Volume 1

The Week Of June 5, 1989

35¢

FATHER'S DAY CONTEST FOR "THE WAR"

Partnership In Knowledge



John Hirschfeld, President of the News-John Hirschfeld, President of the News-Gazette, and Phillip Rowell, Editor of the East Central Illinois Voice, announced that the East Central Illinois Voice will be a weekly supplement inside the News-Gazette every Monday. The

Voice newspaper will be inserted in some home delivered editions and will be available with the News-Gazette at newsstands listed on page 8. Shown in the picture are Betty Nesbitt-Rowell and Phillip Rowell, II.

IF NOT NOW...WHEN?

by Phillip Rowell

The fundamental purpose of this newspaper is to provide information, inspiration and motivation to our readers. We hope that future issues of Voice will arouse a sense of pride in our legitimate heritage, our ' selfand provide respect responsible citizens for our communities

At this moment in history, we need, above all, to define ourselves. Black people were, are and always will be; it's only you and I that is finite. During the past few years, for most of us, the focus has turned inward. To 'coin popular phrase: gotta get mine!" We began to act like we existed in a cocoon, spinning out our skills and desires, oblivious to the external environment..the community where we live.

I believe that if the goals of self are to be met, we must both accept and discharge responsibilities toward the trends and negative influences of the society in which we operate. That relationship is direct and specific. Academia, musical "corporate skills, climbing", athletic talent and vocational expertise has relevancy TUenvironment of unreason irrationality. "Crack", teenage preg-nancies, child abuse, homelessness, illiteracy, racism and political apathy is unreason-able and irrational. Therefore, we have an obligation to be a positive influence for reason and rationality whether stated or not, this is the formula for success!!

Whatever our place of birth, rural or ur-

ban, we must accept a new order of responsibility for understanding, monitoring, and being responsive to the social, cultural and political nature of the environment we are presently in. We cannot afford, both economically and spiritually, a foolish debate about "town vs gown"...ours is an unique opportunity here in Central Illinois. We have but a few years to reconcile the conflicting attitudes and actions of this century. Our task will not be easy, however, the demands of self must not keep us from the "rewards" that await us. Our children will surely thank us for providing a solid foundation upon which to build their world. Remember: got to do something to save the children, soon it will be their turn to try and save the world."

Freedom cannot function without the expression communication of ideas. From the founding in 1847 of the North Star newspaper by Frederick Douglass we protected, recorded and taught Black history to each successive generation. Perhaps Langston Hughes said it best.. There's a dream in this land with its back against the wall. To save the dream for one, it must be for all.

As stated in earlier issues of the Voice, this papers's concept is very simple, it is meant to be, and is formal recognition of excellence.



International



ETHIOPIA: A HISTORICAL SYNOPSIS

by Shumet Sishagne

Mention Ethiopia and young Americans would remember the emaciated images of famine victims which they saw on their screens a few years ago. The memory of their grandparents might stretch a bit further, to 1935: to the heroic resistance Ethiopia put up against fascist Italy's invaprophetic sion; the speeches of the Emperor Haile Selassie at the League of Nations; and

decision of the great powers to abandon Ethiopia to Mussolini's caprice in an effort to placate fascism. Well, if their great grandparents were alive, they would have remembered this African state which scored a decisive victory against a modern European army at the Battle of Adowa in 1896 and thereby succeeded in maintaining its independence in an age when much of the world was divided between the European powers.

This enigmatic country which until the end of the last century was known to Westerners as Abyssinia, is home to an illustrious history that goes back to several centuries. Written records attest to the establishment of a prosperous empire with its' center in Axum (present day northern Ethiopia) at

northern Ethiopia) at least a century before the Christian era. This empire carried brisk trade with Egypt and other neighboring African communities, as

well as with the Far East and the Mediter-ranean world. Its' army crossed the Red Sea and established hegemony over a portion of southern Arabia.

