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# THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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Serving North Lawndale, East & West Garfield, Austin, Pilsen, Humbolt Park, Near Westside & South Lawndale

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PROVIDING INFORMATION ON RESOURCES AND EVENTS THAT IMPROVE THE LIFESTYLE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN OUR COMMUNITY

## RAINBOW PUSH MEN'S LUNCHEON, INSPIRATION TOWARD ACTION



The 35th Rainbow Push Coalition & Citizenship Education Fund Annual Conference 2006 held its Men's Luncheon on Tuesday, June 13th at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois. The entire conference convened from June 10-15th with this year's theme of "A More Perfect Union: Free, but not Equal."

Some of the notables in attendance beside Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. were Governor Rod Glabovich, Mayor Ray Nagin of New Orleans, Judge (Greg) Mathis, and Reverend Al Sharpton; The whose who of African men lined the the panelist seating area along with the many awardees of the afternoon. The theme for the luncheon was entitled "From High School Drop Out to Trade and corporate Lock-Out."

See PUSH page 18

## CTA PINK LINE ADDED TO BLUE LINE



On Sunday June 25 the 54/Cermak Blue Line will become the Pink Line. The Blue Line will only travel its normal route during morning and evening rush hour periods. The CTA also unveiled new bus routes for West Side riders on June 19: X9 Ashland Express, X20 Madison/Washington Express, 38 Ogden/Taylor and the 127 Madison/Roosevelt Circulator. For more information on these changes visit the CTA website at: [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com). To comment on the Pink Line please visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## SEN. HENDON, WOMEN'S GROUPS AND OTHERS BACK COMMISSIONER STEELE



Cook County Commissioner Bobbie Steele with the support of State Senator Rickey Hendon, 5th District (standing at right of Commissioner Steele) and

"After having worked with President Stroger for nearly twenty years, I feel a personal concern for him, I pray daily for his recovery,"  
See Steele page 11

## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION PROMOTES UNITY AND EDUCATION

Priscilla (Perci) Lucas



Not even the glaring hot rays of the sun could prevent the Westside community from gathering in Garfield Park for the

"Fourth Annual Juneteenth Celebration."  
Years ago, two friends

sitting in Douglas Park shared a desire to bring together the people of the Westside of Chicago and like many desires

and dreams dreamt in our youth – life happens and they are shelved. These two men went their separate ways fulfilling their personal goals, and at a chance meeting over 20 years later brought them back together again.

Their beloved community was in turmoil; the spread of drugs and gangs violence had dampened the spirit of the people. Seeing the devastation around them and the need for uniting their fellow African-Americans Ricky Brown Sr., and Charles Dinkins revived and brought to the Westside of Chicago one of the "Oldest known celebrations commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States," Juneteenth.

The origin of Juneteenth began

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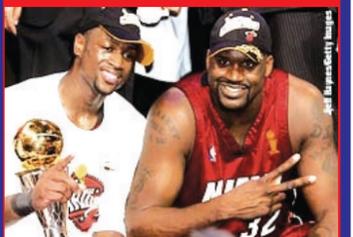
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# THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is published bi-weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to us and our neighboring communities. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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**North Lawndale Community News Winner of the 2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award**

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**North Lawndale Community News Winner of the 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 2004 Education Champion Award**

Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis & Residents of the 7th Congressional District

## NLCN 2006 Focus Health, Education & Welfare

The primary focus for SHS/ NCLN during 2006 will be Health, Education, and Welfare. Health is essential to a good life. Education is necessary for the pursuit of happiness especially in an economy driven society. Welfare is unavoidable in showing man's humanity (love) toward man. All year long NLCN will concentrate and focus on more articles related to health, education and our welfare through our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

There is a great disparity in the statistics of the health of a majority of our community areas. This announcement of newsprint is too small to go into great detail, but some resources that can help affirm the state of our health can be found in a survey conducted by the Sinai Health System titled Improving Community Health Survey, "The State of Black Health Care" published as a health supplement in a special edition of the Philadelphia Tribune and the Chicago Tribune in November 2005 and "Natural Cures" at www.naturalcures.com. Our articles and links will point to other resources that will go into greater detail because health, education and welfare are their core missions, ours stands as messengers. The natural cures, an interestingly new area to the masses in our society leads to solutions that have been overlooked by mainstream medicine and some corporations maybe because of the love of money or closed minded doubt to even investigate better ways to better health, or not get sick.

Education can reduce and minimize high rates of unemployment and underemployment, produce healthier citizens, and reduce the dependency on traditional welfare. The Westside is changing but not always in favor of the less fortunate who have lived here for years. Throughout the year, we will connect North Lawndale resident with resources in these areas. The North Lawndale Community News will continue to provide news and information on people, issues, and events that are relevant to our readers, as well as touch on the focus for the previous years. Becoming an intelligent people we can also participate and benefit in making our community a model neighborhood. We hope by reading our community newspaper you become or remain inspired to keep moving forward to a better life.

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# WOMEN PUSH FOR EQUALITY

Mary Moran



Congressman Maxine Waters. photo courtesy of www.wow.org

Saunders Jones.

Elected in November 2002 Cong. Waters is in her seventh term in the House of Representatives in the 35<sup>th</sup> District of California. Since that time Waters has been tackling many difficult issues. She has always been highly visible in the Democratic Party politics and was a key leader in Rev. Jackson's 1984 and 1988 presidential campaigns.

Waters began her talk speaking on the disproportionate ways that African American women have been treated in trying to achieve the American dream. "We are all accomplished women today, but I am a sick and tired of how we {U.S.} do business in the United States," she said.

Waters was speaking on the fact that African Americans spend more money than they earn while others have been reaping the benefits. Waters also pointed out that in the last census that there were not a lot of African American women owned businesses.

One major problem that African Americans face is the fact that many banks are not as willing to give loans to them as they are to Caucasians.

Caucasian women lead other ethnic groups of women when it comes to bank credit. A recent survey showed that 60 percent of



Coca Cola vice president Ingrid Saunders-Jones. photo courtesy of essence.com

Caucasian women had bank credit compared to 50 percent of Hispanics women 45 percent for Asian women, 42 percent Native

Americans women and 38 percent African American women.

Even though there has been some progress made for women in business there are certain things that the business world will tell you to do to before you go into business such as go to school, save up enough money, or meet the right people.

Waters admits that these are good things but what the African American woman need is "justice and equality." "What we need is a level playing field, what we need are financial institutions that don't look at you like you're stupid when you walk in the office," she said.

Waters also spoke on the need for everyone to get involved in the fight for racial equality. "We know that we're free but we also know that we're not equal, and the only way that African American women can move ahead

is to take off their Jimmy Chews and join the march. Some of us have never marched for anything. We deserve to be part of the American dream. We deserve to have money, cars, big houses and vacations," she said.

As senior vice president of the Coca-Cola company Ingrid Saunders Jones directs the vision and involvement of the company in community, philanthropic and civic affairs.

Jones shared some leading strategies leading to economic parity for women. Jones told the story of how as a high school student she wanted to learn to swim but the pool was basically used for advanced swimmers and to accommodate her the teacher would have to give her a lane. The swimming teacher took a chance with her and by her senior year she was captain of the swim team.

Jones told this story to say that everyone should be helping someone move forward. Everyone should be a mentor to someone.

"If we are not helping someone find a lane in this life everyday then we need to stay home," she said.

Jones also left everyone with 12 words that she once heard at a graduation. The words were an inspiration to her "start where you are, use what you have, do what you can."

At the end of the luncheon 10 women were honored with awards from community service to peace and justice.

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To Your Health

THE I-H SYNDROME PART 4

Julius Goodman

Segregation is the policy and practice of imposing the social separation of races. To segregate is to separate or isolate others or from a main body or group. In constitutional law, segregation is the maintenance of separate facilities and institutions for people of different races. Jim Crow was the systematic practice of discriminating against and suppressing Black People. It is also a derogatory name for a black person.

The Grandfather clause was a law that said if your grandfather could not read or did not vote then by you being a descendent, you could not vote. For the next one hundred years our behavior was controlled and regulated by society. In 1964 the Civil Rights Act was passed into law. The Voting Rights Act was passed in 1965. We can vote. Now all of a sudden we must regulate our own behavior. We are free, the Black Man and the Black Woman; free.

How do we treat each other? How do we behave? Time passes, we grow, we learn and we get bits and pieces of the pie. While we are chasing that pie we forgot each other, we forgot our children. Two jobs, latchkey kids, can't trust neighbors; we are a village no more. It takes a village to raise a child. So society said look they are no longer a village they are not disciplining their own children.

Now your 10 year old can listen to music learn how to curse and says to you if you try to discipline me I will call master.

Here in our country our behavior

was watched constantly and we were always threatened with loosing our life if we did not do exactly what master said. As time moved on our behavior was molded and shaped by society. We had to survive. We were taught to take care of each other. Our values and morals would not allow us to even consider disrespecting your parents, grandparents, or your neighbors. We were taught to respect family values first.

Let's talk about behavior. I do not know how they decided and at what point they decided what curse words were, but we do know curse words. In other words we know profanity. With that in mind, in our beginnings as our behavior was being controlled, you can imagine what was said to us.

And usually when something like that was said to us we would anticipate violence. Take a minute, talk to a friend; look back in your own life. In our beginnings when we heard a curse word usually it meant the anticipation of violence.

There was a time; if you referred to your mother or grandmother or aunt or even your sister as a bitch you could get your face knocked off. Think about would have happen to you if you were cursing like a sailor in front of one of your mothers friends?

So here we are in our behavior, in our freedom. We choose the path; we set the example that we can curse each other and its okay. Well those of us of have been behaving without profanity in front of mothers remembers how bad we felt

when a curse word slipped out of our mouths.

Some of us remember using profanity right before a fight. Every time we heard (or hear) somebody cursing, we thought someone was about to fight. Now we use profanity as a symbol of our freedom. Can you feel

the tension, pressure and pain that we put on ourselves on a daily basis? When we are just having general conversation and mix profanity into our character, into our explanations, and into our fears; we build up our fear of ourselves. Are we afraid of ourselves? Now instead of addressing our fears as a nation, we hide our fear and take it out on each other.

Now I challenge any man or any woman to use the power we have within our nation to take a stand. Let's teach our children. Let's stop loving each other through profanity. Let's attack this disease. Let's change our behavior.

Julius Goodman is poet and motivational speaker. He is also a student at National Louis University majoring in Behavioral Science. This article is part four of a four part series. If you missed part one or would like to comment on the series visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org or call Mr. J. at: 773/ 387-5600.

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Summer Hair Care

Angelic Jones

During the summer your hair will be in a constant period of transition. Hair that is curly or straight, short or long will go through constant wash and wear, styling and restyling. Trips to the beach and impromptu barbecues will be the reasons that you pull your hair, pomade it, mouse or gel it, relax it, hot comb it or ceramic straighten it, all part of the numerous routines that cause excessive damage to the hair. Before you succumb to the constant bombardment that being fashionable can and will deliver to your hair, try these tips to keep your hair healthy and stylish this summer.

MOISTURIZE

The summer can be just as damaging to the hair as it is to the skin. SPF is not just for the skin. Try using styling products that contain moisturizers to keep hair from drying out or getting split ends. Also, avoid the pitfalls of over styling—heating—including blow drying, pressing, hot combing, etc. In the summer, go for styles that require little-to-no-heat like twists and braids, both of which can be accomplished without heating the hair.

TRIM

Split or dead ends will make the most beautiful style the most difficult to achieve. It is nearly impossible to get your hair to lay flat if your ends are raggedy or you have a layered cut that hasn't been kept up or you are growing out natural hair and have dead hair hanging from the ends of fresh hair.

Have your stylist trim your hair at least once per month or at their discretion—remember, they are the professionals. Use a leave-in conditioner to smooth the hair and temporarily seal split ends in between treatments.

STYLING

Your stylist will try to make you look flirtatious and sexy this summer like glamorous movie stars who will be sporting retro chic looks including bobs and finger waves to accent clothing in period films like Idlewild, which is being released this summer.

Ask your stylist for body and bouncy curls or try a cut that gives you flexibility. You can be professional

or trendy with these looks.

Also, suggest that your stylist try a tousled and wispy look at one point this summer. This can be achieved with large rollers to avoid the heat of a curling iron. Those with short hair can achieve this style by curling the hair then adding hair wax to the completed style for hold.

Don't stick with the same old styles this summer but don't go hog wild on your head

and do damage that you can't repair come Winter when you'll be wanting to wear braids and weaves for styles that last—styles that also can ultimately damage your hair.

Try taking care of your hair yourself this summer but also make sure to give your stylist a chance to make sure that your hair remains healthy and stylish. Remember to leave the most technical and demanding styles to

professionals who will make sure that you don't do too much damage to your hair.

Angelic Jones is owner of Writing Solutions, a writing, editing and creative consultation company. She is the Managing Editor of SalonSENSE Magazine. Also, she is studying Creative Writing at Columbia College. She can be reached at ajoneswrites4u@excite.com. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.

