martins, two related families in the Stay Together group, moving day thrills were shattered by a dispute with a member of the moving crew.

RJ was interviewing Patricia Martin at the time she was being moved. Suddenly, one of the movers alleged that he saw someone - not one of his coworkers - running off with a white microwave oven.

That crew member then decided that he wanted to stop working rather than be accused of stealing the microwave. The move resumed a short time later.

Patricia later informed me that the microwave oven was indeed missing along with other items.

At a Section 8 focus group on Sept. 27, Thelma Martin told me CHA paid a meager amount for the missing items after receiving the damage claim documents she filled out.

When the movers were moving her belongings into her new apartment, Martin said she told the mover he was handling her furniture improperly. Martin said the mover then made a wise crack and an argument ensued.

I made several attempts to inquire from CHA officials as to what the movers' responsibilities are and what procedures they are required to follow.

I never got an answer.

Who Season of Giving

by Michael Ibrahim

While recently listening to a radio report, I heard one of the most heartfelt reports of the year.

I was very gratified to hear that the new, democratically elected president of Mexico, Vincente Fox, pledged the full implementation of civil rights for all citizens of his country. Next, Fox arranged to sit down to enjoy a grand and extraordinary communal breakfast with hundreds of homeless street people - mostly children.

The Mexican people have never had a president so committed to helping the poor and an act of this kind reflects the holiday spirit in a practical way.

This news report also served to remind me that on the turn of a New Millennium - beginning in December 2000 - three of the world's great religions will celebrate holidays.

Most people are aware that since the Christian holidays are

the world have already booked flights and reservations at least a year in advance in order to join with the Hindus on this auspicious occasion.

Like the Roman Catholic Mexican president's act, each of these religions has service and social responsibility at the center of their holidays. By reviewing each of these religious holidays, I want to share with you how every culture values giving.

"Compassion in Action" is the motto of the Catholic Charities. I interviewed Maureen Rodgers, director of media relations for the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Rodgers cited a statement from Pedro Martinez, director of financial services for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago: "For the last 12 months ending June 30, 2000, Catholic Charities' fund-raising revenues are higher than the prior year," Martinez stated.

"We saw an increase in our



Abdul Karim, past president of the Ahmadiya at Community of Metro Chicago.

Photo by Michael Ibrahim

an organization go up accordingly, the organization can't provide the services that they have in the past and our supporters have been quite receptive to that message. "I think if you ask people who rely on charitable giving, the key is asking people. And the better able you are to tell your story in an effective and sincere way, it is up to people to decide if they want to respond.

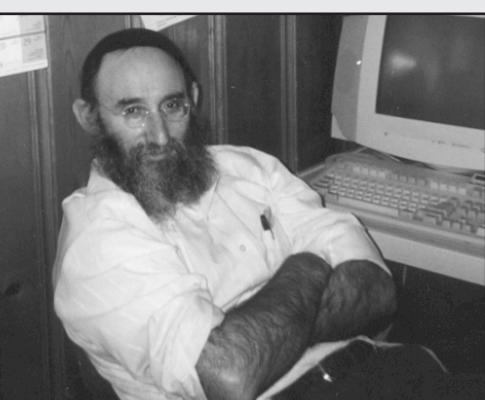
"We have been able to tell our story and invite

people to help us provide the services that we do and they have been very responsive. What we are asking people to do is make an investment,

large or small, and if we can show a return on that investment, in terms of serving the people, and we are appealing to service-minded people, then they can see that their giving is going to be put to good use. "People expect some degree of professionalism and there are a lot of not-for-profit agencies that are doing a lot of good work and it is tough to rise above and get people's attention unless you do it in a professional and compelling way."

I was able to interview two Muslim sources, Mr. and Mrs. Abdul Karim of the Ahmadiyyah Muslim Community and also Ayesha K. Mustafaa from the Muslim American Society and editor of their leading publication, *The Muslim Journal*.

Concerning the charitable activities of the Muslim American Society, headed by Imam W.D. Mohammed, I spoke with Ayesha K. Mustafaa: "During the month of Ramadan, there is a monetary charity collected that is to be solely dis-



Yochanan Nathan, a Jewish Sofer or Scribe.

Photo by Michael Ibrahim

tributed to the poor. It is earmarked for that purpose.

"At the same time, there is food distributed at the end of Ramadan. We have the Feast. It is like a celebration of the month-long fast and most centers and facilities will offer the Feast, the food, free of charge to the community and, also in the

spirit of giving, participate in any feeding of the poor at existing shelters.

"That is one thing that has been built in for our community for this month. We have the United Eid Committee. One of the aspects of the month is to have the youth go out and help at the shelters in serving meals to the poor.

"In the month of Ramadan, while fasting, you are supposed to live on the level of poverty. You are not supposed to eat expensive foods in breaking our fast, even to the point so that you are supposed to consume what is considered by some to be the poor man's meal. When you come off your fast at sunset, you should not go and get a filet mignon.

"There are three locations where we will be celebrating the Communal Eid Feasts this year. One location is 4545 S. Western Ave., which will be celebrated on the first day at the Taqwa Islam Center.

"And on the second day, the Feast will be celebrated at the Ephraim Bahar Center, 2525 W. 71st St. The third location where the Feast will be held on the third day is at the Harvey Islamic Center, 169 E. 154th St."

Mr. And Mrs. Abdul Karim responded to inquiries I had about their organization as follows:

"Muslims are taught that they are supposed to help humanity regardless of race, creed or color. In fact, whoever is in need.

"However, our community, the Ahmadiyyat Community in Islam, though we are a diverse group of people in the metropolitan area of Chicago, we number about 600 people. Of this total, many are women and children, obviously not heads of their own households.

"At any rate, the system set up so all those who earn income are expected to donate 1/16th of their total income to be utilized in the service of the needy. Those funds are collected by a certain office set up to do so. And from that charity, anyone can request assistance.

Customarily, we do not go out into various communities with an outreach program because I really do not feel we could afford to, even with \$1,000 per month on a regular basis.

"But whenever there is a request for help, we try to help them relative to

our limited means to do so, according to our budget.

"And also, when we learn of any need, we send the word out so that members of our community could be made aware of the situation, allowing them to be able to contribute according to their means as individuals.

"We also have within our community subsidiary associations and organizations. These religious associations or groups are classified primarily by age and gender.

Lajna Imaullah is a religious group within our community consisting entirely of women. We also have an all-male organization which is referred to by the name of Khudamul Ahmadiyyat. This group consists of males from the ages of 15 to 39.

Caroline Brennan, a spokesperson for the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, that contributions over the past year have increased remarkably. This she feels is due primarily to the conflict occurring presently in the Middle East. She said that the target for last year was \$61 million and already they have approached their \$65 million for this goal.

Brennan said the increased response from the Jewish community represented the genuine feeling of solidarity that the Jewish people feel for their brothers and sisters in Israel.

The lighting of the Menorah at the Jewish festival of Chanukah is second only to the Passover Seder in popularity with Jews born and raised in America.

The lighting of the Menorah at Chanukah is a religious duty for Jews. But there are many other customs related to the festival of Chanukah. There is the preparation of special fried food delicacies. The manner of their preparation vary according to family traditions, depending on whether you follow Ashkenazic customs of Eastern Europe or those customs related to the Sephardim, Jews of the Middle East, Spain and North Africa.

Next there is the playing of the Dreidle, a kind of spinning top, and also the Pushka. The Pushka is a box provided by the parents which encourages young people to empathize with those less fortunate than themselves. The purpose of the Pushka is specifically to teach the lesson of charitable giving while you are still young.

The wonderful custom of Chanukah Gelt further serves to break down barriers to true human sensitivity by encouraging each Jew to extend small but significant expressions of human affection to those on a par with one's self.

Such practices of giving are capable of neutralizing real or imagined feelings of enmity or animosity, jealousy and the like, possibly that one may have experienced the preceding months.

Over-all each persons holiday teaches us to be more of a Mensch. Give, Give, Give. And that sometimes it is more blessed to give

Give, Give, Give. And that sometimes it is more blessed to give than to receive.

based on a solar calendar calculation, Christmas comes at the same time every year, that is to say on Dec. 25.

On the other hand, Jews make use of a system involving both solar and lunar calculations. This year, Chanukah will begin precisely on Dec. 21 and end on Dec. 29.

Muslims are compelled to follow a rigidly constructed lunar system. Muslim religious scholars in each locale around the globe determine when religious holidays will be celebrated. The sacred month of Ramadan began late in November and the last three days of Ramadan - which are marked by festivities - will begin on or around Dec. 29.

I was recently reminded that Hinduism will also enjoy festivities very close to December. The holiday known as the Mahaa Khumba Mela occurs every 12 years, when three or more millions of Hindu monks converge at the confluence of the sacred Ganges and Yamuna rivers for high purification and sanctification rituals in the city of Allahabad, India.

Once every 144 years, heralded by the same stellar positions which occur every 12 years, Hindus old and young converge by the multiple millions from all over India at Allahabad in order to experience spiritual purification and divine mercy at a special Mahaa Khumba Mella.

On Jan. 5, at the actual beginning of the New Millennium, our Hindu brothers will celebrate this once-in-144-years event for three weeks. Many Americans, Europeans and others from around

events as well as in our

fund-raising appeals, with increases coming from individuals, foundations and corporations. We used that increase to expand our emergency services (food, clothing and shelter for people who need help immediately).

"In general, we continue to subsidize our programs more because we are not getting sufficient funding from our government sources.

"While it's too early to tell in the current fiscal year whether this trend will continue, it appears favorable; but our need has not decreased."

Joseph Murphy of Lutheran Child and Family Services told me his perception was that there has been a decidedly marked increase in charitable giving over the past 10 years as this relates to his organization.

"I think with any organization's supporters, the better job of educating an organization can do, the more responsive people will be. If you can convey that costs for not-for-profit organizations go up, just like they go up for a household, people realize

that donations need to go up accordingly.

