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# THE NORTH LAWNDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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

## MEMORIAL SERVICES HELD FOR DIAMOND BRADLEY

KINDERGARTEN DIED FROM A DENTISTS APPOINTMENT



Several thousand came to support mother and family Diamond's during the tragic loss. Also in attendance were Diamond's brother, sister, and little best friend.

Memorial for Diamond Brownridge was held at the House of Hope, where Reverend and Senator James T. Meeks is pastor. A large percentage of the 10,000 seat church located at 752 E.114th St. was filled with well wishers and supporters of the mother and family of Diamond Brownridge. During the singing of "Jesus can work it out" by Dr. Charles G. Hayes and the Cosmopolitan Church of Prayer Choir and lead singer for the song Dionne Williams, at the end of the memorial service, Ommetress Travis, Diamond's mother was moving among the audience receiving hugs and words of

kindness.

Little Diamond died at Children's Memorial Hospital after being over sedated and passing out at the Little Angel Dental Clinic

see Diamond page 10



Ommetress Travis, Diamond's mother received many hugs of love and support

## PLENTY OF FIREWORKS LITTLE SUBSTANCE IN GOVERNOR'S RACE

Richard Muhammad



Gov. Blagojevich has a lead and plenty of money to spend in the countdown to the Nov. 7 general election. Some say the Blagojevich-Judy Barr Topinka race for governor of Illinois has been long on mudslinging and short on voter engagement. Photo: Richard Muhammad

Gov. Rod Blagojevich and Republican challenger Judy Barr Topinka went toe to toe from the start of their Oct. 2 debate in downstate Illinois.

Yet, for all the election sizzle, there has been little political steak on the grill when it comes to dealing with substantive issues, according to one political analyst.

The first of two scheduled Blagojevich-Topinka debates didn't

cover much new ground. The confrontation at Millikin University in Decatur, Ill., largely consisted of the candidates accusing each other of ethical failures and likely to take the state in the wrong direction.

The testy exchanges, aired over WBBM-AM radio, mirrored the TV ads both camps are running as the Nov. 7 election draws closer.

Their major points of agreement

see Debate page 3

## Education on Probation in Chicago

Wendell Hutson



Thomas Chalmers Public Schools located at the corener of Roosevelt Road and California. One of the Chicago Public School's on probation.

John Walker, 39 had planned on moving his family from south suburban Harvey to the Austin community on the West Side this month to be closer to his new job at Wal-Mart until he found out the local elementary school is on probation.

As a result Walker said his 11-year-old daughter would probably end up attending a school in the North Lawndale neighborhood because it is not among the 162 public elementary schools on probation.

There are 484 elementary schools operated by the Chicago Public

Schools (CPS) and a third of them were on probation in 2005, according to last year's records. According to Jeanie Chung, communications coordinator for the Chicago Public Schools, the 2006 list of schools on probation has not been completed yet.

Of the 119 CPS high schools, 41 were on probation during the same period. Many of those schools are on the West Side, which upsets residents like Walker when you look at all the other projects city officials are focusing on these days.

"Instead of the mayor

See Probation page 5

## CHICAGO'S FIRST WAL-MART OPENING IS GRAND

Glenn Ragans

Wal-Mart opened its first store in Chicago on Wednesday, September 27. The store, located at 4650 W. North Ave., opened its doors at 8 a.m. to a long line of eager customers assembling as far as Kostner Ave., a half block down.

Customer Lionel Foote, a postal worker, commented that he had to drive around for about 20 minutes before he could find a parking space. But once inside, Foote found that the service was fast and courteous.

Associate Cashier Fallon Wesley said that the store is in a perfect location because there are a lot of people who live in the city that don't want to travel to the western suburbs to shop. This way the seniors and people with limited

transportation can enjoy what Wal-Mart has to offer without traveling far, Wesley believes.

Ed Smith, General Manager of the store, said that first day sales were excellent. "Take a look at the parking lot," he said. "It's full to capacity with others waiting and we're only half way through the day," he said.

Smith believes the store will grow with the community and provide job opportunities for community residents. Smith said about 98 percent of the employees live in the six wards surrounding the store.

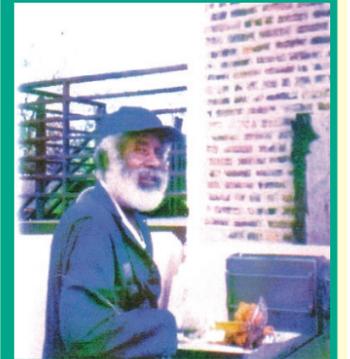
There has been much debate about how the city was going to handle the placement of this Wal-Mart

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Chicago's first Wal Mart located 4650 W. North Avenue

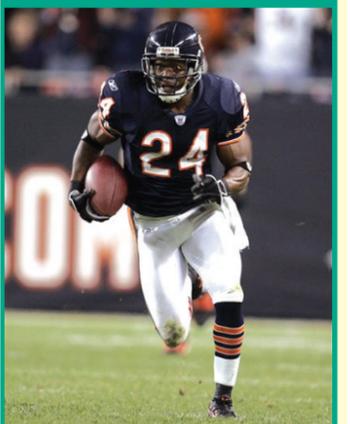
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Visit us on our website at [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org) for more articles, information, photos and opportunities

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.

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Writers' Meetings!! THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS. Where: 1211 S. Western, Suite 203. Time: 6:00 p.m. Date: October 19, 2006. Free Training in Community Journalism! Everyone is Welcome! FOR MORE INFORMATION: CALL 312.492.9090

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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

# THE WEST SIDE EXPRESS COMES TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Kenya Nalls



Westside Coffee Express

The corner of Pulaski and Lake St. in Chicago's Garfield Park neighborhood has been desolate a vacant lot for 20 years. On Saturday September 30, this location was booming with business again as the Westside Coffee Express, the neighborhood's first internet café, held its grand opening. With a newly remodeled building decorated by flowers made by the owner, and a relaxing and comfortable atmosphere, the Westside Coffee Express was impressive to its inaugural customers.

"This is a nice, but classy place," said customer Wyatt

Spencer. "You don't have to go too far out; this is what the neighborhood needs." Brenda Smith, owner of the café and life-long west side resident, observed that Garfield Park did not have any upscale coffee shops with internet access, and so decided to fill that void with her own business.

"The people in the community wanted to know when we were going to get a place where they can sit and relax, have homemade pies, all while having fun with your neighbor." The Westside Coffee Express offers the above and more. Among the many services offered by the café are catering, space for meetings and small gatherings, assistance in opening a small business, and wireless internet. "[The internet access] will be a good asset for the community, especially for high school and college students," said Smith. Some people have computers in the home, but do not have internet."

In order to achieve longevity, Smith, who co-owns the café with her mother Minnie, is looking to continually expand the business. Although it just opened, the Westside Coffee Express may be expanding its entertainment offerings to include a bi-monthly poetry night as well as frequent jazz concerts.

"We're here if the community needs anything," Brenda stated. Smith is not a stranger to small business ownership as her mother, also her business partner, owns six other

See Express page 6

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**LUNCH SPECIAL ON FRIDAYS**

## The North Lawndale Community News is Now A WEEKLY!

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Our ADVERTISERS will also be able to advertise their businesses and events WEEKLY!

Thanks to everyone involved over the years in helping to make the North Lawndale Community News be a SUCCESS!

### Debate from front page

were that neither wanted to be associated with former Gov. George Ryan, both felt that electricity rates need to be frozen to prevent utility bills from rising 20 to 70 percent, once ComEd moves forward with a rate hike, and they promised not to raise taxes.

Both voiced support for school reform, but differed on whether more money for education would come from leasing the state lottery, as the governor favors, or Topinka's plan to auction off another state gambling license.

Topinka approved of an Illinois Supreme Court ruling that would require parental notification before a minor could receive an abortion, Blagojevich opposed the measure. The governor expressed concern about what would happen in cases of rape or incest.

Both generally agreed that ethanol should be supported as an energy alternative, but clashed over what effective support would mean.

Ethics, corruption dominate debate

Blagojevich declared his administration was making good progress against corruption by putting an independent inspector general in place, making changes to ethics policies and cutting the state workforce by 30,000 people.

Topinka countered quickly. True transparency would mean providing a list of gifts received, she told the Democratic incumbent.

