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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

Clinton Library

DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. note	Dwight to Eli Segal; re: Public Allies and Today's "Urban Barn-Raising" (1 page)	01/18/1993	Personal Misfile

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
National Service
Rick Allen
OA/Box Number: 2149

FOLDER TITLE:

Public Allies

2013-0661-F

jp4936

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
- P3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(a)(3) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CALL TO NATIONAL SERVICE
PUBLIC ALLIES' PERSPECTIVE

America today is filled with a new sense of hope. To bring our country together and solve the pressing problems of our communities, and to make higher education affordable to all Americans, President-elect Clinton has proposed the creation of a National Service Trust. Under this program, young people would serve their country and their communities for one or two years, in exchange for a stipend during their time of service and educational or (other options) vouchers at the completion of service.

PUBLIC ALLIES' Recommendations for National Service

PUBLIC ALLIES trains diverse young people as leaders through an innovative year-long program. These young people, known as "Public Allies", are placed in one-year full-time positions at a range of non-profit organizations and government agencies, work on community problems as a team outside of their individual jobs, and also receive leadership training.

From our experience helping young people work in their communities, PUBLIC ALLIES recommends that the national service program should:

- **encourage Americans to come home again.** National service should rebuild America's sense of community by providing young people with opportunities to serve in their home communities.
- **create community.** There is a sense in America that we cannot survive as a nation of rugged individuals, but that we have to provide young people with communities outside of their schools and homes. Whether in group programs or in individual programs with an intensive team component, young people from diverse backgrounds should have the opportunity to be part of a community that supports them, and to engage in efforts larger than themselves.
- **listen to local communities.** In order to succeed, national service must be a part of, not an imposition on, our communities. Local individuals and groups must take part in designing and implementing service programs in order to build long-term support and strengthen capacity for problem-solving in communities.
- **give young people a voice.** Young people's continuing participation in planning the National Service program is vital to ensure that those who President Clinton asks to serve will answer his call.
- **decentralize, not centralize.** Provide a slim, non-bureaucratic entity to allocate resources to a diverse and innovative range of intermediary organizations which can more accurately assess, and more efficiently meet, community needs.

- **invest in the individual.** Focus resources on organizations which have low overheads, so that young people and communities receive the maximum benefits.

- **maximize choice.** A flexible program offering a broad range of opportunities will encourage the participation of young people from different backgrounds and address the varied needs of specific communities.

- **reward innovation and results.** Young people should apply for vouchers to participate in the National Service Trust. Certified organizations would then compete for "vouchered" young people to participate in programs which meet the needs of both young people and communities. Inviting organizations to compete for "vouchered" participants will encourage competition and innovation, and reward successful efforts.

- **learn from experience.** Involving the non-profit sector will engage individuals and organizations who have led our country in the design and implementation of social services.

- **encourage entrepreneurship.** Encourage young people to start their own public service projects. Funding and team-based training for such entrepreneurial projects could be managed through an organization like PUBLIC ALLIES.

What is PUBLIC ALLIES?

The leadership needed to solve America's problems already exists in our communities. PUBLIC ALLIES is a unique privately funded non-profit organization which connects young leaders from diverse communities with existing non-profit organizations and government agencies which address pressing issues in our communities and our country.

PUBLIC ALLIES is a multi-cultural non-profit organization designed to help young people, in all their diversity, take leadership in improving our neighborhoods and our nation through a long-term commitment to public life. Our Apprenticeship Program is one of many innovative models for President-elect Clinton's national service initiative.

"Public Allies":

- work together in a team to address one issue that impacts their community.

- serve for a year in a full-time placement at a community-based or national non-profit organization, community development corporation, or government agency.

- learn, through weekly training, the skills that will make them more effective in their individual placements and their

team projects.

The PUBLIC ALLIES Apprenticeship Program began in September of 1992 in Washington and has received excellent feedback from the organizations and agencies in which young people are placed and from the community at large. The team of "Public Allies" represent a variety of racial, ethnic, economic, and educational backgrounds and have chosen to work on economic development in a low-income community in Washington, DC as their team project for the year.

Lessons Learned from Creating PUBLIC ALLIES

From our efforts designing and implementing a program to meet the needs of young people and their communities, PUBLIC ALLIES has learned that:

- young people from different cultural, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds can work together as an effective team. Diversity is a strength and not a weakness in solving community problems.
- non-profit organizations and government agencies are interested in young staff who, as a result of support and hands-on training provided by an outside organization, are ready to hit the ground running. In fact, organizations are willing to invest substantial financial resources to develop young people as public leaders and as future staff.
- for any innovative program to be effective, young people and leaders from the communities involved must be engaged in the design and implementation of the program.
- programs to involve young people in community problem-solving can be run at low cost and funded by innovative public-private-non-profit partnerships.

PUBLIC ALLIES: Meeting the Demand for National Service

The expansion of the PUBLIC ALLIES Apprenticeship Program model depends on the creation of an innovative partnership between the public, private and non-profit sectors. To date, PUBLIC ALLIES has raised \$750,000, primarily from private foundations, but also from non-profits, corporations, individuals and unions. These funds support the Pilot Program in Washington and the new Regional Office in Chicago, as well as the national office which conducts all evaluation and expansion of the PUBLIC ALLIES model to new sites. Because of support for our programs across the nation, we have begun planning to replicate our project in four to six cities around the country by 1994, beginning with Chicago in 1993.

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PUBLIC ALLIES' Recommendations for National Service

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From our experience helping young people work in their communities, **PUBLIC ALLIES** recommends that the national service program should:

- **Encourage Americans to come home again.** National service should rebuild America's sense of community by providing young people with opportunities to serve in their home communities.
- **Create community.** There is a sense in America that we cannot survive as a nation of only rugged individuals, but that should provide young people with communities outside of their schools and homes. Whether in group programs or in individual programs with an intensive team component, young people from diverse backgrounds should have the opportunity to be part of a community that supports them, and to engage in efforts larger than themselves.
- **Listen to local communities.** In order to succeed, national service should be a part of, not an imposition on, our communities. Local individuals and groups should take part in designing and implementing service programs in order to build long-term support and strengthen capacity for problem-solving in communities.
- **Give young people a voice.** Young people's continuing participation in planning the National Service program is vital to ensure that those who President Clinton asks to serve will answer his call.
- **Decentralize, not centralize.** Provide a slim, non-bureaucratic entity to allocate resources to a diverse and innovative range of intermediary organizations which can more accurately assess, and more efficiently meet, community needs.

- **Invest in the individual.** Focus resources on organizations which have low overheads, so that young people and communities receive the maximum benefits.
- **Maximize choice.** A flexible program offering a broad range of opportunities will encourage the participation of young people from different backgrounds and address the varied needs of specific communities.
- **Reward innovation and results.** Young people should apply for vouchers to participate in the National Service Trust. Certified organizations would then compete for "vouchered" young people to participate in programs which meet the needs of both young people and communities. Inviting organizations to compete for "vouchered" participants will encourage competition and innovation, and reward successful efforts.
- **Learn from experience.** Involving the non-profit sector will engage individuals and organizations who have led the design and implementation of social services.
- **Encourage entrepreneurship.** Encourage young people to start their own public service projects. Funding and team-based training for such entrepreneurial projects could be managed through an organization like PUBLIC ALLIES.

What is PUBLIC ALLIES?

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PUBLIC ALLIES is a multi-cultural non-profit organization designed to help young people, in all their diversity, take leadership in improving our neighborhoods and our nation through a long-term commitment to public life. Our Apprenticeship Program is one of many innovative models for President-elect Clinton's national service initiative.

"Public Allies":

- work together in a team to address one issue that impacts their community.
- serve for a year in a full-time placement at a community-based or national non-profit organization, community development corporation, or government agency.
- learn, through weekly training, the skills that will make them more effective in their individual placements and their team projects.

The PUBLIC ALLIES Apprenticeship Program began in September 1992 in the District of Columbia and has received positive reviews from the organizations and agencies in which young people are placed and from the community at large. The team of "Public Allies" come from diverse racial, ethnic, economic, and educational backgrounds and have chosen to work on economic development in a low-income community in Washington, DC as their team project for the year.

Lessons Learned from Creating PUBLIC ALLIES

For over one and a half years, PUBLIC ALLIES staff and volunteers interviewed young people and experienced community leaders to design and implement a program to meet the needs of young people and their communities. From our experiences, PUBLIC ALLIES has learned that:

- Young people from different cultural, socio-economic, and educational backgrounds can work together as an effective team. Diversity is a strength and not a weakness in solving community problems.
- Non-profit organizations and government agencies are interested in young staff who, as a result of support and hands-on training provided by an outside organization, are ready to hit the ground running. In fact, organizations are willing to invest substantial financial resources to develop young people as public leaders and as future staff.
- For any innovative program to be effective, young people and leaders from the communities involved must be engaged in the design and implementation of the program.
- Programs to involve young people in community problem-solving can be run at low cost and funded by innovative public-private-non-profit partnerships.

PUBLIC ALLIES: Meeting the Demand for National Service

The expansion of the PUBLIC ALLIES Apprenticeship Program model depends on the creation of an innovative partnership between the public, private and non-profit sectors. To date, PUBLIC ALLIES has raised \$750,000, primarily from private foundations, but also from non-profits, corporations, individuals and unions. These funds support the Pilot Program in Washington and the new Regional Office in Chicago, as well as the national office which conducts all evaluation and expansion of the PUBLIC ALLIES model to new sites. Because of support for our programs across the nation, we have begun planning to replicate our project in four to six cities around the country by 1994, beginning with Chicago in 1993.

