



1211 S. Western, Suite 203
Chicago, IL 60608

THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

FREE

Since 1999, More News, More of Your Issues, and More of Your Community Voices and Faces. "News that Improves Your Lives"

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

PUBLISHER : STRATEGIC HUMAN SERVICES

VOLUME NO. 8 - ISSUE NO. 24

ISSN 1548-6087

November 1 - November 1, 2006

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

Governor Hopefuls Court Minority Voters

Laura Onstot



Gov. Rod Blagojevich

week leading up to the election, albeit in drastically different ways.

Incumbent Gov. Rod Blagojevich has aligned with Cook County Presidential candidate Todd Stroger in an attempt to appeal to black voters in Chicago, where Stroger is an alderman in the 8th ward.

Blagojevich has made Stroger part of his campaign pitch, including at recent stops in the city's black neighborhoods. The Chicago Tribune reported that on Oct. 21, Blagojevich shouted, "Vote for Rod and Todd!" during a South Side campaign stop.

It is believed that Blagojevich and Stroger plan to launch an

intensive, grassroots effort shortly before Nov. 7 to secure a large turnout of African-American voters.

So far, however, the only event the candidates were scheduled to attend together was spoiled when Stroger was almost two hours late and Blagojevich never showed.

Stroger campaign officials said he was delayed by earlier campaign appearances, while Blagojevich campaign officials said he never committed to the event and instead had staff members there on his behalf.

A disagreement over how much money Blagojevich will donate to Stroger's campaign could be holding up the "Rod and Todd Show."

Stroger says he has approached Blagojevich for financial assistance upwards of \$100,000 to help run TV



Republican candidate for Gov. Judy Baar Topinka

ads against Republican challenger Tony Peraica.

See Governor page 15

The leading candidates in the governor's race are looking for inroads with black voters in the

ARREST MADE IN LAWNDALE CHURCH ROBBERY

Aricka T. Flowers

An 18 year-old male is being held without bond for his alleged role in the October 18th robbery of the Israel of God Church, located at 3737 W. 18th St.

"Johnny Anderson and an accomplice entered the Israel of God Church while services were in process and announced a robbery," says Officer Marcell Bright of the Chicago Police Department. "He and his accomplice robbed the victims of money, cell phones and jewelry."

According to police, Anderson, armed with a 9 mm gun, entered the church around 8:20 p.m. and ordered more than 40 churchgoers to put their belongings into a plastic bag. When they took too long to follow his instructions, police say, Anderson became infuriated and fired a shot into the ceiling,

threatening to kill the children among them if they did not follow his orders. The gun jammed after the first shot. Investigators say Anderson and his accomplice made off with \$300.

The second man, who has not been arrested, allegedly cornered three victims in the church lobby, where he held hostage a woman, her infant child and an older man.

Police say both robbers were wearing nylon face masks, which turned out to be semi-transparent under the church lights; making recognition possible. Officer Bright says Anderson was identified by a number of witnesses in police lineups.

Upon his arrest, according to police reports, Anderson offered to take a lie-detector test and then failed. Anderson has been charged with eight counts of armed robbery, 22 counts



Israel of God Church, located at 3737 W. 18th St.

of attempted robbery and one count of aggravated unlawful restraint.

The Chicago Tribune reports that an anonymous tipster is said to have aided in the arrest, but it is unknown whether 24th Ward Ald. Michael Chandler's \$2,000 reward for information leading to the seizure and conviction of the

robbers came into play in the capturing of Anderson.

At press time, no one from the church was available for comment.

Aricka Flowers is NLCN's health reporter and is a graduate of the Northwestern University Medill Graduate School of Journalism.

NORTH LAWNDALE STUDENTS GET POLITICAL

Ben Protes



North Lawndale students work at Peraica's campaign headquarters last month

As the campaign for Cook County Board President enters its final week, Republican candidate Tony Peraica is receiving support from an unlikely source.

In an ad posted on the website YouTube, four North Lawndale College Preparatory High School students pledge their support to Peraica.

"I like Tony Peraica because he knows what he wants to do for our community," said Monique Bonds, one of the students featured in the ad.

Bonds became involved in the

Peraica campaign as part of the Mikva Challenge Elections in Action civic leadership program's partnership with NLCP.

As part of their Government class, NLCP juniors and seniors researched the candidates running in the upcoming county board, governor, and state treasurer elections. The students then attended a candidate forum on Sept 23, where they were able to ask each candidate a question.

"We encouraged students to identify what issues are important to them and then ask the candidate about them [at the forum]," said Sonia Mathew, social studies teacher

See Political page 9

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



STROGER FIGHTS FOR FATHER'S OLD POST WITH HIS OWN VOICE
PAGE - 3



CHICAGO URBAN LEAGUES 11TH ANNUAL YOUTH CELEBRATION DAY
PAGE - 6



GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH DECLARES PUSH FOR MINIMUM WAGE HIKE LEGISLATION
PAGE - 9

ALSO INSIDE

ELECTION SCHEDULE & 24TH WARD POLLING PLACES
PAGE - 7

AT THE FLICKS
PAGE - 13

SPORTS ROUNDUP
PAGE - 13

Visit us on our website at www.nlcn.org for more articles, information, photos and opportunities

THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

The North Lawndale Community News is now published weekly by Strategic Human Services. Our purpose is to help inform our community on resources, events, and issues relevant to them and our neighboring communities.

Board of Directors

- Muhammed Shakur, Vice-Chairman; Nicole Cabel-Pope, Director; Carolyn Lewis, Director; Creative Scott, Director; Bruce Miller, Treasurer; Leroy Pacheco, Director; Vivian Lewis, Director; Brent Michelle, Director; Betty Mason, Director; Dennis Deer, Director; Frank Bass, Director; Reginald Jones, Director

Founding Board of Director: Larry Leonard

Advisory Board:

- Cong. Danny K. Davis, Rev. Randall Harris, Fred Mitchell, Laura Washington, Susan Munro, Marta Foster, Margaret Davis, Larry Leonard

Consulting Editors and Writers:

Joe Ann Bradley, Constanza Williams, Wilbert Cook, Bill Goosby, Fred Mitchell, Dr. Shemuel Israel, Tamiko Bowie-Ervin, Elia Qasim, Danita Bowie, Marquita Ware, Warren Polk, David Schultz, Wilbert Bledsoe, Towanda Abbott, Reggie Lewis, Angelic Jones, Shelton Love, Jeffery Leving, Mary Moran, Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson, Paul Stewart, Deloris McCain, Priscilla Lucas, Todd Thomas, Renita Williams, Kabuika Kamunga, Sophia Karalexis, X'ernona Woods, Henry Hardee, Willie Paige, Jr., Jasmine Stuart, Melinda Lee, Zaki A. Muhammad, Ben Protes

Founding Publisher & CEO: Isaac Lewis, Jr.

Production/Layout Coordinator: Marquita Ware

IT (Information Technology) Manager: Ronnie Allen

Managing Editor: Wilbert Bledsoe

Business Manager: Constanza Williams

Communications Manager: Ben Protes

Copy Editors: Angelic Jones and Crystal Robinson

Website Consultant: Lamont Simmons

Photography: Community members and writers

Marketing Consultant: Dr. Shemuel Israel

Staff Accountant: Constanza Williams

Advertising Representative: Andre Stokes

Advertising Representative: Betty Meaders

Strategic Door to Door Distribution (Bi-weekly) Racheeka Dent & Community Youth

Circulation: 15,000 copies

Drop Site Distribution: distributed weekly over 280 dropsites, and over 340,685 potential readers throughout North and South Lawndale, East and West Garfield, Humboldt Park, Austin, Pilsen and the Near West Communities.

Weekly Mail Subscription Rates: \$15.00 for 3 months. \$25.00 for 6 months \$50.00 for 1 year

For Advertisement Rates

and all other inquiries contact us at:

North Lawndale Community News

1211 South Western Avenue, Suite 203

Chicago, IL 60608

Phone: 312/492-9090 Fax: 312/492-7162

Website: www.nlcn.org

The North Lawndale Community News is funded by the dedicated work and support of the community, and made possible with grants from The Steans Family Foundation, The John D. and Catherine MacArthur Foundation, Harris Bank Foundation, The Leo S. Guthman Family Fund (Lynne C. Rosenthal), The Soderquist Family Foundation, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), J-Lab Institute, AfterSchool Matters, SBC (now AT&T), The Illinois State Board of Education (State Senator Rickey Hendon), State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (Digital Divide Program under Gov. Rod Blagojevich) and DCEO through Sate Rep. Art Turner, The McCormick Tribune Foundation and contributions from our community, advertisers, and readers. The North Lawndale Community News was started with a grant from the North Lawndale Small Grants Initiative now known as the Small Grants Human Development Corporation and the Steans Family Foundation.



Circulation Verification Council is a third party agency that audits and verifies our circulation which is currently at 15,000 issues per publication.

American Family Insurance advertisement for Eric J. Lindsay Agency, 3708 West Roosevelt Road, Chicago, IL 60624. Office: 773-638-1700, Fax: 773-638-1718, E-Mail: elindsay@amfam.com, 24-Hour Claims Reporting: 800-374-1111.

Allstate advertisement: OUR STAND WHEN YOU INSURE MORE, YOU SHOULD PAY LESS. Call me today to see how you can save when you combine your home & auto policies. (708) 338-1100. Sabrina Winston-Gougis, 1401 S 5th Ave, Maywood, IL 60153, a030846@allstate.com.

Children's Life Insurance advertisement: \$20,000, \$4.80/month, Ages 0 to 18, Frank Garcia, Chicago Insurance Coordinator, (847) 757-7953. Adult insurance also available for: FAMILY PLANS, PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, SIBLINGS, CHURCH BEQUEATH, MORTGAGE INSURANCE.

Writers' Meetings!! THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS. Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203. Time: 6:00 p.m. Date: November 16, 2006 & December 21, 2006. Free Training in Community Journalism! Everyone is Welcome! FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL 312.492.9090

Index

To Your Health Page 4
Commentary/Poetry Page 5
Education & Employment Page 6
Spiritual Life Page 7
Community People Page 8
Business of the Month Page 9
Economic Development Page 10
Entertainment & Sports Page 12
Current Events & Classifieds Page 15

North Lawndale Community News Winner of the 2005 SBC Beyond the Call Award. North Lawndale Community News Winner of the 7th 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/ NLCN during 2006 is Health, Education, and Welfare. Health is essential to a good life. Education is necessary for the pursuit of happiness, especially in an economic driven society. Welfare is unavoidable in showing man's humanity (love) toward man. All year long NLCN will focus on articles related to health, education and our welfare throughout our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

There is a great disparity in the health statistics in a majority of our community areas. This announcement of newsprint is too small to go into great detail, but some resources that can help improve our health can be found in The Sinai Health System's Improving Community Health Survey: "The State of Black Health Care" published as a supplement in a special edition of the Philadelphia Tribune and the Chicago Tribune in November 2005, and information on the "Natural Cures" website www.naturalcures.com. NLCN articles and links refer to other resources that will go into greater detail on health, education and welfare. The "Natural Cures," an interesting new resource leads to solutions that have been overlooked by mainstream medicine and some corporations, perhaps because of greed or closed mindedness.

Education can reduce and minimize high rates of unemployment and underemployment, produce healthier citizens, and reduce the dependency on traditional welfare. The West Side 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 residents with resources in their areas. NLCN 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 of our previous years. Becoming an intelligent people we can also participate and benefit in making our community a model neighborhood. We hope by reading this community newspaper, you will become or remain inspired to keep moving forward to a better life.

Make sure you get every Issue. Help us to keep this newspaper Alive. Subscribe to The North Lawndale Community News. Complete and Mail this Form. Name, Address, Phone, Organization. Please check one: 3months \$15, 6 months \$25, 1 yr \$45. Mail to: The North Lawndale Community News, 1211 S. Western - Suite 203, Chicago, IL 60608.

STROGER FIGHTS FOR FATHER'S OLD POST WITH HIS OWN VOICE

Ben Protes

Todd Stroger grew up hanging around the fifth floor of the Cook County Building.

Now Stroger, the Democratic candidate for board President, hopes to make it his office.

When Todd was seven years old, his father John Stroger, was elected to the county board. In 1994, the elder Stroger was elected President of the board.

Todd Stroger wants voters to know that despite his familial and political ties to his father; he is very much his own man with different ideas of running county government.

"My father was a great leader," said Stroger. "But he's 77 and the system is antiquated and he wasn't always open to change."

Yet there is no denying Stroger, 43, has benefited from his father's powerful connections.

He attended Xavier University in New Orleans, his father's alma mater and where his father served on the board of trustees.

He also worked as an investment banker, a job he admittedly received through family connections.

But Stroger wasn't satisfied working in the private sector.

"I probably could have gone to grad school and gone to a big investment firm and done pretty well right now," Stroger said. "But I've been a public servant my whole life."

So John Stroger's ward organization selected the younger Stroger to run for state representative in 1992 and arranged for his appointment in 2001 as 8th Ward alderman, a position he still holds. John Stroger had been the 8th Ward Democratic Committeeman years before.

In his nearly nine years in the legislature, **See Stroger page 8**

PERAICA SELF PROCLAIMED REFORM CANDIDATE FOR COOK COUNTY PRESIDENT

Ben Protes

Republican Candidate for County Board President Tony Peraica arrived on the board four years ago after winning a hard-fought primary and general election fight.

His arrival in America was even more hard-fought.

Peraica, 49, was born in Croatia and lived there until he was 13.

After both his parents died of lung cancer, Peraica moved to Chicago's Bridgeport neighborhood, unable to speak any English.

He became involved in the Democratic Party in Bridgeport, home to Mayor Daley.

In 1994, however, Peraica left the Democratic Party and became a Republican.

Peraica considers himself a fiscal

conservative and a moderate social conservative.

Peraica, a lawyer from Riverside, views himself as the reform candidate for County Board President.

He dismisses suggestions that more study is needed to decided how to reform county government, saying he would move quickly if elected to cut 4,000 to 5,000 jobs through attrition and streamline departments within the president's administration.

The Republican is seeking both the presidency and re-election as commissioner of the west suburban 16th District. A Peraica victory would put a Republican in the president's office for the first time since Richard Ogilvie won it in

See Peraica page 8

STROGER AND PERAICA SQUARE OFF IN DEBATE

Myleson Collins

In what was supposed to be a forum for voters to determine the best candidate for Cook County Board President, the only live televised debate between Republican Tony Peraica and Democrat Todd Stroger turned into a finger pointing match late Thursday night.