She brought up a well-publicized incident in which the wife of a Blagojevich insider was given a job shortly after her husband wrote a \$1,500 check as a gift to one of the governor's daughters.

Topinka accused Blagojevich of running the most investigated administration in state history.

The current governor responded that Topinka did nothing in the pay-for-play days of former Gov. George Ryan, who was convicted in April on federal corruption charges.

"We come to town and we have the mess to clean up," declared Blagojevich. Topinka, who was state treasurer at that time, was absent as Ryan ran the state into the ground, he said.

"The boogie man of George Ryan is just as popular in the 2006 election as in 2002," said

Jay Stewart, executive director of the Better Government Association. Stewart sees typical politics in the back and forth about ethics and clean government, referring to Topinka-Blagojevich attempts to taint the other with Ryan comparisons or connections.

Political candidates typically bring up honesty during campaign season and forget it once the campaign ends, he observed.

Blagojevich largely won in 2002 by pointing out corruption in the Ryan administration and promising something different, said Stewart. His administration, however, has also been under federal investigation, he said.

Polls show Blagojevich ahead by a wide margin and with a hefty campaign war chest to spend, said Dick Simpson, head of the political science department of the University of Illinois Chicago.

While Topinka tries to paint Blagojevich as no better than former governor Ryan, she isn't squeaky clean, Simpson said.

The videos of Topinka doing the polka with Ryan, though somewhat misleading, and her

place as treasurer in his administration aren't easy to shake, he explained.

Blagojevich has to worry about new pre-election scandals and indictments that are close to him, Simpson said. Indictments, however, are unlikely, he added.

But, he added, the negative campaigning on both sides has turned off many voters.

Simpson predicts overall voter turnout will be low, with pockets of heavy voting in Chicago, other parts of Cook County and in surrounding suburbs.

Though extensive positions and information may have been disclosed in editorial meetings with major newspapers and organizations like the League of Women Voters, voters generally have not been engaged on important issues, he said.

With the state running an estimated \$5 billion deficit, in-state college costs double what they were four years ago, and a sputtering economy, there are serious things to talk about, Simpson added. State funding is also lagging when it comes to public transportation and school funding, he said.

According to Simpson, the state budget shortfalls will require raising taxes or expanding casinos. With both candidates committed to not raising taxes, the only serious proposals to curb the deficit would have to be connected with casino gambling, he added.

"Anything else is a smokescreen," Simpson said.



Governor Candidates Face Off In First Major Debate

Jay Stewart, of the Better Government Association, advises voters to put as much effort into making a political choice as in making a major home purchase.

Consumers look at prices, features and reliability in appliances, not just a catchy phrase or commercial, he said.

"They don't just sit there and wait for the commercial to tell them what to do," said Stewart. Similarly information needs to be sought out on political candidates, he said.

"People have to do some work," said Stewart.

Richard Muhammad is a Chicago-based writer and contributor to the Katrina Information Network. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlc.org](http://www.nlc.org).

To Your Health

For My Sisters During Breast Cancer Month

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

I was washing up on a hot summer day in 2001, when I saw a lump under my left breast.

I called my mom and told her I had to go to the emergency room because I found a lump on my breast.

The doctor examined me and asked when my last mammogram was. I told him I had one just a year ago.

I made the appointment at Rush in Oak Park, and met a lady who was a 16-year breast cancer survivor (that was my first experience

with cancer terms). As she dressed and I undressed, she told me about a best friend of hers who had had a lump in her breast for over 5 years.

Although we were different in race, age, and social class, whether my mammogram showed something or not, to me we were alike because we all - including her friend - had lumps in our breasts at one time or another.

Three days later, the emergency room doctor called and gave me a name of a surgeon, and told me I needed to have an ultrasound

because the mammogram wasn't clear. After the ultrasound, the doctor showed me the lump on the monitor. I didn't know how to read what I saw, if it was cancer or not.

A week later I had the biopsy. Three or so days after that he called. He said, "Clemolyn? Now, Clemolyn. There was a little cancer in the lump, but ..."

When I finally picked the phone up he continued saying, "... listen to me. There was a little cancer in the lump, but we caught it very early, and I don't think you will even have to have chemotherapy.

That was five years ago and he was right. I didn't have to have chemotherapy, although I did have radiation treatment. In today's

medicine you don't even have to have your breast removed. I had a lumpectomy: the lump removed and the area around it scraped.

If you have a lump in your breast, fear can be your biggest enemy. Get it checked out. It could be a cyst, or it could be something else.

You must take care of yourself! If you have a lump in your breast, I am your sister telling you that life is wonderful, and begging you to take good care of yourself, and get it checked out. Please.

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.

Connect to Protect Reaches Out to Public to Reduce AIDS/HIV Cases

Julius Goodman

The Cook County Bureau of Health Services, through its Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, is sponsoring an outreach program called Connect to Protect (C2P) to reduce the threat of AIDS/HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The C2P project targets females ages 12-24 who live in North and South Lawndale, which are communities predominantly populated by African Americans and Latinos.

The Connect to Protect is offering part time employment (up to \$10.00 an hour) to teach young people about AIDS/HIV and STDs so that they will be knowledgeable enough to go into the community to teach others.

The Connect to Protect Coalition began in December 2004, as part of a multi-site community mobilization project. Either independently or collectively, the participating agencies have launched new HIV programs in Lawndale, strengthened service referrals for youth, collected and disseminated youth HIV risk behavior and social network data, and developed a strategic

Plan. "We choose Lawndale because of the poverty level and according to statistics, Lawndale has the highest HIV Ratio and STD Level in the surrounding communities," said Raymond McPherson, ATN and Outreach Specialist.

The strategic plan delineates the coalitions' four-year community health improvement initiating an action plan to unite other individuals from various community sectors to create structural changes. The coalition's markers of success are to have local businesses, churches, schools, parents, and youth mobilized toward building healthier communities.

HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome). HIV is transmitted through the blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk. HIV can be transmitted through unprotected sex and HIV can be passed from mother to child during pregnancy.

Black Girls ages 13-16 account for the highest number of HIV cases as compared

See Protect page 8

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STATE GETS \$20 MILLION TO FIGHT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Jasmine Dowden

Governor Rod Blagojevich announced last month that Illinois received \$20 million in federal funding for grants to support programs for the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

The governor spotlighted an additional \$1 million state grant to the Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW) that will help start a comprehensive Anti-Violence Initiative to fight against domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and other forms of gender based violence.

"Domestic Violence and sexual assault are two of the worst crimes we see. And sadly, thousands of women and children face this kind of violence each year," said Gov. Blagojevich. "That's why it's so important to invest in programs that help prevent violence against women, and ensure that women and girls can find safety and help when they need to escape violent situations."

The Anti-Violence Initiative will help the CFW fund a public education drive, implement a grassroots strategy, and coordinate events to raise public awareness.

Blagojevich also announced \$15.4 million in federal funds to support the Victims of Crime Act in Illinois. The state also received a 4.4 million dollar grant to support the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).

The Need for Funding

Judy Barr-Topinka, Blagojevich's Republican opponent in the November gubernatorial election, is questioning whether the governor has secured enough money to fully support these initiatives.

"We support the mission behind the grant because we believe these are very important issues, however, as with all grants it is important to ensure that the state has the necessary funds to back up these kinds of promises," said John McGovern, a spokesperson for Topinka.

According to a domestic violence activist, local shelters rely heavily upon current state funding.

"The money sustains the shelters," said Cory Ryan, executive director of the Chicago Abused Women Coalition. "It is absolutely vital to them. The state money that we receive is our largest single source of revenue for the shelter."

The need for additional funding is still great, as there are only 166 domestic violence shelter beds left in Chicago,

according to Ryan. "This [new] funding is very much needed," Ryan said.

Blagojevich's attention to this issue carries with it more than monetary importance, according to Ryan.

"We appreciate that the governor is trying to raise awareness for domestic violence because the more the community is aware that it exists, and its consequences, particularly on children, the more likely we are to all work together to create a violence free family life," said Ryan.

The Domestic Violence Problem in North Lawndale

The reported number of domestic violence incidents, emergency calls and arrests has decreased in Chicago in 2006, albeit modestly. During the first quarter of 2006 there was a 1.2 percent decrease in domestic violence related calls to police for incidents such as domestic disturbance, domestic battery, and violation of order of protection. The number of domestic violence incidents decreased 2.7 percent, and domestic violence and child abuse murders are down 66.7 percent.

