

Economic Development

Bethel New Life Honored for Innovative Green Building, a Hub for Community Life in Chicago's Garfield Park Neighborhood

12th Annual Chicago Development Awards Recognize Bethel Center with the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project

While building green and creating transit-oriented development have become the mantras of progressive city planners, most envision such developments in new or affluent neighborhoods or in relatively new cities. Yet it is on an intersection of Chicago's West Side where one of the finest examples of such sustainable and smart building exists, Bethel Center, created by one of the city's best known and long-lived local community development corporations, Bethel New Life.

Hailed as a national model of sustainable development, this innovative project is the winner of the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Outstanding Non-Profit Neighborhood Real Estate Project, awarded to Bethel New Life February 2nd at

the Twelfth Annual Chicago Neighborhood Development Awards (CNDA).

Built on a former brownfield site by Bethel New Life and co-developer Matanky Realty Group, the Bethel Center is a 23,000 square foot, two story, green-roofed building in the heart of Garfield Park which provides both physical and social sustainability to the neighborhood.

On the ground floor are six commercial retail shops, including: a Subway Restaurant, local dry cleaners and a financial service center. On the upper level is Bethel's Childcare Development Center, Employment Services Center and community computer lab – all services that meet direct community needs. The Center also provides direct access to the Green

Line "L" stop through a connecting bridge.

"The Bethel Center makes life easier for residents of West Garfield Park, giving them a lift up, whether it be access to our employment center, a means of getting to a job on the Green Line, or the availability of high quality daycare, healthy food, and other conveniences critical for working families," said Steven McCullough, President and CEO, Bethel New Life. "In creating Bethel Center, we listened to residents' needs and tried to respond to them."

"Bethel Center is both attuned to the needs of the community as well as the environment, making use of green building features like a roof-top garden, solar panels and its connection to the Green Line platform," said

Andrew Mooney, Senior Program Director of LISC/Chicago, the co-founder of the CNDA. "Bethel New Life has played a vital role in the development of Garfield Park, and the group continues to create community assets through projects like Bethel Center."

More than 1,300 people, including the leaders of Chicago's non-profit, corporate and philanthropic sectors, joined Mayor Richard M. Daley and event Chair John W. Rowe, Chairman & CEO of Exelon Corporation, in honoring this year's CNDA winners who have helped to infuse new investment and life into Chicago's neighborhoods. Established in 1995, CNDA recognizes outstanding achievements in neighborhood real estate development and community

We Want To Know

"We Want To Know" asks: How do you feel about the closing of Collins H.S.?

Leroy Burton Jr.

Sonia Security officer (Douglas Library) Westside "It's not fair, as Blacks are losing a lot already. Closing the school is bad. The youth will suffer the most. And teachers will lose their jobs. The youth will also be losing a lot of mentors. What we need is for more parents to get involved."

Ronnie CNA North Lawndale She says, "They need to close it because they ain't doing nothing but fighting anyhow. They need a good high school with discipline. My two cousins go there and they ain't learning nothing. They need a mixed high school (racially). They need schools like: Kenwood, Whitney Young, Morgan Park, and Jones Commercial. They can build a Starbucks here in North Lawndale but they can't build a better school. The kids make it hard to teach them, with all the gangs up there. Being in a gang is getting old. The kids there lack discipline and home training. A lot of the parents are on drugs too. It starts at home."

Al Coleman Entrepreneur Oak Park "People perish for the lack of Knowledge. We need to follow the bible. We need these schools. The men around this community are destroyed because of a lack of knowledge. Other communities are being supported but not ours. The county can raise taxes on cigarettes [for other things a] but they can't do it for our schools. It's all politics. Politics is what's closing the school. Keep Collins open."

Mike Cook Writer North Lawndale "Chicago Public Schools are run by three people who don't have a background in education, 1) Mayor Daley who had to have someone take the bar exam for him, 2)

Michael Scott a hack politician who's president of the board of Ed., and 3) the current Superintendent of Schools who was chosen by John Rogers (head of Ariel Capital) who also has no background in education. Because of their lack of experience everything they do should be [thoroughly] scrutinized. We need real educators to examine the real motives for the closing of Collins school closing, because the more information the public has the better. And to have checks and balances on non education people who've been foisted on us is crucial.

Lillie St. Clair Collins H.S. teacher (music dept. chairperson) "Collins H.S. is scheduled to be closed over a three year Phaseout period plan. The reason for the closing is because we are charged with having the lowest exam scores in area 21, and that we haven't shown any gains in three years, according to the Board of Education which are driven by the No Child Left Behind act guidelines. Many of the students we receive are scoring below expectations from the start and it's expected of us to bring them up to sufficient levels. In actuality all Westside high schools are scoring in basically the same range with maybe only a 4-6 points difference. So, basically all are under achieving, except for Whitney Young H.S., on the Prairie State Achievement Exam. One of the reasons we're targeted instead of schools like Marshal or Crane is because of the popularity of those schools basketball teams. And another reason is because of all the development taking place here in North Lawndale. If Manley doesn't

watch out they'll be closing too. They're stacking the kids on top of each other for their self-destruction [by moving Collins students to other Westside schools; esp. to Manley]. What they're eventually going to do is reorganize Collins into a public charter school which will have a select enrollment. The teachers there won't be all too qualified. [The bottom line is that] Collins was dealt a bad hand. The deck is stacked against the students. No ones really trying to fix the problem by shuffling the kids around. Even the head of the Safety/Security division for the schools remarked that they would provide more police officers to the schools when he should of been mentioning the fact that Collins had the fewest incidents reported of students committing violent acts than any other school in the area. Mr. Ali Mohamed (English/language arts teacher at Collins)



Lillie St. Clair



Martin, George and Tiffany

agrees with Ms. St. Clair on the Collins closing issue.

