



OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER conducts classes in salesmanship on Friday evenings. Salesmanship is one of many classes offered by OIC. (Staff photo by Rich Derk)

Local Projects Aid North End

By MARGE FERROLI
Daily Illini Staff Writer

Champaign-Urbana has finally taken the initiative to improve the poverty-stricken conditions in its North End. And this initiative comes from the residents of the North End themselves.

Last week work began on a project to build a co-operative grocery store centrally located in the area. This co-op would be the only major grocery store directly available to North End residents. Shares in the proposed co-op can be purchased from the Legal Services Agency,

Since the Council has recently reassessed the value of the land at \$45,000, the organization would not be able to afford the land for quite a while.

James Talley, a resident of the North End and one of the project's coordinators, there are several available alternatives to outright full-price purchase of the land. Last Tuesday, Talley appeared before the Champaign City Council and presented a plan he had earlier discussed with Urban Renewal Director David Gensemer. Talley's plan would allow the city to sell the land for \$1 to Co-op, but Gensemer indicated that preliminary talks with officials of the Housing and Urban Development Department indicated that the city must sell the land at its appraised value, no matter how desirable the land use involved might be.

Another alternative would be to ask the council to lease the land to the organization at an extremely low price until 1970, when the urban renewal project will be completed, then sell the land for the

present assessed price of \$45,000. This agreement would only be made if the council gave its assurance that the land would be sold to the O.U.R. Co-op at that time. However, Talley doubts whether the Council would give his group the needed assurance of sale.

Because plans for purchasing a permanent site are so unpromising, Talley and the other coordinators are seeking a temporary site to begin the co-op's business. No definite places have been selected as possible sites for the store, but it is hoped that the chosen location will be as near the center of the North End as can be arranged. Talley estimates that a total of \$20,000 (1000 shares) is necessary to "open the doors" of the store.

This would include expenses for leasing the building, stocking the store, and insuring the grounds. The organizers of the store are hopeful that within a few years it will earn enough money to purchase a lot and begin construction of the permanent facility.

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the collecting agency for the organizers of the store.

According to Stuart Nagel, professor of political science and director of the agency, the O.U.R. (Opportunity, Unity, and Reward) Co-Op store has several functions: to provide North End residents with higher quality food for lower prices than is presently available; to serve as a training center in preparing neighborhood residents for retail jobs; to provide other employment opportunities; and to instill a sense of racial pride and self-help in the area residents since it would be owned and operated primarily by them.

The project, which received its corporation charter from the state only a week ago, has already sold between \$1000 and \$1500 worth of stock to various local and University people. The Weston Union, the 2E house of Weston Hall in MRH, purchased five \$20 shares of the stock, the maximum amount one person or group can buy. Residents of the Union agreed that a local financial commitment was appropriate since students live in the Champaign area for nine months of the year.

It is hoped that the co-op will become a part of the Certified Grocers chain, also a co-operative enterprise. As a member of this chain, O.U.R. Co-Op would receive yearly rebates from profits collected. This rebate money would in turn be used for financing various community service activities, such as building health and recreation facilities, a credit union, or low-cost housing. O.U.R. Co-Op would be a strict, non-profit organization, thus any extra funds received would be spent in other areas for development.



At present, the organization is having difficulty finding a permanent place for construction of the co-op. The area desired is located on the west side of Fourth Street between Beardsley Avenue and Eureka Street. However, this land is part of the urban renewal Project I area controlled by the Champaign City Council.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRIBUTES used clothing to those who need it. A Community Services worker, looks over clothes donated by city residents. (Staff photo by Dan Grunloh)

Champaign, Urbana Face Big Problems

Racism, Employment, Urban Renewal Are Major Issues

By JIM HOPWOOD
Daily Illini City Editor

If Champaign and Urbana seem like typical American cities at first glance, don't be deceived by the notion that everything is just fine.

For American cities are in trouble, and the Twin-Cities are faced with the same crises any city of comparable size.

Long prevalent patterns of racial discrimination and inadequate urban planning are responsible for much of the tension, here as elsewhere. A wavering business climate, inflationary pressures, and widespread lack of money for plan projects affect all sectors of the community.

The cities suffer not so much from bad planning as from lack

surrounded by white industrial and "intermediate" commercial districts.

Planning conditions of both cities work in a constant whirl of controversy as various interests throughout the community clash over proposed changes in zoning and planning.

Both cities have comprehensive plans for growth, but plans have to be changed often to meet new problems.

Current Changes

Champaign passed new modernized zoning ordinance in 1965, and Urbana is still struggling to replace its present antiquated ordinance. A new sign ordinance for Urbana, months in the workings, is nearly completed, and is expected to cut back the size of road signs that clutter the city's streets.

A narrow tax base and unemployment also hurt the communities.