For more than half the debate the two candidates attacked each other. Peraica said Stroger's "political success came from the power that his father (John Stroger) possessed in the years that he was [the County Board President]."

Stroger said wants voters to know that despite his genetic and political ties to his father; he is very much his own man with very different thoughts of running county government.

Stroger's friends and supporters talked of his "thoughtfulness" and his resolve to change the Cook County government. "I can see him making some changes," said state Sen. Donne Trotter (D-Chicago). "His dad came from a different era."

Although Stroger has been under a cloud of corruption speculation, the democrat emphasized the role Peraica's friends played in various scandals and corruption trials. Stroger mentioned how Peraica beat incumbent commissioner Al Carr in the Republican primary with the aid of Betty Loren-Maltese, former Cicero mayor who is now in prison.

Peraica said those officials used him only to get rid of Carr and that he won without their support.

As he did in their previous debates, Stroger painted Peraica as an extreme, "George Bush" Republican, out of step with most voters while Peraica blasted Stroger as a puppet of corrupt Democratic ward bosses. Peraica said he is a reform candidate while Stroger said he is a consensus builder who could bring change to the county.

"We are very different," said Stroger, a Chicago alderman. "I am new to county government. My opponent has served on the County Board and has achieved little."

Peraica, a county commissioner from Riverside, said Stroger was installed by Democratic officials to "maintain the status quo."

"I am my own person. No one calls my shots," Peraica told Stroger. "No one will pull my string as they pull your string."

The Republican is seeking both the presidency and to be re-elected as commissioner of the west suburban 16th District. A Peraica victory would put a Republican in the president's seat for the first time since Richard Ogilvie won the race in 1966.

The 30-minute debate was sponsored by the League of Women Voters and was broadcast on ABC-TV Channel 7 immediately following its 10 p.m. newscast. It was the final debate of the campaign. The election is Nov. 7.

WHAT THE COUNTY BOARD PRESIDENT CONTROLS

- Over \$3 billion Budget for 2006 (\$4 million anticipated deficit for 2007)

See President page 15

IF YOU ARE UNEMPLOYED OR SEEKING CAREER ADVANCEMENT

Join us at our

JOB TRAINING RESOURCE FAIR

Job Recruitment Resources
Employment Resource Information
Computer Training Resources
Employment Resources

When: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2006

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Where: Old Sears Tower Bldg.
3333 W. Arthington, 3rd Floor**

Keynote Speaker will be State Representative Art Turner

Other guests Include: UPS, Symbol Job Training, Westside Health Authority, Greater West Town Community Development Project, North Lawndale Employment Network, Family Focus, Safer Foundation, Garfield Workforce Center, The Good Samaritan Project, Philemon Project, Center for Employment Training, Healthy Families Chicago, Skill Builders of the City of Chicago and Jack Clark Family Recovery

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 312/492-9090

Funded by a grant from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity under Governor Rod Blagojevich. Sponsored by: Strategic Human Services/North Lawndale Community News and Lawndale Christian Development Corporation.

To Your Health

WEST SIDE M.D. FIGHTS RACIAL HEALTH DISPARITIES

Aricka T. Flowers

An African-American baby born today is expected to live 5 years less than a white baby, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The life expectancy for African-Americans is 72.3 years, while whites can expect to live 77.7 years. These statistics back up three new studies that found racial disparities in health care in the United States.

According to one study conducted by researchers from Harvard and Brown medical schools, blacks are less likely than whites to have major surgeries in hospitals where the procedures are done most successfully.

Dr. Birindir Marwah, chief of geriatrics at Illinois Masonic Hospital and a member of the Access Community Health Network, agrees. He says the racial disparity in health care comes, in part, from the access whites have to higher quality hospitals.

"The difference in health care comes in that the physicians who practice in Caucasian areas are highly efficient," explains Dr. Marwah, who works out of an office on 41st St. and Martin Luther King Dr. as well as one in Lincoln Park.

"There is an even greater disproportion in the area of sub-specialists," Marwah said. "On the North Side there are about 8 hospitals in a small area and they have specialists, the latest equipment, programs and studies. Generally speaking, the sophistication of community hospitals is not as high as private hospitals like Northwestern Memorial Hospital and Illinois Masonic. As a result, patients do not have access to the same sort of facilities and highly specialized physicians."

The Harvard and Brown study, which looked at more than 430,000 people in 151 Medicare managed care plans, also showed that blacks fared much worse than whites in controlling blood pressure, sugar levels and cholesterol.

In cases where patients had a previous heart attack, 71.6 percent of whites were able to get their cholesterol under control compared to 57.2 percent of blacks. Maintaining proper levels in these areas is crucial to avoiding diabetes, heart disease, and consequentially, early death.

"The leading cause of death in this country is the

hardening of the arteries," says Dr. Marwah. "The three biggest health problems I see in my African-American patients are diabetes, hypertension and obesity. I don't see these problems as much in my Lincoln Park office."

Diet and exercise play a significant role in controlling cholesterol, blood pressure and sugar levels. It is well documented, however, that blacks have less access than whites to health food supermarkets and easier access to fast food restaurants.

Dr. Marwah says income disparities play a crucial role in the inequality of health maintenance between the races.

"In order to eat a healthy diet, it requires the money to shop for certain food materials," he says. "It is much easier to eat unhealthy than healthy. The economic status of the patient affects how much attention they give to their diet. If a person is more affluent, they have more income to spend on their physical well-being by way of a health club membership or home gym equipment."

Although the study found racial health disparities are prevalent regardless of the health plan, Dr. Marwah is working to improve the quality of low-income health

care.

"It was jarring for me to see how different the health situation is in the two offices I work in, which are barely 12 miles apart," he explains. "We are providing a good number of education programs for our patients and get samples of medicine from pharmaceutical companies for our patients, since paying for medication is a large problem. We are also working with nearby hospitals to help get low-income patients some of the services that require a long wait at community hospitals."

Dr. Marwah says he's also attempting to bring in geriatric specialists to his 41st St. office so elderly patients don't have to travel across the city for treatment. Marwah believes these solutions are among the first steps to creating a more equitable health care system for blacks and other racial minorities.

For more information on Access Community Health Network's programs, go to www.accesscommunityhealth.net or call (866) 882 2237.

Arika Flowers is NLCN's health reporter and is a graduate of the Northwestern University Medill Graduate School of Journalism.

Free Estimates Reasonable Prices Phone (773) 521-1259 Cell (773) 412-3516 Ask for Andre A & J Masonry Tuckpointing Lintel Replacement Roofing Chimney Repairs Sandblasting Glass Blocks



A reminder about renters insurance. A "no more excuses" reminder. Renters insurance is not only easy to get and affordable, it's the only way to help protect your belongings from unexpected damage or loss. Plus, apply for auto and renters insurance from American Family and you may be eligible for discounts on both policies. Call today for more information, so you can check it off your list, and off your mind. Eric J Lindsay Agency 3708 W Roosevelt Rd Chicago, IL 60624-4228 elindsay@amfam.com (773) 638-1700 Bus AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE All your protection under one roof*

Your can write an article and get it in the North Lawndale Communiy News? Please call (312) 492-9090 Or email benproress@gmail.com

I-H SYNDROME: A Behavioral Disease Continued

Julius Goodman



If you recall from the last issue (NLCN October 18,) we were reviewing the I-H Syndrome; a Behavioral Disease. This is the second part of our review. We will follow up this column with interviews from people in the community and with accredited behaviorist in the community looking for answers to cure this behavior. As I said "We have to correct this negative behavior ourselves".

Tell me how can a group of people like Mexicans and Puerto Ricans can come together 10,000 strong in a moments notice if it's something they have to address for themselves. I am talking about their most recent march at city hall to get the law for illegal aliens changed. Illegal Aliens are people that come to America without permission. They do not have visas or work permits. These people are criminals and yet they banded together and spoke up about something that will help them have a better life. We (black folk) have been in this country since the beginning and we still don't act, feel, walk, talk, and love each other like this is our country.

The difference between other cultures and us is they know who they are. Who are we? [See the article, "Who are we?" April 26, 2006] we are constantly given new names. Now we are African Americans again, that is somebody somewhere decided for all of our benefit that the national title of "African American" is the best name for our nation (Black Folk) here in America. No one ever asked me, I just woke up one day and I looked at the news and somebody told me I was an African American. This happen right after I woke up one day (while I was in High School) and found out I was a Black Man. This happen one day when I was in grade school and I found out I was not a nigger, they told me I was a Negro when I become a nigger I will let you know. As I was walking through my community and I spoke to my neighbor I learned that I was a Nigga at home and an African American at work.

Now we are not physical slaves and yet the effect of

slavery has left us what the social disease called I-H Syndrome. ("I-H Syndrome," Part 1, 2, 3 and 4: April 27 thru June 20)

Briefly, the I-H Syndrome is a disease that attacks and controls behavior. Mentally we have to recognize and be able to identify wrong behavior that's perpetrated on us by us, and then we could correct it when we see it happening. But if you try to do it by yourself (alone) you will never get enough practice to change your behavior. Changing behavior takes practice.

As this disease was being revealed to me I began searching for some answers. "It has been said: Our greatest fear is not that we are inadequate; our greatest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure" ("Searching," July 5). And we have the power within ourselves to help ourselves and be a better people to each other. We are an intricate part of this society and we must fight together to respect ourselves as a nation and other nations will give us the respect we truly deserve.

In the article I-H Syndrome cont....Recognize Your Enemy;" parts 1 and 2 August 2 and August 29, 2006, we have discovered at least one enemy. That enemy is profanity. "We recognize that our current generation uses profanity more than any other generation in the history of our culture. We have let our children, our young people; embrace and accept these words. This is a behavioral metamorphosis that has perpetuated itself over a period of time. There has been a changing of the seasons."

Now it is time for direct action against this disease. In the article "Domestic Violence and the Black Community" we touched on some behavior that we do to each other and we suggested resources to help fight.

Julius Goodman is poet and motivational speaker. He is also a graduate from National Louis University with a degree in Behavioral Science. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Education and Training

Chicago Teaching Fellows Working for Change in North Lawndale Schools

Colleen Freyvogel

Anthony Hunt spends his days in North Lawndale teaching seventh grade at the Charles Evans Hughes Elementary School.

He wants to make a difference in urban education.

Hunt is one of 130 professionals enrolled in the Chicago Teacher Fellows Program—a program that allows individuals without a background in education to teach in the city while earning their alternative teacher’s certification in one year.

“I thoroughly enjoy my students,” Hunt said. “I find them all really interesting.”

Though tired at the end of each day, Hunt and the others believe they are making a difference. “It’s nice to go where you’re needed,” Hunt said.

Two to three days a week the teaching fellows meet in downtown Chicago to

attend National Louis University, 122 S. Michigan Ave., to earn their certification.

“It’s a good program but it’s hard,” said Hunt. Leaving his suburban Naperville home around sunrise allows him to beat the morning rush hour and read his student’s journals.

“They write like they talk but the ideas are all there,” said Hunt an ex-marine and former accountant. “The challenge is to get them to understand the importance of learning how to write, speak and do math.”

He said his 15 years as an accountant prepared him for this diverse environment.

His goal is for each student to succeed and to see them continue through high school.

“My biggest fear is that they won’t stay on track,” Hunt said. “If they can stay in school they can do so many things and get away from bad things (in the community).”

Hunt and another teaching fellow Daniel Hammer participated in a summer-long

teachers boot camp. They had to teach summer school under a lead teacher and take college level education courses at night.

Allison Karsh, program manager for the teaching fellowship, said the fellows learn lesson planning, classroom management and differentiated instruction.

“They are bringing energy, enthusiasm and prior skills, and they are going to offer additional opportunities to students,” she said. “(They are) individuals who are committed to the students who need the most.”

Karsh said 43 percent of the teaching fellows are male and 41 percent are minorities.

Cleo Aquino, program manager for teacher pipeline programs, said the teaching fellows are making a difference as they address the teaching shortage in the city’s school system.

“We recruit based on content and

academic services (the teacher can provide),” she said.

After graduating from State University of New York, Hammer said he wanted to do something that would make a social impact and after looking at teaching programs around the country he applied to become a teaching fellow.

Now Hammer, who holds a psychology degree, teaches fifth grade at Theodore Herzl Elementary School in North Lawndale.

“I didn’t want to work for a corporation; I wanted to work for people that needed help to give back a little bit to society,” he said.

His plan is to stay in Chicago for five years and move to another urban area in need.

“I am sort of doing this as a means to

See Teaching page 14

IL House Task Force Addresses Chicago Dropout Crisis

Zaki Muhammad

The Illinois House Task Force on Re-enrolling Students Who Dropped out of School met Tuesday, October 24 at the Union League of Chicago to jumpstart its efforts and lay out an overview of its goals.

The task force, which was created last spring by the Illinois General Assembly, is responsible for examining and researching existing drop-out policies and developing ways to re-enroll, teach and graduate students who left school before earning their diploma.

The 2000 Census data indicated that in 2001 there were 210,193 dropouts between the age of 16 and 24 in the state of Illinois. 71,658 of those dropouts were between the ages of 16 and 19.

To get these numbers down and improve Illinois’ graduation rate, the governor’s current budget includes \$18.1 million for the Illinois State Board of Education’s Truant Alternative and Optional Educational program. Another \$18.5 million is earmarked for the Regional Safe Schools program, with an additional \$24 million set to fund after-school programs throughout the state.

Darian Haywood, a student at Olive–Harvey College, opened the meeting by giving a brief synopsis of his life, describing how he dropped out of school and got into trouble. “Now school is my job,” he told the crowd. Haywood went on to say that he has maintained a 3.0 grade point average and is looking forward to going to Xavier University to study medicine and hopefully be a plastic surgeon.

Elected officials, educators and former students gathered at the meeting to show their support for students like Haywood, who are getting a second chance at education.

The keynote speaker for the event was Illinois State Senate President Emil Jones Jr. who explained that this issue “is very close to my heart.” He described the difficult road he and his colleagues had to take to get legislation passed that would address the large number of drop-out students in Illinois. He talked about Blue Ribbon studies that have researched the problem and mentioned that he had worked on similar legislative initiatives 20 years ago.

