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

DIXON ELECTED 1ST FEMALE ALDERMAN OF 24TH WARD

Sophia Karalexis

24th Ward Alderman Michael Chandler conceded to challenger Sharon Dixon Thursday afternoon, making Dixon the ward's first female alderman. Following a hotly contested runoff election, Chandler finished with 49 percent of the vote to Dixon's 51 percent. Earlier this week Chandler refused to concede as he rallied his supporters to "to count all the votes!"

Now that all the votes are counted Dixon is focusing on her next four years in office. "I was completely overwhelmed, but I also felt that it was time [for a change]. I plan to make this an inclusive, not an exclusive ward. I plan to listen to the people and be a voice for them," said Dixon.

Voter turnout for this election wasn't very high. The 24th Ward has 33,243 registered voters and a total of 6,409 actually cast a ballot for the aldermanic race. Chandler was not re-elected as all the votes were counted Wednesday. He had 3,110 votes while Dixon had 3,299, that's a difference of 189 votes. The close race proved discontent within the community with at least half of the residents voting against the current alderman. "There was not a good turn out," said Election Judge, Arlene Gentry.

The voters in the community are



The new 24th Ward Alderman Sharon Dixon

very aware of the issues North Lawndale is facing. Many voters expressed concern with the level of crime. Many voters believe that the alderman needs to figure out ways in which to create jobs for the residents. "Whoever the alderman is, I think they should come up with a way of creating jobs for the residents in the community because that would help cut down crime," said Margaret Milam.

Other residents also expressed concern for the safety of children walking home from school. "We are starting to have boarded up houses in

the community, we need to work with whoever the new alderman is to get rid of that," said Johnnie Baker. A trend within Chicago as a whole is that boarded up houses tend to be places where gangs can congregate or provide a place where crimes, such as rapes can be committed. Boarded up houses tend to be the result of foreclosures and can be due to predatory lending.

Other inspirations for voters coming to the polls were much simpler in nature. "I live in the community and I want to see the community grow," said Gentry. She also expressed

concern not only for the children, but for the safety of the elderly members of the community as well.

"I would like for the alderman to help the guys that come out of the penal system, that go right back, because they can't find jobs and it makes them return to drugs. Keep the guys off the streets. Do something for the little guys to, they need role models. They see the older guys selling drugs, so they want to sell drugs. If they see the older guys playing ball or something else, they might do something constructive," said James Thomas.

The community now will be eagerly waiting to see what kinds of changes the newly elected Sharon Dixon will bring. Her hard work during her campaign paid off as she earned enough votes to overtake Chandler. Chandler should be remembered by the hard work and improvements he did make in the community for the past 12 years. With a range of important issues facing the community, there is no doubt Dixon has a lot of hard work ahead.

A victory party for Sharon Dixon will be held at 3333 W. Arthington on Friday at 7:00pm and Saturday 7:00 at the American Legion Hall at 3918 W. Roosevelt Rd.

FIORETTI UPSETS HAITHCOCK IN LANDSLIDE 2ND WARD VICTORY

Chase Castle

Bob Fioretti won the runoff election for Chicago's 2nd Ward Tuesday, defeating Madeline Haithcock in one of the year's most contentious local races.

Fioretti, a civil rights attorney and lifelong resident of Chicago, beat the incumbent alderman by a comfortable 32 percent margin - 66 percent to 33.8 percent. Haithcock previously held the post for 14 years.

The victory comes just weeks after Fioretti received a key endorsement from US Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. Support from Jackson undoubtedly helped Fioretti garner essential African American votes from the highly diverse South Loop and Near West Side that the 2nd Ward encompasses. Although Haithcock was backed by Mayor Daley as well as local congressman Danny Davis and Bobby Rush, Fioretti's combined support from Jackson and several unions seemed to give his campaign an essential edge.

"Obviously the first priority [now] is accessibility and opening up the alderman's office in this ward because it's been closed for



Bob Fioretti

a long time," said Jane DeRonne, Fioretti's Communications Director. DeRonne added that while attention early on will be focused on the ward's schools, taxes and overall development, Fioretti will be sure to keep his constituents involved. "Bob has always been about giving people a voice, and today the people spoke and he's excited to start working."

Tuesday's election marks the end of a bitter contest between the two rivals, which included countless quips and personal allegations against each other. The mud-slinging

began shortly after the February 27 municipal elections, where neither candidate received the majority of votes necessary to claim the aldermanic seat. This prompted the two leading-candidates to engage in a series of personal exchanges through the press.

While Fioretti suggested that Haithcock was padding the city budget with family members and "in the pocket of developers," Haithcock told the Sun-Times that Fioretti was "just a personal injury lawyer" without real credibility. Most recently, Haithcock sent out mailings that implied Fioretti was the subject of a sexual discrimination lawsuit. In reality, the suit was filed against Fioretti's firm and not him personally. Furthermore, the Employment Opportunity Commission that originally helped file the suit ultimately dropped the investigation before any substantial legal action was taken. "[It's] a sham mailer from a sham candidate," Fioretti's campaign manager Hanah Jubeh told the Sun-Times.

Chase Castle is journalism student at DePaul University. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

FIVE CITY ALDERMAN UNSEATED IN RUNOFF

James Glover

12 aldermanic runoffs held this week resulted in a significant makeover for the Chicago city Council. The runoffs took place as a result of there being no clear winner in the February 27th elections, with no candidate getting over 50 percent of the vote. Several long-time incumbents were ousted as Dorothy Tillman (3rd), Madeline Haithcock (2nd), and Michael Chandler (24th) all lost their respective elections.

Other results included Toni Foulkes with 60.2% of the vote defeating Felicia Simmons-Stovall in the 15th Ward. Scott Waguespack was victorious in what turned out to be the most contested race, defeating incumbent Ted Matlak. Waguespack managed 50.9% of the vote, winning by only 122 votes. "It was a real grass-roots effort," Waguespack said. "A lot of neighbors from every part of the ward stepped up."

In the 49th Ward runoff, Alderman Joe Moore defeated challenger technology manager Don Gordon 51.6% to 48.4%. Moore joked, calling himself "Landside Joe." Gordon refused to concede and continued into the night

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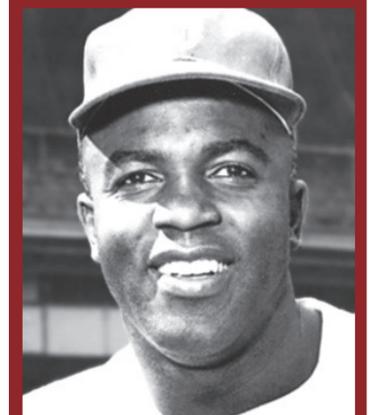


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THE NORTH LAWDALE COMMUNITY NEWS

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. Our community includes those who live, work, worship in, and/or care about North Lawndale. Our focus is on positive, productive solutions, that will improve the lifestyle of our community members.

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

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**North Lawndale Community News**  
**Winner of the**  
**7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District 2004**  
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Presented By Congressman Danny K. Davis & Residents of the 7th Congressional District

## NLCN 2007 Focus People and Education

The primary focus for SHS/NLCN during 2007 will be People and Education. Our history of people is great. People have strived to create progress in our community, raised their families, created businesses, triumphed over adversaries, and worked in the community. All year long NLCN will focus on articles related to people and education throughout our newspaper, weblog, and website that serves the Westside of Chicago.

Acquiring a greater knowledge of each other through wisdom and a genuine feeling of caring for each other in our micro-local community areas and homes will improve the connection we should have between each other. Using our God given resources which are himself and each other will create an environment that will provide a climate of positive growth. Confidence in each other and assuming this responsibility will overcome our fear in valuing this vulnerable process because loving and caring about others does open us up to dissapointment. But the strong overcome fear and the dissapointments that may happen. We just have to be wise as change agents of the people divide. We must really care about each other.

Education with wisdom 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, we have to make it in favor of everyone, equitably.

Throughout the year, we will connect you with resources and residents working in these areas. NLCN will continue to provide news and information on issues and events that are relevant to our readers, as well as touch on the focus of our previous years. By becoming an educated wise people, knowing, loving and caring about each other more, we can more participate and benefit in making our communities model neighborhoods. We hope by reading this community newspaper, you will become or remain inspired to keep moving foward to a better life.

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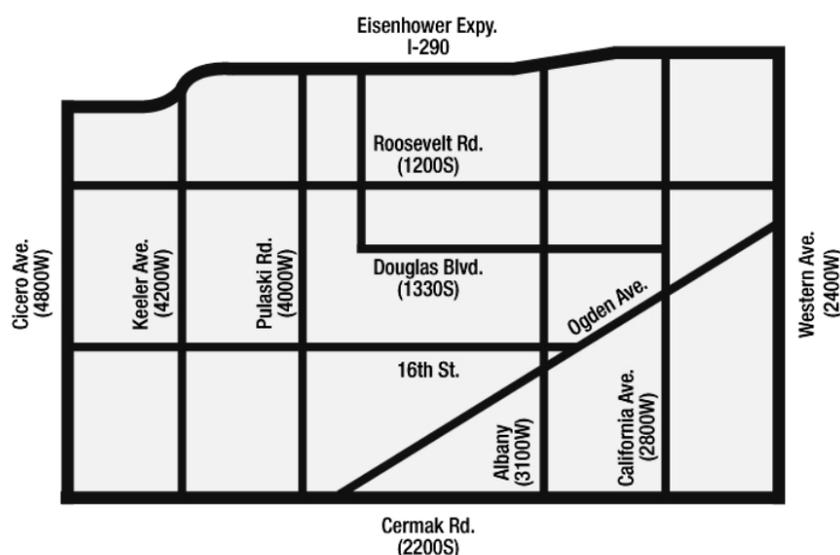
## 2007 NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM

Promoting Resident Participation for Community Strengthening

The 2007 Steans Family Foundation Neighborhood Grants Program will award grants to projects that are determined and carried out with residential leadership. Projects should address neighborhood concerns; demonstrate strong neighborhood support and residents working together.

All projects **must** be resident sponsored (collaboration with community-based organizations are permissible). Grant award amounts will range from \$250-\$2,500. Awards will be made directly to the resident-led project(s). Participation in the Neighborhood Grants Program **does not** require a 501(c)3 tax status. All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of community residents and stakeholders.

Projects must be located within the Steans Family Foundation North Lawndale boundary area (mapped below).



Applications may be picked up at our North Lawndale office location or downloaded at [www.steansfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.steansfamilyfoundation.org). Please contact the Neighborhood Hotline at 773-533-2350 ext. 11 for further questions.

### PROJECT AREA AND INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS:

Interested applicants **must** attend an informational session pertaining to the program area(s) of interest.

**General Program:** Projects for resident involvement which can include: Block Clubs, Community Gardens, Cultural Arts, Festivals, Youth Health and Fitness, and Neighborhood Service Projects.