Collins students:

Martin: "Close the ___ school. I'm Graduating next year any how."

George: "My whole family went here. I am trying to carry on the family tradition."

Tiffany: "Now they want to close it when I am just getting here."

Leroy Burton is resident of North Lawndale and NLCN writer. To learn more about the closing of Collins H.S. or if you have an idea regarding the Westside that you think needs looking into send me a request at: ww2kn@yahoo.com. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

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WILL YOUR MOTHER BE PROUD OF YOU

By Henry Hardee

I knew it was Black History Month when I put my seven-day pass in the turnstile and saw a brother being eyed by a police officer. The brother was wearing a gray "Teach-shirt" that said, "Black history is the history of humanity because life originated in Africa and it's a fact that if you learn history you will be able to expose his-story."

It took me back to the 60s and 70s when black pride and black consciousness were in the air like thin spiral strands of smoke coming from a stick of blue sonata incense. I had to give him the black power salute. It was clear to me that he knew who he was and where he came from. He knew the importance of black history was to dispel all the lies of white racists who said that blacks were inferior. He knew that black history was the story of the world.

I got another sign that it was black history month when I saw it coming toward the bench I was sitting on waiting for a train on the Blue Line. It was in the form of a woman that I didn't know personally, but knew of her. She was about 60 and was still getting around like she was a spring chicken. She remind me of the sisters I used to see when I went to Friendship Baptist Church on the corner of Washington and Damen, when I was a child.

I could sense that she was going to start telling me about the old days. I knew I wasn't going to have to say a word and she was going to do all the talking. She sat down next to me, scooted her behind around on the bench like she was trying to find a comfortable spot on the seat cushion of a couch, and started in on me.

"You don't know how easy you got it. People my age have done all the hard work before you came into the world. You don't know anything about sweating. What you do every day with that little black bag you got full of books ain't nothing," she said. "Hard work was picking and dragging 323 pounds of cotton every day in the hot sun and marching for civil rights (even in your most uncomfortable shoes). Hard work was making sure that Mrs. Ann's pot roast was cooked down to the right shade of brown and was tender and juicy. Hard work was to sit at lunch counters while white folks called you out of your name and threw food at you," she added.

She went on to say "Folks these days don't want to work. They want to sit around and do what they say 'chill'! Ain't nobody ever told me that I wasn't going to have to work

and that somebody was going to take care of me for the rest of my life. It was just the opposite they told me that nobody was going to take care of me and if I wanted something out of life I was going to have work for it—work two jobs for it sometimes!"

In her own way she was telling me that the importance of black history was that it showed people working to make better lives for themselves and other black people. I was glad to hear that train coming that I didn't know what to do. Listening to that woman made me start to question what I did every day. What barriers was I trying to break down to pave the way for someone else?

I saw the failure of Black History Month when I got on the train and overheard a conversation between two young ladies about using fake check stubs to prove to a social agency that they had childcare, so they could put some extra dollars in their pockets.

As I listened to them, all I could do was shake my head, this is not what Megar Evers got murdered in Mississippi for, this is not what Mark Clark and Fred Hampton got shot up for at the Black Panther Party headquarters that was at 2337 West Monroe and this was not what Martin Luther King Jr. came to


Chicago and got hit over the head with a brick for.

While I continued to listen to them I was thinking that this is why it is so important that we know our history. We need to know it because some of us are thinking that hustling is a better way to make a living than going to school and getting a job. I kept thinking that if these young ladies knew our history and the great accomplishments of black women they wouldn't be doing something so trifling. Those young ladies need to get their minds right. They have forgotten where they came from. John Henrik Clark was on point when he said, "To control a people you must first control how they are feeling about themselves and how they regard their history and culture."


Too many of us are being controlled by what we see in the media, which tells us to get all we can; however we can.

How do you feel about your blackness these days? Have you been so caught up in the day-to-day survival of paying rent, buying food, buying clothing and trying to get a car that you have forgotten the dues our ancestors have paid for us? Do you think that America and Chicago have changed since the Civil Rights Movement, since Affirmative Action?


See Proud page 14

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Spiritual from page 11

constructive criticism, enthusiasm, and tough love, but most of all the word of God. I've learned that this program is the light to my lantern, the guidance through my path, the eye that allows me to see the unseen, and the ears that allows me to hear the unheard.

I know that the public is probably wondering why I have named this article 'Spiritual Warfare.' It is because I spent my whole life fighting and it seemed like I could never get on the right track no matter how hard I tried. No matter what I did it was never good enough for me.