By the fourth century A.D. the court adopted Christianity as an official religion a result of its intimate contact with the Greko Roman world. The introduction of Christianity stimulated the development of a unique blend of Christian and indigenous African culture. The Ethiopian Church became a center for the development of a highly sophisticated artistic and literary tradition. The introduction of Islam after the eighth century provided an additional cultural enrichment to the region.

The extra-ordinary challenge that faced the country seem to have produced the right kind of leadership that was capable of responding to it. The three emperors who ruled Ethiopia from the midnineteenth century to

the beginning of the twentieth century: Tewodros, Yohannes, and Menelik worked hard to unify the country, to consolidate state control, to give shape to the country's ill defined boundaries, and to build an administrative and military apparatus that was capable of resisting the imperialist onslaught. These preparations enabled Menelik to defeat the Italian army in 1896, and to persuade other European powers to recognize Ethiopia's sovereignty.

Currently the country faces severe challenges: a devastating famine caused drought and intractable civil wars. But, it is to be hoped that a society which has proved itself adept at meeting serious challenges in the past, will have sufficient experience to resolve this one



too.

C-U residents for over 16 years. The Demissie Family (left to right) Melaku, Gloria, Zewde and Misganaw "Mike". Mike is a senior professional scientist with the Illinois State Water Survey and Gloria is in retail at Payless Shoes. She is also very active in the Washington Elementary School PTA. They attend Dublin Church of Christ.



Addis Ababa, capitol of Ethiopia, the land of "13 months of sun."

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Perspective

REFOCUSING AND RE-ESTABLISHING OUR PRIORITIES

by Nathaniel Banks



In a functioning family there is a husband, a wife, a father and mother and perhaps children. Each one of the members plays a vital role in the perpetuation of the family. The role of the man in the family is to be a responsible provider and a leader. The role of the woman in the family is to be a nurturer and sustainer. These roles were established from the foundation of this world. Our decision to move away from those roles have much to do with the situation we find ourselves in today. The problem is seen most acutely in the black community where this concept of the family is not even in the thinking of the majority of African Americans. Most of our homes are female headed, with an

occasional male appearance. Those homes who do have both a man and a woman are all to often locked in a struggle for power. What can be done to reverse this destructive trend? The family has to be reinstated. There is a group of people calling themselves the Christian Family Living Academy attempting to refocus the minds and hearts of families. The first area of need seems to be providing support for the development of African American men. The best time to make a man is while he is still a boy. The group is looking at establishing a home/school for the so-called atrisk young men between the ages of 8 and 12 years old. At this home-/school the young men will be taught by modeling what a real family is and how it should function. To do so requires a twenty-four 1 hour living environment with a strong foundation. Thus, the name Christian Family Academy.

Young men must be given an identity and purpose. Left to themselves or this present society, they will only come up with negative answers to the who am I questions. The Living Academy promises to help young men answer those questions to their betterment and the betterment of the community. This work is in its infant stages and anyone with the same desire and commitment to change is welcomed to join in. Those interested should call 359-1701 for more information.

Voices Of The People

Please tune in to "Voices of the People" Sunday morning at 7 a.m. on K-104 FM

IT'S YOUR MONEY

- Q. My daughter is just one year old. When should I start saving for her college education?
- A. College costs are rising sharply. The current cost at an average college is about \$8,000 per year, or \$32,000 for four years. If you start saving \$20 per week in a savings or money market account which averages 7% interest, then you will have saved about \$34,000 by her 18th birthday. About one-half of the \$34,000 will be the interest paid to you for investing at the institution

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TO THE EDITOR:

Although I was not the recipient of a recent letter sent out by Local Democrat "Chair", I did have the opportunity to read it and I am enclosing a copy for your perusal.

When I began to read it, I chuckled at the rambling esotericism. When I read the following, however, my mood turned to one of disgus-"In the immortal words of the immortal HaroldWashington, 'Politics ain't beanbag'. We are not ready for the hand-to-hand combat, but we will not flinch before Republican intimidation, not even when it sinks to suborning renegade democrats."