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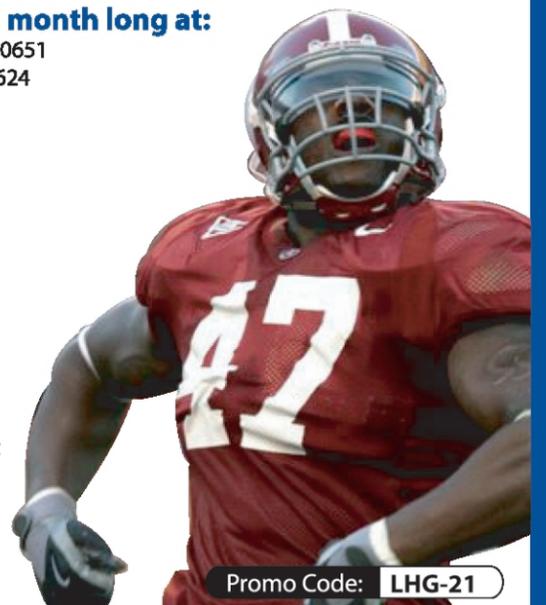


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# Youths Get To Work With Prominent Artist

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson



Artist Rahmaan Statik

instruction to the kids so that when the mural is finished it will represent the quality of work like that of Statik's own masterpieces. He expects the students to listen and take what he says to heart.

"I prefer to work with youth, in particular, who don't know anything about art. Youth that have an open mind," said Statik. "Anybody that has that open mind and willingness to work with good work ethics.

"People who don't know anything about art come thru with the willingness to make it happen."

He has worked with youths in programs such as the After School Matters YolloCalli Youth Museum, and in a mural program at Paul Robeson High School.

Lawndale Christian Development Corporation chose to memorialize WACA with a mural because of the center's commitment to community outreach and because of the impact it has had on whole families in North Lawndale.

The center has particular interests in young boys and girls who need a second chance in life, and offers services such as the Evening Reporting Center, which has been an instrumental alternative to imprisonment. As special thanks, a section of the mural will be dedicated to founding members Ernie Jenkins, and his wife Gloria who passed on January 3, 2006.

Lola Jenkins, daughter of the co-founders, and operations manager of

WACA said the project is a great way to integrate "the heartbeat of the community and incorporate the community members as well as the youths.

"And the fact that the opinions of the youth will be incorporated on [such] a high level into the creation of the mural. The youth will have a sense of pride and a sense of accomplishment in seeing their ideas come to life."

The youths that will take advantage of the summer art program, applied online earlier this year under the Kidstart program for summer jobs, and have already been selected.

Murals painted by Statik can be seen Torito Grocery at 18th and Cicero and a grocery store on 79th and Ellis. He will be exhibiting his artwork in his second one-man show at the Hothouse, 31 East Balbo, on July 1, 2006 from 6 to 8 P.M. All of his latest work will be for sale. Prints will start at \$50. Originals will be priced from \$300 to \$7000. Other items like Tee-shirts and misprints will priced from \$10. The exhibit is free.

Statik studied fine art and web design at the American Academy of Art in Chicago where he received his BA. He is currently a member of the Chicago Public Art Group.

For more info on the exhibit call The Hothouse at 312-362-9707 or Rahmaan Statik at 773-454-0233.

For more info on WACA and the services they offer call 773-277-4400.

To contact Lawndale Christian Development Corporation call 773-762-8889.

Fifteen to twenty-five teens will get an opportunity to work with Chicago artist Rahmaan Statik this summer. The youths will not only benefit from the experience of working with the outstanding talent but they will also receive stipends to do so.

Each participant will receive \$700 to \$1000 for their part in creating a mural on the side wall of Westside Association for Community Action (WACA) social service agency at 3600 W. Ogden. The collaboration is sponsored by the Lawndale Christian Development Corporation located at 3843 W. Ogden.

Statik will give professional

## EXODUS: The Murdering and Incarceration of North Lawndale Community, Chapter 2, Verse 5-10

Demetrius Aaron Porter

In North Lawndale Community (N.L.C.) "Approximately 27,000 residents live within its 3.5 mile radius. 40 percent of Lawndale families live below the poverty level and unemployment is at 27 percent.

So, what do these numbers have to do with the N.L.C.? I tell you, this leaves more time for the residents to commit some kind of "social ill" that is deemed "antisocial" by society.

N.L.C. is reported in a study done by "Catalyst," a Chicago based organization that in March 2004 did a study of the community that reported in "In a Struggling Community" that "North Lawndale Community has the fourth highest population in Chicago's (77 communities) neighborhoods only, leading to "35 percent violent crimes and 56 non-violent crimes per square mile. One of the highest in the city."

From the year 1986 until 1999, Hull House reported that 60 percent of homicide victims in Chicago were African American male and 15 percent of our women are murdered annually. The same study showed that African Americans are victims of 61 percent violent crimes and 42 percent of property crimes. Where in 2000 that rate combined was 73 percent of African Americans that were murdered. N.L.C. is in between "Chicago police districts 10 and 11 (Marquette and Harrison) which combined an estimated, from 1990-1998, 1,204 residents where murdered. The "Chicago

See Exodus page 18



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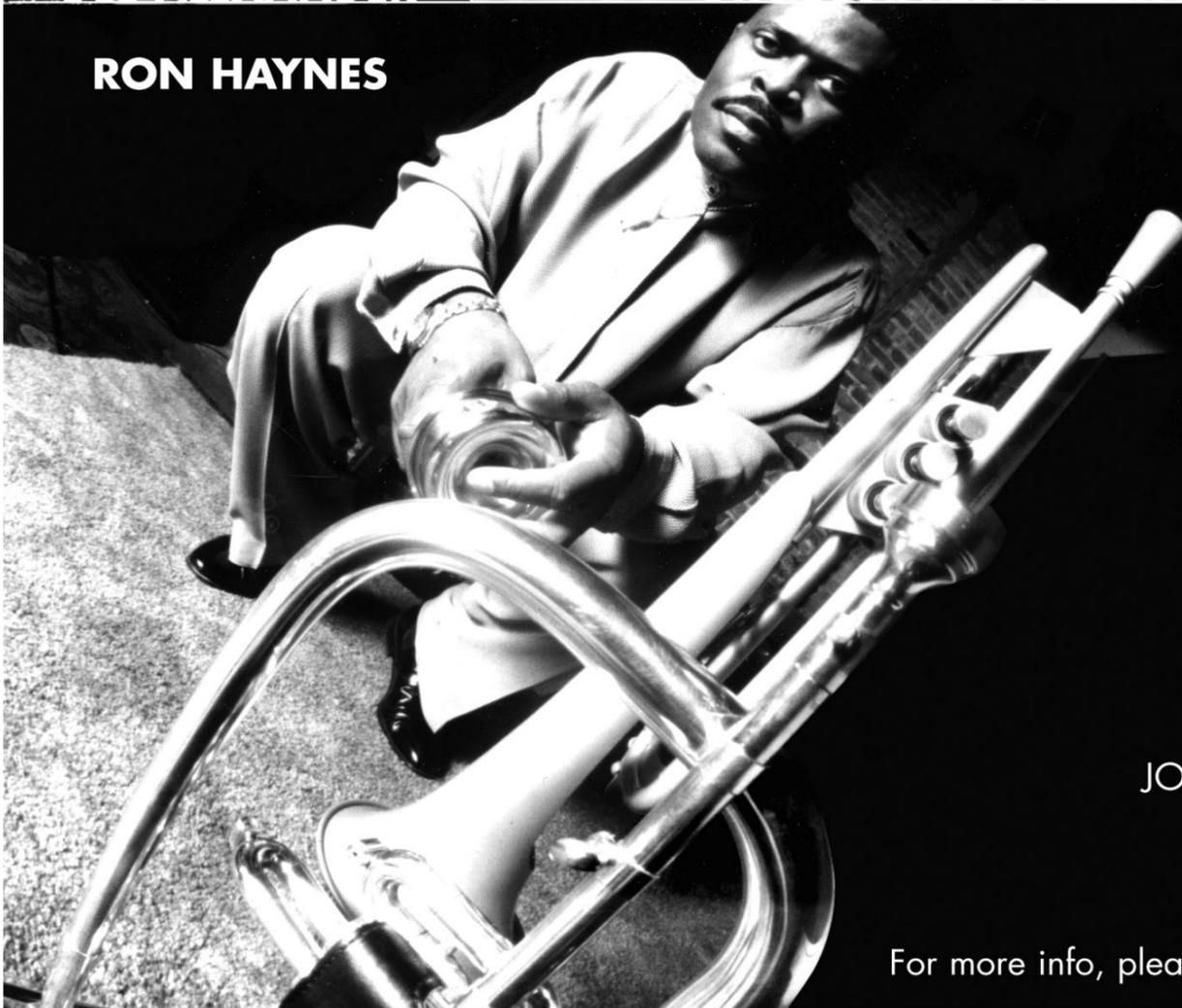
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Education & Employment Training

NORTH LAWDALE NATIVE STUDIES AT PRINCETON

Jaira J. Harrington

The last time that I wrote, I was studying abroad in the Dominican Republic. I have since returned to Chicago, and as soon as I have gotten a little comfortable at home, I am packing up to pursue further endeavors.

Affairs as it relates to Latin American countries. While reading the pre-arrival materials for the program, I took special note of one of the sentences. It read, "The Junior Summer Institute is intense and you should expect to work like you never have before".

The benefits of this program extend beyond the summer of participation. Upon

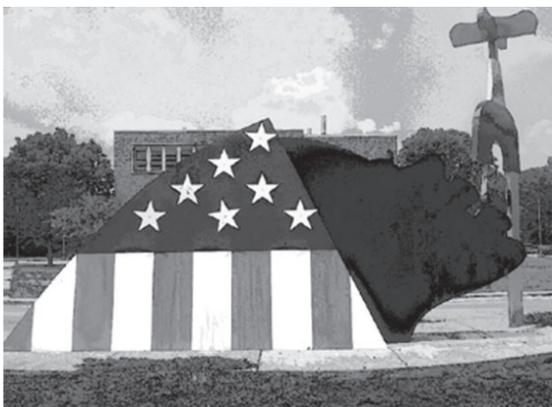
successful completion of the Junior Summer Institute, I am eligible for a minimum of \$5,000 toward a graduate degree in any area of policy studies at any school that is a member of the PPIA Consortium, including Princeton. Many students receive well above

and beyond that amount. More information about this program and many other programs related to policy, government and law is available at www.ppiaprogram.org.

Jaira J. Harrington is North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

CLASS OF '07 COLLEGE TRIP TO OHIO

Jasmine Stuart



THIS IS A PICTURE FROM CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY. IT REPRESENTS AFRICAN AMERICANS THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.

University. The fourth school that the seniors visited was Wilberforest University. It was once connected with Central State, but they separated into two schools. "I am very excited that you are here today," said Lee Williams.

Potential students visit us everyday. According to Mr. Williams, Wilberforest University is more for education than anything else.

The fifth school that the seniors visited was Ohio State University. "When it comes to education, you are the master of your fate and the captain of your soul," said Ron Parker. In other words, no one but yourself determines what the future holds for you.

College prepares you for your future and helps you get a jump-start on your life long career. "Don't go to college because people are telling you to go; go to college to better your population," said Larry Williamson. He also stated that your attitude determines your altitude.

The sixth school that the seniors visited was Denison University. "I am the person who pushes [students] to get good grades," said Lisa Scott. "I am the person who pushes students of color to attend graduate school." Denison goal for their incoming students is to get the students to build and see themselves in college.

The school didn't focus so much on sports because education is their top priority at Denison. "We see you as a student academically not athletically," said Christopher Cowie.

Not only did class of 2007 experience what college life is like; they also experience what it was like to build a closer bond with their fellow classmates. The last day was basically spent reflecting back on the entire trip. When the seniors left Denison University, they gathered in a ballroom and took time out to reflect on the colleges that they had been to. It was a meeting about the six colleges that they visited, but in the end the room was filled with tears as many students being to open up to each other.

Jasmine Stuart is a seventeen senior at North Lawndale College Prep high School. Jasmine writes for her school newspaper and is an intern for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at www.nlcn.org.

On June 6, 2006 approximately 31 out of 78 North Lawndale College Preparatory Charter High School, class of 2007's students boarded the bus and headed down to Ohio. As they traveled six hours to Dayton, Ohio, they had no idea how big of an impact the trip would have on them. The purpose of this trip was for the students to experience what college life would be like for them in another year. The six colleges that they visited were Wright State University, Miami University, Central State University, Wilberforest University, Ohio State University, and Denison University.

The first school that NLCP's seniors visited was Wright State University. "Every single one of you are different and I am interested in finding out what makes each and every one of you different," said Mr. Jones. "The early bird gets the worm." In other words turn in your applications in on time. You want to stand out in the crowd from the other applicants Don't wait until the last minute or you will be missing out on an opportunity of getting into the college of your choice.

The second school that the seniors visited was Miami University. "Apply to the college of your choice," said Dr. Enida LaGessee. "Don't let the numbers discourage you because no one is guaranteed a spot in college." Basically what she was saying is no matter how high your ACT scores are and who you are related to, you are not guaranteed a spot in college, but that should not stop you from applying to the college that you really want to go to.

The third school that the seniors visited was Central State University. "This institution is to provide you with education for better jobs," said Wanda Canales. "Challenges can be taken two ways, [as] opportunities or failures."

According to Wanda, she was not talking to class of 2007 to convince to them to come to Central State University.