Urbana's old business district along Main Street is blighted and businessmen generally consider it a poor location for settlement. High price tags on the property further discourage any new enterprise in the area.

Lincoln Square's shopping complex, to the immediate south of Main Street, has been a spectacular boon to the lives of Urbana, but it seems hardly enough.

Champaign's Country Fair shopping center is prosperous addition to the west-side suburban area.

Champaign is currently planning for modernization of part of its downtown area, with the construction of a large office building and parking garage as focal points.

Urban Renewal Falters

But the originally slated \$13 million urban renewal project for northwest Champaign appears to be faltering with the first phase of the program yet unfinished.



THIS VIEW FROM OVER SOUTHWEST CHAMPAIGN shows the heart of the larger of the twin cities. Champaign, as contrasted with Urbana (Page F-7) has more multi-story buildings in its downtown section, which we see here. The tall, light-colored building just to the right of the center of the photo is the Cham-

paign City Building; in the upper right corner we see the start of the North End ghetto; to the west and south are the more "suburban" districts of the city.

(Daily Illini Staff Photo by Craig Otis)



JOHN LEE JOHNSON

...community organizer

of planning altogether. And now that city officials are taking an active role in planning, the problems caused by earlier sporadic and chaotic growth appear insurmountable, or at best, dangerous to tackle with limited funds.

Champaign-Urbana's problems are not unique. The business districts of both cities are old and expand at the expense of neighboring residential districts. The suburban districts sprawl into the cornfields.

Black Community

Sandwiched between the two central business areas are the University and the North End. The University is ever expanding, often to the dismay of nearby residents who can never be quite sure where the expansion will occur next.

In the geographically-isolated North End is the black community.

The North End is cut off north and south by two major roadways, University Avenue and Interstate 74 respectively; west and south by three railroads; and is largely

Both cities cry for new industry to bolster their sagging economies and provide badly-needed new jobs. And few city officials have any doubts of the economic future if the new business and jobs are not forthcoming.

Because of the area's small industrial base, the University and Chanute Air Force Base at Rantoul are prime sources of jobs. Once wellsprings of economic expansion, these sources are fast becoming as dry as Boneyard Creek, for their growth is not as rapid as in former years.

Private enterprise has not offered a great supply of jobs in the past, but now holds the path to new opportunities, for some at least.

Black Business

The OUR coop grocery store is one of the few businesses in the North End, and was formed to combat economic exploitation of the black community by outside merchants. Now a year old, the store offers a complete line of food items and is making seeking to broaden its base of support.

The Mighty, Mighty Peace Stones, a recently-formed organization of black youths, is planning to form a retail clothing store to serve as another base of economic advancement in the North End.

The Champaign Chamber of Commerce and the Urbana Association of Commerce, mindful of the success of the Lincoln Square venture, are offering guidance to many civic groups interested in exploiting community's economic potential.

All sectors of the community are seeking the need to attract new jobs and new businesses and are accepting the responsibility for seeking new approaches to old problems.

The crises remain common but a will to change is slowly evolving.

North End Projects Open

By **CARL SCHWARTZ**
Daily Illini City Editor

Last week marked the opening of two neighborhood projects in Champaign's North End, each aimed at easing the rugged burden low income places on the shoulders of the predominantly Negro population of this area.

On Tuesday, July 2, the North End Health Center opened its doors to its first two patients. Ver-

non Barkstall, director of the Urban League, said he was pleased with the turnout and expected more to use the facilities. This Tuesday bore out that prediction. The facility, located at 908 N. 5th St., will be open each Tuesday evening 6-9.

The Urban League is jointly sponsoring the clinic with SOUL and a group of interested doctors. Patients are charged nothing although donations in any amount will be accepted to help pay the cost of equipment and supplies.

The center was planned as a partial solution to what Barkstall has described as "the bad health pattern" of citizens of Champaign's North End. "Many residents never visit doctors, some out of fear and others out of an inability to pay."

Barkstall announced that the center was a "stop-gap measure that can help take care of the problem until someone else is able to do a better job."

Barkstall announced that a neighborhood health center will eventually be built in the Douglass Park area. In addition, the current application of the Champaign County Economic Opportunity Council includes a total of \$3,480

for a half-time neighborhood medical center administrator.

On Independence Day, July 4, OUR Co-op opened an outdoor fruit and vegetable market at 904 N. 4th, present location of the Blue Flame restaurant.

Opening of the Co-op Grocery store is planned for August in the restaurant building at that same location. The market will feature melons and progress to a fully equipped outdoor market which may remain open year-round, according to James Talley, president of the co-operative grocery.

Talley said the market will be managed by volunteer workers in hopes that more people will become interested in buying stock in the co-op and that profits can be used to insure the store's complete opening in August.