- ✎ Information Sessions will be held on Wednesday, February 28 and Thursday, March 15 from 6-7 p.m.
- ✎ Completed applications must be received by Thursday, March 22 by 5 p.m.
- ✎ Awards will be announced by Monday, April 16

*Meetings and deadlines for Public Safety and Juvenile Justice Programs will be held at the same time:*

**Public Safety:** (New category for 2007) Projects will be awarded in two target areas: (Area 1) Kedzie to the East; Homan to the West; 16th Street to the North; and Ogden Avenue to the South; and (Area 2) Pulaski to the East; Kostner to the West; Roosevelt to the North; and Cermak to the South. Projects should focus on improving the safety and security of these areas which can include: Neighborhood Watch groups, community area clean-up projects, etc.

**Juvenile Justice:** (New category for 2007) Projects for young people in the juvenile justice system that which include: tutoring, group activities for young men and women such as book clubs, mentoring teams, or other activities that provide positive outlets.

- ✎ Informational Sessions will be held on Monday, April 30 from 6-7 p.m.
- ✎ Completed applications must be received by Wednesday, May 30 by 5 p.m.
- ✎ Awards will be announced by Friday, June 29

Informational sessions will be held at our North Lawndale office located in the Homan Square Administration Building at 3333 West Arthington; Chicago, IL 60624

### THE STEANS FAMILY FOUNDATION

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EDUCATION & TRAINING

LAST CALL FOR AUDITIONS FOR TEENS INTERESTED IN THE ARTS

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson



Teens interested in a paid, after-school program in the performance arts have an opportunity to train with Free Street Theater. Auditions are being held at the Pulaski Park district, 1419 W. Blackhawk, near Ashland and Division. Last day to audition is April 27, 2007, but auditioning times are on a first come, first serve basis. "Free Street is internationally known for the way we develop young actors and creative writers," said artistic director Ron Bieganski. "We have partnerships where we teach in New York with Stella Adler Studio of Acting. And they're connected to NYU and Columbia College in Chicago."

Applicants accepted will enroll in a 2 year development program and will receive a stipend. They will partake in intense theater training three days a week from 4:30 to 6:30 and Saturdays from 11am until 4pm. "When the youth finish our program, and they go off to college, which 97% of them do, they find that the work they're doing in college is much simpler and easier than the work they were doing here," said Bieganski, "so they are very well prepared."

Free Street training consists of learning yoga techniques for releases that will enable them to be in the moment and increase their concentration and focus so that whatever they do, they will understand what it takes to really focus on something and get it done.

They will also learn immediacy (being in the

moment), spontaneity (their own unique personality in being in the moment), and intimacy (the ability to be emotionally open in the moment).

Bieganski said this type of training goes a long way in the lives of these young people because it transfers to pretty much everything they're going to do in their lives.

"We do a lot of emotional and deep creative training. By deep that means working very much with different networking and unconscious networking ability which is very much ignored in public schools," he said.

Bieganski added that youth learn how to control their emotions, control of their bodies, and control of their abilities to creatively network with the knowledge that they have to reach their potential to be successful. Part of dealing with us is that we work very hard in getting the youth to take responsibility for their own actions [because] they are starting to become adults.

Bieganski said an incredible high percentage of their youth go on to college, so parents who have sons or daughters who are truly interested in being artists can't send their teens to a better place.

Teens interested in the program should first call to schedule a five-minute auditioning time slot. Then they should have a one to two minute performance ready that shows what they are strong in. And they need to really want to be a part of the program. "I have been doing this for 25 years, and I have never seen a place that works like Free Street does," said Bieganski. "We're extremely good at what we do."

To schedule an appointment to audition applicants should call 773-772-7248.

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.

TEACHERS AND PARENTS ARE PART OF THE SOLUTION



Stanley G. Buford

Effective teachers must find ways to communicate with parents, whether the parents are motivated or not. Both the teachers and the parents become part of the solution as opposed to being a part of the problem, regardless of race, creed, nationality, and irrespective of gender.

When teachers have a poor opinion of themselves and their profession, children suffer as a consequence when they become a member of the teacher's class. Conversely, teachers that practice culturally inclusive methods will definitely see themselves as making a difference.

Research indicates that students with a desire to learn will excel if encouraged within their learning environments.

Students, as a rule, require immediate feedback in order for classroom instruction to be effective. Parents, in the same way, should be involved with the process of education on a continual basis.

The national PTA publishes the following tips of things teachers wish parents would do.

1. Be involved in your children's education. Your involvement helps students learn, improves schools, and makes teachers' jobs easier.

2. Provide resources at home for reading and learning. Have books and magazines for your children and read to or with them every day.

3. Set a good example. Show your children you believe reading is both enjoyable and useful. They shouldn't spend all their

time in front of the T.V. either.

4. Encourage your children to do their best in school. Tell them education is important.

5. Emphasize academics. Don't get caught up in athletics or in preparing your children for the workplace, when academics should be their first concern.

6. Support the school's goals. Make sure you do not undermine the school's rules and discipline.

7. Use pressure positively. Encourage children to do their best, but do not set unattainable goals for them or get them involved in too many activities.

8. Do not wait for a teacher to call you if there is a problem. Call your children's teachers early, so there is still time to improve the situation.

9. Accept your responsibility as parents and do not expect the school nor the teachers to takeover your job. For example, teach your children basic discipline at home rather than leaving this task to teachers.

10. View underage drinking and excessive partying as a serious matter, not a joke. These activities will take a toll on your children's classroom performance. Remember alcohol is the most frequently abused drug among youth and adults.

Stanley G. Buford is a teacher, an entrepreneur and a father of two. He is the author of "Not All Teachers Are Parents, But All Parents Are Teachers!" and winner of the National Leadership Award in business. Email: terkatinc1@aol.com. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.



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# Sticks and Stones in a Glass House

Jaira Harrington

“That’s some nappy headed hoes,” joked Don Imus, morning radio host, when referring to the Rutgers women’s basketball team. Now that I have read about *Imus in the Morning’s* past topics of discussion, I am not surprised that he has crossed this line. Not only is he wildly popular to numerous media outlets, he is also a powerful figure in Conservative, right wing culture. It’s a wonder I’ve never heard of the guy.

For fear of truly offending the public, Imus waited two full days to make a vague explanation/apology. In his apparent regret for his offensive and mean-spirited statements he said, “I’m not a bad person; I’m a good person, but I said a bad thing.” Even so, sticks and stones do hurt.

What was his response to those who accused him of being racist? Basically, that it is impossible because he knows Black people. He and his wife are strong supporters of the Imus Ranch, a New Mexico cattle farm that helps children with cancer and blood

disorders. He alleges that ten percent of these children are Black. *Everybody knows that this provides him automatic immunity from being racist.*

If he wants to truly stretch this logic, he could assert that he knows females (*I mean, who doesn’t have a mother?*) to avoid being called a misogynist for his disparaging comments on air about women. Much of Imus’ programming tends to target influential women that are pioneers in their fields. A month ago, the executive producer of the Imus show, Bernard McGuirk, said that Democratic presidential contender Hillary Rodham Clinton was “trying to sound black in front of a black audience” when she spoke at a Selma, Alabama church to commemorate Bloody Sunday. He continued by saying “[Clinton] will have cornrows and gold teeth before this fight with [Sen. Barack] Obama [D-IL] is over.” Way to dismantle stereotypes. Other contributors to the show have mocked prominent figures including renowned Maya Angelou and Hispanic Governor Bill

Richardson (D-NM).

In 2001, Imus’ co-host, Sid Rosenberg was fired for saying that it would be more likely that “the [Williams] sisters [Venus and Serena] would be featured in National Geographic than in Playboy.” He also added that his comments were not racist; they were “zoological.” Apparently Rosenberg did not hear about Saartjie Baartman, also known as the Hottentot Venus, a 19<sup>th</sup> century African woman paraded about Europe as a scientific curiosity, spectacle and, virtually, as an animal. Rosenberg must have conveniently forgotten that Africans were treated as moveable property, like animals, or chattel, during the slave trade. What American, in this post-Emancipation and post-Civil Rights Movement setting, should find this kind of humor amusing?

These exceptional, phenomenal women of Rutgers did not deserve to be the subject of such an inherently disgusting comment; however, some argue that the offensiveness of his language weakly rivals that of today’s

average hip-hop artist. This is a pressing issue for the Black community. If you must, continue to pop, lock and drop it. Dance to those irresponsibly degrading videos, ignore the offensive lyrics and enjoy the polyrhythmic productions (*because it’s the beat that really matters*). I ask, is it fine for Black men to call our women blockheads and for our women to refer to one another as “hoes”? If anything, Imus’ comments leave our community’s hypocrisies exposed. Consider this: for Imus, there are, on a good day, thousands of listeners but for a single popular hip-hop artist, there are millions in his or her audience.

Imus at first was just punished with two weeks of dead air. A number of social justice groups and activists pushed for his permanent termination, like that of Sid Rosenberg, and succeeded. Do we punish hip-hop artists who openly call Black women “hoes”? And if so, how? Perhaps with a Grammy nomination or a BET Award?

See Stone page 14

## Witchcraft in Chicago

Kabuika Kamunga

“Your auntie ate your kidneys,” said Prophet Elijah Salifu Amouku to a man at Narrow Way Ministries, a predominantly Ghanaian Pentecostal church in Uptown.

I looked around the room to watch the congregants’ reaction, wondering if they believed in witchcraft. Several nod with understanding for the man’s plight. They themselves might have had to deal with a witch in their own family.

Just as Jesus ordered ‘you shall cast out the devil in my name,’ Prophet Elijah, dressed elegantly in a black striped three-piece suit, says he is here to do the same tonight.

The prophet then declares the man healed from his kidney failure in the name of Jesus. To which, the congregation shouts AMEN.

“Africans understand spirituality well,” said Christopher Kwafu, the assistant pastor at Narrow Way Ministries. “We know that there are witches, we know that there are wizards, evil spirits. So we know how to pray against these forces.”

I decided to find out if other Africans in Chicago believed in witchcraft.

Sitting in her living room, Helen Ndiwe, a Catholic registered nurse, originally from Nigeria, spoke adamantly against the American version of witchcraft.

“The celebration they do as Halloween, that’s witchcraft,” She said. “That’s the period where they celebrate witches’ power. In fact, witches come out physically to let people know they’re witches.”

Ndiwe, whose children came to Chicago less than a year ago from Nigeria, said she would not let them participate in Halloween celebrations and would prohibit them from eating the candies. “I don’t like it because it’s initiation into witchcraft.”

However, other Africans believe witchcraft is not all bad. In fact, it is a positive force to be used for good. Micheal Mawese, 45, from Congo-Kinshasa, currently lives on the South Side of Chicago. Back home in Kinshasa, he witnessed witchcraft when an old lady got angry and summoned the man who stole her chicken.