“It’s funny how life is,” Jones told the audience. “You meet people 20 years ago and the very same issue is being put forth today.”

“Don’t get too close to the edge, when we look at it, too many young people are falling off the cliff. We do not provide a safety net. A high school diploma is something that shows they are productive.”

“Instead of losing money, re-enrolling kids in school would save money”

Jones went on to talk about how some communities in the state now depend on prisons, not schools as their mainstay in economic growth.

According to Sen. Jones, the \$25,000 it costs taxpayers to keep a young person incarcerated is not only an enormous cost, but also an enormous waste of resources. In an attempt to improve the opportunities in at-risk communities, the government needs to spend more money per child for education, he said. He told listeners that they should contact

See Dropout page 15

La Shawn K. Ford

Democratic Nominee, State Representative of the 8th District



La Shawn K. Ford, has taken an unconventional road in pursuit of the seat of Representative in the General Assembly for the Eight Representative District of the State of Illinois, and accomplished his goal by winning 57% of votes cast in the primary election on March 21, 2006.

Ford, 34, a graduate of Loyola University of Chicago with a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Minor in Political Science, taught History, and coached basketball in the Chicago Public Schools for six years.

Shortly thereafter, he founded Ford Desired Real Estate, Incorporated, with minimal capital. Today, five years later, the successful company has become a beacon of hope for numerous employees, agents, as well as the community in general.

Having lived in the Eighth District for 30+ years, Ford was ignited to create positive change. Consequently, this former Precinct Captain is motivated in a movement to assist residents through educational and economic awareness. Prepared with his well-developed analytical and organizational skills and a goal-directed vision, Ford was able to bring together a variety of community organizations in his successful primary election bid. Ford’s platform includes an emphasis on improved educational opportunities, better medical and mental health care, and economic development for the Eight District. For the primary election in March, Ford also introduced an advisory referendum that would give non-violent ex-offenders a better chance at jobs; this referendum received more than 93% of votes in the targeted area.

He has received numerous awards for his work in the Eighth District. His acknowledgements include, but are not limited to the Austin’s Business Owner of the Year Award; Archdiocese of Chicago “Christifideles” and “Augustus Tolton” Awards; Chicago Association of Realtors “Outstanding Achievement” and “Excellence in Performance” Awards; and the “Outstanding Community Service” Certificate from State Senator Don Harmon in collaboration with Changing a Generation Foundation.

La Shawn K. Ford is zealous and influential regarding the expectations of the constituents of the Eighth District. He has pledged diligence and dauntless efforts in order to live out the motto of his campaign, “Building Bridges to Success”

HIGHLIGHT OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Strong analytical skills with exceptional attention to detail
- Self-motivated and confident in making decisions
- Excellent written, oral, and interpersonal communication skills
- Committed, dedicated, willing, and able to meet challenges
- Knowledgeable in the finance and budgeting arena
- Manage and motivate employees, stimulate maximum levels of sales achievement
- Establish training programs, institute efficient procedures, & coordinate daily operations
- Design and implement creative marketing and sales techniques
- Received 58% of the votes cast in the March 2006 Primary Election
- Representative of the people, visible, and accessible
- Demonstrated ability to build bridges to success
- Able to achieve consistent profitable performance

November 7, 2006

Vote for:

LA SHAWN K. FORD

For State Representative in the 8th District

5104 W. Chicago Avenue | Chicago, IL 60651 | www.vote4ford.com | lkf@vote4ford.com | 773.378.5902

CUL 11TH ANNUAL YOUTH CELEBRATION DAY

Jasmine Dowden



Ramonski Love Kendra thompson Joe Soto

Empowerment, encouragement and entrepreneurship, were highlighted in the Chicago Urban League's (CUL) 11th annual Youth Celebration Day.

"This event is fabulous, we have to acknowledge and lift up our students who do well as well as the ones who don't do well, this event is very near and dear to our hearts," said Romonski Love, dj for V103.

Youth Celebration Day recognizes students from all over Chicago whom have exhibited excellence in the areas of academics, community service, and youth

leadership. The event was sponsored by several major corporations. The corporations include Coca-Cola, the lead sponsor, Southwest airlines, Nike, State farm, Clear Channel communications, and the black McDonald's operator's organization.

"Youth celebration day is exactly what it is on this day, it's a celebration of our youth and its our way of saying congratulations and continue on because much success is ahead of you," said Anthony Taylor, community relations director for Coca-Cola enterprises.

"It is important that coca-cola gives back to the community, I think it's very important to me personally being a product of the Chicagoland area, that in some shape, form, or fashion I give back to the community that

provided for me."

Hosted by Ramonski Love and Joe Soto, disk jockeys for V103 radio station, there was never a dull moment. "We were blessed to be asked for three years straight to host, that tells me that we are getting a message out to the youth and I think that's the key," said Soto. "Sometimes people don't have direction and maybe that's what they needed most today, we are not so much directors but informers, we like to have a little fun as we inform, and if we got through to one person we did our job."

Through acappella flows, metaphors, and flat out reality, Rhymefest, a Chicago rap artist, dropped some words of wisdom on the 200 students in attendance. Besides honor and recognition each student received an I-Pod, or MP3 player, the top ten students in each category were awarded laptop computers with printers.

"This was a blessing from God," said Kendra Sterling, an honoree and sophomore from Thornwood High school who has earned a 4.0 gpa. "This is a great opportunity for other children to see this and know that they can do it too." The atmosphere was filled with hope and achievement.

"It's important for African Americans kids to have big dreams and to think beyond what they see on T.V.," said Cheryl Johnson, president of CUL. "We need to reach beyond what was achieved in the past. I really want kids to get exposed early, to all the possibilities that are before them, to be more than an athlete or entertainers, there are a lot of other things out there to strive and work hard for. Our job with CUL is to help them reach their mark."

For more information on the Chicago Urban League visit the web at www.cul.org.

Jasmine Dowden is a general assignment reporter for NLCN and a graduate of Paul Quinn College in Dallas, Texas with a concentration in journalism. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcen.org.

YWCA Lawndale Hosts Week Without Violence Community Panel

Calvin Crayton

YWCA Lawndale Outreach Services held a panel discussion on Tuesday October 17 to provide social service organizations an opportunity to discuss marketing strategies to attract black clients to their organizations.

The Panel was hosted by Congressman Danny Davis (D-IL).

Other panelists included Bryan Mattox, Burrel Communications, Mariamme Kaba, Rogers Park Young Women Action Team, and Sharron Powell, Black Girl Anti-Violence Project.

Congressman Davis explained how his office building at 3333 W. Arthington will be developed into condos with subsidies that would allow low-income people to be able to afford them at \$150,000.

Davis spoke about the power of one individual doing what they could to vote and put people into office that would represent the peoples' need.

It was not clear, however, how low-income individuals would be able to afford even the subsidized cost of the condos.

Attempts to reach Congressman Davis's office about the development project resulted in his office referring NLCN to the building's management office.

According to the management office, this project was mentioned a year ago and there are several partners working out details. But the company also wondered how \$150,000 condos would be considered for low income residents.

Congressman Davis could not be reached for further comment.

The North Lawndale Community has a

See YMCA page 14

Advertisement for Century 21 Galewood Real Estate. The ad features the Century 21 logo and contact information for Lee Garcia, Notary Public, at 6278 W. North Avenue, with phone number 745-0404. Below this is a grid of property listings with photos and descriptions for various homes in Lawndale, including addresses like 13717 S. Stewart, 9136 S. Constance, 944 N. Trumbull, 1645 S. Homan, 1947 S. Spaulding, 6330 S. Elizabeth, 1324 N. Parkside, 312 Parkside, 4841 W. Polk, 5927 Washington, 5922 W. Ohio, 6965 S. Eberhart, 3825 W. Arthington, 1409 N. Lockwood, 212 N. Laramie, and 3519 Madison. The ad also includes a 'Seller(s)' offer of a free market analysis and \$500 cash at closing, and a 'Buyer(s)' offer of a free credit report. At the bottom, there are photos and contact information for Gwen Weatherspoon and Leda Garcia, along with the text 'OPEN ON SUNDAY 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 P.M.' and a Century 21 Mortgage logo.

Hull House Continues to Serve North Lawndale Residents

Sophia Karalexis

The North Lawndale branch recently relocated to 1211 S. Western Ave. They have successfully continued the mission started by Jane Addams. Hull House is no stranger to North Lawndale the agency has provided services to the community for over 20 years. They provide an array of social services that train and place unemployed workers in Chicago.

Hull House offers an array of social services. The agency's Work First Program assist women receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) aid from the Illinois Department of Human Services to secure full-time employment. The welfare to work program helps women make the transition by providing job training site placement, counseling as well as job referral and placement services.

Another program provided at the North Lawndale facility is the Mayor's Office of Work Force Development program (MOWD.) MOWD assists residents of North Lawndale and Little Village gain full-time employment. Though MOWD, clients receive individualized case management, job readiness training, placement services and retention services.

In addition to the other services, Hull House has a tech center that helps clients involved in any of the above programs learn computer skills.

"We use our tech center as an added piece to teach basic skills for job searching, we teach basic computer literacy and use it to help clients in the community that don't have resources," said Marian Chisum-McGill,

See Hull House page 10

24th Ward Polling Place List

Precinct #	Polling Place	Address
1, 54	Mason School Hallway	4217 W. 18 th St.
3, 9, 26	Crown Academy-Auditorium	2128 S. St. Louis
4, 49	John Gregory School-Auditorium	3715 W. Polk St.
5	Sunshine M.B. Church-Lobby	3654 W. Roosevelt Rd
2, 6, 34, 37	Anton Dvorak School-Gym	3615 W. 16th
7, 29	Clark Park-East/West Rooms	4615 W. Jackson Blvd
8, 25	Franklin Park-Activity Room	4320 W. 15th St.
10	Douglas Park Bapt. Church-Lower Level	1840 S. Kedzie Ave
11, 36	C.E. Hughes School- Rooms 100/103	4247 W. 15th St.
12, 13	Julia C. Lathrop School-Gym	1440 S. Christiana Ave
14	Greater Rosehill Baptist Ch - Dining Rm	3137 W. Roosevelt Rd
15	William Penn School-Lower Level Classroom #015	1616 S. Avers Ave
16, 46	Michele Clark Middle School-Auditorium	5101 W. Harrison
17, 42	Webster School-Library	4055 W. Arthington
18, 33, 55, 59	Melody School-Auditorium/Gym	412 S. Keeler
19	Sweet Kingdom Church-Lunchroom	4432 W. Fifth Ave
20	Presentation Catholic Church-Bsmt	3906 W. Lexington
21	Lawndale Academy-Hallway	3500 W. Douglas
22	Kedvale New Mount Zion Baptist Ch-Hall	1306 S. Kedvale Ave
23, 27	James W. Johnson C P C - Play area	1504 S. Albany
24, 30	Herzl School-Auditorium	3711 W. Douglas
28	Henson/Olive School-Auditorium	1326 S. Avers
31, 40, 56	Lawndale Christian Health Center-Gym	3848 W. Ogden
32, 39	Sumner School-Gym	4320 W. Fifth
35	Fredrick Douglas Library-Activity Room	3353 W. 13th
38	Nathaniel Pope School-Auditorium	1852 S. Albany
41	Austin Corinthian Bapt.-Church Area	823 S. Cicero
43, 51	11 th District Police- Auditorium Level	3141 W. Harrison
44	Holly Spring Church-Sanctuary	2126 S. Homan
45	Chicago Ward Yard-Tool Room	1817 S. Pulaski
47	One-Way MB Church-Bsmt Dining Room	4152 W. 16th St.
48	United Bapt.Church-Lower Level Dining Rm	4242 W. Roosevelt
50	Faith Community Church-Fellowship Hall	3456 W. Flournoy
52	Crispus Attucks Amer. Legion Post 1268-West Banquet Hall	3920 W. Roosevelt
53	Albany Terrace-Residents Lounge	3030 W. 21st Place
57	Kanoon Magnet School-Gym	2223 S. Kedzie
58	St. Paul AME Church-Meeting Rm	4236 W. Cermak Rd

Election Schedule

Oct. 30: This was the last day to request an absentee ballot through the mail. To get a ballot, apply online at www.voterinnet.com, call (312) 603-0906, or visit the 5th floor of the County Administration Building at 69 W. Washington.

Oct. 31: It's still possible to run, this is the last day to file a notice of your intention to run as a write-in candidate.

Nov. 2: If you have an emergency, this is the last day to request an absentee ballot to a hospital or similar location.

Nov. 2: Early voting began in mid-October and ends today. Early voting allows you to vote in person with a voting machine. There are locations throughout Cook County, but the closest location for Westsiders is the concourse level of the Cook County Administration Building. Voting hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Saturday.

Nov. 6: This is the last day to pick up an absentee ballot in person from the Cook County Administration Building.

Nov. 7: General election
Polling Place Info:

Visit http://www.chicagoelections.com/pp_status.asp to verify your polling place.

This website allows you to find the location, as well as the name of your polling place. Check back often as circumstances may arise necessitating the changing of a location. If in doubt call the polling place department at: 312-269-7976

NLCN Writer Describes Experience at Mandela Book Signing

Kabuika Kumunga



Former South African President Nelson Mandela at his book signing

If I had to make a list of the world's most famous people, Nelson Mandela would be near the top. So, when I got the chance to attend Mandela's latest book launch in South Africa, I jumped at the opportunity.

I was in Chicago when he was released from prison. As people in South Africa danced while he walked out of prison, Chicagoans danced in front of the South African consulate.

When Mandela came to New York to speak at the United Nations, every single black man and woman in America was probably glued to the television set. Some even made the trip to New York to get a glimpse of him. However, many black men in the Big Apple could not get a taxi, as taxi drivers were reluctant to stop for black people. How ironic, here they were victims of racism in "democratic" America while the very icon of a victory over the racist apartheid

system was amongst them!

Inspired by Mandela's triumph, I wanted to further my journalistic training in South Africa. As a graduate student at Northwestern University, I could have gone anywhere in the world to study, but I wanted to go to Mandela's home country.

At the book launch, I held my copy of, "Mandela. The Authorized Portrait," like a precious stone. It was a heavy, thick coffee table book. On its cover, Mandela stared at me from a black and white close up photo. I was already in awe, and I hadn't even opened the book.