PROGRAMS

I. Youth Liaison Corps

- Competitive Application Process
- Target non-profits (community based organizations, issue groups, national non-profits, social service agencies), community development corporations, foundations and government agencies.
- Create Youth Liaison Positions at each organization to maximize impact of young people in helping organizations to achieve its stated mission (e.g., creating mechanisms to involve youth as resources at different levels of organizations,, from boards to service provision).
- Youth gather weekly for training and support.
- Provide Leadership Opportunities for Young People to Make an Impact in their community.

II. Youth Issues Corps

- Competitive Application Process
- Target non-profits (community based organizations, issue groups, national non-profits, social service agencies), community development corporations, foundations and government agencies.
- Create teams of fifteen young people from diverse backgrounds to work with existing infrastructure of public and non-profit sector organizations to address pressing issues in communities served
- Examples --Working with a neighborhood group on public safety issues, a team creates an orange hat brigade to walk youth to school.
--Working with a community development corporation, a team creates a summer job training program including resume writing, grooming and self-esteem for youth.
- Provide leadership opportunities for diverse teams of youth to impact issues in their community.

III. Summer Training Schools

- Target Youth already in service
- Provide training and support to youth in service
- Create a cadre of leaders to design and implement the full-scale service corps

IV. Entrepreneurs Corps

- \$1500 to create an initiative
- Selected by competitive process
- Pool of young people identified through events honoring young people who are making a difference

EVENTS

- I. TLT-10 around the country
- II. 5 Dwight events
- III. The National Service Project (Atlas Theater Renovation)

WHAT PA CAN DO

- I. Training
- II. Technical Assistance
- III. TLT's
- IV. The National Service Project

FACT SHEET

WE HAVE A DREAM:

D.C. & NATIONAL YOUTH GROUPS HOLD AN INAUGURAL URBAN BARN-RAISING

Will Build "Generational Space", The Nation's First Joint Youth Think Tank & Community Center

On Martin Luther King's Birthday and at the outset of President Clinton's inaugural festivities celebrating hope and American renewal, young people from the District of Columbia and across America will gather to renovate the Atlas Theater on H Street, NE. The theater has been donated rent-free for one year by the H Street Community Development Corporation. The refurbished building is dubbed "Generational Space" by The National Service Project, a collective which will help to renovate the building to serve as a community center and youth think tank for national service.

What: Urban Barn-Raising Event For First Joint Youth Think Tank & Community Center

When: Monday, January 18

12:00-5:00 (work), 5:00-8:00 (hip hop street party)

Where: Atlas Theater, Corner of H & 12th Streets, NE

The National Service Project is sponsoring "Generational Space's" barn-raising with a day of restoration work and community service. Inside the theater, youth will paint and refurbish the space. Outside, youth will work with the H Street community to work on community service projects and register voters.

" 'Generational Space' is designed by youth from D.C. and all over the country as a place for a new generation to call its own. It's a space where issues of concern to all young people, like national service, can be addressed while we do what we dream--rebuild our communities and our neighborhoods," said Vanessa Kirsch, founder of PUBLIC ALLIES, a possible model for national service which develops young community leaders.

The H Street Community Development Corporation has offered the Atlas Theater, deserted for more than a decade, in exchange for renovation assistance. In addition, "Generational Space" will house service groups, a coffee shop, and a performance area where young people can interact and work together. The building will provide opportunities for community youth to learn entrepreneurial skills by running cafe and through other ventures. "Generational Space" will also work with the H Street community to identify and address neighborhood needs.

"The best way to create change in this country and inspire hope in the future is by having groups like ours work together to unite our communities and solve our country's most pressing problems. National service and community service must be generated through collaborations of people and organizations from the grassroots up, not from a federal bureaucracy down," said Steve Barr, founder of Rock the Vote, an organization which registers youth to vote, and the Boniface Project, which works with young people to rebuild their communities. Other hosts of The National Service Project kick-off include Black Male Youth Project, Campus Green Vote, Campus Outreach Opportunity League, College Democrats of America, D.C. Habitat for Humanity, D.C. Service Corps, H Street Community Development Corporation, Howard College Democrats, PUBLIC ALLIES, U.S. Student Association, Young People for National Service, and Youth Service America.

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THE PUBLIC ALLY

VOL. 1, NO. 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF PUBLIC ALLIES: THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CAREERS IN PUBLIC LIFE WINTER, 1992



ALLIES JUTATA BASNIGHT AND SLOAN WIESEN LEAD A DISCUSSION ON ETHICAL LEADERSHIP. *← Come First!*

INAUGURAL ALLIES

"Okay, let's do the zoom," Samuel Moore, an exuberant 20-year old native of Ward 8, announces to the group of 14.

"W-w-wait...I have to finish my..." exclaims Sloan Wiesen, a 22-year old Ally...dashing off some final notes in his journal.

"Let's do the zoom!" voices impatiently interrupt.

"RULES!!"

What is this language of zooms and of rules? It is not a secret cult or a limbo contest. This is an opening ritual of a PUBLIC ALLIES training session; a weekly part of the Public Allies Apprenticeship Program. It is a language of teamwork and camaraderie; a language of trust and empathy. It is a language of endurance and the sense of humor needed for social change.

More importantly, this language is spoken in an arena where fourteen individuals from potentially diverse backgrounds see each other on equal ground. Megan Webster, a 26-year old Ally remarked, "What makes this a unique environment to have a dialogue are the groundrules that as a group we agreed

to respect...such as 'everyone gets an equal chance to speak and each speaker must be recognized' and such common sense things that often get neglected, such as 'respect each other's beliefs'."

The 14 Allies meet weekly to receive skills training - the broad curriculum ranges from computer literacy workshops to coalition building skills. Linking the weekly trainings is a "public problem" the Allies plan to solve within the year of their Apprenticeship. The core training is the skeleton of support for the Public Allies Apprenticeship Program. What makes up the Apprenticeship program?

The Public Allies Apprenticeship program is the culmination of a year and a half long effort by over one-hundred young people to create a new generation of leadership through a unique model. Vanessa Kirsch, the Executive Director and founder, was inspired to start the organization after transcribing interviews with young people on their attitudes towards the political system. She concluded from the interviews that a mechanism was needed to

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WHAT IS PUBLIC ALLIES?

PUBLIC ALLIES is a new multi-cultural organization founded in 1991 by a coalition of young leaders and community advisors. PUBLIC ALLIES is designed to provide our generation with opportunities to take leadership of solving our country's most pressing social problems. Through our Apprenticeship and Public Education Programs, we recruit, inform, place, train, and support young people in jobs in the public and non-profit sectors.

PUBLIC ALLIES is committed to:

•PUBLIC LIFE

We believe that our country should value and dedicate resources to engaging its citizens in public problem-solving. We define public life as the space where people representing diverse backgrounds, issues and institutions unite to combine their talents and energies to shape a more just and liveable world.

•YOUNG PEOPLE

We believe that our generation—those between the ages of 18 and 30 - must prepare now to assume civic leadership as we begin to inherit the enormous social, political and economic challenges facing the world.

•DIVERSITY

We believe that diversity is critical to problem-solving. We are committed to removing barriers and strengthening the voices of individuals and communities that face any obstacle to working in public life.

•LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We believe that young people must be provided with jobs in the public and non-profit sectors that will inspire them to make a long-term commitment to public life.

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S CALL TO NATIONAL SERVICE:
PUBLIC ALLIES PERSPECTIVE**

NATIONAL SERVICE

America today is filled with a new sense of hope. Hope that after years of divisiveness, we can begin to bring this country together around one common agenda: solving the most pressing problems of our urban and rural communities. To address these issues and to make college affordable for all Americans, President-elect Clinton has proposed the creation of a National Service Trust. Through this program, young people would serve their country and their communities for one or two years in exchange for a stipend during their time of service and educational (or others options) vouchers at the completion of service.

WHAT IS PUBLIC ALLIES?

PUBLIC ALLIES is a multi-cultural non-profit organization designed by *young people for young people*. PUBLIC ALLIES is a catalyst to help our generation, in all its diversity, take leadership in improving society through a long-term commitment to public life. Because we engage young people from diverse backgrounds in community problem solving we are one of many models for national service fulfilling the goals the needs of President-elect Clinton's National Service Trust Initiative.

The leadership needed to solve America's problems already exists in our communities. PUBLIC ALLIES is a unique privately funded mechanism which connects young leaders from diverse communities with an already existing infrastructure of non-profit organization and government agencies which are currently addressing pressing issues in our neighborhoods and our nation.

PUBLIC ALLIES develops diverse teams of young people as leaders through an innovative year-long team training program called the PUBLIC ALLIES Apprenticeship Program. These young people are known as "Public Allies." Over the course of the year, Public Allies:

- Work as a team to collectively address one issue that effects their local community;
- Serve a one-year Apprenticeship in a full-time position at a community based or national non-profit organization, community development corporation or government agency; and
- Learn the skills that will make them more effective in their full-time positions and community-based projects

The PUBLIC ALLIES Apprenticeship Program began in September of 1992 in Washington and has received excellent evaluations from the host organizations in which the young people are placed and from the community at large. The team of fourteen Public Allies represent a variety of racial, ethnic, economic, and educational backgrounds, and began their training in September of 1992.