“And we saw the sky get darker. There was lightning in the sky,” said Mawese, sitting in a coffee shop in Evanston, a tall-framed businessman who came to the U.S. less than two years ago. “I saw it with my own eyes.”

When the thief came to kneel in front of the woman, Mawese said, “Suddenly the sky got back to normal.”

Mawese chuckled as he took a sip of his double espresso. The use of witchcraft for justice made sense to him. Such experiences were the basis of his beliefs.

Iyanda R. Nkanga, 41, a Congolese-American from Hyde Park, agrees with this positive analysis of witchcraft.

“Witchcraft is supposed to be a bad thing. But I’m starting to question that,” said Nkanga, who has a doctorate degree in Development Studies from the University of Chicago. “First, we don’t really fully understand what it is. The second thing is because we don’t understand, we have the tendency to dismiss it.”

As an example, Nkanga mentioned that scientists, who created the atomic bomb, were called genius, while

See Witchcraft page 10

## LEGAL NOTICE

### THE FOLLOWING MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE !!

CITY OF CHICAGO

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

*In Cooperation with*

**ALDERMAN MICHEAL CHANDLER OF THE 24<sup>TH</sup> WARD AND ALDERMAN RICARDO MUNOZ OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> WARD**

**Invites You To A**

**COMMUNITY TIF MEETING**

**Representatives from the Department of Planning and Development Will Be Present to Discuss the Proposed**

**Ogden – Pulaski Tax Increment Financing Designation**

**MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2007**

**AT THE**

**10<sup>th</sup> District Police Station - 3315 west Ogden Ave.**

**Chicago, Illinois**

**5:00pm – 7:00 pm**

**For more information, contact Fernando Espinoza of Dept. of Planning and Development At (312) 744-8568**

## DON IMUS: WHAT A SURPRISE

Arthur Carr

When you think it is safe to watch television again, another celebrity put his foot in his mouth with a controversial statement. Don Imus, until he was recently fired, had a radio show on CBS radio and a syndicated television show on MSNBC. He made a racist comment to the Lady Rutgers basketball team by referring to them as "nappy-headed hoes". His producers also made an inappropriate remark by saying the match-up between Rutgers vs. Tennessee as the "Jigaboos" vs. the "Wannabe's". Thanks to the efforts of Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, both CBS radio and MSNBC fired Imus. Hopefully, this is the last time somebody in the media will say something this stupid and hateful.

Within the last year, Mel Gibson had a drunken tirade when he was arrested by the police with his Anti-Semitic slurs. Then there's Michael Richards using the N-word as if he wanted to call African Americans that for years because once he got started he didn't want to start. Recently, Tim Hardaway expressed how he hated homosexuals in an interview on a radio show in Miami. My question is should we really be surprised of these sudden outburst because I'm not. The reason why I'm saying this is these people in the public eye usually say things that are politically correct, but what's in their hearts and what harbors in their minds is a different story. Behind close doors could be something totally different than what they portrayed in the media.

Racism seems to be strong because of ignorance. People hear stories of other races through family members, friends, the community that they live in, and their own experiences just to name a few. Instead of taking time to know the individual, we generalize the person by race, gender, or sexual orientation.

I can recall the first time I was call the N-word. I was fifteen years old and I was taking a driving course. I was paired with two Causian teenagers who lived around 60<sup>th</sup> and Harlem. One day the driving instructor, who was also African American, and I was parked waiting on the teenagers. As we were waiting, two young boys on bicycles said, "What are you N-words doing here? Why don't you N-words go home?" These kids were only eight or nine years old. That was the only reason why I didn't get out of the car and knock them out. They got that hate from their parents which were pretty pathetic. It was pretty funny now because I realize that I will always be the better man than those youngsters. Twenty-one years later, racism is still stronger than ever and it is not slowing down.

Now I want to talk to my young brothers about loving and respecting our women. One thing through this Imus experience, we have to question some of our rappers who degrade women in their lyrics. I can understand when they say they talking about a certain type of woman but if you brothers are not praising our sisters then it makes it okay for people like Imus to say idiotic remarks, I admit sometimes when I see some of the videos I like what I see. After a while, it is just the same blueprint created by the record executives to sell records. For other races to stop disrespecting our sisters, we must stop disrespecting our sisters. We must stop thinking our young ladies as just "Bust Downs". If a sister is not conducting herself in a correct manner, then talk to her rather than getting with her. I consider African Americans as kings and queens. The African American woman reflects us and we reflect them. If we consider our ladies as B's and H's, what does it say about us The African American man. Think about it.

## MAAT Productions On Mentoring Youth And Uplifting Motherhood

Clemolyn (Pennie) Brinson

Wanda Muhammad is the programming director for MAAT (pronounced My-at) Productions currently working with teens and young adults on a show for television called Shaping Young Minds. The mentorship program invites teens to host the show by interviewing adults on various topics. The teens can also interact with adults and professionals by participating in panel group discussions about different subjects.

"We started doing this because when you turn on the television it is very hard to find a positive program that features young black teens," said Muhammad. "Normally they are portrayed in the stereotypical role of drug dealers on the street, gang-bangers, or the hoochie mamas. Mainstream media does not show them doing everyday things that they do all the time. We took it upon ourselves to show them doing positive things because TV does have a profound effect."

MAAT Productions is looking to feature youth organizations, church youth ministries; anything involving youth, and wants to expand its mentorship to the west side and citywide. The show began as a mentorship project for girls only in a show called Let's Talk Baby Girl, said Muhammad. "What we wanted to do was help girls understand how valuable they are... that they don't have to be used sexually then discarded. But we found that we had to talk to more than just the girls. That's how it evolved to Shaping Young Minds."

The show is not just about matters of peer pressure, sex, or home life. One of Muhammad's favorite features was of a youth organization called Young Wings With Vision where teens actually learn to pilot airplanes. To learn more about Shaping Young Minds or to find out what times the shows will be

televised on CANTV call 773-567-6228 or go to [symtvshow@yahoo.com](mailto:symtvshow@yahoo.com)

Muhammad has another passion that evolved from encouraging our youth, especially females. She said there has been a lot of damage done to the black female due to crack addiction that started in the late eighties. "When crack came into our community, it hit women on such an impact until whatever moral core we had, whatever essence that we were holding onto as women, crack made women do things that were unimaginable," she said. "In that whole ten to twelve year span it's almost like we lost a generation of mothers."

And now the portrayal of the grandmother figure is being under attack with characters like Madea and Big Mama, she said. "After fifty years of television, from the mummies and black exploitations, all of this thru the years have set up in us a certain mindset whether we realize it or not. And not only that, people the world over get a certain perception of us based on the media because now we're a global world."

MAAT Productions is sponsoring a conference on uplifting and restoring honor and respect for the black mother. The conference, called Celebration of Black Motherhood, will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2007, the day before Mother's Day, at Heritage Plaza-Bethune Room, 1510 S. 95<sup>th</sup> St. 10-2. Tickets are \$55. Muhammad said it would behoove the black man to get behind a women's movement and encourage their wives, mothers, sisters and daughters because we are becoming stronger in the household. To obtain tickets for the conference call 773-567-6228.

*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).*

## War on Drugs Sending Home It's Casualties

Mikal-Ace Ngubani

Thousands of former drug offenders are now being released from Federal and state prisons across this country after many years of extensive confinement and are re-entering many of their previous and respective communities. The majority of of those returning are major and minor casualties of the nineteen eighties and nineties 'War on Drugs' policy and programs that saw many of them sentenced to unprecedented harsh and longer prison sentences, which in the end, skyrocketed the prison population of this country to an astounding 2.2 million and increased its national jail and prison expenditures to more than \$60 billion annually.

According to the Vera Institute of Justice Commission headed by former U.S. Attorney General Nicholas Katzenback and an assorted panel of former judges, prison officials and prison rights advocates. Many past offenders, as a result of a newer social stance ostensibly favoring punishment over rehabilitation, are being sent home to many cities and negative circumstances in the basic overall, semi-skilled or unskilled condition many were in before their incarceration. The commission also suspects that many of these past miscreants now numbering over one and a half million a year are returning to their old neighborhoods, indigent, under-educated and bitter, after years of hard core confinement and social isolation, with little option than to further increase the staggering rate of recidivism by reverting to past and post counter productive lifestyles.

In light of the fact that 92% of all prisoners will one day be released, the hue and cry of most community based interaction groups such as those that exist on the south and west sides of Chicago seems to be, 'What is to be done with the ex-offender once they've paid their debt to society?' Rather than simply

releasing them en masse upon the completion of their sentences, it is now being suggested at least in part by the commission that there be a return to rehabilitative and vocational programs in prisons that might provide a viable means of preparing ex-offenders for an eventual return to society.

One ex-offender, Joe Williams voiced the sentiment of many when he said recently.

"They've been giving out all these massive football number sentences to us for more than thirty years now. And man, even if we were wrong, it didn't take all of that.

They've been giving out too much time. And in a lot of cases you got more time for selling drugs than had you committed a murder or bank robbery. It didn't make any sense. And to show how ridiculous it was, they ended up jailing more people than any where else in the world. Then if you're lucky enough to make it thru that living hell and come home without having lost your mind in the process. And you go to apply for a job, the first thing they do is hold against you is whether you've been convicted of a crime in your entire life. You're marked with an X on your back forever that will always stop you at the door in getting a real job. So what can I do? But go back to the only thing I knew, in order to survive."

Presently Congress is contemplating the implementation of a 'Second Chance Act' says the commission, that will ease prisoner re-entry and make proposals designed to promote job openings, substance abuse and mental health treatments. The measure is supported by liberal and conservative lawmakers, as well as The Christian Coalition and the National Council of La Raza.

Mikal-Ace Ngubani holds a Mass Communications Degree from Chicago's Columbia College and is a published Writer, street poet and non fictional Essayist.

### It's Not To Late!

Applications for enrollment will be provided for

## Frazier International Magnet School

At

Homan Square Park District

Date: Tuesday: April 24, 2007

Time: 6:00 P. M.

Address: 3559 W. Arthington Ave. Room 6

Take this opportunity to become part of a school of excellence.  
Hope to see you there!

For more information Contact Colette Unger-Teasley at 773 535-8646



Julius Goodman

# THE I-H SYNDROME: Why do Black American Teens and young Adults use Marijuana? Part 4

In part 3, I advised you that marijuana is illegal. If you are caught in possession of marijuana for anything other than medicinal use, you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

With that said my questions and observations reveal some startling facts. The results show that the main reason why Black American Teens use marijuana is to reduce stress and to relax. Being a Black American Teen is a time for trying new things. Black American Teens use drugs for many reasons, including curiosity, experimentation, reducing stress, because it feels good, and to feel accepted by peers. It is difficult to know which teens will experiment and stop and which will develop serious problems and graduate to other more deadly drugs. Only real responsible, strong, and dedicated parents can know for sure.