Stock is \$20 a share and can be purchased at the market and at 213 Edgebrook Drive in Champaign.

The stand has remained open from 7:30 in the morning to 10 at night, but was closed Tuesday when rapid sales left only potatoes and watermelons.

Talley said that in pricing food, they thumbed through the local pa-

pers and merely lowered their prices below what was advertised in the specials.

An attempt has been made to sell squash, but Talley reports that the people in the North End are not used to buying that sort of food because it has always been so expensive before.

Temporary Police Appointed To Quiet Local Disturbances

By **TERRY PIGG**

Daily Illini Staff Writer

Employment of five temporary policemen was authorized by the Urbana City Council Monday night in an effort to quiet disturbances during the last two weeks in Urbana's north end.

The action was taken after Aldermen Frederic Walden and Lloyd Carter of the 3rd Ward told the council that people in the north end were afraid to leave their homes after 6 o'clock in the evening because of shooting, brick-throwing, and other disturbances in the area.

Walden said he had talked to Police Chief Charles Pummill who said he couldn't give full protection to life and property in the north end unless additional men were added to his staff.

Added to the call for additional policement was a motion by Alderman Gerald Brighton (D-5th Ward) asking the city to look within the Negro population of the north end when seeking additional police and firemen.

voted to initiating proposals to deal with the basic problems of race confronting the community.

The next Public Information Committee meeting is tentatively scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Monday, April 22 at Thornburn School.

In other action the council voted to temporarily increase the public utilities tax from 2 to 3 per cent from April 30, 1968 to May 1, 1969.

Alderman Donald Skadden (R-7th Ward) said if the city did not receive additional revenue it could possibly face a 30 to 40 thousand dollar deficit next due to construction of a new fire station, employment of additional firemen and policemen, salary increases, and payments into a city employee insurance program.

Skadden said the utility increase would amount to about \$7 to \$15 for the year for the average utility customer.

The council also voted to replace the city's three quarter's per cent tax on service occupations recently declared unconstitutional with a three-quarters per cent tax on materials used by people in the service occupations.

A number of Negro youths attended the council meeting to protest lack of Negro representation in the police and fire departments. They charged the civil service examinations required of candidates for the departments were too restrictive because educationally deprived Negroes are unable to pass them.

Mike Nesmith, a Negro student who spoke, said, "What we need are black policemen because white policemen are unable to command respect from Negroes in the north end."

Alderman Brighton suggested that more be done to inform men in the north end of the dates on which civil service exams are given for fire and police positions.

Alderman Hiram Paley (D-4th Ward) suggested that the city establish a human relation commission to deal with racial problems. Paley said he hoped the next meeting of the council's public information committee would be de-



Tense situation worries officials . . .

More North End bloodshed?

By JIM HOPWOOD
Daily Illini City Editor

There have been gangs and feuds between gangs in the North End

Second of two parts.

for years, but until recently few people outside the black community and the police department seemed very concerned.

Now that the gangs are shooting at each other with some regularity

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and several persons have been injured, most people are getting worried.

City officials and concerned citizens are preparing to take steps to end the violence, possibly through negotiation of the gangs' differences.

The current shootings are apparently part of a power dispute among gang leaders. It seems to be strictly an internal affair, with rare direct confrontations between blacks and whites.

'To prove themselves'

Indirectly, however, the gang phenomenon is very much a part of the many related problems forced on the black community by white racism. The North End gangs are a subculture formed to replace

a culture that largely excludes black youths from full participation.

At one time or another nearly every youth in the North End has some sort of connection with one of the gangs. The gangs exist, some say, because of the lack of opportunity for other recreation.

Howard Mitchell, newly-appointed Champaign community relations director, explained that many young blacks cannot relate to the same aspects of society white youths use to establish an identity. The gangs, he said, are a way for black youths to prove themselves.

Black Revolutionary Party

And disputes over leadership are often resolved through violence. The gangs' weapons arsenals are said to be impressive.

The current power dispute concerns two groups, usually known as the Peace Stones and the Black Revolutionary Party (BRP).

"One Peace Stone member wants to control all of the North End, and the other groups won't stand for it," a BRP spokesman recently charged.

"The BRP was formed for the benefit of the black community," he continued. "It has nothing to do with gang warfare, but we will defend ourselves."

The group currently calling itself the Peace Stones is the remnant of a larger group of the same name that has gradually fallen

apart.

May shoot-out

A dispute over control of Douglass Center resulted in a shoot-out

between three gangs in early May.

Charges of attempted murder were brought against 20 gang members, in what some saw as an effort to

cool down tensions.

The charges were later dropped when a member of one gang refused to testify against his alleged attackers. The gangs had developed a new sense of solidarity in a common cause, a sense strengthened by the death of John Cushingberry in the county jail on May 25.