"I think it is up to organizations to educate their supporters. Just like the cost of living for a household goes up, the cost of doing business for an organization goes up. Unless contributions for

M.L. King's Legacy

by Lorenzia Shelby

A noted African American professor is bringing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. into the 21st Century.

DePaul University professor Michael Eric Dyson recently spoke about his efforts to keep Dr. King's legacy alive at the Chicago Humanities Festival XI, which took place Nov. 2-12.

The theme for this year's Festival was "Now!" The Festival is a collaborative annual event sponsored by the city's leading cultural educational institutions. "No other American city can boast of a celebration quite like the Chicago Humanities Festival," according to a press release from the festival.

The Festival's 150 performances, lectures, discussions and concerts are held at 24 of Chicago's most prestigious cultural, educational and civic institutions, including Symphony Center, the Field Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Historical Society, the Newberry Library and St. James Cathedral.

Eileen Mackevich, the president and executive producer of the Chicago Humanities Festival XI, wrote in the program guide, "We chose this year's theme 'Now!' in a spirit of celebration. We would toast the great achievers and great achievements of humanities and in doing so, come to better understand the state of the arts and sciences.

"To begin, we asked art artists, intellectuals and scientists at the top of their fields to show us the great innovators and accomplishments of history."

One of those intellectuals is Michael Eric Dyson. He describes himself as a "hip-hop intellectual, noted author, political activist, ordained Baptist and cultural critic." Dyson spoke about the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Nov. 4 at St. James Cathedral.

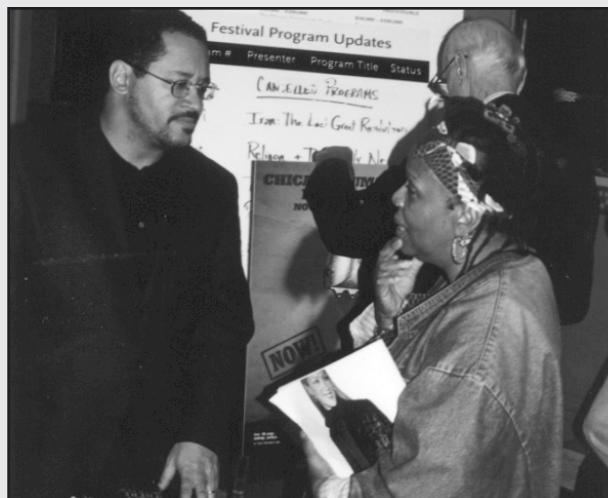
Having received his Ph.D. in religion from Princeton University, Dyson has taught at a number of colleges and universities, including Hartford Seminary, the Chicago Theological Seminary, Brown University, the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill) and Columbia University in New York. He has maintained a strong intellectual presence as an ordained Baptist minister preaching throughout the United States. He has written eight books.

Dyson is the author of the recent biography, "I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King Jr." In his book, Dyson writes that he was first introduced to Dr. King on April 4, 1968, while watching television. He doesn't remember what TV show he was viewing but he did remember a special bulletin interrupting the program. The newsman said, "Martin Luther King Jr. has been assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., at 39 years old." The newsman said Dr. King had been fatally wounded. They immediately began playing the speech he had delivered the night before in Memphis, Tenn. Dyson was nine years old.

In Sunday school, he had heard about the 'Promised Land' but it never received the kind of response in church the way King's audience erupted in cheers and verbal support.

In his book, "I May Not Get There With You," Dyson writes: "Before that April night that changed my life, I had never heard King's name, had never heard of Memphis. But in the split second it took for King to enter my consciousness, he quickly dominated my thoughts."

Dyson became a student in the studies of Dr. King. Judging from what he has written and the speech-



Professor Michael Eric Dyson discusses his book, "I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King Jr." at St. James Cathedral during Chicago Humanities Festival XI.

Photo by Lorenzia Shelby

es he has made about Dr. King, Dyson not only has a Ph.D. in religion. He also has a Ph.D. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dyson is a dynamic speaker himself. His stage pres-

Professor Michael Eric Dyson not only has a Ph.D. in religion. He also has a Ph.D. in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

ence, his poise, his elocution and the resonance of his baritone voice put him in the same classification as Dr. King.

In his speech, Dyson lifted one of King's golden phrases: "I have a dream: My four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Dyson continued, "Of the hundreds of thousands of words that King spoke, few others have had more impact than these 34, uttered when he was 34 years old."

In Dyson's book, "I May Not Get There With You," he writes about how – as a nine year boy - he saved his money from odd jobs and sent away for a 45 rpm record containing excerpts from Dr. King's greatest speeches. Since he first heard about Dr. King the evening he was murdered, Dyson said he wanted to know more about the man.

"His recorded speeches had great impact on me, hearing the passionate words that King delivered as much as a decade earlier didn't at all diminish their powerful hold on my youthful imagination. I listened to the speeches over

and over until his words were scorched into my brain," Dyson writes.

"'I have a dream' made the top 10 list. King's towering oration shines alongside the essays of Jonathan Swift, Thomas Jefferson and E.B. White." Dyson spoke of King being the "most significant and the greatest American ever produced in the history of this nation. One may argue, 'What about Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln, who captured the national imagination while holding public office?' King helped redefine our country's destiny as a private citizen in a remarkable career that lasted a mere 13 years."

Dyson said, "King was viewed in many quarters of white America as a trouble-making, glory-seeking, self-promoting preacher whose racial opportunism was a plague on Black and white relations. The last thing they needed was for some Yankee-educated Black preacher with high-falutin' words to threaten the segregated social contract of the South."

Dyson talked about the Black militancy that started in the late '60s, the emergence of Stokely Carmichael and Malcolm X.

"King was seen as the humble, non-violent messenger of integration," Dyson said. "King was suddenly crowned the Negro of choice within the white press. Then, King criticized the American government for its involvement in the Vietnam War. The Southern whites stopped supporting

King with financial help. In 1967, King's name was lifted off the gallop poll list of the 10 most admired Americans."

Dyson spoke of Coretta Scott King suing Boston University in 1987 for the return of her husband's personal papers and the charge that King's family was commercializing the fallen leader's image.

Dyson talked about King's moving into a Chicago slum for a run at "Yankee apartheid. He was hit in the head with a rock as he led a march for open housing in Marquette Park, Chicago's most notoriously racist community."

In his book, Dyson wrote, "King's open housing marches in Chicago were greeted with what he said was the most hostile and hateful demonstration of white racism he had ever witnessed, more violent than Selma or Birmingham. King said Northern whites practiced psychological and spiritual genocide."

In bringing his presentation to a close, Dyson said, "Martin Luther King Jr. gave money and time to the movement. In his fight for equality, he gave his greatest possession. He gave his life."

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Hank Crawford The Bebop Man

by Arminta Clark Muhammad

Jazz has been labeled America's classical music. Jazz and its forefather, the blues, are the first indigenous American music forms. Jazz is considered unpredictable, crazy, a risky venture into improvisation that the blues lacks.

Jazz is $\frac{3}{4}$ blues. Jazz was dance music, performed by swing big bands. Later, the dance element faded into the background and improvisation became the key element of the music.

Hank Crawford, like so many other jazz artists, put the dance element back into the music. As Duke Ellington said, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing."

One of Crawford's danceable numbers is "Centerpiece," recorded in 1978 on the Buddah label. Crawford has released two CDs this year: "World of Hank Crawford" on the Milestone label has received the highest marks from international jazz critics. "Low Flame, High Heat" on Label M also has received rave reviews. Crawford has recorded 39 albums over the years.

Crawford, AKA Bennie Ross Crawford Jr., was born Dec. 21, 1934, in Memphis, Tenn. Crawford considers himself strictly a bebop jazz musician.

During an **RJ** telephone interview, Crawford said, "I study people like Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie 'Bird' Parker, Duke Ellington and many others."

Crawford added that he's strictly a traditional jazz player. "As far as the new style jazz," Crawford explained, "it's not for me. I am not too much of what you call a free style jazz player. I stick mostly to the roots of jazz, which is most important."

Crawford opened this year at Chicago's 22nd Annual Jazz Festival in Grant Park. The concert is always free to the public and usually lasts a week.

When Crawford comes to Chicago, he usually plays at the Jazz Showcase, a famous downtown club. But Crawford was known to play at many locations in the city: places like the Emerald Room on 69th Street and Emerald Avenue during the '60s, the Toast of the Town Lounge on 71st Street and Stony Island Avenue and at the many different addresses the Jazz Showcase has had over the years.

Crawford is definitely making his mark in the jazz arena. Crawford starting playing the saxophone when he was a freshman in high school. The piano was the very first instrument he was introduced to.

"I started playing the piano in the eighth grade," Crawford said. "The piano and the saxophone were the two main instruments that were in our home as a child. My father was a jazz musician."

During his high school years, Crawford played in the school marching band. At Tennessee State College, he was in the marching band and also the big band and played at all the school dances.

Crawford came to consider the piano "obsolete."

He explained, "It was too big and no one was using it in the marching bands in schools. So that left the saxophone."

Crawford admitted he played the tenor and baritone saxophone through much of his career. Basically, today he pretty much plays the alto saxophone.

"The alto saxophone is considered sexy, especially by the tone of playing," said Crawford.

"It's like a voice in a choir. The alto saxophone is more in the line of a soprano singer."

Crawford admitted he prefers and enjoys playing the alto saxophone.

"The tenor and baritone have a more heavier sound," Crawford said.

"Playing sweet, sexy, romantic type and danceable music is much more preferable."

Crawford believes that by "keeping it simple and not complex, the audience enjoys it much more."

After leaving Tennessee State College in Nashville, Crawford auditioned for the Ray Charles Band and was accepted. Being one of the original members in the Ray Charles Band enabled Crawford to experience world travel for the first time. Ray Charles had a great band, even though Charles is known for his singing.

After being in the band for two weeks, Crawford went on tour to Europe for two months.



Bebop Jazz Saxophonist Hank Crawford Jr.

Photo by Arminta Clark Muhammad

"This was a great experience," he said.