The paragraph continues with incoherent ramblings regarding the party's financial status that has no relevance here. What is relevant is that the American Heritage Dictionary describes the word "suborn," as inducing a person to "commit a wrong or unlawful act, as perjury." Ms. Cade is implying that some sinister Republican took advantage of certain Black Democrats such as Anna Wall Scott and John Lee Johnson, and persuaded them to run against Helen Satterswaithe, and Linda Cross respective-

Let the record show that I and Mr. Johnson possess a cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata, and pons, which prepare us to develop the necessary political awareness to think for ourselves. Also, since I have "paid my dues" by serving in the Armed Forces, I should have the privilege of taking democracy seriously re: freedom of speech, and political choice. I am insulted, (and all other Afro Americans should be also) by Ms. Cade's having suggested that political differences are synonymous with Ethnic Ignorance.

Since the letter referred to further extols the virtues of Ms. Linda Cross, I would like to provide some additional information.

Ms. Cross was initially welcomed into the Democrat fold by Harry Tiebout to run for the county Board when she conducted a successful "Racist" campaign against building Public Housing in her Neighborhood.

It is time for local Afro Americans to seriously question their continued allegiance to the County Democrat Party; or maybe history should repeat itself. In the next election new Precinct Committee persons should get elected, and send Lillian Cade home to bake cookies or review basic courses in Rhetoric and Democracy.

Anna Wall Scott



Ernie Nicholas

For a small business the support of a community can be an integral part of the road to financial success. Here, in Champaign, we are fortunate to witness the impact of this support. Ernie Nicholas, owner of ENTERPRISES NICHOLAS located at 204 N. First

Street, Champaign, IL. With a B.S. in Me-Engineering chanical from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York and a successful corporate Ernie background, decided to follow the entrepreneurial spirit in his heart and opened

NICHOLAS ENTERPRISES in April of 1986. Having a considerable background as a hair care supplier, Ernie felt that his corporate experiences and self-determination would enable him to be a success in the industry. He would be the first to tell you that success is not his easy. Starting business in his apartment and selling doorto-door in a part-time capacity, was the beginning. However, after "paying his dues", Ernie now feels that his goals and ambitions are being realized.



Theola Olion

With more than 12 yrs. management experience in a wide variety of service oriented environment, Theola Olion, is also accomplished in the field of ceramics.

A native of Minter City, Mississippi and resident of C-U for over 30 years, Theola is currently Director of the Child Development Center at Chanute Air Force Base in Ran-

Theola has a B.S. in Recreation & Park Administration from the University of Illinois. She has published artiand is cles, active in leadership

activities such as: * Member of the Board of Directors of the University of Illinois Black Alumni Association.

* Co-Chairperson of the Earl B. Dickerson Fundraiser Committee at the University of Illinois. * Chairperson of the University of Illinois Black Alumni Associations Tailgreat and Homecoming Dance, conjunction with the Afro-American Cultural Center to be held in October, 1989.

She has two sons, Keith and Byron and is an avid golfer. Theola has travelled all over Africa and Mexico.



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Entertainment



"THE QUEST TO BRING SOUL TO EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS"

by Steven T. Birdine President MENECI INC.

My wife and I have a basic goal. We want to bring a commercial soul music radio station to East Central Illinois.

Our reasons are basic. One, such a media outlet would do a world of good with regards to changing many of the negative, self-defeatist, "woe is me" attitudes that you encounter in this area.

Two, this media outlet would become "the" focal point for publicizing social activities, church functions, town meetings, political forums, public affairs programs and other items of interest to us.

Finally, a soul music radio station has the ability to reach our young people and bring them positive messages that showcase and highlight positive minority accomplishments. This positive reinforcement is sorely lacking in our current mainstream media coverage. In essence, a com-

age. In essence, a commercial soul music radio station has the capacity to change the way we view ourselves and change the way others view us.