Candice Cook, a domestic violence activist, is encouraged by these numbers. "[The trend] is motivating because that means fewer people are resorting to violence as a way to deal with their problems," she said.

The outlook is much bleaker for domestic violence victims in the North Lawndale community. The Chicago Police Department receives an average of 20-29 domestic violence related calls from North Lawndale each day. In 14 of the 25 Chicago Police Department districts there are 19 or fewer calls each day.

North Lawndale accounted for 25 percent of all domestic violence murders during the first quarter of 2006, which is a slight increase from last year. However, there have been no child abuse murders so far this year and arrests for domestic battery declined by 9.6 percent in the first quarter of 2006.

There are several shelters throughout Chicago, however, to protect the victims, the shelter addresses and phone numbers cannot be listed. To learn more about domestic violence service programs call the Domestic Violence Hotline at 1(800) 799-SAFE (7233). To contact the Illinois Department of Human Services' domestic violence programs, call 1-800-843-6154.

Jasmine Dowden is a new writer for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Education & Employment Training

# Free Writing Workshop for Aspiring Writers

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

Do you have poems, short stories, or song lyrics stored away waiting to be discovered? Are you looking for someone to give you feedback on your creative writing? Have you longed to see your work in print? If so, the Journal of Ordinary Thought (JOT) weekly writing group is what you are looking for.

Sponsored by the Neighborhood Writing Alliance (NWA), a nonprofit organization, JOT weekly writing workshops are free and open to the public. Adults of all backgrounds and writing levels attend JOT writing groups like the one at the Mable Manning Library, 6 S. Hoyne. The group meets every Monday from 5:15 p.m. to 7pm.

Since 1991, JOT has provided a way for writers and aspiring writers to gain constructive advice from others.

"Everybody gets a chance to read their work and get feedback," said Annie Knepler, editor of JOT and director of NWA. "We discuss, both, the way the piece is written and what the piece is about."

Founded on the concept, "Every person is a philosopher," JOT not only presents a place for creative writers to meet with one another, but also provides a way for people to express in writing things that go on in their communities and in the world around them.

"It's for [anyone] who has something to

say," said Knepler. "The writing groups and the journals provide a place to tell their stories and express themselves."

Malvin Jeffries, a job coach and outreach specialist, is writing a book on health and Tai Chi, but has lately experiment in writing poetry and haikus about life as he sees it. He has attended the workshop a little over a year. "I needed another outlet for my creativity," he said. "The group is my editor."

Jeffries said although he doesn't like to be critiqued, it has helped him. He has gone back and rewritten poems after the group gave him suggestions, and he likes his new versions. He said going back and editing his work has taught him how to use less words, and in the process, say more. He plans to share excerpts from his health book with the group to be critiqued.

Each member of the writing workshops has the opportunity to have their work published for free in the journals that are published quarterly. The journals are given to the writers for them to share with friends and family. After each journal is published there is usually a reading to celebrate, and all writers from all the workshops are invited to participate. Although these readings are always open to the public, only the workshop writers can read.

JOT writers have been well received and are invited regularly to read at various events throughout the city, such as the Illinois Humanities Festival, Printer's Row Book Fair, and the Guild Complex. They have also been featured on WBEZ Public Radio and just recently at Jaks Tap, a UIC event. JOT writers have also had pieces adapted for the stage and performed by the Chicago Theater Company. Twice JOT writers from the Mable Manning group have received the prestigious Illinois Arts Council Award.

The mission of NWA and JOT is to provoke dialogue and promote change by creating opportunities for adults in Chicago to write, publish, and perform works about their lives. The next public reading by JOT will be at the Muse Café, 817 N. Milwaukee on October 17, from 8-10 pm.

For more information about NWA and JOT visit [www.jot.org](http://www.jot.org) or call 773-684-2742.

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](http://www.nlcn.org).



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# Probation

from front page

concentrating on attracting the Olympics to Chicago, he needs to clean up the schools so he can attract more families to the city," said Walker. "Now I must send my 11-year-old daughter to a school in North Lawndale, which is not that far, but further than my original choice."

Mayor Daley admits since taking over the public school system in 1996 it has been a challenge to improve schools academically, while also building new schools to ease overcrowding.

"Redeveloping education to fit the 21st Century has been no easy task," said Mayor Daley. "Housing and schools go hand in hand. You cannot improve neighborhoods with affordable housing unless you're talking about improving the local schools as well."

While local politicians like Ald. Emma Mitts concentrate on economic development for the West Side, Walker said elected officials should be concentrating more on area schools on probation.

Those West Side elementary schools on probation include Bethune at 3030 W. Arthington, St Cather, at 2908 W. Washington St, Chalmers at 2745 W. Roosevelt Road, Lawndale Community Academy at 3500 W. Douglas Blvd and Delano, 3937 W. Wilcox St.

West Side high schools include Marshall Metropolitan at 3250 W. Adams St, Roosevelt at 3436 W. Wilson Ave, Manley at 2935 W. Polk St and Crane Achievement Academy at 2245 W. Jackson Blvd. Chung said CPS does not reduce any monies to a school placed on probation but rather provides additional assistance to help a probationary school get up to speed.

"CPS provides reading specialists, after-school programs and designates a management

support director for each area to free up principals from a lot of day-to-day business operations," said Chung. "If a school gets on probation, the Area Instructional Officer works closely with the school to make sure that its budget is being used in the best way to improve student performance, and consults closely with the principal on student learning issues."

Regardless of how long a school is on probation there is no set time on when it is expected to have improved. "However, the longer a school is on probation, the more likely it is to be closed or to have other measures taken," said Chung.

Pursuant to Section 5/34-8.3 of the Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/34-8.3, the school Probation and Remediation Policy shall be used to determine each school's annual performance rating and to identify schools in need of improvements.

A school can be placed on probation if there is a failure to develop, implement, or comply with the school improvement plan or a breakdown in the educational program such as low reading and math scores, an increased drop-out rate, a decreased graduation rate, or a decrease in attendance. Additionally, schools can be placed on probation if there is a failure or refusal to comply with the provisions of the school code, other applicable laws, collective bargaining agreements, court orders, or with applicable Board of Education rules and policies.

According to the CPS policy manual drafted August 23<sup>rd</sup>, a school shall receive one of two ratings: probation or non-probation. Based on its rating, a school may be eligible for certain support services that address areas of deficiency in order to promote enhanced academic

See page 11

# Teaching Financial Responsibility Begins at Home, Part II

Angelic J. Jones

Last week, we started out discussing the ramifications of spending money too frequently and what example the parents' spending habits set for children as they grow from childhood into adulthood. Most important, parents need to establish a pattern of spending and allocate money into different spending categories such as bills and savings.

Next, parents need to exhibit these practices to children by showing them step-by-step a pattern of spending. Once a spending pattern is established, parents should bring children into the financial circle by starting them their own piggy banks and savings accounts to start them, even as early as four years of age, to thinking about being financially sound individuals. It is the parents' responsibility to establish a financial identity for their children but lately schools have been doing the parents' job of teaching children how to be financially capable.

We are used to schools starting preschoolers out with homework assignments that count money. By third grade your children have seen and added and subtracted every denomination in the educational systems' effort to get children to learn math through learning every day

basic skills.

How much is too much in the educational systems efforts to teach financial responsibility? Chicago Public Schools take the effort as far as teaching students fiscal responsibility by allowing them to run a student-run branch of Park Federal Savings Bank at Curie High School. The students staff the bank and students are able to bank there. For all intents and purposes the school system is not doing the parents' job but is reinforcing what the parents should be teaching about banking and financial responsibility.

This is a great situation but for some of these kids, this is all the financial training they will receive because most parents aren't teaching finances at home.

Vincent Spinosa, a financial representative at Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, believes that teaching financial responsibility should be the parent's focus. "Our educational system doesn't have time to teach financial responsibility," Spinosa states.

"Parents should be teaching their children the difference between what is savings and deferred spending, what is debt and how that affects your lifestyle. Parents

See Financial page 11



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Community People

COUNTY TREASURER PAPPAS HOSTS RECEPTION FOR FILM FESTIVAL

Calvin Crayton



Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas introduces Michael Kutza during a reception in his honor

Maria Pappas invited Chicago's community newspapers to a reception at her office to celebrate the Chicago International Film Festival.