"My first time out of the country. Europe was tremendous. It became a learning and teaching experience for myself."

During his European tour, Crawford witnessed that people there have great respect for jazz musicians and their music.

"Jazz is considered like classical music there," he said.

It's very important to play music you can dance to, tap your feet to it, snap your fingers at.

-Bebop Jazz Musician Hank Crawford

Crawford was 24. Crawford saw that Europeans conceive of jazz as sensual music. Most African American musicians tend to go to Europe during the summer months because of all the jazz festivals. This is a rare opportunity for many Africans Americans to go to different countries. African American musicians and entertainers often report they are treated like kings and queens there.

Crawford saw that people from other countries are fascinated by jazz music, especially if you are an African American musician.

"They will take you home and introduce you to their families," Crawford said. "(They will) tell you about different jazz artists' histories, like Duke Ellington or Count Basie. They know when they were born, what type of instrument they played, their songs. They study jazz music like it is classical music."

Crawford said when he was going to school, he had to study classical music. But when he went to Europe, Crawford said he found that Europeans study jazz musicians the way Americans study classical musicians.

"We studied Mozart, Beethoven, Bach and the history of the music. (Europeans) ask questions like 'Do you know Charlie Parker, or the Duke?' Anyone they can think of, whereas in America, musicians are taken for granted. You can see them on the streets, playing in clubs and concerts."

"(Seeing jazz artists) is more prevalent here. You see them every day. In Europe and in other countries, they don't have it there. So when entertainers come, they're really overwhelmed."

Crawford gained his fame in the Ray Charles Band, his very first big gig, from 1959-1969. Even today, Crawford said his experience with the Ray Charles Band remains his most memorable.

Jazz aficionados know that Ray Charles is considered a task master and Crawford was later Charles' musical director. Crawford said his stint with the Ray Charles Band was the longest he ever stayed with an artist.

Crawford had something that most musicians didn't at that time; he knew how to read and instruct, which was rare among jazz artists. Crawford was not only a good blues musician but an excellent jazz musician as well.

To come from being with an artist like Ray Charles gave

one impeccable credentials. During his earlier career in the South, Crawford played with such legends as Ike Turner, Bobby "Blue" Bland and B.B. King. They were from Memphis, too.

Crawford has played the blues, jazz, R&B and gospel. Most musicians that start out play all these varieties.

Crawford said he is looking forward to releasing a full gospel recording soon. He has recorded at least nine gospel tunes all on different albums, tunes like "Precious Lord" by Tommy Dorsey, "Deep River," "Amazing Grace" and the African American National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice (and Sing)."

Crawford's greatest contribution to music has been his soulful sound. Richard Steele, a nationally known radio deejay from WBEZ 91.5, said, "Crawford has a funky soulful sound to his playing."

Most deejays across the board are in agreement regarding his sound and style as a jazz artist. During 1959-1969, Crawford recorded a series of soul jazz albums for the Atlantic label that made his reputation wide spread. Later, Crawford teamed up with jazz greats like David "Fathead" Newman, Jimmy McGriff, Jack McGruff, Melvin Sparks, Milt Turner and many others.

One of the jazz geniuses of all time is Miles Davis.

Crawford said, "Miles was a romantic and played romantic type music like myself. Miles never tried to play over your head," said Crawford.

"Miles was an original. He had his own sound that he established that was made traditional. It was very simple and nothing complex. Everything that Miles played, you could understand it."

"Even if you weren't a musician, just an average person, you could understand the music. That's very important in the business."

"When you play things too complex, no one understands you but another musician. That's what made Miles different as an artist. The music he played was unique. Any artist that plays that way - where anyone can understand your music without being a musician."

Crawford's music is definitely that way. There's no way to misunderstand it.

Crawford said, "It's very important to play music you can dance to, tap your feet to it, snap your fingers at. People enjoy that. Otherwise it's boring if they don't have the knowledge of the instrument you are playing."

Crawford's advice to aspiring jazz musicians is that you have to be prepared.

"The music business is a very competitive," he said. "You have got to study. To be able to fit in all markets in this industry. One has to be able to know your instrument well enough to play all types of music if you are called on to do it."

"Be prepared to study all music from classical to jazz. If you are going to be a performer, it's mandatory that you study all forms of the music." Some of Crawford's influences were jazz greats like Chicagoan Gene "Jug" Ammons, Cannonball Adderley, and Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie and Louis Jordan.

"I listen and study them all from the Bebop era," Crawford said. "Doing this enables me to apply what I do naturally from studying these giants. In this decade, we have lost many great jazz contributors." Just this year, the following jazz artists died, including Stanley Turrentine, Tito Puente, Sarah Vaughan, Betty Carter, Grover Washington Jr., Fred Hopkins (a Chicagoan) and Clifford Jordan. The list is impressive.

Crawford considers the late Grover Washington Jr. to be a prominent jazz legend.

"I admired and respected him," Crawford said. "We were good friends. He was a good person. Washington had his own sound and was also a successful artist."

Crawford said Washington was one of the artists that he regretted not recording with.

"It would have been great," Crawford said. "We did work together on several times on studio sessions with other musicians. Washington would be one of the most modern jazz artists that I would listen to today."

Unfortunately, African Americans jazz artists are still underpaid and under-recognized. They are often ignored.

"Some of us manage to break through but on the whole, it's very limited."

Hank Crawford is truly an unsung hero still going strong in the new millennium.

Safe Parties for Youths

by Beauty Turner

I'll bet you have gone outside late at night and I can almost guarantee you have seen numerous youths under 21 hanging out, standing in doorways, in front of stores, or even in late-night open restaurants.

Many people believe this situation is a breeding ground for trouble for many of these youths, trouble such as drugs, gangs or just being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

At a time when many social programs are closing down, a young lady by the name of Angela Lanell saw a great need to start a non-profit organization called Under 21 Entertainment. Lanell felt that our youths hanging outside with no place to go is a big social problem. As someone who loves children, Lanell started her own organization that has parties for youths from 17 to 20.



The Looney Bins, a rap group from Ida B. Wells, perform at a recent Safe Day party.

Photo by Beauty Turner

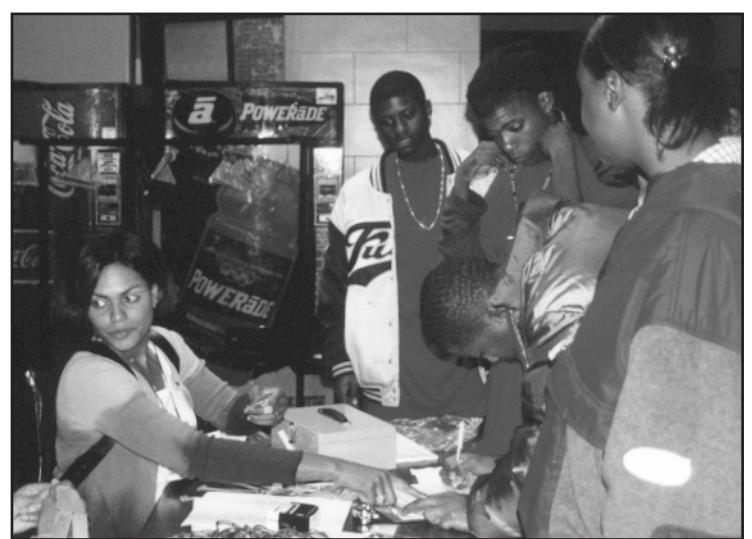
Lanell said, "I used to host adults parties but I feel that adults always have somewhere to go and something to do. As you well know, there are not many things or many places for youths to go.

"So that's why I started safe day parties. In these types of parties, there's no liquor served, only hot dogs and pop. But I did add a bit of a twist to the safe day parties. At these parties, there's always a concert with high-profile entertainers such as well-known rappers like Twista.

"In the future, our organization plans on having many more well-known artists to grace our stage. It's where a mother can feel safe to bring her child or have her child come to and she can leave that child there and feel secure that her child is in a safe environment and the only thing that that child is going to have here is fun."

Lanell's organization also features local artists such as the Looney Bins, a local rap group whose raps roll off their tongues like the sweet taste of gum. The Looney Bins, who are from the Ida B. Wells development, only spit out positive lyrics.

Under 21 Entertainment's events are sponsored by well-known establishments like BET Star Encore Movies and Halsted Studio and Graphics. Southwest Airlines gives Lanell's organization free airline tickets to anywhere in the USA and Lanell added a special attraction by raffling off the tickets in the safe day parties. The tickets give the low-income youths a chance to travel farther than their imagination or their own back



Angela Lanell of Under 21 Entertainment signing up young people at a recent Safe Day party.

Photo by Beauty Turner

yards. They can actually go to different places that most of them dream about.

Many of the youths that attended Lanell's safe day parties are happy that somebody cares about them.

Two young ladies from Hirsch High School, both seniors, said almost in harmony, "Angela is like an angel. She is God-sent. We wish that it was more adults like her!"

I asked Lanell about her next move?

"I plan on starting a car wash and only hiring 17-to-20-year olds," she said.

"I will do that so that they can stay away from negative influence such as gangs and drugs, and legally make their own money."

KOREAN

Translation



Police Brutality by Adriane Stigler

I'm against police brutality. I have seen a lot of police brutality in my community. When I lived in the Robert Taylor Homes, I heard more about police committing crimes than where I live now. I live by the lakefront now.

Police brutality includes police officers framing people, police killing people, police selling drugs, and police harassing people.

In the last 11 months, four people have been killed by the police in and around the Robert Taylor Homes.

Many residents say Brandon Polk was killed under the building. Ronald Terry was shot in the back, allegedly while handcuffed. Eugene Guy allegedly was shot and left to bleed to death. Antione Thomas was shot in the head as he was coming up the stairs. Many residents believe all four victims were killed by police brutality.

I interviewed Commander Ernest Brown from the Police Department about police brutality.

RJ: "Should police officers who commit a crime go to jail?"

Brown: "Yes. Police officers who commit crimes are criminals. They should be treated like criminals."

