



FALL 1990

NEWS

A BETTER CHANCE IN DARIEN, Inc. P.O. BOX 3204, Darien, Connecticut, 06820

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INTRODUCING.....

Three new ABC scholars are chosen for the Darien ABC Program:

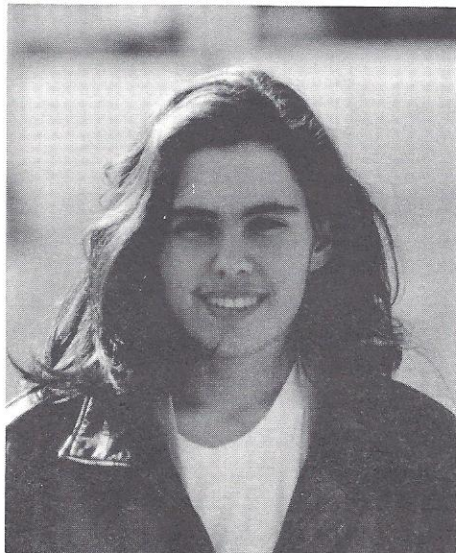
Breaking from past tradition, the Darien ABC selection committee this year has accepted three girls into the program, bringing the total number of girls in the house to seven.



Pictured here in front of Darien High School are Aysha Ramseur, Hope Lee, Adalisse Rivera, Tamara Loatman, Cielo Irizarry, Alexa Aviles and So Lan Liang

Each year about 5,000 hopeful students apply to the ABC program. The national committee in Boston selects 2,000 young people whose proven academic ability (top 5 to 10 percent of their classes) and personal characteristics qualify them for consideration. Only about 360 young men and women are eventually placed in private and public school ABC programs throughout the country.

**Darien is fortunate to welcome three outstanding young women....
So Lan Liang, Hope Lee and Adalisse Rivera. (see page 2)**

**Adalisse**

Host family: Leslie and Curtiss Roach
Back-up host family: Laura and Brian Smalley

Hi!

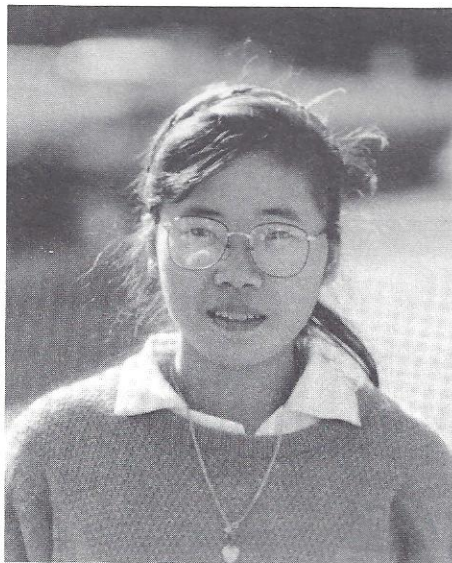
I am **Adalisse Rivera**. I am a freshman at Darien High School and also the youngest of the ABC girls. I came to the United States 5 years ago from Puerto Rico and I have lived on the upper west side of Manhattan ever since.

I heard about ABC from the guidance counselor at my old junior high school. Like Cielo, I come from the Mott Hall School. I came to visit DHS last year and got to meet the other girls. When I got the call from ABC that I had been accepted, my exact words were, "Thank God. I finally got accepted to a school where I wanted to go!"

I love living in the house. Everybody is just great. Donna is a very organized guardian and keeps everybody on top of everything. Mark is always there for good advice and to correct my grammar. Cha-Chi and Cielo are always helping me out - as if they didn't have enough work already. Aysha, Hope and So Lan are always ready to make me laugh. No wonder they are roommates. Tammy is my roommate. We don't agree on what music to listen to, but she is the "best." I enjoy being her roommate.

Casey and Luke Devins have the most important job in the house - to be cute! They do a very good job!

This is ABC Darien's TENTH year! Darien ABC graduates are doing well in various fine colleges and universities, or in their chosen careers. The next issue of the ABC newsletter will give you an update on their activities.

**So Lan**

Host family: Penny and Sandy Liu
Back-up host family: Lynne and Bill Hamlen

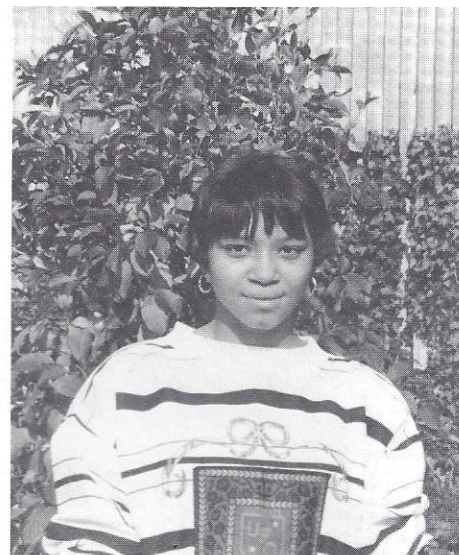
Hi!