I always thought I was a failure. For 23 years I felt that a way until now, and that's where 'Warfare' comes in, because now I have change over into a new leaf. I have shed that first layer of skin, and I have that sickness out of my heart, like a caterpillar turns into a butterfly. The most beautiful rewarding part is when that caterpillar gets those wings to fly.

God has given me wings. It's only the beginning because now I have to learn how to fly with those wings, and through the Creator, I know that I will.

I strongly recommend this program to any teenager from the age of 18 on up, because they have problems and don't know how to say that they need help. We all are human, meaning that we strive for perfection but it doesn't happen that way. Due to the fact that it is impossible for us to be perfect, that's why God sends us through different trials and tribulations. So he (God) might test our character, as well our strengths along with our hearts, only through him will we even peak at perfection.

I want to thank God first and foremost, next my beautiful Mother Yvonne MaGee, the staff at R.A.T.E.S. A very big Thanks to Apostle Brady for believing in me and pushing me to the highest aspect any man could push another. Helping me with my

vision of becoming an inspiring writer.

Pastor Dave, and Pastor Margaret for instilling in my mind the thought of publishing this article in the newspaper. They took us (class) to visit the North Lawndale Community Newspaper building and I had no ideal that this dream would come true so soon. So God had already talked to Pastor Dave.

What Pastor Dave did was to plant the seed in my temple, not knowing if it would grow or not, but through God's vision and power it did.

This is an example of true salvation. I also want to thank Pastor Jamal for teaching, Basic Computer Technology and Basic and Advanced Typing, and especially for giving up on lunch just to tutor me.

Also, I would like to give thanks to my parole Officer Delgado for his support as well as guidance. And thanks to Apostle Bush and his wife for the many great classes along with the metaphors that kept me thinking all week long. Thanks to Mrs. Chavda for instilling in me not to be ashamed of God, and to know whom I am, also to Marquita Henson for lot of motivational, down to earth speeches.

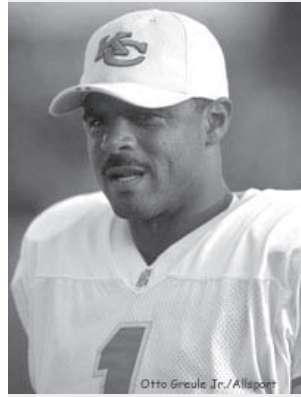
A big warm thank you from the bottom of my heart to my peers in this program, again, I thank you God and the public for taking time out to read my article as well as understanding who I am. Thanks to the publisher's at North Lawndale Community News.

R.A.T.E.S is not-for-profit organization that provides a non-threatening method for teaching the five basic categories to ex-offenders. For more information contact Rev. Margaret Jamal, executive director at: 708/344-8280.

Brutus is a member of the RATES program and was inspired to write this article. He thanks the RATES program for all of the opportunities it has provided him. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Entertainment & Sports

MOON BECOMES FIRST BLACK QUARTERBACK ELECTED TO PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME



Warren Moon

Todd Thomas

quarterback the next year as a sophomore. Despite his high school success Moon was not recruited heavily by major colleges as a quarterback and went to West Los Angeles junior college for one season before heading north to the University of Washington: one of the only major colleges that would let him play quarterback. Most schools wanted to convert the golden-armed athlete to a defensive back as they often did with black quarterbacks.

After a few mediocre seasons, Moon eventually led Washington to an upset victory over Michigan in the 1978 Rose Bowl, winning the MVP for good measure. In the game his play was spectacular and had he been of another hue Moon might have been a sure first round pick as a QB in the NFL. But those African-American quarterback naysayers oddly still kept on pushing him to become a defensive back.

Moon went undrafted by the NFL so he opted for the Canadian Football League (CFL) and the Edmonton Eskimos where he proceeded to win an unprecedented five consecutive championships and amass tremendous passing yardage. The NFL could resist him no longer and in 1984 he went to the Houston Oilers where he began his remarkable and record-setting NFL career.

Moon played for the Oilers for nine seasons then he moved on to the Minnesota Vikings where he continued his great play while teaming up with the talented receiver Chris Carter for some of the NFL's most memorable performances during the mid-

nineties.

Moon wound down his career with a two-year stint in Seattle, then another two years with the Kansas City Chiefs. His career passing marks in the NFL are astonishing by any measure. If his passing statistics from the CFL were factored in he would be the NFL's career leader in just about every category for a quarterback.

Warren Moon's NFL career Rank:

Pass attempts: 4th

Pass Completions: 4th

Passing Yardage: 4th

Passing TD's: 5th

Moon was also named all-pro nine times and threw for 49,325 yards in his career, behind only Dan Marino, Brett Favre and John Elway. In addition to being the first African-American quarterback to be elected into the Hall of Fame, he is also the only undrafted quarterback to be elected.

Warren Moon helped pave the way for other African-American quarterback in the NFL. During most of his playing career he and Doug Williams were the only starting quarterbacks in the league. In 2005 there were seven black quarterbacks who started on NFL teams.

After traveling such a long and winding road Warren Moon's Hall of Fame induction speech should be something to behold. The induction ceremonies will be held in Canton, Ohio Aug 5-6.