When I did, I found a foreword by Kofi Annan, the U.N. Secretary-General. "Once inside the General Assembly, he had the vast chamber spellbound," wrote Annan, describing Mandela's last speech at the United Nations General Assembly before he retired as President of South Africa in 1998.

Just reading those words, I got excited. 'I will be in the same room with my hero, my idol,' I thought.

I looked through the rest of the book to find more wonderful photography, Mandela's letters, newspaper clips and other mementos, including some rare pictures of Mandela in prison. The black and white pictures of Mandela's past, spanning all 88 years of his life, were so expressive that as I sat at my desk in the newsroom, tears came to my eyes. It was as if I was reliving the harsh experience of his time, the torturous treatment he received in Robben Island prison.

In preparation for Mandela's book event, I washed my dreadlocks and picked out my best suit. When I arrived at the Nelson Mandela Foundation, which serves as Mandela's logistical and administrative arm, the pressroom was already packed. All one hundred seats were taken; there were at least another hundred people standing along the walls.

"I should have come an hour before the scheduled time for journalists!" I thought, scolding myself. Instead of being in the front as I had hoped, I had to go all the way to the back and squeeze in between the big TV camcorders. Still, I felt blessed just to be there.

As I was taking the flash out of my bag, I noticed that none of the other photographers had any. I wondered why, since the light in the room was not that bright. A photographer from a South African daily paper soon explained. "The flash hurts Mr. Mandela's eyes, so no one uses any," he said. He quickly showed me how to set my camera so that I could shoot decent pictures without a flash. I would have to hold my breath when I shot in order to avoid getting blurry pictures, but I didn't mind. I was too excited. I knew that in a few minutes I would see Mandela in person, with my naked eyes!

"Don't worry. No matter how well you

prepare, the dynamics in the room changes when Mr. Mandela walks in," the fellow photographer said.

Sure enough, as soon as Mandela walked in, everybody stood up to honor him. We reporters in the back could not see a thing. On the tip of my toes, I lifted my camera and started shooting pictures blindly. As Mandela took his seat, he said something that I could not hear, but many in the room laughed. Just as Annan said "[Mandela] was making everybody around him feel completely relaxed through his unique mix of humor, warmth, informality and dignity." Although I did not hear the joke, I still smiled. The good-natured energy in the room was contagious.

The event's Master of Ceremony was Ahmed Kathrada, a cellmate of Mandela, who spent 25 years in prison with him. Kathrada constantly cracked jokes, making Mandela laugh, and giving the audience bits of information that made Mandela more personal to us.

Even though Mandela did not speak at the book launch, I left the event inspired by his greatness and humility. I felt determined to be a better person. I thought that if Mandela could manage to pardon his torturers, I maybe I could manage to let go of the anger in my own life.

I highly recommend Mandela's new book. It is more than a biography. It contains the observations, anecdotes and perspectives of 58 people from around the world, who interacted with him as friends, fellow prisoners, prison warders, celebrities, employees and colleagues.

Kabuika Kumunga is a native of the National Republic of the Congo. Kabuika is a journalism student at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism and a correspondent for the Medill News Service. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Community People

Stroger from page 3

Stroger sponsored or co-sponsored 30 bills that became law, most of which were minor. He cites a bill that increased the fine for illegal dumping as the legislation he's most proud of initiating.

Stroger, who was chairman of the Labor and Commerce Committee, says he introduced, "a lot of good legislation that got held up" because a Republican majority in the General Assembly opposed it.

Stroger was also absent from 340 roll call votes during his tenure in the house. He explained that it's "the House culture," to frequently miss mandatory voting sessions.

"You depend on your neighbor to pull the switch and do the right thing," Stroger said. "Now my neighbor may not have always done the right thing." After spending 14 years as an elected official, Stroger is looking to take over his father's old job as president.

Yet, the younger Stroger is trying to distance himself from the family connections that have benefited him in the past, especially as a federal investigation into county hiring practices under his father heats up.

Stroger also is communicating to voters how different he is from his opponent, Republican Tony Peraica. In each of the candidates' debates and in his few TV ads, Stroger has painted Peraica, a board commissioner from Riverside, as a "George Bush Republican."

Peraica called Stroger's ads "libelous" and is threatening to sue his campaign.

Stroger attended elementary school at St. Felicitas Catholic Church, the family parish a block from their home. In 1981, he graduated from St. Ignatius High School and is still a practicing Catholic. Yet, he disagrees with the Church on abortion and supports a woman's right to choose.

Stroger highlights his difference with Peraica on that issue. Peraica opposes abortion rights although he has vowed not to alter abortion services in the county's health system.



Democratic Candidate for Cook County President, Todd Stroger

Stroger also emphasizes his disagreement with Peraica on health care.

"Health care is such an important thing," Stroger said. "We need more clinics and preventative care. We need to make sure patients are treated right," he said.

Stroger has accused Peraica of wanting to cut important health and human services, and even close Providence hospital, a charge Peraica vehemently denies.

Stroger identifies health care as a main issue of importance to West Side residents.

"Health care is a big issue for people on the West Side," Stroger said.

Although he is from the South Side, Stroger believes "it'll be easy to carry the West Side vote because, "I think our issues on the South Side and the West Side are the same."

Stroger also stands strongly in favor of gun control, specifically banning assault weapons in Cook County.

Peraica insists that his stance on guns is not relevant because county government has no authority over gun ordinances.

Todd was not always the heir apparent to his father. It was long believed that Todd's older brother, Hans, was the son more likely to follow in his father's footsteps. But in 1982, Hans died of an asthma attack at age 22. To this day, Todd remains quiet about a death that

deeply affected him.

Health problems are not foreign to the Stroger family. John Stroger suffered a career-ending stroke March 14 of this year, one week before the Democratic primary. Stroger still won the primary, defeating commissioner Forest Claypool.

Many voters were introduced to Todd Stroger as his family's spokesman when the public was largely stonewalled on his father's medical condition. For three months, he said very little publicly about his father's condition. Finally, in May Stroger said his father would return to office.

On June 30, however, John Stroger resigned, four days after the deadline for independent candidates to declare for election.

Todd insists this was not a political decision on his part, saying, "I don't even know when the independent deadline is. I'm a Democrat." "My hope was by July he'd be in front of cameras."

In July, Democratic leaders slated Todd Stroger to replace his father, ignoring long-time commissioner Bobbi Steele's and Congressman Danny Davis's wishes to be

considered for the position.

Peraica has called Todd's nomination a "monarchical transfer of power from a father to a son who is not qualified and not interested."

Todd admits he "wasn't pushing to be the replacement," but insists he is qualified to be County Board President. Stroger does not think he is unqualified simply because he has benefited from his father's political capital.

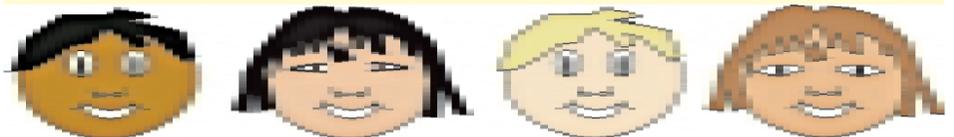
"You'd be hard pressed to find a politician who didn't have someone support them and encourage them to get where they are. Mine just happened to be my father," Stroger said.

Amidst the stress of a campaign, and looking after his father, Todd Stroger is trying to remain positive.

"My family is very strong," Stroger said. "My father has had people trying to beat him down for 25 years. We're used to the criticism by now, we have thick skin."

If he wins, Todd Stroger would be the first son to follow his father as Cook County Board president since Dan Ryan, namesake of the South Side expressway, was elected in 1954.

CHILDCARE SERVICES



FELICIA'S HOME DAYCARE (On 77th & Kedzie) Providing 18hrs. of child care services. Ages 6wks - 12yrs old 6:00am to 12:00 midnight 773-398-6978 Felicia

LITTLE ANGEL'S CHILDCARE (On Roosevelt & Sacramento) Providing 18hrs. of child care services. Ages 6wks - 12yrs old 6:00am to 12:00 midnight 773-592-5134 Ann Dotton

DISCOVER A NEW WAY TO SAVE MONEY You can save money at KidBiz, Inc. where brand name kids clothes are at reasonable prices. Do your kids grow so fast you need the next size, reading level or interest? You'll love the bargains at KidBiz, Inc. ...because kids grow fast... 537 S. Dearborn (between Harrison & Congress) M-F 10-6 * Sat 10-5 * 773.356.9898 9am on Thurs for Shop & Drop

Do You Have A Daycare Center, provide After-School Programs or Offer Childcare Services for Children. If So, Place an Ad In Our Childcare Service Section. For More Information Call 312/492-9090 To Place Your Ad Here!!!



LEARNING FROM NORTH LAWDALE PAST, PRESENT + FUTURE

In partnership with Lawndale Heritage, Neighborhood Housing Services of Chicago, and Chicago Architectural Club

Exhibition on display September 20-November 18 Atrium Gallery at the Chicago Architecture Foundation Open from 9am to 6:30pm Free

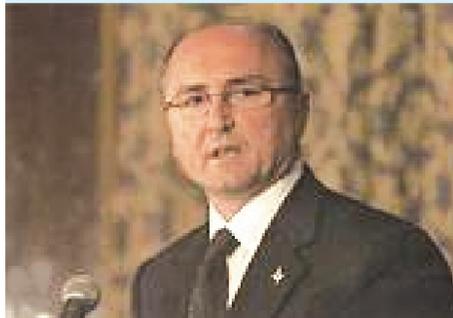
OCTOBER 21: North Lawndale Day FREE tours and events! Learn more: www.architecture.org



Fannie Mae Corporation The Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Homan Arthington Foundation Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Illinois Humanities Council National Endowment for the Arts New England Builders, Inc. Steans Family Foundation

CHICAGO ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION 224 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604 312.922.3432 | www.architecture.org

Peraica from page 3



Republican Candidate for Cook County President, Tony Peraica

1966.

Personal: Tony Peraica Party: Republican Age: 49 Birthplace: Trogir, in what is now Croatia

Residence: Riverside Current position: Cook County Board commissioner

Professional training: Lawyer Married to Nilofar since 1979, has two children, Marko and Anisa. Bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Illinois in Chicago and law degree from John Marshall Law School.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Do You Have an Apartment for Rent, car for sale, property for sale, announcement, legal notice, or employment opportunity?

If so, advertise with us in our classified section. Classifieds are now \$10 (When you advertise for 2 weeks)

If you need to place a classified ad with us please call 312/492-9090

GOVERNOR BLAGOJEVICH DECLARES PUSH FOR MINIMUM WAGE HIKE LEGISLATION

Annual Cost of Living increase would also be tied to the \$1.00 minimum wage boost from \$6.50 to \$7.50 an hour by July 2007



On Saturday, October 28th at 10 S. Kedzie, Governor Rod Blagojevich promised to push for a second minimum wage increase during the November Illinois legislative veto session. Each state has the right to increase its own minimum wage guidelines. In 2003, Blagojevich signed legislation increasing the minimum wage for the State of Illinois from \$5.15 to \$6.50 an hour. That was an increase of \$1.35 per hour.

\$5.15 is the federal minimum wage and has been at that level since 1997, almost ten years.

The significant difference of this increase is that it will be tied to a cost living increase that will be determined by the rate of inflation (the cost of goods and services). Since the last increase in 2004, the consumer price index grew by over 6 percent, so a family that paid rent totaling \$6000 for the entire year in 2003 would now pay \$360 more.

Alderman Ed Smith of the 28th Ward initiated the start of the press conference and introduced all speakers starting with State Senator Jacqueline Collins (Democrat-16th District). She gave mention to the local officials and community leaders that attended and then Ald. Smith introduced Mayor Richard Daley.

"It's important that we stand by his proposal", said Daley. He also stated that it brings economic opportunities to all in the state not just to Chicago. Daley also commented on hopefully changing the federal

minimum wage.

"For the hard working men and women who work for a minimum wage while their wages have gone up in Illinois, so has the cost of living gone up. That's why what we're proposal is so important," said Governor Blagojevich, speaking of the built-in cost of living increase. That means when the cost of heat, gas, electricity, or other goods or services go up the wages of minimum wage employees will go up annually.

For the workers who may be receiving less than the minimum wage currently set at \$6.50 there is already a minimum wage hotline that was setup by Gov. Blagojevich to protect workers who have been cheated by employers out of wages owed to them. It is enforced by the Illinois Department of Labor. The number to call is 1800 478-3998. To listen to the entire press conference go to our website at www.nlcn.org. You can also go to the State of Illinois website for more info. Their press release is at:

<http://www.illinois.gov/PressReleases/PressReleasesListShow.cfm?RecNum=5466>

ON VIDEO

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz



Shawn and Marlon Wayans in Little Man

LITTLE MAN ()** The latest cinematic silliness from the Wayans brothers features Marlon Wayans technically altered to appear as a pint size parole criminal (What! Tony Cox of "Bad Santa" fame wasn't available?) who teams up with dim witted partner-in-crime (Tracey Morgan) for a jewelry heist that includes a particular gem that a mob boss (Chazz Palminteri) wants.

But with the cops tailing the criminals for the jewels, Marlon ditches the gem inside a purse of a married couple in which the husband (Shawn Wayans) desires to have a child from his workaholic wife (Kerry Washington).

The pint size criminal decides to pose as an abandoned infant, in order to infiltrate their house to retrieve the gem. While the film delivers many outrageous and hilarious moments. The film isn't credible enough when the movie tries to warm and sincere. As both men experiences together leads to some life altering results toward what each found was missing in their lives.

Regardless of this sentimentality, this is still the Wayans brothers, who will do anything to get the laugh!

PG-13; 100min. Sony Pictures Home Video; Available: Nov. 7

CARS (*)** The latest animated offering from Pixar is the first one that falters from what they've achieved in recent films. The movie is better designated for older kids, teens and their parents, the story centers around a self centered sports car, Lightning McQueen (Owen Wilson) who gets stranded in a forgotten town whose residents help reshape his perspective and priorities through his first time discoveries of love from Sally

See Video page 12

National City Raises \$1.7 Million Toward Breast Cancer

National City has raised \$1.7 million toward breast cancer. In the October 25 issue of the North Lawndale Community News, front page "Task to Address Breast Cancer" story, a study by Sinai Health System found that receiving fewer and inferior mammograms may be the cause in the rate of African American women dying of breast cancer compared to white women. If black women had the same mortality rate of white women, 80 fewer black women would die each year.