The International Film Festival, entering its 42nd year, was founded by award winning filmmaker and graphic designer Michael

Kutza. The festival's primary mission has been twofold: to discover and bring important films and filmmakers to Chicago and to educate and expand the audience through the medium of film.

According to Pappas' Media Relations Coordinator Masha Alexander, the Festival not only offers opportunities for an individual to expand their horizons, but presents an opportunity for aspiring writers, actors, and filmmakers to talk to directors and filmmakers.

There will be 38 films representing 145 Countries at the festival, which will be held from Oct 5-19. The films are in their original forms but are dubbed in English which allows everyone to be able to view any film from any country and understand what's going on.

Tickets can be purchased at Borders Books, 2817 N. Clark and 830 N Clark, or by phone 312-332-Film, or online www.chicagofilmfestival.com, Ticketmaster 312-902-1500.

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In Memory of Mr. Cliff Duwell White

Funeral services for Mr. Cliff Duwell White, an icon on the Westside of Chicago for his achievements in business were held Saturday September 30.



greatness.

He started his first business in 1959, Duwell Cleaners on Millard Street. Many came to call him Duwell, but the name came from White just wanting to "do well" in his business.

Cliff Duwell White was born on April 21, 1936 in Mound Bayou, Mississippi to J.D. White and Armelia McCoy-White. He was the youngest of 13 siblings. Mr. White passed away on September 20.

Mr. White belonged to a select group of African-Americans on the Westside of Chicago. He was a successful entrepreneur with a broad range of business ventures that continue to raise the bar of excellence for African-American men.

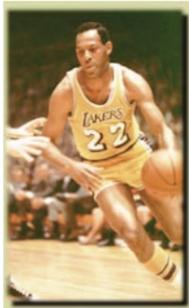
Mr. White came to Chicago at the age of 15 with a mere sixth grade education, however, his wit, focus and determination could even make a 'Harvard Grad' take notice. He paid his dues by working various jobs. But, he knew he was destined for

In 1974, Mr. White was the first African-American on the West Side of Chicago, to successfully force an aldermanic run off against a Richard J. Daley democratic party machine candidate.

Mr. White is survived by his loving wife, Juanita Pirtle-White, 18 children, 30 grandchildren, 36 great-grandchildren, three great-great grandchildren, one brother and two sisters.

Whether you call him Cliff, Duwell, Mr. White or brother, he was the symbol of all that is good and real on the West Side of Chicago.

OCTOBER 4 BLACK FACTS



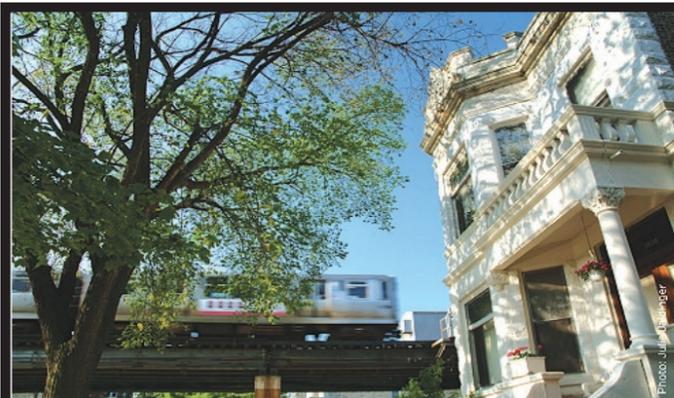
Elgin Baylor

\* On this date in 1971, basketball legend Elgin Baylor announced his retirement from the Los Angeles Lakers. Baylor retired as the third highest scorer in NBA History with 23,149 points.

\* On this date in 1864, The New Orleans Tribune was founded. It was the first African-American daily published in the United States.

\* On this date in 1969, Howard N. Lee and Charles Evers were elected as the first African-American mayors of Chapel Hill, North Carolina and Fayette, Mississippi.

\* On this date in 1949, J.B. Blayton purchased WERD in Atlanta, GA. The first African-American owned radio station in that city.



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AESOP'S ART FOR PEACE

Zaki A. Muhammad



Mr. Rhim has had exhibitions from that time up to the present. Beginning with "Chicago on Relief" which debuted at the Skokie Public Library in 1970 with the same exhibit displayed at the Jacques Baruch Gallery in 1971.

In 1991 he displayed "Chicago Beautiful" at the Richard Daley Center. It was followed by an exhibit at the De Paul University Gallery in 1995 titled "Chicago." In 2002 the "Prayer for Peace" exhibition was showcased at the James Thompson Center and the

Aesop Rhim will debut "Aesop's Art for Peace," an exhibit of silk screened graphics at the Peace Museum beginning September 21 and running through January 30, 2007. His work consists of twelve large, bold and contemporary silkscreen and relief panels which feature peace as their theme.

Mr. Rhim came to Chicago from Korea forty years ago to earn a Master's Degree in Visual Design from the Illinois Institute of Technology Institute of Design and is currently an artist in residence at the "Peace Museum" located in Garfield Park at 100 N. Central Park Avenue in Chicago, Illinois.

He began his undergraduate work in Korea where he received a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts from Seoul National University in Seoul Korea in 1959. He also attended Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles from 1964 to 1965 and later attended the Chicago Fine Art Academy from 1966 to 1967. He subsequently earned his Master of Fine Arts Degree from the Institute of Design from IIT in Chicago in 1970.

Richard J. Daley Center. This exhibition was followed by "Peace and Art" which Surfaced at the "Peace Museum" in 2005. His work may also be seen at Hostelling International on the second floor located at 24 East Congress Parkway in Chicago through October.

For 30 years Mr. Rhim has devoted his life to depictions of the city he loves which is Chicago. During an interview at Roosevelt University's downtown campus, he gave a description of what his art has meant to him. "We have to practice our belief. We are all believers, that is religion. We have to practice our belief in our life. God is love, real love," said Rhim during the interview. He went on to explain how art has been his mechanism for trying to help people see the necessity of peace.

"It has been my daily life routine to hope and pray for and materialize my vision of national and world peace through art. As a graphic artist, I desire to share this artistic

See Aesop page 11

# SPORTS ROUNDUP

Todd Thomas



Collins running back Aaron Bilal, 28, scores a touchdown in the Cobras 32-20 loss to Dyett to fall to 3-3

Locally – The **Collins Cobras** continue to have an up and down season. They were defeated by Dyett High School 32-20 in their last contest and are now 3-3 for the season.

**North Lawndale College Prep Girls' Volleyball** remains unbeaten and they are now 11-0 on the season. The lady phoenix defeated Collins last week and they're headed for a big tournament Oct 5-6 at Benedictine. The team is also gaining some notoriety and are ranked in the top five of the class A area volleyball rankings by the Sun-Times.

In youth football the **North Lawndale Eagles** 5-6 grade team defeated the Trojans 13-0. The 7-8 grade squad lost 17-0 at Hansen stadium.

**Chicago Bears** – The Bears manhandled the defending NFC champion Seattle Seahawks in a 37-6 rout at Soldier Field. Rex Grossman continued his development into a legitimate NFL quarterback and has helped lead the Bears to a perfect 4-0 record. The Defense continues to dominate opponents from every defensive position and the special teams continue to play with efficiency and fire. If things continue like this the team is going to be a major player on the road to the Super Bowl.

Highlights of the Big Win against Seattle: - Cornerback Ricky Manning Jr. came up with two second quarter interceptions. His picks began the collapse of Seattle's offense.

- Defensive tackle Tommie Harris had two sacks of Seahawks' quarterback Matt Hasselbeck and he put fierce pressure on him all night long. His spirited play was contagious and the defense rallied around his big-time playmaking.

- Bears' Quarterback Rex Grossman



Bears cornerback Ricky Manning Jr returns one of his two interceptions

performed well in one of the biggest tests of his young career. He was 17 of 31 for 232 yards and two touchdowns. He was especially good on long downfield passes to Bernard Berrian and mid-range strikes to Muhsin Muhammad.

- Running Back Thomas Jones stepped up and ran for 98 yards on 24 rushes. He also had two short touchdown runs and a few more nice spurts for critical first downs. He upped his yards per carry average to 4.1. A nice upgrade from his previous outings.