"I know in my heart that you all have the potential, but you try to take the easy way out," said Wanda. She was trying to tell them to go to college and make something of themselves. She connected with the seniors by telling a story about her childhood. Her parents told her that she would not amount to anything because she had a low GPA, but she went from a 2.0 to a 2.3 GPA and now she is an admission's counselor at Central State

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Advertisement for St. Gregory Episcopal School. Features a large vertical text 'FOR YOUR INFORMATION' and text: 'ANNOUNCING AFFORDABLE SAFE SMALL CLASS SIZE FAITH-BASED EDUCATION (Only \$500.00 yearly Tuition) for K through 8th grade boys at St. Gregory Episcopal School'. Includes address: 2130 South Central Park Avenue (South of Ogden Blvd. & north of Cermak Rd.) and contact info: CALL (773) 277-4447 for more information.

## PHILANTHROPISTS HELP REBUILD WEST SIDE

Wendell Hutson

A \$20 million contribution to Rush University Medical Center is the latest gift to a West Side medical institution that is becoming a common practice for philanthropists looking to do some good in the hood.

The University of Illinois Medical Center at Chicago, 1740 W. Taylor St. and Loyola University Medical Center, 2160 S. First Ave., in west suburban Maywood, have both received large gifts. The West Side is also where the new multimillion John Stroger Hospital sits, which replaced the historic Cook County Hospital.

As part of a \$630 million redevelopment project at Rush University, 600 S. Paulina, Rush plans to build a new hospital and outpatient buildings, renovate its Atrium and Kellogg hospital buildings and demolish buildings that date to the 19th century. Construction is to begin in 2007. No completion date was set.

The 10-year project includes plans to replace existing patient care facilities, demolish the oldest buildings on campus, and expand research facilities.

"Our goal is to physically transform our campus and to reorient it around the patient," said Dr. Larry Goodman, president and CEO of Rush University Medical Center.

Goodman said the overhaul will improve Rush's ability to treat baby boomers and to respond to accidental or terrorist spills of biological or chemical poisons.

He adds that the project will make Rush more competitive to other Chicago hospitals such as the University of Chicago Hospitals and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Chicago businessman John Boler and his wife Mary Jo said they donated the \$20 million, which will be used to help build state-of-the-art imaging centers, in part because of the care they received while patients at Rush. John received a heart valve, which saved his life, and his Mary Jo was successfully treated for breast cancer.

"Both Mary Jo and I have been patients at Rush, so we know firsthand what Rush's historic commitment to excellence in patient care means," John said. "We believe that by investing in state-of-the-art imaging technology and facilities, we can help elevate patient care across every specialty at Rush, from neonatology to aging and including cancer, heart, neurology, and orthopedics, to name a few."

The redevelopment project will be financed by loans, income from operations and about \$185 million in gifts, Rush officials said. Rush University officials said the gift will go a long way toward funding better medical facilities and that the hospital will be forever grateful to the Bolers.

"We are deeply appreciative of the Bolers' generosity and commitment to Rush University Medical Center. This is a landmark contribution that substantially helps us fulfill our ambitious plans for transformation of the Rush campus," said Goodman. "The Boler family will forever be remembered for their generosity and how they helped Rush improve care by making available the best possible imaging for our patients."

The imaging centers will be located in new hospital and ambulatory care facilities that will be built in the coming years as part of a complete redevelopment of Rush.

The Boler gift is the largest single

donation to Rush since its founding in 1837, and one of the largest gifts ever to a Chicago area hospital. The new imaging centers will be named "The Mary Jo and John Boler Centers for Advanced Imaging."

The gift will fund acquisition of the most sophisticated and advanced medical imaging equipment available and construction of special facilities to house the imaging devices, and it will create an endowment fund in the Boler name to ensure that Rush can take full advantage of the rapid evolution of the science and technology of imaging over the next decade and beyond.

The Boler gift to Rush brings to more than \$100 million the total has been raised in the past 18 months to support Rush's plans for transforming its campus. Rush initiated the silent phase of a \$300 million capital fund-raising campaign in February 2004. Other significant gifts to Rush include a \$13 million unrestricted, anonymous gift, a \$10 million commitment by the Woman's Board of Rush for a Heart and Vascular Center, and \$7.5 million from the McCormick Tribune Foundation toward a state-of-the-art advanced emergency response center.

However, Rush is not alone when it comes to Chicago area hospitals receiving large financial gifts. Other West Side medical institutions have also benefited from the generosity of Chicago philanthropists.

John and Herta Cuneo donated \$14 million to Loyola's Stritch School of Medicine and the estate of Marion Schenk, a former patient at the University of Illinois Medical Center, donated \$4.2 million for endowed chairs and professorships in surgery and ophthalmology.

## Summer Tips for Youth

Robin Acre

Hello everyone, my name is Robin Acre and I just want you to know what is summer is going to bring. In order for the youth to have a great summer here are tips to keep in mind:

§ First off, find a good job in the summer. Teens like to work because they want to make money in the summer, so in order for you to have a great summer working, find a job that you enjoy doing.

§ Get involved with activities in the neighborhood. Sometimes many teens have bad summers because their neighborhood don't have activities for the youth to participate in. teens can get involved with sports, clubs, etc.

§ Try to stay out of trouble. Every summer, many teens get into trouble because of being at the wrong place at the wrong time. So in order for you to avoid trouble, don't hang around people that are looking for trouble.

§ AVOID DRAMA. I know that it's the summertime. This is the time where a lot of people want to start mess over he-say-she-say. That's nonsense! Drama is old. Don't get caught up in it because you will wind up in a situation you can't get out of.

§ HAVE FUN! This is the summertime. Enjoy your summer. You are out of school. Have fun.

*Robin Acre is a student at North Lawndale College Prep and a NLCN intern. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## War Heroes Lost But Not Forgotten

Wendell Hutson

Local war heroes say despite the negative press the often receive by the media life in the military is more about low pay, dodging bullets and killing terrorists.

"The military is great experience; I am proud, that I had the chance to serve my country this way," said Allen Lynch, 59, who retired in 1994 from the Army as a National Guard after 21-years. "It takes a special kind of person to be in the military," he said, "everyone is not fit to go off to war and fight for our country."

Lynch received a Congressional Medal of Honor for his service and is a Vietnam veteran. Today, he heads up the Veteran Rights Bureau for the Illinois Attorney General Office and said, "If he had to he would do it (join the military) all over again."

However, long before the Vietnam War there was World War I and 84-year-old Lester McCafferty, a former prisoner of war (POW) knows firsthand about military service. The decorated soldier from the Army spent several months as a POW in Russia where he was denied food and water, but was given scraps a few times a week.

"You don't miss the taste of water until you're denied the opportunity to drink it at will," he recalls. "They (the enemy) didn't torture me physically, but mentally I was all messed up."

Eventually the U.S. negotiated McCafferty and three other POWs release, at which time McCafferty received an honorable discharge from the Army.

He does not support the government's invasion of Iraq and said the U.S. should worry about home first before trying to help other countries.

"We can't stop terrorism here so how are we going to train other countries to combat

terrorism," he said. "I think this country has its priorities wrong and should focus on what can be done in America and how we can lead by example."

After leaving the military McCafferty went to work at a hardware store where he would stay until he retired 30 years later. Today, he receives disability and said he thinks the military could use some improvement, especially when it comes to compensating active troops and disabled vets.

In fact, a recent report by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs concluded that Illinois ranks at the very bottom among states that pay wounded veterans disability. That's partly, because disabled vets in Illinois don't use advocates in fighting their cause as much as veterans in other states do, and because federal disability raters are too generous, the report noted. In fact, since 1985 Illinois has rank last among states that award disability pay to vets.

The VA report blamed certain characteristics of Illinois' veteran population and an "antiquated" disability rating system that hasn't changed much since 1945. That system doesn't reflect modern concepts of mental illness such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Only 7 percent of the disabled in Illinois are diagnosed with PTSD whereas 18 percent of disabled vets in New Mexico, the highest-paying state, have the disorder, the report stated.

Other problems for the Chicago regional office include understaffed disability staff who are too subjective and who make too many errors. According to the report, in 2004 Chicago had to send out 21 percent of its caseload to other regional offices because its federal raters were overloaded with claims. And in 2003, the Chicago office had the highest error rating in the nation,

more than 27 percent.

Lawmakers from Illinois were outraged at what the report uncovered and said they plan to get more involved to improve things for Illinois vets.

"It doesn't appear that the VA is willing to come out and say: 'We messed up and this needs to be fixed.' I suspect that's because they are trying to protect the president and his budget, which is probably inadequate to solve these problems," said Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL), a member of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee.

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) agrees with Obama and added the report is another black eye for the state of Illinois.

"The analysis really points to a scandalous situation in Illinois that for two decades Illinois veterans received the absolute rock bottom in payments from the VA for disability," he said.

The VA report revealed some alarming numbers about how Illinois pay disabled vets.

For example, the Chicago regional office of the VA, which handles veteran claims statewide, awarded an average of \$6,961 per, wounded veteran in 2004. In contrast, New Mexico paid out an average of \$12,004. Pay has always been an issue with troops because many of them work, good paying civilian jobs when they are not active but once called to duty, they must abandon their jobs and families immediately.

"Uncle Sam does not give you too much time to do anything besides say good-bye once you're called up," said Col. Jill Morgenthaler, 51, who work a civilian job at Argonne National Laboratories. "I have had to drop every thing and leave to go to Iraq but you know this when you enlist, so why complain?"

The 29-year veteran National Guard received

a Bronze Star for outstanding performance while in combat. Morgenthaler, who is contemplating retirement in 2006, currently works as a public affairs officer for the Army and ran the press office in Iraq for nine months in 2004.

She said the U.S. should have Iraq up to speed in another two years at which time she predicts troops may finally be brought home for good.

"It's been a process but it's a process we must go through for democracy," she said. "I support our presence there because we are winning the war on terrorism in Iraq."

She adds that the latest media flap involving Newsweek magazine printing a somewhat untrue story about activities in Iraq is an example of why her job as a public affairs officer is so vital.

"There were countless media flaps when I was in Iraq where the U.S. media ran stories based on information they received from Iraq TV," she said. "Sometimes they wouldn't even contact the military to see if it were true before printing it."

She adds that the source of many false stories center on U.S. media outlets hiring free-lancers from Iraq to file stories for them.

"Instead of spending money to send one of their own they would hire a local journalist who often was inexperienced," added Morgenthaler.

But besides low pay or the difficulty wounded vets face to collect disability soldiers like 54-year-old Annie Armstrong just want to get back to the basics.

"When you're in the military you do not get to spend quality time with your family," Armstrong said. "My daughter is 26 and even though she's grown I still look forward to spending more time with her."

*Wendell Hutson is a freelance writer for NLCN and various publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

Community People

**HANDS ACROSS NORTH LAWDALE  
DRAWS LARGE NUMBERS FOR CHANGE**

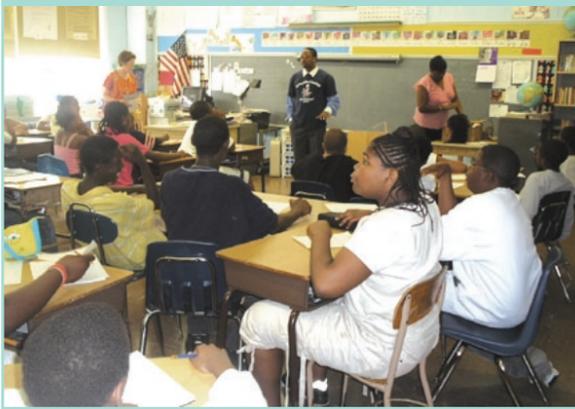


Participants meditate in prayer during Hands Across Lawndale on Friday, June 16. Churches in North Lawndale and around Chicago joined hands in a prayer for change in North Lawndale. The line began at Roosevelt/Homan and stretched across the community to 16th & Homan, 16th & Pulaski, and Roosevelt & Pulaski.



Pastor John Hannah of Gospel 1390 radio was a lead organizer for the prayer seen here at Roosevelt at Homan.

**Young Barbers &  
Beauticians of Tomorrow**



Anitra and Eric Stewart giving hair care demonstration to Elementary youth at Marconi Academy at 230 N. Kolmar

A new program to train youth the skills of barbers and beauticians has just begun at ABC/Chicago Youth Center at 3415 W. 13th Place. This is the second time this eight week program has been conducted. The last program ended October of last year.