More than half of the participants said it is very easy to get marijuana. Black American Teens say that most of the time you can buy cigars (cigars are used to smoke marijuana by opening the cigar and replacing the tobacco with marijuana [marijuana slang terms include: chronic, weed, herb, dro, or hydro] and re-role the cigar and now you have a blunt. Most stores now sell "blunts" in different flavors just to attract teenagers. In my observations I have observed Black American Teens and Young Adults in a smoke out session where as many as 10 blunts are passed around.

Now we have some idea why Black American Teens smoke marijuana and we have a general indication of the type of behavior that results after a Black American Teen smokes marijuana; what can we as educators and parents do about it?

I recommend that we as educators and parents accept the fact that some Black American Teens {not all Black American Teens} do smoke marijuana. When the survey began the Black American teens [after I gained their trust] had no problem participating in the study. This reaction proves that once a Black American Teen has confidence in an educator and/or parent they will listen and react to positive feedback and positive direction. We should not pretend that this phenomenon of smoking marijuana is not happening to our children. We must re-educate ourselves so that we may get our children to change the path that continued drug use or any drug use will eventually send them on. We as educators and parents must spend more time understanding what our kids must face on a daily basis. We must try to determine what is stressing our children and

help them to cope without marijuana. Don't run them away from you. We might not want to accept the fact that our children smoke marijuana, but some of them do. You must ask yourself, "what would you do if your child; your baby, trusted you enough to come to you and say; "dad, mom, grandpa, grandma, auntie, uncle, sister, brother, I smoke marijuana"; what would do?"

In conclusion the I-H Syndrome continues to be the main cause why our behavior seems to be a disease and we need to do everything in our power as a community to eliminate this vicious cycle.

*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.nlcen.org.*

## SEVEN PRINCIPLES TO CREDIT MANAGEMENT

Tiffany P. Randle

Do you have problems managing and repairing your credit? You're not alone. The average household credit card balance in America is \$5000 per month.

For most, the average interest rate is about 18 percent on a personal credit card.

The truth is your personal credit file represents your creditworthiness, which is reported by the three major credit bureaus. It is extremely important to protect your reputation, because it can be devastating and costly to fix.

Here are seven principles to managing your credit properly:

1. Order your Credit Report with the FICO Score- You can request your report online, phone or by mail. It is important to get all three reports from Experian, Equifax, and Trans Union. The estimated cost is \$9.00.

2. Review your Credit File- Once you've received all three reports compare them and look for any inconsistencies such as the spelling of your name, address, social security number, unauthorized opened accounts.

3. Identify Theft- If you become a victim of identify theft go to your local area Police Department to request a identity theft report. Contact the creditors and get as much information as possible on the fraudulent account. You might be asked by your creditors or the three major credit bureaus to fill out an ID Affidavit

4. Dissolve Bad Debt- Now that you have credit report and the delinquent accounts are closed, set up a debt-spending plan. Once you've made a decision on what you can afford to pay on those past accounts, make sure you pay your creditors on time. If you are not comfortable negotiating a settlement with the creditors get help! There are many consumer debt-counseling services that can negotiate past due accounts with interests and late fees as low as three percent.

5. Shop for Better Interest Rates- You might be paying too high of an interest payment on your credit cards and mortgages. This is the opportunity for you to shop around or negotiate for lower rates as long as you have a 680 or above.

6. Control your Appetite- Set up a monthly budget with all assets, expenses and miscellaneous activities. Have only three good credit accounts open; if you have more credit cards, cut them up immediately, throw them away and close the accounts.

7. Checklist- Always review your credit report annually. You can obtain a free copy of your credit report once a year from annualcreditreport.com or mail in your request to any of the three major bureaus. You can invest in a credit monitoring service, if you want to closely monitor activities on your account or have been a victim of stolen identity. The monitoring service will alert you about inquiries and transactions made to your credit file. Credit Monitoring services can be purchased at your bank, My FICO website, or Credit

See Credit page 15

## North Lawndale Spirit of Youth Development Awards

We are excited to announce the winners who have done outstanding work in the North Lawndale community. Each person nominated deserves praise for being a community leader who continues to make an important impact in the community. Nominees included people who live or work in North Lawndale and are dedicated to the development and empowerment of youth in the community.

Candidates also have a broad range of activities and interests in North Lawndale. The Spirit of Youth Development Award recognizes people who have contributed to the overall health and well-being of North Lawndale youth. Recipients of the award reflect the broad spectrum of work in the community, Contributions to North Lawndale youth do not go unnoticed by local stakeholders and residents which is why Harris Bank supports the community by thanking everyday heroes.

### HARRIS FOUNDATION

The Harris Bank Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Harris Bank was established in 1953 to make grants to educational, cultural and community based organizations. In 2001, the Foundation Board made a strategic decision to focus their philanthropic efforts in Chicago's North Lawndale neighborhood. The Harris Bank Foundation currently focuses grant making in the areas of education, community development and financial literacy in the North Lawndale community.

### STEANS FAMILY FOUNDATION

The Steans Family Foundation concentrates its grant making and programs in North Lawndale, a revitalizing neighborhood on Chicago's West side. By dedicating time, money, and skills, this small family foundation works in partnership with local residents and institutions to build and enhance the North Lawndale Community. The Foundation's work supports the idea that effective revitalization can occur within the embedded social and economic networks that create and sustain communities.

Therefore our programs encompass six revitalization fronts: Education and Youth Development; Employment and Training; Family and Community Asset Building; Health and Human Services; Housing and Economic Development; and Leadership and Capacity Building. Learn more about the Foundation at [www.steansfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.steansfamilyfoundation.org).

### NOMINEES:

- Rosetta Barnes \* Jill Bass \* Cassie Blickem \* Willie Bobbit
- John Breen \* Shawn Castleberry \* Suzanne Collins \* John Engle
- Dawn Hicks \* Sara Holloway \* Eric Johnson \* Veronica King Huges
- Minnie Knox \* Ron Lofton \* Jamal Mayfield \* Kathryn Mazurek
- Lisa Minish \* Barbara Moore \* Charles Norman \* Jim O'Connor
- Maria Pintar \* Cedric Pope \* Mary Post \* Amy Pouba
- Carolyn Turner \* Jessica Vandevusse \* Cheryl Washington
- Sylvia Williams \* Annetta Wilson \* Ruth Wilson

### WINNERS:

- Aquil Charlton \* Timeka Cooley \* Sandra Glenn
- Altermease Hollins \* Roy Young

Community People

CBS FIRES IMUS AMID FUROR OF RACIST REMARKS



Don Imus

Despite a multitude of emotional apologies and fervent appeals for calmer heads to prevail, National Broadcasters Hall of Fame shock-jock Don Imus was fired last week by CBS after more than thirty years of continuous service.

The \$12 million a year personality initially was suspended for racially insensitive remarks he made on his program, but further public outrage led to his dismissal Thursday while he hosted an annual children's charity event at his ranch.

Imus, whose radio show is simulcast on MSNBC, called the Rutgers team "nappy-headed hos," and his Executive Producer Bernard McGuirk described their game against Tennessee, the NCAA women's championship, as "the jigaboos versus the wannabes." These terms use street jargon to define the exceptional women ballplayers as women of lose moral turpitude and unruly hair.

Rev. Jesse Jackson, who led a protest outside Chicago's NBC studios following Imus' statements, said "He has hopped on the apology bandwagon and thus fanned out and about in offering a series of broad apologies and seeking forgiveness, while declaring that 'he's not a bad guy, but simply a good person who said a bad thing.' Well, forgiveness is one thing, but it does

not grant a captured, apologizing robber immunity from justice."

Expressing penitence apparently was not enough to placate Jackson or the ad-hoc protesters who formed in response to the controversy that is expected to cost CBS at least \$15 million in revenue from commercial sponsors. Nor did it temper the fiery Rev. Al Sharpton whose radio program Imus appeared on to express a heartfelt contriteness.

After the appearance, Sharpton remained adamant in calling for Imus' dismissal. "This is not about demonizing an individual. It's primarily about their misusing the FCC air waves to promote bigotry and unfairness, and how we as responsible citizens can not allow its ills or any measure of this magnitude to flourish," Sharpton said.

"What kind of message are we sending to society at large, if an infringement of such a colossal nature as this goes un-reprimanded, while simultaneously demanding that certain elements within our own communities clean up their acts and submit to proper civic approval?"

At one point Imus argued that no detriment was done by referring to the women as "jiggerboos" and "wannabes," because he saw those expressions portrayed in the Spike Lee movie "School Daze." Upon hearing this rebuttal, Lee responded by saying, "[Imus] don't know what he's talking about with School Daze."

Some consider the penalty extreme for the internationally known talk show host. Presidential hopeful John McCain said "everyone deserves a second chance," while the women players of the Rutgers University Basketball team accepted his apology.

Mikal-Ace Ngubani holds a Mass Communications Degree from Columbia

College and is a freelance writer, street poet, and non fictional essayist. To comment on this article visit our web or log in at: www.nlcn.org.

NORTH LAWDALE SPIRIT OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AWARDS



(l-r) Timeka Cooley(awardee), Jennifer Shrimp(Harris Bank), Sandra Glenn(awardee), Aquil Charlton(awardee), Roy Young(awardee), Mary Houpt(Harris Bank), Altermease Hollins(awardee) and Yvette Powe(Harris Bank)



Robin Steans of the Steans Family Foundation addresses the attendees at the Spirit of Youth Development awards

Congratulations ERRAND BOY... "OH BOY" April Business of the Month



Eric Coffee, owner of The Errand Boy, Oh Boy delivery service and employee Arthur Hendrix

North Lawndale Community News and Harris Bank are proud to honor The Errand Boy ... "Oh Boy," as North Lawndale's Small Business of the Month for April.

"Reliable, trustworthy and dependable" describe the young entrepreneur who took

an old idea to a new level in creating The Errand Boy Service, 3565 West Ogden Avenue, a livery business that also runs errands and provides other essential services for senior citizens and single parents.

Eric Coffee, 37, is an enthusiastic man who credits his late grandmother, Thelma Coffee, as his inspiration in forming his business. "The Errand Boy," as some may recognize, is the title of a 1961 movie starring Jerry Lewis. Coffee, not wanting to infringe on copyright laws added "Oh Boy" to the name, and the rest (as they say) is history.

Coffee, a North Lawndale native, founded The Errand Boy Service in 2004 when he spent countless hours shuttling his grandma to various appointments and errands. At the same time, other senior citizens began asking him for favors. He soon concluded there had to be a more effective way to get it done.

To read the full version of this story see the North Lawndale Community News April 11, 2007 issue.