**NLCN Game Ball** – This weeks NLCN game ball goes to quarterback Rex Grossman. He's got a winning way about him that becomes more evident with each outing. His passes are sharp and accurate and he has given Bears a downfield passing dimension they have lacked for many years.

**Chicago White Sox** – The Sox will soon

pass the championship torch to another team as they failed to reach the postseason. The 90-72 record was actually pretty good, but not good enough to overcome the obstacles placed by the Detroit Tigers and Minnesota Twins. Jermaine Dye and Jim Thome had exceptional seasons and several other players put up good numbers but the pitching staff was shaky and the team never really gathered the identity and momentum needed to make it to the next level and compete for a second championship. They need to re-tool a bit but the Sox are still a very good ball club and should be in position to make another run for it next year.

**Chicago Cubs** – The Cubs suffered through a ruff 2006 campaign finishing 66-96, good for worst in the National League. Andy MacPhail, team president for the past 12 years resigned after the last game of the season and manager Dusty Bakers' contract will not be renewed. Big changes are needed at Wrigley Field or next year could be a repeat of this year's disaster.

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

## O N V I D E O

Compiled and Reviewed by David Schultz



Adam Sandler in Click

**CLICK (\*\*1/2)** An Adam Sandler comedy with the promising premise of a workaholic executive learns what matters more through a remote control that ultimately speeds up his life, and gets too serious while trying to rip-off Frank Capra's It's A Wonderful World" ends up short circuiting

its efforts both comedic and morally, Because the film shifts its mood from Sandler's juvenile and mild toilet humor to serious undertones and then to rapid aging scenes, it is like watching two films trying to fuse into one only to malfunction into cheap sentimentality.

PG-13; 107min. Sony Pictures Home Video

Disney's **THE LITTLE MERMAID** (\*\*\*\*) Restored and digitally re-mastered to its original and enhanced luster for this 2-Disc DVD debut. One of Disney's most requested films makes a triumphant return. Sort of a movie musical set to animation. This delightful and entertaining Hans Christian Andersen tale is about an adventurous young

See Video page 11

## Wal-Mart from front page



General Manager of the new Wal Mart Ed Smith



Employees of the new WalMart Erica and Tameka

Mart and other so-called Big Box stores that don't provide a living wage for its employees. The store's opening comes two weeks after aldermen failed to override Chicago Mayor Richard Daley's veto of the city's "big-box" ordinance. The measure would have required large stores like Wal-Mart to pay workers at least \$10 an hour by mid-2010.

But for some employees, they were just glad to have found employment and be given a chance to work in their community with people that respect them. Erica L, a customer service representative is thrilled about Wal-Mart's opening. "It's Phenomenal, I have been here since 7 in the morning," she said.

Glenn Ragans is a new writer for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## Express from page 3



Inside Coffee Express Joe and Minnie Smith enjoy a hot cup of coffee in the beautiful shop that is decorated to make you feel at home, even with its own fireplace.

struggling with gang violence, drugs, and economic deprivation, Smith wanted a business that people and children can identify as "A family atmosphere." "When people walk in the door, no matter their mood, their day will improve as a result of coming to the Westside Coffee

businesses in Garfield Park. Smith is disappointed by the lack of black owned businesses, other than her family's, on the west side of Chicago, and is hoping her cafe will help revitalize the neighborhood's economy.

"This new coffee shop will be a major upgrade for the community, said Garfield Park resident Carol Muhammad. "It would inspire people to want to own their own business." Specifically, Smith wants children to look at her business and realize that it is possible to achieve their dreams. "My business will give children the chance to say yes, I can have a business of my own."

With the Garfield Park neighborhood



Westside Coffee Express offers a variety of pastries, coffees, smoothies, teas, hot chocolate, and even nachos.

Express."

Kenya Nalls is a new writer for NLCN. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

## AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic



Leonardo DiCaprio and Jack Nicholson in Warner Bros. Pictures' The Departed

**THE DEPARTED** (\*\*\*1/2) Even in a world of cops and criminals, there is no honor between informants or double dealers, either. "The Departed" originated as a 2002 Hong Kong action import, "Internal Affairs," now given an Americanized remake under Martin Scorsese's sweeping, energetic and graphically violent direction. "The Departed" is director Martin Scorsese's first urban crime drama since "Goodfellas". A tale of two cops both working undercover on both sides. Leonardo DiCaprio stars as Billy Costigan, a police cadet dropout given the opportunity to redeem his career.

Costigan is hired by state police captain Queman (Martin Sheen) and his knowledgeable yet arrogant staff sergeant (Mark Wahlberg) to infiltrate the criminal empire of mob boss, Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson) who is pursued by the authorities, but never captured.

Meanwhile, Matt Damon plays Colin Sullivan, a recent police grad whose been hired by Special Forces run by Alec Baldwin determined to catch the elusive mobster (Nicholson) in a criminal transaction.

Certain violent mob action scenes and

See Flicks page 10

Economic Development

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## Most Chicago Firefighter Applicants White

Hertz Clyde Dézir

Results released last week from the long-awaited Chicago firefighters exam revealed that most of the test-takers were white; a finding that has caused mixed reactions among city officials.

More than 20,000 applicants took the exam at McCormick Place in May. About 17,000, or 85 percent of the test-takers passed the ninth grade level exam.

Despite a heavily publicized recruitment campaign aimed at attracting minority candidates, Black and Hispanic applicants accounted for slightly less than half of those who took the test, and even less of those who passed it. In fact, Black applicants were less than a quarter of those who took the test and 21 percent of those who passed the exam. Hispanics, 21.5 percent of test-takers, accounted for 20 percent of those who passed the exam.

Alderman Arenda Troutman (20<sup>th</sup>) was "very disappointed" by these results. Given that a majority of those who take the test are white, "it's no wonder that the numbers would be like they are," she said.

But Mayor Daley, who supports having a firefighter's exam, called the results "very good." "The new exam, coupled with the city's recruitment strategy, has produced a diverse and qualified candidate pool," Daley said.

Ald. Isaac Corothers (29<sup>th</sup>), chairman of the City Council Police and Fire Committee, also viewed the results in a positive light. Corothers believes the results show signs of progress for Black and Hispanic applicants, in part due to the exam, which is starkly

different from the last firefighter exam given in 1995.

"[It's] a huge difference from the 95 exam, a step in the right direction for African-Americans and Hispanics," said Corothers. "It shows the exam ... is the exam we needed."

In 1998, the African American League of Firefighters (AALF) filed a lawsuit against the city, alleging the 1995 exam was discriminatory against blacks. AALF cited a ruling from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that found the city was twice as likely to hire white applicants than Blacks as a result of the exam.

In March 2005, U.S. District Judge Joan Gottschall ruled against the city in a major class-action lawsuit, which involved more than 6,000 plaintiffs. In her ruling, Gottschall held that the exam "could not distinguish between those who were qualified for the position and those who were not," and was therefore discriminatory.

Historically, the Chicago Fire Department has struggled with racial tension, and for years has been overwhelmingly white. The department now is about 68 percent white, 19 percent African-American and 11 percent Hispanic. According to the 2005 census, Chicago's population is 44 percent white, 25 percent black and 22 percent Hispanic.

The previous exam's bias and the long-standing conditions of the Chicago Fire Department, may be one reason so few minorities took the exam in May, said Ald. Fredderina Lyle (6<sup>th</sup>). Racial obstacles in the

See Firefighters page 9

## WVON from page 10

to girls and boys of other ethnic groups. One in five people with HIV in the United States are under the age of 25. Of these statistics, African-American women account for an astounding 64 percent. Young women are becoming infected at an alarming rate. Social and economic inequalities and the lack of education is the main reason why young girls continue to be infected.

STDS are sexually transmitted diseases including; Herpes Simplex, Gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Syphilis. Herpes is a viral disease causing small blisters on the skin and mucous membranes. Herpes Simplex is a recurrent, incurable form of herpes usually affecting the mouth, lips, face or genitals.

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted disease that causes inflammation of the genital mucous membrane, burning pain when urinating, and a discharge.