PUBLIC ALLIES BELIEVES:

- our generation must prepare now to inherit the enormous social, political and economic challenges facing the world
- our country should value and dedicate resources to engaging its citizens in public problem-solving
- our county must come together across lines of class, race, and other differences to work to improve our communities and our country
- our generation must be provided opportunities in the public and non-profit sector that will inspire them to make a long-term commitment to community involvement

EXPANDING TO MEET THE DEMAND FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

Growth The expansion of the PUBLIC ALLIES Apprenticeship Program model depends on the creation of an innovative partnership between private foundations, government, corporations and local communities. To date, PUBLIC ALLIES has raised over \$750,000, primarily from foundation sources. These funds support the Pilot Program in Washington and the regional office in Chicago, as well as the national office which conducts all evaluation and expansion of the PUBLIC ALLIES model to new sites. Because of support our programs has multiplied throughout the nation, we have begun planning to replicate our project in cities around the country, beginning with Chicago in 1993 and four to six new sites by 1994.

Funding By combining federal, private foundation and corporate support with the resources of non-profit organizations, PUBLIC ALLIES can form an innovative public, private and non-profit venture to involve thousands of young people from diverse backgrounds in community problem-solving.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL SERVICE INITIATIVE

To ensure the success of a national service initiative, PUBLIC ALLIES recommends that national service:

- **provide maximum choice for young people involved in national service.** A broad base of opportunities will accommodate diverse groups of people and address the specific needs of their communities.
- **foster community involvement.** In order to succeed, national service must be a part of, not an imposition on our communities. Local individuals and groups must take part in designing and implementing service programs in order to build community support and also strengthen local capacity for problem-solving.
- **include young people in all levels of the design and implementation of national service programs.** This level of responsibility will ensure that those who President Clinton will ask to serve will indeed be inspired to answer his call.
- **involve the non-profit sector.** During the last twelve years, non-profit organizations have lead our country in policy and social service innovation, in design and implementation

~~14~~

IN TERMS OF OUR MAJOR HOUSING PROGRAMS, BECAUSE OF COMMITMENTS ITS IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN HOUSING STOCK. THIS IS WHAT THE STOCK LOOKS LIKE. NOW, WHERE TO FOCUS, home, SECTION 8 OR hope. WE RECOMMEND A COMBINATION, WITH ANY ADDITIONAL FUNDING BEING PLACED IN PRIORITY PROGRAM.

0 There are an array of legislative and administrative initiatives that the Administration can undertake to address the affordable housing crisis faced by low- and moderate-income renters. The four most promising actions are as follows:

1. Tax Credits

2. HOME

3. Reform Vouchers

4. Reform of Public Housing (administrative) - mention it.

a discussion here on who lives where and the usefulness of the programs...

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) EXTEND LOW INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT

Option 1: Permanently with modifications

Option 2: 1 year extension with study

*existing levels
w/ HOPE I mod*

Extend the Low Income Housing Tax Credit through legislative action. You pledged to make permanent the Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC). Authority for the LIHTC expired on June 30, 1992. The vetoed tax bill, HR 11, included as Section 1203 the permanent extension of authority.

Created in 1986 and administered by Treasury, this credit has generated public/private partnerships and financing of more than 420,000 units of affordable rental housing. It is distributed to states based on a \$1.25 per capita formula. The state allocates credit based on projects which create low-income housing. The developer attracts investors who can use the credit. Community development based non-profits match developers and investors, such as Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). According to LISC, Homebuilders and National Council of State Housing Agencies, the LIHTC is responsible for as many as 90,000 jobs (more conservative estimates place it around 56,000), \$1.8 billion in wages, and a total of \$14 to \$15B in economic activity associated with the annual production of more than 100,000 units of low-cost rental housing. Thus, the credit has the dual benefit of creating jobs and expanding housing opportunities for low and moderate income families (those earning less than 60% of median income).

The tax credit accounts for more than one-third of all multi-family rental construction starts and more than 95% of low income housing construction.

2) MRB

OPTIONS

The principle question is whether to extend the LIHTC on a

Public Allies is a well-developed concept, and an important one for all who are concerned about the younger generation's leadership and involvement in public interest causes and public service in general.

Peter D. Hart, Political Pollster

It is our duty to overcome the obstacles in our community that range from school drop-out, drug abuse, delinquency, unemployment to a high crime rate . . . A career in public life will enable me to continue assisting in the struggle for better education and respect of human rights of my community.

Mario Alvarez, 1992 Apprentice

Who would have guessed that in a weekend, 16 people could unite emotionally, politically and culturally? Through the course of the PUBLIC ALLIES Training Weekend I have found new friends and new committed allies in the fight to save our communities.

Malkia Lydia, 1992 Apprentice

I feel that a career in public service will allow me to achieve my dream. . . . I bring with me a sense of compassion facing inner city, as well as minority, youth, because basically I know where they are coming from, in fact I am one of them.

Jutata Basnight, 1992 Apprentice

A career in public service will help me to better serve the young people that I have pledged myself to. By making youth development my chosen profession, I can focus on my dream full-time, a goal that not only makes my community a better place but also brings me personal fulfillment.

Samuel L. Moore, 1992 Apprentice

My background and education places me in a position to contribute my sensitivity and knowledge to public policy. I welcome the challenge to create equality in race, gender, and economic status. A career in public service would allow me to make my contribution to [Martin Luther King's] Dream and fulfill my own by placing me in an environment that encourages shared knowledge, experience, and commitment to the public good -- perhaps, a microcosm of a future time.

Kim Tso, 1992 Apprentice

When President Kennedy launched the Peace Corps, there was a spirit of urgency in the air, and the determination to take personal responsibility and direct action against the pressing human problems here at home. I believe our people---especially young people like those PUBLIC ALLIES is honoring here--are ready to apply that same sense of urgency, that same sense of direct action and personal responsibility.

Harris Wofford, United States Senator (D-PA)

The diversity and dedication of your organization is truly exemplary. In a world filled with problems and with negative stereotypes about young people, it is truly refreshing to have young people recognizing and supporting other young people.

Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund

I am tremendously excited about PUBLIC ALLIES... These energetic and talented young people have a vision for a better future that is vital to the District of Columbia. So I join in honoring them on National Youth Service Day. Their choice of public service as a full-time activity and long-term goal gives me great confidence in the future of our community.

Mayor Sharon Pratt-Kelly, Mayor, District of Columbia

The PUBLIC ALLIES organization is to be commended for seizing this initiative to bring together those who can facilitate community and change and to utilize those who are making a difference as role models.

Isaac Fulwood, Former Chief of Police, District of Columbia.

In a short time PUBLIC ALLIES has become a valuable network for young people in Chicago seeking or pursuing public service careers in the government or non-profit sectors.

Elizabeth Hollander, Director, Government Assistance Project

Public Allies presents an opportunity [for individuals] to transform their commitment to community into a career in public service. We have faith that the Public Allies apprenticeship program can provide us and other community organizations with the zealous staff support we are unable to support on our own.

Jon Amsterdam, Program Director, DC Service Corps

Public Allies are the cream of the crop! Their initial screening process ensures a pool of applicants that are not only diverse and outstanding, but in fact, of consistently higher quality than candidates I have interviewed from general newspaper employment advertisements.

Denise Zeck, Executive Director, American Forum

A LOOK AT... *The Voting Blocs*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1992 C3

The Roaring Twenties

No Longer Apathetic, Younger Voters are Shaking Up Politics

By Jonathan S. Cohn

MADONNA IS not quite what Thomas Jefferson had in mind when he said civic leaders need to educate the public about politics. But if Jefferson could have seen Madonna on the recent "Rock the Vote" television program, he might have given her a hearty endorsement.

That's because Rock the Vote, a music-industry campaign to increase voter registration among youth, may be succeeding where previous efforts have failed. With only three weeks until Election Day, the MTV generation—my generation—is finally tuning in to the world of politics.

According to a recent survey conducted by MTV and Rock the Vote, more than 60 percent of eligible voters under 30 say they are "almost certain" to vote in November. That figure may be optimistic (who admits to not planning to vote?), but the turnout will surely exceed the paltry figures of the past few elections, when as few as 36 percent of eligible voters in this age bracket bothered.

Unfortunately, voting is but one symbolic part—albeit an important one—of civic virtue. If the sudden revival of interest in politics among twentysomethings is heartening, the lingering cynicism about what politics can accomplish is a cause for worry: According to an MTV/Rock the Vote survey of 18- to 29-year-olds, 75 percent say they distrust politicians

Jonathan Cohn is assistant editor of the American Prospect, a political quarterly based in Cambridge, Mass.

(with 22 percent saying they do trust them). So much for young idealism.

Still, the last six months have witnessed a significant turnaround in twentysomething political attitudes. Prior to the '92 presidential campaign, most political observers had written off these voters altogether. Studies such as the "Age of Indifference," published two years ago by the Times-Mirror Center for the People and the Press, argued that young voters "know less" and "care less" about politics than any generation in recent memory.

According to the MTV survey, though, 65 percent of this age group say they have a high interest in politics and 55 percent say they talk politics. And 87 percent think America needs to make "major changes" this election year. How does this translate into issues? When the American Council on Education and UCLA surveyed college freshmen last year, they found that support for national health care, abortion rights, gay rights and the environment had reached its highest level ever.