Todd Thomas is a freelance writer for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

FEB 15 BLACK FACTS



Nat King Cole

* On this date in 1965, legendary singer and pianist Nat King Cole died at the age of 45 of lung cancer in Santa Monica, California. Cole grew up in Chicago and graduated from DuSable High School in 1934.

* On this date in 1848, Sarah Roberts was barred from a white school in Boston. Her father Benjamin Roberts, filed the first integration lawsuit in U.S. history on her behalf.

* On this date in 1804, New Jersey passes legislation abolishing slavery, becoming the last Northern state to outlaw the practice.

* On this date in 1851, Black abolitionists invaded a Boston courtroom and rescued a fugitive slave.

* On this date in 1968, Conductor Henry Lewis became the first African-American to conduct a symphony orchestra in the United States.

At The Flicks

David Schultz



The sled dogs in Walt Disney's Eight Below

California. The film's emphasis also shifts more around the dogs' struggle for survival against the wintry elements and encounters as they roam the icy, snowy landscape for food and creature comforts amidst some dangerous moments for nearly six months being on their own.

"Eight Below" is a film that resonates well by its silence of courage and unity of the huskies who struggle and survive using their natural instincts, and the exploits they encounters from their near-six month ordeal. Better than the humans who have scattered with their excuses, leaving Paul Walker's lead character to represent the responsible side of the human race who bemoans the dogs' fate.

After all, dogs know nothing about bureaucracy! Even though some scenes with the dogs seems bit staged and predictable, the setting for the drama and the nature of its true story has enough to keep the chill off the cliché and deliver a remarkable family-oriented tale of survival and loyalty.

PG; 120 min. A Walt Disney Pictures Release - Opens Fri. Feb. 17 at selected theaters

LONDON (*1/2) "London" refers to a captivating beauty played Jessica Biel. An independent yet sexy woman who happens to be above the standards for ex-boyfriend, Syd (Chris Evans), an alcoholic drug addict womanizer who is unable to commit to saying the words, "I Love You" that led them to their break-up six months ago.

Hung over in his sloppy loft apartment, Syd suddenly receives a phone call with the news of a "going away" party for London who leaving for L.A. for a new boyfriend and opportunities. The phone call rekindles a flame

in Syd that was never extinguished.

But first, he makes a rendezvous meeting at a tavern later that evening to pick up some heroin ("blow") from a new contact, Bateman (Jason Statham), a currency broker by day that soon after Syd invites him to travel with him to crash the party that he knows he's not invited to.

"London" is a movie stuck in limbo and trapped by its own premise. With therapy and time, this film might have been one of those experimental stage plays. Even where through its ending suggest a better understanding between London and Syd who each must go their separate ways at the airport. The film suggests they departed as better friends than they were lovers. This makes the entire film seems so contrived and ridiculous to watch.

R; 92min. A Destination Films/ Samuel Goldwyn Films Release- Presented at selected theaters

TRISTRAM SHANDY: A COCK AND BULL STORY (***) An often hilarious and witty cinematic attempt at British filmmaking spoofing itself. Of course, it certainly helps to being familiar as a movie buff with wide appeal that can identify with the performers, script style and direction that often reflects the inside and out jokes on their screen characters in a straight faced parody of those 18th Century Merchant-Ivory type period piece movies like "Jefferson In Paris" and "Howard's End", etc.

Based on Laurence Sterne's 18th century novel, "The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman" was first published in installments from 1759-67. The novel was ahead of its time for the post modern classic written before there was any modernism to be



Rob Brydon, Steve Coogan and director Michael Winterbottom on the set of Picturehouse's Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story

"post" about. Director Michael Winterbottom lets the jokes to flow wherever while keeping the tone and thespians in check "Tristram Shandy" is done as a "movie within a movie" with part of the cast playing multiple roles as well as alternative roles to their off screen persona and private lives that also interweave sub plots away from the film's production.

At the film's outset, Steve Coogan narrates this self-improvise feeling script, making it clear the parts from the book are scenes being filmed by a contemporary film crew working on location in England. Coogan in the title role weaves through the action and speaks direct to the camera, explaining the relevance and place in the story through various scenes in production shown.

This whole movie is about filming the unfilmable novel. Therefore the film becomes about style and approach than the flow of a coherent story. Through its improvisational spirit and direction, "Tristram Shandy" is a marvelously deadpan and occasionally wicked fun that may not be everyone's "cup of tea".

See Flicks page 14

BOOK REVIEW:

Black Power Inc.: The New Voice of Success

by Cora Daniels

John Wiley & Sons, Inc., \$24.95

Reviewed by Angelic J. Jones



Cora Daniels examines the efforts and methods of Civil Rights leaders and the post-Civil Rights generation to obtain equal rights for Blacks in her new book Black Power Inc.: The New Voice of Success. An award-

winning journalist and a staff writer for Fortune magazine, Daniels lends authority to her argument that the equal rights movement moved from the streets to corporate boardrooms after Blacks gained access to the basic civil liberties fought for by Civil Rights activists in the 60's. She dispels the notion that racism doesn't exist tapping the new Black elite to cite instances of corporate racial inequalities.

Black Power Inc.: The New Voice of Success provides an examination of corporate America as a playing field for Civil Rights advances through economic success.