Chlamydia is caused by bacteria called Chlamydia trachomatis, a sexually transmitted disease more common than gonorrhea. Chlamydia is a bacterial infection of your genital tract that spreads easily through sexual contact. It is the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. Untreated Chlamydia can lead to pelvic infection and infertility. Your doctor can confirm if you have Chlamydia by using an extremely accurate urine test. Chlamydia can be transferred to anyone that is sexually active. The surest way to prevent Chlamydia infection is to abstain from sexual activities. Condoms may reduce the spread of

Chlamydia. Chlamydia has no symptoms.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted disease that progresses in stages and can damage many parts of the body. Syphilis is spread from person to person. A person gets syphilis from direct contact with a Syphilis sore on the body of an infected person. Sores occur at the site of infection, mainly on the external genitals, vagina, anus, or rectum. Sores can also be on the lips and in the mouth. Transmission occurs during vaginal, anal, and

oral sex. An infected pregnant woman can also pass the disease to her unborn child. Syphilis cannot be spread by contact with toilet seats, door knobs, swimming pools, hot tubs, bathtubs, shared clothing, or eating utensils.

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](http://www.nlcn.org).

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WORD-UP: Why is a Sound Mind Required to Follow Christ?

Calvin C. Crayton

As I walk in my journey and I speak to educated men and women, and I speak to sober men and women, and I speak to men and women under the influence of drugs and alcohol (If God can talk through a donkey, he can certainly talk through a junkie(Numbers 22:28.) I spoke to religious leaders and I found out that there are many definitions of what a sound mind is. So, I decided that we would take a stroll through The Word and see what The Lord has to say about a sound mind. Lets Word-Up!

For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but be thou partakers of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God (2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:7-8). Paul seems to be saying a sound mind comes with The Spirit of The Lord. I guess if someone is running around the church falling over chairs break-dancing

and requiring nurses to keep them from hurting themselves or someone else maybe they are full of a spirit not The Spirit (Try the Spirit by the Spirit).

Next, it seems a sound mind is required to not be ashamed of the gospel and to accept the afflictions that come along with the gospel. Jesus did say that you shall be hated of all men for my name's sake but he that endureth to the end shall be saved (Matt 10:22).

But he that denieth me before men, shall be denied before the angels of God.(Luke 12:9) Keep in mind when we disobey Jesus that is denial of him. And why call ye me Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say? Remember it is Lord and Savior not just Savior.

I took a look at some of the educated and religious men in scriptures and I found that the PH.D and Reverend (so-called) did not necessarily mean a sound mind, but the

Pharisees and lawyers rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him. And The Lord said: Where unto then shall I liken the men of this generation? And to what are they like.

They are like children sitting in the marketplace, and calling one to another, and saying, we have piped unto you, and ye have not danced: we have mourned to you and ye have not wept. For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine and ye say he hath a devil. The son of man is come eating and drinking and ye

Say: Behold a gluttonous man and a wino, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of all her children. (Luke:7:30-35)

Next, I took a look at a man homeless: And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain, which had devils long time, and ware no clothes, neither abode

in any house, but in the tombs.

Then they went out to see what was done and came to Jesus and found the man, out of whom the devils had departed sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind: and they were afraid. Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him (Luke 8:27,35,38). Notice in this scripture that once the man was in his right mind his desire was to be with Jesus. The conclusion of the matter:

A sound mind leads a person to Christ and keeps him there (The Christ of the Bible not one made up in someone's mind.) In layman's terms, a person would have to be out of their mind not to follow Christ. Seek ye first-Remember if you don't read the book you lose the lesson Word-UP!

Calvin Crayton is community resident and writer on spiritual matters. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

Firefighters from

page 8

past could have an impact on the number of African-Americans who didn't try taking the exam, according to the alderman.

Larry Langford, spokesperson for the Chicago Fire Department insists that the new exam "is a clean operation. It is fair," he said.

"We're glad that the numbers are

improving," Langford said. "Our goal is for the result to reflect the racial [complexity] of the city."

Becoming a firefighter, however, takes more than passing the Entrance Firefighter Emergency Medical Technician Exam. The exam has nothing to do with firefighting, according to Langford. Rather, it's a screening mechanism the Chicago Fire Department uses to test the applicants' reading skills and determine who's trainable, Langford said.

"The test just gets you in the door,"

Langford said. "The real test is in the Chicago Academy."

Despite the Chicago Fire Department's attempts to diversify, the racial dilemma won't disappear anytime soon. Charles Webster, 83, treasurer of the Ole Timers Retired Firefighter and Paramedics, acknowledged that the department is emphasizing bringing diversity into the department. Webster does not believe however, that the racial issue will be solved under the current municipal administration.

"Personally, [I think] they got a lot of work to do," Webster said. "[The CFD] still has a long way to go."

Hertz Clyde Dézir is native of Haiti and a NLCN intern. Hertz is also a journalism graduate from Columbia College. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

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Gov. Blagojevich Proposes Bill to Protect Cell Users Against Misleading Charges

Julius Goodman

On September 27, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich announced he will propose legislation to protect cell phone users from misleading charges that appear on monthly bills as government mandated fees or taxes.

Most cell phone companies pad their bills with these phony charges appearing as "regulatory compliance fees," or "regulatory cost recovery charges." These secret surcharges unfairly increase the costs of wireless service beyond the advertised rate. The governor's legislation will require that cell phone companies identify all charges and prohibit surcharges disguised as taxes or mandated fees.

"Cell phone companies are hitting their customers with phony charges that run up the bills, and that has to stop," said Gov. Blagojevich. "Consumers deserve better than this. They have the right to truthful billing. Our legislation will force cell phone companies to charge the advertised price - without adding phony surcharges."

"The Governor is introducing legislation to call it what it is", said Gerardo Cardenas, spokes person for the governor's office. "Consumers are being misinformed as to why they are paying extra fees on their phone bills that appear like charges from the government. These extra fees are not charges from the government. The "Truth in Billing" legislation will force cell phone companies to explain exactly what those charges are. "We're not saying that the cell phone companies cannot bill consumers those charges, we are saying don't charge them like they are government fees," said Cardenas. Consumers deserve to have truthful

information. This information will allow consumers to save money as they choose their personal cell phone provider. The legislation will demand that cell phone companies will stop discussing hidden fees as if they were taxes.

As seen below, many companies have administrative or regulatory fees that drive up the price to consumers:

According to the Better Business Bureau, cell phones are the number one source of consumer complaints. The governor's legislation will require cell phone companies to include their normal costs of doing business in the basic charges for service, instead of tacking on extra charges masquerading as taxes or government mandates. This will prevent deceptive marketing, allowing customers to make informed choices among the different phone company offerings, and promote fair competition in the wireless industry.

Under federal law, cell phone rates are unregulated. However, a recent court ruling affirmed that states have the authority to protect consumers from unfair billing practices. If the governor's legislation is passed, Illinois will become the first state in the nation to prohibit bogus line items on cell phone bills. Usually amounting to \$1 per month or more for each line, these false surcharges are estimated to cost Illinois consumers \$127 million per year.

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](http://www.nlcn.org).

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## Entertainment &amp; Sports

42<sup>nd</sup> Chicago Film Festival Spotlights And Honors Black Films & Performers

David Schultz

Like its slogan "The world comes to Chicago" for 42 years; for the last ten years, The Chicago International Festival has grown to appreciate the cinematic contributions of blacks in their section of films and filmmakers called "Black Perspectives".

The program co-founded by filmmaker Spike Lee continues to celebrate the African American Film experience from stateside to overseas through special selected films and special events to examine the future and honor the legacy and encourage the newcomers.

This year's gala tribute and party, hosted by Spike Lee will present the Lifetime Achievement Award to actress Ruby Dee whose latest film role is featured in the Festival's "World Cinema" selection for her tour-de-force performance in "No. 2" (New Zealand) from first time director Toa Fraser.

Andre (3000) Benjamin, actor and half of the hip-hop duo, Outkast will receive the "Emerging Artist" award who displays the early sign of a promising cinematic career. From his recent acting performance in "Idlewild" to his own animated series for the Cartoon network, "The Class of 3000".