RJ: "How do you feel about the Latanya

Youth Views



Haggerty shooting?" (Haggerty was shot to death last summer by police officers while driving. The officers thought her cell phone was a gun.)

Brown: "I wasn't there so I can't say anything. You probably know as much as I do."

RJ: "How do you feel about police brutality?"
Brown: "It's a terrible thing. It breaks the trust between the police department and the public."

RJ: "What is the cause of police brutality?"

Brown: "It's an individual act. It's not a group offense."

RJ: "Why are police officers allowed to break the laws?"

Brown: "Because some people trust the police to do the right thing."

I asked some Teen Reach participants, Jasmine Marshall, Veronica Williams and Antjuan Boswell, questions about police brutality.

RJ: "How do you feel about police brutality?"

Williams: "I feel police brutality is very unnecessary."

Marshall: "I feel that police brutality is bad because no one has the right to put his or her hands on anyone."

Boswell: "I feel police brutality is wrong. Some of them take their power too far."

RJ: "Are you against police brutality? Why?"

Williams: "Yes, I am against it because it is wrong and it causes people to die and get hurt. I strongly believe that it should be stopped."

Marshall: "Yes, I believe it's unnecessary. Innocent people get hurt."

Boswell: "Yes, they don't have the right to beat or hit anyone."

RJ: "Have you ever seen police brutality or experienced police brutality?"

Williams: "No, I have not."

Marshall: "I never saw it but my brother was assaulted by police officers and they hurt him badly."

Boswell: "Yes, I saw someone who was just walking down the street and they ran up on him and hit him and he crashed into a window."

RJ: "Have you ever heard about any of the people who suffered from police brutality?"

Williams: "Only Rodney King."

Marshall: "Yes, I heard about Rodney King. He was beaten because he's Black."

Boswell: "Yes."

RJ: "What do you think people can do to prevent police brutality?"

Williams: "Report all occurrences to the stations and have meetings to talk about the problems."

Marshall: "The people of the United States should stop picking these racist cops that beat on our African Americans."

Boswell: "I think it will never stop because they have too much power."

RJ: "Do you think there is racism by the police?"

Marshall: "Some are and some aren't because everybody has their differences. But mostly, yeah."

I interviewed a young man who has suffered from police brutality. DeMario Jones, 18, is a student at DuSable High School.

"I was involved in a situation with the police in school and I feel they handled my situation way out of proportion," Jones said. "They said I resisted arrest, which I didn't, and I was physically man-handled to the ground even though I wasn't struggling. I felt that the

police officers went way overboard in that case."

Jones said that he does not like the police.

"Honestly, I don't like some police officers who try to get tough with citizens because they have a badge and a gun. Some officers abuse their power."

Jones didn't want to say whether he had filed a complaint against the officers. He said he thinks police officers get away with brutality.

"I feel they do," he said. "They can get away with most of the dirt so they do. That's why they target young Black people because they know they can do whatever they want to us just because of the neighborhood we live in."

When I asked him if there is racism by the police, he said:

"To some degree there is. But racism has nothing to do with it some of the time because the Black officers do more dirt than white police officers."

Police brutality is common among today's society. Everyone has heard about the famous Rodney King beating. Another familiar name was Latanya Haggerty, who was killed when police mistakenly shot her. These are just a couple of names. Hundreds of innocent people have been killed by police officers. It has to stop. But the question is, when?

HIV/AIDS: Show No Fear by Jasmine Marshall

Did you know that thousands of people suffer from serious immune diseases every day? The most well-known and feared immune disease is HIV/AIDS. We fear the people who have this immune disease. My question is: "Why?" Well, I'm about to answer that.

HIV is a virus that attacks your immune system. It causes the disease called AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), which makes you unable to fight off infection and eventually leads to death.

When HIV enters your body, it kills and affects your CD4 cells. CD4 cells help your body fight off infections and diseases. AIDS happens when your CD4 cells are largely gone and unusable.

Can you imagine yourself in the position of the people with HIV or who have died of AIDS?

HIV is transmitted through unprotected sex as well as through

blood transfusions and shared needles. There are several ways you can protect yourself from HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.

Males, if you are sexually active, please wear a condom; it's for your own good. If you don't have a condom, please ask your partner to give you one.

Females, you should always have male condoms on you just in case the male needs a spare one. Also, female condoms are now available.

For males and females, please do not share hypodermic needles or engage in other practices that cause your blood to mix.

Doctors can also help you with questions about diseases and directions on how to stay healthy. If you're scared of asking adults you know about AIDS, you can ask a doctor or look for information on the Internet. You can go to the Web site for the National Institute of Health (www.NIHInfo@OD.NIH.GOV) or for Vida SIDA (www.vidasida.com), an AIDS prevention group based in Humboldt Park. That way you can get information anonymously without anyone else knowing.

I interviewed Clarissa Thomas, 38, and Erica Young, 13, about their opinions about HIV/AIDS.

RJ: "Do you think that people with

diseases should be separated from normal people?"

Thomas: "Of course not, unless they are infected with a disease that is airborne. If that's the case, they should be isolated."

Young: "No. Because people with diseases are normal people. But they should be if their diseases are catchable by breathing."

RJ: "Do you fear people with diseases?"

Thomas: "No, because people with diseases are really harmless."

Young: "Kind of, because I'm afraid to catch the disease and have to be sick all day like they are. They have to take down so many pills."

RJ: "Do you know anyone with HIV/AIDS?"

Thomas: "No."

Young: "No, I don't."

RJ: "Is HIV/AIDS going to be a curable disease further on down the line?"

Thomas: "I believe so, because a lot of people are constantly getting infected so someone someday is going to take control and find a cure."

Young: "I hope so, because I probably could catch it and I don't want to die like that."

RJ: "What do you know about HIV/AIDS?"

Thomas: "I know that HIV is not an airborne disease and we shouldn't fear it. Just be careful."

Young: "I know it can be caught

by sex, through blood and by sharing needles with people and it makes people's bodies very fragile."

I asked a nurse named Patricia Hicks some questions about the disease. When asked if people with AIDS should be treated differently than other people, she said, "No. All people should be treated as equal and holy, as human beings."

Hicks has a friend who is infected with HIV. And she does think there will be a cure for the disease.

"With the progression of medical research that there is now, we're getting closer to a preventive cure," she said.

She said education and knowledge are the best ways to prevent the disease, since "it can be easily sexually transmitted and it can be transmitted unknowingly."

I also interviewed a homeless person who said he "might be homeless, but I ain't no homeless fool."

I asked him what he knew about HIV/AIDS. He told me, "Many people fear AIDS because of what they hear."

Most people, including me, fear diseases like HIV. But I know that I shouldn't fear people with HIV and I know how to protect myself from HIV/AIDS.

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Teens: CHA Isn't Fair

by Desaray Moore

I think the Chicago Housing Authority is making a big mistake moving residents from 4444 S. State St. and 4410 S. State in Robert Taylor Homes to 4555 S. Federal St. and 4525 S. Federal, also in Robert Taylor. I hate this. What are they trying to do, kill us?

We will have war 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Everyone knows darn well that these two gangs don't get along, not one bit.

Either the CHA is making a big mistake or the gangs will join forces, which I doubt. Like one day out of the blue these two gangs will just jump up and say, "Hey, let's join forces and change our sign?"

That's never going to happen. The CHA might be putting innocent little children in dan-

ger.

The gangs shouldn't be moved into the same building as each other. They should be moved somewhere else. That would be the best decision. I hope the CHA knows what it's doing because I don't want to lose my life over someone else's mistakes.

I took some time to talk with the residents of these five buildings. One resident of 4555 S. Federal, Iesha Griffin, 13, said, "People will have to stay in their houses all day because of all the shooting."

Karen Young, 12, a resident of 4429 S. Federal, said, "There will also be more violence and more people dying. It will be so unsafe children won't even be able to go to school. The teachers won't even come."

Twanda White, 12, a resident of 4525 S. Federal, said, "It's a really big mistake because of the gangs. They are two different gangs. If they move in the same building together, there will be a lot of commotion. Too many people will be getting hurt. They might be shooting at the same time I have to go to school, so I can't get any information or get a good education."

Shanae Howard, 12, a resident of 4429 S. Federal, said she would feel very sad if there is violence because these buildings don't like each other. She thinks the CHA is making a big mistake. She said they are just putting us back in the projects in the wrong end of the neighborhood. Instead, she said, they should move people to houses far away from the projects.

The CHA should listen to the good sense of these four little girls. Twanda White is a scared little girl; she thinks she will die if this happens. No 12-year-old child should be afraid of dying.

If the CHA does do this, I think people will move out in an instant. I know I would. But it's not that easy. I have lived in the projects for almost 13 years, so I can't just up and leave. I know the people in 4410, 4444 and 4429 will feel the same way if the CHA was moving people from 4555 and 4525 to their buildings. There's enough shooting and wars going on already.

Problems like the shooting that will happen if the residents are moved wouldn't happen if adults were acting more responsibly. Adults

should be our role models but instead they are roughriders. If they're big in gangs and shooting guns, selling drugs and smoking blunts, they're a bad example. The children that are looking up to them think they should do the same thing. So instead of making the world better, they're making it even worse.

My role model is my grandmother. She's nice and she helps my little brother, my cousins and me. She can't help all the time because she had brain surgery. When she can't help them, I try to be the other side of her brain and teach them all I know. My granny encourages me to be what I want to be and not what other people want me to be. She tries her best to push me to a higher level and I love her for that.

So all the children who truly feel me, get up and tell your family to stop it. I'm just trying to let you know that you're not the only ones out there who feels this way. Now you know there is one more person who is on your side, a little girl who lives in the Robert Taylor development who is just dying to meet you.

American Project

by Latoya Bright

"American project; it's not all it seems," said Dr. Sudhir Venkatesh, author of "American Project."

Venkatesh feels that the housing developments are not all negative. There's a lot of prosperity in the pro-

jects. Venkatesh, professor of sociology and African American studies at Columbia University in New York, spoke about his book Oct. 25 at an Urban Youth International Journalism Program class at the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center near the Robert Taylor Homes.