Sheer financial reality is also impelling many toward politics. According to the Economic Policy Institute, wages for young workers have steadily declined over the last 20 years, landing more and more of us in what novelist Douglas Copeland described as "McJobs"—low-pay, low-prestige, no-future service-sector jobs. With the recession, mild financial angst has become full panic, and many of us are paying attention to what the candidates are saying about the economy—if only out of necessity. In the MTV survey, 73 percent viewed the present as a hard time for youth (20 percent believe the opposite), and 51 percent think the economy is a primary issue.

The Democratic presidential candidates, meanwhile, have been busily stoking the

flames of youth activism. Bill Clinton and Al Gore appointed themselves prophets of "generational change" in July and have appealed directly to twentysomething voters. The result is that 18- to 30-year-olds, once thought a solid Republican bloc, now represent Clinton/Gore's strongest age-group constituency.

"I remember the last two or three elections on campus," says Owen Byrd, director of GreenVote, a group of young environmental activists that has helped organize some Clinton/Gore campaign rallies. "I think this is different. This is bigger. People feel more urgent about it."

But exactly what does the MTV generation want from the next four years? It's difficult to tell, because for all the new idealism, there remains that nagging hesitancy to embrace idealistic crusades. We want change but have trouble believing it can happen. We're stuck in a political split-personality, personified by the emergence of two groups in Washington during the last year.

One group, **Public Allies**, was started by 26-year-old Vanessa Kirsch after her stint with pollster Peter Hart, who was surveying young voters for People for the American Way. While that group concluded that the young simply didn't care about politics or issues, Kirsch—after transcribing scores of interviews—suspected the problem was more complex. The surveys "said young people have a negative attitude towards politics, civic participation," Kirsch says, "but underlying that was a real interest in doing something and making a difference in their communities."

Today, Public Allies seeks to capitalize on that instinct by recruiting participants from Washington's inner city and placing them in



ROB SHEPPERSON-FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

one-year apprenticeships with various organizations and officials. Seeking to foster political idealism among those who have the most reason to be disillusioned, it seems to have struck a nerve.

A few blocks away, another organization is crusading to bring the young back into the political fold. Lead or Leave, the brainchild of youthful pols Jon Cowan and Rob Nelson, asks politicians to take a pledge that they will not seek re-election unless the deficit is cut by 50 percent during the next four years. Because government debt prevents spending and growth, the two men see the deficit as the primary obstacle to a progressive politics that young voters would care about. "It's our future," says Nelson. "We ought to ask our generation to go to bat for itself."

Although non-partisan, both organizations aspire to the same goal: progressive politicization of the twentysomethings. The problem, alas, is one of competing expectations. If Public Allies promotes more government activism, Lead or Leave calls for more government responsibility. The priorities that these groups implicitly endorse provide an apt metaphor for this generation's political choices. According to polls, most of us feel similarly torn between the extremes of moral idealism and political skepticism. This is, after all, the generation that woke up to politics with Watergate. To truly engage us, leaders will have to deliver genuine social progress, which has been absent thus far in our lifetimes. And if they don't? Then we may truly become a generation lost in the political process.

DRIVING FOR CHANGE

Vanessa Kirsch, founder of Public Allies, is building a movement to foster youthful leadership in progressive public service

By Todd Savage

Just out of college in 1987, Vanessa Kirsch was headed for Iowa to work on the Dukakis presidential campaign. The problem was that she had never driven a car. So Kirsch's father got in the passenger seat and gave his determined daughter lessons. Going west on the I-80 from Boston to Iowa, she learned how to drive. A cross-country driving lesson speaks volumes about her young life: When Kirsch has a destination in mind, she figures out a way to get there.

After the campaign, Kirsch took a job in Washington, D.C., transcribing interviews with young people for pollster Peter Hart. Listening to them talk about their views on voting and the political system, Kirsch says she detected something troubling in their words.

"I got a sense that they didn't know how to get involved," says Kirsch, who is 26 years old. "They didn't know how to make a difference. And they felt pretty discouraged. With that I just said, 'Gosh, there's a link missing.'"

Polls and stories in the media have painted a gloomy picture of the nation's young citizenry: Young people today vote less and care less about the political process than their parents and grandparents did. They are - so the story goes - apathetic, self-centered and not up to the challenge of solving our country's problems.

At the same time, young people in recent years have been getting involved in community service in impressive numbers. But perennial pressure, student-loan debts and a lack of information about non-profits all have prevented many from doing good once they get their diplomas. So public service work ends up being a college pastime - not a viable career path.

What was needed, Kirsch decided, was an organization to recruit and train talented young people for careers in public service. "I started dreaming of what would make it easier," she says, "and how we could have teams all over the country of

young people doing this kind of work and supporting each other."

Today her dream has a 17-member board of directors, some foundation support, a full-time staff, an office and a new name. Public Allies: The National Center for Careers in Public Life is gearing up to place young people aged 18 to 30 in year-long internships with public-interest groups, community-based organizations and government agencies (formerly known by the acronym NCCPL, the organization's board recently adopted the simpler *Public Allies* as a prefix to the longer name).

"The big vision of the whole thing," Kirsch explains, "is to build a movement which means training and sustaining young leaders so they can be there for the long haul and dedicated to our country and our communities."

Based in Washington, D.C., the office of Public Allies is buzzing with 75 young volunteers, four interns and three full-time staff people. These include Kirsch, Katrina Browne - a 24-year-old former Advocacy Institute staff member - and Alessandra Puvak, 23, a five-year veteran of grassroots development work. Regional directors will be hired soon for project offices in Chicago and Montana (where offices will also serve Idaho and Wyoming). Funded by foundations, corporations and individual contributions, the first group of 20 interns, or "allies," will begin their internships in September in Washington, D.C. Interns will be placed in Chicago and the northern Rockies later this year.

Starting an organization from scratch isn't new to Kirsch. Since high school she has been the architect of a half-dozen spirited initiatives aimed at fostering young leadership. "I knew in

high school that I would be running a non-profit organization," she says with an easy laugh.

Community is a common thread in her work. When Kirsch got to Washington after the Dukakis campaign ended, she found many young women like herself who were out of

work and new to the city. Sixty women showed up at a dinner party she and some friends planned, and that night they decided to form the Women's Information Network (WIN). The group has since grown to nearly 1,200 women in the city and offers a job bank, mentors, a newsletter and educational events. A vehicle for progressive women to talk about issues or organize a campaign or volunteer project, WIN was

described as "one of the most advanced, vibrant and dynamic young feminist groups in the country" in Paula Lamen's recent book, *Feminist Fatal: Voices from the Twentysomething Generation Explore the Future of the Women's Movement*.

Providing soapboxes for her generation has been a common link to her ideas. In addition to WIN and Public Allies, Kirsch has worked with friends to create a social group under the banner of "Young Advocates Wanting a Network" (YAWN) - which has been merged into Public Allies - and a forum called "New Democrats for the 90s."

The future needs young leaders

Supporting and training young people, Kirsch says, are necessary to sustain their commitment and interest in public service. Without it, Pablo

See *Non-Profit Entrepreneur*, on page 10.

Non-Profit Entrepreneur Vanessa Kirsch is one who founds and manages an innovative and effective non-profit organization or initiative.
2: Vanessa Kirsch: See The National Center for Careers in Public Life

Vanessa Kirsch

- Born:** Summit, N.J.
- Raised:** Cambridge, Mass.
- Education:** Tufts University
- Favorite Book:** *A Room of One's Own*
- Favorite Way to relax:** Painting funky chairs
- Major Heroes/Heroines:** Chai Ling
- Favorite Place:** Esterbrook Woods, Mass.
- Wish List for your Non-Profit Organization:** Finding enough jobs for all young people out there who want to make a difference.



• Non-Profit Entrepreneur

Continued from page 7.

Eisenberg, president of the Center for Community Change, warned in the August 13, 1991, issue of the *Cronicle of Philanthropy*: "The future of the non-profit world is threatened by something more significant than financial woes: our inability to attract and retain the best, brightest and most dedicated young employees, especially those from minority groups."

Public Allies will prepare interns for the myriad of tasks they will encounter in their future non-profit jobs. Though they will largely set their own training agenda, some of the topics include community organizing, public speaking and working with volunteers.

The organization is also committed to placing young people who have traditionally not considered a career path in the non-profit sector for financial or cultural reasons. "It's important for it to represent the

communities that we're actually serving," Kirsch says. "I think everybody should have an opportunity. We're trying to create a level playing field so that everybody has a chance to work in public life."

Multicultural teams are key

The key to the program, Kirsch says, will be creating multicultural teams of young people to address problems from a range of perspectives. Working with a variety of community groups, the interns will work together on a common topic and "compare notes" to understand better how issues fit together. Striving to lead by example, Public Allies initially struggled with diversity. But after lengthy discussions and training sessions with consultants, Kirsch says, they have achieved their goal of creating a multicultural organization where the issues are dealt with openly and honestly, from the board members

to the volunteers.

Blazing new trails as a young person with few contacts and little experience has its drawbacks as well as its rewards. "We're looking to take on some leadership and have some responsibility. The old guard is looking on with a little concern I think. I get mixed responses. Some days people say, 'I'm ready to hand over the baton. Where were you? I've been waiting for you guys.' Other days they say, 'Who are you? Who do you think you are to say you are interested in doing this kind of work? I've been doing this

for years.'"

But wise words from older people - or "not so young" in Public Allies parlance - has often made a difference. Before she decided to start the organization, her boss Peter Hart told her something that she took to heart. "He said, 'When you look for your next job, do what you dream. Don't just get the next job.'" Kirsch recalls.