My name is **So Lan Liang**. I am from Manhattan, in New York City. I have been living there ever since I came to the United States some years ago.

I am a sophomore this year. This is the first time I have been here in Darien. I am impressed with the cleanliness of the town and the warmth of the people. Every person I have met so far has left a strong impression on me. I find them strong minded, tough and yet humorous.

I feel Darien High School is a very academic school. There are many interesting clubs and sports where a person can gain much. The teachers are hard working, caring and determined to help students succeed.

I am looking forward to several great years in Darien. I hope from this experience as an ABC student that I not only learn about English and math, but also about being a person. ABC will prepare me for later life.

**Hope**

Host family: Susan and Dick Helstein
Back-up host family: Kiki and Peter Karpen

Hi!

I am **Hope Lee**, a new freshman in Darien.

I live with my family in Hillside, New Jersey, now but I have lived in five states and attended school in five different school systems.

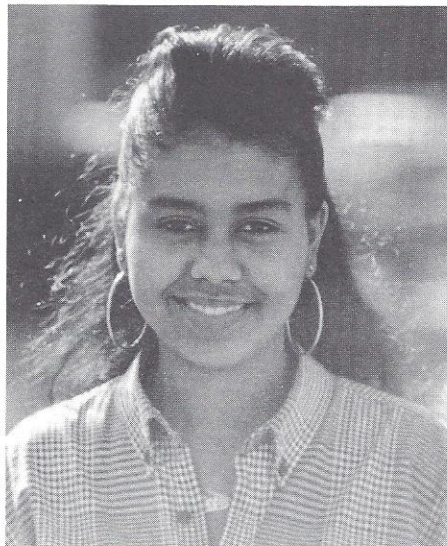
I am excited about ABC because it is a good opportunity for me and I am looking forward to spending four years here.

My favorite things to do include singing, sports, movies and shopping.

OPRAH AND ABC

The ABC program won national recognition in September when Bob Hope presented Oprah Winfrey with the Hope Award, which is given to someone "who personifies the spirit and ideals of America for future generations".

Oprah accepted the award "on behalf of a Better Chance, which every year opens the door of opportunity and provides a college preparatory education to hundreds of children of color throughout this country who would otherwise be overlooked." She then donated the award money to the ABC program.

**Cielo**

Host family: Marilyn and Bob Aymar
Back-up host family: Celia and Paul Rose

A SUMMER TO REMEMBER!

by Cielo Irizarry

From the beautiful green waters of Spain to the hot, burning sun of Morocco...I spent the most exciting weeks of my summer.

Four weeks full of memories of Spanish and the Spanish culture gave me another view on life.

Being on a full scholarship program under E.I.L. Summer Abroad, Homestay Adventure, I was able to spend two weeks with a Spanish host family that I grew very close to. They were always full of life and energy and they always made me feel as one of the family.

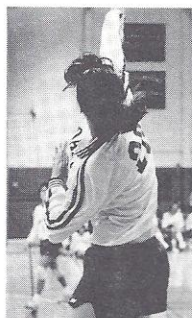
It was a feeling that made my stay in Europe one to always remember.

VOLLEYBALL AND ABC ARE WINNERS!

by Alexa Aviles,

Five ABC girls are playing volleyball this year:

Alexa Aviles
(Co-captain)
Tamara Loatman
Aysha Ramseur
Hope Lee
So Lan Liang



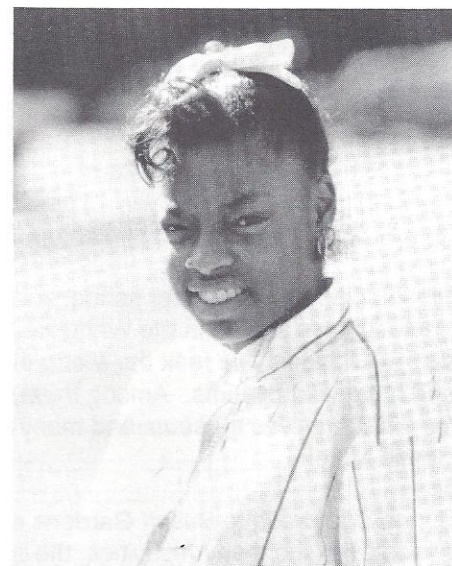
Tamara Loatman plays on Varsity. She specializes in blocking. Alexa Aviles plays on varsity also and concentrates on serving and back row passing.