Daniels begins Black Power Inc. addressing the source of racism-prejudice that arises from the indisputable difference of Black people. The prologue, "What Are You?," introduces the idea that identity and induction in American culture begins in childhood. She examines her own past to assert the fact that, unquestionably, skin color and hair type differentiate Black people from most others and shows how difference breeds prejudices that lead to racism.

While Black Civil Rights opened up education to Blacks allowing them to advance into the corporate world and enjoy in economic gain and consumption to a point. Daniels addresses the pitfalls and limits of Black advancement as a common phenomenon of "Working While Black." The one Black employee is asked to explain away Black behavior, dress and hair choices. Susan Chapman, a director in a major technology company, noted that people view her "as the ambassador of Black America. 'They don't know anything about Susan, about my life. But I am the only Black person they know so of course I speak for all Black America,'" pg. 25. At the forefront of Chapman's grievance

See Review page 15

KEVIN MCILVAINE ONCE AGAIN PORTRAYS HISTORICAL FIGURE

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

Kevin McIlvaine, singer, actor, teacher, and portrayal of famous African Americans once again pleased audiences at the Field Museum with his representation of another prominent historical black figure.

From February 11-13 McIlvaine portrayed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, the educated, runaway slave who eventually became an editor and the founder of an anti-slavery newspaper in the 19th century.

McIlvaine, dressed in 19th century attire, then recited a version of Douglass' 1852 surprise Independence Day speech that instead of glorifying the holiday, it chastised Americans, even Christian Americans for their turning of the other cheek to slave practices.

"The Fourth of July," McIlvaine as Douglass began, "it is the birthday of your independence and political freedom... but what is the Fourth of July to a slave? ... to him your celebration is a sham."

McIlvaine adapted messages from at least three of Douglass' speeches into three more concise speeches that fit into about two hours' performance. Cliff Kelley was the host and The Apostolic Church Choir of Chicago was McIlvaine's singing accompaniment. After the first song McIlvaine as Douglass told the story of a slave named Bill Demby who was beaten

by his overseer, then later shot to death by the overseer because Demby would not come out of a creek. This opening story set the tone and leeway to Douglass' anti-slavery messages, and protest of the overall mistreatment of black Americans.

A song that complimented the subject followed each speech. After the first speech against slavery, McIlvaine and the choir sang "Let My People Go." The Battle Hymn of the Republic followed the second speech encouraging black men to enlist into the Union Army. The third speech was of McIlvaine as Douglass telling of his many other accomplishments before his death. These included his constant fight for equality, and his involvement in women's rights. The song, Swing Low, Sweet Chariot, followed that speech. After McIlvaine repeated the opening words of WVON's Cliff Kelley, *black history is 365 days a year*, the Choir closed with the song "We Shall Overcome."

Lorise Jones, who lives in Indiana, was at the event with six of her twelve children. She had witnessed McIlvaine's performance a year ago when he portrayed Dr. King at the Field Museum, and now wanted her children to see him portray Douglass.

"When we teach African American

history, especially the part about slavery, we need to be careful that we don't teach it in the spirit of bitterness," she said. "Growing up I heard a lot of things about slavery, and I became bitter at white people. Bitterness only hurts you."

The event was crowded with people standing around the lobby of the museum to listen and view McIlvaine as he enlightened his audience with the courageous words of a man who could have just as well praised America for his freedom, and went home to his wife and children.

We do not know if McIlvaine sounded exactly like Douglass the way he did Dr. King last month during the Dr. Martin Luther King holiday weekend, but McIlvaine delivered Douglass' messages with the same conviction as Douglass according to the impact of his written documents.

McIlvaine is a native Chicagoan. He went to school on Chicago's south side, and studied theater with the Black Ensemble Theatre, and ETA. He currently resides in Washington, DC. Ariel Capital Management sponsored this event.

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson is a poet and writer for NLCN and Residents Journal. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

Sweats for my sweet.

Sorry I missed you last week, but I have some very interesting gossip for you today.

Happy Valentine's Day to everyone that did not receive anything. I LOVE you.

Vice President Dick Cheney accidentally shot and injured a man during a weekend quail hunting trip in Texas, his spokeswoman said Sunday. Cheney turned to shoot a bird and accidentally sprayed Harry Whittington in the face with shotgun pellets at the Armstrong Ranch in south Texas. Cheney's spokeswoman, Lea Anne McBride, said the vice president was with Whittington, who is a lawyer from Austin, Texas, and his wife at the hospital on Sunday afternoon. While in the hospital Whittington had a mild heart attack. I had a question as to Cheney waiting 14 hours after the shooting before talking with the police. The police have cleared Cheney of any wrong doing and said this is no more than a just a hunting accident. Yeah right. It's bad enough that the president is killing millions over in Iraq, now the Vice-president

is hunting humans. What a country we live in and great group of leaders we follow.