The tribute and party will take at the Thorne Auditorium (375 East Chicago Avenue), Friday, October 13 with a cocktail reception at 5:30pm

The movies being highlighted includes; "The Trail of Darryl Hunt": A Stark Look at the American Criminal Justice System" (United States), A documentary that examines the journey of a man wrongly imprisoned for 20 years on a rape case. It offers a haunting, yet provocative account of his legal struggles to gain his freedom (Thurs. (10/12, Fri. (10/13), Sat. (10/14) AMC River East)

"Shoot the Messenger" (United Kingdom) British- Nigerian filmmaker Ngozi Onwurah's compelling look at a black corporate executive who leaves his job to teach high school kids in hopes of making a difference in their lives. He is called a racist by those he is trying to help. (Sat. (10/14), Sun. (10/15), Tues. (10/17): AMC River East)

"Son of Man" (Jezile South Africa) involves a unique premise of a modern-day

Jesus Christ trying to preach his gospel in a contemporary war-torn South Africa (Sun. (10/15); Mon. (10/16), Wed. (10/18); AMC River East)

"Ten Canoes" (Australia). The first feature film ever made in the indigenous Aboriginal language of Australia from first-time director Rolf de Heer is a cautionary tale of a younger brother's love for his older brother's wife intertwined with amusing observations of husband and wives.

(Sat. (10/7) AMC River East; Sun. 10/8 and Mon. 10/9) Landmark Century)

"No. 2" (New Zealand), winner of the World Dramatic Audience award at the Sundance film festival, this poignant film centers on an aging matriarch (Ruby Dee) trying to pull together a family that has drifted apart and embedded in rivalries that are difficult to squelch. (Thurs. (10/12), Sun. (10/15) AMC River East; Mon. (10/15) Landmark Century)

A special panel discussion, "My Vision: Women making Movies" that will take place in the Film Row Center inside Columbia College (1104 South Wabash Ave.); Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11 am to 1pm.

Also, the film that I recommend is the festival's centerpiece attraction: "Babel" (Screening: Thurs. 10/12; Thorne Auditorium, 7pm.) The film was made by renowned Mexican writer-director Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, who last gave us the Oscar nominated "21 Grams." Inarritu will be in attendance for this special screening prior to its nationwide November release. The film depicts a diverse array of flawed characters whose stories intersect throughout the film. A rifle shot starts a chain reaction in what could be described as an international answer to "Crash" that is stunning and memorable.

For further information on the complete film schedules and events, phone (312) 332-FILM (Cinema/Chicago office) or at Ticketmaster 312-902-1500 or at the website: www.chicagofilmfestival.com.

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

his crew to protect his operation and keep in good standings with the FBI. "The Departed" proves the knockout punch that's been missing this season. Powerful and riveting from start to finish with amazing performances from Nicholson, DiCaprio, Damon and Wahlberg. Scorsese compliments the original Hong Kong version with cinematic virtuosity.

R; 140min. A Warner Bros. Picture Release - presented at selected theaters

**THE LAST KING OF SCOTLAND** (\*\*\*\*) "The Last King of Scotland" gives a hallowing look at absolute power and how it can quickly turn corrupt and destroy anyone it touches. This is what happened in this true story witnessed through the eyes of an idealistic, naïve Scottish physician, Nicholas Garrigan (James McAvoy), who was the personal physician of Ugandan dictator Idi Amin.

Nicholas blindly picks from his world globe as his first assignment, to do missionary work in Uganda at a village make-shift clinic run by Sarah Merritt (Gillian Armstrong) who is more grounded by her political skepticism from living and working in the war-torn country.

Sarah is unable to make Nicholas err on the side of caution upon his arrival when the country is being taken over during a coup by its new president, the charismatic-to-monstrous dictator General Idi Amin, played by a magnetic Forest Whitaker in a remarkable performance that should make him the front runner for a well deserved Best Actor Oscar nomination.

Trying to attend to Amin's hand injury, Nicholas' concentration is being disrupted by the mournful cries of the injured cow. Under stress,

## WVON "The Talk of Chicago" Now Broadcasts 24/7

Todd Thomas

WVON talk radio made some big changes Sept. 18. when they made the transition to a 24-hour format, upgraded their signal from 1,000 watts to 10,000 watts and changed call numbers from 1450am to 1690am. The "Talk of Chicago" is Chicago's only black owned station and they're going where few black oriented news and talk shows have ventured before. The little station tucked away on Kedzie Ave. near the Chicago River now has an opportunity to be a big-time hub and think tank for Chicago's African-American community.

The time was right to make the changes and to take the station to a higher level says WVON program director, Jerry Riles.

"I know that Chicago needs a black news talk station so that we can really uncover the truth of stories and issues affecting the African-American community and also the city of Chicago on a whole," Riles said. "A lot of times mainstream media just touches on the surface of issues. Our job is to tell the story and to get the facts out there."

Making the transition from broadcasting 15 hours a day to around the clock broadcasting is a massive undertaking logistically and it's also different for the listeners. There have been changes made in the lineup of on-air-talent and some favorite hosts have changed time slots. The traditional flow of WVON has been tweaked a bit but things should come out fine, an optimistic Riles says.

"The first week as you can imagine was pretty rocky and pretty hectic with a lot of new things hitting us so quickly," said

See WVON page 11

Nicholas suddenly takes Amin's gun and silences the cow much to everyone's surprises.

This impresses the General to offer him the job as his personal physician, which he ultimately accepts and later regrets from observing the dual personality of Amin who grows ever dangerous and reckless with his suspicion and paranoia of assassination.

The film grows into intensity and becomes obviously graphic as it should be in the last 30 minutes, but the scenes aren't overly indulgent to the gory or done for shock value. "The Last King of Scotland" is delivered by the presence of Forest Whitaker's most electrifying performance since his Oscar nominated role as self-destructive jazz legend, Charlie Parker in director Clint Eastwood's "Bird".

Whitaker delivers the kind of discipline performance that indicates at times; even a ruthless individual can have a wide range of moods and reaction that shows his human side. And yet, a sudden reaction to his surroundings and situation can make him switch on a dime.

I also have to give credit to the superb acting job from James McAvoy whose role is the film's conscience and who seems to hold his own in several key scenes with Whitaker. This is a movie that is balanced well between the overall story and the relationship that often shifts the film within a two-character drama. "The Last King of Scotland" is an important and astounding film to see for its history and its real life figure. A powerful "must-see" experience that should be a sure fire Oscar contender.

R; 121min. A Fox Searchlight Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters

## THEATRE REVIEW: "THE AFRICAN COMPANY PRESENTS RICHARD III"

Mike Cook

In their seventh season, the Congo Square Theatre Company's current production is a riveting pageant of poetry, passion, commitment and faith written by Carlyle Brown. Congo Square pays homage to the first, known Black theatre ensemble in the western world, The African Company. This company staged William Shakespeare's "Richard III" in 1821. Their audacity provoked a firestorm of retribution in New York City fueled by rival theatre companies who first tried to buy them out. When the African Company held true to their mission, their enemies bribed the police to harass them out of business.

Congo Square resurrects this period of American theatre in a production resplendent with theatre history, the Black condition in 1821 and the determination of courageous theatre professionals to establish their legitimacy and artistry in the face of bitter opposition. The seething treachery and betrayal in Shakespeare's drama is mirrored by the hostility and revenge of the forces determined not to have honest and professional depictions of Black reality on stage. The firestorm of reaction led to a moratorium of real Black theatre and a subsequent one-hundred years of blackface and minstrel.

Riffing on the kernel of Shakespeare's play, this performance takes off in unified directions like master jazz musicians embellishing a theme. The chords are in harmony: the survival strategies of Blacks in New York City only a millimeter out of slavery; the pride and courage of the African Theatre artists to persevere; the legacy they established with artists such as Ira Aldridge performing boldly throughout American and Europe.

Aaron Todd Douglas' direction deftly conjures up this little known but crucial history. The ensemble of actors includes Matt Bradford Sullivan, Shona Tucker, Kelly Taffe, Allen Gilmore, Chuck Patterson, Cedric Harris and Richard Topol. The performers were individually excellent, as well as, cohering in this challenging production. The demanding Shakespearean diction was bracketed by a searing and surreal singing of the coon repertoire, "Possum in a Gum Tree."

After the performance the author and a supporter (the esteemed director and interpreter of August Wilson's plays, Marion McLinton) joined the company's staff in an intimate and far ranging discussion of this play and the enduring significance of Black theatre. Congo Square is one of the finest young theatre troupes in the country. This was more than confirmed in their sixth season with the astonishing production of the contemporary tragedy, "Deep Azure." It only remains for the company to receive the support they have so justly earned.

Not to be missed, "The African Company Presents Richard III" will run through October, 15<sup>th</sup> at the Duncan YMCA Chernin Center for the Arts; 1001 West Roosevelt Road; 312/587-2292;

www.congosquaretheatre.org. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m.. General admission tickets are \$30 with discounted seats of \$20 for seniors and \$15 for students.