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In Champaign-Urbana community

An awareness among blacks

By **JIM HOPWOOD**

In the black community there is a new awareness.

It is an awareness of identity, an awareness of human worth to replace the identity of "Negro" imposed by white society.

It is an awareness of power, the kind of power whites have always had and always denied to blacks.

It is an awareness of solidarity, of the fruits of cooperation toward self-determination.

There is a stirring in Champaign-Urbana's North End, an urge to seek and find a self-conceived definition of a good life.

And with this stirring, the network of community relations in the twin cities is being reshaped.

Relations between the races in the cities have never been "good." Grievances have always remained bubbling just below the surface, to explode when tensions seem unbearable.

As late as year ago, an immigrant black minister new to the area described it as the most racist community he had found in his 20 years in the United States.

Not monolithic

Many people, especially black people, don't think things have changed much. Maybe they haven't, but now people are beginning to do something about it.

The black community, like the white community, has never been a monolithic group. There have always been several, sometimes competing, groups, each with its own approach to solve the community problems.

The number of approaches has increased rather than decreased recently. But on all fronts there is a growing commitment to an active role in bring about change.

Listen to the Urban League. And listen to the NAACP. Many blacks still speak of these groups as "Uncle Toms," but the old apparent complacency, the old apparent satisfaction with piece-meal gains, is gone.

Commitment to equality

What is apparent everywhere in commitment to equality, not just the black community now is a legal equality, but genuine 100 per cent social and economic equality.

Some call it black power. Some still call it civil rights. Some, for the first time, are beginning to see it as a human right.

In Urbana, the predominantly black 3rd ward is represented by two black councilmen. In Champaign, black and white liberals fought a hard campaign to get a young black man, James Ransom, elected to one of the six city council seats, all of which are elected at large.

Token representatives? Once, possibly, but no longer.

And with the new leadership is new organization, and a new spirit of independence. Emphasis on community control of community problems is growing.

Youth gangs

A sometimes negative force in

black community affairs has been the youth gangs, whose feuds and escapades have left parents distraught and several youths killed and wounded.

The gangs are an alternative to other social activities, which either hold no interest to the youths or do not exist. Lack of recreational

facilities and programs in the North End is a chronic problem city officials are slow to act against and black community leaders anxious to cure.

The gangs also act as an alternative to the official educational system, which black students find is not relevant to their lives and fails to encourage them to any endeavor except attendance. The students find counseling programs particularly inadequate and misdirected.

Poor housing

Housing conditions throughout the North End remain poor, despite individual efforts to build and maintain property and group efforts to direct outside funds into building.

The Concerned Citizens Committee (CCC), with mostly black membership and all black leadership, offers one channel for directing community effort toward community betterment. The CCC, led by Richard Davis and John Lee Johnson, concentrates on housing, educational and recreational problems.

The North End Progressive Development Corporation, founded in the community, acts as the sponsor of several public housing projects which are federally funded.

One factor influential in the growth of community solidarity has been the death of several black men at the hands of law enforcement officials.



SUBSTANDARD HOUSING is more the rule than the exception in some of Champaign's predominantly black North End. Urban renewal was designed to change all that, but project delays and high costs for new housing will mean that many of the poor will go on living in homes like this.

(Staff photo by Maury Dubin)

Weeks of tension

The death of John Cushingberry in the Champaign County Jail in 1968 sparked several weeks of tension that revealed the often glossed-over hostilities of both whites and blacks, and the wide gap of misunderstanding, fear, and hatred between the two communities.

More turmoil followed the shooting death of Edgar Houltz at the hands of a Champaign police officer who now faces charges of voluntary manslaughter.

Members of the black community will not soon forget the deaths of Cushingberry and Houltz. To many blacks, they will remain a reminder of just how far away true equality is.

Concern over North End shootings growing . . .

Efforts being made to end violence

By **JIM HOPWOOD**
Daily Illini City Editor

Public concern over recent outbreaks of shooting in the North End is growing, and steps are now being taken to negotiate an end to the violence.

Several persons, including an 11-year-old girl, have been injured in the power dispute among rival

First in a two-part series.

North End gangs, and Champaign police do not consider it unlikely that someone will be killed if the hostility escalates.

Significantly, the first move toward ending the shootings was taken last week by the mayors of Champaign and Urbana, who issued a joint statement with the Model Community Coordinating Council urging citizens to aid po-

lice in preventing further incidents.

Not all concern is focused on increased police action, however. Howard Mitchell, newly-appointed community relations director of Champaign, Monday offered to mediate the dispute responsible for the shootings.

And Wednesday the Champaign Human Relations Commission, until recently a commission in little more than name, proposed that a public meeting be held to involve the entire community in stopping the warfare.

Richard Davis, a commission member, stressed the importance of total involvement of the total community. Stopping the violence is not just the North End's problem, he said, adding, "If this was going on in west Champaign it

would have been stopped a long time ago."