A bodyguard for rapper Busta Rhymes was fatally gunned down during a star-studded music video shoot in New York early Sunday, say police. Missy Elliot, Busta Rhymes and G-Unit members including Lloyd Banks were scheduled to be filming on a ninth-floor soundstage when violence erupted outside the Brooklyn building, police Sgt. Kevin Farrell tells the Associated Press. New York's Daily News reports that 50 Cent, DMX and Mary J. Blige were also said to be standing nearby. The security guard was identified as Israel Ramirez, 29. He was killed with a single shot to the chest, Farrell said. Rhymes, whose real name is Trevor Smith, was not injured, The New York Times reports. Some 500 people were gathered for the Rhymes video, yet it was unclear how many had been outside when shots were fired. After the shooting, investigators - who as of early Monday have yet to make an arrest - took possession of a nearby parked car that was hit by the gunfire. They are still trying to

determine what led to the violence, Farrell said. They gotta be looking for Fifty.

Christina Millian an Nick Cannon are calling it quits. She reportedly talks about the break up in a recorded diss track called "Who's gonna Ride". The song talks about Cannons rumored discretions. He also made jokes about the breakup on his MTV show "Wild N Out". I will listen to this song and have an update about the lyrics in my next column.

James Yancey, producer and member of Slum Village, died on February 10th of Lupus. He was 32 years old. in 2005, in an issue of XXI, J Dilla as he was known to the hip hop world, admitted that he had a ruptured kidney and was malnourished due to unhealthy eating habits and stress. He worked with many artist including Janet Jackson, Common, A Tribe Called Quest, Bustah Rhymes, The Roots and D'Angelo. He will be missed.

Sources: www.michellemalkin.com, www.teenpeople.co, www.cnn.com, www.bet.com,

Marquita Ware is the Production/Layout Coordinator for the North Lawndale Community News.

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On Video

David Schultz

Anthony Rapp, Taye Diggs, Adam Pascal in Rent.

RENT (1/2)** Screen adaptation of the Broadway musical about a group of East Village residents (which includes Rosario Dawson, Jesse L. Martin, Taye Diggs) singing their way through housing problems and AIDS related friends and lovers. Director Chris Columbus doesn't add much distinctive or scope beyond the musical numbers R; 120min. Sony Pictures Home Video

ZATHURA (*)** Two bickering brothers (Jonah Bobo and Josh Hutcherson) find an old, mechanical board game in their divorced, workaholic father's (Tim Robbins) basement that magically transports the house with the kids inside, into outer space floating toward The Black Planet. The boys must somehow play out the game correctly to return back to normal. While being threatened by giant alien creatures and befriended by

See Video page 14

"A true witness delivereth souls; but a deceitful witness speaketh lies." - Proverbs 14:15

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Video from page 13

a marooned astronaut (Dax Shepard) with a secret that helps the brothers learn to co-exist. The adventure has its moments, thanks in part to direction of Chicago born actor-director Jon Favreau. But its moral tone doesn't make the grade enough. **PG-13; 101min. Sony Pictures Home Video DALTRY CALHOUN(**1/2)** Johnny Knoxville continues to distance himself from his "Jackass" image in this eccentric comedy with a little heart about a grass seed mogul who must learn to make time in his hectic life for the teenage daughter he never knew existed. **PG-13; 93min. Miramax Home Video**

PROOF (1/2)** The screen adaptation of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony award winning Broadway play with Gwyneth Paltrow as a potentially gifted daughter of a genius mathematician (Anthony Hopkins), who is more concerned that she has inherited her father's illness, instead of being a child prodigy.

Now preparing for the funeral, her character has to confront the present with her past through a strained relationship with her unflappable sister (Hope Davis) and an ambitious student protégé (Jake Gyllenhaal). Solid cast led by a string and insightful performance from Paltrow makes for an interesting worthwhile movie.

PG-13; 99min. Miramax Home Video THE WEATHER MAN (*)** Nicolas Cage delivers a wonderfully comedic understated performance as a beleaguered Chicago TV weatherman with a successful career, but living in a disastrous personal life being unable to win the approval from his father (Michael Caine), a well respected author. While trying to reconcile with his ex-wife (Hope Davis) who has moved on, Cage's hapless character thinks that his personal life can be better if he wins back his family and dad's respect if he can land a network gig on a daily morning news show. **PG-13; 103min. Paramount Home**

Flicks from page 12

Still, the movie creates a lot of moments you'll enjoy and be amused by. There's even a hilarious rant between Coogan and Brydon arguing over the varied vocal impressions of Al Pacino through his film career over the film's end credits that is not to be missed **R; 94min. A Picturehouse Film Release - Opens Fri. Feb. 17 at selected theaters**

FINAL DESTINATION 3 ()** Death is a presence that has a sense of humor, but when it comes to this movie. This isn't much of a thrill ride beyond its creative form of killing off young (and stupid) people (by suntanning, nail gun to the face, decapitation, blood splattering head crushes, etc) in this non-suspenseful, gross-out, guilty pleasure.

On the evening that high school seniors celebrate their graduation at a carnival-type amusement park.

Wendy (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) begins to react strangely to viewing the print out of her classmates from her digital camera. She suddenly has a vision of her and others death on a rollercoaster.

She refuses to go on the ride and can't stop her boyfriend and others. Kevin (Ryan Merriman) is the best friend to Wendy's boyfriend who also lost a loved one and avoided the tragic ride to fulfill a promise.