A breast cancer awareness seminar, in partnership with Y-ME National Breast Cancer Organization, will be held on November 2 at National City's Roosevelt-Homan branch, 3340 W. Roosevelt Road, featuring free mammogram sign-ups.



Patrick McGee (gray suit) Branch Manager of National City Bank located at Roosevelt and Homan at Museum of Contemporary Art with staff person

Political from front page

at NLCP.

Mikva Challenge also provided a campaign internship orientation for the students, who then volunteered with the campaign of their choice for one day. The students canvassed their neighborhood, handing out promotional flyers door-to-door.

"I told them if you do campaign work, it'll make what we're doing in the classroom more relevant," Mathew said.

According to Mathew, approximately 15 students went back on their own to work for the campaigns. Peraica's aides approached Bonds and three classmates in their second stint as volunteers about appearing in an ad for the candidate.

"When we were canvassing, [Peraica's staff] said do you mind doing a video just saying we support Tony Peraica."

That's just what they did. The four female students are featured in the ad with Peraica signs in hand saying, "We're supporters of Tony Peraica."

Tupac Shakur's "Changes" is played in the background of the ad, while the screen flashes "Changin' starts with us" and "Support change support Tony Peraica."

When Mathew showed Bonds the finished video entitled, "North Lawndale students 4 Peraica," she described it as "cool."

Although Peraica's opponent, Todd Stroger, is African-American, as are 99 percent of NLCP students, Bonds felt Peraica better understood the needs of her community.

"It don't really matter what race they are,

it's how they deal with the problems," Bonds said. "We're looking for people to help us."

Peraica, a County commissioner from Riverside, has maintained throughout the campaign that he can appeal to black voters.

"This campaign is not about race, it's about reforming county government," said Peraica Spokesperson Eric Kohn. "That message has resounded with all people and that's evident from the support we're receiving from the diverse areas of Cook County."

Elections in Action coordinator, Jeremy Richart, emphasized that Mikva Challenge is non-partisan and that students are free to campaign for any candidate they chose. But Richart is not surprised that a few more students are choosing Peraica, because his campaign is providing opportunities to volunteer in North Lawndale.

"Peraica is making it easier, giving better opportunities for students to campaign because he's doing it in their neighborhood," he said.

Stroger spokesperson Jennifer Koehler said she "thinks it's great that high school students are getting involved in the political process," but did not say whether she was concerned by their support for Peraica.

Mathew is proud of her students' efforts, regardless of which candidate they support.

"It's a great way to learn the different aspects of our democracy and to understand how these people get into these positions of power," she said.

"I think it's exciting to see young people involved in a generation that's seen as

apathetic," said Mathew. "When young people are involved in campaigns, it's going to make politicians more accountable to young people."

Richart is excited to see students overcoming the political disenfranchisement young people face because they are not legally allowed to vote.

"It's been very successful as far as getting students involved in politics," said Richart. "Kids have given me feedback that this is interesting to them and they want to get involved in politics in college. They feel valued for it."

Over 150 students from 15 different high schools are participating in the Mikva Challenge program and working for each major candidate in the Nov. 7 election.

"We try to focus on students and schools in low-income and poorly served communities in the hopes that our programs open the door into politics, and that those students will consider running for office or managing a campaign someday," said Richart.

Bonds is pleased with her first political experience and is now encouraging her friends to join her in future efforts.

"I think other students should get involved in it too," Bonds said. "Some people think that just because you're a teenager you're not important. [Mikva Challenge] is a good opportunity for teens to get involved in politics and this makes teenagers feel [important]."

To view the Peraica ad featuring Bonds visit <http://www.youtube.com/>



North Lawndale students gather at Peraica's campaign headquarters with Peraica aide.

watch?v=PjrRS8MtJUY

Ben Proress graduated from Northwestern University in June 2006 and is working as a staff writer and communications manager at NLCP as part of the Northwestern Public Interest Fellowship. He has worked for CBS 2 Chicago and St. Leonard's Ministries on Chicago's West Side. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Economic Development

Mayor Introduces New Affordable Housing Plan

Wendell Hutson



Mayor Richard M. Daley announces new affordable housing policies at a City Hall news conference. Photo Courtesy of the Chicago Department of Housing

Acknowledging that affordable housing often takes a backseat to expensive housing developments, Mayor Richard M. Daley recently introduced new policies designed to increase affordable housing options in Chicago.

Part of this initiative involves the creation of a task force that will be responsible for finding new ways to keep condo conversions from displacing low-income residents and reducing the amount of rental housing. This task force consists of aldermen, community activists and affordable housing developers.

"Our challenge is to harness private market forces to provide affordable housing," Daley said at an Oct. 10 news conference at The Park, 1225 S. Michigan Ave., which will be the first new rental housing to be built downtown in many years. "We must continue to use the power of economic development to invest in our communities and provide help for people who most need our support."

He added that his new policies will also produce more than 1,000 new units of affordable housing each year.

Since 2003, developers vying for city subsidies have been required to make at least 20 percent of all residential units affordable. The requirement is 10 percent if they want to build on city-subsidized land.

Instead of limiting the affordable housing mandate to city-subsidized projects, Mayor Daley said he wants to broaden the umbrella to include all city land, all plan developments and all zoning changes that increase residential density.

Developments with 10 or more units whose projects fall into those new categories would be required to make at least 10 percent of all units affordable.

The mayor would also ask the City Council to expand the Affordable Requirements Ordinance, which currently requires 20 percent of units to be affordable in residential developments that receive City

financial assistance.

The ordinance would further require that at least 10 percent of the units must be affordable in any developments with 10 or more units that receive any of these forms of assistance.

Ald. Ray Suarez (31st), chairman of the City Council's Committee on Housing and

Real Estate, has been appointed by Mayor Daley to head the task force.

The goal of the task force is to find ways to protect buyers and ensure quality construction, and to recommend a comprehensive condo conversion policy to be implemented next year, Mayor Daley said.

However, 25 aldermen have thrown their support behind a revised affordable housing ordinance sponsored by Ald. Toni Preckwinkle (4th) that requires developers of new and rehabilitated housing to set aside 15 percent of their units for low- and moderate-income buyers.

And Preckwinkle said she's not about to throw in the towel just because Daley has expanded his incentives.

"I'm always grateful when the mayor takes action that will increase the supply of affordable housing. [But] I remain convinced that the set-aside ordinance, which will cover all developments in the city, would result in substantially more units, given the deficit of affordable units in the city [pegged at] 20,000 units in the 2000 census," she said.

Preckwinkle noted that she already has reduced the percentage — from 25 percent to 15 percent — to minimize opposition from developers and attract the 26 votes she needs for passage.

Kevin Jackson of the Chicago Rehab Network, agreed that incentives are not a substitute for mandatory set-asides.

"There are areas in the city that are not going to be able to avail themselves of all of these wonderful programs because they're all private money," he said.

Yet, Mayor Daley said that those types of mandates just don't work.

"They just move someplace else," he said. "I don't believe in mandatory set-asides. People have to pay property taxes."

As part of Daley's plan, the city would

See Housing page 14

Hull House from page 7

director of economic development. "The tech center is a place where all the clients from all the programs can come and learn computer skills. It proves to be a valuable resource for those applying for jobs because they will often find that certain employers only accept applications through the internet."

Hull House and Senior Director of Economic Development, Mariann Chisum-McGill tries to retain many of the clients that come through their programs. They get entry level jobs and work their way up employed by Hull House. Current employees of Hull House that were once part of a Hull House program prove to be an asset when working with new clients.

"Some new clients may be forced to be involved in a program and may not want to be there. "The biggest frustration for us is making the client realize that this is for real," said Chisum-McGill. It can prove to be inspirational when a former client, now an employee, tells people they used to be where they are at the moment. "We believe in hiring people that come through the program. With all my staff alone, 50 percent were clients at one point," said Chisum-McGill.

One such employee is Katrice Harris. "She is one of our shining stars," said Chisum-McGill. Katrice was a former client of the welfare to work program and since has become financially independent and has had huge success in terms helping others. On a monthly basis

over 100 people will come through the tech center where Harris teaches computer skills.

Clients have differing levels of knowledge and Harris is able to help teach the most basic of skills, as well as help clients who have the knowledge, but need the resource for job hunting. "They gave me the opportunity to pick which field I wanted to work in," said Harris. Harris wants to continue working for Hull House and has a goal to one day be in a higher position.

As for Hull House they will continue the mission started by Jane Addams. "Here at Hull House we say we serve from the cradle to the grave because Hull House services infants to senior citizens," said Chisum-McGill.

Jane Addams founded the Hull House in Chicago in 1889. Hull House was one of the first of its kind in the country to provide social services to the poor and underprivileged. Today, Hull House assists 60,000 people through over 47 programs within Chicago.

For more information on the services provided by Hull House contact: 312/850-3183 or e-mail Mariann Chisum-McGill at mmcgill@hullhouse.org

Sophia Karalexis is a graduate in English from DePaul University. Sophia also earned a minor in Journalism. Sophia is a general assignment reporter for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Advertise with the North Lawndale Community News
If you have an Apartment for Rent
Ads are only \$10.00
Call 312 492-9090

B'S AFRICAN HAIR BRAIDING
GRAND OPENING
SPECIAL MICRO BRAIDS & KINKY BRAIDS
BRAIDERS ON DUTY
MICRO BRAIDS FROM \$100 & UP BOB STYLE FROM \$100 CORN ROLLS \$100.00 & UP KINKY TWIST \$180.00
APPOINTMENTS & WALK-INS WELCOME OPEN 7 DAYS/WK 8:00AM - 6:00PM
 5620 W. Division - Central & Parkside (773) 626-9007
773-626-9007

Ready to Sell, Buy a Home or Investment Property
Let my Knowledge and Dedication of 10 Years in Real Estate Business Assist You!
"Don't Make A Move Without Me"

Lorene Gunter
Realtor Associate

BUY OR LIST WITH US AND USE OUR MOVING TRUCK FREE

HUNTER'S REALTY, INC.
"A Service Company Serving All Your Real Estate Needs"

6547 W. North Ave. Oak Park, IL 60302
 Phone: 708/628-2900 Ext. 12
 Fax: 708/628-2910
 www.HR11.com

Historic Realty, Inc.

- Property Sales
- Rental Service
- Buyer Agency
- Property Management

Michael Ramstedt
 Broker/Owner

Let my 19 years experience living and working in the near west side & west side help you with all of your real estate needs.

Whether you are looking to **buy, sell** or **rent** property, I can help you achieve your goals.

I believe that all of my clients deserve personalized service and the best real estate experience that I can provide!

We have years experience representing investors and have a long list of buyers . . . Let me help you sell your property at the best price possible!!!!

SEARCH PROPERTIES
 GO TO www.historic-realty.com
 CLICK ON "Dreamseekers"

Serving the Greater West Side 2341 W. Taylor St. • 312-243-4033

ILLINOIS RECEIVES FUNDS TO FIGHT LEAD POISONING

Wendell Hutson

After months of lobbying, Gov. Rod Blagojevich and groups of concerned activists have secured federal funds to use in combating in-home safety hazards like lead-based paint.

Alphonso Jackson, secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) said Chicago will share a \$118 million federal grant with other Illinois communities, public health organizations and scientific research institutions.

In addition, HUD is making another \$39 million in funding available to clean up lead hazards in communities with the greatest need, specifically cities with a high incidence of lead poisoning and older homes.

To facilitate the greatest number of applicants for these grants, HUD will be aggressively promoting the Department's *Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant Program* to mayors and other county officials across the state.

"Today, we take another step closer toward ending childhood lead poisoning and making our homes safer and healthier places in which to raise our children," said Jackson. "While we've made great progress in reducing lead poisoning, we cannot rest until we banish this preventable disease to the history books."

HUD grants will help 63 state and local projects around the country to conduct a wide

range of activities, including cleaning up lead-based paint hazards and improving the living conditions of lower-income families. Through seven grant programs, HUD's *Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control* promotes local efforts to eliminate dangerous lead and other hazards from lower income homes, stimulates private sector investment in lead hazard control, educates the public about the dangers of lead-based paint and supports scientific research into innovative methods for identifying and eliminating health hazards in housing.

The **Cook County Department of Health** will receive \$760,259 to address multiple housing-related childhood illnesses and injuries in south suburban Harvey, Riverdale and Robbins.

The Health Department has established partnerships with organizations like the American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago, the University of Illinois at Chicago and many other local agencies to help identify the best way to allocate these funds.

On the West Side, the University of Illinois at Chicago will be awarded \$848,500 to characterize lead dust emissions from scattered site single-family housing demolition and evaluate means to control these emissions. This project will help professionals identify practical ways to

reduce and eliminate lead dust dispersion from demolition of older housing, according to UIC officials.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Environment (EPA) recently cited four Chicago-area landlords for violating the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Act of 1992. As a result, each landlord was fined for the violations and agreed to clean up the lead-based paint in their units.

The lead disclosure rule requires that landlords and sellers of housing constructed prior to 1978 provide each purchaser or tenant with a lead hazard information pamphlet, any information and/or reports concerning lead-based paint hazards in the property and a Lead Warning Statement to be signed by the parties. Sellers are required to provide purchasers with an opportunity to conduct a lead-based paint evaluation.

Harpoon Partnership in Chicago was fined \$56,980 for 45 violations in nine apartment units, Meljenko Protega in Crete was fined \$102,410 for 92 violations in 19 apartment units, Josip Tudor in Calumet City was fined \$154,440 for 106 violations in 21 apartment units and Henry Maglio in Lansing was fined \$83,380 for 130 violations in 26 apartment units.

In 2001, Chicago-based Wolin-Levin Inc., Hyde Park Realty Co., East Lake Management and Development Corp., and west suburban Oak Park Real Estate Inc. were also fined by the EPA for lead-based paint violations in their apartment buildings.

Phyllis Reed, chief of the regional Pesticides and Toxics Branch for the EPA, said more enforcement is needed to ensure the public's safety.

"By carrying out these enforcement actions, the EPA is restating that protecting children's health from lead-based paint exposure is one of our highest priorities,"

Reed said. "To this end we will vigorously pursue compliance with this rule."