With time, the road less traveled has begun to look familiar to Kirsch. "Once you've taken a risk and it's been a positive experience, you feel better about doing it the next

time," says Kirsch, who eventually pursued some 27,000 miles on her car's odometer during the Dukakis campaign. "That's sort of what my life is about. It goes back to deciding that there's some link missing or something's not working in the system. [You say, 'We'll all have to gather together, and I'm going to take the first step.' Because I find when somebody takes the first step, a lot of people are ready to take the next step behind you." ▲

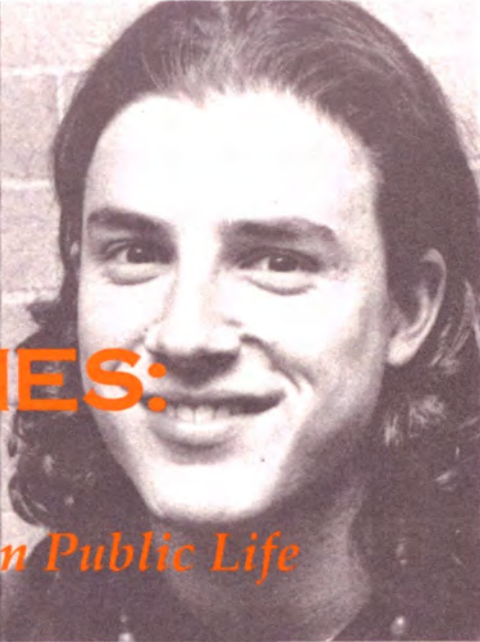
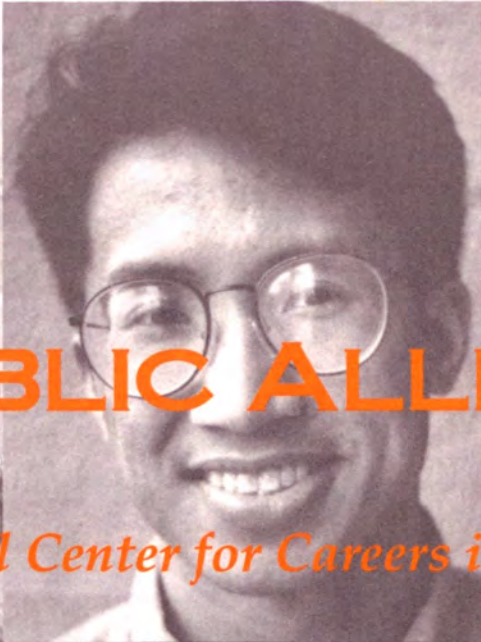
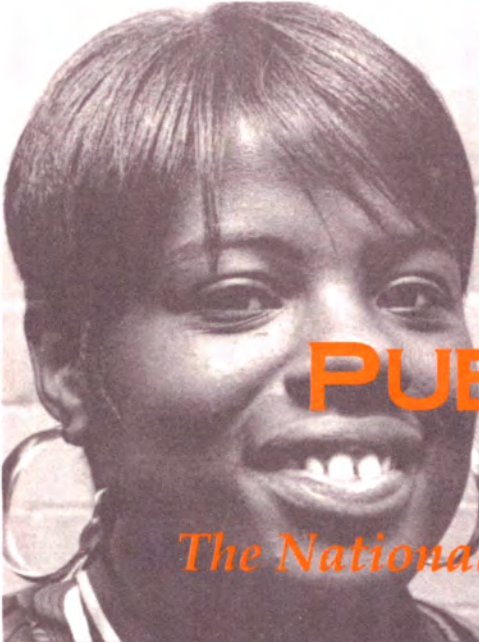
For more information contact Public Allies at 1225 15th Street, Washington, D.C. 20005, or call 202-232-6800.

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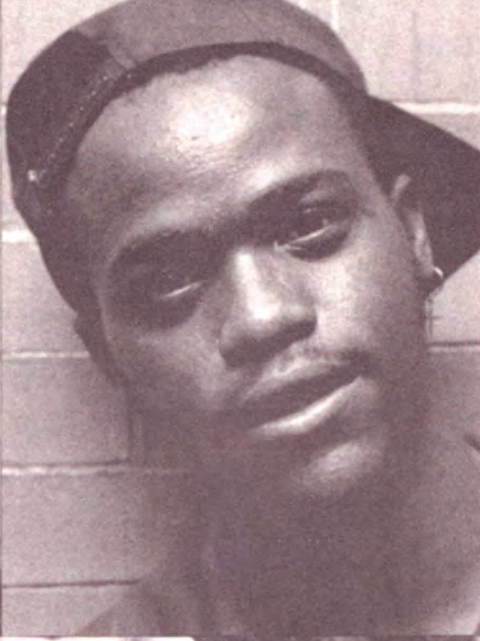
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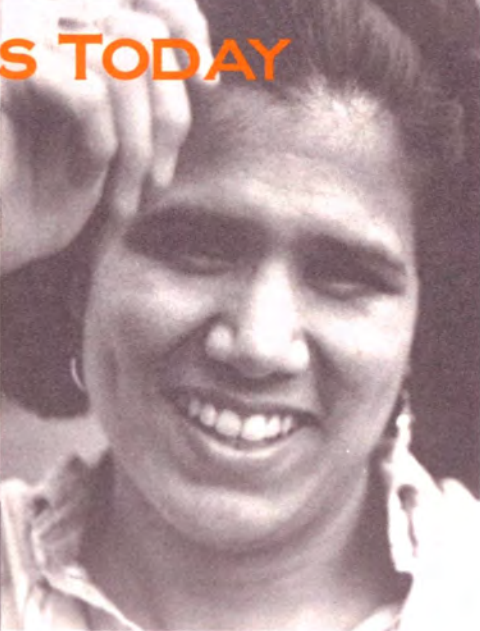
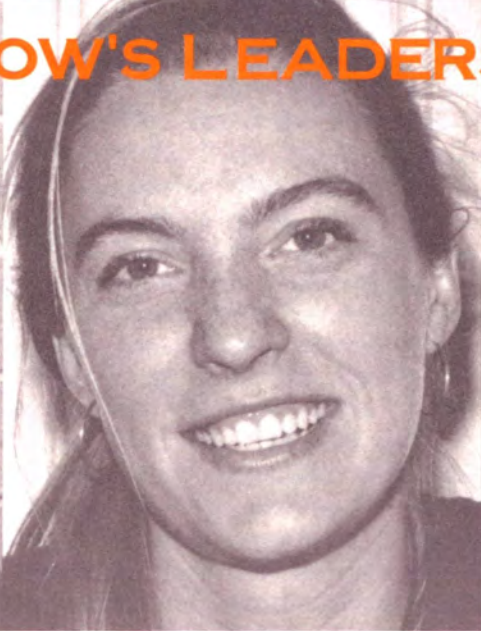
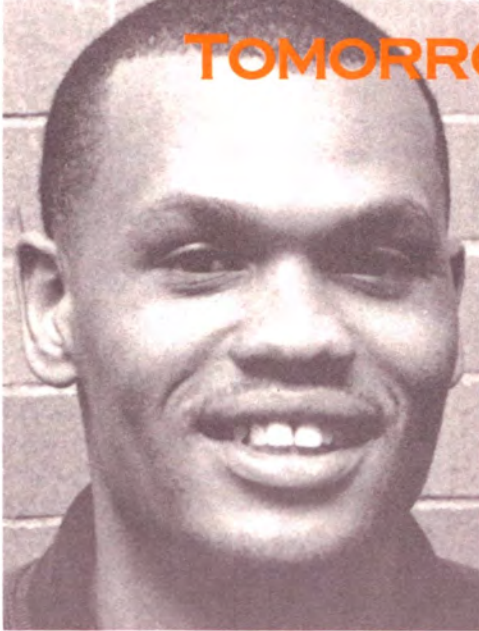


PUBLIC ALLIES:

The National Center for Careers in Public Life



honors



TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY



PUBLIC ALLIES

An innovative, domestic Peace Corps

Founded in 1991, PUBLIC ALLIES brings together young people (ages 18 to 30) from diverse backgrounds and provides them with a one-year service experience, including skills and leadership training, so that they can make a difference in their communities.

To this end, PUBLIC ALLIES:

- Places "Allies" in paid apprenticeships at non-profit organizations and government agencies
- Provides them with leadership development and skills training
- Supports them in a team service project designed and conducted in partnership with a community.

NEED: *Linking community development with leadership development*

While conducting a national poll in 1990 on civic attitudes, PUBLIC ALLIES Executive director Vanessa Kirsch discovered that the vast majority of young people are eager to work on resolving social issues -- if opportunities are made accessible and affordable. A coalition of young leaders and national advisers created PUBLIC ALLIES in 1991 to harness this untapped potential.

PROGRAM:

Addressing unmet community needs: A sample of Allies' apprenticeship activities includes: developing a Community Development Credit Union for two Latino neighborhoods; recruiting volunteers for constructing low-income housing at Habitat for Humanity; and supervising the activities of young corps members at the Washington, D.C. Service Corps. Outside of their apprenticeships, each team of Allies develops a project to meet unmet needs in an issue area, such as housing, economic development, education, or health care.

Uniting young people through service: Through neighborhood walks and national outreach, PUBLIC ALLIES recruits high school and college graduates from diverse backgrounds, unites them as a team, and places them in service in the community. PUBLIC ALLIES fosters a rich public dialogue that is rarely found and sorely needed in our increasingly multi-cultural society.