The program director, Eric Stewart is also a barber as well as program administrator. In the program teens learn to do various hairstyles, haircuts, facials, and nails. They also learned about the Cosmetology Field and visited Hair-Care Institutions such as: Caines Barber College and Truman College of Cosmetology. Last year the teens were the first to receive one on one treatment from Barber/Entrepreneur Creative Scott & Anitra Stewart. The teens learned vital information in order to be a licensed barber, beautician, or a nail tech. The class prepared them and supplied them with career exploration and job readiness skills in the cosmetology field. Slots are still available for the current program which started last Tuesday. For more information contact Eric at. 7737625655



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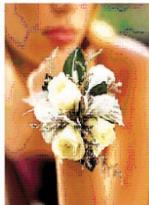


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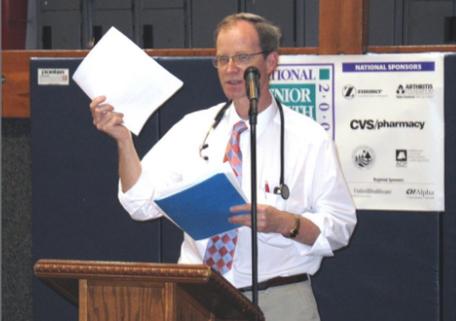
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## Seniors attend Lawndale Christian Health Center for Senior Fitness Day



Seniors attending fitness day enjoying pan arm exercise at Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC)



Dr. Art Jones, CEO of Lawndale Christian Health Center was Keynote speaker for the event



Dr. Felicia Williams, one of the doctors who served as the chief organizer of the event is attempting to grow the offerings at LCHC for seniors. This was just one step in the process. LCHC hopes to grow this event every year. LCHC fitness center is located at 3860 W. Odgen (See Ad back page)



Cook County Commissioner Bobbie who avidly exercises was also invited to speak at the Senior Day Event.

Seniors attending the event featured plenty of healthy food, as well as the opportunity them to get their health questions answered. Pharmacists were available to give advice regarding drugs. Experts were on hand to answer questions about healthcare, such as Medicare Part D and Illinois Cares Rx.

Dr. Art Jones went over a series of health tips for everyone. Bobbie Steele gave an enthusiastic encouragement to seniors to keep themselves in good shape. Commissioner Steele literally walks the walk almost every morning on one of their fitness center treadmills! Also raffled off were a series of prizes ranging from t-shirts to Target gift cards, but everyone went home with a gift bag.

### Steele from Front page 1

and therefore today I stand with many Stroger supporters to confirm our continued support for him and his family and we pray publicly and privately that President John Stroger recovers," stated Commissioner Bobbie Steele.

Illinois State Senator Rickey R. Hendon, spoke first at the press conference after a prayer supporting Commissioner Steele. Senator Hendon said, "We must be united and not be divided. I believe we have a person who has served on the board who is a friend of President Stroger. Who has clearly his confidence because he is the person who appointed her to Chairman of Rules and other important committees. I believe we should get behind Commissioner Bobbie Steele, if President Stroger decides, or if his family decides that he's not going to return. I believe she's the most qualified candidate and the one that we should be supporting right now."

Pat Horton, Democratic nominee for the Water Reclamation Commissioner read a statement by Congressman Danny K. Davis that he is also in support Commissioner Steele as interim Cook County Board President, if Stroger is unable to return to office. Horton also said that Congresswoman Jan Schakowski sent the same statement as well. Diane Jones representing "Women on the Move to promote responsible government" announced their support for Commissioner Steele if a vacancy does occur. Women on the move is a grassroots movement of some 300 plus women from all walks of life", said Jones.

## Congratulations BIG MOMMA'S WESTSIDE GRILL June Business of the Month



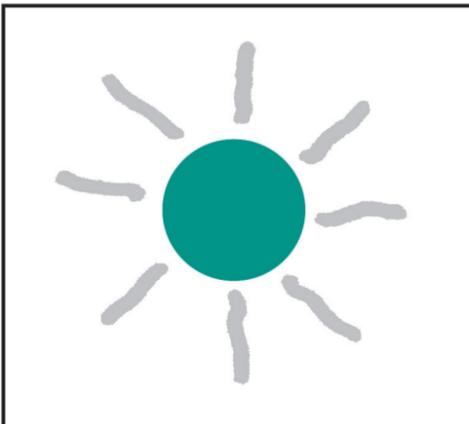
(l-r) Brother Columbus Harris, Rev. Richard Harris, Ravin Harris and Steve Fritz.

Mon-Thurs, 11 am until 10 pm. Fri and Sat, 11 am until 11 pm. Closed Sundays. Telephone number is 773-638-2800.

The fast-food restaurant has been open as Big Mamma's West Side Grill since February 15, 2006. It sells turkey burgers, hamburgers, hotdogs, polishes, pizza puffs, and inferno wings, but is the home of the famous Big Mamma's Sauce, the business's slogan.

"When people say they want mild sauce we say, 'we don't have mild sauce, we have Big Mamma's Sauce,'" said Harris. To read the full version of this article see the North Lawndale Community News June 7, 2006 issue.

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank was proud to honor Big Mamma's West Side Grill at 2900 W. Roosevelt Rd. as North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month for June. The proprietor is Reverend, Richard Harris. There are five employees. It is open



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Economic Development

NHS OFFERS PLAN FOR NORTH LAWDALE BEATIFICATION

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

On June 3, 2006 Neighborhood Housing Services Redevelopment Corporation held an open house at 1815 S. Christiana to exhibit one of its newly rehabbed greystones to the public.

The exhibition is the beginning of a plan called the Historic Chicago Greystone Initiative, designed to help beautify Chicago's West Side by restoring old greystones, and give tribute to North Lawndale's historical background via pictures, essays and articles, in a display called "Learning from North Lawndale."

Alderman Michael Chandler helped kick-off the event. Community residents toured the beautiful new two-flat and looked at displays of photographs and write-ups about North Lawndale's history.

Charles Leeks, NHS North Lawndale Neighborhood Director, says Lawndale's culture is rich. It is the birthplace of the West Side Blues. It was the "third largest Jewish community in the world in the early 1900s and possessed over 70 synagogues."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once lived in North Lawndale. Dinah Washington was one of the first African-Americans to own a greystone in North Lawndale, and Jean Terrell of the Supremes lived on St. Louis near Washington, according to Leeks.

"This initiative brings together nonprofits, academia, public officials, funders and investors, homeowners, community residents, and developers who are all interested in making North Lawndale an American Dream Community. These greystones are truly a Chicago treasure," says Leeks.

According to Bruce Gottschall, Executive Director of NHS, "the greystone initiative is similar to the successful historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative, established by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 2000 as a way to preserve and restore 80,000 Chicago bungalows."

He says the Department of Housing offered subsidy grants to bungalow owners, and it will "work with us to 'certify' the greystones and ensure they are structurally

sound and safe.

"Just like the Bungalow Initiative, the NHS Redevelopment Corporation will oversee development and rehab costs, and NHS construction specialists will work with homeowners to ensure the rehab is done satisfactorily."

Gottschall says the historic Chicago Greystone Initiative is an exciting opportunity for homeowners to rehab their homes and for homebuyers to purchase new homes with affordable loans from the NHS Neighborhood Lending Program.

Leeks says, "NHS has money available to support this rehab effort. We also have experienced NHS construction specialists to assist owners in obtaining bids from licensed, insured contractors, and to monitor the home improvement projects."

The City of Chicago Department of Housing and Department of Planning and Development have committed \$1 million on TIF funding through its TIF Neighborhood

Improvement Program to help fund grants for homeowners in the Greystone Initiative, according to NHS.

Gerald and Lorraine Earles of North Lawndale have used NHS services to remodel their home. "We have repaired the roof, installed new windows and gas heating, replaced drywall, fixed the plumbing, and tuck pointed," says Mr. Earles.

He advises homeowners to use NHS services, saying it is a reputable organization.

NHS is a nonprofit organization working to rebuild low- and moderate-income neighborhoods in Chicago which are experiencing deterioration and disinvestments.

NHS's mission is to rekindle hope in a neighborhood's future, to restore conventional and local investment in the community, and to create empowered, self-reliant homeowners.

For information on applying for loans and services that are part of the rehab program, call 1-800-482-4090.

HOMELESSNESS CONTINUES TO GROW IN CHICAGO

Zaki A. Muhammad

Homelessness is a situation that can happen to anyone at anytime and does not respect gender age religion or economic status.

The most common reason for homelessness is unemployment. The second reason is the failure to have an actual lease in your name. The third reason is being mentally incapable of caring for self and not being able to be responsible for the apartment or dwelling place. The fourth reason is substance abuse. Whether it is alcohol or illegal narcotics it still is the single most reason that people who have not experienced homelessness consider as being the primary reason. The fifth reason is the release of an individual from a correctional facility.

The mere release does not make a person homeless, but sometimes individuals are released to shelters. The mere fact of having a criminal background does prevent even people with monies from renting adequate space in which to live and become productive.

Racism, sexism and the usual forms that discrimination can take account for the remainder of the reasons for homelessness. But what has not been really explored is the fact that the places to live have been dwindling and all but disappearing.

Overall, 78 percent of low income housing in Illinois have housing problems; 72 percent have cost burdens over 30 percent; 54 percent are extremely cost burdened, paying more than 50 percent of household income for housing. Chicago then becomes the focal point of what is happening with its homelessness.

Nearly one-third of Chicago renters were paying more than 35 percent of their income for housing in 2000; another 20 percent were paying more than half. So the real question becomes how to locate and find housing and then how much of the budget should be devoted towards simply paying for the residence.

The formula is pretty simple, if you don't earn enough, then you can't afford to pay rent. Or you may have to sacrifice more than experts agree to spend in order to have a place to stay. That figure is thought to be 30 percent of your income. "Nearly half of Illinois residents earn \$25,000 a year or less." With that being the case it would stand to reason that the picture looks a lot bleaker on Chicago's Westside where there has been an exodus of manufacturing jobs and no

replacement of those jobs that escaped to suburbia or in some cases other states or overseas.

The inability to make a decent wage and the unfortunate but likely factor to not be able to find a job because of inadequate education or job disappearance must be taken into account on the Westside.

"The official U. S. unemployment rate for November 2004 was 5.4 percent. Breaking that down, African Americans had the highest unemployment rate of 10.8 percent versus 4.7 percent of whites."

A generation ago or more, there were plenty of factory jobs. The steel mills, a candy company or two and the Westside stood in good economic health. But today it is attempting to make a comeback with empowerment zones. However the places for people to live are where the emphasis should be directed. Since 1995, 16,068 units of public housing have been demolished, and only 1,296 new units have been created.

Ed Shurna, the Executive Director for the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless was asked what causes the problem of homelessness to exist and responded by stating, "People are poor and they don't have the financial resources to pay their rent."

According to a recent study conducted by local universities, 75 percent of the city's working-poor families earned less than \$13,001, the income required to support a one-person family above 150 percent of the poverty line.

Shurna said that it would require a great effort by the city to end homelessness. "The city has take homelessness as seriously as it took the building of Millennium Park."

Unfortunately on Chicago's Westside the distance from Millennium Park to its borders is like the distance from east to west. Illinois itself in 2002 led the nation in job losses to the tune of 64,500. Poverty and the circumstances which cause people to become homeless has and is being championed by not for profit agencies and churches who have had to supplement what the city itself could do if the priority was switched.

The Reverend Marvin Frank Thomas Sr.; Pastor of Walls Memorial C.M.E. church at 200 South Sacramento on the Westside offered his rationale for working with the homeless of his community.

"I saw a need. I saw a group of men

See Homelessness page 17

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# HIGH GAS PRICES MAY BEGIN TO TUMBLE — CARS CAN RUN ON WATER!

Fred Mitchell



Denny Klein and his prototype car

Hold on to your hats people! Gas prices may begin tumble soon. Denny Klein and his Hydrogen Technology may give the oil companies something to think about. Mr. Klein has proven that cars can run on water. Yes, that what I said! Denny has proven it and applied for a patent. Just think! No more running to the gas station, just back up your car, connect it to the garden hose, and filler up!

The Hybrid Hydrogen Oxygen System (“HHOS”) can generate sufficient Aquygen™Gas to enrich a vehicle’s traditional fuel supply (gasoline or diesel) so that a net power increase in engine horsepower (“HP”) occurs. In the prototype vehicle, it has been estimated that the heavy-duty alternator requires approximately 4 HP of the stock engine’s base power load. It has been estimated that the increased energy release of the combustion process utilizing the Aquygen™Gas enrichment resulted in a net 17 HP gain. (I know you understand all this technical jargon.)

The HHOS can be installed with very little modification to a standard piston engine. Water and oil operating temperatures are not affected by the HHOS.

The HHOS has been tested in two different vehicles (the current prototype, which is a 1994 Ford Escort Wagon, and a 1998 Ford Ranger pickup) and fuel economy increases have ranged from 22.9% to 100% depending upon the amount of electrical energy (amps & volts) that are available for the production of Aquygen™Gas.

As incredible as it might sound, we can use plain tap water to power our internal combustion engines. By converting water into hydrogen one can use it as a renewable, non-polluting fuel. The idea is simple but one must

overcome some incorrect, ingrained ideas about the use of such a fuel.

It has been done in the past, there was a patent (USA number 2,006,676) issued to Charles H. Garrett on July 2, 1935 for a device called an Electrolytic Carburetor. It allowed a car to run with plain water! The reason we do not see this type of vehicle today is that the oil companies and the economies of many countries depend on the billions of dollars generated by the use of fossil fuels and so they would be very reluctant to allow the use of a “free” fuel source.

The first reaction one gets from people about using hydrogen is that it is extremely dangerous. Hydrogen is flammable, however compared to gasoline it is less volatile. Hydrogen will ignite at 1065 to 1095 degrees F. where as gasoline ignites at 500 to 800 degrees F (Decker, 1993, Ignition

Temperature of Fuels in Air section). A hydrogen powered vehicle would be like a propane powered vehicle, which have proven to be very safe!