Federal housing officials add that the stiff fines are meant to serve as a wake up call to landlords who rent out unsafe units.

"This should send a message to all landlords that they have a responsibility to warn their tenants of potentially dangerous lead," said Dr. David Jacobs, director for HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control. "There can be no greater priority than protecting the health and safety of children."

Lead exposure causes reduced IQ, learning disabilities, developmental delays, reduced height, poor hearing and a host of other health problems in young children. Many of these effects are thought to be irreversible.

At higher levels, lead can damage a child's kidneys and central nervous system and cause anemia, coma, convulsions and even death. Nearly one million of the nation's 22 million children under the age of six have blood lead levels high enough to impair their ability to think, concentrate and learn.

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, more than 15,000 children under the age of six were diagnosed with lead poisoning in 2000.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports childhood lead poisoning remains one of the most widespread childhood diseases.

For example, in areas with older housing occupied by low-income families, the CDC reports that 27 percent of all children are still poisoned by lead. While average blood lead levels have declined over the past decade, one in six low-income children living in older housing suffers from lead poisoning.

Wendell Hutson is a freelance writer for NLCN and various publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

The Digital Development Corporation Brings New Ideas to the Community

Kenya Nalls

The Digital Development Corporation and Oversight Committee (DDCOC) held a grand opening for their new technology revitalization program on Chicago's West Side. The event took place at Allison United Foundation for Better Living, 4540 W. Washington Blvd., on October 21.

The new program provides technology training to first time criminal offenders who choose to enroll in boot camp instead of pleading their case in court.

"We give kids [who are] small first time offenders an option to go to prison or boot camp to do a certain amount of months of probation where they learn more about computers," said Lowry Taylor, CEO of the DDCOC.

"The boot camp is a four month rigorous military style training that will hopefully teach the kids some discipline," said Taylor.

For the last 45 days of the program, the students then start with the technology side where they separate the electronics gear, take the computers apart and then put them back together. The next phase of the program is going back into the classroom to teach the students the basics of the computers.

The students then receive a certificate of completion and three hours of college course credit. After that the students have the opportunity to continue their education in city colleges or they can stay with the program and be set up with Malcolm X College.

"Once they come here we give them a certificate, and then they get more detailed in the computers area," said Taylor. "The students then start working for [non-profit agencies] and churches. After we do all that, we start getting case management for job placement, which makes it easier for them," he said.

The students believe the program is beneficial to them, helping in continuing their education after they have completed the program.

"Technology is taking over slowly so we need to know more about computers. It was a good program that opens up more doors for us," said Lawrence Murphy, recent graduate.

"Because we are convicts it is harder for us. This program is making it easier for us to enter society with us registering to go to city colleges," Murphy said.

Another recent graduate, Norris McDonald did not know much about computers so the program helped him learn more about important technology.

"I plan to take this program further because now that I have my foot in the door and the opportunities are there for me, I'm going to take it and run with it," said McDonald.

The DDCOC works with first time criminal offenders in order to help them overcome their lack of job experiences and skills. The organization focuses on technology training to bridge the racial and economic gap in computers access, a phenomenon known as the digital divide.

The Digital Divide is a social-political crisis referring to the socio economic gap between communities that have access to computers and the Internet and those who do not.

The DDCOC plans to keep their partnership with the Allison Foundation Outreach Ministry to provide mentoring for the entire community. The Allison Foundation will provide job development and case management, while the DDCOC will teach how to repair and build computers.

The goal for this project is to produce 36 certified technicians by the end of the year.

"We're working with the boot camp to bring in more people," said Taylor. "We want to change their world and follow up on our goals so they will not return back to jail or prison."

Kenya Nalls is a general assignment reporter for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Business Cards

Quantity	Black & White	Spot Color	Full Color
250	\$15	\$25	\$40
500	\$25	\$35	\$60
1000	\$35	\$50	\$75

You Need Them, We Make Them!!*

The North Lawndale Community News

1211 S. Western Suite 203 - Chicago, IL. 60608

(*Bring in your old card or we will design you a new one for free.)

You can call at: 312/492-9090

You can Fax us at: 312/492-7162

COME IN AND TALK TO SOMEONE IN PERSON.

Attract More CLIENTS or CUSTOMERS! ADVERTISE in the North Lawndale Community News FOR RATES: CALL 312.492.9090

Entertainment & Sports

AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



Spike (voiced by Andy Serkis), Whitey (voiced by Bill Nighy), Le Frog (voiced by Jean Reno) and Toad (voiced by Ian McKellen) are after Roddy (voiced by Hugh Jackman) and Rita (voiced by Kate Winslet) in DreamWorks Animation's *Flushed Away*

FLUSHED AWAY (1/2)** Continuing the pace of the most animated features released in one year. "Flushed Away" offers the collaborative talents and efforts of claymation meets computer generated animation along with the droll British humor offset by the fast paced, pop culture reference American humor that results into an amusing yet unfulfilling escapade from Aardman Features and DreamWorks Animation, who

separately gave us "Shrek" and "Wallace and Gromit"

The trouble begins from misleading the audience on its initial story premise that suggests a rich-living pet mouse and a poor sewer rat switches lives to find humor and moral lessons in their alternative worlds

that resembles an animated counterpart to Eddie Murphy and Dan Aykroyd in their 1983 hit comedy, "Trading Places".

But somehow this notion gets thrown out here, leading the viewer left with not much of what was anticipated in "Flushed Away". The adventures, lessons and humor come more at the expense of the well groomed and proper pet mouse, Roddy St. James (voice by Hugh Jackman) who is allowed to take over the spotless and ritzy Kensington apartment.

While his rich humans take off on a family vacation. Roddy literally has the run of the house watching the semi-finals of the World Cup soccer games. Until his peace and freedom are disrupted and invaded by a street savvy sewer rat, Sid (Shane Richie) who bubbles up from the kitchen sink.

Roddy tries to get rid of the intruder by

tricking him. Instead, Sid makes Roddy fall into the toilet bowl intended for him. Where Roddy gets flushed down into an underground world through the sewers into a ghetto-like metropolis populated by rats, frogs, maggots and slugs.

Still, though all its shortcomings of its story, "Flushed Away" remains very funny throughout due to its clever amusing dialogue that seems to offer the right balance between the British wry humor to the American sight gags and pop culture references.

This is an animated feature that is little more for the adults, but without ignoring the kids who will find some things to be amused with here. But the movie doesn't have enough that will stick with its audience throughout.

PG; 83min. A DreamWorks SKG Picture release-Distributed by Paramount Pictures

BORAT: CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF AMERICA FOR MAKE BENEFIT GLORIOUS NATION OF KAZAKHSTAN (1/2)** Yes, that is the entire title to this outrageously funny documentary spoofing a third world television journalist's cross-country trip and naïve impressions of America. British comedian

Sacha Baron Cohen puts aside his Da Ali G persona from his HBO series for another equally popular characterization that is clearly Cohen's best.

Always in character, retaining his sweet innocence, even in the most extreme and real situations; Cohen plays the inquisitive yet dimwitted Kazakhstani TV correspondent, Borat Sagdiyev who gleefully introduces us to his rural homeland poverty with real-life Kazaks. Picking out a male villager as "the town's rapist", passionately tongue-kissing a peasant girl and remarking that "she is my sister! The fourth best prostitute in the country!"

Borat convinces his prime minister to grant limited funding for him and his obese producer, Azamat Bagatov (Ken Davitian) to travel out of his country to New York to interview real people about American lifestyles and customs for a series of TV reports.

While TV's "Seinfeld" director Larry Charles (who replaced Todd Phillips half way during the film's production) and editor Craig

See Flicks page 14

THE PURE SOUND OF MUSIC

Demetrius Aaron Porter

If you took a second out of your busy day and just for one minute placed your right hand over your heart what do you feel? And, if you had a stethoscope and placed over your heart what do you hear? You can feel and hear music the universal language that is translated through something called sound.

Tom Jenkins owner of Perfect Cure, Sound Services Corporation, located on the west side of Chicago at 3022 West Madison, since 1997 has become somewhat of a crusader for music and sound by perfecting the music of starving artists and giving them a chance to rehearse their acts. In addition to owning Perfect Cure, Jenkins works at Poly Cleaners, which is the down the street from his studio.

Jenkins started playing the drums in 1974 at John Marshall High school, on Chicago's west side, in the school's band taught by legendary music teacher Mr. O'Bannon. Then from there Jenkins formed his own group in 1976 entitled "Perfect Cure" leading him to go into the studio to record music that influenced him to become a sound engineer.

A medium such as music created by instruments such as a keyboard, drums, piano, guitar, and other instruments that create a sound of harmony and melody that can "sooth the savage breast;" therefore, it's essential that a sound person like Tom Jenkins clarify music by amplifying each instrument so that the individual listening can

experience a song on a more personal level.

"My mission is to "help young guys accomplished something else besides being on the street corners," Jenkins said. "I want get to the "big picture" by working with artists such as the beautiful Janet Jackson and by being the number one sound company in Chicago."

Mr. Jenkins has done music in Atlanta, Detroit, Saint Louis, Arkansas, and Virginia. And, he has worked with head lines such as the "crunk" Lil Jon and the East Side Boyz, the controversial Ja Rule, and the "whispering" Ying Yang Twins. In addition, he has been working with recording group Risque, for the last 12 years that you can hear on WGCI and other Chicago radio station, who has been recently signed by Atlantic Records.

Some of the services that Mr. Jenkins studio provide are rehearsal space, professional sounds, stage lighting, Dj's, and other services. Another service Mr. Jenkins provides and probably the most important service is giving artists the chance to perfect their craft by making their sounds sound professional enough that music goers can enjoy the everlasting effect that music has to the human ear.

Demetrius A. Porter is a North Lawndale resident. Demetrius graduated from Marshall High School and Robert Morris College with an A.A.S. in Legal Office Assistant. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

alter the ordeal by inviting the estranged grandfather (Garry Marshall) to attend -two weeks before the event.

This conjures up ill feelings from Piven toward Marshall's character for his absence during his childhood. Meanwhile, the grandfather helps Benjamin understand a written passage that he must recite during the ceremony. A funny and heartwarming first film from director Scott Marshall that is also occasionally enlightens through its humor within this dysfunctional family situation.

Coming Soon to Home Video: Disney's "direct-to-video" release, "Cinderella II: A Twist in Time" arrives Feb. 6, 2007; The Platinum edition of Disney's animated classic, "Peter Pan" due March 6, 2007.

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

Sports Roundup

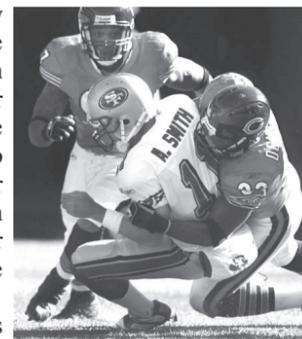
Todd Thomas

The wait is now officially over and the concern that the Chicago Bears were suddenly on the wane after their uncharacteristic performance against the Arizona Cardinals two weeks ago can be put to rest after the Bears routed the San Francisco 49ers 41-10 at Soldier Field to improve to 7-0 on the season.

The tone for this game was set early on when the special teams caused a 49er fumble and Thomas Jones responded with a nifty touchdown run from 7-yards out. Then it didn't take long for the defense to start their usual derailment the opponent by creating turnovers and havoc to the best of their ability. They began by stripping 49er ball carriers causing fumbles, tipped a ball for an interception and then a sack. Chicago's offense responded to each 49er turnover with scores and San Francisco was done for the day. The Niners trailed 24-0 after one quarter. A record for points scored by a Bear team in one quarter.

The offense was on fire and quarterback Rex Grossman was on top of his game. He threw for 232 yards and three TD's with no turnovers. Running Back Thomas Jones ran very effectively and rushed for 111 yards on 23 carries. And the wide receivers and tight ends came up with big catches and touchdowns. Muhsin Muhammad had five grabs and a touchdown and tight end Desmond Clarke had eight grabs and two scores. Muhammad showed again why he is such a special receiver when he deftly caught several balls with his hands that many other receivers would have dropped. He has a rare ability to catch poorly thrown balls and to hold onto the ball when he is hit. He will have a big impact on the Bears' fortunes this season.

Game Ball - The game ball goes to Rex Grossman for his near flawless leadership of the Bear offense. He handled the team well in running and passing situations and he avoided any costly mistakes. He mixed things up by throwing to several different receivers and using running backs Thomas Jones and Cedric Benson. Grossman's an



Chicago Bears defensive end Adewale Ogunleye sacks San Francisco 49er quarterback Alex Smith as Bears defensive end Mark Anderson looks on.

excellent passer and the team seems to have all-important confidence his leadership.

The one down side of the great afternoon was seeing fallen safety Mike Brown on the sidelines on crutches. He is definitely done for the year and it's hard to accept that he won't be on the field again to enjoy his teammates awesome defensive exploits.

Up next for the Bears are the Miami Dolphins on Sunday, Nov 5. The Dolphins are 1-5 and have not played well. They will be hard pressed to make a dent in the Chicago Bear armor when the come into Soldier Field.

The Chicago Bulls begin their 2006 season on Oct 31. Against the Miami Heat. They play LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers a week later on Nov. 9. The Bulls might sneak up on some people this year and challenge for one of the best records in the East.

Locally - The Collins Cobras are out of playoff competition after losing to Hyde Park in the Chicago Great Lakes Conference quarterfinal playoff game.

Collins had a good season and several players were named to the All-Conference team: Sean Fletcher, Jeffrey Smith, Cordario Walker, and Jimmy Williams.

The North Lawndale Prep girls volleyball team was also eliminated from playoff competition when they were defeated by Walther Lutheran High School in regional play.

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

Video fom page 9

(Bonnie Hunt), a hot attorney Porsche car, and friendship from a country bumpkin tow truck, Mater (Larry The Cable Guy) and responsibility from the town's judge, Doc Hudson (Paul Newman) with a secret racing past. Another visually stunning achievement, but the story and situations might be too personal and not spirited enough for younger viewers. G; 116min. Walt Disney Home Video; Available: Nov. 7

KEEPING UP WITH THE STEINS (*)** Being Jewish for a kid can certainly have its complication in this entertaining "coming of age and terms" comedy. Jeremy Piven and Jami Gertz as a theatrical agent and his wife plan an elaborate bar Mitzvah celebration for their reluctant son, Benjamin (Daryl Samara of "Spy Kids" fame) who seeks to prolong and

OUR STAND
WHEN YOU INSURE MORE, YOU SHOULD
PAY LESS.