FUNDING: *Leveraging private, public and non-profit resources towards a common goal*

PUBLIC ALLIES' unique funding approach combines the resources of the private, public and non-profit sectors.

The PUBLIC ALLIES national office is located in Washington, DC. PUBLIC ALLIES currently operates programs in Chicago, IL and Washington, DC and plans to open offices in four other sites by the fall of 1993. Initial funding for PUBLIC ALLIES was provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur foundation. Additional support comes from the Rockefeller Brothers fund, the Ford Foundation, the Echoing Green Foundation, and others.

Rev. 6/22/93

Important Facts About **PUBLIC ALLIES**



The Allies

- In 1993, 120 young people applied for the 20 positions in the 1994 class of Allies in Washington, D.C.
- In 1993-1994, PUBLIC ALLIES will serve five teams of ten Allies: two teams in Washington D.C. and three teams in Chicago.
- The current Allies are a diverse group: 50 percent male and 50 percent female; 66 percent African-American; 25 percent Caucasian; 5 percent Latino; and 5 percent Asian-American.
- Before starting their apprenticeships, 50 percent of Allies had completed college degrees; 95 percent completed high school, and one Ally earned a G.E.D. In 1993, two graduating Allies will enter graduate programs at Harvard University and another will begin undergraduate study.

Significant Accomplishments in 1992 - 1993

- PUBLIC ALLIES honored 240 young leaders in 1993 at our signature event, *Tomorrow's Leaders Today*.
- Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted a reception at the White House to recognize the "hard work and dedication" of PUBLIC ALLIES.
- PUBLIC ALLIES was honored as a leader in youth community service, and designated as a beneficiary, by the 1993 National Sports Awards, broadcast later on NBC television
- Del Lewis, CEO of C & P Telephone, hosted a breakfast program in May, 1993 attracting representatives from one-hundred potential host organizations.
- PUBLIC ALLIES hosts monthly job-seekers breakfasts in Chicago which aided young people considering careers in public service.
- By June 22, 1993, PUBLIC ALLIES had reached a national media audience of approximately thirty-six million people.

Sites and Staffing

- PUBLIC ALLIES was founded in 1991 by a coalition of young people and community leaders.
- As of 1993, PUBLIC ALLIES had offices in Washington, D.C. and Chicago, IL. In 1994, we will open four new regional offices in major cities around the nation.
- PUBLIC ALLIES currently employs thirteen full-time staff members chosen to reflect the gender, racial, and ethnic diversity of the United States.
- In 1993, over two hundred and twenty youths and adults volunteered with PUBLIC ALLIES.
- PUBLIC ALLIES operating budget in 1993 is \$1,687,750.

PUBLIC



ALLIES

Job Descriptions, 1992-93 Ally Class

revised 5/17/93

Mario Alvarez
Latino Economic Development Corporation

As an Assistant to the Project Director, Mario has been focused on the creation of a Community Development Credit Union for the residents of the Mount Pleasant and Adams Morgan areas. He has directed the outreach campaign promoting the credit union, presented the project to community organizations, tenant associations, church groups and financial institutions, and directed the application process for membership in the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions. With the completion of this project, Mario is looking to develop a health insurance plan using similar methods in the same area.

Jutata Basnight
D.C. Service Corps (DCSC)

The DC Service Corps (DCSC) guides 100 young people, 17-22 years old, in a full year of full-time community service work, education and leadership development. As a Corps Leader, Jutata supervises all activities of ten Corps Members, which includes: (1) building a sense of team and community amongst team members; (2) developing service projects with local non-profit organizations and government agencies; (3) acting as on-site liaison and supervising daily service work of the Corps; (4) serving as a role model, guide, teacher, and informal counselor to team members; and (5) contributing to the ongoing evolution and refinement of the larger organization. This year, Jutata's Corps has conducted project as teachers' aides at Walker Jones Elementary School, vision screens in elementary schools around the District, and assistants at the Hospital for Sick Children and the Washington Home for senior citizens.

Dave Caputo
D.C. Habitat for Humanity

Dave works as Volunteer Coordinator and Office Manager at Habitat, which builds and rehabilitates homes in partnership with low-income working families for no profit and no interest. While at Habitat, he has introduced and updated a computer system for financial records, managed the volunteer database of more than 7,000 names, recruited volunteers for construction and administrative projects, and organized a coalition of students from different colleges to raise funds and build a house. In a special project over Inauguration weekend, Dave coordinated and supervised several hundred volunteers for the 1993 National Youth Service Project in renovating the Atlas Theatre.

Samuel Moore
Dupont I Shelter Home of ARE
(Associates for Renewal in Education)

At the Dupont I Shelter Home, Samuel works in the residential program as a youth care specialist, which involves counseling adjudicated youth on alternatives to drugs and violence. He also assists with maintaining each resident's legal and personal information files. The residents at the group homes are either detained youth who reside for less than 60 days or youth who are committed to the home as an alternative to juvenile detention halls.

Glenn Northern
National Center for Responsive Philanthropy

The National Center for Responsive Philanthropy exists to make philanthropy more accountable to the public and more accessible to groups traditionally excluded from philanthropy. Glenn puts this objective into practice in several ways. He assists in development by obtaining annual reports and maintaining correspondence with foundations for research on various projects, such as alternative fundraising opportunities among women, Latinos, and Asian Americans. He also helps organize the annual philanthropy conference.

Tim Relyea
Associates for Renewal in Education (ARE)

At ARE, Tim divides his time between administrative responsibilities and acting as the group homes liaison for ARE's adjudicated youth program, a group home program for District youth convicted of crimes. His initial task is to assist in the organizing of the residential youth care program. This involves meeting with lawyers, hiring contractors for renovations, pursuing inspectors' permits, addressing neighborhood concerns, and dealing with the Neighborhood Commission. Throughout the year, Tim has assisted in coordinating the Consortium for Youth Services, facilitating communication between the ARE staff and the group homes, providing program information for outside contacts, and serving as the ARE residential youth care program representative at public relations events. He also coordinates the In-School Work Experience program.

Kim Tso
Commission on National & Community Service (CNCS)

CNCS has been charged with renewing a spirit of civic responsibility and national unity by weaving community service into the fabric of every American's life. One of CNCS' strategies has been to support programs through grants in the areas of primary/secondary schools, higher education institutions, youth corps, and other model of national and community service. As a program associate for youth service and conservation corps/national service demonstration models, Kim provides technical assistance to the public and to grantees, administers grant reports, coordinates renewal and review process for grant awards, and conducts site visits. Most recently, she has been working on administering the federal government's Summer of Service grant applications for youth corps.

**Megan Webster
American Forum**

The American Forum is a non-profit educational media organization that works at the grassroots level, providing a means for progressive community leaders to get their ideas and issues into the mainstream media. Currently, the Forum is in all eleven former Confederate states with plans to expand nationwide. Megan's work consists of: (1) coordinating informational and training workshops; (2) tracking and reporting on media usage for radio, TV, and print; (3) distributing media packets; (4) managing the internship program; (5) assisting with grant proposals; (6) managing the database; and (7) providing support services for the staff and state boards of directors.

**Sloan Wiesan
D.C. Service Corps (DCSC)**

As mentioned earlier, the D.C. Service Corps develops youth aged 17-22 through such community service projects as painting public facilities, working as teachers' aides in elementary schools, and picking up trash along the Anacostia River. The vision of the organization is to empower and to instill a service ethic among young people through hands-on work. At DCSC, Sloan's work has ranged from acting as a liaison between volunteers and staff to writing bi-weekly project reports to assisting in the grant proposal writing process.

**Paul Woods
Columbia Heights Youth Club**

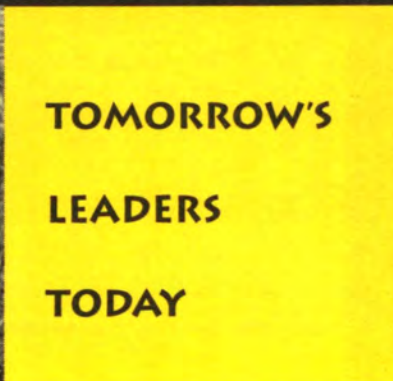
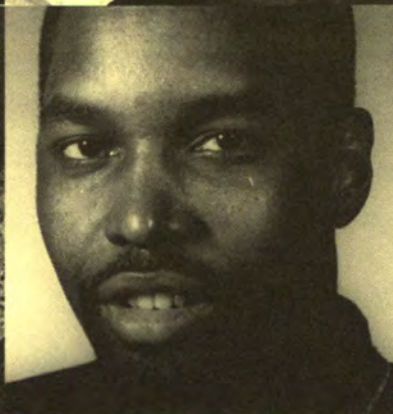
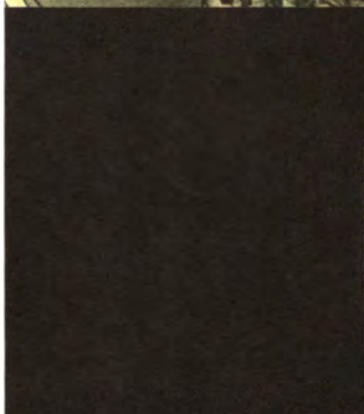
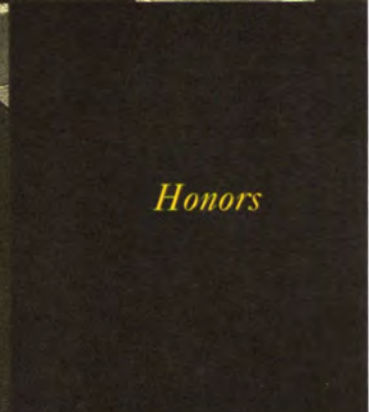
Paul works as a Life Skills Coordinator at the Columbia Heights Youth Club, an organization that creates and implements educational, employment, and personal growth programs. The 6-18 year olds that he recruits participate in educational and self-esteem workshops dealing with such issues as pregnancy and parenting, goal setting, decision-making, health and nutrition, and employability skills. In addition, Paul coordinates computer and academic tutoring, develops and monitors internships for 14-18 year olds, and writes fundraising proposals.