Precisely how to approach stopping the shootings is one problem yet to be solved. Mitchell's solution, to act as a neutral party to nego-

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ciate the gang's differences, probably has the greatest chance of success.

Attempts by Champaign police to foster a truce between the gangs have apparently failed. Part of the reason for their failure may be the belief of some gang members that the police favor one side of the dispute over the other.

Whether the police are impar-

tial, they are already to some de-

gree suspect in the black community simply because they are police, and they can hardly be expected to do much more than they already have.

Officers have been working overtime meeting with gang leaders and patrolling the North End and playing hide-and-seek with snipers, but they have not been able to stop the shooting and settle the issues that spark the shooting.

And the police can hardly be blamed for failing to do a job that is essentially not their's in the first place.

Briefly, the police have been forced to attempt a task that is essentially a matter for city officials and community leaders and people on the street, and they have failed primarily because they are police and not full time community rela-

tions workers.

The action of the two mayors may help clear up who is shooting at whom, but it is not likely to solve the problems that cause the shooting.

Mitchell, the human relations commission and several black community leaders are presently tackling the real cause of the shootings: The power dispute among gang leaders.

Their success or failure will depend to some degree on the amount of support they receive from the black community.

It remains to be seen, however, whether people who are not "involved" in the shootings — specifically white people — will come forward to accept some responsibility for what is happening around them.

Girl injured in North End gang shooting

By **JIM HOPWOOD**
Daily Illini City Editor

A Champaign girl was shot and seriously injured Monday night in the latest of a series of shootings involving members of rival gangs in the North End.

Debbie Brown, 11, of 508 N. Poplar, was shot twice in the head as about 20 shots were fired into her house. No report on her condition was available Monday night as she underwent surgery in Mercy Hospital.

Police said all the windows at the front of the house were broken by the firing, which according to Mrs. Gertrude Brown, came from several directions. None of the other five persons in the house at the time of the shooting was injured.

Fired at brothers

Police Sgt. William Neuman said the shots were apparently fired at the girl's three brothers, who are members of the gang the Panthers. Members of Mighty Peace Stones were listed as suspects in the shooting.

Champaign and Urbana police received several reports of sporadic firing in the North End throughout the night and an extra shift of Champaign police was called out to patrol the area until 11 p.m.

Monday night's incidents followed a weekend of shootings in the North End, though only one person was slightly injured Saturday night.

Part of war

According to Neumann, the incidents are part of war between members of the Peace Stones and a splinter group, the Panthers. The gangs were formally aligned in one organization before the split, which occurred this August.

Call For Calm To End Area Disruptions

Champaign city manager Warren Browning appealed for calm in the city Monday after three days of fires, shootings and threats of further violence in the North End.

Browning said anyone having information concerning the incidents may contact him or Mayor Virgil Wikoff and will not be forced to testify publicly.

Champaign police have speculated that the incidents are connected to a gang war in the North End, which apparently began May 1 when three persons were shot or injured near Douglass Center.

But police have as yet no definite links between the series of incidents that have occurred since Thursday night.

Joe Somers, veteran North End politician, was shot and wounded Saturday night at 1411 W. Eads St., Urbana.

Urbana police said Somers was apparently shot with a 20-gauge shotgun through a window. Police found a shotgun shell and two wads outside the shattered window.

Somers, 60, lost his bid for election to the Champaign city council April 1. He was reported in "fairly good" condition Monday night in Burnham City Hospital.

Also Saturday night, a member of a North End gang told police his car was shot at five or six times, and a pastor received a phone call warning him his church was to be bombed. A fire, which

Fire department officials said was arson, early Saturday morning damaged four businesses in the 900 block of North 4th Street.

A fire Thursday night destroyed the parsonage of a North End church, and the director of the Douglass Center, Booker T. Ford, received threatening phone calls Thursday and Friday night.

Twenty members of two gangs presently face charges of attempted murder in connection with the Douglass Center shootings, and police think these charges may break up the gangs.

STUDENT BEATEN

A University student was beaten and robbed Saturday night as he walked behind Bevier Hall.

Lee R. Meller, 19, of 409 E. Chalmers St., Champaign, told University Police he was confronted by three black youths who asked him for directions to Lincoln Avenue Residence Hall. They then demanded his money and threatened him with a knife, Meller said.

The group beat him on the chest and face, took his watch and \$17 in cash, and fled, Meller said.

Meller described the youths as from 18 to 20 years old and all about 5 feet 10 inches tall. He did not require medical treatment for his injuries.

Temporary Location Set for Demolition . . .

Black Blanks Build North End Theater

By NANCY DAY
Daily Illini Staff Writer

There are many old, dilapidated houses in North Champaign slated for urban renewal demolition.