Call me today to see how you can save when you combine your home & auto policies.
(708) 338-1100


SABRINA WINSTON-GOUGIS
1401 S 5TH AVE
MAYWOOD, IL 60153
a030846@allstate.com


Allstate.
You're in good hands.

Call or stop by for a free quote
Discount and insurance offered only with select companies and subject to availability and qualifications. Discount amount may be lower. Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company and Allstate Indemnity Company, Northbrook, IL. ©2006 Allstate Insurance Company.

RAPPER MAKING MUSIC WITH A MEANING

Todd Thomas



Robert "SauL" Farmby in front of his high school alma mater.

Hip-Hop music has been attacked often recently because of its use of violence in songs and videos. The use of graphic imagery and the glorification of some of the criminal elements of inner-city living might seem like a sure way to quickly sell a few thousand records but there is another avenue to becoming a successful rapper and Robert "SauL" Farmby, a 1998 graduate of Marshall High School, is trying to carve a niche in the rap game by glorifying education.

Farmby, who goes by the rap moniker SauL, attended community colleges in the Chicago area after graduating from Marshall Academy. His experiences in higher learning at Harold Washington College and Olive Harvey College prompted him to write and record his first single "Community College." These institutions are located all over the city

of Chicago but many young people don't take advantage of them in Farmby's opinion.

"On the West Side Malcolm X College is right there but people get caught up in the other side of things because Rockwell Gardens is also there. It's kind of like they were in-between the road getting hit on both sides," Farmby said about the proximity of the college to the projects. "I guess it's best to get hit on both sides than one side, especially if you're out there in the streets. At least you can get a visual of it."

In the lyrics of the single "Community College" Farmby gives shout-outs to all of the colleges around the city and he even gives mention to Southern Illinois University and the online college The University of Phoenix, but the most interesting shout-out on the track is from none other than President George W. Bush. The song actually opens with an audio clip of him championing the cause of community colleges:

There are jobs available in America
The thing we've got to do is be able
To match the worker with the job
And a great place to do so is the
Community College - Bush said.

Many rappers have chastised Bush for his insensitivity toward black people, but Farmby says he has no problem with using Bush's comment about community colleges in his

music.

"I heard George Bush speaking about community colleges. What better intro could I have for the song?" Farmby said. "He's hated by a lot of people and he's loved by a lot of people, and some people are undecided about him. But it's still an inspiration coming from the president - It's good to know to know that he recognizes community colleges," Farmby said.

Farmby's been rapping since around the year 2000 and he's also been writing R&B and gospel music. He is dedicated to the church and did his first performances there.

"My first shows were in my church and at different churches in Chicago doing gospel rap and spiritual rap," Farmby said. I grew up with a Christian background so it's already in my nature. I'm just using my talent to actually shed light on what I had knowledge of, and I have knowledge of the Bible."

Farmby's music is a creative use of hip-hop to make a strong presentation for the community colleges. Listening to him read off the impressive list of them in the song is a strong reminder that access to college-level coursework is available in the area.

He will be performing at the New Promise Baptist Church on Nov. 5. The church is located at Roosevelt & Central Park.

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

773-638-5582

Coffee
Smoothies
Herbal Teas
Fresh Fruit
Fresh Baked Pastry
Breakfast Sandwiches
And more...

Catering...
Banquets
Birthdays
Meetings
Weddings
Special Events Etc.

Westside Coffee Express

Wireless Internet "Cafe"

314 N. Pulaski
Chicago, Illinois 60624
773-638-5582
Fax: 773-638-5588
westsidecoffeeexpress@yahoo.com

Delivery
Internet Access
Rental space for meetings

LUNCH SPECIAL ON FRIDAYS

AN INTERVIEW WITH JESSE WHITE, SECRETARY OF STATE

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

"Winning is for me; losing is for someone else," said Jesse White, Secretary of State.

This rings as true today as it did when he ran for his first office in 1994. White is a sportsman, former professional baseball player, former paratrooper of the 101st Airborne Division, US veteran, advocate for literacy, and the founder of the Jesse White Tumbling Team.

Recently, in an exclusive interview with NLCN, he told us his opinion of the Iraq war, capital punishment, sports and school, and spoke a little about the famous Tumblers.

NLCN: What is your position on the war in Iraq?

White: I'm a military guy, love my military, love my country, but I think right now it's a waste of meaningful resources in terms of loss of life. Not only loss of life, but also for those people who struggle to readjust to civilian life.

NLCN: Would you consider running for

president?

White: No.

NLCN: Did you say you are for capital punishment?

White: Yes. Here in Illinois it costs the taxpayers between \$16,000 and \$68,000 to put one person in prison for a year. This is hard to justify when we have problems trying to provide \$7,000 to \$8,000 a year to educate a child.

NLCN: You said at a literacy ceremony that you maintained a C average in school so that you could participate in sports.

White: Yes. While in high school, I was encouraged to try out for the basketball team, the baseball team, and the drum corps; I ended up becoming the captain of the basketball team in a school that was predominantly white. I won a scholarship to Alabama State College in Montgomery, Alabama. I became an all-conference basketball and baseball player, and a Hall-of-Famer.

NLCN: And the Jesse White Tumblers. How does a person become a Tumbler?

White: Auditions are in September and January. Six years old to high school age. They have to be able to come to our tryout location with their report card and have at least a C average. They have to be able to do a backward roll, forward roll, cartwheel, round off, flip-flop, then we refine the rest.

NLCN: What if the kids can't keep their grades up?

White: We have teachers that help the kids with their homework. They can continue to train but can't perform with the team until their grades are back up to par.

NLCN: What if they get in trouble with the law?

White: We have had over 10,600 young people, and in our last count, only 96 have gotten themselves in trouble.

NLCN: What do you want the public to know that they might not know?

White: I am a member of an emergency

fund where we distribute hundreds of thousands of dollars to the citizens of the state of Illinois: for kids who need clothes and shoes for school; for people successful in getting a job but need car fare and lunch money, or work clothes; for those that have had their electricity or gas shut off; for pharmaceuticals. We provide 5,000 toys for needy families and over 10,500 hams and turkeys every Christmas.

The Secretary of State's office has many helpful departments. One of those is the Court of Claims. If you are a victim of crime, you may qualify for up to \$27,000 in assistance (for example, lost wages because of an injury or an attack). If you do not have any other resources, you may file a claim with us by calling (312) 814-5010.

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

NTRC OFFERS TRAINING AND LOW-COST COMPUTERS

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

The Neighborhood Technology Resource Center (NTRC) West

Town location at 1170 W. Erie is opening its doors again to adults who want to learn basic computer skills whether for personal enrichment or whether to become prepared for the job market.

NTRC provides free computer training in an effort to bridge the digital divide and improve computer literacy in the community. Every Monday NTRC provides job training for adults, which includes job-hunting online, and help with preparing decent resumes. Every other Friday NTRC will provide training in some type of computer program such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint.

"We're trying to get everybody Internet savvy," said Jasmine McCoy, Site Coordinator. "Now, everybody wants you to email your resume, or look them up online."

There is an NTRC site in North Lawndale at 3517 W. Arthington. The cost per class is \$12. The classes at the West Town site are free.

McCoy said it is easy to learn basic computer skills today. "Every year technology gets easier and easier and more friendlier," she said. "Usually things are point and click. They use a lot of icons and pictures. Computers are nothing like they were twenty years ago where you had to remember all the commands. Usually when we sit someone down here to teach them, after a couple of days they have learned well enough to be on their own."

People come to the site to learn how to use the computers and programs not only to look for employment, said McCoy, but some come for personal reasons. Some want to learn how to create holiday cards, business cards or fliers thru computer software called Publisher. Some come to obtain a free email

address, pay bills online, or maybe find out about a refund.

Thru NTRC, students are also eligible to obtain computers for as low as \$150. They can buy a computer plus accessories including a color inkjet printer and 1-year warranty for \$257.

"It's worth the money and the travel time to come here and be able to use the internet for free and take care of your business, look for jobs, print out a free resumes, and learn some new skills," said McCoy. "There are places where it costs 20 cent a minute to go online."

Adults are able to work on the computers from 10 am until 2:30 Monday thru Friday. "Technology is changing everyday. Get started right now so you won't be left behind."

NTRC is a nonprofit organization and has served underserved communities since the year 2000. For more information contact Jasmine McCoy at 312-633-9057 or visit

www.ntrconline.com.

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

Visit Our Weblog
at www.nlcn.org
to comment on
these and other
articles from our
newspaper

The Financial Corner

Constanza Williams

"The only constant is change." *India Arie*
Financial management is too much work! Save for this; pay that. Invest in this; spend for that. What is all this for anyway? I just want a nice wife/husband, a split-level home, a couple of kids and a happily ever-after story. Is that too much to ask for?

No, it is not. However, anything worth having is worth the time it takes to obtain. The reality is that success in anything, be it marriage, child rearing, home ownership, education or retirement, takes effort, planning and time. This can take up quite a bit of your time. So the first decision to make is why are you or why should you be managing your money?

The destructive part of the contemporary welfare system is that it is an incentive not to work. The concept of welfare is not wrong but rather the way it has been used. The system promotes non-productivity. And in doing so, the recipients of welfare become dependent on the very system created as a stepping-stone to bigger and better dreams. For some, the dream is continual welfare support. Work is the best way out of poverty and into financial strength.

For many of us, we have learned to "make a dollar out of fifteen cents". We have been taught to work and stretch our money for financial survival. We now must learn and

apply a new concept: saving. It does not matter how little you earn. You should start saving a portion of your income. Learning to pay yourself is key to financial success.

Making your money work for you is the goal of saving and investing. However, investing is about more than just making money. It is to help reach the goals and dreams for you and your family. Although my dreams are simple, they require planning and funds. Investing helps me to accomplish my goals, because even when I am not working, my money is. So when I don't feel like managing my money or when I am too tired to be bothered about my spending habits, I just stop and think about what I am trying to accomplish. This helps to put my time, priorities and choices into perspective.

Five steps to financial control

It works like this:

- Start a spending plan. You decide how much to spend based on the reality of your bank balance.

Budgets can be tricky. You can begin your financial plan today by answering these few questions:

- Do you have an emergency an emergency cash fund?

- Are you properly insured in all areas?

- Do you have a defined investment strategy?

- Are you using tax-deferred opportunities to fund your retirement?

- Do you have a will and an estate plan?

Most answers to these questions will be no. That's O.K. Now you can begin your financial planning process. You can start by creating a budget to help you accomplish your financial goals. Many people have created a budget. Unfortunately, very few stick with a budget. But how you spend your money is the real indicator of how well your budget (plan) is working. The task of keeping your committed expenses to 60% of your gross income is challenging. But this plan will get and keep you saving. Set up separate accounts for saving.

CUT UP YOUR CREDIT CARDS.

The First Law of Money Dynamics states that if you have plastic you will use plastic. At the very least, stop carrying anything but a debit card and leave the credit cards at home. Pay for it now or learn to say no to yourself. Cash management involves cash flow, building a liquidity fund, effective positioning of your available cash, and building your net worth.

Get real. I see people making the same mistake over and over: They believe their money problems will be solved by someone or something else, somewhere down the line. So let's get one thing straight: You're not going to win the lottery or marry the Sultan

of Brunei. Get over it.

Make saving automatic. Only savers save. If you're not a saver, raise your hand — now use it to pick up the phone and arrange for automatic transfer forms to be express-mailed to your home or office, so that 10% is transferred to your new short-term savings account every single paycheck or month. If you can't manage 10%, start with 5% and build up to it. Then get a copy of David Bach's "The Automatic Millionaire." It's a great book.

Are you willing to change? Regardless of your income, you can take control of your financial situation today! Various key principles of financial management are:

1. Making informed decisions.
2. Understanding our financial attitude.
3. Transforming our financial attitude.
4. Learning self-control, self-discipline and self-sufficiency.
5. Spending responsibly.
6. Planning and budgeting our resources.
7. Improving our finances and character through our work.

Constanza Williams is a Financial Consultant with CW Accounting and Consulting Services. She provides financial advisory services and risk management to individuals and small businesses. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.

Flicks from page 12



Sacha Baron Cohen in Borat

Alpert do a solid job of keeping the film tight and the laughs coming that along with Cohen's sense of comedic timing makes "Borat", the most funniest comedy of the season that you'll laugh at with such disbelief that you'll have to see this movie more than once. R; 82min. A 20th Century Fox Pictures release — presented at selected theaters

BABEL (*)** The gift of an old Winchester rifle and its accidental usage helps set off an interesting and provocative chain of events and circumstances that has its effects on both children and adults alike in these varied but interwoven stories that makes for the final chapter of this cinematic

yet human folly trilogy from director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu and writer Guillermo Arriaga that started with "Amores Perros" and continued with the widely acclaimed, "21 Grams".

Such as in a prior scene, a Hispanic maid, Amelia (Adriana Barraza) is ordered by her employers, an upscale married couple vacationing out of the country, to take extended time to care for their two children (Elle Fanning and Nathan Gamble) until they return.

But Amelia has a prior commitment to attend a family wedding across the border. With no else to call while trying to protect her job from her illegal alien status, Amelia decides to take the children with her to the festivities.

They are all driven by her relative, Santiago (Gael Garcia Bernal) who along with others subject the children's "innocent eyes" to a sometimes harsh and colorful rural ethnic lifestyle and traditions.

These are pivotal, stand-out moments that galvanize this movie and characterizes the woeful nature of these people caught in crisis and conflicts that that makes "Babel", the kind of riveting movie experience that still fascinates.



Cate Blanchett and Brad Pitt in Paramount Classics' Babel

But somehow this movie comes off feeling more like an international version of "Crash". Because of how these adults and children's lives seem to run into each other at times. It's kind of unfortunate because it takes some of the original spark away this makes "Babel" fall short of its intended goals as compared to what was achieved in its previous cinematic chapters.

R; 142 min. A Paramount Vantage Picture Release — presented at selected theaters

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

NOV 1 BLACK FACTS

John H. Johnson,
Founder of
Ebony Magazine



* On this date in 1945, John H. Johnson published the first issue of *Ebony* magazine. The first issue sold 25,000 copies. In 1942, Johnson also launched his first publication: *The Negro Digest* on November 1.