Advertisement for THE ERRAND BOY... "Oh Boy" Errands & Transportation Service. Includes phone number 773-272-1319, hours 6am-11pm, and a list of services like Grocery Store, Post Office, Book Stores, Video Stores, etc. Also mentions Personal Transportation Services and laundry/church day rates.

Real Men Read Picking Up More Steam

James GLover

With the recent announcement that Lt. Governor Pat Quinn is joining the Real Men Read program, Real Men Read is quickly picking up more steam and establishing itself as one of the most important youth orientated programs in the state of Illinois.

"It is vital that we take the time out to see to it that our kids are educated in the fundamentals of reading," said Quinn "Not only that, but to also make sure that our kids see the joy in learning and the fun in what can happen through reading."

The program has many functions, amongst them providing men a chance to mentor young Chicago Public School students. One of those mentors is Willie Burns Sr., whose son is an 8th grader at Herzel. "Taking advantage of the opportunities at the school gives me not only a chance to spend time with my boy in a positive environment but also to reach out to other neighborhood kids." Burns added "I take great pride in knowing that kids see me outside in the neighborhood and are able to tell me about books they read and things they learned as a result of this program." His son, Willie Burns Jr. said "Having my pops here to join in on my schoolwork and having a chance to do things outside of home is a real cool experience. I'm glad he has the chance to see me participate in class."

Anita Vaughn, a teacher at Herzel, says that because of Real Men Read, a lot of the young students are taking more interest in reading.

"Before reading was classified as 'lame' within this community and young culture in general. Now, I see kids in the library on their own time, looking to expand their knowledge. That's where the true value of this program lies to me, in the long lasting effect of changing mindsets about reading."

Students also chimed in. Cordero Hendy, 7th grader, says getting the chance to read with others helped me in improve in areas as well as gain basic interest. "I feel ok now reading in front of people. That kind of bothered me for awhile. Plus, I see that reading can be fun, using my imagination and all."

Real Men Read also makes it a purpose to read cultural relevant books that can help students not only improve reading skills and use imagination but also can provide real life lessons. The program also seeks to make sure that students don't lose the enthusiasms for reading that they acquired over the school year. The program will give all the children who participated this year free books over the summer that they can continue to, as Vaughn put it, "The joy and wonderful world of imagination that is reading."

Real Men Read is a CPS Program that serves many schools, mainly bringing attention to 2nd, 5th and 7th graders. However, some schools incorporate more grades into the program.

For more information on CPS Real Men Read, please call (773) 553-BOOK (2665) or email: realmenread@cps.k12.il.us.

## 'Near West Side Community Development Center' Presents Job Fair Hosted By Schneider National Trucking Corporation

Mikal-Ace Ngubani

Schneider National recently announced a drive to find, enlist and recruit prospective job training applicants and drivers for their professional trucking and driver training program. Upon a one year completion, it will afford its graduates full fledged business opportunities as independent drivers or the guaranteed assurances of a certifiable career in that field.

Grailing Jones, Schneider's principal recruiter and manager of the driving and trucker's program gave a detailed outline before a panel of employment counselors and aspiring job seekers. He told how a laborious course of instruction awaited those fortunate enough to gain acceptance into the program. He stated, "those who hope to qualify for the program must be willing to, after extensive training, pass the truck drivers exam in order to obtain a truckers license and adopt a personal goal of wanting to advance themselves and develop a determined mindset to succeed." Also they must appreciate the opportunities and advantages of being involved in such a momentous life altering path of instruction.

The one-year trucker's training program has an estimated value of forty one to forty two hundred dollars, which upon completion of the course will be waived, unless an applicant fails to satisfactorily complete the training. He or she may be held accountable for any personal expenses they may have incurred within the corporation up to that point.

Along with housing arrangements, tuition assistance, and waivers, the Jackson Mississippi native now anchored in Green Bay Wisconsin, also mentioned that Schneider National has training programs in thru out the country. And works in conjunction with other trucker training schools, flagrant respective applicant and proudly states that only those with the most flagrant criminal backgrounds would be automatically excluded. "There are felonies and then there are felonies" he said, basically inferring that certain lesser infractions may be taken in consideration but deliberate offenses such as repeated violations of speeding, drunken driving and past instances of drug peddling are immediate and total disqualifiers.

The job fair program sponsoring Schneider National was one of many that have been brought in and presented by the Near West Side Community Development Center, who according to Kweli Kwaza, one of it's primary housing and employment specialists, have been featuring and presenting residential and community events of this nature on a regular basis for several years. All inquiring or interested parties need to qualify for entry or consideration in one of its forth coming programs or job fairs events.,

Near West Side Community Development Corporation (NWCDC) was established in 1988. For the last 16 years, the organization has been actively developing affordable housing, organizing and providing supportive services to low and moderate income residents in the West Haven community. Learn more about NWCDC's mission, accomplishments and key programs.

For more information contact the Near West Side Community Development Center at (312) 738-2280 or go to 216 S. Hoyne Ave. Their website address is [www.nearwestsidecdc.org](http://www.nearwestsidecdc.org)

## April 18 Black Facts



Alice Walker

\* On this date in 1983, Author Alice Walker won the Pulitzer Prize in fiction for her novel the "The Color Purple. 10 days later Walker won the American Book Award for fiction.

\* On this date in 1955,

James B. Parsons was named the chief judge of the Federal District Court in Chicago. He was the first African-American appointed to that position.

\* On this date in 1941, Bus companies in New York City agreed to hire African-American drivers and mechanics ending a four-week boycott.

\* On this date in 1877, the American Nicodemus Town Company was founded by African-American settlers in northwestern Kansas. The town was settled later that year.

\* On this date in 1977, Author Alex Haley won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction for his novel "Roots."

## Runoffs from front page

accusing Moore aids and being "shady." Moore replied that Gordon's comments did nothing but continue "the bitterness that has been his entire campaign."

Former Alderwoman Vilma Colom lost her comeback bid to Ald. Rey Colon, who defeated her four years ago. Despite only getting 37.7% of the vote, Colom seemed upbeat when addressing the situation, saying "It is what it is, but I felt I ran a quality campaign and I certainly don't feel like a loser." Also, Alderman Bernie Stone, who at age 79 is the oldest member of City Council, retained his seat as he defeated Naisy Dolar 52.9% to 47.1%, taking the election by slightly over 650 votes. Dolar made it a point to say that it wasn't about his age but the fact that in his 34 years as Alderman, saying that the area has "yet to see significant improvement nor has he made a long lasting mark."

Alderwoman Vi Daley managed to stay in office, gaining 53.9% of the vote in defeating Challenger and Federal Prosecutor Michele Smith.

Other results included Lona Lane defeating Paul Stewart 65.5% to 32.5%. Howard

In the 24<sup>th</sup> ward, Michael Chandler's defeat marks the end of a 12 year run as the 24<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman. With support from Congressman Danny K. Davis as well as former candidates Thomas Worthy, Don Patterson and Mark Carter, Chandler still found himself defeated 51.5% to 48.5%, falling short by 189 votes. With results not being released until midday Wednesday because three precincts had yet to be tabulated, Chandler remained optimistic at election nights end, saying "I'm still very optimistic and confident that when all the votes are in, we will prevail," Chandler said. That however turned out not to be the case as Sharon Dixon will become one of the new faces at City Hall.

Both Tillman, in office for 24 years and Haithcock, alderman of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ward since 1993, were defeated in their runoff elections after not winning the primary. Tillman, who lost to Pat Dowell 54% to 46%. Conceding defeat Tuesday night, Tillman said "Obviously no one is happy with defeat but I'm ok with it. I'm happy with what I was able to do." Haithcock, defeated 65.8% to 34.2% had been under scrutiny for, as some community activist put it, "being out of touch with the residents."

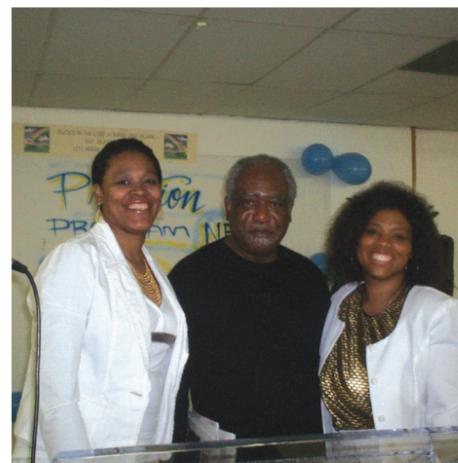
Mayor Daley in a press conference stated that he is "Happy to see new faces in city hall and I look forward to working with them to create continued progress." He also reiterated his willingness to work with anyone.

# Priscy's Production 4th Annual Prayer Breakfast



Priscy's Production Youth with Priscy and Yolanda

Priscy's Production Outreach Program NFP offer seven multi media educational units; **Basic Computer training, Creative writing, Poetry & Alternative lyric Squad, Music, Sketch, Dance, and Drill team.** All seven units work together as one to promote and



Yolanda Johnson (Assistant Director), Danny K. Davis and Priscilla Jones(Priscy)

Priscy's Production Outreach Program NFP (PPOP) had their Annual 4<sup>th</sup> year Prayer Breakfast April 14, 2007. As usual there was plenty to eat. Moo & Oink, Eli's Cheese Cake, Krispy Kream Doughnuts, Sam's Club, Rosers Bakery, Market Fresh Foods, Mario's Butcher, Evil's and Jewels were some of PPOP's sponsors for this event. Not only was the food good but the youth were at their best, entertaining the guest with songs, praise dancing, drilling, poet and more. They had many outstanding guests; one to name is our very own Congressman Danny K. Davis. He gave encouraging words to the youth to keep working hard and don't give up on your dreams and you can make it.

Priscy's Production Outreach Program NFP (P.P.O.P) is an after school Multi Arts and Cultural program set up as an alternative to the streets. It was founded in 2002, and was license April 8, 2003. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for youth and give them a safe and productive place to go after school. P.P.O.P focuses on proving intervention programs and activities for disadvantaged youth ages 6-21 in low to moderate income communities citywide. Its objectives are charitably and benevolently structured. The youth develop and build their talents and skills in a multi-culture creative writing and music curriculum while in a positive, safe, and nurturing environment.

build; literacy skills, computer knowledge, self-esteem, coordination, culture difference, self awareness, social skills, communication skills, illustrations, knowledge of studio equipment, leadership skills, team building and collaboration skills.

**The seven units work together in a three-step phase.**

**PHASE 1:** Every participant must complete an individual self publish book.

**PHASE 2:** Upon completion of the book, each youth will be given an opportunity to receive basic hands on training on how to use music studio equipment. As well as the opportunity to either extract the information from their book or write something new, to record and produces a CD demo.

**PHASE 3:** After the completion of the CD, every youth is encouraged to participate in an Annual Expo. Every youth is encouraged and given the opportunity to perform on stage and showcase their finished product.

Ms. Priscy is the CEO/Executive Director of this unique program and has been working



PPOP Drill Team. Terri, Precious, Dewanna and Princess

right alone side of each one of her youth, guiding them and encouraging them each step of the way to complete their goals. Her plan is to launch a mass of young professional book writers, publishers and professional youth music producers. Her hopes as well as her fellow colleagues are that the youth the P.P.O.P will soon be working with some of the best, in the entertainment world. Their youth are waiting and ready.

For more information about Priscy's Production Outreach Program NFP e-mail [poemstrongfeelings@hotmail.com](mailto:poemstrongfeelings@hotmail.com)

Economic Development

“The Forgotten War”

Jaira J. Harrington

On the heels of a recent surge of troops in Iraq for an increasingly unpopular war, I took a survey of the terrain in my community and communities like mine. With Congress and the President debating the course of the war, I feel like we have already conceded in another war that has continues to touch the lives of thousands of Americans. Whatever happened to the war on drugs that began over 30 years ago? What exactly have we accomplished?

In 1969, following a recent election during a time of political unrest, Nixon called drugs “public enemy number one”. At this time, he also had broad support for the Controlled Substances Act (1970). This position set the stage for how subsequent presidents approached the growing problem of drug use in America.

Nearly two decades later, the Reagan Administration took an even firmer stance against the drug trade by creating the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). His approval of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 appropriated about \$2 billion to build new prisons, educate the public about the dangers of drugs and to treat drug abusers. In response to the crack-cocaine epidemic in the inner cities, the bill created mandatory minimum sentences for possession of either substance. Not surprisingly, higher

penalties for crack sales, an inner city drug, than those of cocaine, a glamour drug, exaggerated racial disparities in the prison population.

According to the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, while the number of arrests for all crimes increased by 28 percent in the 1980s, the number of arrests for drug offenses skyrocketed to 126 percent. According to the latest statistics available, the United States has a higher proportion of its population incarcerated than any other country in the world, about 2.2 million inmates.

An alarming 2006 report by the American Civil Liberties Union says African Americans make up an estimated 15 percent of drug users. In contrast African Americans are 37 percent of those arrested for drug charges, 59 percent

Costs to Society Due to the War on Drugs

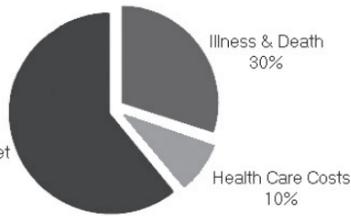


Figure 14 Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse, (1998). Economic Costs of Alcohol: United States, 1992. Washington, DC: National Institutes of Health

convicted for such charges and 74 percent of the entire population of drug offenders sentenced to serve prison time. Another fact of note is that the U.S. has 260,000 people in state prisons on nonviolent drug charges. 70 percent of these nonviolent offenders are Black or Latino. One quarter of

all young Black men are in jail or on parole. We're taking a lot of social delinquents off the streets, so I wonder, are our communities any safer? Some of the most dangerous cities according to a 2006 Morgan Quitno Press study are St. Louis, MO, Detroit, MI, Flint, MI, Camden, NJ, Baltimore, Tampa and Miami. In practically the same cities—Washington DC, Baltimore, New York, New Jersey and Florida—about half of the inner city Black men are in jail or are on parole. It is evident that crime is not improving where a

large percentage of Black men, the majority of which are nonviolent offenders, are being put in jail. High recidivism chiefly due to low job placement and weakly structured reintegration programs is the unfortunate consequence of policy decisions that do not address the real issues at hand.

The United States must begin treating the root causes of drug sales in poor communities of color. Restructuring the efficacy of the public school system, expanding social programs for educational enrichment and improving the job market in these disaffected communities could develop more positive results.

There must be a surge of effective anti-drug policies that are concomitant with the deeper societal problems that influence drug use and, especially critical for impoverished communities of color, the sale of drugs. The casualties in this war that are not always readily apparent must be remembered: broken homes, fatherless children and the endless cycle of poverty in deteriorating communities. It is high time for a change of course in this drug war that we have been losing for far too long.

Jaira J. Harrington is a North Lawndale Chicago native. She is a senior Political Science major at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Witchcraft from page 5

an individual who uses her power to catch a thief and make him repent is called evil.

“The dismissal [of witchcraft] has reached a certain level because of Western influence and Christianity,” he said. “Could we talk about pseudo-science or meta-science, instead of just saying this is evil and dismissing it?”

Back at the church Narrow Way Ministries, the service of faith healing and protection from witches continues.

“This is the stone of David,” says Prophet

Amouku. He picks one stone out of his hand, holds it up. Then he enumerates each stone representing the witches to be killed.

“The witches in Chicago. One is for them. The witches in America, one is for them. The witches in your father’s house, one is for them. The witches in your mother’s house, one is for them. The witches from your wife’s house...”

Kabuika Kamunga has a bachelor degree in Chemistry and a master’s in Journalism. She is Congolese and resides in Chicago. She is currently doing an internship in Johannesburg, South Africa. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: www.nlcn.org.

Jackie Robinson Day

Todd Thomas

Major League Baseball recognized the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Jackie Robinson’s breaking of the sport’s color barrier with ceremonies at games across the nation this past weekend. Fans and players donned Robinson’s No. 42 on their jerseys, and speakers gave eloquent speeches about the courageous athlete who proved to have the talent, and more importantly, the determination to succeed at the professional level when so many people wanted him to fail.

Robinson was a superb all-around athlete and excelled at football, basketball and track, but it would be his least favorite sport, baseball, that would provide him with a professional sports career. After being a star athlete at UCLA and doing a stint in the U.S. Army during WW II, the highly regarded Robinson really didn’t have a lot of opportunities to play professionally. The National Football League was still segregated and didn’t allow blacks to play, and at the age of 28 he was a little too old to have a long-term career in track & field. Robinson played briefly with the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues and soon started to garner attention from the big leagues. The Brooklyn Dodgers and their brash, opportunistic, and bold president, Branch Rickey, were willing to give Robinson a shot and he signed a minor-league contract with them. He played with

their minor-league team in Montreal for one season before moving up to the majors as the Dodgers’ starting first baseman in the spring of 1947.

To no one’s surprise, the players on the Dodgers were far from welcoming to Robinson. Most of them were from rural southern environments that were often openly hostile to African Americans. One player even said that he learned how to throw the baseball by hurling rocks at black children as a youth in Alabama. It was hard for them to shake their firmly entrenched racism and even went as far as to circulate a petition against Robinson joining the team.

In addition to the unwelcoming attitudes of his teammates, Robinson also had to deal with incessant insults to his race and his baseball skills from fans and opposing players. Not lashing back in anger was extremely tough for him and he had always been known to have a relatively quick temper, which was now being tested with great regularity. On the road, Robinson also often had to stay in separate accommodations from the rest of the players as much of the country still abided by “Jim Crow” customs of unyielding segregation. Under all of this scrutiny he still performed well and went on to have an excellent rookie season. His all-around play helped the Dodgers win the National League pennant

See Jackie page 11



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Sports & Entertainment

Jackie from page 9

and take them to a World Series where they lost to the Yankees in a seven game cross-town series. The 28-year-old rookie, who a few months earlier was told that he couldn't hit or perform under pressure, was voted the Rookie of the Year. One of many accomplishments that would come Robinson's way during his ten year career.

Career Highlights:

\*League MVP in 1949 when he led the league in batting average (.342), RBI's (124), and stolen bases (37).

\*Rookie of the Year 1947

\*Appeared in six World Series, winning in 1955

\*Stole Home 19 times

\*Robinson has also received the Congressional Gold Medal and the Medal of Freedom for his accomplishments

Robinson's breaking of the color barrier was an unparalleled achievement for African-American athletes as well as the entire nation. His success shot down countless negative assumptions and stereotypes about blacks and helped people accept the inevitable mixing of the races on the playing fields. Robinson also helped instill a belief in blacks that they could compete in American society if provided the opportunity. In keeping with his mission, Robinson's widow, Rachel Robinson, started the Jackie Robinson

Chicago Cubs Honor Robinson by Wearing Number 42

Foundation after his death in 1972. The organization has provided hundreds of scholarships to deserving African-American students to attend college. Mrs. Robinson spoke at the Los Angeles Dodgers' ceremony and said of her late husband: "He forever changed the landscape of our country."

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



AT THE FLICKS

David Schultz, film critic

HOT FUZZ (\*\*\*) For the nation of moviegoers starved for a laugh after being exposed to all those idiotic, uninspired comedies that have been assaulting our time and intelligence while making sizeable box office profits; we've finally have a worthy, bonafide comedy that is truly funny and clever.

"Hot Fuzz" may have once sounded like the title of a porno flick. But now, "Hot Fuzz" represents the first outrageously hilarious comedy since "Borat."

This British import is a parody of a different sort that hits close to home. "Hot Fuzz" reunites the same director-actor-writer team that made a tongue-in-cheek homage spoofing "zombie" movies in "Shaun of the Dead."

Now they've returned, wrapping their script, direction and humor around "slasher" movies and Agatha Christie-type whodunits into an outlandish spoof on our action hero/ buddy movies.

The end result delivers co-writer-star Simon Pegg as a straight-arrow and overly dedicated London cop, Nicholas Angel, whose "400% arrest rate" has ruined his marriage to his CSI-trained wife and alienated the entire police force who are tired of looking bad behind him.

His superiors (Martin Freeman, Steve Coogan and Bill Nighy) promote Angel to sergeant in order to transfer him to a less desirable, but peaceful town of Sandford, proclaimed the safest village in the country. Well at least, that's the initial outward appearance from the small police department run by chief inspector Frank Butterman (Jim Broadbent).

Upon arriving, and checking into his hotel room, Angel wanders over to a nearby tavern where he arrests several underage teen drinkers even before his first day on the job at the police station.

The next morning Nicholas discovers one of those arrested turns out the police chief's chubby, slob-of-a son, Danny (Nick Frost), who also happens to his future partner.

Meanwhile, a series of accidents lead to the serial murders of prominent business persons; causing a reporter to question Angel about what he knows.

Through the course of the film, and its often hilarious moments and witty dialogue, Angel gets closer to the killer. The persons involved and what's behind it all aren't completely who and what we expect.

See Flicks page 14

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\*\*\* \* **WANTED** \*\*\* \*

**Your Ideas, Vision And Desires As To How Clean You Want To See Your Community AND YOUR COMMITMENT TO HELP**

**But first: A little questionnaire**  
Circle one or more of the choices

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean world
2. A basically clean world
3. A relatively clean world
4. A world with clean areas for some people
5. A world that is at least clean where you live
6. A world that seems to care less about how clean some countries are.

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean country
2. A basically clean country
3. A relatively clean country
4. A country with clean areas for some people
5. A country that at least clean where you live
6. A country that could care less about how clean some states are.

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean state
2. A basically clean state
3. A relatively clean state
4. A state with clean areas for some people
5. A state that is at least clean where you live
6. A state that could care less about how clean some cities or towns are.

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean city or town

2. A basically clean city or town
3. A relatively clean city or town
4. A city or town with clean areas for some people
5. A city or town that is at least clean where you live.
6. A city or town that seems to care less about how clean some communities are.

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean community
2. A basically clean community
3. A relatively clean community
4. A community with clean neighborhoods for some people
5. A community that is at least clean where you live
6. A community that could care less about how clean some areas are.

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean neighborhood
2. A basically clean neighborhood
3. A relatively clean neighborhood
4. A neighborhood with clean blocks for some people
5. A neighborhood with a clean block where you live
6. A neighborhood that seems to care less about how clean your block is.

**Would you like to live on**

1. A real clean block

2. A basically clean block
3. A relatively clean block
4. A block with clean houses/apartments for some people
5. A block with at least one clean house or apartment where you live
6. A block where it appears that nobody on the block cares or gives a damn about the garbage and junk suffocating and killing the block.

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean house or apartment
2. A basically clean house or apartment
3. A relatively clean house or apartment
4. A house or apartment with clean areas for some people
5. A house or apartment that is at least clean where you live
6. A house or apartment, whose occupant(s) seem(s) to care less about how clean any parts of the house might be.

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean body
2. A basically clean body
3. A relatively clean body
4. A body with clean areas
5. A body that is at least clean in some places
6. A body that seems to care less about how clean any area might be.

**Would you like to live in**

1. A real clean mind and spirit
2. A basically clean mind and spirit
3. A relatively clean mind and spirit
4. A mind and spirit with clean areas and manifested through a nice/ nasty attitude of thought and action
5. A mind and spirit with the potential to be clean
6. A mind and spirit that seems to care less about how clean your morals, ethics, physical and spiritual hygiene, character and conduct might be.

Research and common sense has shown that if you don't care about yourself and the quality of life you have, other folk don't give a damn about you either. This document is in preparation for an all out assault on filth by declaring "war" on it. Those considering joining this war effort, must go through basic training by solving and engaging in the spiritual riddle and concept: The cleansing process starts from the inside-out. Dirt and filth, by any description, is the absolute enemy of the soul and spirit, and must be tolerated. We must clean up by any means necessary.

Sel dunlap  
Tu-x-sel  
E-mail: Soldonsel@yahoo.com

**ENABLING IMUS**

Richard Muhammad

*(Editor's note: Below is a corrected version of a commentary sent out earlier. Please replace any posted or printed version with this column. This corrects the incorrect identification of Tom Oliphant in the early version.)*

MSNBC and CBS Radio have seen the light and suspended talk show host Don Imus for a whole two weeks. Time to pack the protest signs and go home? Not exactly. While the venom-spewing old cowpoke may be

unseen for a bit, the new question is what to do with the apologists for Imus insults aimed at Black women and media peeps who contend he really isn't such a bad guy.

Like a troubled wife living with a nasty drunk, and sharing a raggedy filthy couch, some white journalist-types just can't seem to kick the Imus habit, or get a healthy divorce. They have stepped forward to vouch for his character and need to embrace this "teachable moment." Led by Tom Oliphant

of the Boston Globe, they see redemption deep in the soul of the man who called Rutgers basketball players a bunch of "nappy headed hos."

Seems like whenever a Black person allegedly does wrong, the lesson to be taught is accountability, responsibility and facing the consequences of one's actions. Just ask teenager Shaquanda Cotton, who was recently released from a Texas facility where she was sentenced to seven years for allegedly pushing a white teacher's aide.

Or ask actor Isaiah Washington if white gays saw a teachable moment when he made the mistake of using the f-word to say he didn't call a fellow white cast mate a homosexual. There weren't a lot of discussions about him teaching anyone anything, expect to avoid angering what one African American gay rights activist called "the gay mafia."

Some media folks feel Imus' "nappy headed hos" slur regarding play during the NCAA tournament presents America with an opportunity.

But when Michael Ray Richardson, coach of the Albany Patroons, of the Continental Basketball Association, talked about hiring "big time Jewish lawyers" to handle his contract negotiations last month, it wasn't a teachable moment. Richardson was quickly suspended pending an investigation by the playoff-bound team. He won't be back this season.

Richardson reportedly said in a late March interview with the Albany, N.Y.-based Times-Union, "Listen, (Jews) are hated all over the world, so they've got to be crafty ... They got a lot of power in this world, you know what I mean? Which I think is great. I don't think there's nothing wrong with it. If you look in most professional sports, they're run by Jewish people. If you look at a lot of most successful corporations and stuff, more businesses, they're run by Jewish. It's not a knock, but they are some crafty people."

Richardson is also accused of using the word "faggot" in an attempt to quiet a heckler during a game the same day. Within a couple days, he was suspended for the rest of the

championship series and not allowed in the team facility. Richardson apologized a couple days later. Unlike Imus, he made no attempt to downplay the pain caused by his words, or cite previous good works that make him worthy of a pass.

I wonder if those comments have the same "lack of animus" Oliphant saw in Imus and put forward in a defense mounted April 9 during a PBS NewsHour broadcast segment with writer Clarence Page, and in his column the same day.

Newsweek editor Howard Fineman went on Imus' show April 9, appearing before Oliphant. "Just before I came on the show, I was coming upstairs and my cell phone rang, and it was some listener who called me out of the blue. I'd never heard of the guy before. I'd never heard his name. He called me and he said, 'Are you going to go on the show and finally confront this Imus guy? Are you going to quit enabling him?'" said Fineman.

"And, you know, I thought about that, and I said to the guy, 'You know, I'll puzzle that through on the radio.' And I would like to continue to enable you to do a lot of the good things you do. Including, you know, talking about stuff happening in the world, which you do a very good job of on this show. ..."

"You know, it's different than it was even a few years ago, politically. I mean, we may, you know - and the environment, politically, has changed. And some of the stuff that you used to do, you probably can't do anymore," said Fineman. He described Imus' remarks as "a big mistake" and "a teaching moment."

Newsweek columnist Mark Starr came out against kicking Imus out on the street, saying the old coot was just an example how far things have swung in the name of entertainment. In Starr's view, we're all responsible.

Not from where Black folks sit. Imus is so bad that even Page, the leveled-head, non-threatening Chicago Tribune columnist, argued that it's time for Imus to go. Page recounted having Imus take a pledge on-air several years ago to refrain from the racially-charged diatribes, including an instance in which Imus reportedly referred to

See Imus next page

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COME IN AND TALK TO SOMEONE IN PERSON.

# What It Iz In The Biz

Marquita Ware

What Up Yall!

A Brooklyn inmate has been linked to the 2002 murder of Run DMC co-founder Jason "Jam Master Jay" Mizell. Ronald "Tenad" Washington told THE BOSTON HERALD that he expects to be charged in connection to Mizell's murder and the 1995 murder of Randy "Stretch" Walker, a close associate of the late Tupac Shakur.

Washington says he will be charged as an accessory to Mizell's murder after an unidentified witness came forward to say Washington had confessed to both crimes. "They want to blame me for all the blood in rap," he said.

"She's telling them that I was mad at Jay because he is doing better than I am, that I killed Stretch because he owed me something and I wanted it. She is making up lies because they threatened to deport her." Washington was convicted April 5 of six armed robberies

committed in November 2002, several weeks after Mizell was gunned down in a recording studio on October 30. Another witness, Lydia High, a receptionist at the studio, also claims that Washington was present at the time of Mizell's murder, alleging that Washington forced her to lie face down on the floor as another man shot Mizell in the head.

Washington contends that he was present in the studio that day at the request of Mizell, who had asked for protection. "I'm not the nicest guy in the world," Washington admitted. "People around here know that." I'll keep you posted on this trial.

Percy "Romeo" Miller is trading in his microphone for a basketball. The 17-year-old rapper/actor has committed to playing for the University of Southern California's basketball team.

According to FOXSports.com, Romeo will focus solely on his school and basketball, temporarily putting his music on

hold. "He can be polishing up his film career at USC. When he's finished after four years at 21 or 22 years old, he'll hopefully be able to take either basketball to the next level or Hollywood to the next level," his dad and coach, MASTER P, said. Romeo and his best friend, Demar Derozan, also signed on to join Romeo at USC as part of the 2008 freshman class. Congratulations to Romeo for getting in school. Looks like his music career was already on hold to me.

### QUICKIES:

Scary Spice put Eddie Murphy's name on her baby's birth certificate anyway after he claimed the baby was not his. Murphy's rep was not available for comment, so we don't really know what's going on. But I'm gonna find out look for the info in the next article.

Remy Ma is now a free agent. She is no longer with Fat Joe and the Terror Squad click. Remy, Jackie O and Shawna were doing an album together but Shawna

dropped out. Remy said that Shawna is still her girl and her and Jackie is still going with the project. Well I seen on Youtube.com Shawna at a party in Chicago with the Bad Boyz (WGCI) and they asked her about the collaboration and she laughed like I ain't on that. She was real drunk though but when you drunk you tell the truth.

www.bet.com

If you have any questions for me about celebrity gossip or news, just call 312-492-9090 or write to KETA, 1211 S. Western, Chicago, IL 60608 and I will feature my answer in the next column. If you want to know about one of your friends and nem' I can tell you that too. JUST KIDDING. Also check out our weblog at www.nlc.org. You can post questions for me, other writers and anything/anyone else you want to talk about.

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

## Imus from page 12

Gwen Ifill, a respected African American journalist, as a "cleaning lady" allowed to cover the White House.

"To the 10 young African queens who have been disrespected and violated in public, keep your heads up high," said conservative darling Rev. DeForest "Buster" Soaries in a prelude to his Easter Sunday sermon. Rutgers coach C. Vivian Stringer was in attendance at the service in Somerset, N.J. According to a report in the Star-Ledger, Soaries called for Imus to be fired. "When I listened to it myself, I thought the guy is too ignorant to be on the air. ... We would like Imus off the air," the article said.

How often do the Rev. Jesse Jackson, the Rev. Al Sharpton, Page and Rev. Soaries, a former secretary of state under Republican Gov. Gov. Christie Whitman and Bush administration political appointee, agree a firing, protest and potential advertisers' boycott is in order?

The widespread anger in Black America was also apparently lost on a Public Radio reporter, who covered an April 9 demonstration in Chicago by the Rev. Jackson, saying only about 50 protestors showed up. The report downplayed the way Blacks have responded, implied the protest numbers signaled a lack of interest, and had no reactions from Blacks about the controversy. The reporter also apparently missed the hours of hot conversation on Chicago's WVON-AM radio, starting at 6 a.m. April 9 with the Roland S. Martin and rolling on through three hours in the afternoon with the nationally syndicated "Keeping It Real With Rev. Al Sharpton Show," and columns by sports writer Stephen A. Smith, out of Philadelphia, Deborah Mathis of BlackAmericaWeb.Com, Black bloggers and writers. Analysis came from white media observers.

What's going on here? Perhaps the easiest way to explain it is found in the title of Starr's on-line column, "Imus Is Us." The "us" here consists of White America - white men in the media, in particular - unable to admit insults to Black folks actually mean something. It's as if we are soulless beings and whites are always allowed to explain away, ridicule away, or ignore away the constant assaults on our dignity and psyche.

This bond of white attitudinal perception and brotherhood may also explain why the numbers of Blacks in newsrooms at daily newspapers and within the news industry continue to dwindle.

When the ugliness of American racism is exposed, there is always an apologist, a defender. So Michael Richards, who played Kramer on TV's "Seinfeld," can go on David Lettermen with Jerry Seinfeld to vouch for his goodness, despite Richard's r-laced, racial barrage against Blacks in a comedy club audience. And Imus can find comfort in the bosom of his brothers, who just can't bring themselves to condemn him.

"You know, all of us who do your show, you know, we're part of the gang. And we rely on you the way you rely on us. So, you know, you're taking all of us with you when you go out there to meet with them (Rutgers basketball players), you know," said Fineman

See page 14

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**Stones** from page 5

Imus is fully deserving of all the humiliation and shame that he has received to date, for that, there is no debate. However, our protests and arguments are substantially weakened in that we are not making the same ethical demands in our community that we make for outsiders. We cannot continue to throw stones at others while we live in glass houses buttressed with misogynistic, oppressive images.

The Black community must further acknowledge that we play a substantial role in maintaining these representations. Some have begun to take on this responsibility. Progressive Black media outlets like TV and Radio One are challenging the norm. Kudos to them! While we reprimand scum like Imus and his henchman, we must remember that we need to reclaim our own dignity in the media as well.

Jaira J. Harrington is a North Lawndale Chicago native. She is a senior Political Science major at Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia. To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).

**Imus** from page 13

on the Imus show.

"Good morning, Mr. Imus, and solidarity forever, by the way," Oliphant said. He voiced support for Imus, called the racial broadside an accident and talked about his moral imperative to stand with the broadcaster as a member of the Imus "posse."

"But to me, that only means that those of us who, through an accident, were scheduled (on the show), who know better, have a moral obligation to stand up and say to you, 'Solidarity forever, pal,'" said Oliphant, in his closing words.

Imus walks and talks with America's giants, and if he suffers from the disease of racism, what about his companions? Well, we don't have to wonder. Just listen to what they actually say.

(Richard Muhammad is editor of Straight Words E-Zine and is based in Chicago. Read more at <http://straightwords.typepad.com>. He can be reached at [straightwords@sbeglobal.net](mailto:straightwords@sbeglobal.net).)

**ON VIDEO**

Conceived and reviewed by David Schultz

**DÉJÀ VU (\*\*\*)** Denzel Washington stars in this intricate but flawed contemporary "time-tripping" action thriller as an insightful and detail driven ATF agent in New Orleans who discovers a time travel method through a secret government agency run by Vil Kilmer. The film also includes Washington's personal quest to prevent the murder of a lovely woman (Paula Patton) that has already happened. Can Washington prevent a public and personal tragedy that already happened once from re-occurring? What do you think? If you buy the premise you'll tolerate the film led by the committed charm and energy of Washington's resourceful character. PG-13; 122min. Touchstone Home Video: Available: April 24

**THE QUEEN (\*\*\*/1/2)** Oscar winner Helen Mirren delivers an exceptional performance in her portrayal of Queen Elizabeth, a proponent of the tradition based monarch struggling to deal with a novice politician, the newly elected Prime Minister Tony Blair (Michael Sheen), who sees a political opportunity arise after the tragic death of Princess Diana.

Through Ms. Mirren's self assured yet insightful performance, "The Queen" provides an interesting glimpse into the power base of a nation finally learning to yield to the people they serve. PG-13; Miramax Home Video Available: April 24

**NOTES ON A SCANDAL (\*\*\*)** Judi Dench and Cate Blanchett star in this unconventional taut drama that is a departure from the usually snoot, arrogant, and aristocratic British-made melodramas. An aging, judgmental history teacher (Dench) befriends an inexperienced art teacher (Blanchett) who is an unfulfilled wife and mother that is caught having sex with one of her students. Blanchett seeks sanctuary from Dench, who it turns out is responsible for the



Denzel Washington in Touchstone Pictures' *Deja Vu*

public shame that ruins her marriage.

The film becomes surprisingly physical between the delusional elderly woman and the self-destructive woman, and is unlike any other British made film. Yet it still reflects the old fashioned, 1940s independent woman's picture that would have been perfect for Bette Davis and Joan Crawford in their heydays. PG-13; 98min. Fox Home video

**TV on DVD: "Jeff Foxworthy's Big Night Out" (\*\*\*/1/2)** Stand-up comic Jeff Foxworthy's southern fried observational monologue is close to Bill Cosby in blue jean that sets the tone that differs from the rest of Foxworthy's uneven, yet briskly paced "skit and song" variety series forma.

This "family friendly", 12 episode, two-disc DVD set features a group of stock performers comedic sketches and country/western recording stars trying their hand at comedy with troupe in skit and with Foxworthy as they comment on their early photos. The latter does not work well for such newcomers like Trace Adkins. But feels more suitable to more veteran performers such as Kenny Rogers and Hank Williams Jr. (CMT Home Video).

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

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**Flicks** from page 11

Assuming a "bad boys" image of their own, Pegg and Frost firmly elevate their characters into the cold stare and hard core attitude with guns ablaze in a wild and lengthy town square shootout that parlays into other high octane, quick edited action sequences that seem to go on longer than necessary.

But that's the point! As the filmmakers and stars of "Hot Fuzz" do an authentic tribute to those ultra-stylized non-stop action sequences popularized by such directors as Michael Bay, Richard Donner, Tony Scott and James Cameron.

"Hot Fuzz" is hilarious fun from start to finish. It is well-made, funny, witty and outlandish in its cleverly assembled movie genre-bender

approach. It's an adrenaline rush to the funny bone.

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

**IN THE LAND OF WOMEN (\*\*)** Carter Webb (Adam Brody) is a 26 yr old soft-porn writer living in L.A. who suddenly desires a change of pace when he's dumped by his hot sexy actress girlfriend, Sophia (Elena Anaya). Clearly devastated by the news, he feels a change of scenery might help.

So when his mother, Agnes (JoBeth Williams) receives a phone call from his grandmother, Phyllis (Olympia Dukakis) who thinks she's dying, Carter volunteers to travel to Michigan to care for his grandmother.

Agnes isn't too keen about Carter's idea because Phyllis is described as a "hand full." Still, she

understands her son's emotional strain that led to his decision so she tries to console him in his grief, telling him not to worry because he's always been a magnet to women.

This also offers insight into Carter's personal world, which seems to revolve around the presence of women who are attracted to him but not for the long haul.

So naturally when Carter arrives, and is introduced to his grandmother's sudden burst of eccentric behavior, he stumbles into the lives of a cancer-diagnosed mother, Sarah Hardwicke (Meg Ryan), and her teen age daughter, Lucy (Kristen Stewart), a family that lives across the street from his grandmother's home.

Carter encounters Lucy standing on her garage roof, adjacent to her bedroom. Soon after, Carter meets Lucy's mother walking the dog. They begin to talk and share about their disjointed lives. Then, Carter meets up with Lucy who discusses her relationship problems and eventually invites him to escort her to a teen house party. In between his time with these women, Carter is phoned by his producer for some additional script pages, which leads him to begin writing another script based loosely on his association with the mother and daughter.

In watching such a pedestrian movie as "In the Land of Women," the emphasis remains on Carter as the usual human character taking us through what he already knew but avoids acknowledging until fate steps in.



Elena Anaya and Adam Brody in Warner Bros. Pictures' *In the Land of Women*

First-time director Jonathan Kasdan, son to filmmaker Lawrence Kasdan who wrote this script, apparently based these characters on people that he's actually encountered and studied. This applies especially to Brody's character that embodies all the nuisances of a man that women find easy to talk to. But he's also a guy who never yields to his own advice, while being unable stand up and stay through his own adversities in his life.

Still, Jonathan Kasdan's human examination through his movie fails to unearth much of what we didn't expect or see before in a routine presentation here. Over time, this film will just be an obscure footnote to a hopefully, auspicious cinematic career for an offspring of a known and established filmmaker.

PG-13; 98min. A Warner Bros. Pictures Release - Presented at selected theaters

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

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## Credit from page 3

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*Tiffany P. Randle is a financial coach specializing in money management. [www.asktiffanyrandle.com](http://www.asktiffanyrandle.com) To comment on this article visit our weblog at: [www.nlcn.org](http://www.nlcn.org).*

## LEGAL NOTICE

Due to budget cuts, The Cook County Bureau of Health Services will close eight of the Ambulatory and Community Health Network's clinics on April 7, 2007. Patients may elect to transfer their care and their medical records to another Ambulatory site by calling the center by phone or visiting in person during business hours prior to April 7<sup>th</sup>. For additional information regarding the closings call the health center or (312) 864-0201.

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Franklin Park Coach Larry Gallion and players pose with the winning trophy after the Inner City Hoops championship game at Rainbow Park. Photo credit- Brook Collins/ Chicago Park District

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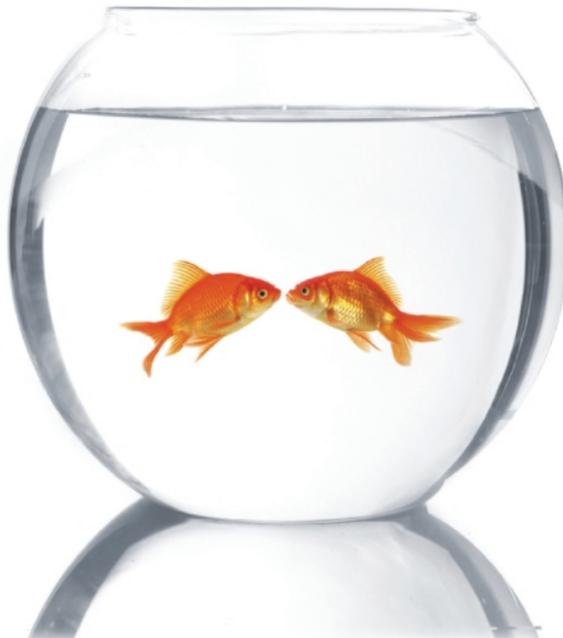
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