The other girls contribute their skills to the Junior Varsity team.

Congratulations to this FCIAC championship team!

**Alexa**

Host family: Libby and Doug Rubin
Back-up host family: Linda and Frank Russell

**Aysha**

Host family: Barbara and David Bristle
Back-up host family: Sally and John Schlaetnhaufen

STUDENT REPS

by Aysha Ramseur

This year Ian Stover and Kim Papp have volunteered to be ABC's student representatives. As student reps, Kim and Ian were recommended and chosen to help with fund raising and communication between the ABC house, the board and the high school.

They are both seniors. Ian plays on the successful school soccer team.



In between the many things they must do, they manage to find time for us and they are really good friends. Whether it's a trip to the Stamford Mall, the movies, dinner or lunch in school, we spend time together, enjoying ourselves. Kim and Ian are always there for us.

Call for ABC Memorabilia

Do you have any photographs or memorabilia of ABC? As we gear up for the celebration of ABC's tenth year in Darien, we are asking anyone willing to share such materials to contact one of the Newsletter editors: Judy Betty, 855-9894, or 655-3981 or Penny Liu, 655-2876.

ABC GOES TO WASHINGTON

by Tamara Loatman

To escape from the pressures of school the ABC "family" went on a little excursion to Washington, D.C. last May. The trip turned out so well that we are now making preparations for a second house trip.

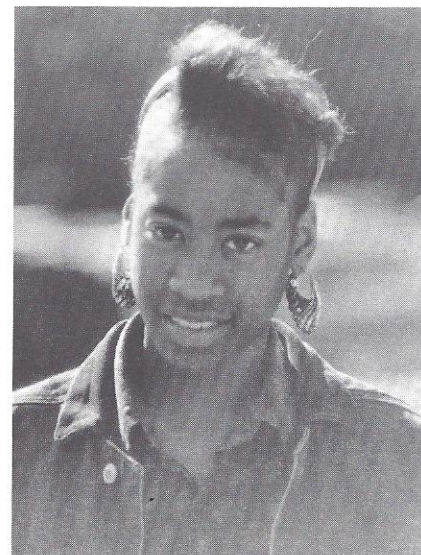
We left Darien Friday after school and started our seven hour drive to Washington. That night we stayed in the White House Hotel in Virginia. The next day, after a hearty breakfast, we took the Metro into Washington. There, we visited the Mall and national museums. Among them, we saw the Air and Space Museum, the National Archives Museum and many more. That night we went back to the White House Motel.

Sunday we drove to Busch Gardens in Virginia and there we stayed the entire day. We enjoyed the many festivities, the shows and the excitement. We ate in a restaurant in Busch Gardens and slept peacefully at a motel minutes from the amusement park.

The following day we visited Colonial Williamsburg. We stayed the day there and experienced what it was like to live in another era. Colonial Williamsburg was spectacular.

Monday we drove to the Senate Building. We toured the halls where our country's leaders spend their time. It was also an interesting event for us. We swung down to Georgetown University, where we ate lunch and started our trip back to Connecticut.

We enjoyed ourselves tremendously and thank everyone who made this trip possible. As we hope to plan another trip this year, we urge you to support our fund raising activities.



Tamara

Host family: Sue and Bob Erzen

Back-up host family: Connie and Cliff Tallman

ABC GIRLS JOIN WORLD LEADERS AT U.N.

Adalisse, Hope, Aysha and So Lan joined forces with Margaret Thatcher, E.A. Schevardnadze, Vaclav Havel and many other dignitaries at the United Nations recently, when they all took part in the World Summit for Children. The Darien ABC girls, along with young people from many different countries, stood on the floor of the General Assembly to witness the signing of the declaration for children's rights. "All the leaders gathering together for one purpose shows that if you are willing to work hard enough for something, you can make your dreams come true," said So Lan.

Hope added, "Let's repeat this event over and over again so (world leaders) will not forget what is being said."

The opportunity for the girls to take part in this historic occasion was made possible by George Kassis, senior program funding officer for UNICEF, and Jill Kassis, who is in charge of ABC's enrichment program.



Here at the U.N. are DHS students Anna Hamlen, Adalisse, So Lan, Aysha, Hope, Karen Davis and Kate Boyle