Venkatesh said he wrote this book to give a better definition of the projects because people have different ideas about public housing based on the media. He wanted to give a more positive view about the projects.

"Before I got to the Robert Taylor Homes, I felt it was a problem spot.

That's what made me visit," he said.

Staying with families and friends in Robert Taylor Homes, Venkatesh realized that it wasn't everything people thought it was.

"People at Robert Taylor Homes work together. Families work together," he said.

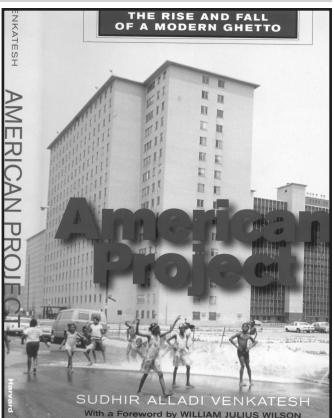
Venkatesh, 33, was born in India and then moved to Chicago at the age of four. Now he writes books and considers himself a writer, not a journalist.

He wrote "American Project" because he felt people knew the city's public housing developments as "the projects." He feels the word "project"

was not the correct word for a housing development because it was more of an offensive word.

Robert Taylor Homes are now being taken down. Venkatesh feels that public housing should not be taken down because many people will be without a home and not everyone will have a place to go. Instead of tearing down public housing based on negativity, they need to do something about the problems there, Venkatesh said.

The American Projects are not at all what they seem.



City of Chicago
Richard M. Daley, Mayor



Comprehensive Clinics

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

Maternal/Child Clinics

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

Public Health Clinic

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

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



Key Public Health Telephone Numbers

All telephone area codes are 312, except where indicated

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

May 1999



Dep. of Public Health
Sheila Lyne, RSM Commissioner

We Serve With Pride, We Treat With Compassion.

Outward Bound: Two Views

by Kamel White

In August, participants from the Charles A. Hayes Center's Teen Reach program went to Outward Bound, a program where they learned about skills you need to survive in the wilderness. They also learned about teamwork.

I attended this journey. I also interviewed other participants who went on the trip – Monica Williams, Joanna White and Veronica Williams.

RJ: "Monica, were you excited when you went to Outward Bound?"

Monica: "At first."

RJ: "What made your attitude change?"

Monica: "When I found out that I was going to have to carry a 75-pound canoe on my shoulder, I wanted to go back home."

RJ: "Did you like the trip at all?"

Monica: "Yes, when we didn't have to do portages and set up camp, we got to go swimming and do other things on our free time. That was cool."

RJ: "Would you go back?"

Monica: "No."

RJ: "Joanna, did you like your trip to Outward Bound?"

Joanna: "It was OK."

RJ: "Were you excited about the trip?"

Joanna: "At first."

RJ: "What made you change your attitude?"

Joanna: "Because of all the hard things we had to do, it made me feel like we were at boot camp."

RJ: "Would you go back?"

Joanna: "I doubt it."

RJ: "Veronica, how did you feel about the trip to Outward Bound?"

Veronica: "I felt like it was a fun experience."

RJ: "Were you excited when you first got there?"

Veronica: "Yes."

RJ: "Why?"

Veronica: "Because when I got there, I knew I was doing something new."

RJ: "Would you go back to Outward Bound?"
Veronica: "Yes, I plan on going back to Outward Bound next year."

Well, then the questions fell on me. How did I feel about my trip? I felt that it was fun but challenging. I was excited when I first got there because I knew I was getting away from the city with all the polluted air to go to a clean surrounding. I would go back.

On the trip to Outward Bound, we had bad times in the morning and good times in the evening. We had to wake up about 5:30 a.m. just so we could start canoeing before the strong winds hit. There were two instructors, six students and Michaela Purdue, who oversees the Teen Reach program at the Hayes Center. We had one tent big enough for six people, one tent for two people and one tent for one person. We had to canoe to different camp sites.

When we got to portages, we had to get out of the canoe, make sure that the canoe didn't get caught on any rocks and then you had to carry the canoe to the other end of the portage. A portage is where you have to carry the canoe alongside the river to get by obstacles. The longest portage we had was about 185 rods. Rods are the size of one canoe. At night we had meetings in the biggest tent. We talked about what we did that day and how we felt about the day.

When the instructors left for the night, the students in the big tent talked about a lot of things. One thing we talked about was how it was different from the city in the wilderness. Some people said they liked it and some didn't. They wished they were back in the city and they missed their families and homes.

Another thing we had to do was carry a mondo pack with our clothes in it. There were two people to a pack. One person had to carry the canoe and one person had to carry the pack. Both were heavy but the canoe was heavier.

On the second to last day in the wilderness, we did a course that was called "solo." We had to stay on an island for nine hours by our-



Recent UYIJP graduates pose with Joe Ruklick (back row, second from left), a *Chicago Defender* reporter who spoke at their Dec. 6 graduation ceremony.

Photo by Mary C. Johns

selves. At first I was excited but after a while, I got scared. I went to sleep and then I heard one of my instructors calling me. She told me to wake up and put on my rain gear. I had to put my gear on and then get on my life jacket and count to a certain number. If thunder didn't strike after that number, you didn't have to worry about it.

On the last day in the wilderness, we had to try to get home. We only had to do two portages that day.

When we got to the end point, one of the Outward Bound staff members picked us up and took us back to the camp site. That day, we got in the sauna with our swim suits on. After that, we went to our cabins and went to sleep. The next morning, we had to do the high ropes course. After the ropes course, we went to take a shower. We felt so good. A little later that day, we helped cook dinner.

The girls cooked and the boys had to wash dishes. It was cool. That night, we went to a dif-

ferent cabin for graduation. We got certificates and said some positive words about each person. The next morning, we woke up at 3 a.m. and got all of our things together. Then we took a walk to the dock. I saw about 10 shooting stars. They looked so cool.

On the way back to headquarters, guess what we saw? A moose! It was big but I couldn't see what color it was because it was so dark. When we got to headquarters, we got in the van and drove to the airport. After two hours, we were back in Chicago.

Outward Bound may sound bad but it's not. It may sound difficult but it's really easy if you put your mind to it. Just concentrate and try your best. The most important thing you can do is remember teamwork. Teamwork can get you through a lot of things.

Teamwork is just like your friend. It's a hand you can count on.



Outward Bound participants Therris Morris (top, from left), Tyrone Jarvis, Ramsey Pahrue, Kareem Lewis, Arnold Jackson, Frank Williams and their unidentified instructors (bottom row).

ropes course that scared him. Therris said he wouldn't go back.

As for me, I might go back.

Kareem Lewis, one of the staff members, said that that was his last time because he had done it once before. Arnold Monroe, the other staffer, said he would definitely go back.

What did I learn from all this? That I should stay focused. And about teamwork. I learned how to clean water with iodine, how to tell time based on the sun, and how to read a compass. I learned how to make a slip knot. But most of all, I learned it was fun and hard.

I think all young people should try this. It makes you think about what you would do in case of an emergency. It teaches survival skills. It changed my life. I learned to do things I didn't know that I could do. It gave me motivation in life.

by Ramsey Pahrue

When I left the Charles A. Hayes Center the day of the trip, it was Aug. 4. We went to the airport, checked our bags and turned in our tickets. It was my first time flying.

Once we arrived in Minnesota, we got something to eat at Wendy's. There were 12 of us: two staffers, one reporter, four boys and six girls. The boys were Frank Williams, Therris Morris, Tyrone Jarvis and myself. It was hard and fun. We learned how to canoe, did a lot of canoeing, carried the canoe, climbed the wall, did the high ropes course, learned how to set up the tent, learned how to make a bear trap and cooked.

The purpose of Outward Bound was to teach us how to survive in the woods. We were there for a week.

When we first got there, we got our raincoat, rain boots and food bags filled with bug repellent to keep off mosquitoes, a bug net, a spoon, a bowl and a cup. Then we got our tents and a mondo pack. A mondo pack has a tent and water bottle in it. Then we went to sleep.

For the rest of the week, we continued canoeing. We canoed past campsites and we stopped at some of them to eat lunch. We canoed some more to dinner. We saw animals like deer, frogs, moose, bald eagles and ravens. We saw a



A young lady holds a gift she received during a recent holiday event sponsored by the Chicago Housing Authority.
Photo by Arminta Clark-Muhammad

frog jump out of the campfire. And we had group discussions.

We talked about who would be the leader, cook, make a fire and clean up the site. I was the leader for the sixth day, the cook for the fourth day and I made the fire for the fifth day.

Every time we landed at a new campsite, we had to put down the tent and clean up the site. We still canoed. When we got to the portages, which is where you have to carry the canoe on land, I had to carry a canoe on my shoulder by myself. The portages were long, for example 35, 49 and 65 meters. We did 10 portages in all. It seemed very long when I carried the mondo pack.

My favorite part of Outward Bound was the solo. It was fun. I was on the island by myself with water, snacks and nothing else. Then I went to sleep all day on a rock next to some raspberries.

When the instructor found me, he had a hard time waking me up. He had to bang on a canoe to wake me up. Once I finally woke up, we all went to the spot where we picked up our life jackets. Then we went back to the campsite for dinner.

Afterwards we canoed to home base. We were so happy that we jumped in the water and took pictures.

Then, we went rope climbing and wall climbing. Next, we climbed up the rope-stairs to the high rope course. We were 90 feet in the air. One person cried. It took about 20 minutes for each person to cross the course. The trees were shaking. It was scary.

Then we returned to the campsite to get our clothes. We finally took a shower and got in the sauna. It felt real good. Then it was time for graduation. They gave us T-shirts, a pen, a pin and a certificate. They let us keep the cup that came with the food pack but we had to give back the bowl. Then we went to the dock and saw the stars. It was beautiful. I had never seen so many stars before. I was amazed.

I asked the young men if they would go back to Outward Bound. Frank said he might go back but when we were there, he said no way. Tyrone also said no. I think it was the high

Special Health Section

Failing to Try

by Dr. Bill Miller,
C.S.A.D.C.
Haymarket
Center

There is an old adage, "It doesn't matter if you try and try and try again and fail. It does matter if you try and fail and fail to try again."

Haymarket Center has always been there for those who have had a long history of failing. These are individuals who have been in such bondage to drugs that they have been unable to break free, no matter how hard they have tried. These are people who have been in Detox and treatment time and time again.

But addicts are not alone in experiencing this kind of thinking. Maybe you had similar thoughts, too. Most who experience such thoughts have usually had them for a long time. They seem so familiar. Because they have been in our mind so long, we are certain that these thoughts are

absolutely accurate and true. We have bet our life on their truthfulness. So it's no wonder we find ourselves stuck in life.

The answer to the dilemma faced by anyone who feels stuck is to check carefully the thoughts living rent-free in your head. You may need some help to discover the truth. But, in most instances, you will see that the thoughts on which you have been basing your most important decisions are lies.

Knowing, believing and acting on the truth is the only way to successfully deal with these lies. So we must gain the truth about our situation and ourselves. There

are a few days to do that but many have found that God will accurately reveal reality, when asked. Our clients discover that God sees them in a far different light than they see themselves. Often, this encourages them to live up to God's view.

How are you doing when it comes to how you see yourself? Are you still stuck in negativity that urges you to do self-destructive things? Have those negative thoughts caused you to just quit trying? Remember: The only true failure is failing to try again.

Staying Healthy in Cold Weather

by Barbara Shaw, RN,C,
MSN, FNP
Clinical Director, Hayes Family Health Center

All Chicagoans know that winter can really pack a punch in our city. This winter is already proving to be one of the coldest and snowiest in years—and we have several more months to go! This article will tell you some things that might help you and your neighbors stay safe both outside and inside your home when winter storms are blowing.

Cold-related emergencies can happen quickly. Exposure to cold can cause injury or serious illness such as hypothermia or frostbite. The likelihood of these cold-related problems depends on factors like physical activity, clothing, wind, humidity, working and living conditions and a person's age and state of health.

Hypothermia (literally "low heat") can kill. When it occurs, it is considered a medical emergency (so call 911!). Much like high blood pressure, hypothermia is called a "silent killer" because many of its victims are not aware of the threat. Older people especially may not be aware that they are becoming cold and their bodies may not adjust to changes in temperature as quickly as younger

people. In fact, over half the people diagnosed with hypothermia are over 60 years old; and most are men.

Hypothermia's symptoms include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and exhaustion. If you suspect that you or another person is suffering from hypothermia, take the person's temperature. If it is below 95 degrees, immediately seek medical care (dial 911!). While you are waiting, warm the person slowly. Warm the body core (abdomen and chest) first, using dry blankets, pillows, clothes and even newspapers. Cover the head and the neck.

Do not give the person alcohol, drugs, coffee or any hot beverage or food. Warm broth is better. Do not warm arms and legs first; this can drive the cold blood toward the heart and can lead to heart failure. Do not immerse the person in warm water.

What can you do to prevent hypothermia?

If you live alone, arrange for a daily check-in call or visit with a friend, neighbor or relative.

Make sure your home is insulated properly.

Stay dry. Wear layers. Hats and scarves can avoid significant heat loss from your head and neck.

Use extra blankets. Hypothermia can happen when you are sleeping!

Eat nutritious foods and exercise moderately; these help protect you against abnormal heat and cold.

Get proper rest; being tired makes you more vulnerable to extremes of temperature.

Drink plenty of liquids, especially water.

Limit alcohol. It may make you feel warm at first, but alcohol does the opposite—it speeds up body heat loss!

Frostbite is another cold weather injury. Frostbite is

damage to body tissue caused by that tissue being frozen. It causes a loss of feeling and pale appearance in fingers, toes, ear lobes, or the tip of the nose.

Frostbite is quite serious. Call for help immediately! While you are waiting, handle the area gently. Do not rub the affected area. Soak the area in water no warmer than 100-105 degrees. Do not let the affected body part touch the bottom or sides of the container holding the water. Leave the frostbitten area in the water until it is red and feels warm. Bandage the area with dry, sterile bandages, placing cotton or gauze between frostbitten fingers or toes.

Finally, here are some additional quick tips for winter safety:

If you are caught in a winter storm outside: Cover all exposed parts of your body. Try to stay dry.

If you are caught in a car or truck: Keep a cold weather survival kit in your car, including water, food, blankets and flashlights. Stay in your vehicle! Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat. Open the window a little to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked. Move your arms, fingers, legs and toes to keep blood circulating.

If you are caught at home or in a building: Stay inside.

Avoid using alternative heat from a fireplace, wood stove or space heater. If you do, make sure there is enough ventilation.

Eat and drink. Food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Again, avoid alcohol!

Wear layers of loose-fitting clothing.

Taking care of yourself and looking out for your neighbors should make this a safer winter!

R E S I D E N T S '

Journal

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

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Child of the Pack Saddle: Part II

by John
“Popcorn”
Sampson

This - the second installment of the story of my life - is dedicated to the memory of Lyndon B. Johnson, the U.S. President who did more for the African American people with one stroke of his pen than a thousand words of President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation has ever done or shall ever do.

I felt as though I was the biggest 11-year-old fool and the dumbest failure in the state of Louisiana when the sheriff pulled up to the front yard of our farmyard and my feet hit the ground. I had run off and got caught. I honestly wished that I could sink into the ground and never come up again so I wouldn't have to face Pooch, Jack, Willie, Fat Boy and Minnie, the five children in the Johnson household.

Because, let me tell you, when it came to sardonic laughter, they were unsurpassed.

But all my fears were put aside and I was given a reprieve from the unforgiving when I looked up and saw my step-grandmother, Miss Martoon, coming out to the gate to meet the sheriff and me. Now, the sight of Miss Martoon was by no means a sight for sore eyes because I really didn't like the woman at all.

As a matter of fact, I hated her as only a child can hate someone. On the other hand, I was by no means a birthday present to her either. And the reason why I detested the woman so much was not because she neglected me or did not give me as much of my fair share of whatever was to be given in terms of food or things of that nature.

My objection with her was because of two causes. The first being the bad habit she had of always bad mouthing my mother for having a baby at the tender age of 14 and then running away from home and leaving her baby for someone else to take care of. And yet, she never mentioned a word about her niece, San Soue, the mother of Jack, Willie, Fat Boy and Minnie, each of which were without father and living on the mercy of my grandfather.

The other bad habit she had that I loathed was the way she had of walking around the house passing gas in loud fog-horn sounds like “Boooot!”

Miss Martoon made her way from the porch to the front gate, a distance of eight or ten yards, and stood waiting. While looking over my head as if I wasn't nowhere in the vicinity, she said to the sheriff, in a tone of voice brimming and beaming with reverence and profound humility as though she was addressing the Lord himself, “Good morning, good morning, Sheriff Borvet, how is you this morning? It's so nice to see you. And how is your wife getting along?”

“Margrete is getting along fine and I'm doing as well as an old fella is suspected to, I guess,” the sheriff responded. “How's everybody in ya' family? How 'bout you, Marty. Gettin' any or is the well done gone dry?”

“Ha. Ha. Ha,” laughed Miss Martoon. Then, slapping the sheriff on the hand, she cooed, “I declare to the good Lord, sheriff, you is the worst white man in Mansura. You ought to quit. Ahma tell your wife on you. And she'll slap the taste outta your mouth and you know that I know she will.”

“Yap,” said the sheriff. “That old woman of mine is the meanest Cajun woman in these here parts, I'm a thinking. But getting back to you, Marty, you putting on a few here and there. Ya losing a heap of dat good thang you use to have. What did it, anything you kin tell me 'bout?”

“Old age. That's what did it,” Miss Martoon replied. “A woman might look like a fox when she's young but as you say, you can bet ya last dry match that old age will make her look like an old possum and that ain't no 3-6-9.”

“I kin



though you wander over every inch of this Earth from stem to stern, ever you find a more faithful love, a more forgiving love, a love that is yours to have and to hold through the stormy nights and your endless day, a love that remains by your side even when that last hope has stolen away. Such is the love of a dog and such a love is only equaled by the love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Once I was certain as to the whereabouts of everyone, I said to Miss Martoon, “How 'bout me going out in the field and joining Pooch and grandpa?”

But the old witch snapped back in no uncertain terms, “No. You don't need to go out in no field for nothing. You march yourself back into the kitchen and finish scrubbing the floor I started. Then too, I want to keep an eye on you 'till that old man come back.”

All the males of the house came in for

Let nothing or no one stand between you and the schoolhouse door for learning that which you didn't know is, indeed, the spice of life.

remember when ya looked like a fox, too,” Marty, said the sheriff, rubbing his hands together and smacking his lips. “And to think I was the first one to climb the tree. Oooh loordy, lordy me! Marty, kin, kin ya remember that day out in the cane patch...”

“Fa Pa Sa,” Miss Martoon interrupted in Creole French as she glanced down at me for the very first time. “Don't get me scalped, sheriff, please. I'm too young to die.”

Then in an abrupt turn-about, she said, “Well, it was nice talking to you, sheriff. Tell my good friend Margrete I sayed hello. Good day to you, Sheriff Borvet. I'll tell my man Jimmy you said hello.”

Then, without uttering another word to the sheriff, Miss Martoon did an about face as she said to me to “come on in the house now, boy. And don't you let me hear a word outta that sassy mouth of yours, you hear me?”

“It was mighty nice of ta see ya again, Marty,” the sheriff called to Miss Martoon's backside. “I'm gonna tell that ole woman of mine I seed ya en ya wish wishe, ya hear.”

As we were going up the steps, Miss Martoon said over her shoulder to me, “Well, you're back for now. But for how long, the good Lord only knows the answer to that one. 'Cause trying to guess what you gonna do next is 'bout the same as trying to guess what that ole, no-good mama of yours will do. Neither of ya worth two dead flies.”

“To think my husband was up all night long worrying 'bout the likes of....Lord, let me hush, 'cause hit ain't no use, ain't no use at all.” Walking up the steps behind that old stinky fat blubber behind, I felt like taking my fist and ramming it just as far as I could into that fat nasty. But better judgement prevailed and I restrained myself. But it was mighty hard for me to restrain myself.

However, the one and only manner of consolation that had thus far come my way came from my yard dogs as I made my way through the yard and up the steps. They were completely carried away by my return and made no bones about giving me their all and all. God bless them one and all for their display of joy over my return home was sincere, unfeigned and genuine, to say the very least. Here was indeed true love, a love given for the sake of love without the slightest yen for or a tidbit of reward.

Believe it or not, a dog is our one and only Earthly God and never shall you find,

the midday meal at noon, according to grandpa's method of telling the time of day, a method he said was the way that the Seminole Indians reckoned the time of day by the length of their shadow. I heard them coming long before they walked into the dining room where I sat, pondering what in the name of Hanna would my grandfather say or do to me for running off.

Believe me, the possibility of what he may or may not do to me made me as jittery as a one-eyed cat walking by a Japanese market.

However, all my woes and all my funerals were naught because when grandpa walked into the dining room and saw me sitting there, he neither smiled nor did he display the slightest emotion when he said to me, “Well, Earnest, did you enjoy your trip? We all missed you around here. Funny what a big liar can do for a house. I know you're hungry. You always is. Go wash your hands en let's eat.

“We still got a heap of work to do in the back nine. But I wouldn't be surprised if that ole mule ain't mad at you for leaving him out in the field the way you did. You best be careful. You know that ole mule got a mighty bad temper.”

Then after proving that he had a very good sense of humor, grandpa stood motionless and in complete silence while staring deep into my eyes as if he was searching each and every nook and every crevice in the deepest core of my soul. For only heaven knows how long, our eyes were locked in a web of ardor. Then, in breaking the spell, the grand old man walked majestically over to where I sat too scared to speak, laid his big bronze hand on my shoulder and, in the most inspiring voice I ever did hear come out of his mouth, he said to me, “Como sa va, Earnest? Como sa va mon shaa?” (“How are you, Earnest? How are you, my son?”)

And I lay my trembling, right hand atop his big hand. I uttered barely above a whisper, “Ca va bien papa, bien entendu.” (“I'm fine, my father, thank you for asking”)

Grandpa then said to me, “I'm not going to whip you, Earnest. I'm too glad to see you for that. And I'm so very thankful to the Lord that you met with big Cajun red, my good friend, instead of one of them coward-ass, sheet-wearing peckerwoods. There ain't no telling what one of them would've done to

you.

“But I wasn't worried about you, 'cause Big Red sent one of his workers here to tell me that you was at his camp and that he would take you to the sheriff's office and have him bring you home.

“I knew that he would see to it that you got home safe. Big Red is a good white man, one of the very, very few that me or any Black person can say that about these Southern red neck crackers.

“I hate very one of them with all my heart and soul. The bastards killed my only son about an ugly, string-headed, nasty ass, ole white bitch that wasn't worth chicken shit and threw my child's body into Red River.

“As long as I live, I'll never forget that. And one of these days, I'll avenge my son's death if I have to pay for it with my life.

“I want you to listen to me, Earnest, and listen to every word that I tell you carefully. And you remember what I tell you as long as you remember your name. I am not telling you now and I'm not ever going to tell you that all Black people are good. There is good and bad no matter what the color.

“What I do want to tell you is this: beware of the Southern white man, for he is a man that lives in fear and any man that lives with fear is to be feared. And above all, beware of the white woman. Don't make the foolish mistake that your uncle Jimmy Jr. did and lose your life over a woman that ain't worth a dead fly.

“You, as with your uncle, will attract women when you become older and like candy attracts babies. But remember this always: he who woos any woman ends up with no woman to woo in the end. And if you must have a white woman, make sure your gains outweigh the hostility of the white man and the ridicule of the Black woman because these two are your most prejudiced people.”

Then, grandpa placed his hand on my shoulder and drew me closer to him.

He said to me in words that burned into the very foundation of my soul:

“You and Pooch are all that I have left to give council to, Earnest, and God knows that I want it to be lasting to you above all because I know it's you that needs it the most. More so than your cousin Pooch because Pooch is as stable as the word of God.

“But you are a child of the pack saddle and as uncertain as a shoofly. You are here today but like your mother, you might be gone in a heartbeat. And when you do go, and go you shall, use all of those gifts that the good Lord blessed you with.

“Learn all that you can in the way of books. Use your ears more and your mouth less. Don't be like the duck and let your mouth destroy your ass. However, there comes a time when you need to play the fool.

“But remember this as long as you live; the biggest fool of all the fools is the fool that outsmarts himself. Let nothing or no one stand between you and the schoolhouse door for learning that which you didn't know is, indeed, the spice of life.”

My dear old grandfather, like my youth, has been gone for many, many years. Now and then, during those hours of loneliness when I sit looking back into the dense shadows of retrospect, I see the contours of his deep brown face glowing bright and as clear as the reflection of the harvest moon hovering over a sleepy lagoon. I hear the sound of his somber voice calling me from afar: “Earnest, Earnest, come here, child.”

Our "Readers Reap" Poll

Win a color television set or a portable CD player.

We want to find out more about the households that read the *Residents' Journal*. Telling us about yourself and where you shop will help us provide even more information and services. Please take a moment to answer the questions below. You'll be eligible to win a color television set or a portable CD player.

Fill in your answers and contact information below, then mail the entire form to:

**Residents' Journal Readers Reap Poll,
4859 S. Wabash Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60615.**

Your entry must be received by 5:00 p.m. January 26, 2001 to be eligible.

All information will be held strictly confidential. One entry per household. Winners will be chosen in random drawing and announced in the February/March edition. The decision of the judges is final. Offer void where prohibited. *Residents' Journal* employees and their families are not eligible. You must be 18 years or older to enter.

Photo copies of this form are not acceptable.

1. Age:

- a. 18-34
- b. 35-54
- c. 55 & above

2. Sex:

- a. Male
- b. Female

3. Marital status:

- a. Married
- b. Single
- c. Divorced/Widowed

4. The annual income for your household is:

- a. \$5,000 and under
- b. \$5,000 - \$9,000
- c. \$10,000 - \$14,000
- d. \$15,000 - \$19,000
- e. \$20,000 - \$24,000
- f. \$25,000 and over

5. The number of children in your home:

- a. Three or more
- b. 1 or 2
- c. None

6. Residency status

- a. CHA Family Development
- b. CHA Senior Development
- c. Scattered Site Housing
- d. Section Eight (Housing Choice Voucher)
- e. Private Apartment
- f. Privately Owned House

In which of the following stores have you made a purchase in the last 30 days:

(Check all that apply)

- a. Aldi's
- b. Cub
- c. Jewel
- d. Dominicks
- e. Moo & Oink
- f. One Stop
- g. Walgreens
- h. Dollar Store
- i. Payless
- j. Home Depot
- k. Ace
- l. True Value
- m. Value city
- n. K-Mart
- o. Target
- p. Walmart
- q. Foot Locker

8. In of these restaurants have you eaten at in the past month?:

(Check all that apply)

- a. McDonalds
- b. Burger King
- c. KFC
- d. Churchs
- e. Wendy's
- f. White Castle
- g. Taco Bell
- h. Harold's Chicken
- i. J&J Fish
- j. Popeye's
- k. Other _____

9. How much money do you spend monthly on groceries?:

\$_____

10. Do you own a car?:

- a. Yes
- b. No

11. Do you attend religious services?:

- a. Yes
- b. No

12. Have you recently attended a movie?:

- a. Yes
- b. No

13. Have you recently rented a video?:

- a. Yes
- b. No

14. Are you currently working:

- a. Full-Time
- b. Part-Time

15. Are you interested in:

- a. Job Training
- b. Vocational Training
- c. GED Programs
- d. College Programs
- e. Graduate Programs
- f. Computer Training
- g. Nursing/Healthcare Training

16. How many times do you ride a bus or train each week?:

17. Do you use a:

(Check all that apply)

- a. Currency Exchange
- b. Bank
- c. Credit Union

18. Do you have:

- a. Home Phone
- b. Cellular Phone
- c. Pager

19. Did you vote in the last election?

- a. Yes
- b. No

20. Do you use the Internet or E-Mail?:

- a. Yes
- b. No

21. What do you like most about Residents' Journal?:

22. What's your least favorite thing about Residents' Journal?:

23. Would you like to see it printed more often?:

- a. Yes
- b. No

24. Which of these features is your favorite?:

(Check all that apply)

- a. Neighborhood News
- b. Citywide Issues
- c. CHA Stories
- d. Senior News
- e. Politics
- f. Kids News
- g. Publisher's Box
- h. Letters
- i. Health Stories

Would you like to receive this questionnaire in Spanish?:

- a. Yes
- b. No

To be eligible for the Readers Reap drawing, this form must be received by 5 pm, January 26, 2001

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Day-Time Tel. No. _____

Mail this entire form (No Photocopies, please)

to:

**Residents' Journal
Readers Reap Poll,
4859 S. Wabash Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60615**

RUSSIAN TRANSLATIONS

CHINESE TRANSLATIONS

Letters to the Editor

A Message of Thanks

Dear Editor:

First, giving all praise to God and his Holy angels, I wish to tell my sisters and brothers about the wonder of the staff of the Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center.

For you to see this beautiful building, you would think that it's just a building. But when you enter the building, the warmth, the love and the love of God flows through the people. When I needed help and I went to the

Center with a worried soul, I was immediately greeted by those sisters and brothers that work as part of the staff of the FIC and those of the *Residents' Journal* with their loving help and words.

The help that I needed was food, clothing and God's love; these were presented to me with unwavering help, love and guidance. There were no questions asked and everyone jumped to the attention of being kind, loving and giving.

My sisters and brothers, you need to know that this edifice is not just a building. It is a hive of worthy souls who are really giving, loving and not hypocritical persons.

I wish to state that in my time of need, I was able to come to my sisters and brothers here for help. I wish to say God bless you all and thank you very much for the love, the help and the kindness that you've shown me.

- (The author of this letter wishes to remain anonymous)

Gwendolyn Brooks: The Legend at Rest

by Wateka Kleinpeter
Managing Editor

Gwendolyn Brooks, the Poet Laureate of Illinois, died at her South Side home on Sunday, Dec. 3. She was the first African American to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Literature and she also earned the National Medal of Arts Award as well as many honorary degrees and other awards.

"Our Ms. Brooks" was a person who inspired and nurtured the literary talent of many young writers and inspired countless others. Her funeral services on Dec. 11 at Rockefeller Chapel looked liked a who's who of writers, poets and others of literary fame, many of whom she had influenced. Poets such as Sonia Sanchez and Black Entertainment Television's (BET) Tavis Smiley

were present.

Lerone Bennett officiated and famed poet and Third World Press Publisher Haki Madhubuti provided the eulogy. Another Chicago legend, Oscar Brown Jr., sang and the Muntu Dance Theatre performed. Mayor Richard M. Daley spoke and letters from President Bill Clinton and Illinois Gov. George Ryan were read.

A large assortment of speakers paid tribute to Ms. Brooks, including Chicago State University President

Commentary

Elnora Daniel and former president Delores Cross.

In 1990, during the administration of Dr Cross, the Gwendolyn Brooks Center for Creative Writing was founded.

It was during that time that I met Ms. Brooks. I was the news editor for the CSU student newspaper, Tempo. As I was leaving the office one day, she walked in with Madhubuti and we struck up a conversation as though we were old friends.

She came in greeted all of us, looked around and asked us questions about what we do. We were all honored and she was so down to earth and quite pleasant.

During the next several years, I saw her on campus quite often. It was a high honor for me when she commented on an article that I had written. I am glad to have known such a literary giant.

Ms Brooks is gone in the physical sense but she left behind many words that will be read over and over again.

Poetry Corner

Ghetto Christmas

How does Santa enter our place?
There's no open space, no fireplace.
Where does Santa get all that money from?
Or does mama buy something when the welfare check comes?
Where does he get off wearing all that red?
If the gang bangers catch him, he's going to be dead.

Over here is blue.
Ask anyone; they'll tell you it's true.
If he gets caught, he better fear.
If he knows what I know, he'll stay far away from here.

Man, they will take his reindeer and his sleigh.
Then they will cheer, smoke a blunt and drink a 40-ounce of St. Ives beer.
Reindeer and a sleigh in the snow.
If he knows what I know,
he will hitch them up and go.

Outside, we can't even play.
Much too often bullets spray.
Nothing in our stocking,
Papa drunk and rocking.

We hear the people on the TV say,
Have a Merry Christmas anyway.
Ba Hum Bug.

Too many drugs and gangbangbang thugs.
Watch out Santa, you might get mugged.
Rapid gun fire. People getting plugged.
Santa in a fight?
He will be lucky if he makes it though a Ghetto Christmas Night.

Merry Christmas. Yeah, right.
Not in our future. Nowhere in sight.
All I wish for Christmas is for total relief, love and happiness,
But most of all: Peace.

- by Beauty Turner

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

Please send all letters to our new address:

4859 S. Wabash Chicago, IL 60615.

You may also call our office
at (773) 285-0200 x 3372 to
discuss your ideas for
submission.

Dear Resident

by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

At first, I thought this end-of-the-year edition of **RJ** could present an opportunity to focus on a variety of issues in addition to the holiday season.

But after much thought about what I wanted to say and how I wanted to say it, I was, again, reminded that everything has to do with everything and that everybody has to do with everybody and that all issues are related and connected to one another. And, if you think about it, it's reasonable because everything and everybody comes from the same Source.

Further, I have found that many things have a figurative (represented by a figure, symbol or likeness), literal (representing the exact) and spiritual (representing that which is sacred and holy) meaning. And stepping out even further, because it has been said that sex, religion and politics should never be discussed, here I go...

As defined by Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Christmas is a feast on Dec. 25 that commemorates (to honor the memory of, as by ceremony) the birth of Christ. Traditionally, Christmas is celebrated by the exchanging of gifts between family, friends and co-workers. Many people even extend themselves individually and collectively in groups to those who are less fortunate and have no means of celebrating the holiday season. Actually, the date that Christ was born is not recorded.

Historically, there is no record of Christmas celebrations until 336 A.D. (Anno Domini, in the year of our Lord). The celebration of Christmas was instituted by the Roman Empire as one of many year-end celebrations to honor the harvest and gods of life. Gift giving did not become part of the celebration until 1100 A.D. Santa Claus did not become a symbol of gift giving until 1400 A.D.

In the 1500s, Christmas was seen as a non-religious, pagan celebration and outlawed in some parts of the world. It wasn't until the 1800s that homes and trees were decorated as part of the celebration.

Today, Christmas is the largest celebration of the year. The huge percentage of all merchandise bought and sold occurs during the Christmas holiday season. Commercially, holiday season sales greatly influence the amount of profit earned by retailers for the entire year.

It would appear that the presentation of gifts to Christ by the three wise men set the precedent (example) for gift giving. There were no gifts

given in return. The gifts presented to Christ were an act of obeisance (a gesture of deep respect, love and awe as for something sacred).

If we look deeper at the birth of Christ, we would see that Christ is the gift, a gift given unto mankind (all human beings). A perfect gift. A perfect example of how a Christian (person professing to belief in Jesus, working to have the qualities demonstrated and taught by Jesus: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith, mildness and self-control) should live.

Certainly, it could cause one to question the value of the gifts that we give. Value, not in terms of dollars and cents. Not the gifts that we give once a year on specified days (Mother's Day, Father's Day, etc.)

ent or child, and so forth; warm fondness or liking for another; also, the benevolent affection of God for his creatures or the reverent affection due from them to God; also, the kindly affection properly expressed by God's creatures toward one another; that strong or passionate affection for a person of the opposite sex that constitutes the emotional incen-

Becoming a better person is the best gift that we could possibly give to someone that we love.

tive to conjugal union."

One of the synonyms (word having the same or nearly the same meaning) for love is "devotion" (Insight on the Scriptures, Volume 2).

"Love is long-suffering and kind. Love is not jealous. It does not brag, does not get puffed up, does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked. It does not rejoice over unrighteousness but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails." (1Cor. 13: 4-8)

The above describes how love acts. And love, like any precious gift, must be cherished and handled carefully lest it be lost.

Becoming a better person is the best gift that we could possibly give to someone that we love. But before we can improve, we must see the need to make improvements. We must pay close attention to ourselves, recognize where we fall short, working to do better. Wouldn't it be a wonderful gift if your lover stopped doing the one thing that you constantly ask them not to do?

If we become a better people, we become better people in everything and we become better people with everybody. A better mate. A better parent. A better friend. Ultimately, a better human being. And hopefully, the world becomes a better place.

In the past year, I have written almost as many eulogies, obituaries and farewells as I have Dear Resident columns. The loss of so many loved ones leaves me holding dear those that remain. All that I could and should have done with those that I lost I will do with those that remain. Never miss an opportunity to tell someone that you love, "I love you!"

May we all be better in the coming year.

- Pat



You must acknowledge what needs improvement before it can be improved!

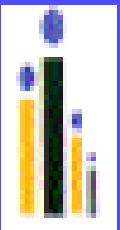
Photo by Patricia Johnson-Gordon

but the gifts that we should give each and every day, all year long like the perfect gifts given to mankind every day. Gifts that don't grow old, break, fade or tarnish. Gifts that show obeisance (a deep love and respect) and not just a gesture of the holiday season.

When my children were young, I told them that if they could not give me obedience and respect, there was nothing else they had that I wanted or that they could give me. That still holds true today.

The greatest gift, of course, is love.

Love is described as "A feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection as for a friend, for a par-



The Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center

Announces the Grand Opening of The Margaret Smith Distance Learning Center



Hayes Center Executive Director Zenobia Johnson-Black enjoys the guests and dignitaries at the opening of the "Margaret Smith Distance Learning Center."



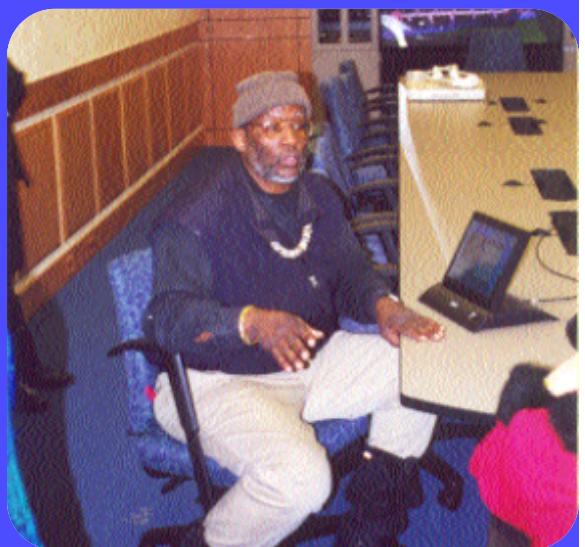
State Sen. Margaret Smith at the opening of the Margaret Smith Distance Learning Center at the Charles A. Hayes FIC Dec. 15.



Hayes Center Board Chairman Howard Stanback talks about the technology at the opening of the Margaret Smith Distance Learning Center.



Hayes Center Board member the Rev. Addie Wyatt peruses the high-tech equipment at the Margaret Smith Distance Learning Center.



Hayes Center Deputy Executive Director Olamenji O'Connor explains how the high-tech equipment works at the opening of the Margaret Smith Distance Learning Center.

**CALL 773.285.0200,
EXT. 0
TODAY !!!!**

Charles A. Hayes Family Investment Center

4859 South Wabash Avenue
Zenobia Johnson-Black, Executive Director