It is this quest to bring a soul music radio station to this area that has frustrated me for the past year. Everybody "says" they see the need for such a media outlet. Everybody "talks" about how nice it would be. But, over the year that we've had our application in with the Federal Communications Commission very few people have helped make the idea a reality. То those who have helped, we send our most sincere thanks! We've met with people who liked the idea. But, they haven't helped. We sent letters to local churches. Only one responded. We sent letters and talked with student organizations. Still no response. The frustration began to build. Yet, we hold fast to our goal!

What can you do to help?

- 1) Simply talk with people about the idea of a soul music radio station. Maybe you'll talk with someone who can help. The more people that are aware of our efforts the better. SPREAD THE WORD!
- 2) If you'd be interested in helping, give me a call at (217) 398-2143 or (217) 333-9676.
- 3) If this sounds like a <u>business opportunity</u> you'd like to pursue, I'd like to hear from you.

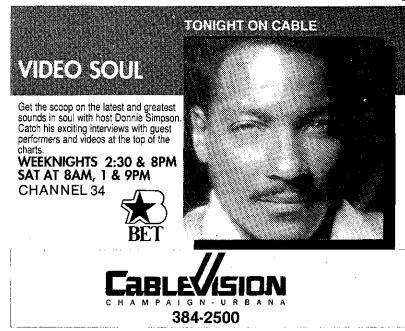


P'S PICKS: CHAM.-URB. MUSIC

by Reggie Patterson

Hello, how are you? What's up? My Name is Reggie Patterson, also known as Reggie P. over the airwaves, and this is an introduction to the new column P.'s Picks: Cham. - Urb. Music. I must admit that as I am writing this, it is Memorial Day weekend and my mind is generally focused on how I will escape work, either relaxing at home or finding the hottest party. Therefore, this will be a brief introduction with a guarantee that the column will be bigger and better as the weeks progress.

This column will feature a review and preview of black music that is popular or has a chance to be popular in this area. My work as Music Director for Cham.-Urb.'s only black music station WBML 89.3





Champaign native Shirley Richardson will be bringing you news from Hollywood each week.

CABLE FM, and host of WPGU's Soulful Sunday puts me in a good position to know the areas musical taste. The list and reviews presented in this paper will not be based on national charts such as Billboard, or BET's Top 40, etc. They will be based on what I have experienced to be the musical taste of Cham.-Urb. Each week I will give a list of the top new music and a list of the music with the greatest impact in this area. Occasionally, I will give specific reviews of artist, producers, albums or general musical entertainment

Now very quickly... this week look for the new KOOL MOE DEE, "They Want Money" a track produced by Teddy Riley avallable on his new album which is already in the stores...JODY WATLEY/ERIC B. & RAKIM, "Friends" the second release from her Larger Than Life album, the track features the mass appeal idea of a major singer with a major rapper the O'JAYS have done the same with the new "Have You Had Your Love Today" the rapper is JAZ...Look and listen for 10dB, "I Second That Emotion"...THE SYSTEM, "Midnight Special"...B-FATS, ALEESE SIMMONS, "I

Found Love"...HEAVY D. & THE BOYS, "We Got Our Own Thang"...and one that I have yet to hear, but I'm positive it will be a super hit, the new L.L. COOL J, "I'm That Kind Of Guy".

Important! Contest YOU Can Win!!

THE EAST CENTRAL ILLINOIS VOICE & WBML RADIO, are sponsoring a contest in celebration of "Father's Day". To enter, you must write an essay, of 50 words less on <u>What</u> Father Means To Me. The winner will receive 2 tickets to the Leonard vs. Hearns closed circuit fight at the University of Illinois Assembly Hall, June 12, 1989. Deadline for entries is 5:00 p.m., June 9, 1989. Winners will be notified by telephone. Please send entries to The East Central Illinois Voice, 101 E. Healey #1, Champaign, IL. 61820, or at WBML Radio, 708 S. Mat-Urbana, hews, 61801. Decisions of the judges are final. For more information call 333-2613.

People.



Arthur J. Slates

Doris, Marketing Manag-

er for CABLEVISION in

Urbana. She is a native

of Guyana, South Ameri-

ca and spent her child-

hood in New York City.