Mike Cook is a writer and filmmaker. To comment on this article please visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

## Flicks from page 7



Fox Searchlight Pictures' The Last King of Scotland

comments from Nicholson's "spirited" John Gotti-type performance are a little over-the-top and amusing to watch.

The movie begins to quicken its pace even more of a feverish pitch. When each side realizes that there is a mole that needs to be exposed. It is also discovered Costello is already an FBI informant who needs to serve up the "mole" in

## Diamond from front page

located on the 3900 block of West 26th Street. The Medical examiners office has ruled the death accidental.

The viewing of the body will take place

at A & R Leak Funeral Home on Wednesday, October 4th from 6-10 pm at 7838 S. Cottage Grove Avenue. Funeral services are will be held on Thursday, October 5th at Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church located at 4543 S. Princeton Ave.

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WVON from page 10

Riles. "I think many of the people had to find their roles and make the abrupt adjustment. This week has been a little smoother and people are getting a little more acclimated to being on 24 hours. I gave us a B+ for week one."

Whether it is politics, sports, economics or education, Chicago seems to always have a lightening-rod issue going on. When they're reported on WVON you'll find that the hosts go beyond simply discussing them, they encourage listeners to get active and take a stand on the issues that they discuss. Morning host Roland Martin urges people to attend health related events endlessly and Lynn Richardson, host of "The Real Deal in Real Estate" implores people to attend financial seminars and wealth building events.

"We have a responsibility to the African-American community. This is a battle now ... a battle of survival for our people and my hosts know this. We don't want to just talk about it, we want to give people the knowledge and the wisdom to act on things," Riles said.

WVON also streams online and it appears that people around the globe are checking out "The Talk of Chicago."

"We're getting hits [online] from overseas - Germany, some parts of Africa and other countries. That's a very useful tool for us as well," said Riles.

It's now been over two weeks since the station made its big changes and people seem to be adjusting to the newness of it all.

"You get to wake up to WVON and you get to go to sleep with WVON," Riles said. "I think that the listeners are happy that they have that outlet 24 hours a day seven days a week."

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

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Aesop from page 6

vision with the people of all nations," said Rhim.

He spoke about traveling to places like Bolivia and Uganda, but did not mention that he received a special award for his art in 1960 while participating in the Korean National Art exhibition. He also didn't mention the fact that he received first prize a year later in 1961 at the Annual Industrial Art Exhibition of Korea. His list of unmentioned accomplishments also goes on to include the first prize award he received in 1966 for his participation and association with the Chicago Artist Guild Annual Art Exhibition.

Nor did he mention that in 1995 "Aesop Rhim Day" was proclaimed by the Mayor of Chicago in his honor. What he did mention was very profound. "As an artist I believe that art is relevant to life, as life is to art. As creative and proactive people, we are not just the sums of our inspirations, but the links in the chain of inspiration," said Rhim.

He summed up his efforts by saying, "In my works, I am striving to create a working model of peace, to create a small world in which each element is gracefully integrated and interrelated with the others to form a subtly complex image of harmony."

Also debuting at the "Peace Museum" will be two other exhibits, "Images against War" and "Whisper's From Baghdad." "Images against War" includes images from over 660 photographers from over 40 countries. "Whisper's from Baghdad" consists of 36 original paintings of Iraqi Art accompanied by a video of interviews with the artists.

For more information on the exhibits visit:

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

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Probation from

page 5 performance in the future. A school's annual rating will be based on a set of indicators. The level of achievement and the level of improvement for each of the following indicators, tests administered system-wide, attendance, student gain where available, and in high schools, the graduation rate.

Getting off probation

Arne Duncan, CEO of the Chicago Public Schools, has the authority to remove a school from probation, but the school must first show it has made academic progress. If a probationary school improves its performance it could receive a recommendation from the Area Instructional Officer or Chief Education Officer that the school should receive a non-probation rating.

In addition, Duncan could also recommend that a school be removed from probation status after a consideration of progress in areas that may include, but are not limited to; student mobility, poverty rates, bilingual education eligibility, special education and English proficiency programs.

Beginning this year all public elementary schools will receive a performance rating annually based on a review of reading, math, writing, and science scores from the Illinois State Assessments (ISAT), attendance and student gain and growth. High schools will receive a performance rating annually based on a review of graduation rate, PSAT scores, attendance, and student gains on the Educational Planning and Assessment System (EPAS).

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

Video from page 7

princess mermaid, Ariel who has fallen in love with a human. Unknowingly jeopardizes her royal father's sea kingdom, by dealing with the evil sea witch to make her human in exchange for her singing voice.

G; 83min. Walt Disney Home Video

**MONTY PYTHON AND THE HOLY GRAIL (\*\*\*)** The British comedy troupe's second feature that inspired the hit musical play, "Spamalot" makes an overdue DVD return full of previous and new bonus material to fill the appetite for any Python aficionados.

After a strong hilarious start, this medieval quest by King Arthur (galloping without horses underneath and his knights on their quest for the holy grail seems to stumble along through their jokes and gags with only the glimpses of what later establish the comic troupe's irreverent humor. And yet, the film's silliness delivers some brilliant lunacies.

PG; 91min. Sony Pictures Home Video

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

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Financial from

page 5 should also be teaching their children how not to spend above their means," Spinosa adds.

It is essential that children learn finances somewhere but their foundation should be at home and not necessarily at school where other adults, the teachers and overseers who may very well have their own bad spending practices, are shaping your children's perceptions of money.

If you start off building a foundation for your child for saving and spending, you can guarantee that they will be able to manage their money in school and out and well into adulthood.

If you really don't know where to begin, start by purchasing a piggy bank for your child. And all those penny's that find their way onto the floor and then into your toddler's mouth become savings for your child. Teach the child, "A penny saved is a penny earned." And help them grow their fortune.

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

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# Steele Projects \$400 Million Deficit, Says County Must Cut Spending

Ben Proress

County officials are going to have to return to their core missions and dump any "warm, fuzzy feel-good programs," interim Cook County Board President Bobbie Steele warned Thursday.

Steele also announced at her transition team address that the county's budget deficit going into 2007 exceeds \$400 million. She asked all department heads and elected officials to cut their spending by four percent this year and 10 percent next year to reduce the deficit.

"The elimination of non-performing employees in all departments will result in significant savings to tax payers," Steele said.

Steele admitted that the response from county officials to her proposed cuts has been "moaning and groaning, gnashing of the teeth."

Steele also faced resistance from fellow commissioner and County Board Presidential candidate Tony Peraica (R-Riverside), who believes the county's finances can be fixed without raising taxes.

"I want to have a commitment to not raise tax dollars," Peraica declared. "I think \$3.1 billion is enough that we don't need to take more from the taxpayers."

Steele pledged to do "all I can" to propose a 2007 budget before she leaves office on Dec. 4, but she would not make any guarantees.

"I don't have Oprah's money," Steele said. "I can't come up with \$400 million overnight."

Peraica, however, called Steele's \$400 million budget deficit figure "fictional." He noted that former President, John Stroger routinely cited large budget deficits before unveiling his annual spending plans.

Amidst groans from his fellow commissioners, Peraica declared that it is time to "open up government and get rid of the corruption of the previous administration."

Steele took office Aug. 1 and is not running in the Nov. 7 election between Peraica and Democrat Ald. Todd Stroger (8<sup>th</sup>) of Chicago, son of former President John Stroger.

Other commissioners praised Steele for her report, referring to her brief presidency as, "a period of transparency,



Cook County President Bobbi Steele addresses the Board at Transition Team Address

inclusion, and candor."

"I must say, it took a woman to do it," said Commissioner Joan Murphy.

"Cook County's financial picture when I was sworn into office... was less than rosy," Steele said. In the last two months, however, Steele believes "We have made significant progress."

Two days after Steele took the oath of office, she formed a transition team, chaired by state Sen. Rickey Hendon (D-Chicago) and U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill). Steele praised the 60 person team of community leaders who delved into county operations and finances to make recommendations for reform. Steele insisted that the team identified ways to reduce county costs; however, she could not put a dollar amount on changes that focused on reorganizing and downsizing county departments.

Regardless of any restructuring of the government, Steele said the county's mission "to provide services to those in need, including the poor and the elderly, will not change."

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