Another obstacle is that it takes more energy to convert water into hydrogen than one gets back by using the hydrogen. This myth is untrue and has been disproved by those who power their vehicles with water, according to Stefan Ulrich.

Can you imagine the opposition Denny Klein will be up against with “big oil” and the global petroleum magnets? The possibility exists that you can expect gas prices to begin to plummet some time in the near future. Three cheers for Denny...hope springs eternal for high gas prices to begin to tumble down.

*Fred Mitchell is a North Lawndale resident. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.*

## COUNTY SEEKING NEW REVENUES

Wendell Hutson

Cook County government is facing many challenges these days such as a possible nurse’s strike, hiring new jail guards and maybe even appointing a new board president.

This means more money is needed to not only overcome these challenges but to maintain basic services such as providing free prescription drugs to the uninsured and low-income residents.

After building a new county hospital and Domestic Violence courthouse on the West Side, the County is counting on new revenues such as a cigarettes tax to bring in much needed revenue.

Some County commissioners are now putting the pressure on other county officials to increase their revenue projections in order to meet financial obligations this year.

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas and Clerk of the Circuit Court Dorothy Brown estimate they’ll bring the county a combined \$137 million this year — but five commissioners want that bumped to \$145 million. The extra \$8 million, they said, is enough to pay for the new jail guards needed in the 2006 budget.

But some commissioners said they shouldn’t be meddling with projections.

“It’s like if my wife and I go to the bank and say, ‘We’re revising our income for next year so we can buy a new car,’ “Commissioner Mike Quigley said. “The first thing the bank will want is proof.”

Calling the move “a shameless attempt to duck the responsibility of cutting the budget,” Quigley is pressuring the board to find the \$8 million within the existing budget.

But Commissioner Carl Hansen wants

Pappas to increase her revenue projection from \$45 million to \$49 million and Brown’s to go from \$92 million to \$96 million.

Last year, Pappas projected \$45 million in revenues but brought in \$53 million.

Likewise, Brown projected \$94 million in revenues last year but brought in \$100 million — leading Commissioners Liz Gorman, Gregg Goslin, Tony Peraica and Peter Silvestri to join Hansen in pushing to increase projections.

But Brown said the 2005 increase was unique, as projections were almost on target in 2004 and 2003.

Brown said, “it would be unfair to over project our revenue” for 2006, as it could cause “the county to be in a deficit position” if it doesn’t meet those higher levels.

An extra \$1 tax on a pack of cigarettes is driving smokers out of Cook County. But enough smokers are still paying as much as \$70 a carton that county government is getting what it needs to help balance its budget.

That’s according to revenue figures released Monday, showing the impact the new tax had in April and the first half of May.

With a budget expecting \$20 million a month in cigarette taxes, the county got only \$16 million in April. But halfway through May, the county already has received \$13.5 million. That means fewer smokers are paying more for their smokes in Cook County, officials said.

Helping balance things was a \$24 million haul in March — largely a result of a county audit of all companies selling smokes and doing an inventory of their stock, just before the new tax kicked in.

Still, county officials cautioned said they wouldn’t have a clear picture on the impact of a \$2 total in county taxes on a pack of cigarettes until later this summer.

“We have to watch this month by month,” said County Revenue Director Barbara Bruno.

Commissioners are counting on about \$240 million from cigarette taxes. They’re also counting on more than \$300 million from hospital patient fees — though they’re only on pace to generate \$240 million.

The board already faces having to come up with more than \$250 million in new funds in 2007 to help pay for new jail guards, increased salaries and cuts in federal funds for some programs. And the recent hiring of a new executive director at Cook County Jail signal changes are underway for the troubled institution.

Salvador “Tony” Godinez, 53, former chief of staff at the Illinois Department of Corrections, has taken over the \$125,000-a-year job. Godinez, who has 33 years of law enforcement experience, is a former warden of Stateville Correctional Center in Joliet, the sheriff’s department said. He has also held high-level correctional positions in Nevada, Michigan and Florida.

Godinez will replace Scott Kurtovich, who has been acting director at the jail since 2004.

Kurtovich took over after Cook County Sheriff Michael Sheahan’s previous choice to run the jail, Callie Baird, lost the job. Three members of the County Board of Corrections had successfully argued in court that the sheriff had illegally appointed her to the position in 2003.

## June 21 Black Facts



\* On this date in 1945, Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. was named the commander of Godman Field (Ky.) becoming the first African-American to head an Army Air Force Base in the United States.

\* On this date in 2001, Bluesman John Lee Hooker died on natural causes. He was 83.

\* On this date in 1923, Marcus Garvey was sentenced to five years in prison for mail fraud. Garvey said the charges were political.

\* On this date in 1832, Joseph Haynes Rainey was born. Rainey was the first African-American elected to the U.S. House of Representatives where he served five terms.

## “BOYS, YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL AS WELL!!!”

Tekeshia M. Wesley

In today’s society it is known that most teen girls throughout school have rank high in education, compared to boys. This is actually not how things should be. Most boys choose to live like this.

Girls are not always innocent in this situation, because in today’s society the honor roll students in high school fail to realize that they should help out these young men instead of just doping things for them. I attend North Lawndale College Prep and have seen these issues plenty of times.

Recently before the school year ended we had some seniors start an organization called CREED, which gives girls an opportunity to step up and help boys academically instead of putting themselves in the predicament of doing things for boys all of the time.

You can’t put all the blame on the teen students either. Parents also have to take some blame in this issue. Parents should be teaching their child to get their own things together, and they should be teaching their girls either not to worry about no one else’s grades, or at least tell them the difference between helping a person with getting something accomplished versus just doing that something for that person.

Statistics states that more girls than boys are graduating from high school, according to a new study by two scholars at the Manhattan Institute. Throughout ethnic groups, white females had the highest graduation rate nationwide at 79% for the school year that ended in 2003.

White males had the second highest graduation rate at 74% followed by Asian females at 73% and Asian males at 70%. Also statistics shows Hispanic females led their male counterparts by 58% to 49%. Black females had a 59% graduation rate and black males had the lowest rate 48%.

Males do have these abilities to have the high graduation rate as well as these different ethnic groups of females. The problem is they’re not pushing themselves hard enough and not getting enough support academically. “They would have consequences in long term if they don’t make changes academically says, Jasmine Stuart”.

Boys should have many influences to make changes and change their academic areas. They also need to change them that society views them and their achievement. A motivation for the young men is, “Boys, You have the potential as well”.

Entertainment & Sports

CHICAGO BLUES' WEEKEND

Todd Thomas



Otis Clay in Douglas Park



Otis Clay's Horn Section

The city of Chicago was cool and damp during Blues Festival Weekend June 9-11, but the weather couldn't put a damper on the spirits of the many Blues' enthusiasts who flocked to Grant Park as well as Douglas Park on the West Side to check out the performances.

Chicago is of course known as the home of the Blues even though most of the legends of the genre and even the core of performers at the Blues Fest hail from the South. Arkansas Mel, who performed at Grant Park explained Chicago's designation as the home of the Blues.

"Chicago is the home of the Blues because so many greats made their home here, including Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, and Buddy Guy." He went on to say that the lyrics of many Blues' tunes are painful but also very relevant. "It is pain, but it keeps us alive," Mel said.

Another performer at the Festival, Sharon Lewis from Texas described the essence of

Blues as "a good way to feel bad."

Blues' luminary Otis Clay, who is from Mississippi but now lives in Chicago also put on a great show at Douglas Park along with Cindi B and the Soulful Gents as part of the Ravinia Lawndale partnership.

Remember that June is "Black Music Month," a great time to show your love for all of the music from the black diaspora. South Sider Calvin Williams said that he traversed the whole city to catch the Otis Clay show at Douglas Park.

"I took the train from the south side to the north side to pick up a friend. Then we took the red line and #12 bus to the park," said Williams. "I really like hip-hop music but when I get to see live performers actually playing instruments I don't like to miss it," he said.

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

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AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



Brandon Routh as Superman in Warner Bros. Pictures' Superman Returns

briefly with his widowed foster mother (Eva Marie Saint). But soon after realizes his place is in the big city.

Superman returns in dramatic fashion. He rescues Air Force

**SUPERMAN RETURNS (\*\*1/2)** Like last year's "Batman" was. this studio's reported \$204 million gamble is another attempt to revitalize another comic book hero movie franchise. "Superman Returns" is a formidable offering that excels from "X-Men" director Bryan Singer who achieves an elaborate upgrade and purpose over the initial 1978 director Richard Donner's screen version.

Director Singer's "Superman Returns" is a darker tone than spirit over the original. Even though throughout this film resembles improved situations and other instances that recall the initial 1978 film. Still, this film here begins anew with the re-emergence of the Man of Steel who suddenly left earth without a reason to return back to the remains of his dying birth planet.

Now five years later Superman (newcomer Brandon Routh who coincidentally resembles the late Christopher Reeve in a somewhat stoic performance) comes back to Earth trying to find what he's searching for. First, returning to the rural life

One full of media reporters from crashing and lands the aircraft amidst a sold out baseball arena. This is where Superman first spots Lois Lane (Kate Bosworth) within the plane passengers.

The film delivers a unique way to re-assure Superman's legacy, When Luthor and his thugs hold Lois and her child captive. After one of the thugs joins the child on a piano duet that is quite unique and memorable.

When the thug gets crushed by the piano, it becomes apparent whose Lois' child's natural father could be that later leads to a touching scene between Jason and Superman. More grander and dramatic than the original, "Superman Returns" is different, if not totally satisfying. This movie notwithstanding, still stands triumphantly on its own.

PG-13; 150min. A Warner Bros. Picture Release - Opens Wed. June 28 at selected theaters

**THE LAKE HOUSE (\*\*1/2)** "The Lake House" is the kind of movie that wants its

Tyrese Gibson and Meagan Good in Rogue Pictures' Waist Deep



audience to be sweep up inside the romanticism of this implausible time travel variation situation for the sake of two distant lovers meant for each other.

Filmed in and around Chicago "The Lake House" is the Americanized remake of the 2000 Korean imported romance film, "Il Mare" that makes for a formidable outing to reunite Keanu Reeves and Sandra Bullock since teaming twelve years ago in "Speed" whose characters here are trying to work themselves out and beyond their personal crossroads to become soul mates.

After a four year absence, Alex Wyner (Keanu Reeves) returns to being a construction contractor on a housing project. When he decides to purchase an old suburban glass house by the lake, which formerly was home to new doctor, Kate Forster (Sandra Bullock) employed on her first hospital job in the city.

Where one day while having lunch with her mother outside of Daley plaza. Kate witnesses a man get hit by a bus that she is unable to save with her medical experience.

Soon after, without the use of stamps the mailbox at the lake house brings Alex and Kate somewhat together through their written correspondences that instantly appear. Even though they are two years apart and have never met. It is all just a matter of time and space to work out a method to meeting up in the same time.

This premise of soul mates separated by time and space is sometimes that was done with more emotional sentiment in the Christopher Reeve/ Jane Seymour 1980 superficial tearjerker "Sometimes In Time" that was corny but you still felt deeply for the characters.

In watching "The Lake House", the women fantasize too much through these characters and this film that doesn't do enough. While the architectural splendor of the Chicago landscape is beautifully captured, The atmosphere and mood fails to capture enough of the sentimentality of their lives and struggles.

See Flicks page 18

# West Side Little League –Balling Against the Odds

Todd Thomas



Near West Marlins Coach Brim (Far Left) (Coach Birdsong Far Right) with the team

Over the past several decades there has been a sharp and almost dramatic decline in African American participation in the game of baseball. Research has shown that the percentage of African Americans in the Major Leagues has dropped from 27 percent in 1975 to just 7 percent in 2005. Devotees of the game, which has long been considered "America's Pastime" are making a push to bring blacks back into the game on levels – from little league to the pros.

On the youth level in Chicago coach Frank Brim of the Near West and North Lawndale Little Leagues exemplifies this dedication to the game and how it can better the lives of those who play it. Not just as a sport but as a conduit to a better life.

Brim, a former minor league baseball player, is a busy man. He is a lieutenant in the Chicago Fire Department, a pastor at his church, and he coaches the little league Marlins six days a week. He's passionate about baseball and he likes to win but he's more concerned with building the character of the 12-15 year-old boys he coaches. His days are long but he loves it.

"It's a special feeling that you get from coaching kids, seeing that you can make an impact on a young person's life. But if you haven't done it you wouldn't know what I was talking about," said Brim. "We're more than baseball coaches we're life coaches, that's why I do it."

His team, the Marlins are off to a good

start with an 8-2 won loss record. Most of the Marlins have been playing organized baseball for several years so they're pretty well versed in the game but Brim also takes on kids who have never played before and shows them that they too can help a baseball team win games.

"That's the best part of coaching for me. To be able to take a kid that has never played and show them how they can help a team. If you can run you can help a team, if you can throw you can help a team. I've never turned a kid away in my life and I've never cut a kid ... if they want to play we'll find a place to play them," Brim said.

Sometimes finding kids interested in playing baseball in neighborhoods where football and of course basketball are the most popular sports can be difficult. Brim thinks that can change with a well-planned effort, but playing baseball is simply more expensive than playing basketball. It takes more equipment; access to practice facilities; quality baseball fields and you need umpires.