Soon Wendy realizes her premonition hasn't broken the cycle of death on those survivors. So Wendy and Kevin team up to figure out from clues on those digital photos how each survivor would be killed. They try to warn each survivor to break the order of their death that would stop the killing before its Wendy and Kevin's turn.

The premise is familiar to the senseless slaughter of young people that has been paraded across the screen in various demonic forms since "Halloween", "Friday The 13th" through Freddy Kruger. The difference is there is no visible entity here to physically wage this battle of "good versus evil" with.

Even though the film's co writer and director James Wong seems to enjoy doing the "domino effect" set-up to each victims' implausible death that is cheap thrill of wicked fun for those who enjoy sick (and graphically violent) humor. **R; 92min. A New Line Cinema Picture Release - Presented at selected theaters**

THE PINK PANTHER (*1/2) Steve Martin tries to fill the very big shoes of the late Peter Sellers' comedic signature role of the bumbling, dim-witted, accident-prone, language butcher Inspector Clouseau. In this



Beyonce Knowles and Steve Martin in the Pink Panther

updated remake of "The Pink Panther" that he also co-wrote. The original 1964 story involving globe trotting jewel thieves has been revamped into a murder mystery over a popular French soccer coach (Jason Statham in an unbilled cameo) known for wearing a gaudy pink-jewel, was assassinated after a game and his ring stolen amidst a crowd celebration on the ball field

Kevin Kline steps into the role of Chief Inspector Dreyfus who feels he could make himself look good for a major award. When he decides to assign Clouseau for the 'idiot' he is, as a distraction on the case. While Dreyfus figures his 'cracked' team would solve the crime.

Naturally, Clouseau (Steve Martin) fumbles and stumbles his way through the story with dumb luck in uncovering the motive and culprit Martin's physical attributes and deadpan facial expression well delivers the over-the-hill sight gags and mishaps with only a few inventive bits here and there. In the end result is that Martin's efforts hardly puts a dent in the comedic impression and legacy Sellers established with the role.

Beyonce Knowles playing the coach's girlfriend and pop diva is nothing more than a sex prop with little to do in the same kind of performance she did in "Austin Powers: The Spy That Shagged Me".

"The Pink Panther" is all about being funny more than having a coherent story to play off of as in the original. However, what's funny can go to being silly. But this establishes a momentum that this comedy can't sustain. Therefore, a comedy that is not creative or smart enough without making the viewer grow tired of it all before the film reaches its end credits. **PG;-13; 92min. A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer / Columbia Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters**

David Schultz is film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Proud from page 11

Well it hasn't. We are still fighting racial discrimination. We are still going before The Supreme Court to demand better education for our kids who are enrolled in failing public schools— The Justice Department had to make "Domino's" deliver pizza in the black community and white (Catholics) still can't believe that Jesus had brown skin and woolly hair.

We need to be putting on our marching shoes and protesting ComEd raising the price of electricity. We need to be carrying picket signs telling CTA that two dollars a ride is scandalous. We need to get our blood pressure worked up over the gentrification going on that is kicking the poor out of the community so people with money can move in.

Somehow things have gotten twisted on our path to freedom. The rising expectations of the 50s and 60s have been lost somewhere. These days it is not about social and political issues but getting over. The daughters of the mothers of human history have lowered themselves to scamming. The sons of African kings are being locked up and the government is throwing away the key. Are our ancestors shaking in their souls seeing what some of us have become?

The heroes and heroes of our past were just ordinary people doing their best to make better lives for themselves and their children. Black people of today should be doing the same thing. What are you doing to dispel the lies of "his-story," that say we have short attention spans, low academic motivation, have under or unemployed parents, come from disorganized households, have first hand experience with violent crime and are influenced by the latest clothes, shoes, and hair styles? Do you know the value of hard work? Do you need to get your mind right? The life each one of us is living today is going to be important to the black history of tomorrow. What is your biography going to say— will your mother be proud of you?

Henry Hardee is a writer for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

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COMMUNITY/BLACK HISTORY EVENTS

DR. WILLIE WILSON AND LOCAL MINISTERS WILL HOST A "GOSPEL CELEBRATION" HONORING CONGRESSMAN DANNY K. DAVIS AND AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE on Saturday February 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rock of Ages Church, 1309 Madison St., Maywood, IL. For more information contact: Sherby Miller at 312/ 543-8850 or Daphne Boykin at: 708/704-4845.

THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE AT MALCOLM X COLLEGE WILL HOST: "BLACK NATIONALIST AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MALCOLM X" on February 21 at 2 p.m. For more information contact: Malcolm X College at: 312/850-7000.

MALCOLM X COLLEGE WILL HOST A BLACK FILM FESTIVAL on February 20 and 22 at 8:30 p.m. The festival will be held at Malcolm X College at 1900 W. Van Buren. For more information contact Malcolm X College at: 312/850-7000.

LAWDALE HERITAGE WILL HOST LAWDALE CONVERSATIONS: KNOCKING ON HISTORY'S DOOR on Friday, February 24 at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at Lawndale Elementary Academy Auditorium, 3500 W. Douglas. For more information contact: 773/250-7500.