Marilyn, commonly re-

graduate

University.

vertising

ferred to as Anne, is a

College in New York,

with a degree in Jour-

nalism. Also, she has

received a MBA in Mar-

keting from Long Island

periences include de-

signing marketing pro-

grams for Fortune 500

companies, and develop-

ing promotional and ad-

activities.

Her professional ex-

οf

City

Meet Marilyn Anne

Arthur J.

fulfillment of one of New

He came to this area as a member of the U.S. Air Force, stationed at A.F.B., Chanute

Anne has worked for R.H. Macy in Brooklyn, N.Y. Shown in the picis her Richard Marley Nelson. He is a student at Carrie Busey Elementary School.

As a single parent, Anne believes in the importance of family. "It is sometimes difficult to have a fulltime position however, philosophy about parenting is based on my parents beliefs. Therefore, I believe in "family life" for my son. It's not how much time, it's what you do with the time you have."

Slates, recently awarded officer of the year for the University of Illinois Police Department.

Mr. Slates has been on the University of Illinois Police force for 23 years, and currently holds the rank of Sergeant. Becoming a police officer was the Sqt. Slates' ambition. Under his senior picture in the Bronx Vocational High School year book, it reads "hoping to be York's finest".

years ago, and made his home here after marry-(Aber-Kathleen nathy) Slates, in July, 1960. They have two sons, Mark and Gary, and a Daughter, Angela. Mr. Slates has had

extensive law enforcement training during his career as a police officer. He has attended Parkland Community College, as well as continued course work in various other law classes. enforcement such as narcotics enforcement; traffic enforcement; sex crimes; special weapons and tactics school, juvenile court act, many others. He has studied at the F.B.I. Academy, in Virginia; and State Police Academy for V.I.P. protection.

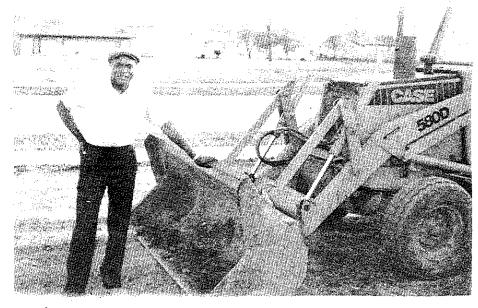
Mr. Slates was born in New Port News, Virginia, and was reared in the Bronx, New York, where his family moved him as a small child. After graduating from Bronx Vocational High School, he began his military career. spent 5 years in the active military service, then joined the reserves where he currently remains, making a total of 33 years of military service.

Mr. Slates' hobby is collecting guns. He also has a small gun shop where he sells weapons.

The East Central Illinois Voice salutes Sgt. Slates for illustrating that "what the mind can conceive, it can achieve."



Marilyn Anne Doris and her son, Richard Marley Nelson



Champaign City Councilman J. W. Pirtle announced that beginning late 1989, phase IV of the Martin Luther King Subdivision will begin in Champaign.

PUBLISHERS BOX

The East Central Illinois Voice Newspaper is published weekly by Nes-Ro Communications & Productions, 101 E. Healey #1, Champaign, IL 61820, (217) 373-4153. Your comments, letters to the editor and articles are welcomed.

Though we value the views and opinions of our readers, the opinions and views of our readers are not necessarily the views and opinions of the East Central Illinois Voice.

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WHAT SHOULD A CHILD BE TOLD ABOUT DEATH?

Do you explain Grandpa's death with a fairy tale? Do you say, that God "called him away?" Or do you answer truthfully, and simply, so that the child may relate his grandfather's death to familiar things; flowers, for example, live, grow, wither and finally die? We believe the flow-

we believe the flow-er example can be un-derstood by the child because it relates to things he's seen and can grasp. "Flowers," you may explain, "don't live a long time but we like them while we have them. Grandba lived a like them while we have them. Grandpa lived a long time and you and he had many good times together. But, like the flowers, he too, died. We will remember him with love woult we'll

with love, won't we?"
The child needs understand that what has happened is a natural course of eventsthe seasons the rising and setting

of the sun. He comes closer to his family through such honest in-volvement, maturing as he finds his own sadness is shared and understood.