"In basketball all you need is a ball and a rim, and you really don't need a rim to work on your ballhandling," Brim pointed out. "In baseball it's hard to work on your game by yourself and without going to a batting cage."

The uniforms, equipment, gloves, bats and balls for Brim's Marlins are secured from donations, a few sponsors and even out of the coaches own pockets. They've received financial help from the west side restaurant Macarthurs, State Representative Ike Turner and some area businessmen. Brim's wife of 24 years, Tracey, also pitches in and helps with administrative tasks. He is most appreciative of his wife's support "You need to have a woman behind you that's helping you and understands what you're doing," he said. The Marlins are pretty solid team comprised of kids who truly enjoy the game of baseball but their attention does wane at times.

They have typical teenage distractions such as video games, rifts with parents and of course there budding interest in the opposite sex. Brim doesn't hesitate to offer advice about the perils of early parenthood or falling into the street life and he'll utilize his spiritual wisdom as a pastor to get their attention.

"One thing we always stress is purpose," said Brim. "I ask each one of them what are you here for? Then, tell me your birthday. Why do you think God on that day in that year decided to create you? Do you think he created you to be a dope addict or a thief or an unwed father. Then they have to ask that individual question for themselves." He adds words of wisdom someone imparted on him: "When a purpose is not realized abuse is inevitable."

Another tool Brim uses to keep the guys interest is to take them to baseball venues in other areas as they can get bogged down playing at just Altgeld and Garfield Parks, although there is a beautiful new near west baseball field a few blocks from Altgeld Park near UIC.

"This is not the end for them, there are some beautiful stadiums that I want them to play in like I did when I played little league and pony league." Brim has trips to Wisconsin and Florida planned for later this summer. "You've got to keep the game interesting," he said.

Keeping things interesting by taking trips, having cookouts and providing the team with quality uniforms and equipment are not cheap as Brim noted before. They are mapping out a strategy to get more money but he is concerned that most of the donors and coaches in the league are white professionals and he would like see more support from within the black community. He thinks if

See Marlins page 18

## Jesus' Message Shines Like a Bright Star

Danita P. Bowie

Jesus is a bright and shining star. He is the one to lead and guide us. On the other night as I stood on my porch, I was amazed to see the glow from one particular star. This star somehow just stood out from all the other stars. I was only able to see maybe one more.

Its light was dim. It was such a contrast. It was as if to say, "Which one shall you choose—light or darkness? 'The choice is ours. We can choose God or man. That's your choice. Our lives can go in many directions. Yet, in doing so, we have two choices; Jesus or you may choose Satan.

A I looked upon the sky; I could see upon me great darkness. From the East to the West, as far as my eyes could see. Then, in the midst of all the darkness that surrounded the sky that night; that one bright star just had a glow. In the forty-eight years of my life, I was in awe at the depths of this great beacon.

You had to be there to really conceive it. Now the star that was not bright, but in reality they all are it' light. It was lacking something you couldn't see its light from afar. I'm reminded of a song by the group, "Earth, Wind and Fire" called, "Shining Star". The words went something like this "Shining Star, no matter who you are, shining bright to see who you could truly be."

Many years ago, I vacationed in Montego Bay, Jamaica. While there, often

I'd awake at around 4 o'clock in the morning, unable to sleep. I'd look up to the sky to see the beauty it beheld. Still, there wasn't a star as illuminating as the one I witnessed the other night. I'm convinced that the Lord put that star there to let me know that He is my guiding light.

At the present time, I'm going through a few challenges in my life. He want myself and others to know that of all the dark and despairing moments we go through, if we can only wake up and see that ray of light, we can make it. He's that light.

I'd like to share with you before I conclude; I had to have major surgery in the 80's. I shared with friends my experiences during surgery. Many people would say to me that during surgery, they saw a light. I on the other hand, didn't see lights during surgery. This confused me. However, the people whom I had spoke to had not had a committed relationship with the Lord.

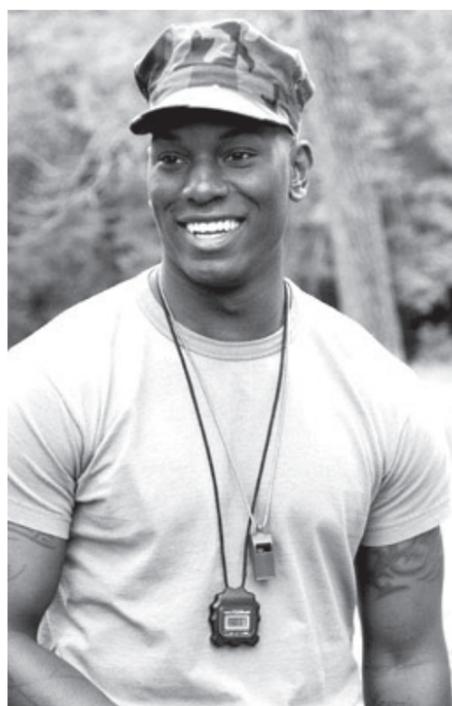
With me being hurt by this issue, I spoke to the Lord. His response to me was, "Danita, I showed them light, the trees, green grass. Why you say? Because of the state they were in, they would not have been in Heaven. But you, my child, would have been with me in Paradise".

To one and all, be encouraged!!! God bless. Look for that bright star.

Danita P. Bowie is a resident of North Lawndale and writer on religious topics. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## ON VIDEO

Compiled and reviewed by David Schultz



Tyrese Gibson in Touchstone Pictures' Annapolis

**ANNAPOLIS (\*1/2)** What should have been a revealing look inside the life and procedure of the recruits at this Maryland-based naval training academy. Instead, turns out to be a predictable exercise that borrows situations and characterizations from "Top Gun" to "An officer and a Gentleman" without any real-time mention of the war in Iraq.

James Franco stars as a ship builder who after hours competes in amateur boxing

matches at a local bar. But being a young man who got something to prove to himself. He's privately observed by a naval officer (Donnie Wahlberg) who arranges his admission into the naval academy. Where Franco struggles to survive against a no-nonsense drill instructor (Tyrese Gibson) in this movie that is too familiar and cliché.

PG-13; 108min Touchstone Home Video Available: June 27

**EIGHT BELOW (\*\*\*)** This American remake of a 1983 Japanese hit movie based on a true story has Paul Walker trading in the surf ("Into the Blue") and fast cars ("2 Fast 2 Furious") as the survival guide for the National Science Foundation Research Field base in the frozen tundra of Antarctica. Due to a fast approaching winter snowstorm. Walker is forced to evacuate the base with an injured geologist (Bruce Greenwood), while leaving behind the team of sled dogs that saved both men.

The film dramatizes the dogs' struggle to survive the wintry elements while Walker stateside seeks help to return and retrieve the dogs in this remarkable family oriented tale of friendship and determination encountered more by the animals in their frozen world than the bureaucracy Walker struggles through until man and beast are reunited.

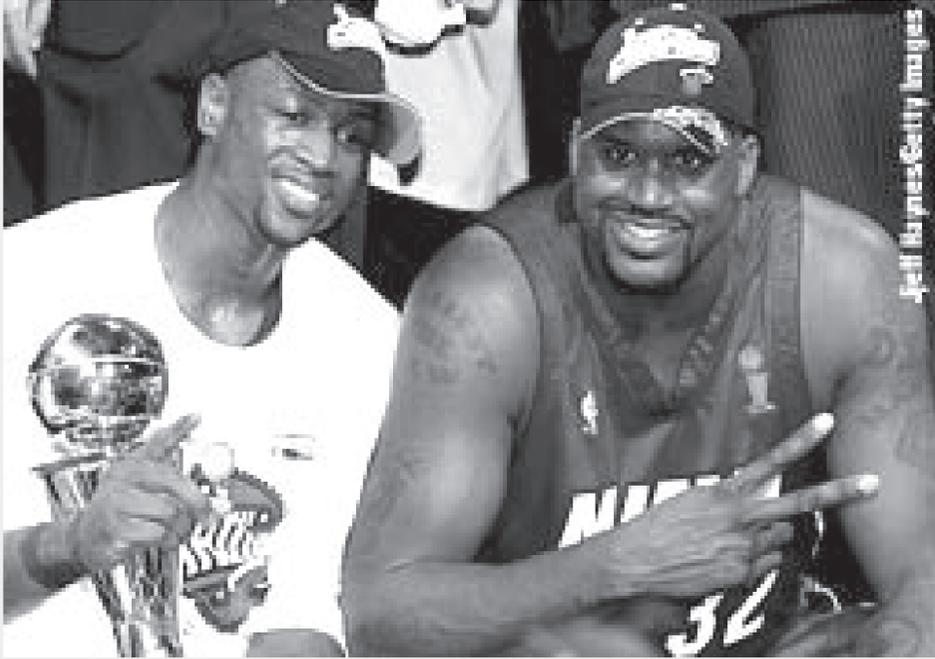
PG; 118min. Walt Disney Home Video

**LILO AND STITCH (\*1/2)** In the latest direct-to-video "Lilo and Stitch" animated adventure; after all the "experiments" have been rounded up, Lilo's alien friends receive promotions that reluctantly leaves Lilo lonely

See Video page 18

## What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware



Dwayne Wade, MVP Player of the Year winner with Shaquille O'Neil both of the Miami Heat 2006 NBA Champions Team

### GIVE IT UP FOR THE 2006 NBA CHAMPIONS MIAMI HEAT!!!

Miami is first time Champions thanks to Shaquille O'Neil and Dwayne Wade (MVP WINNER) with help from the entire team of course. It was an amazing game that ended with a score of 95-92. Now for all the fellas that's reading this article you know I did not watch the whole game. I watch the last quarter when it was about 2:30 left on the clock. You know the part when Wade made the free throws with :26 on the clock and missed with 10.3 seconds left. Still it all

ended in victory for the Heat. I want to congratulate the entire team on a job well done. We'll be celebrating victory next year here in Chicago. Yeah even I laughed at that!

If anyone has received an email saying that Jaleel White has committed suicide it is all a hoax. The email came in the form a press release from Los Angeles, CA saying he committed suicide and left a note saying "Did I do that". Now that right there should have let you know it was a hoax. Jaleel White played Steve Urkel on the sitcom "Family

See Biz page 19

## Where are our "Real" Black Men?

Joe Ann Bradley

Well, a number of them are in and around different construction sites protesting the lack of employment opportunities for Black men and women. "How is it that people can come from the suburbs and get a job in our community and we can't?" asked Hakeem. "We can't go to their community with an all Black crew and build anything."

This is the problem many Blacks are facing in the wake of a building boom in the North Lawndale Community. Dozens of homes have been built in the past two to three years with hundreds more planned. Many say the homes are being built for Whites and Hispanics to move into the neighborhood. "That's the other problem," said Hakeem. "How can we purchase these expensive homes when we don't have decent paying jobs?"

I ran into these gentlemen at a Spathies Construction site in the 1400 block of South Kedvale. The flyers they were circulating stated the following: "Spathies Construction Corp. And his Sub-Contractors make our kids walk through job-sites like this to get to school! They do not seem to care about our children or us!! They only care about our money!! Don't just provide us affordable housing! Provide a safe job-site and a real opportunity for employment as skilled labor in our own community. The community is buying the homes . . . Treat Us Right!!!" And at the very bottom in small print was the statement: "We only seek to inform the public." The flyer also contained two color photographs with the first, showing a street filled with cars, apparent workers, and children walking between the cars. The second photograph shows very young children walking past a dangerous looking construction site with a wire fence hanging



Figure 1 Black men protesting Spathies site in the 1400 block of S. Kedvale Ave.

across the sidewalk impeding passage as well as an area where the sidewalk had been dug up.

My question is how did we get to this point? Who allowed so many construction crews to come into our neighborhood without negotiating an agreement to hire from the neighborhood in much the same way as Alderman Dorothy Tillman? If you are not familiar with that story, here's the skinny. Alderman Tillman had been advocating for the re-building of her South Side ward for a number of years. Her only caveat was that whoever received city contracts would also agree to hire from within her ward. She said something to the effect that "...It don't make sense to rebuild the ward and the people from the ward don't benefit; my people need jobs too."

If Alderman Tillman can make such demands for her ward, what about the 24<sup>th</sup> ward?

My hat goes off to those stalwart men who have chosen to take a stand and demand employment opportunities for people actually living in the community. And in answer to the question posed above about "Where are the 'Real' Black Men?" Well a hefty few are standing up and demanding what is right for our community.

## North Lawndale Summer Kick Off Article

Shemika Cookbey

North Lawndale kicked the summer off with a Summer Kick Off Fair on June 3. The fair was held at 3333 W. Arthington inside the Homan Square Building. The objective of the Summer Kick Off Fair was to provide youth and parents with the opportunity to learn about affordable summer programs and free summer activities in the community. The fair also provided the parents with the North Lawndale Program Activity Directory, summer safety tips and the privilege for parents to be able to register their children for the monthly Summer Kick Off activities, such as, storytelling, plays, picnics, etc.

Parents also were able to register their children in the affiliated summer programs, like the Entrepreneurship Program, Future Teachers of America Association, etc. Children of all ages participated in the fair, which held contests that the children would compete in for prizes. The fair also displayed a Teen Fashion Show. In this show, kids who participate in affiliated programs, modeled clothes for their audience.

The Teen Fashion Show showed what youth could wear during the summer. Tristan Dotson, a 15- year- old boy who attends Michelle Clark High School, is an artist and decided to put his artwork on clothing, which was featured in the fashion show. Tristan Dotson drew astrological signs on the clothes that were featured. "I always wanted to draw and be into art ever since I was young. Ms. Sandra Glenn, my program coordinator, influenced me to put my artwork on clothing, I wanted to pursue my artistic talent in the fourth grade and I want to pursue my talent in college," Tristan said.

The Summer Kick Off was kicked off by its coordinator, Kimberly Taylor. It was her idea to create this plan for children and for parents to be informed about summer programs, activities and events. "It was my decision to become the coordinator for the Summer Kick off Plan. I am actually working in collaboration with Sandra Glenn.

The name of my company is Creative Concepts Development Incorporated," Kimberly said. Kimberly wanted the youth to be occupied this summer with different things to do instead of hanging outside or over a friend's house. She thinks that with the resources that are available, parents would have a better insight on how summer programs would be easier to find. The fair's main purpose for the youth was to show off their talents and meet new people while the parents received the information.

The programs that Kimberly also works with are Youth Empowered and the Comprehension Community Health Center. "The young people that I see and get involved with influenced me to come up with the idea of helping parents and youth with the plan," Kimberly said. "A lot of things changed now because when I was teenager, I didn't have the resources that youth can now easily receive. I just want to see the young people happy and doing something positive and constructive."

For more information, call (773) 863-5694 Attn: Kimberly Taylor

Shemika Cookbey is sophomore at North Lawndale College Prep and a NLCN intern. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## THE NEXT BIG SHOWCASE

Percy Carter

On May 17, 2006 I.C.E. Theatre on Homan and Roosevelt agree to allow North Lawndale College Prep Charter High School rent out the entire theatre. Free Spirit Media threw a stunning youth media showcase. The showcase involved funny, dramatic, and heartbreaking skits that were created by North Lawndale College Prep's students. A few of the films were actually based on a few of the students' lives. The films involved issues that teenagers can relate to their every day life. NLCP's students were proud to present their work because they knew that they had worked hard and wanted to show off the work that they had done. proud of their work. Jeff McCarter, executive director of Free Spirit Media, guided these students well.

Some of my favorite films in the showcase were "Dreams," "Gone but not forgotten," and "Twisted Deceit". These films were the most serious and dealt with death, rape, and faith.

The first film, "Dreams" was about a successful woman that wanted to go to the college of her dreams, but her boyfriend did not want her to leave Chicago because he wanted to take care of his mom and his siblings. The girl wanted to pursue her dreams and she left. This film starred Cydra Carter, and Dennis Brown. This film started out the youth media showcase.

"Gone but not forgotten" was a film honoring the people that had died. It was a sad moment for many but it comforted people that were grieving. Although your loves ones are gone, there is no point of holding on to them because they would want you to go on your life. Don't worry about them because they are in a better place now.

"Twisted Deceit" was a movie about this girl, Lisa who was raped by her boyfriend, Curtis. After being raped by Curtis, she found out that she was pregnant. It was not Curtis's baby. It was another guy named Reggie's baby. She had dated him before she met Curtis, but Lisa and Reggie broke up and she started dating Curtis. While dating Curtis, she decided to mess around with Reggie again and wound up getting pregnant. The twisted thing about this was that Lisa's friend Nikki had betrayed her by dating

Curtis. In this case the old saying is true. "What goes around comes around and what her friend did really did go around.

The last films that was shown was "Two Wrongs." "Two Wrongs" was about gang involvement in the community. Darrin Brown and Isiah Evans starred in this film. It was about a son and a father thinking two completely different ways. The father (Darrin) thought that gang banging was not the right thing to do. He thought that the right thing to do was to come together as a community and fight against the gangs, but son (Isiah) believed that being in the gang was the way to live and you did not have anything to worry about. He thought that his father was in a gang called the Black Panther Party. "Two Wrongs" moral was basically saying "Don't be a follower; be a leader."

"Dreams," "Gone but not forgotten," "Twisted Deceit," and "Two Wrongs." "Twisted Deceit" were my top favorite films that were shown at the showcase.

The spotlight was on the actors that stared in these scenes. Many of the films were about what was going on in the North Lawndale Community.

The showcase ended with movies on school violence. A documentary motivated teens to stay out of the violence in the schools and keep the schools clear out of violence. There was also a comedy movie about school violence called "Bully" produced by Ricardo Chiadez. It starred Demetrius Brewer and Dennis Brown. Dennis Brown (bully) did not want to come to this school and Demetrius (jerry) was one of the nice guys but Dennis didn't want to hear him or anyone else that came in his face. Dennis decided

to beat him up. After that Jerry's friend John had his brother come up from to the school and threatened to beat up the bully. The bully had got beaten up at his old school that he went to and when it comes back around he wants to go to a new school and beat up someone else. This youth media showcase was an excellent showcase that was funny, collaborative, and dramatic. It was great to see and if you didn't see it you missed a show that doesn't come around very often.

## 350 CANDIDATES RECEIVE AA DEGREE DURING MALCOLM X COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



2005 - 6 distinguished professor Duane Davis posted at his position holding high the

Traditional MXC jeweled Philpot Mace as everyone filed in and was seated.

Administrators on the Dias included President Campbell, Vice President of student services Ghingo Brooks, vice president of administration and

May 12, 2006 was a very important day for more than 350 Malcolm X College students, who were candidates for graduation in the 37<sup>th</sup> annual commencement exercises held in the Malcolm X College Sports Complex. A very diverse congress of people including family and friends gathered together in celebration of their loved ones educational accomplishments. Rainy skies couldn't dampen the spirit nor deter the resolve of the MXC Administrators, faculty staff and students as the grand processional marched off at precisely 6:45pm led by President Zerrie D. Campbell.

It was indeed a grand sight as the processional of soon to be graduates entered the sports complex to the sounds of the traditional grand march of pomp and circumstance.

academics Cecile Regner, Vice chancellor Deidra Lewis representing the district offices of the city colleges of Chicago, graduating student trustee phi theta kappa and SGA past President John Jointer representing the Board of trustees of the city colleges. Also on the Dias was community partnership award recipient 2005-6 for community service Mr. Terry Young

A director at the United States Federal National Mortgage Association commonly known as Fannie Mae and a long time supporter of the presidents scholarship fundraisers. After greetings and salutations were officially administered president Campbell and

Vice presidents Brooks and Regner acknowledged outstanding faculty (professors Helen Doss, Duane Davis, George West, Beverly Letcher), Retiring faculty (Professor

Max Louis), The MXC five star phi theta kappa honor society, class valedictorian (Mr. Carlos Cheon 4.0GPA) And the first place in Chicago and the state of Illinois team of radiology students who represented Malcolm X College at the Illinois state society of radiological technologist Annual 2006 scholar bowl on which class valedictorian Carlos Cheon served with distinction.

President Campbell delivered a touching and inspiring keynote address in which she applauded the students their family and friends for their support with assurances that Malcolm X College would always be there for them. She urged those graduates so inclined to pursue baccalaureate and post graduate degrees quoting statistical data that shows the marked increase in earnings of people with associates degrees from community colleges. Ending her presentation with best wishes for success in their future

Endeavors. Degrees of associate arts and sciences, advanced and basic certificates from 14 health programs were then awarded. Ceremonies ended and the celebration began in the elaborately decorated student union main cafeteria areas where a sumptuous buffet and lively music welcomed guest far into the evening. We once again wish to extend our congratulations to the outstanding Malcolm X College graduating Class of 2006!

Registration for summer and fall classes is being held from now until June 6 when Summer classes begin. You may also register on line at ccc.edu click on mxc website.

For more info contact Bernard Williams at 312 850 7035 or 312 850 7000. Story and photos by Bernard Williams

## HERE COMES THE SUN!

Sassy Spring & Summer Style



Textures & Tones - Blazing Burgundy

At last! Temperatures are rising, birds are chirping, buds are blooming! As flowers start showing off their

brightest colors, we usually feel the urge to do the same. But Summer 2006 seems destined to trumpet a different trend!

From the fashion runways to award show red carpets, women are dressing in predominantly black, white and a wide range of grays. Any other color - either as an accent or a single bold statement - will be subdued. If it's yellow, it will be dusty mustard. If purple, opt for lavender. Fabrics will be soft - washed cotton, delicate linen, gauzy silk, chiffon - with perhaps a ruffle, bow or bit of crochet. Jewelry will be at a minimum, with a single large pendant or long, swinging earrings - not both! Makeup will stick to earth tones, with the emphasis on a fresh, clean, natural look.

"With such a bold but basically colorless silhouette, more attention will be paid to your hair," says Clairol Color and Style Master Ingridette Pope, whose work can be seen on music videos and in national beauty magazines. "For a sensational, inspirational color that makes you stand out in the crowd, try Textures & Tones, a permanent haircolor with moisture-rich conditioners for brilliant, resilient hair. Bring out your personal beauty with a trendy shade like Blazing Burgundy or Bronze or Ruby Rage, all colors created specifically to complement African American skin tones."

As for hair style, Ingridette recommends short to medium lengths for warmer weather, embracing your natural texture or layering if you relax your hair to allow the most options for styling. "Whether you part in the center or the side, go for soft waves or curls, brush hair back or up or forward, give yourself as many options as you can so you'll be turning heads all summer long!"



## Home Going Service for Coach Bass

A-K-A

Big Baby

@

Greater Open Door Church

1301 S. Sawyer  
(13th & Sawyer)

Visitation Will Be On Friday, June 23, 2006

1:00PM-8:00PM

Service Will Be On Saturday, June 24, 2006

9:00-11:00AM Visitation

11:00AM Service

No Visitation After Service

## Chicago Theater Brings Out the Stars



Heather Headley performing



Anthony Hamilton performing

The Chicago Theatre was filled to capacity. There was not a dry seat in the house. The crowd came out to see Anthony Hamilton and Heather Headly. Heather Headly brought the crowd some of her well known songs, such as Rain. Heather Headly astonish the crowd when she song some of known stars songs as Whitney Houston, New Edition, SWV and more. She was so thrill to be back here in Chicago performing that she didn't want to exit the stage, well I could have listen all night. Anthony Hamilton is a talented artist blessed with a voice that is reminiscent of the 70's soul scene. Anthony gave an energized performance by singing some of his hit songs; he performed song such as Charlene and Southern Stuff. He also performs Preacher's Daughter, which the lead was performed by his wife. He had outstanding lighting in each of his stage performances. Anthony Hamilton had and amazing cast including several family members such as his sister, which was one of the backup singers. In ending the concert on a religious note, which was an inspiration to the audience, they appreciate the reference to God and gave a gracious applause.

## Homelessness from page 12

hanging out in the alley. I was new to Chicago and seeing the need, I have subsequently challenged the congregation to help fulfill those needs by offering supportive services. And to be honest, I've seen people with impeccable credentials who on any given day have no place to go based on their personal choices," Rev. Thomas said. "At night I feel better knowing 60 plus men have something better than what I first saw, and the congregation has the opportunity to help to meet that challenge by living out the Gospel rather than just talking about it, and not asking anything in return."

Services for the homeless can only be documented when a person uses the services that are in existence. This does not account for those who for whatever reason do not wish to become part of the statistics. "The number of people in poverty dropped 6 percent citywide between 1990 and 2000. But this does not mean fewer people were in poverty everywhere: more than half of Chicago's communities saw the number of people in poverty rise, and in many cases the number rose dramatically by 25 to as much as 142 percent."

On Chicago's Westside the opportunity to receive services are very good. There are 16 places that offer services and have been named Community Partners by the Chicago Department of Human Services, they are as follows:

Inner Voice 2768 W. Washington Shelter  
Gospel League Home 955 W. Grand Shelter

- Genesis House 2815 W. Fifth Ave. Residence/Shelter
- Austin YMCA 501 N. Central Living Program
- Interfaith 3456 W. Franklin Counseling/Shelter
- Cook County Hospital 2632 W. Division General/Dental Care
- Mile Square Clinic 2045 W. Washington Medical Clinic
- Lawndale Christian Health Center 3860 W. Ogden Medical Clinic
- Add-Tox 5517 N. Kenmore Treatment Center
- Freedom Center 1515 W. Monroe Treatment Center
- Haymarket House 13 N. Sangamon Treatment Center
- Marillac House 212 S. Francisco Clothes/Food Pantry
- First Baptist Congregational Church 1613 W. Washington Food Pantry
- Zion Church 1510 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Garfield Food Out Station
- Salvation Army 20 S. Campbell Food Pantry/Furniture
- Walls Memorial Church 260 Sacramento Food Pantry/Shelter
- Mr. Jose' Rivera, the District Manager for the Chicago Department of Human Services was asked how to avoid homelessness and he commented, "The best way is to prevent it from happening in the first place."
- Zaki A. Muhammad is West Side resident and writer. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.
- Source: Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

## Flicks from page 14

Which involves the performances to the direction right down to the music score (Rachel Portman's score with a Paul McCarthy song can't be memorable to John Barry's haunting, melodic score as in "Somewhere in Time") to come together into a necessary, emotional crescendo that sadly comes up short here.