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Our nation needs some special people: **People** who believe in their **communities** and the improvement of their country. People with energy, **passion** and common sense. People with a citizen's knowledge of what is and a dreamer's **vision** of what should be.

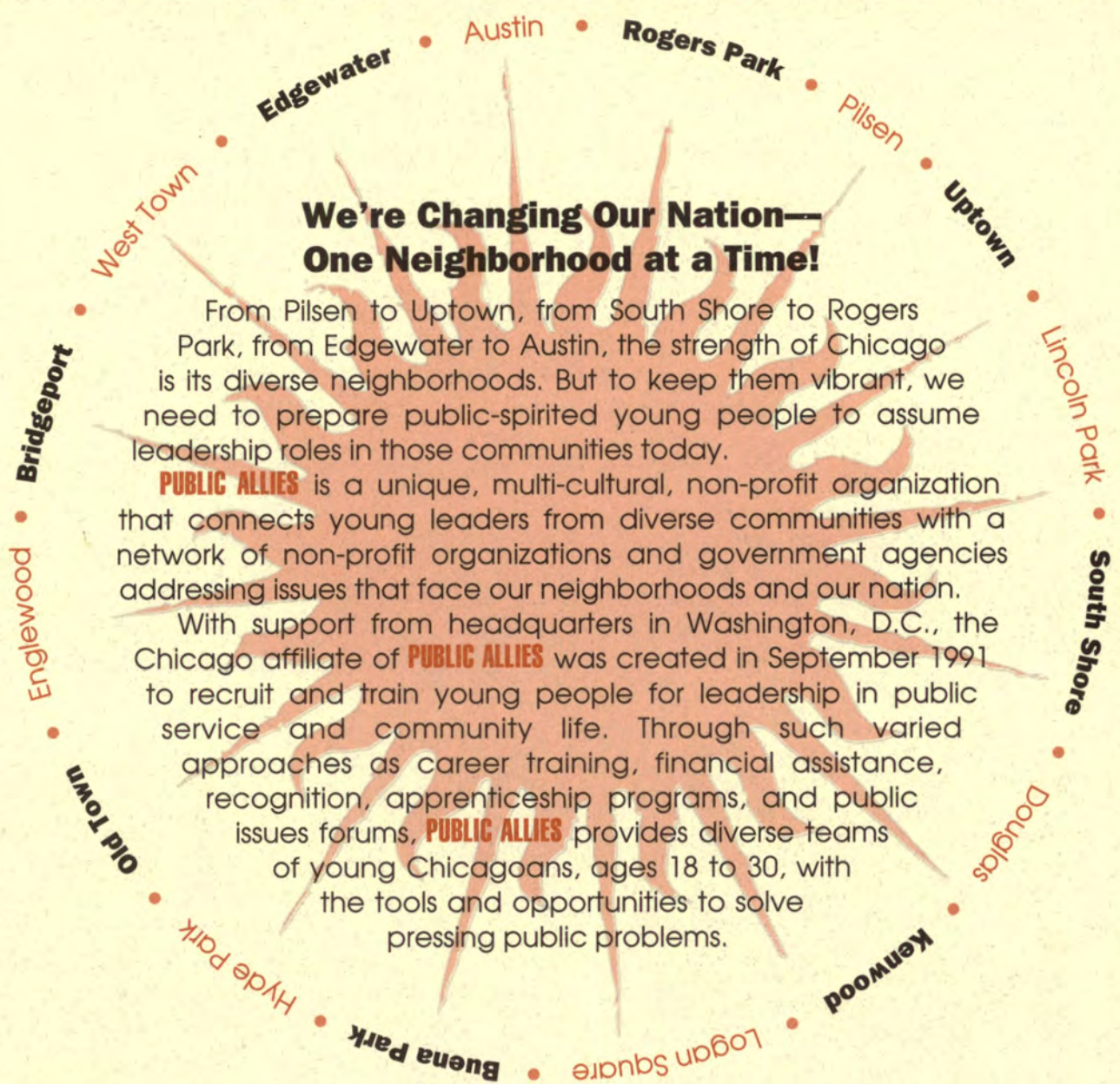
We're Changing Our Nation— One Neighborhood at a Time!

From Pilsen to Uptown, from South Shore to Rogers Park, from Edgewater to Austin, the strength of Chicago is its diverse neighborhoods. But to keep them vibrant, we need to prepare public-spirited young people to assume leadership roles in those communities today.

PUBLIC ALLIES is a unique, multi-cultural, non-profit organization that connects young leaders from diverse communities with a network of non-profit organizations and government agencies addressing issues that face our neighborhoods and our nation.

With support from headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Chicago affiliate of **PUBLIC ALLIES** was created in September 1991 to recruit and train young people for leadership in public service and community life. Through such varied approaches as career training, financial assistance, recognition, apprenticeship programs, and public issues forums, **PUBLIC ALLIES** provides diverse teams of young Chicagoans, ages 18 to 30, with the tools and opportunities to solve pressing public problems.

We believe: Our generation must prepare now to inherit the enormous social, political, and economic challenges facing the world. • Our country should value and dedicate resources to engage its citizens in public problem-solving. • We must come together across lines of class, race, and other differences to improve our communities and our country. • Our generation must pursue opportunities in the public and non-profit sectors and be inspired to make a long-term commitment to community involvement.



A New Generation Solving Public Problems

We are at a pivotal moment in American history. Our nation confronts enormous social, economic, and political challenges. Yet for each of these challenges, there is a solution—and a hidden opportunity. Growing numbers of young Americans see this potential and are committing themselves to creating a better future for all.

Today, young people volunteer in their communities more than ever—in shelters and schools, on government campaigns and grass-roots initiatives. They are bright, dedicated, and caring, yet they face enormous challenges.

Many young people, especially those from communities in need, cannot translate their desire for change into a viable and meaningful career path. The low pay and low profile of most public-interest work, combined with financial obligations, family pressure, and lack of information, keep countless potential leaders from working in community groups, government, and citizen organizations.

It is time we dedicate ourselves to encouraging and training young people for opportunities that prepare them for a long-term commitment to public problem-solving.



Programs and Events

A core group of young volunteers, full-time staff, and community leaders perform the important work of **PUBLIC ALLIES**, which includes the following programs and events:



Apprenticeship Program

PUBLIC ALLIES develops diverse teams of young leaders through an innovative, year-long training program. Over the course of the year these young people, known as "Allies,"

- work as a team to address an issue that impacts their community;
- serve in a full-time, paid placement at a community-based or non-profit organization, community development corporation, or government agency;
- learn skills to become more effective in their individual placements and team projects.



Tomorrow's Leaders Today

PUBLIC ALLIES, along with prominent community leaders, hosts this annual event honoring 100 of Chicago's brightest and most civic-minded young people. By recognizing their efforts, **PUBLIC ALLIES** hopes to raise the visibility of public-interest work and inspire other young people to get involved in their communities.



Resource Center and Education Programs

PUBLIC ALLIES trains young people to become effective public problem-solvers through workshops and education programs. **PUBLIC ALLIES** also maintains a resource center with a resumé bank, job listings, and a library with career information.

Initial funding for **PUBLIC ALLIES** comes from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Joyce Foundation, Woods Charitable Fund, Richard Driehaus Foundation, Chicago Community Trust, the Bauman Family Foundation, The Johnson Foundation, The Hitachi Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts, Fannie Mae Foundation, Mary Reynolds Babcock Foundation, Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation, Echoing Green Foundation, Public Welfare Foundation, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Surdna Foundation, labor unions, and many individuals. We are grateful for their support.

For more information, contact **PUBLIC ALLIES**

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THE PUBLIC ALLY

VOL. 1, NO. 1 THE NEWSLETTER OF PUBLIC ALLIES: THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CAREERS IN PUBLIC LIFE WINTER, 1992



ALLIES JUTATA BASNIGHT AND SLOAN WIESEN LEAD A DISCUSSION ON ETHICAL LEADERSHIP.

INAUGURAL ALLIES

"Okay, let's do the zoom," Samuel Moore, an exuberant 20-year old native of Ward 8, announces to the group of 14.

"W-w-wait...I have to finish my..." exclaims Sloan Wiesen, a 22-year old Ally...dashing off some final notes in his journal.

"Let's do the zoom!" voices impatiently interrupt.

"RULES!!"

What is this language of zooms and of rules? It is not a secret cult or a limbo contest. This is an opening ritual of a PUBLIC ALLIES training session; a weekly part of the Public Allies Apprenticeship Program. It is a language of teamwork and camaraderie; a language of trust and empathy. It is a language of endurance and the sense of humor needed for social change.