Your questions and comments on this and comments on this and other subjects are wel-come--in private or publicly through this column.



Mary Sturdivant

LIKE FAMILY HELPING FAMILY

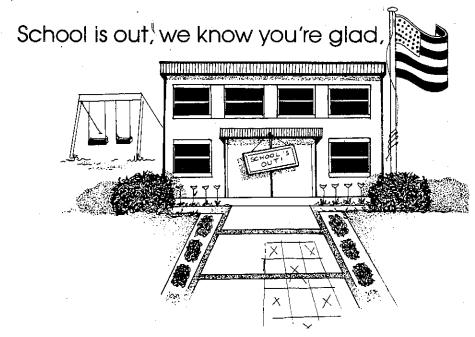


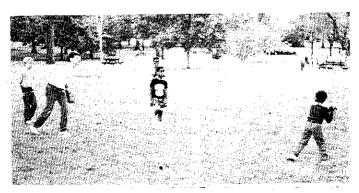














Reminder

MISS BLACK CENTRAL ILLINOIS PAGEANT

Tickets are now being sold for the 3rd Annual "Miss Black Central Illinois" Pageant, Friday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Laborer's Local 703, 108 Anthony Dr. Urbana.

Tickets are \$10.00, for ticket information, call 333-2613.

TEACHER APPRECIATION

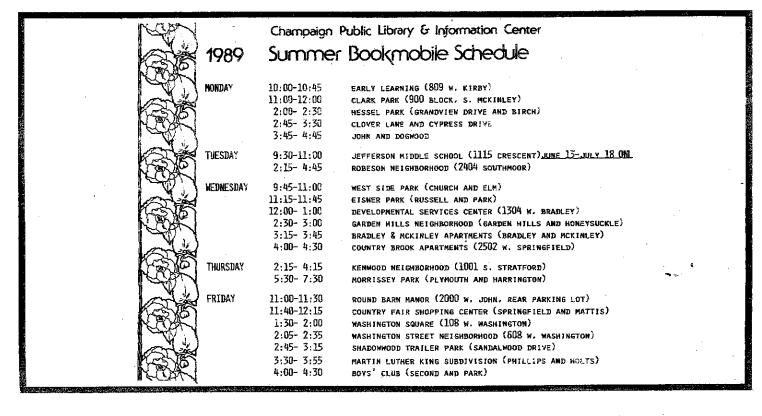
If all the wisdom of the world were contained in a single room, what would be the most important thing have? The answer, of course, is the key to the room. Think of our teachers, as that kind of key. Without teachers, society probably would have perished long ago without the guidance, capable encouragement, vision they discipline The East provide. Central Illinois Voice

salutes the teachers and formally gives the praise they truly deserve.

It takes a perceptive individual to help another fine-tune his or her mind so the student can become more independent, contributive, moral and the like. Teaching often hard, meticulous is work and often demands an instructor to be substitute father, surrogate mother, chief adviser, diplomat and assume countless other roles.

Teachers often display strong leadership and raw determination in their characters. They have to since many of them may have more than their share of rowdy students, uncaring parents, limited supplies and substandard facilities. The teachers love best their profession as is clearly illustrated by the zeal and commitment to excellence they put craft. their into Teaching is not just a job to those professionals. It's a calling, a crusade, a destiny.

The teacher, as much as any other individual, links our minds to the past and future. These are the ones who try to preserve and interpret history while taking special pains to help students see beyond mundane matters, believe in themselves and develop imagination and vision.



The News-Gazette

salutes the

East Central Illinois

Voice

We congratulate the staff of the Voice on its commitment and bold steps in organizing and producing a newspaper aimed at the black community.

We extend best wishes for continued success in this partnership of knowledge.

The News-Gazette

Unfold your world.

15 Main Street, P.O. Box 677, Champaign, IL 61820-0677

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