But the house at 512 E. Tremont faces months of busy activity before its death, as the Black Theatre invades her cracked and decaying walls.

Already John Lee Johnson, North End black activist, and Jim Kornibe, candidate for student body president, have replaced torn-out room partitions with posts. They hope to make the house they rent for a dollar a month into one big room providing spacious stage area.

The center is designed for the Black Blanks, an organization of over 1,000 North End black youths. Johnson is a member of this group.

"The idea, first of all," said Kornibe, "is that there needs to be a culture center run by blacks to express their ideas and their culture."

Kornibe said he first saw this concept implemented in Americus, Ga., in 1965 but it failed for lack of funds.

In the past few months, Kornibe has contacted the New Thing Art Center in Washington, D. C., and Watts (Los Angeles) Actors' Workshop for ideas. A similar Black Theater established in Chicago has expressed interest in an exchange program between their production and those of Champaign's North End group.

But as yet there are no productions.

"Mary Lou Wurtzel and Tom Brown were going to redo 'The Dutchman' presentation they did at University Theatre," said Kornibe, "but it looks like we won't be able to have it this month as planned.

"The floor is rotten in some parts, and we're afraid people will fall through," he continued.

They plan to lay a plywood floor

with the help of the Blanks and a weekly grant of \$30 just pledged by the Friends' Society.

Plans also call for an outside stage in the backyard where Tony Zamoroa and Don Smith, local jazz artists, have agreed to help with music workshops. Kornibe also has contacted rock groups like The Nickel Bag who will play and teach free.

Kornibe says he is involved with the program because of his experience in Americus, his active participation in civil rights work and his role in creating The Depot, but eventually he wants complete black control of the theater and its related activities.

"It's time whites realized that blacks have a whole different culture — that there is, indeed, as Baldwin said, "a nation within a nation."

"Blacks have a different idea of what is cool and prestigious — the hustler, for instance, is a good thing.

"They have a different dress, language and social mores — amazingly different. And the whites don't understand that." Kornibe said young blacks need an outlet to express these differences and stressed that the Black Blanks is not a gang, but an organization.

As well as the theater and rock and jazz concerts, Johnson and Kornibe have plans for under-

ground films — for which The Depot has volunteered chairs, lights, cameras and experienced help. They also want to have a series of cultural lectures from the Negro History Museum in Chicago.

"We have only a few months to show enough success so a permanent center can be established," said Kornibe, who expects the building to be torn down by December, although there is a chance that 512

E. Tremont and a few of the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) buildings may be spared.

Kornibe has many ideas for the center but as he says, the main thing now is "getting it off the ground, both financially and culturally."

"We need contributions," he emphasized, and urged those with theatre experience to volunteer their help.

Housing Group News . . .

Johnson Warns MIA

By JOHN HUNDLEY

North End Negro representative John Johnson predicted Monday night that ghetto inhabitants would look upon the Men's Independent Association as the "boogey man" if the Illini Union is closed to outsiders.

Speaking to MIA presidents' council, Johnson warned of increased violence if the University refuses to accept outsiders in its facilities, calling for a "more workable relationship between yourselves and those who will never go to college."

A clarification of Student Senate's position on the expulsion of seven undergraduate students and announcement of a new policy on fan participation at basketball games also highlighted the meeting.

Johnson said the North End looked upon MIA as "intelligent young whites too sophisticated and too rich to associate with them in

the wall," Johnson said, "but they will shoot over the wall and shoot at you."

Instead Johnson proposed the University enter into a program to improve the situation in the North End. "The ghetto is what it is today because the University has turned its back on it all these years," he said.

He said the University community must get involved in order to "associate and know that we're all human beings."

Finishing his remarks by emphasizing that MIA and the University had an obligation to help resolve the problem, Johnson then asked for questions.

Randy Mullin, Campus View Lodge president, said the MIA resolution was misunderstood. "We wanted a proposal excluding them only when their presence there excludes the University students," Mullin said.

Another council representative contended that since he had worked three years to get the opportunity to go to college, those in the ghetto could too. Johnson complimented him on his accomplishment, saying "the average Joe Blow, either black or white, cannot achieve what you are achieving, however."

will receive self-regulated hours as soon as parental permission slips are returned and six houses are still working on final plans, but said keys will be issued "soon."

Five houses have grade restrictions, three just for sophomores and two for all members.

In other action Patsy Parker, Student Senate president, explained the action taken by Senate exec last week.

"We said if things are not done, we would resign," she said.

These things are postponement of hearings for the 47 Dow demonstrators not yet brought before Subcommittee A, an open hearing for the seven expelled students and an examination of the University discipline system.

She emphasized due process in all three cases.