* On this date in 1995, Black South Africans voted in the first all-race local government elections in the nation's history. The election signaled the end of apartheid rule in South Africa.

* On this date in 1890, the state of Mississippi passed legislation denying African-Americans the right to vote. The Mississippi Plan used literacy and other tests to disenfranchise Blacks.

* On this date in 1910, W.E.B. DuBois published the first issue of the NAACP monthly magazine: *The Crisis*.

YMCA from page 6

population with half of it's' people below the poverty level. North Lawndale's average household income is \$12,570. The U.S average household income is \$29,000. Of Chicago's 77 communities, North Lawndale residents rank amongst the neediest.

According to Claude Ansen of Power Economics, in order for a community to have economic power, there must first be a community. In the average community the dollar changes hands twelve times before it leaves the community, however, the dollar leaves the North Lawndale community after one change of hand.

According to Mr. Ansen, in order for a community to achieve economic empowerment there has to be reinforcement from businesses within the community. Where there is poverty and employment (27.3 percent in North Lawndale) crime and violence are always higher.

YWCA programs are available and can be accessed by calling 773-265-9500.

Calvin Crayton is community resident and writer on spiritual matters. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.

Teaching from page 5

get experience because I know this is one of the most challenging school systems in the country," Hammer said. "It's been very challenging and exhausting, but absolutely never boring." The 23-year-old Humboldt Park resident said breaking down the barriers with each child can make a difference.

"There's a lot of work to be done. It's sort of overwhelming," Hammer said. "I'm giving my life to what I believe in right now and not a lot of people get a chance to do that in their lives." Chicago Public Schools began accepting applications for the 2007-08 school year last week.

For more information go to www.chicagoteachingfellows.org.

Colleen Freyvogel is NLCN's education reporter and is a graduate student at the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism.

Housing from page 10

commit \$40 million in new money to develop new affordable rental housing and expand rental assistance for families, seniors and people with special needs. The Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund would also provide rental subsidies to 4,000 very-low-income renters, double the number who are helped today, added Mayor Daley.

The \$5.7 billion budget for 2007 will allow the city to do a lot more for Chicagoans, especially when it comes to housing, Mayor Daley said. It calls for a new Foreclosure Prevention Call Center at 311 to help people who are having difficulty paying their rent or mortgage. The new budget also will expand its home buying programs to assist nearly 200 police officers, fire fighters, paramedics and school teachers. Another \$2.4 million in Skyway funding will be invested in the Plan to End Homelessness, while an additional \$600,000 will be invested in services to help individuals and families remain in permanent housing.

Starting next year, the Chicago Housing Department will also access more than \$400 million to support 12,000 units of affordable housing. This includes \$150 million in tax-exempt bonding authority to support first-time home buyer programs.

"This budget offers the new steps we'll take to help secure Chicago's future for everyone, especially those who most need our support," he said. "It lays out how we'll make Chicago even better and give people a greater chance to achieve their aspirations in life."

He added that organized labor is a much needed partner in the city's effort to improve housing opportunities and plans to work more closely with them.

"By continuing to work with developers and our community-based partners, we will help Chicago's working families achieve the dream of home ownership and provide assistance to those who need it most," added Mayor Daley.

Wendell Hutson is a freelance writer for NLCN and various publications. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlc.org.

THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS' CLASSIFIED MARKETPLACE

DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO BUY, SELL, TRADE, RENT OR ANNOUNCE? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT OR LOOKING TO HIRE? YOU CAN DO IT HERE IN THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS
CALL 312/492-9090 TO PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD!

APARTMENTS

NICE 3 BEDROOM CONDO Close to I-290 and Blue Line Central Air, Storage, Washer, Dryer in unit Near shopping, movies, park. \$1,050 mo. Call: 815/713-6869

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Governor Blagojevich announces Winter heating assistance Grants available tomorrow, urges eligible households to apply now. Households advised to take steps before extreme cold hits Illinois. For energy assistance and weatherization tips visit www.keepwarm.illinois.gov or call toll-free 1-877-411-WARM

FUNERAL SERVICE GUIDE

Check with us first for price
Hite & Donaldson Caskets
"Quality Caskets at Affordable Prices"
 In Home Consultation
FREE FLORAL PIECE
 Mr. Hite (773) 870-3437
 Mr. Donaldson (708) 253-7911
 P.O. Box 209181 Chicago IL 60620

HELP WANTED

ARE YOU OPINIONATED? ARE YOU A GOOD WRITER? NLCN is launching an editorial page later this month. Please call Wilbert Bledsoe or Ben Protes at 312-492-9090 if you are interested in writing a letter to the editor.

US CENSUS BUREAU Looking for Field Interviewers to conduct personal visit & telephone interviews using laptop computer. Hours vary, but will be approximately 30-50 hours per month, must be available 3 weekdays, 4 weeknights, and Saturday 8-4. Requirements: US Citizenship, valid driver's license, auto, and home-based telephone. \$13.07/hr & 44.5 cents/mile. For testing info call 1-888-722-8995 E.E.O.E

HELP WANTED BUTCHER, CASHIER, STOCK PERSON Call Jermaine Jordan (773) 653-6640

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given, pursuant to "An Act in relation to the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in the State," as amended, that a certification was filed by the undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County, file no. D06104579 on October 12, 2006, under the Assumed Name of Strutt & Associates with the place of business located a 3250 W. Washington Blvd. Ste. 2E, Chicago, IL 60624. The true name and residence address of the owner is: Geneva Gayles, 3250 W. Washington Blvd. Ste. 2E, Chicago, IL 60624.

FREE CLASSIFIED AD WITH A DISPLAY AD OF 1/8 PAGE OR LARGER.

Advertise with the North Lawndale Community News If you have an Apartment for Rent Ads are only \$10.00
Call 312 492-9090

Governor from front page

"I've had discussions with the governor," Stroger told the Chicago Tribune. "I suspect that he'll open up his wallet soon."

While campaigning on the South Side, Blagojevich said he will be providing financial support to Stroger's campaign, but wouldn't say how much money he has pledged.

Representatives for Stroger and Peraica did not respond to requests for comment.

Blagojevich spokesman Doug Scofield declined to comment on requests for financial support from the Stroger camp, but said voters can expect at least one joint appearance before Nov. 7.

"[Blagojevich] supports [Stroger] and endorses him and I'm sure before the election they'll do something together again," Scofield said.

John McGovern, spokesperson for Republican candidate for Governor Judy Baar Topinka, said their campaign has been running ads on Spanish language radio and television stations to reach out to Hispanic voters. Topinka also has set up a full-time campaign office in South Chicago to connect with minority groups there.

Topinka's campaign said the outreach has worked to make inroads among traditionally democratic voters.

"Obviously, she supports Tony Peraica, but what's interesting is the number of city democrats who have quietly offered support and are helping the campaign," McGovern said.

The gubernatorial candidates have different priorities for Chicago's minority communities, including the west side, their representatives said.

Scofield said if reelected,

Blagojevich would focus on expanding healthcare to low-income individuals statewide.

"He wants to make [health care] available to every citizen in the state and I think that's vitally important to a place like North Lawndale," Scofield said.

Blagojevich has already expanded eligibility for Medicaid, the state and federal health insurance for the poor and disabled.

Earlier this year, Blagojevich created the All Kids program, which provides state-subsidized children's health insurance. Blagojevich has made All Kids a key component of his campaign, while Topinka claims the governor is spending millions of tax payer dollars to promote himself as much as the program.

Blagojevich also announced this weekend his plan to boost the minimum wage in Illinois, a proposal that has become a linchpin of his re-election campaign.

"He's committed to raising the minimum wage again," Scofield said. "That's a stark contrast to his opponent."

Topinka argues that Illinois has fallen to 42nd in the country in job creation, so she favors an increase in the minimum wage nationally, "so all states are treated equally and Illinois employers are not unfairly disadvantaged."

Representatives for both candidates said they would seek incentives for small businesses to promote job growth.

On the education front, Scofield said Blagojevich is committed to making in-state college tuition available to all Illinois residents regardless of immigration status.

Blagojevich has focused his education initiatives on moderate-

income families. For instance, he has enacted state subsidized preschool for up to 10,000 3- and 4-year-old students considered at-risk financially or educationally. And since July college students from families who make less than \$200,000 can apply for \$500 grants from the state to cover non-tuition costs.

The governor has proposed selling or leasing the lottery to help finance schools.

McGovern said Topinka would increase the amount of money the state commits to education per child by \$1,000. Topinka would fund the initiative by pushing for an on-land casino in Chicago, he said.

McGovern said that 10 casinos are allowed under Illinois law. Currently, only nine are being used. Topinka, he said, would seek to have the 10th become a steady revenue stream for the state, providing funding for education.

"We feel it's important to be able to identify a steady stream of revenue to fund things like education and health care and other social services without raising taxes," he said. McGovern said that if Topinka is elected and the casino plan comes to fruition, the right to run the casino will be awarded through the state bidding process. He also said treatment for problem gamblers would be incorporated into the operation of the casino.

To learn more about these candidates as well as Green party Candidate Rich Whitney, visit their websites:

- <http://www.judforygov.com/>
- <http://www.rodforillinois.com/>
- <http://www.whitneyforgov.org/joomla/index.php>

Laura Onstot is the civic affairs reporter for NLCN and is a graduate student at the Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism.

L & P LIVERY
"We Go Anywhere"
 773-533-0147 773-533-0172
 773-533-0148 773-533-9528

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE
ERIC J. LINDSAY AGENCY
 3708 WEST ROOSEVELT ROAD
 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60624
 Office: 773-638-1700
 Fax: 773-638-1718
 E-Mail: elindsay@amfam.com
 24-Hour Claims Reporting: 800-374-1111

On average, drivers who switched to Allstate saved \$338 a year. Call me today.
(312) 421-0555
Monica Gonzalez
 735 S. Western Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60612
 E-mail: a017601@allstate.com
Based on information reported by 5,291 new customers who purchased directly from an Allstate Customer Information Center. Actual savings will vary. Insurance offered only with select companies and subject to availability and qualifications. Allstate Insurance Company and Allstate Property and Casualty Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL. ©2006 Allstate Insurance Company. Se habla español

773-521-0077 773-521-0078
Smile, God Loves YOU
Mobile Five's Livery
 16th & Pulaski
 Dispatchers and Driver Wanted
 Call Trooper @ 773-544-5162
 773-521-0089 773-521-0096

Dropout from page 5

their legislators, because this serious issue not only affects the future of Illinois, but the future of the Nation as well.

"We should invest in the front," he said.

He closed his remarks by saying that it "takes courage and will and leadership" to make the necessary changes. Although the process is just beginning, he anticipates that this initiative will succeed, saying, "This is a very good bill."

Four more meetings are scheduled to take place before the report goes to the Governor and General Assembly on January 10, 2008. The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2006, from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at Proviso Math and Science Academy, 8601 W. Roosevelt Rd., Forest Park.

Zaki A. Muhammad is West Side resident and writer. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

President from page 3

- 25,400 Full-time-equivalent employees
- Over 65,000 Acres in Forest Preserve District

THE COUNTY CONTROLS:

- Three public hospitals
- Cook County Jail
- Cook County Circuit Court
- Property tax system
- Administration of elections in the suburbs

THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY CONTROLS:

- Health system, which also includes a network of neighborhood
- Medical examiner's office
- Zoning board of appeals
- County's finance team
- Bureau of human resources

Myleson Collins is a young savvy business man who has attended Trinity International University. He received an education in International Business. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

**L
A
W
N
D
A
L
E**

New In Town!!!!
New In Town!!!!



FORD DESIRED
REAL ESTATE INC.



Ford Desired Real Estate, Inc.

3346 W. 16th Street
Chicago, IL 60623
Office (773) 522-HOME (4663)
Fax (773) 522-4303

We would like to introduce ourselves to you

James Dixon
Manager/Broker



"Your Real Estate Pro"

Sherry Campbell
Realtor

Carmen Dennis
Realtor

Paris Collins
Realtor

Tyrone Houston
Realtor

Marquez Dudley
Realtor

Deidre Green
Realtor

We are in the neighborhood to serve all your Real Estate needs, whether you are selling, buying, or just in need of some answers about buying or selling, drop in or give us a call. We are in the community to serve the Real Estate needs of the community.

INTERSTATE

Muffler & Automotive Repair
2158 South Pulaski
(corner of Cermak & Pulaski)
Chicago
773-522-0122

4 Locations to Serve You!
Ogden & Western 312-733-5333

Diagnostic Testing \$39.99	OIL CHANGE, FILTER, TOP OF THE FLUIDS & ENGINE FLUSH \$39.99	Radiator Flush \$39.99
Struts Front or Rear Installed \$199.00 <small>MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS</small>	Mufflers \$19.99 <small>Inspect exhaust system for leaks. Labor Extra. MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS</small>	Converter INSTALLED \$119.99 <small>MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS</small>
Full Tune-Up Service 4 cyl. \$159.00 6 cyl. \$179.00 8 cyl. \$199.00 <small>Includes plugs, wires, fuel filter, air filter, P.C.V. valve cap, rotor, oil change and filter. MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS</small>	Front or Rear Brakes Service \$59.99 <small>Includes installation of front pads, inspect inspect rotors, wheelbearing, calipers, hydraulic system and road test. Pads and shoes extra. MOST CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS</small>	



LAWNSDALE CHRISTIAN HEALTH CENTER
Loving God, Loving People

LCHC Ogden: 3860 W. Ogden Ave.
Appointments: 773.843.3001

LCHC Homan Square: 3517 W. Arthington St.
Appointments: 773.843.3002

LCHC Farragut: 2345 S. Christiana Ave.
Appointments: 773.843.3003

Call for an appointment: 773.843.3000

- Same or next day appointments
- Healthcare for infants, children, adults and elderly
- Sliding scale fee for patients without insurance
- Private Insurance, Medicaid, Medicare and HMOs accepted
- Over 40 providers with 24-hour on-call service.



Hours:
Monday - Friday 6am-9pm
Saturday 7am-5pm

773.843.3219

- No joiner fees
- No long-term commitments
- Daily and monthly rates
- Full basketball court
- Aerobic and strength classes