

# Robin Robinson

by Michele Williams

**R**obin Robinson was named anchor of the CHANNEL 2 Sunday news broadcasts and a chief reporter for "The 10 O'Clock News" Monday through Friday in September 1985. In addition, she co-hosts the station's magazine series, "Two on 2."

Robinson joined WBBM-TV in 1984 as consumer reporter and reporter for "Cover Story," a daily news segment examining, in depth, a topical issue or event. In that role, she covered the toxic leak in Harvey, IL; the salmonella poisoning in Chicago; errors in grocery store computer scanners; fireworks sold illegally and erroneous advertising claims.

Her work was honored with a 1985 Emmy Award for Individual Achievement from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Chicago chapter.

Robinson came to CHANNEL 2 from KMGH-TV, Denver, CO, where she was consumer reporter since 1981. The previous year, she was anchor of the morning broadcasts and general assignment reporter at KGTV, San Diego, CA.

A native of Claremont, CA, Robinson was graduated from San Diego State University with a B.A. in journalism.

She is a frequent speaker at community and professional events.

**R**obin had always admired women newscasters and during her freshman year of high school she saw Gail Christian on an independent station in California and realized that this was a career that she as a Black woman could pursue because Gail was already doing it. She had been torn between a writing career and an acting career and broadcast journalism seemed the ideal way to utilize both those interests. She pursued her goal by attending San Diego State

University because it "Had the most pages in Journalism in the catalog." While in school she completed an internship at KABC in San Diego. After that, the director of Public Affairs at the tv station offered her a job as his secretary which she turned down three times, wanting the position to be upgraded. Finally, she took the position and was very glad that she did. The department consisted of her boss and her and she got to do PSA's, book guests and get to know every one else at the station. By the time she got out of college three years later, she was offered a training spot as a news trainee because they had all gotten to know her. She worked both on the air and as an apprentice to a reporter. After a year she transferred to another McGraw Hill station, this one in Denver. Her reason for transferring was that when you stay at the place where you do your training they are very aware of the gaps in what you can do and going somewhere new they are more likely to use you in a greater number of capacities. She spent 2 years in Denver and came to Chicago and channel 2 in January of 1984.

When asked how the job differed from how she thought it would be years ago she said that

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*"She didn't realize what hard work it would be. That you put in 8 hours work on a story for 1½ minutes air time. You are always concerned about telling a story correctly!"*

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When she works evenings she rarely eats dinner or

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