More importantly, this language is spoken in an arena where fourteen individuals from potentially diverse backgrounds see each other on equal ground. Megan Webster, a 26-year old Ally remarked, "What makes this a unique environment to have a dialogue are the groundrules that as a group we agreed

to respect...such as 'everyone gets an equal chance to speak and each speaker must be recognized' and such common sense things that often get neglected, such as 'respect each other's beliefs'."

The 14 Allies meet weekly to receive skills training - the broad curriculum ranges from computer literacy workshops to coalition building skills. Linking the weekly trainings is a "public problem" the Allies plan to solve within the year of their Apprenticeship. The core training is the skeleton of support for the Public Allies Apprenticeship Program. What makes up the Apprenticeship program?

The Public Allies Apprenticeship program is the culmination of a year and a half long effort by over one-hundred young people to create a new generation of leadership through a unique model. Vanessa Kirsch, the Executive Director and founder, was inspired to start the organization after transcribing interviews with young people on their attitudes towards the political system. She concluded from the interviews that a mechanism was needed to

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

WHAT IS PUBLIC ALLIES?

PUBLIC ALLIES is a new multi-cultural organization founded in 1991 by a coalition of young leaders and community advisors. PUBLIC ALLIES is designed to provide our generation with opportunities to take leadership of solving our country's most pressing social problems. Through our Apprenticeship and Public Education Programs, we recruit, inform, place, train, and support young people in jobs in the public and non-profit sectors.

PUBLIC ALLIES is committed to:

•PUBLIC LIFE

We believe that our country should value and dedicate resources to engaging its citizens in public problem-solving. We define public life as the space where people representing diverse backgrounds, issues and institutions unite to combine their talents and energies to shape a more just and liveable world.

•YOUNG PEOPLE

We believe that our generation—those between the ages of 18 and 30 - must prepare now to assume civic leadership as we begin to inherit the enormous social, political and economic challenges facing the world.

•DIVERSITY

We believe that diversity is critical to problem-solving. We are committed to removing barriers and strengthening the voices of individuals and communities that face any obstacle to working in public life.

•LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

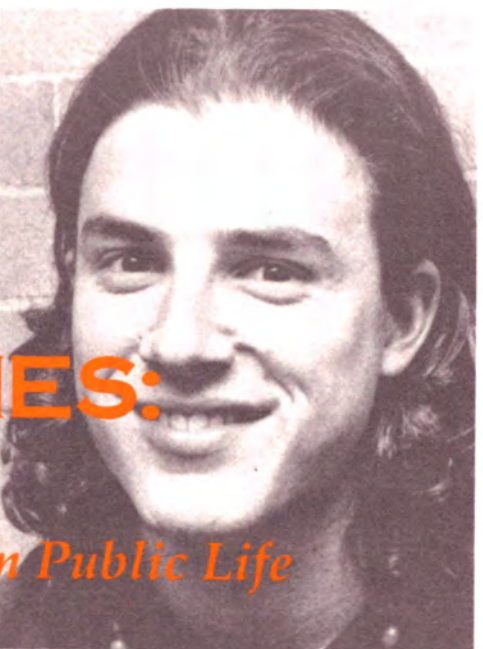
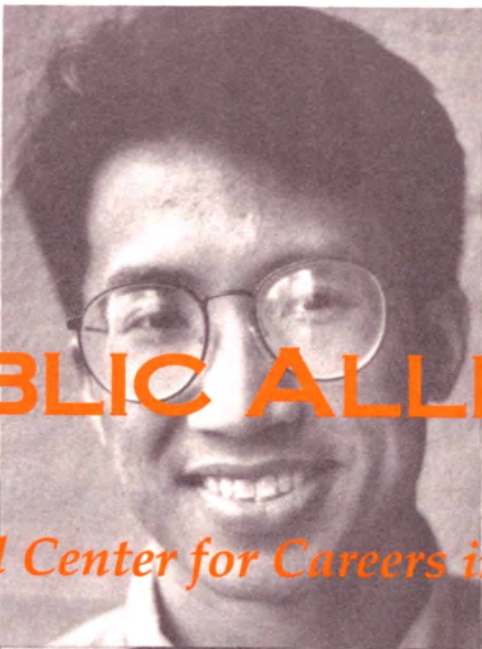
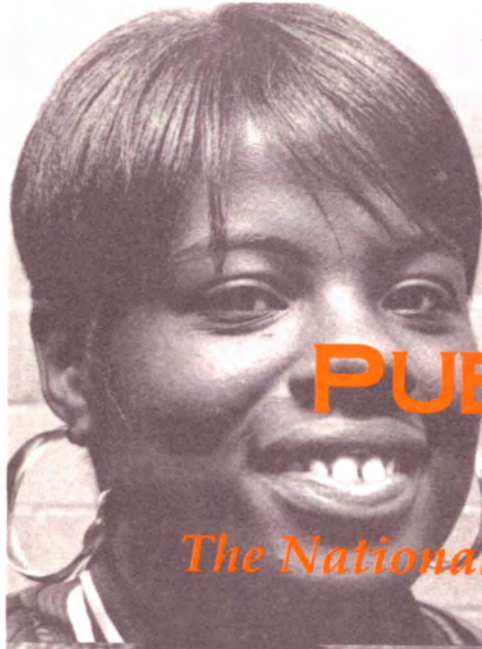
We believe that young people must be provided with jobs in the public and non-profit sectors that will inspire them to make a long-term commitment to public life.

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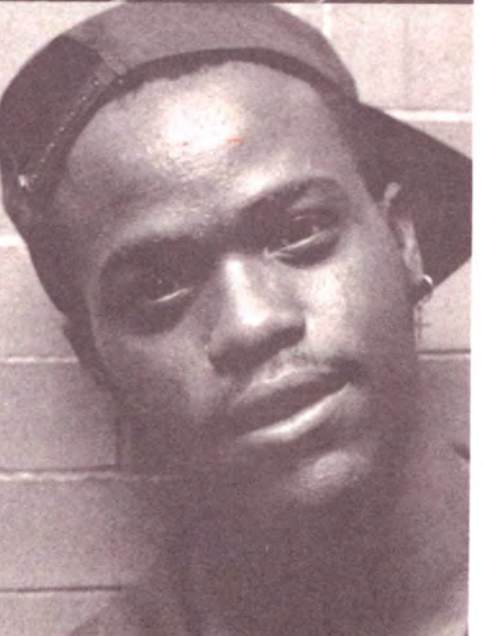
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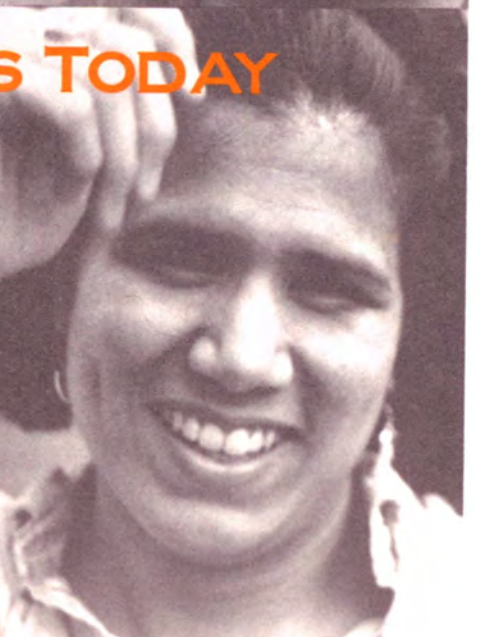
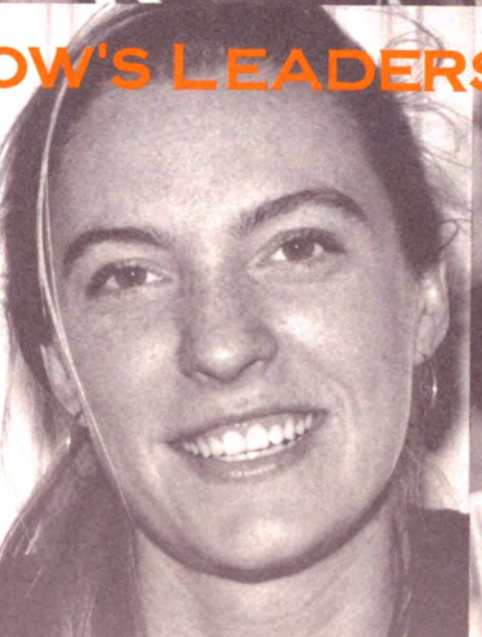
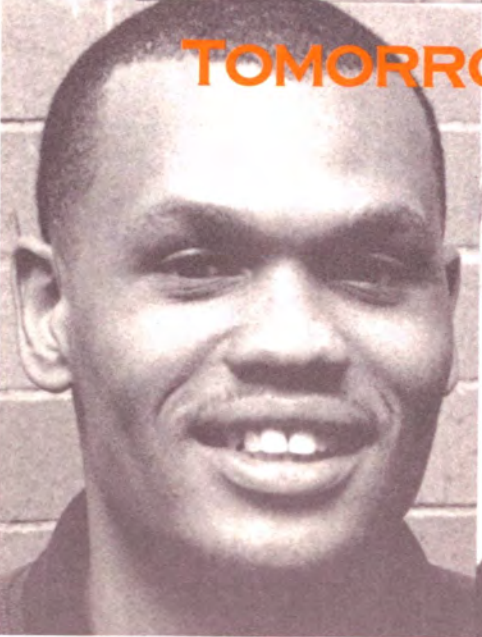


PUBLIC ALLIES:

The National Center for Careers in Public Life



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TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY