

Today's Notebook

Time to reconsider the Republic statue

by Ada M. Phillips

The "Statue of the Republic" in Jackson Park at Lake Shore and Hayes drives is one-third the size of the original one which was created for and destroyed after the 1893 Columbian Exposition. It was originally 100 feet high, including its base and weighed more than 100 tons. It was clad in 18-carat gold leaf. Both statues were created by sculptor Daniel Chester French to symbolize the maturity this country had achieved in the 400 years since Columbus. The statue is a Greco-Roman style figure of a woman holding an eagle atop a globe and a standard with a wreath inscribed "Victory." The monument was recently restored and hand gilded with 25,000 sheets of gold leaf.

Currently, there is a "Republic Reconsidered" competition afoot, sponsored by the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). In conjunction with a citywide celebration for the centennial of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the competition is being held to explore and redefine the genre of the monument and examine the place of public art in the community today. The competition will culminate with an exhibition of selected works in October, 1993, at UIC's Gallery 400. Call the School of Art and Design at the UIC to obtain entries for the competition. They must be turned by 6 p.m. on Friday, July 16.

"African American Architects in the Design of the

Urban Community" will be on exhibit until Friday, July 30, at the DuSable Museum.

Many Windy City educators are really hoping that there's truth in the rumor that the president of Louisiana's Southern University, Dr. Delores Spikes, will be appointed to an education cabinet position by President Bill Clinton.

Just a reminder...A limited number of Tee-shirts from the June Soweto Day Walkathon are still available, in sizes large and extra large, from the Chicago Coalition in Solidarity with Southern Africa, (CCISSA) for \$10 each. Alexandra Township, in South Africa, will receive all proceeds from the sale of the bright yellow Tee-shirts which feature the Walkathon logo in black and "1993 Soweto Day Walkathon" in green. To order one, call the CCISSA.

Curtis Brassfield, a certified genealogist who's the author of "The Ancestry of Mayor Harold Washington," is all set to talk about "Preserving Family Memories Organized Family Reunion" on Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18 in Grant Park.

One of the busiest "retirees" in the Windy City, Dr. Clementine Skinner, is once again gearing up to make a spiel on behalf of the Retired Teachers Association of Chicago, of which she is a board member. Skinner will make four presentations at the two-day seminar on Wednesday and Thursday, July 14 and 15 for prospective teacher retirees. The affair is sponsored by the Retired Teachers Pension Board.

Bruce C. Vladeck has been sworn in as the new czar of the Health Care Financing Administration, which runs Medicare and Medicaid programs. Vladeck was previously the president of the United Hospital Fund of New York.

Celebrating birthdays...basketballer David Thompson, 39...Harrison Ford, 51...Cheech Marin, 53.