"This is the decision of the five of us, not of Senate," said Miss Parker. "We felt if we could not be effective in Senate, we'd try to be effective somewhere else."

seven University students for participation in the Dow sit-in was the main topic of conversation at the Womens' Independent Student Association (WISA) Second Council meeting Monday in the Illini Union.

Kay Sloan, WISA executive vice president, handed out copies of Student Senate's resolution and mandate which question the due process of law granted to the seven students at the disciplinary hearings. According to the Senate resolution, due process should include "open hearings, cross examinations of witnesses, transcripts of the hearings, and any other reasonable requests." However, the subcommittees' interpretation of due process differs from that

of Senate and makes no provision for cross examination of witnesses. This is Senate's main objection.

In a Supreme Court decision over an Alabama controversy, it was decided that due process does not necessarily call for cross examination, it was pointed out. Cross examination is not necessary under all judicial systems, but is dependent upon the constitutions of the individual states.

According to WISA parliamentarian Beth Kelso, "educational systems have usually been granted arbitrary decision as to how they should conduct their disciplinary hearings." This includes whether or not cross examination is granted during such hearings.

At the University, rules state that cross examination is not granted to students during disciplinary hearings. According to Miss Sloan, Senate's resolution and mandate propose to alter this rule and grant cross examination to the seven students in a new hearing.

the ghetto."

MIA was the first group to go on record this fall in favor of adopting a proposal limiting use of the Illini Union facilities to members of the University community. The proposal itself came from Illini Union Student Activities board last spring, but was not brought out publicly at that time for fear it would be seen as an attempt by the University to silence free speech demonstrations.

"The North End community will scream 'discrimination' to any pan to restrict use of the Union," Johnson said. He admitted that perhaps the proposal wasn't made with that intent, but "these are the things people are seeing, these are the things people will say."

"The University is only 500 yards from the ghetto," Johnson said. He said the University could build a wall around itself if it wanted to, but it couldn't keep the North End youths out completely because they have no place else to go and the University attracted them.

"They will cease to come over

Student Senate coordinating committee chairman Ken Blan told MIA senate executive committee's recent threat to resign if the 7 expelled undergraduate students were not given another hearing was mainly an effective bargaining tool.

He said exec didn't really want to resign but the threat had helped when talking with University officials.

PANHEL

By NANCY DAY

An informal survey of sophomore key progress in Monday's Panhellenic meeting showed 15 houses with unrestricted, implemented plans.

Girls of three other sororities

Continuing their series of discussions on current and future Greek problems, Panhel yesterday focussed on how lowering the apartment age would affect sororities. The age is to be 21, effective next fall, and will apply to some senior sorority women.

A questionnaire was sent to 27 universities who have a Greek system and who have had apartments available to undergraduates. Most of them reported no problems but said it was too early to evaluate completely.

"We must set up criteria now," said Panhellenic president Pam Tate. "It's good to do it before you're forced to."

Illinois' Panhellenic rules now automatically deactivate any girl who moves out of the sorority, and 19 houses have national clauses to this effect.

WISA

By MARGE FERROLI

The fairness of the decision of subcommittees A and B to expel

Concerned Citizens fight proposed North End low-income projects

By DAVID HELLER
Daily Illini Staff Writer

After being knocked down but not out twice by local governmental agencies, a pressure group from the Spaulding Park area of Champaign has risen once again from the floor with hopes of KOing any additional public housing projects north of University Avenue via a court decision.

Jim Cross, spokesman for the group called Concerned Citizens, has pledged to continue battling against construction of the proposed North Harris Street and Fourth Street projects and any other public housing units in Champaign's North End.

"We just cannot and definitely will not sit around and watch the North End decay under an onslaught of new concentrated housing projects," Cross said.

'Pleaded with council'

"We have pleaded, but with no avail, to our city council and the Champaign County Housing Authority (CCHA) on behalf of citizens from Spaulding Park and North Fourth Street for the abandonment of those proposed projects. Now it's on to the courts."

The main gripe sounded by the Concerned Citizens is that the two proposed complexes along with Bradley-McKinley, Burch Village and Mount Olive Manor will only serve to saturate their neighborhoods with low income housing.

"Concentrated public housing will inevitably cause the following problems in our communities," Cross explained.

1. Crime rates will increase;
2. Sanitation problems will increase;
3. Property values will decline;
4. A malign and unsafe environment will be created in which our children will be raised."

'Extend ghetto'

Cross added, "Increased concentration would also function to extend ghetto live, by prompting racial and economic segregation."

Robert Pope, a Champaign attorney who sympathizes with the group, cited the

failure of concentrated public housing in other cities throughout the country as evidence for Cross' claims.

"Boston, St. Louis and Chicago have all been saddled with social pangs because of

their decision to create overly densified areas in their cities. The citizens of Champaign do not want to be thrust into such rat holes."

(Continued on page 10)



(Staff photo by Anne Cusack)

A BICYCLE, minus the rear tire, lies abandoned in front of an apartment in the Bradley-McKinley project. The screen in the door is also torn.

CRJ Plans Summer Work

By **JUDY OSTERBACH**
Daily Illini Staff Writer

Long hot summer ahead? Not if Citizens for Racial Justice can help it.

At a meeting Monday night, CRJ recruited members to carry on its work in Champaign-Urbana this summer. Due to the turnover of personnel during the summer, the various committees need new members and, in some cases, new chairmen.

The general recreation committee will combine the work begun this semester by the separate community and University recreation committees. The main thrust of

this committee will be in trying to convince the University to open its recreation facilities to the underprivileged children of Champaign-Urbana.

The academic appointment committee, with the cooperation of the Black Student Association, will investigate the problem of recruiting more black faculty members. According to Phil Meranto, general chairman of CRJ, there are presently only six or seven Blacks on the UI faculty.

The committee on local government employment will concentrate its efforts on the Champaign Fire Department and the local school

systems. Meranto said CRJ has found "outright cases of discrimination that we can document" in the schools.

Members agreed that the committee on private sector employment should investigate the procedure whereby the University accept bids from various suppliers, in an attempt to restrict acceptance of bids from companies with discriminatory employing policies.

The police committee will continue interviewing people from the North End, compiling lists of grievances against the police.

In housing, building violations will be investigated, and CRJ will try to find housing for families displaced by urban renewal.

CRJ's nonacademic employment committee has succeeded in placing four Blacks in learner programs with the University. The committee plans to expand this project during the summer months.

CRJ members also discussed possible CRJ involvement in next November's referendum to change Champaign's city-manager form of government, with councilmen elected at large. An aldermanic form, it was noted, would probably insure Negro representation on the council.

Action was tabled until the members could clarify the limits of Illinois law on this question.

OIC To Provide More Jobs

By BOB CARR

Daily Illini Staff Writer

"We help ourselves!" is the motto of the Opportunities Industrial Center, located on 804-808 N. Fifth Street in Champaign.

OIC, which is a nation-wide organization to promote the advancement of underprivileged Blacks, took its beginnings in Champaign County in December of 1967 and, under the direction of the Rev. James Offutt, has taken great steps in the direction of helping many North End Negroes.

"What we want to do is to train and retain people in the area," Mrs. Iva F. Matthews, secretary of Champaign OIC said. "We want to tap the keg of skills these people have to make them more flexible and prepared for business and industry."

"Our aim is to tie up the loose ends of people left behind, we want people from 18 to 80, or maybe even 90 if we can help," Mrs. Matthews continued.

OIC, doesn't belong to any sect group or have any specific affilia

tion, "other than to the community," she pointed out. "We want everyone to feel a part of OIC, because it's there. It's not a school, it's a training center with the main purpose of tapping hidden skills these people have. It's our opportunity to step ahead."

The program itself consists of two parts; a prevocational training period for all entries with emphasis on basics, such as mathematics, English, minority group history, personal grooming, hygiene, budgeting and the like. This "feeder" program, which lasts anywhere from 3-13 weeks, depending on the individual, leads into the second phase of skills training.

The Rev. Mr. Offutt, in the six months that he has directed the program, has done impressive work in pushing OIC into its present state. Recently announced figures put total funds collected at \$55,000; over half the \$100,000 needed to put 200 trainees through the program the first year.

"We have a firm commitment from local industry that they are

interested in the program, and are willing to pledge money as well as providing on-the-job training and showing a willingness to employ OIC graduates," the Rev. Mr. Offutt noted. So far, the money has been contributed by the community itself and local churches; this total doesn't, however, represent money from business and industry, from whom we have had indications that much more money will be given."

"The professional academic community has also been very helpful in both contributions and pledging time. We have every reason to believe that business and industry will be very generous, also."

The program is far from complete, however. With a present staff of an executive director, sec-

retary, and recruiter, OIC still needs a job development man, whose main job will be to act as liaison between the trainees and industry, a counselor, a bookkeeper and three additional teachers as well as a record player for Mrs. Matthews hoped for cultural program in dancing and singing.

Already more than 60 people have signed up for the initial training which will get underway in early June. Skills training will begin "ambitiously in fall in a rather limited way." Day and evening classes will be provided with the emphasis on night school.

OIC had its beginnings about four years ago, in Philadelphia under the direction of the Rev. Leon Sullivan "as a kind of home-grown attempt to provide basic

training for men and women who need help to meet the qualifications of steady employment." Since that time, the Philadelphia center has placed more than 3500 people in jobs.

The OIC idea was germinated in the heads of the Rev. Mr. Offutt, and the Rev. Galen Miller in January of 1967, when initial plans for the Champaign center were made.