NEWS BRIEFS

GOV. BLAGOJEVICH PROPOSES PLAN TO REDUCE EARLY GRADE CLASS SIZE IN 2007 BUDGET Governor Rod R. Blagojevich announced in his 2007 budget a measure to reduce the number of students in kindergarten through third grade classrooms throughout the state. Blagojevich's plan will earmark \$10 million for the initiative. "Smaller classes mean more individual attention for students, for teachers, it means spending less time on discipline and more time on instruction," Gov. Blagojevich said. The money will be divided into \$50,000 grants that would go to schools to pay for teacher salaries and benefits. The grants would be equally distributed between suburban, downstate and Chicago Public Schools. The grants will be awarded to elementary schools with K-3 class sizes that average more than 20 students. Schools would be required to use the funds to hire additional classroom teachers.

GOV. BLAGOJEVICH ANNOUNCES SHORTER WAITING PERIOD FOR OBTAINING PROFESSIONAL LICENSES Governor Rod R. Blagojevich proposed major changes to reduce the amount of time professionals have to wait to renew or obtain a license. Currently, the application process is 4-19 weeks; the Governor's would reduce the process to 1-4 weeks - a reduction of more than 40 percent. To initiate the plan, the Illinois Department of Finance and Professional Regulation is installing a new system to capture applicant data for all licenses quickly and accurately. The plan will cost \$1.6 million annually, beginning in fiscal year 2007.

ADVOCATE BETHANY HOSPITAL TO BECOME LONG TERM ACUTE CARE HOSPITAL

Advocate Bethany Hospital will be come the Westside's first and only long term acute care hospital. The new Bethany will serve the extended care needs of patients with complex medical conditions: heart disease, cancer, respiratory conditions, stroke, kidney disease and severe wounds. "We are all truly excited about the promising future of Advocate Bethany Hospital, and these new opportunities to better meet the needs of this community we will continue to serve," said Lena Dobbs-Johnson, president Advocate Bethany Hospital. "Patients with serious illness or injuries requiring extensive, individualized care will now have a hospital in the community dedicated to serving their needs." As a long term acute care hospital, Bethany will treat patients who require extended medical care beyond the typical length of a hospital stay, which is an average of 25 days.

Volunteer from page 8

line. Be a role model. You can't say one thing and do another thing because they are watching you."

Johnny Harris has been with Better Life for Youth for about six or seven years. He believes not only Historically Black Colleges, but any higher level of education of any sort whether it's a college or a vocational level of institution is a benefit within itself. "Kid's don't always have opportunities to visit colleges let alone just go out of town or something like that to take a trip because family just don't have the resources," said Harris.

"Education for our young

black kids and for young kids in general across America is very critically. It's very needed. Because what is happening, we are raising up a nation that's going to be illiterate. It's unfortunate that they are closing schools on the Westside. But we are involved with our Senator Rickey Hendon on the Westside of Chicago who is very influential and very interested in mobilizing the community, the teachers, and other political forces around him to go out to these schools challenge them to say you cannot close the schools.

When asked about whether any of their kids in the program brought up the subject of school closings his

answer was "Yes, some brought it up. Some of the kids are somewhat nonchalant. Some of them just don't have an information base coaching to make them abreast of what the situation is and a lot of times they kind of go on passively and just kind of take it as is, "They closing our schools down in the hood that's it. That's the end of story. But they have a great voice. All they have to do is just walk out them doors one day and say hey let's go stand outside. Sometimes we just don't know the power that we've got."

For more information on Better Life for Youth contact them at 312/243-9730 or 312/671-1026.

Review from page 13

with 'Working While Black' is the lack of knowledge of Black history in her office as co-workers display their lack of sensitivity to Black history by calling a senior CEO member named James Crowe, Jim. For Black executives like Chapman, a rise up the corporate ladder is riddled with the struggle to maintain more work and success than co-workers as a matter of course while maintaining sanity and composure with the knowledge that affirmative action and diversity initiatives have done nothing to advance knowledge and acceptance of Blacks in America.

In this oppressive environment the Black elite of corporate America develop a rage that drives their Civil Rights battle into the economic arena. The current generation of leaders, operating in boardrooms,

utilizes money to get results in the civil rights arena. Richard Gay, a media and entertainment consultant for Booz Allen believes in using economics to make a difference.

"In politics, you have to go through too much to make a change. In business, whether it is my personal funds, or the funds I control, or the people I know who control a lot more funds than me, we can make things happen pretty quickly if we want to," pg. 48. Most important to Gay's conception of economics and equal rights in the idea that he does, as well as other Black's in corporate America, choose to carry on the equal rights agenda even though he has gained money and power in his life. The recognition that there are brothers and sisters that he is responsible to help is important to his life and agenda.

Black Power Inc. is an important read to understand where Civil Rights initiatives have headed and how important money is to Blacks obtaining power and respect in a world where racism supposedly doesn't exist. It is in understanding from one generation to the next where the movement has gone and what's necessary to continue a struggle that obviously still exists that Blacks will become happy and successful as full members of American society.

Angelic Jones is the owner of Writing Solutions, a small communications company that provides writing, editing and consulting services. A graduate student in Fiction at Columbia College, Jones is currently at work on two novels. For information or assistance contact her at ajjones@illinoisalummi.org.

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