PG; 98min. A Warner Bros. Picture Release – presented at selected theaters

**WAIST DEEP (\*\*1/2)** Even though in real life, one can never fully escape their past. "Waist Deep" dares to make a compelling and violent argument. Full of passion and purpose, actor turned director-screenwriter Vondie Curtis Hall doesn't fully utilize the real-life inner city problem of street gang violence killing innocent children and bystanders.

To initially help underscore this urban drama of a familiar "Boyz N' The Hood" type theme of an ex-con father's determination to reclaim his hostage son from following into his criminal past that sounds familiar to director Steve Anderson's 1992 Crips/Bloods gang melodrama, "South Central".

Tyrese Gibson portrays Otis, a recently paroled and hired security guard who can't shake his criminal past. When he is forced to leave work and pick up his son from school, that was supposed to have been done by his pre-occupied cousin, "Lucky" (Larenz Tate).

After picking up his son, Otis and his son do a little 'cruisin' in his vintage Impala. When Otis becomes attracted to a sexy street hustler, Coco (Meagan Good) trying to sell off some hot suits. Then minutes later, Otis gets rolled up on by a

## Push from front page

Mayor Ray Nagin from Louisiana said, "Our most creative minds the best that we have, have got caught up in a problem and they're in jails all across America. We must invest in those brothers. We must have strong reentry programs that bring them back into American and teaches them how to be their own business owners."

Judge (Gregg) Mathis said, "In the last two decades, our country has invested more and increased the spending more on the incarceration of our black men than on the education our black men. In every state in America, the increase on incarceration

## Juneteenth from front page



in 1865 on June 19<sup>th</sup> Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas with "news that the war had ended and the enslaved were now free." Although, President Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which was official on, January 1, 1863 it took two and a half years later before those enslaved in Texas were told of their freedom. This delay was primary due to the strong resistance and the lack of "Union troops to enforce the new Executive order." Once General Lee had surrendered and General Granger's regiment arrived they were then able to "influence and overcome the resistance."

Many tales have been spun about the lengthy delay which includes, "the story of a messenger who was murdered on his way to Texas with the news of freedom; another is that the news was deliberately withheld by the enslavers to maintain the labor force on the plantations; and one that federal troops actually waited for the slave owners to reap the benefits of one last cotton harvest

group of carjackers at gunpoint.

Through all the mayhem and violence that rises above the father-son relationship, "Waist Deep" begins and ends on a promise that is kept by idealistic Hollywood movie standards that seems a bit alright because of today's jaded standards we are all faced with in real life. But it isn't enough to excuse the entire movie.

R; 97min. A Rogue Pictures release – presented at selected theaters

**ONLY HUMAN (\*\*)** Humor is the weapon of choice that intends to find common ground in this often amusing yet uneven exploration into family life and an inter-ethnic relationship with a hostile racial background. Leni is Jewish and Rafi is Palestinian who has fallen in love with each other. Together, the couple takes that plunge with Rafi agreeing to meet her eccentric family over dinner.

If you think "Guess Who" the 2004 Bernie Mac/ Aston Kutcher remake of "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" and changing the racial elements from black and white to Jewish and Palestinian. You get a sense of what this film is about. For all its honorable intentions to make light or the volatile relationship over land and religion between the Jews and the Palestinians, the comedy of errors, mishaps, mistaken identity makes this movie into a lame situation comedy formula that show how much influence America art culture has between both races.

R; 85min. A Magnolia Picture Release – Opens Fri. June 30 at the Landmark Renaissance Cinema

David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

spending has outpaced the increase in education spending by ten times. In Michigan, where I'm from, the education budget has increased over the last twenty years by only 23% while the incarceration and prison budget has increased by over 227%. Ten times the amount to incarcerate our black men than to educate them. And there is a direct correlation between a failed education system and the incarceration of our men. Prison complexes pay the men \$1.00 per day. The jobs have been removed and replaced with guns and drugs 60% of the incarcerated are black men Don't fall into the trap." For more go to [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

before going to Texas to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation."

These stories all were attempted to explain why Texas failed to heed the orders of President Lincoln, but nevertheless freedom came for the African slaves after General Granger read the General Order Number Three, that states, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and free laborer."

"We weren't set free we were let loose," Brown said. "Half of us - all we knew was just like this park (Garfield), we didn't know where to go, we didn't know what to do, but we knew in our minds that we were free – we were always free in our minds, but we were captured by some people and sold as cargo, and we had to adapt to this country that we were in."

During this liberating time many slaves sought "neighboring states," in hopes of finding relatives they were separated from in captivity, while many headed north because it "represented true freedom." It was at this time when those freed would hold celebrations of remembrance of the events of June 19<sup>th</sup> and "Juneteenth" was coined."

This celebration was earmarked as a time of remembrance, prayers, gathering of family members and as a "time of reassuring each other and it continues to be highly revered in Texas with many former slaves and descendants making an annual pilgrimage back to Galveston on this date."

Brown speaks about the importance of our

See page 19

## Video from page 15

Keke Palmer and Tyler Perry in Lionsgate Films' Tyler Perry's *Madea's Family Reunion*

in Hawaii. The evil space hamster escapes prison to track down Lilo's friends to create an evil twin to Stitch, equal to his powers that are cloned into an army to take over the space council.

G; 73min. Walt

Disney Home Video Available: June 27

**FAILURE TO LAUNCH (\*\*1/2)** A spirited comedy built around good intentions and likeable characters that have a story premise that seems like the flip side to Will Smith's "Hitch". Matthew McConaughey stars as a thirty-something guy who enjoys being a bachelor sponging off by still living with his parents (Kathy Bates and Terry Bradshaw) in their home. When ever a woman comes too close, McConaughey uses his parents to run the women away. But his parents secretly desire their overgrown son to leave their nest. So the couple hires Sarah Jessica Parker as a professional interceptor hired to fall in love with McConaughey and fight off his attempts to get rid of her. When it's apparent both are romantically attracted to each other.

PG-13; 92min. Paramount Home Video

**MADEA'S FAMILY REUNION (\*\*)**

Aiming to make lightning strike twice following his initial success with "Diary of



a Mad Woman'. Writer-producer-director-star Tyler Perry can only register meager results in another one of his stage play transformed into this movie sequel. Based around his outspoken female patriarch played in drag whose court ordered to be a foster parent to a troublesome child (Chicago's Keke Palmer). While dispensing words and wisdom and sassy repartee while preparing a garden party celebration.

This film fails to make the most of the opportunity it has towards its intended audience. It's predictable as it filters out dramatic moments in soap opera-like domestic confrontations. And not progressive enough in being something more than what we've seen before.

PG-13; 107min. Lions Gate Home Video Available: June 27

David Schultz is a film critic for NLCN and other publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## See Exodus page 6

Community Health Profile," reported that "North Lawndale's overall mortality rate of 823 deaths per 100,000 population ranks it 15<sup>th</sup> among all other community area." That is very troublesome to even think about because "process elimination" is very much real. Also, N.L.C. "is 43 percent (mortality) higher than Chicago's state rate and 72 percent higher than the U.S. rate!" Lord please help us!

"The U.S. incarcerates its citizens at a rate" "more than 600 prisoners for every 100,000 people," reported by Justice Statistics director Jan Chailen, in an article written by Paul Street, "Race, Prison, and Poverty." Congressman Danny K. Davis stated that "70 percent of men between ages 18 and 45 in the impoverished North Lawndale Community neighborhood on Chicago's West Side are ex-offenders," that's enough said! In addition, though, the Illinois Going Home Program stated that a "high percentage of ex-offenders return" because there are "2,732 parolees between 17 and 35," in which 2,339 or 86 percent are males and 10 juveniles return each year to N.L.C. only to return to the system so how.

There are alternatives to these "social ills" that plague our community such as Family Focus Lawndale, Healthy Moms Healthy Kids, Prevention Initiative (PI), Parents Too Soon (PTS), Project Success, The Steans Family Foundation, Kellman Elementary, North Lawndale Community College Prep Charter High School, and many other programs to help combat N.L.C. residents "exiting" at extremely alarming rates! But, I wonder who's really responsible for N.L.C. residents dieing and being incarcerated at such a rate for such a small part of the city?

Demetrius A. Porter is a North Lawndale resident. He was once was a member of BBF or Better Boy's Foundation or Building Brighter Futures. Demetrius graduated from Marshall High School and Robert Morris College with an A.A.S. in Legal Office Assistant and now am making plans to go a top journalism school here in Chicago or abroad.

## Marlins from page 15



Marlins pitcher Authur Jefferson in action.

people would come out to the park and check out the games they would be motivated to help out. The Marlins also plan on going into the community to encourage people to come out and see them play.

"We're going to dress up and stop in places and ask people to come out to our games," Brim says. "We're not going to go in and ask for money ... just to come out and watch us play and if you like what we're doing support us – maybe monetarily or just with your presence and cheering. Let the kids know that what they're doing should be applauded."

And the applause is not just for scoring runs and getting hits. Brim again stresses that youth baseball is about nurturing the kids so they'll have a more well-rounded perspective of life.

"I try to deal with the kids holistically, it's not just sports it's bigger than this," Brim says. "I'm not out here just because I love baseball, I'm out here because I love our youth and there were men in my life that kept me off the streets. I don't know where I would be without them. It's my turn to give back."

Todd Thomas is a freelance writer for NLCN and other publications.

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Biz from page 16

Matters.”  
Man yall don't forget to watch the BET Awards Tuesday, June 27, 2006 on BET (new channel 61). My next column will be all about it., the performance and the fashion. So tune in. If you don't have cable go to a friends house and if you did have cable but its cut off just put that cord in and you will still get BET.  
Everybody know Jacob the Jeweler. He provides jewels for all the biggest star in the industry such as Jay-Z, R-Kelly, Kanye, Diddy and more. He was arrested on money laundering charges and posted a \$1000,000 bond. Authorities say Jacob is connected to the Detroit based Black Mafia Family, a rap collective that has often been referred to as a gang in the mainstream media. I'll keep you posted on the court preceding.  
Now I heard it through the grapevine that Beyonce and Jay-Z had an argument at a Nets game. Beyonce left the game and flew out of town. The argument

is said to be over Jay-Z and the time he is spending with Rhianna. Well we have to get a little more info on this I just don't wanna be spreading bad rumors about Jay-Z, now if it was Beyonce I would give you all the dirt. So stay tuned and I will keep you posted.  
I don't even wanna start talking about the Britney Spears interview. OH MY GOD!  
Sources: www.wtvsquad.com, www.msn.foxsports.com, www.bet.com  
If you have any questions for me about celebrity gossip or news, just call 312-492-9090 or write to KETA, 1211 S. Western, Chicago, IL 60608 and I will feature my answer in the next column. If you want to know about one of your friends and nem' I can tell you that too. JUST KIDDING. Also check out our weblog at www.nlcn.org. You can post questions for me, other writers and anything/anyone else you want to talk about  
Marquita Ware is the Production/Layout Coordinator for the North Lawndale Community News.

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Juneteenth from page 6

children and adults to know the history of our African ancestors and understand where we come from and the struggles many endured not only in Texas, but also throughout the United States.

“Before we can do anything you have to know who you are first,” he said. “It’s crazy to keep telling these kids to turn around and be somebody, but who are they supposed to emulate – Don Juan, that is why it very important,” he added.

Juneteenth celebrations focuses on “Education and self-improvement,” and this three-day event followed its traditional pattern of promoting higher learning.

Rashed Akbar of E-Turnity a program geared to assist parents with the expense of educating their children.

“We’re giving children between the ages of birth and 14 the opportunity at post-secondary education,” Akbar said.

On June 11-12<sup>th</sup> Bill Gates on The Oprah Winfrey show emphasized his program called ‘Stand – Up’ that, it is the obligation of parents and the concerned citizens and not our government or even our educational system to make sure our children have

the opportunity at post-secondary education.

Akbar explained passionately about the need for children and adults to want to better themselves and their community using education as a tool for success.

“They who control the diameter of your thinking will dictate the circumference of your activity,” Akbar said

The people were moved by the powerful words of spoken word poet, Brenda Matthews who encouraged the crowd to come together in one accord by building each other up and not tearing another down. The crowds danced along with local talents, like that of the Mitchell brothers (BEMA) who positive style of rapping made young and old sway back and forth to their message that was inspiring and that showed not all rap is negative and degrading.

“When I do anything in life I try not to do it just for myself I try to make it positive in a way everybody can grow ...so I want the kids to understand, I want my peers to understand and I want the elders to understand where I’m coming from,” said Calvin Mitchell. “So I just rap about my life and the

way things have been and a lot of people lives coincides with mine.”

There was a powerful display of boots of fallen soldiers as young as 18, who died in the Iraqi war that moved many to tears as they read the names and ages of these young men who gave their lives to seek freedom for people of another culture.

The event ended with E-Turnity giving twenty young people 10,000 dollars scholarship to further their education and exhorting the people to seek out their scholarship club and take advantage of this program implemented by Bill Gates and other corporations in an effort to save our children.

The Juneteenth event followed the tradition of celebrating “African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures,” which is exactly, what our great ancestors desire back then, and what Rick Brown and others have brought back to the Westside of Chicago.

Priscilla Lucas is a North Lawndale resident and a journalism major at Columbia College. Priscilla is a student intern at NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at www.nlcn.org.

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